

BUCKLAND PARISH MAGAZINE



Buckland Reading Room, c. 1900

February 2025

SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN, BUCKLAND

www.stmarythevirginbuckland.net

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TO ALL OUR READERS

Please ...

Your Annual Subscription for this magazine is now due.

It is only £12 per household per year (see p.5)

It is the policy of the Church that the magazine will be distributed to all homes in Buckland, unless you specifically opt-out. Nevertheless, both advertisers and subscription income is essential for the magazine to continue, so we appeal to your good nature to respond with the £12 subscription.

We have made it easier to make a payment, with several payment options:

A) Direct Debit* of £12 payable on a date in February 2024 & recurring annually (use any e-banking process) OR...

B) Annual Payment* of £12 for the 2024 subscription only (use any e-banking process)

*** Pay 'St Mary's Buckland': Account Number 03428508, Sort code 60-17-27**

With reference 'Parish Magazine' OR...

C) £12 CASH In the Yellow envelope provided with this issue, and deliver it to:

- Your distributor—see Page 4 for their address
- To the Editor, Duncan Ferns (Yewdells, Dungates Lane RH3 7BD)

Any donation over £12 also goes directly to the Church and is also much appreciated. If you are a taxpayer please make your donation Gift Aided in the usual manner. (See the yellow envelope. attached)

...Thank you

THANK YOU—MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

February is the month that we request subscriptions—please see page 3. We have now provided the option of paying by e-banking which many people find easier, as well as the traditional cash-in-the-envelope—the yellow envelope is also continued.

Our magazines are distributed by volunteers who each have a road or two to deliver to each month, as detailed below:

Distributors of Buckland Parish Magazine		
Distribution to	By	Address
Tranquil Dale to Bramley Lodge; Broome Perrow Cottage Lane	Alan Pryor	Broome Perrow Cottage, off Reigate Road
Buckland Green, Slough Lane	Louise Gibson	Camrose, Rectory Lane
South end Rectory Lane (Grange Lodge to Pettys Farm and Barn)	Kim Husband	Dove Tree Cottage, Rectory Lane
North end of Rectory Lane	Catriona Martin	Old Kemps Farm, Recto-
Wildecroft area	Sue Fellows	Wildecroft Cottage
Old Road from A25 to Broome Perrow	Tilly Mitchell	Rana, Old Road
Old Road from Old Way House to Cloonagh	Philip Haynes	Briarsmead, Old Road
Old Road south of Cloonagh; houses off Sandy Lane (excluding Sandhills); Harts-	Paul Rietchel	Spindrift, Old Road
Dungates Lane & Buckland Court Gardens	Bridget Ferns	Yewdells, Dungates Lane
Houses on A25 from Park Pit to Pond: incl. Buckland Court	Jane Stewart	Round Lodge, Reigate Road
Lawrence Lane	Melanie Smallbone	2 Lawrence Farm Cot-
Normanton; Shagbrook & Buckland Corner	Judith Riiser	Normanton, Reigate Road
Clifton Lane	Trevor Cooke	Clifton Cottage, Clifton
The Pheasant to Garden Cottages, other houses North of A25	Meike Laurenson	The Bungalow, Reigate Road
Postal Deliveries outside the Parish	Madeline Rietchel	Spindrift, Old Road

Editorial

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Each year the February issue of the magazine asks for your subscriptions for this magazine. The annual subscription has remained at £10 per annum since 2011—a whole 14 years with no inflation! This year the PCC, at the meeting on 12 January, agreed to raise the subscription to £12. Some people have in the past been kind enough to donate more, and this is much appreciated—it all goes directly to support our church. This increase will cover increased printing costs over the years and ensure that the magazine maintains its contribution to our Church Funds. If this is affordable for you, we would appreciate you making a payment as detailed on page 3 of this magazine. Thank you!

PAST LIVES

I hinted a few months ago that the Past Lives Series is coming to an end, and the final instalment will be the March issue. This will be about the Dallender family who were owners of the Buckland Estate way back in the 1500's. It involved some interesting original research and is a good way to finish! There is the hope that I will bring all 56 of these Past Lives stories together in a book (over 200 pages), with all profits to the church fund. More details will follow in a few months. What is next....

SMALL SURREY CHURCHES

Beginning in the April issue will be a new original series on Small Surrey Churches. There are lots of interesting church buildings to see in Surrey, and as I have an interest in visiting smaller and unusual church buildings, it will keep me entertained. I hope it will be of interest to other readers too. I will list the churches I intend to cover in the April Issue, and our May issue will feature the first in the series, St Martha-on-the-Hill in Chilworth. Many of you will know of this church, but you may learn a few things of interest!

SUGGESTIONS

If you would like to contribute a regular column to the magazine on a particular subject (e.g. recipes, local walks), please do get in touch. This is your magazine too! Thank you

Duncan Ferns, Editor

BUCKLAND PARISH MAGAZINE

February 2025

Dear Friends

As Christmas and New Year fade into a dim memory and Candlemas sees even the most determined of Christmas decorations disappearing until next year, then the church calendar is beginning to turn its face towards Lent again. Lent is late this year so February becomes a kind of no-man's-land of waiting for Lent. For those in the Christian community Lent is a time of slowing down, of considering where we are within our faith and where God might wish us to be. Those 40 days can feel long and arduous as we deprive ourselves of the treats we enjoy, metaphorically beating our chests in repentance for what awful people we are but it doesn't need to be like that, indeed I can't imagine this is what Christ would have wanted of us live.



What if instead, we see Lent a bit like an MOT for the human soul. A fine tuning of ourselves because we all know that we have wandered from God's path in some ways over the past year – a bit of laxness in our prayer life, a bit too quick to judge another person, an unwilling to commit to something because what's in it for us etc.

Lent starts from Ash Wednesday on March 5th where we receive the marking of a cross made from ash on our foreheads to remind us of God's words to Adam and Eve as they were thrown out of Eden 'from dust you were born and from dust you shall return'. It becomes a salutary reminder that the world is in the state that it is because of choices that humankind have made all down the years; their greed, selfishness, arrogance, ignorance and 'othering' of individuals and groups of people to say but a few. The 40 days of Lent then become a second chance for us, a chance to tune ourselves up spiritually and to learn to be God's people again so that when Easter comes, we too can marvel and celebrate at the empty tomb.

This year to help us along our Lenten journey we have two new offerings:

- a Lent group on a Monday evening (subject to interest) at which we will be working with Paula Gooder's book, 'Praise Him: Songs of Praise in the New Testament'.
- Confirmation Classes on a Saturday afternoon or early evening for anyone who is interested.

If either of these would interest you, please do email me and let me know.

Until next month go carefully when out and about and stay warm
God bless

Reverend Pru

St Mary's Buckland CHURCH & CHURCHYARD FABRIC TRUST (CCFF)

In the past, the Church & Churchyard Fabric Trust (CCFF) has donated between £2500 to £3500 per annum to the main church account to fund the grass cutting contract which keeps the graveyard looking good. This will continue. However, during in 2024 the CCFF has raised a further £1,020 thanks to donations from three community events:

- £280 from Clematis Plant sale on 10 August
- £400 from Refreshments at Windmill Open Day on 14 September
- £340 from Christmas Carols on the Green on 16 December.

A big thank you to all who have donated to the these events. These funds will be spent in the following graveyard improvements in 2025:

- Pruning and canopy shaping of the 6 cherry trees by the roadside
- Re-laying uneven flagstones by the vestry.

Duncan Ferns, CCFF Secretary

COVER PICTURE

The Reading Room, built in 1890. A postcard from c. 1900,
printed by J Skinner of Betchworth

CHURCH SERVICES—FEBRUARY

Date	St Mary's Buckland	St Michael's Betchworth
2 February <i>Presentation of Christ in the Temple</i>		10am Parish Communion <i>Luke 2: 22-40</i>
9 February <i>4 before Lent</i>	10am IONA Service with Communion <i>Luke 3: 15-17,21-22</i>	5pm Choral Evensong
16 February <i>3 before Lent</i>		10am Parish Communion <i>Luke 6:17-26</i>
23 February <i>2 before Lent</i>	10am Parish Communion <i>Luke 8: 22-25</i>	
2 March <i>Sunday before Lent</i>		10am Parish Communion <i>Luke 9;2 8-36 [37-43A]</i>

We also hold a said, midweek Holy Communion each Thursday morning 10am at St Michael's Church, Betchworth. It is open to anyone in either parish or visiting from elsewhere.

Southwark Cathedral livestreams their services throughout the week from <https://cathedral.southwark.anglican.org/worship-and-music/worship/live-service-stream/>
You can also find it by searching '**Southwark Cathedral live service stream**'

FEBRUARY EVENTS

- 3 Feb, 7.15pm.** Talk: Jane Morris. DLHG, p.26
14 Feb, 12 noon. Winter lunch. Buckland Reading Room, p.9
17 Feb, 2.30pm. Talk: Inca Textiles in Peru. Arts Society, p.27
17 Feb, 7.30pm. Talk: The Earthworm. BGHS, p.28
17 Feb, 7.30pm. Talk: Dorking's Mayflower Connection. DLHG by ZOOM, p.26
26 Feb, 2-4pm. Drop in Teas, St Michael's Hamilton Room, p.11

MARCH EVENTS

- 16 Mar, 7pm.** Candlelit concert by the A2Z FLUTE Choir, St Mary's Buckland, p.29
22 Mar, 10am. Village Tidy-up, BPC, p.12

BUCKLAND 2024 CHRISTMAS LUNCH



Thank you to everyone who came to support the 2024 Buckland Christmas Lunch and a belated HAPPY NEW YEAR! 26 of us sat down to a traditional Christmas lunch, turkey, pigs in blanket, ham, carrots, sprouts and roast potatoes. For dessert we had fresh fruit salad and a festive mince tart of course with fresh cream!! The Reading Room looked very festive with a beautifully decorated Christmas tree from the Estate. There was plenty of laughter and chatter and my 2025 task is to find out the date of our very first Christmas lunch which Pattie Vigers, Elizabeth Gaunt and myself launched a long time ago.

So, just a reminder, the **next luncheon is on Friday, 14th February**, from 12 noon, a very auspicious day in the Calendar!

Carol Leeds

BUCKLAND BELLRINGERS

February, and some people's thoughts turn to **Valentine's Day**, love, engagements and weddings. How many of you had bells at your wedding? It is always nice to ring for a wedding. At both Buckland and Betchworth the bells are rung after the wedding service. We arrange a band of ringers in the weeks before the wedding and arrive at the church when the wedding guests and



the bridal party are inside. We often ask the chauffeur if the bride was on time, to get an idea of when we will need to ring. Someone will have left us a service sheet in the porch, so we can recognise the last hymn and the final piece of processional music. At Buckland, we enter the church during the last hymn and, as quietly as possible, climb the staircase at the back of the church to the belfry.

The bells will have already been rung up, ready to ring, so we can start ringing immediately the bride and groom leave the church. We'll stand by our bell holding the rope and then wait for the ringer nearest the staircase to tell us when the bride and groom are processing down the aisle, and then we will start to ring out joyfully, helping to celebrate their special day. We will ring for half an hour or so until the photographer has finished and the bridal party has departed to their reception.

Edgar Allan Poe's poem "*The Bells*" (1849) includes the lines: '*Hear the mellow wedding bells, Golden bells! What a world of happiness their harmony foretells!*'

Are you planning a wedding in 2025? Would you like to learn to ring so that you can ring for someone's wedding? It is always very special to ring for a friend or family member's wedding. If so, do come and join us on a Friday evening, 8pm, in the tower at Buckland. If you start learning to ring now, you'll be ready to ring for a summer wedding.

Julie Beale



Christmas tree thank yous ...

We would like to give thanks on behalf of the village community for the donation of three Christmas Trees for the village:

- David Hogg of **Buckland Nurseries** for the Tree in St Mary's Church
- Dominic Sanders of **Buckland Estate** for the Tree on the Buckland Green
- **Betchworth & Buckland Society** for the Tree in Buckland Reading Room

AFTERNOON TEAs at THE HAMILTON ROOM, BETCHWORTH –2025 Welcoming residents of Betchworth & Buckland



St Michael's Drop-in Teas has been running since 2011, meeting each month, January to November, at the Hamilton Room, Church Street, Betchworth between 2pm and 4pm on last Wednesday each Month. Come for a cup of tea or coffee, cake and biscuits and a chat with friends

2025 Dates

26th February, 26th March, 30th April, 28th May, 25th June, 30th July, 27th August,
24th September, 29th October and on 26th November
our 14th Anniversary Christmas Party.

Come when you can, and go when you must

For transport or information, contact:

Margaret Miller, 01737 842098

You will know you're old, when you cease to be amazed.

Noel Coward (1899-1973)

Buckland Matters

BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting

Please keep the evening of Monday 31st March free to come along to the Reading Room for the 2025 Annual Parish Meeting....more details to follow in next month's magazine.



Volunteer Events

A year ago, a test planting of 1000 single snowdrops in the green was undertaken on the section of verge alongside the footpath that connects Old Road to the cricket pitch behind the Red Lion. The species was selected to take into account the habitat and soil type after a full season of monitoring the verge to observe what vegetation was already evident. One year on the good news is that snowdrops have started to appear. We would like to extend the bramble free area and plant additional "snowdrops in the green" this spring. Weather permitting, we are looking to arrange a morning session to clear bramble regrowth and, once we know how much land is available for planting a plant order will be placed. As soon as a date is set details will be published via the village email and WhatsApp groups and displayed on the noticeboards.

A village tidy will be held on **Saturday 22nd March 2025 – meet on the village green at 10am to take part.**

Footways

If you encounter any difficulty using any section of Buckland's roadside footways, please submit a request to:

- MVDC for a street cleaning visit, if the problem relates to material that needs to be swept from the surface of the footway, ensuring you emphasise the work will need to include the footway as well as the main carriageway; and
- SCC Highways to highlight any problems relating to the condition of the surface (e.g. trip hazards, deteriorating or uneven surface) or overhanging vegetation. If the state of the footpath is making it difficult for anyone using a mobility aid (whether a mobility scooter, wheelchair or walking aids) or pushchair please include this in your report.

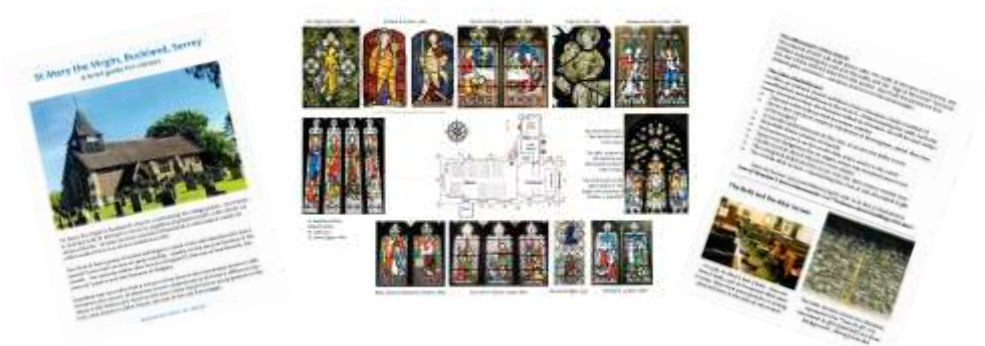
Visit the SCC (www.surreycc.gov.uk) or MVDC (www.molevalley.gov.uk) websites to submit online reports or call the customer service telephone numbers (SCC 0300 200 1003, MVDC 01306 88500).

Overhanging Vegetation

Do you have hedges or trees growing on your property adjacent to Buckland's highways, hard surfaced footpaths, public footpaths, or public bridleways? If so, please cut back your plants, shrubs, and trees to make sure Buckland's rights of way remain free of obstruction and easy for everyone to use whether drivers, riders, or pedestrians, including anyone with a pushchair or wheelchair and anyone unlucky enough to be visually impaired. SCC's arboriculture team advises private landowners: "Check where your boundary is and prune branches that overhang the highways back to that point; sufficient to maintain a minimum headroom of 5.7 metres over most carriageways in Buckland (7 metres for the A25) and 2.3 metres for pedestrian routes". If overhanging vegetation is making it difficult for you to walk around Buckland, you can report the obstruction to SCC Highways.

Sheena Boyce, Clerk 01737 448023

New Brief Visitor Guide for St Mary's Buckland



Visitors to our church can now buy a new illustrated guide.

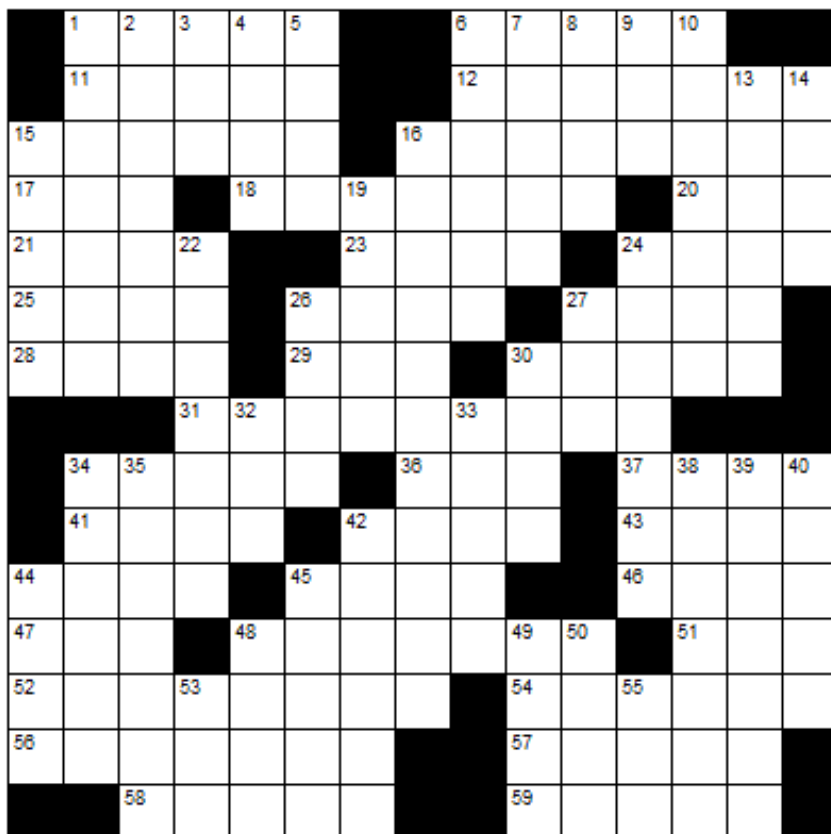
**Pick one up from the shelf on the left, inside the door—pay £1 in the wall-box
All readers should pop in and walk round the church with this guide!**

Includes a plan of the church with descriptions and dates of the eleven stained glass windows, some dating from 1380; an outline of the 1860 restoration features and information on the bells and altar screen.

Thanks to Everett & Carol Leeds for donating the printing costs

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Solution p.30



ACROSS

1. Seaweed
6. Greens with dressing
11. Ocean trenches
12. Essential
15. Grins
16. Conserve
17. Not hers
18. Caulking
20. 5 plus 5
21. African sheep

23. Father
24. Broadcasts
25. Nonflowering plant
26. Sea eagle
27. Mid-month days
28. Journey
29. Ignited
30. Tally
31. Crooner
34. Light or tulip

36. Craggy peak
37. Frosts, as a cake
41. Dwarf buffalo
42. Extent
43. Naked
44. "Darn!"
45. Blackthorn
46. Smile
47. Arrange (abbrev.)
48. Contrived
51. Stomach muscles, for short

52. Negative points
54. Responsible
56. Windflower
57. Confuse
58. Writing tables
59. Snouts

DOWN	13. Disinclined	32. Goat hair fabric	44. Baby's first word
1. Adorer	14. Focusing glass	33. 12 of something	45. Walk stealthily
2. Relaxation	15. Rotating	34. Devoid of	48. Not amateurs
3. Goopy stuff	mechanism	vegetation	49. Distinctive flair
4. Gorillas	16. Estates	35. Without a	50. Lover of Aeneas
5. Being	19. Spring month	weapon	53. An uncle
6. Abrasion	22. Smudge	38. Able to	55. Commercials
7. Sporting venue	24. Worshipful	be healed	
8. Craving	26. L L L L	39. Comestibles	
9. Air hero	27. Frozen water	40. Feeling	
10. Filthier	30. Arid	42. Thin layers of	
		rock	

ARE YOU FEELING YOUR AGE?

I don't plan to grow old gracefully. I plan to have face-lifts until my ears meet. *Rita Rudner*

The only reason I would take up jogging is so that I could hear heavy breathing again. *Erma Bombeck*

Regular naps prevent old age, especially if you take them while driving. *Anon*

An archaeologist is the best husband a woman can have. The older she gets the more interested he is in her. *Agatha Christie*

I don't want to achieve immortality through my work...I want to achieve it through not dying. *Woody Allen*

When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth, think of algebra. *Will Rogers*

There is only one cure for grey hair. It was invented by a Frenchman. It is called the guillotine. *P.G. Wodehouse*

My grandmother was a very tough woman. She buried three husbands and two of them were just napping. *Rita Rudner*

I'm at the age where food has taken the place of sex in my life. In fact, I've just had a mirror put over my kitchen table. *Rodney Dangerfield*

So far, this is the oldest I've been. *George Carlin*

SUDOKU

Grade: Medium.

Solution on p.30

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

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WORDSEARCH—Candlemas : Simeon names Jesus in the Temple

naming
Christ
Candlemas
Simeon
Anna
temple
love
Valentine
romance
Matthias
Fairtrade
Fortnight
coffee
bananas
chocolate

justice
poverty
nest box
marriage
wedding
Holocaust
leprosy
education
sunday

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N N R O A H O F T N A A S O
G C T T H O L O C A U S T V
C E R N E D U C A T I O N E
T V A L E N T I N E C L E R
W E D D I N G E D M O S S T
H L E P R O S Y L P F E T Y
C M A R R I A G E L F L B T
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Solution on p.30

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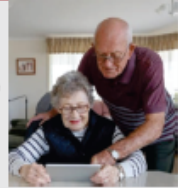


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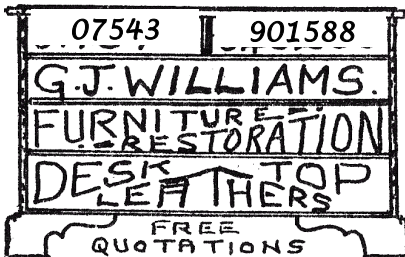


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Local Services

Features

FEBRUARY GARDENING NOTES

By now, we can all see the positive signs of the growing season ahead. While February can see some crisp and cold days, surely we are now due plenty of sunshine and less rainfall? By the end of the month, we will be enjoying nearly 3 hours more of daylight hours than the shortest day in December. No wonder both flora and fauna are waking up for the season ahead.

Wildlife still benefits from a helping hand in February. Encourage birds by regularly topping up bird feeders and keeping them clean. Provide water, especially in freezing weather. Try putting a couple of small rocks or pebbles in the water to make it easier for birds to drink without getting wet. It's also a great time to put up a nest box – there are different boxes available to encourage different birds.

If you are planning to grow potatoes this year, choose and buy your seed potatoes now to enable them to chit before planting. Summer-flowering bulbs should also be started off now: dahlias are ever-popular and for very good reason. Their late summer colours make an equally excellent display in a flower garden or as cut flowers in a vase. Lilies are also a stunning scented addition both inside and out.

Continue preparing for the season ahead by repairing any hard landscaping before other tasks loom large in the spring. Check fencing is secure after the winter storms, and tree stakes may need to be replaced or hammered back in to moist soils.

We have had some hard frosts in January. There could be more to come, so keep an eye on any tender plants that need to stay outside and refleece where necessary. Don't forget that greenhouses should be aired on sunny days to help to prevent mildew and damping off of young plants.

David Hogg, Buckland Nurseries

When the caterpillar decided the world was about to end,
he became a butterfly

Anon

ST. JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL

On the peculiarities of ordination candidates

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I was quite happy to see the young person from your church whom you are encouraging to get ordained – even though we did not entirely see eye to eye.

When I answered the door to someone dressed in T-shirt, jeans and trainers, I naturally assumed he was the gardener; it was only after I had given him the wheelbarrow and shown him where the spades were, that I found out who he really was. His assurance that this is how Jesus would dress, were He to visit in person again, jarred somewhat. I think that a three-piece suit and stout pair of brogues would be far more likely. We agreed to differ.

I was interested to hear that he was a church musician. Wanting to know if he sang tenor or bass, or even played the organ, he told me that he was the drummer in the worship band and provided backing vocals. I felt obliged to comment that I was not sure how that would fit in with Mattins, but he told me that he had never heard of that Service, and only attended Mega Rock Praise. Since I suspected it would not have been written by Cranmer, we moved on.

I had hoped we may have been on safer ground when I asked him whether he preferred early perpendicular or Victorian gothic, but as he had apparently only ever worshipped in your converted cinema, he was unable to offer any opinion. His reaction to my offer to show him round our late Norman church, prompted him to tell me that he believed all churches should be closed and people should gather in each other's homes, like the early Christians.

In a last despairing attempt to find common ground I asked him if he had ever preached. He was slightly apologetic to admit that he had done so very rarely, as he found it took such a long time to write an hour-long sermon. When I mentioned that I did not think I had ever exceeded eight minutes in my entire life, he gave me such a look of withering astonishment that with heroic Christian charity, I did not beat him over the head with the Bible he was carrying.

Your Loving Uncle, Eustace



A SIMPLE LIFE

An opinion piece by Father Richard Rohr (Franciscan & Author)

Some folks admire simple living. They tell me they want to simplify their lives. They would love to unclutter. They would love to walk freely. But they really don't want to do it, because they don't do it. To live simply, we must take the actual steps. We must physically clear out the excess, you must take steps to prevent accumulation. We can't do it in our heads. Simplicity is not just an idea.

That means it walks around our home with us. It gets in our car and goes to work with us. It shops with us. Our body is in on the act. Our body wears the clothes. Our body eats. Our body fasts. Our body is a sacramental presentation to all who accept that this is real, healthy, and whole. The visibility of simplicity makes it a witness and accounts for some of its influence on others. Simplicity is an inner harmony others can see....

Thinking about simplicity can occupy us for centuries. Head trips never end. People can speculate forever about what can be done or what is possible and helpful. Jesus didn't speculate. He walked the streets. He got dusty, dirty, and probably smelly. He was out in the sun. He appreciated a footwash so much that John records it. Spiritual writer Paula Huston considers how Jesus invited people to simplicity. When adopted with a whole heart and for a lifetime, simplicity leads to an often striking tranquility....

At least some of the "good news" that Jesus brought had to do with this kind of liberation. The New Testament is filled with reassurances that this world is a safe place for us to be. Time and again, Jesus reminds us that God loves us and will provide what we need. "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life and what you will eat, or about your body and what you will wear," he says. "For life is more than food and the body more than clothing" (Luke 12:22-23)....

The reasons I might have set out on this course of simplicity are myriad: it is better for the environment; it is "fairer" to the rest of the world if I adopt a simpler lifestyle; ... it is infinitely more enjoyable; I am a nicer person when I let go of things. I've found, however, that to sustain the experiment, ... I've had to anchor myself in a single central reality, namely my longing for God, to allow everything else to arrange itself accordingly. In other words, let your intuition, your inner voice, guide you, calm yourself and be still. Don't make the mistake of rushing round with 'efficiency and will power' to make your life simple!

Buckland's PAST LIVES

Learning from memorials

A5

Sir Percival Marling

1861-1936



Born in 1861 in Selsley near Stroud in Gloucestershire, Percival Marling had a very distinguished Military Career, culminating in the award of the Victoria Cross. His connection to Buckland was that he married Caroline Beatrice Beaumont (known as Beatrice), daughter of Francis Henry Beaumont, in St Mary's Church Buckland, in the year of 1899, and thereafter was a frequent visitor to his 'in-laws' at Buckland Court.

Early Life

Percy Scrope Marling was born on 6 March 1861, the son of William Henry Marling. He had three younger brothers, Charles, Stanley and William. Their family had considerable wealth built over three generations in the woollen cloth industry, owning weaving factories near Stroud in Gloucester. His father owned a mansion and estate called Stanley Park, Selsley, Gloucestershire. At the age of eight, Percy was sent to Prep school in Wimbledon, and then on to board at Harrow School in London. Aged 17, he entered Sandhurst for Officer training in the Army. His mother wrote a long letter to each of her 4 children throughout their childhood years at boarding schools. His parents introduced him to the sport of hunting, at the age of 8 – when he owned his first pony. Hunting and game shooting were to become lifelong hobbies.

In 1931, Percy wrote a rather racy autobiography¹ which is definitely 'of its time'. He wrote about many of the horrors of war, conducted almost entirely on horseback with rifles as the only armaments. The biography includes a

tribute from Lord Plumer, which gives a summary of the high esteem in which Percy was held:

'During more than thirty years' service in the Army he took part with distinction in no less than six campaigns in various parts of the Empire; and in the Sudan campaign of 1884 he gained the highest honour a soldier can win – the Victoria Cross. It is men like Percy Marling who, during the past century, have established and helped consolidate our Empire, and have maintained throughout their service our prestige, by setting an example illustrating the highest and best features of our national character, and it is to be hoped that there will be many young men who will endeavour to follow that example in the difficult time to come'.

Campaigns and roles

- **1880-81 First Boer War**, South Africa. He sailed from Dartmouth to Capetown, aged just 19.
- **1882-84 Malta & Egyptian Campaign**
- **1884 Suakin Campaign, Sudan**, a British-Indian expedition.
- **1884-85 The Nile Campaign, Egypt**
- **1887-89 Tipperary in Ireland**, and Aldershot UK.
- **1890-95 India**, with just one return home to England in 5 years. Marling mixed his Army leadership skills fighting on several fronts, with time-out for big game hunting, successfully shooting Tigers, Panthers, Brown Bears, Bison, Quail, Wild Boars etc, usually whilst mounted on the top of an elephant. He also played Polo regularly with pedigree horses bred for the sport, with inter-regimental games.
- **1895-1899 Home in England.** He married Beatrice Beaumont in Buckland in 1899 and spend much of these 'sabbatical' years shooting pheasants and partridges and hunting with hounds.
- **1899-1902 Second Boer War**, South Africa, where in March 1901 he took over the command of the 18th Hussars and was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel on 19 February 1902. His new wife Beatrice accompanied him to South Africa where she stayed in relative safety as a guest of the British Consulate. He and his wife had one trip back to England, when Percy was very ill with dysentery.
- **1902-1906 Home in England**, working for The War Office. He was promoted to Colonel in 1903 and retired from active service in 1906. Attended many functions, including a ball given by the Prince & Princess of Wales at Marlborough House. He and his wife Beatrice were the guest of many Gentry families attending shooting weekend across the south-of England, and taking holidays together in South Africa, the West Indies, France, Portugal and Italy.
- **1914-18 – Aged 57, Percy was recalled in WW1** to various strategic posts around France, deciding on the strategic position and activities of the troops.

The Victoria Cross (VC)

At the age of 23 years old, Percy was a lieutenant in the 3rd Battalion, The King's Royal Rifle Corps. The following deed took place for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross – the highest military honour for gallantry:

For his conspicuous bravery at the Battle of Tamai, on 13th March 1881, in risking his life to save that of Private Morley, Royal Sussex Regiment, who, having been shot, was lifted and placed in front of Lieutenant Marling on his horse. He fell off almost immediately, when Lieutenant Marling dismounted, and gave up his horse for the purpose of carrying off Private Morley, the enemy pressing close on to them until they succeeded in carrying him about 80 yards to a place of comparative safety.

Percy's VC is now on display in the Lord Ashcroft Gallery at the Imperial War Museum, London.²

Diary Entries

The brutality of Percy's diary entries in his autobiography¹ leaves little to the imagination. Some examples are

- 'In 1883, around 80,000 people died in combat in and around Cairo in 6 weeks.'
- 29 Jan 1881. (Boer War, South Africa) 'All our bread is finished. We now have biscuit so hard it has to be soaked first. Some of the biscuit is rotten and full of weevils. I saw a man come out of the hospital tent and throw something as far as he could out into the veldt. I went to see what it was and found a man's

arm which had just been amputated above the elbow. I suppose the hospital orderly was too lazy or too busy to bury it and thought the vultures would come and eat it as soon as it was light, which they did'.

- 25 February 1900. 'We have killed and eaten all the cavalry horses, except 100 to each regiment, and are getting pretty near starvation now. So far we have buried between 800 and 850 people from this hospital since the beginning of the siege, 23 being the largest number in any one day, principally from sickness, enteric fever, dysentery, pneumonia and scurvy. We have had no potatoes or vegetables for eight weeks. My brother-in-law, Francis Beaumont (son of Francis Henry Beaumont at Buckland) – is serving alongside me – but he was also in this hospital for several weeks with fever'.

However, the glamour of his wedding in Buckland was also recorded in his autobiography, as one of the best days of his life:

'On May 18th 1899, I got married at my wife's place, Buckland Court, Surrey, at the little church in my father-in-law's garden, and the dear old Archbishop of York, Maclagan, tied the knot. The night before, my father-in-law [Francis Henry Beaumont] gave a dinner party, at which there were the Archbishop of York, Bill Beresford and Lily Duchess of Marlborough, my wife's uncle Sir William Colville, Master of the Ceremonies



Sir Percival & Beatrice, Lady Marling, in retirement at their Garden at Selsley, c.1930⁴

to Queen Victoria, Princess Amelie of Schleswig-Holstein the Kaiser's Aunt, Mrs Maclagan, my father and mother and my three brothers, Lady Colville and a lot of other people.'

The above-mentioned marriage of Percival Marling was reported in the local press.³ 'The bride was Caroline Beatrice Beaumont and there were three titled ladies amongst the eight bridesmaids. The Archbishop of York, Dr. Maclagan, performed the ceremony at St. Mary's Buckland and was assisted in the ceremony by the Reverend George Slade, Rector of Buckland and the Vicar of Betchworth.

The report claimed that 'few marriages that have taken place in Surrey in recent years have excited a tithe of the interest of this one.' On the evening before the wedding the parishioners of Buckland were invited to a private view of the wedding gifts, and 'this privilege was widely taken advantage of'. As well as the opportunity to look on 'these treasures rich and rare' bestowed on the bride and groom, Buckland folk 'had cups of tea and a conjuring entertainment'. In the 1911 Census, Percy & Caroline (both aged 50) are recorded as residents of Buckland Court, sharing house with Caroline's Parents, Francis Henry &

Mary Beaumont (then aged 77 and 76 respectively) – and eight servants between them. Percy & Caroline did not have children – I rather think that Percy was too busy!

Percy's autobiography also mentions the death of his mother-in-law: *'1923, January 11th. My wife's mother, Mary Emily Beaumont, died at Buckland Court. No one ever had a more delightful or kinder mother-in-law than she was. She was the daughter of Evan Baillie and Lady Georgina Baillie of Dochfour, and was one of three sisters, the other two being Lady Wynford and Lady Colville'.*

At rest

Percy lived an energetic life committed to his military duties. He suffered the horrors of war in an age of fighting on horseback with only rifles as ammunition. Bizarrely, his lifelong hobby,

shared with his wife Caroline, was shooting game and hunting with hounds.

Percy died in 1936 and is buried at the same church as his parents, All Saints Church Selsley, near Stroud in Gloucestershire. Beatrice, Lady Marling (as she liked was addressed) survived Percy by 5 years, moving to Cheltenham, until her death in 1941. She had a memorial service at Gloucester Cathedral.

References

1. Marling, Percival, 1931. *Rifleman & Hussar* (Autobiography). John Murray London 412pp. (re-printed by O'Donoghue Books, 2009). 412pp.
2. Wikipedia Page, Percival Marling. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Percival_Marling
3. *The Tuesday Mirror and Reigate Borough Advertiser* of 23 May 1899. Wedding of Sir Percival Marling and Caroline Beaumont
4. National Portrait Gallery Collection. Photo By Bassano Ltd.



MUSIC IN DORKING—FEBRUARY



2nd at 3.00, Brodsky quartet at Dorking Halls, £23, 01306 740619
4th at 1.00 & 7.00, screening of *Les Miserables* at Dorking Halls, £19.50, 01306 881717
15th Dorking Chamber Orchestra at St Nicolas' church Great Bookham
16th at 4.00, Brodsky quartet at Dorking Halls, £23, 01306 740619
19th at 7.30, Band of Royal Marines at Dorking Halls, £23.50, 01306 881717
27th at 7.15, ballet screening at Dorking Halls, £19.50, 01306 881717

The Dorking Concertgoers Society presents two concerts by the Brodsky string quartet this month, with a third one to follow in March. The Brodsky is one of the world's leading string quartets so we are privileged to have them play for us in Dorking. On 2nd they will play Bach, Schubert and Shostakovich, and on 16th Bach, Britten and Beethoven. Please note that both concerts are in the afternoon.

The Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines will also be coming to Dorking. They promise an evening of music for everyone, including marches, solos, overtures and film music.

The Dorking Chamber Orchestra, playing in Great Bookham, have a concert including music by Bach, Handel, Haydn and Saint-George. They will be directed from the violin by Guy Button who will also be the soloist in Bach's violin concerto in A minor. Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-George, was a French violinist, conductor and composer whose music has been increasingly performed in recent years; the orchestra will play his first symphony.

Screenings at the Dorking Halls this month include Tchaikovsky's ballet *Swan Lake* from the Royal Opera House and a staged concert version of *Les Miserables*, the brilliant musical based on the novel by Victor Hugo.

Ian Codd

Where words fail, music speaks

Hans Christian Andersen (1805-75, Author)

Societies & Charities

DORKING LOCAL HISTORY GROUP



3 February, 7.15pm for 7.30, Dorking Crossways Church
Jane Morris – more than a face

John Hawks WIM looks at the life and contribution of Jane, the wife of the multi-talented William Morris, who was an icon of the Pre-Raphaelite movement and the subject of many portraits by her lover Dante Gabriel Rossetti. £2 at the door for non-members.

17 February, 7.30pm Zoom-only talk
The Mayflower Connection:

Zoom talk by Helen Baggott, focusing on some postcards sent in the UK and in America in the early 1900s that help share the story of The Mayflower and connect to other events of international importance.

<https://www.meet-up.com/Surrey-History-Meetup>

David Burton - <https://dlhg.org.uk>.

FISHING OPPORTUNITY

A 72 year old man had one hobby - he loved to fish. He was sitting in his boat the other day when he heard a voice say, 'Pick me up.' he looked around and couldn't see anyone. He thought he was dreaming when he heard the voice say again, 'Pick me up.' He looked in the water and there, floating on the top, was a frog.

The man said, 'Are you talking to me?' The frog said, 'Yes, I'm talking to you. Pick me up, then kiss me; and I'll turn into the most beautiful woman you have ever seen. I'll make sure that all your friends are envious and jealous, because I will be your bride!' The man looked at the frog for a short time, reached over, picked it up carefully and placed it in his shirt pocket. The frog said, 'What, are you nuts? Didn't you hear what I said?'

I said, 'Kiss me, and I will be your beautiful bride.' He opened his pocket, looked at the frog and said, 'Nah. At my age, I'd rather have a talking frog.'

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Carole Evans, www.theartssocietybetchworth.org.uk

A lament for 'Applefest'

There was an enchanting young bride,
who ate many green apples and died.
The apples fermented, inside the lamented,
and made cider inside her inside.

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More details to follow next month



DORKING MUSEUM IN FEBRUARY

Building between the vines – the story of the Denbies Lego house: Our current temporary exhibition tells how and why a full-size LEGO house was built at Denbies Wine Estate in 2009 for a BBC television series, 'James May Toy Stories'. Almost 2,000 volunteers built the two-storey house over a five-week period, using over 3.3 million bricks. It included furniture, fittings and even a LEGO cat, and remained at Denbies for four days before being demolished, with the bricks donated to charity.

Specially designed LEGO models of buildings and objects with a Dorking connection are displayed, and other activities for children include a Lego Dorking Cockrel trail around the museum, with prizes.

Dorking in LEGO family activity at the Museum, Saturday 22nd February, 10am to 1pm. Create LEGO models of Dorking features and buildings. Models will be added to the display in the Museum's front window until the exhibition ends. Thanks to Dorking Beatitudes for the loan of LEGO bricks.

Family Activity at Dorking Library: Saturday 8th February, 10am to 1pm, National Story-telling week, come and use miniature objects to tell a story. Free event aimed at 4–11-year-olds.

Dorking Museum. Thursdays 1pm–4pm, Fridays and Saturdays 10am–4pm, free entry. www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk. 01306 876591. David Burton

BROCKHAM GREEN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Brockham * Betchworth * Buckland

**‘The Earthworm – all you wanted to know but did not dare ask’
by Chris Stewart.**

Monday 17th February 2025. 7:30pm – 9pm, Brockham Village Hall

Chris will talk about worms as Eco-engineers, the many different species, their lifecycles and their importance to soil fertility. We will learn that these amazing subterranean creatures are not just simple hermaphrodites, but a vital inhabitant of gardens and soil generally, affecting wildlife and life itself.



Refreshments will be served, and everyone is welcome, so please bring friends. The entrance fee is members £3 and non-members £5.

Other Dates for your Diaries

The Royal Botanic Gardens – Kew - a Talk by Pamela Holt
Monday 17th March 2025. 7:30pm – 9pm Brockham Village Hall -

Gardening Should be Fun—a Talk by Jean Griffin Monday 14th April 2025. 7:30pm – 9pm. Brockham Village Hall

If you are interested in joining us at any of our other events, please contact us on the email below for information to join. We always welcome new members and the cost is just £10 per year.

Ruth Johnson, bghsociety@hotmail.com

Live light, travel light, be the light

Yogi Bharat, 1929-2004. Sikh yoga leader in US

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Crossword (p.14) Solution

	A	L	G	A	E			S	A	L	A	D			
	D	E	E	P	S			C	R	U	C	I	A	L	
S	M	I	L	E	S			P	R	E	S	E	R	V	E
H	I	S		S	E	A	L	A	N	T		T	E	N	
A	R	U	I			P	A	P	A		A	I	R	S	
F	E	R	N			E	R	N	E		I	D	E	S	
T	R	E	K			L	I	T		S	C	O	R	E	
				B	A	L	L	A	D	E	E	R			
		B	U	L	B	S		T	O	R		I	C	E	S
		A	N	O	A		S	I	Z	E		N	U	D	E
D	R	A	T			S	L	O	E			G	R	I	N
A	R	R			P	L	A	N	N	E	D		A	B	S
D	E	M	E	R	I	T	S			L	I	A	B	L	E
A	N	E	M	O	N	E				A	D	D	L	E	
			D	E	S	K	S			N	O	S	E	S	

Wordsearch (p.16) Solution

N	R	S	U	N	D	A	Y	S	I	N	R	C	N
A	O	F	O	R	T	N	I	G	H	T	N	H	U
M	M	A	T	T	H	I	A	S	A	Y	M	R	E
I	A	I	O	L	E	L	M	T	N	N	O	I	P
N	N	R	O	A	H	O	F	T	N	A	A	S	O
G	C	T	T	H	O	L	O	C	A	U	S	T	V
C	E	R	N	E	D	U	C	A	T	I	O	N	E
T	V	A	E	N	T	I	N	E	C	L	E	R	
W	E	D	D	I	N	G	E	D	M	O	S	S	T
H	L	E	P	R	O	S	Y	L	P	F	E	T	Y
C	M	A	R	R	I	A	G	E	L	F	L	B	T
J	U	S	T	I	C	E	A	M	E	E	O	O	T
C	O	C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	V	X	A
S	M	B	A	N	A	N	A	S	I	M	E	O	N

Sudoku (p.16) Solution

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

BUCKLAND PARISH MAGAZINE

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Articles Please submit articles for next months edition by the above date, via email to fernsdc@gmail.com. If possible please submit WORD format for text files, JPG for images and PDF for posters. New articles and contributors are welcomed. If in any doubt about whether an article could be published, please contact the Editor.

Editorial Views expressed in this magazine are those of the contributors and are not necessarily shared by the editor or other church staff.

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AVAILABLE FROM: 26 Feb 2025



Distributors can collect on the above date. Household delivery will be up to a few days later.

HISTORICAL NOTES

A book on the History of Buckland is available: **Buckland 1000-2000 with 2020 Vision** by Duncan C Ferns. 300pp, over 250 illustrations and a 600-name index. Purchase from Squires Nursery Buckland, local Waterstones, Amazon online or request to fernsdc@gmail.com.

Buckland (then Bochelant) was mentioned in the Domesday Book as a village of 35 households, a church and a watermill. These days it is a picturesque village covering 1362 acres, with a total population of around 580 in 240 households. Buckland is in the Diocese of Southwark (Bishop: The Rt. Revd. Christopher Chessun) and the Area of Croydon (Area Bishop: The Rt. Revd. Rosemarie Mallett).

BUCKLAND READING ROOM ACTIVITIES

Regular activities in the Reading Room:

- Monday am Singing for Pleasure (1st & 3rd Mondays)
- Tuesday am Toddlers
- Tuesday 2.15pm Bridge Club
- Thursday 2.15pm Bridge Club
- Thursday evening Yoga
- Saturday pm Sugarcraft Guild (2nd Saturday)

*For booking enquiries please contact Jane Stewart, preferably by email:
Bookings4bucklandreadingroom@gmail.com or 07733 116992*

Arts Society, Betchworth	Carole Evans	01372 452563
Bell Ringers (<i>practice Friday evenings</i>)	David Sayce	242776
Betchworth & Buckland Children's Nursery	Laura Snelling	843610
Betchworth & Buckland Toddler Group	Debbie Jones	07701 347351
Betchworth & Buckland Society (<i>Secretary</i>)	Nathalie Nichols	07801 967623
Betchworth Operatic & Dramatic Society	Diane Mayall	842758
British Legion	Maurice Daley	843058
Brockham Green Horticultural Society	Ruth & Paul Johnson	842691
Brockham Surgery/ <i>Chemist</i>	n/a	843259/842175
Buckland & Betchworth Choral Soc. (<i>Sec.</i>)	Jean Cooke	245161
Buckland Parochial Charity (<i>Clerk</i>)	Debbie Jones	07701 347351
Buckland Parish Council (<i>Clerk</i>)	Sheena Boyce	448023
Buckland Village Shop	Amy Snaith	845999
Children's Society	Margaret Miller	842098
Family Activities Betchworth & Buckland	Katrina Rea	07803 163868
North Downs Primary School	Jane Douglass	843211
Reading Room- Chairman	Tim Howe	844595
- Treasurer	John Maud	843530
- Secretary	Liz Vahey	221444
Reigate Pilgrims Cricket Club	Julian Steed	842220
St. Catherine's Hospice	Sheila Dyer	842046
Women's Institute	Margaret Miller	842098

Websites: Church: www.stmarythevirginbuckland.net;

Village: www.bucklandsurrey.org.uk

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