

# ST PAUL'S NEWS

October 2025



ONE POUND

## SERVICES

### Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October

1.30 pm Funeral of Michael Ball at the Parish Church with The Choir

### Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October

9.30 am School Harvest Service at the Parish Church

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October

#### Sixteenth Sunday After Trinity

#### HARVEST FESTIVAL

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
President & Preacher: The Vicar

10.00 am Joint Parade Service  
Ministers: The Vicar, Rev. Nicholas Burton  
Daphne Pilcher & Tim Harrold

6.30 pm Parish Eucharist (CW)  
President: The Vicar

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October

#### Seventeenth Sunday After Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
President & Preacher: The Vicar

10.00 am Parish Eucharist with Baptism (CW)  
President: The Vicar  
Preacher: Daphne Pilcher

10.00 am Family Service at the Church Centre + Zoom  
Lead: Rev. Nicholas Burton  
Link: Viv Littlechild

6.30 pm Choral Evensong (BCP)  
Minister: The Vicar  
Followed by Supper and Soiree



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### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October

#### Eighteenth Sunday After Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
President & Preacher: The Vicar

10.00 am Parish Eucharist  
President & Preacher: The Vicar

10.00 am Family Service at the Church Centre + Zoom  
With Cabin Worship  
Lead: Jean Kerr  
Link: Chris Bassett

6.30 pm Evensong (BCP)  
Minister: Tim Harrold  
Preacher: Daphne Pilcher

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October

#### Last Sunday After Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
President & Preacher: The Vicar

10.00 am Matins (BCP)  
Minister: Tim Harrold  
Preacher: Daphne Pilcher

10.00 am Family Service with Holy Communion  
at the Church Centre + Zoom  
President: The Vicar, Link: Viv Littlechild

6.30 pm Eucharist (CW)  
President & Preacher: The Vicar

### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

#### Fourth Sunday Before Advent

#### All Saints

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
President & Preacher: The Vicar

10.00 am Eucharist (CW)  
President & Preacher: Rev. Nicholas Burton  
Minister: The Vicar

10.00 am Family Service at the Church Centre + Zoom

6.30 pm Service for the Faithful Departed  
Ministers: Tim Harrold  
Preaching: Daphne Pilcher

#### Mondays throughout the Month

9.00 am Morning Prayer at the Parish Church

#### Wednesdays throughout the Month

9.00 am Morning Prayer at the Church Centre

#### Thursdays throughout the Month

11.30 am Holy Communion at the Church Centre



## DIARY

### Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October

11.00 am Julian Group at Chancellor House

### Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October

11.30 am Holy Communion to Mount Ephraim  
– John Bazley  
6.30 pm Youth Council meet in the Lodge

### Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October

10.00 am Flower Team decorate Parish Church  
(all day)  
1.00 pm Interment of ashes of Kevin Castle NCY  
2.00 pm Interment of ashes of Lee Young NCY

### Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October

3.00 pm Holy Communion to Chamberlain Court  
– The Vicar

### Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October

7.30 pm Living Hope group at 53 Southwood Road

### Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October

2.30 pm Holy Communion to Rusthall Lodge  
– Tim Harrold

### Wednesdays throughout the month

9.00 – 11.00 am Playtime at St Paul's at the Church Centre

### Thursdays throughout the month

12 for 12.30 pm Rusthall Lunch Club  
at the Church Centre



### Fridays throughout the month

12.30 – 2.00 pm Community Larder  
at the Church Centre

### Saturdays & Sundays throughout the month

10 am – 4 pm Choristers Café in the Lodge



## Magazine Deadlines

Please submit articles for the 2025 magazines in accordance with the following deadlines.

November by Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October  
December/January 2026 by Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November

The time between the deadline and magazine issue is to allow for typing, formatting, proofreading, and compiling the magazine. These all take time and have to be fitted around the volunteer editorial team's other commitments. We would therefore be very grateful if you would keep to the deadlines set. Please send items for publication to [magazine@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk](mailto:magazine@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk).

Magazines are posted on the Parish website by the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. Photocopies of the magazine are made available in church on the Sunday on or immediately before the first of the month for those who cannot access the magazine online, price £1. Please contact the parish administrator at the Church Office (TW 521447) if you would like a copy posted to you, price £1 plus p&p.

## From the Registers



**At rest – the sympathy of the Parish is extended to the family and friends of:**

Leonard John Evans

Michael Richard Ball

Judy Hansford

**Marriages – we ask God to bless the marriage of:**

Saskia Isabella Carter and Harry James Barden

Mollie Ellen Rigby and James Roy Namani Hodson

Anna Jane Beazley-Long and Barnaby George  
Unwin Hoskins



# COMMUNITY LARDER

## What is it?

A community larder receives surplus short date food from supermarkets to offer to people in our community.

## When and where is it?

Our community larder will be in the St Paul's Church Centre every Friday between 12:30pm and 2:15pm.

## Who can use it?

Anyone can come and visit the community larder. There are no restrictions, no booking necessary, just turn up with a carrier bag to fill.

## How much does it cost?

We suggest a small cash donation of £2, or as much as you can afford. For this, you can take away a bag full of quality food.

Please help us all stay safe by wearing a face mask, respecting social distancing and using the hand sanitiser provided.



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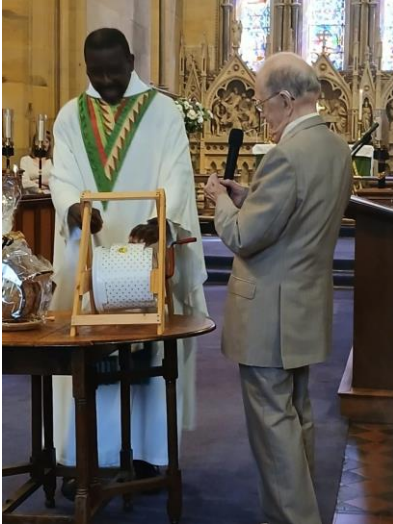


## From the Vicarage

October 2025

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continued prayers and hard work. Special thanks to Jane Goldsworthy, her team of volunteers and everyone who was involved in the Ride and Stride - for sponsoring the riders and striders, providing a welcoming presence at the churches and to those cycling or walking to raise money for Friends of Kent Churches.



A very big thank you to the members and leaders of the Church Youth Council, including Chris Dobson, for organising the Honey Raffle and the sale of the honey. The honey 'harvest' was quite encouraging. Sadly, most of the honey from one of the hives was stolen, which resulted in the bees abandoning the hive. If you have not already bought your honey, you will have to wait till next year, as they are now sold out.

Special thanks to members of the Guiding Movement for organising this year's joint Harvest Parade Service on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October, which will take the form of a Harvest Festival pageant as we continue the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the Parish Church. Special thanks also to the Flower Team, donors of flowers and greenery, and members of the other groups who will be decorating the Parish Church, ready for the Joint Harvest service and those providing harvest goods that we could share with others in our local community. We are grateful to you all for injecting an increased sense of community within the parish.

Rusthall St Paul's C E School will be having their Harvest Service at the Parish Church at 9:30 am on Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October. You are all welcome.

By the time you read this, Ginette would have 'retired' from her position as Parish Administrator, and with her Sweetie, her lovely dog and the parish office's 'welcomer' and 'greeter'. I will miss working with Ginette and many parishioners will also miss her being in the office. Of course, Ginette will continue to worship with us after her retirement. I wish her every success for the future. And as I say 'goodbye' to Ginette in her role as Parish Administrator, I would like to say 'welcome' to Helen who will take on the position as Parish Administrator from Wednesday the 1<sup>st</sup> of October. Helen has written a piece in the magazine, introducing herself. As I welcome her to the Parish and to her post, I also pray that she will find pleasure in carrying out the role of Parish Administrator.

I am currently re-reading a little book entitled '*When I loved myself enough*' by Kim McMillen with Alison McMillen. I have shared this book with many people and if you would like to have a read please let me know and I will happily lend it to you. Reading through its little gems reminded me of the need for 'self care'. The nub of this book is that we need to first look after ourselves so that we may be better able to look after others. It is akin to Jesus' admonition to 'first take out the log' in our own eye so that we may see better to 'take out the speck' from someone else's eye. I believe that loving ourselves enhances our sense of 'self' and enables us to love others appropriately. As disciples of Christ, we are called to love our neighbour in the same way that we love our own self. As a disciple of Christ I know that I need to stay with, learn from and be strengthened by Christ. Doing that enables me to love others appropriately. As McMillen put it, 'when I loved myself enough I quit trying to be a saviour for others - I let my life, in all its brokenness and beauty point others to Christ the one who can and does save.

May our Loving Lord who knows everything and accepts everyone, equip us and enable us to always be loving and caring to ourselves and others. Amen.

Ronnie

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## Editorial for October

Strictly is back so it's definitely autumn! Members of my extended family WhatsApp group are sheepishly owning up to putting the heating on – or lighting the log-burner in the case of my nephew, who lives on a narrow boat in the chilly north of England. He is reeling from being involved with 2 incidents in a week where he had to help rescue people who had fallen into the canal at night. He had hoped for a quieter life!

As we prepare for Harvest Festival, like the image on the front of the magazine, my apple crop has been splendid and I am now doing my best to make preserves for the Autumn Fayre, as well as filling my freezers. I saw a report that farmers were worried about low yields this autumn, due to all the dry weather earlier in the year, but my apple trees are definitely bucking this trend. I have been discovering the delights of the strangely named Apple Butter – no butter is involved! It's just a very concentrated apple sauce that goes well with yogurt or porridge but is thick enough to spread on toast or teacakes. Ginette tells me it is very like Jersey Black Butter which is made to use up the remains of the cider making process. That requires about 24 hours of stirring so I'm relieved that mine was made in a slow cooker and needed only an occasional stir and a blender!

Our Harvest Festival Service on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October this anniversary year includes a pageant explaining the history of St Paul's through its 8 vicars and should be fascinating. Other celebrations in church this month include the remembrance of apostles Luke (18<sup>th</sup> Oct) and Simon and Jude (28<sup>th</sup> Oct). Luke is well known through his gospel and for being a physician. The other two less so, not helped because Jude is also known as Thaddeus and Simon can be confused with the Simon who became Peter. On 13<sup>th</sup> October we remember King Edward the Confessor, whose portrayal in the recent TV series about William the Conqueror is at odds with his usual description of being wise and devout. We certainly know that he was canonised in 1161 and was a national saint until King Edward III adopted St George as patron saint in about 1350.

The whole of October is Black History month, this year with a theme of Standing Firm in Power and Pride to highlight the contributions made by black people as leaders, activists and pioneers who have shaped history. October 18<sup>th</sup> is World Singing Day so remember to fill your day with song – start in the shower and just carry on. Dig out all those old songs you haven't listened to for years. Singing has enormous benefits for your health and wellbeing – just look at your happy choir!

21st October is Trafalgar Day to celebrate Lord Horatio Nelson's victory at the Battle of Trafalgar on 21<sup>st</sup> October 1805. A ceremony will be held on HMS Victory and Nelson's famous signal 'England expects every man will do his duty' is raised in flags. Victory was launched at Chatham in 1765, and is now exhibited at Portsmouth. Spain was trying to move forces to Naples to support Napoleon's campaign in southern Italy and the British fleet led by Nelson engaged them off Trafalgar, a headland in southern Spain near Gibraltar. Nelson died knowing that he had secured victory. As many as twenty Napoleonic ships had been destroyed but no British ships – although sailors had been lost. This victory ended Napoleon's plans to invade Britain.

October ends on All Hallow's Eve, better known as Halloween. It seems to be generally recognised that homes participating in Trick or Treating will indicate this by putting a pumpkin lantern on the doorstep, so if you don't want callers just make pumpkin pie instead.

The magazine team has always received tremendous support from the Parish Office and for the last 11 years that has been from Ginette di Palma – perhaps it was to compensate for dragooning us into taking over from her in the first place! She is now going to join her husband Mick in a well earned retirement and we would like to add our own good wishes to her, though we will still be seeing her in the choir stalls each week. Unfortunately a BT error has made her last week – and the production of this magazine – something of a nightmare, with loss of landline telephone, email and internet. Hopefully normal service will be resumed soon – and definitely in time for National Internet Day on 29<sup>th</sup> October. Please help us by sending your contributions for the November magazine to us by Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October. If the pew leaflets are still reporting problems with emails please send them to [deborahjbruce@gmail.com](mailto:deborahjbruce@gmail.com), otherwise our usual [magazine@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk](mailto:magazine@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk) address. Finally, please remember that the clocks return to Greenwich Mean Time in the early hours of Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> October, so we get an extra hour for a lie-in or cooked breakfast before coming to church that day – hurrah!

**Deborah Bruce and Sue Hare (from the Canary Islands!)**

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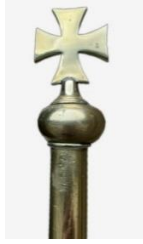
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## Churchwardens Notes



With May enjoying a well-earned holiday, it falls to me to write this, my first report!

The life of a churchwarden seems to be extremely busy and we are never sure what each day will bring.

The churchyard plan is ongoing and we look forward to seeing the changes this will bring. We are, however, still looking for volunteers to help throughout the year in order to bring the plan to life. If you are interested and able to help in any way with this please contact either May, Ginette or Chris.

An excellent Autumn Fayre planning meeting was held with lively discussion and new ideas. Please keep Saturday 25th November free and let Jean Kerr, May or myself know if you are able to help.

The interviews for our new Parish Administrator have taken place and the result will be announced in due course. We were blessed with a very large and strong field and we are very grateful to those who have worked so hard to achieve the best candidate and outcome for our church.

May retires in the Spring and we now need to focus on finding a new Churchwarden to join me. Please do not hesitate to come and discuss the role with me if you think you could be interested. My experience of my first six months has been hugely rewarding and I look forward to sharing the role having been well trained by May who has given the church and parish so much. Thank you May.

Finally, on Saturday night we experienced the wonders of our church being transformed by Nic Farman and his fabulous lighting crew for our very own Son et Lumiere Concert as part of our 175 celebrations. It was an incredible evening and I truly know of no other Parish Church and choir who could perform to such a standard. We are very, very lucky and huge congratulations must go to Fiona and the choir and a massive thank you to Nic and his team.

Thank you for your continued support as I expect next month to be just as busy!

**Chris Dobson**

## Meet your new Parish Administrator Mrs Helen Reynolds



Hello and a warm greeting to everyone, I'm Helen and I'm delighted to be joining the Parish Team as your new Parish Administrator.

A little about me: I'm a mum of two grown-up daughters. My eldest (28 years old) is a Chartered Physiotherapist at Horder Healthcare and my youngest (25 years old) is a professional make-up artist. I'm Welsh but have spent most of my life here in Tunbridge Wells, Rusthall, Groombridge and Crowborough. I have been an active member of St Johns the Evangelist Church in Crowborough for several years. I have sung with the Choir, taught in Sunday School and supported the Church in many of its activities.

My working life has largely been in administration and people facing roles. I trained as a Medical Secretary and worked at University College Hospital, London before becoming a PA at Brian Craddick Commercial Property Consultants in Tunbridge Wells, which led to a career in estate agency in Sevenoaks, Tunbridge Wells, East Grinstead and Crowborough. After the birth of my children, I became a Teaching Assistant at St Marks Church of England School, Tunbridge Wells and spent 16 happy years there teaching from Early Years to Year 6. I know and value the life of our local church schools. More recently I've worked in a variety of roles including a Ward Clerk at Horder Healthcare, Teaching Assistant at Grove Park Special School and Waitrose in Crowborough.

I love meeting people and I welcome new challenges. I hope to use my administrative experience, organizational skills and friendly approach to support our Clergy, Church Wardens, volunteers and Parish activities effectively.

When I'm not working, I enjoy history (especially historic buildings) indulging in scrumptious cream teas, trying to transform my garden into a haven for pollinators and reading a good mystery or fantasy novel. Please do come and say hello if you see me around the church or pop into the Parish Office. I look forward to getting to know you and our Parish community.

**Helen Reynolds**

## **A Harvest Celebration**

This year we will have a marvellous Harvest Festival pageant representing St Pauls through the ages. Wendy Anderson has put a splendid service together which celebrates our 175th year.

I have been doing quite a bit of driving lately to Cooden and back as well as a couple days away in Worcestershire and Shropshire. I have picked up a marginal speeding offence so it is off to a speed awareness course for me. It is particularly annoying as my car warns me of approaching cameras and I must have missed this one which is very galling. Fair enough I must be more alert.

As I drive between places I frequently encounter tractors and trailers and usually these days they're being piloted by younger farm workers. Piloted is I hope the right word because 'driven' suggests pushing your way through, but often our younger people are having to thread big rigs through narrow lanes past often uncomprehending and even hostile drivers. I've never yet seen one of them mouth insults or look and sound angry. I suspect they regard it as all in a day's work. Those who are hostile are one group of people who have entered into another's world, that of the farm business and agriculture.

Our annual Harvest thanksgiving must surely encompass the whole context of our gratitude for the food we need: the people who produce it, the way they live and work, the product itself of course and also our acknowledgement that we all belong to each other, even when we might not quite understand another's way of life.

Perhaps as a result of the fairly recent epidemic and the societal pressures that have come to the fore as a result is the creation of ever more clearly defined compartments within even geographically small areas: the old versus the young, the well and motivated against the exhausted and ill, city versus rural, the incomers versus the established groups.

We each enter another's world when we choose to engage rather than confront. I wonder if we ever ask what the tone of Christ's address was. Did he speak quietly and did his audience have to engage intently to hear, was he heckled? Sometimes the gospel writers give us a clue although not in today's reading (John 6: 25-35), though we read later in this chapter of John's Gospel that many 'no longer walked with him', so perhaps they were taking the trouble to listen. Yet once challenged, many rejected Jesus. They had little interest in entering into the world that the One through whom the world had been created, was pointing them towards.

Few these days engage in agriculture yet all consume its produce. Our act of Harvest Thanksgiving is the start of a journey into a world many of us here in Rusthall are unfamiliar with. Yet the touching of the unfamiliar, if embraced, perhaps prompts us just enough to accept that if we want to find what really matters in our lives, some things will have to shift.

The challenge Jesus offered to his hearers 2000 years ago did not come from a place of power or from wanting to score points, but out of love. Jesus offers this journey into others' lives, to see things from another's point of view, because he loves us; he wants to meet us there.

Consider our reading once again. Jesus was not trying to be confrontational even though many of those present plainly felt deeply offended. Jesus knows that human wisdom and intellect aren't enough to see the changes in each of us that our world needs. Even as many of his hearers were slipping away, he asks his own disciples if they are going as well. At least in those far off days he did not have to contend with social media which would have no doubt 'crucified' him in a metaphorical sense. Their answer is so telling because it shows they didn't understand what he had been saying either, but only knew Jesus loved them. They were prepared to put their own understanding to one side for the prize of knowing Jesus and seeing Him in each other. This is indeed the challenge to us as well: are we prepared to depend on God and his wisdom, to share our life with others, rather than our own point of view?



Today, as much as culture and social media seems to want to drive us apart, we are more dependent than ever on each other, not least on those in agriculture for our food. Our Harvest celebration this year is truly about our togetherness over 175 years: we are, no matter our differences and various ways of life, called to see Christ in each other, to 'burn our bridges' for each other: those who eat the food, those who grow our food, and those to whom we give food if they can't provide for themselves. Harvest presents a ripe opportunity to step away from the familiar to encounter those living lives different to ours. Perhaps as we move to engage with each other we will in our increased openness and vulnerability, meet Jesus on our journey.

Last month I wrote about the importance of friendships and how lucky I had been to have had good friends. In my working days I had a fairly stressful job in the City of London but I had two, perhaps one might say, nerdish hobbies, cricket and railways. I had two friends in Tony Bourne and Len Evans who indulged me in the former in the case of Tony and railways in respect of Len's friendship. I have lost both of them this year (see separate page for a tribute to Len) but in both cases there was a great sense of Christian togetherness between us. They led different lives to mine but all of us had met Jesus on our journey and therein lies the message for us all if we can share our lives with others.

### Tim Cripps

#### Recommended Reading.

John 6: 25-35.

The Oremus Bible Browser which we used to recommend as a way of reading the New Revised Standard Version of the bible at home is still experiencing Licencing Rights issues. However, other online resources are available. You can still read a PDF of the NRSV Bible free at <https://biblesfree.org/Bibles/new-revised-standard-version.pdf>



## Rusthall Community Cinema



### Anora (2024)

A young escort from Brooklyn meets and impulsively marries the son of a Russian oligarch. Once the news reaches Russia, her fairy tale is threatened as his parents set out for New York to get the marriage annulled.

Doors open: 6:30pm Saturday 11th October 2025

Director: Sean Baker

Genre: Comedy, Drama

Runtime: 2h 18m

Starring: Mikey Madison, Mark Eydelshteyn, Yura Borisov

Certificate: 18



### A Haunting in Venice (2023)

In post-World War II Venice, Poirot, now retired and living in his own exile, reluctantly attends a seance. But when one of the guests is murdered, it is up to the former detective to once again uncover the killer.

Doors open: 6:30pm Saturday 25th October 2025

Director: Kenneth Branagh

Genre: Mystery, Thriller, Crime

Runtime:

1h 39m

Starring:

Kenneth Branagh, Michelle Yeoh, Jamie Dornan

Certificate: 12

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## On Rules and Principles

Competing theological concepts have created deep divides within the Church of England in both theory and praxis.

I subscribe to the postmodernist ideas of Jacques Derrida: in particular his thesis that words mean what the reader or hearer decides they mean. Such understanding may or may not accord with the intention of the author. Language is fluid, not rigid nor fixed in any timeframe. Thus, ideas and concepts may mean one thing to their author: their interpretation and understanding is entirely within the domain of the recipient. It is not contextual within a specific timeframe. This suggests to me that seeking to understand scripture by reference to its historical context is a fruitless exercise, as is the quest for the historical Jesus.

Unsurprisingly there is diversity of opinion as to the import of passages of scripture. Can there be a literal meaning? How can we know the intention of the original author? Is the bible a sound, unchanging, repository of theological 'truth'. Or is it evidence of past thinking, worthy of study to assist us in grappling with the issues of belief and faith?

Added to the mix is disputation as to style. Is it metaphor, literal, narrative, poetry, prose, allusion, symbolism etc.?

A few quotations:

"The Christian story does not drop from heaven fully written. It grew and developed over a period of forty-two to seventy years. This is not what most Christians have been taught to think...Christianity is an evolving story. It was never, even in the New Testament, a finished story." *John Shelby Spong*.

"I let go of the notion that the Bible is a divine product. I learned that it is a human cultural product, the product of two ancient communities, biblical Israel and early Christianity. As such it contained their understandings and affirmations." *Marcus J Borg*

"My point is not that these ancient people told literal stories and we are not smart enough to take them symbolically, but that they told them symbolically and we are now dumb enough to take them literally." *John Dominic Crossan*

I turn to consideration of rules and principles. Both seek to determine behaviour and may interact. We are all governed by rules. There is hardly any aspect of our lives not the subject of rules, regulations, canons etc.: driving, marrying, employment, claiming benefits, club membership...the list is almost endless. Adherence to the rules is achieved

by the potential for sanctions, punishment etc. imposed by the organisation responsible for monitoring and applying the rules.

There are those who will seek to circumvent rules by finding loopholes or lacunae. Thus, tax evasion is illegal, but tax avoidance by means of a gap or loophole in the rules is legal. In the Old Testament the Law was circumvented by tortuous interpretation of rules to justify actions that on the face of literal interpretation were not permitted. The overall effect of rules is limiting and, unless altered, are not susceptible easily to reflect societal changes in the areas they cover. As society changes the rules may not be in step, appear anachronistic and eventually become the subject of ridicule and desuetude.

The CofE is pulling itself apart over the issue of same-sex marriage blessings, never mind same sex marriage. There are those who assert biblical teaching on marriage forbids any recognition of same-sex relationships. Thus, the CoE is out of step with secular law and opinion that permits same-sex civil marriage. The Church is having great difficulty in changing its rules (canons) on this matter as its internal rules on adopting change make it extremely difficult to achieve. Has impasse been reached? Is the Living in Love and Faith process dead in the water?

Those favouring acceptance by the Church of same-sex marriage etc point to the principle that God's love extends to all in a committed relationship. Following this principle would enable the current restrictive rules to be abolished.

The command attributed to Jesus to 'love your neighbour' is a principle. Indeed, the bible states Jesus as claiming that all the law and prophets are subsumed by this and the commandment to love God. The bible is to be read and understood through the lens of love and this principle overrides earlier rules and regulations. Principles usually are broad statements and capable of fluid interpretation and application. They enable escape from narrow restrictive rules, in theory.

In English law once a principle is established there are those lawyers who will beaver away to apply rules to the principle in order to limit its application. Others will seek to expand the principle beyond what might have been the original intention of those formulating the principle. It becomes an ongoing battle, hence the fluidity of principles.

There are denominations that ignore the command to love your neighbour, choosing instead to preach the carrot of eternal life and the stick of hell as part of their doctrine, dogma and custom. There are Christians who will accept the principle of love your neighbour but hedge it with the dreaded 'but',

thereby not being inclusive but excluding and marginalising particular individuals or groups.

So, what are my conclusions? Anything I write is provisional as neither I nor anyone else can be certain of the 'truth'. Do I have faith, belief or opinion? Possibly the last of these. Writing in a CofE context I consider the church should ditch its fundamentalist, literalist, conservative, evangelical baggage. Instead we should be seeking a church with a theology and praxis that is firmly fixed on the principle of love: a church that seeks to preach and act out the teaching attributed to Jesus as found in the great commandments, the parables, the Sermon on the Mount and sundry other places in the gospels, understood and applied in the context of our world. Praxis should be grounded firmly in theology.

**An anonymous parishioner**

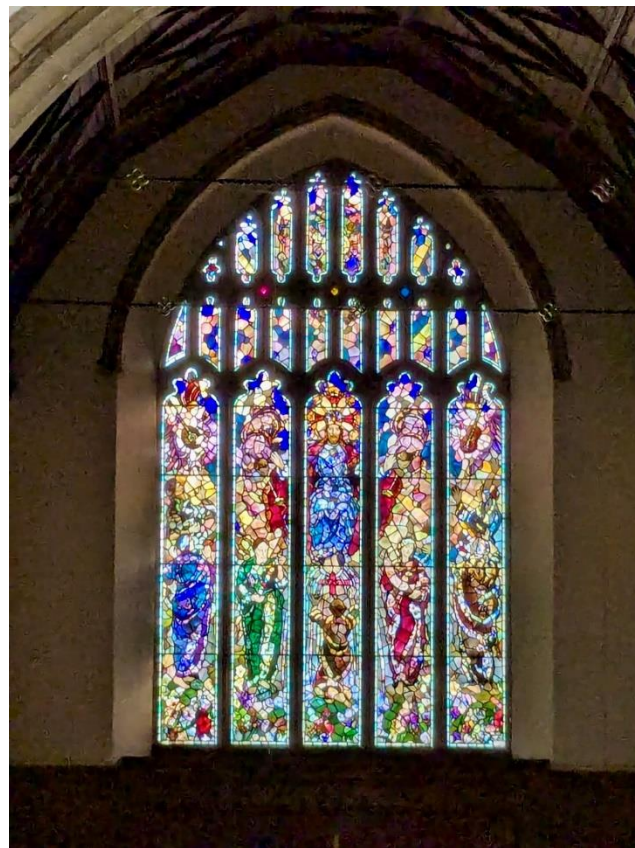
## Ride and Stride 2025

Sheeting rain was not the best weather to be celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Kent Ride and Stride. Given the forecast of 24mph winds on Romney Marsh and the Son et Lumière concert in the evening at St Paul's we opted to stay local this year on our cycle ride.



On meeting at 10am at the Emmanuel church on Mount Ephraim in full wet weather apparel we wondered what we had let ourselves in for!

Fortunately, the rain did not last too long, and the weather remained dry for the rest of the day (apart from a brief shower whilst we were in the shelter of the Porcupine café at Penshurst for lunch!).



*Tonbridge Parish Church East Window*



*Off road cycle route to Penshurst*

We cycled on our tandem around the Tunbridge Wells, Southborough and Tonbridge churches before heading out into the countryside to Leigh, Penshurst, Fordcome, Speldhurst and finally Rusthall.

Handling the tandem in very heavy traffic (due to the closure of the A21) and plenty of queues at red traffic lights was not easy and so we were glad when we got onto country roads, even if some of them

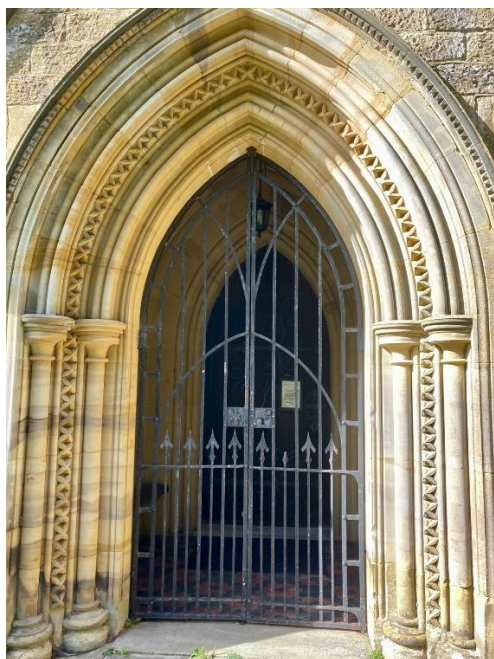


were being used as diversions for the A21 closure! We certainly missed the quiet lanes on the Marsh.



St John's Church, Penshurst

It was lovely to come across the few churches which were open with welcomers and much needed (or sometimes not!) refreshments. However, many were closed, without even a signing in sheet despite being listed as participating. The disappointment was particularly acutely felt after climbing the infamous Fordcome hill only to find another locked door at the church.



It seems that the Friends of Kent Churches Ride and Stride fund raising initiative of 40 years is struggling to find sufficient volunteers to support it, although the need for funds for capital projects is still very much present as our own church can attest.



In total we managed to visit 30 churches, travelling 34 hilly miles. Our cycling group was quite depleted in participant numbers due to holiday commitments. Thank you to those who sat in the churches as welcomers and also to everyone who has sponsored Ian and I.

So far the total we have raised is standing at £280. It is not too late to sponsor us – half of the money raised will go to St. Pauls' church. The remainder goes to the Friends of Kent Churches Trust fund to be issued as grants for specific building projects. For more information see <https://friendsofkentchurches.co.uk>

Jane and Ian Goldsworthy

## Home Life in Old Testament Times Part 5

After bread, water and milk the next items of food in the ordinary Israelite's diet were vegetables. It is almost certain that they cultivated cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. They were obviously keen on strong flavours because they also cultivated coriander and black cummin which took the place of pepper. Certainly, without them, the familiar stews of lentils and beans would have become intolerably boring..

Stewing, rather than roasting was the usual method of cooking, even on the very rare occasions when the average Israelite ate meat. The kitchens of the Temple, as described by Ezekiel, were literally 'boiling-houses' and the familiarity of the deep round bowl in excavated cities confirms the evidence that in Palestine to cook almost invariably meant to boil. There were a good many rules surrounding eating any form of meat – particularly regarding whether it was considered clean or unclean.

Whenever the ordinary Israelite had meat for dinner, it was eaten as part of a religious sacrificial

feast and the victim was most commonly a sheep or a goat. Beef from specially fattened animals was reserved (like the fatted calf in the story of the Prodigal son) for great feasts given by the wealthy. Hens, and therefore their eggs, were unknown.

For dessert, the Hebrews enjoyed a plentiful and varied supply of fruit. Grapes were eaten both in their natural form and as raisins. The first ripe fig was a great delicacy and cakes of dried figs were included in a soldier's rations. It is probably a safe guess that dates were eaten and we know that the juice of the pomegranate was relished for the refreshing juice.



Pomegranates

Incidentally we know that locusts were definitely eaten, but we seem to have no idea how they were cooked. The housewife had the whole of the day in which to prepare and cook the family's food, since the main meal was eaten in the evening, about sunset when it would be cooler. The only other proper meal was eaten at noon. There is no reference in the Old Testament to an earlier breakfast, although it is hard to believe that the morning's work was done on a completely empty stomach.

The drinking of wine was universal and the ordinary Israelite took his wine in its natural state - mingled with spices and drugs to increase its 'headiness'. This is probably why the Old Testament contains so many warnings about drinking to excess. They do not appear to have been great beer drinkers unlike their neighbours - the Philistines. Hundreds of beer-mugs with

strainer-spouts belonging to the Philistines have been discovered.

Dress in the Old Testament began with flax in the field and wool from the sheep. Flax is a very useful plant, producing edible seeds which can also be ground to produce flour, or crushed to provide oil (linseed oil), the stalks can be dried and stripped to produce long fibres. After cleaning, carding, spinning and weaving, jobs usually performed by women, it is perhaps understandable that they did not set a high value on clothes. The ambiguity of the many Hebrew terms describing articles of clothing almost certainly both overlapped and altered their meaning.

The main out-door garment for both men and women was a shapeless cloak, not unlike a Roman toga. For the most part it would have been made of heavy woollen cloth. However in rough weather the peasants and shepherds would have worn a cloak made of goat or sheep skin.

The basic cloak was apparently substantial enough to serve as a rug for sitting on and for sleeping in at night. As time moved on these cloaks became less voluminous and more like a fringed shawl. The woman's cloak was more obviously of the shawl variety, draped from head to foot. Incidentally we know they had a law forbidding men and women to exchange dress so we can guess that, although much alike in their general design, they were not identical.

The main, and probably the only, garment worn under the cloak was a close-fitting tunic made of wool or linen. It had long sleeves and came down to the knees, or even lower, and was fastened at the waist by a girdle of leather or cloth. Either in the folds above the tunic belt or in the folds of the outer cloak - and probably in both - the Israelite man kept what the modern man might keep in his pockets and the modern woman in her handbag.

The familiar Biblical expression - gird up thy loins - is connected with the tunic and refers to the practice of tucking it up into the belt for active movement.

Workers not only girded their loins, but got down to work in their 'shirt' sleeves as is still the practice today.

It is unlikely that the Israelites habitually wore any underclothes in our sense of the word. To them the tunic was regarded by them as an undergarment and to appear in it alone was to be improperly dressed.

Daphne Pilcher





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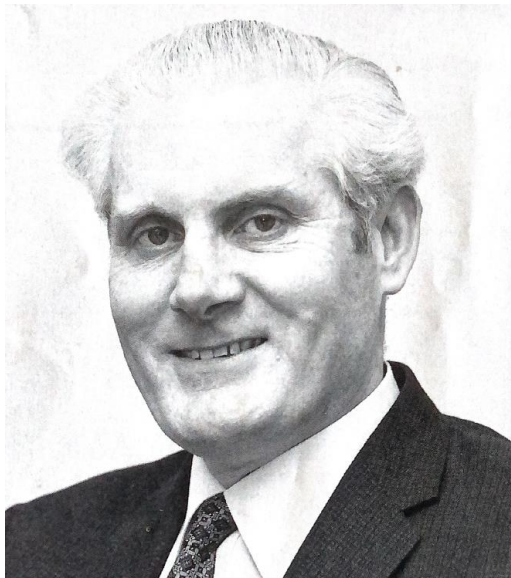
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## Leonard John Evans 1923-2025



Len Evans, who has died at the very grand age of 102, was the last survivor of the triumvirate of George Dunn, Alex Claxton and himself who were asked by Canon Norman Mantle to set up and run a Family Service at what was then 'The Mission Church' but now the Church Centre. Len took charge of the administrative duties whilst the other two concentrated on more spiritual content of the services. In those far off days the Parish Church had four services at 8am, 9am, 11am and 6.30pm. The family service slotted in at 10am and Canon Mantle attended them all.

Len's duties included ensuring that there was personnel to take part in the services and his biggest job was organising the annual outing to Pevensy Bay in no less than three Maidstone and District double-decker buses, packed, in those days, with happy children from the Parish. I briefly took over from him on the administration side before Canon Mantle called me for service at the Parish Church. His records were immaculate.

Len was dedicated to the Family Service but he believed that we were all one Church, attending Evensong and the joint services when he could. For many years he read the names of the fallen at the annual Remembrance service, having himself served in the RAF during World War 2. Len always believed in service and he was, for many years, an 'appropriate adult' attending various police stations at all hours to accompany remanded juveniles where no accompanying adult could be found.

Len was not born in Wales but his ancestry was very much there and his favourite hymn was Guide me, O thou great Jehovah. Note Jehovah as they sing in Wales and not Redeemer as we tend to sing here. He was essentially a local boy, having attended Skinners School.

We became great friends in the 1980's, partly because he had reached a senior position specialising in Transport at 'Shell' the oil giant. I, of course, loved railways and one day over a coffee we agreed a plan to travel on as much of the rail network as we could manage. The only criteria was that our trips would have to be completed in one day. In all we completed 50 trips in a 26 year time span, visiting destinations at all points of the compass in the UK. We reached Penzance, Glasgow, Aberystwyth, Liverpool, Scarborough, Blaenau Festiniog, Holyhead, Wrexham, Minehead and the Isle of Wight. This is by no means an exhaustive list. In the early days Mrs Evans used to pack enough provisions to feed an army and on one occasion sent us out with 42 chocolate Kit-kat bars. I could fill the magazine with our adventures and many anecdotes. Our trips finished in 2014 by which time Len was a remarkable 91. In the latter years we travelled on Steam excursions, ensuring we had a full English breakfast on the outward journey followed by a five course dinner on the way home. Len's encyclopaedic knowledge of places and railway infrastructure was a history lesson for me and I was so grateful for it.

Despite his interest in railways, his working life had mainly been concerned with freight transport, including several initiatives to improve the quality of driving such as the RoSPA Safe Driving Awards and Lorry Driver of the Year Competition.

For many years Len lived in Longmeads, before moving to a flat in St Paul's Court and finally to a care home in Battle where he had celebrity status and was lovingly looked after. Margaret, his daughter who lived nearby, was able to visit every day. Pat and I went down to see him a week after his 102nd birthday. He was in good spirits and Margaret was able to say it was his last good day before slipping peacefully away.

Thank you Len for your friendship and may you rest in peace and rise in glory. Perhaps his greatest legacy to Rusthall is that the Family Service continues to thrive which always gave him great comfort and brought a smile to his face.

**Tim Cripps**





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Income from magazine sales is important to us at St Paul's. If everyone paid the £1 cover charge we would raise over £900 a year, which would not only cover the cost of producing the magazine but also contribute to other costs such as leasing the photocopier.

If you often find yourself fumbling for the right change, perhaps you might like to pay in advance for a year's "subscription", 10 issues for the sum of £10, (you might even feel tempted to be more generous!) Please make cheques payable to St Paul's Church, Rusthall and send them to the Parish Office.

Alternatively you can use the card payment machines – just choose the £1 donation option.

Your contributions are much appreciated.

# St Paul's Church Autumn Fayre

November 15<sup>th</sup> 2025

10:00 – 14:00

The time is fast approaching for one of the major fundraising and social events of the year, when the whole church family get together and use their skills to raise funds for our church. This year's event will be on Saturday November 15<sup>th</sup> from 10am in the Church Centre.

The layout of the tables and catering arrangements halls will be a bit different this year but we will still be providing refreshments and lunches along with all the usual stalls. The secrets room, where children can buy and wrap a present for their parents or siblings, will be in the top hall of the church centre again and the mega Scalextric will be in the church for everyone to test their driving skills.



## How can you help?

Donations are needed for the stalls, and boxes will be at the back of both churches for your contributions. Things needed include:-

- Raffle prizes for the Grand Raffle
- Chocolate for Tombola and sweets to fill jars
- Books, CDs and DVDs
- Toys and Games
- Gifts for the Secret Room
- Bottles – alcoholic and non-alcoholic for bottle stall
- Bathroom supplies – that gift you will never use perhaps
- Has anyone a Teddy they would be willing to donate for Guess the Teddies Birthday?
- Anyone who likes making craft items is very welcome to add them to the Gifts Galore stall, manned by Family Service people.
- Close to the date if you love baking perhaps you could consider making a cake or something savoury for the cakes and savouries stall.

If you are able to help out on the day, even if only for an hour or two, or with the setting up or clearing up after the Fayre please get in touch. Volunteers are needed for various stalls and other roles, so if you would like to get involved, please contact me or Chris Dobson. All money raised at the Fayre goes to church funds.

Boxes will be available for donations in both churches from the end of September. Please put the date of the Fayre in your diary, sort out your donations and bring them along and enjoy being part of *TEAM FAYRE*.

Willing volunteers will be needed on the afternoon of 14<sup>th</sup> November to help clear the middle hall after the Community Larder and to get the stall frames out of the loft above the kitchen. The halls will be available for setting up stalls from 7pm on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November.

If you have any questions, please contact Jean Kerr on [jeankerr@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk](mailto:jeankerr@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk) or Chris Dobson via the Parish Office.

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## A Musical Note

I hope everyone who attended the Son et Lumière enjoyed it as much as the choir did. It was an incredible experience and great fun to be part of. The choir did an astonishing job to learn so much music in such a short rehearsal period after our tour to France in August.



We are very grateful to Nic Farman for agreeing to put this concert on, and I'm sure you will agree that the effects throughout the concert were stunning. I especially loved the way the outside lights illuminated the church windows, and I truly hope we can organise another concert like this sometime in the future. My special thanks to Alasdair for his superb organ playing, and to Dom Haslam and Anthony Hughes for playing the piano so brilliantly. Thank you also to all the soloists and to those who volunteered to sing extra pieces of music and therefore had some very late Friday evening rehearsals. Thanks also to Jennifer Farman for her excellent cello playing and to Ginette di Palma for coordinating the refreshments.

For the 175th anniversary, I said that the choir would put on a special event each month of the year. We are doing very well, and there are now only three months remaining! In November, we will hold our service of Readings and Music for Advent on Sunday 30th November at 6:30 pm, and in December we will have our Service of Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday 21st December at 6:30 pm.

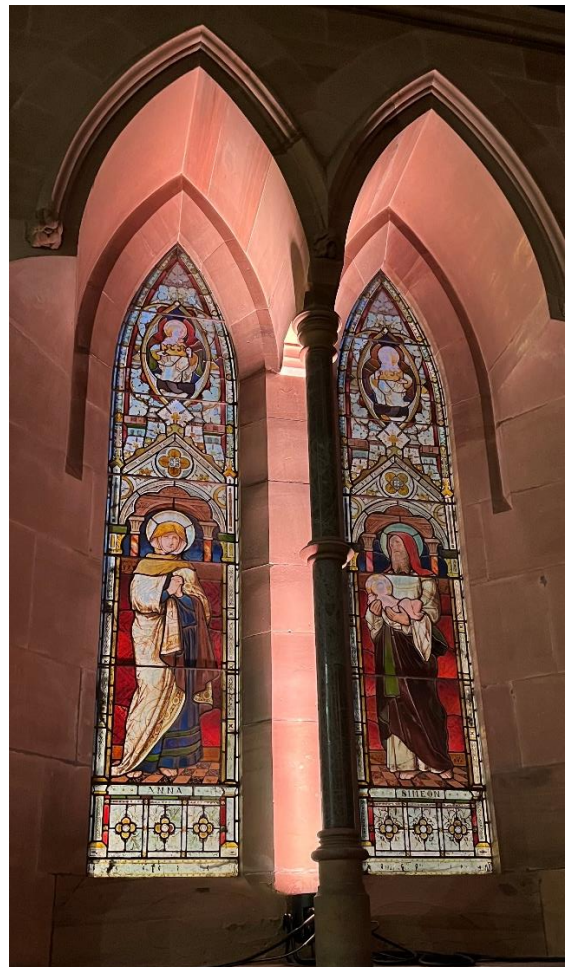
Our October event is a little different, so I'll explain it here, and hopefully many of you will come along and enjoy it with us. On Sunday 12th October at 6.30 pm, we will have a service of Choral Evensong. This is quite normal, but the music is fabulous, and the service will end at around 7.20 pm. After the service, we hope you will stay and have a bring-and-share supper with us. There will be drinks and plenty of delicious food, all in the church. From 8 pm, we will have a mini concert featuring about an hour of light-hearted, fun music. This will also give you the opportunity to hear the adult choir performing as soloists, in duets, or in

small groups of singers and instrumentalists, and enjoying the wonderful experience of making music together. The talent of our choir's musicians is exceptional. Please do come along if you can, and if possible, attend Choral Evensong first. We hope to see many of you there.

Congratulations to Fergus Peacock, who has just started with the Tenebrae Academy, a course run by Nigel Short and other members of Tenebrae for teenagers passionate about choral music and aspiring to a career in the field. This is a fantastic opportunity for Fergus, and we are very proud of him for being accepted onto this programme. Fergus is also a member of the National Youth Choir and is becoming an outstanding choral singer.

Good luck to Alice and Charlie, who have both just left us this week for university. Both Alice and Charlie are studying music, Alice at Bristol and Charlie at Durham, and we look forward to hearing all about their first terms when they return at Christmas.

**Fiona Johnson**



*A North Aisle window showing Anna and Simeon*

## Practice and Faith

I think that the article 'Theology and Praxis' in September's issue needs some response. While it's got good sentiment, the proposed course of action for the Church of England is wayward and its interpretation of the Christian faith wrong.

To summarise what it said:

Doing good is what matters, based on a simple principle of love. Our actions are not to be constrained by dogmatic interpretations of scripture. The relationship between our practice and our theology is instead more complex: each feeds into the other, both come from love itself, and both also develop in response to the world's problems. Since none of us can get to the "truth", what matters is not a set of beliefs but that we live out an open, active religion of love, helping those in need and opposing systemic injustice.

That isn't all bad. After all, to love one's neighbour is the beginning and end of how we are to treat one another. Each and every act of kindness makes the world a brighter place.

But to say that we can't know the truth is wrong. It is the great strength of Christianity that the foundation of our practice lies within a theology of eternal truths that cannot be shaken.

Without truth there is no science, reason, or morality. If we couldn't know any truth at all, we wouldn't be able to tell the good from the bad in the first place. We would be left completely in the dark.

But we aren't! We have the answer in the Light of the World. The teachings of Jesus are laid out full and clear in the gospels, and they have not and never will fail to guide us when we are lost. They haven't faded into irrelevance like the contemporary always will, because the truth is timeless. Only by the truth of God's word do we know that, whenever or wherever we are, love is always the answer.

To say that what matters is not a set of beliefs and that the church should ditch a traditional interpretation of the bible is also wrong. The best thing about Christianity is faith in Christ Jesus, who brings us salvation from sin and gives us eternal life.

Even if we were able to change the world for the better, or do tremendous good, it would only be fleeting. No amount of good that we do on earth could be enough to put things right for ever. Our wrongdoings could never be made right. We ourselves will not last, and the fragment of time we have is meaningless if it is bound to come to naught. Without Christ, we are left only with the bitter end, and the victory of death.

But that is not what is true, and not what we should believe. Jesus has saved us from sin by his death and resurrection! Death is defeated, and if we have faith in him, we shall receive eternal life! The darkness and deep miseries of the world, come what may, will all vanish in good time. It is this that means we always have hope.

The Church of England should never abandon a traditional interpretation of the gospels and a foundation in truth, because without it we have nothing. Insofar as we abandon our faith, we abandon Christ – and therefore lose our only hope. We must keep the fundamental faith we have, which does not merely seek comfort in the "supernatural", but knows the divine. Only then can we truly turn from wickedness to love, and only then can we really be saved.

In Christ, we have not earthly justice and fleeting human good, but salvation from sin itself and eternal life. We have a guiding light to reveal God's eternal truth; to show us the love we owe one another. It is beyond all doubt miraculous, to have the teaching he gave by his word, the love we have by his example, the salvation we gained by his death, the faith proven by his resurrection, and the friend who listens to our prayers. So, let us ever continue, as September's article suggested, to follow the teachings of Jesus as found in the sermon on the mount: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

**James Woodhouse**

To which I would add:

The article is promoting the second over the first commandment. The article reduces Christianity to humanism. Taking the article's view, why bother to come to church? Why not just go to a humanist meeting? It's a real stumbling block.

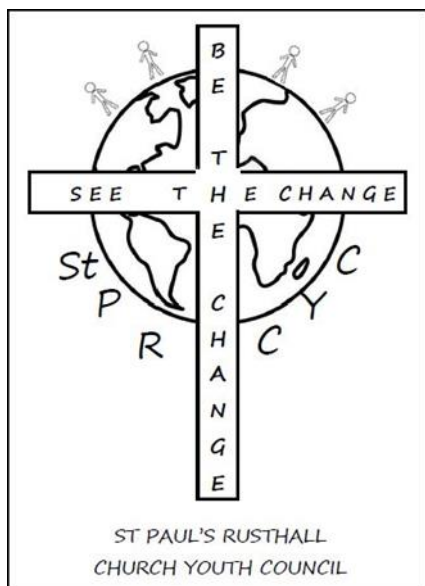
The article's position is "I'll take a fairer world changed for the better, thank you very much, that's a win, and I don't really mind about the eventual victory of death." It cites with approval a Texan Presbyterian who detests "the forms of religion that can only find the sacred in the supernatural." The American preacher continues by trashing eternal life, "I detest the kinds of religion that bribe us with promises of a gated heaven, but love the forms of religion that bet it all on love."

Don't miss the deliberate slur in "gated heaven". This sneers at middle class gated communities. It contains the hidden argument that doing good to get eternal life is "transactional", which to certain people is a dirty word, despite transactions being the essential fabric of our daily lives. But it misunderstands the point: eternal life is conferred by love of God and from that love flow the good works.

Why are the victory over death and sin and eternal life so important? I have no idea, it's beyond my comprehension, but I am so blessed that they are part of the package offered by the commandment to love God and Christ's agonising death. Who am I to question the package? The victory does give a focus on the immeasurable value of life, so necessary in a world ever keener to accelerate death at both ends of life. Our own St Paul says it best: "if Christ has not been raised, then empty is our preaching; empty, too, your faith...your faith is in vain; you are still in your sins"

**Justin Woodhouse**





The Rusthall Church Youth Council have been hard at work during their first meeting of the year and we were very happy to welcome new members. They learned how to make candles from the wax our bees have produced. Peggy Goddard has been teaching us how to make our very own bees wax candles and shaping them in a silicone mold in the shape of a hive. Everyone enjoyed the experience and being able to take a stunning working candle home with them.



For the first time, Rusthall Youth Council have been working the Choristers Café over the weekend between 10am and 4pm. They have been serving coffee, tea and cake and have learned how to cater and provide customers with delicious treats and drinks. They have also been learning how to use a card machine, a crucial skill for adulthood. We are very proud of their hard work and looking forward to seeing their new skills being used next time.



We are very excited to be selling our first pots of honey! We had the Honey Raffle prize ticket drawn at Church by Ronnie the Vicar, with blue 44 being the winning ticket! The first pot of honey to ever be harvested from the hive was the grand prize along with a wicker bee and the winner was David Fenner. We are now, finally, selling our honey and our honey drizzles, with the large pots costing £10, the small pots being £6.50 and the Honey drizzles being £1 each. We would like to thank everyone who supported our Bees in the Churchyard and to everyone who bought a strip in the raffle. None of this would exist without your support.

Next month we will be focusing on our scarecrows, keeping them in the busy bee theme by dressing them like beekeepers. If your young person is secondary school age and wishes to join you can contact Jean Kerr or Angela Culley. Email: [stpauls.cyc@gmail.com](mailto:stpauls.cyc@gmail.com) The CYC meet between 6 and 7.30 pm in The Lodge on the first Thursday of every month.

We have great fun and make new friends.

Jess and Xander



## Poems for October

When faced daily with the unspeakable suffering in the world, many of us may wrestle with our own helplessness and the fear of not being or doing enough. These feelings and their resolution are captured here with astonishing immediacy and hope by the American poet, Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer.

**Susan Barber**

### In the Airport, I Wonder about Enough

Could they ever be enough,  
these stumbling attempts  
to bring kindness to an aching world?  
Enough, this holding the door for a stranger,  
this saying I'm sorry, this holding a place in line?  
How could it be enough, asks the ache,  
when today I saw the photo of the mother  
holding the starving child in Gaza,  
his brown legs as thin as my wrists.  
I am sick with helplessness.  
What does it mean, enough?  
Beside me on a bench,  
a man I have never met is humming.  
His tune blooms like a sun in my chest.  
The warmth twines with the beat of my question,  
*How could any small act be enough?*  
Until the child in the photo and all children  
are safe and fed and loved and held by loving  
mothers  
who are safe and fed and loved  
and held by loving others who are safe  
and fed and loved – until then,  
how could anything ever be enough?  
The old man beside me has started to sing.  
His eyes are closed, and his  
low gentle voice braids beauty  
into everything around him.  
Even the questions that will never  
have answers. Even this terrible ache.  
How deeply I want to believe  
it is not too late to save this world.



### Think Small

Even the smallest strand of saffron  
goldens the rice and lends  
its good and earthy bitterness  
to each of the ten thousand  
grains in the pot.

My friend says she wants  
to make a bigger difference,  
doubts the effect she has.  
There are many ways, I think,  
to reach many.

One is to do as the saffron crocus does –  
put everything you have  
into just a few threads,  
then trust they're potent enough  
to change everything.

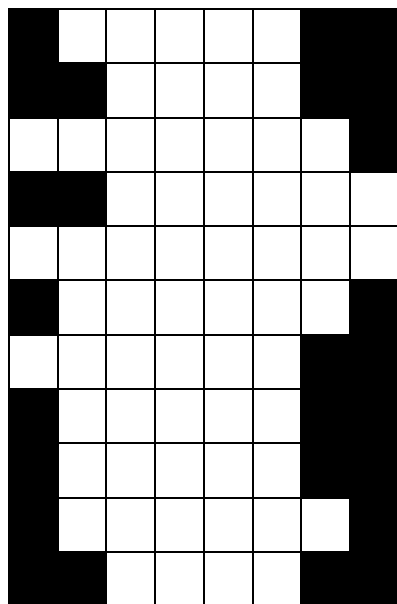


### Bioluminescence

Sometimes, when I fear  
the small light I bring  
isn't big enough or bright  
enough, I think of that night  
on the beach years ago  
when every step I took  
in the cool wet sand turned  
a glowing iridescent blue –  
and the waves themselves  
were a flashing greenish hue –  
imagine we could do  
what 7.9 billion  
one-celled plankton can do –  
can shine when it's dark,  
can shine when agitated,  
can shine with our own  
inner light and trust when we all  
bring the tiny light we have  
it's enough to illumine the next step  
in the long stretch of night.

## Activity Pages

Fill in the answers to the following questions in the grid. They are all based on Greek or Roman gods and goddesses. Then sort out the letters in the fourth vertical column and you will get the name of a firework.



1	Roman goddess of the hunt
2	Roman god of war
3	Roman god of commerce and travel
4	Greek god of beauty and desire
5	Greek god of the sea
6	Roman god of fire
7	Greek god of trade, wealth and travel
8	Roman goddess of marriage
9	Roman goddess of love and beauty
10	Greek god of the harvest
11	Greek god of love

### Twenty questions to Test You

- Which country celebrates its independence on 4 July?
- In which game do players try to hit a puck?
- What are silver coins actually made from?
- Who wrote Treasure Island?
- Which Russian composer wrote the 1812 Overture?
- Which country did Marco Polo travel to?
- Which is the largest state in the United States?
- What does semaphore use to send messages?
- What was the first name of the famous female scientist, Curie?
- What was a penny black?
- What is an android?
- Which famous explorer was killed in Hawaii in 1779?
- In which country is a warrior called El Cid a national hero?
- In what year was Mount Everest first climbed?
- In what did the Owl and the Pussy-Cat go to sea?
- In what continent are the Andes Mountains?
- What is measured in hectares?
- Which empire was conquered by Pizarro?
- Of which people was Genghis Khan a war leader?
- Which Scottish inventor pioneered television?

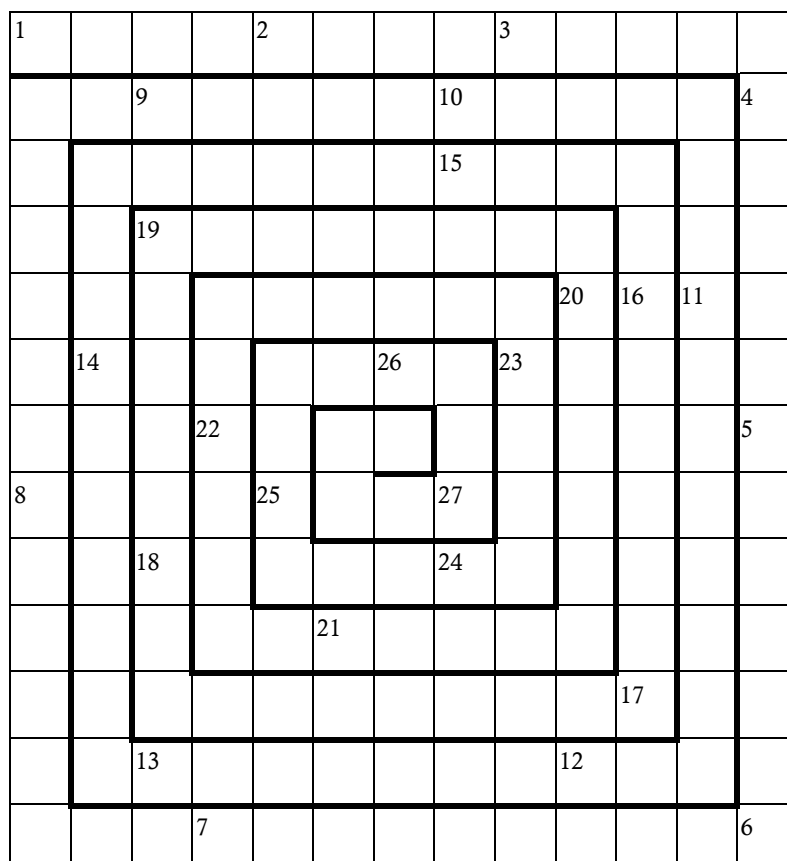


Try your hand at this **Wordsearch**. All the names are either kings or queens or people who might be regarded as leaders in the Bible. You will be left with 21 unused letters. These will give you the names of four trees – two of six letters – one used for the ark and the Tabernacle and one the first tree to blossom in Spring; one five letter name – known for its strength, and finally a four letter name – linked with the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

S	H	A	S	A	M	A	O	B	O	R	E	J
O	A	M	H	H	B	A	A	S	H	A	E	C
L	I	U	C	A	E	M	N	O	A	H	M	M
O	S	L	L	I	B	B	I	A	O	D	A	A
M	O	L	H	K	E	N	A	S	S	A	D	O
O	J	A	A	E	S	T	H	E	R	S	A	B
N	O	H	J	Z	O	A	H	B	L	H	E	O
A	T	S	I	E	P	A	N	O	U	S	H	H
I	H	M	B	H	I	A	H	C	A	A	O	E
R	A	L	A	H	D	R	D	A	P	O	S	R
M	M	T	A	A	A	L	M	J	Z	J	H	P
I	A	T	B	A	V	C	R	O	E	I	E	A
Z	E	D	E	K	I	A	H	H	E	L	A	H
P	H	E	R	O	D	A	U	Z	Z	I	A	H

ABIJAH	ADAM
AHAB	AHAZIAH
ASA	BAASHA
DAVID	ELAH
ESTHER	HEROD
HEZEKIAH	HOSHEA
JACOB	JEHOSHAPHAT
JEHU	JEROBOAM
JOASH	JOSIAH
JOTHAM	MANASSEH
NADAB	NOAH
OMRI	PAUL
PETAHIAH	REHOBAM
SAUL	SHALLUM
SHEBA	SOLOMON
UZZIAH	ZEDEKIAH
ZIMRI	

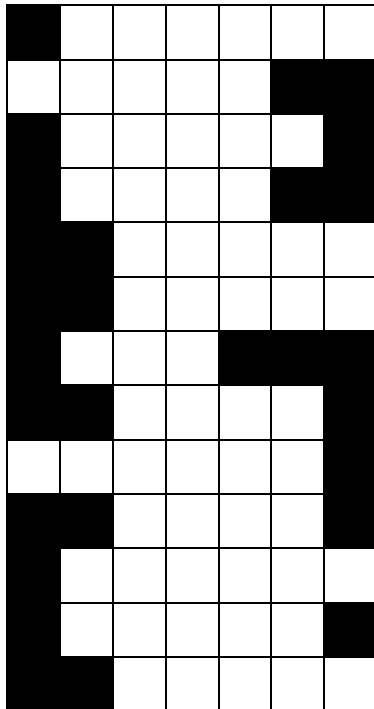
**A Crossword with a difference** – the last letter of each answer is the first letter of the next. The crossword is all about transport and items related to transport



## Clues

1. Boat offering transport for short journeys
2. Sailing boat
3. Vehicle carrying liquids
4. Used in space travel
5. Vehicle for hire
6. Police vehicle
7. Used for transporting the sick
8. Form of transport with large carrying area behind the seats
9. Used for steering a boat
10. Form of transport often found in Asian countries
11. Name sometimes given to a helicopter
12. Garbage truck
13. Useful snow transport
14. Type of canal transport
15. Bicycle made for two
16. Small American feral horse
17. Luxury train between London and Paris
18. Used to transport goods, especially on a farm
19. A type of compartment found in some trains
20. An old, rickety vehicle
21. Used on a farm
22. Vehicle where rear door swings upward to give access to cargo area and passenger compartment
23. Type of canoe
24. Two masted sailing boat
25. A sled dog
26. Historically a ship's 'jolly' boat with four to six oars
27. Pack animal found in the Andes

The answers to the following clues are all names of rivers both in the UK and worldwide. Fill in the grid – then sort the letters in the 3<sup>rd</sup> column and you will get the name of a well loved tree.



1	River in the far east with the name of a colour
2	Sounds like a fabric
3	This river flows through Russia
4	River of northern England
5	This river flows into the Humber
6	River of Rome
7	Flows into the North Sea at Whitby
8	Flows through Aviemore
9	One more river and that's the river of _ _ _ _ _
10	River of Egypt
11	The upper reaches of this river are known as the Isis
12	This river originates in the Swiss Alps
13	Longest river in Africa

## ANSWERS

### Grid answers on Greek and Roman gods and goddesses

1 Diana      2 Mars      3 Mercury      4 Adonis      5 Poseidon      6 Vulcan      7 Hermes  
8 Juno      9 Venus      10 Cronus      11 Eros

The firework in column 4 is Roman Candle

### Twenty questions to test you

1 USA      2 Ice Hockey      3 Copper and nickel      4 Robert Louis Stephenson      5 Tchaikovsky  
6 China      7 Alaska      8 Flags      9 Maria      10 Early British stamp  
11 Robot      12 Captain Cook      13 Spain      14 1953      15 A beautiful pea-green boat  
16 South America      17 Area      18 Inca Empire      19 The Mongols      20 John Logie Baird

### Crossword with a difference – transport and related items

1 Ferry      2 Yacht      3 Tanker      4 Rocket      5 Taxicab      6 Black Maria  
7 Ambulance      8 Estate car      9 Rudder      10 Rickshaw      11 Whirlybird      12 Dustcart  
13 Toboggan      14 Narrowboat      15 Tandem      16 Mustang      17 Golden Arrow      18 Waggon  
19 Nonsmoker      20 Rattletrap      21 Plough      22 Hatchback      23 Kayak      24 Ketch  
25 Husky      26 Yawl      27 Llama

### Grid on rivers

1 Yellow      2 Tweed      3 Volga      4 Ouse      5 Trent      6 Tiber      7 Esk  
8 Spey      9 Jordan      10 Nile      11 Thames      12 Rhine      13 Congo

The letters in column 3 rearrange to give you Horse Chestnut

### Daphne Pilcher

## Poetic Omission

I was surprised and more than a little disappointed that in Susan Barber's collection of 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary poems last month I could not find any reference to Rusthall Village, not even from those authors who actually live there!

A few of you might remember that, while I was hospitalized last year waiting for an NHS procedure and a pacemaker, I caught the Limerick Bug (LB) for which, I am sad to say, no cure has been forthcoming in the meantime. That being the case, I felt obliged to rectify the above-mentioned omission and, in honour of the village, I decided to publish one of my LB compositions, although well away from Susan's 'proper stuff' of course.

So, for the sake of posterity, and with a respectful nod to our wonderful telephone service, I belatedly offer her, and your good selves, my latest LB symptom, which goes like this:

A forgetful old fellow from Rusthall  
Was convinced there was someone he must call  
He couldn't think who  
It *was* someone he knew  
For the life of him, just couldn't recall  
(at all, at all).

### David Fenner

*[I've just read a book by Adrian McKinty which included this limerick.*

*There once was a boy from Peru  
Whose limericks stopped at line 2.*

*Ed]*



## General Information

<b>Vicar</b>	
Rev. Ronnie Williams,	521357
The Vicarage, Bretland Road, Rusthall	
<b>Associate Priest</b>	
Rev. Nicholas Burton (c/o Parish Office)	521447
<b>Reader</b>	
Daphne Pilcher	521691
<b>Licenced Lay Minister</b>	
Tim Harrold	07413805814
<b>Churchwardens</b>	
May Graves	gravesmay7@gmail.com
Chris Dobson	539539
<b>Deputy Churchwarden</b>	
Graeme Anderson	532922
<b>Parochial Church Council Secretary</b>	
Mione Palmer	667951
<b>Youth Council</b>	
Angela Culley	07779 098026
<b>Treasurer and Planned Giving</b>	
Pat Cripps	521447
<b>Safeguarding Officers</b>	
Daphne Pilcher	521691
<b>DBS Officer</b>	
Clive Brown	
c/o the Parish Office	521447
<b>Bible Reading Fellowship Secretary</b>	
Vivienne Sharp	543263
<b>Choir Leader</b>	
Fiona Johnson	07540 273303
<b>Magazine Editors</b>	
Deborah Bruce and Sue Hare	
c/o the Parish Office	
email – magazine@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk	
<b>Flower Team</b>	
Jill McAllister	532817
<b>Parish Hall Bookings</b>	
<b>Churchyards</b>	
Enquiries to Parish Office	521447
<b>Rusthall St Paul's Primary School</b>	
Executive Headteacher – Mrs Liz Mitchell	520582
Head of School – Mrs Lyndsay Smurthwaite	520582

## CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

All worshippers who are baptised members of the Church of England, and aged over 16, should have their names entered on the Electoral Roll. This entitles them to attend and vote at the Annual Parochial Meeting. Forms for enrolment will be found in the Parish Church or the Parish Office and should be sent to the Vicar.

## Organisations

<b>Julian Group</b>	
Pat Stevens	529187
<b>Group Scout Leader</b>	
Gavin Cons	
Email – rusthallscoutgroup@gmail.com	
<b>Scout Membership Secretary</b>	
Juliet Waller	
Email – <a href="mailto:rusthallscoutgroupwaitinglist@yahoo.co.uk">rusthallscoutgroupwaitinglist@yahoo.co.uk</a>	
Squirrels:	rusthallsquirrels@gmail.com
Beavers:	beaversrusthall@gmail.com
Cubs:	rusthallcubs@hotmail.co.uk
Scouts:	rusthallscouts@gmail.com
<b>Ranger Guides</b>	
Gemma Bradley	07377 061398
<b>Guides</b>	
Gemma Bradley	07377 061398
<b>Brownie Guides</b>	
Karen Miller (Thurs)	
rusthallbrownies@btinternet.com	
Tina Francis (Mon)	545877
<b>Rainbows</b>	
Mary Saunders	319872
Email – saundii@aol.com	
<b>Playtime at St Paul's</b>	
Liz Mankelow	07840 837968
<b>Rusthall Lunch Club</b>	
Helen Foster	01892 535159
Richard Brook	01892 862677
<b>Rusthall Community Larder</b>	
Bjorn Simpole	07900 906294
<b>Rusthall Community &amp; Youth Project</b>	
Barry Edwards	680296
<b>Rusthall Village Association</b>	
Alex Britcher	07967 011467
<b>Rusthall Parish Council</b>	
Council Clerk: Alison Stevens	520161
<b>Rusthall Bonfire and Fete Committee</b>	
Annie Softley	548366
<b>Friends of TW and Rusthall Common</b>	
Clive Evans	518975



## **The Parish Office**

Parish Administrator - **Mrs Helen Reynolds**

St Paul's Parish Office, Church Centre, Rusthall Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN4 8RE

Telephone (01892) 521447

*Registered Charity in England & Wales, Number 1132681*

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Magazine email: [magazine@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk](mailto:magazine@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk)

Website: [www.stpaulsrusthall.org.uk](http://www.stpaulsrusthall.org.uk)

**The Office is open on weekday mornings (except Tuesdays) between 10 am and 1 pm.**