St Nicolas News

50p

March 2024







www.stnicolasbookham.org.uk Building Faith in the Community

Services at St Nicolas

Sundays

8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Holy Communion - 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays Morning Praise - 1st Sunday, GLOW - Children's Provision
6.30pm	Evensong - 3rd Sunday - with choir

Weekday Services

8.30am	Bible Reading and Open Pr Monday and Wednesday	ayer
10.00am	Holy Communion (Said)	Thursday
9.00am	Prayers for our church - 2n	d and 4th Saturdays
10.00 am	Church Development Plan 1 st Saturday	Prayers –



Tots Alive! (term time) - Monday 10.00am in church with social time afterwards

For other services please see Notice Board by the Lychgate

Letter from the Ministry Team

Easter is early this year – March rather than April - which may explain why the shops had Easter eggs on their shelves shortly after Christmas!

A lot of people ask why the date changes. It's because it's a 'moveable feast' and no, that does not mean a buffet on wheels. It means the date is determined each year through a calculation. Easter Sunday is the first Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or after the Spring Equinox. Simple!

The only problem is that the Spring Equinox moves between 19-21 March and the moon's cycles also move. Then there's just the issue of correlating the lunar month and the solar year, while taking into account the month, date and weekday of the Julian or Gregorian calendar, depending on which you're using. The Greek Orthodox Church uses the Julian calendar which is why you'll find Greek Easter treats on the shelves in Lidl in May this year.

The reason it's so complicated is because Christians want the date of Easter to align with the date of the Jewish feast of Passover, which is when Jesus was crucified. The Pope calculated the dates for Easter up until 325 AD when the Council of Nicea took on the job. A lot of



parents wish school holidays could also be added to the algorithm!

However, the date of Easter is not nearly as important as what it means, which is all about forgiveness and a chance for new life. When He laid down His life on the cross, Jesus paid the penalty for all our sins. When He rose from the dead, he defeated the power of sin and death and made possible eternal life for all who believe in Him.

Martin Luther, the great medieval theologian, did not appear too worried about the date of Easter when he wrote:

'Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection not in books alone, but in every leaf in Springtime".

May you find joy in faith everywhere you look this Easter! *Gill Caldwell*



"Mothers' Union are the heart and love of the Church." That is what Archbishop Justin Welby said at the inauguration of the new Anglican Province of Sudan a few years ago. He recognises the impact that MU projects and campaigns can have on the lives of families, the disadvantaged and those discriminated against - and he is a member himself.

The organisation has seen many changes over the more than 140 years since a rector's wife in Hampshire set up a group to support mothers of the parish in bringing up their children. It has grown into an international charity with over 4 million members in 83 countries and the world is a very different place.

In the UK it is recognised that many people these days lead very busy lives and are reluctant to take on more, so a new type of membership has recently been introduced. A 'supporter' may be appropriate for someone who is interested in receiving regular updates on the work we do, our campaigns and their impact but is not ready to become a full member. There is at least one member of our church who is intending to sign up for this category. Maybe there are others who read this and might be interested in doing the same. If so, the web page <u>www.mothersunion.org/get-involved</u> tells you more.

Last month, at our AGM, we heard about our own branch activities and fundraising - our small contribution to the global community projects which transform lives every day.

This month we will enjoy a simple Lent lunch together, after Corporate Communion on our usual meeting day. Later in the month it is Lady Day with a service in the cathedral for members and friends. That is always a joyful occasion with the procession of banners being quite a sight. This year, the service will be led by the Rt Revd Paul Davies, Bishop of Dorking. Several of us hope to go that morning. Do contact us on <u>office@stnicolaschurch.org.uk</u> if you are interested in going.

Dates for March

Tuesday 5th 11:30am. Prayers in church.

Thursday 14th 10am. Corporate communion followed by our Lent lunch at about 12:30 in the Church Room.

Friday 22nd11:00am. Lady Day service at Guildford Cathedral.Veronica Taylor

Barnabas



Fellowship

Our Discussion Topic at our January meeting was a quotation from W. B. Yeats' poem "The Second Coming":

"Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold, Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world."

These words were penned in the aftermath of the First World War. How relevant are they to today's events?

The first comment suggested that a World War III would occur within the next 20 years; another said there are currently 36 wars being fought already. This was quickly followed by the question – is there a 'Centre'? One answer was that it should be the United Nations. A Hindu had described God as the centre of a wheel whose spokes are different religions. Where is the Centre, who do you trust, why can't you trust what you hear or see? Social media has enabled many stories to be put out, the reliability of which can be highly questionable but may look attractive. Certain individuals can have more influence than nations in some situations.

Attendance at some Cathedrals this Christmas was so high that people had to be turned away; church attendance was also high. When things are difficult people tend to turn to religion.

Society no longer focuses on a single religion, and even denies religion. Teaching in schools has been affected by this and must not focus on a single religion and should be conscious of atheism and/or agnosticism. As soon as you reject religion there is no Centre. In an age of relativism where "my truth is right" it excludes other religions. This conflicts with the reference to other religions that King Charles III made at his coronation which was widely embraced. We do need to recognise that different religions view God in different ways.

The meeting ended with a closing prayer.

Next meeting 9am on 17th February in the Pastoral Centre. All men are welcome. Terry Taylor

Is Easter Unbelievable by Rebecca McLaughlin

Four questions everyone should ask about the resurrection story

The Book Review



Did Jesus rise from the dead? This book explores the miracle at the heart of the Christian faith. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is an extraordinary thing to believe. Such a supernatural event is the stuff of make-believe, many think. Yet millions of Christians around the world believe that Jesus' resurrection was a real, historic event. In this concise book, respected apologist Rebecca McLaughlin outlines the evidence that Jesus really did rise from the dead and why it is the best news ever.

Why Easter? By Nicky Gumbel



Easter is all about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This Easter edition of *Why Easter*? is a concise, easy-to-read study of the very real questions people may have about Jesus and why his birth, death and resurrection are central to the Christian faith. Written by Nicky Gumbel, the pioneer of Alpha, and vicar of Holy Trinity Brompton in London from 2005 to 2022. It explores why we need Jesus and how he satisfies our hunger for meaning and purpose in life, for life beyond death, and for forgiveness.

The Message of Easter by Eugene H. Peterson



The Good News begins here! Experience the biblical story of Easter in the contemporary and engaging language of *The Message Bible* in this accessible booklet. The Bible in contemporary language is a welcoming, refreshing introduction to the gospel. This booklet includes the accounts of Holy Week along with the prophetic texts related to the Crucifixion and New Testament passages reflecting on the meaning of the Crucifixion and Resurrection.

Deborah Gallacher

"Flushing Poverty Down the Loo"

The Eco Team held a Green Fair in September 2023. One of our aims

was to encourage people to take more care with their water usage as more and more devices in the home require volumes of water. In addition to a fun 'Lob a Loo Roll' we had a display about 'Toilet Twinning with an underdeveloped country' and requested donations towards twinning our Church toilets. Almost 1 in 4 people living in the





WITH A LATRINE IN UGANDA

Latitude:.-1.22889, Longitude:.30.03069 Muyumbu, Kabale. District



world do not have a safe place to go to the loo. Not only does this make daily life unpleasant and uncomfortable, but it presents a huge risk. There are thousands of deaths every year due to poor sanitation, which fosters water-borne diseases such as cholera. and intestinal worms. The cost of providing a toilet in a village is just £60. Great news!! We were able to set aside £120 to provide two toilet facilities in villages in Uganda. This includes the provision of the materials and erection of a basic

toilet building as well as



community education and sanitation programmes. Our future aim is to twin the toilets in the Pastoral Centre with ones overseas too. Val Lambert







Conserve Water – every drop counts

According to Water UK, 46% of people believe their household uses 20 litres (4.4 gallons) of water per day, but it's actually almost 142 litres (31.2 gallons) per person!!

Tips:

Plant drought-tolerant plants.



- Use a bowl in the sink when washing fruit, vegetables, or dishes. This wastewater can then be used to water your plants.
- Put a jug of water in the fridge for when you want a cool drink rather than running the tap.
- Fix any water leaks
- Turn off the tap when you clean your teeth or shave. A running tap wastes up to 9 litres of water per minute.
- Only use the washing machine or dishwasher when you have a full load.
 - Cover paddling/swimming pools to reduce evaporation.
 - Collect rainwater to irrigate your garden, clean your driveway or wash your car.
 - Take a shower instead of a bath. A 5-minute shower uses about 40 litres of water, i.e. about half the volume of a standard bath.

Fill up a kettle for only as much as you need.

Support WaterAid.



Millions of people living in some of the lowest income countries in the world do not have clean water to drink, decent toilets to use, or good hygiene to protect themselves. WaterAid raises funds to work with local partners to construct clean

water wells, install taps, toilets, and decent hygiene facilities.

If you have a water meter, all of these tips may help you to reduce your water and sewerage bills. Even if you do not have a meter, using water wisely and cutting down on the amount of hot water you use will lower your gas and electricity bills. It will also reduce the

amount of climate-changing greenhouse gases you release into the atmosphere. Using less water will also help reduce the greenhouse gases that are released from collecting, treating and supplying clean water.



Jacqy Faull



Earth Hour "Switch off your world" 8.30 to 9.30 pm

LIGHTS OFF - EARTH ON

WWF - Earth Hour is one of the world's largest grassroots movements for the environment. It's a catalyst for positive





As part of our local carbon footprint can you:

environmental impact, driving major legislative changes by harnessing the power of

- Switch off as much as possible in your home on Saturday 23rd March for one hour.
- Make changes in your daily life: change what you eat use the Community Fridge; change how and what you buy - try Fairtrade or the Greenwise Shop; change to clean energy; recycle; re-use; restore; get involved, volunteer, donate.



A monthly singing group for people with dementia or Parkinson's

Burnett Music Fund

Community Foundation

or Surrey

Funded by



with their carer or partner

(a)

St Alphege Church Hall, Lower Road, Effingham KT24 5JP 2.30pm First Tuesday of the month

For more information contact Gill Walker 01372 457987 or gillconnect1@gmail.com Supported by Churches Together in Effingham & Little Bookham





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Bring your brown NHS Battery Book (which includes your settings and requirements) and wear your hearing aid.			
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All our volunteers have been trained by the audiology departments of Epsom & St Helier Hospital or the Royal Surrey County Hospital and hold training completion certificates.



Friendship Lunch – request for helpers

The St Nicolas Friendship Lunch is offered to people who may otherwise eat on their own and has now been running for over 20 years. Held on a Sunday about 3 or 4 times a year, guests enjoy a buffet meal followed by mainly homemade desserts. The meal is very much enjoyed by many people both from St Nicolas and from the wider community.

We have a wonderful group of helpers who serve the food, help clear up and also socialise with our 30 or so guests. However, none of us are getting any younger and we urgently need a few more volunteers to come forward. This would **not** mean a commitment to help at every lunch or to make desserts.

Without some more helpers, it may not be possible to carry on offering the lunch to our guests. If you are able to help in any way, please let the Parish Office know and they will pass on your name. Otherwise please contact me direct for more details.

Thank you.

Sylvia Solarski (for the Friendship Lunch Team)



Women's World Day of Prayer

A women-led, global ecumenical movement. Friday 1st March 2024 10.30am Our Lady of Sorrows, Effingham 7.30pm Bookham Baptist Church, Bookham

This year's service is written by the women of Palestine.

At our committee meeting at the end of October our thoughts went to the possibility that some of the women involved may have been caught

up with the troubles. Palestine is not a country on a map, but part of Israel. Israel is divided into various areas; Israel, Palestine, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which is where the troubles are.

Please come and join us and see what the ladies have written.



ALL WELCOME

On Sunday 31st March 2024

don't forget to change your clocks





To:



Your recycling can raise money for charities

Mission Aviation Fellowship is one of the charities we support at St Nicolas. They raise funds by collecting new and



used postcards which they sell on to benefit their work. Last year they raised £25,000 in this way.

If you would like to contribute any postcards, there is a special box for these near the blue recycling chest at the South door of the church.

We send used postage stamps to the **Church of Scotland's Stamp Appeal** which, in 2023, supported **Firmly Planted**, a community-based agroforestry initiative with the ambition of making a sustainable impact across Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.



So keep collecting stamps and please encourage your friends and family to join in! In 2023 we sent three packages totalling 13.85kg – that's a lot of postage stamps!



We started a new project last year offering to send medicine blister packs for recycling to the specialist recycler **Terracycle**.

In the few months we have offered this service, we estimate we have recycled over 9000 blister packs – there is clearly a great demand.

Margaret Hibbert



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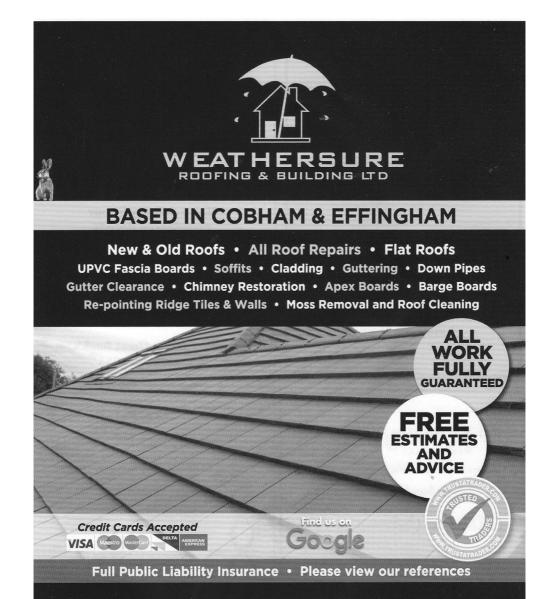
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Choral Evensong

The next full Choral Evensong takes place at St Nicolas on Sunday 17th March at 6.30 pm.



The Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis are sung to the setting by George Dyson in D, the Responses are by Thomas Tallis and the anthem is O Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem by Herbert Howells.

Please do come and support the choir as they sing this beautiful traditional service.

Peter Lutton

Easter Prayer 2024

Thank you, Father that you raised Jesus from the dead on that first Easter Day and that He is alive now and forever. Thank you that whoever believes in Him and turns away from selfish living and towards you can be forgiven through His name. Thank you that Jesus is the same today as He was then and will always be.

Thank you for the Bible – your inspired, unchanging, and living Word to guide us. Help us to hold fast to your teaching and not to be led astray. Your Word is truth. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit, Lord that we might be your faithful, fruitful, Resurrection People.

in the name of our living Lord, Jesus. Amen



Many types of flowers are used in churches, but during Easter, there is one that is especially loved: the Easter lily. It is a tall, stately flower topped by large, graceful, white trumpet-shaped blooms.

While commercial bulb production of Easter lilies only began in the 19th century, Easter lilies make many appearances both in the Old and New Testaments, emphasising the flower's importance to Christianity. King Solomon spoke of them, and Christ referenced them, too.

These strikingly beautiful flowers are highly perfumed, with the central stamens covered in bright yellow or orange pollen.

Unfortunately, the pollen can be a hazard, as it can permanently stain cloth due to chemicals it contains! For this reason, good florists and especially church flower arrangers will remove all the stamens before bringing them anywhere near church fabrics, or near to where ministers wearing white might brush against them.

It is thought that Easter lilies came to symbolise Christ because they embody purity – the trumpetshaped blooms recall the horns that heralded the resurrection of Christ.

This is also why lilies are identified with the Virgin Mary, and in artworks depicting the Annunciation to the Virgin they are often found in the angel Gabriel's hand.



The second reason that Easter lilies represent Christ is because of their life cycle. Each one grows from a bulb that for several years has lain quietly beneath the earth, before growing tall and stately, and blossoming into magnificent flowers. What a picture of Jesus' life and resurrection!

This month, Have a look around the church over Easter. Daffodils and Easter lilies are often displayed, because they are the first flowers of spring, when Nature is being reborn.

Their life after the death of winter reminds us of the Resurrection, for we cannot imagine the death and passion of Christ without having in mind the empty tomb, radiating hope.

Christ's death has no meaning without His Resurrection.

Deborah Gallacher



Provenance

Whose fingers twisted together the crown?Mindful not to draw blood as they wound it roundAnd drove it into place?Whose voice called out in the palace groundsLoud enough to condemn, soft enough to be absorbedInto the will of the crowd?

Who owned the hammer?
Whose bag carried the nails to the top of the hill?
Who felled the tree that was spliced and bound and formed into a cross?
Whose jar of vinegar just happened to be there?
Who soaked the cloth, found the hyssop stalk
And raised it to parched lips?
Who cast the bronze that pierced his side?
Who watched as life seeped into death
Blood and water splashing and soaking the parched earth?

Who wove the linen that made the shroud? Threads braided tight and finished off in preparation For this beaten, bloodied, broken body?

What is the provenance of these events? Does it begin with the zealot, the soldier, the politician, the weaver, the witness, the coward, the betrayer, the mother? Or is there another thread woven through this account That pulled and traced leads to a deeper truth That is enfolded and enshrouded in these events? This source of life



Whose law was fulfilled, Whose truth was proclaimed, Whose Word was made flesh and walked among us, Whose cup was drunk, Whose body was broken, Whose body was broken, Whose words were spoken in the darkest hour and again at the break of dawn, Whose life was spent In order that I, you, we might know whose we are And whose we will be Whose life is now ours.

Fiona Stewart

Creative Director <u>fiona@foolproofcreativearts.com</u>Foolproof Creative Arts Follow us on social media: <u>www.twitter.com/creativefools;</u> <u>www.instagram.com/foolproofcreative;</u> <u>https://www.facebook.com/FoolproofCreativeArts</u>



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	READINGS AT THE SUNDAY SERVICES March 2024
3rd	Third Sunday of Lent Job 4: 1-9 and 6: 1-10; Matthew 13: 24-30 and 36-43
10 th	Fourth Sunday of Lent Job 19: 23-29; Luke 24: 1-8
17 th	Fifth Sunday of Lent
Morning	Job 38: 1-21; Mark 4: 35-41
Evensong	Psalm 34; Exodus 7: 8-24; Romans 5: 12-end
24 th	Palm Sunday Job 42: 1-17; Matthew 21: 1-11
31 st	Easter Day 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11; Mark 16: 1-8

Church Development Plan Prayer Focus			
3 rd March	Effective Communications Strategy	Vicki Dixon	
10 th March	Confident in our witness and service	Alan Jenkins	
17 th March	Changes to our building	Chris Turner	
24h March	Growing a diverse families' and children's ministry	Celeste Rios	
31 st March	Effective Communications Strategy	Vicki Dixon	

	From the Parish Registers	
Baptisms		
28h January 2024	Mila Watts	

St Nicolas Cycle of Prayer March 2024

Please remember the following missions, St Nicolas groups and residents of Great Bookham roads in your prayers

3 rd	LeatherHEAD Start Mary Railton Barbara H	The Fabric Team <i>David Wall</i>	Mead Crescent Stonehill Close
10 th	The Mission to Seafarers John Adie Eldred Clark	Church	Post House Lane Yeomans Croft Vicarage Close
17 th	Oasis Charitable Trust Gill Caldwell Celeste Rios	Magazine Chris Bridges	Fife Way Solecote
24 th	Fairtrade and Eco Team Margaret Hibbert and Team	The Church	Mill Close
31st	Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) Val Lambert Jenny Evans	Wardens	Church Road

Occupation for February: Finance, Accounting, Insurance

Calendar March 2024

Please note that although the calendar has events scheduled, these may happen in different forms. Please check beforehand (see 'Contact' person on the back page or the St Nicolas website).

Februar	ry		
27th	Tues	1000	Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre)
28th	Weds	0830	Morning Prayers (online)
		0930	Lent Group (Pastoral Centre)
29th	Thurs	1000	Holy Communion (church)
		1040	Thursday Coffee (Church Room)
March			
1st	Fri	1530	BYouth (Pastoral Centre)
2nd	Sat	1000	CDP Prayers (Church Room)
3rd	Sun	1000	Morning Praise
		1600	Alpha (Church)
4th	Mon	0830	Morning Prayer (online)
		1000	Tots Alive! (Church and Church Room)
		1530	BYouth (Pastoral Centre)
5th	Tues	1000	Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre)
		1130	Mothers' Union Prayers (Church)
6th	Weds	0830	Morning Prayers (online)
		0930	Lent Group (Pastoral Centre)
7th	Thurs	1000	Holy Communion (Church Room)
		1040	Thursday Coffee (Church Room)
8th	Fri	1530	BYouth (Pastoral Centre)
9th	Sat	0900	Saturday Prayers (online)
11th	Mon	0830	Morning Prayers (online)
		1000	Tots Alive (Church and Church Room)
		1530	BYouth (Pastoral Centre)
12th	Tues	1000	Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre)
13th	Weds	0830	Morning Prayers (online)
14th	Thurs	1000	Holy Communion (Church)
		1040	Thursday Coffee (Church Room
		1330	Mothers' Union (Pastoral Centre)
15th	Fri	1530	BYouth (Pastoral Centre)
16th	Sat	0900	Barnabas Men's Fellowship (Pastoral Centre)
17th	Sun	1830	Choral Evensong (Church)

18th	Mon	0830	Morning Prayers (online)
		1000	Tots Alive (Church and Church Room)
		1530	BYouth (Pastoral Centre)
		2000	PCC Meeting (Church Room)
19th	Tues	1000	Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre)
20th	Weds	0830	Morning Prayers (online)
		0930	Lent Group (Pastoral Centre)
21st	Thurs	1000	Holy Communion (church)
2150	mars	1040	Thursday Coffee (Church Room)
22nd	Fri	1530	BYouth (Pastoral Centre)
23rd	Sat	0900	Saturday Prayers (online)
24th	Sun	1200	Friendship Lunch (Pastoral Centre)
25th	Mon	0830	Morning Prayers (online)
		1000	Tots Alive (Church and Church Room)
		1200	Silent Prayer Group (Pastoral Centre)
		1530	BYouth (Pastoral Centre)
26th	Tues	0900	Great Bookham School Easter Service (Church and Church Room)
		1000	Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre)
27th	Weds	0930	Lent Group (Pastoral Centre)
28th	Thurs	1000	Holy Communion (Church)
		1040	Thursday Coffee (Church Room)
		2000	Maundy Thursday Service (Eastwick Road Church)
29th	Fri		Good Friday
		1200	Good Friday Devotional Service (Church)
31st	Sun		Easter Sunday
			Daylight Saving begins
April			
1st	Mon		Easter Monday
2nd	Tues	1000	Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre)
		1130	Mothers' Union Prayers (Church)
		<u> </u>	
9th Mar	ch 2024	 Copy for <i>i</i> 	April 2024



Parish Contacts

		JUIIIauis		
RECTOR:	Rev Alan Jenkins, The Rec	tory, 2a Fife Way, KT23 3F	H. 6358	73
	(Day off: - Friday) alan.jenk	kins@stnicolasbookham.org	.uk 0000	15
CURATE		Rev Gill Cald		'na
	(Day off – Friday) gill.cald	well@stnicolasbookham.or	g.uk	03
RETIRED CLE	RGY	Rev David Irel		
-	-	rev.ireland43@btinternet.c		
-	OCAL MINISTER	Rev Barbara McDor		87
LICENSED LA	AY MINISTER	Chris Hollo	way 8770 [°]	79
FAMILY AND	CHILDREN'S MINISTER	Celeste Rios	07707 4397	99
		celeste.rios@stnicolasboo	kham.org.uk	
PASTORAL A	SSISTANTS	Contact Parish Of	fice	
Sylvia	a Solarski, Margaret Hibbert,	Valerie Lomax, Ali Sangw	ine, 4507	09
Cathr	yn Jobson, Chris Bridges, He	eather Gerrard, Jan William	son	
PARISH OFFI		David Gatland - 2a Fife V		09
	of	fice@stnicolasbookham.org	J.uk	
	Office hours Monday to	Friday- 9.00 am to 12.00 n	oon	
CHURCHWAR	DENS	Joy Lord	4597	17
CHOICCHWAI	(DENS	Heather Gerrard	07885 5913	61
ASSISTANT V	WARDENS	Bob Se		-
ASSISTANT	ARDENS	Nick Ga	rrett 4589	18
PCC SECRET		Amanda Rowl		
	pcc.secre	tary@stnicolasbookham.org		
PARISH TRE		Neil McD		-
SAFEGUARD	ING OFFICER	Roland Martin		34
		ding@stnicolasbookham.or		
DIRECTOR O			020 8393 11	26
COMMUNITY	YOUTH WORKER	Jenny (45
	jenn	y@leatherheadyouthprojec	t.com	-
MAGAZINE	Editor	Chris B editor@stnicolasbookham.o	ridges 4588	20
г	Distribution	Carole (52
	Advertising	Contact Parish		
- Barnabas Fel			d King 4523	
Bereavement		Contact Parish		
Giving Secret		Richard S		
Church Room		Parish		
Electoral Roll	•	Catherine		
Friends of St		Angela St		
		Barbara A		
Guiding Book	ham and Effingham	Christine		
House Group	s for i	nformation contact Jean Fo		-
Mothers' Unio		s – Julia Watts and Chris C		
Samaritans		(24 hour service) ring Fre		23
Scouting		kham Group GSL Christine		
-	3rd Bookha	am Group - Mrs Karen Whe	eler 0007	40
		n.wheeler@3rdbookham.org		12
Sunday Grou		W at 10am – Celeste Rios	07707 4397	99
Tots Alive!		Celeste Rios	07707 4397	
	ighbour Scheme (Mon-Fri		0798 6 1772	
			0.0001112	