

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF BADSHOT LEA AND HALE



Serving the communities of Badshot Lea, Folly Hill, Hale, Heath End, Sandy Hill and Weybourne



The churches of St George's, St John's and St Mark's

Issue
265

April 2023

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Magazine subscriptions and deadline

The deadline for the May issue of the magazine is **Sunday, April 16**. Contact Stella Wiseman, 07842 761919, editor@badshotleaandhale.org.

Magazine subscriptions are now due. If you receive a paper copy, please pay £10 for the year to your deliverer or pay directly electronically, as below. If you read the magazine online, please pay directly via electronic banking: account name: The PCC of the Parish of Badshot Lea and Hale; sort code: 40-52-40; account number: 00025717. Please put a reference to 'Parish Magazines' in the payment description.

Front cover photo by Alicia Quan on [Unsplash](https://unsplash.com). Magazine printed by Imprint Colour, Aldershot. www.imprintcolour.co.uk/

Advertisers

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Holy Week and Easter services

Holy Week is from April 2-9 this year. Here is a list of the services taking place in the parish.

April 2, Palm Sunday, services with blessing of the palm crosses.

St John's: 9.30am.

St George's: 10am.

St Mark's: 11am.

April 2, Seekers service at St John's, 4pm, followed by sandwiches and cake. All ages welcome.

Holy Week meditations will take place at St John's at 7.30pm on each of Monday to Wednesday, April 3-5.

Maundy Thursday, April 6:

St George's: 7.30pm - Holy Communion with stripping of the altar and a vigil.

St John's: 7.30pm - Holy Communion with stripping of the altar, foot-washing and a vigil.

Good Friday, April 7:

St John's: 9.30am - Good Friday devotions.

St Mark's: 9.30am - Good Friday Craft for children aged seven to 11, followed by a short service at 11am and hot cross buns.

St George's: 2pm - Good Friday devotions.

Holy Saturday, April 8:

There will be a confirmation service at Guildford Cathedral at 7.45pm with several people from the parish being confirmed. Please come and support them.

Easter Sunday, April 9, celebrations followed by an Easter Egg hunt!

St John's: 9.30am.

St George's: 10am.

St Mark's: 11am.



Bread of Life

Craig Nobbs writes:

I recently took early retirement from my 'day job' in the Civil Service, and I don't miss it.

It was the right decision at the right time for myself and my family, comes with huge change, and I think the most noticeable one has been the lower income in comparison to my monthly salary. Because of the increase in bills and inflation, I now watch every penny, and have switched my shopping allegiance to Lidl. Yet I am grateful for the opportunity to live a less stressful life. My wife and I have enough to get by, and I get to spend more time in the parish meeting folk and having interesting conversations.

One change I have noticed is a greater reverence for our world, and care for food in particular: we waste less, spend less, and create more from fresh ingredients rather than when we regularly bought ready meals. Home cooking is so much more rewarding, and leftovers get turned into something else for another day. Things we just didn't do much of when we both worked; time was of the essence, and after a tiring day the last thing you want to do is cook from scratch, especially if you have children to feed as well!

My favourite food to make is bread. It is said that bread is the 'staff of life': a term for referring to the support and source of life as found in staple foods,



Craig Nobbs

sources of energy, and nutrients. It's even mentioned in the Bible (Leviticus 26, verse 26). There is something mystical about turning the basic ingredients of flour, grains, water, and yeast into a loaf of bread. The yeast makes it alive, and visibly so because it rises ever larger until the time to bake it in the oven where it gets even bigger!

The smell and texture of home baked bread always draw my thoughts to the Last Supper of Jesus with his friends. He symbolically broke the bread and shared it among them saying "This bread is my body which is broken for you". They didn't understand that Jesus was foretelling the immediate future: his unlawful arrest and state-sponsored execution on the Cross, his body broken with whips, nails, and a crown of thorns. His friends only fully

understood the sign of broken bread after Jesus' resurrection. If you can, do read the wonderfully mystical story in Luke chapter 24, verses 13-35 where two grieving disciples recognise Jesus as he breaks a loaf at supper. Thereafter, they would obey Jesus' command to "do this in memory of me", and Christians have celebrated Holy Communion with bread and wine for some two millennia: we do so because we believe that Jesus is alive, and a relationship of faith in Him brings a new life, gives a fresh start, with hope and security for the future.

Death was not the end: the yeast of God's power had not been snuffed out. Jesus was risen from the dead. A new body, a new existence, a new dimension, a vision of the reality of that which awaits us when we reach our natural end. God's yeast will work again and

raise us up in a new body. Jesus is the 'staff of life' because He alone is the source of life, our nutrients, our energy, and our wellbeing: not just in the here and now but for always. Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven. It is something to celebrate in abundance. Death is not the absolute end that it was.

So next time you bake bread, or part-baked baguettes, or unwrap a shop-bought loaf, or even just catch the smell of fresh baking in the high street, call to mind that Jesus invites each and every one of us to feed on him, who is the Bread of Life. Will you join Him at his feast?

We wish you all a happy and glorious Eastertide.

Alleluia! He Is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

Craig Nobbs, Licensed Lay Minister

Family Service

Seekers Family Service

SUNDAY, APRIL 2ND, 4PM

ST JOHN'S, HALE

Hear the story of Easter

Songs

Activities

Prayers

Sandwiches and cake!

THE PARISH OF ST JOHN'S, HALE



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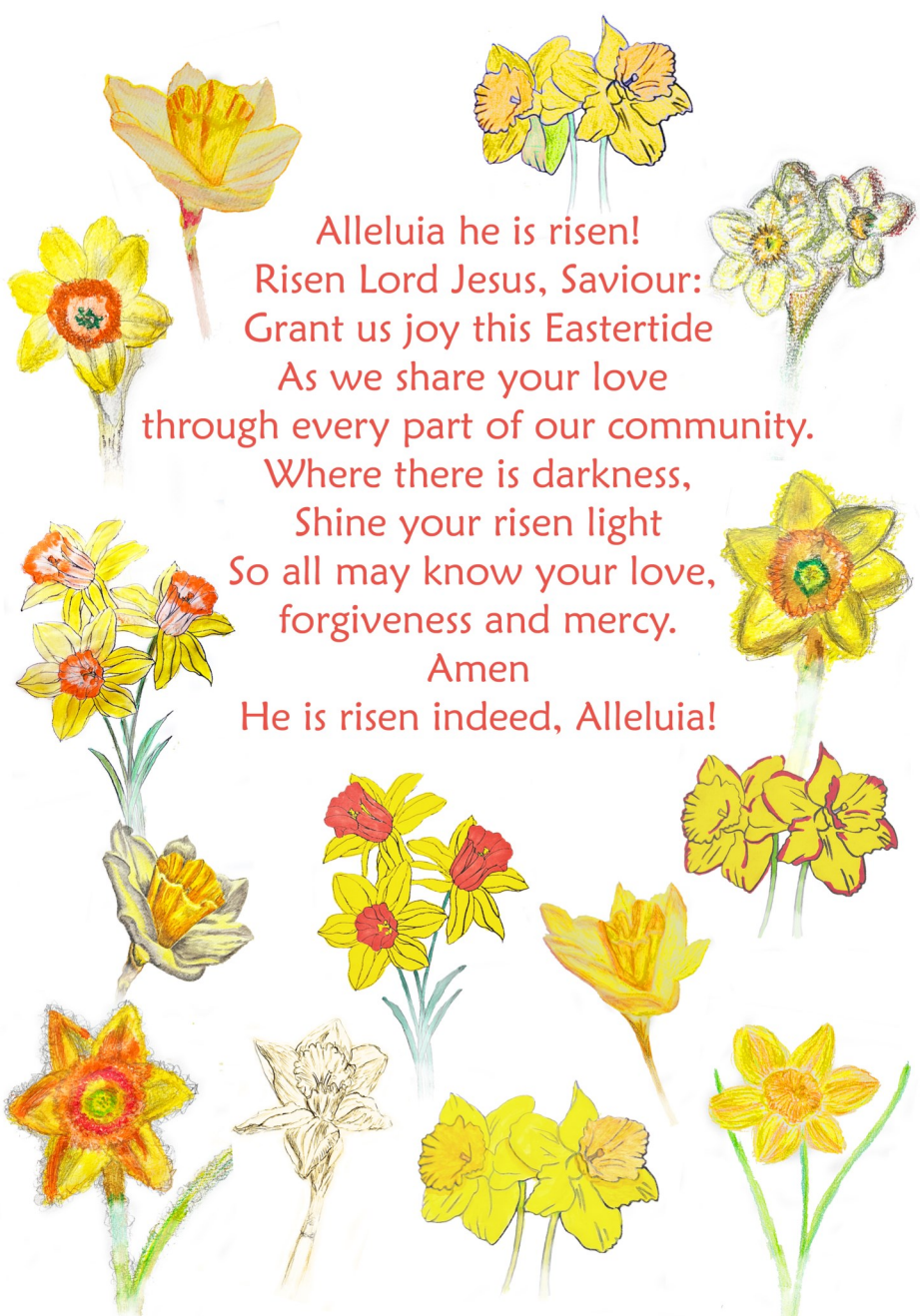
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Alleluia he is risen!
Risen Lord Jesus, Saviour:
Grant us joy this Eastertide
As we share your love
through every part of our community.
Where there is darkness,
Shine your risen light
So all may know your love,
forgiveness and mercy.
Amen
He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Bringing the Bible alive in schools

An invitation to Open the Book

Do you ever feel that it is a shame that children today have little or no knowledge of the beautiful stories from the Bible? Do you think it is a pity that schools do not feel it is important?

Well, let me reassure you – our ‘Open the Book’ team have been going into Folly Hill Infant School and Badshot Lea Village Infant School as well as Tootsies Nursery for a number of years. The team read and act out the stories every fortnight. It is great fun, the children are very appreciative and really look forward to our visits. It is wonderful to see their expressions as they listen and watch intently.

‘Open the Book’ is a Bible Society initiative. It has been approved by OFSTED. It uses the Lion Storyteller Bible and there is a handbook to ensure we stay within the guide-

line, but how the stories are presented is up to the individual teams.



Our current Parish team meets on a Monday for a run through and to choose costumes, then performs on Tuesday and Wednesday morning. We have a laugh, it is great for fellowship and we know that we are spreading God’s Word.

There is just one problem – we need more people! You don’t have to be confident in your acting skills, you don’t have to learn any words, you don’t need to be that confident. It helps if you like children, don’t mind putting on a tabard type costume and sometime being a bit silly.

So what about it? Wouldn’t it be lovely if we had enough volunteers to form a second team and go into more of our schools? Go on, why not?

Maxine Everitt

Just turn up at 7.30pm.....no need to book and it's free

"People
start to heal
the moment
they feel
heard"

Cheryl Richards

FARNHAM

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a worry

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anything
is hard

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up

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much

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📷 [peertalkcharity](https://www.instagram.com/peertalkcharity)

EVERY THURSDAY 7.30pm – 9.00pm

The Community Room,
Farnham Fire Station,
Guildford Road,
Farnham, GU9 9QB.



Gin Night

Friday, 14th April

St. George's Church, Badshot Lea

7.30pm



A chance to find out about and sample our most local gin.
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Entry £5 - includes welcome drink.
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Future Dates at St George's for the diary



Friday 12th May
Saturday 20th May
Saturday 10th June

Fun Quiz Night
Plant sale
Community Fete





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Plant Sale

Saturday, May 20, 10am-12pm

St George's Car Park

Last year's plant stall was such a huge success we decided to repeat it again this year. May bursts with new life and all you gardeners out there hopefully will have an abundance of plants which you would *love* to donate for the benefit of the parish.

Plants can be delivered on the morning or left at St. George's during the previous week and it really helps if the plants can be labelled clearly.

We also need people to come, pick up a few beautiful plants and make a donation – so please tell your friends and advertise the event.

Any questions, please contact maxine.everitt@badshotleaandhale.org

Help needed

New leader needed for Little Bees

Do you like babies, young children and new parents? Are you free on a Friday morning? If so this might be just the volunteering role you are looking for

The parish parent and babies group, Little Bees, has been going for 20 years and we are looking for a new leader. Maxine, who currently has the role, is due to move out of the area later in the year and it would be great if someone could work alongside her and get to know the families and what goes on. It is a lovely group with great volunteers already in place. The leader obviously needs to have safeguarding training, but that is easy to arrange.

So could you give up about two-and-a-half hours on a Friday morning during time term for this great outreach opportunity? Please contact Lesley Crawley (revd.lesley@badshotleaandhale.org) or Maxine Everitt (maxine.everitt@badshotleaandhale.org) if you would like to know more.



Badshot Lea & Hale Social Committee presents a

Fun Quiz Night

Friday 19th May 2023

7pm for 7.30pm start

St George's Church Hall, Badshot Lea

Teams of up to 6 or join a team on the night
£8 per person

Bring your own drinks and nibbles

Raffle at end of evening (*items welcome*)

**To enter please email Carrie or Jason on
jasongrafham1@gmail.com**



Christian Aid concert

Concert for Christian Aid

Christian Aid Week is from May 14-20 this year and it is arguably even more important to raise money this year as soaring costs and the effects of climate change are affecting people around the world.

The parish will be holding a concert on Friday, May 26 at 7.30pm at St George's Church, with music, refreshments and a raffle. Tickets will be £5 (children free). Tickets can be purchased in advance from Carolyn Weston on 07730009317.

Help with magazine

Help us get the magazine out there!

We need someone to take over co-ordinating the distribution of the magazine once Maxine has moved away later in the year. The job involves once a month collecting the printed magazines from Imprint Colour just off North Lane in Aldershot, and taking round to the various distributors. If you think you can help, or want to know more, contact Stella Wiseman, (editor@badshotleaandhale.org), 07842761919, or Maxine (maxine.everitt@badshotleaandhale.org).

Children's Society

Children's Society boxes

Kay Eastman has sent off the contributions from the box holders at St George's Church to the Children's Society. She reports: "We raised the grand total of £383, £40 up on last year, so a big thank you to the generosity of the 16 loyal box holders".

Arts at St Mark's

Arts at St Mark's is a community art group which meets at St Mark's,
twice a month on the first and third Thursdays of the month
(10.30 – midday)

Each session, we have a theme and materials are provided.
Upcoming sessions are on 6 and 20 April, and 4 and 18 May.

We will be decorating paper Easter eggs and working towards
our big project of a wall-hanging to celebrate
Upper Hale, St Mark's and the Coronation.




We welcome all to join us – you don't have to be good at art,
but you will need to be good at drinking tea or coffee, chatting
and eating cake.

Further details from Lesley (email llm.lesley@badshotleaandhale.org)

Farnham's local charity caring for older people

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Wey Valley Society

Creativity and hope in the Farnham Poetry Competition

Poets from Farnham and far further afield were full of hope when they entered the Farnham Poetry Competition. Hope that they might win of course, but hope was also the theme of the competition and it so inspired everyone's creativity that we received almost 140 entries.

For the second year running, the parish ran the Farnham Poetry Competition on behalf of the Farnham Literary Festival, which meant we also got to host the poetry awards evening and open mic at St Mark's Church on March 11.

The church was packed with 100 or more people of all ages gathered there to hear judges Coral Rumble and Ellora Sutton announce the winners. There was also an open mic for poets to come up and read their work, and both Coral and Ellora gave performances.

There was an under-16 competition and one for adults and the entries came from far and wide, in-



cluding one from Nepal. There were entries from children as young as six, and at least one entry from a care home resident.

The judges had a tough time choosing the winners but had to come to a decision. In the end there were first, second and third prize-winners in each competition, four highly commended adult and 10 highly commended under-16s.

And the winners were....

The Farnham Poetry Competition

Under-16s

First prize

The Robin by Margot Sidwell-Woods

Second prize

Many Tongues, One Voice by Jet Pariera-Jenks

Third prize

Hope by Thomas James

Highly commended

Save Us by Daisy Brice

Hope for Autism by Monty Monro

Be Hopeful by Hannah Jakobek

Hopeful Poem by Kobi Green

Hope by Alice Howell

I hope for a Dog by Lyra Buttery

Hope by Jessica Mellor

A Handful of Hope by Florence Champion

Hope by Alina Liepsch

Hope by Jaxson Wright

Adult

First prize

Insomnia and Death of the Queen by Rodney Wood

Second prize

Sift and Scatter by Chris Hunter

Third prize

There is a Light that Never Goes Out by Liz Usher

Highly commended

Frensham by Victoria D'Cruz

Sunday Lunch by Lorna Darcy

Looking for Hope by Mel Cracknell

Worship by Vicky Samara



Pictured right: Coral Rumble reading to the audience

The Farnham Poetry Competition

And now for the poems:

Under-16s

First Prize

The Robin

by Margot Sidwell-Woods

The sky is dark
Sluggishly grey
We trudge along
Through the ashen day
And on this morning
With its charcoal tint
There's a flutter of feathers
A robin's beak and wings
Its eyes are bright
And its breast is red
It ruffles its feathers
And tips back its head
And melody pours out
Splashing into the air
High, sweet notes
That don't belong there
But one day they could
In a new clear sky
And, like this bird,
I could learn to fly
I turn to stare
At the red over its heart
And my mouth twitches
It's a smile
Small – but it's a start

Second Prize

Many Tongues, One Voice

by Jet Pariera-Jenks

The National History Museum has
opened its doors
And children are scouting the corri-
dors
Gazing at evolution's historic trail
From fierce dinosaurs to slow sea
snails
Fascinated by ancient fossils and
bones
And marvelling at geodes captured
in stone.

But the scene that draws everyone's
eyes
Swims above them as if the seas
filled the skies
The skeleton of a blue whale hangs
in the air
And all the children stand and stare
They crane their necks to the ceiling
to see
This oceanic creature of nature's
beauty.

They point and gape at her white
bleached bones
In their hands lie forgotten their
cameras and phones

The Farnham Poetry Competition

One boy turns to another and grins
“Isn’t Dóchas the whale a beautiful thing!”

His Irish accent is thick and his companion frowns

“This whale is called Haffnung, she swims where we’d drown.”

A Spanish girl interrupts the German’s words

“No! She’s Esperanza, it’s wrong what you’ve heard.”

More children are adding names to the fray

“She’s Von!” “Tanna!” “Tumanako!”

Everyone wants a say

Children start quarrelling, a fight breaks out

The once peaceful museum echoes with screams and shouts.

They argue about the whale’s name
Kicking and punching without decency or shame

Until an old man holds up his hands for quiet

“Children, there is no need for this angry riot!”

The museum echoes with the hush
All the youngsters look away and blush.

“You’re all right, the whale is called Dóchas,

Hoffnung, Von and Esperanzas

Because all of these words are one and the same

They all mean hope, and Hope is this whale’s name

She hopes that her sisters are safe in the sea

And that we stop hunting her kin so needlessly.”

Hope is important in all walks of life

We should unite our voices to keep it alive

Instead of quarrelling when none of us are wrong

We should spread the message through poems, laughter and song
Through war ridden countries and earthquake-shaken ground

Let’s join hands in hope, let the beauty resound.

*After Jalaluddin Rumi, 16th century
Sufi mystic*

The Farnham Poetry Competition

Third Prize

Hope

by Thomas James

Hope.. it is in all of us;
in soldiers during wars
in doctors when performing operations
in all of our friends and families
... in you

Sometimes it is hard to find
sometimes it is hidden in the depths
sometimes we feel we lose it
but remember it is always with you

Once you find hope
all your goals will be within reach
so there is no need to mope
and that's what I am trying to teach

Hope is in all of us
In the strong and the brave
In the weak and the shy
In the happy and the sad
Hope is in all of us

... and it is the most important
thing....

Highly Commended

I Hope for a Dog

by Lyra Buttery

I hope I get a dog,
I'll walk it every day,
Even if it's rainy,
I'll still go out to play.
I'll feed her in the morning and in the evening too,
And when we go for walks she'll do a great big poo!
I hope she will be small, brown and fluffy,
And I will brush her every day so she doesn't get too scruffy.
I hope she jumps on the bed at night.
And sometimes gives me a terrible fright.
I hope to call her Daisy
And I'll love her, even if she's crazy.

A Handful of Hope

by Florence Champion

Everyone Has a Handful of Hope
Hidden in their pocket.
It helps you think, helps you cope
When you're struggling.

Some say hope is red,
Some say it's yellow,

The Farnham Poetry Competition

Green,
Blue.
But who is actually telling the truth?
Well everyone is correct,
As hope is not just one thing,
But many things,
Many items,
Many thoughts,
Many communities brought together.
That's hope.

Hope doesn't always work,
Although it cheers you up on a
gloomy day,
Takes you away from things,
Things that put obstacles in the way,
Of achieving your dreams.

Yes, of achieving your dreams
Those things called doubt and worry
and fear,
They line up on display,
They try and pull down tears from
your eyes –
They make you afraid.
But as I said,
You can take all of those things
away,
If you have a handful of hope,
Hidden in your pocket,
As it helps you think, helps you cope,
When you're struggling.

Hope
by Alina Liepsch

Hope is a special something
We cannot live without.
We can all have hope,
And we should not doubt.

We hope things will get better,
When everything goes wrong.
Hope gives us what we need,
It helps us to stay strong.

It keeps us going when we're tired,
And helps us when we fall.
If we hope for what we already have,
Then that's not hope at all.

But hope for what we can't yet see,
Means patience, calm and waiting.
When we have something to believe
It makes a life worth living.

Hope
by Jaxson Wright

In a world full of war
Sadness and pain,
When the winters are cold
And pouring with rain,
When people are hungry
Homeless and poor

The Farnham Poetry Competition

Nowhere to sleep
Except the dirty wet floor,
The glimmer of hope
That brightens the sky,
That spring is coming
The floors will get dry,
The sound of laughter
Will fill the warm air,
I hope we are happy
I hope that hopes there.

Hope

by Jessica Mellor

When there's an ominous hole in the
back of your mind,
You feel like drowning, struggling to
survive.

When you think your incarcerated in
your grave,
Hope is only found from among the
brave,

The never-ending dissatisfaction that
is suffocating within you,
You're entrapped in your mind, not
knowing what to do.

Everyone struggles from time to
time,

Not understanding life, thinking
that's a crime.

But if you look into the distance,
there's a shining light,
Part of your individuality can radiate

so bright.

Not knowing there's a way out,
A place to escape,
Not seeing there's a hope,
It's easy to lose your way.
Trying to navigate a path,
Just trying to stay alive,
Just to keep breathing
To get through the day and night.
Even through the darkest of times,
There are glimpses of hope,
But sometimes not clear enough to
see,
For some it's far too much to cope.

Hope for Autism

By Monty Munro

A Person with autism is
Underestimated
Talking without emotion
Inventive – thinking outside the box
Struggles academically
Tedious it feels
Imaginative thinking
Creative thoughts

The Farnham Poetry Competition

Hopeful Poem

by Kobi Green

Hope is a wonderful thing
it surrounds everyone
From the stars
To the tiny, tiny bees
The whole world is surrounded by it
You just have to find it.

Be hopeful

By Hannah Jakobek

Have faith in yourself.
Open your mind.
People need to have hope.
Eventually it will work out.
Free from pain.
Uniquely you.
Look for hope wherever you are.
Live in the moment.
You are amazing.

Hope

By Alice Howell

I Hope for lots and lots of chocolate
at Easter.
I Hope the Easter Bunny comes.
I Hope for candyfloss and cuddles.
I Hope for lots of fun and family.
I Hope for sunshine.

Save Us

By Daisy Brice

Darkness, fear, hate, all of this is an
empty void
People waiting for it all to change
gears for a brighter day.
I sat under a range of leaves on a
tree
Thunder hit the three trees
Leaves falling and crying. The world
Dark falling, evil walks past us.
But I hope the retrieval of the Great-
ness
Hope with hope
The sky bright with a little rain for
the crops
Icebergs safe
Everything is alright
Forests huge with something to
prove
But this could be through
Unless we Dream incredible Dreams
You can save us all
You need to hope.

The Farnham Poetry Competition

Adults

First Prize

INSOMNIA AND DEATH OF THE QUEEN

by Rodney Wood

*At night, when all the colours die /
they read about themselves in colour /*

with their eyelids shut

Craig Raine, A Martian Sends A Postcard Home

My sleep routine starts after the news at 10.30.
I flip through 119 TV channels which don't feature actual programmes only clips of the Queen, Paddington Bear, marmalade sandwiches and adverts I'm not interested in.

After that I take umpteen supplements: lavender, valerian root, melatonin, magnesium, a glass of Dom Pérignon, listen to "Clair de Lune" by Debussy, have a warm shower, a light snack, write a to do list, put

away my phone before the sleep cycle can begin.

Last night, 8 September 2022, for example,
I shut my eyes to an empty screen before clips of the Queen, Paddington Bear, marmalade sandwiches and adverts I'm not interested in about paperless TV licences, buying

and selling cars, star sign based cuisine, bread, burgers, avocados, life insurance, slots, EuroMillions, swimwear, equity release, shirts, video poker, loans, beer, smoothies, mints, holidays in Greece, mobile telephones, roulette, perfume, coffee machines, Kane to score next,

sunscreen, boilers, hemp extracts, home delivery, hair colouring, online casino, racing, video bingo, chocolate, biscuits, cough drops,

The Farnham Poetry Competition

trains, credit, online sports betting,
home insulation,
insurance, hemp extracts, trainers,
how to stop

gambling, gambling and more gambling,
5 minute party political broadcasts
on behalf of All 4 Freedom, Charter,
Family,
Scotland – Unhyphenated, Climate,
Rubbish,
Church of the Militant Elvis, Count
Binface,
Motherworld and the other 337 political parties.

After that another clip of afternoon
tea
with the Queen, Paddington Bear,
marmalade
sandwiches and only then, the alarm
goes.
Another sleep interrupted but
there's always
hope I'll sleep before the next coronation.

Second Prize

Sift and Scatter

by Chris Hunter

I stood in that yellow, searing heat; a
blasted amalgam of sift and scatter.
A scape shaped of grief, shimmer,
pine roots and shadows cast by cy-
press, as black as sump oil.

The unplanned end to a furnace
thickened, crumpled stumble from
gate to tree to stone.

In the autumnal chill of chain grey,
that land remains neutral. Just yellowed
grass and cold dirt. Now, instead,
it is a sultry, soured, shifting
molasses of emotion.

The moment draws me down to the
ground. This strange gravity of every-
one interred. Once strangers but
now unified in soil, to clay, to sand.

The words of everyone who has
passed, fusing and dividing for those
who wish to hear it. The whispers of
the next day, early light after loss,
the quiet voice from another room.
The unmercenary kiss to the brow.
Dates forgotten. Emotion not.

The Farnham Poetry Competition

Now this place gives back all that has
been taken from those who lie here
and those who got to walk away. It
gives back each regret in one long
breath of scoria-laden intent. It raises
strange hope from former pain
and leaves a message throughout
the earth beneath my feet.

There in that dust blown sift and
scatter. You have gone. You really
have gone. Though you knew this
place and we are both here, sharing
that hope that you said once lost,
would lose you.

Third Prize

There is a light that never goes out

By Liz Usher

If Hope is a thing with feathers
it fell down our chimney last night
and came to its rest
on a red-brick dust nest
behind our gas flame-effect fire.
We've not used the gas fire for ages
—
we daren't turn it on for the cost...
but hope springs eternal
in appliance infernal,
you can't turn the pilot light off.

Highly Commended

Frensham

by Victoria D'Cruz

Small pebbles rock beneath our feet
Cold wet toes curling
The wind whips your lack of hair not
flying now
My thick locks knotting with fear
We leave our clothes, laid neatly for
our return
We walk, uttering only smiles of encouragement.

I used to run straight in
Embracing the cold shudder that hit
my perter chest.
Sending my heart racing, that weird
feeling when I thought of you.
Breath gasping
Quickening the panic.

My Dad told me it's not real sand
and swans could break my arms.

Today together I edge in at the precipice.
Swimming shoes hiding my unmanicured
nails, tow-float spread around
my middle age
Little by little
I stop, step until the tiny waves

The Farnham Poetry Competition

come to me
I move to them controlling my
breath.
In....
Hold....
Out...
Drawing imaginary squares of air.
Thighs
Waist
Boobs
Shoulders
The rush as a hopeful laugh slaps me
in the face.

Sunday Lunch **by Lorna Darcy**

Whenever we have roast chicken
For lunch on a Sunday
And the carcass,
Pale and broken open



Ellora Sutton

Sits steaming,
Speared on the carving block
Peeled carrots,
Peas seething,
Potatoes and parsnips burnished,
He carefully frees the wishbone
From the frame of the bird.
Strips the malleable white flesh from
the brittle bones.
Holding up the delicate V,
He wraps his little finger round one
Tine
And offers the other,
Jagged as a tooth,
To me.

I pinch it between thumb and fore-
finger
To get a better grip
Knowing with unbreakable, unshake-
able certainty
That when we pull apart,
He will come away with the greater
portion. Always the victor.
The good futures wishbone
Aloft like a ragged pennant
In his finger.
In all the times we have enacted
This minute ritual
I have never, ever won.

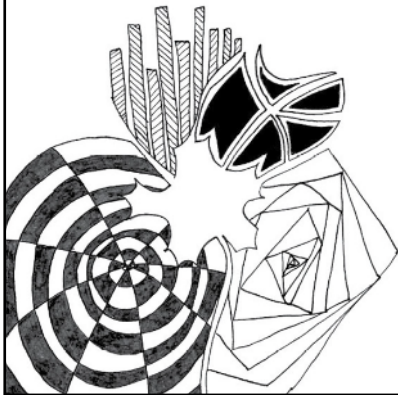
And yet, he offers it to me, and there
is always hope.

The Farnham Poetry Competition

Worship
**by Vicky
Samara**

Worship

Favourite season:	Forgiveness
Favourite colour:	October
Favourite name:	Hope
Favourite country:	Sigh



Looking for Hope
by Mel Cracknell

My son wore red
The tense is past
A clue, a statement, a feeling or re-
ality?
Mine
His

The robin wakes at dawn stays until
nightfall.
How do I know?
His song is his voice he tells the
world here I am.

My son's voice has gone
I have his red tee shirt.



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Corn dollies, tea and chat

A message from Hale WI:

"Hale WI are planning to hold their April meeting at 1.45pm on Wednesday, April 12 in the Village Institute. Visitors will be most welcome for a charge of £4.

"Our speaker will be Michael Gates and he will be telling us about the origins of corn dollies and how to make them. The speaker will be followed by tea and cake and a lot of friendly chat. Why not come and join us? For more information please call 01252 722817 or 01252 715802."

Jean Mortlock, Hale WI

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All you need is enthusiasm, a sense of humour and a willingness to learn.

We are holding a "taster" evening for people like you at
7.30pm on April 19th 2023
Cross Barn, Palace Gate Farm, Ottham RG29 1JX

You are invited to come along and just watch or join in and enjoy a glass of beer or wine but quips are limited so contact:

Recruitment Officer Jack Salmon 07796 179032
or email johsalmon@bt.com to reserve your place

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You can buy an additional, digital copy of your portrait, so that you can put it onto mugs, T-shirts, bags, etc.

Prices from £15.

To order, or for more details, please see @TheSquirrelCollective on Facebook.



The Church Cat

Cats and dogs

A brief article from me today as there is little room (sort your space out, editor!)

I am being challenged. This is most unreasonable, since I am a cat and cats should never be challenged, given our status and all that, but it has happened. A dog has started coming to church!

Said dog has also visited the Curate's house and, though she was perfectly well behaved, I wasn't sure it was appropriate. I mean, she's a DOG. She's different. She's not like us.

It has, however, got me thinking. Why is she welcome at church and the Curate's house? Is she a one-off or are more coming? And if more are coming, is that OK? I know plenty of humans get very upset about difference and tend to dislike people who are not like them, and I don't want to be like that. Maybe I should lead the way in being inclusive. It's a thought.



Purrs, The Church Cat



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0-5 years welcome with a parent or guardian.
Unfortunately no childminders.

Teddy says if you are poorly to stay home and rest.

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For information please contact:
Sheryl Rees - Family Group Leader - 07379 130073
family.support@homestartwaverley.org
(Sheryl works between 9am-3pm)
Or
Sue Connolly - Hale Community Centre - 01252 723362
office@halecommunitycentre.org.uk

Hale Community Centre Garden

DROP IN TUESDAYS 2PM-3PM

Tuesday's
2pm-3pm
Starting 14th March!

Help us create an attractive, welcoming space outside the Centre;
Learn how vegetables are grown and help us to provide produce for helpers and the Centre.

Get growing with us!
No gardening experience necessary, just a willingness to get involved and help support our community garden. Drop-in anytime on Tuesday's between 2pm and 3pm.

For more info: Tel 01252 723362
Hale Community Centre:
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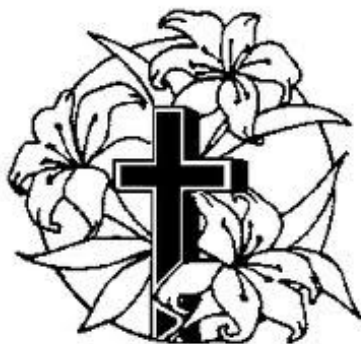
From the Church Registers

Funerals

We commend to God those whose funerals have recently taken place:

16 March at St John's Church and Churchyard:

Pamela Morice Davey and
Philip Edward Davey



Memorials

We commend to God those whose memorial services have recently taken place:

3rd March at St George's:
David William Morgan

Church services

Our church services are:

Every Sunday: 9.30am St John's; 10am St George's; and 11am St Mark's.

1st Sunday: 4pm St John's, Seekers Family Service and tea;
6pm St George's, BCP Evening Prayer.

2nd and 4th Sunday: 6pm St John's, Taizé.

Wednesday: 12pm St Mark's, Midweek Eucharist.

Online: www.badshotleaandhale.org

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The Church Cat

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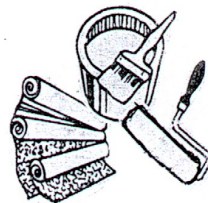
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Job Club

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...and many more!



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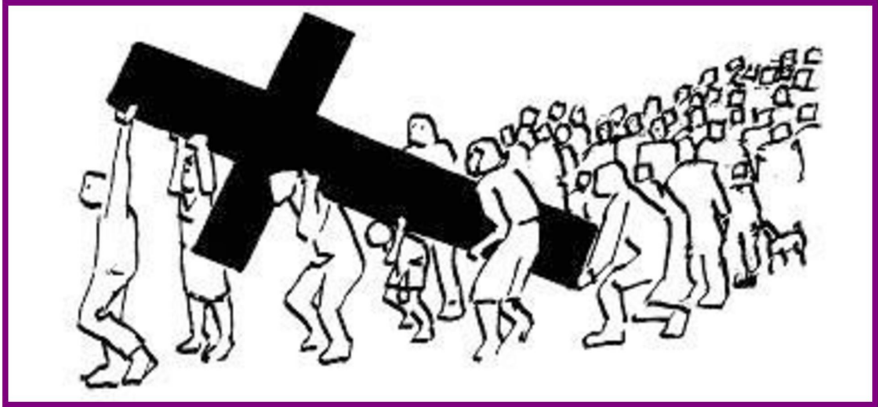


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Churches Together in Farnham

GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS



**All Christians are invited to
follow the Cross**

**Assemble at the top of The Hart
at 11:45 a.m on Good Friday
7th April 2023**

**for a silent procession at 12:00
through the streets of Farnham
ending with prayers and
a hymn at St.Andrew's Church**

**Participants are invited to carry
a palm or other small cross**