

THE PARISH CHURCH OF

ST JOHN



THE DIVINE

BROOKLANDS • SALE



From the Editor

I re-read last week the story of Pentecost in Acts 2 at the same time as I was reading about the death of George Floyd in the USA. Scripture has a way of giving you a new perspective, no matter how many times you read it, and this time I was struck not by what the Apostles said but whom they said it to. We read in verses 9-11 how the audience comprised “Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs”. Not a white Anglo-Saxon face in sight.

The George Floyd killing has provoked an outburst of protest and soul searching under the ‘Black Lives Matter’ banner. The mantra that ‘all lives matter’ has been used as almost a counter argument to this message, so how should we react? Well all lives do matter equally but sometimes to achieve this equality some have to be prioritised for a time. Covid hits older and vulnerable people far more than the young so the protections we have in place put a very high value on the lives of those at risk. We have no qualms doing this so if our BAME brothers and sisters lives now need emphasising why should that be different?

It is quite clear that to Jesus there are no barriers of race or ethnicity. The description of the early church and Paul’s letters echo this. Maybe if he was speaking the Beatitudes now Jesus might be adding something like ‘Blessed are those persecuted for the colour of their skin for they will inherit a robe many colours’.

Editorial soapbox put away until September. Did I say, welcome to the Summer edition? So what do we have this month? Well, Sharon’s monthly spotlight on a Saint and the archive feature. An insightful article by Isabel on pilgrimage and a further editorial attempt to get you listening to another worship song and, if you want, a linked Bible study course. If you wanted to know what one of our younger members has been up to during lockdown, Daniel Payne enlightens you. Add in the usual pot pourri of content and you have the July/August edition.

It is likely that by the September edition we will be attending some form of worship in the church building. We pray for that as we pray for a world where we are colour blind.

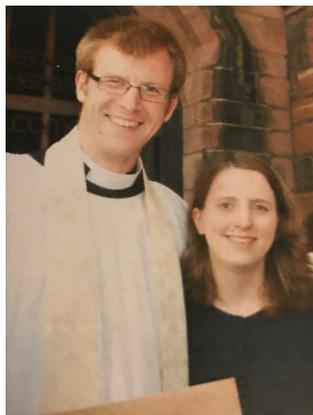
Be blessed and safe.

The Editor

(brooklandsmag@gmail.com)

Richard writes...

In my last letter I wrote about having read *Being Disciples* by Rowan Williams and I encouraged you to get hold of a copy for yourself. How did you find it? Having finished it myself I re-read *Silence and Honey Cakes* in which he writes about what we can learn from the desert fathers and mothers of the fourth and fifth centuries. In the second chapter, which bears the title of the book, Rowan Williams explores what it would mean for the church to be a community where everyone saw their vocation as being primarily about putting their neighbour in touch with God.



This is what we're going to be doing as we run Alpha online in September. We're going to meet on Wednesday evenings on Zoom from 9th September to discover more about what it means to be a Christian. During the Coronavirus pandemic we have moved online and one of my highlights has been running the Prayer Course online. A group of 7 of us have been meeting weekly to explore prayer and learn more about different ways of praying. I've been slowly working my way through *Red Moon Rising* which tells the story of the 24-7 prayer movement, and I have been greatly challenged by our need to dream bigger dreams or God-sized dreams if you will.

Since arriving as vicar three years ago, my two priorities have been prayer and evangelism. It's no coincidence that the two courses that I have been running have been the Prayer Course and Alpha. Both of these are designed to put us in touch with God and equip us to put others in touch with God.



July and August 2020

When I arrived in Brooklands I was told stories again and again which expressed a deep longing to see St John's flourish. I was handed copies of Irene Collins' book about the history of St John's telling the fascinating history attached to this place, and it was such a privilege to be involved with the celebrations of our 150th anniversary in 2018. Towards the end of 2019 I referred to the prophecy given by Haggai once the people of God had returned to Israel, following the end of exile and the rebuilding of the temple. Haggai spoke these words, 'The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house' (Hag. 2:9). I believe these are God's word to us today, we can look back at the history of St John's with thankfulness, but the future will be...

The future is up to us. God has wonderful plans for a future into which he is calling us, but will we listen and respond? *Parish* renewal begins with *personal* renewal as we cultivate patterns of daily prayer and study and seek a daily empowering by the Holy Spirit, stepping out into the path God has purposed for us. If we want to see Brooklands ablaze with the glory of God, this can only happen when our hearts are on fire with love for God and we're actively sharing the light of Christ with our friends and neighbours.

We've had a number of slogans with a three-fold structure during the pandemic so here is another as we begin to move towards our "next normal":

Try Alpha >>> Explore Prayer >>> Share Jesus

These are the first stages of our becoming a community living out our vocation of putting our neighbours in touch with God.

Richard



July and August
2020

My Days During Quarantine

Over the past weeks we have been in quarantine and it has been a hard time for all of us.

I found it very hard not to give a hug and kiss to my nana, we only talk to each other keeping

4 meters distance outside her house on Thursday's, which is the day when we do the shopping for her and sometimes at the weekends.

Luckily, we have had fantastic sunny weather each time, so it's been nice.

It is also going to be a strange summer holiday. First time in my life, I will be staying in England for the summer holiday in August. I will not be able to see my Slovak nana at all this year. My Slovak nana cannot imagine not to see us, not to kiss and hug us this year. I will miss her very much. So to help not seeing her we got her a Facebook Portal, now we video chat very night, which is cool.

For a child at the age of 11 it has been hard but there have been some good times for example: going out with my friends on our bikes (keeping social distance), playing online games and talking to some of friends online, and much more.

During quarantine I had to do the online school tasks. Which was ok-

It is more fun to do at school . Most of all I enjoyed drawing and coding. I also enjoy helping in the kitchen. Cooking dinners with my mum. The best of all is baking love it! I learned so much about food preparation, which is great.

So, although times may be hard, there can always be something ready for me to try out that I might love and it will stay with me forever, like baking (I believe).

The 10 weeks have gone quite fast, I enjoyed the time at home. But time spent with my friends is the best! We are back in school this Tuesday and I already know that I will love it!

Daniel Payne



July and August 2020

Life is a pilgrimage...

Pilgrims from all over the world journey to Oberammergau, a small town in Bavaria, with an amazing story to tell. In the 17th century the thirty years' war took place (1618-1648) in central Europe. As a result of the war, poverty and disease were widespread and thousands died as a result of the plague. In the small village of Oberammergau alone there were 80 deaths - half of the population. During this time of suffering the villagers made a vow that every 10 years they would perform a Passion Play depicting the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ if God would protect them from the plague. Legend has it that after the pledge was made, no further deaths were recorded. In 1634, the villagers fulfilled their promise for the first time, and the Passion Play has been performed every decade since. (41 times) The only exception was in 1940 when the play was cancelled due to World War 2.

Only residents of Oberammergau are permitted to take part. All the main speaking parts have always been filled by actors who were born in Oberammergau or have lived there for at least 20 years. The current director, Christian Steuckle has been working on the 2020 Passion Play for the last ten years with his cast of 2,500 residents from the town of 5,400.

Sadly, another plague, the coronavirus pandemic has now forced the second cancellation since it began in 1634. However, Mr Steuckle announced, "It's only a postponement. We're going to keep going." A total of 109 five-hour-long performances scheduled to run from May 16 to October 4, have been postponed till 2022.

Sue, Chris and I had booked to go on a pilgrimage to Oberammergau on July 8th this year, and like so many others we were disappointed. However, as well as going to Oberammergau, we had other plans to travel. 2020 is the Year of Cathedrals and Pilgrimage., and we looked forward to visiting a different cathedral for each month of the year. We had read of many exciting events that were being planned in different places. It soon became clear that travel was out of the question, and we were literally staying at home! We were in Lockdown ...and from that moment a different pilgrimage began.



July and August 2020

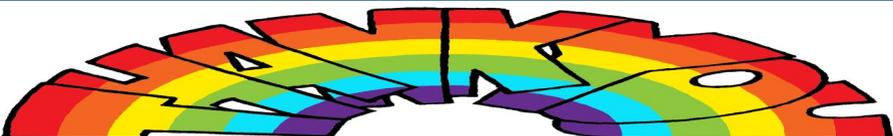
We have continued to travel, and have been blessed by visiting many cathedrals online, and all our trips have been free of charge! As well as enjoying virtual tours of beautiful places of worship, we have been inspired and uplifted by joining in worship with others at Sunday morning virtual services, attending morning and evening prayer and compline services in many different places near and far. We found peace, comfort and guidance in reflections written by Rev Stephen Edwards and others at Worcester cathedral, which I shall always treasure.

Many of us have happy memories of visiting different cathedrals on our St John's pilgrimage days, organised by Mike. We recommend re-visiting online if you are able, and discovering more treasure in all the stories they tell. This morning, June 16th, I attended Chichester cathedral for morning prayer. By coincidence, it was the day the church celebrated the life of St Richard, who was Bishop of Chichester for eight years in the mid 13th century. He was well acquainted with hard work and suffering. As Bishop he found himself a homeless outcast in his own diocese. When he was allowed into his cathedral, he sought to renew the life of his people in prayer, discipline and devotion to God.

We are living though a time in which, as in St Richard's day, there is restlessness, anxiety, suffering and uncertainty. Perhaps we need to hold on to his vision of a church that knew its foundation to be in Christ Jesus, our Lord, to accept his invitation to draw near, learn from him and love him, and know that he is the one from whom all blessings will flow.

*Thanks be to you, our Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits which you have given us,
for all the pains and insults which you have borne for us.
Most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother,
may we know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly,
day by day.
Amen.*

Isabel



Things the Editor has discovered during lockdown

The value of nature, a garden, space and parks. Springwatch was amazing, especially the beaver pond. Still available on the BBC iplayer. Recommended.

An absolute gem of a programme on Radio 3, 'This Classical Life'. Jess Gillam, a young saxophonist, talking to another young musician and playing some really eclectic tunes. Available on BBC Sounds.

How Zoom took over the world. Not as good as being face to face but it allowed prayer groups and discipleship to carry on.

That the Editor's daughter's assertion, that somebody lacking a sense of rhythm and any musicality probably shouldn't have bought a guitar, was correct.

As was her view as to the cycling skills of her father.

How innovative churches have been in facilitating worship and the positive response.

The Bible Course developed by the Bible Society. A wonderful overview and lots of context.

How to change a bike inner tube. Honestly, never done it before.

The unremitting cheerfulness of people on low wages who have kept us going.

Julie, the Children's pastor at St Mary's Ashton-on-Mersey, who is the undoubted star of their Sunday Service. Worth watching via their website.

How hard it was to buy a gas cylinder for the barbecue. (And yes, if you are a charcoal person, I have been told I don't have a real barbecue.)

I should have bought shares in Zoom.

How grim lockdown would have been without Mrs Editor.



Spreading the Word

We read in Genesis 11, how in response to them trying to build a tower to reach him, God confounded mankind's ability to do such things by separating them by language. So, a question, the answer is at the end of this piece, how many languages are currently spoken on planet Earth?

We take for granted our ability to pick up something written in English but for many people finding things written in their own tongue is much less easy. The UK Bible Society reports that the full Bible is available in 694 languages with three quarters of these having been translated by members of 'United Bible Societies'. The pace of translation is growing with 270 having been done in the preceding five years. Michael Perreau, who is the head of the global fellowship of United Bible Societies, commented that, "people alive now will see some portion of the Bible available in every language on earth. Communities might have just the Gospels or the New testament, and some others the whole Bible. Of course the population sizes are different for each language - but God wants all to have his word."

The 694 languages in which the full Bible is available covers around 5.7 billion people. For over half the world's languages there is no scripture available at all. Many of these have small numbers of native speakers but it means that for around 1.5 billion people there is no full version of the Bible. To seek to redress this the United Bible Societies have a plan to complete more than 1,000 Scripture translations by 2038 with 270 currently in progress. Even that won't cover everybody. Ethnologue, one of the main linguistic organisations, calculates that there are currently 7,117 languages spoken in the world (how close did you get?). So still a long way to go to achieve the United Bible Societies goal.

If you want to support the work of the Bible Society just go to biblesociety.org.uk

The Editor



July and August
2020

All in the month of July

It was:

175 years ago, on 4th July 1845 that Thomas Barnardo, Irish humanitarian and philanthropist was born. He founded Barnardo's, a charity which cares for vulnerable children and young people.

150 years ago, on 18th July 1870 that the Vatican issued the declaration of Papal Infallibility. It preserved the Pope from the possibility of error when he defined a doctrine concerning faith or morals to be held by the whole Catholic Church.

100 years ago, on 17th July 1920 that Kenneth Wolstenholme, British football commentator, was born. Best remembered for his famous commentary at the 1966 World Cup Final: "Some people are on the pitch...they think it's all over.... It *is* now!" - as the last goal was scored.

65 years ago, on 9th July 1955 that the song 'Rock Around the Clock' by Bill Haley and His Comets reached #1 on the Billboard chart in the USA. It remained there for eight weeks. Although not the first rock & roll song, it is considered the song that brought rock & roll into the mainstream.

40 years ago, on 5th July 1980 that Swedish tennis player Bjorn Borg won the Wimbledon singles championship for a record fifth consecutive time.

25 years ago, on 11th July 1995 that the Srebrenica Massacre took place. The Bosnian Serb Army seized control of Srebrenica and massacred 8,000 men and boys.

Also 25 years ago, on 16th July 1995 that Amazon.com opened its website to the public.

20 years ago, on 25th July 2000 that an Air France Concorde crashed outside Paris shortly after taking off for New York. All 109 people on board were killed, as well as four people on the ground.

15 years ago, on 7th July 2005 that the London Bombings took place. A coordinated series of four suicide bomb attacks on London's transport systems during the morning rush hour killed 56 people, including the four bombers. More than 700 were injured. It was the worst-ever attack on Britain, and the country's first attack by suicide bombers.

Also 15 years ago, on 28th July 2005 that the IRA ended its 30-year armed campaign in Northern Ireland and ordered all units to dump their weapons. Its leadership stated that they would continue their campaign exclusively through peaceful means.

Post-Lockdown Church

Readers will be concerned to know what church will be like when it eventually re-opens, The Bethany Pwllgwaun Baptist Church has put together a short video to illustrate how they think it will happen. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fiftkvCVfA>

A few points. This is a Baptist Church so some of the things they describe don't apply to us. Secondly Welsh Baptists may not be immediately linked with the concept of humour. Thirdly, despite that it is funny. Finally, if you need to know how to pronounce Pwllgwaun, ask Llew.

Daily Hope Phone Line

Not everyone can attend online services so to help them the Church of England has set up a phone line. This provides recorded services, reflections and hymns. It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For those interested the phone number is 0800 804 8044.

Crux

The monthly Crux insert is no longer included in the magazine. It can be found online at <https://www.manchester.anglican.org/documents/category/crux/> If easier you can simply insert 'Crux Manchester' into your search engine. Mrs Editor was buzzing this month over the article on the cathedral beehives.



Who You Say I Am

Putting the magazine together around Fathers' Day, I wanted to share a song that celebrated God the Father. 'Who you say I am' does that in a way by its emphasis on what we are, children of God. The couplet "I'm a child of God, yes I am", that recurs in the chorus sums that up. The song is by the Australian mega group Hillsong Worship. They have a huge output of worship songs and play to massive audiences worldwide. If you haven't come across them then well worth an hour on youtube to seek them out.

'Who you say I am' was written by Ben Fielding and Reuben Morgan and released in 2018. Writing about the song, Fielding explained that it came about because of their concern that so many young people were living in a state of anxiety. He said, "we wanted to write a song that would speak to that, which is "Be Still." Through that process, we wrote "Who You Say I Am" because we realized that it is so important to understand how God sees us, and what He says about us. It's so important to go to the Scriptures and read who God says we are. The way we show God is determined by the way we know God."

The song is very much scripture based. The first two lines of the chorus, "who the Son sets free, is free indeed" come from John 8:36 "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (NIV). Fielding lists nine verses that connect with the song. They are listed below, so after you have played and listened maybe read and see how they link.

John 8:36 (NIV): "So, if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

Romans 8:31 (NIV): "What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"

John 1:12 (NIV): "Yet to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God."

John 15:16 (NIV): "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give it to you."

1 John 5:18 (NIV): "I am born of God, and the evil one does not touch me."

Colossians 2:10 (NIV): "I am complete in Him Who is the Head of all principality and power."

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV): "I am God's workmanship, created in Christ unto good works."

2 Corinthians 5:20 (NIV): "I am an ambassador for Christ."

1 Peter 2:9 (NIV): "I am part of a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a purchased people."

Fielding commented that we hear we are a family with God so often it becomes meaningless but the song challenges us to remember it. "Who the Son sets free is free indeed" is a Scripture about freedom and identity. You are a child of God. That can never be threatened or taken from you. As a believer, the truth of this song changes the way I live out my faith. While everything around you and about you changes, this is the one thing about yourself that will stay constant. You are chosen by a God who loves you deeply. He is a God who is for you and is never against you. He is a God who has plans for you to prosper. He is a God who wants a relationship with you. He is a God who will never let you down." Something to remember in these difficult times.

To find the song, just click

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKw6uqtGFfo>

Listen, enjoy and reflect.

(Extracts from newreleasetoday.com)

Who am I that the highest King
Would welcome me?
I was lost but He brought me in
Oh His love for me
Oh His love for me

Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes I am

Free at last, He has ransomed
me
His grace runs deep
While I was a slave to sin
Jesus died for me
Yes He died for me

Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes I am
In my Father's house
There's a place for me
I'm a child of God
Yes I am

I am chosen
Not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me
Not against me
I am who You say I am
I am who You say I am

Source: LyricFind

Songwriters: Ben Fielding / Reuben
Morgan

Who You Say I Am lyrics © Capitol
Christian Music Group



From the Archive

1920

The magazine for July 1920 contained an interesting discussion on the Vicar's stipend. A statement of his income for the coming year showed a total amount of £402 which included fees and private gifts. The PCC made a proposal to raise the Vicar's stipend to £500 a year and setting in place a process to achieve this. It was perhaps a coincidence that the same meeting proposed to introduce the envelope scheme of giving and made the Vicar the treasurer and secretary of the scheme which initially started with 50 sets of envelopes.

You may remember from the last magazine the retirement of Mr Kinnell from the choir. You will be delighted to know that he was entertained to supper at Worthy's cafe and presented with an 8 day clock in recognition of his service. The main news in the August magazine though related to the fact that the War Memorials were complete. The Bishop of Manchester was unable to attend the unveiling and it was suggested that Bishop Mercer attend in his place, which he was able to do and the ceremony was scheduled for the 15th of August. We look forward to reading the report in the next magazine. The magazine also noted that the arrangements for the November Bazaar were proceeding and that the ladies were working 'assiduously' towards its success. Finally, the Vicar launched the envelope fund and pointed to the fact that the church faced an adverse balance of £100 which he hoped the scheme would redress. To ensure confidentiality in giving he assured people that nobody but the treasurer would know how much or how little individual subscribers contributed.

1970

The Reverend Buckley's July letter was about holidays. Given the problems of 2020 and the fact that holiday conversations currently are more likely to be about what was cancelled rather than where we went, it is perhaps best to draw a veil over this and move to August.



The August letter was written by the curate who talked about different ways in which we could worship God. Although zoom was not in operation then some of the things that he talked about are relevant today as we ponder new forms of worship. He mentioned that many of the hymns, language and structures that we use are those of our parents or even great-grandparents and these might hinder some younger churchgoers. To this we might now add whether 'physical' church is now a barrier. Conversely many people are unhappy with different ways of worshipping. He commented that when we come to worship in church we come to express a certain feeling of value or reverence and respect for God and while some are happy with the way in which we do this today, others feel restricted by old music and words. "There is a certain sense in which we must step out and worship God in a new way. The trouble is that this is this step is a large and a difficult one. One runs the risk of going beyond the comprehension of many or producing something that is just rather 'corny'. We must keep an open mind and be prepared to tolerate the occasional risk. At the same time we must not lose sight of what we know and trust, the communion, the Lord's prayer and the scriptures. It is amazing how we can get such new meaning out of something written half a century ago.

July saw the annual garden party which in 1970 happened on a day of wonderful weather. Some interesting statistics were given. 542 teas served, 247 extra fruit course dishes, 620 cups of tea, 457 cakes, 18 pints of Jelly and 20 dozen scones. Leftovers , one dish of potted meat, a few tomatoes, 10 sandwiches and 55 exhausted ladies.



God in the Arts

The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with 'The Incredulity of St Thomas' by Peter Paul Rubens. It hangs in the Koninklijk Museum voor Schone Kunsten, Antwerp, Belgium. We understand the painting is now in the public domain. You can see a copy at: <http://www.peterpaulrubens.org/The-Incredulity-Of-St-Thomas-large.html>

'My Lord and my God'

The calendar allows us to celebrate St Thomas the apostle in this month of July as well as traditionally in December. Thomas is mentioned with the other disciples in all the Gospels, but it is in the fourth Gospel that he moves into the centre of the stage in his own right.

In chapter 14 he queries the words of Jesus that evokes the confession 'I am the way and the truth and the life' from our Lord. Then after the resurrection, when unconvinced by the accounts of the others, Thomas has that memorable and moving encounter with the risen Lord. In chapter 20 Jesus meets him in his doubts and his faith is restored.

'The Incredulity of St Thomas' is the subject of this month's painting by Peter Paul Rubens. Rubens (1577-1640) lived mainly in Antwerp, but his work displays a delight in sumptuous colour and the human form, which he would have learnt from his studies in Italy. Rubens was a good-humoured and genial person, and as a Roman Catholic, he cherished his religion and faith. This painting is from 1614 and is part of a triptych. The two outer panels portray the patrons who commissioned the work for their chapel in the Franciscan church in Antwerp - Nicholaas Rockox and his wife.

In this central panel, Thomas gazes in wonder at the marked hand of Jesus. He is there with a youthful St John and another disciple, who is looking at the face of the Lord. The light in the canvas comes from the risen body of Jesus, and the disciples move from the shadows into that light as their faith in the risen Lord grows and matures. In a moment, Thomas will raise his head and look up to Jesus. It is a momentous occasion in John's Gospel, for this meeting of master and servant, of Lord and disciple, is not just an exercise in overcoming doubt. It is an affirmation that only God can raise or be raised from death. Only God has the key to life. Thomas recognises Jesus fully and completely as he utters the words 'My Lord and my God.'

John ends his Gospel by saying, Yes, there was this moment of personal encounter, but believing without seeing is testimony to a more profound faith. Then it is not we who are invited to touch our Lord, but Jesus who can touch us. In the painting, one hand is turned towards the disciples, the other reaches out to us. We may come to Jesus, like Thomas, with doubts and concerns, with worry and anxiety. Jesus will meet us in the honesty and openness of our faith to reassure us that He is, as He was for Thomas, the way, the truth and the life - our Lord and our God.



Saint Swithun

Swithun (or sometimes Swithin) was born in Wessex and educated at Winchester. King Egbert, had Swithun as his chaplain, during which time he educated the future King Ethelwulf. Under Ethelwulf, Swithun was made Bishop of Winchester.

He was famous for his charitable gifts and building monasteries.

The second of July 862, saw the death of Swithun, he was buried, as requested in Winchester cemetery, near the west door. Later, the minster became a monastery and on 15 July 971, Swithun's relics were moved inside. This, occasion, was marked by many cures and heavy rainfall. The rain giving rise to the legend, if it rains on St Swithun's day it shall rain for forty days and nights, it's never happened.

St. Swithun's body was moved again in 1005, when Winchester became a Cathedral, whereupon, it became a place of pilgrimage. There are a number of churches dedicated to Swithun in England and Scandinavia, notably the cathedral in Stravanger, Norway is dedicated to him.

Feast day 2 July but the date of translation, 15 July, appears to be the one most commonly known.

Sharon Marlow



And in case you thought there were no funnies...

One day, Einstein has to speak at an important science conference. On the way there, he tells his driver (who looks a bit like him): "I'm sick of all these conferences. I always say the same things over and over!" The driver agrees: "You're right. As your driver, I've attended all of them, and even though I don't know anything about science, I could give the conference in your place."

"That's a great idea!" says Einstein. "Let's switch places then!" So they switch clothes and as soon as they arrive, the driver dressed as Einstein goes on stage and starts giving the usual speech, while the real Einstein, dressed as the car driver, attends it. But in the crowd, there is one scientist who wants to impress everyone and thinks of a very difficult question to ask Einstein, hoping he won't be able to respond. So this guy stands up and interrupts the conference by posing his very difficult question. The whole room goes silent, holding their breath, waiting for the response. The driver looks at him, straight in the eye, and says: "Sir, your question is so easy to answer that I'm going to let my driver reply to it for me."

And some for the mathematicians...

Parallel lines have so much in common.
It's a shame they'll never meet.

"What can you tell me about angle c?"

"Hmm, it's acute?"

"No, it's a small island off the north coast of Wales."

A farmer told his dog to find the sheep and round them up. When the dog came back he asked how many sheep there were and the dog said "50". The farmer said "Hmm, that's funny. There were only forty-seven this morning." The dog replied: "You said round them up." (My favourite joke this month. Ed)

Why was the fraction sceptical about marrying the decimal?
Because he would have to convert.

I went on holiday last week. I got an odd-job man in, gave him a list of ten jobs to do while I was away. When I got back, he'd only done jobs 1,3,5,7, and 9.

What do you call a ruler, protractor and a compass all hanging out together? Weapons of maths instruction.

My math teacher asked me why I was doing my sums on the floor. I said: "You told us to do them without using tables."

“Have you a computer problem? If so, I am local and here to help...”

Here are just a few of the services I can offer

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- Internet & Email set up
- New computer installations
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- Help and advice on how to get the best out of your computer
- Back up & data recovery
- Training & support
- Laptop & computer repairs
- I can supply computers & laptops at very competitive prices and include data transfer, full set up & full guidance

Quite simply my aim is to provide an effective, quick, reliable and friendly service without unnecessary charges.

I CAN SUPPLY COMPUTERS & LAPTOPS AT VERY COMPETITIVE PRICES & INCLUDE SET UP, DATA TRANSFER & GUIDANCE

DO GIVE ME A CALL NOW OR AT ANY TIME IN THE FUTURE. I AM HERE TO HELP YOU WITH ANY TECHNOLOGY PROBLEM, HOWEVER BIG OR SMALL.

STOP PRESS!!! Microsoft have now removed support for all Windows XP systems, which could affect the security of your software. If you are using XP, do give me a call for **FREE & independent** advice.

“Your service is very good, it is good to know someone is available to help & understands we are not all experts.”

G Singer, Sale

“It has been a pleasure dealing with you & the service I have received is second to none.”

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*They were trying to remember
when they had last left the house.*

The Parish Church of

St. John the Divine, Brooklands

*In the Deanery of Withington, In the Diocese of Manchester,
In the Province of York*

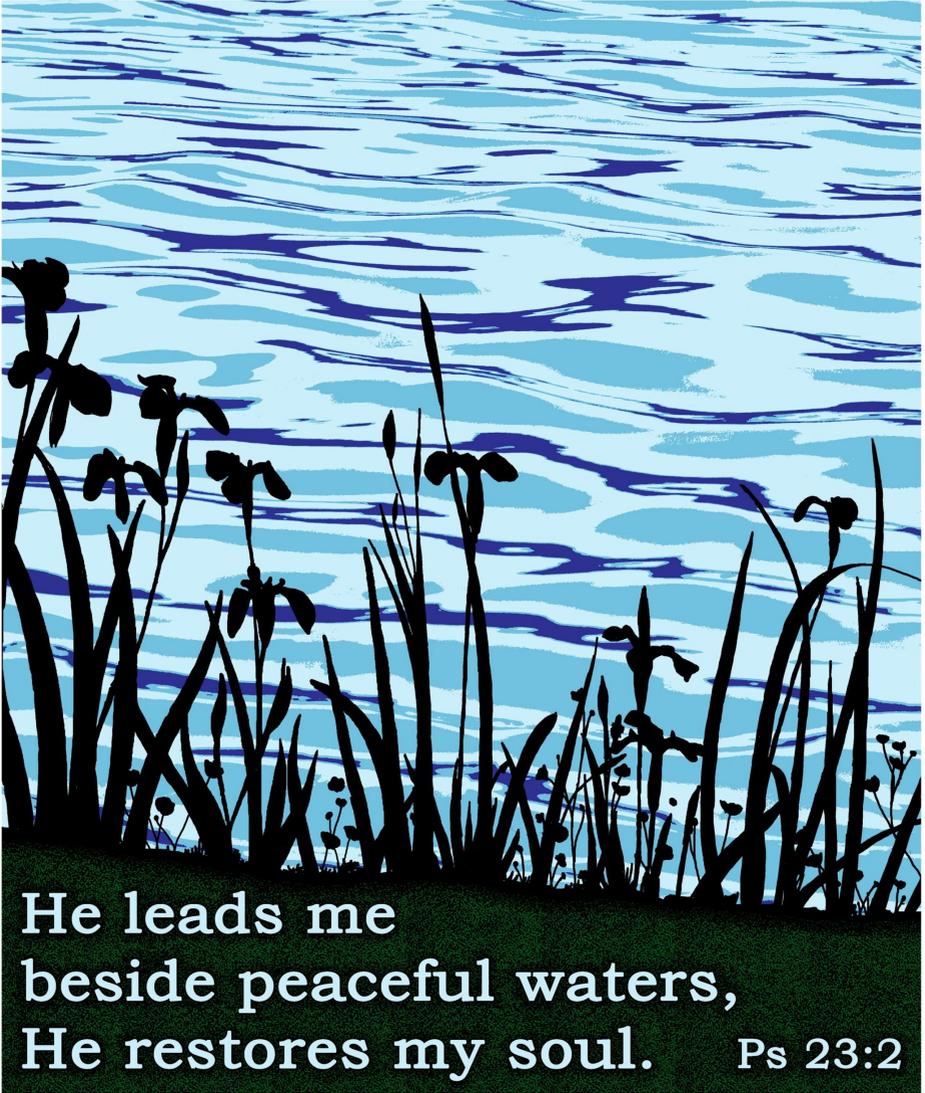
Website: www.stjohnsbrooklands.org.uk

SUNDAY SERVICES

At the time of publication there are still no services allowed in places of worship but there are indications this may change. Please check the church website regularly for updates. In the meantime weekly online Zoom Church is happening at 10.30 on Sundays. For further details please contact Revd Richard Sherratt by email vicarbrooklands@gmail.com

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He leads me
beside peaceful waters,
He restores my soul. Ps 23:2