

BUCKLAND PARISH MAGAZINE



June 2026

SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN, BUCKLAND

www.stmarythevirginbuckland.com

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BUCKLAND PARISH MAGAZINE

June 2026

Dear Friends

June is often a month of beginnings and endings all at once.

The school year starts to wind towards its close, swallows and swifts have returned and swoop in eddies of warm air, gardens begin to fill out in earnest, and the long evenings draw us outdoors again. Yet June can also be a time when we become more aware of change. Things shift. Seasons turn. Children look to moving up a year or school, People move on, they up or downsize depending on where they are in life. Roles once faithfully carried by familiar hands are slowly laid down.



Over recent weeks, I have found myself reflecting a great deal on gratitude. It feels important simply to say thank you because much of the life of a rural parish church rests not on grand gestures but on steady faithfulness over many years. Thank you to those who continue to give faithfully, quietly and without fuss. Thank you to those who clean churches, arrange flowers, mow grass, unlock doors, organise rotas, count money, balance our accounts, sing in choirs, serve refreshments, prepare services, visit neighbours, and keep an eye on those who may be struggling.

As the years go by, we may see people step back, having carried responsibilities for a long time or who have moved away. Some roles are visible; others almost unnoticed beyond a small circle. Yet all have mattered. To serve a church community year after year requires patience, resilience, and love. It leaves a mark on a place. I hope those stepping back know how deeply their contribution is valued. In communities such as ours, there are inevitably going to be loss, and the past year has been particularly tough with the loss of four much loved and respected members of our church community. It brings home our frailty and vulnerability in a

way that many of us would rather not be reminded but also helps us pause to reflect and remember... The deaths of the such as Cynthia M, and June H in the second half of last year then Richard W this year and now the sudden loss of Bernard previous churchwarden and bellringer from St Michael's who attended St Mary's as well, leaves a genuine hole in the life of our church and parish. We miss their familiar faces, familiar voices, and familiar ways of being. Rural churches especially hold memory closely. People are woven not only into worship but into the fabric of village life itself.

The Christian story has always been one of carrying both grief and hope together. The church has changed many times across generations. Worship styles, tradition and focus have all changed, some painfully, some enthusiastically. People too have come and gone as seasons rise and fall but God remains faithful through them all.

Perhaps part of our calling now is not to long simply for how things once were, but to ask gently and honestly what faithfulness looks like in this season. It need not be bigger or flashier, or how it was years previously. Simply faithful. God bless you Bernard, may you rest in peace and rise in glory.

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

JUNE EVENTS

- 1 June, 7.30pm.** Talk: Chilworth Gunpowder Mills, DLHG, p.30
- 8 June, Lunch** 'At the Races', Betchworth House, St Michael's Pillars, p.29
- 12 Jun, 12 noon.** Open Summer Lunch, Buckland Reading Room, p.8
- 13 June, 4pm.** Concert: Ladybirds Choir 'Transport theme', Dorking, p.28
- 15 June, 2.30pm.** Talk: The Queen Mother's Jewellery. Arts Soc. Betchworth, p.31
- 15 June, 7.30pm.** ZOOM Talk: Brookwood Cemetery. DLHG, p.30
- 20 June, 4pm.** Concert: 'A Summer Afternoon', Betchworth, B&B Choral Soc, p.27
- 28 June, 1pm.** Summer BBQ, Buckland Green, B&B Soc, p.26

JULY EVENTS

- 4 July, 4pm.** Concert: Lift Every Voice & Sing'. Dorking Choral Soc, p.30
- 11 July, 10am-4.30.** Workshop: Learn & Sing Bach's Magnificat. Dorking Choral, p.30

CHURCH SERVICES—JUNE

Date	St Mary's Buckland	St Michael's Betchworth
31 May <i>Trinity Sunday</i>		10am Parish Communion <i>Matthew 28: 16-end</i>
7 June <i>Trinity 1</i>		10am Parish Communion <i>Matthew 9: 9-13, 18-26</i>
14 June <i>Trinity 2</i>	10am IONA Service <i>Matthew 9: 35—10: 8</i>	5pm Evensong
21 June <i>Trinity 3</i>		10am Parish Communion <i>Matthew 10: 24-39</i>
28 June <i>Trinity 4</i>	10am Parish Communion <i>Matthew 10: 40-end</i>	
5 July <i>Trinity 5</i>		10am Parish Communion <i>Matthew 11: 16-19,25-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

Flowers in Buckland Church for the Iona Service, 10 May 2026. A simple and beautiful spring arrangement against the back drop of the ceramic tiles, dating back to the 1860 restoration our church by Henry Woodyer.

Thanks to Jean Cooke for this flower arrangement, and to all the volunteer flower group who prepare arrangements throughout the year.

Contact Debbie Jones if you'd like to join the Flower Arrangers —07701 347351

Bernard Hawkins 1946 - 2026—A TRIBUTE

It was with great sadness that we heard that Bernard had died unexpectedly on the 8th May. While he was most associated with Betchworth church and village, he had definitive links with Buckland through primarily bell ringing at St Mary's.

A long standing bell ringer at Betchworth for many decades, Bernard was instrumental in reforming the bell ringing band at St Mary's in the mid 1980's taking over from Arthur Saunders, the then tower captain. In order to create the band, he took with him some members of the Betchworth band as well as attracting new local ringers such as Brenda Coley. That St Mary's has a strong band of ringers today is largely due to Bernard's leadership and inspiration. While he stepped down from the captain's role a few years later, his regular contribution to ringing and all matters associated with the tower remained strong; in particular he helped with the re-tuning of St Mary's bells in 2005 and installed lighting in the belfry. Throughout he continued to ring at St Michael's.

Bell ringing was a dominant feature of Bernard's life from very early days; he was a local boy schooled in Reigate and started his ringing at Kingswood before moving to St Michael's where he developed the band in the 1970's pre dating his initiative at St Mary's. He had a leading role in the Surrey Association of Bellringers becoming its Southern District master overseeing church bell ringing in East Surrey and parts of South London. He rang in, and conducted, many quarter peals and was directly responsible for many current members of both bands ringing many quarter peals themselves. He taught countless numbers of learners; and there are many ringers today who owe a debt of gratitude to Bernard for his skill and patience.

In addition to many other achievements, he led, inspired and project managed the complete restoration of the St Michael's bells and belfry in 1985; an enormous task ranging from raising the funds, with the support of Betchworth church and village, through to organising the Betchworth and local ringers into an effective labour force to assist the Whitechapel Foundry which provided the technical expertise. He rightly took great pride in that achievement. He also found time to run a hand bell team with his own set of hand bells so that many a Christmas carol service was enhanced with a hand bell performance.

It is quite impossible in the space allowed to mention the many other acts of voluntary work he did in both parishes; however he had a long standing involvement with this magazine coordinating the advertising for both parish

magazines. He was also church warden at Betchworth, before stepping down through ill health, and for a time clerk to the Parish Council. If ever there was a good example of the United Benefice and both parishes working together, Bernard epitomised that.

He was married to Barbara whom he met while they were at the same school and to whom he was utterly devoted; they lived in Brockham in a house they named as The Hive reflecting their 2 Bs. Perhaps needless to say, Barbara was also a bell ringer at Betchworth; of their two daughters, Frances and Rachel, Rachel has continued the family tradition of bell ringing.

Bernard was much loved and held in high affection; he was in essence calm and displayed a high degree of discretion, He was gently persuasive, kindly and had an open mind but was quite capable of holding to his views. Fortunately he had a robust sense of humour. In my 46 years of friendship with Bernard, I cannot remember one crossed word with him, and I suspect many others can say the same.

Through much of his life he was plagued with ill health which made life more difficult as the years went on, he bore it with a commendable optimism and seldom did he let it get in the way of living a full life. However it did restrict his bell ringing in later years and we at St Mary's were delighted he rang with us very recently for what he acknowledged would be the last time. He celebrated his 80th birthday in March with family, friends and fellow ringers at a party in the Hamilton Room,

He will be greatly missed.

David Sayce

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.

A WELCOME TO THE NEW ARCHDEACON OF REIGATE The Revd Dr Geoff Dumbreck

Our Previous Archdeacon of Reigate was Rt Revd Moira Astin, who moved to become the Bishop of Crediton in the Diocese of Exeter in July 2025. Moira Astin's replacement, The Revd Geoff Dumbreck, was consecrated as the new Archbishop of Reigate in January 2026.

Geoff was previously Vicar of the South Croydon Benefice, Area Dean of Croydon Central and Acting Archdeacon of Croydon, prior to taking up his new role as Archdeacon of Reigate. Geoff grew up in Guildford and studied theology at the University of Cambridge, where he gained a PhD before training for ordained ministry at Ripon College (Cuddesdon, Oxford). He served his curacy at the Parish of the Ascension, Cambridge, before becoming Assistant Chaplain at Peterhouse, the oldest college in Cambridge University. He will work across the Reigate area, reporting through the Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Bishop of Croydon.



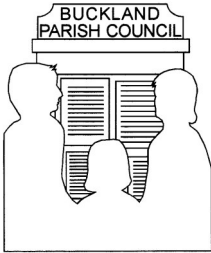
In his spare time, Geoff enjoys cooking for friends, spending time with his dog (a Jack Russell), and enjoying music—including learning to play the ukulele. Geoff owns a narrowboat, which he keeps in Surrey. He says, 'I find slowing down to 4 mph gives me space to think and to notice the wonders of God's creation.'

Geoff preached at St Michael's Betchworth in March and he will be invited to St Mary's Buckland over the summer.

Adapted from 'The Bridge' (Southwark Diocese Magazine, March 2026)

Buckland Matters

BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE



Have you received a letter instructing you to undertake tree work?

As more than one Buckland resident has shared they have recently received a letter from Surrey County Council (SCC) that includes an instruction to remove one or more trees growing alongside the A25 Reigate Road it would appear the tree team at SCC has completed an inspection of A25 roadside trees in Buckland.

If you own land or property that includes trees that are close to a road or roadside footpath, it is your responsibility to ensure they are safe. SCC recommends trees are inspected on a regular basis and advises you must take action if a tree on your land stops vehicles or pedestrians using the road or pavement safely, is dead or might fall down, blocks the line of sight at a road junction or blocks street lights, pelican crossings or road signs.

Before you arrange for tree work to be undertaken, (even having received an instruction from SCC Highways), please check whether the tree that requires work is within the Buckland Conservation Area or is subject to a Tree Preservation Order. If either applies, you will need to apply to Mole Valley District Council for permission to undertake the work and wait for the decision to be issued. Having spoken with the Senior Tree Officer at MVDC, you are advised to attach a copy of any SCC instruction you have received in support of an application to help the MVDC tree officers process your application more quickly.

Vacancy for a Parish Councillor

When the Parish Council met this week they set a closing date for applications of Monday 1st June 2026. For more information visit the news page of the village website or contact one of the parish councillors or the Clerk.

Date for your calendar

A village tidy will be held on Saturday 12th September 2026 starting from 10am. Please mark your calendars to make sure you keep the morning free to participate.

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

JUNE NATURE NOTES

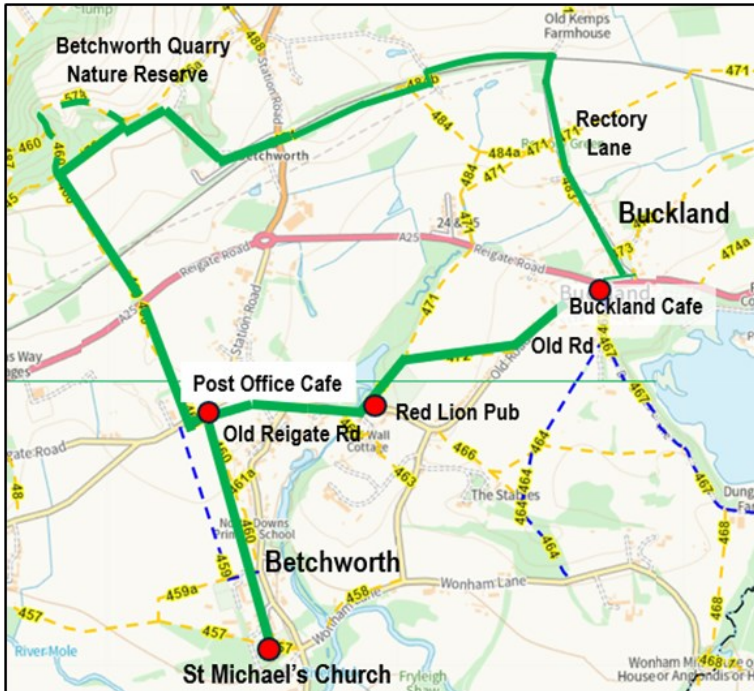
Introducing the Betchworth & Buckland Nature Trail



A new community nature trail is taking shape in Betchworth and Buckland — a six-and-a-half kilometre circuit connecting some of the most rewarding natural places in our two parishes. June is the perfect month to discover it.

The trail is being created by Re-Betchworth's, 4Bs Biodiversity Initiative. Its purpose is simple: to help people connect to the natural life of the

landscape around them, and to raise awareness of the wildlife and habitats that make this corner of Surrey so special. The trail follows existing paths, lanes and roads. At a leisurely pace, with time to stop and look, it takes roughly two hours. You do not need to be a naturalist to enjoy it. You just need to be willing to walk slowly and pay attention.



June is one of the finest months to walk the trail. The hedgerows are in full leaf, the meadow grasses are at their tallest, and the lanes and field margins are alive with insects, birds and wildflowers that will not last much beyond midsummer. Elder is in flower along the field sections — flat white plates of blossom important to pollinators, followed later in the year by the berries that blackbirds and thrushes rely on. Dog roses thread through the hawthorn, pale pink and papery. In the verges and rougher margins, ox-eye daisy, common vetch and meadow buttercup carry the month. Look carefully on chalky ground near the Lime Kiln and you may find pyramid orchids — they have been recorded in the grassy verges along the trail, and June and July is their moment.

Wren, blackcap, chiffchaff, robin and whitethroat are all present along the scrubby sections, and look out for swifts and sand martins overhead. The nature trail will provide a focus for our conservation efforts and for study. Our ambition is to produce an on-line guide for the whole trail informed by ecological surveys that are being undertaken during the summer months. Our first project has been to create a Dawn Chorus sound map for 12 points around the trail. You can watch our Nature Trail movie, download a map with places of interest and access our dawn chorus sound map using this link. www.biodiversitypark.uk/nature-trail.html



Norman Jackson

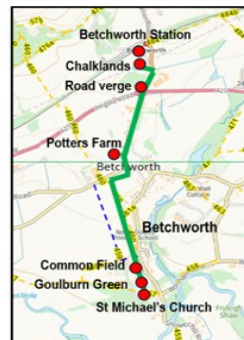


'WILDFLOWER & POLLINATOR WANDER'
Sunday June 14th, 14.00-16.00

This guided tour of part of the Betchworth B-Line, illustrates a range of approaches to the cultivation of wildflowers to help insect pollinators flourish. The walk is FREE for residents of Betchworth, Buckland, Brockham & Boxhill.

Start St Michael's Church
Finish Betchworth Station

20 places. To reserve a place
please email Norman at
4bnaturegroup@gmail.com



The Buckland Shag Morris Men Dance in the Dawn on Mayday 2026 on Buckland Village Green





GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Solution p.33

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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63						64					65			
66						67					68			
69						70					71			

ACROSS

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Lieu | step-parent | 41. When to retire | 64. After-bath wear |
| 6. Cheat | 22. Border | 43. Not fresh | 65. Ceasefire |
| 10. Type of fruit | 23. Rewrite | 44. Back talk | 66. Therefore |
| 14. Adhesive | 24. Compensate for | 46. A Great Lake | 67. Ripped |
| 15. Arm bone | 26. Probabilities | 47. Possibilities | 68. Sorceress |
| 16. Person, place or thing | 30. Flowery verse | 49. Fate | 69. Anagram of "Need" |
| 17. Malicious burning | 31. Born, in bios | 50. Jerk | 70. Three-handed card game |
| 18. Matted cotton for stuffing | 32. Half-moon tide | 51. Flail | 71. Hell |
| 19. Puts on | 33. Former Italian currency | 54. Got bigger | |
| 20. Daughter of a | 35. Diner | 56. Miami basketball team | |
| | 39. Give one's approval to | 57. Drunk | |
| | | 63. Hindu princess | |

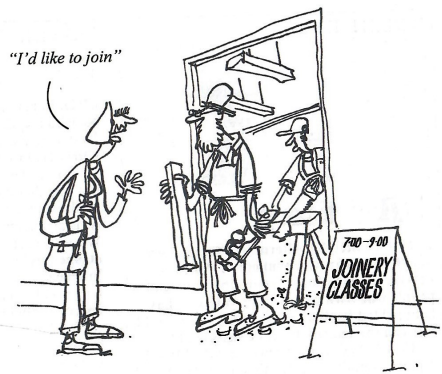
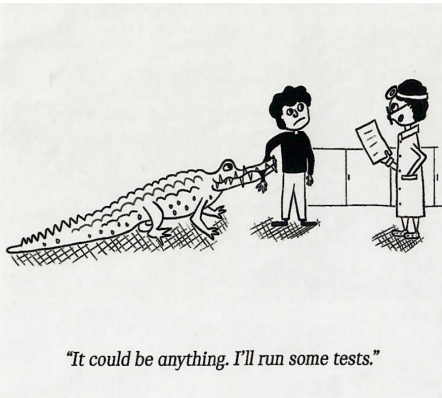
DOWN

- 1. Resorts
- 2. Fruity pastry
- 3. Being
- 4. At the peak of
- 5. Thick
- 6. Subventions
- 7. Din
- 8. Anagram of "Neat"
- 9. Female prison

- guard
- 10. Unbeaten
- 11. Merchandise
- 12. Thrust
- 13. A picture-in-picture
- 21. Graven images
- 25. Provide food
- 26. Anagram of "Nose"
- 27. Depression
- 28. Baby's first word

- 29. Plundering
- 34. Like a sponge or towel
- 36. Anagram of "Riot"
- 37. Arab ruler
- 38. Raise a stink
- 40. Referees
- 42. Aromatic compound
- 45. Arithmetic
- 48. Tees and polos

- 51. Half of six
- 52. Discovered
- 53. Scope
- 55. Sorceress
- 58. Cozy spot
- 59. Diva's solo
- 60. Feces
- 61. Behold, in old Rome
- 62. D D D



SUDOKU

Grade: Medium.
Solution on p.33

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							8	6

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WORDSEARCH— Visit of The Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth

Mary
Virgin
Mother
Elizabeth
Pregnant

Beloved
Disciples
Dying
Cross
Keeping

Ordinary
World
History
Great
Event

Unique
Place
Centuries
Church
blessed

Family
Jerusalem
Wedding
Cana
Wine

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Solution on p.33

In memory of Richard Wheen's humour....

In memory of Richard, we print the second Tom Lehrer song, as sung by Richard at the Buckland Bash (c. 1998) with his piano accompaniment. On top of the piano, Richard placed a 'severed hand', made of rubber: probably purchased at a Joke Shop!

I hold your hand in mine, dear,
I press it to my lips.
I take a healthy bite
From your dainty fingertips.

The night you died I cut it off.
I really don't know why.
For now each time I kiss it
I get bloodstains on my tie.

My joy would be complete, dear,
If you were only here,
But still I keep your hand
As a precious souvenir.

I'm sorry now I killed you,
For our love was something fine,
And till they come to get me
I shall hold your hand in mine.

Hear Tom Lehrer's rendition: tomlehrersongs.com/i-hold-your-hand-in-mine/

LEISURE

A poem by W H Davies (1871-1940)

What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare?
No time to stand beneath the boughs,
And stare as long as sheep and cows:

No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass:
No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night:

No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance:
No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began?
A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

MUSIC IN DORKING—JUNE



6th at 12.00, lunchtime concert at St Martin's church, free
13th at 4.00, Ladybirds choir (see p.28)
20th at 10am-4pm, Capel Choral Society workshop £25, 07866
399231
27th at 7.30, Dorking Philharmonia at St Martin's church
27th at 7.30, VW Singers at Pippbrook House, £20, 01306 881717
28th at 3.00, Beare Green & Newdigate Choral Society at Beare
Green village hall, £10

This month the emphasis is on choirs and vocal music. The Ladybirds Choir, directed by Helena Twentyman, is detailed on page 28.

Capel Choral Society has a full-day singing workshop led by Amy Bebbington. An inspiring and uplifting day will include music by Britten, Finzi and others. Tea and coffee will be provided, but bring your own lunch! Also, Beare Green & Newdigate choral society is holding its summer concert. A ticket includes tea and cake!

While the Dorking Halls is closed for essential refurbishment and upgrades, there is a great programme of events taking place at the lovely (and newly restored) Pippbrook House, just across the road....

The Vaughan Williams Singers, an excellent small local choir directed by Ian Assersohn, will be performing a concert of British choral gems. Alongside music by Hubert Parry, Charles Stanford, John Ireland and others, you will also be able to hear Ralph Vaughan Williams's *The Lark Ascending* in a choral arrangement, with violinist Emma Purslow.

The Dorking Philharmonia's concert will include Max Bruch's lovely violin concerto no.1, played by soloist Joshua Hugo von Bohlen. The programme also includes Beethoven's first Leonore overture and music by Dvorak. And finally, the lunchtime concert at St Martin's church will be a programme of music given by Elizabeth Dobson and Friends.

Ian Codd

Music has healing power. It has the ability to take people
out of themselves for a few hours

Elton John

Local Services

Gallery



Buckland Windmill, 2010
Collage by Barbara Westwell,
late of Sandpit Cottages, Old Rd Buckland

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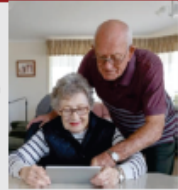


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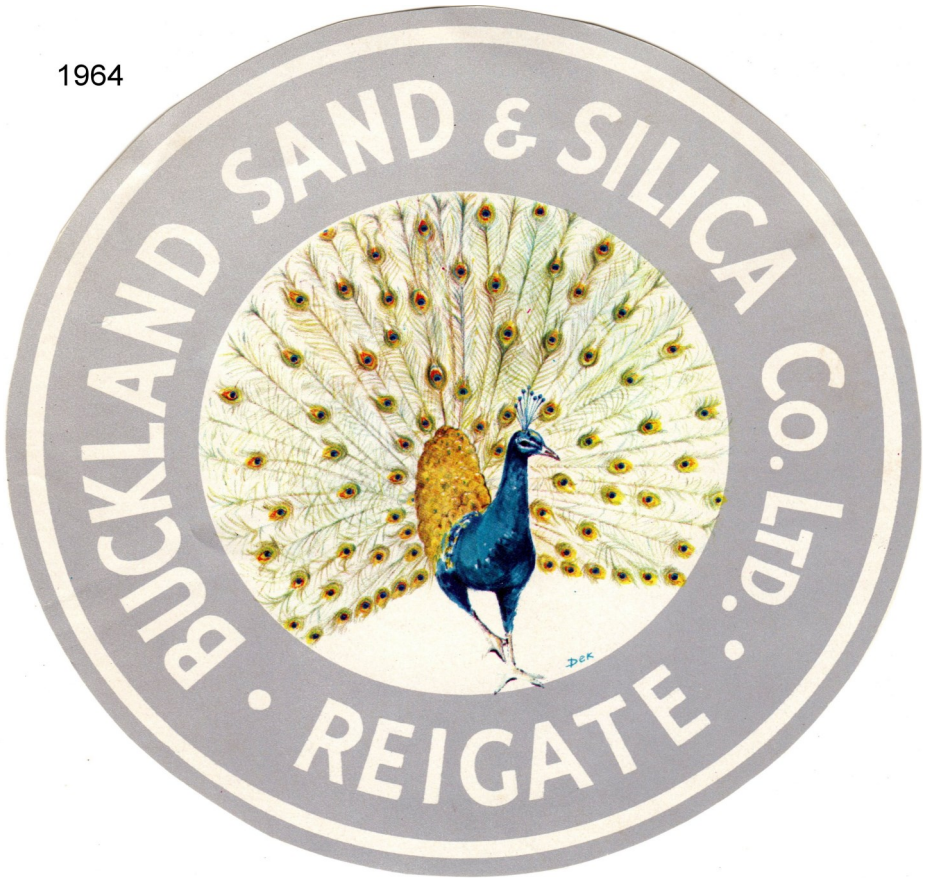
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Gallery

1964



The Logo of Buckland Sand & Silica Co. in 1964.
This was the Estate-owned company that managed the sand extraction,
before selling the extraction rights in 1978 to Amey Roadstone Co.
(ARC), which became Hanson from 1989-2014

Gallery



Tapwood Pit, Buckland 1964.
Painting by G T Crossley. Now hung in 'The Reverie'

ST. JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL On the struggle for life in a rectory

The Rectory, St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

Ah, the joys of June! At last, I can return to the Rectory without putting on my overcoat before going inside. For the next four months, all windows and doors are left open, in order to let the heat *in*. If anyone else tells me how lucky I am to live in an 10-bedroom Queen Anne house, I shall have them excommunicated.

You will soon stop complaining about your one-bedroom flat should you ever have to live in a rural rectory; the days of wandering about your home in shirt-sleeves will become a distant memory. In my first winter here, I had the central heating on full blast 24 hours a day. The house was almost warm, even if the boilers sounded like the Queen Mary coming into port. But that quarter's gas bill needed a substantial grant from the International Monetary Fund to cover it, so ever since, for six months of the year, I live in the kitchen. Parishioners find it either touching or sad that I sleep with my Labrador. It never occurs to them that I need her for extra heat.

It does mean that evening meetings at the rectory on winter evenings can be un-Christianly satisfying. Watching committee members fighting – with infinite politeness - to get nearest to the one-bar electric fire is highly entertaining. They hold on to their coffee cups less for refreshment, more for a little extra warmth. At least it means that meetings are short. My predecessor was a model railway enthusiast and so several bedrooms were taken up with a system of such complexity that it made Crewe Junction seem trivial. He also found it helpful to put his teenage son in the turret bedroom, where he could play his drums without anyone else in the house being able to hear a thing.

Nowadays, all these extra rooms are filled with cribs and nativity play costumes, Easter gardens and spare choir cassocks. It is remarkable how all these things used to be stored quite satisfactorily in the church vestry until the parish acquired a single priest; now the empty rooms in the rectory have become vital storage space. I so hope my successor has a plethora of children, so that the parishioners have to find alternative accommodation for all the detritus vital to church life. No, dear boy, cherish your centrally heated, dry, draft proof, mice-free, bat-less, modern-plumbed accommodation. It will not be ever thus.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

Features

GARDENING NOTES FOR JUNE

Prairie borders –relaxed, easy, colourful gardening

Simple prairie borders create gardens that feel natural, calm, and full of life. Grasses sway gently in the breeze while flowers hum with bees, blending in soft, flowing drifts. As the seasons move on, seed heads begin to glow in the autumn sunlight, and the garden becomes a place to slow down and breathe. Even in winter, frost settles on stems, transforming the space into something quietly beautiful. This naturalistic style may seem suited to wide, open landscapes, but it works just as well in a typical UK garden.

One of their greatest strengths is that you don't need to start from scratch—you can shape your garden gradually, building on what is already there. At its heart, this style is not just about how a garden looks, but how it feels. It is relaxed, seasonal, and constantly changing. Many of us are used to tidy, controlled gardens, with plants arranged in neat rows, seasonal bedding swapped out regularly, and borders cut back as soon as flowers fade. Prairie-style gardening offers a gentler, more natural approach. Let go of perfection!

Look at your garden with fresh eyes. Existing perennials can form the foundation of your planting, while shrubs can provide useful structure and a backdrop, especially in winter. You might start by replacing high-maintenance bedding plants with perennials that return year after year, such as hardy varieties of Echinacea, Salvia, Verbena and Geraniums. Allow plants to spread more naturally rather than keeping everything rigidly separate. Grasses are central to prairie planting and can completely transform the look and feel of a garden. They move with the breeze, catch the light, and soften strong lines and help link different plants together. Some provide height and structure, while others add lightness and movement. Even a few well-chosen grasses, such as *Stipa Gigantea* and *Stipa tenuissima*, can change the atmosphere of a border, acting as the thread that ties everything together.

A garden that supports wildlife-friendly Prairie-style planting is as beneficial as it is beautiful. Open flowers attract bees and butterflies, while seed heads feed birds. Dense planting offers shelter for insects, particularly through the colder months. It's a win-win situation for you and your garden.

David Hogg, Buckland Nurseries

Small Surrey Churches - Part Sixteen

St Mary the Virgin, Farleigh



This church shares not only its name with Buckland. It is also in the Archdeaconry of Reigate and Diocese of Southwark. The Rector has four churches and parishes to look after: All Saints' Warlingham, St Christophers Chelsham, St Leonards Chelsham and St Mary the Virgin Farleigh.

This lovely Grade 1 listed building is primarily Norman, built in the late 11th century built by Robert De Watville around 1080, it is largely unaltered, making it among the earliest historic churches in Surrey still in use. The Church is tiny, with a simple rectangular nave and chancel, and a shingled west tower.

The chancel was extended by 3 metres in 1250 and a very attractive west porch of timber added in the 18th century. There is a timber bell turret from the late 1800's over the west gable, housing a large single bell. Hence the footprint of



the church has seen little enlargement since it was built about the year 1083, so it is a rare survival.

The walls are built like many Norman Castles, with dressed stone on both the inside and the outside, with a central void built of rubble. There are no foundations, and the building does have cracked plaster in places, where the walls move slightly with the seasons.

The windows are all narrow-slit 'Lancet' windows from Norman times, with glass from the 12th and 13th century. This may well be the original glass, as prior to that, glass was scarcely available and the 'slits' in the design would have been open to the air. This is now an unusual survival, as most such windows have been enlarged at a later date.

The south chancel wall has an ancient brass from 1495, commemorating John Brock, with figures of his wife and children.

Though some restoration work was carried out in the Victorian period, St Mary's remains essentially untouched by the passage of time and is an idyllic country church in a wonderfully peaceful location looking out across farmland. St Mary's was restored in the 19th (1859) Century with a very light touch. The chancel arch and bell turret date from that period.

Access

St. Mary's is renowned locally for delicious afternoon Teas served every Sunday throughout July and August, and our summer "Compline by Candlelight" services on Sundays at 7.15 pm from May to September. Services are held every Sunday throughout the year at 9.30 am.

Farleigh is a quiet rural hamlet, on a 'finger of rural greenness' just 6 miles from central Croydon, and 2 miles from the suburb of Warlingham. St Mary's, on Church Rd, Farleigh has the postcode of CR6 9PX, which is not especially accurate. Keep driving until you come to Church Road and St Mary's stands alone in a wood at the end of this no-through-road. It is a rare example of a simple church that has not been radically changed over 1000 years, in a peaceful rural location, which is surprising considering it's proximity to Croydon. So worth a visit!

References

1. <https://stmaryschurchfarleigh.org.uk>
2. YouTube visit to St Mary's Farleigh by Marq English, recorded in March 2025. www.youtube.com/watch?v=fVPQhWrK6GY

The heaviest penalty for declining to rule is to be ruled by someone inferior to yourself.

Plato, in 'The Republic' (375 BC)

Did Plato see the future for the US and the UK?

CHILDHOOD EXPLANATIONS OF HISTORY

The following excerpts are 10- and 11-year-old answers to history tests and Sunday school quizzes. They were collected over a period of three years by two teachers. Read carefully and enjoy the grammar, misplaced modifiers, and of course, spelling!



Ancient Egypt was old. It was inhabited by gypsies and mummies who all wrote in hydraulics. They lived in the Sarah Dessert. The climate of the Sarah is such that all the inhabitants have to live elsewhere.

Moses led the Hebrew slaves to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread, which is bread made without any ingredients. Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten commandos. He died before he ever reached Canada but the commandos made it.

Solomon had three hundred wives and seven hundred porcupines. He was an actual hysterical figure as well as being in the bible. It sounds like he was sort of busy too.

Socrates was a famous old Greek teacher who went around giving people advice. They killed him. He later died from an overdose of wedlock which is apparently poisonous. After his death, his career suffered a dramatic decline.

In the first Olympic games, Greeks ran races, jumped, hurled biscuits, and threw the java. The games were messier then than they show on TV now.

Julius Caesar extinguished himself on the battlefields of Gaul. The Ides of March murdered him because they thought he was going to be made king. Dying, he gasped out "Same to you, Brutus."

Joan of Arc was burnt to a steak and was canonized by Bernard Shaw for reasons I don't really understand. The English and French still have problems.

It was an age of great inventions and discoveries. Gutenberg invented removable type and the Bible. Another important invention was the circulation of blood.

Sir Francis Drake circumcised the world with a 100-foot clipper which was very dangerous to all his men.

THE AGE OF ANXIETY

An opinion piece by Father Richard Rohr, Franciscan & Author

Our time has been called the age of anxiety, and I think that's probably a good description. We no longer know what or where our foundations are. When we're not sure what is certain, when the world and our worldview keep being redefined every few months, we're going to be anxious. Understandably, we want to get rid of that anxiety as quickly as we can. I know I do. Yet, to be a good leader of anything today—a good pastor, manager, parent, teacher, or even a good citizen, we have to be able to contain and patiently hold a certain degree of anxiety and fear. Greater levels of leadership require leaders who are capable of holding greater anxiety. Leaders who cannot hold anxiety will never lead us any place good or new.

That's probably why the Bible says 'Do not be afraid' almost 150 times! If we cannot calmly hold a certain degree of fear and anxiety, we will always look for somewhere to expel it. Expelling what we can't embrace gives us an identity, but it's a negative identity. It's not life energy, it's death energy. Can we recognize how different the alternative of faith and trust is? Faith can only build on a totally positive place within, however small. God just needs an interior "Yes" to begin, a mustard-seed-sized place that is in love—not fear—that is open to grace.

One could sum up the Bible, and our lives, as an interplay of fear and faith. In general, people are obsessed and overpowered by fears; they fear what they cannot control. God is one of our primary fears, because God is totally beyond us and totally beyond our control. The good news is that God has breached that fear and become one of us in Jesus. Through Jesus, God says, in effect, 'You can stop being afraid. It's okay. You don't have to live in chattering fear of me.'

The opening chapter of Luke's Gospel presents Mary as the archetypal Christian because God comes into her life and proclaims the divine presence within her, immediately telling her through the angel, 'Do not be afraid' (Luke 1:30). Through the same divine Spirit, God comes into our lives and announces the divine presence within each of us. All we are asked to do is be present and open. Only after God calls Mary beyond her fear does God give the message of her calling. Fear can keep us from hearing what is really being said. Mary's spirituality is focused on trusting. She said, 'Let what you have said be done to me' (Luke 1:38). She doesn't try to explain or understand. She just says, 'I trust you, God. Do with me what you will. Let it be.'

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We are proud to report that the BBCS recently represented Betchworth and Buckland in the 2026 Leith Hill Music Festival. Congratulations to everybody who took part. All Choirs performed their chosen competition pieces to such a very high standard. So, we were delighted to win the Widenham Fosberry Silver Hen for coming second overall on our day. Many thanks to our Musical Director, George Inscoe and to our accompanist, Anna Tetsuya. Thanks also go to Betchworth Parish Council for their generous financial support towards our Leith Hill Music Festival rehearsals.

Our new term starts on Wednesday 29 April. We'll be rehearsing for our ever popular Summer Concert, featuring the music of Finzi, Rutter, Gjeilo, Joel, Quartel and Daly - an afternoon of gorgeous music in Betchworth's St Michael's church, followed by a glass of fizz, tea, coffee and cake.

Fancy singing with us? We meet on Wednesdays, 7.45 to 9.45pm at Betchworth Village Hall. Just pop in and see what you think or contact our membership secretary at membership@bbcinfo.org for a chat.

Sue Chamberlain



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This year the choir is delighted to be raising funds for SERV Surrey and London, also known as Blood Bikes, a charity that transports blood products, urgent samples, medical supplies and donated breast milk to hospitals and milk banks across Surrey and London. The charity is made up entirely of volunteers and provides the service free of charge to the NHS, thus releasing more money for patient care.

Climb aboard and join the Ladybirds Choir at 4pm on Saturday 13 June at the United Reformed Church Hall in Dorking and enjoy tea and cake after the concert. Tickets are priced at £8 and are available on the door or in advance from 01372 878321 (cash or cheques).

Susan Scarrott

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

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Justin was Dorking Choral Society's Conductor early in his career and we are fortunate in continuing to have his support as the President of DCS.

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Dorking RH4 3HB
For further details and to book
www.dorkingchoralsociety.org

THE ARTS SOCIETY BETCHWORTH

The Queen Mother's Lifelong Love of Jewellery Monday 15 June 2.30 pm (doors open 1.45pm for refreshments) Betchworth Memorial Hall, Station Road



Having had access to the jewels designated Heirlooms of the Crown and with a spectacular collection of her own, the Queen Mother had so much jewellery to choose from over the course of her long life that it would be almost impossible to describe it all. This lecture will chronicle her passion for jewels by concentrating on a selection of items which are of particular gemmological and historic interest ... and have an intriguing story attached.

Our lecturer is Jeremy Mainwaring-Burton who helped open the Castle of Mey to the public after the death of the Queen Mother in 2002.

Carole Evans, www.theartssocietybetchworth.org.uk

DORKING MUSEUM IN JUNE

'Dorking: Cycling capital of England': exhibition now on!

Walking in Dorking: This month's guided walks feature Dorking's Historic Pubs (6th), Hidden Dorking, Betchworth Castle, Blue plaques and statues (all 14th), and The Deepdene Trail (21st).

South Street Caves tours: This month's open day is Saturday 6th. Tours at 10am, 11am, 1pm, and 2pm, each 45 minutes. Book via website (below)

Family Activities at Dorking Library: Local Community History Month: Can you put the objects from the museum in age order? (13th, 10am-noon). The World Cup is here! A talk by a football author (20th, 10.30am), followed by the Museum's 'blow football' game and display about the Shrove Tuesday High Street football games (11.30am-2pm).

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

David Burton

BROCKHAM BOWLS CLUB



The season has started! As I write in early May, we have had our first internal pairs competition, and have played 2 friendly matches. In the internal competition our Club Captain, Peter Goldup, was a member of the winning pair.

In the 2 friendlies against other clubs we won one and lost the other by 1 shot, a close margin. We have also held our first Open Day on 3 May. It was a lovely sunny afternoon, and we had a good turnout of people who came to try bowls for the first time, hopefully some will come back for more. Our second Open Day will be held on 23 May.

Both the Open days will have happened by the time you read this article. If you missed them, but still want to see what we do, we hold Club Nights most Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5pm onwards, and you are most welcome to pop along, see what is going on, and speak to one of our members. For more information you can call Peter Goldup, our Club Captain, on 07391 254689, or visit our website at brockhambowlsclub.co.uk. We have many matches against other Clubs all season to the middle of September, so this is just the beginning.

Trevor Anderson

A lawyer asked, "Paddy, why is it that whenever you ask an Irishman a question, he answers with another question?"
"Who told you that?" asked Paddy.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

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

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Crossword (p.14) Solution

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

Wordsearch (p.16) Solution

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

Sudoku (p.16) Solution

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

BUCKLAND PARISH MAGAZINE

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

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

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AVAILABLE FROM: 26 June 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)

**For booking enquiries please contact Jane Stewart, preferably by email:
Bookings4bucklandreadingroom@gmail.com or 07733 116992**

Arts Society, Betchworth	Carole Evans	01372 452563
Bell Ringers (<i>practice Friday evenings</i>)	David Sayce	242776
Betchworth & Buckland Children's Nursery	Laura Snelling	843610
Betchworth & Buckland Toddler Group	Debbie Jones	07701 347351
Betchworth & Buckland Society (<i>Secretary</i>)	Nathalie Nichols	07801 967623
Betchworth Operatic & Dramatic Society	Diane Mayall	842758
British Legion	Maurice Daley	843058
Brockham Green Horticultural Society	Ruth & Paul Johnson	842691
Brockham Surgery/ <i>Chemist</i>	n/a	843259/842175
Buckland & Betchworth Choral Soc. (Sec.)	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	07961 123126
- 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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