



From the Rector's study

As we look towards the end of Ordinary Time we could be forgiven for letting our attention slip and suddenly believe it is Christmas - especially so if the shelves of some of the supermarkets are to be believed with all the special offers on boxes of Heroes, Roses and the like. Don't be tempted, live in 'real time'. This is an important lesson for us to learn - 'God is working his purpose out as year succeeds to year,' as the hymn reminds us. In other words, time matters, so much so that God broke into the timeline of our humanity in the person of Jesus Christ. Clement, Ignatius and Polycarp all wrote of the eternal nature of Christ who existed before time, but in self emptying (kenosis in the Greek), He inhabited our humanity in its fullest sense - in time, in God's own time, so that we, finite creatures, can experience the Infinite.

In the Benedictine tradition this marking of time is reflected in the Offices like Morning prayers, Midday prayers and so on. Perhaps what is most interesting is that in the Religious life each manual action (whether that is in the garden, in the mending shed or in the kitchen), is always preceded and followed by prayer and worship. That is perhaps the most profound way of marking time - rolling our time into God's time. That is what the liturgical year offers us - to mark time by kneading our experiences into God - from the offering of the first fruits at Harvest to give thanks for all we take for granted, to Dedication Sunday when we give thanks for those who have come before us and offer our thanks for the investments they have made for our benefit. Remembrance, likewise, we give thanks for those who gave their today for our tomorrow. Similarly at our All Souls Service we commend to God those whom we love and see no longer - marking their finite time with us on earth and their eternal life in God.



All of these moments are important in and of themselves and are not merely to mark off on the calendar before we get to the bigger stuff. Advent, similarly, is not the countdown to Christmas but the season of 'coming' - a season to remind us of the timelessness of our life in God - we are called into the now and not yet of our own salvation - now because God comes to us in the present in Word and Sacrament calling us, moment to moment; and not yet because our knowledge is, as yet, incomplete. There is a 'coming' of our own as we are both saved and yet sinners, now and not yet - we are formed into the likeness of Christ in time, but not in any linear sense of 'over time'.

So each day over the next few months, I would like you to make time to spend time with God. Call it prayer, call it reflection, call it listening to music, call it rest - but in those moments take the time to know that you are in God and God is in you. Those windows into heaven will offer you the gift of timelessness and they afford an invitation into the very presence of God and I think that it is probably safe to say that that is time well spent.

Fr Neil



Coming up in 2026, to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of our current church building

January

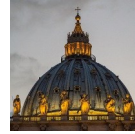
Sunday 11th Launch Mass

Tuesday 13th Lecture: The long history of St Nicolas: three churches and one parish
Dr Catherine Ferguson



February

Monday 16th - Friday 20th Rome Pilgrimage



March

Tuesday 10th Lecture: The theology of the Oxford Movement and its influence on church architecture
Canon Jeremy Haselock



April

30th March - 5th April: Holy Week & Easter when we will be joined by The Right Reverend Peter Hancock



May

Fri 15th - Monday 18th: Walsingham Pilgrimage

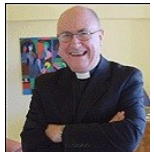


Date TBC: Lecture: The Dragon on our doorstep: St Catherine's Hill, its Chapel and hermitage
Michael Shapland, senior archaeologist University College London



June

Thursday 4th Corpus Christi - Fr Victor Stock (former Dean of Guildford Cathedral) to preach
Saturday 20th Midsummer Dinner with comedian Paul Kerensa



July

Saturday 4th Summer Fayre



September

Date TBC: Lecture: The architects and designers of St Nicolas Church 1876
Charles O'Brien, editor of Pevsner Surrey Buildings



Saturday 12th Heritage Day



October

Sunday 4th Dedication Festival - Bishop Andrew to preach

November

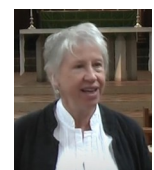
Date TBC Talk on music

Canon Nicholas Thistlethwaite



December

Sunday 6th Patronal Festival



Dates TBC

Lecture: The Loseley Chapel and its occupants
Dr Catherine Ferguson

Lecture: Art / Arts & Crafts movement in St Nicolas
Dr Catherine Ferguson

Great Little Orchestra 150th Anniversary Concert

Jazz evening



We are producing various commemorative items, including a 2026 calendar and an anniversary gin which will be on sale in time for Christmas!

Harold's Baptism

Thank you to all who were a part of our son Harold's baptism at St Nicolas' Church in August. He had a wonderful day and loved all the attention. He couldn't stop giggling when Fr Neil put the water from the font on his forehead!

Our family and friends were all very touched by the lovely service put on by Fr Neil. Some of them haven't been to church in a while and really enjoyed coming along. Edward's aunts, uncles and cousins came over from Norway, while Melissa's brother and his partner came all the way from Australia! We were delighted that so many of them made the trip, in fact it was the first time everyone has come together since Harold was born last December.

Harold's lovely Christening outfit was actually his Uncle's, from almost 30 years ago. It was a gift from Harold's great-grandparents who are sadly not around anymore but would have loved to be at the baptism. Having a piece of them there made it extra special.

We are fortunate to have six godparents for Harold, and standing at the front of St Nics with them, making promises to God and to Harold will forever be a cherished memory.

You have all been so kind and welcoming to us since we started coming to St Nics shortly after we moved to Guildford. Harold was only a young baby and we wanted to find a church that felt like home. We really think we've found that here.



Thank you especially to Fr Neil for putting on such a lovely service.

God bless, **Melissa, Edward and Harold**



We 1 10:00 Mattins, The Quire, 12:00 Mass, St George's Chapel
 Th 2 10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel
 Fr 3 10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel, 11:00 Mass, St George's Chapel
 Sa 4 16:00 -18:00 Messy church



Su 5 Dedication Festival 08:30 Holy Communion, 10:00 Mass

Mo 6

Tu 7 10:00 Mattins, The Quire

We 8 10:00 Mattins, The Quire

Th 9 10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel

Fr 10 10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel, 11:00 Mass, St George's Chapel

Sa 11

Su 12 Harvest Festival 08:30 Holy Communion, 10:00 Cubs & Beavers Service

Mo 13

Tu 14 10:00 Mattins, The Quire

We 15 10:00 Mattins, The Quire

Th 16 10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel

Fr 17 10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel, 11:00 Mass, St George's Chapel

Sa 18

Su 19 Trinity XVIII 08:30 Holy Communion, 10:00 Mass

Mo 20

Tu 21 10:00 Mattins, The Quire. 17:00-18:30 *Toastie Tuesday after-school club, Beer & Banter meeting at Wetherspoons*

We 22 10:00 Mattins, The Quire

Th 23 10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel, 19:00 *Film Club in the Parish Centre Hall*

Fr 24 10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel, 11:00 Mass, St George's Chapel

Sa 25

Su 26 Trinity XIX 08:30 Holy Communion, 10:00 Mass

Mo 27

Tu 28 10:00 Mattins, The Quire


We 29 10:00 Mattins, The Quire

Th 30 10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel

Fr 31 10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel, 11:00 Mass, St George's Chapel, *Monthly Lunch in the Parish Centre*





Sa	1	16:00 -18:00 Messy Church at GURC	
Su	2	All Saints and Souls	8:30 Holy Communion, 10:00 Mass, 16:00 All Souls Choral Service
Mo	3		
Tu	4	10:00 Mattins, The Quire	
We	5	10:00 Mattins, The Quire, 12:00 Mass, St George's Chapel	
Th	6	10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel	
Fr	7	10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel, 11:00 Mass, St George's Chapel	
Sa	8		
Su	9	Remembrance	08:30 Holy Communion, 10:00 Mass
Mo	10		
Tu	11	10:00 Mattins, The Quire	
We	12	10:00 Mattins, The Quire	
Th	13	10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel, 19:30 Walsingham Mass & meeting	
Fr	14	10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel, 11:00 Mass, St George's Chapel	
Sa	15		
Su	16	Trinity XXII	08:30 Holy Communion, 10:00 Mass
Mo	17		
Tu	18	10:00 Mattins, The Quire, evening <i>Beer & Banter meeting in the Loseley Chapel</i>	
We	19	10:00 Mattins, The Quire	
Th	20	10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel	
Fr	21	10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel, 11:00 Mass, St George's Chapel	
		<i>20:00-22:00 Fizz and Friends</i>	
Sa	22		
Su	23	Christ the King	08:30 Holy Communion, 10:00 Mass
Mo	24		
Tu	25	10:00 Mattins, The Quire. <i>17:00-18:30 Toastie Tuesday after-school club</i>	
We	26	10:00 Mattins, The Quire	
Th	27	10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel	
Fr	28	10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel, 11:00 Mass, St George's Chapel,	
		<i>Monthly Lunch in the Parish Centre</i>	
Sa	29		
Su	30	Advent	08:30 Holy Communion, 10:00 Mass



Mission Enabler update First, a massive thank you to everyone who helped at our rock-band themed **Holiday club** with Guildford URC at the beginning of the summer holidays. We had an amazing time, welcoming 85 children across the week, 40 volunteers from both St Nicolas and GURC and fantastic feedback from children, parents and volunteers. It was particularly lovely to be able to share what we had done at the following Sunday service at St Nics.



We would also like to thank Rock Steady Music school who came in on the Wednesday morning to run band sessions with the children, each group learnt to play 'We Will Rock You' and each child had the opportunity to play electric guitar, bass,

drums, keyboard or be the lead singer. Boogie Pumps also came to teach each group a dance routine to 'I Love Rock and Roll' and our very own Perseus taught the children to play some rock harmonica! We are very grateful to all of them for adding so much to this amazing week.



We didn't just think about Rock music, we also thought about 'rocks' in the bible and how we can build our lives on Jesus, our rock. We've already set the dates

for next year - **27th - 31st July 2026** and we can't wait!

Sunday mornings I am delighted to say that I have changed my working pattern so that I can be at St Nicolas church every Sunday morning for Junior Church, instead of alternating with Guildford URC. I'm hoping this will give me a chance to get to know everyone at St Nics better and create continuity over the weeks in Junior Church.

We have noticed we have a lot of under 4s attending on a Sunday morning and we would like to set up a creche to run alongside Junior Church during the 10am service so that under 4s have a dedicated group suited to them. If this is something you feel you are being called to help with then please do get in touch with Cath, or myself. We are hoping to put together a rota which means possibly only helping once a month, but we can't do this without volunteers!

Toastie Tuesdays Our monthly junior youth group became increasingly popular last term, with 37 children attending the last session! This is wonderful, and with comments I've had from parents, this number could continue to grow. I have asked if parents are able to help us support this number of children, but it would be wonderful to have church members engaging with our young people, so if you feel this is something you would like to get involved with, please do have a chat with me.

This term we are adding in a comfy 'Question Corner' to allow us to open up conversations with children about Jesus. Many of these children go to church schools so this will be a fantastic opportunity for them to learn more about Jesus.



If you would like to know more about our children's work, or you would like to get involved, please do get in touch. None of our children's work is possible without the support of volunteers.

Nicky Geraghty

missionenabler@saintnics.com

Café Play Wednesdays 10-11:30am

Toastie Tuesdays 21 October & 25 November 5-6.30pm

Fizz & Friends Friday 21 October 20:00-22:00

Pizzas @8 24 October & 28 November



The Headteacher,
Christina (Stina)
Witkowski writes:

The children have made an excellent start – they've been busy investigating and exploring in their new environment and learning new routines. There has been such a lovely atmosphere in the indoor and outdoor classrooms!

Autumn 2025

Half Term 27- 31 October

End of Term Friday 19 December

Fri 24th Oct Harvest Service at St Nics' Church



Our overarching vision is for:	Lived out through our values <small>Each value is taught, referred to and lived all year but has a particular focus in one half term</small>	What this means to us and how it looks in our lives
Our school community to live "Life in all its fullness" John 10:10	Spring 1st half term Wisdom <i>Proverbs 18:15</i>	Through a love of learning,
	Autumn 2nd half term Unity <i>Colossians 3:14</i>	By having a sense of unity,
	Summer 1st half term Fairness <i>Proverbs 31:9</i>	Understanding right and wrong,
	Summer 2nd half term Perseverance <i>James 1:12</i>	Being able to persevere through life's challenges
	Autumn 1st half term Dignity <i>Titus 2:7</i>	With dignity and respect for ourselves and others
	Spring 2nd half term Hope <i>Romans 12:12</i>	And with hope for the future and all that it brings.

GLOSSARY FOR NEW PARENTS [& non-parents]

MUFTI Days: non uniform days. Home clothes can be worn.

Pause Days: once a term whereby the children spend the day learning in different classes with children from different year groups on a set theme.

Birthdays: children can wear home clothes on their birthday, or on a day of choice if this falls in the holidays or at the weekend. Please do not bring into school cakes or sweets.

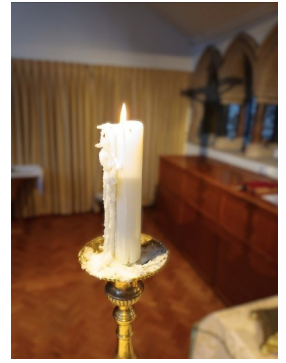
Collective Worship: AKA assemblies. Held each day in the Learning Lab when the whole school comes together. Led by headteacher, teachers, Father Neil plus visitors from the community.



“Let all mortal flesh keep silence”

by **Stuart Murdoch**

One of the things that you'll often hear visitors say about St Nicolas is that there seems to be a special something about our church. Have you ever wondered why that might be?



It's been a habit of mine to try and maintain a reverent silence before Mass. I appreciate the fact that our sidesmen respectfully and discretely welcome me as I make myself way quietly to my place. There, if there's time, I gather my thoughts and intentions, perhaps exchange a quiet nod to fellow worshippers, if I catch their eye. Sometimes, I will read through the passages of scriptures set for the day. Other times, I try and read the hymns, it helps me when I come to sing them to have given some time to reflect on their meaning.

As servers, our job is to be invisible. Candles get lit, the altar gets prepared and when we are at our best, you won't have even noticed we were there. We imagine the fellow members of our congregation appreciate that we are doing so in a way which we hope helps them to engage more deeply with their worship. In the sacristy, our custom has been to try and maintain a stricter period of silence for about ten minutes before Mass, with only strictly necessary preparations breaking that period of silence.

As the drama of the Mass unfolds we are struck by the complete change which engages all of our attention and all of our senses, yet is still punctuated by periods of cherished silent reflection, which help reorient us.

Is it this - generations long - dignified, reverent, prayerful approach to worship which has imbued this place with a genuine sense of holiness, and draws people to travel for miles to immerse themselves in it every Sunday?

...that, and the chance to have a good old natter with friends old and new over coffee and a slice of Cath's delicious cake after Mass. **Stuart Murdoch**

Not St Nicolas On The Web a survey of streamed services

by **Ian Macpherson**

A couple of Sundays ago, an internet devil meant that I failed to link up with the St Nicolas Sunday 10:00 service. Subsequently, I started to explore the many Web alternatives on offer.

This first listing is based on an initial assessment, and there may be many errors. In particular, many churches seem to hide their webcasts. The immediate conclusion is how much of Anglican worship has left behind the traditional forms and now offers chat and guitar songs.

GUILDFORD

St Nicolas To start this, I must say that the St Nicolas webcast comes out very well -for a parish church nationally; for relevance, ritual, interest, music and camera-and-sound-work. Perhaps tighten up a bit on the web-cast choir sound?

Cathedral 0945 Eucharist. Live streamed, good webcast presentation [the web-sound is better than the "there" sound for much of the congregation due to echoes], classic choir, ritual improving, splendid organ. Note that the recording seems to be deleted a day or so after action.

Holy Trinity Live streamed, seems dark and dull in presentation, good large choir, including children, but it is a bit hidden behind the altar screen. Typically 50 views of a Sunday recording.

St Saviours Guitar and Keyboard. Rousing singing.

The other Guildford Anglican Churches appear not to webcast.

St Mary's Services alternate between Anglican and Methodist. The Anglican form something of an outpost of Trinity's central role in Guildford town.

St Johns, Merrow 10:00 Parish Communion with hymns, [different on First Sunday in month], webcast on Facebook.

Christ Church "A Protestant Church", informal Guitar, no live webcast.

All Saints, Onslow Village. 10:00 Cafe style, no webcast.

Emmanuel, Stoughton. 10:30 Guitars, no webcast

St Johns, Stoke. 10:30 Band led, with an emphasis on youth.

AWAY

Canterbury Cathedral 11:00 Sunday Sung Eucharist, 17:30 Evensong daily. Perhaps the pacemaker, now it has attended to ritual, and, of course, an outstanding choir and organ. But the Precentor is inaudible! Significant here because of the specific welcome by the Canon in Residence to web watchers at the start of the service. Requires a bit of fumbling to find out how to open in the first place. Up to 1500 views daily.

Other Cathedrals

All have webcasts, most are excellent. I may list a few of these in a future edition. A listing is available in Saturday's Daily Telegraph.

A few Parish Churches

All Saints Margaret Street. Solemn Mass 11:00, Evensong and Benediction 18:00. "The" traditional High Church Anglican, good choir but the sound, picture and ritual are a bit muddy, if correctly fully elaborate.

St Bartholemew the Great, Smithfield. 11:00 Choral Eucharist, 17:00 Choral Evensong. An agreeable alternative to All Saints, Margaret Street, typically 500 views.

A COUPLE OF "JOKERS"

St Joseph, Roman-Catholic, Guildford. 10:30 and 17:00. The Catholic Mass, post Vatican II, is very broadly, much the same as the Common-Worship Eucharist. The main morning and evening Masses are webcast and St Nicolas folk will feel more-or-less at home. Most notable is the way in which the button for the webcast is identified in Google itself and right on the opening page - no fumbling through pages of YouTube! Though the camera seems to be fixed forward. Hymns, some of which are familiar.

Trinity Wall Street, New York. 11:15 New York time, teatime here [so you slept-in?]. Yes, Wall Street! A very Anglican High Church ["Smells and Bells", words from AmBCP] in the centre of New York. Outstanding classic choir, 6000 pipe new organ, full church on Sunday and the webcast serves the world. At Christmas, their "Messiah" they boast, is "the Best in New York", which is saying something. Did you know that "Handel's Messiah" is taken very seriously in New York?





This church in Essex is one of my favourites. Visible for miles, the steeple stands out across the surrounding cornfields. The current church was built over an extended period from the mid-fourteenth century to the first quarter of the sixteenth century, probably on the site of an earlier church. The earliest parts of the present building date from c. 1340 and substantial building works were completed by c.1510. The construction was sponsored by a number of noble patrons descended from the Clare family who had held the manor of Thaxted since the Norman Conquest and the church is a testimony to their generosity and the wealth of medieval East Anglia.



More recently, it was famous for two remarkable vicars, Conrad Noel and Jack Putterill, Anglo-Catholics and Christian Socialists. Gustav Holst came to live in Thaxted, played the organ and founded a music festival based on the church that thrives to this day.

The tower is almost as high as the church is long and is beautifully proportioned. There are two superb porches. The interior is flooded with East Anglian light on even the dullest of days. There are some beautiful 15th century surviving stained glass windows and two superb examples of the later glazier, Charles Kempe.



The whole church exudes a sense of spacious airiness that is exhilarating.



The whole church exudes a sense of spacious airiness that is exhilarating.

The pub opposite serves an excellent lunch. If you like churches, you'll love Thaxted.





St Nicolas Summer Fayre



PRIME
BOILERS

Daniel Lucas, who has reliably attended to St Nicolas' Parish Centre plumbing in the past, has formed **Prime Boilers Ltd** and now offers all the following services:

- All aspects of plumbing and heating
- Boiler supply and installation
- Installation and Maintenance



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Remembrance

Waiting for Daddy

What will it be like when my daddy comes home?

I can't wait to see.

I hope he will be happy,
when we finally meet.

I can tell him about my friends,
and what I learnt at school;
the games we played; the songs we sang,
the laughter and tears too.

What will it be like when my daddy comes home?

I hope he won't be sad.

He's been away a long, long time,
and he's been working very hard.

I'm looking forward to seeing him;
hear his voice and hold his hand.

He'll be very tired, I know;
but I'm going to be very kind.

I'll say a prayer to Jesus;
when I go to bed tonight.

"Thank you for bringing my daddy home."

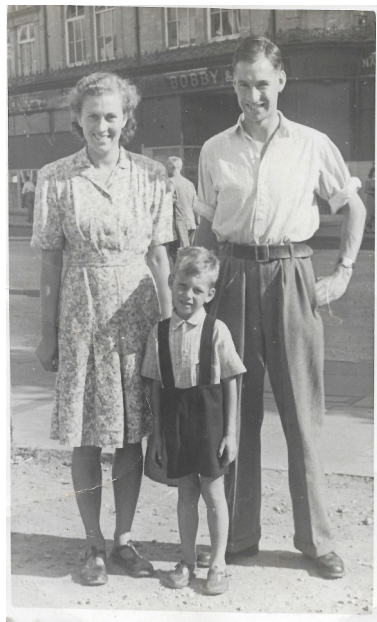
Amen and goodnight.

I've written this poem through the eyes of a child like my dad, who didn't meet his father until he was 4/5 years old.

Debbie Nobbs



*My grandfather, above.
My grandparents with my
father, right.*



Local author who has given a talk at St Nicolas' Tuesday Group, writes:

"Lumberjills" honoured at the Royal Albert Hall

After years of campaigning for the Women's Timber Corps, affectionately called the Lumberjills, local author Joanna Foat was thrilled to see them honoured at the Royal Albert Hall, a tribute on BBC1 "A Nation Remembers" and a plaque unveiled by the government for the VE Day 80 celebrations recognising their important role in World War 2. On 8th May Union Jack flags were flying up and down the country for VE Day 80 celebrations. In the Royal Albert Hall, Katherine Jenkins OBE and Myleene Klass MBE, the D-Day Darlings, RAF Squadronaires and the dance group Swing Patrol brought the Lumberjills' stories to life before a crowd of more than 5,000.

What a wonderful evening. Joyful. Magical. At last the spotlight was on the Women's Timber Corps and they were being celebrated for their contribution to the war alongside the men. It proved that forgotten women's stories, when finally told, have the power to move, inspire and reshape how we understand our past.

Find out more at www.thelumberjills.uk

Joanna Foat





The Good Grief Club

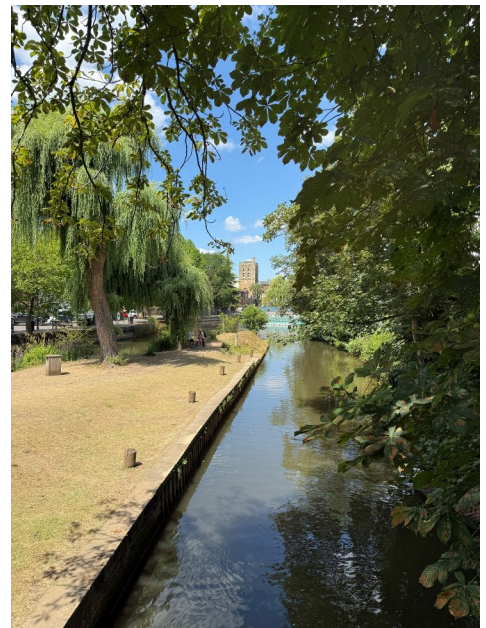


We meet at The Cosy Club at Tunsgate on the last Wednesday of every month from 2pm. Open to men and women. **The next meetings are Wednesday 29 October and Wednesday 26 November.** Please speak to [Helen Trussler](#) or [Jean Taylor](#) for more details.

Rare views of St Nicolas

With Debenham's gone, the church can now be seen from the river bridge at the lock.

Photos by [Chris Goodwin](#),
Sent by [Shirley Aston](#).



St Nicolas, 1964. Image sent by [Sally Lowe](#)



The Climate Science & Evidence for Human Induced Global Warming III: Sea Levels & Ocean Acidity

by **Donald Thompson**

In this article I present three more figures from Climate Change: Evidence & Causes, the 2020 update from the Royal Society & US National Academy of Sciences that address three sources of evidence for the impact of human greenhouse gas emissions on our planet.

The main greenhouse gases emitted from human activities are Carbon Dioxide (CO₂), Methane (CH₄), Nitrous Oxide (N₂O) & Halocarbons (including CFCs, chlorofluorocarbons). Carbon dioxide is emitted via burning of fossil fuels, deforestation and cement production. Deforestation, of which the most alarming example is the destruction of the Amazon rainforest, acts by reducing the CO₂ uptake by trees and release of the same gas when tree debris decomposes. CO₂ is the single largest contributor to the atmosphere warming. Methane levels have risen since pre-industrial times as livestock rearing, paddy rice cultivation, landfills and natural gas use have grown. Nitrous Oxide emissions have risen due to agricultural uses such as the use of nitrogen-based fertilisers and land use change from natural to agricultural (US National Academy of Sciences, Royal Society 2020). We have seen evidence in the previous articles of the impacts on atmospheric temperatures since the start of the industrial revolution but what is the impact on our oceans?

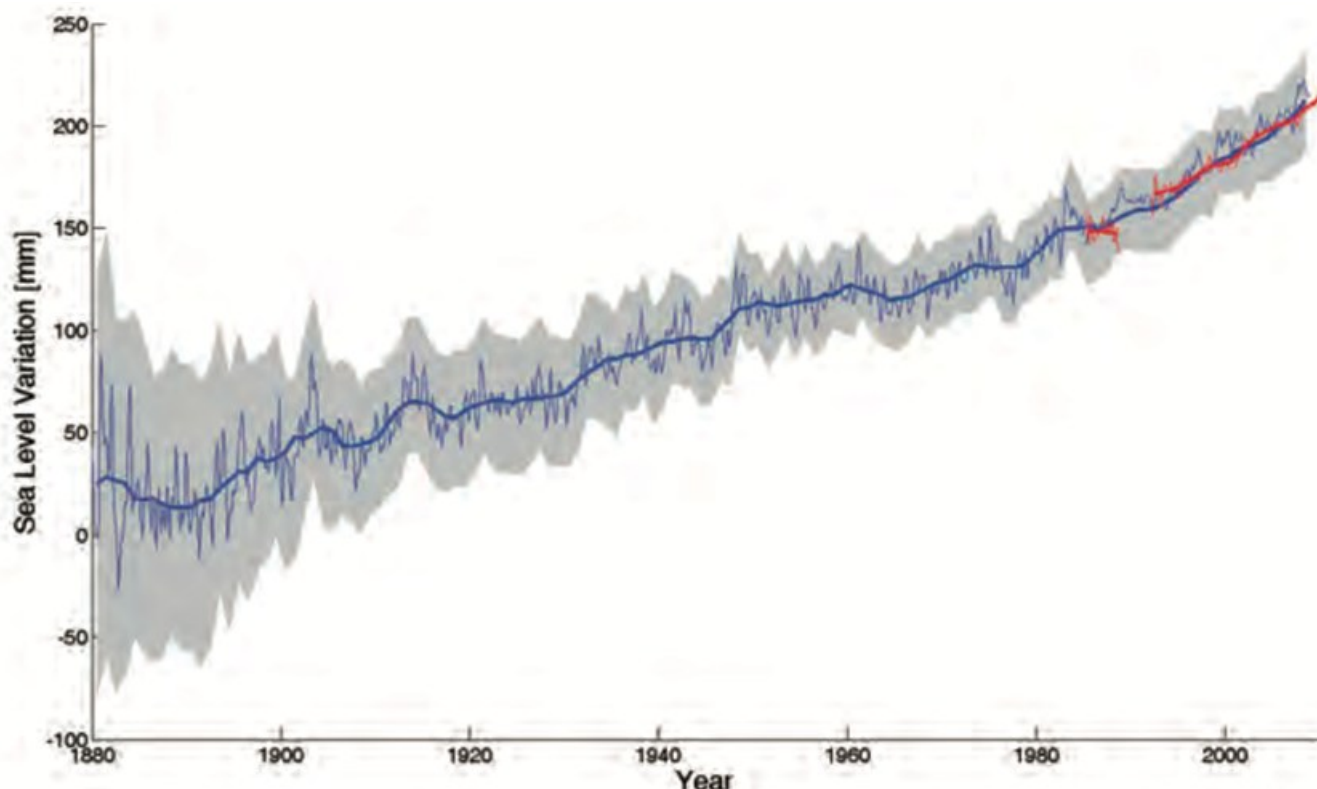


FIGURE 1: Global average sea-level variation 1880 – 2010. Source: Shum & Kuo 2011 in US Nat Acad Sci & Royal Society 2020: KEY: Blue = tidal gauge data; red = satellite data; grey = data uncertainty which has reduced with more modern data gathering methods.

We can measure sea level using tidal gauges and satellite data (since 1992). Recent data (Figure 1) show that sea level has been rising. In the last decade the rate has been estimated as 3.6mm (0.14 inches) per year. Since 1902 observed sea level rise is approximately 16cm (6 inches).

Sea level change can be caused by natural geological processes such as crustal movements on the earth, but human induced global warming is undoubtedly controlling the recent accelerated sea level rise. This is due to several factors; all linked to the warming of the Earth's atmosphere. Firstly, melting of polar ice is adding large volumes of fresh water to our oceans, secondly, the retreat of mountain glaciers in the Andes, Alps and Himalayas are pumping extra water into the oceans via rivers. Thirdly, the warming of the sea water via heat from the atmosphere leads to thermal expansion of the oceans. The amount of sea level rise at any place will also depend on local geological factors such as tectonic plate movements and past climate. For example, most of Scandinavia & parts of Scotland are rising as the land rebounds from the weight of the former ice sheets of the last glaciation. This may currently outweigh the sea level rise caused by global warming. Ocean currents and surface wind systems may also mask the rising sea levels (US Nat Acad Sci & Royal Soc 2020).

The impacts of rising sea levels will, however, have potentially very hazardous impacts on coastal communities around the world. These include salinisation of coastal lands and reduction of agricultural value, storm surge flooding and coastal erosion. As an example of the latter, we are seeing accelerated land loss to the sea on the Yorkshire & East Anglian coast of England and villages will have to be abandoned. Greenhouse gas emissions at present levels are estimated to cause 0.4-0.8m (1.3 – 2.6 feet) sea level rise by 2100. Accelerated polar ice melt, especially the Greenland ice sheet, could increase these figures (US Nat Acad Sci & Royal Soc 2020). There is also evidence that ice melt from Greenland and the Arctic Ocean is weakening the gulf stream and north Atlantic drift currents that keep western Europe relatively warm for our latitude.

Greenhouse gas emissions also seem to be having an impact on sea water chemistry and acidity (See figure 2). As more CO₂ enters the atmosphere, the oceans have absorbed about a third of the gas. CO₂

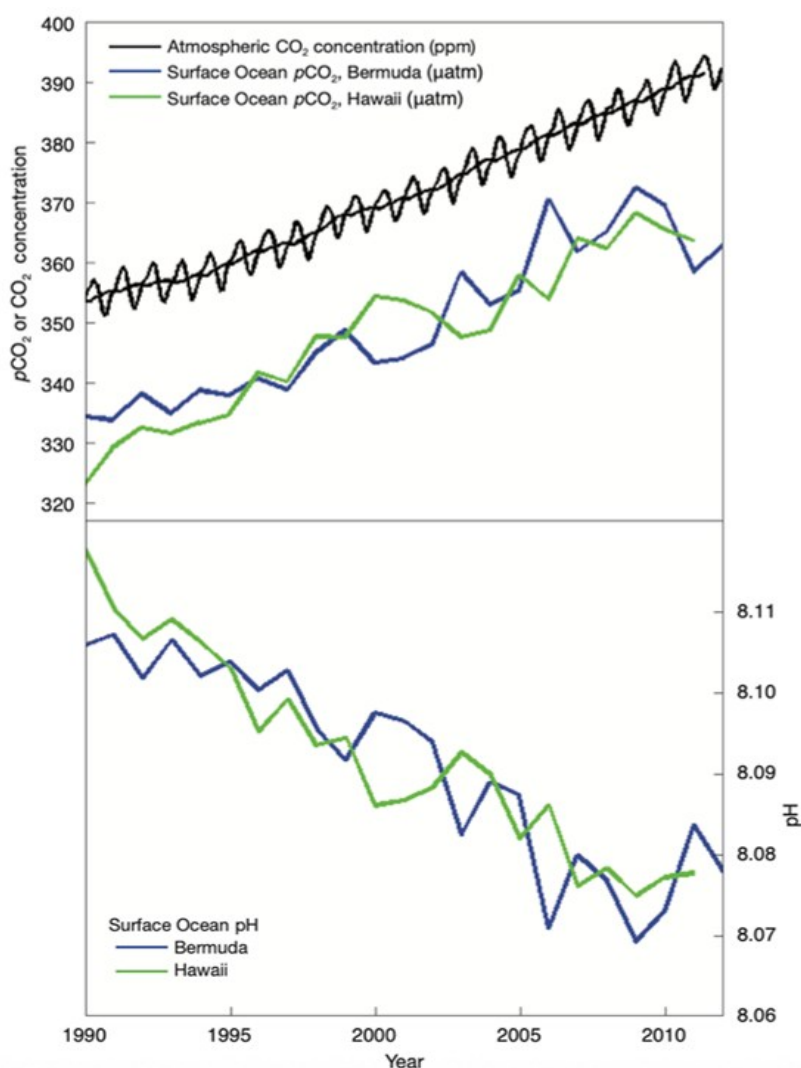


FIGURE 2: ATMOSPHERIC & OCEAN CARBON DIOXIDE CONTENT & pH. Dore et al (2009) & Bates et al (2012) in US Nat Acad.Sci. & Royal Soc 2020)

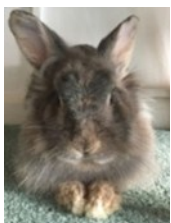
dissolves in water, forming a weak acid. This effect is being seen in data on ocean chemistry and pH. pH is a measure of the acidity of the water. Values below 7 are 'acidic', pH of 7.0 is 'neutral' and values above 7 are 'alkaline'. Figure 2 (below) shows CO₂ concentration in the atmosphere and surface ocean in Hawaii & Bermuda between 1990 and 2012 (Upper box) and pH for the same period for Hawaii & Bermuda (Lower box). In the upper graphs we see that as CO₂ in the atmosphere has risen, so has the levels in the sea water as it has absorbed the gas. The lower graph shows that, for the same period the pH of the sea water at the two locations has fallen from about 8.1 to c8.075. The water is still alkaline, but the trend is towards acidification. What are the implications of this process?

Many marine organisms have shells made of Calcium Carbonate (CaCO₃). These dissolve more easily in acid conditions and so as ocean waters become more acidic these organisms eg plankton, will find it more difficult to form & maintain their shells (US Nat Acad Sci & Royal Soc 2020). There is evidence for this problem in lab experiments, and the implications are that such changes may have impacts on marine ecosystems and the food web as many of these plankton species are at the base of the marine food chain. These changes may become more significant and accelerate if current greenhouse emissions and warming trends are continued.

In a future article I will discuss the basis of climate forecasting for coming decades and the implications of global policy decisions on greenhouse emissions. In the meantime, we must pray to the Lord for rational and evidence-based policy decisions by the worlds Governments and that we may play our part by seeking to understand better the links between human actions and the Earth's natural systems.

References: National Academy of Sciences & The Royal Society (2020) Climate Change: Evidence & Causes: Update 2020. An overview from the Royal Society & US National Academy of Sciences.

Eco News



Did you know?

1. St Nicolas' has its own refill station

- * Leave a container with your name & note about the required refill outside the Parish Office
 - * Pick up and pay next time you are at church
- Washing up liquid** - 25p per 100ml
Liquid hand wash - 40p per 100ml



2. St Nicolas operates a Zero Carbon Guildford Community Fridge scheme

On Monday Mornings 10:30 -12:00 in the Parish Centre Hall, unsold food collected by our volunteers is offered for free to help prevent food waste and reduce the resulting methane and CO2 emissions. Come and help, or come and help yourselves, both very welcome!

Along the stormy Dutch coastline, engineers have unveiled a revolutionary coastal defence — a "living" sea wall that heals and strengthens itself with every tidal assault. The structure, called TideShell, is from modular, interlocking blocks filled with a special limestone-seeding concrete. When hit by waves, the outer layer chips microscopically — but instead of eroding, it releases calcium ions that attract shell-building marine organisms. These creatures, including oysters and barnacles, rapidly cement the surface, forming a growing biolayer tougher than rock. What begins as raw geometry eventually turns into a living reef — wave-resistant, self-repairing, and environmentally restorative. The design mimics how coral reefs withstand hurricanes. As the wall ages, it becomes biologically denser and structurally stronger. During storm surge tests in the North Sea, sections of the wall endured force equivalent to a Category 3 hurricane. Instead of cracking or crumbling, they grew smoother and tougher. Within six months, biofilms had spread across 90% of the surface — drastically reducing erosion. This approach is now being tested in Venice, Singapore, and California.



Effingham to Ephesus – tales from a sabbatical

After many years' intense activity in a previous parish I decided to take a year off free of any parish commitments. This fallow period gave me wonderful opportunities to visit other churches and congregations and experience a broad spectrum of liturgy, theology and churchmanship.



Image www.greece-is.com

During the year I attended 55 places of worship in twelve dioceses, mostly Anglican, with a handful of Methodist, Greek Orthodox and Roman Catholic. Not all of these were in churches or even in buildings. I recall an open-air Eucharist on a remote Greek hillside with a background accompaniment of cow-bells. A particularly heart-warming experience was a non-Eucharistic service held at a youth centre in deepest Dorset. One church had what others might envy: numerous active groups for children of different ages, with lots of involvement from parents. However, once the children had passed through primary school the whole family tended to disappear, which might indicate that the church wasn't meeting the needs of the adults. At another, the focus was so much on "the family" that I wondered how at home someone would feel who didn't belong to the "mother+father+2.4 children" combination that was obviously being addressed. There was a depressing lack of acknowledgement of the complexities of people's lives or the evolving shape of "family". Other churches gave every appearance of being truly inclusive in a relaxed and unselfconscious way. One service sheet requested a period of silence following the five-minute bell: a great idea, just a pity so many ignored it. Other places had an atmosphere of unforced prayerful reflection before services. Congregation sizes ranged from a packed cathedral (such as St. Demetrius in Thessaloniki, Greece's largest basilica) to half a dozen in a little country church. Music varied from the struggling to the sublime, and clergy attire from suit & tie to gold brocade and everything in between.

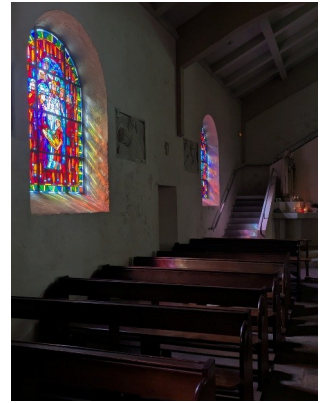
The quality of sermons was similarly varied: a few that were dictatorial and dispiriting, many more that warmed the heart, lifted the spirits and gave fresh encouragement to continue on the Christian journey. I believe the tone of a sermon says a lot about the preacher's image of God and it's a great gift to be able to challenge without demoralising. One priest, asked to express his Gospel in a few words, said: "God is in love with us". If that's not challenging, I don't know what is!

There were only two places where I didn't know at least one other person present - the Church is indeed a small place. Nowhere did I feel unwelcome, and on some occasions the warmth of hospitality was impressive. In a city of 50 churches the vicar spotted that I was a visitor and greeted me accordingly, and at another, the after-service refreshments included cafetière coffee and Christmas cake made by the vicar's mum.

My gap-year project included walking the Thames path – a kind of pilgrimage in itself. Until the age of 23 virtually my entire life was spent in, on or near it. Childhood in Ealing and Sunbury included many riverside picnics and weekend visits to Kew Gardens and until the polio epidemic of the 1950s my brother and I used to swim in it. One summer holiday my father borrowed a dinghy with an outboard motor and the family spent happy days exploring further afield including the River Wey. Schooldays from age 5 to 16 were at a riverside convent in Twickenham which was periodically flooded, being downstream from Teddington Lock and therefore tidal. I was also blessed with opportunities for more distant travel. Destinations included Lindisfarne, Durham, Venice, and a most memorable ten days with an ecumenical group in Greece and Turkey. As well as following in the steps of St. Paul, we visited sites dating back centuries BC. On that journey, as never before, I had a real sense of continuity and solidarity with the humanity of the ancients in their search for the divine. **Sally Lowe**



At the end of August, my parents and I drove through the beautiful landscapes of France to spend a week in the Lot-et-Garonne region, where my very widespread family are fortunate to have a holiday home where we can gather. En route, we camped for three nights in the Vendée - a region none of us had really visited before. There are some stunning and lively coastlines, and very quaint, typically French towns, for example Saint-Jean-de-Monts (we went in the 12th century church which boasts an epic history - see picture) and La Roche sur Yon - the main town of the region. Once in the South we mostly relaxed in the peace and quiet of the campagne, but as is family tradition, attended a local village fête - a wonderful slice of small-town French culture. **Tasha Volak**



First Festival Experience by Naomi Parkin-Tyrie

John, Rowan and I went down to Dorset to the Purbeck Valley Folk Festival in August. It was Rowan's first experience of camping, and he loved the tent and sitting outside to eat his breakfast porridge in the mornings. On the other hand, he was clearly bewildered by the strange sights, smells and sounds of the festival itself. If he'd had his way we would have stayed in the relative safety of the children's area, with its small ride-on tractors, for the whole time.

Meanwhile, John and I were frustrated that the demands of parenting a nearly three-year-old got in the way of us enjoying much actual music! And I found the blistering heat of the sunny fields excruciating. Only half a day into the festival

and we were almost ready to give up and go home.

Thankfully, a trip to the beach on the Saturday morning provided the break we all needed (as well as a drop in temperature), and we came back refreshed and ready to try again.

In the end, my favourite thing about the festival wasn't the music but the Storytelling Tent. It was a place where all ages could go, sit on a cushion on the floor and hear traditional tales told by skilled storytellers. As I listened, I felt a sense of connection to the people in past generations who would have sat and told each other stories by the fire or in the fields. As much as I love reading books with Rowan, sometimes I think I need to leave them closed and see what tales I can come up with myself.

The GOM perspective by Philip Thomas

In the spirit of being a grumpy old man (GOM - years of training have finally paid off) I would like to turn this on its head.

What I do NOT value about school holidays.

Ok, the roads are mostly quiet, after the initial rush to get away and then the rush to get home at the end of the school holidays. And that is the only good thing I can think about school holidays

Here's my list of what I do NOT value, and it's by no means comprehensive. I'll bet you can add to it. Buttonhole me if you have additions to make, or confirm my position as a GOM.

- Flights increase in cost. Hotels increase in cost.
- Places like swimming pools or other attractions increase logarithmically in usage to the dismay of regular users.
- Seasides or beautiful countryside become massively over-populated. Litter predominates.
- Parents become frazzled.
- Children in teens become feral.
- So much (American influenced?) screaming.
- Complete lack of manners or decency descends on everyone.
- The "Entitled children and parents" reign supreme. They probably don't know who they are because they are, naturally, entitled.



How the Bernese Commute to work

Andy and I enjoyed a lovely holiday journeying by train through Italy and Switzerland, our last stop being in Bern, Switzerland's capital. With temperatures in the 30s, the Bernese commented on how it was unusual for it to be so hot.

Even so, we were intrigued by the sight of people of all ages walking past our street-side dinner table, dressed only in trunks, bikinis or swimming costumes and carrying a waterproof bag. Following them down to the river we watched them put their belongings in their bag, fold over the top several times then waded with it out into



the middle of the river Aare, to be swept along by the current at what seemed quite alarming speed.

Apparently this is not just an enjoyable pastime, but a large number of people commute to (or from) work, carrying their work clothes etc in their 'Aare Bag'. Of course, they can only commute there or back, due to the strong current, and as the water comes straight from mountain glaciers, I imagine it's less popular in the winter! **Cath Anderson**



"in God's economy, we don't rest from our work, rather, our work is the fruit of our rest."

Fr Neil [July & August Newsletter]

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Welcome!

Are you on your own on Tuesday mornings? Don't just sit at home. Why not get to know some friends, and enjoy a whole variety of activities at St. Nicolas' Tuesday Group? (share tea and coffee and chocolate biscuits too.)

Most of us are retired, many of us are on our own, yet lots of fun is guaranteed. There is a warm welcome waiting for you if you can join us, whether regularly or now and then.

We meet in the Parish Centre at 9-45am for 10-00am in term time, and our meetings last about an hour. Our programme is varied, we listen to speakers, share memories, stretch our brains with quizzes, and we always enjoy lively conversation.

The last few meetings of the Summer Term included publicity flyers for the Plant Stall, which TG was supervising. Following the Fayre, surplus plants were used to fill the empty containers in the courtyard next to the Loseley Chapel; these have flourished, and there are hopes of a tomato or two before the end of the growing season.

We began the new term with an opportunity to share what we had learned over the holiday. Some of us have developed new skills, some have gained knowledge. Did you know that if you wrap "curly" runner beans in damp newspaper and put them in the fridge overnight they may straighten? Some of us have learned about places to visit. Our interests range widely.

Here is the next part of our programme, we look forward to sharing it with you.

30th Sept. Guest Speaker - Coventry Cathedral.

7th Oct. Autumn Themed Bingo

14th Oct. Local Animal Wildlife - individual contributions

21st Oct. Card Games

28th Oct. NO MEETING (Half Term)

Written by **Cathy Goodwin & Hilary Fletcher**

photos by **Chris Goodwin**



On a Lighter Note...

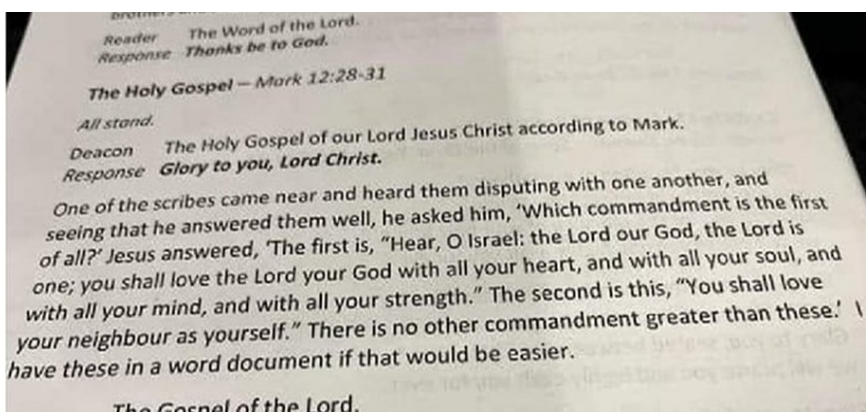
Let's eat Grandma.

vs

Let's eat, Grandma.



Punctuation saves lives!



Proof-reading is so important. Many thanks to our proof-readers, you know who you are!

Managing Chronic Pain

Saturday 11th October 2025

10 am – 12.30 pm, Coffee from 9.30 am

Led by Dr Martin Brunet,
GP at Binscombe Medical Practice

During the morning's session Dr Brunet, will cover the following topics when considering chronic pain:

- What is the nature of pain?
- Why don't we always heal?
- How does being in chronic pain affect us?
- The vicious cycle of pain and the fear of pain
- How can we find hope, and healing, once pain has set in?

Life Issues Series

At Godalming Baptist church

Queen Street, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 1BA



The session will be free of charge, but there will be an opportunity to give a voluntary donation, towards the Farncombe Community Garden—see <https://www.facebook.com/farncombecommunitygarden>

Please reserve a place, by contacting Sally Pollard pollard3@hotmail.co.uk, tel: 01483 428646
by Monday 6 October



Could You be one of our Volunteers?

Our award-winning charity has a team of around 100 volunteers who provide lifts, using their own cars, to GP surgeries, dentists, hospitals, therapeutic clubs and day centres for people living in Guildford who would otherwise struggle to get to health-related appointments.

The volunteers also offer a shopping service on a weekly or fortnightly basis for housebound clients, or to help people temporarily – for example, when they come out of hospital. Volunteers find it rewarding – meeting interesting people in our local community, making a difference and enriching their lives. **Volunteering is flexible with no regular commitment needed.**

- Just an hour or two of your time every now and again will make a real difference
- Being a Care for Guildford volunteer is flexible and rewarding
- To be a volunteer driver, no regular commitment is needed
- Duty Officers need to allocate one day (9am-4pm) most months, and shoppers often needed to be available on a weekly basis.
- Expenses are reimbursed
- DBS and references required

We would love to hear from you on **01483 566635** **Mon - Fri 9:00am – 1:00pm, 2:00pm – 4:00pm**
volunteer@careforguildford.onmicrosoft.com



Television

The TV is my shepherd, I shall not want, It makes
me lie down on the sofa
It leads me away from the faith, It destroys my soul,
It leads me in the paths of sex and violence,
For the sponsors' sake.

Yea, though I walk in the shadow of my
responsibilities
There will be no interruption, For the TV is with me,
It's cable and remote control, They comfort me.

It prepares a commercial before me, In the presence of my worldliness.
It anoints my head with humanism and consumerism. My covetousness runneth over.

Surely laziness and ignorance,
Shall follow me all the days of my life.
And I shall dwell in the house,
Watching TV for ever.

Sent for our delight by **John Varney**,
with a request that it should not be taken too seriously,

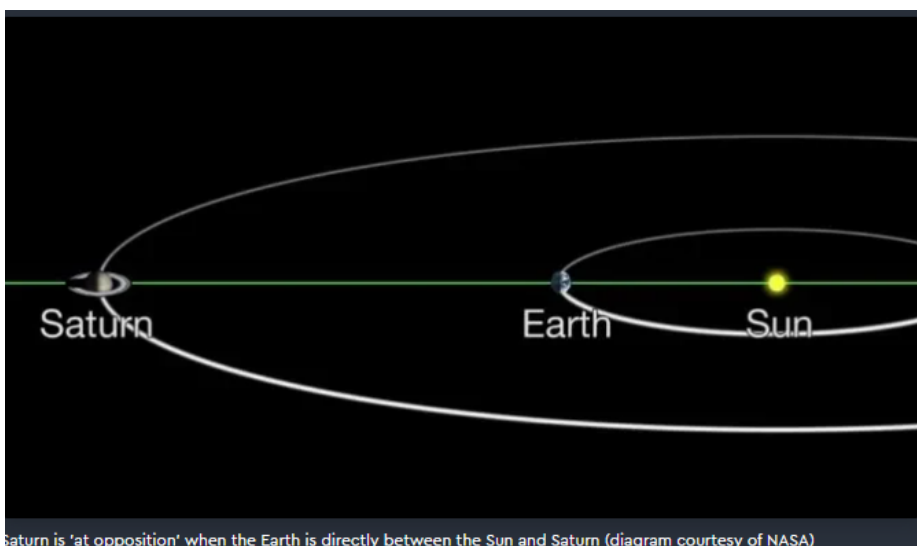


The night sky in October & November Rory Fenner



October The **Sun** moves from Virgo into Libra on October 23. **Mercury** passed through Superior Conjunction on the 13 September, this evening apparition will not be a good one. **Venus** offers the last month of visibility in the morning sky but at the end of the month it won't be easy to see. **Mars** is running into daylight and will not be seen. **Jupiter** rises in the late evening and will be well-placed for observation in the morning sky. **Saturn** is well-placed in the evening sky in October, not long after Opposition. **Uranus** is a well-placed evening object near the Pleiades (M45). **Neptune** offers late evening observing in the stars of Pisces.

November The **Sun** moves from Libra into Scorpio. **Mercury** will be observable in the morning sky towards the end of the month. **Venus** is still visible in the pre-dawn sky but you need a clear horizon to



Saturn is 'at opposition' when the Earth is directly between the Sun and Saturn (diagram courtesy of NASA)

see it. **Mars** is too close to the Sun to be seen. **Jupiter** is observable after midnight in the constellation of Gemini at magnitude -2.5 . **Saturn** offers a decent late to early observing slot this month, located in the stars of Aquarius. **Uranus** comes to Opposition on 21 November, shining at magnitude $+5.6$ and will be visible through binoculars. **Neptune** is well-placed in the evening sky in Pisces.

HELEN'S SPONGE My parents were very involved with their local village church - Dad was churchwarden for over 30 years (he couldn't get anyone else to take over!) and Mum was PCC Secretary (I'm becoming more like my mother by the day!). They needed to hold a fundraising event every month to help pay the church bills and cakes were often a key part of this effort.

Neither Mum nor I can take credit for this recipe which our family know as Helen's Sponge. Helen and her husband Bob were fellow church members with my parents and she always made this for 'dos'. I have an email from Dad from 2003 sending me the recipe - the ingredients are in ounces and the instructions are scant - and it finishes "Good luck. Much love. Dad xxx"

I will soon be making Apple & Blackberry jam which could be used in the recipe - let me know if you would like to buy one in aid of St Nicolas'. Another example of how little changes from generation to generation.



Ingredients:

8 oz soft marg
8oz soft brown sugar
8 oz plain flour
2 tsp baking powder
1 tsp cinnamon
4 large eggs (beaten)
2 dessert apples (diced)

Filling:

250g tub of mascarpone
2 oz icing sugar
4 Tbsp Bramble Jam

2 x 8 inch tins

Mix traditionally. Bake for 30 minutes in moderate oven.

Giving thanks

If there's food in your fridge, clothes on your body
a roof above and a bed to sleep in,
you are richer than 75% of the world's population.

If you have some money
and the freedom to move,
you're already in the top 18%.

If your body is healthy today
you are luckier than 1 million people
who won't survive this week.

If you can read this, see this and understand this,
you are more fortunate than 3 billion
people who can't.

So, pause,
Breathe
Be thankful.

You are already living someone else's prayer.

Philip Thomas




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Social Group for adults

Toastie Tuesdays @ 5
for School Years 3 - 6 (monthly)

Beer & Banter @ 7:30

Men's Group (monthly)

Curry & Questions @7:30

Exploring Faith over Food
(quarterly)

Wednesdays

Cafe Play @ 10

Pre School Toddler Group

Fridays

Coffee Shop @10:30

Monthly Lunch &

Bible Study @11:30

Fizz & Friends @8

Women's Group (twice a term))

Saturdays

Messy Church @4

(monthly)

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