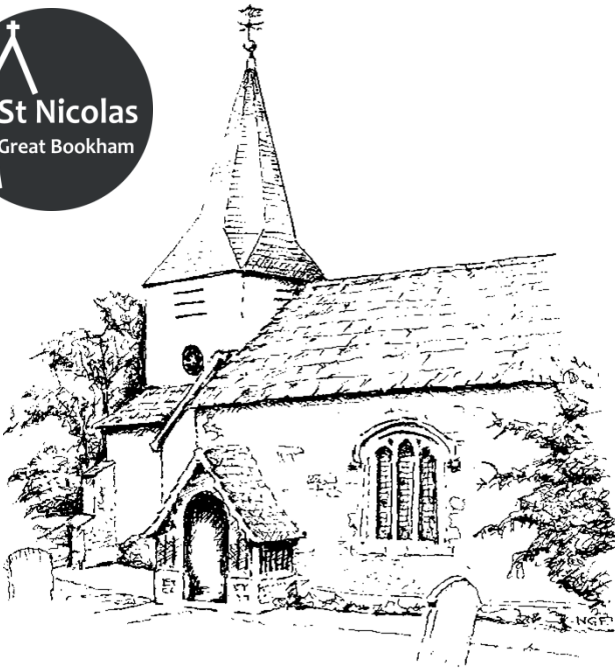


St Nicolas News

75p

May 2025



www.stnicolasbookham.org.uk

Building Faith in the Community

Services at St Nicolas

Sundays

- 8.00am **Holy Communion**
- 10.00am **Holy Communion** - 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays
Morning Praise - 1st Sunday,
GLOW - Children's Provision

Weekday Services

- 8.30am **Bible Reading and Open Prayer**
Monday and Wednesday
- 10.00am **Holy Communion (Said)** Thursday
- 9.00am **Prayers for our church** - 2nd and 4th Saturdays
- 10.00 am **Church Development Plan Prayers** –
1st Saturday



Tots Alive! (term time) - Monday
10.00am in church with social time afterwards

For other services please see
Notice Board by the Lychgate

Letter from the Ministry Team

On Sunday 18th May we will be celebrating our housegroups here at St Nicolas. A housegroup is a small group of church members, anything from six to a dozen, who meet regularly in each others' homes to pray and to study the Bible, and above all to support and encourage one another in their Christian journey. We have a number of groups at St Nicolas at the moment, some meet monthly, some fortnightly. Some have been going for many years, others have started more recently. Belonging to a house group is a great way to get to know others in the church, to feel you really belong, and to grow and develop in your Christian faith.

Most groups follow some kind of study guide or book to help them in their discussions. It might be focused on a particular Bible book – one group is currently studying Revelation – other guides might look at a topic such as prayer, or the environment.

You don't need to be an experienced Christian to join in. You don't need to know it all. In fact the whole point is to be learners together. It is fine to just sit and listen until you want to contribute. The best groups have leaders who encourage everyone to

participate as they feel comfortable and gently rein in others. The best housegroups are ones where all questions are welcome and where people know each other well enough to be open and honest with each other about their struggles with life or with faith.

The most important part of meeting together is just that – the being together, building relationships, sharing news, supporting each other through challenging times, praying for one another. Being church, but in a smaller group where everyone is well known.

If you've never been part of a house group, or haven't been for a while, do explore if this might be right for you now. Jean Forward kindly coordinates our groups and can give you advice as to which have space for new members and where you might feel at home. Our Lent course encouraged us all to think about taking the next steps in our Christian faith. Maybe joining a housegroup might be the right one for you.

Every blessing

Barbara



Mothers' Union Update

Unfortunately, because of continuing health problems in our committee members, we are unable to issue a programme for this year and there will be no meetings in May, June and July. The AGM is again postponed.

However, we would really like members, who are able, to join us for communion on the second Thursday of those months in the Lady Chapel and meet afterwards for coffee (and possibly cake!)

We hope that sometime in the summer we will be able to arrange an AGM and afternoon tea so do look out for this

Vivien Hollingsworth

MEMORIAL SERVICE, 4th May 2025

for all who have been bereaved.

Each year we hold two services, in May and November, where those who have died are remembered by name. The relatives of all whose funeral services have been taken by our Ministry Team are invited by letter to these, for the first year. However, anyone who has been bereaved and wishes simply to remember, is most welcome to come, no matter how long ago a loved one died, or whether they lived locally. The names of all who are being remembered are noted down and read out, and there is the chance to light a candle in their memory.

If you would like to remember in this way, then please do come along to the next service on Sunday 4th May at 3 pm.



Barnabas March 15, 2025

Where now for Democracy under Donald Trump?

Our discussion topic today revolved around the idea that western democracies depend on the rule of law and in turn on consensus amongst populations to abide by the conventions and statutes underpinning the rule of law. In the United States today, the President appears to have assumed hitherto unprecedented amount of power through his executive orders and use of archaic laws, with little apparent regard for the rulings of federal courts.

So what might this mean for the liberal democratic institutions we have grown up with in this country, but have seen sidelined or overrun under authoritarian regimes?

Our discussion was wide ranging as usual, and raised such issues as :

- This may be an undemocratic approach, but perhaps he has some reasonable objectives. Might this be a valid reason for setting aside centuries of check and balances?
- Trump, like many an autocrat, manages to manipulate public opinion by making demonstrably false claims, yet few seem willing to call him out on them
- Is it significant that the billionaires who appear alongside Trump control large swathes of traditional and digital media?
- The Old Testament has many examples of strong leadership, but more often than not the outcome for these leaders, and their people, was not good.

And finally, for you to think about, 'Was Jesus a Democrat?' Answers on a postcard, please...

Do join us for the next Barnabas meeting on the third Saturday of the month – contact David King - 452342

Nick Garrett

It is with a sad heart that we learnt that Tim Reeder died at home on the 27th March. Tim had led the Barnabas men's group for 10 years from 2012 – 2021. He led the group in a kindly and gentle manner and remained a member until March. We were very pleased that he was able to join us at our Christmas meeting to which ladies are invited.

When Tim became unwell, I was asked to take on the leadership of the group and was delighted to follow in his footsteps.

Rest in peace

David King

The Truth of the Ascension

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

The Ascension Day in 2025 falls on 29th May

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 him 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.

Deborah Gallacher

A fortnightly group for carers and partners
living with dementia



'Connect'

At St Lawrence Church Hall, Browns Lane, Effingham KT24 5LX

alternate Thursdays 10am 'til 12noon

Jan. 2nd, 16th and 30th

Feb. 13th and 27th

March 13th and 27th

April 10th and 24th

Come for refreshments,
friendship, chat
and activities

Funded by



Community
Foundation
for Surrey

For more information please contact Gill on 01372 457987

email gillconnect1@gmail.com

Supported by Churches Together in Effingham and Little Bookham



Mary meets Elizabeth

1st May - May Day and unbridled merriment

May is the month when the ancient pagans used to get up to 'all sorts'! The Romans held their festival to honour the mother-goddess Maia, goddess of nature and growth. (May is named after her.) The early Celts celebrated the feast of Beltane, in honour of the sun god, Beli.

For centuries in 'Olde England' the people went mad in May. After the hardship of winter, and hunger of early Spring, May was a time of indulgence. One Philip Stubbes, writing in 1583, was scandalised: 'for what kissing and bussing, what smooching and slabbering one of another, is not practised?'

Henry VIII went 'maying' on many occasions. Then folk would stay out all night in the dark rain-warm thickets and return in the morning for dancing on the green around the May pole, archery, vaulting, wrestling, and evening bonfires.

The Protestant reformers took a strong stand against May Day, and in 1644 May Day was abolished altogether. Many May poles came down - only to go up again at the Restoration, when the first May Day of King Charles's reign was 'the happiest Mayday that hath been many a year in England', according to Pepys.

May Day to most people today brings vague folk memories of a young Queen of the May decorated with garlands and streamers and flowers, a May Pole to weave, Morris dancing, and the intricacies of well dressing at Tissington in Derbyshire.

May Day is a medley of natural themes such as sunrise, the advent of summer, growth in nature, and - since 1833 - Robert Owen's vision of a millennium in the future, beginning on May Day, when there would be no more poverty, injustice or cruelty, but harmony and friendship. This is why, in modern times, May Day has become Labour Day, which honours the dignity of workers. And until recently, in communist countries May Day processions were in honour of the achievement of Marxism.

There has never been a Christian content to May Day, but nevertheless there is the well-known 6am service on the top of Magdalen Tower at Oxford where a choir sings in the dawn of May Day.

An old May carol includes the lines:

The life of man is but a span, it flourishes like a flower

We are here today and gone tomorrow - we are dead within an hour.

There is something of a sadness about it, both in words and tune, as there is about all purely sensuous joy. For May Day is not Easter, and the joys it represents have always been earth-bound and fleeting.

Value the Present

Imagine there is a bank that credits your account each morning with £86,400.
It carries over no balance from day to day.
Every evening it deletes whatever part of the balance you failed to use during the day.
What would you do?
Draw out every penny, of course!
Each of us has such a bank.
Its name is TIME.
Every morning, it credits you with 86,400 seconds.
Every night, it writes off, as lost, whatever of this you have failed to invest to good purpose.
It carries over no balance.
It allows no overdraft.
Each day it opens a new account for you.
Each night it burns the remains of the day.
If you fail to use the day's deposits, the loss is yours.
There is no going back.
There is no drawing against the 'tomorrow'.
You must live in the present day's deposits.
Invest it so as to get from it the utmost in health, happiness and success!
The clock is running.
Make the most of today.

To realise the value of ONE YEAR, ask the student who failed an exam.
To realise the value of ONE MONTH, ask the mother who gave birth to a premature baby.
To realise the value of ONE WEEK, ask the editor of a weekly newspaper.
To realise the value of ONE HOUR, ask the lovers who are waiting to meet.
To realise the value of ONE MINUTE, ask a person who missed the train.
To realise the value of ONE SECOND, ask the person who just avoided an accident.
To realise the value of ONE MILLISECOND, ask the person who won the silver medal in the Olympics.
Treasure every moment that you have!
And treasure it more because you have shared it with someone special, special enough to spend your time.
And remember, time waits for no-one.
Yesterday is history.
Tomorrow is a mystery.
Today is a gift.
That's why it's called the present!

Found when on holiday! Chris Bridges

HOLIDAY AT HOME 2025

Wednesday 20th August

Eastwick Road Church from 9.45am – 3pm



*A special event for
older people.*



The Summer Fun Day Will Include

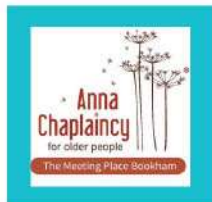
- ✚ Time to simply relax, chat and have some fun!
- ✚ Refreshments throughout the day, including lunch provided by Ben from The Anchor
- ✚ A free choice session including a quiet space, boules, reminiscing, puzzles & a craft activity
- ✚ A singing performance & the opportunity to sing along to popular summer songs
- ✚ A visual and auditory presentation on the theme of Fruitfulness
- ✚ A fun and active session led by Kim from Move it or Lose it

Booking is essential. Suggested donation of £20.00

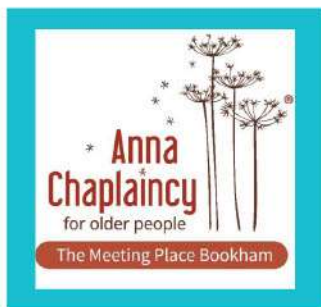
For further information & a booking form, please contact:

Liz Tapp (the Anna Chaplain) Tel: 07518735729

email: ac@themeetingplace.org.uk



LIVING WELL IN OLDER AGE



Would you like to declutter?

Are you considering downsizing?

Come and meet Louise Fleming, a Homemover Specialist.

<https://thehomemover.co.uk/>

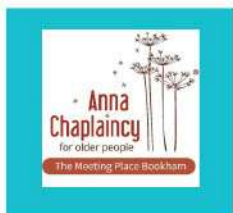
- ★ **When?** Wednesday 14th May 2025 (10.30am to 12pm)
- ★ **Where?** Bookham Library
- ★ **Who?** Over 65s and carers welcome
- ★ **Booking?** Contact Liz Tapp - The Anna Chaplain
Email ac@themeetingplace.org.uk or
Tel: 07518735729
- ★ **Cost?** Suggested donation of £2
Tea & coffee will be provided



anna.chaplaincy.org.uk

The Meeting Place Bookham is affiliated to Anna Chaplaincy for Older People

Anna Chaplaincy is part of The Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF), a Registered Charity (233280)
brf.org.uk



HOLIDAY AT HOME 2025 BOOKING FORM



Please note that places are limited so booking is essential.
The booking deadline date is 30th April 2025. Please fill in every box below.

Name	
Address	
Tel. no.	
Email	
Emergency contact details (in case of accident or illness)	
Lunch choice	
(V) = Vegetarian, (VG) = Vegan and (GF) = Gluten Free	
Main	Please tick to indicate choice
Smoked Cornish haddock and spinach mormay, herb crushed potatoes and tender stem broccoli (V) (GF)	
Warm west country cheddar and caramelised onion quiche with a fresh country garden salad and minted new potatoes (V)	
Homemade pork and thyme sausage roll served with fries, chunky tomato chutney and mixed leaves	
Dessert	Please tick to indicate choice
Fresh seasonal strawberries and cream (V) (GF)	
Apple and blackberry crumble with Devon custard (VG) (GF)	
Apple and blackberry crumble with ice cream (VG) (GF)	
Dietary needs/ allergies	
Is transport needed? <small>(Please note we cannot guarantee we can assist.)</small>	
<p>Donation – The suggested amount is £20.00 but a donation is not compulsory. If you are a UK tax payer, gift-aiding your donation tax on your donation to be reclaimed, which increases the value to us by 25%. See https://themeetingplace.org.uk/bank-details/ for a gift aid form.</p> <p>Please mark your payment 'Holiday at Home' & use either of the ways detailed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Online to The Meeting Place: Sort Code 40-27-07; Acct. No. 91551329 o Via cheque, made payable to The Meeting Place. Please send this FAO Liz Tapp, The Anna Chaplain, c/o Eastwick Road Church, Eastwick Road, Great Bookham, KT23 4BE 	
Signed	

GOD'S STRENGTH FOR HARD TIMES

By Billy Graham

"God's Strength for Hard Times" by Billy Graham offers comfort and hope through the teachings of the Bible and Billy Graham's insights. It emphasises that despite life's challenges, we can rely on **God's love and strength** to navigate difficult times. The book serves as a reminder that while life may be filled with hardships, we can find solace and encouragement in our faith.



This book is perfect for you or someone you love who is:

- Going through a difficult season
- Dealing with grief, loneliness or loss
- Looking for a stronger faith, a more – focused purpose or contentment
- Needing encouragement as they face the unknown

When you feel weak or discouraged, you don't have to face your problems alone.

There is infinite power and support awaiting you in Jesus.

Deborah Gallacher

Be strong take heart all those who hope in the Lord. (Psalm 31:24)

The Flooring Studio

Wood, Cork, Karndean, Vinyl Floors, Sanding & Sealing

All work carried out by our own trained staff, not subcontractors

Everything fitted is covered by our Five Year Guarantee

Contact the Specialists or Visit our Showroom

Dorking Floors Ltd

324 High Street, Dorking, Surrey RH4 1QX

Tel : 01306 883388/882343

E-mail : dorkingfloors@yahoo.co.uk

Visit : www.dorkingfloors.co.uk

Chores & Challenges

We do more than care

Let us remove your worries by dealing with the Chores & Challenges that get in the way of enjoying life! A Hatha Helper will meet with you as regularly as you desire to help resolve all your Chores & Challenges, removing the stress replacing it with joy.

- **Digital** Phones, online banking, apps, broadband
- **Admin tasks** Bills, paperwork, utilities, phone calls
- **House keeping** Cleaning, tidying, sorting
- **Driving** Everywhere considered
- **Health** Accompanied medical appointments
- **Shopping and errands** Groceries, collecting prescriptions
- **Handy person** Home and garden maintenance

Bev
Hatha
Helper
Guildford



Our friendly, reliable, trustworthy and competent team will take care of all your Chores & Challenges
Give us a call on 01483 224 985

Home
Counties
Carers



ChimneyGuard
PROFESSIONAL CHIMNEY SWEEPS

To book:
01252 520 492
07501 953 691

Certificate issued with every sweep

GT BOOKHAM OLD BARN HALL TUESDAY APRIL 8th



Doors Open 2.00 ~ 4.40 ~ 7.15

ALL SEATS £8.00

www.curzoncountrycinema.com

PAY AT THE DOOR or RESERVE & PAY ON LINE





Join us for
our next free
events

Liberham Lodge care home, Bookham

Fish and chips Friday

Every Friday at 12 noon - 2pm

A wonderful opportunity for individuals who are 65 and over to make friends and enjoy some delicious food, on us!

Friendship café

Last Thursday of every month, 3pm - 5pm

Join us for free freshly brewed coffee/tea and homemade cakes. A chance for you to make friends, talk about or even share your favourite hobbies.

Inspected and rated

Good

Care Quality
Commission

Trusted to care

To attend please call

01372 889 578 or email
christine.mintrim@careuk.com

care UK 

PORTER & COMPANY

Independent Financial Advisers

Independent Financial Adviser

Dorking

t: 01306 644 695

e: simon.porter@porterifa.co.uk w: porterifa.co.uk

Porter & Company (IFA) Ltd is an Appointed Representative of Best Practice IFA Group which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

MARGRAVE SOLICITORS LLP

The Old Post Office, 130 Epsom Road
Guildford, Surrey GU1 2PT

- **Wills, Trusts and Probate**
- **Lasting Powers of Attorneys**
- **Court of Protection matters**
 - Care Fee advice
- **Advising Attorneys / Deputies**
 - **Non-mortgage related residential conveyancing**



Wills & Inheritance Quality

01483 562722

enquiries@margravellp.co.uk

www.margravellp.co.uk

Authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority
SRA number 533213

JAYDUB

PLUMBING AND HEATING ENGINEERS

All aspects of heating and plumbing work undertaken by a Bookham-based company

- Worcester Bosch accredited installer and service engineer in natural gas, oil, lpg
- Specialist in boiler servicing and breakdowns
- Replacement boilers through to full central heating installations
- System power flushing
- Annual landlord gas certification
- Complete bathroom installations and refurbishment
- All plumbing maintenance and repairs

Office - 01372 451528

Mobile - 0779 319 8032

eMail - JulianWall@rocketmail.com



South East TREE surgeons

South East Tree Surgeons are a **Family-Run** business & offer an individual, personal service. We have been established over **22 years**.

We provide a **24 Hour Emergency Service** to Commercial businesses, local councils & private individuals. We offer Free written quotations & **advice** without any obligation.

Our Tree Surgery teams are **Friendly, Qualified & insured**. You can find out more about us on our website: www.southeasttreesurgeons.co.uk

Our Services include

- Crown Reduction, Crown Lifting & Crown Thinning
- Tree Pruning & Dead Wooding
- Precision Tree Felling
- Pollarding
- Branch removal
- Cabling & bracing
- Stump Grinding
- Hedge Management
- Storm Clearance and Ground Clearance
- Supplier of seasoned logs



Please do contact us on 0333 577 7663
Or email us at: info@southeasttreesurgeons.co.uk



Bookham
Podiatry Clinic

Diagnosis, Expert Treatment
& Professional Care for Your Feet

3 Hazel Parade,
Penrose Road, Fetcham

www.bookhampodiatry.co.uk



01372 454583



bookhampodiatry@gmail.com



CASSELDEN'S NEETANDKWIK SHOE REPAIR SERVICE



OPENING HOURS - THURSDAY & FRIDAY & SATURDAY 9am – 1pm

ALSO - POLISH / LACES / INSOLES / PROTECTORS / UMBRELLAS

22 CRABTREE LANE, BOOKHAM, KT23 4PF, 01372 452434

www.casseldens-shoes.co.uk



Award
winning
cuisine

Not the food you'd expect in a care home?

We're leading the way in care home cuisine. Our passionate chefs create tasty nutritious meals every day, from traditional favourites to fine dining dishes.

If you're considering a care home, call **01372 898 536** or visit careuk.com/liberham-lodge

Inspected and rated



Trusted to care

Liberham Lodge care home
Bookham

care UK

Alan Greenwood & Sons

Independent Family Funeral Directors



- A choice of the latest Jaguar or Mercedes Hearses and Limousines
- Home visit arrangements
- Golden Charter Pre-paid funeral plans
- Memorials
- Quality 24 hour Service
- We will not be beaten on price



The Greenwood Family are directly involved in the running of the Company,

1 New Parade, Leatherhead Road, Great Bookham, KT23 4RL

01372 454 777

Visit Our Website for Full Details of Branches and Services also to View All Our Local Obituaries

www.alangreenwoodfunerals.com

CLIVE WESTON & CO LTD

HOME IMPROVEMENTS (Local Company Est 1985)

“Why call a salesman when you can call a tradesman”

Westwood, Guildford Rd, Gt. Bookham, Surrey, KT23 4EY

Website: www.cliveweston.co.uk E-mail: info@cliveweston.co.uk

Tel: 01372 454483

UPVC & ALUMINIUM WINDOWS & DOORS
(BI-FOLD, FRENCH, PATIO, COMPOSITE & GARAGE DOORS)

FASCIAS, SOFFITS, CLADDING & GUTTERING
CONSERVATORIES - READY MADE or MADE TO MEASURE



Trade and Retail Supplies
Window repairs and sealed units
Timber Windows & Doors

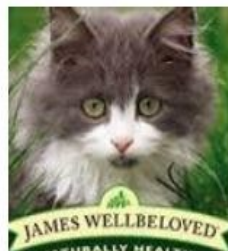


Made to measure Skylights and Lanterns

BRACKENBURYS Est 1958

A WIDE RANGE OF PET FOODS AND SUPPLIES NOW AVAILABLE

**KEY CUTTING - HARDWARE - TOOLS - DIY - GARDENING - BATTERIES
LIGHTBULBS - HOMEWARE - ELECTRICALS - PEST CONTROL - FIRESIDE
PET FOODS/ACCESSORIES - DELFINWARE - PAINT - WILD BIRD FOOD
AND FEEDERS - HOUSE SIGNS - CLEANING SUPPLIES – PLANT SEEDS**



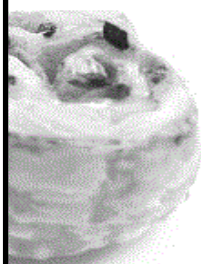
**WHETHER YOU WANT FORK HANDLES OR FOUR CANDLES YOU WILL BE
SURPRISED AT WHAT YOU CAN FIND
OFTEN REFERRED TO BY LOCALS AS 'ALADDIN'S CAVE'.**

**COME AND BROWSE OUR ENLARGED AND IMPROVED STORE, OVER TWO
FLOORS. NEW SEASONAL STOCK.**



17A High Street, Bookham, Surrey KT23 4AA.

Tel : 01372 458329 www.brackenburysofbookham.co.uk



Bespoke Catering Of Formal & Informal Events



WEDDINGS
MEMORIALS
CELEBRATION PARTIES
CHRISTENINGS
CORPORATE EVENTS
HOUSE WARMING PARTIES
THEMED PARTIES
SMALL PRIVATE FUNCTIONS
DISHS AND PLATTERS

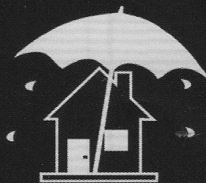
ELIZABETH TRELIVING

HOME COOKING BY ELIZABETH

The Showroom 1 Church Road Great Bookham KT23 3PD

T: 01372 453206 M: 07712 760175 E: ejtreliving@aol.com

Or visit our website www.homecookingdirect.co.uk



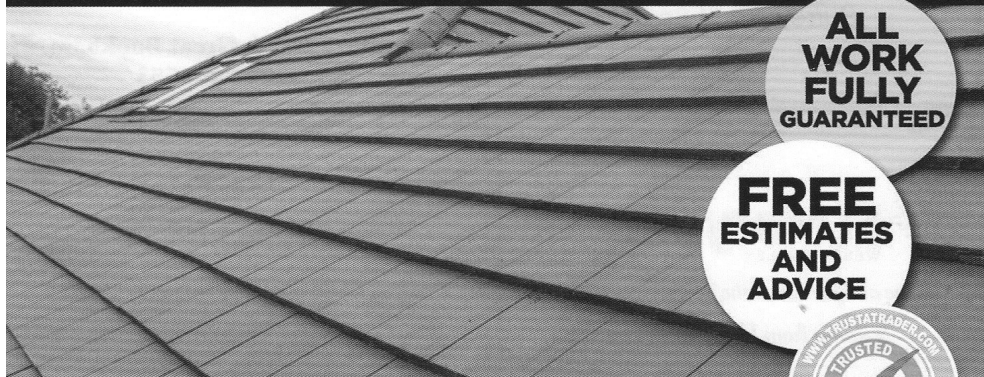
WEATHERSURE

ROOFING & BUILDING LTD



BASED IN COBHAM & EFFINGHAM

New & Old Roofs • All Roof Repairs • Flat Roofs
UPVC Fascia Boards • Soffits • Cladding • Guttering • Down Pipes
Gutter Clearance • Chimney Restoration • Apex Boards • Barge Boards
Re-pointing Ridge Tiles & Walls • Moss Removal and Roof Cleaning



**ALL
WORK
FULLY
GUARANTEED**

**FREE
ESTIMATES
AND
ADVICE**



Credit Cards Accepted



Find us on
Google

Full Public Liability Insurance • Please view our references

410 Lower Road, Effingham, KT24 5JP
Newmarsh Farm, Horsley Road, Cobham, Surrey KT11 3JX

T: 01483 378334 T: 01372 885695

M: 07470 088047

E: info@weathersureroofing.co.uk

www.weathersureroofing.co.uk

L. HAWKINS
& SONS LTD
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Personal 24 hour service
from a privately funded family business

01372 372435

HIGHLANDS ROAD, LEATHERHEAD KT22 8ND

SERVING LEATHERHEAD, ASHTEAD, BOOKHAM
AND SURROUNDING AREAS

Also private arrangement rooms at Cameron Lodge, 33a Church Street,
Leatherhead with client parking at both venues. Cameron Lodge is directly
opposite the Register Office.

Golden Charter
Funeral Plans 



DIMINUENDO

“Life has its share of joys and laughter – but we also know life’s road is often very rough. Temptations assail us; people disappoint us; illness and age weakens us; tragedies and sorrows ambush us; evil and injustice overpower us. As long as we look only at circumstances, life will be very hard, but when we depend upon His strength and guidance, God will bring peace in the midst of the storms”. – Billy Graham

Following a full and varied life, how should one adapt to a new chapter when options become more limited, due to aging and growing infirmity? After all, this is a natural process and not a surprise, though most people choose not to dwell on it until it affects them.

Much depends on the nature of the decline, whether it is gradual (diminuendo) or abrupt (subito) to borrow musical terminology. In the case of a steady diminuendo, the changes may be almost imperceptible even as they are cumulative. In such instances, the decline in abilities may only be noted when comparing the state of health to that of a year ago. This is less traumatic than a more major change, due to an accident or unexpected illness, which requires an immediate adjustment in one’s day- to-day routine. Sometimes, it is a combination of the two, when a measured decline is suddenly accelerated by an accident or major malady, leaving the person less able to cope with this new turn of events.

Whatever the circumstances, the bottom line is the same: how does a person learn to adapt to this new *modus vivendi*?

Especially, when health is declining, there is the temptation to define oneself mainly through ‘the profane identity’, e.g. as ‘a cancer patient’, ‘a cripple’, ‘a cardiac patient’, or indeed any other life- limiting condition. When following this pattern, it is all too easy for the patient to fall into the trap of descending into the slough of despair. While understandable, this negativity does not help the patient and can lead to destructive thinking. How then should patients meet this challenge?

Simone Weil poses the question, “What are you going through?” before suggesting that instead of turning in on ourselves, we should learn to look outward. This goes against our natural instincts, but it is good advice. Whatever our own challenges, if we seek ways to reach out to others we may be surprised to find that we ourselves are helped as a by-product.

“For it is in giving that we receive” is a quote by St Francis of Assisi. It is a reminder that giving and receiving are complementary acts that are intertwined in life.

There will always be people worse off than one’s self, however dire our own situation may be, and who could be cheered by a simple message of concern.

Acceptance and optimism are the keys to adjusting to the different pace of this new chapter in life. While looking back with gratitude, we should also look ahead with hope and learn to be content with whatever state in which we find ourselves. (Philippians 4:11- 13)

What a blessing it is to know God who is our true refuge and strength during the stormy times!

Deborah Gallacher

Prayer

When inner turmoil or family upsets threaten my peace of mind...

When I hurt for friends, relatives and others who are suffering or distressed...

When fear of the future flares up and the path in front of me is unclear...

When the state of the world is overwhelming...

Lord, it is so easy to see just the problems and lose sight of you.

Lord, give me eyes to see you in the small miracles of every day.

Lord, help me to remember that you are always with me,

Watching, listening, caring, strengthening,

Longing, to draw ever closer. Amen

Deborah Gallacher



Mission to Seafarers

Houston – The incident of the ship that burned.

It was my last ship visit that day. I noticed the age and all the rust in the vessel. A Tanzanian sailor pointed me to a reluctant Ukrainian officer who shrugged and said they didn't need anything and motioned for me to leave. The next morning, I got a message that while refuelling at 3am that same ship caught fire. Two crew members had died and one was air-lifted to hospital. I flew into action, going straight to the terminal where I saw the black smoke residue of a devastating fire. In the grey and cold of early morning the crew were huddled outside a nearby building facing the ship, while the authorities did their work.

There were two distinct groups, Russians/Ukrainians, and Tanzanians. Remembering how hot drinks can help those in shock I picked up coffees and distributed them, and they began to open up. "I knew from experience that as Muslims the Tanzanian seafarers were probably missing their prayer times, so I looked up Muslim prayers for the sick and used my phone to play them in Arabic". With tears running down their faces, they all came up to me shaking my hand and expressing thanks. The leader said; "Thomas, you have no idea what you have done for us".

From that point on, all mistrust or fears were vanquished. The crew were taken to a hotel where I helped them settle, having evacuated quickly they had nothing, so I sent a driver to Walmart to get the essentials. Simple acts perhaps, but the difference they made was clearly significant.

I visited often and talked at length with the Ukrainian and Russian officers stationed near the ship. To help them feel a sense of home my wife found a recipe for Paska, a bread traditionally eaten during Easter. It was a long process to make, but one evening I took the cloth-wrapped loaf to them with butter and knives. As he unwrapped the cloth, a smile spread across the Ukrainian officer's face. "It's Paska!", he said, "yes, this is religious bread, served only at Easter". He was very thankful and understood our simple effort to help him.

I continued to visit the crew—those at the hotel, the officers at the port, and the one in hospital. Without visas they were unable to leave the hotel but were permitted to do so if accompanied by me. The injured seafarer was still being treated with major damage to his lungs and throat. I stayed with him for a few hours praying.



He has had a difficult and distressing journey, but as the months passed he began to improve. The last time I saw him he was walking up and down the corridors of the hospital as part of his physical therapy. I got him a Texas baseball cap which he loved. After five months, at last it looks like he might go home soon, and he will leave with a blessing from me.

The crew was eventually sent back to their countries and their families. I remain in contact with them by WhatsApp from time to time.

Taken from the article found at:

<https://www.missiontoseafarers.org/appeals/lent-appeal-2025>

John Adie

~~~~~



**Burnett Music Fund**

Funded by



**Community  
Foundation  
for Surrey**

**A monthly singing group  
for people with  
dementia or Parkinson's  
with their carer or partner**



# 'Connect in Song'

**St Alphege Church Hall,  
Lower Road, Effingham KT24 5JP  
2.30pm First Tuesday of the month**

**For more information contact Gill Walker**

**01372 457987 or [gillconnect1@gmail.com](mailto:gillconnect1@gmail.com)**

**Supported by Churches Together in Effingham & Little Bookham**



Communities Engagement Team

# Hearing Champions

A Guildford Diocese initiative,  
in partnership with the **NHS**  
and St Nicolas Church,  
Bookham



A FREE service for people with NHS hearing aids includes:

Basic maintenance  
Battery supply  
Cleaning & re-tubing  
Trouble-shooting  
Advice

## **Bookham Baptist Church on Saturday**

**10am-12.00 noon**

**May 17<sup>th</sup>**

**July 5<sup>th</sup>**

**August 9<sup>th</sup>**

Bring your brown NHS Battery Book (which includes your settings and requirements) and wear your hearing aid.

All our volunteers have been trained by the audiology departments of Epsom & St Helier Hospital or the Royal Surrey County Hospital and hold training completion certificates.



**Do you have 1-2 hours free a week?  
Would you like to make a difference  
to someone's life? Yes?**



Then Age Concern Mole Valley has the perfect opportunity for you.  
We are looking for volunteers to join our Befriending Service across Mole  
Valley.

We have a waiting list of older, lonely and isolated people who need a  
Volunteer Befriender. **Can you help?**

For more details, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Diana Webb on:  
**07821 649683 / 01306 899104** or email: [diana@ageconcernmolevalley.org.uk](mailto:diana@ageconcernmolevalley.org.uk)

**Registered Charity No 1111678**

## Church Development Plan Prayer Focus

|                      |                                                                                            |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4th May              | Bringing the Good News to bear in response to the needs and concerns of our community      |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> May | Increasing our capacity to take forward the mission of the church                          |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> May | Inspiring each member of the church family to take the next step in their journey of faith |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> May | Bringing the Good News to bear in response to the needs and concerns of our community      |



### From the Parish Registers



| <b>Deaths</b>                  |                                |         |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2025     | Joyce Fanner                   | Aged 93 |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2025    | Matthew Saxton                 | Aged 32 |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2025    | Michael Denham                 | Aged 80 |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2025    | Tim Reeder                     | Aged 89 |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2025    | Finlay McDermid                | Aged 18 |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2025     | Joyce Munden                   | Aged 90 |
| <b>Weddings</b>                |                                |         |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2025 | Mike Barrow and Abigail Scrase |         |

Great Bookham's very own PCSO, Marion Hawkins, will be holding a Surgery at The Meeting Place Warm Space in Bookham Baptist Church on:

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May  
 Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June



She is happy to talk about any issues you may have, and just generally. She looks forward to meeting you.



# Citizens Advice

## **Need help with benefits, debt or employment problems?**

We're here to help, whatever the problem.  
To get free, confidential and impartial advice, you can contact us on these channels:

### **Call Adviceline**

**0800 144 8848** (textphone 0800 144 8884) Mon-Fri: 9am – 5pm

### **Visit our website**

[www.citizensadvicemolevalley.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvicemolevalley.org.uk)

### **Email our offices**

[dorking@camv.org.uk](mailto:dorking@camv.org.uk) [leatherhead@camv.org.uk](mailto:leatherhead@camv.org.uk)



In partnership with  
**THE NATIONAL LOTTERY  
COMMUNITY FUND**





**READINGS AT THE SUNDAY SERVICES**  
**May 2025**



- 4<sup>th</sup> Third Sunday of Easter**  
Acts 9:1-6; John 21:1-19
- 11<sup>th</sup> Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
Acts 9:36-43; John 10:22-3
- 18<sup>th</sup> Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
Hebrews 10:19-25; Luke 10: 38-42
- 25<sup>th</sup> Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
Acts 16:9-15; John 14:23-29

**St Nicolas Cycle of Prayer**  
**April 2025**

Please remember the following missions, St Nicolas groups and residents of Great Bookham roads in your prayers

|                  |                                                                       |                                                              |                               |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Mission Aviation Fellowship<br><i>Julia Watts</i><br><i>Sue White</i> | Mothers' Union<br><i>Julia Watts</i><br><i>Chris Collins</i> | Oakdene Close<br>Timber Close |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> | Christian Aid<br><i>Anne Shears</i>                                   |                                                              | Crabtree Lane                 |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> | LeatherHEAD START<br><i>Mary Railton</i><br><i>Barbara Holloway</i>   | Youth Groups<br>Youth Team<br><i>Lucy Hicks</i>              | Ashdale<br>Crabtree Close     |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> | The Mission to Seafarers<br><i>John Adie</i><br><i>Eldred Clark</i>   |                                                              | Downs View<br>Road            |

**Occupation for May: Research, Science and Technology**

## Calendar May 2025

**Please note that although the calendar has events scheduled, these may happen in different forms. Please check beforehand (see 'Contact' person on the back page or the St Nicolas website).**

| <b>April</b>     |       |      |                                            |
|------------------|-------|------|--------------------------------------------|
| 28 <sup>th</sup> | Mon   | 0830 | Morning Prayers (online)                   |
|                  |       | 1000 | Tots Alive (Church and Church Room)        |
|                  |       | 1530 | BYouth (Pastoral Centre)                   |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> | Tues  | 1000 | Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre)           |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> | Weds  | 0830 | Morning Prayers (online)                   |
| <b>May</b>       |       |      |                                            |
| 1st              | Thurs | 1000 | Holy Communion (Church)                    |
|                  |       | 1040 | Thursday Coffee (Church Room)              |
| 2nd              | Fri   | 1530 | BYouth (Pastoral Centre)                   |
| 3 <sup>RD</sup>  | Sat   | 1000 | CDP Prayers (Church Room)                  |
| 4th              | Sun   | 1000 | Morning Praise (Church)                    |
|                  |       | 1500 | Memorial Service (Church)                  |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Mon   |      | <b>Bank Holiday</b>                        |
|                  |       | 0830 | Morning Prayers (online)                   |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Tues  | 1000 | Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre)           |
| 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Weds  | 0830 | Morning Prayers (online)                   |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Thurs | 1000 | Holy Communion (Church)                    |
|                  |       | 1040 | Thursday Coffee (Church Room)              |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Fri   | 1530 | BYouth (Pastoral Centre)                   |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> | Sat   | 1600 | Messy Church (Church and Church Room)      |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> | Mon   | 0830 | Morning Prayers (Online)                   |
|                  |       | 1000 | Tots Alive! (Church and Church Room)       |
|                  |       | 1530 | BYouth (Pastoral Centre)                   |
|                  |       | 1930 | PCC Meets (Church Room)                    |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> | Tues  | 1000 | Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre)           |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> | Weds  | 0830 | Morning Prayers (online)                   |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> | Thurs | 1000 | Holy Communion (Church)                    |
|                  |       | 1040 | Thursday Coffee (Church Room)              |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> | Fri   | 1530 | BYouth (Pastoral Centre)                   |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> | Sat   | 0830 | Barnabas Mens Fellowship (Pastoral Centre) |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> | Mon   | 0830 | Morning Prayers (online)                   |
|                  |       | 1000 | Tots Alive! (Church and Church Room)       |
|                  |       | 1530 | BYouth (Pastoral Centre)                   |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | Tues  | 1000 | Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre)           |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> | Weds  | 0830 | Morning Prayers (online)                   |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Thurs | 1000 | Holy Communion (Church)                    |
|                  |       | 1040 | Thursday Coffee (Church Room)              |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Fri   | 1530 | BYouth (Pastoral Centre)                   |

|                                     |       |                      |                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------|-------|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 24 <sup>th</sup>                    | Sat   | 0900                 | Saturday Prayers (online)                                                                   |
| 26 <sup>th</sup>                    | Mon   | 0830                 | <b>Spring Bank Holiday</b><br>Morning Prayers (online)                                      |
| 27 <sup>th</sup>                    | Tues  | 1000                 | Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre)                                                            |
| 28 <sup>th</sup>                    | Weds  | 0830                 | Morning Prayers (online)                                                                    |
| 29 <sup>th</sup>                    | Thurs | 1000<br>1040         | Holy Communion (Church)<br>Thursday Coffee (Church Room)                                    |
| 31 <sup>st</sup>                    | Sat   | 1600                 | Celtish Concert (Church)                                                                    |
| <b>June</b>                         |       |                      |                                                                                             |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>                     | Mon   | 0830<br>1000<br>1530 | Morning Prayers (online)<br>Tots Alive (Church and Church Room)<br>BYouth (Pastoral Centre) |
| 3 <sup>RD</sup>                     | Tues  | 1000                 | Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre)                                                            |
| 4 <sup>th</sup>                     | Weds  | 0830                 | Morning Prayers (online)                                                                    |
| <b>9th May - Copy for June 2025</b> |       |                      |                                                                                             |

## Artificial Opponents?

Wordles and Quordles and Octordles too,  
 Who can be bored with so much to do?  
 Puzzles online, and less now in print  
 Is it surprising that I'm starting to squint?

Crosswords and lost words in a grid you must find  
 Sudoku, Kakuro for the numerate mind,  
 Backgammon or chess, if that is your sport  
 And card games of every conceivable sort!

Deep in my cupboard is a box full of games  
 And a beautiful chess set, abandoned – a shame!  
 But do you remember (long ago as it seems),  
 When we played games with people, and not these machines?

*By Nigel Beeton*

## Parish Contacts

|                                                        |                                                                                                                                                            |                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>RECTOR:</b>                                         | Rev Alan Jenkins, The Rectory, 2a Fife Way, KT23 3PH<br>(Day off: - Friday) alan.jenkins@stnicolasbookham.org.uk                                           | 635873                 |
| <b>CURATE</b>                                          | Rev Gill Caldwell<br>(day off – Friday )gill.caldwell@stnicolasbookham.org.uk                                                                              | 450709                 |
| <b>RETIRED CLERGY</b>                                  | Rev David Ireland<br>rev.ireland43@btinternet.com                                                                                                          |                        |
| <b>ORDAINED LOCAL MINISTER</b>                         | Rev Barbara McDonald                                                                                                                                       | 454187                 |
| <b>LICENSED LAY MINISTER</b>                           | Chris Holloway                                                                                                                                             | 877079                 |
| <b>FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S MINISTER</b>                  | Celeste Rios<br>celeste.rios@stnicolasbookham.org.uk                                                                                                       | 07707 439799           |
| <b>PASTORAL ASSISTANTS</b>                             | Contact Parish Office<br>Sylvia Solarski, Margaret Hibbert, Valerie Lomax, Ali Sangwine,<br>Cathryn Jobson, Chris Bridges, Heather Gerrard, Jan Williamson | 450709                 |
| <b>PARISH OFFICE</b>                                   | David Gatland - 2a Fife Way<br>office@stnicolasbookham.org.uk<br>Office hours Monday to Friday- 9.00 am to 12.00 noon                                      | 450709                 |
| <b>CHURCHWARDENS</b>                                   | Heather Gerrard<br>Nick Garrett                                                                                                                            | 07885 591361<br>458918 |
| <b>ASSISTANT WARDENS</b>                               | Joy Lord                                                                                                                                                   | 459717                 |
| <b>PCC SECRETARY</b>                                   | Amanda Rowland<br>pcc.secretary@stnicolasbookham.org.uk                                                                                                    |                        |
| <b>PARISH TREASURER</b>                                | Neil McDonald                                                                                                                                              | 454187                 |
| <b>SAFEGUARDING OFFICER</b>                            | Roland Martin<br>safeguarding@stnicolasbookham.org.uk                                                                                                      | 07747 563634           |
| <b>DIRECTOR OF MUSIC</b>                               |                                                                                                                                                            | TBA                    |
| <b>COMMUNITY YOUTH WORKER</b>                          | Lucy Hicks<br><a href="mailto:lucy@leatherheadyouthproject.com">lucy@leatherheadyouthproject.com</a>                                                       | 383345                 |
| <b>MAGAZINE</b>                                        | Editor<br>Chris Bridges<br>(editor@stnicolasbookham.org.uk)                                                                                                | 458820                 |
|                                                        | Distribution<br>Carole Cotton                                                                                                                              | 750552                 |
|                                                        | Advertising<br>Contact Parish Office                                                                                                                       | 450709                 |
| <b>Barnabas Fellowship</b>                             | David King                                                                                                                                                 | 452342                 |
| <b>Bereavement Team</b>                                | Contact Parish Office                                                                                                                                      | 450709                 |
| <b>Giving Secretary</b>                                | Richard Scrase                                                                                                                                             | 458131                 |
| <b>Church Room Bookings</b>                            | Parish Office                                                                                                                                              | 450709                 |
| <b>Electoral Roll Officer</b>                          | Catherine Clark                                                                                                                                            | 451503                 |
| <b>Friends of St Nicolas</b>                           | Angela Stevens                                                                                                                                             | 456713                 |
|                                                        | Barbara Abbott                                                                                                                                             | 800381                 |
| <b>Guiding</b>                                         | Bookham and Effingham<br>Christine Moss                                                                                                                    | 368362                 |
| <b>House Groups</b>                                    | for information contact Jean Forward                                                                                                                       | 450709                 |
| <b>Mothers' Union</b>                                  | Branch Leaders – Julia Watts and Chris Collins                                                                                                             | 450709                 |
| <b>Samaritans</b>                                      | in distress or despair?... (24 hour service) ring Freefone                                                                                                 | 116123                 |
| <b>Scouting</b>                                        | 1st Bookham Group GSL Christine Whale<br>3rd Bookham Group - Mrs Karen Wheeler<br>Karen.wheeler@3rdbookham.org.uk                                          | 800712                 |
| <b>Sunday Groups</b>                                   | GLOW at 10am – Celeste Rios                                                                                                                                | 07707 439799           |
| <b>Tots Alive!</b>                                     | Celeste Rios                                                                                                                                               | 07707 439799           |
| <b>Help Your Neighbour Scheme (Mon-Fri 9.30-12.30)</b> |                                                                                                                                                            | 0798 6 177234          |