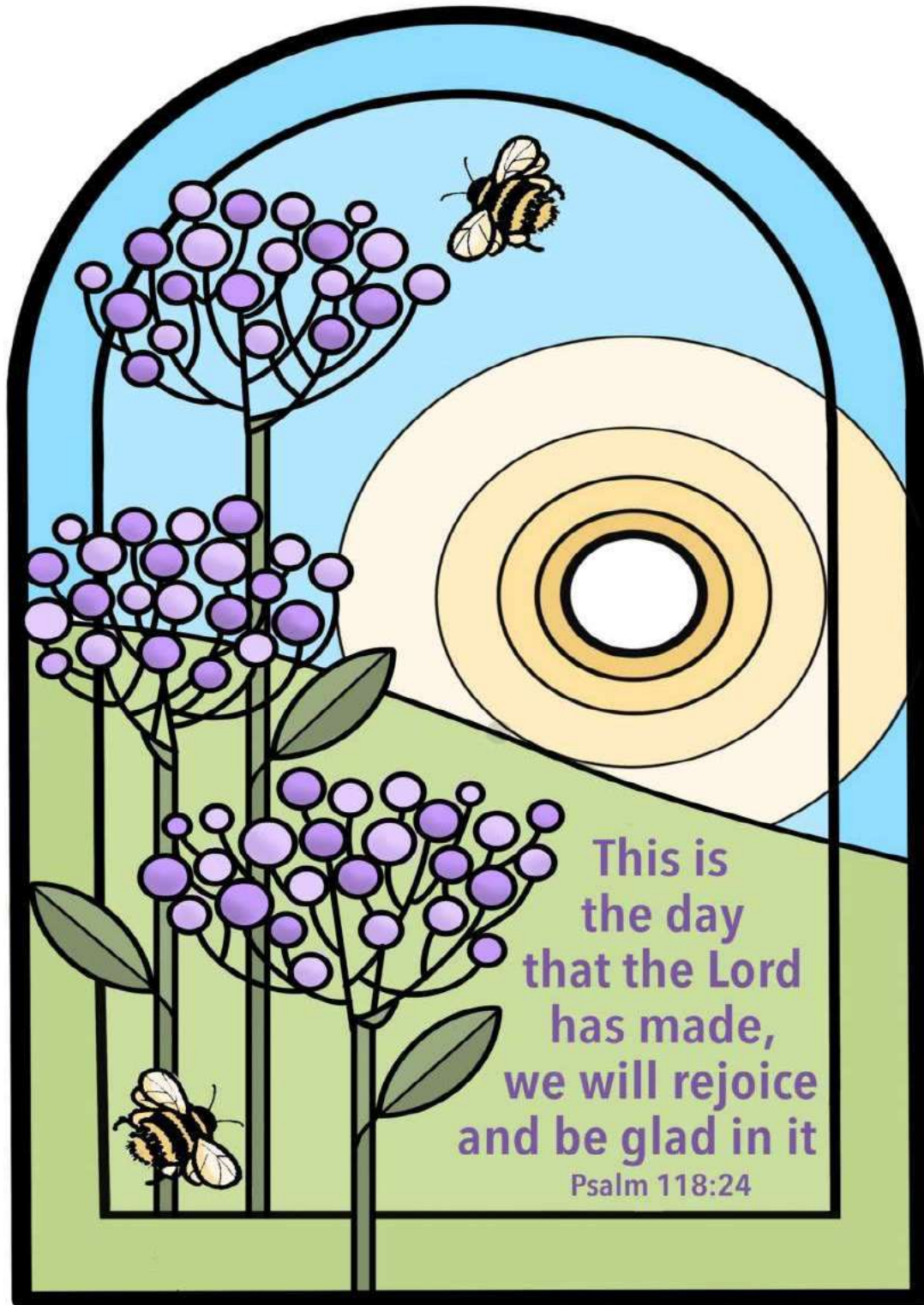


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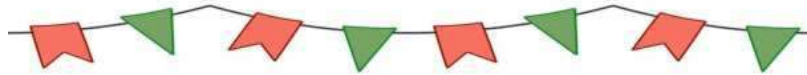
The monthly publication for the Parish of Capel & Ockley



InSpire magazine Issue 105 July 2026

Free of Charge—donations welcome in honesty box in wall
or via the QR code





Capel Military Show 2026

Friday 3rd, Saturday 4th, Sunday 5th July 2026

Thanks to those who have baked for the Church teas stall at this year's Military Show. Also, thanks to those who have volunteered to help. It's not too late if you'd like to join the fun!

You get FREE ENTRY to the show as a volunteer, but must wear a volunteer's wristband.

If you visit the show, do come along and support us - we'd love to see you!

This is now our biggest fundraiser of the year - so we'd love your support in whichever way you are able to help!

SEE YOU THERE!

Thanks to Leigh Smith and Helen Burt for organising the teas stall on our behalf once more - they work incredibly hard to put the whole thing together. Thank you both.



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*"Christians, keep the faith
- but not from others"
Anon*

*"God is a little like
American Express - don't
leave home without Him."
Anon*

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This issue is sponsored by

Sue & Phil Partridge and Irene Cole

celebrating wedding

anniversaries of 27 and 77 years respectively

Congratulations to Sue & Phil and love to

Irene as she remembers Stan

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

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Rev Liz writes

Dear friends,

Hello again!

Many thanks to Gill for writing last month's magazine letter. I hope you enjoyed reading about all that she has been up to. By the time you read this, Gill will have been ordained as a Priest and will have presided at her first Holy Communion. She will now be wearing her priestly stole, and we are all looking forward to celebrating this very special milestone with her.

We are now well into the summer, and as I feared, the months since the beginning of the year have flown by. I say "feared" because I am due to retire from full-time paid ministry at the end of September and will be leaving this wonderful parish of Capel and Ockley. There will be more news next month about where we will be moving to.

July sees one of our major fundraising events as we once again run the Parish Refreshment Stall at the Capel Military Show. Preparations have been underway for some time, and many cakes have already been baked in readiness. Over the years we have built up a loyal following of customers who make a beeline for our stall each year. Do come and say hello, enjoy a sausage roll or pastry, and choose from our selection of delicious home-baked cakes. We will also have seating and some welcome shade if the weather is kind—or perhaps even if it is not!

At church we have recently completed an Alpha Course, which has been a wonderful experience for everyone involved. A lovely group met each week at Bob and Judy Cranham's home to explore different aspects of the Christian faith in a relaxed and informal setting. The course proved so successful that the group has decided to continue meeting monthly for discussion and fellowship. We hope to run another Alpha Course in the autumn, so if you are interested, please let Gill or me know. You may also have noticed Alpha reflections appearing on our parish Facebook page. Julie and Corinne do a fantastic job representing the parish online, so please follow our page and share the posts with others.

Recently, a small group of us visited the beautiful Wintershall Estate near Bramley to see their production of *The Life of Christ*. It is unlike any other play, placing the audience at the heart of an immersive experience. The performance takes place across several locations within the estate, with the audience moving between scenes as the story unfolds.

Thousands of people attend each year, including many school groups, and it was remarkable to see how captivated everyone was throughout the day. With live animals, colourful costumes, and a large cast of adults and children, the story of Jesus is brought vividly to life, from his birth and ministry through to his death and resurrection. It is an extraordinary production and a truly memorable experience. If you have never been, I can thoroughly recommend it. Their next major production will be the Nativity in December, and it is well worth booking early.

One of the most striking aspects of *The Life of Christ* is the ordinariness of its characters. Although the people of the Bible played important roles in God's story, they were also ordinary individuals facing many of the same challenges, hopes, and questions that we face today. Perhaps that is why the story of Jesus continues to speak to so many people. It reminds us that God works through ordinary lives and everyday moments. As we enjoy the summer months, may we be encouraged to look for those moments of grace, kindness, and hope in our own communities.

With my love & prayers,

Rev Liz

vicar@capelandockleychurch.org.uk 01306 711260

CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS - JULY 2026

at St John the Baptist, Capel & St Margaret's, Ockley

July

Sunday 5th Trinity 5

9.30am Matins - Ockley
10.30am Family Communion - Capel

Sunday 12th Trinity 6

9.30am Holy Communion CW - Ockley
10.30am The Sunday Session - Capel
Church for the curious, the questioning and confused!
3-5pm Church Teas

Saturday 18th

10am—Noon Churchyard working party at Capel

Sunday 19th Trinity 7

10.30am Parish Communion - Capel

Sunday 26th Trinity 8

9.30am Holy Communion BCP - Ockley
10.30am Morning Worship - Capel

August

Sunday 2nd Trinity 9

9.30am Matins - Ockley
10.30am Family Communion - Capel

More events in July:

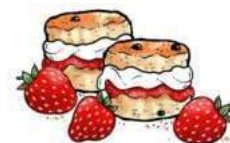
Capel Military Show

Friday 3rd, Saturday 4th, Sunday 5th July
Capel Church teas tent

Capel Church Tea dates 2026

See back cover of this issue

Also available on
our website



All this information and more available on our Parish website:
<https://www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/>

NEWS from the Pews

PCC Members 2025—26

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

Curate: Revd Gill Christie (ex-officio)

Churchwardens

Stuart Cole (ex-officio) St John the Baptist

Andy Carr (ex-officio) 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

Wendy Goddard

Suzanne Cole

Sarah Pusey

David Silliman

Jessie Sutcliffe

Leigh Smith (Safeguarding Lead)

Hon Secretary:

Sir Richard Winter- Stanbridge

Parish Safeguarding Officer:

Leigh Smith

Electoral Roll Officer:

Vacant

PCC Meeting Dates for 2026

13 July

7th September

9th November

PNP Meeting Our next **Parish Needs Process (PNP) meeting** will take place on the morning of Saturday 17th October at 10.30am. All are welcome.

From the Registers



In Memoriam

We remember with love

Eileen Mary Heath
10th May 2026

and

Fay Jolly
9th June 2026

*May they rest in peace and
rise in glory*

Sung Concert

Saturday 17th October 3pm
at St John the Baptist, Capel

The music has been chosen by Rev Liz to commemorate her Ministry with us over the last 14 years.

The choir, with the expertise of Anthea are practising hard for this concert. Do come along and support them if you can.

To include:

Byrd - Mass for Four Voices

Mozart - Ave Verum Corpus

Tallis - If ye love me

Lauridsen - O Magnum Mysterium

The singing will last for about 45 minutes followed by some fizz and cake!



NEWS from the Pews

Used stamps for UK Air Ambulance Services

The UK's Air Ambulance Services are charities which receive no government funding and rely entirely on charitable donations to continue flying and responding to life threatening medical emergencies. All funds raised will be donated to the Association of Air Ambulances to be distributed equally to all UK Air Ambulance Services. All you need to do is cut or carefully tear the stamped corner from any envelope or packet that you receive in the post and start a collection.



Once you have a large bundle, would you please put them in a bag and take them into St John the Baptist, Capel to place in the marked box. Sue Partridge is going to post them when we have a good amount to send. Thank you to Sue.

Churchyard Working Party

Once again, we would like to do some tidying in our churchyard, particularly the new memorial garden. In the memorial garden, currently there are weeds and undergrowth encroaching on the paths and their edging. We would also like to use the opportunity to tidy up the mortuary.

Historically we get a lot of visitors to the church in the summer especially during the school holidays and a bit of tidying would be very helpful.

Usual format ... Saturday morning 10.00 - 12.00, tea and biscuits included!

If you can spare a couple of hours on the 18th July we would be very grateful. Please confirm your availability to me at andyj.carr@btinternet.com

Thank you!
Andy Carr, Churchwarden



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 07732 825908 leighdesouza@yahoo.com or Revd Liz Richardson 01306 711260 liz@hostmyserver.co.uk

Diocesan contact number for reporting safeguarding concerns: safeguarding@cofeguildford.org.uk or call: 01483 790379 **and the contact details for our Safeguarding Officer and the Diocesan Safeguarding contact will be published in our weekly pew sheets as well as in the Church Contacts section in each issue of InSpire.**
(Updated August 2025)



Archbishop of Canterbury calls to 'make strangers neighbours' amid rising hostility

Responding to the recent King's Speech, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally, has spoken about the importance of hope at a time of rising hate crime, intimidation and hostility.

"The work of integration has never been more urgent. We have witnessed a deeply concerning deterioration in intercommunity relations. I therefore welcome the commitment in the Gracious Speech to do more to protect the Jewish communities following the recent appalling attacks and in doing so I wish to assure both Jewish and Muslim communities of my support as they face the unacceptable rise in hate crime, intimidation and hostility.

"The Church of England has long held that the right of all people to practise their faith without fear must be protected.

"We have also seen religious identity misused to intimidate and divide. Let us be clear: the commandment of Jesus Christ is to love your neighbour as yourself, to love without exception and to seek the flourishing of all.

"We must address the pressures facing people and communities today while ensuring that systems for new arrivals are fair. We must undertake the harder task of bringing communities together - of making strangers neighbours - and ensuring that all who reside here have both the opportunity and the responsibility to contribute to our shared life."

'Protect us from the perils of division and hatred' – Bishops' prayer for nation

A group of Church of England bishops has issued an invitation to Christians to pray for wisdom and love in national life in the face of "division and hatred".

The newly established *Bishops' Working Group for Promoting Unity in our Nation* has shared a prayer - which can be used by churches or individuals - speaking of peace in our communities and how we can all be reconciled with God and our neighbour.

The prayer, being shared on Church of England social media channels, highlights the four "nations of this United Kingdom" and gives thanks for all those who "build up our common life".

It asks for God's wisdom to "protect the most vulnerable among us" and His help to "love all who call these islands their home". It then asks for God's protection from "the perils of division and hatred".

The group, chaired by the Bishop of Leicester, Martyn Snow, was set up to help the Church of England understand and respond to growing polarisation in the country at large.

Its recent work has included encouraging churches to celebrate St George's Day and fly the flag as a symbol of unity, as well as joining with other Christian denominations to help local congregations play their part appropriately in the recent local elections.

Bishop Martyn said: "We know that these are anxious and fearful times for many in our country, which makes the Church's calling for peace and reconciliation all the more pressing."

Bishop Andrew's collection of sermons to be published

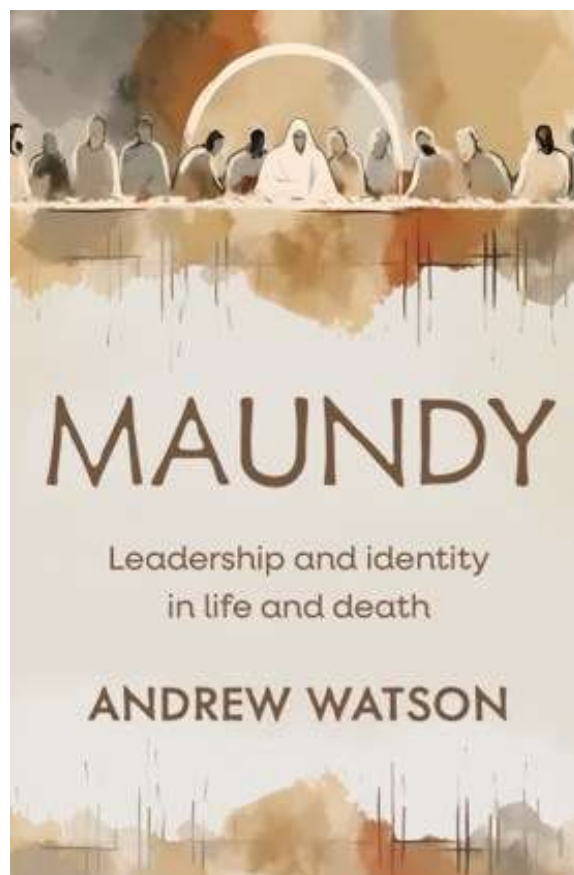
In the weeks before his death, Bishop Andrew collated a decade's worth of his Chrism sermons at Guildford Cathedral, including "four last songs"; his final writings after receiving his terminal cancer diagnosis. The deeply personal and profound collection, entitled *Maundy: Leadership and identity in life and death*, includes a foreword from the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, and, of course, an introduction from Bishop Andrew in which he shared that working on this project helped to focus his mind on "some of the key attributes of what it means to be a Christian disciple and minister through testing times."

Speaking ahead of the book's launch, Bishop Paul said:

"Bishop Andrew's book *Maundy* blesses us with a precious collection of some of the inspiration and wisdom with which he has left us.

"It is remarkable that, in his final weeks, he managed to collate the addresses that he gave to clergy on Maundy Thursday in the eleven years that he was Bishop of Guildford. They are framed by his inaugural sermon in Guildford Cathedral, and his 'four last songs'. Prevented by his tear ducts in these last weeks of his life from listening to Strauss' Four Last Songs, Andrew exercises our tear ducts by ending with four beautiful literary songs he sang in January and February of 2026, just before his death at the beginning of March: his final confirmation sermon; his reflection for Ash Wednesday; and the two remarkable pastoral letters that he wrote to his diocese. "This is a truly precious gift to all who knew and loved him - as well as to all who serve in ordained ministry, and all who are interested in knowing what 'cheerfully persisting towards a good death' in the faith and hope of Jesus looks like."

The book is available to order now and was published on Friday 19 June. More information can be found on [BRF Resources website](#).





July 2026

IT'S COMING HOME, IT'S COMING HOME.....

The problem with trying to write a topical column weeks ahead of publication is the fact that current affairs are exactly that - current! At the time of writing, the FIFA World Cup is just starting. By the time you get to read this England will either be basking in the adulation of a grateful nation with a string of glorious victories behind them or.....well, the only thing behind them might be their tails firmly tucked between their legs! One thing's for sure, trying to predict the outcome of any of the matches is a futile occupation.

Isn't it amazing, at times like this, that the country will be pinning their hopes of glory on 11 men thrust into action with no guarantee of creating history. I mean, what are the chances of just 11 random individuals being able to make a difference in a world with around 8½ billion people in it?

Ladies and gentlemen, I give you Peter, James, John, Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, another James, Thaddaeus and Simon the Zealot! Yes, the 11 disciples of Jesus who were left after Judas betrayed them all. They certainly found themselves in the public eye after the crucifixion but, unlike the members of our national football team, they did not enjoy a lavish lifestyle, fabulous wealth and God-like celebrity status. Quite the reverse. They were pursued by the authorities (to the point of martyrdom in many cases), relied on the charity of others to survive and knew for certain that they all fell short of being anything like God. Yet this disparate group of fishermen, tax collectors and working-class labourers somehow managed to grab victory from the jaws of defeat. Having seen Jesus dead on a cross, they went into hiding, afraid of what people might do to them too. But the resurrection of Jesus changed all that. They were empowered to go out into the world and share the good news of Jesus Christ, the saviour of the world. Along with St. Paul, they "played a blinder" (I think that's a footballing term!) and Christianity spread across the world to the degree that today roughly a third of the global population are believers.

So, what of the England team and their impact in this World Cup? How do they compare to those 11 disciples? Well, if the team reach the final of the competition, they are likely to be watched on TV by around one billion people. Not bad! But I can't see that what they achieve will have a lasting legacy that still influences people in 2000 years time. They will certainly be worshipped by their devoted followers - but that was never the desire of the original disciples. Their names will be written in the record books for future generations to read and to provide pub quizzes with difficult questions about "who played in the No. 10 shirt in only one World Cup game." The disciples would have their names recorded in God's Book of Life..... for eternity.

Whatever, I think it's perfectly possible to support the team with the Three Lions on their shirt at the same time as having a relationship with Jesus, the Lion of Judah! But don't think that the former has anywhere near the same significance for your life as the latter.

Bob Cranham

High Days & Holy Days - July

1st July - Henry Venn of the CMS

Most Christians in the UK have heard of the Church Mission Society or CMS. Far fewer have heard of the Revd Henry Venn (1796-1873), whose father, the rector of Clapham, founded CMS in 1799, and who himself became the greatest missionary strategist of the 19th century.

Not that Henry Venn ever became a missionary himself; after Cambridge he served his curacy at St Dunstan's in Fleet Street, and then an incumbency at Drypool in Hull, before becoming vicar of St Johns, Holloway in 1834. But Henry Venn's parish-based ministry did not obscure his passionate interest in overseas evangelism, and in 1841 he accepted an invitation to become the honorary secretary of the Church Mission Society. That decision was to shape the history of overseas missions, and to make CMS into the most effective force in Britain for delivering effective overseas mission.

For Henry was an outstanding administrator, and his wisdom and management of the missionaries enabled CMS to grow and flourish. When Henry first began work on CMS, it employed 107 European clergy and nine local indigenous people. When he died in 1873, there were 230 European clergy and 148 local people in service.

After his resignation from St Johns Holloway in 1846, Henry devoted himself almost exclusively to the work of CMS. He was directly responsible for sending out 498 clergymen, all of them chosen by him, and with most of whom he continued in regular correspondence. He also established eight or nine bishoprics for the supervision of CMS missionary clergy and was usually involved in the appointments made.

Henry and a missions colleague in America were the first to use the term 'indigenous church', and they were way ahead of their time in seeing the necessity for creating churches on the mission fields that in time would become not only self-supporting, but also self-governing and self-propagating. In fact, Venn wrote with enthusiasm on this "euthanasia of missions," meaning that missionaries were only ever meant to be temporary, and not permanent.

All in all, Henry Venn's exposition on the basic principles of indigenous Christian missions was so powerful that much of it was later adopted by the Lausanne Congress of 1974.

But alongside Venn's passion for evangelism was his concern for social justice, and he frequently lobbied the British Parliament, especially the closure of the Atlantic slave trade.

In 1873, when he was 76, Henry Venn died at his home in Mortlake, Surrey. He is buried in the churchyard.

1st July - St Theobald, choosing God, not money

If you are thinking of turning your back on wealth and privilege in order to do something that you feel God is calling you to do, St Theobald may be the saint for you. St Theobald (1017 – 1066) was born into an aristocratic family at Provins in France. But he became a hermit with a fellow ex-soldier in the Pettingen Forest in Luxembourg. They later moved to Salanigo in Italy. Theobald's holy life attracted so many followers that he was canonised by Pope Alexander II in 1073.

4th July - St Elizabeth of Portugal, compassion for prostitutes

St Elizabeth of Portugal (1271 – 1336) could be the patron saint of all well-to-do women who have compassionate hearts. As wife of Denis, the King of Portugal, Elizabeth became a byword for her acts of piety and charity to the poor. She founded convents, hospitals, and shelters for prostitutes. After Denis died, she became a Franciscan tertiary at a Poor Clare convent.

14th July - St Camillus de Lellis, patron of the sick

Sometimes those who suffer are best at helping others in a similar situation. Discharged from the Venetian army with an incurable leg wound, St Camillus (1550 – 1614) founded a religious order called the Ministers of the Sick (the Camellians). Both in their Holy Ghost Hospital in Rome, and by travelling to plague-stricken parts of the world, the Camellians dedicated their lives to caring for the sick. Camillus is the patron of the sick and of nurses.

Diocesan News

Celebrating Volunteers' Week with £7,000 Grant Boost for Hear Here Programme

As we begin Volunteers' Week, we are taking the opportunity to celebrate the dedication and generosity of the many volunteers who help ministries and community projects flourish across the diocese. Among them are our Hear Here Champions, whose commitment ensures that people in our communities can continue to access vital hearing support and stay connected to the world around them.

Earlier this year, in March, we were delighted to receive a significant boost for the Hear Here programme through a £7,000 grant from the Haslemere Chalice Community Fund and the Elder Companionship Fund, awarded via the Community Foundation for Surrey. This funding arrives at an important time, allowing us to strengthen and grow a service that is already making a meaningful difference to older and isolated residents.

At its heart, Hear Here is powered by volunteers, and this grant enables us to invest more deeply in the people who make the programme possible. The funding will support key areas, including volunteer recruitment and training, equipment and supplies, and marketing, helping us both sustain and expand our reach. A major focus will be on delivering high-quality training sessions and workshops, ensuring that our volunteers have not only excellent practical hearing aid maintenance skills but also a strong understanding of the wider impact of hearing loss and the support services available to those they assist.



Over the course of 2026, we plan to train 100 volunteers and deliver 10 dedicated training sessions and workshops. This investment reflects our belief that confident, knowledgeable volunteers are essential to providing a compassionate and effective service—particularly as demand continues to grow and NHS audiology departments face increasing pressure.

Martyna Zabka Mustafa, Hear Here Programme Lead, said: "We are extremely grateful to the Community Foundation for Surrey for their support throughout the application process and for helping us secure funding for the Hear Here Project. We were

delighted to be awarded £7,000 from both the Haslemere Chalice Community Fund and the Elder Companionship Fund, and we extend our sincere thanks for the generous support.

This funding makes a meaningful difference, enabling us to expand our accessible hearing aid maintenance services for older and isolated residents. This support is particularly vital at a time when demand is increasing and NHS audiology departments are facing growing pressure."



The Deacon's Diary



The highlight in June will, for me, fall at the end of the month when, if all continues well, I will be ordained a priest at Guildford Cathedral on 27th following a three-day retreat. I will write an account of that in next month's diary. In the meantime, much has happened in the parish since my last report.

At the beginning of the month some of our parishioners attended our deanery gathering arranged by Bishop Paul at St. Martin's church, Dorking. This was a convivial evening when we heard about aims and aspirations from other churches as well as having the chance to present a flavour of the work we do with the children in the After School Club. We had the chance to thank God for all the positive signs of growth and flourishing in our churches as well as to pray for the concerns each church had. This evening was not just for clergy and was well attended by many members of different congregations. Should Bishop Paul hold

another such occasion for our deanery, I would encourage anyone who can to attend. It was a truly heartening event.

My curacy training this month was on the subject of 'the role of an assistant minister in a church.' Hearing how often other curates are asked to preach, lead services, visit schools and nursing homes, lead courses for enquirers about Christianity as well as conduct funerals is really interesting. I feel very blessed to have made friends with so many curates at other churches in the diocese. We all intentionally support each other with words of encouragement and prayer which is very uplifting.

The usual school, village and church commitments have brought their own joys, but one particular event this month has been very special. I attended the Wintershall "Life of Christ" on a hot sunny Friday. Hundreds of schoolchildren vied for the shade as the location of the acting moved around the estate from a dell to the lake, to another natural amphitheatre and then to the other side of the lake. The bleating of the half-grown lambs added a further dimension to the nativity while the running children chased by people on horseback vividly brought to life the Massacre of the Innocents! We all participated in the Feeding of the Five Thousand as the bread was brought out among the audience and distributed by all the crowd actors (many of whom were children) which reinforced the power of sharing. For me, one of the most poignant moments was at the crucifixion as Mary approached her dying son on the cross and then wept over his dead body. However, the final appeal from all the disciples post-resurrection, "Go and be fishers of people" was a great shout to end on.

As always, if you would like any prayer for yourself or anyone you know, please do let Rev Liz or me know.

Rev Gill Christie

curate@capelandockleychurch.org.uk



Christianity and climate change

Christianity and climate change is a nine-part film series produced by [Tearfund](#) and featuring **Katharine Hayhoe**, the internationally renowned Christian climate scientist. In each episode, she responds to climate questions from key church leaders and members in Scotland.

Each video is around 6 minutes long, and a study guide with discussion questions is available to download, making this series very useable in small groups or as short evening course.

Click [here](#) for details and to access the videos and discussion guide



TedTalk

Katharine Hayhoe has also recorded a TedTalk where she gives advice to help aid discussions with people don't believe in climate change or are quite sceptical. Rather than 'rehashing data', Katharine suggests connecting through the perspective of shared values and then discussing the consequences if action isn't taken or climate change continues to be dismissed. Watch the 20-minute video [here](#).

Saving Us

The thoughts Katharine shares in her TedTalk are drawn from her book *Saving Us*. She draws on her interdisciplinary research and personal stories to show that small conversations can have astonishing results. "Saving Us leaves us with the tools to open a dialogue with your loved ones about how we all can play a role in pushing forward for change." Available on [Amazon](#) for £12.97, or [World of Books](#) for £9.90.



<https://www.portsmouth.anglican.org/environment/resources/>

This page is included from our Eco Church team

Stay overnight in a historic Mid Wales church this summer

Walkers and visitors can once again book overnight stays at St Gwrhai's Church in Penstrowed, Powys, as the 2026 champing season opens.

Champing, a blend of 'church' and 'camping', offers exclusive overnight access to historic churches no longer used for regular services. The church accommodates up to four guests and includes a fully equipped kitchen in the adjacent hall, an indoor toilet, and secure space for bikes. Dogs are welcome.

Located an hour from both Aberystwyth and Shrewsbury, the site is well placed for exploring the Cambrian Mountains, which lie 20 minutes away and include nine Dark Sky Discovery sites. The Severn Way — a 215-mile walking route to Bristol — begins nearby, and guided walking groups operate in the area.

For more information visit champing.co.uk



Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham continues his seven-part series. This will run until the July issue.

The Seven Deadly Sins: Sloth

'Through laziness, the rafters sag; because of idle hands, the house leaks.' (Ecclesiastes 10:18).

This month we are looking at *Sloth*, the last of the Seven Deadly Sins. This is more than just laziness! The Latin root of the word is '*acedia*' ('*without care*'), meaning it represents spiritual apathy, distraction or indifference in our lives. Sloth can have a significant effect on our spiritual lives, as it enables other sins to gain a foothold eg lust, anger or envy. Another consequence is that we can fail to respond to God's calling in our lives and His gifts go unused. There is no satisfaction in sloth, as real joy comes when we are ready to step out of our comfort zones for God.

How do we overcome sloth in our lives? Paul writes, '*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord*' (Colossians 3:23). We can ask ourselves some key questions:

Am I living with unconfessed sin? Can I identify sins or habits that are getting in the way of my spiritual intimacy with God?

Have I neglected the spiritual disciplines? In what ways have I neglected spending quality time with God in prayer, reading His Word or being still in His presence?

What fills my mind daily? What are the distractions that occupy my time and thinking eg social media, technology, people or habits? How can I let go of these things to give space for listening to God?

The Holy Spirit can convict us of those things that we need to confess and let go. Are we ready to switch off our screens, seek to help others in need and give time to God?

'Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord.' (Romans 12:11)

PRAYERS, PROSE & POEMS

Confidence in God

Alone with none but Thee, my God,
I journey on my way.
What need I fear, when Thou art near
O King of night and day?
More safe I am within Thy hand
Than if a host did round me stand.

By St Columba

Father,
We are all so busy. We rush here and there, trying to meet deadlines, trying to fit more and more into our already full days. So often we seem to run out of energy and time. Sometimes we wonder what it's all about.

Help us, Lord to recognise that we *have* time. You have given us every day of our lives. Help us to choose wisely how we use our life time. Help us to spend time with you first; to learn your ways; to encounter the living Jesus in the Bible and in prayer. And everything else will fall into place. In Jesus' name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Come reign in me

Oh God, who made the world so fair,
And formed the earth, the sky, the sea;
Who gave us ears, and eyes, and minds,
To hear, to see, to know all love is thee.

Oh God, who in the Lord Jesus,
Gave us a light to light our way;
Let our life's lamp be lit by Him
Whose strength will see us safely through each day.

Oh God, whose Spirit gave us birth,
And holds all life secure, e'en mine;
Take all I am, and all I have,
Bless and redeem them for they both are Thine.

Oh God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, three in one;
Blessed be thy name, come reign in me,
And in me let thy will be done.

By Sam Doubtfire

What is an Anniversary?

Each anniversary is a milestone
We touch along life's way
A moment when we stop to think
'Today's our Special Day'
It is a time for gratitude
for all we have received
A time for pride deep down inside
for all we have achieved.
It gives us all a moment
to savour memories too ...
Then look ahead with happiness
To all we've yet to do ...

Dedicated to Sue and Phil for their 27th anniversary this month and to Irene Cole as she marks her 77th Wedding anniversary. All are our magazine sponsors this month. Thank you to them for their support.



A Prayer for July

Loving Father,

July brings long days and summer pleasures, for many, but not for all. Lord, we pray for those who are finding life to be a struggle; for families with no hope of a holiday this year; for parents who don't know how they will feed their children during the upcoming long school break; for those who are lonely, or discouraged, or isolated, or afraid.

Lord, we pray for justice and compassion from those in positions of power and responsibility. And please Lord, show us how to help, how to be part of the solution. May we, as your children, reflect your loving kindness wherever we can. May your Kingdom come on earth, through us.

In Jesus' name.
Amen

By Daphne Kitching

High Days & Holy Days - July

14th July – John Keble, priest, Tractarian and poet

John Keble is remembered for the spirituality of his hymns, and for being one of the leaders in the conservative Tractarian Movement of the 1830s, which aimed to defend the Church's Catholic heritage from the power of Parliament. Keble College Oxford was dedicated in his memory.

Keble was born into a clergy family in 1792, and his brilliance at Oxford led to him being elected a Fellow of Oriel College when only 19. In 1815, aged 23, he was ordained deacon and worked at Oriel as a tutor. But Keble yearned for parish life and so left Oxford in 1823 to be curate in his father's church in Gloucestershire. His new life gave him time to write hymns, some of which are still known today, such as *New Every Morning* and *Blest are the Pure in Heart*. But then in 1831 his poetry and hymns gained him election as Professor of Poetry back at Oxford.

The 1830s were a troubled time for the Church of England. Many conservative clergy were concerned by the reforms being carried out between Church and State by the Whig government. In 1833 Keble used his Assize Sermon to clearly protest against the Church of England being made subordinate to Parliament, as it was no longer exclusively Anglican. His views were very popular in the clerical circles of deeply conservative Oxford.

But although Keble went on to write nine of the 90 *Tracts for the Times*, and engaged in some debate, he did not enjoy controversy or the limelight. He was at heart a scholarly parish priest, and so in 1836 he left Oxford again, for 30 years of parish life in Hursley, where he sought to revive sacramental confession in the Church.

As in the words of one of his hymns, his prayer was always above all:

*Only, O Lord, in thy dear love, Fit us for perfect rest above;
And help us, this and every day, To live more nearly as we pray.*

Keble died in 1866, and four years later, Keble College was founded at Oxford, in his memory.

16th July – St Osmund, bishop with a genius for cathedrals

Osmund is the saint for you if you like cathedrals, or if you have ever met the dean, precentor, chancellor or treasurer of one.

Why? Because nearly 1,000 years ago, it was St Osmund who first invented all those roles, and it was he who also decreed that a cathedral is to be the 'mother church' of a diocese.

Yet Osmund did not start out as a priest. He first appears in history as the newly appointed Chancellor of England, in 1072. He may well have arrived with William the Conqueror.

But the Church seems to have appealed to him more than straight politics, because in 1078 he was made Bishop of Salisbury. In those days, that included Dorset, Wiltshire and Berkshire. The headquarters of his diocese was the fortress of Old Sarum, set on a hill and surrounded by massive walls.

Fourteen years later, Osmund finished building his own cathedral at Old Sarum, and consecrated it on 5th April 1092. Tragically, only five days later a violent thunderstorm destroyed the roof! Thus, St Osmund became the first of a long line of bishops who, down the centuries, have found their cathedrals harder to manage than they had first anticipated.

Osmund was a brilliant administrator – not only did he initiate the 'cathedral chapter' with the duties of dean, precentor, chancellor and treasurer clearly defined, he also created 32 cathedral canons, to act as advisers to the bishops, and to carry out missionary work for the diocese. Many other cathedral bodies soon followed his example, until his influence on the Church in England was profound.

Osmund left another massive legacy for England: he was deeply involved in the preparation and evaluation of the Domesday survey, and he was at Court the day that the Domesday Book was finally presented to King William in 1086.

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham considers football.

World Cup

Many across the world are united in watching the World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada. However, football is more than just a game; it can illustrate some key points about the Christian life. As Paul writes: *'But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.'* (Philippians 3:13b,14).

A prize to be won: The dream of every player in the competition is to be able to hold up the World Cup themselves. Christians grasp to the prize of eternal life, God's gift to us of relationship with Jesus for now and eternity. However, there's an important difference between football and the Christian faith. To win the World Cup you have to be good enough, while Christ's love for us is underserved and not dependent on how well we've done.

Training to be undertaken: If a team is going to win the World Cup, training is vital! Our training, as Christians, starts the moment we accept the gift of God's life. On a daily basis, we train ourselves to say *no* to the wrong things in our lives. As we build up our *godly muscles* we are better able to choose to do what is right in God's eyes. To enable us to do all this we need to engage in the spiritual disciplines of prayer, studying the Bible and being part of a church and small group. How is your training going?

The former Liverpool Manager Bill Shankly famously said, *'Some people believe football is a matter of life and death, I am very disappointed with that attitude. I can assure you it is much, much more important than that!'*



Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham continues his series on the books of the Bible.

What's the Big Idea? - An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: 1 Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians is the earliest of Paul's letters, written when he was in Corinth during his second missionary journey (Acts 18:1-18) in 49-51 AD. Thessalonica was the capital of the Roman province of Macedonia, as well as being a flourishing centre for trade and philosophy. After founding the church (Acts 17:1-9) Paul was forced to leave, when he was falsely accused of speaking against Caesar. As the new Christians were left with little spiritual support, Paul wrote this letter to encourage them.

Paul addresses a number of issues throughout this letter. As they weren't expecting persecution, Paul reminds them that this is normal Christian experience (3:3-4). He also challenges those in the church who were living off wealthier Christians rather than earning their own living (4:9-12; 5:14).

However, the most prominent theme in the letter is the second coming of Jesus. It is mentioned in every chapter of the book (1:10; 2:19-20; 3:13; 4:13-18; 5:1-11, 23-24). The Thessalonians were unclear about the timing of the day of the Lord (5:1-2). Some church members had died (4:13), and people weren't sure what would happen to them at Christ's return (3:10; 4:13). However, Paul assures them that when Jesus returns, the dead in Christ will rise to meet the Lord with the living (4:15-17). Therefore, believers don't need to fear God's wrath, but rather are assured of inheriting His salvation.

Living in the light of Christ's return calls for holy and blameless lives (3:11-4:8; 5:23). *'May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.'* (5:23).

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear friends,

I'm currently sitting amongst fans in an attempt to keep cool! What a temperature! Trying to keep two black dogs cool is even harder than keeping Stuart and myself cool!

I can't believe we are half way through the year already and now in the midst of our busiest season for fundraising. The Military Show will take place next weekend and it's all hands on deck to get ready with multiple cake baking and a rota of volunteers to man our church teas stall for 3 three full days. A huge thanks must go to the planners of this event on behalf of the church - Leigh Smith, Helen Burt and Norman Ede. I'm sure it will be a roaring success. This is now by far our biggest fundraiser and with things like our ever increasing Parish Share, the onus is on us to raise funds wherever we can, particularly with such a small regular congregation in each church.

This edition is sponsored in celebration of two wedding anniversaries - that of Sue and Phil Partridge and that of my mother-in-law, Irene Cole who married Stan in 1949. Irene is now a remarkable 97 years old and puts a lot of younger people to shame with her tenacity and mobility! It is a great source of joy I'm sure that Phil and Sue are able to celebrate their 27th Wedding anniversary this July, following Phil's heart bypass surgery in February. Congratulations to them both and thinking of Irene as she remembers Stan who died aged 94 in 2012. I have been very blessed with them as my in-laws and grand-parents to our sons.

As we enter July with so many children and school staff anticipating the long summer holidays, I hope that the weather is kind to them all, enabling them to enjoy time out with friends and family. I for one and looking forward to my closest friend Liz retiring as a long-standing Headteacher. I hope and pray that her retirement is a long and happy one and that she will enjoy more time spent with her granddaughter Madeleine, her family and hopefully ... me! I'm looking forward to seeing more of her in weekdays! They say 'friends are the family you choose yourself' and my word, I have been blessed on that front with Liz and several other close friends.

There are a lot of sporting highlights over the summer for those that enjoy sport with tennis at Queens and then Wimbledon, together with the FIFA World Cup taking place in the USA. I'm certain I'm missing out many events that could be mentioned, but hope that avid sports fans enjoy all the competition and excitement! The World Cup is taking place in the USA and there are a couple of articles relating to the 250th Anniversary of their Independence on 4th July, including the Wordsearch on page 31.

Amongst the many articles this month, the Reflecting Faith series concentrates on 'Intercessions'. It asks at the end "*Listen carefully to the intercessions when you attend a service. Do they follow a clear, engaging pattern? Is the language accessible? Which prayers stay with you through the week? Who leads them, and from where?*" As one of the regular intercessors, I'm hoping that we don't get to the stage where we have a form to complete, judging the intercessions and the person who delivered them! It is a responsibility but not an onerous one and anyone can do it! Each person has their unique way of delivering them. We could desperately do with more people on the rota as there are so few of us and we are currently doing them at least once a month. PLEASE PLEASE consider this role in our church family. You would be greatly valued and despite the questions raised above in the 'Reflecting Faith' article, I have always found both our clergy and members of the congregation hugely supportive and encouraging. Thankfully, we aren't at the stage of giving online reviews, but it is always welcome when someone gives encouragement and thanks at the end of a service when you've worked on delivering the weekly intercessions!

I think the last thing to comment on is Rev Gill's ordination as Priest. Her ordination will take place in Guildford cathedral on Saturday 27th June, together with her first communion the next day and a celebration lunch. We are so very lucky to have Rev Gill in our midst. She has been and will continue to be such a huge blessing to us all. We will be so sorry to lose Rev Liz in October (last service Sunday 4th October) after 14 very special years of her at our helm, but equally we are so lucky that Gill has answered the calling and dedicated her time and life to God and as a Parish, we benefit hugely from that commitment. Thank you Gill and God bless you in your Ministry going forward - thank you for all that you have done so far!

With my best wishes,

Suzanne



inspire@capelandockleychurch.org.uk

Murder Mystery returns to Capel and Ockley

You are cordially invited to the Harvest Supper meal and murder mystery play directed by Sylvie Beckett.

The venues and dates are:

Ockley Village Hall **Friday 18th September** with a two-course supper

Capel Memorial Hall **Saturday 19th September** with a two-course supper

Capel Memorial Hall **Sunday 20th September** in the afternoon when an afternoon tea will be served

Please put the dates in your diaries and keep the evenings free so that you can gather your teams together, or come and join others on the night, to solve the mystery of the murder.

Tickets will be on sale in August and details of the box office will be available nearer the time.

Yvonne Featherstone

Please note: Due to circumstances beyond our control, the murder mystery will not now be set in the 1940s as previously advised, but is set in the present day. Apologies to those of you who have already got together your 1940s costumes! Further details coming soon.

Military chaplains vital to “spiritual resilience” of service members

The key role played by Church of Scotland military chaplains at a time of rising international tensions has been recently highlighted at the General Assembly.

Group Captain (Ret'd) Andrew Tait, who is convener of the Committee on Chaplains to HM Forces, said that as people in the services "prepared like never before" for whatever demands the country asked of them, chaplains would stand alongside them "wherever they go and whatever they do".

Mr Tait went on to refer to the "dangerous state of the world today." He said: "There is war in Europe, tension in the Persian Gulf and many other conflicts and hotspots around the world. Some informed commentators believe this country is closer to major conflict than it has been for many years.

"As a result, the men and women of his Majesty's Armed Forces are preparing like never before to meet whatever demands the Government and the country ask of them.

"Chaplains stand alongside the people of the Services wherever they go and whatever they do, to support them and care for them morally, pastorally and spiritually.

"Chaplains, of any faith, working with those of all faiths and no faith, are there to listen, to advise and to support."

Editor: The Revd Dr Jo White considers reading the gospel in church.

Reflecting Faith: Intercessions

Last month we reflected on the Creed within our service. This month, we consider what comes next.

In the Book of Common Prayer, the Creed and the sermon appear in a different order, but in both traditions intercessions follow. In Common Worship, they come straight after the Creed.

By this point, we may feel we have already prayed a great deal, so what makes intercessions different?

Intercessions focus entirely on the needs of others. They are public prayers, not centred on 'me' but on the wider world. They gather the concerns of the Church, the world, our community, those in need, and those who have died, along with those who mourn and as a whole congregation we bring them before God.

They are not, repeat not, a time to slip in a couple of adverts for next week's summer fair and a prayer for enough volunteers to come forward – please see Mrs Jones after the service - or to tell the congregation of someone's ill health or funeral arrangements!

These prayers usually follow that order, though sometimes in reverse. Either way, there is a clear pattern that helps the congregation engage. We may begin broadly with the world and move towards the local and personal, or start close to home and widen our view.

For example, with a theme such as farming, intercessions might include churches in rural communities worldwide, countries dependent on food production, government ministers responsible for agriculture and fisheries, local farmers and food workers, and those in need or recently bereaved within the community.

Style matters as much as content. These are the prayers of the people, so they should use language that feels natural and accessible. Often, simplicity works best.

This month

Listen carefully to the intercessions when you attend a service. Do they follow a clear, engaging pattern? Is the language accessible? Which prayers stay with you through the week? Who leads them, and from where?

AN APPEAL FOR HELP!

Editor's note: We desperately need more Intercessors on our Church rota. The more of us that are on the rota, the less often you would be required! As one of the current Intercessors, it is getting harder to come up with new prayers on a very regular basis, sometimes twice a month as there are so few of us. You don't have to be an expert ... just be prepared to lead us all in prayers? Those of us doing it now, would be VERY grateful for some new additions to the Intercessions team! Thank you for considering. Suzanne

'Antisemitism is evil, it must be confronted wherever it appears', Bishop Lusa tells rally

The Bishop of Willesden, Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy, the Church of England's Lead Bishop for Interfaith Engagement, spoke at the recent 'Standing Strong: Extinguish Antisemitism' rally in London.

In his address, he said: "Antisemitism is not an accidental prejudice drifting through history. It is a deliberately cultivated and deeply rooted system of hatred, one that has adapted itself across centuries, across ideologies, across nations and political movements. And wherever antisemitism flourishes, other forms of hatred are never far behind: racism, xenophobia, extremism, conspiracy, and they always metastasise into violence.

"Antisemitism possesses a particular persistence and ubiquity that demands moral clarity. It mutates. It survives. It appears across the political spectrum and feeds on fear, grievance, and division.

"And perhaps most dangerously of all, it grows when public voices choose outrage over responsibility; when influence is used not to strengthen the social fabric, but to tear it apart; when platforms capable of shaping culture become instruments for scapegoating, mockery, and suspicion.

"When public figures trade in conspiracy, humiliation, and division, they do not merely inflame opinion; they corrode the moral foundations of a nation. Leadership that profits from division is not courage. It is recklessness. And rhetoric that dehumanises any community ultimately threatens every community.

"History teaches us with terrifying consistency that when antisemitism rises unchecked, democracy itself begins to decay.

"That is why the safety and freedom of Jewish citizens is not a Jewish issue alone. It is a democratic issue. A national issue. A human issue.

"Antisemitism is not a problem for Jewish people to solve by themselves. It is a test of the moral health of the whole society. And the burden of confronting it cannot rest only on those who suffer from it. It belongs to all of us."

The Bishops of the Church in Wales condemn Anti-Semitism

The bishops of the Church in Wales have condemned unreservedly the recent attacks on the Jewish people across the UK.

They say: "Anti-Semitism has no place within our society. We are proud to be part of a nation which welcomed Jews as they fled persecution in Nazi Germany and which continues to offer sanctuary to others fleeing war and violence.

At a recent inter-faith event in Cardiff's Temple of Peace ahead of the Senedd elections, a statement was signed by religious leaders of all the main faiths here in Wales which said:

"We pray and long for a nation where all may flourish and none need fear; a nation built on the foundational principles of human dignity and the right to share equitably in the commonwealth irrespective of religious affiliation, gender, ethnicity, and economic status.

"We stand by these principles and are committed to upholding them, not least in relation to our Jewish sisters and brothers living in Wales."

Editor: Rev Liz has asked me to bring this to everyone's attention. Apparently a few people from the Parish took part a few years ago with some parishioners of Newdigate church. We don't have an official organiser in our Parish so if there is interest, please let Rev Liz know or get in touch directly with Richard Morris our Area Organiser listed below. Thank you

SURREY CHURCHES RIDE & STRIDE

12th SEPTEMBER 2026

It is coming up to the National Ride & Stride time again and the need to raise money is as topical as ever, with the government removing the VAT exemption for repair and maintenance of church buildings.

Although your church has not taken part in the Ride & Stride recently let me explain why it is a worthwhile activity

1. The Surrey Churches 'Ride + Stride' is a great way to raise money for your church.
2. 50% of the funds raised is returned immediately to your parish.
3. 50% goes to funding grants for the maintenance of our Surrey churches.
4. Over the last 20 years we have raised around £500,000 for Surrey Churches
5. It is not fair to give substantial grants to churches unless they have taken part
6. An inclusive way to involve all age groups and all abilities.
7. A worthwhile way to actively promote your church
8. There are always projects which will enhance your church – and fund raising is easier when there is both a goal and a fun way of achieving it
9. A national event involving all the counties in England

Over the last few years, over 50 needy churches in Surrey have benefited from grants so the system does work well.

Of course, you don't have to Ride & Stride; it can be just as effective to raise funds through a coffee morning or a parish quiz night (we can help you with questions and quiz master).

With kind regards,

Richard Morris

Your Area Organiser, Surrey Churches Preservation Trust
scptrichardmorris@gmail.com

Useful websites: www.SurreyChurchesPreservationTrust.org

www.Rideandstrideuk.org

www.nationalchurchestrust.org



SURREY CHURCHES
RIDE & STRIDE
SATURDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2026
Ride or Stride & raise money for
our own churches and the Trust
Your contribution will be
divided equally between the two

With many thanks to everyone for the continued support of the Dorking Foodbank. Thanks to Sylvie who volunteers at the Foodbank, we always have an up to date list of items they need at this point.

Do you have any plastic carrier bags you can spare? Please do continue to donate non-perishable food, personal hygiene including shampoo, body wash and disposable razors, together with sanitary items, amongst other things. **ALL items are gratefully received.**

'DONATE TEN'

Could you donate ten items to the Foodbank,
or maybe make a direct debit for £10 each month or arrange
a one-off donation?

If you would like to hear more regarding this project
please contact: Revd Liz Richardson - 01306 711260
or Pastoral Assistant Sylvie Beckett on 07711 849338

This month:

Honey
Marmalade
Peanut Butter
Hand wash
Laundry tablets



Hymns for professionals

Dentist:	Crown Him with many crowns.
Contractor:	The church's one foundation
Obstetrician:	Come, labour on.
Golfer:	There is a green hill far away.
Politician:	Standing on the promises.
Librarian:	Let all mortal flesh keep silence.
Barrister:	In the hour of trial.
Dry Cleaner:	O for a faith that will not shrink.
Census taker:	All people that on earth do dwell.
Tax officer:	We give thee but thine own.
Traffic patrol:	Where cross the crowded ways of life.
Credit card user:	A charge to keep have I.

HYMN: The story behind 'Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken'

*Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
He whose word cannot be broken
Formed thee for his own abode.
On the rock of ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.*

*See, the streams of living waters,
Springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters,
And all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
Ever flows their thirst to assuage:
Grace, which like the Lord the giver,
Never fails from age to age?...*

The year was 1800, and Vienna was under bombardment by Napoleon's troops. The great Austrian composer, Haydn, then old and frail, asked to be carried to his piano. There he made his own defiance of Napoleon, by solemnly playing through his composition 'Emperor's Hymn'. Haydn had composed it for the Austrian Emperor, Franz II's birthday on 12 February 1797. Haydn never touched his piano again, and died a few days later, aged 77.

That is where the tune for this well-loved hymn came from. It quickly became the tune of the Austrian national anthem. It was later even adopted by the Germans, as the tune for August Heinrich Hoffman von Fallersleben's (1798 - 1874) anthem Deutschlandslied, which began with the famous words: 'Deutschland uber alles' (Germany before everything). In the ensuing political upheavals, the tune survived in the German national anthem, but was abandoned by the Austrians in 1946.

In the meantime, the tune had also reached England, as early as 1805. It was then that the words of a hymn by John Newton were first paired up with it. This meant that when the Austrian Emperor Franz visited his grandmother Queen Victoria, at Windsor Castle, he most likely would have sung his own national anthem tune to English words written by a converted slave trader turned country vicar!

John Newton's inspiration for this hymn comes from Psalm 87: 'Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God' (vs3) and also a text from Isaiah 33:20-21: 'Look on Zion... there the Lord in majesty will be for us a place of broad rivers and streams...'

John Newton's hymn celebrates the joy of knowing that the Church is the new Jerusalem (Zion) where God abides. He rejoices that God protects His people and promises to supply their needs. He leads them into the Promised Land, just as long ago He led the Israelites through the wilderness to their Promised Land. Back then, He led them with a fiery and cloudy pillar; now we have His very Spirit within us, to guide us each step of the way home.

It was:

250 years ago, on 4th July 1776 that the US Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Second Continental Congress.

250 years ago, from 12th July 1776 to 4th October 1780, that the British explorer Captain James Cook made his third and final voyage. He travelled to New Zealand and Hawaii, where he was killed in a violent exchange with the local people.

God and the Americans – 250 years on

In July 1776, there were roughly 2.5 million Americans in the Thirteen Colonies.

Those who went to church worshipped in about 3,228 Christian congregations, made up of about 14 various denominations. These included: Anglicans, Baptists, Congregationalists, Dutch Reformed, Methodists, Quakers, Presbyterians, and Roman Catholics.

Today, there are about 342.5 million Americans.

Those who go to church, worship in about 325,000 Christian congregations, and can choose from a staggering 200 different denominations, as well as thousands of independent congregations.

A recent survey from the Pew Research Centre found that today, about 17 per cent of Americans would like the government to declare Christianity the official religion of the USA. But two-thirds of Americans believe that churches and other places of worship should 'keep out of political matters.'

The most popular view (43%) is that the government should "promote Christian moral values without making Christianity the official religion".

This is followed (38 per cent) by the belief that the government should "neither establish an official religion nor promote Christian values".

"In God We Trust" first appeared on US coins in 1864. In 1956 President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a law officially making "In God We Trust" the national motto of the United States. It remains in place as the USA's official motto today.

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



Book Reviews

Bruised Reeds and Mustard Seeds - The Gift of the Small Church By Jody Stowell, Canterbury Press, £12.99

At a time when churches across denominations face a steady decline in attendance, smaller congregations often find themselves overshadowed by the push for growth and numbers. While larger 'Resource Churches' are praised for their expansion, the true value of the smaller church is frequently overlooked. But what if there's a unique gift in these smaller communities?

Jody Stowell invites you to explore how, in the race for growth, we may be missing the deep significance and essential role of smaller congregations. As anxiety about survival and financial security spreads throughout the church, local churches and their leaders bear the burden. Yet within these smaller churches lies a richness, resilience and spiritual depth that is often lost in the noise. This is a call to rediscover the profound worth of smaller congregations and recognise their vital place in the future of faith communities.



Middling – what Jesus Said About Perspective, Being Between Things and Not Yet Knowing Stuff By Emma Ineson, SPCK, £12.99

From St Augustine to Shakespeare, and from the wisdom of Scripture to the example of Jesus Himself, many of our greatest voices have praised the virtue of moderation. In Middling, Emma invites readers to rediscover the creative, faithful power of living in the middle.

The middle is where most of us spend much of our lives - between certainty and doubt, conviction and compassion, what has been lost and what is yet to be found. Yet we are often taught to apologise for this space, to rush toward extremes or easy answers. Middling challenges that assumption, revealing the middle as a place of integrity, nuance, and deep humanity.

Drawing on her experience as a bishop, Emma reflects on the difficult questions faced by leaders and disciples alike: when to speak, when to remain silent, and how to hold tension without losing hope. At the heart of the book is Christ as the ultimate "middle" figure, holding all things together. In choosing to dwell intentionally in this space, Middling shows that the middle is not only fruitful - but quietly, profoundly joyful.

Pilgrim Places, Holy Lives – a Gospel Journey with the English Saints Church of England, CHP, £3.99

The greatest story ever told is of God becoming human in Jesus Christ to offer us a transforming relationship with Him. This book explores how this amazing story took root in Anglo-Saxon England, and how those who responded to it can still inspire and encourage us today.

Through eight places of spiritual awakening and the saints associated with them, Pilgrim Places offers 24 days of Bible readings, reflections, questions and prayers on the ancient practice of pilgrimage. From Durham to Canterbury, Lindisfarne to Lastingham, it will help you reflect on what it means to live as a pilgrim.

Each week focuses on two saints who dedicated their lives to God and shared the gospel with others: the Venerable Bede of Durham; Bertha of Canterbury; Cuthbert of Lindisfarne; Cedd of Lastingham; Frideswide of Oxford; Etheldreda of Ely; Alcuin of York; and Hilda of Whitby. The saints are not merely remarkable people from the past, but fellow travellers on the pilgrim journey who can shape our identity, our worship, and our witness to the world today.

Contributors include Sarah Mullally, Stephen Cottrell, Dee Dyas, James Shelton, Sammi Tooze, Sally Welch, Jenny Wright and Alexandra Zhirnova.



Here are some tips for a cooler house

If the summer heat is getting to you, you might consider the following:

Close your curtains and blinds during the day. Block out the sunlight. That may be hard to do in a country where we don't see the sun as often as we'd like, but sadly that sunlight pouring through your windows will not only brighten but also heat up your house.

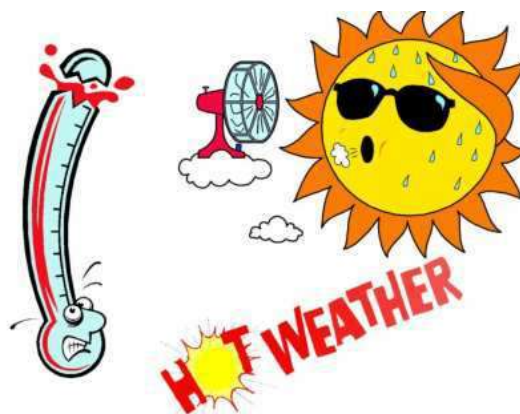
At night, aim to create a breeze that flows through your house. This is easy to do - simply open windows on opposite walls or at opposite sides of your home. Let the air circulate as much as possible.

Try to reduce heat from your appliances. Your stove, television, dishwasher, hairdryer, fridge and freezer all generate some heat. Can you do without any of these during the daytime?

Aim for cool flooring. Try and use wood flooring and ceramic or porcelain tiles in that is why we like them in the winter.

Consider using breathable fabrics over your sofa and chairs. Sitting on natural fabrics such as cotton or linen throws is cooler than sitting on man-made fabrics.

If all else fails, *try an electric fan*, placed on the floor in front of a bowl of ice water, and aimed at the opposite wall of your room. But they are expensive to run, and do not cool the air. They merely increase the velocity of it, so that it feels cooler.



Sea Sunday - 12th July

Sea Sunday is the day each year when churches worldwide come together to pray for seafarers, and to support The Mission to Seafarers' frontline ministry to them.

Seafarers are essential to everyday life, yet many work unseen, facing long periods away from home, isolation, and often dangerous conditions. Sea Sunday offers an opportunity to pause, and give thanks for the men and women who keep our world moving.

The Mission to Seafarers works in ports across the world. In 2025 alone, it made over 48,000 ship visits, provided shore leave transport for more than 150,000 seafarers, and ran programmes on family support and suicide prevention.

These moments of care — a visit on board, practical help ashore, or someone to listen — can make a profound difference to seafarers far from home.

For Sea Sunday 2026, the theme is 'Harbours of Hope: The Church Alongside Seafarer', inspired by Matthew 25. This theme celebrates the local church as a place of welcome, refuge, and hope — a community offering both spiritual and practical safety to those who work at sea. It invites congregations to reflect on how they can stand alongside seafarers through prayer, hospitality, generosity, and justice.



There is a wide range of free downloadable resources on Sea Sunday, which can be found at: <https://www.missiontoseafarers.org>

Make your voice heard

I think all of us like it when we and our opinions are taken notice of. Often it is hard to make our opinions known, and then we complain afterwards because we disagree with the result or what is being done in our name. Below are two surveys to which we should all contribute. If you do not contribute, then you have no right to complain after.

Invitation from Vacancy in See Committee to take part in Diocesan consultation

The Vacancy in See Committee is a group of lay and clergy members tasked with preparing a Statement of Needs, articulating the qualities needed in our next Bishop of Guildford, and electing members from the diocese to the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC), the body that interviews candidates and ultimately appoints the next Bishop. As part of its work, the Vacancy in See Committee wants to listen carefully to voices across the Diocese. As they discern who God may be calling as the next Bishop of Guildford, they warmly invite you to share your views through our diocesan consultation.

They want to hear from as many people as possible about the life and future of our Diocese and are consulting widely: clergy and laity, all ages, regular and occasional worshippers, and those in chaplaincies across schools, the military, prisons, and hospitals. Every perspective matters.

As we look ahead, we do so in the context of our diocesan vision of *Transforming Church, Transforming Lives*. This consultation is an opportunity to build on that vision, celebrating what God is already doing among us and prayerfully considering what kind of leadership we need for the future. Your contribution will help shape the Diocese's next chapter.

Please take part here: [Vacancy in See – Diocesan Consultation](#) (closing 8am, 20 July). For those that cannot access the internet, please write to The Revd H. David Uffindell, St Andrew's Parish Church, Upper Church Lane, Farnham, Surrey. GU9 7PW

Safeguarding Culture survey

Every voice is important in helping us build a healthy and safe culture. Please take the opportunity to complete this [survey](#). Your feedback is vital in helping us understand how safe, supported and listened to people feel within our church communities. Honest responses will help identify strengths, highlight areas of improvement and contribute to building a culture where safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. The more people who participate, the more effectively we can learn and strengthen our safeguarding practice together.

The survey is anonymous; however, if individuals wish to provide feedback verbally or more directly, you can email or write to the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer, [Vicki Boxall](#). Church House Guildford, Stag Hill, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 7UP.



Wordsearch



It was 250 years ago, on 4th July 1776, that the US Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Second Continental Congress. The original signed parchment still exists, behind bullet-proof glass at the National Archives in Washington.

An original draft of the Declaration was made by Thomas Jefferson, and was amended by Benjamin Franklin and John Adams. It runs for only 1,320 words. The Declaration included the phrase: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

July
Fourth
Declaration
Independence
Second

Continental
Congress
Washington
Draft
Thomas

Jefferson
Benjamin
Franklin
John
Adams

Truths
Created
Equal
Creator
Inalienable

Rights
Life
Liberty
Pursuit
Happiness



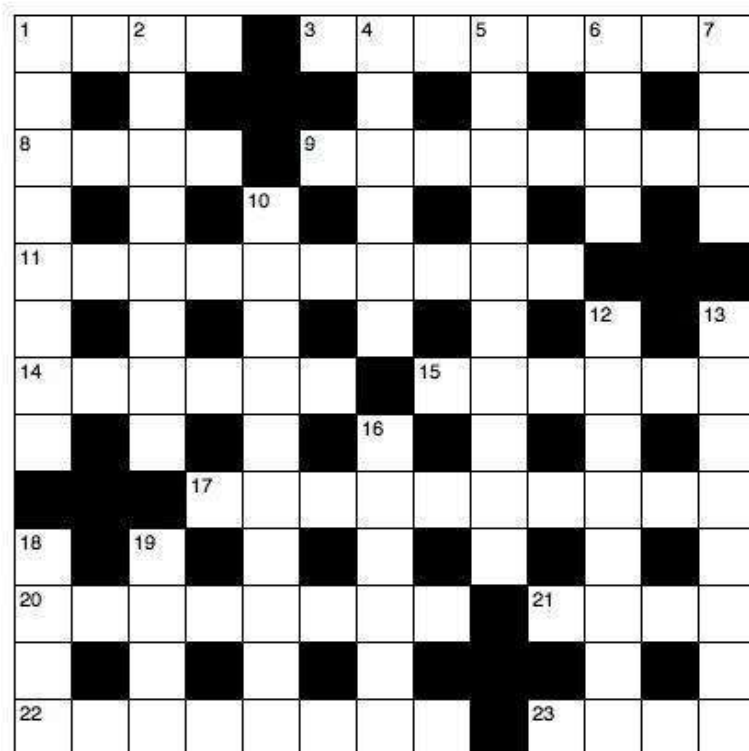
CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Proverbs describes her as being 'of noble character' (Proverbs 31:10) (4)
- 3 'Shall we go up again — — against the Benjamites, our brothers?' (Judges 20:23) (2,6)
- 8 A descendant of Shem (Genesis 10:28) (4)
- 9 'Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my — ' (Luke 14:27) (8)
- 11 Resentment (Ephesians 4:31)(10)
- 14 In Cain(anag.)(6)
- 15 'Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to—' (Psalm 139:6) (6)
- 17 Intense (1 Thessalonians 4:5)(10)
- 20 Third Order of the Roman Catholic Church(8)
- 21 'At midnight the cry rang out, "Here's the bridegroom! Come out to — him"' (Matthew 25:6) (4)
- 22 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in — ' (2 Corinthians 12:9) (8)
- 23 'As the — pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God' (Psalm 42:1) (4)

Down

- 1 Nickname of popular First World War chaplain, the Revd G.A. Studdert Kennedy, — Willie (8)
- 2 Occasion of religious joy (Lamentations 2:22) (5,3)
- 4 'We three kings of — are' (6)
- 5 Allegation or charge (Jude 9) (10)
- 6 Kind (1 Chronicles 12:33) (4)
- 7 'Open your — and look at the fields!' (John 4:35) (4)
- 10 Also known as the Feast of Lights (John10:22)(10)
- 12 Area that saw the healing of two demon - possessed men and a herd of pigs stampeding to their deaths (Matthew 8:28) (8)
- 13 Forebear(James2:21)(8)
- 16 Name given to the first two books of the Apocrypha(6)
- 18 Esau sold his birthright for this (Genesis25:34)(4)
- 19 Rear(anag.)(4)



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

Easy Soduku

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			6	5	3			
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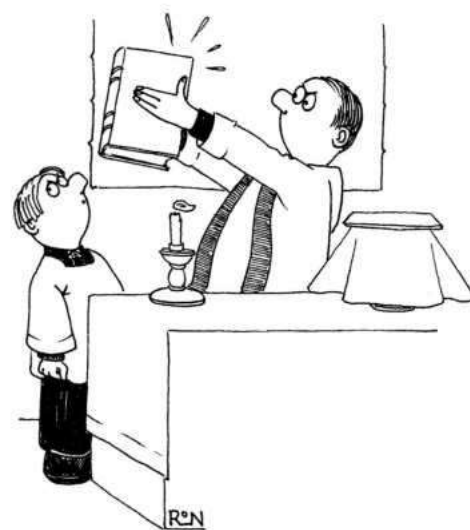
Medium Soduku



Puzzle solutions
on page 34



The boys on the substitutes' bench knew their only chance of a sing was if one of the first team was injured.



Fortunately it was a perfect mosquito, without spot or blemish.

Puzzle Solutions

Sudoku Easy Solution

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

Sudoku Medium solution

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

Crossword Solution

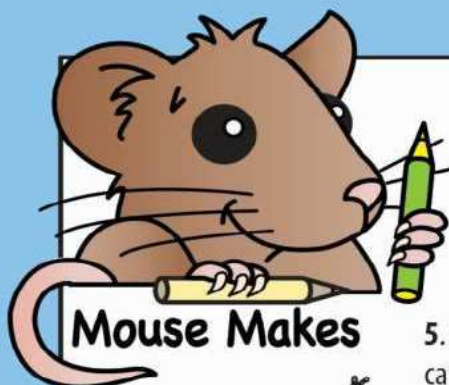
W	I	F	E		T	O	B	A	T	T	L	E	
O		E			R		C		Y			Y	
O	B	A	L		D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E	
D		S		D		E		U		E		S	
B	I	T	T	E	R	N	E	S	S				
I		D		D		T		A		G		A	
N	I	A	C	I	N		A	T	T	A	I	N	
E		Y		C		E		I		D		C	
				P	A	S	S	I	O	N	A	T	E
S		A			T		D		N		R	S	
T	E	R	T	I	A	R	Y			M	E	E	T
E		E		O		A				N		O	
W	E	A	K	N	E	S	S			D	E	E	R

Wordsearch Solution

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



Junior InSpire



Mouse Makes

1. What bird makes its nest on high?
Job 39:27



2. What ate the seeds along the path?
Matthew 13:4



3. The hair of which animal was used to make curtains?
Exodus 36:14

4. What insect can we learn from?
Proverbs 6:6

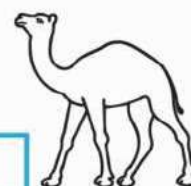
7. Which animal was Jesus compared to?
John 1:29



5. What plague came out of the River Nile?
Exodus 8:6



6. What animal would go through the eye of a needle easier than a rich person?
Luke 18:25



8. What bird did Noah release from the ark first?
Genesis 8:7



9 across.
In what creature's mouth was a coin found?
Matthew 17:27



9 down.
What lives in holes?
Matthew 8:20

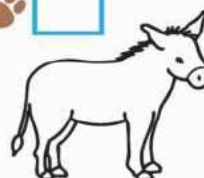


12. Which bird did the Holy Spirit appear as?
Luke 3:22

15. What insects did John eat in the wilderness?
Matthew 3:4



13. Which animal did Jesus ride on?
Matthew 21:7



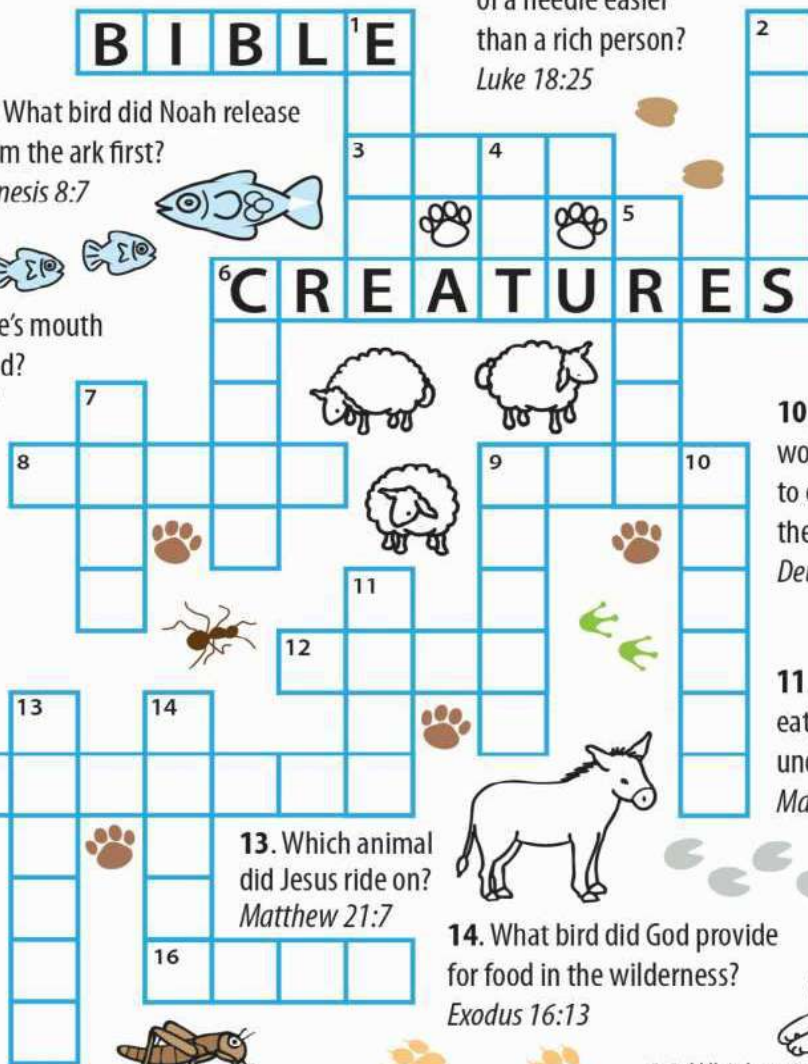
14. What bird did God provide for food in the wilderness?
Exodus 16:13



16. Which animal is the "mightiest among beasts"?
Proverbs 30:30

B I B L E

C R E A T U R E S



Church Teas 2026

All teas at St John the Baptist, Capel

Timings: 3pm—5pm

** Please see different time for Sunday 25th October*



A wonderful array of cakes, traybakes and scones from Helen Berry!
Come along and enjoy a delicious afternoon tea in
St John the Baptist, Capel

Sunday 12th July

Sunday 2nd August

Sunday 30th August

Sunday 27th September

Sunday 25th October *

*** Please note the tea begins at 4pm after
the All Souls Service beforehand at 3pm**

Sunday 29th November

*Our continued thanks to Helen Berry for putting on these delicious afternoon teas for us,
ably assisted by Sue Partridge.*

Also, our continued thanks to Helen for the beautiful flower arrangements in church.

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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