

St Mark's Parish Magazine

June 2024





THE PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT MARK, REIGATE

Vicar: The Reverend Martin Colton

Tel: 01737 241161 Email: vicar@stmarksreigate.co.uk

Assistant Curate: The Reverend Reginald Grant

Tel: 07385 832372 Email: curate@stmarksreigate.co.uk

PARISH OFFICE

*Monday to Thursday 9.00am to 2.00pm 01737 210785/ 07979 788601
Parish Administrator – Alexia Hartman E-mail: office@stmarksreigate.co.uk*

READERS

Mr Ian Archer

Mrs Sarah Cousins

Mrs Susannah Dyde

CHURCHWARDENS

Mrs Louise Wallis

Mr Ben Read

DEPUTY WARDENS

Mrs Jane Artis

Mr Rob Crilley

Mr Timothy Warren

SACRISTAN

Mr James Tanser

PCC TREASURER

Mrs Mel Crighton

GIFT AID SECRETARY

Mr Nigel Perkins

PCC SECRETARY

Mr Terrence Hancock

ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER

Mr Terrence Hancock

ELECTORAL ROLL

Mr Terrence Hancock

Visit our website: www.stmarksreigate.co.uk

Donations to cover the cost of this publication are welcome



In this month's issue

Letter from the Vicar	Page 2
Church News	Page 3
Annual Giving at St Mark's	Page 6
News from the Church of England	Page 7
Genie the Life Changer	Page 8
Dissent and the Exercise of the Law	Page 9
A Time to Celebrate Male Role Models	Page 11
Calendars	Page 12
Where is God?	Page 14
Open Farm Sunday	Page 16
All in the month of June	Page 17
Disappointments	Page 18
Book Review	Page 19
A Lasting Gift for St Mark's Church	Page 20
Mouse Makes	Page 21
Crossword	Page 22
Puzzles	Page 23



Your Views & Contributions

Next issue will be available from
4 July 2024

All contributions to the editor by
Thursday 20 June 2024

Email: office@stmarksreigate.co.uk



Meet the Parish Magazine Team

Editor: Parish Office *email:office@stmarksreigate.co.uk*

Website Link: Parish Office

Advertising: Jane Artis email: *janeartis@hotmail.com 07831 269866*

Calendar Update: Fr Martin Colton

Crossword & Sudoku: Terrence Hancock

Proof Readers: Fr Martin Colton



LETTER FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends,

How do you like birthdays? Do you try and forget when yours is, or do you make a big splash every year? Do you like presents, or would you rather have experiences? Last month Christians celebrated the birthday of the church at Pentecost.

We remember the story in the book of Acts of the Apostles, when the Holy Spirit was given to the followers of Jesus (Acts 2.2-4). It's the moment from which a confused, frightened group of people with little hope changed into an inspired, energised group of people who had the confidence and courage to go and tell the world that they had found something wonderful.

Birthdays can be a time for re-evaluating, looking back and planning forwards. How have you changed for better and worse in the years you have been on the planet, what do you want to achieve in the future? It could be said of the church that it (we) need to do the same – its history since those heady early days has not been completely swathed in glory, let's face it.

It's good to take stock and work out where next – for yourself, your family, the church, an organisation you are part of. To look back at the places where we have not taken care of ourselves or others; where we have not been that nice, or thoughtful; where we have allowed ourselves to become lazy and self-serving and out of condition. To look also at the things we have done well, the talents we have made best use of, the times when things worked well, or we did the right things that resulted in our wellbeing and that of those around us. Christians can ask for the gift of the Holy Spirit to feel real and vital, and to help us change and move forward in hope and courage and energy like those first Christians. The Spirit hasn't gone away, but just like with our bodies, we don't always listen to or take her advice – and it shows!

Perhaps the beginning of summer is a good time in the year to take stock of ourselves and the things we belong to – the hope (!) of better weather, the abundance of nature around us and longer days somehow make us feel that new things are possible. So if you decide to begin a new healthier eating regime, or to take up a pastime that will enrich you, or some exercise, or if you think it's time to repair a relationship, or to take yourself in hand in other ways, I wish you every success. And if June is your birthday month too, I wish you a very Happy Birthday!

With every blessing,





Church News

MEET ROB CRILLEY – Newly elected PCC member and Deputy Warden at St Mark's Church

I've lived in Reigate coming up 9 years now, with my wife Cheryl, and now our two young boys, Ben and Joshua. We came to Reigate from Islington, London, and after a few months of exploration, settled on St Mark's; just a stone's throw from our home.

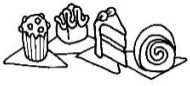
Both our boys (the noisy ones at the back during the 10am Sunday service), were baptised in the church, and Cheryl has been reading the intercession prayers for a while now. So, it's great I can now give some time to support too, joining the team of Deputy Wardens. Especially as we've always been made to feel so welcome at St Mark's.

With our 6 (Ben) and 4 (Josh) year old boys, a lot of life is spent to and from Cavendish Lodge Nursery and Holmesdale School, tidying up Lego or heading to the park to kick a football around... but occasionally I get time to watch sport, dine out on the high street or plan our next holiday – often to Singapore (where Cheryl grew up) and Asia.

Outside of family life, I've worked in Advertising for over 20 years, helping to build brands like TalkTalk, Morrisons, Boots, Land Rover, and Channel 4 to name a few. But 2 years ago, getting tired of the Southern Rail slog into London, I took a job closer to home in Burgh Heath, going 'in-house' to join the Marketing Team at Toyota – and combining my passions for cars and making TV ads.

Please do come and say hello when you see me 'on duty' now in church and promise I won't try and sell you a car. Although I could probably find you a good deal!





St Mark's Singers

On 7 May St Mark's Singers competed in the Reigate and Redhill Music Festival in the Community Choirs section. We are a small choir and we only rehearse for one hour per week and, inevitably, not everyone can manage every rehearsal, so we were a little nervous as to whether we would be ready in time. There were four choirs in this category and we were up against some stiff opposition. All the choirs were larger than us, although that is not necessarily an advantage.

The Downsmen are a Barber Shop choir and they always sing very well.

Bletchingley Community Choir sang some attractive folk songs.

The Cherry Pie Choir sang a classical item and an upbeat modern song with their usual gusto. We sang The Choristers' Prayer and Hallelujah by Leonard Cohen, ably accompanied on the piano by Fr. Martin and conducted by Toby Garrood.

The Cherry Pie Choir won, but we came second with an Honours certificate, which we were very pleased with. The audience were apparently very moved by our rendition of The Choristers' Prayer and the adjudicator commented that it was obviously sung from the heart.

We don't only sing church music; several members are not from our church at all. We sing secular music too, and we try and prepare for a concert once a year. There is real family atmosphere in the choir and we have a lot of fun. If you know of anyone wanting to sing in a small choir, why not introduce them to us!

Susannah Dyde

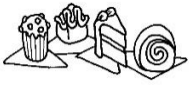
PRAYER BOARD

We have reinstated the Prayer Board at the north-east door of the church for people to write their prayer requests. Just fill in the details on a slip of paper, write the date, and pin it to the board. The request can be named or anonymous and it can be for anyone. It will be prayed for by a dedicated team of people. We believe that God answers prayers.

Susannah Dyde

HOME GROUP

These are the next few dates: 13 June, 4 and 18 July. Please contact Susannah Dyde for details.



DAWN to DUSK

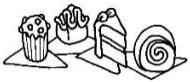
Brockham Choral's concert DAWN to DUSK is on the 8 June, 7.30pm, at St. Paul's Church, Dorking, RH4 2HT. Bring friends, a picnic, relax and enjoy the music. Tables and chairs provided.

Our Musical Director Cole Bendall with Marion Lea accompanying the choir will entertain you with a musical feast. From 'O What a Beautiful Morning' by Rogers & Hammerstein, folksongs by Cecilia McDowell and Nocturnes by Morten Lauridsen to 'The Long Day Closes' by Sullivan.

Admission £15 adults, Children, Students under 25 in full time education £10.

Tickets can be purchased at <https://brockhamchoral.org/tickets>

More information www.brockhamchoral.org



 St Marks Players presents
Murder at Cliff House
A Murder Mystery by Janet Smith
Friday 21st and Saturday 22nd June 2024

Bring along your own drinks and nibbles ready for an evening of entertainment where we ask you, the audience, to solve the mystery

at The Hall, St. Marks Church Centre, Alma Road, Reigate
RH2 0DA
Doors open 7.30pm
Performance starts 8.00pm
Tickets at £12 per person are available at:
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-marks-players>

 This amateur performance is by St. Marks Players
www.stmarksplayers.co.uk
A member of Borough of Reigate and Banstead Arts Council

The performances are by arrangement with Scripts for Stage



Annual Giving at St Mark's 28 April 2024 to 31 May 2024

On Sunday 28 April we celebrated the Patronal Festival of St Mark, and launched our period of Annual giving with donations being welcomed until the end of May. This year we are aiming to raise £20,000 in total including Gift Aid claimed.

Our period of annual giving is an opportunity for our church community to make a one-off donation to the ongoing work of St Mark's and to the running costs of the church buildings. Each year we rely on this additional income to cover expenditure.

In 2023 total income for our church was £217,000 with expenditure of £231,000 including the costs of replacing the pigeon netting in the tower and redecoration of the hall and foyer. Income from planned giving, collections and other donations represented 45% of total income, with rental income 20%, lettings 13%, bank interest and other activities 11%. Annual giving donations made up the final 11% totalling over £22,000.

In 2024 we do not have plans for any significant expenditure but are looking to break even and maintain our reserves despite increases in costs. Expenditure is forecast to be in the region of £226,000. We have seen an increase in hall lettings following the work carried out last year but this won't be enough to cover the additional church running costs.

Please consider making a one-off donation if you feel you are able. If you would prefer to make a regular donation please sign up to the Parish Giving Scheme, details of which can also be found by following our website link below.

If you would like any more information please just ask.

Thank you, **Mel Crighton, PCC Treasurer** treasurer@stmarksreigate.co.uk

Donations can be made in a number of ways

By **bank transfer** to the following HSBC account

Name of Account - SAINT MARK, REIGATE (please select 'paying a business')
Sort Code 40 18 22 Account Number 72393263 (With 'Annual Giving' as the reference)

Via our **website** <https://www.stmarksreigate.co.uk/donate/> Using 'Give A Little'

By **cheque** made payable to 'Saint Mark Reigate' in an envelope addressed to the treasurer and either brought to a Sunday service, handed in to the church office or posted to
Mel Crighton, PCC Treasurer, St Mark's Church, 8 Alma Road, Reigate, RH2 0DA

If you are able to Gift Aid your donation the church will receive an additional 25%.
If we do not already have a gift aid declaration from you [please complete this form](#).



News from the Church of England

Communities set to celebrate all creatures great and small in churchyards

A week of events is to take place in June to celebrate wildlife in churchyards and cemeteries.

Parishes and Communities across England can now register for a week-long event in June to celebrate wildlife in churchyards and cemeteries.



Adrian Powter

From wildflowers to insects, birds and mammals, all creatures great and small have found a haven in the UK's burial grounds for centuries as the land has been largely undisturbed.

During Love Your Burial Ground Week and Churches Count on Nature (June 8-16) everyone is invited to explore these special places and help survey what they find. Organised by Caring for God's Acre and supported by the Church of England, the Church of Wales and A Rocha UK, the week-long initiative comes on the back of the Church of England's commitment made at the General Synod in February to promote and record the biodiversity in its churchyards.

Events taking place range from biodiversity 'nature counts' in churchyards, to memorial recording and tours in urban cemeteries. People can join in recording the wildlife they find using the iNaturalist app. There will also be a series of webinars during the week that anyone can join.

The Bishop of Norwich, Graham Usher, the Church of England's lead bishop for Environmental Affairs, said: "I hope many congregations will take part in Love Your Burial Ground Week and Churches Count on Nature. It is a great way to engage local people with the biodiversity around them, as well as offer a missional invitation to become involved with the life of their local church.

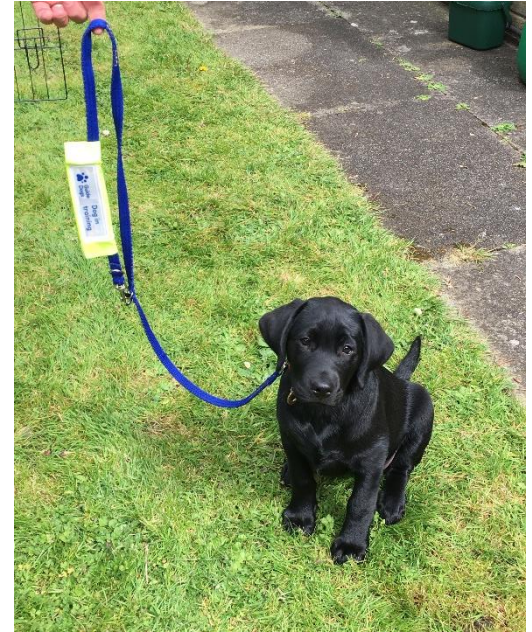
"Last year I particularly enjoyed finding out about some of the colourful rare lichens that grow on gravestones. These wonderful species are all part of God's rich creation, reminding us that churchyards are places of the living, not just the dead!" Over the past three years, 1,300 events have taken place, involving more than 24,500 participants and resulting in 37,355 wildlife records being submitted.



Genie the Life Changer

Many of you will know that in April 2023, Genie, the black Labrador, arrived at the Vicarage aged just 9 weeks. We were loaned her to raise for the first year of her life in readiness to go onto "Big School" where she would learn to become a Guide Dog for the Blind.

She quickly settled in and after a few weeks she was allowed out and was frequently seen in Church and out and about in Reigate on one of her walks. She loved going to Messy Church where the children would make a fuss of her – she never complained once about the attention!



This photograph was taken shortly after she arrived. She quickly grew and her cheeky personality shone through. She went everywhere as part of her training, going into shops and businesses, travelling on buses and trains and especially in the car – she knew the car meant something exciting such as Puppy classes (meeting up with her friends) or going somewhere for a free run off the lead!

By the beginning of 2024 we were told that Guide Dogs were wanting to see if she was suitable for the Breeding Programme. We were told that breeding dogs were not failed Guide Dogs but rather the Crème de la Crème of the Guide Dog world – not only the

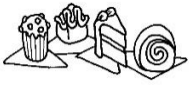


health of the dog is checked but also their temperament and suitability as a Guide Dog as they only want puppies who will be successful as Guide Dogs. After many tests, we heard before Easter that she had been accepted into the Breeding Programme.

So on 9 May 2024, Chris and I took Genie to the Guide Dogs' National Breeding Centre in Leamington Spa. She had been with us 13 months and was now over 15 months' old. It was an emotional day but the staff at the centre were excellent. She will be there for 2-3 weeks before being placed with a new family who live close to the Breeding Centre.

We now look forward to receiving our next puppy later in the year...

Fr Martin



Dissent and the Exercise of the Law

As you might expect of someone who has spent his working life as a Tax Inspector, I am firmly on the side of the law. Over time I dealt with all social strata from the poor to the heads of multinationals, MPs, lawyers, accountants, rarely with the honest, more frequently with those economical with the truth. From this, I developed an interest in the interplay between the letter of the law, justice, judgement and even the hard one, forgiveness.

In Switzerland, recently, a case was brought against the government by a group of women who claimed to be particularly vulnerable to Climate Change. The court held for them and directed the government to produce plans and strategy to meet its own target of reduced emissions. Evidently it was failing the target which it had itself put forward.

I do not know the reasoning but it's always fascinating when a court finds against a government which, of course, ultimately is responsible for the administration of justice according to the words of laws passed by itself. The fact is that many governments, which for twenty-eight years showed concern but little enthusiasm for action, firstly made no attempt to reach targets and then following COP28 slowly put together some kind of numbers they would achieve. Recently several have come clean and confessed that they cannot meet their own targets and have either put them back in time or lowered the target. Experts consider the original targets were inadequate for purpose.

Here recently, two female octogenarians were charged with an offence in connection with damaging the frame which holds a copy of Magna Carta in the Reading House in London. These were not hooligans bent on vandalism but two elderly women, Judy Bruce, retired teacher of biology, aged eighty-five and the Reverend Dr Sue Parfitt, aged eighty-two. The latter is a member of Christian Action against Climate Change and both have taken part in many demonstrations in support of Insulate Britain, Extinction Rebellion and Just Stop Oil.

Extinction Rebellion has recently reduced its public actions and little of it has been in the news. The reality is that freedom of expression gets no platform unless there is some event, some story that attracts attention. The Reverend is under a suspended sentence. I suspect their choice of Magna Carta was a carefully considered one as was the way they conducted themselves.

Magna Carta 1215, designed by barons in the secrecy of a cave in Reigate, was no bill of rights but became the first faltering steps towards distant democracy, and its immediate benefits were to limit the power of monarchs but only for free men and above free men and above, of which there then were very few in England. However, it was a giant step in limiting the hitherto absolute power of the monarchy and is widely revered as a foundation stone of our British heritage.

Dr Parfitt put out the following statement: "Magna Carta is rightly revered, being of great importance to our history, to our freedoms and our laws. But there will be no freedoms, no lawfulness no rights if we allow climate break down to become the catastrophe that is now threatened. We must get things in proportion. The abundance of life on earth, the climate stability that allows civilisation to continue, is what must be revered and protected above all else, even above our most precious artifacts." This might raise the question how they were actually threatening Magna Carta?

So, what of the offence by these two very elderly and very English women? There is no self-interest involved as with their Swiss sisters. No property was stolen. No hurt was suffered by anyone. The effect on the frame was negligible. So, this was a selfless action supporting a government declaration that the state of climate change is an emergency. A few strokes by hammer and chisel, directly stopped by a museum official who quickly arrived and a spokesperson for the Reading House, described the damage as "minimal."

The state of the application of the law in this country is in crisis. A tight budget prevents the Director of Public Prosecutions from pursuing many infractions of the law. Police do not pursue many robberies and other minor offences. Prisons are overloaded and inadequately managed so that prisoners are in danger not only from pressure towards drug addiction but from violence. Consequently, even mild sentences afflict punishment well above the level intended by conviction. Austerity has been accompanied by an up thrust in crime.

What will the judge make of all this? Will they maintain that, notwithstanding the ineffectual extent of the damage there has been an unlawful assault on the frame of the Magna Carta. Will they simply apply logic to the written word or look through to the underlying reality? Will they reach for the letter of the law? Will they have regard to the suspended sentence hanging over the head of one of the ladies and send her to prison?

Or will they see this as little more than a token demonstration to make a point, raise awareness of national emergency? Will they seek some lesser solution? In this country they are most unlikely to follow the Swiss finding and place the ultimate onus on inefficient prosecution of government policy extending back over many years. An attitude common to very many governments of countries throughout the world. Will there even be any comment on climate change?

The two elderly women will have to live through all this. Some will say it was invited and is their own fault. Fault for what? For behaving in the best tradition of "Englishness"; for pursuing the welfare of a future generation; for putting others first, and responding to a moral duty. Will convicting such people really uphold the majesty of the law? What would it that say about freedom and the exercise of authority? If so, in all the background circumstances, some might would say of any sanction: "some majesty, some law!"

Harry Ingram

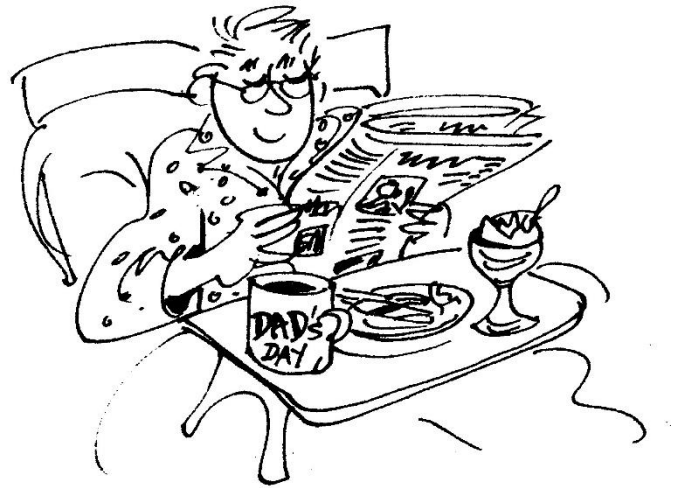


A Time to Celebrate Male Role Models

In the UK, USA and Canada, the third Sunday in June is Father's Day. It's usually a good time for sons and daughters to take their father to his favourite restaurant, or to watch a favoured sport, or whatever else he enjoys doing.

How will you celebrate it this year? If your own father cannot be with you, how about a Zoom meeting?

How do these special days ever get started, anyway? Well, Father's Day began in 1909 where there was a woman in Spokane, Washington, named Sonora Louise Smart Dodd. That year she heard a church sermon about the merits of setting aside a day to honour one's mother. Mother's Day (as opposed to the older Mothering Sunday in Lent celebrated by the Church) was just beginning to gather widespread attention in the United States at this time. But Sonora Louise Smart Dodd knew that it was her father who had selflessly raised herself and her five siblings by himself after their mother had died in childbirth. So the sermon on mothers gave Sonora Louise the idea to petition for a day to honour fathers, and in particular, her own father, William Jackson Smart.



Sonora Louise soon set about planning the first Father's Day celebration in Spokane in 1910. With support from the Spokane Ministerial Association and the YMCA, her efforts paid off, and a 'Father's Day' was appointed. Sonora Louise had wanted Father's Day to be on the first Sunday in June (since that was her father's birthday), but the city council didn't have time to approve it until later in the month. And so on June 19th, 1910, the first Father's Day was celebrated in Spokane.

Gradually, other people in other cities caught on and started celebrating their fathers, too. The rose was selected as the official Father's Day flower. Some people began to wear a white rose to honour a father who was dead, and a red one to honour a father who was living. Finally, in 1972, President Richard Nixon signed a presidential proclamation declaring the third Sunday of June as Father's Day – a permanent, national holiday.

CALENDAR FOR JUNE 2024

Sunday 2nd June

1st Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online
4.00pm Family Service – in Church

Wednesday 5th June

3.25pm T-Time Tales

Thursday 6th June

12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 9th June

2nd Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online
with Junior Church
1.00pm Community Lunch

Tuesday 11th June

St Barnabas, Apostle

Wednesday 12th June

3.25pm T-Time Tales

Thursday 13th June

12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Saturday 15th June

8.00pm Social Ballroom and Latin Dance

Sunday 16th June

3rd Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online
4.00pm Messy Church

Wednesday 19th June

3.25pm T-Time Tales

Thursday 20th June

12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 23rd June

4th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online
with Junior Church
6.00pm Taizé Prayer

Monday 24th June

Birth of St John the Baptist

Wednesday 26th June

3.25pm T-Time Tales

Thursday 27th June

12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Saturday 29th June

St Peter and St Paul, Apostles

Sunday 30th June

5th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online
with Junior 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 JULY 2024

Wednesday 3rd July

St Thomas, Apostle

3.25pm T-Time Tales

Thursday 4th July

12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 7th July

6th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church

10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online

4.00pm Family Service

Wednesday 10th July

3.25pm T-Time Tales

Thursday 11th July

12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 14th July

7th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church

10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online

1.00pm Community Lunch

Wednesday 17th July

3.25pm T-Time Tales

Thursday 18th July

12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Saturday 20th July

8.00pm Social Ballroom and Latin Dance

Sunday 21st July

8th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church

10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online

4.00pm Messy Church

Monday 22nd July

St Mary Magdalene

Thursday 25th July

St James the Great, Apostle

12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 28th July

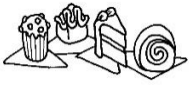
9th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church

10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online

6.00pm Taizé Prayer

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.



Where is God?

“Where is God and why does he let atrocities happen? We are taught that God has given us all freewill to do good or evil and this means that we must work out our own salvation or go to hell. It is as simple as that and you must ask yourself, what other system could there be? Life would be impossible if we were not in charge of our own souls. So evil and good walk side by side, roughly in balance but perhaps good is always slightly ahead. No one who leads an evil life can be truly happy. The greatest joys and happiness come from being and doing good. Think of the joy and satisfaction one gets from doing a good turn. How thrilling it is to see a person’s face light up with gratitude when he or she has been given kindness and help.

“Wealth and power by themselves rarely give happiness. On the contrary, they usually bring with them worries, cares and responsibilities. To a rich man, temptations come all too easily. Power of itself does indeed corrupt and leads to abuses.

“I have often wondered what satisfaction is obtained by those nuns and monks who over the centuries have dedicated their lives to the service of God and to their fellow creatures. They own nothing, have no luxuries. Spend much time in prayer in solitary, barely furnished cells, and give all their working day to the ministrations of the poor, the sick and the needy. But satisfaction they most certainly do obtain in a closeness to God and a spiritual uplift that ordinary people can never hope to achieve.

This brings me to the question of all questions – is there a God? And if so, is he a personal God who cares for each one of us, as the Christian Church teaches? It is hard to believe. Yet there is around us all the wonder of nature. Miracle on miracle.

“Consider the brown, crinkled bulb of the daffodil. From this, when planted in earth, comes the glory of its flower, perfect beyond imagination. This goes for every flower on earth, every one of which, down to the humblest wayside blossom, is a wonder to behold. Then the creation of a baby; from the act of love a child is conceived and nine months later a little personage enters the world, complete down to its tiny fingernails. What is more, it has, in its make up, the genes of its forbears back for generations and generations. It is not a replica of either of its parents. Though it inherits many of their characteristics, it is a new person absolutely! Every birth, be it of man or beast, is a miracle beyond our understanding. Is all this accident? Can there be no supreme being? With all its faults, this world is a wonderful place, beauty surrounds us everywhere, in the eyes of a loved one, in the trees and flowers and in the glory of a sunrise and a sunset.”

My father considered gods as seen through other faiths and went on to say:

“Then Jesus Christ was born in a tiny stable in Bethlehem and the world was never to be the same again. For thirty years this humble man as a carpenter beside his father,

Joseph and then his ministry began. Over a period of three years, he preached his simple gospel of absolute goodness to the people in the countryside and in the cities of Izrael. Everything he said was perfection. Love one another, give good for evil, and what happened? His message was disregarded by most of those who heard him. They could not understand that his Kingdom was not of this world but was the kingdom of heaven. So those in power among the Jews plotted his death – a dreadful death on the cross. His cross has become the symbol of the Christian faith for 2,000 years. How could a man inspire a faith that has captured the minds of the civilised world for 2,000 years, if he was not divine and in fact the Son of God? The answer to me lies in the Resurrection.

“Had he died and not risen from the dead, it is questionable whether Christianity would have survived, but surely the proof lies in the fact that he did truly rise from the dead and was later seen by his friends and disciples. How otherwise could these simple people have found the strength and purpose to proclaim to the world the reality of Jesus as the true Messiah, the Son of God. Why was Paul, who for a time persecuted the Christians, and brought about the death of the first martyr, Stephen, changed, except by a divine revelation. Then Paul devoted all his untiring energies into building up the Christian Church until at last he also died a martyr to his absolute faith.

“No one can wave this aside – it is altogether too tremendous and so most men over the centuries have come to believe in God and through Him we can in some small way reach out and find God.”

In his book my father went on to say about life after death:

“I have asked many people their thoughts on this tremendous problem, and many, I am afraid, have doubts. I say blessed are those who have absolute faith in God and the teachings of Christ, for they have no doubts and can face death without fear. There are many stories of people who at the moment of dying seem to have seen something over the other side, their faces have lit up and shone with unbelievable ecstasy. Is this not some evidence of a hereafter?

“So, after all the talk and arguments, we are left exactly where we were at the beginning. It really comes down to this. If you believe in Christ and his Resurrection, then you must believe that we have life after death. If you do not believe this, then you must believe that with death comes absolute oblivion – a very sad conclusion, surely and incomprehensible against the background of all the wonders of nature which surround us. And how sad it is that some poor creatures are born fearfully handicapped, blind, or deaf, and others are maimed or killed early in life by accidents. Others die young in war or by disease. If we only have one life, it would indeed be most unfortunate and damnably unfair.

“When we have considered all the arguments for and against, we have to wait until our time comes to go through the ‘door.’ Then if in fact it is oblivion, we will not know

and it will not matter, but if in fact there is life after death, we will say to ourselves, 'Well, of course, it was bound to be so – nothing else would make sense.' "

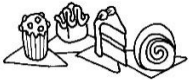
As for what heaven might be like my father said:

"Heaven without pain or sorrow – I fear this would be a dismal place. How can one appreciate sunshine without shadow, happiness without sorrow, good health without knowledge of pain, and this brings me to a piece of poetry by Henry Van Dyke which expresses these feelings:

If all the skies were sunshine
Our faces would be fain
To feel once more upon them
The cooling flash of rain.
If all the world were music
Our hearts would often long
For one sweet strain of silence
To break this endless song.
If life were always merry
Our souls would seek relief
And rest from merry laughter
In the quiet arms of grief."

My father died some 30 years ago so he will have found the answer to these questions.

Jock and Ian Archer
(Ian's late father)



Open Farm Sunday – 9 June 2024

Hundreds of farms across the UK are preparing to open their gates to the public. Open Farm Sunday is back for its 18th year and offers the public a chance to see how farmers can produce food sustainably, while also caring for the environment and wildlife. It is organised by the global sustainable farming charity LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming). The event has been praised as being a "great family day out".

Some farms opening on Open Farm Sunday are also LEAF Marque certified. This means that they are farming regeneratively, nurturing healthy soil, protecting water, supporting nature conservation and enhancing wildlife habitats.

On those farms, people can find out more about the LEAF Marque, which they may have already seen on fruit, vegetables and other products in the supermarkets.

More details at: www.farmsunday.org.



All in the month of June

It was:

200 years ago, on 16 June 1824, that a London vicar, Arthur Broome, and some 22 of his friends, including the MPs William Wilberforce (anti-slavery campaigner) met at Old Slaughters Coffee House to found the SPCA – the first national animal protection society in the world. By 1840 Queen Victoria had given permission for it to be called the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

150 years ago, on 22 June 1874, that the first lawn tennis sets went on sale in London. They included balls, racquets, a net, poles, court markers, and instructions. They were designed by Walter Clopton Wingfield, who is credited with having invented modern lawn tennis. Wimbledon began hosting international lawn tennis championships in 1877.

100 years ago, on 8 June 1924 that George Mallory, British mountaineer, disappeared on Mount Everest. His body was found in 1999.

80 years ago, on 6 June 1944 that D-Day and the Normandy Landings took place. More than 150,000 Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy. The Battle of Normandy ended on 25 August. Allied victory.

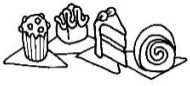
75 years ago, on 8 June 1949 that George Orwell's novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four* was published.

50 years ago, on 28 June 1974 that chemists at the University of California, Irvine, published the first report that warned that chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) could damage the Earth's ozone layer. CFCs were widely used in refrigerators, air conditioning systems and as aerosol propellants.

30 years ago, on 6 June 1994 that the highest individual score in first-class cricket was achieved. Brian Lara scored 501 not out while playing for Warwickshire against Durham. It is the only score of 500 or more in first-class cricket history.

25 years ago, on 8 June 1999 that former British cabinet minister Jonathan Aitken was sentenced to 18 months in prison for perjury and perverting the course of justice after he admitted lying during a libel action against The Guardian newspaper and Granada TV. He served seven months, and is the only British cabinet minister to have been imprisoned.

10 years ago, on 29 June 2014 that the jihadist group Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS or ISIL or Daesh) formally changed its name to the Islamic State and declared itself a caliphate. It was formed in 1999 as an affiliate of the terrorist organisation Al-Qaeda.



Disappointments

All of us can be disappointed from time to time. It can be just fate taking a turn against us, and on some days, everything can seem to be going wrong. But disappointments can be actions or words of someone we have loved or respected but are not what we would have wished. Then it can be when we ourselves have not reached the mark we had planned for ourselves. Sometimes we can have ambitions and actions that have failed to materialise.

If it is just circumstances turning against us, we might have to revise our ideas to make new plans. Not a comfortable thing to do, but sometimes necessary. If there is still the chance for our original plans to succeed later, "If we don't succeed, we must try, try and try again."

If remote leaders are not acting as we would wish there is usually not much we can do to right the situation, just know their lives must be difficult, too.

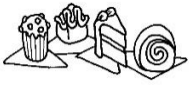
If others closer to us have not behaved as we would have wished, we need to forgive anything we have disagreed with, so that our relationship can make a new start.

Forgiveness is difficult but can help us even more than those needing forgiveness. We need to concentrate on what we think are their good actions and kind words, complementing them and encouraging them thereafter. Although it may not be easy, we need to love people when they least expect it, and least deserve it.

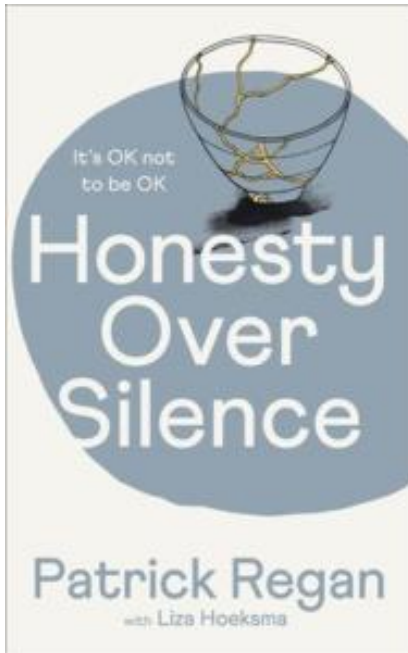
So, what about our own failures to act as we would have wanted to? All is not lost as I have read the sayings that "It is never too late to be what we might have been." and "We must make every day in our lives a masterpiece", starting with today which is the "First day of the rest of our lives."

If by any chance we can make someone else's day better, too, that would be a wonderful thing, perhaps turning their disappointments to something positive instead.

Ian Archer



Book Review



Honesty Over Silence – it's OK not to be OK By Patrick Regan

This book opens the conversation on spirituality and mental health in a way that shows you that you are not alone.

Honesty Over Silence tackles topics that many find difficult, such as trusting God when life is painful, dealing with anxiety and depression, learning to look after ourselves, developing our character, and living with thankful hearts even in tough seasons.

It examines our strength in letting go of our need to be in control, as well as looking at how we can stop comparing ourselves to others, and instead live authentically and honestly as we grow into the people God has created us to be.

Have you recently read a good book? Tell us about it.
Email office@stmarksreigate.co.uk with your book review.

Prayer for June 2024

Dear Lord,

Here we are in June. Halfway through this year already! How the years fly by and often we are so busy, so taken up with everyday concerns that we forget to take time to be still; to consciously be in your presence; to be aware of the wonders of your world.

June is such a beautiful month, so we take this moment, Lord – and we thank you for your goodness to us and your provision for us. Especially we thank you for the gift of Jesus who is the only way to you, who is your truth and who offers us eternal life, if we will turn away from our self-centredness and put our trust in Him.

For June and for Jesus, Lord, we praise you and we glorify you. And we move into the rest of the year in hope and trust.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

Daphne Kitching



A Lasting Gift for St Mark's Church

Leaving a legacy

Legacy gifts can make a huge difference to churches. Each year, gifts in wills, ranging from £100s to £100,000s are received. Faithful witnesses leaving generous legacies have enabled churches to invest in their buildings, pioneer new ministries, and sustain a welcoming presence in their communities.

Why should you write a will?

Writing a will means you choose:

- How you would like to share your property and possessions;
- Who you would like to look after any children under the age of 18;
- How to support any charities or churches that are important to you.

Without a will, these decisions will be made according to pre-ordained rules, and by the courts, which may be different from your wishes. Leaving a will gives you peace of mind and lifts a burden from loved ones after you are gone.

To make it easier the Church of England has partnered with Farewill, the UK's favourite will-writer, so anyone can write a simple will online for free, in as little as 30 minutes. You can find out more by visiting <https://farewill.com/southwarkdiocese> .

We strongly advise seeing a solicitor for more complicated wills, or for people wishing to review their existing will or add a codicil.

A gift for future generations

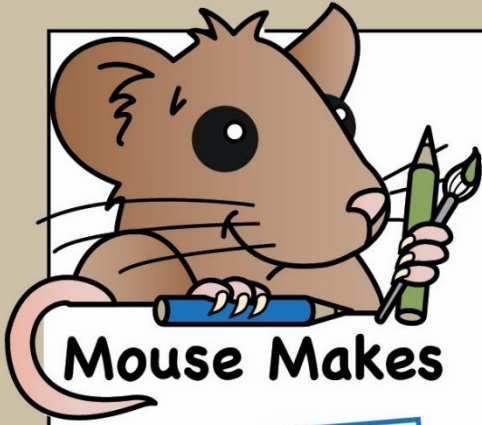
After you have made provision for your family and friends, we hope you'll also consider leaving a gift in your will to St Mark's. A legacy is a valuable expression of how meaningful a church has been during your time there. It's a way to give thanks - a lasting testimony to the faithfulness, goodness and generosity of God.

The policy of the PCC is to use legacies to help fund additional mission or development projects in the parish, whether buildings, equipment or staff. Circumstances change over the years, so church members are encouraged to leave legacies for the general purposes of the parish. The PCC will discuss the most appropriate use of the legacy in the light of current projects and the donor's known areas of interest in the church (for example, children and youth, music, buildings).

You may also receive tax benefits for including a gift to St Mark's in your will. A gift in your will to a charity is free of inheritance tax and may also reduce the amount of tax payable on the rest of your will. <https://www.gov.uk/donating-to-charity/leaving-gifts-to-charity-in-your-will>

Please consider leaving a legacy to St Mark's.

Mel Crighton, PCC Treasurer



Mouse Makes

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.

TFF XIBU LJOE PG
 MPWF UIF GBUIFS
 IBT HJWFO UP VT
 UIBU XF TIPVME
 CF DBMMFE
 DIJMESFO PG HPE
 POF KPIO UISFF: POF

WHO IS MY FATHER?

Who was created by God and became the first father?

— — — — —
 Genesis 2:20

Who had a son when he was very old?

— — — — —
 Genesis 21:5

Shem Ham and Japheth's father built a huge boat, who was he?

— — — — —
 Genesis 6:10-14

Who gave his son Joseph a robe of many colours?

— — — — —
 Genesis 37:2-3

This Roman puzzle square reads the same from the top, bottom and sides and translates:
"Arepo the sower guides the wheel with skill."

R	O	T	A	S
O	P	E	R	A
T	E	N	E	T
A	R	E	P	O
S	A	T	O	R

If you rearrange the letters it can spell **PATER NOSTER** which means **"Our Father"**.

A
 P
 A
 T
 E
 R
 N
 O
 S
 T
 E
 R
 O

Solomon's father defeated a giant and became a King. Who was he?

— — — — —
 1 Samuel 48-50

Whose daughter was healed by Jesus?

— — — — —
 Mark 5:21



A G A D A U G H T E R E G
 V A S E Z E C H A R I A H
 J M O S E S A J A C O B O
 A Z L I B O F A T H E R P
 I J O S E P H J A N O A H
 R O M A D A V I D G E H N
 U B O A E I D A S O N A O
 S V N C E E Z E A D A M A

Look up the Bible verses to find the fathers then look for them and the words below in the word search.

FATHER • GOD
 SON • DAUGHTER
 JOSEPH • ISAAC
 MOSES • JOB
 SOLOMON
 ZECHARIAH
 ZEBEDEE

June Crossword

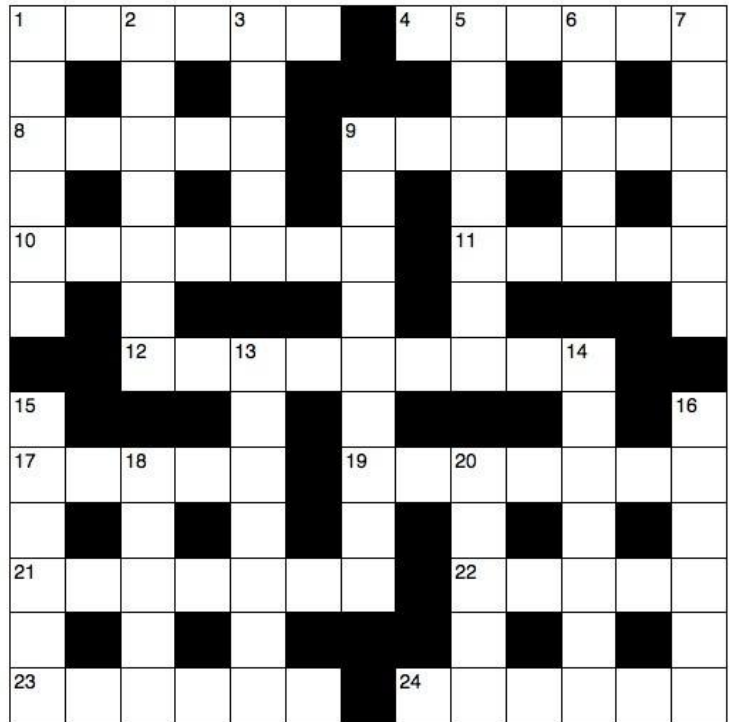
Biblical references are from the New International Version

Across

- 1 Military tactic used by Joshua to attack and destroy the city of Ai (Joshua 8:2) (6)
- 4 Place of learning (6)
- 8 'When Moses' hands grew — , they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it' (Exodus 17:12) (5)
- 9 Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (Matthew 24:7) (7)
- 10 Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes' harem (including Esther) were taken (Esther 2:8) (7)
- 11 Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7) (5)
- 12 Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17) (9)
- 17 Turn away (Jeremiah 11:15) (5)
- 19 So clear (anag.) (7)
- 21 'I have just got — , so I can't come': one excuse to be absent from the great banquet (Luke 14:20) (7)
- 22 Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen (Job 39:23) (5)
- 23 Musical beat (6)
- 24 What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their door-frames at the first Passover (Exodus 12:22) (6)

Down

- 1 Fasten (Exodus 28:37) (6)
- 2 Art bite (anag.) (7)
- 3 'The people of the city were divided; some — with the Jews, others with the apostles' (Acts 14:4) (5)
- 5 Contend (Jeremiah 12:5) (7)
- 6 Possessed (Job 1:3) (5)
- 7 Sheen (Lamentations 4:1) (6)
- 9 'You love evil rather than good, — rather than speaking the truth' (Psalm 52:3) (9)
- 13 Large flightless bird (Job 39:13) (7)
- 14 They were worth several hundred pounds each (Matthew 25:15) (7)
- 15 'A — went out to sow his seed' (Matthew 13:3) (6)
- 16 How Jesus described Jairus's daughter when he went into the room where she lay (Mark 5:39) (6)
- 18 The part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (John 20:1) (5)
- 20 Narrow passageway between buildings (Luke 14:21) (5)



May Answers

ACROSS: 1 Debtor 4 Shaken 7 Ache 8 Leavened 9 Overcome 13 Etc 16 Troublemaking
17 Par 19 Ignatius 24 Treasure 25 Mene 26 Astray 27 Dinner

DOWN: 1 Deaf 2 Behaviour 3 Relic 4 Swarm 5 Aged 6 Elect 10 Rabbi 11 Ocean 12 Exalt
13 Epicurean 14 Cage 15 Step 18 Acres 20 Gaudy 21 An end 22 Fair 23 Fear

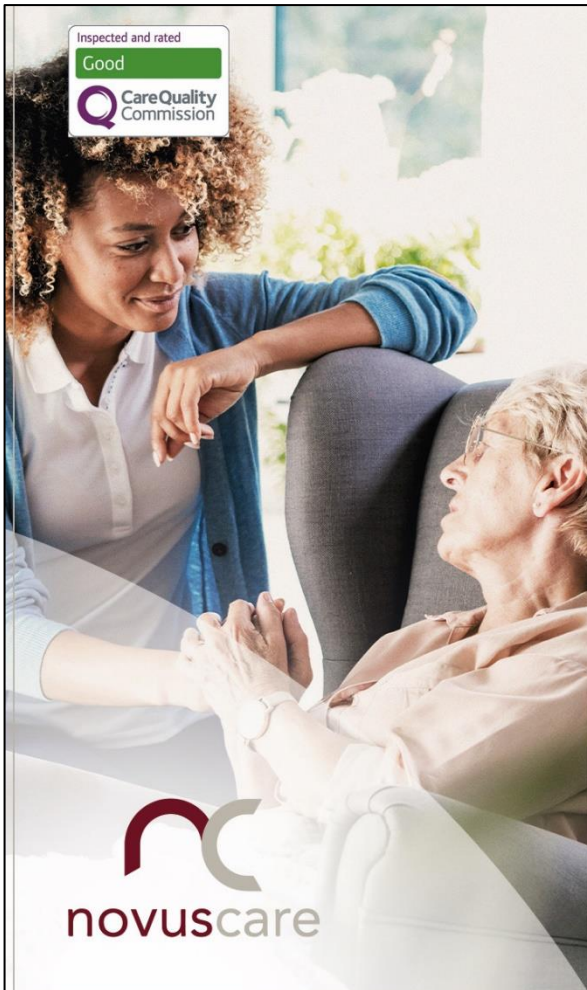
Puzzles

June Sudoku

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

May solution

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



Care in the heart of your own home

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

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

For more information or to arrange a FREE care assessment please call: 01483 494132 or email: hello@novus-care.com

www.novus-care.com



A HOME WITH A HEART RESIDENTIAL ♦ RESPITE ♦ DAYCARE

We offer people in their retirement the opportunity to live in comfortable surroundings, in a relaxed and secure family environment, with the degree of care necessary to enhance their quality of life.

- ♦ Good wholesome, home-cooked meals
- ♦ Weekly hairdresser & regular chiropodist
- ♦ Large garden with patio, summerhouse & pergola
 - ♦ In-house entertainment
 - ♦ Social activities & outings arranged

88 Doods Road, Reigate, Surrey RH2 0NR
admin@ridgegatehome.org.uk

01737 242926

www.ridgegatehome.org.uk

Time to enjoy older age Supported Housing for over 65s

At Abbeyfield Reigate we have 10 recently refurbished studio and 1 bed flats, so you can enjoy the privacy of your own space, whilst being part of a friendly and active community.

Within our house you will benefit from:

- a warm, safe and homely atmosphere with beautiful gardens
- nutritious home cooked meals served daily
- all bills included in an affordable monthly rent

**Open Mornings, 10am-12 noon,
12th October 2024 & 8th March 2025**

For more information or to arrange a visit, please call us on
01737 247 928 or email livewell@abbeyfieldreigate.co.uk

abbeyfieldreigate.co.uk



Bullimores



ESTABLISHED
1928

Accountants for Life

- Tax
- Accounts
- Probate
- Inheritance Tax
& Executorship

Bullimores LLP licensed to carry out the reserved legal activity of non-contentious probate in England & Wales by the ICAEW



For advice, call us on: 01306 880880 | Email: partners@bullimores.co.uk | Web: www.bullimores.co.uk

Graham Williams Decorating

20+ YEARS EXPERIENCE / NVQ QUALIFIED / INSURED

Tel: 01737 646028

Mobile: 07985 940083

grahamw777@hotmail.co.uk

Interior and Exterior work

Free estimates



Stoneman Funeral Service

Head Office and Funeral Home
Doran Court
Reigate Road, Redhill
Tel: 01737 763456



An Independent Family Business
Est: 1865

PREPAID FUNERAL PLANS

ALSO AT

49 Bell Street Reigate
Tel: 01737 243164

Advertise Here

If you would like to advertise your business or event in the St Mark's Parish Magazine please contact Jane Artis to find out more.

07831269866

We offer quarter, half and full page adverts, at great rates in black and white or colour.