

ST PAUL'S NEWS

March 2023



ONE POUND

SERVICES

Please note that all services will be held at the Church Centre

**Sunday 5th March
Second Sunday of Lent**

- 10.00 am Joint Eucharist (with Zoom)
President: The Vicar
Link & Speaker: Wendy Anderson
- 6.30 pm Evensong (BCP)
Minister & Preacher: The Vicar

**Sunday 12th March
Third Sunday of Lent**

- 10.00 am Joint Family Service (with Zoom)
Lead: Susan Powley
Link: Daphne Pilcher

Followed by Shortened Holy Communion
President: The Vicar

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

**Sunday 19th March
Fourth Sunday of Lent - Mothering Sunday**

- 10.00 am Joint Service (with Zoom)
Minister: The Vicar
Lead: Liz Goddard
Link: Chris Bassett

Followed by Shortened Holy Communion
President: The Vicar

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

**Sunday 26th March
Fifth Sunday of Lent**

- 10.00 am Joint Family Service with Baptism
+ Zoom
Minister : The Vicar
Link: Chris Bassett

Followed by Shortened Holy Communion
President: The Vicar

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

Monday 27th March

- 9.00 am School Easter service - Church Centre

DIARY

Thursday 9th March
3.00 pm Parish Fellowship at the Church Centre

Friday 24th March
7.45 pm Beaver sleepover at the Church Centre

Monday 27th March
8.00 pm PCC meeting in the Lodge

Wednesdays throughout the month
Charlie's Angels Kitchen 12 – 2 pm
Charlie will endeavour to keep the 'pay as you feel' café open for lunches every Wednesday. Whenever possible it will operate from the Church Centre Car Park, if too windy for safety it will move into the Church Hall. You can check dates on her website www.charliesangelskitchens.co.uk

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

- 12th March for April
16th April for May
14th May for June
11th June for July/August
13th August for September
17th September for October
15th October for November
13th November for December/January 2024

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, encouragement and hard work. Special thanks to worshippers at both churches for ‘putting up’ with one another as we have joint services at the Church Centre. I know that this arrangement, which was necessitated by the decommissioning of the boiler at the Parish Church, has been a source of anxiety as we try to share with and accommodate one another in a different way. I hope that this period will also be seen as a God-given opportunity for us to not only live out some of our prayers, but to spend time with different members of our worshipping community and be transformed, through God’s equipping, so that we can effectively be the light and beacon of hope that God in Christ has called us to be. Hopefully, the heating at the Parish Church will be sorted very soon and we will all happily return to doing things the way we’ve been used to, but grateful that we were accorded this very special opportunity to do things differently. One way that you could help ‘hasten the time’ when this becomes reality is by supporting the Financial Appeal for the new boiler. A copy of the letter is printed in this magazine.

Writing about ‘hope’ I recently listened to, then later watched the programme about Shamima Begum. I was struck by many things that she said but what stood out most was the feeling of hopelessness about her future that she expressed. Quizzed about this she replied ‘ISIS was the worst thing of the twenty first century and I was a part of it. Now I have to face the consequences of my actions...’. Yes, we all know, although we forget it sometimes, that our actions do have consequences – some of those consequences may sometimes prove too grievous for an individual to bear alone and/ or by them self.

Almighty God knew this. God knew that we sometimes press the ‘destructive button’, hoping that it may have been mislabelled, or that it would lead to great and exciting things – only for it to lead into a crash. In trying to create the perfect rebooting system for humans, God designed the Easter Story (ES), which gives hope in every situation and breathes life to those who embrace it. Of course, the ES has its origins in the system where every action has a consequence and where everyone has to face the consequence of their action – a position expressed and held by Shamima. As Christians, we know that we have Jesus Christ, the ‘blessed hope’. Although Almighty God chose a uniquely different way to ensure that we have access to this enduring hope by allowing Jesus to suffer and die on the cross, the outcome of his death – his resurrection fills us with optimism for the future – both in our lifetime and after our death. This was costly on Jesus’ part but he knew that we can’t really bear the consequences especially of our negative actions all by ourselves. All we need to do is acknowledge this as (our) reality and ask for this ‘divine assistance’. It is available to every person, irrespective of our circumstances – and Lent offers us that opportunity to explore what this ‘divine assistance’ may look like for us.

May Almighty God help us to see that we all need help of some sort, even as we continue to help one another.

Amen

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Ronnie' in a cursive script. The signature is fluid and personal, with varying line thicknesses and ink saturation.

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From the Editorial Team

I'm writing this just after the world has marked the first anniversary of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. I suppose this is remarkable in itself as few people expected Ukraine to hold out against the Russian forces for more than a few weeks. I am also sure that most people – including President Putin – failed to recognise the latent leadership skills of Volodymyr Zelensky, a comedian and actor with no political experience. Yet here we are one year on with much of the land seized by Russia now regained and Ukraine, with the support of NATO countries, holding its own. Of course the toll of those killed and injured on both sides has been huge and vast swathes of Ukraine has been laid waste. Each hurt inflicted surely makes it more difficult for either side to contemplate any sort of negotiated settlement with the other, and so the war goes on and on.

In addition to this man-made disaster, the natural disaster of a major magnitude 7.8 earthquake occurred in southern Turkey, near the border with Syria, on Monday 6th February, with significant aftershocks continuing since then. Turkey currently estimates a death toll of 38,000, making it their worst earthquake ever. This "act of God" also has a political dimension, as the region of Syria affected is held by rebels against the Assad regime. The Syrian government therefore has little incentive to support the rescue missions and has previously subjected the people in this area to bombing, gas attacks, imprisonment and forced displacement. It has taken the UN some time to negotiate safe passage for the provision of humanitarian aid. The people of South Wales got a tiny taste of an earthquake around midnight on Friday 24th February, but only magnitude 3.7, which is about a million times less powerful than that in Turkey. Although people up to 100 miles from the epicentre felt or heard the tremors so far no injuries or damage has been reported.

March continues as the reflective weeks of Lent go on. The patron saints of Wales and Ireland – David and Patrick – are celebrated on 1st and 17th March respectively. Jesus' parents are remembered, Joseph on 20th and Mary at The annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary on 25th March. The fourth Sunday of Lent is Mothering Sunday, originally the day when people would return to their 'mother church' but now a time to remember all of our mothers – and perhaps give them a treat? You need to make sure that you put your clock forward by an hour onto British Summer Time which starts on 26th March – if not you might miss church altogether.

If you notice strangely dressed children on the way to school on 2nd March they are celebrating World Book Day. More funny costumes will be found on 17th March as it's Red Nose Day. Whether you love your bed or suffer from insomnia, you can celebrate World Sleep Day on 19th March. Scientists have British Science Week from 10-19 March, mathematicians can celebrate Pi Day on 14th March (chosen because Pi is 3.14) and linguists and dramatists can declaim Shakespeare as much as they like during Shakespeare Week, 20-26th March. Surely Shakespeare's greatest achievement is to show us that the thoughts and emotions of those living 500 years ago are just the same as ours are now.

If you appear on the 'Organisations and Contacts' page at the end of the magazine, please could you spare the time to check that we have your correct details and let us know if they need to be updated. If you have an article for the April edition of St Paul's News, please send it to magazine@stpaulsrushall.org.uk by Sunday 12th March. My thanks to Vreni Gould who has agreed to provide reports on Parish Fellowship while Gillian Penny is unwell.

White rabbits!

Deborah Bruce and Sue Hare

From the Registers

At Rest

The sympathy of the Parish is extended to the family and friends of:

Edith Noreen Baitup
Freda Ruth Moseley
Molly Roberts
June Spence



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Churchwarden's Notes



Dear Fellow Parishioners

In this our penultimate wardens' notes....

We are very conscious of the horrific events in Southern Turkey and Northern Syria - a tragedy on this scale is so difficult for us to comprehend and puts the problems we have at St Paul's into perspective.

We are both very aware that the future of St. Paul's in Rusthall is causing concern with many of our Parishioners but at least at some point our financial situation will be resolved.

We had hoped to have been able to at the very least see a clear pathway ahead with the practical and Pastoral issues equally balanced before we stand down in April.

However, our Parish Day of prayer has shown clearly the commitment so many of you share, new ideas were put forward both at the day of prayer and since which we hope will bring about a fair and caring solution.

We have now been advised by our heating engineers that the flue from the Parish church boiler, having recently been tested with a smoke bomb is no longer safe to operate. We have therefore taken the decision with the consent of as many members of the PCC as were available on Sunday 5th February to proceed with ordering a new boiler/flue system to be installed as soon as is practically possible.

Our vicar Ronnie has agreed to write a letter of appeal to be published in the pew leaflet and magazine asking the Parish for one off contributions to help defray this unlooked for expense of approximately £9000.

Had we repaired the flue of the existing boiler the cost would have been approximately £18000, and giving the projected lifespan of the existing boiler would have been foolhardy in the extreme.

As many of you may already know Health and Safety rulings show clearly, we are not allowed to

have services in the Parish church until a temperature of 16 degrees has been reached.

The day before we wrote these notes the temperature in the Parish church was only 8.3 degrees. Let us hope for a very warm spring.

Love and Peace

May and Clive

An Easy Mistake to Make



You have to feel sorry for teachers, they are responsible for keeping children safe by spotting possible problems at home, but sometimes things are not quite as they seem. I spotted this piece on the internet.

Our six year old handed us a note. His teacher had called my wife and asked us to attend an emergency meeting. We asked our son if he had any idea why and he said "She doesn't like a drawing I did."

We went in the next day. His teacher pulled the drawing above out and said "I asked him to draw his family and he drew this. Would you mind explaining?"

"Not at all", my wife said. "Family vacation, snorkelling off the Bahamas."

Stamp Swap Out Scheme

If you have a collection of old postage stamps, the ones that just have the Queen's head and 1st or 2nd, they will no longer be valid after 31st July 2023 (an extension to the earlier 31st January deadline). They are being replaced by stamps with a bar code and the King's head soon. We have included the form from the Post Office website which enables you to send back your stamps and swap them for new ones at the back of the magazine.



RUSTHALL COMMUNITY LARDER

What is it?

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

When and where is it?

Our community larder will be in the St Paul's Church Centre every Friday between 12:30pm and 2:00pm

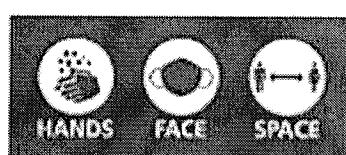
Who can use it?

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

How much does it cost?

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

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



WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU!

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

St Paul's Parish Fellowship

'All Abilities Path, Happy Valley' was the title of the talk on 9 February, given by John Barber together with the new Commons Ranger, Dan Colborne. There was a good turnout to hear John speak, especially so, as the topic was of local interest. We were very pleased to be introduced to the new Ranger Dan who started his job last June but who already seems to be very involved with what needs doing, such as addressing the danger posed by ash trees, suffering from ash dieback along Tea Garden Lane and the Langton Road.

John was, for many years, chair of the Friends of Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall Commons, a charity created after the great storm in 1987. The two projects which John still feels passionately about are the creation of a pedestrian crossing over the busy A264 and the 'All Abilities Path', suitable for pushchair and wheelchair users and those with all types of mobility difficulties. Unfortunately, the 'All Abilities Path', planned to run from St Paul's Church to Tea Garden Lane along the route of the existing path, has suffered a major setback. The agreement from National Lottery to donate £75,000 was later withdrawn and this has left a big hole in the funds. £28,000 has already been raised, including a cheque of £10,000 presented by Rusthall Parish Council but further sponsorship and donations are urgently needed. Dan, with his previous experience and his interest in ecology is now helping to shape a new vision of how the path might be constructed. More information can be found on Dan's blog at www.twcommons.org

The Fellowship is delighted to have chosen this project as its charity for the year and we are all hoping that the plans will come to fruition. Thank you, John and Dan, for giving us an interesting and stimulating afternoon.

Future Dates

Thursday 9 March at 3pm

Lent Talk with Rev Dave Bubb, curate at Christ Church, Southborough

Thursday 13 April at 3pm

Peter Allan, 'Mr Garret's Fireside Theatre', history of Drury Lane

Thursday 11 May at 3pm

2.30 Communion in Church Centre, followed by AGM and Coronation Cream Tea.



I am very sorry to have to report that I have just had notification that Traidcraft plc is going into administration.

St. Paul's has supported Traidcraft for many years and the Rusthall Fair Trade group was started in 2004. At the time the group was founded, Tunbridge Wells was working towards becoming a Fair Trade Town, which it achieved in 2007. St. Paul's also pledged to become a Fair Trade Church at about the same time.

The idea behind the group and the cafe was to promote the concept of Fair Trade whereby small scale producers, mostly in developing countries, were paid a fair price for their goods. As was said at the time "Fair trade teaches us that consumers are not condemned only to be bargain hunters....Fair trade reminds us that trade is about people, their livelihoods, their families, and, sometimes, their survival."

We have had some memorable times over the years, notably the Fair Trade fashion show in 2005, featuring, among others, Bob Whyte, our previous vicar. In the 19 years we have been running we have sent over £13,000 to Traidcraft Exchange, profits from the Fashion show, cafe and traidcraft sales. Even since we stopped running the Fair Trade cafe, a few loyal supporters have continued to buy goods through me - thank you!! As a result of your support I have about £200 profit in the Rusthall Fair Trade bank account and as we close the account that money will be sent to Transform Trade (it was Traidcraft Exchange) which is hoping to continue to support poor farmers in developing countries.

I hope we will all do our best to continue to buy fairly traded goods in the supermarkets. As was said in the letter I received about Traidcraft going into administration "the mission to combat trade injustice and poverty is far from complete. It is hoped that Transform Trade will continue its vital work supporting producers and fighting for trade justice and people centred trade".

Liz Goddard

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Buy Now while you have the chance

For this month's contribution I want to try and build on the recent day of prayer as we move into Lent and have called this piece 'Buy now while you have the chance'.

Have you ever seen a street trader at work, calling out to the passers-by in order to attract their attention? I'm not thinking of the ordinary stallholders here like those selling fruit and vegetables but the trader is selling some amazing new product or offering some famous brand at knockdown prices. In my youth one used to hear the phrase "fell off the back of a lorry" and asked no more questions. In this day and age we might be more circumspect about buying the never to be repeated offer.

At the end I have suggested a series of readings which are the Lectionary settings for Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. In the reading from Corinthians there is a sense of urgency similar to that of the street trader in that it says 'We beg you not to neglect the grace of God that you have received.....Now is the favourable time, this is the day of salvation.'

In a way, we are already used to the idea that certain times and seasons present us with special opportunities - and Lent is certainly right up there as one of those times. One reason for this is that we observe Lent together as a Community. The reading from Joel captures the mood. "Proclaim a solemn assembly, call the people together, summon the community, assemble the elders, gather the children...Let them say, 'Spare your people, Lord!'

Recently we met at the Church Centre to discuss the way forward in the light of falling attendances and a lack of money. We prayed together and many ideas were expressed as to how we might go forward. In my long experience of Church I have found that praying together can be a more powerful and intense experience than praying alone. So it was good that we were recently able to turn to God as a community, in a spirit of repentance and renewal, there was, I felt, a spirit of solidarity and mutual support, a willingness to do better and to adopt a new level of motivation. One of the difficulties raised was our two different congregations and how we might get them together for the good of the Parish. I have long believed that God moves in mysterious ways because no sooner than we had the day of prayer the boiler at the Parish Church was condemned and we find ourselves worshipping together on a longish term basis - the first time this has happened in my forty years of worship in the Parish.

And we know from experience that if we don't seize this opportunity at the beginning of Lent, then it is likely that this time of grace will pass us by-at least, for another year. Coming back to the street trader we might say that this offer may not be repeated- at least for another year...

On the other hand if we want to reflect more deeply, I think it is in order to say that this offer will not be repeated. Yes, the Lord is always with us but he needs us to show resolve and help him where we can. My battles with the sat nav are legion when trying to get to an unknown destination and you miss the instruction to turn left or right. The next opportunity may be unfavourable or there might not be another way without a U turn. Imagine if we apply this to our lives. Time, whether we like it or not, constantly moves forward. If you miss an opportunity you may be given a second chance - but by then life has moved on. You are no longer in the same situation - not quite the same person you were before, in that sense you can't go back and take the opportunity you have to press on and find, if you can, an alternative route.

This Lent will provide us all with certain opportunities. If you miss them God will of course not reject you, but these particular circumstances will not be repeated. Next time it will be more difficult. If our Financial situation is bad now then if we sit on our hands it will get worse.

On this journey we cannot stay where we are. If we don't take the opportunity to move forward, it is all too likely we will move back. For this reason, too, God is making us this Lent as one which really and truly will not be repeated.

Behind all of this, there is the suggestion that it is all too possible for us to turn away from God as the statistics suggest. This freedom we have is an awesome responsibility. Our future does hang in the balance - and it is our choice that will determine the outcome.

Would I ever walk away from God, turning in on myself and lapsing into a sense of selfishness. The temptation is always there but no, I don't think so, as long as hope prevails as proved by our day of prayer.

So to go back to where I started with the street trader. I think I know what he would say Why risk the chance? why risk losing out? Take this opportunity, while it is still on offer. "Buy now while you have the chance"

I close with a sentence from the letter of Clement of Rome to the Church in Corinth which provides

message of reflection for us to ponder this Lent. ‘The measure of your giving will be the measure of your receiving.’ Amen.

Suggested Readings:-

- Joel 2. 1-2, 12-17.
- 2 Corinthians 5.20b-6. 10.
- Matthew 6. 1-6, 16-21.

Tim Cripps

A Nostalgic day trip

You will remember that one of the wonderful gifts presented to me on my retirement was a very generous voucher for two of us to take advantage of a trip behind a steam engine. The original plans had to be cancelled because of my health problems but on Saturday 26th November two of us set off on an adventure. It was rail strike day so we were driven to Sevenoaks before catching the Thames Link service (which was working) to Blackfriars which, not surprisingly, was rammed and we then made our way to Victoria where, on platform two, our Pullman train awaited. The only train to leave Victoria that day was hauled by a Battle of Britain class 4-6-2 locomotive No 34067 Tangmere (see below) dressed overall as the once famous Golden Arrow train substituting for a Merchant Navy 4-6-2 locomotive 35028 Clan Line sadly indisposed at the time. I have copied and pasted the route itinerary:-

The circular tour begins as the train climbs out of London Victoria, crossing the River Thames via Grosvenor Bridge and passing the ever-growing development around the iconic former Battersea Power Station on the left. We now commence a switch back route climbing through Herne Hill and Tulse Hill, often at rooftop level, before dropping down through Streatham to gain the Brighton Main Line at Selhurst just before the ever growing populous of Croydon, then continue southwards to Redhill.

It is here at Redhill we turn left and join the former South Eastern Main Line constructed in the 1840s as the first main line to the channel ports. This line is virtually straight right across the Weald of Kent to Ashford and Folkestone. We now leave Surrey and pass into Kent along the pastoral route through Godstone and Edenbridge, where we pass over two other former routes to the South Coast, and on past Penshurst to the large town of Tonbridge just after which we stop on ‘rare’ track in the former (now closed) Post Office platform where our locomotive takes water. Sadly, we will not be able to alight here as the Post Office platforms were not designed for passenger use but remind us of the once important part the railways played in transporting our post all over the country.

From here we continue along the Main Line to Paddock Wood, once the centre of the hop growing area and its main distribution point and turn left again on one of the first ‘branch lines’ to travel down the Medway valley towards the County town of Maidstone – once notable for the brewing industry which flourished here due to the proximity of the Kentish hop gardens and access to the tidal portion of the Medway. After passing Maidstone, with the river still on our right we pass through further towns and villages once great papermaking communities, and further on other industries notably cement making as the river widens and we approach Rochester. After passing under the South Eastern High Speed line and M2 motorway we catch a glimpse of Rochester Castle and Cathedral on the right hand side on the other side of the river and run into Strood.

In a change to our earlier advertised route due to engineering works we now undertake a reversal via the ‘Toomer Loop’ up to Rochester where we reverse once again this time with Rochester Castle and Cathedral now on the left-hand side. A stiff climb up the North Downs awaits Tangmere as we pass under the M2 motorway, climbing up Sole Street bank on our return to London passing through Swanley, entering the London conurbations at Bromley South. From here it’s a short run via Beckenham Junction, Penge tunnel regaining our original route at Herne Hill.

Shortly, after Brixton, we start our descent back towards the looming chimneys of the erstwhile Battersea Power station on the right and make our way back over Grosvenor Bridge and down once more to our start point, the busy terminus at Victoria”.

34067 Tangmere (SR 21C167, BR s21C167 & BR 34067)



Tangmere, named after the military airfield in Sussex, is a (Battle of Britain) class locomotive, completed at Southern Railway’s Brighton works in September 1947 (a year before I was born and probably in better condition) and given the number 21C167. Following the nationalisation of Britain’s railways Tangmere was renumbered 34067 in July 1949.

BR motive power depot allocations since 1948.

Date Arrived	Depot
January 1948	Ramsgate
November 1949	Stewarts Lane
May 1961	Salisbury

In November 1963 the locomotive was allocated to Exmouth Junction, which had become a Western Region depot in September 1963, and was immediately withdrawn from service.

Tangmere had only covered 588,269 miles whilst in service.

In April 1965 Tangmere was moved to Woodhams Brothers Scrapyard in Barry.

Privately owned, Tangmere moved to Mid Hants Railway in Hampshire for restoration in January 1981 but it was not until 1995 that work to return the locomotive to traffic actually started.

Tangmere was an excellent steamer and regarded as a most reliable Locomotive. Original Battle of Britain Class Locomotives were affectionately known by those who drove and fired them as 'Spam Cans' a nod to the time of rationing during which the locomotives were in their heyday and the streamlined body work. A number of these locomotives have been preserved and run on Heritage Lines throughout the UK. A few, like Tangmere, have clearance to run on the main line.

Tim Cripps

Feeding the worms

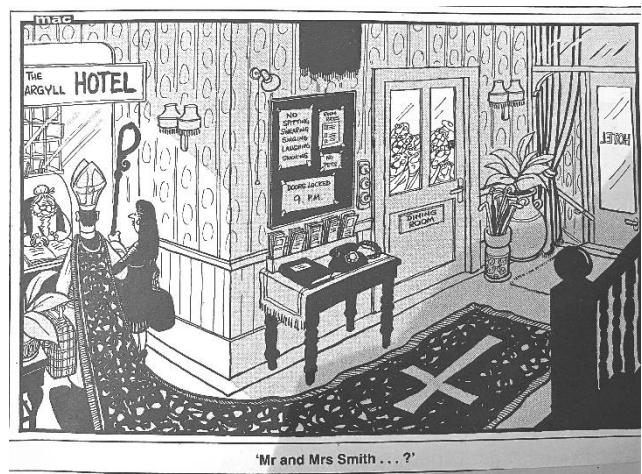


Ever since I found out that earth worms have taste buds all over the delicate pink strings of their bodies, I pause dropping apple peels into the compost bin, imagine the dark, writhing ecstasy, the sweetness of apples permeating their pores. I offer beets and parsley, avocado and melon, the feathery tops of carrots.

I always thought theirs a menial life, eyeless and hidden, almost vulgar – though now, it seems, they bear a pleasure so sublime, so decadent, I want to contribute however I can, forgetting, a moment, my place on the menu.

Danusha Laméris

Billy's Scrapbook



Billy Everett was an inveterate collector, creating scrapbooks of things she wanted to remember, theatre programmes, mementos of days out and cuttings of things that she just found funny. Several of her scrapbooks were on display at her Memorial Service and this is one of the entries, a cutting from the Daily Mail dated Monday 16th September 1996.

It followed a report from the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland appealing for a missing bishop to get in touch, amid growing speculation that he may have gone away with a divorcee.

BLACKHAM VILLAGE HALL BRIC-A-BRAC SALE



SATURDAY 25 MARCH 2023

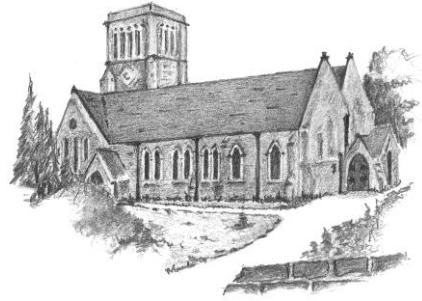
10.00AM TO 2.00PM

£10 PER TABLE

Please contact Penny Hawes on
01892 740574 to book your table

St. Paul's Church

Vicar: Revd Ronnie Williams



The Vicarage
Bretland Road
Rusthall
Tunbridge Wells
Kent
TN4 8PB
February 2023

Dear Parishioners and Well-wishers of St. Paul's Rusthall

Appeal for funds for the installation of a new Boiler at the Parish Church

You are all aware by now that the boiler at the Parish Church has been decommissioned due to the unsafe state of the flue. Although boiler itself is in good working order, the flue, which winds its way from the south side of the building to the north, is leaking fumes 'like a sieve' - hence the need for the boiler to be shut down by the engineers at the end of January. (As the boiler is for the damaged flue the most cost effective way of proceeding is to replace both.)

The estimated cost of replacing the current flue is eighteen thousand pounds (£18,000 including VAT) and the estimated cost of installing a new boiler and flue is nine thousand pounds (£9,000 including VAT). The Parochial Church Council (PCC) would like to proceed with the option of installing a new boiler and flue which would be more efficient and comes with a manufacturer's warranty.

I am therefore asking for your financial assistance to enable us to carry out the installation of a new boiler and flue at the Parish Church.

If you require any added information or would like to discuss this further, please contact either of the Church Wardens, the Treasurer, the Vicar or the Parish Administrator. The card readers can be used for donations. If you are a taxpayer and wish to add Gift Aid to your donation, please indicate this to Pat Cripps at p.cripps@talk21.com.

The Bank details for the Parish are:-

Bank:	Lloyds
Account Name:	St Paul's Church, Rusthall
Sort Code:	30-98-77
Account Number:	00680470

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this and I trust that you would be able to assist us in whatever way you can. Please reference any gift/donation with the word 'Boiler'.

With every blessing,

Ronnie

**Parish Office, Church Centre, Rusthall Road
Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN4 8RE**

**Telephone: (01892) 521447
Email: office@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk**

Animals in the Bible - Part 2

Nobody knows exactly when camels came on the scene. The children of Israel lived mostly among the hills and on higher ground and this was not really camel country. Most of them are to be found on the edge of the desert and around such ancient towns as Beersheba and near to Jericho.

Although a camel may look so awkward, almost as if several bits of different animals have been joined together, it is wonderfully fitted for its hard life. Not all deserts are dreary wastes of sand, for the wind blows so powerfully and continuously in many areas that all the fine soil and sand have been blown away, leaving just stones and bare rock.

Camels spend much of their time on their feet, but they do some sitting down and then their strange kneeling pads come in useful, otherwise it would be hard on their knees. Summer in the desert means burning heat, with the ground far too hot for a man to walk bare-foot, but in winter the deserts of Palestine can be bleak and cold. Even in spring the nights on higher ground can be uncomfortably cold and it is not until about April that the camel changes its winter wool for the thinner, darker coat that has been growing underneath.

This is not the season when camels look their best with the old coat coming away in big handfuls. The owners often collected this for spinning into thread and then weaving into a coarse loose cloth, the kind that John the Baptist would have worn.

Perhaps the camel is most famous for its hump – just one in the Arabian camel, although the Bactrian camel found in the deserts of central Asia has two. The hump is where the camel packs its emergency rations of food, but not water. When times are good, between journeys, the camel feeds as well as the country allow, and the hump fills with reserves of fat. These are drawn on as it goes across desert stages that provide nothing much in the way of food. By the end of several hard treks the hump may look loose and shrunken.



Much of the food that the camel has to contend with is often dry and prickly, but the tongue and inside of the mouth seem to be without feeling and they manage to pluck and chew without discomfort. The eyes too, are equally suited for desert life. They are set deeply beneath protruding eyebrows and with long lashes to help keep out the sand which is so often being blown about. Even the nostrils are adapted for the job, closing down to narrow slits like filters through which a camel can go on breathing even in a sand storm.

Given a chance camels drink very day, but they can go for at least three or four days without water. A camel usually has one baby every other year and it always arrives in the spring when there may be a little green grass after the winter rains. The mother gives a little milk almost until the next baby is due, and this can be very useful when the desert supply of water is all right for the camel to drink, but not good enough for the owner.

The camel's hard and woody food makes its small, round droppings full of fibrous material and they are useful fuel. Instead of carrying firewood, the



riders just collect the droppings during the day which they then use as fuel for cooking.

The food laws given by Moses allowed the Israelites to eat only animals which both chewed the cud and had cloven hoofs. This cut out the camel because it does chew its cud but it has a soft soled foot with no hoofs. These rules did not apply to other tribes living in the desert and the meat of the camel was, and is, sometimes eaten. However on the whole this working animal was far too valuable to kill for meat. Another use early men had for the camel was its skin, which when it died the skin was rough tanned into leather and used for a variety of purposes.

The New Testament has little to say about the camel, but in His teaching, Jesus refers to it, saying – it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. This probably referred to the little gate, along the main gate of Jerusalem which was opened after dark to admit latecomers and had the name – the eye of the needle. It was really meant for donkeys and people travelling on foot, but it was just about possible for a camel to squeeze through, if his loads were removed first.

Daphne Pilcher

A Musical Note



With Fiona busy skiing in Italy, she handed over the writing of this article to the choristers. The choir are gradually getting used to singing at the Church Centre, storing our music folders above the office. Luckily for the Junior Choir the Church Centre still offered the opportunity for their annual pancake party – a highlight of the year.

At the pancake party I had 100-200 pancakes. I tried out honey and Nutella. Next I made my own pancake. First of all we got a pancake mix and then we flipped it. First of all it hit the floor, so I tried again and this time I just about caught it! I made a classic pancake. I hope we have another pancake soon. **Francis**

We had an amazing time making pancakes at the Church Centre on Friday evening. There were lots of interesting combinations of toppings, such as marmite and sugar! At the end of the evening we all said a big thank you to Ginette and Suzie for organising this fantastic experience. **Stella**

I had a fantastic time at the choir pancake party. Between improving my skills at Nutella spreading and succeeding in flipping a pancake (without it ending up on the floor!). Choir has been a huge part of my life for a very long time and this is just the latest in a spectacular line of parties, rehearsals and overall fun. Special thanks to Fiona and Ginette for putting up with all of us and making lots of pancakes. **Eleanor**

Tonight we had a really fun pancake party. The cooks kindly let us make our own pancake and provided us with all the toppings. It was very good fun! As well as pancakes at choir we always enjoy ourselves with a bit of singing. We sing and practice the hymns and anthem for Sunday morning. It's a lovely time to socialize with friends. Thanks for all the hard work Fiona puts in every Friday. **Fergus**

At choir we love to sing and have fun. We also love pancakes and we made them! I loved the pancakes. They were fantabulous and magnificent. Everyone was kind and helped make pancakes. I had an amazing evening filled with honey, lemons and last but not least, Fun! I loved every second of it. **Lia**

At Rusthall, every year we have a pancake party and all of the choir has lots of fun. I had an amazing time expertly flipping my own pancake

and also scoffing the ones the adults made for us, putting a range of toppings on them. A few people dropped their pancakes, which was sad for them, but I cooked mine perfectly like the pancake pro I am! ☺ **Marcy**

Today we had a pancake party at choir as well as singing. We had a great time making pancakes. I like singing because it is enjoyable and all the people who sing here are hilarious. **Finley**

Tonight us choirlets were joined by something scrumptious called pancake. We did our usual singing and then we all felt the urge to eat pancakes. Thankfully some of the adult choir gave up their time to help us with the pancakes. We all had pancakes and got to make our own. Some people dropped theirs but luckily I got to catch mine. My favourite toppings were honey, sugar and bananas. **Davit**

Choir is a place we all come to enjoy ourselves singing together. It is the highlight of the week and puts you in a good mood for the weekend. Fiona is amazing at running it all and we all have a fantastic time. Lately we had our pancake party, sang a lot of new music and moved to the Church Centre because of the boiler. The children's choir is a lot smaller now but that means we just get together more. I love choir and never want it to stop. Thank you Fiona! **Tom**

We had a pancake party. There were loads of pancakes. Firstly we went into the kitchen and there was everything there. There was cheese, which no one had, honey, which I loved, jam, sugar and Nutella. I had about 550,117,653 pancakes and I had mostly honey, lemon and sugar. We had singing at the start (back to pancakes in a second) and sang some songs. OK, back to pancakes. I thought mine would tip out but I got through and enjoyed it. **Fraser**

At Rusthall everyone in the choir loves to sing! We also have fun, fantabulous activities like choir camp, ice skating and today, pancake flipping. First we got the pancakes the adults made us, then we put on the toppings and ate them ridiculously fast so we could have as many as we could. Next, one by one we began the impossible mission of tossing pancakes! Some people dropped their pancakes which was very depressing for them but some of us chefs managed to make a perfect pancake. **Lucia** ☺

The pancake party of 2023 was the most amazing one yet, toppings ranging from cheese and marmite and Nutella and banana were accompanied by self-flipped pancakes made with the help of the wonderful Ginette. We love Fiona – she is the best and very patient with us considering how annoying we all are! **Emma**



The children (and adults too!) hard at work



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Down the Garden Path

High in a tree,
Beside her broom,
A little witch was hiding
Until one night,
When the moon was bright,
On her broom she went a-riding.

My Dad told me that when, as a child, I wanted to know what was the strange mass of twigs on a tree in our garden. I was reminded of this when a big Silver Birch tree in a neighbour's garden produced a 'Witches' Broom'. Not so fascinating is the scientific reason! You might also have noticed that, occasionally, the stems of flowers are flat instead of round. I have seen this mostly on bulbous plants. Thanks to 'Google' I can now share with you the truth about 'Witches' Brooms.' (My Dad would not have believed Google!)

'Looking like a dense tangled bird's nest, witches' brooms are a growth distortion that results in bunches of stem, leaf or root material growing from one point on a tree. Witches' brooms are caused by microorganisms, and are therefore technically a type of gall. It's thought that witches' brooms are caused by fungal, viral or bacterial activity, and occasionally insect activity. Witches' brooms seen on birch trees, for example, are likely caused by a fungus called *Taphrina betulina*, and create some lovely examples of witches' broom.



Witch's brooms on a downy birch, caused by *Taphrina betulina*

In a witches' broom, the growth of a lateral bud – the buds that make twigs and side shoots – loses control and causes multiple stems to form in a tangled, disorganised manner. Multiple years of growth is required to create big brooms. By themselves, witches' brooms don't tend to have an impact on the long-term health of a tree. The tree as a whole continues to grow as normal though, and if witches' broom occurs on fruit trees it doesn't usually affect the volume or quality of crop.*

In northern Britain and in Scandinavian folklore it is claimed that hanging these witches' brooms above a bed will keep nightmares at bay and prevent sleep paralysis, that strange inability to move when just waking or nodding off.

A similar deformity can affect plants and flowers. 'Flattened, elongated shoots and flower heads that look like many stems compressed together are called fasciation. This strange-looking problem may be ugly or attractive, but is always interesting. Fasciated stems are produced due to abnormal activity in the growing tip of the plant. Often, an abnormal number of flowers are produced on affected stems. Normal branches may arise from fasciated stems. Plants commonly affected include delphiniums, euphorbias, forsythia, foxgloves, lilies, primulas and *Veronicastrum*.



A fasciated *Veronicastrum*

Some fasciated plants are propagated to perpetuate their unusual forms. Ferns with fasciated tips often have names such as 'monstrosa' and 'cristata' and are highly collectable plants. **

I cannot end without mentioning the weather!! The early spring brought many of my plants into leaf and bud far too soon and now the frost has flattened them – and NO it is not – 'whatever'!

Spring will come again – I look forward to it!!

* Extracts from The Woodland Trust website's article dated 19 June 2018: Witches' Brooms: What they look like and why they form.

** Extracts from RHS website's article: Fasciation

Elsie Emes

Supporting Darfur

I am writing from Darfur in West Sudan; I moved from Sierra Leone in September 2022. They say there are three problems in Darfur: water, water, and water. This is a little success story from the development organization I am working with.



This area has plenty of trees and grass, but it only rains during July, August, and September. The water table is hundreds of feet underground, and none of the shallow wells can reach it. The surface water in ponds and seasonal rivers has dried up by Christmas, leaving a long six months of drought for most of the landscape. There are farming villages, clustered around the remaining wetter areas, where settled farmers grow sorghum, millet, and vegetables such as onions and okra. The problem is that outside these few farming villages, most people are nomadic herders, who roam the countryside with their cows and goats looking for water. When this dries up, they have no choice but moving to the farming villages, many miles away, where conflict breaks out over the remaining water sources, and the nomads' animals eat the farmers' crops. Many people are killed in the fighting, which follows every year.



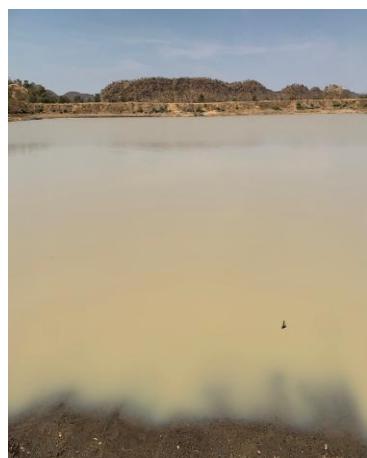
The grass may not look very tasty, but it makes good hay, and enough for the animals to eat, if they can find water to drink.



Cows clustering around a remaining puddle.



A farming village, 30 miles away, hoping that this year there will not be conflict with the nomadic herders.



When it rains between July and September, there is plenty of water in the seasonal rivers, but it all flows away quickly; so we built a big earth dam to retain the surface water in a large reservoir.



The animals now have plenty to drink, and we expect the water to last until July, when it will rain again.



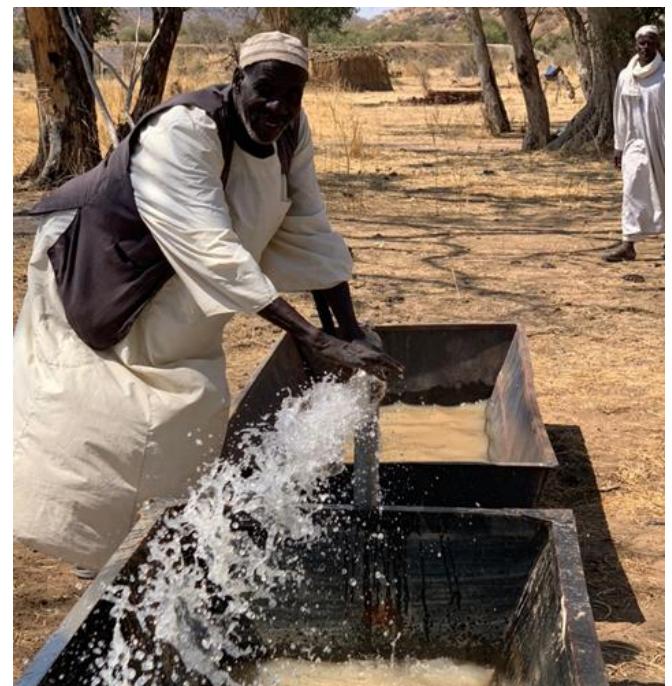
The water soaks into the ground, and recharges the shallow wells nearby, where people can get clean water. The soil filters the muddy water, so it is clean when drawn from the well.



The reservoir leads to water storage tanks and filters, where people can get water from a tap.



People can now take the water home for washing and cooking. They live in grass huts which can easily be moved, as water and pasture become available.



Troughs provide water for hardworking donkeys.

So, for the first time in years, the nomadic herders did not have to walk thirty miles to find water for their animals; conflict between herders and farmers was avoided; and the farmers did not have to protect their vegetables and crops from marauding cows and goats.

A little success story from a difficult landscape.

Paul Emes

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Poems for March

The two poets here tell of journeys and arrivals. All of life can be seen as a journey, at once universal and yet unique to each of us. As we look toward Easter, we reflect on Jesus' long journey as he makes his way to Jerusalem, to his death and beyond.

Susan Barber

Uphill



Does the road wind uphill all the way?
Yes, to the very end.
Will the day's journey take the whole long day?
From morn to night, my friend.

But is there for the night a resting-place?
A roof for when the slow dark hours begin.
May not the darkness hide it from my face?
You cannot miss that inn.

Shall I meet other wayfarers at night?
Those who have gone before.
Then must I knock, or call when just in sight?
They will not keep you standing at that door.

Shall I find comfort, travel-sore and weak?
Of labour you shall find the sum.
Will there be beds for me and all who seek?
Yea, beds for all who come.

Christina Rossetti

Arrival

Not conscious
that you have been seeking
suddenly
you come upon it

the village in the Welsh hills
dust free
with no road out
but the one you came in by.

A bird chimes
from a green tree
the hour that is no hour
you know. The river dawdles
to hold a mirror for you
where you may see yourself
as you are, a traveller
with the moon's halo
above him, whom has arrived
after long journeying where he
began, catching this
one truth by surprise
that there is everything to look forward to.

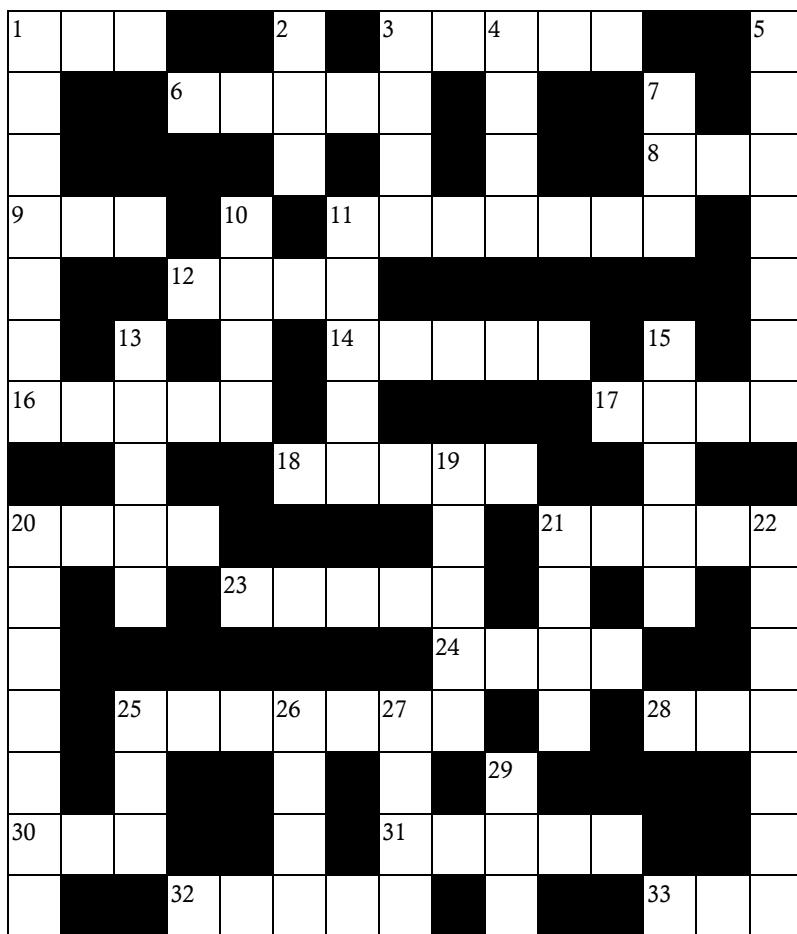
R.S. Thomas



Tintern Abbey

Activity Pages

Have a try at this crossword, which is mostly about places.



Clues Across

1. One of the Bahama Islands - sounds like a pet
3. Capital of Morocco
6. Capital of Egypt
8. Town on the SW coast of Scotland
9. River of Northumberland
11. Town connected with the story of the Good Samaritan
12. Capital of Peru
14. Capital of France
16. This mountain of New York State sounds slippery
17. Island connected with St Columba
18. Country connected to the Taj Mahal
20. Town of Holland known for its cheese
21. Land of the Pyramids
23. Nairobi is a major city of this country
24. Official currency of Turkey
25. The capital of this country is Berlin
28. Mountain in Alabama which sounds as if it has pig connections
30. Complete the name _____ vista found in Cape Verde islands
31. A town in Mexico which sounds as if it might produce a type of string
32. Niagara is famous for these
33. A large free-standing rock outcrop

Clues Down

1. A major city of Venezuela
2. A Ben in the centre of London
3. Capital of Italy
4. Island in Indonesia
5. British Island in the Western Atlantic
7. The Portuguese word for saint which appears in many of the town names of Brazil
10. Famous Egyptian river
11. In which country would you find the volcano Fujiyama
13. Chief city of Lombardy, Northern Italy
15. Capital of Japan
19. Country containing the leaning tower of Pisa
20. Large town of Uganda
21. Another name for the Republic of Ireland
22. Seaport of Morocco at the western end of the Strait of Gibraltar
25. State on the western coast of India
26. Island of Scotland not far from Oban
27. Famous Scottish loch
29. River of Scotland with Montrose at its mouth

Twenty Questions to Test You

1. Of which country is Valletta the capital?
2. In which year did Queen Elizabeth II ascend the throne
3. Where in the human body would you find the metatarsal bones
4. How many yards are there in a chain
5. Sn is the symbol for which chemical element
6. How many pieces of silver did Judas receive for betraying Jesus
7. From which tree in the Garden of Eden were Adam and Eve forbidden to eat
8. To which saint is York Minster dedicated
9. Who wrote Pilgrim's Progress
10. Who was the first Christian martyr
11. Who or what was Worzel Gummidge in the BBC TV series
12. What is the capital of Belgium
13. What kind of wood was used in the making of the Ark of the Covenant
14. Who designed St Paul's Cathedral
15. In which river was Jesus baptised
16. What was the name of the city where Abraham was born
17. In which famous landmark is the operetta 'The Yeoman of the Guards' set
18. To which country did the Holy Family flee to escape Herod
19. Where, in England, is there a statue of Joan of Arc
20. During which war was Florence Nightingale a nurse

Fill in the grid with your answers to the following questions. All the references are taken from the Good News version of the Bible. All the answers are either the names of places or people.

1. Brother of Rebecca (Genesis 24 v 28)
2. Paul was in a ship which sailed down the sheltered side of this island (Acts 27 v 7)
3. Brother of Joseph and Benjamin (Genesis 44 v 14)
4. Father of David (Ruth 4 v 17)
5. A corrupt city (Deuteronomy 32 v 32)
6. Mount where Moses received the ten commandments (Leviticus 7 v 38)
7. They left here to go to Antioch (Acts 13 v 14)
8. He owned an oak tree (Judges 6 v 11)

1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				

Having completed the grid one of the vertical columns should give you the name of one of the Books of the Bible.

This wordsearch is all about Buildings, ancient and modern, here and abroad. The words are written forwards, backwards and diagonally. At the end you will be left with seventeen unused letters. These will give you a place connected with the Trooping of the Colour.

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

ABBEY	BANK
BARN	BUNGALOW
BYRE	CABIN
CAFÉ	CANTEEN
CAGE	CHALET
CHATEAU	CHURCH
COTTAGE	CROFT
DAM	FLAT
FORGE	FORT
GARAGES	GYM
HERMITAGE	HOSPICE
HOSPITAL	HOSTEL
HOTEL	HOUSE
HUT	IGLOO
INN	JAIL
LODGE	MILL
MUSEUM	PIER
PRISON	RESTAURANT
SCHOOL	SILO
SPA	STATION
SYNAGOGUE	TEMPLE
TOWNHALL	VILLA

A Riddle-me-Ree giving the name of what someone might be

1. My first is in both crayon and paint
2. My second's not in holy but it is saint
3. My third is in hole, but not in pole
4. My fourth is in both mole and vole
5. My fifth is in both east and west
6. My sixth's not in eggs, but is in nest
7. My seventh's in haven, but not in port
8. My whole is a participant of sport.

Concluding – Days of the Week Friday – Freya's Day

This day is named after Freya, the goddess of beauty. She flew over the earth in springtime and made the whole land green, and in the autumn flew back again, changing its colour to gold. So in a way Freya might also be regarded as the goddess of harvest.

The Angles and Saxons had a story about Freya to explain why gold was sometimes found in the earth. They said that once the god Odur, to whom she was married, had to leave her and go on a journey into a far away country. Freya was so broken hearted at parting from him that no one could comfort her. She wandered about the earth weeping bitterly, and because she loved Odur so dearly, her tears, as they touched the earth, turned into pure gold.

Once a week, on Freya's day, the Angles and Saxons worshipped her and praised her for caring for the earth to make sure that all things would continue to grow and ripen.

Saturday – Saetere's Day. This day was named after the god Saetere, which was another name for Loki who was a cruel and mischievous god. He enjoyed playing tricks on both gods and men. Sometimes, just for fun, he would rock the earth about and terrify everyone.

In some ways it seems strange that one of the days should be named after such a cruel god, but it was probably done in fear. People did not want to offend Loki. They were always afraid that if they displeased or upset him he would play one of his horrible and cruel tricks on them. So in a way he was honoured in a way that he did not deserve.

ANSWERS

Crossword

Across

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| 1. Cat | 3. Rabat | 6. Cairo |
| 8. Ayr | 9. Aln | 11. Jericho |
| 12. Lima | 14. Paris | 16. Slide |
| 17. Iona | 18. India | 20. Edam |
| 21. Egypt | 23. Kenya | 24. Lira |
| 25. Germany | 28. Hog | 30. Boa |
| 31. Sisal | 32. Falls | 33. Tor |

Down

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. Caracas | 2. Big | 3. Rome |
| 4. Bali | 5. Bermuda | 7. Sao |
| 10. Nile | 11. Japan | 13. Milan |
| 15. Tokyo | 19. Italy | 20. Entebbe |
| 21. Eire | 22. Tangier | 25. Goa |
| 26. Mull | 27. Ness | 29. Esk |

Twenty questions to test you

- | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------------|
| 1. Malta | 2. 1952 | 3. The Foot |
| 4. 22 | 5. Tin | 6. 30 |
| 7. The tree of knowledge of good and evil | | |
| 8. St Peter | 9. John Bunyan | |
| 10. St Stephen | 11. Scarecrow | 12. Brussels |
| 13. Acacia | 14. Christopher Wren | |
| 15. Jordan | 16. Ur | |
| 17. The Tower of London | 18. Egypt | |
| 19. Winchester Cathedral | 20. The Crimean War | |

Word search

The remaining letters make up Horse Guard's Parade

The Bible Grid

- | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1. Laban | 2. Crete | 3. Judah | 4. Jesse |
| 5. Sodom | 6. Sinai | 7. Perga | 8. Joash |
- The letters in the last vertical column reading from top to bottom spell Jeremiah

The Riddle-me-Ree gives the word Athlete



Rusthall Community Cinema

A Private Function (1984) Cert 15



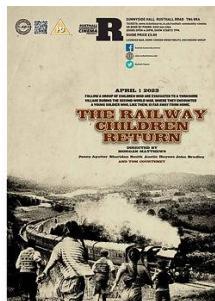
Doors open: 6.30pm Saturday 4th March 2023
 Director: Malcolm Mowbray
 Genre: Comedy
 Runtime: 92 mins
 Starring: Michael Palin, Maggie Smith, Denholm Elliott

The Lost King (2022) Cert 12



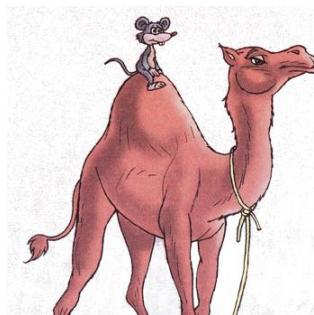
Doors open: 6.30pm Saturday 18th March 2023
 Director: Stephen Frears
 Genre: Drama
 Runtime: 108 mins
 Starring: Sally Hawkins, Shonagh Price, Helen Katamba

The Railway Children Return (2022) Cert PG



Doors open: 6.30pm Saturday 1st April 2023
 Director: Morgan Matthews
 Genre: Drama, Adventure, Family
 Runtime: 95 mins
 Starring: Jenny Agutter, John Bradley, Sheridan Smith

The Arrogant Mouse and The Humble Camel



Once upon a time, there were two best friends, a camel and a mouse, living in a forest. The mouse was quite conceited while the camel was so humble. The mouse benefited from camel's humble character and took him wherever he wanted. This surprised all other animals because the mouse was as small as the camel's nose, but he could take him everywhere he went.

The humble camel followed his little friend without complaining not to make him upset. The mouse was quite happy because he was thinking of himself as superior to the camel, which is much bigger than him. The mouse was proud of himself. "What a strong and smart animal I am. I can take a camel wherever I want." thought the mouse.

However, the humble camel noticed this arrogant attitude of the mouse. The mouse's spoiled and arrogant attitude made the camel angry and the camel wanted to give a lesson to the mouse. The camel took the mouse near a river. When the mouse saw the river, he was terrified.

"My good friend, the great mouse!", said the camel. "brave mouse who guided me in the forests and mountains! You are my guide, you walk first, then I will follow you", said the camel to the mouse.

"This water is too deep for me. I can't swim in it.", said the mouse. The camel stepped in the river to show the depth of water. The water was as high as the camel's knees.

"Are you afraid of this shallow water? It comes to my knees", said the camel.

"Your knees are much taller than mine. You are very big, I am very small. The water coming to your knees is a sea for me", said the mouse.

"Then, why are you so arrogant? Why do you perceive yourself as superior to the others? I followed you because you are my friend. I didn't want to hurt you. It is not because of your intelligence or power. Don't be so conceited!" replied the camel.

The mouse realized his mistake and apologized. He never forgot what he learnt from this lesson.



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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

General Information

Vicar Rev Ronnie Williams, The Vicarage, Bretland Road, Rusthall	521357	Julian Group Mrs Pat Stevens	529187
Reader Miss Daphne Pilcher	521691	St Paul's Parish Fellowship Mrs Zillah Witt (Chair)	523028
Churchwardens Mr Clive McAllister Miss May Graves	532817 680274	Vacancy (Secretary)	
Deputy Churchwardens Mr Graeme Anderson Mrs Susan Powley Mrs Margaret Brown Mr Chris Dobson	532922 545067 680455 539539	Group Scout Leader Gavin Cons Email – rusthallsoutgroup@gmail.com	
Parochial Church Council Secretary Mrs Mione Palmer	667951	Scout Membership Secretary Merissa Patrick Email – rusthallsoutgroupwaitinglist@yahoo.co.uk	
Treasurer and Planned Giving Mrs Pat Cripps	521447	Beavers: beaversrusthall@gmail.com	
Safeguarding Officer Miss Daphne Pilcher	521691	Cubs: rusthallcubs@hotmail.co.uk	
DBS Officer Clive Brown c/o the Parish Office	521447	Scouts: rusthallscouts@gmail.com	
Bible Reading Fellowship Secretary Vivienne Sharp	543263	Guide Senior Section Helen Deller 07720 252481	
Choir Leader Miss Fiona Johnson	07540 273303	Guide Guiders Gemma Bradley 07377 061398	
Magazine Editors Deborah Bruce, Sue Hare and Mione Palmer c/o the Parish Office email – magazine@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk		Brownie Guiders Mrs Wendy Anderson (Thurs) 532922 Ms Tina Francis (Mon) 545877	
Flower Arrangers Mrs Daphne Hodges	533492	Rainbows Mrs Mary Saunders 319872 Email – saundii@aol.com	
Parish Hall Bookings Enquiries to Parish Office	521447	Mothers and Toddlers Mrs Annie Softley 548366	
Rusthall St Paul's Primary School Executive Headteacher – John Tutt	520582	Rusthall Lunch Club Mrs Ros Rodwell 01892 618538	

Churchyards

Enquiries to the Parish Office

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

Julian Group Mrs Pat Stevens	529187
St Paul's Parish Fellowship Mrs Zillah Witt (Chair)	523028
Vacancy (Secretary)	
Group Scout Leader Gavin Cons Email – rusthallsoutgroup@gmail.com	
Scout Membership Secretary Merissa Patrick Email – rusthallsoutgroupwaitinglist@yahoo.co.uk	
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 Mrs Wendy Anderson (Thurs) 532922 Ms Tina Francis (Mon) 545877	
Rainbows Mrs Mary Saunders 319872 Email – saundii@aol.com	
Mothers and Toddlers Mrs Annie Softley 548366	
Rusthall Lunch Club Mrs Ros Rodwell 01892 618538	
Rusthall Community & Youth Project Barry Edwards 680296	
Rusthall Village Association Alex Britcher 07967 011467	
Rusthall Parish Council Council Clerk 07805 475397	
Rusthall Bonfire and Fete Committee Annie Softley 548366	
Friends of TW and Rusthall Common Clive Evans 534040	



The Parish Office

Parish Administrator - Mrs Ginette di Palma

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

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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.

For Royal Mail Use Only:

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Stamp

Swap Out Form



Royal Mail

Non-barcoded stamps can be used until 31 January 2023. We encourage you to use up your stamps, if possible, before then. Please use this form to swap your unused stamps for new barcoded stamps to the equivalent value.

See royalmail.com/barcodedstamps for examples of accepted stamps.

Note: This form should not be used if you are a Retailer who sells stamps to the general public. If you are a Retailer please visit www.royalmail.com/stamp-retailer-exchange

Please read before Completing Sections 1 and 2

- We will swap eligible non-barcoded stamps to the value of today's tariff and not for a cash equivalent.
- Eligible stamps are the regular 1st and 2nd Class 'everyday' stamps featuring the profile of HM The Queen and those that show any other value.
- Non-barcoded Christmas themed stamps continue to be valid for postage and don't need to be sent for swap out.
- We are **not** barcoding Special Stamps i.e. pictorial stamps issued to commemorate anniversaries and events. These remain valid for postage and do not need to be sent in for swap out.
- We will not accept stamps that have already been used for postage.
- Self-adhesive stamps must be attached to their original backing paper or book.
- Individual stamps that are not self-adhesive must be stuck to this form within the box overleaf.
- We will accept the value of up to £200 on this form. If you need to send stamps to a value of more than £200 you will need to complete a Swap Out form for over £200 which can be found at royalmail.com/barcodedstamps
- We will use your personal data to process your Swap Out only. Your details will not be used for marketing purposes.
- We aim to process your application within 7 working days but this cannot be guaranteed.

Examples of stamps you can Swap Out



Examples of stamps you don't need to Swap Out



1. Personal Details

Please use CAPITALS and a blue or black pen for all your answers

Name:

Company Name: (if applicable)

Address:

Postcode:

2. Stamps to be Swapped

(if this section is not completed, this may delay your application)

Number of stamps enclosed:

Value of stamps enclosed:

1st Class = 95p / 2nd Class = 68p
(from 4th April 2022)

(non-self-adhesive stamps to be stuck to reverse of this form)

Checklist

- Your personal details section 1 completed
- Stamps to be swapped section 2 completed
- Your stamps enclosed within this form

By sending us this form you are agreeing to the Swap Out Terms & Conditions at royalmail.com/barcodedstamps



Please return this form using our freepost service addressed to: Freepost **SWAP OUT**

Use the box below to stick any stamps that are **not** self-adhesive

A large red rectangular box intended for sticking non-self-adhesive postage stamps.

If you suspect fraudulent stamps please report these to royalmail.com/report-stamp-fraud