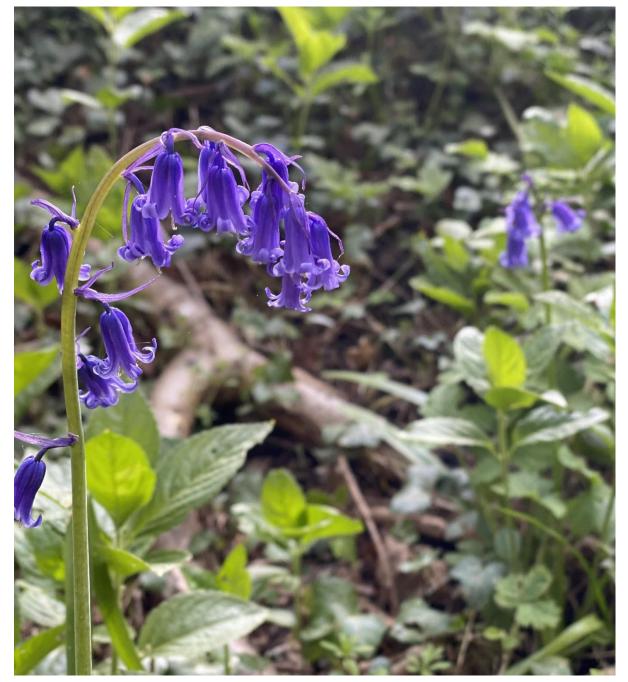
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PARISH MAGAZINE

May 2024



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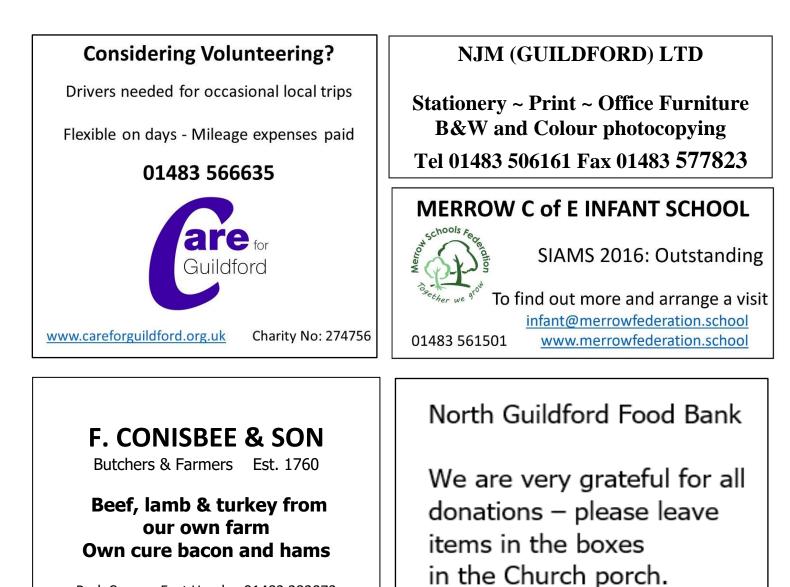


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St John the Evangelist

Epsom Road, Merrow www.saintjohns.org.uk



The Revd Tim Clifford Hill Rector



Georgie Gregson Youth Worker

A Caring Christian Community, here for everyone

St John's is open every day from 9.30am to 4pm. Please feel welcome to visit us. 'Open Foyer' in the Centre 9.30am to 4pm, Monday to Thursday, with coffee/tea available.

Sunday services are listed on Page 2.

Services during the week:

Morning Prayer Monday to Thursday at 9.00am in Church.

Holy Communion on Wednesdays at 10.30am in the Merrow Hall, St John's Centre.

Evening Prayer on Fridays at 5.00pm in Church.

All are welcome.

MAY 2024 SUNDAY SERVICES (Year B)

Sunday 5th May

Patronal Festival, White Acts 10.44-end, John 15.9-17 8am BCP Holy Communion 10am All Age Worship

Thursday 9th May

Ascension Day, White Acts 1.1-11, Luke 24.44-end 10.30am CW Holy Communion

Sunday 12th May

7th Sunday of Easter, White Acts 1.15-17,21-end, John 17.6-19 8am BCP Holy Communion 10am CW Holy Communion 6pm Sing a New Song

Sunday 19th May

Pentecost, Red Acts 2.1-21, John 15.26-27;16.4b-15 8am BCP Holy Communion 10am CW Holy Communion

Sunday 26th May

Trinity Sunday, White *Romans 8.12-17, John 3.1-17* 8am BCP Holy Communion 10am CW Holy Communion

Sunday 2nd June

1st Sunday after Trinity, Green 2 Corinthians 4.5-12, Mark 2.23-3.6 8am BCP Holy Communion 10am All Age Worship

LETTER FROM ST JOHN'S RECTORY

Welcome to the May parish magazine!

May is my favourite month of the year. Gone are the April showers and the sun is starting to properly shine upon us. It's also an important month for our church, both in and out of the church building. Here at St. John's, May includes:

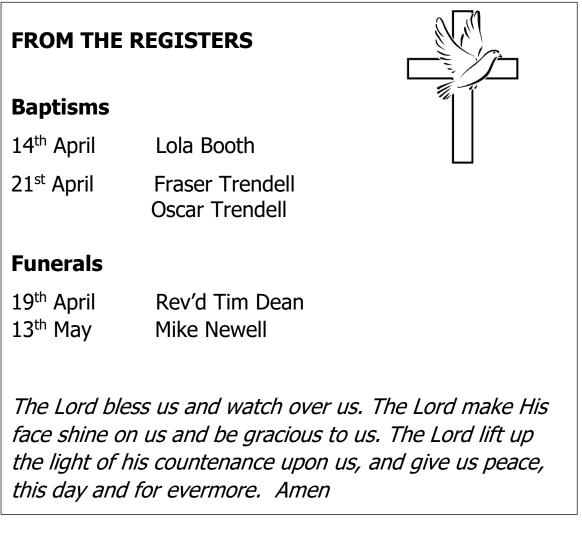
- Patronal Festival (5th May), when our 10:00 All Age Worship will be followed by Congregational Brunch for those who have come to the service.
- Ascension Day (9th May), on which we will have a Eucharist in church (with hymns accompanied by Mrs Rector!).
- Messy church on 11th May. If you know any children who would enjoy some time of craft, short worship and food, do let them know.
- Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place in the St. John's Centre on 12th May at 11:30. At this meeting we will hear a round-up of the year, thank our leaving churchwardens and vote for a new churchwarden.
- The feast of Pentecost, also called Whitsun, is on 19th May this year. It's the final day of the Easter season and also the day when we remember the Disciples being given the gift of many languages which enabled them to proclaim the Good News all over the world.
- On Trinity Sunday (26th May) we have our first Visiting Preacher in my time here. Kitty Price is the Lay Reader at Portsmouth Cathedral, a school Head of RE and the sister of my wife, Alexandra. Kitty is a great teacher and preacher, and she will preach at the 10:00 Parish Communion.

So, lots of events, both in and out of church, for you to come to if you are able. Every service will continue to be live-streamed for those who can't get to church on a Sunday.

Last month I officiated at my first Merrow Baptism, when we welcomed Lola Booth as the newest member of God's Church. The Collect (prayer) used at a Baptism service is a good reminder of what it means to live a life with Christ and I leave it with you this month as you continue to travel on your journey with God.

Heavenly Father, by the power of your Holy Spirit you give your faithful people new life in the water of baptism. Guide and strengthen us by the same Spirit, that we who are born again may serve you in faith and love and grow into the full stature of your Son Jesus Christ.

With all good wishes, Tim



MEN IN FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST with a talk by Deborah Seabrook entitled "Pray for our politicians - they need it".

In March, Men in Fellowship gathered for an excellent talk by Deborah Seabrook, who was until recently a borough councillor for Residents for Guildford and Villages. Deborah has wide expertise gained from a career in project and service management across the private, public and charity sectors. With significant experience of serving the community, Deborah was the founder trustee of a project for homeless teenagers and has raised thousands of pounds for charity. As an active member of the church, she has served on the church council.

Deborah started with a quick-fire question round on whether services are run by Guildford or Surrey councils. She then gave an excellent talk, eloquently describing the intricacies of council operations, given challenges around funding, political direction and local/national priorities. We then had a lively discussion about several topics raised by the talk.



It was an enjoyable, thought-provoking talk, and we would like to thank Deborah very much for giving up her Saturday morning to spend time with us.



VIEWS FROM THE PEWS

We can only give others what we have ourselves.

The Good Samaritan was only able to help the man who had fallen among thieves because he had resources to share. He had oil, wine and bandages

to treat his wounds and an animal to put him on to take him to the inn, where he paid for the man's board and lodging.

We can easily be made to feel guilty because we have money, food, clothing and a comfortable home while so many people are homeless and starving. The media constantly show us graphic pictures of those suffering in the world, but we can only help them by giving from what we have. If we gave away all our money, we would only help a few people for a short time and we would then become one more beggar on the streets.

We can only support others by using what we have, not by becoming one more have-not. Our church is helping our community via Foodwise, Baby Basics, the welcoming Warm Space initiative and the other charities which we adopt. This is only possible because members of the congregation generously donate money and goods, which is especially needed now that government aid has been withdrawn.

Through our generous giving, we can follow the example of the Good Samaritan and show God's love for His world. It's much more blessed to give But leave enough on which to live. The way we live rightly Is to hold our goods lightly, Not to hoard, but to leak like a sieve.



All families, at some time, experience the death of a beloved - our Christian family is no exception.

We have just celebrated a joyful Eastertide. Alongside that sits sorrow, as three good and faithful servants of God, Jim Styles, Tim Dean and Mike Newell have died. Whether it's the loss of a dear friend or close family member, we know our lives will never be the same again. We can draw comfort and consolation as our faith teaches us, beautiful souls rest with God in peace and love. Those gone before us leave a legacy of how to be a Christian in today's world. Follow their way of being and we won't go far wrong.

Trish Hayman

BEREAVEMENT TEAS



We invite anyone who has experienced the bereavement of a loved one to join us for tea on **16th June in the Merrow Hall**, in the Church Centre, at **3pm**.

It will be an informal gathering, but an opportunity to share memories of our loved ones.

You will be welcome to bring a photo, a memento or memory of your loved one to share. Refreshments will be available. Future teas will be held on 22nd September and 8th December.



THE FRIENDS OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST (FOSTJ)

Wine Tasting Evening - Friday, May 17th, 2024 at 7pm

After a gloomy winter and the spring rains, let us look ahead with anticipation to the embrace of a warm summer. To be prepared for the outdoor summer events, mark your calendars for a delightful Summer Wines tasting evening at the St Johns Centre in Merrow. For more details and to book your place please visit www.fostj.org/summer-wines"





WEDNESDAY COFFEE CLUB

May is upon us with May Day being an ancient pagan spring festival, traditionally celebrated across Europe with maypole dancing and the crowning with a floral crown of a May Queen.

Just as importantly on 3rd May, we have both World Laughter Day "the celebration of World Laughter Day is a positive manifestation for World Peace and it builds up a global consciousness of brotherhood and friendship through laughter", as well as International Gilbert & Sullivan day, "celebrating the comic operas of Gilbert & Sullivan, on the birthday of the man who brought them together, Richard D'Oyly Carte", which seems very apt as I find their operas very funny.

In May, we also have a wealth of other things to celebrate: Cinco De Mayo, May Day Bank Holiday, Screen-Free Week, Eurovision Song Contest, Europe Day, International Nurses Day, National Children's Day UK, International Day of Families, National Doughnut Week, International Museum Day, Walk To School, World Bee Day, International Tea Day, International Day for Biological Diversity, National Numeracy Day, World Turtle Day, Africa Day, Towel Day, Elmer Day, Geek Pride Day, May Half Term, Late Spring Bank Holiday, National Biscuit Day and of course, Oak Apple Day. With all this going on there must be something to celebrate for everyone.

At the coffee morning we will be putting our support particularly behind International Tea day, and National Biscuit Day, both of which our members are very strong supporters of!

Apart from our weekly Wednesday morning coffee mornings, on the 29th May we will be holding an afternoon tea in the main hall instead of the normal coffee morning, and please contact me if interested in details.

Hoping everyone keeps well.

Gerald Hunt

(Should you have any queries, please contact me on my e-mail <u>merrowcoffeemorning@hotmail.com</u> or ring me on 07545 256114)

POETRY CORNER

'Springtime' by Audrey Purser

(2012)

Springtime is very special here on Merrow Downs,



An awareness of great expectations everywhere around.

Buttercups spreading as far as the eye can see,

Bright yellow flowers, sparkling like jewels swaying in the breeze. Sheltered by the hedgerows, new growth of cow parsley beginning to appear, Delicate white lacy flowerheads on long stems, so pretty every year. Growing with pride, cowslips adorning the banks of the stony path bring Beautiful flowers, glowing in the sunshine, a pleasure of Spring. A sudden burst of April showers, hailstones falling with a mighty power, Spreading across the sky a spectacular rainbow, arching down into a bower. Hovering high in the sky, a kestrel watching an unsuspecting prey, Suddenly swooping down, talons open wide swiftly carries it away. Bright yellow catkins blowing and shaking like lambs tails on a windy day, Change into leaves and hazelnuts showing off a wonderful display. Delicate pink and white blossom attracting bees on the hawthorn tree, Vivid red berries for the birds in winter, known as bread and cheese. Sticky buds of the horse chestnut tree unfurl into soft velvety leaves, White blossom forming into conkers, sweet nectar collected by the bees. High up in the leafy green trees, blackbirds sing their joyful songs of love, Glorious, precious moments, listening to their performance high above. Blossoming buds, leafy green trees, wildflowers growing spectacular to see, Merrow Downs is alive with the awakening of spring, new life and curiosity.

A VIEW FROM A CHAIR IN A HOME NEAR THE SEA

I enjoy reading the Parish Magazine and the subject of 'Raves in the Nave' is interesting!

Recently, a lady with Alzheimer's moved in here. She looks very lost until you engage with her and talk, but she comes



alive when there is music and singing. She knows all the words and is up on her feet to dance freely. She is re-living the life she knew.

What do we know about people who come to the Cathedral? Why do they come? Do they have stressful jobs? Are they waiting for an operation or the result of tests? Do they worry about their children or aging parents? Perhaps this is one hour when they can lose themselves to words and music, let the stress fall away and be ready to face the next day's challenge. (Perhaps God likes the music and the fast upbeat movement in the vast space).

Pat Baldock

[Editor: Another of our readers has sent in this observation on using consecrated spaces for dances etc.]:

In the April edition of the Parish Magazine, the View from the Pews article encouraged us to say what we think of the use of sacred space for dances etc. Well, I was taught that in the Middle Ages when Britain was an agricultural society, the only large 'hall' was the church building and it was used for everything - cattle markets, sheep sales, food markets everything - with worship on Sundays and Holy Days. I have no objection to the church building being used for other things, helping to put it back into being the centre of the community.

CONCERT BY DAVE KELLY

On Friday 5th April, the church opened its doors to a different sort of music.

Dave Kelly founded the Blues Band in the 70's. They disbanded a couple of years ago, but Dave now plays solo concerts and with other artists such as Paul Jones (of Manfred Mann fame).



An audience of 70 people enjoyed a wonderful evening of Blues music.

Dave is known in the Blues world for his slide guitar prowess. I thought his guitar playing was exceptional and he sings so many varied songs.

Dave was delighted with the ambience and acoustics of the church and really seemed to

enjoy playing to the enthusiastic audience.

Many people asked if we have regular concerts in the church, as they enjoyed it so. We are so lucky to have such a beautiful adaptable building in our midst.

Jane

MIKE NEWELL'S FUNERAL

Mike's funeral will take place on Monday 13th May at 2pm in church followed by a wake in the Centre.

Thank you very much to Chantries & Pewleys for sponsoring our colour cover again throughout 2024 and to Jane Stevenson for taking the photograph.

MEN-IN-FELLOWSHIP VISIT PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL

The Men-in Fellowship plus guests visited Portsmouth Cathedral on 13th April. The sun burnt off the mist and sea fret that accompanied them from Guildford. Its rays travelled the length of the cathedral, lighting up seven distinct centuries of building and worship.

From the original 12th century chancel, built shortly after St. Thomas Becket's death, they were led down the quire, rebuilt in the 17th Century after serious damage in the Civil War and then found the view



broadening out into the light and spacious Nave, finished just before the second World War broke out. The great West Doors with their Tree of Life design installed in 1997 completed the impression of the



continuity of worship over the years. The connection with the sea was never far away, from the original tower which doubled as a light house to the Navy Aisle, with its moving memorials to sailors who lost their lives for their country.

The tour complete, the group assembled in the quiet of the St. Thomas Chapel and celebrated a Pilgrim's Mass; the offering of the Peace was most appropriate.

Although the Pilgrims concluded their visit with a very jolly and not so peaceful lunch in the Spice Island Inn overlooking the Harbour.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A BIGGER PART OF ST JOHN'S?

Are you a long-standing member of St John's congregation or have you come to be part of our church community through worshipping online or attending church run activities and want to be more involved? You can do this by being entered onto the electoral roll.

So what is the electoral roll?

It is a register of people who are able to elect other people in the church. In the same way that being on the civic electoral roll allows you to vote in local and Parliamentary elections, being on the church electoral roll means that you can take a full part in and vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), to be involved in any necessary decision-making, and stand for various positions, such as member of the PCC and sides person.

Being on the electoral roll shows commitment to St John's and the wonderful people who make up our church community, and the roll itself demonstrates the strength of this community. The roll is voluntary and confidential, not open to general scrutiny and is something all parishes must have.

How to apply to be on the electoral roll

To apply for the church electoral roll, you must:

- be 16 years old or over.
- be baptised.
- either live in the parish or have attended the church regularly for at least 6 months.
- have regularly joined us online.

You can also be on the electoral roll of more than one church.

You can apply by filling in your details on the form that is on the website <u>https://www.saintjohns.org.uk/community-growing-faith/electoral-roll</u> or email me, Carole Burtonwood, at

<u>carole.burtonwood@saintjohns.org.uk</u> and I will gladly send you a form and answer any questions you may have.

Forms are also available at the back of church. Simply fill in the form and return it to me, one of the clergy or churchwardens, or drop it into the parish office.

Your information

We will keep your information secure in line with UK GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) regulations. Please see our privacy notice for more information. This can be found at the bottom of the homepage of the website <u>www.saintjohns.org.uk</u>.

BELL SUNDAY

So, what on earth is Bell Sunday?

May 14th was designated as Bell Sunday to celebrate the part played by both bells and ringers in Church and village life.

Bells have always been rung to call people to worship as well as to



celebrate special occasions and mourning.

Bell Sunday is the closest Sunday to 19th May, the feast of St Dunstan, the patron saint of bell ringers. This year it is to be celebrated on 12th May. St Dunstan was born around 909 near Glastonbury Abbey. He died on Saturday 19th May 988 and was formally canonized in 1029.

You have the chance to meet some of our bell ringers at the 10am service on 12th May, to prove that humans actually pull those ropes, it is not done by an electrical mechanism, recording or magic!



In April's magazine, I wrote about Aline Nibogora in Burundi, whose life was changed by a small loan and advice from a Christian Aid funded community workshop. You can read about her on our church website at <u>https://www.saintjohns.org.uk/community-</u> <u>growing-faith/christian-aid-week</u>.

Here are some of the ways we can help people in Burundi:

£5 buys a savings book for a member of a Village Savings and Loans Association, setting them up to start their own small business and become finically independent.

£30 helps a family buy two jerrycans to collect water from the river. Jerrycans provide irrigation to crops, especially during the dry season, maintaining food production for the family.

£50 means a vulnerable family can purchase a water storage tank. Water can then be stored for a few days rather than travelling to the communal water point, allowing instant access to water for washing, cleaning and cooking.

£100 helps a woman set up her own small business with a starter kit. This means she could supply local grocery shops or restaurants with vegetables, set up a roadside shop, or buy maize to sell in bigger markets.

£100 also helps buy a family a bicycle meaning easier transport to school, quicker access to medical treatment in emergencies or support carrying produce from farm to market.



Please help either by giving at church on May 12th or by giving through the St John's e-envelope on the Christian Aid website – use this QR code or go to https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2024/stjohns-church-merrow. There will also be envelopes in the church which can be returned to the Parish Office

or to me.

Sara England

THE CARDBOARD CATHEDRAL

Recently on our travels, we stopped off for a few days in Christchurch, New Zealand.

We were shocked to see the devastation caused by the magnitude 6.3 earthquake which occurred 13 years ago – as you can imagine, there is a lot of building work going on today, but still there are vast areas where nothing has been rebuilt yet – town squares completely empty. Whilst we saw news of the earthquake at the time, we weren't expecting to see this much devastation.

Christchurch Cathedral was severely damaged in the quake and the decision was taken to build a 'transitional' Cathedral.

A Cathedral staff member read an article on sustainable architecture in a New Zealand design magazine, featuring information about a 'paper church' built in Japan after an earthquake (by architect, Shigeru Ban).



This architect was commissioned, and work began on the Cardboard Cathedral in 2012 and it opened to the public in August 2013. The

roof is made of cardboard tubes!

The Cathedral is absolutely beautiful, and spending some time here, helped us to reflect and consider this wonderful 'light out of the darkness'.

Cathy & Martin Thompson





CHRISTCHURCH



Watch out for 9th June!

It's the launch of St John's Young People's Ministry Fund!

GARDENING HINTS FOR MAY

After a very wet March and April, we can now look forward to warmer and dryer times. This is a busy month of catching up, but do not be too impatient when planting out tender plants and summer bedding, it is better to wait until the end of the month, or you might be paying a return visit to the Garden Centre or Nursery.

All plants should be hardened off outside before planting.

Dahlia plants and tubers should not be planted until at least the middle of the month.



Allow Forget-me-nots to set seed before pulling up.

Spray Roses with a systemic insecticide to control Blackspot and Greenfly.

Sweet Peas should be tied to supports as they climb.

Winter-flowering Heathers should be clipped after flowering.

Support tall perennials such as Delphiniums and Lupins with stakes.

Remove the dead blooms from Daffodils, Hyacinths and Tulips once they have finished flowering, leaving the leaves to die back, and feed the bulbs for next year's flowers.

Hostas can be divided as they come into growth.

Fuchsia cuttings which have been rooted indoors should have their growing tips pinched out to encourage bushy growth.

Increase the rate of watering and start to feed Houseplants.

Evergreen hedges should be clipped.

Keep newly planted trees and shrubs well-watered, especially during dry spells.

There is still time to sow Courgettes and Squash, two seeds to a pot for planting out later - sow the seed standing on its edge for better germination.

French and Runner beans can now be sown outdoors.

Kale, Leeks and Purple Sprouting should be sown for harvesting next winter.

Pinch out the tips of Broad Beans to control blackfly.

Plant out Tomatoes towards the end of the month. As they grow, remove side shoots from all types, except Bush and small fruited varieties.

Make small successional sowings of Salad Crops.

Continue to mow the lawn regularly, apply a Spring and Summer dressing just before rain is forecast.

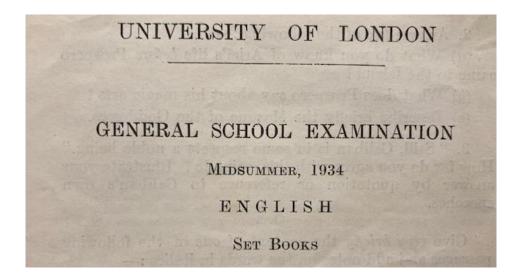
John Boon

FORTHCOMING MAGAZINE INFORMATION

Issue	Copy date	Editor	Editor's email address
June	12 th May	Barbara Lawrence	lawrebarbara@gmail.com
July	16 th June	Chris Starr	chrisstarr10@btinternet.com
August	14 th July	Cathy Thompson	cathy.thompson@saintjohns.org.uk

(If you draft your copy in Tahoma, 16 point, on an A4 page, you'll get a good idea of how much space it will take up.)

[Editor's note: my family spent Easter afternoon looking through all my parents' keepsakes, which included my mum's school reports and exam papers! We thought you might be interested to see one of the set books being studied by 16-year-olds in 1934...]



Section D

THE BIBLE

22. Illustrate by reference and quotation :--

(a) Jeremiah's vivid portrayal of evil times ahead.

(b) Ezekiel's faith in the ultimate return of the exiles.

(c) The Psalmist's trust in God.

23. Write an account of *either* the wife of a Patriarch, or of a Jewish hero at a Royal Court.

Comment very briefly on one of the following, referring to the context :---

(i) Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.

(ii) In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaister of the wall.

(iii) Ye mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew, neither let there be rain upon you, nor fields of offerings: for there the shield of the mighty is vilely cast away.

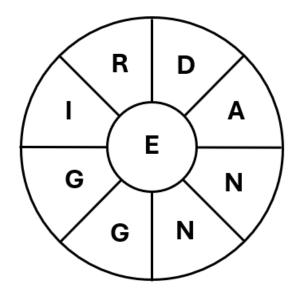
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PUZZLE PAGE

Have a go at this 'hard' sudoku. Good luck!

	5		9		2		
							1
		4		2		7	
	4	2		5	9		
	2			1			
	9	3		7		2	8
9	6	5		3			
					3	9	5
	3			9		6	4

Word-wheel: find as many 4 letter words and above using the middle letter. The clue to work out the 9-letter word is 'We will be doing a lot of this now!' [We found 30 words - see if you can beat us!!].



ABOUT OUR CATHEDRAL

There have been developments in respect of the replacement of the pane of glass that had been vandalized in the west front door of our Cathedral. The Cathedral advises me that tenders have been received and one proposal, from a lady in New Zealand who knew John Hutton (the original engraver of the doors), has been approved by the Cathedral's Fabric Advisory



Committee. They are now in contact with the engraver and making the necessary arrangements that are required before she can commence her work on the replacement glass panel. More information to follow on this topic in due course.

Meanwhile, a few Sundays ago, I was asked for my help by lighting some of the candles in church. What a surprising and wonderful experience. I could not help but stand and watch as the flame I'd lit grew larger with a purity and a brightness I'd never noticed before. It was more than a satisfying experience; I was quite moved by it. Why such a simple thing as lighting a candle should have that unexpected effect on me, I cannot say.

Of course, I was curious to see the candles in our Cathedral and decided to pay a visit this afternoon. It was a very blustery day, and the top of Stag Hill was blasted by a gale force wind. I noticed how the pure white clouds scudded across a vivid blue sky, and how the trees on the hilltop were being bent over by an invisible force, and all the time, the sound of the wind rose and fell as it crashed through the branches of trees, and raced round and about the Cathedral walls.

As I approached the main doors, they swung open, as if by an unseen hand - not only the outer but the inner doors too. I squeezed through and entering, all was quiet therein, though the sound of the wind whistling outside could be clearly heard. I took note of the many different types of candles, from small votive candles in the Children's Chapel to the large, Paschal candle near the main altar. Regardless of size and shape, I now know that candles create a sacred and serene ambiance, adding to a tranquil environment for meditation.

Nick Bond

Who's Who

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Web site: www.saintjohr	<u>is.org.uk</u>	Email: office@sai	ntjohns.org.uk
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Safeguarding Officer St John's Merrow, Pre-Sc Diocesan Lay Pastoral As		Michael Eagle Rosanne Bond Ms Amanda Bazley (Manage Mrs Helen Chambers	579462 er) 454625 846574
Readings and Intercessic Sunday Newssheet TiC and Lay Parish represe Wednesday Coffee Morni Transport Website contact	sentative	Joe Bullock Harry Talboys office@sai Mrs Isla Stables Gerald Hunt Mrs Rosanne Bond Parish Office (as above)	07521 960480 ntjohns.org.uk 567599 07545 256114 579462

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