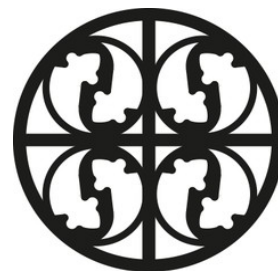


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Churchwardens	Miss Stella Wansborough Mrs Ann Murray	02392 642386 07716 408239
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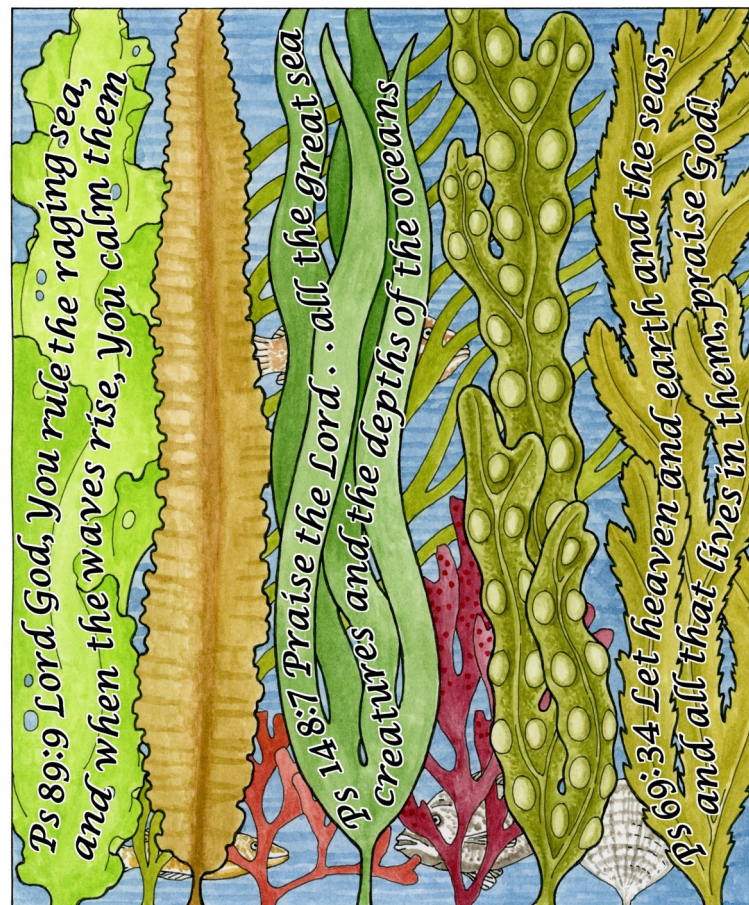
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Dear Friends

In last month's magazine I began with a slightly tongue-in-cheek note of celebration about the installation of scaffolding – at the Vicarage, rather than at St James. This month, I can echo that celebration, but more directly for our church building as I am able to confirm details of work starting! After a tendering process overseen by the quantity surveyor and in consultation with them and our church architect, we have appointed a local firm, T Coleborn and Son Ltd, as our contractors for our most urgent, Phase I works. I am delighted that we are actually able to undertake two (rather than just the one as I mentioned last month) of the three sub-phases of these works within our existing funds. In addition to work on the East elevation and roof, furthest from Milton Road, therefore, work will also be taking place on the South elevation, which contains the rose window and faces the car park.

Contractors will be on site from Monday 3 August and, subject to any unexpected delays, plan to complete the works in 17 weeks, which takes us into the early part of December. Thankfully this will mean that this year's wedding bookings are not impacted and that the works should be completed before we begin our Christmas celebrations. Having met with the contractors for a preliminary look at the likely impact on use of the building and car park, we now have a better idea of what this will be. A corner of the church itself will be unavailable, which will mean a temporary relocation of the children's area. I am pleased that the baptistry area is unaffected, so baptism arrangements can continue without hindrance. Both halls can still be used, albeit with some restrictions. A letter is being sent to all of our hall users and groups to provide them with further information about this so that they can plan accordingly and help is on offer if needed. It is anticipated that during the period of works the church car park will be unavailable due to the significant scaffolding required at the South elevation. The car parking area to the side of the church will remain in use as a drop-off point, subject to the need to restrict access, for example during funerals. I would like to thank everyone for their understanding and co-operation during these essential works.

It will be very reassuring to see these priority works completed. Unfortunately, getting to this stage has required the Parochial Church Council to use its endowments, which will have a significant impact on our ability to meet our ongoing running costs, for which we have partly relied on

the interest received on our investments. This burden will fall primarily on our church community, whose generosity is always greatly appreciated but cannot be unlimited. In addition, some urgent works, to the West elevation and roof, facing towards Milton Road, will still be needed in short order, while Phase 2 of the Roof Rescue Project (mainly concerning the large central and other smaller roof areas) will remain outstanding. These elements of the project will be dependent on securing grant funding, our own fundraising activities, and donations from the wider community.

We are working hard to ensure that St James Church continues to serve Milton and Eastney for many, many years to come. I hope that you will share that commitment and feel able to help us in our efforts.

With every blessing

Fr Darren



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UNPLUGGED ELVIS 2 ELTON – 26TH MAY 2026

A very enjoyable evening was had listening to song and stories from the Golden Age of Rock 'n' Roll performed by Neil & Michelle (who gave of their time and talent free of charge) featuring the music from the 1950's – 1970's..



There was a lot of singing along and toe tapping, but due to the incredibly hot weather sadly nobody could be encouraged to dance!

Amazing refreshments were served in the interval by Valerie, Rosemary and Mary and particular thanks go to Askews in Winter Road (Jo and Ryan) who cooked the Jacket Potatoes. Thank you to Sandra for doing the Raffle.

A big thank you must also go to Valerie and Rosemary for organising yet another successful fund raising event, raising £477 for the Roof Fund. Diane Brown

TESORO – 30TH MAY, 2026



A small but hugely appreciative crowd were privileged to watch a performance by the warm and engaging Tenor and Soprano duet Simon Long and Karen Barnet in St. James' Church on Saturday, 30th May. The Roof Rescue fund raiser drew rapturous applause as the duo, who use the stage name Tesoro, sang from their extensive repertoire ably supported by the Fine Voice Academy Choir.

The unique easy listening classical crossover duo almost raised the rafters as they belted out some favourite songs from the great American songbook including Joni Mitchell's soulful 'Both Sides Now' and tunes from musicals as varied as Evita, South

Pacific, The Lion King, Les Miserables and Mary Poppins. After the interval they sang even more musically demanding selections as they dipped into their classical standards including Simon's powerful rendition of Nessun Dorma. Both Simon and Karen sang with real passion and emotion throughout the evening with their version of Phantom of the Opera being a particular highlight.

A truly memorable night which will be long by all fortunate enough to attend. A special thank you to Roger Bannister for organising the event and all those behind the scenes that helped the evening run smoothly. Anyone interested in finding out more about Tesoro can access their website tesoroduo.co.uk. A further £474 was raised for the Roof Fund on this evening.
Stuart Exley

SIR SYDNEY NICHOLSON MVO: LIFT HIGH THE CROSS

Sir Sydney Nicholson MVO was born on the 9th February, 1875 and was an English Choir Director, Organist, Composer and Founder of the Royal School of Church Music. Educated at New College, Oxford before going to study the Organ at the Royal College of Music. He took up several Organist Posts including Carlisle Cathedral, Lower Chapel, Eton College, Manchester Cathedral and Westminster Abbey (1919-1928), during which time he edited the Hymns Ancient & Modern supplement that was published in 1916, however, he did not live to see the 1950 revised edition as he died on the 30th May 1947.

In 1927 Nicholson founded the School of English Church Music (now the RSCM) the School members initially meeting at St. Sepulchre-without-Newgate.

In addition to editing Hymns Ancient and Modern, Nicholson wrote several hymn tunes, the most famous of these is Crucifer for the popular processional hymn Lift High the Cross. In 1928 he received the Lambeth DMus and a decade later was knighted for his services to Church Music. He died at Ashford, Kent at the age of 72, and was buried at Westminster Abbey.

During the 1970's a Service was held in Westminster Abbey and the Choir of St. Patrick's Church (a daughter Church of St. James') were invited to attend this very moving Service where Lift High the Cross was sung.



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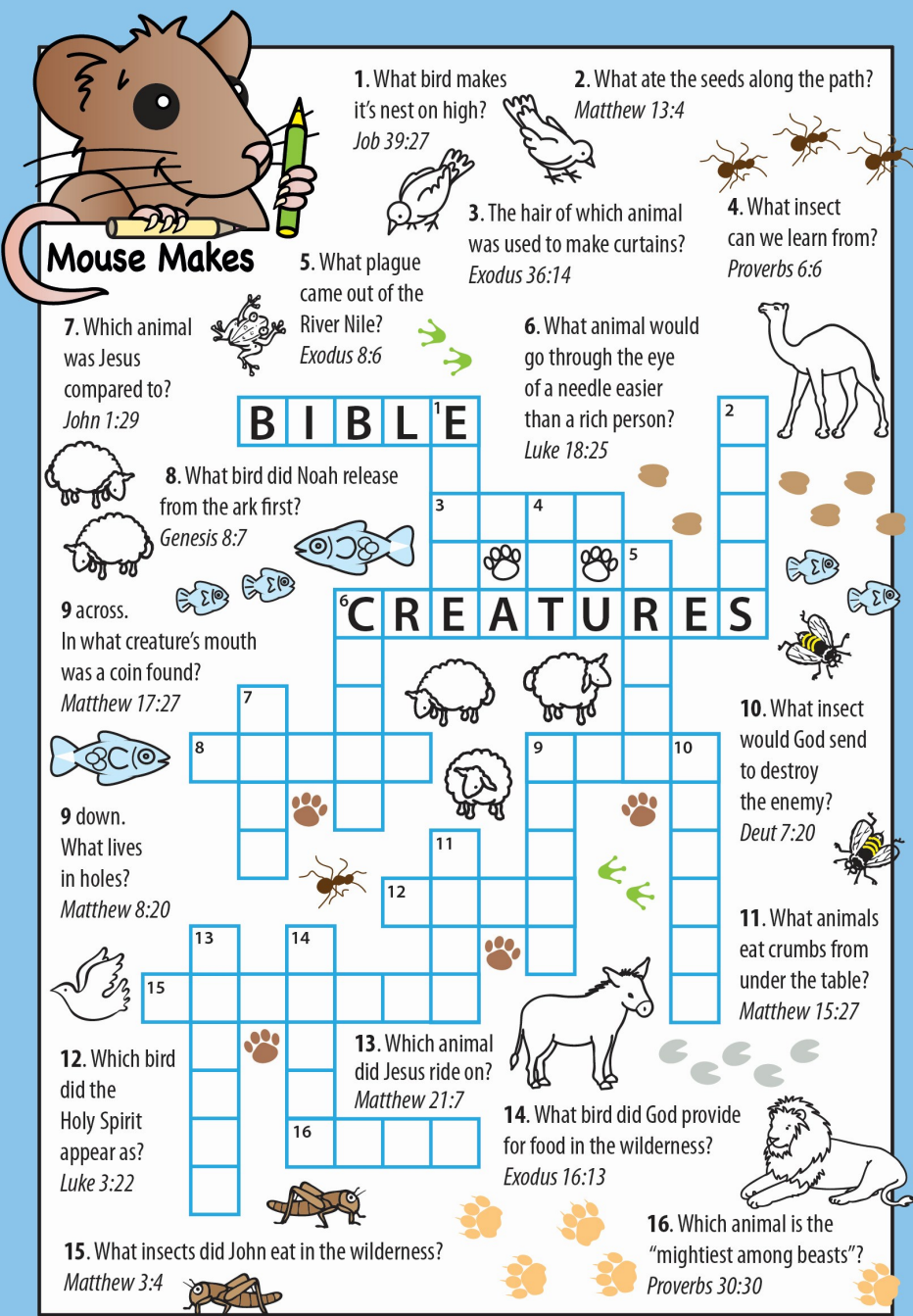
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IS EVERYBODY LISTENING

The service proceeded in an orderly manner. When it was time for the homily the Vicar mounted the steps into the pulpit and introduced it by acknowledging God, by saying "in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit" From this elevated position he could see everybody which included the non listeners. His homily concluded with the verse from the bible on which he had preached. This week it was "If you have ears to hear then listen to what the Spirit says", and to which a loud "Amen" was always added. When the choir came to sing the anthem nobody expected what happened next. Instead of remaining in the choir stalls they gathered in front of the nave altar. The music commenced via a backing track playing through the church sound system. What was going on? Their bodies were writhing to the rhythm of the music and more importantly nearly everybody in the church was enjoying it. How would their excitement be shown? Surely not by glapping when the choir had finished singing this show stopper of their anthem "Jesus Christ Super Star" this certainly was another way in which to praise God and another unexpected way to encounter the Holy Spirit. Unsure of what to do next the congregation decided to follow the service in a reverent manner until after the service had finished. There were obviously more surprises to come.

...to be continued

Peter Garner



Archbishop of Canterbury calls to 'make strangers neighbours' amid rising hostility

Responding to the recent King's Speech, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally, has spoken about the importance of hope at a time of rising hate crime, intimidation and hostility.

"The work of integration has never been more urgent. We have witnessed a deeply concerning deterioration in intercommunity relations. I therefore welcome the commitment in the Gracious Speech to do more to protect the Jewish communities following the recent appalling attacks and in doing so I wish to assure both Jewish and Muslim communities of my support as they face the unacceptable rise in hate crime, intimidation and hostility.

"The Church of England has long held that the right of all people to practise their faith without fear must be protected.

"We have also seen religious identity misused to intimidate and divide. Let us be clear: the commandment of Jesus Christ is to love your neighbour as yourself, to love without exception and to seek the flourishing of all.

"We must address the pressures facing people and communities today while ensuring that systems for new arrivals are fair. We must undertake the harder task of bringing communities together – of making strangers neighbours – and ensuring that all who reside here have both the opportunity and the responsibility to contribute to our shared life."

Holiday Soothies

For dealing with motion sickness, ginger capsules are your new friend. Available from any health store, they do a wonderful job in calming upset tummies. For fever or frayed tempers, take some camomile tea bags with you. Camomile tea doesn't just calm your nerves; cooled down, the tea also soothes sunburn. For banning mosquitoes & insomnia, take some essential oil of lavender. Mosquitoes hate the smell, so if you put a few drops around your pillow at night, you can help keep them at bay – and help yourself drift off to sleep.

World Cup

Many across the world are united in watching the World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada. However, football is more than just a game; it can illustrate some key points about the Christian life. As Paul writes: *'But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.'* (Philippians 3:13b,14).

A prize to be won: The dream of every player in the competition is to be able to hold up the World Cup themselves. Christians grasp to the prize of eternal life, God's gift to us of relationship with Jesus for now and eternity. However, there's an important difference between football and the Christian faith. To win the World Cup you have to be good enough, while Christ's love for us is underserved and not dependent on how well we've done.

Training to be undertaken: If a team is going to win the World Cup, training is vital! Our training, as Christians, starts the moment we accept the gift of God's life. On a daily basis, we train ourselves to say *no* to the wrong things in our lives. As we build up our *godly muscles* we are better able to choose to do what is right in God's eyes. To enable us to do all this we need to engage in the spiritual disciplines of prayer, studying the Bible and being part of a church and small group. How is your training going?

The former Liverpool Manager Bill Shankly famously said, *'Some people believe football is a matter of life and death, I am very disappointed with that attitude. I can assure you it is much, much more important than that!'*

LADIES GUILD

Ladies Guild meet on the 7th July with a talk from Gill Bailey who is going to tell us all about our new charity we are supporting to send Shoe Boxes to Moldova and Ukraine.

And on the 4th August our speaker is Wendy who is going to tell us about 'Herbal Medication for Arthritis' Both dates are on a Tuesday starting at 2pm. Everybody welcome.

High Days and Holy Days

Sundays of the Month

5 th July	Fifth Sunday after Trinity
12 th July	Sixth Sunday after Trinity
19 th July	Seventh Sunday after Trinity
26 th July	Eighth Sunday after Trinity

1 st July	– Henry Venn of the CMS
1 st July	– Theobald – choosing God, not money
2 nd July	– John Francis Regis, patron saint for relief workers
3 rd July	– St Thomas the Apostle, confused and doubting
4 th July	– St Elizabeth of Portugal, compassion for prostitutes
6 th July	– Thomas More, Reformation martyr
7 th July	– St Boisil of Melrose, patron saint for ordinands
7 th July	– St Willibald, the first ever Anglo-Saxon travel writer
11 th July	– St Benedict, author of the famous Rule
14 th July	– St Camillus de Lellis, patron of the sick
14 th July	– St Phocus of Sinope, the brave gardener
4 th July	– John Keble, priest, Tractarian and poet
15 th July	– St Swithun (or Swithin), saint for a rainy day
16 th July	– St Helier, losing a loved one to violence
16 th July	– St Osmund, bishop with a genius for cathedrals
19 th July	– St Macrina the Younger, a sister in a million
22 nd July	– The 'Other' Mary
22 nd July	– St Mary Magdalene, the woman with a past
22 nd July	– St Mary Magdalene, patron of repentant sinners
22 nd July	– St Mary Magdalene, and what we really know about her
25 th July	– St James the Apostle, apostle to Spain
25 th July	– St James the Great
25 th July	– St Christopher, patron saint of motorists
26 th July	– St Anne and St Joachim, parents of Blessed Virgin Mary
27 th July	– The Seven Sleepers of Ephesus, proving a nap is good for you!
28 th July	– St Botvid of Sweden
29 th July	– St Olaf, king & patron saint of Norway

7th July – St Boisil of Melrose, patron saint for ordinands?

Have you ever noticed how life-enhancing good ministers are? St Boisil (d.c.661) should be their patron saint. He did nothing spectacular, but he did everything that mattered.

Boisil was a monk who became abbot of Melrose, in the Irish monastic tradition. Boisil knew about God – he had spent years in study, and this earned him respect. Boisil walked with God – his transparent holiness made people love and trust him. Boisil could hear God speak – he was so open to God's Spirit that he was even given the gift of prophecy, which is God speaking through one person into specific situations in other people's lives.

Knowledge of God, obedience to God, and a prophetic gift from God. It is faithful Christians such as Boisil who have kept the Church going over the centuries. Sadly, in 661 Boisil caught the plague. He spent his last hours on earth reading St John's gospel with Cuthbert, another Celtic monk, who also caught the plague. Boisil prophesied that Cuthbert would live, but that he would die. But this did not trouble him: Boisil knew in whom he believed and was looking forward to finally seeing his beloved Master, face to face.

25th July – St James the Apostle, apostle to Spain

James and his brother John were sons of Zebedee and fishermen from Galilee – the 'sons of thunder', as the gospel writers describe their impetuous characters and fiery tempers.

James stands out on three accounts: he was one of the three disciples who witnessed the Transfiguration of Christ. Jesus took him, along with Peter and John, to 'watch' with Him in the garden of Gethsemane. Finally, he went on to be the first apostle to die for the Christian faith, when in AD 44 King Herod Agrippa put him to the sword in Jerusalem at Passover time.

In the centuries following his death, James became associated with the evangelising of Spain, and as a powerful defender of Christianity against the Moors. The heyday of the cult of Santiago de Compostela was from the 12th to the 15th century, and the pilgrimage to Compostela became one of the most important of medieval Christendom. This in time transformed the iconography of James, and his emblems became the pilgrim's hat and the scallop-shell of Compostela. Over 400 English churches have been dedicated to James.

From the Registers

We welcome into the Church family at Baptism:

Ralph Feltham, Hallie Feltham,
Kimberley Feltham, Robert Linfield

We led Funerals for those who now rest with God:

Sharon Timmins and Dorrie Eyres

Internment of Ashes:

John and Annie Bell



Sea Sunday – 12th July

Sea Sunday is the day each year when churches worldwide come together to pray for seafarers, and to support The Mission to Seafarers' frontline ministry to them.

Seafarers are essential to everyday life, yet many work unseen, facing long periods away from home, isolation, and often dangerous conditions. Sea Sunday offers an opportunity to pause, and give thanks for the men and women who keep our world moving.

The Mission to Seafarers works in ports across the world. In 2025 alone, it made over 48,000 ship visits, provided shore leave transport for more than 150,000 seafarers, and ran programmes on family support and suicide prevention.

These moments of care — a visit on board, practical help ashore, or someone to listen — can make a profound difference to seafarers far from home.



generosity, and justice.

For Sea Sunday 2026, the theme is 'Harbours of Hope: The Church Alongside Seafarer', inspired by *Matthew 25*. This theme celebrates the local church as a place of welcome, refuge, and hope — a community offering both spiritual and practical safety to those who work at sea. It invites congregations to reflect on how they can stand alongside seafarers through prayer, hospitality,

There is a wide range of free downloadable resources on Sea Sunday, which can be found at: <https://www.missiontoseafarers.org>

Here are some tips for a cooler house

If the summer heat is getting to you, you might consider the following:

Close your curtains and blinds during the day. Block out the sunlight. That may be hard to do in a country where we don't see the sun as often as we'd like, but sadly that sunlight pouring through your windows will not only brighten but also heat up your house.

At night, aim to create a breeze that flows through your house. This is easy to do – simply open windows on opposite walls or at opposite sides of your home. Let the air circulate as much as possible.

Try to reduce heat from your appliances. Your stove, television, dishwasher, hairdryer, fridge and freezer all generate some heat. Can you do without any of these during the daytime?

Aim for cool flooring. Try and use wood flooring and ceramic or porcelain tiles in that is why we like them in the winter.

Consider using breathable fabrics over your sofa and chairs. Sitting on natural fabrics such as cotton or linen throws is cooler than sitting on man-made fabrics.

If all else fails, *try an electric fan*, placed on the floor in front of a bowl of ice water, and aimed at the opposite wall of your room. But they are expensive to run, and do not cool the air. They merely increase the velocity of it, so that it feels cooler.

14th July St Camillus de Lellis - patron of the sick

Sometimes those who suffer are best at helping others in a similar situation. Discharged from the Venetian army with an incurable leg wound, St Camillus (1550 – 1614) founded a religious order called the Ministers of the Sick (the Camellians). Both in their Holy Ghost Hospital in Rome, and by travelling to plague-stricken parts of the world, the Camellians dedicated their lives to caring for the sick. Camillus is the patron of the sick and of nurses.

Smiles Lines

Never too old for cricket

"Well, well," said the old gentleman to some boys who were playing cricket. "I wish I could join your game, but I'm too old."

"You CAN join in," said one young player. "Our ball has just gone through that window. You can go and ask for it back."

Lists

I love to make a list. When I get to the shops and find that I have left it behind on the kitchen counter, I like to try and guess what I put onto it.

Bucket list

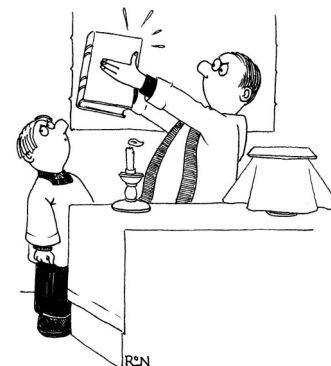
I'm proud to announce that I have completed the first item on my bucket list. I have the bucket.

Adopted

The teacher's young pupils were discussing a picture of a family. One little boy in the picture had a different hair colour than the other members. One of the children suggested that he was adopted. A little girl said, "I know all about adoption; I was adopted."

"What does it mean to be adopted?" asked another child.

"It means", said the girl, "that you grew in your mommy's heart instead of her tummy."



Fortunately it was a perfect mosquito,
without spot or blemish



The boys on the substitutes' bench knew
their only chance of a sing was if one of
the first team was injured

The Rectory
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

So, now you have enjoyed your first Summer Fete. Don't say I didn't warn you. It may be small consolation but remember that they only happen once a year – although in your case, you still have another 30 to endure before retirement.



I negotiated our own last week. As usual, the band from our neighbouring parish of St Eusebius played. There has been much bad blood in the past between our two villages. The trouble started on the day that St James the Least of All never told St Eusebius that the Vikings were coming up the river. We may have long since buried the hatchet, but both sides remember where they put it.

Tension between the two communities down the centuries has moved on from occasional slaughter to something a little more refined. Just as I began my opening speech to crown the Rose Queen, the band struck up with the National Anthem. When the hog roast started, they played "smoke gets in your eyes" and when it came to the necessary music for the maypole dancing, they all disappeared into the beer tent.

With great Christian charity, we shall bide our time. In September we have the annual football match between the two churches' Servers. Last year, in addition to winning the match, the St James' boys sent three of their side off with concussion. Naturally, I visited them in hospital.

Miss Prendergast, as always, played Gypsy Rose Lee. If the tall, dark, dear lady tells me one more time that I am about to find romance with a tall dark lady, while she flutters her eyelashes at me, I swear I shall throttle her with a bell rope. Besides, I already have a beautiful dark lady in my life – and my Labrador is devoted to me.

The only real hiccough came when I bought 12 packets of fudge from Mrs Masheder to present to our choirboys. Yet again, she had misread salt for sugar in the recipe. After I presented the packets at Mattins the following day, a formal complaint was rapidly made by a parent to the police that the Rector was attempting to poison their son. But as I explained to the officer, if I had intended to poison anyone, I would have done it far more discreetly – and infinitely more efficiently.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

WEEKLY DIARY OF EVENTS IN ST. JAMES' CHURCH HALLS

Day	Time	Activity
Monday	6.30 - 9.30pm	Scouts
Tuesday	10.00 - 12.15pm	Seven Stars Tai Chi
	11.15 - 2.15pm	Steven Stars Tai Chi
	4.30 - 5.30pm	Rainbows
1st	2.00 - 4.00pm	Ladies Guild
3rd	2.00 - 4.00pm	Craft Club
	6.00 - 7.30pm	Brownies
	7.00 - 10.00pm	Victory Model Railway Club
Wednesday	10.30 - 2.30pm	Highbury
	5.30 - 7.45pm	AG Martial Arts
	6.45 - 8.15pm	Yoga with Erika Nagy
Thursday	10.00 - 12noon	Jiggy Wrighlers
	3.00 - 7.00pm	Slimming World
	5.15 - 6.45pm	Yoga with Erica Nagy
	7.30 - 8.30pm	Yoga with Maz
Friday	10.00 - 11.00am	Seven Stars Tai Chi
	10.00 - 11.00am	Seven Stars Tai Chi
	7.00 - 9.30pm	Milton Glee Choir
	7.30 - 9.00pm	B Fit with Billie (Ad hoc)
Saturday	7.00 - 11.30am	Slimming World
	9.45 - 11.15am	Yoga with Erika Nagy

If you require a Booking at any other time, please contact our Hall Letting Secretary Valerie England. Tel. No. 07762 524781.

Deadline for next edition : 20th July contributes to Ruth Baber
Email: sjmiltonreview@gmail.com



SOCIAL EVENTS FOR 2026



July 2026

Tuesday 7th Ladies Guild 2pm - 4pm
Saturday 18th Cheese and Wine Evening with a Quiz. 7pm.
Tuesday 21st Craft Club 2pm - 4pm
Sunday 26th St James Day with Bar-B-Que

August 2026

Tuesday 4th Ladies Guild 2pm - 4pm
Tuesday 18th Craft Club 2pm - 4pm
Saturday 29th Bingo Evening 7.00pm
Monday 31st Bank Holiday Tea & Cake with Garden Games and Fancy Dress

September 2026

Tuesday 1st Ladies Guild
Saturday 12th Table Top Sale
Tuesday 15th Craft Club

October 2026

Tuesday 6th Ladies Guild 2pm - 4pm
Saturday 17th tbc - An Evening with Canon Tom
Tuesday 20th Craft Club 2pm - 4pm



November 2026

Tuesday 3rd Ladies Guild 2pm - 4pm
Saturday 7th tbc Fine Voice Academy Concert
Tuesday 17th Craft Club 2pm - 4pm
Saturday 21st Christmas Bazaar 10.30am - 1pm

Craft Club



December 2026

Tuesday 1st Ladies Guild 2pm - 4pm
Saturday 5th Table Top Sale 10am - 12.00noon
Sunday 6th RNLI Carol Concert 3pm
Sunday 13th 1pm Christmas Lunch
Tuesday 15th Craft Club 2pm - 4pm
Sunday 20th Carol Service 6pm (Followed by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies)
Wednesday 23rd Christingle Service (Time to be advised)

January 2027

No Guild this month
Tuesday 19th - Craft Club 2pm - 4pm
Saturday 30th - Bingo Evening 7pm

February 2027

Tuesday 2nd February - Ladies Guild 2pm - 4pm
Wednesday 10th - Ash Wednesday Services 10am and 7pm
Tuesday 16th - Craft Club 2pm - 4pm
Saturday 27th - Quiz Night 7pm

March 2027

Tuesday 2nd March - Ladies Guild 2pm - 4pm
Tuesday 16th March - Craft Club 2pm - 4pm
Sunday 21st Palm Sunday Service with Procession 10am
Thursday 25th Maundy Thursday Service 7pm
Friday 26th Good Friday Service 2pm
Saturday 27th Holy Saturday Service 7pm
Easter Sunday Service 10am

April 2027

Tuesday 6th - Ladies Guild 2pm - 4pm
Saturday 17th - Table Top Sale 10am - 12.00
Tuesday 20th - Craft Club 2pm - 4pm



May 2026

Tuesday 4th Ladies Guild 2pm - 4pm
Thursday 6th Ascension Day Service 7pm
Tuesday 18th Craft Club 2pm - 4pm