

Inspire

Issue 92
May 2025



The monthly publication for the Parish of Capel & Ockley
Free of charge - donations welcome in honesty box in wall

The Pavilion Café

**Every Wednesday at Ockley Cricket Club Pavilion
9 am until midday**

Come and enjoy a warm welcome and a delicious range of homemade cakes and savouries - including gluten/dairy free. Bacon butties every fourth Wednesday and freshly made teas and coffees.



The Pavilion Café was originally the idea of Kindred Spirits, the women's outreach group from Ockley, Okewood and Forest Green Parish, 11 years ago.

It is run by a team of volunteers in support of charities, local charitable causes and Ockley events.

If you would like to volunteer, please let Liz know on either 07951 710176 or lizthorne2053@hotmail.co.uk



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"Leave it all quietly to God, my soul, my rescue comes from Him alone." Psalm 62 v1-2

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www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/inspire-magazine

With sincere thanks to
this month's sponsors

Andrew Forsyth

in celebration of his & Bernice's
wedding anniversary

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See our **Safeguarding Notice** in 'News from the Pews' each month.

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Rev Liz writes

May's Letter

Dear friends,

I hope you had a happy Easter and have been enjoying this very warm spring of late. As I am writing this letter for May we have just celebrated Easter at our churches. It was a blessed occasion and it is so wonderful to fill the church with flowers after the floral austerity of Lent and Good Friday to welcome once again our risen Lord Jesus! If you visit our churches you will see the Easter or Paschal Candle in a prominent position - a rather larger candle than usual this year - which symbolises the resurrection of Christ. We have a new Paschal Candle each Easter and I love that it is there to remind us that Jesus is the light of the world. It has wax carvings on it indicating different aspects of God and it always has the Greek letters alpha and omega, which symbolise that God is the beginning and the end. In fact this year in our opening liturgy on Easter Day we said these words:

***Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega,
all time belongs to him, and all ages.***

I love this, that all time and all ages belong to him. It is like the view from a mountain top, or even from the valley below looking up - giving us a sense of perspective on our lives and giving us a sense of the divine, that there is more out there than we can possibly imagine.

Recently we had our Annual Parochial Church meeting, a time to review the past 12 months and recognise and acknowledge all that has been done in the service of God in the life of our churches through worship, prayer, pastorally and socially in many different ways. We began by electing our Churchwardens for each church. This happens every year and we are thankful that our wardens are happy to serve for more than one year only!! Norman Ede has been a Churchwarden for over 10 years and this year made the decision to stand down so that he has more time for family and other commitments. Thankfully Norman will still be very much supporting us in many ways with our various projects. We wish him and George and the family every blessing for the future. Even more we are pleased that Stuart Cole has agreed to stand as Churchwarden in Norman's place, along with Andy Carr, as a deputy warden (kind of deputy sheriff!!). Joy Harman has agreed to continue, despite some aches and pains of late, and we hope that she will soon be back in action. For St Margaret's at Ockley, James Lee-Steere kindly continues as Churchwarden supported by their wonderful church wardening team... All in all as we read through the annual report for 2024/25 much has been achieved and accomplished by all who attend and support our wonderful beautiful village churches. A huge thank you to everyone and especially you our parishioners! We shall soon be gearing ourselves up for our season of fundraising at our local shows but one very special project is soon to get underway later this year. We now have the necessary permission to prepare and establish a new Garden of Remembrance at the top left of our Churchyard. Full of brambles at the moment we hope to transform this area into a beautiful space for folk to sit a while and experience some quiet and peace, to remember those whose ashes will be interred there, but most of all perhaps to ponder those words we said on Easter Day above.

***Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega,
all time belongs to him, and all ages.***

With all my love and prayers as ever

Liz

Revd Liz

Vicar St John the Baptist, Capel and St Margaret's, Ockley

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CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS - MAY 2025 at St John the Baptist, Capel & St Margaret's, Ockley

May

Sunday 4th The Third Sunday after Easter

9.30am Matins - Ockley
10.30am Family Communion - Capel

Sunday 11th Fourth Sunday of Easter

9.30am Holy Communion CW - Ockley
10.30am Cafe Church - Capel

Saturday 17th Wedding

2pm Wedding of Gary and Lorna - St Margaret's Ockley

Sunday 18th Fifth Sunday of Easter

10.30am Parish Communion - Capel

Sunday 25th Sixth Sunday of Easter

9.30am Holy Communion BCP - Ockley
10.30am Morning Worship - Capel
3-5pm Capel Church Teas

June

Sunday 1st Seventh Sunday of Easter

9.30am Matins - Ockley
10.30am Family Communion - Capel

*Don't forget you can find details of all events & services on
our website AND much more ... see below!*
<https://www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/events-calendar/>



IMPORTANT INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON OUR CHURCH WEBSITE

Following on from this year's APCM on Sunday 13th April, you can find details of the members of the Parish Parochial Council (PCC) on page 6 of this issue. Also listed on that page are the dates for the 2025 PCC meetings. Please do approach your PCC members to raise any queries or contributions that you may like brought up at a PCC meeting.

The full reports from this year's APCM can be found at our Parish website:

<https://www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/2025/04/15/capel-and-ockley-pcc-church-accounts-for-2024-copy/>

Don't forget you can logon to our church website to see the Weekly notes that are published each week, together with our monthly magazine InSpire, OR you can subscribe online to receive any or all of the publications:-

<https://www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/subscribe/>

Café Church— MAY 2025

What does victory look like?

On Thursday 8th May this year we will be commemorating the 80th anniversary of the end of World War Two. Six years of unimaginable suffering and destruction finally came to an end with the unconditional surrender of the German armed forces. There is much newsreel footage of the ensuing celebrations, particularly those in London outside Buckingham Palace, showing the obvious relief and joy of the people who had endured so much for so long. We were free, once again, to enjoy the pleasures of life denied during the hostilities. Or were we.....

I was born almost a decade after that momentous day. It wasn't until my mother died a couple of years ago that I found the ration card that I was given when I was born. Nearly ten years after our "great victory" the country was still subject to rationing on things that, today, we see as everyday essentials. And growing up as I did in north London there were many derelict sites which, I was casually informed, were "bomb sites". The country may have won a great victory but the people clearly carried the cost for years afterwards. In fact, the truth is that the UK didn't finally clear the war debts it accrued with America and Canada until 31st December 2006! It looks like victory comes at quite a price.

What of those countries who lost the war? Their people would have suffered at least as much as we did in Britain from the conflict. But here's the interesting thing. In order to help rebuild the economy of Germany and others, the Marshall Plan or European Recovery Programme was set up by America. That's right, a nation that had helped in the fight against Nazism decided that the right thing to do was to help the people that they had defeated. The *cost* of victory carried on way after peace was declared. (It's important to say that Britain was also a recipient of funds.) Of course, the American action wasn't entirely altruistic. They were expecting something in return: future markets for their goods; reduced threat of Communist expansion; stronger political and strategic alliances. Doesn't everyone expect something in return for a gift or good deed?

Well, no. Take a quick look at the four gospels. You will find story after story of Jesus doing things for the lowest in society, the outcasts, the poor, the sick. People who would never be in a position to repay him for the good he had shown them. His ultimate gift to the world was to go to the cross, lay down his life as a sacrifice for *all* of us knowing that not one of us would ever be in a position to repay his kindness. Jesus' "loss at the cross" became the victory of his resurrection.

So, if you're feeling defeated, at a loss to know what to do or how to cope with the everyday battles we all face, then can I suggest you take a moment to think about the one person who gave everything knowing that you have nothing to offer in return. Maybe the book of John would be a good place to start. It's there, in chapter 8, that you'll find these words of Jesus. *"So if the Son sets you free you will be free indeed."*

Bob Cranham



NEWS from the Pews

In Memoriam

We mourn the loss of

Graham Webster

May he rest in peace and rise in glory



Parish Church Council (PCC) **Meetings 2025**

All in St John the Baptist, Capel

PCC Dates

21st May
21st July
29th September
24th November

*With thanks to all who attended the APCM on
Sunday 13th April 2025*

PCC Members 2025

Vicar and Chair: Revd Liz Richardson (ex-officio)

Churchwardens

Joy Harman (ex-officio) St John the Baptist
Stuart Cole (ex-officio) St John the Baptist
Andy Carr (ex-officio) Deputy Churchwarden, St John the Baptist
James Lee-Steere (ex-officio) St Margaret's

Deanery Synod:

Andy Carr (ex-officio) St John the Baptist
Shirley Dean Webster (ex-officio) St Margaret's

Elected members:

Helen Burt (Hon Treasurer)
Gordon Lee Steere
Gill Christie (Ordinand)
Wendy Goddard
Suzanne Cole
Sarah Pusey
David Silliman
Jessie Sutcliffe
Leigh Smith (Safeguarding Lead)

Hon Secretary:

Sir Richard Winter- Stanbridge,

Electoral Roll Officer:

Rosemary Relf

Parish Safeguarding Officer:

Leigh Smith

Following the APCM on 13th April 2025, the following were elected:-

Stuart Cole - Churchwarden, St John the Baptist
Andy Carr—Deputy Churchwarden, St John the Baptist

Our sincere thanks to Norman Ede for over ten years of service as Churchwarden at St John the Baptist, Capel. Good luck to Stuart and Andy in their new roles!

SAFEGUARDING NOTICE

This notice will appear each month in InSpire

'The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the church. If you are concerned that someone you know is at risk of, or is being abused, or presents a risk to others, please seek advice from a Safeguarding Adviser or if necessary report the matter to the Local Authority Social Care Services or the Police without delay.'

If you have any concerns please contact our Safeguarding Officer: Leigh Smith 732825908
leighdesouza@yahoo.com

or Revd Liz Richardson 01306 711260 liz@hostmyserver.co.uk

Update January 2024: New diocesan contact number for reporting safeguarding concerns:
safeguarding@cofeguildford.org.uk



‘Assisted Dying’ Bill fails to protect the vulnerable, Bishop of London warns

The Bishop of London has warned of the ‘serious risk’ that people would opt for ‘assisted dying’ because they felt they were a burden. She said the risks of this happening would be multiplied by the pressures on the NHS and social care – if the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill comes into force in England and Wales.

In a recent submission to the Terminally Ill Adults Bill Committee, Bishop Sarah Mullally, a former Chief Nursing Officer, says there are no measures in the proposed legislation nor are there safeguards that could prevent people opting for assisted suicide because they felt a burden, should the Bill come into force.

Evidence from Oregon and Washington state in the US and Canada where ‘assisted dying’ is legal shows between 43 per cent and 59 per cent of the people who opted to die by assisted suicide reported feeling a burden, she says.

The danger of this happening in the UK would be exacerbated by the pressures on adult social care, in which people increasingly pay for care, she says, and the long-term challenges facing the NHS and palliative care.

“The Church of England’s opposition to the Terminally Ill Adults Bill is rooted in the impact the Bill would have on the most vulnerable members of society,” she says.

“This is a concern shared by people of many different faiths as well as people with no faith.”

She adds: “The irreducible value of every human person means that no one is a burden, every life is precious, every life is worthy of care. No one should feel compelled to hasten their own death.

“For centuries this has been an unquestioned societal assumption, acting as a bedrock for social and relational flourishing.

“During the last year it has been particularly concerning to see some high-profile social commentators argue that feeling like a burden is actually an appropriate reason to pursue assisted suicide.”

Response to Welfare Reform announcements

Following the government's recent welfare reform announcements, The Archbishop of York, The Rt Revd Martyn Snow, and Canon Alice Kemp have each expressed their views on the potential impact of the proposals.

Archbishop Stephen acknowledged the fiscal challenges faced by the government but emphasised the importance of addressing the underlying causes of ill health and worklessness. Archbishop Stephen stressed that increased reliance on food banks and heating difficulties are symptoms of a much broader issue that needs urgent attention.

The Bishop of Leicester, Revd Martyn Snow, who serves as the lead bishop for welfare, acknowledged the difficult choices the government faces, but expressed concern that the burden of these decisions should not fall on those already struggling.

Canon Alice Kemp, a member of General Synod and the Disability Task Group, spoke from personal experience, detailing the challenges faced by disabled people in the workplace and society.

Taking action on climate change is the ‘right thing to do’ - Bishop of Norwich

Acting to prevent global warming and biodiversity loss is the ‘right thing to do’ and a sign of Christian compassion for those who are suffering as a result of the climate crisis, the Church of England’s lead bishop for the environment said recently.

Bishop Graham Usher, the Bishop of Norwich, has thanked parishes for their ‘hard work and commitment’ towards making churches Net Zero by 2030 and their support for churchyards to become havens for biodiversity. Both aims have been backed by the General Synod.

Continued on page 9

He said the Net Zero programme is already building up a 'huge impetus', resulting in helping make many churches sustainable into the future.

Acting to tackle climate change is the 'right thing to do' he told the recent gathering at the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge, attended by 120 Diocesan Environment and Net Zero officers as well as ecumenical representatives.

"If we truly believe that we are brothers and sisters in Christ we should have a concern and a compassion for where biodiversity and climate change loss is impacting people's lives."

First bishops for racial justice appointed

The Bishop of Kirkstall, Arun Arora, and the Bishop of Croydon, Rosemarie Mallett, have been appointed by the Archbishop of York and the Bishop of London as joint lead bishops for the Church of England on racial justice.

Their role will involve acting as advocates on racial justice throughout the Church of England, including promoting implementation of the recommendations of *From Lament to Action*, the landmark report from the Church of England's Anti-Racism Taskforce.

Bishop Arun and Bishop Rosemarie will also serve as joint deputy chairs of the newly created Racial Justice Board, a committee of the Archbishops' Council that will oversee its work on racial justice.

© Parish Pump

Editor: We continue our occasional series on the background of well-loved hymns.

The story behind the hymn: 'Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks to the Risen Lord'

Not many university students are able to write Christian songs which become worldwide hits, but Don Emry Fishel managed it with his Alleluia No. 1. Nearly 50 years on, it is loved and sung by millions of Christians worldwide.

Fishel wrote it in 1971, while he was a student at the University of Michigan and also music leader of a Roman Catholic charismatic community based in Ann Arbor, Michigan. These were the days of folk songs and guitars, and Alleluia No. 1 fitted the prevailing mood perfectly. Written in E Major, it is ideal for guitar accompaniment.



Mr Fishel became a freelance flutist, flute instructor and composer. He was publications editor for the Word of God and Servant Music for a number of years and then worked in computers for 25 years. In 2008 he moved to Nashville and returned to music, teaching the flute.

Alleluia No 1 was Fishel's first song, written "rather quickly, in about an hour." It had four verses to begin with, but a fifth verse (which became the third verse) was added later, as he prepared for baptism. As Fishel explained, he wanted the line 'We have been crucified with Christ; now we shall live forever' "to be the centre of the song."

Alleluia No. 1 was first published in the UK in Sound of Living Waters, in 1974.

PRAYERS, PROSE & POEMS

Life

(Jn 6:68)

Life is not always fair, or kind.
Life batters,
People betray, let us down,
Even those we trusted with our hearts and health.
Landscapes change,
Things we knew and understood
Are tossed in the air
To come down damaged and different.
It all seems too hard,
Too hard to bear.
And it isn't fair.

What then?
Give up, turn back,
Collapse and concentrate on the disintegration?
Or with Peter, look up and say,
"Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
We believe and know that
You are the Holy One of God."

Life is not always fair, or kind.
That's why Jesus came.

By Daphne Kitching

Two prayers from the NHS Surrey & Sussex Healthcare Trust Chaplains team at East Surrey Hospital.

All I am, and all I have, I offer, Lord, to you.
I offer you these hands, that you might use them
in and through my daily work.
I offer you these feet, that you might lead them
to someone who needs my help.
I offer you these shoulders if you should use
them to lighten another's load.
I offer you this voice
that you might use it to speak up for those in need.
All I am, and all I have, I offer, Lord to you.
Amen

May your day be blessed by moments of quietness,
light in your darkness, strength in your weakness,
grace in your meekness, joy in your gladness,
peace in your stillness. May your day be blessed.
Amen



Ascension Day—Thursday 29th May 2025

Prayer for Ascension Day

Dear God, our loving, sending and almighty Father,
Thank you that because Jesus died, rose and ascended
into heaven, You were able to send your Holy Spirit to
empower Your disciples then and today. That,
equipped by that same Spirit, we can confidently work
for Your kingdom to come on earth, as in heaven.
Lord, in these strange, topsy-turvy days, where earthly
rulers terrify and destroy and disappoint, we rejoice
that You are the Sovereign Lord of all things, and all
times, and all places.

*You, our God and Father, truly reign. We are Your
people. We are secure within Your love and protection.
Thank you that at the name of Jesus every knee shall
ultimately bow - and we pray, thankfully in His name,
Amen.*

By Daphne Kitching

The Gospel

St. Mark 16.14-end

Jesus appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and
upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of
heart, because they believed not them which had seen
him after he was risen. And he said unto them, Go ye
into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every
creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be
saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And
these signs shall follow them that believe: In my name
shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new
tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink
any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay
hands on the sick, and they shall recover. So then after
the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up
into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they
went forth and preached every where, the Lord
working with them, and confirming the word with
signs following.

NEWS FROM THE BELFRY



Ringling for VE Day

There are just a few days to go till the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day on Thursday 8th May and there will be events across Europe to commemorate the surrender of German forces to the Allied powers at the end of the Second World War.

On the 8th May 1945 bells rang out across Britain as the nation took to the streets in celebration of Victory in Europe Day. Eighty years later there is a national aim to celebrate this momentous anniversary by ringing at 6:30pm to pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice so that we might live in a free world. We will be ringing at Ockley St Margaret to mark the occasion and all churches with bells will want to join in but timings will vary as we try to get to as many towers as possible to help out.

Sadly there are not enough ringers to ring all the bells locally simultaneously and we regularly travel to other towers to help. We can manage at Ockley as we have six ringers for six bells but extra ringers are always welcome either as a succession of new ringers or more experienced ringers that can extend our repertoire.

There is a full program of plans for VE Day starting with the Bank Holiday on Monday 5th May. Union flags will be draped over the Cenotaph in Whitehall and will remain there for the following four days. The government want to ensure that 'commemorations act as a point of remembrance of the millions who lost their lives in the conflict as well as a celebration of peace'. A military procession will take place from Whitehall to Buckingham Palace, followed by a flypast of modern and historic military aircraft, including the Red Arrows. There are expected to be street parties across the country including one on HMS Belfast on the Thames near Tower Bridge. This ship fired some of the opening shots on D Day in 1944.

On Tuesday 6th the display of ceramic poppies from the centenary of the First World War in 2014 will return to the Tower of London in a different setting to resemble a wound at the heart of the Tower. Landmarks around the country will be lit up on Tuesday evening and on Wednesday there will be a VE Day Anniversary Concert at Westminster Hall.

On the actual anniversary day on Thursday 8th May there will be a service at Westminster Abbey and a concert later at Horseguards Parade as well as celebrations nationwide including parades and flag-raising ceremonies, the ringing of church bells, local events and the lighting of beacons at 9pm.

Bellringing is very rewarding, combining a physical and social activity with the mental exercise of keeping your bell in the right place. Practically anyone can learn to ring, from the age of 10 upwards. Anyone interested in finding out more is welcome to come along and have a go, under supervision, or just to watch.

Practice nights are at St Margaret's Ockley on Wednesday evenings from 7.45pm to 9pm but please check.

For more details call Sue on 01306 627168 or email ockleybellringers@btinternet.com

Remembering VE Day – 80 years on

by Tim Lenton

80 years ago, on 8th May 1945, VE Day took place – marking Victory in Europe at the end of World War 2. It was celebrated as a public holiday, and came exactly a week after German radio announced the death in action of Adolf Hitler.

In reality, Hitler had committed suicide on 30th April. His successor, Grand Admiral Karl Dönitz, quickly negotiated an end to the war with the Allies – at the same time trying with some success to prevent as many Germans as possible from falling into Soviet hands.

Field Marshal Montgomery accepted the unconditional surrender of German forces in the Netherlands, north-west Germany and Denmark at a ceremony near Hamburg on 4th May. All German forces then surrendered to Supreme Allied Commander General Eisenhower on 7th May at Reims, France. Soviet leader Josef Stalin had his own ceremony, in Berlin.

The announcement that the war had ended in Europe was broadcast to the British people by the BBC late on 7th May. It was decreed that there would be a national holiday the next day, and the stage was set for huge celebrations. Prime Minister Churchill had been assured that there was enough beer in the capital, and commemorative items, including VE Day mugs, were quickly produced.

St Paul's Cathedral held ten consecutive services giving thanks for peace, each one attended by thousands of people, and churches throughout the country rang their bells. The Royal Family played a central role, appearing eight times on the balcony of Buckingham Palace while huge numbers of people flocked down The Mall.

In the United States, VE Day coincided with President Harry S Truman's 61st birthday: he dedicated the victory to the memory of his predecessor, Franklin D Roosevelt, who had died of a stroke less than a month earlier. But both Truman and Churchill pointed out that the war against Japan had not yet been won. That final victory was still more than three months away.

Of course, the end of a war could never be neat. In Europe the last known shots on the Eastern Front were actually fired on 11th May, and on 25th May the battle of Odžak ended in a Yugoslav Partisan victory. Tragically, in French Algeria, Muslims celebrating the end of the war (some also peacefully protesting for independence) were “inexcusably” massacred by colonial authorities and militias – leading eventually to the Algerian War nine years later.



UPDATES ON PROJECTS FOR ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, CAPEL

There are a number of projects planned for St John's Church in Capel.

Decoration of the organ lobby and toilet will have commenced on 22nd April and should be completed by the time you receive this magazine. This has been funded by the Friends of St John the Baptist Church Capel.

The Garden of Remembrance has been given Faculty approval by the Diocese of Guildford DAC. The contractor has been appointed and works are planned to commence in the autumn and should be completed in four to five weeks. This will be funded by legacies given for this project, the John Ede Fund, the civil Parish of Capel and the Friends of St John the Baptist Church Capel.

Quotations have been received for a new sound system for the church as the existing system is unreliable and subject to cutting out and static. A Faculty has been applied to the Diocese of Guildford DAC for this replacement. The new system will be funded by the Friends of St John the Baptist Church Capel.

The last Quinquennial Report on the church highlighted the need for repairs to the main roof of the church and the timber shingles on the spire. It has been difficult to locate suitably qualified contractors to take on this work but several contractors have now expressed interest and quotations are being obtained.

David Silliman

Mental Health Awareness Week - 12th – 18th May

In May we observe Mental Health Week, at a time when sadly many of us, as a nation, are struggling. Roughly one in four of us now experience a mental health problem every year.

According to the Health Foundation, for young people aged 10–24 a staggering 45% are experiencing mental health disorders.

While the medical profession is helping with medication and medical care, many Christians are also deeply concerned.

As one theologian, Professor John Swinton, has said: "Mental-health professions play a significant part in the healing process for people. Most people, however, are not acutely unwell... they live in ordinary communities, and work out their lives amid family, friends, society and church. It is there that the Church can offer important gifts and insights.

"The central intention of the Gospels is to enable people to come to know God, and to live with God for ever. Within this perspective, mental health is not the absence of symptoms or distress, it is assurance of the presence of a loving God who cares."

There is plenty of emotional and mental pain in the Bible: just read the Psalms of lament, which express sorrow and desolation. (They include Psalms 3, 6, 13, 22, 28, 42, 44, 56, 57, 71, 77, 86, 88, 102, 120, 130, 137, 142.) Here you will find desolation and sorrow – but also hope and assurance that at the end of all things, God is still there for those who turn to Him.

The Bible assures us that God will "never leave you or forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5). As Jesus told His followers: "I will not leave you as orphans, I will come to you" (John 14:18)

The Bible reminds us that we should not be surprised by deeply painful times in our lives, as these are not outside the experiences of people who know God. However, it assures us that He will draw close to us (James 4:8) and that "in all things God works for the good of those who love him" (Romans 8:28).

Editor: This month we mention the Nicene Creed's 1700th birthday, and then next month, we are beginning a series looking at the various parts of the Creed. The series will run until the end of the year.

Happy 1700th Birthday, Nicene Creed!

This month, 1700 years ago, one of the most important meetings in the history of the Christian Church began in the Bithynian city of Nicaea. It began in May 325 and went on until the end of July 325.

The Council of Nicaea was convened by the Roman Emperor Constantine, and he had an urgent job for the Christian bishops to do. He wanted them to spell out as exactly as they could the core beliefs of the Christian Church, especially with regard to the person of Christ.

Constantine had good reason to do this: a man called Arius of Alexandria was spreading the idea that Jesus Christ was not divine, but instead was a created being. Such a belief, if accepted, would have changed the very heart of Christianity.

After three months of hard work, the bishops at Nicaea had prayerfully and carefully written down as exactly as they could the core beliefs of Christianity. It became known as the Nicene Creed, and it has been the bedrock of orthodox Christianity ever since.

The Nicene Creed is unique in that it is the only Christian statement of faith that is accepted as authoritative by the Anglican, Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and major Protestant Churches.

It runs:

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is,
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.
Through Him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation
He came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
He became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day He rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

Reflecting Faith: where to hold a Baptism

For the last couple of months we've been thinking about baptism, its place within church life and what it means to each of us on a personal level.

This month, let's look at the actual font where baptisms usually take place.

Over the years Christians have used a wide variety of 'fonts': the sea accessed from the beach, a swimming pool (hired for the occasion), an especially built permanent baptistry, many varied stone fonts, a stainless steel portable font and even the beach in Philippi, Greece where Paul is said to have baptised Lydia and her household. Imagine the sunshine, warmth, flowing clean water and a gathering of your family and friends from your local church who have all travelled there together to celebrate this special moment, and themselves renewed their baptismal vows!

Baptism is not only a personal acceptance of Christ, but a huge celebration for Christian family and friends. Think back to a time of success in your life such as passing an exam or getting a new job. Didn't everyone around you also celebrate? So it is when a new person wants to follow Jesus.

Baptism for older children and adults have always followed a period of instruction.

People as far back as the 3rd century weren't just grabbed off the street and immediately baptised and able to join in all the services. Rather, they were carefully taught about Jesus and what being a Christian means.

They were allowed to take part in the Sunday service up to the 'Peace' and then they had to leave and went to a separate building for teaching. In other words, they couldn't even watch the Holy Communion part of the service until they had been baptised.

Baptism symbolised their public acceptance of the Christian faith, and it was quite literally their first step in their life as a member of the church, as the actual baptism was carried out in a special building, outside but attached to the main church building. Baptisms were done by the Bishop on a certain day or days each year.

This month: Where were you baptised? Do you have any photos of that day? This month have a look at the fonts in some local churches and see what shapes they are and any decoration they may have.

Rev'd Dr Jo White

An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Ecclesiastes by Canon Paul Hardingham

'Meaningless! Meaningless!' This is how the book of Ecclesiastes begins (1:2), as it examines the futility of human experience *'under the sun'*. The author is named as *'The Teacher'* (1:1, Hebrew *qoheleth*), traditionally identified with King Solomon. Although focusing on life in the physical world, the book ends with, *'Fear God and keep his commandments'* (12:13).

Ecclesiastes reminds us of the limitation of human wisdom, which cannot find meaning and purpose without God:

Our strivings *'under the sun'* can only lead to disillusionment (1:5–11). Therefore, we need to accept the life God gives us and enjoy it to the full.

Wisdom is given to those who please God (2:26). Such wisdom cannot solve all problems (1:16–18), or secure enduring reward (2:12–17). We cannot control our immediate future, resulting in uncertainty (6:12), and there are difficult questions about life and death itself (9:1–3). In response, we need to understand our human limitations before God.

God has ordered all things in their time; things we cannot change or fully anticipate: *'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven'* (3:1–15).

However, the world is not fundamentally chaotic or irrational, as it is ordered by God: *'He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.'* (3:11). We should remember our Creator when we are young before the infirmities of advanced age stop us from enjoying the good things of life (12: 1–8).

In summary, Ecclesiastes shows us how to live meaningfully and joyfully by placing God at the centre of our life, while trusting and obeying our Creator.

Praying with the Prayers Of The Bible - Praying in the Silence of the Heart

'O Lord of hosts ... if you will give me a son ...I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life.' (1 Samuel 1:11)

Three 'C's will help us to grasp this most personal and moving prayer.

First, the prayer's context. Hannah was the childless wife of Elkanah, who had sons and daughters by his other wife, Peninnah. As she longed for a child, she was taunted by 'her rival' (see v.6) who reproached her for being barren.

It doesn't take much imagination to understand how miserable and lonely and useless Hannah felt. Although Elkanah loved Hannah, his well-meant sympathy, "Am I not more to you than ten sons?" (v.8) was hardly calculated to ease her pain! Making the annual pilgrimage to the Tabernacle at Shiloh, Hannah was 'deeply distressed, prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly' (v.10).

This is the Bible's first record of a woman praying. We can be certain that godly women, long before Hannah's time, had prayed but this is the first mention in Scripture of a woman praying.

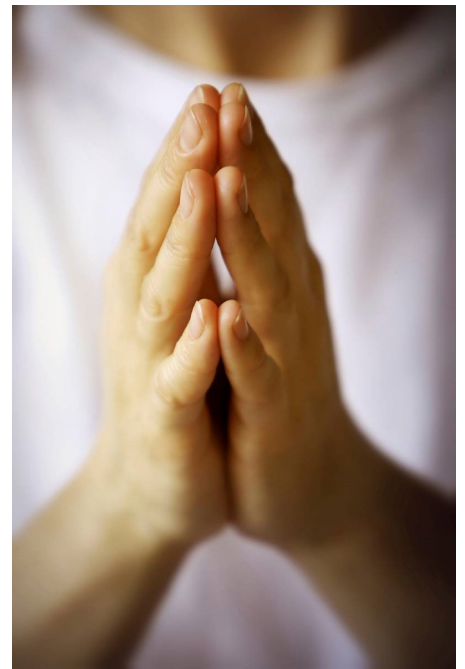
Secondly, the prayer's content. Above everything else, Hannah longed to have a son. "O Lord of hosts, if you will look on my affliction and give me a son, I will give him back to You in service all the days of his life" (v.11). It was a cry from the heart. A lonely wife, longing for a child, taunted by her rival, and not really understood by her husband, poured out her very soul in grief.

And it was all done without spoken words! As her lips moved, Eli the priest, misreading the signs, rebuked her for being drunk (v.14). There are times when the burden of our heart is so great that no words can express it, but how comforting to know that God hears us!

Thirdly, the prayer's consequences. The Lord graciously answered Hannah's distress and a year later she was nursing her baby son! (vv. 21,22). Hannah's dark night had been eclipsed by a glorious morning. Grief and sorrow had given way to joy and delight but as she cradled her infant son, Hannah did not forget what she had promised the Lord.

In token of His faithfulness, she named her son Samuel, meaning, 'asked of the Lord' (v.20). Some time later, Hannah took Samuel to Shiloh and presented him to Eli, fulfilling the promise she had made to the Lord. Hannah's dedication of Samuel is a reminder to all of us not only to give thanks to God for answered prayer but also to carry out whatever vows or promises we've made to Him.

Hannah's words to Eli are so full of praise and gratitude to God that they need no comment. Let them inspire thanksgiving in our hearts. "For this child I prayed ...therefore as long as he lives he is lent to the Lord" (v.28).



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear friends,

With my sincere thanks to my husband Stuart for picking up the reins and doing the April issue following the sudden death of my Mum, Pat. Thank you to everyone who has sent cards and kind messages. Also thank you to those of you who supported us as a family and came to Mum's Service of Thanksgiving at our church in Capel. Some of you came to Randalls afterwards and on to the reception too. Mum would have been very touched that people gave up their time to come and celebrate her life and to support her family as we come to terms with her loss. There's a long road ahead but I know with time and support, we will get there. But for now, there is a huge void left by my very loving, funny and vibrant Mum who was always there for us. I'm hugely grateful to have been blessed with her love until my 60th year. We featured this reading 'She is Gone' by David Harkins at her funeral and I hope, going forward to embrace this as it's definitely what Mum would have wanted for us as a family.

*"You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back,
Or you can do what she would want:
smile, open your eyes, love and go on".*

There are several special events in May—namely **Christian Aid Week** (see below), **VE Day 80** years on (see page 12) and **Mental Health Awareness week 12th—18th May** (see page 13), amongst others. Do come along and hear about the new '**Donate 10**' initiative to mark Dorking Foodbank's 10 year anniversary - two options available at either Capel or Ockley churches (see page 30).

We celebrate **Ascension Day on 29th May** and there are prayers and a gospel reading on page 10, together with some thoughts on page 27. Also this month, 1700 years ago, one of the most important meetings in the history of the Christian Church began in the Bithynian city of Nicaea. It began in May 325 and went on until the end of July 325. Find out more about the beginnings of the **Nicene Creed** on page 14 and Athanasius, the theologian who gave us the Nicene Creed on page 20 in '**High Days & Holy Days**'. There is much more besides, including the usual puzzle pages. Do note the new Capel Church Tea dates on page 31. There have been some changes since the published list in the previous issue. Thanks to Helen Berry for masterminding this new list for us and for all the time that she and Joy give to the teas which are enjoyed by so many.

I hope you enjoy May and the two Bank holiday weekends that we benefit from.

With my best wishes,

Suzanne

inspire@capelandockleychurch.org.uk

Christian Aid Week – 11th to 17th May

For more than 75 years, Christian Aid has been working with some of the world's most vulnerable communities in 29 countries in Africa, the Middle East, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.

This annual week invites Christians in the UK to help fundraise for the work by holding community events and taking on individual challenges. It has been called 'seven days of fundraising fun – your way'.

This year you might like to consider taking on the '70k in May Challenge'. It is simple to do: just travel 70k during the month of May, in whatever way you want. Invite your friends and family to sponsor you or even complete the challenge with you.

More info at: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

Miscellaneous observations on life in the 21st century...

Life's evening will take its character from the day that has preceded it. - *Anon*

Life is a journey that no one makes alone. The more people you touch along the way, the more meaningful and rewarding your time. - *Anon*

Inflation: instead of not having the money you haven't got, you have twice as much, but it's worth only half of what you haven't got. - *Anon*

Tact: the ability to shut your mouth before someone else wants to. - *Anon*

If it's true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for? - *Anon*

My inferiority complex is not as good as yours. - *Anon*

I'm only about three pounds from Google Maps listing me as a roundabout. - *Anon*

'I owe it all to': an expression commonly used in connection with one's wife, landlord, or pawnbroker. - *Anon*

Middle age: that difficult period between juvenile delinquency and old age, when you have to take care of yourself. - *Anon*

Carpark: the place where you take your car to have little dents put into the sides. - *Anon*

Optimist: a cheerful person who is blissfully unaware of what is going on. - *Anon*

Rich man: a man who isn't afraid to ask the clerk to show him something cheaper. - *Anon*

Taxpayer: a person who has the whole government on his payroll. - *Anon*

You know how in some sports, they throw the ball into the crowd after winning? They don't allow that in bowling. I know that now.

My mind is like an internet browser these days. At least 19 tabs are open, three of them are frozen and I have no clue where the music is coming from. - *Anon*

Musings on our Christian pilgrimage

The more you think about Christ, the more you think of Him. - *H C Trumbell*

All the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of mankind on this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life. - *J A Francis*

Joy is the serious business of heaven. - *C S Lewis*

Give God what's right - not what's left. - *Anon*

Man's way leads to a hopeless end - God's way leads to an endless hope. - *Aneel Aranha*

To be almost saved is to be totally lost. *Anon*

People want to be in the front of the bus, the back of the church, and the centre of attention. - *D Macomber*

Real responses to school science exam questions ...

- Genetics explains why you look like your father, and if you don't, why you should.
- The cause of perfume disappearing is evaporation. Evaporation gets blamed for a lot of the things people forget to put the top on.
- Water vapor gets together in a cloud. When it is big enough to be called a drop, it does.
- Mushrooms always grow in damp places, which is why they look like umbrellas.
- Momentum is something you give a person when they go away.
- A monsoon is a French gentleman.
- The word 'trousers' is an uncommon noun because it is singular at the top and plural at the bottom.
- To keep milk from turning sour, keep it in the cow.
- When planets run around and around in circles, we say they are orbiting. When people do it, we say they are crazy.
- For asphyxiation, apply artificial respiration until the patient is dead.
- Thunder is a rich source of loudness.

Some perks of getting old

There is nothing left to learn the hard way.
Things you buy now won't wear out.
You can eat supper at 4 pm.
You get into heated arguments about pension plans.
You can sing along with lift music.
Your eyes won't get much worse.
Your secrets are safe with your friends - because they can't remember them either.

Aspirin

Had a slight headache this morning but felt much better after following the instructions on the aspirin bottle: 'Take two and keep away from children.'



Phillip was never at his best at the 8.00 service

High Days & Holy Days in May

2nd May - Athanasius, the theologian who gave us the Nicene Creed

This is the name behind the Athanasian Creed. Athanasius (296-373) was born into a prosperous family in Alexandria in Egypt, studied in the Christian school there and entered the ministry. He was 29 years old when he accompanied Alexander, the bishop of Alexandria, to the Church's first ecumenical Council, at Nicaea in 325.

Although Athanasius could not take part in the Council's debates because he was a deacon and not a bishop, Alexander consulted him on the meaning of biblical texts and theological distinctions. With Emperor Constantine sitting as President, 300 bishops argued about the Person of Christ. How is He the Son of God? Is He God or man or both together? Did He exist before He was born? If we worship Him, does that mean that we are worshipping two Gods?

The young Athanasius saw that some bishops wanted to impose the teaching of Arius on the Church. Arius was a popular preacher in Alexandria who taught that Christ was not eternal but was a 'Saviour' created by the Father. Athanasius worked with his bishop, Alexander, in framing what became known as the Nicene Creed. Our Lord's full divinity was safeguarded in the words, 'eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father.'

When Bishop Alexander died in 328, Athanasius succeeded him as Bishop by popular demand. For the next 45 years Athanasius' devotion, scholarship, and forceful leadership established the Nicene Creed in the Christian Church. His enemies, both in Church and state, conspired against him, and he was exiled five times from the See of Alexandria and spent a total of 17 years in flight and hiding. It was his uncompromising stand for Nicene theology that gave rise to the familiar saying, *Athanasius contra mundum*, 'Athanasius against the world.'

Athanasius' name will always be linked with the triumph of New Testament Christology over every form of reductionism. Of his many writings the most significant was his great study on the person and work of Christ; *On the Incarnation of the Word of God*, written before he was 30 years old. The whole Church of Christ is always in need of bishops, leaders and theologians in the mould of Athanasius.

See also on page 14 - **Happy 1700th Birthday, Nicene Creed!**

May brings us Rogation-tide, which is all about asking God for things

The shortest distance between a problem and a solution is the distance between your knees and the floor. The one who kneels to the Lord can stand up to anything. - *Anon*

Genuine prayers will be looking out for answers. - *W Plumer*

All my discoveries have been made in answer to prayer. - *Isaac Newton*

We should believe that nothing is too small to be named before God. What should we think of the patient who told his doctor he was ill, but never went into particulars? - *Anon*

If your troubles are deep-seated or long-standing, try kneeling. - *Anon*

Thy Kingdom Come

This month millions of Christians worldwide, of every denomination, will once again join in with *Thy Kingdom Come*, a prayer initiative between Ascension and Pentecost (29th May to 8th June), to pray for the nation to know Jesus Christ. It is a time to seek the empowering of the Holy Spirit, that we may be effective witnesses to Jesus Christ.

Praying for others to know Jesus is one of the most powerful things we can do. Persistent prayer for others brings transformation to their lives. As Paul writes: *'Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.'* (Colossians 4: 2-4).

As Paul says, consistent praying for others involves discipline (*'be devoted'*) and responding to what God is already doing in people's lives (*'being watchful and thankful'*). We can pray for *'open doors'* to point people to Jesus and what He can mean in their lives. We all have opportunities to do this, as even Paul prayed as a prisoner in chains!!

Thy Kingdom Come encourages us to choose five people who we can pray for regularly. Why not ask God to guide you, as you settle on five names and commit to praying for them daily, perhaps by using the following prayer:

*'Loving Father, in the face of Jesus Christ your light and glory have blazed forth.
Send your Holy Spirit that I may share with my friends the life of your Son and your love for all.
Strengthen me as a witness to that love as I pledge to pray for them, for your name's sake. Amen.'*

Farewell to George Foreman – boxer and preacher

Warm tributes were paid to the Christian US heavyweight boxing legend George Foreman, who died aged 76 on 21st of March.

The two-time heavyweight champion of the world became a Christian in 1977, three years after his famous match with Muhammad Ali, known as the 'Rumble in the Jungle'.

Born into a poor single-parent family of seven children in Texas, Foreman dropped out of junior high school, but was able to turn his life around through Job Corps, which helped him get into boxing.

Foreman proved to be a natural: at only 19 he won the heavyweight boxing gold medal at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City.

After this, he turned pro, and then won 37 straight matches on his way to face reigning champion Joe Frazier in Kingston, Jamaica, winning by technical knockout.

It was after a defeat in 1977 that Foreman had a profound experience of Jesus Christ, and was converted. Aged 28, he abandoned boxing and became a minister. He founded The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Foreman boxed again in 1987, to raise money for a youth centre he had founded. He then won another 24 matches in a row. His last match was in 1997, when he ended his career with a record of 76 wins and five losses.

In 1985, he married for the fifth time, to Mary Joan Martelly. He had five sons - all called George - five daughters, and two adopted daughters.

In March his family posted on Instagram: "Our hearts are broken. A devout preacher, a devoted husband, a loving father, and a proud grand and great grandfather, he lived a life marked by unwavering faith, humility, and purpose."

Why you should draw your curtains at night (especially if you live in the country)

Most of us draw our curtains at night, in order to ensure privacy. But there is another very valid reason: to help protect local wildlife.

It seems that insects who live in the countryside are very susceptible to bright lights, which can badly disrupt their overall health and general behaviour.

As one scientist explained: "We don't know exactly how fatal it is, but one estimate is that 33 per cent of all the insects attracted to light die before morning. And even if they don't die, they're spending all their time at the light instead of doing the things they're supposed to be doing."

Light pollution is now seen as adding to what some scientists have called "insect Armageddon", with a 75 per cent decline in insect populations in 30 years. As one scientist said: "Small individual actions such as drawing curtains can make a big impact to our smallest creatures."

Why you need a holiday

They are more than an indulgence – a holiday can be vital for your health and mental well-being. Here are five reasons why:

Better sleep: after two or three days on holiday, most people average an hour more of good quality sleep. And deep sleep improves problem solving and cell repair.

More vitamin D: Our bodies make this in response to sunlight. It is important for bones and immunity, but one in five of us are thought to be deficient.

Help your heart: Researchers at Syracuse University in New York found that those people with the lowest risk of heart disease had taken their full annual leave in the past year. Conversely, infrequent holidays led to a greater risk of coronary heart disease.

Reduce stress and get your energy back: As one doctor explains, living under stress "is like squirting steroids into your body every day". Stress triggers the production of cortisol, which lowers your sex hormones and affects your thyroid. Your hair will thin and your energy decrease. For the best rest, take an occasional complete break from your work mobile and emails.

Time together – spend quality time with your nearest and dearest. Build some more happy memories. At the end of our lives, few of us look back and wish we had spent more time in the office.

One tip about holidays: several short trips rather than one big one may be even better for your health.

Measuring success

After the local Churches Together meetings had concluded, the four ministers were discussing the results with one another.

The Methodist minister said, "What a success! We gained two new families."

The Baptist pastor said, "We did better - we gained three new families."

The URC minister said: "That's nothing - we gained five new families!"

And the Anglican vicar smiled gently. "We did best of all. We just said goodbye to our 10 biggest troublemakers."



...and the theme of this morning's service is... 'Preaching a Gospel of Simplicity'...

The other vicar's letter!

St James the Least of All

Editor: The Revd Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'... If you would like a copy of Parish Pump's published booklet of Uncle Eustace's letters, please email enquiries@parishpump.co.uk

On why people should ALWAYS sit in the same pew

From The Rectory
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren,

I have to say that the couple who complained that you never noticed they had been missing from church for a month had a point. There is a simple way of noticing when someone is absent: everyone sits in the same pew. Every Sunday. Always.

Little Miss Margison sits in the pew after the third pillar on the right here at St James the Least. As she walks up the aisle, you can sense her counting the pillars until she reaches the right one, which then allows her to sit in front of it. I have speculated that if I ever had that pillar removed, then the following Sunday, she would have a complete mental collapse.

One Sunday a visiting family arrived early and sat down; three people in an empty church seating 200. Colonel Wainwright and his wife were the first of our regulars to arrive and froze in horror. The Colonel said in a deafening whisper to his wife: "There's someone sitting in our pew."

At least they had the grace – no matter how reluctant – for one week, to sit somewhere else. Unlike the Prentice family of husband, wife and three children, who arrived to discover that a visiting family of husband, wife and four children were sitting in their pew; six people in a pew that held eight. Or, it normally holds eight. That Sunday, it held thirteen.

We at least have one iconoclast in Miss Pemberton, who makes a point of sitting in a different place every week. This thoroughly unsettles the rest of the congregation, who fear she may sit in their seats during her nomadic wanderings. I sometimes wonder if she has a chart at home with all the pew spaces marked on it and she strikes one off each week as she returns home after Mattins.

Occasionally the unexpected can happen. Mrs Cholmondeley arrived one week in good time, settled herself in her accustomed place, but half-way through the Service suddenly ran out of the building. Ten minutes later, she was back and in her usual place once again. When the church filled with the smell of burned bacon, we understood.

That is why replacing pews with chairs in your church was a mistake. Pews can never be moved. You know where everybody is – or should be!

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



Brookwood Cemetery

Written by Stuart Cole

London expanded quickly during the early part of the 19th century. With this expansion came a problem of what to do with London's dead. The oldest graves were regularly opened for new burials and a Royal Commission in 1842 stated that it was not possible to dig a grave without cutting across an old one. But the space in the 200 graveyards in London had remained static at 300 acres. Graveyards contaminated the water supply and the cholera epidemic of 1848, killing over 14,000 Londoners had overwhelmed the graveyards resulting in bodies stacked in heaps whilst even recent graves were opened.

Cremation was not permitted by law until 1902, But cremations had been allowed since 1884. In that year William Price was arrested for attempting to cremate his infant son Iesu Grist on a hillside near Llantrisant in South Wales. He was a physician, nudist, vegetarian and an Archdruid who disapproved of burial and argued that although cremation was not permitted in law, it was not prohibited either. The judge agreed, and it was the following year that the first official cremation took place at Woking. But until permitted, there was still the problem that London's churchyards were full, and there was investment in land for burials within the capital.

Brookwood Cemetery was the idea of the London Necropolis Company in 1849. They purchased 2,268 acres of heath near Woking and started to develop 350 acres as a cemetery. It was thought that Woking was sufficiently distant from London not to be affected by urbanisation. The cemetery was designed to take all the dead of London for centuries, so to provide order to the land, it was divided into plots allocated to parishes, religious denominations and faiths. It catered for all irrespective of religion or class.

The buildings were designed by architect Sydney Smirk along with the landscaping with William Tite and the evergreen planting scheme with William Thomas. Henry Abraham was responsible for the 9ft high brick wall that still surrounds the cemetery. The first burials took place in 1854.

Unusual for a cemetery, Brookwood had its own two dedicated stations. The North station was for non-conformists, and the Southern one for Anglicans. Its terminus in London was just outside Waterloo station, and its remains can still be seen from a train a couple of hundred yards prior to entering platform one. It was planned that coffin trains would depart from London to Brookwood late at night or early morning carrying 50-60 bodies. They would be stored until the mourners arrived by train later that day at their allocated station. The consulting engineer for the company, William Cubitt of Denbies, amended the plans so that mourners and bodies travelled together from the Westminster Bridge Road terminus. It was calculated that the eventual planned size of Brookwood at 1,500 acres would accommodate nearly six million coffins in a single layer. This could be expanded to nearly 30 million if shared graves were used.



Continued on page 25

Brookwood was not universally welcomed. The Bishop of London thought the speed and noise of the railway was incompatible with the solemnity of a funeral and was also against respectable members of the community having to share a train with relatives of those that led immoral lives. London South Western Railway was concerned about competition and congestion although they eventually did accommodate the railway and built them a new terminus when Waterloo was later expanded.

Although the cemetery catered for all there was discrimination by wealth. A first class funeral allowed for choice of grave site for £2 10/- as well as the erection of a monument. A second class funeral plot was £1 with some control over plot location, but no monument was allowed unless a further 10/- was paid. Third class funerals were for paupers and were in the section reserved for that parish. These grave plots were for single occupancy unlike those in London where ten would be buried together. No monument was allowed. The trains were also segregated by class and religion, although in practice only the decoration of the carriages differed. This allowed large funeral parties to overflow into other class carriages whilst not having to mix with other class of passenger. This segregation was practiced for both the living and dead. The fares did not change during the first 85 years. For a first class passenger it was 6/-, second, 3/6 and third 2/- return. The dead were charged £1 for first, 5/- of second and 2/6 for third one way.

Brookwood was never the financial success that had been hoped. It is still the largest cemetery in the UK, and one of the largest in the world. The train service ceased after 87 years in 1945. Three years later the company was sold to another owner and then passed through a number of hands. It is currently majority owned by Woking Borough Council.

Lambeth Palace Statement on the Death of His Holiness Pope Francis

Dated 21/04/2025



The death of His Holiness Pope Francis is a great loss for the Roman Catholic Church, as it is for the entire global Church which has benefitted from his warmth, wisdom and ministry over the past 12 years.

At Lambeth Palace, we cherish the strong bond between Popes and Archbishops of Canterbury - the fruit of many decades of ecumenical dialogue.

During meetings of the International Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission on Unity and Mission in Rome, on the joint pilgrimage to South Sudan in 2023, and recently with the Primates of the Anglican Communion in Rome, Pope Francis was a tireless champion of the strong ecumenical bonds formed between the Roman Catholic Church and the Anglican Communion, and we give thanks for his ministry to millions of Christians around the world.

His strong commitment to reconciliation, to peace, and to the poor and to refugees, served as an important call to action, as he fearlessly modelled the love, humility and service of Jesus Christ. We pray for our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters as they mourn his death. May Pope Francis rest in peace and rise in glory.

<https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/news/news-and-statements>

Editor: Tim Lenton looks back on the man who gave us 'Anno Domini'.

The Venerable Bede – the father of English history



1300 years ago, on 26th May 725, the Venerable Bede died. This English Benedictine monk, historian, linguist and teacher is known as “the father of English history.” He helped to popularise the idea of dating years from the birth of Christ (Anno Domini – AD).

Bede was certainly born into a well-to-do family, but we have no details except that he was sent to a monastery – Monkwearmouth in Northumbria – at the age of seven. He later moved on to Jarrow under the tutelage of Abbot Ceolfrith, both of them surviving the devastating plague of 686.

He was never a great traveller, preferring to spend most of his life studying and writing in Northumbria, except for visits to Lindisfarne and York. He completed about 60 books, most of which have survived. Not surprisingly, he was considered the most learned man of his time.

Bede was ordained a deacon at the early age of 19 and became a priest when he was 30. He was known for his devotion to prayer, for studying the Scriptures and for his faithful observation of the monastic discipline. His most famous work is the *Ecclesiastical History of the English People* (*Historia Ecclesiastica Gentis Anglorum*), which is widely relied on as historical source material.

He was particularly interested in the academic discipline of computus – the science of calculating calendar dates, particularly, and controversially, the date of Easter. The word ‘computer’ stems from this work. Bede was also a skilled translator, and he made the writings of the early Church Fathers accessible to the English people.

Bede died at the age of 61 or 62 at Jarrow and was buried there, but his remains were later moved to Durham Cathedral. He was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Leo XIII in 1899.

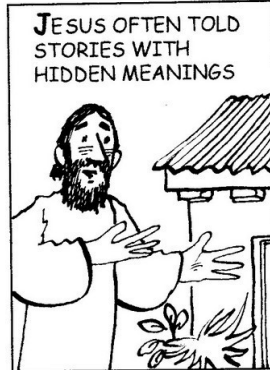


There was no more dozing off after the vicar started serving the extra-strength coffee *before* the service

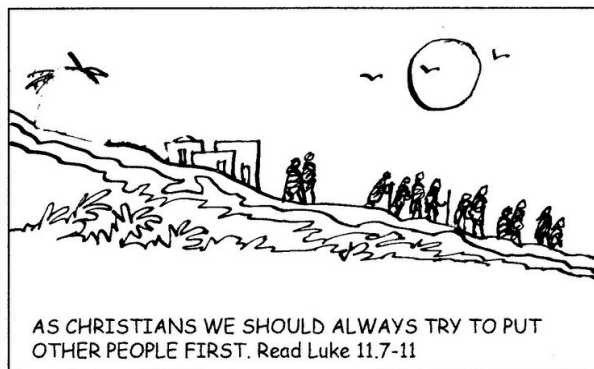
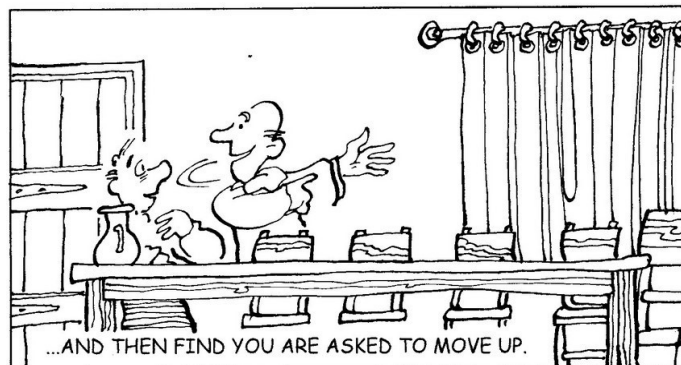
It's how you say it....

Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana.
A backward poet writes inverse.
In a democracy it's your vote that counts; in
feudalism, it's your Count that votes.
A chicken crossing the road: poultry in motion.
If you don't pay your exorcist you can get
repossessed.
Marathon runners with bad shoes suffer the
agony of de feet.

Junior InSpire



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



With Ascension Day (29th May) in mind

What? Do we place Christ midway among the spheres? Or do we build a cottage for Him among planets? Heaven we regard as the magnificent palace of God, far outstripping all this world's fabric. - *John Calvin*

When Jesus came to earth, He did not cease to be God; when He returned to heaven, He did not cease to be man. - Anon

Triumphant, Christ ascends on high,
The glorious work complete;
Sin, death and hell low vanquished lie
Beneath His awful feet.
Anne Steele

Our Lord is risen from the dead!
Our Jesus is gone up on high!
The powers of hell are captive led,
Dragged to the portals of the sky.
Charles Wesley

Astronauts sink into insignificance beside this ascension! - *Vance Havner*

Easy Sodoku

5	4			7	6	1	8	
7							2	
		6	1	2	4	7	3	
		4	8			9		
2				3				1
		8			1	3		
	6	1	5	4	9	2		
	5							6
	2	9	7	6			1	3

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Medium Sodoku

				1	7			
3				2	8			1
4						3		
2						9	7	
				9		6		
	7	5						6
		8						4
1				2	9			5
				5	6			

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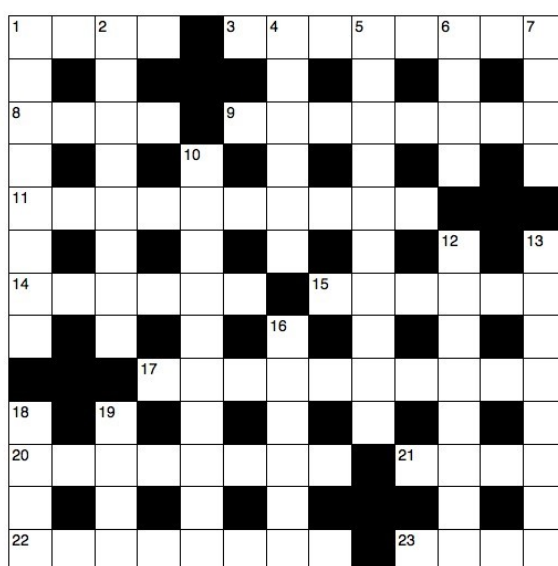
Solutions on
page 31

Across

- 1 Infant (Luke 2:12) (4)
- 3 Luis must (anag.) (8)
- 8 What Jesus called the devil (John 8:44) (4)
- 9 'My God, my God, why have you — me?' (Matthew 27:46) (8)
- 11 Anglican form of church government (10)
- 14 'Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like — ' (Isaiah 40:31) (6)
- 15 Ministers of religion (6)
- 17 Make stronger (1 Thessalonians 3:13) (10)
- 20 Devoutness (1 Timothy 2:2) (8)
- 21 The father of Jesse (Ruth 4:22) (4)
- 22 Pool where Jesus healed a man who had been an invalid for 38 years (John 5:2) (8)
- 23 '[Jesus] said to them, " — here and keep watch"' (Mark 14:34) (4)

Down

- 1 Follower of Christ (Acts 16:1) (8)
- 2 One of the punishments endured by Paul (2 Corinthians 6:5) (8)
- 4 Soldiers (Exodus 14:9) (6)
- 5 Scholarly study of melody, harmony and rhythm (10)
- 6 'I am God, and there is none — me' (Isaiah 46:9) (4)
- 7 'And how can they preach unless they are — ?' (Romans 10:15) (4)
- 10 Favourable reception (1 Timothy 1:15) (10)
- 12 Hip orbit (anag.) (8)
- 13 End of life (Isaiah 22:14) (5,3)
- 16 'About midnight the sailors — they were approaching land' (Acts 27:27) (6)
- 18 He married Jezebel (1 Kings 16:30–31) (4)
- 19 'According to your great compassion — out my transgressions' (Psalm 51:1) (4)



Puzzle solutions on page 31

Dorking Area Foodbank

has been operating for 10 years in June.

The Parish of Capel and Ockley
are running a project to support this, called....

‘DONATE TEN’

To hear more about this initiative and
come and find out what's afoot
on **Sunday May 11th at St Margaret's Church Ockley**
at 9.30am

or

Sunday May 25th at St John the Baptist Church Capel
at 10.30am.

If you are not a churchgoer or cannot attend these services,
and would like to hear more regarding this project
please contact: Revd Liz Richardson - 01306711260
or Pastoral Assistant Sylvie Beckett on 07711849338



Puzzle Solutions

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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

Already well connected

The telephone rang in the church office of the church that the MP attended when visiting his constituency. An eager voice inquired: "Do you expect the MP to be in church on Sunday? If so, I was thinking of coming along."

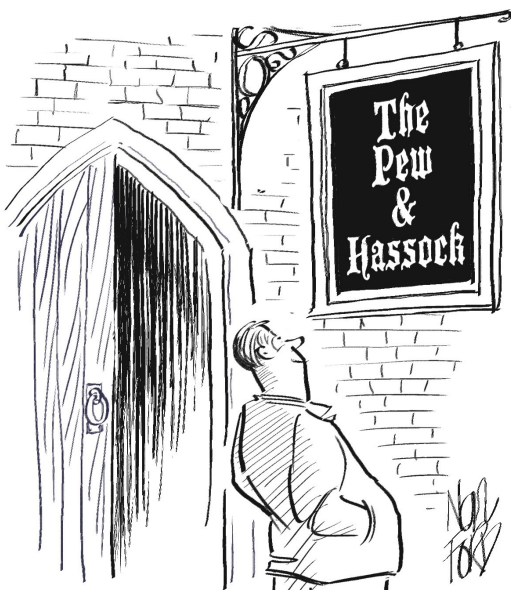
"That," said the clergyman, "I cannot promise. But we do expect that God will be there, and we fancy that that should be incentive enough for a reasonably large attendance."

Easy Sudoku solution

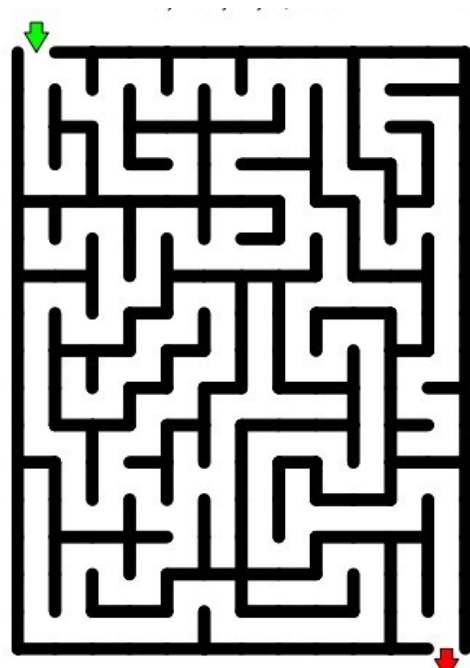
5	4	2	3	7	6	1	8	9
7	1	3	9	8	5	6	2	4
9	8	6	1	2	4	7	3	5
1	3	4	8	5	2	9	6	7
2	9	5	6	3	7	8	4	1
6	7	8	4	9	1	3	5	2
3	6	1	5	4	9	2	7	8
8	5	7	2	1	3	4	9	6
4	2	9	7	6	8	5	1	3

Medium Sudoku solution

6	5	2	3	1	7	8	4	9
3	9	7	2	8	4	5	6	1
4	8	1	6	9	5	3	2	7
2	6	4	1	5	3	9	7	8
8	1	3	9	7	6	4	5	2
9	7	5	8	4	2	1	3	6
5	2	8	7	3	1	6	9	4
1	3	6	4	2	9	7	8	5
7	4	9	5	6	8	2	1	3



Changing the name from 'St Mark's Parish Church', resulted in a big increase in the number of men attending services





Church Tea dates 2025

At St John the Baptist, Capel

From 3:00 to 5:00 pm

*Please note this is a revised list from that published
in the April 2025 issue of InSpire.*

Sunday 25th May

Sunday 22nd June

Sunday 20th July

Sunday 24th August

Sunday 14th September

Sunday 5th October - Harvest

Sunday 2nd November - All Soul's Day

Service at 3pm * Teas start at 4pm

Sunday 30th November

First Sunday of Advent

Thanks to Joy and Helen for their tireless dedication
to providing these teas in aid of The Friends of St John the Baptist, Capel

Your contributions would be most welcome and any copy for this publication should be sent to
Suzanne Cole inspire@capelandockleychurch.org.uk **By 20th of each month please.**
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