



From the Rector's study



LENT: sorrow for our failures, losses and sin but so much more .

As I write this article, I rejoice with so much to share over the next few months:

- 2026; our 150th Anniversary of the third church on this site with so many events with huge thanks to our speakers, our organisers, our gin tasters and concert bookers!
- Lent and Holy Week
- Easter with Bishop Peter Hancock
- May (Mary's month) and our Walsingham Pilgrimage

Let me begin with Lent. I remember as an Ordinand being asked to preach for the first time in Lent. There was a new course for Lent out, *Love Life, Live Lent!* and I confess it made absolutely no impact on me whatsoever. So much so, that in my sermon I got them the wrong way round and so began with the phrase, 'Live Life, Love Lent!!' which begs the question, what are supposed to do with Lent? What is it all about? There are so many aspects to this penitential season that are gifts to us on our spiritual journey and March is dominated by this season. First, if one looks at the Church diary it says that 1 March is both The Second Sunday of Lent and the Second Sunday in Lent. What is the difference? Are Sundays 'in' or 'of' Lent?! Whilst it is true that Sundays are not counted in the 40 days of fasting associated with Lent, Sundays nevertheless are indeed within the season, why else would we dress our church in purple - the colour of penance? And so, Lent begins, of course, on Ash Wednesday. By that time our Pilgrims in Rome will have been ashed on Ash Wednesday in the Chapel of Palazzola, and the parish will have been invited to share the sacred liturgy of Ashing with Fr Nick in St George's Chapel as well as being able to join the town churches at St Mary's Guildford in the evening. Lent begins, then, in Ash. It is a time of mourning for our failings. We bear the ash on our foreheads as we carry the burden of our faults, our selfishness and our sins. When I go into our school for the Imposition of Ashes with our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children, you will forgive me for not putting it quite like that and in such heavy terms. Rather, I speak of the weight of worry and mistakes - the burden of our faults - but that these are actually lifted and taken away by Christ. The ashes, I tell them, reminds us of all that is left of the sorrow - once we have said sorry and tried to do better. We literally offer up to God our sins and all that is left are the ashes. The burden is lifted, the sin is forgiven. Whichever way you see Ash Wednesday, as either a reminder of your frailty, or the burden that is taken from you by God in your act of penance leaving only the traces, it is a period of reflection.

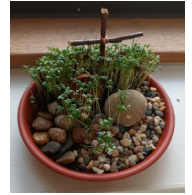


This year, we will be reflecting during our Lent course, *The Mystery of Faith*, through Matthew's Gospel - the Gospel of our Year. We will follow a course which has been produced in the Diocese of Chichester and will encourage us each week to reflect on some quiet reading and prayer and then to dig deeper to ask questions about the scriptures, their context and how this applies to life in GU2 today.

On the Third Sunday of Lent (8 March) we will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Healing. I would like to ensure that we have this ministry available to us three times a year, and Lent III will be one of these occasions. I have asked Fr Nick to preach and to explore why this ancient tradition still has power today. After Mass we will have the opportunity to stay in church and quietly receive the Sacrament of Healing. Oil, like ashes, is an important symbol of the power of the Holy Spirit. Whereas Ash reminds us of our shortcomings, oil brings wholeness, healing and acceptance.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent (15 March) is Mothering Sunday and one of the two Sundays of the year when we wear Rose vestments. The other, of course, is Advent III for John the Baptist. Mothering Sunday reminds us of our Mother, the church. There





are, too, echoes of Mary our Mother as sisters and brothers of Christ. We will look forward to welcoming The Rev'd Jens Mankel, one of our Diocesan Missioners and an occasional member of the congregation. We will bless our posies and distribute to all those who mother and care for us. This can be both a day of blessing and also a challenging day for others: for those who have wanted and never been blessed with a family of their own; for those who have lost children; for those whose families are complex and challenging. But God is in all of that 'mess' of humanity, all of it. That is the very crux of the Christian story - God is in the midst of us - in the dust, in the soiled experienced of our lives. That is one of the many gifts of Lent: that God incarnate, as one of us, can say, 'I know how you feel'. Ours is not a vision of God which is distant, remote and untouched by suffering. Ours is a God who was despised, rejected and also the one who knew the love and challenges of a human family and we journey on through Lent to the ultimate rejection in the Cross and the Passion of Our Lord.

By the point of Palm Sunday we find ourselves caught up in the crowd as we hail the coming of the King riding on a donkey - fulfilling the prophets' writings of a true king (Zechariah 9.9) and like so often in life, we are swept along by the emotions of others. We hope, we dream and then the world catches us out: as soon as we raise ourselves or others up, we are cut down or we take part in taking others down. This rollercoaster ride is, of course, what we call Holy Week.



And so we shall look forward to welcoming the retired Bishop of Bath & Wells to celebrate and preach from Maundy Thursday to Easter Day. Bishop Peter Hancock now lives in the diocese and heads our CALEB stream of ordinands. CALEB (which will soon be known as the Elizabeth line of training) forms ordinands who have had years of church experience and who are exploring a pathway to ordination.



Before retirement Peter was Bishop of Bath and Wells and before that Bishop of Basingstoke having been an Archdeacon, Honorary Canon, Area Dean and Vicar. His experience and personal holiness are a real blessing to the church and I am immeasurably grateful to him for accepting my invitation.

Lent, The Triduum, Holy Week, the Passion are all impactful reminders that our understanding of God is not one who shields himself from our experiences but who embodies them. Week by week we shall present and place on our cross the Signs of the Passion. We will bring money to represent Judas' betrayal, the robe used to mock Jesus as the Romans shouted, 'Hail, King of the Jews'; we will bring the nails which will keep Jesus on the cross; the spear which will pierce His side and the crown of thorns which will bruise his bleeding head. Jesus, in flesh and blood, knew treachery, denial, hatred, pain, loss and sorrow. These human experiences are why we see the body of Christ on the cross - a crucifix - and not an empty cross. These hurts, these pains, are not to be flinched from. Our losses are not something to bury with the body, but to be expressed and acknowledged for in God we find one who says, 'I know how you feel'. The Psalms are full of these expressions of anger, loss, hurt and frustration and I urge you all to refresh your reading of these important pages of Scripture. They will be returning to our Mass during Lent and I commend them to you for your prayers. Perhaps this might be your Lenten discipline? Not to give something up, perhaps, but to take on the reading of the Psalm for the day and giving them time to take root in you.

Of course, it is always darkest before the dawn and so on Holy Saturday, Easter Eve, after the sun has



set, we will gather at church in the gloom and like the women who found the empty tomb, we will go quietly to attend to our Lord, but will find Him gone. We will be asked, 'Why do you seek the living among the dead' and we will rejoice with the return of 'Alleluia' to find it is 'just as He promised' and that death has lost its sting and we will shout and sing, 'Where now, is your victory, O death?' (1 Corinthians 15.55).

April will then continue the joy of the Resurrection as week by week we rejoice in the truth of the Resurrection.

Sunday 26 April is Vocations Sunday and I have invited our DDO, Craig Holmes to preach. It is an opportunity to reflect once more on what it is God is calling to you, stirring inside you. This will continue to shed a light on Jill's display in the Narthex where we reflect and encourage each other to see one another's gifts and what we bring to build up the Body of Christ in this place. From reading the lesson, to welcoming the congregation, to setting the lights, recording and live streaming the services, to serving and clearing coffee - what is that you do, in this risen life, that shows Christ's life in you for the sake of the world?

May then comes around, the month of Mary. And during our May celebrations we will have Ascension Day - the 40th Day after Easter - and in that week a group of pilgrims will travel to Walsingham and pray together in a place where the veil between this world and eternity is thinner but by the end of the week our waistlines are certainly not! If you have not been before or would like to explore a return visit, please do let me know.

In between all of this, we have the ongoing programme of events to mark our 150th anniversary of the third church on this site - do make sure that you support these important events which have taken us time to put together for you. There are some speakers of national importance in terms of the lectures on offer including our very own Catherine Ferguson, there are opportunities to hear wonderful music commissioned and composed especially for us by Will Todd, to share an evening of food and laughter with a hog roast and Paul Kerensa (whose comedy work is often on BBC) and so much more. Do have a look out for the details here in the magazine.

So much is going on - and it reflects on the life of the Holy Spirit in this place - so let us continue to pray for the power of that same Spirit to encourage us to live the risen life, forgive one another and ourselves and to help to bring about the kingdom of God in this place by seeing what God is doing and join in - what will YOU sign up to do and support?

And finally, an enormous thank you to Jana who works to make this magazine possible.

You will note that I have asked Jana to change the frequency of this beautifully crafted and produced work which takes enormous amounts of time and endless patience - not least with me. Please do let us know what you think of it and, if you have a suggestion, tell us how you might be able to make that happen.

Fr Neil



The Weekly pattern of services

Wednesday - Friday Morning Prayer, 10am in the Lady Chapel
1st Wednesday of the Month Mass, 12noon in the Lady Chapel
Friday Mass, 11am in St George's Chapel
Sunday 8:30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
 10am Parish Mass with Junior Church

For details and variations please see weekly Pews News.

The next **Walsingham Cell Mass** will be on 28 May at 7:30pm

The next **Meditation meetings** will be on 10 March, 14 April and 12 May at 8am



Fr Ali leaves us for his own Parish



As I prepare to leave St Nicolas' and begin my ministry as Vicar of St Mary's, Merton Park, March feels less like an ending and more like standing on holy ground, looking back.

My training at Wycliffe Hall built on my love for the intellectual life of faith. But here at St Nic's, that faith has deepened and become more embodied. In this catholic context, theology has stepped off the page and into my hands: in bread broken and placed into waiting palms, in oil traced on a forehead, in incense rising like visible prayer. I have discovered ever more fully that God meets us not only through words, but through water, touch, silence, music, and beauty. Word and Sacrament, thought and devotion, have come together here in a way that feels like coming home.

That formation has happened in the midst of a congregation that is generous (especially with my singing!) and kind. The people of St Nicolas' are lovely – a community where faith is lived with warmth, humour, and care for one another. It has been a privilege to serve among you and to be welcomed into your stories.

Belle and Didi have grown up here: Belle now in Year 1 at St Nicolas School, Didi in preschool. Being able to walk into Belle's school to lead Collective Worship - not only as "Fr Alistair" but as Dad - has been one of the joys of these years, a place where church, family, and daily life meet.

Children's ministry with Nicky has been fun. Toastie Tuesday – five loaves' worth of toasties somehow feeding thirty very hungry junior school children – a modern parable! Holiday Club, with games, laughter, and the occasional face full of foam, has been gloriously chaotic and holy.

Beyond the parish, volunteering with the chaplains at the Royal Surrey Hospital has shaped my priesthood in quieter, weightier ways: meeting Christ in hospital beds, in anointing, in prayer at the edge of life and death. Covering services in Worplesdon, Shalford, and other churches has given me insights into more rural parish ministry. And Beer & Banter has reminded me that theology and laughter belong at the same table.

But above all, it is the worship here that has formed me most deeply: the stillness at the altar, the swell of the choir, the drift of incense, the sense that heaven and earth are closer than we think. In that beauty, week by week, I have been taught again who God is – and who a priest is called to be. Thank you.

Fr Ali





New Team Member for St. Nicolas' News

We are delighted to welcome a new editorial team member! Jon brings a fresh and broader outlook and much enthusiasm to this publication. I very much hope that he will enjoy being part of the team.

It must be said that not just the editors work to bring you this publication, there are others who share significantly in its production: Cath Anderson checks the listed event dates and times, prints all the paper copies and adds each edition to St Nicolas' website, and Pauline Oldroyd carefully proof-reads and corrects all 24 pages in record time.

Jon's arrival has prompted updating the name of our magazine to "St Nicolas' News," reflecting our ambition to reach even beyond our congregation, echoing the sentiment of William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury 1942-1944, who said that, "The Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members." **Jana Phillips**



A personal Introduction by **Jon Hebditch**

A very warm welcome to St. Nicolas News, and the very first issue I'll have the pleasure of being involved with. My name is Jon and I was invited to contribute when Jana, our very talented editor-in-chief, got wind of my career in journalism. The invitation has come at just the right time for me as I dust off my thinking cap for new ideas for news and features for the magazine.

So a bit about me - I have worked as a professional newspaper journalist for 13 years now; going from a humble start at the super local Deeside Piper in Aberdeenshire (which rumour had it was delivered to the Royal home at Balmoral), a national press agency, the Aberdeen Press and Journal and then the Daily Record (Scotland's equivalent to the Mirror). I've covered courts, councils and roughly every UK and Scottish election and referendum since 2010, meeting some fascinating people along the way. I was reporting on Donald Trump when he was a mere golf course owner in the north-east of Scotland!

So what brings me to Guildford? Well, my wife Gaby landed her dream job at Surrey University which has let us get to know the town and develop links with the fantastic community at St. Nicolas. It has been a long journey from Aberdeen to Exeter to Guildford. But we feel we have found a firm footing here and adore the Guildford atmosphere, the variety of shops and eateries and the proximity to London and the major airports. The closeness of other major towns in Surrey is also a major draw- perhaps the only downside is the parking!

But most importantly the people have welcomed us with open arms and this is especially the case at St. Nic's. It is a beautiful, historic church inside and out with an excellent outreach through clubs and activities offered. Our priest Fr. Neil is a brilliant shepherd, holding lovely liturgies and is always on hand to help.

In my spare time I love to play guitar- and last year achieved a long-held dream of playing on stage with a popular band back in Exeter. I'm also a keen reader and writer and have been slowly working through some ideas for fiction I've had.

I'll be taking charge of a new *UK and world section*, where I'll be writing about items of interest in the Church and beyond. So, hello to all regular readers and please if you have not been to St. Nicolas- or indeed any church for a long time- come along to St Nic's and there will always be a warm welcome for you. If you want to get in touch with any ideas for stories or content for the magazine please don't hesitate to get in touch with me at parishoffice@saintnics.com





Mission Enabler update As we look towards Easter - that great celebration of hope, new life, and God's love breaking through - I'm reminded again how precious our children's ministry is. The stories we tell, the questions we explore, the crafts, the laughter, the friendships formed... these are seeds of faith and belonging that matter deeply.

At the moment, though, we're running this work with a very small team, and we simply can't sustain it without more hands and hearts involved.

Junior Church & Toastie Tuesdays

If you could help at **Junior Church** on a Sunday morning, even occasionally, it would make a real difference, we have a large number of younger children joining us now and it would be wonderful if we could provide different, age-appropriate groups for a Sunday morning.

We're also looking for volunteers for **Toastie Tuesdays**, which runs once a month. Help with set-up, toastie-making, or simply welcoming people would be hugely appreciated.



Thank you, our Toastie Tuesday helpers

Open Church, featuring Messy Church

I understand that there is a desire to have our beautiful church open more regularly and thought we might be able to tie it in with Messy Church. On certain Saturdays the church will be open for longer to coincide with Messy Church. We hope to offer a quiet time for prayer, guided tours, sharing of skills like knitting or perhaps even bike maintenance – we would love suggestions! Alongside the usual Messy Church crafts for children, we also hope to offer an adult bible study followed by intergenerational worship and a meal.

If you feel able to help with any part of this - whether once, occasionally, or regularly - please do let me know. Your involvement, in whatever form, helps us continue offering a place where children, families, and adults of all ages can grow, wonder, and belong.

Our first event will be during the Easter holidays, on Wednesday 1st April between 11am-3pm, after that on Saturdays.

**Open Church featuring Messy Church will take place on:
1 April, 13 June, 5 September, 7 November, and 12 December**



Calendar for March/April

	Activity, frequency and location	Time	Who is it for?
Mondays	Messy Mondays , weekly during term time <i>(at Guildford URC)</i>	3:30pm-4:30pm	Bible story, craft and singing for children and parents
Tuesdays	Toastie Tuesdays 24 th March, 28 th April <i>(in St Nicolas Church)</i>	5pm-6:30pm	Youth group for school years 3-6 (drop off) with games, activities and tuck shop
Wednesdays	Café Play , weekly during term time <i>(in the parish hall)</i>	10am-11:30am	Parent and baby/toddler group
	Open Church , 1 st April <i>(in St Nicolas Church)</i>	11am-3pm	Intergenerational activities and worship for everyone
Fridays	Pizzas@8 , 27 th March, 24 th April <i>(at Guildford URC)</i>	7:30pm-9pm	Youth group for school years 7-13
Saturdays	Messy Church , 7 th March <i>(at Guildford URC)</i>	4pm	Stories, craft, games, singing and fun for families
Sundays	Junior Church , weekly during term time <i>(meet in St Nicolas Church for service)</i>	During 10am service	Sunday school provision for children age 4-11. <i>(Under 4s welcome with a parent,)</i>



Nicky Geraghty missionenabler@saintnics.com

www.saintnics.com





Dina Pandis, Head of School writes: It is lovely to see how the children have embraced their learning and grown in confidence. We have certainly seen our value of **wisdom** shining through in their curiosity and independence. It's always a pleasure to see how excited the children are to share their learning with me, from showing me pieces of work to teaching me facts in the lunch hall!

We've enjoyed two special Collective Worship with Fr Neil over the last fortnight. Last week, Fr Neil came in to celebrate **Candlemas**, and this week we marked **Ash Wednesday** in school. The children learnt that the ash cross reminds us that we can give our worries to God, and they were all invited to have an ash cross on their forehead if they would like to.



This week has been **Children's Mental Health Week**. I met our School Councillors to think about how we could help spread some happiness around school. They set each class a **'Kindness Challenge'**, asking the children to see how many acts of kindness they could complete in a day. Year 2 enjoyed taking part in an **'Undercover Kindness Challenge'**, where each child drew a name and, without revealing who they had got, tried to perform acts of kindness for that person. It's been wonderful to see the children thinking so deeply about all the different ways we can spread kindness and happiness around our school!



St Nicolas' School has been ADOPTED by Godalming Leisure Centre!

If you are a current parent of a child at St Nicolas' C of E infant School you are entitled to a FREE 2 week pass to our gym, Swimming Pool and Fitness classes! Visit the school website or please to join online and join for 2 weeks!



Coming up Friday 27 March Easter Service at St Nics' Church and end of term

UPDATE FROM NICKY: **Fiz and Friends @ St Nicolas Parish Centre will meet on 20 March, 24 April and 22 May**



Zero@ St. Nics Community Fridge working towards a greener tomorrow

Jon Hebditch tells of how food waste is being tackled at the church's community fridge.

Between nine and 15 million tonnes of food and drink is thrown away every year in the UK, half of which is still good to eat and drink. This is around the weight of nine million small elephants and the cash value of that food is a staggering £14 billion- with UK households making up 60% of that figure. About 30 million people could be fed with the wasted food. Apart from the thought of the waste of human labour, farming and manufacturing products which end up in the bin, it is also an environmental scandal as the items often then rot in landfills.

But, St Nicolas Church has launched a drive to tackle the issue head on- in whatever small way we can.

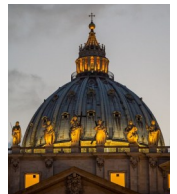
Launched last year, the Community Fridge sees dedicated teams go to supermarkets and shops on Sundays to pick up items that would otherwise be thrown away. Volunteers on Monday morning then distribute them - free of charge- to anyone who comes through the door.

The variety of products received is staggering; from bread and pastries to fruit and vegetables to even household items like shampoo and toiletries. Around Christmas time, there was even a set of toy antlers donated by one particularly festive supermarket chain. Table after table is filled and everything laid out can be a sight to behold.

As a volunteer myself I can say that it is incredibly satisfying to see the food and drinks - which would have been destined for the bin - going to people who will use them and appreciate them.

The community fridge is open **every Monday between 10.30am and noon**. Please come along, help yourself and help our environment.





Jonathan Cotterill shares his experience

Ever since I became a Christian, I knew I would eventually go on a pilgrimage. I always thought it would be to somewhere in Britain. To have my first pilgrimage be to the Holy city of Rome was a God-send.

Even the first morning was overwhelming. The staggering history and sanctity of St. Clement's satisfied my fantasy of pilgrimage. Another church like that would do me for the day. Instead, we walked through the most ancient parts of Rome taking in all the most famous sites. The colosseum, the forums of Augustus and Trajan. Jaw-dropping is putting mildly.

But in that moment lay a trap. I was caught up in throngs of tourists and became one myself, snapping away with my camera. That afternoon, we went to the church of St. Mary above Minerva and I was still in tourist mode, taking as many pictures as I could to show my wife later. By the altar, I was taking photos of the painted ceiling when Catherine Ferguson asked me "Have you seen St. Catherine?". I looked at her, befuddled. Pointing at the altar, she said "She's up there." I turned, saw the relics of St. Catherine of Siena and remembered why I was here. To venerate saints and ask for their intercessions. I finished taking photos and went back to the altar, made an offering, got on my knees and started to pray. Nothing was the same after that. I kept taking the photos (it was important for my wife) but I never forgot my purpose for being in Rome.



photo of Basilica di San Clemente by Fr Neil

Every church we went to, I made time to venerate all the relics I could. The table used at the last supper, part of the holy manger, the relics of St Sebastian.



Image of St. Paul's tomb, Vatican website

Two moments stand out for me the most;

To kneel before the tomb of St. Paul on the very spot where he was executed. To venerate him and ask him to pray for my wife.

The scala steps. I'll be honest. I thought it was the Spanish steps we were going to see. I wasn't familiar with them at all or their significance in the Catholic Church. Nor was I aware of the tradition to climb the 28 steps on your knees whilst praying. Seeing the tight pack of pilgrims crawling up the stairs with achingly slow carefulness put me off at first. I don't know whether it was pride or the Holy Spirit that moved me but I walked up to the steps and began the climb. By the 3rd step, any sense of pride had fled as the pain started in my knees. I pulled out my rosary, accepted the pain and focused on the Jesus prayer I repeated over and over again.

I have no idea how long it took me to ascend the stairs. The pain in my knees got more intense with every step along with the pressure on my lower back. By the final step I wondered if I could stand. I leant down to kiss a small window in the wooden stair revealing the marble step our Lord Jesus Christ trod upon and said my final prayer. I prayed for my wife and for the lady who had been in front of me for most of the way. She seemed to need it.



The Rome Pilgrims, sent by Fr Neil

Catherine Ferguson's journey



Inside the Pantheon by **Fr Neil**

As befits the centre of Christianity, Rome abounds with magnificent churches. It feels at times overwhelming. Enormous Baroque statues, glittering gold ceilings and complex marble floors. Creations of Michelangelo, Caravaggio, Giotto, Bernini are everywhere, not in museums but in their rightful places as altar pieces, in shrines and chapels. This is Christianity triumphant.

There is an earlier dimension. The might and power of Ancient Rome is also overwhelmingly present. The huge Coliseum, the Forum buildings and the magnificent Pantheon demonstrate the intellectual and engineering superiority of the Empire which ruled and dominated the known world. In spite of the crowds, the Pantheon is my favourite building: it brings home to me like nowhere else in the world, the contrast with the tiny baby born in a stable in an obscure corner of that Empire, who was to overturn and unseat Roman power and gods.

Later, in stillness and calm in the chapel of the Blessed Sacrament in St Peter's, I gave thanks for the presence of Our Lord in my life and in my family – and in my church family, that cheerful St Nicolas' community of pilgrims whose company I so enjoyed.

John Milan reflects

Now that I'm fully settled back home I have had the opportunity to reflect on the pilgrimage. I've asked myself what were the experiences that stood out, not necessarily the highlights or the jaw dropping moments which is what a tourist would expect when visiting Rome but experiences of the pilgrimage itself.

This was a pilgrimage which can be defined as a profound, often voluntary journey to a sacred place for spiritual, religious, or personal transformation reasons.

For me the experience allowed me to re connect with my spiritual home, St Nicolas'. The religious and spiritual aspects of the journey, saying grace at meal times and Mass every day, had more of an impact on me than ancient monuments. Also the experience allowed the group to bond with each other, there was a strong sense of togetherness, of common purpose, we were individuals on a journey who became a fellowship.



Admiring the view, by **Catherine**



Cath Anderson's experience

I had visited Rome twice before I went on our Parish Pilgrimage to Rome. These visits had been holidays, first with Andy on our own and then as a family with our sons. This time I travelled with some people I knew well, some I knew less well and some I didn't really know at all. But this wasn't holidaying - pilgrimage was far more about journeying together, staying together, eating together, worshipping together.

Yes, we saw the sights (expertly guided by Georgio) but I seemed to see them from a different perspective. Climbing the Scala Santa (Holy Stairs) on Ash Wednesday is something so memorable and seeing people using a Rosary to pray as they ascended, prompted me to invest in one myself. Now I look forward to learning how to use it.

Provisions! By **David Greenwood**



From the **Message of the Holy Father Leo XIV for Lent 2026, 13.02.2026**

...I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbour. Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves. Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace.



A combination of texts and images inspired by the first session of Lent Study. **Jana Phillips**

⁹ As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow Me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

¹⁰ While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

¹² On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.

¹³ But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Matthew 9, the first Lent Study session. Catholic Unscripted "Go to Church Anyway"

GO TO CHURCH ANYWAY

If you're having sex before marriage, go to church anyway.
 If you are a drug addict trying to beat addiction, go to church anyway.
 If you were out drunk all night the night before, go to church anyway.
 If you aren't sure what gender you prefer, go to church anyway.
 If you can't quit that disgusting habit, go to church anyway.

CHURCH is a HOSPITAL for the BROKEN, LOST, EMPTY, CONFUSED, DESPERATE, and REJECTED.

Every saint has a past and every sinner has a future.



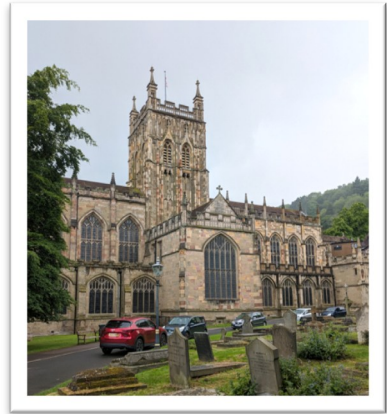
Church ambles

Great Malvern Priory

Parish church in Malvern, Worcestershire.

David Greenwood

In 1085, Great Malvern Priory was founded by Aldwin, a monk from Worcester. With the support of Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester and a grant from the King, he gathered together a group of around 30 men and



View from the north. The central tower is a near replica of that of Gloucester Cathedral. Both date from the mid 15th century.

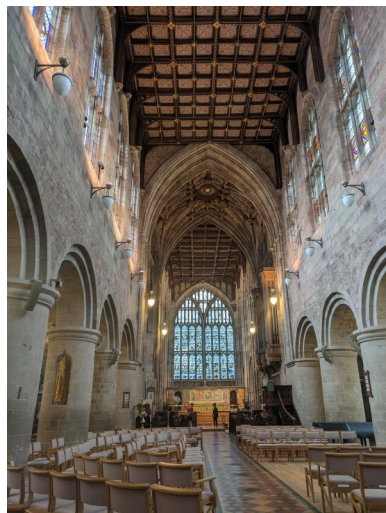
began to build a Benedictine Priory in the Romanesque style. The pillars and arches of the nave of the church are survivors from this period.

There was much further development in the early 15th century in the Perpendicular style, including a central tower reminiscent of Gloucester Cathedral and superb stained glass, much of which has survived. The Priory was dissolved in 1540 and the church was turned over to the people of Malvern as the town's parish church.



In the north choir aisle, the Millennium Windows were installed in 2004. The work of Tom Denny, they make particular use of light, filtering it through the vibrant colours.

The Priory contains some of the finest medieval stained glass in England, rivalling those to be found at Fairford and Ludlow. The windows glow with colour and dramatic detail in splendid style. Two further windows by Tom Denny were added in 2004 and are wholly in keeping with their surroundings.



The nave, looking east. The arcades date from 1085, the clerestory from the 15th C. The roof is a Gilbert Scott restoration and is a replica of a 15th century ceiling.



A magnificent building nestling under the Malvern Hills.

The Great East Window from 1430. It is a

brehtaking kaleidoscope of jewel-like colours. Stylistic similarities to windows in York Minster link it to the workshop of John Thornton of Coventry.

Right - In the North Transept, the superb Magnificat Window's glass dates from 1501 and was probably given by King Henry VII. It is so called because each panel contains a scroll bearing a verse from the Magnificat. It depicts scenes from the life of Jesus and Mary. This wonderful detail shows the Coronation of Mary as Queen of Heaven.



Another detail from the Magnificat Window, showing the Nativity.

Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy

Invites you to

The Importance of Faith and Reflective Practice in Chaplaincy

Tuesday 17th March St Saviours Church, Woodbridge Road, Guildford GU1 4QD

9.30 registration and coffee, 10.00-2.00 including a working sandwich lunch and expert panel*

Tickets £10

Speakers **Noelle Coe and Suzette Jones***

[Click this link to register by 10th March](#)

Come prepared to be encouraged, inspired and connected with the chaplaincy community

- Reflect on the importance of pause
- Explore how you can nurture your own spiritual journey
- Take away practical ideas including an accessible model of reflective practice
- Address the panel experts with your questions on chaplaincy

*We are excited to have Noelle and Suzette lead us for this event and our expert panel to answer all things chaplaincy!

Rev. Noelle Coe for the past seven years has served as Town Chaplain and CEO of GTCC. She oversees three key projects: Volunteer Chaplains, Community Angels, and Street Angels, and works collaboratively across the churches and institutions of Guildford. An ordained Anglican priest, Noelle brings wide-ranging experience of church life in diverse contexts, including city centre, urban, and village settings. She has a particular interest in pioneer ministry, Fresh Expressions of church, pilgrimage, deep listening, and enabling others in their calling.

Suzette Jones holds a Masters of Science Degree in Mental Health, Kings College University of London and is a Registered Nurse for people with Learning Disabilities. She is currently the house chaplain at St Columba's House, Woking and is a GP Chaplain with Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy. Over a career spanning thirty years she has worked extensively in the mental health world both in hospital and community settings. A former Director of Nursing she was the Health & Wellbeing Adviser for the Diocese of Guildford and continues in her practice as a lifelong Christian meditator and shares her experience as a mindfulness teacher

Expert Panel members: Chair **Rev. Noelle Coe** see above, **Suzette Jones** see above

Dr. Ann Hennell is GTCC's Volunteer GP Chaplaincy Liaison and a retired GP. She has been instrumental in establishing GP chaplaincies with GTCC in and around Guildford, drawing on the insight gained from her wide-ranging experience in clinical practice recognising people may need someone to listen to them without the time pressure in a clinical consultation

Susanna Hoar is Project Coordinator for Volunteer Chaplains. A trained and practising chaplain, she leads GTCC's chaplaincy work, developing effective working practices, recruiting and training volunteers, working closely with placement partners to create bespoke chaplaincy roles and is committed to supporting and investing in the GTCC chaplaincy team

Rev. Canon Paul Morris was appointed Vicar of St. Peter's in the City in the centre of Derby in 2009. During his time there and much to his surprise, he led a movement of voluntary workplace chaplaincy. He inherited 12 chaplains, and this grew, slowly at first and then with some momentum, until in 2020 there were more than 150 chaplains (over 80% lay) serving in 15 workplace sectors and in 15 towns around Derbyshire.

Susanna Hoar, Volunteer Chaplains Project Coordinator writes:

Do you have a heart for connecting with those in your community?

Do you enjoy giving time to listen to others and their life stories?

Are you comfortable with a pastoral rather than an evangelical approach? Would you like to know more about chaplaincy?

Find out more from
 Susanna: 07564218267
susanna.hoar@gtcc.org.uk

If so, the GTCC annual conference is for you. We are very excited to have both Suzette Jones, from the St Nicolas' congregation, and Noelle Coe, the town centre chaplain, leading us. We will be welcoming the wider chaplaincy community from Hampshire, Surrey and Sussex. It will be a great opportunity to find out more about the role of a chaplain and the listening, caring presence offered in safe, non-judgemental and confidential spaces.

Here in Guildford, we already have chaplains in different placements across our town, supporting patients in GP surgeries, visitors to Zero Community Fridge, staff at the police station, GLive, George Abbot school, Wetherspoons and more. We love that our team is growing along with the number of people who benefit from their time with a chaplain.

Suzette Jones, Chaplain writes: *My life working with and listening to people, including my role in Town Centre chaplaincy means, I have heard and continue to hear so many peoples stories. The hopes, dreams, fears, and regrets that most have. It has been and continues to be a huge privilege to listen. But what can we do when we hear so much, how can we lay down the lives we hear of without becoming overwhelmed mentally, spiritually and emotionally?*

My faith has played and continues to play a huge part in my life, at an early age I was encouraged each night before bed to lay my worries at the foot of the cross, which all these years later is much used!

In this conference we will explore together how our own spiritual journey whatever that may be, alongside with some practical tried and tested strategies can allow us to have 'capacity to be present' and be alongside those who need to share.

UK and World **New Archbishop of Canterbury elected** by **Jon Hebditch**

History has been made with the election of Dame Sarah Mullally as the Archbishop of Canterbury as she became the first woman to become the spiritual head of the Church of England. In a ceremony at St. Paul's Cathedral in London, Dame Sarah was made the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury in the watershed moment.

Women were first allowed to be ordained priests in the Church of England in 1992, and just 34 years later a woman now is in the highest position of the church.

Dame Sarah, 63 and a mother of two, was born in Woking, Surrey and spent much of her career in the NHS as a nurse in London. She chose to become a nurse rather than a doctor in accordance with her Christian faith and rose to the position of Chief Nursing Officer by 1999. She decided to pursue her calling to ministry and was ordained a priest in 2002, initially working in the diocese of Southwark in London.

Dame Sarah would eventually become the Bishop of London in 2018 and was, last October, named as the successor of Justin Welby to the seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

At the ceremony in St. Paul's a heckler was escorted out. The bishops declared that no objection had been made in a timely way and Dame Sarah took her oath of allegiance to the British crown and the church. Her official instalment will be in March at Canterbury Cathedral.



Image from the Archbishop of Canterbury & The Church of England Facebook account

Not St Nicolas' On The Web

Ian Macpherson continues to report on streamed services

The Catholic Church of Our Lady of the Assumption and the English Martyrs, Cambridge

11pm on 24 December 2026 Christmas Eve

This year, the Christmas Midnight Mass on BBC TV was broadcast from this Roman Catholic Church in Cambridge. A very distinguished creation of 1890, one of the largest Roman Catholic churches in the country, with a spire only slightly lower than the tower of the Anglican Ely Cathedral, and gothic design and detail so good that it took me a few moments to realise its rather later date. "Grade 1 listed. Fully fitted", it comes with a ringing belfry which was shown in action, a 3 manual pipe organ, a High Altar with a form of baldachino and the now-conventional, post Vatican II nave altar. Moreover, it retains the original congregation pews. And, for Christmas, the expected decoration. A nice touch was a small sculpture of the baby child was processed in with the clergy and placed in the Crib with ceremony.



It is not a Cathedral, as such - instead it is in the Catholic diocese of East Anglia, with its cathedral St John the Baptist in Norwich. That is a substantial gothic- style building of 1894, designed by Gilbert Scott.

Cambridge retains a church-full congregation; every seat taken including those in the aisles. With a high proportion of relatively youthful girls and lads, just as the recent survey reports suggest. And a gathering of senior clergy, including a retired[?] bishop who took seats in the chancel.

The service itself seemed somewhat tailored to the possible Anglican watchship -the opening hymn was "O come all ye faithful", and the Readings appeared largely to be from King James - well, the Catholic Edition of the "English Standard Version," rather than the New Jerusalem Bible. Worth commending here was the outstanding delivery of the lady who read Isaiah 9:2-7.

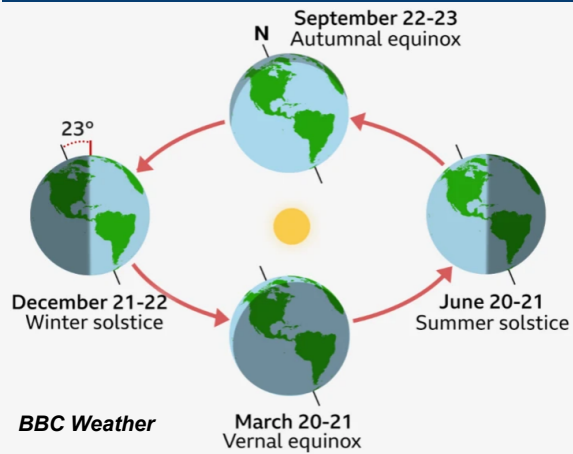
As for the choir, two short ranks, adult men and ladies clad in simple black cassocks, in a vee shape behind the nave Altar, leaving a view to the ornate High Altar. It clearly "knew its stuff". From the Creed chanted in Latin strangely moving due to close-mike-ing to Handel's "Unto us a Child is Born" and Mozart's "Sanctus" from his Coronation Mass, superb but also approachable music. One suspected that some choristers, at least, had a second role in Cambridge's College Choirs. And the church has its own choir school !

But, equally worthy of note, it was clear that the BBC TV people were 'trying hard'. In focus, cameras correctly aimed directly on cue; sound also in clear focus and volume. An object lesson on "how to do it", and the best yet I have watched. BBC Sound, on the other hand, rather fell to pieces when it broadcast Choral Evensong, well, 'Choral Vespers', a month earlier from Catholic Arundel Cathedral, of which maybe a few more comments in a later note.

The service itself contained no surprises. Anyone familiar with St Nicolas and, by now, a "High Mass", would appreciate what was going on, even if there were significant differences in places between Rome and Canterbury texts and format.

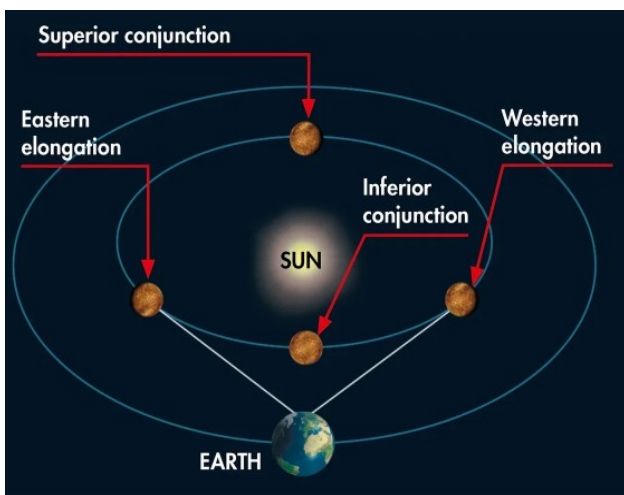
The recording is still there on BBC I-Player and YouTube, and will be for some time. Me, I watched Midnight St Nicolas on the tv in my bedroom, nursing a cold, I add, and came to this BBC recording later on Christmas Day itself. But that service was special - noticeably special. The standard Sunday webcast [available on YouTube of their usual 11:00 service is much more what one might expect from a competent and large parish church. There, the webcast competes on more level terms with Anglican Cathedrals and St Nicolas.

The night sky in March, April & May Rory Fenner



March Sun moves from Aquarius into Pisces, creating the Vernal Equinox on the 20th at 15:00. Vernal means Spring and Equinox equal day and night. **Mercury** can be seen after sunset right at the start of March, reaching Inferior conjunction on 7 March. **Venus**, becoming visible in the evening sky, makes slow progress clearing the western horizon. **Mars** is not visible this month. **Jupiter** rules the evening sky, brilliant until after midnight. **Saturn** is conjunct the Sun on 25 March. **Uranus** is visible through binoculars in Taurus, best after sunset during the first half of the month. **Neptune**, in conjunction with the Sun on 27 March is not visible.

April The **Sun** moves from Pisces into Aries on 20 April. **Mercury** reaches greatest western elongation in April but morning apparition is poor. **Venus** slowly improves to a brilliant evening object after sunset. **Mars** is still unobservable. **Jupiter** remains brilliant in Gemini for the first half of April but descends towards the horizon by month-end, when it will set 1 hour after sunset. **Saturn** becomes a morning object but difficult to observe. **Uranus**, adjacent to Venus will be difficult to see by the month's end. **Neptune** mirrors Mars and Saturn and all are difficult to observe.



Major orbital points of the inferior [between Earth and Sun] planets. BBC Sky at Night Magazine.

May The **Sun** moves from Aries into Taurus on 21 May. **Mercury** faces the Sun following Superior conjunction on 14 May and will be visible after sunset by the last week of May. **Venus** is brilliant in the evenings in Gemini, reaching its greatest northern declination, and will be close to Jupiter this month. **Mars**, a northern object is too close to the Sun for observation. **Jupiter** continues its descent to the western horizon but is bright and visible close to Venus by end of May. **Saturn** becomes a morning object but you will need a good vantage point and binoculars to see it. **Uranus**, in conjunction with Sun on 22 May is invisible. **Neptune** has now run into daylight and is unobservable.

GUILDFORD USA SINGERS

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Joyful

Noise

Songs for Easter

on

Wednesday 25 March

2.00 p.m.

at

ST NICOLAS CHURCH

Bury Street, Guildford GU2 4AW

Entry is free

Voluntary retiring collection towards Church funds

u3a

Life, death & resurrection



Image from Unsplash

Dirge Without Music Edna St. Vincent Millay 1892 – 1950

So it is, and so it will be, for so it has been, time out of mind:
Into the darkness they go, the wise and the lovely. Crowned
With lilies and with laurel they go; but I am not resigned.

Lovers and thinkers, into the earth with you.
Be one with the dull, the indiscriminate dust.
A fragment of what you felt, of what you knew,
A formula, a phrase remains,—but the best is lost.

The answers quick and keen, the honest look, the laughter, the
love,—

They are gone. They are gone to feed the roses. Elegant and
curled

Is the blossom. Fragrant is the blossom. I know. But I do not
approve.

More precious was the light in your eyes than all the roses in the
world.

Down, down, down into the darkness of the grave
Gently they go, the beautiful, the tender, the kind;
Quietly they go, the intelligent, the witty, the brave.
I know. But I do not approve. And I am not resigned.

Gone from my sight Henry Van Dyke 1852 - 1933

I am standing upon the seashore. A ship, at my side,
spreads her white sails to the moving breeze and starts
for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength.
I stand and watch her until, at length, she hangs like a speck
of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to mingle
with each other.

Then, someone at my side says, "There, she is gone."

Gone where?

Gone from my sight. That is all. She is just as large in mast,
hull and spar as she was when she left my side.

And, she is just as able to bear her load of living freight to
her destined port.

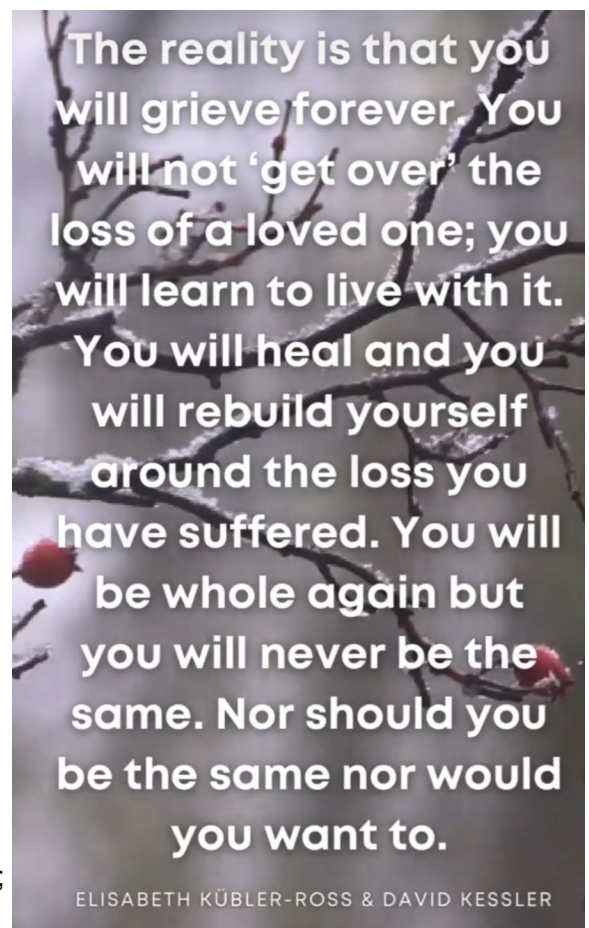
Her diminished size is in me -- not in her.

And, just at the moment when someone says, "There, she is
gone,"

there are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices
ready to take up the glad shout, "Here she comes!"

And that is dying...

poems sent by **Jenny Austin**;
image sent by **Wendy Gabriel**





Death

is a very difficult conversation to have with our loved ones and friends. It is seen as morbid and depressing and one we mostly avoid, but the one certainty in life is that we all will die. Death doesn't discriminate and like a birth-plan we are encouraged to put together, deciding whether we want whale music, candles and pain relief, the same thing should be said of a death - plan. Like a birth we have no control over how it's going to but we can write down a plan of certain things we would wish for, like favourite readings, poems, music and, ultimately, where we would like our final resting place to be.

Now this all sounds appropriate if death is on the horizon and you have a terminal illness, you can then as they say "put your affairs in order." But what if death comes unexpectedly? My partner Ray who died 23 years ago unexpectedly with a brain aneurysm didn't leave much in the way of instructions and his death left a legal nightmare. However a year before his death a rather strange conversation took place up on St Martha's hill one Sunday morning. Outside the stunning church, we were admiring the beautiful views and Ray said, "this is where I want to be scattered after I die". We were very young, I was 30 and he was 38, so I didn't really take him seriously and naively thought we would get 3 score years and 10. The thought of him not being with me and our son who was due in the summer did not really register. But Ray had said several times to me, and was adamant, that his parents would outlive him; he felt it strongly. He turned out to be so right; they are both in their 90s and still doing very well for their age.



When Ray was in the hospital in a coma we were asked by the consultants whether we'd ever had a conversation about organ donation. I'm ashamed to say we did not have that talk at St Martha's and at that point I was in no fit state to make those sorts of decisions being pregnant and struggling to keep myself upright and protect our unborn baby. Ray's parents made the decision not to donate his organs and informed the medics. Ray's parents asked me if I knew what his plans were for his body after he died and I told them about St Martha's and his wishes. Hearing that they both gasped and said when Ray was 7 years old, they had all gone for a walk up to St Martha's and he said to his mum and dad, "this is where I want to be when I die!" It was very shocking to hear but on reflection very beautiful, something in him from a very early age must have made a connection with God and this very spiritual, sacred place.

My father had cancer and when death became inevitable, he had time to talk with us and write down what he wanted. This included Elvis singing The Wonder Of You and to depart with God Only Knows by The Beach Boys; that song really has taken on a life of its own for me since his passing, and God Really Does Only Know how we get on without those we've lost.

So in essence as hard, awkward and uncomfortable it can be, we really should be having some conversations with our nearest and dearest about what our final requests and wishes are. Whether our death is expected or sudden, those around us should know our last wants, as we depart for our next adventure. **Helen Trussler**





From a painting by JMW Turner



Recently, I had the good fortune to attend a day retreat at St Columba's House, Woking, called Seeing Aging as a Spiritual Journey. What an inspired day, I think we all came away convinced that not only is aging not something to regret or fear, but that it is a great gift for spiritual development.

While aging feels like the closing of many doors of life, it is a "privilege denied to many," according to an Irish proverb. It has given me retirement from paid work, at last bestowing choice over how to spend my time. What an opportunity!

The retreat described two parallel activities in aging: "Self-completion" and "Relinquishment."

Self-completion is seen as looking back over life with the benefit of experience and wisdom, taking stock and making sense of life's journey so far, being grateful for what life has given us and, importantly, coming to terms with any "unfinished business," so that we are able to say good-bye to it and let it go.

Relinquishment is the actual process of letting things go, giving them up, surrendering the past but also surrendering ourselves to what lies ahead. As we age, we experience the loss of our family, friends, our worldly capability and pleasures, and eventually, at least to some extent, our independence. There is a choice about how to view this loss; perhaps feeling diminished and angered by this, or enriched by the de-cluttering of our existence, the paring away of the now unnecessary layers, to reach towards our true essence. This is very much a journey inward and the work of the soul. In his book *Falling Upwards*, Fr. Richard Rohr calls this "the second half of life", the Indian Vedic tradition talks about "retreating to the forest." Both involve spiritual exercises, mindfulness, reflection on scripture, *Lectio Divina* and of course meditation. It is work towards "metanoia," usually translated as "repentance," but actually far more exciting in its meaning, inviting us to a transformation, a shift of attitude, a change of direction and a venturing beyond the mere thinking mind to look deeper. It is about seeing the bigger picture. Isn't this perfect for old age?

Take Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will, all that I have and possess. Thou hast given all to me. To Thee, O lord, I return it. All is Thine, dispose of it wholly according to Thy will. Give me Thy love and Thy grace, for this is sufficient for me.

Ignatius Loyola

We are invited to follow the, "I am the way, the truth and the life" of John 14:6, and, in the words of David Whyte, "Apprentice ourselves to the curve of our own disappearance." What a radical idea!

Of course during Lent, we have the vivid example of Jesus' surrender to his journey with the cross, having been stripped of his standing as a teacher, of his disciples, his clothes, and finally his life. A total, determined and willing surrender to the Father.

And what about the resurrection? Two very dear friends died last year, a couple who though not old enough, cast themselves into the role of my "British parents," dispensing wit, wisdom, love and guidance. Wojciech, a Polish Catholic raised in Scotland just after the war, was the second to die, very unexpectedly, just before Christmas. At the end of his cremation ceremony, at that heart-breaking moment when the curtains begin to embrace the coffin, the soft music changed to: *Jerusalem*



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fCZVL_8D048

What a final and unexpected gift to the bereaved! I urge you to listen to it, the sound explains much more than words could convey.



Sally Lowe attended the same retreat “Seeing Aging as a Spiritual Journey,” and afterwards was moved to send the following poems

An Altar in the World by Barbara Brown Taylor

“In the same way that I am willing to thank my husband for a gift even before I have opened it – because I know him, because I trust his love of me ... I am willing to thank God for my life even before I know how it turns out. This is brave talk, I know, while I can still pay the bills, (and) walk without assistance, My hope is that if I can practice saying thank you now, when I still approve of most of what is happening to me, then perhaps that practice will have become a habit by the time I do not like much of anything that is happening to me. The plan is to replace approval with gratitude. The plan is to take what *is* as God’s ongoing answer to me.”



From a painting by JMW Turner

Prayer for the Grace to Age Well

by Teilhard de Chardin – “The Divine Milieu”

When the signs of age begin to mark my body,
and still more when they touch my mind;
When the illness that is to diminish me or carry me off strikes from without
or is born within me;
When the painful moment comes to which I suddenly awaken to the fact
that I am growing ill or growing old; and
Above all at the last moment when I feel I am losing hold of myself and am
absolutely passive
within the hands of the great unknown forces that have formed me,
In all these dark moments, O God,
Grant that I may understand that it is you – provided only my faith is strong
enough – who is painfully parting the fibres of my being in order to
penetrate to the very marrow of my substance and bear me away within
yourself.



A photo from the Rome pilgrimage, Fr Neil

Where you are is God’s gift to you.
What you become is your gift to God.
sent by **John Varney**

Resurrection (2018)

by Ivanka Demchuk (b.1990)
Icon design for the Church of St Nicholas, Granada, Spain.

From **Christian Art** app, 15.02.26
“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets”
Matthew 5:17-37



The Good Grief



We usually meets at The Cosy Club at Tunsgate on the last Wednesday of every month, 2pm. Open to men and women. **Please look out for updates in Pews News** or see **Helen Trussler** or **Jean Taylor** for details.





Lent

Fast from judging others;
 Feast on Christ dwelling in them.
 Fast from discontent;
 Feast on Gratitude.
 Fast from anger;
 Feast on patience.
 Fast from worry;
 Feast on God's providence.
 Fast from complaining;
 Feast on appreciation.
 Fast on personal anxiety'
 Feast on eternal truth.
 Fast on the shadows of sorrow;
 Fast on problems that overwhelm;
 Feast on prayer that sustains.

Sent by **John Varney**

Be still and know that I am God



WCCM
IN THE UK

Our **Meditation group** is now part of WCCM, the World Community of Christian Meditation.

Next meetings are 10 March, 14 April and 12 May, at 8am in church.



**60 minutes
of Peace**

**Meditation
to start the day right!
Suitable for all.**

8am on the second Tuesday of every month.
 All welcome, with or without experience. We will be trying different forms of meditation with time for questions after each one.

St Nicolas Church
 Bury Street Guildford GU2 4AW
 01483 564526 jana.phillips@saintnics.com



Grace Beckett will be showing one of her paintings in the forthcoming exhibition at **King Edward's School, Petworth Road, Wormley, Surrey GU8 5SG.**
4 April - 18 April

Further details:
 Ephillips54@btinternet.com
 www.appartonline.co.uk

Highly recommended!

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SCULPTURE TRAIL 2026**

In association with
 Surrey Sculpture Society



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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M 07896 184385
info@primeboilers.co.uk



Gas safe registration no.
556986





Coming up on Saturdays

10 am – 12.30 pm, Coffee from 9.30 am

14th March:

Navigating Retirement

led by Peter Shaw

25th April:

Supporting Children with Neurodiversity (Autism, ADHD etc)

led by Dr Ellie Atkins & Dr Elizabeth Beckingham

16th May

Supporting Adults with Neurodiversity (Autism, ADHD etc)

Led by Dr Jenna McKeown

The sessions are free of charge but voluntary donations are invited for the vital work of various charities.

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

Life Issues Series

At Godalming Baptist church

Queen Street, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 1BA



Ashstead Lane,
Godalming,
Surrey, GU7 1ST
01483 675575

Days of Reflection

Join us for a Day of Reflection, away from the noise and haste of everyday life and take time to be with God. These days are led by a member of the Franciscan Centre Team. There is input, prayer, sharing, quiet time for reflection and time to be in our beautiful grounds. The day is £25 per person which includes a delicious two-course lunch and refreshments throughout the day.

Telephone to book, or email David Beresford on davidberesford@franciscancentre.org.uk

Days of Reflection 2026

	Sat	Tues	Theme
Feb	14	24	Praises of God
Mar	14	31	Forgiveness
Apr	11	21	Risen Life
May	9	26	Gentleness
Jun	13	23	"Desire nothing else"
Jul	4	28	Heartfelt Prayer
Aug	8	25	Inner peace
Sep	12	22	Dignity
Oct	10	27	Footsteps of Francis
Nov	14	24	Peace-making
Dec	12	15	"Gaze upon love"

Saint Columba's House



Maybury Hill,
Woking, Surrey,
GU22 8AB
01483 766498

Here is a small selection of offerings at St Columba's, see the website for more.

<https://www.stcolumbashouse.org.uk/your-retreat/our-events/>



£35

SAT 14
The Power of the Cross in Art
MARCH 14, 2026 @ 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Maybury Hill, Woking, GU22 8AB

This day looks at different ways the cross has been represented in art in a variety of Christian traditions through history.



£35

MON 23
Psalms of Faith, Hope and Healing
MARCH 23, 2026 @ 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Maybury Hill, Woking, GU22 8AB

Maybury Hill, Woking, GU22 8AB

We will look at key examples that focus on mental health and wellbeing, emotional self-regulation and the journey of faith.

Tuesday Group

Tuesday Group continues to bring us together as friends on Tuesday mornings, sharing a variety of activities. Most are retired, but not retiring! We have plenty of conversation, laughter and chocolate biscuits, with cakes to celebrate members' birthdays. Our craft session before Christmas produces decorations for the St Nicolas' church Christmas tree for the Christmas Festival at our neighbouring URC Church. There were Tuesday Group decorations in our Atrium too.

Since the New Year, we have discussed Epiphany carols and possible new hobbies, Shirley Aston kept two teams in order with a quiz she chaired most ably, in spite of our interruptions to answer the other team's questions! Pauline May shared the trials of restoring an overgrown allotment to become a productive plot. What a lot of effort she put in! We were filled with admiration. We do not meet during school holidays, but celebrated "Pancake Day" early, not to miss the treat!

Do look for our latest Art and Craft effort in the Atrium to celebrate "Springtime." We would be very pleased to welcome you either regularly or once in a while.

We meet for about an hour at **9:45am for 10am on Tuesdays in term-time, in the Parish Centre.**

Forthcoming meetings:

- 3 March "The signs of Spring" - individual contributions
- 10 March "Carpet Bowls - with TG rules
- 17 March "My Cookery Book" - individual contributions
- 24 March Guest speaker - The Loseley Chapel

Written by **Hilary Fletcher**, photos by **Chris Goodwin**



Decorated Xmas Tree at the URC



Christmas decorations in the Atrium

Springtime decorations - Rabbit panel



Every entry makes Guildford bloom

Guildford in Bloom is delighted to launch its annual gardening competition inviting residents, businesses and community groups in the borough to show their creativity, care and commitment to making Guildford a greener, more beautiful place to live. The competition celebrates gardens and green spaces of all shapes and sizes, from colourful window boxes and front gardens to allotments and shared community spaces. Open to gardeners of all experience levels, it aims to encourage environmental pride, biodiversity and a community spirit throughout Guildford.

Chair Sallie Barker said: "Guildford in Bloom is about making Guildford an attractive place to live and work in, and to visit. We are committed to keeping Guildford and our surrounding villages looking their best and encouraging people to work together to achieve this goal. We have introduced new community categories in our annual awards scheme this year so we can recognise best practice wherever it takes place – residential, pubs, businesses, community and neighbourhood projects and open spaces."

Entries will be judged on visual impact, plant health, creativity, sustainability and environmental benefit. Judges will visit entries between Saturday 4 July and Sunday 12 July, with an awards evening for all entrants on Wednesday 9 September at the Baptist Church, Guildford. The competition is free to enter. Visit <https://www.guildfordinbloom.com/2026competition> to enter, email community@guildfordinbloom.com



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St Nicolas' 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



St. Nicolas Parish Church,
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Please email your material to Fr Neil,
Jana at jana.phillips@saintnics.com,
Jon at the Parish office, or give to us at
church.



NOT JUST SUNDAYS

Mondays Zero Waste @ 10:30am, weekly
Free food for the community

Tuesdays **Meditation** @ 8am, monthly

Tuesday Group @ 9:45, weekly

Social Group for the retired

Toastie Tuesdays @ 5pm,

Monthly for school yrs 3-6

Curry & Questions @7:30 termly

Wednesdays **Café Play** @ 10am, weekly

Pre-School Toddler Group

Fridays **Coffee Shop** @ 10:30am, weekly

Monthly Lunch & Bible Study

@ 11:30am, monthly

Fizz & Friends @ 8pm,

Women's Group, term-time

Saturdays **Messy Church** @4pm, Monthly

Beer & Banter changes are afoot, watch this

space