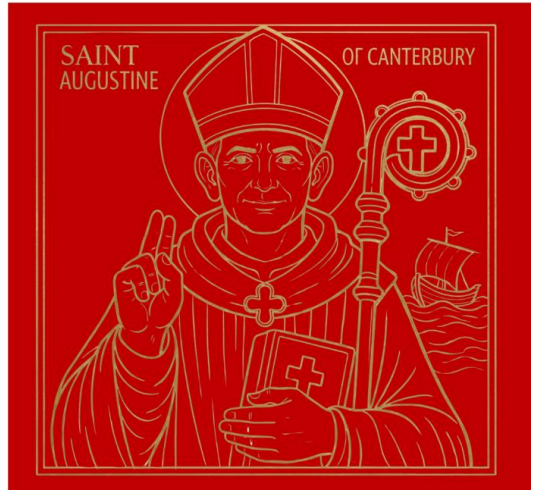


# Pilgrim Post <sup>70p</sup>

May  
2026



Cause of the month



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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)

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

The Revd. Dr Mary Kells or E-mail: [rector@martinpaul.org](mailto:rector@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](mailto: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)



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



MartinPaulChurches

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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

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

**Associate Priest (SSM): The Revd. Charlotte Sleigh**  
office@martinpaul.org

**Readers: Mary Butcher** lgbbutcher@aol.com 764200  
**Samuel Keeler-Walker** sjkw03@gmail.com 07402 200223  
**Roxane Lee Affonso** rleeaffonso@gmail.com 768072

### **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>	<i>(Vacant)</i>	
<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>456100</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 – Visitors Experience</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</b> <i>(Children's</i>	Ruth Baker	<b>768072</b>
<b>Sunday Zone 2</b> <i>Work)</i>	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 - MAY

**9:00 am St Martin's** - Said Eucharist (*Sung on Sunday 3rd*)

**10:30 am St Paul's** - Sung Parish Eucharist with *Sunday Zone*.



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 (*Sunday 10th*)

**5:00 pm St Paul's** - Choral Evensong and Supper (*Sunday 17th*)

**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

**1:00 pm Messy Church on Saturday** – Spring Lane Neighbourhood 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

### ***Marriage affirmation at St Martins:***

*April: Our good wishes to Tim and Rita Martin*

## COMMEMORATIONS

*We remember in our prayers those who have died in May in previous years:*

Meg Dixon, Betty Harvey, Carol Mackay, Christine Fowler,

Barrie Milnes, Shirley Andrews, Dietrich Holstein,  
and Gill Francis.



---

## THIS MONTH'S MAGAZINE COVER

Our Cause of the Month is 'CORD', a charity working for word peace. You can read about one of their projects in Laos on [page 10](#)

May 24th is Pentecost Sunday dramatically portrayed in St Paul's East window.

Our own St Augustine, First Archbishop of Canterbury, (*not to be confused with St Augustine of Hippo*) is remembered on Tuesday 26th.

'Here we go gathering knots of May blossoms' - Dancing around the May Pole once celebrated the life and vitality of this month. ***Editor***

---

## NOTICES

**Lent Appeal.** Thank you to everyone who has been collecting for our Lent Appeal, raising funds both for the installation of a toilet at St Martin's and to support our overseas partners through the twinning programme. Please do return your collection box if you have not already done so. Your donation can be Gift Aided if you are a tax-payer.

**Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting** takes place 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.....



The Rector writes...

I recently officiated at a happy event at St Martin's: a thanksgiving for marriage, where a couple who had been married for around 40 years decided to celebrate by renewing their vows before their friends and family. It was a joyous occasion on a day of bright sunshine and it has made me think about renewal.

One of the ways we can think about these 50 days of Easter, the longest season in the church apart from ordinary time, is as an opportunity for renewal of life. We have put behind us our penitential season of Lent, and our dramatic following of the rollercoaster events of Holy Week, and now we can sit back and take stock of the place where we have landed, the holy place of renewal and resurrection.

The world is certainly blossoming all around us, to make sure we get the point. New life is burgeoning as Spring is fragrant around us.

I wonder whether you can identify with renewed life? Our personal seasons do not always match those of the church, but it is a help to see the world around us dropping broad hints and encouraging us to get on board.

I wonder if it is a question of letting go into renewal. Instead of striving for it or longing for it, or bitterly resenting others who seem to have it, I wonder what it would be like to relax into it and allow God to renew all that needs help to blossom in us, all that needs a bit of tweaking to enable fuller life to emerge.

Just as we settled into winter, wintering, allowing ourselves to rest, what would it be like to settle into spring, allowing ourselves to blossom?

Perhaps this is something to pray about, to pray with, as we seek to be open to God's prompting, God's new life. What might emerge, as we ease ourselves into this new life? We might find that some pruning is necessary, of that which has died, is no longer growthful, and which does not belong to the season of life in which we currently find ourselves. Letting go is always hard, but saying no to pruning also means saying no to new life so we may find it is necessary.

Let us not begin there, however, but rather, by being thankful for the signs of new life around us, for Easter's happy ending, which is really a happy beginning. In that holy place of gratitude, what is necessary to clear a way for this new life to body forth in us, can emerge in us, inspire us. We can let those steps we need to take into the path of renewal and resurrection come naturally to us, as we open our hearts to the God of life.

And let's be thankful, too, that there are 50 days in the season of Easter, because we all need plenty of time to get the message, so let's give ourselves space and time to do just that and enjoy a bit of gentle blossoming while we do so.

*Mary Kellys*



## **AN UPDATE ON SZ2**

*(Sunday Zone Children's Work  
for Years 7-13)*

We were very sad to say 'Goodbye' to Rosemary Walters at the end of February and sent her on her way with a card and a VERY smart pen and notebook. Monica Walling and I have been assisting Rosemary for some time and have now taken over joint responsibility for the group. We are also being assisted by Lillie, our Youth and Children's Intern, whilst she is working in our Parish.

We meet on the 4th Sunday of every month and welcome any one in Years 7 to 13. I think we really see ourselves as a discussion group and all ideas are welcomed and respected. It is fair to say that we really do learn from each other and it's never boring! Our focus is normally on the Gospel for the day but occasionally, we discuss a topical issue and how we might think about it from a Christian perspective.

We love to welcome newcomers to our group, so if you know of anyone who might like to come along, please tell them about SZ2. They don't need to be a regular Church goer and they don't have to come again if they don't like it - but we hope they will!

***Val Taylor***

## LIVING THE LITURGY - MAY

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



### **3rd - Fifth Sunday of Easter      Gospel: John 14.1-14**

*'If you know me, you will know my Father'*

For many people, God feels unknowable. As Christians, how can we help others (and ourselves) to better understand who God is by looking at the deeds and words of Jesus?

### **10th - Sixth Sunday of Easter      Gospel: John 14.15-21**

*'And He will give to you another Comforter'*

Reflect over the week and see if you can identify a moment, whether in interaction or solitude, that the promised Holy Spirit was working in your life.

### **17th - Seventh Sunday of Easter      Gospel: John 17.1-11**

*'That they may be one, as we are one.'*

Jesus prayed for his disciples to be united. Let us each take an opportunity this week to show someone in our church that they are truly loved and part of this parish, our own community of disciples, united in Christ.

### **24th - Pentecost      Gospel: John 7.37-39**

*'Rivers of living water'*

Jesus promised living water for everyone who is thirsty; who is someone in your community who looks lonely or tired, and how can you offer them a simple act of kindness — a cup from your heart's wellspring of living water?

### **31st - Trinity Sunday      Gospel: Matt. 28.16-end**

*'Baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit.'*

Each of us, through our own baptism and through our evangelism to others, takes forward Jesus' commandment from generation to generation, a commission carried out for 2000 years. How does this make you feel?

***Stefan Vassalos***



## Cause of the Month - May

Cord's vision is a world where all people can live in peace and experience fullness of life. Peace means hope and healing for victims in safe and stable societies. Peace means freedom, and people reaching their potential. Just by supporting CORD helps restore peace so that people can prosper.

Here is just one example of CORD's work.

Imagine going to school every day and finding piles of rubbish in the playground. No recycling bins. No way to compost. Just waste lying around, attracting flies, smelling bad, and making people ill. Sadly, that's the reality for many children in Laos.

For over 12 years, CORD has been working with grassroots organisations in Laos. Life isn't easy for them – they're often mistrusted by the government, and they don't have much money or training. But with our help and that of other supporters, they're growing stronger. CORD offers training and funding, as well as connecting them with other groups. That way, they can build trust, make a bigger impact, and create more peaceful communities. **Judith Dimond**

---

### Quiet Day at Minster Abbey

10:00 am. -2:30 pm - Friday 29th May

Coffee available all day - Please bring your own Lunch.

Cost: £10 for the day,

There is a train at 9:24 am from Canterbury West with a less than 5 minute walk to the Abbey.

If you would like to come, and if you need a lift, please let me know by E-mail: [lgbbutcher@aol.com](mailto:lgbbutcher@aol.com) or Tel: 01227 764200.

**Mary Butcher**



*This is the confidence we have in approaching God, that if we ask him anything according to his will, he hears us. 1 John 5 v 14.*



The theme of our May daily prayers is ~Thy Kingdom Come. *‘Our Father, Thy kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven’.*

Let us make a heaven here on earth, for all, acting as Your hands and feet, ensuring that the world is a place of plenty for all, safe for all, loving for all, and comfort for all. Let your wondrous earth be a place where all can grow, and flourish and become everything You wish them to be. Amen.

**Looking back** – We enjoyed a nice afternoon preparing Easter Baskets for the wards at St Martin’s Hospital. 24 were completed and they looked so cheerful with the plants and chocolates and ribbons. We received a lovely thank you email from the Hospital, and they certainly seemed thrilled with them when we took them there.

**This Month** – Janet Robertson writes: ‘We have our branch outing to Goodnestone Park on Wednesday 6th May. (Entrance £7.00) We’ll meet at Goodnestone at 2:00 pm, then have a walk round the garden, hopefully see the lovely Wisteria in the walled garden and meet back at the tea rooms from 3:00 pm onwards. Lots of choice available for tea, cream teas, cakes, gluten-free etc. Transport is available so please sign up on the sheet with me and I will sort cars out. **Janet’**

Do come along for a lovely afternoon in beautiful surroundings. If you are not very mobile, just come and have a sit and enjoy the tea!

Corporate Communion in St Paul’s is on Saturday 9th May and Cathedral Prayertime is at midday in the Jesus chapel on Thursday 28th.

**Looking forward** – At our branch meeting on Wednesday 3rd June, we will now be having an in-house meeting and thinking about the 150 years of MU. Looking at some memorable times and photos of the past and thinking about the future. **Sue Spillett**



---

## NATURE’S BEST

Why do snails always wear their shells?

Because they don’t want to appear slug-ish.

## **May Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries**

with our **Good Wishes and Prayers**

### **Birthdays:**

Andrea Don, Christopher Stuart, Constance Roitzhelm, Ruth Baker, William Gauden, Mary Kells, Ka Lai Chan, Dawn Andrews, Meryl Parvin, Emmanuel Sleigh, Sophie Hartop, Jo Lawson, Ann Boswell, Lawrence Playfair, Ian Payne, Michael Keeler-Walker, Madeleine del Nevo and Sophie Gauden.

### **Wedding Anniversaries:**

Mary Kells and Alastair Mansfield (25th)  
and Susan and Chris Wilson.



**5:00 - 6:30 pm Wednesday 20th May**  
**Methodist Church, Canterbury.**

**Speaker:** George Conyne, retired Lecturer in American History, University of Kent, member of the Society of Friends, and author of *The History of the United States Supreme Court* (2016).

**Topic:** The Trump Political Earthquake and American Faith Communities.

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**

**CANTERBURY**



**REPAIR CAFE**

The Repair Café this month is on

**Saturday 9th May**

10:00 am – 12:30 pm

**Hub Café, Baptist Church**

(Opposite Waitrose)

## PARISH DIARY - MAY

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**

**Thursday - 12 noon Midday Prayers - St Martin's**  
*are currently suspended but could be reinstated soon.*  
For details check parish **Sunday Newsletter** or  
**Weekly E-mail** from: [office@martinpaul.org](mailto:office@martinpaul.org)

**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

+++++

### 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.*  
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 & Coffee - St Paul's  
*Refreshments afterwards in Church and every Wednesday*  
MU Outing planned – Details to be Confirmed.

### 9th Saturday

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

**10th -16th May - Christian Aid Week (see also page 22)**

*We are still seeking someone to co-ordinate Christian Aid Week in our parish. Offers please to the Rector.*

### **10th - Sixth Sunday of Easter**

*Psalm 66.7-end NT Acts 17.22-31.*

*1 Peter 3.13-end. GP John 14.15-21.*

9:00 am Said Eucharist - St Martin's

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

**12 noon – Annual Parochial Church Meeting** (see page 6)

3:00 am Tea Time Family Service - St Paul's

### **13th Wednesday**

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

### **14th Thursday**

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

***Copy date for June Pilgrim Post***

### **17th - Seventh Sunday of Easter**

*Psalm 68.1-10. NT Acts 1.6-14.*

*1 Peter 4.12-14 & 5.6-11. GP John 17.1-11*

9:00 am Said Eucharist - St Martin's

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

Preacher: Lisa Muerasse from Pastos Verdes

5:00 pm Choral Evensong and Supper – St Paul's

### **20th Wednesday**

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

### **21st Thursday**

12 noon MU Cathedral Prayer Time

### **24th - PENTECOST SUNDAY**

*Psalm 104.6-end. NT Acts 2.1-11.*

*NT 1 Corinthians 12.3b-13. GP John 7.37-39*

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

### **26th Tuesday – St Augustine** (see page 15)

8:00 am Holy Communion – Canterbury Cathedral

### **27th Wednesday**

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

## **29th Friday**

10:00 am. -2:30 pm - Quiet Day at Minster Abbey (*see page 10*)

## **31st - TRINITY SUNDAY**

*Psalm 8. OT Isaiah 40.12-17 & 27-end.*

*NT 2 Corinthians 13.11-end. GP Matthew 28.16-end.*

9:00 am Sung Eucharist - St Martin's

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

Sunday Zone 1 & 2 - St Paul's

## **JUNE**

### **3rd Wednesday**

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

*Refreshments afterwards in Church and every Wednesday*

2:00 pm MU Monthly Meeting – Parish Centre.

### **4th Thursday**

12 noon Midday Prayers - St Martin's

### **7th - First Sunday after Trinity**

*Psalm 50.7-15. OT Hosea 5.15 – 6.6.*

*NT Romans 4.13-25. GP Matthew 9.9-13 & 18-26.*

9:00 am Sung Eucharist - St Martin's

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

---

## **St Augustine - First Archbishop of Canterbury**

With the arrival of Archbishop Sarah as 106th primate, the church has a much needed leader again.

The reason we happily remind ourselves of her place on the rollcall of Archbishops is because Augustine became first Archbishop soon after his arrival from Rome in AD 597 and started a very long tradition now over 1400 years old.

The city of Canterbury owes its Christian origin and shape to this Christian mission, yet despite the Abbey being named after him and a glass-fronted Christ Church University building on the ring road, we'd

be hard pressed to find a major statue somewhere important. Yet arguably Augustine founds the 'organised' English church and his brand of Benedictine-inspired worship lasted intact up to 1534 when Henry VIII appointed himself head of the church.

Yet it is Thomas Becket (who could not have existed without Augustine's foundational role), who gets the attention because of his martyrdom on 29<sup>th</sup> December 1170 which resulted in the pilgrimage story that still holds today.

St Augustine founded the Priory (and Christ Church Cathedral) and the Abbey of St Peter and St Paul. He certainly talked and prayed with and sought the patronage of Queen Bertha at St Martin's Church.

It is hard then not to imagine that Augustine was the founder of the organised English church that we know today. Importantly he is known as 'Apostle to the English', whilst St George who never came here is known as 'patron' saint.

So, St Augustine needs some recalibration in importance, not simply here in the city, but also nationally. He is a very under represented and misunderstood figure. He is the one link that unites all 3 parts of the World Heritage Site. A statue is long overdue. His feast day is observed on 26th May.

**Mike Butler**

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## **Easter Day in the Making**

Something new happened at St Paul's on Good Friday morning involving around 100 adults and children including team members.



We tried to compress the main events of Holy Week into an hour and a half, beginning with a raucous Palm Sunday Procession, doing some making/painting/decorating and then having a meal *taken in haste* in our 'Upper Room' in the Parish Centre (set out as it is for Fisherfolk so that those eating can recline as the gospels describe).

At each point, we heard brief readings from scripture and our movement from one scene to another was accompanied by simple

songs like ‘Drunken Sailor’, and ‘If you’re happy and you know it...’, with the words adapted to suit our purposes.

Gethsemane had been created in the Lady Chapel, and we witnessed Jesus’ agony there, his betrayal and arrest. He was hauled off to face the Chief Priest and then Pilate, who questioned him from the Chancel Step. The Crowd, in thrall to earthly powers, wants him dead. We followed him along the way to Golgotha (in the children’s play area) and as He hung before us the children, who had decorated papier mâché skulls, were invited to lay them at the foot of the Cross. The 21,600 seconds of His dying were reduced to 10, but somehow the gravity survived. As He dies, someone remarks, ‘Truly this man was the Son of God.’ Many are wearing the helmets of Roman soldiers that they have made earlier, and at this point they are invited to remove headgear and fall to their knees.

Joseph comes and, with Pilate’s assent, receives the body of Jesus which is taken to the place of burial. We sing, ‘Were you there, when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they laid him in the Tomb?’ The Great Stone is rolled across the mouth of the Tomb. Both have now been painted something like the colour of Jerusalem stone by the children.

And that’s where our Good Friday ended. As a child told her uncle over the ‘phone ‘*We killed Jesus.*’

One of the team described it like this: ‘a wonderfully immersive way of telling the...story - craft activities, a hot cross buns picnic, live music and a life-size tomb.’ She added “I’m ‘Looking forward to next year’s one already!’”

Another said, “It was so interactive and engaging for all ages, without dumbing down. The theological power and biblical language of the story shone clearly through. I loved the multiple forms of participation, which drew us into our spiritual connection with the events of the passion.”

‘Easter Day in the Making’ *had* been thought about but had not been drilled, trialled or rehearsed. It was **live**. One member of the congregation, who held more than seventy Good Friday services in

memory, said this was the best one she had ever been to. It was a tremendous and memorable team effort and I salute our collective capacity in making it happen.

*Alastair Mansfield*

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### A Poem about May



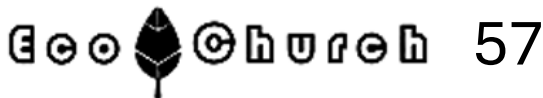
May whispers in colours bright,  
With flowers blooming in the light,  
Trees dress in leaves, a delightful site,  
Nature's heart beats with might.

Birds sing in the morning hue,  
Sky's canvas painted anew,  
In May's embrace, life feels true,  
A world refreshed, and vibrant view.

Sunshine kisses the earth's face,  
In every corner, beauty's trace,  
May's dance, a gentle grace,  
In its warmth, we all embrace.

*Maya Anthony.*

Maya Anthony is an American poet known for her evocative verses that intertwine human emotions with the beauty of nature. **Editor.**



Spring is in the air and everything from plants to people enjoy it.

It's good to learn about the efforts that are being made elsewhere to preserve plant and animal species. South African billionaire Mark Shuttleworth is funding sustainable development on the West African island of Principe.

Villagers who agree to follow an environmental protection code receive a quarterly dividend. 60% of the adult population have joined and received a payment of £708 quarterly from the Faya Foundation. The island has a unique rainforest where giant land snails and crabs

were among the top predators. Now new species are being discovered and has earned the nickname, 'African Galapagos'.

The scheme is in its early stages with much to be learnt but villagers are aware that unauthorized tree felling will mean that dividends are reduced. Villagers are using dividends to fund home improvements like kitchens and floors for their homes and training in carpentry and other trades.

Would it be possible to implement such a scheme for the water companies, one wonders. Every instance of sewage pollution would mean a reduction in the dividends paid to shareholders. This would provide significant environmental protection for our streams, rivers and our beaches as we can be sure that shareholders would demand improvements from the current management. There have been decades of underinvestment in the water infrastructure, and the efforts of the regulators have been to no effect, but loss of income could work wonders.

The effects of climate change, endless rain, floods, deaths in mudslides and raging torrents of water have been publicized in the media but continue to be rebuffed by producers of fossil fuels. This has been seen very clearly in America but far-right parties in Europe have taken up the call; clearly Mammon is the driver for all these individuals and groups.

But there are positive ways we can help. Christian Aid Week is 10th -16th May and this story of hope, growing from small beginnings and in unexpected places is happening because of your support.

In Kenya's capital of Nairobi, more than 280,000 people call the overcrowded informal settlement of Dagoretti home. Families live in makeshift houses, in poverty without access to jobs and often struggle to feed their children without land to farm for food. Through the Imarisha Kilimo project ('Strengthen Agriculture') led by Christian Aid's local partner Beacon of Hope, families are learning to farm their informal urban spaces to grow nutritious food to eat. In the project's first year, 150 smallholder farmers, most of them women, learned climate-smart methods to transform small spaces like alleyways and

rooftops into gardens of hope and resilience. Fridah, a widowed grandmother put it simply: ‘I discovered I could sow here, right where I stand.’

That really is good news.

**Sue White**  
**Eco-Church Coordinator**

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### **The Normans at St Martin's Church**

Considering St Martin's history, it's not surprising that during tours we discuss the Anglo-Saxons and Romans. However, with the arrival of the Bayeux Tapestry at the British Museum in September, I have been considering the influence that the Normans had in St Martin's and the effects of their arrival in Canterbury.

Indeed, with their invasion and subsequent defeat of Harold Godwinson at the Battle of Hastings in 1066, several dramatic changes occurred in Canterbury. After William the Conqueror's victory, he marched his army to Canterbury on his way to London. The city quickly admitted the army, and William ordered a castle to be built, which was soon replaced by the stone castle still evident today.

The arrival of the Normans also meant dramatic changes for the cathedral. Elected by William the Conqueror, Archbishop Lanfranc became the first Norman archbishop of Canterbury. A fire which destroyed the previous cathedral in 1067 allowed Lanfranc to create a new Norman-style building in cruciform shape. Parts of the Norman cathedral were later destroyed; however, the western crypt, completed by 1100, remains. A prime example of Norman architecture, the crypt features beautiful round arches synonymous with their architectural style.

St Martin's was also affected by the Normans' industriousness. Indeed, it has been suggested that they are responsible for the current height of the building, as the original height of the church was believed to be much shorter. On the southern wall of the nave, we also have the beautiful Norman piscina. This is a small basin used to wash comm-

union vessels. It has recently been suggested to me that the interior basin may be Anglo-Saxon, whilst the facade around it was a later Norman addition. I have also read that our 'lepers squint' was added by the Normans. However, perhaps the most important Norman artefact we have at St Martin's is our wonderful font. Made from Caen stone quarried in France; this font is believed to have started life as a well in the grounds of the cathedral. It's decorated with carved patterns, some featuring Norman-style arches reminiscent of those in the western crypt of the cathedral.

These elements show that St Martin's contains almost as much Norman history as Anglo-Saxon and Roman. This rich blend of influences makes St Martin's a fascinating historical site, with each period leaving its unique mark on the fabric of our church.

***Elena Field***

*Head of Visitor Experience – St Martin's*



## **Choral Evensong & Supper**

**Sunday 17th May**

**5:00 pm at St Paul's**



We welcome ***The Reverend Cortland Fransella***  
assistant priest at the Tower of London to preach.

We will reflect on the witness of St Thomas More, whose story is closely bound to the Tower, where he was imprisoned before his execution. A man of deep conviction, he is honoured as a saint of conscience, yet his legacy also raises more difficult questions, reminding us that faith, principle, and power can sit in uneasy tension.

So do join us for a spring evening of beautiful music and good company after which a tasty supper and pudding is promised, with a glass of something served for those who wish. No booking needed, but please advise dietary requirements.

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***Michael Keeler-Walker***



## Why give to Christian Aid?



As Christian Aid Week (10th – 15th May)

comes near, and we see the envelopes in our churches, we may be asking this question.

A new book '**Justice Song, The Story of Christian Aid**' ( SPCK ISBN 978-0-281-09198-0) also available as an e-book, helps us to think about this.

Author Michael Taylor, who was Director of Christian Aid 1985-1997, tells the story of why and how it all began eighty years ago, when British churches started to care for displaced people and refugees in the aftermath of the Second World War.

Then, as other conflicts took place and as emergencies like floods and earthquakes suddenly devastated whole areas of the world, Christian Aid became an organisation based here but with partners and networks in many different places. The work grew to include development and peacebuilding as trustees and staff responded to changing situations. The money is mostly raised by Christians, --some amazing efforts made---but has always been used for all faiths and none.

The story is told, not as a chronological narrative, but as a series of personal encounters, of conversations between people grappling with difficult issues to find the right ways forward, and glimpses of huge suffering shot through with courage and resilience often in dangerous places. The political background to various complicated issues is clearly sketched in, alongside vivid patchwork pictures of the lives of diverse women, men and children . The author talks of meeting many 'angels unaware' and explains his title like this : 'where there have been copious tears there have often been surprisingly wide smiles' and 'If there is no peace without justice, maybe there is no justice that fails to burst into song'.

I felt that the book which I recommend you read, answers our question!

**Ruth Matthews**

## MAY ARCHIVE 1986



With summer on the horizon, parishioners were about to become more active. On Rogation Sunday, a 'Beating of the Bounds' would take place around the borders of our parishes. This quaint but formerly useful custom dated back centuries, as the Rector explained.

Canon Humphriss also commented on the diversity of our parishes, which at that time included, of course, both an army barracks and a prison.

Later in the month, the annual Canterbury Christian Council Pentecost Walk around local churches would take place, ending with tea and an act of worship at St. Peter's Methodist. There would be four possible routes, one involving a minibus. Everyone would start from St. Augustine's Gardens, a colourful public amenity which then existed opposite the less attractive Longport coach and lorry park.

The parish was sending eight candidates to the impending Deanery Confirmation. The Rector also referred to the weekday Eucharists in the parish, two in St. Martin's and three in St. Paul's. He hoped more people would come. St. Paul's was open at other times for private prayer, as of course was St. Martin's.

For a number of years, the parish had found it useful to have a wedding choir which included some guest singers. However, St. Paul's choir was growing - the junior section in particular - and it was felt that from now on they could manage the weddings unaided. The Rector also had something to say on the mildly contentious subject of congregational singing and the role of the organ (and the choir?). Having asked the parish's organists to play a little more quietly, he thought the singing had improved as a result. 'The organ at St. Paul's is a fine instrument, but it can dominate...'. (St. Paul's choir was directed at this time by Mary Moore; the main Organist was Roger Ellison.)

A local retired priest, Father Mapson ('Mappers'), was about to reach the diamond jubilee of his priesting. This issue contained the first of two autobiographical articles he had written quite recently.

*Brian Hogben*



## The Children's Society Box Collection

Last year the Children's Society supported over 57,000 children and young people in different ways.

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Please bring your box to church, give it to me or I can collect the box from your home.

With thanks in anticipation....

**Gwyn Hartwell**

01227 451366

### **Your PCC - What we have been Doing**

Our meeting in March opened with prayer and the agenda followed its usual three-part structure.



#### **Standing items and parish life**

Regular reports from the Rector, Treasurer, Churchwardens, Parish Centre and safeguarding were all received and noted. The Rector reported on various items including plans for Holy Week; also, on her role as pastoral care coordinator, working with a team of pastoral care chaplains for older/younger people. Discussions were ongoing with UNESCO partners on a three-way ticket, due to launch later this year. We had said a fond farewell to Rosemary Walters whilst welcoming others to our community including our new youth intern.

Safeguarding work continues steadily, with progress on training and systems, alongside reminders that some outstanding role descriptions and risk assessments still need to be completed. With the forthcoming APCM elections to PCC and Deanery Synod vacancies, there was encouragement through the pew sheet notice and conversations to seek nominations for appointment to roles (thinking 'intergenerationally'). Volunteers were also noted as sought for sundry roles including Christian Aid rep, and Ride and Stride.

#### **Specific items and decisions**

A number of practical and operational matters were agreed, including:

- Annual accounts were reviewed with a view to approval prior to presentation to the APCM

- Gordon Craig was warmly thanked as he prepared to stand down from many years of faithful service as Treasurer
- Safer recruitment designated person – the Rector was appointed
- Readers would be free to seek election as an elected, Deanery Synod or co-opted member but would not automatically be on PCC by virtue of their role.

### **Mission and strategy – an intergenerational church**

The main strategic discussion focused on exploring if and how we might explore becoming an ‘intergenerational’ church with all generations integrated and worshipping together. The PCC was joined by Lillie, our youth intern, one of those with experience of this elsewhere. There was much interested discussion on this and what we currently do, feeling that growing an intergenerational community was the first step, and building this into our worship could follow. We would continue to value and foster specific groups which brought a sense of belonging whilst looking for opportunities to explore our intergenerational reach – so a mixed economy.

**Thank you** as always, for your prayers and support for the PCC and for the life of our parish. And if anyone would like to know more about what the PCC does and who’s on it, do have a word with the Rector or with me.

**Jo Lawson**  
PCC Secretary

**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 our Rector Mary Kells, or one of the Ministry Team.



Do please think about taking part in this year’s Ride and Stride for Churches on Saturday 12th September. It’s a great day out

(especially if the sun is shining) and raises money for the Friends of Kent Churches and our own Parish.

I have been the Parish Organiser for the past 10 years and need to step down from this lovely job this year. Do think about whether you could take this on. It is not onerous. All that you need is delivered to you, so it is a matter of encouraging folk to take part and helping them collect in their sponsorship money and sending off the relevant forms at the end. Our churches are always open on the day and provide a great place for those participating, with refreshments and facilities.

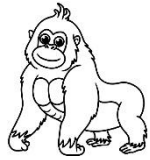
Do please give this some thought and prayer. It could always be a job-share too. So maybe do it with a friend. I am happy to chat to anyone who would like to know more.

***Sue Spillet***

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## **ENDPIECE**

The month of May was always the start of a busy and profitable season at 'Wyeletts' the local zoo, but their problem this year was a shortage of animals. The popular gorilla was also unwell and had been put in isolation.



Not wishing to disappoint visitors, and particularly children who would be coming in the May school break, George, one of the keepers was asked to dress up in a gorilla suit and romp about appropriately in the enclosure.

He complied with this request, glad the weather was not too hot, and he enjoyed the odd banana that came his way.

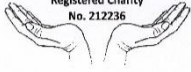
But then, after a day or two, he became somewhat over enthusiastic and accidentally broke through the tall fence between him and Albert the lion.

Fearing for his life, and not being able to hide anywhere or climb up a tree, he yelled, 'HELP, HELP', very loudly.

Albert the lion bounded over to him and said, "For heaven's sake stop making that noise, or you will get us both the sack."

***Contributed***

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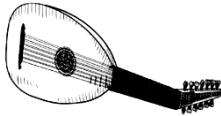
**deadline – Thursday 14th May**

to [pilgrimpost@martinpaul.org](mailto:pilgrimpost@martinpaul.org) please

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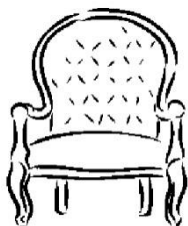
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