

ST PAUL'S NEWS

March 2025



ONE POUND

SERVICES

Sunday 2nd March

Sunday Next before Lent

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

Monday 3rd March

- 9.00 am Morning Prayer at the Parish Church
Minister: The Vicar

Wednesday 5th March

Ash Wednesday

- 9.00 am Morning Prayer at the Church Centre
Minister: The Vicar
- 8.00 pm Sung Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes
President & Preacher: The Vicar

Thursday 6th March

- 11.30 am Said Holy Communion at the Church Centre
President: The Vicar

Sunday 9th March

The First Sunday in Lent

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
President & Preacher: The Vicar
- 10.00 am Parish Eucharist with Baptism (CW)
President Preacher: The Vicar,
- 10.00 am Family Service at the Church Centre + Zoom
Lead: Tim Harrold
Link: Liz Goddard
- 6.30 pm Choral Evensong (BCP)
Minister: The Vicar

Monday 10th March

- 9.00 am Morning Prayer at the Parish Church
Minister: The Vicar

Wednesday 12th March

- 9.00 am Morning Prayer at the Church Centre
Minister: The Vicar

Thursday 13th March

- 11.30 am Said Holy Communion at the Church Centre
President: The Vicar

Friday 14th March

- 1.00 pm Wedding of Stephanie Moffat
& Alexander Wright - with the Choir
Minister: The Vicar

Sunday 16th March

The Second Sunday of Lent

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

Monday 17th March

- 9.00 am Morning Prayer at the Parish Church
Minister: The Vicar

Wednesday 19th March

- 9.00 am Morning Prayer at the Church Centre
Minister: The Vicar

Thursday 20th March

- 11.30 am Said Holy Communion at the Church Centre
President: The Vicar

Sunday 23rd March

The Third Sunday in 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

Monday 24th March

- 9.00 am Morning Prayer at the Parish Church
Minister: The Vicar

Wednesday 26th March

- 9.00 am Morning Prayer at the Church Centre
Minister: The Vicar

Thursday 27th March

- 11.30 am Said Holy Communion at the Church Centre
President: The Vicar

Sunday 30th March

Mothering Sunday

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
President & Preacher: The Vicar
- 10.00 am Joint Parade Service at the Parish Church
Ministers: The Vicar, Rev. Nicholas Burton
& Daphne Pilcher, Preacher to be confirmed.
- 6.30 pm Parish Eucharist (CW)
President & Preacher: The Vicar

Monday 31st March

- 9.30 am School Easter Service at the Parish Church
Minister: The Vicar

DIARY

Thursday 6th March

11.30 am Communion to Mount Ephraim
– Tim Harrold

6.00 pm Youth Council meet in the Lodge

Wednesday 12th March

3.00 pm Communion to Chamberlain Court
– Ginette di Palma

Thursday 20th March

11.00 am Communion to Rusthall Lodge
– John Bazley

11.30 am Communion to Mount Ephraim
– May Graves

Saturday 22nd March

6.30 pm Choir Concert for Lent

Wednesdays throughout the month

9.00 – 11.00 am Playtime at St Paul's at the Church Centre

Thursdays throughout the month

12 for 12.30 pm Rusthall Lunch Club
at the Church Centre



Fridays throughout the month

12.30 – 2.00 pm Community Larder
At the Church Centre

Saturdays & Sundays throughout the month

10 am – 4 pm Choristers Café in the Lodge

The aim of this 'café' is to raise funds to support the Choir tour to France in August. Refreshments for those attending Sunday morning services are, as usual, by voluntary donation.

Magazine Deadlines

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

April by Sunday 16th March

May by Sunday 13th April

June by Sunday 18th 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 can be made available to those who cannot access the magazine online. Please contact Ginette di Palma at the Church Office (TW 521447) to arrange production and collection/delivery.



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International Day of Happiness 20th March

Smiling is infectious
You catch it like the flu

When someone smiled at me
today
I started smiling too

I walked around the corner
And someone saw me grin

When he smiled I realised I
had passed it on to him

I thought about the smile
And then realised its worth

A single smile like mine
Could travel round the earth

So if you feel a smile begin
Don't leave it undetected

Start an epidemic
And get the world infected.

Spike Milligan





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

**Weeks for 2024 (April to October) are available
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Magazine Easy Payment Methods

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

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

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

Your contributions are much appreciated.

From the Vicarage

March 2025

Dear Friends

Thank you very much for your continued support and hard work. I trust that you were able to attend part of the Choir Anthem Sing-a-thon on the 22nd of February. The entire day was full of positive energy and great excitement. A very big thank you to everyone involved in making it such an exciting day's event. Although it was part of our 175th Anniversary celebrations, the Sing-a-thon was primarily a fund raising event towards the Choir's Normandy Tour in August. If you haven't done so already, please consider making a financial donation towards this Tour.

Lent, the season in the church's calendar during which Christians observe, with great devotion, Jesus' passion (suffering and death) and his resurrection is now upon us. No doubt, over the years, we have all developed ways of observing Lent, but it is customary for this to involve 'penitence and fasting' – and, may be, the giving up of something, such as chocolate, tea, or coffee.

If you are going to give up anything this Lent, may I encourage you then to 'fill' the space left by what you give up with periods of self-examination and prayer, and reading and meditating on God's Word, and take to heart God's call to repentance and the assurance of His forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel. As a Parish, we are having Lent Study Groups and we will be using the Church of England's Lent course material entitled Living Hope. There are sign-up sheets at both churches and I hope you will be able to join us. The Pew Leaflet will have more up-to-date information about this.

Over the years, we have been having joint Confirmation Services with three other local churches: All Saints Langton Green, King Charles the Martyr, and St Luke's. Last year St Mark's joined our group and hosted the service. I am delighted to let you know that we will be hosting the joint Confirmation service this year as part of our 175th anniversary celebrations. The service will be at 4pm on Sunday 18th May at the Parish Church, led by Bishop Jonathan. Please let me know if you or someone you know would like to get confirmed (confirm their faith in Jesus Christ). There is a Confirmation sign-up sheet at both the Parish Church and the Church Centre.

May Almighty God give us grace to observe a holy Lent as together, we journey with Christ through his passion and resurrection, and may we daily experience the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and grow in our dependence on and confidence in God.



From the Registers

At Rest - The sympathy of the Parish is extended to the family and friends of

Patricia (Pat) Edwards
Gwendoline (Gwen) Elizabeth Parker

Baptism – we welcome as newly baptised members of the Church

Olivia Rose Hargreaves

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Editorial March 2025

I have to start this editorial with an apology for the late printing of the magazine. Two problems really, we often experience difficulty getting articles in on time and during February both members of the editorial team went on holiday to Portugal, with half the team falling ill on return and the other half finding 2 days of grandchild-minding followed by the Sing-a-thon exhausting!

Sadly the Volta ao Algarve started just as we were travelling to the airport on our return. Jonas Vingegaard won, so he has undoubtedly found his mountain legs early in the season. I was amazed by the terrain of the Algarve which is folded and bumpy with very few areas of flat land away from river estuaries, perfect terrain for testing professional cyclists but quite hard going for mere mortals. Like many, I am missing the Discovery Channel coverage of World Road Cycling and am now having to decide whether a new TNT package which is nearly 3 times more expensive is worth it. Portugal was a revelation though – my first visit. Ripe oranges and lemons were already on the trees and storks were nesting seemingly wherever they could find a high vantage point – including on top of street lights. Wikipedia suggests that there are 200 breeding pairs of white storks in the Algarve, but if this is up to date I feel that we managed to see every one of them and I have photographic evidence. We visited the museum of slavery in Lagos and it was interesting to see that the people of Portugal have been regretting their involvement in this trade just as the UK has. It was lovely to enjoy some early sunshine – but a shock to return to freezing conditions.

At church, almost the whole of March is spent in Lent. Pancake Day is on Tuesday 4th March and provides a last chance to use up the traditional foods to be avoided during a period of fasting – meat, eggs and dairy. Over the centuries the eating restrictions have relaxed and few people engage in this type of fasting nowadays, giving up chocolate or alcohol seems more common, but I like the more positive approach suggested by Ronnie of adding in reflection, prayer and acts of charity. Prayers for a more thoughtful approach to finding a way to restore peace to Ukraine seems an appropriate topic after the disaster of the Oval office meeting between President Zelensky and President Trump. Our thoughts might also go out to Muslims recognising Ramadan over the same period as our Lent. Their fasting period is governed by time – no eating or drinking between sunrise and sunset. Because the Islamic calendar is shorter than our own, Ramadan gradually shifts in relation to our months so that during a lifetime they will experience Ramadan in all seasons of the year. This year most of their observance is before the spring equinox, so the daily fast will be shorter.

March is packed with numerous national and international recognition days. Two patron saints are celebrated – St David, patron saint of Wales on 1st and St Patrick patron saint of Ireland on 17th. 8th March is International Women's Day and 10th is Commonwealth Day. Representatives of the Commonwealth will be attending the 69th session of the Commission on the status of women in New York from 9-14 March. Red Nose Day is on 21st – a chance to do something silly to raise money for children and their families in the UK and around the world. Tolkien day is on 25th, whether tall or short you can join in by dressing up as an ent or a hobbit! International Day of Happiness is on 20th and 21st is both World Poetry Day and the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. March 20th is the spring equinox, the day when the length of day and night is equal. After that our days lengthen steadily until midsummer. Mothering Sunday, a pause during Lent to celebrate our mothers and mother-figures in our lives, is on 22nd, but this is also the day that the clocks 'spring forward' to British Summertime at 1am, making it an hour shorter than normal and also more difficult to get up and get to church on time. If you enjoy looking skyward there is a partial lunar eclipse to view on 29th March – weather permitting.

The choir are recovering their strength and voices after the Sing-a-thon – which was great fun. Rehearsals have now turned to Choral Evensong on 9th to recognise the first Sunday of Lent and a concert of music for Lent by French composers on Saturday 22nd. However, sneaking in on March 16th is the first Compline of the year, and if you have never attended one I would recommend it. The service is very short but provides a wonderful oasis of calm at the end of the day. The congregation joins the choir in the Chancel for the service, but singing is not compulsory.

If you have an article for April's magazine, please make sure that it gets to us by Sunday 16th March.

Have a good month.

Deborah Bruce and Sue Hare

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Churchwarden's Notes

After waiting over 18 months for permission and for the work to be started, we can now say that we have good news that the work has been completed, and we have a solid roof on the choir vestry. Hopefully it will be a bit warmer in there now.

We still have a few leaks in the church and hope that these will be dealt with soon.

The 175th celebrations are underway, and we are still looking for volunteers to help with various events, especially with the flower festival.

We are looking for somebody that might be interested in taking on the role of Treasurer for the church, please speak to Ronnie if you are interested or know of anybody that might be.

By the time you read this the choir will have completed their Sing-a-thon, singing 100 anthems. We are grateful to anybody that sponsored them.

There is an Ash Wednesday service on the 5th March at **8pm** - it would be good to see some of you there.

May Graves and Roderick Garcia-Fermer

Flower Team News



After many years of loyal support both as a member and leader of the flower team, Daphne Hodges has decided to stand down as leader of the team as her health is not quite so good. We thank her as a group for all the help she has given us; she will remain a member of the team and we look forward to seeing her at our future meetings.

As you are all aware by now, it is St Paul's 175th Anniversary year. The Flower team will be working towards a Flower Festival display combining wedding dresses and flowers on 7th June.

We do hope that some of you who were married at St Paul's would have retained your wedding outfits with photos of your special day. We would love to borrow them for the display. Any queries regarding this event, please contact Jill McAllister on 01892 532817

Jill McAllister



Dates for your diary

Here are some details of Anniversary events during April for your diary.

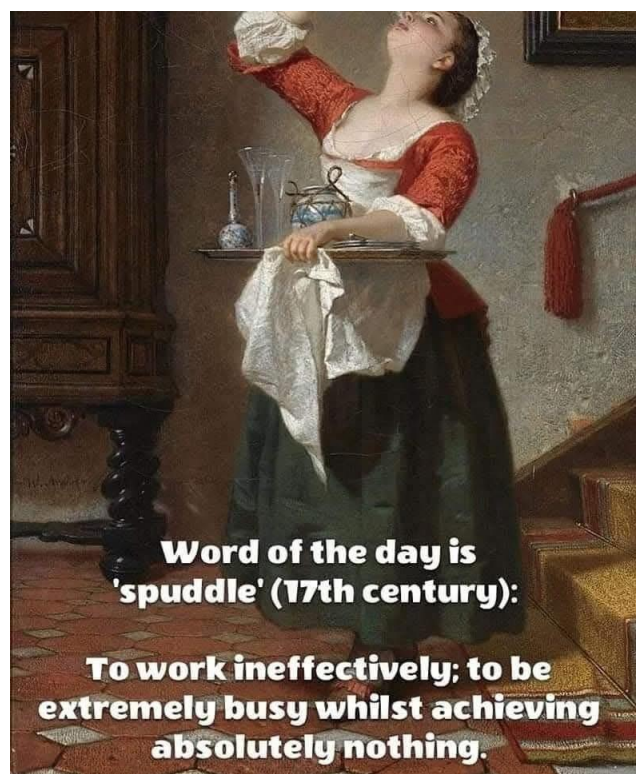
Saturday 12th April: Church Youth Council are washing cars at the Parish Church from 10am – 1pm. Choristers Café available for refreshments while you wait.

Sunday 20th April: Easter Sunday - Joint service at the Parish Church 10am with special floral displays. Easter Egg hunt after the service.

Sunday 20th April: A service of readings and music for Passiontide and Easter at 6.30pm.

Monday 21st April: Bank Holiday Monday - Plant sale, so please save extra seedlings if you are growing plants from seeds or taking cuttings. Treasure hunt on the common and cream teas at the Church Centre.

27th April: Joint service at the Church Centre including the unveiling of the new banner.



Obituary for John Herbert Frank Francis

27th June 1927 – 11th January 2025



It was a privilege to sing at the funeral for John Francis, held at St Paul's Church on Friday 21st February. He was choirmaster and organist when I joined St Paul's, and supported my membership of the choir by allowing me to attend just Junior Choir Practice, with my son Andrew, so that I would not have to find a baby-sitter every week. I eventually joined the Chancel Singers too. I find even now that canticles and anthems taught by John stay learned and he was an important figure in my musical life. This obituary is written with the assistance of John's friend, **Malcolm Edwards**, and step-daughter, **Katherine Homewood**, who spoke about John's life at his funeral. Malcolm explained that he had been supported by John, who had provided him with notes of what to say some years before his death – John was always a good planner!

Deborah Bruce

John was born at home at the bottom end of Camden Road, to parents Frank and May Francis. His musical training started early, at the age of 7 he started singing treble at King Charles the Martyr Church, becoming a regular soloist. He also learned piano and then organ. He was educated at King Charles the Martyr Boys School and the Technical Institute and then completed two years of National Service in the RAF.

Moving to St Thomas' Church, Southborough, now singing bass, he formed his first singing group, The Lyrian Quartet. In 1945 he joined the Orpheus Male Voice Choir when it was at a low point, subsequently becoming Assistant and then Principal Conductor and building membership from around a dozen to over a hundred.

The mayor asked him to form the Royal Tunbridge Wells Mixed Voice Choir in 1963 and this choir also grew to about 120 voices. In 1964 he was appointed as Musical Director at St Paul's Church and in 1966 The Oriana Singers was founded, originally a quartet but growing to around 22 singers. John was good at developing choirs, both growing their numbers by being constantly on the lookout for singers and by improving their skills so that they could handle more difficult music while still singing really well. He set high standards for his choirs.

John's stepson James remembers John visiting his school to tell the class about the benefits of joining the choir, the possibility of earning extra pocket money appealing. He then visited his home the following week to ask why he had not attended Friday choir practice. Soon John had persuaded both James' mother Pamela and sister Katy to join too. James remembers how, as a teenager, he had to pluck up all his courage to tell John that he was leaving the choir.

John's ambition for his choirs led to performances in London, for BBC Songs of Praise at St John's Church, at Abbey Road Studios, in Wiesbaden and Dusseldorf in Germany, Notre Dame and Chartres in France, at Bruges in Belgium and on Jersey. He took his choirs to sing in every cathedral in the country. Professional recordings were made and can still be found on Amazon.

John's daily commute to the city suddenly became twice as long as the shipping company he worked for moved to east London. This made getting back to Tunbridge Wells in time for his many choir practices very difficult. He had also married Estelle Monk in 1972. He decided that he would have to reduce his workload and handed on the Orpheus Male Voice Choir and Tunbridge Wells Mixed Voice Choir to new directors. In a difficult time, his marriage ended in divorce in 1980 and he was made redundant. In a complete change, he joined the Stormont dealership and started delivering cars all around the country. Because he owned a black suit, when a driver was needed to deliver a car to Downing Street John was chosen and was invited to take tea with Prime Minister John Major – a proud moment for him.

In 1990 John started The Chancel Singers, a small choir designed to sing services locally and in cathedrals. Such was the devotion of his singers, Malcolm and his first wife used to travel to Sunday evening rehearsals from their new home in Berkshire. Another of the founding members was Pamela Homewood. In 1993 John and Pamela were married at St Paul's Church, although Pamela's children James and Katherine were rather embarrassed to discover that their mother was going

to marry the choirmaster. Katherine reminded those at John's funeral how much food was also part of his life. He had firm likes and dislikes, eating tomatoes like sweets, hating onions and loathing garlic. While single he often managed to arrange invitations to Sunday lunch with members of the choir and once married he and Pamela would frequently dine out on their own or with friends. He had a sweet tooth and choir coach trips always involved a tin of sweets which were handed round.

In 1991 Tunbridge Wells Borough Council awarded John a rather splendid, gold Civic Medalion, which he wore proudly around his neck on a green ribbon.

John retired as Musical Director of St Paul's in 1999, signing off by taking the choir to sing evensong at St Paul's Cathedral. There was also a concert held in the Methodist Church in Upper Grosvenor Road where music was performed by all the choirs which he had directed. Actually, of course, in "retirement" he continued as director of the Chancel Singers until August 2004, ending with another Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral, and he worked to develop his local church choir at All Saints Church, Waldron for a further ten years, building their numbers and taking them to sing at cathedrals – he just couldn't help himself!

John and Pamela developed a number of health problems in later life, but together managed to soldier on at Mill Cottage until late last year, when Pamela had to be admitted to hospital in Brighton. John and Pamela's mother both moved to a care home in Cross-in-Hand so that they could be looked after. Very sadly, they were not to be reunited, although they spoke on the phone. Pamela died in hospital on 5th January and John just a few days later on 11th January.

Malcolm described John's deep Christian faith, his leadership skills, being strong, charismatic, determined, single-minded, sometimes abrasive but also capable of walking on eggshells without breaking them. John leaves an enormous legacy in the musical training and encouragement he provided to singers in his choirs at St Paul's, Tunbridge Wells, Waldron and the areas where those singers he developed have moved on to. I feel sure that he will by now have been reunited with Pamela and the many singers that have gone before him, including choir member Diana Coker, whose funeral was held 2 days before John's, and he will be gathering them together into an enormous celestial choir. It's going to sound wonderful.

Malcolm quoted from this poem by Shelley during his eulogy for John.

Music, when soft voices die

Music, when soft voices die,
Vibrates in the memory –
Odours, when sweet violets sicken,
Live within the sense they quicken.

Rose leaves, when the rose is dead,
Are heaped for the beloved's bed;
And so thy thoughts, when thou art gone,
Love itself shall slumber on.

By Percy Bysshe Shelley



John's early days with Canon Norman Mantle.
Can you spot Chris Dobson?



John's final visit with St Paul's Choir to St Paul's Cathedral. There are quite a few current members of the choir in this photo – though its easier to spot them on the full size original.

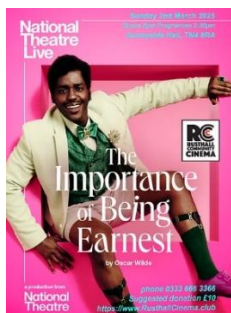


Rusthall Community Cinema



Midnight in Paris (2011) Cert 12

Doors open: 6.30pm Saturday 1st March 2025
Director: Woody Allen
Genre: Comedy, Fantasy, Romance
Runtime: 1h 34 mins
Starring: Owen Wilson, Rachel McAdams, Marion Cotillard



NT Live – The Importance of Being Earnest Cert PG

Doors open: 2pm Sunday 2nd March 2025
Director: Max Webster
Writer: Oscar Wilde
Genre: Recorded live theatre
Runtime: 2 hrs
Starring: Sharon D Clarke, Ncuti Gatwa, Hugh Skinner



The End We Start From (2023) Cert 15

Doors open: 6.30pm Saturday 15th March 2025
Director: Mahalia Belo
Genre: Drama, Thriller
Runtime: 1h 42 mins
Starring: Jodie Comer, Benedict Cumberbatch



Wish You Were Here (1987) Cert 12

Doors open: 6.30pm Saturday 29th March 2025
Director: David Leland
Genre: Drama, Mystery, Comedy
Runtime: 1h 32 mins
Starring: Emily Lloyd, Tom Bell, Geoffrey Hutchings



NT Live – Dr Strangelove Cert 15

Doors open: 2pm Sunday 30th March 2025
Director: Sean Foley
Genre: Recorded Live Theatre
Runtime: 2h 30mins
Starring: Steve Coogan (Alan Partridge, The Trip)

Sermon: In Lent there are always questions, questions

Lent is a time when we take stock and think about our lives and ask questions. The Gospel says that when we fast, we should wash our faces and make them presentable, yet within minutes of proclaiming this, many of us will daub our foreheads with dirty ash. We say that this is a sign and reminder to us of our sinfulness and mortality, and yet it will be placed in the very place where we can't see it unless we look in a mirror. And some of us will play the game of trying to keep it there for as long as possible – maybe the kindly unsuspecting person on the till in Sainsbury's will pluck up courage to tell us that there's a problem with our face and offer us a wet wipe. What do we think we're doing?

At least the Gospel message is clear and unequivocal. Do all your good stuff in secret, and then you will be rewarded. At least those ducks are in a row.

There are very few sermons or homilies that I remember, but occasionally one stands out that I have never forgotten. Of my own only one of the many I gave as a lay minister is in my memory and that was an address on Remembrance Sunday which people still remember and comment on. I do remember being challenged once with the question 'Why is it that our descriptions of ourselves so rarely match our reality?' A powerful question, unearthing an eternal truth, that human beings are rarely honest with each other or themselves about themselves. We all project an image of ourselves, which has some dissonance with what we feel inside. Perhaps that is why the somewhat topical issue of CV's tending to be embellished with what we would like to be rather than what we are. I wonder why and I still search for the answer. I should add that in giving a sermon it would be inaccurate to say that it is a waste of time if they do not appear immediately in the memory. They might have struck a chord on the day and that link may come up at some point or another. I have all my sermons and certainly the early ones are somewhat embarrassing and might have been better suited to an after dinner speech but I did learn and by the end of my ministry journey they made more sense or at least I hope they did. Of course others might have a different view.

Another question I was frequently asked as a lay minister is 'What is your God like?', or more precisely perhaps: 'What is your image of God?' The Bible contains many images of God, and we have a few in the readings today. In the reading

from Genesis, God describes God self as a 'shield'; in St. Paul's letter to the Philippians, he describes Jesus as 'Saviour' and 'Lord'; and in Luke, Jesus describes himself as like a mother hen. As many a psychologist can tell you, images are immensely powerful, and we generally receive vast numbers of them every day, often unconsciously, through the medium of television, the internet and advertising. Social media has become adept at presenting an image of ourselves that is often at variance with our inner reality. All those smiles! How many people do you know who post miserable pictures of themselves? The image Jesus gives us today of himself is an unusual one, as it is an overtly female image. I wonder how often you have seen this image in stained glass, statues or pictures? They are quite hard to find! I wonder why?

I would guess that most Christians would agree that God is a mystery which can never be fully known. As God describes God self to Moses: 'I am who I am'. But in Jesus, we see the reality of a God who is love itself and who, as a consequence, is prepared to offer his life so that we might live forever. The description we have today in Luke of Jesus as like a mother hen is warm and tender and protective, with echoes of Psalm 91:4. But just as a person's description of themselves might not match their inner reality, so a believer's image of God, may not really connect with their outworking of faith. There are many Christians who can describe God as loving, compassionate and kind, and then act in the name of God cruelly with others or with themselves. That disconnect is something those outside the Church often pick up on, and it can be very damaging to the Church and the Christian faith alike. Social media has much to do with this exposure and as I write this we have the image of a Member of Parliament saying bad things about colleagues and certain types of people. It is the worst of social media, or is it, in that it exposes true feelings and belief. A subject for another time perhaps?

Christians believe that Jesus was fully God and fully human, and as such had the greatest integrity. He was fully himself. There is an authenticity about him, which shines out in the short passages one can read. He can be provocative: calling Herod a 'fox' is hardly endearing, but he is also playing with the idea, because foxes hunt hens, and that is the image Jesus gives himself here. But he also cares, and he is not afraid to call out the behaviour of people in Jerusalem and to hold them to account. Here is a challenge for us writ large in the Gospel passage. How do we integrate the description of ourselves with our inner reality, so that we might be authentically ourselves, like

Jesus? How do we integrate our image of God with the outward working of our faith, so that we might truly live what we believe? I wonder and to be absolutely honest with you I still struggle to answer the question.

Recommended Readings:

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Philippians 3:17-4:2;
Luke 13:31-35

Tim Cripps

Flowers for the Church Centre Banner



Many thanks to all the people who have made flowers to go on to the Banner which will be put up on the outside of the Church Centre after Easter. As I write this, I have 1300 flowers ready to use so only another 200 are needed, if I have done the calculations correctly. If you are making flowers for the banner, please will you leave them in the large pink boxes in either church or drop them off at the Parish Office when it is open. If anyone is having any difficulty I can collect them if you get in touch by email to jeankerr@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk or via the Parish Office. All flowers need to be with me or the churches by 23rd March to allow construction of the banner. The banner will be unveiled at the 10am joint communion service at the Church Centre on Sunday 27th April.

This is what 1000 flowers looks like, spread across my kitchen floor!



Time to send us your recipes!



We need your home-styled recipes for a St Paul's and Rusthall Village Cookbook to be created as part of St Paul's Church 175th anniversary.

It's a great opportunity for everyone to share recipes and to tell the stories of those who created and enjoyed them. If your family or group have a treasure to share, then we'd like to hear about them.

Send us your recipe (including ingredients and method), the story behind it and a picture of your family or group so that we can compile a book which truly reflects Rusthall.

Matthew Sankey, the chef and owner of the prestigious seafood restaurant in The Pantiles, is sponsoring the book and will be one of the judges.

So, please support us and dig out your favourite, or impressively easy recipe, which is worth sharing.

Email office@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk or drop in a hard copy at the Parish Church or Church Centre for our attention. We'd like to have your recipes by 31st March 2025 please.

Join us in celebrating 175 years of St Paul's Church in the community of Rusthall, 1850 – 2025.

175 Anniversary Committee

One song to the tune of another

One of my favourite radio programmes is *I'm sorry I haven't a Clue*. A contributor and panellist for 50 years was the late Barry Cryer. One of the tasks the panel was often set was to sing something to the tune of another and Barry perfected this and often received great acclaim for his renditions.

It was perhaps no surprise then that at his funeral service the Vicar announced that the Choir would sing the 23rd Psalm to the tune of Knees up, Mother Brown. Sadly, there is no record of how the choir fared with such a task.

Tim Cripps

A Musical Note



On the evening of our Patronal Festival, the 26th of January, the choir sang a celebration service for Saint Paul. We sang nine movements from Mendelssohn's Oratorio, 'Paulus', which tells the story of Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus after his persecution of Christ's followers. It was incredibly exciting to perform excerpts from this work, which, while less well-known than Mendelssohn's 'Elijah', features beautiful word painting and exceptional part writing. The choir were incredible; they mastered all the music in three rehearsals and presented it with remarkable energy and enthusiasm. Thanks to all the readers, Paul and Debbie, our soloists, and especially to Alasdair for his outstanding playing. It was a splendid start to our Anniversary year for the choir.

We are deeply saddened to hear of the passing of John and Pamela Francis, who both died within a week of each other. John served as the Director of Music at Rusthall for thirty years, retiring in 2000 and leaving us with an extraordinary legacy of choral singing. He led a large choir at Rusthall and directed and founded other choirs in Tunbridge Wells, including The Oriana Singers and The Chancel Singers. I was incredibly fortunate to sing in the church choir when John was at the helm. I remember asking him one Sunday after church whether it would be acceptable for girls to sing in the choir, as otherwise I wouldn't have been able to join. He agreed that girls should be allowed to sing alongside the boys, and I was the second girl to join the choir just after my seventh birthday. I recall that choir practice was immense fun but also quite demanding, and we all eagerly looked forward to the sweets at the end of the rehearsal! He was great fun but also worked the choir incredibly hard and had high expectations for our singing. You always sensed he was having the best time, and his enthusiasm for choral music permeated throughout the whole choir, even to the children! What John achieved in promoting choral singing in Tunbridge Wells was truly unparalleled. The time and energy he dedicated to conducting so many of our local choirs, along with his indefatigable spirit, is inspirational. I feel incredibly fortunate to have had the opportunity to sing with him, even for such a brief time; it was a real privilege to do so.

On Saturday 22nd March at 6.30 pm, the choir will perform a concert of French music for Lent. This will feature works by Vierne, Widor, Duruflé, and Nadia Boulanger and the second half of the concert will be Fauré's Requiem. We hope to see many of you there, as it would be wonderful to have a large audience. Entrance is free, with a retiring collection going towards our trip to Normandy in the summer.

Since my last article, we have welcomed Joseph as a full choir member, having completed his probationary period. If you know of any children who love to sing, we hope to recruit a few more members in the coming months, so please do put them in touch with me. We have such an exciting year of activities ahead; it is a great time to join!

Fiona Johnson

++++STOP PRESS++++STOP PRESS++++

Summer Poetry Evening In Rusthall

As part of St Paul's 175th anniversary celebrations we are pleased to confirm the Kent and Sussex Poetry Society will be co-hosting an evening event on Friday, 4th July at the Church Centre.

The Society was founded in 1946 by Vita Sackville-West, doyenne of Sissinghurst Castle in Kent and twice winner of The Hawthornden Prize, one of Britain's oldest literary awards. The group is still going strong today with many published poets alongside others who simply enjoy poetry. They have members not only across the southeast but also have followers as far flung as a sheep farm in Australia!

The evening event to be held in Rusthall will include Open Mic opportunities for members of the community to share their own poetry, as well as poetry readings by members of the Kent & Sussex Poetry Society who have links to the village. It promises to be a great evening – so watch out for more details to be announced soon!

If you'd like to know more about the Society visit www.kentandsussexpoetry.com

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The Importance of Nature in the Bible Part 5

By the time we reach New Testament times, although much of the land is still under cultivation, cities are growing up and eating into the surrounding countryside. However it is probable that things in Palestine altered very little between the first and the nineteenth centuries. When Jesus was on earth the ploughing was done with a very simple plough drawn either by one ox or two oxen – sometimes by an ox and an ass yoked together. This was in fact forbidden for Jews, but does not appear to have been regularly observed. The sowing was done by hand and the grain scattered as we read in the parable of the Sower.

The reaping was done by hand with a primitive sickle – sometimes with flints set in a wooden frame. Steel was just being invented and brought into use by the Romans in the first century. The threshing and winnowing took place on a special threshing-floor with a hard bottom.

Growing a cereal crop in Palestine divided the year into two portions. Mid-October to mid-April was for ploughing, sowing, harrowing and weeding. From mid-April onwards there would be reaping, threshing and storing. The time of sowing was one of anxiety because of the usual uncertainty of the weather. On the whole the pulse crops of beans and lentils were sown first, then barley and finally wheat. Apart from the weather the worst problem for Palestinian farmers were the locusts.

Harvesting of course varied with the various altitudes and temperatures. For example near Jericho harvesting barley might well begin around the middle of April. Down near the coast it could be at least a fortnight later and in some higher altitudes at least a month later. Harvesting was usually a family concern but in some cases extra help had to be hired.

Food for labourers in the field tended to be parched corn and bread dipped in vinegar. Their vinegar was either a sour, over-fermented wine, or over-fermented palm juice. This liquid, diluted, was used as a drink by the poorer classes and by soldiers, among both Greeks and Jews. This drink was called posca. This explains why the guard at the foot of the cross would have some vinegar handy. This would – mixed with a drug (such as myrrh or gall) – be offered to a person undergoing execution as pain relief.

Posca mixed with oil was apparently good for healing wounds and this would have been the combination used in the story of the Good Samaritan for dressing the wounds of the man beaten up.

The Palestinians did not apparently set much value on straw and in fact wasted a good deal. Because threshing was done outside the wind played an important part by blowing away the refuse. Sometimes cattle were driven forward and backwards over the stalks which would be lifted up and turned over by a fork at intervals. After the grain was finally collected it might well be stored in pits underground, the openings of which were carefully covered. Until the grain was finally moved to a barn the owner might well sleep beside the pit to prevent the grain being stolen. Once all the grain was harvested there would be joyful celebrations which were frequently related to religion.



Threshing

There were basically three types of labourers – free labourers who were usually hired in gangs, slaves who were not under constraint and those who would work in chains under the control of a gaoler. There was also specialisation in the various crafts. The skilled ones were vine dressers and pruners, the ox-drivers, ploughmen and stablemen. Even in those days there was great competition to see who could plough a really straight furrow. The unskilled would have been those used for digging and spreading manure.

Coping with unwelcome visitors on growing crops was again primitive and limited. So far as locusts were concerned the best that they could do at that time was to light large fires and hope that they would be suffocated by the smoke and fall into the flames. The corn was usually reaped as soon as it had turned yellow, even though it might not yet be ripe, to forestall the ravages of birds and other animals.

Daphne Pilcher



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It's a Digital World

There is little doubt that the world today is vastly different from even just a few years ago. In the 25 years of this 21st Century, we have already witnessed the arrival of iPhones (2007), Facebook (2004), Uber (2009), Fitbit (2008), Bitcoin (2009), Siri (2011) and Alexa (2013). Amongst all these changes, society has fundamentally changed its relationship with money. The mantra from my banking days used to be "Cash is King". This is no longer true. We live in a digital world.

This increasingly cashless world requires us to adapt so that we can meet society and their money in their environment. Creating an online digital capability for receiving donations and payments becomes even more important with all the fundraising opportunities taking place throughout the year as part of our 175th celebrations.

Fortunately, there are several good, cost-effective ways we can do this. Since the beginning of the year, we have been working on improving our presence on the "A Church Near You" website. This is a completely free platform supported by the Church of England which last year did not give a particularly good or accurate impression of our Parish. Today, it looks like St. Paul's is a vibrant community with lots of diverse activities. This has been reflected in the number of visitors we get to our pages which we can now track through Google analytics. At the start of the year, our annual visitor run rate stood at just short of 5,500. Just two months later, that has more than quadrupled to over 23,000.

As of Saturday 15th February, there is a facility on the "A Church Near You" website for people to donate for whichever specific cause we are fundraising for, such as the Church, the Youth Council, or the Choir. I would encourage everyone to take 5 minutes and have a look at this site. I am always keen to hear any feedback as well as ideas for how our presence can be improved even further.

At the time of writing, the donation button on a Church Near You will direct people to support the choir as they look forward to their Sing-a-thon challenge. Later in the year, we may switch that to the Youth Council when they are fundraising via their carwash or the Church as part of its 175th or the Choir as part of their Normandy fundraising efforts.

Another platform that allows us to have a digital presence is "Give a Little". This allows us to create as many campaigns as we would like. Each campaign will have its own URL and QR code, giving donors comfort that money they donate is going to the specific cause they wish to support.

Currently, there are three campaigns we are running through Give a Little:

1. The Choir's fund-raising to support their trip to Normandy later this year.
<https://givealittle.co/c/stpaulschoir2025fund>
2. The Youth Council to support the on-going development of our bees as we look forward to having our first honey at the end of the year.
<https://givealittle.co/c/stpaulsyouthcouncil>
3. The Church in support of its overall pastoral ministry.
<https://givealittle.co/c/stpaulschurch175>

Each of these campaigns will have their own QR code which can be included on any promotional material. At the end of this article is an example of a flyer we created in support of the Choristers Café which included the QR code.

Whether it be through "A Church Near You" or "Give a Little", we can still capture any opportunities to claim Gift Aid on any donations. Perhaps even more importantly in the current environment of data protection, we will also be able to gather and record if donors' consent to us contacting them in the future. Our ability to communicate with any donors on an on-going basis as well as remaining in touch with those who use the Church for any life event such as weddings and baptisms is just as important as the initial engagement.

The day after we launched our online digital presence, the first donation was made. The donor came from the Isle of Wight. This is the reality of today's world. Without our digital presence, it would have been difficult for that person to demonstrate their support. Our fundraising capabilities have gone from being strictly local to essentially global, transforming our ability to deliver on our mission and ministry.

Tim Harrold



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SEE YOU THERE!

Poems for March

With irony and humour, Brian Bilston's poem helps us celebrate International Women's Day on 8th March. Then later in the month, to mark World Poetry Day on 21st, there are poems by two of the 'brilliant women' poets on his list.

Susan Barber

Suggested Further Reading - by Brian Bilston

The last thing anyone needs
on International Women's Day
is a poem about how brilliant women are
and the need to create a world free
of gender inequalities,
all expertly mansplained by a man
whose first name is Brian.

A poem by Maya Angelou, though,
Is a different matter entirely.
Or one by Leona Gom. Or Audre Lorde.
Or Carol Ann Duffy, Salena Godden,
Selima Hill, Margaret Atwood, Adrienne Rich,
Sylvia Plath, Wendy Cope, Caroline Bird,
Hollie McNish, Stevie Smith, U. A. Fanthorpe,
Nikita Gill, Jackie Kay, Imtiaz Dharker,
Emily Dickinson, Amanda Gorman, Dorothy
Parker...

I could go on,
but there are only so many hours
and I've got a lot of reading
to be getting on with.

Brian Bilston

Touched By An Angel - by Maya Angelou

We, unaccustomed to courage
exiles from delight
live coiled in shells of loneliness
until love leaves its high holy temple
and comes into our sight
to liberate us into life.

Love arrives
and in its train come ecstasies
old memories of pleasure
ancient histories of pain.
Yet if we are bold,
love strikes away the chains of fear
from our souls.

We are weaned from our timidity.
In the flush of love's light
we dare be brave.
And suddenly we see
that love costs all we are
and will ever be.
Yet it is only love
which sets us free.

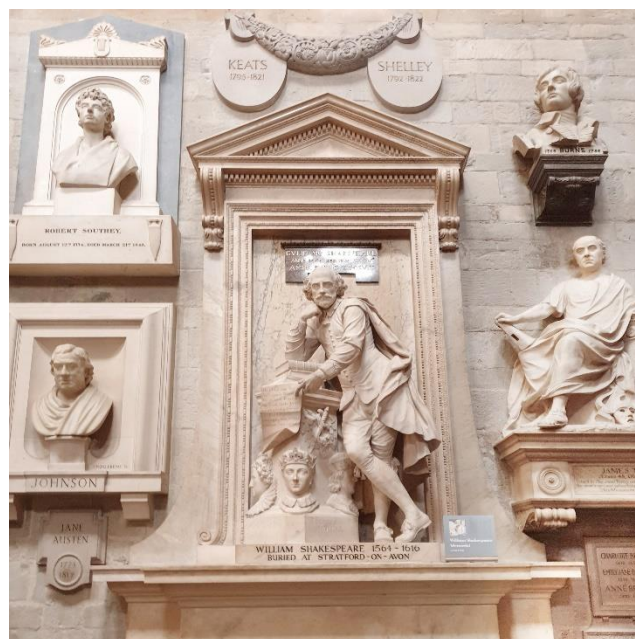
Prayer - by Carol Ann Duffy

Some days, although we cannot pray, a prayer
utters itself. So, a woman will lift
her head from the sieve of her hands and stare
at the minims sung by a tree, a sudden gift.

Some nights, although we are faithless, the truth
enters our hearts, that small familiar pain;
then a man will stand stock-still, hearing his youth
in the distant Latin chanting of a train.

Pray for us now, Grade 1 piano scales
console the lodger looking out across
a Midlands town. Then dusk, and someone calls
a child's name as though they named their loss.

Darkness outside. Inside, the radio's prayer –
Rockall, Malin, Dogger, Finisterre.



'Poets' Corner', Westminster Abbey





RUSTHALL'S COMMUNITY LARDER

What is it?

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

When and where is it?

Our community larder will be in the St Paul's Church Centre every Friday between 12:30pm and 2:15pm.

Who can use it?

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

How much does it cost?

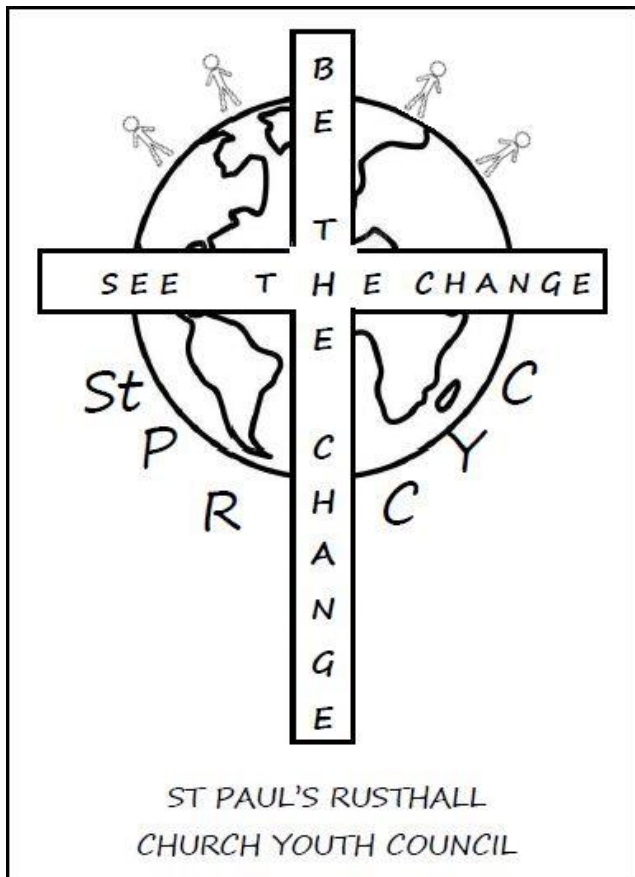
We suggest a small cash donation of £2, or as much as you can afford. For this, you can take away a bag full of quality food.

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

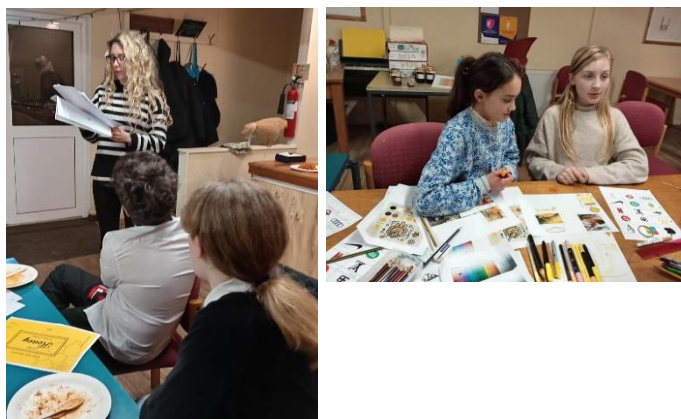


WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU!

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



The focus for our February meeting was 'Ethical Marketing' as we prepare for our bees to emerge from their winter hibernation and hopefully, later in the year, our first honey harvest. We were delighted to welcome Dani, a local Commercial Marketing Director who guided us through our design and decision process.



The CYC were terrific, coming up with fabulously creative ideas and displaying confidence and maturity when sharing them. Mood boards, strap lines and potential jar labels were discussed and we are now in the process of putting our ideas together to create a final design. We will keep you informed of our progress.

Two new members were warmly welcomed and a huge thank you must go to Jean for a delicious pasta bake which kept everyone sustained and working.

Future events and meetings

- Thursday March 6th** Sue Knights from the Bee Society - 6 pm in The Lodge
- Thursday April 3rd** Personal Safety - 6pm in The Lodge
- Saturday April 12th** Car Wash at The Parish Church - 10am to 1pm.
- Sunday April 27th** CYC Bacon & Egg Breakfast. 9.30 Church Centre
- Thursday May 1st** Topic tbc 6pm in The Lodge
- Monday May 5th** Parish Walk

The CYC welcomes all children of secondary school age. Please see our web page on the Church website for all details of the Youth Council.

Angela Culley

Activity Pages

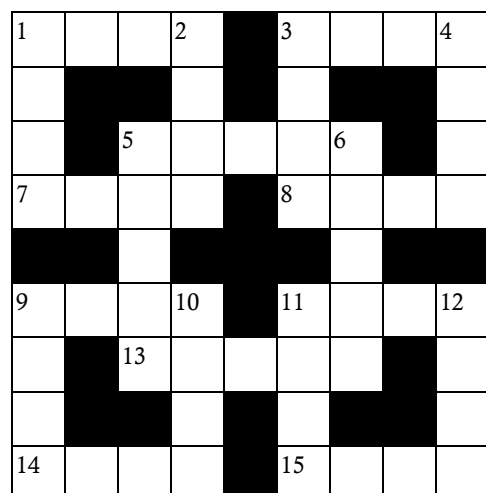
Try your hand at this word search based loosely on Games and Sports. At the end you will be left with 14 unused letters which will give you the names of two games which are played using a bat and ball.

E S S O R C A L S S E H C R T K T A G S E L B R A M I Y E I R R H U O M U S N A D E L G A D E A L L R L T S S K L O D H L I F C L I R W M C A J A D L B D A L R A I Z O B E O I T A B O I E T N T H G N E S N T S S L G E G C G N H K C O L A L K G P O N E I S E O W O S E O U I T S E V I F O A O O E S R E H C R A F B I L L A R D S U C R I C	ARCHER BALLET BASKETBALL BILLIARDS BINGO BOWLS CAVING CHESS CIRCUS DARTS DANCE DISCO FISH FIVES FOOTBALL GOLF HALMA HOCKEY JOG LACROSSE LOO LUDO MAHJONG MARBLES POOL REELS RUGGER SKI SLIDE SOLITAIRE SWING TAG TENNIS WALTZ
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Twenty Questions to Test You

- 1 Of which island is Havana the capital
- 2 In which British city might you find the Royal Albert Dock and John Lennon Airport
- 3 In the standard UK version of Monopoly, what colour are Pall Mall and Northumberland Avenue
- 4 What does the Yellow Jack flag aboard a ship signify
- 5 A mule is the product of a female horse and a male what?
- 6 What is the capital of Austria
- 7 NH is the abbreviation for which US state
- 8 Which Spanish painter was responsible for Guernica?
- 9 In which year did Geroge VI ascend the throne following the abdication of his brother
- 10 In mythology who was the husband of Hecuba
- 11 In which European city would you find the remains of a bronze fountain sculpture showing a small boy urinating
- 12 Bartlett, Forelle, Concorde and Williams are all varieties of what?
- 13 In which country might you find the westernmost point of the mainland of the European Union?
- 14 The flag of which European nation features three horizontal stripes – white, green and red
- 15 Kirkwall is the largest town in which Scottish island group
- 16 According to the advert ‘Once you pop, you can’t stop’ eating which product?
- 17 In which country was Christopher Columbus born?
- 18 For what was Vaslav Nijinsky famous?
- 19 Which people invented the magnetic compass?
- 20 In the Babar stories, who or what is Babar?

Biblically based Crossword – All references are taken from the Good News version of the Bible



Clues across

- 1 First King of Israel
- 3 How was he not to talk (John 18 v 22)
- 5 The place of the what (Luke 23 v 33)
- 7 Where in the city did the king sit (2 Sam 19 v 8)
- 8 Animal connected with Daniel
- 9 Where did Naomi and Ruth live (Ruth 1 v 2)
- 11 What did Issac sow (Gen 26 v 12)
- 13 What divided (2 Kings 2 v 8)
- 14 What accompanied the scorching winds (Haggai 2 v 17)
- 15 What did he refuse to do (Lamentations 2 v 3)

Clues down

- 1 A young what on the mountains (Song of Songs 8 v 14)
- 2 He wrote one of the Gospels
- 3 Herb (Isaiah 28 v 25)
- 4 Adam and Eve's 'garden' home
- 5 What was compared with wheat (Jer 23 v 28)
- 6 Examines what part of the body of a sacrificed animal (Ezekiel 21 v 21)
- 9 It can be crushed like what (Job 14 v 19)
- 10 They joined the worshippers of whom (Hosea 9 v 10)
- 11 Third son of Adam and Eve
- 12 What sort of pit (Hosea 5 v 2)

Try your hand at this **crossword with a difference** where the last letter of each answer is the first of the next.

1						2			3					
					11								12	
10			17		18									
			24					25				19		
				28										
	16				31			29					13	
9		23						32						
				30								26		
													20	
		22						27						
	15					21								
								14						
	8			7				6				5		4

- 1 This bird has connections with a very humorous poem linked to Rheims
- 2 Insect with a sting
- 3 The first part of the name of this insect links it to a bird with a beautiful dance display and the second to insects often with brightly coloured wings
- 4 Churchyard tree
- 5 Small retiring brown bird
- 6 A pond amphibian
- 7 Pond creature linked with the book – Wind in the Willows
- 8 Emblem of Wales
- 9 A conifer which loses leaves in winter
- 10 An often purple flower found on moorland
- 11 Known for its fleshy edible stalks
- 12 A cleaning tool
- 13 Sometimes called Rowan
- 14 A grey/brown animal recognised by its prickles which roll up into a ball for protection
- 15 Bulb closely connected with vampires
- 16 According to an old song this bird has sung in Berkeley Square
- 17 The heart of England
- 18 A type of falcon
- 19 Rock clinging snail
- 20 An often prickly plant growing in waste places
- 21 An insect whose name is made up of a part of the body and false hair
- 22 Bird of the coast
- 23 Period of life of an insect between leaving the egg and turning into a pupa
- 24 English snake
- 25 Multicoloured arc which sometimes appears in the sky
- 26 Used for making cricket bats
- 27 Bird which is known because it beats its beak against hollow tree trunks
- 28 Easter animal
- 29 Common fungi
- 30 Scottish lake
- 31 Has connections with Little Miss Muffet

Answers

Word search – the two games are rounders and cricket

Twenty questions to test you

- | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| 1 Cuba | 2 Liverpool | 3 Pink (purple accepted) | 4 Disease/quarantine | 5 Donkey |
| 6 Vienna | 7 New Hampshire | 8 Picasso | 9 1936 | 10 Píram |
| 11 Brussels | 12 Pears | 13 Portugal | 14 Bulgaria | 15 Orkney |
| 16 Pringles | 17 Italy | 18 Ballet Dancing | 19 The Chinese | 20 Elephant |

Crossword with a difference

- | | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|-----------|---------------|
| 1 Jackdaw | 2 Wasp | 3 Peacockbutterfly | 4 Yew | 5 Wren |
| 6 Mountainash | 14 Hedgehog | 15 Garlic | 16 Cuckoo | 17 Oak |
| 18 Kestrel | 19 Limpet | 20 Thistle | 21 Earwig | 22 Gull |
| 23 Larva | 24 Adder | 25 Rainbow | 26 Willow | 27 Woodpecker |
| 28 Rabbit | 29 Toadstool | 30 Loch | 31 Hips | 32 Spider |

Biblically based crossword

Across

- | | | | | | |
|---------|----------|---------|---------|--------|--------|
| 1 Saul | 2 Dare | 5 Skull | 7 Gate | 8 Lion | 9 Moab |
| 11 Seed | 13 Water | 14 Hail | 16 Help | | |

Down

- | | | | | | |
|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1 Stag | 2 Luke | 3 Dill | 4 Eden | 5 Straw | 6 Liver |
| 9 Moth | 10 Baal | 11 Seth | 12 Deep | | |

St Gregory the Great



St Gregory is celebrated by the Roman Catholic Church on 12 March, but he is important for all Christians in England because it was he who sent Augustine to Britain when he became Pope, thus bringing back to our island the Christian religion which had more or less been wiped out by heathen invaders from Germany, Denmark and the North.

Originally it had been Gregory's wish to bring back Christianity himself. The story goes that when he saw a group of fair-haired children being sold as slaves in a Roman marketplace he was struck by their beauty and asked their owner who they were and where they came from. He was told they were 'Angles' from the island of Britain. Not 'Angles' he replied, but Angels, and then asked permission from the then pope to be allowed to travel to Britain as a missionary.

There is another reason for remembering Gregory in that he introduced music into church services. He collected suitable airs from all parts of Europe and arranged that men and boys should be trained to sing them. He composed the words and music of many hymns himself and he introduced the method of singing psalms known to us as Gregorian chanting. He is often depicted with a dove perched on his shoulder or flying near him, this is a sign of his close connection with the holy spirit but there is also a story told that the dove would sing tunes in his ear for him to write down.

Daphne Pilcher

General Information

Vicar Rev. Ronnie Williams, The Vicarage, Bretland Road, Rusthall	521357
Associate Priest Rev. Nicholas Burton (c/o Parish Office)	521447
Reader Daphne Pilcher	521691
Churchwardens Rod Garcia-Fermer May Graves Please contact via email to Churchwardens@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk	
Deputy Churchwardens Graeme Anderson Chris Dobson	532922 539539
Parochial Church Council Secretary Mione Palmer	667951
Youth Council Angela Culley	07779 098026
Treasurer and Planned Giving Pat Cripps	521447
Safeguarding Officers Daphne Pilcher	521691
DBS Officer Clive Brown c/o the Parish Office	521447
Bible Reading Fellowship Secretary Vivienne Sharp	543263
Choir Leader Fiona Johnson	07540 273303
Magazine Editors Deborah Bruce and Sue Hare c/o the Parish Office email – magazine@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk	
Flower Team Jill McAllister	532817
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

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 Pat Stevens	529187
Group Scout Leader Gavin Cons Email – rusthallsoutgroup@gmail.com	
Scout Membership Secretary Juliet Waller Email – rusthallsoutgroupwaitinglist@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 Tina Francis (Mon)	545877
Rainbows Mary Saunders Email – saundii@aol.com	319872
Playtime at St Paul's Liz Mankelow	07840 837968
Rusthall Lunch Club 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	518975



The Parish Office

Parish Administrator - Mrs Ginette di Palma

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

Telephone (01892) 521447

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Website: www.stpaulsrusthall.org.uk

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