

Buckland Parish Magazine

July 2026



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* The Rector is available on Mondays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays

COVER IMAGE

The interior of Iona Abbey, May 2026
The final instalment concerning Iona Abbey (part 6) is on page 19.

The Rector's Letter – July 2026

Thanks to Revd. David Eaton for contributing this month's letter

Dear Friends

“I see trees of green.....”

Many of us enjoyed Sir David Attenborough's one hundred birthday celebrations and joined in the party at the Albert Hall on screen, or perhaps you were actually there! What he has given to the nation and much wider across the world through his programmes is a greater awareness of the natural world and all that it contains. He has opened it up to display before us the great variety and diversity of wildlife. He has shown us the risks that modern life exposes the natural world to including the impact of Climate Change. He has shown us that it is one world that functions as a single unit that we should not tamper with or threaten. Most of all he has made plain for all to see what a wonderful world we live in. It is to be cherished and appreciated for all that it is. In recognition of this he recited that song of the same name in one of the last programmes he has made: “I see trees of green and I think to myself what a wonderful world”.



If all this is true of the natural world it is equally true of the other world we belong to, the world of homo sapiens, the human world. It is a world where there is also immense diversity. People are very different in the way they look, in their traditions; they have different faiths as well as characters and personalities. But it too is one world not to be threatened or tampered with. The challenge is to bring to this world the same level of appreciation and cherishing that David Attenborough encourages us to bring to the natural world. It too is a wonderful world. Too often we retreat behind the barricades we build around ourselves and can only affirm people like us. There are issues in all this that are difficult to resolve: there is breakdown and conflict, crime and illegal immigration, the disparity between wealth and poverty, despair and hopelessness all cloud our view.

Kate Adie is another well-known broadcaster. She was for many years a foreign correspondent for the BBC and now presents “From our own Correspondent” on Saturday mornings on Radio 4. She wrote a memoir which she called “The Kindness of Strangers”. This was because wherever she had been around the world this is

exactly what she had found. The people she met showed great kindness and reached out and made her welcome.

It is this kind of open generosity that Jesus encouraged in his disciples. He lived by *do as you would be done by*. He said we should love our neighbour as we love ourselves. If we are to exercise the same care and attention to the human world as the natural world we need to get to know other people. To open our hearts appropriately to them so they can reciprocate towards us. There is a great richness to be found in the appreciation of people who are not like us and having our eyes opened in new ways. Pushing people away and closing the door will not enrich our lives or the world we share together. What unites us is the fact that we are brothers and sisters of each other with one Heavenly Father of us all. We share the same planet: the natural world and the human world dramatically hang together in space, as the Artemis moon mission so vividly revealed once again. It's truly a wonderful world.

David Eaton

Editorial

'In the beginning was the Word...'(John 1, verse 1), then Microsoft Publisher. And now we are going back to 'Word'...

Eagle-eyed readers will notice some minor changes to the format of this magazine in this issue. Here is the reason why ...

For the past 30 years or so, this magazine has been compiled in the relatively simple 'Desk Top Publishing' (DTP) software package called 'Microsoft Publisher' Microsoft is 'abruptly disabling' Publisher in October 2026, when the application will no longer be able to produce new material, nor will it 'open' to read old Publisher files (.pub). If as a reader, you also use Publisher for other means, be aware!

In readiness for this change in October, I have recreated the magazine format in a 'Microsoft Word' template, and this July issue is the first example using Microsoft Word. As this conversion involved some work, I took the opportunity to update some aspects of the format, with a different style of cover, headings, right-justified margins and an update of static information (e.g. inside front & back covers). I hope you can appreciate the minor changes and continue to enjoy the magazine.

Church Services - July

Date	St Mary's Buckland	St Michael's Betchworth
5 July <i>Trinity 5</i>		10am Parish Communion <i>John 14: 1-14</i>
12 July <i>Trinity 6</i>	10am IONA Service <i>John 16: 5-11</i>	5pm Evensong
19 July <i>Trinity 7</i>		10am Parish Communion <i>John 17: 1-11</i>
26 July <i>Trinity 8</i>	10am Parish Communion	

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.

Village Events JULY

- 4 July, 4.00pm.** Concert: S. London Concert Band, St Michael's Betchworth, p.13
- 4 July,** Guided Tours of Dorking Caves: Book via Dorking Museum, p.27
- 6 July, 7.30pm.** Talk: The Art Deco Richmond Station, DLHG, p.27
- 12 July, 2pm.** Guided Walk: Betchworth Castle. Book via Dorking Museum, p.27
- 20 July, 2.30pm.** Talk: Pompei & Herculaneum, the final day, Arts Society, p.25

THE BELLRINGERS TRIBUTE TO BERNARD HAWKINS



Bernard Hawkin's funeral was at Betchworth on June 3rd, with half-muffled ringing beforehand and afterwards. The tenor bell tolled before the service and a selected band rang immediately afterwards. Betchworth and Buckland ringers rang together, then the wider bellringing community joined us in the tower. During the service the poem '**Ring Out, Wild Bells**' by **Tennyson** was read. The following day a Quarter Peal of Bob Doubles was rung at Betchworth, dedicated to Bernard, 'a greatly missed member of the Betchworth and Buckland bands of ringers, and a truly well loved and admired gentleman'.

In Memoriam [Ring out, wild bells] Alfred, Lord Tennyson 1809 – 1892

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE



Hartsfield Manor

Earlier this year Hartsfield Manor undertook some community engagement in anticipation of submitting a planning application. The project team recently advised they anticipate Mole Valley District Council (MVDC) will shortly validate a planning application submitted some time ago.

Once the application has been validated a 21 day public consultation period will follow. Please take the opportunity to review the application and share your feedback by submitting a response to MVDC. A link to the application will be published as a news item on the village website.

Reminder : date for your calendar

A village tidy will be held on **Saturday 12th September 2026** with a start time of 10am. Please mark your calendars to make sure you keep the morning free to participate.

Village email group

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

If you think you should be receiving village emails, please check your junk/spam folders. A small number of email addresses are bouncing emails sent via the village email group and our IT support believe that this is likely to be attributable to the security settings being applied by your internet provider. You may need to log in to your accounts to ensure your internet provider accepts emails sent from parishcouncil@bucklandsurrey.org.uk.

Sheena Boyce, Clerk

parishcouncil@bucklandsurrey.org.uk

01737 448023

SURREY COUNCIL REORGANISATION UPDATE

The new East Surrey Shadow Authority has been set up to prepare for one of the biggest changes to local government in Surrey for decades. Its role is to get everything ready before the new East Surrey Council officially takes over in April 2027.

The new council will bring together services currently run by Surrey County Council and Mole Valley District Council. While residents will not notice any immediate changes, the shadow authority will focus on planning how the new council will work behind the scenes. On April 1st 2027 “vesting day” ESC will cease to be a shadow authority and will replace the existing local authorities and shadow ESC councillors will take up their full roles as your county councillors.

It is important to understand that shadow authorities will not run services. They do not make day-to-day service decisions and they do not manage individual casework on behalf of residents. Until 1 April 2027, residents’ issues will continue to be handled by their existing district councillors and current Surrey County councillors, while shadow councillors focus entirely on establishing the new organisation.

This includes agreeing budgets, appointing senior staff and organising how future services will operate. This will make local government simpler, more efficient and better coordinated, and make services easier for residents to access.

*Jo Farrar-Astrop and Dineke van den Bogerd
East Surrey Shadow Councillors*

When established, East Surrey Council will replace the existing councils for:

- Elmbridge
- Epsom & Ewell
- Mole Valley
- Reigate & Banstead
- Tandridge

You can stay up to date with the shadow authority's decisions and service transitions through the [Surrey LGR Hub](#).

NATURE NOTES - JULY

July is the month when our wildflower meadows come fully into their own. Walk the margins of Common Field or pause at Rectory Green on a warm morning, and the air hums with purpose. Bumblebees work the clover and knapweed with an unhurried thoroughness, their amber-dusted bodies swaying from flower to flower. Smaller, sharper-featured solitary bees — mining bees, leafcutters — dart between stems in bursts of concentrated energy, each on its own errands, each a tiny engine of the summer.

Among the grasses, look too for the orchids that make these meadows so special. Common spotted orchids are at their peak in early July, their pink-purple spikes rising from leaves neatly blotched as if marked with a fine brush. The pyramidal orchid is more slender, its dense cone of flowers a deeper pink against the pale grass. And if you search carefully, the bee orchid rewards a quiet eye: that extraordinary flower, with its velvet lip mimicking the body of a bee so precisely that it seems almost impossible that such a thing could arise by chance. It did, of course, though the full story of how and why still captivates botanists.

The butterflies are everywhere now, and the meadow grasses are where to find them. Meadow browns drift in low, lazy arcs, perfectly at home among the seed-heads. Marbled whites — that most striking of our local species, patterned in bold black-and-white checks — are on the wing through July, favouring tall, flower-rich swards; look for them nectaring on knapweed and field scabious. Skippers, small and orange-golden, skip and settle with barely a pause. And the common blue, jewel-bright on a sunny afternoon, can be found wherever bird's-foot trefoil grows in the turf.

Drop your gaze lower still, and there is more to see. Crickets rasp and chirp from deep in the grass stems, heard before they are seen, and often not seen at all. At your feet, lines of ants go about their business with purpose, threading between grass roots and bare earth on routes only they understand.

It is easy to walk past all of this. July asks you to slow down and notice what is happening all around. Things to watch for this month: Bee orchids, which can appear in unexpected corners — uncut lawns, verges, as well as in the meadows. The first broods of common blue emerging on warm afternoons. And listen as well as look: the sustained, contented drone of a bumblebee working a flower is one of the most reassuring sounds of an English summer.

Norman Jackson

ST. JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL On War between Parishes

The Rectory, St James the Least of All
My dear Nephew Darren



So, now you have enjoyed your first Summer Fete. Don't say I didn't warn you. It may be small consolation but remember that they only happen once a year - although in your case, you still have another 30 to endure before retirement. I negotiated our own last week. As usual, the band from our neighbouring parish of St Eusebius played. There has been much bad blood in the past between our two villages. The trouble started on the day that St James the Least of All never told St Eusebius that the Vikings were coming up the river. We may have long since buried the hatchet, but both sides recall where they put it.

Tension between the two communities down the centuries has moved on from occasional slaughter to something a little more refined. Just as I began my opening speech to crown the Rose Queen, the band struck up with the National Anthem. When the hog roast started, they played "smoke gets in your eyes" and when it came to the necessary music for the maypole dancing, they all disappeared into the beer tent.

With great Christian charity, we shall bide our time. In September we have the annual football match between the two churches' Servers. Last year, in addition to winning the match, the St James' boys sent three of their side off with concussion. Naturally, I visited them in hospital. Miss Prendergast, as always, played Gypsy Rose Lee. If the tall, dark, dear lady tells me one more time that I am about to find romance with a tall dark lady, while she flutters her eyelashes at me, I swear I shall throttle her with a bell rope. Besides, I already have a beautiful dark lady in my life - and my Labrador is devoted to me.

The only real hiccough came when I bought 12 packets of fudge from Mrs Masheder to present to our choirboys. Yet again, she had misread salt for sugar in the recipe. After I presented the packets at Mattins the following day, a formal complaint was rapidly made by a parent to the police that the Rector was attempting to poison their son. But as I explained to the officer, if I had intended to poison anyone, I would have done it far more discreetly - and infinitely more efficiently.

Your loving Uncle, Eustace

Puzzles (Answers p.29)

SUDOK
..

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

WORDSEARCH— INDEPENDENCE DAY, 4 JULY

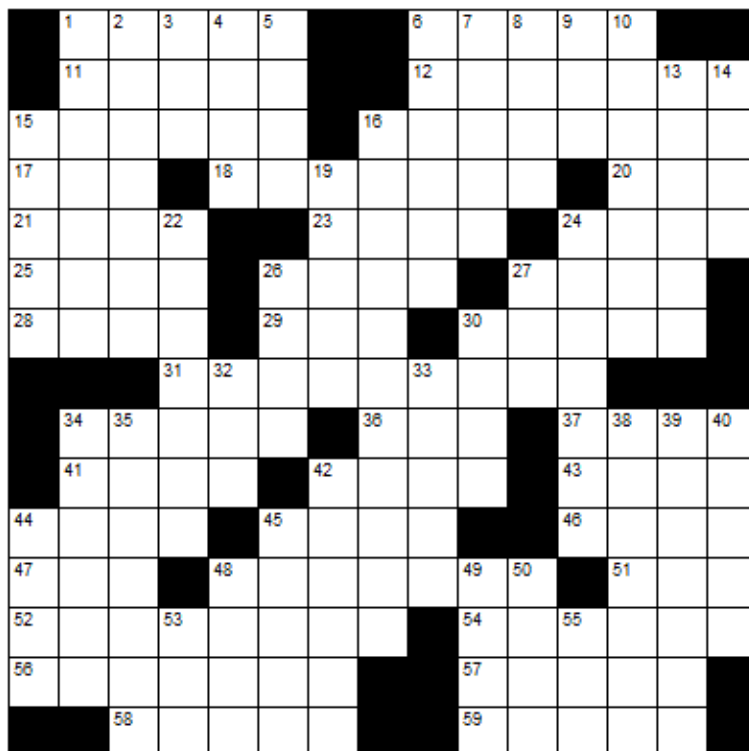
July	Truths
Fourth	Created
Declaration	Equal
Independence	Creator
Second	Inalienable
Continental	Rights
Congress	Life
Washington	Liberty
Draft	Pursuit
Thomas	Happiness
Jefferson	
Benjamin	
Franklin	
John	
Adams	

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I R I G H T S A C L T E F S E R
E R E K A T H L D I C A N L N N
S L H I D E T A E R C W B L S A
A T T A E D U D E T A A I I A H
S E F O C S R A E S N F N B M E
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S E A O R J Q N E R B S A F S H
    
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GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Solution p.33



ACROSS		
1. Respond	26. Regrets	45. Hit hard
6. Glide over ice	27. Bee home	46. Reflected sound
11. Thespian	28. Europe's highest volcano	47. S
12. Permission	29. Goat hair fabric	48. Impressive
15. Stick	30. Affirmatives	51. Hearing organ
16. Piercingly	31. Instructors	52. Warriors
17. Falsehood	34. What limericks do	54. Without difficulty
18. Derived a conclusion	36. Camp bed	56. Smiled scornfully
20. Fish eggs	37. Angers	57. Someone who is owned
21. Big bash	41. Lack of difficulty	58. Accomplishments
23. Minerals	42. African sheep	59. Stitched
24. Cartographic materials	43. Irritated	
25. Any minute	44. Actors	

DOWN		
1. Beaming	15. Seaweed	35. Bothered
2. Level	16. Civil servants	38. Get
3. Consumed	19. Uncertainty	39. Breathed out
4. 128 cubic feet	22. One who examines data	40. Tale
5. Tall woody plant	24. Long letter	42. Trophies and such
6. Pieces of bread	26. Speed competition	44. British tax
7. Flying toys	27. Not him	45. Horse
8. Caustic	30. Abominable Snowman	48. Your majesty
9. 5 plus 5	32. An uncle	49. Not more
10. Inscribe	33. Itinerary	50. Harvard rival
13. Hillsides	34. Justification	53. D
14. Visual organs		55. Wood-cutting tool

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 For more info: [st_michaels_betchworth.org.uk](https://st-michaels-betchworth.org.uk) | slcb.org.uk

GARDENING NOTES FOR JULY

Suggestions for Summer Colour

Whether your garden basks in full sun or rests in dappled shade, there are plenty of easy-to-grow plants that will keep your borders blooming throughout summer and into autumn. They will reward you with long-lasting blooms and rich colours:

- **Heleniums:** Fiery reds, oranges and yellow daisy-like flowers from July to September. Great for height and pollinators.
- **Rudbeckia 'Goldsturm':** Golden petals with dark centres, perfect for late summer. Pairs well with grasses and salvias.
- **Crocoshmia 'Lucifer':** Sword-like leaves and vivid red flowers add vertical drama.
- **Penstemon** of all colours such as 'Raven' or 'Garnet': Tubular blooms in rich shades flower from midsummer to frost. They are reliable gap-fillers.
- **Salvia nemorosa 'Caradonna':** Deep violet spires and dark stems. Drought-tolerant and bee-friendly. A very popular plant!
- **Alstroemeria:** exotic-looking flowers in a rainbow of colours. Great for cutting, they are one of the longest-lasting cut flowers.
- **Agapanthus:** Blue or white globe-shaped blooms with architectural flair. Ideal for borders or pots. Again, these are good for cutting for indoor displays.
- **Verbena bonariensis:** Tall, airy stems with purple flowers. A butterfly magnet.

For instant impact, add annuals like cosmos, calendula, nasturtiums, petunias, and busy lizzies. These are perfect for quick colour and bloom until autumn.

More shaded borders need a different approach. These cooler, often moister areas suit plants that offer subtle colour and rich texture:

- **Heuchera:** Foliage in lime, burgundy, caramel, or silver
- **Knautia macedonica:** Crimson pincushion flowers on tall stems.
- **Astilbe:** Feathery plumes in pink, red, or white. Loves moist, shaded soil.
- **Tiarella (Foamflower):** Compact with frothy blooms and attractive foliage.
- **Lamium (Deadnettle):** Ground cover with silver-variegated leaves
- **Hardy Geraniums:** Tolerate dry shade and offer long-lasting blooms.
- **Alchemilla mollis:** Lime-green clouds of tiny flowers brighten shaded spots.

The best annual bedding plants for shade are Impatiens and Begonias: they will give bright, continuous blooms well into September. Plenty of seasonal ideas to keep your garden looking super colourful!

David Hogg, Buckland Nurseries

MUSIC IN DORKING – JULY



12.00, lunchtime concert at St Martin's church, free
4th at 4.00, Dorking Choral Society at St Paul's church, £18
4th at 7.30, Holmbury Choral Society at St James' church,
Abinger, £20
5th at 4.00, Bookham Choral Society at St Nicolas church,
Bookham, £17
11th at 10am-4.30, Dorking Choral Society workshop,
Crossways Baptist Church, £25
12th at 4.00, Leatherhead Choral Society at The Lighthouse,
Leatherhead, £20

With this year marking the 250th anniversary of the American declaration of independence, two of our local choral societies are celebrating the occasion. Dorking choral society's concert, under its dynamic conductor Daniel Mahoney, will include a wide range of American music, from beautiful settings of American poets by Morten Lauridsen and Randall Thompson, via Copland's Old American Songs, to the lighter side of American music including Gershwin's Summer Time. Holmbury St Mary's concert, conducted by Cole Bendall, also includes a wide range of American music from Eric Whitacre, through Steve Reich to Simon & Garfunkel. The lunchtime concert at St Martin's church will also have an American jazz theme.

Bookham Choral Society is also holding its summer concert. Entitled 'Music from Latin America', the programme will include Martin Palmeri's *Misa a Buenos Aires – Misatango*. This exciting piece is a setting of the Latin mass in a musical style influenced by the rhythms of Argentinian tango music. Leatherhead choral society's concert – *Feelin' Groovy* – offers a programme of songs from the 60s and 70s.

Dorking Choral Society is also holding a special workshop day, presented by its distinguished President Justin Doyle. Justin is the conductor of the RIAS Chamber Choir in Berlin, which is recognised as one of the world's finest chamber choirs, and earlier in his career he conducted Dorking for several years with great success. The day will focus on JS Bach's Magnificat, which Justin has performed and recorded with his choir. The workshop is sure to be enlightening for all choral singers, and tickets can be booked on the choir website. There will be an informal performance at the end of the day.

Small Surrey Churches - Part Seventeen

Old St George's, Esher



Old St. George's Church in Esher is the former Parish church of Esher. The building is Grade I listed, built in 1540 from a 'jumble of sandstone, chalk, flint and brick'. The nave and chancel are built under an open timber roof with tie and collar beams, 3 bays to the nave, and 2 bays with crown-post truss to chancel. The carved altar screen (reredos) dates from 1772.¹

There have been two significant additions to the footprint of the church. First, the south chapel was added in 1725-6, commissioned by Thomas Pelham, the Duke of Newcastle with pews for his family. The architect was Sir John Vanbrugh, architect of the original house at Claremont. Thomas Pelham, Duke of Newcastle, and his brother Henry both served as Prime Ministers. The Newcastle pew to the south, below a pediment supported by the Corinthian columns on the south side of the nave, is one of the most unusual features of the church. Installed in 1725-26, it has not only its own private entrance, but, inside, its own fireplace (hence the chimney stacks seen on the outside).¹

The most distinguished members of the congregation worshiped in comfort, as indeed did their household and servants, for whom the other box pews were provided. They could look down through the columns at the unusual eighteenth-century three-stage pulpit.

The second extension was the battlemented north aisle chapel, added in 1812, when the church was already getting too small for the congregation.

Royal Connections

Queen Victoria used to worship here when she stayed at nearby Claremont, mainly in childhood, and later, as Queen, she came with Prince Albert. Hence the royal arms hang over the nave.

Later, when Princess Charlotte and her husband Leopold lived at Claremont, they worshipped in St George's too, and there is a large memorial relief to Princess Charlotte here.



Interior of St George's Esher

Nairn & Pevsner² describe it as ‘a delightful, most endearing little church. The steeple of Christ Church, Esher, can be seen from the edge of the churchyard. This newer church was built to replace St. George’s as the parish church when the congregation had outgrown it.

Access

St George’s church is on Esher Park Lane, just behind ‘The Bear’ pub. There are parking bays just outside. The church is open on Saturdays from April until September between 11am and 3pm, when a church guide is in attendance. At other times, the keys to the church may be borrowed from Savills, 55 High Street, Esher KT10 9SH.

References

1. www.stgeorgeseshesher.org
 2. Nairn & Pevsner, 1962. *Buildings of Surrey. St George Esher p.220*
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A SIDESMAN’S DUTIES

An elderly woman walked into the local country church. The friendly usher greeted her at the door and helped her up the flight of steps. "Where would you like to sit?" he asked politely.

"The front row please." she answered.

"You really don't want to do that", the usher said. "The vicar is boring."

"Do you happen to know who I am?" the woman inquired. The man shook his head. "Well, I'm the vicar's mother," she said indignantly.

Do you know who I am?" he asked. The woman shook her head. "Good," he grinned.

To succeed in life, you need three things:
a wishbone, a backbone and a funny bone

Reba McIntyre (American Actress)

Local Services

Gallery



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

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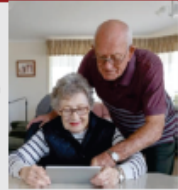


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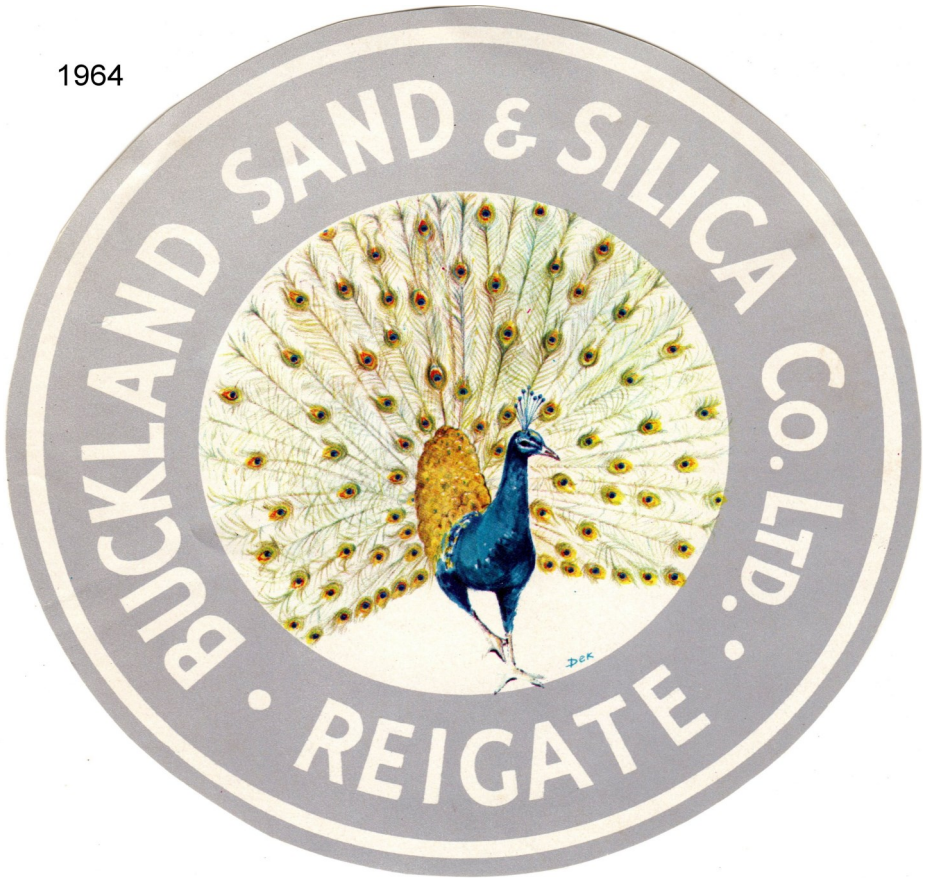
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1964



The Logo of Buckland Sand & Silica Co. in 1964.
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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'



IONA

Part Six

Visiting Iona Abbey – May 2026



Iona Abbey

In May we had a great holiday in the Western Isles in Scotland, spending time on Iona, Mull, Skye and Harris. One of our visits was to Iona Abbey, and this is a brief description of our visit to complete the series of six articles on Iona Abbey that we began in September 2005.

The Abbey is now managed by the Iona Community, which has a core of permanent staff, and they welcome visitors from across the world, accommodated in the ex-monastery adjoining the Abbey and additional local houses owned by the Abbey.

Visitors using the accommodation in the restored Abbey and in several other buildings in the vicinity, must commit to a minimum of a one weeks stay, during which time they follow a choice of Christian and Spiritual retreats and courses and contribute a few hours of 'service' each day, conducting essential jobs that keep the Abbey running in support of the resident community staff.

Each day in the April-October period the Community organise a morning worship service and an evening prayer service, and visitors on the courses contribute readings, prayers and singing. A large percentage of staying guests attend these services, so the congregation at all services tends to be about 40-60 people. Without the Community and its guests, the Abbey would have little life, because there are so few residents on the island.

Visitors to Iona are not allowed to bring cars onto the island, so there is free parking at Fionnaphort on Mull, from where you catch the ferry, which takes just 15 minutes.

We did not have the luxury of time to attend a retreat for a week, so we had two nights on Iona staying at the Argyll Hotel, just 500 metres from the Abbey. I attended two morning services as a visitor, and enjoyed the style of the service, from which the Buckland Iona-style service has taken several elements.

The Abbey is open to paying visitors during the day from 9.30 am to 5.00 pm, and this serves individuals tourists and 'cruise ships' – several of which call at Iona each week during the season. The ships anchor in the 'Sound of Iona' between Mull and Iona and each has several small 'tender boats' to transfer cruise passengers to the tiny harbour at Iona. You may guess that many of the Cruise passengers have American accents. Individual tourists are also drawn to Iona from across the world, and there are many nationalities drawn to Iona as pilgrims and tourists alike.

The Abbey itself remains open outside these times, enabling us to visit 'out of hours' when it was empty – a very spiritual and peaceful place.



Iona Abbey with the restored monastic accommodation

To briefly recap the history of the building –

- 563 AD – St Columba and 12 fellow monks arrived on Iona and was gifted land on which to build the first abbey
- 1203-1570 – The Abbey grew into a sizable Benedictine monastery and a place of pilgrimage to honour St Columba
- 795-825 -Suffered Viking invasions and the martyrdom of 68 Monks
- 825-1203 – the Monastic community grew slowly
- 1203-1570 – The Abbey became a Benedictine Monastery, and the current buildings were built early in this period, serving over 350 years
- 1570 - The Scottish Reformation closed all Catholic churches, including the Benedictines, and half-demolished the building leaving only the external walls of the Abbey
- 1899 - The ruins were gifted to the Church of Scotland to restore, after 320 years of no usage. They restored the Abbey building to be a practicing church for the small local community and a few visiting pilgrims, but the church struggled financially.

- 1938 – Geoge MacLeod, a Minister from Glasgow, visited. He had the vision to restore the church again, but also to restore several of the monastic outbuildings to provide accommodation for visiting Pilgrims, and to provide resources for a contemplative style of worship. He formed the ‘Iona Community’ and the building restoration was completed largely by voluntary labour, most of whom learnt their building skills ‘on-the-job’.

This history of the building goes some way to explaining the ‘plain and simple’ architecture. There is no stained glass, no beautiful carvings, no plastered wall finishes, no frescos. The internal walls are of raw local stone, not cut in rectangular blocks, but like the external walls, they are roughly hewn and cemented. The impression from the inside is that you are in a medieval castle, rather than a church, as conveyed in the photograph on the front cover.

One of the few details in ‘polished’ stone is baptismal font, crafted from green-veined, white Iona marble quarried locally on the island. This was added to the church in 1908 in memory of Reverend Theodore Marshall.

The Iona Community believe in both biblical Christianity, and the ‘Creator God’ Christian theme in equal measure, so there is an emphasis on the wonder and appreciation of nature. The Isle of Iona is rich in wildlife and bird life, and clearly it is easy for the monks and their visitors to appreciate being close to nature.

In the field adjacent to the Abbey, and one other field near Iona harbour, we heard the loud and distinctive clacking of Corncrakes, now a very rare bird in the British Isles. However, these birds are good at hiding in long grass, so we did not see them. Nevertheless, a sign of nature’s abundance on the Island. [A few fields on Iona are ‘managed’ to give an ideal habitat for Corncrakes, and we were lucky to visit in the May-June period when they are present].

We thought that Iona is a wonderful place and the Abbey was worth our visit, leaving a lasting impression. Attending a couple of services gave me a flavour of the contemplative style of service that Revd. Pattie Vigers introduced to us in St Mary’s Buckland back in 1997, almost 30 years ago.

Thank you Pattie. Your legacy lives on!

Duncan & Bridget Ferns

‘THE CLOUD OF UNKNOWING’

An opinion piece by Father Richard Rohr, Franciscan & Author

The ‘Cloud of Unknowing’ was written in the late 1300’s and is recognized as a masterpiece of medieval mystical writing. The author, a monk who remains anonymous, describes to the reader the techniques and discipline required to attain to union with God. [The book continues to be available on Amazon!]

‘The Cloud of Unknowing’ can be regarded as the foundational text for ‘Centering Prayer’, a contemplative practice that creates space for us to be with God, after which we return to our daily lives and commitments. The author encourages beginners to enter contemplation with these simple instructions:

Lift up your heart to God with a gentle stirring of love. Focus on him alone. Want him, and not anything he’s made. Think on nothing but him. Don’t let anything else run through your mind and will. Here’s how. Forget what you know. Forget everything God made and everybody who exists and everything that’s going on in the world, until your thoughts and emotions aren’t focused on reaching toward anything. Let them be. For a moment don’t care about anything.

Everyone on earth has been helped by contemplation in wonderful ways. You can’t know how much.... So stop hesitating. Do this work until you feel the delight of it. The author urges beginner contemplatives to welcome the temporary experience of “unknowing” that takes place in this type of prayer.

The first time you practice contemplation, you’ll only experience a darkness, like a cloud of unknowing. You won’t know what this is. You’ll only know that in your will you feel a simple reaching out to God. You must also know that this darkness and this cloud will always be between you and your God, whatever you do. They will always keep you from seeing him clearly by the light of understanding in your intellect and will block you from feeling him in the sweetness of love in your emotions. So be sure you make your home in this darkness. Stay there as long as you can.... It’s the closest you can get to God here on earth, by waiting in this darkness and in this cloud.

At our church, the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico USA, we believe that contemplation is an essential practice of our time, enabling us to meet the challenging conditions of our lives with greater wisdom and compassion.

We need contemplation because, as our globe gets more crowded by the hour, increasingly we act like elbow-to-elbow passengers in cheap coach seats on a commuter flight. Who doesn't rush through the day? Who never feels the pressure to produce? How often are you in cyberspace? Our new frantic pace is like poison to our holding hands with those we love. That is where contemplation comes in. It reconnects us to ourselves, to God, and to others. It helps us learn to forgive and heal our souls.

For the first sixteen centuries of the Christian church, contemplative prayer was the goal of Christian spirituality, and now in our own time of transition and upheaval, we are returning to our roots. Contemplative prayer is more relevant than ever before. More of us are practicing this ancient form of prayer and finding peace in a world of war, extreme political divide, epidemics, terrorism, technology, overcrowding, noise, inequality, and a Church in need of humility.

Societies & Charities

BROCKHAM BOWLS CLUB



The season is well underway. We held our 2 open days in May, which were well attended, including by a number of children who really seemed to enjoy themselves. We also had 6 matches in May against other clubs, with mixed results, winning 3 and losing 3. In June we will be holding a special bowls fun afternoon for members followed by a BBQ to celebrate our 75 years anniversary.

We have had a number of new members join us this year, but still have room for more, so if you 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.

Trevor Anderson

THE ARTS SOCIETY BETCHWORTH
Pompeii & Herculaneum: Reconstructing the Final Day
Monday 20 July 2.30 pm (doors open 1.45pm for refreshments)
Betchworth Memorial Hall, Station Road

This illustrated presentation reconstructs the dramatic final day of Pompeii and Herculaneum, both destroyed in AD 79 by the catastrophic eruption of Mount Vesuvius. Drawing together archaeology, volcanology, literary sources and art, the



lecture offers a compelling, evidence-based account of events as they unfolded. Central to the discussion is the testimony of Pliny the Younger, whose letters provide the earliest known eyewitness account of a volcanic eruption.

Our lecturer James Renshaw will guide us through Pliny's observations alongside material evidence uncovered at both sites, revealing how modern scholarship continues to refine our understanding of this defining moment in ancient history. James Renshaw holds a degree in Classics from Oxford University and has taught secondary school Classics since 1998. A keen traveller and photographer, he continues to document ancient sites around the world.

And at 2.30 on September 21st:

Big Wigs: Art and Fashion in the Age of Samuel Pepys

Carole Evans, www.theartssocietybetchworth.org.uk

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CHORAL SOCIETY

We thoroughly enjoyed our ever-popular Summer Concert, featuring the music of Finzi, Rutter, Gjeilo, Joel, Quartel and Daly. It was an afternoon of gorgeous music in Betchworth's St Michael's church, followed by a glass of fizz, tea, coffee and cakes.

After our summer break, we'll be busy rehearsing for our major 2026 concert - and this year, it's all about Haydn! We will be performing the magnificent **Haydn's Nelson Mass in D minor** and **Missa Sancti Nicolai**, with professional soloists and chamber orchestra. So, if you're a Haydn fan, here's your chance to take part in this wonderful choral experience...

Fancy singing with us? Autumn term begins on 2 September. 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@bbcsinfo.org for a chat.

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DORKING MUSEUM IN JULY

'Dorking: Cycling capital of England': Our summer exhibition traces Dorking's contribution to the development of cycling nationally, from the 1880s Cycling Club to the 2012 Olympics and the Tour of Britain.

Walking in Dorking: This month's guided walks feature *Hidden Dorking* (12th), *Betchworth Castle* (12th), *The Deepdene Trail* (19th), and *Architecture on Dorking's main streets* (19th).

South Street Caves tours: Open day, Saturday 4 July Tours at 10am, 11am, 1pm and 2pm, each 45 minutes. For details and bookings, see dorkingmuseum.org.uk/south-street-caves/. E-mail caves@dorkingmuseum.org.uk for private group bookings.

Family Activities at Dorking Library: Pretend archaeological dig: Come and dig in the sand for old artefacts! (18th, 10am-noon). *'There's a monster in the Caves!'*: If there was a friendly monster living in Dorking Caves, what might it look like? (25th 10am-2pm). Keep an eye out for us at Meadowbank Family Day! 19th July.

Surrey Hills Military Festival: A talk from Kathy Atherton on Dorking in the Great War, (12th, 12.30pm). See <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/> for details.

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

DORKING LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Monday 6 July 7.30pm

**Talk: Restoring the Art Deco Richmond Station
Crossways Baptist Church, Dorking**



The upcoming date before a short summer break is:
Live talk by Benny O'Looney, a practicing architect and a teacher at the prestigious Architectural Association, who led the restoration of this fabulous art deco building. £2 at the door for non-members, free to members.

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

BROCKHAM GREEN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Brockham * Betchworth * Buckland

Our third talk of the year was well attended and doubled up as our AGM. A request was put out for more committee members and I am pleased to say that there has been some interest from our members.

Fliss Lewis of the company 'Woolshred' gave a really interesting talk on how she went from loving sheep, to flock owner and then on to a Woolly entrepreneur. We learnt that wool, the by-product of sheep farming, is currently underused and undervalued and how the wool is prepared for use in her products, which is an expensive process. Fliss has carried out a lot of research into the environmental benefits of wool in horticulture such as slug control, mulching, hanging basket lining, and capillary matting. She brought along a selection of her products which we were able to buy. If you are interested in finding out more about this you can find it on her website woolshred.co.uk



Plant Sale

Our annual plant sale was a huge success and, with the rain holding off, the good weather no doubt contributed. We had lots of amazing plant donations which were rapidly snapped up by regulars and passersby. We made a total on the day of £718 which go towards holding organising our Horticultural Show in September and also our talks in the new year.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 19th September. Annual Horticultural Show, Brockham Village Hall.

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

Ruth Johnson

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

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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.

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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Web Access The web version of the magazine, including trade adverts & colour photos, is available online at stmarythevirginbuckland.com/parish-magazine. The online rolling-archive retains the most recent 2 years of magazines, readable as PDFs without charge.

BOOKS ON THE HISTORY OF BUCKLAND

1. Buckland's Past Lives (2025), 308pp - £17#
2. A Buckland Memorial (2025, War biographies), 600pp, full text online*
3. St Mary's Graveyard Survey (2020), 94pp –full text online**
4. Buckland 1000-2000 with 20-20 vision (2019), 294pp – now £15#
5. History of Buckland Village School (2006), 148 pp -full text online***

to purchase, email request to fernsdc@gmail.com

* www.bucklandsurrey.org.uk/local-amenities/war-memorial/

** www.stmarythevirginbuckland.org.uk/ Link on 'Resources' page

*** www.bucklandsurrey.org.uk/village-history/the-story-of-buckland-village-school

BUCKLAND READING ROOM ACTIVITIES

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	01737 242776
Betchworth & Buckland Children's Nursery	Laura Snelling	01737 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	01737 842758
British Legion	Maurice Daley	01737 843058
Brockham Green Horticultural Society	Ruth & Paul Johnson	01737 842691
Brockham Surgery/ <i>Chemist</i>	n/a	01737 843259
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	01737 448023
Buckland Deli (<i>Village Shop</i>)	Amy Snaith	01737 845999
Children's Society	Margaret Miller	01737 842098
Family Activities Betchworth & Buckland	Katrina Rea	07803 163868
North Downs Primary School	Jane Douglass	01737 843211
Reading Room - Bookings	Jane Stewart	07733 116992
- Chairman	Tim Howe	07961 123126
- Treasurer	John Maud	01737 221444
- Secretary	Liz Vahey	01737 221444
Reigate Pilgrims Cricket Club	Julian Steed	01737 842046
St. Catherine's Hospice	Sheila Dyer	01737 842098
Women's Institute	Margaret Miller	01737 842098

Websites: Church: www.stmarythevirginbuckland.org.uk

Village: www.bucklandsurrey.org.uk

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