

Spring Lane



This Month



Inclusive Church

Outreach

christians
against
poverty

CAP

Cause of the
Month

PILGRIM POST

Journal of the Parish
of St Martin and St Paul



TeaTime



'You will receive power
when the Holy Spirit
comes....' (Acts 1.8)

Worship



Pentecost

50p

May 2024

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Canterbury - Parish Centre**



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



Our Parish 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



www.martinpaul.org



Live Streaming



Parish Magazine - pilgrimpost@martinpaul.org



MartinPaulChurches

INTERREGNUM PARISH MINISTRY



Parish Office 01227 678072 (*Options below*)

For all enquiries about **Baptisms, Weddings** please contact our **Curate** on Parish Office (*Option 3*) or e-mail: curate@martinpaul.org

Urgent Pastoral Care: Revd Sue White (PTO) Mob: 07803312144
 Parish Office (*Option 6*) or e-mail: revsuewhite@gmail.com

Arranging **Funerals:** In the first instance please contact **Mary Butcher** (*Ministry Team*) on 01227 764200 or Parish Office (*Option 4*)

The **Parish Office** is in the Parish Centre, Church Street St. Paul's, CT1 1NH and is open 10:00 am - 12 noon on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

For **Parish Administrator, Clergy, Wardens** or to make **Parish Centre** and **Church Bookings** Please call **01227 768072** and listen to the options.

Special Request Prayers: Please contact:

Gwyneth Hartwell 01227 451366 or Doreen Laven 760372
 or on the website at www.martinpaul.org/prayers

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WORKING TOGETHER IN MINISTRY

Telephone code 01227 unless otherwise indicated

Rector: Vacancy [Interregnum]

Assistant Curate (SSM): **The Revd. Charlotte Sleigh** 768072
curate@martinpaul.org (Option 3)

Urgent Pastoral Care: **The Revd. Sue White** (PTO) 07803312144

Readers: **Mary Butcher** lgbbutcher@aol.com 764200

Samuel Keeler-Walker sjkw03@gmail.com 07402 200223

Christopher Robinson sir@cjrobinson.co.uk 07584 355001

Dr. Rosemary Walters ra.walters@btinternet.com 768891

Churchwardens:

St Martin's: **David Stuart** 785900

Christine Robinson (Mobile) 07754 517458

St. Paul's **Michael Keeler-Walker** 720121

Jo Luck (Mobile) 07759 013465

Deputy Warden: **Monica Walling** 787564

PCC Officers:

Chairman: **Christopher Robinson** 07584 355001

Secretary: (Vacancy - to be appointed)

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

Administration:

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

Parish Office - Parish Administrator: **Sylvia del Nevo** 768072

office@martinpaul.org

Parish Magazine: **Revd. Clive Barlow [Editor]** 784779

pilgrimpost@martinpaul.org

Safeguarding Issues: **Lydia Newington** 768072 (Option 4)

Tourism Manager (St Martin's) **Jessica Morris** 768072

visits@martinpaul.org (Option 5)

PARISH OFFICERS AND ORGANISATIONS

Contact telephone numbers can be obtained from the
Parish Office **01227 768072** or e-mail: office@martinpaul.org

Parish Office opening Hours see Page 1

Archivist	Brian Hogben
Bellringers	Sam Keeler-Walker
Christian Aid Week Co-ordinator	Rosemary Walters (<i>See page 3</i>)
Church Library	Rosemary Walters (<i>See page 3</i>)
Christians Together in Canterbury	David Hartwell
Deanery Synod	Rosemary Walters (<i>See page 3</i>)
Eco-Church Co-ordinator	Revd. Sue White
Electoral Roll Officer	Janet Robertson
Flower Arrangers (St Martin's)	Doreen Laven (<i>See page 1</i>)
Flower Arrangers (St Paul's)	Ros Newington
Friends of St. Martin's (Secretary)	Sylvia Gower
Fisherfolk (Parents and Toddlers)	Jackie Curd (<i>see page 3</i>)
'Hangouts' Youth Activity	Sue Spillett
Lifelong Learning Group	Rosemary Walters (<i>See page 3</i>)
Messy Church Events	Christopher Robinson (<i>See page 3</i>)
Mothers' Union (Branch Leader)	Sue Spillett
Outreach Giving Group	(To be determined)
Parochial Charities	Christine Robinson
Parish Care 'Bethany' Group	Judith Griffiths
Parish Safeguarding (Children)	Lydia Newington (<i>See page 3</i>)
Parish Safeguarding (Adults)	Monica Walling (<i>See page 3</i>)
Parish Magazine (Editor)	Revd. Clive Barlow (<i>See page 3</i>)
Parish Magazine (Advertising / Circulation)	Parish Office
Quiet Prayers (St Martin's)	Judith Dimond
Servers Rota	Val Taylor
Social Committee Co-ordinator	Jackie Curd
Stewardship Gift Aid Recorder	Richard Llewelin
Sunday Children's Work Supervisor	Ruth Baker
Senior Visitor Host (St Martin's)	Jessica Morris (<i>See page 3</i>)
The Children's Society	Gwyneth Hartwell (<i>See page 1</i>)


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

SUNDAY SERVICES - MAY

See Magazine Diary pages 13 - 15

Download our Sunday Service / Newsletter from our Website
www.martinpaul.org

- 9:00 am** St Martin's - Said Eucharist (*Sung on Sun: 12th and 19th*)
10:30 am St Paul's - Sung Parish Eucharist (*Sunday Zone see diary*)
 on our YouTube channel (*see Parish Website for link*)

MONTHLY SERVICES

- 3:30 pm** St Paul's - TeaTime Family Service (*Sunday 12th*)
5:00 pm St Paul's - Choral Evensong and Supper (*Sunday 19th*)
5:00 pm St Martin's - Quiet Prayers (*Sunday 26th*)

OTHER SERVICES / WORSHIP ACTIVITY

- 2:30 pm** Messy Church – Spring Lane Community Centre
(*Sunday 19th*)

DURING THE WEEK

- 8:30 am** Christ Church University Chapel - Morning Prayer - Monday
9:15 am St Paul's - Morning Prayer - Tuesday and Friday
10:30 am St Paul's - Prayer Book Eucharist - Wednesday
(*Followed by refreshments in church*)
12 noon St Martin's - Midday Prayers - Thursday
8:40 pm Compline - Thursday (*on Zoom*)



Induction Loop Facility
This is available in both our churches
as are



Large Print Orders of Service



FROM THE REGISTERS

Burial of Cremated Remains

*We commend to God's loving care:
27th March - Bill Lamb (St Martin's)*

COMMEMORATIONS

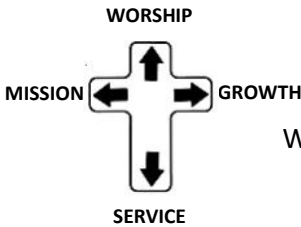
*We remember in our prayers those who
have died in May in previous years:*

Betty Harvey, Rob Thrower, Carol Mackay, Christine Fowler,
Barrie Milnes, Frank Ingram, Dorothy Hollands
and Gill Francis.



INTERREGNUM

Prayer for Mission and Growth



God of Mission

Who alone brings growth to our Church

Send your Holy Spirit to give

Vision to our planning,

Wisdom to our actions,

Joy to our worship,

And power to our witness.

Help our church to grow in numbers,

in spiritual commitment to you,

And in service to our local community,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen

PARISH OFFICE

Thank You and Goodbye



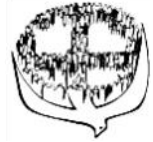
Thank you all for your good wishes for my retirement. I would like to say how much I have enjoyed my time working as your parish administrator over the past 12+ years. I have also made many friends over the years and hope to keep in touch with them all.

All good wishes,

Chris Page

PARISH LETTER

Dear Readers,



I recently met a friend for an evening out together. 'I've left a house full of teenagers', she told me. 'They're celebrating my daughter's birthday.' 'Oh dear, are you sure that's wise?' I asked, only half joking. 'Do you need to keep your phone on just in case?'

There comes a point in life - perhaps many times - where we have to take a deep breath and see whether the things that we have started will fly by themselves. Seedlings have to take their chances amongst the snails. The stabilisers come off the child's bike. We take down the scaffolding and hope the roof stays up.

As a parish, we are going through one of those moments together. Mark, our rector, has left us after almost seven years, and we are adjusting to ministry and mission without his guiding hand. Happily - and in no small part due to his leadership - we have an incredibly strong team of church wardens, ministry leaders, organisers, helpers: do-ers and pray-ers of all kinds.

As curate, my responsibility continues to be pastoral and spiritual assistance for the parish. You can always reach out to me if you are not sure who is best placed to answer your question.

Even better than having such a brilliant team, we draw strength from the fact that adjusting to change is deep in the fabric of our faith.

The New Testament tells the story of how the disciples adjusted to the departure of Jesus when he ascended into heaven. However were they going to cope without him?

The portrayal of the disciples in elegant stained-glass windows can sometimes fool us into creating a falsely haloed image of this first band of Christians. In reality, as the gospels make clear, they were argumentative, doubtful, competitive, and slow to learn. So whatever was Jesus thinking in leaving them to continue his mission?

The answer comes in the book of Acts, where we read about the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit continues the work started by Jesus, slowly making the disciples - and us - more like Jesus himself. The Holy Spirit takes human weakness and works it to God's glory.

For this reason, theologians sometimes talk about ‘missio Dei’ (the mission of God), as a way of emphasising that God doesn’t depend upon humans; rather, our task as Christians is to notice where the Spirit is at work, and to join in.

As we celebrate Pentecost, and the coming of the Holy Spirit, we can be reassured that God is with us, and working through us, even as we negotiate change.

Oh, and in case you’re wondering, my friend got back home to find that everything was fine, apart from a small tide of half-baked cake batter in the kitchen. (The youngsters had decided to bake muffins and had forgotten about cake tin liners).

God bless.....

Charlotte



Words of the Saints - May

From Saints or others Commemorated in our Common Worship liturgy.

25th - *The Venerable Bede*, - Monk at Jarrow, Scholar, Historian, died 735.

- ◇ ‘I pray thee, loving Jesus, that as Thou hast graciously given me to drink in with delight the words of Thy knowledge, so Thou wouldst mercifully grant me to attain one day to Thee, the fountain of all wisdom and to appear forever before Thy face.’
- ◇ ‘Christ is the Morning Star, who, when the night of the world is past, gives to his saints the promise of the light of life, and opens everlasting day.’
- ◇ ‘He [*she*] alone loves the Creator perfectly who manifests a pure love for their neighbour.’

The Venerable Bede is famed in this parish for his reference in ‘A History of the English Church and People’, in which he gives the evidence for the central role of St Martin’s in the history of the Church in England. He was also a writer of science and theology, writing a commentary on the Gospel of Luke among other great works. On his death he was given the title Venerable for his scholarship and prayerfulness.

Judith Dimond

LIVING THE LITURGY - MAY
A Sermon in a Sentence (or Two!)

May 5th - Sixth Sunday of Easter

Gospel: John 15 v 9-17

Friends not Servants

What are the responsibilities and differences in relationships between servanthood and friendship? Is there an element of not expecting to be told but to take initiative? How does this apply to discipleship?

May 12th - Seventh Sunday of Easter

Gospel: Luke 17 v 6-19

Mission and Belonging

Can we act as agents of love, forgiveness and justice in the world if we don't belong to it? Is not belonging an excuse to opt out?

May 19th - Pentecost

Gospel: John 15 v 26-27, 16 4b-15

Into all Truth

In what way(s) is truth absolute? How does our reading of the Gospels guide us into these?

May 26th - Trinity Sunday

Gospel: John 3 v 1-17

Giving not Condemning

Does our church life and its liturgy reflect a Gospel balance between transforming and being critical of ourselves and others? What is the role of casting out fear?

Rosemary Walters

CANTERBURY



REPAIR CAFE

Saturday 11th May 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

**Hub Café, Baptist Church, St George's Place,
Canterbury (Opposite Waitrose)**

Volunteers with craft skills offer their services. Energy advice available too. Repairs and advice are free, although donations are welcome!

E-mail: canterburyrepaircafe@gmail.com

It's a paperback, published by SPCK with a full price of £11.00. - less from certain outlets. My eye was also caught by another of Pritchard's books with the arresting title 'Ten: Why Christianity makes sense' – a book for those of committed faith or none. I have yet to read it.

Brian Munday

* * * * *



* * * * *

MU Monthly reflection and Prayer for May – Our Lord and heavenly King, fill our lives with the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith to trust in you and set our hearts to pursue your ways, that we may work in partnership to build your Kingdom on earth. Amen.

Our Creative prayer – Listen or sing the hymn “Seek ye first the Kingdom of God”. Offer it as your prayer to God. You could add your own words to make it more personal to you.

Last Month.....

Our Wave of Prayer, making Easter baskets and Mothering Sunday posies all went well. Thank you for all your help and support. What a good time was had at our post- Easter party and Beetle Drive. Lovely to see all ages joining together for fun and fellowship.

this Month.....

Canon Emma Pennington, our Diocesan MU Chaplain, is coming to lead our meeting on Wednesday 1st May, with the theme of Ascension. Do come along and bring anyone with you who you think would enjoy the afternoon. 2:00 pm in the Parish Centre as usual. Our Corporate Communion is at 9:30 am on Saturday 11th, and the monthly Prayertime is at midday on Thursday 30th in Jesus Chapel in the Cathedral Crypt.

and Next Month

Our meeting in June is an open 'Service and Tea' for us and members of the other branches and fellowship groups in the Archdeaconry. We will be needing offers of cakes and scones, so I will be looking out for volunteers nearer the time. This is something we used to do and I think it will be nice to welcome and host this event. It will also be a good chance to meet other MU members too.

Sue Spillett - Branch Leader

MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDEACON

Your Interregnum—The Practicalities

An interregnum can be unsettling, but need not be so. Responsibility within your benefice largely devolves to the churchwardens who will be supported by your ministry team alongside the Area Dean, myself as Archdeacon and others.

Your vacancy begins as soon as Mark has started in his new post. The process for appointing a new incumbent (Rector) is set down in law and involves various people: namely the Registered Patron of the benefice, the Bishop, the PCC, and their nominated representatives. Your patron is the Archbishop of Canterbury and his responsibilities in these situations are handled by the Bishop of Dover and by me.

Once your vacancy has started, the PCC can begin to put together a statement ‘describing the conditions, needs and traditions of the parish’ generally known as the Parish Profile. At a meeting to be held within six months of the vacancy beginning, the PCC needs to approve this statement and to appoint two lay (not ordained) members of the PCC to act as their representatives in the appointment process. The PCC can also request the Bishop of Dover to advertise the vacancy and to have a meeting with her.

The Archdeacon’s office then puts together a timetable for advertising, applications, shortlisting and interviews. The interview panel normally includes the Archdeacon (in the chair), the Area Dean and Lay Chair and the two parish representatives. After interview, a preferred candidate has a second interview with the Bishop of Dover prior to an offer being made.

A question that I am often asked is, ‘how long does this all take?’ It always depends on the circumstances of the applicant, but the minimum vacancy is always going to be six months. Nine months to one year is a better indication for a trouble-free process, and although we live in tricky times for recruitment, I hope that St Martin and St Paul will be an attractive prospect for a good priest. I often joked with Mark that, as the incumbent of the oldest extant parish in the land he had good cause to claim to be the ‘The Premier Rector of England’.

Meanwhile, I know that your next incumbent will find supportive and committed congregations and a PCC to minister with them in this important parish.

Will Adam, Archdeacon of Canterbury

PARISH DIARY

See **Sunday Newsletter / and Weekly E-mail** for any changes.



Services are on our YouTube channel
(see Parish Website for link)

To receive them please contact: office@martinpaul.org

Non-Eucharistic Weekday Services - See page 5

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

* * * * *

1st Wednesday - Philip and James, Apostles

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

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

Refreshments in Church afterwards and every Wednesday

2:00 pm MU Meeting at the Parish Centre

2nd Thursday

12 noon Midday Prayers - St Martin's

3rd Friday

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

5th Sixth Sunday of Easter

Psalm 98. NT Acts 10:44-end.

NT 1 John 15:1-6. GP John 15:9-17.

9:00 am Said Eucharist - St Martin's



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

Refreshments in the Parish Centre afterwards

7th Tuesday

7:30 pm St Stephen's Theology Group (*see page 26*)

8th Wednesday

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

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

9th Thursday - Ascension Day

12 noon Midday Prayers - St Martin's

5:30 pm Choral Eucharist - Cathedral

10th Friday

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



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 11th - 19th

11th Saturday

10:00 am - 12:30 pm Canterbury Repair Café (*see page 9*)

9:30 am MU Corporate Communion - St Paul's (*see page 11*)

10:30 am Service of Celebration for 30th Anniversary
of Women's Ordination - Canterbury Cathedral

12th - Sunday after Ascension Day

Psalm 1. NT Acts 1:15-17, 21-end.

NT 1 John 5:9-13. GP John 17:6-19.

9:00 am Sung Eucharist - St Martin's



10:30 am Sung Eucharist - St Paul's

Refreshments in the Parish Centre after the service

3:30 pm TeaTime Family Service - St Paul's

15th Wednesday

10:00 - 11:30 am Fisherfolk Toddler Group - Parish Centre

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

7:30 pm Contemporary Theology Group (*see page 18*)

16th Thursday

12 noon Midday Prayers - St Martin's

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

Copy deadline for June Pilgrim Post

17th Friday

10:00 - 11:30 am Fisherfolk Toddler Group - Parish Centre

18th Saturday

9-9:45 am - 5:00 pm. The Church and Social Justice (*see page 20*)

Day conference at Canterbury Cathedral Lodge, the Precincts,

10:10 am Christian Aid Week - Day By The Sea. (*see page 16*)

19th Pentecost - Whit Sunday

Psalm 104:26-36. NT Acts 2:1-21.

NT Romans 8:22-27. GP John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15.

9:00 am Sung Eucharist - St Martin's



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

Refreshments in the Parish Centre afterwards

2:30 pm Messy Church - Spring Lane Community Centre

5:00 pm Choral Evensong and Supper (*see page 26*)

22nd Wednesday

10:00 - 11:30 am Fisherfolk Toddler Group - Parish Centre

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

23rd Thursday

12 noon Midday Prayers - St Martin's

5:00 pm St Augustine's Day Service at St Martin's
and Abbey in partnership with Cathedral and CCCU

24th Friday


10:00 - 11:30 am Fisherfolk Toddler Group - Parish Centre

26th Trinity Sunday

Psalm 29. OT Isaiah 6:1-8.

NT Romans 8:12-17. GP John 3:1-17.

9:00 am Said Eucharist - St Martin's

 10:30 am Sung Eucharist with Sunday Zone - St Paul's
Refreshments in the Parish Centre after the service

5:00 Quiet Prayers—St Martin's

29th Wednesday

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

30th Thursday - Corpus Christi

12 noon Midday Prayers - St Martin's

12 noon MU Cathedral Prayer Time (*see page 11*)

5:30 pm Choral Eucharist - Cathedral

31st Friday - Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 am Holy Communion - Cathedral

PARISH DIARY - JUNE


See **Sunday Newsletter** / and **Weekly E-mail** for any changes.

2nd First Sunday after Trinity

Psalm 81:1-10. OT Deut:5.12-15.

NT 2 Corin. 4:5-12. GP Mark 2:23 -3:6.

9:00 am Sung Eucharist - St Martin's

 10:30 am Sung Eucharist with Sunday Zone - St Paul's
Refreshments in the Parish Centre afterwards



Christian Aid Week - May 11th - 19th

Every prayer, every gift, every action helps transform lives; sometimes the simplest things can make a world of difference.

Aline Nibogora lives in Burundi. She was married young and when she was 14, she gave birth to the first of her six children. Her husband was violent and beat her regularly – one day it got so bad, she fled. Forced to leave her children behind, Aline wandered the streets trying to stay close by, asking anyone for a place to sleep. ***‘People would insult me and treat me with contempt. They forgot I was a human being. It filled me with sorrow.’***

She went to a ***community workshop where Christian Aid-funded trainers taught people about village savings and loans associations.*** With a small start-up loan, Aline began trading avocados and peanuts locally; then used her profits to buy a bicycle to transport greater quantities of goods to markets further afield. ***Aline is now a grocery wholesaler; she’s been reunited with three of her sons and lives on her own plot of land.***

Christian Aid Week at St Martin’s and Paul’s

Sunday 12th May at 9:00 am and 10:30 am services.

Come and listen to Aline’s story and reflect on how it relates to the Gospel message during our worship. There will be envelopes for donations or donate online using the details on the May 12th and 19th pewsheets.

Saturday 18th May

You have a **CHOICE!**

A Day By The Sea, meeting at Canterbury Bus station to catch the 10:10 am to Folkestone. We will change at Folkestone for the bus to Hythe. Lunch however you like it at Hythe, then a walk back by the sea through Sandgate to Folkestone and a bus home. Include a thanksgiving for a day at the sea in your donation or ask family/friends to sponsor you for the walk. (4+ miles but you can catch a bus along the way if you want to). No need to sign up, just turn up. See you there. ra.walters@btinternet.com or 01227 768891 if any queries.

Or:

The Church and Social Justice Conference at the University of Kent includes a speaker from Christian Aid (see page 20) **Rosemary Walters**

The weather has been extraordinary in the past month, we seem to have gone through all four seasons in the past few weeks. But Spring is in the air, the tulips are out in front gardens and the daffodils have been wonderful. For those of you who have walked up Pilgrims Way to the woods there has been the pleasure of the wood anemones carpeting the floor. In St Martin's churchyard the primroses have been glorious, and the pollarded willow has been covered in catkins. Alongside all the signs of new life there has been an explosion of brambles and the box has died throughout the churchyard. We need to have another working party to tackle these and it would be really good if more people would volunteer to help.

Pat Crawford from the Rural Focus Group has sent the following news: 'Last year was the hottest year on record with temperatures 1.45 C above pre-industrial times. The Met Office is forecasting a hot Summer this year. Farmers around the world are suffering Extreme Weather Events and what used to be regarded as 'normal seasonal weather' is undergoing vast changes. Adaptation to Climate Change used to take place over a lengthy period but today wildlife is having to cope with rapid changes. For hundreds of years farmers adapted to the weather but now 'the seasons' as we knew them are undergoing vast and rapid changes.

The heavy rain suffered by many of our own farmers earlier this year has had serious consequences. Arable farms with winter-growing crops have been badly affected and yields reduced. Livestock farmers were forced to delay turning out their cattle and sheep onto pastures and resulting in the prices of hay and straw escalating because demand increased.

The European Environment Agency reported that its first-ever risk assessment for the bloc identified increased numbers of wildfires, more unusual rainfall and flooding and drought. According to the assessment, EU policies are not keeping abreast with rapidly expanding climate risk. It is likely that most of the world is unable to keep pace! Scientists estimate that deforestation of the Amazon has reached 17% and the tipping point is at 20-25%. It may seem pathetic by comparison but gardeners ➡

planting even a small tree (or shrub) can help to offset carbon emissions. We can help food security by planting a fruit tree.'

For your diary: The Deanery Eco-Fayre is at St Peter's (CofE) Church, Canterbury, on Saturday 11th May from 10:00am—1:00 pm. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress will be opening it, and our local M.P. Rosie Duffield has been invited to attend. Do, please make every effort to attend, there will be 17 stalls, refreshments and freshly made pizza available.

Sue White



Wednesday 15th May

7:30 - 9:00 pm (prompt)

St Peter's Methodist Church, Canterbury.

Topic: 'In the Beginning...' - Faith in a Big Bang Age.

Speaker: Jennifer Walters, Priest and Scientist, currently Head of Science and Innovation, Kent College.

Whatever your interests or viewpoint, you will be most welcome to join us. There is a charge of £5 at the door for each talk to cover costs (*people in full-time education free*). For further details please contact me. e-mail: jjdbaskets@gmail.com

Judith Dimond



TIME TO OPEN THE BOX

It's now that time of year for our faithful box holders let me carry out the annual count. Please bring your box to church, or to the parish office. I am also happy to collect from you, if you give me a ring. I have spare boxes for anyone who would like a box for their small change, supporting children and young adults in great need.

Meanwhile, congratulations to our editor's son Graham who took part in the 2024 London Marathon (*3h49m50sec*) raising £3500 for the CS. There is still time to add to his sponsorship if you so wish, using the link:

<https://2024tcls londonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/graham-barlow>

Thank you.

Gwyneth Hartwell

01227 451366

REQUEST - Would whoever has borrowed the Canterbury Archaeological Trust report on St Paul's from the parish archives please contact the Parish Office. Thank you.

Brian Hogben

INCLUSIVE CHURCH



I've heard this church is a safe place to express doubts.

Perils on the Ministry Road

Mrs X wanted to reserve a plot in the local cemetery, with a birth dated memorial tablet put in place for her approval.

I called to see her one Saturday afternoon to arrange this but no one answered the door. Seeing that the side gate was open, I went into the garden and announced my arrival. She appeared from the shrubbery, and said, 'Hello, do come this way', as she took me in through the back door and into her utility room.

'There it is,' she said. 'It's under guarantee. I do hope you can fix it!' Slightly puzzled I asked what she meant? 'Well you've come to mend the freezer, haven't you?'

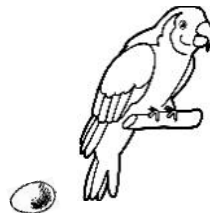
'No, I replied. I've come to discuss a plot in the cemetery.' 'Oh,' she said apologetically, 'I'll be with you in a moment. Do go through to the lounge and on your way do introduce yourself to my parrot.'

I couldn't immediately recall anything in my pastoral visiting manual to cover such an eventuality, but did my best. Arthur in his cage in the hallway was quite perky and 'who's a pretty boy-ish'.

Over tea in the lounge, Mrs X discussed her cemetery plot wishes, and I left, promising her that I'd discuss it all with the Cemetery Committee.

Three weeks or so later the vicarage phone rang while I was out, and Helen took the call. It was Mrs X. 'Is your husband there?' she enquired. 'No, I'm afraid he's not,' Helen replied, 'but I can take a message?'. 'Well,' she said, 'your husband came to see me three weeks ago and had a conversation with my parrot. I can't imagine what passed between them, but it's just laid an egg. Arthur has become Martha!'

Editor





THIS MONTH'S POEM - from Rosemary Walters

+++++

A Dream of Nature from The Vision of Piers Plowman

The whole world was full of wonders
Too many to put down now, flowers
In the fields, their dazzling colours,
So many different shades, sprung
From the same earth and grassy fields,
Some bitter to the taste, some sweet.
It all seemed one great miracle
Ranged too wide for me to record.
But what struck me and set me back
Was that reason seemed to govern
All creatures and how they acted
Except for man, except for mankind.

William Langland (1330-c 1400), is critical of late medieval society and uses *Piers Plowman* to explore the sinful nature of humanity and the challenges faced by those trying to live virtuously in late medieval England. Poem translated from the Middle English by Ronald Tamplin.

**The Church and Social Justice at a time of Economic Crisis
and Environmental Catastrophe**

Saturday 18th May - 9-9:45 am Registration. Ends 5:00 pm.

A day conference at Canterbury Cathedral Lodge, the Precincts

The gravity of the current economic and environmental crisis requires a new and energetic response through the Church's teachings on social justice and the harmony of creation. Many are concluding that global interconnectedness coupled with uneven development has now reached a stage where human exploitation of nature has reached a tipping point.

Full details and Booking:

<https://research.kent.ac.uk/anglican-history-theology/events/>

Rosemary Walters

May Archive 1984



This issue of Pilgrim Post contained the first instalment of 'My Life', by Dr. Henry Lefever, the parish's honorary part-time Assistant Priest. A copy of the entire memoir is now in the parish archives: it tells of a long and varied life of service.

The Annual Church Meeting had heard a report on the Adkinson's Charity. The Trustees hoped to join with those of the Cooper Almshouses to modernise the dwellings, and would then have the right to nominate some of the residents. Also in the parish archives are a few documents concerning the eventual completion of this scheme, which was evidently badly needed. There had also been mention of the Canterbury Christian Council. Lt Col John Haddon of this parish was about to become Chairman for the coming year.

It was reported elsewhere in the magazine that this year's Radio Kent Lent Course had attracted about 150 people to the house groups in the parish. About half had been visitors responding to the invitation to members of other local churches. The Christian Council as such had not been involved this year, but might re-engage in 1985.

The tradition of parish outings was to be maintained with a trip to St. Albans. In addition the Mothers' Union would be paying a second visit to the historic churches of Romney Marsh, guided by the Rector. Meanwhile Revd Humphriss would be speaking to the Wednesday Fellowship and some other groups on the **'Debate about Marriage of Divorced People in Church'**. In a busy month, the Fellowship would also be enjoying a talk on church vestments by Anne Oakley, the Cathedral and City Archivist, who would bring dolls in authentic costumes; and they would go along to All Saints Church for a cookery demonstration by someone from the Potato Marketing Board.

The Diocesan News Service reported that the Church of Bertha the Queen was proving its worth as the new home of the diocese's work with deaf people. **'The premises are a great change from St. Margaret's Church - light, warm and economical to run. The Revd Tony Old is confident that deaf clubs and associations will be keen to gather there.'** (In 2024 it is sad to see St. Margaret's again standing empty.)

Brian Hogben

Sunday Zone in Session



As part of our Lenten journey, we reflected on 7 faces of Jesus and his journey to the Cross, We moved towards the mystery of Easter by hearing stories, and sometimes bringing our own ideas of items to add to the story.

Jesus Birth and Growth – Jesus looked into the face of his mother, Mary and father Joseph and already saw the cross. They gave the baby everything he needed to grow. Nativity figures were added to the story.

Jesus Lost and Found – Jesus was lost for 3 days and found in the temple., listening to and speaking with the priests. “Didn’t you know I would be in my father's house”. Mary and Joseph did not understand but they did not forget. A home label and our wooden city block of Jerusalem was added to help tell the story, as well as a sheep!

Jesus baptised and blessed by God - John baptised Jesus, as he went down into the water people hear a voice “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased”

Jesus’s desert experience - Jesus resisted being tempted by the devil. Jesus as healer and parable maker. Jesu healed people like the blind man. He came close to people and they changed. He told parables and finally he knew he had to become a parable.

Jesus offers Bread and the Wine - We listened to the events of holy week, Jesus taking the bread and wine and saying he would be there whenever we shared bread and wine together. The disciples heard but didn’t forget and would later understand. Plates and cup and a wine cork were added to this part of the story. The wooden people of God figures became the disciples at the Last Supper.

Jesus – the one who was Easter and still is - We looked the face of Jesus crucified. We heard about the Saturday being so quiet you could almost hear the earth breathing. Then on the Sunday the women finding the empty tomb. The other side of the card showed the resurrection. Jesus has died but is still with us. We had a double sided picture of the crucifixion and Resurrection you can’t have one without the other, they can’t be pulled apart. That is the mystery of Easter. The colours have changed from the solemn purple of Lent to the glorious white of celebrating Easter. The mystery is so great the celebration lasts for 50 joyful days.



Finally we rearranged the story in a circle so the ending is also a beginning.

I wonder which part of the story you like?

I wonder which part of the story is the most important?

I wonder which part of the story is about you as we move from Easter's 'Alleluia' to the empowerment of Pentecost?

Ruth Baker



NEWS FROM ST MARTIN'S

Heading into Summer



Recent months has seen a number of fundraising events to raise money to replace the sound system within the church. Events such as 'Tenor for a Tenner' have helped us edge slowly towards our goals and I just wanted to quickly thank everyone so far who has supported these endeavours and continue to do so.

St Martin's has also seen a sharp increase in visitor numbers so far this year, and with the weather starting to warm up, we hope to be able to keep welcoming more in. As a part of this, the church is hoping to get more volunteers in to be able to stay open a little longer during the summer months. Some interviews have been held and we are optimistic to be welcoming in a few extra sitters to our roster, though if anyone reading wishes to include themselves in our ranks then please do contact us and we will be more than happy to take you on!

Jessica 'Jess' Morris

Tourism Manager – St Martin's Church



Jesse
Tree

A - Z for CHURCH EXPLORERS

J = Jesse Tree

Representation of Christ's human genealogy in conventional form of a tree. It is rooted in Jesse, the son of Obed and the grandson of Ruth and of Boaz, branches bear later ancestors and its crown is the Virgin and Child. The tree is often a vine and like the Cross, is a tree of salvation.

Examples are found in sculpture, painting, glass, reredos, and murals in many churches across the country.

Contributed

Cause of the Month: May

The daily, prime focus of Christians Against Poverty is to help families in debt to control their budgets and negotiate with those to whom they owe money. They have also just completed a decade long study into poverty in this country and here are some of their findings:

- ◆ One million people on very low incomes are in arrears after paying for basic essentials and monthly bills;
- ◆ Many of these use credit to pay for essentials, (9% of the population) and not for ‘the extras’. By doing this they are tipped below what is known and agreed to be the ‘Minimum Income Standard’, into the vicious cycle of debt.
- ◆ 17% of UK adults have skipped meals through lack of money, of whom, 9% do this weekly.

Even after advice from CAP, half of their clients still do not have enough for their needs. For those on Benefit, the rates do not cover the needs.

The phrase coined many years ago, that Credit cards ‘*take the waiting out of wanting*’ luxury items, now applies to essentials such as eating, heating, and clothing children.

May an understanding of society’s need to deal with these tensions and dilemmas inform us as we think about how we will vote when the time comes.

Judith Dimond

INTERREGNUMS



I can recall taking a “Use of English” exam at school in 1973 when the topic for the comprehension section was entitled “Interregnums.” I knew nothing about this word but using a modicum of Latin guessed it meant “Between,” and “Reigns or periods of rule.” St Martin’s and St Paul’s are now in an interregnum with Mark’s departure whilst we await who might come to work with us next as our rector.

We don’t know how long this will be, but it’s a time of reflection and a time for us all to perhaps push new ideas to the fore. The profile group will engage with deciding on and determining a parish profile and through

that a sort of Job Specification for a prospective candidate will emerge. If you have any ideas, do talk to a member of this group.

It is sometimes said that having a mighty cathedral in the city could be overwhelming for some applicants, whilst others might see possibilities of making clergy connections and having augmented support networks. Whichever way it goes, Canterbury is not a city with an overall scarcity of clergy.

So, interregnums can be creative moments for us all to move forward. It is a time of whole church family reflection where everyone can think about where we are now and share openly with each other their hopes for the future. Our whole ministry team will have more input and we'll have the opportunity to learn from visiting clergy who will bring their own style and experiences. In other words, the place can have a good airing. In a very restrained and polite English manner of course. So don't let it go by without putting in your carefully considered half penny, as it could be some time until the next one.

Mike Butler



DID YOU KNOW?

One of the reasons for the formation of Connecting Canterbury (*helping people in need*) was the desire to offer a safe and ethical alternative to debt and loan sharks, through it's links to Kent Savers Credit Union.

That link has now changed by Kent Savers being absorbed into a much larger credit union, offering a far greater range of services. The link is now to Wave Community Bank, based in Hove, Sussex, and people can download their app for free on Apple and Google, by searching for Wave Community Bank.



Facilities exist for savings, loans (subject to assessment), debt consolidation, family saver loans using child benefit, and the debt free bank visa card. Young Saver accounts can also be opened by a trustee over 18 (e.g. parent, guardian or grandparent) paying 2%, on behalf of a child until the age of 16, when the account is transferred to a standard membership in the name of the young person. For more details ring 03003033188 or go to , www.wavecb.org.uk, email info@wavecb.org.uk

David Hartwell



Messy Church at the Spring Lane Community Centre

Sunday 19th May

Activities begin at 2.30 pm with the tea following after craft activity, a story, and some prayers. The afternoon usually ends by 4.15 - 4.30 pm and of course, all are very welcome. **Chris Robinson**



St Stephen's Theology Group

7:30 pm Tuesday 7th May

Professor Rabbi Dan Cohn-Sherbok

"What is Anti-Semitism?"

St Stephen's Church, Hales Drive, Canterbury



Choral Evensong and Supper at St Paul's

5:00 pm - Sunday 19th May

Guest Preacher: Revd Lindsay Yates

Theme: Fruits of the Spirit



A spring evening with delicious food and delightful music...what could be better?

All are very welcome to this lovely service as we anticipate Pentecost with preaching from Revd Lindsay Yates, Diocesan Generosity Advisor who will speak to us about the Fruits of the Spirit.

A tasty supper and pudding is promised with a glass of something being served afterwards for those who wish.

No bookings needed for food but please advise regarding dietary requirements. Call: 720121 Text: 07871340926

Email: namesfortea@hotmail.co.uk

Michael Keeler-Walker

ENDPIECE

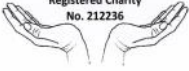
A man was at the doctor's surgery having his annual health check. "You look quite fit to me," said the doctor, "do you exercise regularly?"

The man replied, "Well I'm always tramping through the woods and scrambling over rocks and sand". "That's great" said the doctor "are you an avid naturalist?" "No, not really," said the man, "just a lousy golfer."



Contributed

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PILGRIM POST - MAY

Copy deadline - Thursday 18th May

to pilgrimpost@martinpaul.org please

Collation arrangements as advised

THANK YOU



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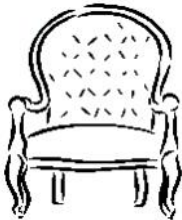


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