



From the Rector's study

Lent and Easter Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and with the marking of Ash on our foreheads with the words, *"Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return. Repent of your sins and turn to Christ."* These powerful words remind us of our mortality and our destination. We are not made for the limited, but for the immortal realm of God's own company. Our existence is entirely dependent upon our relationship with God and in

God and that is where our true treasure is to be found. Of course, that is very difficult to remember in the months when our bodies have been cold for so long in winter and the gas bill is going up! As I said in my Ash Wednesday sermon, let the ashes be a reminder of what we have offered up to God as sacrifices - our prayers as well as our regrets and burdens, and rise from the ashes in Easter hope. During Lent, in preparation for that resurrection, we are called to tread a narrow path between not worrying about what we shall eat, or tomorrow (as Our Lord reminds us), at the same time as knowing that God cares for us - all of us - our material and spiritual whole self. We are neither flesh dwellers nor disembodied souls, but both. Lent offers us that tightrope walk between the flesh and the soul and points us to the Resurrection - the enlivening of body and soul in the resurrection of the body as the Creed reminds us. At Easter we shall celebrate the bursting from the tomb - the heart of the faith. We are to have faith in "He who died and was raised" - in body and spirit - as the first fruits of all creation. We too shall rise - we shall see Him face to face and we shall be fully known. That is the Resurrection faith, indeed it is the entire point of the faith and without which the Jesus movement would have disappeared into the annals of history as another of the groups claiming a Messiah in the first century AD - and there were plenty of them!



This Lent and Eastertide, may you come to know that your mortality does not define you but simply marks time, Ordinary time, as we travel onwards to our destination in God's own good time, which is eternity with Him through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Living Lent

The theme for our Sunday homilies and consequently the Bible studies the following Fridays after Lent lunches will be based on VOCATION, which reflects our Stewardship Campaign, Cheerful Giving. We shall reflect upon how all that we do (as the Offertory Prayer reminds us) is given to God - not just the pounds in our pockets. Our lives, our skills, time, talents and good will - without which St Nicolas would not operate!

We look forward to focussing upon the following themes throughout the Sundays in Lent:

- Lent 1** (9th March) Our Baptism as the beginning of our Christian vocation
- Lent 2** (16th March) The Eucharist as the nourishing of our vocation
- Lent 3** (23rd March) Discipleship as the Way of our vocation
- Lent 4** (30th March) Liturgy as a celebration of our vocation
- Lent 5** (6th April) Ministry as particular expressions of vocation (lay and ordained)

These will be explored at Mass in the Homily and the following Friday after the **Lent Lunches**.

The first Lent Lunch will be on Friday 7th March, running through to Friday 11th April, with the Lent study half hours starting on Friday 14th March for 5 weeks.

For those who cannot make a Friday in the working week, we shall offer **The Big Lent Brunch – from 10:30am to 12:30pm on Saturday 22nd March in church** - to explore a little of each of these topics in our Lenten discipline of Learning and Praying with Brunch!



There will be two opportunities to enjoy **Stations of the Cross & Benediction – Sunday 9th March at 5pm and Friday 11th April at 11am.**



March Services



Sa 1		Messy Church at GURC
Su 2	Quinquagesima	08:30 Mass 10:00 Mass
Tu 4		10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel,
We 5	ASH WEDNESDAY	10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel, 11:00 Mass and Imposition
Th 6		10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel
Fr 7		10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel, 11:00 Mass, St George's Chapel
Su 9	Lent I	08:30 Mass 10:00 Mass 11:30 Choral Mattins 14:00-16:00 Junior Church Pancake Party 17:30 Stations of the Cross and Benediction
Tue 11		10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel
We 12		10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel
Th 13		10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel
Fr 14		10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel, 11:00 Mass, St George's Chapel 12:00 Lent Soup followed by Lent Study with Fr Neil
Su 16	Lent II	08:30 Mass 10:00 Mass
Tue 18		10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel
We 19		10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel
Th 20		10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel
Fr 21		10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel, 11:00 Mass, St George's Chapel 12:00 Lent Soup followed by Lent Study with Fr Alistair
Sa 22		10:30-12:30 Big Lent Brunch Saturday
Su 23	Lent III	08:30 Mass 10:00 Mass
Tue 25		10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel
Wed 26		10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel
Thu 27		10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel
Fri 28		10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel 12:00 Lent Soup followed by Lent Study with Fr Nick
Su 30	Lent IV Mothering Sunday	08:30 Mass 10:00 Mass





Tu 1		10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel
We 2		10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel 12:00 Mass, The Lady Chapel
Th 3		10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel
Fr 4		09:30 School Easter Service, 11:00 Mass, St George's Chapel 12:00 Lent Soup followed by Lent Study with Fr Alistair
Sa 5		Messy Church at St Nicolas 
Su 6	Lent V Passion Sunday	08:30 Mass 10:00 Cubs & Beavers Service, APCM
Tu 8		10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel 19:00 Curry & Questions: Matt Grove, FiM
We 9		10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel
Th 10		10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel
Fr 11		10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel 11:00 Stations of the Cross and Benediction 12:00 Lent Soup followed by Lent Study with David Greenwood
Su 13	Palm Sunday	08:30 Mass 10:00 Palm Sunday Procession to GURC, 10:30 GURC Palm Sunday Service
	HOLY WEEK	
Mo 14		10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel, 20:00 Mass
Tu 15		10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel, 20:00 Mass
We 16		10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel, 20:00 Mass
Th 17	Maundy Thursday	20:00 Mattins of the Lord's Last Supper & Stripping of the Altars
Fr 18	Good Friday	13:00 - 15:00 Veneration of the Cross
Sa 19	Holy Saturday	20:00 Vigil & First Mass of Easter
Su 20	Easter Day	08:30 Mass 10:00 Mass
Th 24		10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel
Fr 25		10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel, NO Mass
Su 27	LOW SUNDAY	10:00 Mass
Tu 29		10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel
We 30		10:00 Mattins, The Lady Chapel, 11:00 Mass, St George's Chapel



Mission Enabler update

I'd like to start with a massive thank you to those who helped walk the St Nicolas School children down to church for the school **Candlemas** service last month. It was a lovely service and the children did a great job of singing Ave Maria. They were still singing as they walked back up the road to school!

Last month we held a science themed **Messy Church** which sparked the imagination of younger and older children and even the adults! April's Messy Church is on the **5 April at 4pm at Guildford URC** and follows an

Easter theme.

In February we enjoyed our first **Fizz and Friends** of the year. We enjoyed painting together, but mostly each other's company and conversation – and maybe the prosecco! This group is for women of all ages over 18 and all are welcome. We meet in St Nicolas Church at 8pm. The next date for your diary is **9th May**, which seems a long time away! Due to encouraging feedback we will try to run this group more frequently, watch this space!



For dates of monthly activities/special services for the term ahead, please see below.

Nicky Geraghty, Mission Enabler
missionenabler@saintnics.com

March

Saturday 1st, 4pm
Messy Church at Guildford URC

Sunday 23rd, 4pm
Cafe Church at Guildford URC

Tuesday 25th, 5-6:30pm
Toastie Tuesday at St Nicolas Church

Friday 28th, 11am-1pm
Little Fishes at Guildford URC

Friday 28th, 7:30-9pm
Pizzas@8 at Guildford URC

www.guildforurc.org.uk / www.saintnics.com

April

Saturday 5th, 4pm
Messy Church at St Nicolas Church

Sunday 13th, 10am
Joint Palm Sunday service with donkey. Starts at St Nicolas Church, walking to Guildford URC.

Friday 25th, 11am-1pm
Little Fishes at Guildford URC

Friday 25th, 7:30-9pm
Pizzas@8 at Guildford URC

Sunday 23rd, 4pm
Cafe Church at Guildford URC

Tuesday 29th, 5-6:30pm
Toastie Tuesday at St Nicolas Church

Guildford United Reformed Church and St Nicolas Church work in partnership to provide a wide range of children's and families activities. Between the two churches there are activities available for all ages of children from 0-17.

If you would like to learn more about our activities please take one of our flyers, or get in touch with our Families Worker, Nicky Geraghty.
missionenabler@saintnics.com
familiesworker@guildfordurc.org.uk
 07903028299
www.guildforurc.org.uk / www.saintnics.com



The Headteacher,
Christina (Stina)
Witkowski.

The first half of the
spring term has
flown by! We came
together to mark

Candlemas at St Nics' Church, and the children enjoyed 'finding' the baby Jesus and following the light of the candles as we walked and sang our way around the church. Thank you to all the volunteers, both parents and members of the church, that helped make this possible!

Our school community "lives life in all its fullness" John 10:10:

"Knowing God is real and having hope."

"Being happy, enjoying life, not wasting it."

*"Live life in all its wonderfulness,
even if things don't go your way."*

*"Having a happy life and
being treated with dignity and respect."*

*"I think it means everyone gets what they need and
everyone's happy and there's no racism."*

"Everybody getting the same opportunities."

There has been exciting learning taking place in classes over the last couple of weeks. Beech Class have been learning the story of The Gingerbread Man, and have made changes to the tradition tale to come up with their own versions of the story. They were delighted to make and decorate their own gingerbread men today and very much enjoyed eating them during their story time. Chestnut have tasted Matzah crackers and Challah bread as they have learnt about the Jewish festivals of Passover and Shabbat. Chestnut and Oak have finished off their China topic this week. They are full of facts about China. Oak Class have been busy learning about the human and physical features of China, and have represented these by making 3D maps. They have also learnt about Chinese traditions such as the Lantern Festival and Tea Ceremonies, and have even had a tea ceremony of their own in class.

Messy Church

**SATURDAY
5TH APRIL
4-6PM**

EASTER

at Guildford United Reformed Church, GU2 4BS
Faith based fun as we reflect on Easter.
Followed by tea for everyone.

*Children must be accompanied by a parent/carer for the duration of this event

**THIS IS A FREE EVENT.
DONATIONS ARE
WELCOME.**

**FOOD FUN SONGS
CRAFT STORY GAMES**

ST NICOLAS GUILDFORD in partnership with **Guildford United Reformed Church**

For more information contact Nicky on families.worker@guildfordurc.org.uk
www.saintnics.com www.guildfordurc.org.uk

8-10PM

**FREE OF CHARGE.
DONATIONS WELCOMED.**

**UPCOMING DATES:
7TH FEBRUARY
9TH MAY
11TH JULY**

FIZZ & Friends

LADIES GROUP
A CHANCE TO RELAX AMONGST FRIENDS
ENJOY SOME CALMING ACTIVITIES, SOAK UP
THE ATMOSPHERE IN OUR BEAUTIFUL
CHURCH AND, OF COURSE, ENJOY SOME
FIZZ!
(NON-ALCOHOLIC DRINKS ALSO AVAILABLE!)

It would be helpful to know if you are coming, so please drop Nicky an email to let her know so we don't run out of fizz!

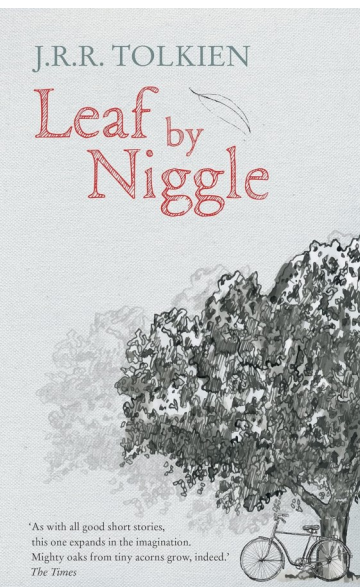
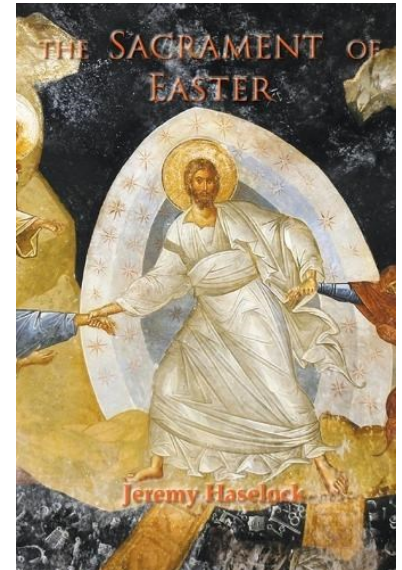
ST NICOLAS GUILDFORD

MISSIONENABLER@SAINTNICS.COM WWW.SAINTNICS.COM



Fr Neil reviews *The Sacrament of Easter* by Jeremy Haselock

This important book is not a theological deep dive into the mystery of Easter in biblical or doctrinal terms nor is it a reflective and devotional commentary on the Great Week. Instead, Jeremy does something remarkable: it is an introduction to the importance of the liturgical celebration of Holy Week and Easter. Jeremy rightly reminds us that the mystery of Easter (indeed all of the liturgical year) is diminished if it is not given its full liturgical and sacramental expression. Only a 'full fat' celebration enables the people of God to encounter the mystery of the Triduum - something many of us at St Nicolas would also hold. As such, Holy Week liturgies demand from us all who worship a deeper knowledge and understanding of the biblical background in our liturgies and underlines the Anglican dogma that our worship reflects our theology.



Fr Alistair reviews *Leaf by Niggle* by J.R.R. Tolkien

Leaf by Niggle is a beautiful and achingly moving meditation on life, death, and the transcendent meaning of artistic expression (sub-creation, as Tolkien would call it). It is also probably the closest thing in Tolkien's corpus to an autobiographical allegory.

Niggle is a painter who lives in the countryside. He is, as his name suggests, a rather fussy and impatient little man. Yet, for all that, he is modest and kind-hearted. Niggle spends all his free time working meticulously on a life-sized painting of a majestic tree but he rarely makes much progress – he is something of a perfectionist. One rainy day, his bothersome neighbour, Mr. Parish intrudes on Niggle yet again. Parish's wife is sick and Niggle must cycle into town for the doctor. Out in the cold, Niggle himself becomes ill and, now bedridden and miserable, he frets that he'll never finish his great painting before he has to embark on a mysterious and unavoidable "journey" - a metaphor for mortality. Indeed, Niggle's time has run out. Niggle finds

himself sent to a "workhouse infirmary" where he spends countless hours in quiet reflection and arduous physical labour. From this monastery-like rhythm of prayer and work, Niggle learns to embrace a spirit of obedience and humility. Suddenly, Niggle finds himself before a mysterious board. His entire life is evaluated by a pair of voices, one stern but just, detailing Niggle's many failures to help others or complete his tasks, the other voice is compassionate and merciful, arguing that Niggle made the best effort he could to follow the laws of his country. Judged ready for "the next stage," Niggle is sent to a pleasant green country where he encounters the tree from his painting which has been brought to life! He is also reunited with Mr. Parish and, after spending some time together beautifying the landscape around the tree, Niggle discerns that he's ready to move on. Helped by a shepherd, he begins to trek towards the Mountains which had been in the background of his painting.

Like Niggle, all women and men are, as John Paul II puts it, "Entrusted with the task of crafting their own life: in a certain sense, they are to make of it a work of art, a masterpiece." We have a special responsibility to use our life, our masterpiece, not for selfish or self-seeking purposes but as a way of glorifying God. In doing this, it is of enormous significance that Niggle's art only finds its full expression and transcendent purpose when he lives in communion with Parish.

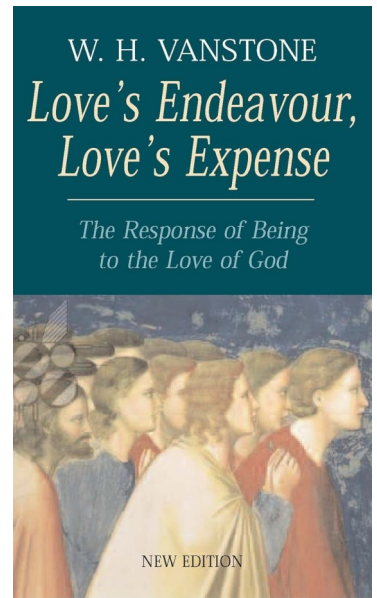




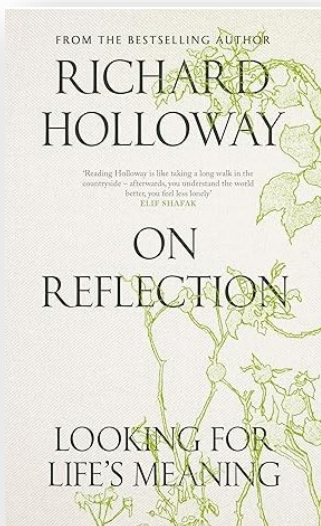
**Fr Alistair also suggests *Love's Endeavour, Love's Expense*
by William H. Vanstone**

Vanstone's little book is a classic of contemporary spirituality. His journey of spiritual reflection begins when he relocates his work as a parish priest in the 1950's, moving from an area of material depravity, where it was not difficult to identify a real need for the local church to minister in, to a newly build estate where there was currently no church – a regular occurrence nowadays, as well as the lack of most other forms of infrastructure! – and where he increasingly finds it difficult to identify what sort of value the church would really add to people's lives in the parish – equally as relevant. The average person in the parish was happy, healthy, and self-sufficient. Many events – general affluence, the arrival of the NHS, the presence of numerous social clubs and places of hobbies, and so on – had led to what Vanstone sees as a fulfilment of Bonhoeffer's prophecy: that post-war humanity would “come of age,” displaying a new kind of self-sufficiency and be free from the *need* for religion.

Bonhoeffer had called the church to prepare for this not by seeking to expose flaws in this new society but to learn to minister to humanity in its strength. Vanstone's reflection turns on what it might mean to “minister” to a society which has no obvious need. His contemplation is catalyzed by the half-term project of two school boys who had asked him to suggest something for them to fill their time with. Vanstone put forward the idea that they build a model of an area of countryside in Ireland the boys had recently visited. At first the boys weren't enthused but, as the project progressed they became infatuated with its detail and completion – even skipping meal times to work on it! What impresses Vanstone is not the quality of the finished product but the care with which it was built and of the finished product – the boys would only show it to those who they knew would appreciate it. In this Vanstone is given a tangible example of love to reflect on, going on to describe what love is, what love is not, and what the role of the church might be in offering a story to society which explains what is already good about that society and helps it become the best version of what it already is.



**Sally Lowe reviews *On Reflection – Looking for Life's Meaning*
Richard Holloway, Canongate, 2024**



Richard Holloway has been an inspiration, encouragement, challenge and consolation to me for more than 30 years, and was largely influential in my becoming an Anglican.

Now in his 90s, he looks back at some of the big questions that have shaped his life: Is there a God? How can we forgive? Where does creativity come from? How can we face loss and death? How can we live a good life? And how do we find beauty in the world? Of his many books, this has to be one of his best.

What others say: “Reading Holloway is like taking a long walk in the countryside – afterwards, you understand the world better, you feel less lonely.”

“Open-hearted and wide-minded ... Holloway's commentary will indubitably bring a crumb of comfort to many readers.”

Pope Francis on how literature educates the heart and mind: A letter to candidates for the priesthood but also to pastoral workers and all Christians, (underscores) the “value of reading novels and poems as part of one's path to personal maturity”, because books open up new inner spaces and help to face life and understand others.... A good book can “provide an oasis ... in moments of weariness, anger, disappointment or failure, when prayer itself does not help us find inner serenity” ... (and) can help us get through difficult moments and find “peace of mind”. (Vatican News, 4.8.24). *Also from Sally Lowe*

Hi, my name is Jan and I am the Parish administrator for Wonersh and Blackheath churches. I live in Cranleigh with my husband, dog and four snakes! I have been sensing a calling for a few years which has led me to the Caleb training at the Diocese of Guildford. This is ordination training and discernment for those over sixty. As part of my training I have asked if I could come to your church during Lent, and I am really looking forward to seeing how your church engages with Lent and the Easter Season. **Jan Mullen**



Hello! I'm Naomi and I'm sure you'll have seen me around at St Nics' with my little boy, Rowan (2 ¼). (My husband, John, may pop up occasionally too.) We joined the church around Easter last year, after my heart called me back to the Anglo-Catholic style of worship. I love coming along on a Sunday and being able to immerse myself in the music and incense, even while I am often distracted by entertaining Rowan!

We live just down the A3, in Grayshott, having moved to the South East from Scotland in 2017. John and I both studied at the University of St Andrews, and I have an

MLitt in Shakespeare and Renaissance Literary Culture. I'm very much looking forward to introducing Rowan to the Bard when he's a bit older, but we already love sharing stories together. (You may hear the refrain 'Mummy read a book' often sounding from the back of church!)

Having found mothering a fairly all-consuming occupation for the last couple of years, I've recently been seeking out new ways to nurture my intellectual and spiritual life. In January I began a short course with Sarum College on Women Mystics, and so far we have had lectures on Hildegard of Bingen and Clare of Assisi. I've also become an avid listener to the Biblical Time Machine podcast, which explores the historical context of the Bible. (You can find it on all major podcast platforms.) I hope to write more on the topics above in later editions of the newsletter, so watch this space! **Naomi Parkin-Tyrie**

Praise God, my name is Ivan. I am very excited to be a part of the team at St. Nicolas Parish Church, Guildford. I am married to Bridget, and we have two wonderful girls, Micaiah (7), Lael (2) and a goodly boy, Ithiel (1). My faith journey started as a child, and at 20 years I confessed Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and saviour. Through a consistent prayer life and hunger towards knowing God, I felt God was calling me into ministry.



Throughout my wilderness experiences with God, I have been so blessed to learn from my mistakes, as well as being taught, by the Holy Spirit. This has been throughout the greatest part of my life, without excluding all my placements at St. Michael and All Angels Church - Pirbright, St. Mark's Parish Church - South Farnborough. I am an occasional preacher, I have: led Sunday services, led prayers of Intercession and volunteered in many church activities.

Fr. Neil Roberts, Fr Alistair, the brilliant parish administration and the wonderful family at St. Nicholas, may God continue to bless you. I have been so loved and supported by you in everything, as I continue to gain more understanding of the depth and the breadth of Christ within the Church of England.

I look forward to spending more time with you until August, as we serve the Almighty God. Please pray for me, so that it may be well with me as I continue to walk by faith, with God. Many Blessings, **Ivan Ssuna**
Ivan is an Ordinand on placement with us till August.



Whilomena's Baptism



On 8 December 2024, Whilomena was christened here at St Nic's brace yourselves for a kaleidoscopic variety of spellings of that putatively pugilistic saint's name in the following paragraphs - and it was a truly wonderful service. Whilomena shared her special day with the celebration of St Nic(h)olas, Patron Saint of children and, of course, of this church.

St. Nikolaus is additionally a particularly important figure in Germany, so, for our son Hector, the excitement had already begun on 5 December when he put out a glass of milk and some biscuits, together with his boot, and sang a few "Nikolauslieder," following which St. Nikolaus filled his wellie with nuts and sweets during the night. I'm not altogether sure Hector quite understood that St Nicholas's Day isn't typically celebrated by christening one's baby sister as a matter of course, but we'll find out when December comes around again this year.

The christening service was full of typical St Nic's fabulousness, with high-quality worship and excellent music making - qualities that have especially attracted us to St Nic's. Our friends and family felt very welcome, and many remarked just what a wonderful place St Nic's is. Even the Godparents, two thirds of whom got stuck on various trains between London and Guildford due to the storm the previous day, (just



made it in time for the baptism, if not for the service itself. Being able to join the choir for Benjamin Britten's "Hymn to the Virgin" was a particularly special moment for us.

Having only started coming to St Nic's fairly recently, it felt like a celebration of not only Whilomena, but of all of us, and our joining this community. We are so grateful for the warmth, kindness and enthusiasm that we have found here.

Johanna and Alasdair
with Hector and
Whilomena





Our thoughts on sin



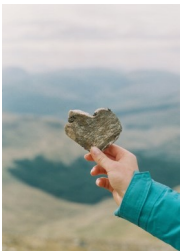
From **Benedictine Tapestry** by Dame

Felicitas Corrigan, OSB, in a letter to a friend: *“There are two ways of transformation, purification, enlightening, whatever you like to call it. I like (the) simile of the washerwoman taking stains out of linen. One may either scrub and scour with caustics, or simply put the thing to bleach in the sun. I prefer the latter. If one lives with our Lord one becomes not less but more conscious of one’s failure and betrayal. But somehow it ceases to matter. We are earth, and what more can you expect? Earth yields its fruits: nettles, briars, weeds and suchlike. Julian of Norwich says ‘He is the only Doer’, and he is quite capable of saving and sanctifying you and me. Why worry? He will do the cleansing and the changing and the taming in ten thousand hidden but sure ways. We often spoil the work by trying to do it ourselves. We ought to become humble, simple and joyful – even about our sins!”*

It’s also fairly apparent that what constitutes sin will differ from one culture to another. From Charlotte Brontë, *“Conventionality is not morality. Self-righteousness is not religion. To attack the first is not to assail the last. To pluck the mask from the face of the Pharisee, is not to lift an impious hand to the Crown of Thorns”*.

I agree with Tessimond’s view that *sin is a sickness to be outgrown*. Also, Frank Muir’s view that *“A saint is a dead sinner, dug up and edited”*.

I wonder if we can be in danger of focussing so much on our own sin that it becomes navel gazing. In Graham Greene’s *Monsignor Quixote*, the Monsignor is feeling rather discouraged and asks himself: *“Have I ever in my life made a good confession? Has God pardoned me? Am I in a good or a bad state?”*, but then he realises: *“God wishes to conceal all that from me, so that I may blindly abandon myself to His mercies. I do not wish to know what He does not wish to show me It is His business to know the state of my progress, mine to occupy myself with Him alone. He will take care of all the rest; I leave it to Him.”* **Sally Lowe**



Sometimes we see life only through human eyes. If we ask God to open the eyes of our hearts we begin to see in a different way, with faith. True vision isn’t about what we see with our eyes, but what we uncover with our spirit. Ephesians 1:18, God wants us to see beyond today’s worries and glimpse the hope, purpose and promises He has prepared for us. Let us ask God to open our eyes to His truth. When we see through His eyes our perspective changes and fear is replaced by faith. His vision is always greater than ours. We see His hand in everything when he opens the eyes of our hearts so let us ask Him to do that so that we may see His truth and walk in faith. So take a moment today to pray for a renewed vision of God’s work in our lives. **Jean Woolley**



To my mind, as Father Neil says, sin is trying to make yourself "God". Our real God is ignored as we make up our own rules for living. This usually means that we do what we ourselves want to do instead of asking for guidance. It happens when we either do not know God, or we choose not to obey him, or we are just lazy-minded and forget our promises to him. Sin is often taking the easy way out, through absent-mindedness, fear or just disobedience. **Shirley Aston**



Helen Trussler recommends this short YouTube video

How to Get Free From Sin

| LITTLE BY LITTLE | Fr Columba Jordan CFR

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=kV EaEpMLEMM&si=leQGyNRxp4KYkV-g>





“Be Sure Your Sin Will Find You Out!” This was an oft quoted sentence from the book of Numbers (32:23) when I was a youth and used to imply that whatever we did would be revealed. It may have been taken out of context of course.

The Bible tells of an array of sins: idolatry, adultery, murder, stealing, lying, coveting, blasphemy, Sabbath breaking, dishonouring parents, envy, gluttony, greed and pride. The seven deadly sins listed by the church added wrath, lust and sloth - together they are almost a catch all, nearly impossible to avoid falling - some by accident, some deliberate and some part of our nature.

Wrath is one I sometimes cannot control - usually triggered by petty officialdom. I am sorry afterwards but know it is going to happen again sometime.

We each (I hope) have a moral compass to tell us whether something is right or wrong and it may or may not align with the above sins.

I personally feel that with due repentance the sinning record is wiped clean at Communion with the resolve to avoid all the traps - until the next time! Amen. **Chris Goodwin**



Sin is complicated, and one of the dangers we face is spending our short lives feeling guilty about things we can no longer change, instead of being alive to daily situations where we can make a difference. One of my very close friends has just died, which makes me think of ourselves as little beads on the string of Life. Life has its own direction but we are too small to see where it leads.

I have concluded that giving undue importance to our ego, which is our mind’s interpretation of ourselves up to now, is at the root of sin. We trust the ego to act and judge from itself, by itself and for itself, as “my will” rather than “Thy will”. Sin is a mistake, a Pandora’s box, where, by giving in to temptation, we open it and it unleash a stream of woes and worries onto ourselves and often onto those around us. Life is so organised, that the woes are the temptation’s own lessons, and so we learn and grow. God does not punish us for this but walks alongside us, providing the light and strength by which to find the way out of the mess we have created. Eating the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden tells the same story. God neither kills nor abandons Adam and Eve for being tempted but sends them out to till the soil of the earth. To my mind, they are being told to go, learn and grow up. The rest of the bible describes God’s journey with “His” people, even taking human form to teach and to guide, including warning us against judging one another. God makes “His” help freely available. We just need to be humble, prayerful and present enough, not in order to deserve it, but simply to see it.

The Prayer of St. Tereza of Avila comes to mind:



Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassionately on this world.

Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands.
Yours are the feet.
Yours are the eyes.
You are his body.

Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours.

Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassionately on this world.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.
Amen.

Jana Phillips

Heaven

In the heaven of the god I hope for (call him X)
 There is marriage and giving in marriage and transient sex
 For those who will cast the body's vest aside
 Soon, but are not yet wholly rarefied
 And still embrace. For X is never annoyed
 Or shocked; has read his Jung and knows his Freud,
 He gives you time in heaven to do as you please,
 To climb love's gradual ladder by slow degrees,
 Gently to rise from sense to soul, to ascend
 To a world of timeless joy, world without end.

Here on the gates of pearl there hangs no sign
 Limiting cakes and ale, forbidding wine.
 No weakness here is hidden, no vice unknown.
 Sin is a sickness to be cured, outgrown.
 With the help of a god who can laugh, an unsolemn god
 Who smiles at old wives' tales of iron rod
 And fiery hell, a god who's more at ease
 With bawds and Falstaffs than with pharisees.

Here the lame learn to leap, the blind to see.
 Tyrants are taught to be humble, slaves to be free.
 Fools become wise, and wise men cease to be bores,
 Here bishops learn from lips of back-street whores,
 And white men follow black-faced angels' feet
 Through fields of orient and immortal wheat.

Villon, Lautrec and Baudelaire are here.
 Here Swift forgets his anger, Poe his fear.
 Napoleon rests. Columbus, journey done,
 Has reached his new Atlantis, found his sun.
 Verlaine and Dylan Thomas drink together.
 Marx talks to Plato. Byron wonders whether
 There's some mistake. Wordsworth has found a hill

That's home. Here Chopin plays the piano still.
 Wren plans ethereal domes; and Renoir paints
 Young girls as ripe as fruit but not yet saints.

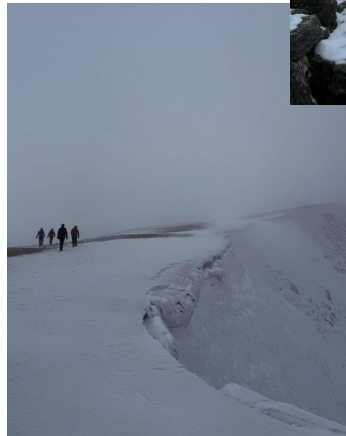
And X, of whom no coward is afraid,
 Who's friend consulted, not fierce king obeyed;
 Who hears the unspoken thought, the prayer unprayed;
 Who expects not even the learned to understand
 His universe, extends a prodigal hand,
 Full of forgiveness, over his promised land.



A S J Tessimond English poet, 1902-1962,
 sent by **Sally Lowe**



Here are a few pictures from my recent adventure with some friends in St John's-in-the-Vale, Lake District. Due to family illnesses, I arrived a little later than planned but, when I did arrive, we kicked things off with a 9 pm Mass in the local parish church before a couple of days of physical testing, spiritual reflection, and encouraging conversations. I went with 13 guys including my two friends with whom we set up the Rosary Club at Wycliffe, which is still going strong!



**Exploring
Seville** by
Wendy Gabriel

Earlier this year, my son Peter and I travelled for a break to Seville, the capital of Spain's Andalusia. Located on the banks of the River Guadalquivir, Seville is a beautiful city with magnificent architecture.

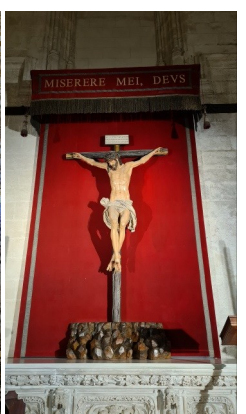


Oozing a rich history, there are incredible sights with luscious orange trees abundantly lining the streets with their fruit.

We felt very lucky to visit The Catholic Cathedral of St Mary of the See. Originally a mosque, it is now one of the world's largest temples as well as the largest Gothic Cathedral in the world. We climbed to the top of the tower 'La Giralda' where we enjoyed a panoramic view of the city. The main chapel of the cathedral has the largest – and what is considered one of the finest – altarpieces in the Christian world. Particularly impressive, it is made of carved wood decorated with gold leaf depicting the life of Jesus Christ and the saints. Also, the cathedral houses paintings by Francisco Goya and the tomb of Christopher Columbus.

The photo of Peter and me is at one of my favourite places in Seville, the majestic Plaza de Espana. It was full of romantic and picturesque charm with its canal, bridges and fountains.

I highly recommend visiting Seville; it is a wonderful city with much to see and do, offering delicious Spanish cuisine with excellent hospitality and culture which is perfect for a few days' getaway.



The Climate Science & Human Induced Global Warming

by **Donald Thompson**



The debate concerning human induced climate change or “global warming”, as it’s commonly termed, is one of the defining issues of recent decades. It was a British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, who was one of the first heads of Government to take the emerging data on greenhouse warming of our planet seriously in the 1980’s. Since that time, complex climate models have been developed, using ever increasing computer capacity, to explore the likely impacts of human greenhouse gas emissions on future weather and climate. These models are used to predict the impacts of different levels of greenhouse gas emissions on future warming, and the potential outcome of policy decisions such as net zero. They provide the hope that nations CAN take action to reduce the rate and degree of warming, avoiding the worst scenarios, but also warn of the potentially disastrous consequences of failing to address greenhouse gas emissions and allowing atmospheric warming to exceed +2 centigrade. These include increased frequency of extreme heat, droughts, and destructive rises in sea levels as the Earth’s glaciers and ice caps melt.

As we so often see on TV news, recent extreme weather events, wildfires and heatwaves are now being interpreted as “consistent with what we should expect in warming climate due to burning of fossil fuels”. In our own experiences we may have noticed the reduction in snow during winter and the earlier appearance of spring flowers. The science of Phenology studies the annual and seasonal cycles of plant and animal activity and suggests that Spring is arriving more than two weeks earlier than in the 1960’s in many parts of the UK. Plant and insect species also appear to be found further north now than in the 20th century.

This is a huge, and complex subject, but I thought it might be helpful to run a series of short articles in the newsletter highlighting the evidence for climate change provided by the real data as opposed to the predictions of the global climate models. In each article I will present data on different aspects of our planet’s response to warming and some of the apparently contradictory signals given by the data.

As Christians we have a responsibility to do what we can to safeguard God’s creation. The Church of England Environment programme (<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/church-england-environment-programme>) exists to encourage parishes to act as part of our mission in faith. Eco Church, Eco Diocese and the Net Zero Carbon 2030 aspiration are part of the Church’s agenda.

1. What is the Greenhouse effect? (Fig 1) The main energy source for the Earth’s climate is the Sun. Some of the incoming sunlight is reflected straight back to space by bright parts of the Earth such as ice and clouds. The rest of the radiation is absorbed by the atmosphere and surface of the planet (land and sea). Some of this absorbed heat is re-radiated as infra-red radiation. Some is absorbed by the atmosphere and some escapes to space. It is this balance of incoming and outgoing radiation that determines the average temperature of the Earth and its climate. If all the heat emitted from the Earth’s surface went directly to space, the average temperature would be tens of degrees colder than it is today (National Academy of Sciences & The Royal Society (2020). This is the Greenhouse Effect and, without it, life would not have evolved as we currently know it. However since the end of the last Ice age (-10,000 years BP), human activities such as cutting down trees and burning them and, in particular, the Industrial Revolution of the 18th Century and the burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil & gas), have emitted vast quantities



of ‘Greenhouse gases’ into the atmosphere. These gases include Carbon Dioxide, Sulphur Dioxide, Nitrogen Dioxide, Nitrous Oxide and Methane. They have been added to the naturally occurring quantities in the atmosphere and enhanced the ‘Greenhouse effect’ leading to a rise in the temperature of the atmosphere. The concentrations of these gases are now beginning to significantly change the Earth’s climate.

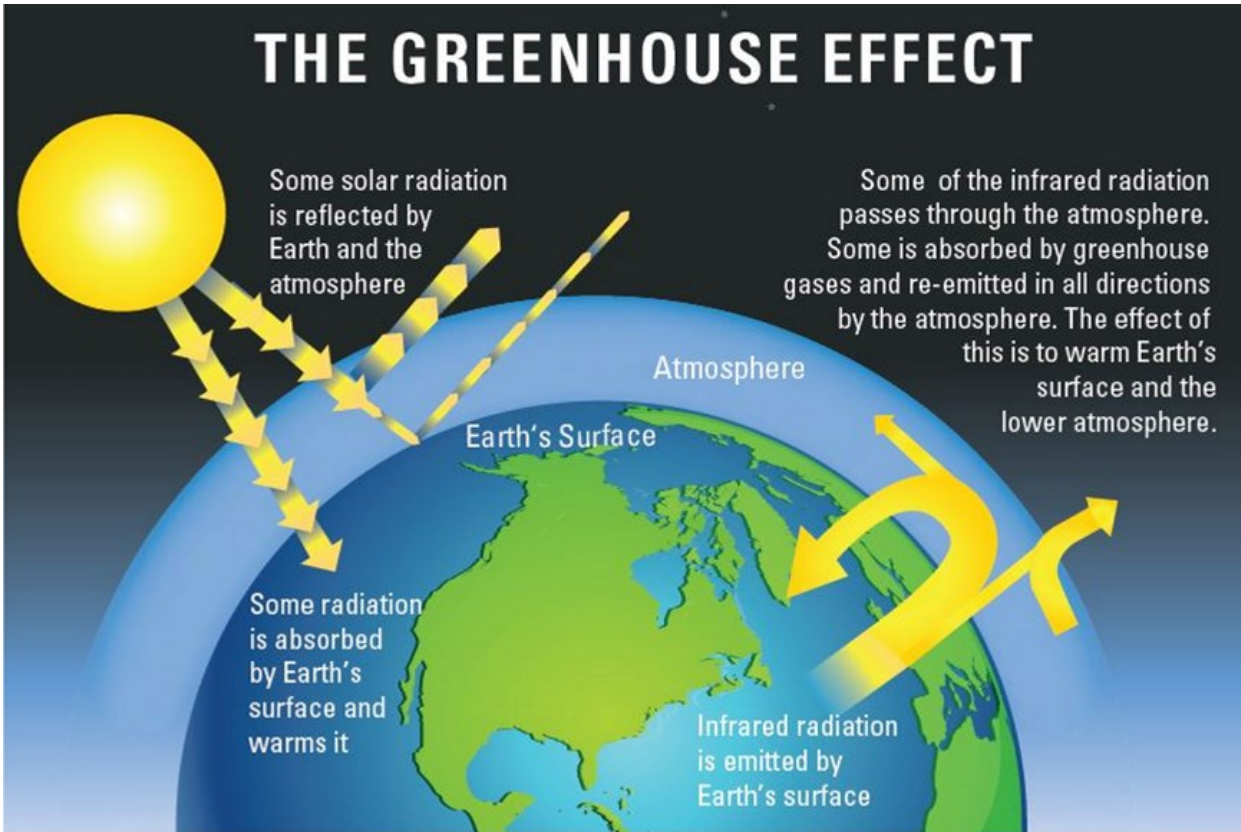


Fig 1: Source: National Academy of Sciences & The Royal Society (2020)

2. Long term changes in atmospheric Carbon Dioxide (Figure 2) Carbon Dioxide is not the strongest greenhouse gas, but it is the one that exists in the largest volumes in our atmosphere. Fossil fuel burning, petrol engines and deforestation are all increasing the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere. Data from Hawaii showed that the concentration of CO₂ in 1959 was 316 parts per million (ppm). In 2019 the figure was 411 ppm. Since pre-industrial times CO₂ has increased by over 40% with over half that increase occurring since 1970, Methane by 150% and Nitrous Oxide by 20% (National Academy of Sciences & The Royal Society (2020)). It is often argued that the Earth has seen high levels of CO₂ in the ancient past. This is true but, as figure 2 shows, past levels were much lower than today's. This is further evidence for

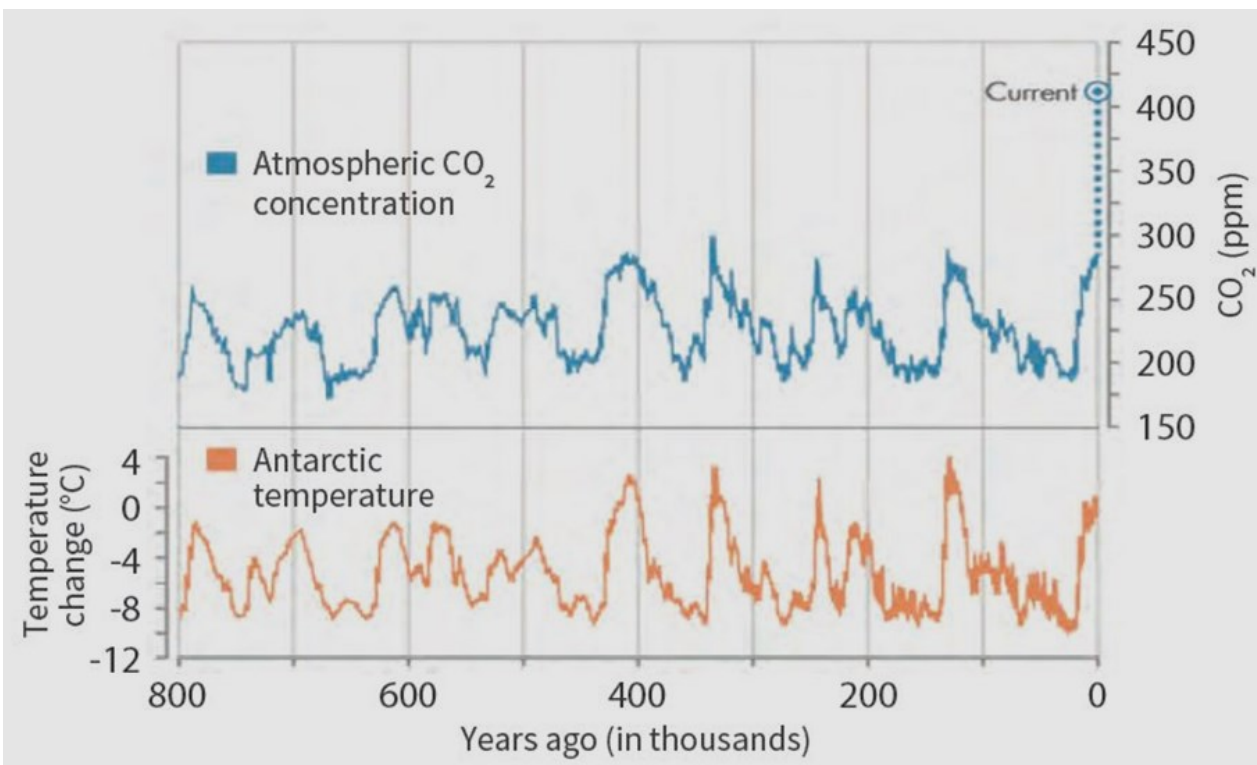
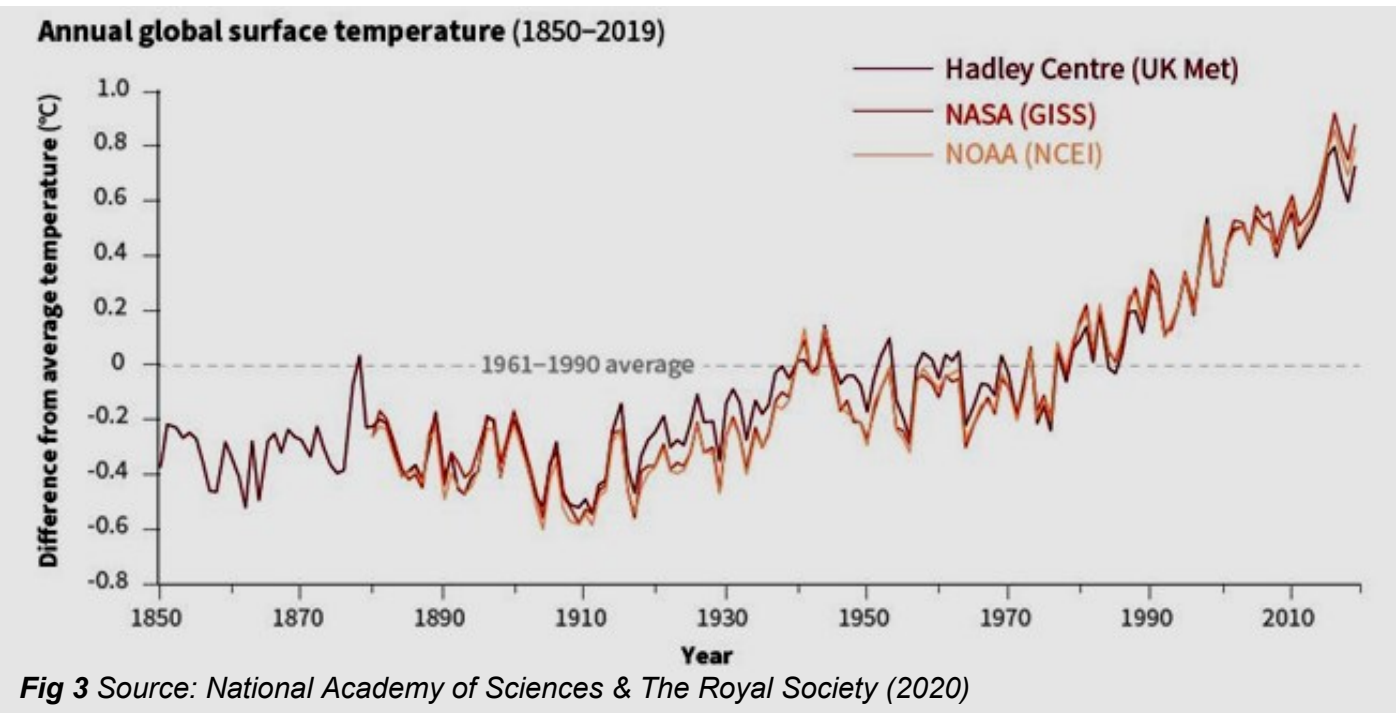


Fig 2: Source: National Academy of Sciences & The Royal Society (2020)

the impact of human activity. Figure 2 shows data on CO₂ concentrations measured from trapped air bubbles in Antarctic ice cores going back 800,000 years. The CO₂ (blue line) fluctuates in cycles of higher and lower levels. The higher levels show conditions in inter-glacial periods, when temperatures were warmer, and the lower levels show reductions in atmospheric CO₂ during ice-age glacial periods, when much of northern Europe and Britain were covered in ice sheets like those of Greenland today. Temperature (orange graph), inferred from the isotopic content of water from the ice cores, is seen to reflect the CO₂ graph, so the more CO₂ in the atmosphere, the higher the temperature. During the interglacial periods of the last 800,000 years, CO₂ levels never reached more than 270-300ppm. Now look at the dotted line (blue) showing CO₂ in the 20th century (extreme right end of the CO₂ graph). It shows the impact of recent CO₂ emissions, a rapid rise to historically unprecedented levels.



3. Global surface temperature in the last 200 years (Figure 3): This graph shows global average surface temperature between 1850 and 2019 from three analyses of the data sets (National Academy of Sciences & The Royal Society (2020)). The temperatures are all given relative to the average for the period 1961-1990 (dotted grey line). You will see that temperature increase started to accelerate from the late 1970's and in 2019 had reached between 0.8-1.0 degree centigrade above the 1961-90 average.

In future articles I will review other data sources and indicators of human induced climate change. I would be very glad to discuss this topic with any readers who have questions or wish to follow up on any aspect of global warming.

Ref: National Academy of Sciences & The Royal Society (2020) Climate Change: Evidence & Causes: Update 2020. An overview from the Royal Society & US National Academy of Sciences.

Eco News

Beavers saved the Czech government £1m

A seven-year dam project in the Czech Republic that was stalled by bureaucracy has been completed in just two days by beavers. Officials in the Brdy region had secured around (£1m) to build a dam in a protected area with the aim of creating a wetland habitat for other species. However, the project became bogged down in bureaucracy. Then, while everyone was sleeping, beavers built the thing for free.



“Beavers know best,” says Jaroslav Obermajer, of the Czech Nature and Landscape Protection Agency, “The places where they build dams are always chosen just right – better than when we design it on paper.” *Taken from Positive News. Image: Niklas Hamann*



The Good Grief Club

Helen Trussler



We meet at The Cosy Club at Tunsgate on the last Wednesday of every month from 2pm. Please speak to [Helen Trussler](#) or [Jean Taylor](#) for more details.



Community Fridge. Can you help?

We would like to support Guildford Zero's drive to eliminate food waste by holding the Community Fridge at St Nic's once again. We are looking for volunteers to help collect food on Sunday afternoons from M&S Ladymead and Gail's Bakery and bring to church for people to pick up for free on Monday mornings. If we can get enough volunteers, it would only mean doing this every 5 weeks or so.

Hilary is looking for more volunteers to keep the church open in the mornings, particularly on Mondays. We will be opening up the Narthex for the Community Fridge on Monday mornings, so to staff it and lay out the food and organise everything so that people can help themselves while making it fair on everyone who turns up. Training will be given.



The food arrangement last time

Last minute news...



In February Julia celebrated her 80th birthday with us during Friday Coffee Shop.

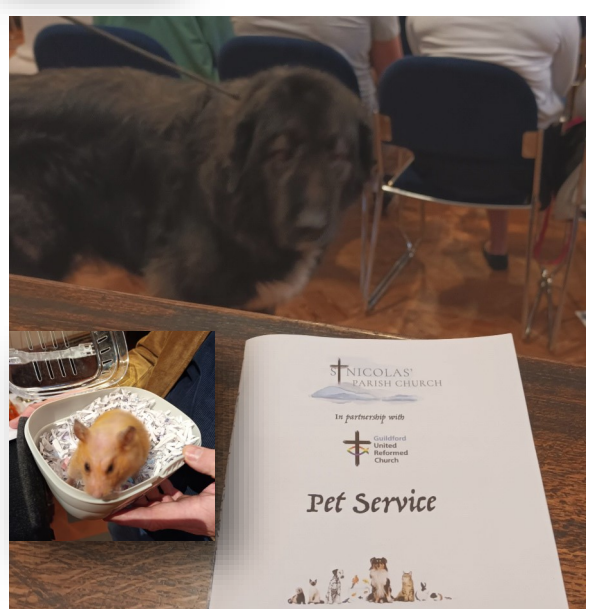


On Friday 28th February after Mass we saw Fred Hutley's ashes interred in the ground by St Nicolas. Jean was accompanied by her daughter Justine.



January Pet Service

giving thanks for our pets



Sinful Simnel Cake

Is eating things that are 'not good for us' sinful? I'm not going to pass any judgement! Simnel Cake is traditionally eaten on Mothering Sunday but I always struggle to get the 11 balls of marzipan evenly spaced around the edge (12 would be so much easier!) So this traybake is far easier to portion and you get 20 pieces to share... enjoy being just a little bit sinful!

500 grams mixed dried fruit (or make up your own mixture of the fruits you like most)

2 oranges

225g softened butter

225g soft light brown sugar

4 large eggs

225g self-raising flour

75g ground almonds

2 teaspoons cinnamon,

1 teaspoon mixed spice

200g golden marzipan (cut into 1cm chunks)

For the icing:

100g icing sugar

Juice of 1 orange

25g toasted flaked almonds

300g golden marzipan

(rolled into 20 even sized



In a bowl, mix the dried fruit with the grated zest and pour over the juice. Stir and leave to sit for a while.

Beat together the butter and sugar. Add the eggs one at a time, mixing each in well.

Fold in the flour, ground almonds and spices. Then add the dried fruit and the remaining liquid.

Finally very gently fold in the marzipan cubes.

Put into a greased and lined traybake tin (33cm x 23cm) lined with baking parchment.

Bake for 1 hour at 160C / 140C fan / Gas mark 3. Lift out of the tin and cool completely

Mix the icing sugar and orange juice to make a thick pourable icing and drizzle over the top (keep a little back to stick the marzipan balls on). Sprinkle over the flaked almonds. Place the marzipan balls under a hot grill for a few seconds until they go brown, then stick on the traybake using the remaining icing.

The night sky in March & April Rory Fenner



29 Mar 2025, 11:03



Max View in London, England

Illustrations from
timeanddate.com
More detail there!

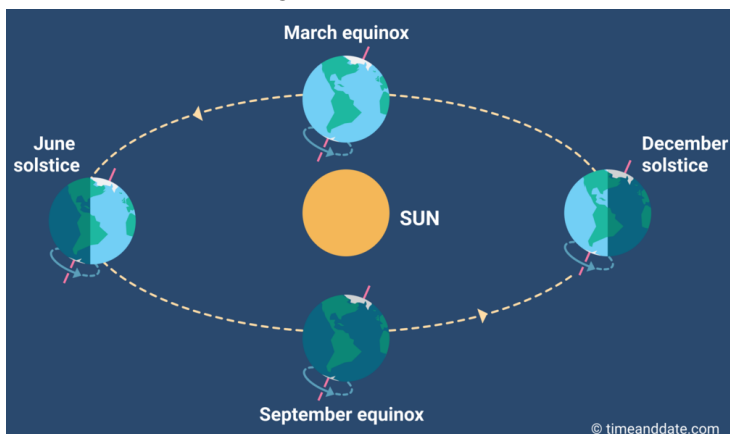
March The **Sun** moves from Aquarius into Pisces on 20 March, marking the Vernal Equinox. **Mercury**, on best showing of the years, pulls out to its Greatest Eastern Elongation on 8 March, lying close to **Venus** over the western horizon. **Venus** is still an evening object but draws towards the Sun when it reaches Inferior Conjunction on the 23 March. **Mars** is an evening object in Gemini, fading from magnitude -0.4 to $+0.4$ during the month. **Jupiter**, an evening object in Taurus, is high in the south at sunset by the end of the month, visible in the west for a few hours. **Saturn** is in conjunction with the Sun on the 12 March and will not be visible. **Uranus** is an evening star in Taurus. **Neptune** is an evening star in Pisces. There will be a **partial Solar eclipse** on Saturday morning 29 March. Weather permitting, it will be seen

starting at 10:07am till 12 midday, the eclipse maximum of 40% occurring at 11:03am. It is dangerous to observe this with the naked eye, do use eclipse glasses or project the Sun's image onto a card to project your eyes.

April The **Sun** moves from Pisces into Aries on the 20 April. **Mercury** pulls out of its Greatest Western Elongation but the elusive planet will not be seen.

Venus becomes a morning object at the end of April after its Inferior Conjunction on the 23 April.

Mars has now faded to magnitude 0.9, still riding high in Gemini into Cancer and is observable until midnight. **Jupiter** is a brilliant early evening object in Taurus. **Saturn** becomes a morning object in the pre-dawn sky but too close to the horizon and to the Sun to view. **Uranus** is difficult to see low over the western horizon and running into daylight. **Neptune**, close to Saturn in the morning sky is difficult to observe.



Since the start of the New Year, Tuesday Group has enjoyed a couple of favourite activities - playing carpet bowls (without the benefit of carpet - the effect this has on play has to be seen to be believed) and taking part in a Quiz for two teams, played competitively but with lots of good humour. Five birthdays have been celebrated, one by a party with crackers and parlour games, another with a Beetle Drive, and all of them with cake. There has also been a craftwork session for new and refurbished decorations for the Parish Hall next Christmas, and a discussion on "My Favourite TV Series" which produced a marked variety of choices. A show-and-tell session on "A Flower for February" concluded activities for the month.



By the way, since advertisements in various publications from St Nicolas's have described Tuesday Group as a "social group for the retired", perhaps I should make it clear that TG in fact welcomes adults of all ages to the meetings. If you spot something in the list of forthcoming activities given below that appeals to you, please do feel free to come to the Parish Hall and join in - though advance notice through the Parish Office would be appreciated for Pancake Day, just to make sure there are enough pancakes!

March 4th - Pancakes and chat

March 11th - "Beyond Guildford Town Centre" - individual contributions

March 18th - Guest speaker David Greenwood concludes his series of talks on "The Story of the Symphony": "The 20th century and beyond"

March 25th - Paper and pencil quiz - in pairs

April 1st - "Archaeology" - a guided discussion

April 8th and 15th are school holidays - no meetings

April 22nd - "Knots" - talk and practical experience

April 29th - Sea shanties - guided contributions and participation



Photos *Chris Goodwin*

Cathy Goodwin

GUILDFORD u3a CHOIR and SINGING GROUP

are now working towards their **Presentation of music for Easter on Wednesday 16th April, 2 pm in St. Nicolas Church.**

Not a concert as such and not a Service, the music will include excerpts from Olivet to Calvary, A sacred Cantata, by J H Maunder. This work depicts the last few days of the Saviour's life. The rejoicing of the multitude with hosannas and palms, the view of Jerusalem from the steps of Olivet and the lament over the city, the dispersal of the money changers in the Temple, and the sad nocturnal walk on the Mount of Olivet are all portrayed in the first part.

Part Two opens with the Last Supper, at which Jesus washed his disciples feet and commanded them to love one another. Then follows the agonising prayer in the garden of Gethsemane, the sudden appearance of the hostile crowd, the abandonment of Jesus by His disciples. His utter loneliness among the ruthless enemies, the turmoil before Pilate when Barabbas is released, the tragedy of the Cross, and the triumph of Calvary.

This work used to be very popular and was often sung in churches during Passiontide, together with Stainer's Crucifixion. In certain musical elite circles the work was frowned upon and dismissed as inferior. However I have often made the observation that it is like comparing a huge and magnificent cathedral with a small beautiful village church. They are both of equal value. I have long been inspired by the recording of this work sung by the choir of Guildford Cathedral directed by the first organist Barry Rose.

Our performance will also include other lovely music and readings, together with Hymns for all to join in.

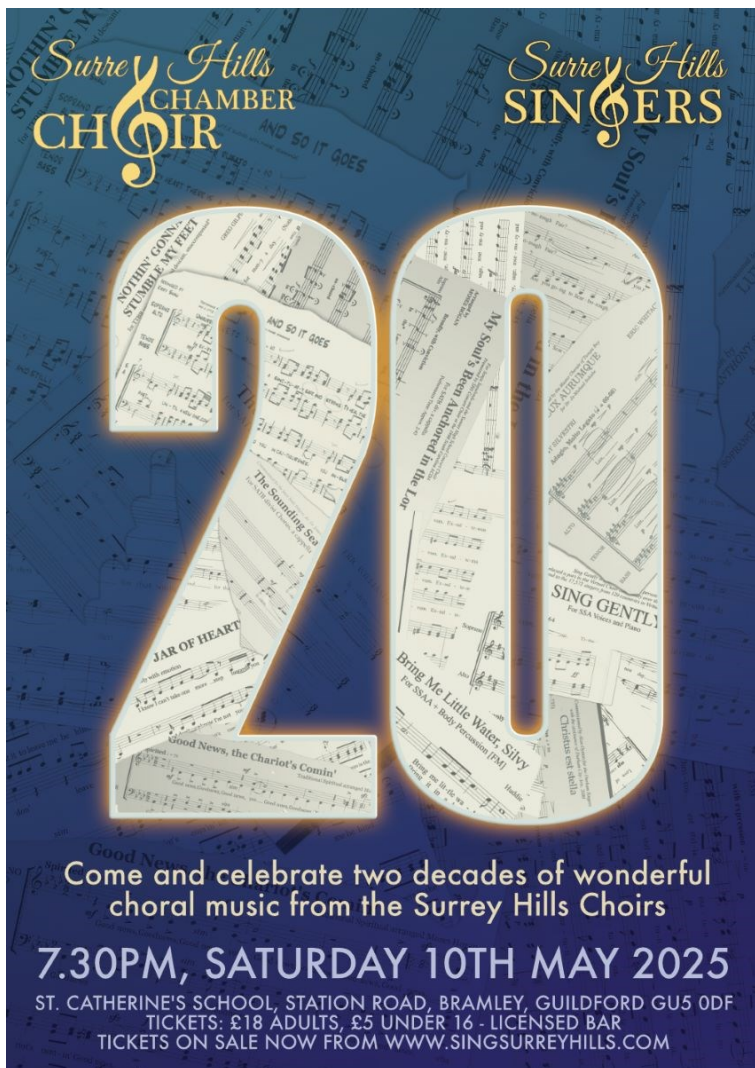
New members of this choir are always welcome. **John Varney**, Leader and Conductor

Surrey Hills Choir

Tickets now available for the Surrey Hills Choirs' 20th Anniversary Concert

The Surrey Hills Chamber Choir & Surrey Hills Singers will be holding a special concert on Saturday 10th May, 7.30pm to celebrate 20 years of high quality choral singing and long friendships. To mark this unique occasion the concert will be held at the superb auditorium of St Catherine's School, Bramley, where, with tiered seating, a large stage and a licensed bar, it is an ideal setting to showcase both choirs and provide the perfect concert experience for their audience.

Don't miss this special concert! Tickets are £18 for adults and £5 for under 16s and are available NOW. Click [here](#) to buy, or go to www.singsurreyhills.com. Further information about the choirs is available on the website, video performances are available on their YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/@SurreyHillsChoirs> and you can follow both choirs on Instagram and Facebook.



Founded in September 2005 at Ewhurst Baptist Church, both choirs have evolved over the two decades and past members have been invited back to perform with the current choir to travel back in time and re-live past events through song. The programme will follow the journey of both choirs, starting with the first song ever performed, moving on to songs that mark success at competitions - such as Choir of the Year, Manchester Amateur Choral Competition, Cheltenham, and Huddersfield – as well as including favourite songs.

As always, the repertoire is diverse, including songs from medieval to recent chart toppers. Highlights from the Chamber Choir will include modern songs 'With a lily in your hand' by Eric Whitacre, 'Christus est stella' by Will Todd and 'Ubi Caritas' by Ola Gjeilo. Also to look forward to are some traditional songs, the lively spirituals 'Nothin' gonna stumble my feet' and 'Good News', and the English Folk Song 'Scarborough Fair'. From the pop world, the choir will perform two ballads, 'And so it goes' by Billy Joel and 'Say Something' by A Great Big World.

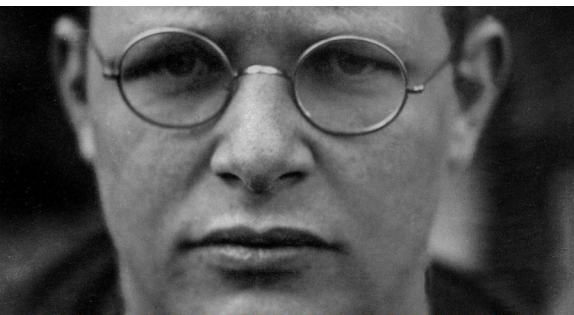
The Surrey Hills Singers also have a great selection of songs to share, including the earthy and rhythmic medieval 'Pastime with good company', the delightful folk song 'Bring me little water Sylvie' with body percussion, the very poignant song 'Sing Gently' by Eric Whitacre (a song that was written during lockdown when choirs were not able to sing together), and a reflective part song by Tchaikovsky called 'The Nightingale'. They will also sing a number of popular songs spanning the eras, including 'Don't sit under the apple tree' originally sung by the Andrew Sisters, 'You raise me up' made famous by Josh Groban, 'Fix you' by Cold Play and 'Royals' by Lorde.

The choirs' director, Debbie Walton, believes that communication of the songs to the audience is of paramount importance and works with her singers to create a unified interpretation which is performed without music and often unaccompanied. Audiences respond to this extra effort and their Christmas concerts sold out within a matter of days during the last few years.

Do come and celebrate with us in May, we'd love to see you and sing some of our favourites for you!

Project Bonhoeffer are pleased to announce that on the **9th April 2025**, they are hosting a Bonhoeffer Memorial Event, focusing on the theme **'The Legacy of Dietrich Bonhoeffer 80 years on'**. This event marks 80 years since Bonhoeffer's execution. We are honoured to be joined by Bishop Martin Lind and the Revd Dr Keith Clements, who will share in a memorial lecture and discussion. At the end of the event, there will be a memorial communion service for those who wish to participate. The event will take place **both online and in person** at the Emmanuel Centre (Leeds University Chaplaincy, UK), and will run from 12:30-17:30.

All the information can be found on our website <https://www.projectbonhoeffer.org.uk/events/>, and you can book your place directly on Eventbrite using this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bonhoeffer-memorial-day-the-legacy-of-dietrich-bonhoeffer-80-years-on-tickets-1223795718939?aff=oddtcreator>.



THE LEGACY OF DIETRICH BONHOEFFER 80 YEARS ON





A MEMORIAL EVENT HOSTED BY PROJECT BONHOEFFER, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ST LUKE'S AND ST MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & LEEDS UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

Join us on the 9th April 2025 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's execution. Throughout the day, we will be joined by **Bishop Martin Lind**, who will deliver a memorial lecture, followed by a response from **Revd Dr Keith Clements**.

There will be the opportunity to engage in discussion, conversation, and a memorial communion service for those who wish to participate.

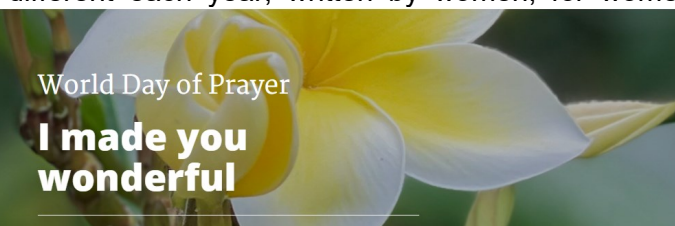
DATE: 09.04.2025
TIME: 12:30-17:30
LOCATION: EMMAUEL CENTRE, WOODHOUSE LANE, LS2
ONLINE VIA ZOOM

For more details and to book tickets, scan the QR code or visit projectbonhoeffer.org.uk


The 2025 (Women's) World Day of Prayer (WDP) in Guildford, UK will take place on Friday, **March 7** at 2 PM at Emmanuel Church, Stoughton. The theme for 2025 is "I Made You Wonderful".

St. Nic's congregation has lately (over the past 15 years) been feeble in its support for the Women's World Day of Prayer. This day in March each year, usually in a different Guildford church and in other towns around the world, produces a unique service by women. As it is the same form of service worldwide, it rolls around the world as the day progresses. The form of service is different each year, written by women, for women to organise and lead. It usually originates from a different country within the Anglican communion. Although the service is created by women, men are not excluded, so do take your husband, brother or male friend. I have always thoroughly enjoyed these colourful services, learning in the process a good deal about the other country which I had not know before.



Shirley Aston



Some winter sunlight in Guildford Cathedral, with the hand-carved Mobius Strip symbolising the infinite love of God. By artist Piers Rosslyn-Smith, it will be on display in the Children's Chapel till **6 May**. **Jonathan Neil-Smith**

Icons on Ammunition Boxes at the Cathedral

Wednesday 5 March – Tuesday 21 April

The deeply moving exhibition of Icons on Ammunition Boxes is back, showing religious icons painted on reclaimed ammunition boxes from Ukraine's war zones. These poignant works bear silent witness to the violence and suffering of conflict while offering hope and reflection during the Christian season of Lent.





Life Issues Series

At **Godalming Baptist church**

Queen Street, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 1BA

SUPPORTING THOSE "LIVING WITH CANCER AND BEYOND" - from a relative's perspective

Led by **Daphne Bleach**

Saturday 15th March 2025 10 am – 12.30 pm

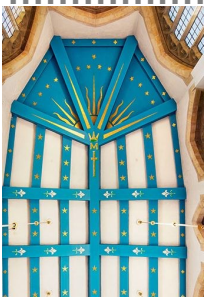
Coffee available from 9.30 am

- Do you know what to say, and not to say, when someone says "I have cancer"?
- How does a diagnosis of cancer affect someone?
- How we can encourage someone to "live well with cancer"?
- What help and support is available to patients and their relatives?
- Living beyond treatment - the "elephant in the room"
- Who is there for those when no further treatment is available'?

Daphne is a Care Companion, offering help and support to families and those who are dying as they approach end of life. She will lead an informative and sensitive talk about how to come alongside and support those living with cancer, to help all of us make the best of the precious time we have together.

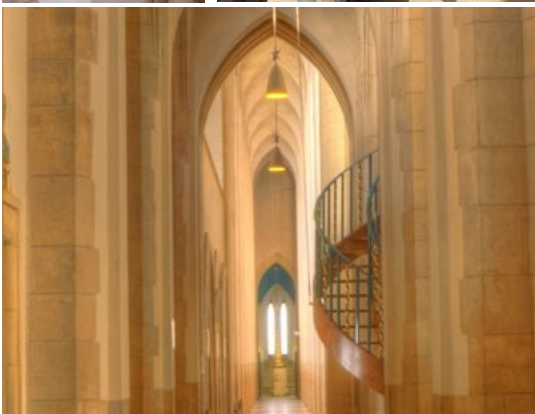
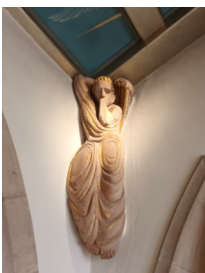
Daphne Bleach is a Christian, whose nursing career spans over 40 years.

Please reserve a place, with payment of £7, by contacting Sally Pollard email: pollard3@hotmail.co.uk, tel: 01483 428646 **by Friday 28th February.**



St Nicolas' group guided tour

Would you be interested in joining a tour of our divinely proportioned and immaculately detailed Cathedral? Cost £6.50 per person. The parking is easy, there is a gift shop and a Café. If so, please contact **Jonathan Neil-Smith or Jana Phillips.**





**Junior Church
Pancake Party**

**Sunday 9th March
2-4pm**

Games Fun Pancakes

Please let us know you're coming
parishoffice@saintrnics.com





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 Please email or telephone
 your material to Jana 07970
 934325, post to the Parish
 Office or give to Fr Neil or
 Jana at church. **Next copy
 deadline is Sunday 13 April
 for May & June 2025 issue.**



ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

NOT JUST SUNDAYS

Tuesdays

Tuesday Group @ 9:30

Social Group for the Retired

Toastie Tuesdays @ 5

for School Years 3 - 6 (monthly)

Beer & Banter @ 7:30

Men's Group (monthly)

Curry & Questions @7:30

Exploring Faith over Food
(quarterly))

Wednesdays

Cafe Play @ 10

Pre School Toddler Group

Fridays

Coffee Shop @10:30

Monthly Lunch &

Bible Study @11:30

Fizz & Friends @8

Women's Group (twice a term))

Saturdays

Messy Church @4

(monthly)

www.saintnics.com

