

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



Benefice  
News

June  
2026

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

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**THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JAMES**

St James's Ave, Elmers End, Beckenham

 StJamesElmersEnd

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**SUNDAY WORSHIP**

9.15am  
Sung Parish Mass  
*followed by refreshments*

*Confessions by appointment or after Mass on Saturday*

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**WEEKDAY WORSHIP**

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

**THE PARISH CHURCH OF  
ST MICHAEL WITH ST AUGUSTINE**  
Ravenscroft Road, Beckenham

 stmichaelbeckenham



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**SUNDAY WORSHIP**

11.00am  
Sung Parish Mass  
*followed by refreshments*

*Confessions by appointment or after Mass on Friday*

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**WEEKDAY WORSHIP**

Wednesday- 10.00am  
*followed by refreshments*  
Friday - 7.00pm

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*For Solemnities and Major Feast Day see The Benefice Diary on page 11*

[www.stjamesandstmichael.org.uk](http://www.stjamesandstmichael.org.uk)

# From the Vicarage



Dear friends,

June is a month when the churchyard and gardens are looking at their very best. The longer days and warmer weather bring colour and life all around us. It is often at this time of year that we notice again the quiet beauty of our church grounds and the peace they offer to so many people who pass through them.

This month I would like especially to thank Geoff Stark, who has decided to step down from caring for the East and West Gardens after fifteen years of dedicated work.

The gardens are beautiful and are a real asset to the life of the church. They are admired not only by members of the congregation but also by visitors and people in the local community who pass by each day.

Anyone who has ever cared for a garden knows how much time, patience, and effort it takes. Much of this work is often done quietly and without fuss, yet it makes a tremendous difference to the appearance and welcome of our church.

Churches are built and sustained by people who give their time and talents generously, often behind the scenes. We are deeply grateful for all those who help care for our buildings, grounds, and parish life throughout the year.

As we move further into the summer months, parish life continues to be busy with services, events, and the many activities that help keep our church community active and welcoming. Thank you to everyone who gives their time and energy so generously to support the life of the parish.

Please be assured of my prayers for you all.

R Russell

# Christian Aid Week



A big thank you to everyone who took part in our Christian Aid fundraising this year.

Whether you joined the walk, sponsored one of our walkers, helped with organisation, or supported the event in other ways, your generosity and encouragement were greatly appreciated.

At the time of writing we do not yet have a final total, but we believe that, as a parish, we have raised around £1,000 for Christian Aid. This is a wonderful achievement and a real sign of the kindness and generosity within our church community.

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## Churches Together in Beckenham

Despite the inclement weather on Good Friday a crowd of about 350 people from all traditions of Christian churches in Beckenham processed from St. Edmund's Church to Beckenham Green on the Walk of Witness. This was followed by an excellent service.

CTiB are organising a Summer Picnic, which will be held in the gardens (weather permitting, otherwise in the hall) of St. Paul's Church, Brackley Road on 5th July. Just come along from about midday with your lunch and a rug, and be prepared to share some relaxed time and fellowship together with other church members.

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## Top of the Pew Competition

It's that time of year again, when the local churches meet up to fight it out in the knockout competition. Your team will be meeting Elmers End Free Church to do battle on 21 June at 7.30 p.m. in St. James's Church hall. Please come along and support us.

Apart from the fun we shall have at these competitions, as usual we shall be welcoming charity donations. This year's chosen charity is Bromley District Talking News for the Blind. This is a community initiative run by a team of volunteers to keep blind and partially sighted people in the loop with local news.

# Music for June



## 7 June 2026 - Feast of Corpus Christi

Introit: NEH 271 Alleluia sing to Jesus  
Offertory: NEH 296 Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour  
Communion: NEH 305 Soul of my Saviour  
Final: NEH 268 Of the glorious body telling

## 14 June 2026- 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Introit: CH 22 All people that on earth do dwell  
Offertory: CH 536 Oh Jesus I have promised  
Communion: CH 355 Let all mortal flesh keep silence  
Final: CH 357 Let all the world in every corner sing

## 21 June 2026 - 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Introit: CH 528 O God our help, in ages past  
Offertory: CH 43 And can it be  
Communion: CH 72 Be still, for the presence of the Lord  
Final: NEH 461 There's a wideness in God's mercy

## 28 June 2026 - Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul

Introit: NEH 197 For all the Saints who from their labours rest  
Offertory: NEH 171 With golden splendour and with roseate hues  
Communion: NEH 282 Faithful Shepherd, feed me  
Final: NEH 172 Thou art the Christ, O Lord

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# Hymns for August

Do you have a favourite hymn you would like to sing? August is your month to pick the hymns. There are slips of paper at the back of the church for you to suggest a hymn to sing. Just fill them in and place them in the box provided. It is hoped we will be able to sing as many of these hymns as possible.



The past month has seen the start of our favourite term, when the weather is kind enough for us to be outdoors as much as possible. We have plans to explore our local parks, to try our hand at fire starting and den building, plus a spot of hiking to learn some compass skills. Watch this space!

As a group we recently celebrated St George's Day by participating in a fantastic activity day, organised by Bromley Scout District at Frylands Wood. The children all tried out grass sledging, sumo wrestling, go karting, climbing, laser tag and lots more. St George's Day is particularly important to us... 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 Promise we make and what it means to be a Scout. At Frylands Wood we all paused at lunchtime to give thanks to our hard-working volunteers and to collectively renew our Scout promise. A truly memorable day!

Another recent special day was also organised by Bromley Scout District who threw a Thank You celebration at Bromley FC for our newest volunteers who have signed up to help over the past 12 months. So the leaders (without kids this time!) got to meet the football club's mascot The Raven, have a tour of the ground, enjoy a buffet and everyone received a badge of course. All our volunteers give up so much time and energy for free to help us run weekly meetings, to go on camp and to lead our committee. We couldn't be half as successful without them, so all the children who enjoy Scouting in our group are a very lucky bunch!



Please feel free to come and join us for refreshments and a natter after our mid-week masses. St. Michael's Church is open on Wednesday mornings 10.30 – 12.30, and St. James's on Thursdays 11 – 12.30. Everyone is welcome to come along.

# The Society of Mary Festival

by Andrew Moore

On Saturday 2 May I attended the May Devotion at St. Silas, Kentish Town. The month of May is by tradition of the Church dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. During this time the Mother of God and Mother of us all is honoured through prayer and devotional practices. It seems the early church had Marian feasts in May possibly in response to the pagan festivals of fertility.

Before High Mass the Regina Caeli was sung which we sing as Joy to thee O Queen of Heaven during Eastertide. The Mass was pontifical with our Bishop Luke as the principal celebrant. The Mass setting was by Mozart and the propers sung to Gregorian chant. The choir sang beautifully and we were able to join in with the hymn singing. After Mass we processed to Holy Trinity Church, Kentish Town, singing Marian hymns. Fr. Philip Corbett ensured we all crossed the busy roads safely. On arrival at the church we sang the Salve Regina - Hail holy Queen.

After an enjoyable lunch and a short AGM, I was admitted with five others to membership of the Society by Fr. Simon Morris the Chaplain General. The day concluded with Solemn Vespers and Benediction the officiant being Bishop Jonathan of Fulham. Bishop Luke preached.

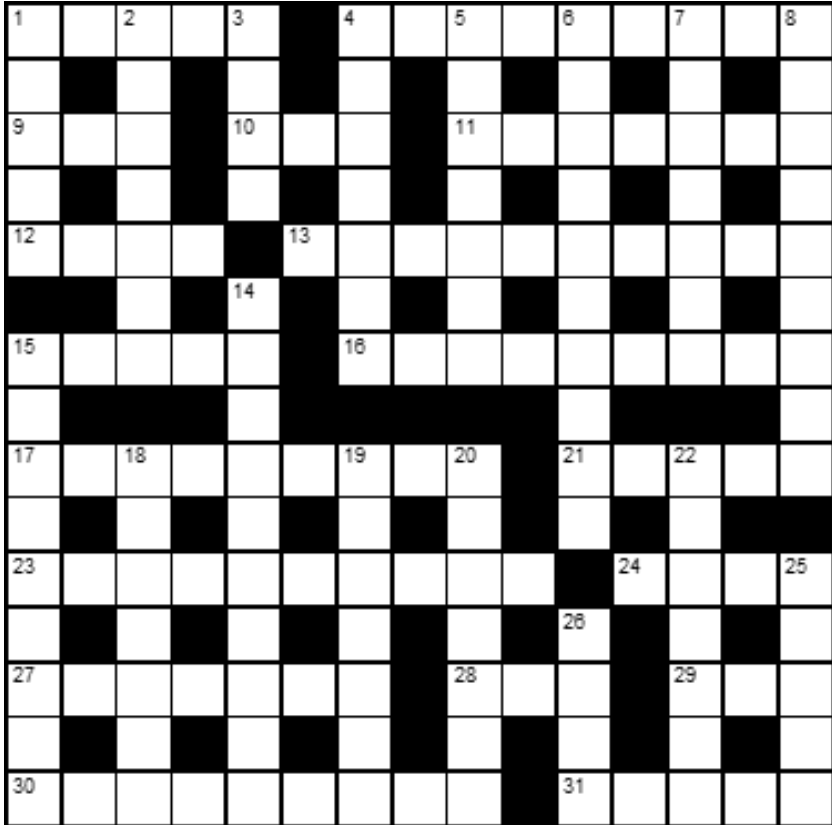
The Society in its current form was founded in 1934 and its aims:

- To love and honour Mary;
- To spread devotion to her in reparation of past neglect and misunderstanding and in the cause of Christian unity;
- To take Mary as a model in purity, personal relationships and family life.

Membership is open to all who are prepared to follow a simple Rule which includes:

- Attendance at Mass on the principal feasts of Our lady;
- Devotions using the Angelus, the Rosary, Litany and Anthems of Our lady.

# Puzzles (Solutions next month)



## Across

- 1 Drug addict takes heroin and becomes a guide (5)
- 4 Supervisor may be one of these when Victor succeeded in leaving (9)
- 9 Weight found at the end of Carshalton (3)
- 10 Primarily dark in Manchester (3)
- 11 Ian and Leo with a wind up harp? (7)
- 12 Bad to be the wrong way round (4)
- 13 PC on the go I would make a lovely picture (10)
- 15 Cat meets regularly built tycoon (5)
- 16 She may somehow rise to become a philanderer (9)
- 17 Leo is one of a dozen that celeb autographs (4,5)
- 21 Bargains here when shops are labelling expensive stock at first (5)
- 23 Paltry shortened nightwear accepting endless holy book (10)
- 24 See English agent (4)
- 27 Talk about partial adoration (7)

- 28 Fuss discovered in El Salvador? (3)
- 29 Would their hearts be made of this? (3)
- 30 The press for example shown in pew sheets? (4,5)
- 31 At first ten or thirty added liberally makes forty in this case (5)

**Down**

- 1 In Paris a match is free (5)
- 2 Atilla for one receives peal and goes ferreting (7)
- 3 Rode oddly and make again (4)
- 4 Little old me in a production by hook or by crook (7)
- 5 Camouflaged elephant omitting Lloyd Webber creation (7)
- 6 Rearrange hidden orangeries (10)
- 7 Familiarises oneself towards the east (7)
- 8 Function mends posts (9)
- 14 Oddly, local causes hitch in some ancient mode of expression (10)
- 15 Girl, it's heard, enters class, to deceive (9)
- 18 Hounds found in mountainous country? (7)
- 19 Smiled before bearing it? (7)
- 20 Ruler's wife found in some cake? (7)
- 22 The French call attack! (4,3)
- 25 Mountain call swaps duke for king for this bumpkin (5)
- 26 Shady seller is all French (4)

# Sudoku

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

# The Richborough Family News



Sunday 21st June	St John's Sevenoaks (4pm) Patronal Festival with Bishop Luke
Sunday 26th July	St James's Elmers End (5pm) Patronal Festival with Bishop Luke
Saturday 29th August	Aylesford Pilgrimage (12noon) Celebrant and Preacher Bishop Luke
Sunday 27th September	St Michael's Beckenham (5pm) Patronal Festival - Bishop Lindsey Urwin
Saturday 17th October	Richborough Festival - Canterbury

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**St James's Day**

**Sunday 26th July 2026**

**Sung Mass at 5pm**

**Celebrant and Preacher:  
Bishop Luke**

*followed by refreshments*

*please come along to  
celebrate our Patron Saint*

# Poetry Corner

## Miracle at the Table

By Nigel Beeton

Thy table is set, but no lavish spread  
A simple communion of red wine and bread.  
Simple yet holy – where heaven bends low  
That those knelt before Thee Thy true grace may know.

We follow where firstly our Saviour has led  
We listen to words that Jesus first said:  
‘This is My body, it’s broken for you  
And this is My blood, shed for you too.’

The bread that is broken, the wine seen outpoured  
They tell of the sacrifice made of our Lord.  
His body was broken that we might be saved  
But death was defeated – He rose from the grave!

So, kneel in the stillness of this holy place  
Gladly receiving these tokens of Grace.  
Then go from here knowing His Spirit in you  
Will help you to do what He’d have you do!



*...well you cannot fault the efficacy of  
the new 'Planned Giving' scheme...*

# Street Pastors

You may not be in a position to volunteer for this service, but did you know it existed? The volunteers are Christians who care about their communities, and are led to serve in a practical way, providing safety for vulnerable persons who may have been out in pubs and bars, having a good time, but for one reason or another find themselves in need at the end of the night. Some testimonies:

“Thank you so much to the team tonight for getting my daughter to me safely. You were absolutely fantastic. I didn't know the team existed, but you do an amazing job”

“It was 1am on Saturday morning and, in a car park, the team met a young girl who was sitting on her own. She had obviously fallen over and had holes in her tights and grazes on her knees and arms. They talked with her, treated her cuts and bruises and made sure she could get home safely before wrapping her in a foil blanket and giving her water to sip. They stayed chatting with her for another half an hour until she was reunited with her mother”

“Just wanted to say a huge thank you for looking after our son last night in town. It was very reassuring to know that he was cared for by you all. He is embarrassed by what happened and assures us he has learnt not to go overboard with drink again, so if the lesson has been learned then something good has come out of last night”

Our local teams operate in Beckenham High Street, but some months there are only 2 teams. Please keep these valuable volunteers in your prayers.



# The Benefice Diary

Please make a note of these dates and fund-raising events which the Social Affairs Committee will be organising over the next couple of months. Further details in next month's newsletter.

- 27 June**      **Summer Barbecue**  
12.30pm for 1.00pm  
In the church garden  
Tickets £10.00 (vegetarian option available)  
bring your own drinks
- 26th July**      **St James's Elmers End (5pm)**  
Patronal Festival with Bishop Luke  
*(Please note there will be no morning Mass in either church )*
- 1st August**      **Tradional Afternoon Cream Tea**  
3pm in the church gardens  
A glass of Prosecco or a soft drink will be offered on arrival  
Tickets £10.00
- 27th Sept**      **St Michael's Patronal Festival**  
5pm Sung Mass  
Celebrant and Preacher: Bishop Lindsey Urwin OGS  
*(Please note there will be no morning Mass in either church )*
- 7th Nov**      **Quiz Night**  
St James's Church Hall
- 28th Nov**      **Christmas Fair**  
Please start collecting thing to stock our stalls

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## Monthly Draw Results

1st - Pauline Luffingham

2nd - Eileen Ironside,

3rd - Susanne Petty

# News from the Brownies and Guides



The Guides dusted off the drums to practise various rhythms and compose new ones ready for Church Parade, celebrating Mothering Sunday. Because we had put a lot of effort into these practices we invited families down on the last night of the Spring term to listen to the guides perform, it was well received.

The Guides have been doing their live smart badge and created a list of life hacks to share and designed board games for each group to play.

The guides had a time travelling sleepover at Heartsease when they travelled with the use of a TARDIS to 1666 and the great fire of London to search for Samuel Pepys parmesan cheese, 1911 and the suffragette movement, 1980s to enjoy take a way pizza (decade when Dominos opened in the UK); 1950s going bowling in Bromley, 1942 with rationing to cook a chocolate cake without eggs.

The Brownies marked Earth Day by finding out about sloths, elephants, pandas and turtles and writing acrostic poems about each animal.



The Brownies have been working towards their Have adventures theme badge, making up a song to encourage kids to wear sunscreen, learning about symbols on maps and seeing how far they could travel around the world.

We've been waiting for rain to dance under umbrellas and resorted in using the hose for this to enable them to create a routine.

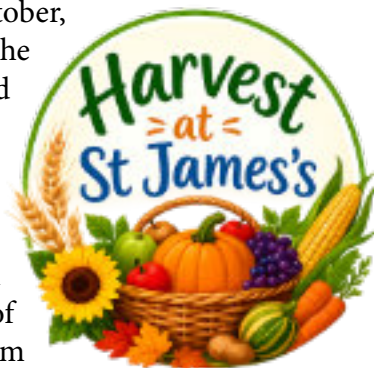
We have planted sunflower seeds and the plants are ready to be planted out after half term, watch out for the sunflowers over the next few weeks growing in the carpark flower bed.



# St James's Fellowship

Meet on the 5th June in the Lecture Room at 2.00 pm for tea and a natter. Do come and join us.

Our Harvest Supper will be held on 3rd October, another bumper evening meal, a celebration of the harvest, giving thanks for successful crops and stocking up for the winter. Details available later, but perhaps you'd like to make a note of the date.



The Church service will be at 9.15 am on 4th October, when we shall welcome gifts of non-perishable produce and toiletries. At 4 pm that afternoon there will be a Church Parade for our uniformed organisations. This service will be followed by refreshments.

As usual all donations will be given to the local food bank.

## Solutions to April Puzzles

**Across:** 1 Usher, 4 Superiors, 9 Ton, 10 Dim, 11 Aeolian, 12 Evil, 13 Photogenic, 15 Mogul, 16 Womaniser, 17 Star signs, 21 Sales, 23 Negligible, 24 Espy, 27 Oration, 28 Ado, 29 Oak, 30 Mass media, 31 Total.

**Down:** 1 Untie, 2 Hunting, 3 Redo, 4 Somehow, 5 Phantom, 6 Reorganise, 7 Orients, 8 Sinecures, 14 Classicism, 15 Misinform, 18 Afghans, 19 Grinned, 20 Sultana, 22 Lash out, 25 Yokel, 26 Tout.

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

# DIRECTORY

**Vicar** **Fr Russell Stagg SSC** **020 8402 2712**  
**07526 621232**  
**Email: vicar@stjamesandstmichael.org.uk**

Churchwardens:  
St James's Gwen Binnie 020 8650 0342  
St Michael's Matthieu Philippault 07838 146467  
Phil Bennett 07838 146467  
Email: office.stmichaelbeckenham@gmail.com

Benefice Administrator Jo Perry 07838 146467  
Email: office.stmichaelbeckenham@gmail.com

Hall bookings Jo Perry 07383 146467  
Email: office.stmichaelbeckenham@gmail.com

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

Brownies 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 Road  
6.30pm -7.45pm  
Claudia Gotor-Pedrerros claudiagotor@gmail.com

Cubs 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 9thpbbeavers@gmail.com

Pre-school Jenny Strudwick 020 8249 8386