



APRIL 2024

FROM THE RECTORY DESK

Dear Friends,

April continues with a post-Easter theme and the biblical accounts of the resurrected Christ dwelling in the midst of his people, the month ends with the great feast of the Ascension.

Some of you in Puttenham would have witnessed a very different ascent as workers from the Cumbria Clock Company, ascended the church tower only to abseil down the tower in order to repair the corroded pins holding the clock face to the tower, A very skilful job but essential work to keep both clock faces operational for many years to come. The cost of the repairs was not cheap at nearly £3,000 but scaffolding would have doubled the cost.

The GGS Sands will shortly take delivery of new stackable chairs, this will make life a lot easier when moving the chairs around, the colour scheme will match the all-seasons altar cover. Work on landscaping the exterior has also started and we are excited about this venture.

THE Lent courses have concluded, and our topics were enriched by diverse contributions around important doctrines and topics of the Christian faith. We were delighted the Lily Cloughley was able to join us and talk about her new book "The Good News no one wants to talk about" We thank Lily for donated all proceeds of books sold in the church our funds.

Thanks are also recorded to those of you who decorated the churches with Easter flowers and for the gift of chocolate eggs for the children.

GOD Bless you for these labours of love.

Rector

ZOOM CHURCH

Every Sunday at 6.00 pm Virtual Compline

For all zoom services please use this link: [Church Services](#), then enter this Passcode: 2022

Or by phone - dial one of the following: 0203 901 7895 ; 0208 080 6591
Meeting ID: 81259506242 – then enter Passcode 2022, followed by # when asked (you may need to repeat the last step)

Download Order of Service here: [Virtual Compline](#)



APRIL SERVICES

Sunday 7 April – The Second Sunday of Easter (White)

9.00 am Morning Prayer St Bartholomew, Wanborough.
Readings: Isaiah 53.6-12 ; Romans 4.13-25. Hymns: 154, 150, 605

10:30 am Holy Communion St Laurence, Seale.
Readings: Acts 4.32-35 ; John 20.19-31. Hymns: 154, 150, 152, 605

Sunday 14 April – The Third Sunday of Easter (White)

9.00 am Holy Communion The Good Shepherd, The Sands.
Readings: Acts 3.12-19 ; Luke 24.36b-48. Hymns: 165, 563, 109, 612

10:30 am Morning Prayer St John the Baptist, Puttenham.
Readings: Acts 3.12-19 ; Luke 24.36b-48. Hymns: 165, 563, 109, 612

Sunday 21 April – The Fourth Sunday of Easter (White)

9.00 am Morning Prayer St Bartholomew, Wanborough.
Readings: Acts 4.5-12 ; John 10.11-18. Hymns: 208 pt ii, 593, 590, 453

10:30 am Holy Communion St Laurence, Seale.
Readings: Acts 4.5-12 ; John 10.11-18. Hymns: 208 pt ii, 593, 590, 453

3:00 pm Church Stars St John the Baptist, Puttenham.

Sunday 28 April – The Fifth Sunday of Easter (White)

9.00 am Morning Prayer The Good Shepherd, The Sands.
Readings: Daniel 3.16-28 ; Hebrews 11.32 - 12.2. Hymns: 137, 153, 470

10:30 am Holy Communion & Baptism St John the Baptist, Puttenham.
Readings: Acts 8.26-40 ; John 15.1-8. Hymns: 137, 153, 470, 514

DIARY FOR THE MONTH

Tue 2 Apr	12.00 – 2.00 pm	Shepherd's Rest Café at The Good Shepherd, The Sands.
Tue 9 Apr	12.00 – 2.00 pm	Shepherd's Rest Café at The Good Shepherd, The Sands.
Wed 10 Apr	2.00 – 4.30 pm	Tower Café at St John the Baptist, Puttenham.
Tue 16 Apr	12.30 – 2.00 pm	Shepherd's Rest Café at The Good Shepherd, The Sands.
Tue 23 Apr	12.00 – 2.00 pm	Shepherd's Rest Café at The Good Shepherd, The Sands.
Wed 24 Apr	2.00 pm	Bible Hub at The Good Shepherd, The Sands Studies in John's Gospel
Tue 30 Apr	12.00 – 2.00 pm	Shepherd's Rest Café at The Good Shepherd, The Sands.

POET'S CORNER

By George!

By George, St. George! You really are a slouch.
Arise, pick up your lance, eschew the couch.
Like Patrick, Andrew, David, fill our breasts
with pride and we shall wear upon our chests
your colours—background white, a crimson cross,
since of all saints, you're England's saintly boss.
All hail that day you struck a dragon dead
and to a rescued damsel gave its head.
With meat and ale, each year, we'll hold a feast
to mark St. George's slaying of the beast,
cry, "Rorke's Drift! Nineteen sixty-six! The Rock!"
to fish and chip shops, pubs and maypoles flock.
Forget all dull engagements, join our herd
of Anglophiles on April twenty-third;
for English folk have found the saint they seek,
no matter that the fellow was a Greek.

A.Freeman



Please contact the Rector if you are unable to attend church and would like to receive Communion at home. Also, contact the Rector if you would like a visit from our Lay Pastoral Visitors.

NATIONAL CHURCH NEWS

Bishop of London welcomes call by MPs for universal coverage of palliative and end-of-life services.

The Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, has responded to the publication by The Health and Social Care Committee of its report on Assisted Dying/Assisted Suicide.

Bishop Sarah, a former Chief Nursing Officer for England, said: “In over 20 years of working in the NHS, I witnessed first-hand the critical role that palliative care plays for patients and for their families. Particularly in my time as a cancer nurse in the capital, the difference I saw it make was deeply moving and inspirational in equal measure. This country has some of the best palliative care services in the world - but they are currently underfunded and overly-reliant on charitable donations.

“This is why I welcome the report’s call for the Government to ensure universal coverage of palliative and end-of-life services, including hospice care at home, and its recommendation that the Government commits to an uplift of funding to guarantee support for hospices in need of financial help. I also welcome the call for better mental health support for terminally ill people.

“In 2022, the Church of England’s General Synod members voted overwhelmingly to oppose a change in the law and the DPP's guidelines on Assisted Suicide and called for adequate funding and resourcing of palliative care services. This is about offering compassion and direct support for the terminally ill, to ensure the highest possible standard of care for all.”

SAINTS IN FOCUS

Very little is known about St. George's life, but it is thought he was a high-ranking officer in the Roman army who was killed in around AD 303. The Emperor Diocletian had St. George tortured to make him deny his faith in Christ, however St. George showed incredible courage and faith and was finally beheaded near Lydda in Palestine.



Stories of his strength and courage soon spread throughout Europe. The best-known story about St. George is his fight with a dragon. In the Middle Ages the dragon was commonly used to represent the Devil. Unfortunately, the many legends connected with St. George's name are fictitious, and the slaying of the 'Dragon' was first credited to him in the 12th century.

St. George, so the story goes, killed a dragon on the flat topped Dragon Hill in Uffington, Berkshire, and it is said that no grass grows where the dragon's blood trickled down!

It was probably the 12th century Crusaders however who first invoked his name as an aid in battle. King Edward III made him the Patron Saint of England when he formed the Order of the Garter in St. George's name in 1350, and the cult of the Saint was further advanced by King Henry V, at the battle of Agincourt in northern France.

Shakespeare made sure that nobody would forget St. George, and has King Henry V finishing his pre-battle speech with the famous phrase, 'Cry God for Harry, England and St. George!'

King Henry himself, who was both warlike and devout, was thought by his followers to possess many of the saint's characteristics. In England St. George's Day is celebrated, and his flag flown, on his feast day, April 23rd.

An interesting piece of trivia – Shakespeare was born on or around St. George's Day 1564, and if the story is to be believed, died on St. George's Day 1616.

An appropriate end perhaps for the man who helped to immortalise the Saint in English tradition.

STEWARDSHIP AND GIVING

We rely on the generosity of our worshippers, regular members and visitors to fund the costs of quota, maintaining the buildings and running costs and fulfilling our mission to the churches in the parish.



It costs about £8,000 per month to keep our churches in good order and open for regular services. Apart from rental income from Glebe Cottage, we receive no financial support for operational costs other than what you give. Our giving is always a response to God's unfailing generosity and grace and to the needs of the church.

GIFTING TO THE CHURCH

BY BANK TRANSFER OR STANDING ORDER: to the SPWPCC bank account, which is at Lloyds Bank, Farnham, sort code 30 93 20, account number 02210758, (do include your name for reference).

BY CHEQUE: Send to the Treasurer, c/o The Rectory, Elstead Road, Seale, Farnham, GU10 1JA. Contact the Churchwardens for Gift Aid forms and increase the value of your giving.

CONTACTLESS: now available at Seale, Puttenham and Wanborough.

ONLINE: once or monthly [by following this link, where you will find a Gift Aid option.](#)

PARISH GIVING SCHEME To change your regular Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) donation, please write to: Parish Giving Scheme, 76 Kingsholm Road, Gloucester GL1 3BD, email to info@parishgiving.org.uk or phone 0333 002 1260. It helps to include the PGS reference number, which can be found below your address on PGS correspondence. If you would like to start a regular PGS donation, or have any questions, please contact Mike Cloughley, our PGS coordinator: Telephone number: 01252 793639 Email: cloughley@btinternet.com



Please contact any member of the Ministry or Pastoral team if you are anxious, lonely or would like a spiritual or social chat.

THE RECTOR: 01252 783057 or Rector@spw.org.uk

CHRISTOPHER TUCKWELL LLM: 01252 718676

PASTORAL TEAM: Linda Thatcher & Kathleen Smith

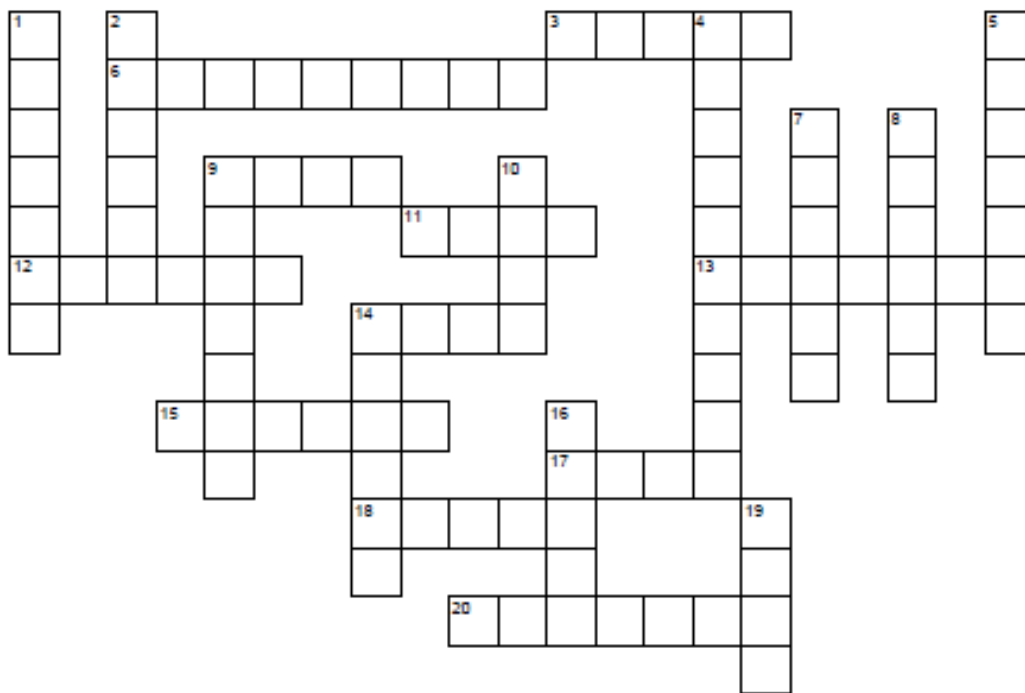


SAFEGUARDING AND DBS OFFICER

ANNE CONCANEN: 01483 811017

You can contact Anne confidentially if you have any safeguarding concerns.

Saints Crossword Puzzle



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ACROSS

- 3 This is the last name of a saint who died as a martyr during World War II
- 6 This saint, whose prayerful mother followed him around, led a very wild life before settling into a holy life
- 9 This saint said, "I am the Immaculate Conception"
- 11 This saint wrote many letters to teach people about Jesus. (We often hear them in church.)
- 12 We believe people who go to Heaven become _____
- 13 Saint _____ Savio
- 14 Saint _____ of Arc
- 15 This saint, who served in Calcutta, was canonized in 2016
- 17 This saint was Saint Mary's mother
- 18 This saint was the first pope
- 20 Saint _____ of Assisi

DOWN

- 1 Saint _____ of Lisieux
- 2 Saint _____ Tekakwitha
- 4 This saint saw Our Lady of Lourdes
- 5 This saint taught people about the Holy Trinity using a three leaf clover
- 7 Saint _____ Aquinas
- 8 This saint was a doctor who refused cancer treatments in order to save the baby she was pregnant with
- 9 This saint was a tax collector
- 10 Saint _____ Diego saw Our Lady of Guadalupe
- 14 This saint was the earthly father of Jesus
- 16 Saint _____ Goretti
- 19 Saint _____ of Lima