

# BUCKLAND

## Parish Magazine

August 2004

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Dear All,

I write this letter having just returned from a two week tour of the Western Highlands and Islands of Scotland. Gill and I went Nessie hunting in Loch Ness but sadly we didn't see any sign of the wee beastie. We had a couple of days on Mull and then two on Iona which is a remote little island off the west coast of the Island of Mull. It was here in 563 A.D. that St. Columba first brought Christianity to the British Isles having sailed from his native Ireland. The Monastery that he founded was rebuilt in 1967 and is now the base for the Iona Community. The central commitment of the Community, lived out through its work on Iona, throughout Britain and beyond, is of seeking "new ways to touch the hearts of all", as it is put in one of the prayers used regularly when the Community members gather together. To do this they work for social and political change, supporting many such projects throughout the world. They seek to make the church more relevant to the modern world, providing very creative worship resources (some of which you may have already experienced in the various Iona-type services we've had) and by supporting individuals in the search for spiritual meaning and depth that characterizes our own time.

Iona is undoubtedly a beautiful Island. When we arrived it was a still and sunny afternoon. Strolling along the beach next to the little hamlets with a few boats moored in the bay was truly idyllic. The Abbey is by far the most dominant building on the Island. The whole place oozes a sense of peace and tranquility. A far cry from the busy, noisy lives most of us lead. But whilst this is most definitely an ideal place to come on retreat.

The Community clearly believes that spirituality is about engagement, rather than escape. On the front of their literature they write, "God is to be discovered and encountered in the midst of life - and not just in solitary meditation or remote beautiful places". How important it is for us to remember this. So often we can separate Church and ordinary life.




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We think that church, prayers, meditation and the like are where we meet with God and then we go and get on with our everyday lives. But God is to be found in the midst of ordinary, everyday life. He is to be found in all the ups and downs, all the frustrations and complexities of life. He is with us in whatever situation we find ourselves in. As if to emphasise this point the very next day it was blowing a gale and pouring with rain. Not so idyllic, indeed somewhat bleak but God was still there.

I do hope you all enjoy the holidays and let's hope the weather improves and the baggage handlers don't go on strike.

God Bless  
Stephen

## Plan of Services

Date	St Mary's Buckland 		St Michael's Betchworth 	
<b>1st August</b> <i>8th after Trinity</i>	8 9.30	HC (BCP) Parish Communion	11	Parish Communion †
<b>8th August</b> <i>9th after Trinity</i>	9.30	Parish Communion	8 11.00	HC (BCP) Matins †
<b>15 August</b> <i>10th after Trinity</i>	8	HC (BCP)	10.00	Joint Family Communion
<b>22 August</b> <i>11th after Trinity</i>	9.30	Parish Communion	8.00 11.00	HC (BCP) Parish Communion †
<b>29 August</b> <i>12th after Trinity</i>	10.00	Joint Parish Communion 		

## Church matters

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### FROM THE REGISTERS

#### CONFIRMATION

On 13th June, by the Bishop of Croydon:  
Catherine Clare Guise, of The Orchard, Rectory Lane.  
Lynn Dawn Gillibrand, of Nutley Lane, Reigate.

#### HOLY MATRIMONY

On 12th June, Iain James Bannon and Alice Veronica Curd.

#### FUNERAL SERVICE

On June 17th, Myra Corinth Potter, of Old Wall Cottage, Betchworth.

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### PC HEALTHCHECKS



In September, Mike Ives will sail a 67ft Global **Habitat for Humanity**® Challenge yacht as part of a paying volunteer crew, across the notorious Bay of Biscay to Portugal. Hopefully he will get there - and then he intends to help to build homes for, and with, people currently living in poverty housing in Africa.

Mike is doing this Challenge to raise funds for Habitat for Humanity ([www.hfhgb.org](http://www.hfhgb.org)) to enable further homes to be built for poor families in Africa. Decent housing will dramatically improve their prospects. Local people help with the building work ('sweat equity') and pay back the money to the charity over time (no interest is charged). This money is then used to build other homes.

As a qualified IT consultant, to help raise funds Mike is offering a FREE one hour PC Health Check (i.e. an MOT for your computer!) for all home and small business users. Whilst it is free, Mike would really appreciate any donations. Mike is paying all costs of the Challenge himself, so the funds he raises all go to charity.

Mike Ives, Osiris Consultancy - tel 07771 633467 or e-mail [mike@Osiris-consultancy.co.uk](mailto:mike@Osiris-consultancy.co.uk)

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# School & Holiday Activities

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## THE ACORNS FIRST SCHOOL



As we near the end of another academic year, it is very easy to reminisce about the year just passed. For us all at The Acorns it has not been an easy year. It has been a year of loss with the tragic death of a much-loved Head, and the consultation involved with change in status from a First to an Infant School. It has been a period of readjustment but children are children and never fail to amaze us adults as to how resilient they can be.

With the end of term in sight there still remain a few more summer activities - Sports Day (with strawberries and cream!), outings to Ladyland Farm near Horley and the highly emotional End of Term assemblies. At these assemblies we take the opportunity of wishing our Year 2's and 3's *au revoir*, not goodbye, because we expect them to come back and visit from time to time. So what of the next school year? Our numbers on roll are good as we welcome a new set of Reception class children to our school and we embark on our long journey as **THE ACORNS INFANT SCHOOL**.

Jennifer Hudlass  
Acting Headteacher of The Acorns School.

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Applications for the post of Head Teacher have so far been unsuccessful. We will re-advertise the post early in the autumn term. Meanwhile we are delighted that Mrs Jenny Hudlass has agreed to continue as acting Head. The school continues to flourish and maintain its high standards, as reflected in the SATS results. We are very grateful to the staff and parents for their commitment and support to the school.

Corinna Hamilton.  
Chairman of the Governors.

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## BETCHWORTH & BUCKLAND CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES SUMMER 2004

*Please note: children aged 5 years and under must be accompanied by an adult at all times*

Friday 6 August - Swimming  
Venue: Chalklands, Station Road (opposite Royce Engineering) Time: 2-4pm Cost: £ 1  
In Charge: Fiona Allsop (841638), Jane Ferrett, Sue Brightman

*There will be a lifeguard in attendance*

Wednesday 11 August - Treasure Hunt  
Venue: Goulburn Green Time: 2-4pm Cost: £ 1  
Bring: Drink and a biscuit  
In Charge: Sally Stimpson (842668), Jane Ferrett, Alison Higgins

Tuesday 17 August - Swimming  
Venue: Parris Corner, Old Reigate Road, Betchworth Time: 2-4pm Cost: £1  
In Charge: Sian Winter (843830), Jane Ferrett, Sue Brightman  
*There will be a lifeguard in attendance*

Monday 23 August - Betchworth & Buckland Olympics  
Venue: Field behind Royce Engineering, Sunnybank Farm, Station Road  
Time: 11am -1pm Cost: £1  
Bring: Picnic  
In Charge: Sue Brightman, Sally Stimpson (842668), Julie Hardy

*Tennis court available during the holidays ring Eiluned Slot (842010) to check availability.*

If your children have enjoyed participating in these Holiday Activities, or you have any ideas for Christmas Activities, why not come along to our next meeting on Monday 18 October 2004 at Manor Cottage, The Street home of Alison Higgins (843879)

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## BETCHWORTH & BUCKLAND CHILDRENS NURSERY



As the families disperse to summer holidays the Nursery staff report another fulfilling and successful year in the nursery.

We now serve 38 families in the area and the majority of children transfer to the Betchworth base of the Acorns school. In addition to normal nursery class children have the option to bring their lunch to school and stay on to have lunch and 'a good chat' with the staff.

The staff report that this is a most rewarding relaxed time for them with the children. An after school craft club has run for two terms with great success and interest. During the holidays many children of 8 years and under will enjoy the Nursery facilities in a Holiday Club run by one of our former members of staff. During the summer term a small climbing 'house' was put up in the play area allowing the children to explore height as well as everything else they are so naturally interested in. It also acts as a good release for surplus energies which so many children have and which can frustrate them in a class situation.

The committee were sad to say goodbye to Eiluned Slot as link Governor with the Acorns school. We are extremely grateful to her for 10 years of support and help. In her stead we welcome Sally Wallace a Governor of the Acorns and a Nursery and school parent. The Nursery wish you a all a good summer and welcome 14 new children in September.

AF



## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

### Shay's Story

At a fundraising dinner for a school that serves **learning-disabled children**, the father of one of the students delivered a speech that would never be forgotten by all who attended. After extolling the school and its dedicated staff, he offered a question. "When not interfered with by outside influences, everything nature does is done with perfection. Yet my son, Shay, cannot learn things as other children do. He cannot understand things as other children do. Where is the natural order of things in my son?" The audience was stilled by the query. The father continued. "I believe, that when a child like Shay comes into the world, an opportunity to realize true human nature presents itself, and it comes, in the way other people treat that child."

Then he told the following story: Shay and his father had walked past a park where some boys Shay knew were playing baseball. Shay asked, "Do you think they'll let me play?" Shay's father knew that most of the boys would not want a disabled boy like Shay on their team, but the father also understood that if his son were allowed to play, it would give him a much-needed sense of belonging. Shay's father approached one of the boys on the field and asked if Shay could play. The boy looked around for guidance and, getting none, he took matters into his own hands and said, "We're losing by six runs and the game is in the eighth inning. I guess he can be on our team and we'll try to put him in to bat in the ninth inning."

In the bottom of the eighth inning, Shay's team scored a few runs but was still behind by three. In the top of the ninth inning, Shay put on a glove and played in the outfield. Even though no hits came his way, he was obviously ecstatic just to be in the game and on the field, grinning from ear to ear as his father waved to him from the stands. In the bottom of the ninth inning, Shay's team scored again. Now, with two outs and the bases loaded, the potential winning run was on base and Shay was scheduled to be next at bat. At this juncture, would they really let Shay bat and give away their chance to win the game?

Surprisingly, Shay was given the bat. Everyone knew that a hit was all but impossible 'cause Shay didn't even know how to hold the bat properly, much less connect with the ball. However, as Shay stepped up to the plate, the pitcher moved in a few steps to lob the ball in softly so Shay could at least be able to make contact.

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The first pitch came and Shay swung clumsily and missed. The pitcher again took a few steps forward to toss the ball softly towards Shay. As the pitch came in, Shay swung at the ball and hit a slow ground ball right back to the pitcher. The pitcher picked up the soft grounder and could have easily thrown the ball to the first baseman. Shay would have been out and that would have been the end of the game. Instead, the pitcher took the ball and turned and threw the ball on a high arc to right field, far beyond the reach of the first baseman. Everyone started yelling, "Shay, run to first! Run to first!" Never in his life had Shay ever made it to first base. He scampered down the baseline, wide-eyed and startled.

Everyone yelled, "Run to second, run to second!" By the time Shay rounded first base, the right fielder had the ball. He could have thrown the ball to the second-baseman for the tag, but he understood the pitcher's intentions and intentionally threw the ball high and far over the third-baseman's head. Shay ran toward second base as the runners ahead of him deliriously circled the bases toward home. Shay reached second base, the opposing shortstop ran to him, turned him in the direction of third base, and shouted, "Run to third!" As Shay rounded third, the boys from both teams were screaming, "Shay, run home!" Shay ran to home, stepped on the plate, and was cheered as the hero who hit the "grand slam" and won the game for his team.

"That day," said the father softly with tears now rolling down his face, "the boys from both teams helped bring a piece of true love and humanity into this world."

*We all have thousands of opportunities every single day to help realize the "natural order of things." So many seemingly trivial interactions between two people present us with a choice: Do we pass along a little spark of love and humanity or do we pass up that opportunity, and leave the world a little bit colder in the process?*

Contributed by HW

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Friends are quiet angels  
Who lift us to our feet  
When our wings have trouble  
Remembering how to fly

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## Societies & Charities

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### BETCHWORTH & BUCKLAND SOCIETY Report on Village Gardens Open Day – 4 July

This was the first time that the B&B Society has organised a Gardens open day, and one of the lessons learned will be to check the sporting calendar to avoid clashes with the Wimbledon final and Henley. Eight gardens opened at 2pm, the exact time that the rain started – and kept up for much of the afternoon. However, garden visitors are an enthusiastic bunch and we were very pleased to welcome over 130 visitors to our gardens, raising a total of over £600, of which half will support the Betchworth & Buckland Society, and £75 each has been donated to four charities elected by our volunteer garden owners:

- ?? St Catherines Hospice
- ?? Breakthrough (local Breast cancer charity)
- ?? Vision Aid Overseas (recycling spectacles)
- ?? Rainbow Trust.

Thanks are due to all our open-garden owners, helpers on the plant stall and refreshments, and members of the B&B Society Committee who supported entry at several of the gates.

All our garden owners had a private tour of each others gardens on the evening following the open day – in fine weather. It was an eye-opener to all of us just how many wonderful, surprising and different gardens are hiding just behind the roads we drive on each day. The standards of planting, design, expert knowledge and enthusiasm were great. To complete the evening we enjoyed a delicious supper courtesy of John and Ann Bloomfield in the Towered Barn. Note that Everett Leeds had just returned from the Hampton Court Flower Show where he and Carol launched a new Clematis hybrid which he has named 'Buckland Beauty' – a cute example with mauve bell-shaped flowers. It's not yet in the garden centres, but we'll let you know when it is!

DF

## BETCHWORTH & BUCKLAND SOCIETY

### Report on Villages BBQ – 14 July

Buckland Green on a Wednesday evening: the sky was painted blue for a change, it was a warmer evening than recently experienced, and a varied collection of classic and vintage cars lined up—including a Lea Francis, 1934 Alvis, Austin 7, Triumph Gloria, new Bentley, Rolls convertible, vintage wooden-bodied Rolls Royce, Bentley, Alfa Romeo and three excellent Jaguars. Thanks to ‘Saint Nick’ Snook (could it be Father Christmas) for giving children’s rides in his E-type Jag! Around 100 villagers enjoyed the event and entered the spirit of village ‘mingling’ - we should do more of it! Some of us just came, ate and mingled. Others introduced ‘Polesden Lacey’ style with tables, tablecloths, glasses, candles—and hey, a quad bike and trailer to transport them home! Both extremes are good—what is important is to come and enjoy the event in the way you feel comfortable. A very good evening, thanks to all for the organisation and volunteer cooks.

If we appeared to be a bit ‘short staffed’ - we were - so if there are any of you who would be willing to join our Committee to help run our social events you’d be most welcome (Phone 07786 966841). JG

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## BETCHWORTH DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY

### Report on Elgin Marbles



Geoffrey Toms was our lecturer in June. His subject was The Parthenon & the Elgin Marbles - their History, Politics and Architecture. It was an enormous subject and he crammed so much information into an hour and a quarter that I have to confess to getting a little lost. Some of the more recent history was clarified by the excellent BBC 2 programme the following weekend but opinion - mine included - is still very divided as to whether the marbles should be returned to Athens. Our AGM was held at this meeting and our president, Tricia Edwards, expressed the appreciation of the membership to the committee for all their hard work. There is no meeting in August. LL

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## ST. CATHERINE'S HOSPICE

3B's Area committee

A recent Dorking Street Collection raised £737, of which £94.50 was collected by three of our members. The Annual Street Collection for Brockham, Betchworth and Buckland will be on Friday, 17 Sept 04, from 9am to 1 pm outside the village shops. We are desperately in need of some more volunteers to help with this collection and if you are able to help for just an hour, please give Sheila Dyer a ring on 01737.842046.

Once again we would like to thank Gill Archer (Strood Green Post Office) for all her efforts on behalf of the Hospice. As well as selling second hand books, Gill also collects used postage stamps and we would also like to thank Mrs Marjorie Catterall who then sorts and trims the stamps before they are sent on to the Hospice.

Moreen Gardiner (842260). 3B's Committee Member

### Garden open for St Catherine's Hospice

The Old Croft, South Holmwood is open again on

Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th August, from 2- 6pm each day.

Through regular opening to raise funds for St Catherine's Hospice and the National Gardens Scheme, the owners, David and Lavinia Burke, raised an impressive £9,500 last year. Telephone 01306 888224 for details.

Admission £3, with teas and plant stall.

A child, who misheard, once prayed while trying to memorise the Lord's Prayer: "...and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from email..."

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## BUCKLAND ONE WORLD GROUP

### Report on 'Two Miles High in Bolivia'

On June 25th Paddy Watson gave a most interesting and thought-provoking illustrated talk for the Buckland One World Group. Paddy has recently returned from Bolivia, and her words and pictures of the happy, industrious communities of the Altiplano were vividly portrayed to us because of her contact with many of these people. Life on the plateau" at over 13,000 feet, is harsh. The scattered houses on the hillsides are built of mud brick. It is cold and the houses are unheated, fires do not burn well at this altitude. The fields are infertile - if wheat is harvested a field must lie fallow for seven years before it can support another crop. The indigenous people are malnourished, eating mainly carbohydrates.

Paddy Watson is involved with the Quaker Bolivia Link. This Quaker response to poverty in Bolivia began in 1995, when a registered charity was set up after a study tour of the Altiplano. The aim is to support the people in their own efforts to improve their lot. The requests for help come from the indigenous people, who provide the labour and half of the funding. Over seventy development projects have been organised since 1995. These include irrigation systems, so that crops can be produced in the long, dry season, and small animal breeding programmes, providing protein to combat malnutrition. Other projects are concerned with family health and education and the support of co-operatives for women knitting, weaving and sewing. Paddy's talk made those of us listening very aware of our comfort and well-being, and the contrast with the hardship and grinding poverty of the Aymara communities of the Altiplano. £160 was collected for the work of Quaker Bolivia Link.

J.G.

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### 'JIGSAW 4 U'

#### Garden Open

Jigsaw 4 U is a local organization that helps bereaved children cope with the enormities of the death of a close person. To raise funds, you are invited to

'Teas in a Country Garden' at

2 DUNGATES LANE, BUCKLAND

In the village centre

Sunday 22 August from 1.30pm to 5.30 pm

Sales table of crafts, cakes and plants.

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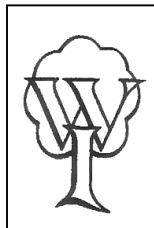
## BUCKLAND CHORAL SOCIETY

### Prizewinning Choir seeks new members

Proud singers from Buckland Choral Society pulled off their greatest ever triumph when they became the overall winners of Division Two of the Leith Hill Music Festival earlier this year. One of England's leading choral events, the Leith Hill Music Festival sees 15 choirs singing music by many well-known composers. Next year is the centenary year and Buckland is determined to repeat its success. The main works for the 2005 Festival will be Handel's Alexander's Feast and Vaughan Williams' 100th Psalm.

The Society is now looking for a few new members who enjoy singing. You don't have to be able to read music and there are no auditions. As well as taking part in the festival, we also hold an annual carol concert in Buckland Church. We're holding an informal sing-along morning on Saturday 18th September 2004 in Buckland Reading Rooms, starting at 10.30am. Anyone interested in joining is welcome to attend. Coffee and cake will also be provided.

We will also be meeting in the Buckland Reading Room every Wednesday at 7.45pm from 8th September. For more information, contact Barbara Leech on 01737.763795, or email her at [Barbara@leech1.freerve.co.uk](mailto:Barbara@leech1.freerve.co.uk)



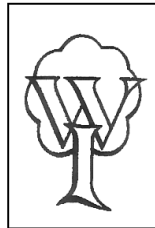
## PEBBLECOMBE WI

Pebblecombe members sat straighter and walked taller after a talk at their July meeting on the Alexander Techniques of relaxation and posture. Mr. Riley spoke enthusiastically of the benefits of 'lengthening' the muscles, 'softening' the shoulders and allowing the head (which weigh 12 1/2 Ibs) to feel pulled upwards by an imaginary thread, thus avoiding backache and stress. In addition, giving each task the time it needs rather than eternally rushing without reason was seriously recommended to maintain youth and vitality. Alexander practitioners work in the opera and stage world to help relax artistes, as did the founder, an Australian actor who lost his voice, studied the causes, found the relaxation remedy and came to England in 1904 to help the great actors of the day.

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All this should help WI members embarking on the popular SFWI 'Speaking with Confidence' course, or sitting comfortably at the Poetry and Pastries event, creative card making or lunch-time jazz sessions. A comprehensive report on the NFWI AGM in Sheffield was heard with interest and plans were made for our 'Teas on the Green', a trip to Wakehurst Place and our August barbecue. The next meeting is on Thursday 2nd September, 7.45 p.m. at the Hamilton Room, Betohworth, when a dramatic anthology with costume will be enacted. Come and join us for a lively evening.

PP



## BETCHWORTH WI

Despite the showers, July saw us in the lovely garden of a member living in Buckland. A number of members had attended the Summer Days event at East Clandon and much enjoyed the occasion. In beautiful weather, a number of gardens, the church and one or two private art galleries were open for members to browse in with lunch available at the WI marquee or the local pub. Likewise the visit to Eltham Palace was found to be very interesting and stimulating.

Neil Riley's title for his talk 'Women are from Selfridges and Men from B&Q' sounded intriguing but also proved to be very thought provoking. From early days it seems men have been the hunters and women the nurturers/carers of the nest /cave/home and this dichotomy has made us what we are today with men having tunnel vision, women peripheral; men less emotional; women more sensitive with differences in taste, smell and attitudes. The list is endless because of the way our genes have developed over the centuries resulting in 85-90% of the present-day male population having the foregoing leanings.

Our next meeting on Thursday 5 August will again be a Garden Meeting when we will hold our Summer Afternoon Tea in the company of other local WI's.

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# Features

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## MUSIC IN DORKING - AUGUST 2004

Watermill Jazz continues through the summer with an event every Thursday evening at the Friends Provident Social Club in Pixham Lane. On 5th you can hear saxophonist Nick Homes with his quartet and guest Argentinian vocalist Ana Robles. On 12th the German-based trombonist David Horler makes a rare UK visit, accompanied by the trio led by his brother John Horler, pianist for John Dankworth and Cleo Laine. On 19th the classically-trained pianist Basil Hodge brings his quartet, featuring one of the rising stars on the UK jazz scene, saxophonist Tony Kofi. And on 26th Ian Shaw, Britain's top male jazz vocalist, performs with his own trio.

Music at Woodhouse presents Passacaglia, the renowned baroque ensemble, on 10th August. They will be playing Bach, Telemann and others. Woodhouse, near Holmbury St Mary, offers a programme of concerts throughout the year in a delightful country setting, though you do need to become a member in order to attend any concerts.

I have been writing Music in Dorking for a year now. I hope you've found the articles useful and informative and (most important!) been to lots of the concerts. We are very fortunate to have so much music in Dorking, and such a wide variety too. Much of it is promoted by amateur organisations - local choirs, orchestras and others - who work very hard to rehearse and present their concerts. Costs are higher than ever, and grants and sponsorship are diminishing, so they need our support to thrive, and indeed to survive. Please do give them that support.

Music in Dorking appears in several local magazines. Its purpose is to publicise music in and around Dorking as widely as possible, hopefully resulting in larger audiences at concerts. Any concert promoters wanting some free publicity are encouraged to send details of their concerts to me at Grove Lodge, London Road, Dorking RH5 6AE - as early as possible please, to meet publication deadlines. And if anyone knows of any other magazines who would like to receive and print the articles, please let me know too. I wish you a happy summer and look forward to the start of the new concert season in September.

Ian Codd

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## ST OSWALD

A king with faith, courage and humility

Many Christians have indulged in fantasies from time to time about doing something spectacular for God, which would be remembered for centuries afterwards. Oswald, who lived from 605 to 642AD, was in a position to do so. He was a King, but in those times such a title exposed him to danger as well as power. His father Aethelfrith was a great warrior who laid the foundations of the great kingdom of Northumbria. But Aethelfrith was killed by a rival, and Oswald was only twelve years old when he was driven into exile with his elder sister and two younger brothers. For their own safety, all were taken to Irish territory in the West of Scotland.

The three brothers were educated by the Christian monks on Iona. Meanwhile, warfare raged in Northumbria, and in due course the time came for Oswald to make a difficult decision. Should he remain in safety, or return to claim his kingdom? In 632 his older brother led an expedition there to sue for peace, but instead he was put to the sword. It was a time of broken dreams and bitter grief for the young Oswald, who must have spent many hours in prayer before he decided to risk his life by following his brother south.

In his famous book, *The Ecclesiastical History of England*, Bede tells us that Oswald prepared to meet his enemies Cadwallon and Penda in battle on a December night at a place which is now called Heavenfield. His small army was likely to be outnumbered and victory seemed impossible. But that night, Oswald had a vision of St Columba, the founder of Iona. Columba prophesied that Oswald would be king, and reminded him of God's words to Joshua at the river Jordan, "Be strong, and of good courage.....for you will be the leader of these people as they occupy this land."

Before battle commenced, Oswald made a rough cross from two young trees and held it upright until soldiers were able to fill in the hole around it. Then he led his army in a prayer that God would bring victory and deliverance to his people. He also promised that if they survived, he would send for missionaries from Iona to bring the Christian faith to Northumbria.

Oswald's subsequent victory has become part of the region's folklore, commemorated by the name of that battlefield and the more permanent cross which now stands at Heavenfield. Many leaders would have regarded such a triumph as the high point of their career, advanced to the royal palace

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and quickly forgotten their promise to God. But Oswald remained faithful, and in due course St Aidan arrived in the new kingdom and made Lindisfarne the centre of his ministry.

Now it was time for Oswald to reveal a quality less frequently associated with kings, but even more vital to the spread of God's work. That quality was humility. As the sponsor and protector of Aidan, he could easily have imposed his own agenda on this new mission. Such a test came early, when Aidan declined Oswald's offer of resources at court in Bamburgh castle, and chose the remoter location of Lindisfarne. Not only did Oswald accept the monk's decision gracefully; he continued to spend many uncomfortable weeks on the road acting as Aidan's interpreter. His willingness to lay aside his kingly privileges and play second fiddle to a spiritual leader ensured that the Gospel spread quickly through the new kingdom and transformed many lives.

Within a few years, dark times returned to Northumbria. Oswald was slain in battle and his brother Oswin succeeded to the throne. Penda continued to wreak havoc with his marauding raids; on one famous occasion, Aidan watched him attack the royal fortress as he prayed on the Farne Islands, and it is written that his intercessions caused the wind to change direction and beat back the flames from the castle gates. But through it all, the light of Christianity continued to flourish and grow. Aidan is rightly remembered as the missionary who brought the good news to Northumbria, but he could not have succeeded without Oswald, the man who was brave enough to claim an earthly kingdom, yet obedient enough to play a humbler role in advancing a heavenly one. Prayer from the liturgy for St Oswald's day (August 5th), written by the Northumbria Community:

"I place into your hands, Lord,  
the choices that I face.  
Guard me from choosing  
the way perilous  
of which the end is heart-pain  
and the secret tear.

May I feel your presence  
at the heart of my desire,  
and so know it is for Your desire for me.  
Thus shall I prosper,  
thus see that my purpose is from You,  
thus have power to do the good which endures."

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## WHO WAS JESUS?

There were 3 good arguments that Jesus could have been Black:

1. He called everyone 'brother'.
2. He liked Gospel.
3. He couldn't get a fair trial.

But then there were 3 equally good arguments that Jesus was Jewish:

1. He went into His Fathers business.
2. He lived at home until he was 33.
3. He was sure his Mother was a virgin and his mother was sure he was God.

But then there were 3 equally good arguments that Jesus could have been Italian:

1. He talked with his hands.
2. He had wine with every meal.
3. He used olive oil.

But then there were 3 equally good arguments that Jesus could have been a Californian:

1. He never cut his hair.
2. He walked around barefoot all the time.
3. He started a new religion.

But then there were 3 equally good arguments that Jesus could have been Irish:

1. He never got married.
2. He was always telling stories.
3. He loved green pastures.

But the most compelling evidence of all – 3 proofs that Jesus could have been a woman:

1. He fed a crowd at a moment's notice when there was no food.
  2. He kept trying to get a message across to a bunch of men who just didn't get it.
  3. And even when he was dead, He had to get up because there was more work to do.
-

## ST PETRIFIEDS The Prayer Group

Greetings once more from St Petrifieds. Upon his arrival at St Petrifieds several years ago, Rev Keen tried to establish a 'Parish Prayer Meeting'. This was a completely new concept to most of us because, as good Anglicans, we left all the praying to the clergy. What else do we pay them for?

Don't get me wrong, when it comes to proper prayers I can read them off the service card as good as the next man, but any spontaneous stuff should, in my opinion, be handled by the professionals.

Indeed, had it not been for Mrs Palfreyman, the prayer group, like most of the curate's schemes, might never have got off the ground.

Mrs Palfreyman describes herself as "a walking miracle", because she has suffered from every affliction known to medical science, often several at a time. Sadly, her doctor refuses her treatment, and tells her she is a hypochondriac. But Mrs Palfreyman knows better, because she reads the medical books in the library and has a subscription to The Lancet, which enables her to stay up to date with all the very latest diseases.

Her husband, Jeremiah, is not a squeamish man. This is fortunate for both of them, as he can listen to all her symptoms for hours at a time (as long as the TV is on) without falling ill himself. He says only, "it's good for her to have a hobby".

Then the prayer group began, and Mrs Palfreyman's great moment had come. From the very first Wednesday afternoon she implored the group of kindly, patient women in the church hall for help. When Rev Keen invited the ladies to share their troubles for prayer, Mrs Palfreyman groaned piteously, and described her symptoms, pleading for prayer "before it is too late". Praying for her took the rest of the meeting.

Mrs Palfreyman's ailments were so great and causing her such suffering, that gradually the Parish Prayer Meeting became known as the Palfreyman Prayer Meeting. Every week Rev Keen tried to pray about something else, but there was never time, with Mrs Palfreyman about to expire in front of them all.

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Then a few months ago the prayer group had a visitor. He was a Mr Lucius Von Krankenwurst. Apparently he is a faith healer with many successes to his name. He had been contacted by a desperate member of the prayer group who had become truly alarmed by the graphic descriptions of what was happening in Mrs Palfreyman's digestive system.

Lucius Von Krankenwurst arrived at church and was met by a crowd. Various members of the congregation were curious to meet him themselves. But Mrs Palfreyman vigorously demanded that she should be the sole object of his attention that afternoon. Mr Von Krankenwurst narrowed his eyes at this, and did not look too pleased.

No one knows what went on in there, but half an hour later Mrs Palfreyman staggered out, wanly triumphant, announcing that she was cured! This was wonderful but not unexpected, as Lucius Von Krankenwurst had made clear to everyone before he went in that the only people who were not healed by him were people with vile, secret sin in their lives. The more kindly among us believed that Mrs Palfreyman had no secret sin to impede her recovery; the more cynical among us decided that Mrs Palfreyman had finally met her match.

Anyway, the news was greeted with great relief by the rest of the parish, but the happiness did not last. The prayer group continued to meet, but struggled over what problems to pray for. Mr Palfreyman's life became a nightmare, because Mrs Palfreyman constantly nagged him to do more jobs about the house.

Then a strange rumour began to circulate that Mr Palfreyman had gone to the prayer meeting himself, and asked the group to pray that Mrs Palfreyman should return to her old ways again.

If this is true, I shall never doubt the power of prayer again, for only this morning I saw Mrs Palfreyman buying a copy of 'Modern Illnesses' at the newsagents!

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#### CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Across: 1 Pull, 3 Scythian, 9 Nicolas, 10 Isaac, 11 Agate, 12 Ladder, 14 Lemuel, 16 Prayer, 19 Marble, 21 Wears, 24 Climb, 25 Agrippa, 26 Ebenezer, 27 Lees

Down: 1 Pinnacle, 2 Lycia, 4 Castle, 5 Third, 6 Imagery, 7 Neck, 8 Fleece, 13 Trespass, 15 Moabite, 17 Reward, 18 Senate, 20 Bible, 22 Apple, 23 Acre

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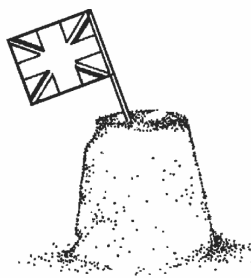
### HOLIDAYS

Are you going on holiday soon? Even a hundred years ago people rarely had what we now think of as proper holidays.

The word 'holiday' comes from Holy Day, because in the past people didn't have time off as we do now. In medieval times they didn't have to work on special holy days like Easter, Christmas and saints' days. Each holy-day started with a special service in church.

These holidays were spread throughout the year, most were only a single day to celebrate a particular saint, but the Christmas holy-days were twelve days long.

Altogether the holy-days added up to eight weeks in the year - which is longer than most people get for their holidays now.



### BIBLE HS

All the answers in this Bible quiz begin with the letter H - can you find them all? There are clues for the more difficult ones. Answers are at the bottom of the page.

1. A king of Tyre, he sent cedar wood to King David.
2. River that led into the Euphrates (2 Kings, chap. 17).
3. Samuel's mother.
4. Another name for Mount Sinai.
5. The wise men were warned not to go back to his court.
6. Caiaphas was this.
7. One of Noah's sons.
8. A spring where Gideon camped (Judges, chap. 7).



The house we stayed in on holiday last year was only a stone's throw from the beach and very easy to find. All the windows were broken!

The weather was so bad on my holiday that when we went to the zoo the keeper was building an ark.



Answers:  
 1.Hiram 2.Habor 3.Hannah  
 4.Horeb 5.Herod 6.High Priest  
 7.Ham 8.Harod

## RECYCLE ALUMINIUM CANS & FOIL

### Help Preserve Iceland's Heritage

Every year we use 13 billion steel and aluminium cans which, end to end, would stretch to the moon three times. If the 4.8 billion cans used annually in the UK were recycled they would be worth around £38 million. Recycling an aluminium can saves 95% of the energy it would take to make a new one. Aluminium has the highest value of any recyclable packaging material and can be recycled indefinitely. We use 35 tonnes of aluminium foil each year to wrap food but recycle just 12%. Try and minimise or cut out your use of foil if you must use it, re-use it and then wash and recycle.

Despite the fact that aluminium recycles so efficiently, one of Europe's last major wild spaces, the Dimmugljufur canyon in Iceland, home to the pink-footed goose and harbour seal, as well as hundreds of other plant, fish and animal species, is being destroyed to make way for a vast hydro-electric plant in the Karahnjukar area of Iceland. The rivers and waterfalls that cut through this uninhabitable wilderness hold huge hydropower potential for energy hungry industries and one of the hungriest of the lot is - you've guessed it - aluminium!

The Karahnjukar plant is to power a giant aluminium smelter at Reydafjorður built and run by Alcoa, who, amongst other things, manufacture Bacofoil and millions of fizzy drink cans. The project will affect 3,000 square km (an area twice the size of London) of Europe's second largest remaining wilderness in Iceland. The effect on the indigenous wildlife will be devastating.

So please, consider the effect that we humans are having by needless consumption and by not recycling. Please help to save what remains of our precious natural environment by Reducing, Re-using and Recycling.

PB

*ALUMINIUM CANS—preferably 'squashed' - can be recycled by putting out a bag with your waste paper, to be collected fortnightly by the home refuse collection service of MVDC.*

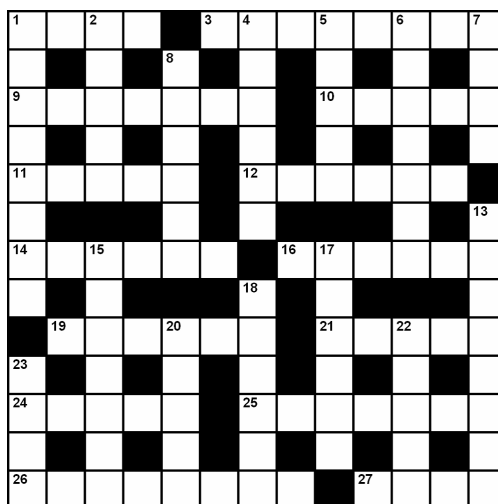
*ALUMINIUM FOIL also has collection points in the car parks of Safeway Reigate, Tesco Hookwood, Trehaven Parade Woodhatch, Gloucester Road Rdehill and Sainsbury Dorking.*

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## CROSSWORD

**Across**

- 1 Move something toward you (4)
- 3 Ancient Iranian language (8)
- 9 One of the seven original deacons (7)
- 10 Son of Abraham (5)
- 11 A precious stone in the breast-plate of the high priest (5)
- 12 Jacob dreamed that angels were ascending and descending on it (6)
- 14 A king dedicated to God, instructed by his mother (6)
- 16 Petition (6)
- 19 Highly polished rock (6)
- 21 Adorns (5)
- 24 Ascent (5)
- 25 He slew James, and imprisoned Peter (7)
- 26 A stone set up by Samuel after a defeat of the Philistines (8)
- 27 The sediment of wine from fermentation and aging (4)



**Down**

- 1 A lofty peak (8)
- 2 A province in the south-west of Asia Minor visited by Paul (5)
- 4 A military fortress (6)
- 5 One of three equal parts (5)
- 6 Imagination (7)
- 7 Connects the head to the body (4)
- 8 This remained dry although the ground around was wet with dew (6)
- 13 Sin (8)
- 15 Descendants of a son of Lot (7)
- 17 Recompense (6)
- 18 Elders of Israel forming part of the Sanhedrin (6)
- 20 The written word of God (5)
- 22 Fruit of a tree (5)
- 23 The area that may be ploughed by a yoke of oxen in a day (4)

## BRIDGE



I'm afraid your editor is away  
—this is the best I can do

**Answers on p21**

# August



2004

## Diary

5th	Betchworth WI (p14)
6th	Childrens Holiday Activity—Swimming (p5)
7-8th	Garden Open—Holmwood (p11)
11th	Childrens Holiday Activity—Treasure Hunt (p5)
15th	Deadline for September Magazine
17th	Childrens Holiday Activity—Swimming (p5)
22nd	Garden Open—2 Dungaltes Lane Buckland (p12)
23rd	Childrens Holiday Activity—B&B Olympics (p5)

The advertisement features two playing cards. On the left is the Queen of Spades, with a speech bubble that says "I've always wanted to play bridge". On the right is the King of Diamonds, with a speech bubble that says "Then you should join our pack".

**WANT TO TAKE UP BRIDGE?**

Beginners' afternoon class starting in the Autumn

For more information, contact Richard Wheen ☎ 842193

**Next Month the magazine returns to the capable hands of Richard Wheen, who I thank on behalf of all readers for his great efforts pulling the magazine together every month. SUBMISSIONS BY 15 AUGUST PLEASE**

*Duncan Ferns (guest editor— this month only)*