

Buckland Parish Magazine



Celebrates
its
Centenary.
100 years

January 2026

Bumper Centenary Issue



Editorial 100 year Centenary Issue

Back in May 2009, Buckland Parish Magazine published its 1000th Edition. The Editor then was my predecessor, Richard Wheen, who edited this magazine for 27 years! He did the village proud by celebrating with a 70-page bumper issue with many retrospective articles about Buckland. This souvenir issue is one that many people kept and still have on their bookshelf, including me!

Hence, I could not let pass another major milestone, celebrating 100 years since our first issue was published in January 1926. Articles were invited to help celebrate, and we have an interesting selection for you. Thanks particularly to Peter Ahlas, Sheena Boyce and David Hogg for their contributions.

The magazine this month is split into two halves: January 1926 (p.3-34) and January 2026. (p.35-68)

Since taking on the role of Editor in September 2019, I have enjoyed bringing together the mix of articles, local news and the notification of activities from both the church and many local societies and groups. Thank you for the feedback which I receive, which is mostly positive, and thank you also for comments about that which you don't like, which allows me to make changes. I hope that this issue might be one that does not go straight in your bin, and that you find enough of interest to keep it on your bookshelf for a time.

Duncan Ferns



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ISSUE NUMBER 1: BUCKLAND PARISH MAGAZINE, JANUARY 1926

Just one page ...

Church of
Saint Mary the Virgin. Buckland.

PARISH MAGAZINE.

This is a venture and one which I hope you will appreciate. Since I came to Buckland I have often felt that we were badly handicapped in not having a Magazine. There are frequently things in my mind that I want to talk about to you all, and this is not possible since we never meet all together at one time. The difficulty of a magazine in a small parish is the cost of printing a small number of copies. If I had had this number printed each copy would have cost about 3d, but I have had some kind offers of help, and we shall now be able to have our local matter typed and copied bringing the cost down to about 1d. That of course is the price of the materials alone; a lot of labour will be necessary as well, but that is going to be given voluntarily. So our Magazine is to be started, and our thanks are gratefully made to all who have and are going to help in its production. Please remember that we are only amateurs at producing so far.

This number is coming to you because you reside in Buckland, and I want you to know what we are doing.

The February number will come to those families who are represented on the Electoral Roll of our Church. I hope that your name is already on, but if it is not you will find a paper in this number which will explain what the Roll is, and give a form on which to apply. Please let me have these by Jan. 10th if you want to receive the next number, or tell me otherwise if you would be glad to receive it.

All families represented on the Roll will receive it as members of the Church. I have told you what it will cost to produce, and I feel sure that you will be willing to send me at least 1d a month, or better still at least 1/- for the year. I leave the matter of payment to you. Will you also advise me if you want more than one copy.

The value I set on this venture is that it may be a medium for making us all feel nearer together, and help our Church life not to be merely religious but a realm in which we may be happy and be equipped with all that we need for each day's experience.

My sincerest wishes come to you for the New Year, it will I hope be one for which you will be able to thank God, one in which you experience many joys, and be able to find a way to meet and overcome all that needs facing.

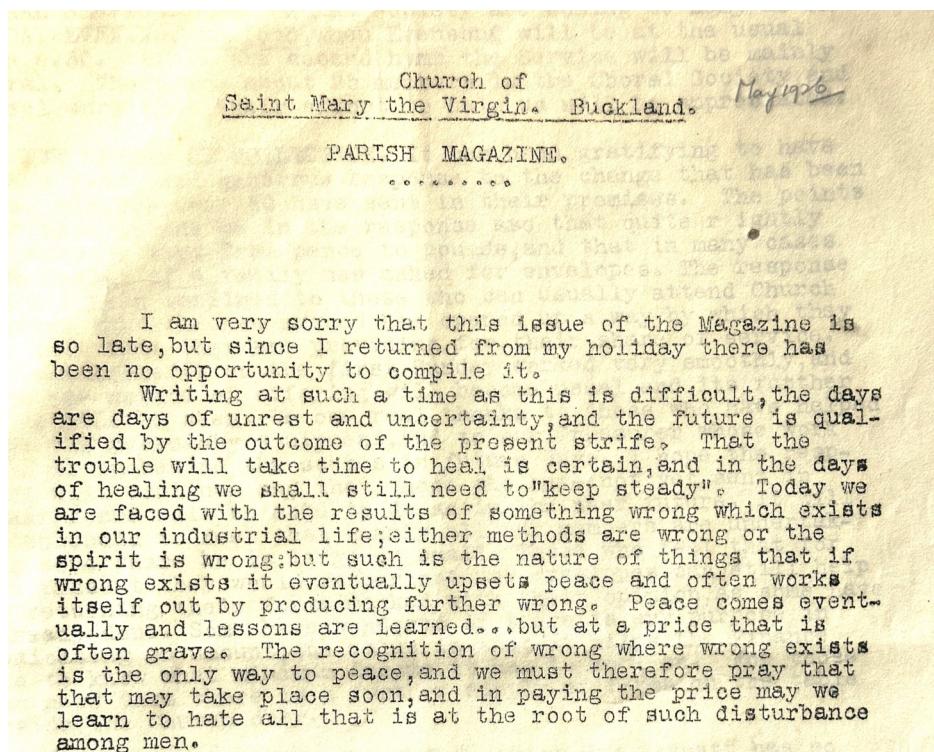
Sincerely your friend and Rector,
H.W.DUNK.

ISSUE NUMBER 5, MAY 1926—THE GENERAL STRIKE

By May 1926, Buckland Parish Magazine had reached 4 pages, and this is how our Rector 'chose his words carefully' about the general strike ...

The **1926 general strike in the United Kingdom** was a general strike that lasted nine days, from 4 to 12 May 1926.^[1] It was called by the General Council of the Trades Union Congress (TUC) in an unsuccessful attempt to force the British government to act to prevent wage reductions and worsening conditions for 1.2 million locked-out coal miners. Some 1.7 million workers went on strike, especially in transport and heavy industry.

It was a sympathy strike, with many of those who were not miners and not directly involved, also striking to support the locked-out miners. The government was well prepared, and enlisted middle class volunteers to maintain essential services.



BUCKLAND'S ENTRY IN KELLY'S DICTIONARY FOR 1926

BUCKLAND is a parish and village, on the road from Reigate to Dorking, 25 miles from London, 2 west from Reigate and $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles south-east from Betchworth station on the Southern railway from Charing Cross ; it is in the Reigate parliamentary division of the county of Surrey, Reigate hundred, petty sessional division and union, Redhill county court district, Reigate rural deanery, archdeaconry of Kingston and diocese of Southwark. The church of St. Mary the Virgin, rebuilt in 1860 at a cost of over £2,000, is a building of ironstone in the Decorated style, consisting of a chancel, nave, south porch and a small western tower containing 6 bells : the whole of the windows are stained : there are 150 sittings. The register dates from the year 1560. The benefice is a rectory, net yearly value £383, including 62 acres of glebe and residence ; it is in the gift of All Souls College, Oxford, and has been held since 1925 by the Rev. Herbert Walter Dunk B.A. of Christ Church College, Cambridge. A granite cross was erected in the village at a cost of £248, which was raised by public subscription.

in memory of the seven men of the parish who fell in the Great War 1914-18 ; their names are inscribed on the base of the memorial, which was unveiled by Col. Sir Percival Scrope Marling bart. v.c., c.b. and dedicated by the Bishop of Sheffield. The charities amount to £46 yearly, arising from lands and money left by Denton, Brown and Cook, and including a sum of £16 5s. derived from a rent-charge of £2 4s. 10d. bestowed by deed by Henry Smith, of Wandsworth, alderman of London, who died January the 30th, 1628, distributed in clothing. Buckland Court, the seat of Francis Henry Beaumont esq. M.A., D.L., J.P. is pleasantly situated near the village. Robert Massy Dawson Sanders esq. who is lord of the manor, and Ralph William Clutton esq. are the principal landowners. The soil is various ; subsoil, clay and chalk. The chief crops are wheat, barley, oats and roots. The area is 1,866 acres of land and 10 of water ; rateable value £5,720 ; the population in 1911 was 503 in the civil and 469 in the ecclesiastical parish. The population in the civil parish in 1921 was 439. Under the provisions of the Divided Parishes Act, 1882, a part of Buckland has been transferred to Reigate Foreign. Hartswood, a detached part of this parish, is in the ecclesiastical parish of Sidlow.

The Parish Council consists of 6 elected members, viz.:—
R. M. D. Sanders (chairman), Frank Sanders, Mrs. Coulson,
Charles H. James & Hugh C. Coles; Oliver Cromwell Apted,
Doods brow, 74 Doods road, Reigate, clerk

Post & M. O. O., S. B. & Annuity & Insurance Office.—Herbert
Guy, sub-postmaster. Letters arrive from Betchworth. The
nearest telegraph office is at Betchworth

Assistant Overseer & Clerk to Parish Council, Oliver Cromwell
Apted, Doods brow, 74 Doods road, Reigate

Assessor & Collector of Taxes, Herbert William Verrells, Darentia,
18 Eversfield road, Reigate

Public Elementary School, built in 1862 & enlarged in 1908, for
80 children; Mrs. Coulson, mistress; Miss W. Eely, assistant
mistress

PRIVATE RESIDENTS.

[Marked thus * receive their
letters through Reigate.]

Beaumont Francis Henry M.A.
oxon., D.L., J.P. Buckland court

Bravington George Herbert,
Buckland lodge
Clark Henry, Broomehurst
Clay Ernest, The White house
*Clutton R. W. Hartswood
Coles Hugh C. The Glebe house

Collier Harry Saml. The Orchard
Coulson Ernest S. The Old Way
*Courtin Henry, Juniper house
Dempster Mrs. The Harvester's
Dumas Vice-Admiral Philip Wylie
C.B., C.V.O

Dunk Rev. Herbert Walter B.A.
[rector], The Rectory
Evans John William Teece, Hes-
wale Grange cottage

*Fleischl Mrs. Shagbrook
Jaffray Miss, The Knowl
Kingsell George S. The Stream
Quihampton Gerald, Buckland
Sanders Robert Massy Dawson,
Buckland Court farm

Smith Miss, Street farm
*Stockton H. J. Buckland corner
Thomason George William, Colley
Orchard

Traviss Fredk. E. Priors Leas
Tritton Nigel Charles, Wildcroft
Walker Mrs. Heswale Grange
Williams Wm. Edwd. Allen, Pettys

COMMERCIAL.

Barnett Emma (Mrs.), sexton
Blackford George H. Red Lion
P.H
Champion Arthur & Son, black-
smiths

Claydon Sydney, nurseryman
Coulson Ernest Sydney, solicitor
& commissioner for oaths, The
Old Way

Coulson Mrs. school
Davey Harry, nurseryman, Nor-
manton nurseries, Reigate hth
Guy Herbert, grocer, & post office
Holton Donald, butcher

Hoyles Arthur Rowland, farm
bailiff to R. M. D. Sanders esq.
Buckland Court farm

James Chas. H. frmr. Kemp's farm
Parish Room (Mrs. Barnett, care-
taker)
Sanders Francis J. carpenter
Smith Richard, thatcher
Standen George, beer retailer

OUR RECTOR in 1925—REVD. HERBERT DUNK

For centuries, Rectors throughout southern England were appointed from graduates of Oxford and Cambridge, almost all from wealthy families, such as landowners, lawyers and doctors. It was certainly the case for Buckland, who had a long series of wealthy Rectors. In 1925, for the first time, Buckland was to have a Rector from a rather poor family...

Herbert Dunk was the youngest of 6 children, born in 1893, to Annie and Edward Dunk, who lived in Swanley, Kent. His father was Clerk to a shopkeeper. Edward's father died of an epileptic seizure and hemorrhage in 1896 at the age of 48, when their son Herbert was only 3 years old.

His mother Annie had managed a small hotel in Lewisham, letting out ten rooms. Her youngest son, though, was not at home. The 1901 census records Herbert, aged 8, as a pupil at the 'Royal Asylum of St Annes Society' in Redhill. This was a large residential children's home and school, managed as a charity. Most of the pupils were orphans who had lost both parents. In 1901 they employed 64 staff looking after and schooling 386 pupils aged 8 to 15. St Annes was a large, four storied red brick building with a central clock tower 125 feet high, about twice the height of the rest of the structure. It was built in 1884 and was a dominant feature in Redhill. The 20-acre grounds included a swimming pool, gymnasium, medical unit and large sports playing fields. St Anne's school closed in 1918, was demolished in 1988, and Warwick School now occupies part of the site.

After his time at the children's home and school in Redhill, Herbert got a job as a Counting House Clerk in Bethnal Green at the age of 18. When WW1 began in 1914, Herbert was 21 years old, a prime age to sign-up for the forces. He began as a volunteer in the 5th London Rifle Regiment of the Army. He then transferred to the RAF and served with 56 Squadron 'The Firebirds' as Second Lieutenant, Armourer and 49 Squadron as a Lieutenant. On being decommissioned, Herbert studied theology and qualified through All Souls College Oxford, to be a Rector. In 1921 his address was c/o The Vicarage, Holy Trinity Church. Potten End, Berkhamstead.

Revd. Herbert Dunk was appointed Rector of St Mary's Buckland in 1925 at the age of 32, so in January 1926, he had been Rector for less than 12 months, and it was on his initiative that the Parish Magazine was started. He wrote the first few years of magazine content himself and had it typed and duplicated by a member of the church.

Within 2 years of his appointment to St Mary's Buckland, on 4 October 1927, at the age of 34, he married Helen Augusta Perry, aged 26. Helen was the daughter of the Rector of the Church in Farleigh, Whyteleafe, Caterham, the church where she married Herbert. Together they had one daughter, Hestor Joy in April 1932, christened at St Mary's Buckland.



Revd. Herbert Walter Dunk with his wife Helen (right), and Hester his daughter in the pedal car, c. 1935.

In the garden of Buckland Rectory (now 'The Old Rectory' on Rectory Lane, Buckland). The lady kneeling maybe Herbert's mother, Annie.

Herbert served as Rector of Buckland St Mary's for 12 years, and moved on in 1937, the year after he buried his mother, Annie Dunk, in the graveyard at St Mary's Buckland.

Herbert had a wider interest in church architecture and features and wrote a detailed paper on 'The Lumley Monuments at Cheam' in 1954, published in the Transactions of the Ancient Monuments Society. [The medieval Lumley Chapel at Cheam can still be visited].

It is likely that Reverend Dunk left Buckland Parish for the Parish of East Stratton in Hampshire. He died whilst in post as Rector there, at The Vicarage, East Stratton in 1961.

Ref: Ferns DC, 2025. *Buckland Past Lives*, Chapter 32, Annie Dunk & Revd. Herbert Dunk.

1926 ACTIVITIES OF THE PCC (PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL) St Mary the Virgin Buckland

Details taken from the
PCC Minutes Book of 1926,
Surrey History Centre (Woking) 10669/5/2

The 1926 the PCC members (with their home addresses added for interest) were as follows:

- Revd. Herbert Dunk (Rector, The Vicarage, now The 'Old Vicarage'),
- Frank J Sanders (Yewdells),
- Col. Ernest Clay (The White House)
- Ernest Coulson (Old Way House)
- Charles James
- Robert M D Sanders (Buckland Court)
- Hugh Coles (Glebe House),
- Mrs Collier (The Orchard)
- Mrs Tritton (Wildcroft)
- Miss Dunk (Secretary, The Vicarage).

Six PCC meetings were held during the year. The electoral role stood at 196 people (reduced in 2025 to 27 people!). The annual running costs were £246, of including a Diocesan Quota was £25 (10% of revenue). Our income in 2024 was £29,200, of which the Diocesan Quota was c. £16,000 (increased to 55% of operating costs).

The minutes recorded:

- £5 was approved for new bell ropes 'which were much needed'
- A new stove for the Parish Room was donated by Mrs Collier
- A choir outing was organised.
- Introduction of gift envelopes to 'benefit the church funds' (maybe

this method was a forerunner of gift-aid envelopes?).

The 'Parish Room' (Reading Room) was run under a group of Trustees independent of the church, only one of whom was still alive in 1925 and residing outside the Parish. In 1926, the PCC agreed a new lease from Buckland Estate, in favour of the Rector and Churchwardens, on the understanding that they will be responsible for the management and maintenance of the room. A sub-committee of the PCC was established to manage the Reading Room (which continues today).

A Harvest Festival was fixed for Friday 8 October 1926 followed by a Social event in the Parish Room, 'thus reviving the old custom of a weekday Festival'. The festival was to be continued the following Sunday.

Our church had an 'Extension fund' to donate to charities. Donations of £5 and £10 were made to the:

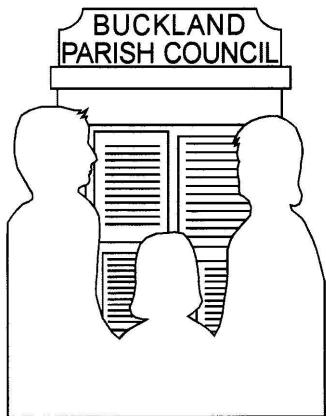
- British & Foreign Bible Society
- Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge
- Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts
- Church Missionary Society.

These donations reflected the time of active Christian missionary outreach in British Empire countries and in Africa.

Duncan Ferns

BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

2026 VS 1926 : WHAT CHANGE CAN WE SEE ?



Buckland Parish Council (BPC), which was established in 1894, had responsibilities for many services that are currently provided by either Mole Valley District Council (MVDC) or Surrey County Council (SCC) including the collection of rates, maintenance of local paths, provision of fire brigade cover for property in Buckland and negotiations with utility companies.

Following the construction of the A25 through the village, negotiations were underway with Redhill Gas Company to provide mains gas to properties along the route of the new road and service a new lamp to be positioned in the centre of the village.

The reconstruction and widening of the A25 had included the construction of a flint retaining wall and led to a reduction in the size of the village pond. Fluctuations in the water level of the pond have remained topical ever since as have concerns about the presence of non-native invasive species. In August 1926, “attention was called to the bad state of the pond on the green, which required to be dragged and cleaned out, and it was agreed the Chairman should make arrangements for it to be done”.

BPC minutes highlight maintenance issues with paths around the village, acknowledge actions taken by landowners and volunteers to maintain access and emphasise the limited funds available to support this activity.

There is also reference to a communication issued by SCC on a reorganisation of electoral divisions.

Moving to the current day Surrey is currently undergoing a reorganisation of local government which will result in MVDC and SCC being replaced by East Surrey Unitary Council. Elections are scheduled for 7th May 2026 for the election of two representatives to the Unitary Council for the recently redefined Dorking Rural Division.

Buckland will continue to be served by MVDC and SCC until 31 March 2027 and the Unitary Council, having initially operated as a shadow authority, will take over on 1 April 2027 with the two representatives voted in next May serving until May 2031.

BPC minutes continue to include gratitude for the effort of volunteer activity – on the part of individuals and Buckland Estate, activity which is complemented by modest tasks funded via the parish council precept.

The experience of parish councils in Unitary areas is that financial pressure is leading to a focus on statutory service and the curtailment of Unitary funding for “discretionary services”. This shift is requiring individual communities to decide for each service to accept its curtailment, assume responsibility for its future provision or fund the continued provision of that discretionary service by the Unitary Council.

When asked to review a draft of this article our current Chair, Nigel Husband responded **‘Different day, same story, same circus, different clowns, “Plus ça change...” All is vanity, and nothing new under the sun’**

Sheena Boyce, Clerk to Buckland Parish Council

INTRODUCTON TO THE WAR MEMORIAL IN 1926

Following WWI, Buckland had a committee to decide on the location, design and fund raising. In March 1920, the Parish Council minutes stated that over £68 had been raised, and the design was to be a twelve-foot high Celtic Cross, crafted in Cornish granite, to be located by the pond. The memorial was dedicated on 11 July 1920, so in 1926 it would already have become a focal point on Buckland village Green, just as it is today, excepting the names from WW2.

There were certain ‘rules and regulations’ that had to be met for a name to be applied to the war memorial, concerning ‘living in the village’ or ‘attending our church’. A consequence of this was that there are some graves in our churchyard of men who died in service, or soon after as result of illnesses gained in service. Some are identified in Buckland’s Past Lives (2025), noting the Chapter and memorial plot number:

WW1 - Louis Marshall (Ch. 26, plot 193), Richard Croke Morgan (Ch. 27, plot 147),
WW2—John Overton (Ch. 28, plot A103), Richard Edleston (Ch. 29, plot 313).

THE FACES OF THE NAMES ON BUCKLAND WAR MEMORIAL

James Day

James Day's article about those named on Buckland War Memorial was first published in the Special 1000th Edition of the Buckland Parish Magazine in May 2009. This stimulated his further research, resulting in his comprehensive on-line book, first published in 2014. He has recently updated this book and the full text is available at:

www.bucklesurrey.org.uk/local-amenities/war-memorial

This summary reveals the faces of most of those commemorated with a short version of their stories. This is such an appropriate contribution to this Centenary edition of our village magazine, and we are indebted to James for his continuing research (even since he has moved to Devon!).

Ed.

World War I



Edward H Bovill

Edward was the oldest son of the Bovill family who lived at Broome Perrow. He was born in 1887 and went to Harrow and Cambridge. He joined up in 1915 into the Queens Westminster Rifles. At the Battle of the Somme their attack on 1st July 1916 suffered heavy losses. Edward died on the brink of safety and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial.



John E Bovill

John, known as Eric, was born in 1894, a younger brother to Edward. Also went to Harrow and Cambridge. He joined the 6th Dragoon Guards, an elite cavalry unit. On 23rd Jan 1916, while leading his troop in the trenches near Bethune, he was killed by a sniper. He is buried in Vermelles Cemetery. Both Bovill men are commemorated on a brass plaque in Buckland church.



John R Childs

James, born in 1893, was the youngest of six, all living with their parents in 2, Sandpit Cottages. James became a butcher. He joined the Royal West Kent 6th Battalion and was lost in the Battle of Arras. On 3rd May 1917, he and 63 others fell. He is commemorated on the Arras Memorial.



James, Arthur & Charles Edwards

Arthur, Charles and James were three brothers from seven children, who lived with their parents at Heath cottages, Reigate Heath. All went to Buckland School, left at 14 and worked locally, as a gardener, a waggoner and at the golf course. Arthur and James joined up immediately into the Queens Royal West Surreys. Arthur was lost during an attack near Bethune on 4th April 1917 and is on the Loos Memorial. James (in photo) was fatally wounded near Bethune on 1st Feb 1916 and is buried in Bethune Cemetery. Charles joined the Royal Field Artillery in 1917 and was killed in an explosion on 27th Sept 1918 during the last days of the war and is on the Vis En Artois Memorial.



Alan G H Livesey

Alan was born 16th June 1889 to the wealthy Livesey family of Buckland Corner, near the Heath. Father and Uncle were successful gas engineers of the time. He went to Charterhouse School and Cambridge. He joined the Loyal North Lancs in late 1914 and got to France in mid 1915. On 25th Sept they were part of the first major battle of the war, Loos. Alan was lost during the attacks and is believed to be buried in an unknown grave in St Mary Haisnes ADS Cemetery.

World War II



William J Batchelor

William was born in Aug 1909 and came to live in Church Street, Betchworth. He went to Betchworth School and rang the bells in the church. He married Emma in 1938 and soon moved to Sandhills Lodge in Sandy Lane. He was a gardener at The Old House on The Street. They had a daughter Ellen. He joined up in 1941 and was sent to India in early 1943 in an Anti Aircraft battery. He caught smallpox and died in Ranchi Hospital on 17th May 1943. He is buried in Ranchi Cemetery.



Dennis A Clabburn-Detrez

Dennis was born in 1920. They moved to Hillbrow (now Camelot) on the main road. He attended Reigate Grammar, started as a journalist then joined the RAFVR in 1940. Gained his pilot's wings in April 1941 and joined 115 Sqn at RAF Marham. On 14th Aug on their 3rd bombing operation, they came down in the North Sea and were all lost. He is on the RAF Memorial at Runnymede.



Alex D G Dallas

Alex was born in India to a military family. Eventually he became a ward of the Trittons of Wildecroft in Rectory Lane. He went to Wellington and Sandhurst. He joined the West Surreys and became engaged and rose to Captain by 1942. After a spell in Iraq, they fought in Tunisia and in Italy. Alex won the Military Cross, became a Major and was wounded twice. He was killed in Sept 1944 during an attack in N Italy and is buried in Gradara Cemetery



Alan W Hussey

Alan was born in 1918 and lived in Bell Street, Reigate. In 1941, he married Kathy Woodhams from Buckland while on army leave. His unit, the 1/6th East Surreys took part in the invasion of Tunisia in 1942. During an attack on 16th April, Alan, now a corporal was killed. He is on the Medjez el Bab Memorial.



Christopher H Cotton Minchin

Christopher and older brother Douglas were relatives of the Beaumonts of Buckland Court and came to live at Underhill Farm and then Oak Cottage in Rectory Lane. He went to Eton and was training for the stage. He joined the RAFVR, eventually becoming a pilot in late 1943. He joined 12 Sqd at Wickenby in March 1944. He was on a familiarisation flight over Germany on 30th with an experienced crew when they were shot down during the infamous Nuremberg Raid. They are all in Rheinberg Cemetery.



Douglas J M Cotton Minchin

Douglas was born in 1918 and after Eton in 1937 joined the Army, into the Scottish Rifles, or Cameronians. After a brief unsuccessful stint as a trainee pilot, he joined the Commandos. He rose to Major and Chief Instructor at the Achnacarry Training Base in Scotland. In Oct 1944 he moved to Italy to assist in the final battles in N Italy. On a scouting mission on 15th March 1945 he was lost near Lake Commachio. He is on the Cassino Memorial.



Fred Moore

Fred was the son of the local butcher whose shop was where the hairdresser now is. Born in 1918, he joined the West Surreys. On 30th May 1942, they sailed from Glasgow. Their ultimate destination a little place in N Africa called El Alamein. Their attack was initially not a success and Fred was lost during the night of 25th Oct 1942. He is on the Alamein Memorial



Alan Peacock

Alan, or Albert as he was christened, was a veteran of the First War, born in 1888. He became a tea planter in India, returning to serve in the Honourable Artillery Company in WW1, as part of a howitzer crew. He returned to India but finally left in 1928. He married Bertha and lived at Yew Tree Cottage, opposite the Pheasant. He joined the RASC in 1941 but died of a burst ulcer while in Abergavenny, where he is buried.



Giles A R Welsford

Giles, born in 1910, came to live at Winding Bromley in Old Road. Married to Jenny from Norway, with a daughter Greta, he joined the RAFVR in 1940. He became a Navigator/Bomb Aimer on a Beaufort torpedo bomber crew with 39 Sqd. Flying out of Malta and Egypt, they were attacking the supply ships and tankers crossing the Mediterranean for Rommel's Afrika Corps. On 2nd Nov 1942, on another mission they were lost at sea off Tobruk. He is on the Alamein Memorial.



Elizabeth Hatcher

Lizzie was born in 1893 in Suffolk. She left home early to go into service and worked in many houses in and around Reigate from 1907 onwards. In 1939 she was at Buckland Lodge living in as chief maid and cook for the Hepburns. On 9th March 1941, a German bomber dropped several bombs on Buckland, one of which destroyed her kitchen. She died later in Redhill hospital.



Gerald Stark Toller

Gerald, the son of our British Consul in China, was born in 1912. At school at Kings College Wimbledon and at Oxford he excelled and captained many teams. He married Meryl from Reigate and taught French. They had two children. In the RAFVR he eventually trained as a pilot. During practice night flights on 28th April 1944, he crashed near Nuneaton.



Patrick G F Dumas

Pat was born into a Naval family in 1917. Father ended up as an Admiral. They lived at Buckland Cop in Old Road. Pat left school early and trained as a Navy pilot from 1939-40. In 1941 he learnt to operate from an aircraft carrier and joined 809 Sqn on HMS Victorious in the North Atlantic. On 6th Oct 1941, they failed to return from a flying patrol. He is on the Fleet Air Arm Memorial at Lee on Solent.



John D T Pritchard

John arrived in 1919, the son of a distinguished aircraft designer, Laurence, who later became Secretary of the Royal Aeronautical Society for 20 years. They lived at Stonecrop in Rectory Lane.

John joined the RAF after Epsom College in 1938, gaining his pilot wings in June 1939. He joined 1 AACU in N Wales where they towed targets for trainee AA guns to fire at! On 10th June 1940, he was lost at sea. He is on the Runnymede Memorial.

THE NEW SANDPIT & NEW ROAD

The early 1920's were a sign of some major changes in Buckland.

The first sandpit had opened in 1925, just to the north of the A25 (the current site of the BT Data Centre on Buckland Bends). 1926 was just as the business started to get going. In 1927, we have the picture below, where the small trucks are being loaded by men with shovels. Of the 3 trucks, the one on the left is steam powered, noting the funnel. [By 1929, a narrow gauge railway was installed around the quarry and a 'loading bay' was made, with small railway trucks that tipped sideways into lorries waiting below].

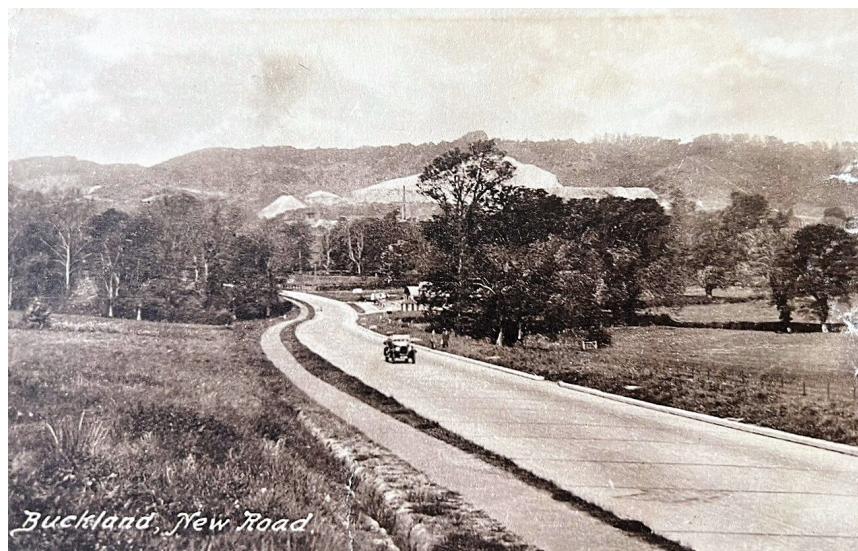


Three lorries being loaded with sand, at Buckland's first sand quarry, 1927

Prior to 1923, the only route from Buckland to Dorking was from the Church, down Old Road, past Betchworth Post Office, and emerging by the Arkle Manor. In 1923 the road was realigned, and for a time it was called New Road. New Road corresponds to the alignment of the current A25, passing the Shell Garage and Tranquil Dale. At the time, Old Road had very few houses. After the New Road was made, Buckland Estate sold off plots on the 'newly-peaceful' Old Road, for a number of houses to be built between 1924 and 1936.



Postcard titled 'Buckland Old and New Road', c. 1924. The shop and church are just out of view on the left. Old Road is behind the policeman! New Road is off to the right towards Dorking. The pond has a new retaining wall by the new road.



Postcard titled 'Buckland New Road', c. 1926. Looking West to Dorking. A garage was established on the right about this time, still the site of the Shell garage.

THEATRE ROYAL, GUILDFORD

Monday, July 19th, for Six Nights

6.30 Twice Nightly 8.40

PERCY HOLMSHAW & BALLARD BROWN

PRESENT THE SUCCESSFUL

COMEDY and SPECTACULAR REVUE

LONDON NIGHTS

In 14 Scenes

AS PLAYED OVER 1,000 PERFORMANCES

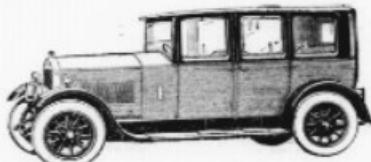
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Obtainable from your Grocer, or direct from the maker.

**A. W. R. WRAGG,
58 HIGH STREET, REIGATE**

During the month of February 1d. per jar will be given to the East Surrey Hospital.

£5 GIVEN FOR NEAREST ESTIMATE OF SALES DURING FEBRUARY.

Fill in Coupon below and address it to Mr. Wragg as above, to reach him not later than March 1st. Result will appear in *Surrey Mirror* on March 12th.

Judges: Mr. R. E. Neale, a Member of the Staff of the *Surrey Mirror* and Mr. Wragg.

COUPON.

I estimate the Sale of Wragg's Marmalade during the month of February to be lbs.

Name

Address

No Entrance Fee. Jan. 29, 1926

**That Bad Leg
will heal up
when Blood is cleansed
with**

Just as good for—

Abscesses
Ulcers,
Piles,
Swollen
Glands,
Sores &
Eruptions.

3/- per bottle.
Six times the
quantity, 12/-

**Clarke's
Blood
Mixture**

Local adverts from *The Surrey Mirror*, 1926

EATING OUT?
NEW REIGATE CAFÉ OPENS - 1926

ESTABLISHED 1926



The Old Wheel
Luncheon and Tea House
CHURCH STREET
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(FAMOUS FOR GOOD FOOD AND HOME MADE CAKES)

When in the district a visit to this
Charming Old-World Establishment
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Open Weekdays 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.

A Genuine 16th Century Building

Officially appointed R.A.C.

Telephone: 43262

Proprietress: MISS E. MILBOURNE

The Old Wheel opened in 1926 and traded until 1970. It was in a 16th century timber framed building, which ought to have had protected status. The building was originally a large barn that had been used as a malt house by the Neale family of brewers (now the site of Reigate Brewery). In Victorian times the barn was converted into 4 cottages, one of which became 'The Old Wheel'.¹ The restaurant was on two floors, and the upper floor preserved a 15-foot diameter pulley wheel suspended from the ceiling—hence the name.

However, in October 1972, the building was demolished for a new development. The demolition was preceded by a day of protest and marches in the town and was followed by acrimonious words in the Reigate Council chamber.

Dennis Turner, a Reigate Historian (d. 2013), published an article titled 'The Death of a Building' about the 'The Old Wheel' in 1974¹ and lamented the following: 'The law of the land is sufficient to stop this destruction, but only if it is administered in a wise, alert and sensitive way by our elected representatives on planning committees. We have lost the last substantial link with Reigate's past as a rural milling and brewing centre where storage buildings on the agricultural pattern were a feature of the street scene'.

This illustrates that some things from 1926 are practically erased from living memory. 100 years is actually a long time!

1. Turner D. 1974, 'The Death of a Building'. *London Archaeologist*, Vol 2(8)

PETTY'S FARM IN 1926

The home of Revd. Captain Charles Graham Swann MC (1878-1944)

Earlier in 2025, Peter Ahlas contacted Duncan Ferns to view a scrapbook dating from 1923-26. The scrapbook was compiled by Revd. Charles Swann, the owner of Petty's Farm (on Rectory Lane Buckland) from 1923 to 1926¹.



Peter & Sian Ahlas have owned Petty's Farm since 1996. The scrapbook was recently passed on to them by the Wilson family, the previous owners from about 1980 to 1996. The main subject of the scrapbook is the building and fittings of Petty's Farm, with notes on the nature and history of Buckland. Peter is very grateful to have the scrapbook back at the house it relates to. Revd. Swann demonstrates a keen interest and respect for Petty's Farm. He photographed several of the rooms with their period furniture, and described home improvements he had made in keeping with the timber framed structure.

Revd. Swann attributes the date that Petty's Farm was built to 1485 (15th century), in article cut from a printed book, but unfortunately the printed article makes no specific reference to Petty's Farm and the source of the dating is not mentioned. He might have had access to a date from a reliable source, and it may therefore be correct, but without knowledge of that source, it is not possible to confirm. Other reputable sources^{2,3} date the house to a later date of c.1650 (mid-17th century). By any account, Petty's Farm is at least around 400 years old.

In his own words in the scrapbook¹, Charles described how they had been intending to stay in Buckland, but within 18 months of purchasing Petty's Farm, he was invited to take a clerical role at Stanwick (nr Wellingborough, Northants), which is where he moved to. He tells an amusing story about selling Petty's Farm:

'We decided to sell the property. Then came the prospective buyers! Such a crowd. One thought the house was a 'bit old'. Another wanted Gas! One wanted a larger pantry, another thought the doors were too low. One thought the old elm doors wanted painting, and another objected to the lovely old tile floor in the parlour, she 'preferred Deal'. A lady who assured us that she was very artistic wanted a studio with a north light; another not so artistic, wondered where she would store her winter onions. Miss Baring-Gould loved the house but could not possibly buy it because she required walls spacious enough to take 300 pictures and 2000 books... and so on.'

An internet search on Revd. Swann found a second scrapbook that he had compiled, which was coincidentally for sale (for a humble £800!).⁴ This second scrapbook was about his experience in WW1 as an Army Chaplain, where he had the civilian rank of Captain. The book follows his service career, including official correspondence for him volunteering, his posting to France and the Congratulations letter he received on the award of the Military Cross (MC) for gallantry, presented to him personally by George V. His MC citation reads:

'For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty under heavy shell fire. His fearlessness and devotion in bringing in and attending to the wounded under intense shell fire were magnificent. He dug out men who had been buried, and was the means of saving many lives, and throughout the day his utter disregard for personal safety deserved the highest praise.'

The scrapbook also includes original British Army Trench maps for 1917 showing German positions, many newspaper cutting, including some from his home town of Bradford.

Revd. Cptn. Charles Swann 1917²



C. Graham Swann, C.F.
(On Duty)
Aug 3rd 1917.



Signed photograph of Revd. Charles Swann, aged about 32

Photo by Gunstone & Co, Bradford (this company operated only from 1909 to 1912). Source: Ancestry UK

Charles returned to France in 1918 and after the war he went back to his Parish of St Jude's Manningham in Bradford. He then moved first to Buckland, then became Vicar of Stanwick in Northants, Vicar of Puriton in Somerset, and finally he retired to Mead House, Meadoway, Sidmouth, Devon, the town where he died and is buried.

When Revd. Swann sold Petty's Farm in Buckland in 1926, the house was purchased by Colonel Colin Broome and his wife Joan. Their two boys, Richard and Roger, were brought up in Buckland. Sadly, their mother Joan died at the age of 50, in 1951. Colin Broome later remarried, to Kitty Broome and they lived at Petty's Farm until about 1980, when it was purchased by the Wilson family. Kitty then moved to Petty's Farm Barn (house conversion), where she lived until 1988. The Broomes had owned Petty's Farm for 54 years. A fuller profile of the Broome family is documented in 'Buckland's Past Lives'.⁵

References

1. Swann, C G, 1925. Scrapbook of Petty's Farm
2. Antiquities of Surrey, 1951, Petty's Farm listing
3. 2024 of Petty's Farm, Planning Application
4. Swann, C G, 1918. Scrapbook of WW1 Military Service and experience, 190 pp
5. Ferns, D C. Buckland's Past Lives, Chapter 37, Colin & Kitty Broome

Acknowledgements to Peter Ahlas for this article

FIVE GENERATIONS AND 160 YEARS OF TRADING
David Hogg recalls the origins of Buckland Nurseries



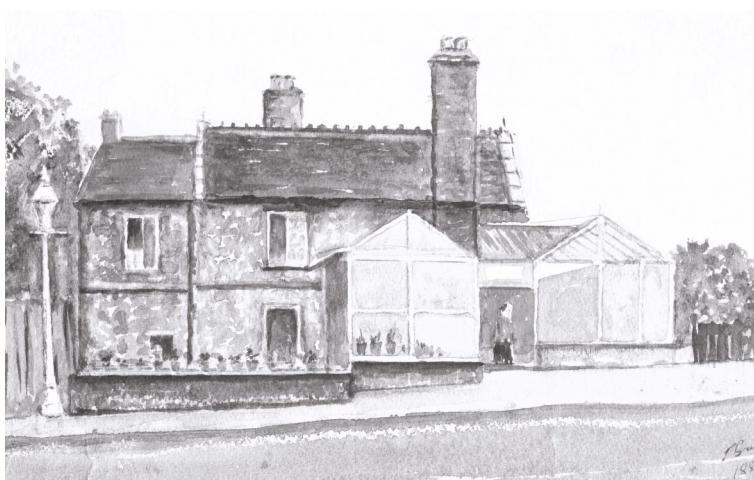
Left: Thomas Hogg founded the company in 1865, starting in Sutton, Surrey

Thomas Hogg, Manor Nursery, Sutton

Thomas Hogg & Son spans 3 centuries and has been run by 5 generations of the Hogg family for over 160 years. Thomas was born on 24 May 1834 in the small town of Dollar near Stirling in Scotland. He was educated at the Dollar Academy, where his father Adam died in an accident during the construction of the school. Subsequently his mother worked at the Academy and lived with the family in a cottage in the grounds. Every student had their own plot for growing, and so Thomas's love of horticulture was born.

Having worked for a few years in the greenhouses for the Duke of Rutland at Belvoir Castle, he made the move to Sutton in 1860. By 1865 he had started his own business. His main passion was landscaping; he designed both Sutton cemetery, where he chose prime plots for himself and his family right outside the chapel, and Benhilton churchyard. They are still there as his memorial today.

Thomas married Mary Roake in 1859, and they had 8 children, one of whom, Andrew, inherited the business. His daughter, Ellen Hogg, ran the nursery shop in Manor Lane, Sutton, adjacent to Manor Nursery. I remember "Aunt Nell" when I was very young and it's special for me to have known a relative who was so close to Thomas.



Painting of the first shop at Manor Lane Nursery, Sutton. c.1870

Thomas's grandson, Gordon (my grandfather) joined the business after service in the East Surrey Regiment in the First World War, where he survived the horrors of the trenches. It was at this time that a shop was opened in Sutton High Street to complement the nursery in Manor Lane.



Photo of the Florist Shop in Sutton High Street, c. 1890

The following extract was written by a member of staff who recalled his 60 years with our company: 'Manor Nursery, those were the days, tomatoes and cucumbers grown the old fashioned ways. Cucumbers would hang by the dozen from the vines, a very pleasing sight when you looked down the line. Lunchtimes, nothing posh, in an old wooden shed, we would sit by the fire and eat toasted bread. Our tales we would tell, or just say nowt when a sudden gust of wind would smoke us out. In the 20s and 30s flowers and plants were the thing those days, many for churches, cinemas and wedding displays. The marquees we would then adorn for fancy parties on the lawn. And Christmas, with wreaths made of holly and the berry. We had to work overtime then, there were so many. We would stand and work, fingers red and sore, while the demand came for even more.'

**CHOICE
MICHAELMAS
DAISIES**

Autumn 1956
|
Spring 1957



One of my drifts of Michaelmas Daisies photographed last Autumn

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**BUCKLAND
NURSERIES**
Geoffrey H. W. Shepheard-Walwyn

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Phone REIGATE 2990

Home grown produce in the war was special, so in every bit of land some plant would nestle. My father Michael, followed in 1951 after serving in the army after the war. Thomas Hogg & Son became a limited company in 1960. Manor Nursery was subject to a compulsory purchase in the late 1960s to make way for school playing fields for Manor Park Primary.

The Site of Buckland Nursery in 1926

The 1926 Kelly's Directory (see p.7) lists two nurserymen living in houses almost adjacent to the current site:

- Harry Davey, Nurseryman, Normanton Nurseries
- Sydney Claydon, Nurseryman, Yew Tree Cottage.

It confirms that this location was selected specifically for its well drained sandy sub-soil.

In 1946, Geoffrey Shepheard-Walwyn purchased the site, specialising in Michaelmas daisies and other perennials. His 1957 catalogue is shown above. In 1949, Geoffrey also built the detached house 'Walwyns', off Reigate Rd: now the home of Robert & Mary Carr. Geoffrey Shepheard-Walwyn (1902-1987) is buried in Buckland churchyard, together with his wife Elizabeth, who died in 1987 (plot 309). We continue to this day to have a big focus on perennials, mainly from 2 specialist English nurseries.

The Business moves to Buckland

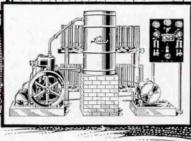
My father moved the garden centre business to Buckland in the late 1960's. I recall the exciting early days when I would help out at weekends and in the school holidays.

I joined the business full-time in 1983 after University, first in Canterbury (where I met my wife Linda) and then in Grenoble. Together, we still had the florists in Sutton, at that time in Times Square shopping centre and subsequently opposite Sutton station in Mulgrave Road. This was a stone's throw from Thomas's original nursery in the 1860s. We also ran a florists in Cheam until the 1990s as well as the garden centre at Buckland. The Sutton florists was closed 15 years ago when we decided to concentrate on Buckland Nurseries.

We have greatly enjoyed working in Buckland, here now for over 55 years. We are extremely grateful to the many staff who have been such an asset to the company over many years. Also, a big thank you to our many customers for your loyal support.

David Hogg, Buckland Nurseries

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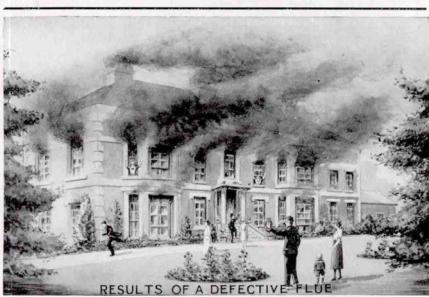
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RINGERS AT BUCKLAND

VISIT OF SURREY ASSOCIATION

The visit on Saturday of members of the **Surrey** Association (Southern Area), of Bellringers to the village of Buckland gave great pleasure to the inhabitants. The arrangements were made by Mr. H. F. Ewens, Hon. Secretary, who, by his efficiency and good management, his knowledge and experience, contributed greatly to the success of the proceedings. The bellringers, numbering about fifty, came from various districts, viz., Reigate, St. John's, Redhill, Horley, Crawley, Charlwood, Merstham, Limpsfield Chart, Croydon, Beddington, Godstone, Tring (Herts), London and Buckland.

The chief event of the afternoon was a magnificent display of bellringing in the highest expression of the art. For two hours the bells were pealing their musical message in delightful variations, almost bewildering in their number. The methods employed were Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Treble Bob, London Surprise, Woodbine, College Exercises, Canterbury and Stedman. During the evening the same methods were employed with the addition of Grandsire and Stedman Doubles.

After the afternoon ringing a special service was held in the Church, at which the Rector, the Rev. H. Dunk, delivered a short address.

TEA AND SPEECHES.

Following there was a bountiful tea in the Reading Room, to which the ringers had been invited by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sanders, by whom the guests were received. During the tea Mr. Sanders said it gave him great pleasure to see them in such large numbers, and that Buckland was much honoured by their visit, and he accorded them a hearty welcome. Since their last visit the late Rector had died. Now, however, a new Rector had been appointed, and he was pleased that he was with them on this occasion. Mr. Sanders hoped they would all repeat their visit on many occasions, and that their next visit would be in the near future.

The Rev. H. Dunk testified to the pleasure felt by all at the bellringing, of which such a fine exhibition had been given.

Mrs. Coulson, an honorary member, thanked the members of the Association for inviting her to join them at tea. It gave her great pleasure to be

present. Three years ago, she said, they did her the honour of making her a member of their Society—a Society almost as old as the hills. As a woman she was specially proud of being admitted to their fraternity. She believed their founder was one Jubal, who appeared upon the scene in the first book of the Bible, but in those days the metal was struck with another piece of metal to make a musical sound. Very small bells followed, and it was not until Christianity was introduced that one read of large bells as one knew them now. Their introduction could be understood, because the tidings of goodwill had to be proclaimed far and wide. All could recall sweet memories evoked by distant bells. There was hardly a human emotion which was not heightened and thrilled by the music of the bells. They triumphed with them in victory, they rang merry peals for weddings, and they spread their note of condolence and sympathy when loved ones passed away. There was nothing so much woven into the texture of English life as their familiar chimes. Nothing was missed so much by the exile in a foreign land as this beautiful sound in the country of his birth.

What a fascination there was in bellringing, for had they not all heard of bellringers aged 80 or even 90, who still called themselves "College Youths." In conclusion, Mrs. Coulson thanked and congratulated those present for their wonderful ringing, which had been so much enjoyed, and commented upon the splendid band of ringers belonging to Buckland.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Association was held during the evening, the Rector kindly consenting to preside. The following new members were enrolled:—Messrs. J. and C. Wallis and G. Hooper, votes of thanks, on the proposition of Mr. Ewens, were unanimously accorded to Mr. and Mrs. Sanders and the Rector. A similar vote of thanks, moved by Mr. Maurice Northover, was also given to Mrs. Coulson for her presence, and to Mrs. Barnett and Mrs. Wallis for their kindly help.

The meeting terminated by some very fine examples of hand-bell ringing by Messrs. Kippen (Beddington), Collins (South Croydon), Cooper (St. John's, Redhill), and C. W. Roberts (St. Paul's Cathedral).

BUCKLAND SCHOOL NEWS – 1926

In 2006, 'The Story of Buckland School 1822-1981' was published by Jim Docking (of Winding Bromley, Old Rd, Buckland*) and Jenny Euston (niece of Rhoda Euston, ex-headmistress of Buckland School).

This is the report of the author's highlights from the School Log book of 1926, when Florence Coulson was the headmistress (profiled in Buckland Past Lives, Ch. 36)

* Jim Docking is now living at Dungates Manor Care Home, Reigate Heath



Buckland School Classroom—this photo is from 1958

1926

'Until something has been done to ensure absolute safety the room will not be used and lessons given in the porch.'

Finding money to repair the school building was a recurring problem. Each year a voluntary rate was levied, and in April 1926 a sinking fund was set up to pay extraordinary expenditure and National Savings Certificates were purchased accordingly. But despite that, there was never enough money in the kitty and Mrs Coulson, it seems, would always struggle to get anything done in the way of

maintenance or repairs to the building. In April more plaster fell from the roof onto a very unfortunate Annie Matthews. Although she was not injured in any way she had a fright and her head ached! The head declared it was not safe to sit in the room, and from then on lessons would take place in the porch. A week later the new rector lent a hand by probing the plaster and knocking out 'some loose bits'. Mrs Coulson was extremely dissatisfied, especially when once again the roof was deemed to be safe.

There were also more battles with naughty children and the occasional irate parent on the rampage. But it seems that Mrs Coulson was not a lady to be intimidated and could always hold her ground when it came to confrontations with parents.

Roland O'Rourke had to be placed under her beady eye in the 'big room' because his tiresome behaviour was upsetting the infants. Perhaps he'd had enough of endless supply teachers and knew how to torment those who were inexperienced. The two O'Rourke sisters had been excluded on 14 May on account of their hair which was very 'unclean', and in July, the mother, having again been informed that the problem continued, 'entered the school without invitation and used abusive language, calling the head teacher 'a lying humbug'. She was ordered out of the school 'but she refused to leave until she had finished her harangue'. Three weeks later one of the sisters was found searching the pockets of other girls' coats and another was seen stealing pennies, whilst the boy 'also took small things from the infant room'. When they returned after the summer holidays Mrs Coulson recorded: 'This family gives much trouble. The boy especially is so dirty at times that he must sit by himself.' In October 1926, there is the following comment: 'The O'Rourke family have removed from the parish and the children are now attending Holmesdale School in Reigate.'

A new teacher, Miss Horton, whom the head considered an asset, was now in charge of the younger children and would remain at the school for two years.

In May 1926 there was a vicious measles epidemic, and by the end of that month out of thirty-eight children only eight were marked present. The school was closed for two weeks until the outbreak abated.

Since gardening was no longer on the curriculum, when Mr Gummer, an inspector, visited, the head suggested that he recommended that some kind of handicraft be taught in its place.

Mandie Smith won a certificate from the Daily Graphic for good work in a competition, and Dolly Sadler left for Dorking High School in September: 'She has been here for seven years and has an excellent record.' On Prize Day there were the usual recitations as well as a performance by the older children of a scene from King John called Arthur and Hubert (two characters in the play).

The head, Mrs Coulson, took five children to see Sir Alan Cobham lecture at the Royal Albert Hall. They occupied the box 'next to that belonging to the Prince of Wales'. [Cobham led one of the first aerobatic display teams in Tiger Moth biplanes, and in 1926, he was the first person to fly from England to Australia and back, in a De Havilland 50 biplane. It must have been an entertaining talk].



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Country Life Adverts, January 1926

BUCKLAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



The WI Banner, dated 1927, still displayed in the Reading Room

In the 1920's, there were not many clubs and societies around. But the Women's Institute was an exception, formed in 1915, initially with government funding, to assist the War effort in WW1.

It achieved full financial independence in 1926, separating from government funding. So, by 1926, the Women's Institute (WI) was fully independent, growing rapidly across Britain with nearly 100,000 members registered in about 2000 local institutes. The WI was a prominent part of rural life. Its focus included community improvement, education in domestic and agricultural skills, and the promotion of handicrafts, though the exact activities varied by location.

In 1926, the WI described their activities as including:

Educational and skill-based activities: The organization provided educational opportunities, particularly in areas like dairying, poultry keeping, and handicrafts. Some institutes promoted domestic skills and community projects.

Community focus: The WI served as a democratic and non-sectarian organization that brought women from different backgrounds together to address community needs.

The local group, Buckland WI, was founded in 1922. In 1925, a counterpane (embroidered bedspread) was made by the Buckland WI, and then exhibited in Burlington House, London.

A banner made in 1927 was the combined effort of twenty-one WI members - this is still displayed in the Reading Room. The picture opposite shows the banner, depicting the 'tree of life', with the WI motto of the time, 'For Home and Country'. Central is an embroidered picture of the church, village green and pond, and there are four panels with scenes teaching children, picking apples, weaving and gardening.

The group had a regular attendance of 40 to 60 ladies throughout the 1960's and 70's and had an active monthly programme of meetings and speakers in the Reading Room. The Buckland WI group amalgamated with Betchworth in the 1980's and Pebblecombe WI is now the local group, serving both Betchworth and Buckland.

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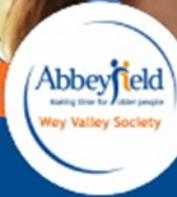
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BUCKLAND PARISH MAGAZINE



January
2026

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BUCKLAND PARISH MAGAZINE

January 2026

Happy New Year! ☺

January arrives with that urge to reflect on what has been and dream about what is ahead doesn't it. It is no different for me as I look out at you each Sunday, it's not just congregation I see, but a community.

A gathering of people whose care, prayers, and quiet acts of service are what keep this church alive. It's a heart that's been beating for centuries - through plague, war, and most recently, the pandemic, sustaining the spiritual life of the parish.



For it to continue to beat strongly however, it needs a few more hands and hearts to help it along. The Save the Parish movement was first brought to my attention a few months ago (you can find out more at www.savetheparish.com). It's not about protest or politics - it's about passion. It's about reclaiming what's at the very heart of the Church of England: ordinary people, rooted in their local church, giving life and strength to their community. That's what we've always done here, and it's what we must keep doing together.

Our church - your church - continues to face challenges, both practical and financial. We have a small dedicated group who do a sterling job of keeping the church going. but the reality is, we need extra help to cover all the other roles that make up our shared life: those who open the churches daily for visitors and locals alike, the bells that draw worshippers to services, the choir that lifts our worship, servers and sidespeople who make sure things run smoothly, the coffee and chat after the service that extends our hospitality, the cleaners who keep the church looking loved, and flower arrangers who bring beauty to God's house. Each of these things depends on someone saying, "I can help."

None of it needs a theology degree, indeed many of the roles don't even need you to come to church but what it does need is a bit of time, a warm heart, and a sense of belonging from you.

And then our finances in St Mary's remain an ongoing concern. Every pound given and every giftaid included, every gift left in a will, every fundraising idea, helps us remain independent and secure. It helps us pay the gas and electric bills, it helps us cover ongoing repairs of this ancient building with the generous help of FOSM, it pays for our parish share a bit like paying council tax but to the diocese. It also helps us plan for the future. It's not glamorous work, but it's holy work, it's part of loving and sustaining the church right here where we live.

So as we step into this New Year, I want to make a heartfelt appeal: please think or pray, and consider whether there is one small thing you could do, serve coffee once a month, join a rota, help with flowers, sing like a bird or take on a role of greater responsibility. Every person makes a difference.

Let's make 2026 a year of renewed hope and shared purpose - not just saving our church but helping it thrive as part of the parish we know and love.

Wishing you all every blessing for the New Year,

Pru x

JANUARY EVENTS

- 5 Jan, 7.15pm.** Talk: The Surrey farmland girls 1939-1950, DLHG, p.62
- 9 Jan, 12 noon.** Winter Lunch, Buckland Reading Room, p.40
- 19 Jan , 2.30pm.** Talk: Healing power of plants, Arts Soc., p.64
- 19 Jan. 7.30pm.** ZOOM talk: Ralph Vaughan Williams, DLHG, p.62
- 30 Jan, 7pm.** New Year Quiz & Supper, B&B Society, p.61

JANUARY 2026 COVER PICTURE (p.35)

'Commander', one of the new resident Alpacas
at Buckland Park Lake
see page 45

CHURCH SERVICES—January

Date	St Mary's Buckland	St Michael's Betchworth
4 Jan Epiphany		10.00am Epiphany service Matthew 2: 1-12
11 Jan Baptism of Christ	10.00 am Iona-style service Matthew 3: 1-13	5 pm Evensong John 1: 29-34
18 Jan Epiphany 2		10.00am Parish Communion John 1:29-42
25 Jan Epiphany 3	10.00am, Parish Communion Luke 4: 14-21	
1 Feb Candlemas		10.00am Parish Communion Luke 2: 22-40

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.**

Life presents many choices.
The choices we make determine our future

Catherine Pulsifer (1946-2013, US Author)

2025 WINTER LUNCHES

Friday 9 January 2026, 12 noon—Buckland Reading Room

Just a reminder that our January Winter Lunch will be on Friday 9 January. 'Doors open' at 12 noon and we will serve lunch at about 12.15.

It will be lovely to catch up with all our friends and Liz and I hope that you will put this date in your diaries. If you could let us know if you are going to be able to be with us on that day please call Liz on 01737 221444 or Carol on 01737 247399. Looking forward to seeing you all again on 9th January.

Carol Leeds

NEW ADVERTS !!

There are some new advertisers in this month's issue. Please do browse the advertising pages and make use of the local businesses who support our magazine. When you do contact our advertisers, please feedback to them that you saw their ad in the Buckland Parish Magazine'. Many thanks

Ed.

PLANT SALES from RANA, OLD ROAD

Once again it's time to say a big thank you to everybody who donated plants and tools. We took £950 this year, £200 more than last year! I was amazed at the diversity of the donations. A lawn mower and petrol can full of petrol [sold to the lady who delivers the newspapers], plus several lovely hanging baskets donated by Leslie at number 4; two antique farm tools and a can holding polish, a brass shovel and tongs, all sold for good prices. Keep it up and don't forget to plant a few extra seeds next year and when dividing plants pot them on as well. Many many thanks again and Happy New Year to you all from the Reading Room Committee who receive the money to help keep our Village Hall in good order.

P.S One advantage of collecting the Magazine this year was to enjoy the walk up to the Church door between the Roses. They have been an absolute joy this summer. A big thank you to all who keep them like that.

Tilly Mitchell

**‘The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book,
waiting to be written.’**

Melody Beattie (1948-2025, Counsellor & author)

SO... WHICH IS YOUR FAVOURITE POEM?

BLESSINGS FOR THE NEW YEAR



MAY THIS NEW YEAR BRING GENTLE LIGHT,
GUIDING YOUR DAYS AND CALMING YOUR NIGHT.

MAY EVERY HOPE YOU HOLD INSIDE
FIND OPEN DOORS MADE WARM AND WIDE.

MAY JOY RISE STRONG WHERE WORRIES FADE,
AND PEACE SURROUND THE PLANS YOU’VE MADE.

MAY COURAGE MEET YOU ON THE WAY,
AND STRENGTH UPHOLD YOU DAY BY DAY.

MAY KINDNESS SHAPE THE PATHS YOU CHOOSE,
AND FAITH RESTORE WHAT YOU MAY LOSE.

MAY BLESSINGS BLOOM IN ALL YOU START,
WITH LOVE RENEWING EVERY HEART.

MAY LAUGHTER FILL THE MONTHS AHEAD,
AND GRACE UPLIFT WHERE FEARS HAVE LED.

MAY GOD WATCH OVER ALL YOU DO—
A BRIGHT NEW YEAR, BLESSED JUST FOR YOU.

THIS WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS NOT THE YEAR

By Brian Bilston

This was the year that was not the year
I repaired the bathroom tap
and emptied out the kitchen drawer
of a lifetime’s worth of crap.

This was the year that was not the year
in which I launched a new career.
A West End hit eluded me
as did Time Person of the Year.

This was the year that was not the year
I became a household name.
Action figures were not sold of me.
I wasn’t made a dame.

This was the year that was not the year
I spent less time on my phone.
Nights of passion did not happen
in boutique hotels in Rome.

This was the year that was the year
I didn’t get that much done –
much the same as the year before,
much like the one to come.

BUCKLAND & BETCHWORTH BELLRINGERS REPORT

100 years ago, Buckland church bells were ringing for services, just as we ring today. Buckland bells date from the 1600s. Have you visited the belfry? On the walls there are old photos from 1890, and peal boards from 1880. A peal is when the bells are rung in a set sequence for about 3 hours non stop, with 5040 changes. Nowadays only the best (and most keen) ringers will ring a peal. More usually we might ring a quarter peal (1260 changes, in about 40 mins). These longer peals and quarters are rung for special occasions. For services we ring for 5 or 10 minutes at a time, with short breaks, during the half hour before the service.



The old photos in the belfry show the ringers of ages past. One photo of the ringers was taken in the gardens of Buckland Lodge. The ringers in this old photo are all male. Nowadays we have female ringers too.

If you'd like to visit the belfry to see the old photos and peal boards, please join us in the tower on a practice evening, Fridays 8pm. If you'd like to help keep this ancient tradition of church bellringing going, we'd love you to have a go and to learn to ring. At present, we have one beginner who is making great progress. The rest of our ringers continue to learn new methods (pattern of ringing), and can advance just as much as they like, once they have learnt to control the bell. The oldest method we ring is Stedman (1677). New methods are being written all the time.

Bellringing is suitable for all ages, from 11 - 80+. It keeps you fit and you make new friends wherever you ring. As long as you can climb the stairs to the belfry and can catch a ball (and therefore a fast moving bellrope) you could learn to ring. Perhaps you'd like to come and join us as your New Year's Resolution?

On New Year's Eve we'll be joining the ringers at Betchworth to ring in the New Year at midnight, just as other bellringers across UK will do so, and have done for several hundred years.

Happy New Year from the Buckland Bellringers.

Julie Beale

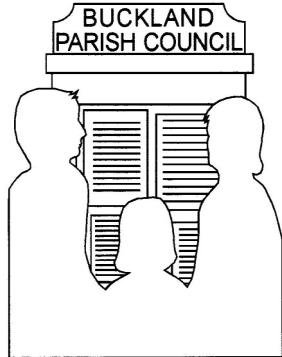
P.S. Do also catch up with the bellringers event report of 1927 on page 29. Ed.

Buckland Matters

BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Notification of 2026 Annual Parish Meeting Monday 23 March 2026 with a talk by the Chairman of GACC

Please keep the evening of **Monday 23 March 2026** free to attend the **2026 Annual Parish Meeting**.



The meeting will provide an opportunity to hear topical updates, including the latest insights into how residents may be affected by the proposed **Local Government Reorganisation**. In addition, the Government has now pushed forward proposals to enlarge **Gatwick Airport** by reconfiguring the existing emergency runway into a fully operational second runway, despite recommendations to the contrary from the Planning Inspectorate.

These ambitious proposals will inevitably have significant implications for communities living around the airport. This latest development appears to have reduced local influence over the process. After many years of uncertainty, the matter is now coming to a head, and it is important that residents understand the full context and potential consequences.

Accordingly, we have invited **Peter Barkley**, Chairman of **GACC (Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign)**—who are leading the challenge to these proposals—to speak at the meeting and provide an update and report on the judicial review that he has initiated which is due to be heard in January.

Further details will follow in due course.

Nigel Husband, Chair Buckland Parish Council

NATURE NOTES

WINTER IS TOUGH FOR WILDLIFE

Giving our insects a helping hand is wonderfully simple — it mostly involves doing less, than more. A perfectly tidy garden is often a poor home for wildlife. These are some things we can do to help sustain our insects through the winter.

Go easy with hedge pruning - Trim hedges, but leave some sections untouched for a year or two on a rotation. This keeps the hedge tidy while protecting the insects living within it.

Leave the leaves - Clear them off the lawn but pile them in quiet corners or spread them over beds. They suppress weeds, enrich the soil, shelter caterpillars, and provide cosy foraging for birds and hedgehogs.

Create habitat piles - A simple heap of twigs, branches and leaves becomes a winter refuge for insects that don't travel far from their food plants.

Let some areas go wild - Choose small corners — under trees, behind sheds, along boundaries — to leave untouched.

January is also tough for our birds with short days, long cold nights and very little natural food. A few simple actions can provide them with a winter lifeline.

Feed for energy – Offer fat balls (no nets), suet, sunflower hearts and peanuts. Top up little and often to keep food fresh.

Keep water ice-free – Break ice each morning or add a splash of warm water so birds can drink and preen.

Provide shelter – Evergreens, dense hedges or even a small twig pile provide vital cover. Nest boxes double as night-time roosts.

Keep feeders clean – Wash feeders and bird baths weekly to prevent disease. Most importantly, be consistent, keep supplies coming, and you'll help birds get through the harshest month of the year — while bringing life, movement, sound and colour to your winter garden.

January is the month of the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch which this year is from Friday 23rd and Sunday 26th January.

And do read our bi-annual themed magazines at www.biodiversitypark.uk/magazine.html. Issues 1 to 3 are now available to read or download.

Norman Jackson

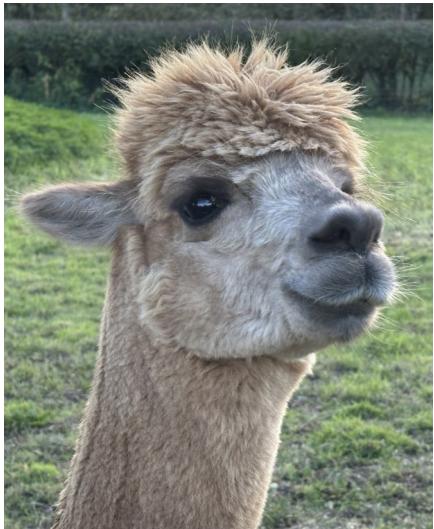


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10th at 7.30, Ukulele orchestra at Dorking Halls
14th at 6.45, Opera screening at Dorking Halls
17th at 7.30, cello & piano recital at Dorking Halls
18th at 2.00, opera screening at Dorking Halls

Happy New Year! January begins with a concert given by the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain, now celebrating their 40th anniversary. The programme will include a wide range of music, covering various genres from Abba to Tchaikovsky and Bluegrass to Broadway.

The Dorking Concertgoers present music for cello and piano, played by Nigel Hutchinson and Thomas Carroll. As well as playing together as a duo, both musicians enjoy distinguished solo careers. Their varied programme includes sonatas by Beethoven, Brahms and Boccherini, plus two short pieces by Martinu and Lutoslawski.

There are also two opportunities to see Verdi's tragic opera *La Traviata* from the Royal Opera House, with a live and an encore screening at the Dorking Halls.

ian Codd

A BIT OF WOODY ALLEN

It's not that I'm afraid to die, I just don't want to be there when it happens
Life is full of misery, loneliness, and suffering – and it's all over much too soon

If God exists, I hope he has a good excuse

Having sex is like playing bridge. If you don't have a good partner, you'd better
have a good hand

Just because you're paranoid doesn't mean they aren't out to get you

My one regret in life is that I am not someone else

ST. JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL On the perils of leading prayer in church



My dear Darren

I do hope you have now settled down in your first parish - although it is such a pity that you did not choose a more distinguished one. I know you feel your vocation lies in inner city work – whereas mine, fortunately, has always been to the better sort of rural village. I have always felt that the Almighty understands me well in that regard.

We had a little flurry of activity in church on Sunday. At the signal “let us pray”, as the congregation dutifully flopped to their knees, sounding like a flock of geese settling in for the night, Major Hastings lost his glass eye. Yes, *again!* That man is so careless at times. Anyway, released from captivity, the eye rolled under the pews like a fugitive marble, ricocheting from hassock to handbag over the stone flags.

My sonorous entreaties to the Almighty were completely lost as the entire congregation scuttled under pews, trying to retrieve it. It finally appeared on the collection plate - along with £4.17, 100 pesetas and Miss Simpson’s front door key. I was unsure whether the last item represented a fit of absent-mindedness or an improper suggestion. I returned it to her very firmly at the end of the Service.

The eye stared at me mournfully as I blessed it, along with the money. But it left a small social dilemma. What is the etiquette of returning a lost glass eye to its owner?

To have processed down the aisle with it, accompanied by crucifer and verger seemed a little too public. To sneak it to him as we shook hands at the door seemed a little too furtive. I finally decided to send a server to deliver it during the last hymn. I still wonder if it was the right decision. Perhaps you could look through that new Common Worship book and see if they have included an appropriate rite for returning lost glass eyes. We here at St James-the-Least-of-All haven’t yet got round to Common Worship. The days are evil enough as it is.

Your Loving Uncle, Eustace



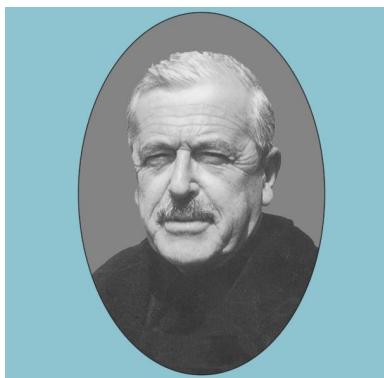
IONA

Part Four

The Modern Abbey 1930's & George McLeod and founding the Iona Community

In Part Three (November), we explained how the Abbey became a Benedictine Monastery for over 350 years, from 1203 – 1570, in the French Catholic tradition of St Benedict. However, in 1570 the Abbey was ransacked when Scotland destroyed all traces of Catholicism and Catholic churches, demolishing all the roofs and interiors, leaving only external walls. However, the solid walls of Iona Abbey withstood the weather through a further 300 years of dereliction. Then in 1899, the ruin was given by the landowner to the Church of Scotland, who restored the church building, and it re-opened as a place of worship in 1910. However, they had only restored the Church, and all the outbuildings of the old monastery surrounding the church, continued to lay in ruins.

In 1910, the few tourists and pilgrims visiting Iona and the small number of inhabitants of the island, could not create a congregation that justified such a large church building. The local inhabitants struggled to maintain the church in these early years.



George Fielden MacLeod, Baron MacLeod of Fuinary (1895-1991) was a Scottish soldier and clergyman. In WW1 he saw action at Ypres and Passchendaele and was awarded the Military Cross (MC) for his bravery on the Front in October 1917. After the War, he studied Divinity and became a Minister in the Church of Scotland. He visited Jerusalem in 1933, where on Easter Day he felt a profound spiritual experience, feeling a sense of recovery of the Church as the corporate Body of Christ. He resigned from his Parish Ministry post in

Glasgow, to become the full-time leader of the Iona Community, which he founded in 1938.

His founding Vision was to gather young ministers in training and unemployed craftsmen to live, work, and worship together while rebuilding the ruined Iona Abbey buildings. This practical team work created a shared spiritual life. The community's initial work focused on restoring the physical structures of the ancient Iona Abbey outbuildings, an act that connected the present community to the island's ancient Celtic Christian heritage.

Whilst originating in the Church of Scotland, the Iona Community became ecumenical, fostering broader inter-denominational involvement. The community extended its work beyond the Abbey to advocate for economic justice, support refugees, and minister to vulnerable communities in Britain and globally.

From it's origins with a small group of men, the Iona Community has grown into an international movement with members and friends worldwide, including residential centres on Iona and Mull.



Iona Abbey (above) and it's Cloisters (below)



The Iona Community describes itself as...

An international, ecumenical Christian movement working for justice and peace, the rebuilding of community and the renewal of worship. Our Community was founded in Glasgow in 1938 by Rev George MacLeod. A visionary and a social reformer, MacLeod was driven by a belief that faith is grounded in action. In rebuilding the ruined accommodation at Iona Abbey, trainee ministers and unemployed workers from Glasgow lived, worked and worshipped together.

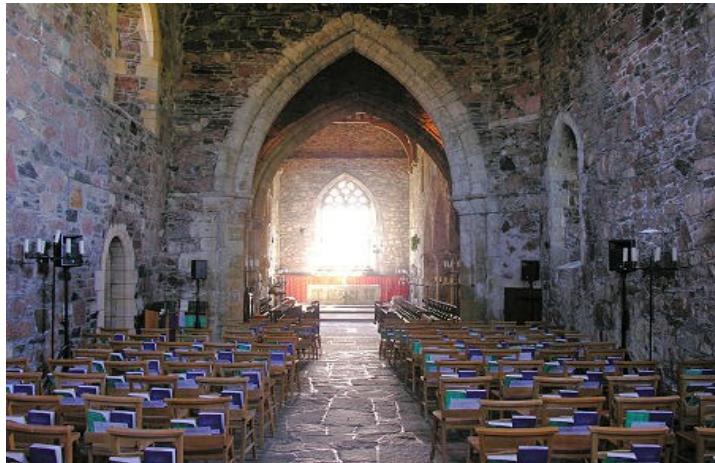
We are now about 280 Members and more than 2,000 Associate Members, Young Adults and Friends across the world. We remain true to that founding vision – sharing common work and community as we pursue justice and peace, in Scotland and beyond.

Iona Abbey is a restored Benedictine monastery. We welcome guests and volunteers, offering people from diverse backgrounds and nationalities an experience of living in community and exploring our common concerns. Our Resident Group share in a 'common life' woven with rhythms of work and worship, prayer, action and hospitality. The community and living spaces were reopened in 2021 after extensive renovation.

Camas, our adventure centre on the neighbouring island of Mull, offers a powerful and fun outdoor experience. Time for adventure, creativity, team building and reflection in a safe, nurturing environment makes Camas a fabulous place for young people and adults, including school and youth groups. The centre is powered by renewable energy, with an abundant organic garden.

The MacLeod Centre, a spacious, light-filled building, is a short walk from the Abbey. The 'Mac' as it is known, has accommodation for approximately 48 guests in spacious rooms for up to five and seven people, cleverly designed to give a degree of privacy as well as fostering community! Guests and staff come from many backgrounds, traditions and countries to experience community life together through sharing in worship, work, activity and relaxation. A major feature of the building is its attractive, well-equipped, north facing craft room.

Worship, concerts and ceilidhs are shared with the guests and staff from the Abbey. Many of the social events take place around the log stove in the 'Mac's' spacious Community Room, which is also used as the main meeting and eating place.



Children of all ages are especially welcome and there is disabled access on the ground floor, with adapted facilities for those with mobility difficulties. We resource individuals, churches and community organisations through our global Prayer Circle, our magazine (*Coracle*), Wild Goose Publications, the Wild Goose Resource Group, and our Shop on Iona.

We are glad to be part of the life and economy of Iona and Mull. These are beautiful islands where thriving local communities are layered with a deep spiritual tradition, and inspiring landscape and wildlife.

We gather online and in person around the world. Every morning the daily service is recorded, comprising about 20 minutes of the spoken word, prayers, responses, and music. Online viewers can join with the responses, and there are photos of Iona and the Abbey to reinforce the contemplative atmosphere. Each service can be streamed free of charge at the following link :

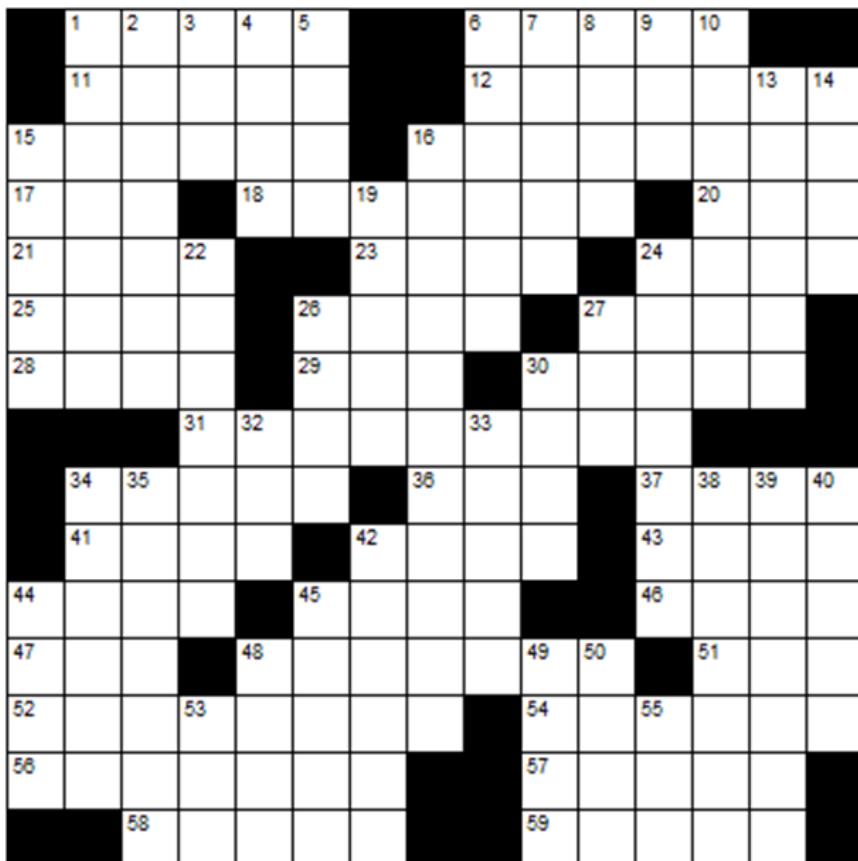
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IpaQhMH2f38>

**In work and worship
God is with us
Gathered and scattered
God is with us
Now and always
God is with us**

Closing responses from the Daily Prayer at Iona

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Solution p.65



ACROSS

1. Spring month	23. Picnic insects	36. One plus one	52. Making menu requests
6. Failures	24. Broadcasts	37. Make well	54. A plan of action
11. Pursue	25. Chills and fever	41. Scattered seed	56. Abounding
12. Take up the cause	26. Workshop gripper	42. Not fat	57. Genus of heath
15. Barroom fights	27. Fair attraction	43. Inactive	58. Leases
16. Harvesting	28. Bird home	44. Blackball	59. Where clouds are
17. Snake-like fish	29. Type of tree	45. Tibia	
18. Wide part of a river	30. Harps	46. Tube	
20. Sprocket	31. Amounts per unit size	47. Term of endearment	
21. Chutzpah	34. Underway	48. Deny	
		51. Distant	

DOWN	13. Breathes noisily while sleeping	"One"	48. Smile
1. Land	14. They come from hens	33. They can be fraternal or identical	49. Gorillas
2. Male genitalia	15. Started	34. On land	50. English royal house
3. Uncooked	16. Gun repairing	35. One who establishes	53. An uncle
4. Small island	19. Dogs wag these	38. Building	55. Fifty-two in Roman numerals
5. Not more	22. Anticlimax	39. Mammals like camels	
6. Arrive past due	24. Blimp	40. Apprehensive	
7. Utilizers	26. Opening	42. Objects	
8. Neuter	27. Deli loaf	44. Fired a projectile	
9. 2000 pounds	30. King of the jungle	45. Holy person	
10. Kill oneself intentionally	32. Anagram of		



'Now, what did I come in here for?'

*Do you reject the devil? Do you turn to Christ?
Did your immigration officer put you up to this?*

TREATISE ON THE DOMESTICATION OF DOGS

Wolf: I'm going to eat your babies

Man: What about some peanut butter and cosy blankets?

Wolf: OK, I'm listening ...

Then the wolf says to his fellow wolf: 'Play nice and one day they'll be walking behind us carrying our poop in a bag'

Well folks, that day has come!

SUDOKU

Grade: Medium.
Solution on p.65

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

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WORDSEARCH—St Luke

Epiphany	sacrifice
Visit	Myrrh
Wise	Symbol
Men	Healing
Magi	Embalming
Priestly	Ancient
Persia	Gifts
Balthasar	Tradition
Caspar	Challenged
Melchior	world
Gold	
Wealth	
wisdom	
Incense	
Worship	

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

Solution on p.65

GRATITUDE & HUMILITY

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

When we receive everything as a gift, we can live gratefully, allowing the energies of life and love to flow through us for the benefit of the whole.

In Philippians 4:6–7, Paul sums up an entire theology of prayer practice in very concise form: “Pray with gratitude, and the peace of Christ, which is bigger than knowledge or understanding, will guard both your mind and your heart in Christ Jesus.” From that place we stop making distinctions based on our personal preferences and judgments. Only a pre-existent attitude of gratitude, a deliberate choice of love over fear, a desire to be positive instead of negative, will allow us to live in the spacious place Paul describes as ‘the peace of Christ’.

All the truly great persons I have ever met are characterized by what I would call radical humility and gratitude. They are deeply convinced that they are drawing from another source; they are instruments. Their genius is not their own; it is borrowed. We are moons, not suns, except in our ability to pass on the light. Our life is not our own; yet, at some level, enlightened people know that their life has been given to them as a sacred trust. They live in gratitude and confidence, and they try to let the flow continue through them. They know that ‘love is repaid by love alone’, as both St. Francis of Assisi and St. Thérèse of Lisieux have said.

It is important that we ask, seek, and knock to keep ourselves in right relationship with life itself. Life is a gift, totally given to us without cost, every day of it, and every part of it. A daily and chosen attitude of gratitude will keep our hands open to expect that life, allow that life, and receive that life at ever-deeper levels of satisfaction—but never to think we deserve it. Those who live with such open and humble hands receive life’s “gifts, full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over into their lap” (Luke 6:38). In my experience, if we are not radically grateful every day, resentment always takes over. Moreover, to ask for ‘our daily bread’ is to recognize that it is already being given. Not to ask is to take our own efforts, needs, and goals—and ourselves—far too seriously.

In the end, it is not our own doing, or grace would not be grace. It is God’s gift, not a reward for work well done. It is nothing for us to be boastful about. We are God’s work of art, created in Christ Jesus. All we can do is be what God’s Spirit makes us to be, and be thankful to God for the riches God has bestowed on us. Humility, gratitude, and loving service to others are probably the most appropriate responses we can make.

Small Surrey Churches - Part Eleven

St Agatha's Woldingham



In 1270 a Will mentions 'the chapel at Woldingham'. The existing Yew tree 'is thought to date from the same time.' A surviving document records the Rectors here between 1308 and 1468.¹ In 1553, the time of the Reformation, the silver chalice, candlesticks and vestments are recorded as being sold. By 1667, the diarist John Evelyn described the building as 'an old, desolate, dilapidated church.'¹

In 1822, a water-colour drawing by John Hassell, who painted most of the churches in Surrey, recorded the church. At this time the church consisted of one room 10 metres by 7 metres, with no tower, spire or bell. It was built of flint and 'the free stone of the county', with one window above which an arch had been infilled with brick.²



St Agatha's Church in 1822 . Painting by John Hassell¹

In 1831, Mr George Frederick Jones, bought the Manor of Upper Court, which was about half the land and property of Warlingham Parish, including the old church building. He had the old church demolished and built a new building on the same small footprint. His name is cast on the single church bell. However, by 1889 the church was ruinous again, with reports of umbrellas being put up in services due to the holes in the roof. Another restoration followed, funded by Mr Walpole Green of Marden Park, and in 1900, a porch was added.² The interior is simply furnished with fixed pews and one stained glass window about the altar, features thought to date from the restoration in 1900.

The dedication made to 'St Agatha' was made only in the early 1900's, and local historians are unsure why this Saint was chosen. St Agatha was born in Catania, Sicily in AD 251, and died at the age of 20. She was from a rich and noble family, and at the age of 15, she made a vow of virginity and to follow a Christian life. When pursued by a Roman Prefect, Quintianus, who wished to marry her, she strongly resisted. He forced upon her horrific physical torture and imprisonment, but she resisted all and retained her vows, before finally dying in prison at the tender age of 20.



Left: Arts-&Crafts Style Doorplate (current)
Right: The simply decorated interior (current)

St Agatha is recognised as one of the ‘Virgin Martyrs’ of Catholic Saints, strongly commemorated in Italy, Spain and Malta, but less so in the UK. The cathedral of St Agatha is in her birthplace of Catania, Sicily.³

For a small church, St Agatha’s has a large churchyard, most with graves dating after 1850. St Agatha’s was the Parish Church until 1934, when the new St Paul’s Church in Woldingham was consecrated.² Today, St Agatha’s continues weekly services, sharing the Rector in a joint benefice with St Paul’s Woldingham. It is one of the smallest and highest churches in Surrey, on the top of the North Downs escarpment, some 790 ft or 240 metres above sea level.²

In summary, although the site of this church has a known history of over 750 years, the current building is just 125 years old, which is why it looks in excellent condition. What is unusual is that the small size of roughly 10 x 7 metres has remained unchanged ever since the very first inception of the chapel in 1270. This is largely explained by the constraint on building new homes in the Parish, imposed by the landowner. In 1801, Woldingham had a population of just 33, fewer than the number recorded on Domesday, and in the early 1880’s the Lord of the Manor had a vision for an exclusive ‘Small Country Estate development’. He set rules stating a minimum plot-size per residence and a minimum build cost, to encourage the building of very large individual homes to attract wealthy London commuters, a policy which seems to have had the desired effect. This low density of new housing restricted the growth of the community, and hence the move to a larger church building was postponed until the 1930’s.⁴

Access

St Agatha's is located on Church Road, Woldingham CR3 7JG, which is a 'no through road'. The church is situated behind a tall hedge, which in summer months hides the church from the road. There are two clues to the location: an information board on the verge in front of the hedge, and the house opposite the church which has large iron gates giving its name: 'By the Church'. Just past the church on the left is a large car park (no signposts).



Website information states that St Agatha's is 'open at all times', but on two visits in July it was locked. Holy Communion is celebrated every week at 9am, using the prayer book rite.

References

1. *Information board outside the church*
2. [https://woldinghamassociation.wordpress.com/about/history-of-woldingham-village/
Woldingham History](https://woldinghamassociation.wordpress.com/about/history-of-woldingham-village/Woldingham%20History)
3. *Wikipedia page, St Agatha of Sicily*
4. *Woldingham Parish.com*



'Knowledge, true knowledge, is the knowledge of limits. The understanding that at the heart of the world, behind or beyond or above or below, is a mystery into which we are not meant to penetrate'

Diary of Friar Fray Garces, 1775

PICK YOUR NEW YEAR RESOLUTION ...

- To lose the weight I put on in 2025. In my defence, I had a lot on my plate last year.
- To buy a cheap hairpiece for my bald spot. It will be a small price toupee.
- To visit the Grand Canyon. I've heard it's just gorges.
- To get a new set of golf clubs for my wife, which will be a fair trade.
- To clean all the mirrors in the house. Honestly, I could really see myself doing that.
- To relearn how to throw a boomerang. Hopefully, it will come back to me.
- To stop procrastinating. Eventually.
- To search the house for my favorite watch I lost last year. I just hope I can find the time.
- To learn how to pick locks. It should open doors for me in 2026
- To sell my parakeet that lost its voice last year. It's not going cheap.
- To stop spreading nasty gossip in the office lift. It's mean on so many levels.
- To install a giant picture window in my living room, which I know will be a big pane.
- To sell my vacuum cleaner. It's just collecting dust.
- To immediately stop eating deli meats, but it will be hard to quit cold turkey.
- To reward myself with a new golf shirt because over the holidays I got a hole in one.
- To order a chicken and an egg online to see which comes first.
- To refuse to attend funerals before 10 a.m. I'm just not an early mourning person.
- To get over my fear of hurdles, but it may take a leap of faith.
- To give away my old broken garden gate. No, there's no catch.
- To learn sign language. It will be very handy.
- To replace all my shoelaces with Velcro straps. Well, why knot?
- To stop making ridiculous puns.



Societies & Charities

For the protection and conservation of the quality of life in Betchworth & Buckland

The Betchworth & Buckland Society 2026 Events

New Year Quiz & Supper



Friday 30th January 2026

7pm for 7.30pm start

The Betchworth Memorial Hall

Members £20 & Non-Members £25

Two-course supper, nibbles & a glass of wine.

Teams of 8 or book in smaller numbers and we'll put a few teams together

Wine Tasting Evening

Friday 20th March 7.30pm

The Buckland Reading Room

Price tbc

Hosted by the Vineking Tasting Rooms

Sampling seven wines with cheese, biscuits, and nibbles



Numbers are limited so please register your
interest as soon as possible

Annual BBQ

Sunday 28th June Time tbc

Buckland Green



Email for membership enquiries (£10pa)

betchworthandbucklandsociety@gmail.com

www.betchworthandbucklandsociety.org.uk

DORKING LOCAL HISTORY GROUP



Monday 5 January, 7.15pm for 7.30

Talk : The Surrey farmland girls 1939-1950

Live talk by Neil Mach

Community Baptist Church, Junction Road, Dorking

Live talk by Neil Mach

Monday 19 January, 7.30pm

ZOOM talk : Ralph Vaughan Williams & Lucy Broadwood

Musical friends and neighbours.

Zoom talk by Graham Muncy

DORKING MUSEUM IN JANUARY

The Museum will reopen after the break on Saturday 3rd January 2026.

To the Last Man – the Dorking Home Guard: The exhibition, telling the story of the men of Dorking and the villages who enlisted in the Home Guard in 1940, The exhibition finishes on 17th January. Displays include uniforms, weaponry, medals, incident reports and photographs.

Dorking's Dinosaur Legacy: New exhibition opens on 22nd January celebrating Dorking's contribution to understanding of wild life that roamed the area 125 million years ago, when it was part of a vast tropical river delta. Displays include lifelike replica models on loan from the University of Southampton. A discovery by Bill Walker in a local quarry in 1983 provided evidence of a previously unknown dinosaur species. The almost complete fossilised skeleton is now displayed at the Natural History Museum.

Museum Family Activities at Dorking Library: Warm Welcome Week: Come and look at old photos and maps of Dorking and see how Dorking has changed: Saturday 24th January, 10am-noon. Free, materials provided and children must be accompanied.

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

David Burton

BROCKHAM GREEN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Betchworth * Brockham * Buckland

In November we were pleased to invite Chris Stewart, who gave an interesting talk on earthworms. He explained the importance of earthworms as part of a healthy garden ecosystem and how they help create and maintain healthy garden soils. He discussed the different species, their food, habitats and anatomy. We learnt that Charles Darwin studied earthworms over a considerable period and they were the subject of his last book. If you cut a worm in half, only one half will die. The piece with the saddle (fatter pink part) will survive.

Our last event of 2025 was our Christmas Workshop, which was held in Brockham Village Hall. The workshop was very popular and as usual, fully booked. The room was filled with the scent of fresh foliage, mince pies, mulled refreshments and the background sound of Christmas music which got everyone into the spirit of things. Everyone was really pleased with their creations which were all stunning.



Upcoming BGHS Talks at Brockham Village Hall:

- **16 February 2026 7:30pm**, Droughts, Deluges and Dust-Devils in the SE, by Ian Currie
- **16 March 2026, 7:30pm** The Women's Land Army – Cinderella's of the Fields by Ian Everest – 9pm, Brockham Village Hall
- **20 April 2026 AGM** – 7.00pm followed by talk on WOOL SHrED by Fliss Lewis

bghsociety@hotmail.com

Ruth Johnson

THE ARTS SOCIETY BETCHWORTH
Betchworth Memorial Hall
Monday 19th January at 2.30pm
Talk: The Healing Power of Plants



Mankind has exploited the medicinal properties of plants for thousands of years, yet the role of plants in modern medicine is still considered to be peripheral by many people. This talk attempts to put the record straight and to show that plant products are used every day by all of us to relieve pain and suffering, to heal wounds and cure diseases. This is a talk with a very wide appeal and relevance. Our lecturer is Timothy Walker who was previously Director of the Oxford Botanic Gardens.

If you are not a member (we are recruiting new members now) do come as a visitor to the hall. Just pay £10 at the door. You will be warmly welcomed.

info@asbetchworth.co.uk - www.theartssocietybetchworth.org.uk
Carole Evans

SINGING FOR PLEASURE



If you enjoy singing a variety of music, old and new, and you are looking for something to lift your spirits, come and join us in The Reading Room. No knowledge of complicated musical jargon needed! Our friendly, relaxed group of ladies and gentlemen meet from 10am to 12, on the first and third Monday of the month with Gina Eason, our pianist.

MeikebuckL25@gmail.com Meike Laurensen

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Crossword (p.52) Solution



Wordsearch (p.54) Solution



Sudoku (p.54) Solution

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

BUCKLAND PARISH MAGAZINE

January 2026 Issue No. 1195

COPY DATE: Mon 19 Jan 2026



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.

Contact details This magazine is published by St. Mary's Church. Contact names, phone numbers and emails are provided as a service to readers, and these appear in the printed and web versions of the magazine with the permission of the individuals. Please advise the editor of any updates or corrections to the contact details.

AVAILABLE FROM: 28 Jan 2026



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 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 (practice Friday evenings)	David Sayce	242776
Betchworth & Buckland Children's Nursery	Laura Snelling	843610
Betchworth & Buckland Toddler Group	Debbie Jones	07701 347351
Betchworth & Buckland Society (Secretary)	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/Chemist	n/a	843259/842175
Buckland & Betchworth Choral Soc. (Sec.)	Caroline Bartlett	07967 969425
Buckland Parochial Charity (Clerk)	Debbie Jones	07701 347351
Buckland Parish Council (Clerk)	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.org.uk

Village: www.bucklesurrey.org.uk

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Buckland Parish Magazine



Celebrates
its
Centenary.
100 years

January 2026

Bumper Centenary Issue



Editorial 100 year Centenary Issue

Back in May 2009, Buckland Parish Magazine published its 1000th Edition. The Editor then was my predecessor, Richard Wheen, who edited this magazine for 27 years! He did the village proud by celebrating with a 70-page bumper issue with many retrospective articles about Buckland. This souvenir issue is one that many people kept and still have on their bookshelf, including me!

Hence, I could not let pass another major milestone, celebrating 100 years since our first issue was published in January 1926. Articles were invited to help celebrate, and we have an interesting selection for you. Thanks particularly to Peter Ahlas, Sheena Boyce and David Hogg for their contributions.

The magazine this month is split into two halves: January 1926 (p.3-34) and January 2026. (p.35-68)

Since taking on the role of Editor in September 2019, I have enjoyed bringing together the mix of articles, local news and the notification of activities from both the church and many local societies and groups. Thank you for the feedback which I receive, which is mostly positive, and thank you also for comments about that which you don't like, which allows me to make changes. I hope that this issue might be one that does not go straight in your bin, and that you find enough of interest to keep it on your bookshelf for a time.

Duncan Ferns



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ISSUE NUMBER 1: BUCKLAND PARISH MAGAZINE, JANUARY 1926

Just one page ...

Church of
Saint Mary the Virgin. Buckland.

PARISH MAGAZINE.

This is a venture and one which I hope you will appreciate. Since I came to Buckland I have often felt that we were badly handicapped in not having a Magazine. There are frequently things in my mind that I want to talk about to you all, and this is not possible since we never meet all together at one time. The difficulty of a magazine in a small parish is the cost of printing a small number of copies. If I had had this number printed each copy would have cost about 3d, but I have had some kind offers of help, and we shall now be able to have our local matter typed and copied bringing the cost down to about 1d. That of course is the price of the materials alone; a lot of labour will be necessary as well, but that is going to be given voluntarily. So our Magazine is to be started, and our thanks are gratefully made to all who have and are going to help in its production. Please remember that we are only amateurs at producing so far.

This number is coming to you because you reside in Buckland, and I want you to know what we are doing.

The February number will come to those families who are represented on the Electoral Roll of our Church. I hope that your name is already on, but if it is not you will find a paper in this number which will explain what the Roll is, and give a form on which to apply. Please let me have these by Jan. 10th if you want to receive the next number, or tell me otherwise if you would be glad to receive it.

All families represented on the Roll will receive it as members of the Church. I have told you what it will cost to produce, and I feel sure that you will be willing to send me at least 1d a month, or better still at least 1/- for the year. I leave the matter of payment to you. Will you also advise me if you want more than one copy.

The value I set on this venture is that it may be a medium for making us all feel nearer together, and help our Church life not to be merely religious but a realm in which we may be happy and be equipped with all that we need for each day's experience.

My sincerest wishes come to you for the New Year, it will I hope be one for which you will be able to thank God, one in which you experience many joys, and be able to find a way to meet and overcome all that needs facing.

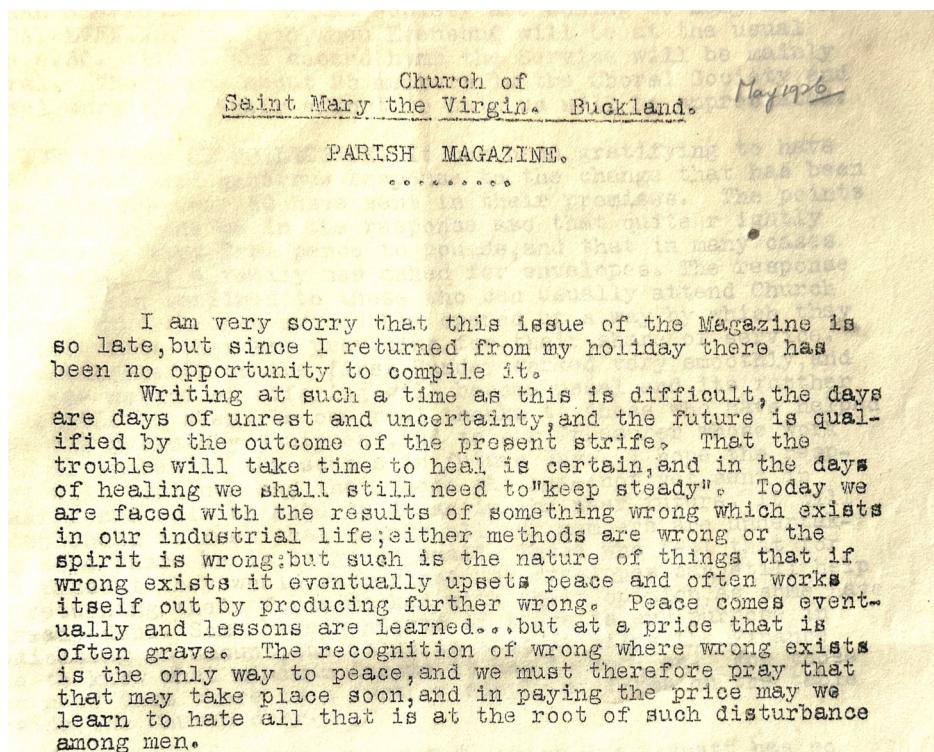
Sincerely your friend and Rector,
H.W.DUNK.

ISSUE NUMBER 5, MAY 1926—THE GENERAL STRIKE

By May 1926, Buckland Parish Magazine had reached 4 pages, and this is how our Rector 'chose his words carefully' about the general strike ...

The **1926 general strike in the United Kingdom** was a general strike that lasted nine days, from 4 to 12 May 1926.^[1] It was called by the General Council of the Trades Union Congress (TUC) in an unsuccessful attempt to force the British government to act to prevent wage reductions and worsening conditions for 1.2 million locked-out coal miners. Some 1.7 million workers went on strike, especially in transport and heavy industry.

It was a sympathy strike, with many of those who were not miners and not directly involved, also striking to support the locked-out miners. The government was well prepared, and enlisted middle class volunteers to maintain essential services.



BUCKLAND'S ENTRY IN KELLY'S DICTIONARY FOR 1926

BUCKLAND is a parish and village, on the road from Reigate to Dorking, 25 miles from London, 2 west from Reigate and $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles south-east from Betchworth station on the Southern railway from Charing Cross ; it is in the Reigate parliamentary division of the county of Surrey, Reigate hundred, petty sessional division and union, Redhill county court district, Reigate rural deanery, archdeaconry of Kingston and diocese of Southwark. The church of St. Mary the Virgin, rebuilt in 1860 at a cost of over £2,000, is a building of ironstone in the Decorated style, consisting of a chancel, nave, south porch and a small western tower containing 6 bells : the whole of the windows are stained : there are 150 sittings. The register dates from the year 1560. The benefice is a rectory, net yearly value £383, including 62 acres of glebe and residence ; it is in the gift of All Souls College, Oxford, and has been held since 1925 by the Rev. Herbert Walter Dunk B.A. of Christ Church College, Cambridge. A granite cross was erected in the village at a cost of £248, which was raised by public subscription.

in memory of the seven men of the parish who fell in the Great War 1914-18 ; their names are inscribed on the base of the memorial, which was unveiled by Col. Sir Percival Scrope Marling bart. v.c., c.b. and dedicated by the Bishop of Sheffield. The charities amount to £46 yearly, arising from lands and money left by Denton, Brown and Cook, and including a sum of £16 5s. derived from a rent-charge of £2 4s. 10d. bestowed by deed by Henry Smith, of Wandsworth, alderman of London, who died January the 30th, 1628, distributed in clothing. Buckland Court, the seat of Francis Henry Beaumont esq. M.A., D.L., J.P. is pleasantly situated near the village. Robert Massy Dawson Sanders esq. who is lord of the manor, and Ralph William Clutton esq. are the principal landowners. The soil is various ; subsoil, clay and chalk. The chief crops are wheat, barley, oats and roots. The area is 1,866 acres of land and 10 of water ; rateable value £5,720 ; the population in 1911 was 503 in the civil and 469 in the ecclesiastical parish. The population in the civil parish in 1921 was 439. Under the provisions of the Divided Parishes Act, 1882, a part of Buckland has been transferred to Reigate Foreign. Hartswood, a detached part of this parish, is in the ecclesiastical parish of Sidlow.

The Parish Council consists of 6 elected members, viz.:—
R. M. D. Sanders (chairman), Frank Sanders, Mrs. Coulson,
Charles H. James & Hugh C. Coles; Oliver Cromwell Apted,
Doods brow, 74 Doods road, Reigate, clerk

Post & M. O. O., S. B. & Annuity & Insurance Office.—Herbert
Guy, sub-postmaster. Letters arrive from Betchworth. The
nearest telegraph office is at Betchworth

Assistant Overseer & Clerk to Parish Council, Oliver Cromwell
Apted, Doods brow, 74 Doods road, Reigate

Assessor & Collector of Taxes, Herbert William Verrells, Darentia,
18 Eversfield road, Reigate

Public Elementary School, built in 1862 & enlarged in 1908, for
80 children; Mrs. Coulson, mistress; Miss W. Eely, assistant
mistress

PRIVATE RESIDENTS.

[Marked thus * receive their
letters through Reigate.]

Beaumont Francis Henry M.A.
oxon., D.L., J.P. Buckland court

Bravington George Herbert,
Buckland lodge
Clark Henry, Broomehurst
Clay Ernest, The White house
*Clutton R. W. Hartswood
Coles Hugh C. The Glebe house

Collier Harry Saml. The Orchard
Coulson Ernest S. The Old Way
*Courtin Henry, Juniper house
Dempster Mrs. The Harvester's
Dumas Vice-Admiral Philip Wylie
C.B., C.V.O

Dunk Rev. Herbert Walter B.A.
[rector], The Rectory
Evans John William Teece, Hes-
wale Grange cottage

*Fleischl Mrs. Shagbrook
Jaffray Miss, The Knowl
Kingsell George S. The Stream
Quihampton Gerald, Buckland
Sanders Robert Massy Dawson,
Buckland Court farm

Smith Miss, Street farm
*Stockton H. J. Buckland corner
Thomason George William, Colley
Orchard

Traviss Fredk. E. Priors Leas
Tritton Nigel Charles, Wildcroft
Walker Mrs. Heswale Grange
Williams Wm. Edwd. Allen, Pettys

COMMERCIAL.

Barnett Emma (Mrs.), sexton
Blackford George H. Red Lion
P.H
Champion Arthur & Son, black-
smiths

Claydon Sydney, nurseryman
Coulson Ernest Sydney, solicitor
& commissioner for oaths, The
Old Way

Coulson Mrs. school
Davey Harry, nurseryman, Nor-
manton nurseries, Reigate hth
Guy Herbert, grocer, & post office
Holton Donald, butcher

Hoyles Arthur Rowland, farm
bailiff to R. M. D. Sanders esq.
Buckland Court farm

James Chas. H. frmr. Kemp's farm
Parish Room (Mrs. Barnett, care-
taker)

Sanders Francis J. carpenter
Smith Richard, thatcher
Standen George, beer retailer

OUR RECTOR in 1925—REVD. HERBERT DUNK

For centuries, Rectors throughout southern England were appointed from graduates of Oxford and Cambridge, almost all from wealthy families, such as landowners, lawyers and doctors. It was certainly the case for Buckland, who had a long series of wealthy Rectors. In 1925, for the first time, Buckland was to have a Rector from a rather poor family...

Herbert Dunk was the youngest of 6 children, born in 1893, to Annie and Edward Dunk, who lived in Swanley, Kent. His father was Clerk to a shopkeeper. Edward's father died of an epileptic seizure and hemorrhage in 1896 at the age of 48, when their son Herbert was only 3 years old.

His mother Annie had managed a small hotel in Lewisham, letting out ten rooms. Her youngest son, though, was not at home. The 1901 census records Herbert, aged 8, as a pupil at the 'Royal Asylum of St Annes Society' in Redhill. This was a large residential children's home and school, managed as a charity. Most of the pupils were orphans who had lost both parents. In 1901 they employed 64 staff looking after and schooling 386 pupils aged 8 to 15. St Annes was a large, four storied red brick building with a central clock tower 125 feet high, about twice the height of the rest of the structure. It was built in 1884 and was a dominant feature in Redhill. The 20-acre grounds included a swimming pool, gymnasium, medical unit and large sports playing fields. St Anne's school closed in 1918, was demolished in 1988, and Warwick School now occupies part of the site.

After his time at the children's home and school in Redhill, Herbert got a job as a Counting House Clerk in Bethnal Green at the age of 18. When WW1 began in 1914, Herbert was 21 years old, a prime age to sign-up for the forces. He began as a volunteer in the 5th London Rifle Regiment of the Army. He then transferred to the RAF and served with 56 Squadron 'The Firebirds' as Second Lieutenant, Armourer and 49 Squadron as a Lieutenant. On being decommissioned, Herbert studied theology and qualified through All Souls College Oxford, to be a Rector. In 1921 his address was c/o The Vicarage, Holy Trinity Church. Potten End, Berkhamstead.

Revd. Herbert Dunk was appointed Rector of St Mary's Buckland in 1925 at the age of 32, so in January 1926, he had been Rector for less than 12 months, and it was on his initiative that the Parish Magazine was started. He wrote the first few years of magazine content himself and had it typed and duplicated by a member of the church.

Within 2 years of his appointment to St Mary's Buckland, on 4 October 1927, at the age of 34, he married Helen Augusta Perry, aged 26. Helen was the daughter of the Rector of the Church in Farleigh, Whyteleafe, Caterham, the church where she married Herbert. Together they had one daughter, Hestor Joy in April 1932, christened at St Mary's Buckland.



Revd. Herbert Walter Dunk with his wife Helen (right), and Hester his daughter in the pedal car, c. 1935.

In the garden of Buckland Rectory (now 'The Old Rectory' on Rectory Lane, Buckland). The lady kneeling maybe Herbert's mother, Annie.

Herbert served as Rector of Buckland St Mary's for 12 years, and moved on in 1937, the year after he buried his mother, Annie Dunk, in the graveyard at St Mary's Buckland.

Herbert had a wider interest in church architecture and features and wrote a detailed paper on 'The Lumley Monuments at Cheam' in 1954, published in the Transactions of the Ancient Monuments Society. [The medieval Lumley Chapel at Cheam can still be visited].

It is likely that Reverend Dunk left Buckland Parish for the Parish of East Stratton in Hampshire. He died whilst in post as Rector there, at The Vicarage, East Stratton in 1961.

Ref: Ferns DC, 2025. *Buckland Past Lives*, Chapter 32, Annie Dunk & Revd. Herbert Dunk.

1926 ACTIVITIES OF THE PCC (PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL) St Mary the Virgin Buckland

Details taken from the
PCC Minutes Book of 1926,
Surrey History Centre (Woking) 10669/5/2

The 1926 the PCC members (with their home addresses added for interest) were as follows:

- Revd. Herbert Dunk (Rector, The Vicarage, now The 'Old Vicarage'),
- Frank J Sanders (Yewdells),
- Col. Ernest Clay (The White House)
- Ernest Coulson (Old Way House)
- Charles James
- Robert M D Sanders (Buckland Court)
- Hugh Coles (Glebe House),
- Mrs Collier (The Orchard)
- Mrs Tritton (Wildcroft)
- Miss Dunk (Secretary, The Vicarage).

Six PCC meetings were held during the year. The electoral role stood at 196 people (reduced in 2025 to 27 people!). The annual running costs were £246, of including a Diocesan Quota was £25 (10% of revenue). Our income in 2024 was £29,200, of which the Diocesan Quota was c. £16,000 (increased to 55% of operating costs).

The minutes recorded:

- £5 was approved for new bell ropes 'which were much needed'
- A new stove for the Parish Room was donated by Mrs Collier
- A choir outing was organised.
- Introduction of gift envelopes to 'benefit the church funds' (maybe

this method was a forerunner of gift-aid envelopes?).

The 'Parish Room' (Reading Room) was run under a group of Trustees independent of the church, only one of whom was still alive in 1925 and residing outside the Parish. In 1926, the PCC agreed a new lease from Buckland Estate, in favour of the Rector and Churchwardens, on the understanding that they will be responsible for the management and maintenance of the room. A sub-committee of the PCC was established to manage the Reading Room (which continues today).

A Harvest Festival was fixed for Friday 8 October 1926 followed by a Social event in the Parish Room, 'thus reviving the old custom of a weekday Festival'. The festival was to be continued the following Sunday.

Our church had an 'Extension fund' to donate to charities. Donations of £5 and £10 were made to the:

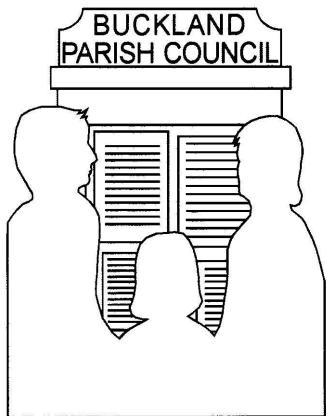
- British & Foreign Bible Society
- Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge
- Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts
- Church Missionary Society.

These donations reflected the time of active Christian missionary outreach in British Empire countries and in Africa.

Duncan Ferns

BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

2026 VS 1926 : WHAT CHANGE CAN WE SEE ?



Buckland Parish Council (BPC), which was established in 1894, had responsibilities for many services that are currently provided by either Mole Valley District Council (MVDC) or Surrey County Council (SCC) including the collection of rates, maintenance of local paths, provision of fire brigade cover for property in Buckland and negotiations with utility companies.

Following the construction of the A25 through the village, negotiations were underway with Redhill Gas Company to provide mains gas to properties along the route of the new road and service a new lamp to be positioned in the centre of the village.

The reconstruction and widening of the A25 had included the construction of a flint retaining wall and led to a reduction in the size of the village pond. Fluctuations in the water level of the pond have remained topical ever since as have concerns about the presence of non-native invasive species. In August 1926, “attention was called to the bad state of the pond on the green, which required to be dragged and cleaned out, and it was agreed the Chairman should make arrangements for it to be done”.

BPC minutes highlight maintenance issues with paths around the village, acknowledge actions taken by landowners and volunteers to maintain access and emphasise the limited funds available to support this activity.

There is also reference to a communication issued by SCC on a reorganisation of electoral divisions.

Moving to the current day Surrey is currently undergoing a reorganisation of local government which will result in MVDC and SCC being replaced by East Surrey Unitary Council. Elections are scheduled for 7th May 2026 for the election of two representatives to the Unitary Council for the recently redefined Dorking Rural Division.

Buckland will continue to be served by MVDC and SCC until 31 March 2027 and the Unitary Council, having initially operated as a shadow authority, will take over on 1 April 2027 with the two representatives voted in next May serving until May 2031.

BPC minutes continue to include gratitude for the effort of volunteer activity – on the part of individuals and Buckland Estate, activity which is complemented by modest tasks funded via the parish council precept.

The experience of parish councils in Unitary areas is that financial pressure is leading to a focus on statutory service and the curtailment of Unitary funding for “discretionary services”. This shift is requiring individual communities to decide for each service to accept its curtailment, assume responsibility for its future provision or fund the continued provision of that discretionary service by the Unitary Council.

When asked to review a draft of this article our current Chair, Nigel Husband responded **‘Different day, same story, same circus, different clowns, “Plus ça change...” All is vanity, and nothing new under the sun’**

Sheena Boyce, Clerk to Buckland Parish Council

INTRODUCTON TO THE WAR MEMORIAL IN 1926

Following WWI, Buckland had a committee to decide on the location, design and fund raising. In March 1920, the Parish Council minutes stated that over £68 had been raised, and the design was to be a twelve-foot high Celtic Cross, crafted in Cornish granite, to be located by the pond. The memorial was dedicated on 11 July 1920, so in 1926 it would already have become a focal point on Buckland village Green, just as it is today, excepting the names from WW2.

There were certain ‘rules and regulations’ that had to be met for a name to be applied to the war memorial, concerning ‘living in the village’ or ‘attending our church’. A consequence of this was that there are some graves in our churchyard of men who died in service, or soon after as result of illnesses gained in service. Some are identified in Buckland’s Past Lives (2025), noting the Chapter and memorial plot number:

WW1 - Louis Marshall (Ch. 26, plot 193), Richard Croke Morgan (Ch. 27, plot 147),
WW2—John Overton (Ch. 28, plot A103), Richard Edleston (Ch. 29, plot 313).

THE FACES OF THE NAMES ON BUCKLAND WAR MEMORIAL

James Day

James Day's article about those named on Buckland War Memorial was first published in the Special 1000th Edition of the Buckland Parish Magazine in May 2009. This stimulated his further research, resulting in his comprehensive on-line book, first published in 2014. He has recently updated this book and the full text is available at:

www.bucklesurrey.org.uk/local-amenities/war-memorial

This summary reveals the faces of most of those commemorated with a short version of their stories. This is such an appropriate contribution to this Centenary edition of our village magazine, and we are indebted to James for his continuing research (even since he has moved to Devon!).

Ed.

World War I



Edward H Bovill

Edward was the oldest son of the Bovill family who lived at Broome Perrow. He was born in 1887 and went to Harrow and Cambridge. He joined up in 1915 into the Queens Westminster Rifles. At the Battle of the Somme their attack on 1st July 1916 suffered heavy losses. Edward died on the brink of safety and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial.



John E Bovill

John, known as Eric, was born in 1894, a younger brother to Edward. Also went to Harrow and Cambridge. He joined the 6th Dragoon Guards, an elite cavalry unit. On 23rd Jan 1916, while leading his troop in the trenches near Bethune, he was killed by a sniper. He is buried in Vermelles Cemetery. Both Bovill men are commemorated on a brass plaque in Buckland church.



John R Childs

James, born in 1893, was the youngest of six, all living with their parents in 2, Sandpit Cottages. James became a butcher. He joined the Royal West Kent 6th Battalion and was lost in the Battle of Arras. On 3rd May 1917, he and 63 others fell. He is commemorated on the Arras Memorial.



James, Arthur & Charles Edwards

Arthur, Charles and James were three brothers from seven children, who lived with their parents at Heath cottages, Reigate Heath. All went to Buckland School, left at 14 and worked locally, as a gardener, a waggoner and at the golf course. Arthur and James joined up immediately into the Queens Royal West Surreys. Arthur was lost during an attack near Bethune on 4th April 1917 and is on the Loos Memorial. James (in photo) was fatally wounded near Bethune on 1st Feb 1916 and is buried in Bethune Cemetery. Charles joined the Royal Field Artillery in 1917 and was killed in an explosion on 27th Sept 1918 during the last days of the war and is on the Vis En Artois Memorial.



Alan G H Livesey

Alan was born 16th June 1889 to the wealthy Livesey family of Buckland Corner, near the Heath. Father and Uncle were successful gas engineers of the time. He went to Charterhouse School and Cambridge. He joined the Loyal North Lancs in late 1914 and got to France in mid 1915. On 25th Sept they were part of the first major battle of the war, Loos. Alan was lost during the attacks and is believed to be buried in an unknown grave in St Mary Haisnes ADS Cemetery.

World War II



William J Batchelor

William was born in Aug 1909 and came to live in Church Street, Betchworth. He went to Betchworth School and rang the bells in the church. He married Emma in 1938 and soon moved to Sandhills Lodge in Sandy Lane. He was a gardener at The Old House on The Street. They had a daughter Ellen. He joined up in 1941 and was sent to India in early 1943 in an Anti Aircraft battery. He caught smallpox and died in Ranchi Hospital on 17th May 1943. He is buried in Ranchi Cemetery.



Dennis A Clabburn-Detrez

Dennis was born in 1920. They moved to Hillbrow (now Camelot) on the main road. He attended Reigate Grammar, started as a journalist then joined the RAFVR in 1940. Gained his pilot's wings in April 1941 and joined 115 Sqn at RAF Marham. On 14th Aug on their 3rd bombing operation, they came down in the North Sea and were all lost. He is on the RAF Memorial at Runnymede.



Alex D G Dallas

Alex was born in India to a military family. Eventually he became a ward of the Trittons of Wildecroft in Rectory Lane. He went to Wellington and Sandhurst. He joined the West Surreys and became engaged and rose to Captain by 1942. After a spell in Iraq, they fought in Tunisia and in Italy. Alex won the Military Cross, became a Major and was wounded twice. He was killed in Sept 1944 during an attack in N Italy and is buried in Gradara Cemetery



Alan W Hussey

Alan was born in 1918 and lived in Bell Street, Reigate. In 1941, he married Kathy Woodhams from Buckland while on army leave. His unit, the 1/6th East Surreys took part in the invasion of Tunisia in 1942. During an attack on 16th April, Alan, now a corporal was killed. He is on the Medjez el Bab Memorial.



Christopher H Cotton Minchin

Christopher and older brother Douglas were relatives of the Beaumonts of Buckland Court and came to live at Underhill Farm and then Oak Cottage in Rectory Lane. He went to Eton and was training for the stage. He joined the RAFVR, eventually becoming a pilot in late 1943. He joined 12 Sqd at Wickenby in March 1944. He was on a familiarisation flight over Germany on 30th with an experienced crew when they were shot down during the infamous Nuremberg Raid. They are all in Rheinberg Cemetery.



Douglas J M Cotton Minchin

Douglas was born in 1918 and after Eton in 1937 joined the Army, into the Scottish Rifles, or Cameronians. After a brief unsuccessful stint as a trainee pilot, he joined the Commandos. He rose to Major and Chief Instructor at the Achnacarry Training Base in Scotland. In Oct 1944 he moved to Italy to assist in the final battles in N Italy. On a scouting mission on 15th March 1945 he was lost near Lake Commachio. He is on the Cassino Memorial.



Fred Moore

Fred was the son of the local butcher whose shop was where the hairdresser now is. Born in 1918, he joined the West Surreys. On 30th May 1942, they sailed from Glasgow. Their ultimate destination a little place in N Africa called El Alamein. Their attack was initially not a success and Fred was lost during the night of 25th Oct 1942. He is on the Alamein Memorial



Alan Peacock

Alan, or Albert as he was christened, was a veteran of the First War, born in 1888. He became a tea planter in India, returning to serve in the Honourable Artillery Company in WW1, as part of a howitzer crew. He returned to India but finally left in 1928. He married Bertha and lived at Yew Tree Cottage, opposite the Pheasant. He joined the RASC in 1941 but died of a burst ulcer while in Abergavenny, where he is buried.



Giles A R Welsford

Giles, born in 1910, came to live at Winding Bromley in Old Road. Married to Jenny from Norway, with a daughter Greta, he joined the RAFVR in 1940. He became a Navigator/Bomb Aimer on a Beaufort torpedo bomber crew with 39 Sqd. Flying out of Malta and Egypt, they were attacking the supply ships and tankers crossing the Mediterranean for Rommel's Afrika Corps. On 2nd Nov 1942, on another mission they were lost at sea off Tobruk. He is on the Alamein Memorial.



Elizabeth Hatcher

Lizzie was born in 1893 in Suffolk. She left home early to go into service and worked in many houses in and around Reigate from 1907 onwards. In 1939 she was at Buckland Lodge living in as chief maid and cook for the Hepburns. On 9th March 1941, a German bomber dropped several bombs on Buckland, one of which destroyed her kitchen. She died later in Redhill hospital.



Gerald Stark Toller

Gerald, the son of our British Consul in China, was born in 1912. At school at Kings College Wimbledon and at Oxford he excelled and captained many teams. He married Meryl from Reigate and taught French. They had two children. In the RAFVR he eventually trained as a pilot. During practice night flights on 28th April 1944, he crashed near Nuneaton.



Patrick G F Dumas

Pat was born into a Naval family in 1917. Father ended up as an Admiral. They lived at Buckland Cop in Old Road. Pat left school early and trained as a Navy pilot from 1939-40. In 1941 he learnt to operate from an aircraft carrier and joined 809 Sqn on HMS Victorious in the North Atlantic. On 6th Oct 1941, they failed to return from a flying patrol. He is on the Fleet Air Arm Memorial at Lee on Solent.



John D T Pritchard

John arrived in 1919, the son of a distinguished aircraft designer, Laurence, who later became Secretary of the Royal Aeronautical Society for 20 years. They lived at Stonecrop in Rectory Lane.

John joined the RAF after Epsom College in 1938, gaining his pilot wings in June 1939. He joined 1 AACU in N Wales where they towed targets for trainee AA guns to fire at! On 10th June 1940, he was lost at sea. He is on the Runnymede Memorial.

THE NEW SANDPIT & NEW ROAD

The early 1920's were a sign of some major changes in Buckland.

The first sandpit had opened in 1925, just to the north of the A25 (the current site of the BT Data Centre on Buckland Bends). 1926 was just as the business started to get going. In 1927, we have the picture below, where the small trucks are being loaded by men with shovels. Of the 3 trucks, the one on the left is steam powered, noting the funnel. [By 1929, a narrow gauge railway was installed around the quarry and a 'loading bay' was made, with small railway trucks that tipped sideways into lorries waiting below].

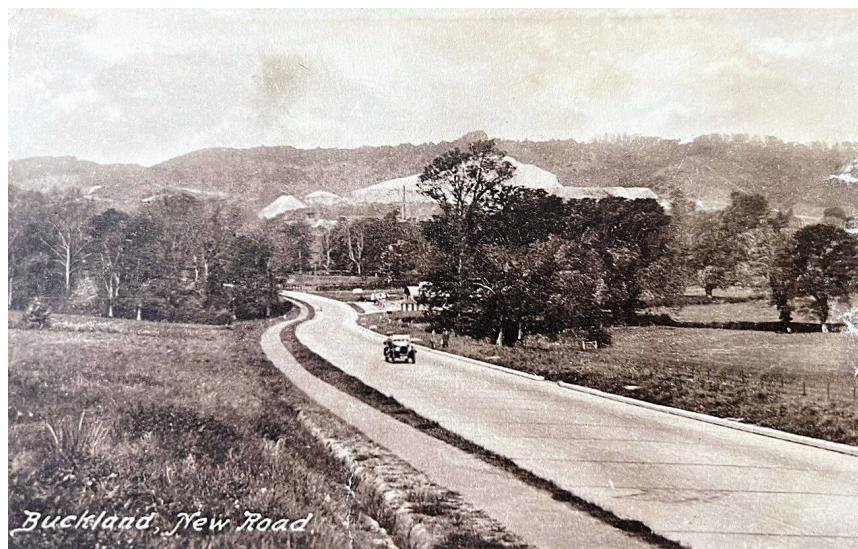


Three lorries being loaded with sand, at Buckland's first sand quarry, 1927

Prior to 1923, the only route from Buckland to Dorking was from the Church, down Old Road, past Betchworth Post Office, and emerging by the Arkle Manor. In 1923 the road was realigned, and for a time it was called New Road. New Road corresponds to the alignment of the current A25, passing the Shell Garage and Tranquil Dale. At the time, Old Road had very few houses. After the New Road was made, Buckland Estate sold off plots on the 'newly-peaceful' Old Road, for a number of houses to be built between 1924 and 1936.



Postcard titled 'Buckland Old and New Road', c. 1924. The shop and church are just out of view on the left. Old Road is behind the policeman! New Road is off to the right towards Dorking. The pond has a new retaining wall by the new road.



Postcard titled 'Buckland New Road', c. 1926. Looking West to Dorking. A garage was established on the right about this time, still the site of the Shell garage.

THEATRE ROYAL, GUILDFORD

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6.30 Twice Nightly 8.40

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COMEDY and SPECTACULAR REVUE

LONDON NIGHTS

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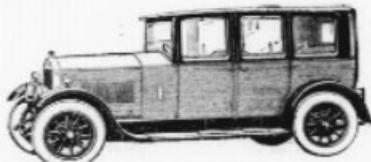
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**A. W. R. WRAGG,
58 HIGH STREET, REIGATE**

During the month of February 1d. per jar will be given to the East Surrey Hospital.

£5 GIVEN FOR NEAREST ESTIMATE OF SALES DURING FEBRUARY.

Fill in Coupon below and address it to Mr. Wragg as above, to reach him not later than March 1st. Result will appear in *Surrey Mirror* on March 12th.

Judges: Mr. R. E. Neale, a Member of the Staff of the *Surrey Mirror* and Mr. Wragg.

COUPON.

I estimate the Sale of Wragg's Marmalade during the month of February to be lbs.

Name

Address

No Entrance Fee. Jan. 29, 1926

**That Bad Leg
will heal up
when Blood is cleansed
with**

Just as good for—

Abscesses
Ulcers,
Piles,
Swollen
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Eruptions.

3/- per bottle.
Six times the
quantity, 12/-

**Clarke's
Blood
Mixture**

Local adverts from *The Surrey Mirror*, 1926

EATING OUT?
NEW REIGATE CAFÉ OPENS - 1926

ESTABLISHED 1926



The Old Wheel
Luncheon and Tea House
CHURCH STREET
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(FAMOUS FOR GOOD FOOD AND HOME MADE CAKES)

When in the district a visit to this
Charming Old-World Establishment
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Open Weekdays 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.

A Genuine 16th Century Building

Officially appointed R.A.C.

Telephone: 43262

Proprietress: MISS E. MILBOURNE

The Old Wheel opened in 1926 and traded until 1970. It was in a 16th century timber framed building, which ought to have had protected status. The building was originally a large barn that had been used as a malt house by the Neale family of brewers (now the site of Reigate Brewery). In Victorian times the barn was converted into 4 cottages, one of which became 'The Old Wheel'.¹ The restaurant was on two floors, and the upper floor preserved a 15-foot diameter pulley wheel suspended from the ceiling—hence the name.

However, in October 1972, the building was demolished for a new development. The demolition was preceded by a day of protest and marches in the town and was followed by acrimonious words in the Reigate Council chamber.

Dennis Turner, a Reigate Historian (d. 2013), published an article titled 'The Death of a Building' about the 'The Old Wheel' in 1974¹ and lamented the following: 'The law of the land is sufficient to stop this destruction, but only if it is administered in a wise, alert and sensitive way by our elected representatives on planning committees. We have lost the last substantial link with Reigate's past as a rural milling and brewing centre where storage buildings on the agricultural pattern were a feature of the street scene'.

This illustrates that some things from 1926 are practically erased from living memory. 100 years is actually a long time!

1. Turner D. 1974, 'The Death of a Building'. *London Archaeologist*, Vol 2(8)

PETTY'S FARM IN 1926

The home of Revd. Captain Charles Graham Swann MC (1878-1944)

Earlier in 2025, Peter Ahlas contacted Duncan Ferns to view a scrapbook dating from 1923-26. The scrapbook was compiled by Revd. Charles Swann, the owner of Petty's Farm (on Rectory Lane Buckland) from 1923 to 1926¹.



Peter & Sian Ahlas have owned Petty's Farm since 1996. The scrapbook was recently passed on to them by the Wilson family, the previous owners from about 1980 to 1996. The main subject of the scrapbook is the building and fittings of Petty's Farm, with notes on the nature and history of Buckland. Peter is very grateful to have the scrapbook back at the house it relates to. Revd. Swann demonstrates a keen interest and respect for Petty's Farm. He photographed several of the rooms with their period furniture, and described home improvements he had made in keeping with the timber framed structure.

Revd. Swann attributes the date that Petty's Farm was built to 1485 (15th century), in article cut from a printed book, but unfortunately the printed article makes no specific reference to Petty's Farm and the source of the dating is not mentioned. He might have had access to a date from a reliable source, and it may therefore be correct, but without knowledge of that source, it is not possible to confirm. Other reputable sources^{2,3} date the house to a later date of c.1650 (mid-17th century). By any account, Petty's Farm is at least around 400 years old.

In his own words in the scrapbook¹, Charles described how they had been intending to stay in Buckland, but within 18 months of purchasing Petty's Farm, he was invited to take a clerical role at Stanwick (nr Wellingborough, Northants), which is where he moved to. He tells an amusing story about selling Petty's Farm:

'We decided to sell the property. Then came the prospective buyers! Such a crowd. One thought the house was a 'bit old'. Another wanted Gas! One wanted a larger pantry, another thought the doors were too low. One thought the old elm doors wanted painting, and another objected to the lovely old tile floor in the parlour, she 'preferred Deal'. A lady who assured us that she was very artistic wanted a studio with a north light; another not so artistic, wondered where she would store her winter onions. Miss Baring-Gould loved the house but could not possibly buy it because she required walls spacious enough to take 300 pictures and 2000 books... and so on.'

An internet search on Revd. Swann found a second scrapbook that he had compiled, which was coincidentally for sale (for a humble £800!).⁴ This second scrapbook was about his experience in WW1 as an Army Chaplain, where he had the civilian rank of Captain. The book follows his service career, including official correspondence for him volunteering, his posting to France and the Congratulations letter he received on the award of the Military Cross (MC) for gallantry, presented to him personally by George V. His MC citation reads:

'For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty under heavy shell fire. His fearlessness and devotion in bringing in and attending to the wounded under intense shell fire were magnificent. He dug out men who had been buried, and was the means of saving many lives, and throughout the day his utter disregard for personal safety deserved the highest praise.'

The scrapbook also includes original British Army Trench maps for 1917 showing German positions, many newspaper cutting, including some from his home town of Bradford.

Revd. Cptn. Charles Swann 1917²



*C. Graham Swann, C.F.
(On Duty)
Aug 3rd 1917.*



Signed photograph of Revd. Charles Swann, aged about 32

Photo by Gunstone & Co, Bradford (this company operated only from 1909 to 1912). Source: Ancestry UK

Charles returned to France in 1918 and after the war he went back to his Parish of St Jude's Manningham in Bradford. He then moved first to Buckland, then became Vicar of Stanwick in Northants, Vicar of Puriton in Somerset, and finally he retired to Mead House, Meadoway, Sidmouth, Devon, the town where he died and is buried.

When Revd. Swann sold Petty's Farm in Buckland in 1926, the house was purchased by Colonel Colin Broome and his wife Joan. Their two boys, Richard and Roger, were brought up in Buckland. Sadly, their mother Joan died at the age of 50, in 1951. Colin Broome later remarried, to Kitty Broome and they lived at Petty's Farm until about 1980, when it was purchased by the Wilson family. Kitty then moved to Petty's Farm Barn (house conversion), where she lived until 1988. The Broomes had owned Petty's Farm for 54 years. A fuller profile of the Broome family is documented in 'Buckland's Past Lives'.⁵

References

1. Swann, C G, 1925. Scrapbook of Petty's Farm
2. Antiquities of Surrey, 1951, Petty's Farm listing
3. 2024 of Petty's Farm, Planning Application
4. Swann, C G, 1918. Scrapbook of WW1 Military Service and experience, 190 pp
5. Ferns, D C. Buckland's Past Lives, Chapter 37, Colin & Kitty Broome

Acknowledgements to Peter Ahlas for this article

FIVE GENERATIONS AND 160 YEARS OF TRADING
David Hogg recalls the origins of Buckland Nurseries



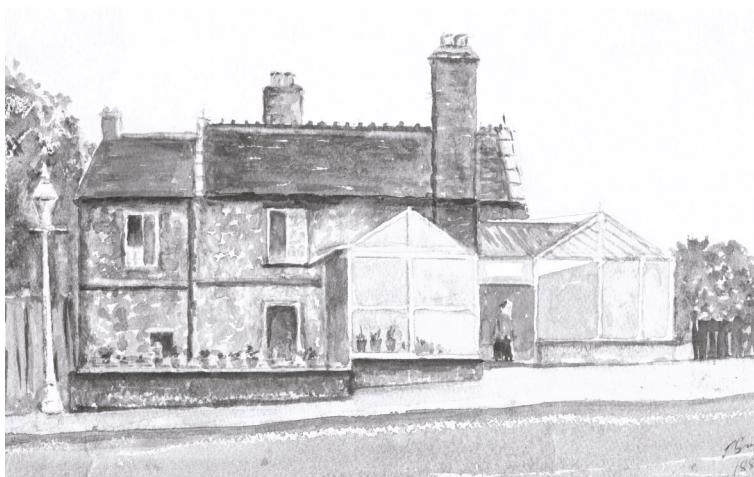
Left: Thomas Hogg founded the company in 1865, starting in Sutton, Surrey

Thomas Hogg, Manor Nursery, Sutton

Thomas Hogg & Son spans 3 centuries and has been run by 5 generations of the Hogg family for over 160 years. Thomas was born on 24 May 1834 in the small town of Dollar near Stirling in Scotland. He was educated at the Dollar Academy, where his father Adam died in an accident during the construction of the school. Subsequently his mother worked at the Academy and lived with the family in a cottage in the grounds. Every student had their own plot for growing, and so Thomas's love of horticulture was born.

Having worked for a few years in the greenhouses for the Duke of Rutland at Belvoir Castle, he made the move to Sutton in 1860. By 1865 he had started his own business. His main passion was landscaping; he designed both Sutton cemetery, where he chose prime plots for himself and his family right outside the chapel, and Benhilton churchyard. They are still there as his memorial today.

Thomas married Mary Roake in 1859, and they had 8 children, one of whom, Andrew, inherited the business. His daughter, Ellen Hogg, ran the nursery shop in Manor Lane, Sutton, adjacent to Manor Nursery. I remember "Aunt Nell" when I was very young and it's special for me to have known a relative who was so close to Thomas.



Painting of the first shop at Manor Lane Nursery, Sutton. c.1870

Thomas's grandson, Gordon (my grandfather) joined the business after service in the East Surrey Regiment in the First World War, where he survived the horrors of the trenches. It was at this time that a shop was opened in Sutton High Street to complement the nursery in Manor Lane.



Photo of the Florist Shop in Sutton High Street, c. 1890

The following extract was written by a member of staff who recalled his 60 years with our company: 'Manor Nursery, those were the days, tomatoes and cucumbers grown the old fashioned ways. Cucumbers would hang by the dozen from the vines, a very pleasing sight when you looked down the line. Lunchtimes, nothing posh, in an old wooden shed, we would sit by the fire and eat toasted bread. Our tales we would tell, or just say nowt when a sudden gust of wind would smoke us out. In the 20s and 30s flowers and plants were the thing those days, many for churches, cinemas and wedding displays. The marquees we would then adorn for fancy parties on the lawn. And Christmas, with wreaths made of holly and the berry. We had to work overtime then, there were so many. We would stand and work, fingers red and sore, while the demand came for even more.'

**CHOICE
MICHAELMAS
DAISIES**

Autumn 1956
|
Spring 1957



One of my drifts of Michaelmas Daisies photographed last Autumn

Grown at
**BUCKLAND
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Geoffrey H. W. Shepheard-Walwyn

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Home grown produce in the war was special, so in every bit of land some plant would nestle. My father Michael, followed in 1951 after serving in the army after the war. Thomas Hogg & Son became a limited company in 1960. Manor Nursery was subject to a compulsory purchase in the late 1960s to make way for school playing fields for Manor Park Primary.

The Site of Buckland Nursery in 1926

The 1926 Kelly's Directory (see p.7) lists two nurserymen living in houses almost adjacent to the current site:

- Harry Davey, Nurseryman, Normanton Nurseries
- Sydney Claydon, Nurseryman, Yew Tree Cottage.

It confirms that this location was selected specifically for its well drained sandy sub-soil.

In 1946, Geoffrey Shepheard-Walwyn purchased the site, specialising in Michaelmas daisies and other perennials. His 1957 catalogue is shown above. In 1949, Geoffrey also built the detached house 'Walwyns', off Reigate Rd: now the home of Robert & Mary Carr. Geoffrey Shepheard-Walwyn (1902-1987) is buried in Buckland churchyard, together with his wife Elizabeth, who died in 1987 (plot 309). We continue to this day to have a big focus on perennials, mainly from 2 specialist English nurseries.

The Business moves to Buckland

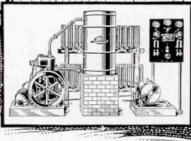
My father moved the garden centre business to Buckland in the late 1960's. I recall the exciting early days when I would help out at weekends and in the school holidays.

I joined the business full-time in 1983 after University, first in Canterbury (where I met my wife Linda) and then in Grenoble. Together, we still had the florists in Sutton, at that time in Times Square shopping centre and subsequently opposite Sutton station in Mulgrave Road. This was a stone's throw from Thomas's original nursery in the 1860s. We also ran a florists in Cheam until the 1990s as well as the garden centre at Buckland. The Sutton florists was closed 15 years ago when we decided to concentrate on Buckland Nurseries.

We have greatly enjoyed working in Buckland, here now for over 55 years. We are extremely grateful to the many staff who have been such an asset to the company over many years. Also, a big thank you to our many customers for your loyal support.

David Hogg, Buckland Nurseries

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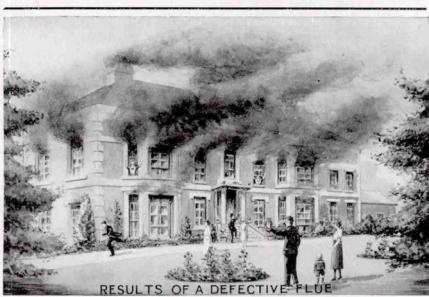
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RINGERS AT BUCKLAND

VISIT OF SURREY ASSOCIATION

The visit on Saturday of members of the **Surrey** Association (Southern Area), of Bellringers to the village of Buckland gave great pleasure to the inhabitants. The arrangements were made by Mr. H. F. Ewens, Hon. Secretary, who, by his efficiency and good management, his knowledge and experience, contributed greatly to the success of the proceedings. The bellringers, numbering about fifty, came from various districts, viz., Reigate, St. John's, Redhill, Horley, Crawley, Charlwood, Merstham, Limpsfield Chart, Croydon, Beddington, Godstone, Tring (Herts), London and Buckland.

The chief event of the afternoon was a magnificent display of bellringing in the highest expression of the art. For two hours the bells were pealing their musical message in delightful variations, almost bewildering in their number. The methods employed were Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Treble Bob, London Surprise, Woodbine, College Exercises, Canterbury and Stedman. During the evening the same methods were employed with the addition of Grandsire and Stedman Doubles.

After the afternoon ringing a special service was held in the Church, at which the Rector, the Rev. H. Dunk, delivered a short address.

TEA AND SPEECHES.

Following there was a bountiful tea in the Reading Room, to which the ringers had been invited by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sanders, by whom the guests were received. During the tea Mr. Sanders said it gave him great pleasure to see them in such large numbers, and that Buckland was much honoured by their visit, and he accorded them a hearty welcome. Since their last visit the late Rector had died. Now, however, a new Rector had been appointed, and he was pleased that he was with them on this occasion. Mr. Sanders hoped they would all repeat their visit on many occasions, and that their next visit would be in the near future.

The Rev. H. Dunk testified to the pleasure felt by all at the bellringing, of which such a fine exhibition had been given.

Mrs. Coulson, an honorary member, thanked the members of the Association for inviting her to join them at tea. It gave her great pleasure to be

present. Three years ago, she said, they did her the honour of making her a member of their Society—a Society almost as old as the hills. As a woman she was specially proud of being admitted to their fraternity. She believed their founder was one Jubal, who appeared upon the scene in the first book of the Bible, but in those days the metal was struck with another piece of metal to make a musical sound. Very small bells followed, and it was not until Christianity was introduced that one read of large bells as one knew them now. Their introduction could be understood, because the tidings of goodwill had to be proclaimed far and wide. All could recall sweet memories evoked by distant bells. There was hardly a human emotion which was not heightened and thrilled by the music of the bells. They triumphed with them in victory, they rang merry peals for weddings, and they spread their note of condolence and sympathy when loved ones passed away. There was nothing so much woven into the texture of English life as their familiar chimes. Nothing was missed so much by the exile in a foreign land as this beautiful sound in the country of his birth.

What a fascination there was in bellringing, for had they not all heard of bellringers aged 80 or even 90, who still called themselves "College Youths." In conclusion, Mrs. Coulson thanked and congratulated those present for their wonderful ringing, which had been so much enjoyed, and commented upon the splendid band of ringers belonging to Buckland.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Association was held during the evening, the Rector kindly consenting to preside. The following new members were enrolled:—Messrs. J. and C. Wallis and G. Hooper, votes of thanks, on the proposition of Mr. Ewens, were unanimously accorded to Mr. and Mrs. Sanders and the Rector. A similar vote of thanks, moved by Mr. Maurice Northover, was also given to Mrs. Coulson for her presence, and to Mrs. Barnett and Mrs. Wallis for their kindly help.

The meeting terminated by some very fine examples of hand-bell ringing by Messrs. Kippen (Beddington), Collins (South Croydon), Cooper (St. John's, Redhill), and C. W. Roberts (St. Paul's Cathedral).

BUCKLAND SCHOOL NEWS – 1926

In 2006, 'The Story of Buckland School 1822-1981' was published by Jim Docking (of Winding Bromley, Old Rd, Buckland*) and Jenny Euston (niece of Rhoda Euston, ex-headmistress of Buckland School).

This is the report of the author's highlights from the School Log book of 1926, when Florence Coulson was the headmistress (profiled in Buckland Past Lives, Ch. 36)

* Jim Docking is now living at Dungates Manor Care Home, Reigate Heath



Buckland School Classroom—this photo is from 1958

1926

'Until something has been done to ensure absolute safety the room will not be used and lessons given in the porch.'

Finding money to repair the school building was a recurring problem. Each year a voluntary rate was levied, and in April 1926 a sinking fund was set up to pay extraordinary expenditure and National Savings Certificates were purchased accordingly. But despite that, there was never enough money in the kitty and Mrs Coulson, it seems, would always struggle to get anything done in the way of

maintenance or repairs to the building. In April more plaster fell from the roof onto a very unfortunate Annie Matthews. Although she was not injured in any way she had a fright and her head ached! The head declared it was not safe to sit in the room, and from then on lessons would take place in the porch. A week later the new rector lent a hand by probing the plaster and knocking out 'some loose bits'. Mrs Coulson was extremely dissatisfied, especially when once again the roof was deemed to be safe.

There were also more battles with naughty children and the occasional irate parent on the rampage. But it seems that Mrs Coulson was not a lady to be intimidated and could always hold her ground when it came to confrontations with parents.

Roland O'Rourke had to be placed under her beady eye in the 'big room' because his tiresome behaviour was upsetting the infants. Perhaps he'd had enough of endless supply teachers and knew how to torment those who were inexperienced. The two O'Rourke sisters had been excluded on 14 May on account of their hair which was very 'unclean', and in July, the mother, having again been informed that the problem continued, 'entered the school without invitation and used abusive language, calling the head teacher 'a lying humbug'. She was ordered out of the school 'but she refused to leave until she had finished her harangue'. Three weeks later one of the sisters was found searching the pockets of other girls' coats and another was seen stealing pennies, whilst the boy 'also took small things from the infant room'. When they returned after the summer holidays Mrs Coulson recorded: 'This family gives much trouble. The boy especially is so dirty at times that he must sit by himself.' In October 1926, there is the following comment: 'The O'Rourke family have removed from the parish and the children are now attending Holmesdale School in Reigate.'

A new teacher, Miss Horton, whom the head considered an asset, was now in charge of the younger children and would remain at the school for two years.

In May 1926 there was a vicious measles epidemic, and by the end of that month out of thirty-eight children only eight were marked present. The school was closed for two weeks until the outbreak abated.

Since gardening was no longer on the curriculum, when Mr Gummer, an inspector, visited, the head suggested that he recommended that some kind of handicraft be taught in its place.

Mandie Smith won a certificate from the Daily Graphic for good work in a competition, and Dolly Sadler left for Dorking High School in September: 'She has been here for seven years and has an excellent record.' On Prize Day there were the usual recitations as well as a performance by the older children of a scene from King John called Arthur and Hubert (two characters in the play).

The head, Mrs Coulson, took five children to see Sir Alan Cobham lecture at the Royal Albert Hall. They occupied the box 'next to that belonging to the Prince of Wales'. [Cobham led one of the first aerobatic display teams in Tiger Moth biplanes, and in 1926, he was the first person to fly from England to Australia and back, in a De Havilland 50 biplane. It must have been an entertaining talk].



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Country Life Adverts, January 1926

BUCKLAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



The WI Banner, dated 1927, still displayed in the Reading Room

In the 1920's, there were not many clubs and societies around. But the Women's Institute was an exception, formed in 1915, initially with government funding, to assist the War effort in WW1.

It achieved full financial independence in 1926, separating from government funding. So, by 1926, the Women's Institute (WI) was fully independent, growing rapidly across Britain with nearly 100,000 members registered in about 2000 local institutes. The WI was a prominent part of rural life. Its focus included community improvement, education in domestic and agricultural skills, and the promotion of handicrafts, though the exact activities varied by location.

In 1926, the WI described their activities as including:

Educational and skill-based activities: The organization provided educational opportunities, particularly in areas like dairying, poultry keeping, and handicrafts. Some institutes promoted domestic skills and community projects.

Community focus: The WI served as a democratic and non-sectarian organization that brought women from different backgrounds together to address community needs.

The local group, Buckland WI, was founded in 1922. In 1925, a counterpane (embroidered bedspread) was made by the Buckland WI, and then exhibited in Burlington House, London.

A banner made in 1927 was the combined effort of twenty-one WI members - this is still displayed in the Reading Room. The picture opposite shows the banner, depicting the 'tree of life', with the WI motto of the time, 'For Home and Country'. Central is an embroidered picture of the church, village green and pond, and there are four panels with scenes teaching children, picking apples, weaving and gardening.

The group had a regular attendance of 40 to 60 ladies throughout the 1960's and 70's and had an active monthly programme of meetings and speakers in the Reading Room. The Buckland WI group amalgamated with Betchworth in the 1980's and Pebblecombe WI is now the local group, serving both Betchworth and Buckland.

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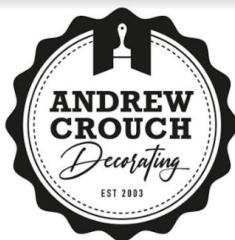
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BUCKLAND PARISH MAGAZINE



January
2026

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BUCKLAND PARISH MAGAZINE

January 2026

Happy New Year! ☺

January arrives with that urge to reflect on what has been and dream about what is ahead doesn't it. It is no different for me as I look out at you each Sunday, it's not just congregation I see, but a community.

A gathering of people whose care, prayers, and quiet acts of service are what keep this church alive. It's a heart that's been beating for centuries - through plague, war, and most recently, the pandemic, sustaining the spiritual life of the parish.



For it to continue to beat strongly however, it needs a few more hands and hearts to help it along. The Save the Parish movement was first brought to my attention a few months ago (you can find out more at www.savetheparish.com). It's not about protest or politics - it's about passion. It's about reclaiming what's at the very heart of the Church of England: ordinary people, rooted in their local church, giving life and strength to their community. That's what we've always done here, and it's what we must keep doing together.

Our church - your church - continues to face challenges, both practical and financial. We have a small dedicated group who do a sterling job of keeping the church going. but the reality is, we need extra help to cover all the other roles that make up our shared life: those who open the churches daily for visitors and locals alike, the bells that draw worshippers to services, the choir that lifts our worship, servers and sidespeople who make sure things run smoothly, the coffee and chat after the service that extends our hospitality, the cleaners who keep the church looking loved, and flower arrangers who bring beauty to God's house. Each of these things depends on someone saying, "I can help."

None of it needs a theology degree, indeed many of the roles don't even need you to come to church but what it does need is a bit of time, a warm heart, and a sense of belonging from you.

And then our finances in St Mary's remain an ongoing concern. Every pound given and every giftaid included, every gift left in a will, every fundraising idea, helps us remain independent and secure. It helps us pay the gas and electric bills, it helps us cover ongoing repairs of this ancient building with the generous help of FOSM, it pays for our parish share a bit like paying council tax but to the diocese. It also helps us plan for the future. It's not glamorous work, but it's holy work, it's part of loving and sustaining the church right here where we live.

So as we step into this New Year, I want to make a heartfelt appeal: please think or pray, and consider whether there is one small thing you could do, serve coffee once a month, join a rota, help with flowers, sing like a bird or take on a role of greater responsibility. Every person makes a difference.

Let's make 2026 a year of renewed hope and shared purpose - not just saving our church but helping it thrive as part of the parish we know and love.

Wishing you all every blessing for the New Year,

Pru x

JANUARY EVENTS

- 5 Jan, 7.15pm.** Talk: The Surrey farmland girls 1939-1950, DLHG, p.62
- 9 Jan, 12 noon.** Winter Lunch, Buckland Reading Room, p.40
- 19 Jan , 2.30pm.** Talk: Healing power of plants, Arts Soc., p.64
- 19 Jan. 7.30pm.** ZOOM talk: Ralph Vaughan Williams, DLHG, p.62
- 30 Jan, 7pm.** New Year Quiz & Supper, B&B Society, p.61

JANUARY 2026 COVER PICTURE (p.35)

'Commander', one of the new resident Alpacas
at Buckland Park Lake
see page 45

CHURCH SERVICES—January

Date	St Mary's Buckland	St Michael's Betchworth
4 Jan Epiphany		10.00am Epiphany service Matthew 2: 1-12
11 Jan Baptism of Christ	10.00 am Iona-style service Matthew 3: 1-13	5 pm Evensong John 1: 29-34
18 Jan Epiphany 2		10.00am Parish Communion John 1:29-42
25 Jan Epiphany 3	10.00am, Parish Communion Luke 4: 14-21	
1 Feb Candlemas		10.00am Parish Communion Luke 2: 22-40

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.**

Life presents many choices.
The choices we make determine our future

Catherine Pulsifer (1946-2013, US Author)

2025 WINTER LUNCHES

Friday 9 January 2026, 12 noon—Buckland Reading Room

Just a reminder that our January Winter Lunch will be on Friday 9 January. 'Doors open' at 12 noon and we will serve lunch at about 12.15.

It will be lovely to catch up with all our friends and Liz and I hope that you will put this date in your diaries. If you could let us know if you are going to be able to be with us on that day please call Liz on 01737 221444 or Carol on 01737 247399. Looking forward to seeing you all again on 9th January.

Carol Leeds

NEW ADVERTS !!

There are some new advertisers in this month's issue. Please do browse the advertising pages and make use of the local businesses who support our magazine. When you do contact our advertisers, please feedback to them that you saw their ad in the Buckland Parish Magazine'. Many thanks

Ed.

PLANT SALES from RANA, OLD ROAD

Once again it's time to say a big thank you to everybody who donated plants and tools. We took £950 this year, £200 more than last year! I was amazed at the diversity of the donations. A lawn mower and petrol can full of petrol [sold to the lady who delivers the newspapers], plus several lovely hanging baskets donated by Leslie at number 4; two antique farm tools and a can holding polish, a brass shovel and tongs, all sold for good prices. Keep it up and don't forget to plant a few extra seeds next year and when dividing plants pot them on as well. Many many thanks again and Happy New Year to you all from the Reading Room Committee who receive the money to help keep our Village Hall in good order.

P.S One advantage of collecting the Magazine this year was to enjoy the walk up to the Church door between the Roses. They have been an absolute joy this summer. A big thank you to all who keep them like that.

Tilly Mitchell

**‘The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book,
waiting to be written.’**

Melody Beattie (1948-2025, Counsellor & author)

SO... WHICH IS YOUR FAVOURITE POEM?

BLESSINGS FOR THE NEW YEAR



**MAY THIS NEW YEAR BRING GENTLE LIGHT,
GUIDING YOUR DAYS AND CALMING YOUR NIGHT.**

**MAY EVERY HOPE YOU HOLD INSIDE
FIND OPEN DOORS MADE WARM AND WIDE.**

**MAY JOY RISE STRONG WHERE WORRIES FADE,
AND PEACE SURROUND THE PLANS YOU’VE MADE.**

**MAY COURAGE MEET YOU ON THE WAY,
AND STRENGTH UPHOLD YOU DAY BY DAY.**

**MAY KINDNESS SHAPE THE PATHS YOU CHOOSE,
AND FAITH RESTORE WHAT YOU MAY LOSE.**

**MAY BLESSINGS BLOOM IN ALL YOU START,
WITH LOVE RENEWING EVERY HEART.**

**MAY LAUGHTER FILL THE MONTHS AHEAD,
AND GRACE UPLIFT WHERE FEARS HAVE LED.**

**MAY GOD WATCH OVER ALL YOU DO—
A BRIGHT NEW YEAR, BLESSED JUST FOR YOU.**

THIS WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS NOT THE YEAR

By Brian Bilston

This was the year that was not the year
I repaired the bathroom tap
and emptied out the kitchen drawer
of a lifetime’s worth of crap.

This was the year that was not the year
in which I launched a new career.
A West End hit eluded me
as did Time Person of the Year.

This was the year that was not the year
I became a household name.
Action figures were not sold of me.
I wasn’t made a dame.

This was the year that was not the year
I spent less time on my phone.
Nights of passion did not happen
in boutique hotels in Rome.

This was the year that was the year
I didn’t get that much done –
much the same as the year before,
much like the one to come.

BUCKLAND & BETCHWORTH BELLRINGERS REPORT

100 years ago, Buckland church bells were ringing for services, just as we ring today. Buckland bells date from the 1600s. Have you visited the belfry? On the walls there are old photos from 1890, and peal boards from 1880. A peal is when the bells are rung in a set sequence for about 3 hours non stop, with 5040 changes. Nowadays only the best (and most keen) ringers will ring a peal. More usually we might ring a quarter peal (1260 changes, in about 40 mins). These longer peals and quarters are rung for special occasions. For services we ring for 5 or 10 minutes at a time, with short breaks, during the half hour before the service.



The old photos in the belfry show the ringers of ages past. One photo of the ringers was taken in the gardens of Buckland Lodge. The ringers in this old photo are all male. Nowadays we have female ringers too.

If you'd like to visit the belfry to see the old photos and peal boards, please join us in the tower on a practice evening, Fridays 8pm. If you'd like to help keep this ancient tradition of church bellringing going, we'd love you to have a go and to learn to ring. At present, we have one beginner who is making great progress. The rest of our ringers continue to learn new methods (pattern of ringing), and can advance just as much as they like, once they have learnt to control the bell. The oldest method we ring is Stedman (1677). New methods are being written all the time.

Bellringing is suitable for all ages, from 11 - 80+. It keeps you fit and you make new friends wherever you ring. As long as you can climb the stairs to the belfry and can catch a ball (and therefore a fast moving bellrope) you could learn to ring. Perhaps you'd like to come and join us as your New Year's Resolution?

On New Year's Eve we'll be joining the ringers at Betchworth to ring in the New Year at midnight, just as other bellringers across UK will do so, and have done for several hundred years.

Happy New Year from the Buckland Bellringers.

Julie Beale

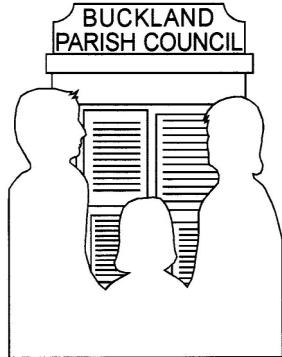
P.S. Do also catch up with the bellringers event report of 1927 on page 29. Ed.

Buckland Matters

BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Notification of 2026 Annual Parish Meeting Monday 23 March 2026 with a talk by the Chairman of GACC

Please keep the evening of **Monday 23 March 2026** free to attend the **2026 Annual Parish Meeting**.



The meeting will provide an opportunity to hear topical updates, including the latest insights into how residents may be affected by the proposed **Local Government Reorganisation**. In addition, the Government has now pushed forward proposals to enlarge **Gatwick Airport** by reconfiguring the existing emergency runway into a fully operational second runway, despite recommendations to the contrary from the Planning Inspectorate.

These ambitious proposals will inevitably have significant implications for communities living around the airport. This latest development appears to have reduced local influence over the process. After many years of uncertainty, the matter is now coming to a head, and it is important that residents understand the full context and potential consequences.

Accordingly, we have invited **Peter Barkley**, Chairman of **GACC (Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign)**—who are leading the challenge to these proposals—to speak at the meeting and provide an update and report on the judicial review that he has initiated which is due to be heard in January.

Further details will follow in due course.

Nigel Husband, Chair Buckland Parish Council

NATURE NOTES

WINTER IS TOUGH FOR WILDLIFE

Giving our insects a helping hand is wonderfully simple — it mostly involves doing less, than more. A perfectly tidy garden is often a poor home for wildlife. These are some things we can do to help sustain our insects through the winter.

Go easy with hedge pruning - Trim hedges, but leave some sections untouched for a year or two on a rotation. This keeps the hedge tidy while protecting the insects living within it.

Leave the leaves - Clear them off the lawn but pile them in quiet corners or spread them over beds. They suppress weeds, enrich the soil, shelter caterpillars, and provide cosy foraging for birds and hedgehogs.

Create habitat piles - A simple heap of twigs, branches and leaves becomes a winter refuge for insects that don't travel far from their food plants.

Let some areas go wild - Choose small corners — under trees, behind sheds, along boundaries — to leave untouched.

January is also tough for our birds with short days, long cold nights and very little natural food. A few simple actions can provide them with a winter lifeline.

Feed for energy – Offer fat balls (no nets), suet, sunflower hearts and peanuts. Top up little and often to keep food fresh.

Keep water ice-free – Break ice each morning or add a splash of warm water so birds can drink and preen.

Provide shelter – Evergreens, dense hedges or even a small twig pile provide vital cover. Nest boxes double as night-time roosts.

Keep feeders clean – Wash feeders and bird baths weekly to prevent disease. Most importantly, be consistent, keep supplies coming, and you'll help birds get through the harshest month of the year — while bringing life, movement, sound and colour to your winter garden.

January is the month of the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch which this year is from Friday 23rd and Sunday 26th January.

And do read our bi-annual themed magazines at www.biodiversitypark.uk/magazine.html. Issues 1 to 3 are now available to read or download.

Norman Jackson

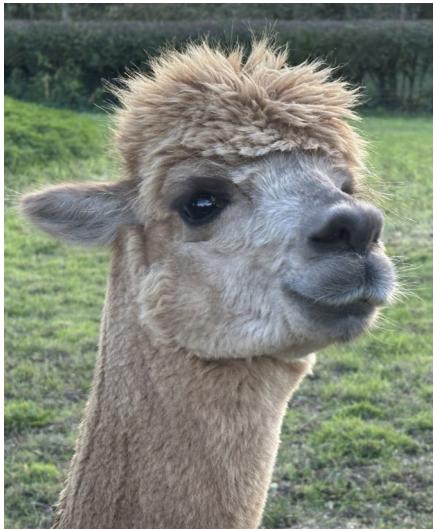


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MUSIC IN DORKING—JANUARY 2026



10th at 7.30, Ukulele orchestra at Dorking Halls
14th at 6.45, Opera screening at Dorking Halls
17th at 7.30, cello & piano recital at Dorking Halls
18th at 2.00, opera screening at Dorking Halls

Happy New Year! January begins with a concert given by the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain, now celebrating their 40th anniversary. The programme will include a wide range of music, covering various genres from Abba to Tchaikovsky and Bluegrass to Broadway.

The Dorking Concertgoers present music for cello and piano, played by Nigel Hutchinson and Thomas Carroll. As well as playing together as a duo, both musicians enjoy distinguished solo careers. Their varied programme includes sonatas by Beethoven, Brahms and Boccherini, plus two short pieces by Martinu and Lutoslawski.

There are also two opportunities to see Verdi's tragic opera *La Traviata* from the Royal Opera House, with a live and an encore screening at the Dorking Halls.

ian Codd

A BIT OF WOODY ALLEN

It's not that I'm afraid to die, I just don't want to be there when it happens
Life is full of misery, loneliness, and suffering – and it's all over much too soon

If God exists, I hope he has a good excuse

Having sex is like playing bridge. If you don't have a good partner, you'd better
have a good hand

Just because you're paranoid doesn't mean they aren't out to get you

My one regret in life is that I am not someone else

ST. JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL On the perils of leading prayer in church



My dear Darren

I do hope you have now settled down in your first parish - although it is such a pity that you did not choose a more distinguished one. I know you feel your vocation lies in inner city work – whereas mine, fortunately, has always been to the better sort of rural village. I have always felt that the Almighty understands me well in that regard.

We had a little flurry of activity in church on Sunday. At the signal “let us pray”, as the congregation dutifully flopped to their knees, sounding like a flock of geese settling in for the night, Major Hastings lost his glass eye. Yes, *again!* That man is so careless at times. Anyway, released from captivity, the eye rolled under the pews like a fugitive marble, ricocheting from hassock to handbag over the stone flags.

My sonorous entreaties to the Almighty were completely lost as the entire congregation scuttled under pews, trying to retrieve it. It finally appeared on the collection plate - along with £4.17, 100 pesetas and Miss Simpson’s front door key. I was unsure whether the last item represented a fit of absent-mindedness or an improper suggestion. I returned it to her very firmly at the end of the Service.

The eye stared at me mournfully as I blessed it, along with the money. But it left a small social dilemma. What is the etiquette of returning a lost glass eye to its owner?

To have processed down the aisle with it, accompanied by crucifer and verger seemed a little too public. To sneak it to him as we shook hands at the door seemed a little too furtive. I finally decided to send a server to deliver it during the last hymn. I still wonder if it was the right decision. Perhaps you could look through that new Common Worship book and see if they have included an appropriate rite for returning lost glass eyes. We here at St James-the-Least-of-All haven’t yet got round to Common Worship. The days are evil enough as it is.

Your Loving Uncle, Eustace



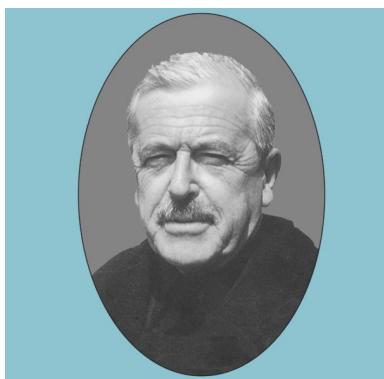
IONA

Part Four

The Modern Abbey 1930's & George McLeod and founding the Iona Community

In Part Three (November), we explained how the Abbey became a Benedictine Monastery for over 350 years, from 1203 – 1570, in the French Catholic tradition of St Benedict. However, in 1570 the Abbey was ransacked when Scotland destroyed all traces of Catholicism and Catholic churches, demolishing all the roofs and interiors, leaving only external walls. However, the solid walls of Iona Abbey withstood the weather through a further 300 years of dereliction. Then in 1899, the ruin was given by the landowner to the Church of Scotland, who restored the church building, and it re-opened as a place of worship in 1910. However, they had only restored the Church, and all the outbuildings of the old monastery surrounding the church, continued to lay in ruins.

In 1910, the few tourists and pilgrims visiting Iona and the small number of inhabitants of the island, could not create a congregation that justified such a large church building. The local inhabitants struggled to maintain the church in these early years.



George Fielden MacLeod, Baron MacLeod of Fuinary (1895-1991) was a Scottish soldier and clergyman. In WW1 he saw action at Ypres and Passchendaele and was awarded the Military Cross (MC) for his bravery on the Front in October 1917. After the War, he studied Divinity and became a Minister in the Church of Scotland. He visited Jerusalem in 1933, where on Easter Day he felt a profound spiritual experience, feeling a sense of recovery of the Church as the corporate Body of Christ. He resigned from his Parish Ministry post in

Glasgow, to become the full-time leader of the Iona Community, which he founded in 1938.

His founding Vision was to gather young ministers in training and unemployed craftsmen to live, work, and worship together while rebuilding the ruined Iona Abbey buildings. This practical team work created a shared spiritual life. The community's initial work focused on restoring the physical structures of the ancient Iona Abbey outbuildings, an act that connected the present community to the island's ancient Celtic Christian heritage.

Whilst originating in the Church of Scotland, the Iona Community became ecumenical, fostering broader inter-denominational involvement. The community extended its work beyond the Abbey to advocate for economic justice, support refugees, and minister to vulnerable communities in Britain and globally.

From it's origins with a small group of men, the Iona Community has grown into an international movement with members and friends worldwide, including residential centres on Iona and Mull.



Iona Abbey (above) and it's Cloisters (below)



The Iona Community describes itself as...

An international, ecumenical Christian movement working for justice and peace, the rebuilding of community and the renewal of worship. Our Community was founded in Glasgow in 1938 by Rev George MacLeod. A visionary and a social reformer, MacLeod was driven by a belief that faith is grounded in action. In rebuilding the ruined accommodation at Iona Abbey, trainee ministers and unemployed workers from Glasgow lived, worked and worshipped together.

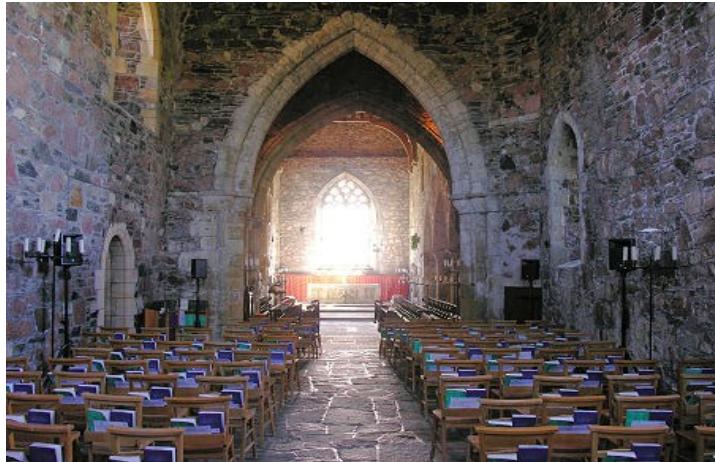
We are now about 280 Members and more than 2,000 Associate Members, Young Adults and Friends across the world. We remain true to that founding vision – sharing common work and community as we pursue justice and peace, in Scotland and beyond.

Iona Abbey is a restored Benedictine monastery. We welcome guests and volunteers, offering people from diverse backgrounds and nationalities an experience of living in community and exploring our common concerns. Our Resident Group share in a 'common life' woven with rhythms of work and worship, prayer, action and hospitality. The community and living spaces were reopened in 2021 after extensive renovation.

Camas, our adventure centre on the neighbouring island of Mull, offers a powerful and fun outdoor experience. Time for adventure, creativity, team building and reflection in a safe, nurturing environment makes Camas a fabulous place for young people and adults, including school and youth groups. The centre is powered by renewable energy, with an abundant organic garden.

The MacLeod Centre, a spacious, light-filled building, is a short walk from the Abbey. The 'Mac' as it is known, has accommodation for approximately 48 guests in spacious rooms for up to five and seven people, cleverly designed to give a degree of privacy as well as fostering community! Guests and staff come from many backgrounds, traditions and countries to experience community life together through sharing in worship, work, activity and relaxation. A major feature of the building is its attractive, well-equipped, north facing craft room.

Worship, concerts and ceilidhs are shared with the guests and staff from the Abbey. Many of the social events take place around the log stove in the 'Mac's' spacious Community Room, which is also used as the main meeting and eating place.



Children of all ages are especially welcome and there is disabled access on the ground floor, with adapted facilities for those with mobility difficulties. We resource individuals, churches and community organisations through our global Prayer Circle, our magazine (*Coracle*), Wild Goose Publications, the Wild Goose Resource Group, and our Shop on Iona.

We are glad to be part of the life and economy of Iona and Mull. These are beautiful islands where thriving local communities are layered with a deep spiritual tradition, and inspiring landscape and wildlife.

We gather online and in person around the world. Every morning the daily service is recorded, comprising about 20 minutes of the spoken word, prayers, responses, and music. Online viewers can join with the responses, and there are photos of Iona and the Abbey to reinforce the contemplative atmosphere. Each service can be streamed free of charge at the following link :

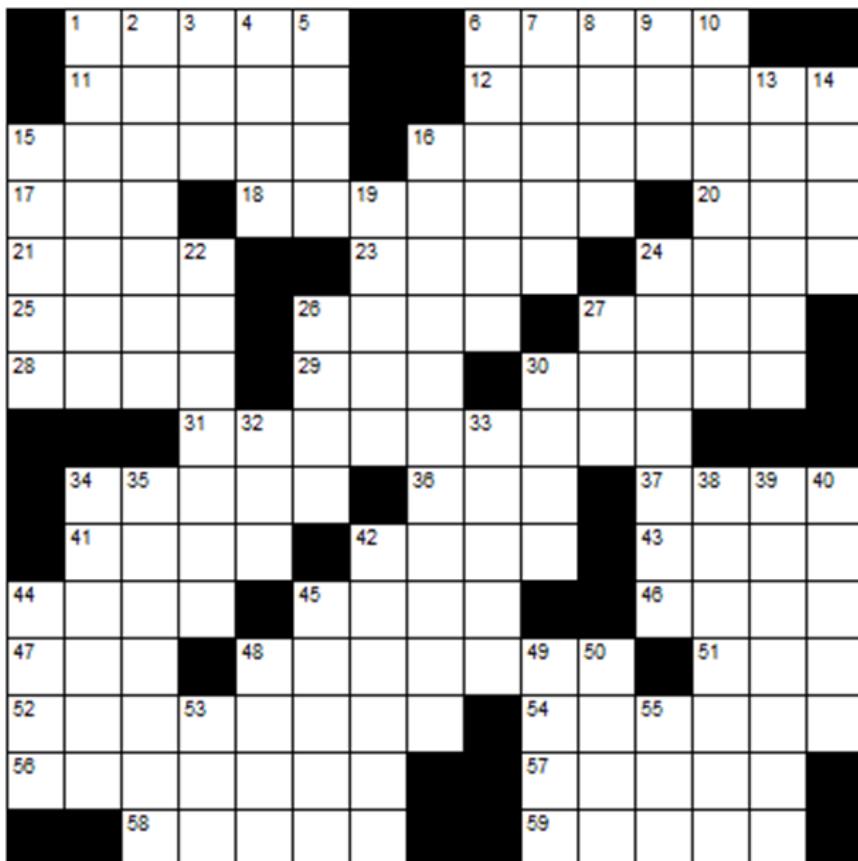
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IpaQhMH2f38>

**In work and worship
God is with us
Gathered and scattered
God is with us
Now and always
God is with us**

Closing responses from the Daily Prayer at Iona

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Solution p.65



ACROSS

1. Spring month	23. Picnic insects	36. One plus one	52. Making menu requests
6. Failures	24. Broadcasts	37. Make well	54. A plan of action
11. Pursue	25. Chills and fever	41. Scattered seed	56. Abounding
12. Take up the cause	26. Workshop gripper	42. Not fat	57. Genus of heath
15. Barroom fights	27. Fair attraction	43. Inactive	58. Leases
16. Harvesting	28. Bird home	44. Blackball	59. Where clouds are
17. Snake-like fish	29. Type of tree	45. Tibia	
18. Wide part of a river	30. Harps	46. Tube	
20. Sprocket	31. Amounts per unit size	47. Term of endearment	
21. Chutzpah	34. Underway	48. Deny	
		51. Distant	

DOWN	13. Breathes noisily while sleeping	"One"	48. Smile
1. Land	14. They come from hens	33. They can be fraternal or identical	49. Gorillas
2. Male genitalia	15. Started	34. On land	50. English royal house
3. Uncooked	16. Gun repairing	35. One who establishes	53. An uncle
4. Small island	19. Dogs wag these	38. Building	55. Fifty-two in Roman numerals
5. Not more	22. Anticlimax	39. Mammals like camels	
6. Arrive past due	24. Blimp	40. Apprehensive	
7. Utilizers	26. Opening	42. Objects	
8. Neuter	27. Deli loaf	44. Fired a projectile	
9. 2000 pounds	30. King of the jungle	45. Holy person	
10. Kill oneself intentionally	32. Anagram of		



'Now, what did I come in here for?'

*Do you reject the devil? Do you turn to Christ?
Did your immigration officer put you up to this?*

TREATISE ON THE DOMESTICATION OF DOGS

Wolf: I'm going to eat your babies

Man: What about some peanut butter and cosy blankets?

Wolf: OK, I'm listening ...

Then the wolf says to his fellow wolf: 'Play nice and one day they'll be walking behind us carrying our poop in a bag'

Well folks, that day has come!

SUDOKU

Grade: Medium.
Solution on p.65

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

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WORDSEARCH—St Luke

Epiphany	sacrifice
Visit	Myrrh
Wise	Symbol
Men	Healing
Magi	Embalming
Priestly	Ancient
Persia	Gifts
Balthasar	Tradition
Caspar	Challenged
Melchior	world
Gold	
Wealth	
wisdom	
Incense	
Worship	

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

Solution on p.65

GRATITUDE & HUMILITY

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

When we receive everything as a gift, we can live gratefully, allowing the energies of life and love to flow through us for the benefit of the whole.

In Philippians 4:6–7, Paul sums up an entire theology of prayer practice in very concise form: “Pray with gratitude, and the peace of Christ, which is bigger than knowledge or understanding, will guard both your mind and your heart in Christ Jesus.” From that place we stop making distinctions based on our personal preferences and judgments. Only a pre-existent attitude of gratitude, a deliberate choice of love over fear, a desire to be positive instead of negative, will allow us to live in the spacious place Paul describes as ‘the peace of Christ’.

All the truly great persons I have ever met are characterized by what I would call radical humility and gratitude. They are deeply convinced that they are drawing from another source; they are instruments. Their genius is not their own; it is borrowed. We are moons, not suns, except in our ability to pass on the light. Our life is not our own; yet, at some level, enlightened people know that their life has been given to them as a sacred trust. They live in gratitude and confidence, and they try to let the flow continue through them. They know that ‘love is repaid by love alone’, as both St. Francis of Assisi and St. Thérèse of Lisieux have said.

It is important that we ask, seek, and knock to keep ourselves in right relationship with life itself. Life is a gift, totally given to us without cost, every day of it, and every part of it. A daily and chosen attitude of gratitude will keep our hands open to expect that life, allow that life, and receive that life at ever-deeper levels of satisfaction—but never to think we deserve it. Those who live with such open and humble hands receive life’s “gifts, full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over into their lap” (Luke 6:38). In my experience, if we are not radically grateful every day, resentment always takes over. Moreover, to ask for ‘our daily bread’ is to recognize that it is already being given. Not to ask is to take our own efforts, needs, and goals—and ourselves—far too seriously.

In the end, it is not our own doing, or grace would not be grace. It is God’s gift, not a reward for work well done. It is nothing for us to be boastful about. We are God’s work of art, created in Christ Jesus. All we can do is be what God’s Spirit makes us to be, and be thankful to God for the riches God has bestowed on us. Humility, gratitude, and loving service to others are probably the most appropriate responses we can make.

Small Surrey Churches - Part Eleven

St Agatha's Woldingham



In 1270 a Will mentions 'the chapel at Woldingham'. The existing Yew tree 'is thought to date from the same time.' A surviving document records the Rectors here between 1308 and 1468.¹ In 1553, the time of the Reformation, the silver chalice, candlesticks and vestments are recorded as being sold. By 1667, the diarist John Evelyn described the building as 'an old, desolate, dilapidated church.'¹

In 1822, a water-colour drawing by John Hassell, who painted most of the churches in Surrey, recorded the church. At this time the church consisted of one room 10 metres by 7 metres, with no tower, spire or bell. It was built of flint and 'the free stone of the county', with one window above which an arch had been infilled with brick.²



St Agatha's Church in 1822 . Painting by John Hassell¹

In 1831, Mr George Frederick Jones, bought the Manor of Upper Court, which was about half the land and property of Warlingham Parish, including the old church building. He had the old church demolished and built a new building on the same small footprint. His name is cast on the single church bell. However, by 1889 the church was ruinous again, with reports of umbrellas being put up in services due to the holes in the roof. Another restoration followed, funded by Mr Walpole Green of Marden Park, and in 1900, a porch was added.² The interior is simply furnished with fixed pews and one stained glass window about the altar, features thought to date from the restoration in 1900.

The dedication made to 'St Agatha' was made only in the early 1900's, and local historians are unsure why this Saint was chosen. St Agatha was born in Catania, Sicily in AD 251, and died at the age of 20. She was from a rich and noble family, and at the age of 15, she made a vow of virginity and to follow a Christian life. When pursued by a Roman Prefect, Quintianus, who wished to marry her, she strongly resisted. He forced upon her horrific physical torture and imprisonment, but she resisted all and retained her vows, before finally dying in prison at the tender age of 20.



Left: Arts-&Crafts Style Doorplate (current)
Right: The simply decorated interior (current)

St Agatha is recognised as one of the ‘Virgin Martyrs’ of Catholic Saints, strongly commemorated in Italy, Spain and Malta, but less so in the UK. The cathedral of St Agatha is in her birthplace of Catania, Sicily.³

For a small church, St Agatha’s has a large churchyard, most with graves dating after 1850. St Agatha’s was the Parish Church until 1934, when the new St Paul’s Church in Woldingham was consecrated.² Today, St Agatha’s continues weekly services, sharing the Rector in a joint benefice with St Paul’s Woldingham. It is one of the smallest and highest churches in Surrey, on the top of the North Downs escarpment, some 790 ft or 240 metres above sea level.²

In summary, although the site of this church has a known history of over 750 years, the current building is just 125 years old, which is why it looks in excellent condition. What is unusual is that the small size of roughly 10 x 7 metres has remained unchanged ever since the very first inception of the chapel in 1270. This is largely explained by the constraint on building new homes in the Parish, imposed by the landowner. In 1801, Woldingham had a population of just 33, fewer than the number recorded on Domesday, and in the early 1880’s the Lord of the Manor had a vision for an exclusive ‘Small Country Estate development’. He set rules stating a minimum plot-size per residence and a minimum build cost, to encourage the building of very large individual homes to attract wealthy London commuters, a policy which seems to have had the desired effect. This low density of new housing restricted the growth of the community, and hence the move to a larger church building was postponed until the 1930’s.⁴

Access

St Agatha's is located on Church Road, Woldingham CR3 7JG, which is a 'no through road'. The church is situated behind a tall hedge, which in summer months hides the church from the road. There are two clues to the location: an information board on the verge in front of the hedge, and the house opposite the church which has large iron gates giving its name: 'By the Church'. Just past the church on the left is a large car park (no signposts).



Website information states that St Agatha's is 'open at all times', but on two visits in July it was locked. Holy Communion is celebrated every week at 9am, using the prayer book rite.

References

1. *Information board outside the church*
2. [https://woldinghamassociation.wordpress.com/about/history-of-woldingham-village/
Woldingham History](https://woldinghamassociation.wordpress.com/about/history-of-woldingham-village/Woldingham%20History)
3. *Wikipedia page, St Agatha of Sicily*
4. *Woldingham Parish.com*



'Knowledge, true knowledge, is the knowledge of limits. The understanding that at the heart of the world, behind or beyond or above or below, is a mystery into which we are not meant to penetrate'

Diary of Friar Fray Garces, 1775

PICK YOUR NEW YEAR RESOLUTION ...

- To lose the weight I put on in 2025. In my defence, I had a lot on my plate last year.
- To buy a cheap hairpiece for my bald spot. It will be a small price toupee.
- To visit the Grand Canyon. I've heard it's just gorges.
- To get a new set of golf clubs for my wife, which will be a fair trade.
- To clean all the mirrors in the house. Honestly, I could really see myself doing that.
- To relearn how to throw a boomerang. Hopefully, it will come back to me.
- To stop procrastinating. Eventually.
- To search the house for my favorite watch I lost last year. I just hope I can find the time.
- To learn how to pick locks. It should open doors for me in 2026
- To sell my parakeet that lost its voice last year. It's not going cheap.
- To stop spreading nasty gossip in the office lift. It's mean on so many levels.
- To install a giant picture window in my living room, which I know will be a big pane.
- To sell my vacuum cleaner. It's just collecting dust.
- To immediately stop eating deli meats, but it will be hard to quit cold turkey.
- To reward myself with a new golf shirt because over the holidays I got a hole in one.
- To order a chicken and an egg online to see which comes first.
- To refuse to attend funerals before 10 a.m. I'm just not an early mourning person.
- To get over my fear of hurdles, but it may take a leap of faith.
- To give away my old broken garden gate. No, there's no catch.
- To learn sign language. It will be very handy.
- To replace all my shoelaces with Velcro straps. Well, why knot?
- To stop making ridiculous puns.



Societies & Charities

For the protection and conservation of the quality of life in Betchworth & Buckland

The Betchworth & Buckland Society 2026 Events

New Year Quiz & Supper



Friday 30th January 2026

7pm for 7.30pm start

The Betchworth Memorial Hall

Members £20 & Non-Members £25

Two-course supper, nibbles & a glass of wine.

Teams of 8 or book in smaller numbers and we'll put a few teams together

Wine Tasting Evening

Friday 20th March 7.30pm

The Buckland Reading Room

Price tbc

Hosted by the Vineking Tasting Rooms

Sampling seven wines with cheese, biscuits, and nibbles



Numbers are limited so please register your
interest as soon as possible

Annual BBQ

Sunday 28th June Time tbc

Buckland Green



Email for membership enquiries (£10pa)

betchworthandbucklandsociety@gmail.com

www.betchworthandbucklandsociety.org.uk

DORKING LOCAL HISTORY GROUP



Monday 5 January, 7.15pm for 7.30

Talk : The Surrey farmland girls 1939-1950

Live talk by Neil Mach

Community Baptist Church, Junction Road, Dorking

Live talk by Neil Mach

Monday 19 January, 7.30pm

ZOOM talk : Ralph Vaughan Williams & Lucy Broadwood

Musical friends and neighbours.

Zoom talk by Graham Muncy

DORKING MUSEUM IN JANUARY

The Museum will reopen after the break on Saturday 3rd January 2026.

To the Last Man – the Dorking Home Guard: The exhibition, telling the story of the men of Dorking and the villages who enlisted in the Home Guard in 1940, The exhibition finishes on 17th January. Displays include uniforms, weaponry, medals, incident reports and photographs.

Dorking's Dinosaur Legacy: New exhibition opens on 22nd January celebrating Dorking's contribution to understanding of wild life that roamed the area 125 million years ago, when it was part of a vast tropical river delta. Displays include lifelike replica models on loan from the University of Southampton. A discovery by Bill Walker in a local quarry in 1983 provided evidence of a previously unknown dinosaur species. The almost complete fossilised skeleton is now displayed at the Natural History Museum.

Museum Family Activities at Dorking Library: Warm Welcome Week: Come and look at old photos and maps of Dorking and see how Dorking has changed: Saturday 24th January, 10am-noon. Free, materials provided and children must be accompanied.

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

David Burton

BROCKHAM GREEN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Betchworth * Brockham * Buckland

In November we were pleased to invite Chris Stewart, who gave an interesting talk on earthworms. He explained the importance of earthworms as part of a healthy garden ecosystem and how they help create and maintain healthy garden soils. He discussed the different species, their food, habitats and anatomy. We learnt that Charles Darwin studied earthworms over a considerable period and they were the subject of his last book. If you cut a worm in half, only one half will die. The piece with the saddle (fatter pink part) will survive.

Our last event of 2025 was our Christmas Workshop, which was held in Brockham Village Hall. The workshop was very popular and as usual, fully booked. The room was filled with the scent of fresh foliage, mince pies, mulled refreshments and the background sound of Christmas music which got everyone into the spirit of things. Everyone was really pleased with their creations which were all stunning.



Upcoming BGHS Talks at Brockham Village Hall:

- **16 February 2026 7:30pm**, Droughts, Deluges and Dust-Devils in the SE, by Ian Currie
- **16 March 2026, 7:30pm** The Women's Land Army – Cinderella's of the Fields by Ian Everest – 9pm, Brockham Village Hall
- **20 April 2026 AGM** – 7.00pm followed by talk on WOOL SHrED by Fliss Lewis

bghsociety@hotmail.com

Ruth Johnson

THE ARTS SOCIETY BETCHWORTH
Betchworth Memorial Hall
Monday 19th January at 2.30pm
Talk: The Healing Power of Plants



Mankind has exploited the medicinal properties of plants for thousands of years, yet the role of plants in modern medicine is still considered to be peripheral by many people. This talk attempts to put the record straight and to show that plant products are used every day by all of us to relieve pain and suffering, to heal wounds and cure diseases. This is a talk with a very wide appeal and relevance. Our lecturer is Timothy Walker who was previously Director of the Oxford Botanic Gardens.

If you are not a member (we are recruiting new members now) do come as a visitor to the hall. Just pay £10 at the door. You will be warmly welcomed.

info@asbetchworth.co.uk - www.theartssocietybetchworth.org.uk
Carole Evans

SINGING FOR PLEASURE



If you enjoy singing a variety of music, old and new, and you are looking for something to lift your spirits, come and join us in The Reading Room. No knowledge of complicated musical jargon needed! Our friendly, relaxed group of ladies and gentlemen meet from 10am to 12, on the first and third Monday of the month with Gina Eason, our pianist.

MeikebuckL25@gmail.com Meike Laurensen

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Crossword (p.52) Solution



Wordsearch (p.54) Solution



Sudoku (p.54) Solution

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

BUCKLAND PARISH MAGAZINE

January 2026 Issue No. 1195

COPY DATE: Mon 19 Jan 2026



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.

Contact details This magazine is published by St. Mary's Church. Contact names, phone numbers and emails are provided as a service to readers, and these appear in the printed and web versions of the magazine with the permission of the individuals. Please advise the editor of any updates or corrections to the contact details.

AVAILABLE FROM: 28 Jan 2026



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 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 (practice Friday evenings)	David Sayce	242776
Betchworth & Buckland Children's Nursery	Laura Snelling	843610
Betchworth & Buckland Toddler Group	Debbie Jones	07701 347351
Betchworth & Buckland Society (Secretary)	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/Chemist	n/a	843259/842175
Buckland & Betchworth Choral Soc. (Sec.)	Caroline Bartlett	07967 969425
Buckland Parochial Charity (Clerk)	Debbie Jones	07701 347351
Buckland Parish Council (Clerk)	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.org.uk

Village: www.bucklesurrey.org.uk

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www.stmarythevirginbuckland.org.uk