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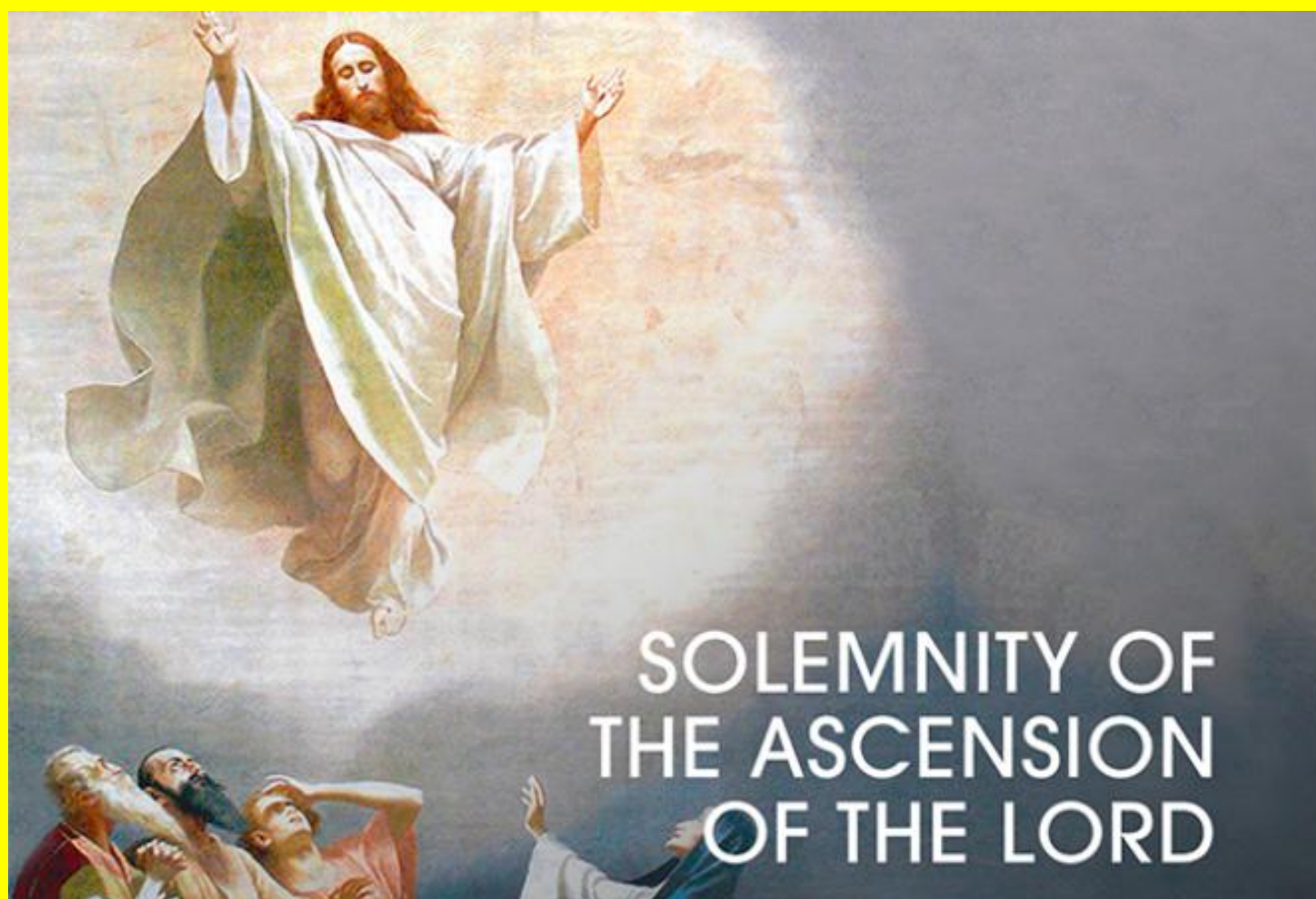
# *The Messenger*

*The Parish Magazine of St Mary the Virgin Stanwell and St Matthew's, Ashford*

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**ISSUE 123 • MAY 2025**

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The Parish of  
*St Mary the Virgin*  
STANWELL  
&  
*St Matthew*  
ASHFORD

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The Parish of  
*St Mary the Virgin*  
STANWELL  
&  
*St Matthew*  
ASHFORD

## Parish Magazine

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The Parish Magazine is published on the first Sunday of the month. Compiler: Belinda Rayner-Tickner  
Matter for publication should be submitted to [magazine@smam.org.uk](mailto:magazine@smam.org.uk)  
Copy deadline is 20th of the month and articles should be no longer than 750 words. News items or reports should be factual and no longer than 250 words. Articles are copyright to the author and may not be reproduced in any form without the written permission of the author or Editor. The Editor's decision is final regarding content.

**Disclaimers:** The Editor does not necessarily agree with all of the views expressed in this magazine.

**Advertisers:** We are grateful to all who advertise in our Parish Magazine, thereby allowing us to produce a higher quality publication.

### Disclaimer:

Whilst reasonable care is taken when accepting advertisements, the Editorial Committee of the Parish Magazine cannot accept any responsibility for any resulting unsatisfactory transactions.

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## SERVICE TIMES

| <i>Time</i>       | <i>Service</i>                       | <i>Place</i> |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Weekdays:</b>  |                                      |              |
| 08:30             | Lauds – Morning Prayer               | Online       |
| 18:00             | Evening Prayer & Holy Hour - Tuesday | St Matthew's |
| 19:00             | Low Mass - Tue                       | St Matthew's |
| 12:30             | Low Mass – Wed                       | St Mary's    |
| 09:15             | Low Mass – Thurs                     | St Matthew's |
| 18:00             | Evening Prayer & Holy Hour - Fri     | St Mary's    |
| 19:00             | Low Mass - Fri                       | St Mary's    |
| <b>Saturdays:</b> |                                      |              |
| 09:00             | The Holy Rosary                      | Online       |
| <b>Sunday</b>     |                                      |              |
| 09:30             | Parish Mass                          | St Matthew's |
| 11:00             | Parish Mass                          | St Mary's    |
| 18:30             | Evensong & Benediction               | St Matthew's |

### REGULAR EVENTS –

|                   |                |                         |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Wednesday:</b> | Morning Café   | 10:00-12:00 before Mass |
| <b>Thursday:</b>  | Coffee Morning | After 09:15 Mass        |
|                   | Bell Ringing * | 19:00                   |
| <b>Friday:</b>    | Choir Practice | 20:00                   |

\*(Alternate between St Mary's and St Matthew's please contact the Tower Captain for more details.)

### PASTORAL CARE

Feasts, Saint's days, Holy days and other special occasions occur through the year; see notices in Church, in the weekly news sheet and the website for details.

Please advise Fr Stuart or one of the Pastoral Team of those who are sick at home or in hospital, so that they can be prayed for and visited as appropriate.

### PASTORAL OFFICES

Preliminary information and relevant forms for Baptism and Marriage can be collected from the parish office at the advertised times. Baptisms usually take place on the first Saturday or third Sunday at St Mary's and St Matthew's. If you would like to have your child baptised, then come along any Sunday for the main Mass and meet us there!

For information about preparing your own or a loved one's funeral, please contact the parish office.

# LET US PONDER TOGETHER...

## FR. STUART PONDER THE VISITATION

As I reflect on the Visitation, that tender and profound moment when Mary journeys to Elizabeth's home, I am struck by the richness of its meaning for us as believers. This episode, recorded in Luke's Gospel, is much more than a meeting between two relatives. It is a moment of deep spiritual significance that offers powerful lessons for our own faith journeys. The Visitation invites us to reflect on service, humility, joy, and the Holy Spirit's work in our lives.

First and foremost, Mary's journey to Elizabeth is a profound act of love and service. Having just received the astonishing news of her divine maternity, Mary could have stayed in Nazareth, focused on her own extraordinary calling. Instead, she chooses to set aside her own needs to help her cousin, who is also experiencing a miraculous pregnancy in her advanced age. Mary's selflessness inspires us to step out of our own concerns and look for ways to serve others. The Visitation reminds us that our faith is not lived out in isolation but through acts of love and service to those around us.

As Christians, this teaches us that true discipleship often involves a willingness to go out of our way to accompany and support others. Like Mary, we are called to be attentive to the needs of those in our lives—family, friends, neighbours, and even strangers. By doing so, we imitate her self-giving love and embody Christ's call to love our neighbour as ourselves.

The humility of both Mary and Elizabeth in this encounter is also deeply inspiring. Mary, carrying the Son of God, does not draw attention to her exalted role. Instead, she comes humbly as a cousin, offering her presence and help. Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, recognizes Mary's unique dignity, exclaiming, "Who am I that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Luke 1:43). This moment teaches us that humility is the foundation of all true relationships—with God and with others. Only when we approach life with humility can we fully recognize and celebrate the presence of Christ in those around us.

The joy of the Visitation is another profound gift. As Mary greets Elizabeth, the unborn John the Baptist leaps in Elizabeth's womb, and Elizabeth herself bursts into praise. Mary responds with her own song of joy, the Magnificat, glorifying God for His mighty deeds. This joy flows from their awareness of



God's presence and work. For us, too, the Visitation is a reminder that faith brings joy—a joy that is meant to be shared. In recognizing Christ's presence, both in our lives and in the lives of others, we are invited to rejoice and to share that joy with the world.

Finally, the Visitation reminds us of the power of the Holy Spirit. Elizabeth's recognition of Mary's role and John's response in the womb are works of the Spirit, who reveals Christ and unites believers in faith and love. In our own lives, the Spirit continues to guide us, enabling us to recognize Christ in others and empowering us to bear witness to His love.

The Visitation is a beautiful model of faith in action—faith that is lived out through service, humility, joy, and openness to the Spirit. As we ponder this encounter, may we, like Mary, go forth to serve with love and humility, bringing Christ's presence into the lives of those we meet. In doing so, we join in the song of Mary and Elizabeth, proclaiming the greatness of the Lord and rejoicing in His saving work.

Yours in Christ

Fr Stuart



## NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

If you attend St Matthew's and St Mary's you will notice that we are trialling a brand new Card donations system. This scheme has also given us the option of signing people up for monthly giving, or a one-off donation, via our website and the QR code below. If you are not presently someone who has signed up to gift aid and regular giving, please consider doing so. If you already give regularly, we are grateful for your continued support.

**Please support the work of this Parish with a donation via:**



For bank details for online payments, please email

[treasurer@smam.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@smam.org.uk)

Julie Bell PCC Treasurer

## NOTE FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

Please note that our office is extremely busy, and we may not always be able to answer telephone calls immediately. This could be due to our team being in church, attending to someone in person, or managing deliveries. To ensure your inquiry is addressed as efficiently as possible, we kindly ask you to consider the following:

- Email: The best way to reach us is via email at [office@smam.org.uk](mailto:office@smam.org.uk).
- Voicemail: If you prefer to call, please leave a message, and we will get back to you as soon as we can. Please be aware that messages left during the weekend may not be answered immediately.

We appreciate your understanding and patience during this busy time and look forward to assisting you.

## PRAYING TOGETHER: MAY

|              |                        |  |
|--------------|------------------------|--|
| <b>Thurs</b> | <b>1st</b>             | <b>S. Joseph the worker</b>                          |
| Fri          | 2nd                    | Hospice staff  |
| <b>Sat</b>   | <b>3rd</b>             | <b>Ss. Philip and James, Apostles</b>                |
| <b>Sun</b>   | <b>4th</b>             | <b>3rd Sunday of Easter – Fr Richard, archdeacon</b> |
| Mon          | 5th                    | Newborn babies and their mothers                     |
| Tues         | 6th                    | Our Sovereign King Charles                           |
| Wed          | 7th                    | Delivery drivers                                     |
| Thurs        | 8th                    | Those struggling with dyslexia                       |
| Fri          | 9th                    | Investigative journalists                            |
| Sat          | 10th                   | Court officials                                      |
| <b>Sun</b>   | <b>11th</b>            | <b>4th Sunday of Easter – the Spelthorne deanery</b> |
| Mon          | 12th                   | Health and Safety workers                            |
| Tues         | 13th                   | Our local GP surgeries                               |
| <b>Wed</b>   | <b>14th</b>            | <b>S. Mathias, Apostle</b>                           |
| Thurs        | 15th                   | Nursery school staff                                 |
| Fri          | 16th                   | University students                                  |
| Sat          | 17th                   | The local High Street                                |
| <b>Sun</b>   | <b>18th</b>            | <b>5th Sunday of Easter – Fr Stuart and Fr John</b>  |
| Mon          | 19th                   | Bank staff   |
| Tues         | 20th                   | Postmasters  |
| Wed          | 21st                   | Police Commissioners                                 |
| Thurs        | 22nd                   | Physiotherapists                                     |
| Fri          | 23rd                   | Supermarket staff                                    |
| Sat          | 24th                   | All those in constant pain                           |
| <b>Sun</b>   | <b>25th</b>            | <b>6th Sunday of Easter – our church choir</b>       |
| Mon          | 26th                   | Single parent families                               |
| Tues         | 27th                   | Lifeguards   |
| Wed          | 28th                   | All who volunteer                                    |
| <b>Thurs</b> | <b>29th</b>            | <b>The Ascension of the Lord</b>                     |
| Fri          | 30th                   | The farming community                                |
| <b>Sat</b>   | <b>31<sup>st</sup></b> | <b>The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>     |

As prayer is the voice of man to God,  
so revelation is the voice of God to Man.

Cardinal Newman

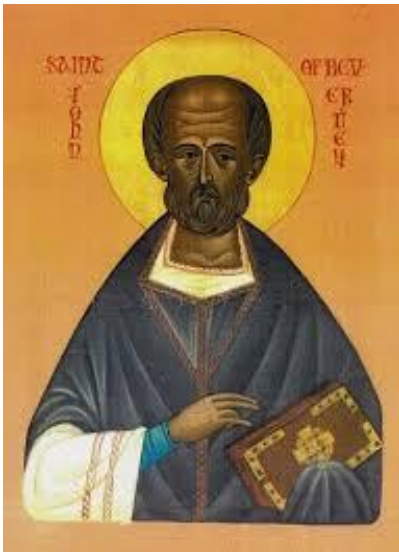
# LECTIONARY PAGE

| Date                       | Sunday                           | Readings  |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 4 <sup>th</sup> May. 2025  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acts 5:27b-32, 40b-41</li> <li>• Psalm 30(29):2, 4. 5-6. 11, 12a,13b. <b>R</b>2a</li> <li>• Revelation 5:11-14</li> <li>• John 21:1-14</li> </ul>            |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> May. 2025 | 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acts 13:14, 43b-52</li> <li>• Psalm 100(99):1-2. 3. 5. <b>R</b>3c</li> <li>• Revelation 7:9, 13a, 14b-17</li> <li>• John 10:27-30</li> </ul>                 |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> May. 2025 | 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acts 14:21b-27</li> <li>• Psalm 145(144):8-9. 10-11. 12-13b. <b>R</b> cf. 1</li> <li>• Revelation 21:1-5a</li> <li>• John 13:31-33a, 34-35</li> </ul>        |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> May. 2025 | 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acts 15:1-2, 22-29</li> <li>• Psalm 67(66):2-3. 5. 6, 8. <b>R</b>4</li> <li>• Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23</li> <li>• John 14:23-29</li> </ul>                 |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Jun. 2025  | The Ascension of the Lord        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acts 1:1-11</li> <li>• Psalm 47(46):2-3. 6-7. 8-9. <b>R</b>6</li> <li>• Ephesians 1:16-23</li> <li>• Luke 24:46-53</li> </ul>                                |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> Jun. 2025  | Pentecost                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acts 2:1-11</li> <li>• Psalm 104(103):1ab, 24ac. 29b-30. 31, 34. <b>R</b> cf. 30</li> <li>• 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13</li> <li>• John 20:19-23</li> </ul> |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> Jun. 2025 | The Most Holy Trinity            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proverbs 8:22-31</li> <li>• Psalm 8:4-5. 6-7. 8-9. <b>R</b>2a</li> <li>• Romans 5:1-5</li> <li>• John 16:12-15</li> </ul>                                    |



## SAINTS FOR MAY

### 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY: ST JOHN OF BEVERLEY (-721)



John of Beverley was born at Harpham a few miles from Driffield on the Yorkshire Wolds. He studied at Canterbury under St Adrian, the African-born abbot of the famous monastery there, who was a great scripture scholar and a fine teacher of Greek and Latin. When John returned to the North, he entered the double monastery at Whitby under the remarkable abbess, St Hilda, who had a great influence on many of the outstanding religious people of her time.

In 687 John was consecrated Bishop of Hexham in succession to Bishop Eata, one of the twelve disciples of St Aidan and the teacher of St Cuthbert. During his time at Hexham, John ordained the future St Bede as priest. He was a good pastoral bishop, a man who loved the Scriptures, and a patient teacher. Like many of his contemporaries, he also had a deep-seated need for prayerful solitude and used to retire to a quiet place on the banks of the Tyne for prayer and the study of Scriptures, especially during the season of Lent.

In 705 he was appointed to the See of York in succession to St Bosa, himself a former monk of the monastery at Whitby. John remained in the diocese for 12 years but the call of solitude remained strong, and four years before his death he retired to Beverley to a religious house he founded there.

John died on 7 May 721, having worked for more than thirty years as a bishop. His shrine became famous up and down the country and was considered to be one of the chief places of devotion in England for many years. He was canonized in 1037.

*REFLECTION: Lord God, who made Blessed John of Beverley an archbishop in your church, eminent for his ardent love and that faith which overcomes the world at his intercession grant that we ourselves persevering in faith and love may join him in glory.*

## 27<sup>TH</sup> MAY: ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY (- 605?)



Christianity in Britain started early but was largely submerged by the pagan Anglo-Saxon invasions of the fifth and sixth centuries. It remained alive only in the far west, which remained British because it was too remote and inaccessible for the invaders to attack. Pope Gregory organised a party of thirty monks to travel to south-eastern England and spread the Gospel there, and chose as their leader Augustine, prior of the monastery of St Andrew in Rome.

They landed in 597, and were welcomed by the king of Kent, Ethelbert, who became a Christian along with many of his subjects.

A second wave of missionaries arrived in 601. Augustine went to Arles, in France, where he was consecrated archbishop of the English, and then returned to Canterbury to set up his see. The mission prospered, and he founded two more sees, at London and at Rochester in Kent. However, in the far west of Britain, where British bishops had survived the pagan invasions – or where they had fled to escape them – Augustine was less successful in establishing his authority.

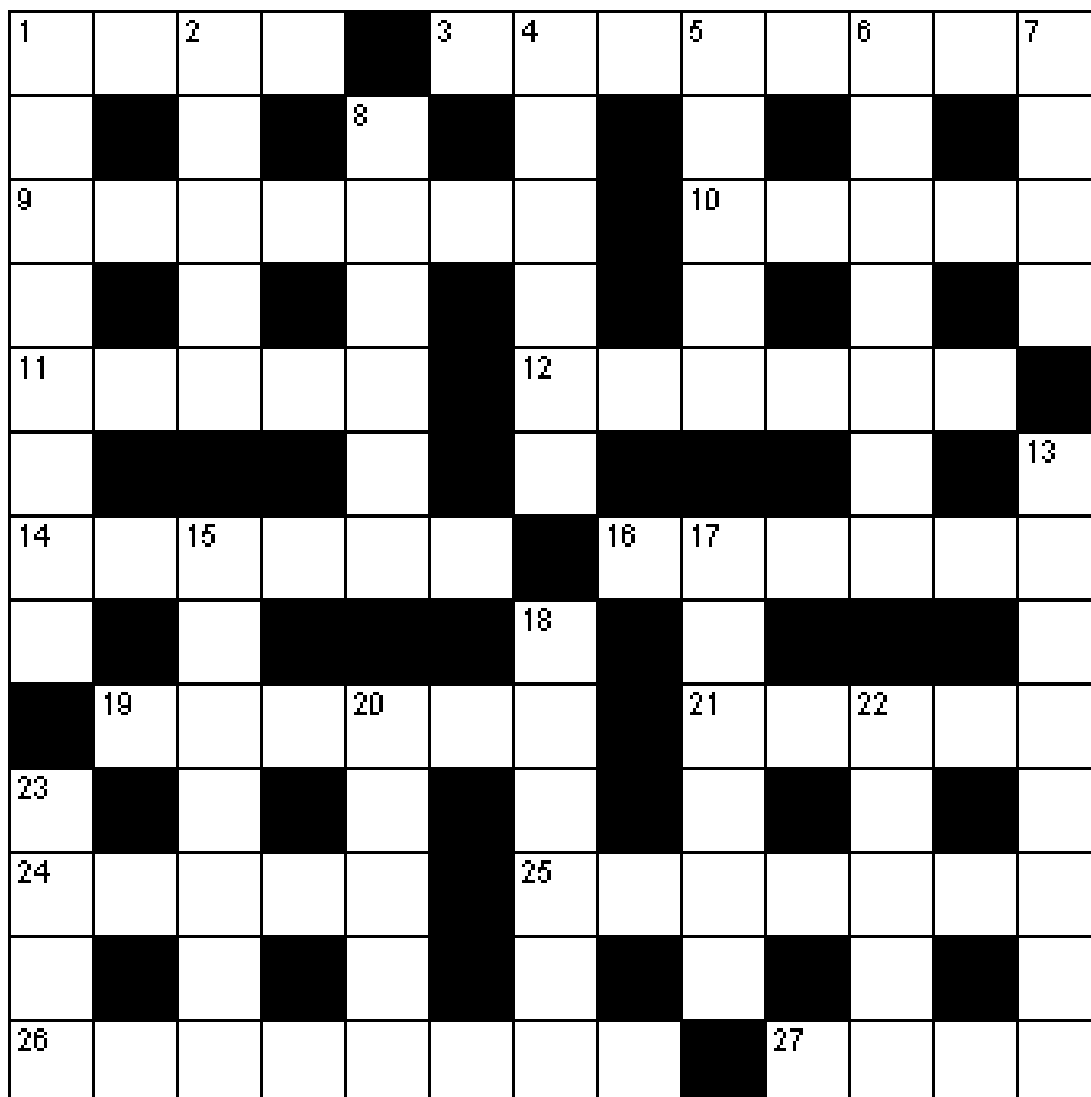
The traditions of the Celtic church were different from the Roman ones, and bishops who had guided their people for generations were not about to submit to a jumped-up missionary from overseas. It took several generations for the whole of Great Britain to become Christian and for the English and British liturgical traditions to be reconciled.

Augustine died at Canterbury on 26 May 604 or 605.

*REFLECTION: Almighty God, you led the English people to the gospel by the preaching of Saint Augustine of Canterbury. Grant that his work may last on in the Church*

# CROSSWORD

(solution on P16)



# SUDOKU

*(solution on P16)*

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| 1 | 4 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   | 6 |   | 7 |   |   | 1 | 8 |
|   |   | 5 |   |   |   | 6 |   |   |

## JUNE MAGAZINE

Items for the next issue should be received  
by **SUNDAY 25th MAY**. These may be sent via emailed to –  
[magazine@smam.org.uk](mailto:magazine@smam.org.uk)

## COLOURING PAGE





## RECIPE PAGE

### RECIPE: ASPARAGUS PASTA

#### INGREDIENTS (serves 4)

- 350g/12oz asparagus, woody ends removed
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1 tbsp fresh thyme leaves
- 350g/12oz short pasta, such as fusilli or penne
- 100g/3½oz peas, fresh or frozen and defrosted
- 1 lemon, zested, plus juice of half
- 50g/1¾oz Parmesan (or similar vegetarian hard cheese), grated, plus extra to serve
- salt and freshly ground black pepper



#### DIRECTIONS

1. Remove the tips of the asparagus and set aside. Finely chop the remaining stems. Heat the oil in a large frying pan over a medium heat. Fry the onion, garlic, thyme and chopped asparagus stems for 10 minutes, or until tender.
2. Meanwhile, cook the pasta in a saucepan of boiling water for 8–10 minutes, adding the asparagus tips and peas for the final 3 minutes of cooking. Drain and reserve 150ml/5fl oz cooking water.
3. Transfer the asparagus stems mixture to a blender. Add the lemon zest, lemon juice and Parmesan and season with salt and pepper. Add a splash of the pasta water and blend until smooth.
4. Return to the frying pan and gently fold in the pasta, asparagus tips and peas. Pour in enough of the reserved cooking water to make a rich sauce.
5. Divide between four plates and serve with extra Parmesan.

# TOUR OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

## THE LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS

Ephesians is the great Pauline letter about the church. It deals, however, not so much with a congregation in the city of Ephesus in Asia Minor as with the worldwide church, the head of which is Christ (Eph 4:15), the purpose of which is to be the instrument for making God's plan of salvation known throughout the universe (Eph 3:9-10). Yet this ecclesiology is anchored in God's saving love, shown in Jesus Christ (Eph 2:4-10), and the whole of redemption is rooted in the plan and accomplishment of the triune God (Eph 1:3-14). The language is often that of doxology (Eph 1:3-14) and prayer (cf. Eph 1:15-23; 3:14-19), indeed of liturgy and hymns (Eph 3:20-21; 5:14).

The majestic chapters of Ephesians emphasize the unity in the church of Christ that has come about for both Jews and Gentiles within God's household (Eph 1:15-2:22, especially Eph 2:11-22) and indeed the "seven unities" of church, Spirit, hope; one Lord, faith, and baptism; and the one God (Eph 4:4-6). Yet the concern is not with the church for its own sake but rather as the means for mission in the world (Eph 3:1-4:24). The gifts Christ gives its members are to lead to growth and renewal (Eph 4:7-24). Ethical admonition is not lacking either; all aspects of human life and relationships are illumined by the light of Christ (Eph 4:25-6:20).

The letter is seemingly addressed by Paul to Christians in Ephesus (Eph 1:1), a place where the apostle labored for well over two years (Acts 19:10). Yet there is a curiously impersonal tone to the writing for a community with which Paul was so intimately acquainted (cf. Eph 3:2 and Eph 4:21). There are no personal greetings (cf. Eph 6:23). More significantly, important early manuscripts omit the words "in Ephesus" (see note on Eph 1:1). Many therefore regard the letter as an encyclical or "circular letter" sent to a number of churches in Asia Minor, the addressees to be designated in each place by its bearer, Tychicus (Eph 6:21-22). Others think that Ephesians is the letter referred to in Col 4:16 as "to the Laodiceans."

Paul, who is designated as the sole author at Eph 1:1, is described in almost unparalleled terms with regard to the significant role he has in God's plan for bringing the Gentiles to faith in Christ (Eph 3:1-12). Yet at the time of writing he is clearly in prison (Eph 3:1; 4:1; 6:20), suffering afflictions (Eph 3:13). Traditionally this "Captivity Epistle" has, along with Colossians, Philippians, and Philemon, been dated to an imprisonment in Rome, likely in

A.D. 61–63. Others appeal to an earlier imprisonment, perhaps in Caesarea (Acts 23:27–27:2). Since the early nineteenth century, however, much of critical scholarship has considered the letter's style and use of words (especially when compared with Colossians), its concept of the church, and other points of doctrine put forward by the writer as grounds for serious doubt about authorship by Paul. The letter may then be the work of a secretary writing at the apostle's direction or of a later disciple who sought to develop Paul's ideas for a new situation around A.D. 80–100.

The principal divisions of the Letter to the Ephesians are the following:

- i. Address (1:1–14)
- ii. Unity of the Church in Christ (1:15–2:22)
- iii. World Mission of the Church (3:1–4:24)
- iv. Daily Conduct, an Expression of Unity (4:25–6:20)
- v. Conclusion (6:21–24)

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 11-17 MAY 2025

COFFEE, COMPASSION, AND CHANGE:  
SUPPORTING CHRISTIAN AID TOGETHER

Christian Aid Coffee Morning, on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May  
at 10:00–13:00 in St Matthew's Ashford,

Please come along, every sip supports life-changing work around the world.



## CROSSWORD SOLUTION SUDOKU SOLUTION

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | H | E | A | S | A | S | A | N | T | S | H | E | D |
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| 9 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
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| 4 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 1 |
| 7 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 6 |

## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

### HOLY BAPTISM



27/04/2025

Myles Annoh

*We have been called by the Lord to be a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people he acquired for himself. Let us ask him to show his mercy on those who have received the graces of baptism, for their parents and godparents, and to all the baptized everywhere. Amen*

### HOLY MATRIMONY

12/04/2025

Nicola Pallett & Ashley Pallett

*We are called to leave our Mother and Father and cleave to our partner, Therefore, we pray for newly married couples, that they may live together with patience, love, and mercy, trusting in God's grace on life's journey. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*



### FUNERALS



04/04/2025

Josephine Blake

*Our thoughts and prayers  
are with all those who mourn their passing  
May the souls of the departed rest in peace  
and rise in Glory. Amen*



The Parish of  
*St Mary the Virgin*  
STANWELL  
&  
*St Matthew*  
ASHFORD



## DATES FOR THE NEXT TERM

*19<sup>th</sup> April - Cancelled*



Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2025

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2025

between 1500 - 1700 hrs

St Mary the Virgin,  
Church Approach,  
Stanwell,  
TW19 7JS



There is no cost for attending these sessions  
For all the family! Children must bring a grown up  
[office@smam.org.uk](mailto:office@smam.org.uk) 01784-259093



The Parish of  
*St Mary the Virgin*  
STANWELL  
&  
*St Matthew*  
ASHFORD

**Cancelled**

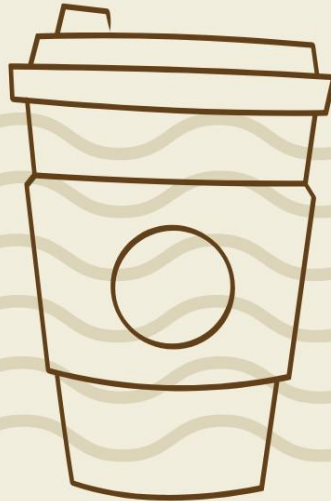
**FRIDAY 30 APRIL, 2025**  
**ST MARY'S**  
**DOOR OPEN AT 18:30**  
**TICKETS £8**  
**Two Course Meal**  
**Bring your own Drink**

Tickets via the website [www.smam.org.uk](http://www.smam.org.uk)  
or the Parish Office: [office@smam.org.uk](mailto:office@smam.org.uk)

The poster features a purple background with a large white diagonal banner reading 'Cancelled'. Above the banner is the parish crest and the names of the churches. Below the banner, the event details are listed in white and yellow text. The background also includes stylized yellow and purple shapes and question marks.



The Parish of  
*St Mary the Virgin*  
STANWELL  
&  
*St Matthew*  
ASHFORD



# COFFEE MORNINGS

Wednesdays - St Mary's  
Thursdays - St Matthew's  
10:00-12:00

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



## YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU

### Introducing the new Ashford Residents Association

Our aim is to benefit Ashford's residents and give everyone a voice. As community members, we are committed to enhancing the quality of life in Ashford for everyone. Our goal is to keep residents connected on town issues, updates, and news, including building development, planning permission, residential concerns, and park maintenance. Please join us as we value all feedback and plan to work closely with local councillors, police, schools, and NHW groups to serve ALL Ashford residents.

"We believe Ashford is worth fighting for, and by joining together, families and residents of all ages, **WE CAN** create a secure, inclusive and welcoming environment for everyone to thrive in."

It is easy to sign up to have your say and discover how we can help you. To join and become a member or request further information please email us at [info@ashfordra.co.uk](mailto:info@ashfordra.co.uk) or drop us a line at <https://ashfordra.co.uk>

#### The next Ashford Residents Association Members Meeting

**Saturday 14th June 2025**

**10.00am to 12.00pm**

**St Mathews Church Ashford TW15 2NY**

If you have any questions that you would like to submit before the meeting, please email [info@ashfordra.co.uk](mailto:info@ashfordra.co.uk) and we will endeavour to add them to the agenda.



Scan Me!

Agenda will be sent out in June.

Scan QR code for website  
Scan QR code to join nextdoor



Scan Me!



## Parents Supporting Parents

By volunteering just a few hours each week you can transform the lives of young children and their parents in your community.



As a Home-Start volunteer you could make a BIG difference to a local family

If you are a parent, a carer, or maybe a grandparent, you know just how tough family life can be at times.

And we know it too. Our volunteers, who have parenting experience, help families with all sorts of problems, from the everyday to the overwhelming. Problems such as:

- Loneliness and isolation
- Relationship difficulties
- Multiple children under 5
- Ill health, disability or special needs
- Lone parenting
- Coping with bereavement
- Mental health
- Children's behaviour



**Our next training course starts soon,  
sign up today!**



### What do volunteers actually do?

Our volunteers will usually visit a parent in their home once a week for a couple of hours. How they help is really down to the needs of the family. Some might need a sympathetic ear, a shoulder to cry on, someone to have a laugh with. Others may need help keeping appointments or accessing local services and connecting with their local community. Our volunteers can provide an extra pair of hands to help people cope with everyday parenting situations, or practical help with activities like playing or reading stories.

Home-Start's approach is very personal and friendly and this often reassures parents that what they're going through is not unusual, that they are not alone.

I started volunteering with Home-Start in March 2024 & I have loved every minute. I first thought I'd struggle with the commitment because life can be busy and ever changing, but with good communication with your family you can work around both of your schedules, really making it the most rewarding volunteering I've done. If you're considering volunteering, I really do encourage you to go for it, not only will you change the life of a family in need, but you'll also learn new things & meet some lovely people along the way.




"Grateful to have been supported by this fantastic charity! So selfless and special! Helped me through tough times and gave me confidence in my parenting. My children adored the volunteer and were sad when our time ended with them"



Contact us to find out more!  
01784 463 200  
info@home-startspelthorne.org  
www.home-startspelthorne.org




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**Opening Hours**  
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Monday to Friday

**Phone:** 07867124346     [www.bizzkidzdaynursery.com](http://www.bizzkidzdaynursery.com)






## Reach Out Cafè

Connecting and supporting  
our community. If you are a carer  
supporting someone, or if you would  
just like to come and meet some new  
people, please drop in to have a cup  
of tea and chat

MONDAY 11:30 pm - 16:00 pm  
AT CHURCH VIEW CARE HOME  
FALCON DRIVE, STANWELL,  
TW19 7 EL

If you would like to find out more  
give us a call on 01781218610

 Greetings  
ISLANDS



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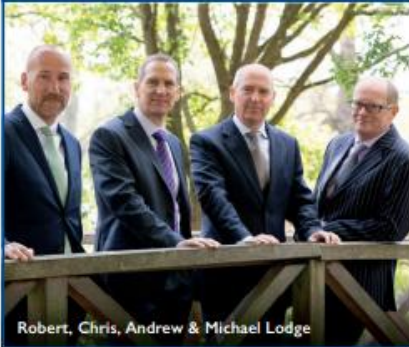
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Ashford Showroom 85 Church Road, Ashford, Middlesex TW15 2PE **01784 245964**

# Parish Information

## PARISH DIRECTORY

### The Parish Office

The Vicarage, 99 Church Road, Ashford Middlesex, TW15 2NY

☎ 01784 259093

✉: [office@smam.org.uk](mailto:office@smam.org.uk)



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

### Parish Priest:

**Father Stuart King SSC**

The Vicarage, 99 Church Road,  
Ashford TW15 2NY

✉: [fr\\_stuart@smam.org.uk](mailto:fr_stuart@smam.org.uk)

### Curate

**Fr John Hillman SSC**

✉: [fr\\_john@smam.org.uk](mailto:fr_john@smam.org.uk)

### Licensed Lay Minister(s):

**Melanie Cooper**

01784 390461

[melanie@smam.org.uk](mailto:melanie@smam.org.uk)

**Alan Joel**

01784 244320

[alan@smam.org.uk](mailto:alan@smam.org.uk)

**Sarah Pain**

01784 259093

[sarah@smam.org.uk](mailto:sarah@smam.org.uk)

### Websites:



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

### Church Wardens:

Julie Bell

Luis Elias

Pauline Muldowney

Ian Spencer

[warden@smam.org.uk](mailto:warden@smam.org.uk)

### Director of Music:

Philip Buckmaster

[music@smam.org.uk](mailto:music@smam.org.uk)

### Tower Captain:

Dr. Chris Marshall

[bells@smam.org.uk](mailto:bells@smam.org.uk)

### Mothers' Union:

Heather Hurrell

[MU@smam.org.uk](mailto:MU@smam.org.uk)

### St Matthew's Flowers:

Heather Hurrell

[flowers@smam.org.uk](mailto:flowers@smam.org.uk)

### Church Hall Bookings:

[hall@smam.org.uk](mailto:hall@smam.org.uk)