



A message from the Churchwardens

On a rather miserable Saturday in early May members of the PCC met at the rectory to do some tidying up. The shed had long been overgrown by greenery and Stuart Murdoch had kindly arranged for his gardener to uncover it so that we could find what treasures awaited us inside. Sadly, not too much treasure but an awful lot of



junk! However, there were a few gems and Cath has managed to sell some of them on ebay. Lots of weeding and grass mowing ensued and of course we had to have a coffee break, Cath providing delicious cake and Andrew Rustell lots of coffee. Thanks to both.

So, with maybe another few sessions taking place (would you like to help?) we hope that by the time Fr Neil and his family arrive the rectory and garden will be a truly splendid, happy place to live.

God Bless Us, Everyone!

Linda and Darrol

We welcome guidance from Fr. Nicholas Edwards during our interregnum



SS PETER & PAUL - Fear is the key

There is a story about Jean Francois Gravelet, better known as Blondin who entertained the crowds by pushing a wheelbarrow across a tightrope drawn across the gaping chasm of Niagara Falls. 'Do you believe I can do it?' he asked the crowd, 'Of course we do,' they shouted. 'Who will get in the wheelbarrow then?' he invited. And they all fell silent, but one man stepped forward.

So here is the question, where are you in the story, in the crowd or stepping forward?

These are the same questions asked of Peter and Paul, 'follow me', 'come to me across the water', questions that understood their human frailty, 'you will deny me three times', 'why do you persecute me?' questions answered by Jesus himself who put his faith and trust in their humanity. He said of Peter 'on this rock I will build my church' and of Paul 'he is a chosen instrument of mine'. Finally, for both this meant a road of hardship and ultimately self-sacrifice, 'they will bind you up and take you where you do not wish to go' and 'for I will show him how much he must suffer for my name'.

So it was that the Big Fisherman and the erudite tent maker, the rough-hewn rock and the brilliant master builder, the denier and the persecutor, the chalk and the cheese were Christ's chosen instruments who built the church on the foundations laid by Jesus.

They saw and believed and put their trust in the God of Love. These are the Keys of the Kingdom, it is these that Christ holds out to us just as he did to Peter and Paul.



And so back to the question, would any of us get in the wheelbarrow, would we step out of the boat, would we be brave enough to turn round and take a different path? Do we believe in God enough to put our trust wholly in him and face the unknown, the abyss, our fears, in order to build the Kingdom, or do we prefer to play it safe, to hold back?

Jesus says, 'Do not be afraid' 365 times in the Gospel, once for every day of the year.

Fr. Nick

Photo by [Lukas](#) from [Pexels](#)

The aim of this Newsletter is to bring us all together again after the long period of isolation. This column is for you, the readers, to write. Many thanks to all who have offered their thoughts so far. Please send, email or telephone your contributions for Jana’s attention to: Parish office, Bury St, Guildford, GU2 4AW tel 01483 564 526 parishoffice@saintrnics.com

Jean Woolley A few words about missionary life

...continued from last issue

People often said to me, “What an interesting life you must lead.” Yes it was. The work we did in Wycliffe (SIL, Societe Internationale de Linguistique in French speaking countries in Africa) was varied. Flexibility was part of our life in mission. Not all were Bible translators: some should have been but were doing other essential work as administrators, secretaries, accountants, community development workers and literacy specialists. Some of us worked in remote villages with no electricity or running water, some in less remote places, some in the city of Dakar or in small towns like Ziguinchor on the border of Guinea-Bissau. Others travelled doing language surveys, mostly living in a camper van. All interesting yet tiring work, essential in our task of Bible translation. I started work as the Director’s secretary and later worked in literacy and translating projects in the North of Senegal until my retirement in 2006. Initially we were asked to begin a literacy project in Wolof (the Lingua franca). There was already a New Testament in the language by another mission but they had not thought about the literacy, so most people were unable to read it. A literacy specialist and I started working with Wolof speakers to write books to teach reading. Then I moved to preparing literacy in the language of Pulaar, learning the basics from a Pulaar man who was the team’s language assistant and later became a Christian through his work on translating. A little church was started in one village and some Scripture portions used in the language, people were really happy with that. The New Testament is now in use there and work has begun on the Old Testament. *To be continued...*



Members of the literacy teams comparing their translations



Kasa church choir (including Jean – editor’s comment)

“What’s on your mind”

Suzette Jones “Be still and know that I am God”

Psalm 46.10

Growing up in the early 1950’s, the youngest child of a Catholic family, my Mum regularly could be heard to shout, ‘Be still and know that I am God’! This was our cue to sit, in all weathers, between the dustbins and outside lavatory and be quiet! Was it meditation or contemplative prayer? – I am not sure but ‘still’ we would be. Reflecting, it was probably the only way she could get any peace from a brood of noisy children confined to a post war prefab. My Dad was always taciturn, a former prisoner of war in Burma, his voice silenced.



Photo by George Becker from Pexels

‘Being Still’ the time for ‘being’, remained and during the 1960’s of Flower Power, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, the Beatles, I was held in awe by peers who thought my meditation quite ‘cool’.

Living overseas in the 1970’s I joined some weird and wonderful meditation groups - one of which insisted on being naked, and they certainly weren’t still! Stillness abandoned; I made a speedy exit.

The years have flown, most mornings I sit, opening to my thoughts, feelings, sensations, floating my mantra on each breath, finding peace through prayer of the heart.



Photo by nicollazzi xiong from Pexels

Meditation can lower blood pressure, cholesterol levels and reduce stress. As a nurse and Mindfulness teacher I promote and endorse the value of meditation to many who seek concord in their physical, emotional, and spiritual lives.

But above all, I thank God, a lifetime ago, perched on a drain cover, the words of ‘Be still and know that I am God’ rang in my ears like the bell that calls me to meditation today.

Go well, Suzette.

Editor’s note: A meditation group meets at St Nicolas on Sundays at 5pm.

Janet Moorhouse In March 2020 we were in Lockdown and the news was grim. I could see similarities with the interruption in our way of life with childhood memories of the 1939-45 War. Then, as in Lockdown, our activities were very curtailed and one could no longer be certain of the way ahead.

I thought of other traumatic events of change. As I was in Hastings it was a short step to contemplate what it might have been like in the town before and after The Conquest in 1066. The Norman Conquest was so devastating for the Saxons that the fact that Hastings was a thriving town with its own mint has been largely forgotten. My imagination got to work and I wrote a story, The Moneyers Tale, based on historical facts. Hastings had a mint which produced coins of the realm until the 13th century. So it was certainly an important town before 1066. It had a port and a fleet of ships and was (is) a Cinque Port. For some reason there is a gap in The Domesday Book where it might have been recorded and so it has been overlooked. After the Battle of Hastings in 1066 the medieval town (Battle) began on the site and with the building of The Abbey Church there Hastings seems to have been side lined.

I am pleased to report that a local history group has published my booklet. It is nice to know something positive came out of the Lockdown experience.



Photo from <https://www.historic-uk.com>

Julian Morgan Bells at St Nicolas – why are we special?

As a lockdown project I decided to photograph the old record books from the St Nicolas tower shelves. I realised they give a remarkably complete picture of happenings in the tower since 1880. 1880 was pretty much a fresh start as it was a new church, with a new tower and new bells. The eight bells had been stored at Dawson’s Farm (where was that?) since 1874 when the old church was demolished. In 1879 they reached Taylor’s bellfoundry in



Loughborough, Leicestershire. All but two bells were found to be cracked. Taylor’s cast eight brand-new bells. Taking advantage of the more spacious tower, the new bells were much heavier – the largest weighed 23cwt compared to just over 12cwt previously.

From what we can tell, ringing in Guildford in 1880 was not in a very healthy state. The eight bells of Holy Trinity were difficult to ring and at St Mary’s (six bells) the tower was considered unsafe. At the dedication service in July 1880, the first ringing was by a band from Leatherhead. This suggests that the Guildford ringers of the time were not considered up to the job. By 1894 it was a different story. A St Nicolas band had been officially formed several years before and at the beginning of 1894 it had 15 members. The leader was Frederick Rees, who was a churchwarden and lived in Bury Street. In 1891, then aged 57, he was listed as a retired Bengal civil servant.

At a decisive meeting at the start of 1894, the ringers formed a bold plan – to add two more bells to make a ring of 10. At that time there were very few of these around; in the Winchester Diocese only Winchester Cathedral and Leatherhead. Mr Rees was clearly quite wealthy as he donated most of the money for the new bells and frame. The job was finished amazingly quickly by today’s standards – the bells were dedicated on the day before Easter (March 24th). Less than three months? Nowadays it would take at least that long to get the permission for the work signed off, maybe just to get a quotation from the bellfounders.

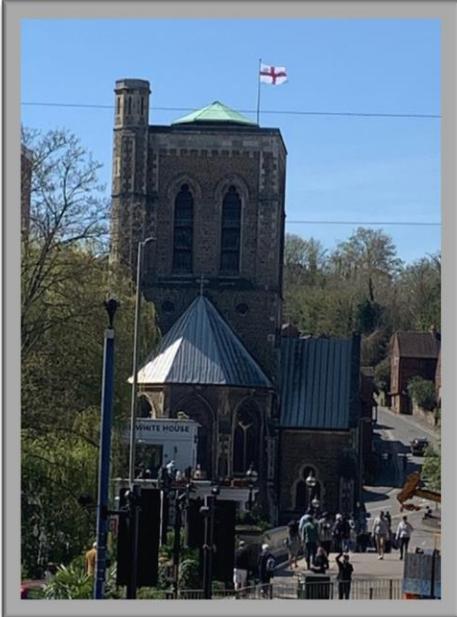
St Nicolas was now firmly on the ringing map and attracted some of the leading ringers of the age. One of the band was John Goldsmith who claimed his place in ringing history in 1911 by founding the weekly magazine ‘The Ringing World’, printed at the start by The Woodbridge Press in Guildford. The Ringing World (‘the comic’ to ringers) still appears weekly and had its base in Guildford until 2002.

There are more ten-bell rings than in the late 19th century (now there are nine in Surrey) but it is still a special number. The oldest of the current bells dates from 1926. Thanks to the legacy of Charles Hazelden, Taylor’s recast six of the bells with new metal in 2013. It was impressive when the Taylor’s representative came to the tower in 2011 and laid out their 1926 drawings on the table.

St Nicolas has not had its own band of ringers since early in the 21st century but thanks to ringers from other local churches we do our best to keep the bells going. When Covid restrictions were eased in summer 2020, it was much easier for us to comply with distancing restrictions and a strict ‘one ringer, one rope’ rule than in other more cramped towers. Thanks to another lockdown project, the ringing simulator is working again – this allows ringing practice with the bells silenced from the neighbours. A computer makes the sounds that the ringers hear. The old tower record books will soon be on their way to Surrey History Centre in Woking, where the church’s other historical records already live.

The picture shows a view of the chancel through the ringing chamber floor as the bells are removed for restoration in 2013.

"What's on your mind"



Marcus Browne Flying the flag As you look down the High Street there is a superb vista to the west in which St Nicolas is highly prominent. On the top of the tower is our flagpole which is an outstanding location to fly a flag from. The tower is over 25m high and to climb it you must go up 100 steps or so. Because of its height, our flags are 2m long so they can be seen properly when viewed from ground level.

There are no legal restrictions on what may be flown from flagpoles in the UK. In the Church of England, the choice of flag is at the discretion of the incumbent and the PCC. C of E churches historically fly the St. George's cross and St Nicolas is no exception. We fly it during the Christmas and Easter periods, on certain feast days such as St. George's Day and St Nicolas' Day and on special occasions such as weddings or funerals. We fly a plain St. George's cross, but if we chose, we could fly one with the shield of the Diocese of Guildford in the top left corner.

During the year there are several official flag flying days when government buildings should fly the national flag, the Union Flag. Guildford Borough Council observes this, flying it from flagpoles on the Guildhall in the High Street, from the top of the castle and outside its offices in Millmead.

We fly the Union Flag on a few occasions, including the Queen's Official Birthday and Remembrance Day. We also fly it if there is a specific reason to do so, such as a special occasion in Guildford or during a national event. We recently flew it at half-mast during the ten-day period of mourning for HRH the Duke of Edinburgh.

There may be times when we might choose to fly a different flag, depending on the occasion. This could be another country's flag, or other British flags such as the flags of Scotland or Wales, or the Surrey county flag. We could fly an organisation's flag or a personal banner if it is considered appropriate to do so. When we are not flying a flag, we follow the Scandinavian tradition of flying a pennant. This is a relatively uncommon sight in England and I believe it is a much better alternative than having an empty flagpole. People cannot fail to notice our long St. George's pennant when they look down the High Street, especially on a windy day!

Rory Fenner The sky in June 

The **Sun** moves from Taurus into Gemini on the 21 June, which is the 2021 Summer Solstice. **Mercury** reaches Inferior conjunction on the 11 June and then will come into the morning sky. **Venus** is an evening planet setting 90 minutes after sunset. The crescent **Moon** will be nearby on the 11 and 12 June. **Mars** is an evening planet moving from Gemini into Cancer during the month. **Jupiter** is a bright morning object in Aquarius, rising 5 hours before sunrise by 30 June. **Saturn** is a morning planet rising before Jupiter 5 hours before sunrise. **Uranus and Neptune** are not visible this month.

Time	Phase	Event
10:07:51 Thu, 10 Jun		<i>Partial Eclipse begins</i> <i>The Moon touches the Sun's edge.</i>
11:12:03 Thu, 10 Jun		<i>Maximum Eclipse</i> <i>Moon is closest to the center of the Sun.</i>
12:21:07 Thu, 10 Jun		<i>Partial Eclipse ends</i> <i>The Moon leaves the Sun's edge.</i>

On Thursday morning 10 June, there will be a Partial Solar Eclipse of the Sun. It starts at 10:07 and finishes at 12:26.

This eclipse is Annular across Canada, Greenland and Russia.

Image showing how the eclipse will appear from Guildford, taken from www.timeanddate.com

Darrol Radley
SING MY CHILD



The Surrey Hills Chamber Choir and Surrey Hills Singers celebrate singing together again with an open air musical feast

Like the rest of the UK, the Surrey Hills choirs have been very restricted by lockdown rules and although, at the time of writing, amateur choirs are still not allowed to rehearse indoors together in groups greater than 6, this has not dampened the desire of the Chamber Choir or Singers to put on a summer concert this year. Rehearsing on zoom, then in groups of 6 outdoors and now as a full choir outdoors, the choirs have practised in sun, rain, freezing cold temperatures, wind, hail and thunder and lightning! The resilience of the singers has been quite amazing.

As the guidelines for choirs have not followed the Government roadmap, we have been forced to adapt our summer concert on Saturday 3rd July 2021 to suit the current situation and are quite excited by the result - an outdoor summer performance in the setting of the stunning garden of The Crown pub, Capel, with plenty of refreshments on hand and the option to have a pub meal afterwards. Tables are set up to be socially distanced if restrictions are not lifted. Due to the unpredictability of the British weather the event will be held 3pm-late and the performance time will be announced on our website on Friday once the weather forecast is known. Our ideal performance time is 4pm. In the event of cancellation, there will be a full ticket refund.

As always, our programme features many styles and eras of music from the Renaissance to the present day. Highlights from the Chamber Choir include Parce mihi domine with improvisation by saxophonist Alex Forsyth, A Little Jazz Mass by Bob Chilcott, Billy Joel’s The Longest Time, Words by Anders Edenroth, and Underneath the Stars by Kate Rusby. The Singers will entertain with Fields of Gold by Sting, Never Enough from the Greatest Showman, And all that Jazz from the musical Chicago as well as some lovely classic and folk songs. The opening song “Sing my child” by Sarah Quartel perfectly captures the optimism for the future and the need to sing, and we have a very catchy encore that took the UK by storm last year.

Due to the sudden change in plans, ticket details are not ready at the current time of meeting magazine details, but will be found on our website: www.surreyhills-choirs.co.uk There are only 100 places available so please book early to avoid disappointment. The booking office will open on 22nd June (after the Government’s final announcement).

There is plenty of seating and some picnic rugs available, but pop a fold-up chair or picnic rug in your boot just in case all the seats are taken.

We are really looking forward to this unexpected outdoor summer concert with a lovely social element and look forward to seeing you there.

June Kennedy In the garden I moved from Guildford to Bramley after my children had bullied me (in the nicest possible way) to downsize, and the reason I chose this cottage was because of the large garden, which I love.

We have a constant change of birds, varieties up to date number 15, and for two years we had a regular visit from a pheasant who became very tame, but sadly crashed into the window of a neighbour and died. Now for the past two years we have had a large brown rabbit who visits me and my neighbours regularly, and guess what - he has as his best friend a pheasant and the two seem to be inseparable. Long may the friendship last!!!



Images from **Pixabay**

Maurren Hibberd Plastic Bottle tops

Have you ever wondered what happens to the mountain of plastic milk-bottle tops we collect at St. Nicolas? In the first instance they are taken to St Paul’s church in Tongham. There they are packed up and sent to raise money for Air Ambulance. Small items but a big cause.

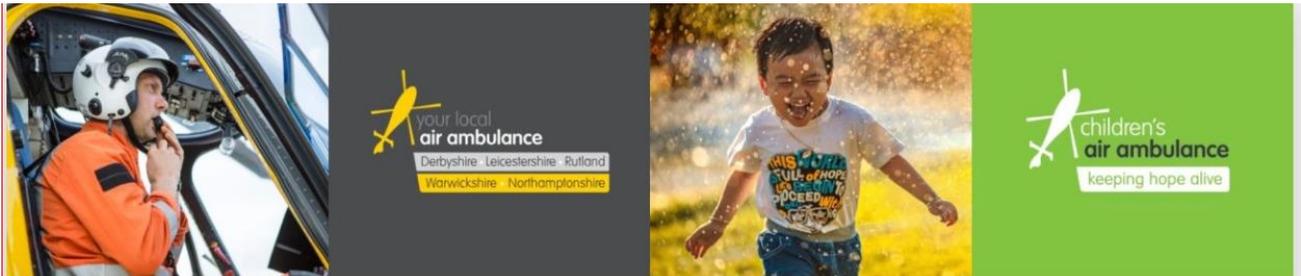


Image from theairambulanceservice.org.uk

Tuesday Group

In lieu of the meetings held pre-pandemic in the Parish Hall, the Tuesday Group Newsletter continues to be published weekly, keeping Group members in touch and strengthening bonds of friendship and understanding. It’s also a very interesting read! In recent weeks there have been wide-ranging articles on the suggested topics *Soap*, *Tea in the Garden*, *Bears*, and *Pockets*, building on the strengths of the discussion groups of old.

Bears proved particularly inspiring, with Cubs; drama; insects; cuddly toys (past and present); radio and TV; wild animals and human behaviour; local retail; history; mythology; heraldry; constellations; book characters; and fairy stories all being mentioned.

Which aspect of the subject would you have chosen?

Cathy Goodwin



Children & Families

Liam Rowlings
Children & Families
worker sends news:
The weekly **Café Play** for
parents and toddlers has
resumed at St. Nicolas on
Wednesday mornings,
10:30-11:30. A place to
meet, play and chat.

Emma Smart,
Head Teacher at St
Nicolas School sends
news:
New regulations for
schools mean face masks
are no longer required,
unless social distancing
amongst staff is not
possible. Parents need to
wear face masks for the
time being.



The *Gardening Club* have discovered more additions in the school's bird boxes. In addition to Sparrow and bird Tits' chicks, there is now a Wren too!



The children have
celebrated *National
Numeracy Day* and the
school has acquired new
reading books reflecting
diversity in society.



KIDS SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB
9TH - 13TH AUGUST 2021

Liam Rowlings, Children & Families Worker, shares some exciting news about this year's kids summer holiday club.

The many lockdowns last year meant lots of us had to work from home whilst balancing home schooling. Many churches including Guildford URC & St Nicolas Church held summer holiday clubs on-line.

This year, we are planning to run kid's summer holiday club in person at GURC church with some outdoor activities.

Nature Explorers run for 5 days from 9:30am - 12:00noon from Monday 9th to Friday 13th August 2021.

The idea behind 'Nature Explorers' is about reconnecting with nature and exploring God's amazing world. The holiday club is open to School Years 1 to 6 and costs £10 per child.

Join us and become a Nature Explorer and learn more about the wonderful world we live in.

Places are limited, so e-mail Liam for a booking form at childrenfamworker@gmail.com



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