

# SAINTS ALIVE!



The Magazine of All Saints' Church, Orpington



*All Saints' for All People*

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May 2024



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Top of Church Hill (off High Street). Other entrances and car parks in Bark Hart Rd  
Follow us on Facebook at All Saints' Orpington.

<b>Vicar:</b>	The Rev'd George M Rogers Please contact the Vicar via the office (see below), or email: <a href="mailto:george.rogers3@gmail.com">george.rogers3@gmail.com</a>	
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<b>Special Facilities:</b>	Loop system for the deaf - set to position 'T' on hearing aids. Ramp into church. Wheelchair access. Toilet for the disabled.	

<b>SUNDAY SERVICES</b>	<b>8.00 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion BCP</b>
	<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist CW</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month</b>	<b>5.00 pm</b>	<b>Taizé</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>12.15 pm</b>	<b>Wholeness Healing Eucharist</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Eucharist CW</b>
<b>Monday to Friday</b>	<b>9.00 am</b>	<b>Morning Prayer CW</b>
<b>Major Saints' Days as announced in the diary</b>		

# NOTICEBOARD



## ALL SAINTS' PRAYING FOR ALL STREETS

This month we are praying for the following streets in the Parish:

**Broad Walk Goodmead Road Oatfield Road  
Eastling House Westwell Close**

May the love of Jesus abide in their homes and with their families



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

We are praying for all those whose birthdays are this month, especially:

**Pam Mercer**

May the light of Jesus shine through them on their Birthday



**FOLLOW OUR SERVICES:** The following link takes you directly to the video page of All Saints' Facebook and from there you can choose which video to watch. You do not need to have a Facebook account –

[https://www.facebook.com/AllSaintsOrpington/videos/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/AllSaintsOrpington/videos/?ref=page_internal)



**HOME COMMUNION:** - If you have been unable to attend church services and would like to receive Holy Communion, the Vicar and Lay Ministers will be able to bring the sacrament to you. Please telephone the Church Office (01689 832031) to request a visit.



## SAINTS ALIVE! MAGAZINE

Please send your articles for the next month's magazine to Gill by **Sunday 26 May 2024**

*All Saints' does not endorse or recommend third-party products or services when advertising and does not guarantee specific results or outcomes.*

## NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH (SO HELP US GOD)

Thomas demanded to see Jesus resurrected from the dead—spike wounds and all—seeking the historical implications that would follow the event. He wasn't interested in a report *about* his resurrection, he was seeking a first-hand experience of this revolutionary act of re-creation—an experience of God's providence that was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel.

True to its Old Testament roots, the New Testament regularly insists that the central framing question is that of God's purpose to save humanity from sin and death, and the re-creation and recapitulation of all things through Christ. Our destiny must be understood within that context—not simply in the sense that we're just part of a larger picture but that part of the point of being faithful and being saved in the present is so we can play a vital role within God's future: the coming together of heaven and earth; a process of liberation that began with the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

God saves us by working through the Holy Spirit to bring us to faith and by leading us to follow Jesus as disciples. As such, we're designed to be signs of what God wants to do for creation. Yet, we're not *just* to be signs of that ultimate salvation; we're to be part of the means by which God makes this happen in both the present and future: we're emissaries of God living the good news of Jesus Christ for the salvation of the world—we're Christ's beneficiaries as well as his agents.

Therefore, it's necessary for us to let Christ be our centre. "Doubting Thomas" is a terrible misnomer; what John describes is quite serious. The word "doubt" is never used in the original Greek text. Instead, the word is "unbelieving." Jesus literally says to Thomas, "do not be unbelieving, but believing." Just say "No" to disbelief—a tall order when we're looking for God's providence in a world that seems unaffected by Christ's rising from the dead almost all of the time.

Think of when friends and loved ones go through hopeless unemployment, when we minister to the poor, when we suffer illness or suffer with those who are ill. When we're victims of addiction, when we've lost a child, when we learn of the suffering of neighbours near and far, violent crime, conspiracy, wars and rumors of wars—and especially when we recognise evil in ourselves.....



isn't this enough to make us demand to see an Easter vision, to demand from God to live up to his Holy Name and to show himself resurrected and give us that infusion of grace so that we too can continue to follow Christ?

Jesus presents himself for Thomas' sight and invites him to touch, but he doesn't (at least John doesn't tell us that Thomas touches Jesus' wounds). Jesus speaking to him, showing him his wounds, offering him what he's asked for is enough. Thomas moves out of his unbelief to make the most profound confession of faith in the gospel: "My Lord and my God!" It's the ultimate confession of faith of who Jesus is—the Lord God. With Jesus' reappearance and invitation, Thomas brings history and faith together in a flash.

The Lord in question is the one who is the fulfillment of Israel's history as we all as the beginning of a new story in that historical context. Grasping the resurrection enables Thomas to see that Israel's history is full of partial and preparatory analogies for this moment. The epistemological weight is borne not simply by the promise of ultimate resurrection and new creation, but also by the narrative of God's mighty and faithful actions in the past.

And what about us? Why do we believe? We have the testimony of eyewitnesses. There would be no Church or Christian faith if there had been no eyewitnesses to the resurrection in the first place. We believe, in large part, because of their witness. And that was John's purpose for writing this Gospel, as he sums it up in the last two verses of this chapter. "Now Jesus did many other signs that his disciples witnessed, which I have not written here. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name."

The disciples received the Holy Spirit and that empowered them to leave the locked room and begin sharing the good news of the resurrection. Jesus sent them as witnesses throughout the world. Recall Peter standing up in the midst of the crowd in Jerusalem and preaching to those who had gathered from all over the world, saying "Jesus, who was crucified, was indeed the Messiah, the Son of God, and God raised this very Jesus, and all of us are witnesses." Moreover, we believe because Jesus has breathed the Holy Spirit on us, just as he breathed the Spirit on them. God the Holy Spirit moves within us and among us and brings us to belief.

Remember, at his ascension to the right hand of the Father, Jesus said he would send us the Comforter—the Holy Spirit—to strengthen us and sustain us until the end of the age... and the end of the age has begun.

How will God's new creation come, and then, how will we contribute to that renewal of creation and to the fresh projects that God will launch in it? We Christians don't merely know about something; and we don't hold back in claiming what is known. We don't merely know about Christ as a kindly moral teacher from ages past—through baptism and the Holy Spirit, we experience him. We know the Truth—in fact, nothing BUT the Truth, because we meet the Truth and recognise the Truth as Jesus Christ. And like Thomas, we confess him as Lord and God. This is to say that there is a categorical difference between knowing the Truth firsthand to be Jesus Christ and learning *about* the truth from a secondary source.

Secondary sources are vicarious teachers of truth who at best are relegated to their respective historical contexts (try praying to them). Jesus Christ is Nothing but the Truth Itself, who presents himself and his teaching to us at first hand—we receive the truth from God firsthand.

Receiving the truth at first hand has revolutionary consequences. In doing so, we're established as contemporaries of Christ—in the same generation as Thomas and all of the other disciples about whom we read in Holy Scripture.

The radical new world where Jesus reigns as Lord, has its frontline outposts in you and me—disciples who in baptism have shared his death and resurrection. We're the light of Christ for those who don't yet believe. The intermediate stage between the resurrection of Jesus and the renewal of the whole world is the renewal of human beings in our own lives of obedience right now. Resurrection doesn't mean escaping *from* the world, it means mission *to* the world based on Jesus' lordship *over the world*.

The good we do now through faith in Christ will last into God's future. These actions are part of building for God's kingdom—the foundations of salvation.

**The Rev'd George M Rogers**



## ALL SAINTS' WELCOMES OUR NEW ORGANIST & CHOIR DIRECTOR



All Saints' welcomed our new Organist & Choir Director, Jack Butterworth, on 21 April. He joins our community along with his wife, Charlotte, and they are both looking forward becoming active members of our parish community.

Jack brings a wealth of experience and expertise to our community. He has held several roles both as a singer and director with a number church choirs, both at parish church levels and at prestigious institutions. He has particular experience in developing and building up choir communities within a parish church setting, and this is expertise we will undoubtedly benefit from in the coming months and years. Jack is also an extremely proficient organist, and I have heard him in recent days getting to know the wonderful instruments here at All Saints'. I have no doubt that his extraordinary musicianship, both in directing choirs and playing, will enhance and enrich our community worship.

Outside music, Jack is Head of Research, Grants and Academic Engagement at the National Archives Office, where he leads a busy team of civil servants. His wife, Charlotte, is Head of Music at Blackheath High School. They have recently settled locally on the boundary of Chislehurst and New Eltham, and they are excited to find a church community to join and worship with. We are delighted that the Lord has led them, at exactly the right time, to us here in All Saints'. We pray for God's blessing on their ministry here in our community and offer them both every welcome and support.

**Nick Wibberley**  
**Music Ministry Director**

Ahead of his start, Jack has sent us the following message:

*"Charlotte and I are both incredibly excited to be joining the community at All Saints'. I have been warmly welcomed already, by Nick, George and other members of the PCC, and am excited by your vision for the growth of music in the parish.*

*We want to create music that enriches the worship every Sunday morning, foster opportunities for music-making at every level – and most of all, get to know you and become part of your community.*

*I'm looking forward to meeting everyone on the 21st of April."*

*Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.  
Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.  
Psalm 96*

## SPONSORED FORD RIDE LONDON - ESSEX 100 - 26 MAY 2024






No! We are not asking you to grab a cycle helmet and ride 100 miles through London Boroughs of Westminster, City of London, Tower Hamlets, Newham, Hackney, Waltham Forest and Redbridge, not forgetting the ride out to Essex via Epping Forest. The second half of this route takes the riders onto part of the 2014 Tour de France route before returning to London! I'm tired just typing that lot!

We are very grateful to Dean Jeffery, Carol's son for taking part in this epic ride. More than that, he has suggested that we sponsor him in his challenge and the money raised will be donated to helping us expand our work with young people which the PCC fully supports.



There are many ways you can sponsor Dean by:

-  Cheque, made payable to All Saints Orpington
-  Following the link to our CAF Donate Page or scanning the QR Code and going to the CAF Donate Page
-  Talking to Tim or Lesley and using the Card Machine, marking your donation as Cycle Ride.

Thank you for your support which will go a long way to help kickstart our fundraising to help us expand our work with young people and families.

**Lesley Birse**

## MAY BANK HOLIDAYS



Who doesn't enjoy the fair month of May?  
Not one day but two we can spend time away;  
With workbags and satchels left under the bed  
We sing as we pack up a picnic instead!

The sun in the sky and the wind in our hair  
As we eat our lunch in the fresh open air;  
The river chants secrets to daisies nearby  
And birds sing their anthems beneath the blue sky.

Replete, we can take to our feet, or a bike  
Instead of a schedule we can do what we like!  
Catch up on a novel, or stroll 'neath the trees  
Our laughter transported on warm summer breeze.

From two days of duty we are thus relieved  
And so we should judge them a blessing received;  
A pause in life's rhythm, a gift from above  
To substitute stresses with laughter and love.

*By Nigel Beeton*

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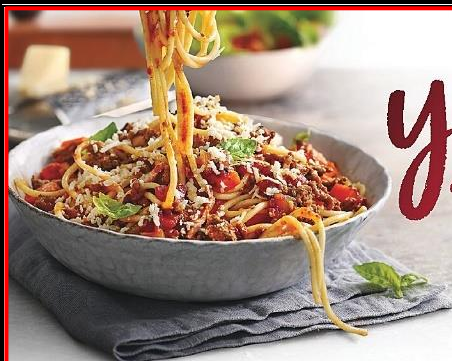


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## ALL SAINTS' CRAFT CLUB

or

'The Fete is Coming'!!

Our Craft Club is a great fun and a good way to meet new people. In fact it was a joy in March to need to put up extra tables to accommodate everyone!!



'The fete is coming' was the theme of the afternoon! Two of our lovely people have taken stalls to sell their own craft items, so watch out for Nicky and Sandra when you come to the Fete on 29 June.

Meanwhile, as you can see, everyone is working on creating crafts for the All Saints' Craft Stall.

It is all very exciting and we thought that you would like to see these works in progress! Remember to pop along on 29 June between 10.00 am and 3.00 pm to see the end results.



It's not all work and no play! We always enjoy getting to know one another and a giggle over a cuppa complete, of course with biscuits!

**Lesley Birse**



## FOCUS



At our meeting in April we were pleased to welcome Paul Fitton to speak about the Oddfellows, an historic association formed to offer support and fellowship to groups of people in times of need.

The origins of the Oddfellows stretches back before the Middle Ages - to biblical times, and onward through the time of the Guilds, 18<sup>th</sup>/ 19<sup>th</sup> century Friendly Societies, and providing much needed help after the First and Second world wars right up to present times on payment of a modest membership fee.

The Oddfellows have many branches right across the UK and host a large range of social events and activities to bring people together and offer support if needed. They also aim to promote the importance of community. There is a group in St. Mary Cray and Petts Wood.

Everyone is given a really friendly welcome.

**Joy Nettleton**

\*\*\*\*\*



The current needs of the Foodbank are as follows:

Tinned Cold Meats / Tinned Hot Meats  
Tinned Fruit / Cooking Sauces / Bleach

We would also be grateful to receive  
gluten-free and reduced-sugar products if possible.  
No frozen or chilled items please

Thank you for your continued support.

**Vanessa Dixon**



**COFFEE RECITAL - 20 APRIL 2024**  
**Yohei Nakajima (Viola) & Miho Sanou (Piano)**

It was a pleasure to welcome Yohei back to our Coffee Recital series. He last performed in March 2023 and it was an amazing Recital – well, the same is true for the one in April 2024!

This time, Yohei was accompanied by Miho. Miho’s piano lessons started at the age of 4 years old and she started her performing career in Kobe, Japan. Time moves on, she came to England and has studied both at the Royal Academy of Music and Goldsmiths College University of London. Miho is also an international performer.

Yohei studied at Trinity College of Music in London and since then has performed in many countries. He teaches the violin and viola to students of all ages. He is on the String Committee of the Blackheath Music Festival.

They are both outstanding performers but what blew us away was the way in which they interacted together. The programme was Brhams Viola Sonata in F Minor (Op 120 No 1; Prokofiev Six pieces from the ballet ‘Romeo & Juliet’ (1935) transcribed by V Borisovsky for viola and piano). Their music soared and the colours that they created took us to many different places. We do so hope that they will return for another Recital in the future, because this one certainly not to miss.

**An Enthusiastic Music Lover**

\*\*\*\*\*

**PARISH REGISTERS**  
**APRIL 2024**

**BAPTISMS:**



14 April	Henry Brennan
14 April	Freddie Brennan
14 April	Max Brennan

***We extend a warm welcome into the Church Family***

**BURIAL/CREMATIONS:**



Burial	11 April	Joyce Lorna Cook (93)
Burial of Ashes	25 April	Mary Christine Storer (84)

***We extend our love and sympathy to family and friends***

# CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

## Sunday Clubs



## Young Saints

**For all children and young people**

9.30 a.m in the hall



Join us as we have fun learning about Jesus, the Bible and Church.

We sing, play games, make things, cook and pray together.



There is a creche for babies and very young children.

**Contact:** Catherine King or Val Pickering  
Email: [youth.allsaintsorpington@gmail.com](mailto:youth.allsaintsorpington@gmail.com)

*All groups come into church in time to join the congregation at the altar to receive a communion or blessing and join their parents.*

## ALL SAINTS' PARISH CHURCH MONTHLY CALENDAR – MAY 2024

**PLEASE NOTE:** *Events can be added or cancelled at short notice  
- please check the weekly pew sheet*

**Every Week:**      *Monday to Friday, 9.00 am - Morning Prayer  
Friday, 7.30 pm – Choir Practice  
Saturday, 9.00 am – Morning Prayer (streamed only)*

Wed	1	10.00 am 7.00 pm	Midweek Eucharist followed by Morning Coffee Orpington Chorale Rehearsal
Thurs	2	9.30 am 11.30 am 5.30 pm	Tots (church) U3A Choir Rehearsal (choir vestry) Vocal Teaching (choir vestry) until 8.30 pm
Fri	3	9.30 am	Contemplative Prayer (church)
<b>Sun</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>	
		<b>8.00 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
		<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
		<b>3.00 pm</b>	<b>Baptism</b>
		<b>4.00 pm</b>	<b>Meet &amp; Munch (church hall)</b>
Tues	7	12.15 pm 5.45 pm 7.30 pm	Wholeness and Healing Service Beaver Kivi 2 <sup>nd</sup> Orpington Visit (John Pentlow) Festival Choir Rehearsal
Wed	8	10.00 am 12.30 pm 7.00 pm	Midweek Eucharist followed by Morning Coffee Alex Barnes Audition (until 4.30 pm) Orpington Chorale Rehearsal
Thurs	9	9.30 am 11.30 am 2.00 pm 5.30 pm 8.00 pm	Tots (church) U3A Choir Rehearsal (choir vestry) Focus Group (church) Vocal Teaching (choir vestry) until 8.30 pm Ascension Day Eucharist
<b>Sun</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Seventh Sunday of Easter</b>	
		<b>8.00 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
		<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
Tues	14	12.15 pm 7.30 pm	Wholeness and Healing Service Festival Choir Rehearsal

Wed	15	10.00 am 7.00 pm	Midweek Eucharist followed by Morning Coffee Orpington Chorale Rehearsal
Thurs	16	9.30 am 2.30 pm 5.30 pm	Tots CRAFT Club (church) Vocal Teaching (choir vestry) until 8.30 pm
Fri	17	9.30 pm 11.30 am	Lectio Divina Trevor Sampson (visiting group)
Sat	18	12 noon 3.00 pm	Coffee Recital (refreshments from 11 am) Mary Hernandez (private concert)
<b>Sun</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Pentecost</b> <b>8.00 am</b> <b>9.30 am</b> <b>5.00 pm</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> <b>Parish Eucharist</b> <b>Taizé Service</b>
Tues	21	12.15 pm 7.30 pm	Wholeness and Healing Service Festival Choir Rehearsal
Wed	22	10.00 am 7.00 pm	Midweek Eucharist followed by Morning Coffee Orpington Chorale Rehearsal
Thurs	23	9.30 am 11.30 am 12.30 pm 5.30 pm 7.30 pm	Tots U3A Choir Rehearsal (choir vestry) Charity Lunch (church) Vocal Teaching (choir vestry) until 8.30 pm PCC Meeting (church)
<b>Sun</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>Trinity Sunday</b> <b>8.00 am</b> <b>9.30 am</b> <b>2.30 &amp; 3 pm</b> <b>4.00 pm</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> <b>Parish Eucharist</b> <b>Baptisms</b> <b>Baptism</b>
Tues	28	12.15 pm 7.30 pm	Wholeness and Healing Service Festival Choir Rehearsal
Wed	29	10.00 am 7.00 pm	Midweek Eucharist followed by Morning Coffee Orpington Chorale Rehearsal
Thurs	30	9.30 am 12.15 pm	No Tots due to half-term (returning on 6 June) Corpus Christi (said Eucharist)
Fri	31	2.00 pm	Bereavement Group

# CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

## Throughout the week



### All Saints' Tots

A friendly and fun group for babies, toddlers and their parents, grandparents and carers.

We meet every Thursday in term time between 10.00-11.30am.

Come and find us at the back of the Church to have a cuppa and a chat whilst the little ones play.

**Contact: Cathy Hussey - Tel: 01689 821632**

**Email: [tots.allsaintsorpington@gmail.com](mailto:tots.allsaintsorpington@gmail.com)**



**Girlguiding**

### 9<sup>th</sup> Orpington Brownies and Guides

Meet in the Church Hall

Guides	(10 - 15 years)	7.30 - 9.00pm
Brownies	( 7 - 10 years)	5.45 - 7.15pm

**Contact: Debbie Clarke - 01689 832325 -**

**or to register a girl or enquiry about volunteering go to:**

**[www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)**



### Scouting 2nd Orpington Scout Group

Meet at 50a Court Road

Explorers	(14 - 18 years)	Thursday
Scouts	(10½ - 14 years)	Wednesday & Friday
Cubs	(8 - 10½ years)	Monday & Tuesday
Beavers	(6 - 8 years)	Tuesday & Wednesday

**Contact: via website**

**[www.2nd.orp.org.uk](http://www.2nd.orp.org.uk)**

## DAILYHOPE IS ON THE LINE – AGAIN!



A free telephone line that provides spiritual support for older people has been relaunched.

The DailyHope telephone line serves many people in later life unable to participate in person with church life in the community, either in the long term, or temporarily due to sickness or medical treatment. It was launched during the Covid pandemic.

The recorded phonline provides a vital spiritual resource aimed at the around six million UK people aged over 65 who are either unable to use the internet safely and successfully or are not online at all.

The organisation “Faith in Later Life” announced earlier this year that the line would have to be suspended because of a lack of funding. It came as many churches were being encouraged to ‘grow younger’ and put an emphasis on reaching younger people. Now their chief executive officer Alexandra Drew has announced that the phonline is back in action.

She said: “Closing the DailyHope line was an extremely heart-wrenching decision to make. I know that it’s been a lifeline to many older people, especially those unable to attend church in person, and without access to spiritual comfort.”

Now additional funding has been secured, DailyHope has been relaunched, with a drive to find new content and content-providers. Alexandra Drew said: “We’re looking forward to welcoming new callers, as well as content providers and funding partners, to help us to continue to bring DailyHope to older people, and others who are staying at home.”

Broadcaster Pam Rhodes, an ambassador for Faith in Later Life, said: “DailyHope has brought Christian fellowship through the landline into the homes of so many, filling their hearts and souls with God’s presence and comfort through word, prayer and song. “It’s no wonder that DailyHope has remained so popular – and the thought that this vital service may have been lost to those who value and rely upon it brought real despair. But now, we’re thankful to God that DailyHope has been saved. This is wonderful news.”

The DailyHope free telephone service is available on **0800 804 8044**. Churches and Christians are being encouraged to publicise the telephone number widely.

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# OUR SUMMER FETE IS COMING TOGETHER BUT IT NEEDS YOU!



We need people to help set up from 9.00 am and people to help on stalls.

All the money raised will be going towards expanding our work with children, young people and families.

The poster looks full but there is more to come!

The garden will be full of side-shows; Tots are taking care of 'throwing balls into paper cups', our new favourite 'Hook-a-Duck' will be making an appearance.

Some of our regular hall users are staging various displays for us in the hall. The Orpington May Queen will be having a stall in the garden as well as dancing for us.

We are delighted that the Brunch Shop will be selling their savoury and sweet goodies from their tent in the car park. Tea and Coffee will be available from the Kitchenette in the church. Craft Stalls will also be featured in the Car Park as well as inside the Church.

Take a walk down the Church aisles to discover paintings by Geoff Dawson, home-made cards and much more.

Your support will help to make this event a great fund-raising and out-reach success!

Please let George or Lesley know if you are able to help in any way and please put the date in your diary!

**Lesley Birse**

## CHURCH HEATING



At the recent APCM, there was a discussion about the church heating system, which may have left some people with the impression that our system was no good and that we couldn't afford to replace it with a better one. Let me assure you that this is not the case – there is nothing significantly wrong with our system and we do not know of any alternative design that would work better at heating our large space.

To begin with some 'inconvenient truths':- Firstly, heating large, tall buildings like our church could be described as 'a mug's game'. The best that you can hope for is that some of the heat you pay for passes the congregation on its way to the ceiling for, be in no doubt, the ceiling is where it will certainly end up (because hot air rises). And our ceiling is a long way above where people sit! The best solution is for the heat to emerge under where people are sitting, i.e. from the floor. This is why a considerable number of cathedrals and large churches have gone to vast expense in recent years digging up their floors and installing underfloor heating. Thanks to foresight on the part of those designing our major refurbishment in 2007/8, we are fortunate enough already to have underfloor heating which, as well as being completely inconspicuous, gives a gentle, even heat across the whole area, instead of hot spots near radiators.

Secondly, you may not be aware that, one year ago, we were shocked by the news that our energy bill for the 4 months from December 22 to March 23 inclusive was £18,778. Yes, really! That's well over £1000 per week. I hope that none of you consider that level of expenditure on heating to be a proper use of our charitable funding: I certainly don't.

It is also unaffordable against our current level of income. So, something had to be done to reduce our expenditure and, during the recent heating season, we have carried out some experiments, one of which was mentioned in the APCM report. Early signs are that a significant reduction in energy expenditure has been achieved, but great vigilance is still needed.

We also have some radiators, mostly in the two chancels and memorial corner, where the underfloor heating does not extend, but the radiators along the sides of the new church nave are so small, and so far from where most people sit, that they have little effect on comfort.

They were probably put there solely to counteract the cold draughts descending from our very large single-glazed windows. Those windows make for a wonderfully light and airy worship space, but they are also a major source of heat loss, which will need dealing with if we are to reach 'net zero' in the future.

After the refurbishment we were advised to use the underfloor heating to maintain a constant temperature 24/7 and to use the radiators to supplement it only when needed. That advice was given when energy was cheap and there was much less concern about climate change. Circumstances are very different now and I think that we need to be more flexible. The main block of seating in the new nave is only regularly occupied for less than two hours each Sunday morning, and yet we heat it for the other 166 hours each week as well. If we can save money by heating the church less at times when it is never used, such as the night hours, we might be able to afford to heat it more when it is really needed.

In the future, we will probably be forced to replace our gas boilers with air source heat pumps, in line with General Synod's 'brave' decision to aim for 'net zero' by 2030. As it happens, underfloor heating is well matched to heat pumps, which cannot produce the higher water temperatures normal for radiator systems, whereas the plastic pipes used underfloor cannot handle those higher water temperatures.

I hope that this has helped to explain where we are with the heating system and the dilemmas we face. We all feel the cold more as we get older, and we are doing what we can within economic constraints.

**Malcolm Dixon**

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## THE U IN JESUS

Before U were thought of or time had begun,  
God even stuck U in the name of His Son.

And each time U pray, you'll see it's true  
You can't spell out JesUs and not include U

You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name,  
For U, He was born; that's why He came.

And His great love for U is the reason He died.  
It even takes U to spell crUcified.

Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand  
He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?

The stones split away, the gold trUmpet blew,  
and this word resUrrection is spelled with a U.

When JesUs left earth at His upward ascension,  
He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.

"Now go into the world and tell them it's true  
That the love I have shown is not just for U."

So many great people are spelled with a U,  
Don't they have a right to know JesUs too?

It all depends now on what U will do,  
He'd like them to know,  
But it all starts with U.

## NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES



### A Street View!

Sometimes working with the archives involves lots (and I mean lots!) of dusty letters that more or less say the same thing. As we know, these days we tend to email and receive response after response. Before emails we wrote letters!

Recently, I have been looking at an envelope marked 'road charges' with the letters all being dated in the 1960s. On the first read-through the words 'church hall', conjured up pictures of the church hall at Bark Hart Road, rather than the 'old church hall' on Church Hill. The letters however, persistently mentioned Aynscombe Angle!

Today's Orpington features a lot of concrete and building works go on all around us. Pieces of the 'old Orpington' as it used to be can still be seen but there is a lot of concrete and tarmac that we take for granted in this modern world as it makes our journeys that much smoother – apart from the pot holes that have a habit of appearing!

In May 1963, our Solicitors were in discussion with the Orpington Urban Council about possible road charges. One particular letter stood out. The church hall's longest side borders Aynscombe Angle, which until 1963 was an unmade road!

The charge that applied to All Saints' Church was estimated at £320 1s 0d, which I believe, according to the Bank of England's website, works out at roughly £5,596.04 in today's society!



The house pictured was originally called Angle End House and belonged to the Harris family for many years. Aynscomb was an old family name. The house stood on the corner of the road where it met the High Street. It was altered in the early 1930s and converted into shops. (*Ideal Homes: A history of S E London Suburbs*)

The small cottages that still stand today in Aynscombe Angle are in the 'Arts & Crafts' style and were designed by the architect George St Pierre Harris.

**Lesley Birse**



## STEWARDSHIP OF TIME AND TALENTS



We are looking for people who can help us with the following:

### **Could you be a server?**

The serving team has grown a little over the last year, which is very good news, but nonetheless we could do with growing further! We love serving, but can't be available all the time. We take holidays, and sometimes experience health problems at short notice. We need most help for the special services during Holy Week and Easter. With the exception of Good Friday, we need three servers to do justice to each service. Holy Week and Easter were especially demanding this year.

Please have a chat with us if you might be interested in becoming a server. We'll do all we can to support you. You can also contact us by telephone (01689 851767) or by email [vanessa.m.dixon@btinternet.com](mailto:vanessa.m.dixon@btinternet.com) or [malcolm.g.dixon@btinternet.com](mailto:malcolm.g.dixon@btinternet.com).

### **Silver Cleaning**

Keeping the silver clean in church is very important. This is not an onerous task and is only necessary once a month. If you can help, please speak to Jean Reeve.

### **Stewards to assist at Weddings & Funerals**

This is to assist at these special services especially when the families who are not regular members of our congregation are unfamiliar with the church. It is nice to have a friendly face welcome them at the door and hand them the necessary Order of Service/hymn books. If you would like more information, please speak to George.



the michael project

2 CORINTHIANS 4:8-9

WE ARE HARD PRESSED ON EVERY SIDE, BUT NOT CRUSHED; PERPLEXED, BUT NOT IN DESPAIR; PERSECUTED, BUT NOT ABANDONED; STRUCK DOWN, BUT NOT DESTROYED.

# PRAYER REQUESTS

April 2024

## 1 THANKSGIVING

Since the beginning of this year, we have faced numerous challenging situations, but we are deeply thankful for the immense support we have received. The prayers and practical assistance have been truly uplifting. As in 1 Thessalonians 5:11, we have found strength and encouragement through the unwavering faith and resilience of those who surround us.

## 2 PRESCHOOLS

We have initiated several building projects to enhance the learning experiences of the children we serve. These include 2 additional toilets and a septic tank for Chikurubi, a new fence, a storeroom and additional classroom for Wingate and an updated playground equipment for both sites. Your prayers for sustained provision are requested to ensure the timely completion of each project.



Two additional Toilets at Chikurubi Preschool

New fence Wingate Preschool

## 3 SHALOM HOME

Since the start of the year, we have welcomed 5 children ranging from 5 weeks to 4 years old to the Shalom family bringing the total of children in residential care to 21. Their backgrounds involve stories of abandonment, neglect, or abuse. Please pray for:

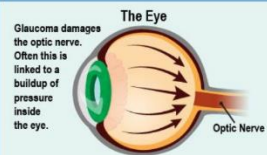
- Their complete recovery from both physical and emotional wounds
- God to guide a way towards reunification, adoption, or foster care for each of them as appropriate.



Shalom Home

## 4 SURGERY

Last year, two brothers were successfully reunited with their grandparents after a decade of separation. TMP remains committed to assisting the boys with their education and medical needs. One of the siblings has been diagnosed with glaucoma and is scheduled for surgery on April 10th. Please pray for financial resources so the operation can go ahead. Please also pray for a successful procedure and for complete healing and vision restoration.



Glaucoma damages the optic nerve. Often this is linked to a buildup of pressure inside the eye.

The Eye

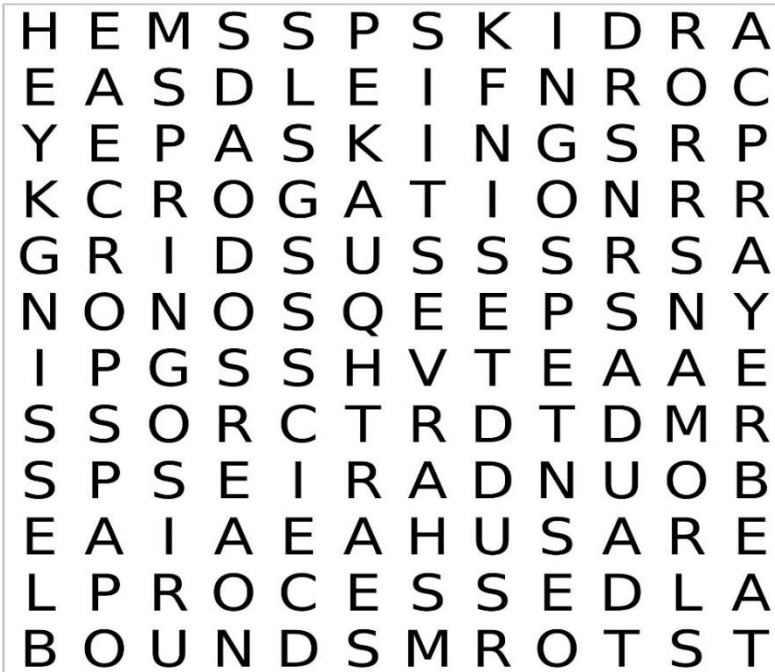
Optic Nerve

www.123rf.com

## COFFEE BREAK

### Rogation Sunday

The first **Sunday** in **May** is **Rogation** Sunday. This is when many parishes still 'beat the bounds'. Rogation means an **asking** of God - for **blessing** on the **seed** and **land**. The practice began with the **Romans**, who **processed** around the **cornfields** each **Spring**, singing and dancing, sacrificing animals, in order to get rid of evil. About 465 AD the Western world was suffering from **earthquake** and **storm**. Mamertius, Bishop of Vienne, aware of the pagan custom, ordered that **prayers** should be said in the ruined or neglected fields. Thus 'beating the bounds' became a Christian ceremonial. It arrived in England early in the eighth century. Each Spring, led by the priest, a little party from the parish would set out with a **Cross** to trace the **boundaries** of the parish. They'd implore God to keep their **crops** and roots and boughs in good health, and bring them to **harvest**. In the days when **maps** were scarce, 'beating the bounds' helped remind everyone just where the boundaries were. Do you know yours today?



## CHILDREN'S CORNER



Can you find the words in the grid

w	n	v	m	q	s	t	a	f	f	m	l
a	h	i	o	e	g	y	p	t	z	a	v
t	l	i	s	a	a	r	o	n	m	m	f
e	m	o	n	t	h	s	a	m	o	a	n
r	m	d	g	g	r	q	s	i	u	l	s
l	o	h	r	g	e	u	i	k	n	e	i
g	d	e	u	l	p	a	s	t	t	k	n
f	x	l	m	a	h	i	h	u	a	i	a
o	c	p	b	n	i	l	p	f	i	t	i
o	d	e	l	d	s	l	x	n	e	j	
d	u	d	e	l	i	c	i	o	u	s	e
b	r	e	a	d	m	a	n	n	a	f	v

bread

manna

water

delicious

Moses

Sinai

God

disputes

whinge

staff

Egypt

mountain

food

Aaron

moan

Rephidim

land

oasis

grumble

quails

Elim

months

Amalekites

helped

## THE LIGHTER SIDE



### Children's exam papers

*The following real-life answers to various exam papers explain why teachers need long holidays...*

*What is a nitrate?*

Cheaper than a day rate.

*What was Sir Walter Raleigh famous for?*

He is a noted figure in history because he invented cigarettes and started a craze for bicycles.

*What did Mahatma Gandhi and Genghis Khan have in common?*

Unusual names.

*Name six animals which live specifically in the Artic.*

Two polar bears. Four seals.

*Name the wife of Orpheus, whom he attempted to save from the underworld.*

Mrs Orpheus.

*Where was the American Declaration of Independence signed?*

At the bottom.

*What is a fibula?*

A little lie.

### Taking Jesus

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took the boy Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied: *"They couldn't get a babysitter."*

### Hearing

A man went into a church and asked the vicar to pray for his hearing. Touched by his faith, the vicar agreed. "Kneel here," he began in a loud voice. The man knelt, and the vicar placed a hand on each ear and bellowed a prayer. "I hope that will help," he finally shouted. "Well, I won't know for a while," the man replied. "It isn't until next month".

## GROUPS AND SOCIETIES

<b>Choir Practice</b>	Adult choir - practice takes place on Fridays at 7.30 p.m (except August) Junior choir - practice takes place on Sundays at 10.45 a.m (except August)
<b>Bible Reading Fellowship</b>	BRF Notes are available on request. <b>Contact:</b> Maggie Dawson - 01689 823857
<b>Children's Society</b>	<b>Contact:</b> Anne Spencer - 01689 601753
<b>CRAFT Club</b>	This group meets on the third Thursday of each month at 2 pm in the Old Church. <b>Contact:</b> Lisa Kent – 01689 836392
<b>Gardening Group</b>	This group meets on Thursdays at 10 am until 12.30 pm (weather permitting). <b>Contact:</b> David House - 01689 828037
<b>Midweek Communion</b>	This takes place every Wednesday at 10 am in the Old Church followed by refreshments.
<b>Charity Lunches</b>	These lunches take place on the fourth Thursday of each month at 12.30 pm in the Old Church. <b>Contact:</b> Sheila Routledge - 07801 574782
<b>Focus</b>	This group is open to all women and meet on the second Thursday of each month at 2 p.m in the Old Church. <b>Contact:</b> Anne Spencer - 01689 601753
<b>Julian Group</b>	This group is open to all and meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 2 p.m <b>Contact:</b> Vanessa Dixon - 01689 851767
<b>Out of Focus</b>	This social group is open to all men and meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 8 pm at the Cricketers. <b>Contact:</b> Alan Hussey – 01689 821632
<b>St Michael's Guild</b>	The guild decorate the Church throughout the year including weddings and funerals. They can arrange pedestals for members of the congregation to celebrate an anniversary, birthday or in memory of a loved one. <b>Contact:</b> Margaret Lovett - 01689 831667

