

COULSDON  
PARISH  
CHURCH  
St. John



50p

March 2024

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Spring is breaking out all around us..

.. so now is a good time  
to come and enjoy our services and events!

## March

### 1—Friday

10.30 a.m.. World Day of Prayer Service, Congregational Church

### 2—Saturday

10.00 a.m.. Gardening Morning in Garden of Remembrance (to 12.00)  
7.00 p.m. 'Shuffleboard Evening', in the Church

### 3—THIRD SUNDAY of LENT

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion, in Church  
9.30 a.m. Parish Communion, in Church *(and live-streamed  
on Facebook/through church website)*

### 5—Tuesday

9.45 a.m. MU Service, in the Old Church

### 7—Thursday

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion, in Church

### 9—Saturday

10.00 a.m. Baptism Preparation, in the Church  
11.30 a.m. Wedding: Usmaan Khan & Sasha Jeffrey

### 10—FOURTH SUNDAY of LENT

#### **Mothering Sunday**

9.30 a.m. Parish Communion, in Church *(and live-streamed  
on Facebook/through church website)*

11.15 a.m. Family Service

**14—Thursday**

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion, in Church

**16—Saturday**

10.00 a.m. **CHURCH SPRING CLEAN** (to 1.00 p.m.)

**17—FIFTH SUNDAY of LENT**

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion, in Church

9.30 a.m. Worship Together, in Church

**19—Tuesday**

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

**21—Thursday**

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion, in Church

7.30 p.m. Prayer Evening for St. John's, in the Old Church

**23—Saturday**

7.30 p.m. Downland Chorale Concert, at St. John's

**24—PALM SUNDAY**

9.30 a.m. Parish Communion, in Church *(and live-streamed on Facebook/through church website)*

11.15 a.m. Family Service

**27—Wednesday**

2.00 p.m. Pray, Knit & Chat, in the Old Church—which will join with ..

2.30 p.m. Lent Groups and others meet together, in Church

**28—MAUNDY THURSDAY**

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion, in Church

2.30 p.m. Coulsdon CofE School Easter Service, in Church

7.30 p.m. 'Remembering the Last Supper' - Communion Service

**29—GOOD FRIDAY**

9.30 a.m.. Good Friday Crafts & Service, in Church

11.00 a.m. Walk of Witness—starting from St. Aidan's Church.

2.00 p.m. 'An Hour at the Cross', in the Church

**31—EASTER DAY**

6.30 a.m.. Sunrise Service, Farthing Down

7.15 a.m. Breakfast in the Scout Hut

9.30 a.m. All-Age Parish Communion, in Church

**WHEREVER YOU ARE  
YOU CAN 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](http://www.stjohns.coulsdon.net) (or watch later) Contact the Parish Office on 01737 552461 or at [stjohns@coulsdon.net](mailto:stjohns@coulsdon.net) if you need any help with this.



## Sue writes...



### Lenten Uplift... of Others

As we enter Lent, a season of spiritual reflection leading up to Easter, there's often a misconception that it's simply a time of giving up treats like chocolate. For some, it's about fasting, not so much about giving up food, but about eating more simply, or fasting from things that distract us from our faith. Lent in essence is about redirecting our focus towards God and Jesus, encourages us in serving others, not just depriving ourselves of treats. You may like to read Matthew 6:1-24.



In March the Southwark Pilgrimage visited Martha's House in Bethlehem. It is the first day-care centre for elderly women in Bethlehem. This centre is a sanctuary for two groups of 12 who alternate with each other. They are supported with medical needs, and given care, especially

as their families have had to move away to work elsewhere, and there being no welfare systems in Bethlehem such as state pensions. They are alone, but together they find great support.

While we were there, Bishop Christopher chose to include this Centre for his Lent Call, a Call that raises funds for projects that focus on peace and justice in the Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East, and resilience and well-being across our Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe

[www.friendsoftheholylord.org.uk/st-marthas-house](http://www.friendsoftheholylord.org.uk/st-marthas-house)

They have a small garden surrounding Martha's House and the Lemon Tree was heavily laden with large fragrant fruit. We were given generous quantities to take home. Having planted five



seeds from just one lemon, they are now around 20cm high. Rubbing a dark green leaf brings lemon essence infiltrating the room. It is a reminder of the difference a visit to this place is still making to the lives of all of us who visited that day. Do please support the Bishop's Lent Call and watch out for more on the other projects on-line: [www.southwark.anglican.org/news-events/events/lent-call/](http://www.southwark.anglican.org/news-events/events/lent-call/)

Thank you.

**Sue**



## LENT CALL 2024

As Sue has mentioned, the Bishop's Lent Call for 2024 is raising funds for projects that focus on peace with justice in the Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East, and resilience and well-being across our Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe.

As we spend time in prayer and contemplation this Lent, we hope that you will feel able to generously support the projects chosen this year.

This year you can donate online using the new online giving platform Give a Little. [Click here to make your donation.](#) **OR** by bank transfer to Bishop of Southwark's Lent Fund; Sort Code 40- 52-40; Account no 00009614 **OR** by cheque sent directly to: The Hon. Treasurer\, The Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call, c/o Trinity House, 4 Chapel Court, Borough High Street, London. SE1 1HW Cheques should be made payable to 'The Bishop of Southwark's Lent Fund'. (Charity no. 1075122)



A young child receiving treatment from a healthcare worker in hospital.

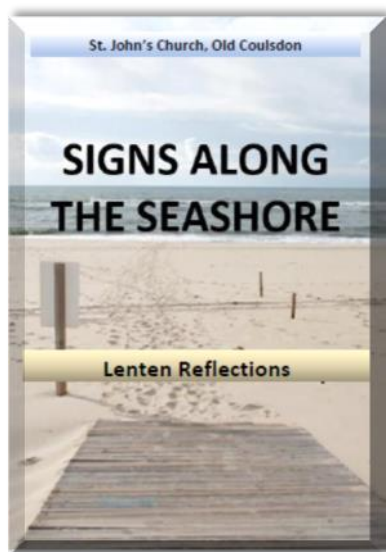
The Al-Ahli Arab Hospital before the rocket fire.

**Week 4: Caring for the people of the Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East**





## IT'S NOT TOO LATE for YOUR OWN ... 'BREATH of FRESH AIR' DURING LENT!



Andrew Cunnington, Vicar of All Saints Findon Valley with St. Peter's High Salvington has written this booklet and is very pleased for us to use it at St. John's as a basis for our Lent Studies.

Our parish may not be by the seashore, but how many times have we read about our Lord on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, and have our own memories of visits to the seaside, maybe Worthing or elsewhere. Andrew's introduction can, I think, get us all thinking about our own faith journey, and is very meaningful as the booklet unfolds session by session.

So this year we're basing our Lenten reflections on '**Signs along the Seashore**'.

It's a thought-provoking course—a breath of fresh air—which you can enjoy in your own armchair! Study groups are well under way but copies of the booklet are available on the Information Desk in church for you to take and follow at home just when it's convenient for you—please pop £1.50 per copy in the box there to cover costs. Join us on our Lenten journey towards Easter—even if you've not done anything like this before. And then if you're able, and would like to, you would be very welcome to come to the church and join a meet-up of Lent group members and other 'solo studiers' on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March** at 2.30 pm.

## IT'S SPRING CLEAN TIME ... ... and YOUR CHURCH NEEDS SOME LOVING CARE! Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March is St. John's 'Spring Cleaning Day'

Please come and help any time between 10.00 am—1.00 pm for as long or as little time as you can offer. There are so many jobs that need doing that there's bound to be something that anyone can do. Come and help the Church to sparkle.

Too many cobwebs have appeared!!!!!! Please bring your own dusters and feather dusters etc and anything else you like to work with!

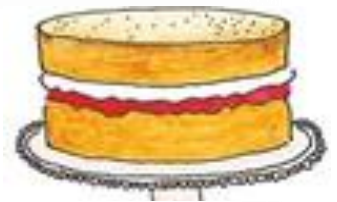
Please don't leave it to everyone else—they may not turn up either! Gill and Ralph, our hardworking churchwardens would really value your help.

Tea, Coffee, Biscuits on tap!



## MOTHERING SUNDAY TREATS—10<sup>th</sup> March

The Editor apologises for the late arrival of this month's magazine due to 'having to chase people for up-to-date information' and a family bereavement but I hope you don't miss the treat of visiting the Mothers' Union Cake Stall in church between the 9.30 Parish Communion and 11.15 Family Service. There's sure to be something tasty to take home!



Posies for Mums and others will also be distributed at both services



### LOOKING FOR NEW HOMES *Crème-egg filled chicks & rabbits*

Knitted chicks and rabbits, filled with crème-eggs, are hoping to be adopted and will be available in church on **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March.**  
Adoption fee: £1.30 each!



## FUN and PRAISE at PRAM SERVICE!

If you're at home on a Tuesday morning with a little one—baby, toddler or pre-schooler—whether a mum, dad, granny, grandpa or other carer, then you really shouldn't miss our Pram Service on the third Tuesday of each month. This month we're meeting on **Tuesday, 19 March** at 9.45 for 10.00 a.m. start in the Church. We usually start with a



hymn and a prayer for the adults and then the little ones take over—choosing their favourite rhymes and choruses! We have an interactive Bible story—last month we found and paired up some animals and took them into Noah's Ark. You should have heard the lovely animal sounds. We sang the rain down and the floods up and when the bird that was looking for dry land didn't come back we knew it was safe to come out again!. Finally we had a birthday celebration and the instruments came out for the last song ... bells, shakers, tambourines, etc. As you can see, we have a lot of fun so why not bring your little one(s) along—babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers on the **19 March** and give it a try? There are drinks and biscuits afterwards with time for play and chat. We'd love you to join us! If you want to know more first just email Wendy at [stjohns@coulsdon.net](mailto:stjohns@coulsdon.net)





## PRAYER for ST. JOHN'S while WE WAIT!

On **Thursday 21 March** at 7.30 there will be the next of a series of Prayer Evenings in the Old Church when everyone is invited to join in prayer for St. John's as we travel through the interregnum and the advertisement for our new incumbent-to-be has been published. Your company and support would be greatly appreciated, so please do come if you can. The following dates have been arranged as we continue: **Thursdays—18 April, 16 May and 20 June.** Please join us as often as you can

## Holy Week and Easter Services



*Come Worship With Us!*

### PALM SUNDAY

On **Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> March** palm crosses will be distributed at both the morning services – 9.30 Parish Communion, with the children's group, and the 11.15 Family Service. This is the traditional start of Holy Week and the Easter story. We remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a donkey when the crowds waved palm branches and greeted him with shouts of 'Hosanna!'. The fact that our palm branches are formed into the shape of the cross reminds us of what was to come later in the week. Come and start this very important week with us – a warm welcome at either of the services.



### MAUNDY THURSDAY



On this day, Christians remember the Last Supper. During the meal Jesus took bread and wine and shared them with his disciples – and we continue to share bread and wine as part of our regular worship in church. On **Thursday, 28 March** there will be our weekly Holy Communion service at 11.00 am and a special Communion Service with Hymns at 7.30 p.m. in Church reminding us of the 'Last Supper'. Do

make a point of coming to this service which plays an important part in focusing the mind on the sombre events leading up to the crucifixion.

# GOOD FRIDAY

St John's Church, Old Coulsdon



Good Friday Crafts & Service  
29th March 9.30 - 10.30am



Easter Crafts, followed by songs and worship.

We will be making Easter biscuits, mini Easter gardens & a large paper cross with our finger and handprints.



'Family' service is for everyone, whatever your age and whether or not you have children. Refreshments to follow.

All children must be accompanied by an adult

Please join us at **9.30 a.m.** for a **special All-Age Service** in Church. This will be a short time of worship with craft activities for the children. There will be something for everyone so all children and adults very welcome.

Those who wish will be able to join the Coulsdon Churches 'Walk of Witness' which will start at **11.00 a.m.** at St. Aidan's Church, on the corner of Chipstead Valley Road and Portnalls Road in Coulsdon and walk with members of other Coulsdon churches through the town to Coulsdon Methodist Church where there will be a short time of praise followed by hot cross buns. Do come and join in either with the whole walk or at some stage along the way – help to be a visible presence of the local churches in the community!



Finally there will be '**An Hour at the Cross**' at **2.00 p.m.** in Church. In various quiet ways including readings, prayer and music, we will reflect on the passion of Christ and sit for a while 'in the shadow of the cross which reaches across the centuries to offer comfort, forgiveness, and hope to us today'.

# EASTER DAY

*"And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.."*



Early birds are invited to the first service of the day in the Coulsdon area when members of all the Coulsdon

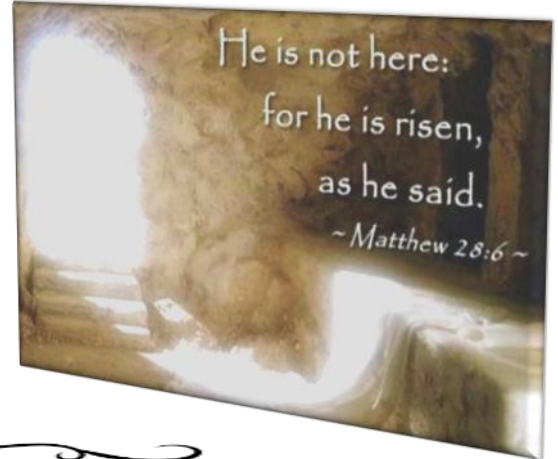


Churches meet on Farthing Down for the **Sunrise Service at 6.30 a.m.** There is something very special about this service in such a wonderful place – an amazing start to Easter!

This will be followed by breakfast in the Scout Hut (*behind the Parish Hall, Bradmore Green*), from 7.15 a.m., for all who would like it.

At St. John's our **Easter Celebration will be an All-Age**

**Parish Communion at 9.30 a.m.** This is a service for everyone when you can receive Communion or a Blessing and we hope as many as possible will want to join in this extra special Celebration.



## YOUR CHANCE TO TRY?

You might hear the bells at an unusual time on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, because Surrey county ringers will be there. This is an open event principally for bell ringers but if you arrive you may be able to get a taster for bell ringing.

## MOTHERS' UNION - *Faith in Action!* FEBRUARY focus: Works of Transformation

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

At our AGM at the beginning of February we were informed as to how a generous legacy had been left to Mothers' Union by David and Sheila Henwood and how we had donated a substantial amount to an MU project AFIA (*Away from it all*) which helps underprivileged families to have a few days or a week away. We also purchased 100 'Poppy' mugs, small and large gingham tablecloths and durable wax tablecloths with Christmas patterns all for the use of the church. A visible reminder of the family. We also bought several items for branch use.

We are currently without a Branch Leader, and Nicy Roberts will be a hard act to follow but we will strive to carry on her excellent work.

**Our next Worship Service will be Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 9.45 am** in the Old Church, and all are welcome to join us.

We will be holding a **Cake Sale between the two services on Mothering Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> March**, and would welcome any donations of homemade large or small cakes, biscuits etc. Thank you.

**Pray, Knit and Chat will be on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 2.00 p.m. in the Old Church**—and we will be sharing with the Lent Groups and others as they meet together at 2.30 p.m.. Please do join us.

Our members are holding Nicy and her family in our prayers following her operation.

***Elaine Caines - Member Co-Ordinator***



## Reflection

Inspiring women appear in our lives in many guises. Like Martha, some are busy serving, whereas others like Mary, relish being present in the moment. Both were inspired by Jesus, and in turn are inspiring models to follow. Like them, we each have differing traits and personalities. But whatever our individual qualities we are all equally valued and loved by God. And whether we are a 'doer' or a 'thinker' (or maybe a mixture of both) God can, and does, use us as a light to inspire others. Let's savour that thought!

## Creative prayer

We may have many demands upon us which lead to our feeling drained and depleted. Reflect on the story of Mary and Martha in Luke 10. Then determine to connect purposefully with God in even the simplest daily tasks, breathing God's love into each thought and action. At the end of each day rest in God's presence, in thanks for how he has led you



## IT WAS SUCH FUN!

After the 9.30 service on Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, Sue invited us all to stay for the 11.15 Family Service, and curious as to what it was like, I accepted her invitation.

Through ignorance of what was expected, I failed to start at the back to make the "prop" which would be used later, but Charlotte generously gave me hers. I witnessed another lovely act of generosity when a little girl sitting near me offered her soft toy lamb to a very young child who was starting to cry.

By 11.30 lots of children were trooping in; excited, enthusiastic but beautifully behaved. As the first song started, I found myself reverting to five years old, and gladly obeying the injunction to ... *'Turn around ... Reach up high and touch the ground'*. I really do recommend that service to you. It felt full of holy joy. I walked home with a spring in my step and joy in my heart. **Hazel**



## THINKING of SENDING EASTER CARDS ...

**...OR needing a small gift for someone who doesn't eat chocolate?**

**Then a pack of St. John's notelets could be just what you need!**

On sale in aid of the Spire (& other major repairs) Fund ~ £5 per pack of 10  
(five each of the two views)



Available in church  
on the Information Desk ...  
or from the Parish Office.—  
01737 552461 or at  
stjohns@coulsdon.net

Happy to deliver locally if  
you're unable to get out or  
to post further afield.

## A VERY LONG LINE of CARPENTERS



I come from a long line of carpenters: my grandad, dad, brother, nephew and numerous uncles. From the age of around four upwards I was always to be found out in my dad's workshop or my brother's shed watching and learning how to shape wood, how to identify and work with the different grains. Those that were tough to work like oak and those easier to saw and plane like pine. From an early age I had my own little toolbox with proper tools, along

with my carpenters' apron and carpenters' pencil. My proudest possession was a little Surform plane, with which I used to round the corners of pieces of hardboard to make table mats for my mum. My dad only gave me to do what he knew I could manage, stretching and teaching me all the while, alongside me all the time, directing me, guiding me showing me the right way to do things. Just as Joseph must have showed Jesus and how our Heavenly Father shows us.

You may or may not have been fortunate enough to have an earthly dad or father figure like mine, but we all have our Heavenly Father, who sent His son Jesus to earth to live among us, giving Him the same humble trade of a carpenter.

Dad wanted so much to have his own boat, an ambitious cabin cruiser. He worked hard at his trade, sometimes working into the night to keep our family. In any spare moments he began work on the boat. Pieces of beautiful teak appeared in the workshop and began to be cut and shaped. The fragrance of teak filled the air. Sadly dad did not live to see his boat finished. Instead the pieces remained in the workshop long after he had passed away. After mum moved into a care home it was time to clear out dad's workshop. The treasured pieces of teak came to light and my brother and I both each took a plank home with no plans as to what to do with it; we just couldn't throw it out.

The plank sat in our shed for a while, along with dad's saw and hammer. Just touching them made me feel close to him. One day in a dream, it came to me. A Noah's Ark. Maybe the teak could be made into a Noah's Ark for our grandchildren to play with, thus fulfilling dad's dream of making a boat. Happily, I knew a very skilled woodturner, Dave Jones, who said yes, he could do this. So as I watch my grandson Austin, playing with the Ark, taking out the animals, lining them up I think of my dad, and think of the connection going right





back in time to another carpenter long ago, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

When I hold the teak animals now and feel their smoothness and inhale their fragrance I think of and feel close to my dad. You may not be able to do this, but you can always feel close to our Heavenly Father, all you have to do is speak to Him and he will hear you. Tell Him your deepest secrets, share your burdens and your joys, He wants to hear from you and wants to share in them. Amen

As I was writing this, the beautiful hymn Lord of all Hopefulness, Lord of All Joy, was playing through my mind.

‘..... Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all Faith,  
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,  
Be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,  
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day’

**Wendy J**

## RECYCLE YOUR UNWANTED SPECTACLES!

Not sure what to do with your old glasses? Unwanted

spectacles can be recycled at Coulsdon Opticians (*opposite Waitrose*) or left in the marked bin in the church porch.



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR LINK PARISH IN ZIMBABWE



Greetings from St Athanasius Parish. Thank you for the update of what is happening to your church. We have started our new year nicely and we hope that God will continue to guide us through the year. We are still going on with our project to buy a church vehicle hoping that this year we will have it. We are praying for you that the Holy Spirit will guide you for the selection of the new priest at your parish. We send you our love and blessings to all at St John's, Old Coulsdon.

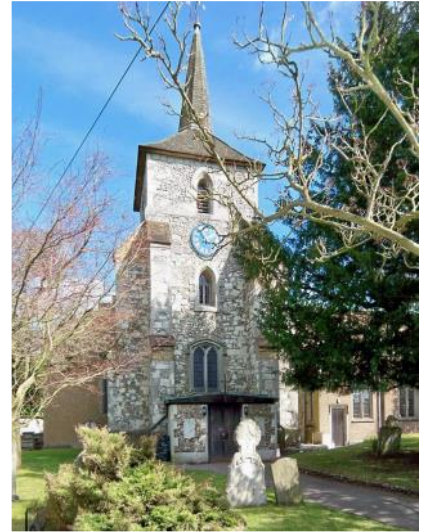
**Rev Simbai Marumirofa**

They are hoping to be able to raise money to buy a car to be able to take members of the congregation to conferences and to bring people from outlying areas to church. Although Simbai says that they have started the year well there is a shortage of rain in Zimbabwe that might well have an impact on the crops and harvest.

## Church spire restoration project – fundraising update

It has been almost six months since we updated you on the spire restoration project and fundraising has continued in earnest. At our last update, we'd raised £115K in total. Since then, we've had a number of fundraising initiatives, including the Croydon Male Voice Choir concert, the Notelet cards and Mary Balaam's talk.

We're delighted to report that we've now passed the half way mark, **increasing our total to £134K!** We're still a way off the required £235K, so we're keeping up the momentum and asking everyone to keep spreading the word, donating what you can and praying for us as we rally towards the target.  
**Thanks to all, from the Spire Restoration Working Group.**



## CATCHING UP WITH TONY

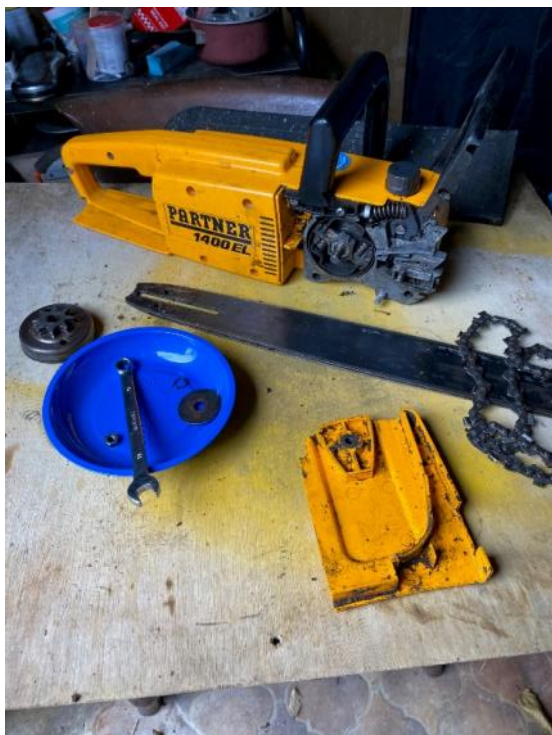
Having missed the last couple of Churchyard Working Parties for one reason or another it was time to respond to Churchwarden Gill's invitation to a couple of hours' exercise and fresh air on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February. Huge thanks as always to our stalwarts Graham and Sylvia Evans, Abe Williams, and churchyard friend Julie who turned up on what was not a bad morning. One of the beds beside the Garden of Remembrance was tidied and shrubs pruned, but the hard work was done on the soil that had been hidden under a large Box for at least a decade. Bramble and ivy out of there, and from around various trees filled two big 'builders' bags so it was a good morning's work from the team. I on the other hand worked round the back on our collection of machinery, and got three strimmers and two mowers running and ready for the season ahead. An electric chainsaw donated by Rev Paul needs work, as does one of the older mowers, so they will be coming home with me for attention.





What we need now is for someone with knowledge and artistic flair to plant up this area of soil to bring a bit of colour to the churchyard in the months ahead.

Still with the gardening theme, Rev Paul also left us a very nice mower, and a small petrol driven rotovator. I will have a tinker with that, and perhaps put it up for sale for a donation towards the Spire Fund. The chainsaw though has been a 'challenge'. It clearly needed a replacement chain, which I fitted; but could I get it to run? I could not! Having stripped it down several times – and used up a lot of spray-on parts cleaner I discovered that the drive sprocket was worn beyond belief.



*The dish is magnetic – and keeps bits safe*



*and the sprocket – with the teeth almost cut in half by the old chain*



*This is what it should look like, but we'll have to wait a month for the part to arrive from China (eBay)*

(Later – in fact yesterday the 17<sup>th</sup>) I got mower No.3 running – thanks to a YouTube clip from “Micks Mowers the Mower Man”. I had previously stripped the carburettor and cleaned the jets, given it a squirt of “Easy Start” and it fired up at home. Back in the churchyard I'd filled it with fresh petrol, and nearly burst a blood vessel yanking the string – to no effect. ‘Mick’ showed me that a micro-switch hidden under the cover, wasn't getting activated by the handle. Consequently it was not sending a signal to the coil, which in turn wasn't telling the spark plug to do what it is supposed to – hence a mower that would not have started in a hundred years!! Deep joy as the

old girl roared into life and I ran the carb dry with a couple of runs around the back of the church; and with that bit of success I turned my attention to the rotator, and got that going too – and just to be sure, churned up the soil round the aforementioned bed. So at least I've had some fun!

Last night – February 17<sup>th</sup> – saw us welcoming back the Croydon Male Voice Choir; their Musical Director Matthew Quinn and Pianist Sam Prouse, and what a lovely varied programme they gave us. Everyone smartly dressed, and exceptionally well trained.



I've seen larger audiences, but with the church probably two thirds full we all enjoyed a wonderful evening – of two halves. Between those halves we were treated to two performances by Harry Baker, an award winning pianist and composer, in both jazz and classical music. He has worked with top jazz performers at Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club in London, and as a classical pianist with the Metropolitan Opera, and with cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason.



He played jazz interpretations of works by Ravel, Debussy, Gershwin and others, so it was a real treat. I enjoy modern jazz, and from the cheers and applause at the end of his performances, everyone else does too. A great evening.

Finally a few words of thanks to our volunteering heroes, without whom St John's would not be the place it is. To Rev Sue – thank you for taking on such a huge

workload and keeping us going, to Christine for all that she does to assist, to John and the whole tech team who provide the 'overhead' projection without input from the front (Sue), to the singers who make recommendations for the music, rehearse and perform every week without the guidance of Paul and Nicy – thank you. To Carole and the catering team who ensure that everything is ready for each and every special event – to say nothing of weekly teas and coffees, to Graham and Sylvia Evans who make regular trips to the Purley Food Hub with donations left by the front door, and to Sheila Bird who I have just found out takes the bucket of pill strips to the recycling centre. Thanks too to the team who provide for the children's group each week, and who keep their enthusiasm going, even when there are few children attending. To all those who assist at Family Service who I don't know, and the PCC 'teams' working hard to find a new incumbent and ease the strain of the vacancy. To Gill and Ralph for all they are doing behind the scenes, and finally to all those I have missed – thank you.

Please keep your prayers going for Nicy, Paul, her surgeons and medical team – and of course Amy, Ollie, baby Clara, and Tim whose lives will also be affected by the sudden turn of events.

*Tony*

## EARLY WARNING



Time to prepare for

### TABLE TOP SALE 18<sup>th</sup> May—in the Church

A chance to declutter and make some cash?  
or to sell your craftwork, cakes, other supplies  
or raise funds for your charity,,etc.?

**Just £10 a table**

Book yours with the Parish Office at  
[stjohns@coulsdon.net](mailto:stjohns@coulsdon.net) or on 01737 552461.

## HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN NEED

Purley Food Hub ;provides food and essentials for people going through hard times. This month they are appealing for **small jars of coffee, small 500g bags of sugar, tinned meat such as beef, chicken and ham, jars of jam, tinned tomatoes, packet custard needing only water and tinned rice pudding.**

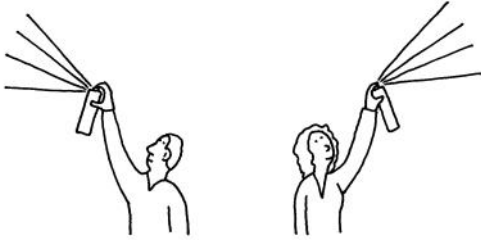
Although a lot of tins today have ring pulls, many still don't, so **good-quality tin openers** are needed. And two other non-food items on their most wanted list are **unisex deodorant and J**

**-Cloths & kitchen sponge scourers.** If you would like to help by donating any of these items, they may be left in the marked box in the church porch.



# CHURCH CLEANING

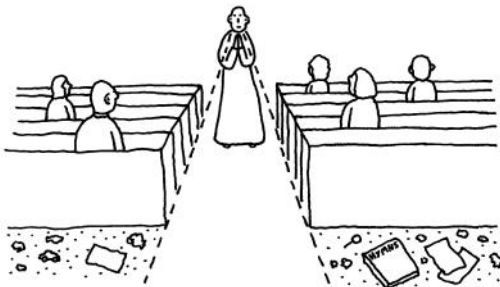
HOW TO MAKE IT SEEM AS IF YOU HAVE DONE A GOOD JOB



SPRAY SOME POLISH IN THE AIR TO GIVE THE REQUIRED AROMA



MAKE FULL USE OF LOOSE CARPETS



DO THE BITS THE VICAR CAN SEE



IF IN DOUBT: PUT IT IN THE VESTRY

CartoonChurch.com

## JUST A GENTLE REMINDER THAT CHURCH SPRING CLEANING DAY

IS ON

SATURDAY 16 MARCH (10.00-1.00)

Wouldn't it be amazing if we all turned up to help even for just a little while?

### CHURCH OF OLD COULSDON

<b>CLERGY</b>	The Rector - Parish in Vacancy (All enquiries to the Churchwardens or Parish Office ~ see below) The Rev. Sue Thomas	020 8406 9300
<b>READER:</b>	(available Thursdays & Sundays) Christine McCutcheon	01737 553681
<b>WARDENS</b>	Gill Thaxter Ralph Goodwin	01737 553596 020 8409 1662
<b>TREASURER</b>	Lynn Howell	01737 551652
(Cheques should be made payable to: St. John's Church PCC, Coulsdon)		
<b>PARISH OFFICE:</b>	Monday-Friday 9.30 a.m. - 12 noon Email stjohns@coulsdon.net Phone: 01737 552461	

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We are grateful to all those who support St. John's by placing their advertisements in this magazine. If you would like to advertise your company or services here please contact the Parish Office at [stjohns@coulsdon.net](mailto:stjohns@coulsdon.net) or call 01737 552461.



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## PLEASE NOTE:

St John's Church uses a range of social media platforms to share photographs and information about events and services. If you come and do NOT wish any posts to include your photograph or your child's photograph, please tell the Church Wardens before leaving the church building.

Find us on Facebook:

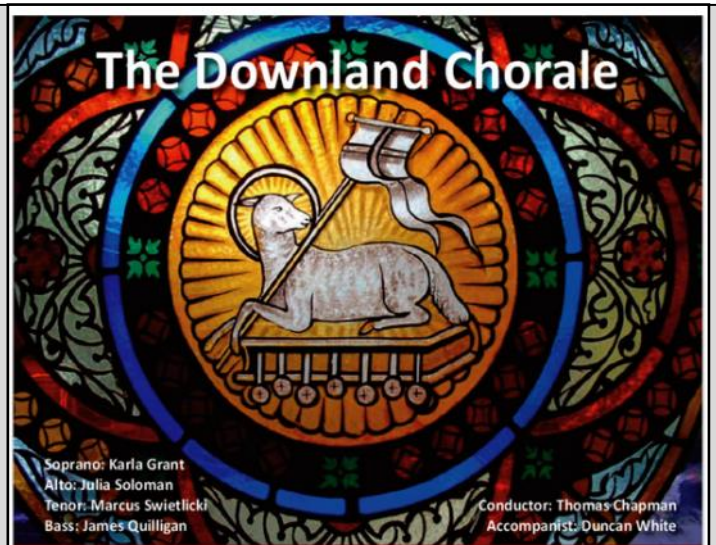
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## EASTER CONCERT MESSIAH

(PARTS II & III)  
GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL



St John's Church, Canon's Hill  
Old Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 1HA

Saturday 23rd March 2024  
7.30pm

Tickets: Adult £15 Child £5



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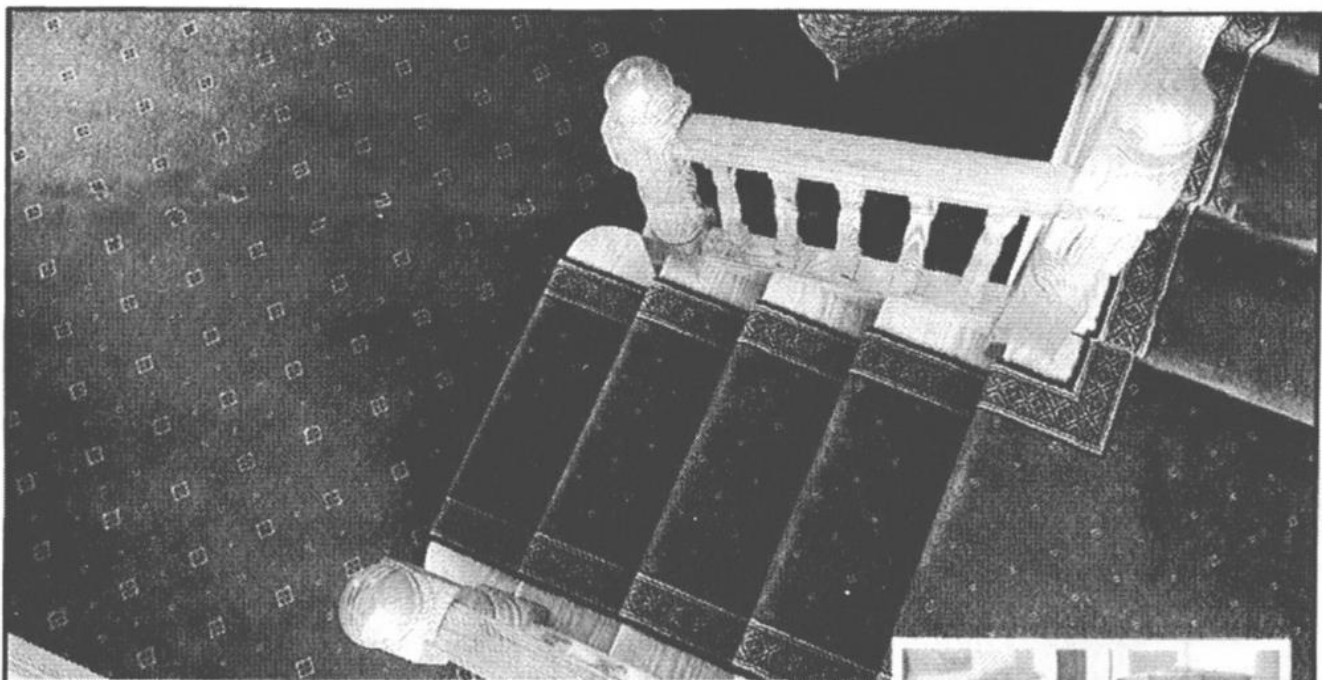
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