

# Pilgrim Post

70p

June  
2026



Cause of the month



**Parish of St Martin and St Paul,  
Canterbury - Parish Centre**

Church Street (St. Paul's) CT1 1NH

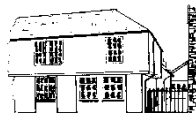
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**Welcome to Pilgrim Post  
the Journal of the  
Parish of St Martin and St Paul,  
Canterbury**



**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  
as an Inclusive Church**



**CAN WE HELP YOU?**

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

**Enquiries about Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals and  
General Enquiries (Option 1)** or 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: [visits@martinpaul.org](mailto:visits@martinpaul.org)

**Pastoral Care Chaplains** - Please contact:

The Revd Sue White 07803 312144  
or Sam Keeler-Walker 07402 200223

**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

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### **Churchwardens:**

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**Michael Keeler-Walker** (*St Paul's*) 768072 (*Option 4*)

**Ros Newington** (*St Paul's*) 462897

### **Deputy Wardens:**

**James Sampson** (*St Martin's*) 07968 786545

**Dr. Claire Butler** (*St Martin's*) 768072

**Stefan Vassalos** (*St Paul's*) 07709 900760

### **PCC Officers:**

**The Revd. Dr Mary Kells** (*Chair*) 768072

**Jo Lawson** (*Secretary*) 07505 705812

**David Stuart** (*Treasurer*) 07807 410823

### **Church Music:**

**Christopher Gower** (*Organist - St Martin's*) 07851 505565

**David Rees-Williams** (*Organist - St Paul's*) 07720 742193

**Dom del Nevo** (*Choir Director - St Paul's*) 07753 336648

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### **Administry:**

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*Parish Office Contact Options - see page 1.*

**The Revd. Clive Barlow** (*Parish Magazine Editor*) 784779

pilgrimpost@martinpaul.org

**Lydia Newington** (*Parish Safeguarding*) 768072 (*Option 6*)

## 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>	Laura Johnson	<b>720121</b>
<b>Christians Together Canterbury</b>	David Hartwell	<b>451366</b>
<b>Deanery Synod</b>	Sam Keeler-Walker	<b>07402 200223</b>
<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>	Stefan Vassalos	<b>07709 900760</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</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>07511 103968</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 – JUNE

**9:00 am St Martin's** - Said Eucharist (*Sung on Sunday 7th*)

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



on YouTube (*via Parish Website link*) (Not **28th**)

**3:00 pm Confirmation with Sung Eucharist - St Paul's (28th)**

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 14th*)

**5:00 pm St Paul's** - Choral Evensong and Supper (*Sunday 21st*)

**5:00 pm St Martin's** - Service of Silence and Compline (**28th**)

## 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 – Saturday **4th** July

**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

### ***Baptism at St Martins:***

*We welcome into God's Church family:*

*31st May: Oliver Lee Mackenzie  
and Ruben Levi Mackenzie*

## COMMEMORATIONS

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

*Vera Knowles, Douglas Raisback, Jenny Shaw,  
Wendy Marsh, Jim Chambers and Eric Griffiths.*



## THIS MONTH'S MAGAZINE COVER

Our Cause of the Month is 'Social Justice Network' and the Kent Refugee programme which provides a variety of services to those seeking refuge here in Canterbury (see page 9 - 10).

'Together in Ministry' welcome to those newly elected to the Parochial Church Council (see page 17)

Being invited to participate in 'Love Your Burial Ground Week / Churches Count on Nature 2026, here's a picture taken by Audry Lewis' group at St Martin's churchyard.

We're in the liturgical season of Trinity – always a mystery to prayerfully assimilate.

***Editor***

***Thank you!***

.....to our Rector Mary, and all parishioners who gave me a framed painting of St Martin's as I finish as PCC treasurer. It was much appreciated and I continue to support parish finance matters during the handover with Dave Stuart.

***Gordon Craig***

## HELP NEEDED

Help is needed to promote The King's Men live Concert on Wed. 15 July at 7:30 pm in Canterbury Cathedral. (see poster on page 16) and on the day. If you able to help, please speak to Ros Newington at St Paul's or email [safeguarding@martinpaul.org](mailto:safeguarding@martinpaul.org).

## THE RECTOR WRITES.....



I write this letter on Ascension Day, when I will speak of endings and beginnings. T.S. Eliot's *Four Quartets* always comes to mind in this context. 'In my end is my beginning' as the final line of *East Coker*, the second of the quartets, has it. Or again, in *Little Gidding* (the final quartet), 'What we call the beginning is often the end, and to make an end is to make a beginning'.

As Jesus ascends (*Luke 34.51*), it signals an end to his earthly ministry, but it is simultaneously a new beginning, necessary, so that the Holy Spirit will come at Pentecost and equip the disciples to begin the task of continuing the work that Jesus began.

We have all had a new beginning together, in this my first year, something I highlighted at the APCM. We have turned the page on previous chapters and embarked on a new stage of our journeys together. We have also had new people arrive and some well-established people leave, as is the way of things, and we have tried some new things together.

This month sees Rose, our Bishop coming to baptise and confirm at St Paul's, an exciting ending and new beginning for our young people and adults. It represents a clear beginning of their Christian life in this place, or at least an official marker along the way, and that will of course entail saying goodbye to previous habits and ways of life, on the way to being 'clothed in Christ' (*Galatians 3.27*). I wonder what is hardest to put down for us, to let go, as we seek to 'put on' Christ.

What endings and beginnings are in your life at the moment and how you are feeling about them? It is so easy to have a loss-centred reading, when people and things we have valued have gone, or we see them leaving. We have had a number of our congregation moving house recently. That can be a complex mix of emotions – certainly excitement and hope about the new place, but often there are fond memories and associations with that which had been left behind. I have moved around a lot in my life, being married to a naval chaplain, and I found that it was good to rejoice in what was life-giving in the place you were in, and not to seek to replace it like-for-like in the new place, but rather, to arrive

open to the new possibilities, and for something different to be life-giving in the new context.

As people who are self-consciously on a journey together, I pray that whatever endings and beginnings you are in the midst of (and every life is peppered with them, one way and another), that you will know the presence of the one rich reality, the steadfast and unchanging love of God, who is with us throughout our earthly journeying, and that, held in the heart of Christ, you may know yourself beloved.

*Mary Kells*



**5:00 – 6:30 pm Wednesday 17 June**  
**St Peter's Methodist Church, Canterbury**

**Speaker:** John Daniels, Anglican priest, writer and theological educator, committed to helping ordinary Christians better understand various facets of the times in which they live.

**Topic:** Money: Where It Comes From, Where It's Going, and Why It's All About Faith.

\*\*\*\* THIS TALK IS SPONSORED BY THE MONTGOMERY TRUST \*\*\*  
and is also the last in the current season.

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*



### ***Leading by Example***

Wishing to promote health in the community, a Priest, a Free Church Minister, and a Rabbit walk into a blood bank.

On being tested, the Priest is found to be 'A positive', the Free Church Minister 'AB negative, and the Rabbit is a 'type O'.

*[With acknowledgement to Eddy Newall]*

## LIVING THE LITURGY - JUNE

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



### **7 - First Sunday after Trinity      Gospel: Luke 12:22-30**

*"Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life."*

Jesus was reassuring his disciples and encouraging them to look beyond themselves to the whole of creation. In this coming week and beyond how might you support creation and encourage others to do likewise?

### **14 - Second Sunday after Trinity      Gospel: Matt. 9.35-10.8**

*"The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few."*

We are all called to share in the work of Christ's harvest, as well as to enjoy its fruits. Are your time, skills or passion being under-utilised or overlooked by our parish?

### **21 - Third Sunday after Trinity      Gospel: Matt. 10.24-39**

*"And whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me."*

In what ways do you find this reading difficult? Where in your life are you being asked to choose between comfort and faithfulness?

### **28 - Fourth Sunday after Trinity      Gospel: Matt. 10.40-end**

*"And whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these..."*

Jesus affirms that the smallest act of love is part of the work of God and will beget a commensurate reward. Is there someone you know who could do with a cup of kindness this week? Or is that person you? Either way, let it be known and God's love will surely flow through us.

**Stefan Vassalos**



### **Cause of the Month - June**

Social Justice Network Kent Refugee Programme

The Kent Refugee programme provides a variety of services to those seeking refuge here in Canterbury. Under the umbrella of the diocesan Social Justice Network, it provides conversation cafés,

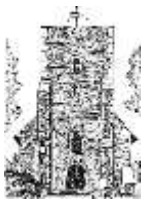
accessible English classes, advocacy, interaction with statutory agencies on a local, national and international level.

Many refugees who have settled in Canterbury are working and continuing their education to enhance their qualifications in both English and Maths. Some have taken their driving tests and are becoming increasingly independent and integrated. The Community Sponsorship Scheme is encouraged whereby churches in all communities come together to tackle this issue through prayer, action and giving.

This month the national Refugee Week is **15 - 21 June**, with the theme 'Courageous Communities' and The Social Justice Network encourages us to be involved. Look out for activities and visit the Canterbury Cathedral website for special services. It is 75 years since the Refugee Convention, 'an agreement affirming that those forced to flee deserve protection, dignity and hope'.

As worldwide conflicts continue to impact us all with increasing displacement of people, to be involved at a local level informs us and hopefully encourages us to act. Visit - [thesocialjusticenetwork.org](http://thesocialjusticenetwork.org)

***Diane Fawcett***



### **Sound Emergence at St Martin's**

One Sunday evening earlier this year, St Martin's church was turned into a place for exploration of wordless sound, for contemplation, and a time of calm. Unfortunately, we hadn't been able to advertise this event in the parish in time, but Mary Kells, Monica Walling and I attended - with some trepidation.

The Group is called 'Sound Emergence' and was performing in venues along pilgrim trails in Kent. Their mission is to 'bridge art, contemplative practices and heritage' through sound and community gatherings. To start with, Elena gave a fine introduction to the history of St Martin's church, and then the participants were able to explore the

church and churchyard, so that they could experience a sense of place.

On reassembling, many laid out their exercise mats, and lay on the chancel floor. The less brave, including Mary, Monica and I, sat quietly in our pews for the hour.

A fine singer began the session by singing against a calming, meditative, musical recording, then the two huge gongs erected in the Nave were brought to life by two players. The sound physically reverberated around the walls and deep within us. If you've never heard gongs 'played', you've missed a deeply soothing and healing experience.

The sound continued for about an hour, though I lost track of time, as the sound became healing and deepening, allowing prayers to rise for some, but a sense of soothing beauty and calm, experienced by all.

We had cancelled our monthly 'Service of Silence and Compline' to be hospitable to this new group of people of all ages and backgrounds. And as we walked home, we both agreed we were glad we had. After all, the church does not just belong to us.

**Judith Dimond  
and Monica Walling**



Our theme for this month is 'Join in and Celebrate!' the 150 years of Mothers' Union.

**We pray:** *Father God, we join in and celebrate your love to us through Mothers' Union. We praise you for the past 150 years, for the vision of Mary Sumner and for all who have followed her, praying and serving in your name. We delight in Your gifts to us, the joy of family, the wonders of Your creation, the fellowship of members and most of all, Your love to us through the gift of Your son, Jesus Christ. May we always walk in Your footsteps. Give us strength to be different, to stand up for justice and peace, and be a sign of your reconciling love for all. Amen.*

**Looking back** – We had a lovely afternoon outing to Doddington Place Gardens (*not to Goodnestone Gardens as planned*) despite it being a bit chilly and rainy. The woodland area was ablaze with colour

with Rhododendrons in full bloom and all 20 of us were pleased to be there and enjoy all that was on offer, singing Happy Birthday to Mike Walling over a cup of tea.

***This month*** - We have a change of speaker at our June 3 meeting. Ursula Wachter is coming along to speak on 'Citizens Advice' which she has been involved with for a long time. Also one of our members, Ursula has a wealth of knowledge to share with us. Do come along and bring anyone you think might be interested.

Being the 150th Anniversary of the MU, there is a service at St Paul's Cathedral at 5:00 pm on Wednesday 10 June, followed by the Annual Gathering at The Emmanuel Centre the following day.

On Sunday 14 June, branch members will be fully involved in the 10:30 am morning service at St Paul's Church. Do come along and wear your badges! Then on the following Saturday, 20 June, it's our Diocesan AGM at St Paul's from 2:30 – 4:30 pm. Business and tea, so come along and support our Diocesan President and Trustee board. Cathedral PrayerTime is at midday on Thursday 25th.

***Next month*** - On Wednesday 1 July, we will have a Branch Tea as our own celebration of the 150 years of this amazing organisation. The annual Fish and Chip evening at Tankerton is Wednesday 22 July.

What a lovely time we have in store.

***Sue Spillett***

***June Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries***

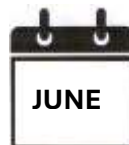
with our ***Good Wishes*** and ***Prayers***

***Birthdays:*** Toby Marsh, Alastair Mansfield, Susan Wilson, Hannah del Nevo, Ruth Sibson, Peter Richmond, Liz Newington. Ruby Playfair, David Hartwell, Jennifer Llewelin, and Charlotte Hardwick.

***Wedding Anniversaries:*** Stephen and Sara Pollock, David and Kelley Playfair, Michael and Claire Butler, Richard and Dina Spillett, Carmen and Edwin Jones.

## PARISH DIARY – JUNE

Any changes will be in our **Sunday Newsletter** or  
**Weekly E-mail** from: *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

+++++

### **3 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

7:30 pm Adult Confirmation Class – PC Music Room

### **4 - Thursday Corpus Christi**

12 noon Midday Prayers - St Martin's

7.30pm Sung Eucharist followed by Refreshments – St Paul's

### **5 - Friday**

6:00 pm Confirmation Class for Young People – PC Music Room

**Great Big Green Week 6 to 14 June** (see page 19)

### **6 – Saturday**

12:30 – 4:00 pm Pride Tea-Party – Friends Meeting House

(see page 20)

### **7 – First Sunday after Trinity**

*Psalm 74.12-33. OT Job 38.4-18,25-33.*

*NT Romans 8.19-25. GP Luke 12.22-30*

9:00 am Sung Eucharist - St Martin's

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

### **10 - Wednesday**

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

7:30 pm Adult Confirmation Class – PC Music Room

7:30 – 9:30 Growing in Faith Group – PC Meeting Room

**11 - Thursday (Barnabas the Apostle)**

8:00 am Holy Communion – Cathedral

12 noon Midday Prayers - St Martin's

**12 - Friday**

6:00 pm Confirmation Class for Young People – PC Music Room

**13 - Saturday**

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

**14 - Second Sunday after Trinity**

*Psalm 100. OT Exodus 19.2-8a.*

*Romans 5.1-8. GP Matthew 9.35-10.8.*

9:00 am Said Eucharist - St Martin's

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

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

National Refugee Week is **15 -21 June.** (see page 10)

**17 – Wednesday (Birth of John the Baptist)**

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

7:30 pm Adult Confirmation Class – PC Music Room

**18th Thursday**

12 noon Midday Prayers - St Martin's

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

***Copy date for July/August Pilgrim Post***

**19 - Friday**

6:00 pm Confirmation Class for Young People – PC Music Room

**20 – Saturday**

2:30 – 4:30 pm MU Diocesan Annual Meeting at St Paul's

**21 - Third Sunday after Trinity**

*Psalm 69.14-20. OT Jeremiah 20.7-13.*

*Romans 6.1b-11. GP Matthew 10.24-39.*

9:00 am Said Eucharist - St Martin's

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

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

## **24 - Wednesday**

10:30 am Prayer Book Eucharist - St Paul's  
7:30 pm Adult Confirmation Class – PC Music Room

## **25 - Thursday**

12 noon Midday Prayers - St Martin's

## **26 - Friday**

**24 hours of Prayer starts Today** (see page 20)

12 noon MU Cathedral Prayer Time  
6:00 pm Confirmation Class for Young People – PC Music Room

## **28 – Fourth Sunday after Trinity**

*Psalm 89.1-4,15-18. OT Jeremiah 28.5-9.  
NT Romans 6.12-end. GP Matthew 10.40-end.*

9:00 am Said Eucharist - St Martin's

### **No 10:30 am Service at St Paul's**

3:00 pm Confirmation Service with Sung Eucharist - St Paul's  
5:00 pm Service of Silence and Compline – St Martin's

## **29 – Monday (St Peter and St Paul Apostles)**

8:00 am Holy Communion – Cathedral

## **JULY**

### **1 - 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.

### **2 - Thursday**

12 noon Midday Prayers - St Martin's

### **3 – Friday (Thomas the Apostle)**

8:00 am Holy Communion – Cathedral

### **4 – Saturday**

1:00 pm Messy Church – Spring Lane Community Centre

### **5 – Sunday 'Feast of St Peter and St Paul'**

*Psalm 125. OT Zechariah 4.1-6a, 10b-end.*

*NT Acts 12.1-11. GP Matthew 16.13-19.*

**11:00 am – Joint Parish Service with Picnic at St Augustine's Abbey**

# THE KING'S MEN

Live at  
Canterbury Cathedral

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## **‘TOGETHER IN MINISTRY’**

It began with a picture show. An imaginatively designed ‘portrait of the parish’ on screen – all thanks to Chris Kirkland our Social Media enabler, and what an appropriate way to open an Annual Parochial Church Meeting. That title might sound a bit dull. The meeting,

formal yet friendly, was certainly not.

‘An attitude of gratitude’ (which lies at the heart of our faith) was evident from the very beginning as Mary Butcher (Lay Ministry – Reader) and Monica Walling (Deputy churchwarden at St Paul’s ) were warmly thanked for their service on the PCC, as was Gordon Craig (in his absence) who has been our greatly valued Parish Treasurer for many years.

His successor Dave Stuart, introduced himself, and was thanked for his willingness to take up this role which would involve the digitalisation of the accounts. He was able to answer some financial questions and stressed the importance of paying our Parish Share to the diocese.

Apologies for absence were then received before we moved on to the election of church wardens, welcoming Dr Isis Brook (for St Martin’s) and Michael Keeler-Walker and Ros Newington (re-elected for St Paul’s).

Coming now to the APCM, the minutes of last year’s meeting were agreed as correct and there were no questions arising. Judith Dimond our Electoral Roll Officer, informed us that 9 people had come on to the roll during the period of revision, and that the total stands at 118.

All having been nominated and seconded, Andrea Don, Charli Johnson James, and Sam Keeler-Walker, were elected to serve on the Deanery Synod (2026-2027). Four members of the Parochial Church, Claire Butler, Wendy Frempong, James Sampson and Stefan Vassalos, were elected to serve 2026-2029 as was David Stuart. Ben Hickman and Jo Lawson were co-opted.

Having received the Annual Report and the Parish Treasurer’s Report, which had been distributed in advance, and about which no specific questions were raised, under any other business, Monica

Walling spoke about the importance of being ‘outward looking’ particularly in our support of Christian Aid Week. Rosemary Walters (now having moved away) had been CAW co-ordinator, and our Rector, expressed the hope that someone would soon be found to fill this role. This informative, and really encouraging meeting, full of hope and expectation for future ministry, particularly relating to anticipated developments at St Martin’s, closed with prayer. Deo gratias.

**Onlooker.**

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### Poem about June

*An extract from James Russell Lowell’s “And what is so rare as a day in June?” from The Vision of Sir Launfal.*

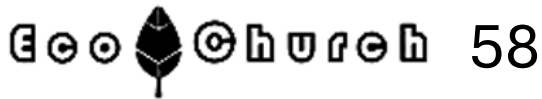


And what is so rare as a day in June?  
Then, if ever, come perfect days;  
Then Heaven tries earth if it be in tune,  
And over it softly her warm ear lays;  
Whether we look, or whether we listen,  
We hear life murmur, or see it glisten;  
Every clod feels a stir of might,  
An instinct within it that reaches and towers,  
And, groping blindly above it for light,  
Climbs to a soul in grass and flowers;  
The flush of life may well be seen  
Thrilling back over hills and valleys;  
The cowslip startles in meadows green,  
The buttercup catches the sun in its chalice,  
And there's never a leaf nor a blade too mean  
To be some happy creature's palace.

*James Russell Lowell (1819-1891)*

As summer unfolds around us, we're reminded of the beauty and generosity of God's creation. The American poet and diplomat James Russell Lowell captured this sense of early-summer wonder in his much-loved lines about June. They still speak to us today, inviting us to pause, notice, and give thanks.

**Editor.**



## Great Big Green Week 6 to 14 June

The fifth mark of mission adopted by the Church of England in 1996 speaks of caring for our environment and tending to it. So, in this week in June we are asked to participate in ***Love Your Burial Ground Week / Churches Count on Nature 2026.***

Love Your Burial Ground Week has been running for many years, encouraging all who help to look after churchyards, chapel yards and cemeteries to celebrate these places in June with special events. Churches Count on Nature 2026 runs at the same time as Love Your Burial Ground Week and focuses on the wildlife in churchyards and chapel yards. Caring for God's Acre also encourages volunteers to record sightings of animal and plant life in these places, ideally using the Beautiful Burial Grounds Project section of a smartphone app called iNaturalist. Full details at:

<https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/about-love-your-burial-ground-week-with-churches-count-on-nature/>

For many of us strenuous gardening in our church yard is not possible but we can support others who derive their living from growing sustainably by donating one Fairtrade item to our local food banks at All Saints and the Baptist Church and Catching Lives. Some of you will be aware of the work of Kent Wildlife Trust, which has succeeded in raising the funds necessary to introduce cattle and pigs, goats and ponies into areas to reinvigorate them and restore habitats and reverse species decline.

***A reminder from Pat Crawford:*** this year's Open Farm Sunday will be held on 7 June. It is a fantastic way to find out about the work undertaken by our farmers. Events and demonstrations for people of all ages can be found at: <https://farmingsunday.org>

UK farmers are continuing to battle with high operational costs, some of which amount to a 200% increase. Food producers in many other parts of the world are similarly affected, and the knock-on

consequences are being felt throughout the supply chains. It is important to recognise that the decisions made about how the food we buy is sourced influences the UK's ability to ensure Food Security.

French researchers indicate that the Atlantic Ocean's main current, Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC), may collapse earlier than previously thought. Human activities related to Climate Change have caused the current to slow down and a new study suggests it could slow by between 42 and 58 per cent by 2100. AMOC plays an immensely important part in regulating Earth's climate. Not all climate scientists agree with the most concerning estimates, but few disagree that Greenland's melting ice sheet is triggering changes to this crucially important current. Scientists are repeating earlier reports that indicate Europe is warming twice as fast as the global average.

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

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### **GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER**



Our GIFT group aimed at younger adults up to the age of 45 will be meeting on Wednesday 10 June, 7:30 – 9:30 pm in the Parish Centre Meeting Room to discuss Preparation for the 24 hours of Prayer which starts on Friday 26 June.

If you would like to join us, or need more details, please contact either Chris Roe or myself on 07709 900760. **Stefan Vassalos**

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### **INVITATION**

Pride at the Canterbury Friends Meeting House

***Take a quiet break in our garden***

12:30 – 4:00 pm

**Saturday, 6 June**

***Tea, cakes, and, for those that wish it, friendly conversation.***

Friends Meeting House and Garden 6 The Friars, Canterbury CT1 2AS

For the fourth year running Canterbury Quakers are opening our garden and meeting house after the Pride Parade so that people who

want to meet and chat (or even just have a rest) have a quieter alternative to the rather noisy party in the park which for some is great fun but is not for everyone.

**Peter Toon**

Phone: 01227 451991 or text: 07495 978413



## JUNE ARCHIVE 1986

New fittings for the sanctuary at St. Martin's were now ready to be dedicated. This would take place at the annual festival service of the Friends. There were four matching pieces, the work of Melvin Pinnock of Nailbourne Forge, Littlebourne, whose father was a prominent parishioner and whose brother Trevor was (and is) a distinguished musician. A wrought iron cross, given in memory of Revd Geoffrey Fennell, incorporated a symbolic vine. The altar candlesticks, in a design evoking Queen Bertha's crown, had been given by Dr. Lorna Kendall, whom some older readers will remember well. The other items were a 'unity candlestick' and an aumbry light holder. It was hoped to have, in due course, a new flower stand and a green altar frontal.

On a very different note, some memorials in the churchyard had been wilfully damaged. The Rector had been kept very busy liaising with the police, the Council, and various diocesan officials, and had also written to nearby residents.

The Parochial Church Council had set up an 'ad hoc group' to consider family worship. They would reflect on 'the few experimental Family Eucharists we have tried at St. Paul's when the first part had been flexible and related to some particular theme'. There was a need for a Senior Youth Group to supplement the revived Youth Club, which had a notional age limit. Such a group was now being formed, and with input from parents would meet on Sunday evenings in the Longport Hall. A parish drama group was also getting under way with the initial aim of performing an Advent-related play in November.

An informal parish meeting had been arranged to discuss the idea

of ordaining women to the priesthood. In the diocesan leaflet, meanwhile, the Bishop of Dover reported on a service of Thanksgiving for the Ministry of Women that had recently been held in the Cathedral. Representatives from all over the Anglican Communion had attended. The emphasis had not been on gender equality but on the deep sense of vocation felt by many women. It was also reported that Mission East Kent, which would be coming to Canterbury in the autumn, was about to begin with a three-week 'Down to Earth Crusade' in Margate. In a different kind of mission, the chaplains of the seven prisons and detention centres in the diocese would be making one-to-one contact with every prisoner in the course of the month.

**Brian Hogben**

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*Thank You!*

**from Lillie, Diocese Youth and Children Intern.**

I just want to say 'thank you so much' for letting me spend time with you over the last few months.

It's been so lovely to get to know you all; I've learnt so much, although sometimes out of my comfort zone, but in a good way!

From Easter Fun Day to Tea-Times to Hangouts to Sunday Zone – it's been a real honour to get to know you all and to meet the amazing children and young people in this community.

I will continue pray for you all - all the best,

**Lillie**

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## **'Saint' Bertha of Kent**

### **A Queen Who Opened the Door to the Gospel**

As we look back to the earliest days of English Christianity, the figure of Saint Bertha of Kent stands quietly but unmistakably at the heart of the story. Long before Augustine's mission landed on the shores of Thanet in 597, Bertha was already here—a Christian queen in a largely pagan land, faithfully keeping the flame of the Gospel alive.

Bertha was a Frankish princess, raised in a Christian court and formed by the faith of her parents, Charibert of Paris and Queen Ingoberga. When she married King Æthelberht of Kent, she did so on

the condition that she could continue to practise her faith. She brought with her a chaplain, Bishop Liudhard, and she made her spiritual home at St Martin's Church, which became the beating heart of Christian life in Kent.

Bertha's influence was gentle but profound. Through her example, her prayer, and her steadfast witness, she prepared the ground for the arrival of St Augustine and his companions. When the missionaries reached Kent, they found not a hostile court but a queen who welcomed them, encouraged them, and helped them establish the first Christian community in Anglo-Saxon England. Without Bertha's presence, Augustine's mission might have faltered before it began.

Though never formally canonised - such processes did not yet exist - Bertha came to be honoured as a saint by long tradition, remembered for her holiness, her courage, and her role in shaping the Christian identity of this land. She died around the year 612 and was buried in Canterbury, where her memory has been cherished ever since.

Saint Bertha reminds us that the Gospel often advances not through dramatic gestures but through faithful, patient, hopeful lives. Her quiet steadfastness helped change the course of our nation's history. May her example inspire us to carry the light of Christ with the same grace and perseverance today.

**Contributed**

*[Saint Bertha features in 'Pilgrim Places, Holy Lives- a gospel journey with the English Saints', which offers 24 days of bible readings, reflection, questions and prayers on the ancient practice of pilgrimage. Contributors include Sarah Mullally, Stephen Cottrell, Dee Dyas, James Shelton, Sammi Tooze, Sally Welch, Jenny Wright and Alexander Zhirnova. £3.99 Church House Publishing. [cofe.io/Pilgrimage](http://cofe.io/Pilgrimage) Editor*



**Canterbury  
District**

## NEW SERIES OF TALKS

The Friends of Citizens Advice in Canterbury are presenting the third of a series of talks by local speakers at St Paul's Parish Centre on

Thursday 4 June at 2:30 pm. Admission £5 including refreshments.

**Saint, Bishop and Concubine:  
How Canterbury made the Bayeux tapestry  
David Reekie**

With the forthcoming internationally important exhibition of the Bayeux Tapestry at the British Museum this summer, we are very lucky that David Reekie is coming to talk to us about its creation and the likelihood that it was actually made here in Canterbury.

David is a local historian who has lived and worked in Kent for 40 years who leads fascinating local history walks in Canterbury and gives talks on Anglo-Saxon Kent.

The Bayeux Tapestry is the most important artefact to survive from the Middle Ages, but who made it, why and where? David's talk shows how the Tapestry came to be made in Canterbury at St Augustine's Abbey and how the personalities depicted in the complex and mysterious work of art came together in its creation.

For details, please contact me.

**Ursula Wachter**  
[ursula@7longport.co.uk](mailto:ursula@7longport.co.uk)



**Choral Evensong & Supper**

Sunday 21 June

5:00 pm at St Paul's



Go on – take a summer stroll down to St. Paul's for Evensong and Supper. This month we will be reflecting on the theme of **Creation** and are delighted to welcome as our **Guest Preacher** – Revd. Jonathan Still, Vicar of Cerne Abbas, Dorset.

Afterwards, a choice of delicious supper and pudding, together with a glass of something refreshing, will be served for those who wish to stay.

No bookings are needed for food, but please advise regarding any dietary requirements by Text: 07871340926 or Email:

Email: [namesfortea@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:namesfortea@hotmail.co.uk)

## **A HEALTHY CHURCH CULTURE**

Taking part recently in a Diocesan PTO safeguarding pathway course, reinforced for me the fact that a healthy church culture is one of the most powerful forms of safeguarding a parish can have. Policies, training and procedures matter enormously, but they only come alive when rooted in the everyday habits, attitudes and relationships of a congregation. Safeguarding is not simply a set of rules; it is a way of being a community shaped by the gospel.

At its heart, safeguarding is about creating an environment where every person — child, young person or adult — is valued, listened to and protected. A healthy culture makes this possible because it encourages openness rather than secrecy, humility rather than defensiveness, and shared responsibility rather than leaving safeguarding to ‘the experts’. When people feel safe to speak up, small concerns are noticed early and potential harm is prevented long before it has a chance to take root.

Healthy culture also strengthens trust. When relationships are warm, respectful and transparent, it becomes harder for harmful behaviour to hide in the shadows. People know one another well enough to notice when something feels ‘off’, and they feel confident to check in, ask questions or raise a concern.

Good boundaries are another hallmark of a safeguarding-minded church. Clear expectations about behaviour, communication and roles protect both those who are vulnerable and those who serve. Boundaries are not barriers; they are the framework that allows ministry to flourish safely and without suspicion.

Training, too, becomes part of the culture rather than a tick-box exercise. A healthy church sees safeguarding learning as a way of strengthening its discipleship — growing in wisdom, compassion and awareness. It equips people to respond well when someone discloses something difficult, ensuring that survivors are met with belief, dignity and support.

Ultimately, safeguarding is an expression of the church’s calling to

love as Christ loves. A healthy culture makes that love visible in the way we speak, act and care for one another. When safeguarding is woven into parish life, the church becomes not only a place of worship, but a place of safety, healing and hope for all. **Revd. Clive Barlow**



Save the date:

**The King's Men live at Canterbury Cathedral**  
Wednesday 15 July at 7:30 pm – fundraising for  
St Martin's the Next Chapter (see page 16)

\*\*\*\*\*

Do please think about taking part in this year's **Ride and Stride for Churches** on Saturday 12 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. **Sue Spillet**

**MAGAZINE COPY**

If you have an article, story, or notice that you would like to share with Pilgrim Post readers please e-mail it Word.doc format to: [pilgrimpost@martinpaul.org](mailto:pilgrimpost@martinpaul.org)

**THANK YOU**



**ENDPIECE**

A well-known and greatly respected naturalist being interviewed on television, was asked what he thought was one of his most memorable experiences.



He thought for a moment and then replied, "I was walking through a jungle in Peru and came across a group of tribes people, all standing in a circle laughing.

To my amazement, when I got to them, I could see a lizard up on its hind legs, obviously telling jokes which were very funny."

I said to one of the crowd, "That lizard is amazing. In all my travels I've never seen anything like it." The tribesman replied, "That's not a lizard sir; it's a stand-up chameleon". **Contributed**



Anyone living in the parish who is in a condition of need, hardship or distress might well be able to get assistance from the funds of this parochial charity.

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