



From the Rector's study

April is perhaps my favourite month of the year: not too warm but capable of the promise of brighter days - shoots of growth now firmly in view and longer days in the garden. I think it is a good reflection perhaps of the joy that comes after the waiting in Lent. Our liturgical year reflects the natural world and it is not by accident. And so, as we look at shoots of growth and the promise of things to come, we remember, as our school has this last half-term before the Easter holidays, the hope that is within us, as Hebrews 11:1 reminds us, 'faith is the assurance of the things we hope for'. We have been praying and hoping and working towards growing the worshipping community of St Nicolas and God has blessed us. Our average monthly attendance is up from 418 to 504 (*discounting the school service*). Our communicants have risen from 70 to 74 and that reflects the work of the team in Junior church, making our welcome intentional and thanks must go in large part to Cath and Nicky for that work. But beyond Sundays, our church is also growing. Our Toasty Tuesdays, Pizzas at 8 and our Messy Church congregations are also growing and our newer members, many recently confirmed, are now involved in serving, at PCC and in our work with the children. God is good.

We now must translate this living faith and engagement with Christ into the practical realities of running a household of faith: we need to ensure that we are being wise stewards of the bounty we are given. And so our PCC have asked two groups to work on focussing our attention upon two important aspects of sustaining our life and work here: our Mission Action Plan and our Planned Giving.

The Mission Action Plan group (MAP) will look at how we continue to be visible and available. I have asked Linda Sharpin to help lead this reflection and to report back with practical and targeted ideas for the PCC to consider.

The Planned Giving work falls to our Planned Giving officer, Phil who will gather around him a working group including our Curate (himself a qualified Accountant!). I am immeasurably grateful to Phil for his unswerving support and energy and his vast experience in the business world across the planet means that I know that he is more than capable of dealing with the difficulties and the opportunities that this work will produce. The Planned Giving group will take up, once the MAP group have reported, and look to how we can better focus our means and raise our giving. In our Mission Action Plan presentation to PCC many of us were surprised, as was highlighted at the APCM, that our giving here at St Nicolas trails behind our immediate neighbouring parishes by a significant margin and so our first job will be to give. Our buildings are working hard and raising revenue and that is once more down to Cath in the office. But we are also blessed with lots of very capable people here on the PCC and in the wider community - who can help us address our financial responsibilities?

Alongside our growth strategies and giving strategies, our Organ will be a focus of attention for another group. As I have written before, the funds for the organ will be raised independently of the church's money. The *Living Organ* group work begins in earnest, now and more details will follow.


In the meantime, as we explored at APCM, the PCC will look at the cost and possibility of an electronic organ in the meantime - these are not small things, but altogether rather marvellous and reflect the glory and splendour and majesty of the worship which feeds and sustains us here, at St Nicolas. As many have said to me, without our organ not only will we lose choirs and their income, but we will lose something of ourselves - the very heart of how we worship and experience the beauty of holiness in our worship of Almighty God. I agree.

And so this April we praise God for growth in the garden and in his field, the church, here at St Nicolas. We look to our part we must play and we live in the light of the empty tomb. We look forward to the Walsingham pilgrimage for those of us who will go and perhaps start to think about other places we might go - Rome? Santiago de Compostela? We look forward to the Ascension and the Feast of Corpus Christi when we hope to be joined by the new Bishop of Dorking. God is good. The church is growing here and we are called to rejoice and proclaim not only that but all of the Good News which the world so longs to hear, even if it doesn't yet know it! May the prayers of the Saints surround us as we journey on and may the Divine assistance remain with us always. Amen.





April services

- Th 4** 10:00 Morning Prayer, The Lady Chapel
Fr 5 10:00 Morning Prayer, The Lady Chapel;
 NO 11:00 Mass & Angelus
- Su 7** **EASTER I (Low Sunday)**
 08:30 NO Service
 10:00 Mass
- Mon 8** **Annunciation**
- We** 10:00 Morning Prayer, The Lady Chapel
Th 11 10:00 Morning Prayer, The Lady Chapel;
 12:00 Funeral Jennifer Nicholas
- Fr 12** 10:00 Morning Prayer, The Lady Chapel;
 11:00 Mass & Angelus, St George's Chapel
- Sat 13** Messy Church at St Nicolas 
- Su 14** **EASTER II**
 08:30 Mass
 10:00 Mass; *PCC Meeting: Organ*
- Tu 16** 10:00 Morning Prayer, The Lady Chapel
We 17 10:00 Morning Prayer, The Lady Chapel
Th 18 10:00 Morning Prayer, The Lady Chapel
Fr 19 10:00 Morning Prayer, The Lady Chapel;
 11:00 Mass & Angelus, St George's Chapel
- Su 21** **EASTER III**
 08:30 Mass
 10:00 Mass Healing Eucharist, David Greenwood, preacher; Junior Church
- Tu 23** **St George** 10:00 Morning Prayer, The Lady Chapel; 7:30pm *Curry & Questions*
We 24 10:00 Morning Prayer, The Lady Chapel; 7pm *Deanery Synod*
Th 25 **Mark** 10:00 Morning Prayer, The Lady Chapel
Fr 26 10:00 Morning Prayer, The Lady Chapel;
 11:00 Mass & Angelus, St George's Chapel *and Monthly lunch*
- Su 28** **EASTER IV**
 08:30 Mass
 10:00 Mass & Junior choir
- Tu 30** 10:00 Morning Prayer, The Lady Chapel;
 19:00 *Diocesan 'Nudge' open evening for anyone considering leadership in the church.*





May services

- We 1** 10:00 Morning Prayer, The Lady Chapel;
12:00 Mass, St George's Chapel
- Th 2** 10:00 Morning Prayer, The Lady Chapel
- Fr 3** 10:00 Morning Prayer, The Lady Chapel
11:00 Mass & Angelus, St George's Chapel
- Sat 4** Romanian Easter Vigil 11:30pm through the night
- Su 5** **EASTER V (Orthodox Easter)**
08:30 Communion
10:00 Mass with Junior Church
- Tu 7** 10:00 Morning Prayer, The Lady Chapel
- We 8** 10:00 Morning Prayer, The Lady Chapel
- Th 9** **Ascension Day**
10:00 Morning Prayer, The Lady Chapel
- Fr 10** 10:00 Morning Prayer, The Lady Chapel
11:00 Mass & Angelus, St George's Chapel
- Su 12** **Sunday after Ascension**
08:30 Communion
10:00 Mass with Junior Church
- Tu 14** 10:00 Morning Prayer, The Lady Chapel
- We 15** 10:00 Morning Prayer, The Lady Chapel
- Th 16** 10:00 Morning Prayer, The Lady Chapel
- Fr 17** 10:00 Morning Prayer, The Lady Chapel
11:00 Mass & Angelus, St George's Chapel
- Su 19** **Whitsun (School Sunday)**
08:30 Mass
10:00 Mass School Sunday
11:15 Choral Mattins
- Tu 21** 10:00 Morning Prayer, The Lady Chapel
- We 22** 10:00 Morning Prayer, The Lady Chapel
- Th 23** 10:00 Morning Prayer, The Lady Chapel
- Fr 24** 10:00 Morning Prayer, The Lady Chapel & Pilgrims' Prayers Walsingham Pilgrimage
- Su 26** **Trinity**
08:30 No Service
10:00 Mass, Fr Nicholas Edwards celebrating, NO Junior Church, Half-Term
- Tu 28** 10:00 Morning Prayer, The Lady Chapel
- We 29** 10:00 Morning Prayer, The Lady Chapel
- Th 30** Corpus Christi 10 MP, 8pm Pontifical Mass & consecration of nave altar
- Fr 31** 10:00 Morning Prayer, The Lady Chapel
11:00 Mass & Angelus, St George's Chapel



Deanery Confirmation Service by **Lloyd Dunkley**

On the 4th of February Bishop Andrew joined us at St Nicholas for our Deanery Confirmation Eucharist. Monica, Charles, Helen, Micheal and I completed the five confirmands belonging to our church, there were three others from All Saints. The evening was full of love and joy with many of our congregation joining us in this brilliant milestone. We each have our own personal journey to this evening and I'm very grateful to be able to share mine.

I was Baptised as a child whilst attending a CofE school. My family's secular values very much mirrored Christian values, however the connections were never entirely made. I lived my adult life by the simple motto of "Time will tell". My introduction to St' Nic's was asking Fr. Neil if my then Fiancé and I could be married in the Church, as Megan's parents did just that in the 90's. I quickly realised that Megan and I had not just "booked a venue" but instead found a home where we could build our newly married lives. I began attending Sunday mass and after a while I was comfortable in declaring that I believe in God, however I didn't have an answer as to why, so I continued praying and self-questioning. I discovered my answer in the Trinity, in particular the Holy Spirit. I found myself praying for God to help those around me and guide them in their actions. I see the Spirit of God in people, I only needed to look at my neighbour.



It was daunting when Fr. Neil first aired the idea of Confirmation. I now know why I believe in God, but do I know Scripture well enough? Could I answer the difficult questions my friends would undoubtedly ask? Nevertheless I knew it was the right thing to do. Our confirmation group was formed and we spent evenings together in discussion, great conversations which I will not forget. I discovered I had no reason to feel apprehensive, I only had reason to celebrate! This was still the beginning of my journey and to be given the opportunity to publicly announce my faith with friends, family and our congregation was a blessing, the service brought me to tears. St Nic's is not short of



Monica helping Bishop Andrew hold the crosier.
Sent by **Philip Thomas**



people who embody Christ, you have all welcomed my family and myself with open arms and we couldn't be more grateful.

So thank you all for your kindness, I look forward to our future together.

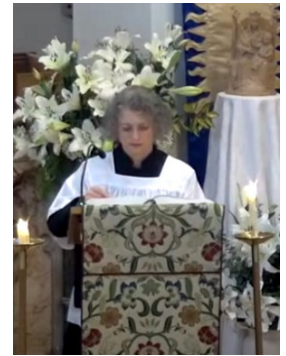
Sophie, Christian and Dan from All Saints church were confirmed on the same occasion. Shown here accompanied by their priest, Revd Beverly Watson.



Studying for ordination

Linda Sharpin

As I write, I am coming to the end of my second term of study for ordination. During the first term I studied ministry and worship. I did an essay on baptism and thoroughly enjoyed explaining the reasons for infant baptism. The second part of my assessment for this module was to put together a service of morning prayer. David Greenwood graciously stepped aside for me to take the Friday morning prayer on the Feast of Christ in the Temple. It was a wonderful experience.



I have spent time studying the nature of our parish and our congregations and gave a presentation on this to PCC in February. As a result, I am heading up a group that is examining our current mission action plan and will feed back our suggestions to PCC in July.

In the meantime, I have been undertaking an introduction to biblical studies. I have written an essay on Philippians 2:1-11 and listened with interest to the Palm Sunday sermon on this passage. I am now writing an essay on the two creation stories and the fall of humankind. There is a lot to fit into 2,500 words!

There is a residential weekend once a term and this term it was on embodied worship. It is about worshipping with your whole mind, body and spirit and covered practices as diverse as worshipping in a forest to a daily examen - something for everyone. Do ask if you would like to know more.

Once a term I also meet with my Parish Support Group, who help my formation in the tradition of our parish. Last time we met we considered some safeguarding scenarios set by the Local Ministry Programme and we discussed what a Bible study group at St Nicolas in particular might wish to address. The purpose is for me to get to know how I can serve you all as, when I am deaconed two years in July, the plan is for me to be licensed to St Nicolas.

The Good Grief Club **Helen Trussler**

This is a new Bereavement group and a chance for those people navigating the turbulent waters of loss and grief to come together and feel less alone. It is called The Good Grief Club (thank you, Fr Alistair) and is open to anyone who has lost someone—recently, somewhere in between or many years ago.

The idea for a “grief club” came about one Friday morning talking to Fr Neil about grief and how the church is often the place people gravitate towards after a loved one has died. He said that apart from a card sent to the bereaved a year after the person's death, St Nics had no ongoing support, so the idea was born.

My own experience was the death of my partner in 2003 when I was 31 and 5 months pregnant. He passed suddenly with a brain aneurysm and life changed forever. The years that followed were painful, brutal and a great test of my inner strength and faith but out of that experience came a sense that God was with me all the time, He never left me even though at times I did him. It really did feel like that famous “Footprints” poem where God just carried me and it taught me that people and love meant so much more than things and stuff.

I hope that the Good Grief Club will give people a space to be as open and honest as they can be about their grieving process and there is no judgement and more importantly no right or wrong way to grieve.

After speaking with some of the ladies at church, we decided the Cosy Club in Tunsgate Square, Guildford was a good idea, as it is relaxed, has great sofas and is a good place to start. Our first get-together is on **Wednesday the 10th April at 2.00pm.**





Children and Families

Toastie Tuesdays at 5pm of the last Tuesday of every month. This is a monthly social group for school years 3-6 where there are video games, board games, crafts, table football, ping pong and a tuck shop with toasties of course! (All tuck shop items 50p each.) Fr Neil, Fr Alistair, Jana and myself are regularly on hand to welcome the children and allow them the opportunity to have fun and enjoy our beautiful church building. This is a drop-off session, children must be dropped off by a parent/carer and a registration form will need to be filled in, please have a chat with Cath or Nicky.

Toastie Tuesdays

For school years 3-6

Tuck shop
(all food items 50p each)

Last Tuesday of every month
5 - 6:30pm
at
**Saint Nicolas Church,
Bury Street**

Board games

Computer games

Crafts

For more information contact Nicky, missionenabler@saintnics.com
www.saintnics.com www.guildforddurc.org.uk

ST NICOLAS GUILDFORD in partnership with **Guildford United Reformed Church**

Holiday Club
This year's holiday club runs on the mornings of 29th July - 2nd August



Nicky Geraghty, Mission Enabler,
missionenabler@saintnics.com

Messy Church

**SATURDAY
13TH APRIL
4-6PM**

EASTER

at St Nicolas Church, Bury Street, GU2 4AW

**Faith based fun as we reflect on Easter.
Followed by tea for everyone.**

*Children must be accompanied by a parent/carer for the duration of this event

**THIS IS A FREE EVENT.
DONATIONS ARE WELCOME.**

**FOOD FUN SONGS
CRAFT STORY GAMES**

ST NICOLAS GUILDFORD in partnership with **Guildford United Reformed Church**

For more information contact Nicky on families.worker@guildforddurc.org.uk
www.saintnics.com www.guildforddurc.org.uk

Remaining dates

- April 13th - Easter at **St Nicolas**
- May 4th - Big Day Out at **Hollycombe**
- June 1st - Pentecost at **St Nicolas**
- September 7th - Back to School at **GURC**
- October 5th - Harvest at **GURC**
- November 2nd - Light Party at **St Nicolas**
- December 7th - Christmas Party at **GURC**

Guildford United Reformed Church in partnership with **ST NICOLAS GUILDFORD**

www.guildforddurc.org.uk www.saintnics.com

Café Play
Every Wednesday morning during Term-time, 10-11:30 in the Parish Centre Hall





St Nicolas' Infant School

"Living life in all its fullness" John 10:10

Value for this half term: Wisdom

From the St Nics (school) Team

It was great to have so many join our Easter Service on Wednesday to celebrate Easter and the end of our spring term. Thank you to those who helped walk the children to/from school.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Marsh for all he has done in the short time he has been with our school and wish him all the best for his future endeavours. We look forward to welcoming Mrs. Gregory who will join us in the new term.

Message from Mr. Marsh: 'Working with the St Nic's team for the last term has been a privilege. I would like to thank the children for their engagement in learning and enthusiasm, parents for your support and partnership as St Nic's continually strives to provide the highest quality of education, and finally governors and staff for their welcome, hard work and dedication which hasn't gone unnoticed.'



*Helen Gregory,
Head Teacher*

A peak "behind the scenes" at our church





Clare Marren shares her experience of being

An ordinand at St Nics'

It has been over six months since I began my ordinand placement at St Nicolas, and I have thoroughly enjoyed every minute. The people, worship and building are all beautiful and I have loved getting to know the community. I am grateful to have expanded my worship horizons through my time here.

I have been conscious that as a woman, alongside Linda, I am treading some new ground. The Anglo-Catholic style of worship has traditionally not had as many female priests, but the tide is turning. 18th March this year was the 30th anniversary of the ordination of female priests. *The Church Times* marked the occasion with a photograph with the very first 57 female priests who were ordained. I wondered how it must have felt for them? It was rather fitting that the following day I visited the female vicar who had first encouraged me on my journey to ordination, whom I had not seen for over 12 years and it was incredible to hear about her ministry and her daughter's. This week I met our new diocesan Archdeacon, Catherine, the first woman ever to hold the role. Exciting times!

My favourite memory so far during my time at St Nicolas has to be Midnight Mass. As we entered the church and the choir started circling the church, I was not sure what to do. A reassuring glance behind and directional nod from Fr Neil suggested I follow and within a few moments I was lost in wonder, awe and praise as I settled into the worship. For me the service was incredibly Spirit-filled and a real privilege to be part of.

As many of you know I am mostly in church on Fridays at Morning Prayer and Mass and then at coffee. I am very grateful to David and sometimes Hilary for leading prayer each Friday and to Fr Alistair for lighting incense and creating a prayerful space. I always look forward to the opportunity for communal worship at mass afterwards and find God's presence palpable as the loyal community at St Nicolas' come together to be united as the body of Christ.

Sunday services are always so very special at St Nic's. I have learned that the purpose of Anglo-Catholic worship is to try to emulate heaven; to bring people into the palpable presence of God through the incense, music and liturgy and through that process God is able shape and transform individuals. Each

week I find God present in the worship in new ways. Some of you have made comments about how calm I look during services. I would like to share that it is Fr Neil's encouragement to simply be present and not worry about what I'm doing that has allowed me to engage with worship fully. For that I am very grateful.

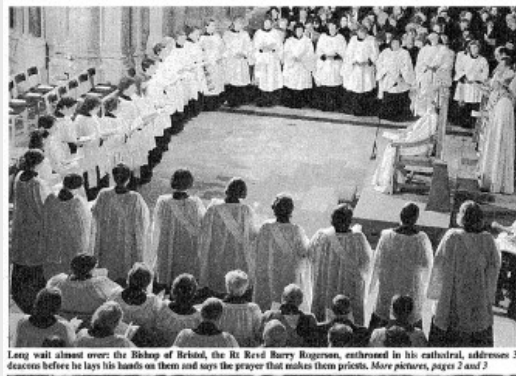
It feels like this relaxed attitude filters into various aspects of parish life. I have always felt so welcome in times of fellowship at St Nicolas'. Everyone has been so kind and open. I have been particularly struck by how interested everyone has been in me and my

CHURCH TIMES

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40p



Long wait almost over: the Bishop of Bristol, the Rt Revd Barry Rogerson, enthroned in his cathedral, addresses 32 deacons before he lays his hands on them and says the prayer that makes them priests. More pictures, pages 2 and 3

'Warmly welcomed', 32 new priests emerge at Bristol and 25 at Sheffield
First 57 women are ordained as priests in four ceremonies

by Betty Saunders

THE FIRST 32 of the 1200 women to be ordained in the Church of England between now and July were ordained in Bristol Cathedral between 5 p.m. and 7.15 last Saturday with the eyes of the world upon them. The Archbishop of Canterbury and York said on Sunday morning that the majority of people in the Church believed the move to be God's will. "We believe that this change is warmly welcomed by most of our fellow citizens and that it will strengthen our Church's ministry to them," their statement said. No one outside Bristol Cathedral as the queues began to form in the chill wind would have known that any presentation — after a session in which the Bishop spoke of the Spirit of God being at work in the 32 — he heard not a murmur, but a concerted cheer of acceptance. Bishop Rogerson ordained, assisted by the Rt Revd Peter Firth, Bishop of Malinesbury, and each of the candidates had chosen four priestesses specifically to lay hands on her. The rite was crowded with conings and goings; but this was nothing to the movement when, after a huge burst of applause, the pace broke out. The hugging and kissing went on for 15 minutes, as must have been expected, for towards the end of the hour "I am



journey towards ordination. With that in mind I thought I would give you a summary of the remainder of my journey with you.

After Holy Week, I immediately head to Canterbury for a week's college residential. This will be my second year there and the previous time was an extraordinary experience – the highlights being a candlelit tour of the cathedral by the dean with other ordinands and a teaching session with Justin Welby. There will be a variety of learning, worship and social time. I'm looking forward to spending time with the friends I am training with prior to our ordination. Following Canterbury, I look forward to the St Nicolas' retreat to Walsingham, which I gather will be very special, and then a few more weeks of college before an ordination retreat and my ordination on 30 June. I will be starting my three-and-a-half-year curacy at Holy Trinity and St Mary's, Guildford that evening, so will still be in the town and hope to see many of you around.

During my time here I have had some truly insightful conversations over coffee and lunch and thank those people concerned for teaching me about God through their experience, perspective and journey. I have witnessed such deep faith and love of God, which is expressed through the love people have for each other, the dedication to worship and the care of the church building and investment in community. I will be extremely sad to leave but hope to still see many of you.

I would like to say thank you. Firstly, to Fr Neil for making me feel so welcome and involving me in worship in so many ways, for talking through essays and helping me learn in so many ways. The opportunities I have been given have been such a privilege and blessing. Also, to Fr Alistair for carefully explaining the reasoning and theological principles behind some of the Anglo-Catholic practices and for teaching me



Photo by *Craig Nobbs*

Hebrew, which I am thoroughly enjoying and hope to continue. To Catherine, Linda, Stuart, Donald and Phillip for teaching me how to serve in an Anglo-Catholic setting. To Hilary for showing me how to use the liturgy for Morning Prayer (without the use of my phone App!) and for so many interesting and varied discussions. Also, to Jana for her help and patience with the newsletter. Finally, thank you to Cath and team for all the coffee, cake and soup. I can confidently say St Nic's has the best provision out of any church I know!

Thank you to everyone for making me so welcome during my placement. I look forward to seeing you over the next couple of months. Please do ask me any questions and tell me more about yourselves. I would love to know!

Blessings, *Clare*

A Bright, New Dawn

As I look up toward the sky, clouds are racing.
They twist and turn, as they gather speed.
Their colours are mingled like a giant collage,
looking down upon the earth.

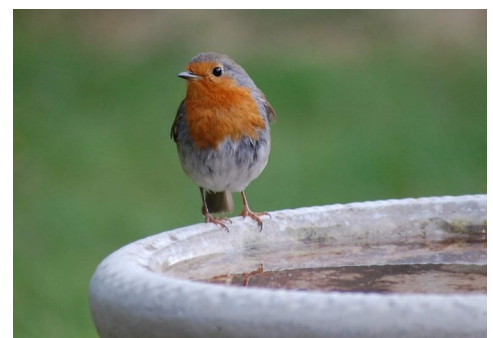
New life is emerging from the depths of winter,
where frost and ice has captured its prey.
Lakes and ponds that once were frozen,
are released from their unchanging prison,
as the waters race towards the sea.

Trees are bearing new life,
with buds forming and releasing their sweet aroma.

Grassy meadows are full of new life,
as insects march towards a new day.
Birds are gathering for their dawn chorus,
“Awake and see the rising sun, bid farewell to
troubled times.”

Poem by
**Debbie
Nobbs**

photo
**Craig
Nobbs**





An introduction



Hello, we are **Craig and Debbie Nobbs** and we started coming to St Nicolas' Church during Advent.

We've been married nearly 35 years and have 2 adult children. We live in Aldershot, with Mr Bear (our cat). Debbie works part time for the Royal Army Chaplains Department, as Administrator at the Royal Garrison Church of All Saints. She loves History (achieved a BA (Hons) a few years ago), enjoys playing and listening to music, writing poetry/stories, making chutneys and jellies. She also keeps active by going to Zumba and Swimming.



Craig is a retired Civil Servant, who has studied Computing and Theology and is a Church of England LLM/Reader. He is a volunteer Herdsman looking after the cattle at Tice's Meadow Reserve. He enjoys gardening, railways and photography. He has also been a Benedictine Oblate.

We feel happy and settled at St Nics' and we are looking forward to meeting you all.

From St Mary's Episcopal Church, Kansas:

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT OUR PRIESTS

1. They love God and you a lot. (Be mindful.)
2. They are painfully limited human beings. (Be realistic.)
3. They probably have a pretty low view of their "performance". (Be kind.)
4. They wish they were a better preacher. (Be awake.)
5. They really do want God's best for you and your family. (Be open-hearted.)
6. Their work knows no time or locational boundaries. (Be patient.)
7. They hear much more negative information than positive. (Be encouraging.)
8. They have chosen a vocation in which few remain. (Be praying.)
9. They have chosen a highly leadership-intensive call. (Be lead-able.)
10. They need help. (Be available.)
11. Their God-given vision is bigger than themselves and the church. (Be faith-filled.)
12. They want to personally meet all the needs, but know they can't. (Be understanding.)
13. They are going to say some dumb things every now and then. (Be forgiving.)
14. They are greatly encouraged by your faithfulness. (Be there.)
15. They are passionate for God's Word to be made practical to you. (Be hungry.)
16. They long for church to be your spiritual oasis. (Be loving.)
17. They dream for your and your family's spiritual health. (Be receptive.)
18. They need to hear that you pray for them. (Be interceding.)
19. They are just regular people. (Be real.) Pray for our priests.



In 2022 I celebrated 25 years of service to Scouting and in May 2022 I was honoured to receive the Silver Acorn. The criteria for receiving this award state, very grandly, that it should be for "service which should be specially distinguished and appreciably better than outstanding."

From little acorns...

Cath Anderson

attends Westminster Abbey to accept Scouting's Silver Acorn Award



As a result, in February this year I was invited to attend a National Scout Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey. I was able to take a guest and I could think of nobody more suitable than Josh Goodwin, Group Scout Leader for the last 15 years and due to stand down in the summer.

With 2000 people in attendance, the queue to enter the Abbey was long, but gave us a good opportunity to chat to fellow Scouters from around the UK. The service was very inspiring with a testimony from the UK Youth Lead and a speech of thanks from a member of the UK Youth Team. Both spoke of the positive influence that Scouting and their Scout leaders had on their lives. The address was by the Bishop of Salisbury, a life-long Scout who has Brownsea Island, where Scouting began, in his Diocese.



Running Beaver meetings, week in, week out, I rarely get the opportunity to reflect on the impact that we leaders might be having on the lives of the young people in our Group. It is only when you see them at 'the other end' of their Scouting journey, when they train as Young Leaders or are active members of our Explorer section, that you realise what great young people they have become and you may just have played a part in that.



I don't really view being Beaver Scout Leader is particularly "service". Yes, it's hard work but it's ultimately really good fun. The young people give back so much and I get the chance to do things that I might not otherwise - playing Crazy Golf in Stoke Park or Scottish country dancing on St Andrew's Day! If you are reading this and might be keen to have the same opportunities, do ask me how.

Shirley Aston becomes an

Honoured Member of Handbell Ringers of Great Britain

in recognition of exceptional service.

Sadly, the Pilgrim Ringers Handbell Team had to close down in January due to a lack of treasurer. We had just reached our 35th birthday, having practised in Normandy Village Hall for the last twenty-one years. In total, we gave 384 concerts, mainly in care homes and over-60s groups. Two of our ringers left us fifteen years ago to start a new team in Godalming and that is now flourishing. We have just handed over all our ringing equipment to be used by new teams of ringers in other parts of the country, and that included 65 bells and 30 hand chimes.

I was a founder-member but I didn't lead for the first year and I would have left if things hadn't improved, so I made them improve!



The Organ Club visits St Nicolas

Julia Wake, a member of the Organ Club



On Saturday 17th February, the Organ Club visited our church. St Nicolas is connected with several hymn and carol writers. John Mason Neale, a Deacon at St Nicolas in 1841/2 wrote "Good King Wenceslas" and "O happy band of pilgrims." John Samuel Bewley Monsell, Rector of St Nicolas in 1870-75, wrote "Fight the good fight" and "O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." Other notable connections are the writer P. G. Wodehouse who was baptized here and Samuel Manship, a London publisher of theology and philosophy whose father John Manship was Rector at St Nicolas in 1650.

John Varney, the club's President elect and St Nicolas' retired organist since his 70th birthday in January, 2012, welcomed the Organ Club members in the hall where he had organized refreshments upon arrival and a buffet lunch at the end of the morning. All were then invited into the church where Fr Neil gave a very warm welcome. He also explained to them about the state of the organ and much funding being required to restore it.

It had earlier been arranged that our President Paul Hale would give a talk about the state of our Father Willis Organ which dates back to 1876. His specially commissioned detailed report was to be given by him. On the day though he was not able to attend, so Rick Erickson, our current organist gave the talk on his behalf. He outlined all the work required to bring it back to being a wonderful sounding organ, to be played for the glory of God and in this magnificent, holy place. Each member was given details of the proposed rebuilding.

In our past Newsletter (Issue 24, July & August 2023), Catherine Ferguson wrote about our organ maintenance and had delved into Parish records to assemble a comprehensive schedule of all the work undertaken and money expended on the organ between 1876 and 2020, together with supporting documentation, all of which is available on request.

At each meeting, the organists take turns to play the organ. Rick offered the Choir keyboard as the easiest to play on, given the age of the organ. Each organist waited in turn with their music. This was followed by John Varney giving us a beautiful recital on our newly acquired grand piano.

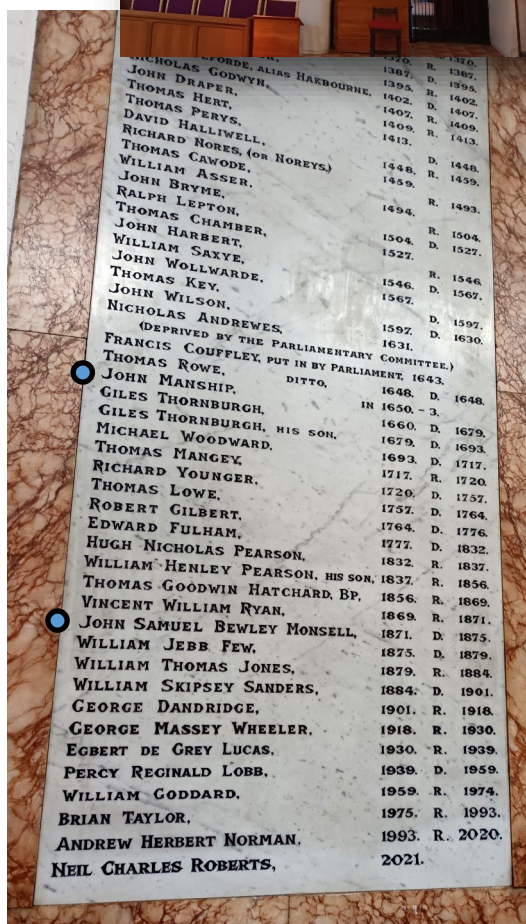
The morning session finished with the buffet lunch prepared by Cath and Andy.

We then all went up to the United Reformed Church, where a warm welcome was waiting for us from Gillian Lloyd who is the organist there. The Organ club's Safeguarding officer John Miley had arranged that the students who attended were given time to play the organ, and so it was that 6 students gave recitals and were then given encouragement with how to enhance their performance. Each found this inspirational (as did I, listening and watching). This Masterclass was given by Daniel Mount.

It had been a much enjoyed day in Guildford.



The visible part of our organ and John Monsell's and John Manship's names on the St. Nicolas' commemorative plaque of Rectors





Views from Down Under

Here are two photos of our granddaughter Matilda (Tilly) born on 22.02.2024 at 12.05 sent on 13 March by 7lbs 14oz (when she was just 3 weeks old).

Darrol and Jo



Whilst we miss you all at St Nicolas, we are obviously very happy to be able to spend some time over here in Australia. Izzie and Ben live in Caloundra on the Sunshine Coast about 50 miles north of Brisbane. Whilst we have had a fair amount of rain, it mainly comes at night and in the day temperature have been averaging 28°/29° and lots of sunshine of course. It is a beautiful area with lovely beaches but also lovely countryside and bushland.

I walk the dogs each morning around a local bush (woodland to us) and have spotted a kangaroo bounding away from the dogs into the bush and lots of Guanos (large lizards) but fortunately have not come across anything more dangerous, but I have to keep my eyes open!

1.A decorated water tower at Buddina. 2.The stream and bush is a good example of the bush that I walk through with the dogs each morning. 3.The beach is again at Buddina and the photo was taken from just in front of the water tower. 4.The tree and beach is Bulcock beach in the heart of Caloundra where we are living.



5.The tree flower is a Cattleya Orchid growing wild in the tree in Izzie's front garden.





Chris Goodwin goes
Far East

In those halcyon days before Covid, I made two trips (technically three) to the Far East namely Hong Kong and Taiwan.

The first was to Hong Kong for the wedding our eldest and was made during the hottest part of the year, the beginning of August. Fortunately most buildings, trains, stations and 'buses have air-conditioning but outside the heat is fierce. Using an umbrella as a parasol is wise, yet it radiates up at one from the pavement.

Hong Kong has wonderful public transport with a metro system, two types of 'bus and on Hong Kong island there are trams. Hong Kong encompasses New Territories – part of the Chinese mainland - and about one hundred thirty islands, the largest two being Hong Kong Island and Lantau which was extended to form the new airport. Bridges, tunnels and the metro interconnect these three main parts as well as ferries.

Somewhat like London's Oyster card HK has a more versatile version – the Octopus card. This can be used on public transport, in shops and tourist attractions, and can be topped up in most shops. One can even go into debt slightly if there is not quite enough credit left on it.

Our son and daughter-in-law were our hosts who showed us around. Although many residents speak English, it was handy having them fluent in Cantonese and in the local customs.

It is a long flight to and fro, about 12 hours, made at that time over Russia and Mongolia.

My second trip later that year when it was much cooler served two bits of family business and also included a few days in Taipei which is the North Eastern end of Taiwan.

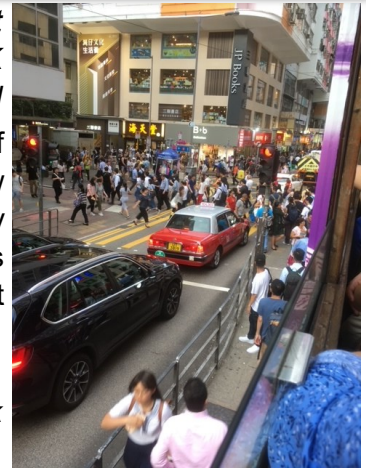
The main language spoken in Taiwan is Mandarin and fewer people there speak English. Luckily my son also speaks Mandarin, so there were no difficulties on that score. Taiwan is a fascinating country, occupied by Japan from the 1890s until 1945 (but now a democracy), much of its infrastructure is distinctly Japanese in character. Taipei City is modern and most of the population seem to get around on motorcycles. The main roads are wide and said to allow aircraft landing and take-off, and there are long underground shopping malls which could be used as shelters. The surrounding towns and villages, and coastal areas were of great interest. During the Japanese occupation, there was much mining of coal and gold. One such former mining town Houtong (means monkey hole) is famous for housing the Cat Village and a mining museum. It has a mainline railway station in the middle which allows many visitors to see the multitude of cats living amongst the former coal processing plant, and sample the cat themed shops and cafés. The cats are looked after by the residents.

On returning to HK I spent more time exploring some of the very rural parts of New Territories, a huge contrast to the bustling areas like Mong Kok. In these rural areas there are



Hong Kong Harbour

Busy Street Scene on HK Island



Peace Memorial Park Taipei City



Cat Village, Houtong



Tap Mun Grass Island in one of the remote corners of HK New Territories



wild cattle and boar roaming around the rugged countryside.

I enjoyed sitting on the promenades beside Hong Kong Harbour, just watching the busy water traffic from junks to ferries and even cruise liners. I hope to return.



Guildford manufactured Dennis fire engine in Hong Kong

Hong Kong Park water feature



Ex British Pillar Box on The Peak. The Peak is high up on Hong Kong Island, where the very rich live, and can be reached by a cable-pulled railway. There is a viewing platform which gives spectacular views over HK especially at dusk when the lights come on.



Ladies of the SOE - WW2

by **Jean Taylor**

A few months ago I read a fictional book called 'Operations Moonlight' by Louise Morrish. The author gave a talk in Guildford Book Week at The Hive to which I, and a group of friends, went. It was all about the ladies in the SOE (Special Operations Executive) during the Second World War and the secret world of underground operations, mostly in France, against the Germans. We were hooked on their stories. The

author told us how she had spent two years researching the book and had done all the training the ladies went through including how to garotte someone with your bare hands and jump out of a plane carrying a suitcase with a wireless in it!! There were 480 agents and 39 were women, specially chosen, doing the same training as the men. Some of them were at Wanborough Manor - down the road. 14 of "F section," as these heroines were called, died in hideous circumstances.

We have since been to quite a few talks, mostly at Guildford Museum where there has been an exhibition (which I think moves on to the Cranleigh Arts Centre in the middle of April).

They had a hard job getting accepted as it was originally said that women under the Geneva Convention were not allowed to undertake combat duties... but it was discovered that anti-aircraft units always had an ATS officer and when it came to firing the gun the person who pulled the lanyard that released the trigger was a WOMAN! They got the ok from Winston Churchill and recruiting women for the job went ahead. So these brave ladies should be remembered not only on International Women's Day but always. Apparently one lady who is still alive is 103 and lives in Switzerland.

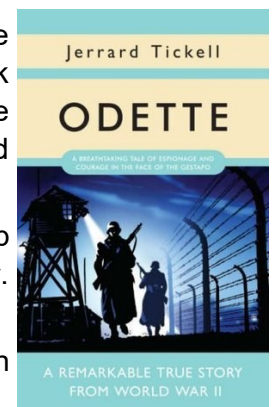
After the War MI5 refused to acknowledge the women, so those who survived were encouraged to write their exploits down on paper. Unfortunately a lot of the paperwork was lost in a fire! These brave ladies worked tirelessly and risked everything for the cause in which they wholeheartedly believed, as we should for our belief in Christ and the resurrection.

Women today have different trials and tribulations the World over but with God's help women, and men, will strive to reach a better place when our time on this earth is over. Most of F section received citations for their bravery, some posthumously of course.

Reading: 'Mission France' by Kate Vigur - factual. 'Carve her name with Pride' - film on Violette Szabo. Fiction book: 'Odette' by Gerrard Tickell.



Secret WW2 Learning Network **23 April—4 May**



Jerrard Tickell
ODETTE
A REMARKABLE TRUE STORY FROM WORLD WAR II



Icons on Ammunition Boxes

This exhibition at Guildford cathedral by Ukrainian artists Sofia Atlantova and Oleksandr Klymenko finished on Easter Monday. Beautifully displayed,



it was a deeply atmospheric and enigmatic experience. All the works were portrayed on parts of ammunition boxes retrieved from the defence battle lines and the description for each listed where exactly the box came from. Several had the nails left in them, incorporated into the composition, reminding us that the boxes were prized open hurriedly in the midst of a battle. Some figures, like St Nicholas, appeared in solid colour with gold leaf while others were ethereal, as if in the process of manifesting in this world. Rooted in eternity, all looked intently at the visitor with such grief that it was difficult to stand in their presence for too long. A deeply moving experience which seemed fitting for the time of Holy Week.

This was the third UK location where the icons were exhibited.

All were for sale, with 70% going for the purchase of medical equipment and 30% to the artists to support their work and other charity projects. King Charles has one of the works in his collection.

They are staying in the UK for little longer and five other icons will be displayed on **Sunday 21 & Sunday 28 of April at St Mary's Church in Chiddingfold**. Should anyone be interested in buying one, the full catalogue with prices is available here:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1r4WidAQkq3pCsYX9qU3E_MTDxfScNhGF/edit?usp=sharing&oid=105309298178298934370&rtpof=true&sd=true

It is also possible to give donations. Thanks to the sales and donations so far, the project has already purchased a refrigerated vehicle to transport the dead defenders and an armoured vehicle to evacuate the wounded from the frontline. Reviewed by **Jana Phillips**

if you would like to buy the icon please contact
info@pelicanlive.com

if you would like to support the project through direct donation please donate to









“God is not a potentate ordering this or that to happen, but that the world is full of chance and accident and God has let it be so because that is the only sort of world in which freedom, development, responsibility and love could come into being.” **John V. Taylor, Bishop of Winchester 1974-84**, sent by **Sally Lowe**



The Bright Field

I have seen the sun break through to illuminate a small field for a while, and gone my way and forgotten it. But that was the pearl of great price, the one field that had the treasure in it. I realize now that I must give all that I have to possess it. Life is not hurrying

on to a receding future, nor hankering after an imagined past. It is the turning aside like Moses to the miracle on the lit bush, to a brightness that seemed as transitory as your youth once, but is the eternity that awaits you.

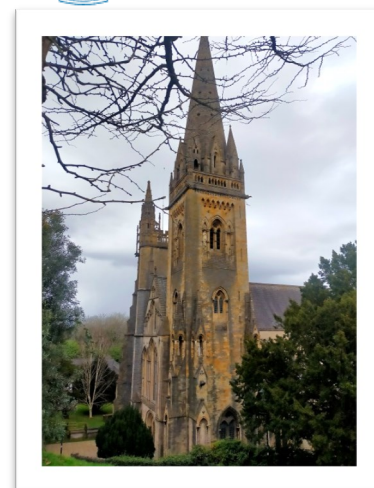
Jean Woolley



Cathedral travels

David Greenwood continues to report from Wales.

Eglwys Gaderiol Llandaf, Llandaff Cathedral Dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, and three Welsh saints, Dyfrig, Teilo and Euddogwy.



The west towers

Llandaff is a suburb of Cardiff but it has the feel of a pleasant village, an oasis in the busy Welsh capital. Its cathedral is in a sheltered ravine and is approached from a tranquil square, known as Cathedral Green. Its quiet setting belies its turbulent history. Founded originally in the 6th century by Sts. Dyfrig and Teilo, its first 800 years were relatively peaceful. But the building suffered serious damage from the forces of Owain Glyndwr in 1400, St. Teilo's shrine was destroyed in the Reformation and then in 1646 the parliamentary forces used the cathedral as a stable and a pub. Then in 1722 a great storm caused one of the west towers to collapse. Various restoration efforts took place but in 1941 a parachute bomb exploded near the cathedral and caused huge damage, second only to Coventry in WW2.

Restoration took place, under the supervision of George Pace and the building is now peaceful and handsome, the original Gothic structure being augmented by the beautiful St. David's chapel, much excellent stained glass and the extraordinary pulpitum or chancel arch with the statue of Christ in Majesty by Jacob Epstein.



St. David's chapel, the work of George Pace, dedicated in 1956



Over the High altar, the great sanctuary arch dates from the early 12th century

There is much to enjoy in this building. A visiting English Anglican has to keep reminding oneself when visiting Welsh cathedrals that he is a guest in a sister church with a different, if allied, sensibility. One is strongly reminded of this at Llandaff, with its reverence for native saints, such as Dyfrig, Teilo and Illtyd. And I also attended with pleasure a Eucharist said partly in Welsh. A very different but joyful experience.

The famous and still controversial statue of Christ in Majesty (1954) by Jacob Epstein



In the Lady chapel, the reredos from 1935 is the work of Frank Roper, showing flowers associated with the Virgin Mary.



In St. Illtyd's Chapel, this triptych is the work of Dante Gabriel Rossetti.



It's a Dog's Life

The reflections of Basset hound Freddie,
Angela & Francesca Goodwin's new puppy



Helping mum sweep up and empty the dishwasher.

Can't quite hear what she's mumbling

under her breath but I know she loves me.

She also mentioned something about me weighing 10.1 kilos.

"What evidence do you have that it was me?" asks Freddie. "There's stuffing hanging from your mouth," says Mum.

"Look mum! I jumped and jumped until I brought the pink fluffy thing to the ground..." After looking after me for an hour, she can have her first cup of coffee of the day. I think she has a good life with me!



Dog School: Mum said that I needed to learn some human and doggy etiquette.

I thought I was perfectly behaved but it seems not. So yesterday, she took me to Dog School in Leatherhead. I made new friends and ate lots of treats!

Mum had a large G&T last night. Hopefully, she'll be better next week...

Progress report: I enjoyed the session this morning. Mum learnt to 'wait,' 'let me see' and to walk without pulling on the lead. I ate treats but must remind Mum to bring lots more chicken and cheese; they help to distract me from the other dogs. She also said something about having to buy more gin to cover the next two sessions...

Last day at Dog School Yep, Mum did it! Very proud of her. She finished the four week course and got a certificate. I think the instructor got a bit confused as he wrote my name on it; I was only there to keep mum company, eat treats and play with the pups. I overheard the instructors asking if mum wanted to come to any workshops. She took a long pause and said she would wait a few weeks...



My first walk on The Mount. I decided to leave my 'mark' so other dogs will know I've been here... But mum picked it up and put it in a bin!

URC Walking Club

Our walks are open to anyone from St. Nics and are

typically on a Monday morning towards the end of the month, starting from some pub around 10:00 - but often adjusted to suit bus times - and end in a pub lunch. This does vary according to our church diary, the weather forecast and the number of folk interested each month. They usually take around 2 to 2½ hours, possibly including a coffee stop in a pub or café en route. Dogs are very welcome, but I need to know in advance to check the Dog policy of the refreshment venue.

The next **Guildford URC monthly morning walks** are pencilled in for **10:00 on 22 or 29 April**, and **20 or 27 May**. All subject to enough participants and a suitable weather forecast, to be determined after seeing the 7-day forecast. We would go for an optional pub lunch after the walk.

If anyone would like to join the walk or receive more details about this or future walks, once these are decided, please contact the GURC walks organiser **Trevor Jones** at htjones.raildev@gmail.com

Our friendly, sociable group has continued to meet every Tuesday morning in term-time. We welcome everyone to share our activities, whether you come regularly or visit occasionally. Our programme is varied, we celebrated "Pancake Day" early to ensure we didn't miss it because of the half-term holiday. Recently we have enjoyed puzzling over quizzes and sharing knowledge with many reminiscences when discussing topics suggested by members.

"Parks in the UK" involved different offerings: from the urban green spaces, the more formal such as St. James's Park in London, to the wide open country of our National Parks. We were even treated to some comparisons with parks in the Lebanon! "When did you last...?" linked memories and mirth. I think we all got to know each other a little better. The opportunity to bring and share "Three small tactile objects" helped us explore our sense of touch. It was interesting to notice how many objects made of various polished woods featured in our choices. We were very fortunate in February to welcome one of our church members, Rory Fenner, to help us navigate our way around "The Winter Constellations in the night sky." Many of you will be familiar with Rory's articles on Astronomy in this magazine. In person, he proved to be a most erudite speaker, sharing facts and figures from his vast knowledge. It was most helpful to start from the constellation of Orion, readily recognisable in the winter night sky, and to reach out from there to much else. Who knew of the ancient mythology being played out in the night sky, right above our heads? The vastnesses of space and time were difficult to comprehend when we learned how many light years away are some of the stars we see. For the remainder of this term we had a quiz and Eastertide craft.

Our Summer term programme begins on 16 April, do join us from 9:45am for 10am until 11am. You will be very welcome.

16 April - Dominoes

23 April - Shakespeare miscellany

30 April - Speaker: David Greenwood, "The Story of the Symphony" Part 1 (Haydn to Brahms)

7 May - Extraordinary occasions or encounters in everyday life

14 May - Kites

21 May - "It puts me in mind of..." an interactive question & answer game. **Hilary Fletcher**



Garden flowers



Weymouth Bay

Photos Chris Goodwin



Eco News Guildford Zero are now at 168 High Street.

They say:

The new ZERO premises launch is **20 April**, and you can either come and check out the space and what's on offer, or get involved with one of the many great activities we're hosting!

Activities for the day include:

Repair Cafe 11am - 2pm: We'll be teaming up with our pals at [Guildford Repair Cafe](#) for a town centre repair drop in.

Talks 3pm talk: Microplastics in Our Local Environment - Dr Ben Parker

5pm talk: Resilient Gardening - Andre Tranquilini

Family workshops

2pm - 5pm: Upcycled plant hangers & bird feeder workshop

3pm: Build a 5* bug hotel

See website for full details

<https://www.zerocarbondguildford.org/event-details/zero-is-back-1>





Cath's Cooking & Baking

I found this recipe in a Sainsbury's cookbook which I bought over 30 years ago (which is why it's in ounces!) and which I made a lot when my boys were young. It's VERY economical (a packet of 8 sausages feeds 8 people) and children love it - they barely notice that they are consuming lots of veg! It also freezes very well. Serve with your favourite pasta.

Sausagemeat & carrot sauce for pasta - serves 8

- 1 lb sausages
- 2 tablespoons cooking oil
- 1 oz butter
- 1 medium onion, finely chopped
- 6 medium carrots, grated
- 2 tins of tomatoes, blended
- 8 fl oz chicken stock
- 2 bay leaves
- 2 teaspoons dried oregano



Skin the sausages.

Heat the oil and butter in a pan and cook the onion until softened but not brown.

Add the sausagemeat and lightly brown, breaking it up with a fork.

Add the carrots and stir for a few minutes.

Add the tomatoes, stock, bay leaves and oregano and cook, covered, over a low heat for 30 minutes.

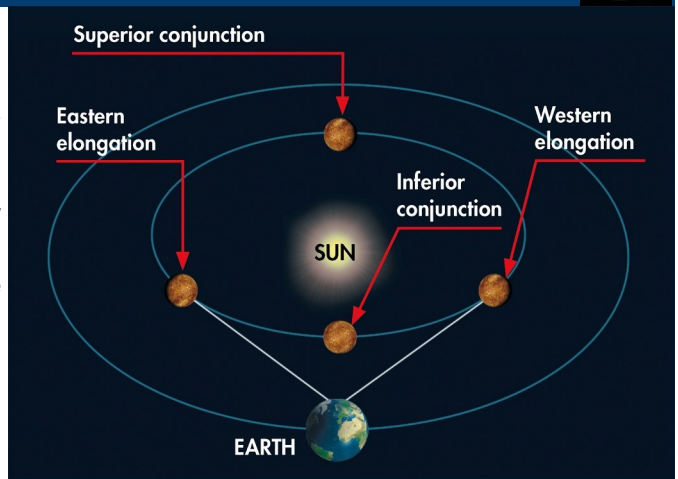
Taste for seasoning.

Serve over pasta and top with grated cheese if you like.

The sky in April and May Rory Fenner



April The **Sun** moves from Pisces into Aries on 20 April, evenings are now lighter and nights shorter. **Mercury** lies low in the west after sunset for the first few days of April, reaching Inferior Conjunction on the 11 April. **Venus** is now too close to the Sun to be seen before sunrise. **Mars** is too low in the pre-dawn sky throughout April and the red planet is close to Saturn on the 11 April. **Jupiter** is still a brilliant object in the evening twilight sky. The **Moon** is nearby on 10 April and lies close to Uranus on the 20 April. **Saturn** is a morning object but difficult to see at this moment. **Uranus** is an evening object close to Jupiter on 20 April. **Neptune** is too close to the Sun to be seen.



May The **Sun** moves from Aries into Taurus on 19 May. *Illustration by BBC Sky at Night Magazine.*

Mercury is a morning object but is difficult to see. **Venus** is lost in the pre-dawn sky as it draws closer to its Superior Conjunction in June. **Mars** is still difficult to see, you may be able to see it at the end of May. **Jupiter** passes through a conjunction with the Sun on 18 May and is out of sight throughout May. **Saturn** is improving in the morning sky in Aquarius but to watch it you will have to contend with low altitude and intrusive twilight. **Uranus** is in conjunction with the Sun on 13 May and will not be visible this month. **Neptune** lies east of Saturn but will be difficult to see.

Some thoughts from Spike Milligan

- ◆ Money can't buy you happiness. But it does bring you a more pleasant form of misery.
- ◆ World peace could be a possibility...if it weren't for all those damned foreigners!

The award-winning **Surrey Hills Chamber Choir** and **Surrey Hills Singers** invite you to join them at their **Spring Concert at St Nicolas Church, Guildford on Sunday 28th April at 7pm.**

As always, the choirs are preparing a programme that comprises songs from many musical styles and with songs from Bach to Billy Joel there is something for every musical taste. All the songs will be presented in the trademark Surrey Hills way which has become so popular with local concert goers that the Christmas concert is always a sellout. The choirs will sing from memory and engage you in the story of every song. It's a cross between choral and theatre so as well as listening to the beautiful music there is plenty to watch.

With the concert so close to Easter, the choirs have chosen to sing a few seasonal songs: the beautiful and anguished "Vinea mea electa" by Poulenc; the haunting "Drop Slow Tears" by Gibbons; the fast-moving and passionate fugue "Fac ut ardeat" from Stabat Mater by Pergolesi; and the familiar "An Easter Hallelujah" by Cohen which has been re-set with an Easter text.

But this is a small section of the evening. Also to look forward to are the traditional songs "The Wellerman", "The Turtle Dove" and "Joshua fit de battle of Jericho"; some Baroque music with "I was glad" by Purcell and the spell-binding arrangement of "Come Sweet Death" by Bach. Moving to contemporary classical music, two popular American composers are represented with "I will wade out" by Eric Whitacre and "Into the Light" by Richard Burchard.



To contrast these classics, there will be some popular and film music to enjoy: Sara Bareilles' song "Kaleidoscope Heart" has been arranged for choir with some entertaining body percussion; whilst two well-known emotional pop ballads – "You raise me up" and "Say something" will bring a tear to the eye; in contrast, the up-beat "For the Longest Time" by Billy Joel will get your toe tapping. Lastly, film music is represented with the haunting "Jenny of Oldstones" from the series "A Game of Thrones" and "Let the River Run" from "Working Girl".



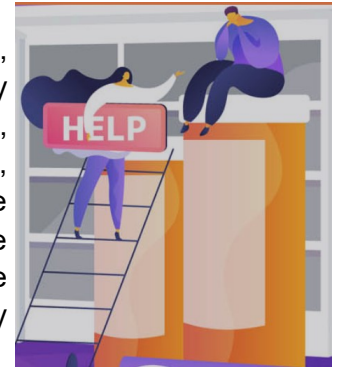
So many wonderful songs to enjoy from two top local choirs, so pop the date in your diary.

Tickets are £14 for adults and £5 for children and will be available to book online from Friday 12th April from www.singsurreyhills.com



SDAC
Surrey Drug and Alcohol Care

Surrey Drug and Alcohol Care is an award-winning charity, founded in 1986. We offer a telephone Helpline open Monday to Friday, 9am - 7pm for anyone concerned about drugs, alcohol or mental well-being. We support those with problems or their parents, siblings or friends. Whatever you are going through, we can help. The Helpline can refer Surrey residents directly to professional treatment services. Because we know that the sooner treatment commences, the greater the level of success, we have our own professional counselling programmes for addiction, which typically start within 5 days of referral and are free to the client.



We are looking for more Helpline volunteers who enjoy talking on the phone and can give up 3 hours a week for a rewarding service. Our next volunteer training module will be on **20 April 9.30-11.30** and **27 April, 9.30-11.30** and **12.30-14.30**, on Zoom. In addition each trainee will have a session with our Coordinator for logging-in and document submission. The training is free. Find out more about our Helpline from our video:



https://www.instagram.com/reel/CtexCDMI-Bz/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==

To apply, see our website <https://www.surreydrugandalcoholcare.org.uk/> or call **0808 802 5000**

Do you think you have the skills to be a Trustee? You need to commit to about 3 hours every 4-6 weeks to prepare for and attend Trustee meetings. You may also take part in Leadership Team meetings and join various opportunities to advance SDAC mission. To find out more, watch a short video:

https://www.instagram.com/reel/Cuo7LXgoQNW/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==



Do you know Hillier House?

You may have walked or driven past us on Farnham Road, but have you ever considered what we do? We are an Almshouse Charity; this means we provide accommodation for "poor people". In reality this means we provide sheltered housing for 29 ladies aged over 60 years old who would not be able to provide a home for themselves at the very inflated Guildford rental prices.

We have occupied this piece of land, endowed to us by the Onslow family, for over 200 years and whilst the property may have changed our ethos has not. The Charity is run and managed by a team of 3 staff and is governed and supported by a wonderful board of trustees.

We were so fortunate to have Maureen Hibberd on our board for almost 8 years and for the last 6 we were delighted to have her as our Chair of Trustees. Maureen loved Hillier House and she quickly recognised what a special and unique place we are. She was enthusiastic in her role of Trustee and Chair and spent many happy hours in the company of our wonderful residents, often lamenting the fact she was not eligible to live here herself! No party, social gathering or day trip was complete without her, she always brought fun and laughter to the proceedings, even our board meetings! She has left a massive void in everyone's lives here at Hillier House one way or another, but her memory will live on in our hearts and we will always be grateful for all that she gave and contributed during the last 8 years.

So very sadly we are left with a vacancy on our board and looking to recruit a new enthusiastic volunteer Trustee. If you feel you could spare some time and consider becoming a trustee we would love to hear from you. The role is very rewarding and we do have lots of fun! The position is not too demanding, typically the board meet around 3 or 4 times a year and as a trustee you would be playing an important role on the board ensuring the correct governance of the Charity is being overseen. The support our trustees give is of great value to us. In addition to the official meetings, we are always very happy to welcome our trustees in for coffee, cake and a chat.

I would love to hear from you, under no obligation, if you feel you would like more information or would like to be considered. Please contact **Val Richards** on **01483 533317** or hillier.almshouse@gmail.com



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 dlowegardens@yahoo.com



'Forgiveness' Led by Revd Tim Carter

Saturday 27th April 2024
 10 am – 12.30 pm
 Coffee available from 9.30 am

please reserve a place by
 contacting Sally Pollard
pollard3@hotmail.co.uk
 01483 428646
 by **Friday 19th April**

Life Issues Series

Godalming Baptist church
 Queen Street, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 1BA

When we are hurt or disappointed resentment can be hard to avoid, especially if our instinct is often to seek revenge, but long-term bitterness can cause more harm to ourselves than to the person or situation that caused it in the first place. What can we do to protect ourselves and to help us let go of the sorrows that threaten to overwhelm us?

- The morning's session will look at all aspects of forgiveness:
- What it is and why it's important
- How forgiveness can be achieved
- Ways of de-escalating conflict in any relationship
- Whether forgiveness can be unconditional

Forgiveness may be a long, difficult and costly process, but learning to speak the truth in love and to let go of our resentment and bitterness can be healing, empowering and liberating. Join us to find out more and consider taking the first steps along this sometimes overlooked pathway to a different future.

The session will be free of charge, but a voluntary donation is invited for The Forgiveness Project a UK based charity that uses real stories of victims and perpetrators of crime and violence to help people explore ideas around forgiveness and alternatives to revenge.

St. Nicolas Parish Church

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or give to Fr Neil or Jana at church.

**The next copy deadline will be
 Sunday 19 May and the Newsletter
 will cover June and July 2024.**

**Date for your
 diaries: Summer
 Fayre will be on
 Saturday 6 July**

