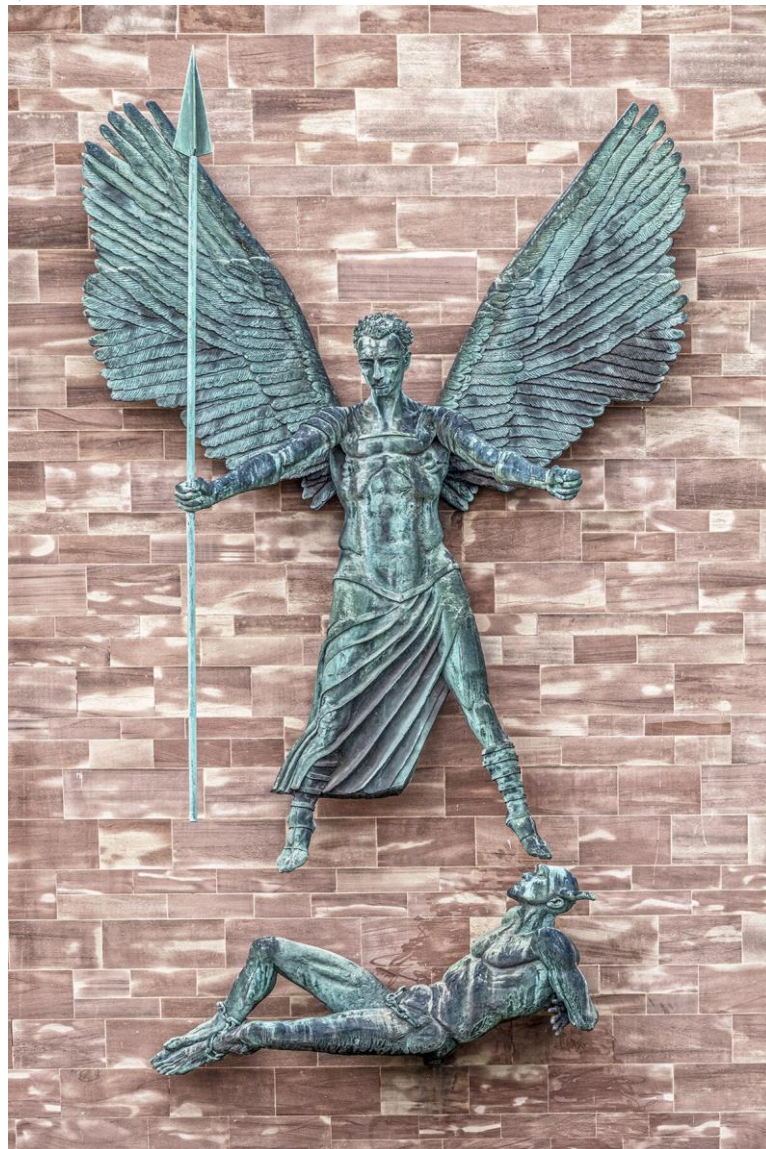


ST PAUL'S NEWS

September 2025



SERVICES

Saturday 6th September

3.30 pm Wedding at the Parish Church with the Choir

Sunday 7th September

Twelfth Sunday After Trinity

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

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

10.00 am Family Service at the Church Centre + Zoom
Lead : Wendy Anderson
Link: Karen Miller

6.30 pm Evensong (BCP)
Minister & Preacher: The Vicar

Sunday 14th September

Thirteenth Sunday After Trinity

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

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

10.00 am Family Service at the Church Centre + Zoom
Lead: Tim Harrold
Link: Liz Goddard

6.30 pm Evensong (BCP)
Minister: Tim Harrold

Sunday 21st September

Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist

Fourteenth Sunday After Trinity

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

10.00 am Parish Eucharist
President & Preacher: The Vicar
Minister: Daphne Pilcher

10.00 am Family Service at the Church Centre + Zoom
Lead: Daphne Pollard
Link: Rosemary Romano

6.30 pm Evensong (BCP)
Minister & Preacher: The Vicar

Friday 26th September

12.30 pm Wedding at the Parish Church with the Choir

Saturday 27th September

1.30 pm Wedding at the Parish Church with the Choir

Sunday 28th September

Fifteenth Sunday After Trinity

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

10.00 am Matins (BCP)
Minister & Preacher: Tim Harrold

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

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

Sunday 5th October

Sixteenth Sunday After Trinity

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

10.00 am Joint Harvest Festival at the Parish Church
Ministers: The Vicar & Daphne Pilcher
Speaker: Wendy Anderson

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

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



Dover to Calais Stowaway

DIARY

Monday 1st September

8.00 pm PCC meet in the Lodge

Wednesday 3rd September

7.30 pm Autumn Fayre planning meeting - the Lodge

Thursday 4th September

11.30 am Holy Communion to Mount Ephraim
– Tim Harrold

2.00 pm Wedding rehearsal – Parish Church

6.00 pm Wedding rehearsal – Parish Church

Saturday 6th September

TBC Back to School Quiz Church Centre
Rusthall Bonfire & Fete

Wednesday 10th September

8.00 pm Family Service meeting - Church Centre

3.00 pm Holy Communion to Chamberlain Court
– The Vicar

Saturday 13th September

10.00am – 6.00pm Friends of Kent Churches Ride and Stride

6.30 pm Son et Lumiere concert at the Parish Church

Thursday 18th September

11.30 am Holy Communion to Mount Ephraim

2.30 pm Holy Communion to Rusthall Lodge
–The Vicar

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

Following the successful Choir Tour to France in August, the Choristers Café continues to open with assistance from other groups within the Parish to raise money for the Church community.

Refreshments for those attending Sunday morning services are, as usual, by voluntary donation.

Magazine Deadlines

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

October by Sunday 14th September

November by Sunday 12th October

December/January 2026 by Sunday 16th 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.

Magazines are posted on the Parish website by the 1st of the month. Photocopies of the magazine can be made available to those who cannot access the magazine online. Please contact Ginette di Palma at the Church Office (TW 521447) to arrange production and collection/delivery.

From the Registers



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

Richard Graham Wakeman
Denis John Leigh

Marriages – we ask God to bless the marriage of:

Emma Jenelle Carr and Hugo Alasdair Sever
Laura Joy Edmonds and Daniel Peter Jennings
Eleanor Sophie Martin and Alexander David Thacker

Front Cover Image

The image on the front cover is of St Michael's victory over the devil, an sculpture by Jacob Epstein on the wall of Coventry Cathedral. The Archangel Michael is considered to be the leader of heaven's armies and defender of the church against Satan. Michaelmas is a shortened version of Michael's mass, in the same way that Christmas is an abbreviation of Christ's mass.



HONEY RAFFLE

The St. Paul's Youth Council are proud and excited to be auctioning the very first jar of their honey.

Queens BERTHA and BOUDICA have been marshalling their hives to collect and produce this golden nectar made entirely from the flora and fauna they find in Happy Valley and the churchyard.



The draw will take place
FIRST SUNDAY OF SEPTEMBER (7th)

Tickets can be purchased from the Parish Church, the Church Centre, the Parish Office or from members of the Youth Council.

From the Vicarage

September 2025

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continued support, prayers and partnership in God's mission and ministry. I really appreciate all that you do – and who you are.

A big thank you to everyone who contributed towards the purchasing and shipping of stationery sets for 250 children in Freetown, Sierra Leone. The items were bought and have been shipped to Freetown, and will be distributed at the beginning of the academic year. As I write, we have raised 82% (£1,030) of the total cost of this project (£1,260). Please contact the Parish office should you wish to know more, or if you would like to contribute towards this noble and worthwhile cause.



Some of you know that Ginette will be stepping down from her role as Parish Administrator at the end of September, after 11 years of dedicated service. Although she will no longer be our Parish Administrator after September, Ginette will still be worshipping with us and singing in the choir. We wish her all the best for the future.

In my last letter I mentioned that as part of our 175th anniversary celebrations of the Parish Church, we would be having visitors from our companion parish of St Peter's Mabelreign in Zimbabwe. Unfortunately, just over a week before the visit I received a message from the Rector of St Peter's cancelling the visit due to 'certain issues beyond their control'. 'We are very sorry for the inconvenience caused since you had prepared to receive the 4 people who had managed to get visas', the message continued. Although I am disappointed about this, I feel that their decision to cancel the visit was divinely providential. Please continue to hold the members and rector of St Peters in your prayers.

Writing about prayers, the 1st to the 7th of September is the Global Week of 24-7 Prayer and Churches for Tunbridge Wells (CfTW) is organising a week-long prayer programme at The Gate House, 1 Market Square, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2SW (part of the Camden Centre in Royal Victoria Place). Each day, there will be prayers between 6:30am and 7:00am, 9:00am and 9:30am and 7:00pm and 8:00pm. There are opportunities for Open Prayer to explore different Prayer Stations at The Gate House each day at the following times: 5:00-6:30, 7:00-9:00, 9:30-19:00, 20:00-23:00.

On Sunday 7th September, there will be a special programme of Prayer and Worship at Bennett Memorial School from 6:00pm to 7:30pm to culminate the week. We will be praying for 'encounters with God, unity in the church and transformation in our town'. I hope you will be able to be part of this week-long prayer initiative.

I pray that as we continue to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the parish church, we may continually embody God's love and reflect God's acceptance of everyone.

Ronnie



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Editorial for September 2025

What a glorious summer we have had, and so busy with wonderful events as part of our 175th Anniversary Year. This extended edition of the magazine includes details from the many events which occurred over the summer break, the Martyrs Way Pilgrimage, Teddy Bear Parachute Drop, Poetry Evening and the Choir's Tour to Normandy. There are still more events to come through the autumn and you will find details of them in the magazine too. This edition of the magazine is being distributed more widely than usual as part of the Anniversary outreach, so if you are reading St Paul's News for the first time we hope you will enjoy it.

For many of the younger people in the parish, September is a time of transition. School examination results have been received over the summer and now they will be moving on to a new academic year and facing new challenges. For some this will mean a new school, college or university, perhaps leaving home for the first time, something which can be scary – but exciting too. My grandson is at the opposite end of school life – starting in Reception and busy practising getting himself in and out of school uniform. Please hold all the young people of St Paul's in your prayers.

Kings Cross Station now celebrates Harry Potter's departure to school on 1st September by announcing the departure from Platform 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Hogwarts Express at 11am! Many of the special days during September seem to be directed towards children and young people, like Read a Book Day on 6th September and UNESCO's International Literacy Day on 8th September, both promoting literacy. Sadly we still have around 1 in 5 adults in the world who are not literate, and of those two-thirds are women, with many women being barred from adequate education, most notably perhaps in Afghanistan, where despite early assurances from the Taliban to the contrary, girls are now banned from secondary education. Since women are forbidden from receiving medical treatment from male doctors, lack of women doctors in the future is bound to impact women's health.

Roald Dahl's birthday on 13th is celebrated with Roald Dahl Story Day – which is your favourite? And modern access to books is encouraged on 18th September which is Read an eBook day. There are many children's classics available for free download on the Kindle app and the Libby app allows both adults and children access to Kent Library's eBooks and audiobooks when they become library members. Again, all books are available free. I discovered this app during Covid lockdown and have since listened to 824 audiobooks! Blessed distraction now that I suffer with tinnitus and all for free.

It is the UN International Day of Peace on 21st September, surely something we all need to give our attention to this year as conflicts drag on and on. The UK is developing a warning system for its population, hopefully to be used in case of natural disasters rather than conflict. This will be tested on Sunday 7th September at 3pm. If you have a phone attached to 4G or 5G services you will receive a text message and the phone will vibrate and wail! It will do this even if your phone is set to silence apparently – that could be embarrassing. Something we need to be aware of to avoid panic on the day!

September 22nd is the Autumn Equinox, the time when the length of the day is equal to the length of the night, and the start of astronomical autumn. After that nights get progressively longer until the winter solstice on 21st December. However, we remain on British Summer Time until 2am on Sunday 26th October, even though meteorologists mark the start of autumn on 1st September. These seasons are tricky things! I shall, as usual, put my hope on an Indian summer.

September is the last month of the year when we remain continuously in Ordinary Time – that string of Sundays described as the nth Sunday after Trinity. However, the church celebrates a feast day on Sunday 21st September for the life and martyrdom of St Matthew, the apostle. He was famously a tax-collector, a profession which provided ample opportunities for lining one's own pocket. Matthew gave up this lucrative career to follow Jesus and wrote a gospel providing details of Jesus' life and teaching. It is known that he travelled and taught following Jesus' death, but his own martyrdom is assumed because neither the manner nor place of his death is certain.

'Autumn' is the earliest time when we have been told we might expect to learn the name of the new Archbishop of Canterbury. The fact that the process is now in the hands of Lord Evans, former head of MI5, presumably means that secrecy will be maintained prior to the official announcement!

Please submit articles for the October magazine by Sunday 14th September to magazine@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk.

Deborah Bruce and Sue Hare



RUSTHALL'S 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.



WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU!

For more information, please email contact@rusthallvillage.org
or telephone 07805 475397

Churchwarden's Notes



We hope that you have had a lovely summer and enjoyed your holidays.

Here we are three quarters of a year through our 175 celebrations. It has been a busy time, and we would like to thank everybody for the work they have put into the celebrations.

There are some events coming soon:-

The Son et Lumiere concert on 13th September and Joint Harvest service on the 5th October.

And more to come later in the year.

We are still waiting to hear from the architect regarding the requirements for the disabled area at the front of the church, but hope that that will happen soon so that work can commence.

We would like to thank Ginette for organising for Penny Kitt to come and share her knowledge and experience of managing the balance of wildlife with memorials, people and the worship of God's creation in churchyards. Penny has now provided a map dividing the churchyard into various zones, allowing for spring and summer meadows, wildlife corridors and mown areas. We are hoping that people will have an interest in taking on a zone to look after over the coming months, so we can all enjoy these special areas.

May Graves and Chris Dobson

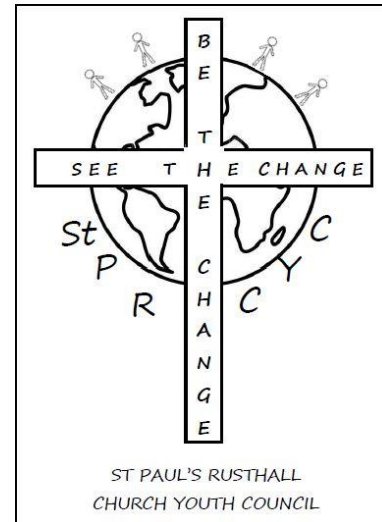
Message from May

As most of you know, I will be standing down from the position of Church warden at the next APCM.

If anybody is interested in becoming a warden next year, please talk to myself or Chris.

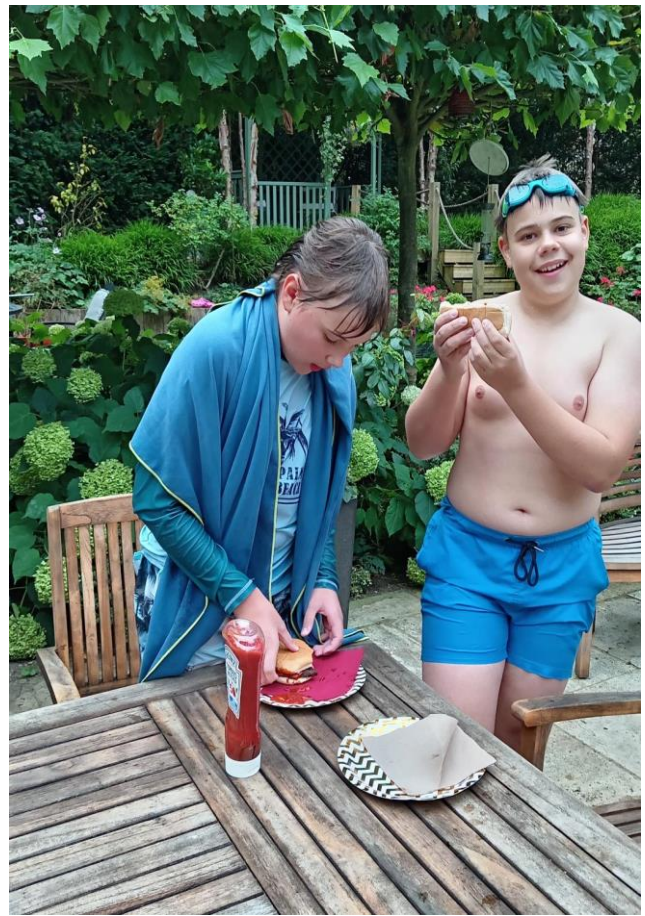
If you are interested and would like to work alongside us for a while so that you can see what the job entails you would be very welcome.

May Graves



The CYC celebrated the summer holiday in style with a swim, BBQ and a whole load of fun!! I am sure the laughter would have been heard in the avenue and the two hours sped by. We hope to repeat the event in September to hail the start of the new school year. If your child is at secondary school and would like to join us please see Angela Culley, Jean Kerr or email stpaulscyc@gmail.com





Next meetings all held at The Lodge 6 - 7.30pm

Thursday 4th September -
Candle Making and waxworks tbc

Thursday 2nd October – Scarecrows

Thursday 6th November –
Celebrating and Remembering our Services

Thursday 4th December - The Samaritans

We will also be serving our famous 'Eggs & Bacon breakfasts, running The Chorister's Cafe, selling honey and having fun!

Bees In The Churchyard

There is no doubt that having 🐝s in our churchyard is a great joy. Keeping them safe and happy has proved to be huge learning curve and there have certainly been some highs and lows along the way, not least the discovery that wasps are also very keen on honey!

Bees are a wonderful topic of conversation and many people pause to watch them foraging as they walk through Happy Valley. They have multiplied hugely and are clearly enjoying their environment. Lavender has proved to be extremely popular! Our resident beekeepers are becoming ever more knowledgeable, proficient and confident and we are indebted to the local Bee Society for all their enthusiasm, training and encouragement.



The excitement of harvesting our first honey was palpable! We have been given a brand new drainer which has proved to be invaluable. Comb goes in the top and liquid gold comes out the bottom!



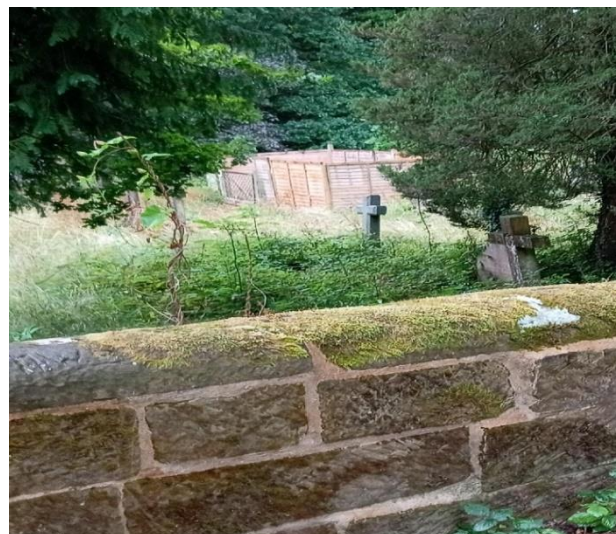
Jars are filled and the wonderful label, a montage of all the CYC's ideas, will be stuck on together with their seal.



These will be sold both in the Parish Church and at The Church Centre, £10 for a large jar and £6.50 for the small. The very first pot, in a special jar, will be raffled and drawn on the First Sunday in September. Tickets are £1 a strip and on sale at the Parish Church, Church Centre, Church Office or through Angela or Jean.



The greatest low was the theft of 'Betty's' honey from her hive during a July Saturday night. A despicable crime which can never be solved. CCTV is now in place. Thank goodness for Bertha and Boudicca - Long may they continue to enjoy our beautiful churchyard in peace!



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What are friends for?

By the time you read this the summer break will be all but over. I hope that all our readers will have enjoyed at least a change of scene in what has been, weather wise, a lovely British summer, one that comes easily to my memory and looks set to be the warmest on record. In many ways and particularly for the younger generation, September seems to be the real start of a New Year. Perhaps a new school, a new term, looking forward to University, an apprenticeship or a new job, it is very much the month of new beginnings. For me all those years ago I remember the thrill of earning money for the first time. No University for me as was the case for the majority unless you were really gifted and I did not fall into that category. Whatever, we wish all who are starting anew every success in their new venture and perhaps my words below will ring some bells. I have always been a people person. I like talking to people and for the most part like to be with my fellow human beings. As one ages I do find that time on my own is now more acceptable than when I was young but I have been fortunate to develop many friends over the years and I value these relationships highly (read on).

It is not often in the Scriptures that we hear of the dishonest being praised – and especially not those who are both dishonest and rich (at least for the time being ...). Generally, it is the upright and true of heart who are commended, those who are just and fair in their dealings with others. Against this background Jesus' story of the dishonest manager can seem out of place. It is easy to wonder if we have lost the original meaning, as if it wasn't really meant to be so shocking. Yet surely Jesus knew what he was doing when he held up this cheating steward to his disciples, and called them not to dismiss him or blithely condemn him, but first of all to listen. For, as Jesus will explain, even from this unpromising story we can be drawn more fully to the Kingdom of God.

In Jesus' telling, the manager is dishonest, but he is also shrewd. He knows what he wants and he knows how to get it, using his power cleverly and practically. He recognises his need for allies, for people to help him, and so he builds a store of favours he can call in later. Indeed, this is a man who understands relationship, at least the transactional kind, based purely on self-interest. He knows that money is the best glue for such relationships, especially other people's money, and so he invests heavily in his future.

We have in this steward a single-minded and intense commitment to building relationships, albeit one which has gone badly off course. But, as Jesus'

words after the parable demonstrate, there is much to be learned even from his example. For the quests for friends, for allies, for esteem are universal ones. We all need each other. No one can go through life alone. But as Jesus presents it to us, there are only two ways of pursuing this quest. One is the steward's, with his ruthless, rule-breaking insistence that what matters is him. Other people's money, or morality, or even their very being is relevant only insofar as it can further his own purposes. The other way is God's, where our relationships are based not on utility or exchange or how they profit us, but solely on the generous, eternal love of God. Only this way, Jesus tells us, can we truly have friends, truly value people not for what they can do, but for who they are, as God's precious people. Only this way can we become the people God calls us to be, living life to the full.

It's more demanding than we realise to place our trust in God, to serve God in and through our dealings with others. Jesus tells us this as he insists on that binary choice, of God or money. It's a choice that affects all our actions, all our relationships, and all the ways that we use time and resources. He calls on us to use what we have to make friends in the right way, to help others, to find in the service of neighbours and strangers the true purpose of what we have. And to do so with the commitment and purposes shown even by a dishonest steward. In our readings from Amos and the letter to Timothy we hear more of what it means to reorientate our lives and our relationships so that we live in God's light and love, more of what it means to focus our hearts on Christ and the image of God in others, knowing they too are God's precious children. We are warned that this will not always be easy, but assured that always it will be worthwhile, bringing grace and peace and fulfilment.

In this highly technical world that offers much opportunity, it can be easy to be pulled into a quest for success, for status, for wealth and power – to spend time and effort curating ourselves, making ourselves popular, stylish, indispensable even. I know and, perhaps to my shame, I have been there seen it and done it and yet, in a world that is also so full of inequality, we can see the cost to our society and to our own souls if we ask only what we can gain and not what we can give. Of course the experience of age makes it easy for me to write this but over the years I have tried to give in different ways. Our readings challenge us to look hard at our lives and our priorities, inviting us to turn our hearts fully and completely toward the love of God shown to us in Christ.

Tim Cripps

Recommended Reading:-

Amos 8:4–7; 2 Timothy 2:1–8; Luke 16:1–13

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History DOES repeat itself if you wait long enough according to David Fenner

There were two events in August which, on the face of it, would seem unrelated. The first was the sale of raffle tickets for the first pots of honey from our churchyard bees and the second was VJ80 celebrating the end of World War Two in 1945.

Unrelated? Not in my case. If I was lucky in the honey draw, it will have been history repeating itself after more than 80 years, and I am talking about the taste of amateur honey. The “amateur” refers to the **beekeepers**, not the bees, who like all God’s created insects, carry out their daily tasks under His guidance and so in a truly professional manner.

The story begins during WW2 when I was between two and eight years old and food rationing was in force. In order to boost pork supply, the Surrey Council had put dustbins in the streets for the collection of food waste which was sent to pig farmers. *Waste not, want not!*

My mother, however, did not use this facility, but gave our scraps to a neighbour for his chickens in exchange for eggs. Nevertheless, British humour prevailed despite rationing, with jokes like: *“If we had any eggs, we could have ham and eggs, if we had any ham”*.

At times we had more eggs than we needed and we bartered (no cash involved) with another neighbour for amateur honey – an extra treat. So, in addition to the green vegetables grown by my father in our garden we benefitted from other neighbours who had a chicken run and a bee hive and the only cost was our un-eaten food and vegetable peelings. Such was the community spirit in the war years and a fine example of ‘Love your neighbour’ in action.



My liking for honey was, no doubt, inspired by bedtime stories from AA Milne about Winnie-the-Pooh, who old fans might remember acquired a jar of honey to give as a present but was so

tempted by the contents that he consumed the lot and the present therefore became a “useful jar to put things in”.

So, should I be lucky in the draw and history repeats itself, then I will celebrate VJ80 with golden nectar on my breakfast toast.

Why I will always Remember

The 80th anniversaries of the end of the Second World War in Europe and Japan have given us cause to remember those who made the eternal sacrifice and those whose lives have been permanently affected by War. This year being the last big anniversary where the very last survivors of conflict can tell their story.

I am a member of the Royal British Legion and I am a member partly in honour of my Father who served in the Royal Regiment of Signals and my three Uncles two of whom were Glider Pilots and a third a Navigator in Lancaster Bombers during the Second World War. All three survived but to remember the sacrifices made by others is I think very necessary.

I have attended the services at the Town Hall but the recent service for VJ day brought back particular memories. Our next door but one neighbour in Mottingham was one Frank Wood and my mind went back to a glorious summer’s day in 1954. On the spur of a moment it was decided to head for Dymchurch for beach cricket in a car driven by Mr Wood. As I recall it there was Mr Wood and my Father in the front and four boys in the back. In those days the traffic was light and in what seemed no time at all we were on the beach and setting up. It was a baking hot day and Mr Wood removed his shirt to reveal deep ruts in his back. The rest of us children stared and my Father perhaps realising that someone might say something out of place quickly said ‘come on let’s get going before the tide comes in’.

Many years later I learnt that Mr Wood had served with the Queens Own Royal West Kent Regiment in the Pacific and had been captured by the Japanese. He was incarcerated in a Prisoner of War camp in which many of his friends died of starvation, tropical diseases and random beheadings at the hands of his captors. He survived torture and the ordeal but his health was irretrievably damaged and he died in his sixties. My memory of him was that you could not wish to meet a more generous and loving man who loved children and was kind to us all. Just another casualty and yet it made me think during the two minutes silence at the Town Hall why is it so difficult to learn the lessons of History? I shall never forget.

Tim Cripps



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Holidays are on a weekly basis only in high season, but short breaks may be possible at other times.

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Home Life in Old Testament Times

Part 4

A list of the various foods eaten in this period would no more give a true impression of everyday meals than would the catalogue of an expensive London grocer today. Most people had to live on what they could scratch out of the unwilling soil and famine was always round the corner.

Bread and food are interchangeable terms in the Old Testament and coarse 'barley' loaves were probably the staple food of the poor. Wheat bread was preferred, but it was, of course, more expensive.

Every day was baking day in a Hebrew household and bread-making must have taken up a great deal of time and energy for the female members of the household. They first had to grind the ears into meal - a backbreaking business before the invention of the heavy rotary mill. It is possible that even the simple mill with upper and lower stones only came into use around the 4th century BC and that the usual apparatus before that period was probably pestle and mortar.



The coarse meal produced was mixed with salt and water and made into dough. Unleavened cakes were quicker and easier to make, but generally the mixture was leavened with some of the fermented dough kept from the previous day's baking. It was then left to rise.

The method of baking varied. In the open country the dough was made into 'ash cakes' on stones heated by a wood and dung fire and covered over with ashes. Normally however some form of oven was used. The simplest consisted of a large earthenware convex plate or shallow bowl placed upside down over a fire and resting on a number of stones. Sometimes it was pierced with innumerable small holes to conduct the heat better. The dough was made into pancakes which were baked on the top of the plate.

A second oven, and perhaps one used more regularly was basically a large earthenware jar, often plastered with mud and potsherds on the outside. Inside a fire was made and it was either sunk into the ground or placed on a mud surface.

In either case the only air vent was the hole at the top. When the fire had died down, the women popped their thin sheets of dough on the hot inner surface of the oven, where they stuck until they were sufficiently baked.

These thin sheets of bread must have been difficult to pack, either to take to work or for a journey. Therefore 'parched corn' which was fresh ears roasted was the more popular choice on these occasions. It was in fact the ancient equivalent of modern sandwiches.

Sometimes the dough was mixed with olive oil, or even cooked in it, and wafers were made with honey - no sugar in those days.

The next most important of a woman's daily chores was the supply of drinking water. A fortunate household might possess its own cistern hewn out of solid rock. That was every woman's dream! The rainwater which collected in such cisterns must often have been worse than the drinking water in the old sailing ships, but not a drop of water was despised.

Often the supply had to be carried from a nearby spring or well. Hebrew engineers showed great skill and ingenuity in mining tunnels to give access to water springs, particularly in the frequent times of war, but during this period they never succeeded in devising any machine capable of raising the water. It was still drawn by hand from wells by hand in a leather bucket suspended on a length of rope.



As cities were usually built on mounds, the women had to trudge down - and what was worse up - to the spring outside the walls, or else negotiate the steps leading down to the well inside the city. It was hard work with a waterpot on your head or shoulders and the drudgery was only lightened by the opportunity it provided for meeting your friends. It is perhaps not surprising that since water was scarce and not very palatable a good deal of milk was drunk.

Daphne Pilcher

The 2025 London Pilgrimage

What a difference a year makes. Last year, Canterbury greeted us with torrential rain. This year, we had the perfect weather – not too hot, but sunny enough that it made for an enjoyable walk. A further way London differed was not just the many more churches on our list, but also the enormous diversity in their style of worship. Despite these differences, some pilgrimage traditions were maintained in the shape of the fellowship meal and Cathedral Evensong.

The Martyrs Way

This might also be called the Way of Tolerance and Strength. It is a glad commemoration of men and women who, on those familiar streets, were ready to pay the ultimate price for their beliefs: Catholics persecuted by Protestants, Protestants by Catholics, believers by non-believers, kings by invaders, and people who sacrificed their lives for others.

One could only be moved by their soul-searching, their confidence and the blind inhumanity of their persecutors, which we remembered by visiting London monuments that have been raised to celebrate their courage. We walked in honour of those historic martyrs whose ends may have led to an abhorrence of persecution, and tolerance towards the expression of opposing and seemingly offensive views.

The full route of the Martyr's Way is a 2-day affair ending at the famous Tyburn Tree. This year, we followed the first half, much of which follows the actual journey taken by the condemned on their way from the Tower of London to Smithfield. We took in places of martyrdom, churches constructed around the memory of martyrs, sculptures dedicated to self-sacrifice and sites of pilgrimage and prayer.

As we were walking from London Bridge to our first church at Tower Hill, we made a short detour to the magical tranquillity of the **St. Dunstan in the East Church garden**. St Dunstan in the East has had a pretty tumultuous history. The church has certainly suffered the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune in the nearly 1,000 years it's been standing. Like much of the City, it was badly damaged by the Great Fire of London. As a consolation prize, it got a new tower built by Sir Christopher Wren.

But the misfortunes didn't stop there. The tower and steeple, along with the north and south walls, are the only parts that still stand today. The rest of the building's features were wiped out in 1941 by a German bomb.

Eventually, the Anglican Church was forced to abandon attempts to restore the site when it became

too much of a hassle to rebuild. In 1967, the City of London turned the ruins of St Dunstan into a public park, and the Church's loss became London's gain. Today, nature has all but reclaimed the ruins – albeit in a gorgeous way. Trees grow through windows and vines wind themselves around walls. And then there are the St Dunstan in the East palm trees, which make for a positively tropical addition. All in all, it's a gorgeously verdant spot when the sun shines.



We then headed southeast past the Tower of London and Traitor's Gate toward **All Hallows by the Tower** (London's oldest parish church, rebuilt by Wren in 1694). The Tower of London is infamous for its connection as a prison and is the starting point of many who made their last journey to be executed at either Smithfield or Tyburn. The church has a connection to several well-known people from history and is where US President John Quincy Adams was married. In the crypt is a free museum and the chapel of St. Francis of Assisi. Amongst the fascinating artifacts in the museum, it also retells the story of Archbishop William Laud who was beheaded at the Tower of London for treason. There was not a great deal of job security in being an Archbishop.

[The crypt contained a fascinating model of the City of Londinium in Roman times, which showed more clearly than anything I've seen how the City of London was originally separated from Westminster by the then substantial River Fleet, which now flows un-noticed underground. Ed.]

Next stop was St Olave's tucked on Hart St (off Seething Lane). This is one of the City's few medieval churches to survive the Great Fire and still has a 15th Century Perpendicular Gothic interior. This was Samuel Pepys's parish: the diarist installed his own gallery here and is buried beside his wife in the church.

In Fen Court is the **Gilt of Cain Slavery Memorial**. This powerful sculpture was unveiled by the Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Mpilo Tutu on 4th September 2008. The sculpture commemorates the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade in 1807,

which began the process of the emancipation of slaves throughout the British Empire. The granite sculpture is composed of a group of columns surrounding a podium. The podium calls to mind an ecclesiastical pulpit or slave auctioneer's stance, whilst the columns evoke stems of sugar cane and are positioned to suggest an anonymous crowd or congregation gathered to listen to a speaker.



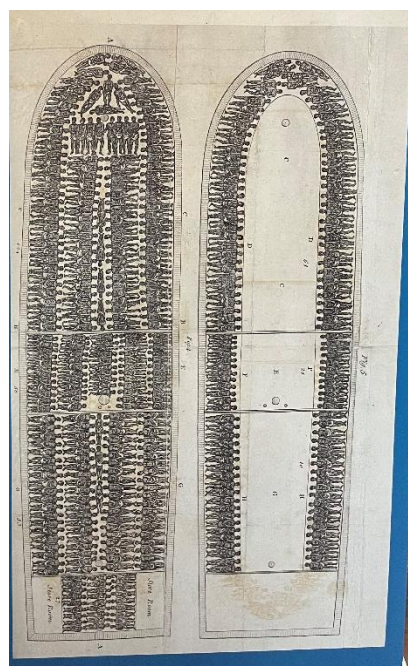
From the memorial, we continued walking west till we reached Leadenhall Market. Leadenhall Market is a covered Victorian market (constructed 1881) built on a site used since the 14th century. The ornate green-and-cream roof and Flemish entrance (Gracechurch St) make it a popular photo stop and it was used as a location in two Harry Potter movies.

We exited the market on Gracechurch St and travelled west through narrow passageways until we reach the churchyard of **St. Michael's Cornhill**. Alongside the church in St. Michael's Alley is the birthplace in 1652 of London's famous coffee-houses. This new drink was seen as a "cure for

dropsy, gout and scurvy and all manner of ills". The coffee-houses became famous as "Penny Universities" and are seen as the founding places for the London Stock Exchange and Lloyds insurance market. The coffee houses became the places to go for conversation and printed news and market intelligence. They were the Bloomberg of the 17th Century. A board in the churchyard provides a fuller history of this medieval phenomenon. [*Women were not allowed in coffee houses except as serving wenches! Ed*]

We turned south towards Lombard Street where we find **St. Edmund King & Martyr**. In 2019, the Bishop of London invited IMPRINT to become the congregation of **St. Mary Woolnoth, St. Edmund King, and St. Clement**. We could only get access to the first of those.

St. Mary Woolnoth has possibly the most unusual and arresting designs of any of the churches on our route. So much so, you wonder if it is a church. It has been designed in an English Baroque style with a pair of dramatic flat-topped turrets at the front. The architect, Hawksmoor, who was a protege of Sir Christopher Wren, employed stark geometric shapes in his compositions and oversized classical features that almost stop you in your tracks when you see them. Hawksmoor is responsible for some of London's most striking churches, including Christchurch Spitalfields. The crypt was sold to City and South London Railway at the end of the 19th Century and was converted into a booking hall. John Newton (of Amazing Grace fame) was rector of the church from 1780 – 1807. A replica poster showing how slaves were packed onto ships printed in 1788 was on display. This horrendous image brought home the inhumanity of human slavery and helped turn public opinion against it.



We continue walking towards Bank and head along Poultry. Further along Cheapside on Bow Churchyard is **St. Mary le Bow**. Cheapside is so called because it derives from the old English word “ceap” meaning marketplace.

Founded in or around 1080 as the London headquarters of the archbishops of Canterbury, the medieval church of St Mary-le-Bow survived three devastating collapses before being completely destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666. Rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren, it was destroyed once more in 1941 but was again rebuilt and re-consecrated in 1964. St Mary-le-Bow was thrown into great prominence because it possessed the principal curfew bell, rung at 9pm each day from at least 1363 and because it was the Archbishop’s principal ‘peculiar’ (*i.e.* although in the middle of London it was in fact in the diocese of Canterbury and remained so until 1850) – and hence the Court of Arches. It was almost completely destroyed by enemy action in May 1941 and not rebuilt (the fourth church) until 1964 by Laurence King, a good part as the London home of the Liturgical Movement. The sound of Bow bell is that which distinguishes an area in which ‘Cockneys’ are said to be born. Just outside is the **Tyburn Conduit** plaque – a marker for London’s “lost” River Tyburn.

We turn right onto King St and left onto Gresham St. and we reached **St Lawrence Jewry** (by Guildhall Yard). This is the church for the Corporation of London and was Sir Christopher Wren’s guild church for the City. It also has close links with the Parachute Regiment and the Royal Marines. Just outside in Guildhall Yard you can spot a curved band of dark stone set into the pavement – the outline of London’s Roman amphitheatre. The amphitheatre’s remains lie directly beneath Guildhall (see plaque/line on the ground).

Continuing on Gresham Street, a 5 minute walk brings us to **Postman’s Park**. Postman’s Park is a quiet garden behind St. Martin’s Le Grand. It contains the *Watts Memorial to Heroic Self-Sacrifice* – a Victorian ceramic wall honouring ordinary people who died saving others. Some might consider the plaques overly sentimental, but they are undoubtedly poignant.



The grassy park has benches and was a good short rest stop.

Heading south from King Edward Street we arrive at **Christchurch Greyfriars Gardens**. This is on the site of the Franciscan Church of Greyfriars that was established in 1225. Numerous well-known people, including four queens, were buried in the old church, which was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666. A new church, designed by Wren, was completed in 1704. In 1940 incendiary bombs destroyed the body of the Wren church, and only the west tower now stands. In 1989 a rose garden was established that reflects the floor plan of the original church with box-edged beds representing the original position of the pews with wooden towers representing the stone columns of the former church.

At the junction of Holborn Viaduct and St. Sepulchre’s Passage is **St. Sepulchre without Newgate**. It is the largest Anglican Church in the City of London. St Sepulchre’s is a medieval church famously attached to the old Newgate Prison (its arches faced into the prison yard). At the end of the nave is the Newgate execution bell which was rung during the night prior to an execution. The name of Newgate is notorious in the annals of London’s history. Developing out of a collection of cells in the old City Walls to the west (above the ‘New Gate’), it was begun in 1188 during the reign of Henry II to hold prisoners prior to their trial before the Royal Judges. The name passed into infamy as a byword for despair; an oubliette from which the hangman’s rope was often the only way out. It was the 1860’s before public executions were stopped.....although they continued within the walls of the prison until the prison itself was demolished in 1904.

Henry Wood, the founder of the ‘Proms’ concerts (which he conducted for 50 years until his death in 1944), is buried in the Musicians’ Chapel. Wood’s connection with the church stretched back to his childhood, as he grew up at **Holy Sepulchre**. His father was a member of the choir and he himself learnt to play the organ in the church, becoming the assistant organist aged 14. Sadly, we were unable to access the church on the day.

We made our way to **Golden Boy** on Giltspur St/Cock Lane (west of Smithfield). The gilded “Golden Boy” statue stands at the end of Cock

Lane, near the Market and marks where the Great Fire of 1666 ended. Erected in the late 1600s, it was originally painted and called “The Fat Boy,” and was later gilded in the 1800s to warn against gluttony.

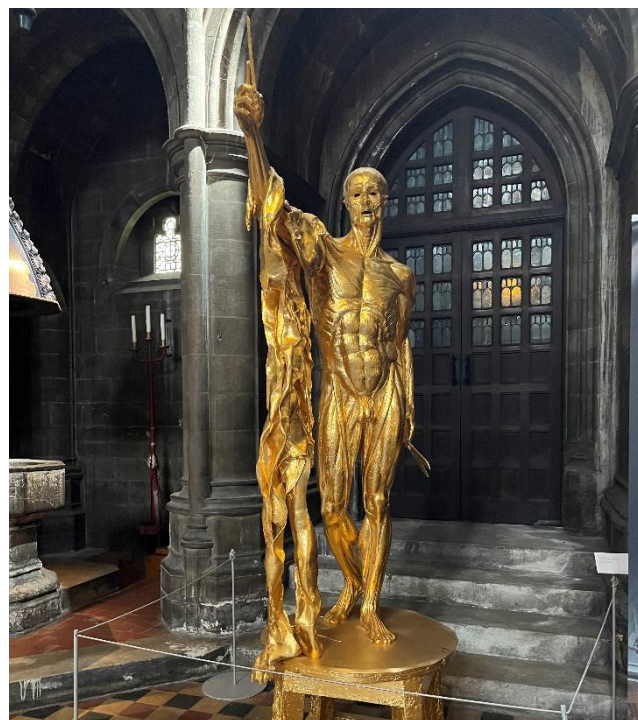
Turning south on Giltspur St, then west on West Smithfield we reach **St. Bartholomew the Less** which sits within the precincts of the hospital. The church's tower and west façade date from the 15th century, with two of its three bells dating from 1380 and 1420. They hang within an original medieval bell frame, believed to be the oldest in the City of London. Originally its own parish, it is now the chapel of ease for its big brother, St. Bartholomew the Great. The church contains St Bartholomew's tomb. Look out for the only sculpture in this country of Henry VIII and the gargoyle of President Trump!



The **Priory Church of St Bartholomew the Great** is a medieval church founded as an Augustinian priory in 1123. This is one of London's oldest churches. Its Norman nave and aisles were only partly damaged by the Great Fire and WWII. In the early 1720s, at the suggestion of Governor of Pennsylvania Sir William Keith, the American polymath and patriot Benjamin Franklin worked as a typesetter in a printer's shop in what is now the Lady chapel. The north transept was also formerly used as a blacksmith's forge. Parts of the site was occupied by squatters in the 18th century.



You may recognise the Nave as being the location where Hugh Grant walked out of his own wedding during ‘Four Weddings and a Funeral’.



Perhaps the most stunning piece was a Damian Hirst sculpture in shining gold depicting St. Bartholomew holding his own flayed skin, called “Exquisite Pain”.

Before leaving, we said a short closing prayer together:

“Almighty God, we thank you for this day of pilgrimage and remembrance. We have walked in the footsteps of the faithful and been reminded of the precious gift of faith. As we prepare to return to our daily lives, help us to carry with us the courage of the martyrs, the peace of your presence, and a renewed commitment to live as your faithful servants. Bless all who have made this journey and may the memory of this day continue to inspire us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

This was our last stop on the pilgrimage route so we made our way back to London Bridge where we could relax our weary limbs and enjoy our fellowship meal before taking the short walk across to **Southwark Cathedral**. Choral Evensong bought the day to a perfect close.

[It was indeed a lovely service although some restraint had to be exercised as it included the blessing of the Worshipful Company of Launderers Mace – which was a washing dolly! Ed]

Tim Harrold

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Theology and Praxis

Over the years I have witnessed many examples of love, compassion, kindness, care, concern, call it what you will, in action. Not only is such activity to be seen in helping individuals at point of need: it is witnessed also in campaigns for systemic change, for social justice, for action to deal with causes of poverty, deprivation, discrimination, marginalisation and exclusion. It is the doing that matters, not the thinking about doing. Doing good is not the preserve of any one group, all can assist and campaign: it doesn't matter if you are white, black, male, female, gay, straight, poor, rich, atheist, humanist, Christian, Muslim etc.

What motivates an individual to show love etc. for others? What is the trigger or experience of an individual that calls them to respond to the needs of others? What ethical/moral considerations come into play?

Some Christians tell us that God is love and this, along with the teachings of Jesus, informs their actions. For them, theology determines praxis. Until very recently I thought along similar lines, now I have my doubts that this is an accurate reflection of how things are. For many people of faith helping others is not determined by prior theological reflection, rather they read back from action to discern theological support for what they are doing. Is the relationship between theology and praxis symbiotic? I believe it is.

We need to free ourselves from the constraint of a theology informing us what we should or should not do when it is based on fundamentalist/literalist interpretation of ancient texts. We need a theology that reflects and responds pro-actively to situations in the world of today, otherwise it will be ignored as being irrelevant. We should understand our theology and scripture through the lens of love.

What the Church of England requires has been well expressed by Revd. Colin Coward, the founder of Changing Attitude England. The CofE should be:

"A Church that refocuses its' teaching and life on the essence of Jesus' life and teaching - 'life in all its fulness'."

Jim Rigby is a Minister of the Presbyterian Church in Austin, Texas. Two of his recent posts on Facebook are worthy of consideration:

1. Being Nice is not necessarily kind

There was a time early in my ministry where no one had a bad word to say about me. I didn't realize that my supposed popularity was based on blending into the hierarchies of oppression and not standing up for anyone. My silence in the pulpit about controversial issues meant I was a guilty bystander to the church's abuse of women, the LGBTQ community, and to non-Christians in general.

Eventually, I learned that if you truly love others you have to be honest enough to risk losing their approval. Being nice is not necessarily being kind.

2. Bet it all on love

I love the kind of religion where people can gather to ask the great questions of life, but detest the forms of religion that pretend they have found all the answers.

I detest the kind of religion that place the sandaled foot of the Saviour on the throat of the culture's scapegoats, but I love the forms of religion that humbly serve the world without needing to preach.

I love the forms of religion where people can come together to celebrate ordinary life as a miraculous gift, but detest the forms of religion that can only find the sacred in the supernatural.

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.

So what are my conclusions? Anything I write is provisional as neither I nor anyone else can discern 'truth'. Writing in a Church of England 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 to be found in the great commandments, the parables, the Sermon on the Mount and sundry other places in the gospels and understood in the context of their meaning and application in today's world.

What matters is not a set of beliefs. What does matter is behaviour, action, loving neighbour, not as theory but as practical action; helping individuals at point of need and campaigning for systemic change to achieve social justice.

An anonymous parishioner



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The very short saga of the Teddy Parachute Jump

Sunday 8th June 2025 was the 3rd occasion Sue Hare and I have ascended the stairs to climb out onto the roof of our church tower to launch many greatly loved teddies, plus a few alternatives, into an unknown future.



Setting off with a purposeful stride, Sue and I managed to negotiate the particularly steep, curved, Victorian stone staircase, possibly designed for people who have very small feet and habitually wear crash helmets. This brings you to the clock room, from where there are two ladders to be climbed, first to the bell room and then onto the roof.

Beloved members of our congregation had suggested the South-West corner of the tower as the best base, but once we were out on the sloping roof of the tower we realised that we had an issue with the flat roof of the boiler room for both the ascent and descent of our parachutists. However, no other spot is any clearer so we had to put our thinking caps on.

Thankfully the ascent problem of pulling the heroic teddies up by rope was resolved by my grandson Toby carrying all the prospective parachutists up via the stairs in one trip. The descent issue was overcome by not releasing the parachutists

(individually of course) until the ever temperamental wind blew to the southeast.

As well as the launch team on the top of the tower the afternoon could not have been as much fun as it was without the sterling live commentary of our master of ceremonies Tim Cripps, whose enthusiasm greatly enhanced the audience experience. Thank you Tim for helping us for the third time.

Fortunately none of the tower team managed to launch themselves from the roof or break our ankles descending the spiral staircase!

We were relieved, on our arrival back to ground level, that only one parachute remained to be rescued from one of our larger Evergreen trees. Ronnie had already rescued several parachutists from the roof of the South Porch and Chancel. Enter the church ladder released from its confinement in the basement (languishing on yet more lethal stone steps) for yours truly to climb up risking life and limb to restore the runaway parachute to its owner. Thank you to the numerous helping hands who assisted in moving the ladder and hanging onto it while I climbed up to retrieve the parachute and thank you to everyone who helped to create such a jolly afternoon.

The owner of the parachutist which managed the longest flight time was Kezia Dick-Cleland.



And the burning question on everyone's lips, probably, when will we do this again.

Love and peace

Clive

A Summer Evening of Local Poetry

I hope I'm not misquoting local poet Charlie Bell too badly when he said one could barely venture out along any Tunbridge Wells pavement without tripping over a poet. And, as our compere for the evening, Charlie was proved right. As part of this year's celebration of the 175th anniversary of the founding of St. Paul's Church, an evening of poetry was held in the Church Centre in early July. It was organised with skill and enthusiasm (not forgetting her excellent catering!) by Elaine Bruce, in collaboration with Phil Vernon and the Kent and Sussex Poetry Society and many other helpers, and with financial support from the Tunbridge Wells Poetry Festival.



An invitation extended to all local poets brought forth so many fantastic writers, both well-established and budding newcomers. Phil Vernon got us off to a great start with a beautiful poem inspired by a Service for the Departed in St Paul's Church. (This poem will appear in November's issue of this magazine.) There followed poems both comic and tender, each one a reflection of the depth of experience, creativity and skill of the individual poet. Alongside readings from some of our local published poets, including Mims Sully, Susan Wicks, Jessica Mookherjee and David Smith, we enjoyed hearing from many others who joined in the open mike sessions.

The warm response given to all who so generously stood up to read their work was testament to what an engaged and supportive body of people poets and poetry lovers are. The evening was rounded off, to applause and raucous laughter, by Charlie Bell (the photograph says it all).



I have not been able to include all the poems we heard and it saddens me to leave out any single one

of them. I hope what follows will give a flavour of the rich poetic talent that we have among us, and may even inspire readers to take up their own pens. A big thank you to everyone who came and made this evening so special.

Susan Barber

He

He's got the whole world in his hands,
But one rests on my shoulder,
And he's higher than the universe,
And he's deeper than a submarine,
And yet he left the 99,
Just to find me.
He fills the land with the father's glory,
To share with us,
His story
That all things bright and beautiful,
The Lord God made them all.
And in school, we sing these songs,
Not understanding what they mean,
Till I realise,
That it's from the old I travel to the new,
They keep me travelling along with you,
Keep me understanding,
Your ways better,
No matter what the weather,
That light of mine shines.
Our God is a great big God,
And so,
It's like he's got the whole world in his hands,
But one rests on my shoulder.

Poppy Shepherd

~~~~~





## Interlude with Cello

It came out of the blue,  
the news that my sister harboured a true  
natural gift for the cello.  
Who knew?  
Myself, I had been a disappointment,  
piano lessons a wasted investment,  
no musical bone in my body at all,  
but my sister, it seemed, would answer that call.

We dreamt of our own Jacqueline du Pré  
who would play in a way  
that made men weep,  
each slow sweep of the bow  
creating a low, soulful note  
to break a heart,  
tear spirits apart,  
move seas and mountains with her art.  
We pictured her in an evening gown,  
top of the bill, talk of the town,  
the toast of a highly cultured class.  
With talent and practice, we felt, she could pass.

We couldn't afford to buy her a cello,  
she borrowed one to practise at home.  
We felt excited while she stayed mellow,  
wielding the bow as she'd been shown.  
We waited, breath bated, for her to astound  
with native genius in each sound.  
The cello groaned.  
The cello moaned.  
The cello droned in a tortured tone  
before it was put away,  
case closed.

The dream, it turned out, was not to be.  
Our rumoured child prodigy  
soon lost interest, shook her head,  
asked to have a pony instead.

*Peppy Scott*

~~~~~



Kite

When I was five my brother made me a kite.
He took two strong sticks and fixed them to my
back,
Tied sailcloth North, South, East and West,
And flew me high into the waiting sky.

On very windy days he would fly me off Beachy
Head
And once, like a bluebird, over the white cliffs of
Dover,
He said I was a stunt kite, flying me in loop-the-
loops,
Massive swoops,
Dips and dives,
Tail spins.

He didn't care that I was afraid of heights,
Said my screaming added a necessary element of
tension to the display
That was further enhanced
By the roman candle fireworks strapped to my
ankles,
Leaving long bright trails of crimson smoke behind
me.

He once wrote a message in the sky: a love letter to
his girlfriend saying
I love Lucy, and what was meant to be a heart.
But the fireworks were spent before the heart was
completed
Leaving an ill-formed circle with a broken arrow
through it.
He blamed me for wriggling and cuffed my ear;
Cuffed me again two-weeks later when she
chucked him over.
He said the message had been an omen and I its
harbinger.

I think Lucy just fancied his mate Michael,
And that the end of the affair was pretty-much
inevitable.

I think love letters written in the sky
Fall into that tricky *Public Displays of Affection* area
That is best left, at the very least, until certain of
one's ground.
Especially when delivered via the unlikely medium
Of an unwilling, terrified, screaming childmade
kite.

David Smith

~~~~~



## Witches' Brew

Hubble, Bubble, hot and flavourable,  
The witches make their spooky brew,  
A Halloween delight for me and you.

Mix water from a river with an old man's liver,  
A piece of fur and a black cat's purr,  
A dog's bark and a feather from a lark,  
A corpse that hung and a lizard's tongue.

This is just the start, so add a maiden's heart,  
A potato's eyes and a swarm of flies,  
Wriggling maggots and mouldy carrots,  
Onion rings and a bee that stings.

There is more than this, stir in an adder's hiss  
Turnip tops and a frog that hops,  
Boiled peas and rabbits' knees,  
Rancid cheese and a bat's sneeze.

To make it spicy add a snowflake icy,  
Rusty nails and slimy snails,  
Eight eggs and a spider's legs,  
A moonbeam bright, an owl in flight.  
Add a stone from a peach, a bite from a leech,  
A scarecrow's nose, thorns from a rose,  
A spoon of thyme and words that rhyme,  
A hole from a sock, and hand from a clock.

Let it boil for three nights long,  
Then add a raven's song  
A pinch of mud and a squeeze of blood,  
For every oat add a hair from a goat.

Dancing in a ring we chant and sing,  
Waving wands and wings, thunder it brings,  
Rain lashes and lightning flashes,  
Finish with a spell and a ring from a bell.

The witches stir their bubbling brew,  
Then pour a bowl of steaming stew,  
A Halloween delight for me and you.

*Stefan Setchell*

*with a warning not to try this at home, but to make up  
your own recipe.*

////////////////////////////////////

DO NOT GO GENTLE INTO  
THAT GOOD NIGHT

## Twelve of Us

*for friends at the Kent & Sussex Poetry Society*

One of us drinks espresso in Nelson's  
at a table puckered in seersucker,  
sun breaking through glass doors

as one of us saunters past with hands in pockets,  
legs bouncing in jeans, diagonally, to the shops

while one down at the harbour  
eats Dutch pancakes on The Albatros:  
fresh blueberries with cream and a cup of tea.

One of us sits on a bench along the quay  
sketching boats as the tide stretches out

and two of us are back from the beach already,  
her scarf of ribbon, the camera round his neck,

while another is out by the beach huts  
where children are tossing Frisbees  
and dipping their feet in the sea.

Three of us are driving to get here  
one more is boarding a train

while one of us is anywhere – back at the house  
or walking through pine forests, marshlands,  
maybe nearing Cromer, maybe further.

*Mara Bergman*

*(with thanks to Arc Publications, 2021)*

////////////////////////////////////



## At the Beach Hut

As the blue sea  
flashed gold  
like Lapis Lazuli stone,

and waves clapped  
and chattered like children  
paddling in the foam,

as clouds soared,  
gull-white and feathered  
across the sky,

we sat on the steps  
eating ice-cream, your leg  
resting against my thigh.

*Mims Sully*  
(with thanks to *The Ekphrastic Review*)  
~~~~~

SHALL I COMPARE THEE TO A
SUMMER'S DAY?

Afternoon Entertainment, Chamberlain Court

I wasn't sure at first,
if she was even listening,
though we sat in rows

in front of the baby grand,
as the piano man played
all the old classics.

It was when she closed her eyes
that it happened –
her hands

started patting her jeans
in time
to Over the Rainbow.

Then her fingers
stood to attention,
as if remembering:

the coolness of ivory,
warmth of wood,
weight of black and white keys.

She leant into the music
as her right hand rippled
across her lap

onto my leggings,
while her left hammered chords
on the neighbouring gentleman's knees.

And just when I thought
I should intervene,
she opened her mouth and sang

at the top of her voice
about a blue-skied cloudless world
where someday, I might find her.

Mims Sully
(with thanks to *iamb*)
~~~~~



## Seder

I sat with you, Esther Drukartz,  
when I bathed you in 1992.  
We talked about your tattoo,  
and when they turned you  
into a number.

Tell me about Pesach, I asked you,  
at Seder, in Kilburn.

*It's the one where we have cheesecake,*  
you answered, and we both laughed.  
Edith Metzger paces up and down.

*She never sat still all the way to England.*

Toni Reich's accent rasps

*She called that Nazi, who pushed her mutti away*  
*as she got on the kindertransport,*  
*a very rude man, she was so brave.*

Edith Metzger paces up and down.

Erna Kurtz, Bessie Rieterbund, Gabriel Makeler,  
Johanna Ernst, Annie Weitzenfeld, Sophie Driels

I will say your names and visit  
all the places you lived.

I sit in the Musée Juif de Belgique  
with a sad collection,  
a fast bottom-drawer clear-out of tattered  
prayer shawls, Hebrew books,  
menorahs.

Friends ask, *why do you do this?*

I go from Krakow, to Tallinn,  
From Riga to Berlin,  
Budapest, to Antwerp to St. Petersburg.  
Summoned by ghosts calling in Shabbos.

In the cab back to the hotel,  
I chat with the driver, I'm from England  
I say and he tells me he is from Rwanda.  
*all my family died* he says.  
Are you ok now? I ask, filling the flood  
of space with words I cannot bear,  
*Of course not,* he replies.

Jessica Mookherjee

(from 'Flood' with thanks to Nine Arches Press)

~~~~~

The Truth

Long ago, in the Mumbles, my mother wore saris,
all flowing and veiled like the Marys in the giant
picture Bible I'd saved up for. My father told me
Christ was Krishna – just less colourful. My sister
read philosophy; told me about the aching chasms,
a Universe of infinite space between all bodies,
so I hugged her to stop the voice of that truth.

She told me Jesus was no more a God than the tree
outside our house. I loved that oak so agreed
and read the Bible more fervently than ever.
I liked the Bible pictures because everyone
looked dark and foreign like us, with their veils,
beads and saris. I went to chapel in the village,
heard an old man preaching in his Brethren voice.

Their Bibles were small, black with tracing-paper
pages of tiny words and no spaces. They smiled
as I uncovered my Bible for them to see, larger
than myself, full colour, illustrated with mountains,
so I could fall into lands of Palestine, Elam and Judah,
dance through deserts, lament at Jesus' feet
and sing, *yes, he is a tree, he is as warm as wood.*

Jessica Mookherjee

(from 'Tigress' with thanks to Nine Arches Press)

~~~~~



TWO ROADS DIVERGED IN A  
WOOD, AND I – I TOOK THE  
ONE LESS TRAVELLED BY.  
AND THAT HAS MADE ALL  
THE DIFFERENCE.



## Hangin' by a Thread (The Sword of Damocles)

You were given your three wishes, and still you  
craved for more.  
You held a high position. You can open any door.  
The people all around you, are held in an iron  
glove,  
Their destiny they view with fear, their lives  
devoid of love.

But if you look above you, within your palatial  
hall  
The sword held by one human hair, at anytime  
could fall.  
Can you spare the time to look around, at the  
damage you have done.  
Can your mind not comprehend, this cannot be  
undone?

You are planning for a future that will benefit you  
alone  
But the hair may break tomorrow, before you can  
atone.  
I'm a voice speaking in a wilderness, which you  
may never hear  
While the cries of those around you, are falling on  
deaf ears.

*Clive McAllister*



~~~~~

Buen Camino

I'm walking Camino alone,
my backpack full to the brim.

It has taken me six decades
to fill this bag with pebbles, stones,

with all the things I've said, not said,
done - should not have done. trudging on,

I've made a small slit with a knife
cut through the bottom of the skin,

enough for grains of sand to seep.
as I walk through Christian towns

forests, hills, these rocks on my back
crash, chip, crush, curse, until slowly

they're ground together - small enough
to slip through the gap in my sack.

Martin Cordrey

~~~~~



AND THIS ABOVE ALL: TO  
THINE OWN SELF BE TRUE

## Parable

We'd wandered in there just to get away  
from heat and sun. By the frosted door  
with its clear glass cross  
you stopped and questioned me: *What for?*  
I said: *That's what they did*  
*to criminals in those days in that place,*  
and bit my tongue. Then I told you not to worry,  
said, *He was the one*  
*who was the baby in the Christmas crib,*  
*remember?* and you said  
you didn't like that story very much.

No wonder you tightened your small grip  
and asked to go outside. It was so hot.  
But crossing the grass to stand in buttercups and  
clover  
underneath the trees, we saw a little digger  
on a flatbed truck. You stood quite still and gazed,  
watching the men unfasten all its tethers one by  
one  
and back it gently down.  
We saw the driver come and with his key unlock  
the steel container shed  
where it would spend the night; we watched him  
tidy up  
the tools and drifts of scattered waste  
to give it room.

*Susan Wicks*  
(from "Night Toad" with thanks to Bloodaxe Books)  
~~~~~

Branches

I saw my father and mother standing
in a pond, against sunlight on rushes,
my mother's thin arm reaching
from between the small suns of water-lilies,
and saw that a spider
had strung threads from my father's knees
to glitter out over the water;
that their bleached bones had hardened
in the green on green of circles
and the paired blue wings of dragonflies,
the minute dance of egg-laying.
And I was glad
that they still stood there, sun-dry and reaching,
and I was grateful
that no one had needed to bury them,
shut them out of all that light.

Susan Wicks
(from "Dear Crane" with thanks to Bloodaxe Books)
~~~~~



*BECAUSE I COULD NOT STOP  
FOR DEATH – HE KINDLY  
STOPPED FOR ME.*

*I CARRY YOUR HEART WITH  
ME (I CARRY IT IN MY HEART)*



### **Friends Together Bereavement Support Group**

Rusthall URC  
Last Friday of each Month  
Tea, biscuits and companionship

From 1.00pm - 2:30pm

[www.friendstogetherbs.org](http://www.friendstogetherbs.org)

Contact Steph Rose  
Mobile - 07950 737672  
or call into the Abbey Funerals Office  
31 High Street, Rusthall



# **An Evening with Charlie Bell & Friends**

**Local poets and musicians helping to raise money for Active Hearts & Minds**



**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September 7.00 – 9.30**  
**Doors open 6.30**

Proceeds go to Active Hearts and Minds to support arts and leisure activities for those with and without disabilities.

You can look forward to a fun evening with lots of variety and the warm glow that you are supporting a good cause.

Tunbridge Wells Bridge Club, 40 London Road, Tunbridge Wells.  
Tickets £12 with all proceeds going to Active Hearts & Minds.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/an-evening-with-charlie-bell-friends-tickets-1407362241349?aff=oddtcreator>

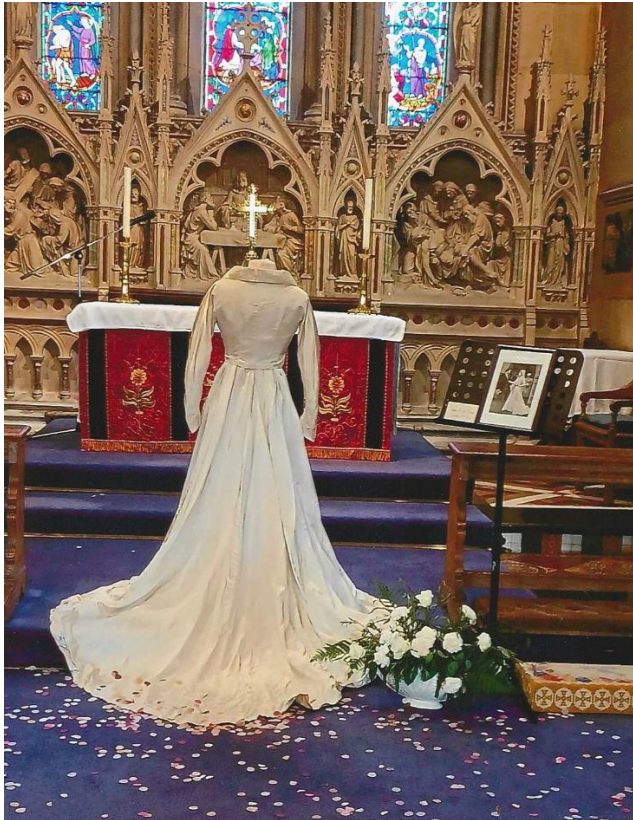
If you can't make it, please send donations by bank transfer to Active Hearts and Minds Ltd, 23-05-80 53436087 giving 'Fund Raise' and your initials as a reference





## The Flower Festival

Since joining the Flower Group at St Paul's I had always had the idea of displaying a wedding dress approaching the altar with the skirt or train cascading down the steps, so when I unzipped the dress cover and saw Susan Teubler's dress - it was perfect, stylish and elegant and kept covered for 63 years - it was quite an emotional moment. This was the start of our Festival, one dress, who would have thought we would have ended up with 21? A big thank you to all the brides who trusted us to look after those precious treasures.



Rita Watson was so helpful, supplying us with her own dress, worn in 1956, both of her daughters' dresses and the delightful headdress and veil belonging to her mother and worn in 1926. I enjoyed a very jolly afternoon meeting the family for tea.



We decided to try to match the flower arrangements with the original brides' bouquets, although some guesswork was needed as many of the early wedding photos were in black and white. I think we got it about right.

I must thank Sam at Wadhurst Flowers for her help and for delivering flowers in perfect condition and on time – Phew! Also Ruth Garrod who grows flowers on a plot near Speldhurst. She arrived with the most gorgeous blooms, exquisite roses, delphiniums and so many more. The North Porch was full of their delicate perfume.



Roses, carnations, lilies and asparagus fern were the most popular flowers in bouquets for many years.

Our first major problem was lack of mannequins. As dresses kept arriving it was clear that more and more would be needed. Gradually we managed to locate and borrow them, from friends and second-hand shops. Special thanks to Christine Longridge who turned up with four, and to Caroline Johnson for the idea of hanging the remaining dresses from the pew candle holders.

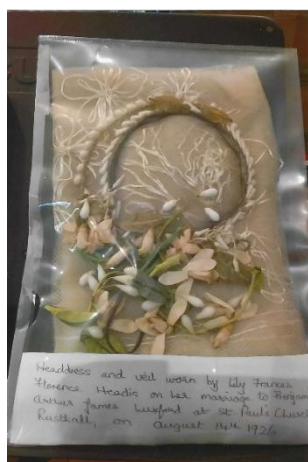


The Festival was featured by both BBC and ITV and publicised via social media. It was very well attended by people in the parish and from far and wide – including from abroad! Many left lovely comments in the visitors books and the success of



the Festival made all the hard work worthwhile. I must thank the Flower Team and everyone involved. It was a team effort which showed that when we all work together it works!

**Jill McAllister**



Pictures from around the church during the Flower Festival



## A Musical Note



### Choir Tour to Normandy

Over the past year, we have been celebrating the 175th anniversary of the church, and for the choir, that has culminated in a four-day tour of Normandy (transported impeccably by Chris from the Johnsons coach company).



*The Relief Driver!*

Our journey, joined by various members of our fan club, aged approximately 1-80, began on the 7th of August. We made our way to Dover, before hopping on a ferry to Calais, where some exploration of Duty Free took place, featuring the Stellanosaurus Rex! From there, we continued on across France until we reached Lisieux. Once the coach had been impressively manoeuvred through the small streets (and between numerous bollards) in Lisieux, we finally reached the hotel.



*Basilica of St Therese, Lisieux*

After a tiring day of travelling, we woke up on Friday to a lovely breakfast at the hotel. We then spent the morning looking around the beautiful Basilica of Sainte-Therese. After that, we travelled to Falaise for lunch and then a group visit to the Chateau Guillaume-le-Conquerant. Built in the 12th century, this castle is located on the same site as the castle that William the Conqueror was born in 1028, hence its name. Following this, we made our way to the church for a final rehearsal, followed by dinner at a local restaurant. The day concluded in a very successful first concert, with a full audience who evidently appreciated our music, as shown by the standing ovation they gave us!



*Eglise St Gervais St Protas de Falaise*

On Saturday, after a fulfilling breakfast, we made our way to the Caen Memorial. This informative war museum gave us an undeniably powerful perspective of the tragic times. After lunch, we travelled to Bayeux and got to see the Bayeux tapestry! It was honestly huge, highly informative and incredible to see (especially after the junior choir had spent Choir Camp making the Rusthall tapestry!) We then had some free time to explore the beautiful city and picturesque streets of Bayeux before rehearsals for the concert. While rehearsing in the breathtaking Cathedral of Bayeux, many visitors to the cathedral stopped, listened and even filmed us. We finally got to our last concert after a nourishing dinner at a local restaurant.

Our concert contained slightly more serious works than in Falaise, but it was extremely well received and it truly felt like our hard work had paid off whilst also having loads of fun!





*Bayeux Cathedral Concert*

Finally, after three days of fun and hard work, it was time to return home. Our first stop was the beautiful town and port of Honfleur, where we soaked up the atmosphere and did a healthy amount of shopping! One of Honfleur's most interesting features is the local church, which was destroyed by the English and then rebuilt by shipwrights, giving it a roof that looks like an inverted boat hull. After a wander through Honfleur, we again set off for Calais and then on to Dover. We then sadly had to say goodbye to our incredible coach driver Chris, who made the tour as smooth as possible and threw in a five-star motivational speech at the end! Eventually, we made it back to Rusthall with a coach full of music and singers: happy, tired, and looking forward to our next endeavour with the Son et Lumière concert - featuring exciting music with light displays on 13<sup>th</sup> September.



*Honfleur*



*Waiting for the ferry home*

**Hannah Hughes, Eleanor Toombs and Stella Winter**

## Son et Lumière – 13<sup>th</sup> September



The Choir's next event will be a Son et Lumière Concert at 6.30 pm on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September. The exciting programme of choral music will be enhanced by a professionally designed light show created for us by Nic Farman. Entrance is free but there will be a retiring collection. Refreshments will be available during the concert.

Please look for the flyers and put this date in your diary.

**BLACKHAM VILLAGE HALL**

# QUIZ NIGHT

**SATURDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2025**

TEAMS OF UP TO  
6 PEOPLE

TICKETS £12 EACH  
TO INCLUDE  
SUPPER

DOORS OPEN 6.30  
QUIZ TO START AT  
7PM

LICENSED BAR  
(CASH & CARD)

RAFFLE

Tickets from Ruth ☎ 07890 303791



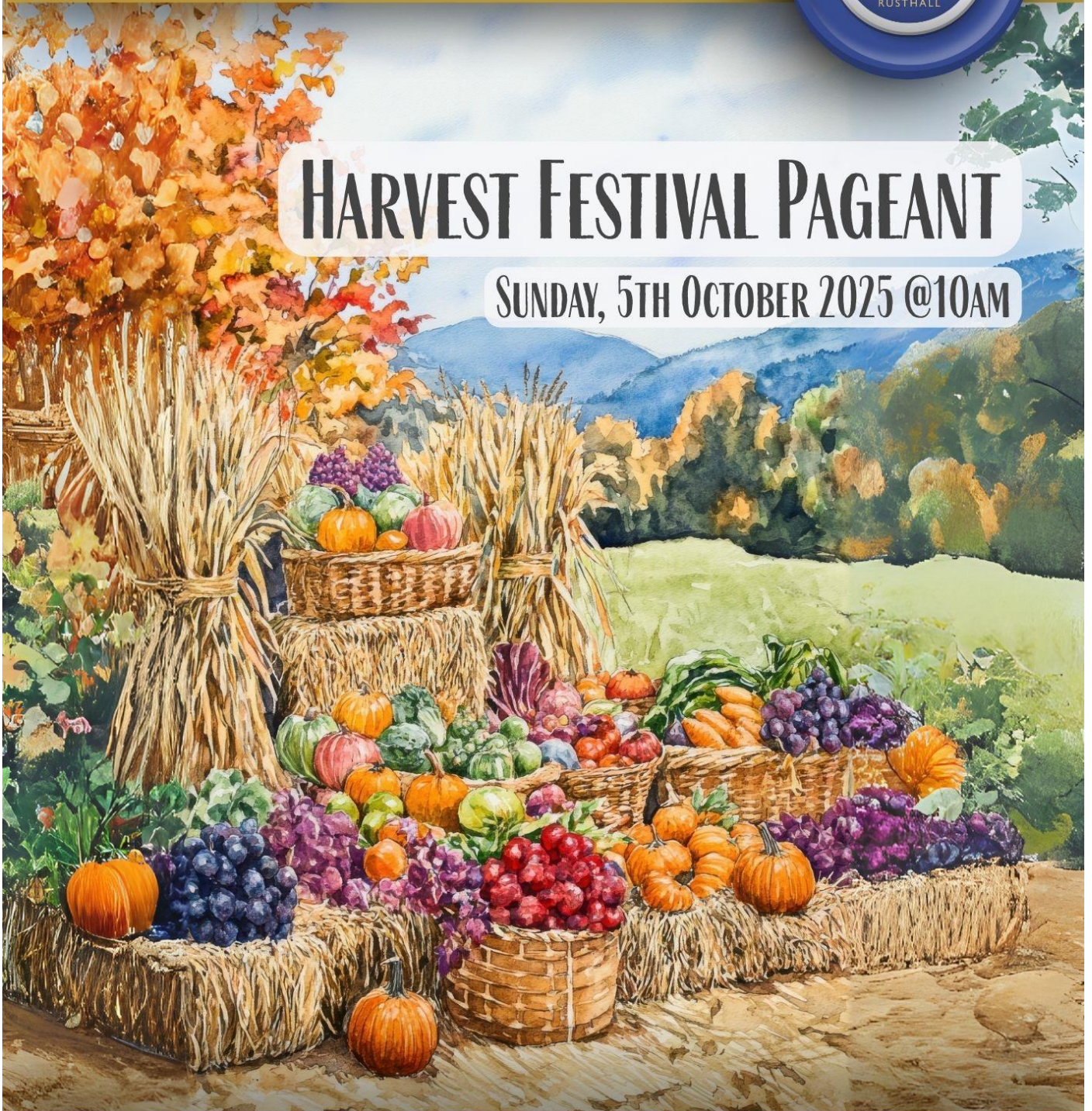
# St. Paul's Parish, Rusthall

Celebrating 175 years



## HARVEST FESTIVAL PAGEANT

SUNDAY, 5TH OCTOBER 2025 @10AM



St. Paul's  
Church  
Rusthall

**All services take place at the Parish Church unless stated otherwise.**

St Paul's Parish Church: Langton Road, Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells TN4 8XD.  
Office and Church Centre: Rusthall Road, Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells TN4 8RE.  
Telephone: 01892 521447





## Activity Pages

Try your hand at this wordsearch based on Books of the Bible. The words are written forwards, backwards, diagonally and horizontally. At the end you will be left with 24 unused letters which make up three words. The first is a word for 'The Preacher'; the second a book written by a person who disregarded God's instructions and tried to go elsewhere; the third, a person from the New Testament – a Gospel writer.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N | S | W | E | R | B | E | H | O | S | E | A | S | I |
| O | S | N | E | H | T | U | R | O | M | A | N | S | J |
| M | M | G | A | S | E | G | D | U | J | O | G | D | S |
| O | S | E | T | I | T | U | S | T | I | N | E | A | E |
| L | U | N | Z | O | N | E | H | T | I | U | E | H | L |
| O | C | E | S | R | D | O | A | K | T | E | X | L | C |
| S | I | S | A | U | A | T | L | E | T | K | O | E | I |
| F | T | I | J | E | N | N | R | A | C | U | D | I | N |
| O | I | S | B | E | J | O | H | N | S | L | U | N | O |
| G | V | A | M | O | N | A | W | S | A | S | S | A | R |
| N | E | A | S | O | J | C | M | S | O | H | E | D | H |
| O | L | H | M | A | R | K | T | E | E | M | U | H | C |
| S | U | Y | E | L | H | A | I | A | S | I | A | M | T |
| A | C | T | S | N | A | I | H | T | N | I | R | O | C |

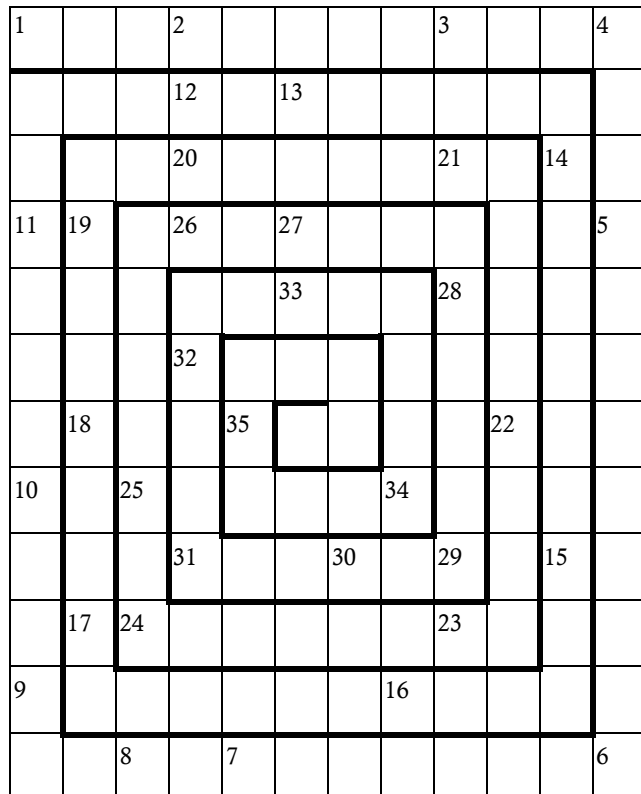
|           |             |                 |               |
|-----------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|
| ACTS      | AMOS        | CHRONICLES      | CORINTHIANS   |
| DANIEL    | DEUTERONOMY | EXODUS          | EZRA          |
| GENESIS   | HEBREWS     | HOSEA           | ISAIAH        |
| JAMES     | JOB         | JOSHUA          | JOHN          |
| JUDE      | JUDGES      | KINGS           | LAMENTATIONS  |
| LEVITICUS | LUKE        | MARK            | NAHUM         |
| ROMANS    | RUTH        | SONG OF SOLOMON | THESSALONIANS |
| TITUS     |             |                 |               |

### Twenty Questions to Test You

All the answers are towns or cities, either here or abroad, which you might have visited on holiday and seen the item in question.

1. Cleopatra's Needle
2. The White House
3. Explored this city by gondola
4. Paid a visit to the Tivoli Gardens
5. Visited Holyrood Palace
6. Visited the home of composer Edvard Grieg
7. Visited the pyramids and Great Sphinx
8. Visited the Cutty Sark
9. Saw the Statue of Liberty
10. Visited the town linked to the song 'The girls are so pretty'
11. Saw the Taj Mahal
12. Visited the town where Jesus grew up
13. Saw the famous fountain of Trevi in this capital city
14. In this capital city you visited Leonardo da Vinci's portrait of the Mona Lisa
15. You walked – or took the train – along England's longest pier
16. You climbed up the CN Tower here
17. You paid a visit to the Acropolis
18. You visited the famous festival – called the Great Show on Earth, where the parades at the Sambadrome are the main attractions
19. You visited the Alhambra Palace
20. A capital city where you would find an astronomical clock and a square with connections to a Christmas carol.

Explore the **World of Nature** in this next crossword where the last letter of one answer is the first letter of the next.



#### Clues

1. Type of cabbage
2. Name linked to hearing and hair
3. Scottish valley
4. Small pond amphibian
5. Fungus
6. Red backed beetle with black spots

7. Early morning moisture
8. Stinging insect yellow with black spots
9. Young salmon
10. Bird known for its red breast
11. Stinging plant
12. This tree suffers from a Dutch disease
13. Type of wild duck
14. Period of no rain
15. Roofing for a country cottage
16. Name is a combination of a boundary fence and a type of pig
17. Seaside bird with a bad reputation
18. Scottish lake
19. Plant used for flavouring food
20. Old burial mound
21. Tree traditionally used to make cricket bats
22. A type of gastropod sea snail
23. Another name for Marsh Marigold
24. Might be sweet – could be green
25. Minute single-celled animal just visible to the naked eye
26. The remains of a fire
27. Another name for Moor
28. Christmas greenery
29. Churchyard tree
30. Creature connected with Red Riding Hood
31. Low marshy land in Eastern England
32. Tower used for storing grain
33. Exotic flowering plant
34. Range of chalk hills in Southern England know as either North or South
35. Small river

Answer the questions and fill in the grid. Then sort out the letters in the third vertical column to find the name of a humanlike figure placed to protect crops. All the answers in the grid are the names of some form of material.

|   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                                                                                                        |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Used for windows                                                                                       |
| 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Porcelain which bears the name of a country                                                            |
| 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Name of this material links with roll to give you a form of dance music                                |
| 4 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | This material bears the name of a river which flows across the border of Scotland and northern England |
| 5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Fabric used for making clothes, sheets and even tents                                                  |
| 6 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Material which rusts                                                                                   |
| 7 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Alloy of copper and zinc                                                                               |
| 8 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Stiff fibre used in rope making                                                                        |
| 9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Powdery particles of wood produced by sawing                                                           |

TRUE or FALSE Some of the following statements are true and some are false. Those that you consider to be false you should find out the correct answer. These are all Biblically based.

1. The disciple Simon Peter was married
2. In the tale of the Good Samaritan, the injured man was walking from Jericho to Jerusalem
3. The three wise men brought gifts of gold, silver and myrrh
4. David was Jesse's seventh son
5. Leah and Rachel were sisters
6. Solomon's mother was Bathsheba
7. The eldest of Rebecca's twin sons was Jacob and the younger Esau
8. Orpha and Ruth were sisters in law
9. God ordered Jonah to go to Babylon
10. Noah had three sons – Shem, Ham and Seth
11. Gomer was the wife of Hosea
12. Paul ended his life in Rome
13. Mary and Elizabeth were relatives
14. Observe the Sabbath and keep it holy is the 3<sup>rd</sup> commandment
15. Adam and Eve had just two children – Cain and Abel
16. The mother of Samuel was Hannah
17. Moses was older than Aaron
18. Paul's prison companion in Philippi was Silas
19. David was responsible for the building of the original temple in Jerusalem
20. Elijah cured Naaman of his leprosy

Whilst researching important events to list in this month's Editorial, we discovered that 9 September has been named as International Sudoku Day in honour of its 9 x 9 grid format. So, in celebration of that, we thought we should include one!

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   | 1 | 8 |   | 2 | 4 |   |   |
|   | 6 |   |   | 9 |   |   | 1 |   |
| 8 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 9 |
| 1 |   |   | 9 | 8 | 5 |   |   | 6 |
|   | 4 |   | 3 |   | 7 |   | 8 |   |
| 9 |   |   | 4 | 2 | 6 |   |   | 1 |
| 7 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 4 |
|   | 8 |   |   | 4 |   |   | 6 |   |
|   |   | 6 | 2 |   | 8 | 3 |   |   |



## ANSWERS

**Wordsearch on Books of the Bible** – the missing letters make up the books Ecclesiastes Jonah and Matthew

### Twenty Questions to Test You

- |                   |              |                   |                    |             |
|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 1 London          | 2 Washington | 3 Venice          | 4 Copenhagen       | 5 Edinburgh |
| 6 Bergen (Norway) | 7 Giza       | 8 Greenwich       | 9 New York         | 10 Dublin   |
| 11 Agra           | 12 Nazareth  | 13 Rome           | 14 Paris           | 15 Southend |
| 16 Toronto        | 17 Athens    | 18 Rio de Janeiro | 19 Granada (Spain) | 20 Prague   |

### World of Nature Crossword with a difference

- |           |             |          |           |             |            |            |
|-----------|-------------|----------|-----------|-------------|------------|------------|
| 1 Kale    | 2 Earwig    | 3 Glen   | 4 Newt    | 5 Toadstool | 6 Ladybird | 7 Dew      |
| 8 Wasp    | 9 Parr      | 10 Robin | 11 Nettle | 12 Elm      | 13 Mallard | 14 Drought |
| 15 Thatch | 16 Hedgehog | 17 Gull  | 18 Loch   | 19 Herb     | 20 Barrow  | 21 Willow  |
| 22 Whelk  | 23 Kingcup  | 24 Pea   | 25 Amoeba | 26 Ash      | 27 Heath   | 28 Holly   |
| 29 Yew    | 30 Wolf     | 31 Fens  | 32 Silo   | 33 Orchid   | 34 Downs   | 35 Stream  |

### Grid Questions

- |         |         |           |         |          |        |
|---------|---------|-----------|---------|----------|--------|
| 1 Glass | 2 China | 3 Rock    | 4 Tweed | 5 Cotton | 6 Iron |
| 7 Brass | 8 Sisal | 9 Sawdust |         |          |        |

The word in the third vertical column is **Scarecrow**

### True or False

- 1 True – Matthew 8 v 14
- 2 False – Man was going from Jerusalem to Jericho – Luke 10 v 30
- 3 False – Wise men brought Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh (Matthew 2)
- 4 False – David was the 8<sup>th</sup> son of Jesse (1 Sam 16)
- 5 True (Genesis 29)
- 6 True (1 Kings 1)
- 7 False – Esau was the oldest twin (Genesis 25)
- 8 True (Ruth 1)
- 9 False – Jonah was told to go to Nineveh (Jonah 1)
- 10 False – Noah's three sons were Shem, Ham and Japheth (Genesis 10)
- 11 True (Hosea 1)
- 12 True (Acts 25)
- 13 True (Luke 1)
- 14 False – Observe the Sabbath is the 4th commandment (Exodus 20)
- 15 False – Adam and Eve had three children Cain, Abel and Seth (Genesis 4)
- 16 True (1 Sam 1)
- 17 False – Aaron was probably about three years older than Moses (Exodus 7)
- 18 True (Acts 16)
- 19 False – It was Solomon (2 Chron 2)
- 20 False – No, it was Elisha (2 Kings 5)

### Daphne Pilcher

#### Sudoku Solution

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 3 |
| 3 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 8 |
| 8 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 9 |
| 1 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 6 |
| 6 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 2 |
| 9 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 1 |
| 7 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 4 |
| 2 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 5 |
| 4 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 7 |

**Stone Ness Walled Garden  
Christmas Tree Choosing Day  
22<sup>nd</sup> November 2025**



Our Monday afternoon group have been raising Christmas Trees since 2012. Two hundred young trees spent a year in the Walled Garden whilst we dug holes in the sand and hardcore of the old riding arena, added topsoil and marked out paths. Transplanted and individually named, they were carefully weeded and watered until in the winter of 2018/19 when the first batch were ready for sale – many with roots - so they could be replanted after Christmas by their new owners.

Each year we buy young replacements, and our current plantation is home to a mixture of Norway Spruce (lovely scent) ranging from 1 foot (not for sale!) to 11 feet in height – and Nordmann Fir (don't drop their needles) which are slower to grow and are mostly 4 to 5 feet high.

You are invited to our Choosing Day on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November between 10 and 2 o'clock. Last year happened to be on the day of a storm (gazebo nearly took off!) and if you plan to come but the weather is atrocious, please phone to see if we have rescheduled for the following Saturday.

Having chosen your tree – for example, “Oliver” who is a 5 foot 9 inch Norway Spruce – he will be marked “sold”, you will pay a £10 deposit, decide whether you require “rooted” or “cut”, and fix your collection date and time. Tree prices range between £30 and £60.

Also at this event, we will be selling our very popular apple juice and jams. Tree choosers can enjoy a glass of our mulled apple juice with a mince or fruit pie.

If you would like to find out more about Stone Ness Walled Garden please visit our website or phone Jean Burgess on: 01892 740305 or 07889 731949 (not after 8 pm please) The Walled garden can be found on the A264 between Langton Green and Ashurst.

**[www.thestonenesswalledgarden.org](http://www.thestonenesswalledgarden.org)**

**One-Liners**

The Edinburgh Fringe has dropped the competition for the best one line joke although I did like and laugh at one from this year's Fringe which goes: “I was going to sail around the globe in the world's smallest ship but I bottled it.”

My preference, however, is for the 2003 winner: I started dating a zoo keeper but it turned out he was a cheetah’.

Instead, Ambassadors were asked to give a joke to show how humour works in their countries. Here are a few examples:-

From Switzerland:-  
‘What’s the best thing about living in Switzerland? Well, the flag is a big plus.’

From Austria:-  
‘Why is our flag red - white - red? ‘So that we won’t hang it upside down.’

From the Czech Republic:-  
‘Do you know the three most common lies of Czech men?  
We are just going for one beer.  
I’ll just finish this glass.  
From tomorrow I’m not going drinking any more.’

However, for all that The Times ran a report about the glut of Blackberries this year and nothing made me laugh more than the report of a Lady who was picking blackberries and was asked by a child what she was doing. She replied, ‘obviously I am picking blackberries’ only for the child to reply ‘Waste of time - you can get them in Tesco you know.’

Comedian Tim Vine, former Fringe one-liner winner, also held the Guinness World Record for the most jokes told in an hour - 499. He performed without cue cards and jokes had to get a laugh from the paying audience to qualify. The jokes included: I’ve just been on a once-in-a-lifetime holiday, I tell you what, never again. Crime in multi-storey car parks – that’s wrong on so many different levels. Last night me and my girlfriend watched 3 DVDs back to back – luckily I was the one facing the telly. Conjunctivitis.com – that’s a site for sore eyes. I’ve decided to sell my Hoover – well, it was just collecting dust.

That’s all folks.

**Tim Cripps**

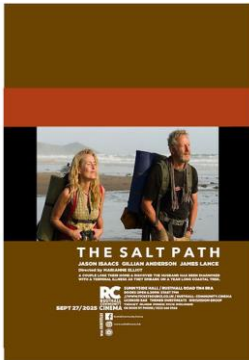


## Rusthall Community Cinema



### **Picnic at Hanging Rock (1975) Cert 12**

Doors open: 6.30pm Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2025  
Director: Peter Weir  
Genre: Drama, Mystery  
Runtime: 1h 59 mins  
Starring: Rachel Roberts, Anne-Louise Lambert, Vivean Gray



### **The Salt Path (2024) Cert 12A**

Doors open: 6.30pm Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2025  
Director: Marianne Elliott  
Genre: Drama  
Runtime: 1h 55 mins  
Starring: Gillian Anderson, Jason Isaacs, James Lance



### **NT Live Inter Alia (2023) Cert 15**

Doors open: 2pm Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2025  
Director: Justin Martin  
Genre: Recorded Live Theatre  
Runtime: 3h 0 mins (including intermission)  
Starring: Rosamund Pike

## **100 Club August Draw Results**

### **PRIZES**

1<sup>st</sup> Prize £100 - 73  
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize £60 - 19  
3<sup>rd</sup> Prize £40 - 57

Numbers cost £10 per month and are available from Chris Dobson On 07757 680165





Step into a world of timeless music and heart-warming storytelling with  
**The Sound of Music!**

Celebrating 60 years since its movie premiere,  
this beloved musical classic returns to the stage bringing joy, inspiration,  
and a touch of nostalgia to audiences of all ages.

Set in the breathtaking Austrian Alps, The Sound of Music follows the spirited  
Maria, a young woman who brings light and laughter into the lives of the von  
Trapp family through the power of music.  
As the world begins to change around them, Maria and the von Trapps discover  
the true meaning of love, courage, and unity.

Featuring iconic songs like 'Do-Re-Mi,' 'My Favourite Things,' 'Edelweiss,' and the  
soaring title number 'The Sound of Music,' this production captures the heart and  
soul of the legendary movie masterpiece. With stunning sets, beautiful costumes,  
and a cast full of talent and passion, this is a theatrical experience that will stay  
with you long after the curtain falls.

Don't miss your chance to relive this enchanting story live on stage!  
Whether you're seeing it for the first time or rediscovering a family favourite, The  
Sound of Music is sure to delight.

Get your tickets today and let your heart sing with The Sound of Music!

**Dates:** 28 October 2025 - 1 November 2025

**Times:** 7.30pm every night (plus 2.30pm Wed & Sat)

**BSL Signed Performance Wednesday 30th October, 7:30pm**

**Prices:** Adults: £25.00 Seniors (65 and over): £24.00 Child (16 and under): £19.00  
**Members:** Adults: £22.00 Seniors (65 and over): £21.00 Child (16 and under): £16.00

**Contact Paul and Shirley Barter to take advantage of members prices.**

## 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 Churchwardens</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 Ginette di Palma

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

Telephone (01892) 521447

*Registered Charity in England & Wales, Number 1132681*

Office email: [office@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk](mailto:office@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk)

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.**



# Son et Lumière concert

Saturday 13th September  
6.30pm  
St Paul's Parish Church, Rusthall  
Free Entry  
Refreshments available

An exciting concert blending choral music with an immersive theatrical light show. Come and see our church in a way never seen before.

Nic Farman  
LIGHTING DESIGN

St. Paul's Church,  
Langton Road, TN4 8XD

