

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025

The Benefice of St. James
with St. Michael and St. Augustine
Beckenham
(DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER)

Vicar: Fr. Russell Stagg

The Vicarage, 120 Birkbeck Road,
Beckenham, Kent. BR3 4SS

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Mobile: 07526 621232

vicar@stjamesandstmichael.org.uk

SUNDAY SERVICES

9.15am Mass – St. James's Church
St. James's Avenue, BR3 4HF

11.00am Mass – St. Michael's Church
Ravenscroft Road, BR3 4TN

Dear Friends,

Christ is risen.

This Easter is my first with you as your vicar, and I am thankful to share this holy season with you. Walking through Lent together and arriving at the joy of Easter Day has been a great blessing.

We rejoice in the victory of Christ over death. His resurrection gives us hope, strength, and new life. But this year, Easter also brings sorrow. On Easter Monday, Pope Francis died. His passing has touched people across the world. As Anglicans, we mourn with our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters and give thanks for his faithful ministry.

Pope Francis spoke clearly about the challenges facing the world – climate change, inequality, conflict. His words called people of all faiths, and none, to care for creation and the most vulnerable. His leadership reminded us that the Church must speak with courage and compassion.

His death during Easter week brings into sharp focus both the sorrow of Good Friday and the hope of Easter morning. We live in the tension between the two, knowing that the risen Christ is with us in both.

As we move forward, let us be faithful in prayer, bold in witness, and gentle in our care for each other and the world. I look forward to the year ahead with you and trust that Christ will guide us.

May the peace of the risen Lord be with you and all whom you love.

Yours in Christ,



WORSHIP CALENDAR FOR MAY

4 th	3rd Sunday of Easter Sung Mass at St. James's Sung Mass at St. Michael's	9.15am 11.00am
11 th	4th Sunday of Easter* Sung Mass at St. Michael's Sung Mass at St. James's	9.15am 11.00am
18 th	5th Sunday of Easter Sung Mass at St. James's Sung Mass at St. Michael's	9.15am 11.00am

29 th	Ascension Day Sung Mass at St. James's	7.30pm
25 th	6th Sunday of Easter Sung Mass at St. James's Sung Mass at St. Michael's	9.15am 11.00am

***Please note that on 11 May the 9.15am Mass will be at St. Michael's Church and the 11.00am Mass at St. James's. This is to allow St. James's APCM to follow immediately after Mass.**

MIDWEEK SERVICES

Tuesday	7.00pm	St. James's
Wednesday	10.00am	St. Michael's
Thursday	10.30am	St. James's (followed by refreshments)
Friday	7.00pm	St. Michael's
Saturday	9.30am	St. James's

The Thursday morning mass at St. James's is followed by tea/coffee and a biscuit, and everyone is welcome to come and join us for a cuppa and a natter from about 11.00am.

HYMNS FOR MAY

4th May – 3rd Sunday of Easter (*Celebration Hymnal*)

- 379 Lord enthroned in heavenly splendour
- 195 Glorious things of you are spoken
- 54 As the deer pants
- 58 At the Lambs high feast we sing

11th May – 4th Sunday of Easter (*Celebration Hymnal*)

- 22 All people that on earth do dwell
- 646 Sing all creation
- 77 Because the Lord is my shepherd
- 357 Let all the world in every corner sing

18th May – 5th Sunday of Easter (*Celebration Hymnal*)

- 59 At the name of Jesus
- 399 Love is his word
- 556 O Thou who at thy Eucharist
- 113 Christ Triumphant

25th May – 6th Sunday of Easter (*Celebration Hymnal*)

- 37 Alleluia, sing to Jesus
- 818 Ye choirs of new Jerusalem

20 All heavens declare
778 We have a gospel to proclaim

29th May – Ascension Day (*New English Hymnal*)

109 Hail thee festival day
134 The head that once was crowned with thrones
272 All for Jesus
130 Hail the day that sees him rise

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

St. James's APCM will be held immediately following the 11.00am Mass on 11 May. We would ask that as many of you as possible stay for this meeting.

SITUATIONS VACANT

St. James's Church are looking for volunteers to fill the following positions which have arisen following the resignation of officers:

- 2 Churchwardens
- 1 PCC Secretary
- 1 PCC member
- 1 Deanery Synod representative

If you would be interested in taking on any of these posts please let Gwen know.

PEW SHEET NOTICES

If you wish to add a name to the prayer list or place a notice on the sheet please email Jo in the office by midday on Wednesday.

ST. JAMES'S DRAW WINNERS FOR APRIL

1. Bill Pepper

2. Claire Roberts

3. Bill Pepper

CHRISTIAN AID QUIZ – SATURDAY 10 MAY

In St. James's Church Hall. 6.30pm for 7.00pm start.

The cost per ticket is £8. Tables of no more than 8 people.

Please bring your own drinks, glasses and nibbles.

To book a table call Julian Gibson (07985 567147) or John Rowe (07733 466864).

FUTURE EVENTS AT ST. JAMES'S

SATURDAY 5 JULY

Barbecue at 2.00pm in the garden if fine weather. Tickets £10.

SATURDAY 16 AUGUST

Cream Tea at 3.00pm in the garden if fine weather. Tickets £6.

SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER

Harvest Supper

SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER

Autumn Fair

SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER

Quiz Evening

THANKS

The Internal Affairs and Social Committee would like to thank you all for your support at the recent fundraising events they organised. £644 was raised at the quiz held in March. Thank you to Gerry Cork for once again being our quizmaster. An enjoyable evening was had by all who attended.

£200.00 was raised at the French themed meal held on 26 April. Thank you to Fern and Alison for doing the cooking. It was a lovely meal and we look forward to the next one.

ST. JAMES'S FELLOWSHIP

For our April meeting we had a celebration for Norma's 90th birthday.

The programme for the coming months is as follows:

Friday 2 May – We will be having a talk from Bromley Council Trading Standards on scams and rogue traders. There has been much talk about scams, both online and on the telephone, and we will be told about things to look out for.

Friday 6 June – Andrew, our organist, will give us a recital of piano music in the church.

Friday 4 July – We will be having a talk from a member of the RNLI.

We meet in the Lecture Room (unless otherwise stated) at 2.00pm. £2.00 including a raffle ticket. All welcome – bring a friend.

VE DAY BARBECUE

Sunday 11th May, 1.30 p.m. at St. Michael's Vicarage

If you would like to go please sign the list at the back of the church, indicating any dietary requirements.

Please take your own drinks and glasses. Donations of side salads and desserts please. This is a free event, but any donations to defray the costs will be welcome

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE LENT QUIZ

Thanks to all of you who took part in this quiz. There was a tie between John Rowe and David Clayton, both of whom scored 49/50. A draw was made, and John's name was picked. He donated his winnings to the charity we supported, Emmaus UK. A grand total of £70 was raised.

CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid make four main appeals throughout the year, a Lent and Easter Appeal, Christian Aid Week, Harvest and Christmas Appeals. As a church we have been involved with Christian Aid Week, which is held in May, for many years, and have worked on finding different fund-raising events, particularly when Covid prevented the house to house collections.

Emergencies which are being addressed at the moment are: the Myanmar Earthquake Appeal, Sudan Crisis Appeal, Middle East Humanitarian Appeal and the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. We would ask you to support this quiz, or if you are unable to come perhaps to make a donation.

Other fund-raising events will be held, including a Christian Aid Coffee Morning on 10 May 10.30am-12.30pm at Beckenham Methodist Church, Bromley Road, and the Big Brekkie on 17 May 9.00am-12.30pm in the Church hall at Beckenham Baptist Church, Beckenham Road. Please support these events if you can.

News from 9th Penge & Beckenham North Scout Group

Before the Easter holidays started, the Beavers & Cubs & Scouts all got stuck into some crafty and arty activities in the halls. Our very special mums were treated to some wonderful homemade gifts for Mother's Day, made by the children. Fridge magnets, cakes and cards were lovingly designed, created and gift wrapped. The ever-popular Mothering Sunday church parade was well attended by scouting families and all the mums greatly appreciated the new afternoon service time, to allow for a lie-in!

With the clocks finally going forward, we have daylight(ish!) during our meetings now, after the long dark winter evenings! Every year we are so grateful for this change, it means we can get outdoors more often and more safely. And we straight away made use of the longer evenings by meeting for a guided wildlife walk through Kelsey Park. It was the perfect place to witness the new beginnings of spring as we were lucky to spot ducklings, newly hatched birds and then enjoyed a bug hunt in the warm evening sunshine.

In the coming weeks we have plans to explore more of our local parks, try our hand at owl handling and take part in a child-friendly bootcamp with 'Ginger Fitness'. Watch this space!

NEWS FROM THE SOCIETY IN THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

FUTURE EVENTS

Sunday 22 June	Corpus Christi Procession and FiF AGM, 4pm St. John's, Sevenoaks
Monday 4-Friday 8 August	Walsingham Youth Pilgrimage
Saturday 30 August	11am-4pm Aylesford Pilgrimage
Saturday 13 September	10am-3 pm Study Day, St. George's, Bickley
Saturday 4 October	7.00pm, quiz, St. George's, Bickley

Days Too Short

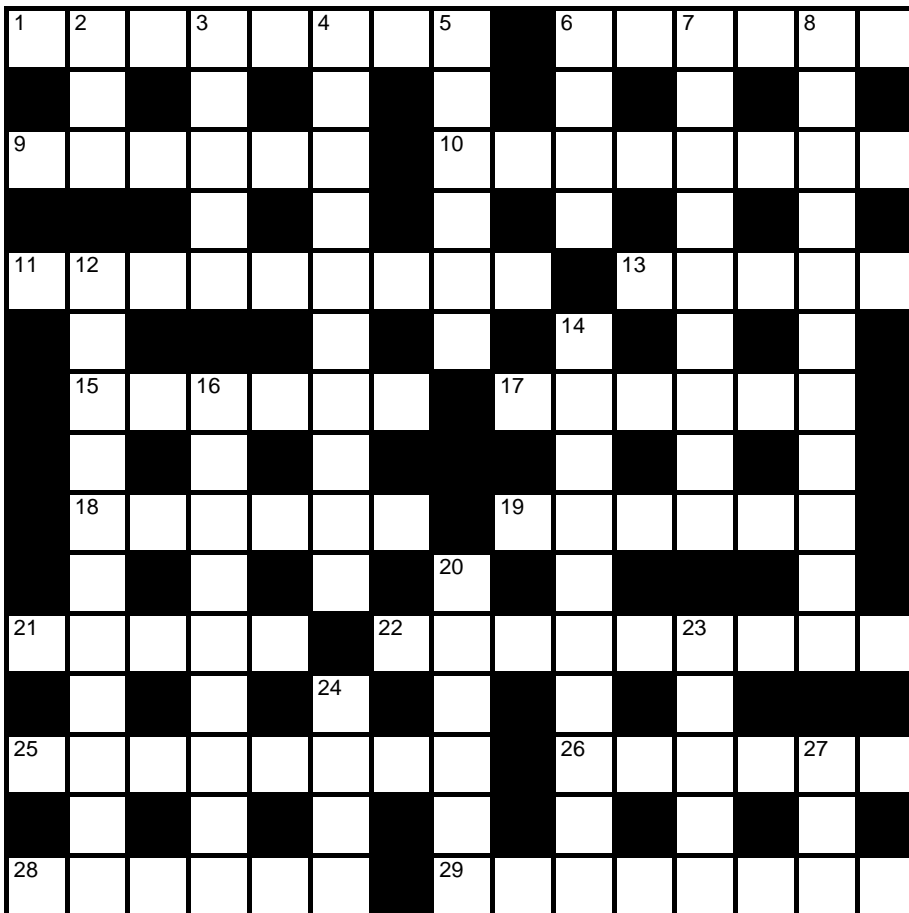
By William Henry Davies

When primroses are out in Spring,
And small, blue violets come between;
When merry birds sing on boughs green,
And rills, as soon as born, must sing;

When butterflies will make side-leaps,
As though escaped from Nature's hand
Ere perfect quite; and bees will stand
Upon their heads in fragrant deeps;

When small clouds are so silvery white
Each seems a broken rimmed moon,
When such things are, this world too soon,
For me, doth wear the veil of Night.

MAY PUZZLES (Solutions next month)



Solon 53

Across

- 1 Carelessly hit part of Morse (8)
- 6 Go round near secretaries on Sunday (6)
- 9 Heard of morals in eastern county? (6)
- 10 Water source maintained in a shipshape way (4-4)
- 11 Organ run for hooter outflow (9)
- 13 Take too much interest in American over Surrey, oddly (5)
- 15 District of nation has no right (6)
- 17 Paper service as backward trek (6)
- 18 Pardon an apology (6)
- 19 Look at minced fish eating half of a ballet costume (6)
- 21 Bend to reveal holy water container (5)
- 22 Everything in Surrey may be seen in strange way (9)
- 25 Singular copperless restraint takes in so leave it (5-3)
- 26 Confused sort of mammoth (6)
- 28 Add lye and mix for lethal result (6)
- 29 Why's pretence heard for these smart Alecs (4,4)

Down

- 2 Fate of almost everyone oddly (3)

- 3 Turner for one snoops, we're told (5)
- 4 As botulism could become a tyranny (10)
- 5 Travelling salesman found in rickshaw kerfuffles (6)
- 6 French beauty lacking energy could be a ringer (4)
- 7 Very plain Dad's army character with rod (9)
- 8 Slight messy flare-ups about old chemical company? (11)
- 12 Plan for terribly hot caterers (11)
- 14 Gordon's made a mess of his potatoes (4,6)
- 16 Clear with ear-piercing, hunched over, when husbands leave (9)
- 20 Restriction on movement of bird (not large) (6)
- 23 Throughout the length of a pine (5)
- 24 Thin wood lacking energy (4)
- 27 Rest drama without pressure (3)

SUDOKU

				3			6	5
3			8	7				2
		7					1	
	9	4			2	6		
		6	4			2	8	
	5					1		
1				5	6			8
6	8			9				

SOLUTIONS TO APRIL PUZZLES

Across: 1 Ogre, 4 Acetylene, 9 Top-notch, 10 Prefer, 11 Actionably, 12 Need, 13 Zinc, 15 Articulate, 17 Linseed oil, 20 Yarn, 22 Urea, 23 Oxford blue, 25 Retina, 26 Affright, 27 Icelandic, 28 Keys.

Down: 2 Gnocchi, 3 Ennui, 4 Attenuate, 5 Exhibit, 6 Yuppy, 7 Eternally, 8 Element, 14 Cast aside, 16 Calorific, 18 Israeli, 19 Offhand, 21 Roughly, 23 Osaka, 24 Brink.

4	6	3	5	9	1	2	8	7
5	1	7	8	6	2	3	4	9
2	9	8	4	3	7	6	1	5
7	2	9	3	8	6	1	5	4
1	4	6	9	7	5	8	2	3
8	3	5	1	2	4	9	7	6
9	8	2	7	4	3	5	6	1
6	7	1	2	5	9	4	3	8
3	5	4	6	1	8	7	9	2

JUNE NEWSLETTER

Please send items for the June issue of the Newsletter to Jan
(janetgore@aol.com) by Thursday 15 May

DIRECTORY

Vicar:	Fr. Russell Stagg	020 8402 2712 07526 621232
	Email: vicar@stjamesandstmichael.org.uk	
<u>Churchwardens:</u>		
St. James's	Mrs. G. Binnie	020 8650 0342
St. Michael's	Mr. M. Philippault	07838 146467
	Email: office.stmichaelbeckenham@gmail.com	
Benefice Administrator	Mrs. J. Perry	07838 146467
	Email: office.stjamesbeckenham@gmail.com	
	Email: office.stmichaelbeckenham@gmail.com	
Hall bookings	Mrs. J. Perry	07838 146467
St. James's Fellowship	First Friday of each month 2.00pm-3.30pm Guild Room	
Rainbow Guides	6 th Beckenham – Suspended	
Brownie Guides	6 th Beckenham Tuesday in the Hall 6.15pm-7.45pm Miss A. Mansfield	020 8658 1680
Guides	6 th Beckenham Friday in the Hall 7pm-8.30pm Miss A. Mansfield	020 8658 1680
Beavers	Thursday in the Lecture Room 6.30pm-7.45pm Claudia Gotor-Pedrerros	claudiagotor@gmail.com
Cub Scouts	Thursday in the Hall 6.30pm-7.45pm Sue Guckian	sueguckian@gmail.com
Scouts	Thursday in the Hall 7.45pm-9.00pm Jaime Griffiths	jaimegriffiths@hotmail.co.uk
All Beaver/Cub/Scout enquiries to Group Scout Leader		9thpbnbeavers@gmail.com
Pre-School	Jenny Strudwick	020 8249 8386