

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



Benefice
News

July/August
2026

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



SUNDAY WORSHIP

9.15am
Sung Parish Mass
followed by refreshments

Confessions by appointment or after Mass on Saturday

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



SUNDAY WORSHIP

11.00am
Sung Parish Mass
followed by refreshments

Confessions by appointment or after Mass on Friday

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

Wednesday- 10.00am
followed by refreshments
Friday - 7.00pm

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

www.stjamesandstmichael.org.uk

From the Vicarage



Dear Friends,

As we enter the summer months, many of us look forward to a change of pace. Schools break up, families take holidays, and there is often a little more time to rest and enjoy the company of those around us. I hope that, whatever your plans may be, you will find time for refreshment and renewal.

On 20th July I will be moving into the new vicarage at 15A St James's Avenue. The house has been built to serve as the benefice clergy house for many years to come, and I am looking forward to making it my home and a place of welcome for the parish. As moving house is a major undertaking, I will be taking a short period of leave afterwards to unpack and get settled.

July also brings an important occasion in the life of our benefice. On Sunday 26th July we shall celebrate our Patronal Festival of St James with a Sung Mass at 5.00pm. We are delighted that Bishop Luke will be joining us for the first time, and I hope many of you will be able to join us for this special celebration.

Summer often disrupts our normal routines, but it can also provide an opportunity to spend a little more time with God. Whether at home or away, the invitation of Christ remains the same: to draw near to him in prayer, worship and service.

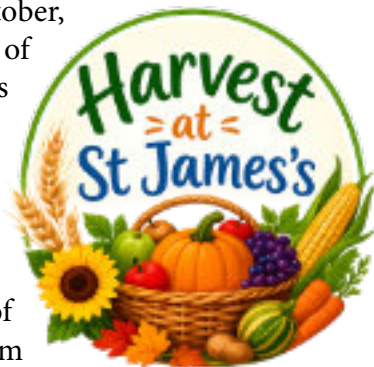
In the Gospels, Jesus often withdrew from the crowds to pray before continuing his ministry. Those moments remind us that rest and prayer are gifts from God. They help us to renew our strength and keep our eyes fixed on what truly matters.

With every blessing,

R Russell



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.

Beckenham Lace

Did you know that 38 'Battle of Britain Lace Panels' were created in the mid 1940s? One of these was presented to the Borough of Beckenham in 1947 by the makers, Dobson & Browne, to honour the town's significant contributions during the Battle of Britain. 'Our' panel has been on display at various venues including Royal Air Force Biggin Hill and most recently at Bromley Central Library. As this library is now moving to the former Top Shop store in Bromley High Street the community has requested the return of the lace to Beckenham. It has now been installed in Beckenham Library.



The lace is full of imagery taken from the Battle of Britain: aircraft in battle, airmen parachuting, bomb damaged London buildings. The most iconic must be St. Paul's Cathedral shown surrounded by flames but untouched by the surrounding bombing. The scroll across the bottom contains a quote from Winston Churchill's 1940 speech: 'Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few'. Well worth a viewing.

Music for June



4th July – 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Introit:	CHfE 233	Guide me O thou great Redeemer
Offertory:	CHfE 559	O worship the King
Communion:	CHfE 633	Seek ye first the kingdom of God
Final:	CHfE 227	God's Spirit is in my heart

12th July – 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Introit:	CHfE 303	In Christ there is no east or west
Offertory:	CHfE 813	Will you let me be your servant
Communion:	CHfE 40	Amazing Grace
Final:	CHfE 161	Father, Lord of all Creation

19th July – 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Introit:	CHfE 22	All people that on earth do dwell
Offertory:	CHfE 88	Blest are the pure in heart
Communion:	CHfE 570	Oh the love of my Lord
Final:	CHfE 386	Lord of all hopefulness

26th July – St James's Day (5pm Mass)

Introit:	NEH 197	For all the Saints
Offertory:	NEH 420	O Jesus I have promised
Communion:	NEH 295	Let all mortal flesh
Thanksgiving	NEH 208	In our day of Thanksgiving
Processional:	NEH 478	Ye watcher and ye holy ones

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.



Over these past few weeks the weather has been very kind to us & we have managed to enjoy lots of outdoor activities. The Scouts have been working towards their Forester badge, identifying trees and learning how to protect our woodland. And at the same time they are attempting a 'Green Time' challenge to reduce their screen time and increase time outdoors.

Our lucky Beavers enjoyed a tour of Elmers End train station given by the wonderful ticket office staff there. Everyone enjoyed seeing behind the scenes, and got to make a platform announcement too. So any unfortunate members of the public commuting home after a long day at work must have been startled by the loud shrieks in place of departure information! A very interesting evening, and we hope to return again soon to learn more.

We spent an action-packed evening at Heartsease campsite in West Wickham where the Cubs learned some den building skills using natural materials. At the end of the session the dens were tested out with a bucket of water poured over them, and thankfully no one went home too soaking wet. The Beavers meanwhile tested out different methods of fire lighting to work out which natural materials work best, which of course was followed by toasting marshmallows on the fires.

Coming up in the next couple of weeks before we break for the holidays, our annual summer camps. News of how much (or little) sleep we all get in the next newsletter!



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 – 12.00, and St. James's on Thursdays 11 – 12.30. Everyone is welcome to come along.

Who Is James?

We know him at St. James's Church as our patron, James, whose festival is being celebrated this year on 26 July (just a day late – please make a special effort to be with us at 5pm).

He and his brother, John, were known as the 'Sons of Thunder', and his fiery temper may have contributed to his execution by the sword by King Herod Agrippa. He was the second of Jesus' disciples to die (after Judas) and the first martyr. An example of his temper



was recorded in Luke when the two brothers suggested bringing down fire on the Samaritans who had failed to welcome Jesus and his disciples. It is recorded that Jesus chided them, and they went on to another village. What happened to his remains after his death is largely in the realm of legend. Tradition has it that St. James preached the gospel in the far western provinces of the Roman Empire, possibly in what is now Spain. His remains are traditionally believed to be buried in the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Spain, where he is the patron saint. There is an historic network of pilgrimage routes across Europe leading to the Cathedral.

His original Hebrew name was Ya'akov

When the new testament spread to Greece the name morphed to Iakobos, then to Iacobus in Latin. Further adaptations of the name are: Jacques (French), Giacomo and Jacopo (Italian), Jakob (German), Iago and Santiago (Spanish), Tiago and Xame (Galician/Portuguese), and James (English).

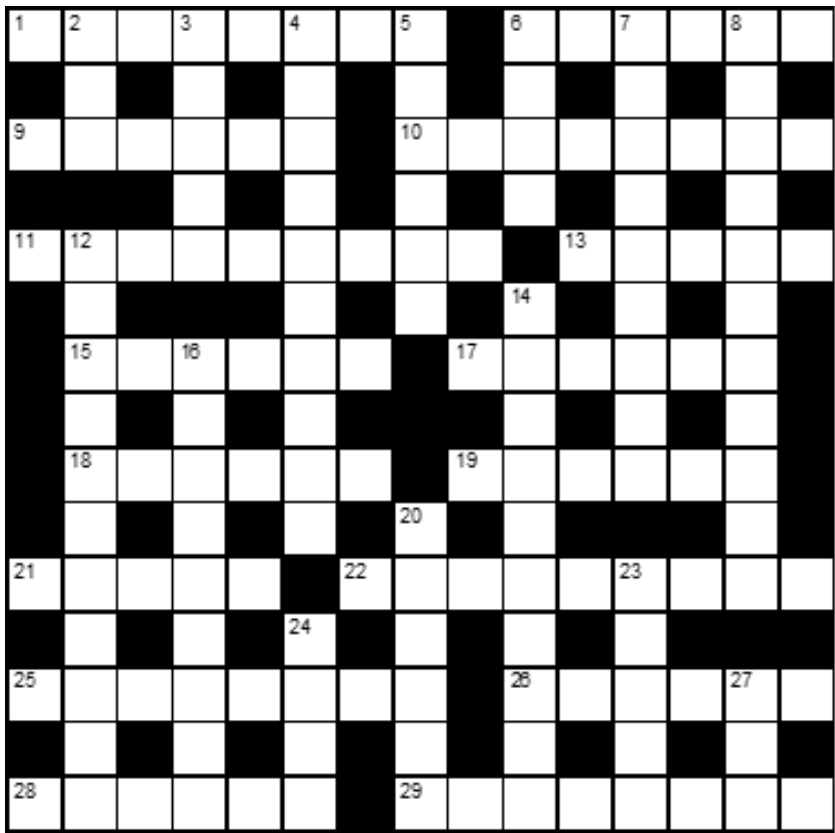
Monthly Draw Results

1st - Jan Gore

2nd - Eileen Bradbury

3rd - Eunice Stagg

Puzzles (Solutions next month)



Across

- 1 Revolutionary massage - one thousand heavenly beings (8)
- 6 Attack one politician with faulty gun (6)
- 9 Three ways to find useless information (6)
- 10 Since finest sailor makes building material (8)
- 11 Somehow breaks apart without qualification those involved (9)
- 13 Provided backlight placed on record (5)
- 15 Feel disappointment when run over bird (6)
- 17 In place wearing terrible suit (2,4)
- 18 Vegetable sounds like it could belong in the basement (6)
- 19 Large spinner at the circus (3,3)
- 21 A room on high (5)
- 22 Criticise players involved in scandal? (9)
- 25 Second smuggler in court (6-2)
- 26 Native American primarily not a very apprehensive jigsaw operator (6)

- 28 Relative from Newcastle? That's a relief (6)
- 29 Entailed change of editor's details of article (8)

Down

- 2 Female drug seller no matter (3)
- 3 Stand without beginning will get your attention (5)
- 4 Boycott Chuck for fruit (10)
- 5 Mike may agree it's a bit thin (6)
- 6 Found in a silo may cause long range damage (4)
- 7 Worried misstep is making a doubter (9)
- 8 Entertainer that needs a hand? (5,6)
- 12 Growth industry for the greens (11)
- 14 Obscure instinct I'd misinterpreted (10)
- 16 Deflated folding chair gives rise to winger (9)
- 20 Went to sleep is the best bet (6)
- 23 Offered fifty for a hammer (5)
- 24 Backward attraction? (4)
- 27 She appears at the beginning of the year briefly (3)

Sudoku

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

Smiles lines

The Collection

After the service a visitor asked a small boy,

"Do you know why they pass the collection plate around?"

"Of course," replied the boy.

"So they don't have to pay everyone one by one."



Poetry Corner

St James

by anon.

Beside the waters of Galilee,
A fisherman cast his net.
The morning light lay on the lake,
A day he would never forget.

A voice called out across the shore,
"Come and follow me."
Saint James first heard the call of Christ;
And chose the path of sacrifice.

He walked with Jesus day by day,
And saw God's glory shining through;
He learned that faith is more than words,
But trust in all that God will do.

The first Apostle called to die,
He gave his life without retreat;
Yet still his witness guides the Church,
And draws pilgrims to Christ's feet.

O James, our patron, friend and guide,
Pray that we may faithful be;
And follow where our Saviour leads,
As you once did by Galilee.



St James's Fellowship

All of those who came along to the June meeting had a brilliant afternoon playing 'Beetle'. We found, by default, that there are no definitive rules for this game, but this added to the fun. Please can we do this again some time?

Our next meeting will be on 3 July at 2 pm. Please bring along some photos, perhaps some childhood ones and we'll try to identify you before anno domini played its tricks, or some which have some special meaning to you.

We shall not be having a meeting in August, but if you like perhaps we could have a picnic in the West Garden on 7 August from 1pm. Please bring along your packed lunch, and we'll sit surrounded by beautiful flowers and greenery. If this appeals please let Gwen know. Tea and coffee will be provided. Even if you don't usually come to Fellowship meetings, you are most welcome.

In September Andrew will be treating us to a musical performance in the church, and in October Fr. Russell will give us a talk on one of his passions, photography.



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.

- 26th July** **St James's Elmers End (5pm)**
Patronal Festival with Bishop Luke
Followed by refreshments
(Please note there will be no morning Mass in either church)
- 1st August** **Traditional 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 things to stock our stalls
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Churches Together in Beckenham

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.

Beckenham Deanery Synod

We met at St. John's Church, Eden Park, on 16 June. The discussion part of this meeting was presentations under the heading 'Called to Grow', where the priests of three churches in the Deanery described various initiatives.

One item from the Art's Minister, Rev Jeremy Blunden from St. George's Church stood out. Have you heard of Lorna May Wadsworth's interpretation of The Last Supper? It was commissioned by St. George's Church, Nailsworth, and was unveiled and dedicated as an altarpiece on 23 April 2010. The parish in Gloucestershire had been left a modest sum as a bequest by a parishioner who had a vision of a Last Supper for his church. Wadsworth accepted the commission as expenses-only on the condition that she had complete artistic control – all the disciples were good looking young men and Jesus was black. It is reported that there was a sharp intake of breath as the painting was unveiled, and some people were moved to tears.



In November 2019 the artist noticed a hole in the 12' x 3'6" work of art, which was painted on aluminium, while moving it to put on display in Sheffield. Pictures were shown to a ballistics expert who said it was a 'perfect match' for air rifle damage. There is a huge dent around the impact, and a lot of the painting is no longer attached to the aluminium. The artist said she was devastated, and never dreamed that anyone would react so violently to it. She added that the damage was at the exact point the Roman pierced Christ's side to check he was dead.

This was mentioned in the context of St. George's (Beckenham) summer arts festival. The Rector said it was not at all unusual to have a band rehearsing in the church all Saturday morning, everything cleared out and the church set up for an afternoon wedding ceremony, only to have all the wedding

accoutrements cleared away and a stage set up for an evening musical performance. He said that any remaining aromas from the previous night's entertainment were soon overcome by incense.

From the other presentations it was clear that we must all work together for and with our community to encourage growth.

The Richborough Family News

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

Solutions to June 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

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St Michael's Matthieu Philippault 07838 146467
Phil Bennett 07838 146467
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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