

COULSDON
PARISH
CHURCH
St. John



50p

June 2023

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Everybody very welcome at all these services & events—which are held in the Church unless otherwise stated

June

1—Thursday

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion

3—Saturday

10.00 a.m.. Gardening Morning
in Garden of Remembrance (to 12.00)

4—TRINITY SUNDAY

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

9.30 a.m. Parish Communion
(*in Church and live-streamed*)

11.30 a.m. Baptism Service

6—Tuesday

9.45 a.m. Holy Communion, MU

8—Thursday

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion

10—Saturday

10.00 a.m. Baptism Preparation

11—FIRST SUNDAY after TRINITY

Barnabas the Apostle

9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (*in Church - and live-streamed*)

11.15 a.m. Family Service

13—Tuesday

4.15 p.m. Life Group meets (Old Church)

14—Wednesday

10.30 a.m. House Group Leaders meet (Old Church)

15—Thursday

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion

18—SECOND SUNDAY after TRINITY

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

9.30 a.m. Worship Together

11.00 a.m. Baptism Service

20—Tuesday

9.45 for 10.00 a.m. Pram Service for Babies & Toddlers, in Church

22—Thursday

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion, in Church

24—Saturday

7.00 p.m. **GALA CONCERT—Paul Roberts & Family**

25—THIRD SUNDAY after TRINITY

- 9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (*in Church and live-streamed*)
11.15 a.m. Family Service

27—Tuesday

- 4.15 p.m. Life Group meets (Old Church)
7.30 p.m. 'Prayer for the World' with Paul

28—Wednesday

- 2.00 p.m. Pray, Knit & Chat (Old Church)
6.00 p.m. Life Group Picnic on the Path

29—Thursday

- 11.00 a.m. Holy Communion, in Church

July

1—Saturday

- 12.00 noon Old Coulsdon Village Fair, Grange Park
2.00 p.m. Cream Teas in the Church (to 4.00)

2—FOURTH SUNDAY after TRINITY

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (*in Church and live-streamed*)
11.30 a.m. Baptism Service

4—Tuesday

- 9.45 a.m. Holy Communion, MU

6—Thursday

- 11.00 a.m. Holy Communion

8—Saturday

- 10.00 a.m. Baptism Preparation

WHEREVER YOU ARE YOU CAN STILL JOIN US ONLINE FOR SOME SERVICES:

Follow the Parish Communion services, etc. online live as they're streamed from the Church on Facebook via our website at www.stjohns.coulsdon.net (or watch later) . You don't need to be on Facebook to do this.



COMING SOON & NOT TO BE MISSED ...

A Gala Concert ... 24 June ... 7.00 p.m. ... In the Church

Why not dress up for a 'Glyndebourne' style evening—or dress as you wish but don't forget your picnic for the interval. Bring a chair or rug to enjoy your feast (or snack) in the churchyard—we're banking on a warm mid-summer evening of course –but we'll stay in the church if not. A superb evening with Paul and family is promised! See p. 7 ... and book soon!

FROM THE RECTOR ...



Dear Friends

I've been reading through Deuteronomy recently as the set Old Testament reading for Morning Prayer. The last chapters feature Moses as an old man preparing to hand over his leadership to Joshua, but with a warning that as soon as the people settle in the promised land they will be drawn away from worshipping God by the temptation of idolatry and the religion of the land they are entering. It must have been quite depressing for Moses, first of all because he himself was not allowed to enter the promised land, and second, because he could see what was going to happen when the people forsook the Lord their God.

As Jesus prepared his disciples for his return to the Father in heaven, and for them to continue the mission he had started, he told them that he would send another 'Comforter' – the Holy Spirit – to be with them and in them. The Holy Spirit would teach them and guide them into truth, not error; the Holy Spirit would comfort them, that is give them strength, as Jesus had done by his physical presence; the Holy Spirit would motivate and enable them to tell others about Jesus and the kingdom of God.



These two departure scenes have become quite relevant to me as I consider my own departure from St John's next month. Sunday 23rd July will be Nicy's and my last Sunday here, and August 31st my official retirement date. Until my successor is appointed, hopefully by Easter next year or soon after, our churchwardens, Gill and Ralph with our archdeacon Greg Prior, will have overall responsibility for maintaining the life of the church. Sue Thomas will continue to take responsibility for planning and leading worship, and will be inviting other local clergy to visit from time to time. Our Reader, Christine McCutcheon, will be working with Sue to ensure the continued pastoral support for those who need it. Please pray for them as they take on this extra responsibility.

I can hardly compare myself to Moses, let alone Jesus, but I am confident that guided by the Holy Spirit the church here will continue to be faithful to our Lord. I often think of myself as a gardener and the church as God's garden, so I pray

that working together you will 'tend the garden' and keep it in good shape for the next gardener. (By the way, one of our local clergy told me recently how impressed she was by the state of our churchyard. Thank you to all who keep it tidy and attractive.)



I hope you may be able to join us in church on Saturday 24th June at 7.00 p.m. for the Gala Concert to raise funds for the spire restoration project. Bring a picnic for the interval.

With all good wishes

Paul



THE HOLIDAY BOOK STALL IS OPEN!

The Holiday Book Stall has re-opened in Church and already a wide selection of books has arrived—from 'who-dun-its', biographies, historical novels, various 'How to ...' manuals, as well as popular recently published books—and (at the time of writing) even the '... Cat's Pyjamas' is there! Thank you! Please take time to browse and maybe you'll find just what you've been looking for! Also now is your chance to declutter your shelves, bedside table, floor (?) etc If you have any books to spare that are good for a summer read, please bring them along to the church any time when the church is open (*that's most weekday mornings as well as Sundays*) to make another lovely selection and to raise funds for the Church. No heavy reference books please – fiction, biographies, children's books, etc – especially paperbacks – very welcome. This is a 'win/win' opportunity – more shelf space, new books to read for a small donation and the church funds benefit!



GARDENING MORNING

The small group that meets regularly on the first Saturday of the month to look after the Garden of Remembrance was delighted to have some more helpers last month and they all did a grand job. If you could come along and give a hand on **Saturday 3rd June** between 10.00 & 12.00 they would be delighted to have some more help. And please note that because St. John's will be busy at the Village Fair on 1st July, the group will meet on **Sat. 8th July** next month.





Church Spire Restoration Fund

St John's Church, Old Coulsdon



Gala Concert
Saturday
24th June 7.00 pm

Paul Roberts and Family

Tickets: £15

available from the church office

01737 552461 stjohns@coulsdon.net

or at the door

Bring your own picnic for the interval



PRAM SERVICE FOR BABIES, TODDLERS & PRESCHOOLERS



On the third Tuesday morning of each month at 9.45 for 10.00 a.m. start in the church —**Tuesday 20 June** this month - we have a 'Pram Service'. In these modern times not many babies have prams—so perhaps we should call it 'Buggy Praise' or 'Tots Praise' - but it's been Pram Service for years and the name has stuck. Why don't you come along and see what it's all about? All parents and grandparents with babies or toddlers will find a warm welcome at this very relaxed little service. Come for songs (chosen by the little ones), an interactive story, activity, prayers, musical instruments and birthday celebrations—and lots of fun—with refreshments afterwards while we play and chat. Lively toddlers, restless babies, new mums, tired mums and grannies all very welcome—as well as brave dads and grandpas! In May we heard about the Holy Spirit coming as wind and fire to the disciples. We made crowns with a flame for our heads and enjoyed the fun of chasing bubbles blown by the 'wind' !. If you're at home with a little one on a Tuesday morning, why not come and give us a try.—we'd love to see you

AN INVITATION

All volunteers, friends and supporters of **Purley Food Hub** are invited to an **Evening of Thanksgiving** on **Wednesday 7th June** to mark 10 years of providing food to people in crisis. The event is at Purley United Reformed Church (next to Purley Hospital) - refreshments and behind the scenes tours from 5.00pm, thanksgiving service at 6.30pm. For catering purposes, RSVP by phone or text to 07546 635295 or email purleyfoodhub@gmail.com



Thank you to all our lovely parishioners who have filled our large wooden box in the church porch several times over recently. Graham & Sylvia were able to kindly transport another boxful of goods to the Hub last week. If you'd like to help, please see the list by the box for what is most needed at the moment.



PLEASE GET BUSY for the CHRISTMAS FAIR!

We're sure you don't want to be hearing about the church Christmas Fair in June but we'd like you to note that it will be on **Saturday 18 November** and we want to encourage all you talented and clever people to consider making preserves/chutney/marmalade, etc. and also start making hand-made items for the fair. A box of jars will appear in church shortly, so please help yourselves, if you could fill them with something delicious. Handmade goods are always popular—so thinking caps on and busy fingers please. Thank you.



Hen Update



Great news! Avian flu is over so their lockdown has ended and they've been let out of their enclosure. They're now free to enjoy the Spring sunshine and scratch about for grubs. Sadly we lost two hens: Muffin and Peony. They both were cared for by the specialist bird vet in Edenbridge and had the best life while they were with us.



Olive has recovered from her asthma episode. That involved giving her a ¼ of an antihistamine tablet (very difficult to do), changing to dust free straw, and giving her steam/inhalants/using a towel while she was eating happily in the cat's box - not too sure how happy Ebony the cat was about that! She watched in amazement, very happy that she was not being taken off to the vets. Olive's rasping breathing

eased and three days later was gone. The things we do for hens!

Hannah and Phoebe, the two Organic Rescues, have a great ability to fly. Because Organics are free to roam, their strength is much greater than a caged rescue bird. Hannah flew five feet high from the top of the garden, straight over the retaining wall and down into the lower garden. If she didn't like where she lives, I am sure she'd fly off. Olive was a caged rescue and she rules the roost, being larger. You can tell the difference between them because her lower beak protrudes more. I let them all out to roam the garden, keeping an eye on them, when suddenly there was a fox. I ran out, scooped one up under each arm, while herding Phoebe (she's uncatchable) up the garden, back to the coop. That was the afternoon's drama.



Sharing stories like this encourages me to see that simple care for hens spills into care for all wildlife. Two pairs of Blue Tits have inhabited two bird boxes, four fence panels apart. While they will never need help from a vet, they benefit from the care the hens receive. There are many sources of fresh water in the garden and garden products are safe because we don't want our egg production to go on sick leave! Likewise we don't want Blue Tit egg

production to be affected either. They need bugs and insects, to survive . It's why we experience their birdsong. It has meant changing habits; planting Delphiniums in pots to avoid them being eaten, picking snails from Irises, and creating attractive 5* bug hotels so that they lounge in there and not lower down the garden.



It means laughing, rather than shooing, the hens when they get up to no good. Here are Olive and Hannah squashing the pansies...but I wouldn't have it any other way. They are fun, always trying to sneak into the kitchen. They love joining us for a sandwich lunch, begging for spinach leaves. That afternoon, they ended up lounging under my sunbed whilst I read a book. Here is a pic of them after their nap!

Sue

*View from my sun-bed:
Ebony the cat with
the hens*



MOTHERS' UNION – Transformation - Now!

JUNE focus: MU Values



Mothers' Union is a Christian organisation that has been supporting families worldwide for over 140 years. Started by our founder Mary Sumner in 1876 in her local parish, we have grown into an international charity with over 4 million members in 84 countries. We demonstrate our faith in action. This happens as we work towards stopping poverty, stopping inequality, and stopping injustice. Our members work at grassroots level around the world.

They bring hope and practical support to millions of people every year through parenting, literacy and community development programmes.

Our prayer is that we can:

***Transform ourselves, personally and spiritually, to live out our faith
Transform the churches and communities we work with, and of which
we are a part, to reflect Christ's kingdom***

Transform Mothers' Union to be relevant for 21st Century life.

"For with God nothing shall be impossible" - Luke 1:37

BRANCH DATES:

Tuesday 6 Jun: 9.45am Corporate **Holy Communion**, followed by refreshments

SUNDAY 18 JUNE: FATHERS' DAY - decorated biscuit activity for young people after the morning service

Wednesday 28 Jun: 2.00pm **Pray, Knit & Chat** in Church - do join us! All welcome whether you knit or not - delicious cakes, good company.



Reflection on values

Some charities and organisations carry out similar work to that of Mothers' Union worldwide. Our distinctiveness, however, lies in the values which impel us to champion our causes. Our faith in God is at the heart of all we do. We believe the power of prayer is transformational, both in changing lives and conditions for good, and in sustaining members to persevere even when others draw back. Let us always align our values with those of God's kingdom in our witness and our work, so that we may be able to play our part in building his kingdom on earth.

Monthly prayer:

Loving Lord, we look back with gratitude on all that has been achieved thus far in the name of Mothers' Union worldwide. As we look to the future, we pray that we may always act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God. Amen

TOMATO PLANTS?

I have a lot of spare tomato plants if anyone would like them in return for a donation to the spire appeal. Alicante (normal size tomato) and Gardeners' Delight (cherry). **Angela Gillman 01737 552040**

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH COULSDON CofE SCHOOL

Regular reports from the school used to feature in the parish magazine but we have not heard from them for many years. Now we have been asked if this can be re-started, which is great and will keep us in touch with what is going on. The surprise was that these reports will be written by the children! So here is the first report from a pupil in Year 6 (*known as the top class in my young day!*).

'Monday 15th May: So far, year 6 has been fun, but in the last few weeks there has been a lot more fun to be had. We have all enjoyed painting and re-



COULSDON C OF E
PRIMARY SCHOOL



creating pieces of art made by black artists, our trail blazers work. It was interesting to see how they got across their messages of helping the environment and looking back on history.

For the King's coronation we had an entire day dedicated to fun interactive activities about King Charles III. We did fun artwork creating our own crowns and making posters of what makes London, London. We had a picnic lunch in the playground with our choice of delicious sandwich filling. Finally, my favourite part of the day was first thing when we had our Dancing through Ages workshop which was very fun and enjoyable.

Our topic in year 6 at the moment is Manga or, the African slave trade. So, on the first day of our amazing topic, we were tied together by the ankles and needed to use communication to move in time with each other to make it work. Once we were back inside, we were made to sit in the cloakroom and had water sprayed at us so we could really feel what it was like on boats for hours as a slave. We also learned that African people were physically taken from their homes and made to be slaves who travelled on boats and were sold like furniture.

In year 6, we recently had our SATS exams which I think went rather well. I didn't find it too hard and wasn't extremely stressed out. I just looked forward to the fun things we did in the afternoon and the great food we ate. Though I wasn't stressing, I was glad when we finished and can't wait to get my scores. In the morning we got the chance to go to year 6 SATS breakfast club which was fun just talking to my friends as well as eat breakfast.

Finally, after months of waiting, our year 6 production was revealed in SATS week as Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies (our version of Robin Hood). I cannot wait to perform it and it will be a great experience. Though I am nervous, I am beyond excited and I'll never forget it. This will be a significant stage of my life and I know that my family will love it. '

VILLAGE FAIR DAY 1st July

CREAM TEAS in CHURCH

Tea & Homemade Cake
Tea, Coffee, Squash
2.00 – 4.00 p.m.



THERE IS NO PLANET B

We are so used to having a fall-back plan if our first choice doesn't work. But God has created for us one single, beautiful, self-renewing universe, for us to delight in, to love and to cherish.

However, the lure of financial gain and ever-increasing profits has led industry to create mountains of plastic, to cut down multi-acres of carbon-absorbing forests, and to rely on fossil fuels which are building up the carbon in our world, and poisoning our environment. It could so easily become uninhabitable and will be if nothing is done to halt global warming.

Shall we sit back and let it happen? Or will we use every possible means to influence governments, to put pressure on our shops and businesses, to inform public opinion?

We are not as powerless as we sometimes feel.

Shall we be passive – or active consumers, eager to leave the world a fit place for our great grandchildren?

ECO GROUP



KEEPING UP WITH TONY!

Well Easter has been and gone, and so has Spring Harvest but both created fresh memories to savour over the months ahead. We were so blessed with the weather for our annual Sunrise Service at the top of Farthing Down, and the Walk of Witness – this time from St Mary's, then just down the road to St John's, with songs and prayers on the green outside the church, before popping inside for hot cross buns and coffee.



*Good Friday and friends from the churches of Coulsdon
Gather to remember that Christ died for us*



The sun begins to rise over Farthing Down as we celebrate the risen Christ on Easter Sunday

Having enjoyed the lovely Easter sunshine over the previous couple of days, Easter Monday threw everything at us – particularly the small group who were heading down to Minehead for Spring Harvest. The worst kind of weather for driving on the motorways with rain and heavy drizzle for almost the entire trip. Enid and I always leave early to mitigate the inevitable holdup past Stonehenge, and whilst we arrived at Butlin's long before check-in it proved so worthwhile when Rev Paul and Nicy texted to say that it had taken some two hours to get from Dunster – just a very few short miles from Minehead. The programme contained the usual wide range of presentations, worship songs, and entertainment, and I now know that there was a report on the event in the magazine for May written by Rev Sue. Upon our return she asked some of us to step forward in church and say what we had enjoyed the most, and for me it was the worship songs in the evening, re-acquainting myself with the Alpha course, a series of talks on The Beatitudes, and an inspiring talk by Rachel Gardner, who had been tasked to establish a youth ministry in Blackburn, at a church with a regular congregation of just fifteen ladies – all aged over 80, but who in Rachel's words were all sassy ex-mill girls who said what they thought, but were very happy to whip up interest in her project. The 'new' church turned out to be a great success.

Wednesday night saw the arrival of Shakespeare's Tempest in town, when storm Noa hit us with an almost indescribable ferocity. The big Butlin's Skyline 'tent' was closed for safety reasons for the first time ever, but fortunately there was no damage or injury and by morning Prospero had brought his magic to save us, with the only relic of the night before being this rainbow, and a beach swept clean



Fully refreshed we began the journey home but quickly found that all our energy would be required as we encountered the A303 blocked in both directions due to a broken down truck in the outside lane and then an accident near Mere. We were planning to drop in to our daughter's cottage near Stonehenge – and managed it – but four hours to cover 80 miles meant that the promised tea was very well received.

Back home and it was an emergency trip to the dentist for me, followed by a late afternoon run up to Kings Langley for a 10:00am funeral the following morning at the C11th church of St Lawrence the Martyr in Abbots Langley. In many ways a very sad occasion, but the packed church was able to give thanks for a life lived to the full, with moving eulogies from the lady's mother and a family friend. No trouble getting home afterwards, and whilst traffic was heavy, the M25 had pity on us and we travelled without any holdups.

Our early May garden working party meeting was postponed due to the small matter of the King's coronation, but I won't write about that as I'm sure we've all read more than enough column inches about the day. However, I have to say how impressed we were (and I'm sure his Mum and Dad were too) by the performance of young Samuel Strachen – the longest serving chorister of the Chapel Royal, as he welcomed the monarch inside Westminster Abbey. Wow – so confident and word perfect. A tick and a gold star from his choir master I should think!

So after the delay our gardening club did manage to meet on the 13th and what a success it was. Starting early by warming up the mower Gill then left as she was moving on to a meeting of the Bereavement Group, but her place was quickly taken over by John, Tony, Jon and Jill Waters, and the very helpful addition of a young neighbour of ours - George Coleshill – who is working towards his Duke of Edinburgh silver award. George worked hard with the strimmer and tidied round all the gravestones in the managed part of the churchyard, and also trimmed round the memorial stones in the children's' area. Thanks George – we will look forward to seeing you again. The rest of us completed all the mowing whilst Jill weeded round the base of the church. A very worthwhile morning – and Rev Sue made us coffee whilst waiting for her baptism prep parents to arrive, so wins all round.

So - back from the funeral (above), and little time to get back into the old routine



as we were off for a late birthday treat down in Kent. Enid and I have been mem-

bers of RAFA at the Portcullis Club on Kenley aerodrome for several years, and they along with the Friends of Kenley Aerodrome had arranged a coach outing to the Spitfire and Hurricane museum at RAF Manston. Another foul day for motorway travel, but at least I wasn't driving this time, and by the time we arrived the old Beatles song "Here Comes the Sun" sprang to mind as a beautiful day emerged from the clouds. There was only one of each aircraft to see – a Mk XVI Spitfire from 1944, and a Hurricane of similar vintage; but there were also lots of artifacts and mock-ups of cockpits – including that of a Lancaster bomber.

With my interest in motorbikes we also came across this old 1939 BSA W.D. M20 which looked in pretty good condition considering its age. Whether it runs or not I don't know – but certainly the old bikes at the Brooklands museum do.



Located just behind this museum was another RAF museum containing a host of different aircraft, from a Doodlebug flying bomb, to a Gloster Meteor, Whirlwind helicopter, a Buccaneer, the cockpit of a Victor V-bomber, and many many more, going right back to reconstructions of a couple of WW1 fighters – a Sopwith Camel whose machine guns fired through the propeller, and a Nieuport Bebe – the aircraft piloted so successfully by Albert Ball whose 44 'kills' made him hugely famous, but who suffered mentally from the awfulness of war, and died after tangling with the Baron von Richthofen circus at the tender age of just 20.



However, the highlight for me was the opportunity to take off, fly across London, and land a Spitfire (simulator). The cockpit was a full replica and everything 'worked'. I had the controls explained to me by an instructor who sat at a control panel outside, and said 'just do your best, and if you get into trouble, I'll take over'. Well he just chatted me through the 'flight' and at the end asked if I'd like to see what my landing looked like from the control tower. Not bad if I say it myself – just not quite enough flair to

achieve a three point touch-down, but I was happy – as can be seen here;

..... and on that happy note I must close off this month's epistle with a line from the book of Isaiah used as an illustration in another of my birthday presents – a book by Max Meyers entitled Eyes Turned Skyward – a series of stories from the life of a pilot flying with Mission Aviation Fellowship in Papua New Guinea. It reads "But those who hope in the Lord, will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like angels". We pray that the many young men who failed to return after flying those Spitfires and Hurricanes did in fact soar to heaven as predicted by the prophet, and that they will rise again in glory.

Tony

SUNDAY AFTERNOON TEAS

Summer is here and we have news that afternoon teas are on offer again at Chaldon Church (*below*) from 3.00-4.30 p.m. and St. Lawrence's Church, Caterham (*right*) from 3.00-5.00 p.m.



Both are just a short drive away. But why not park your car at the Happy Valley Car park behind the Fox pub on Coulsdon Common and walk across the downs to Chaldon Church—admittedly some 'ups & downs' on the way—good exercise for all the family—and you might be lucky enough to get a history lesson as well!

'The Wind in the Willows' at Gatton Park

15th/16th, 22nd/23rd July.

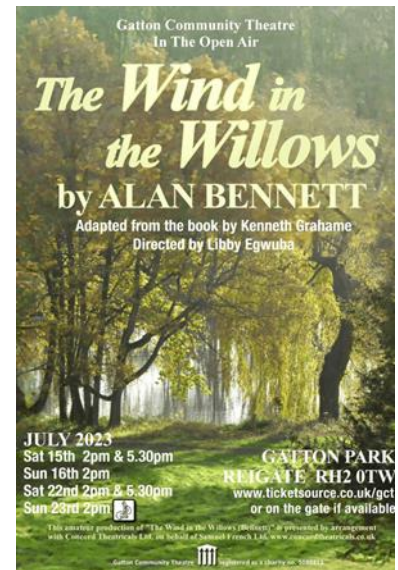
Saturdays at 2.00 and 5.00pm, Sundays at 2.00pm

Set among the willow trees by a river within Gatton's beautiful parkland, this delightful adaptation by Alan Bennett combines all the joy of Kenneth Grahame's much-loved classic story '**The Wind in the Willows**' about Riverbank folk, friendship, love, loyalty and forgiveness. The play is performed by a Gatton Community Theatre's community cast of more than 45 adults and children and is directed by Libby Egwuba.

Spring is in the air and one morning, tired of spring-cleaning, Mole takes the day off and ventures out to the riverbank where he meets hedgehogs, squirrels and rabbits and befriends the resourceful Ratty, who is particularly keen on boating, kind Badger and the notorious Toad of Toad Hall (Poop-poop!). Together they explore the Wild Wood and the wider world, and try to keep their friend Toad out of trouble – a hapless task for one so interested in houseboats, caravans and speeding motor cars. But following the takeover of Toad's ancestral home by the wicked weasels and stoats, can they together beat the Wild Wooders?

Tickets are available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/gct
Adults £13.50, children £8, family £38 (2+2)

This is an open air production and no seating is provided. We suggest you please bring chairs and/or rugs to sit on. Golf buggies are available to take those who are mobility impaired to the performance site but please still bring your own chair to sit on. This is not a promenade performance. Enquiries to:
info@gattontheatre.org.uk



A Fundraising Dream:

Away from St John's, Enid and I had a wonderful time at St Bart's Horley on Saturday the 13th, where our dear friend Tim Hill* was hosting the local Rock Choir, fundraising for a new roof at St Winifred's. Probably forty singers who performed around a dozen popular tunes – without musical or vocal scores.



I should have merged the two shots above – but they give readers an idea

*Looking closely the star on members' T-shirts says
"Rock Choir"*

*This lady's said "The Hands that Rock" and she
did BSL signing for their whole repertoire whilst
singing at the same time*



They were brilliant and had the audience on their feet clapping and stomping to the beat. They were joined by two of Tim's comedian friends – Andy Kind, and Toby Isaacson. I've a feeling that Andy performed at St John's a while back and again he gave a hilarious performance – particularly considering he had endured a very long journey after a bad accident on the M25 when the air ambulance had to be called in.

Also it just so happened that it was about to be Tim's 60th birthday and everyone sang him a very rousing 'Happy Birthday'.



*Tim –
as popular as
ever and
happy to be
60!*



This was the second 'Rock the Roof' concert that Tim had organized; the first raised over £1500 for St Bart's spire restoration, and this second one raised over £1200 for roof repairs at St Winifred's – just from door entries on the day at £10 pp – and there will be card machine donations too.

With our own interest in spire repairs I thought readers might be interested in seeing what can be achieved.



Looks good doesn't it – so let's pray that money flows into our coffers so that we can get some scaffolding up very soon too.

**Many readers will remember Tim as Youth Pastor here, but who was appointed to a new role in the Horley Team Ministry about a week before the first COVID lockdown.*

Tony

SO WHAT ABOUT OUR SPIRE?

Our Open Day back in March was a great success, both in terms of the number of people visiting the church to see the displays about the spire restoration project, and the financial outcome. Following this, further donations and a very generous bequest, the total in the building fund stood at **£91,737**. Since then further donations have been coming in and we are edging towards sight of the halfway point, which will help us apply to grant-making trusts. We still have a long way to go, and so we will be repeating the display at the **Village Fair** in Grange Park **on 1st July**. Be sure to visit our 'tent'



on the park and/or pop into the church for some refreshments and find out how the appeal is going and what you can do to help. [After the noise and bustle of the park you may be glad to come over and sit down in a quieter place out of the sun/rain and enjoy a cream tea, or tea and cake. [And the Summer Bookstall will be there too!]



Here is last year's display with Paul handing out those lovely knitted fish so many of you made. Sadly no fish this year! But still a warm welcome for all who visit. **Could you be part of this?** Paul is always very grateful for anyone who can help him to put up the 'gazebo' in the morning (the Fair starts at 12.00), to move tables and chairs around (to the park and in the church) and to be 'meeters and greeters' during the af-

ternoon. If you can help please let Paul know—01737 552152.

And if you love baking, please let Carole—01737 558936—know if you could offer to make scones or large or small cakes for the 'Cream Teas'. Part-way through June there will be a list on the church information desk asking for help with washing-up, making tea & coffee, preparing the scones, etc. as well as supplying milk, jam, cream, etc. Nearer the time if you could ring the office to see what's still needed that would be really great.

Village Fair day is always a wonderful opportunity for St. John's to reach out to the community.—so come and join in the fun and be part of that.



SUNDAY 23rd JULY
PAUL'S LAST SUNDAY SERVICE
AFTERNOON TEA EVENT 3-5 p.m.
MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW

CHURCH OF OLD COULSDON

CLERGY	The Rector, Rev. Paul Roberts, The Rectory, Coulsdon Road, Old Coulsdon (not available on Mondays)	01737 552152
	The Rev. Sue Thomas (available Thursdays & Sundays)	020 8406 9300
READER:	Christine McCutcheon	01737 553681
WARDENS	Gill Thaxter	01737 553596
	Ralph Goodwin	020 8409 1662
TREASURER	Lynn Howell	01737 551652

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 Email stjohns@coulsdon.net Phone: 01737 552461

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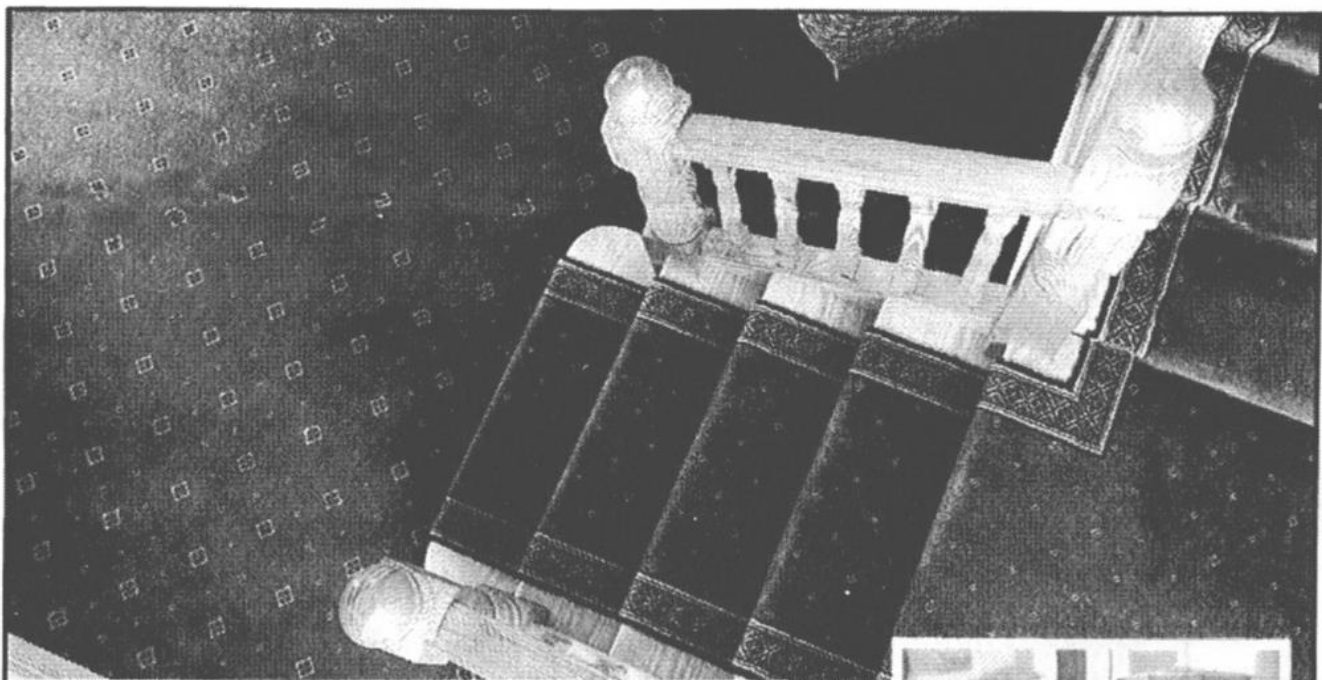
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