

# Pilgrim Post

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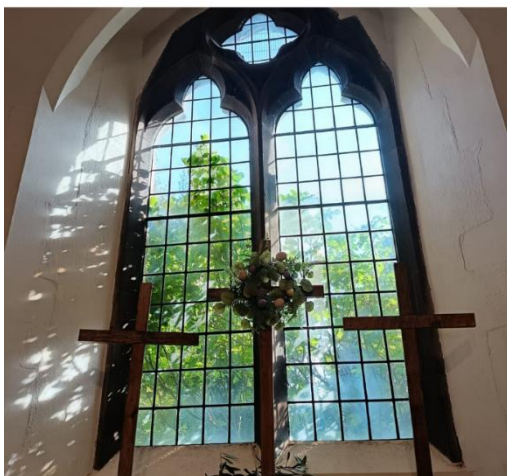
April  
2026



Cause of the month

EASTER

BLESSINGS



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**Welcome to Pilgrim Post  
the Journal of the  
Parish of St Martin and St Paul.  
Canterbury**



**Vision:**

We are called to worship God in Jesus Christ and to make Christ known in our community.

We do not have all the answers. We are on a spiritual journey. We look to scripture, reason and tradition to help us on our way.

Whoever you are, we offer a space for you to draw nearer to God and walk with us.

**Sharing the Journey of the Christian Gospel  
as an Inclusive Church**



**CAN WE HELP YOU?**

**Parish Office - 01227 768072** with the following options:

**For General Enquiries (*Option 1*)** or E-mail: [office@martinpaul.org](mailto:office@martinpaul.org)

**For the Rector, Revd Dr Mary Kells (*Option 2*)**

Email: [rector@martinpaul.org](mailto:rector@martinpaul.org)

**Enquiries about Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals (*Option 1*)**

E-mail: [office@martinpaul.org](mailto:office@martinpaul.org)

**For Church and Parish Centre Hire (*Option 3*)** - Jackie Curd,  
Parish Centre Premises Supervisor - E-mail: [office@martinpaul.org](mailto:office@martinpaul.org)

Bookings can also be made via [www.bookings@martinpaul.org](http://www.bookings@martinpaul.org)

**To contact the Churchwardens (*Option 4*)** - see also page 3.

**St Martin's Visits (*Option 5*)** - Elena Field (Head of Visitor  
Experience) or E-mail: [bookings@martinpaul.org](mailto:bookings@martinpaul.org)

**Pastoral Care Co-ordinator** - Please contact:

The Revd Sue White 07803 312144

or E-mail: [revsuewhite@gmail.com](mailto:revsuewhite@gmail.com)

**Special Request Prayers** - Please contact:

Gwyneth Hartwell 01227 451366, Doreen Laven 01227 760372,

Norma Ratcliff 01227 454784 or on the

Website: [www.martinpaul.org/prayers](http://www.martinpaul.org/prayers)



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### **Pilgrim Post**

*[Published by the PCC]*

We welcome items from individuals and church or local community organisations.

All items submitted should include a contributor’s name please.

It may be necessary to edit copy submitted. Items on church matters do not necessarily represent the official position of the Church of England.

### **Advertising**

Do please support those who advertise with us and mention that you saw their advertisement in our magazine.

Anyone wishing to advertise should contact the Editor

**01227 784779**

E-mail: [pilgrimpost@martinpaul.org](mailto:pilgrimpost@martinpaul.org)

The Parochial Church Council does not necessarily endorse the products and services advertised.

## WORKING TOGETHER IN MINISTRY

Telephone code 01227 unless otherwise indicated

**Rector: The Revd. Dr Mary Kells** 768072 (*Option 2*)  
rector@martinpaul.org

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**Samuel Keeler-Walker** sjkw03@gmail.com 07402 200223  
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### **Churchwardens:**

*St Martin's: (Announcement awaited)*  
*(Vacancy)*

**Deputy Wardens:** James Sampson 07968 786545  
Dr. Claire Butler 768072  
Dr Isis Brook 768072

*St Paul's:* **Michael Keeler-Walker** 720121  
**Ros Newington** 462897

**Deputy Warden:** Monica Walling 787564

### **PCC Officers:**

*Chair:* **The Revd. Dr Mary Kells** 768072  
*Secretary:* **Jo Lawson** 07505705812  
*Treasurer:* **Gordon Craig** 452428

### **Church Music:**

*Organists:* **Christopher Gower (St Martin's)** 07851 505565  
**David Rees-Williams (St Paul's)** 07720 742193  
*Choir Director:* **Dom del Nevo** 07753 336648  
domdelnevo@gmail.com

### **Administry:**

*Parish Centre Premises Supervisor:* **Mrs Jackie Curd** 452131

*Parish Office Contact Options - see page 1.*

*Parish Magazine Editor:* **The Revd. Clive Barlow** 784779  
pilgrimpost@martinpaul.org

*Parish Safeguarding:* **Lydia Newington** 768072 (*Option 6*)  
**Monica Walling** 787564

## OTHER PARISH OFFICERS AND ORGANISATIONS

Telephone code **01227** unless otherwise indicated

<b>Archivist</b>	<i>(Vacancy)</i>	
<b>Bellringers</b>	Sam Keeler-Walker	<b>07402 200223</b>
<b>Charity Giving Group</b>	Claire Butler	<b>768072</b>
<b>The Children's Society</b>	Gwyneth Hartwell	<b>451366</b>
<b>Christian Aid Week Co-ordinator</b>	<i>(Vacant)</i>	
<b>Church Library</b>	Michael Keeler-Walker	<b>720121</b>
<b>Christians Together Canterbury</b>	David Hartwell	<b>451366</b>
<b>Deanery Synod</b>	Andrea Don	Parish Office
<b>Eco-Church Co-ordinator</b>	Revd. Sue White	<b>07803 312144</b>
<b>Electoral Roll Officer</b>	Judith Dimond	<b>459002</b>
<b>Flower Arrangers (St Martin's)</b>	Doreen Laven	<b>760372</b>
<b>Flower Arrangers (St Paul's)</b>	Ros Newington	<b>462897</b>
<b>Friends of St Martin's (Secretary)</b>	Sylvia Gower	Parish Office
<b>Fisherfolk (Parents and Toddlers)</b>	Jackie Curd	<b>452131</b>
<b>Growing in Faith – Young Adults</b>	Sam Keeler-Walker	<b>07402 20023</b>
<b>'Hangouts' Youth Activity</b>	Sue Spillett	<b>56100</b>
<b>Head of Visitor Experience at St Martin's</b>	Elena Field	<b>768072</b>
<b>Lifelong Learning Group</b>	<i>(To be confirmed)</i>	
<b>Messy Church Events</b>	Mary Kells	<b>768072</b>
<b>Mothers' Union</b>	Jackie Curd	<b>452131</b>
<b>Parochial Charities</b>	Christopher Wachter	<b>455367</b>
<b>Parish Magazine – Editor and Advertising</b>	Revd. Clive Barlow	<b>784779</b>
<b>Ride and Stride for Churches</b>	Sue Spillett	<b>456100</b>
<b>Servers Rota</b>	Val Taylor	Parish Office
<b>St Martin's – Visitor's</b>	Elena Field	<b>768072</b>
<b>Social Committee Co-ordinator</b>	Jackie Curd	<b>452131</b>
<b>Social Media Enabler</b>	Chris Kirkland –	Parish Office
<b>Stewardship Gift Aid Recorder</b>	Richard Llewellyn	<b>764645</b>
<b>Sunday Zone -1 <i>(Children's</i></b>	Ruth Baker	<b>768072</b>
<b>Sunday Zone 2 <i>Work)</i></b>	Val Taylor	Parish Office
<b>Youth and Children's Intern</b>	Lillie	<b>07511103968</b>

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

at St Martin's Church, North Holmes Road CT1 1PW  
and St Paul's Church, Church Street St Paul's CT1 1NH  
See Magazine Diary pages 13 – 16

### SUNDAY SERVICES - APRIL

- 6:30 am** **Easter Day Vigil and First Mass of Easter** – Sunday **5th**  
*at St Martin's and St Paul's*
- 9:00 am** **St Martin's** - Sung Easter Day Eucharist (*Sunday 5th*)
- 9:00 am** **St Martin's** - Said Eucharist (*Sunday 12th, 19th and 26th*)
- 10:30 am** **St Paul's** - Sung Parish Eucharist (*Sunday Zone as advised*)



on our YouTube channel (*via Parish Website link*)

Download our Sunday Service / Newsletter from our Website

[www.martinpaul.org](http://www.martinpaul.org)

### MONTHLY SUNDAY SERVICES

- 3:00 pm** **St Paul's** - TeaTime Family Service (*Not this month*)
- 5:00 pm** **St Paul's** - Choral Evensong and Supper (*Not this month*)
- 5:00 pm** **St Martin's** - Service of Silence and Compline (**26th**)

### PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES - WORSHIP ACTIVITY AND DURING THE WEEK

- 9:00 am** **Praying Together** using the 'Pray as you Go' app (*for approx. 10 minutes*) on a Monday, Tuesday and Friday.
- 10:30 am** **St Paul's - Prayer Book Eucharist** – Wednesday  
+++ *Service followed by refreshments in Church* +++
- 12 noon** **St Martin's - Midday Prayers** - Thursday (*not 9th*)
- 1:00 pm** **Messy Church on Saturday** – Spring Lane Neighbour-  
Hood Centre (May **2nd**)
- 8:40 pm** (*for 9:00 pm*) **Compline** (Night Prayers) - Thursday on Zoom  
using link: <https://bit.ly/ThursdayCompline> or email  
[charlottehardwick1981@gmail.com](mailto:charlottehardwick1981@gmail.com)



**Induction Loop Facility**  
and **Large Print Orders of Service**  
are available in both our churches



## FROM THE REGISTERS

*[No entries this month]*

## COMMEMORATIONS

*We remember in our prayers those who have died*

*In April in previous years:*

Bob Taylor, Marie Lawrence, Peter Laven, Ian Burroughs,  
Joy Hartwell, Tim Marsh, Chris Spillett and Ruth Smith.

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## THIS MONTH'S MAGAZINE COVER

Our Cause of the Month is 'Pastos Verdes', a charity working in Mozambique. You can read about some of their projects on page 19.

Being in the Liturgical Season of Easter, we feature a picture of last year's beautiful Easter Garden at St. Paul's and the East Window at St Martin's.

.....Though rarely observed liturgically, St George, Martyr Patron of England (c304) is remembered on Thursday 23rd March. It is also the birth date of William Shakespeare. **Editor**

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## NOTICES

**Revd. Paul Wilton** – Our prayers and good wishes to Paul, who presided and preached for us at St Paul's on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, when he celebrated the 60th anniversary of his ordination.

**Parish Confirmation:** We look forward to welcoming Bishop Rose to St Paul's on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June for a service of Confirmation. If you or someone you know would be interested in exploring this next step on the Christian journey, then please speak to me, or one on the Ministry Team.

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting** takes on Sunday 10th May. This meeting includes the election of people to serve on the Parochial Church Council and in other important roles including Deanery Synod. Jo Lawson, PCC Secretary, reports in *Pilgrim Post* on the work of the PCC, and if you would like to know more about these roles, please contact either of us. **Mary Kells**

## THE RECTOR WRITES.....



How good are you at waiting?

Lent is a season of waiting, waiting for the momentous events of Holy Week. It is an active waiting, as we consider our consciences, our habitual behaviour, our calling into the wilderness to be with Jesus. It is an opportunity to prepare our hearts, prepare the way of the Lord, prepare a place within us for the God who came among us. Holy Week is also characterised by waiting, between the triumphal entry of Palm Sunday, with the sense that something wonderful but risky has been set in motion, to the commencement of the triduum (the 3 great days of Easter), in which the uncertainty of where this triumphal entry will lead is revealed.

So, we have the last supper on Maundy Thursday, the rich sharing of a final meal, with all the poignancy that will have involved, love and suffering wound together, and no doubt some confusion among the apostles. Even Judas asks, 'is it I, Rabbi?', when Jesus announces one of them will betray him.

Good Friday is the catastrophe. Positions have been hardened, confusion is gone, and the worst has happened. Good Friday brings us a world in which God is dead and love is crucified.

How do we live in such a space?

The worst thing we can do is rush to Easter Sunday, rejoice before the cause of rejoicing has arrived. This is the time when waiting really comes to the fore. What can we do when we can't control the outcome, when those with evil intent appear to have triumphed, when hope is dead? And yet this is, I suggest, exactly when hope is not dead. Perhaps we have hoped in the wrong thing before, but Holy Saturday is a reminder that in the midst of our desolation, with all our previous moorings and certainties taken away, there remains an undefeated hope, a resonance, a power in the waiting to see what will transpire. In Holy Saturday we are invited into a space of radical loss and emptiness. We are invited to trust in the God whom we cannot see.

I wonder where you find yourself as this year's Holy Week prepares to unfold. Are you feeling triumphal, jubilant, full of anticipation, like the

Palm Sunday entry into Jerusalem? Are you feeling a mixture of love and imminent loss, like the disciples on Maundy Thursday? Are you in Good Friday, in the midst of desolation, of lost love, lost certainties, lost hope? Or are you in the liminal space between crucifixion and resurrection, where all you can do is wait silently for God to be revealed in the midst of the wasteland that is all you can currently see?

Our lives, in reality, can offer us a taste of all these experiences at different times. The great hope of the dramatic events of Holy Week is that God is with us in all our experiences, wherever we find ourselves, in our jubilation, in our desolation. When we wait with God, whatever our circumstances, we truly have hope.

*Mary Kells*



### **A Prospective Churchwarden for St Martin's**

For some months Isis Brook has been helping out James Sampson and Claire Butler, as Deputy Churchwardens at St Martin's and writes to introduce herself:

'When Mary Kells invited me to think about taking on the post of Churchwarden, I was very honoured to be asked. Following thought and prayer about the level of commitment required and whether I have the right skills I said that I would like to do this, and in the meantime the PCC has appointed me as a Deputy Churchwarden prior to the APCM and the Archdeacon's Visitation in June, when such appointments are ratified.

The fact that St Martin's has such a friendly congregation with experienced people to ask for help and advice made this an easier decision. I am relatively new to the parish having moved to Canterbury in 2024 following retirement from a career in higher education. My background is that of lecturing in philosophy and also training lecturers. I still have a research interest in and write about environmental aesthetics, plants and gardening.

I am looking forward to contributing to the life of the church; supporting the work of keeping this beautiful church a place of continuous worship, and a place of historic significance, that is welcoming to all.'

***Dr Isis Brook***

## LIVING THE LITURGY - APRIL

*Readings are from the Common Worship Calendar and Lectionary  
Year A authorized for use in the Church of England*

### **5th - Easter Day**

**Gospel: John 20. 1-18 or Matthew 28. 1-10**

*'I have seen the Lord'*

How does the joy of the resurrection remain with us?

### **12th -The Second Sunday of Easter**

**Gospel: John 20. 19-end**

*'My Lord and my God!'*

How much do we identify with the doubts of Thomas?

### **19th – The Third Sunday of Easter**

**Gospel: Luke 24.13 -35**

*The road to Emmaus and the revelation at supper.*

How do we recognise Christ in our daily lives?

### **26th The Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**Gospel: John 10. 1-10**

*Jesus, the Good Shepherd.*

What are the Christlike qualities of shepherding others?

**Diane Fawcett**

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## **Rosemary Walters Farewell**

At the service last month, when we bade farewell to Rosemary, I was tempted to begin what I was going to say, in true Rosemary fashion: “I was walking home,” “standing in the supermarket queue,” or “teaching the students,” when something ordinary suddenly opened a door into the gospel. We would be hooked at once, wondering how she would transform a simple moment into a challenge that stayed with us long after. But instead, I then began with our ‘thank you’ s’.

Thank you, Rosemary, for your unwavering commitment to both our congregations. Thank you for sharing your learning and your faith so generously. Thank you for your persistent encouragement of local and national church activities, always reminding us that we belong to something far larger than ourselves. Thank you for the countless hours

devoted to Life-Long Learning committee meetings, where we often began with a blank sheet, but always ended inspired, challenged, and energised by the programmes you helped shape.

You have consistently connected faith with everyday life, never talking down to us, but gently coaxing us upward toward deeper understanding and more faithful living. Through your long-running Meat, Eat and Explore evenings, you nourished both minds and souls, with thanks also to Jackie Curd for the meals that sustained us along the way.

On a lighter note, you were always ready for fun, particularly in your role as a much-loved maiden in our pantomimes—though perhaps that is now a chapter closed! Ever modest, you may not fully realise just how inspirational your gifts of preaching and organisation have been to us. You have shown, by example, how faith belongs not only in church but also in the public domain, through your commitment to social causes and, indeed, a certain political party!

Your request that part of your leaving gift be shared with Christian Aid perfectly reflects the way you have always practised what you preached. None of us wants you to go, and we will miss you far more than you may realise.

You were famously adamant that you would never fly—except for that one occasion when saying ‘no’ to the Dean proved more frightening than the aeroplane itself. After teaching in the Midlands, working with the Cathedral Education Department in Canterbury, teaching at Christ Church University, serving as Senior Reader, Lay Canon, General Synod member, and completing a PhD in retirement on your beloved Cornish poet Charles Causley, you now fulfil another dream: returning west with Philip to be nearer to Cornwall.

Dear Rosemary—our Reader, teacher, leader, and friend—thank you for everything, and may God bless you richly in this next chapter of your life.

*Judith Dimond*

### **Letter from Torquay...**

Friends,

A short note to say first of all thank you for the good wishes and support. Michael Hutchison’s beautiful picture is waiting to be unpacked when we get into our intended house. At the moment we are

in rented accommodation and living alongside many unpacked boxes which will eventually see the light of day.

Despite the Palm Trees here, the weather has been cold and misty for much of the time but now shows signs of clearing up. This house is on the top of a hill but there is a very nice café at the bottom and a memorial to Peter Cook of Pete and Dud fame, who grew up here.

Church-wise we went last Sunday to St Luke's, a huge, listed Victorian building with colourful decoration inside and which serves a largely deprived area of Torquay. It has a Sunday morning Eucharist and we had an interesting and thought provoking sermon on the Gospel reading.

St Luke's is a bus ride away, but I think that is where we shall settle. A small but friendly congregation and I'm going to a Lent group (advertised as 'gentle conversation'!) this week.

I feel I carry St Martin and St Paul with me as this new journey starts and hope we will have visitors at the final house in what I am assured will be the balmy days of spring and summer.

**Rosemary**

Laurel Place, 2 The Woods, Torquay, TQ1 2HS

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The theme of our April daily prayers is the measure of love. *'God of love, in silence and in speaking, we worship You. You are the very breath of our lives; You are the promise of renewal; You are the offer of forgiveness; You are the wind of challenging change. Renew, forgive, inspire and challenge us, and fit us for Your service; in Jesus' name. Amen.'*

**Looking back** – What a busy, but wonderful time we had in March. It started with the excellent Lent Lunch raising so much money for 'Away From It All' holidays. then there was the beautiful and moving service celebrating 150 years of the Mothers' Union with lunch and bubbly back at the Parish Centre. (Well done to our Branch for all the work with the lunch.)

Many of us joined in the service at the Salvation Army as part of the

World Day of Prayer, then not resting for long, we enjoyed our Corporate Communion service and made 120 posies for the Parish Mothering Sunday services. After this we played our part in the Diocesan Wave of Prayer with refreshments afterwards, and as I write this we look forward with excitement and expectation to the enthronement of our new Archbishop and Patron. Phew!

***This month*** – At our meeting on Wednesday 1st April, we'll be making Easter baskets for the patients at St Martin's Hospital. It's always a joy to do, knowing that they will cheer up the wards in the building at the top of the hill. Corporate Communion is on Saturday 11th at 9.30am in St Paul's Church. So, a quieter month for us.

***Looking forward*** - May sees us off on our annual Outing. We are hoping to go to Goodnestone Gardens for the afternoon and it's fingers crossed this time that they do not cancel it as they did last year. We'll have an alternative ready just in case and hope for good weather too!.

Please don't forget your Lent Prayer Partners. They will be waiting in anticipation to see who has been praying for them. Drop them an Easter card so they know who it is.

Happy Easter everyone.

***Sue Spillett***

***April Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries***  
with our ***Good Wishes and Prayers***

***Birthdays:***

Sam Keeler-Walker, Irene Pickering, Sophie Scott, and Michael Northey.

***Wedding Anniversary:***

Michael and Monica Walling.

If you have recently joined the congregation at St Martin's or St Paul's and would like your name included in these monthly prayers and good wishes, please let the Editor know. Tel@ 01227 784779 or

E-mail: pilgrimpost@martinpaul.org.

## PARISH DIARY - APRIL

Any changes will be in our **Sunday Newsletter** or  
**Weekly E-mail** from: [office@martinpaul.org](mailto:office@martinpaul.org)



**Prayer and Worship Activity during the week – See page 5**

**Eucharistic Weekday Services - See page 5**

**Choir Practice Friday 7:30 pm (St Paul's)**

**10:00 - 11.30 am Fisherfolk Toddler Group - Parish Centre**

Every Wednesday and Friday in Term Time

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### Holy Week

#### 29th March – PALM SUNDAY

*Psalm 118.1-19-24. OT Isaiah 50. 4 -9a.*

*NT Philippians 2. 5-11. GP Matthew 21. 1-11.*

*Gospel of the Passion – Matthew 27. 11-56.*

9:00 am Said Eucharist - St Martin's

10:30 am Sung Palm Eucharist with Anointing (*if desired*)

Sunday Zone 1 & 2 . (*This service starts*

*at Lady Wootton's Green with procession to St Paul's*)

#### 30th Holy Monday

7:30 pm Service of Compline with Music and Discussion - St Paul's

#### 31st Holy Tuesday

7:30 pm Service of Compline with Music and Discussion - St Paul's

## PARISH DIARY - APRIL

### 1st Holy Wednesday

10:30 am Prayer Book Eucharist - St Paul's

*Refreshments in Church afterwards and every Wednesday*

2:00 pm MU Easter activities and Basket Making - Parish Centre

7:30 pm Service of Compline with Music and Discussion - St Paul's

## **2nd Maundy Thursday**

*(No midday prayers at St Martin's)*

7:30 pm Sung Eucharist of the Last Supper – St Paul's  
Followed by Vigil

## **3rd GOOD FRIDAY**

9:15 am Prayer Book Matins and Litany – St Martin's  
10:30 – 12 noon The Easter Story in the Making – St Paul's  
Christians Together – Canterbury Walk of Witness  
*(Details in Newsletter /weekly parish E-mail)*  
1:40 pm Gather at St Paul's for walk to St Martin's  
2:00 pm An hour at the Cross – St Martin's

## **5th – EASTER DAY**

*Psalm 118.14-24. NT Acts 10.34-43.*

*NT Colossians 3.1-4. Matthew 28. 1-10.*

6:30 am Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter  
at St Martin's and St Paul's – Breakfast in Parish Centre.

*(Details in Sunday Newsletter / Weekly E-mail)*

9:00 am Sung Easter Eucharist - St Martin's

10:30 am Sung Festival Eucharist for Easter - Sunday Zone 1- St Paul's  
*Refreshments afterwards and every Sunday*

## **8th Wednesday of Easter Week**

10:30 am Prayer Book Eucharist - St Paul's

## **9th Thursday of Easter Week**

12 noon Midday Prayers - St Martin's

## **11th Saturday of Easter Week**

9:30 am MU Corporate Communion – St Paul's

## **12th Second Sunday of Easter**

*Psalm 16. OT Exodus 14. 10-end; 15.20-21.*

*Acts 2.14a, 22-32. GP John 20.19-end.*

9:00 am Said Eucharist - St Martin's

10:30 am Sung Eucharist with Sunday Zone 1- St Paul's

## **15th Wednesday**

10:30 am Prayer Book Eucharist - St Paul's

### **16th Thursday**

12 noon Midday Prayers - St Martin's

***Copy date for May Pilgrim Post***

### **19th Third Sunday of Easter**

*Psalm 116.1-7. OT Zephaniah 3.14-end.*

*Acts 2.14a, 36-41. GP Luke 24.13-35.*

9:00 am Said Eucharist - St Martin's

10:30 am Sung Eucharist with Sunday Zone 1 - St Paul's

### **22nd Wednesday**

10:30 am Prayer Book Eucharist - St Paul's

### **23rd Thursday**

12 noon Midday Prayers - St Martin's

12 noon MU Cathedral Prayer Time

4:30 – 6:30 pm Hangouts Youth Activity – Parish Centre

### **26th Fourth Sunday of Easter**

*Psalm 23. NT Acts 2.42-end.*

*NT 1 Peter 2.19-end. GP John 10.1-10.*

9:00 am Said Eucharist - St Martin's

10:30 am Sung Eucharist with Sunday Zone 1 & 2 - St Paul's

5:00 pm Service of Silence and Compline – St Martin's

### **29th Wednesday**

10:30 am Prayer Book Eucharist - St Paul's

### **30th Thursday**

12 noon Midday Prayers - St Martin's

## **MAY**

### **2nd Saturday**

**1:00 pm Messy Church on Saturday –**

Spring Lane Neighbourhood Centre

### **3rd Fifth Sunday of Easter**

*Psalm 31.1-5. NT Acts 7.55-end*

*NT 1 Peter 2.2-10. GP John 14.1-14.*

(Cont'd) **Fifth Sunday of Easter**

9:00 am Sung Eucharist - St Martin's

10:30 am Sung Eucharist with Sunday Zone 1 - St Paul's

**6th Wednesday**

10:30 am Prayer Book Eucharist - St Paul's

*Refreshments afterwards in Church and every Wednesday*

MU Outing planned – Details to be Confirmed.

**7th Thursday**

12 noon Midday Prayers - St Martin's



**5:00 - 6:30 pm Wednesday 15th April**  
**Methodist Church, Canterbury.**

**Speaker:** Charlie Bell, non-stipendiary priest in the Diocese of Southwark, forensic psychiatrist, and author, involved in ministerial training on the medico-theological interface and liturgy.

**Topic:** Psychiatry, Prayer, Disorder, and Sin: Where Theology Meets the Mind'?

Most talks are accessible afterwards on YouTube and are open to all who are interested in honest, lively discussion on contemporary themes in theology and religion. So, whatever your interests or viewpoint, you will be most welcome. There is a charge of £5 at the door for each talk to cover costs (people in full-time education free).

**Judith Dimond**

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**Teatime at St Paul's. (SP@TT)**

What a lovely part of Parish life this has become.

On the second Sunday of each month, we meet in the church at 3:00 pm for craft activities, songs, a story, prayers, a church search and TEA. It is such a happy time and how fortunate we are to have a devoted team who seem to be able to turn their hand to anything. Thanks also to those who help get the church ready and those who



come along at the end to re organise the church and Jackie who provides such a scrumptious spread. Also, how lucky that now we have a church that is so adaptable for us to use. We have recently centred around Jesus' Baptism, Jesus left behind in the Temple, and serving others by washing feet as Jesus did at the Last Supper.

There is always interaction and a chance for the children to ask questions, and how enriching that can be. Teatime has been going for over 10 years, and long may it last and evolve. **Sue Spillett**

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### Joseph of Arimathea's Easter by W H Vanstone

“He’s gone” says Joseph, and, with Pilate’s leave  
Eases the nails and lowers him from the Tree,  
Wraps him in reverent and tender thoughts  
And lays him in the cave called Memory.



The care is deeply hewn in Joseph’s heart:

All that’s within will always be his own:  
In memory’s cave the treasure of his past  
Is safe for ever, walled and sealed by stone.

“He’s safe”, says Joseph, “safe in this cool place  
And no one now can take my Lord away.  
In years to come I’ll still see his dear face  
As clearly as I’ve seen it on this day.”

“He’s gone” cries Joseph at the empty tomb:  
But Mary says, “He’s left a word for you:  
He cannot rest content to be your past,  
So he has risen to be your future too.”

Canon Bill Vanstone was brought up in a busy Northern Vicarage and became one of a brilliant post-war generation of Anglican theologians. He wrote three books, which have been hugely influential to those of us working and preaching in the late 20th century.

‘Love’s Endeavour, Love’s Expense’ 1977 was followed by ‘The Stature of Waiting’ and ‘Farewell in Christ’ 1997, from which this poem comes.

**David Steven**

## FORGOTTEN SAINTS

As we turn the calendar to April, the Church invites us to celebrate the feast of **Saint Hilarius**, a saint whose very name—*Hilarius*, meaning ‘cheerful’ or ‘joy-filled’—captures the spirit of his life and ministry. Living in the early centuries of Christianity, Saint Hilarius stands out as a gentle reminder that holiness is not only found in solemnity but also in the quiet, steady joy that springs from a heart rooted in God.

Born into a humble family, Hilarius grew up with a natural warmth that drew people to him. Even as a young man entering religious life, he carried with him a gift for lifting the spirits of those around him. Though he embraced the discipline of prayer and simplicity, he never lost sight of the Gospel’s invitation to ‘rejoice in the Lord, always’. His monastic cell became a place where the weary found comfort, the anxious found laughter, and the doubtful rediscovered hope.

In time, Hilarius was called to serve as a bishop. He accepted the role reluctantly, preferring contemplation to leadership, yet he approached his new responsibilities with the same gentle humour and pastoral heart that had shaped his earlier years. He defended the faith with clarity and courage, but he was equally known for easing tensions with a well-timed smile, a word of encouragement, and sometimes even a joke! His joy was not frivolous; it was a sign of deep trust in God’s goodness.

Saint Hilarius died peacefully, loved by his flock and respected even by those who disagreed with him. Celebrating his feast on 1st April reminds us that Christian joy is not naïve or shallow - it is a profound expression of faith. May his example encourage us to carry the light of Christ with joy and gladness in our own daily lives.

***Fr Andy Inkpen***

*[Disclaimer. Any resemblance between the saint described in this article and saints commemorated in the Lectionary of the Anglican or Roman Catholic Church is coincidental. Editor]*

## Cause of the Month

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Projects in Lichinga, Mozambique, include running a Children's Home for orphaned boys and work with Children and Youth, where a Disciple Group has grown out of the thriving Children's Club.

Tinga, Lichinga, is 1200m above sea level and can get cold in the winter months. Many families lack the means to adequately clothe their children, so we provide a Starter Pack for the newborn babies which includes reusable nappies and clothes. The older siblings receive a knitted hat, jumper and blanket.

Thank you for your continuing financial support and prayers for our ongoing work.

**Pastos Verdes**

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## IN VOGUE AT ST MARTIN'S

### *Clothing in the time of Queen Bertha*



Since I began working at St Martin's, I have been eager to learn more about what women would have worn during Queen Bertha's reign in the late 6th century. So far, my research has led me to some fascinating discoveries that I thought would be nice to share with readers of Pilgrim Post.

As in later periods, social class determined what a person would wear. For example, Queen Bertha would have owned several ornate garments made from costly materials, while a lower-class woman might have had only one plain, everyday dress. In general, Anglo-Saxon women wore an ankle-length gown under a *peplos*, which was a sleeveless wool or linen dress fastened with brooches at the shoulders and cinched at the waist with a belt. This outfit was common for women to wear from their teens to their forties/fifties, as it was practical for raising children.

Anglo-Saxon dress would have varied depending on location, as it appears that the Kentish costume would have been slightly different due to Bertha's Frankish influence. Rather than fastened on the shoulders, Kentish women wore a gown that fastened on the front, along with a jacket which was closed with four brooches.

Accessories included several useful items, such as knives or keys, attached to the women's belts. These would indicate the wearer's age and perhaps even whether the woman was married or not. Anglo-Saxon women would have further decorated their outfits by wearing beads attached to their brooches. These could have been made from glass or crystal, likely indicating the wearer's status.

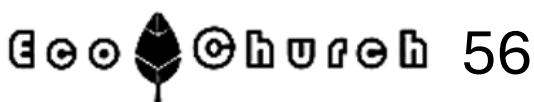
Indeed, clothing's ability to signify a person's identity is what fascinates me most. Whilst, as previously mentioned, clothing could indicate age or status in the 6th century, it could also indicate a person's religious beliefs. Several archaeological finds from this period have included elaborate brooches which contain crosses, indicating the adoption of Christianity in Kent.

Overall, I believe that Anglo-Saxon dress is a fascinating topic, and I plan to conduct further research on it in the coming months! Indeed, it would be interesting to discover whether Augustine's arrival had any influence on Anglo-Saxon men's costume.

**Elena Field**

*Head of Visitor Experience – St Martin's*

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The News from Patricia Crawford: The crisis in the Middle East is impacting on economies around the world. Global oil prices rose virtually immediately Iran launched strikes across the Middle East in response to attacks by the USA and Israel. Bombing and other military actions are already creating substantial carbon emissions.

Researchers at Emory University in the United States have undertaken investigations that indicate air pollution may increase the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease. 57million people around the world suffer from the disease; and there are reports of it increasing amongst younger people.

Researchers suggest that Climate Change could trigger a financial crash around the world because the models used to guide governments, investors and businesses don't capture how climate damage really

unfolds. Current models generally indicate that losses are spread evenly but some parts of the world suffer more than others from Extreme Weather variations.

The UK's first geothermal power plant using hot water from underground is operating in Cornwall and is estimated to produce electricity for an estimated 10,000 homes. Geothermal Engineering Limited have sold the power to Octopus Energy for distribution via the National Grid.

The UK generated 10.6TWh of electricity through wind-power in January, the highest recorded thus far.

Climatologists are predicting that this year will be among Earth's four hottest years. Climate Change briefly explained: Earth is warming, sea levels are rising, rainfall patterns are changing, Extreme Weather Events are increasing in number and severity. Human activity drives Climate Change through increased greenhouse gasses, these trap heat in the atmosphere close to Earth.

Pessimists say, "I can't do anything about these issues" and then sit back and do nothing. Optimists say, "Let's find out what I can do and get on and do it; I don't have time to sit around doing nothing!" Each one of us may only be able to do one thing but if 70 million people do one thing in the UK that adds up to a lot of positive action. Keep praying and keep doing this spring. Jesus started with two disciples and look where we are now.

**Sue White**

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## **PUBLIC LECTURE**

### **Overseas Development and Debt Justice**

7:00 – 9:00 pm - Thursday 16th April.

*University of Kent, Grimond Lecture Theatre 3, CT2 7NG,*

**Speaker:** Christine Allen, Director of CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development) Panel discussion and Q&A with Jess Hall, Campaigns Adviser, Christian Aid.

**\*\*\* Entrance Free -Includes refreshments - All welcome \*\*\***

For more information email the Michael Ramsey Professor of Theology and Director of the Social Justice Network: [jarnold@diocant.org](mailto:jarnold@diocant.org)



## APRIL ARCHIVE 1986

This month's magazine consisted largely of reports to be presented to the upcoming Annual Parochial Church Meeting. On the financial front, the parish was paying its way. However, an annual surplus of £8000 was really needed to avoid having another major appeal within five years. The Restoration Fund had now closed, but attention had turned to the need for a new heating system for the Longport Hall, where bookings were being lost because of the cold. The recent stewardship campaign had produced a 10% increase in regular giving, there being no fewer than 222 such donors (from an electoral roll of about 300). Much had been pledged in 'time and talents'.

There were some interesting facts about the parish's work with children and families. The time spent worshipping at Christ Church College had been something of a treat in this respect, highlighting the lack of room space at St. Paul's. Both the younger Sunday School and the creche were growing in numbers. While they met in the church hall, the older Sunday School (usually about ten of them) gathered in the parish office (the inner vestry?), and somewhere there was a separate group for boys aged 9-14. During the year there had been three Children's Days, with which some teenagers had lent a hand. In the Autumn, for example, there was a service at St. Martin's followed by the planting of bulbs in the churchyard, after which tea was served in the hall.

The revived Youth Club (or Young Communicants' Fellowship), some 10 in number, were meeting in the cellar of the Longport Hall. To belong, one had to have been confirmed or be intending to take that **step**. Practical projects were being devised.

The Mothers' Union, like the Sunday School, was led by Mary Fennell. There were 70 members, though some were no longer able to attend meetings. As well as supporting the work of the worldwide MU itself, members reached out in various ways to the Children's Society, St Martin's Hospital, St Augustine's Hospital at Chartham, the Samaritans, and the Prison Toy Scheme (for prisoners' children,

obviously). They were engaged in a prayer project with Canterbury Prison; had given ‘a fair linen altar cloth’ to St. Paul’s to mark the restoration; and were helping with the new Young Families Group.

**Brian Hogben**

---

## GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Now that we have a new Archbishop, we wonder what leadership positions she will take? What will her priorities be? Perhaps a renewed focus on spirituality, leaving the machinations and minutiae of church politics in part to one side?

What makes us Christian is our individual and corporate relationship with God, and it is that defining element that uniquely binds us together.

A church who’s individual members have a strong and shared faith is a church that can weather all storms and take on all challenges. For wisdom and reassurance gives us confidence and strength.

What the Church of England needs is an injection of Jesus’s life in plain public view for all to see. And that ongoing miracle should revive us all.

**Mike Butler**

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### **Attention: Theology needed Everywhere!**

**Science, Religion & the Human Future: Conflict, Collusion & Consequences** - *Amanda Rees, Franziska*

*E. Kohlt, Tom McLeish, Charlotte Sleigh and David Wilkinson.*

*Oxford University Press, 2026.*

We live in a time of constant media bombardment about the racing development of space exploration, the latest cure or craze based on incredible manipulation of genetics and the looming shadow of ubiquitous artificial intelligence. I find it hard to take it all in, let alone consider how a Christian response might help me engage with these novelties.

I recently picked up ‘Science, Religion and the Human Future’. which was sitting on the side in our living room, box fresh. Charlotte Sleigh, with

whom I live, is one of the authors. The book provides a purview of some of the key contentions of our time - AI, the new space race, genetic modification, the cult of the scientist personality, pandemics, climate change - from history, present to future.

The historical section of the book sets out how the construction of a series of false conflicts in the self-interest of science and 'progress' in the last half-century have been unhelpful. By discussing key contemporary areas of science, the authors contend that navigating the latest advances now and, in the future, needs a much more thoughtful and theologically integrated approach.

Our new babies – AI's, space miners, new genes - need 'good parenting', thinking carefully about relationships between people, the world and the newly created ideas and technologies. Charlotte and her co-authors could perhaps have been more emphatic: God be in our scientific future. The alternative is unthinkable.

Theology is everywhere in our house and I clearly, should pick it up more often.

***Nicholas Thurston***

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## **Emerge Advocacy – A Charity for Young People**

We support young people (age 10-25) who find themselves in A&E because of self-harm, a suicide attempt or emotional crisis. We are there for them during their time in hospital, and we keep journeying with them afterwards through follow-up support.

***Emerge*** is a Christian charity that seeks to support young people when they need it most. Whilst we don't openly talk about our faith with them, we bring the light of Christ into dark places.

We need other Christians to stand with us so that we can continue to bring hope to these young people. There are a variety of ways you could partner with **Emerge**:

- In prayer – for the young people and also the team.
- Through volunteering – this could be in a number of different ways and we'd love to talk to you about the opportunities.

- And crucially, in this season, financially. This could be with a one-off gift, monthly giving, running a fund-raiser etc.

All donations, large and small enable us to be there for young people like Jas. You can find out about her story here:

<https://youtu.be/BRN00r3dbes>

She is one of a growing number of young people who feel they would not be alive today had it not been for Emerge. And there are many others who have found hope and joy in their lives again through our support.

To learn more, please visit the website [emergeadvocacy.com](http://emergeadvocacy.com), or send me an email. I'd love for you to partner with us and be part of the amazing work God is doing amongst some of the most vulnerable young people and families in our community.

***Georgina Hedley-Smith***

[Georgina.hedleysmith@emergeadvocacy.com](mailto:Georgina.hedleysmith@emergeadvocacy.com)

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## Quiet Day in May

Please put Friday 29th May in your diary for a Quiet Day at Minster Abbey led by Mary Butcher.

Life today is so full that we all have difficulty in finding time for ourselves. Jesus knew only too well what it was like to be at everyone's beck and call. One way he could find the peace he needed was to go out either at night or early in the morning when he could be alone with God.

If Jesus, the Son of God, needed to seek solitude and a deep connection with God, how much more do we need to spend time apart in God's healing presence, so we can be refreshed and enabled for what lies ahead in our day. We are reminded in the Bible of the need for regular rest for the body, mind and spirit in the commandment 'Remember the Sabbath day... ' (*Exodus 31:14-17*)

But there is another reason for setting time apart. If we commit ourselves to spending time listening to God, we are more likely to 'hear' God's word to us.

Some people are put off by the title 'Quiet' day and wonder how they will manage the silence. The leader will structure the day with a theme

to use as a point of reference for thoughts and prayers, and some activities to help shape the day. The short talks, reflection material, opening and closing worship, music and setting are all there to support participants as they listen and wait for the touch of God.

Minster Abbey, especially on a lovely day, is an ideal setting for this as there is plenty of outside space. On a wet day there is always a quiet corner or the chapel where you can find space with God.

There will be more about this in next month's magazine. Please speak to me if you are interested or have any questions. My contact details are on page 3 of this magazine

**Mary Butcher**

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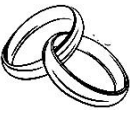
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**THANK YOU**

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**Endpiece**

At Emma and Jack's Easter wedding, everything was blooming—flowers, love, and unfortunately, disaster. For just as the best man nervously handed over the rings, one of them slipped, pinged off the vicar's shoe, and disappeared straight through a grating over the defunct Victorian underfloor heating system.



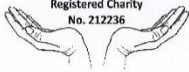
Gasps echoed. The best man dived down like an enthusiastic meerkat, and peered through the grating in vain, while the bridesmaids formed a human chain, offering 'moral support.' The bride started to cry.

Eventually, the church Verger Frank, came forth with a coat hanger, a torch, and the confidence of a man who'd retrieved many strange things before.

When the ring finally emerged, dusty but triumphant, the congregation cheered. It was gloriously imperfect - just like the day.

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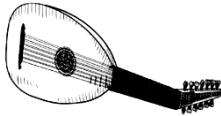
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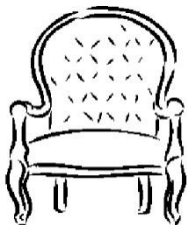
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