

InSpire

The monthly publication for the Parish of Capel & Ockley

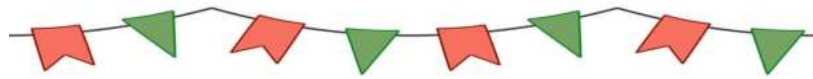


The Lord supports those that stumble,
and lifts up those who are down. Ps 145:14

InSpire magazine Issue 106 August 2026

Free of Charge—donations welcome in
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or digitally via the QR code





Capel Military Show 2026



Well done
everyone! We
made just over
£6,000



Just some of our lovely team
of volunteers on the Church
refreshments stall at this
year's Capel Military Show!

Thank you to everyone who
helped in any way!



A HUGE thank you
to Leigh Smith,
Helen Burt and
Norman Ede
for organising the
Stall on our behalf.



Issue 106 August 2026

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*Enjoy life,
employ life.
It flits away and
will not stay.*

Proverb

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download individual issues!

www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/inspire-magazine

This issue is sponsored by

Jean Dale

Thank you Jean for sponsoring this issue in
celebration of your 94th birthday and to
commemorate 200 years of the Dale family
at Aldhurst Farm in Capel

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

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August Letter

Dear friends,

So the hot weather has continued and there is no rain as yet - the longest spell without rain since records began I heard. Perhaps by now when you are reading this, rain will have fallen though. So July was a very full month for us in the parish. Gill's priesting was a wonderful occasion, stiflingly hot of course, but we all survived. Gill presided at her first communion the next day and has since baptised her first children; all of which I know were a huge privilege for her and for us. So by the time I leave here in early October Gill will be able to officiate fully - albeit on a part time basis. Gill is a curate so will need to still be in training and she is self supporting which means she is not a full time paid priest. Fortunately we have the assistance of Revd Jo who is a retired priest and will help us at two Sundays a month from the Autumn onwards. We also are blessed to have the assistance and ministry of Graham who is a Licensed Lay Minister from Dorking. There is a lot of planning to do going forward into the vacancy and a lot of sorting out in my study and in fact the rest of the vicarage as we prepare to leave Capel.



I can now tell you that I have been appointed as Priest in Charge of the church of St Peter and St Paul at Ewhurst and Ellens Green. This is a house for duty appointment (as I have now reached the age of retirement for full time ministry) for which I serve the parish on a Sunday and two days per week or the equivalent. We are looking forward to taking up this appointment but of course leaving here is going to be a huge thing after 15 years.... My last Sunday will be the 4th October and there will be a service followed by a Bring and Share lunch. It would be lovely to see as many as can attend on this day. All are welcome to join us on my farewell Sunday.

In my last letter, I mentioned that we had recently run an Alpha course. As a result, several members of the group have expressed a desire to be confirmed in their faith. Before I leave Capel, we will therefore be holding our first Service of Confirmation here at the church. Bishop Paul will be joining us to confirm our candidates as they affirm their faith for themselves. For those who were baptised as infants, Confirmation is the opportunity to publicly affirm the promises that were once made on their behalf, declaring their own commitment to follow Christ. A Confirmation service is always a joyful and uplifting occasion, and everyone is warmly invited to come along, support our candidates, and celebrate with them. We will also be welcoming candidates and guests from neighbouring churches, making it a wonderful opportunity to celebrate together as the wider church family. The service is planned for Wednesday 2nd September in the evening. Please see the services list for more information.

We had a great few days on our refreshment stall at Capel Military Show and it was a joy to see many customers old and new. We thank the Show Committee for giving us this opportunity to raise much needed funds and to be a church presence at the show. The Christian faith is very much part of the military scene as we know. This month we are preparing to serve you burgers and drinks etc at our burger stall at the Capel Show. Do come and visit us. The teams who organise our fundraising events are incredible and I cannot thank all our volunteers enough for all that you do in all aspects of our parish lives.

In the meantime may God bless each one of you in this summer month of August and hope that whatever happens with the rain, somehow you may find good ways of being refreshed.

With my love & prayers,

Rev Liz

vicar@capelandockleychurch.org.uk 01306 711260

Are you interested in Confirmation? If so, do read Liz's letter about a Service of Confirmation on Wednesday 2nd September.

CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS - AUGUST 2026

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

August

Sunday 2nd Trinity 9

9.30am	Matins - Ockley
10.30am	Family Communion - Capel
3-5pm	Church teas at Capel

Sunday 9th Trinity 10

9.30am	Holy Communion CW - Ockley
10.30am	The Sunday Session - Capel
	<i>Church for the curious, the questioning and confused!</i>

Sunday 16th Trinity 11

9.30am	Parish Communion CW - Ockley
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Sunday 23rd Trinity 12

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

Saturday 29th Baptism - Ockley

Sunday 30th Trinity 13

10.30am	Parish Communion - Capel
3-5pm	Church Teas - Capel

September

Sunday 6th Trinity 14

9.30am	Matins - Ockley
10.30am	Family Communion - Capel

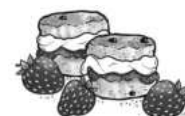
More events in August & September:

Capel Show	Saturday 15th August - come along and support the Churches Burger stall! We'd love to see you there—either as a volunteer or as a visitor!
Surrey Churches Ride & Stride	Saturday 12th September - more details page 27
National Allotment week - 10th—16th August see page 25 for more details.	

Capel Church Tea dates 2026

See page 28

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 2026—27

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

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



Holy Baptism

We welcome into the family
of the Church

Dolcie-May Foden
Hunter-Grey Foden
Maddie-Ann Foden

Sunday 19th July 2026



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

thank
you!

On behalf of Stuart and Andy, a big thank you to everyone who kindly came and helped on Saturday 18th July at our latest Churchyard working party. The sun shone on us all but it wasn't too hot which made it ideal weather to do our jobs in!

A lot of clearing was done, but with attention given to protecting and encouraging wildlife wherever we could. This included the surprise liberation of a lovely mouse from the mortuary as we cleared the mountains of equipment that had been housed in there. The mouse was last seen heading towards the wall between the churchyard and The Crown. Maybe he (or she) was headed for a pint at the pub and a Ho's takeaway?

There will be more churchyard working parties in the late summer and into the Autumn. Everyone worked so hard and it is a joy and a privilege to care for our small part of God's creation. Andy and Stuart will advise on the date of the next one!

Suzanne Cole

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)



Christian Aid launches Ebola Emergency Appeal

Christian Aid has launched an Ebola Emergency Appeal, as the deadly disease continues its spread.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has called the outbreak a public health emergency of international concern. There is no vaccine or specific treatment for the Bundibugyo strain of Ebola, which has a fatality rate of up to 50%.

Christian Aid says: "Prevention is the only way to stop it, and that depends on trusted local partners reaching communities first."

Decades of armed conflict in the DRC has left more than 27 million people in urgent need of food, around 65% of them without access to clean water, and most households do not have adequate sanitation.

Meanwhile, the DRC shares borders with nine countries, and the region has high cross-border population movement. Cases have already crossed into Uganda. Once Ebola spreads beyond containable hotspots, the response becomes far harder - and far costlier in lives.

Christian Aid's Ebola Emergency Appeal can be found at: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/ebola-emergency-appeal>

WCC refuses to expel Russian Orthodox Church

The general secretary of the World Council of Churches (WCC), the Revd Professor Jerry Pillay, has rejected recent calls from Ukraine, and even some WCC member churches, for the Russian Orthodox Church (ROC) to be stripped of its membership of the WCC.

He said: "There remains, however, a clear need for active and ongoing dialogue within the ecumenical fellowship, in order to strive for mutual understanding with regard to positions attributed to Patriarch Kirill and the ROC that demonstrably diverge from ecumenical consensus positions on 'Just Peace'."

Viktor Yelensky, a senior Ukrainian government official, had asked the WCC to throw the Russian Church out, as it had violated the "fundamental principles of Christianity" by giving active support to Russia's war against Ukraine.

Pillay said that instead, the WCC, would continue to seek "better mutual understanding within the ecumenical movement" of Russian Church attitudes.

Calls for the Russian Church's expulsion were first made after the February 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

C of E apologises for historical adoption practices

The Church of England has recently apologised for its role in historical adoption practices, particularly in mother and baby homes.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally, said: "We are profoundly sorry for the pain, trauma and stigma experienced - and still carried - by many people because of historical adoption practices in homes affiliated to the Church of England.

"We have heard first-hand the accounts of mothers who were separated from their babies in circumstances where they had very few meaningful choices.

"We know that many women and girls were at times made to carry out menial and manual work as a form of 'correction'. We also recognise where prejudice - including on the grounds of race and disability - shaped and defined experiences and outcomes.

"We are listening to the people affected. We are deeply ashamed that this happened to people in the care of Christian communities.

"These practices are in the past and must never happen again. We will not condone or repeat them. Our commitment now is to listen, to lament and to learn, to ensure that this leads to change."

150 years on, Mothers' Union is a "powerhouse" - Archbishop of Canterbury

The Mother's Union is celebrating its 150th anniversary. At a recent service in St Paul's Cathedral, the Archbishop of Canterbury said she had seen first-hand the profound impact of its work in communities around the world, "in family life, healthcare, education, social projects — challenging poverty, injustice and violence. . . In fact, I often say, if I need something doing, ask the Mothers' Union to do it."

Her sermon on Ephesians had asked: "How do we sustain ourselves as we serve? How do we nourish our own spiritual, mental, and physical well-being, whilst we are tending to the needs of others?"

The answer, she suggested, lay in St Paul's words: "I pray that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

She continued. "May *you* know the depth of God's love in the grass-roots work that you do throughout the world. May *you* know the breadth of God's love as you strive to serve this global movement.

"You are salt to our world, in the ordinary, everyday ways you make such a difference to the people you serve, and in the fellowship that you offer to one another."

New more generous support for ordinands as the numbers in training rise

The Church of England has recently announced a multi-million-pound overhaul of the maintenance grant system for people training for ordained ministry, aimed at ensuring that ordinands get the support that they need.

Around £2 million extra per year is to be invested in a redesigned and more generous grant scheme for people training for ordained ministry in the Church of England.

The announcement comes as the number of people entering training has risen, after four years of decline. 442 entered training in September last year, compared to 329 the year before.

The arrangements, starting from the 2026/27 academic year, will provide eligible ordinands in full-time training with non means-tested maintenance grants of between £17,141 and £26,127, calculated according to average housing costs in three designated 'zones' throughout the country.

Part-time ordinands will receive an annual grant of £1,000 to help with costs during training such as paying for computer equipment and books, in addition to being able to claim travel expenses.

The new system is part of the new Ministry Training Fund, or MTF, and wants to ensure greater clarity, consistency and an easier way of accessing financial support while in training.

For anyone heading to Wales this summer ...

Swansea Minster to host Gaia - Luke Jerram's giant Earth installation

Swansea Minster will host Gaia, a touring artwork by UK artist Luke Jerram, from 12th to 31st October.

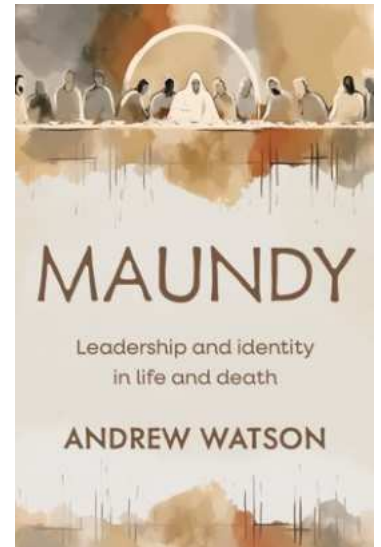
Gaia is a six-metre sphere created from detailed NASA imagery of the Earth's surface. The huge installation will be suspended inside the Minster, offering visitors the experience of seeing the planet floating in three dimensions.

Jerram has aimed to evoke the Overview Effect - a phenomenon first described by author Frank White in 1987 - in which astronauts experience a profound sense of the Earth's fragility, the interconnection of all life, and a renewed sense of responsibility for the environment.

The Minster will also host a programme of cultural and religious events around the installation during its three-week run. More details at: SwanseaMinster.org.uk.

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](#).

CAN YOU HELP ON OUR BURGER/SAUSAGE STALL AT THE CAPEL SHOW ON SATURDAY 15TH AUGUST 2026?

See back page for more details of the Show itself.

**Our churches will be holding a Burger/Sausage stall once again
with accompanying salad garnish, onions, cheese slices, vegetarian
options and soft drinks.**

There are sign up sheets for volunteers in both churches.

**We need help on the day itself and if anyone is free on Friday 14th to help
put up the tent and again to take it down at the end of the show.**

ANY HELP WOULD BE MUCH APPRECIATED

**These events are now VERY necessary for us to raise funds towards our
ever-increasing Parish Share that is paid to the Diocese.**



August 2026

LET THERE BE LIGHT

It's a weird thing, light, isn't it? You can't see it - but you can't see without it! Light is completely invisible until it bounces off something and enters our eyes. And it's quick too, being the fastest thing in the universe according to clever scientific people who have been able to measure a thing that they can't see and can't catch and worked out that it travels at 186,282 miles per second. But, in spite of its complete invisibility, we know it's there, we know how it works, we see its effect and we rely on it every second of our lives.

Here's a fascinating observation. For those of you familiar with the bible, you will know how the first book, Genesis, begins: *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light 'day,' and the darkness he called 'night.' And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day."* The very first step of creation was light. Now, there are people who dismiss the biblical creation story and turn to those clever people who spend their time measuring things they can't see and can't catch - the scientists. They will tell you that the world began with a Big Bang and, once the chaos of that initial "cosmic inflation" had died down the circumstances were right for the release of the first light. So, whether you follow the bible or the boffin one thing is clear. Light is where it all started. Of course it was! The bible said so and science has never disproved anything in the bible. On the contrary, scholars have shown much of the bible to be true. There is no conflict of interest for the scientist who is also a person of faith.

There's another important passage in the bible concerned with light. In the gospel of John chapter 8 we find Jesus talking to a crowd. He said, *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* There it is again; the idea that life comes from light. Ask any gardener or farmer what are the two most important things for growth and they will tell you light and water. They have faith that light will bring forth life from the seeds that they have planted.

Faith and light. Those two things are also essential for any spiritual growth, for any journey of self-discovery. It's the heart of the Christian faith. We worship a God who is completely invisible yet we know that He's "there", working in our lives. We can see the effect He has and we know that we rely on Him for every second of our lives. It seems to me to be a small step from believing in light, that we can't see but know is there, and being able to trust a supernatural God, that we can't see but know is here through all of His amazing creation that surrounds us.

Join us at **St. John's on Sunday 9th August at 10.30am for our monthly "alternative" service, The Sunday Session.** It's perfect for the curious, the questioning and the confused!

Bob Cranham

12th August - the day a solar eclipse will darken the skies of Western Europe

12th August will be the first total solar eclipse in mainland Europe since 1999. And many churches in the UK see it as a big opportunity for outreach.

On 12th August, the Moon will pass between the Earth and the Sun, blocking sunlight for over two minutes. Some areas like northern Spain, Greenland and Iceland will experience a total eclipse, but here in the UK there will still be a partial eclipse. Europe won't see a total eclipse again until 2090.

The Methodist Church says: "The eclipse will provide a great opportunity for churches.

"Holding community viewing events for the eclipse will allow churches to meet new people and delight in the beauty of creation while engaging in gentle, relational faith-sharing.

"There are many ways to get involved – whether in a church garden or at the top of a local hill, by hosting a lively family barbecue or a space for quiet reflection, it's a chance for science and faith dialogue or discussions about wellbeing.

"The key is to take this opportunity, a moment when people's openness to the divine might be elevated, to speak something of the love of Jesus – through actions and words – to the people we meet.

More info at: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/evangelism-growth/practise-evangelism/day-of-outreach/>

High Days & Holidays - August

1st August - Ethelwold, Wessex saint who founded the first monastic cathedral

St Ethelwold (c.912 - 84) did great things for the church at Winchester, which in those days was the principle town of Wessex. He began as a simple monk, eager to restore the Rule of Benedictine in England, a major reform for the church of the time. So, after serving at the abbey in Glastonbury, he was sent on to restore the old abbey at Abingdon. The king thought highly of him, and used him to teach his son, the future king, Edgar.

When in 963 Ethelwold became Bishop of Winchester, he replaced the cathedral canons with monks, thus founding the first monastic cathedral in the land. This was a uniquely English institution, which remained until the Reformation. The monastic reform quickly gained momentum: with the King's support, Ethelwold restored old monasteries such as Milton (Dorset), New Minster and Nunnaminster in Winchester, while new monasteries were founded and richly endowed at Peterborough (966), Ely (970) and Thorney (972).

Ethelwold was austere, able and dynamic. Under his leadership, the monks excelled at music, illumination and writing. When Ethelwold set the monks to work with the masons in the cathedral at Winchester, he built the most powerful organ of its time in England: it was played by two monks and had 400 pipes and 36 bellows. In music, Ethelwold's Winchester had the distinction of producing the first English polyphony in the Winchester Troper.

Ethelwold's monasteries also produced a surpassing new style of illumination, and his school of vernacular writing was the most important of its time: with accurate, linguistically significant translations. A major event of his episcopate was the consecration of Winchester Cathedral in 980.

The Deacon's Diary

Without doubt, one of this year's highlights for me was my ordination as a priest at Guildford Cathedral. It was a joyful and deeply meaningful occasion, made even more special by the wonderful support of so many people from our local churches and community who travelled to the cathedral to share in the service. Thank you to everyone who came, prayed, and celebrated with me.



The most powerful moment was when my name was called and I went forward to kneel in front of Bishop Paul. As he prayed for the Holy Spirit to come upon me, a swarm of priests (looking something like a rugby scrum according to the bishop) gathered round me, laying hands upon my shoulders as they added their prayers to his. What a great start to my priestly ministry in Capel and Ockley!

Since then, I have been very happily occupied and this list may give you a bit of a flavour;

The next 'big' event was presiding at my first communion the day after my ordination with Rev Liz's presence providing great support and encouragement.

The three mornings I helped at the tea stall during the Capel Military Show, serving refreshments and enjoying conversations with visitors, volunteers, and local residents was a great opportunity to support a much-loved village event and strengthen community connections.

I attended a training day focussing on the importance of developing and protecting times of quiet prayer and reflection, participated in an online webinar on church law, and attended a deanery chapter meeting. The purpose of all these is to ensure that ministry remains both well-informed and spiritually grounded.

The end of term at Scott-Broadwood Church of England School marked the end of my placement with them as part of my school's ministry training and I thoroughly enjoyed the final celebratory school assembly when awards were given out for helpfulness, joy and sharing among others prizes. I assisted at the service of thanksgiving marking 200 years of the school in Capel. This service also marked the closure of the village school. While it was naturally a poignant occasion for many, the service gave the community an opportunity to give thanks for the school's long history and celebrate the generations of children whose lives it has touched with the commitment of teachers, parents, volunteers, staff at the school and commend their future into God's hands.

As always, every month brings a mixture of celebration, sadness, planning, learning, and worship. Please do get in touch with Rev Liz or me (curate@capelandockleychurch.org.uk) if you would like prayer for anyone or any situation.

Rev Gill Christie
curate@capelandockleychurch.org.uk



High Days & Holidays - August

5th August - Oswald, a king with faith, courage and humility

Many Christians have dreamed of doing something spectacular for God, which would be remembered for centuries afterwards. Oswald, who lived from 605 to 642AD, was in a position to do so.

He was a King, whose father, Aethelfrith, was a great warrior who laid the foundations of the great kingdom of Northumbria. But Aethelfrith was killed by a rival, and Oswald was only 12 years old when he was driven into exile with his elder sister and two younger brothers. For their own safety, all were taken to Irish territory in the West of Scotland.

The three brothers were educated by the Christian monks on Iona. Meanwhile, warfare raged in Northumbria, and in due course the time came for Oswald to make a difficult decision. Should he remain in safety, or return to claim his kingdom? In 632 his older brother led an expedition there to sue for peace, but instead he was put to the sword. It was a time of broken dreams and bitter grief for the young Oswald, who must have spent many hours in prayer before he decided to risk his life by following his brother south.

In his famous book, *The Ecclesiastical History of England*, Bede tells us that Oswald prepared to meet his enemies Cadwallon and Penda in battle on a December night at a place which is now called Heavenfield. His small army was likely to be outnumbered and victory seemed impossible. But that night, Oswald had a vision of St Columba, the founder of Iona. Columba prophesied that Oswald would be king, and reminded him of God's words to Joshua at the River Jordan, "Be strong, and of good courage... for you will be the leader of these people as they occupy this land."

Before battle commenced, Oswald made a rough cross from two young trees and held it upright until soldiers were able to fill in the hole around it. Then he led his army in a prayer that God would bring victory and deliverance to his people. He also promised that if they survived, he would send for missionaries from Iona to bring the Christian faith to Northumbria.

Oswald's subsequent victory has become part of the region's folklore, commemorated by the name of that battlefield and the more permanent cross which now stands at Heavenfield. Many leaders would have regarded such a triumph as the high point of their career, advanced to the royal palace and quickly forgotten their promise to God. But Oswald remained faithful, and in due course St Aidan arrived in the new kingdom and made Lindisfarne the centre of his ministry.

Now it was time for Oswald to reveal a quality less frequently associated with kings, but even more vital to the spread of God's work. That quality was humility. As the sponsor and protector of Aidan, he could easily have imposed his own agenda on this new mission. Such a test came early, when Aidan declined Oswald's offer of resources at court in Bamburgh Castle, and chose the remoter location of Lindisfarne.

Not only did Oswald accept the monk's decision gracefully; he continued to spend many uncomfortable weeks on the road acting as Aidan's interpreter. His willingness to lay aside his kingly privileges and play second fiddle to a spiritual leader ensured that the Gospel spread quickly through the new kingdom and transformed many lives.

Within a few years, dark times returned to Northumbria. Oswald was slain in battle and his brother Oswin succeeded to the throne. Penda continued to wreak havoc with his marauding raids; on one famous occasion, Aidan watched him attack the royal fortress as he prayed on the Farne Islands, and it is written that his intercessions caused the wind to change direction and beat back the flames from the castle gates.

But through it all, the light of Christianity continued to flourish and grow. Aidan is rightly remembered as the missionary who brought the good news to Northumbria, but he could not have succeeded without Oswald, the man who was brave enough to claim an earthly kingdom, yet obedient enough to play a humbler role in advancing a heavenly one.

Prayer from the liturgy for St Oswald's day (5th August), written by the Northumbria Community:

"I place into your hands, Lord, the choices that I face. Guard me from choosing the way perilous of which the end is heart-pain and the secret tear.

"May I feel your presence at the heart of my desire, and so know it is for Your desire for me. Thus shall I prosper, thus see that my purpose is from You, thus have power to do the good which endures." (Copyright Northumbria Community Trust, 1996)

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



Easy Soduku

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

Medium Soduku

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

Musician puts New Testament into song

In what he believes could be a world first, a musician associated with the Rivers Team, in Sheffield, has put the entire New Testament into song, word for word. *The Sing Bible* has been a self-funded labour of love for Rob Bromehead, who wanted to "help people hear Scripture in a new and memorable way".

He says: "I started messing around with AI. I began with some memory verses and was blown away with how it worked with the words," he said. "I felt it was a calling from God."

The New Testament and the Psalms are available free on streaming platforms, including Spotify and Apple Music. Go to: thesingbible.com

PRAYERS, PROSE & POEMS

A Breton fisherman's prayer

Protect me, dear Lord;
My boat is so small,
And your sea is so big.

The Shell

Upon the sandy shore an empty shell,
Beyond the shell infinity of sea;
O Saviour, I am like that empty shell,
Thou are the Sea to me.

A sweeping wave rides up the shore, and lo,
Each dim recess the coiled shell within
Is searched, is filled, is filled to overflow
By water crystalline.

From a poem by Amy Carmichael 1867 – 1951

Prayer for August 2026

Dear Father,
In this summer month of August, help us to be
aware of Your presence.
If we are away on holiday,
If we can't have a holiday,
On our journeys,
In our homes,
With our families or friends,
When we're alone,
When life is sweet,
When it's like an obstacle course,
At all times and in all circumstances, help us to
know that You are in it with us, sharing our ups
and downs, offering Your love and peace and
hope when we connect with You through putting
our trust in Your Son, Jesus.
Thank You Lord,
In His name,
Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

For anyone out and about on the road this month....

The Pilgrim's Aiding

God be with thee in every pass,
Jesus be with thee on every hill,
Spirit be with thee on every stream,
Headland and ridge and lawn;

Each sea and land, each moor and meadow,
Each lying down, each rising up,
In the trough of the waves, on the crest of the billows,
Each step of the journey thou goest.

A Celtic prayer collected by Alexander Carmichael



*Look to this day! For it is life,
the very life of life.
In its brief course lie all the varieties
and realities of your existence:
the bliss of growth, the glory of action,
the splendour of beauty.
For yesterday is already a dream
and tomorrow is only a vision
but today, well-lived,
makes every yesterday a dream of happiness,
and every tomorrow a vision of hope.
Look well, therefore to this day!
Such is the salutation of the dawn.*

From The Sanskrit

*"You know you're getting old when you go
on holiday and always pack a sweater."*

Denis Norden

*"I'm 42 around the chest, 52 around the
waist, 92 around the golf course and a
nuisance around the house."*

Groucho Marx

High Days & Holy Days - August

11th August - Clare of Assisi, prayer and simplicity

In the year 1212 Clare, the 18-year-old daughter of a local Count, heard a young preacher called Francis. A few years earlier he had caused a sensation in the centre of the town where they both lived, Assisi in Italy, by stripping himself of his wealthy clothes and declaring that from now on he would live the life of a peasant. This, he said, was in obedience to the call of Christ, for whom the poor were 'blessed' and the rich were in peril of judgment.

Francis gathered a group of seven men prepared to embrace what he called 'joyful poverty' for Christ's sake, but that day he was to enlist a female disciple. 'You are a chosen soul from God', he told Clare, when she expressed her eagerness to embrace the same strict rule as his male followers.

In due course, after a period in a Benedictine convent, Clare and her sister Agnes moved into the church of St Damiano, which Francis and his friends had restored, and gathered there a group of like-minded women. Eventually Francis made Clare the abbess of a religious Order, at first called the 'Order of Poor Ladies', eventually, and universally, to be known as the 'Poor Clares'. Unable to operate an itinerant ministry like the men, Clare's sisters concentrated on a life of prayer and simplicity. In fact, their dedication to poverty was such that it affected the health of many of them.

Francis and Clare remained friends and colleagues over the next 14 years in this remarkable movement of renewal and mission. During the preceding century (as we can learn from Chaucer, among others) the religious Orders had in many cases substituted indulgence for discipline. Francis and Clare found this scandalous, and despite opposition from high places, set out to demonstrate that an effective Christian message required an appropriate Christian lifestyle. For them, poverty was not a burden but a joy - a release from the delusions of power and ambition. Their witness made an enormous impact on the poor people of Umbria and beyond, who saw an authenticity in their lives which spoke as eloquently as their words.

Clare helped to nurse Francis through his final illness, which lasted several years. She lived for 27 years after his death, like him suffering from the effects of long years of strict austerity. She died in 1253 and was canonised two years later. She is buried in the basilica of St Clare in Assisi, a few hundred yards from the basilica of St Francis. In life they proclaimed the same message of sacrificial love and service, and in their deaths they were not divided. Her special day is 11th August.

Editor: For anyone like me who enjoys 'Call the Midwife' on BBC and the nuns who live at 'Nonnatus House', this may be of interest.

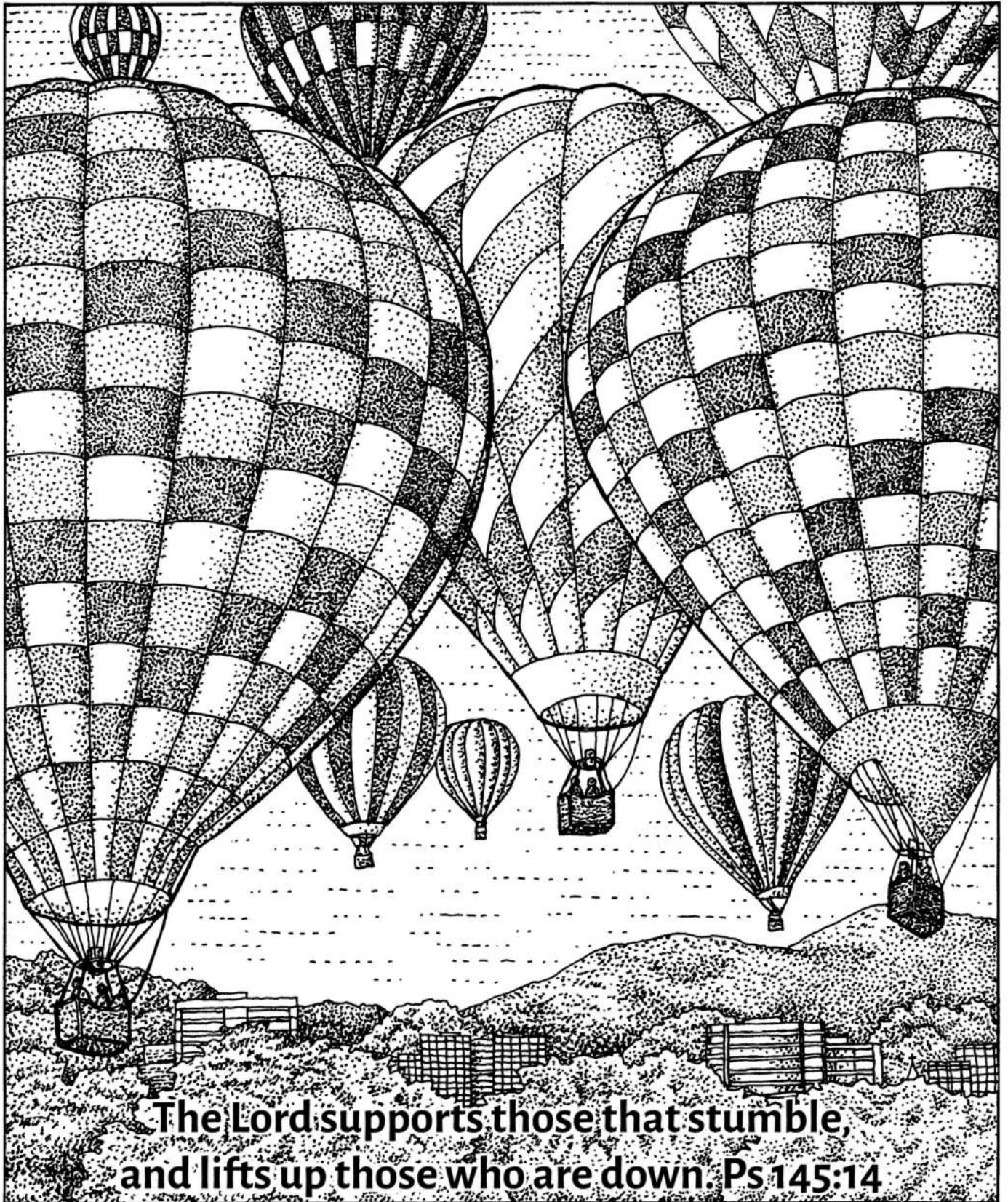
31st August - Raymond Nonnatus, redeeming slaves from a living death

Raymond Nonnatus (1204–40) is a good patron saint for anyone who does not take life for granted. The account of his own life begins with the story of how his mother died just before his birth, and of how Raymond was somehow extracted from her dead body just in time to save him. ('Nonnatus' means 'not born').

Raymond grew up in Portello, Catalonia and became a monk, joining the Mercedarian Order. Perhaps because of his gratitude for his own life having been spared, Raymond developed a passionate desire to see other people set free to live the lives God had given them. Whatever the reason, Raymond made the difficult and dangerous journey out to Algeria in order to redeem many slaves from a living death. So passionate was he to free them, that he even offered himself as a ransom for others' liberation.

While in Algeria, Raymond preached Christianity to the Muslims, and was put into prison, before eventually being sent back to Spain. The Pope sent for him, but Raymond was so weakened by his suffering in Algeria that he died on the way to Rome. But by then Raymond was content. Just as his life had been given back to him, so he had used it to give life back to others.

Summer Activity pages



Colouring in

Word Search

John the Baptist

This month, on the 29th, we remember John the Baptist. By all accounts, he had a rough life. He grew up in obscurity, lived in the desert on a diet of bugs. He wore itchy camel hair. He worked in the heat of the sun, constantly challenging people, and wading in and out of muddy Jordan waters to baptise many. Then he was arrested and kept in a reeking, infested dungeon until one day they cut his head off. Not much comfort in that life. Yet the Bible tells us that of all the people in history, no one has even been born who was as great as him. Why? Because of the unique calling God gave him, which was to prepare the way for the coming ministry of his Son, Jesus. Jesus did not have an easy life, either.

John
Baptist
Rough
Obscurity
Desert

Bugs
Camel
Heat
Sun
Challenge

Muddy
Jordan
Arrested
Dungeon
Head

Cut
History
Great
Unique
Prepare



More puzzles on pages 15 (Sudoku) and 33 (Crossword)
plus Junior InSpire for our younger readers on page 35

Editor: This month many newly ordained clergy will be settling into parishes across the country. So, with them in mind, we offer some old 'new curate jokes'....

Whispers

A young curate lost his voice at the local football match one Saturday and, being due to preach the next morning, he thought he should call in and consult his vicar. So he rang the vicarage bell, and the door was answered by a very attractive teenage daughter. "Is your dad here?" the curate managed to whisper.

"No," she whispered back, thinking she had got the message. "Come on in!"

Won't go far

The curate went to the building society about his investments, adding:

"We want to know how far afield we can go for our holiday."

Handing him his statement the cashier enquired very gently: "Have you got a field at the back of your garden, sir?"

Nearly omnipotent

The curate was giving his young daughter a cuddle before she went to bed. As he picked her up and hugged her tight, she said: "Daddy, you're so strong! I really think you'll be God one day!"

Slow

A curate consistently arrived late for work until his long-suffering vicar asked him what was wrong. "My problem," explained the curate, "is that I sleep very slowly."



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: 2 Thessalonians

Paul wrote 2 Thessalonians from Corinth, after Silas and Timothy had returned from delivering 1 Thessalonians, in AD 51/52. His purpose in writing this letter was largely the same as the first, as the situation in the church remained largely unchanged. He writes to encourage new believers facing persecution (1:4-10), to correct a misunderstanding concerning the Lord's return (2:1-12) and to deal with the problems caused by some who refused to earn their own living (2:13-3:15).

The theme of the second coming of Jesus dominates 2 Thessalonians as with his first letter. When Jesus comes, He will defeat the '*man of lawlessness*' (2:8) and bring justice to oppressed Christians and judge their persecutors and unbelievers (1:5-10; 2:9-15). Paul was challenging the false belief that '*the day of the Lord has come*', leaving the Thessalonians shaken and frightened (2:1-2). As they were undergoing intense persecution, they thought that the second coming was imminent. Furthermore, the community contained believers who refused to work. They may have decided to stop working and await the second coming of Jesus. However, they may have been exploiting wealthier Christians' generosity in order to avoid work.

Paul's prayer for the Thessalonians is one that we can truly share in our own circumstances, as we also live in an uncertain world: '*With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of His calling, and that by His power He may fulfil every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.*' (1:11&12)

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear friends,

As there are several letters already in the issue from Rev Liz, Rev Gill and an excerpt from Bishop Paul 's letter on page 22, so I'll try and keep this brief! As Bishop Paul says in his letter (Ad Clerum 3), he is about to go on a well-earned rest and he hopes that his readers make the most of opportunities to rest over the summer. It is such a wonderful time, with long hours of daylight and some beautiful temperatures currently to sit out in, even in the evenings. I have included some extra 'activity pages' in this issue in the hope that they may be useful for anyone on holiday, wherever that maybe.

My thanks to Jean Dale for sponsoring this issue. We wish Jean a very Happy 94th Birthday. Jean wanted the issue dedicated to the Dale family as they celebrate 200 years at Aldhurst Farm in Capel. It is a remarkable feat that the Dale family have been connected with the farm for so long. I'm sure that previous generations of Aldhurst Farm farmers would not have believed the scale of the Military show that now takes place there every year and attracts thousands of visitors! It is also 200 years since Scott-Broadwood school was founded and sadly it has recently closed and the children and staff will relocate to The Weald Primary school up at Beare Green. It was a lovely service attended by school children, the staff, families and some parishioners. Revs Liz and Gill led the service with a heartfelt address given by the Headteacher, Mr Baguley. This is not the place to express my personal thoughts on the closure of the school, but as Mr Baguley says, in any sad situation, we must look for hope and celebrate all that has gone before. The 200 years of generations of children learning in that very special school will always hold a very special place in the village history, together with memories that will be cherished by ex-pupils and staff. I hope that the children settle quickly into their new environment and wish them and the staff success and happiness at The Weald.

The church teas stall at the recent Military Show was a success and a huge amount of work went into preparing for the day by Leigh, Helen and Norman. They have it organised like a well-oiled machine! A HUGE THANKS must go to a number of helpers who were there for several days—setting up the tent, taking part in the show over 3 days and then a day of clearing too. Thank you on behalf of us all to Leigh and Tony, Helen and James, and anyone I've missed! These fundraising events are now vital for us as a Parish with a dwindling congregation and an ever-growing Parish Share required from us. The next one on the horizon is our burger stall at the **Capel Show on 15th August** (see back page for more details).

I hope that everyone continues to enjoy this glorious summer and finds times of rest as Bishop Paul recommends in his letter.

*'I'm beginning to learn that it is the sweet,
simple things of life
which are the real ones after all.'*
Laura Ingalls Wilder (1867 - 1957)

With my best wishes,

Suzanne

Right: Just some of our recent Churchyard working party in July.

Photo: Alice Waddicor



inspire@capelandockleychurch.org.uk



The Bishop of Dorking - Acting Bishop of Guildford

Editor: The following is an excerpt from the Ad Clerum from Bishop Paul, sent out in the Parish Brief on 21st July 2026 by The Diocese of Guildford.

Summer Reflections

My dear Sisters & Brothers,

Over the past 8 weeks, it's been a deep joy to visit each of our 12 deaneries for the Bishop's Gatherings: to worship together; to celebrate the activity of God in each community; and to pray for each other. I was very encouraged by the attendance at each one and am so grateful to you for your presence and your support in deepening our life of prayer. If you've not done so already, may I encourage you to consider joining the Bishop's Prayer Network.

Equally joyful has been the large number of people who have begun new ministries in this period. It was astonishing to ordain 15 deacons and 22 priests this Petertide; to celebrate the graduation of over 40 members of our Foundations in Ministry (FIM) cohort and 15 members of our FIM (Mondays) programme; and to admit a new reader and re-license eight diocesan readers. Please continue to pray for them as they commence their new ministries.

All this gives me hope as I reflect upon the life of the wider world. The Palestine and Israel conversation at General Synod was a painful reminder of the devastating situations in so many parts of our world. It was also a reminder of the abhorrent rise of anti-semitism in our country, and the divisions that seem to be deepening around us. As those who share in our cure of souls, I ask you to join me in fervent prayer and commitment to serve those who are victims of hatred and injustice, especially within our parishes and diocese.

As I prepare my sermon for a confirmation in Epsom next Sunday - before a fortnight's annual leave - the text is Mark 6:30-34. I sense there's a very personal message in this for me - and perhaps for all of us. Jesus' call to rest is such a very important reminder of the way in which God intends us to live. The last six months have been especially demanding for me and for so many of us in the Diocese of Guildford. I do hope that you will also carve out time to rest properly at some stage during these months ahead.

The work of the Vacancy in See Committee continues apace, co-ordinated by the Revd David Uffindell, chairman. The sub-groups are working hard. The Prayer Sub-Group is praying regularly and producing material to help the diocese to pray. The Consultation Sub-Group has co-ordinated the diocesan consultation which is now nearing its end. The Drafting Sub-Group is working on the Statement of Needs. We are delighted to have elected the six diocesan representatives who will sit on the Crown Nominations Commission: The Ven Catharine Mabuza, the Revd Dr Peter Nevins, the Revd Dr Pelumi Adeyemi, Carolyn Graham, Stephen Hofmeyr KC, and Amanda Neill. Please see our Vacancy on the website for further information.

(Editor: see opposite page too for more information and links).

With love in Christ and prayers.
+Paul.

✉ Dayspring, Pilgrims Way, Guildford, GU4 8AD



Vacancy in See 2026/27

We are delighted that you responded to the call to share your views in the diocesan consultation, as we discern who God is calling to be our next Bishop of Guildford. In the final week, the response rate almost doubled with a total of almost 800 responses from across the diocese plus a very impressive 1,000+ responses in our schools' consultation, led by the Education Team. Your views will help inform the Statement of Needs - a document which will articulate the life, mission and context of the diocese, as well as give a clear sense of the gifts, skills and qualities needed in the next bishop.

You can continue to pray for the work of the Vacancy in See Committee, including [using prayer resources they have prepared on our website](#). You can also [read this covering letter](#) from the Committee's prayer group. For more information on the appointment process, [visit our website](#).

Taken from: The Parish Brief bulletin of 21/7/2026

Vacancy in See: What it means and how it works

A "Vacancy in See" occurs when a diocese is without a diocesan bishop – usually because the current bishop has retired, moved to a new role, or died in office. Following the death of the Rt Revd Andrew Watson, Bishop of Guildford, the Diocese of Guildford is currently in vacancy.

During this time, a formal process begins to discern and appoint the next Diocesan Bishop.

Join the pilgrimage from Winchester to Guildford

You are warmly invited to join a five-day pilgrimage from Winchester to Guildford this autumn. Building on the partnership with Viborg Diocese in Denmark, this pilgrimage is open to clergy and lay people, offering the chance to walk together along the historic Pilgrims' Way.

Each day will involve walking 12 - 20km, with time for worship, prayer, reflection and shared stories, as well as opportunities to deepen and strengthen fellowship. The journey begins on Monday 28 September with a tour of Winchester Cathedral, followed by the walk through to Friday 2 October, finishing at Guildford Cathedral with lunch and a service.

Accommodation, food and transport are covered with no charge. Places are filling up, so please get in touch soon if you are interested.

To find out more, contact: Revd Tim Heaney, rector@parishofshere.com

Taken from Parish Brief 21/07/26

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.

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham considers

Summer Holidays

The story is told of porters who were hired to carry a group's possessions on a jungle safari. The pace increased until the head porter called a halt: *'We've come so far, so fast we need to take a break and allow our souls to catch up with our bodies!'*

How often do we feel like this? August is a month when many of us take time off. Jesus and His disciples often made *'strategic withdrawals'* from the crowds: *'because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, Jesus said to them, "Come with Me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest".'* (Mark 6: 31,32).

Jesus saw how tired and stressed His disciples were and wanted to give them a break in their busy lives. He loved them and cared about their wellbeing. He longs to do the same with us, so that we can restore the balance of work, rest and play in our lives. Going on holiday gives us the opportunity to take time off, to let go the burdens that we carry every day and receive again His rest for our souls: *'Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.'* (Matthew 11:28).

The story is told of the aged Apostle John playing with doves. A passing hunter expressed surprise at what a man as pious as John was doing. John pointed to the bow in the hunter's hand and asked him why he carried it with a loosened string. The hunter replied, *'it loses its strength unless it is given the chance to unbend'*. John replied, *'why are you surprised that a servant of Christ should not relax to keep himself stronger for his work?'*

The infamous Berlin Wall

It was 65 years ago, on 13th August 1961 that East Germany first sealed the border between East and West Berlin with barbed wire. Construction on the Berlin Wall itself began two days later, on 15th August.

The Wall grew rapidly to become a 96-mile (155km) concrete barrier. It became the physical embodiment of the Iron Curtain for the next 28 years. It was built to stop the 'brain drain' of East German skilled professionals. From 1949 to 1961, more than two million had fled the East.

The Wall entirely surrounded West Berlin, stranding it as an isolated island of capitalism within communist East Germany.

It was actually two walls, separated by a heavily fortified 'death strip' 160 yards wide. It housed watchtowers, guard dog runs and anti-vehicle trenches.

The Wall was a surprise. East German residents woke up one morning to find barbed wire, armed guards and blocks on subways, streets and train lines. The East German border guards had the 'Order to Shoot' – the legal authority to kill anyone attempting to cross. About 140 people died this way.

Yet still thousands escaped. More than 5,000, in fact. They fled by tunnelling, hot air balloons, ziplines, and ramming armoured vehicles through border gates.

When in June of 1963 US President John F Kennedy visited the Wall, he made the famous declaration "*Ich bin ein Berliner*" (I am a Berliner) to demonstrate American solidarity with West Germany.

The Wall was unexpectedly opened on 9th November 1989, due to an awkward, unscripted announcement by an East German official, who mistakenly told a press conference that private travel to West Germany was permitted immediately.

Following demolition, large chunks of the Wall were sold. Today, original segments are exhibited in over 100 locations worldwide, including the Imperial War Museum in London.

National Allotment Week – 10th to 16th August

If you like allotments, then this week is for you.

It raises awareness of the very practical good that renting an allotment can do, in both providing space to grow your own food, but also in encouraging more connectedness with your immediate community.

This year the theme is 'Grow to Learn – Lifelong Lessons from the Allotment'. This highlights how time on the plot acts as a living classroom, teaching vital life skills such as resilience, patience, and creative problem-solving.

The National Allotment Society began in 1901, with the formation of the Agricultural Organisation Society. It grew rapidly, until by the time of WW2, from 1939 to 1945 there were 1.4 million plots supporting the 'Dig for Victory' campaign.

Nowadays there are about 330,000 allotment plots across the UK, managed by hundreds of different local councils and independent societies. The average rent is about £45 a year for a standard 5-pole plot (125 sq. metres).

If you want an allotment, you will have to wait. Demand for plots is currently at an all-time high, making the average wait 37 months. London is averaging 69 months, while in Islington, some people have been on the list for more than a decade.

The best crops for first-time allotmenters? You might want to try potatoes, onions, garlic, runner beans, courgettes, carrots, salad leaves, beetroot or strawberries.

A Dangerous Calling: 500 Years of William Tyndale's New Testament

St Paul's Cathedral will commemorate the 500th anniversary of William Tyndale's New Testament translation with a new exhibition. The exhibition, *A Dangerous Calling: 500 Years of William Tyndale's New Testament*, will be open to the public from the 5 June until 27 February 2027.



The exhibition provides a rare opportunity for visitors to see a first edition of Tyndale's translation up close in the Library, and will be accompanied by a year of events, tours, and interactive experiences, such as an art competition for schools, to engage visitors in the history of the translation and its enduring impact on the English language.

A newly digitised version of the Tyndale New Testament will provide visitors the opportunity to more closely explore the pages of the translation for themselves on the Cathedral floor. At the exhibition visitors can see how this once forbidden text transformed England by giving all people 'from princes to ploughboys' the chance to experience first-hand the word of God.

Very Revd Andrew Tremlett, Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, said, "*William Tyndale's New Testament* is a work of huge significance in the Reformation history of England and the 500th anniversary of its publication provides a moment to reflect on the suffering he endured to ensure men and women throughout England could read the Word of God in their own language. It is a privilege to hold a copy within the library of St Paul's, and we are delighted to share this first edition, measuring just inches, with visitors at our new exhibition opening this summer. The Cathedral is honoured to mark this momentous occasion in Christian history, as St Paul's stands as a symbol of faith, hope, and love in the heart of London."

For more information, please visit the [St Paul's website](#).

Image credit: St Paul's Cathedral.

*'In all the joys and ills of life,
Two things stand like stone
Kindness in another's troubles
Courage in your own.'*

Author unknown

*'A faithful friend is a strong
defence: and he that hath found
such a one hath found a treasure'.*

Apocrypha

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?

This month's requests for donations:-

**Peanut butter
Jam
Cereal bars
Squash
Cooking oil**



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

Church Teas 2026

Sunday 2nd August

3-5pm Capel Church

Sunday 30th August

3-5pm Capel Church

Sunday 27th September

3-5pm Capel Church

Sunday 25th October *

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

Sunday 29th November

3-5pm Capel Church



Editor: Here are some simple safety tips....

Hot and humid – what to do with those amber and yellow health alerts

This year the UK Health Security Agency has issued a series of amber and yellow health alerts across the UK. Heatwaves can kill people, the Met Office has issued advice on how to keep safe in extreme temperatures.

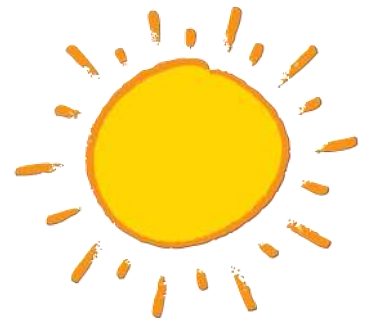
Stay hydrated – drink plenty of water
Avoid any exercise between 11am and 3pm, when the sun is strongest
Close curtains in rooms that face the sun
Wear sunscreen and a hat when outside.

Remember that even on very hot days, the water in lakes and the sea is still very cold. The Royal National Lifeboat Institution warns that entering it suddenly “can lead to cold water shock, causing a sudden increase in breathing and heart rate, which may trigger panic.”

If you find yourself in trouble in cold water, remember to Float to Live.
Tilt your head back, so that your ears are submerged
Relax and control your breathing
You may need to gently use your hands to help you stay afloat
It's OK if your legs sink — everyone floats differently.

Where possible, choose a lifeguarded beach, and swim between the red and yellow flags.

In a coastal emergency remember to call 999 for the coastguard.



How to keep your pets safe in hot weather

The British Veterinary Association offers these tips:

- Make sure all pets always have access to fresh water to drink, adequate ventilation, and shade from direct sunlight.
- Don't exercise dogs in the hottest parts of the day, especially older pets, flat-faced breeds or dogs with known heart or lung problems. Stick to early morning or late evening walks.
- Do the five-second tarmac test before taking a dog out for a walk; if it feels too hot for you, it's too hot for your dog's paws.
- Freeze plastic bottles of water and place them in your rabbit's enclosure to help them stay cool, alongside plenty of fresh water too. Provide extra shade to guinea pigs and rabbits by covering the top of wire mesh runs with damp towels.
- Some breeds of cats and dogs, particularly those with lighter-coloured or finer fur, may benefit from pet-safe sun cream, especially on the ear tips, which are prone to sunburn.
- Spare a thought for wild animals. Keep out bowls of water for wildlife such as birds and hedgehogs.
- Watch out for early signs of heatstroke, such as heavy panting, restlessness and lack of coordination.
- Contact a vet immediately if you have any concerns about your pet's health.

If we had eyes to see

*Nature is painting for us,
Day after day,
Pictures of infinite beauty
If only we have eyes to see them ...*

John Ruskin (1829 - 1900)

Our favourite butterfly

The colourful peacock butterfly is our favourite, according to a recent poll.

The butterflies, with their striking colours and 'eye-spots' designed to fend off predators, beat 59 other British species in the vote run by Butterfly Conservation.

More than 20,000 votes were cast across the UK, with a rainbow of colourful species making up the top five.

The orange-tip butterfly came a close second to the peacock, followed by red admirals in third, holly blues in fourth and the bright yellow brimstone butterfly in fifth.

Butterfly Conservation, a wildlife charity, declared a "butterfly emergency" in 2024 as numbers recorded during the annual count fell to a record low.



4th place: The 'Holly Blue'

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



The Lion Book of Five-Minute Animal Stories **By John Goodwin, SPCK, £9.99**

The best lessons come wrapped in the best stories. And The Lion Book of Five-Minute Animal Stories brings ten timeless tales from around the world to life with humour, heart, and unforgettable animal characters children will adore.

Each story teaches valuable lessons about friendship, kindness, courage, honesty, and discovering your unique talents. All delivered with the perfect dose of fun!

Why your family might enjoy this collection:

- > Ten diverse animal stories from global folklore and literature
- > Each story takes just 5 minutes, ideal for busy schedules
- > Retold with humour and liveliness that keeps kids engaged
- > Vibrant, detail-rich illustrations
- > Meaningful lessons woven into engaging stories
- > Ideal for bedtime, classroom, libraries and group reading
- > Perfect for ages 3-7

Beyond the Setting Sun - a story to help children understand feelings of grief **By Sarah J. Dodd, Lion Cub Books, £12.99**

Shortlisted for The Week Junior Book Awards 2026 **- Wellness category**

Here is a sensitive picture story book about bereavement to support young children, specifically those who have lost a parent.

The waterholes of the African Savannah have dried up and there has not been enough to drink for some of the animals. Ekundayo, a young elephant, struggles to understand the loss of his mother, but the support of his family help and guide him through.

Based on careful research about the stages of grief for young children, Sarah J Dodd sensitively portrays the response and actions of Ekundayo to help children express and share how they are feeling with those around them. Ekundayo's aunt and father provide words of understanding, reassurance and comfort, and the message that the love of Ekundayo's mother shines on, telling of a greater Love that they may not see but never goes away and is everywhere.

At the end, Debbie Duncan also provides helpful advice for parents and carers as they consider how to talk about death and dying with young children.

Faithful Grandparents: Hope and love through the generations

By Anita Cleverly, BRF, £9.99

There has never been a more important time to find meaningful and acceptable ways of passing on faith from one generation to the next. Part of this privilege and responsibility lies with grandparents who live authentic Christian lives. They can be the vital link between the gospel and the faith of a younger generation.

Living the Autumn of Life: Walking through retirement beginnings and endings

By George Lings, BRF, £12.99

Autumn is a time of gains and losses: fruit being harvested, and leaves falling. This book charts the experience of living through both realities, drawn from the author's own life and from the views of interviewees.

Informed by historic and contemporary reading, it offers snapshots of later life, taken against a backdrop of ageism in society and church. George Lings reflects on the identity of the 'active elderly', and also considers through a biblical lens the challenges and opportunities that this season brings.



Editor: By the Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the C of E.

Let's not take our cathedrals for granted

US Vice-President JD Vance may have criticised an art installation at Canterbury Cathedral – but a new report shows that the Church of England's cathedrals are its most popular places of worship.

They are also vital centres of community, arts and music and are major tourist attractions. But the latest research shows that many of the historic buildings are facing major financial challenges.

Religion think-tank Theos has published a detailed report looking at the role of cathedrals in modern England. The report, 'Living Stones: English Cathedrals as Sacred Spaces in Changing Times,' revealed that more than three-quarters (77 per cent) of adults in England had visited a cathedral at least once in the past three years.

The research showed that "Cathedrals reach beyond regular churchgoers. A majority of those with no religious affiliation have visited a cathedral in the last three years, and many enjoy worship, music, prayer or stillness while doing so."

Other research confirms that cathedrals have significant economic benefits, generating around £235 million of additional expenditure in their local communities a year, creating more than 6,000 jobs and mobilising 13,000 volunteers.

Yet the Theos research also points out that four out of five of the cathedrals operate 'in structural deficit' with no guaranteed national funding for their core functions.

In recent years, cathedrals have attracted criticism for activities aimed at drawing new visitors into their buildings. Last autumn, JD Vance criticised an art installation at Canterbury Cathedral, saying that the graffiti-style artworks had made "a beautiful historical building really ugly."

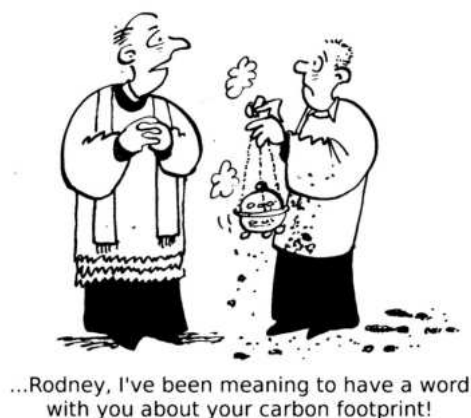
Other cathedrals have prompted complaints after installing a temporary fairground 'helter-skelter' inside the building or hosting silent discos.

Research from the Bible Society has shown that one of the top three places for people with no religion, or non-practising Christians to encounter the Bible was while sightseeing in a cathedral or church.

But one of the Theos report's main findings highlights the growing gap "between the scale of public benefit cathedrals provide and the level of recognition, understanding and support they receive."

The report concludes that, to survive and thrive, cathedrals need sustainable investment from funders that recognise the cathedrals' public benefits.

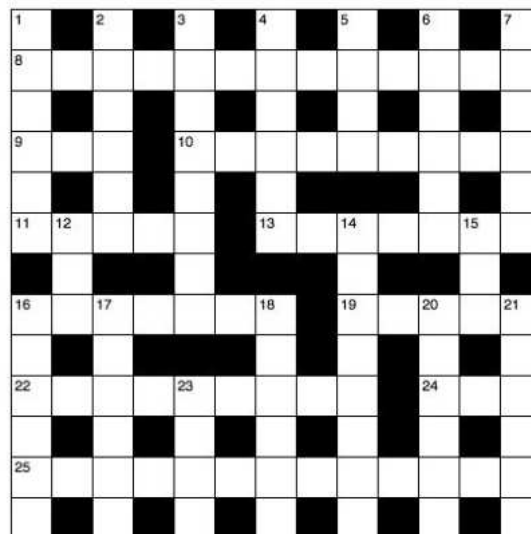
It also encourages visitors and local community members to consider joining a 'friends' scheme or making a regular donation.



CROSSWORD

Across

- 8 One of the titles given to the Messiah in Isaiah's prediction (Isaiah 9:6) (6,2,5)
 9 International Nepal Fellowship (1,1,1)
 10 Single(1Corinthians7:27)(9)
 11 Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's seminal book about Soviet prison camps, The — Archipelago (5)
 13 Treachery(2Kings11:14)(7)
 16 Of India(anag.)(2,3,2)
 19 'God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like men condemned to die in the — ' (1 Corinthians 4:9) (5)
 22 Follower of a theological system characterized by a strong belief in predestination (9)
 24 'Put these old rags and worn-out clothes under your arms to— the ropes' (Jeremiah 38:12) (3)
 25 They brought together all the elders of the Israelites in Egypt (Exodus 4:29) (5,3,5)



Down

- 1 The season when kings 'go off to war' (2 Samuel 11:1) (6)
 2 Simon Peter's response to Jesus by the Sea of Galilee: 'Go away from me, Lord; I am a — man' (Luke 5:8) (6)
 3 Beaten with whips (1 Kings12:11) (8)
 4 'You shall not — adultery' (Exodus 20:14) (6)
 5 Encourage (Hebrews 10:24) (4)
 6 Service of morning prayer in the Church of England (6)
 7 'Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and — — him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving' (4,2)
 12 Run(anag.)(3)
 14 Member of 17th-century party that denied the right of autonomy to the Church (8)
 15 'We will triumph with our tongues; we—our lips'(Psalm12:4) (3)
 16 Earnings(1Corinthians16:2)(6)
 17 'I rejoice greatly in the Lord that—you have renewed your concern for me' (Philippians 4:10) (2,4)
 18 How Paul described Philemon (Philemon 1)(6)
 20 Multiple territories under the rule of a single state(Daniel11:4)(6)
 21 'You have been unfaithful; you have married foreign women,—to Israel's guilt' (Ezra 10:10) (6)
 23 This month(abbrev.)(4)

Puzzle solutions
on page 34

Puzzle Solutions

Crossword Solution

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

Sudoku Easy Solution

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

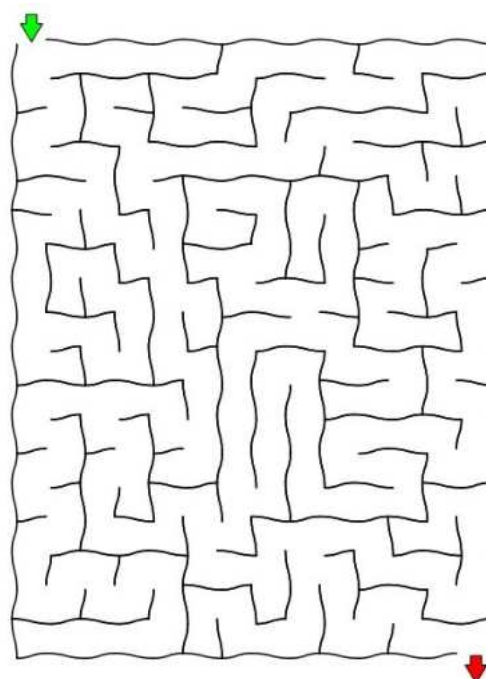
Sudoku Medium solution

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

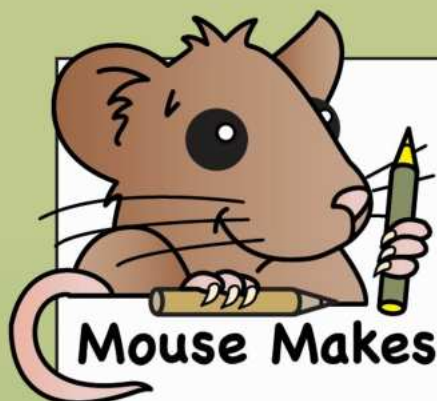


"...and once you've done the flower arrangements, polished the pews, scrubbed the floor, shined the silver and taken a look at the problem with the boiler we wondered, well, you have to laugh, but all six bell-ringers are on holiday at the same time and..."

August's Maze



Junior InSpire



Mouse Makes

4 across

After Paul was stoned, where did he travel to with Barnabas?

Acts 14:19-20

4 down

Where was Saul travelling to when

Jesus appeared to him?

Acts 9:3



7

9

11

7 down

Where did Noah's ark come to rest after its journey?

Genesis 8:4

9. To which city did Philip travel to proclaim Christ?

Acts 8:5

10. To which river did people travel out to to be baptised?

Mark 1:5



1. To which city did God send Jonah?

Jonah 1:1-2



3. Which sea did Jesus walk beside before he went up on the mountain?

Matthew 15:29



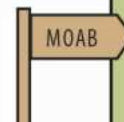
B I B L E

2. Where did Paul travel to after seeing a vision?

Acts 16:9-10

5. Which town did Naomi and Ruth travel to after leaving Moab?

Ruth 1:22



6. Where did Paul and Barnabas go after being persecuted in Antioch?

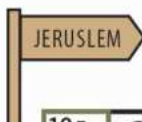
Acts 13:51

4



6

8



7 across

Where did the Church in Jerusalem send Barnabas?

Acts 11:22

J O U R N E Y S



12

13

11. After a five day journey where did Paul arrive?

Acts 20:6



12. Which sea did Moses walk through to get away from the Egyptians?

Exodus 15:4

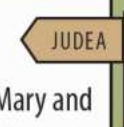
8. To where did Mary and Joseph flee to get away from Herod?

Matthew 2:13



13. Where did Paul travel to after he left Athens?

Acts 18:1





Capel Show 2026

Saturday 15th August 12—5pm

(Last admission 4pm) Capel, The Street, RH5 5LB

An extravaganza of Classic Cars and Motorbikes, Flowers & Vegetables, Food and a Bar with a good selection of local ales, an Auto Jumble, Dog Show and local stalls selling everything good our village has to offer.

**The Parish of Capel & Ockley will be there
with a Burger stall once more.**

CAN YOU HELP?

There are now sign up sheets in church.

Please see either Leigh Smith or Helen Burt for more details
(contact details for both on page 3 of this magazine)

<https://www.capelshow.co.uk/#>



**A great day out
for all the family!**

See you there!



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.**
If you would like to receive *InSpire* by email, you can subscribe to InSpire via the church website:-
www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/inspire-magazine