

St Nicolas News

50p

May 2024



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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 Prayer**
Monday and Wednesday
- 10.00am **Holy Communion (Said)** Thursday
- 9.00am **Prayers for our church** - 2nd and 4th Saturdays
- 10.00 am **Church Development Plan Prayers** –
1st Saturday



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

I've been doing a course through Sarum College looking at creating a 'rule of life'. It is something I did in my initial training but good to review it as life changes. It has its basis in the rule of religious orders, in particular the Benedictines, and is about getting a balance in your life between work, study, prayer and recreation. Benedict drew up his rule so that the monks could thrive in the long term, not burn out with initial enthusiasm and overzealous practices.

We have been encouraged to think about how we create a sustainable, and enjoyable, pattern of prayer and study alongside all the business of church life and the many things that need to be done. How to allow time to be creative and to do the things we enjoy, and make time to build good relationships with family and friends. We've been encouraged to think about our daily pattern, but also weekly, monthly and annually. The aim is to draw up a kind of contract with ourselves committing to keeping all the aspects of our lives in balance and not allowing one area to be squeezed out by another.

We began by doing a life audit – looking at how we are spending our

time at the moment. What are the things that dominate? What would we love to do more of? What should we do less of? How are we managing prayer and worship and learning? When did we last do something just for the fun of it? It was a very useful exercise. Perhaps you might like to try it for yourself.

Now the task is to draw up that rule of life. To work out a plan or a pattern, keeping a good balance of work that has to be done – whether for the church or family - and all the other aspects of life. And for it to be life enhancing, not a strait jacket.

Two things have emerged from this process for me. One is the danger of feeling that the more we do for the church, or the community, the more God will love us. We don't earn God's love by working hard - He loves us unconditionally and far more than we could ever earn or deserve. The second is the phrase from John's gospel, Chapter 10, verse 10, 'He (Jesus) came that we might have life, and life in all its fullness'.

What would life in all its fullness look like for you?

Barbara

Barnabas



Fellowship

Barnabas Meeting 16th March

We had a very lively discussion on the Israel Gaza conflict following the appalling, horrific attack by Hamas in Israel last October.

The current situation appears intractable with Israel not granting a ceasefire until Hamas has been eliminated but this could risk the death of the remaining hostages.

There have been many pro-Palestinian marches in this country, calling for a ceasefire which has led to some violence, and in this country we have seen a significant increase in both antisemitism and islamophobia.

It was pointed out that on current trends Muslims could form a significant proportion of the population which might affect the British way of life or might affect voting patterns in the coming general election, but it was thought not.

The conflict between Jews and Muslims does, of course, go back centuries and could be solved by letting the Palestinians have their own independent state, as does Israel. There was a comment that when Israel was given its own state in 1948 the UN forgot to consider the Palestinians.

How can the conflict be resolved? Would Hamas capitulate given that their sole aim is to kill every Jew in Israel? Very unlikely and, even if they did, they could re-emerge in the future. And if there were to be a temporary ceasefire for humanitarian reasons, this would allow Hamas to regroup. Only when Israel is satisfied every Hamas tunnel and hiding place is found could it end.

What a prospect. Perhaps one day a peaceful solution could be found. If only the parties could respect each other and start talking, as Jesus said, "Love Each Other"

Ascension Day

Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. (Acts 1:9)

9th May is Ascension Day. We rightly make much of Christmas, Good Friday, Easter Sunday and even Pentecost, but not enough of us give thought to Ascension Day. Why is it so important to commemorate this day, to acknowledge that Jesus' ascension- His return to Heaven – was both bodily and visible? Does that really matter?

When Jesus arrived on earth as a little baby, we recognised Him as God incarnate. Yet, while both God and man in equal measure, Jesus was restricted to one place in one time because of his bodily limitations. The ascension removed that limitation for ever. No longer do we have to seek Him out, as the people did during His thirty-three-year life span. The ascended Jesus is now available to us wherever we are, and whenever we choose to meet Him, through the Holy Spirit that He left behind to reside in us.

The ascension allowed Jesus to return to His rightful place at the Father's right hand. Once there, He took His place as both advocate and mediator for us. His redemptive work on earth was finished, the work of mediation on our behalf was able to begin (Hebrews 8:1,6). So, when the Father looks on us flawed human beings He sees His Glorified Son instead, and he is satisfied.

The rulers of Israel and Rome knew nothing of the power of Christ when they nailed him to the cross. Neither did they understand that His death and resurrection were but a step towards the power He would wield once ascended. Jesus is 'far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come' (Ephesians 1:21).

**Prayer: Lord, there is no one like you; crucified, risen ascended. May the very thought of the power of the glorified Saviour strengthen us today.
Amen**

Deborah Gallacher

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MEMORIAL SERVICE, 5th May 2024

for all who have been bereaved.

Each year we hold two services, in May and November, where those who have died are remembered by name. The relatives of all whose funeral services have been taken by our Ministry Team are invited by letter to these, for the first year. However, anyone who has been bereaved and wishes simply to remember, is most welcome to come, no matter how long ago a loved one died, or whether they lived locally. The names of all who are being remembered are noted down and read out, and there is the chance to light a candle in their memory.

**If you would like to remember in this way, then please do come along
to the next service on Sunday 5th May at 3 pm.**



Mothers' Union welcomed the Surrey-based film group, Circle Eight, to our afternoon meeting in April. We had 30 in attendance, including guests.

Tea and cakes were enjoyed by all after the performance.

Chris Collins selected one of the films from the group's wide range of topics.

The vintage film, entitled 'A Turn for the Worse', was made in the 1970s.

The story involves several vehicles, including: a wedding car, a sports car, a funeral vehicle, and many others, including a policeman riding an ancient bicycle. These all get caught up in a traffic jam on a country lane, with no one willing to reverse.

Needless to say it all ended happily when the local Pastor gets involved.

Circle Eight has been well known locally as an award-winning film society, and we hope they will return later in the year, with funds raised going towards our Church Development Plan.

There will be a full programme and a chance to see 'The Making of Guildford Cathedral'.....Choc ices in the interval included! Date to be announced.

Dawn Owers

Right with God by Michael Reeves

Michael Reeves is one of the leading British theologians and has a wonderful ability to write complex truths simply. If you have enjoyed his writing, then I think you will love his short book *Right with God* with an eternity-long message.



By warmly and clearly introducing what the Bible teaches about justification by faith alone, Reeves reminds anyone who does not know Christ or is lacking confidence in their salvation that the Bible has good news of comfort and joy. This is an easy-to read, highly recommended book, buy a copy, and pass it on to the unsaved who are struggling for assurance, and to established believers to shore up their convictions.

Scripture is Supreme by Tim Chester

“Here is rock: all else is sand”, was JC Ryle’s description of the Bible in the 18th century.

Whether the challenge has been tradition or reason, or experience in more recent times, the scriptures are still supreme today, God-breathed, reliable and trumping all other authorities.

Yet the supremacy of scripture is not some dictate imposed by a faceless despot. Far from it! Scripture’s words are those of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who has laid down his life for his people.

Tim Chester has provided a clear concise treatment of an important subject – the supremacy of God’s word. He faithfully demonstrates that the Bible is indeed God’s voice - that which ‘goes out from his mouth’ (Isaiah 55:11). As such, it bridges the expanse between Creator and creature, heaven and earth, invisible and visible. Here is an encouraging reminder for us to listen to the Bible as if we heard God speaking to us from heaven, rejoicing like those who find ‘the great spoil’ (Psalm 119:162).

This is such a helpful book covering a truly vital matter. It is concise, readable and faithful and contains useful examples from life today and the history of the church.

A lot in a little, highly recommended book.

Deborah Gallacher

Thy Kingdom Come



Thy Kingdom Come (TKC) is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus.

Since it began in May 2016, God has grown TKC from a dream of possibility into a movement which unites more than a million Christians in prayer, in nearly 90% of countries worldwide, across 85 different denominations and traditions- so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Every person, household and church is encouraged to pray during the 11 days in their own way.

It is our hope and prayer that those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and His love for the world, will hear it for themselves and respond and follow Him.

Specifically, we again invite each and every Christian across the globe to pray that God's Spirit might work in the lives of five people who have not responded with their 'Yes' to God's call.

Whether you have joined in 'Thy Kingdom Come' before or not, we invite you to take part & join in.

"In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities." Archbishop Justin Welby

For more information or ideas see: www.thykingdomcome.global

Look out for displays in St Nicolas as well.

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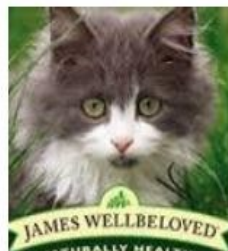


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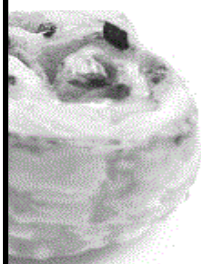
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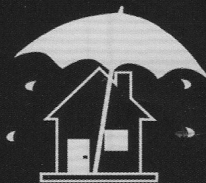
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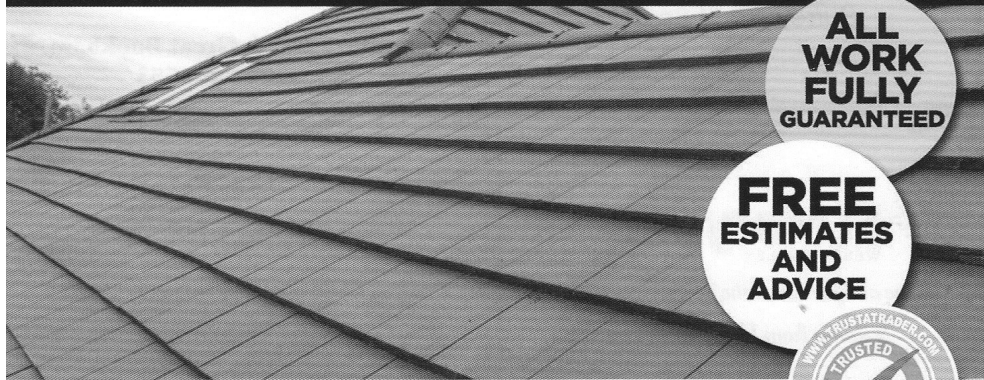
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Friendship Lunch – request for helpers

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)

An Ascension Day Prayer (Thursday 9th May 2024)

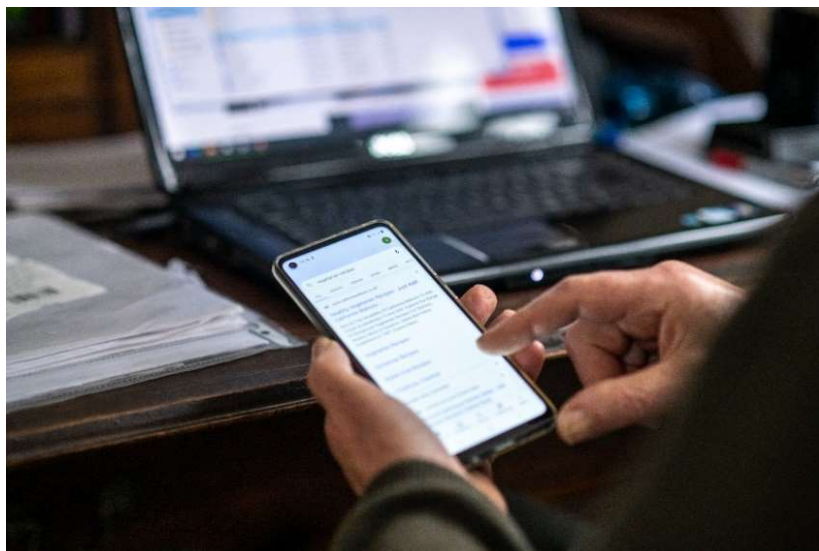
Almighty God and Father,
grant that we may set our minds
on heavenly things,
and that we may be heavenly minded,
since we believe that your only Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ
has ascended into heaven
and that when he comes again,
he will take us to himself in heaven;
through our dear Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one true God
forever and ever.

Amen

Deborah Gallacher

Need Help with Information Technology?

If you are over 50 and live in the Mole Valley area, you can get help by using Age Concern's IT/Digital Learning sessions in either Dorking or Leatherhead. The sessions run on Tuesdays for 6 weeks.



Topics covered will include: browsing on the internet, keeping in touch, setting up and using your own email or Skype/Zoom accounts and how to shop on the internet, plus staying safe - all using your own Laptop/Smart phone/ iPad/Tablet, etc.

To register your interest please call 01306 899104 or 07442 017169, or by email info@ageconcernmolevalley.org.uk

Bookham's very own PCSO, Marion Hawkins, will be holding a Surgery at The Meeting Place Warm Space in Bookham Baptist Church on:
14th May and 11th June from around 10.00am.

She is happy to talk about any issues you may have, and just generally. She looks forward to meeting you.



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Holy Days

19th May - Pentecost , not a Ghost but a Gift

We used to call it Whitsun – ‘White Sunday’ because long ago children marched to church in white on that day. There are no processions nowadays, and we’ve even changed its name. It’s now ‘Pentecost’, which is more accurate but needs explaining.

Pentecost marks a vital event in Christian history. It is celebrated 50 days after Easter. The year Jesus was crucified (which took place at the Passover), the remnant of His followers, just 120 of them, were together in an upper room in Jerusalem. They were afraid to show their faces in case the authorities arrested them. But on the day of Passover, they had an amazing collective experience.

They described it in terms of wind and fire, a great surge of spiritual energy and confidence. Afraid no longer, they burst out on to the streets where crowds were gathering for the festival, led by Peter they began to tell them about Jesus and His resurrection. As they did so, although many of the people in the crowd were foreigners who spoke other languages, everyone heard them in their own tongue. Peter told them that what they were seeing was the fulfilment of an old prophecy when God would pour out His Spirit on the human race, men and women, young and old.

As a result of His words and the extraordinary spectacle, 3,000 people believed and were baptised in the name of Jesus. They were the nucleus of what in 100 years would be a Church that would turn history upside down. For Christians Pentecost is in effect the birthday of the Church.

Many people find the whole idea of the Holy Spirit mysterious and elusive. It wasn't helped by the earlier title ‘Holy Ghost’. The spirit is not spiritually a ‘ghost’ but a precious gift.

Rogation Sunday 5th May 2024

Every 5th Sunday after Easter, which is also the Sunday proceeding Ascension Day, is traditionally marked as Rogation Sunday. Rogation comes from the Latin verb rogare, meaning 'to ask'.

It is a day, when the church specifically asks for God's blessing on the seed that will have been planted, the soil that will have been cultivated, and the farmers who labour in the field for the good of all humanity.

Rogation Tradition

A tradition has it that the Rogation Days which are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday after Rogation Sunday or before Ascension Day originated in Vienne, France in 470 after a series of national disasters had caused much suffering among the people. Archbishop Mamertus proclaimed a fast and ordered that special litanies and prayers be said as the population processed around their fields, asking God's protection and blessing on the crops that were first beginning to sprout. This is a clear demonstration of the church's belief in prayer. In an agricultural society, closely connected with the soil and highly vulnerable to the uncertainties of nature, such an idea took root quickly and the custom spread amongst Europe and over to Britain.

Thus, traditionally, on Rogation Sundays, the church congregations in rural areas process the boundaries of the churches and farms and factories, asking God to bless the crops being sown, send rain, grant good harvest later in the year and bless the works of our hands.

Rogation marks an expression and demonstration of confidence in the Almighty God, who is much interested in our welfare and ever willing to hear us when we pray. God will surely bless our land and us if we call on His name with respect to calamities and adversities on our land. (2 Chronicles 7: 13-14) The Lord explicitly bids us to ask and we will receive, to seek and we will find and to knock and it will be opened to us. (Matthew 7:7-11). It is a promise, and God is faithful in keeping His promises.

Collect for Rogation Sunday

Almighty and eternal God,
you crown the year with your
goodness and give us the fruits of the
earth in their season;
grant that we may use them to your
glory; so that none may hunger, none
may thirst, and all may cherish the
gifts of your creation;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end,

Amen

A Prayer for Rogation Sunday

Holy God,
please bless this parish and every
endeavour
to receive and be nourished
by your generous goodness.
Let our asking and our actions
include all with this parish,
so that together we can seek your
grace and goodness,
through Jesus Christ,

Amen

Deborah Gallacher

The Big Church Tea - Sunday 12 May from 4 - 6 pm in church.

Please sign up (list is in the Tower) to come along to the Big Church Get-together for tea in the church on Sunday 12 May at 4 pm. *Everyone is welcome, and especially look out for newcomers to the church, who might like to be invited.* Please share lifts where possible to ensure no-one misses out.

It is a good opportunity in the week before Pentecost (**the birth of the Church**) to get together to celebrate our fellowship and gratitude to God for His many blessings.

If you can bring a contribution - a dessert, a salad (no rice salads please) or soft drinks - these will be gratefully received. There will be a sign-up list in the Tower, or a voluntary monetary donation will be welcome (any surplus will be given to local charities).

Any offers of help, especially with moving chairs and tables on the day from 2 pm and after the event finishes at 6 pm, will be gratefully received. Please note this on the sign-up list.

Many thanks in advance for your help and support to make this a memorable fellowship tea.

Barbara Holloway



Mole Valley

Citizens Advice

Need help with benefits, debt or employment problems?

We're here to help, whatever the problem.
To get free, confidential and impartial advice, you can contact us on these channels:

Call Adviceline

0800 144 8848 (textphone 0800 144 8884) Mon-Fri: 9am – 5pm

Visit our website

www.citizensadvicemolevalley.org.uk

Email our offices

dorking@camv.org.uk leatherhead@camv.org.uk



In partnership with
**THE NATIONAL LOTTERY
COMMUNITY FUND**



READINGS AT THE SUNDAY SERVICES May 2024



5th **Sixth Sunday of Easter**
Acts 10: 44-end; John 15: 9-17

12th **Seventh Sunday of Easter**
Acts 1: 15-17, 21-end; John 17: 6-19

19th **Pentecost**
Morning Acts 2: 1-21; John 15: 26-27 and 16: 1-15
Evensong Psalm 139: 1-11; Ezekiel 36: 22-28; Acts 2: 22-38

26th **Trinity Sunday**
Romans 8: 12-17; John 3: 1-17

Church Development Plan Prayer Focus

5 th May	Confident in our witness and service	Alan Jenkins
12 th May	Changes to our building	Chris Turner
19 th May	Growing a diverse families' and children's ministry	Celeste Rios
26 th May	Effective Communications Strategy	Vicki Dixon



From the Parish Registers



Deaths		
31 st March 2024	Billy Thompson	Aged 4
7 th April 2024	Margaret Medway	Aged 78

St Nicolas Cycle of Prayer May 2024

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

5 th	The Meeting Place	Mothers' Union <i>Julia Watts</i> <i>Chris Collins</i>	Beattie Close
12 th	Christian Aid Week <i>Anne Shears</i>		Elmswood
19 th	Bible Society <i>Suzie and Alan Jenkins</i>	Youth Groups and Youth Team <i>Jenny Coffin</i>	Bracken Close
26 th	Fairtrade and Eco Team <i>Margaret Hibberts and Team</i>		Douglas House Roger Simmons Court

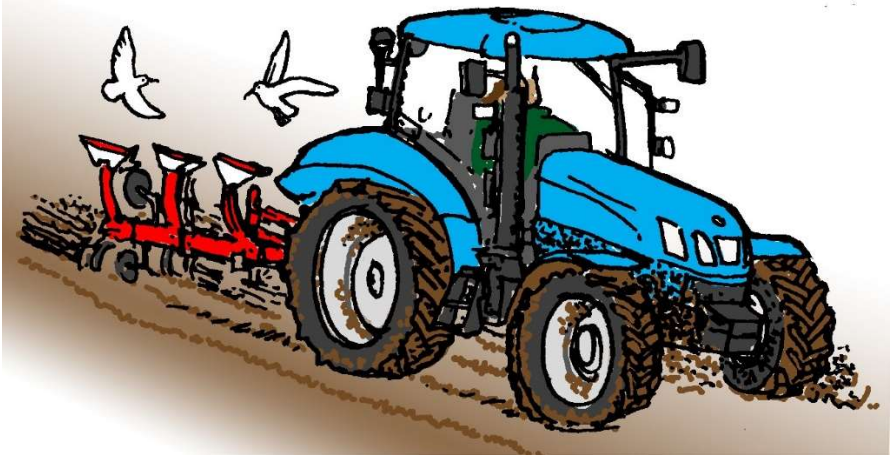
Occupation for May: Research, Science and Technology

Calendar May 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).

April			
28th	Sun	1200	Baptism of Albert and Louis Faux
29th	Mon	0830 1000 1530 2000	Morning Prayers (online) Tots Alive (Church and Church Room) BYouth (Pastoral Centre) Annual Church Meeting (Church)
30th	Tues	1000	Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre)
May			
1st	Weds	0830 1500	Morning Prayers (online) CDP Discussion (Pastoral Centre)
2nd	Thurs	1000 1040	Holy Communion (Church) Thursday Coffee (Church Room)
3rd	Fri	1530	BYouth (Pastoral Centre)
4th	Sat	1000	CDP Prayers (Church Room)
5th	Sun	1000 1500	Morning Praise Memorial Service (Church and Church Room)
6th	Mon	0830	Bank Holiday Morning Prayers (Online)
7th	Tues	1000 1130	Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre) Mothers' Union Prayers (Church)
8th	Weds	0830	Morning Prayers (online)
9th	Thurs	1000 1040 1415	Holy Communion (Church Room) Thursday Coffee (Church Room) Mothers' Union (Pastoral Centre)
10th	Fri	1200	Wedding of Dominic Mayhew and Imogen Wade
11th	Sat	0900 1400	Saturday Prayers (online) Wedding of Sean McKeon and Rianne Elliott
12th	Sun	1600	St Nicolas Get Together (Church and Church Room)
13th	Mon	0830 1000 1530 2000	Morning Prayers (online) Tots Alive (Church and Church Room) BYouth (Pastoral Centre) PCC Meeting (Church Room)
14th	Tues	1000	Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre)
15th	Weds	0830	Morning Prayers (online)
16th	Thurs	1000 1040	Holy Communion (Church) Thursday Coffee (Church Room)

17 th	Fri	1530 1800	BYouth (Pastoral Centre) Next Level Youth Worship Night (Church and Church Room)
18 th	Sat	0900	Barnabas Men's Fellowship (Pastoral Centre)
19 th	Sun	1830	Evensong (Church)
20 th	Mon	0830 1000 1530	Morning Prayers (online) Tots Alive (Church and Church Room) BYouth (Pastoral Centre)
21 st	Tues	1000	Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre)
22 nd	Weds	0830	Morning Prayer (online)
23 rd	Thurs	1000 1040	Holy Communion (Church) Thursday Coffee (Church Room)
24 th	Fri	1530	BYouth ((Pastoral Centre)
25 th	Sat	0900	Saturday Prayers (online)
26 th	Sun	1200	Baptism of Rowan Suttle
27 th	Mon	0830	Morning Prayers (online)
28 th	Tues	1000	Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre)
29 th	Weds	0830	Morning Prayers (online)
30 th	Thurs	1000 1040	Holy Communion (Church) Thursday Coffee (Church Room)
June			
1 st	Sat	1000	CDP Prayers (Church Room)
9th May 2024 - Copy for June 2024			



Parish Contacts

RECTOR:	Rev Alan Jenkins, The Rectory, 2a Fife Way, KT23 3PH (Day off: - Friday) alan.jenkins@stnicolasbookham.org.uk	635873
CURATE	Rev Gill Caldwell gill.caldwell@stnicolasbookham.org.uk	450709
RETIRED CLERGY	Rev David Ireland rev.ireland43@btinternet.com	
ORDAINED LOCAL MINISTER	Rev Barbara McDonald	454187
LICENSED LAY MINISTER	Chris Holloway	877079
FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S MINISTER	Celeste Rios celeste.rios@stnicolasbookham.org.uk	07707 439799
PASTORAL ASSISTANTS	Contact Parish Office Sylvia Solarski, Margaret Hibbert, Valerie Lomax, Ali Sangwine, Cathryn Jobson, Chris Bridges, Heather Gerrard, Jan Williamson	450709
PARISH OFFICE	David Gatland - 2a Fife Way office@stnicolasbookham.org.uk Office hours Monday to Friday- 9.00 am to 12.00 noon	450709
CHURCHWARDENS	Joy Lord Heather Gerrard	459717 07885 591361
ASSISTANT WARDENS	Bob Searle Nick Garrett	456861 458918
PCC SECRETARY	Amanda Rowland pcc.secretary@stnicolasbookham.org.uk	
PARISH TREASURER	Neil McDonald	454187
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER	Roland Martin safeguarding@stnicolasbookham.org.uk	07747 563634
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC	Peter Lutton	020 8393 1126
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	Distribution Advertising	Carole Cotton Contact Parish Office 450709
Barnabas Fellowship	David King	452342
Bereavement Team	Contact Parish Office	450709
Giving Secretary	Richard Scrase	458131
Church Room Bookings	Parish Office	450709
Electoral Roll Officer	Catherine Clark	451503
Friends of St Nicolas	Angela Stevens	456713
Guiding	Bookham and Effingham Barbara Abbott Christine Moss	800381 368362
House Groups	for information contact Jean Forward	450709
Mothers' Union	Branch Leaders – Julia Watts and Chris Collins	450709
Samaritans	in distress or despair?... (24 hour service) ring Freefone	116123
Scouting	1st Bookham Group 3rd Bookham Group - Mrs Karen Wheeler Karen.wheeler@3rdbookham.org.uk	Christine Whale 800712
Sunday Groups	GLOW at 10am – Celeste Rios	07707 439799
Tots Alive!	Celeste Rios	07707 439799
Help Your Neighbour Scheme (Mon-Fri 9.30-12.30)		0798 6 177234