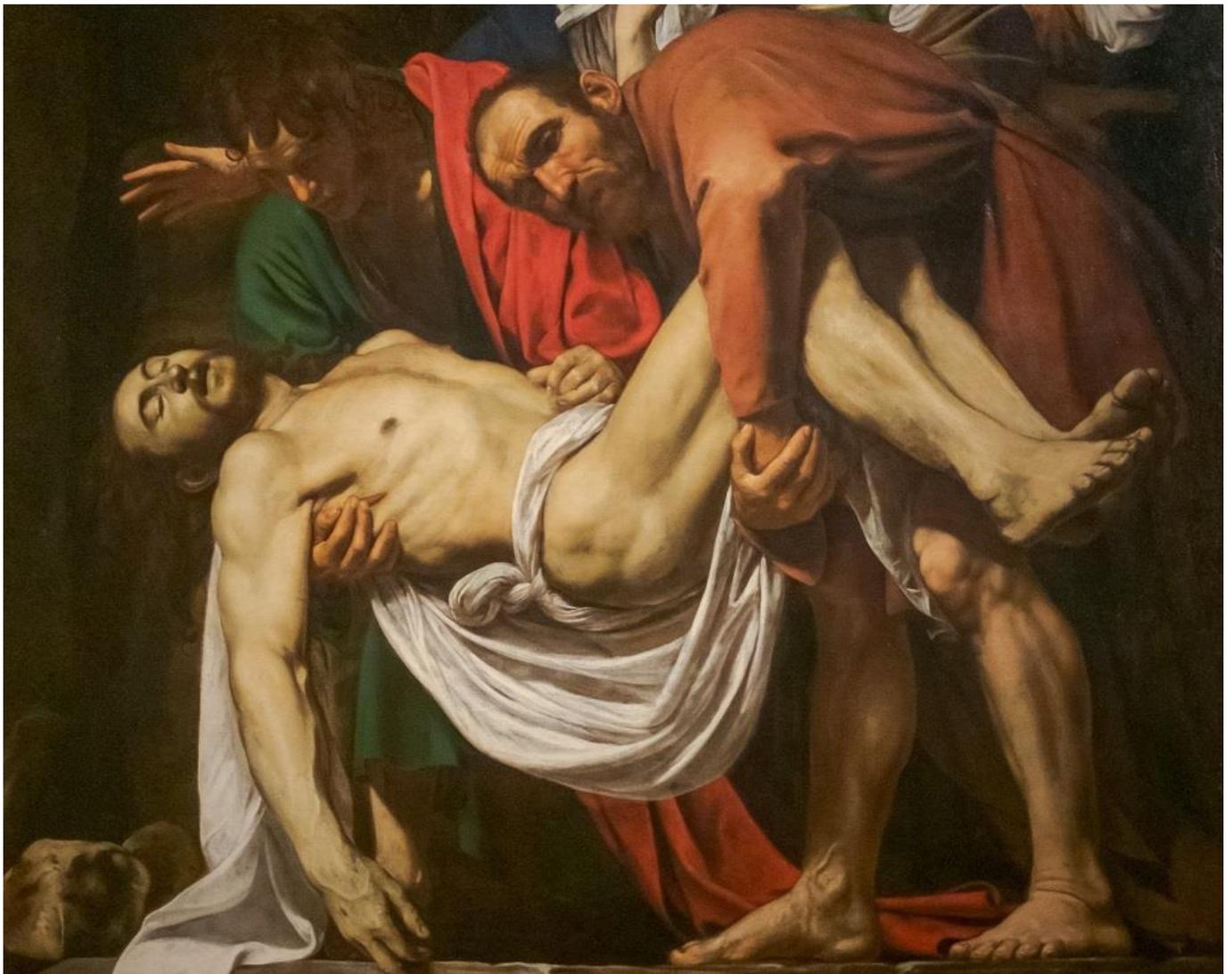


# ST PAUL'S NEWS

April 2025



ONE POUND

## SERVICES

### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April The Fifth Sunday of Lent

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
President & Preacher: The Vicar
- 10.00 am Parish Eucharist (CW)  
President & Preacher: The Vicar  
Minister: Rev Nicholas Burton
- 10.00 am Family Service at the Church Centre + Zoom  
Lead : Tim Harrold  
Link: Mary Saunders
- 6.30 pm Evensong (BCP)  
Minister & Preacher: The Vicar

### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April Palm Sunday

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

### Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April

- 8.00 pm Stations of the Cross  
Minister: Shirley Barter

### Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April

- 8.00 pm Compline  
Minister: Daphne Pilcher

### Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April

- 8.00 pm Compline  
Minister: The Vicar

### Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April

#### Maundy Thursday

- 8.00 pm Eucharist with washing of feet and stripping  
of altars followed by Vigil  
President & Preacher: The Vicar  
Minister: Daphne Pilcher

### Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April

#### GOOD FRIDAY

- 9.45am Procession of Witness in the Village  
12 noon Three Hour Devotion with final  
Liturgical Hour  
Ministers: The Vicar, Daphne Pilcher,  
Tim Harrold

### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April EASTER DAY

- 8.00 am Holy Communion with Hymns (BCP)  
President & Preacher: The Vicar
- 10.00 am Joint Eucharist (CW)  
President & Preacher: The Vicar
- 6.30 pm Service of Readings and Music for  
Passiontide and Easter  
Minister: The Vicar

### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April The Second Sunday of Easter

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
President & Preacher: The Vicar
- 10.00 am Joint Service with Holy Communion  
at the Church Centre + Zoom  
President: The Vicar  
Preacher: Rev. Nicholas Burton
- 6.30 pm Evensong (BCP)  
Minister & Preacher: Rev. Nicholas Burton

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#### An Invention of Collective Nouns

A reckoning of spreadsheets.  
A distraction of smartphones.  
A prattle of podcasts.  
A mispronunciation of scones.

A clique of photographers.  
A heard of precedents.  
An enjambment of  
poets. A grope of presidents.

A pile of haemorrhoids.  
A bunion of personal trainers.  
A bout of estimations.  
A condescension of mansplainers.

A stroke of geniuses.  
A spot of adolescents.  
An embarrassment of Richards.  
A ~~collection~~ correction of pedants.

*Brian Bilston*

## DIARY

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

11.30 am Communion to Mount Ephraim  
– The Vicar

6.00 pm Youth Council meet in the Lodge

### Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April

All day Scouts Easter Fair – Church Centre

### Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April

3.00 pm Communion to Chamberlain Court  
– The Vicar

### Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April

11.30 am Funeral of Sheila Sutton at the Crematorium  
– The Vicar

### Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April

11.30 am Communion to Mount Ephraim House

2.30 pm Communion to Rusthall Lodge  
– Lois Woodhouse

### Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April

10.00 am Flower Team decorating the Parish Church

10 am-1pm Youth Council car wash at the  
Parish Church

11.00 am Hall hired at the Church Centre

### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April

11.00 am Easter egg hunt at the Parish Church

### Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April – Bank Holiday

Plant sale, treasure hunt and refreshments at  
the Church Centre

### Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

7.00 pm Guided Bat walk based at the Lodge  
– Commons Group

### Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April

5.00 pm St Georges Day Quiz – Church Centre  
(Bonfire Committee)

### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April

9.00 am Breakfast before and after Joint Service and  
unveiling of 175 Flower Banner – CC

### Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April

8.00 pm PCC meeting at the Church Centre

### Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May

**CHURCH CENTRE CLOSED FOR  
POLLING STATION**

### 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

The aim of this 'café' is to raise funds to support the Choir  
tour to France in August. 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.

May by Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April

June by Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May

July/August by Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June

September by Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August

October by Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September

by email to [magazine@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk](mailto:magazine@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk) or handed in  
to the Church Office

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.

Magazines are posted on the Parish website by the  
1<sup>st</sup> 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.



## 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



# Hendley

## Removals & Storage

Tel: 01 892 837207

Email: [info@hendleyremovals.co.uk](mailto:info@hendleyremovals.co.uk)

Web: [www.hendleyremovals.co.uk](http://www.hendleyremovals.co.uk)

***“Your local family run movers & storers”***



**SAT 5TH APRIL**

**10:00AM TO 12.15 PM**

Tea, coffee and homemade cakes served from 10am

Lots of lovely things to buy : bread, locally made pasties and cakes,  
homemade preserves, local honey, eggs, bird food,  
craft items, bric-a-brac



## From the Vicarage

April 2025

Dear Friends

Thank you very much for your continued support. Special thanks to Tim Harrold for leading our Lent course. Special thanks too, to everyone who has been attending it. There are still a few sessions remaining.

As, I mentioned in my March letter, Bishop Jonathan will be taking a Confirmation service at 4pm on Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> May here at St Paul's and we will be joined by candidates, their friends, families and members of the congregations from other parishes in our deanery. If you or someone you know would like to get confirmed, please contact me, or the Parish Office. There is a sign-up sheet at both churches. Our first candidate preparation meeting will be at 2:30pm on Sunday the 6<sup>th</sup> of April at the Church Centre.

We are now approaching Passiontide, and getting ready to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. As part of our preparation, we will be having services at the Parish Church throughout 'Holy Week', including a Procession of Witness around the village and a three hour service on Good Friday. Please join us for as many of these services as you can as we reflect afresh on God's costly and dramatic demonstration of love.

No doubt, a lot has been happening in our individual lives and in the world at large, bringing a mixture of joy and sadness, anxiety and relief. One thought – and truth that I have held on to during this period of Lent is that God 'is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does' (Psalm 145:17). This helps me to consciously reflect especially on what is going on around me and to resolutely accept that God is not only actively doing things but that God is faithfully being who he has promised to be and dependably doing that which he has promised to do. God has promised to not only be with us, but to encourage and strengthen us, and to forgive us when we get things wrong. And he says through one of his prophets that he has loved us with an everlasting love. It is quite a refreshing and reassuring thought to know that the Almighty God takes an active interest in our lives.

So, as we journey through the rest of Lent, I pray that God would keep us from impatience, resentment and regret, in the knowledge that God will complete the good work that he is doing in and through us, to his praise and for his glory. Amen.



## From The Registers

**Baptisms – we welcome as newly Baptised members of the church**

Lily Joan Diana Best

William Christopher Russell Best

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

Stephanie Jane Moffat and Alexander Francis Wright

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

Lidija Goloscapova

Wendy Alice Clifford

Andrew Reid

TONBRIDGE  
*Philharmonic*  
SOCIETY

In Association With  
Rotary  | **100**  
Tonbridge 

# Handel Messiah

CONDUCTOR: OLIVIA TAIT

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SATURDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025, 7<sup>PM</sup>

Chapel of St Augustine, Tonbridge School

Tickets: £17 | £16 seniors | £8 students | under 18s free

BOX OFFICE  
07778 034 396  
[www.tonphil.org.uk](http://www.tonphil.org.uk)



## Editorial for April

April always starts with April Fool's Day – I hope you won't be the foil for any jokes, or, less funny, any phishing attempts which is apparently becoming a bit of a thing. The spring weather seems to be making fools of us all, freezing cold one day then warm and sunny the next. I hope the sunshine will prevail, but at least we have the daffodils along the Langton Road and the blossom and leaves arriving on the trees to cheer us up. On 25<sup>th</sup> April we must hope for clear skies as a rare alignment of Venus and Saturn above a crescent moon will produce a smiley face in the sky!

On 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1934 Percy Shaw patented the reflective road stud – commonly known as the cat's eye. It is designed to reflect back a car's headlights to provide assistance in locating road and lane edges. Studs are now produced in different colours for different purposes (5 different colours are used in the UK), and some have a built in reservoir for rainwater so that every time the stud is depressed the reflectors are rinsed and wiped by the rubber casing, making them self-cleaning. Some modern studs incorporate solar technology so that they store energy during the day and emit light at night. It is essential that the studs are properly fitted and maintained as in rare instances it has been known for studs to become dislodged, and a flying stud can cause damage and injury. However, they have undoubtedly saved injury and lives for those driving in the dark or in poor visibility. This British invention is now used worldwide.

At Church we continue to be in Lent until 6<sup>th</sup> April, when we transition into Passiontide. Palm Sunday on 13<sup>th</sup> April marks the start of Holy week, with services taking place every day, including Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. If you consider cleanliness to be next to Godliness you can prepare your car for Easter Day by bringing it to the Church car park between 10am and 1pm on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April, when members of the Church Youth Council will be busy with buckets and sponges. The Choristers' Café will be open so you can have coffee and cake while they work! Easter Eve is also the day when the Flower Team will leap into action to decorate the church ready for Easter Day on 20<sup>th</sup> April. Following the joint service at the Church in the morning there will be an Easter Egg Hunt and then in the evening there will be Readings and Music for Passiontide and Easter in place of Evensong. On Bank Holiday Monday (21<sup>st</sup>) the Church Centre will be the place to be, with a plant sale, treasure hunt on the common and cream teas being served in the Church Centre.. CYC spring into action again before the joint service at the Church Centre on 27<sup>th</sup> April. They will be busy on the barbecue producing breakfasts for us. This service also sees the unveiling of the new banner using the hundreds of knitted flowers produced by members of the church.

23<sup>rd</sup> April is St George's Day but church recognition of this patron saint of England is postponed until 28<sup>th</sup> as dates get shuffled about due to Easter Week. St Mark the Evangelist also has delayed recognition on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

April 20<sup>th</sup> is the last day to submit your application for inclusion on the Electoral Roll. It is a 'Complete revision' year – so everyone must complete a form, not just those who wish to join the Roll. Remember, if you don't complete the form you will not be entitled to vote at the Parish APCM on 15<sup>th</sup> May.

SGN will be making getting to church difficult in April and beyond, especially for those approaching from the south. First there is the closure of Major York's Road from 5<sup>th</sup> April for 2 weeks so that a new gas main can be laid and then from 22<sup>nd</sup> April the work moves to Langton Road between the roundabout at the Spa Hotel up to the junction with Nevill Park and the church drive which will take about 11 weeks with temporary traffic lights installed – something which we know from past experience will cause vast tailbacks during busy times.

The picture on the cover is The Entombment of Christ by Caravaggio, completed around 1603 and now hanging in the Vatican.

Please could we have your articles for the May magazine by Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April.

**Deborah Bruce and Sue Hare**



# Honorary Treasurer Job Description

The tasks which the Treasurer undertakes are set out below, although 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 vergger duties. One off payments to other verggers who stand in for Graeme are required.
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, or would like more information then do please contact the Vicar.

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

## Churchwardens' Notes



We are now into the fourth month of St Paul's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we have already enjoyed a quiz night and the choir singing all 100 anthems in the New Church Anthem Book. Congratulations to them for a long day of singing. We would like to thank the people that kept them fed and watered over the day.

There are many more activities to come, these are a few of them: car wash, Easter egg hunts, plant sales, floral displays, please support these activities if you are able.

Now the choir vestry roof has been repaired we are looking to have work done on the tower where some cement needs replacing, we hope to get this done as possible.

There is a really desperate need for a treasurer, if you know of anybody that might be interested, please speak to Ronnie or the wardens. Details of the responsibilities are shown opposite.

Easter will soon be upon us, and we look forward to all the services over Holy week and the Easter music.

### May Graves

## Easter Lilies

The white lily is mentioned many times in the Bible, symbolizing purity, rebirth, new beginnings and hope. In Pagan traditions the lily is associated with motherhood and is often gifted to mothers as a symbol of gratitude.

We will be including lilies in our Easter flower arrangements, as we do every year. If you would like to sponsor a lily or a number of them in memory of a loved one, please complete the slip at the bottom of the pew leaflet.

The price of the lilies will be £6 each, could you please pay by cash, cheque (payable to 'St Paul's Church Rusthall') or by BACS transfer to the church Lloyds bank account (sort code 30-98-77, account number 00680470, reference 'Lilies').

Thank you.

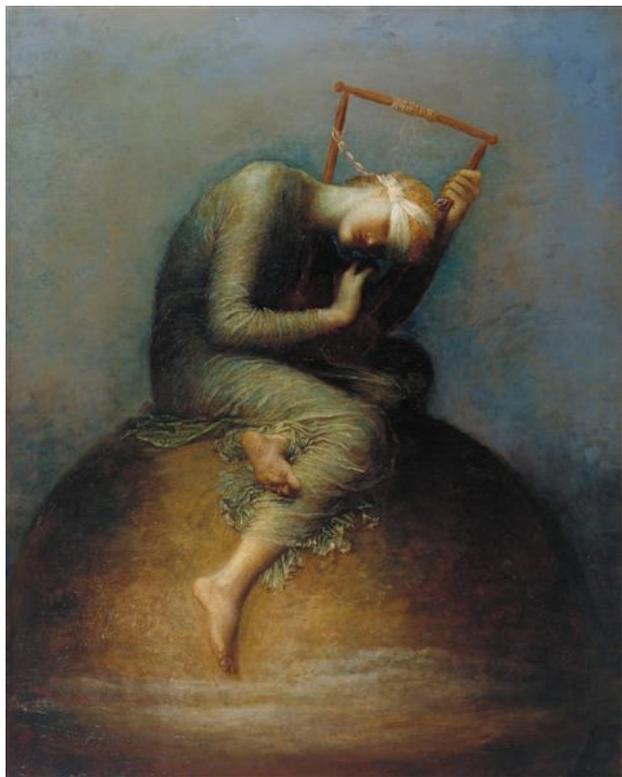
**Jill McAllister**

## Easter gives us Hope

For many years I have been a Trustee of a Charitable Trust set up by a Greek ship owner, who was so grateful to the UK for allowing him to live here post the second world war, that he left half of his considerable Estate to his wife and half to a Charitable Trust and, on her death, all reverted to the Charitable Trust to benefit worthy Charitable causes exclusively in the UK. The Trust is almost finished now but over the years we have done many good things. Perhaps our most interesting project was to rescue the Watts Gallery in the village of Compton, near Guildford, Surrey. The gallery was set up by the Victorian painter G F Watts and his wife, but had fallen into a structurally decrepit state with water pouring through the roof into the small and intimate galleries. However, we had **hope** that we could restore such a fine institution to its former glory and indeed the Charitable Trust became the principal donor to restore the gallery to a pristine condition. The King became a patron and it is now a very fine institution indeed and well worth a visit, just off the A3, if you are ever over that way. If you do go, look out for the Livanos gallery named after our Charity. Apart from the art, the homemade cakes in the cafe are to die for!

Have you ever heard the expression 'the audacity of **hope**'? If it sounds familiar, that may be because it became famous a few years back as the title of Barack Obama's autobiography. But the phrase itself appears to have originated in a sermon by pastor Dr Jeremiah Wright. And again, to add another layer and indeed a connection to the restoration of the Watts gallery, in that sermon Dr Wright was reflecting on a painting by the artist G.F. Watts, titled **Hope**.

**Hope** shows a woman sitting on top of the world, playing a harp. In her case, the top of the world is not a comfortable or privileged position. The woman's clothes are in tatters, she is cut and wounded, her head is bandaged and her eyes blindfolded. Even the harp that she holds is damaged, it has only one string remaining. It's a picture of despair, a reminder of the pain in the world. Perhaps there have been times when we can identify with the pain and helplessness of this lonely figure - when we lose a loved one, when faced with illness, when a relationship breaks down. Times when we feel like our world is ending and goodness knows that in recent times perhaps that has been bought sharply into perspective.



And what about the globe on which she perches? Its appearance is bleak, a murky colour. We can relate to this. There is so much darkness in our world. We cannot ignore the realities of war, poverty, inequality and environmental destruction. We live in a time of increasing upheaval and division, with hateful rhetoric becoming more widespread. That is the reality of our world, the world represented in the painting. I make no political statements but we cannot ignore what we all witness on a daily basis.

And yet, the painting is titled **Hope**. The woman clings to her harp, her grip strong. A ray of light illuminates her face. Her head is inclined towards the harp, as though hearing the remnants of music, and the solitary remaining string hints that it will be played again. Dr Wright described the painting as follows: 'With her clothes in rags, her body scarred and bruised and bleeding, her harp all but destroyed and with only one string left, she had the audacity to make music... To take the one string you have left and to have the audacity to **hope**... even though you can't see what God is going to do - that's the real word God will have us hear.'

**Hope** is at the heart of the Easter message. Easter is a time of **hope** and new beginning, a time to throw open the doors and let the light in. As followers of Jesus, we enter into the story of that first Easter morning. When we join the disciples in the prescribed Gospel reading, it is 'still dark'. The disciples are experiencing deep sadness at the loss of this friend and teacher in whom they had placed so much **hope**. When Mary Magdalene and the others visit the tomb, Jesus is not there. Sometimes, and currently even more frequently, we feel the

absence of God in our world. Yet out of this uncertainty comes faith and **hope**. The disciples 'see and believe', and they begin to look at the world in a new way. The resurrection of Jesus is God's affirmation that victory does not rest with the world's victors, but with its victims. This Jesus who is raised is the one who challenges the status quo and tells us, 'The last will be first', who sides with the poor, the mistreated, the ignored. We are challenged to model our lives on this vision of Jesus, to shine light into the darkness and bring **hope** to an uncertain world.

The resurrection tells us that even the most desperate situations can be redeemed. God has made all things new. Where do we see signs of **hope** in the world? We reflect today on the many shining examples of people and movements who are working and fighting to change the world for the better. Where can we ourselves be signs of **hope** - what are the situations in the world around us that we are called to bring light to? On Easter day - like the disciples, like the woman in the painting - we begin again, we play on, and we dare to **hope**. We disciples are to be like the women at the tomb. We follow. We see differently. On Easter Sunday evening in the Parish Church we shall hear said and sung that message of **hope** reinforced. We are given a new vision and a message to declare. If we fall or fail, it only matters if we don't get up and start over. We begin again. And again. And again.'

Recommended Readings:

**Acts 10.34-43; John 20.1-9**

**Tim Cripps**



## A Taste Of Nostalgia

We are living in a world where we can eat any cuisine we wish. We can have it pre-cooked and in front of us in a flash, well that's great! But some traditional foods in Britain may be on the verge of extinction. Family favourites which have been passed down the generations have fallen out of fashion and could be lost forever. For the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St Paul's Church we have sent out the message, let's not lose those tasty dishes.

The residents of Rusthall Lodge Care Home are right behind us and gathered to choose one of their favourites to submit for our St Paul's Church and Rusthall Village Cookbook. We visited them to hear their memories of foods from across the decades.

Gillian, Judy, Heather, Ann, Trisha and Margaret agreed much had changed since they were children. Rationing during and after WW2 had an obviously momentous impact on what was available and how their mothers were able to feed the family. Judy said it was a simple "you ate what you were given, if you didn't you went hungry", which everyone agreed. Ann (who grew up on a farm) said at that time no one grumbled about food and were not picky. She remembers seeing her mother skinning and preparing a rabbit when she was around 12 years old and says that she doubts many 12 year olds would eat rabbit these days but recalled it was delicious. However, one exception to the "eat everything" rule seemed to be Sago pudding! The very mention of the dish got a reaction of gales of laughter and shouts of "frogspawn". For those of us who have never had the pleasure, sago is a starch extracted from the pith of various tropical palm stems and yes, frogspawn is undeniably an apt name for it! Planning meals could be hit and miss, it all depended on what was available. If it was the Fishmonger's day to visit the town, that's what you had, said Gillian. Although rationing didn't apply to vegetables, when supplies became scarce, they became expensive. Judy recalls when she was a child everyone seemed to have an allotment or a vegetable patch to grow food for the family. Although Trisha's father was a grocer, she says it was ironic as he was never "a foodie" and while she was at home, she too never bothered much about learning cooking and it was only as a young woman living and working in London that she paid attention to learning tips on how to make meals.

Margaret laughed remembering that her father would only eat her mother's cooking. "He never wanted to go out" she said, "it had to be my mother's cooking, always!" Gillian recalled that no one really went out to eat, apart from perhaps to a tea shop, as restaurants were too expensive. But puddings and treats were managed from time to time and Gillian's first memory of a "luxury"

after the war years was coconut haystacks which her mother made, remembering the smell brought back happy memories.

The dishes their mothers cooked carried on when they too were cooking for their own families, still no convenience foods, everything made from scratch. Everyone agreed you'd never dream of buying ready-made pastry. However, as a group, they said as the years went by and supermarket chains opened, new foods were available and they were able to be more adventurous. Heather, who was also brought up on a farm, recalled being able to buy avocados for the first time and really enjoying the soft oily flesh, so loving the old recipes didn't stop them developing a wide range of new tastes. Chinese takeaways, it was agreed, are much enjoyed, but ready-made convenience foods less so for our residents.

In March last year a survey for Care UK found almost two-thirds (65%) of the nation **no longer use family recipes** handed down through the generations, however, 43% of people they surveyed said they are concerned about saving them. So, let's gather the stories while there is still time to ensure they're around for everyone to enjoy. Let us have your recipe and why not take a picture of yourself along with the dish so your family can keep it for future generations.

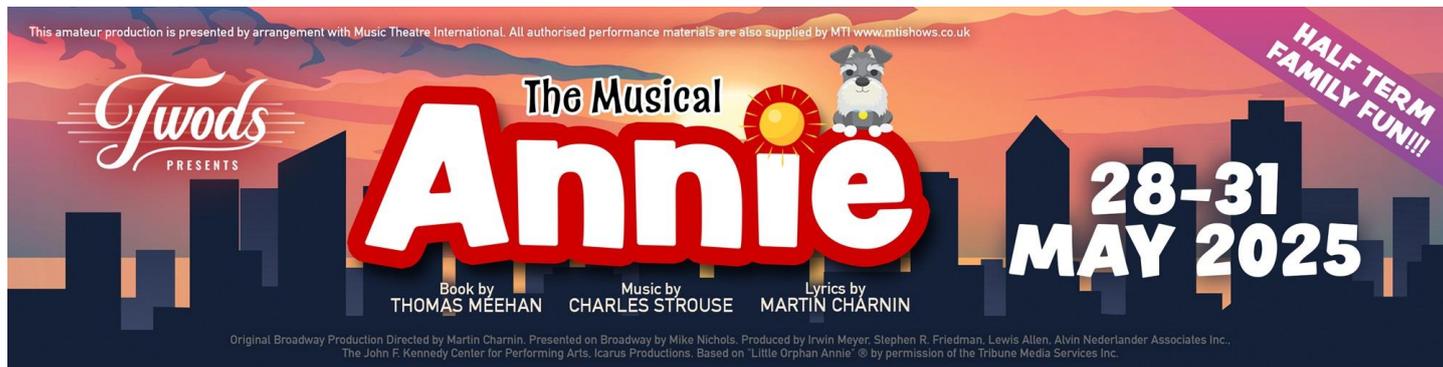
The Chef and catering team at Rusthall Lodge have embraced the resident's idea of submitting a favourite recipe for the St Paul's and Rusthall Village Cookbook and there was quite a challenge to pick just one, but in the end they all agreed. Bacon Suet Pudding and done on the stove in a cloth! Pure treasure!



*Left to right Trisha, Elaine, Ann, Heather, Judy & Margaret*

Please send us **your** family's favourite recipe – e mail us at [office@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk](mailto:office@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk) or drop in a hard copy at the Parish Church or Church Centre for our attention.

**Elaine Bruce**



## **"It's a hard knock life.."**

Join us for an unforgettable theatrical experience as the beloved musical Annie takes to the stage!

Set in the vibrant 1930s, this heart-warming tale follows the indomitable spirit of a young orphan named Annie, who dreams of finding her family.

With memorable songs like "Tomorrow", "It's a Hard Knock Life" and "You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile", Annie inspires audiences of all ages with her unwavering hope and optimism.

Half term matinee and evening performances  
28th – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025  
EVERY DAY at 2pm and 7pm

Standard prices £25, £24 (OAP), £19 (child)

BSL Signed Performance Thursday 29th May, 7pm

Contact Paul & Shirley Barter for £3 off standard ticket prices



# BRENCHLEY CHORAL SOCIETY

Music Director **Roland Millar**

## Rossini :

# PETITE MESSE SOLENNELLE

with  
choir & soloists

Jong-Gyung Park (piano)

Christopher Harris (harmonium)

## SAT 12th APRIL

All Saints' Church, Brenchley 7.30 pm

(doors open 7pm)

Refreshments available before concert and during interval

Tickets £12 (under 18's free):

from Choir Members; Brenchley Post Office;

email: [graham@brenchleychoral.co.uk](mailto:graham@brenchleychoral.co.uk);

or £14 on the door (if available)

Retiring collection in aid of:



Kent's leading charity for  
unpaid Carers and the people  
they care for

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## **A Journey Towards Lay Ministry**

This will be my final article at least under this heading. My journey which started nearly three years ago will be reaching its conclusion on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May when I will receive my license from Bishop Jonathan at Rochester Cathedral. All of you have been such an integral part of my journey that I hope as many of you as are able will join me at the service. As soon as we have been given our ticket allocation, we will work on the logistics of providing everyone with the opportunity to get to Rochester if they wish to come for the service. Some more concrete announcements on this will be made very soon.

To reach this point, I had just one, albeit significant, hurdle to overcome; an interview with Bishop Jonathan. My license is wholly dependent on his sign-off and I have witnessed and heard of too many candidates falling at this last stage to know not to take it lightly. In horseracing it would be akin to placing Beechers Brook as the last jump at the Grand National, just when muscles are at their most tired and lungs are gasping for just one more bit of air. Fortunately, that hurdle was jumped on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

As preparation for that meeting, I was asked to write a personal statement for the bishop on how I felt the last three years had developed my sense of ministry. It seemed only right that I should share my statement with the very people who have supported and encouraged me every step of the way. So, word for word, I have replicated it below. As you read it, please think of it as a tribute to every single one of you who gave me such unwavering support over the last three years.

This was a statement made from the depths of my soul. It is only with hindsight that I have been able to process an understanding behind the emotional forces its completion released. It was only at that moment that I realised, and deeply appreciated, how far my journey has taken me. My commitment to this Parish and to each of you, is to carry on as your servant in Christ for as long as I am able. Whatever trials and tribulations the future has in store for us, I believe our faith in Christ will carry us through.

### **A Personal Statement To Bishop Jonathan**

“When I first met Rev Jane Winter, Assistant Director of Mission and Ministry Development for the Rochester Diocese, nearly three years ago, she made two comments that have stayed with me ever since. The first was in response to my expressions of uncertainty about where this journey would take me, to which she simply responded, “It’s much better that way.” The second was a promise that the experience would be transformational, which

was quite a statement. “Transformational” had my mind running through images of caterpillars becoming butterflies or transformer robots becoming vehicles. At the time, I vowed to myself to keep an open mind and enjoy every minute of the journey I was about to embark on.

The truth is that my journey primarily began from a position of intellectual curiosity. I have always had a lifelong desire for knowledge and understanding, which remains undimmed, and curiosity has been a constant throughout my life. My path as a Christian has not been entirely straight. That is not to say it was a road without faith; it was just one I chose to hold onto tightly, rarely expressing or sharing it. My issues were more with the earthly organizations around which faith was organized than anything else. Jericho was an anomaly. It is rare for change to occur by shouting from the outside. Five years of driving night buses in London had brought home to me just how much society had changed from the one in which I grew up. My issues were irrelevant and a luxury when viewed through the lens of the suffering I could see happening around me.

Thirty years of working as a banker in London and New York had given me the financial freedom to be brave and take on what has probably been the biggest challenge of my life. God has given us all intelligent brains for a reason. Failing to put them to work is showing God a level of contempt instead of the gratitude, praise, and thanks His gift rightly deserves. My training has exposed me to a range of experiences. Thankfully, those experiences have been consistently rigorous, challenging, and rewarding. Many questions have been continually asked of me, not all of them easy or straightforward to answer, and some took deep reflection. I can safely say the last three years have been the most extraordinary period in my entire life. It is a period that has changed me more fundamentally than any other equivalent period that comes to mind. I have been changed in ways I could never have imagined, and I have enjoyed every second of it.

The transformation Jane promised was not into a butterfly or a robot. It did not change my external appearance beyond maybe a few more grey hairs. Instead, it changed me from within. It was a shifting of mindset, a brain-induced transformation that changed me in every way possible except physically. It delivered with a shattering clarity a recognition of the truth that lies in Holy Scripture, a realization that placing my trust in God left me strengthened, not weakened, and an understanding, finally, that accepting God already has a plan for each one of us made my initial concerns about a final destination appear both childish and laughable.

“When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways.” This idea of growing out of our childhood state is repeated once more in Ephesians when Paul again calls on us to “grow up in every way.”

I have discarded my childish views on mission. Today, it would never even occur to me to ask, “...but where is the destination? Where am I going?” God knows His plan for me, and if I continue to make the time to listen to God, my destination is immaterial. I will know I am on the right journey regardless.”

**Tim Harrold**

*“The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the Body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.”*

Ephesians 4: 11-13 NRSV

### Water Fall



At a recent scientific conference for a hundred delegates including the brightest and best of the scientific world, a guest speaker decided to open his presentation with a joke which goes like this.

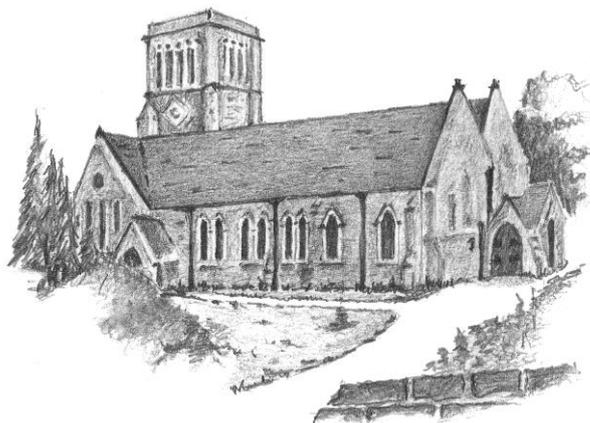
A University Science Professor walks into a bar and asks for a glass of H<sub>2</sub>O and an undergraduate on hearing the Professor says to the Barman I would like a glass of H<sub>2</sub>O too please. I am sure you will realise that the Professor returned to his laboratory the following day but the undergraduate required the services of a stomach pump.

Pausing for a laugh the speaker was surprised that none was forthcoming and it seemed that the joke had fallen on stony ground. Well, can *you* crack it? No prizes for guessing but if you have cracked it well done, if not see The Answers section following the Activity pages at the back of the magazine.

**Tim Cripps**

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March: 1<sup>st</sup> 24, 2<sup>nd</sup> 29, 3<sup>rd</sup> 75

## A Musical Note



I still can't quite believe that we managed to sing all 100 anthems in the New Church Anthem Book at the Sing-a-thon. It was a brilliantly enjoyable day, and we gained a wealth of new repertoire from singing so many new pieces. It was wonderful to have so much support from those who came to watch in church, as well as those who tuned in on YouTube.



A huge thank you to all the choir members for their incredible dedication throughout the day, especially to those who sang all 100 anthems; that is truly an extraordinary achievement. Many thanks to all the soloists who found out they would be singing the solos at 9.15pm the night before the Sing-a-thon.

Thanks also to the lovely people from the church who cooked and prepared our meals, which were absolutely delicious and greatly appreciated! Huge thanks to our instrumentalists for sight-reading through some rather tricky arrangements. Most importantly, heartfelt thanks must go to Alasdair and Paul, our exceptional organists, who played all day between them and had to learn some unusual and challenging anthems, some of which we will almost certainly never sing again! The choir's sight-reading got better and better as the day progressed, with only one anthem really going awry out of all 100, which is quite remarkable!

My original plan had been to sing through all the anthems at least once before the day of the Sing-a-thon, but we simply didn't have time, and so there were many anthems which the choir had never sung before. Thank you to everyone who sponsored us and to everyone who bought refreshments from the café. We raised £2000, which is a wonderful achievement and will really help towards funding our tour to Normandy in the summer.



*Some found it necessary to head for the aisle to take a rest during the Sing-a-thon!*

The fun doesn't end with the sing-a-thon; many other choral events are planned for this celebratory year. Please join us for our Service of Readings and Music for Passiontide and Easter on Easter Sunday evening (20th April) at 6.30pm. Tim Cripps has selected some interesting, beautiful, and challenging readings for this service and I have chosen music that will hopefully complement those readings. Refreshments will be served after the service to celebrate Easter!

We will have our summer concert on Saturday, 24th May, at 6.30pm. This promises to be a great, fun concert featuring many instrumental solos, and the choir will have the opportunity to sing some light-hearted music. The orchestra will also perform, and refreshments will be available throughout the evening. We warmly invite you to come along and join in the fun at this concert.

On Sunday, 8th June, at 10 am, we will have a Jazz Eucharist service for Pentecost. I am already very excited about this service, so please mark the date in your diary and come along if you can.



The choir children enjoyed a pancake party in the Lodge just before Lent began. The brilliant Caroline, Suzie, and Jennifer supervised the event, allowing every child to cook their own pancakes. This year, no pancakes ended up on the floor when tossed, which I believe is a first! There were some rather unusual flavour combinations for the toppings. I can only apologise to their parents for those children who had Nutella on their pancakes with sugar sprinkled on top. I cannot imagine they were eager to go to bed when they got home!

**Fiona Johnson**





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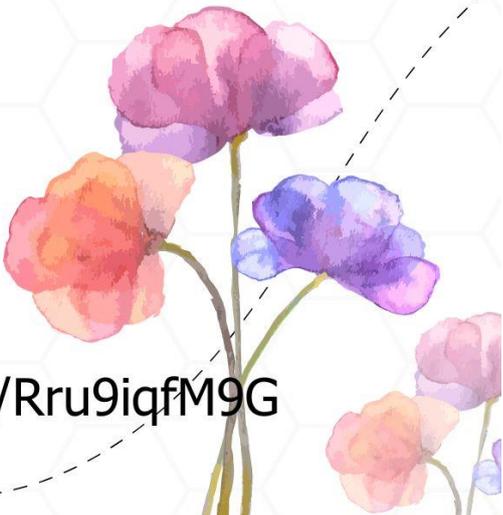
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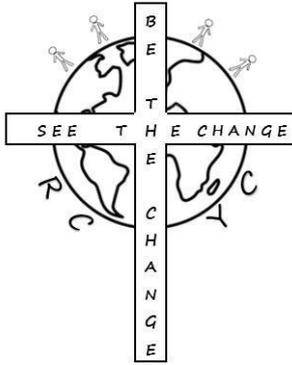


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## Church Youth Council



RUSTHALL CHURCH YOUTH COUNCIL

Every picture tells a story. The first training session has taken place and our official log book completed. The hive was opened and I am delighted to report that all our bees are very healthy with the new brood growing ready for the summer. Queen Bertha is performing well so with fingers crossed we should be able to harvest our first honey this year. Very exciting!



They will be checked fortnightly until they become particularly lively when it will be weekly. There are currently circa 20,000 residents but this will grow to 50,000! Because we left them their honey this winter they are ahead of many other hives.

Weather dependent, our next two hives should be active by the end of April.

Please note our hanging basket/window box competition - details opposite.



Thank you everyone for the flower pots. The response to our request has been wonderful and we will be planting seeds this week. Let us hope they grow healthily and provide enough fabulous pollen and nectar for 150,000 busy bees!

### Future Dates

**Thursday April 3rd.** Personal Safety. 6pm at The Lodge

**Saturday April 19th.** Car Wash at The Parish Church . 10 am to 1pm.

**Sunday April 27th.** CYC Bacon & Egg Breakfast. 9.30 Church Centre

**Thursday May 1st** Topic tbc 6 pm in The Lodge

**Monday 5th May.** Parish Walk

The CYC welcomes all children of secondary school age. Please see our page on the Church website or on 'A Church near You' for all details of the Youth Council

**Angela Culley**





# RUSTHALL LODGE CARE HOME

## Looking for a new Chair and Board Members

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- We are also looking for new Board Members - ideally living in Rusthall - community with a broad set of relevant business skills and experience but not necessarily with prior Board experience.

## What to do if you are interested in finding out more?

Have a look at our website: [www.rusthalllodgekent.co.uk](http://www.rusthalllodgekent.co.uk) and if you would like to know more, please click on the become a trustee page or call Paul Hewitt, Vice Chair, Rusthall Lodge Care Home Board of Trustees on 07703532744.

26<sup>th</sup> March 2025

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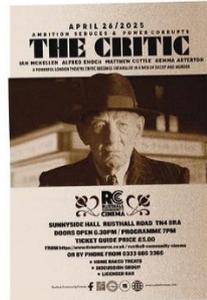


## Rusthall Community Cinema



### California Suite (1978) Cert 12

Doors open: 6.30pm Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2025  
Director: Herbert Ross  
Genre: Comedy, Drama  
Runtime: 1h 43 mins  
Starring: Jane Fonda, Alan Alda, Maggie Smith



### The Critic (2023) Cert 15

Doors open: 6.30pm Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2025  
Director: Anand Tucker  
Genre: Drama, Mystery, Thriller  
Runtime: 1h 41 min  
Starring: Ian McKellan, Gemma Arterton, Mark Strong



### An American in Paris The Musical Cert PG

Doors open: 2pm Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025  
Director: Christopher Wheeldon  
Genre: Recorded Live Theatre  
Runtime: 2h 35 mins (including interval)  
Starring: Robert Fairchild, Leanne Cope, Haydn Oakley, Jane Asher

## The London Pilgrimage 2025

I am thrilled that so many of you have already started putting your names down for this year's pilgrimage to be held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Forms are still available in the Church and the Church Centre if you would like to register. The route we will be following is the first stage of The Martyr's Way. It covers just over 5 km from Tower Hill to St. Bartholomew the Great. It will take in 15 churches (not all of them still standing) and 6 other places of interest, providing plenty for us to talk about as we journey together. It is the sharing of experiences in the Chaucerian way that makes Pilgrimages such a wonderful community event.

The fellowship meal will be in a pub right round the corner from Southwark Cathedral. The pub is part of the same chain that looked after us so well on our Canterbury Pilgrimage last year. In May I will be forwarding to all those who have registered the online booking form so they can choose their meals.

Before we celebrate evensong in Southwark Cathedral, there will be an opportunity for those who would like, to take part in an hour's tour of the Cathedral under the heading of "Mission and Ministry". The tour gives us a unique opportunity to learn about the Cathedral's past and present as a place of Christian worship from the 12th century until today and its involvement in the wider Christian family. It comes at a cost of £8pp but I would highly recommend it.

I have also taken the opportunity to extend an invitation to King Charles the Martyr Church in Tunbridge Wells to see if any of their congregation would like to join us for the day. It is a rare

opportunity for us to spend time getting to know our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ who worship elsewhere, and I am sure we will give them a very warm welcome.

For those who have not yet signed up, I recognise that being on a workday week may be a hurdle for some. To that extent, I have tried to structure the day so that if you are only able to join for part of the day's events then you are very welcome to do so. To help you in that, I have detailed below a guideline of where we will be and when so that if you find yourself able to join us just for the pilgrimage, or the fellowship meal, or just evensong in the Cathedral then you will be very welcome. If anyone has any questions about the day, then please do contact me.

**Tim Harrold**

### PILGRIMAGE ITINERARY

8AM	Travel to London by train from Tunbridge Wells to London Bridge
9.30AM	Pilgrimage starts from Tower Hill
2PM	Pilgrimage concludes at St Bartholomew the Great
2.30PM	Fellowship Meal in Borough Market
3.45PM	"Mission and Ministry" tour of Southwark Cathedral
5.30PM	Evensong in Southwark Cathedral
6.30PM	Trains home to Tunbridge Wells from London Bridge.

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# London Pilgrimage

**MONDAY 23RD JUNE 2025**

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

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

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

Your contributions are much appreciated.

## Deanery Synod March 12<sup>th</sup> 2025 with Bishop Jonathan

Welcome and introduction from Rich Thomas, including for guests Bishop Jonathan and also Andrew Dunlop the new Director of Mission and Ministry Development.

Apologies given as the date of next meeting is not yet fixed. It is hoped that MP Mike Martin might come to speak.

Apologies received from Andrew Smith who was going to give an update from the General Synod.

Apologies from Graham Syms who was going to give the accounts details. Draft accounts which have yet to be approved by the Independent Examiner were provided.

A time of worship (Compline) followed led by Rich Thomas.

### Then Bishop Jonathan took the floor.

He emphasized this was OUR Vision and Strategy, because this has been worked on with many people across the diocese and was unanimously endorsed by Diocesan Synod in December.

Before going onto the details, the Bishop wanted to say three important things:

1. Thank you to us all for all we do as we serve our Lord to build the Kingdom of God, for our faithfulness
2. Apologies on behalf of senior Bishops and Leadership;
  - a. For the safeguarding issues and the way they have been handled. Thank you for what we all do towards improving our safeguarding.
  - b. Living in Love and Faith: apologies for how difficult it has been for us all at local level
3. There are signs of HOPE in spite of the scandals. People are asking for answers. There is an increase in Young People (YP). There was a general increase in Christmas Service attendance.

### Vision and Strategy

Based on his original vision of Change – Serve – Grow

The discussion on the vision and strategy has been with Area Deans and Diocesan Synod.

The Strapline:

Seeking first the Kingdom of God (KG), we are called together by God to change, serve and grow with compassion, courage and creativity.

We want to grow Missional Churches with Missional Leaders to make Missional Disciples.

### Question time:

1. Dennis (St Philips):

How will it be measured, tracked, adjusted?

Bishop: the paper (80 pages long and with as many annexes) is evidence based, there will be regular reporting and reviewing at different levels.

2. Polly from Speldhurst:

Worry about people taken away from ministry?

Bishop: Very clear that there will not be any resources taken away

3. Robin (Bidborough):

If we are indeed acknowledging “Seek first the KG...” and if we are indeed following this, then the money for this will come in.

Bishop: faithful teaching leads to good equipping, which is part of growing and enabling

4. Aidan (Archdeacon Nick Cornell’s son)

From a YP’s perspective, not only do we need to get YP to come into church, we need them to STAY in church and become the ones who then disciple their own families and children.

Bishop: Totally supported Aidan’s comment, emphasised that churches needed to be welcoming and nurturing

5. Tim (St Paul’s Rusthall)

The challenge of the digital age: How do we help churches get into the digital age?

Bishop: we need to share our resources.

Andrew Dunlop: by seeing good practice, and bringing this to others. Also to ensure we work to smooth the difficult transitions (primary to secondary, to university, to work place)

6. Caz (St James and from Chaplaincies)

Bishop: these are fresh expressions of church out of the gathered church

7. Lin (Bidborough, St Peter Southborough)

YP need to be part of the strategy.

Bishop: YP are very much part of the strategy and the diocese has a strong commitment to growing leaders and vocations

8. Judi (St James)

Yes many have done short courses, but there is a lack of a course on evangelism

Bishop: he is encouraged by all those who have been doing short courses and wants to encourage more uptake, but also to use the others available from the diocese. Our role is to spot those with the gifts, and mentor/nurture them, and signpost to appropriate places.

The bishop thanked us and then gave a blessing.

**Tony Bourne**

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# The Importance of Nature in the Bible

## Part 6

Apparently in New Testament times there were a surprisingly large number of varieties of seed corn, and they were favoured by farmers according to their characteristics. In the same way the millers graded their flour, generally into four sorts, finest double dressed, best first flour, seconds and bran. A sort of porridge was known, and also how to make starch, both for medicine and for kitchen use. Oats were not grown with any advantage in the Mediterranean area because the climate was too warm.

Among the leguminous crops there is reference to the bean which was sometimes ground into meal and baked into cakes, and even made into porridge for temple offerings. There were all kinds of fodder crops, not least that which we know as lucerne. It was regarded as the best fattener for lean cattle, and so nourishing, and capable of being cut repeatedly during the same season, that it was a very lucrative food supply.

The farmers of the first century knew perfectly well how to produce new breeds of sheep by crossing, and they did this not only for mutton, but also to obtain certain tints of wool. It is interesting to note that in every case except one, when selling an animal there had to be a warranty that the animal was in a good and healthy condition. The exception was the goat because they believed they were always to a greater or lesser extent labouring under fever.



There were two sorts of asses – the common domestic donkey and the wild ass or onager. The wild ass was easily tamed, very hardy and rarely got ill. It was also easy to feed and capable of putting in much hard work. There were also two sorts of mules – the hinni and the muli. Mules were chiefly used for drawing travelling carriages, but also as pack-animals and for ploughing.

Cheese making usually began in May. Curiously enough, goats' cheese was regarded as the most digestible, but far less nourishing than that made from cow's milk. Butter does not seem to have been common as an article of food.

Poultry-farming was a most lucrative occupation and it included not only domestic fowls, but also

guinea-fowls from North Africa, pheasants and peacocks from the Middle East, and geese and ducks. The practice of shutting up the birds in order to fatten them was already in vogue. Smaller birds such as quails, ortolans, doves, thrushes and blackbirds were also kept for food and in some cases also hares, rabbits and even various species of deer were kept in enclosures.

Honey was very important as a sweetener and the methods of bee keeping differed very little from those of our present day. Hives were of various material, mostly brick, but sometimes of wood, wicker work or bark. Cork bee hives were thought to be the best. In the Mediterranean climate it was possible to harvest the honey three times a year.

Gardens in New Testament times were not gardens in our sense of the word. Going back to the Garden of Eden it would have been more like a parkland area. The Greeks had kitchen gardens, herb gardens and orchards, but they do not seem to have cultivated flowers as we do. The Romans laid out formal gardens and it was they who developed the practice of topiary gardens. In fact we owe to the Romans the layout of the gardens of many of our famous country houses which came from Italy at the time of the Renaissance. In the hill country of Judea and in and around Jerusalem the gardens would have been conditioned by the ground and were enclosures made by dry-walling, partly to keep the soil from washing away in heavy rains – terrace cultivation – and partly to prevent trespassing by thieves or destructive animals.

Most gardens, when on a large enough scale would have had a small hut or booth in one corner, from which a watchman could keep guard over the produce of the garden or vineyard. There might also have been an olive press or a vine press in it for squeezing out the olive oil or the grape juice for wine.

Country life was often brightened by fairs held at the times of great festivals with stalls and sideshows much as we might be familiar today.

### Daphne Pilcher



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## Poems for April

With the passing of winter and the coming of spring, we move towards Easter, with its dying and rising. In the horror and uncertainty of today's stormy world, these poems remind us of this eternal pattern of death, hope and renewal.

**Susan Barber**

### from Four Quartets "Little Gidding"

With the drawing of this Love and the voice of this  
Calling

We shall not cease from exploration  
And the end of all our exploring  
Will be to arrive where we started  
And know the place for the first time.  
Through the unknown, remembered gate  
When the last of earth left to discover  
Is that which was the beginning;  
At the source of the longest river  
The voice of the hidden waterfall  
And the children in the apple-tree  
Not known, because not looked for  
But heard, half-heard, in the stillness  
Between two waves of the sea.  
Quick now, here, now, always –  
A condition of complete simplicity  
(Costing not less than everything)  
And all shall be well and  
All manner of thing shall be well  
When the tongues of flame are in-folded  
Into the crowned knot of fire  
And the fire and the rose are one.

*T.S. Eliot*

### Blessing The Seed

I should tell you  
at the outset:  
this blessing will require you  
to do some work.

First you must simply  
let this blessing fall  
from your hand,  
as if it were a small thing  
you could easily let slip  
through your fingers,  
as if it were not

most precious to you,  
as if your life did not  
depend on it.

Next you must trust  
that this blessing knows  
where it is going,

that it understands  
the ways of the dark,  
that it is wise  
to seasons  
and to times.

Then –  
and I know this blessing  
has already asked much  
of you –  
it is to be hoped that  
you will rest  
and learn  
that something is at work  
when all seems still,  
and dormant,  
and dead.

I promise you  
this blessing has not  
abandoned you.  
I promise you  
this blessing  
is on its way back  
to you.  
I promise you –  
when you are least  
expecting it,  
when you have given up  
your last hope –  
this blessing will rise  
green  
and whole  
and new.

*Jan Richardson*

### from "Blessing to summon Rejoicing"

Let the seeds  
soaked by tears  
turn to grain,  
to bread,  
to feasting.

Let there be  
coming home.

*Jan Richardson*



Chris, Jim and Jo Parker - Our award winning family business

## Our award winning family service

### Let our family, care for your family

Your final farewell should respect your loved one's wishes and comfort those they leave behind. Our family has provided funeral services to families and friends in the Tonbridge area and surrounding villages and towns, for 40 years, we know this is a time when a caring family can make all the difference.

#### **Our promise to you:-**

- ▲ We understand your wishes and we're here to help
- ▲ Our emergency service is 24/7 and our phone is always answered personally
- ▲ We always provide itemised estimates
- ▲ We operate our own mortuary & private chapel of rest
- ▲ We're proud members of SAIF and BIFD
- ▲ Your family, not profit, is our main priority

**01732 360328**

173 High St, Tonbridge TN9 1BX

**01892 487144**

31 High Street, Rusthall, TN4 8RL

[www.abbeyfs.co.uk](http://www.abbeyfs.co.uk)



*Abbey Funeral Services is  
independently owned by Chris,  
Jim and Jo Parker.*

Your local family  
Funeral Directors



# Stone Ness Walled Garden Potting Shed News by Scary March 2025

Spring time greetings to all our friends, volunteers, and evrywun else hoo is intrestid in wot we get up to in our wonderful walled garden.

Hallo. I'm Scary the scarecrow, which you probally know already, but I always hope somewun new will read a nartikel by me and feel inspired to phone Jean and find out more about us in which case it is useful for this new reader to be told that I am a scarecrow but it is not particklery important otherwise becos we are all friends together....where woz I? As usual, this is a last minit thing, so J won't have time to check my spelling but as you can see, it is much improved!

Happy Walled Gardeners with ME in the background



The Walled Gardeners have returned. This year, apart from growing veg, flowers and fruit, we will try streamly hard to be kind to nature, the environment and, espeshally, each other. In our first week back we built a wildlife habitat in the field using prickly hawthorn and bramble so the small furry animals like mice and voles can hide away from the fox. I've just had a thort - the hedgehog won't need to use our habitat becos he is prickly already!

Five groups are coming each week for two hour sort-of-gardening sessions (wot I mean is that we do a whole lot more than gardening - we visit the ponies and groom them, play games, enjoy tea break, and sometimes go rambling in the fields and woods.

The comittee will soon fix a date in July for our Open Day and when I know I'll rite a nartikel - so wotch this space.

Finally, as I always say (cos Jean tells me to) : If you or anywun you know fancies joining us, pleze phone Jean NOW becos you'd be able to cum here rite through the gardening season from sowing to planting out to harvesting.

Luv from Scary (Jean's phone numbers - 01892 740305 and 07889 731949 before 8pm)





# 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.



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

For more information, please email [contact@rusthallvillage.org](mailto:contact@rusthallvillage.org)  
or telephone 07805 475397

## Activity Pages

Have a go at this Word Search on Countries of the World. The words are written forwards, backwards, horizontally and vertically. When you have completed it, you will be left with 22 unused letters. These will make up the names of three capital cities.

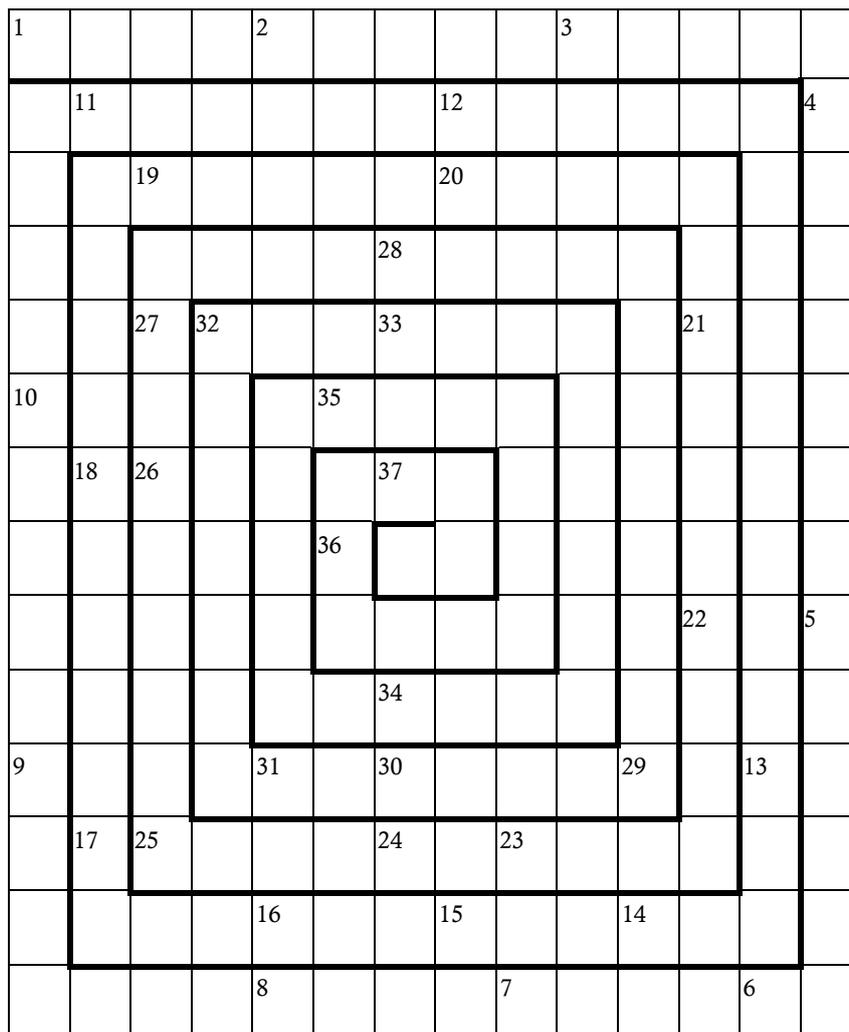
F A E R O K D N A L E R I  
B I U E E N O N A M O N T  
R R J A S O G I S O D O A  
O T I I R Y V H R I N I L  
D S D E A I L C A G S A Y  
A U M A L E E O A N I M R  
U A S O H N C I H S A A A  
C P B A A C N E S R I L G  
E A N R O M A U E R U I N  
U N I R A B R O E R N A U  
I A O L U Z F G U R G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

AUSTRIA	BOLIVIA	BRAZIL	CAMEROON	CHAD	CUBA	ECUADOR
FIJI	FRANCE	GREECE	GHANA	HOLYSEE	HUNGARY	INDIA
IRAN	IRELAND	ITALY	KOREA	MALI	MALTA	MOROCCO
NAURU	NEPAL	NIGERIA	NIUE	NORWAY	OMAN	PANAMA
PERU	RUSSIA	SPAIN	TONGA	USA		

### Twenty Questions to Test You

1. Which German general of World War II was nicknamed The Desert Fox
2. What is the modern name for Siam
3. Which character in a Shakespeare play grows the head of an ass
4. How many players in a rugby union football team
5. Who brought Peter to Jesus
6. Which King of Israel had Jezebel as his queen
7. Which metal is used in thermometers
8. Who wrote The Big Friendly Giant
9. Who is the oldest of the Wombles
10. What is the biggest animal alive on earth today
11. What is the name of the winged horse in Greek legend
12. Where did Moses see the burning bush
13. What was a caravel
14. What did Esau sell to Jacob
15. How many tracks has a monorail
16. When did the American Revolution take place
17. In which wars did the families of York and Lancaster fight each other
18. Which planets of the solar system have rings
19. In what sport was Pete Sampras a champion
20. What two substances make up water

Try this Crossword with a difference where the last letter of one answer is the first letter of the next. This crossword is based on food.



- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A form of soup</li> <li>2. A Scottish dish</li> <li>3. Crustacean-based sea food</li> <li>4. To be enjoyed on a hot day in a cone or wafer</li> <li>5. Portuguese island which gives its name to a cake</li> <li>6. Savoury or meat jelly</li> <li>7. Stew-like spiced dish which originated from India around 1498</li> <li>8. Prepared from fermented milk</li> <li>9. A dessert of little importance</li> <li>10. Chocolate covered, cream filled cake</li> <li>11. Fleshy, usually red, edible stalk</li> <li>12. English dish made from cooked potatoes and cabbage</li> <li>13. Often roast meat at a barbecue</li> <li>14. Complete the saying – full of (singular)</li> <li>15. Almonds, walnuts, brazils</li> <li>16. A dish of cold mixed ingredients for summer</li> <li>17. Cake named after a Scottish town</li> <li>18. Cake which got its name from a market town in Greater Manchester</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>19. A fish – usually with red flesh</li> <li>20. A form of pasta</li> <li>21. Might be Golden</li> <li>22. Eaten on Shrove Tuesday</li> <li>23. Often jellied</li> <li>24. Part of the body – might be eaten with bacon</li> <li>25. A red root vegetable often eaten in a salad</li> <li>26. Meat from a pig</li> <li>27, White – fleshed gourd with a green skin</li> <li>28. Melted cheese on toast</li> <li>29. Often proposed when asked to raise your glass</li> <li>30. Common drink</li> <li>31. Alcoholic drink taken before a meal</li> <li>32. Might be cod or plaice</li> <li>33. Eaten on Good Friday</li> <li>34. Try a town in Kent for this snack</li> <li>35. Savoury dish served as an appetizer</li> <li>36. Laid by a hen</li> <li>37. Cheese can be made from the milk of this animal</li> </ol> |
|---|--|

## Biblically based Puzzle

Find the answer to each number and then enter it into the grid. When you have completed it, the letters in the fourth column will give you the name of a Church festival.

1. Husband of Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11 v 3)
2. One of three condemned to the burning fiery furnace (Daniel 3 v 19)
3. Priest mentioned in 2 Samuel 8 v 17
4. Roman governor (Acts 23 v 24)
5. Mother of Ishmael (Genesis 21 v 9)
6. Man named (Judges 17 v 1)
7. Mother-in-law of Ruth
8. Mediterranean sea port (Ezra 3 v 7)
9. Brother of Peter
10. From where you will leave with joy (Isaiah 55 v 12)

1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								

All the quotes are taken from the Good News version of the Bible

On 23 April in England we celebrate St George's Day – our Patron Saint. We cannot be absolutely sure who the original St George was, but we do know that there was a man named George from Syria who suffered martyrdom in the third century, and was canonized as a saint two hundred years later and it is thought he was the original dragon-slaying knight, and the knight who became our patron saint.

He was martyred because of his Christian faith by the Emperor Diocletian. He was rich and of noble birth and his family were all Christians in spite of the Emperor's hostility to the Church. George followed the usual career of young nobleman and went into the Roman Army, where his ability and charm brought him quick promotion. The Emperor noticed him and made him a tribune, or officer, in the Imperial Guard.

In the army George made friends with Constantine, who was to be the next Emperor after Diocletian. George apparently made trips to England in his time in the army and visited many centres of the Church in England including Glastonbury. On returning after a trip he found his country was suffering from the latest persecution of Diocletian who had issued a proclamation ordering all Christian churches to be destroyed. George – on seeing a copy of this proclamation – tore it down and as a result he was seized, tortured and finally executed.

He very soon became celebrated for his bravery and was considered a saint. When Constantine became Emperor he proclaimed George to be the model for all young Christian men. Churches were built and named after him and as the churchyards of Syria were full of roses, roses were regarded as his special flower.

It was during the Crusades that George became widely known to the English and gave proof of his care for them. At the sieges of Antioch and Acre. Men said they saw him in the sky helping the hard-pressed English against the Saracen army. Richard the Lionheart declared he had received much help from St George. The returning armies spread the cult of St George in England and it took immediate hold.

The previous patron saint had been Edward the Confessor, but now the red cross on the white background of St George's flag appeared with Edward the Confessor's in the king's armies. In 1222 at the Council of Oxford, his special day – 23<sup>rd</sup> April – was declared a national holiday. In 1330 the Order of the Garter – our highest order of chivalry was founded and dedicated to St George. From then on till the Puritan days of the seventeenth century, St George's Day was celebrated all over England.

The story – possibly myth – links St George to the killing of a dragon so saving a princess and her people in various forms. It is thought that the ‘dragon’ may well have been a crocodile since the tale arose from a country infested by crocodiles. In Art, George is usually represented as a knight on horseback, transfixing a dragon with his spear. Sometimes he carries a banner with a red cross on a white background. Sometimes the princess is shown beside him, leading a tamed dragon by her girdle which she uses as a leash. The red cross of St George is of course incorporated in our Union Flag.

## ANSWERS

### *Wordsearch*

The three Capital cities of the world the missing letters makes up are Buenos Aires, Cairo and Nairobi.

### *Twenty Questions to Test You*

- |                         |                          |                                      |                        |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Rommel                | 2 Thailand               | 3 Bottom (A Midsummer Night’s Dream) | 4 15                   |
| 5 Andrew                | 6 Ahab                   | 7 Mercury                            | 8 Ronald Dahl          |
| 9 Great Uncle Bulgaria  | 10 Blue whale            | 11 Pegasus                           | 12 Horeb               |
| 13 Type of sailing ship | 14 His Birthright        | 15 One                               | 16 1775                |
| 17 The War of the Roses | 18 Uranus Jupiter Saturn | 19 Tennis                            | 20 Oxygen and Hydrogen |

### *Crossword with a Difference*

- |             |                      |                   |             |                 |
|-------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 1 Broth     | 2 Haggis             | 3 Scampi          | 4 Ice cream | 5 Madeira       |
| 6 Aspic     | 7 Curry              | 8 Yoghourt        | 9 Trifle    | 10 Éclair       |
| 11 Rhubarb  | 12 Bubble and Squeak | 13 Kebab          | 14 Bean     | 15 Nuts         |
| 16 Salad    | 17 Dundee            | 18 Eccles         | 19 Salmon   | 20 Noodles      |
| 21 Syrup    | 22 Pancake           | 23 Eel            | 24 Liver    | 25 Radish       |
| 26 Ham      | 27 Marrow            | 28 Welsh Rarebit  | 29 Toast    | 30 Tea          |
| 31 Aperitif | 32 Fish              | 33 Hot Cross Buns | 34 Sandwich | 35 Hors doeuvre |
| 36 Egg      | 37 Goat              |                   |             |                 |

### Bible based Puzzle

- 1 UriAh
- 2 ShaDrach
- 3 XaDok
- 4 FelIx
- 5 HaGar
- 6 MiCah
- 7 NaOmi
- 8 JOppa
- 9 AndRew
- 10 BabYlon

The letters in the fourth column give you the Church Festival Good Friday

### **Daphne Pilcher**

#### **Water Fall**

The answer to the Science Professor’s joke is as follows:

H<sub>2</sub>O is, of course, water.

But H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> is more commonly known as bleach – hydrogen peroxide – and certainly not something you should drink.

Non scientists would probably not have had a clue – but it would have been concerning if the brightest minds of the science world at the conference didn’t get it!

## 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> Daphne Pilcher	521691
<b>Churchwardens</b> May Graves Please contact via email to <a href="mailto:Churchwardens@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk">Churchwardens@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk</a>	
<b>Deputy Churchwardens</b> Graeme Anderson Chris Dobson	532922 539539
<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 – <a href="mailto:magazine@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk">magazine@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk</a>	
<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 Head of School – Mrs Lyndsay Smurthwaite	520582 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 – <a href="mailto:rusthallsoutgroup@gmail.com">rusthallsoutgroup@gmail.com</a>	
<b>Scout Membership Secretary</b> Juliet Waller Email – <a href="mailto:rusthallsoutgroupwaitinglist@yahoo.co.uk">rusthallsoutgroupwaitinglist@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:rusthallbrownies@btinternet.com">rusthallbrownies@btinternet.com</a> Tina Francis (Mon)	545877
<b>Rainbows</b> Mary Saunders Email – <a href="mailto:saundii@aol.com">saundii@aol.com</a>	319872
<b>Playtime at St Paul's</b> Liz Mankelow	07840 837968
<b>Rusthall Lunch Club</b> 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	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*

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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.**