

BUCKLAND PARISH MAGAZINE



August 2025

SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN, BUCKLAND

www.stmarythevirginbuckland.net

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BUCKLAND PARISH MAGAZINE

August 2025

Dear Friends,

The other weekend, I found myself at Headcorn Aerodrome to support Liz, our St Mary's Churchwarden, as she undertook the daring challenge of a tandem parachute jump to raise funds for Buckland church. While leaping from a plane is hardly my idea of a good time, I wanted to show our collective gratitude for her extraordinary effort. Anna Moore—who completed a similar jump last year for her church—joined me, offering both camaraderie and a brutally honest play-by-play of the experience.



As Liz's plane slowly wound its way upwards in seemingly endless circles, Anna dryly remarked, "This part? It's just boring, why not go faster or ascend directly?" Moments later, the freefall began. "Terrifying," Anna declared. "You can't feel or hear the instructor attached behind you over the wind. It's like hurtling into oblivion alone until the instructor taps you on the shoulder. When the parachute finally opened, the adrenaline faded into monotony: Now it's boring again. Just fields—squares upon squares." Landing brought relief, not triumph—simply. Gladness it was over.

Reflecting on the whole morning, of Liz's courage, paired with Anna's unfiltered commentary, it struck me just how much the whole experience becomes a metaphor for our faith journey. So often, Christianity feels like tedious circling—routine prayers, familiar struggles—punctuated by moments of sheer panic. In those freefalls of fear or grief, God's voice can seem drowned out by the chaos,

leaving us feeling isolated, abandoned even. Yet He remains steadfastly there, guiding us even when we can no longer sense Him. The parachute's quiet glide mirrors seasons when life feels mundane, yet God is quietly steering us onwards.

I wonder, in times of pain or disorientation when God's presence felt distant, can you now look back and trace where He was at work? Perhaps in unexpected kindness, quiet perseverance, or glimmers of hope? Just as Liz surrendered to her instructor mid-plummet, we too are called to trust the One who holds us—even when we cannot see His hands or hear His voice. Let us lean into that trust, surrendering our fears to the God who guides us, unseen but never absent.

It's summer holidays now and many of you will be off on holiday or have family visiting and I wish you all a relaxing, joyful summer break. Others of you may well be struggling and recognise that awful feeling of freefalling and chaos. As much as you are able, hang onto the image of Liz's parachute instructor, tightly attached to her throughout yet in the panic and adrenaline rush of the moment invisible in sound, sight or touch. God does not abandon us but help or alleviation of suffering may come in unexpected moments and in unexpected ways.

God bless, Pru

See the full report of Liz's jump on p.8-10. Ed.

AUGUST EVENTS

27 Aug, 2pm-4pm. Afternoon Teas, drop in. Hamilton Room, p.6

27 Aug, various times: Children's Forest Camp, Re-Betchworth, p.19

30 Aug, 4pm. Summer BBQ with Jazz Duo, Goulborn Green, B&B Society, p.29

Note: The Arts Society Betchworth, DLHG & BGHS do not have events in August

Save the Date

10 Oct 7pm. Music Quiz Night, Buckland Reading Room, FOSM, p.11

COVER PICTURE

Our Church Warden, Liz Vahey celebrates her 80th birthday with a sponsored parachute jump—full story on p8-10

CHURCH SERVICES—AUGUST

Date	St Mary's Buckland	St Michael's Betchworth
3 Aug Trinity 7		10 am Parish Communion <i>Luke 12: 13-21</i>
10 Aug Trinity 8	10 am IONA service <i>Luke 12: 32-40</i>	NO EVENSONG
17 Aug Trinity 9		10 am Parish Communion <i>Luke 12: 49-56</i>
24 Aug Trinity 10	10 am Parish Communion <i>Luke 13: 10-17</i>	
31 August Trinity 11		10 am Parish Communion <i>Luke 14: 7-14</i>

Every Thursday morning at 10am we hold a 30 minute, 'said' mid-week Communion Service 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**.

BUCKLAND PAST LIVES—DONATIONS

Almost all 50 copies of the book 'Buckland Past Lives' have been sold, there are just a handful remaining. Each copy raised £5 toward church funds, and additional donations of £90 have been received, so a total of £340 has been donated to the church. Thank you!

Duncan Ferns

BUCKLAND BELLRINGERS REPORT

On Monday 30th June, Buckland bell-ringers hosted the new members of the Reigate Cubs. On arrival, the Cub leaders divided the 11 Cubs into two groups, one to ring the bells and the other for a treasure hunt in the church and churchyard. At half-time, they switch.



Every year, the older Cubs tell the new Cubs that their bell-ringing evening is a highlight of the year – no pressure then!! With neighbours in mind, all the bells had been muffled. Having shown them how to chime the bells with hands on the sally, we start with one Cub/bell with an adult holding the rope below the sally for safety. After a minute or two, all the Cubs move round to the next bell so that each Cub rings all the bells in turn. The beautifully random sound of bells is a speciality of the Cubs bell-ringing.

How well did we do this year? Seeing a sea of joyous faces is our best reward. And the treasure hunt? The Cubs discovered Buckland's best-kept secret!!!

The Bell-ringers

PS Best-kept secret? Visit the belfry on a Friday evening at 8pm.

AFTERNOON TEAs at THE HAMILTON ROOM, BETCHWORTH

Welcoming residents of Betchworth & Buckland



St Michael's Drop-in Teas meet 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

27th August, 24th September, 29th October and 26th November

For transport or information, contact:

Margaret Miller, 01737 842098

Buckland Parish Magazine



in January 2026

*The first issue was in January 1926.
Look forward to a bumper Centenary Issue in
January 2026
Contributions welcomed !!!*

A LEAP OF FAITH: AN 80 YEAR-OLD SKYDIVES FOR THE CHURCH

BY LIZ VAHEY



*Liz with her children, Michael, Alexandra & Bryan
Cover picture : Liz in full flight!*

On the bright morning of July 12th, I embarked on an adventure that would not only mark my 80th birthday but also support our beloved church. Thanks to my wonderful children, Bryan, Alexandra, and Michael, who gifted me this extraordinary experience, I had the privilege of skydiving to raise funds for St. Mary's. Accompanied by my children, their spouses, and two of my grandchildren, we set off for the skydiving centre. They took care of the driving, perhaps to ensure I didn't back out at the last moment! Despite a rocky start due to my previous back problems, which nearly derailed the whole event, I finally received the green light to proceed.

As we watched the first two flights and the parachutes gracefully landing, a Spitfire took off, adding to the excitement. Soon, it was my turn for training. The instructors briefed us on the positions for takeoff and landing, where we would sit in the plane, and what to expect during the jump. After watching a wing walker, it was finally time for me to don my jumpsuit, goggles, and harness. At last I was off.

We boarded the buggy that took us to the plane. Seated on benches along either side, we were firmly attached to our instructors. The strange sensation of taxiing "backwards" along the bumpy grass added to the anticipation. Once in the air, we ascended to 500 feet and held our position before climbing to 12,000 feet. The door opened, and there was no turning back!



Liz in safe hands, ready to jump

One by one, the videographers exited the plane, and then it was my turn. I shuffled forward until my feet dangled out of the aircraft, and before I knew it, I was freefalling. The sensation was surreal, almost like lying on the air, with an incredible view below. After about 40 seconds, the parachute deployed, and I was upright, floating gently through the sky. My instructor, James, pointed out landmarks like the Thames Estuary, Canvey Island, and various seaside towns. Landing was a breeze; I simply held my legs out in front of me and gently touched down on the grass. My legs felt like jelly, but I wasn't alone in that feeling. We quickly returned to the base to remove our gear and then headed to the pub for a celebratory meal.

I am deeply grateful to everyone who sponsored me and to Anna for her support and help in designing my Just Giving web page. The final total raised will be announced in next month's magazine. This leap of faith was not just a personal milestone but a testament to the power of community and faith.

Liz Vahey



A big thank you to Liz for sharing her adventure, it was exciting, brave and well executed!

Some wonderful pictures and memories she has made, not to mention raising funds for St Mary's Buckland.

WELL DONE!

If we get to 80, we should book it in!

Ed.

SUMMER LUNCH 2025

Friday 27th June was the day of the Buckland Summer Lunch. It was a beautiful sunny day and we were able to have the doors and windows open wide letting in a lovely breeze. 20 ladies and gentlemen came to be with us on this day. Our menu was a cold lunch with of course 'hot' small Jersey potatoes cooked with mint and served with lashings of butter.....Liz made her summer cheesecake, there was village shop ham, egg mayo, coronation chicken lettuce leaves and lots of tomatoes and goodies. Then fruit salad and strawberries and cream and a surprise desert made by Norma who joined us for lunch with her husband.

Thanks must go to Margaret & John Miller, thank you John for making the coffees and teas. Thank you Margaret for the fruit salad. To Liz for all her hard work and the cheesecake. Also thank you to everyone who helped washing up and clearing away. It was a really happy day and you can imagine the noise level with all the chatter and laughter. Thank you to everyone who came and supported us and for your wonderful donations.

Winter lunches will start again in October and Liz and I look forward to seeing all our friends from the villages of Buckland and Betchworth and further afield. More details in the September magazine.

Carol Leeds

MUSIC

QUIZ NIGHT

FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER, 7PM FOR 7.30



BUCKLAND READING ROOM

Fun Quiz for all things musical, spanning pop, classical, TV theme tunes, show songs and more!

Free glass of wine or soft drink, more to purchase...

Dinner of Lasagne & Salad followed by Cheesecake. Alternatives available to meet dietary requirements.

Teams of 6 to 8. Apply either as a team or individual/couples. Prizes to aim for, and a Raffle!

Tickets £20 FOSM members, £25 non-members.

Please book in advance, not later than 4 October, to
CatDawes@aol.com or 07710 498591

**FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR
FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S BUCKLAND (FOSM)**

Coming next month –... a new series



IONA

Introduction



I am introducing a new series of articles about 'Iona' over the next few months in this Parish Magazine.

Iona is an island in the Western Isles of Scotland. It has only a small population, and the largest building there is an Abbey. St Columba founded the Abbey in the 6th Century, and it became a site for early-Christian pilgrims to visit. Iona Abbey developed a style of Christian worship, which was introduced to our church of St Mary's Buckland back in 1997, 28 years ago.

A series of articles, starting next month, will explain the link with the Iona Services in Buckland, the history of the Abbey and what it is like to visit Iona today. The provisional list of monthly articles is as follows:

1. The Origin and development of Buckland's Iona-style Service
2. St Columba and the original Iona Abbey -6th century
3. Benedictine Abbey - 13th-16th century
4. The Modern Abbey - 1930's & George McLeod
5. The Current Iona Community, John Bell & Wild Goose Resources
6. Iona Poetry
7. Visiting Iona today

Hannah Wilson, the co-ordinator of Buckland's Iona-style services, has contributed greatly to Part 1 and offered her review of the subsequent articles. If anyone can add personal experiences of visiting Iona, or your views on the Iona-style services in Buckland, please do get in touch and they can be included.

Duncan Ferns, Editor

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ‘JOY’?

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

Joy as embodied presence is an abiding awareness of the gift given to each and every one of us, no matter our circumstances in life. I want to begin talking about joy embodied from scriptural sources. In John 15:11, Jesus says, “These things I have spoken to you that my joy may remain in you and that your joy may be full.” In 1st Thessalonians 5:16–18, we read, “Let your joy be your continual feast. Make your life a prayer, and in the midst of everything, be always giving thanks, for this is God’s perfect plan for you in Jesus Christ.” In James 1:2–3, “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.”

True joy is a limitless, life-defining, transformative reservoir waiting to be tapped. It requires only the utmost surrender and like love, it’s a choice to be made that ultimately transcends time. True joy is not circumstantial. It doesn’t require that things be going well. You can have joy during imprisonment as Nelson Mandela did, or while impoverished, as many do in Haiti. Joy is even available in war-torn parts of the globe today.

Make no mistake about it, there’s a real difference between happiness and joy. The sources of happiness are very fleeting. Buy something new and see how fleeting it is. That new car, that new house, they lose their luster in a mere few weeks. True joy is foundational. It’s a basis of God’s love for us, sealed with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Could there be any firmer foundation?

Our egos keep us from experiencing true joy:

Finding your joy may also require that you dismantle the false construct that your life is about you. Now, it’s not our fault that we believe that the journey is all about us. From the moment we’re born, all eyes are on us. Attention is necessary to make certain that we’re breathing, that we have a safe passage through the womb, and adoring parents who continue that focus or not.

Somehow, we begin to believe that everything is about our comfort, our future, our well-being, our pain. As I’m entering the latter phase of my life, I’m finally beginning to realize that the scaffolding of self that was erected from birth was a necessary but temporary support. It was a place I could hang my dreams and my visions, but it was never meant to be permanent. It’s only by faith and by our jour-

ney through a few dark nights of the soul do we relinquish the overwhelming chatter of ego, a feat that is all struggle and many setbacks.

So think about 'Joy'. Do you have it in your life? It brings contentment and serenity. And 'acceptance', namely, whatever happens to you is 'meant to be', so don't wallow in the negative experiences of life, have gratitude for the positive things.

The Gospels often refer to 'joy'. So do most religions and spiritual practices. If you do not have joy in your life, why not follow the Christian path? Or if you are on the path, 'wake up to joy' and smile: 'wear joy on your face!'

BETCHWORTH & BUCKLAND TODDLER GROUP

Tuesday 10 – 12

Buckland Reading Room, RH3 7DY

Every week in Term Time

SPACES ARE NOW AVAILABLE !!!



All are welcome, we have a different craft activity every week, a baby corner, ride on area, drinks and snacks, and we finish with a story and songs.

Queries? Contact Debbie Jones 07701 347351

For updates see our Facebook Page 'Betchworth and Buckland Toddler Group'

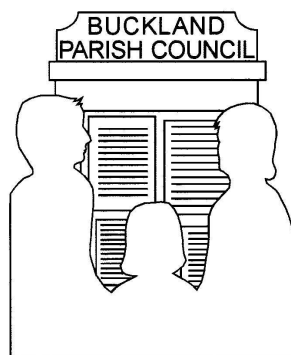
Debbie Jones

Buckland Matters

BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

Local Government Reorganisation

Every household should have received a leaflet promoting a government survey which is inviting you to express your views on two proposals for reorganising local government in Surrey. If you have yet to respond you will find a link to the survey within the news section of the village website.



Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign – GACC

GACC seeks to protect and improve the environment in the area affected by Gatwick Airport's operations with particular regard to noise, congestion, air quality and light pollution and diminish any wider environmental impact of the operations of the airport, and the activities it facilitates, including climate change impacts.

Whilst Buckland residents are not currently as seriously impacted by aircraft noise as some Surrey residents (who find themselves permanently under a flight path and over flown by low altitude aircraft), Buckland Parish Council ("Council") continues to monitor developments.

Council, as a parish council member of GACC, relies upon GACC for advice and notifications of developments in the air industry that could have an impact on operations at Gatwick airport.

GACC is currently seeking to recruit individual members – to learn more about membership visit the GACC website at www.gacc.org.uk. The July issue of the GACC newsletter alerted members to a recently launched petition and highlighted GACC's launch of a funding campaign. Links to the petition and the fundraising campaign are included within the news section of the village website.

Sheena Boyce, Clerk, parishcouncil@bucklandsurrey.org.uk 01737 448023

Features

GARDENING NOTES

Summer gardening : Spotlight on ornamental grasses

Ornamental grasses can provide you with a year-round interest of foliage, stems and seedheads. In these days of ever-increasing temperatures and less reliable summer rainfall, they are a useful option to consider for adapting to climate change.

As ever in gardening, there are a multitude of varieties and groups which will suit different conditions. Most prefer full sun and free-draining soil, so it's best to freely spread grit underneath the roots when planting. Autumn 2024 was particularly wet, which newly-planted grasses will have hated, followed by one of the driest springs on record this year in our area – perfect conditions for grasses to thrive!

Personally, I have for many years been sceptical of the impact of grasses in garden schemes. I am now won over, mainly due to the belated realisation that they are a wonderful companion plant and their foliage will help to set off flower colour in perennials and bedding plants. There are some that will grow to 2 metres and beyond. Very happy in windy conditions, they will waft in the breeze and their gentle rustling adds a calming movement in the garden. *Stipa gigantea* (golden oats) ticks many boxes, and in common with many grasses will provide interest well into the winter. Leave them to give you interest and structure into the frosty months. *Stipa tenuissima* (Mexican feather grass) is a much shorter tuft-forming grass and is popular for the front of borders and in pots.

Scratch the surface of the selection of grasses and you will find an array of colours, heights and forms. Depending on position, check out *Carex* (notably *Evergold*), *Miscanthus* (*Zebrinus* and *Flamingo* are fascinating), and *Cortaderia* (pampas grass) which is ultra vigorous. Not to forget *Imperata Red Baron*, *Lagurus ovatus* (hare's tail grass) and many others. Enjoy exploring the possibilities!

David Hogg, Buckland Nurseries

ST. JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL

On the annual war of pumpkin-growing

From The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Anyone who thinks that the English are a peaceful race has obviously never organised the annual pumpkin growing competition. Very regrettably, one of the Pilgrim Fathers sent a handful of pumpkin seeds to a relation in this parish in the 17th century and ever since, the church has been obliged to hold an annual competition to see who can grow the largest. I suspect some of the original recipients of those seeds still compete. There is a certain irony that the church, which is supposed to promote peace and harmony, sponsors the most war-like activity in the annual calendar.



Mobilisation starts at the beginning of the year when seeds are planted. From that moment on, every other potential entrant is regarded as the Enemy. Once seedlings are planted out, then heavy armaments are placed at boundaries to deter possible invasion. By late Spring, paranoia has taken over and rumours begin to circulate of espionage and sinister undetectable herbicides. Anyone in the village with a beard is looked on with deep suspicion.

In the weeks before the competition, homes, partners and children are abandoned, as contestants talk to their pumpkins by day and snuggle up with them at night. Should bad weather arrive at this point, then I am blamed for not having prayed sufficiently fervently for sunshine and light rain. If only I had such influence.

On the day before the show, tables are put out and woe betide anyone who places their cake stand where Mrs Cholmondeley has put her tea urn for the past 25 years; she now believes she has squatters' rights to that place, and any challenge to her claim would probably result in litigation.

I find this competitive spirit a little bemusing, as for the last 25 years, the Earl of Stowe has always won first prize. That his mother, the Dowager Countess, is the judge, is, I am sure, pure coincidence. That she has arrived for the past three years with a white stick and accompanied by a golden Labrador does, however, raise doubts.

To award the Earl any prize at all does seem a little unfair, when the only time he ever gets mud on his boots is when he falls off his horse while hunting. I suspect he would be hard pressed to find where the kitchen garden is on his estate. But to give any credit to his gardening staff would be seen as bad form, so we all keep quiet.

It has been tentatively suggested that another judge should be appointed, but no one has so far had the courage to step forward. They may have the privilege of nominating the winner, but they would also have to face a 12 month period of hatred from all those who were not successful. Christmas card lists will be amended. Families may have sat next to them in church for generations, but would suddenly find it more congenial to worship in another part of the church. Letters would be strangely mis-delivered, and the butcher's boy would suddenly deliver lamb when pork had been ordered. Who could dare to take on such a poisoned chalice?

Your Loving Uncle, Eustace



PRAYERS ... and unexpected responses

A Christian was hiking in the woods one day when he came upon an angry bear. The bear stood up on its hind legs and growled ferociously, clearly preparing to charge. In panic, the Christian started to run, but the bear followed close on his heels. Finally the hiker came to a cliff. So he dropped to his knees and asked God to please make this bear a good Christian bear. To the hiker's amazement, the bear suddenly stopped growling, fell to his knees and folded his paws together in prayer! "Thank you, Lord!" ex-claimed the Christian. "Thank you, Lord!" ex-claimed the bear, "for this meal I'm about to receive!"

A man went into a church and asked the Rector to pray for his hearing. 'Ah, certainly', said the Rector, somewhat taken aback. The man knelt, and the Rector placed a hand carefully on each ear. In a loud voice he asked God to help the man with his hearing. 'I hope that will help', he shouted to the man. 'Well, we won't know for a while' the man replied softly. 'The hearing is not until next month.'

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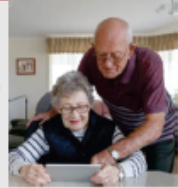


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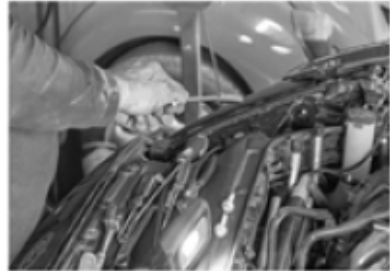
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Local Services

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AUGUST FOREST CAMP BETCHWORTH ~ Booking now open for Wednesday 27th August - Don't miss out!



Our Junior rangers and pre-schoolers had a fantastic time at our popular Forest Camp in May - and we're doing it all again on Wednesday 27 August: Running free through the wild meadows of our magical private woodland, join-

ing in assisted activities or initiating their own; stream-dipping, learning bushcraft, camp-fire cooking, making dens, clay-modelling, whittling - and so much more.

If your child loved it and wants to do it all over again - or sadly missed out and would like to join in the fun this time around - bookings are now open for Wednesday 27th August. Once again we plan to offer three sessions:

1. All-day Junior Rangers camp (for unaccompanied 5-10 year olds)
2. Morning Pre-schoolers camp (for pre-schoolers, accompanied by a parent)
- 3: Junior Rangers Afternoon-only camp (for unaccompanied 5-10 year olds)

Rain or shine, we have another day of fun-filled activities planned, book early to avoid disappointment, see full details and booking form at www.rebetchworth.org

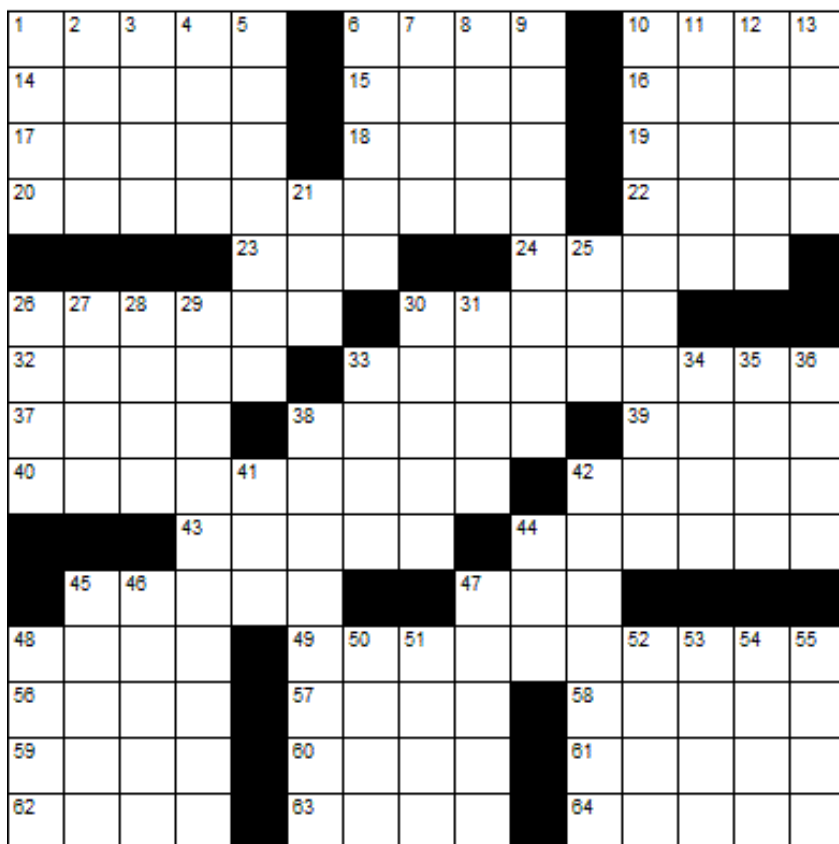
Linda Spratt, reBetchworth

Don't let your happiness depend on
something you may lose

Hans Christian Andersen (1805-75, Author)

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Solution p.34



ACROSS

1. Sugarcoat

6. Part of a book

10. Baby's first word

14. Rose dye

15. Dry

16. Follow orders

17. Lower part of the abdomen

18. Certain

19. Had on

20. Inactivity

22. Gists

23. American Medical Association

24. Savory

26. Serengeti trek

30. Adjust

32. Coral reef

33. Restate

37. Essence

38. Scandinavian

39. Minerals

40. Very irritable

42. Where clouds are

43. Employ again

44. Satisfy

45. Fathered

47. Purchase

48. Expunge

49. Discerned (Br. sp.)

56. Precipitation

57. Wild goat

58. Door

59. Against

60. Connecting point

61. Rock

62. Millisecond

63. 1111

64. Scattered

DOWN

1. Colloids
2. Plunder
3. Largest continent
4. Pizazz
5. Entangle
6. Noodles
7. African sheep
8. Form of money transfer
9. Lacking teeth
10. A downward

stroke

11. Give or take
12. Type of hat
13. Affirmatives 21. French for "Friend"
25. Type of primate
26. Back talk
27. At the peak of
28. Highly offensive
29. Relating to an allergen
30. Eagle's home

31. Platter

33. Decays
34. Diva's solo
35. T T T
36. Being
38. Elementary particle
41. Modern
42. Cunning
44. Dog with a wrinkly face
45. Heads (slang)
46. Gentry

47. Cartons

48. Small amount
50. Black, in poetry
51. Formally surrender
52. Put ____ words
53. Put away
54. Sea eagle
55. Not the original color

THE EDITOR'S FRIEND

I halve a spelling checker,
It came with my pea see.
It plainly marks four my revue
Miss takes I dew knot sea.

Eye strike a quay and type a word
And weight four it two say
Weather eye am wrong oar write
It shows me strait aweigh.

As soon as a mist ache is maid
It nose bee four two long
And eye can put the era rite
It's rarely ever wrong.

I've scent this massage threw it,
And I'm shore your pleased too no
Its let her prefect in every weigh;
My chequer tolled me sew.

Anon

The nice thing about doing a crossword puzzle is that you
know there is a solution

Stephen Sondheim, American Composer, 1930-2021)

SUDOKU

Grade: Medium.
Solution on p.34

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

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WORDSEARCH— The Transfiguration

Transfiguration
high
mountain
glimpse
glory

presence
Jesus
bright
cloud
mankind

shine
sun
garments
dazzling
appeared

listen
law
prophets
handing
fulfilment

Moses
tabernacles
holy
dwelling
shrine

Solution on p.34

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

Small Surrey Churches - Part Six

St Mark's Chapel, Bletchingley



St Mark's Chapel is in South Park, Bletchingley. The history of the South Park Estate goes back to the Domesday Book. This chapel building dates from about 1650 when it was originally the cart stables of the farm.¹

The stables were converted to a chapel in 1909 by the 'Lord of the Manor' and owner, Alfred Uvedale Miller Lambert (1870 – 1928), as a thanksgiving for the birth of his only child, on St Mark's Day, Uvedale H.H. Lambert (1909 – 1983).² Both father and son were known as 'Uvedale Lambert' (Snr & Jnr), and both were antiquarian dealers and local historians.² They wrote detailed village histories of Bletchingley, Godstone and Tandridge, some as published books, with a wider collection of their research now at the County Record Office.³

Just three years after the chapel was converted, in 1912, the roof of the Chapel was partially destroyed by fire and contemporary timbers from a barn were used for repair. It was again seriously damaged by a flying bomb in 1944 and timbers at the west end, taken out of the old house (which stood in front of the present house) were put in to hold up the west wall. It was reopened in 1946.

The armorial bearings over the readers' stalls records the ecclesiastical history of the land on which the chapel stands. Winchester Diocese until 1877, then Rochester till 1906; then Southwark (the red diamonds).

At the west end is the record of the lay ownership of the land since Domesday. It passes in unbroken descent (twice through the female line) from 1066 to 1521 when Henry VIII executed Edward Stafford 4th Duke of Buckingham for plotting treason 'in his palace of Blechingleagh' (the gate house can still be seen at Place Farm). Henry also executed Sir Nicholas Carew and gave the manor to his wife, Anne of Cleves. As soon as Henry died, Anne's steward, Sir Thomas Cawarden, got hold of the property.'



The wooden Altar screen displaying a slab of the 'local blue marble' behind

Elizabeth I granted the Manor to Lord William Howard whose son was the Victor of the Armada. The old admiral died in 1624 and left it to his granddaughter who had married John Mordaunt, Lord Peterborough and it was their son Henry who got into debt backing the King in the Civil War and was foreclosed on by his creditor Robert Clayton.¹

Henry Thomas Lambert bought the property from the Claytons in 1875 to add to his Blechingley land. Curiously his grandson, Uvedale Lambert, was the 35th generation in direct decent (several times through the female line) from Richard de Clare to whom his cousin William the Conqueror granted the Manor in 1066.¹

The Altar Screen (previous picture) & **Sanctuary floor** features ‘Surrey Marble’ quarried from the local wood by the Potters gate of South Park. This type of stone (actually a limestone with a blue–grey colour) is known to outcrop all over the centre part of the Weald but never in large quantities, and it has been used in a number of places such as York Minster and Westminster Abbey.⁴

The west door (below left) was purchased from Hever Castle in Kent as a result of restoration work there in the 1870’s. It is quite possible that Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn passed through this door whilst at Hever.¹





Belltower access

The small **belltower**, with a single bell, is beneath the West door, reached by two vertical, fixed wooden ladders (pictured above), as would have been regarded ‘quite safe’ in the days in Victorian days when some of the congregation were ‘young lads’, but few such structures have survived the wrath of modern health & safety inspectors.

Statue of St Mark on south-west corner of the chapel

The chapel was privately commissioned by Alfred Lambert in 1909, as a celebration for the birth, on St Mark’s Day, of his son Uvedale HH Lambert. Hence the chapel was dedicated to St Mark and Uvedale Lambert sourced the statue accordingly (previous page, bottom right).⁴

12 seat cushions

The chapel has just 12 free-standing congregational seats, each with an identical cushion of a pattern in fine cross-stitch (pictured overleaf).



Access

St Mark's Chapel is usually open to the public via a door on the right-hand side of the property. It is difficult to find unless you know the location: access is via Rabies Heath Road, Bletchingley, from which you turn onto South Park Road (signposted 'South Park, No through Road') and continue to drive for about 1 mile. The road becomes a 'Bridleway and Private Drive' but it is possible to drive further until you reach the chapel on your left. Respect the no parking in front of South Park Mansion which is adjacent. [Most homes in South Park are accessed from Carlton Road in South Godstone, but it is not feasible to access the chapel from this road].

A wonderful 'hidden treasure'.

References

1. Information boards in the Chapel
2. Wikipedia Page: Uvedale Lambert
3. Surrey History Centre, Uvedale Lambert Collection, ref. 3924
4. <https://bletchingleyhistory.org.uk/Religion/>

The heat has got to me... SOME JOKES ABOUT FISH AND CHIPS

It started with one Chip shop, called 'The Almighty Cod', in the (last) resort of Seaton Carew, Hartlepool. I discovered lots of other Chip Shops, many continuing the religious naming theme...

Cod Almighty
The Codfather
Cod's Wallop
In Cod we trust
Hand of Cod
O my Cod
The Cod Squad
Thank Cod it's Fridays

It did not stop there:
Batter the Devil you know
Cod save the King
Star Chip Enterprise
The Fat Friar
The Contented Sole
Salmon Chanted Evening



- I rang the wife last night to say 'I'll pick up fish and chips on the way home'. I was met with stoney silence. She still regrets letting me name the twins
- 'Your fish won't be long Sir'. 'Well, it had better be wide'
- 'Fish & Chips twice please.' 'Alright, I heard you the first time'
- A student goes into the University Library and says 'Fish & Chips Please'. The Librarian says 'SHssssh!' In a whispered voice, he repeats, 'Fish & Chips Please.'
- My Greek cousin owns a mobile kebab shop, 'Jason Doner Van'. My Thai friend has a restaurant, not doing so well, called 'The Thiatanic'
- "Give a man a fish and..." he'll ask for chips and mushy peas
- I don't take anything seriously in the newspapers, except fish and chips. And I take that with pinch of salt.

Ed.

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Other Events

Annual Dinner – Hartsfield Manor 27th Nov 7pm
Christmas Drinks - The Reading Room, 21st Dec 12pm

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BROCKHAM GREEN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Brockham * Betchworth * Buckland

First I would like to say a very big thank you to Sara Pollard who welcomed us into her beautiful garden and also to all of the members who were able to come along and support the event on such an incredibly hot evening. I think those that came along will agree that despite the lack of rain over the last few weeks, the garden was looking stunning. There are many sections to this garden including wildflower planting, a board walk, raised vegetable beds and a rill which winds its way magically through the main lawn. Sara's garden was all the more interesting as it is maintained by one of our committee members, who has done an amazing job here; the photos really don't do it justice.



Sara's chosen charity was the **Patchworking Garden Project** based in Dorking, where she is a volunteer and we raised £193 towards this amazing charity. More information at <https://patchworkinggardenproject.co.uk/>

Future Events

- 20 September—The Autumn Show, Brockham Village Hall
- 10 Nov, 7.30pm. Talk : The Earthworm – all you wanted to know but did not dare ask by Chris Stewart. Brockham Village Hall
- 6 Dec, 2pm-4pm. Christmas Wreath Workshop. 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, bghsociety@hotmail.com

Ruth Johnson

DOWNES AND WEALD RAMBLING GROUP (DWRG)

Welcome to DWRG, aimed at people in their 40s and upwards. For just £5.00 a year, DWRG offers year round Sunday walks of ca 8 - 12 miles, from May to September, and shorter Friday evening walks of ca 2- 4 miles focused more on being a social occasion ending at a country pub for a drink or meal together. We also organise weekend, Bank Holiday trips away in the UK. For more information and any questions you might have please go to our website www.dwrg.org.uk and complete the Membership Enquiry Form. Or call 01306-314002. We look forward to hearing from you.

Elizabeth Ellis, DWRG Membership Secretary

BROCKHAM BOWLS CLUB

Well, it's been a strange old month in terms of weather and results and certainly June wasn't our finest. We had a couple of matches cancelled due to the searing heat and another one was lost because of a horrendous downpour which left the green under water.



The North Downs League is proving very tough this year and most teams seem to be putting out their strongest players in an effort to win the title. We came away with very little from our games against Purley Bury and Godstone but did gain good points from our fixtures with Bletchingley and CMO with both strangely enough ending up as draws. One draw is rare in a year so two in a month is unheard of. In our friendly matches results weren't much better. Bit of a pasting by Ewhurst and Cranleigh and a narrow lost to Esher. The highlight of the month was we gave Epsom Park a bit of a thumping. Things can only get better.

Our Internal competitions have produced some interesting games and so far, some surprising results. The game is great fun and the atmosphere at our Club is amazing and we are open on Tuesday and Thursday nights so just pop down and you're be welcomed with open arms. Frank Tipping, our Club Captain, would gladly have a chat on 01737 843678. Otherwise please ask me any questions you have about Brockham Bowls Club as I'm flying around.

Best regards from all at our Club. Rick Lawrence

DORKING MUSEUM IN AUGUST

A Place of Safety: Our summer exhibition tells of refugees who have found refuge in the Dorking area and their experiences. It includes those fleeing the French Revolution, the Kaiser & 39' s army, Nazi oppression, the Blitz, and war and persecution in the Middle East. It features the work of the Dorking Refugee Committee and Ralph Vaughan Williams.

Dinosaurs Briefing Room: A spectacular display of Wealden dinosaur replicas and models from Southampton University and a dinosaur craft activity. Free event at Dorking Library, Thursday 7 th August, 10am-2pm.

Library Reading Challenge: Saturday 26 th August, 10am to 2pm, come to the Library and make a bookmark for your book (aimed at 4–11-year-olds).

Walking in Dorking: Museum's guided walks. On the edge of town, Betchworth Castle tour includes exclusive access to the Castle enclosure: Sunday 17 th August, 2pm. In town, Blue Plaques and Statues walk: Sunday 3 rd August, 2pm. Historic Pub Walk: Saturday 9 th August, 6pm. Hidden Historic Dorking: Sunday 17 th August, 2pm. All walks 90 minutes, booked in advance: details and booking at dorkingmuseum.org.uk/guided-walks-around-dorking/. See website for private group bookings.

South Street Caves tours: Open Day already sold out: see dorkingmuseum.org.uk/south-street-caves/. But why not arrange a private group tour? e-mail caves@dorkingmuseum.org.uk to arrange a date.

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

David Burton

CLOSING THOUGHTS

- If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.
- When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
- Ambition is a poor excuse for not having enough sense to be lazy.
- Hard work pays off in the future. Laziness pays off now.
- Everyone has a photographic memory. Some just don't have film.
- Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Crossword (p.20) Solution

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

Wordsearch (p.22) Solution

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

Sudoku (p.22) Solution

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

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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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 on request to fernsdc@gmail.com (£20 with free local delivery, or + P&P)

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>)	Caroline Bartlett	07967 969425
Buckland Parochial Charity (<i>Clerk</i>)	Debbie Jones	07701 347351
Buckland Parish Council (<i>Clerk</i>)	Sheena Boyce	448023
Buckland Village Shop	Amy Snaithe	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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