

# ST PAUL'S NEWS

April 2024



ONE POUND

## SERVICES

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April The Second Sunday of Easter

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
President & Preacher: The Vicar
- 10.00 am Parish Eucharist (CW)  
President & Preacher: : The Vicar,
- 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

### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April The Third Sunday of Easter

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
President & Preacher: The Vicar
- 10.00 am Parish Eucharist (CW)  
President & Preacher: The Vicar
- 10.00 am Family Service at the Church Centre + Zoom  
Lead: Susan Powley  
Link: Chris Bassett
- 6.30 pm Choral Evensong (BCP)  
Minister: The Vicar

### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April The Fourth Sunday of Easter

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
President & Preacher: The Vicar
- 10.00 am Parish Eucharist (CW)  
President: Rev. Nicholas Burton  
Minister & Preacher: The Vicar
- 10.00 am Family Service at the Church Centre + Zoom  
Lead: Wendy Anderson  
Link: Liz Mankelow
- 6.30 pm Evensong (BCP)  
Minister & Preacher: The Vicar

### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April The Fifth Sunday of Easter

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
President & Preacher: The Vicar
- 10.00 am Matins (BCP)  
Minister & Preacher: Rev Nicholas Burton
- 10.00 am Family Service with Holy Communion at the  
Church Centre + Zoom  
President: The Vicar  
Link: Viv Littlechild
- 6.30 pm Parish Eucharist (CW)  
President & Preacher: Rev Nicholas Burton

## DIARY

### Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

10.30 am Julian Meeting at 20 Chancellor House  
NB. No Playtime at St Paul's

### Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April

6.00 pm Youth Council in the Lodge

### Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April

10.00 am Bee working party, Parish Churchyard  
10.00 am Private party in the Lodge

### Wednesdays throughout the month

9.00 am Play Time at St Paul's - Church Centre

### Thursdays throughout the month

12 for 12.30 Rusthall Lunch Club - Church Centre

### Fridays throughout the month

12.30 pm Community Larder - Church Centre

## Magazine Article Deadlines

Please submit articles for the 2024 magazines in  
accordance with the following deadlines:

May by Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April

June by Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May

July/August by Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June

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

Magazines are posted on the Parish website by the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. Photocopies of the magazine will also be made available in our churches for those who cannot access the magazine online. Please contact Ginette di Palma at the Church Office (TW 521447) if you are finding it difficult to access a copy.



## From the Registers

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

Elsie Emes

## From the Vicarage

Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia! This is one of my favourite times in the year – or should I say in the Church’s calendar, not because of the signs of spring – longer days, new growth with beautiful flowers and fairer weather but because of what Jesus accomplished for us. Of course, the period leading to Easter plunged us into moments of great anguish as we recount the depths of human barbarism, and the unwillingness of some to ‘call out’ such actions in the guise of the authorities defending the status quo they claimed Jesus disregarded. The period also called us to have moments of self introspection. ‘Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?’ asks the lamenter hoping that our response would be ‘of course, it is something to us’ – each one of us. We know, as Jesus himself pointed out, that the scripture must be fulfilled in him (Luke 22:37) but as his disciples, we must not really passively allow unkind or degrading activities or behaviour to continue in the pretext of maintaining the status quo.

I should at this point say thank you to all those who attended the Lent course. The material, written by United Society Partners in the Gospel (USPG) is entitled ‘*All Things are Possible*’ – a study course exploring how faith in God can change the world. Copies are still available at both churches. The underlying theme of the course is that God has to be part of all that we are and do. After all, scripture reminds us that ‘it is in God that we live, move and have our being’ (Acts 17:28). Yes, we do get things wrong as Disciples of Christ but we shouldn’t nudge or edge God or other people out by thinking we know best or can do it all alone. We are called to walk and work with others.

Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith worked with people and also walked alongside people, sometimes without the people initially recognising him but his inclusivity, care and compassion were the ‘tell-tale’. He is the good shepherd (John 10:11) and the “Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).

Although none of us can ever say we fully understand God (or each other) we can endeavour to grow in our knowledge of and experience of God – and of each other. I have often spoken about using the Johari window to increase our understanding of self and of others but I won’t go into it now. Our desire to get closer to God and others, and our willingness to allow God to, as it were, ‘live in and through us’ is an important aspect of our Christian discipleship. Yes, it takes great courage to surrender our lives to God like that but, in my view, it takes even greater courage to believe that we can really make a positive difference in our homes, communities, work and world without God’s help. We all need God’s help. We need God’s help to make sense of the world, to cope with all that life and other people throw at us and in making a positive difference wherever we are. Jesus is our help and our hope, the Resurrection and the Life – and he wants each one of us to experience life in all its fullness. Part of our task as ‘Easter People’ is to partner with God and with each other to make this a reality for everyone. It is a tall order but ‘with God all things are possible’.

As we rejoice in Jesus’ resurrection, please give thanks for Sarah Cronin, James Maakestad and Freddie Sarpong who will be confirming their faith in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ at the Confirmation service at 10:00am at St Mark’s Church, Broadwater Down, Tunbridge Wells on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May 2024.

May we all, through the Holy Spirit, allow Jesus to live in, with, and through us. Amen.

Ronnie





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Fauré : *Cantique de Jean Racine*  
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## SAT 20th APRIL

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## Editorial – April 2024

Happy Easter everyone! It is always wonderful to see the church full of flowers again as Lent comes to an end. The church season of Easter starts today and continues for the whole of April until we celebrate the Day of Pentecost (also known as Whitsun) on 19<sup>th</sup> May. In between, while our thoughts are still mainly of the death and resurrection of Jesus, the cycle begins again with the Annunciation, the visit of the Archangel Gabriel to Mary to tell her that she has been chosen to be the mother of Jesus. Normally this is celebrated 9 months before Christmas Day on 25<sup>th</sup> March. However, this year that date fell within Holy Week, so it has been moved to Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April. Muslims will mark the end of Ramadan, the month of dawn to dusk fasting they observe, with the festival of Eid-al-Fitr on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> April. Those of the Jewish faith will be marking the liberation of Jews from Egypt at Passover, or Pesach. This celebration lasts 7 or 8 days and is now sometimes referred to as Chag HaMatzot, the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Mythical Creatures are celebrated during April and I have put one on the cover in the form of a dragon being slayed by St George, patron saint of England, though to watchers of Harry Potter and Game of Thrones used to enormous, rideable dragons, this 15<sup>th</sup> century one seems rather puny. George's saint's day is 23<sup>rd</sup> April, which is also the day of William Shakespeare's birth in 1564 and death in 1616. His well known phrases, still used today, include 'melted into thin air', 'wild goose chase', 'I have not slept a wink', and 'break the ice'. Susan Barber has included one of his 154 sonnets in the Poems for the month.

The other mythical creature is the unicorn, celebrated on 9<sup>th</sup> April. It is a national symbol of Scotland, which explains why it is found on the British Royal Coat of Arms. It is thought that the unicorn is now the most popular mythical creature, which certainly seems to be borne out by a casual stroll down a girls' clothing aisle. For the more down to earth, National Pet Day is 11<sup>th</sup> April.

The magazine team would like to recognise the passing of one of our regular contributors, Elsie Emes. A WAAF during the war, she later trained as a primary teacher. She was a passionate gardener, rambler and nature lover, and charmed us over the years with examples of collective nouns - a murder of crows or parliament of owls, Nature Notes and articles about her own garden - Down the Garden Path. Her husband Maurice sang bass in the church choir for many years and sadly this made it difficult for her to attend church after he died, but she continued to provide us with regular articles, for which we were very grateful. She was a delightful lady with a wicked sense of humour.

If you are planning a holiday to an EU country this summer – perhaps a trip to watch the Olympic Games – please be aware that passport requirements are currently catching some people out. It used to be possible to apply early for a passport and carry over unexpired time, resulting in a passport that was valid for more than 10 years. However, an EU requirement is that travellers must have a valid passport issued within 10 years of the date of departure and also valid for a further 3 months after the planned date of return. This is being strictly enforced, with passengers turned away from boarding gates, so do give your passport an extra check.

March was wet and miserable and also included conflict, crimes and disasters. The situation in Gaza continues to cause grave concern, fighting in Ukraine is getting worse, terrorism in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden continues. Now that the clocks have moved to British Summer Time let's hope that both weather and news will become more cheerful.

The deadline for articles for the May magazine is Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April.

**Deborah Bruce and Sue Hare**



# ST PAUL'S

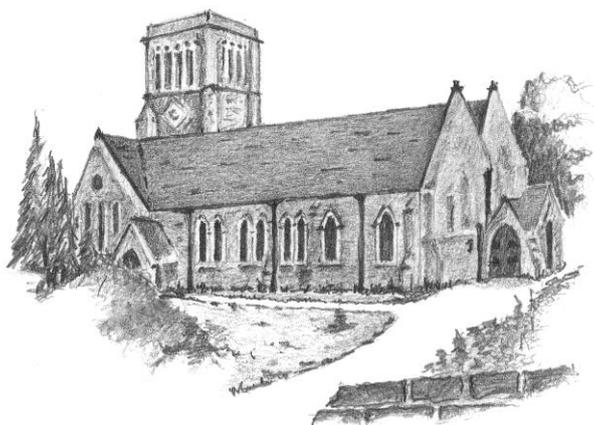
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## Churchwardens' Notes



Following our Pilgrimage to Canterbury on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March, I would like to expand on the wonderful day organised by Tim Harrold.

The day started at Canterbury West Station when the heavens opened with gusto and it rained on and off all day, with a number of us having to take shelter in one of the Cafes.

Apart from us visiting Canterbury Cathedral, we also visited St Martins church which I found very moving, and St Dunstan's church which is the final burial place of Thomas More.

The day finished with Choral Evensong at Canterbury Cathedral.

We had a wonderful day despite the weather and look forward to another Pilgrimage sometime.

Back at base, we are in the process of getting permission to make an immediate start of the roof repairs as we are getting more and more serious leaks that can cause damage to the church if left.

**Rod Garcia-Fermer and May Graves**

### What's in a name?

Many of you will know that my middle Christian name is Thomas, named after my illustrious grandfather, a Churchwarden, Justice of the Peace, local councillor and one who devoted himself to helping the marginalised. Quite an act to follow. This was in Mottingham, South London which, in those far off days, still regarded itself as a village with part of it in Kent and part in SE9, London. When he died he was labelled by the *Eltham and Kentish Times* as 'Mr Mottingham' and his funeral was an elaborate affair with me and my cousins walking behind the coffin to the Parish Church from his home.

As it happens the Gospel set for the second Sunday of Easter (7th April) tells us the story of Thomas and I have always identified with him in my Christian journey. It's part of my commitment to Christ or my Church DNA if you like.

I want to just explore why with you in this article. Thomas was an outsider. I can't really say that about myself except I have felt it on occasions as detailed below. The other disciples thought the same way as each other but Thomas saw things differently. While other disciples jostled for power, he alone recognised that following Jesus to Bethany for the funeral of Lazarus was to join him in a walk towards death.

As I have said, I could not regard myself as an outsider but there were times when I had to overcome such feelings. I was an only child and had plenty of friends but when they were not available my outlet was the railway and the goods yard at Mottingham station. I have never lost my love for that form of travel - particularly the steam engine.

When I was appointed as Partner of my firm, the first state-educated individual to do so, there was a fair amount of jousting that they now had God on their side because they knew of my Christian beliefs. When I was elected to the firm's Executive committee the Finance Partner always said at our meetings 'what does God think' and indeed I heard two of my Partners say 'well what do you think of Tim's appointment' and his reply was 'well the only thing to say is that the firm is now run by non-commissioned officers'. In the dog eat dog atmosphere of the City of London at that time you just had to smile and prove you were every bit as good, if not better, than the prejudiced'. I refused to let them categorise me as the outsider. The cross a Christian must bear.

Fortunately, my confidence helped me but that is not to say that I often had doubts if my confidence exceeded my ability and, if I am truthful, it still does. Again, as many of you know, my previous email address begins with Titus. Now this Titus is the Titus of the New Testament. He is one of St Paul's co-workers and accompanied Paul on many of his missions. Titus is a Christian requiring much encouragement through his life and good deeds, which is why he qualifies for his own letter of encouragement from Paul. In fact both my Christian names are distinctive within the St. Pauline collection. They are similar in style and vocabulary and they are marked by their collective names 'the pastoral letters or the Pastorals' although there have been questions as to whether Paul is really the author, but the Pastoral letters have been helpful to me in affirming my faith. I don't agree with everything Paul has to say but I think that is part of faith but it does make me wonder whether God ensured that I ended up at St. Pauls? Over the years I have been able to call on

many friends when I have doubted my faith and I think everyone needs that, as it could be said that faith is not an exact science - as theologians have known for many centuries.

Now let me say right away that there are many people who have to overcome many more severe challenges than I have faced which makes them feel like outsiders - like those with a disability for instance, and many in my experience show a stronger faith than those without problems.

The reaction of Thomas to being the outsider was one of shame. Ashamed by missing out on the words of peace, the breath of life, and the forgiveness of sin, he responded angrily. His demand to put his hand where the nails were and to further put his hand into Jesus side were not simply the desire for evidence; they were an unreasonable, angry response to his shame.

Thomas's words are the reaction of those who feel themselves to be outsiders. They feel unlovable, they expect rejection. Friends whom I have known to feel that way often get angry with others and make unreasonable demands. Jesus responds with words of peace. Thomas was offered the opportunity of testing the evidence, but he did not need it because, for him, the words of peace removed his shame.

If Jesus was prepared to come to Thomas with words of peace, he is prepared to come to all of us. He is our Lord and our God. Jesus makes the connection between Thomas and the rest of us even if we feel we are outsiders. He believed when he saw, we are blessed for believing without seeing. This story is our story by order of Jesus.

The most profound responses to Jesus were always from people released from sadness. It is the same now. If you want to see Jesus today look to refugees, prisoners, and those in the care system who have had their sadness removed by the words 'Peace be with you'. In the twenty first century a word or two of kindness can make all the difference. All of us, even those considered outsiders by society, and, sadly, the Church, are all loved by Jesus Christ. The story of Thomas is one for humankind.

### **Tim Cripps**

Recommended reading:

The Acts of the Apostles 4: 32-35

John 20: 19 to the end.

The Letters of Paul to Timothy and Titus.

## **Ride and Stride**



Planning for this year's Ride & Stride in Kent is now getting under way, ready for the event on **Saturday 14th September**. Last year £139,000 was raised across Kent, which is well up on 2022. This year is the 75th anniversary of the Friends of Kent Churches, so we are setting ourselves the target of £150,000; what a marvellous achievement that would be!

Here is part of a letter from the treasurer of Friends of Kent Churches to St Paul's:

*"Dear all at St Paul's Church and the Church Centre*

*Re: Ride and Stride for Friends of Kent Churches,  
09 September 2023*

*UK Registered Charity Number 207021*

*We never expected 09 September 2023 to be the hottest day of the year in Kent! It didn't put off our intrepid riders and striders and overall the event has raised around £15,000 more than last year – congratulations to all!*

*So, this comes with huge thanks for your church's support and please pass on our thanks to all who participated in any way towards our sponsored Ride and Stride in 2023. Special congratulations to those who ventured forth into the heat riding or striding and indeed to all those who welcomed participants in our churches and offered refreshments.*

*Please pass on our thanks to your leadership team and all in your church who made it possible for you to participate and to those who generously sponsored participants.*

*Your combined efforts raised £610.00 which will help to support your own church as well as providing funds to enable The Friends of Kent Churches to continue awarding annual grants to churches of all denominations throughout the county of Kent. A return payment of £305.00 was made to your church bank account on 12 Oct 2023 being 50% of the total raised by your church."*

If you would like to take part this year – cycling or walking, please let me know – Jane Goldsworthy – [jane\\_goldsworthy@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jane_goldsworthy@yahoo.co.uk) Tel: 07846 266085. I will also be looking for people to welcome visitors at both Church and Church Centre nearer the time, so please put the date in your diary.

**Jane Goldsworthy**

## **New Honorary Treasurer required**

Our Treasurer for many years, Pat Cripps, is retiring at the end of this year. The tasks which Pat undertakes are set out below although Pat adds that some tasks could be handled by different individuals and a Treasury team could be formed, as we have had in the past, to deal with different aspects.

1. Counting and documenting all cash and cheques and banking them.
2. Paying invoices by direct debit or BACS (and sometimes by cheque, two signatories required) for people supplying work to the Parish and the monthly payment of organists, using details from Fiona and the office for funerals and weddings. Also transferring fees to the choir for funerals and weddings. Graeme Anderson, at present, invoices twice a year for vergers duties. One off payments to other vergers who stand in for Graeme.
3. Book-keeping, updating the accounts and reconciling the bank statements. The system is fully computerised so some familiarity with computers will be helpful.
4. Notifying AMR (accounting firm), the monthly payments for Lorraine (cleaner), Fiona (music director) and Ginette (parish administrator), distributing payslips received from AMR. Paying HMRC for any tax or NI, (taken by direct debit).
5. Dealing with suppliers as needed and any associated correspondence.
6. Attending and reporting to the Parish Church Council at their meetings (currently held on a Monday night at 8pm, every six weeks).

### **Monthly**

Read Gas meters at Parish Church and at Church Centre and report readings to the Utility Company.

### **Quarterly**

Preparing return to Rochester Board of Finance of fees for Weddings and Funerals.

### **Annually**

Renewal of various Church Insurances.

### **End of Year**

Preparing accounts from Computer and liaison with an Independent Examiner. Presentation to PCC and the Annual Parochial Church meeting.

Preparation of Charity Commission returns, lodging accounts annually, and providing information on Trustees (PCC members) as required.

### **Planned Giving Scheme**

Documenting envelopes received for planned giving and standing orders (S/O) received into the Church bank account. Quarterly gift aid returns are filed with HMRC using the Finance Donations programme for S/O and envelopes.

A number of parishioners have moved across to the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) supported by the Diocese, who collect donations and claim Gift Aid on the church's behalf. PGS credit the parish bank account with donations and gift aid received monthly.

If anyone is interested in taking on the role, or part of it, then do please contact the Vicar but if further information is required on any aspect prior to this please contact Pat on 01892 543355.

The post, by definition, is unpaid but all bona fide expenses will be reimbursed.

Thank you.

# Hendley

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## A Musical Note



We have had some wonderful news from Alex Robson who is currently the Herbert Howells organ scholar at St. John's College, Cambridge. Alex is now a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists (FRCO) having passed his exams in January. This is an amazing achievement and we have sent our congratulations to him. Alex not only passed the exams but won a prize for achieving the second highest performance mark and a prize for having the highest written paper result. This meant that he then also won a prize for having the highest mark overall out of all of the candidates! Well done Alex!

The choir is currently rehearsing the music for Easter week and in particular for our Service of Readings and Music for Passiontide and Easter. This year we are singing eight seasonal anthems alongside beautiful readings chosen by Tim Cripps and some Easter hymns. It is especially poignant that we are singing a setting of 'Were you there when they crucified my Lord' by James Whitbourn as he died on 12th March aged just sixty following a cancer diagnosis. James Whitbourn was born in Tunbridge Wells and sang in the choir at St. James's Church. He was educated at Skinners School and then went on to study at Magdalen College, Oxford. A number of our choir have known him (and his family) for his whole life and

are very upset to hear of his passing. James worked for the BBC as editor of Choral Evensong from 1990 to 2001 and he was also one of the producers of the televised broadcast, 'Carols from Kings' for more than thirty years. His compositions are mostly choral works but often incorporating a solo instrument or orchestra alongside the organ and choir. His final composition which is fittingly a Requiem, will be premiered on 13th April at Carnegie Hall in New York with John Rutter conducting.



In June 2017, some of the choir attended a singing day with James Whitbourn at our church. He came to introduce us to and rehearse us in his 'Son of God Mass'. The themes he used were originally composed as background music for a television documentary entitled 'Son of God' which he then adapted for SATB choir, organ and soprano saxophone into a mass setting. By chance the Oriana Singers are singing this setting of the Mass at Gloucester Cathedral on 7th April.

When James came to do the workshop with us he was great fun and spent much of the break times between the rehearsals chatting with the children in the choir and encouraging them to continue with their music making. This is unsurprising as James was deeply committed to education and the development of the next generation of musicians. He was Fellow and Director of Music at St. Edmund Hall, Oxford; Senior Research Fellow at St. Stephen's House, Oxford; Director of Music at Harris Manchester College, Oxford; and a member of the Faculty of Music in the University of Oxford. The choir has sung a number of James's compositions over the years including 'All shall be Amen and Alleluia' (the one with organ, piano and cymbals) and 'Alleluia Jubilate' which is a great fun upper voice anthem. Perhaps we can have a special service later in the year in which we sing some of his anthems and settings.

**Fiona Johnson**

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## April Fools' Day Jokes

**Babies born on  
March 31 are the  
easiest to prank on  
April Fools' Day.**

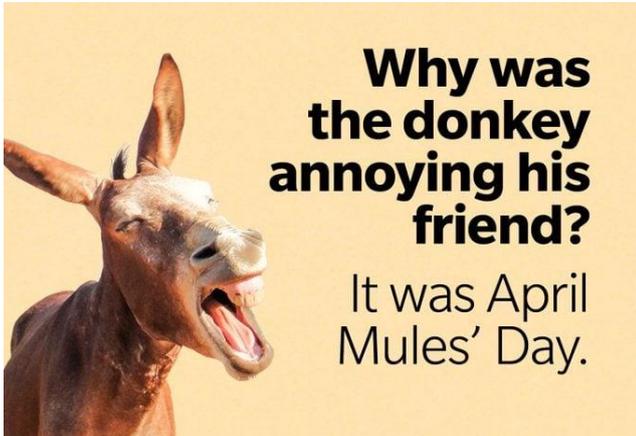
They were literally  
born yesterday!



RD

What monster plays the most April Fools' jokes?  
Frankenstein.

Did you hear about the guy who swapped the  
labels on the pumps at the petrol station? It was an  
April Fools' joke.



A and C were going to prank their friend ... but  
they just letter B.

Which day of the year do monkeys like best?  
The first of Ape-ril.

Which day is the worst to propose on?  
April Fools' Day.

Who needs a day for the fools? I'm surrounded by  
them all year.

A couple of pranksters broke into the local police  
station and stole all the lavatory equipment. A  
spokesperson was quoted as saying, "We have  
absolutely nothing to go on."

Who needs April Fools' when your whole life is a  
joke? April fools!

I don't always joke on April Fools' Day.  
Just kidding, I do.

There are some friends you know will never pull  
an April Fools' Day prank. Because they think it's  
still March!

I'm going to pull an April Fools' Day prank on my  
landlord by not paying rent. Just kidding, rent isn't  
due today!

Why was everyone so tired on April 1? Because  
they just finished a long 31- day March.

Knock, knock.  
Who's there?  
April.  
April who?  
April Fools!

Why can April jump so high? It's spring!

What do you say when it's raining chickens and  
ducks on April Fools' Day? It's fowl spring  
weather.

Why do eggs like April Fools' Day?  
They love practical yolks.

What is a prankster's favourite toy? Silly String!

What's one bone a prankster doesn't want to break  
on April Fools' Day? The humerus.

April Fools' Day is the favourite holiday of which  
animal? The silly goose!

What do you call a realistic prankster? A practical  
joker.

**What do  
you call a  
hammer  
bought on  
April 1?**

An April tool.



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## More tea vicar ? (Or something stronger?!)



In a book I was reading recently one character, a female vicar, is asked why she decided to take a break from heading up her parish. She replies:

‘I can give you plenty to choose from. We could start with the never-ending worry about the state of the buildings. So, you have endless fundraising to keep the buildings from falling down, and in the meantime you have to become an expert on boilers, pointing, insulation, guttering and fuse boards. There are the piles of admin, from the diocese and the PCC - paper-work that I could have papered the entire church with. Then come the weddings, the christenings and funerals – all of which you want to make personal and special. And when that’s done, there are more letters, more sermons ... oh, and the plays. I can’t think how many nativities I’ve written over the years, and each one has to be different from the last, otherwise it will be commented upon. A bit tricky when you’re talking about the same story each year. One time I made the kings three chefs in tall hats. I rather liked that but apparently Colin didn’t. And so we come on to the complaints: why didn’t I include Ethiopia in my prayers, it’s a disgrace?; why am I not using the ancient text but at the same time why am I not getting young people into church?; why can’t I be more like the last vicar and his wife? Alan played the bassoon so well, and Trish was so good on the guitar. You think I’m joking, but I’m not. You have to be a musician, oh, and counsellor, when the organist has his weekly crisis of confidence. That’s before juggling all the personalities on the PCC, and the churchwardens and your curates. One curate who used to be in the City and thinks he knows it all, while the other one knows a lot but she’s too shy to say anything. So there is the cajoling, the listening, the encouraging, the pacifying. And that’s without thinking of all the people you are trying to help in the parish, who are the reason you’re there in the first place. And that’s not just your congregation – your parish includes *everyone*.

So you spend your time loitering in the village shop and listening in the pub, casually walking by the school at home time, because that is when you get to hear who is in trouble and having an utterly wretched time. Then when these poor people *do* open up to you, you try your utmost to get them the right help. I never minded that, even if it could be a battle ... more emails, letters, phone calls ... more bureaucracy. I always felt that was what I was there for. But the rest? The rest! And you know what the worst was? All those personal comments that you are supposed to take, because you’re a bl\*\*dy vicar! “You’ve put on weight; your earrings are too showy; that new haircut is awful; you shouldn’t spend so much time in the pub talking to people.” And so it goes on.’

Whilst the author is not a vicar she reveals that the book was inspired by a lady Reverend who shared many stories with her.

A few days later, with my nose buried in a magazine, I came across an article by the Reverend Kate Bottley (of Gogglebox fame). Acknowledging that life is tough and we all have our problems she writes ‘Vicars do stuff in their communities that you might not realise, such as sitting on housing association panels, being school governors, advocating for vulnerable adults, writing adoption and fostering references, establishing and running food banks, organising emergency accommodation, dealing with desperate people who turn up on their doorsteps and mediating in community disputes.’

So spare a thought for Ronnie, and all members of the clergy; at a time when life is so difficult for all of us, they have more responsibilities to juggle than most and are certainly not immune from criticism (although I think it unlikely Ronnie has ever had to justify his choice of dangly earrings!).

I am tempted to equip Ronnie, Nicholas, Tony, Tim, and Daphne with highlighter pens to mark each of the issues listed here that they have had to deal with, then tally up their results. I suspect they would all score very highly.

After reading this I hope we will all show a little more appreciation of our clergy and next time we bump into them offer them a cuppa...or something a little stronger!

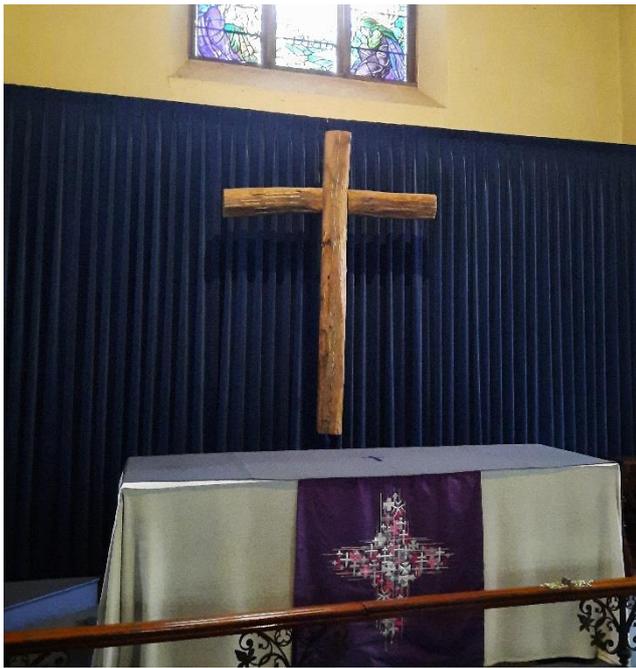
### Cherry Mead

First extract from *The Book of Beginnings* by Sally Page published by Harper Collins (pages 316-318) You Don’t Have to Be a Buckaroo Donkey Reverend Kate Bottley writing in *Good Housekeeping* October 2023.

## The Pilgrim's Progress to Canterbury

John Bunyan's original book, *The Pilgrim's Progress*, written in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, was of course an allegorical telling of his protagonists' journey from the earthly world to the Celestial. It has been translated into over 200 different languages and has never been out of print. I doubt this article will achieve anything like the same level of recognition. The limitations of this author should not diminish the achievement of the 21 intrepid pilgrims who undertook their own pilgrimage to Canterbury Cathedral on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. To me they weren't just pilgrims but true pioneers.

The day started so well. Despite people arriving from all four points of the compass and using different modes of transport, we all managed to be at the meeting point at the designated time. On schedule, at 10.30 am we left Canterbury West train station and started walking to our first stop, St Dunstan's Church. Innocent of what lay ahead, none of us knew that this would be the last time we would be on schedule!



It was a mere ten-minute walk but in that short time the weather turned positively Biblical. At least we could take refuge inside the Church and consider its history whilst we dried off. It is from St. Dunstan's that Henry II set off barefoot following the murder of Archbishop Thomas à Becket in 1170. That makes the church nearly 1000 years old. St. Dunstan's has another claim to fame in that within its walls lays the head of Thomas More. The rest of his body apparently is still at the Tower of London.

The church now sits in a built-up area with shops, busy roads and a railway line running nearby. In the time of Henry II, it would have been very different. The Church sits outside the city walls, so there would most likely have been crops growing in the fields between the church and the city boundaries. But going the other direction, away from Canterbury, it would have been dense, dark forests where you would not travel alone for fear of being robbed or killed.

The weather was not getting any kinder by the time we came to leave St. Dunstan's. We had another 10-minute walk down to Westgate by which point we were all looking a little bedraggled! Westgate is the largest surviving City gate in England and represents the sole survivor of the original seven gates that made up Canterbury's city wall. With the rain heavier than ever, there was only one thing for it – time for a hot drink and some cake! After all, pilgrims can't be expected to journey on an empty stomach.



Forty-five minutes later, refreshed and feeling a bit more human, we ventured back outside. We had a longish walk now of just over a mile to our next stop, St. Martin's Church. On the way we passed the Hospital of St. Thomas the Martyr which was sadly closed due to building works.



This was one of the first places specifically built to cater for the ever-growing number of pilgrims that started coming to Canterbury.

Europe was so shocked by what had happened in the cathedral that pilgrims started arriving almost immediately after it had happened. The population of Canterbury at the time was about 4,000 but multiples of that number were soon visiting the city. It didn't take long before entrepreneurial types started building places like this to cater for all those pilgrims. This one is now an alms-house providing accommodation for elderly residents of Canterbury.

On this part of our journey, we would also pass Conquest House. It is from this building that the four knights plotted their encounters with the archbishop. Their initial intention had been not to murder Thomas à Becket but rather persuade him to withdraw the excommunication orders he had placed on the head of some of the King's allies. But Thomas would not back down. The knights came back to Conquest House, collected their armour, and returned to the cathedral where, after a short but heated argument, they murdered the archbishop.

From the outside, St. Martins Church is very unassuming and provides little to indicate the very special place it holds in the history of these isles. Originally the private chapel of Queen Bertha, wife of the King of Kent, it became the headquarters of St. Augustine when he first arrived in this country in 597 A.D. Queen Bertha was already a practising Christian and was ultimately canonised as a saint for her role in the establishment of Christianity in this country.



The Church is now, along with the Cathedral and the Abbey, all part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site and is the oldest continuously worshipping Church in the English-speaking world. If there was one place outside of the Cathedral itself where we felt like we were walking in the footsteps of those who had gone before, then this was it. It felt a real honour and privilege to experience this special place. Nicholas gave a very moving talk about what it meant to be on a pilgrimage and after some further prayers and reflections, we continued our journey. There was one more church for us to visit before we reached the Cathedral.

St. Pauls Without the Walls, as the name tells us, is another church outside the city walls. It was severely bomb-damaged during WWII, but it has a wonderful collection of stained-glass windows and behind the alter are full size murals of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Our visit happened to coincide with a rehearsal for a concert that was taking place that evening, which gave us an unexpected bonus.



Finally, after nearly 4 km (2 ½ miles) of walking we crossed the City Wall and reached the precincts of the Cathedral. Ahead of us was a total treat for which thanks must be given to the Dean of Canterbury Cathedral. Two incredibly well informed and interesting cathedral guides gave us a ninety-minute tour that I think for a lot of us could have carried on for another ninety minutes. From

the age of 13 until 18, I was in this building nearly every Sunday, it was also where I was confirmed, and yet it still manages to give me goosebumps every time I walk through its hallowed doors. It is a place which always makes God's presence feel very real and nearby The Chapter House, shown in the picture below, just takes your breath away. Not bad for what is essentially a meeting room!



The sheer height and majesty of the nave forces your eyes skywards. Even by today's standards, its scale is impressive, yet its construction was nearly a thousand years ago. The building's permanence over centuries is its eternal reassurance. Its history is testament to the trials and challenges of a growing church. The stained-glass windows, some of which date back nearly a thousand years (as in the picture below) remind you that in years gone by the story of the bible had to be told through pictures because most of the worshippers could not read.



The worn-down steps leading up to the Quire are a visual reminder of all the millions who have gone before. Despite the desire to continue exploring the cathedral, stomachs were beginning to growl so off we went to have our fellowship meal. We had pre-ordered all our meals and The Old Buttermarket pub did a fantastic job in getting us fed and watered.



On our way to our watering hole, we were able to admire the very decorative Christchurch gate. It is perhaps one of the most unusual wedding presents in history. It was built in 1502 to celebrate the marriage of Prince Arthur Tudor and Catherine of Aragon. Sadly, Arthur died a few months later and Catherine of Aragon went on to marry his younger brother, Henry VIII.

Catherine of Aragon, of course, was a central figure in the events leading up to the English Reformation and the creation of the Church of England. The failure to bring about a son and heir was the driving force behind Henry VIII's desire to divorce Catherine so that he would be free to marry Anne Boleyn. The Pope refused to grant him the annulment he desired and in response Parliament passed laws abolishing papal authority and which declared Henry the head of the Church of England, a role continued to this day by King Charles III.

In the middle of Christchurch gate stands the figure of Christ. This is a replica that was only installed about twenty years ago. The original was destroyed

during the English Civil War by the Parliamentary troops who were using it as target practice.



Having been fed and watered we made our way back to the cathedral for choral evensong which brought our eventful day in Canterbury to a peaceful close. All that remained was the journey home.

We have started a St. Paul's pilgrim's passport which will be kept in the church office. The idea is that whenever we go to another church, cathedral, abbey, or monastery, we can get the passport stamped as a record of where we have visited. Whilst it is called a pilgrim's passport, we should be able to use it as a document of record for any visits, pilgrimage or otherwise.

I have begun loading up pictures from our day onto our website at [www.stpaulsrusthall.org.uk](http://www.stpaulsrusthall.org.uk). If any of the pilgrims have photographs which they would like to share, please do forward them to me. They provide a wonderful record of the day.

My heartfelt thanks go out to all those who came on this year's pilgrimage. They never let the weather dampen their spirits and were determined to make the most of the experience. Through the adversity of the weather, relationships and friendships have

been kindled and memories created which I am sure will stay with all of us.

To have the opportunity to reflect on our faith, to visit the buildings that have played and continue to play such a central role in the history of our religion, and to share that experience in fellowship with so many is what pilgrimage is all about. The welcome we received at the Cathedral, and all the churches we visited, could not have been warmer and each one of them served as great examples of what it means to be a welcoming Church.

Plans are already afoot for a pilgrimage next year as part of our 175<sup>th</sup> celebrations. I hope that even more of you will take the plunge and join us on the next one. I will, however, try and improve our odds with the great British weather by choosing a date in the summer months!



**Tim Harrold**





# 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 2:00pm**

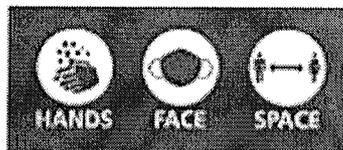
**Who can use it?**

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

**How much does it cost?**

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

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



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**WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU!**

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or telephone 07805 475397**

## Action and Contemplation

Like an oasis in a desert, a set of buildings lie on the dusty west bank of the Rio Grande in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA. This is the Center for Action and Contemplation set up by the Roman Catholic Franciscan priest Richard Rohr in 1986. He says the most important word in the centre's title is the word 'and'. Action without contemplation is mere protest, and contemplation without action is only piety. Both need each other. One without the other means a lopsided and therefore ineffectual faith. So, when Christians witness to their faith, volunteering at a food bank or on an anti-war march, they are called to do so with a quiet, reflective approach and with an open heart, mind and soul (or essence). This is the part of a life of faith – a commitment to a way of conducting our lives that integrates one's whole being.

When Christians pray for others, they can choose to become ready to be the answer to their own prayers. Rather than expecting a remote supernatural being to intervene miraculously for those in any kind of need, Christians get off their knees and go and act. They might write a note or card, send an e-mail, make a phone call and perhaps arrange a visit to the person they have just mentioned in their prayers. After a visit has been made to someone in hospital, they might follow this up with a short silent time with thoughts for the person. That person is glad to know they are being valued in act of active remembering. To pray is to be in one another's thoughts. To live one's prayers of this nature, the Christian is out on the road with a bunch of flowers. Or holding a banner supporting peace-making. Perhaps giving clothes for refugees, making cups of tea at a centre for the homeless, giving to a local food bank. Or even getting to the root of the problem by asking why there is a need to have food banks in the first place.

There is nothing unique in this way of caring for one another, or for facing the big issues and working for world harmony. It must always be recognised that religious people are not the only ones engaged in serving others.

“Action and Contemplation” is simply a sign of such caring, a focus for good intentions and a way of demonstrating a practical faith. It's reality, pragmatism and a good hope. It's a sign of a trusting and committed faith, that does not take 'no' for an answer, is prepared to put others first and that does not give up.

Contemplation is nothing new. Neither does it belong to any specific religion. It is a form of meditation and focussing; but mainly it is a silence, a setting aside and a stepping off life's production line. With contemplation, there is a realistic

awareness of returning to the fray afterwards; with no escapist avoidance of the issues of life, or of apathy. Action and Contemplation is not new either. It is a handy way of summarising the life and teachings of Francis of Assisi. Recently, “Mindfulness” has become more widely popular with many professions and practices finding value in its methods. Especially when Mindfulness encourages us to relax and review the ways we engage with others.

For people who are just beginning to explore methods of active spirituality, even the “contemplating” of experiences of silence, and meditation is off-putting. We can easily argue that silence is for the professionals, like monks and nuns. So, how can we begin to approach a change in our attitudes to holding a time of peacefulness and calm? In our heads, we might agree that Quiet Times (QTs) are good for us, but the problem is - starting.

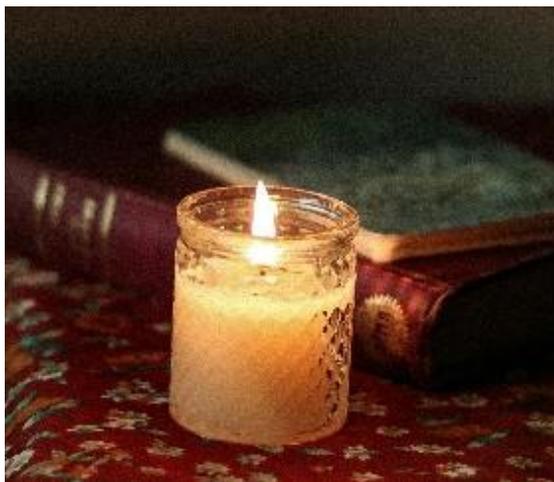
Many people are finding the practices of 'Julian groups' to be helpful. These can be found in many local communities, where a group of people who know and trust one another – perhaps, but not exclusively, in a church – agree to meet for a short session or period on a regular basis. Practically, a group will gather in a friend's house. After the normal greetings, chat and exchanges of news, the host explains how the group will carry out the time of silence, and how long it will be. Someone will be asked to begin the session, perhaps by lighting a candle. Another person who has been asked to lead the time together, may say what s/he will read or do, to provide a focus for the meditation. If it is clear that not many in the group have experienced meditation before, the leader will suggest how each member may find it best to make good use of the silence.

The methods used will vary according to the person participating. Some just look at the centre of the candle flame and allow their minds to let go those outside thoughts. Some will hold a word or two from the reading and allow their thoughts to focus on their reactions to those words.

Newcomers to meditation, may find it difficult to let go their thinking and brain business. One method to help focus is to count, silently, from one to twenty. Usually, by the count of seventeen you are away! Some people find looking at a single stem of a flower provides an opening for silence. Looking at a simple example of natural life can lead to focussing on the wonders of creation.

There are numerous other methods that can be found on helpful websites, but let's go back to the beginnings of the time of meditation. At a time indicated by the sounding of a small gong or similar, everyone moves silently into a set aside

space. In this space are a few chairs, cushions or rugs arranged facing or around a small low table. On the table, there may be a plain unlit candle.



Here is one way in which I have experienced our local Julian group. First, someone lights a candle, often the same one each time for continuity, with a few familiar words to help everyone to focus. Then there are perhaps a few bars of gentle music played, one or two sentences are read and silence falls on the assembled company for as long as agreed. Perhaps only ten minutes first time, or longer if the group is more experienced. One meeting I attended consisted of just one sentence of introduction and an hour of silence! At the close of meditation, some music is introduced, quietly at first and then gradually increasing in volume. The candle is extinguished, and everyone stays for a drink and perhaps a biscuit, and a chat.

**BUT THIS IS ONLY** the beginning. For the experiences of contemplation may well lead to action, from the private to the public. The word 'action' itself can be daunting especially if the participant is young, elderly, disabled or otherwise not suited to a more overt expression of Christian involvement. But action can refer to anything that is inspired by one's prayers, silence or any other form of meditation. It could simply be a jolt in awareness, a stimulus for taking a new direction in life or a determination to read a book. The Christian life style has for too long been a guilt trip. Let's get positive!

We are always exhibiting our Christian faith in the very way we live our lives. Richard Rohr once said, "The way to know a Christian is to be with one". We are not all going to be on the front line with a demo involving armed police.

Which brings us back to Action AND Contemplation; the two going so closely together that either without the other is diminished. Each of these two aspects of our Christian life is complemented by the other. We put our 'money'

where our heart is! 'Action AND Contemplation' becomes a way we live, an inspiration for both our prayers and our everyday existence. Eventually, it becomes a way of life.

**Tony Rutherford**

Adapted from his book 'Meeting Christianity Again - for the First Time' published by Red Balloon Publishing

## **All-weather Path**

After a few years in the gestation, I am writing to let you know that immediately after Easter work will be starting on the all-weather path through the woods from St Paul's Church to The Beacon Hotel.

The work will start at the St Paul's end of the path and move through to the Beacon end. The exact time taken may be affected by things like the weather, but it is thought that the work will take 4 - 5 weeks.

It is being done in a sympathetic way approved by the Commons Conservators, appropriate for the Commons environment, with a view to ensuring that the path is more readily (e.g. by wheelchairs and prams) and sustainably available during all weathers. It will be wonderful to make the splendid views that the path provides open to more people. The materials to be used on the path will be stored on the Commons to the right of the turning circle as you look at it from the Church. We will try and ensure that people's use of the path during its resurfacing is as affected only minimally and that the disturbance, physical and aesthetic, will be as little as possible. Notices about the works will be placed at the entry points to the affected area.

The fundraising, as you probably know, has been co-ordinated by the Friends of Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall Commons. Funds to enable the works, which will cost around £45,000, have been contributed by a wide range of extremely generous donors. A couple of extra benches are being provided as an ancillary to the works so that the views and the quiet can be enjoyed at leisure.

In writing it is clear that making the path more widely usable reinforces the need to have a safe crossing place of the Langton Road, so that the improvements can actually be enjoyed by the maximum number of people who would want to see the wonders of Happy Valley and experience the tranquillity that nature provides.

**John Barber**

## The Church Year - Part 3

So now we come to the period of Lent - the time when we remember the forty days Jesus spent in the desert saying NO to the things which were wrong and this is what we should be striving to do during Lent today. The word Lent means springtime and for us Lent always falls during this period. And before someone points out that there are more than forty days in the Lent period this is because Sundays were not counted as Feast Days.

Actually before we get round to Ash Wednesday we need to give a little thought to the day before - Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Day or Mardi Gras. It is known by all these names. The word Shrove comes from the old word shrive which means to confess one's sins and ask for forgiveness. The word Mardi Gras simply means Fat Tuesday and simply explains that before Fasting took place, people had a time of celebration and a feast. Pancake Day originally was again a time for using up the types of food that were not going to be permitted during the period of fasting. However like so many religious occasions of the past the secular world has caught on to pancakes and the making of pancakes is now a big thing on Shrove Tuesday.

In olden times the time between 6<sup>th</sup> January – Epiphany and Shrove Tuesday was particularly cold and gloomy. If we are honest it is probably not a great deal better today. To keep their spirits up during that period people tended to indulge in celebration of some sort or another and of course there can be no celebration without food.

Right from the beginning Christians have had periods of fasting – of doing without - and of course Lent was a major time for that. But as I said at the beginning of this series Christian and Jewish festivals were very much tied up with the family and the world around them. There were possibly two very practical reasons for fasting. Over eating or drinking is not good for the body and without medical science as we know it today people had to take care of their health. Secondly we live in a world where food can safely be stored for long periods of time, but back in medieval times this was not possible and with the end of the winter things were possibly getting beyond their sell by date and needed to be eaten.

On a higher level we all need to learn that there are times when it is good for us to face hardship. Lent was and perhaps should be a time when we ignore the material comforts of life and concentrate of our life with God. So Shrove Tuesday was also the day when people – so to

speak – cleared their larder of perhaps the nicer types of food to prevent them being tempted during the time of fast.

Ash Wednesday is the actual start of Lent and marks the beginning of a period of time when – in olden times – having confessed one's sins on Shrove Tuesday one is now making - or should be making - a determined effort to 'turn over a new leaf'. The use of Ashes symbolises this.

Today the religious meaning of Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday have tended to be amalgamated into one day - Ash Wednesday. It is probably true to say that most Christians don't fast in perhaps the way our forebears did, but many do give up something during this period. For instance it might be some form of food or it might well be some sort of social outing. The money that is saved from this abstinence is often put in a 'Lent Box' and at the end of Lent the money saved is given to a special need or charity. On the other hand some people try and find more space in their busy lives for either prayer, reading more of the Bible or perhaps attending a Lent Group.

Lent lasts for a period of Forty Days, but on the Fourth Sunday of Lent we have Mothering Sunday, or as it is sometimes called Refreshment Sunday. In bygone days it was often the custom for people and congregations to visit their 'Mother Church'. In some cases this meant a visit to the Cathedral of the Diocese or perhaps simply a visit to the church where your baptismal vows were made. It was also the time when girls in service in one of the 'big houses' were allowed to return home to see their mothers. It was often the custom for them to take with them a present of a simnel cake and if they were lucky pick a bunch of wild flowers, particularly violets for their mothers. It was also a day when families would be united.

Mother's Day is a purely secular occasion, but with Mothering Sunday children are given flowers, which have been blessed, to give to their mothers and it is an occasion to show thanks and appreciation to our mothers. It is also a reminder to all of us how important Mary was in the life of Jesus. It is a reminder too of the importance of the family and how the church should also be like family with all its members held together in a bond of love.

Next time we will think about the importance of the last two weeks in Lent.

**Daphne Pilcher**



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

**Weeks for 2024 (April to October) are available  
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## Easy Payment Terms

Income from magazine sales is important to us at St Paul's. If everyone paid the £1 cover charge we would raise over £1500 a year, which would not only cover the cost of producing the magazine but also contribute to other costs such as leasing the photocopier.

If you often find yourself fumbling for the right change, perhaps you might like to pay in advance for a year's "subscription", 10 issues for the sum of £10, (you might even feel tempted to be more generous!)

Your contributions are much appreciated.

Please make cheques payable to St Paul's Church, Rusthall and send them to the Parish Office

## Poems for April

460 years ago this April, Shakespeare was born, and though there are no excuses needed to celebrate him, April *feels* like his month. Shakespeare and Imtiaz Dharker here reflect how dreams may bring strange comfort at times of loss. And remembering the experience of Jesus' disciples after his death and unfathomable reappearances, these poems of longing are echoed in the third poem with its reassurance and blessing.

**Susan Barber**

### Sonnet 43

When most I wink, then do mine eyes best see,  
For all the day they view things unrespected:  
But when I sleep, in dreams they look on thee,  
And darkly bright are bright in dark directed.  
Then thou, whose shadow shadows doth make bright,  
How would thy shadows form form happy show  
To the clear day with thy much clearer light,  
When to unseeing eyes thy fair imperfect shade shines so!  
How would, I say, mine eyes be blessed made  
By looking on thee in the living day,  
When in dead night thy fair imperfect shade  
Through heavy sleep on sightless eyes doth stay!  
All days are nights to see till I see thee,  
And nights bright days when dreams do show thee me.

*William Shakespeare*



### The trick

In a wasted time, it's only when I sleep  
that all my senses come awake. In the wake  
of you, let day not break. Let me keep  
the scent, the weight, the bright of you, take  
the countless hours and count them all night through  
till that time comes when you come to the door  
of dreams, carrying oranges that cast a glow  
up into your face. Greedy for more  
than the gift of seeing you, I lean in to taste  
the colour, kiss it off your offered mouth.  
For this, for this, I fall asleep in haste,  
willing to fall for the trick that tells the truth  
that even your shade makes darkest absence bright,  
that shadows live wherever there is light.

*(After Shakespeare, Sonnet 43)*  
*Imtiaz Dharker*

### Stay

I know how your mind  
rushes ahead,  
trying to fathom  
what could follow this.  
What will you do,  
where will you go,  
how will you live?

You will want  
to outrun the grief.  
You will want  
to keep turning toward  
the horizon,  
watching for what was lost  
to come back,  
to return to you  
and never leave again.

For now,  
hear me when I say  
all you need to do  
is to still yourself,  
is to turn toward one another,  
is to stay.

Wait  
and see what comes  
to fill  
the gaping hole  
in your chest.  
Wait with your hands open  
to receive what could never come  
except to what is empty  
and hollow.

You cannot know it now,  
cannot even imagine  
what lies ahead,  
but I tell you  
the day is coming  
when breath will  
fill your lungs  
as it never has before,  
and with your own ears  
you will hear words  
coming to you new  
and startling.  
You will dream dreams  
and you will see the world  
ablaze with blessing.

Wait for it.  
Still yourself.  
Stay.

*Jan Richardson*

## Progress on Notre Dame de Paris



It was wonderful to see this photo of the craftsmen working on the roof of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, celebrating the completion of the rooftop frame on the 9<sup>th</sup> March. Carpenters fixed a bouquet of flowers to the timbers – a French tradition.

It was initially hoped that the Cathedral would be reopened by the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the terrible fire which came so close to completely destroying it on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019. This ambitious target will be missed, but amazingly it is hoped that it will be open before Christmas 2024. Already the spire has been rebuilt and topped with its golden rooster, symbol of the French people, and a reminder that St Peter denied Christ three times before the cock crowed. The rooster contains relics - a portion of the Crown of Thorns, and relics of St Denis and of St Genevieve, the patron saint of Paris. When the spire fell it was thought that the rooster was lost, but amazingly as the debris was cleared it was found intact and the relics recovered. Since then it has been seen as a symbol of resilience and hope for the people of Paris and the world.

Paris will, of course, be having a very busy summer hosting the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games in July and August this year.



### Rusthall Community Cinema

	<p><b>Oppenheimer (2023) Cert 15</b>            Doors open: 6:30pm Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2024            Director: Christopher Nolan            Genre: Biography, Drama, History            Runtime: 3h 15m            Starring: Cillian Murphy, Emily Blunt, Robert Downey Jr</p>
	<p><b>The Great Escaper (2023) Cert 12A</b>            Doors open: 6.30pm Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024            Director: Oliver Parker            Genre: Drama            Runtime: 1h 36m            Starring: Michael Caine, Glenda Jackson, Wolf Kahler</p>
	<p><b>Beethoven's Fifth Symphony + Cert PG</b>            Doors open: 2pm Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024            Director: Simon Rattle &amp; Andras Schiff            Genre: Recorded live concert            Runtime: 1h 46m</p>



### Wordsearch based 'loosely' on Materials

The words are written forwards, backwards and diagonally. At the end you will be left with eleven unused letters. These will give you the names of two types of wood – one used because of its durability and hardness and the other often connected with the making of cricket bats.

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

- AMETHYST
- CEMENT
- CHINTZ
- COPPER
- DENIM
- GLASS
- IRON
- LAWN
- MUSLIN
- NYLON
- POLYSTYRENE
- ROPE
- TIN
- WOOD
- ZIRCON
- BRASS
- CHINA
- CLAY
- CORAL
- FELT
- GYPSUM
- JUTE
- MARBLE
- NET
- ONYX
- PLASTIC
- SATIN
- TWILL
- ZINC

### Twenty Questions to Test You

1. Brandywine, Cherokee Purple and Green Zebra are varieties of what sort of fruit?
2. Name the 'good news' nooks in the New Testament
3. In which European city will you find Marco Polo airport?
4. Which planet has moons named Triton, Nereid and Thalassa?
5. How many books are there in the Bible?
6. What type of animal is Napoleon in George Orwell's book Animal Farm?
7. Another name for the Law Books of the Old Testament
8. Leu is the currency of which country?
9. In which Gilbert and Sullivan opera is the character called Little Buttercup?
10. What kind of object might a vexillologist study?
11. For which club did David Beckham make his football league debut?
12. What is the capital of the US State of Arizona?
13. Who was the author of Pygmalion?
14. What is the highest peak in Wales?
15. What instrument does Eric Clapton play?
16. What nationality was the artist Van Gogh?
17. How many and what are the poetic or wisdom books of the Bible?
18. Name the wild Australian dog
19. What is the capital of South Korea?
20. What is the name of the Heather genus?

**British Birds**

Find the ten British Birds hidden in the maze. Start with the letter C and finish with the letter E. You may only move from one letter to the next, up or down, left or right, but never diagonally. You must pass through each letter once, but only once.

C	K	B	I	I	F	L	L
A	L	B	R	W	T	A	O
O	O	L	D	S	S	W	W
K	O	W	H	C	B	O	R
C	U	C	A	↑ START	I	I	E STOP
U	S	H	F	S	N	P	G
R	H	C	F	P	R	O	A
H	T	N	I	A	R	W	M

**Work out the Proverbs**

- 1 BOZUIJOH GPS B RVJFU MJGF
- 2 25 15 21 14 5 22 5 18 11 14 15 23 23 8 1 20 25 15 21 3 1 14 4 15 20 9 12 12 25 15 21 20 18 25

They sound the same but they are spelt differently. **In this crossword** in each of the ‘clues’ one of the words is spelt incorrectly. You need to put the correctly spelt word in the Crossword.

**Clues Across**

1. The May Day fare
3. Not her waste size
5. A somewhat ruff road
6. It was piece and war
8. Do weight at the kerb
9. Shops often have a big January sail
10. Go and by the meat
11. Have you bean to the post
12. I’m going to meat Jenny for lunch
13. There is a grate big cake
14. Some seaside towns have two peers
16. Stay their
17. He was the soul survivor

**Clues Down**

1. Fur trees are evergreen
2. That sum is not write
4. It is rude to stair
6. In church you prey to God
7. She was ate on her birthday
8. Ring out the washing – it is still to wet
9. You expect the son to shine in August
10. You out to beet him in the 100 metres
11. The beach tree is a lovely green
12. The workmen are repairing the manes
15. You can sea the signpost

1			2		3		4		
5						6			7
8						9			
					10				
		11					12		
13							14		15
	16						17		



## General Information

<b>Vicar</b> Rev. Ronnie Williams, The Vicarage, Bretland Road, Rusthall	521357
<b>Associate Priest</b> Rev. Nicholas Burton (c/o Parish Office)	521447
<b>Reader</b> Miss Daphne Pilcher	521691
<b>Churchwardens</b> Mr Rod Garcia-Fermer	
Please contact via email to <a href="mailto:Churchwardens@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk">Churchwardens@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk</a>	
<b>Deputy Churchwardens</b> Mr Graeme Anderson Mr Chris Dobson	532922 539539
<b>Parochial Church Council Secretary</b> Mrs Mione Palmer	667951
<b>Youth Council</b> Angela Culley	07779 098026
<b>Treasurer and Planned Giving</b> Mrs Pat Cripps	521447
<b>Safeguarding Officers</b> Miss Daphne Pilcher May Graves	521691 680274
<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> Miss Fiona Johnson	07540 273303
<b>Magazine Editors</b> Deborah Bruce and Sue Hare c/o the Parish Office email – <a href="mailto:magazine@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk">magazine@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk</a>	
<b>Flower Team</b> Mrs Daphne Hodges	533492
<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 Head of School – Mrs Lyndsay Smurthwaite	520582 520582

## Organisations

<b>Julian Group</b> Mrs Pat Stevens	529187
<b>Group Scout Leader</b> Gavin Cons Email – <a href="mailto:rusthallscoutgroup@gmail.com">rusthallscoutgroup@gmail.com</a>	
<b>Scout Membership Secretary</b> Juliet Waller Email – <a href="mailto:rusthallscoutgroupwaitinglist@yahoo.co.uk">rusthallscoutgroupwaitinglist@yahoo.co.uk</a>	
Squirrels: <a href="mailto:rusthallsquirrels@gmail.com">rusthallsquirrels@gmail.com</a> Beavers: <a href="mailto:beaversrusthall@gmail.com">beaversrusthall@gmail.com</a> Cubs: <a href="mailto:rusthallcubs@hotmail.co.uk">rusthallcubs@hotmail.co.uk</a> Scouts: <a href="mailto:rusthallscouts@gmail.com">rusthallscouts@gmail.com</a>	
<b>Guide Senior Section</b> Helen Deller	07720 252481
<b>Guide Guiders</b> Gemma Bradley	07377 061398
<b>Brownie Guiders</b> Karen Miller (Thurs) <a href="mailto:rustahallbrownies@btinternet.com">rustahallbrownies@btinternet.com</a> Ms Tina Francis (Mon)	545877
<b>Rainbows</b> Mrs Mary Saunders Email – <a href="mailto:saundii@aol.com">saundii@aol.com</a>	319872
<b>Rusthall Lunch Club</b> Mrs Ros Rodwell	01892 618538
<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	534040

## 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.



## **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

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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.**