

# St Mark's Parish Magazine

### August 2023





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#### LETTER FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends,

What is this life if, full of care, We have no time to stand and stare. No time to stand beneath the boughs And stare as long as sheep or cows. No time to see, when woods we pass, Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass. No time to see, in broad daylight, Streams full of stars, like skies at night. No time to turn at Beauty's glance, And watch her feet, how they can dance. No time to wait till her mouth can Enrich that smile her eyes began. A poor life this if, full of care, We have no time to stand and stare.



These words – from the poem "Leisure" by WH Davies – were written over a hundred years ago, yet, despite the massive shifts in technology and culture we still cheat ourselves of time to "stop and stare". I can imagine the poet dreaming of a future time when technology might transform our lives, slowing us down, offering more leisure, more opportunities to reflect on what it is be a human or just to be.

Confounding that dream, technology has done the opposite. It has filled our activities even more. We might stop and stare, but we stare at the TV, our laptops, our tablets. Children's lives too can be all about packing in so much activity. Dashing to this group, to that club, the next sport activity, with no time offered just to be at peace, quiet, just thinking.

Followers of Jesus are encouraged to stop and stare. Jesus said "Come to me, everyone who is tired and burdened, and I will give you rest." Take time, stop and stare. Our lives are busy, frantic and always on the go and God didn't create us to withstand that constant tsunami of information, technology and communication. God offered us Sabbath – time, not exclusively a Sunday – when we can contemplate and pray deeply about things. To remember that Jesus often went off to 'a certain place' to pray, to reflect and to make space for God and to stop and stare. If Jesus needed to do that then we must follow His example.

So, this August make space, take time, grasp the opportunity to just stop and stare and see and listen for what God can offer you, as well as noticing the beautiful countryside that is around us here in Reigate.

Marta



#### News from the Church of England

### General Synod calls on Church and Government to move faster on climate emergency

Oxford Diocese motion commits to further action across the Church including on finances and church buildings.

The Church of England's General Synod has called for renewed action from the Church and Government to tackle the impact and causes of climate change.

A motion brought by the Diocese of Oxford calls on all parts of the Church to review policies and procedures in order to give due priority to creation care, and asks the Government to review planning regulations to aid the installation of renewable technology on church buildings that are listed or in conservation areas, was passed by a substantial majority of Synod members.

It also commends the National Investment Bodies for their decisions to divest from fossil fuels, calls for regular prayer, and encourages the opportunity for confirmation candidates to make commitments to safeguard the integrity of creation.

Ahead of the vote, Synod members were briefed on the aspects of the motion which have made positive progress since the motion was passed by Oxford Diocesan Synod in March 2020: including the Church of England's **Routemap to Net Zero by 2030** and announcements by the National Investing Bodies to **disinvest from fossil fuels.** 

Synod members also heard from National Advisors on Net Zero and Environmental Affairs who said the recent approval of solar panels on the roof of King's College Cambridge could prompt acceptance of more renewable installations elsewhere.

The Diocese of Oxford has already taken local action to address the climate crisis, including the approval of  $\pounds 10$  million expenditure on environmental works to improve the carbon footprint of vicarages in the Thames Valley, synod heard, before voting for an amendment from Jack Shepherd (Liverpool) for all Church institutions to make similar expenditure commitments.

The motion asks for national services such as the Parish Buying scheme to build capacity to put cost-effective utilities and supplies within the reach of all parishes.

Additionally, it asks Bishops and the Liturgical Commission to encourage Confirmation services to consider including an additional question, inviting candidates to commit to striving to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Introducing the motion, the Bishop of Reading, Olivia Graham, said: "We have the rest of this decade to take decisive action. The motion challenges us in all areas of life, from finances to buildings and political advocacy. We must not kick this can down the road for future generations to deal with.

"There is no greater issue facing society today than runaway climate change. Our Church, with the level of resources, reach and influence we have, must be on the frontline of the battle to save God's creation."



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ST MARK'S OVERSEAS AID TRUST REGISTERED CHARITY No. 280091

#### **SMOATathon**

On Sunday 24 September we shall be staging our 5th SMOATathon in St Mark's Church Hall. Our intention will be to provide live music from 11.30 am until well into the afternoon, with the aim of raising funds through donations for one of the projects supported by SMOAT.

In total, SMOATathons 1-4, held between 2013 and 2019, raised more than £7,500. Help us make this year's event equally successful by coming along on September 24th to enjoy a live music extravaganza (and refreshments, of course).

And if you like to sing or play a musical instrument, why not consider taking part? Performance slots can be as short or as long as you like, and the audience is always particularly appreciative of the efforts of younger participants.

David Lear (<u>davidlear1947@gmail.com</u>) will be delighted to hear from anyone interested in becoming involved.

Barbara Perkins Chairman



#### **Church News**

#### **SMART**



**SMART** meets on the first Thursday of each month between 2.00pm– 4.00pm in St. Mark's Church Hall (except for those

marked\* which are outside visits). We welcome everyone of retirement age who lives locally and enjoys meeting others for interesting discussion and lively conversations, accompanied by suitable refreshments.

**SMART** is run by **Sarah Cousins** - 01737 789943. We are always happy to welcome new members and arrange lifts to the meetings and help. Please feel free to bring a friend to any of the meetings.

For meetings in the church hall there will be a charge of **£1.00** for tea and coffee etc. unless stated otherwise.

The SMART Programme for the remainder of the year is listed below.

- **7 Sep "SIGHT FOR SURREY"** Samantha Head will speak to us about her charity that works to support all Surrey residents who are blind, vision impaired, deaf, deaf blind and hard of hearing.
- **5 Oct "MUSIC AND FUN"** Bruce Cousins entertains with songs you may remember! Please come to have fun and join in.
- **2 Nov Revd Martin Colton** will be our speaker on subject TBC
- **7 Dec "CHRISTMAS IS COMING!''** Come and celebrate Christmas with carols and plenty of Christmas fare. Please bring a friend or family member.

#### ANNUAL GIVING

A huge thank you to everyone who has generously donated in our period of Annual Giving. **We have raised £20,500 including Gift Aid.** This is less than the target set of £30,000 but we appreciate this is a difficult time. We officially close our annual giving on 30 June, however, if anyone still wishes to make a contribution this will be most welcome to enable us to carry out much needed decoration and refurbishment to the hall and foyer areas. Many thanks again.

Mel Crighton, PCC Treasurer



#### Regrets

Looking back on our lives do we regret more things we have done or more things we failed to do. It is so easy after the event to regret actions we have taken when with after-sight we might have behaved differently, just as we can regret avoiding the challenges we have received and might have taken to the advantage, not just of ourselves, but others as well.

It is easy to avoid the issue by doing nothing when actions seem to be needed. We can put off the decision by saying "I will think about it tomorrow". We know the saying "Do not put off to tomorrow what you can do today" and we might even say "Do not put off to tomorrow what you can do the day after tomorrow." But delay can mean it becomes impossible for the actions to be taken at all, such as in the case of death or the situation disappearing.

For myself I think I have more regrets over what I have omitted to do, than those in which I took the plunge and found myself in deeper waters than I had thought. All this is like the film "Sliding Doors" where lives can change in an instant on such small events. Sometimes the decision we have to take is like choosing between "the devil or the deep blue sea."

So often, even if we regret the way we took, it can result in a positive outcome, after all. As Christians we can believe that other way was what God intended for us anyway. I can imagine the regrets that the Prodigal Son must have had when his hopes for a happy and prosperous future were dashed when he found himself working with the pigs.

However, in returning to his father in genuine sorrow this situation of regret was turned into joy by his loving and forgiving father. His brother was not so forgiving, which surely must have given more harm to him than to his erring brother. Perhaps that is a lesson for us to not try to condemn others when we should leave that to God.

What I see as wonderful is that at the beginning of each new day we have a fresh start to make our way forward and at the end of each day we can thank God for what has taken place, good or bad in our eyes, hoping to have the peace of the night to refresh us for the next day.

#### Ian Archer



#### Faith and Hope in Action?

There have been a number of polls recently which suggest there is a strong feeling of pessimism about in Britain today. "A palpable lack of hope" says Robert Shrimsey in the Financial Times. I suspect the same outlook is shared by some other countries too.

With widespread stagflation, possibly to last some time, wars in Europe as well as elsewhere, poor economic performance compared with our neighbours, poor performance in most underfunded public sectors; police, health, elderly care and social services, dysfunctional behaviour in Westminster, the appalling threats from climate change going largely unattended and the understanding that the need to recover this situation which is likely to inhibit other positive change and general pessimism: this is hardly surprising.

But there are small seeds of hope too.

The Prince of Wales' "Homewards" project to find houses for the homeless is strongly supported by the Anglican Church with its "Coming Home report," (see last month's article). This is a bold move by both. Do you recall the screams of rage and invective directed at the Anglican Church for its "Faith in the City" report? We were told to confine ourselves to the saving of souls and leave material matters to our betters.

The mere setting up of a fund of three million pounds as seed capital to discover the reasons and solutions to homelessness in six locations by some will be a perceived criticism of national values. The Prince will understand that his intervention will not be welcome in certain places. He clearly has a social conscience and it is laudable that he is poking his nose into what others may think to be their exclusive business. He is clearly not satisfied with the "Beauty Queen," function or, more kindly, "mayoral," function envisaged by the constitution. But his is a high wire act, and the strength of the wire may yet be proved to be the church.

Mark Carney, a former and successful Chairman of the Bank of England, now advisor to the government on Climate Change matters, argued that climate strategy should be to phase out fossil fuel activity by restricting its finance. Being a man of action, he persuaded several other central banks to agree to such a policy.

Unhappily since his move from office, most banks have ignored such a policy and continue to expand finance to fossil fuel interests. So, the reality as with the many COP agreements, is that banks agree, only to go on as before. Legislation with sanctions is required.

But in the area of finance, the Church Commissioners, with the strong approval of the Archbishop of Canterbury who has emphasised the duty of the church to "protect God's creation" (see last month's magazine), is currently being roundly criticised for this its new and overdue policy to withdraw investment from fossil fuel interests and instead support "green" initiatives. The press criticises its use of the trust's own money with the assertion that it is doing harm to national policy instead of continuing with fossil fuels. These "but, but" criticisms only go to demonstrate an insufficient grasp of the nature of the climate emergency. This is yet another reactionary response against action to reduce climate change.

This focus on homelessness by both church and Prince and the Commissioners' change of financial policy are instances of attempts to direct attention to the priority of these social and climatic conditions and to bring about change.

The clashes consequential on the above actions underline the friction between practices by vested interests and the current need to change our reliance on fossil fuels. As I have said before, this will go on in some form or other. We should also bear in mind that greenhouse gasses released into the atmosphere in spite of all the publicity, are growing rather than being reduced, and have been doing so for many years. We are also inclined to forget that such gasses remain in the atmosphere for very many years, certainly long enough to see off mankind.

So with this cumulative effect, even reaching some distant target, but in the meantime pushing out carbon dioxide as if "there were no tomorrow!" will ensure there is considerable damage done to our grandchildren's futures, if any. Furthermore, we should remember the "tipping point" which is the level of global warming which releases huge quantities of methane gas from the earth (much more harmful than carbon dioxide) which will cause huge further warming outside the control of mankind. From then on the natural world will itself spell out the fate of mankind without any help from the burners of fossil fuels.

The current strategies of most governments throughout the world, notwithstanding their promises, is either to allow this state of affairs to continue or only take entirely insufficient action. Though amongst the populations of the world many people are reluctant to accept the need for change, there is a wide understanding of this situation but as yet no concerted effective response.

It is crystal clear that voluntary change cannot work. There will always be individuals and countries which choose to take advantage of short-term advantages for them. Change must be part of a recognised plan and be enforced. But before that can happen the strategies of governments must be changed, presumably by populations.

On Sunday Morning (7 July) few who heard John Kerry, the US leading minister on climate change, who even made reference to the activities of "Just Stop Oil", could

doubt that the time for a more general push to persuade governments that the time for emergency action, is now.

It's easy to scoff at ideas for promoting change by governments. The Tribal based will react against change. Many will say it is unreal; "We don't do things like that!" "How can we know better than governments," and so on. But we do know that it is the case for new organisations to grow up often from the enthusiasm of committed individuals.

Even a young girl called Greta Thunberg through persistence was able to rouse the conscience of the World. How much more might be the effect if action were sponsored by those organisations which already have a worldwide network and lead on matters spiritual. That would be a sound lead for the otherwise silent majority. Let us just suppose some visionary without trappings stumbled over some kind of initiative.

A good beginning might be for some local parish church to formulate a proposal for change and put it to the existing local organisations of churches. The resolution might cover the setting up of a representative body to create and organise a strategy with government, to cover the phasing out the burning of fossil fuels with detailed method, targets and quarterly public reports and oversight by the independent body.

The local "Churches Together" body might encourage other parishes to adopt the resolution and, supported by the numbers they represent, pass it on to its diocese which would similarly combine with other dioceses to approach the General Synod. Then, so on till the Anglican Church joined with other branches of Christianity and other faiths, all of whom have the same interest of preserving God's World, to produce an international demand for governments to apply the principles of the resolution. It does not need to be drawn out in time. Most of the above organisations are already committed and all that is required is for them to be brought together. Now that really would be Faith and Hope in Action.

#### Harry Ingram

#### **FOODBANK**

St Matthew's Foodbank are desperately short of donations at the moment. With the squeeze on household finances, more and more people are turning to the Foodbanks for the first time, and yet the amount of donations has fallen. If you are able to give anything at all, please leave your donation at the Vicarage. Please remember that no fresh food can be accepted, and all tins and packets must be in date. More information can be found at:

https://www.redhillfoodbank.org.uk/shopping-list

#### **CALENDAR FOR AUGUST 2023**

Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> August	12.45pm 2.00pm	Holy Communion (Iona) in Church SMART
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> August	8.00am	<b>Asfiguration</b> Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church Holy Communion with hymns – in Church and Online
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> August	12.45pm	Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> August	8.00am	<b>day after Trinity</b> Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church Holy Communion with hymns – in Church and Online
<b>Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August</b> Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> August Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> August	12.45pm	<b>sed Virgin Mary</b> Holy Communion (Iona) in Church Social Ballroom and Latin Dance in the Hall
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> August	8.00am	<b>day after Trinity</b> Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church Holy Communion with hymns – in Church and Online
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>St Barth</b> 12.45pm	<b>olomew</b> Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> August	8.00am 10.00am	<b>day after Trinity</b> Holy Communion (BCP) — in Church Holy Communion with hymns — in Church and Online Taizé Prayer
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> August	12.45pm	Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Please remember that planned services are subject to change at short notice so please check the details on our website or with the Parish Office.

#### **CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 2023**

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	<ul> <li><b>13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b></li> <li>8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church</li> <li>10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online</li> <li>4.00pm Family Service – in Church</li> </ul>
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church 2.00pm SMART
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	<ul> <li>14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</li> <li>8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church</li> <li>10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online with Junior Church</li> </ul>
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> September Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> Sept	3.25pm T-Time Tales Holy Cross Day 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> September	8.00pm Social Ballroom and Latin Dance in the Hall
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b> 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online 4.00pm Messy Church
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> September Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> September Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> Sept	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online 4.00pm Messy Church
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> September	<ul> <li>8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church</li> <li>10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online</li> <li>4.00pm Messy Church</li> <li>3.25pm T-Time Tales</li> <li>St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist</li> </ul>

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September St Michael and All Angels

Please remember that planned services are subject to change at short notice so please check the details on our website or with the Parish Office.



#### The Ancient Lanes of England

The ancient lanes of England May wend their winding way From who knows where to Goodness knows To 'where are we today?'

Twixt walls of ancient stonework O'er hills and valleys steep The ancient lanes of England Their grassy way they keep.

The ramblers now of England May walk each stony street, And think, as they are rambling Of all those ancient feet.

That trod those lanes of England On each succeeding day From where they lived to where they worked They trod their working way.

Those ancient lanes of England As vital, in their day As rail tracks or aircraft routes Or any motorway!

From farms they brought their produce Their cereals and grains Their cattle, milk, and butter too Along those grassy lanes.

#### **Nigel Beeton**

#### **Apologies**

The last line of the poem that featured in the July issue of the Parish Magazine was erroneously omitted. Please find the last line along with the last stanza of the poem 'Home'.

The grey days may bring sad emotions The gay days come from a shining sun, But so long as we are together The garden will make it home.

#### Anonymous



#### Lost and Found

This last week I lost my wallet, and so immediately cancelled my Debit Card and driving licence. Three days later I found the wallet tucked into a chair. Recently I lost my passport which was kindly handed in by the finder, so perhaps I am becoming more unreliable in my old age. When something important was lost I used to be able to blame it on Jenny, my wife, such as when I found the car keys in the bread bin, but as she died over 2 years ago, she can no longer take the blame.

I used to ride a bike to the station every day on the way to work and for fear of losing the key I had a combination lock, but once even that didn't work with the planned number. It took half an hour to cut through the lock with a hacksaw to free the bike, during which the only comment from an elderly passer-by was "I wonder if I have a key that will fit?" I expect I am not the only one to lose small treasures from time to time and usually if and when they are found we can rejoice.

Jesus told the story of a woman who lost one of ten silver coins and in her distress lit a lamp and swept the house diligently until she found it. Then she called together her friends and neighbours, saying "Rejoice with me, because I have found the coin which was lost." This followed the parable of the shepherd losing one sheep out of a hundred and leaving the 99 while he searched for the one which was lost. Then he also told the parable of the Prodigal Son, when the father celebrates in the joy of the return of that lost son.

So, it is nothing new to lose items of value and hopefully finding them again but Jesus was illustrating how wonderful it was to God for one sinner to repent – never mind those who had been "good" before.

But it is not only items of value we might lose. If we don't take the trouble to often enough think of our family, friends, neighbours and those in need, to visit them if possible, but at least keep in touch we could lose them when keeping together for us all is so important.

#### **Ian Archer**



#### Part V Room at the Top continued....

So it was that by the end of the five weeks the Revenue Competition was back on course. One spin off was that the Director, Finlay insisted on monitoring progress at the handling of applications stage by monthly reports and the one for the Revenue went straight to Fred.

Fred also had to devise and make monthly reports which were circulated not only round PSRB but also the whole Commission, to the Chief Inspector and notably Percy. The Revenue section at the Commission dealing with applications was strengthened and that young clerk promoted to be in charge. No longer was there any "physical or psychological barriers...." Control was pretty much under PSRB. News of the Summer Boards had spread and Revenue standing was high both at PSRB and the wider service.

The months passed satisfactorily and then Fred's promotion came through. He knew this was the result of his time in his first district, but at PSRB it was celebrated as if he owed it to them. Cakes all round, served in the Common Room and not in a garden. Then his transfer came through. In a month's time he must hand over and go to Head Office to deal with the unrelated mixture of "Devil" on "Losses", responsible for giving districts advice on loss claims, and "I/C CS London", a small section for taking London interviews with Civil Servants of all ranks, and MPs, and, when agreement was not reached, taking them for formal hearings before the General Commissioners.

Also, at that time PSRB moved premises. That took place above Fred who thought he had no interest, but on arrival at the new offices he discovered he had been allocated a small room not much larger than a broom cupboard. Ah well, did it matter? He would be gone in a month. That thought lasted less than five minutes.

Then he jumped up and toured the new premises finding most rooms already occupied but examining the walls of the others. He soon discovered the Principals had been afforded proper space. His suspicions were soon confirmed. The whole interior had been dismantled and redesigned from scratch, with new rooms created, so that each conformed to the standard applicable to the particular grade. That is, all save his, which seemed to have been a residue space after the other allocations.

Fred was both cold and furious. The room was not big enough to hold an interview. He would have to squash up to get a chair the other side of the desk. In his search he had discovered a huge spare room on the top floor for a Private Secretary, big enough to house a three piece band and hold a departmental dance, which would only be used part time. He went in search of the Deputy Director who had "master minded" the move. "My room is far too small. Those of the Principals are much larger and I now outrank them. The vacant one on the top floor will suit me," said Fred.

"Well, that room is reserved for visiting Private Secretaries," replied the Assistant Director, "and the Principals had to get the standard size. Yours is a bit tight, but your successor will be of your old rank and surely you are not going to make a fuss about status," said the Deputy.

"It's obviously too small for purpose; too small for interviews and not enough space for equipment. Never mind rank, but yes, on the matter of status, candidates will quickly notice the difference in treatment between Revenue and Admin Grade conditions and decide that the Revenue is a second class job. May I remind you that Lord Fulton said "There shall be no real or psychological barriers to the recruitment of HM Inspectors of taxes!"

"I will bring the Director to see the room after coffee," said the Deputy.

Back in his room Fred dragged the desk a further foot from the small window and opened the doors of the cupboard behind the entry door. When the two Directors arrived, the corridor door hit the open cupboard door and bounced back into them. "You did that on purpose," said the Deputy. Ignoring that remark Fred asked, "Could either of you do your job in here, and you don't hold interviews with candidates? My Competition is nearly a third the size of yours and you have larger rooms and a small army to run it. I do it alone from my room and it's not good enough!"

By now the Director, Finlay, knew Fred well and respected him. He did not need to be a psychologist to understand that this outburst might be followed by the gelignite self-igniting, so he ignored Fred's rudeness and intervened. To his Deputy he said: "I agree. It's not big enough. It was a radical mistake made when they were first allocated. There is still too much treatment here of the Revenue as in some way being second class. You must find another room which is adequate. Fred should have been consulted."

Fred was gob smacked. Directors did not row in public. Later that day the Deputy sheepishly put his head round Fred's door. "Your room is now upstairs on the Admin corridor and is the size for an Assistant Secretary" (one rank up from Fred's present grade). "I hope that suits."

Fred handed over to his successor to move to his next assignment at Head Office, and explained the work, background and policy. Looking forward, he had no knowledge of what the job on losses would involve nor the challenges of interviewing MPs, nor what conducting Revenue Appeal cases before Commissioners might be like. It would certainly be a change from the corridors of power! He saw from his letter that Percy would still be his ultimate boss.

To be continued next month .....



**Reader Recipes** 

#### **Strawberry Crumble Buns**

Celebrate strawberry season with these moreish crumble buns. These eye-catching desserts are perfect for summer and make an impressive sweet treat.

Ingredients:-

- 120g butter, 70g at room temperature and 50g chilled and cubed
- 370g plain flour
- 2 eggs
- 135g caster sugar
- 7g dried fast action yeast
- 100ml milk, lukewarm
- 250g strawberries, halved



Method:-

- 1. Melt the 70g butter and let it cool. Sift 300g flour into a bowl, add the eggs, 75g sugar and the yeast and mix everything with a spoon. Slowly add the lukewarm milk and cooled butter. Mix until all ingredients are well combined into a very soft, sticky dough. Cover the bowl with a clean cloth and put in a warm place to rise for 40–60 mins until doubled in volume.
- 2. To make the crumble, combine the remaining flour with the remaining sugar and chilled butter. Rub the butter into the flour until you have a breadcrumblike texture. Chill.
- 3. When the dough has risen, divide it into six portions, squashing it down slightly and then shape each into a ball on a floured worksurface the dough may still be sticky, so dust it with flour and work quickly. Flatten the balls gently with your hand so that they look like buns. Put on a baking tray lined with baking parchment.
- 4. Divide the strawberries between the buns, putting them in the centre of each and sprinkle with crumble. Heat the oven to 180C/fan 160C/gas 4. Bake the buns for 25 mins until puffed and cooked. Cool and then dust with icing sugar, if you like.

Recipe taken from BBC Good Food. If you have a recipe you'd like to share email us at magazine@stmarksreigate.co.uk.



#### August Crossword

Biblical references are from the New International Version

#### Across

- 1 & 3 Two of the disciples who witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus (Luke 9:28) (4,3,5)
- 3 See 1 Across
- 8 'Let us draw to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith' (Hebrews 10:22) (4)
- 9 O Simon is (anag.) (8)
- 11 Form of government under the direct rule of God or his agents (10)
- 14 How Jesus found his disciples when he returned to them after praying in Gethsemane (Luke 22:45) (6)
- 15 In The Pilgrim's Progress, the name of the meadow into which Christian strayed, which led to Doubting Castle (2-4)
- 17 Glad sin rat (anag.) (10)
- 20 Spinal column (Leviticus 3:9) (8)
- 21 Valley of the Balsam Tree with a reputation of being a waterless place (Psalm 84:6) (4)
- 22 'The oracle of Balaam son of Beor, the oracle of one — sees clearly' (Numbers 24:3) (5,3)
- 23 Adam and Eve's third son (Genesis 4:25) (4)

#### Down

1 David's great friend (1 Samuel 20:17) (8)



- 2 'The Lord... will bring me safely to his kingdom' (2 Timothy 4:18) (8)
  4 'I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; — or wine touched my lips' (Daniel 10:3) (2,4)
- 5 Seeking to vindicate (Job 32:2) (10)
- 6 Female servant (Isaiah 24:2) (4)
- 7 'For Christ died for once for all' (1 Peter 3:18) (4)
- 10 'Offering spiritual sacrifices to God through Jesus Christ' (1 Peter 2:5) (10)
- 12 Jesus said that some people had renounced this 'because of the kingdom of heaven' (Matthew 19:12) (8)
- 13 One of the three men thrown into the furnace for refusing to worship Nebuchadnezzar's golden image (Daniel 3:20) (8)
- 16 'You have of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry' (Luke 12:19) (6)
- 18 'There before me was a white horse! Its rider held — , and he was given a crown' (Revelation 6:2) (1,3)
- 19 Equipment to Charity Hospitals Overseas (1,1,1,1)

#### July Answers

**ACROSS:** 1 Sabbatical 7 Opinion 8 Laing 10 Olga 11 Galilean 13 Sardis 15 Severe 17 Adultery 18 Flea 21 Swazi 22 Acetate 23 Revelation

**DOWN:** 1 Sling 2 Brim 3 Annual 4 Ill-timed 5 Abilene 6 Colossians 9 Gennesaret 12 Diatribe 14 Roulade 16 Errata 19 Learn 20 Levi



#### Puzzles

#### August Sudoku

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

#### **July solution**

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



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