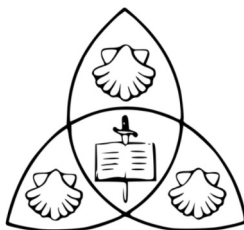


BUSHEY PARISH MAGAZINE



Pentecost -Acts 2

MAY 2024



60 PENCE

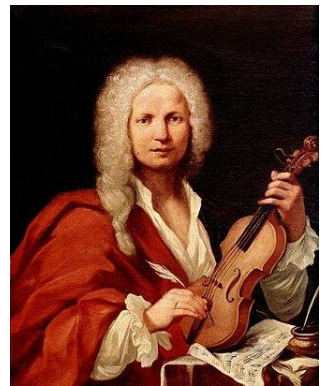
God in Music:

'Glorious the song when God's the theme': the *Stabat Mater*

May is traditionally the month of Mary, the mother of Jesus. When we read of Mary in the Gospels, we sense the heartache and trial of much of her life: a teenage mother giving birth in a stable, fleeing with her new-born baby and Joseph to Egypt, losing the child Jesus while on pilgrimage to Jerusalem, following her son on His ministry but always in the background, and there at the foot of the cross as her son is crucified. It is then Mary must have thought back to that occasion in the temple when Simeon took her child and told her that a sword would pierce her own soul.

That sense of heartache and the sorrow it brings is poignantly expressed in a beautiful poem of the Middle Ages called *Stabat Mater*, which pictures Mary at Calvary and that sword of desolation and sadness that pierces her soul. We are not sure who wrote this poem. It is ascribed to Jacopone da Todi, who became a Franciscan friar on the death of his wife in the 13th century. The contemplation of Mary's sorrows in the *Stabat Mater* has inspired many composers, and there are wonderful settings by Palestrina, Rossini, Dvorak, Verdi and Poulenc.

This month let's focus on a very simple setting, but one that captures those searing pangs of sorrow at the heart of the poem. It is by Antonio Vivaldi, who was born in Venice in 1678. In 1703 he was ordained a priest, but by then he had made his name as a skilled violinist and composer. He continued to compose throughout his life: a vast amount that includes some 40 operas (though only 18 survive), 400 concertos, and over 100 choral works. In 1730 Charles de Brosses described him as 'an old man with a prodigious fury for composition.' For much of his life Vivaldi was music director of the Ospedale della Pieta, a music school for girls. Then in 1740 he left Venice hoping for preferment in Vienna. That was not to be, and his final days were marked by poverty and neglect, and in 1741 burial in a pauper's grave.



Most of us know Vivaldi through the brilliance and colour of 'The Four Seasons' and his setting of the Gloria. The tone is more restrained in his setting of the Stabat Mater. There is a very fine CD recording entitled 'Vespers of Sorrow' where the work is linked to a sonata, a psalm setting and the Magnificat for an imagined celebration of our Lady's feast.

The Stabat Mater is a long poem and Vivaldi restricted himself to setting eight verses for contralto and strings: the solo voice standing for Mary as she sings of the despair and agony as the mother of Jesus. The opening verse, 'At the cross her station keeping' captures the intensity of emotion with the throbbing rhythms of the accompaniment – that mood recurs throughout the work. And then with the verse, 'Eja Mater, fons amoris' (O thou Mother! Fount of love!) the violins and viola accompany without any bass instruments. It is a pivotal point in the work as the solo voice cries out 'Mater' across the heights and depths of the music, leading into the prayer that the love of Mary will touch all human hearts. The final verse set by Vivaldi begins 'Make me feel as thou hast felt,' and so Mary stands for all mothers who have lost loved ones: perhaps sons killed in Afghanistan, perhaps daughters dying through disease.

Mary's love for Jesus, her son, touches the hearts of them and of all parents. Hers was a protective, sacrificial love that led her to the foot of the cross, where Jesus gave His mother and John, the beloved disciple, into the care of each other. The sacrificial love of a mother mirrored in the sacrificial offering of her son in death.

Julian of Norwich meditated on this motherly love in her Revelations. In chapter 60 she wrote, 'A mother's caring is the closest, nearest and surest for it is the truest...As we know, our own mother bore us only into pain and dying. But our true mother Jesus, who is all love, bears us into joy and endless living. Blessed may he be!' So the protective care of mother Mary cries out to us in Vivaldi's setting of the *Stabat Mater*. The closing lines of that poem look to Christ's maternal love like Mother Julian:

'Christ when Thee shall call me hence,
Be my mother, my defence,
Be thy Cross of victory.'

MINISTRY TEAM

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

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

CHURCHWARDENS

Salome Jayaratnam
wardens@busheyparish.org
Wardens Elect: **Stuart Brant, Roy Golding**

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 – May 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 May 5

8am – Said Eucharist, St James’s Church

10am – Parish Eucharist, St James’s Church

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

Thursday May 9 ASCENSION of the LORD

7:30pm – Eucharist, St James’s Church

Sunday May 12

10am – Parish Eucharist, St James’s Church

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

Wednesday May 15

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

Sunday May 19 PENTECOST

10:30am – Parish Eucharist, St James’s Church

Sunday May 26 TRINITY SUNDAY

10:30am – Parish Eucharist, St James’s Church

Thursday May 30 Corpus Christi

7:30pm – Eucharist with Procession & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
St James’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

'While He was blessing them, Jesus left them and was taken up into heaven.'
(Luke 24:51).

The Ascension is a hugely neglected festival, which deserves to have a bigger place in our church life. How do we understand it?

The Ascension tells us that Jesus is in control: *'Jesus has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand'* (1 Peter 3:22). Jesus occupies the top spot in the universe; the control of our world is in the safe, scarred hands of Jesus. We can offer Him our worship and allegiance, knowing that His plans are better than those of any Prime Minister or President.

The Ascension tells us that God is committed to His world: *'And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus'* (Ephesians 2:6). Jesus did not leave His humanity behind when He ascended, for we are raised with Christ to heaven. Therefore, God is bound to His world and we can trust Him to fulfil His purposes for our lives and world.

The Ascension gives us a job to do: *'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations'* (Matthew 28:18,19). God's way of working in the world is through us. He commissions us for this task at the Ascension and equips us at Pentecost. We are called to make disciples, starting in our workplace, family and community.

'Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which He blesses all the world.' (Teresa of Avila).





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Visiting Angels. 
QUALITY AT HOME CARE

Christian Aid Week : 12th – 18th May

This year's fund raising concentrates on Burundi, a small land-locked East African kingdom. Malnourishment and poverty affect more than 70% of the population, making survival a daily struggle. Jobs and food are hard to come by, and those who have homes often have no electricity or running water.

For Aline Nibogoro (see pictures), life was a constant struggle. She was married young and gave birth to her eldest son, Fisto, when she was just 14 years old. Aline experienced constant abuse at the hands of her violent husband, who prevented her from taking their children with her, and told the local community that she was unable to care for them. She wandered the streets, asking anyone for a place to sleep. Those who showed her kindness would let her stay for two or three days only. Hungry, scorned and alone, Aline took her first step towards a new life. She started by participating in a transformative three-day community workshop, funded by Christian Aid.



She was taught how to form a Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) and establish a steady income. VSLAs mean that people can save for their future and borrow money to start a small rural business. With all she had learned, Aline's dream of getting her children back finally felt possible. With a small start-up loan, Aline started trading fruit and nuts locally. With her profits, she bought a bicycle so she could transport greater quantities of goods to markets further afield. Eventually, she had earned the money she needed to rent a house. Once Aline secured a home for herself, her three eldest sons were able to escape their father and join her.



She has baked her own bricks and is building a home for her and her children. Now Aline can afford food, clothes and essential healthcare for her family. She's also purchased solar panels so her children can do their evening homework by electric light. She has ambitions that they will go to college.

Aline's long and difficult journey out of extreme poverty began with a little support, knowledge and faith from Christian Aid supporters like you. She says: 'When we see Christian Aid, we feel we are not alone. You helped us to change our poor living conditions. I really thank you from the very bottom of my heart'.

During Christian Aid Week 2023, the country raised £5 million to help transform lives just like Aline's. This year, you can help us support even more people living in poverty. Please help us raise funds for 2024 Christian Aid Week appeal! Join us for

- **Lunch** in aid of Christian Aid on **Sunday May 12th** in St Paul's Church Hall from 12.30. Tickets £10 each.
- **Coffee and Cake Morning** in St Paul's on **Wednesday 8th May** from 10am – 12noon.
- **Special collection** in aid of CA in both St James and St Paul's on **Sunday 19th May**.

If you can, please give generously for the many people like Aline!

You can donate through our e-envelope for CA

[fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2024/

[help-bushey-parish-raise-funds-2024-christian-aid-appeal](https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2024/)]

Thank you, May Teague (Christian Aid rep).

Nationally, Christian Aid is urging its supporters to 'push back against poverty this Christian Aid Week' by bearing in mind the coming General Election. The charity says that people hoping to represent us in the next UK Parliament will soon be on our doorsteps, vying for our vote, and these would-be MPs will be "in listening mode, keen to hear what makes the voters in their community tick." And so, urges the charity, Christians can use this opportunity to "show them that your church cares about poverty, and tell them that you expect them to act on poverty too, if they are elected."

This year the charity has launched the '70K Challenge for May', encouraging its supporters to do a sponsored "Move 70km during May. Walk, run, cycle, however you move is up to you."

Details at: <https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk>



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19th May - Pentecost, not a Ghost but a Gift

We used to call it Whitsun – ‘White Sunday’ because long ago children marched to church in white on that day. There are no processions nowadays, and we’ve even changed its name. It’s now ‘Pentecost’, which is more accurate but needs explaining.

Pentecost marks a vital event in Christian history. It is celebrated 50 days after Easter. The year Jesus was crucified (which took place at the Passover), the remnant of His followers, just 120 of them, were together in an upper room in Jerusalem. They were afraid to show their faces in case the authorities arrested them. But on the day of Passover, they had an amazing collective experience.

They described it in terms of wind and fire, a great surge of spiritual energy and confidence. Afraid no longer, they burst out on to the streets where crowds were gathering for the festival, led by Peter they began to tell them about Jesus and His resurrection. As they did so, although many of the people in the crowd were foreigners who spoke other languages, everyone heard them in their own tongue. Peter told them that what they were seeing was the fulfilment of an old prophecy when God would pour out His Spirit on the human race, men and women, young and old.

As a result of His words and the extraordinary spectacle, 3,000 people believed and were baptised in the name of Jesus. They were the nucleus of what in 100 years would be a Church that would turn history upside down. For Christians Pentecost is in effect the birthday of the Church.

Many people find the whole idea of the Holy Spirit mysterious and elusive. It wasn’t helped by the earlier title ‘Holy Ghost’. The spirit is not spiritually a ‘ghost’ but a precious gift.



Today's church buildings are rich and varied in their designs, sizes, materials, plans and groupings; from large cruciform churches to simple single room designs; from red brick to stone, and so on.

I wanted to look up some information about the fact that today's church buildings, although they may be 'modern', are usually built upon or very close to a previous church building. In other words, they stand quite literally in a long succession of church buildings.

However, on entering 'church building footprint' into the computer search engine, it responded in a related but unexpected, to me, way: *'The Energy Footprint Tool is a great way of monitoring your church building's carbon usage and energy efficiency.'*

A very real issue for today's world! - and one we are very conscious about when we enter the building on a Sunday morning to find, even with the heating turned on for a number of hours, that it is considerably cooler than our own centrally heated homes. Whilst it is theologically wonderful to have high ceilings, we can see how future remodelling might well lower the ceilings, bring in the walls, and shrink the glassed areas.

And so it has been through the ages – church buildings have constantly been amended. When you look carefully at a church that is more than a few hundred years old, in any part of the world, you can trace the development of its use by its architecture. Perhaps you'll see a door or window bricked up or a new one opened. The widening of the nave by the addition of arches and one or more aisles. Change in stone or building materials as later technology was available or even a change in design as new techniques came into safe use.

This month:

Have a look at a couple of local churches and spot the changes in their buildings over the years. Why do you think they took place? What changes would you make and why?

THY KINGDOM COME – 9th to 19th May 2024

This year more than a million Christians worldwide will be joining in long-distance prayer between Ascension Day to Pentecost (9th – 19th May).

What started in 2016 with the Archbishops of Canterbury and York inviting the CofE to pray, has grown into an annual international and ecumenical call to 11 days of specific prayer that more people will come to know Jesus. According to the organisers of Kingdom Come, the movement is now in nearly 90% of countries worldwide, and spread among 85 different denominations and traditions.

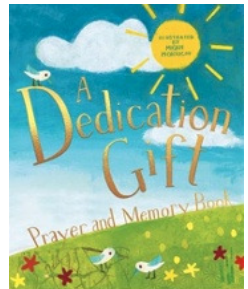
Kingdom Come explains that it encourages: “Every person, household and church to pray that those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and His love for the world, will hear it for themselves and respond and follow Him. Specifically, we again invite each Christian to pray that God’s Spirit might work in the lives of 5 people whom they know, who have not responded with their ‘Yes’ to God’s call.”

Whether you have joined in ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ before or not, you are invited to take part this year. Archbishop Justin Welby says: “In praying ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities.”

A Dedication Gift: Prayer and Memory Book

By Various Authors, SPCK, £8.99

This illustrated gift book for a young child's dedication offers a collection of prayers, Bible verses, and pages for recording details, memories, and messages of the special occasion. Parents can add memories of their child's dedication with spaces for photos and special blessings from the guests, as well as recording key milestones in their child's early years. The book would make a good gift for a grandparent, godparent, or family member, to give to a young child.





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



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**

Time to pray for your Churchwardens

O Eternal God... enlighten with Thy Grace the Wardens of this church, and so rule their minds and guide their counsels, that in all things they may seek Thy Holy Will... Amen.

O Lord, ...we beseech Thee to bless all who, ...give themselves to the service of their fellow worshippers. Endue them with wisdom, patience and courage to strengthen the weak and raise up those who fall... that they may worthily minister in Thy Name to the suffering, the friendless and the needy... Amen
(Prayers from the C of E)

Churchwardens have a vital and historical role in the life of the church. They are elected by the parish, not just the members of the church. Anyone in the parish can vote for them, not just people on the church's electoral roll.

So, if you want to be a churchwarden, just invite your neighbours on the day of the parish meetings in church!

Wardens used to have a significant role in the wider life of the parish with responsibilities for charity, poor relief and even bridges and roads.

Their church duties today include:

Maintaining order and decency in the church and churchyard, especially during the time of divine service

Being entrusted with the property of the church

Having a duty to cooperate with the minister

Encouraging parishioners in practice of "true religion"

Quite a job! These are their legal duties, but I also like the prayer above as it reminds us to pray for them to seek God's will, not theirs or ours, but God's, and to strengthen the weak and encourage the fallen.

They may feel most of the time that they are weak and have fallen, but they are equipped with our support and prayers to look after other people who need strength or support - which is probably most of us at times!

Triple Baptism at St Paul's

Fr Tayo officiated at, what we believed to be, the first ever triple baptism at St. Paul's ! Baby Sophia, Natalie and Jodie were warmly welcomed into the church family. It was also Fr Tayo's final Sunday service. However, we're delighted that he will continue to be involved with Bushey Parish including officiating at some Wednesday services (12.30pm at St. Paul's).



MESSY CHURCH @ St Paul's

Wednesday at 3:30pm

May 15th
June 19th
July 17th

St Paul's Church
Bushey Hall Road
WD23 2EQ



Lent Course, Stations of the Cross, and Easter Garden at St Paul's



Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter at St James's



April Messy Church at St Paul's

30 of us, including children, volunteers and parents/carers enjoyed April Messy Church. The theme for this month was 'From Easter to the Ascension' and our activities included making a banner for Ascension Day, flags of St. George and decorating cakes with the colours of the flag.

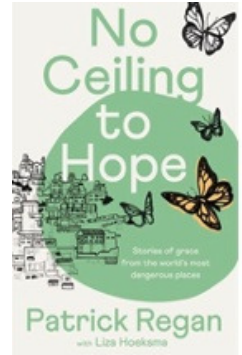


No Ceiling to Hope: Stories of grace from the world's most dangerous places

By *Patrick Regan and Liza Hoeksma, SPCK, £10.99*

Here are some real-life stories from across the world to show how Christians are helping the most vulnerable in society with God's love.

In Bolivia, Christians are backing education projects to help families to find a way out of poverty. In London, XLP is mentoring young people to turn aside from violence. In Los Angeles, a new future is being offered to gang girls. In high security prisons in the UK and US, the Spirit is turning lives around. In Belfast's Shankill Road area, a group of elderly ladies is cooking meals for men who sit all day in local pubs . . . The list is extensive, and inspiring. The common element is that, in all circumstances, Christ is offering hope.



Care in the heart of your own home

Are you or an elderly loved one looking for extra care and support at home in **Bushey** or the surrounding areas? Then our local carers are here to help.

Novus Care is regulated by the Care Quality Commission and can provide a qualified carer to support your loved one in their own home from just a **visit per week to around the clock live-in care.**

For more information or to arrange a care assessment please call: 01923 708907 or email hello@novus-care.com

What's the Big Idea? - an Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Judges

Following Joshua's death, a generation grew up who didn't know God (Judges 2:11) and 'every man did what was right in his own eyes' (17:6, 21:25). The book of Judges is a study in God's response to a permissive society.

It is named from the deliverers that God raised up during this time. God empowered both men and women with His Spirit to rule and deliver the people. They included Ehud, Deborah, Gideon and his son Abimelech, Jephthah and Samson. The judges operated in the 350 years (from 1050 BC) between Joshua's death and the monarchy. We see a recurring cycle of apostasy, oppression, penitence and deliverance played out. When the people fell into sin, God sent an enemy nation to oppress them. As a result, they cried to God for help, and He responded by raising up a deliverer to free them.

The saddest words in Judges are those applied to Samson, 'He did not know that the LORD had left him' (16:20). Rejecting God in our lives can begin with tolerating those things that are not in harmony with His will for our lives. The people's toleration of the beliefs of their pagan neighbours led to a conformity in life and worship with them. Yet God waited for His people to return to Him, when He responded with grace to deliver them.

Gideon stands out as somebody who was unwilling to compromise with the surrounding culture. Despite his weaknesses, God used him to deliver Israel from the Midianite invaders. We read: 'the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon', lit: 'the Spirit clothed Himself with Gideon' (6:34). God's grace and faithfulness is at work in those who are prepared to trust Him.

Quiz on the Book of Judges

How old was Joshua when he died? 80 100 110

What equipment did Gideon issue to his soldiers?

A sword, a shield and a helmet. A trumpet, a pitcher and a torch. Slings and stones.

What was the name of Samson's father? Manoah Phileas Amon

Which of these was the source of Samson's strength?

New ropes Uncut hair Woven hair

Answers on p34

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.

Before Herkomer which is an exhibition of the Monro Circle.

And a new exhibition: A Chandos Selling Exhibition
called Chandos Reprise from 20th April 2024 to October 2024
where you can buy all kinds of everything.

Do come along and buy some gifts for friends and family or
even for yourself.

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MASONRY AT ITS BEST

This article is from John Crawford whose Wife Norah comes to the recitals at St James's. John is a Mason, as is his brother Doug, who has been involved in delivering toys to children in Ukraine. This is John's interview of Doug and we hope that members of St James's and St Paul's may be able to give some toys and books for Doug to take out to Ukraine.



Sometimes we are asked “What is Masonry and a good Mason” We all know that this is not an easy question to answer but I believe that in W Bro Doug Curtis LGR we have found one. He is a person who believes in what Masonry is all about and he works hard to ensure that he meets his planned goals wherever needed. It was his enthusiasm that led me into requesting an interview with him to see if it was possible that the members of the LGRA could help in anyway to be sure he achieved his future goals.

He told me about how he became involved following a casual meeting he had with a Polish truck driver. He was told about how the Ukraine is coping under the latest attacks forced upon the local people in the country. He spoke about having heard that the local teachers of the children in Kharkiv Ukraine still try to be sure that their children are educated in a safe environment. He was told that the young children in Kharkiv, clutching what toys, books etc that they have between them, descend into the metro stations. Their new schooling area safely hidden deep in the depths away from the dangers of the damaged city above.

These attempts by the locals of the second largest city in the Ukraine allow a fraction of the children to return to school following the Russian attack on their country. Sadly not now. He also informed me that he had heard that two more metro stations were under conversion to allow more children to be educated below ground and in relative safety.

He told me that the reason for this was that Kharkiv - which is only 30 kilometres from the Russian border - was one of the first cities to be attacked back in February 2022. The fight put up by the local population made this attack collapse; sadly a second one happened in December of 2022. To save its city from total evacuation, the locals are doing their best to move their residents underground. To show some normality he was told that the Ukraine National Orchestra, which had not played together for more than two years, has reformed and they performed the opera Carmen in a very crowded underground bunker.

Based on the information he heard Doug decided to do his bit and in June 2022 asked the headmistress of his local school if the children would be willing to donate any spare toys which would be taken by his friend, a local van driver, to the Polish goods importation truck drivers depot in the UK. It would then be taken by them to the Polish border with the Ukraine for onward transportation by Ukraine locals. Within a week he had over 500 toys which he now knows ended up in a kindergarten in Kyiv and a Church in Irpin and the children were overjoyed to receive them.

Since then, he has received baby clothes, more toys, books, boots/shoes etc - the list is endless. Remember that the people in some cities of the Ukraine only have a set of keys to what was once their home (their houses/flats and belongings are now no more than building rubble). To date Doug, his van man and the Polish truck drivers between them have completed more than 18 deliveries of over 700 boxes.

Why am I writing this? My request is that if any of you reading the May 2024 bulletin feel that you, your Lodge, school, church etc can add to this success story then let me know on my email address j.c@sabuk.co.uk . I will be sure that Doug will be informed and he will be in touch with you. On Ukraine's children, his and my behalf I thank you all for your understanding and support.

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Mike Young – My Journey into Faith *(concluding part)*

Of course, I had never attended a PCC or any other meeting before and therefore I could use the tactic of asking how whatever the issue was had arisen. Surprisingly often, what had been a burning and controversial matter was suddenly declared to be not worth pursuing! Being *ex officio* entitled me to attend any meeting in the Parish, so I often sat in on the three local church committees, as well as the central Finance, Buildings and other committees and I soon felt at home. The key group was, for some reason, called the Vestry. It consisted of the Rector, the Parish Wardens and the Treasurer. We usually succeeded in have both the first and the last word on most things. I introduced the notion of terms of reference for each committee and a list of responsibilities and duties for officeholders. Anything to do with style of worship or impinging on the clergy's working time was left to the Rector to decide, albeit after consultation.

Readers will probably be aware that the Parish's ancient silverware is displayed in Bushey Museum and I remember this arrangement being initiated. Being post-Restoration, the silver plate is not a valuable as it would have been if it was Jacobean, nonetheless it is valuable enough to have caused nervousness at Easter, in days gone by, when, by tradition, it was temporarily withdrawn from a vault at Barclays Bank and put on display on the high altar in St James's. Indeed, it is said that one Rector slept with it in his bed so long as it remained out of the Bank's safe keeping! A hand-over date was agreed and the four of us on the Vestry decided to tell no one when this would be, for security reasons. On the day, we went to Barclays (where John Wray had once been the manager), signed out the precious treasure box and set off with it to Rudolph Road. Ian Cooper and Bill Matley took the lead, each holding a side handle of the box, while John Wray and I fell into step behind them. Presently, John said, "Hang back a bit, Mike!" and when I queried why he wanted to let the other to get ahead he explained, "If the scallies get them, they won't get us!" The Last of the Summer Wine comes to mind. On our arrival at our destination, we were greeted not only by the Museum staff but also by a crew from the Watford Observer, with flashbulbs popping! So much for secrecy!

After two years, my fellow warden Bill Matley finished his four-year term and I was presently joined by Roger Baldwin, who had just retired and was enthusiastic and full of ideas. My term ended in April 2003 and, inevitably, I was invited to stay on the PCC. I said no to this, because I feared I would end up with the same workload as

before, so I found an excuse by offering to fill a forthcoming vacancy for the role of Parish Stewardship Secretary, quite a busy job but well-suited to a Chartered Accountant with a good knowledge of spreadsheets.

Now one of the things Sheena and I had done while I was Warden was to worship at St Paul's and Holy Trinity once each month and we particularly got to like the St Paul's people. At the last St Paul's Committee meeting before the 2003 AGM, I heard the St Paul's Deputy Warden lament that, for another year, it appeared no one was prepared to be the Committee Secretary, so he would have to do that as well. I heard myself say, "Do you want a Secretary? – What about me?" Of course, they bit my hand off and I had to go home and tell Sheena that I had just committed us to "moving to St Paul's". As ever, she loyally assented, although it was by no means a total break from the previous situation, as we went on doing various things at St James's for many years after that, including cleaning, doing the weekly cash count and banking the money and helping run a regular prayer group.

As well as the introduction of Common Worship, the new millennium saw lay people taking a greater role in the presentation of the services, such as reading the Lessons, leading Intercessions and assisting at the altar by handling the chalice. From that time, I have been on the rota for all these roles and a great privilege it is.

Almost as soon we were settled in at St Paul's, the 2004 centenary celebration of its founding occurred. There were visits each month from clergy who had a past connection with St Paul's, with the inaugural event the Patronal Festival in January 2004, when we had a visit by the Bishop of St Albans – only the second time a Diocesan had ben there, the other one being in 1904. I had the privilege of reading from Acts about Paul's conversion, a wonderfully dramatic passage. Another thing that stays in my memory was the earnest discussions that the Committee had as to whether to provide overflow seating in the Hall, with a video link, something that would cost a bit of money and need to be stewarded. A squad carried into the Church a great many extra chairs and a careful survey showed that the maximum safe limit for the congregation was 127. On the night, we watched joyfully but anxiously as more and more people piled in. When the entrance procession started, just 127 people were present! Tom Moore, our curate, pronounced this to be a "Jesus moment", a term he uses for unexpected or coincidental happenings that seem to be "meant to be". There are more of these than you might expect!

Another thing that I am sure many of us learned from Tom is the belief in the power of prayer, whether the prayer subject be an individual or an institution. For a long time, each of the three churches had a small group of members who met for half an hour or so every month and silently prayed a set list of topics related to the Church and the Parish. Another casualty of Covid, sadly. Throughout my church life I have enjoyed participating in discussions about our beliefs, usually as Lent or Advent courses. We were fortunate in having Roger Payne amongst us for so many years.

My stint as St Paul's Secretary lasted eight years after which I became their Treasurer, being involved in the move to using spreadsheets throughout the Parish. After six years in that role the Parish centralised the Parish finances, so that local committees ceased to prepare accounts and I was redundant. I served as Parish Stewardship Secretary until April 2015, i.e. a 12-year stint. After April 2017, I had no further official role in matters under the jurisdiction of the Bushey PCC. But see below!

Bushey Parish Charity

In 1984, towards the end of his rectorship, Canon Philip Morgan, who, ex officio, had been the sole trustee of three quite small charities, arranged for them to be amalgamated. Thus the Dame Margaret Herkomer, Mary Dorothy Whitmill and the Collins Christmas Gifts funds, which had been in operation since 1935, 1940 and 1942 respectively, were merged to form the Bushey Parish Charity, the trust deed being actually sealed in January 1986. The deed stated that there should be three Trustees, i.e. the Rector of Bushey, together with two other "Co-optative Trustees". In practice, from the start to 2003 there seems to have been only the Rector and Dr Lawrence Page. In October 2003, Rector Cooper asked me to fill the vacancy. From then until the Charity was wound up in 2020, I acted as the Trust's administrator and accountant. In the early years, money had been disbursed in cooperation with the Bushey Citizens Advice Bureau but new guidance from the Charity Commission closed off that outlet and the Trustees found it difficult to find beneficiaries. When Rector Kelley departed, Dave Poultney, as the senior clergy person, became a trustee and he soon recruited Matt Penney, who worked in the voluntary sector, as the third trustee. By this time, the Charity Commission were questioning us about the Charity's low level of activity. Under Matt Penney's expert guidance, a number of local charities, such as the Red Trust, were identified and our funds were fully disbursed to them, so that the Charity closed in 2021.

JMY February 2024

Parts 1 & 2 were published in the March and April editions, available on busheyparish.org

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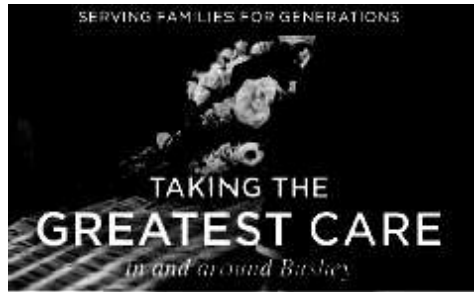


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HALL HIRE

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

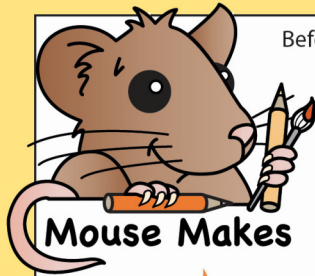
St James's Church House Hall, Rectory Lane WD23 1BD is a comfortable and well-appointed space ideal for parties and other social occasions. It is regularly booked for birthday and anniversary parties as well as baptism and funeral receptions. It is possible to cater comfortably for 70 people (sitting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



Before Jesus ascended to heaven he told his disciples
 "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit
 has come upon you, and you will be my
 witness in Jerusalem and in all Judea
 and Samaria, and to the end of the earth"...

...When the day of Pentecost arrived,
 they were all together in one place,
 and they were all filled
 with the Holy Spirit."


READ the story
 of Pentecost
 in Acts 1-2
 Look up the Bible
 verses to find
 the answers to the
 crossword clues.

How many
 words can you
 make from
 the letters of:
 DAY OF
 PENTECOST



- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 After Jesus ascended into heaven, which city did the Apostles return to? <i>Acts 1:12</i></p> <p>5a What did the Apostles devote themselves to? <i>Acts 1:14</i></p> <p>6 Who was chosen to replace Judas? <i>Acts 1:26</i></p> <p>5d Which special day was it? <i>Acts 2:1</i></p> | <p>8 What rushing sound came from heaven? <i>Acts 2:2</i></p> <p>2 What appeared? Tongues of ...? <i>Acts 2:3</i></p> <p>4 What were the disciples filled with? <i>Acts 2:4</i></p> <p>9 What did they start speaking in? <i>Acts 2:4</i></p> <p>3 Who spoke to the crowd? <i>Acts 2:14</i></p> <p>7 Who had prophesied this? <i>Acts 2:16</i></p> |
|--|--|

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:

Parish Magazine Editorial Team

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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 March

Congratulations to our 100 Club winners for March

Joanna Hewitt (£60); Dereck Turner (£40);

Richard Humphreys (£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

Bell Ringers	Mr Stuart Brant	01923 330999
Finance & Stewardship Group	Taiye Sanwo (Hon Treasurer) Christine Cocks (CMF Officer)	
Organist & Choir	Director of Music	Vacant
Church House hall bookings	churchhouse@busheyparish.org	
Facebook page:	www.facebook.com/st.jameschurchbushey	

From the Registers

BAPTISM

"We welcome you to the Lord's family"

April 7. 2024

Athena Reynolds

April 14. 2024

Hector Brooks

Jodie Lane

Natalie Long

Sophia Long

FUNERAL

"Let light perpetual shine upon them"

April 18. 2024

David Peters

BURIAL of ASHES

"Ashes to ashes..."

April 16. 2024

Vernon Toms

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - May 2024

Wednesday May 1 and Wednesdays throughout May

COFFEE, CAKE & CHAT + BARGAIN TABLE-SALE

St Paul's Church, 10.00am - 12.00 noon

Followed by Said Eucharist (12.30pm)



Saturday May 4

SATURDAY RECITAL

St James's Church, 12.00 noon

See back page for full details.

Monday May 6

ST JAMES'S OVER 60s CLUB

Church House at 2:30pm

Colin Oakes – *Winston Churchill's Brother*



Sunday May 12

CHRISTIAN AID LUNCH

St Paul's Church Hall at 12:30pm (*after morning service*)

Wednesday May 15

MESSY CHURCH

St Paul's Church, 3.30pm



Saturday May 18

SATURDAY RECITAL

St James's Church, 12.00 noon

See back page for full details.

Monday May 20

ST JAMES'S OVER 60s CLUB

Church House at 2:30pm

Purcell School – *Recital in St James's Church*

Book of Judges – Answers: 100; A trumpet, a pitcher and a torch; Manoah; Uncut hair



Church House Gallery and Kitchen

The Buildings Committee are pleased to let the Parish know that the improvements/investments to the Gallery in Church House have been completed. We are open for new business.



ST JAMES'S CHURCH BUSHEY
WD23 1BD



SATURDAY RECITALS 2024

12 noon	4th May	Christine Bennett	Soprano
12 noon	18th May	Wind and Words Piano Clarinet and Poetry about WW1 Dimitri Kennaway: Piano Chris Hooker: Clarinet Valerie Fry: Poetry	
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.