

The Benefice of St. James with St. Michael and St. Augustine Beckenham



BENEFICE NEWS

JUNE 2025

**The Benefice of St James with
St Michael and St Augustine Beckenham**
DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER
and a member of the Richborough Family



THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JAMES

St James's Ave, Elmers End, Beckenham

 [StJamesElmersEnd](https://www.facebook.com/StJamesElmersEnd)

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9.15am
Sung Parish Mass
followed by refreshments

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

Tuesday- 7.00pm
Thursday -10.30am
followed by refreshments
Saturday - 9.30am

Confessions by appointment or after Mass on Saturday

**THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST MICHAEL WITH ST AUGUSTINE**

Ravenscroft Road, Beckenham

 [stmichaelbeckenham](https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelbeckenham)



SUNDAY WORSHIP

11.00am
Sung Parish Mass
followed by refreshments

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

Wednesday- 10.00am
Friday - 7.00pm

Confessions by appointment or after Mass on Friday

For Solemnities and Major Feast Day see The Benefice Diary on page 8

www.stjamesandstmichael.org.uk

From the Vicarage



Dear Friends,

Summer is near. The days are longer, the sun brighter, and the pace of life begins to shift. Many of us spend more time outdoors. It's a season to pause, notice, and give thanks for the good things we're often too busy to see.

At the end of this month, the Church celebrates the feast of St Peter and St Paul. These two men—so different in background and character—are remembered together because both were chosen by Christ and both gave their lives for the Gospel.

Peter was a fisherman. He was impulsive, often unsure, and he denied Jesus in His final hours. Yet Jesus called him the rock on which the Church would be built.

Paul was a Pharisee, trained in the law. He once persecuted Christians and stood by at the death of Stephen. But when Christ confronted him on the road to Damascus, his life changed completely.

Their stories remind us that Christ calls real people, not perfect ones. He forgives, restores, and sends out those who turn to Him.

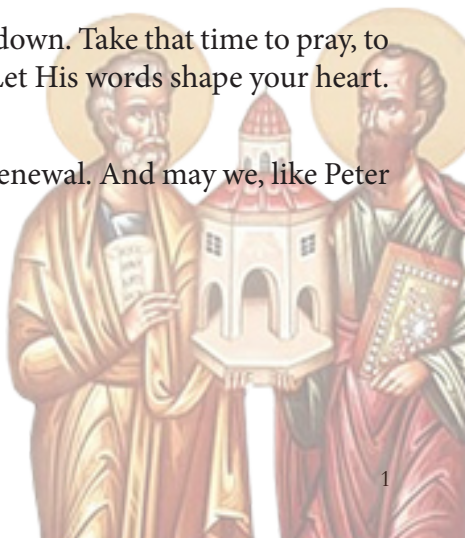
That speaks clearly to us today. We live in a time of confusion and noise. Peter and Paul show us how to live with faith, courage, and hope. Peter points us to a faith that is honest and open. Paul calls us to a faith that thinks clearly and speaks boldly. We need both.

Summer offers many of us the chance to slow down. Take that time to pray, to listen, to return to Christ. Read the Gospels. Let His words shape your heart. Let His truth speak into your life.

May your summer be one of rest, peace, and renewal. And may we, like Peter and Paul, follow Christ without fear.

With every blessing,

F Russell

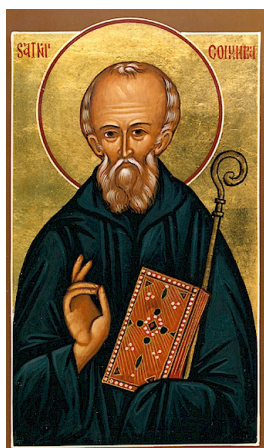


9th Penge and Beckenham North Scouts Scout Group

Last month we participated in a fantastic activity day which is organised every year by Bromley Scout District to celebrate St George's Day. Over 1100 children and hundreds of dedicated leaders descended on Frylands Wood activity centre in Croydon where over 50 different outdoor activities were set up to try. St George's Day is particularly important in Scouting. Our founder Robert Baden-Powell chose Saint George to be the patron saint of Scouts and he wanted St George's Day to be a time to reflect on the Scout Promise each year and what it means to be a Scout. At Frylands Wood we all paused at lunchtime to give thanks to our amazing volunteers and to collectively renew our Scout promise.

During the day all the children had the chance to try out zorbing, climbing, sumo wrestling, grass sledges, laser tag, mini golf and much more. We were blessed with dry sunny weather this year, which I think was our reward for surviving the absolute mudfests of the previous 2 wet & stormy years! The children all noted their favourite activity was go karting. The leaders were just grateful that the organisers had not set up a 'Soak your Akela' stall!

A simple prayer of St Columba



Christ With Us

My dearest Lord,
Be Thou a bright flame before me,
Be Thou a guiding star above me,
Be Thou a smooth path beneath me,
Be Thou a kindly shepherd behind me,
Today and evermore.

Music for June



1st June – 7th Sunday of Easter

Introit	NEH 443	Rejoice the Lord is King
Offertory:	NEH 128	Eternal Monarch, King most high
Communion:	NEH 273	And now, O Father, mindful of the love
Final:	CHfE 332	All hail the power of Jesu's name

8th June – Pentecost Sunday

Introit:	CHfE 758	Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire
Offertory:	CHfE 125	Come down, O Love divine
Communion:	CHfE 666	Spirit of the living God
Final:	CHfE 98	Breathe on me, breath of God

15th June – Trinity Sunday

Introit:	NEH 146	Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty
Offertory:	NEH 148	The God of Abraham praise
Communion:	NEH 358	Father of heaven, whose love profound
Final:	NEH 373	How shall I sing that majesty

22nd June – Corpus Christi

Introit:	CHfE 42	An upper room
Offertory:	CHfE 379	Lord enthroned in heavenly splendour
Communion:	CHfE 674	Sweet Sacrament divine
Processional:	CHfE 593	Of the glorious body telling

29th June – St Peter and St Paul

Introit:	NEH 76	Take up thy cross, the Savior said
Offertory:	NEH 171	With golden splendour and with roseate hues
Communion:	NEH 341	Blest are the pure in heart
Final:	NEH 478	Ye watchers and ye holy ones

Choir item - Christus Vincit?

Confirmation



The Bishop of Richborough will be joining us for the first time in Benefice for St Michael's Day (Monday 29th September). During the Mass he will be administering the Rite of Confirmation. If you have not yet been Confirmed and would like to please have a word with Fr Russell, who will then arrange for suitable instruction to be given.



From the Archives

Taken from St James's Parish Magazine, July 1929

“St. James's Elmers End - Garden Fete.”

A better day could not have been chosen for the above event than June 19th; that being so one can hardly be surprised that a happy crowd of visitors thronged the Vicarage garden from 3 o'clock in the afternoon up to the closing hour.

The assembled parishioners and dignitaries were provided with much entertainment. There was not a single dull moment. Those who were “on pleasure bent” wended their joyous way to the “Waterfield” and there found an ample variety of diversions appealing alike to the sense of sport and honour.

When, at 9.30pm, the Vicar blew his whistle, the general feeling was that “the end of a perfect day” had come, and all went home to dream happily of the day's events”.

St James's Day



This year we will be celebrating St James's Day on Sunday 27th July with a special Mass at 5pm followed by a reception. It is a great pleasure that one of St James's former curates, Fr Andrew Davis, will be our preacher. Please put this date in your diary and invite friends and family to join us. If you can help with refreshment please, speak with Jan.

St James's Fellowship

St James's Fellowship meet in the Lecture Room normally on the first Friday in the month starting at 2.00pm. £2.00 including raffle ticket. All are welcome - bring a friend.

Friday 6th June - Andrew, our organist, will give a recital of piano music (we meet in church.)

Friday 4th July - We will be having a talk from a member of RNLI.

The Richborough Family News

Sunday 22nd June

Corpus Christ Procession
and FiF AGM
4pm St John's Sevenoaks.



Saturday 30th August

Aylesford Day Pilgrimage
(11am - 4pm)

Saturday 13th September

Study Day
St George's Bickley (10am - 3pm)

Saturday 4th October

Quiz Night
7.00pm St George's Bickley

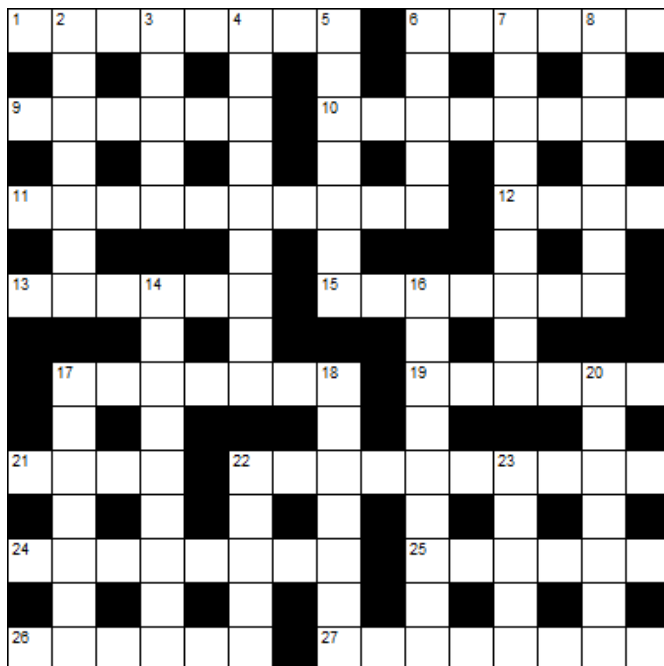
Solutions to May Puzzles

Across: 1 Slapdash, 6 Bypass, 9 Ethics, 10 Well-kept, 11 Nosebleed, 13 Usury, 15 County, 17 Safari, 18 Excuse, 19 Shufti, 21 Stoop, 22 Surreally, 25 Hands-off, 26 Woolly, 28 Deadly, 29 Wise guys.

Down: 2 Lot, 3 Prize, 4 Absolutism, 5 Hawker, 6 Bell, 7 Pikestaff, 8 Superficial, 12 Orchestrate, 14 Hash browns, 16 Unclouded, 20 Curfew, 23 Along, 24 Bony, 27 Lay.

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

June Puzzles (Solutions next month)



Across

- 1 Old but strangely keeping most of hair? As was Thomas initially (8)
- 6 Nurse in crisis - terrible (6)
- 9 In these days link with contact (6)
- 10 Dialling numbers for field of encryption (4,4)
- 11 Tidings of landlord's bulletin (10)
- 12 It's not odd for first woman to go North (4)
- 13 Pairs of utterly moody strikers are the greatest (6)
- 15 Times not in for positions (7)
- 17 Phone, or mistreat loser (2-5)
- 19 Frustrate hard work in baker's product (6)
- 21 Belonging to the second person in speeches of old (4)
- 22 Off piste company somehow makes for counter service (4,6)
- 24 Beaten Inter Milan losing a never-ending application (8)
- 25 Shrewd like Old King fourth in line (6)
- 26 Threaten principals in many particular examples, no doubt (6)
- 27 Insider hovers easily abroad (8)

Down

- 2 Scrap strange people on time (7)
- 3 Kicks out high street retailer (5)
- 4 Joint index, for example, of privileged information (9)
- 5 Sheds could become a stolen disaster (4-3)
- 6 Guide found in Hereford? (5)
- 7 Farmyard animal not for the table (6,3)
- 8 Forever without aim (7)
- 14 Under different conditions review showier film (9)
- 16 Perhaps a sortable old instrument (9)
- 17 Element found when salt removed from sublimation process (7)
- 18 Dish has it's roots in diversity (7)
- 20 State of vestment rather cheesy (7)
- 22 Excuse the French squatting in apartment (5)
- 23 Charges about the end of August for parish events (5)

Sudoku

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

Monthly Draw Winners for May

1st Jan Gore

2nd Elizabeth Gibson

3rd Michelle Stewart

The Benefice Diary

Saturday 5th July	Barbecue at 2.00pm In St James's Garden if the weather is fine. Tickets £10.
Sunday 27th July	St James's Day Mass at 5pm Preacher - Fr Andrew Davis.
Saturday 16th August	Cream Tea at 3.00pm In St James's Garden if the weather is fine. Tickets £6.
Monday 29th September	7.30pm St Michael's Day Mass with Confirmation Celebrant and Preacher - Bishop Luke.
Sunday 10th October	St James's Harvest Supper at 6.30pm for 7.00pm
Saturday 8th November	St James's Autumn Fair
Saturday 29th November	St James's Quiz Night

Duchenne Dash 2025



Duchenne
UK

Hayley from St Michael's Church is taking part in the Duchenne Dash 2025, a remarkable cycling event that challenges riders to cover 300km from London to Paris in just 24 hours to raise money for Duchenne UK, and she is kindly asking for your sponsorship. Yes, you read that correctly - 24 hours to get from London to Paris on a bike! 24 hours of peddling and enjoying the comfort of a bicycle saddle...

But this journey is about more than the miles; it's about winning the race to end the devastating impacts of Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD), a cruel muscle-wasting disease that affects thousands of boys in the UK. There's currently no cure and life expectancy is mid-twenties. Families can only watch as their sons lose the ability to walk, to raise their arms for a hug, to wave hello. It's heartbreaking.

The charity was set up in 2012 by Emily Reuben and Alex Johnson, two mums of boys who were diagnosed with the condition. They'd been told by doctors to go home and enjoy what short time they would have with their sons before they died in their teens. But instead of just accepting fate, they chose to fight for their children; to fight for a cure, for better care, more research, and better equipment to enable them to live with dignity and independence.

Because of Emily and Alex and the work of Duchenne UK, there is now hope for these boys and their families. By establishing better standards of care through the DMD Care project, boys are living longer and with better health. And through the DMD Hubs project more boys than ever before are taking part in clinical trials in the UK to uncover potential treatments. Duchenne UK won't give up until we see the end of DMD and its devastating impacts.

Drug development takes a long time so two years ago Duchenne UK started looking into the development of new technology to improve independence and quality of life for boys with DMD in the here and now. Which is where Hayley comes in. She is a product designer and is using her skills to help design innovative assistive technology like EleveX, an exoskeleton for the arms which will help boys to continue doing the things we take for granted, like eating and drinking independently or hugging their parents, even as their strength diminishes.

So please, show your support for this amazing cause. Every pedal stroke Hayley takes will contribute to Duchenne UK's vital work and accelerate the development of treatments and technologies to overcome this devastating condition. Please use the QR code below to donate via Hayley's JustGiving page or speak to her or Gwen for other ways to donate.

Thank you from Hayley and the Duchenne UK team for helping in the fight to end DMD.



Shining Things by Elizabeth Gould

I love all shining things —
the lovely moon,
The silver stars at night,
gold sun at noon.
A glowing rainbow in a stormy sky,
Or bright clouds hurrying
when wind goes by.

I love the glow-worm's elf-light
in the lane,
And leaves a-shine with glistening
drops of rain,
The glinting wings of bees,
and butterflies,
My purring pussy's green
and shining eyes.

I love the street-lamps shining
through the gloom,
Tall candles lighted in
a shadowy room,
New-tumbled chestnuts from
the chestnut tree,
And gleaming fairy bubbles
blown by me.

I love the shining buttons
on my coat,
I love the bright beads
round my mother's throat.
I love the coppery flames
of red and gold,
That cheer and comfort me,
when I'm a-cold.

The beauty of all shining things
is yours and mine,
It was a lovely thought of God
to make things shine.

St James's PCC Round up

St James's PCC meet on Thursday 10th April 2025. There were 9 members present and 3 apologies.

The after accepting the minutes of the meeting held on 12th February, a report was given on finances. It was reported that we had an underspend of £596.33 but account must be taken of the gas reimbursement of £2021.40. We raise £644 from the quiz night.

The committees reported back to the PCC including the Finance committee reporting on salaries and hall letting licenses, Lloyds Way committee on works being undertaken in the house and the Building Committee on works that needed to be carried out.

A report was given on the Deanery Synod meeting held on the 10th March at which The Bishop of Rochester and the Archdeacon presented the updated Diocesan strategy. The new Area Dean of Beckenham, The Rev. Richard Jones was also commissioned.

An update was given on the progress of the ongoing repair to the organ blower, including the recommendation that nothing is stored on top of it.

The Accounts for 2024 and the Annual report for 2024 were approved.

In any other business it was reported on how successful the Mothering Sunday Service has been received.

At the meeting held on Sunday 11th May 2025 after the APCM the following people were elected to office.

Julian Gibson - Vice Chair

John Rowe - Treasurer

Jan Gore - Secretary

It was agreed the date of the next meeting would be 11th June 2025.

St Michael's PCC Round up

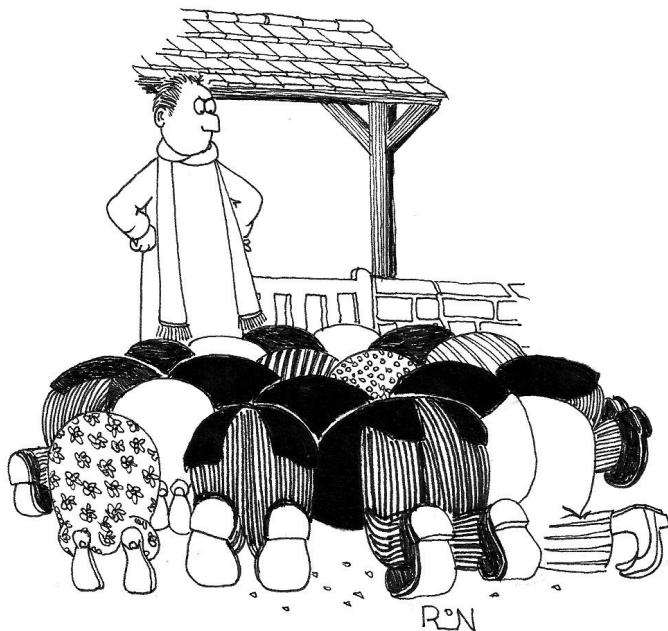
St Michael's PCC met briefly after the APCM on Sunday 27th April to elect officer to serve on the PCC for the coming year. The following were elected:

Hayley Philippault - Vice Chair

Hayley Philippault - Secretary

Top of the Pew

This year we have made up a team to compete in the Top of The Pew knockout quiz, and have been drawn to play against Bromley Common Methodist Church. The quiz will be held in St. James's Church at a time to be confirmed, on Sunday 15 June, and we'd love some local support please. There will be refreshments served at half time. As well as having the opportunity to meet with teams from other local churches we are also supporting a local charity, Bromley Homeless, which addresses the physical and mental needs of those in the borough who need their help.



*Keith was very strict about confetti in
the churchyard*

Why aren't dinosaurs in the Bible?

The Bible wasn't written to list all the animals on earth or tell us about science. It was written a long time before people started to use science to learn about the world.

When the Bible was written, people didn't even have a word for dinosaurs yet! But it's not just dinosaurs that aren't mentioned in the Bible, it doesn't talk about armadillos, kangaroos, sabre-toothed cats or penguins either!

That doesn't mean that the Bible is out of date or wrong, or that these animals aren't important. Rather than teaching us science, many Christians believe that the Bible was written to tell people about God, how much He loves them, and all the amazing things He has done.

The Bible says that God made everything, and loves everything He made, so that includes dinosaurs. It also encourages people to explore and find out all about the wonderful things it says God has made. Science is a part of this exploration.

Did God make the dinosaurs?

The Bible (the holy book that Christians read) says that God made everything. All the stars, the Earth and all the amazing plants and animals that have ever lived here. So yes, most Christians believe that God made the dinosaurs!

The Bible also teaches that God loves it when people explore His creation, and science is a great way of doing that. So, for many Christians, science is one of the fun things we can use to learn all about how God made everything, including all of the dinosaurs!

Were humans and dinosaurs ever living on earth at the same time?

Yes! But probably not the kind of dinosaur you're thinking of! Most of the dinosaurs died out a very, very long time ago, way before humans first lived. But some of the smaller, feathery dinosaurs survived and over a long time they have evolved into the animals we call birds.

So, from chickens and robins to penguins and ostriches, there are dinosaurs living all over our world today!

DIRECTORY

Vicar: Fr. Russell Staggs SSC 020 8402 2712
07526 621232

Email: vicar@stjamesandstmichael.org.uk

Churchwardens:

St. James's Gwen. Binnie 020 8650 0342

St. Michael's Matthaiu Philippault 07838 146467

Email: office.stmichaelbeckenham@gmail.com

Benefice Administrator Jo Perry 07838 146467

Email: office.stjamesbeckenham@gmail.com

Email: office.stmichaelbeckenham@gmail.com

Hall bookings Jo Perry 07838 146467

St. James's Fellowship First Friday of each month
Guild Room 2.00pm-3.30pm

Brownie Guides 6th Beckenham
Tuesday in the Hall
6.15pm-7.45pm
Alison Mansfield 020 8658 1680

Guides 6th Beckenham
Friday in the Hall
7pm-8.30pm
Alison 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