



St Mark's Parish Magazine

September 2019

Donations to cover the cost of this publication are welcome

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Your Views & Contributions

Next issue will be available from Sunday 6 October 2019
All contributions to the editor by Friday 20 September 2019

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LETTER FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends,



September is seen by many people as a month of new beginnings. As the new school and college year starts, tens of thousands of people will be going to school or college for the first time. Many more will be starting in new classes or year groups, and for the teaching and lecturing staff they will face a new year of targets and all the challenges which they bring. Each new school year brings new opportunities for many people as well as new obstacles to overcome, and so it is a time of looking forward with anticipation and hope as well as some trepidation.

But it's not only for people connected with the education sector that this sense of newness and looking forward is relevant. In our lives we all have times when there is a very clear sense of things changing and moving on.

At the centre of the Christian faith is the message that God is not only the unchanging God that we sometimes refer to in some of our older hymns, but is also a God who is forever demonstrating new ways of entering into relationship. Our God is a God of change as well as a God of constancy. The Bible testifies to a gradual awakening of an understanding amongst God's people of how God works. Time and again the people of the Bible are surprised at where God can be found and how God can be seen to work, and in my ministry that is something to which I would testify.

We should expect to see God working in what we might consider unlikely places and also we should expect God to work through unlikely people. It is, we believe, God's world that we live in, so it should not surprise us if we are sometimes taken aback at where we find signs of that presence.

As we go into the future we should never travel in fear that God is not going to journey with us to the same degree as he journeyed with us in the past. Instead we should look forward with a sense of anticipation that we will discover God in the most unlikely of places and that we will continue to be surprised that he travels with us in our newest of experiences. We should be reminded of Jesus' promise to his disciples as recorded at the end of the gospel of Matthew: 'I am with you always, to the end of time.' Let us live in that hope.

With every blessing.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Manton'.

Heritage open days

From the 13 to 22 September this year the 'Heritage open days' festival will see places across the country opening their doors for free to celebrate heritage, community and history.

It is a chance to get out and explore some wonderful places across the county of Surrey and beyond. Here is a taste of the events which are taking place local to us, all of which are completely free to attend.

Dorking Museum – Betchworth Castle Walk

A 90 minute guided tour around the picturesque ruins of this castle, on 21 September between 2.00pm and 3.30pm. Booking is required via the Dorking Halls Box Office.

Polesden Lacey

If you are not already a National Trust member, you can access Polesden Lacey for free on Friday 13 September between 10.00am and 5.00pm.

Lowfield Heath Windmill

Lowfield Heath Windmill, Russ Hill, Charlwood, Horley, Surrey, RH6 0EL

Visit a complete eighteenth century windmill and enjoy a guided tour and small exhibition about the restoration. Visitors are free to enjoy the grounds and even bring a picnic. Note though that there are no toilets on site. Open Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 September from 1.30pm until 5.00pm. No booking required.



Spies and Trained Assassins: How events in the Mole Valley changed the direction of World War Two

Leatherhead Community Association, Leatherhead Institute, 67 High Street, Leatherhead, KT22 8AH

Lorraine Spindler's talk will uncover many of Surrey's historic links to the activities of spies and ultimately how the training of assassins in Surrey changed the direction of the Second World War.

Saturday 21 September at 11.00am.

For more information visit www.heritageopendays.org.uk/about.

News from the Church of England

Religion in our schools

Following the news that atheist parents are taking their children's primary school to the High Court, claiming that biblical re-enactments and praying in assembly are a breach of their human rights, reported on 29 July.

Nigel Genders, the Church of England's Chief Education Officer wrote a letter to The Times on 30 July.

"We live at a time when children feel besieged by social media, weighed down by pressure and report poor mental health. Collective worship offers ten minutes in a day for children to pause and explore the big existential questions such as 'Who am I?' 'Why am I here?' and 'How then should I live?'"

"Offering this in the context of authentic Christian worship is not 'religious indoctrination' but a simple chance for children of all faiths and none to develop spiritually and gain perspective in an otherwise crowded day.

"There is much evidence of the value of collective worship to children and young people which is why thousands of community schools also have strong partnerships with local churches and faith groups. What happens in schools must be evidence-based and should not be in response to secular pressure group campaigns."

Sports ministry receives a boost from the Church of England

Five-a-side football, running groups, after-school sports and a boxing club are to be supported by the Church of England as part of a drive to reach people who may never have been to church before; it was announced on 4 August.

The scheme is among projects across the country aimed at spreading the Christian faith, supported by more than £12 million of Strategic Development Funding, a key part of the Church of England's programme of Renewal and Reform.

The grants continue the Church of England's commitment to invest in communities with significant levels of deprivation.

A sports ministry project in the Diocese of Norwich takes its inspiration from work already under way at St Thomas's Church in the city where 'sports ministers' work alongside children and adults.

The project is the first sports ministry work to be funded by Strategic Development Funding. It could act as a blueprint for dioceses across the country interested in promoting the Christian faith through sports.

Tim Henery, who leads sports ministry at St Thomas's, said: "A lot of young people see the church as just pews and hymns - not something that relates to them. Through playing sports they realise that there are people who come to church and are like them."

"Sports ministry is helping us to reach people who may never have heard the message of the Gospel, helping us to transform their view of the church. We are building relationships and changing lives."

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said: "From congregations in cafes and community centres to sports ministry and social action, these projects are moving the heart of our mission to where it should be, recognising Jesus beyond the borders of the institutional church. The Good News of Jesus Christ cannot be contained within existing worshipping communities. We want everyone to know how much they are loved by God."

Local News

VOCES8 Workshop and Concert

Brockham Choral Society is bringing the World Renowned VOCES8 to Dorking on **Saturday 5 October**.

VOCES8 will run a workshop for children (aged: 8 -18) FREE, and Adults £10.00 from 1.00pm until 5.00pm.

VOCES8 will perform an evening concert at 7.00pm.

Concert tickets Adults £15.00 in advance, £20.00 on the door. Children £10.00
A combined package of workshop and concert for adults are offered at £20.00.

Venue, St. Paul's Church, Dorking RH4 2HT

Info & Tickets: www.brockhamchoral.org/Voces8-Dorking

Voces8 info: www.voces8.com

Fundraising



S · M · O · A · T

ST MARK'S OVERSEAS AID TRUST
REGISTERED CHARITY No. 280091

Another SMOATathon is approaching fast. SMOATathon2019 will take place in St Mark's Church on **Sunday 29 September**, when the aim will be to provide live continuous music between 11.30am and 5.00pm and, through sponsorship and donations, to raise much-needed funds for a project to help relieve poverty in a developing country.

If you can sing or play a musical instrument and would like to take part the SMOAT committee would love to hear from you! Time-slots of varying length are available, from a few minutes upwards. If you don't see yourself as a performer, then come along anyway and enjoy the music (and refreshments!) for as long as you wish.

David Lear (david@smoat.org.uk) will be pleased to provide further details.

Church hall tables

We will be replacing the square blue tables in the Hall with new tables of a similar design and size. The new tables cost £48.00 each. If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of purchasing the tables, please pass on your donation to the churchwardens or the Parish Office marked as "Donation towards tables". If you are a taxpayer this donation can be gift aided. Donations can be made by cash, cheque, or in person by card. More information is available from the churchwardens and the Parish Office. This is a continued part of our upgrading of the hall facilities.

Church Garden

On **Saturday 12 October**, between 9.00am and 12.00pm, there will be a working party to tidy the church garden. Volunteers are needed - you don't need to know anything about gardening as there are many other tasks to be performed.

Refreshments will be available.

We need to purchase compost and bulbs so if you can't join us, but would like to contribute to improving our garden, a donation would be appreciated.

Liz Davis and Patricia Bird

Church events

Community Lunches

On the second Sunday of the month we provide a Community Lunch at St Mark's...



A lovely Sunday roast with all the trimmings followed by a traditional dessert provided by our wonderful team of volunteers for the senior members of the community, who would otherwise be on their own.

Members should RSVP by 26 September to join us on 13 October, this will enable us to reallocate any spaces.

We need more volunteers to enable us to host more guests!

For more information or to volunteer as a driver or helper please contact:
Robert Cramp on: **07887 600190** or Alison Stagg on: **01737 243992**

St Mark's Afternoon Retirement Team – SMART

On the first Thursday of the month – 2.00pm until 4.00pm

In October: Bruce Cousins "A vocal interlude" Please come to have fun and join in.
Thursday 3 October at 2.00pm in the Hall

New members are always welcome. Contact Sarah Cousins - **01737 789943** or Louise Wallis - **01737 242129** for more details.

'T' Time Tales

On Wednesday from 3.25pm until 3.55pm during term time, the first of the term taking place 11 September.

Children aimed 4 – 11 are welcome to join in. Refreshments are served.

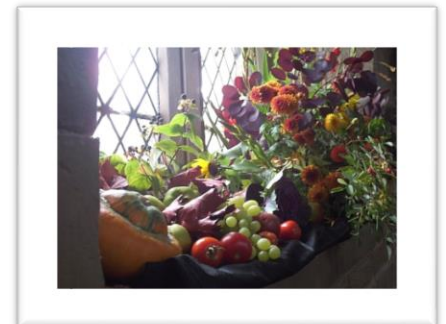
Come along and enjoy a story, sing song and biscuits.

Autumn days



On 23 September is the autumnal equinox which is officially the first day of autumn. With that in mind we look at 6 things which are great about autumn.

- 1) Autumnal foliage – there is nothing more beautiful than the reds, golds and oranges that line the countryside in the run up to winter, as the leaves turn.
- 2) Cosy fires in pubs – when the air starts to turn chilly, nothing is more inviting than a warm fire and a cosy chair. We have some great local pubs which are even more special when the fire is roaring.
- 3) Harvest festival – a time to celebrate and give thanks for the crops and food which we are so lucky to have. St Marks will be celebrating on 6 October this year.
- 4) TV shows – the X-factor, Strictly Come Dancing and the Great British Bake Off will be back on our televisions. We know the countdown to Christmas has begun.
- 5) Cosy clothes – there is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing and autumn gives us the excuse to put on our knitted jumpers and fluffy socks.
- 6) Comfort food – gone is the salad and out come the stews and hot puddings.



St Mark's Pull-Out Guide

REGULAR SERVICES AND EVENTS AT ST MARK'S

SUNDAYS

8.00am	Each Sunday	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.00am	1 st Sunday	Sung Eucharist (with Junior Church)
	2 nd Sunday	Parish Eucharist (with Junior Church)
	3 rd Sunday	Sung Eucharist (with Story Telling)
	4 th Sunday	Sung Eucharist (with Junior Church)
	5 th Sunday	Sung Eucharist (with Junior Church)
1.00pm	2 nd Sunday	Community Lunch
4.00pm	1 st Sunday	Family Service
	3 rd Sunday	Messy Church
6.00pm	1 st Sunday	Evening Prayer (said)
	2 nd Sunday	Taizé Prayer
	3 rd Sunday	Evening Prayer (said)
	4 th Sunday	Evening Prayer (said)
	5 th Sunday	Evening Prayer (said)

MONDAY TO WEDNESDAY

8.30am Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel (20 minutes)

MONDAY

9.30am St Mark's Toddler Group in the hall (term-time only)

TUESDAY

10.00am 3rd Tuesday St Mark's Buffers (in the church)

WEDNESDAY

3.25pm T Time Tales (term-time only)

THURSDAY

8.30am Informal Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel
12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) followed by tea or coffee
2.00pm 1st Thursday SMART

SATURDAY

8.00pm 4th Saturday St Mark's Social Dance

A Handy Pull-Out Guide to 'What's On' at St Mark's

CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 2019

Sunday 1 September	Trinity 11 4.00pm Family Service 6.00pm Evening Prayer
Thursday 5 September	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) 2.00pm SMART
Sunday 8 September	Trinity 12 1.00pm Community Lunch 5.00pm ROOTS Church (at Wisdom of God) 6.00pm Taizé Prayer
Monday 9 September	9.30am Parent and Toddler Group resumes
Wednesday 11 September	3.25pm T Time Tales resumes
Thursday 12 September	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)
Saturday 14 September	Holy Cross Day 10.00am Lay Conference at St Bede's School
Sunday 15 September	Trinity 13 4.00pm Messy Church 6.00pm Evening Prayer
Tuesday 17 September	10.00am St Mark's Buffers 8.00pm PCC Meeting
Thursday 19 September	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)
Saturday 21 September	St Matthew the Apostle
Sunday 22 September	Trinity 14 5.00pm ROOTS Youth Club (Lower Kingswood Hall) 6.00pm Evening Prayer
Thursday 26 September	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)
Saturday 28 September	8.00pm St Mark's Social Dance
Sunday 29 September	St Michael and All Angels 11.30am SMOATathon 6.00pm Evening Prayer

CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER 2019

Thursday 3 October	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) 2.00pm SMART
Sunday 6 October	Harvest Festival 4.00pm Family Service 5.00pm Harvest Supper No Evening Prayer
Thursday 10 October	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)
Saturday 12 October	9.00am Working Party
Sunday 13 October	Trinity 17 1.00pm Community Lunch 5.00pm ROOTS Church (at Wisdom of God) 6.00pm Taizé Prayer
Tuesday 15 October	10.00am St Mark's Buffers
Thursday 17 October	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)
Friday 18 October	St Luke the Evangelist
Sunday 20 October	Trinity 18 4.00pm Messy Church 6.00pm Evening Prayer
Thursday 24 October	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)
Saturday 26 October	8.00pm St Mark's Social Dance
Sunday 27 October	Bible Sunday 5.00pm ROOTS Youth Club (Lower Kingswood Hall) 6.00pm Evening Prayer
Monday 28 th October	St Simon and St Jude, Apostles No Parent and Toddler Group (Half-term)
Wednesday 30 th October	No T Time Tales (Half-term)
Thursday 31 st October	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)

PARISH ACTIVITIES, EVENTS, GROUPS & CONTACTS

CHURCH FLOWER ROTA

Contact: Mrs Valerie Jones 01737 246538

CHOIR PRACTICE

Each Thursday in church - all parts at 7.00pm - other practices as notified

DATA REQUESTS

Contact: Parish Office – 01737 210785

HOME GROUP

Contact: Mrs Susannah Dyde – 01737 221638

IONA COMMUNION – LUNCHTIME SERVICE

Every Thursday 12.45pm to 1.15pm followed by Coffee/Tea

PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

Contact: Mrs Louise Wallis 01737 242129

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Mrs Rosemary Absalom 01737 240351

SMART - St Mark's Afternoon Retirement Team

Meetings on the first Thursday of the month

Contacts: Mrs Sarah Cousins 01737 789943 or Mrs Louise Wallis 01737 242129

ST MARK'S BUFFERS

Meeting in church on the third Tuesday of the month from 10am - 12noon

ST MARK'S COMMUNITY LUNCH

Contacts: Paul Selvadurai 01737 223077 & Mrs Alison Stagg 01737 243992

ST MARK'S CHURCH HALL

Regular Lettings Secretary: Mrs Jean Hatton 01737 765759

Party Bookings & Church Bookings via Parish Office 01737 210785

ST MARK'S OVERSEAS AID TRUST - SMOAT

Chairman: Mrs Barbara Perkins, 01737 226632

ST MARK'S SINGERS

Rehearsals Monday 7.30pm in the church – all welcome

Contact: Toby Garrood 01737 241979

WEBSITE & FACEBOOK

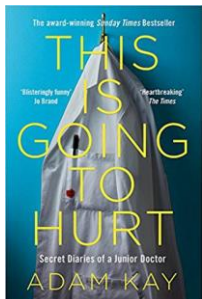
Contact: Ben Read Email: benread@hotmail.com

YOUTH WORK

Junior Church: Mrs Leonora Corden, l.corden@btinternet.com 01737 224534

Book Review

This month we review *This is Going to Hurt: Secret Diaries of a Junior Doctor*



This book was selected as it is in the top 5 of the non-fiction book chart, it has won awards and is a Sunday Times Best Seller. It is a humorous and heart felt account of Adam Kay's time as a junior doctor.

The author documents the years covering his first placement to the time and reasons he left the profession. Adam Kay was a junior doctor specialising in Gynaecology. This book gives an honest account of what it is like to work on the front line of the NHS; the treatment received and reality of gruelling long hours.

This book will have you experience a rollercoaster of emotions, crying for the patients one minute and laughing out loud at the no holds barred honesty of day to day antics. You won't be able to help but sympathise with the doctors who under Jeremy Hunt's leadership have struggled with policy changes, pay and conditions.

You can't deny the passion and dedication that Adam Kay gave to the job. He shows care for his patients and on occasion crosses the line of professionalism in favour of personal connection.

The author has an impressive record for the number of babies he has delivered. He talks about the difficulties which can be encountered in child birth and also helps explain some complicated medical jargon, to help keep the reader informed and able to follow the events detailed in the book.

You'll come away with even greater admiration for the people who work in our health service and a little more informed about the antics which happen on a delivery ward.

Have you read this book? Got a suggestion for a book review? We would love to hear your thoughts. Please get in touch at magazine@stmarksreigate.co.uk.

Letter to the editor

Memory

Do we always recognise how important memory is to our lives?

It was just as I reached the top step of my stairs that I realised I had forgotten why I had come up there. This is a common experience for the "more mature". I comfort myself with the thought that the exercise, which is likely to be repeated within the next half hour, is good for me. However, apparently if I should wish to recover the reason why I was going upstairs it is best to go back to the room from which I first proceeded!

Memory is vital. It is what makes people who they are. I am not specially thinking of those reminiscences which the old use to remind themselves of what they once were, as a means of justifying what they are now. (Though as the very moving aria 'Memories,' from Cats illustrates, reminiscences can be most powerful). Two minutes' reflection will show that if we could not remember yesterday there would be no point to the future. Life without yesterday would hold no tomorrow. Let's go a bit further. Without memory there can be no experience, we could learn nothing: actually we could do nothing.

Take the last one, doing something, first. Short term memory, lasting say less than a second, is essential for most actions. Take driving a car. The mind must memorise the facts of the current road circumstances before signalling to the arms to steer the car, operate the brakes, use the clutch and so on. Internal distractions such as speech or noise can intrude into the memory to confuse the subsequent actions.

Then there is long term memory which is what we normally mean by memory. Most of our lives are based on past experience, which is the essence of our being. Consciously or sub consciously our minds pull up from our memory that experience or facts we have acquired through the past, including learning, which we require to decide something today.

Psychologists tell us that there is nothing we once experienced which is not tucked away in our memories. The memory functions by electrical impulses drawing out, as it were, from boxes, that piece of past information we squirreled away and now require. The trouble is the electricity slows down. That is why we often cannot remember something which later comes to us without any positive effort. But only after we have come downstairs!

The importance of memory is also well illustrated by looking back on the working life. At first everything was new, and required investigation and research. By the end, one often knew the answers to a new problem off the cuff because, although this one was unique, one had faced so many similar problems in the past. Underlying our thinking is a mass of accumulated memory.

However, memory is notoriously unreliable. Two people often have different recollections of "what happened". This may be due to differences in what they first "noticed". The car was blue but the other person remembers the dent in the front wing which he thought was black. Memory is very personal.

Memory also suffers from gross larceny. We may well recall "significant" events from the past but, say, our past daily life with our children escapes us. We can try to recapture "one day in the life of" but all we get is something more like an emotion than a clear picture. The electricity is not up to connecting those little boxes. Yet look at a photo and something comes flooding back.

I don't think it is understood why the capacity to remember varies from one person to another.

As a child I suffered, yes actually suffered, from a poor memory. The weekly chore of learning extracts from poetry or Shakespeare found me languishing under the lash of the teacher's tongue or more. Apparently modern learning flourishes without this discipline. As for learning historical dates and chemical formula they were not much better: forget it, at least which is what happened to me. However, as time went on I seemed able to remember much without conscious effort but just from my reading, though nothing to what my grandson puts away today. So our individual and maybe inherited capacity to remember does increase.

Many minor happenings are best forgotten. Our present judgement may be better based on general impressions than the intricate detail. After all, especially today, so much has changed and is changing, that judgement based on past experience has to be reapplied with vigorous attention to the facts of the present. But perhaps it is the 'glow' of the mass of past remembrances, which makes us what we are, and are so important, and not the detail.

Today, so much material is collected in computers that the need for memory may seem to be a thing of the past. Think of all those people you see so vigorously engaged in consulting information from mobile phones; gathering info from the Net or elsewhere. And they do it on the run. Could it be that in the future they will be able to call up "what I was doing six years ago today?"

However, ready information has not stopped the widespread use of 'fake news' which creates a background where finally the actual remembered facts seem less important than what one wants to hear. Or maybe people are happy to set aside

untruths when it fits their purpose. Or perhaps, patronisingly, shrug it off with the excuse that "he" does not recognise or has forgotten what is truth or untruth. In my view this makes it even more important that we use our powers of analysis backed by memory to sort out the wheat from the chaff, and hopefully arrive at the truth.

That is fine until we grow old. Deafness and failing eyesight do not help the necessary process of discerning the facts in the first place. And it is well established that the capacity to remember diminishes with age. Much, however, is like that trip upstairs. If you are patient it comes back to you in the end. One is just a little slower.

So, if the wisdom of age is out of fashion, let us concentrate on patience. At the least that will help us get by. Patience sometimes gives an impression of wisdom. Patience may lead some to consider you have lost the thread. What surprise then when the comment reveals hidden depths. At the least it keeps the young on their toes. At best it may yet allow them to learn something worth having, hopefully to go along with truth.

Harry Ingram

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Environmental News

Creationtide or the Season of Creation is the period in the annual church calendar, from 1 September to 4 October, dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life. The theme for 2019 is 'the web of life: biodiversity as God's blessing'.

Genesis 9:12-13 "God said, "This is the sign of the covenant which I am making between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all successive generations; I set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of a covenant between Me and the Earth."

Biodiversity - matters not only because human well-being depends on stable and thriving ecosystems and the services they give to us, from clean water and food, to oxygen, clothing and climate regulation, and all the 'resources' we use from nature. Biodiversity matters firstly because God gives value to every creature that is created.

Today, human behaviour is destroying the fabric of God's creation at an unprecedented rate. According to the Living Planet Report 2018, there has been a 60% decline in global wildlife populations between 1970 and 2014. There are multiple causes, from deforestation, habitat destruction, climate change, and pollution of soil, water and air, including the tide of plastic pollution filling the oceans.

Season of Creation 2019 encourages participation of churches and Christians worldwide through:

- Celebrating the goodness of God's gift through worship.
- Reflect on our mistreatment of the world, repent and commit to new practices.
- Learn more about our wildlife and ecology.
- Teach our community about God's web of life.
- Practice conservation in our own gardens, schools, churchyards and community spaces.
- Be an advocate of nature.

For more information, visit the Church of England website or seasonofcreation.org.

Reader recipes

Chilli Jam and Goats Cheese Tart

Ingredients for pastry:-

6oz flour

3oz vegetable fat (trex)

3-4 tbsp. water

Ingredients for filling:-

2 tbsp. of chilli jam

1 stick of celery

1 small red onion

2oz mushrooms or increase if leaving bacon out

100g lardons

1 medium egg

2 tbsp. crème fraiche

3 tbsp. milk

1/2 goats cheese

Cherry tomatoes

Fresh parsley

Dried basil

Salt & black pepper



1. Make short crust pastry & line tart tin & bake blind in oven at 180C for 12-15 minutes. Rest.
2. Spread chilli jam over pastry base.
3. Fry gently in olive oil the chopped bacon/celery/onion/mushroom then spread over on top of the chilli jam.
4. Beat together egg/milk/crème fraiche & season. Pour over quiche.
5. Next place thin halved slices of goat's cheese around dish & put halved cherry tomatoes in between for effect until completely covered
6. Sprinkle on basil & parsley.
7. Cook at 180C for approx. 30 minutes or until filling is cooked through.
Enjoy with crisp white wine & salad!

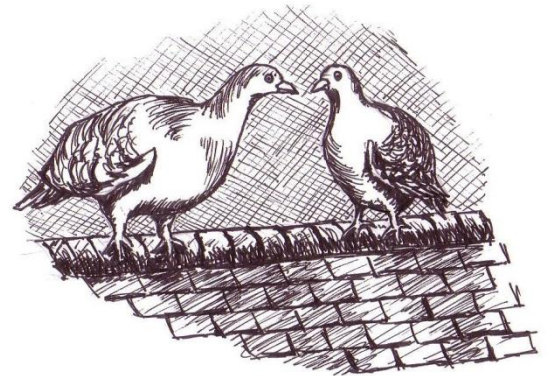
Thank you to Sarah Cousins for this recipe. We would really like to hear from you with your favourite recipes. It really can be anything. Please email them to magazine@stmarksreigate.co.uk or leave them with the Parish Office.

Candlemouse Returns

*Another Tale about a Church Mouse for younger readers
Written by Sarah Cousins and illustrated by Roger Lloyd*

Pigeons and pulpits

Hello, it's me again, Candlemouse. I live in St Mark's Church near the railway station in Reigate. I'm as small and as quiet as a mouse can be, so most people don't notice me, which gives me plenty of time to see them and the things that they do!

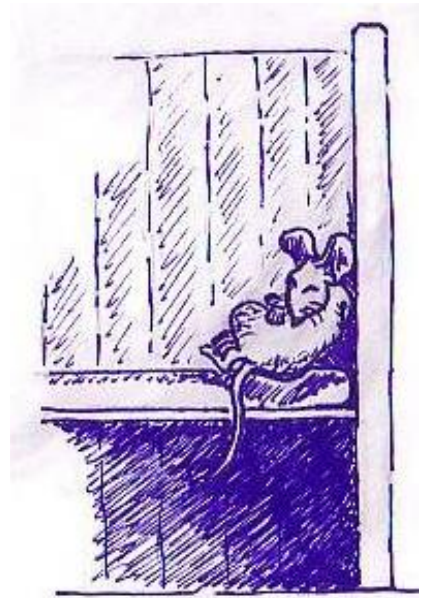


Have you ever seen the pigeons perched up high on the roof of St Mark's Church? Two of them are friends of mine called Paul and Philemon. Paul and Philemon like to talk a lot. Paul is *very* longwinded which means he doesn't run out of breath and talks *on and on!* Sometimes he makes me feel quite sleepy with his talking.

When I asked them what they talked about they said that they heard lots of the sermons in the church and found them interesting. "What is a ***sermon?***" I asked. "It's a talk about God and if it's an interesting talk it will also be about the gospel or good news of Jesus", Paul told me.

"Jesus has a lot of good news for us", Philemon cooed. "He helps us say we're sorry when we fight with each other, doesn't he Paul?"

Paul started to say that he didn't like to use the word *fight*. He preferred to say that he and Philemon didn't agree on everything but I was more interested in the sermons. They told me to watch when the vicar, a tall man with a very kind face, went up some steps into a wooden box called a **pulpit**. "That is when you will hear a sermon, Candlemouse," they cooed as they flew off to look for their tea.



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Let's pray

A lot of prayer goes into a sermon.

Pray for us listeners to hear something from the Spirit of God just for us,

As we come with our hearts prepared and open to hear.

Something that will challenge and encourage learning-in-faith and faith-in-action.

Comfort or cleanse a problem that hurts.

Lift and inspire us to share this good news.

Puzzles

September Sudoku Challenge

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

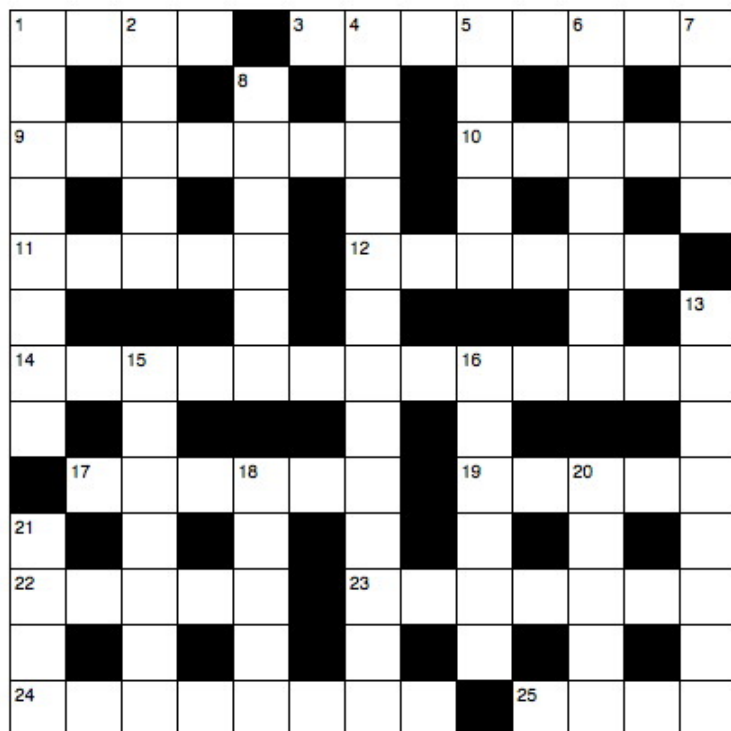
August Sudoku Solution

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

September Crossword Challenge

Across

- 1 'A little later someone else saw Peter and said, "You — are one of them"' (Luke 22:58) (4)
- 3 Giving (1 Peter 2:5) (8)
- 9 They came to Jerusalem seeking an infant king (Matthew 2:7) (3,4)
- 10 'An athlete... does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the — ' (2 Timothy 2:5) (5)
- 11 Pacifist, temperance advocate, open-air preacher, leading 20th- century Methodist, Donald — (5)
- 12 'Come quickly to — — , O Lord my Saviour' (Psalm 38:22) (4,2)
- 14 'The God of Abraham, — — — , the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus' (Acts 3:13) (5,3,5)
- 17 Sear by intense heat (Revelation 16:8) (6)
- 19 'It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust — — ' (Psalm 118:8) (2,3)
- 22 Goods (Nehemiah 13:15) (5)
- 23 i.e. train (anag.) (7)
- 24 Surrounding area (Luke 24:50) (8)
- 25 'Righteousness will be his — and faithfulness the sash round his waist' (Isaiah 11:5) (4)



Down

- 1 Elegant and creative (Exodus 31:4) (8)
- 2 'Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all — , but we will all be changed' (1 Corinthians 5:51) (5)
- 4 'I... delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your — — — is' (Colossians 2:5) (5,2,6)
- 5 Enlist (2 Samuel 24:2) (5)
- 6 Of the Muslim faith (7)
- 7 Sharp intake of breath (Job 11:20) (4)
- 8 Woven cloth (Ezekiel 16:13) (6)
- 13 Plentiful (Romans 5:17) (8)
- 15 CIA char (anag.) (7)
- 16 Paul and Silas stopped him committing suicide after an earthquake in Philippi (Acts 16:27–28) (6)
- 18 One of the ingredients in the making of incense for the Lord (Exodus 30:34) (5)
- 20 Episcopal headwear (5)
- 21 Inhabitant of, say, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia or Bulgaria (4)

ACROSS: 1 Amazed 4 Others 8 Peter 9 Zebedee 10 Accuser 11 Endue 12 Scripture 17 Shrub 19 Abashed 21 Foolish 22 Upset 23 Loathe 24 Lesser

DOWN: 1 Appeal 2 Attacks 3 Earns 5 Tableau 6 Ended 7 Shekel 9 Zarephath 13 Rubbish 14 Ephesus 15 Useful 16 Editor 18 Rhoda 20 Abuse

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