

# ST PAUL'S NEWS

May 2025



ONE POUND

## SERVICES

### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May

#### Third Sunday of Easter

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

### Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May

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

### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May

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

### Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May

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

### Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May

- 2.30 pm Licensing Service for Tim Harrold  
Rochester Cathedral

### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May

#### The Fourth Sunday of Easter

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
President & Preacher: The Vicar
- 10.00 am Parish Eucharist with Baptism (CW)  
President: The Vicar  
Minister & Preacher: Tim Harrold
- 10.00 am Family Service Songs of Praise  
at the Church Centre + Zoom  
Lead: Jean Kerr  
Link: Karen Miller
- 6.30 pm Choral Evensong (BCP)  
Minister: Rev. Nicholas Burton

### Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May

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

### Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May

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

### Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May

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

### Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May

#### The Fifth Sunday of Easter

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
President & Preacher: The Vicar
- 10.00 am Matins (BCP)  
Minister: Tim Harrold  
Preacher Daphne Pilcher

### Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May (continued)

- 10.00 am Family Service at the Church Centre + Zoom  
Lead: Susan Powley  
Link: Chris Bassett
- 4.00 pm Confirmation Service at the Parish Church  
President and Preacher: Bishop Jonathan  
Minister: The Vicar

### Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May

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

### Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May

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

### Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

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

### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May

#### The Sixth Sunday of Easter

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

### Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May

- 11.30 am Interment of ashes of Diana Coker  
Parish Churchyard – The Vicar

### Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May

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

### Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May

#### Ascension Day

- 11.30 am Said Holy Communion at the Church Centre  
President: The Vicar
- 8.00 pm Festival Eucharist for Ascension  
President & Preacher: The Vicar

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June

#### The Sunday After Ascension

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
President & Preacher: The Vicar
- 10.00 am Joint Eucharist at the Parish Church  
With Commissioning of the PCC  
President: The Vicar,  
Preacher: Rev. Nicholas Burton
- 6.30 pm Choral Evensong (BCP)  
Minister: The Vicar

## DIARY

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

**HALLS CLOSED FOR POLLING STATION  
ALL DAY**

11.30 am Communion to Mount Ephraim  
– Elaine Bruce

6.00 pm Youth Council meet in the Lodge

### Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May - BANK HOLIDAY

10.00 am Parish Walk from the Church Centre

### Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May

8.00 pm Family Service Meeting – Church Centre

### Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May

3.00 pm Communion to Chamberlain Court  
– Ginette di Palma

### Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May

11.00 am Communion to Rusthall Lodge  
– The Vicar

11.30 am Communion to Mount Ephraim  
– Lois Woodhouse

### Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May

6.30 pm Quiz Night at the Church Centre

### Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May

Summer Art Exhibition launch

6.30 pm Summer Choir Choir Concert

### Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May

8.00 pm APCM at the Church Centre  
(revised date)

### 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.

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

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

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

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

November by 12<sup>th</sup> October

December/January 2026 by 16<sup>th</sup> November

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

Magazines are posted on the Parish website by the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. Photocopies of the magazine 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.



## From the Registers

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

Sheila Kathleen Sutton



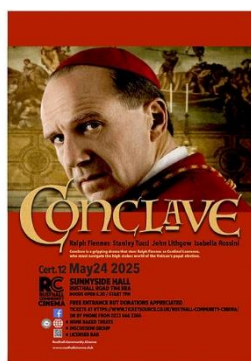


## Rusthall Community Cinema



### The Outrun (2024) Cert 15

Doors open: 6.30pm Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2025  
Director: Nora Fingscheidt  
Genre: Drama, Biography  
Runtime: 1h 58 mins  
Starring: Saoirse Ronan, Saskia Reeves, Stephen Dillane



### Conclave (2024) Cert 12

Doors open: 6.30pm Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2025  
Director: Edward Berger  
Genre: Drama, Mystery, Thriller  
Runtime: 2h  
Starring: Ralph Fiennes, Stanley Tucci, John Lithgow

## Rusthall Parish Walk



**5 May 2025** – 10 am start from St Paul's Church Centre, High Street, Rusthall

*The walk circles the village following the ancient tradition of "Beating the Bounds" around the parish boundary. Along the way we travel through the surrounding commons, woods and fields.*

*It's easy to take a detour and make your own route, as you are never far from the centre of the village.*

*Finding the answers to the clues for the quiz keeps everyone keen to get to the next marker.*

*There's also the chance for a welcome break at the Choristers' Café.*

**Map and quiz sheet from the Church Centre on the day**



## From the Vicarage

May 2025

Dear Friends

**Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia!**

Special thanks to the Flower Team, members of Girl guiding, and everyone involved in making our Parish Church so beautiful for Easter. The Easter Garden in the Parish Church, which was done primarily by children in the choir, under supervision, was quite amazing and helped us to connect with the resurrection story. And, yes, it was great to see the Church so full for our joint service on the day when we celebrated the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Personally, I was quite moved by the services in Holy Week leading up to Easter, especially the Procession of Witness and the Three Hour Devotion on Good Friday. These services caused me to reflect afresh on all that Jesus went through in order to save us 'from ourselves' and from the ultimate consequences of our sins. The services also got me to reflect on one of Jesus' promises/gifts to us – his peace. Jesus says nothing can take away the peace that he gives to us. This got me to question the seeming lack of peace that I feel many people display in my interaction with them. What is it that accounts for this, I wonder? Could it be that Jesus' gift of peace is not tamper-proof, or that we have not listened to / heard what Jesus told us/them (John 16:33), or could it be that they/we don't know the source of peace (Luke 19:42) and didn't accept Jesus' gift of peace in the first place? The Bible tells us that Jesus appeared to many people, including his disciples after his resurrection and before his ascension – and in various ways still does today. On most occasions, according to the Bible, Jesus would offer his peace to the person/people to whom he appeared. On the occasion(s) when he had not literally offered peace, Jesus would offer another form of encouragement or reassurance. The season of Easter gives us the opportunity to experience this assurance of peace and encouragement that God the Father provides and accords each one of us through Jesus Christ the Son. Irrespective of what 'season' we might be currently facing in our lives, in Christ and through the Holy Spirit, we can all access God's gift of peace that is in every way stronger than anything we may have considered to be our source of peace.

You may all know that Bishop Jonathan will be leading and presiding at our Confirmation Service at 4pm on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May at the Parish Church. We will be having candidates from neighbouring Parishes, but I have not received their names at the time of writing. The candidates from St Paul's are as follows: Diana Harris - Reception into the Church of England; Eben Northcote - Confirmation; Freddie Shaw – Confirmation; Jessica Overton – Baptism and Confirmation.

Please remember them in your prayers, that they would always know God's guidance and experience the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

May the Crucified and Risen Lord Jesus who demonstrated his commitment to transforming our human condition and has gifted to us a uniquely special type of peace, reassure us of his constant and loving presence with us, enable us to experience his peace, and equip us to live our lives to his praise and glory. Amen.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronnie". The script is cursive and fluid, with a large initial 'R' and a trailing flourish at the end.



# **1839 Consort**

**Directed by Jonathan Crowhurst**

**With Nick Beston, Saxophonist**

## **Concert**

### **Son of God Mass Whitbourn**

**And works by**

**Morales/Garbarek,  
Palestrina, Mouton, Gjeilo,  
Whitacre & Vivancos**

**Sunday 4 May, 4pm  
St. John's Church,  
Crowborough**



**Tickets £15**

**Box Office**

**[ticketsource.co.uk/1839-consort](https://ticketsource.co.uk/1839-consort)**



## Editorial for May 2025

At last the world looks green again! We have had some lovely sunny days and everything has sprung to life, the trees are nearly all in leaf, plenty of blossom and flowers to see too. My rhubarb has suddenly sprung to life and looks almost ready to start picking.

In church we remain in the period of Easter, with Ascension Day on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May being the most significant festival. Choir members were discussing Ascension Days gone by, when brave souls from the choir would climb the steps and ladders to the top of the tower in the early morning to sing a welcome to the day. My acrophobia always prevented my attendance. Like maypole dancing, it would be a lovely tradition to return to if access could be improved, but the expense of this would make it an unlikely prospect. On 10<sup>th</sup> May Tim Harrold will receive his licence as a lay minister at Rochester Cathedral, and on the afternoon of 18<sup>th</sup> May Bishop Jonathan will be visiting St Paul's to conduct a confirmation service for candidates from St Paul's, King Charles the Martyr, All Saints Langton Green and St Lukes. The Bishop will also bless the new church banner which is being prepared as part of our anniversary celebrations.

175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events continue. During May there will be a May Day walk around the parish, following the traditional practice of 'beating the bounds'. This year there will be the opportunity to stop off at the Choristers Café in the Lodge during your walk as it will be open on the bank holiday especially. Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> sees the launch of the Summer Art Exhibition and there will also be a Summer Concert by the choir. This will include some lighter music, though some of it is far from easy to perform. We spent choir practice last night doing the vocal equivalent of rubbing your tummy while patting your head – I'm sure we will have got the hang of it in time for the concert though.

In the choir we have been saddened by the sudden death of Tony Bourne. Tony has sung tenor in the choir for very many years, often singing the tenor solos. His calm presence will be greatly missed. His funeral will take place later in the month. Details will be confirmed in a weekly pew leaflet. Tim Cripps has written about his friend later in this magazine.

Nationally events are being planned for the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day, 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945. This marked the Allied Nations acceptance of the unconditional surrender of all German armed forces. However, it should be noted that this was not quite the end of fighting in Europe, the Battle of Odzak continued until 25<sup>th</sup> May 1945, and it was definitely not the end of World War II as fighting against Japan continued until 2 September 1945. However, for the UK it marked the end of bombing of this country. Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret were famously given their father's permission to leave Buckingham Palace and join the revellers outside the Palace gates. It is thought that fewer than 70,000 servicemen who served in WW2 are still alive in the UK, and they are now in their late nineties or older.

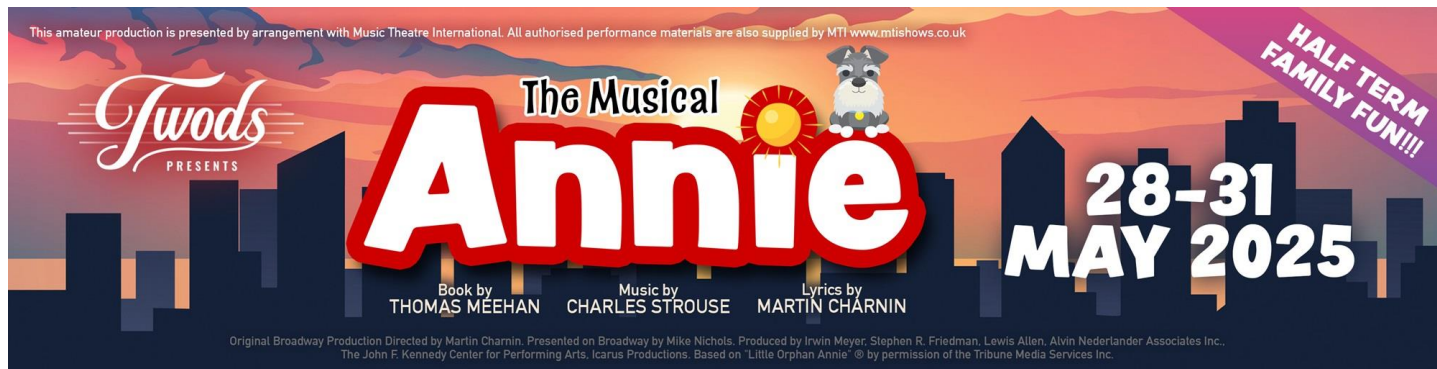
As Sue and I put the final touches to this magazine, the Catholic Church are gathering in the Vatican City for the funeral of Pope Francis, who died on Easter Monday. An obituary is included in this magazine. As the funeral is being attended by so many heads of state it is also providing the opportunity for diplomacy, with photographs emerging of the first meeting between Presidents Trump and Zelensky since their disastrous meeting in the Oval Office of the White House at the end of February.

The impact of roadworks on Langton Road can now be keenly felt by anyone wishing to visit the Church or Church Centre, as traffic lights produce long queues of traffic from Mount Ephraim and Major Yorks Road, Rusthall Road and Coach Road in addition to Langton Road itself. The work is due to continue until 6 July, so we will just have to allow ourselves plenty of additional time until then.

The June edition of St Paul's News will be in Church on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June. Please send any items for the magazine to us by 18<sup>th</sup> May.

The front cover illustration is taken from a Dutch medieval manuscript, showing Christ ascending to heaven above his apostles.

**Deborah Bruce and Sue Hare**



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

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

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

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

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

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

BSL Signed Performance Thursday 29th May, 7pm

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



## Churchwarden's Notes



We have had a very busy week over Easter with services every day of the week except Saturday.

It was good to see so many people attending the services. On Easter Sunday we had approximately 300 people, it was lovely to see the church so full.

The Easter egg hunt went well after the service, and I would like to thank Chris Dobson for organising that.

The church looked beautiful with all the wonderful flower arrangements. I would like to thank all the people that put these together.

We have many more events to look forward to in May: the Parish walk on the 5<sup>th</sup> May; Quiz night on the 17<sup>th</sup> May and a confirmation service on the 18<sup>th</sup> May when Bishop Johnathan will be with us.

Please keep an eye out for other events that will be taking place over the year for our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

As usual, I am still looking for volunteers to help with the flower team and the Martha's. If you are interested, please speak to myself or Jill Mc Allister.

### May Graves



## The Anglican Church of St. Thomas à Becket, Hamburg Recycled card project

We are the English-speaking Church in Hamburg consisting of people of many nations and Christian traditions. We worship in the Anglican Episcopal style and our church is part of the Diocese in Europe, which belongs to the Church of England. Our parish has existed since 1612 and the present church building since 1838. People of all

nationalities and denominations are welcome to our services and other activities.

We have been producing Christmas and Greetings cards by recycling used cards in aid of the historic English church of St. Thomas à Becket for nearly 35 years!

The project was started in 1986 when we sold just 300 cards. On average over recent years, we have made and sold 5000 cards each year! The double cards, using motifs cut from used Christmas and Greetings cards, are handmade throughout the year by a small team of volunteers, most of whom have worked on the project for many years. Motifs range from religious and nativity scenes, winter landscapes, robins, Christmas scenes, animals, humorous, and other festive themes such as wreaths, flowers, candles, etc. The cards, complete with envelopes, are 148 x 110mm and have a Christmas and New Year greeting in English and German. All cards are quality-controlled!

We sell the cards at our annual Church Bazaar in November and through the various English speaking clubs and societies and at other events, here in Hamburg. Since Covid times we even offer mail order on the church website!



May I take this opportunity to say THANK YOU to all of you who have already helped by collecting/donating used cards, from your community and church, we are very grateful. We are dependent on this support in order to ensure a good variety of motifs, and also to have sufficient cards to recycle.

Looking ahead, work has already started for Christmas 2025.

**Sarah Meister (via Tony Rutherford)**



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

## Our award winning family service

### Let our family, care for your family

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

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

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

**01732 360328**

173 High St, Tonbridge TN9 1BX

**01892 487144**

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independently owned by Chris,  
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PLANNING SERVICES





## A Musical Note



Thank you so much to everyone who came along to our French Music for Lent concert on Saturday, March 22nd. It was a wonderful evening filled with dramatic, exciting, and stunningly beautiful music. Ginette did a fantastic job with the refreshments, all of which were French, and the choir were terrific, managing to pull this concert together in just four rehearsals. Special thanks to our incredible soloists, Eleanor and Roland, and thank you to Dominic, who accompanied the junior choir. Huge thanks, as always, to Alasdair for his brilliant organ playing, especially the incredible opening to the Vierge. It was a very special evening, and thank you to everyone who emailed or messaged me after the concert to say how much they enjoyed it.

We have many events to look forward to, beginning with our Summer Concert on Saturday, May 24th. If you have not attended one of our Summer Concerts before, I encourage you to come and experience it at least once! It is a great evening of fun where the children in the choir who have instrumental or singing lessons perform, regardless of their skill level; we believe it is important for them to have performance opportunities from a young age, so we encourage them to play, whether they are diploma standard or can just manage Hot Cross Buns. These solo performances are interspersed with choral pieces from the adult choir and the junior choir, and our scratch orchestra will also come together to perform a piece. Entrance to the concert is free, and there will be plenty of wine, soft drinks, and snacks to enjoy throughout the evening.

On Sunday, June 8th, at 10 am, we will have our first-ever 'Jazz Eucharist' service. This promises to be very exciting, featuring a jazz setting of the communion service by Will Todd and a few jazzy anthems as well. There will be hymns, as usual, for the congregation to join in with, so please come along to this service if you can.

On Sunday, July 6th, at 6.30 pm, instead of Evensong, we will have 'Hymns and Pimms' which will resemble the 'Songs of Praise' service we used to hold once a year. For this service, we ask you to choose your favourite hymn or anthem and share a

few words about why you selected it before we sing it. Of course, we can't have too many items; otherwise, we will never make it to the Pimms after the service. However, this is an excellent opportunity for you to choose a hymn or anthem that you feel I never select for the services! Please hand me your suggestion at any service or email them via Ginette at [office@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk](mailto:office@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk).

On Saturday, July 12th, at 6.30 pm, we invite you to a preview of our tour programme for our trip to Normandy in August. We would love for you to join us if you would like to hear the music we will entertain our French audiences with.

Good luck to Hannah, Fergus, Eleanor, and Stella, who are about to start their GCSEs. I am sure they will all do brilliantly well.

**Fiona Johnson**



Did you spot our littlest chorister on Easter Day? Edward was good as gold while his mother sang a solo verse during the communion anthem. Sadly it will be a while before he can be admitted to the choir, Fiona likes her choristers to be 6 years old before they join. If you know any child who might be ready to join the choir please speak to Fiona. They need to attend choir practice on Friday evenings, 6.30 – 8pm and the morning service on Sundays. It is a great musical training and fun too.





# RUSTHALL'S COMMUNITY LARDER

## What is it?

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

## When and where is it?

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

## Who can use it?

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

## How much does it cost?

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

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



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## WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU!

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

## The Rising of Christ into Heaven

If I were to ask you what the most important day in the Christian calendar is, you would probably say Christmas. With its beautiful nativity scene and cheerful hymns, it is a special time in our year. Or maybe you would say Easter. Christ's sacrifice and victory over death are at the centre of our belief as Christians - both of these times are loved by me.

I am sure that very few of you would suggest Ascension Day forty days after Easter. You see Ascension Day is incredibly important in the story of God's relationship with mankind. Imagine you are in the province of Judea as one of the disciples. Jesus spends forty days with his disciples after his resurrection. He teaches them, opens their eyes to a new understanding and then ascends into heaven, fulfilling thousands of years of promises and prophecy. As he ascends, he sends down his spirit, which fills the disciples and endows them with spiritual gifts.

You stand there, watching the king of the heavens ascending up to sit on God's right hand. But what then? Is that the end of the story? Of God's story on earth? Scripture tells other people about Jesus. To live as he lived.

This was not an easy task for the disciples. Many of them died doing this. It still isn't easy. While we don't face the same challenges that the disciples did, it isn't easy to be a good person, because Jesus recognised we are all sinners, to live in a way that affects change in the world around us. How do we live up to the message of the ascension and live in a way that honours God?

Ascension Day reminds me of an essay written by C.S. Lewis entitled *The Abolition of Man*. It is a long and to me a tedious read (apologies to all you intellectuals) and I doubt if I would have read it if it were not for the fact that I once had to write an essay on it but it is the source of this famous and poignant quote:

"We make men without chests and expect of them virtue and enterprise. We laugh at honour and are shocked to find traitors in our midst."

CS Lewis is a renowned lay theologian and I very much like what he says. In fact I often quoted him when preaching publicly. However, he wrote in times when misogyny and sexism were perhaps not highlighted as they are today. For that reason I am taking the liberty of changing 'chest' to resolve.

However, we must ask ourselves, and what all should ask themselves at some point, is, what does it mean to have resolve?

The person who I see on Linden Park cricket pitch as I drink my coffee does a very impressive set of gymnastic routines effortlessly doing cartwheels and back flips without seemingly getting out of breath. It makes me tired looking at it but it cannot be said that there is no resolve. Unfortunately, there are people who have resolve to use power to mistreat others. I have people in mind as I write this but far from it for me to *trumpet* their names. Unfortunately, our society provides many examples of the wrong sort of resolve. We try to use money, power and violence to prove we have resolve, only to be found out as having no virtue.

So what should we mean when we say "speak with resolve"? And what does it have to do with Ascension Day? When Lewis speaks about men with resolve, he doesn't mean the macho. To have resolve is then, to be able to feel. To be spirited, and compassionate. To have heart. Your resolve is your centre. It controls and guides impulse and reason.

The Bible is filled with men who have resolve. Sometimes we get this wrong. We see the children's Bible pictures of little baby Moses in the bullrushes, of David carefully tending sheep or of Jesus surrounded by little children with an angelic halo around him. These only tell one side of the story.

These are people who had an incredible capacity for real feeling. They were spirited. They had heart. They had an intimate relationship with God and used that to make a difference in the story of the world.

Abraham offers to give up everything. Jacob wrestles all night with an angel. Moses confronts Pharaoh. David faces Goliath. St Paul squares off with the might of Rome to spread the gospel and the disciples give their lives spreading the good news around the world.

And then we have the Lord himself. The Lion of Judah who meets with Death and defeats him for us. A man with resolve. One who comes into the world to teach us the power of sacrifice and love. Sometimes we forget, when we call him the Lamb of God, that he was a man who opposed Kings and Scholars. Who calmed storms. Who dismissed disease. Who spoke in front of thousands. He is passionate and loved and cared and showed emotion. And, today especially, that he ascended into heaven to fulfil the promise and ensure our justification.

But it is not resolve in the way you think it is, and it really isn't resolve in the way the rest of the world will tell you it is.

## A reflection on Lent

The disciples were also confused. In Chapter 14 of John's Gospel before Jesus leaves his disciples, Thomas famously asks, "Lord, we don't know where you are going. How can we know the way?" He did not know what to do. How to live. What the Ascension meant. A little bit like us.

Jesus replied, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

So, on the 29th May, Ascension Day, let's resolve to live in a way that honours Christ's instructions before the ascension. His fulfilment of the promise means that we have his spirit and have everlasting life. He expects us to live in a way that makes the world better as we spread the gospel. Let's try to do that as people with spiritedness, love and compassion. That's the sort of resolve we need.

### Tim Cripps

#### Recommended Readings:-

Acts 1-11 - recounting the events leading up to the ascension including the final instructions to the apostles and his departure into heaven.

Psalms 47 or 93 - offering praise and recognition of God's sovereignty and rejoicing at the Ascension.

Ephesians 1. 15-23 - highlighting the spiritual reality of Christ's Ascension and the believers' unity in him.

Luke 24. 44-53 - narrating the appearances of Jesus after the Resurrection, his instructions to the apostles and his final blessing.

## Well bowled Sir James Anderson

All cricket lovers, such as myself, will rejoice that Sir James "Jimmy" Anderson becomes England's 14th cricketing knight, but only the second specialist bowler to be knighted. While the list includes all-rounders and an administrator in honours (as in the sport itself) cricket is a batsman's game. In fact the only other bowler to be knighted, the late and great Sir Alec Bedser, dryly noted "The last English bowler to be knighted was Francis Drake."

### Tim Cripps

As we journeyed through Lent, we followed the "Faith and Hope" series provided by the Church of England. In both Lenten groups, there were considerable discussions on the meaning of both those key words as well as the distinction between Hope and Optimism. Fortunately, this is a well-trodden path that many theologians have considered, and I thought it would be interesting to share their thoughts on these topics, particularly those that we felt were helpful.

Michael Coren is of Jewish heritage, born in Walthamstow, but is now ordained as a priest in the Anglican Church of Canada. On Faith, he writes:

*"The Loudest voices are often the most raucous, because they are convinced that they possess exclusive and infallible truth. Its supernatural certainty that leads to intolerance, when faith should actually be a dialogue."*

It does seem that dialogue is so often missing in current society. If we are to have any hope of understanding another's position, surely engaging with them must be a better alternative to shouting them down.

Optimism often arises out of a denial of the real facts. Hope, however, persists in spite of the clearly recognised facts because it is anchored in something beyond. I am writing this as we have just worshipped together on Palm Sunday and we have Holy Week ahead of us. If Easter is about anything, surely it is about hope. Archbishop Rowan Williams describes hope as:

*"...not merely a confidence in the future, but trust in a continuous reality, where the past, present, and future are grounded in God's truth. Because God's promises are fulfilled both now and in the future, we live in the land of hope."*

At our final Lent Group meeting, I opened our time together with a prayer that I would like to finish by sharing with all of you:

*May the blessing of God surround us  
May angels and friends share our journey  
May we be wise and strong and creative  
May we celebrate life and hope.  
May God's image grow within us  
May laughter and courage heal us  
May the gospel of life sustain us  
All the days of our journey home. Amen*

### Tim Harrold



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## Remembering Tony Bourne



The urgent ringing of the telephone at 8am on a Sunday morning rarely results in good news and so it was on Palm Sunday when Michael Bourne courageously rang to tell me that his father, my great friend and friend of many had passed away in the early hours of that morning. It was if I had been hit with a bolt of lightning.

In fact, only a couple of weeks before Tony's passing, with our wives, we enjoyed our usual quarterly meet up this time at the Camden Arms in Pembury. Good company, good food and drink were always high on our list. Tony was in good form that day with no hint of what was to come. Although he had been far from well in the couple of weeks before he departed this earthly life I do not think any of us knew what was coming.

My good friend Tony and I met some 45 years ago. When I was first Deputy Churchwarden here at St. Paul's Church, the Wardens Noel Boxall and Tom Smith decided that as their successor I should attend, with them, a gathering of local Churchwardens known as a Visitation whilst the Archdeacon tells Churchwardens what we must and cannot do. That particular year the gathering was in Paddock Wood and, as I walked in, Tony who was then Churchwarden at St. Peter's Southborough came across and said I know you are Tim and I am Tony from St. Peter's - we shook hands and dived into the sandwiches as was our wont. It was the start of a life-long friendship. I was always the glass half full guy but Tony was the glass full guy and that was the perfect antidote to my doubts and cynicism.

We enjoyed much, not least watching the cricket, whether it was at Tunbridge Wells, Beckenham or Canterbury and particularly latterly when Tony's blue badge meant I could drive him and Michael straight into the ground. Tony from the Fens was not born in Kent but it became his adopted County and indeed the County team paid him the ultimate tribute by winning their second County Championship match of the season on the day that

he died. Whilst watching the cricket we would sort out the world and the Church with Tony keeping me on the straight and narrow. However, we did lament the loss of first class cricket at Tunbridge Wells, never quite giving up hope that one day we should see the Kent first eleven taking the field again.

It was such a joy when Tony decided to come to St. Paul's to sing in our wonderful choir. Although I enjoy music, I cannot sing or read music, and I so admired the fine tenor voice that he displayed and his part in our Church choir and many others which others have written about.

Tony and I did much together in my early days as Churchwarden. Tony arranged for two Charity Concerts at St. Paul's Church, largely as a result of his connection with the Lords Taverners attracting some of the Kent and England cricket stars such as Derek Underwood, Chris Cowdrey and his brother Fabian who also played cricket but sang delightfully. The main attraction was the star of 'Just a minute', the late and great Nicholas Parsons. Tony was an active member of the Men's Fellowship and of the combined Fellowships acting as Secretary preparing superb minutes and his vast bank of friends and contacts were often signed up to speak at our meetings. When the Fellowship finally closed Tony insisted that some of us should carry on with serving refreshments on the first Sunday of the month after the 10am service here at the Parish Church which meant serving tea and coffee enjoying some good-natured banter with our parishioners ably supported by Pat, Barbara and Margaret. We even celebrated our retirement from working life in the Lodge with fizz and cake.

When I trained for the lay ministry Tony was one of four chosen to appraise my early sermons. I chose Tony because I knew he would tell me what he thought and he did with perhaps the notable advice 'always preach the gospel'. We served together on the PCC and Deanery Synod. Tony even served on the Diocesan Synod and my friend was never afraid to speak up when he felt strongly about certain issues. When I chaired the PCC under Rev Bob Whyte and during the Interregnum prior to Ronnie's arrival I really valued that.

We enjoyed our breakfasts, lunches and dinners whether it be with the Fellowships of St. Pauls or Christ Church, Southborough, Kent County Cricket Club, the Kent County Cricket Supporters Club, Lords Taverners or simply his Birthday. One memorable occasion was when Mike Bassett drove several Church Kent Cricket supporters in a mini van from St. Paul's to a Benefit lunch for the Kent cricketing legend Darren Stevens held at the Great Danes Hotel at Hollingbourne.



I miss him terribly but I am thankful that we had so many years to enjoy each other's company. Although very committed Christians we were an interesting mix - Tony was the son of a Baptist Minister and me rather more from a high Church and BCP background. This meant we had many interesting discussions as friends but we certainly agreed that we would enjoy Eternal life. On that basis I am sure I will meet my very good friend again at the Lord's cricket ground, not of course in St. John's Wood, but in heaven. Tony, my dear friend, may you rest in well deserved peace and rise in glory. Thanks for the many happy memories.

**Tim Cripps**

## **Obituary**

### **Pope Francis - Jorge Mario Bergoglio**



Born 17 December 1936, Buenos Aires, Argentina  
Died 21 April 2025, Vatican City

Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, Archbishop of Buenos Aires, was elected as the 266th Pope on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2013, following the resignation of his predecessor, Benedict XVI. He is the first Pope to choose the name Francis, after St Francis of Assisi.

He was the first pope from South America, and the first non-European born pope since Syrian-born Gregory III in 741AD. He was also the first Jesuit, this branch of the church historically being considered with suspicion by Rome. Francis tried to reform the church, speaking for social inclusion. He tried to heal the thousand year rift with the Eastern Orthodox Church and devoted time and effort to ecumenical links generally. He appointed a large number of cardinals from outside Europe and this may have a bearing on the choice of his successor. He lived simply, not in the elaborate Vatican Apostolic Palace but in the building that Pope John Paul II had built as a guest house next door. He believed that anything else would be vanity, using as example the peacock, which looks beautiful from the front but from behind you can see the truth. He wanted a church that was looking

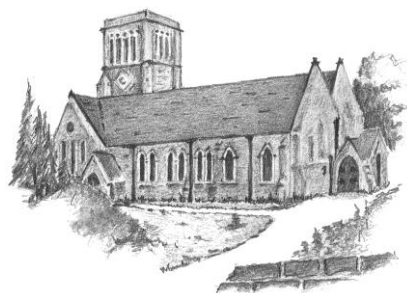
after its people rather than absorbed by its own politics and affairs. However, he was far from what we would consider as liberal. He opposed married or female priests, contraception, same sex marriages, or adoption by gay couples, though he did allow divorced Catholics to take communion if they had remarried. Some criticised him for not taking stronger action to tackle child abuse within the church.

He had spent 5 weeks in hospital this year being treated for pneumonia but had recently resumed some official duties, meeting King Charles and Queen Camilla on 9<sup>th</sup> April, when he gave them his best wishes for their 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary that day. Despite advice to rest he had given a very brief blessing from St Peter's on Easter Day, but died the following day.

After his funeral and a 9 day mourning period, the College of Cardinals will form a conclave in the Sistine Chapel to choose a new pope. Only cardinals under the age of 80 may vote, that's 135 of the current 252, but older cardinals may be appointed as Pope. Over 90 votes must be in favour of the candidate for them to be appointed. The result of each ballot is famously announced to the world by coloured smoke from the burning of ballot papers, black if no decision has been reached, white when a new Pope has been chosen.

**Deborah Bruce**

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## Home Life in Old Testament Times

### Part 1

The family was very important in Hebrew society. During the semi-nomadic days of very times life was greatly dependent on the clan and the tribe which were necessary for protection. When the Israelites became farmers and townspeople the tribe lost much of its meaning. The family 'unit' however was still important because of the sheer struggle for existence. To exist demanded a sharing of work and family loyalty which perhaps the somewhat pampered society of today might emulate rather than the general encouragement which exists for every person to get what they can for themselves.

To our Western European culture of today the internal relations of an ancient Hebrew family are somewhat confusing. It perhaps comes as a surprise to realize that the early Israelites not only countenanced polygamy but assumed that most men would keep two wives. In fact, there is no word in the Hebrew language for bachelor. This practice of two or more wives often caused considerable friction and jealousy as one set of stepchildren would be stepchildren to the other set. It is difficult to imagine how, with such an explosive background, the Israelite family managed to hold together at all.

In theory an Israelite could have as many wives as he wished, but in practice only kings and the wealthy could afford more than two. The stability of the family was based on the absolute authority of the father. He ruled his wives and children as an Oriental potentate rules his kingdom. The family was his property. He could sell his daughters into slavery and have disobedient children put to death. He could divorce a wife without giving a reason and he would have no responsibility for having done this. He could not sell his sons, but he could and did arrange their marriages – often for his convenience.

This does sound as if life for a woman was pretty grim. She might well have found herself playing second fiddle to a new wife whom her husband preferred. She could not inherit property and in widowhood she is often linked, in the Old Testament, to sharing the same plight as an orphan or the poor, but in fact at times things could be more humane than it appears in the strict letter of the law. The Bible provides us with examples of this in women like Miriam and Deborah who certainly don't come across as downtrodden and inhibited people. Certainly, in many family circles the mother as well as the father received the respect of

their children. True her position would not satisfy the militant feminists of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, but she could be said to be better off than some of her contemporaries in our world today. She worked incredibly hard, but her place in the home was not that of an unpaid domestic servant. She was essentially the mother of the sons of the house and this status would give her privileges linked to the number of sons she had produced and her age.

However it is worth noting that an Israelite who was loyal to the religion of Moses would marry only one wife if they followed the ideal made clear in the teaching of the prophets. If they all recognised polygamy as the normal practice, they would not have described the relation between God and Israel as a Marriage as for example Hosea does. It is also a point that a poor man would never have had more than one wife, whatever his religious convictions because of the cost of purchasing a wife.

We can't be sure when written marriage licences came into being, but we do know that the marriage was formally arranged by the bridegroom's family and not the man concerned. Obviously there could and were objections to this – think of Jacob with Leah and Rachel. We do know that the Israelites married young and it has been researched that the average man was a father at 19, a grandfather at 38 and a great grandfather at 57.

From the moment of their formal betrothal the young couple were married – not just simply engaged. However, there was sometimes an interval before they began married life together. The actual wedding ceremony consisted of the bridegroom bringing the bride to his own home. Specially dressed for the occasion, he set off in procession with his friends to meet the bride at her father's house. The bride, veiled and in a wedding dress, was accompanied by bridesmaids and, if she came from a wealthy family, her personal maids. The wedding party then returned to the bridegroom's house for a feast and time of celebration which could last for anything up to a week.

**Daphne Pilcher**

**i before e  
Except for when your  
neighbour  
Keith receives eight  
counterfeit beige sleighs from  
feisty caffeinated  
weightlifters.  
Weird.**



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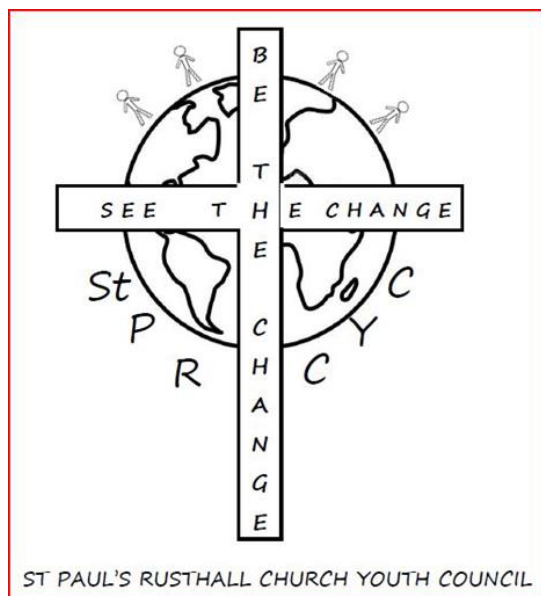
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## St Paul's Rusthall Church Youth Council



Huge thanks go to Jean and Mark for organising and running the April meeting whilst I was travelling in Malawi.

We were delighted to welcome back Sarah, our community Police Officer. Sarah is an invaluable and highly knowledgeable resource for Rusthall and the CYC are always grateful for her interest in young people and for finding the time to come to our meetings. This time the focus was on personal safety including online safety. This topic is increasingly important as our young people begin to forge their way and find their independence among the myriad challenges of the modern world. Within the CYC safe environment and amidst much laughter, pizza and cake, each member found the confidence to not only join in discussions but to ask questions and share their own concerns and experiences.



A terrific evening. Sarah and Mark are organising a visit for us all to the Police Station and see the set up including the cells!

Easter Saturday found some fabulous CYC members ( plus the leaders and some parents!) gather outside the Parish Church with jet

washers, buckets and sponges for the annual car wash.



They worked incredibly hard raising £280 for the new bees 🐝 who are happily settled in their new churchyard home. We are now the proud owners of three very busy and happy hives - some 100,000 🐝 bees!







The last Sunday of the month will see us serving a bacon and egg breakfast at the Church Centre prior to the joint service. Thank you Ronnie for donating your chickens' eggs!



#### NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting is Thursday May 1st at 6 pm in The Lodge. We hope for fine weather as we will be going into Happy Valley for a treasure/scavenger hunt. Please wear trainers.

The CYC is open to anyone of secondary school age.

Pupils in their final term of Year 6 can now join the CYC as part of their preparation and transition to Secondary School. Please do see Angela Culley or Jean Kerr for more details or email [st.pauls.cyc@gmail.com](mailto:st.pauls.cyc@gmail.com)



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## Poems for May

On 8<sup>th</sup> May, people will be remembering that 80 years ago, after 6 years of war, peace was declared in Europe. Today we find our world still embroiled in terrible and unjust conflicts in countries both near and far. We may look to poets to distil a torrent of emotions into a few lines that express what can seem unsayable. When deluged with an overwhelming catalogue of wrongs and devastation, it feels vital to nurture hope and keep faith in the essential goodness of humankind.

*"Faith is the bird that feels the light when the dawn is still dark." - Rabindranath Tagore*

**Susan Barber**

### In Times Of War

What does it mean to be a poet in times of war?

It means apologising....  
extensively apologising  
to the burnt trees  
to the nestless birds  
to the crushed homes  
to the long cracks along the streets  
to the pale-faced children before and after death  
to the faces of every sad or murdered mother

What does it mean to be safe in times of war?

It means being ashamed...  
of your smile  
of having warmth  
of your clean clothes  
of your idle hours  
of your yawning  
of your cup of coffee  
of your restful sleep  
of having loved ones who are alive  
of having a full stomach  
of having available water  
of having clean water  
of being able to shower  
And for incidentally being alive

Oh God,  
I don't want to be a poet in times of war.

*Hind Joudah, Palestinian poet from a refugee camp in Gaza.*

## Blessing When The World Is Ending

Look, the world  
is always ending  
somewhere

Somewhere  
the sun has come  
crashing down.

Somewhere  
it has gone  
completely dark.

Somewhere  
it has ended  
with the gun,  
the knife,  
the fist.

Somewhere  
it has ended  
with the slammed door,  
the shattered hope.

Somewhere  
it has ended  
with the utter quiet  
that follows the news  
from the phone,  
the television,  
the hospital room.

Somewhere  
it has ended  
with a tenderness  
that will break  
your heart.

But, listen,  
this blessing means  
to be anything  
but morose.  
It has not come  
to cause despair.

It is here  
simply because  
there is nothing  
a blessing  
is better suited for  
than an ending,  
nothing that cries out more  
for a blessing  
than when a world  
is falling apart.

*Jan Richardson*





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## Activity Pages

Try your hand at this wordsearch on creatures large and small. The words are written backwards, forward and diagonally. At the end you will be left with 9 unused letters which will give you the name given to creatures who are meat-eaters.

A	H	N	A	R	I	P	E	L	O	P	D	A	T
G	K	A	C	N	Y	A	R	U	M	E	L	F	O
L	I	R	N	T	A	M	N	O	I	L	E	C	R
I	T	P	H	E	O	U	N	N	I	E	E	A	R
Z	E	O	K	N	Y	G	G	R	I	L	D	I	A
A	N	A	K	K	O	H	O	I	O	D	K	W	P
R	R	E	O	O	A	G	D	T	E	R	A	E	E
D	Y	A	S	R	F	O	O	R	A	G	N	A	K
R	L	E	E	K	C	A	W	L	T	C	V	S	I
A	E	T	R	O	N	T	L	A	U	K	L	E	N
P	T	T	R	P	P	U	I	C	S	B	A	L	E
O	O	C	S	U	S	L	K	R	O	P	E	Y	S
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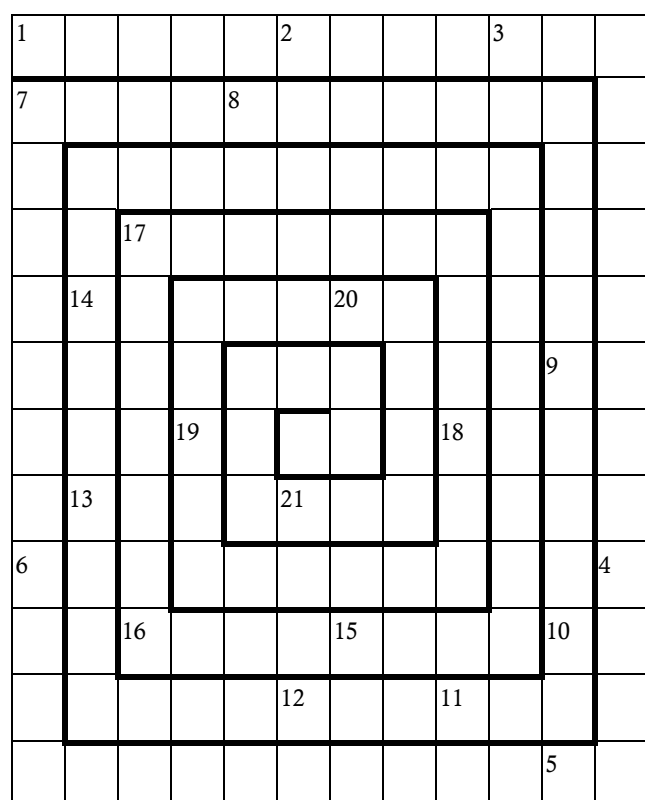
ADDER  
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 EEL  
 FALCON  
 GORILLA  
 HYENA  
 KANGAROO  
 KOALA  
 LEMUR  
 LION  
 MONKEY  
 OCELOT  
 OTTER  
 PARROT  
 PIG  
 PUMA  
 RHINOCEROS  
 SKUNK  
 TADPOLE  
 WASP  
 YAK

ASP  
 CROCODILE  
 DRAKE  
 EFT  
 GOAT  
 HARE  
 IGUANA  
 KITE  
 LARK  
 LEOPARD  
 LIZARD  
 MONGOOSE  
 OSPREY  
 OYSTER  
 PEKINESE  
 PIRANHA  
 PYTHON  
 SEAL  
 SNAIL  
 WAGTAIL  
 WEASEL

### Twenty Questions to Test You

- Who is Winnie the Pooh's human friend?
- Which fruit is found in hot cross buns?
- Who recorded a best selling album called 'Thriller'?
- What part of the cocoa plant is chocolate made from?
- What colour were the first Easter eggs dyed?
- When was dynamite invented?
- Who revisited space at the age of 77?
- Which Revolution began in 1775?
- In Shakespeare's play, who does Juliet fall in love with?
- Who wrote the Tale of Peter Rabbit?
- What do pitcher plants feed on?
- What is the painter Picasso's first name?
- Which fast food gets its name from a city in Germany?
- What item does the White Rabbit in Alice in Wonderland always carry?
- In which Disney film does Thumper appear?
- In many faiths, of what is the egg a symbol?
- By what name was the outlaw William Bonney better known?
- What is a trilby?
- In the Middle Ages, what were troubadours?
- What is the official language of Brazil?

Try this Crossword with a difference where the last letter of each answer is the first of the following one. All the answers are either first/last or in some cases both the names of authors, poets or playwrights.



#### Clues

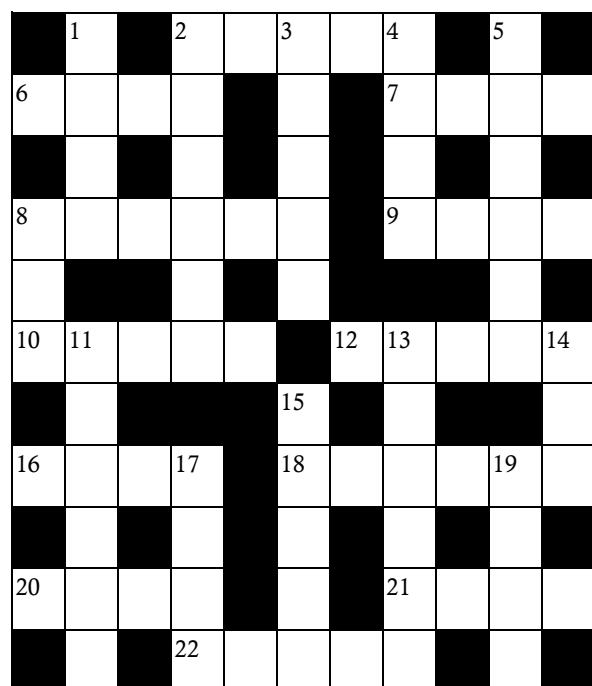
1. Surname of the author of Animal Farm and Nineteen Eighty Four
2. Surname of the author of The Screwtape Letters
3. Surname of the playwright born in Stratford-upon-Avon
4. First name of Allan Poe the American author and poet
5. Both names of the author of the Just So stories, Kim and the Jungle Book
6. First name of Chaucer
7. W. B. \_\_\_\_\_ Irish poet, dramatist and write who won the 1923 Nobel Prize in Literature
8. First name Noel – wrote children’s books including Ballet Shoes
9. Reputed to have written many of the Psalms
10. Surname of the write of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
11. Surname of author who wrote under the pen name of Elia and produced a collection of essays called The Essays of Elia
12. Surname of Poet Laureate from 1972 until his death in 1984
13. Surname of American poet who wrote The Tale of Custard the Dragon
14. Full name of the Danish writer who wrote the Little Mermaid
15. Author of the 34<sup>th</sup> book in the Old Testament
16. Surname of the Elizabethan poet and playwright best known for Tamburlaine and Doctor Faustus
17. First and Surname of the children’s author who wrote the Famous Five and Secret Seven series
18. First name and Surname of the English Playwright who wrote Private Lives, Blithe Spirit and Hayfever.
19. Surname of a great poet of the 17<sup>th</sup> century who was also a Playwriter and wrote the well-known play Oedipus
20. Surname of the Welsh author and song writer responsible for the song Keep the Home Fires Burning.
21. The pen name of the Scottish author who wrote Penny Plain and Priorsford.

Fill in the answers to the following questions in the grid and then sort out the letters in the third vertical column to find the name of a saint who is celebrated in May. All the references are taken from the Good News version of the bible.

1							A left handed man (Judges 3 v 15)
2							A servant of God (Psalm 105 v 26)
3							Who spoke of ‘The Awful Horror’ (Matthew 24 v 15)
4							Who defeated the Midianites (Judges Ch 7)
5							Sister of Rachel
6							Companion of Paul (Galatians 2 v 3)
7							There was a famine all over Egypt and ? (Acts 7 v 11)

In Luke Chapter 13, Jesus mentions the four main points of the compass. Their initial letters make up what word found in Proverbs Chapter 25 likened to a drink of cold water?

## General Crossword



### Clues Across

- 2. Ascended
- 6 Settee
- 7 Responsibility
- 8 Odds and ends
- 9 Blur
- 10 Ice cream biscuit
- 12 Benefit
- 16 Smooth-talking
- 18 Type of dessert
- 20 Nil
- 21 Points
- 22 Jumps about

### Clues Down

- 1 First name of Collette – Australian actress
- 2 Type of snake
- 3 Another name for a county
- 4 Biblical boat builder
- 5 Eat hungrily
- 8 Further down
- 11 Associated
- 13 Upright poles to enable a person to walk above ground
- 14 Neckwear
- 15 Way of playing an instrument casually
- 17 Lout
- 19 Number of times round a course

## ANSWERS

### Word Search

Creatures who are meat eaters – Carnivore

### Twenty Questions to Test You

- |                           |                   |                        |                           |
|---------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Christopher Robin       | 2 Raisins         | 3 Michael Jackson      | 4 Beans                   |
| 5 Red                     | 6 1866            | 7 John Glen            | 8 The American Revolution |
| 9 Romeo                   | 10 Beatrix Potter | 11 Insects             | 12 Pablo                  |
| 13 Hamburger from Hamburg | 14 Pocket Watch   | 15 Bambi               | 16 New life and rebirth   |
| 17 Billy the Kid          | 18 Hat            | 19 Wandering minstrels | 20 Portuguese             |

### Crossword with a Difference

- |              |                |                |                            |                   |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Orwell     | 2 Lewis        | 3 Shakespeare  | 4 Edgar                    | 5 Rudyard Kipling |
| 6 Geoffrey   | 7 Yeats        | 8 Streatfeild  | 9 David                    | 10 Dahl           |
| 11 Lamb      | 12 Betjeman    | 13 Nash        | 14 Hans Christian Andersen | 15 Nahum          |
| 16 Marlowe   | 17 Enid Blyton | 18 Noel Coward | 19 Dryden                  | 20 Novello        |
| 21 O Douglas |                |                |                            |                   |

### The Grid questions

- |        |         |          |          |        |         |          |
|--------|---------|----------|----------|--------|---------|----------|
| 1 Ehud | 2 Moses | 3 Daniel | 4 Gideon | 5 Leah | 6 Titus | 7 Canaan |
|--------|---------|----------|----------|--------|---------|----------|

The saint whose day is celebrated in May in the third vertical column is Dunstan



The word in Proverbs likened to a drink of cold water is NEWS

### **General Crossword**

Across

2	Risen	6	Sofa	7	Onus	8	Litter	9	Haze	10	Wafer
12	Asset	16	Glib	18	Trifle	20	Zero	21	Tips	22	Romps

Down

1	Toni	2	Rattle	3	Shire	4	Noah	5	Guzzle	8	Low
11	Allied	13	Stilts	14	Tie	15	Strum	17	Boor	19	Laps

**Daphne Pilcher**

## **Poems for the celebration of VE Day**

These poems are from a small volume of poetry written by Harold C. Dickinson, a relative of David Fenner's late wife.

### **To Signor Mussolini, On his Invasion of Abyssinia, 1935.**

And wouldst thou drench this beauteous earth with tears,  
This world, scarce yet recovered from the throes  
Of bloody death; wherein it writhed for years  
Beneath the hand of man, who searching, goes  
Crying about the wilderness for truth;  
Oh! wouldst thou make each lovely heart to slay  
Its fellow being, goad youth to murder youth,  
Where hope leaves beauty bleeding by the way?

Think'st thou to share fame's immortality  
With those who ruled thy realms in ages gone?  
Oh; wanton heart, palsied with fear and pride,  
Sharing their lust, not their nobility,  
They name the world shall breathe a curse upon  
While weeping at the shrine where beauty died.

### **To Adolf Hitler**

(March 28<sup>th</sup>, 1939)

Poor wretched wanton; stained with lies and shame,  
You lead your Nation to a second fall  
From ill-won heights of blind and bloody fame;  
With ruthless hand and brazen trumpets' call  
You have enslaved your helpless neighbour-lands  
One after one relentlessly, until,  
Debauched by power, the World in python bands  
You seek to bend in homage to your will.

You pledged your word to Peace and Liberty  
For all mankind; you broke each solemn vow,  
In dust dishonoured, Truth you trampled down;  
But pride and folly soon shall rend the crown  
Of infamy and triumph from your brow,  
Staining your name through all posterity.



## General Information

<b>Vicar</b> Rev. Ronnie Williams, The Vicarage, Bretland Road, Rusthall	521357
<b>Associate Priest</b> Rev. Nicholas Burton (c/o Parish Office)	521447
<b>Reader</b> Daphne Pilcher	521691
<b>Churchwardens</b> May Graves Please contact via email to <a href="mailto:Churchwardens@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk">Churchwardens@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk</a>	
<b>Deputy Churchwardens</b> Graeme Anderson Chris Dobson	532922 539539
<b>Parochial Church Council Secretary</b> Mione Palmer	667951
<b>Youth Council</b> Angela Culley	07779 098026
<b>Treasurer and Planned Giving</b> Pat Cripps	521447
<b>Safeguarding Officers</b> Daphne Pilcher	521691
<b>DBS Officer</b> Clive Brown c/o the Parish Office	521447
<b>Bible Reading Fellowship Secretary</b> Vivienne Sharp	543263
<b>Choir Leader</b> Fiona Johnson	07540 273303
<b>Magazine Editors</b> Deborah Bruce and Sue Hare c/o the Parish Office email – <a href="mailto:magazine@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk">magazine@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk</a>	
<b>Flower Team</b> Jill McAllister	532817
<b>Parish Hall Bookings</b> <b>Churchyards</b> Enquiries to Parish Office	521447
<b>Rusthall St Paul's Primary School</b> Executive Headteacher – Mrs Liz Mitchell Head of School – Mrs Lyndsay Smurthwaite	520582 520582

## CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

All worshippers who are baptised members of the Church of England, and aged over 16, should have their names entered on the Electoral Roll. This entitles them to attend and vote at the Annual Parochial Meeting. Forms for enrolment will be found in the Parish Church or the Parish Office and should be sent to the Vicar.

## Organisations

<b>Julian Group</b> Pat Stevens	529187
<b>Group Scout Leader</b> Gavin Cons Email – <a href="mailto:rusthallsoutgroup@gmail.com">rusthallsoutgroup@gmail.com</a>	
<b>Scout Membership Secretary</b> Juliet Waller Email – <a href="mailto:rusthallsoutgroupwaitinglist@yahoo.co.uk">rusthallsoutgroupwaitinglist@yahoo.co.uk</a>	
Squirrels: <a href="mailto:rusthallsquirrels@gmail.com">rusthallsquirrels@gmail.com</a> Beavers: <a href="mailto:beaversrusthall@gmail.com">beaversrusthall@gmail.com</a> Cubs: <a href="mailto:rusthallcubs@hotmail.co.uk">rusthallcubs@hotmail.co.uk</a> Scouts: <a href="mailto:rusthallscouts@gmail.com">rusthallscouts@gmail.com</a>	
<b>Guide Senior Section</b> Helen Deller	07720 252481
<b>Guide Guiders</b> Gemma Bradley	07377 061398
<b>Brownie Guiders</b> Karen Miller (Thurs) <a href="mailto:rusthallbrownies@btinternet.com">rusthallbrownies@btinternet.com</a> Tina Francis (Mon)	545877
<b>Rainbows</b> Mary Saunders Email – <a href="mailto:saundii@aol.com">saundii@aol.com</a>	319872
<b>Playtime at St Paul's</b> Liz Mankelow	07840 837968
<b>Rusthall Lunch Club</b> Ros Rodwell	01892 618538
<b>Rusthall Community Larder</b> Bjorn Simpole	07900 906294
<b>Rusthall Community &amp; Youth Project</b> Barry Edwards	680296
<b>Rusthall Village Association</b> Alex Britcher	07967 011467
<b>Rusthall Parish Council</b> Council Clerk: Alison Stevens	520161
<b>Rusthall Bonfire and Fete Committee</b> Annie Softley	548366
<b>Friends of TW and Rusthall Common</b> Clive Evans	518975



## The Parish Office

Parish Administrator - Mrs Ginette di Palma

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

Telephone (01892) 521447

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Website: [www.stpaulsrusthall.org.uk](http://www.stpaulsrusthall.org.uk)

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