

BUCKLAND PARISH MAGAZINE



March 2026

SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN, BUCKLAND

www.stmarythevirginbuckland.net

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BUCKLAND PARISH MAGAZINE

March 2026

Hello all

March is upon us, wildflowers are emerging in hedgerows and verges, birds are singing with renewed energy and the whole of nature holds an air of anticipation and into it all falls Mothering Sunday, a day that can stir mixed feelings. For some it is full of flowers, cards, and family lunches. For others it is tender, complicated, or quietly painful. And for many, it simply passes with a sense that whatever it is meant to celebrate doesn't quite match their own story. So, this year, rather than focusing on an idealised picture of motherhood, it may help to widen the lens.



Mothering, at its heart, is not only about biology. It is about noticing, nurturing, holding space, and helping something, or someone, grow. And once you start looking, you see it everywhere. You see it in a neighbour who checks the curtains each morning and knocks if they're still drawn. In the person who instinctively puts the kettle on when someone looks a bit lost. In the quiet determination of carers who show up day after day, often unrecognised or seen. In teachers, godparents, grandparents, foster carers, aunties, uncles, friends, and those who step in when life takes an unexpected turn.

You also see mothering in the life of the church. It happens when the building is unlocked faithfully, week after week. When flowers are arranged, the churchyard tended, the heating set to come on in good time. When someone remembers a birthday, notices an absence, or sits alongside another person without trying to fix them. These acts rarely come with cards or public thanks, but they are no less real and important for all that.

Mothering Sunday began not as a celebration of individual mothers, but as a day of returning, returning to one's "mother church", the place that had shaped and grown your faith. That sense of return still matters. It reminds us that we all need places and people who help us find our way back to ourselves, especially when life feels tough or fragile. This Sunday, perhaps we can hold a broader, gentler gratitude: for those who have mothered us in ways large and small; for the moments when we ourselves have been able to do that for others, however imperfectly; and for the compassion needed where there is loss, longing, or silence. So this year, if Mothering Sunday feels joyful for you, receive that joy. If it feels complicated, you are not alone. And if it passes quietly, know that the work of nurturing life—in all its forms—continues, often unnoticed, but deeply precious, in our community every day.

With love, Pru

P.S. A quick update on the Good Friday 5pm service. After further discussion it has been decided that preparation time to move a service such as this would be rather tight to manage this year, however we are already planning for next year and are looking to move the service to earlier in the day instead.

Rev Pru Dulley, revprudulley@gmail.com, 07837 029469

MARCH EVENTS

Every Thursday, March 5, 12, 19, 29 & April 2: Lent Lunches

- 2 Mar 7.15pm.** Talk: Trig Points in Surrey. DLHG, p.30
- 5 Mar, 7.15pm.** Talk: Amphibians of Surrey, 4B's Group/SARG, p.14
- 8 March, 10am –4pm.** Home Energy Exhibition, Pippbrook Dorking. P.10
- 16 Mar, 2.30pm.** Talk: Monopoly in Photography, Arts Society, p.26
- 16 Mar, 7.30pm.** Talk: Women's Land Army. BGHS, p.32
- 17 Mar 7.30pm.** ZOOM Talk: Dorking & Petworth Emigration Schemes. DLHG, p.30
- 20 Mar, 7.30pm.** Wine Tasting Evening, Buckland Reading Rm. B&B Soc, p.29
- 23 Mar, TBC.** Annual Parish Meeting & Gatwick Expansion Talk, BPC, p.9
- 25 Mar, 2pm-4pm.** Open Afternoon Teas, Hamilton Rm Betchworth, p.6
- 30 Mar, 7.15pm.** Talk: Romany Lifestyle in Surrey. P.30, DLHG

APRIL EVENTS

- 11 Apr. 7.30pm.** Concert: Leith Hill Festival, Dorking Halls, p.28

CHURCH SERVICES—MARCH

Date	St Mary's Buckland	St Michael's Betchworth
1 March Lent 2		10 am Parish Communion <i>John 3: 1-17</i>
8 March Lent 3	10 am Iona Service <i>John 4: 5-42</i>	5 pm Choral Evensong
15 March Lent 4		10 am Mothering Sunday Service <i>John 19: 25b-27</i>
22 March Lent 5	10 am Parish Communion <i>John 11: 1-45</i>	
30 March Lent 6		10 am Palm Sunday <i>Matthew Passion Reading</i>

Every Thursday morning at 10am we hold a 30 minute, 'said' mid-week Communion Service at St Michael's Church, Betchworth. It is open to anyone in either parish or visiting from elsewhere.

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Thank you to all who have paid their annual subscription to the magazine, as requested in the February magazine.

If you have not, it's not too late. Either pay the £12 to your magazine distributor or scan the QR code on the back page and pay via your smartphone. *Thank you!*

LENT LUNCHES in BUCKLAND READING ROOM
‘Open to All...’
EVERY THURSDAY THROUGH LENT, 12 noon
March 5, 12, 19, 26 and April 2

Our Lent lunches, consisting of soup and village shop bread began on Thursday 19th February at 12 noon, again in the Buckland Reading Room. Lent lunches will continue every WEEK through lent. Do come and join us!

Carol Leeds

AFTERNOON TEAS at THE HAMILTON ROOM, BETCHWORTH, 2026
Welcoming residents of Betchworth & Buckland



St Michael’s Drop-in teas has been running since 2011, meeting each month at the Hamilton Room, between 2pm and 4pm on the last Wednesday of each month. Come for a cup of tea or coffee, cake and biscuits, and a chat with friends. For transport or information : contact Margaret Miller on 01737 842098

2026 Dates

25th March, 29th April, 27th May, 24th June, 29th July, 26th August, 30th September, 28th October and on 25th November - our 15th Anniversary Christmas Party.

Margaret Miller (phone:01737 842098)



As no-one stepped forward to fulfil the following roles in 2025,
we are 're-advertising' them. None are too strenuous.

You do not need to attend the church to help out !
However, the upkeep and existence of the church relies entirely on
volunteers ... please think if you could spare some time...

VACANCIES FOR VOLUNTEERS

Please enquire to email addresses below for further details

Treasurer—BUCKLAND ST MARY's

Please contact Simon Thomas, Treasurer.bucklandstmarys@outlook.com

Village Events Organiser—FRIENDS OF ST MARY's (FOSM) -

Please contact Chairman, Roger Daniell, rogerdaniell@icloud.com or Simon Thomas, sgthomas@btinternet.com

Secretary—BUCKLAND ST MARY's PCC

Please contact Rosey Davy, roseydavy@gmail.com

COVER PICTURE

**The old sand processing plant at Buckland Park Lake
on a misty winter morning**

From the 1960's to 2014, this building housed heavy machinery to wash sand through a weak acid solution to remove impurities, in the picture opposite. This washed Buckland sand was used to produce roughly 10% of the national silica for making clear glass containers. The building was saved as part of the industrial heritage of Buckland.



BUCKLAND & BETCHWORTH BELLRINGERS REPORT

Tribute to Brian Boustred, Bellringer at St Mary's Buckland

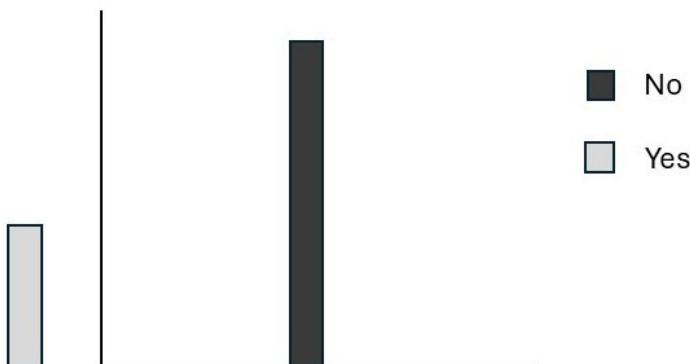
In October last year, the bellringers lost a long standing ringer in Brian Boustred. Brian was brought up in the Banstead area and teamed up with his wife Vivienne at the Sutton Motor Club. He was introduced to ringing by Viv in their early twenties at Kingswood church where they formed an enduring band with similarly aged ringers; Bernard Hawkins was also part of the group.



Although they lived in Leigh, Brian and Viv were stalwarts of ringing at Buckland for over 20 years and rang regularly for services, weddings and other occasions; often the only time when they were not available was during their annual 3 weeks holiday in Greece in the Autumn. Brian enjoyed ringing the tenor bell and had his own style of ringing and quite definite views about the speed at which ringing should be done. He was unfailingly kind and helpful which he shared along with his sense of humour. While he and Viv retired from ringing consequent of their age just after covid, Brian's presence has been sadly missed in the tower. He was 89.

David Sayce, Churchwarden

DO YOU EVER FEEL YOU'RE BEING EXCLUDED?



Buckland Matters

BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE



2026 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING With a talk on Gatwick's Expansion Plans Monday 23 March 2026, 7.30pm

Please keep the evening of Monday 23 March 2026 free to attend the 2026 Annual Parish Meeting. This meeting provides an opportunity to update residents on village matters and the issues the Parish Council has dealt with over the past year, as well as to highlight key challenges and priorities anticipated in the year ahead.

Key topics will include the commencement of the reorganisation of local government, involving the merger of district councils across Surrey to form two new unitary authorities, and the potential impact of Gatwick's expansion plans.

Peter Barclay, the Chairman of the Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign (GACC), which represents local communities and parish councils, has kindly offered to provide an overview of the current situation and to highlight the key issues and concerns. Anticipated impacts include an estimated 70% increase in passenger numbers, a substantial rise in the number of flights (in excess of 100,000 additional flights), and associated knock-on effects such as traffic congestion. GACC is actively pursuing a judicial review, based on the Government's decision to proceed, despite issues raised by the Planning Inspectorate. The outcome of the initial hearing is expected to be known shortly. I look forward seeing many of you on the 23rd of March.

Nigel Husband, Chairman Buckland Parish Council



FREE Home Energy Showcase

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circulardorking.org.uk



Event organised by Circular Dorking C.I.C. Part of Home Energy Advice Team (HEAT) in partnership with Zero Carbon Guildford, Surrey Climate Commission and Energy Action Redhill & Reigate

**An update on Buckland
from
County Councillor Helyn Clack
Dorking Rural, Surrey County Council**

At last a very wet and cold spell may be behind us and a welcome to the hope of spring for all residents in Dorking Rural Villages.

Gatwick – Second Runway: GACC High Court Judicial Review

Regardless of the outcome and findings from the Judge, our thanks is extended to GACC and its members for their diligent efforts in addressing the proposed changes. The potential impact of a second runway or an increase in passenger numbers on the local environment, including noise, traffic, and pollution, underscores the importance of continued advocacy. The County Council has maintained regular meetings with councillors representing affected areas in Surrey to ensure they remain informed as plans progress. These communications will continue following the election in May. I hope to maintain my role as Vice Chair of GATCOM over the next year to represent residents within my division and across Surrey.

Gatwick Airport Flight Route for Departures on Route 4

Local residents are encouraged to participate in the public consultation regarding the Route 4 proposal to reintroduce satellite navigation, particularly those most affected. This 14-week consultation period covers proposals for satellite-based navigational procedures on Route 4—one of nine departure routes from London Gatwick—and includes drop-in events, online webinars, and access to detailed maps. These initiatives form part of a UK government programme aimed at modernising national airspace. Further details on how to provide feedback can be on Gatwick's website - [Communities and stakeholders invited to have their say on London Gatwick's Route 4 Airspace Change Proposal](#)

Surrey County Council Highways

It is essential that residents continue to identify and report potholes, particularly during this wettest and coldest season of the year. Without public assistance, costs would be significantly higher; reporting potholes remains a cost-effective and widely used practice by most highway authorities. The majority of reported potholes are repaired within days, with priority given to those posing the greatest risk of damage or harm. Including a photo with your report is highly beneficial. Please note that sometimes only the main pothole is addressed, while surround-

ing shallow or edge potholes may not be repaired immediately. Additionally, some repairs may not be permanent; however, the council monitors deteriorating road conditions and will schedule more comprehensive repairs later in the spring, incorporating them into future resurfacing programmes.

In Buckland, my focus continues to be to improve communications between Surrey Highways, Utility companies and the village, In the meantime, please continue to report damaged roads at www.surreycc.gov.uk.

Despite considerable rainfall this season, work by local landowners and residents has helped to keep their drainage systems flowing. Should you have concerns about potential flooding, please take appropriate precautionary measures. Mole Valley District Council provides sandbags, and guidance on property protection is available online. If you notice a blocked roadside gully or drain, please report it using the same website listed above.

Local Government Reform

The Government's statutory instrument for unitary authority in Surrey was laid in Parliament in January 2026 and is tabled to be debated by the end of February when it is expected to come into force. Dorking and the villages NAC, whose members include the police, health workers and voluntary bodies as well as parish and local councillors have been working hard to identify priorities such as vulnerable people and isolated areas. Working together, to ensure that people who need support are able to access services to help them.

Budget

Surrey County Council is deciding on a proposed budget increase of 4.99%. Of this, 2% is allocated for Adult Social Services, while the remaining 2.99% covers areas such as highways, libraries, waste collection, strategic planning, children's social services, transport (including buses), and additional support for rural bus services through demand-led transport. Education, including special needs, receives funding from the Government Department of Education (DfE), but the council pays for Home to School transport and uses reserves to meet the growing demand for Special Educational Needs (SEN). The government has announced that starting April 2026, it will cover all costs related to SEN; however, at present, it is unclear whether they will reimburse the council for money already spent from its general fund to ensure ongoing assessment for children with SEN. If you have any concerns or issues you think I might be able to help with, please feel free to contact me at helyn.clack@surreycc.gov.uk.

MARCH NATURE NOTES

What happens to wildlife when the River Mole Floods?

We had a lot of rain in late January and once again the River Mole topped its banks, flowing fast and filling side channels, low meadows, woodlands and river-side paths. Flooding can look dramatic — even worrying — and I hope that you were not affected by it. But what happens to the wildlife? When water rises quickly, most animals do not simply get swept away. They respond in three main ways –



they move, hide or wait.

The River Mole in flood in January 2026

Mammals such as foxes, deer, rabbits, hedgehogs and squirrels usually MOVE up slope into woodland edges, hedgerows, field margins and gardens. Insects, spiders and beetles — HIDE in grasses, reeds and shrubs above the flood line, or take refuge in leaf litter and roots. Some animals WAIT in sheltered places: thick bramble, log piles, ivy, tree roots and bankside scrub can all become vital refuges during a flood.

Most birds simply fly away to find drier feeding areas, returning quickly as water levels drop. But flooding reshapes opportunities. Amphibians such as frogs, toads and newts, can be washed away, but once the flood eases, it often leaves behind temporary shallow pools, which can become excellent nursery habitat later in the season.

Floods as renewal: the river's way of “resetting” the landscape

Although we often experience flooding as inconvenience or threat, ecologically it can act like a pulse of renewal. Floods spread silt and nutrients, reshape channels, shift gravel, and recharge wet places that support biodiversity.

Flooding reminds us that the River Mole is not just a scenic feature — it is a dynamic, living system, constantly shaping the land and the life around it. In the long run, wildlife depends not on the absence of floods, but on having space, shelter, and connected habitats to respond when the river rises.

In March and April we will undertake a Survey of Frogs/ tadpoles, Toads and newts. We launch this fieldwork on 5th March, with the talk detailed alongside.



Amphibians of Surrey: their habits and habitats, and how we can help them flourish

A talk by Rick Anstis: *Surrey Amphibian & Reptile Group*
At Betchworth Village Hall, on **Thursday March 5th**
7.30-8.30pm with tea & coffee from 7.15pm
To reserve a place text norman 07810462403 or
email biodiversityinitiative1@gmail.com

Norman Jackson, 4Bs WhatsApp Nature Group, 07810 462403



IONA—Progress report

The series of articles on IONA began back in August 2025, and we have had the following parts:

- 1 The Origin and development of Buckland's Iona-style Service (Sept 25)
- 2 St Columba and the original Iona Abbey -6th century (Oct 25)
- 3 Iona Abbey from 1100 to 1900 & the Benedictines (Dec 25)
- 4 The Modern Abbey - 1930's & founding the Iona Community (Jan 26)
- 5 Iona Poetry (Feb 26)

There will be a short rest, and the 'final episode' will be

- 6 Visiting Iona today (July 26)

Prior to July, we have planned a holiday to the Western Isles, and are lucky enough to be staying on the Isle of Iona for two nights—this being our first visit. So the final 'instalment' of this series will be in July, reporting our findings!

Ed.

Features

GARDENING NOTES FOR MARCH

Pot gardening: experiment and enjoy the results!

After all the rain we have experienced since the New Year, spring is now definitely in the air. If you're ready to try something a little different, **there's a whole world of plants that thrive in containers** and bring fresh personality to your outdoor space. With a few pots, a splash of curiosity and creativity, you can create a patio that's vibrant, unique, and full of charm.

Grow Your Own Snacks: Strawberries thrive in tall pots and hanging baskets where their runners can cascade over the sides. They love sunshine and regular watering—perfect for a sunny patio. There are plenty of compact vegetable plants such as lettuce and courgettes which are suitable for containers and are also surprisingly decorative. Add a pot of rainbow chard or purple basil for colour and culinary flair.

Wildflowers in pots: You might be forgiven for thinking that wildflowers need a big field, but they can thrive just as well in containers. A shallow trough filled with a UK-native wildflower mix, such as cornflowers, poppies, and oxeye daisies, will help attract pollinators and give your patio a relaxed, natural look.

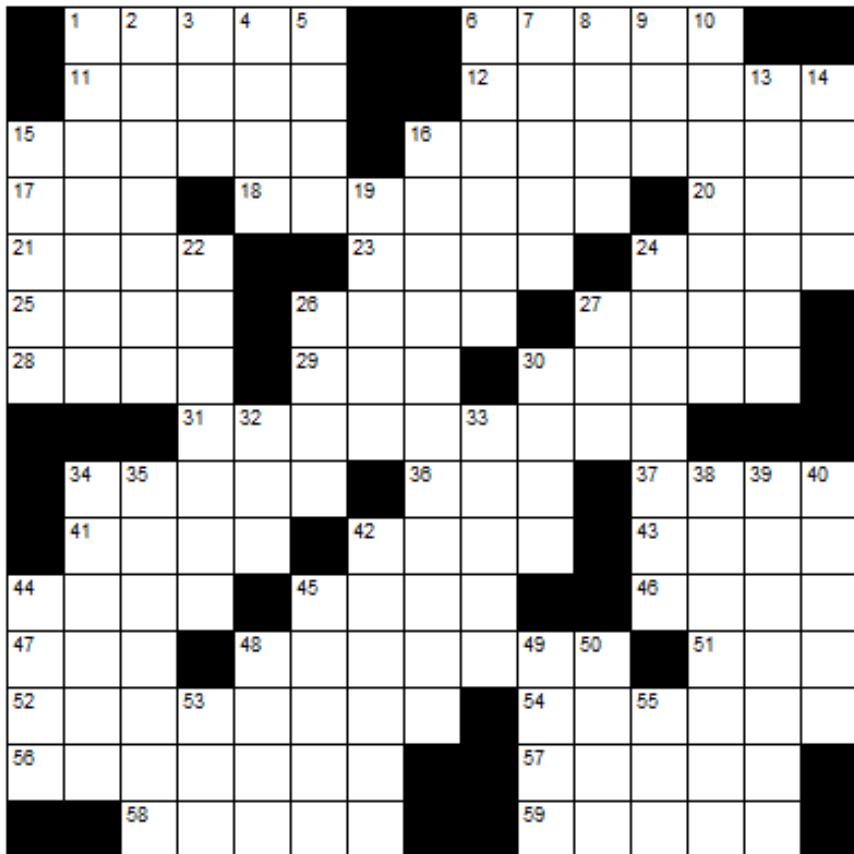
Hardy Succulents such as sedums, echeveria, and sempervivum (houseleeks) do well in UK summers, especially in sunny, hot, sheltered patios. Plant in shallow bowls filled with gritty compost and water them sparingly. Many require frost protection over winter as well as protection from excessive rain—such as that experienced during January and February. They add a sculptural, exotic touch and are incredibly low-maintenance, so are ideal for drought conditions. Similarly, alpines such as saxifrages, armeria (thrift), and lewisia are perfect for shallow containers, as they love the sun and well-drained soil.

Japanese Maples (*Acer palmatum*) are a stunning choice for a statement pot. Dwarf or slow growing varieties, such as 'Shaina' or 'Katsura', are a great choice with their delicate leaves and vibrant colours which bring a touch of elegance to your patio. To avoid leaves with crinkly edges, protect from early frosts in spring and extreme sun in summer. Look out for their bright colours in the autumn before leaf-fall!

David Hogg, Buckland Nurseries

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Solution p.33



ACROSS

1. Boundary
6. Reveals
11. Battery terminal
12. Futile
15. Reply
16. Nasal spray, for example
17. Decay
18. Metal refinery
20. Sticky stuff
21. Distinctive flair

- 23. Secluded valley
- 24. Belch
- 25. One less than 10
- 26. Dry
- 27. Puncture
- 28. Against
- 29. Animal companion
- 30. Invoices to pay
- 31. Flashy
- 34. Earth tone
- 36. Small piece of

cloth
37. A cooperative unit
41. Jury member
42. Chats
43. Decorative case
44. Darling
45. Carry
46. Tatters
47. N N N
48. Kneecap
51. Destroy the

- interior of
- 52. Snobs
- 54. Blood vessel
- 56. Nerve junction
- 57. Tally
- 58. Color of most grasses
- 59. Rip up

DOWN	aquatic bird	32. Arrange (abbrev.)	50. Curve
1. Ointment ingredient	13. Breathes noisily while sleeping	33. Record company	53. Driveway surface
2. Blink of an eye	14. Cease	34. Candidly	55. Craggy peak
3. Cut grass	15. Sporting venue	35. Discontinuing	
4. Mid-month days	16. Nonreaders	36. Knickknack	
5. Duration	19. Wading bird	37. holder	
6. Tapped without swinging	22. Not one or the other	38. Foretold	
7. Pale	24. Fortify	39. Foggy	
8. Towards the back	26. Abbey area	40. Received	
9. Addition	27. Not hers	42. D D D	
10. Mostly white	30. Pleads	45. Thigh armor	
		48. Tube	
		49. Young woman	

ANGELS—Some helpful definitions

All angels are girls because they gotta wear dresses and boys didn't go for it.
Antonio, age 9

Angels talk all the way while they're flying you up to heaven. The main subject is where you went wrong before you got dead. *Daniel, age 9*

When an angel gets mad, he takes a deep breath and counts to ten. And when he lets out his breath again, somewhere there's a tornado. *Reagan, age 10*

Angels have a lot to do and they keep very busy. If you lose a tooth, an angel comes in through your window and leaves money under your pillow. Then when it gets cold, angels go south for the winter. *Sara, age 6*

Angels live in cloud houses made by God and His Son, who's a very good carpenter. *Jared, age 8*

Angels work for God and watch over kids when God has to go do something else. *Mitchell, age 7*

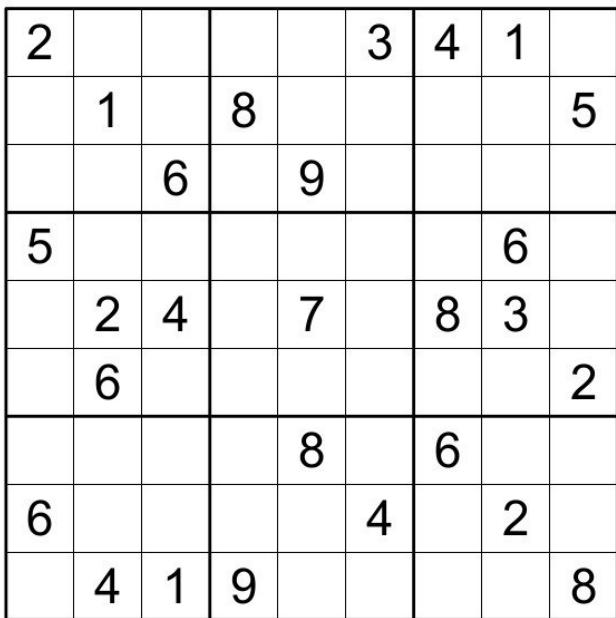
My guardian angel helps me with maths, but he's not much good for science. *Henry, age 8*

What I don't get about angels is why, when someone is in love, they shoot arrows at them. *Sarah, age 7*

SUDOKU

Grade: Medium.

Solution on p.33



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WORDSEARCH— Maundy Thursday—'washing of the feet'

Maundy	Loved
Thursday	you
Final	Must
Command	One
Jesus	Another
Disciples	Service
Death	Domination
Last	Latin
Supper	Ceremony
Washed	Medieval
Feet	Humility
Astonishing	Obedience
Purpose	
Teacher	
As	

Solution on p.33



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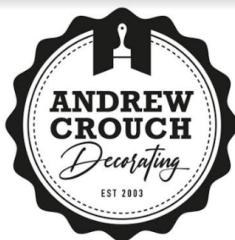
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A MINDSET OF ABUNDANCE

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

In a homily on the miracle of the loaves and fishes, Father Richard Rohr encourages us to pray for a worldview of abundance instead of scarcity. In *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, Steven Covey observed that one of the most universal patterns of highly effective people was that they had a worldview of abundance, while much of the world has a worldview of scarcity.

We tend to get these worldviews very young, and they underlie almost everything. I, myself, tend to have a worldview of scarcity, growing up as I did as a child of parents who were born in the Depression and the Kansas dust storms. A worldview of scarcity tells us to protect what we have, because there's never enough to go around. It's a competitive, win/lose worldview. It moves us toward anxiety, toward consumerism, and toward possessiveness, because we don't want to lose what "little" we have—even if what we have is really more than enough.

But there's another worldview, the worldview of abundance. Sooner or later, we have to choose it, because it doesn't come naturally. I'm convinced that it's the worldview of the gospel. It's a big world out there. There are a lot of options and opportunities. There's always another creative way to look at things. Let's be honest. Do we remember to look at life that way? Most people are afraid that they don't have enough. Of course, if we're dependent upon a finite source—one limited amount of money, one limited intellect, one limited life—it's easy to look at life in terms of scarcity, convincing ourselves that there isn't enough. There isn't enough of goodness. There isn't even enough of God.

The worldview of abundance depends upon us recognizing that we are in touch with an Infinite Source. If we've never made contact with our Infinite Source, we will be stingy, even selfish. We will guard and hoard the portion we have. This affects much of our politics and policies in this country. We're always afraid that someone else is taking what we have earned, as if we had earned it entirely by ourselves. Most of it has been given to us, yes, by our work, but also by grace and freedom, and the choices of many other people, almost despite ourselves. Jesus represents the worldview of abundance in every one of his multiplication miracles and stories. There's always the making of much out of little and there are always baskets left over. That's the only possible message: There's plenty! If we learn to be creative, if we learn to be imaginative, if we learn to be a little less selfish, there's always another way to look at it and another way to make sure all are fed.

Maybe a worldview of abundance is something we'll only fully experience when we learn to draw upon an Infinite Source. If the Source is Infinite, we are infinite. If our source is finite, of course we are finite too.

MUSIC IN DORKING—FEBRUARY



- 1st at 3.00, Carducci string quartet at Dorking Halls,
- 1st at 3.00, Vaughan Williams Singers, Mickleham
- 6th at 7.15, ballet screening at Dorking Halls
- 7th at 12.00, lunchtime recital at St Martin's
- 7th at 2.30, ballet screening at Dorking Halls
- 8th at 7.00, LHMF Haydn Creation at Dorking Halls
- 14th at 7.30, Dorking Philharmonia at St Paul's church
- 15th at 3.00, Carducci string quartet at Dorking Halls
- 15th at 2.30, LP Big Band concert at Dorking Halls
- 31st at 5.15, opera screening at Dorking Halls

There is a great variety of music to enjoy in March! The Dorking Concertgoers present two concerts by the excellent Carducci string quartet. Their first concert includes Mozart's Dissonance quartet, nicknamed for its unusually adventurous opening bars. The second concert features one of Beethoven's Rasumovsky quartets, a piece by Philip Glass based on music he wrote for a film, and a quartet by Mendelssohn.

The Leith Hill Music Festival has for its spring concert this year a performance of Haydn's great oratorio *The Creation*. This popular choral work, full of dramatic choruses and beautiful arias, will be sung by a large choir, drawn from the various individual choirs that belong to the Festival, accompanied by a period-instrument orchestra, with three excellent vocal soloists, the whole performance conducted by the festival conductor Neil Ferris. The two days of festival competitions and concerts will follow in April.

The Dorking Philharmonia's concert begins with Mozart's Paris symphony and then continues with French music – by Fauré, Debussy (an orchestral version of his beautiful piano piece *Clair de lune*).

The Vaughan Williams Singers, a local chamber choir directed by Ian Assersohn, present an afternoon cream tea concert in Mickleham. The music will include some choral favourites, like Stanford's *The Blue Bird*, and some new songs, including pieces by Eric Whitacre and Ian Assersohn himself.

The era of the Big Bands will be celebrated in a concert by the LP Swing Orchestra, playing the music of Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Glenn Miller, and many others.

Ian Codd

ST. JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL

How to run a Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting

(not to be taken as advice for Revd. Pru !)

The Rectory, St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

Clearly, the sight of your vicar running out of the room halfway through your last church council meeting, saying he should have stayed as a traffic warden, where he was universally liked, has unnerved you. Here is some advice for the day when chair your next PCC meeting.



- Consider every agenda issue carefully beforehand and decide what you would like to do. Then, at the meeting, consult widely, listen to every opinion, weigh all the arguments. Then do precisely what you had decided before the meeting ever took place.
- Never, ever, let council members discuss hymns, which avoids getting blood on the carpets.
- Arrange the seating in rows, all facing the front, so that everyone must respond directly to you. The last thing you want is for council members to be able to discuss matters freely with one another.
- Start smoking a pipe. At those times when you are faced with an issue when you really are unsure of how to respond, taking out your pipe, dismantling it, searching for a pipe cleaner, squinting down the stem to see if it is clean, mopping out the goo in the bowl, searching for your tobacco pouch, filling the pipe, tamping it down. Ask if you can borrow matches and attempt to light it several times over, will give you more than sufficient time to formulate a reply. Once you have perfected the routine, the silence will have been so protracted, that most of the committee will have long forgotten what the question was anyway.
- If someone is talking too long, consult your diary, noisily and obsessively, about next month's appointments, or write a note to a committee member who is at the back of the room and get it passed to him. The speaker should soon get the message.

These are the simpler techniques of committee management. The advanced procedures must wait until you are strong enough to bear them.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

Small Surrey Churches - Part Thirteen

Providence Chapel, Charlwood



The Original Building

In the French Revolution of the late-1790's France was at war with Britain. We conscripted soldiers who marched south into Sussex to protect the south coast. At Horsham there was a large barracks, housing 2,400 infantry at it's peak.¹

Following British success at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815, each building comprising the Horsham barracks was auctioned for sale. At the time, Joseph Flint, a relatively poor farmer and shopkeeper in Charlwood, was disillusioned with the local landed Gentry who attended the Charlwood church. Despite being a committed Christian, he wanted a church where the rich and poor mixed and worshipped as equals. Flint decided to set up his own church, by purchasing the

'Guard Room' building from Horsham Barracks. He dismantled the building and brought it back to Charlwood, where it was re-erected alongside his farm house. On 15 November 1816, it was opened as a 'House of God', named Charlwood Union Chapel, and later Providence Chapel. It became a sanctuary of non-conformist Christian worship. At its peak in the mid-1800s the Chapel had a congregation of around 150, rivalling that of Charlwood Parish Church.

The Revd. Edward Irving (1792-1834) was one such non-conformist preacher who visited Charlwood, emphasising the desire for a personal relationship with God, unobstructed by the forms and traditions of the religious establishment. He transformed a small chapel in the London suburbs into a congregation of hundreds and was described as the 'greatest orator of his age'. The present building has retained some of the 'box pews' and has an image of Edward Irving, preaching.¹



Box Pews and image of Revd. Edward Irving



Original simple wooden shutters

Architecture

Providence Chapel's architecture is unusual, especially in the context of the Surrey countryside. Ian Nairn and Nikolaus Pevsner called it 'a startling building to find in Surrey, or even in England', and claimed that 'it would not be out of place in the remotest part of East Kentucky'. Baptist historian Ralph Chambers likened it to 'a pioneer's shack from some faraway backwood of Canada', while Historic England state that it appears 'more typical of New England than Surrey'. Its importance is enhanced by its status as a 'rare survival' from the Napoleonic era England, and is perhaps the most unusual of the many 19th-century non-conformist chapels across Surrey.²

The single-storey building is timber-framed with a weatherboarded exterior resting on a brick plinth. The hipped roof has a brick chimney-stack, is tiled with slate and extends over the front of the building as a seven-bay veranda with wooden pillars. The main entrance door is centrally placed and has six panels; there is a four-panelled subsidiary door on the southwest side, and casement windows with original external shutters flank both doors. An important feature are the windows which retain the original glass from 1815 (and perhaps from 1797), as they have been protected by wooden shutters. A path of Charlwood stone leads to the entrance.²

The Chapel was listed at Grade II* by English Heritage in 1983.

Restoration for a new Purpose

The congregation gradually declined, until, in 2012 the last remaining member, Jane Eade, became disabled. The Chapel Trustees, successors of those appointed in 1816 by Joseph Flint, put the Chapel up for sale. A new Trust was formed, the 'Providence Chapel Charlwood Trust', and in March 2013 they purchased the Chapel for £1. A legal obligation was accepted to allow occasional services and burials and to preserve both the building and the graveyard.

The new Trust won a substantial grant from the National Lottery Fund to modernise the interior for use as a community centre, which can now be hired out to host local events and private parties, and used by the adjacent primary school. The building continues to be maintained by Trustees with income from hiring the hall.

Work undertaken during 2017 - 2018 has included repairing broken roof trusses, installing a new oak beam around the base of the Chapel, installing a small modern kitchen and a new disabled toilet. A new floor has been laid and the roof slates replaced. Some of the pews, not as historic as other parts of the Chapel, have been removed to make space for school activities. Outside, there are new storage sheds, a new fence and signboard, and CCTV with intruder and fire alarms. The Chapel was officially re-opened on 6 April 2019.²

This is a unique and remarkable building. There is none other like it in Britain. That it has survived for 220 years is almost miraculous².



Access

The Chapel is at the very end of Chapel Road, Charlwood, RH6 0DA at the outer edge of the village. It is open only on Heritage Open Days (HODS) in September; see the HODS brochure next September for details. The hall is available for community events and private hire. Inside are permanent display boards explaining the history of the building in greater detail.

References

1. *Display Boards in the Permanent Exhibition (in the Chapel)*
2. www.providencechapelcharlwood.org

Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about

Be kind. Always

Edna Ferber (American Author, 1885-1968)

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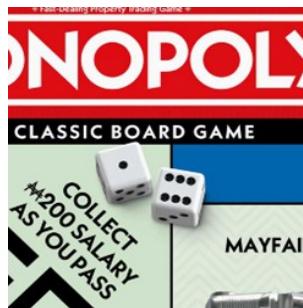
THE ARTS SOCIETY BETCHWORTH

Monday 16 March
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Carole Evans, www.theartsocietybetchworth.org.uk

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Pippbrook Bowls is a friendly and sociable Club, welcoming new joiners. We have OPEN DAYS from 2.30pm on 18 & 25 April & 3 May 2026, and free 'roll up' introductions at 6pm every Tuesday from 28 April. All are welcome, and we have an EARLYBIRD HALF PRICE SUBSCRIPTION.

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BROCKHAM BOWLS CLUB



Hopefully spring is around the corner. We are getting prepared to start another outdoor summer season in April. Let's hope for some dry weather, the green has already been flooded twice this winter.

About half of the Club playing members keep their eye in by playing bowls indoors during the winter at Donyngs or Leatherhead, the rest of us start again.

This year is our 75th anniversary, and we hope to plan some special events. We are a small club, and always welcome new members. If you would like to see if playing bowls is for you, we will be organising open days early in the season, the dates will be published in next months magazine.

Trevor Anderson



DORKING GROUP OF ARTISTS SPRING EXHIBITION Betchworth Village Hall

**Friday 1 May to Monday 4 May
10am-5pm (except Monday, to 4pm)**

The Dorking Group of Artists, probably the largest art group in Surrey and known for their artistic merit, return to Betchworth Village Hall for their ever popular Spring Exhibition. Explore the range of affordable, professional quality, original art covering a wide range of subjects and styles. Art is a perfect gift to delight someone special—or to indulge yourself. Entry is free. Why not make a day of it as there are plants, lunch, and cake to enjoy at Knights Garden Centre opposite?

For more information about our activities, exhibitions and how to join the DGA see www.dorkingartists.com, look at our Facebook page www.facebook.com/dga4art or get in touch at contact@dorkingartists.com.

Angela Hall, Chair, Dorking Group of Artists

buckland betchworth

CHORAL SOCIETY

We are busy rehearsing for the Leith Hill Music Festival (LHMF), culminating in the Choirs' competition in the morning and day 2 of the Festival Choir's performances, the Baroque Splendour evening concert. Details are below.

We've also got great plans for the rest of the year. After the Leith Hill Music Festival we start rehearsals for our June concert, a relaxed afternoon of beautiful music by Finzi, Daley, Rutter, Quartel, Chilcott and Billy Joel, followed by tea, cake and fizz! Following the summer break we will be preparing for our major concert. This year we're singing Haydn's magnificent Nelson Mass, with professional soloists and orchestra.

If you fancy joining us for any of the above, do drop in. No auditions – just bring your enthusiasm and love of singing. Rehearsals are weekly, in Betchworth Village Hall, 7.45pm-9.45pm. We're a supportive and sociable group, led by our brilliant Musical Director, George Inscoe and accompanied by the marvellous Anna Tetsuya.

You can get in touch with our Membership Secretary at: membership@bbcsinfo
Find out more about us at www.bbcsinfo.org

Sue Chamberlain



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The Betchworth & Buckland Society

2026 Events



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Friday 20 March 7.30pm

Buckland Reading Room

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Sampling seven wines with cheese, biscuits, and nibbles

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Book a table or individual places on a shared table



For the diary:

21 May 7.00pm (tbc). AGM & Social Evening. Red Lion

Sunday 28 June, lunch-time. Annual BBQ. Buckland Green

Email for booking & membership enquiries (£10 pa)

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PEBBLECOOMBE WI BETCHWORTH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



We meet in The Hamilton Room, Church Street, Betchworth on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7.45pm. We are a small friendly group, meeting and discussing the topical resolutions put forward by the National Federation of WIs. We have interesting Speakers supporting each other when difficulties arise, and contributing to Village activities.

Visitors are welcome to all meetings.

2026 Dates are:

5th March, 2nd April, 7th May, 4th June, 2nd July
6th August, 3rd September, 1st October, 5th November and 3rd December.

If you are interested in joining us please contact: *Margaret Miller, 01737 842098*



DORKING LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Monday 2 March, 7.15pm for 7.30

Crossways Community Baptist Church, Dorking RH4 3HB

Talk : Trig Point Charlie!

Live talk by Alistair Clark, about Trig Points on the Surrey Hills.

Tuesday 17 March, 7.30pm

ZOOM Talk: Dorking & Petworth Emigration schemes of 1832

Zoom talk by Dr Judy Hill. After riots in town, about 100 people were sent to Canada. www.meet-up.com/Surrey-History-Meetup/

Monday 30 March, 7.15pm for 7.30

Crossways Community Baptist Church, Dorking RH4 3HB

Talk : History of the Romany lifestyle in Surrey

David Rose and Geoff Burch talk about Romany camps, the work they did on farms and market gardens, hop picking and their ways and traditions. The talk will include vintage pictures

Talks are free to members, but non-members are welcome.

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

BROCKHAM GREEN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Brockham * Betchworth * Buckland

The Women's Land Army – Cinderella's of the Fields

16 March 2026, 7:30pm – 9pm, Brockham Village Hall



Often referred to as the Cinderella's of the Fields, our guest speaker Ian Everest, will explain how he first became interested in the Women's Land Army and how it led to many years of research and collecting 100's of photos of the girls working on the farms.

The talk will look at its history – how it started, its role during two world wars and its recognition in more

recent times. A wide range of photos will show the women at work and look at the huge contribution they made in feeding the country at times of war.

Ian Everest was brought up on a farm on the South Downs and after attending Agricultural College in the late 1960's, he worked in the agricultural sector with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, before being employed in commercial activity with an animal feed supplement business. He has developed a number of talks relating to Farming History, Sussex Local History, Military and Social History. Refreshments will be served, and everyone is welcome, so please bring friends. The entrance fee is members £3 and non-members £5.

Dates For your diary.

20 April 2026 7:00pm, AGM (30 minutes) followed by talk on ,WOOL SHrED by Fliss Lewis – , Brockham Village Hall

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

Ruth Johnson

DORKING MUSEUM IN FEBRUARY

Walking in Dorking: Blue Plaques and Statues (famous people in Dorking): Sunday 1st March, 2pm. Betchworth Castle (with access to the Castle enclosure): Sunday 29th March, 2pm. See dorkingmuseum.org.uk/guided-walks-around-dorking/ for booking scheduled walks and private groups.

South Street Caves tours: Tickets on sale from 1st March, first Open Day, Easter Saturday 4th April. Details, bookings for open days or private groups, see dorkingmuseum.org.uk/south-street-caves/.

Hidden in Stone: Dorking's Dinosaur Discovery: The exhibition celebrates Dorking's contribution to the developing understanding of the wild life that roamed the area 125 million years ago. A discovery by fossil enthusiast Bill Walker in a local quarry in 1983 provided evidence of a previously unknown dinosaur species, given the scientific name *Baryonyx walkeri* in his honour. Displays include lifelike replica models on loan from the University of Southampton. Takeaway model templates of Dorking's famous dinosaur also available.

Museum Saturday Family Activities at Dorking Library: World Book Day: See some old school books that your grandparents might have used and make a bookmark: Saturday 14th March, 10am-noon. Create a Blue Plaque for yourself: How would you like to be remembered in the future? Saturday 21st March, 10am-2pm. 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

The secret of bringing Peace on Earth is...

Not demanding that others live as you believe they should,
but living unassumingly by your own beliefs.

Swami Kriyananda (1926-2013)

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Crossword (p.16) Solution



Wordsearch (p.18) Solution



Sudoku (p.18) Solution

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

BUCKLAND PARISH MAGAZINE

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

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

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: 27 Mar 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

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 - Bookings	Jane Stewart	07733 116992
- 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

Wbsites: Church: www.stmarythevirginbuckland.org.uk

Village: www.bucklandssurrey.org.uk

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