

BUCKLAND PARISH MAGAZINE



May 2026

SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN, BUCKLAND

www.stmarythevirginbuckland.net

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BUCKLAND PARISH MAGAZINE

May 2026

Dear Friends

May has a gentler feel to it. After the intensity of Holy Week and the joy of Easter Day, things begin to settle. The church is quieter, the village steadier, and the countryside around us is quietly getting on with growing. The hedges are thickening, the fields are greening, and everywhere you look there is life unfolding, unhurried, persistent, and full of promise.



The joy of Easter is that it doesn't end on Easter morning. We are still in it. Still living in the light of resurrection, in that steady, often understated reminder that Life has the final word. If you look at the world around us, it has something to teach us about how that life is lived. Pope Francis wrote:

*Rivers do not drink their own water;
trees do not eat their own fruit;
the sun does not shine on itself
and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves.
Living for others is a rule of nature.
We are all born to help each other.
No matter how difficult it is...
Life is good when you are happy;
but much better when others are happy because of you.*

The world God has made doesn't turn in on itself; it gives. It sustains. It makes space for others to live and flourish. And we, too, are part of that same pattern. In a rural community like ours, we see this more clearly than most. It's there in the neighbour who keeps an eye out without making a fuss. It's in the myriad of small, practical kindnesses that never make a headline but hold everything together and,

in the world's current climate, this could never happen often enough.

It's not about grand gestures. It's about the ordinary choices we make each day, whether to notice or to pass by, whether to soften or to harden, whether to give a little of ourselves even when life feels full enough already and somehow, in those choices, God is present. Not loudly or dramatically, but quietly, faithfully, in the kindness offered, the patience given, the care that asks for nothing in return. This is what resurrection life looks like when it takes root in us.

So perhaps May is a time to pay attention to the growing world around us, yes, but also to the opportunities, often small, to bring a little hope into someone else's day. Because hope doesn't usually arrive all at once. Often, hope grows slowly, filters ingently, in relationship with others. We may not have the capacity to influence foreign affairs for the better, but we can strive to care better for one another, knowing that any small effort we make is sustained by the God who is always, quietly, at work among us. With Love ... Pru

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

MAY EVENTS

- 1 May, 5am (DAWN).** Morris Dancing, Buckland Village Green, p.13
- 1-4 May, 10am to 4pm.** Art Exhibition, Betchworth Mem. Hall, p.27 (April mag p,27)
- 2 May, 10am to 12 noon.** Plant Sale, Brockham Green, BGHS, p.27
- 11 May, 7.30pm.** Talk: Scandalous Surrey! DLHG, p.25
- 13-15 May, 2.30pm.** 'Bits & BODS' Celebration, Betchworth Mem. Hall, BODS, p.31
- 18 May, 2.30pm.** Talk: Notre Dame, Arts Society, p.29
- 20 May, 7.30pm.** ZOOM Talk: The Maid of Kent. DLHG, p.25
- 21 May, 7pm.** Summer Social & AGM, B&B Soc, The Red Lion, p.28
- 27 May, 2pm-4pm.** Open Afternoon Teas, Hamilton Rm Betchworth, p.6
- 30 May, 10.30am.** Guided Walk, Shalford village, DLHG, p.25

JUNE EVENTS

- 12 Jun, 12 noon.** Open Summer Lunch, Buckland Reading Room, p.6
- 20 June, 4pm.** Concert: 'A Summer Afternoon', Betchworth, B&B Choral Soc, p.30
- 28 June, 1pm.** Summer BBQ, Buckland Green, B&B Soc, p.28

CHURCH SERVICES—MAY

Date	St Mary's Buckland	St Michael's Betchworth
3 May <i>Easter 5</i>		10am Parish Communion <i>John 14: 1-14</i>
10 May <i>Easter 6</i>	10am IONA Service <i>John 16: 5-11</i> <i>Followed by APCM</i>	5pm Evensong
14 May (Thursday) <i>Ascension Day</i>	7pm Communion <i>Luke 24:44-end</i>	
17 May <i>Easter 3</i>		10am Parish Communion <i>John 17: 1-11</i>
24 May <i>Pentecost</i>	10am Parish Communion <i>John 20: 19-23</i> <i>Followed by APCM (Annual PCC meeting, open to all)</i>	
31 May <i>Trinity Sunday</i>		10am Parish Communion <i>Matthew 28: 16-end</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**.

Cover Picture

Interior of St Mary's Buckland, looking to the rear of the church (West, Dorking-side). Note the font and the ornate spire which forms it's cover, and the spiral staircase to the bell-tower, both designed and made for the 1860 restoration of the church by Henry Woodyer. Photo date not known, possibly 1930's.

2026 LENT LUNCHES

Liz and myself would like to thank all our friends from Tadworth and Buckland and Betchworth not forgetting Brockham, (David and Ginny), who came and supported our Lent lunches. Each week we had a selection of two or three different varieties of soup, village shop baguettes, tea and coffee and of course a lot of chatter and laughter. Because of everyone's wonderful generosity we are able to send £300 to St. Catherines Hospice in West Sussex. THANK YOU from Carol & Liz.

SUMMER LUNCH—FRIDAY 12 JUNE

A village summer lunch will be held on Friday the 12th June in the Buckland Reading Room from 12 noon. We have held a summer lunch a couple of times and they have always been very successful so please keep the 12th June free. For more information and to let us know if you would like to come please phone Liz Vahey on 01737 221444 or Carol Leeds on 01737 247399. Looking forward to hearing from you,

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

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

PLANT SALE—RANA, OLD ROAD ,BUCKLAND Plant Donations Required

The Plant Sale is up and running . All sale proceeds go to the Reading Room maintenance. We will be grateful for any spare plants or division of perennials , large pots, old tools from the shed or anything to do with gardening.

Last year we raised £950, We are aiming for a £1000 this year. With your help we can make it. Thank you so much for all your past help.

Tilly Mitchell. 01737 843297. At Rana Old Road.

BUCKLAND & BETCHWORTH BELLRINGERS REPORT



On the 26th March the bellringers rang a Quarter Peal in memory of Brian Boustred who died last October and who was a long serving member of the Buckland band, Ringing such a quarter peal is a traditional way of celebrating or remembering an event or person. Brian rang for over 60 years at Kingswood, Leigh and Buckland, and there was a representative from all three towers in the 6 ringers who rang. Although living in Leigh he had, for over 20 years, been coming to Buckland,

along with his wife Viv, to ring not only for services but also weddings, funerals and national celebrations. He will be missed.

David Sayce , Captain of the Bells

Enjoy the little things in life,
for one day you may look back
and realise they were the big things.

Robert Brault (American Opera Singer)

OBITUARY—RICHARD WHEEN

Richard Wheen, passed away peacefully at home in Buckland surrounded by this family on 25th March 2026 aged 84. Richard was the editor of this Buckland Parish Magazine for an impressive 27 years, from 1992 to 2019.

Born in Chobham to Charles and Veryan Wheen, Richard was educated at Harrow School before going up to Cambridge University. Richard's professional life was defined by a distinguished career at Linklaters, where he was recognised as one of the law firm's longest standing and most respected solicitors. During his tenure, he spent three years in New York helping to establish the firm's US office and served as a Partner until his retirement. Thereafter, he continued to lecture at the College of Law and Linklaters where he taught the next generation of solicitors. Following in his father's footsteps, Richard also proudly served in the Royal Naval Reserve, reaching the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

Richard was a man of many talents - he was a keen golfer, a graceful skier, a short wing pilot, a Sudoku champion and an amateur carpenter. A lifelong lover of music, Richard was both a talented pianist and a dedicated member of the St Mary's Church Choir. He also enjoyed entertaining at parties where he would delight guests with his amusing doggerel and legendary treasure hunts.

It was Bridge, however, that was his true passion. A pioneer of the game, Richard developed the first ever Bridge computer programme in 1984. His love for Bridge led him to establish and teach at the Buckland Bridge Club for over 20 years, sharing his passion for the game with countless players. Richard developed dementia in his later years but was able to keep playing bridge far into his illness - a social outlet which he greatly valued.

Of all his accomplishments, Richard was most proud of the family he built with his beloved wife, Anne who survives him along with their children: Timothy, Patrick, Peter, and Elizabeth. He was preceded in death by his sons Jonty and Christopher, whom he always carried with him in his heart.

Richard was a loving father and husband, and a pillar of the Buckland community. He will be remembered for his integrity, his sense of humour and his kindness.

Liz Wheen

In memory of Richard's humour....

In the period from about 1997-2002, we had several 'Review Concerts' in Buckland Reading Room. They were called 'The Buckland Bash'. Many people in Buckland village offered their '*many talents*' - singing, reading poetry, acting (the lark), etc., some serious, some hilarious and some edgy.

Richard made several appearances at the Buckland Bash, outside of his usual, sensible persona, sharing his love of Tom Lehrer (1928-2025), a satirist and songwriter of 'daft ditties' with rather clever and very amusing words. In memory of Richard, we will print a few Tom Lehrer songs over the next few months, as sung by Richard with his piano accompaniment ...

The Hunting Song, by Tom Lehrer

I always will remember, 'Twas a year ago November,
I went out to hunt some deer
On a morning bright and clear.
I went and shot the maximum the game laws would allow.
Two game wardens, seven hunters, and a cow.

I was in no mood to trifle, I took down my trusty rifle
And went out to stalk my prey.
What a haul I made that day.
I tied them to my fender, and I drove them home somehow,
Two game wardens, seven hunters, and a cow.

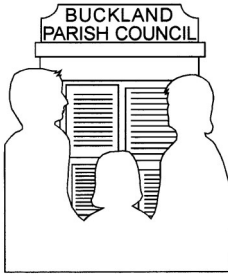
The law was very firm, it Took away my permit,
The worst punishment I ever endured.
It turned out there was a reason,
Cows were out of season,
And one of the hunters wasn't insured.

People ask me how I do it,
And I say, "There's nothin' to it, You just stand there lookin' cute,
And when something moves, you shoot!"
And there's ten stuffed heads in my trophy room right now,
Two game wardens, Seven hunters,
And a pure-bred Guernsey cow.

Hear Tom Lehrer's rendition: <https://tomlehrersongs.com/the-hunting-song/>

Buckland Matters

BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE



Trimming Hedges and Trees – advice to help you stay within the law

As we spend more time in our gardens during the warmer months, many gardeners will be tempted to have a tidy up.

Before you start work please take adequate time to check there are no active nests in the area you wish to work in. It is an offence under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 to damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird

while it is in use or being built. So, if you find an active nest, delay trimming until you are sure the young birds have fledged.

Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign – GACC

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

Whilst Buckland residents are not currently as seriously impacted by aircraft noise as some Surrey residents (who find themselves permanently under a flight path and over flown by low altitude aircraft), those residents who attended the recent Annual Parish Meeting were prompted to consider the broader implications for our local transport network, services and amenities of higher passenger numbers travelling through Gatwick that will accompany the projected increase of up to 100,000 more flights each year.

To learn more about GACC, read latest news, join as a member, or make a donation to support GACC's work on behalf of all the communities around Gatwick please visit www.gacc.org.uk.

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

MOLE VALLEY COMMUNITY FUND - UPDATE



In 2024 I was involved in the foundation of the Mole Valley Community Fund (MVCF), which operates under the governance of the Community Foundation for Surrey, which is available for community and charity groups covering Buckland and all towns and villages in Mole Valley District Council.

Nearly two years on, I wanted to share a brief update on the progress we've made. MVCF now has its own website: www.molevalleycf.org.uk, where you'll find details of our purpose, the sixteen community projects we've supported so far, and the local businesses whose contributions make these grants possible.

Our partnership with MVDC continues to strengthen. From April the Council is now offering an element of 'matched funding' to encourage more small and medium-sized businesses to join our Business Ambassador programme. You may also spot our MVCF logo on MVDC minibuses and on About Roofing Supplies lorries and vans, helping raise awareness across the district. In addition Tim Wates the chairman at Wates Group recently became our Patron

How you can help

We would be grateful for your support in spreading the word:

Visit www.molevalleycf.org.uk and share the link with your teams, networks, and local contacts

- Follow *Mole Valley Community Fund* on LinkedIn and Facebook to help grow our reach
- Let me know of any individuals or businesses in Mole Valley we might approach to explore becoming donors
- Share the recent MVCF Newsletter, a PDF on the website, within your teams and networks, which provides a further progress update.

Alan Horden, Buckland
alan@cfsurrey.co.uk, www.molevalleycf.org.uk

MAY NATURE NOTES

The hawthorn — our May tree — is in full bloom along the lane and the hedgerows, its white flowers sweetly scented, Look closely at a hawthorn spray and you will notice that each tiny flower has five petals, a cluster of red-tipped stamens, and sometimes a blush of pale pink as the blossom ages. A hedgerow in full blossom against a blue May sky is one of the finest sights our countryside offers.

May is a special month for our birds as summer visitor return from far away places. If you are very fortunate you might hear a cuckoo on still mornings. Numbers have declined greatly in the last 50 years, so to hear one is now a small gift. It arrives from Africa in late April and is usually gone by July, spending barely three months with us.

Swifts, swallows and sand and house martins have been returning from Africa. They are among the great travellers of the bird world, wintering south of the Sahara before finding their way back to the very same nesting sites each spring. This year we are going to conduct a survey to build a better picture of nesting sites across the 4Bs.

In early May the dawn chorus reaches its glorious peak. It's worth getting up around 4.30am and stepping outside to experience. Last year we began to create a Dawn Chorus sound map across. You can listen to it and see what birds were involved at 20 locations across the 4Bs <https://www.biodiversitypark.uk/4bs-wildbird-sound-map.html>

The orange-tip butterfly is on the wing through May, the male vivid orange and white, the female more subtle and easily overlooked. Both sexes feed on cuckoo-flower and garlic mustard, which you will find at hedge-banks and field margins. Look for the underside of the wings: mottled green-and-white, a remarkable camouflage against the flowers where the butterfly rests.

On mild evenings, watch for bats emerging at dusk, typically fifteen to twenty minutes after sunset. Common pipistrelles are the most likely species — tiny, fast-moving, and often following the same route along a hedgerow or garden edge night after night. If a garden hedgehog has not yet appeared from hibernation, look out around dusk — they will be snuffling for beetles and worms in the longer grass. Which reminds me please remember NOT to cut your grass in May to give our wildflowers half a chance to grow.

Norman Jackson

4Bs Birds in May

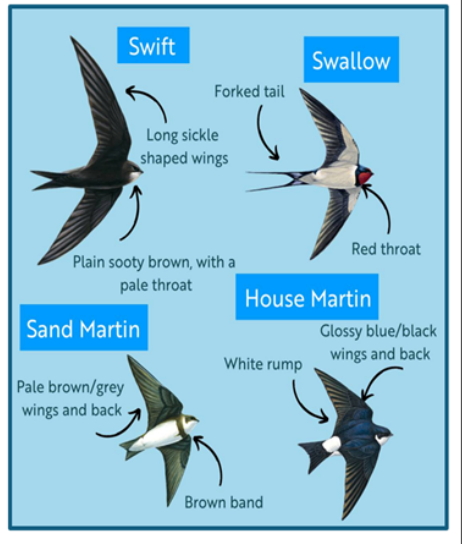
Sunday 3 May International
Dawn Chorus Day 2026

4Bs Dawn Chorus Sound Map

Paul Ritchie's Bird of the Week
Blog Post

4Bs Swift, Swallow, Sand & House
Martin Survey

Visit our Biodiversity Website
<https://www.biodiversitypark.uk/>



BUCKLAND SHAG MORRIS MEN

FRIDAY 1st MAY (May Day)—BUCKLAND VILLAGE GREEN
At Dawn (c. 5.00 am)



Buckland Shag Morris Men dance at dawn on Buckland Green every year. It is the start of their engagement season. Morris dancers dance at dawn on May Day to "dance up the sun" and welcome the arrival of summer, marking a shift from winter. This tradition, held at sunrise, celebrates the renewal of the season, fertility, and community luck, historically aligned with ancient festivals.

Most people in Buckland know about this tradition in Buckland, but few bother to get out of bed. The few that do attend love it.

Don't regret getting out of bed!

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					25	26					
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50	51						52	53					54		
55							56						57		
58							59						60		
61							62						63		

ACROSS

- 1. Anagram of "Care"
- 5. Chip dip
- 10. Chums
- 14. Farm soil
- 15. Mob
- 16. A Great Lake
- 17. Exactitudes
- 19. Asterisk
- 20. Fish eggs
- 21. Sporting venue

DOWN

- 22. Attendance counter
- 23. Patterned
- 25. Subject
- 27. Antiquity
- 28. Adamance
- 31. It comes from bees
- 34. Exchange
- 35. Regret
- 36. Brews

ACROSS

- 37. Increases
- 38. Former Italian currency
- 39. Stitch
- 40. Fatigued
- 41. Reluctant
- 42. Involving posture
- 44. U-boat
- 45. Buffalo
- 46. Universal
- 50. Severe

DOWN

- 52. Coronet
- 54. Color
- 55. Minerals
- 56. Immersion
- 58. Boyfriend
- 59. Extraterrestrial
- 60. Against
- 61. Rice wine
- 62. Thigh armor
- 63. Misplaced

DOWN

1. Scare
2. Chocolate
3. Formula 1 driver
4. Large flightless bird
5. Be afraid
6. Curved
7. A certain cut of meat
8. Athlete's headband
9. Commercials

10. Rouse to action
11. Nettle rash
12. Found on rotary phones
13. Arid
18. Come from behind
22. Eject
24. Stinging insects
26. Probabilities
28. Bay window
29. Abrupt
30. Yes (informal)
31. Metal fastener

32. Margarine
33. Newsflash
34. Hairy spider
37. Form of money transfer
38. A rounded projection
40. Backside
41. Associated with the moon
43. Powder room
44. Calm

46. Diversions
47. Rhinoceros
48. Parental sisters
49. In accordance with law
50. Goblins
51. District
53. Nile bird
56. Seated oneself
57. Lass

Notices found in Parish Magazines
(not this one, until now, of course)

- Irving Benson and Tricia Carter were married last weekend in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their schooldays.
- Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.
- Ladies are requested not to have children in the church kitchen.
- For those who have children and don't know it, we have a crèche and nursery in the crypt.
- Don't let worry kill you. Let the church help.
- The organist invites any members of the congregation who enjoy sinning to volunteer for the choir.
- Remember in prayer the many who are sick, both of our church and the community.
- Smile at someone who you find hard to love. Say 'hell' to someone who doesn't much care about you.



SUDOKU

Grade: Medium.
Solution on p.33

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

WORDSEARCH— Prayer for the Middle East

Middle
East
Conflict
Pray
Damage

Fire
crisis
many
Lives
millions

War
Cease
Earth
Break

Lord
Our
Rock
Fortress
Deliverer

Bows
Shatter
Spears
Burn
Shields

Hope
Kyrie
in
You
mercy

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

Solution on p.33

MUSIC IN DORKING—MAY



2nd at 12.00, organ recital at St Martin's church, free
16th at 5.30, Dorking Chamber Orchestra at St Martin's church
23rd at 7.30, Surrey Philharmonic Orchestra at Ashted Peace Memorial Hall, £16, 01372 275907

There are two orchestral concerts to enjoy in May. The Dorking Chamber Orchestra has a concert built around a pastoral theme. Under their conductor Marc Dooley they will play Beethoven's Pastoral symphony and Aaron Copland's Down a country lane, along with Charles Ives' third symphony. Their leader Guy Button will be the soloist in Beethoven's Romance in F for violin and orchestra.

The Surrey Philharmonic Orchestra, playing in Ashted, has a concert beginning with Schubert's lively Overture in D, in the Italian style and closing with Mendelssohn's equally lively Italian symphony. Also on the programme are Glazunov's concerto for saxophone and Tartini's concertino for clarinet, with soloist Nicola Baigent. This month's lunchtime concert at St Martin's will be an organ recital given by Andrew Harrap. As well as being busy as a church organist, Andrew is also the rehearsal pianist for Godalming Operatic Society. The concert is free with a retiring collection.

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

Ian Codd



"Whilst I appreciate the thought, would whoever it is please stop tweeting. 'So far, so good...?'"



Terry made a note to fix the bolt

ST. JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL
On dealing with summer fetes

The Rectory, St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

So, you are beginning to plan your first Summer Fete in your new parish. That you appear to be looking forward to it shows how little you know about them. Parishes hold Summer Fetes so that their clergy can preach more meaningfully on purgatory. Their ostensible purpose is to raise money for the church - which is wholly illogical. The parish could double the money raised if the Fete were dropped, none of the endless preparations made, if everyone spent a pleasant afternoon in their own gardens and each person simply donated £20 to the church instead. But we still feel obliged to go to endless trouble, making ourselves miserable so we can show each other what a good time we are having. That it generally pours seems to make the entire event even more grimly satisfying.



No, the real reasons for a Summer Fete are twofold. First, it gives the entire parish the chance to inspect the Rector's garden. Whatever state it is in, it will cause disapproval. If it is poorly kept, then I am clearly being ungrateful for having three acres of lawn to enjoy. Mowing it each week should be one of my delights; what else would I do with a whole day off each week anyway? The hand mower, kindly given by Colonel French is assumed to be quite adequate - and rumour has it that I need to lose weight anyway. The mower was presented to me when the Colonel bought his own gardener a sit-on motor mower - which is of a size and opulence that makes me assume it has a drinks cabinet and satellite navigation.

The second reason for a Fete comes as a special perk for the organisers. It gives them a chance to inspect the inside of the Rectory. Under the pretence of looking for a little more sugar, they can systematically inspect all the kitchen cupboards and comment on their contents. By the end of the day, the whole parish will know what marmalade I spread on my toast, that I use unnecessarily expensive washing powder, and where I have unsuccessfully tried to hide the gin.

The details of what then happens while the Fete is in progress must wait until my next letter, when we will have had our own. It is now time for Evensong, drinks with Major Mallet and his wife, and then a quiet evening with a good book, while I toy with other possible hiding places for the gin this year.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

Editors Note

You may have recently noticed blank pages in the advert sections, which need to be in multiples of 4 pages. We currently have space for more advertisers, and it would be great if you could encourage any local businesses to advertise with us.

Currently, as I had 3 'blank pages', I am using them to add a 'Gallery' of any artwork of Buckland Scenes, or pictures of elsewhere drawn by Buckland residents, whether old or new. I will be pleased to add any art works you send to me as JPEG files. Artists and contributors will be acknowledged.

Whilst we print in black & white, the website version of the magazine can be viewed in full colour, so why not check it out online...

www.stmarythevirginbuckland.org.uk

Click Parish Magazine at the bottom of the home page



Hugh Thompson, 1908

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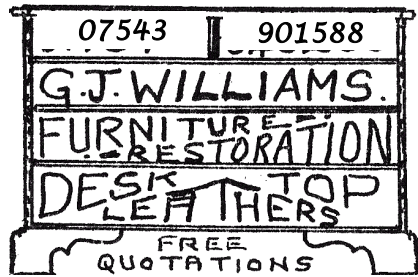
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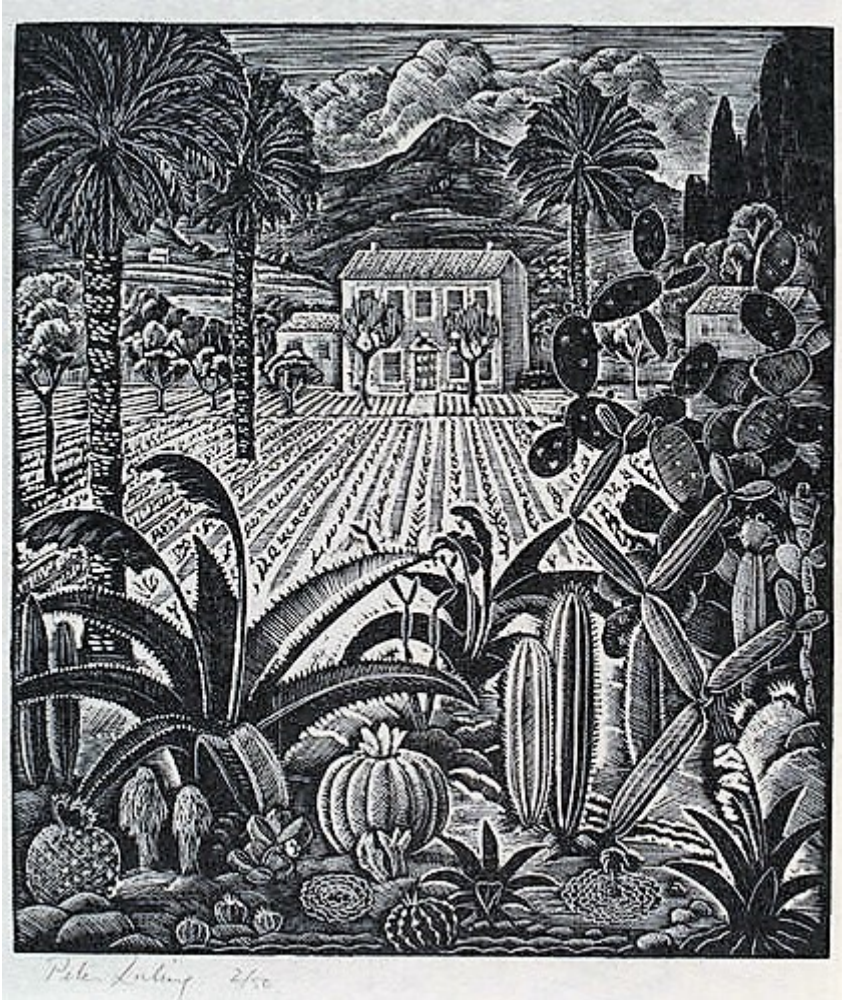
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Provincial Farm (Collection of Christchurch Art Gallery, New Zealand)

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See also 'Past Lives' Book, chapter 23

Features

GARDENING NOTES FOR MAY

May planting ideas for glorious summer colours

Now that we are into perfect growing weather, just a few tips for reliable plants that can be useful and colourful additions to any garden.

Geums are garden must-haves. They flower for months and are big bold statements for pots or borders. They are medium-sized plants that keep coming back year after year, with a stunning display of bee-friendly open-centred flowers from late spring, throughout summer and even into early autumn. Perfect if you're after rich fiery shades, but there are some more subtle pastel colours too. Geums can be planted now in flower beds or in pots. If you choose a spot where water doesn't sit in puddles, but the soil doesn't dry out completely, in a sunny or slightly shaded spot, they'll be performing in just a few weeks. Most will grow to between 40 and 70cm tall and bring excitement and movement, offering glimpses of nearby plants through their flower topped stems. Regularly remove faded flowers to maximise flowering potential.

Hardy geraniums are long-lasting and reliable, with interesting, often prettily patterned leaves, so even when the flowers are not out, they're a great plant for flower beds or pots. Common flower colours are purple, lilac, pink and white. In flower in spring and summer, hardy geraniums are loved by bees and other beneficial insects. They're easy to look after, with some doing well in the trickier spots such as shade or very dry soils. If you want to cut down on weeding, many hardy geraniums make perfect spreading ground cover plants and look far prettier than soil or bark!

Heuchera are perfect for anyone who loves stunning clusters of gorgeously coloured foliage. They create mounds of leaves with delicate flower spikes. The lobed leaves vary hugely depending on which you choose – purples, reds, golden, rich autumn-like shades, silvery, and lime-green. Planted now, you'll get to enjoy the flowers, and the leaves will persist well into autumn, sometimes even later, before the show starts again next year.

David Hogg, Buckland Nurseries

Small Surrey Churches - Part Fifteen

The Windmill Church, Reigate Heath



Less than a half-mile from Buckland's boundary, is Reigate Heath Windmill. All our residents (I think!) know it is there in the middle of the golf course, but many have never been inside and viewed the surprising interior—which is a church. Here is the story...

The post mill on Reigate Heath was said to be built in 1765, although it was possibly earlier, for a mill is shown on the site on Bowen's map of circa 1753 and Rocque's map of Surrey of 1762. In the first half of the nineteenth century the mill was held by Michael Bowyer who also worked, according to the Tithe map of 1845, the Wonham Watermill, one mile to the west. The mill remained in the family until Sarah Bowyer sold the mill to Henry Lainson in 1868, when William Quait was miller. The mill ceased to grind about 1870.¹

In 1880, on the initiative of Mr Lainson of Colley Manor (on Colley Lane, Reigate), the brick roundhouse of the disused mill was converted into a 'Chapel of Ease' to St Mary's Parish church, Reigate. The chapel, named St Cross Chapel, was opened for services on 14th September 1880, and has continued to this day when services are held throughout the summer.

The mill was offered for sale in 1891, but it was not until 1906 that the Golf Club purchased the freehold of the piece of land which contained the Golf Club House, the millers' cottage and mill. The mill was then leased to the church by the club. The repairs to the mill were undertaken by the Golf Club and, in 1926, when a sail broke it was replaced by them. The tail pole was replaced by a dummy fantail, put in the position of the former striking wheel, and the ladder at the rear of the mill was removed.

During the 1930s the mill was kept in reasonable repair, but in 1943 the sails were blown off and these not replaced for over twenty years. In 1949 the mill was again repaired and made watertight. In 1951, the windmill was listed by English Heritage, now Heritage England, as Grade II*.¹ *[There are around 370,000 Listed Buildings in the UK, most of which are Grade 2. Only 5.8% are in the higher Grade Two-Star (II*), and 2.5% in the most precious Grade 1. Hence this building is rather special.]*



During the next few years a desire was expressed by local people for the mill to return to its original character and so, in 1952, it was inspected by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. A report was made, but the Golf Club were finding the task of repairing and maintaining the mill too much, and so in August 1962, the Borough of Reigate Town Planning Committee approved the purchase of the windmill.²

The money was raised and a new set of four sails were fitted, each pair with a span of 65 feet and a width of 8 feet. The repair work was completed by June 1964, the body was tarred, a flight of oak steps was fitted at the rear and a pine tail pole was added. The whole of the work was undertaken by the Council's own workmen.²

Inside the mill a considerable amount of machinery is still in position. When working, the mill drove two pairs of stones in the breast - a pair of peaks on the left and a pair of French burrs on the right. Both these pairs of stones were underdriven. The mill also had, at one time, a pair of stones in the tail, where the circular housing for the bed stone in the stone bearers can still be seen. Extensive renovations to the sails and the exterior of the Mill were last carried out by Reigate & Banstead Borough Council in the year 2000. The current sail frames do not turn.²

The Windmill Church is now under the wing of St Mary's Reigate. Since 1965, services at the Mill have been held on the third Sunday in the month at 3 pm, from May to October inclusive, and there is a lovely Carol Service before Christmas by candlelight and with decorations.²

Access

Adjacent to the Windmill Church is the Clubhouse for Reigate Golf Club, which is open days when the Golf club house is staffed. Any member of the public can politely ask at the bar, to borrow the key to the windmill in daylight opening hours. The key gives access to the windmill 'round house', which is the ground floor room containing the church. You can view the windmill church and promptly return the key. This is a great service which the Golf club offers to enable public viewing, whilst protecting the contents of the church.

References

1. Farries, K G & Mason M T, 1966. *The Windmills of Surrey & SE London*. Charles Skilton London. 276pp. Pages 184-188.
2. *The Mill Church Reigate Heath*. Pamphlet, 2002, 4pp

SOME LIGHT RELIEF ...

Three elderly ministers, all hard of hearing, were playing golf one sunny spring morning. The Methodist minister observed, "Windy, isn't it?" "No", the Baptist pastor said, "It's Thursday." The Anglican vicar agreed: "So am I! Let's go and get a pint."



There are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, 'Good morning, Lord', and those who wake up in the morning and say, 'Good Lord, it's morning'.

A minister announced to his congregation: 'I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building programme. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets'.

A Sunday School teacher began her lesson with a question, "Boys and girls, what do we know about God?" "He is an artist!" said the little boy. "Really? How do you know?" the teacher asked. "We say it every week. Our Father, who does art in Heaven... "

After several synonyms had been given for the word jubilant, one little boy added: 'Oh I know what it means now, it's like jubilant delinquency.'

A father of five young children won a toy at a raffle. Back home, he called his children together to let them determine which one should have the present. He asked: 'Who is the most obedient? Who never talks back to Mother? Who does everything she says?' Five small voices answered in unison: 'You, Daddy!'

A young guy in a restaurant noticed two pretty girls looking at him. 'Nine', he heard one whisper. He swaggered over to his mate at the bar and told him that girl had just rated him a nine out of ten. 'I don't want to ruin it for you', he said, 'but that girl is German.'

Dad loved his technology. He bought his oldest daughter an iPhone for her birthday. He also got an iPad for his son. Later he bought an iPod for the youngest daughter. Then, when his wedding anniversary rolled around, he got his wife an iRon. That's when things went wrong.

ORIGINAL SIN, OR ORIGINAL PURITY

An opinion piece by Father Richard Rohr, Franciscan & Author

The “image of God” in us is absolute and unchanging. It’s pure and total gift, given equally to all. But this picture was complicated when the concept of original sin entered the Christian mind.

In this idea—first put forth by Augustine in the fifth century but never mentioned in the Bible—we emphasized that human beings were born into “sin” because Adam and Eve “offended God” by eating from the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” As punishment, God cast them out of the garden of Eden. Original sin wasn’t something we did at all; it was something that was done to us (passed down from Adam and Eve). In this understanding, we’re all off to a bad start.

By contrast, most of the world’s great religions start with some sense of primal goodness in their creation stories. The Jewish and Christian traditions beautifully succeeded at this, with the Genesis record telling us that God called creation “good” five times in Genesis 1:10–25, and even “very good” in 1:31.

But after Augustine, most Christian theologies shifted from the positive vision of Genesis 1 to the more negative vision of Genesis 3—the so-called fall, or what I am calling the “problem.” Instead of embracing God’s master plan for humanity and creation—what we Franciscans still call the “Primacy of Christ”—Christians shrunk our image of both Jesus and Christ. Our “Savior” became a mere Johnny-come-lately “answer” to the problem of sin, a problem that we had largely created ourselves.

In one way, the doctrine of “original sin” was good and helpful in that it taught us not to be surprised at the frailty and woundedness that we all carry. Just as goodness is inherent and shared, so it seems with evil. This is, in fact, a very merciful teaching. Knowledge of our shared wound ought to free us from the burden of unnecessary and individual guilt or shame and help us to be forgiving and compassionate with ourselves and one another.

Yet historically speaking, the teaching of original sin started us off on the wrong foot—with a no instead of a yes, with mistrust instead of trust. We have spent centuries trying to solve the “problem” that we’re told is at the heart of our humanity. But if we start with a problem, we tend to never get beyond that mindset.

To begin climbing out of the hole of original sin, we must start with a positive and generous cosmic vision. Generosity tends to build on itself. I have never met a truly compassionate or loving human being who did not have a foundational and even deep trust in the inherent goodness of human nature.

The Christian story line must start with a positive and overarching vision for humanity and for history, or it will never get beyond the primitive, exclusionary, and fear-based stages of most early human development. We are ready for a major course correction.

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

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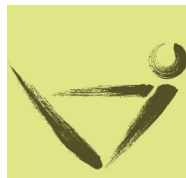
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Christmas Drinks - The Reading Room 20th Dec 12pm – 2pm

Please contact us for enquiries about annual membership

(£10 per household per year) and bookings :

betchworthandbucklandsociety@gmail.com

www.betchworthandbucklandsociety.org.uk

THE ARTS SOCIETY BETCHWORTH

NOTRE DAME DE PARIS - ITS ICONIC STATUS IN FRENCH HISTORY

Monday 18 May 2.30 pm (doors open 1.45pm for refreshments)

Betchworth Memorial Hall, Station Road



Our lecturer, Carole Petipher, explores the history of Notre Dame in French culture and the amazing restoration efforts following the tragic fire in 2019.

And next, at 2.30 on June 15th, The Queen Mother's Lifelong Love of Jewellery

Carole Evans, www.theartsocietybetchworth.org.uk

DORKING MUSEUM IN MAY

Dorking: Cycling capital of England' opens 14th May, tracing Dorking's contribution to the national development of cycling, from the Dorking Cycling Club of the 1880s to the 2012 Olympics and Tour of Britan. Features include original 'penny-farthing' and 'boneshaker' bicycles, cycling medals, and an Olympic banner.

Walking in Dorking: Pre-book online for guided walks: Hidden Dorking (9th), Betchworth Castle (10th), The Deepdene Trail, Architecture on Dorking's main streets, and Blue plaques and statues (all 17th), and a Family Walk (27th).

South Street Caves tours: Saturday 9 May.. Pre-book online at dorkingmuseum.org.uk/south-street-caves/.

Family Activities at Dorking Library: Local Community History Month: Put the objects from the museum in age order and guess what mystery items were used for. Sat 16th, 10am-noon.

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

BUCKLAND BETCHWORTH
CHORAL SOCIETY

A Summer's Afternoon

with music by

FINZI RUTTER GJEILO QUARTEL DALEY

Conductor: George Inscoe

Pianist: Anna Tetsuya

Join us for some gorgeous music,
a delicious tea... and a glass of fizz!

20th June at 4:00 pm

St Michael's Church, Betchworth RH3 7DF



Tickets £15.00

*under 16's free



BBCSINFO.ORG

Join us for our summer term and more...

Our summer term begins on 29 April when we start rehearsals for our ever-popular June concert, a relaxed afternoon of beautiful music by Finzi, Rutter, Gjeilo and Daly followed by tea, cake and fizz!

And after the summer break we'll be preparing for our major autumn concert. This year we're performing 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, from 7.45-9.45pm. 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

Betchworth Operatic & Dramatic Society

BITS & B.O.D.S.

MUSIC AND DRAMA TO CELEBRATE OUR
90TH ANNIVERSARY



13-15 May 7.30, 16 May 2.30 Betchworth Village Hall

BODS has been staging musicals and plays in the village hall since 1936. To mark this anniversary we present a miscellany of drama pieces and well-known songs from musicals and Gilbert & Sullivan comic operas

Doors open at 7pm (Sat 2pm). Bar serving wine, beer, soft drinks. Tickets £15 standard, £12 seniors/under-16s. More info at bodswb.com including a link to buy tickets online (no fee), or use this QR code. Phone booking 0333 6663366



BROCKHAM BOWLS CLUB



The opening of the new season is here. In early April, weather permitting, we should be able to get on the green and get those bowling arms moving again. Parts of the Clubhouse have had repairs and a lick of paint, ready for players and social activities. 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 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, then starting in May we hold Club Nights most Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5pm onwards, and you are most welcome to pop in and speak to one of our members.

Trevor Anderson

GROUND YOURSELF

May today there be peace within you.

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith

May you use those gifts that you have received,
and pass on the love that has been given to you.

May you be content knowing that you are a child of God.

Let his presence settle your bones, and allow your soul to the freedom to sing,
dance and to bask in the sun.

It is there for each and every one of you

St. Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

**Crossword (p.14)
Solution**

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

Wordsearch (p.16) Solution

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

Sudoku (p.16) Solution

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

BUCKLAND PARISH MAGAZINE

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

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

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: 29 May 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
- Tuesday 6.30pm Yoga (Maria)
- Tuesday 8.00pm Yoga Beginners (Maria)
- Thursday 2.15pm Bridge Club
- Thursday evening Yoga (Judy)
- Saturday 08.30am Qi Gong (Judy)

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

Village: www.bucklandsurrey.org.uk

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