



All Saints Guildford

Joyfully Living Jesus

Welcoming Everyone

Growing Disciples Deepening Community



JANUARY 2026

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If you'd like to feature anything in the magazine, we would love to hear from you! Articles should be emailed to **allsaintsmag@gmail.com** by the **15th of the previous month**. We like to keep content varied and interesting so almost anything goes. Please get in touch if you have any questions. Thank you!

ALL SAINTS SERVICES AND OPENING TIMES

Our pattern of services is as follows:

- ★ Morning Prayer takes place Monday to Wednesday at 9.15am in the church and via Zoom for anyone who would like this option.
- ★ A service of Holy Communion is held in church every Thursday morning at 9.30am.
- ★ An 8am service of Holy Communion is held in church on the first and third Sundays of the month (the third Sunday will use the Book of Common Prayer).
- ★ Our 10am Sunday services follow this pattern:
 - ◇ First Sunday: Café-style Altogether Worship
 - ◇ Second, fourth and fifth Sundays:
Church Family Communion with Children's Church
 - ◇ Third Sunday: Morning Worship with Children's Church

Note: Children's Church is term-time only
- ★ Each Sunday, we hold 'Tea-Time Church' at 4pm.
- ★ Each Sunday, we record the sermon and this can be found on our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/@allsaintsguildford



THOUGHTS FROM THE VICARAGE - TWO ORDINATIONS!



As the new year begins, many of us will be looking ahead, and considering what 2026 will hold. One of the things that is uppermost in my mind as I look ahead, is the fact that we'll be celebrating two very special ordinations this coming June. As many of you will know, our very own Andy Wells is preparing to be ordained deacon, in Guildford Cathedral, on 28th June. This is the culmination of three years of study, preparation and prayer; and I'm delighted that Andy has reached this milestone in his journey in faith. Andy will become our curate at All Saints, serving as an assistant minister in this parish.

The second ordination is of my daughter Lydia, whom many of you will remember from her time at All Saints, worshipping with us as a young person and young adult. Lydia is preparing to be ordained as a deacon, in Newcastle Diocese, also on 28th June next year. Lydia will serve as a curate in the parish of Byker St. Mark and Walkergate St. Oswald. She and her husband Sam, and their little boy Thomas will be moving from Durham to Newcastle in early June, to begin this next step in their journey in faith.

I find it a great joy that the Lord continues to call people to ordained ministry in his church, and that men and women of all walks and stages of life are responding to his call. It's a great privilege for us, at All Saints, to have supported both Andy and Lydia on their journey to ordination. The Lord continues to call people to serve him in many different ways – in his Church, in the local community and in the wider world. The beginning of a new year is a good time to ask the question: Lord, what are you calling me to do for you in the year ahead? Who are you calling me to be? Who am I becoming?

And I always love Isaiah's response to that question, when he heard the Lord calling him many centuries ago. Isaiah heard the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?'. And Isaiah replies, 'Here I am, send me!' (Isaiah 6:8).

My prayer for 2026 is that each of us will have the willingness to echo that joyful response of Isaiah, and have the courage to step out in faith, into the role the Lord is calling us to.

Wishing you blessings for the year ahead .

Beverly

MISSION FOCUS: RESKILLED

ReSkilled is a small charity making objects of beauty and use out of wood. It is based at St Peter's Church in Hazel Avenue. All Saints are continuing to support this charity in 2026.



ReSkilled has a small workshop where they encourage participants who have been unemployed for at least one year to learn to work with wood (most of which is recycled wood) gaining not just experience in this skilled task, but also developing life skills including punctuality, reliability and perseverance. In reality most of their participants have been out of work for an average of nearly seven years – the aim is that participants will spend at least a year at ReSkilled, then move to voluntary work, or a paid job, afterwards.

During their time at ReSkilled they have a work log that they can show to a future employer giving evidence of the skills they have learnt.

This summer three participants moved on to volunteering elsewhere (and therefore finished at ReSkilled) - success. The charity takes on varied projects. "We continue to appreciate the wide range of projects being made at ReSkilled,



whether for the participant themselves or as a commission. We frequently see finished pieces of high quality, satisfying to both the maker and receiver, building confidence and a deserved sense of pride in their achievements". (From their Autumn newsletter). Recent commissions include making a wooden toy car garage for a pre-school.



Above and right: wood from church pews now being made into a bookcase for that church.



ReSkilled had a stall at the All Saints Autumn Fair in September. For more information see their website: reskilled.org/ or contact piers@reskilled.org.

Katherine Hopwood

A THANK YOU FROM MARGARET ARNI



Margaret Arni wishes to thank all the kind friends who sent lovely cards for her recent birthday (101)!!

They were especially appreciated as she had recently returned from two days in the Royal Surrey County Hospital, recovering from a fall.

With love, Margaret

THANK YOU to everyone who brought in food and toiletries for Guildford Food Bank recently. On Monday 8th December Bruce and Katherine brought a full car boot load to St Clare's Church, Park Barn, where Guildford Food Bank is located.



David, the volunteer who received All Saints' gifts, showed us the hall where all donations are sorted, and the Food Bank's storage room. Donations can be made at St Clare's Church between 8.45am and 10.30am on Monday mornings. Other donation points include Sainsbury's in Burpham, Sainsbury's on Worplesdon Road, Sainsbury's local in East Horsley, and Waitrose on York Road.



Guildford Food Bank is one of the charities that All Saints will continue to support in 2026. The number of people needing help from the foodbank is increasing each year – and the food bank volunteers provide other practical support to those who use it beyond the welcome food parcels.

Katherine Hopwood

SOME SMALL CHURCHES IN THE SOUTH-EAST

As many readers will recall, Trish and Eve have visited most, if not all, of the cathedrals in England and Wales and have written articles about them from time to time. By way of continuation, I have undertaken to write something on some of the hidden or not so hidden small churches in the Home Counties, which I have visited in the course of my wanderings or outings with friends. At some future date, I may, if the Editor invites me, write about some other humble churches further afield.

For starters, I have selected one church in Kent, one in West Sussex and a third in East Sussex, all of which bear witness to Christian worship for countless centuries, and which still manage to keep at least monthly services going despite, in some cases, their location far away from the nearest village.

So let us start with a real oddity, namely St. Rumwold's Church, Bonnington, Kent, which I visited as recently as October 2025. There has been a church on the site since 796 of the Christian era, so not that long after St. Augustine brought Christianity to the south of the British Isles and founded Canterbury Cathedral.



St. Rumwold's

You will find the church on the higher ground just off Romney Marsh south of Ashford, but it is at least a mile from the village of Bonnington.



St. Rumwold's

Why should this be so, you may ask. The guide book makes no mention of the village having to move because of the plague in the 14th century, but speculates that the site may have been chosen by the Lord of the Manor with no thought of the needs of the villagers or indeed of the priest appointed by him.

Then, there is the curious tale about St. Rumwold, to whom the church is dedicated. It is one

of only eight British churches dedicated to him. The story goes that he was born in AD 662 to St. Cyneburga, wife of King Alchfrid of Northumbria. Legend has it that within hours of his birth, he was able to speak. Baptism occurred on day one, with a bishop officiating. He was able to make a profession of faith to the bishop before being baptised. Then on day two, he preached at Brackley in Northamptonshire on some of the finer points of religion. On day three, he gave another sermon to his parents, before passing away!

My next choice is St. Andrew's Church, Didling in West Sussex. This is only about 45 minutes drive from Guildford, compared with at least 90 minutes to Bonnington. Take a right turn in the village of Cocking south of Midhurst on the road to Chichester, and use satnav to guide you through the tortuous, narrow lanes past Bepton (the church there could also be visited on the way). You have to park in the lane near, but not very near, to the hamlet of Didling and walk up a farm track to the tiny church, set behind a large yew tree.

The fields round about are usually well stocked with sheep and, in springtime, many lambs will be in evidence. That reflects the fact that Didling is a shepherd's church, and, in days gone by, many of the inhabitants of the area would have been involved in the sheep industry. When I visited some years ago, the words of the 23rd Psalm easily came to mind as I walked beside the green pastures to the church.

No electricity is connected and wild flowers are sometimes used to decorate the altar. Apart from the sound of the wind in the yew tree or the mewing of buzzards or the call of the sheep, it is a wonderfully quiet place, evoking an atmosphere quite unlike anything which I have experienced elsewhere.

The third church on my list is much better known, but still has an atmosphere which reflects the wide open spaces of the South Downs, and its beautiful flora and open vistas. St. Michael and All Angels, Berwick, is about 80 minutes drive from Guildford, but can also be easily accessed by train, as Berwick station on the Eastbourne line is only about a mile away



*St. Michael and All
Angels*

(change at Gatwick and Lewes, I think, but check!) Like Didling, the South Downs roll by a few hundred metres to the south.



*Interior of St. Michael
and All Angels*

The church interior is what many people go to see. Bishop Bell of Chichester had the idea in 1941 of trying to replace the murals which many churches lost at the time of the Reformation. Not far from Berwick is Charleston House, which was the home of Duncan Grant, the artist, and Vanessa Bell (sister of Virginia Woolf). The painting of the murals by Duncan Grant was authorised and carried out during the war. One of the murals depicts a representative from each of the armed forces, but there are many others of a striking religious nature, such as, over the chancel arch, where Christ is depicted, following his death on the cross and resurrection, now enthroned in heaven with angels worshipping Him.

You are free come to your own conclusion about the murals, but ignoring them is difficult!

Another bonus for this church is that, if you are feeling energetic and you can possibly extend your visit by a day or so, there is a circular walk of seven Sussex churches in the area, called The Cuckmere Pilgrim Path, named after the river of that name. It includes the lovely church of Alfriston, sometimes referred to as The Cathedral of the South Downs, but there are others worthy of at least a quick visit, including remote Lullington, the Church of the Good Shepherd. The walk is about 11 miles in all.



*The view from St. Michael & All
Angels*

Richard Hemingway

SAINT LUCY'S DAY

St Lucy's Day, also called the Feast of St Lucy, is a Christian feast day observed on 13th December. It celebrates Lucia of Syracuse, an early fourth century virgin martyr under the Diocletianic Persecution. According to legend, she brought food and aid to Christians hiding in the Roman catacombs, wearing a candle-lit wreath on her head to light her way, leaving both hands free to carry as much food as possible. Because her name means 'light' and her feast day had, at one time, prior to calendar reforms, coincided with the shortest day of the year, it's now widely celebrated as a festival of light. Falling within the Advent season, Saint Lucy's Day is viewed as a pre-cursor to Christmastide, pointing to the arrival of the Light of Christ in the calendar on Christmas Day.

St Lucy's Day is celebrated most widely in Scandinavia, Italy and the island nation of St Lucia, each emphasising a different aspect of her story.



'Lucia and Starboy' by Vincent Gray, a figurative sculptor specialising in historical figures. Displayed at Guildford Cathedral in December.

In Scandinavia, where St Lucy is called Santa/Sankta Lucia, she's represented as a woman in a white dress symbolising a baptismal robe, and a red sash symbolising the blood of her martyrdom, with a crown or wreath of candles on her head.

In Norway, Denmark, Sweden and Swedish-speaking regions of Finland, as songs are sung, girls dressed as St Lucy carry cookies and saffron buns in procession, which symbolises bringing the Light of Christ into the world's darkness. In both Catholic and Protestant churches, boys participate in the procession as well, playing different roles associated with Christmastide, such as that of Saint Stephen or generic gingerbread men, Santa Clauses, or nisses (starboys). The celebration of Saint Lucy's Day is said to help one live the winter days with enough light.

guildford-cathedral.org

ORGANISATIONS WE'LL SUPPORT IN 2026

The Mission Vision Goal – ‘Reaching beyond our borders’

“A church fellowship committed to and supportive of the eternal mission of the church – the proclamation of the gospel of our Lord Jesus and in the ministry of loving service shown to those in need.

(From the Mission Vision Statement)

Each year we review the organisations that we provide financial support to. We aim to support each selected charity for three to five years; longer term support for smaller charities is more meaningful than single donations, and continuity enables us to promote relationships and understanding in the congregation through magazine articles and regular invitations to speak at church.

We aim to support local and international organisations spread across three types of work:

- ✦ Development / Relief / Social Needs
- ✦ Gospel Mission / Bible
- ✦ Environmental

Here are the organisations that we will support in 2026:

The Koens Family / Wycliffe Bible Translators

Andrew and Clare Koens, living in Ukarumpa, Papua New Guinea, with their three children Levi, Heidi and Eowyn.

Andrew repairs and maintains the motorcycles and other equipment essential for the mission workers. Clare teaches and provides support for mission workers and their families at the International School. Clare has links with All Saints and personally knows people in the congregation.

Wycliffe’s mission is “to serve local partners worldwide as they bring God’s word to their communities in the language which speaks to them best.”

wycliffe.org.uk

Mosaic Middle East (MME)

MME works primarily in Baghdad, northern Iraq and Jordan on job creation projects, humanitarian relief and Christian witness. In Baghdad, it supports the work of St. George's Church in providing a Christian haven, where it is the only Christian church. It runs a clinic which provides free medical care to people of any religion or none. In northern Iraq, MME runs a programme for accelerating the education for Yazidi children, and in Jordan, the Olive Tree project helps young refugees to acquire new life skills.

mosaicmiddleeast.org

Church Mission Society (CMS)

With a long history as a major Anglican mission society, today it is described as a "community of over 2000 members committed to evangelistic mission"... "working in over 40 countries across the world in South America, Europe, Africa and Asia". It incorporates the former South American Mission Society (SAMS) (merged with CMS in 2010) and the Mid-Africa Ministry (from 2002).

CMS co-ordinates many opportunities for people to work abroad for young people on gap year or short-term placements, or for people looking for longer term commitments. For example, currently advertised posts include "Community development for 18-30 year old, four to five months in South Asia", or "Work with people with learning disabilities in Ecuador", and long term commitments such as "Trauma Specialist in Africa" or "pioneering Mission ...develop mission within and from Latin America" or "Discipleshiptrainer ... fluent in Arabic, Farsi or Kurdish". An example of work in the UK is the new Acts 11 Centre which is being set up to equip Christian communities to reach out to migrants.

churchmissionsociety.org

Friends International, Guildford Branch

Friends International is a Christian charity, which aims to support students from abroad in building friendships with other students, make local links with families and exploring life in the UK. The Guildford branch is a strong organisation focusing on the University of Surrey.

All Saints is heavily involved in this work – members of the congregation

have had executive roles, many volunteer to host students at Christmas or for Sunday meals, help with activities such as outings to tourist spots or walks in the countryside. The All Saints' church hall and grounds are used for activities such as a summer barbeque.

For many international students F.I. may provide their only experience of interaction with British families, culture, and from some countries their first introduction to Christianity.

friendsinternationalguildford.org.uk

A Rocha International

"Caring for God's Earth". A Rocha is a network of Christian organisations present in over 20 countries in all continents. A Rocha International runs three global programmes (Marine Conservation, African Forest and Climate Change Programme), combining conservation and environmental work with engagement with Christians, churches, and theological institutions.

A Rocha UK is best known for running the 'Eco Church' scheme and its education work. In addition, the 'Wild Christian' programme engages individuals regarding what they can do personally to take practical action and enjoy and care for nature. A number of projects and partnerships perform practical conservation and provide opportunities for volunteering.

arocha.org

Guildford Food Bank

"The Guildford Food Bank at St Clare's, Park Barn has been set up to provide temporary help for individuals and families in the Guildford area who are in need. Working alongside local agencies and churches, we want to ensure that no-one goes hungry". (Note it recently changed its name from North Guildford Food Bank).

guildfordfoodbank.org

ReSkilled

ReSkilled is a new small Christian charity set up in Guildford by a Design and Technology teacher to help long term unemployed develop practical

woodworking skills.

Its aim is “to reduce social isolation and give people back self-esteem, choices and hope, by enabling them to re-discover the fulfilment and benefits of being in employment. We do this by using a wood workshop to raise individuals’ confidence and teach general work skills, then encouraging participants to engage with our voluntary work partners with the purpose of entering sustainable employment”.

Wood comes from recycled sources and the products are available for sale.

ReSkilled.org

Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy

GTCC’s strap line is “Community-Care-Compassion”. Rev. Noelle Coe is the ‘Town Centre Chaplain’ leading the staff. The board of directors are all ministers or representatives of various town centre churches. It is an explicit and visible witness to the people of Guildford. They are always looking for volunteers and there are plenty of opportunities for interested church members to get involved. There are three core activities:

- ★ Street Angels – teams of volunteers patrolling Guildford Town Centre on Friday and Saturday nights, providing practical care and support to anyone who has found themselves in a vulnerable state
- ★ Community Angels – befriending project for vulnerable adults of any age, combatting loneliness.
- ★ Volunteer Chaplains – sending trained chaplains (coming from all walks of life) to work with businesses and organisations

gtcc.org.uk

Christian Aid

Multi-denominational Christian relief organisation – responding to humanitarian emergencies, campaigning for change, fighting injustice. Christian Aid is part of the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), a group of leading aid charities in UK which responds rapidly to crises.

www.christianaid.org.uk

Bruce Hopwood

BIG BUILD UPDATE



It was with joy that at the end of November we received a letter from Guildford Borough Council saying that our planning application had been approved. So, after almost six months, we were given permission to proceed.

There were, of course, certain conditions given with which we have to comply. These included that we develop the site in accordance with the approved plans; we ensure that the external appearance is satisfactory and that the development does not prejudice highway users nor cause inconvenience to other highway users. In addition we have to submit a Biodiversity Gain Plan setting out Biodiversity Net Gain measures that last for thirty years.

With planning permission under our belts, the Finance Vision Group will be sending out grant applications to a wide variety of benefactors.

The Standing Committee has decided to employ Symbiosis Architects Ltd as our architects to help move the project forward. They will also be retaining the services of our own Bijou Harding for three days a week.

Negotiations are still in progress on the sale of 6 Thorn Bank which we hope will be completed in the New Year.

Robin Holdsworth

Thank you to....

Sue and Shirley who kindly helped to serve tea and wonderful cakes at the board games, puzzles and tea event at Dray Court!



All Saints' HEAR HERE CLINIC



MONTHLY
Third Monday
of the month
2pm-3pm

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Vicarage Gate
Guildford
GU2 7QJ

Provided by NHS
trained volunteers.

Re-tubing and
battery replacement,
*NHS supplied
hearing aids only.*

January 19th
February 16th
March 16th
April 20th
May 18th
June 15th

**No need to book,
just drop in for
FREE hearing aid
maintenance,
battery changes
and advice**

For more information:

allsaintschurchgfd@gmail.com
01483 563713

NET ZERO CARBON CONFERENCE 2026

An inspirational, interactive and practical day conference to help you on your NZC journey.



- * Saturday 17th January
- * 10am to 4:30pm
- * St John's Stoke Church, Guildford
- * £5 per person

Keynote sessions include a theological discussion and insights from our diocesan bishops, a review of the national progress made so far and the developing pathway forward, and an opportunity to hear from young people on their hopes and ambitions for the care of the planet.

There will be breakout sessions that will look at creation care communications, advocating on climate change, working with schools, and a tour of the host church's extensive work towards achieving net zero carbon.

There will also be various environment- and climate change-focused exhibitors sharing their resources and experience.

For more information visit:

www.portsmouth.anglican.org/events/2026/01/17/nzc-conference-2026



Come & Sing

**Vivace
Chorus**

**Tenors
come free**
Find out more at
vivacechorus.org

**Saturday
24 Jan 2026
10am - 4.30pm**
Guildford Baptist Church

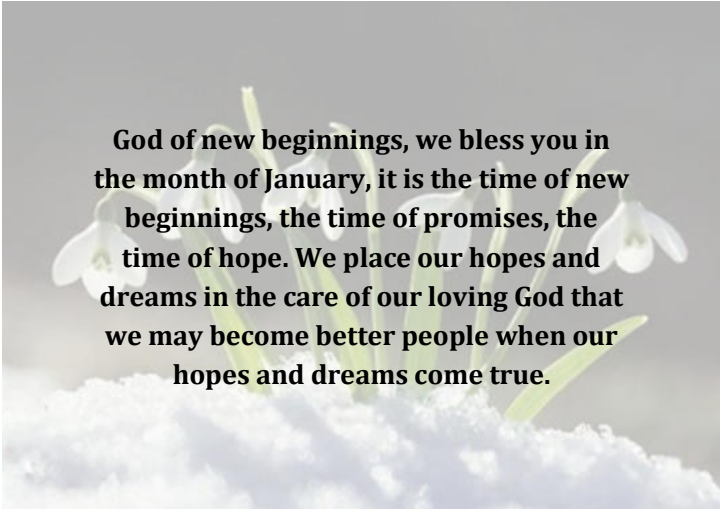
Come and Sing for a day with Vivace Chorus!

Vivace's new Music Director, Barbara Höfling, will bring her unique perspective to a selection of secular and sacred motets, including Schumann and Bruckner.

Vivace particularly need new tenors, who can be refunded their ticket cost (for all voice parts, we offer a free first term!).

Held at Guildford Baptist Church on Saturday 24 January, 10am - 4.30pm. Music hire and lunch is included in your £25 ticket.

Full details at www.vivacechorus.org



**God of new beginnings, we bless you in
the month of January, it is the time of new
beginnings, the time of promises, the
time of hope. We place our hopes and
dreams in the care of our loving God that
we may become better people when our
hopes and dreams come true.**

JOY TO THE WORLD - CHRISTMAS ART EXHIBITION

The Christmas art exhibition at Guildford Cathedral is a highlight each year, featuring artwork from pupils of all ages, from nursery to sixth form. This year, schools explored the theme 'Joy to the World' inspired by Luke 2:10: 'Don't be afraid, because I am bringing you some good news. It will be a joy to all the people.' The exhibition reflects on how Jesus brings joy and hope, even in difficult times.

Here are some of the exhibits that Jo highlights from her visit. The exhibition runs until Monday 2nd February 2026.



Ottershaw CofE Junior School Year 4s

"We were inspired that good news can be spread through the pages of a book and have created a collaborative piece of art, reflecting the words of Luke 2:10: 'Do not be afraid'."

Rowledge Primary School Year 3 and 4 Art Club

"Spreading joy lifts spirits. The balloons represent joyous events shared."





Queen Eleanor's Junior School

Using Luke 2:10 for inspiration, QE said: "The children have produced a 'good news angel', covering its wings in newspaper headlines, expressing their thoughts and ideas of the good news that they see or hope for the world. Under the title 'Joy to the World', the children's reflections look to faith and personal values – considering the role of God and Jesus in their lives; expressing hopes for peace; cherishing family togetherness at Christmas; and sharing God's love with those who matter most.

In the spirit of sustainability, and as an eco-school, the children have chosen to recycle, reuse and reduce the amount of materials used to make their figure."

ALL SAINTS' ORCHARD PROJECT *Volunteer Mornings*



ALL WELCOME IN THE CHURCH FIELD
10.30AM-1.00PM

Please bring your gloves!

THE MAGAZINE TEAM REVIEWS FAIRTRADE...

Last month the magazine team reviewed Fairtrade coffee. This month, we've been sampling Fairtrade chocolate!

JD Gross

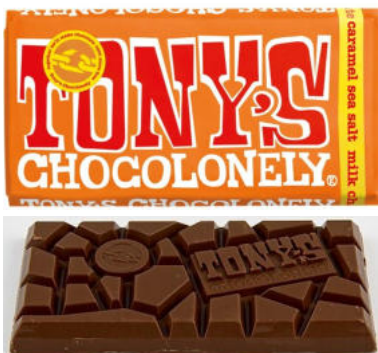


JD Gross chocolate is available from Lidl and I think gets close to challenging Lindt in terms of quality. These bars are thin and break into good sized squares. I can vouch for the Almond & Orange flavour, as well as the very good Salted Caramel one.

The chocolate has a creamy texture and good flavour.

Each 125g bar costs £2.39.

Tony's Chocolonely



Tony's Chocolonely, often shortened to Tony's, is a Dutch chocolate manufacturer and seller created in 2005 by television producer and journalist Teun van de Keuken as a protest against child exploitation and slavery in the chocolate industry. It was launched in the UK in 2019.

When you unwrap the bar, you'll see there is no neat way to break it into equal pieces (so look out for arguments with whoever you're sharing it with!) According to Tony, the bars' unequally divided sections are meant to serve as a reminder of the unequal distribution of profits within the chocolate industry.

I tried the salted caramel and sea salt bar and really enjoyed it. Unlike the JD Gross bars, it is extremely chunky! It has a good balance of sweet and salty with a smooth milk chocolate and crunchy caramel bits.

The 180g bar can be found for £3 in supermarkets.

Way to Go!



Way to Go is another brand exclusive to Lidl and is more of the style of Tony Chocologely, especially as it is chunky and has uneven pieces.

These bars are made from 100% traceable cocoa beans grown by farmers from the Kuapa Kokoo co-operative in Ghana.

Way to Go! means cocoa farmers in Ghana receive the Fairtrade Minimum Price for cocoa, and The Fairtrade Premium, an extra sum of money for farmers to invest in their farms and communities. They have also partnered with Fairtrade to pay an additional amount on every tonne of cocoa bought. This money supports farmers to grow more local crops, like honey, that support a sustainable future and help secure livelihoods for farmers and their families.

As for the chocolate, again I liked it (I think I like most chocolate!) The standard price for a 180g bar is £2.69, so great value.

Divine

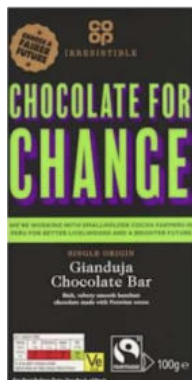


Not the cheapest option (£3.50 per 90g bar or £1.50 per 35g bar) but Divine is pretty divine and uses Fairtrade cocoa, sugar and vanilla.

Very smooth and a good balance of bitterness and sweetness. The company is co-owned by a cooperative of over 100,000 cocoa farmers in Ghana, enabling a direct connection between consumers and the people who work to produce each bar.

Stocked in Oxfam and Waitrose and other online retailers. Definitely worth the extra spend.

Chocolate for Change



Available from your local shop on Madrid Road, Coop's own brand 'Chocolate for Change' is deliciously creamy. Gianduja (pronounced jahn-doo-jah) originated in Italy in the 1800s and is chocolate blended with hazelnut paste.

The 20% hazelnut paste in this bar, which also contains Fairtrade sugar and vanilla, makes it very soft...it's a grown-up, less sweet and more solid version of Nutella!

Cocoa is sourced from smallholder farmers in Peru, and through their Fairtrade premium, they invest in medical facilities and equipment for their communities. £2.95 for 100g

Reviews by Trish Tye and Jo Smalley

ONSLOW VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB

Our next meeting is on **21st January 2026**.

The speaker will be Mark Saunders and the topic 'Gardening Naturally'. Mark Saunders is a very experienced speaker and has given excellent talks to the Club on several previous occasions.

This will be a way of getting us all back into thinking how we garden in the New Year. Do please join us at this meeting.

Anne Bradbeer



THE BIKE PROJECT

I recently spotted this organisation on Facebook and I'm so impressed by what they do.

This is how they describe the project:

"With the community at the heart of everything we do, The Bike Project is driven by a simple mission: to ensure that everyone can access the physical and mental benefits of cycling."



I went to visit them when they spent a day at Farncombe Community Gardens. I had a small girl's bike that we no longer needed and so took it along as a donation. The Bike Project have volunteers to refurbish bikes and get them ready to sell. The bikes on sale on the day were numerous and so affordably priced. The smallest kid's bikes were priced at £10-£15 and looked amazing!

As well as refurbishing bikes and getting them into the community, the guys also go into schools to do free bike servicing to make sure everyone is riding safely.

If you have experience of working on bikes, they are always looking for help, so do get in touch with them if you'd like to volunteer.



To donate, enquire about buying a bike, or to offer your time, get in touch via their Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61580210906582

Trish Tye

SCIENCE AND MIRACLES

We live in a world where we can expect the sun to rise tomorrow and the milk to pour out of the bottle when we tilt it over our cereal. But for God, the properties of matter and the biological processes that we know and read about in text-books are simply the usual ways He works. If He chooses to do something unexpected to demonstrate something about His character, His relationship with us, and His purposes, then He will.

A group of 14 UK-based science Professors wrote to the Times in 1984, saying that “We gladly accept the Virgin Birth, the gospel miracles, and the Resurrection of Christ as historical events. We know that we are representative of many other scientists who are also Christians standing in the historical tradition of the churches.” For the non-believer, I would suggest a thought experiment: if God exists, why should He be bound by the same laws of physics as us?

Professor Christine Done is an Astrophysicist at the University of Durham. In the book ‘True Scientists, True Faith’ (Monarch, 2014) she writes: “Even when I was an atheist I used to get cross at discussions...on how all Jesus’s miracles could be physically explained. To me, once you have believed in a God, a supernatural being, then it’s obvious that supernatural stuff could happen, since any God who can make the physical universe and its laws can presumably suspend those laws in any time and way He chooses.”

There are also miracles which appear to be a case of wonderful timing. The wind blew all night and the Israelites crossed the Red Sea on dry land, for example. The biblical writers don’t seem especially interested in distinguishing between wonders that seem to break the usual rules of how things happen and those that don’t.

Many in Jesus’s audiences were not won over by His wonders. Most of the people in the crowds who ate the food He produced out of nowhere were quite happy to turn on Him when the religious authorities decided He was dangerous. We can only make sense of something unexpected, such as an answer to prayer for healing, in the context of a growing relationship with God. The exciting task for a Christian is to explain what this

interaction looks like, and to demonstrate what 'your kingdom come' looks like in our communities. God works through us in words, works and wonders.

Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.
parishpump.co.uk



Guildford Travel Club

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Our first meeting of the new year is on **Tuesday 6th January** when Kav Dadfar takes us on a road trip through Northern British Columbia's landscapes, indigenous heartlands, lava fields, glaciers and hidden lodges – where nature roars, stories run deep and the roads rarely end.

Then, on **Tuesday 20th January**, guide David Edwards takes us to the closest wilderness in Europe. Iceland is indeed the land of fire and ice where volcanic activity is still shaping its landscape.

Talks held at Onslow Village Hall, GU2 7QR at 8pm.

Visit: www.guildfordtravelclub.org.uk for our full programme.

Contact our membership secretary: Barry Nelson 07789 202720 or email:

info@guildfordtravelclub.org.uk if you wish to join the club or attend as a visitor .



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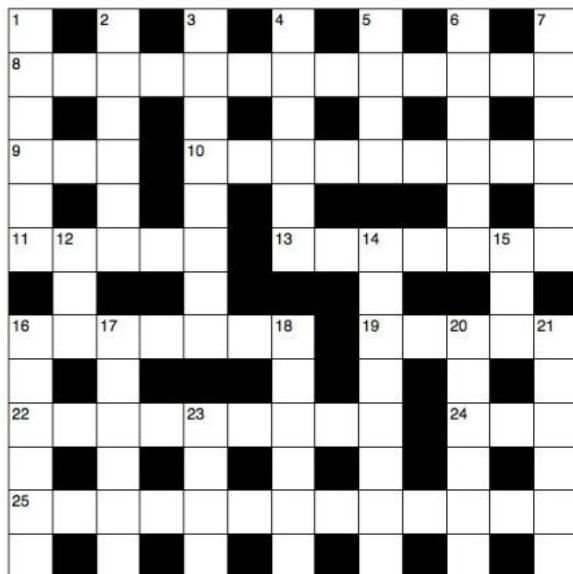
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PUZZLE PAGE



CROSSWORD

Answers on page 35

Across

- 8 How the Abyss (NIV) is described in the Authorized Version (Revelation 9:1) (10,3)
 9 Frozen water (Ezekiel 1:22) (3)
 10 The Ten Commandments (9)
 11 In Roman Catholic theology, neither heaven nor hell (5)
 13 Des cons (anag.) (7)
 16 'Though [your sins] are red as — , they shall be like wool' (Isaiah 1:18) (7)
 19 Keen (Romans 1:15) (5)
 22 Repugnant, loathsome (Jeremiah 24:9) (9)
 24 Drink like an animal (Judges 7:5) (3)
 25 First and last (Revelation 22:13) (5,3,5)

Down

- 1 Father of Ahi, a Gadite (1 Chronicles 5:15) (6)
 2 Where David found the stone with which he killed Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (6)
 3 'Hour by hour fresh lips are making thy — doings heard on high' (8)
 4 'And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their — at night' (Luke 2:8) (6)
 5 United Society for Christian Literature (1,1,1,1)

- 6 'If he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would — — or a tax collector' (Matthew 18:17) (1,5)
 7 Where Paul was taken when things became difficult for him in Berea (Acts 17:15) (6)
 12 Istituto per le Opere di Religione (Vatican Bank) (1,1,1)
 14 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new — ; the old has gone, the new has come!' (2 Corinthians 5:17) (8)
 15 Used to colour ram skins red for use in the tabernacle (Exodus 25:5) (3)
 16 Vat car (anag.) (6)
 17 'Be joyful — — , patient in affliction, faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (6)
 18 'The parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts — — special treatment' (1 Corinthians 12:23) (4,2)
 20 Ancient rowing boat (Isaiah 33:21) (6)
 21 Say again (2 Corinthians 11:16) (6)
 23 What Jesus did in the synagogue in Nazareth after he stood up (Luke 4:16) (4)

SUDOKU

Solution on page 39

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

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Orchard Trees, January

It's not the case, though some might wish it so
Who from a window watch the blizzard blow

White riot through their branches vague and stark,
That they keep snug beneath their pelted bark.

They take affliction in until it jells
To crystal ice between their frozen cells,

And each of them is inwardly a vault
Of jewels rigorous and free of fault,

Unglimpsed until in May it gently bears
A sudden crop of green-pronged solitaires.

Richard Wilbur

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 A better cup of tea!	X	✓

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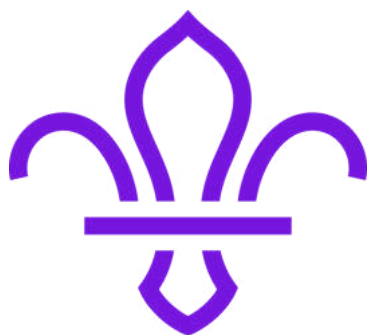
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5TH GUILDFORD SCOUT GROUP NEEDS YOU!

5th Guildford Scout Group is currently formed of three sections: Cubs (8-10½), Scouts (10½-14), and a recently reinvigorated Beavers (6-8). There is an ambition to start a Squirrels section (4-6)...Watch this space for further news.

All three sections are vibrant and lively, led by an enthusiastic team of leaders and supported by parents volunteering on a weekly basis.

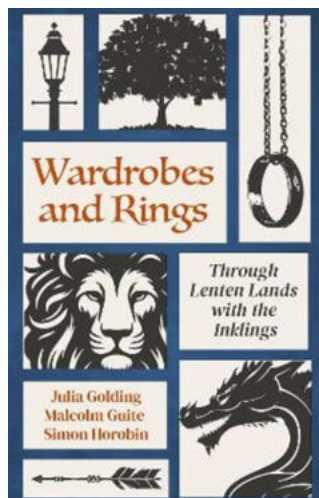
So why do we need YOU? As a charity, the Group needs a Board of Trustees to help ensure that our young people stay safe in a sustainably run, legally compliant, fun place to grow and gain skills. At the moment our Board of Trustees consists of just three people and we would really welcome your support. If you can spare a few hours a month to help with the background administration, scrutiny, and oversight that the trustees provide, please drop me a line to find out more about what is involved.

David Jesson, Chair of Trustees, 5th Guildford Scout Group
5th.guildford.trustees@gmail.com

Crossword answers (grid on page 30)

ACROSS: 8, Bottomless pit. 9, Ice. 10, Decalogue. 11, Limbo. 13, Seconds. 16, Crimson. 19, Eager. 22, Abhorrent. 24, Lap. 25, Alpha and Omega .

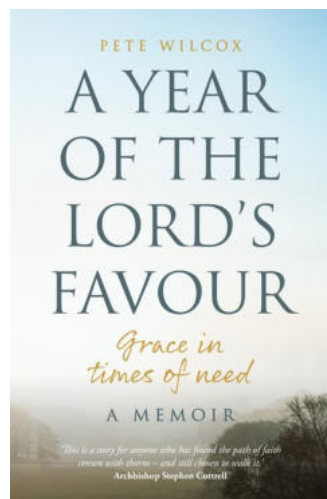
DOWN: 1, Abdiel. 2, Stream. 3, Wondrous. 4, Flocks. 5, USCL. 6, A pagan. 7, Athens. 12, IOR. 14, Creation. 15, Dye. 16, Cravat. 17, In hope. 18, Need no. 20, Galley. 21, Repeat. 23, Read .



Wardrobes and Rings - Through Lenten Lands with the Inklings

By Julia Golding, Malcolm Guite, and Simon Horobin, Canterbury Press, £12.99

Drawing on the work of C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien, as well as friends of the Inklings such as Dorothy Sayers and T.S. Eliot, this book explores through their eyes a faith which is tinged with seriousness, creativity and joy. Using their fiction, poetry, and essays, the book offers daily readings and reflections on the cross and resurrection, helping you to rediscover Lent through the lens of imagination-infused faith .



A Year of the Lord's Favour - Grace in times of need

By Pete Wilcox, CHP, £12.99

Pete Wilcox reflects on the time when, in the space of one year, he was made a diocesan bishop – in the wake of the withdrawal of the preferred candidate – and was diagnosed with and received radical surgery for cancer of the colon that left him with a permanent stoma.

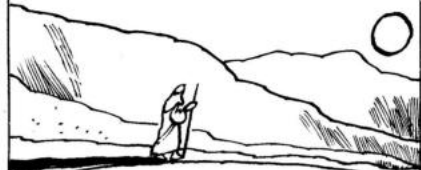
Drawing heavily on daily prayer journal entries kept at the time, he offers encouragement and support for anyone attempting to maintain life as normal while dealing with personal challenges that might be overwhelming. This is a story of both trust and resilience which will inspire and encourage anyone whose hopes and dreams have been overtaken by events. It will enable them to find God's faithfulness in the midst of turmoil.

The Good Samaritan

ONCE, A LAWYER TRIED TO TRICK JESUS WITH A CLEVER QUESTION.



JESUS REPLIED BY TELLING THE LAWYER A STORY.



A MAN WENT FROM JERUSALEM TO JERICO. ON THE WAY...

HE WAS ATTACKED BY ROBBERS!!



THEY TOOK EVERYTHING HE HAD AND LEFT HIM FOR DEAD!



LATER A PRIEST PASSED BY, BUT DID NOTHING TO HELP - NOR DID THE REIGIOUS MAN FROM A TEMPLE!

BUT A MAN FROM A FOREIGN COUNTRY STOPPED TO HELP THE INJURED MAN. HE DRESSED THE MAN'S WOUNDS AND EVEN PAID FOR HIM TO STAY AT AN INN.



JESUS THEN ASKED "WHO WAS THE NEIGHBOUR?"

- ☐ PRIEST
- ☐ TEMPLE MAN
- ☐ FOREIGN MAN

WHICH DO YOU THINK WAS THE ONE THE LAWYER CHOSE?

WORSHIP AND READINGS

2026	8am	10am	4pm
4th January, 2nd of Christ- mas and Epiphany Sun- day	Holy Communion Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:1- 12 and Matthew 2:1-12	Altogether Worship Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:1-12 and Matthew 2:1- 12	Tea Time Church Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:1- 12 and Mat- thew 2:1-12
11th January, 1st of Epipha- ny/Baptism of Christ		Church Family Communion with Children's Church Isaiah 42:1-9, Acts 10:34-43 and Matthew 3:13-end	Tea Time Church Isaiah 42:1-9, Acts 10:34-43 and Matthew 3:13-end
18th January, Epiphany 2	BCP Communion Isaiah 49:1-7, 1 Corinthians 1:1- 9 and John 1:29- 42	Morning Worship with Children's Church Isaiah 49:1-7, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 and John 1:29-42	Tea Time Church Isaiah 49:1-7, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 and John 1:29-42
25th January, Conversion of St. Paul		Church Family Communion with Children's Church Acts 9:1-22, Gala- tians 1:11-16a and Matthew 19:27-end	Tea Time Church Acts 9:1-22, Galatians 1:11-16a and Matthew 19:27-end

SUDOKU SOLUTION

Grid on page 31

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

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - JANUARY

Saturday 3rd, 10.00am	Band Rehearsal
Tuesday 6th, 7.30pm	Big Build Meeting
Wednesday 7th, 7.45pm	Sharing & Learning Group
Wednesday 7th, 8.00pm	Premises Meeting
Friday 9th, 10.00am	Baby & Toddler Group
Monday 12th, 10.00am	Pastoral Team Meeting
Monday 12th, 12.30pm	Women's Bible Study Group
Monday 12th, 4.00pm	Barnabas Group
Tuesday 13th, 7.30pm	Deanery Synod Meeting
Wednesday 14th, 10.00am	Central Team Meeting
Wednesday 14th, 12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch Group
Wednesday 14th, 12.30pm	Magazine Team Meeting
Wednesday 14th, 5.30pm	Mission Vision Group
Wednesday 14th, 7.15pm	PCC Meeting
Thursday 15th, 8.00pm	Men's Group - 'Exploring the Way'
Friday 16th, 10.00am	Baby & Toddler Group
Saturday 17th, 9.00am	Prayer Breakfast
Sunday 18th, 5.30pm	Youth Group
Monday 19th, 2.00pm	Hear Here Clinic
Monday 19th, 7.30pm	Preaching Group
Wednesday 21st, 2.30pm	Dray Court Service
Wednesday 21st, 7.45pm	Sharing & Learning Group
Friday 23rd, 10.00am	Baby & Toddler Group
Saturday 24th, 10.30am-1pm	Orchard Volunteer Morning
Monday 26th, 10.00am	Finance Vision Group
Monday 26th, 12.30pm	Women's Bible Study Group
Monday 26th, 4.00pm	Barnabas Group
Wednesday 28th, 6.30pm	Safeguarding Team Meeting
Thursday 29th, 8.00pm	Men's Group - 'Exploring the Way'
Friday 30th, 10.00am	Baby & Toddler Group

KEY DATES IN 2026

17th February	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party
22nd February	Stewardship Sunday
22nd February	Lent Lunch
25th February	Lent course begins
15th March	Mothering Sunday
22nd March	APCM
29th March	Palm Sunday
3rd April	Good Friday
5th April	Easter Sunday
10th - 16th May	Christian Aid Week
16th May	Christian Aid Car Wash & Cake Sale
24th May	Pentecost
21st June	Father's Day
21st June	Choral Evensong & Strawberry Tea
28th June	Ordination of Andy Wells
12th July	Pet Service
1st September	Feast of God the Creator
6th September	Backpack Sunday and Church Family Picnic
19th September	Autumn Fair
10th October	Harvest Supper & Quiz
11th October	Harvest Festival
18th October	Service of Wholeness & Healing
1st November	Patronal Festival
7th November	Bonfire & Fireworks Night
8th November	Remembrance Sunday
8th November	Service of Thanksgiving for the Bereaved
15th November	Safeguarding Sunday
13th December	Nine Lessons & Carols

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