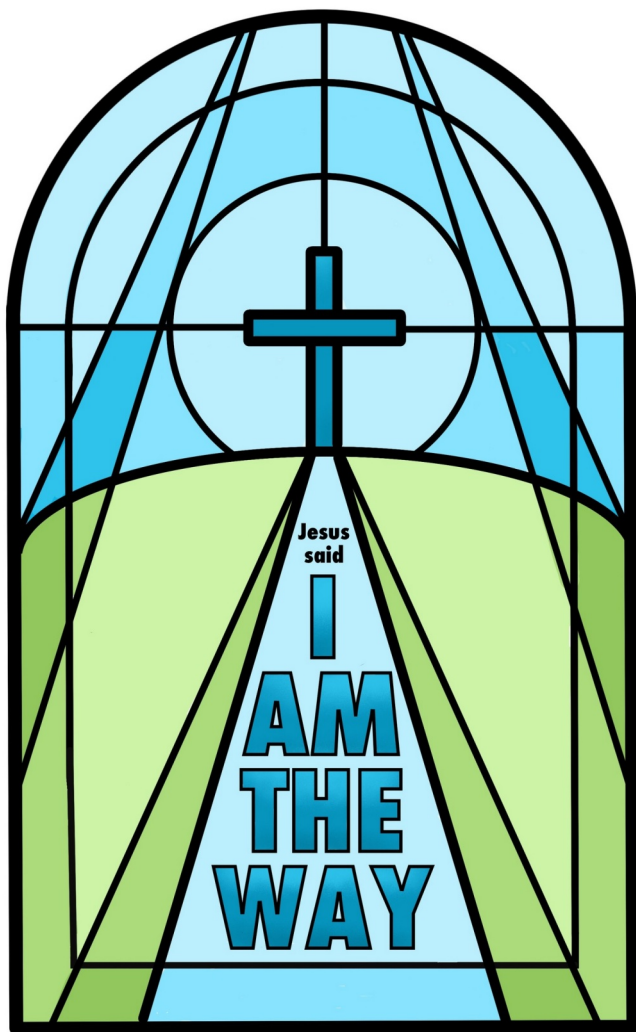
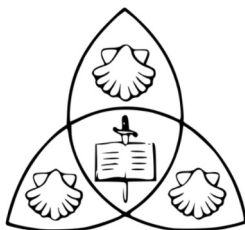


BUSHEY PARISH MAGAZINE



**APRIL
2024**



60 PENCE

God in Music:

'Glorious the song when God's the theme': Allegri's Miserere

The Rev Michael Burgess continues his series looking at great works of Christian music.

In the 1980s thanks to Godfrey Smith, a columnist for *The Sunday Times*, there was a series of letters about particular pieces of music that have the TQ – the Tingle Quotient. As we listen, the music sends a shiver of excitement up and down the spine and opens out for us a new world of beauty and wonder.

The letters started with a novelist writing about his travels across the Sahara. In moments of desolation and loneliness he would think of music that meant the most to him and which he thought he might never hear again. Then a schoolmaster in Rochester wrote of a production of 'Romeo and Juliet' where the funeral scene virtually brought the house down. Juliet entered a darkened school hall, lit only by glimmering candles with music sung that brought the audience to tears.

For both novelist and schoolmaster, the work that had that TQ factor was Allegri's *Miserere*. It provided consolation in the cold desert nights, and it created the impact in that production of Shakespeare's play. Other readers supplied their list of TQ music, and always the *Miserere* was in the top five. I suspect that this music strikes the TQ for many of you as well.

Why is it, I wonder? We can provide an answer by talking of the contrast between the plainsong sung by the men's voices and the responses from the choir that lead to that small group of solo voices where the treble or soprano reaches a high C and comes down the scale to the cadence. We can point to the intriguing history of this work for the setting by Gregorio Allegri (1582-1652) was the exclusive possession of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican. To copy the music was a crime punishable by excommunication.

In spite of this, a 14-year-old Mozart heard the piece in 1770 and wrote it down from memory, paying another visit to verify some of the notes he had copied down. The Emperor, Leopold I, the king of Portugal, persuaded the Pope to grant him a copy. When it was performed in his own imperial chapel, he was disappointed. He even thought the Pope had palmed him off with an

inferior work. Then he realised that the beauty and magic of the music lay in its being sung in the Sistine Chapel where the plainsong and the high C cadences could ring out among the pillars and arches of that great building.

The *Miserere*, or Psalm 51 is the heart-felt cry of the Church for mercy. As one of the penitential psalms, it is a very personal expression of sorrow for sin and a moving appeal to God for mercy and restoration.

In Allegri's setting that high C is reached as the individual acknowledges his sin, and again as he cries for mercy and finally as he proclaims that his tongue will sing of God's grace and righteousness. A single voice in the music scales the heights of heaven to represent all of us as we turn to God with that same awareness of sin, that same plea for mercy, and that same affirmation that we will then turn to God with thanksgiving and the offering of a humble and contrite heart.

And so with the psalmist and with Allegri, we can pray 'Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness'.

Annual Parish Meetings

The annual Parish Meetings will be held on Wednesday, April 10th starting at 7:30pm in Church House.

The first meeting is to elect 2 Churchwardens. They are elected annually as the representatives, in the Parish, of the Bishop, and are responsible, with the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and the Rector, for the running of the Parish.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) follows. This is an opportunity for the PCC to present the annual report of the activities in the previous year, and elect members. Members serve for 3 years. Please talk to the Rector, or current members if you are interested in standing for election. Full notices of the meetings will be displayed near the church door.

MINISTRY TEAM

Rector of the Parish of Bushey: Fr David Stevenson
rector@busheyparish.org

Lay Leader of Worship: Christine Cocks LLW@busheyparish.org

CHURCHWARDEN

Salome Jayaratnam
wardens@busheyparish.org

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

Parish Administrator: Jacqueline Birch 020 8421 8192
Church House, High Street, Bushey office@busheyparish.org

Parish Finance Officer: Sinead English 020 8421 8192
Church House, High Street, Bushey finance@busheyparish.org

*The Parish Office on the first floor of St James's Church House is open as follows:
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8.30am-2.30pm; Wednesdays, 8.30am- 11.30am.
At other times, telephone calls may be redirected or messages left.*

PCC Secretary: Felicity Cox pcc_secretary@busheyparish.org

Safeguarding Officer: Gay Butler 07799 063404
safeguarding@busheyparish.org

Churchyard Manager: Greg Batts churchyard@busheyparish.org

Parish website: www.busheyparish.org webmaster@busheyparish.org

Parish of Bushey Livestream Facebook page :
<https://www.facebook.com/busheyparishlive>

YouTube channel

Search for "The Parish of Bushey" and subscribe. It's free.

Worship in the Parish of Bushey – April 2024

*All service information here is provisional and subject to change.
For updates, please check the latest pew-sheet, our website or social media.*

Sunday April 7

8am – Said Eucharist, St James’s Church
10am – Parish Eucharist, St James’s Church
11:15am – Sung Eucharist, St Paul’s Church

Sunday April 14

10am – Parish Eucharist, St James’s Church
11:15am – Sung Eucharist, St Paul’s Church

Wednesday April 17

3:30pm – Messy Church, St Paul’s Church

Sunday April 21

10am – Parish Eucharist, St James’s Church
11:15am – Sung Eucharist, St Paul’s Church

Sunday April 28

10:10am – Parish Eucharist, St James’s Church
11:15am – Sung Eucharist, St Paul’s Church

Regular weekday services

Said Eucharist 12:30pm – Wednesdays in St Paul’s Church

Said Eucharist 11am – Thursdays in St James’s Church

Covid-19: Face-coverings need no longer be worn in any of our Parish buildings, though individuals may of course continue to wear them by choice. Please respect the hygiene decisions of others.

From the Vicar

It's amazing what treasure can be unearthed with metal detectors! In this season of Easter, let's rediscover the greatest unburied treasure of the Resurrection. The Apostle Peter reminds us that God *'has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.'* (1 Peter 1: 3,4). What does he say about this treasure?

On the one hand, it is the *reason for hope*. Peter was writing to Christians in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey) who faced persecution under the Emperor Nero. In an uncertain world we know that Jesus suffered, but by His resurrection has secured eternal life for us. This inheritance not only guarantees life now, but also for eternity, as it *'is kept in heaven for you'* (4). Do we share this confidence? D.L. Moody, the 19th Century American evangelist, spoke of the time when people would read his obituary: *'Don't believe a word of it! At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now.'*

On the other hand, this treasure is a *source of joy*. This unburied treasure fills us *'with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.'* (8,9). We face all kinds of trials in our lives, but God uses them to refine our faith and character, *'These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.'* (7).

We reflect this treasure by developing the Jesus's character and becoming more holy, obedient and loving.

'Christmas is the promise, and Easter is the proof!'





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- * Post-Hospital Stay Care
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middlesex@visiting-angels.co.uk

Visiting Angels. 
QUALITY AT HOME CARE

Reflecting Faith: Easter Sepulchres

Over the last few months we've been looking at churchyards, grave memorials and the lychgate where the coffin may be rested on its entry.

This month we are going inside the church building to find a somewhat different and only really found in older churches that have survived re-ordering and renovations: the Easter Sepulchre.

A sepulchre is essentially a place of burial – a tomb – but in churches it can also be a receptacle for religious relics.

Easter Sepulchres can be very grand affairs. I'm aware that many writers say that they are constructed in wood, but I have only seen stone ones. They can be plain or intricately carved. They can be low to the ground or reaching up to the roof. Each style, of course, reflects both the richness and generosity of the patron, as well as their theology. Some have 'layers' of carvings, with the angels at the top, then the patriarchs, followed by the Fathers of the Church and so on. Others are very simple and almost plain.

They are normally set into or against the northern side of the sanctuary in which stands the altar, and which is traditionally considered to be the 'holiest' place in a church building.

Their use is given in their name – on Good Friday some consecrated bread and wine and often a crucifix (rather than an 'empty' cross) is placed inside it and people take it in turns to 'stand watch' until Easter Sunday morning, when it is taken out with great ceremony and often paraded through the building. The reason is to reflect the death of Christ, His being placed in a tomb and His subsequent resurrection.

Today's ceremonies are usually less ostentatious, and whilst folk often take turns keeping watch on the Maundy Thursday, reflecting the disciples being asked to stay awake whilst Jesus went and prayed alone in the Garden of Gethsemane, less is made of the Sepulchre watch.

The items are simply removed before any Easter resurrection service takes place, either on Easter Saturday evening or early Easter Sunday morning.

This month

See if you can find an Easter Sepulchre near you. Look at the decoration and consider all the different symbolisms it is trying to convey. If you cannot find one, then think what you would want to convey today?

8th April - Lady Day or The Annunciation

This beautiful event (Luke 1:26-38) took place in Nazareth, when Mary is already betrothed to Joseph. The Archangel Gabriel comes to Mary, greets her as highly favoured, tells her not to be afraid, that she will bear a son Jesus, and that her elderly cousin Elizabeth is already pregnant (with John the Baptist).

The church calendar is never quite as neat as some would like it. To celebrate the Annunciation on 25th March does indeed place the conception of Jesus exactly nine months from His birth on 25th December, but the latter part of March almost inevitably falls during Lent. But the birth and death of Jesus are intrinsically linked - He was born to die, and thus fulfil God's purposes.

The Annunciation is a significant date in the Christian calendar - it is one of the most frequent depicted in Christian art. Gabriel's gracious strength and Mary's humble dignity have inspired many artists. Certainly, Mary's response to the angel has for centuries been an example of good faith in practice - humility, enquiry of God, and trusting acceptance in His will for her life.

Seen in a West Country church:

Whenever I see a little church,
I always pay a visit.
So when at last I'm carried in,
the Lord won't ask 'Who is it?'



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General Synod backs code of conduct for Parochial Church Councils

General Synod has voted in favour of a motion asking the Archbishops' Council to explore a Code of Conduct for Parochial Church Council (PCC) members and lay volunteers. The motion, brought by the Diocese of Chelmsford, sought to address an imbalance of accountability in relationships where lay volunteers currently face no significant consequences for persistent departures from acceptable standards of behaviour. An introductory paper explained that, whereas clergy are subject to the Clergy Discipline Measure (CDM) process, there remains no proportionate and accessible means by which laity can be held to account for their actions.

The paper cited National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) advice that, while disagreement is a healthy part of decision making, it was recommended that charities should use a code of conduct for their trustees. It highlighted instances of uncooperative or aggressive behaviour in meetings over a long period, where there was no mechanism to remove a member from the PCC. Introducing the motion, the Revd Dr Sara Batts-Neale from Chelmsford Diocese said: "When [things] do go wrong, there is currently no way to change the composition of a PCC. There is a lack of clear accountability." "We seek a review into a code of conduct to encourage healthy cultures, and to give a possible remedy for intransigent behaviours that damage people, the church, and hinder our ability to share the good news of Christ Jesus."

Grandparenting for Faith: sharing God with the children you love the most. *Becky Sedgwick, BRF, £9.99*

Grandparenting brings the opportunity to walk spiritually alongside our grandchildren, offering tools and skills for the journey. Whatever your circumstances, God has positioned you to be a unique voice, speaking into your grandchildren's lives, helping to nurture them into the reality of a relationship with the God who loves them. This book will help grandparents to encourage and equip their grandchildren to know God better.



General Synod backs legislation to prevent bullying by lay officers

General Synod has asked for legislative proposals to allow lay officers found guilty of bullying to be disqualified from holding office. The motion was brought by the Ven Mark Ireland, Archdeacon of Blackburn. It wanted to address an imbalance of accountability in relationships, where lay volunteers currently face no significant consequences if found to have exhibited bullying behaviour.

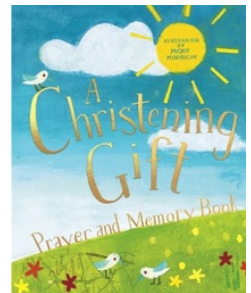
Whereas clergy are subject to the Clergy Discipline Measure (CDM) process, there is currently no proportionate and accessible means by which laity can be held to account for their actions. The archdeacon spoke of the impact upon the mental health, physical health and sense of Christian Community of a parish when a churchwarden or lay officer is exercising controlling or bullying behaviour. He said that bullying behaviour is not tolerated in other areas of society. Other organisations have clear policies and procedures in place, for when instances of bullying and harassment do occur. Bullying and harassment are unacceptable behaviours in any environment – and especially in the Church. Yet since he first raised this difficult and sensitive issue, he has been inundated with stories from victims and survivors, stories which have moved him sometimes close to tears.

This motion was separate from an earlier motion agreed by General Synod, regarding abusive members of parochial church councils and lay volunteers.

A Christening Gift Prayer and Memory Book **Various authors, SPCK £8.99**

This book could be a good gift for a grandparent, godparent, or family member, to give to a young child.

It is an illustrated gift book to commemorate a young child's christening. It includes a collection of prayers, Bible verses, and pages for recording details, memories, and messages of the special occasion. Parents can add their own memories, with spaces for photos and special blessings from the guests, as well as recording key milestones in their child's early years





Rennie Grove Peace

MAY 2024

Make your Will this May

Ensure your assets go to those you care about most

Your Will is one of the most important documents you will ever create. It ensures your estate – your assets and possessions – can be distributed as you wish after you die.

Throughout Make Your Will Month in May, local participating solicitors will draw up a standard Will or amend an existing Will and instead of charging their usual fee, they will give you the opportunity to make a donation to Rennie Grove Peace Hospice Care. So, as well as sorting out your own affairs, you will also be supporting local hospice care.

For full details and a list of participating solicitors, visit renniegrovepeace.org/mywm. Or call our Gifts in Wills team on 01442 89 02 22 or email legacy@renniegrovepeace.org

23rd April - St George, our Patron Saint who isn't English

The English have a patron saint who isn't English, about whom next to nothing is known for sure, and who, just possibly, may not have existed at all. But that didn't stop St George being patriotically invoked in many battles, notably at Agincourt and in the Crusades, and of course it is his cross that adorns the flags of English football fans to this day.

It's most likely that St George was a soldier, a Christian who was martyred for his faith somewhere in Palestine, possibly at Lydda, in the early fourth century. At some point in the early centuries of the Church he became associated with wider military concerns, being regarded as the patron saint of the Byzantine armies. There is no doubt that St George was held as an example of the 'godly soldier', one who served Christ as bravely and truly as he served his king and country.

The story of George and the dragon is of much later date and no one seems to know where it comes from. By the Middle Ages, when George was being honoured in stained glass, the dragon had become an invaluable and invariable visual element, so that for most people the two are inseparable. Pub signs have a lot to answer for here: 'The George and Dragon'.

However, it's probably more profitable to concentrate on his role as a man who witnessed to his faith in the difficult setting of military service, and in the end was martyred for his faithfulness to Christ.

The idea of the 'Christian soldier' was, of course, much loved by the Victorian hymn-writers - 'Onward, Christian soldiers!' The soldier needs discipline. The heart of his commitment is to obedience. The battle cannot be avoided nor the enemy appeased. He marches and fights alongside others, and he is loyal to his comrades. In the end, if the battle is won, he receives the garlands of victory, the final reward of those who overcome evil.

St George's Day presents a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge is to distance the message of his life from the militarism and triumphalism that can easily attach itself to anything connected to soldiers and fighting. The oppor-

tunity is to celebrate the ideal of the 'Christian soldier' - one who submits to discipline, sets out to obey God truly, does not avoid the inevitable battle with all that is unjust, wrong and hateful in our world, and marches alongside others fighting the same noble cause.

Discipline, obedience, courage, fellowship and loyalty - they're not the most popular virtues today, but that doesn't mean that they don't deserve our admiration.

The Hand of Christ

The hand of Christ rests gently on my head,
Love's blessings flow from God's eternal heart into my veins.
The Spirit's breath pulsates within my soul
And in the life that Christ has won for all on Calvary's hill

I step out gladly into God's Creation,
There to praise the holy Name of God,
In triune-majesty forever reigning.

O God most high,
Most Holy Father, blessed Son,
and gracious Spirit, Three-in-One.

We bow before the eternal throne
and, in the strength of love received,
we give your love in blessing
to your world.

By Sam Doubtfire



Singing groups for people living with dementia

Herts Musical Memories delivers vibrant music sessions that are both fun and therapeutic for people with memory problems, people living with dementia and their carers.

Herts Musical Memories help connect people to their memories through singing. The sessions are based in music therapy and attending a singing session is a fun and stimulating activity, providing health benefits for both those living with dementia and their carers. Scientific research shows that group singing improves well-being and overall quality of life. With regular attendance it can improve sociability, increase self-confidence and decrease anxiety.

Most importantly laughter is a key ingredient to a Herts Musical Memories Session.

For your free trial session and to find out your nearest group please give us a call or drop us a line.

To book your session or for more information contact us on 020 8950 5757

Email: admin@hertsmusicalmemories.org.uk or visit www.hertsmusicalmemories.org.uk

Appreciating Johann Sebastian Bach

Three hundred years ago, on 7th April 1724, the German composer Johann Sebastian Bach's *St John Passion* was performed for the first time, at a church in Leipzig.



It was put on as part of Good Friday Vespers at St Nicholas Church, having been transferred from St Thomas at the last moment by the music council. Bach, who had just turned 39, agreed to the move, while pointing out that the booklet had already been printed, there was no room immediately available for the musicians, and the harpsichord needed some repair. These problems were overcome.

Bach was already highly regarded, but primarily as a harpsichordist and organ expert. Later seen as one of the best composers of all time – renowned for such works as the *Brandenburg Concertos* and his *Mass in B Minor* – he was one of a large family of north German musicians. He is widely praised as a great synthesiser of styles and traditions.

The *St John Passion*, written during his first year as director of church music in Leipzig, was designed to be used as part of a church service. It follows John 18 and 19 in the Luther Bible, but the writer of the libretto is not known. A possible earlier Passion, written in Weimar, is lost.

Nowadays the *St John Passion* is heard mainly in the 1739–1749 version, which was never performed in Bach's lifetime, though he made many revisions to the original before his death.

From a church magazine: “The restoration of the churchyard was finally completed by the resurfacing of our driveway. The following Sunday, the churchwardens praised everyone who had helped, and gave special thanks to the vicar and his wife who had rolled in the gravel.”

Messy Church



Appropriately during Lent and just after Valentine's Day, February's Messy Church at St. Paul's explored love, reflection and forgiveness.

Forty of us, including over 20 children, joined in various activities, sang together and shared a meal.



*Next Messy Church:
Wednesday 20th March*



Gallery Kitchen Plans: 2024

Anyone who had been in the “Resources Room” in 2023 would have noticed it was a tip when the Nursery were using it. Since Buzykids left, the Buildings Committee has been working on improving the Gallery. Recently a new boiler was installed to replace the two older ones which were faulty and expensive to repair. This new EcoBoiler provides heating and hot water for the whole building. In addition, the tatty old cupboards to the right of the image were removed along with piles of old papers.



At the February Meeting our PCC approved plans to spend around £5,000 to upgrade and update the Gallery Kitchen to make the Gallery itself more attractive for rentals. There will be a new set of units, worktops, cupboards and drawers plus new flooring. Pipework will be boxed in to make a neater appearance. New light fittings will be installed and all electrics will be safety checked and upgraded if necessary. Finally, some volunteers will decorate the walls and hang new blinds. Once this is completed the Buildings Committee plan to replace the dirty/tatty flooring in the Gallery.



This is a rare sight – the magnolia tree in the churchyard in full bloom. It very often starts flowering just in time for some of the coldest nights of the winter to arrive and the frost destroy the flowers.



World Day of Prayer 2024

On the 1st March our local inter-denominational service for World Day of Prayer was held at Sacred Heart Church. It was attended by around forty people from all the churches of Bushey and Oxhey, including a scattering of men! While the service continues to be prepared by women from a different country each year it is definitely not exclusive. Prayer is universal. This year's service had a particular poignancy as it had been prepared by Christian women in Palestine some two years ago and highlighted the difficulties they and other Palestinians faced long before the current conflict. In view of the changed situation the central World Day of Prayer Committee had sent out a prayer to be included in the service which prayed specifically for all, on both sides, who were suffering in Gaza at this time and more generally for all victims of conflict the world over.



Next year's service has been prepared by women of the Cook Islands in the South Pacific and is always on the first Friday in march so watch out for details. The WDP website is also worth a look.



Latest wave of ‘Living Ministry’ research published

The fourth set of findings from long-term research into how Church of England clergy can flourish in ministry has been published by the Church of England. *Holding Things Together, Church of England Clergy in Changing Times* builds on three previous waves of the Living Ministry research programme.

The latest analysis assesses changes in clergy wellbeing since before the pandemic, as well as exploring how clergy manage change. A total of 486 clergy in active ministry took part in the research, conducted in March 2023. Wellbeing was measured using questions on physical, mental, relational, financial, and vocational wellbeing, repeated from previous Living Ministry surveys. Some additional questions were included on social class, the cost-of-living crisis, and culture and psychological wellbeing.

Dr Liz Graveling from the Church of England’s national Ministry Development team, who heads the Living Ministry research programme, said: “While there has been some recovery since the pandemic, this report shows that there is still much to be done to support the wellbeing of clergy.”



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St James's Over 60s Club

Meets fortnightly on Mondays in Church House and is run by Caroline Harper.

The annual membership fee is £10 and the cost per session is £2 which includes tea and biscuits and a raffle.

There is a varied and interesting programme which we have listed below.

New members are always welcome and can come for a taster session on a no charge one-off trial to see if it appeals. Doors open at 2:30pm and the talk starts at 3pm.

Do come along to give it a go as it is a lovely way of meeting new people and making new friends and listening to interesting speakers.

For more information contact Caroline Harper 020 8420 4838 or 07789950365 or carolineharper49@gmail.com.

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Mon 8 April | Colin Oakes – <i>Winston Churchill's brother</i> |
| Mon 22 April | Bill Hamilton – <i>Man on the spot – BBC TV journalist</i> |
| Mon 13 May | Nicholas Minshull – <i>Co-op legal services</i> |
| Mon 20 May | Purcell School – <i>Recital in St James's Church</i> |
| Mon 3 June | Colin Richards – <i>History of Denham Film Studios</i> |
| Mon 17 June | Colin Oakes – <i>Talk title to be advised</i> |
| Mon 1 July | Ricky – <i>Music and vocals</i> |

Club closes until September.

MESSY CHURCH

@ St Paul's

Wednesday at 3:30pm

April 17th

May 15th

June 19th

July 17th

St Paul's Church
Bushey Hall Road
WD23 2EQ



FRIENDS OF BUSHEY MUSEUM

Bushey Museum is open every
Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday
11.00am – 4.00pm. Admission free.

We're also online at www.busheymuseum.org

Come and see our latest exhibitions, especially a fundraising exhibition for The Tower Appeal at St James's Church Bushey, and *Before Herkomer* which is an exhibition of the Monro Circle

There will also be a Chandos Selling Exhibition called Chandos Reprise from 20th April 2024 to October 2024 where you can buy all kinds of everything.

On 23rd April come to a talk at The Bushey Centre from 7pm to 9 pm by Christopher Jordan. This will be entitled *Craft and Design: Hubert Von Herkomer in context*.

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Celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women as Priests in the Church of England

(see p35 for pictures)

On 9 March 2024, at 5pm, there was a special service in St Albans Abbey, to mark this special anniversary. The service was led by Bishop Jane, and the Dean, together with a number of the Cathedral clergy, was present to welcome us all. The service was sung by the Cathedral Girls Choir, Abbey Singers and Lay Clerks of the Cathedral Choir, directed by Andrew Lucas, Master of the Music; the organist was Oliver Morrell, Organ Scholar. It was also noticeable that the serving team was distinctly feminine.

It was clear that considerable thought had gone into the music for the liturgy. The hymn tunes were familiar; the words of the hymns (one by Ruth Dennigan and two by Ally Barrett) were less so – but all contributed positively and thoughtfully to the occasion. The Gospel acclamation was set to music by Bernadette Farrell and the anthem was the Magnificat from Joanna Forbes L'Estrange's Kings College Service. Stanford's B-flat setting for the Sanctus, Benedictus and Agnus Dei, fitted in very well. The closing voluntary was Prélude et Fugue by Jeanne Demessieux.

The liturgy, itself, was also thought-provoking (in a good way). After the first hymn, we were welcomed by the Dean, the Very Revd Jo Kelly-Moore. The prayers of penitence were a cry to God for all those women whose calling has been denied, or belittled or thwarted. The reading before the Gospel: from Proverbs, ch 8, is the one in which Wisdom is personified as feminine – as, indeed, she is in both the Greek and Hebrew languages. This was read by Revd Sarah Marshall, who is Assistant Dean for Women's Ministry. The Gospel, (Luke 24. 1-11), read by the Deacon, tells the story of the women finding the empty tomb, and being told by the Angel that Christ had risen... only to be disbelieved by the Apostles.

The preacher, Revd Christina H M Rees, CBE, spoke of the first woman ordained as priest in the Church of England – Florence Li Tim-Oi, who was ordained on 25 Jan 1944, in Free China – and of how an outraged church reacted. She spoke of Robert Runcie, who, as Bishop of St Albans was of the view that there was no theological objection to the ordination of women to the priesthood but that it didn't seem to be the right time, yet; and then of when, after meeting Florence Li Tim-Oi, at Lambeth Palace, when he was Archbishop, his mind was completely changed and he began to support women in their quest for their Call to be recognised. The reason he gave was that, if God called women to the priesthood, who was he to deny that call? She spoke of the long wait and many

hurdles that women had had to overcome to have their calling recognised – and how joyful it made her to see so many of those women, present in the congregation. She also rejoiced in the fact that, though it had taken another long number of years, women were now consecrated as bishops.

The Prayers of Intercession were led by Revd Canon Lucy Davis, Dean of Women's Ministry and Chair of NADAWM. As we gave thanks for all that had been achieved, I found myself giving thanks for the ministry of the many women had graced this parish, or who had started in this parish and gone on to minister elsewhere: Vicky Raymer, Carol Brennand (Punshon), Caroline Burnett (Woollen), Verity Harvey, Audrey Ross, Anne Roby, Mary Kingsley. With Bishop Jane leading the worship, I could hardly omit remembering her support of our parish, when she was our Archdeacon.

In biblical readings and prayers that reference the Bible, we are accustomed to hearing, "God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob...", for example. In the Eucharistic Prayer, yesterday evening, we heard the paragraphs begin, "God of Sarah, Hagar and Deborah...", "God of Chloe, Phoebe and Priscilla...", "God of Euodia, Syntyche and Apphia...", "God of Ruth, Naomi and Esther...", "God of Julia, Persis and Claudia..." – and, finally, "God of Mary, Mary Magdalene and Elizabeth...". It was a healthy reminder of the fact that there are so many women in biblical history who have contributed to our religion and faith.

It should not be suggested that the role of supportive men was ignored but only that the importance of achieving the recognition that women are, indeed, called to the priesthood was chosen as the focus of the liturgy and of the whole celebration. I had expected to be happy and pleased to be taking part; I had not expected to be so moved as I was by this special occasion. I was sad that the Cathedral was less than half full for this important anniversary; those who were not there missed out on something very special.

Before closing with the blessing, Bishop Jane thanked those who had gone before her and borne the brunt of the difficulties: they had had to wait but she had not had to do so – neither to be ordained priest nor to be consecrated bishop. The final blessing was (fittingly) all-embracing:

May the boldness of the Spirit transform you, may the gentleness of the Spirit lead you, may the gifts of the Spirit equip you to serve and worship God....

YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kBV-2AhaNGU>

Christine Cocks

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Killingworth Christian Council

Northumberland County Council decided to establish Killingworth New Town on brownfield land in the parish. The local churches, including, for once, the Roman Catholics, joined enthusiastically in the planning process, under the KCC banner, with a full-time missionary taking up residence in one of the first houses to be built. We made up pairs of door knockers from the different denominations (my colleague was R.C.) to interview new arrivals, invite them to church and ascertain any needs. Because of our work, the authorities greatly accelerated to installation of telephone boxes, as the newcomers were very much missing their friends and relative in Byker, Wallsend or wherever they had been uprooted from. Itinerant grocery vans were encouraged also.

We attended the open meetings at which the chief planner, one Roy Gazzard, fielded comments and enquiries, one of which I remember was about how he could imagine the local concerns when he resided in a Georgian pile on Cathedral Green in Durham!

It was the first time in my life that I had seen an ordinary loaf of divided up and consecrated for a holy communion service over a kitchen table— and no questions asked of the attendees about confirmation or denomination!

St Mary's Church, Mirfield

In 1968 I got a job in Yorkshire and from that November we all attended St Mary's, just up the hill from home, generally exemplifying the iron rule that those who live the nearest are the most likely to be late arrivals. As I plunged into my work commitments and, presently, my professional activities, I did not play any official role in the Parish, although in the 1970s I was very involved in the Scout group. That was an era when the old ways were challenged, for instance with the publication of new translations of the bible, particularly the New Testament. Also, the laity were encouraged to take a greater part in both reforming church practices and reaching out to the gen-

eral public who were becoming indifferent to Christianity. We were invited to form house groups and I certainly attended at least one training course on “Group Dynamics” promoted by the Diocese. I can remember coming up against a lady of about my own age who admonished me, “Mike – you’re obviously used to getting your own way – you should listen to what people are saying to you sometimes!” The Alternative Service Book was adopted in 1980, largely replacing the liturgy that had been unchanged for around 300 years. Change was in the air.

Bushey Parish

From late 1986 we became parishioners in Bushey, Herts. Sheena attended Presbyterian services in Watford, although I see there was a friendly letter from the Rector, Philip Morgan, to Sheena, dated January 1988, saying that he had heard that she was Presbyterian and assuring her that, as such, she was welcome to receive communion in the C of E. I settled on the 8 am Communion service at St James's, as it left the rest of the day free. At some point, the regular attenders were asked to form a rota, so that pairs of us would get up early, open the church and set things up for the service and likewise clear away afterwards, including a short vigil in the empty church until someone arrived to set up the 9.30 Eucharist service.

I retired from full-time work in May 1997 and, some months after that, it was announced the *Emmaus* study course was to be offered, based on house groups. As I had experience of house groups and because I wanted to get to know more people, I volunteered. A meeting of would-be group leaders was called in the Summer of 1998 and something over a dozen of us gathered in the church hall gallery for some instruction by Sandy, the wife of the then Rector, Ian Cooper. Sandy knew about group dynamics etc and her opening point was about how to break the ice at the first group meeting. She asked us to form pairs and chat for five minutes then afterwards for each of us to introduce their partner to the group. Immediately, someone objected that, as everyone had known each other very well for years this not necessary. I privately marked that person down as an expert at missing the point. In any case, they were mistaken, in that I knew hardly anyone present, although some faces were familiar. At any rate, my partner turned out to be Caroline Drury (later Revd Caroline Burnett), who was pleased to point out that not

many of the group *would* know me because all I had ever done, in the past decade or so, was to slip quietly in and out of the eight o' clock service, but now I was retired etc etc.

The *Emmaus* programme really took off and I was soon in the thick of it. I shared the leadership of a group with Jean Pearce of St Paul's that met at her house. In December 1998 Pauline Page, one of the two Parish Churchwardens, died suddenly, after holding office for just under a year, so the Rector began to trawl for a replacement, to take office from the Parish AGM in April 1999. Quite late in the day I was invited to the Rectory and asked if I would take this on, for a four-year term. Still with a view to getting to know more people and, simply, trying something new, I said I would stand. However, I first took the precaution of having a thorough chat with John Wray, the Parish Treasurer, to satisfy myself that the system was sound and any financial scandal was unlikely.

Technically, churchwardens, whose office is the oldest elected one in the kingdom - preceding members of parliament - are elected at a meeting of the "Vestry", i.e. all the inhabitants of the parish, regardless of religious adherence, so that formality was gone through in five minutes before the Parish AGM commenced. Just before the latter was declared closed, a Parochial Church Council member, Ken Clack, asked to speak. "Earlier on, we elected Mike Young to be a Parish Warden. Mr Chairman, would Mr Young care to identify himself?" I stood up and found some graceful words about being honoured to be allowed to serve etc and immediately after the meeting broke up, Ken sought me out and assured me that he and his wife would be pleased to help me in any way possible etc. He was a lovely man, who sadly died before his time from an accidental fall while gardening. The AGM was on the Sunday evening. The next morning there was a knock on the door and Tom Moore (Assistant Priest) had come round to assure me of his availability and support in my new role. Quite a number of parishioners sidled up to me and wanted to make sure that I knew about some of the more interesting past events in the Parish and, again to offer support.

(To be continued)

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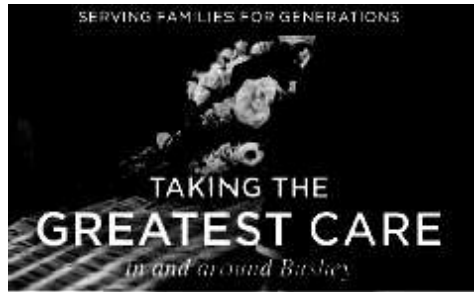


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HALL HIRE

The Parish of Bushey has two halls available for your party, meeting or function. For more details, visit <https://busheyparish.org/venue-hire>

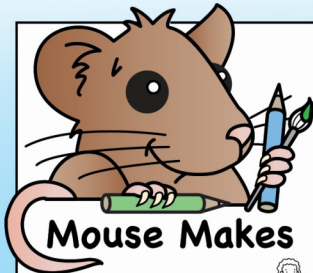
St James's Church House Hall, Rectory Lane WD23 1BD is a comfortable and well-appointed space ideal for parties and other social occasions. It is regularly booked for birthday and anniversary parties as well as baptism and funeral receptions. It is possible to cater comfortably for 70 people (sitting down) or for up to 100 for a party where people mingle. The hall has

disabled access and toilet facilities. To hire the hall please email churchhouse@busheyparish.org

St Paul's, John Stobbart Hall Bushey Hall Road WD23 2EQ has an enclosed garden, so is particularly suitable for children's parties and family celebrations - up to 80 people. It also has a small car park.

St Paul's Church is available to hire as a venue for conferences, quiet days, meetings, and similar purposes. Please contact [Jill Macey: 07736 680501](mailto:jillmacey48@gmail.com) or jillmacey48@gmail.com about hiring the St Paul venues.

The Children's Page



Mouse Makes



How many times had the risen Jesus revealed himself to the disciples before this?

Read John 21:14



How many disciples were there? Who were they? Read John 21: 11

How many fish did they catch? Read John 21: 11



READ the story in John 21

Some time after Jesus had risen a few of His disciples met together to go fishing. They fished all night but caught nothing. As the sun rose a man on the shore asked; "Have you caught anything?" "Not a thing" they answered. He said to them "Throw your net out onto the right side of the boat and you will catch some." So they did and they and they caught so many fish they could not pull in the net. Then John recognised the man, "It is the Lord!"



DISCIPLES • TIBERIAS • SEA • SIMON PETER • THOMAS • NATHANAEL • JOHN • DAY FISHING • BOAT • NIGHT • CAUGHT • NOTHING • WATER • SHORE • FISH • CAST • NET RIGHT • FIND • HAUL • LORD • FULL • LAND • FIRE • BREAD • BREAKFAST • JESUS

Colour in all the fish

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St Paul's Church, WD23 2EQ

Organist	Martyn Lambert	01923 903365
Stewardship Officer	Mrs Marion Golding	07787 538232
Hall Bookings	Jill Macey	07736 680501

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsBushey/>

Messy Church

Contact: Mrs Jane Groushko, 07974 771342

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Bushey Parish Magazine is published monthly, in hard copy (price 60p) and free online at www.busheyparish.org under "News".



100 Club winners in February

Congratulations to our 100 Club winners for February
Salome Jayaratnam (£60); Janet McNulty (£40);
Joanna Hewitt (£20).

*For more information about the 100 Club,
contact Clare Humphreys on 020 8950 6352 or see
www.busheyparish.org/parish-100-club*

St James's Church, WD23 IBD

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Christine Cocks (CMF Officer)

Organist & Choir Director of Music Vacant

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From the Registers
BURIAL of ASHES
"Ashes to ashes..."
 March 5. 2024
Pamela Ashby

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

24 th March	Palm Sunday	HOLY WEEK BEGINS Mass & Procession (SJ - Joint)	10:30am
25 th March	Monday in Holy Week	Confession Mass with Lent Reflection (SJ)	<i>Appointment</i> 7:30pm
26 th March	Tuesday in Holy Week	Confession Mass with Lent Reflection (SJ)	<i>Appointment</i> 7:30pm
27 th March	Wednesday in Holy Week	Confession Mass with Lent Reflection (SJ)	<i>Appointment</i> 7:30pm
28 th March	Maundy Thursday	Mass with Washing of Feet with Watch until Midnight (SJ)	8:00pm
29 th March	Good Friday	Family Stations of the Cross (SP) Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday (SJ)	11:00am 1:30pm
30 th March	Holy Saturday	Easter Vigil (SJ) <i>Easter Celebration Drinks</i>	7:30pm <i>After Mass</i>
31 st March	Easter Day	Parish Easter Eucharist (SJ) Easter Eucharist (SP)	10:00am 11:15am

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - April 2024

Monday April 1

EASTER MONDAY PILGRIMAGE TO ST ALBANS

Service at 3pm. More details from

www.stalbansdiocese.org/life-and-faith/easter-monday-pilgrimage/



Wednesday April 3 and Wednesdays throughout April

COFFEE, CAKE & CHAT + BARGAIN TABLE-SALE

St Paul's Church, 10.00am - 12.00 noon

Followed by Said Eucharist (12.30pm)

Monday April 8

ST JAMES'S OVER 60s CLUB

Church House at 2:30pm

Colin Oakes – *Winston Churchill's Brother*

Wednesday April 10

ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS & APCM

Church House at 7:30pm & 7:45pm

Wednesday April 17

MESSY CHURCH

St Paul's Church, 3.30pm



Saturday April 20

SATURDAY RECITAL

St James's Church, 12.00 noon

See back page for full details.

Monday April 22

ST JAMES'S OVER 60s CLUB

Church House at

Bill Hamilton – *Man on the spot* – *BBC TV Journalist*



Diocesan images from the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the priesting of women

ST JAMES'S CHURCH BUSHEY
WD23 1BD



SATURDAY RECITALS 2024

12 noon	20th April	Eugenia Russell Quentin Russell	Organ Piano
12 noon	18th May	Wind and Words	
12 noon	8th June	Purcell School	
12.30	22nd June	Fumi Otsuki & Gisela Mayer	Violin and Piano
12 noon	6th July	North London Military Wives Choir	
12 noon	20th July	David Price	Organ

Please join us at St James's Church for Recitals.
Coffee will be served from 10.30am and Light Lunches from 12.30pm.
Recitals last for about 45 minutes. Free entry, donations welcome.
Everyone is welcome to attend.