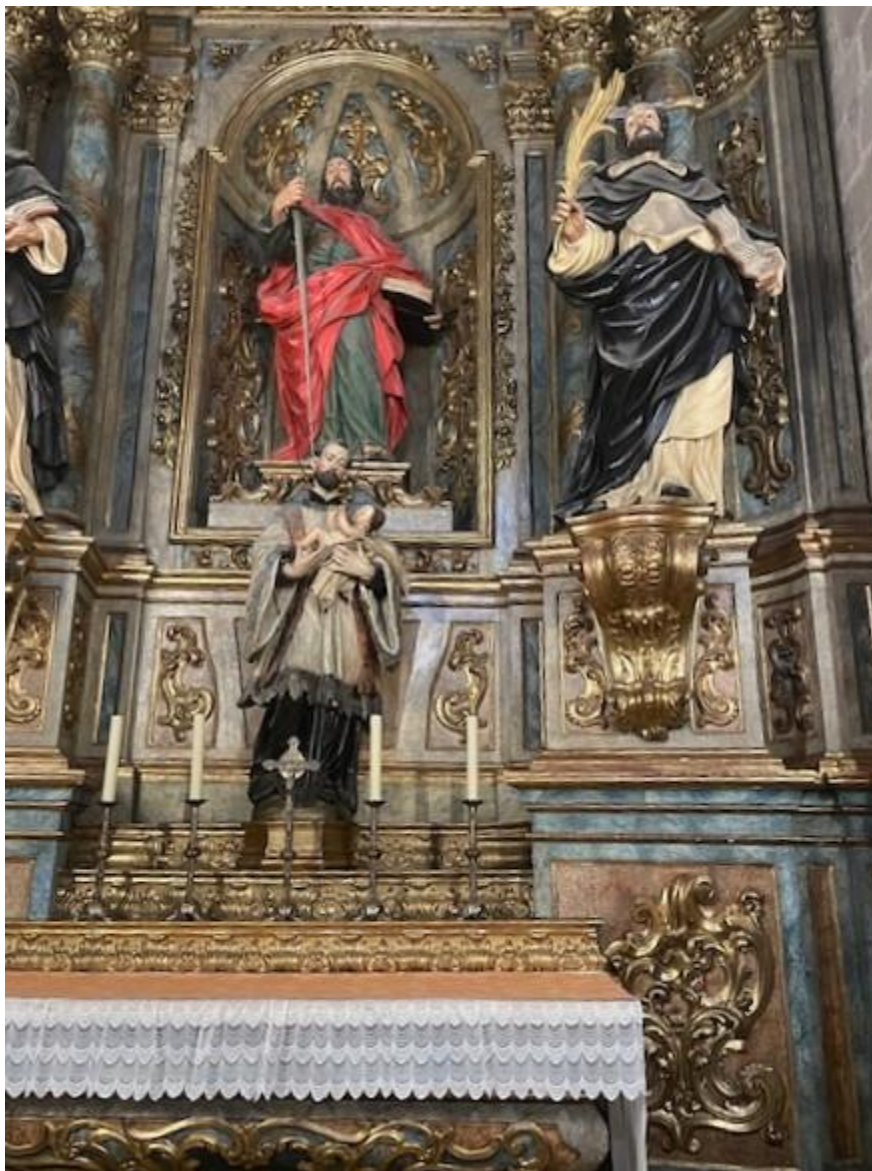


ST PAUL'S NEWS

September 2024



ONE POUND

SERVICES

Sunday 1st September

The Fourteenth Sunday After Trinity

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

Sunday 8th September

The Fifteenth Sunday After Trinity Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
President & Preacher: The Vicar
- 10.00 am Parish Eucharist with Baptisms (CW)
President & Preacher: The Vicar
- 10.00 am Family Service at the Church Centre + Zoom
Lead: Susan Powley
Link: Rosemary Romano
- 6.30 pm Evensong (BCP)
Minister & Preacher: Rev. Nicholas Burton

Sunday 15th September

The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

- 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: Liz Goddard
Link: Karen Miller
- 6.30 pm Choral Evensong (BCP)
Minister: Tim Harrold

Wednesday 18th September

- 1.00 pm Thanksgiving Service for Tony Gould
at the Parish Church – The Vicar

Saturday 21st September

- 1.00 pm Wedding of Alex Schultz & Molly Mosley
at the Parish Church – with the Choir

Sunday 22nd September

The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

- 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: Susan Powley
- 6.30 pm Eucharist (CW)
President & Preacher: The Vicar

Sunday 29th September

The Eighteenth Sunday After Trinity St Michael and All Angels

- 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: Rev. Nicholas Burton
Link: Chris Bassett
- 6.30 pm Evensong (BCP)
Minister & Preacher: The Vicar

Sunday 6th October

The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity HARVEST FESTIVAL

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

DIARY

Wednesday 4th September

8.00 pm Family Service Meeting at the Church Centre

Thursday 5th September

11.30 am Communion to Mount Ephraim
– Rev. Tony Rutherford

6.00 pm Youth Council meet in the Lodge

Saturday 7th September

5.00 pm The Choir sings Evensong at
St Albans Cathedral

Sunday 8th September

11.15 am The Choir sings Eucharist at
St Albans Cathedral

6.00 pm The Choir sings Evensong
at St Albans Cathedral

Wednesday 11th September

11.00 am Julian Group at Chancellor House

3.00 pm Communion to Chamberlain Court

8.00 pm Autumn Fayre planning meeting in
the Lodge

Thursday 12th September

10.45 am Communion to Rusthall Lodge
– The Vicar

Saturday 14th September

10 am Friends of Kent Churches
to Ride and Stride
6 pm

Sunday 15th September

Hospice Run road closures

Tuesday 17th September

8.00 pm 175 Anniversary planning meeting in
The Lodge

Thursday 19th September

11.30 am Communion to Mount Ephraim
– The Vicar

6.00 pm Brownies at the Lodge - bee visit

6.00 pm Wedding rehearsal at the Parish Church

Saturday 28th September

RSCM exams in the Parish Church all day

Monday 30th September

8.00 pm PCC meeting in the Lodge

Saturday 5th October

9.00 am Decorating of the Parish Church for Harvest
– all day

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 Rusthall Lunch Club
at the Church Centre



Fridays throughout the month

12.30 – 2.00 pm Community Larder
At the Church Centre

Magazine Article Deadlines

16th September for October

13th October for November

17th November for December/January 2024

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

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

Marriages and Blessings - We ask God to bless the marriage of:

Lara Stenning and Joshua Pilcher-Smith
Nicola Stephenson and Christopher Scane

Baptisms – we welcome as newly Baptised members of the Church:

Theodore Harley Jack Schwieso
Daniel Edmonson

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

Stanley Earnest Adams
Anthony William Gould
Rev. Don Laurie

ST PAUL'S

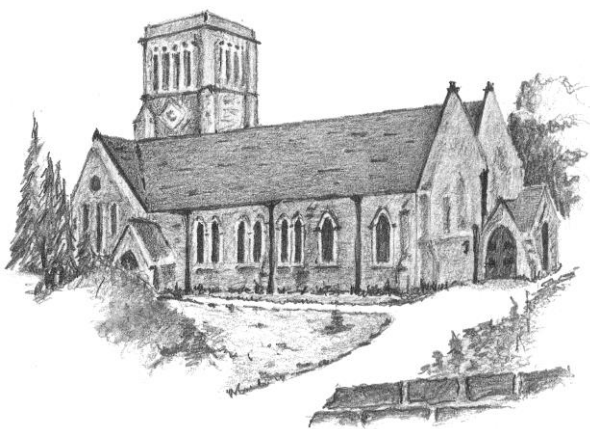
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From the Vicarage

September 2024

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continued support, prayers and hard work. Special thanks to all those who give of their resources, including their time so generously for the work of and ministry in the parish. How time flies! The end of September - the 29th, to be precise – the feast of Michael and all Angels, will mark my 15th year in the parish as vicar. I am grateful to God and thankful to members of the Parish and community of Rusthall for their welcome all those years ago and for the continued support and encouragement that I still receive from so many quarters. I was quite touched recently by the words of encouragement and practical assistance that I received from members of the community when I was clearing some greenery at the church Centre, in time for the Community Larder. Someone anonymously took away the three remaining bags of greenery. To me, that act of kindness and support demonstrated what a caring community Rusthall is – and, by extension, what a nurturing parish St Paul's is.

As I reflect on the past fifteen years, I've been trying to think of the 'guiding principles' that have underpinned my thinking, behaviour and actions. Having a simple 'Rule of life' helps and regularly meditating on God's word helps to not only mould my thinking but to greatly influence my behaviour and actions. Three portions of scripture that I have found myself regularly returning to are: Matthew 5:16 – 'let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven'; Philippians 1:27a – 'Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ'; 1 Thessalonians 4: 11a,12a - '...make it your ambition to lead a quiet life... so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders...'.

Of course, it is quite a challenge to let our behaviours and actions be shaped by the holy scriptures but, thankfully, as well as having Jesus's life as a model, we also have the Holy Spirit who lives within each of us and guides us through life's journey. One thing that I constantly remind myself of about Jesus' earthly life is his compassion. Yes, he had strong words for the Pharisees who thought they knew better but Jesus' activities were invariably imbued with compassion – and through his compassion Jesus showed his love for everyone who met him either casually or otherwise.

So, when I meet people in church or talk to them in the village and community, I always endeavour to not only remember Jesus' compassion but to embody it so that those with whom I interact may receive something of God's love through me.

I believe that God is actively involved in our lives and sometimes he shows up in and through others. As we continue our faith journey through life, I trust that we will increasingly realise that we can all be reservoirs of God's compassion and channels of God's peace.

May our generous and benevolent God enable each one of us, through the Holy Spirit, to be reservoirs of his compassionate love and conduits to his divine presence.

Amen.

Ronnie



The Molyneux Almshouses at Rusthall

Recruiting New Trustees

The Molyneux Almshouses is a small charity, established in 1922, which provides social housing accommodation for people of limited financial means who have long term connections with Tunbridge Wells. Our vision, as a charity, is “to provide convenient, comfortable and secure accommodation to those in need, within a friendly and supportive setting and the local community”.

Eight Trustees currently make up the Trustee Board and they are supported by a part-time Administrator who looks after the day to day administration of the Charity. A number of our current Trustees will be retiring within the next 6 to 18 months and we are looking for new Trustees to join our Board.

Our new Trustees should ideally be people from the local area who are involved with the community, prepared to take responsibility for specific aspects of the Charity’s work, can commit to regular meetings and activities, and will bring experience to complement the existing Trustee Board. Good people skills, the ability to communicate, and empathy, understanding and patience are essential. **Most importantly, they should be someone who is enthusiastic and has the time and energy to be actively involved.**

The work of the Charity covers many spheres and we need a Trustee Board made up of people who, together, have experience, skills and backgrounds in:

- Financial Management and Accounting
- Law
- Housing Maintenance and Management
- Project Management
- Welfare System
- Marketing and Communication
- Resident Welfare
- Charity Work
- ICT and GDPR
- Fundraising

If you think that you have what it takes to become a Trustee and want to find out more, please contact Gill Prater, Chair of the Trustees, at gill.prater@molyneux-almshouses.co.uk and ask for our Trustee Information Pack which will give you more information.

Closing date: 30th September 2024

Editorial for September 2024

September is here and autumn looms! The autumn equinox is on 20th September and marks the time when the days have shortened to the point when the length of night and day are equal. For me this marks the time when my solar panel is no longer able to provide all the hot water I need unless we get a really sunny day. Oh well!

For anyone connected with education, however tenuously, September always feels like the start of a new year. For some there will be a new school or college to explore, or the spreading of wings going off to university to get a taste of independence as well as a higher education. For others it will be the joy of returning to old friends to catch up on details of holiday adventures. Teachers and lecturers have new plans to make, new pupils to get to know, perhaps the challenge of new responsibilities. We will hold you all – pupils young and old, teachers, support and office staff, peripatetic teachers, bursars and business managers, leaders and headteachers, governors and trustees – in our thoughts as you meet the challenges and joys of a new academic year.

For the church choir September means a weekend outing to sing at St Alban's Cathedral on 7-8th September. A busy summer for us as we have already sung at St Paul's Cathedral – that was fabulous! For many churches September means Harvest Festivals, but we are going to have ours on 6th October. Septembers always means Ride and Stride – details inside. It will also be the 2nd anniversary of the death of Queen Elizabeth, and therefore the accession of King Charles 3 on 8th September. I have recently spotted my first £5 and £10 notes with King Charles on them and £1 coins with his head go into circulation this month. I also found it amusing to watch our many Olympic Gold Medal winners on the podium to see whether they remembered to sing God save the King! They have my sympathy though, as whenever the choir uses different settings of the Versicles and Responses for Evensong we have to correct the one that starts 'O Lord, save the Queen' to King in case it puts us off. Pity the poor priest or cantor who has to remember to get it right each week – especially in churches where they don't sing Evensong regularly.

Perhaps because it is time to go back to school, many of the special days this month relate to literacy; 6th September is Read a Book Day and 8th is International Literacy Day, supporting UNESCO in its fight to improve literacy rates worldwide. The birthday of author Roald Dahl (13th) was chosen as a day to promote reading and raise money for the children's charities which Dahl supported in his lifetime. Read an eBook Day on 18th is a celebration of modern storytelling, whether you buy an eBook or borrow one for free from your local library. If you are a member of the local library just download the Libby App and tell it your library card number and you will get free access to 36,000 eBooks and 8,000 audiobooks. On a difference topic, Fairtrade Fortnight 9th Sept to 22nd aims to highlight the difference fair trade can make to lives and communities. If you're feeling silly then shiver me timbers! September 19th is Talk like a pirate day – though this cartoon I found also provides a grammar lesson! And finally 21st September is the World Day of Peace. Established in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution, Peace Day provides a globally shared date for all humanity to commit to Peace above all differences and to contribute to building a Culture of Peace. Surely this year we need to put some serious thought into this day.



I was suffering real withdrawal symptoms after the end of the Olympic Games, they were as wonderful as ever, such a superb variety of sports to watch, many that don't get much TV time usually. Fortunately we can now feast on the Paralympics, including para-sports like Boccia and Goalball which have no true able-bodied equivalents. Boccia is something like bowls or curling with additional equipment to support players with coordination problems and Goalball is a cross between football and volleyball played by teams of blind players (wearing facemasks so that all players are equally unsighted, including sighted players) throwing the ball, which contains bells, into football style goals that go the full width of a volleyball style pitch. Look out for Iran's seated volleyball player, Morteza Mehrzadselakjani, who is the world's second tallest man so even seated he towers over the other players. I love the tandem racing in the velodrome, where the speeds reached are pretty scary.

The front cover is a photograph of a shrine to St Paul in Barcelona taken by Tim Cripps on a recent holiday. My tour of Spain is virtual and accompanied by many men in Lycra competing in the Vuelta a Espana!

Please let us have your articles for October by Sunday 16th September. We really miss the small snippets that Billy Everett used to provide us with, which were very useful to pop in empty corners of pages, so if you come across anything – it could be thought-provoking or amusing – please send it to us.

Deborah Bruce and Sue Hare



FRIENDS OF KENT CHURCHES

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Saturday 14 September 2024

10.00 am to 6.00 pm

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Jane Goldsworthy on 07846 266085 or

jane_goldsworthy@yahoo.co.uk

Churchwardens' Notes



We hope that you have all had a lovely summer and enjoyed your holidays.

We have been busy during this time, still trying to get the repairs done to the vestry roof. Rochester have now told us the materials that we can use which has enabled us to seek quotes for the work to be done.

There also needs to be a repair to the nave roof near the pulpit, and to the ceiling underneath this area of damage. We hope that by the time you read these notes the repairs will have started and, once completed, we should be able to use the area for wheelchair users.

The choir camp and concert went very well and we were pleased to see so many young people attend. We are blessed to have so many talented children in the choir. Our thanks go to Fiona for all the hard work she put into the camp and concert, and also to the many members of the choir, especially members of the wider Johnson and Farman families, who supported and assisted her.

We are looking forward to the 175th Anniversary next year and thank all the people that are involved, for the work that they are doing towards these celebrations. Only a few months left before this exciting year starts!

May and Rod

Deanery Synod Report

The summer meeting was held at King Charles the Martyr Church Hall on Wednesday 17th July at 7.30 pm.

We were welcomed by the Vicar, Rev. Laurence Powell and a short business meeting followed where members were elected to the Diocesan Synod.

This was followed by a Farewell and thanks to the Deanery Synod Secretary Norma Buck, who has decided to stand down after serving as a member of the Diocesan Synod for 21 years.

Following the business meeting, members enjoyed a cold buffet meal together which was followed by a talk by the Very Reverend Dr. Philip Hesketh, Dean of Rochester, who spoke about his life and worship at the cathedral.

After a time for questions the meeting closed in prayer.



It has been announced that the Rev Will North (Rector, Barming with Teston) and The Rev Nick Cornell (Rector, Southborough Christ Church) have accepted the Bishop's invitation to take up a shared role of Associate Archdeacon in the Tonbridge Archdeaconry'

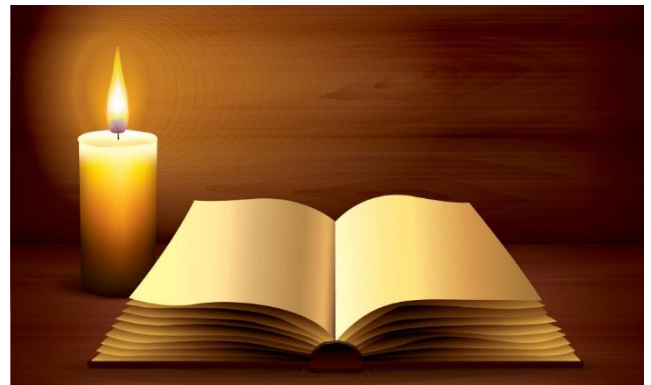
Sadly this means Nick will need to hand over his responsibilities as our Area Dean.

Following consultation the Bishop has invited the Rev. Richard Thomas of St Philips to become the next Area Dean and he will be formally commissioned to his new role by Archdeacon Sharon in the next month or two.

Tony Bourne

Deanery Synod Representative

Julian Group Meetings



The Julian Meeting meets the first Wednesday of each month at 11 am at Chancellor House

It is a time of quiet reflection which is introduced by the leader often using meditative music. This is followed by 20 minutes of silence.

Refreshments are served afterwards giving all a time to share.

If you feel you would like to come along and meet the group and join them in this quiet time, please contact:

Pat Stevens

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A Musical Note



On Saturday 3rd August the choir travelled the short distance to London to sing Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral. It was wonderful to get to sing in this incredible building and the choir certainly rose to the challenge of filling the space! The ending to Dyson's Magnificat in D was truly one of the most extraordinarily powerful and exciting choral moments I have experienced in almost fifteen years of conducting this choir. The whole service was amazing and my thanks to Alasdair for his wonderful playing at this service. However, the job was only a third of the way accomplished at the end of Saturday as we were returning to sing two services on Sunday.

Undeterred by a lack of trains running on Sunday morning the choir were all assembled and ready to go bright and early for the Eucharist. This was in the Nave of the Cathedral, so underneath the dome which was a very different place to sing in. Sadly, they don't allow visiting organists to play for Sunday services so we were joined by two different organists for our services, both of whom were excellent and very easy to work with. However, it was our singing of the unaccompanied items at both the Eucharist and Sunday Evensong services which were the highlights for me. Everyone was watching so carefully and they just flowed brilliantly, it was an absolute joy to conduct all three services and I hope everyone enjoyed the weekend as much as I did.



There was no time to rest however as the day after we started Choir Camp! Our theme for this year was The Tudors and for our outing we visited Hever

Castle. We were lucky to mostly have good weather for the week and so played a lot of games (some extremely silly and quite difficult to explain on paper) and enjoyed an excellent barbecue and sleepover in the church on the Thursday.

During the week we had been preparing some music for a concert on Sunday 11th August. The main work was a Jazz Cantata by Iain Farrington which sets to music poems from the 16th and 17th centuries. It was great to welcome back Alex Robson to play the piano for this Cantata and for a number of the other pieces in the concert as well. The concert also included a few musical theatre items from Annie and SIX the Musical as well as some other lesser known choral pieces to fit with our theme. It was amazing to be able to give the first performance of a new composition by our very own choir member, Alice Hughes which she had written for her A-Level composition. This is a beautiful and brilliantly well-written piece for upper voices, piano and violin setting texts by Emily Brontë and Emily Dickinson. To be able to compose like this at Alice's age is amazing, and I can't wait to see what else she writes in the future. We were also treated to solo performances in the concert from Lucia, Hannah and Alex and it was lovely to see Daniel conducting as well as playing the piano for us. The concert was a great success with some brilliant singing, dancing and acting and lots of fun as well.

We have a number of our choir leaving for university this term with Izzy, Maria, Emma, George and Daniel all going far and wide. We are going to miss them so much, but hopefully we will see them all back for Christmas!

We did have some very sad news over the summer though as we heard that Tony Gould had died. Tony was our 10 am organist for many years, only retiring on Easter Sunday in 2018 and even then he still played semi regularly for us until the pandemic in 2020. Tony was an incredibly talented musician and a brilliant organist. His improvisations for the offertory processions were just unbelievable and left everyone wanting to applaud at the end! He devoted his life to music; teaching, conducting, playing and encouraging music making all around Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells and further afield. Tony was a true gentleman, a wonderful musician and a great friend. I will never forget all of the support and advice that he gave me when I took over the choir and all of the fun that we had working together for so many years. The choir will be singing at a Thanksgiving Service in his memory on Wednesday 18th September at 1 pm.

Fiona Johnson

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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 Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells and surrounding villages and towns for over 40 years. We know this is a time when a caring family can make all the difference.



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Choir Camp Stories

The junior choristers divided into 2 groups and had to write a story suggested by the different shapes they were given. This is what they produced.

Story 1



Once there was a butterfly called Dido who was looking for love, so she went into the enchanted castle because there was a golden egg in it. The thing was, there was a hippo guarding the castle, so when he found out that she was there, he trapped Dido in the castle.

The butterfly was looking for love. 

Dark, desolate and full of despair, the church of broken spirits (previously known as St Paul's Church Rusthall) was the perfect base for operations because it smelled so bad that all residents had to be half a mile away, apart from the choristers who grew used to it. Cold air whistled through the leftover cobwebs after the last clean 200 years ago.

In the church was the golden egg and the hippo was guarding it. The hippo thinks the butterfly is an intruder and locks her in with the egg.

All of a sudden a noise was heard from the golden egg. A crack appeared, revealing the beautiful Fariona, declaring "On the morn of the Sabbath at precisely 10 strikes of the church's Great Bell, Dido the butterfly will perish alone and afraid if unrescued. I come to search for the champion who can remove Dido from certain peril.

There was a lion called Bob. He was looking for love. He really wants one, the butterfly was trapped. Bob had to help now.

The lion wasn't the only one after the butterfly. Suddenly an alien spaceship appeared and began to attack! Huge laser beams began raining down from the spaceship, slowly ripping the church apart and rudely interrupting the Tenors' solo. Choristers flew into the sky and the butterfly began floating in the Alien's tractor beam! Suddenly the lion leaped up and landed on the alien spaceship! He disabled the tractor beam and flew away on the injured butterfly. The lasers powered up, aimed at them and switched off. On the spaceship stood The Hippo!! The hippo jumped from the ship as it flew off into the night.

After the battle, the lion met the butterfly and they fell in love with each other. They walked away while the castle fell, with the butterfly on the lion's ear.

Let's go to Hawaii." suggested Bob, but Dido found a problem. "We can't just teleport there like Doctor Who as we don't have a Tardis."

"Let's take the Hawaii express" said The Hippo.

After the trip to Hawaii they lived happily ever after.

Story 2



Once upon a time there lived two happy dinosaurs, Moab and Washpot. They were in love and were getting married in St Paul's Cathedral. There were lots of roses everywhere.

Unfortunately Moab was struggling to read his vows as he was all sniffly from hay fever. He suddenly did a massive sneeze. Wonderfully his lapel flower was magical.

An angel appeared for it was a magic flower. He said, "You have 3 wishes. Anything – and I will grant them," then he added "but be careful."



Upon the telling of each wish, a star appeared in the dome. The first was golden and glistened in one light. Moab said "I want the first wish: please get rid of all the roses. To his shock they were all replaced with lilies – even worse for his hay fever.

The next star was purple and blue, Washpot's favourite colours. He said, "for you, my love, I wish for a cat to eat all the flowers!"

At once a cat appeared and the wish was granted.



The last wish was different, red and angry, but the newly wed couple didn't notice. "We wish for so much happiness we could burst!"

"Alright then," said the angel. "Your wish is my command." He cast his spell and they both promptly burst.



Spot the chorister that snuck into Choir Camp under the age limit!

A Journey towards Lay Ministry

One of the few benefits I get as part of my training is a free subscription to the Church Times, a weekly newspaper. If you are not familiar with the paper, it is reassuring proof that good journalism is still possible. When faith in our media has dropped to an all-time low, the Church Times does a wonderful job in reporting the news in an impartial and balanced way.

A recent book review in the Church Times (Issue No. 8417 12th July 2024) set me thinking.¹ The book review explored the idea that “we become what we behold”, in much the same way as the more often quoted idea of “You are what you eat”. We have a human tendency to copy what captures our imagination, a behaviour reinforced by the Latin root of the word “imagination” which is related to imitation. Our word character also reinforces the connection between identity and image-making, being derived from the Greek word “kharakter”, a stamping tool used to impress an image on a coin.

Early Christians understood this also applies to spiritual formation. To become Christian is not just of belief, but of identity. Developing a distinctively Christian character requires “stamping” the wax of the soul with Christian forms. It was this idea of “stamping the wax of the soul” that I found myself reflecting over.

My journey over the last two years has been a process of spiritual formation, the stamping of my Christian soul. It is far from concluded. If we are to continue growing in our faith, it will be an everlasting process. Wax of course is very susceptible to heat; it tends to melt or lose its shape. So, the stamping of our soul should always be seen as an on-going requirement, a continuous refreshing and strengthening of our faith.

There are three ways I have found useful to help in this process which I think are worth sharing. Firstly, staying up to date with current theological thinking is incredibly important. The Church Times is particularly good at highlighting upcoming book launches and provides some excellent reviews.

Secondly, finding time in my day to just “be” with God. This is easier said than done. It is extremely easy to let the demands of this world crowd everything else out – and smartphones make this even more challenging. That time with God,

however, is precious and one that I value enormously. It took a lot of trial and error on my part, exploring using all sorts of different apps at various times of the day, before I was able to find a routine that best worked for me. For me, what works is not having the same set time every day but to take each day on its own. Similarly, how I spend that time varies. Prayer is a constant but can be achieved in a variety of ways. One of my favourites is something I was taught by the Benedictine nuns at St. Benedict’s in West Malling. It is something that can be done in a group or just by yourself, and I find it enormously powerful. “*Lectio Divina*” or “*Divine Reading*” is not the same as Bible study and whilst the strict translation is “*Divine Reading*”, it becomes more akin to “*Divine Listening*” when we take the time to do it. It can be done at any time of the day on any passage of scripture. It is a mix of reflection, meditation, prayer and contemplation and concludes by saying the Lord’s Prayer.

Another method, which I find is best suited to the evenings, is Examen. This is part of the “Spiritual Exercises” of Saint Ignatius, founder of the Jesuits, but has become increasingly popular in recent years amongst Anglicans and Protestants generally. The five points of examen are Thanksgiving, Guidance, Review, Grace and Resolution. It is a simple but powerful method of sensing the activity of God’s Spirit in our everyday life. It forces us to consider the moments in our day when we felt close to God, and those moments when we didn’t. If anyone is interested in learning more about either “*Lectio Divina*” or Examen then please do reach out to me. If there is sufficient demand, I would be happy to arrange a weekly or monthly prayer group.

Both the book-reading and the time to “be” with God are solo affairs. The third reflects the importance of fellowship in our Christian formation and for me this is reflected in my formation team. I have mentioned them individually in previous articles, so I won’t embarrass them a second time. Suffice to say, however, that in the process of the stamping of my soul, I could have had no better examples of who to copy. Back in June, I was delighted that they could all join me in Rochester in the Bishop’s garden where I received my Bishop’s Certificate. I describe the Certificate as getting my green “L” plate, or as Churchill may have said:

“Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.”

It is a stepping stone towards my goal of being licensed as a Lay Minister, hopefully, with the

¹ The book being reviewed was “*Becoming by Beholding: The power of the imagination in spiritual formation*” by Lanta Davis, due to be published on 20th August 2024 in the UK by Baker Academic.

Bishop's consent, in May of 2025. Tim Cripps talks openly of his delight that when he received his licence, it was our own choir singing in the service at Rochester Cathedral. We will have to wait and see if fate manages to strike twice.

At the corner of our Parish Church sits a bench in memory of the first Lay Reader at St. Paul's, Ray (WAR) Bowler. If anyone can shed any light on the background to the WAR in brackets I would love to know. The tradition he started has continued uninterrupted until our most recent holders, Tim and Daphne. The name may have changed from Lay Reader to Lay Minister, but it is my deep hope that in 2025, in our 175th year as a Church and over 60 years after Ray first began, I may experience the privilege of joining all my predecessors in maintaining the tradition and serving our community for a good few years yet.

Tim Harrold

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

(Philippians 4:6-7 NRSV)



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Saturday 14th September 2024 – 6.30 pm
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Director: Jonathan Glazer
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Runtime: 1h 45 mins
Starring: Christian Friedel, Sandra Hüller

Sunday 15th September 2024 – 2 pm
NT Live: Prima Facie (Cert PG)



Director: Justin Martin, written by Suzie Miller
Genre: Recorded Live Theatre
Runtime: 1h 28 mins
Starring: Jodie Comer

Saturday 28th September – 6.30 pm
All of Us Strangers (2023) Cert 15



Director: Andrew Haigh
Genre: Drama, Fantasy, Romance
Runtime: 1h 45 mins
Starring: Jamie Bell, Carter John Grout, Paul Mescal, Andrew Scott

Have you a guardian Angel?



I do hope you have enjoyed a wonderful summer break and your guardian angel has kept you safe. Speaking of which we live in a world of angels. Or perhaps I should say a world fascinated by the possibility of angels. They certainly feature in modern pop culture as they do in a more classical setting. 'I believe in angels', sang Abba; 'I'm loving angels instead', sang Robbie Williams (a favourite when I conducted funerals at the Crematorium); and, not forgetting 'There must be an angel', a 1985 number one by the Eurythmics.

Angels are popular subjects in the visual arts too. Who could fail to be moved by the power of Sir Jacob Epstein's sculpture 'Jacob and the Angel', inspired by another story in the book of Genesis and exhibited in the Tate Gallery. And of course one of the most painted scenes in the history of art features an angel, Gabriel, as he announces to Mary that she will bear a son. So we sing about angels, we draw, paint and sculpt angels, we make films about angels – our churchyards are decorated with carved and sculpted angels; we sing of angel voices, herald angels, and holy angels bright in our hymns; they dazzle us in myriad colours in stained glass. But who are these mysterious heavenly creatures, do they really have white robes and wings, and do they cast a hidden but benevolent gaze over human affairs?

On Sunday 29th September we celebrate the feast of St Michael and All Angels, Michaelmas. So the question is, for all the imagery of angels in our culture, both secular and religious, does the Church really believe in angels, and what might it mean for us if the answer to that question is yes.

And let us begin with Scripture. The word 'angel' comes to us from the Greek word 'angelos' which is a translation of the Hebrew 'malak'. Both terms can be translated 'messenger', which is useful in understanding some, though not all, of the functions angels perform in the Bible. There isn't enough time to look at all the references to angels in Scripture, if we did we'd be here all day, but I think we can broadly categorise the biblical tradition about angels as falling into three areas: angels as manifestations of God's presence on earth, angels as God's companions in heaven, and angels as distinct,

occasionally named, beings with specific roles or functions to perform. I have a brilliant memory of a child in our RI class of eleven year olds in response to the teacher who was giving a solemn lesson on the death of Jesus before the resurrection and a young hand shooting up and saying 'Don't worry Miss the Angels make sure we get a new one every Christmas'. Sadly the teacher's name escapes me after all we are talking mid 1950's but I do remember the punishment. We were denied a break time and had to write out a hundred times 'The Lord's name should never be taken in vain'.

So firstly, angels as God's presence. In chapter 18 of Genesis we read 'The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre'. Abraham in fact encounters three men, to whom he offers hospitality, and they predict the birth of Isaac to Sarah. The text slips easily between identifying the strangers as men, the Lord, or angels. Similarly in chapter 32, Jacob encounters a man by night, they wrestle till daybreak, the man blesses Jacob, and Jacob recognises that he has wrestled with God. Though Epstein called his sculpture of this encounter 'Jacob and the angel', the text is ambiguous. Similarly in Exodus 3 as Moses is tending the flocks, a flame appears in a bush, identified as 'the Angel of the Lord'. Is the angel distinct from God or God's own being? This same Angel of the Lord appears in the road in the book of Numbers to block the progress of Balaam's donkey. In Judges the Angel of the Lord appears to Gideon, but it is the Lord himself who speaks with him.

Secondly, we encounter angels as heavenly beings. Just as a human king rules over a court, so God has a heavenly court of angels. 'God has taken his place in the divine council' begins Psalm 82. In Isaiah chapter 6 the prophet sees a vision of God on his throne, attended by the six-winged seraphim. 'Holy, holy, holy' they cry, a call repeated by the heavenly hosts who worship God in chapter 4 of the book of Revelation. At the opening of the book of Ezekiel, the prophet sees God carried on a chariot accompanied by four living creatures. These also make a reappearance in Revelation, with the faces of a lion, ox, eagle and human being. In Daniel, the last of the books of the Hebrew Bible to be written, a court of heavenly beings accompany God as the books of judgment are opened. At the beginning of the book of Job, God consults the heavenly court, one of whom is named as 'the Satan' and sent to earth to test Job's piety. And when the Lord's angel descends with news of the Messiah's birth to the shepherds of Bethlehem, the heavenly host are again present, singing the great hymn 'Gloria in Excelsis'.

So angels symbolise the presence and voice of God on earth. Angels, named as the heavenly host,

living creatures, or a divine court, attend and worship God in heaven.

But what of the angels we know best of all, those with names, like the archangel Michael, the commander of the heavenly armies in the book of Revelation, after whom the festival on 29th September is named; Raphael, the healing angel who accompanies Tobias on his travels; and most celebrated of all, Gabriel, the heavenly messenger who comes to Daniel at the time of the evening sacrifice, and to Mary in Luke's gospel with news of Jesus' conception. These named angels appear only in the latest book of the Hebrew Bible, Daniel, in the Apocrypha, and in the New Testament. They represent a move towards a developed hierarchy of heavenly angels, distinct from God but sharing in his work. Raphael identifies himself as one of the seven angels who served in the presence of God, and soon a tradition of seven archangels, all with names, had developed on the basis of the biblical account. By the time Milton was writing his Paradise Lost, the miscellaneous data in the scriptural sources had been fully systematised into a complex hierarchy of angels. They are celebrated today perhaps best in the hymn which is often sung on the feast of St. Michael and All Angels, Ye watchers and ye holy ones, bright seraphs, cherubim and thrones. Cry out, dominions, principedoms, powers, virtues, archangels, angels' choirs.

This short survey of the role of angels has I hope whetted your appetite to find out more. Certainly I would want to stress the fact that if you take all the angels out of Scripture, you would be left with a book full of black holes. If we depict angels in our churches and sing about them in our songs, it is time we talked about angels, what we might believe about them, and why. And I have two suggestions as to what the angels might teach us about the nature of God.

Firstly, God is not alone in heaven. The same God who created the Earth and dwelt among us in the person of Jesus also created the heavens, and dwells in the company of the heavenly host. Secondly, God wants to communicate with us. Whatever we think about the depictions of angels in the Bible and elsewhere, they exist to enable human beings and God to relate: Gabriel brings a message of good news; Raphael guides a young man to heal his father; Michael leads the forces of good to defeat evil.

We exist on a tiny planet in a backwater of the Milky Way. In the vastness of the Universe, we are small players indeed. The angels allow us to glimpse that God's creation and purposes go far beyond what we can ever know or grasp. Yet, that the angels care for

human beings, and reveal God's purposes to us, gives us hope that despite the tininess and brevity of our existence, God sends ministers to protect and guide us. I believe in angels because I believe that good can defeat evil, that we are loved and protected as children of God (those guardian angels), and that love takes us beyond the gates of death and human frailty into the presence of God where we too, with the angels, will bow down in worship of our creator and redeemer.

Recommended Readings:

In addition to those passages named in the text try:-
Hebrews 1. 5 to the end.

The Book of Revelation 12. 7-12

The Gospel according to John. 1. 47 to the end.

Tim Cripps

Autumn Fayre Saturday November 16th

Now is your chance to get involved with the church autumn fayre which will be held on Saturday November 16th this year.

Please put the date in your diaries and consider how you might help with this fundraising occasion.

There will be a planning meeting for all interested people on **Wednesday September 11th at 8pm** in The Lodge. Please come along with your ideas!

The fayre cannot happen without people willing to give up a little of their time to make items for sale and run stalls on the day. Hopefully there will be the usual mix of games, craft stalls and lovely things to eat along with the Big Raffle and The Secrets Room.

If you would like more information, are willing to help and to advise whether or not you can attend the September meeting, please contact Jean Kerr 07905758799 (jeak4000@gmail.com)

Thank you.



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Income from magazine sales is important to us at St Paul's. If everyone paid the £1 cover charge we would raise over £1500 a year, which would not only cover the cost of producing the magazine but also contribute to other costs such as leasing the photocopier.

If you often find yourself fumbling for the right change, perhaps you might like to pay in advance for a year's "subscription", 10 issues for the sum of £10, (you might even feel tempted to be more generous!)

Your contributions are much appreciated.

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Volunteering

Now, I'm fairly confident I've never heard anyone tell me they want to work for free! Yup, pretty sure. In this modern world of new publishing platforms, people create "free" blogs quicker than we could ever possibly read them, but it's still done for some material gain, usually exposure. Even those stepping forward for work experience are expecting their efforts to pay dividends in the future.

But what about volunteers? (I can hear you say) they give their time, energy and talents for no financial gain. Volunteers are even better than free, they're like money in the bank! Good point, well made reader.

In recent sermons, both Rev Ronnie Williams at the Parish Church and Wendy Anderson at the Family Service have spoken about the value of volunteers. Wendy talked about all the "little jobs" which need to be done to prepare and hold the Sunday service at the Church Centre. All those essential tasks undertaken, daily, weekly, monthly. Year in and year out. All done to ensure we have a prepared path for worship. It's the same at the Parish Church, the doors open and all is ready for us to focus on our spiritual needs. Volunteers have always been the backbone of the church, it's an emotional connection, work done because those who put in the effort feel it is valuable.

So, what's my point? Simple, we need more people to join in. It doesn't necessarily need to be a weekly commitment. There are lots of opportunities where an offer to do a task every couple of months or so would make a huge difference.

For example, it would be great if we can get back to keeping the Parish church open on Saturday and Sunday afternoons now that the new path to enjoy Happy Valley is complete. So many times, people passing by ask to look in when by chance they find the door is open. We only need a couple of people for about two hours for weekends and we can be more connected to the community.

And there'll be times when we have one off major jobs, such as a deep clean, which are made so much easier with a good crowd of willing helpers.

Most people have busy lives, lots of things competing for our attention but if we want the Parish Church and Church Centre to be there for our needs then we in turn must service the needs of the buildings for ourselves and the parish of Rusthall. As Ronnie and Wendy have said, it is much needed and valuable work; it's helping ourselves.

Many of you reading this will have already given many, many, years of loyal volunteering and Ronnie has always said that St Paul's is so very "thankful for the work you have done and continue to do". Your past experiences, (call it wisdom, because that's what it is) can really help us, we can benefit from your guidance without asking you to paint the tower!

Who said one volunteer is worth ten press-ganged men? Well, I don't actually know. I tried looking it up briefly and found various references to the Royal Navy, politicians and reformers. Some said a volunteer was worth three men, some quotes put the figure at 20! Forget the numbers, we understand what the actual point is; one volunteer is more likely to put in a greater effort than someone strong armed into the task.

And, we're not asking for your help in a vague way. With our 175th celebrations gaining momentum we need people to take on many and varied tasks which we can coordinate to achieve wonderful things. We will make sure that you have support, guidance and we hope, lots of fun. Yes, they'll be some cleaning and scrubbing but there will also be fun days and projects to be planned and manned! We will be having art projects, flower festivals, quiz evenings, exhibitions, cakes to bake, teas to serve, something for everyone at the Parish Church and Church Centre. Friends and family, even if not members of our congregations, could also be invited to join in, the more the merrier! The anniversary is about St Paul's being part of Rusthall – let's reach out and welcome inclusion.

So, tell us your strengths, your interests and, of course, your availability. Watch out for information coming your way so you can ask questions and add your names to the projects that interest you. We are sure you will find your time is used in an effective way and your skills will be greatly appreciated. And if you are saying to yourself, "I don't think I have any particular skills", just find me for five minutes and I'll know exactly how you can become involved.

With warm regards,

Elaine Bruce



Why Volunteering Matters

St Paul's is about to celebrate 175 years of being part of the community and all through that time volunteers have been a huge asset to the church bringing different skills, experiences and perspectives to the life of the parish.

Volunteering makes a positive difference to lives and brings people closer together. The benefit to our community is tremendous.

Reasons To Volunteer

- Making new friends
- Better physical & mental health and wellbeing
- Giving something back
- Sense of connection to others in the community
- Improve how things work for the better
- Show your commitment
- New skills and valuable work experience
- Improving your confidence



ODE to Club Cricket

Michael Ball has unique talents as a singer/song writer. As a former club cricketer I love this. It reminds me of many happy times in my youth as it captures the spirit of the game so well. It is written here as a poem. If it was to be sung the chorus after each verse would be:-

'I'm not worried, I don't mind, I'm going to get it right next time'.

Tim Cripps



Next Time

Written and composed by **Michael Ball**

Out on the Square in the heat and the sun
The sweat is falling off the honorary grounds man
Walking up and down for the final mow
Blades on the cylinder set just so.
Sprinklers working nicely, waters it lots,
The pitch became a pudding and we couldn't play
our shots
But he says I don't worry, I don't mind
I'll turn the pressure down next time.

Youngster at practice in the garden all hours
Modelling his action on one of the old stars
Saturday's big match - going to bowl straight
Going to get his spinner through the front foot gate.
Went for six an over - nothing's working yet
But he says to the skipper "don't you worry or fret
the fact is
I don't worry, I don't mind
I'll bowl a better length next time.

Old men waiting for the 9th wicket to fall
Hoping he won't nick it when he fends off the first ball
Wants to beat his best scored many years past
Trusting his luck and that his knees will last.
Runs are coming freely, signs are looking good
He goes and fluffs it when he has a rush of blood.
But he says I don't worry, I don't mind
I want to steal the strike next time.

Our Umpire cussing when the scoring rate's sad
The ball raps their captain just above the thigh pad,
whipping out his finger he signals 'OUT'
Forgetting that it's usual to wait for the shout.
Worst of all for the batsman the scorebook clearly shows
The Umpire has given him out on the seventh ball.
But he says I don't worry, I don't mind
I am going to stop at six next time.

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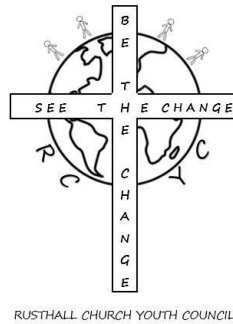
ST PAUL'S CHURCH YOUTH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

BUZZZZZY BEES NEWS

The first hive has arrived and is happily settled into life in the churchyard. The Youth Council have named the queen, Queen Bertha of St. Paul's! The project going forward will be known as 'Bees in the Churchyard Honey.' This hive will eventually be split and we could end up with a maximum of 3 hives each of course with their



own queen. We are incredibly grateful to the PCC for their extremely generous gift of £250 which will be used to buy bee suits for the children and for them all to receive appropriate bee training. Thank you PCC from us all.



Egg & Bacon Breakfast

The rain poured on the morning of the joint Service at the Church Centre. Undaunted, the intrepid CYC arrived at 9 am to prepare and serve Bacon and Egg rolls. We had huge fun, despite getting very wet, and we were all so proud of the children for their enthusiasm and maturity.



Raffle

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our bee raffle by buying Raffle tickets. We raised nearly £500 which is incredible and trust the lucky winners of the hampers (Janice Tapp and Susan Powley) are duly enjoying their 'bee' goodies!

SUMMER FUN



We ended the school year with a fabulous swim and bbq. We were delighted to welcome 3 new members who start Secondary School in September.

We are now looking forward to undertaking an archaeological dig at the Denny Bottom site in mid August.



FUTURE EVENTS AND PLANS

Thursday 5th September: Meeting in The Lodge 6 - 7.30 pm. Our local PCSO will be joining us to talk about her role and how we can keep ourselves, friends and community safe. All 11 to 17 year olds are very welcome. Please contact Angela Culley or Jean Kerr for more details.

Saturday 21st September: Special CYC outing starting at 4 pm. Details tbc but hopefully Crazy Golf followed by burgers.

Thursday 3rd October: Meeting in The Lodge 6 pm. 'Building a Scarecrow' for the Rusthall Scarecrow Trail to be held from 19th October to 2nd November.



COMMUNITY LARDER

What is it?

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

When and where is it?

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

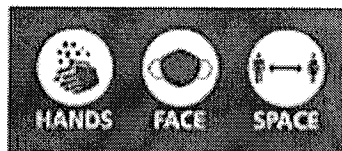
Who can use it?

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

How much does it cost?

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

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



WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU!

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

The Gardener's Hymn

For many decades my Aunt Jess was organist of a small church on Romney Marsh. While sorting through her music I came across this version of All things bright and beautiful, adapted for gardeners.

Cherry Mead

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

But what we never mention, though gardeners know it's true,
Is when he made the goodies, he made the baddies too.
All things spray and swattable, disasters great and small,
All things paraquatable, the Lord God made them all.

The greenfly on the roses, the maggots in the peas,
Manure that fills our noses, he also gave us these.
All things spray and swattable, disasters great and small,
All things paraquatable, the Lord God made them all.



The fungus on the goose-gogs, the club root on the greens,
The slugs that eat the lettuce and chew the aubergines.
All things spray and swattable, disasters great and small,
All things paraquatable, the Lord God made them all.

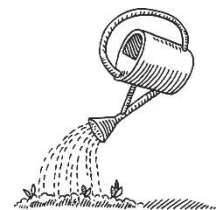


The drought that kills the fuchsias, the frost that nips the buds,
The rain that drowns the seedlings, the blight that hits the spuds.
All things spray and swattable, disasters great and small,
All things paraquatable, the Lord God made them all.

The midges and mosquitoes, the nettles and the weeds,
The pigeons in the green stuff, the sparrows on the seeds.
All things spray and swattable, disasters great and small,
All things paraquatable, the Lord God made them all.



The fly that gets the carrots, the wasp that eats the plums,
How black the gardener's outlook, though green may be their thumbs.
All things spray and swattable, disasters great and small,
All things paraquatable, the Lord God made them all.



But still we gardeners labour, midst vegetables and flowers,
And pray that what hits the neighbours, will somehow bypass ours.
All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

Writer Unknown



The Church Year Part 7

The season of Trinity covers a large part of the Church year. The colour green is used and this represents spiritual growth. In some ways it is perhaps the least exciting time because none of the major festivals fall within this period and it doesn't affect people outside the immediate church as does Christmas and Easter.

When saints played a more important part in Church life there would have probably been more activity, but now unless it happens to be your Church's Patronal Festival they are largely ignored. In June perhaps St Alban might get a mention since he was the first English Christian martyr. Another saint remembered on 24th June is St John the Baptist and again he might get a mention in that he and Jesus were cousins and he baptised Jesus. Surprisingly St Peter's whose day falls on 29th June again is probably only remembered if your Church is called St Peter. I say surprisingly because of his importance within the first group of disciples.



July doesn't really fare any better. Many people will have heard of St Swithin whose day falls on 15th July, but this really has no connection with Christianity, but because of the old saying that if it rains on that day it will rain for the next forty days. Although the Anglican Church pays little attention to Mary the mother of Jesus, possibly to counteract the extremism that



was given to her prior to the Reformation we do sing the Magnificat every Sunday at Evensong. This song was sung by Mary starting with the words – My soul doth magnify the Lord – when she visited her cousin Elizabeth – mother of John the Baptist. Some churches remember this event on 2nd July and it is known as the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The month of August begins with Lammas Day on the 1st August. Lammas or Loaf-mass was the offering at Mass of bread made from the new harvest's corn, each person bringing to church a loaf of bread as a thank-offering. This simple festival of earlier times has now been combined in more modern time with our rather more elaborate Harvest Festival which can take place either at the end of September or the beginning of October. Possibly the only other date



in August worth a mention is the 6th August – the Transfiguration – which commemorates the occasion when Jesus took his closest friends, Peter, James and John, up into a solitary mountain, where His glory was revealed to them.

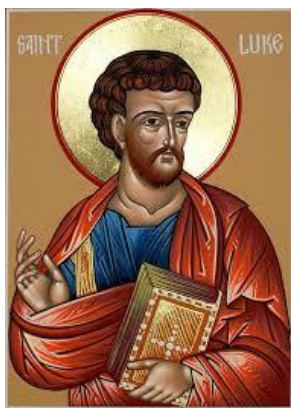
I personally feel that the Anglican church more or less dies during August, but with the arrival of September things start moving again. 29th September is Michaelmas or the feast of St. Michael and All Angels. The point of this festival was to remind us of the age-old battle between good and evil, and to ask us on which side we stand. However by the end of September / the beginning of October our minds are geared to Harvest Festival.



Harvest Festival in the form we know it today is fairly modern starting around the mid eighteenth century. It provides an opportunity for helping those in need. It does give us all a chance to remember to thank God for his provision for us, but it probably has far more significance in rural areas where people are really remembering the gathering in of the crops, fruit etc. The meal – Harvest Home – often held on the Saturday before the festival can be a real time of local celebration. However many denominations – not just Church of England – and both those in town and rural areas put a great deal of effort into making their church as attractive as possible for this short occasion and it is usually a very popular Sunday bringing in many people who do not usually attend church regularly.

Two other dates which might gain a mentioned are 4th October when St Francis is remembered and

18th October which is St Luke's Day. St Francis still has links with the 21st century because of his care for and love of animals and nature. St Luke is often known as the beloved physician and when so much time and thought is given to peoples' physical and mental problems it is not surprising that many churches focus on this aspect of our lives on St Luke's Day.



Finally in October we may experience St Luke's Summer. This is often a few final days of warm sunshine before the dark, cold days of winter engulf us. This has no religious association with St Luke, but has been given that name because it so often falls around the time of the 18th October.

And so we come to the 1st of November – All Saints Day. The non religious part of the world still celebrate



Halloween on the evening of the 31st October, but today this is perhaps not so much linked to witchcraft as it was in the Middle Ages, but just an excuse for celebrations to help as winter approaches. However because of its associations with witchcraft some Churches will not allow their church buildings to be used for any Halloween celebrations.

The point of All Saints Day is to remember not just the saints whose names are listed on the Church Calendar but all those who, during their time on earth, have upheld and spread the Christian message. This is followed on 2nd November with All Souls Day, which is a time for remembering with thankfulness all those who are no longer with us. Because of our busy lives in

the 21st century we tend to combine these two days and we at St Paul's tend to acknowledge All Saints Day on the nearest Sunday to 1st November in the morning and then hold a special service in the evening for all those who have lost a relative or friend during the past year.

Although not really a part of the Church Calendar Remembrance Sunday is of importance for many churches as thanks is given for those whose lives have been lost at war.

And so we come to the last festival on the Sunday before we start celebrating Advent – Christ the King. This is a very new addition to the church year and only came into being in 1925. This festival is a reminder that praise of the kingship of Christ should have been, and will be, a basic



theme during the Church year. Christ's kingship is rooted in the Church's teaching – Jesus Christ is Lord over all creation. We need to assess our commitment to Christ as King because if we do not listen to Him, love Him, serve Him and follow Him we are not fully accepting Him as our King.

Daphne Pilcher



Funny and true stories about Queen Elizabeth II



Around 2005, the Queen and her Personal Protection Officer, Dick Griffin, were walking alone one afternoon in the hills near Balmoral.

Two tourists approached them, and engaged in conversation. Griffin recalls:

"There were two hikers coming towards us, and the Queen would always stop and say hello. They were two Americans on a walking holiday. It was clear from the moment we stopped that they hadn't recognized the Queen, which was fine.

The American gentleman was telling the Queen where they came from, where they were going next, and where they'd been in Britain. I could see it coming, and sure enough, he said to Her Majesty: 'And where do you live?'

She replied: 'Well I live in London, but I've got a holiday home just the other side of the hills.'

He said: 'How long have you been coming up here?'

She replied: 'I've been coming up here ever since I was a little girl, so over 80 years.'

You could see the cogs whirring, so he said: 'Well, if you've been coming up here for over 80 years, you must have met the Queen.'

Quick as a flash, she said: 'I haven't, but Dick here meets her regularly.'

The hiker then asked Griffin what the monarch was like in person. Because I had been with her a long

time and I knew I could pull her leg, I said: 'Oh, she can be very cantankerous at times, but she's got a lovely sense of humour.'

The next thing I knew, this guy comes round, puts his arm around my shoulder, and before I could see what was happening, he gets his camera, gives it to the Queen, and says: 'Can you take a picture of the two of us?' Then we swapped places, and I took a picture of them with the Queen. And we never let on, and we waved goodbye.

Afterwards, Her Majesty said to me: 'I'd love to be a fly on the wall when he shows those photographs to his friends in America, and hopefully someone tells him who I am!'

Rest in Peace Your Majesty.

Queen Elizabeth II, born 21st April 1926, reigned from 6th February 1952 until her death on 8th September 2022 – the longest reign of any British monarch.

Deborah Bruce

The late Robert Fellowes recalled a time when northern mayors were invited to lunch with the Queen. The Mayor of Wigan found himself sitting next to the Queen and after the first course said 'I don't know what to call you'.

The Queen smiled and replied 'well you could call me Ma'am or Your Majesty but it hardly matters since you have called me 'Love' three times already'.

Tim Cripps

Medical Matters

Having heard nothing from my Consultant Cardiologist for two years, I, David Fenner (usually found in the front pew, South side) attended a pre-arranged meeting to discuss my long running heart condition. To my surprise I was immediately admitted to our hospital at Pembury. There followed 10 days of wired-up tests including automatic hourly blood pressure checks, even throughout the night, ECGs and blood sucking as early as 5.30 am. Urgh.

The results of all these tests were transmitted to King's College Hospital in London and, on day 11, I was taken there by ambulance to have an inefficient heart valve repaired by inserting a mechanical valve inside it. Incredible!

However, there were complications during this procedure so I needed a temporary external pace maker to control my heart rhythm. This was later

replaced by a permanent under-the-skin version, so another procedure. A bit of an insult for a rhythmic ex-drummer, wouldn't you say Marcy? (St Paul's own drummer).

To keep myself cheerful during all these traumatic tests, which continued at King's, I read a book of humorous verse (i.e. funny poems) which included several limericks. One was religious and, although sad but true, I wanted to share it with you all. It was:

God's plan made a hopeful beginning,
But man spoiled His chances by sinning.
We trust that the story
Will end in God's glory
But at present the other side's winning.

Sorry, Ronnie. Stay positive!

Through examples of this sort, I caught the (thankfully non-infectious) Limerick Bug (LB). The first LB symptom to get off my chest, so to speak, was:

There was an old fellow from Kent
On a stretcher to London was sent
Where his heart could repair
As he hadn't a spare
For procedures that made him content

This literary masterpiece was admired by a neighbouring patient, but a visitor challenged me to complete the cycle by writing one more about my imminent discharge, so, as my LB symptoms were still rampant, I coughed up:

There was an old patient at King's
Was sent home with some medical things
And the thing near his heart
Could make it re-start.
It's amazing what NHS brings.

Fortunately (or perhaps un-) there is no known cure for LB, so Watch (out for) This Space.

From (not Bionic man, but) battery driven Duracell Man or, in a cheerful mood, "Bunny", but not necessarily ever ready.

David Fenner



This annual event run by Friends of Kent Churches (www.friendsofkentchurches.co.uk) will take place this year on **Saturday 14th September**.

For those of you who have not come across it before, the idea is to get sponsorship to visit as many churches in Kent as possible either by walking or cycling between 10am and 6pm on the day. It is great fun and there are delicious refreshments provided by many of the churches on the way!!!

The money raised goes towards paying for repairs and renovations of churches in Kent. It is split equally between the Diocese (to go towards larger projects) and our own church St Pauls. Last year St Paul's partakers raised £610. £140,000 was raised across the whole of Kent! Like many churches, St Paul's has benefited from the financial assistance provided by this fund.

There are sponsor forms and Tunbridge Wells maps showing the location of all the churches, as well as Friends of Kent Churches information available both at the back of the Parish Church and on the desk at the front of the Church Centre church. Forms and information, including a list of all the churches in Kent participating, can be found and downloaded from friendsofkentchurches.co.uk

There will be a group cycling around the Romney Marsh churches where it is very flat and the roads are less busy. They will be meeting at Appledore village hall car park at 9.45am on the day so if you would like to join this group please phone me on the number below.

We will also need volunteers to sit (in pairs) for an hour at a time in each church recording the walkers and cyclists as they come through and providing simple refreshments. There is a sign-up board in both churches with the other information about the day, for those who are able to help with this.

If you would like to take part as a walker or cyclist and want to know more about the routes please contact

Jane Goldsworthy on 07846 266085 or jane_goldsworthy@yahoo.co.uk

Activity Pages

Wordsearch based on Food

The answers may be written forwards, backwards and diagonally. At the end you should be left with 9 letters which should spell something liked by Paddington Bear.

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

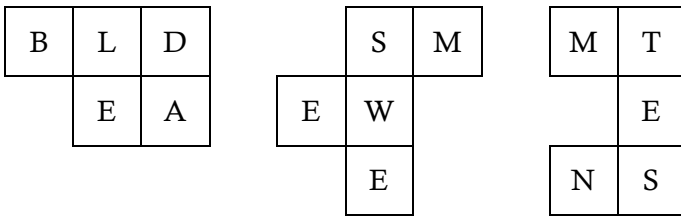
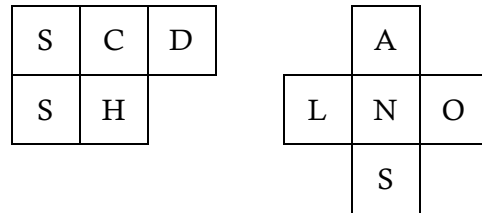
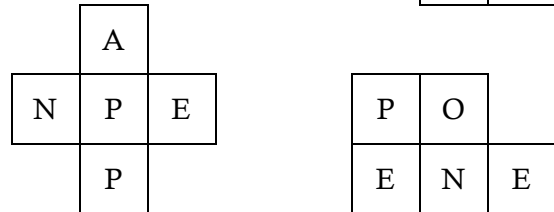
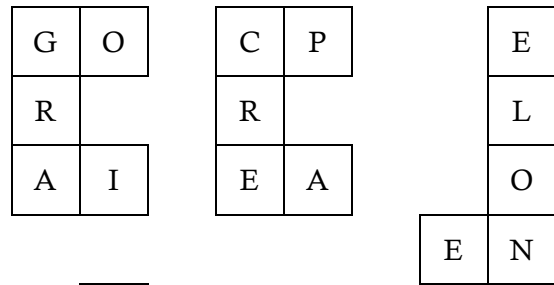
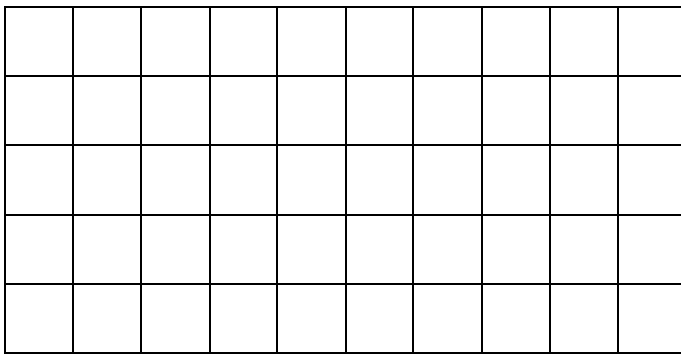
BEANS	CABBAGE	CAKE	CHOPS	COD
CRAB	EDAM	EEL	EGGS	FIGS
HAKE	ICECREAM	LAMB	LASAGNE	LEEKs
LETTUCE	LIVER	MELON	MOUSSE	ORANGE
PEAS	RAISINS	RICE	ROE	SHEPHERDS PIE
STRAWBERRIES	SWEETCORN	SWISSROLL	TROUT	VEAL

Twenty questions to test you

1. Alberta is a province of which country?
2. In what year was the first episode of Coronation Street shown?
3. How many members of parliament are there?
4. Which vegetable was Popeye's favourite?
5. How many players are there in a Rugby League team?
6. What is the traditional name for the first Sunday after Easter?
7. Which country is the origin of the Mojito cocktail?
8. What name is given to a roofed entrance to a churchyard?
9. To which religion does Tom Cruise give vocal support?
10. What name did the Romans give to what we today call Scotland?
11. Which nuts are used in marzipan?
12. Who was the architect of St Paul's cathedral?
13. Which vitamin is the only one not found in an egg?
14. Who was the youngest British prime minister?
15. What name is given to stuffing animals for preservation?
16. Against which illness did Edward Jenner find a vaccine in 1798?
17. What piece of fruit is found at the top of the men's Wimbledon trophy?
18. What is the chemical name for Table salt?
19. What was the name of the father of King David in the Bible?
20. What religious group was started by William Booth?

Fruit and Veg Cross-Jig

Fit the ten five-letter shapes into the rectangle and you will get the names of ten sorts of fruit or veg.



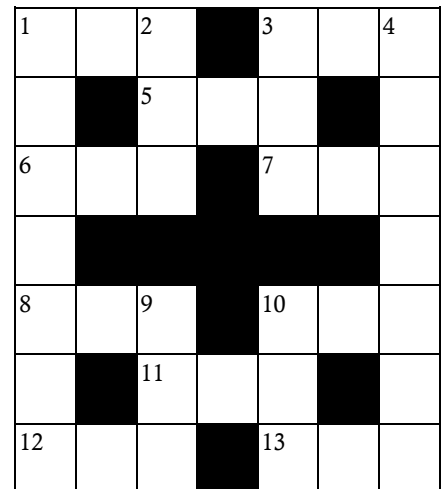
Try this Bible based Crossword

Clues across

1. Nephew of Abraham (Gen 12)
3. Insect which can teach lazy people a lesson (Prov 6 – singular)
5. What type of things have disappeared (Rev 2)
6. What had David just had (2 Sam 11)
7. What type of image do we see (1 Cor 13)
8. There was no room here for baby Jesus (Luke 2)
10. The food had to be what for a king (Gen 49)
11. Pay back what you _____ (Matt 18)
12. David's prophet (1 Chron 21)
13. Show me what (Psalm 143)

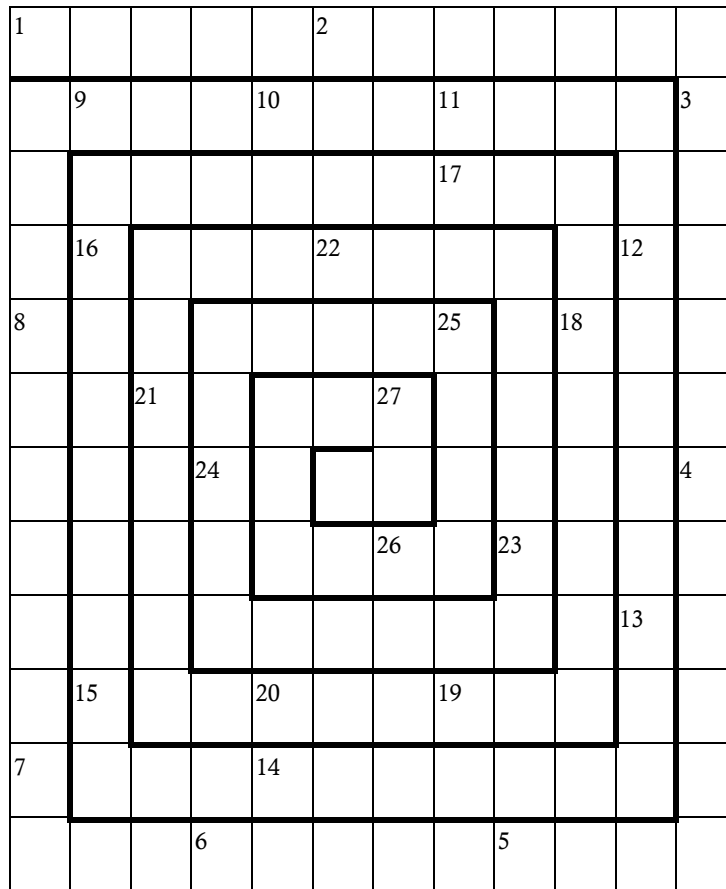
Clues Down

1. David was filled with what (2 Sam 13)
2. Where was the blue cloth to go (Num 4)
3. Do your best to do what (2 Peter 1)
4. Paul's companion (Acts 16)
9. What did the girls begin to do (Matt 25)
10. How many small fish did they have (Mk 8)



Go on a World Tour – a crossword with a difference

The last letter of one answer is the first letter of the next.



1. The largest Canadian province
2. The former name for Kolkata – a city of India
3. Capital of Turkey
4. Often referred to as 'The Venice of the North'
5. Capital of Spain
6. Popular ski resort of Switzerland
7. A Spanish town – the name often linked with orange marmalade
8. Land of the pyramids
9. Country in West Africa – capital Lomé
10. Capital of Norway
11. Capital of Canada
12. Capital of Greece
13. A German manufacturing city
14. City of Northern Italy
15. Capital of Cyprus
16. City in the North Island of New Zealand
17. Most populous city in the United Arab Emirates
18. Major city of Turkey
19. Capital of Peru
20. Belgium port on River Scheldt
21. Famous canal linking the Atlantic and Pacific oceans
22. Capital of South Australia
23. Capital of Scotland
24. Major port of northern Germany on the river Elbe
25. University town of north west Belgium
26. Capital of the province of Ontario
27. City of Japan with the same name as Yoko – widow of John Lennon

ANSWERS

Word Search – The 9 letters make up marmalade

Twenty Questions to Test You

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| 1 Canada | 2 1960 | 3 650 | 4 Spinach | 5 13 |
| 6 Low Sunday | 7 Cuba | 8 Lychgate | 9 Scientology | 10 Caledonia |
| 11 Almonds | 12 Christopher Wren | 13 C | 14 William Pitt the Younger | 15 Taxidermy |
| 16 Smallpox | 17 Pineapple | 18 Sodium chloride | 19 Jesse | |
| 20 The Salvation Army | | | | |

Fruit and Veg Cross-Jig

Reading from left to right – Cress Peach Swede Melon Grape Onion Apple Beans Lemon Dates

Go on a World Tour

- | | | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|------------|-------------|------------|--------------|-----------|
| 1 Quebec | 2 Calcutta | 3 Ankara | 4 Amsterdam | 5 Madrid | 6 Davos | 7 Seville |
| 8 Egypt | 9 Togo | 10 Oslo | 11 Ottawa | 12 Athens | 13 Stuttgart | 14 Turin |
| 15 Nicosia | 16 Auckland | 17 Dubai | 18 Istanbul | 19 Lima | 20 Antwerp | 21 Panama |
| 22 Adelaide | 23 Edinburgh | 24 Hamburg | 25 Ghent | 26 Toronto | 27 One | |

Bible based Crossword

Across

- 1 Lor 3 Ant 5 Old 6 Nap 7 Dim 8 Inn 10 Fit 11 Owe 12 Gad 13 Nap

Down

- 1 Longing 2 Top 3 Add 4 Timothy 9 Nod 13 Way

Poems for September

As “summer” starts to fade, we may often revel in a very benign September. If the weather has disappointed us in July and August, we can find that just as schools and work start again, the sun is suddenly very much in evidence! The September evenings also give us chance to notice the moon, which seems to come into its own with the harvest. Each of these three poets gives us a different beautiful slant on the moon.

Susan Barber

September

The fields lay white beneath a snow of sun
And birds were restless underneath, they rose and
 wheeled
Like silver leaves. The skies were more than blue;
Burnished and beaten with a strange brilliance.
The angels are coming, I thought;
The angels will come in the night
When a huge moon ovals through these bright and
 cloudless skies;
They will come to bind the sheaves
While we are fast asleep.
They will work the fields, their wings tight-folded,
All through the white night of this September,
The moon gliding high like a balloon
Over the glazed harvest of the world;
Nothing moving except the angels and the wind,
 until the task is done
In the warm stillness of the dawn.

Kenneth Steven



The Harvest Moon

The flame-red moon, the harvest moon,
Rolls along the hills, gently bouncing,
A vast balloon,
Till it takes off, and sinks upward
To lie in the bottom of the sky, like a gold doubloon.

The harvest moon has come,
Booming softly through heaven, like a bassoon.
And earth replies all night, like a deep drum.

So people can't sleep,
So they go out where elms and oak trees keep
A kneeling vigil, in a religious hush.
The harvest moon has come.

And all the moonlit cows and all the sheep
Stare up at her petrified, while she swells
Filling heaven, as if red hot, and sailing
Closer and closer like the end of the world

Till the gold fields of stiff wheat
Cry 'We are ripe, reap us!' and the rivers
Sweat from the melting hills.

Ted Hughes



The Woman in the Moon

Darlings, I write to you from the moon
where I hide behind famous light.
How could you ever think it was a man up here?
A cow jumped over. The dish ran away with the spoon.

What reached me here were your prayers, griefs,
here's the craic, losses and longing, your lives
so brief, mine long, long, a talented loneliness.
I must have a thousand names for the earth, my blue vocation.

Round I go, the moon a diet of light, sliver of pear,
wedge of lemon, slice of melon, half an orange, onion;
your human music falling through space,
the childbirth song, the lover's song, the song of death.

Devoted as words to things, I stare and stare;
deserts where forests were, vanishing seas. When your night comes,
I see you staring back as though you can hear my *Darlings*,
what have you done, what have you done to the earth?

Carol Ann Duffy



General Information

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

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

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

Organisations

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



The Parish Office

Parish Administrator - Mrs Ginette di Palma

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

Telephone (01892) 521447

Registered Charity in England & Wales, Number 1132681

Office email: office@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk

Magazine email: magazine@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk

Website: www.stpaulsrusthall.org.uk

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