

ST PAUL'S NEWS

February 2024



ONE POUND

SERVICES

Sunday 4th February Second Sunday before Lent Candlemas

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

Sunday 11th February Sunday Next before Lent

- 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: Liz Goddard
Link: Rosemary Romano
- 6.30 pm Choral Evensong (BCP)
Minister: The Vicar

Wednesday 14th February Ash Wednesday

- 8.00 pm Parish Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes
President & Preacher: The Vicar

Sunday 18th February First Sunday of Lent

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

Sunday 25th February Second Sunday of Lent

- 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: Jean Kerr
- 6.30 pm Parish Eucharist (CW)
President & Preacher: The Vicar

Sunday 3rd March Third Sunday of Lent

- 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 Pilcher
Link: Susan Powley
- 6.30 pm Evensong (BCP)
Minister & Preacher: The Vicar

DIARY

Thursday 1st February

- 6.30 pm Youth Council in the Lodge

Saturday 3rd February

- Scouts sleepover for expedition – Church Centre

Wednesday 7th February

- 10.30 am Julian Meeting at 20 Chancellor House

Sunday 18th February

- TW Half Marathon

Saturday 24th February

- Squirrels sleepover – Church Centre

Wednesdays throughout the month

- 9.00 am Play Time at the Church Centre

Thursdays throughout the month

- 12 for 12.30 Rusthall Lunch Club at the 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:

March by Sunday 11th February

April by Sunday 17th March

May by Sunday 14th April

June by Sunday 12th May

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

Magazines are posted on the Parish website by the 1st of the month. Photocopies of the magazine 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 Vicarage

Dear Friends

Thank you very much for your continued support and hard work. I trust that things are going well and peacefully for and with you so far in 2024.

Some people have been asking why we cancelled the Holocaust Memorial service which was scheduled for the 27th of January. The cancellation was not a sign that we think the holocaust was in any way justified or can ever be justifiable. The service was cancelled because we didn't support the seemingly indiscriminate killing of the Palestinians in Gaza by the Israeli Defence Force (IDF). The attack by Hamas on Israel on the 7th of October was brutal and indiscriminate – and we condemn that. Unfortunately, Israel's resolute pursuance of security for its people and the elimination of Hamas has resulted in the indiscriminate killing of Palestinians. Many of us support Israel and 'pray for the peace of Jerusalem' (Psalm 122:6a) but we also seek peace, pursue justice and support the oppressed (Psalm 34:14, Micah 6:8). So, to have gone ahead with the service could have sent the wrong message and caused unnecessary hurt. We will continue to pray for peace in Israel and Palestine and for an increased desire among the people for their mutual flourishing.

As you know, Lent is quite early this year. I ordered some Lent study materials in November. I was told that it would take a while to get them to me but I was hoping to have received them by now so I could include details of what our Lent Study/course will be. Although I cannot give you the course details, I can tell you that we will have two plenary sessions at the Church Centre in the weeks of Lent, excluding Holy week. The day time sessions will be on Tuesdays from 10:00am to 11:30am and the evening sessions will be on Thursdays from 7:00pm to 8:30pm, commencing on the 20th and 22nd of February respectively. I am also waiting for the date/details about this year's Confirmation service. The venue will be St Mark's, Tunbridge Wells and we hope that it will be an afternoon/evening in May. Once we are given the details by Bishop's Court / the Diocese, I will put the information on the Pew leaflet with details about Confirmation Preparations.

Just before Christmas, I bought a book by Jeremy Griffith, an Australian Biologist entitled *Freedom: The End of the Human Condition*. I was hoping to read it (at least, some of it) during my holidays but didn't. The cover description/assertions are quite daring: 'The book that saves the world'; 'At last, the redeeming, reconciling and rehabilitating biological explanation of the human condition that brings about the dreamed of dawn of understanding and ends all the suffering and conflict on earth'. O how I hope that 'suffering and conflict on earth' may end and that peace and goodwill may be experienced by each of us and shared with everyone.

As we continue to journey through life, I pray that we will find and experience profoundly divine peaceful moments that will enable us to rely on God, live humbly, work diligently and constantly renew our hope that, ultimately, humanity can and will be transformed by God.



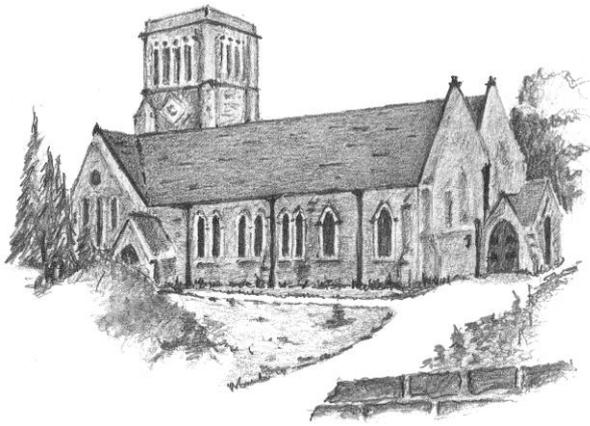
From The Registers

Baptisms – we welcome as newly Baptised members of the church

Genie Honey Yejide Oduba

ST PAUL'S

100



NUMBERS
£10 PER MONTH

PRIZES

£100 1ST
£ 60 2ND
£ 40 3RD

NUMBERS AVAILABLE
FROM CHRIS DOBSON ON
07757 680165

WINNING NUMBERS

December:

76 (£100), 3 (£60) AND 67 (£40)

January:

25 (£100), 62 (£60) AND 78 (£40)



Rusthall

Community

Larder

What is it?

A community larder receives donations of 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 12.30 and 2.00 pm

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.

We'd love to see you!

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

February 2024

A very Happy New Year to you all. I hope you fared better than me, I went down with the cough that has been plaguing members of the choir, so Christmas and New Year were spent very quietly at home feeling ghastly! I know I was far from the only one to be ill, so let's hope we all feel better very soon.

2024 so far has been quite eventful weatherwise, there have already been 9 named storms and we have had snow – though not much down south. I watched the documentary about the winter of January – March 1947 sitting in my centrally heated house, complete with double glazing, snuggling under a heated blanket wondering how we would cope with a winter like that nowadays. They were still on rations following WW2 and after weeks of heavy and repeated snowfalls the country had ground to a halt. Trains were unable to bring coal supplies to the electricity power stations so power cuts added to the misery, making it difficult to cook or even to fill a hot water bottle to help warm up beds in totally unheated bedrooms. My mother would have been looking after my sister, who was then only 9 months old, and my father was still serving with the RAF in India and Burma. It must have been a difficult and worrying time.

I think we can safely say that 2024 will be eventful politically too. 55 countries are holding elections, or referenda, including UK, USA, and Russia. This is far more than usual. Sadly many electorates seem to be fed up with the whole lot of them, and if people don't use their democratic rights there is always the danger that they will lose them through lethargy. We must galvanise ourselves! This month sees a general election in Pakistan and Indonesia and Azerbaijan seeks a new president. Sadly 23rd February marks the second anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

It is an Olympic year of course, Paris will be hosting the games which run from 26 July – 11 August followed by the Paralympics from 29 August to 8 September, so we can be sure of an excellent variety of sport to watch and perhaps the opportunity for some French inspired picnics and parties – du pain, du vin et du Boursin anyone? Other fromages are available!

We do, of course, get an extra day of 2024 to enjoy as it is a Leap Year – an extra day is inserted at the end of every fourth February to correct calendars for the problem caused because a year is not precisely 365 days long. On 1st February we celebrate St Brigid of Kildare and it is this lady who is thought to be the reason that women were allowed to propose to a man on the Leap Day – 29th February. She got St Patrick to agree to this occasional reversal of power for women but only every fourth year. The practise quickly spread across Europe and has remained the most famous and enduring Leap Year tradition. In Scotland, there's a further proviso - the woman intending to propose has to wear a red petticoat to give their intended fair warning. Queen Margaret of Scotland also passed a law in 1288 that made any Scotsman who refused a Leap Day proposal pay a fine, usually £1. Sometimes, the fine would be a silk gown. In Denmark, a man who refuses a leap year proposal has to give the woman who asked 12 pairs of gloves, supposedly to hide the shame of not wearing an engagement ring. In Finland, the blow of a refusal has to be softened by enough fabric to make a skirt.

Since 1980 in France, Leap Day is spent reading *La Bougie du Sapeur*, a satirical French newspaper that only comes out every four years, on 29 February. The name translates as *Sapper's Candle*, inspired by a character in an old French comic strip who was born in a leap year, on Leap Day. It's the least frequently published newspaper in the world, but when it does come out it sells around 150,000 copies, more than most of the daily newspapers in France.

Before then we could continue the French theme by upgrading our pancakes to crêpes on Shrove Tuesday (13th February)? This is easy to do, just make your batter a little thinner by adding extra milk and swirl as you pour into a larger frying pan so that you get larger, thinner pancakes – et voila! Crêpes Suzette are the most famous but are quite fiddly and have all the risks of setting fire to alcohol that we usually reserve for the Christmas pudding. If you are fed up with traditional sugar and lemon juice how about sliced banana with toffee sauce or Nutella spread with sliced fresh strawberries. I have yet to work out how to combine St Valentine's Day with Ash Wednesday on 14th February – perhaps a romantic lunch so you can still get to the service in the evening?

The picture on the cover is a Great Tit feeding in my friend Richard Brown's garden in Scotland. I hope you managed to attract birds to your garden in time for the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. I'm struggling to coax small birds back as my garden is full of pigeons and magpies!

Please get your articles for the March magazine to us by 11th February.

Deborah Bruce and Sue Hare

Churchwarden's Notes



First of all I would like to wish all of you a Happy New Year.

I especially would like to thank the flower team for their hard work in making the church look so beautiful over Christmas.

I would like to thank the choir for their hard work over Christmas and producing some beautiful music.

As most of you will know by now, Chris has resigned from being a church warden. I would like to thank him for his hard work and his frank honest conversations. I will really miss working with him.

I would also like to thank May, who has volunteered to temporarily stand in as a warden until the next APCM.

Please do give consideration to whether you feel called to take on various responsibilities within the Parish. Many tasks are not onerous, particularly if there are many hands to help!

We are still looking for people to become sidespersons, if anybody is interested please contact me. And if anyone interested in becoming a church warden, please contact Ronnie.

The work on the Choir Vestry roof is in the hands of Rochester, who have to give approval via what is known as a 'faculty'. Hopefully it will be received soon and work can begin.

Rod Garcia-Fermer

Did you know?

The ashes for the Ash Wednesday service are made by burning the palm crosses from last year.

The St Paul's Parish Fellowship

After 60 years of wonderful fellowship and dedicated service to the Parish the St Paul's Parish Fellowship finished its activities with a splendid 'last' supper enjoyed by over 40 members and their guests on Saturday 13th January. After Grace from our President and an excellent meal both the Chairperson and her deputy, the former Men's Chairman, thanked the members and their guests for their support and outlined some of the many activities undertaken by members over the 60 year period. An excellent raffle was held and the answers to a quiz were given before concluding with entertainment by our former Churchwardens Clive McAllister and May Graves, who had given great support to the Fellowship during their time as Wardens.

Speaking first I told the assembled Company that the Men's Fellowship had a longer pedigree than the Ladies because we were affiliate members of the Church of England's Men's Society formed in 1899. Sadly, that organisation slid in numbers, which sounds woefully familiar, and a membership of 134,000 men in 1912 fell to 35,000 in 1921. The slide continued until the inevitable end came on 31st December 1965. The men of Rusthall were active members and in 1966 the St Paul's Men's Fellowship was inaugurated. The Vicars of Rusthall have always been Presidents and until 2023 they were The Rev Canon Mantle, The Rev Canon Bob Whyte and Rev Ronnie Williams.

I was fortunate to be the last Chairman among many distinguished men of the Parish, all of whom have departed this life: Harry Cook, Eric Peel, David Pink and David Webster. No less than five Men's Fellowship members have been ordained and in more recent times they included one Clive Gilbert who many will know.

The Men's Fellowship was very active indeed leading services at Middlefield, Rusthall Lodge, Simmonds Court and Manor Court. I cut my preaching teeth at these services which were always well attended by members, their wives and some friends apart that is from the residents. During that time we had only three pianists, again sadly no longer with us - Evelyn Collins, Alice Rees (Mark's Mum) and Jenny Baker with appearances from Ruth Webster and Caroline Johnson from time to time, the latter, thankfully, is still with us.

From time to time Men's Fellowship ran a removal service for Church members. The Fellowship also decorated houses and for a time we provided breakfast in the form of hot rolls and marmalade after the 9am service in the Parish Church and we

still contribute to at least coffee, tea and biscuits once a month after the 10am service, which we men and women are vowed to continue. As part of our programme we instituted a visit to a Parish Church followed by a visit to a Public House. The first was at Eridge and it is recorded that the then President had to be carried feet first into the Vicarage at the end of the evening much to the chagrin of his wife. These visits continued to the end and were very popular. Our very last was down the road at King Charles the Martyr and was one of the best.

Perhaps the most stand out achievement of the Men's Fellowship was, before my time, the building of the Canon Mantle Lodge over one year ably led by Ray Stevens present with us this evening. We contributed to the bottle stall at the Missionary, Autumn or Christmas fairs raising £25.58 in 1970, £27.30 in 1975 and by 1988 we had passed £100. It was nearly £200 by the time we ceased.

Visits to Maidstone Prison were also organised. David Pink's wife Tricia met an inmate who was interested in embroidery and subsequent manufacture helped Charity and indeed the inmates.

The Men's Breakfasts in conjunction with the Ladies were also a great success with a number of distinguished speakers always including whoever the MP was at the time, Bishops and Archdeacons and even one year A former Lord Mayor of London who just happened to be one of my business partners.

We also had visits to many places including Lambeth Palace and the House of Lords and joined the ladies on their summer outings and barbecues which were always great fun.

The current form of the Remembrance day service was devised by the Men's Fellowship and it has been a very great honour for me to preach at this service and latterly to read the names of the fallen from two World Wars. The only change in some 60 years was when the 11am service became the 10am service and instead of starting with the two minutes silence we finished with it.

There was much more besides but this brief outline gives you an impression of what was done in the name of Christ. I close not with my words but those of the late David Pink:-

"To have been involved in the Fellowships in this Parish has been a great joy and a great privilege only saddened by the passing of so many good friends."

We were always close to the Ladies Fellowship (if you get my drift) and held many joint events with them until our amalgamation in 2015.

My great friend Zillah Witt, who had been a wonderful Chairperson since the fellowships amalgamated, highlighted the many achievements of the Ladies including their contributions to the cake stall at the Fairs, the making of posies for the Mothering Sunday service, the many meals enjoyed, the summer barbecues, the harvest flower decorations, the coffee mornings, the new year parties, the summer outings which were always enjoyed not forgetting the brilliant organisational skills of the late Muriel Reeves when secretary.

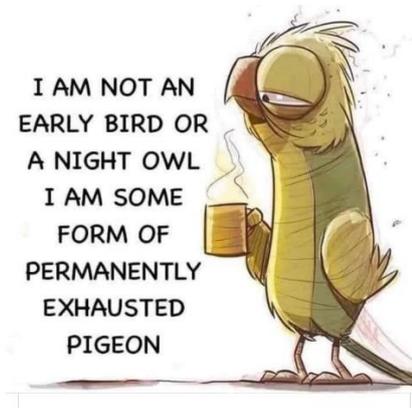
The Women's Fellowship faithfully marked Lent with attendance at the Ash Wednesday service and the talks during the Lenten period were always thoughtful and usually were given by clergy members from this Parish and beyond.

Over the years we have heard many great speakers who have talked on all manner of subjects. Many of these have been interesting and much enjoyed.

Inevitably, numbers dropped and even the amalgamation and a change of meeting time from evening to afternoon did not stop the failure to attract new members and combined with age and infirmity creeping up on the office holders the end is nigh.

Over the decades things change. A large majority of Couples now work and understandably there seems little time for other things in their lives other than family. It is a case of going with the flow sadly but I am sure that the Lord looks down upon us recognising the contribution we Fellowship men and ladies have made to Parish Life in Rusthall and I am sure as can be that he would say 'well done thou good and faithful servants.'

Tim Cripps





Blackham Village Market
SATURDAY 3RD FEBRUARY
10.00AM TO 12.30PM

Coffee/Tea & Cakes served from 10am

Lots of lovely produce for sale: homemade pasties, cakes, scones, free range eggs, bread, bird food, honey, handmade craft items and lots more

SEE YOU THERE!

Play time!

AT ST PAULS



Every
Wednesday
9am-11am

From 10th January 2024

*At the church centre
 (next to the chemist)*



Everyone is welcome!
 Parents/carers/grandparents with children from birth upwards will be warmly welcomed with a hot cuppa and biscuits!

Please feel free to contact us or just turn up!

Jayne: 07532 339434
 Liz: 07840 837468
 Annie: 07730 771818

We look forward to welcoming you

Pleanty of fun for the children and friendships to be made.



BLACKHAM VILLAGE HALL

BEER AND SKITTLES EVENING

SATURDAY 23RD MARCH 2024
 7.00PM

COME AND ENJOY A FUN EVENING OF SKITTLES AND OTHER OLD FASHIONED PUB GAMES
£5 PER PERSON TO INCLUDE BAR SNACKS

LICENSED BAR OPEN FROM 7.00PM
 SERVING BEER, WINE AND PROSECCO (CASH OR CARD)
 GET YOUR TICKETS FROM RUTH ON 07890 303791



A Musical Note



by **Jess Biggerstaff, Hannah Hughes, Eleanor Toombs and Stella Winter**

We have been members of the choir for ten brilliant years. Seven of those years were spent in the Junior Choir having the best times of our lives; from carol singing to Crounders (choir rounders), concerts to ice skating.

Here are some of our favourite things that we did in the lead up to Christmas!

We began December with the Advent Carol Service where we sang a range of pieces, both the classics that turn up every year and modern, innovative anthems, notably *Nova, Nova* by Iain Farrington which included stamping, clapping, and clicking. The aforementioned piece also appeared in *Nine Lessons and Carols*, with rapturous applause following both performances. We had an amazing time learning it, and spent many evenings laughing at our slightly dodgy attempts to stamp, clap, and click at the right time in addition to getting the complicated runs of notes. We did eventually get it right though!



*This is us waiting to start *Nine Lessons and Carols**



At the Oast Theatre

On top of regular church services and seasonal evensongs, we also took part in various activities. For example, some of the youth choir joined the Oriana Singers for a concert in the Oast Theatre, Tonbridge, which was set up to raise money for the theatre. This included singing, instrumentation, and some fun actions!

Alongside this, in order to get into the Christmas spirit, we enjoyed visiting several care homes and singing some of our favourite carols. We always love seeing how much they appreciate it and smile along with us, it's especially touching to see some of them singing too (and the mince pies are amazing!).

We also had a great time on our annual Junior Choir ice skating trip, followed by a well-earned hot chocolate. Afterwards, we went to see the pantomime at the Assembly Hall Theatre, starring the lighting design by Nic Farman!



Ice skating

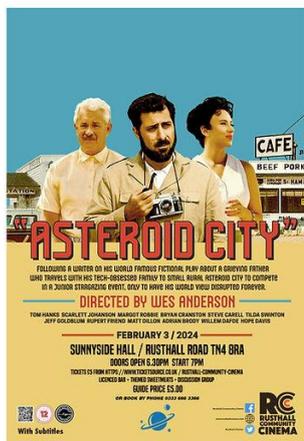
We are forever grateful to our fantastic contingent of organists, who accompany all of our services and continue to outdo themselves with their excellent playing. They spread the load, with Alasdair even playing in the middle of the night for *Midnight Mass*, followed by Daniel on Christmas morning with some marvellous descants and stylish Christmas accessories...

To finish off Christmas Day, we received the joyous news that the choir had gained a tiny new chorister, Jennifer and Nic had had baby Edward!! We can't wait for him to be old enough to join us!

There are so many things for us to look forward to in the year ahead. The choir is singing at the cathedrals of Gloucester, St Albans, and even St Paul's in London (which is obviously not as good as St Paul's Church, Rusthall)! We don't yet know what the theme of Choir Camp will be, but it's always the highlight of our year. We'll be saying goodbye to some people who've been in the choir for twelve terrific years, and while it will be sad to see them go, they have bright futures ahead of them. We've got a few years to go yet, and we can't wait to see what's in store!



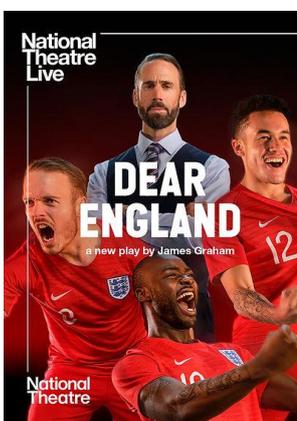
Rusthall Community Cinema



Asteroid City (2023) Cert 12

Doors open: 6.30pm Saturday 3rd Feb 2024
 Director: Wes Anderson
 Genre: Comedy, Drama, Romance
 Runtime: 1h45 mins
 Starring: Jason Schwartzman, Scarlett Johansson, Tom Hanks

Following a writer on his world famous fictional play about a grieving father who travels with his tech-obsessed family to small rural Asteroid City to compete in a junior stargazing event, only to have his world view disrupted forever.



National Theatre Live – Dear England Cert 15

Doors open: 2pm Sunday 4th Feb 2024
 Director: Rupert Goold
 Genre: Recorded Live Theatre
 Runtime: 160 mins (including interval)
 Starring: Joseph Fiennes, Will Close, Adam Hugill

Gareth Southgate has brought hope back to the England squad but with the nation's expectations upon his shoulders, what happens when football doesn't come home? No knowledge or appreciation of soccer is necessary to enjoy this show.



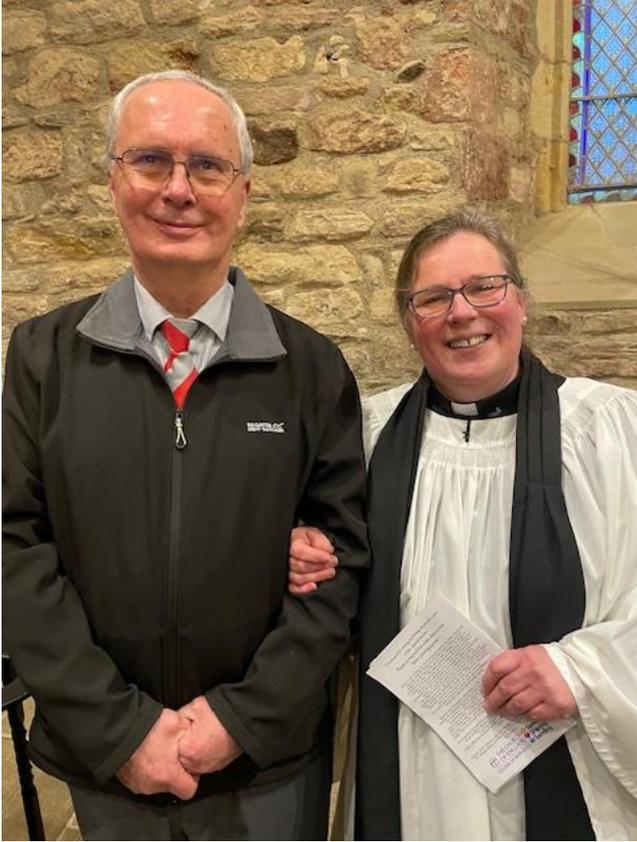
Decision to Leave (2022) Cert 15

Doors open: 6.30pm Saturday 17th Feb 2024
 Director: Park Chan-wook
 Genre: Crime, Drama, Mystery
 Runtime: 2h19mins
 Starring: Park Hae-il, Tang Wei, Lee Jung-hyun

A detective investigating a man's death in the mountains meets the dead man's mysterious wife in the course of his dogged sleuthing.

New Holy Island Priest

sa



Sam with husband Don

On a very stormy Holy Island (Lindisfarne) Northumbria last Sunday, Pat and Ray Stevens' daughter, Sam Quilty, was licensed to St Mary the Virgin Parish Church as Associate Priest. It was a moving but friendly service conducted by the Bishop of Berwick on Tweed, the Rt Rev Mark Wroe. One or two photographs appear below of the happy occasion. I am sure all at St. Paul's wish Sam hearty congratulations and pray that her ministry will bring much joy to Sam and all whom she serves.



The Celebration Tea



St Mary the Virgin Church



Sam with the Bishop



Lindisfarne - in sunnier times

Tim Cripps

ST. PAUL'S PILGRIMAGE
to
CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL
SATURDAY 2nd MARCH 2024



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

- Accessible to all, both young and not-so-young alike
- Pilgrimage is 3.7km long (2.3 miles) with stops of interest along the way including:
 - St. Dunstan's Church from where Henry II set off barefoot after the murder of Thomas à Becket.
 - Eastbrook Hospital of St. Thomas the Martyr which is now an Alms-house but has been welcoming visitors since the first pilgrims arrived there in 1190.
- There will be plenty of time for prayer and quiet meditation along the journey.
- Fellowship meal after the pilgrimage concludes.
- Our day will conclude by attending Choral Evensong in the Cathedral.

For more information, details of the itinerary, or to register your interest in participating in this pilgrimage please contact Tim Harrold on 07413 805814 or via email at pilgrimage@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk

Poems for February

Bread, a staple across so many cultures and faiths, is in many ways central to our world, from the war-threatened grain shortages, ongoing famines, and the inability of the people of Gaza to get flour to keep themselves alive. It is a fundamental substance, both figuratively (earning one's crust, one's bread and butter) and spiritually, in Judaism, Islam and Christianity ("Give us this day our daily bread"* ; "Body of Christ" in the Eucharist), and ritually in the breaking of bread as a communal act of nourishment. It seems that at our most material (as in Atwood's poem below) and our most societal, the almost mystical creation of bread from such simple ingredients, somehow is a reminder of our common humanity, where everything is at once sacred and utterly basic. We need to keep body and soul together.

(*We even have our own local hub, The Daily Bread café, in Rusthall High Street.)

Susan Barber

All Bread

All bread is made of wood,
cow dung, packed brown moss,
the bodies of dead animals, the teeth
and backbones, what is left
after the ravens. This dirt
flows through the stems into the grain,
into the arm, nine strokes
of the axe, skin from a tree,
good water which is the first
gift, four hours.

Live burial under a moist cloth,
a silver dish, the row
of white famine bellies
swollen and taut in the oven,
lungfuls of warm breath stopped
in the heat from an old sun.

Good bread has the salt taste
of your hands after nine
strokes of the axe, the salt
taste of your mouth, it smells
of its own small death, of the deaths
before and after.

Lift these ashes
into your mouth, your blood;
to know what you devour
is to consecrate it,
almost. All bread must be broken
so it can be shared. Together
we eat this earth.

Margaret Atwood



After the Goose that Rose like the God of Geese

Everything that lives is Holy
- William Blake

After the phone call about my father far away,
after the next-day flight cancelled by the blizzard,
after the last words left unsaid between us,
after the harvest of organs at the morgue,
after the mortuary and cremation of the body,
after the box of ashes shipped to my door by mail,
after the memorial service for him in Brooklyn,

I said: *I want to feed the birds. I want to feed bread
to the birds. I want to feed bread to the birds at the park.*

After the walk round the pond and the war memorial,
after the signs at every step that read, *Do Not Feed the Geese*,
after the goose that rose from the water like the god of geese,
after the goose that shrieked like a demon from the hell of
geese,
after the goose that scattered the creatures smaller than geese,
after the hard beak, the wild mouth taking bread from my hand,

there was quiet in my head, no cacophony of the dead
lost in the catacombs, no mosquito hum of condolences,
only the next offering of bread raised up in my open hand,
the bread warm on the table of my truce with the world.

Martin Espada



01892 825505



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tunbridgewells@welhamjones.co.uk



All's Well in The Dell

The eagle-eyed among you will have noticed some changes to the area alongside the church drive and in the dip beside the church known as the Dell. This is part of a programme of works being carried out by the Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall Commons Volunteers under the supervision of Ranger Dan Colborne.

Some long-standing residents of Rusthall (you may be one of them?) remember a time when the Dell was a carpet of orchids and other wildflowers. The biodiversity of this space has suffered over the years as shrubs and trees, mostly sycamores, have grown taller all around the Dell, blocking out the light and taking up the nutrients from the soil, causing the variety of flora to decrease. The aim, in accordance with the Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall Commons Management Plan (drawn up by the Commons Conservators), is to retain and protect this grassy glade as it is a rarity amongst the many wooded acres of our Commons. To this end, an area was cleared at the edge of the Dell nearest to the War Memorial and a work party removed brambles and scrub from this spot, which were dragged into the undergrowth and heaped into piles for wildlife habitats.

Spot the difference?



At the back of the Dell, close to the Langton Road, several trees were felled and a team of volunteers armed with 'tree poppers' removed hundreds of sycamore saplings by their roots, to reclaim a swathe of grassland and to prevent further encroachment from self-seeding. Again, the debris was not removed from the site but formed into a habitat pile for hedgehogs to snooze under (hopefully) and wrens to flutter along the top. This work exposed what looks like a mini sink hole! Take a look – any ideas as to what it might have been?

Those of you who use the footpath through the Dell will know that after any significant rainfall a large puddle forms at its lowest point, turning to muddy sludge for weeks afterwards. Not anymore!

A small drainage channel has been dug here to allow the rainwater to soak away. When funding allows, the Management Plan includes the removal of some of the taller trees to the left of the footpath (as you stand with your back to the church) to further open up this meadow area, flooding it with light. This should significantly increase the diversity of wildflowers and herbs, encouraging butterflies, bees, and other pollinators.



This old photograph of the footpath (left of centre) through the Dell reveals that the surroundings were once more like heathland; there is no intention to return it to that state, but it clearly demonstrates how much the woodland has encroached upon the area.

More volunteers are always welcome! We're a friendly bunch. We chat, we learn, we laugh, sometimes there's even cake! There are always a variety of jobs at each session from litter picks to conservation projects. High vis jackets and tools are provided. We meet on the first Saturday of each month at 10am for two hours, and every Wednesday at 10am for 3 hours. There's no obligation to stay for the whole session or to attend regularly. Interested? Contact the Clerk to the Tunbridge Wells Commons Conservators: gemma.stapeley@twcommons.org

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The Time has come

Time flies, as the saying goes, and particularly so in the Church as having celebrated Christmas and the Epiphany we rapidly come to Lent in the middle of February. Before we get there, I do hope that you all enjoyed a spectacular Christmas and New Year keeping illness at bay and enjoying downtime with friends and family whilst celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. A never to be forgotten Christmas Day for Jennifer and Nic Farman with the birth of Edward Tobias on Christmas Day. Warmest congratulations to the three of them.

The New Year began with precious little good news. One thing to be thankful for, however, was the reaction to the television series "Mr Bates vs the Post Office" which, despite what has been known for twenty years, exposed in spectacular fashion the awful scandal surrounding the Post Office's "Horizon" computerised accounting system, which resulted in many Postmasters and sub-postmasters being found guilty of theft or false accounting and having their lives ruined after the Post Office took action over money which appeared to be missing due to faults in Horizon. This has led to many politicians taking to the media to give statements of the obvious that the scandal should never have happened and will now hopefully lead to quicker exoneration and compensation of those wrongly accused or convicted.

Two thousand years before media-savvy politicians found themselves in front of microphones, the writer of St Mark's Gospel also loved a soundbite. He summarised the entirety of Jesus' teaching in three punchy sentences: "The time has come. The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" Virtually everything Jesus taught can be gathered under one of those headlines. Jesus, in the twenty first century, could have put the whole thing in a tweet and still had room for an emoji or two!

A reading of Mark's Gospel would lead you to the conclusion that he hurtles from one event to another. The word 'immediately' comes again and again. God was doing something new on our planet. Its beginning marked by Jesus' baptism - God lovingly absorbing himself in every aspect of the human condition. There was a time of reflection for Jesus, alone in the desert resisting the temptation to sidestep the enormity of his ministry. And then there was an explosion of activity.

The day of the Messiah, the great leader for whom the Jews longed, was imminent. The moment the scriptures had anticipated when God would intervene decisively in human history, was close.

There were several ways that the Old Testament described the leader - the shepherd, a servant, a conqueror. Jesus was not to be drawn on whether he claimed to be the Messiah. He told his followers to look at what was happening and make up their own minds - no trial by media for him. Mark in any event needed no convincing - he announced it in the very first sentence of his Gospel. Jesus, though, made a point of distancing himself from those who wanted him to be a military hero overthrowing the enemy. Instead, he saw himself in the role of servant to vulnerable people.

Jesus made the kingdom of God central to his teaching. It wasn't a physical place, and it wasn't a particular group of people. Jesus used it as a way of describing what the world is like when God is accepted as king and obeyed. In God's kingdom, the sick are healed, the hungry are fed, the oppressed find justice, peace is established and suffering ends for all. Jesus pointed ahead to a time when the Kingdom would be made perfect in Heaven. A bit late for New Year's resolutions but I think most of us would cry out 'if only!' In him, the Kingdom had begun breaking through, and his actions as a healer, a peacemaker and a transformer of the lives of the most defenceless people were a demonstration that it was true.

In the Kingdom of God, Jesus taught, people would do what is good not because they feared the consequences of doing wrong but because they appreciated the principles at the heart of doing what is right (I think there is a message for the Post Office there). They would love one another in the same way that he loved them. God required not a change of behaviour, but a change of heart.

This was the biggest challenge. The Kingdom would only come about if people took action. "Repent" means turn around - a complete change of direction. Jesus' followers were to see themselves as God's children. Their lives must carry the DNA of Jesus, the one whom God himself declared to be his Son at his baptism. They must seek justice whenever it was denied. They must bring about peace. They must give themselves selflessly on behalf of the poor. They must love people unconditionally. This too is our call as people of the Kingdom in this in between time, after Jesus has lived and before God brings all things to a climax in the perfection of heaven.

This challenging life was such good news because Jesus promised to be utterly committed to his followers in a way greater than anything they had previously experienced. What's more, being in this new community was not just going to improve their time on earth. The ultimate reason for following

Jesus was that the exhilarating life he offered them would endure forever. After death, their lives with Jesus would continue in the presence of God throughout all eternity.

That was Jesus' gracious gift. It is still unparalleled good news. Believe it! Be a signpost to the Kingdom this week and forever. **The time has come.**

Recommended Reading:

Genesis 9: 8-17
1 Peter 3: 18-22
Mark 1.9-15

You can access the recommended readings online by going to <https://bible.oremus.org>. Enter the passage details and select your preferred edition of the bible – New Revised Standard Version (Anglicised Edition) and King James Bible are both available. This website is free of charge.

Tim Cripps

Church Graffiti

Eagle-eyed Churchwarden Rod spotted this scratched graffiti near the door to the North Porch. I must admit that, although this is where I have plugged in the Christmas Tree for the last ten years, I had never realised it was there.



The drawing is titled 1944 and seems to be of two aircraft. There was a well-documented crash of an RAF Mosquito in Rusthall, but that was not until

March 1946. The Battle of Britain was earlier – 1940. However, there are notes online explaining that Tunbridge Wells was on several well know flight paths for doodlebugs, and these attacks did persist until 1944.

The other feature is the two pierced hearts. TT loves PN and TP loves ON (this one is not so clear). Now there are so many more questions. Who were they and did the romances last?

Can you shed any light on this? Requests for anonymity will be respected. Just email magazine@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk

Deborah Bruce

St Paul's Church Youth Council

The Youth Council welcomed 2024 with a visit from Councillor Jayne Sharratt and Lisa Coughlin. The focus of the meeting was to explore what Rusthall currently offers its young people and what more today's youth would like to be available in our village. As usual the Youth Council were quick to share their thoughts and a lively debate followed. We are very lucky to live in a particularly vibrant village and everyone quickly realised there is a lot to do and become involved in should they wish. We hope that a list of clubs/opportunities could be advertised and made available for everyone. It is important however to recognise that it takes confidence for young people to venture into the unknown. Moving forward, the CYC hope to organise a 'game swap' at the Community Coffee morning and run a stall at the Summer Fayre. Thank you so much Jayne and Lisa for giving us your time and sharing your enthusiasm and ideas so willingly.



Our next meeting - **Thursday 1st February 6 pm at The Lodge** - sees us exploring MONEY and how we can best look after our earnings safely! This will be a really fun and practical workshop with some great surprises - be prepared! As always new members are always warmly welcomed.

March will see us cooking again - delicious and nutritious food on a budget as the CYC prepare their own supper. This time it will be fajitas and a pudding.

Other news: The Parish Council are working very hard on all our behalf to extend the 30 mph from Rusthall Road to the Coach Road and are communicating directly with KCC. We offer them all our support and thank Liz Ellicott and Paul Gripper for their commitment to the 'Crossing Project'



We hope to welcome our first bees in the Spring. Tim Harrold and Chris Dobson have been on an excellent training day and we now hope to arrange a trip for the CYC to visit the apiary at St James . Details to follow.

Thank you CYC - you are a wonderful group and a pleasure to work with!

Angela Culley

Who or what is God? – a journey

(This article is both an update and a summary of chapter 3 in my book Meeting Christianity Again for the First Time, published by Red Balloon 2023)

Whatever we think or feel about God matters. And whatever we understand about God, affects the way we live. For instance, “when I was child, I

thought as a child”, as our patron saint, St Paul, wrote in one of his letters to the Christians who met in Corinth. But now we are grown up and we think differently. Perhaps as children we gathered from the Lord’s Prayer that God was our (heavenly) father. Like a super Dad. And so we thought if we were good, we could get from God what we asked for. A new bike, good health, good exam results and a good job. But it didn’t turn out like that, and some people have given up Christianity because they “didn’t get their way.” So our view of God changes as we change.

Our questions change too, and as we mature, we no longer need to see God as someone who exists just to give us what we think we want – for our own benefit. Including our prayers for the peace of the world as we grow up.

For us as adults, we no longer see ‘God’ as an old man sitting on a white cloud above, waiting for us to call him up. It is more likely that, like the writer of John’s gospel, we understand God as ‘spirit’. And “those who worship/love (God), will do so in spirit and in truth”. We can also learn from the New Testament writer, also called John, who wrote, “God is love, and anyone who lives in love, lives in God, and (the spirit of) God lives in him/her”.

So what is meant by this word “spirit”? Is it something ghostly (like in Holy Ghost) or is it something so amazing it is beyond definition. Perhaps it is more about the nature of something, like strength, beauty, wonder, joy, happiness, pleasure and even love, caring, compassion, understanding, faith and forgiveness. And all of these together!

The Irish theologian and mystic, Diarmuid O’Murchu, has written a number of books helping us to see how the God-as-spirit idea links up with current scientific and psychological studies. But that’s a topic for another article when I’ve finished reading his book “Evolutionary Faith”.

To close, how about reading this aloud, with a pause between each line, during a quiet time?

Be still and know that I am God

Be still and know that I am

Be still and know

Be still

Be.

(Psalm 46 verse 10)

Revd Tony Rutherford

The Church Year Part 1

The Church year begins on the Sunday nearest to the 30th November. I suppose that today, for many people, the Church year means very little and perhaps even to us in the Church it does not impinge a great deal on our daily lives. Of course we remember the major festivals and where some customs have been adopted by the secular world we can't miss them.

The Church Year begins with the period known as Advent and loosely stems from the Jewish Religious Year, which was based around the cycle of the natural world and how it affected everyone. With the establishment of Christianity as the state religion by the Emperor Constantine the Church Year took on a more distinct form but still centred around the family and the seasons.

The word Advent comes from the Latin and means coming. The Advent calendar which is now commonly used for the countdown of days through the period of Advent to Christmas was first used by German Lutherans in the 19th and 20th centuries but it did not really get going in England until the 1950's. It wasn't long before this lost its real purpose – counting down the days to the birth of Jesus - and became another secular means of making money and possibly indulging in chocolates etc.



The actual word Christmas which we use for the celebration of the birth of Jesus simply means a mass/eucharist on Christ's day. We use different terms for this celebration, but all of them emphasise a different aspect of it. Mass simply means Go – take out the teaching of Jesus into the wider world as Jesus asked of his disciples. The term Eucharist is a Greek word meaning 'Thanksgiving for a rite showing the special presence of Christ'. Holy

Communion, sometimes called The Lord's supper, is especially remembering the sacrifice Jesus made for each one of us on the cross. The Breaking of Bread remembers the unbreakable family bond that taking part in this rite creates between us and God and with each other.

In earlier times the term Yuletide was used, which referred to the Winter solstice, something which had always been marked in some way or another. In fact the 25th of December being the actual birthday of Jesus is probably very unlikely. However it was convenient to link it to the winter solstice celebration which marked getting rid of the dark days of winter and looking forward to the start of Spring and a new beginning.

In Church during Advent we have the Advent Ring/Wreath. This is made up of various evergreens which remind us of continuous life while the circle – which has no beginning or end – reminds us of the eternity of God and the hope of everlasting life which we find in Christ. The holly leaves and berries represent the crown of thorns which symbolizes the Resurrection.



Within the ring are four candles – three purple and one pink/red while in the centre there is a white candle. A lit candle has always been a sign of expectation and hope. On the first three Sundays in Advent the three purple candles are often lit while

the pink is lit on the fourth Sunday although in some cases the pink candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent. The candles remind us of 1st Sunday - The Patriarchs, the second - Prophets, the third - John the Baptist and the fourth - Mary the mother of Jesus. And then on that very special day - Christmas Day - the white candle is lit to remind us of the birth of Jesus.

These candles remind us to prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ - not the festivities of Christmas as many people see them. The patriarchs focus on Abraham and on David the ancestor of Jesus through Joseph to the City of David - Bethlehem where Jesus was born. The Prophets all reflect in some way or another the foretelling of the birth of The Messiah. John the Baptist actually proclaimed Jesus as the Messiah and we all need to remember the vital part Mary played in all this as the mother of Jesus.

However I wonder how many of you have looked at the colour of the altar cloths during this season and wondered why they are purple. This period should remind us that we should be thinking of more than one coming - the coming of Jesus as a baby but also a reminder of His returning to earth as a judge - often referred to as The Second Coming. This idea of punishment does not go down well with most of us at this period of the year. In one way the Advent candles hint at this as we are reminded of the problems faced by the Patriarchs, the Prophets, John the Baptist and Mary herself.

In earlier times the days of Advent were regarded as a period of fasting. There was perhaps a very good point for this in that in abstaining beforehand perhaps made you all the more ready to rejoice when Christmas actually arrived, rather than perhaps being fed up with the many festivities and food consumed during the time preceding Christmas Day.

But perhaps more important is the reminder that the birth of the baby we celebrate is also someone we regard as father and king. It would be a very poor parent who never corrects their offspring and even worse to have a king who never executes any form of judgement for wrong doing. It was possibly easier to remember the rather more serious meaning of Advent when one was fasting, but it is part of the teaching of the church year and something which we should not forget.

At St Paul's we also have a Christingle Service during the period of Advent - the Christingle is a reminder that Jesus is the light of the world. In some churches this is not celebrated until sometime during

Epiphany and can be linked to Candlemas. Again it is a fairly recent addition to our Church Year. The idea came from Germany during the late 1700s.

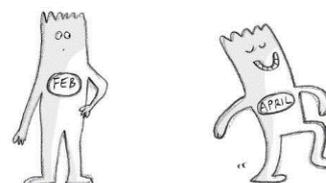


The orange stands for the world. The candle in the centre reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world and it is this light which spreads or should spread the love of God among us all. The red ribbon round the centre reminds us of the crucifixion - that Jesus died for each one of us. The four sticks used represent both the four seasons and the four points of the compass - North, South, East and West - while the fruits and nuts on the sticks remind us of God's provision for each one of us.

So finally we reach the Stable and Christmas Day.

Daphne Pilcher
(to be continued next month)

Can February march?



No, but April may.



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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 £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

Activity Pages for February

Word Search

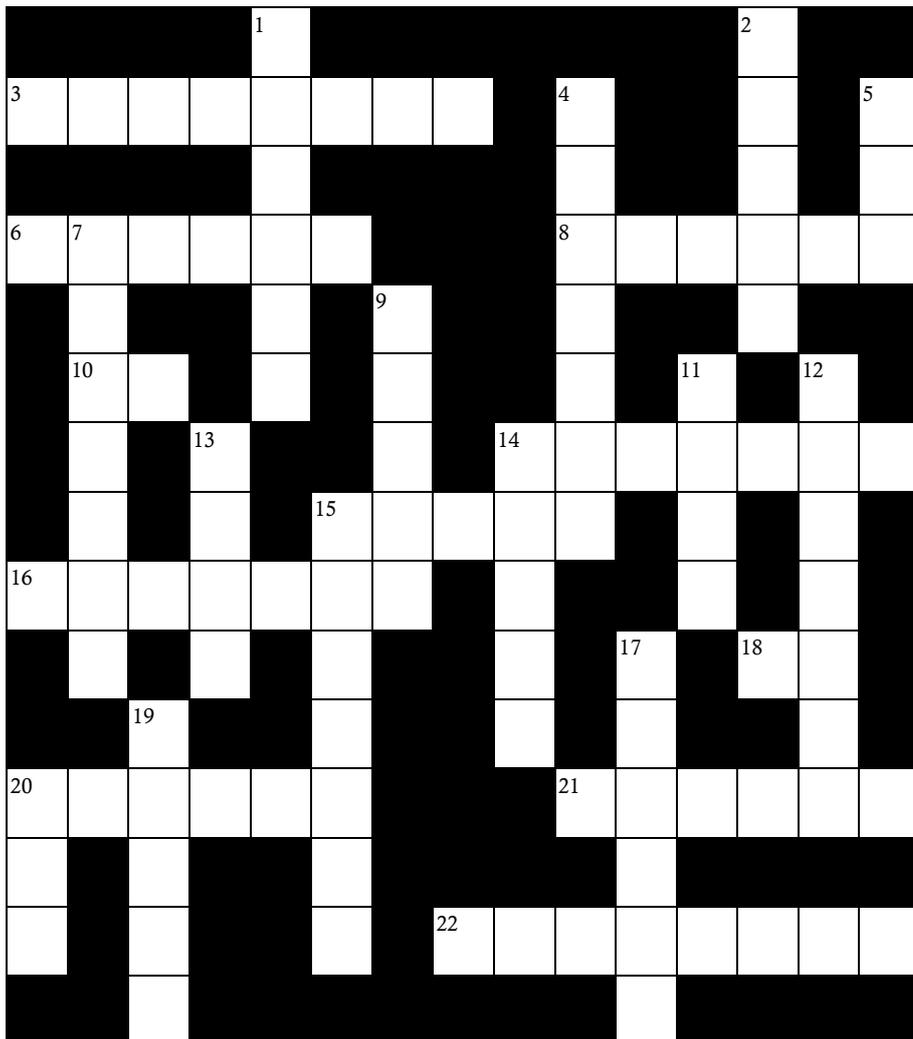
All the words are linked in some way with the Church and are written forwards, backwards, vertically and horizontally. When completed you should be left with eight unused letters which will give you the name of a service which sometime replaces Evensong.

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

ALB
 ALTAR
 ANNE
 CANDLEMAS
 CHOIR
 COPE
 EPIPHANY
 LADYDAY
 LENT
 MICHAELMAS
 PAUL
 PEW
 REMEMBRANCE
 TRINITY

International Based Crossword



Clues Across

- Originally named in honour of Cecil Rhodes
- Oil sheikdom on the Persian Gulf
- Formerly British Guiana
- The initials of the name given collectively to England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
- Flag of this country often used as a flag of convenience on oil tankers
- Home of the Taj Mahal
- The capital is Kingston
- Initials – Table Mountain is here
- The capital is Kampala
- The symbol is the Maple Leaf
- Anna and the King of ‘Siam’

Clues Down

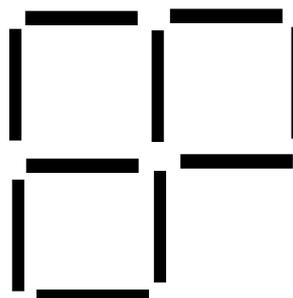
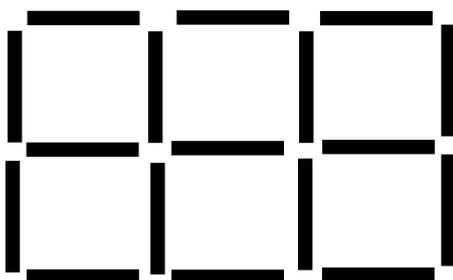
- Home of the volcano Popocatepeti
- General Gordon was assassinated here
- Home of the Igbo tribe
- Their flag is known as the Stars and Stripes (initials)
- The capital is Montevideo
- Formerly called The Gold Coast
- Land of the Incas
- Capital is Helsinki
- Formerly known as Persia
- Capital is Tripoli
- Its volcano – Svartsengi – erupted in December 2023
- This country gives its name to a nut
- Part of the island of Hispaniola
- The initials of the name given to the merger of Egypt and Syria which only lasted from 1958 – 1961

Twenty Questions to Test You

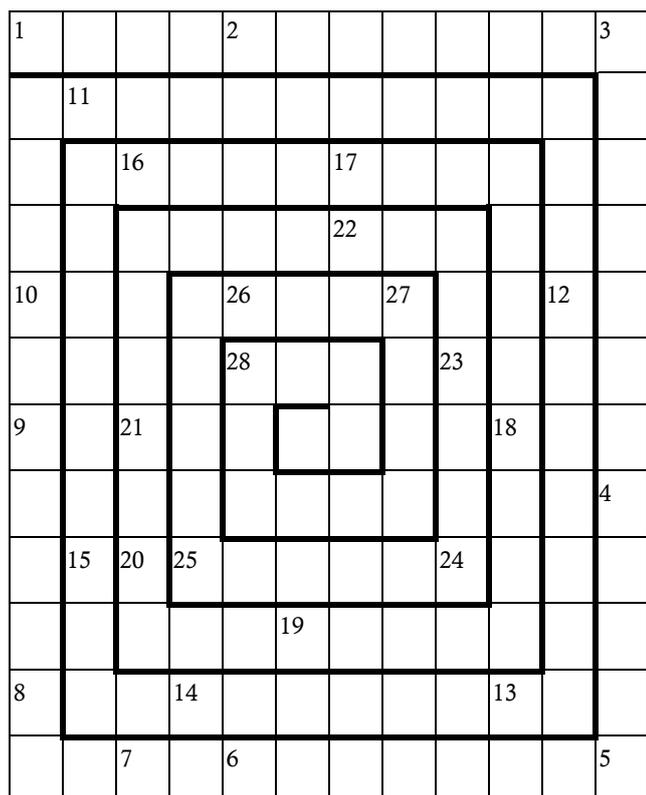
- What is a Pyx?
- Of which island nation is Kingston the capital?
- In which year did Queen Victoria ascend the throne?
- What is the date of Lammas?
- What is the name of the high school that Sandy attends in the film Grease?
- Who was the brother of Andrew – one of the Disciples?
- In which British city is St Giles’ Cathedral?
- When is Stir Up Sunday?
- How many chains are there in a furlong?
- What is the Greek name sometimes used for The Wise Men?
- In the game of Monopoly, what are the colours of Regent Street and Oxford Street?
- Who put a feather in his cap and called it macaroni?
- Name the ship that Noah built.
- What holds baptismal water?
- The Saltire is the flag of which country?
- What is the colour of Mr Messy in the Mr Men?
- What name was St Paul first called?
- In which Canadian province is Montreal?
- Which day of the week is the Jewish Holy Day?
- What is the name of the town where the Flintstones hang out?

Try your hand at these puzzles. You will find some cocktail sticks or matchsticks useful.

- Use just five sticks to make two triangles
- This one is a little more difficult. Use seven sticks to make two squares.
- Now try to make four squares using twelve sticks.
- Using the SAME twelve sticks, can you make just three squares
- You are given a diagram showing six squares made with seventeen sticks. Can you take away six sticks and leave only two squares?
- This next diagram shows three squares made with ten sticks. Take away two sticks to leave just two squares.



Crossword with a difference where the last letter of one answer is the first of the next. This one is all about Flora and Fauna



1. Black and white striped animal of the African plains
2. A general name for another animal of the African plains
3. Sometimes given the nickname Dumbo
4. According to an old song, this flower comes from Amsterdam
5. Flower which marks the death of Disraeli on 19 April 1881

6. Fish which looks like a snake
7. This bird sounds as if it is up to mischief
8. Bearlike animal of Australia
9. Tree which reminds you of the remains of a fire
10. Animal known for its 'laugh'
11. A type of cow which sounds as if it belongs to Scotland
12. This bird is known for taking part in a murmuring
13. An African animal with a very long neck
14. A type of Antelope from East and Southern Africa
15. National emblem of Wales
16. According to an old song, the time to visit Kew
17. A tree which might be Sweet or Horse
18. A type of pig
19. Shortened from of this animal's name – sometimes called a river horse
20. Wise bird of the night
21. Plant referred to in a Nursery rhyme as blue and green
22. Bird found at the Tower of London
23. Amphibian you might find along with frogs and toads in a pond
24. Another name for a terrapin
25. An insect which sounds as if it needs to hear together with false hair
26. Sounds like a slang term for food
27. Meadow flower often linked with Daisy
28. This fish sounds as if it is sitting

ANSWERS

Wordsearch – The remaining eight letters gave the word **Compline**

International Based Crossword

Across

- 1 Rhodesia 6 Kuwait 8 Guyana 10 UK 14 Liberia 15 India
 16 Jamaica 18 SA 20 Uganda 21 Canada 22 Thailand

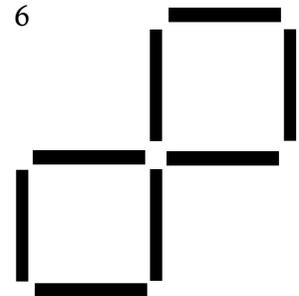
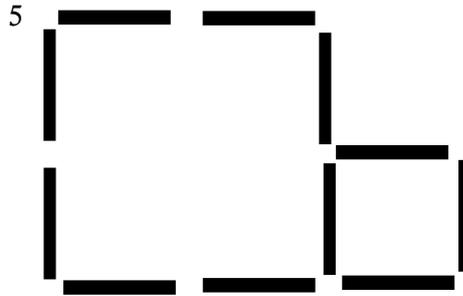
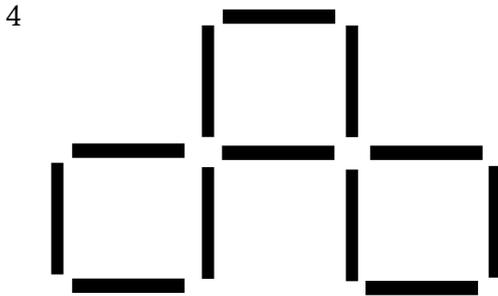
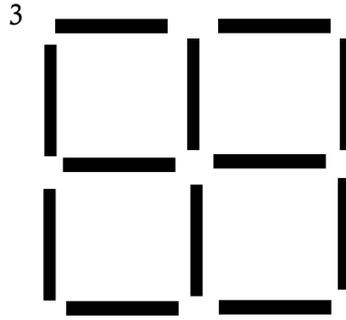
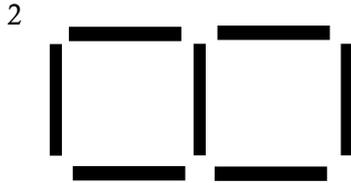
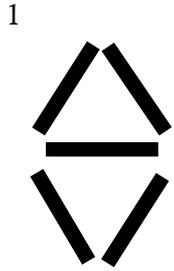
Down

- 1 Mexico 2 Sudan 4 Nigeria 5 USA 7 Uruguay 9 Ghana
 11 Peru 12 Finland 13 Iran 14 Libya 15 Iceland 17 Brazil
 19 Haiti 20 UAR

Twenty Questions to Test You

- 1 Small container for consecrated bread for Holy Communion 2 Jamaica 3 1837
 4 1 August 5 Rydell High 6 Simon Peter 7 Edinburgh 8 The last Sunday before Advent
 9 Ten 10 Magi 11 Green 12 Yankee Doodle 13 Ark 14 Font
 15 Scotland 16 Pink 17 Saul 18 Quebec 19 Saturday 20 Bedrock

Puzzles using cocktail sticks or match sticks



Crossword with a difference – Flora and Fauna

- | | | | | | |
|------------|------------|--------------|----------|-------------------|-------------|
| 1 Zebra | 2 Antelope | 3 Elephant | 4 Tulip | 5 Primrose | 6 Eel |
| 7 Lark | 8 Koala | 9 Ash | 10 Hyena | 11 Aberdeen Angus | 12 Starling |
| 13 Giraffe | 14 Eland | 15 Daffodil | 16 Lilac | 17 Chestnut | 18 Tamworth |
| 19 Hippo | 20 Owl | 21 Lavender | 22 Raven | 23 Newt | 24 Turtle |
| 25 Earwig | 26 Grub | 27 Buttercup | 28 Perch | | |



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General Information

Vicar Rev. Ronnie Williams, The Vicarage, Bretland Road, Rusthall	521357
Associate Priest Rev. Nicholas Burton (c/o Parish Office)	521447
Reader Miss Daphne Pilcher	521691
Churchwardens Mr Rod Garcia-Fermer	
Please contact via email to Churchwardens@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk	
Deputy Churchwardens Mr Graeme Anderson Mr Chris Dobson	532922 539539
Parochial Church Council Secretary Mrs Mione Palmer	667951
Youth Council Angela Culley	07779 098026
Treasurer and Planned Giving Mrs Pat Cripps	521447
Safeguarding Officers Miss Daphne Pilcher May Graves	521691 680274
DBS Officer Clive Brown c/o the Parish Office	521447
Bible Reading Fellowship Secretary Vivienne Sharp	543263
Choir Leader Miss Fiona Johnson	07540 273303
Magazine Editors Deborah Bruce and Sue Hare c/o the Parish Office email – magazine@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk	
Flower Team Mrs Daphne Hodges	533492
Parish Hall Bookings Churchyards Enquiries to Parish Office	521447
Rusthall St Paul's Primary School Executive Headteacher – Mrs Liz Mitchell Head of School – Mrs Lyndsay Smurthwaite	520582 520582

Organisations

Julian Group Mrs Pat Stevens	529187
Group Scout Leader Gavin Cons Email – rusthallscoutgroup@gmail.com	
Scout Membership Secretary Juliet Waller Email – rusthallscoutgroupwaitinglist@yahoo.co.uk	
Squirrels: rusthallsquirrels@gmail.com Beavers: beaversrusthall@gmail.com Cubs: rusthallcubs@hotmail.co.uk Scouts: rusthallscouts@gmail.com	
Guide Senior Section Helen Deller	07720 252481
Guide Guiders Gemma Bradley	07377 061398
Brownie Guiders Karen Miller (Thurs) rustahallbrownies@btinternet.com Ms Tina Francis (Mon)	545877
Rainbows Mrs Mary Saunders Email – saundii@aol.com	319872
Rusthall Lunch Club Mrs Ros Rodwell	01892 618538
Rusthall Community Larder Bjorn Simpole	07900 906294
Rusthall Community & Youth Project Barry Edwards	680296
Rusthall Village Association Alex Britcher	07967 011467
Rusthall Parish Council Council Clerk: Alison Stevens	520161
Rusthall Bonfire and Fete Committee Annie Softley	548366
Friends of TW and Rusthall Common 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

Registered Charity in England & Wales, Number 1132681

Office email: office@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk

Magazine email: magazine@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk

Website: www.stpaulsrusthall.org.uk

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