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PARISH
CHURCH
St. John



50p

May 2023

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May

2—Tuesday

9.45 a.m. Holy Communion, MU, in the Old Church

4—Thursday

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion, in Church

6—Saturday

11.00 a.m. 'The Coronation' livestream, in Church

7—FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion, in Church

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

11.30 a.m. Baptism Service, in Church

9—Tuesday

4.15 p.m. Life Group meets, in the Old Church

11—Thursday

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion, in Church

13—Saturday

10.00 a.m. Baptism Preparation, in Church

10.00 a.m.. Gardening Morning in Garden of Remembrance

14—SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER

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

11.15 a.m. Family Service, in Church

16—Tuesday

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

18—ASCENSION DAY

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion, in Church

21—SEVENTH SUNDAY of EASTER

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion, in Church

9.30 a.m. Worship Together, in Church

23—Tuesday

4.15 p.m. Life Group meets, in the Old Church

24—Wednesday

2.00 p.m. Pray, Knit & Chat, in the Old Church

25—Thursday

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion, in Church

28—PENTECOST

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

11.15 a.m. Family Service

3.00 p.m. MU 75th Anniversary 'Cream Teas', in the Rectory Garden

30—Tuesday

7.30 p.m. 'Prayer for the World', in the Church

June

1—Thursday

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion, in Church

3—Saturday

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

4—TRINITY SUNDAY

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion, in Church

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

11.30 a.m. Baptism Service, in Church

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 ...

The Coronation of King Charles III ... 6 May

Cream Teas in the Rectory Garden ... 28 May

A Gala Concert ... 24 June

Plus lots of local things to get involved in!

Much more information further on.

FROM THE RECTOR ...



Dear Friends

Praying for our King

As we look forward to the coronation of King Charles III we can echo the words of the psalms that contain prayers for a king, in particular Psalm 45:

You are the most excellent of men, and your lips have been anointed with grace.

Let's pray that as the King is anointed with holy oil at his coronation, he will also be anointed with the Holy Spirit, and that whenever he speaks it will be words of grace and truth.

In your majesty ride forth victoriously on behalf of truth, humility and righteousness.

The last British king to ride into battle was George II, at the age of 60 alongside his soldiers, at the Battle of Dettingen in 1743. We can pray that King Charles will boldly uphold the values of truth, humility and righteousness – values which mark out a godly nation. Pray for his government to uphold these values.



Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a sceptre of justice will be the sceptre of your kingdom.

This verse reminds us that kings come and go, thrones and empires rise and fall, but the kingdom of God lasts for ever. Pray that as King Charles is given the sceptre as a sign of his authority, so those with the authority of government under him will uphold justice in all they do.

You love righteousness and hate wickedness.

'Righteousness' means doing all that is right, and being in a right relationship with God. Pray that our King will be guided in all that he says and does by the righteousness of God.

I will perpetuate your memory through all generations; therefore the

nations will praise you for ever and ever.

We pray not only for our King, who represents us to the world, but for our government and nation that together we might uphold truth, humility, righteousness and justice, and for these values we would be considered great in the world.

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, bless our Sovereign Lord, King Charles, and all who are in authority under him; that they may order all things in wisdom and equity, righteousness and peace, to the honour of your name, and the good of your Church and people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

With all good wishes

Paul



CELEBRATING THE CORONATION

We will be livestreaming the Coronation Service in church on **Saturday 6th May**. You are very welcome to be with us so that together we can join in the celebration of this great event. The church will be open from 10.00 a.m.—come and experience the excitement and atmosphere beforehand, follow the King's Procession from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey and join in this momentous service,

GARDENING on the MOVE!

On account of the Coronation being on the first Saturday in May, the Gardening Group will meet in the churchyard on **Saturday 13th May** from 10.00-12.00. This very small group does a wonderful job in keeping the Garden of Remembrance area so neat and tidy. If you could spare some time to help them, they would be delighted to see you—even if only for a short while. If you can bring your own tools that would be helpful—but don't worry if not. They're a lovely friendly group and we're very grateful for what they do. If you'd like to know more call Gill on 01737 553956 or just come along



QUIZ NIGHT for CHRISTIAN AID Saturday 20th May - 6.30 pm

St Andrew's Church Hall, Woodmansterne Road, Coulsdon, CR5 2DD
Tickets £15 (to include a light supper) available from St. Andrew's Parish Office at standrewsoffice@yahoo.com or 02086762966



THE
CORONATION
KING CHARLES
III
2023

St John's Church

Saturday 6th May

11.00 a.m.

Livestream Relay

of the

Coronation Service

Join us in worship and prayer



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 16 May** this month - we have a 'Pram Service'. Don't be put off by the old-fashioned name—we're very 'with it'! All parents and grandparents with babies or toddlers will find a warm welcome at our very relaxed little service. Come for songs, 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, tired mums and grannies all very welcome. In April we heard about Jesus coming alive again just as the dead-looking trees are coming alive and we all joined in to make our own 'alive' spring tree. Who knows what we'll get up

to this month? Why not come and give us a try.—we'd love to see you

TIME for TEA!

Our Mothers' Union branch was founded 75 years ago—in 1948—and is still going strong! Definitely something to be celebrated. So they're inviting everyone to come and join in their celebration in the Rectory Garden where 'Cream Teas', home-made cake, tea, coffee and squash will be on offer.

Entry is free but donations will be welcomed and will be shared between Mothers' Union and St. John's Funds.

Tea in a lovely garden on a Sunday afternoon—sounds very inviting! All ages very welcome.

A colorful flyer for a 75th Anniversary celebration. The flyer has a light green background with a decorative border of flowers, leaves, and insects. The text is centered and reads: "Come & Celebrate St John's MU Branch 75th Anniversary! SUNDAY 28 MAY". Below the text is a photograph of two cream teas (scones with jam and cream). The text continues: "CREAM TEAS 3.00 – 5.00 P.M. in the Rectory Garden (in Church if wet)". At the bottom of the flyer, there are illustrations of a sun, a rabbit, a tree stump, a bee, and a butterfly.

THEY JUST FLEW & HOPPED AWAY!

Thank you to all who bought Easter Chicks and Bunnies - the amazing total of sales was £113 for church funds! *Lynn H and Hazel M*



Spring Harvest - Minehead 2023

Easter Monday morning, the BIG START in Studio 36 was full - 1900 full and at capacity! Full of children and parents - this was before the main worship that followed. By Tuesday an overflow venue in the Skyline for the BIG START was live streamed and the crowd were so delightful when 'buffering' happened as they spontaneously went 00000000000H... Buffering complete, the fun continued.

The theme was the 'Flipped Upside-down Kingdom'. Though for Big Start it was 'The Kingdom of Flippity Flip!' A medieval backdrop of knights, jesters, Royalty, and peasants finding out what it means to turn life upside down to follow Jesus into his flipped kingdom. Young people and children have their own age related events and venues to go to.



The Adults' space was equally superb! We had the best speaker in John Swinton, a theologian Professor and ex Mental Health Nurse. His reflections on the needs of people with Dementia in worship and spirituality left thousands of us in admiration. He was showing us how to embody the Gospel, not to just think about it, as we watched a clip of a Care Home Manager asking a Resident if she was alright, then, recognising she wasn't, helped her connect with her faith, singing a song she new well 'What a Friend we Have in Jesus'. John's talk was crisp, sharp, and spoke Truth into today. He spoke about the Spirit breathed life who is in everyone and everything and the relationship we have with God; how we can enter into good relationship with Him, no matter who we are.

Lou Fellingham led the worship with two amazing women from Elim Church. Their rendition of a Ugandan children's song, 'Jesus loves me...Jesu Anjagala' had the whole auditorium up on their feet joining in the actions. It was so popular it ended



the week along with 4ft high party balloons bouncing across the heads of the crowd.

That's just a snippet of what we experienced. Our group of eight enjoyed trips to the beach. Ice Cream. Plus a bit of stormy weather - the Skyline was closed one night due to high winds, but the evening was great, curled up on our sofas, with our 'Flipped Upside-down crown mugs', because Danielle Strickland was live-streamed from Canada. We had a much better view on TV than had we been sat at the back of Studio 36.



There were multiple events during the day, Butlin's activities (swimming, gokarting, climbing wall) for those who had time, and the fantastic St Andrew's bookshop.



The whole week ended with a fish and chip supper in our chalet before the final worship and drive home. If you'd like to join us for Spring Harvest Minehead 8-12 April 2024 (we've already re-booked while there!), please pick up a leaflet at the back of church, or

ask me for more information. Bookings open 8am on 14th June 2023 and you need to be quick!

Sue

Sometimes God teaches us about love by giving us difficult people to deal with.

ESSENTIAL for OUR SURVIVAL

Now is the time of year when those of us with gardens turn our thoughts to sowing, planting and nurturing the small shoots that are appearing. We are encouraged by displays in garden centres and general advertising to use all sorts of deadly chemicals to kill anything which may set back our tender shoots. However, it's important to remember that every living insect and organism is here for a purpose and is part of a cycle of life, and serious damage is caused when these ecosystems are broken or disrupted.



“One third of all crop production on Earth relies on pollinators such as bees and other insects. Nearly 800 million people currently don't have enough to eat. If insect populations continue to decline, that number will skyrocket.” ‘Why Rebel’ by Jay Griffiths.

“Bees are essential for our survival. They pollinate much of what we eat and play a critical role in sustaining ecosystems around the world. But the last decade has been devastating for insect populations and bees have been hit hard – with populations shrinking to a third in the UK”. Greenpeace



Even slugs have their role to play in the natural scheme of things. In our gardens they are one of the key composters, breaking down decomposing vegetation. In addition, they provide an excellent food source for other wildlife, such as birds and hedgehogs – so long as they haven't already eaten poison slug pellets. To discourage slugs from enjoying your garden plants, try surrounding your plants with spiky brambles, twigs of holly, crushed eggshells or coffee grounds, and stick zinc tape (available at garden centres) around ornamental plant pots.

As a labour-saving way to encourage insects – perhaps you might consider leaving part of your lawn to grow as a meadow!

ECO GROUP



MOTHERS' UNION – Transformation - Now!

MAY focus: Praying The Lord's Prayer



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 2 May: 9.45am Corporate Holy Communion, followed by refreshments

Wednesday 24 May: 2.00pm Pray, Knit & Chat in Church - do join us!

SUNDAY 28 MAY - CREAM TEAS in the Rectory Garden (or church if wet) celebrating St John's MU Branch 75th Anniversary! Time: 3.00 - 5.00pm

Proceeds shared between St John's Church and Mothers' Union. **[SEE POSTER on Page 8]** Please share this information as widely as possible!

Reflection on this month's theme 'Praying The Lord's Prayer':



Children can be prone to run to their parents with requests tumbling from their mouths before they have even reached them. Less often, perhaps, do they greet them with thanks or a compliment. Do we act in a similar way as we approach our heavenly Father in prayer? Yet, the pattern of praying in the Lord's Prayer puts the emphasis firmly on beginning and ending with worship. As we shift our focus from petitions to the Lord's glory and holiness, we gain both a right perspective on our needs and deeper faith that God is able to meet them.

Monthly prayer:

We come before God in faith, with thankfulness for Christ who taught us to pray: Our Father in heaven hallowed be your name. The kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen



OLD COULSDON COMMUNITY FILM CLUB

If you enjoy good films but don't want to travel far to see them, then this community club is just right for you. Once a month on the third Friday evening you can see a film—a recent big hit or maybe a golden oldie (and what a wonderful mix we have)—chosen by popular demand. For a membership fee of just £15 per year you get twelve films—and all on your 'doorstep'. Nothing more to pay—unless of course you fancy a glass of wine or a cup of tea/coffee! If you'd like to find out more

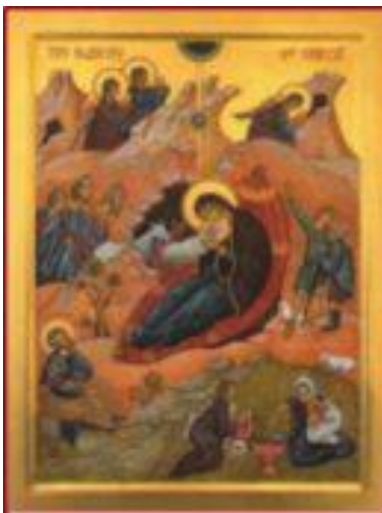
about joining this happy band please contact Peter Gillman (01737 552040

THE CORONATION PROM KING OF KINGS

On **Saturday 6 May** there will be a special edition of Prom Praise - The Coronation Prom - at the Royal Albert Hall. Tickets have sold out but you can watch it in the comfort of your own home as it's to be streamed live and for free, across the world. Invite your friends and family or simply enjoy it by yourself and join this joyful expression of music and worship, honouring our new King's reign and celebrating the King of kings. Broadcast live from the Royal Albert Hall on the evening of this memorable day, the free Livestream of this majestic Prom will be available from the All Souls Music homepage at www.allsoulsmusic.org from 7pm on Saturday 6 May and is the perfect way to round off a day to remember.



EXHIBITION of ICONS CLOSING SOON



Icons, drawings, frescos and illuminations by the local traditional byzantine iconographer, Hanna-Leena Ward will be on display at St. Lawrence's Church, at the top of Church Hill, Caterham daily 12noon – 7pm until Sunday 7 May, There will be icon painting classes each day from 10.00am – 2.00pm in St. Lawrence's Church during the exhibition: £35 daily. All levels welcome. After the exhibition in Caterham, Hanna is giving an icon painting course on the island of Lesvos, Greece followed by an icon painting retreat at Worth Abbey

KEEPING UP WITH TONY!

As I sit down to write this after a very big birthday - I'm reminded of the old Country song "**Sixteen tons**" written and recorded by Merle Travis back in 1946. The lyrics include the line 'another year (day actually) older and deeper in debt'. I guess that in these troubled times I'm fortunate not to be in too much debt, but I do owe our Church Family for all that they have given us over the years; and whilst talking birthdays can I also congratulate Jenny Greening and Lindsey Selman with whom I shared that auspicious day – 27th March.

I don't know if it is because I took part in the recent RSPB Garden Watch survey, but my 'birdie' theme continues this month. Having enjoyed a wonderful lunch in the Tudor Rose with nearly all of my family on Sunday (26th) Enid and I took a trip out to the far reaches of Kent on the big day (more later) and came across this chap – and others – enjoying his lunch in a farmer's field!



We weren't sure what the crop was – and I've never seen anything like it before - but the swans were certainly enjoying themselves.

We had a wonderful evening on Saturday 25th when all the check shirts and dancing shoes came out for St John's Barn Dance. We've all danced to Crooked Stovepipe before and we had an equally good time on this occasion. Massive thanks to Carole Caddick and her team for the organisation and food, and yet more thanks to all the volunteers who afterwards helped get the church ship-shape and ready for Sunday morning.



Thanks too to all the House Groups at St John's as we finish the Dust & Glory course this week. During Lent for the last

few years, I have joined the group led by Carole Caddick and would like to thank her for all her hard work and the enthusiasm shown as she has led us week by week. They have all been most enlightening and enjoyable – and we should also offer our thanks to Rev. Sue who has inspired all the House Group leaders in their mission. Thank you Sue, and our prayers are with you as you prepare to take on the responsibilities and challenges associated with your new role as Area Dean. May God go with you.



For quite some time I've had it in mind to do a tour of the medieval churches of Romney Marsh by bike – either one like this – until my knee got too creaky

or even this once it's finished

But for my special birthday outing we went by car; enjoying the most beautiful weather – a perfect Spring day (even if



BST started a couple of days earlier).

In the good (or not so good) old days the marsh was well known for smugglers, and each of the churches we visited had tales of dastardly goings on long ago. Just in passing we have friends who have a cottage down on the coast near Dymchurch, and during a refurbishment of their 'local', an internal brick wall was taken down and behind it were found the remains of a Revenue Man, identified by the brass buttons on his uniform. Whether he was bricked up alive or hidden after being killed we'll never know, but interesting nonetheless.



So the first stop was at the church of St Augustine at Snave; sadly now redundant but in a lovely setting, and the daffodils were beautiful.

Our next stop was in the village of Ivychurch, and as we had had a late/ish start we were pleased to find the church nestled behind The Bell pub – so church or pub, pub or church? Pub it was, and a nice little lunch later we were able to enter



the church which claims to be the Cathedral of Romney Marsh.



What an interesting place it was too, with the side to the left of the altar devoted to museum pieces of farm equipment, and a display case of artefacts that had been unearthed by local detectorists, and some medieval wall painting (of ivy) that had only recently been discovered.



The churchyard also had quite a number of graves marked with these things. Made of stone, we saw them in nearly all the churches we visited. Do they have a special name?

I won't detail everywhere we went but each of these had something special about them.



St Earnswith – Brenzett



St Clement – Old Romney



St Augustine – Snave

This last one is known locally as ‘the pink church’ – why? Take a look at this (*in colour on St John’s website*). The old box pews are all painted pink.

Lastly we were able to see – but not actually visit because of the water and the very narrow lane with no parking places – a church that must be totally unique, and will be appearing in the latest adaptation of Dickens’ *Great Expectations* now being aired on the BBC – St Thomas Becket, Fairfield.



You can almost imagine the smugglers sneaking up the creek through swirling mist to hide their booty inside the church.



Well as we come to the end of March and start thinking about Easter, I remember how last year Rev Paul threw out the bait, got me hooked, and reeled me in on April Fools Day. We do have a Gardening Club meeting tomorrow otherwise I’d stay in bed to avoid being ‘caught’ again! (Later) Well ‘he’ didn’t catch me, and we had a very, very select band of gardeners working round the Garden of Remembrance. After all the rain it was far too wet to get the mowers out, but we more or less filled a bin with leaves and ‘bits’, and it wasn’t a bad morning, so well done to us.

We’re now getting ready for Easter, and Spring Harvest (about which someone else will write) – hopefully. But let us also think about our Muslim friends who are now in to Ramadan. I had my hair cut at the shop in Placehouse Lane on the day before it started, and wished them all “Ramadan Mubarak” and will look forward to seeing them again after Spring Harvest on 21st/22nd April when we’ll be able to say Eid Mubarak as they welcome the festival of Eid al-Fitr and the end of daylight fasting.

Finally to close, at the end of a lovely birthday outing, we filled our lungs with the sea air at a very blustery Rye Harbour – acres of beach and big skies – makes you glad to be alive, and give thanks for all that we have received.

Tony





AT THE BOTTOM of MARLPIT LANE

... we have two treasures to enjoy—a bowling green and a putting course. On my birthday in April we met up with some of the family and having had lunch we headed for a 'putting tournament'—perfect for all ages (ours ranged from 8-80 apart from Millie who at nearly 2 yrs old

had a good sleep and then was happier in the playpark). We spent about two hours there and even then didn't finish the course because we needed to allow the lovely volunteers who run and maintain both facilities to pack up and go home! The fun and laughter, the cheers, the 'ooohs and aaahs' made for a priceless not-to-be-forgotten afternoon and a really lovely birthday 'treat'—and the sun shone, which was a real blessing.

How many times do we go past in the bus, car or on foot and take these super facilities for granted? I just wanted to encourage more people to take advantage of them so we don't lose them. The bowling green and putting course are open Wednesday to Sunday afternoons from 2.00-5.00—and some bank holidays. The fees make for a low-cost outing: Child putting or bowling £2; Putting adult £3 bowling £4 (Cash payments only) and all the equipment is provided! If you've never played either before, don't worry as the volunteers will be happy to explain the rules and show you how. If you want to find out more—or maybe let them know you'd like to bring a group of family or friends along—call 07761 926498—otherwise just go along—they'll be pleased to welcome you. So now you know what to do with fidgety children or grandchildren, bored teenagers and exasperated adults—and it won't break the bank! I know we'll be back soon! **WB**

WOULD YOU LIKE HELP ...

... to get the best out of using your mobile phone, laptop or tablet or have a question you'd like answered? Perhaps you need help choosing the right equipment? So **every Tuesday 10am-12.00** you can go (free of charge) to a '**Digital Drop-In**' and get questions answered and problems solved. 'ClearCommunityWeb' particularly helps older people to feel more confident and comfortable with technology through classes, workshops and individual support for those who are new to it or provide 'improver' style sessions. Don't feel nervous about going along. Just pop in and have a chat - every Tuesday 10.00 – 12.00 at Purley Cross Community Information Centre, Purley Baptist Church, Banstead Road, Purley, CR8 3EA. *[Recommended by one who has found them very patient, kind and helpful.]*





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



PURLEY FOOD HUB RUNS OUT OF SUGAR!

The Hub writes:

'No one can quite remember it happening before, but during April we completely ran out of one of our major stock items for clients.'



We are currently facing the same with two others, all the result of continued very high client numbers. So for May, we are making an urgent appeal please for donations of three top-priority items:

- ◆ ***Small 500g bags of sugar*** after our supplies totally dried up last month, and
- ◆ ***Tinned tomatoes*** and ***tinned rice pudding*** which are close to becoming completely depleted.
- ◆ In addition, the other items on May's list are:
 - ◆ **Hot chocolate drink requiring only water**
 - ◆ **Tins of dessert fruit**
 - ◆ **Microwave tray meals for toddlers**
 - ◆ **Bars of soap**
 - ◆ **Unisex shampoo and unisex deodorants**
 - ◆ **Washing powder tablets**



Louise Willmer, our Stock Controller, says: "I want to thank all of our wonderful supporters – churches, schools, businesses, community organisations, etc, and many individuals and families – for your generous donations in April – these were so very much appreciated.

"Regrettably we continue to experience increased numbers of clients being referred to us for emergency food parcels, and this has left a big dent in areas of our stocks. The three items we have highlighted in red (and in italics) are either totally depleted or soon will be, and so are this month's top priorities." ***If you would like to help, items for the Hub may be left in the wooden box by our church door. Thank you so much for filling this up several times recently!***

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 Ralph Goodwin | 01737 553596 020 8409 1662 |
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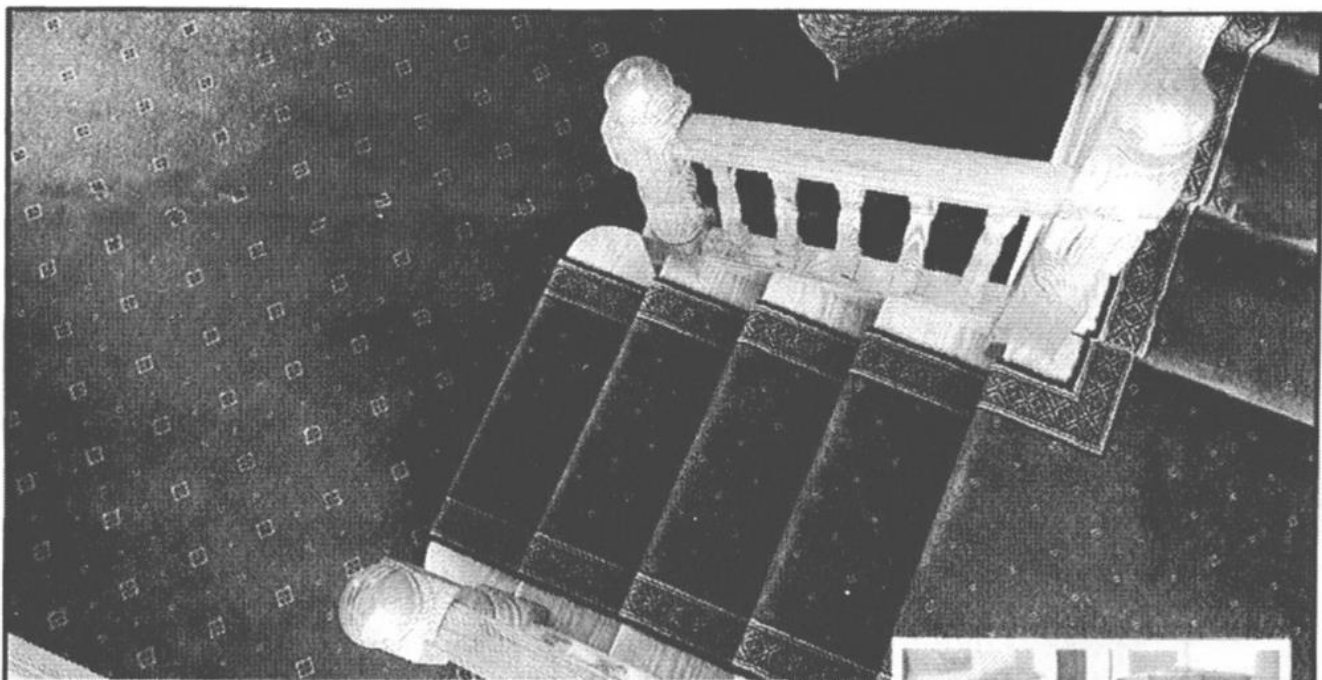
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