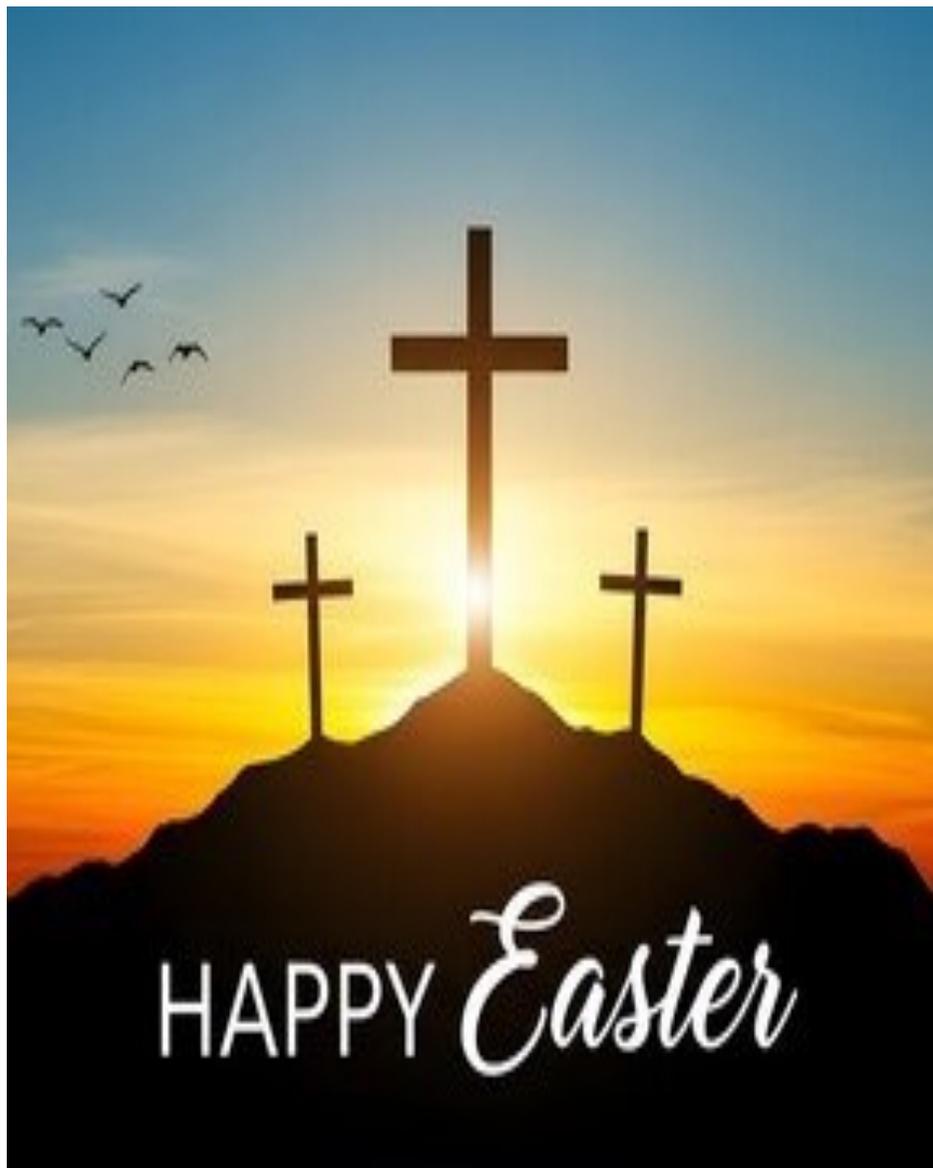


# BUCKLAND PARISH MAGAZINE



*April 2026*

# SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN, BUCKLAND

[www.stmarythevirginbuckland.net](http://www.stmarythevirginbuckland.net)

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# BUCKLAND PARISH MAGAZINE

April 2026

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One of the things I love about this time of year is how quietly Easter sneaks up on us. One week the fields are waterlogged and winter-tired and the trees are bare. Then suddenly blackbirds are singing, lambs are popping up in fields and the hedgerows are starting to fill with wildflowers again. The evenings stretch a little longer and life begins again almost without us noticing. After the long cold soggy weeks of winter, it's always a welcome sight. Easter tells the same story.



At the heart of the Christian faith is the simple claim that life is stronger than death, love is stronger than fear, and that God is still at work even when things look bleak. It's a bold claim, but it's also something many of us recognise in ordinary life more often than we realise.

A few years ago Pope Francis described hope in a way that I've always liked. He said;

*'To see God, to be like God: this is our hope. The first Christians depicted hope with an anchor, as though life were an anchor cast on Heaven's shores and all of us journeying to that shore, clinging to the anchor's rope. This is a beautiful image of hope... This is the hope that does not disappoint.'*

It's a lovely image. An anchor isn't something fragile or decorative. It's solid, something that digs in, holding fast when the water gets rough. And life can get pretty rough at can't it? Behind the smiles we share as we walk the dogs, meet in the village shop or at the school gate, people carry all sorts of things - worries about health, family, work, or simply the quiet weight of trying to keep going. Easter doesn't pretend those things disappear overnight. What it does say is that they are not the whole story.

The Christian hope is that our lives are held by something deeper than whatever

happens in the moment. The rope, if you like, is already tied somewhere firm with God.

Living in the countryside we understand that sort of patience. Seeds are planted long before anything appears. Fields can look empty before suddenly bursting into green. Much of rural life quietly teaches us that growth often happens out of sight. Easter speaks that same language. The resurrection story reminds us that even when things look finished, God may be beginning new.

So wherever you find yourself this Easter, hopeful, tired, curious, or somewhere in between, may you know something of that steady anchor of hope. Wishing you all the joy and hope of Eastertide.

Pru x

Rev Pru Dulley, [revprudulley@gmail.com](mailto:revprudulley@gmail.com), 07837 029469



## APRIL EVENTS

- 2 Apr, 12 noon.** Lent Lunch. Buckland Reading Room, p.6
- 19 Apr, 10am.** Visit to Eel Pie Island Museum. DLHG, p.30
- 11 Apr, 10am.** Village Spring Clean, BPC, p.12
- 11 Apr, 7.30pm.** Concert: Leith Hill Festival, Dorking Halls, p.28
- 20 Apr, 2.30pm.** Talk: Art in Chalk Landscapes, Arts Society, p.26
- 20 Apr, 7.30pm.** ZOOM Talk: Surrey Memories 1900-1950. DLHG, p.30
- 20 Apr, 7.00pm.** AGM & Talk: 'Wool Shred', BGHS, p.31
- 21 Apr, 10.30am.** Talk: The Battle of the Somme (Mark Smith), U3A, p.25
- 29 Apr, 2pm-4pm.** Open Afternoon Teas, Hamilton Rm Betchworth, p.6

## MAY EVENTS

- 1-4 May, 10am to 4pm.** Art Exhibition, Denbies Dorking
- 2 May, 10am to 12 noon.** Plant Sale, Brockham Green, BGHS, p.31
- 11 May, 12.30pm.** Lunchtime Concert, Betchworth Church, SHIMF, p.28
- 22 May, 7pm.** Summer Social & AGM, B&B Soc, The Red Lion, p.29

## CHURCH SERVICES—APRIL

**Our series of EASTER SERVICES below are shaded:**

Date	St Mary's Buckland	St Michael's Betchworth
<b>29 March</b> <i>Palm Sunday</i>	<b>10am Palm Sunday Communion</b> <i>Matthew Passion Reading</i>	
<b>2 April</b> <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	<b>7pm The Eucharist of the Lord's Supper &amp; Watch of the Passion</b> <i>John 13:1-17, 31b-35</i>	
<b>3 April</b> <i>Good Friday</i>	<b>2pm The Liturgy of Good Friday</b> <i>John 18: 1-19</i>	<b>5pm Passiontide service, Readings &amp; Music</b>
<b>5 April</b> <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>	<b>NEW ** 6am (DAWN) ** The Lighting of the New Fire &amp; The Easter Liturgy</b>	<b>10am Easter Parish Communion</b> <i>Matthew 21: 1-10</i>
<b>12 April</b> <i>Easter 2</i>	<b>10am IONA Service, Parish Communion</b> <i>John 20: 19-end</i>	<b>5pm Evensong</b>
<b>19 April</b> <i>Easter 3</i>		<b>10am Parish Communion</b> <i>Luke 24: 13-35</i>
<b>26 April</b> <i>Easter 4</i>	<b>10am Parish Communion</b> <i>John 10: 1-10</i>	
<b>3 May</b> <i>Easter 5</i>		<b>10am Parish Communion</b> <i>John 14: 1-14</i>

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**.

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

Our Lent lunches which began on Thursday 19th February at 12 noon, will conclude on Thursday 2nd April. We have had a good attendance and thank everyone for their contributions.

*Carol Leeds*

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**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**

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

**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](mailto:Treasurer.bucklandstmarys@outlook.com)

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

Please contact Chairman, Roger Daniell, [rogerdaniell@icloud.com](mailto:rogerdaniell@icloud.com) or Simon Thomas, [sgthomas@btinternet.com](mailto:sgthomas@btinternet.com)

**Secretary—BUCKLAND ST MARY'S PCC**

Please contact Rosey Davy, [roseydavy@gmail.com](mailto:roseydavy@gmail.com)

## BUCKLAND & BETCHWORTH BELLRINGERS REPORT

Recently Buckland and Betchworth bellringers celebrated Bernard Hawkin's 80th birthday and 60 years of bellringing. A quarter peal was rung at Betchworth on Tuesday 10th March, over a period of 45 minutes, consisting of **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**. (This means changing the order of the 6 bells 1260 times, in the method of Bob Doubles.)



Further celebrations included general ringing on the following Sunday afternoon over a couple of hours, with many ringers joining in to ring rounds and call changes, and various methods including Grandsire Triples, Stedman and Cambridge. There was a traditional ringers' tea in the Hamilton room afterwards, with speeches, a toast, and presentations. Ringers from far and wide joined us in the tower and for the tea. You may have spotted the banner 'Happy 80th Birthday Bernard' on Betchworth church tower that afternoon.

As always, if you'd like to learn to ring and gain a life-long hobby with lots of friends, come and find us in the bell tower 8pm Fridays (Buckland), or Tuesdays (Betchworth).

*Julie Beale*

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## THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

A big Thank you to all who during the last year (2025) have visited St Michael's and bought the hand-made cards on sale there in aid of the Children's Society, and also those who via the House-boxes or other donations have contributed to this Charity.

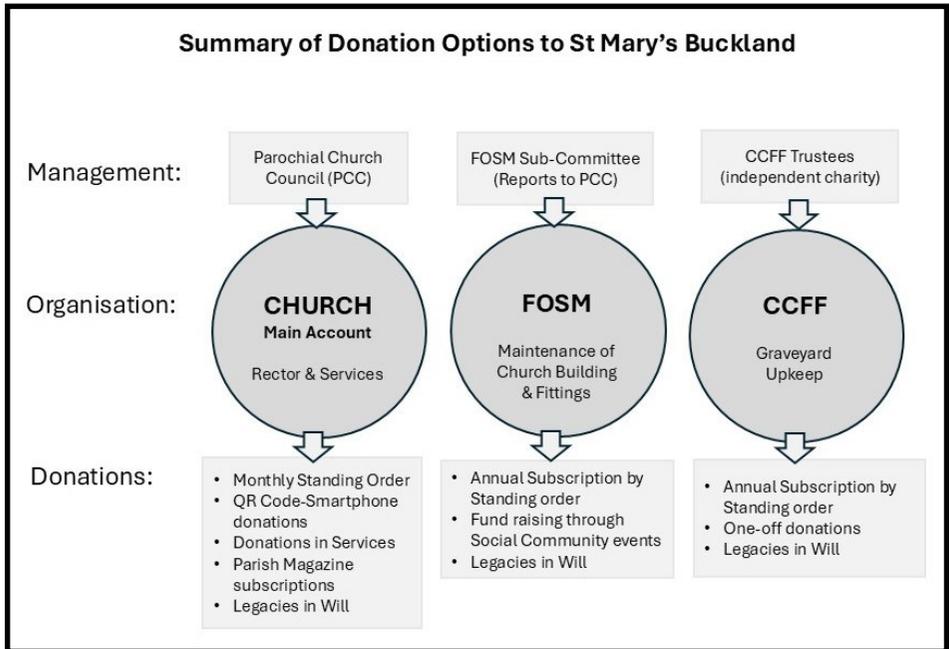
The total raised **from the Buckland and Betchworth villages has been £153-69p**, this will be used to help children and young people who for one reason or another are in need of support during a difficult time. The Children's Society mentors young people by running Drop-In clubs giving a safe place for them to meet and share their experiences. It supports children in difficulty in their home-life, and also those needing extra support at school. In some cases this enables young people to study and accept places at college or University, and in others gain the confidence to achieve their ambitions.

**If you would like to support the Children's Society**, please contact to me, my details are in the Parish Magazine. Thank You.

*Margaret Miller, Children's Society co-ordinator for Betchworth and Buckland*

# CHARITIES THAT DIRECTLY SUPPORT ST MARY'S BUCKLAND

## Guidance to consider your donation



Whilst long-time residents and our church congregation may know these things, it is good to remind us all and to introduce new residents to how you can support our Church, either directly (Main account) or through either of two separate channels: Friends of St Mary's (FOSM) and the Churchyard & Church Fabric Fund (CCFF).

### Donations to the Church Main Account

Our church has a small, faithful and regular congregation. In terms of the Christian Mission of our church, we strive to be self-supporting financially, through donations from our congregation and other generous donors to the General Account of the Church. Our major cost is to pay the salary of our Rector, and the stipend contribution to the Church of England, Diocese of Southwark, to whom we belong. To keep this 'affordable' – we have a part time Rector, who is paid for 3 days per week, and these costs are shared with St Mary's Betchworth. So, practically, our congregation at Buckland can afford only a Rector on the basis of paying for 1.5 days of the Rector's week. This is the basis on which our Rector, Revd. Pru Dullely, is appointed. In addition, our General Account pays the utility bills, for heating,

lighting and water. If you wish to support ‘the Church’ in the widest sense, in support of your faith, or if you have received help or support in your faith from our Rector or members of the church, you can contribute directly to the **Church Main Account**, managed by the Parochial Church Council (PCC). You may do this in many ways: as a regular ‘tithe’ payment as a percentage of your income; as any regular direct debit; as a one-off payment; with a paid subscription to the parish Magazine, and of course, as contributions to collections in Church Services.

Our Church Main Account has Charitable Status, so you may also ‘gift aid’ your contributions, which is a great benefit for the church. The church can now claim Gift Aid on all single donations of £30 or less, without having details of the donor. This enables us to have gift-aided donations via Smartphones, by scanning the **QR Code** which appears in church and every month on the back cover of our Magazine.

We have long-recognised that many residents of Buckland are not active church-goers, or people who attend other churches outside our village. However, many such residents have a great fondness for our church building and its attractive graveyard, and hence they want to see the Church as an attractive building, both inside and out: a landmark in our village. There are significant costs of maintaining our church building and graveyard, listed Grade II by Heritage England. No support is available for the routine running costs, maintenance and upkeep of the building from either the Government or the Church of England.

For many years, we have had widespread support from FOSM and CCFF - that directly support the upkeep of the building and the graveyard, and below, we explain how they work and how you can contribute.

### **Friends of St Mary’s (FOSM)**

FOSM was founded in 2012 to raise money to support the routine operation and upkeep of the church building. FOSM is a sub-committee of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) but has financial independence. Hence the PCC requests funding for specific costs, and if they meet the criteria for FOSM to pay and if FOSM has sufficient funds to release, then FOSM will fund the costs.

FOSM has a membership of over 100 people, mostly Buckland Residents. A subscription to FOSM is only £15/month per person, or £30 per household. This subscription can be conveniently paid by Standing order. FOSM also organises occasional fund-raising events, which have included Quiz Nights, the May Fayre, Flower Festival, Art Show, Village Open Gardens and talks on our Church and Local History. We are always seeking new ideas and new people to help with event organization – do step forward if you can help!

Over the last decade, FOSM has contributed funds directly to the church for things such as servicing the heating boiler, organ tuning, paying buildings insurance, service fire extinguishers, the repair and maintenance of windows and doors, building surveyors reports, etc. FOSM also made a significant donation to the Church Organ Repair Fund in 2023.

### **Churchyard and Church Fabric Fund (CCFF)**

The CCFF, founded in 1983, provides funds for the maintenance of the Graveyard. It has two different funds:

- **Investment Fund** with a current value of around £70,000. Each year we donate what can be afforded from the income and distributions from the investments. In recent years, around £3,000 per annum has been donated to the Church, to reimburse the cost of the annual grass cutting contract. The Capital Fund value increases year-on-year, enabling CCFF to continue a contribution in the long-term, as we have proven over a 40-year period.
- **Special Projects Fund** to be spent on short-term projects, at the discretion of the Trustees. We have completed additional works, such as tree surgery and paving repairs, to ensure that the graveyard and boundaries are maintained in good conditions.

Donations to the CCFF can allocate funds either to the Investment Fund which gives a small amount per year ‘for ever’, or to the Special Projects Fund where the full donation can be spent entirely on short-term maintenance and repair.

### **Making Donations**

The Church, FOSM and CCFF each have formal committee structures to ensure good practice is followed, and that donations are effectively and responsibly managed. All our Committee members are unpaid volunteers and 100% of your donation is applied to supporting your selected interests.

To recap, you may donate to reflect your interests, in support of:

- Our broad Church and Christian Faith – donate to the Church General Fund
- The upkeep of our Church Building – donate to FOSM
- The upkeep of the Graveyard – donate to the CCFF

All three invite donations as Direct Debit payments, one-off payments and legacies. We hope that you will consider a contribution. Donation forms for FOSM & CCFF are available in leaflets at the back of the church and online at our website:

<https://stmarythevirgin.co.uk>

Alternatively, contact our Treasurer, Simon Thomas [sg.thomas@btinternet.com](mailto:sg.thomas@btinternet.com) for donations to the Church and to FOSM, or Duncan Ferns, Treasurer for the CCFF Graveyard fund [fernsdc@gmail.com](mailto:fernsdc@gmail.com).

*Duncan Ferns*

# Buckland Matters

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## BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE



### Annual Parish Meeting

If you attended the 2026 Annual Parish Meeting, thank you for participating and we hope you enjoyed the evening. Draft minutes for the meeting will be available to download from the village website and displayed on the parish council noticeboard opposite the village shop by the middle of April.

### Volunteer Events

A village litter pick is being held on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2026:

# Village Spring Clean!

We are Planning a Village tidy up/Litter Pick , on **Saturday 11th April 2026** assembling at The War Memorial at 10am.



Litter Pickers and Bags are provided, but if you are able to help please make sure you bring with you some sturdy gloves....

## All welcome

(Anyone under 16 needs to be accompanied by a responsible adult)

## **Elections and the new requirement for Voter ID**

As not every Buckland resident is currently on the electoral roll, please consider whether you might be one of the residents who has yet to register. If you know you are not on the electoral roll you will need to register before midnight on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026. If you do not know whether you are on the electoral roll you can check by calling the MVDC Elections team on 01306 879198.

If you wish to vote in person at a polling station on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026 you will need to bring an accepted form of photo ID. These include a passport, driving licence or concessionary travel pass. You can use an expired ID provided it has sufficient photographic likeness to allow the election staff to recognise you.

If you are on the electoral roll and are aware you do not currently have an eligible photo ID, you will need to apply for a free voter ID document, known as a Voter Authority Certificate (VAC), in order, to exercise your right to vote in person at a polling station. The application deadline for a VAC is 5pm on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

If you will be unable to go to your polling station on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026, or would prefer a postal or proxy vote, the application deadlines are 5pm on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026 for a postal vote and 5pm on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2026 for a proxy vote. Links to the online application sites mentioned above are published within the news section of the village website.

## **Village Email Group**

If you do not currently receive emails issued via the village email group, please consider signing up. The easiest way to sign up is via the village website, by using the contact us tab and selecting Buckland Parish Council under the Type of Query tab. Alternatively send an email to [parishcouncil@bucklandsurrey.org.uk](mailto:parishcouncil@bucklandsurrey.org.uk). Please include your post code and house name or number in your message.

Sheena Boyce, Clerk     [parishcouncil@bucklandsurrey.org.uk](mailto:parishcouncil@bucklandsurrey.org.uk)     01737 448023

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Always give without remembering  
and always receive without forgetting.

Brian Tracy (motivational coach)

## THE 4B's BIODIVERSITY PARK The Great Amphibian Trek



We don't have wildebeests migrating across the Surrey grasslands, but we do have an equally impressive migration of millions of frogs, toads and newts to a pond or other watery habitat to breed every year. On the first damp nights of late winter, when the temperature creeps above 5°C and rain softens the ground, something remarkable stirs across Britain. Frogs, toads and newts wake from their winter slumber and begin ancient journeys back to the ponds where they were born. Purposeful, instinctive, and quietly magnificent — this is the amphibian migration, happening right now in gardens and fields near you.

Common frogs lead the way, sometimes as early as February in the south. Toads may travel an astonishing 2–3 kilometres, migrating en masse over just a few nights. But how do they find their way? Their permeable skin is exquisitely sensitive to humidity — they follow moisture gradients toward cooler, damper air near water. At closer range, smell takes over. Research shows that frogs and newts can detect the unique chemical signature of their home pond, which is why so many return to the exact same spot, year after year.

A cluster of ponds within a few hundred metres of one another allows amphibians to move safely; a single, isolated pond is far less likely to be discovered or colonised. **This is where every one of us can make a difference.** When we dig a garden pond — especially a small, fish-free one — we are not simply adding water to the landscape. We are restoring the environmental signals that amphibians have evolved over millions of years to follow. We are reweaving the hidden web of wetlands that makes their ancient migration possible. To find out more visit our Pond Watch Amphibian Survey webpage <https://www.biodiversitypark.uk/amphibian-survey.html>

*Norman Jackson*

# GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

## Solution p.33

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
20						21					22			
				23						24				
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31				32				33				34	35	36
37									38					
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50					51						52	53	54	55
56					57					58				
59					60					61				
62					63					64				

### ACROSS

1. Light wood

6. Bleats

10. Portent

14. Nimble

15. Beige

16. Was a passenger

17. Hearsay

18. Overlook

19. Ship workers

20. Biblical blessings

22. Gammons

23. Rose dye

24. Postpone

25. Jetty

29. Periods of 10 years

31. Waits upon

33. Make milk request

37. Rejection of a request

38. Ball

39. Superficial amount

41. Filters

42. Otagia

44. Body of water

45. Necklace item

48. Joint of the lower arm

50. Murren

51. Trickiness

56. Hitching place

57. Hue

58. Scoundrel

59. Inactive

60. Border

61. Ancient Roman magistrate

62. Dregs

63. Jury member

64. Writing tables

DOWN	12. Swelling	13. Paperboy	34. Dogfish	51. Stair
1. Stinging remark	21. A young child	24. Interior layout and furnishings	35. Armored combat vehicle	52. Connecting point
2. Chills and fever	25. Flat masses of soft material	26. Detail	36. Otherwise	53. Auspices
3. Capital of Peru	27. Europe's highest volcano	28. Restates	40. Untanned animal skin	54. Mope around
4. Coin opening	29. Most idiotic	30. Birth-related	41. Gearstick	55. Observes
5. Eagle's home			43. Shrink in fear	
6. Bewilders			45. Student	
7. Having a low pH			46. Wear away	
8. Armory			47. A long narrow passage	
9. Figure out (British)			49. Fatigued	
10. Composed for an orchestra				
11. Honorable				

## UNDERSTANDING THE CHURCH A LITTLE BETTER ...

- The Bible tells us to love our neighbours, and also to love our enemies; probably because they are generally the same people. *G. K. Chesterton*
- I was thinking about how people seem to read the Bible a whole lot more as they get older; then it dawned on me... they're cramming for their final exam. *George Carlin*
- Religion is what keeps the poor from murdering the rich. *Napoleon*
- A Christian is a man who feels repentance on Sunday for what he did on Saturday and is going to do on Monday. *Thomas Ybarra*
- Christianity is a strange religion, for it committed a murder upon Jesus in order to redeem mankind from the sin of eating an apple. *Thomas Paine*
- The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but flies do come close. *Mark Twain*
- If you are more fortunate than others, build a longer table, not a taller fence. *Anon*
- Forecast for tomorrow: God reigns, and the Son shines. *Anon*
- Give Satan an inch and he'll become your ruler. *Anon*
- I respect faith, but doubt is what gets you an education. *Wilson Mizner*
- We have not lost faith. but we have transferred it from God to the medical profession. *George Bernard Shaw*
- Honk if you love Jesus. Text and drive if you want to meet him. *Anon*
- 'What on earth are you doing down there?' *God*
- 'Don't make me come down there again, please!' *God*

# SUDOKU

Grade: Medium.  
Solution on p.33

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

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## WORDSEARCH— The Passover Meal

Jesus  
Ate  
Last  
Passover  
Meal  
  
Disciples  
Warned  
Betrayed  
Bread  
Blessed  
  
Wine  
Thanks  
Drink  
Covenant  
Law

Old  
New  
Body  
Blood  
Gethsemane  
  
Cup  
Removed  
Will  
Easter  
Approach  
God

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

Solution on p.33

## MUSIC IN DORKING—APRIL



4 th at 12.00, lunchtime recital at St Martin's church, free  
5 th at 2.00, Opera screening at Dorking Halls  
10 th & 11 th at 7.30, Leith Hill Music Fest. Dorking Halls  
11 th at 4.30, Musical Mingle at Holy Trinity Westcott, free  
18 th at 7.30, Carducci string quartet, Dorking Halls

The big event of the month is the annual Leith Hill Music Festival at the Dorking Halls, in which a dozen local choirs take part. In the morning there are competitions (which anyone is very welcome to attend) and then in the evening the choirs join forces to perform a large-scale concert. Friday night's programme includes music by Ralph Vaughan Williams – his Five Mystical Songs and the ever-popular *The Lark Ascending* – together with a recent piece, the fascinating *Da Vinci Requiem* by Cecilia McDowall. There will be a special pre-concert talk at 6.30 in which Cecilia McDowall will talk about her music and the violin soloist will explore the links between *The Lark Ascending* and the festival. Saturday's concert is an evening of 'Baroque Splendour' with two of Handel's grand Coronation Anthems, and two different settings of the *Dixit Dominus* by Vivaldi and Isabella Leonarda, alongside Bach's beautiful concerto for two violins. Led by the inspiring festival conductor Neil Ferris, both of these are sure to be outstanding concerts.

The Dorking Concertgoers present the Carducci string quartet in the last of their series of three concerts. On this occasion they are joined by additional musicians including the renowned clarinettist Julian Bliss to perform two of the best-loved chamber works – Mozart's beautiful clarinet quintet and Schubert's brilliant and light-hearted octet.

An exciting new venture is being launched in Westcott with a 'Musical Mingle' – a relaxed format for enjoying some classical music, especially for those who might experience barriers to attending a traditional concert. Everyone is invited to enjoy light refreshments afterwards and to meet the musicians, many of whom play with the Dorking Chamber Orchestra. The event is free, with donations invited from those who can contribute, and it is hoped this will be the first of a series of Musical Mingles. The lunchtime recital at St Martin's will feature music by Gilbert and Sullivan. At the Dorking Halls, there is a second chance to see Wagner's *Siegfried* in an encore screening from the Royal Opera House.

**The Dorking Halls will be closed from late April until December for major refurbishment and upgrading works.**

*Ian Codd*

# Features

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## GARDENING NOTES FOR APRIL

### Hanging baskets - high maintenance but high impact

Following on from such a wonderful display this spring of daffodils and other flowering bulbs, how do we keep colour flowing through our gardens?

A good starting point is a display of one or more hanging baskets. With a creative eye and scientific approach, quality materials, the right plants and consistent care, your hanging baskets can be the envy of all your neighbours. They will thrive through the UK's unpredictable weather. It all starts with a large, well-lined basket (at least 14 inches wide) that retains moisture. Wire baskets lined with moss or coir look attractive, while self-watering plastic types are more practical. However, My preferred is lined wicker baskets which are relatively cheap and need less side-filling than wire types.

Because hanging baskets are unnatural growing environments, hot, dry, and exposed, using premium compost is essential. Specialist hanging basket or high-quality peat-free composts with water-retaining gel crystals prevent rapid drying. Mix in a slow-release, high-potash fertiliser to provide steady nutrition all summer. Choosing compatible plants is crucial. Select trailing petunias, calibrachoa, verbena, geraniums, or lobelia for sunny spots and for shade, use fuchsias, impatiens, or begonias.

The 'filler and spiller' approach works best in baskets. Combine mid-level blooms with trailing varieties that cascade over the edges. Coordinating colours, whether hot or cool, create striking displays. After planting, let the baskets establish for 10 days on the patio or in a greenhouse before hanging. Water daily, or twice during hot spells, ensuring moisture reaches all roots. Regular feeding every 7–10 days with a liquid fertiliser keeps plants lush once slow-release feeds fade. Finally, regularly remove faded flowers, deadhead frequently, rotate baskets for even light, and shelter them from harsh wind or rain.

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# Local Services

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## DOWN-SIZING When “Stay or Go” Isn’t the Hard Part



As we get older, conversations about whether to stay put or move home begin to surface. Practical questions arise: Is the house manageable? What would it cost to move? What are the alternatives? On paper, the options can seem straightforward.

What is less often acknowledged is how difficult it can be to act on them. In villages like ours, homes are deeply tied to identity. As long as the house still works, community ties are strong and life feels manageable, there may seem little reason to disturb anything. So the subject is parked and life carries on.

Most families recognise the pattern:

“We must sort the loft.”

“We’ll tackle the garage when the children are down.”

“Yes, we really should get on top of the paperwork.”

Then the children visit — and understandably, time together feels more important than opening boxes. The task is postponed again. A year passes. Then another.

Village homes often hold decades of accumulated life. What many of us underestimate is that sorting involves sustained decision-making — and sustained decision-making is exhausting at any age.

What to keep, what to pass on, what to let go of. Each item carries memory and meaning. The barrier is mostly emotional at first, but, over time, it becomes physically exhausting as well. Energy is better used for living well: seeing friends, enjoying family, staying active. Spending precious energy lifting boxes and making hundreds of decisions feels draining, so it stays at the bottom of the list.

Many of us helped clear our parents’ homes and imagine our children will do the same for us, but family life has changed. Adult children frequently live further away and still work full time with full lives. Visits are shorter. Time is limited. At the same time, we own far more than previous generations did. The scale of the task is simply bigger. What feels like a small job at the outset often reveals itself, a few hours in, to be something far more substantial.

Good intentions are rarely enough to complete work of this scale. If momentum isn't created deliberately, then a tipping point arrives, usually quietly. Mobility shifts. Appointments multiply. Fatigue increases. One partner becomes unwell. The practical and emotional effort required to sort a lifetime of belongings suddenly feels overwhelming — and the conversation stops.

Nothing changes because everything feels too much. Life becomes gradually more complicated. Then, eventually, a crisis forces everyone's hand. Preparation is not about committing to move. It is about ensuring that if circumstances shift, choices remain deliberate rather than reactive.

Starting earlier allows sorting to happen steadily, while energy and clarity are still available. It reduces future strain. It protects relationships by preventing adult children from having to make rushed decisions under pressure.

Many families attempt this alone. Some succeed. Many begin well and stall. Practical help from friends can be useful, but this work is harder than most expect. Emotional distance matters. Experience matters. A downsizing and later-life planning professional brings structure and momentum. They manage the logistics, keep the process moving, and provide calm containment — while you remain in control of every decision.

Just as importantly, if health declines or a sudden move becomes necessary, you are not beginning that process alone. Someone already understands the house, the history and the family dynamic, and can step back in to assist with practicalities and decisions when circumstances change.

At some point, someone will go through your loft, your garage or that dining room cupboard. It is almost always better if that is you — while you are still able to guide the process — even if it feels too early, or perhaps a little too late. Starting now gives you control over how it unfolds and helps ensure that what happens next happens more out of choice than necessity.

*For help and support, do contact me, Jennie Saunders  
<https://dedicateddownsizer.com> 07947 328566*

*(Note: Jennie Saunders is of Doods Road Reigate, not to be confused with Jennifer Saunders of Buckland!)*

## Small Surrey Churches - Part Fourteen

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### St Mary's, Stoke d'Abernon



I have to admit that this is no longer a small church, but it used to be in Saxon times! And yet for a largish church, it is off-the-beaten-track and you would be excused for not knowing of it's whereabouts.

St Mary's has a **claim** to be the oldest church in Surrey, built in the year 690 by the Saxons. However ...the original church was a small rectangular building with an apse (semi-circular alcove) at the eastern end containing the altar. A timber gallery at the western end provided seating for the Lord of the Manor. The church remained unaltered in this form for about 500 years. There are small, surviving traces of the original Saxon church in the south wall—the black-shaded walls detailed in the plan overleaf.<sup>1</sup>



- An Italian limestone carving of the Madonna and child from 1500
- An ornamental pulpit of carved walnut dating from 1620, donated by the local Lord of the Manor, Sir Francis Vincent. It has 3 tiers, the top for the preacher, the middle for the Rector and the bottom for the Parish Clerk!
- Reclining figures of Sir Thomas and Lady Vincent (1613 and 1619, photo 2), and their daughter-in-law Sarah Vincent, supported by her five sons and two daughters on the plinth of the carving (photo 3).<sup>1</sup>
- About 15 medieval stained glass windows dating from the 1500's and 1600's.



Left: Photo 1 (see text)

Top: Photo 2

Bottom: Photo 3

The church remains active with weekly services, and fortnightly evensong services. There are also classical lunchtime concerts, generally on the last Thursday of each month, starting at 1 pm, often featuring musicians from the nearby Yehudi Menuhin School. St Mary's Stoke D'Abernon is within the Diocese of Guildford.<sup>2</sup>

### Access

St Mary's church is situated by the River Mole in Stoke D'Abernon, adjacent to the old Manor House. This Manor House is now part of Parkside School, an independent prep school. To find the church, enter the drive for Parkside School (opposite Squires Garden Centre on Stoke Road) and follow the sign for St Mary's Church.

In addition to the services and concerts that are detailed on the website<sup>2</sup>, the Church is also open to visitors every Saturday and Sunday afternoon between 2pm and 4pm, from April to October inclusive. During these times volunteer guides are on duty to answer questions. To visit at other time, please contact the Parish Administrator (01932 866005, [admin@stmarysstokedabernon.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmarysstokedabernon.org.uk)).<sup>2</sup>

### References

1. Guide to St Mary's Church, Stoke D'Abernon, 24pp (2011)
2. Website: <https://stmarysstokedabernon.org.uk>



*"It can't be healthy spending so much time on line"*



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Image: Ravilious. Windmill, 1934.

[Wikimedia Commons](#)



Our lecturer is James Russell. Between the world wars a group of British artists explored the downland of southern England, finding in the ancient landscapes of Sussex and Wessex inspiration for new work. Eric Ravilious and fellow artists Peggy Angus and Tirzah Garwood, William Nicholson, and John and Paul Nash led the way. These artists created paintings and prints that were defiantly modern, yet rooted in the past.

*Carole Evans, [www.theartssocietybetchworth.org.uk](http://www.theartssocietybetchworth.org.uk)*

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That happiness is to be attained through limitless acquisition  
is denied by every religion and philosophy known  
—but it is preached by every TV set  
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Robert Bellah, US Sociologist, 1927-2013

## BROCKHAM BOWLS CLUB



Yes, spring has arrived, the daffodils by Brockham Lane are in full bloom as I write. We are a small Club and always welcome new members, both experienced players and beginners. If you would like to see if the game of Bowls is for you we are hosting 2 Open days, on Sunday 3rd May, 2pm to 5pm, and Saturday 23rd May, 11am to 5pm. All you need to bring is a pair of flat soled shoes and we will provide the rest. For more information please call Peter Goldup, our Club Captain, on 07391 254689, visit our website at [brockhambowlsclub.co.uk](http://brockhambowlsclub.co.uk)

for more details, or just turn up on the day. Hope to see you there.

If you are unable to make the Open Days, but still want to see what we do, we hold Club Nights most Tuesday and Thursday evenings from May onwards, and you are most welcome to pop in and speak to one of our members.

Trevor Anderson



DORKING GROUP OF ARTISTS

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### 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](http://www.dorkingartists.com), look at our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/dga4art](http://www.facebook.com/dga4art) or get in touch at [contact@dorkingartists.com](mailto:contact@dorkingartists.com).

*Angela Hall, Chair, Dorking Group of Artists*

# buckland & betchworth

C H O R A L S O C I E T Y

## The Leith Hill Music Festival (LHMF) Saturday 11 April, 7.30PM, Dorking Halls

It is going to be a fantastic evening! The Buckland & Betchworth Choral Society members are excited to be a part of this annual, longstanding musical event again, with The Leith Hill Choirs coming together for the second Festival concert of 2026, accompanied by the specialist baroque orchestra Canzona. Our own Buckland & Betchworth Choral Society participates in the Choir competition and always appreciates your support.

LEITH HILL MUSIC FESTIVAL

DORKING HALLS 2026

FESTIVAL CONDUCTOR  
NEIL FERRIS

2026 Festival Day 2  
Baroque Splendour

Zadok the Priest - Handel  
Dixit Dominus - Vivaldi  
Dixit Dominus - Isabella Leonarda  
Concerto for two violins - Bach  
The King shall Rejoice - Handel

SATURDAY 11TH APRIL 7.30PM

Leith Hill Festival Choirs

Beare Green & Newdigate,  
Bookham, Buckland & Betchworth,  
Holmbury St. Mary, Horsley,  
Mickeham

SPECIALIST BAROQUE ORCHESTRA  
CANZONA

You can check out the LHMF programme here: [lhmf.org.uk/future-events](http://lhmf.org.uk/future-events).



**BOOK NOW for FESTIVAL  
TICKETS  
from 5 to 16 MAY**

Several concerts at various venues including:  
**St Michael's Betchworth is hosting a lunchtime concert on Mon 11 May with students from the Yehudi Menuhin School.** See our online brochure and book your tickets, at our website (below).

Tracy Lees, Festival Manager, [www.shimf.co.uk/](http://www.shimf.co.uk/)

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

## The Betchworth & Buckland Society

### Summer Social & AGM

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May**

Welcome drink & nibbles with a short 15-minute AGM  
7.00pm onwards at The Red Lion.

Invites to follow via email along with our annual accounts. **RSVP**



### Annual Summer BBQ

*with Jazz Duo*

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 1pm**  
**Buckland Green**



*Price tbc*

*BBQ bap, salad , dessert & a glass of wine or Pimm's*

### Other Events

**Annual Dinner** – Hartsfield Manor 3<sup>rd</sup> December from 7pm

**Christmas Drinks** - The Reading Room 20th Dec 12pm – 2pm

*Please contact us for enquiries about annual membership  
( £10 per household per year) and bookings :*

**[betchworthandbucklandsociety@gmail.com](mailto:betchworthandbucklandsociety@gmail.com)**

**[www.betchworthandbucklandsociety.org.uk](http://www.betchworthandbucklandsociety.org.uk)**

## PEBBLECOOMBE WI BETCHWORTH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



We meet in The Hamilton Room, Church Street, Betchworth on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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:**

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

**Sunday 19 April, 10 am**

**Private Tour of Eel Pie Island Museum, Twickenham**

No live talk but a special event for April, booking essential. Great rock music history plus an optional walking tour of Twickenham. £12 for the museum tour or £19 with walking tour. See website below for booking details.

**Monday 20 April, 7.30pm**

**ZOOM Talk: Surrey Memories 1900s to 1950a**

Zoom talk by Michele Howes. A selection of anecdotal accounts of Surrey life in the first half of the 20th Century. Sure to trigger nostalgia, but also to make you appreciate the progress we've made in some aspects of life. Register in advance at [www.meet-up.com/Surrey-History-Meetup/](http://www.meet-up.com/Surrey-History-Meetup/).

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

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

## **BROCKHAM GREEN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

**Brockham \* Betchworth \* Buckland**

**AGM (7pm) & Talk (7.30pm) WOOL SHrED by Fliess Lewis  
20 April 2026 7:30pm Brockham Village Hall**



Fliess Lewis is the founder and face behind award winning eco friendly business WOOL SHrED which is based in Horsham. Fliess owned an award-winning small flock of pedigree Southdown Sheep for over 10 years. As a member of a the Innovate UK KTN innovation in wool steering group, she is very passionate about the use of wool in products for the home, garden and business. She will detail the innovative use of wool products in the

garden, some of which will be available for purchase on the night. Refreshments will be served, and everyone is welcome, so please bring friends. The entrance fee is members £3 and non-members £5.

### **Plant Sale**

**Saturday 2nd May 10am – 12pm on Brockham Green.**

This is a good opportunity for you to come along and buy good quality plants, often quite unusual ones and also to pick the brains of our committee of experts for advice and help with gardening queries. As usual we would welcome any donations of cuttings, seedlings or divided plants, including fruit, vegetables, herbs, houseplants or anything else you can think of. Nothing is turned away! Please ensure they are properly labelled and either bring on the day or contact us on the email below for information on where you can drop off donations.

### **Dates for your diary.**

Members Only Open Garden – Date and venue to be confirmed.

Saturday 19th September. Annual Horticultural Show, 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](mailto:bghsociety@hotmail.com)

*Ruth Johnson*

## DORKING MUSEUM IN APRIL



Rose Hill Arch, Dorking



Dorking Caves

**Walking in Dorking:** This month's guided walks feature Hidden Dorking, Betchworth Castle and a Dorking Family Walk (all 12<sup>th</sup>), Historic Pubs Walk (18<sup>th</sup>) and The Deepdene Trail (19<sup>th</sup>). See [dorkingmuseum.org.uk/guided-walks-around-dorking/](http://dorkingmuseum.org.uk/guided-walks-around-dorking/) for details and booking of scheduled walks and private group bookings.

**South Street Caves tours:** One of Dorking's most popular attractions, the new season begins on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April. Tours at 10am, 11am, 1pm and 2pm, each 45 minutes. For details and monthly open day bookings (which sell out fast!) see [dorkingmuseum.org.uk/south-street-caves/](http://dorkingmuseum.org.uk/south-street-caves/). Private group bookings also available.

**Hidden in Stone: Dorking's Dinosaur Discovery:** The discovery of a giant claw by Bill Walker in a local quarry in 1983 led to the excavation of an almost complete skeleton of a previously unknown dinosaur species that was given the scientific name *Baryonyx walkeri*. We explore Dorking's dinosaur connections with displays including lifelike replica models. Takeaway model templates of Dorking's dinosaur are available.

**Family Activities at Dorking Library:** *Earth Day:* Use WWF craft to make a snow leopard doorhanger: Saturday 11th April 10am-noon. *Be a Dinosaur Detective:* look at the clues, handle real dinosaur bones: Saturday 18th April, 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](http://www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk). Visit [dorkingmuseum.org.uk/digital-guide/](http://dorkingmuseum.org.uk/digital-guide/). 01306 876591.

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

### Crossword (p.14) Solution

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

### Wordsearch (p.16) Solution

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

### Sudoku (p.16) Solution

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

# BUCKLAND PARISH MAGAZINE

April 2026. Issue No. 1198

**COPY DATE: 13 April 2026**



**Articles** Please submit articles for next months edition by the above date, via email to [fernsdc@gmail.com](mailto: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: 24 April 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](mailto: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](mailto:Bookings4bucklandreadingroom@gmail.com) or 07733 116992**

Arts Society, Betchworth	Carole Evans	01372 452563
Bell Ringers ( <i>practice Friday evenings</i> )	David Sayce	242776
Betchworth & Buckland Children's Nursery	Laura Snelling	843610
Betchworth & Buckland Toddler Group	Debbie Jones	07701 347351
Betchworth & Buckland Society ( <i>Secretary</i> )	Nathalie Nichols	07801 967623
Betchworth Operatic & Dramatic Society	Diane Mayall	842758
British Legion	Maurice Daley	843058
Brockham Green Horticultural Society	Ruth & Paul Johnson	842691
Brockham Surgery/Chemist	n/a	843259/842175
Buckland & Betchworth Choral Soc. ( <i>Sec.</i> )	Caroline Bartlett	07967 969425
Buckland Parochial Charity ( <i>Clerk</i> )	Debbie Jones	07701 347351
Buckland Parish Council ( <i>Clerk</i> )	Sheena Boyce	448023
Buckland Village Shop	Amy 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

Websites: Church: [www.stmarythevirgininbuckland.org.uk](http://www.stmarythevirgininbuckland.org.uk)

Village: [www.bucklandsurrey.org.uk](http://www.bucklandsurrey.org.uk)

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