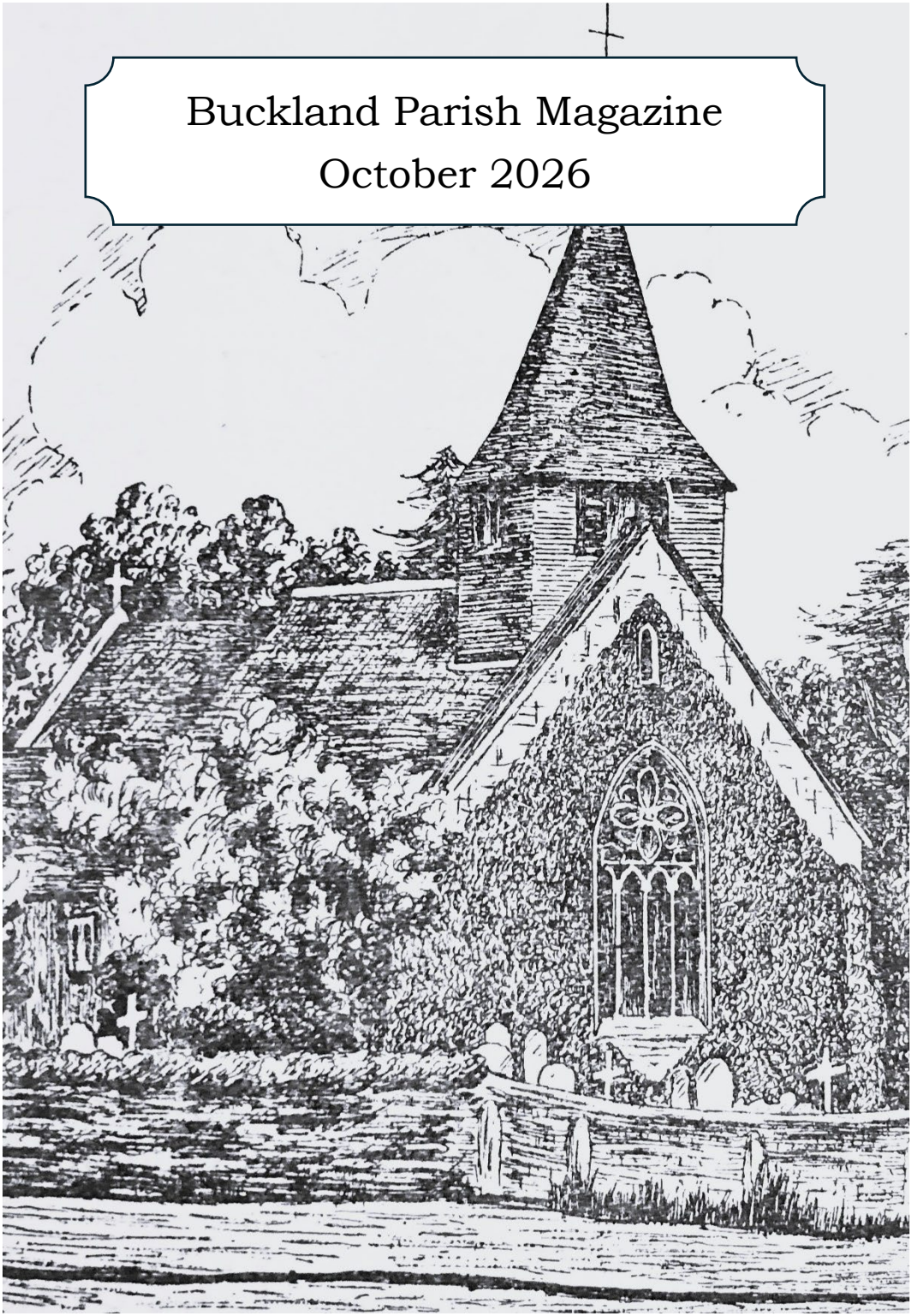
Buckland Parish Magazine
October 2026



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***** Rev. Pru Dulley is on long-term sick leave.
Please contact a Churchwarden in her absence.

COVER PICTURE

Sketch of St Mary's Buckland by 'JML' (a person unknown),
as it appeared on the cover of the Parish Magazine in 1935

Parish Letter – October 2026

For the next few months, our Churchwardens and Assistant Priests will, in turn, contribute the Parish Letter for the Buckland & Betchworth magazines.
Thanks to David Sayce of St Mary's Buckland, for contributing this month's letter.

Dear Friends

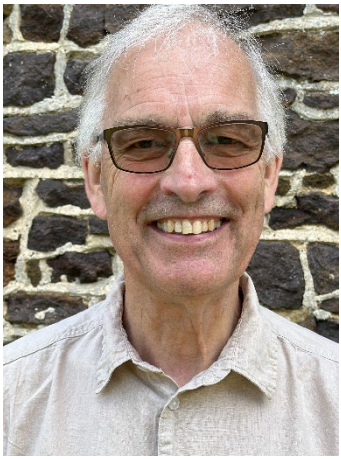
Last month Hilary hoped that we would have a clearer idea of what would happen in respect of our Rector. While confidentiality is important here, since then our Archdeacon, Geoff Dumbreck, has assured us more information should be forthcoming soon. So, we wait while wishing Pru a continued recovery; and talking of a good recovery, that is precisely what we wish David Eaton following his dislocated shoulder. All I can do is to reiterate Hilary's appreciation for the help we have received from many clergy.

I have occasion to visit the Netherlands regularly, and during my visits I attend the local Christian church. It is Catholic and lies in the centre of a town a little bigger than Reigate and Redhill combined. It is served by two priests who cover 4 churches in all two of which are in the neighbouring countryside. The church itself is a 1960's build, spacious, and largely concrete with wooden benches. The congregation is much the same age as ours but being larger, it does have a Sunday school and children take part in the service; nevertheless, it has similar challenges to our church. I have to say my Dutch is somewhat limited given that I only started learning it late last year; understanding it when it's spoken and speaking it in any meaningful and conversational way is probably going to be beyond me; but I am beginning to read and write it, possibly because I can go at my own speed.

This basic Dutch enables me to follow church services there and it bears, not unnaturally, a considerable resemblance to our parish communion. Some of hymns and words are the same and I can thus follow them. When there is no priest available, it is lay lead by two of the church's elders, and the service well received by the congregation. Interestingly the elders can give communion. The takeaway for me is that Christians all belong to the same family; the welcome I receive is fulsome and there is a genuine wish to go out into the wider community. For example, there is support group for bereavement among the congregation.

One of the challenges is the declining numbers of those attending church, and this brings into relief the place of community groups in our present world. The church was for many years the main community grouping in a parish; it brought diverse

people together in shared belief and values – whether behavioural, spiritual or emotional. This place of belonging to a community group or groups has declined over the last few decades. Stalwart organisations which were once the backbone of our society are not seen as so relevant; many are maintained by existing members but there are insufficient numbers coming through who value such contacts and contributions that these organisations make to the wellbeing of our world. This may reflect the increasing individualism of people but more probably the changing nature of our economy and the way work/life balance seems to be out of balance for many.



The increasing presence of the media and means of communication, the concern that significant numbers of younger members of society do not have, initially at least, the life and team skills which perhaps were taken for granted. Communities or an individual's community seem less reliant on where you live physically and more in tune with others in your group who may live far away and in need you may never meet.

So, I believe the church, our church, has valuable role still to play in helping society and our local society to mix together and develop a robustness to meet the many societal issues and global issues which will face succeeding generations, in other words, our children and grandchildren.

David Sayce

WINTER LUNCHES 2026

It is happening... we are starting winter lunches on Friday the 9th October, doors open at 12 noon and lunch will be served about 12.30pm. Everyone is welcome and we would love to see some new faces from the village. Cost of lunch is £5 or a donation. We do always have a 'vegetarian option'. If you would like to know more please phone Liz Vahey on 07710 277413 or Carol Leeds on 01737 247399. we both have answer phones. We look forward to seeing you all again on Friday the 9th October.

Carol Leeds

Church Services -October

Date	St Mary's Buckland	St Michael's Betchworth
4 October *Trinity 18*		**10am Harvest Communion**
11 October *Trinity 19*	**10am IONA Communion**	**5pm Evensong**
18 October *Trinity 20*		**10am Parish Communion**
25 October *Trinity 21*	**10am Parish Communion**	
1 November *Last Trinity*		**10am Parish Communion**

Due to current circumstances of our Rector, the Revd. Pru Dulley, being on long-term sick leave, there could be changes to church services. Please check on our websites and in the Parish Magazines to see if there have been any changes.

Village Events

OCTOBER

5 Oct, 7.30pm. Talk: History of Leatherhead Stations. DLHG, p.24
9 Oct, 12 noon. Winter lunches, Open to all. p.4
9 Oct, 7pm. Buckland's Music Quiz Night. FOSM, *(sold out!)*
9-11 Oct, 10am-4pm. Art Exhibition & Sale, Denbies. Dorking Group of Artists, p.24
12 Oct, 1.45pm. Bridge with Afternoon Tea, Pillars of St Michael's *(Sept. mag)*
19 Oct, 2.30pm. Talk: Topkapi Palace, Istanbul. Arts Soc, p.28
24-25 Oct, 10-4 Sat, 11-5 Sun. Art Show & Sale. Reading Room, FOSM, p.6
26 Oct, 7pm-9pm, Talk & Film: on Responses to Climate Change, 4Bs, p.13
26 Oct, 7.30pm. Talk: The Women's Land Army in WW2, BGHS, p.29

NOVEMBER

6 & 7 Nov, 11am-4pm. Clothes sale, Global Choices Charity, Reading Room, p.16
14 Nov, 7.30pm. Concert: Haydyn's Nelson Mass, St Mark's Reigate, BBCS, p.27


BUCKLAND
ART
SHOW
2026
Saturday 24 October
11am - 5pm
Sunday 25 October
11am - 4pm
Buckland Reading Room RH3 7EG
Supporting Friends of St Mary's Buckland
Enquiries everettleeds@gmail.com 01737 247399

BUCKLAND BELLRINGERS - Annual Tower Outing

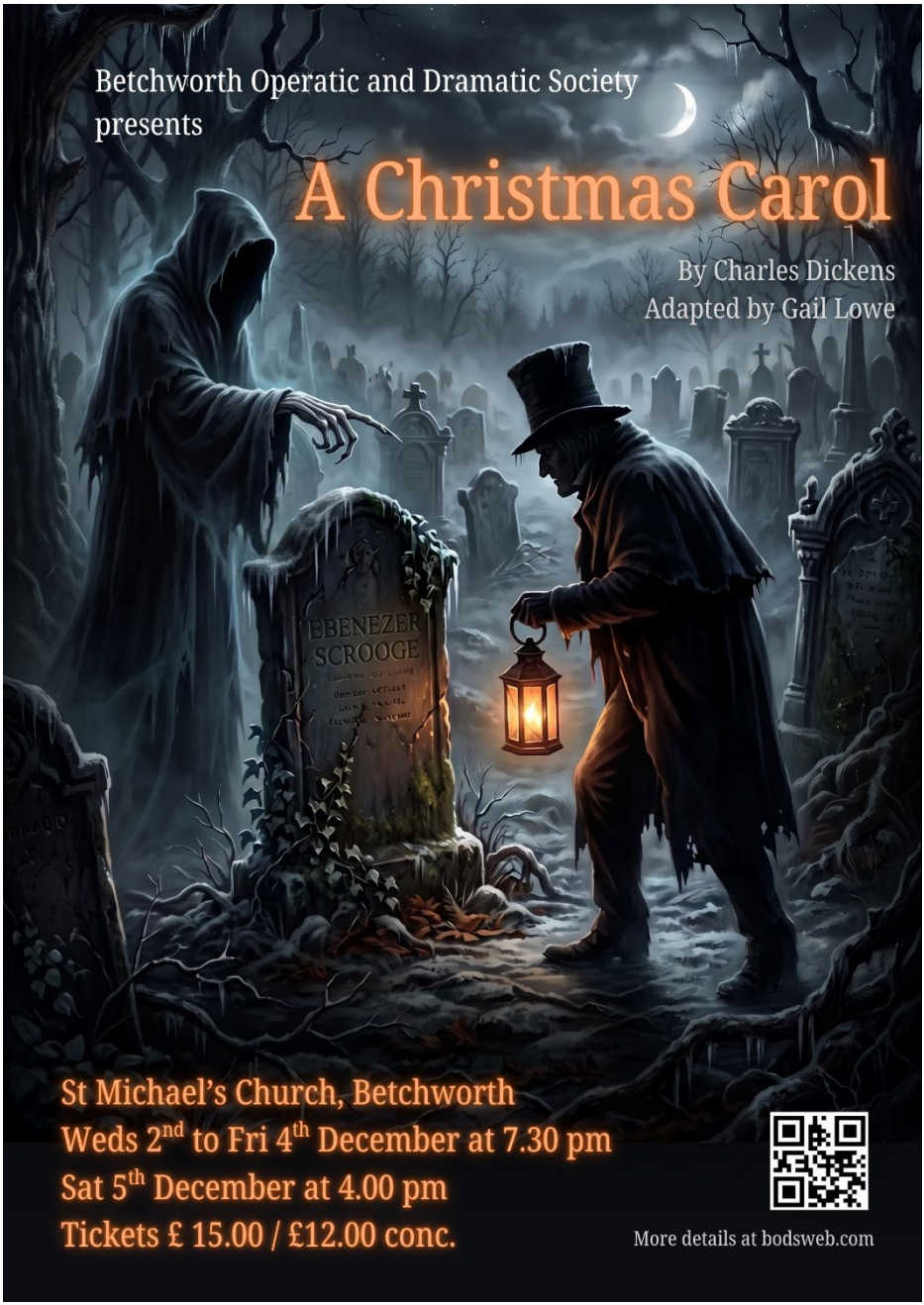


Buckland & Betchworth Ringers in Cranleigh Tower (Andrew Oliphant)

Every year, the Buckland and Betchworth ringers have an outing to ring at other towers. This happens on a Saturday during the summer and covers an area not too far from home. During the day we visit various towers and enjoy ringing the different bells. Every tower, and every bell is different to ring.

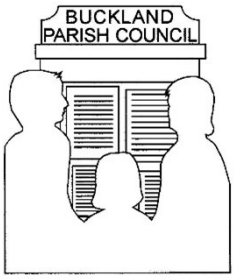
This time, on a Saturday at the end of August, the first tower of the day was Ewhurst, with 8 bells, 11cwt tenor. The second was Bramley (6 bells, 8cwt), with a stone staircase to the tower door. After a picnic lunch, the third tower was Rudgwick (an anticlockwise ring of 8, 14cwt). A delicious tea followed at Alfold. The last tower of the day was Cranleigh (8 bells, 16cwt), with the Cheshire cat stone work (*Alice in Wonderland*). It was noted in the Cranleigh ringing visitors' book, that the Betchworth bellringers had an outing to Cranleigh in 1976, 50 years ago (and with one ringer, still ringing, on the outing again this year). Some of the ringers then re-gathered for a dinner in the evening at The Pheasant, Buckland, to chat about their day out. Every ringer had their own memories and preferences of the four towers, and all agreed that it was a very well organised, good day out. It was a perfect summer's day - sunny, dry, and not too hot for ringing.

Julie Beale


Betchworth Operatic and Dramatic Society
presents
A Christmas Carol
By Charles Dickens
Adapted by Gail Lowe
EBENEZER
SCROOGE
St Michael's Church, Betchworth
Weds 2nd to Fri 4th December at 7.30 pm
Sat 5th December at 4.00 pm
Tickets £ 15.00 / £12.00 conc.
More details at bodsweb.com

Buckland Matters

BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE



Footways

If you encounter any difficulty using any section of Buckland's roadside footways, please submit a request to:

- MVDC for a street cleaning visit, if the problem relates to material that needs to be swept from the surface of the footway, please make sure you emphasise the work will need to include the footway as well as the main carriageway; and
- SCC Highways to highlight any problems relating to the condition of the surface (e.g. trip hazards, deteriorating or uneven surface) or overhanging vegetation. If the state of the footpath is making it difficult for anyone using a mobility aid (whether a mobility scooter, wheelchair or walking aids) or pushchair please include this in your report.

Visit the SCC (www.surreycc.gov.uk) or MVDC (www.molevalley.gov.uk) websites to submit online reports or call the customer service telephone numbers (SCC 0300 200 1003, MVDC 01306 885001).

Overhanging Vegetation

Do you have hedges or trees growing on your property adjacent to Buckland's highways, hard surfaced footpaths, public footpaths, or public bridleways? If so, please cut back your plants, shrubs, and trees to make sure Buckland's rights of way remain free of obstruction and easy for everyone to use whether drivers, riders, or pedestrians, including anyone with a pushchair or wheelchair and anyone unlucky enough to be visually impaired.

SCC's arboriculture team advises private landowners: 'Check where your boundary is and prune branches that overhang the highways back to that point; sufficient to maintain a minimum headroom of 5.7 metres over most carriageways in Buckland (7 metres for the A25) and 2.3 metres for pedestrian routes'.

If overhanging vegetation is making it difficult for you to walk around Buckland, you can report the obstruction to SCC Highways.

Facing up to Climate Change

Events are being held across the country to provide you with opportunities to view a screening of "The People's Emergency Briefing". Locally, a screening will be at Betchworth Village Memorial Hall at 7pm on Monday 26th October **(see p.13 to register your attendance)**. If you will not be free to attend the screening at Betchworth, a link to a screening map is provided in the event details.

Amenity improvements

When the Parish Council next meets it will consider, as part of budget planning for April 2027 – March 2028, potential amenity improvements. If you have identified an amenity improvement you think would benefit our community and are prepared to help deliver it, please contact me.

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

Clandon Wood Nature Reserve & Natural Burial Ground

Visiting 'Surrey Hills Woodfair' in Cranleigh on 12 September, we saw the display organised by Clandon Wood Natural Burial Ground. The coffins on display are not made of wood, but an ecological choice of cardboard or woven willow. The sign amused me and I thought it deserved a wider audience, so I took a photo to pass on to you, should it appeal… (Ed.) *www.clandonwood.com*



ALL CHANGE AT BUCKLAND DELI



Message posted on the Buckland Residents email site on 28 August:

As some of you may know, **Amy Snaith is stepping down as the tenant and operator of the Buckland Deli. Amy's last day of trading was on 4th September 2026**.

I'm sure we are all grateful for all the hard work that Amy has put in to running the deli in such a personable and community facing manner. Amy has the following message:

"After many wonderful years at Buckland Deli, it's finally time for me to say goodbye! I started here 11 years ago before taking the big leap and making the deli my own in 2020, and what a special chapter it has been. I just want to say the biggest thank you to everyone for all the support, kindness, laughs and chats over the years, and for being part of such a special chapter of my life. I'll miss seeing all your familiar faces, but I'm so excited to see what my next adventure brings! Amy"

The Deli will reopen on 23rd September 2026 and will be run by Luke Holman and Sophia Savvides. Luke and Sophia run the food van at Buckland Park Lake as well as two further outlets. They are very much supported by Buckland Estate who, as owner of the building will be their landlord. Luke and Sophia have asked me to pass on the following message:

"We are really excited to be taking on Buckland Deli and building on the wonderful work Amy has done over the years. We know how important the shop is to the village, and our priority from the outset is to make sure it remains a friendly and welcoming place while we get to know the residents and customers who use it. We intend to continue offering the products and services people already know and enjoy, including good food and quality coffee. We also hope to broaden the shop's offering to include a useful range of everyday essentials, giving the community more of the things they need locally without having to travel further afield. Over time we'd love to introduce other new products and ideas too, but we would like to get to know the village first and listen to what people would genuinely find useful.

*When we reopen on 23rd September, our **initial opening hours will be 7am-3pm Monday to Friday, with plans to introduce weekend opening as we get settled in**. We would also love to hold some informal welcome events after opening so people can pop in, meet us and have a chat. We'll share more details soon. We're really looking forward to becoming part of the village and meeting everyone over the coming weeks. Luke & Sophia"*

Dominic Sanders, Buckland Estate

A BIG THANK YOU

As Editor, I have several requests to give A BIG THANK YOU to Amy for her work on enhancing our village shop over the years she has managed the business. She has made it a 'go-to' for take-away coffees and trademark large French bread sandwiches, attracting a lot of 'passing trade' that has helped make the shop viable. Her sales of freshly baked croissants, pastries and French bread has been greatly appreciated by most village residents. She has opened up the cosy rear garden on summer days, used also for evening drinks parties with an open invitation to people in the village. Amy always had a positive attitude and friendly smile and passed this on to her customers. We can guess her favourite colour was pink, and the branding of Buckland Deli, with the printed bags and teeshirts, helped put the shop 'on the map'.

Amy enjoyed her holidays in the sun, and we understand that her next adventure maybe to try out working in Greece. So, if you are on holiday in Greece, and see Amy's smiling face… buy your lunch from her!

Ed.

RANDOM REASONS TO SMILE

- I really love Autumn. When the leaves turn the same colour as the grass
- Climate change: 'Tulley's Farm offers Pick-your-Own Mangoes & Bananas'
- New Diet launched: Cut out meals between snacking
- Migrant on boat approaching UK sees beach huts: 'Gotta say, I thought the houses would be bigger'
- Dad (to wife) overlooking daughter's cake in the shape of a butterfly: 'Darling, did you check the sell by date on the caterpillar cake?'
- Boss to worker: Although it's against company policy, we'd like you to continue to work from home, as nobody in the office likes you.

NATURE NOTES - OCTOBER
Climate Change Is Already Here — What Do We Do About it?

Look back over the last twelve months. A wet winter that seemed to go on forever, waterlogged lawns and drowning bulbs. Then a summer so hot and dry it scorched the grass brown and left ponds shrinking by the week. That's not a freak year. That's very likely the shape of things to come. This is the pragmatic way to frame climate change: not only as a distant threat for some future generation, but as something already knocking on our front door — frying our gardens, flooding the banks of the River Mole cutting off the road to Leigh, unsettling the rhythms every gardener and dog-walker in the 4Bs parishes has come to expect. The urgency isn't abstract. It's immediate, and it's local. Acting now is as much about protecting our own near-term future as it is about the folks who come after us.

If nature is already adjusting — however imperfectly — to a climate that's shifting faster than it can keep pace with, then so must we. The question isn't whether to prepare. It's how to prepare, and where to start. And "where to start" is closer to home than most of us think: our own gardens, verges, and the small patches of ground we each have some say over.

Questions to Ask Now, in Our Own Gardens and Streets

- **Water:** Where does rain go when it falls hard and fast? Could a rain garden, a water butt, or simply less paving on our own plot help soak up a wet winter instead of sending it downhill to a neighbour?
- **Drought:** Which plants in our garden struggled this summer — and which shrugged it off? Are we watering a lawn that would be better left to go gold and recover, or a hedge that's actually doing the work of shading and cooling?
- **Shade and heat:** Do we have anywhere to sit outside on a 35°C day? Could a tree planted now — even a small one — be the shade we will need in ten years?
- **Wildlife under strain:** Are we providing water for birds, insects, and amphibians through dry spells, when ponds and puddles disappear just when they're needed most?
- **Soil:** Is our soil holding water like a sponge, or shedding it like a roof? Compost and mulch aren't just tidiness — they're resilience.

None of these questions wait for a future decision. They're this autumn's questions, ahead of a winter that may well be wet again, and a summer after it that may well be dry again. **There is an open invitation to Buckland residents to attend the local meeting, detailed on the following page**.

Norman Jackson

Climate Change Is Already Here — What Do We Do About it?
'People's Emergency Briefing' (PEB)
Monday 26 October 2026, 7pm-9pm
Betchworth Memorial Village Hall, Station RoadRH3 7DF

Across the country community groups, churches, councils and companies are hosting screenings of the **People's Emergency Briefing**, a 50-minute film summarising the latest evidence on our changing climate, with some 4,000 viewing events to date.

Locally, Betchworth Parish Council and the 4Bs Biodiversity Group have joined forces to host the 50-minute screening and a follow-up discussion for the Betchworth and Buckland communities.

Admission is by FREE ticket and with only 70 available, make sure you register for yours soon: scan the QR code below, or go to www.re-betchworth.org/news

The film, which is not available via any media channels or cinema, is based on a National Emergency Briefing held last year, when leading experts set out the evidence on the climate and nature crisis in a formal briefing to national decision-makers. In it, you will see reactions from Chris Packham, Deborah Meaden and other well-known faces, as well as members of the public – ranging from shock, disbelief, dismay, anger, and fear to hope and determination too. All emotions are evident as viewers absorb the experts' warnings on extreme weather, food security, nature, health, national security, economics and energy transition.

The hosts want to capture your thoughts and ideas, all of which will be welcome at the post-screening discussion after the film. We'll facilitate small groups so that every voice can be heard and - thanks to some IT magic - common themes quickly identified.

Coming up with action plans, collectively or individually, would take too long for one evening. So, the Betchworth Hall has been re-booked for a follow-up, action-focused meeting the week after, on **2 November at 7.00pm**. So, save this date too.

You can find out more about the **National Emergency Briefing** at www.nebriefing.org

James Benn

ST. JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL
On how long a sermon should last



My dear Nephew Darren

I am afraid we will never agree about the appropriate length of sermons. Your 50-minute exposition on the theology of St Paul concerning women wearing hats in church is, I am sure, of real interest to you. But as your sermon slowly unfolds, I suspect it will prompt quite a different concern among your congregation. Have they set the oven timer to come on too early? Whenever I even hint that a matter of theological importance may be about to appear in one of my sermons, an expression of benign incomprehension comes over my congregation. You know the look – you see it on golden Labradors whenever they try and work out what their owners are telling them.

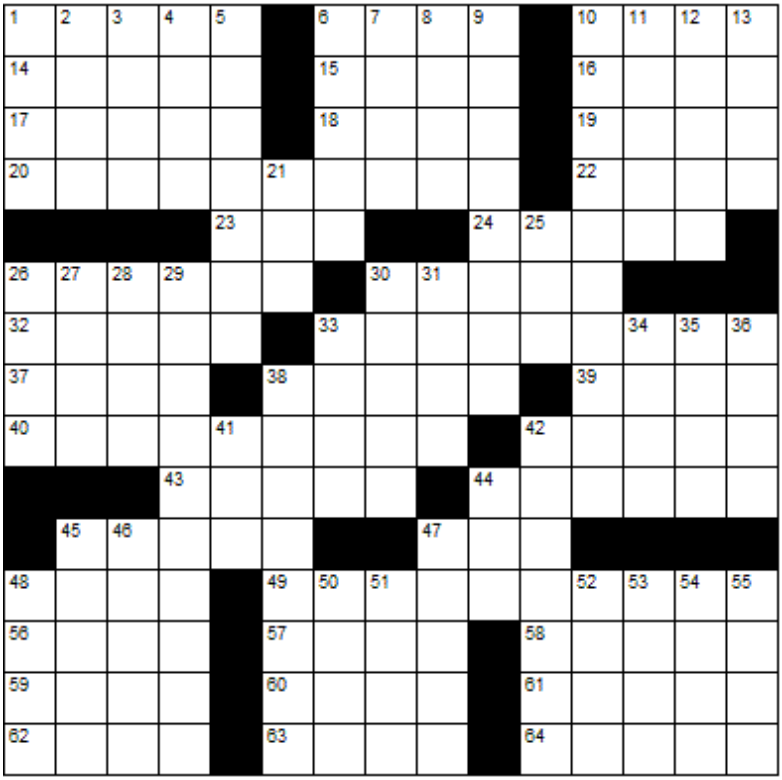
There are certain sure signs that should warn you when you have preached for long enough. One is when members of the congregation reach for their prayer books to try to work out for the umpteenth time how the date for Easter is calculated. The organist turning on the blower when you say "and finally" is another. Most members of the congregation will count the number of dead flies on the windowsills during your sermon. But when you can see members of the congregation counting the numbers in the congregation counting the numbers of dead flies, that is absolute proof that it is time to stop.

There has only been one occasion when I preached for longer than my standard eight minutes. Our former organist was in the habit of taking his dog for a walk during the sermon. I knew I had to carry on preaching until I heard the latch on the vestry door for the second time. That meant he was back, and ready to play the last hymn. Unfortunately, one Sunday, his dog ran away.

While he searched for it over every field in the parish, I spent the intervening two hours reading the greater part of Leviticus, discussing the food laws set forth in Deuteronomy, and arguing for a Deutero-Isaiah. I was headed for the Babylonian exile when we all heard the vestry door re-open. After the Service, the congregation left looking as though they had just been rescued from a major shipwreck. And at the next church council meeting, we unanimously voted to buy our organist a stronger lead.

Your loving Uncle, Eustace

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD (answers p.32)



ACROSS		
1. Greens with dressing	30. Prickle	48. Rude person
6. Male deer	32. Shoestrings	49. Areas lacking development
10. Short run	33. Monstrous	56. Largest continent
14. Run off to wed	37. Acid related to gout	57. Dwarf buffalo
15. Follow	38. Chills	58. Wizardry
16. Put ____ words	39. Certain something	59. Itemize
17. Artist's stand	40. Tolerably	60. Reflecting optimism
18. Beige	42. Uncouth	61. Genus of heath
19. Pierce	43. Student	62. Leg joint
20. Expect beforehand	44. Time for wages	63. Picnic insects
22. Quarries	45. Foe	64. Not a winner
23. Petrol	47. Paddle	

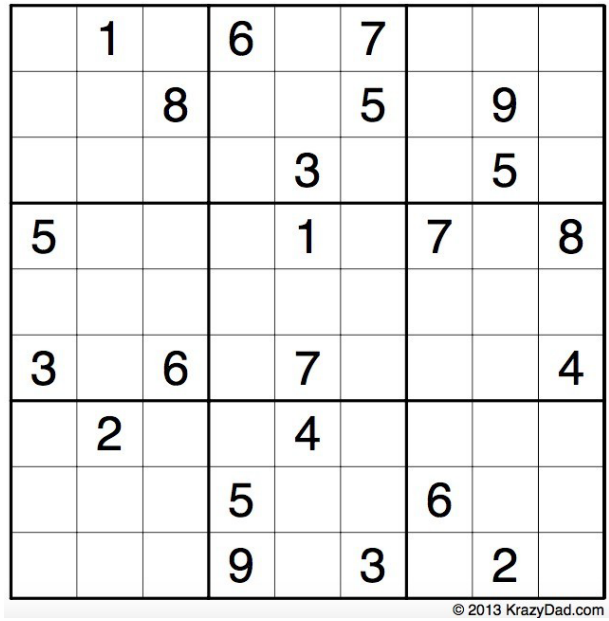
DOWN		
1. Exude	21. Cushion	41. A strong drink
2. Winglike	25. Anger	42. Yellowish brown
3. Fail to win	26. Turn on a pivot	44. Cat's foot
4. Gorillas	27. Deserve	45. Rose dye
5. Downpours	28. Caustic	46. Sound of any kind
6. Stairs	29. Recover	47. Approves
7. Mexican sandwich	30. Fairy tale character	48. Refuse to act
8. Broadcasts	31. Sacred	50. Any minute
9. Paste pots	33. Mongolian desert	51. Price
10. Clinic	34. Campus area	52. Tropical root
11. Caper	35. Celestial bear	53. Sponsorship
12. Condition	36. Not difficult	54. Oriental grain
13. Goblins	38. Largest living rodent	55. Cicatrix



Inge Relph & Theresa Sundt

SUDOKU

Answers p.32

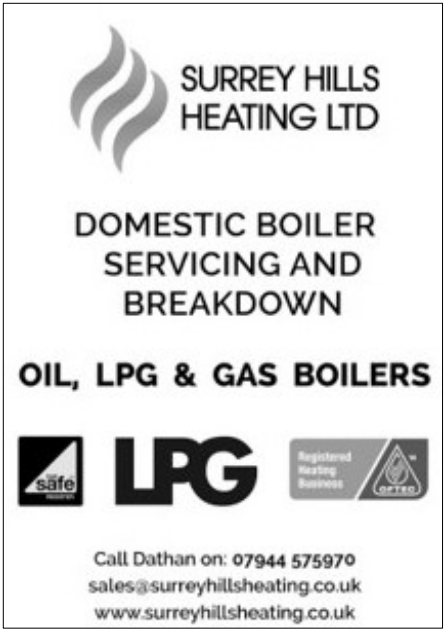


WORDSEARCH - St Luke's Day – 19 October

Luke	Good
Feast	Samaritan
Day	Women
Written	Poor
Gospel	Lepers
Acts	Sinners
Greek	Jerusalem
Physician	Pagan
Travelling	Rome
Faithful	Early
Paul	Christians
Compassion	
Parables	
Prodigal	
Son	

L P F Y A A M P O P G I M Y
P P A R A B L E S O J A A I
N T I G T G O S P E L P N N
C C T S A E F R R L U E H I
C I H S G N O U I E A L E K
L O F R N D S P R R P I E L
E G U E I A A H L P S E U M
E A L G L S O Y O G R K L N
N S A E L R T S G G E O C P
S L M N E T T I R W N A O E
R T N C V C G C A N N A G P
C O M P A S S I O N I P O W
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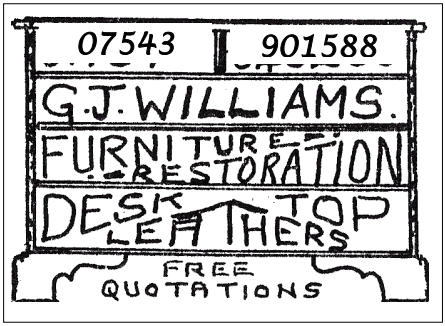
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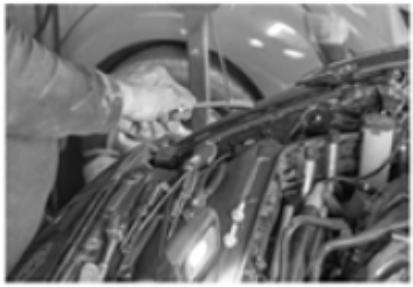
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MUSIC IN DORKING – OCTOBER



3rd at 12.00, lunchtime concert at St Martin's church
3rd at 7.30, soprano and lute at St Martin's church,
10th at 5.30, Dorking Chamber Orchestra at St Martin's church
17th at 9.30-5.00, LHMF Come & Sing at St Martin's church, £30
24th at 12.00, lunchtime piano recital at St Martin's church
24th at 4.00, Musical Mingle at Holy Trinity church, Westcott
24th at 7.30, soprano and guitar at St Martin's church

The new season for the Dorking Concertgoers begins with two concerts of song, both held in St Martin's church while the Dorking Halls undergoes essential refurbishment. First is a recital by the soprano Elin Manahan Thomas, a leading performer of baroque music, together with Elizabeth Kenny, one of Europe's finest lute players. Their wide-ranging programme will include songs by Dowland, Purcell and Handel. The second concert is given by Bibi Heal with guitarist Amanda Cook.

This month's lunchtime recital at St Martin's is a concert entitled Family Harmony. Given by the Yates family, it is a recital for voice, trumpet and bassoon. Their programme will include music by Purcell, Bach and Handel. The concert is free, with a retiring collection in aid of the William Cole Church Music Trust. Later in the month, there will be a second lunchtime concert given by the renowned pianist Roman Rudnytsky. He is an international American concert pianist of Ukrainian background, whose programme will no doubt be a treat to hear.

Westcott musicians will be holding a 'Musical Mingle' including Mozart's lovely clarinet quintet. This is an opportunity to enjoy some classical music in a relaxed format, especially suitable for those who might experience barriers to attending a traditional concert. Entry is free, with donations invited and there will be light refreshments with an opportunity to meet the players

The Dorking Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Andrew Morley, has a programme of music from the classical era, with Mozart's piano concerto no.24 in C minor, Beethoven's Egmont overture, Schubert's Tragic symphony. The Leith Hill Music Festival is holding a Come & Sing Day, led by the inspiring festival conductor Neil Ferris, together with three distinguished composers: Cecilia McDowall, Joanna Forbes L'Estrange and Joanna Gill. Singers will learn three new pieces written especially by these composers, along with a new piece by Will Todd. The day will culminate with an informal performance of the music at 4pm (open to audience, price £10). Tickets can be booked through the LHMF website.

Ian Codd

DOUBT EQUALS WISDOM
An opinion piece by Father Richard Rohr, Franciscan & Author

The notion of faith that has emerged in the West is, predominantly, more about the truth of certain mental beliefs, rather than a calm and hopeful trust that God is inherent in all things, and that this whole thing is going somewhere good.

I worry about "true believers" who cannot carry any doubt or anxiety at all. People who are so certain always seem, like Hamlet's queen, to "protest too much" and try too hard. To hold the full mystery of life is always to endure its other half, which is the equal mystery of death and doubt. To know anything fully is always to hold that part of it which is still mysterious and unknowable.

People of great faith often suffer bouts of great doubt because they continue to grow. Mother Teresa experienced decades of this kind of doubt, as was revealed after her death. In a letter to a trusted spiritual director she wrote, 'Darkness is such that I really do not see, neither with my mind nor with my reason. The place of God in my soul is blank.' The very fact that people were scandalized by this demonstrates how limited is our understanding of the nature of biblical faith.

It seems a movement from certitude to doubt and through doubt to acceptance of life's mystery is necessary in all encounters, intellectual breakthroughs, and relationships, not just with the Divine. Human faith and religious faith are much the same except in their object or goal. What set us on the wrong path was making the object of religious faith 'ideas' or doctrines instead of a person. Our faith is not a faith that dogmas or moral opinions are true, but a faith that Ultimate Reality/God/Christ is accessible to us and is even on our side.

Our youthful demand for certainty helps eliminate anxiety and keeps us 'in control. But our younger selves do not have enough experience of wholeness to include all its parts yet. First-half-of-life naïveté includes a kind of excitement and happiness that is hard to let go of unless we know there is an even deeper and tested kind of happiness out ahead of us. But in the early years, we do not know that yet, which is why those in the second half of life must tell us about it. Without elders, a society perishes socially and spiritually.

It is probably necessary to eliminate most doubt when we are young; doing so is a good survival technique. But such worldviews are not true, and they are not wisdom. Wisdom happily lives with mystery, doubt, and unknowing and, in such living, ironically resolves that very mystery to some degree.

GARDENING NOTES FOR OCTOBER
Plan now for focal points in a winter garden

Winter gardens can bring joy in simple ways. Your garden can still be rewarding, colourful and a pleasure to see throughout winter with a few simple steps. It can be attractive from indoors, improve your wellbeing by being outside with a 'fresh air' feel to your wellbeing on sunny days and give your garden and wildlife a year-round boost.

In winter gardens naturally slow down, and time outdoors may be shorter, but that's exactly when the view from indoors becomes more important. Think of a window as a picture frame. You only need one or two eye-catching features in each 'scene' to create an interesting and attractive vista. Focal points close to the house, especially in a UK winter when light is low and visibility isn't always great, are best with small plant combinations and features. Further away, white stemmed trees, blocks of colour-stemmed shrubs, and taller evergreens come into their own even in smaller gardens. Planting in small groups, usually three or five of the same plant, gives you greater impact.

Go for plants that offer strong winter features and plant them in tight groups so they really show up: dogwoods (Cornus) with bright red or orange stems, willows (Salix) with yellow stems, Skimmia with glossy leaves and red buds, and mahonia with bold leaves and bright yellow flowers. Plant winter heathers for low, colourful patches. Yellow and variegated-leaved evergreens bounce winter light back, even on dull days: popular Choisya 'sundance' is always a shining beacon. Evergreen shrubs, clipped into balls or domes, are especially useful to provide structure and impact.

Ornamental grasses left standing with their seed heads through winter add interest and look wonderful covered with frost on a freezing morning; hellebores can be grouped near the house so you can see their flowers clearly, together with witch hazel with its spidery, scented blooms.

Plant snowdrops in small drifts where they catch the light, and hardy Cyclamen coum under trees and shrubs: both will naturally multiply over the years. Plant other spring-flowering bulbs now to usher in spring in the new year. You can also consider shrubs and small trees with berries and fruit for garden birds to rely on in cold weather.

David Hogg, Buckland Nurseries

Small Surrey Churches - Part Twenty

St Nicholas' Pyrford



Pyrford is a joint parish with Wisley, and both villages were mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086. Pyrford church is on a bluff of the River Wey with a circular graveyard is a typical ancient strategic position. Near Pyrford Lock there have been found traces of an iron age village, including a dug-out canoe (now in Guildford Museum), tools and pottery. On the grass verge is an ancient monumental stone which may have had religious significance prior to the building of the church. Archaeologists have suggested that '*primitive settlers may have come up from the riverbank to worship their ancient Gods on this site*'.[1]

From the church grounds, you can see the twelfth century ruins of Newark Priory in the water meadows below. This was an Augustinian priory, built about 1190 as a 'new place' for monks, which became a large complex of monastic buildings.

Although the Priory owned much of the surrounding land, St Nicholas' remained under the ownership of the Abbey of Westminster until 1539.

The church was built around 1140 with walls nearly three feet thick, of puddingstone with cladding of ironstone on the outside. Oak pews were installed in the 15th century restoration, and several of these toward the back of the church remain unaltered.

St Nicholas Pyrford is of interest because it is one of the oldest churches in Surrey that stands as a complete building of one period. The Norman proportions remain as they were, unaltered by the usual additions of aisles, chapels or tower. Minor changes include the Tudor porch and short bell-turret. [It is of a similar size and layout to St Mary's Buckland, but without the 'Victorian make-over' that Buckland had by Henry Woodyer in 1860].





Left: the original Norman Doorway and decorative arch
Right: The pulpit, dated 1628, comprising panels in deal, oak, walnut and cedar

The Jacobean pulpit was built in 1628, the date inlaid with the initials NB, presented by Nicholas Burley. The canopy above is described as a 'sounding board' to improve the acoustics.



The simple interior of St Nicholas Pyrford

The exposed roof timbers are thought to have been replaced in the 15th century.

The bell tower has two bells, a treble and a tenor, still rung for services every Sunday, prior to the 11.30am services. Pyrford is now in the Diocese of Guildford and shares its' Rector with The Church of the Good Shepherd Woking, and Wisley Church.

Access

The church is on Church Hill, Pyrford GU22 8XH on the B367 between Ripley and Woking. There is ample parking on the spur road and adjacent car park. There is an 11.30am Matins held on the 1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays and on every 4th Sunday, Communion following the historic prayer book of 1662. Every alternate week, there is also an 8am Holy Communion service. The church is open most days from 9am to 4pm.

References

1 *Lewin, S, 2013. A Short History of Pyrford & Wisley, 12 pp.*

2 *Lewin, S, 2013. St Nicholas Pyrford: A Guide & Short History . 16 pp.*



Societies & Charities

DORKING LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Talk: History of Leatherhead stations & the RCTS Library
Monday 5th October, Dorking.



This autumn, Dorking Local History Group is offering a programme of live and Zoom talks. These fascinating talks are free to members, but non-members are also welcome. October's talk is:

'History of Leatherhead stations, the RCTS Library' by Andy Davies - Andy is the Railway Correspondence & Travel Society's Archivist. He will introduce you to the various stations at Leatherhead from 1859 to today, and will describe the history of the RCTS Archive and Library. Monday 5th October, Dorking.

All Dorking talks are held at Crossways Community Baptist Church, Junction Road, Dorking, RH4 3HB. Doors 7pm for 7:30pm start. £2 at the door for non-members. For further details of talks and other activities - or to join DLHG - go to https://dlhg.org.uk.

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New Year Quiz – 29th Jan

Winetasting – March date tbc



Numbers are limited so please register your interest as soon as possible. Ticket enquiries & further details please contact

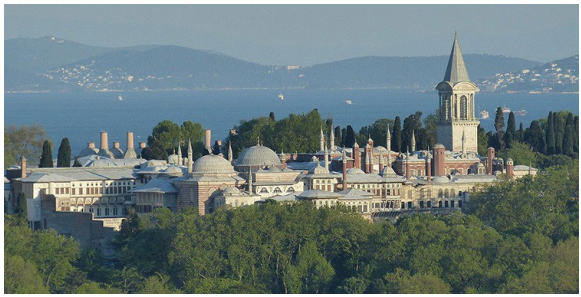
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Topkapi Palace, Istanbul:
Power & Empire Communicated in Stone
Monday 19 October 2.30 pm (doors open 1.45pm)
Betchworth Memorial Hall, Station Road

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Topkapi Palace in Istanbul stands as the definitive, stone-carved manifestation of Ottoman state philosophy, serving as the primary imperial residence and administrative nerve centre for nearly 400 years (from the 1460s to 1853).

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Our lecturer, Dr Antonia Gatward Cevizli, is an independent art historian specialising in both Italian Renaissance art and Ottoman art. She gained her PhD from the University of Warwick. Her publications focus on cultural and diplomatic exchange between the Italian city-states and the Ottomans. Antonia has lectured for several institutions including Sabanci University, Istanbul; Sotheby's Institute of Art; the National Gallery; the V&A Academy and The Courtauld summer school. She has lived in Siena, Venice and Istanbul.

And on November 16th at 2.30 (followed by Christmas Tea}
Rome - The 1700s - The Grand Tour by Stuart Harvey

Carole Evans, www.theartssocietybetchworth.org.uk

BROCKHAM GREEN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
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TALK: The Women's Land Army – Cinderella's of the Fields
26 October 2026, 7:30pm – 9pm, Brockham Village Hall



Often referred to as the Cinderella's of the Fields, our speaker Ian Everest will explain how he first became interested in the Women's Land Army and how it led to many years of research and collecting 100's of photos of the girls working on the farms. The talk will look at its history – how it started, its role during two world wars and it its recognition in more recent times

Ian Everest was brought up on a farm on the South Downs and after attending Agricultural College in the late 1960's, he worked in the agricultural sector with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, before being employed in commercial activity with an animal feed supplement business. His growing interest in family and military history led to a career change in 1987 when he was appointed manager of Newhaven Fort in Sussex, a scheduled monument, which he prepared for public opening the following year, and continued to manage for fifteen years. Following this, a further change in career as the Newhaven Town Clerk for ten years – and then retirement. Since then, he has developed a number of talks relating to Farming History, Sussex Local History, Military and Social History.

Refreshments will be served, and everyone is welcome, so please bring friends. The entrance fee is members £3 and non-members £5.

Christmas Workshop
Saturday 5th December 2:15 to 4pm, Brockham Village Hall

We are running our ever-popular Christmas workshop where you can make your own door wreath with ribbon £20, table decoration £15 or garland £15.

Ruth Johnson

BROCKHAM BOWLS CLUB

As I write this in early September the playing season is drawing to a close. We have only 4 games on the fixture card for September, all friendlies. August has not been a good month results wise in matches against other Clubs. We only won one of the seven matches played. Not sure what happened there.

Despite this we came 8th out of 15 in the North Downs League, which is a very competitive league as it has some large Clubs with membership of well over 100 members. We came 2nd out of 6 in the Men's Chrystie League. The league we did not do so well in was the Friendship League, where we came 5th out of 6. The Men's Chrystie league teams were selected and organised by Gavin Parker, thank you Gavin.

On the last weekend in August we had the Finals of the Internal Competitions. There were 11 matches over the 2 days, and they were all completed on time, despite some very heavy rain. The Men's Singles Championship winner was Mark Yeo, and the Ladies Singles Championship winner was Hazel Leitch. Well done to you both. Overall, 11 different club members won at least one of their finals, so honours were widely spread. Most matches were very close, giving the spectators some interesting entertainment. Thanks to John Hoad who organises our Internal Competitions.

I know this season has nearly finished, but if you want more information about the Club please contact Peter Goldup, our Club Captain, on 07391 254689, or visit our website:

brockhambowlsclub.co.uk Trevor Anderson

Relax. Life is only a game.

Thich Nhat Hanh (Buddhist monk & Meditation author, 1926-2022)

DORKING MUSEUM IN SEPTEMBER



'Dorking: Cycling capital of England': The last day to catch our Cycling exhibition is 17th October.

Our Strawberry Studios South exhibition (1976-1983) is opening on Thursday 22nd October, exploring the story of the studio and the artists that recorded there. The plaque is now on the building at Chartwood Place, South Street, Dorking.

Walking in Dorking: Our last guided walk of the year is our Family Walk (20th). See http://dorkingmuseum.org.uk/guided-walks-around-dorking/ for details and bookings.

Halloween Ghost Walks: Join us for a historic Halloween Ghost Walk on 31st October! Walks at 6pm and 7.30pm. See http://dorkingmuseum.org.uk/guided-walks-around-dorking/ for details and booking.

South Street Caves: As of now our final caves Open Day of the year on Saturday 3rd October is fully sold out, but why not get together a group for a private booking? See http://dorkingmuseum.org.uk/south-street-caves/. Cave tours will reopen in March of next year.

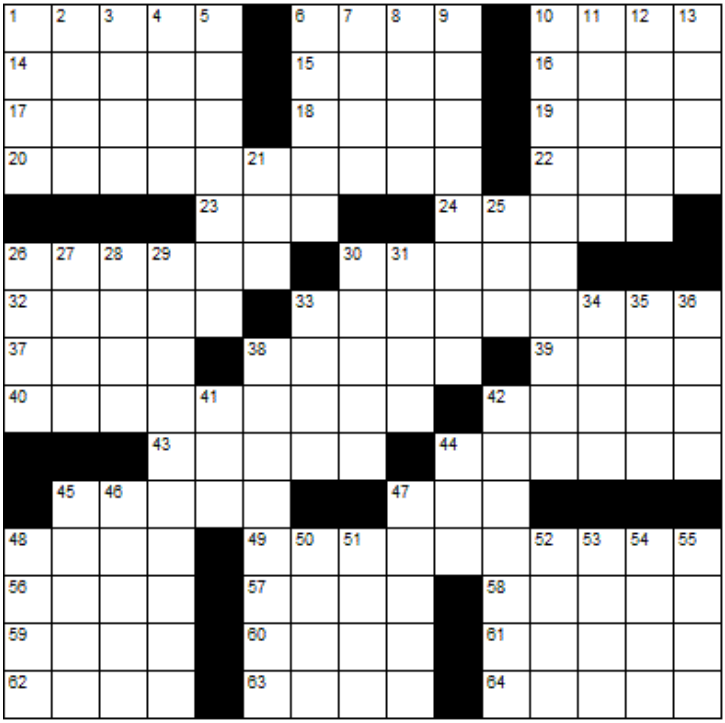
Family Activities at Dorking Library: Autumn Magic Craft Extravaganza, 10th October, 10am-2pm. Family Learning Festival, 20th October, 10am-12pm. Dorking Library, St. Martins Walk. Free materials provided, children must be accompanied.

Dorking Refugee Committee papers: The Museum's archive team and the University of Surrey launched the Accessing Refugee History in Surrey Project in September, a digitised and publicly accessible archive of the Dorking Refugee Committee's records.

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

Laura Swinson

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS (p.16-18)



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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 Villlage 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 (*practice Friday evenings*)	David Sayce	01737 242776
Betchworth & Buckland Children's Nursery	Laura Snelling	01737 843610
Betchworth & Buckland Toddler Group	Debbie Jones	07701 347351
Betchworth & Buckland Society *(Secretary)*	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/*Chemist*	n/a	01737 843259
Buckland & Betchworth Choral Soc. (*Sec.*)	Caroline Bartlett	07967 969425
Buckland Parochial Charity (*Clerk*)	Debbie Jones	07701 347351
Buckland Parish Council *(Clerk)*	Sheena Boyce	01737 448023
Buckland Deli (Village Shop)	(see p.12, this issue)	
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 843530
- Secretary	Liz Vahey	01737 221444
Reigate Pilgrims Cricket Club	Julian Steed	01737 842220
St. Catherine's Hospice	Sheila Dyer	01737 842046
Women's Institute	Margaret Miller	01737 842098

Websites: Church: www.stmarythevirginbuckland.org.uk
Village: www.bucklandsurrey.org.uk
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