

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 no.
284

March 2025

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Magazine subscription and deadline

Subscriptions to the magazine are a minimum of £10 for the year, suggested price £15.

Contact 07565 422079 or email editor@badshotleaandhale.org.

The deadline for the April issue of the magazine is

Sunday 16th March.

Advertisers

Below is a list of our current advertisers by category and the page numbers you can find them on. Please use their services and don't forget to say that you saw their advert in this magazine.

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Cartoon Family portraits from the Squirrel Collective



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Family groups, friendship groups, couples, children and parents... even your pets. I draw from photographs and will work with you to get a drawing you are happy with. I draw by hand and add colour with alcohol-based markers, so your picture will stay vibrant for a long time to come.

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.



What's on in March

Sunday, March 2nd —

NORMAL SERVICES AT EACH CHURCH

Unfortunately due to ill health, Archdeacon Catharine will not be able to join us on Sunday, 2nd March so there will NOT be a combined parish services on that day

Wednesday, March 5th — 15:00 to 16:00

Contemplative Prayer

Our new weekly Contemplative Prayer group meets at St Mark's every Wednesday. Please do join us to sit quietly before God.

Thursday, March 6th—10.30am-12pm.

Coffee and Art and St Mark's

Join us for art and coffee (and cake) at St Mark's on the first and third Thursday of every month. No artistic skills needed!

Saturday March 8th—19:00 to 21:00

Top Ten Worship Hymns

An opportunity to sing your favourite hymns/worship songs at St George's Church.

Saturday March 8th—14:30 to 16:30

Build a World Workshop

Come to St Mark's and learn how to create a fantasy world and populate it with characters. No experience needed and afternoon tea will be served. £6. Part of the Farnham Literary festival.

Tuesday March 11th—10:00 to 11:30

Connections

A group for the over-50s meeting at St George's every fortnight. Just come along and enjoy a cup of coffee, some cake and various activities.

Wednesday, March 12th — 15:00 to 16:00

Contemplative Prayer

Our new weekly Contemplative Prayer group meets at St Mark's. Please do join us to sit quietly before God.

Wednesday, March 12th — 15:00 to 16:00

Interactive Workshop Writing Memoirs.

Local author Samantha Jayne Hunt Stacey will run an interactive workshop on writing

Our regular church services are:

Every Sunday: 9.30am St John's;

10am St George's; *and*

Online: www.badshotleaandhale.org

11am St Mark's.

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

memoirs at St Mark's, teaching the basics of memoir, exercises to help put pen to paper and ideas to continue. All abilities welcome. Morning coffee will be served. £5. Part of the Farnham Literary festival.

Thursday, March 13—10:00 to 12:00

St John's Thursday Café

Drop-in coffee morning taking place on the second and fourth Thursday of the month in the Sumner Room at 10am. There is tea, coffee, cake and biscuits and a chance to meet and chat with other people.

Friday, March 14th—19:00 to 21:00

Friday Night Games Night

Join us for Friday Night Games at St Mark's. There is a meal, table tennis, games and lots of chat!

Saturday March 15th—13:00 to 18:00

Prostate Blood Testing Event

Public event for men over age of 40 at St George's Church. A dedicated team will take your blood, send it off to a lab and test result will be returned within a few days. See page 27 for more details.

Saturday March 15th—17:00-20:00

Poetry Competition Final and open mic.

Part of the Farnham Literary Festival. See page 16 for more details.

Tuesday March 18th—10:00 to 11:30

FREE Craft Café

FREE Craft Cafe run by Farnham Maltings at St George's. Come along and learn a new craft or bring your own. It's every fortnight and absolutely free.

Wednesday, March 19th—15:00 to 16:00

Contemplative Prayer

Our new weekly Contemplative Prayer group meets at St Mark's.

Please do join us to sit quietly before God.

Thursday, March 20th—10.30am-12pm.

Coffee and Art at St Mark's

Join us for art and coffee (and cake) at St Mark's on the first and third Thursday of every month. No artistic skills needed!

Saturday, March 22nd —10:00 to 14:00

Easter Craft Market

As well as an array of great craft items to buy at reasonable prices, there will be an Easter egg hunt, a café, live music and a chance to see the Kitty Milroy murals and support your local community. Free entry.

Tuesday March 25th —10:00 to 11:30

Connections

A group for the over-50s meeting at St George's every fortnight. Just come along and enjoy a cup of coffee, some cake and various activities.

Wednesday, March 26th—15:00 to 16:00

Contemplative Prayer

Our new weekly Contemplative Prayer group meets at St Mark's.

Please do join us to sit quietly before God.

Thursday, March 27—10:00 to 12:00

St John's Thursday Café

Drop-in coffee morning taking place on the second and fourth Thursday of the month in the Sumner Room at 10am. There is tea, coffee, cake and biscuits and a chance to meet and chat with other people.

Friday, March 28th—19:00 to 21:00

Friday Night Games Night

Join us for Friday Night Games at St Mark's. There is a meal, table tennis, games and lots of chat!

A hopeful time, but also a sad time

Hope, Hope, Hope. We always hope, but just what is hope?

The dictionary definition:

a feeling of expectation and desire for a particular thing to happen.

I am writing this surrounded by boxes in the hope that we will be exchanging documents for a house move to Walkford in Dorset, completing in the middle of March.

We also hope that the bungalow in Walkford brings us as many happy years as our house has here in Ash Vale for 26 years.

We have many happy memories of living here next to the canal, watching the children grow into adulthood, walking and cycling in the ranges. A bonus was having three stations in walking distance, making travelling easy, and the local shops in the village. We have met many people on the way who, like all of us, have hoped for many things to allow their lives to be joyful and fulfilled. There are always times of sadness too and hopefully I have been a light in the darkness to those I have walked beside when their hope had gone. I have had many people walk alongside me at times for whom I am very grateful.

Our desire is to explore Dorset on our bikes, including a trip or more to the Isle of Wight, and for me to spend more time with my mum, sister and brother who are only about 20-30 minutes away (about one hour on a bike).



The dictionary definition:

a feeling of trust.

A massive part of moving house and uprooting is putting your trust in God. Originally, we were going to move to Cornwall as we like the rugged cliff walks, but I realised when my dad became ill that it was too far for my daughters when we get older and need some extra help. We also found some bungalows in this area but the chains fell apart and realised that maybe we were not meant to be staying in this area. We decided to look further afield, hence Walkford. God always knows best.

I finish work at Treloar's on 28th February where I have been for nine-and-a-half years, trusting that God will provide a part time job that suits my needs and requirements, if that is his will. It is only God at this stage that knows what lies ahead for us.

My husband will be retiring so we trust that financially we will be secure in what is a very uncertain world.

It has been a great privilege to have taken many assemblies within the parish schools, leading the family services and training as a preacher, trusting in God that I can answer some of the most difficult questions about God, faith and belief that young people ask.

The dictionary definition:

want something to happen or be the case.

As a parish we have been hoping for a new incumbent, someone who fits the parish profile and one who will grow the church. As I say goodbye to you all, I will still be praying for the right person to come along. As soon as one person walks through the door and meets you all there will be no stopping them, as your friendliness is contagious and the amount of activity shows commitment and an energetic outlook.

I hope to find a church with as much energy and friendliness and be as happy as I have been in the Parish of Badshot Lea and Hale which I have found to be a church of healing, love and forgiveness too.

What is hope for you? Is it a feeling of trust, a feeling of expectation or desire, or you really want something to happen?

What are you hoping for in the next week/month or year?

I am sad to leave you all but for Mike and myself it is the next phase of our lives together and we go in the knowledge that God will put us exactly where he wants us to be.

Thank you all for being you.

May Gods blessing shine on you all.

Michelle Chapman

New Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll has to be completely renewed every six years and ours is due for renewal in 2025. **EVERYONE** who wishes to be on the Electoral Roll for the Parish of Badshot Lea and Hale must complete a new enrolment form.

Forms will be emailed to all those on the current roll for whom we have email addresses. Paper copies will be available in each church for those who are not on email.

Forms are to be returned to Gemma Brown, the Electoral Roll Officer, or to a churchwarden or deputy who will pass them on. Please ensure you complete all sections, especially ticking the boxes giving your permission for us to use your email address. If you live outside the parish, please ensure you read the qualifying rules carefully. In 2B and 2C it states you must have **habitually** attended public worship in the parish during the six months prior to enrolment.

Ash Wednesday preparations or what is that smell?

Something I didn't expect to be doing this year: setting fire to palm crosses to create Ash Wednesday ash. For years it never occurred to me to wonder where the ash came from. Maybe out of someone's fireplace. No, it's palm crosses, blessed at the previous year's Palm Sunday service. I was planning to do an internet-search on how to do it but another priest rang me and expressed mock horror that I hadn't completed my ash-creation already because of the length of time it takes to do so.

"Get all your best swear words ready" he advised, "and keep poking at the burning palms with a metal implement to knock the ash off." Then he added conspiratorially: "The quickest way is to use charcoal. That burns quickly and cools in 15 minutes. Mix it with a bit of burnt palm." I asked him: "Should I mix the ashes with something to help them stick to the foreheads?" I was imagining holy oil, blessed by someone of far higher station than I. "Put some handcream in" he advised.

A Scout leader had more advice: rub some petroleum jelly on the palm crosses to get them to burn better.

This evening, while a cat played with a palm cross on the floor, I rubbed petroleum jelly into a pile of crosses and placed them in a saucepan. I placed a match against one. The match went out. I tried again, and a small black mark appeared on one of the crosses. I waved a flame against the jelly. It melted. I kept trying and there was a sudden conflagration. My old colleagues at the newspaper would have their fingers poised to write the headline: "Priest in burning cross disaster". It didn't sound good.

The flames subsided without the need for the fire brigade and I added more jellied crosses. This was distinctly odd. It also stinks in the house and I am not sure the saucepan will be useable again. I have ground down the ashes as best I could but it's quite likely that someone will end up with a piece of palm on their forehead.

Just to ensure I had done everything correctly I search online for 'creating Ash Wednesday ash' and watched a YouTube video from a cathedral which advised rubbing the ash through a sieve. That would solve the lumps of palm on the forehead problem. Then the man who was presenting the video told us that to create 'ash' at home, "a safe and perfectly acceptable method is to mix earth or even some cocoa powder with a little water or oil".

Meanwhile, all over the world today priest's houses smell bad.

PS. The following day: My husband helpfully puts the saucepan of ash to soak in the sink.

Candlelit Charity Concert at The Castle

An evening with The Mayor of Waverley and friends in support of Farnham Assist!

Thursday, 27 March 2025 at Farnham Castle.

Doors open at 4.30pm. Concert starts at 6pm.

Featuring a spectacular variety of classical music, including:

- Sam Balchin, West End solo trumpeter
- Francisca de Brito's award-winning string trio from the Royal Academy of Music
- Principal singers of Godalming Operatic Society
- ...and more!

Bar and hot light bites available before seating, and during the interval.

Limited on-site parking available for 65 cars

All proceeds will go to support Farnham Assist, a local charity dedicated to enhancing the lives of older people in Farnham.

Tickets from £18.50 are available at <https://orlo.uk/77T94>
or by emailing MayorsConcert@waverley.gov.uk

(Please note, you cannot buy tickets from the Farnham Assist Office)

Thank you to Farnham Town Council

The parish has been successful in securing the support of Farnham Town Council through the Community Grant Funding program on two projects. We have received £1,000 towards each of the following projects:

- The repair works on St John's tower.
- The replacement of the worn-out chairs in at St George's church hall.

The support of Farnham Town Council in these projects is very much appreciated by the parish.

Lent in the Parish

Lent Course details

This Lent we will be following Living Hope, the Church of England's Lent course, which helps us face some of the struggles of life and offers us hope. The course offers daily reflections for individual use, but also reflections which can be used in weekly small groups. If you would like to join a small group in the parish, either in person or online, let your churchwarden or a member of the ministry team know. If you would like a book of reflections for personal use, they are available for £2.20 each. There are also booklets for children and families available for £1.99 each. Again, let your churchwarden or a member of the ministry team know if you would like to have one. You can also sign up to receive emails from the course.

Visit www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/living-hope-resources-lent-2025 to find out more.

Wednesday Eucharist During Lent

Are you thinking of Wednesday Eucharist (12 noon at St Mark's) as a Lent extra for you this year? Beginning on March 12, the addresses at the service will focus on the Nicene Creed, as the world-wide Church celebrates 17 centuries of this proclamation of the Christian faith.

Book Launch:

Your Worry Makes Sense

By Dr Martin Brunet

Saturday 29th March, 3-4.30pm

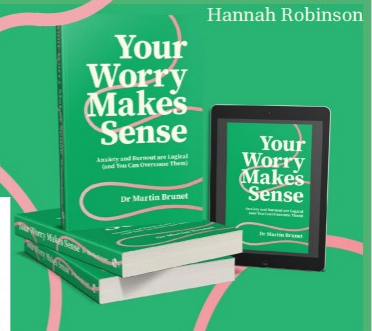
Guildford Baptist Church

All welcome! Free entry and refreshments.

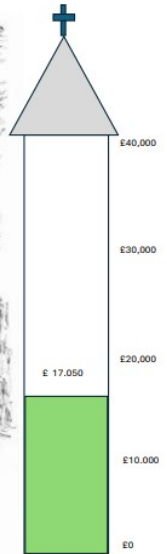
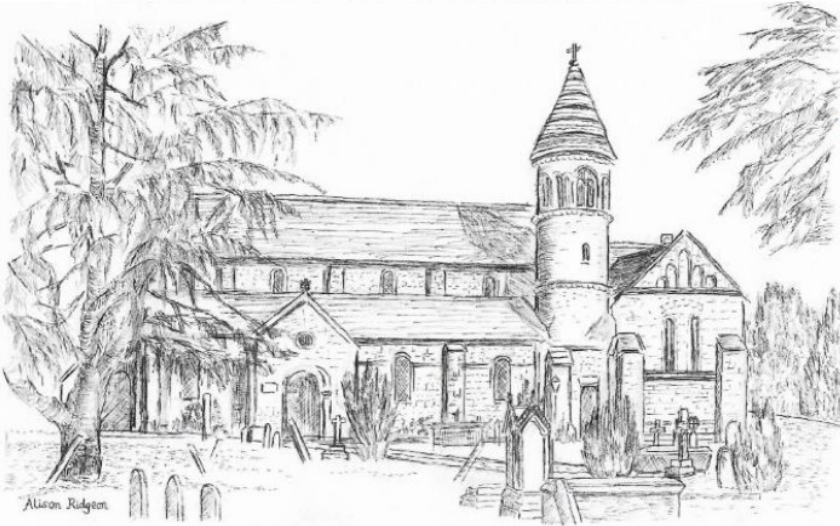
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With Illustrator
Hannah Robinson



ST JOHN'S TOWER RESTORATION PROJECT



LAST UPDATED:

22nd FEBRUARY 2025

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Cunningham House is the operating name of Abbeyfield Pirbright and District Society Limited, a registered society under the Co-Operative and Community Benefits Societies Act 2014, registration number 22478R

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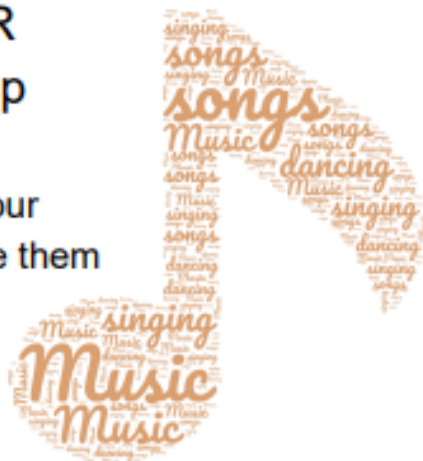
Top Ten Worship Songs



St George's Church
Saturday 8th March
7:00pm

A chance to sing **YOUR**
favourite hymns/worship
songs

If you would like to vote for your
favourite hymn/s, please write them
on a piece of paper and drop
them into the church.



Each vote costs **£1** – you can vote as many times
as you want for each song.

All proceeds to Parish Funds.





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The Farnham Literary Festival comes to St Mark's

Once again, the parish is playing a large part in the Farnham Literary Festival which is running from March 6th to 16th. Now in its fourth year, the festival attracts major literary names and performers as well as encouraging new writers, and it has two competitions – a fiction one and a poetry one. The parish runs the poetry competition and holds an awards ceremony and an open mic at St Mark's on the last Saturday of the festival (15th), and, if the last few years are anything to go by, the church will be filled with amazingly talented poets of all ages (last year from four to over 90) who will give voice to heart-felt sentiments and sharp perspectives on the world.

The poetry awards evening (open to all) is not the only Literary Festival event at St Mark's. On Saturday 8th, our involvement kicks off with Build a World Workshop from 2.30-4.30pm, where you can learn how to create a fantasy world and populate it with characters. No experience needed and afternoon tea will be served. Tickets £6.

On Wednesday 12th, local author Samantha Jayne Hunt Stacey will run an interactive workshop on writing memoirs, teaching the basics of memoir, exercises to help put pen to paper and ideas to continue. All abilities welcome. Morning coffee will be served. Tickets £5.



Samantha Jayne Hunt Stacey

On Saturday 15th, not only will we have the Poetry Awards Evening at St Mark's, but earlier in the day there will be a Flash Fiction Workshop run by Sally Dickson founder of the Farnham Flash Fiction competition which runs each year. That will be in the Community Centre from 10am to 12pm.

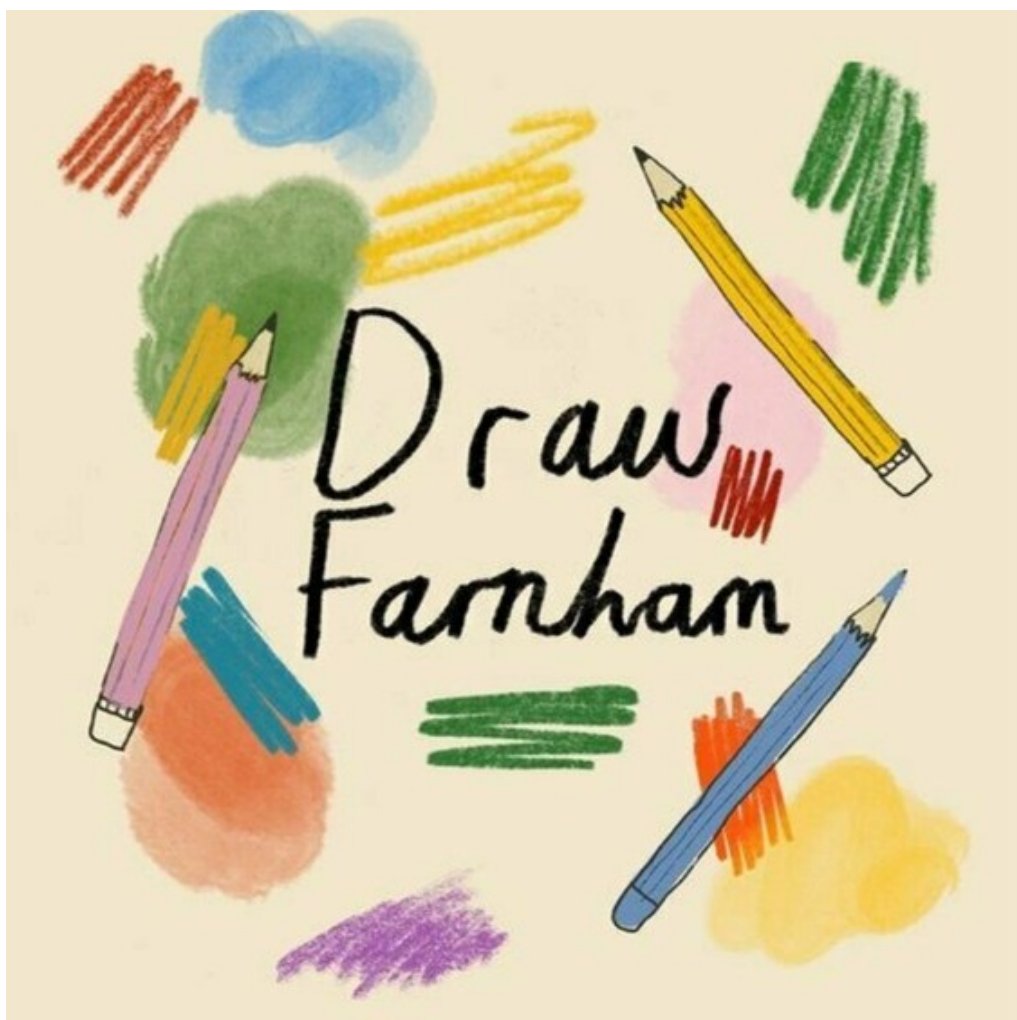
Meanwhile in the church that morning, Draw Farnham will be drawing, chatting, eating cake. It's not part of the Literary Festival but see page 17 to find out more.

You can join any www.farnhamliteraryfestival.co.uk to find out more or pick up a programme from the Town Council or in shops around the town.

Draw Farnham visits Kitty Milroy

Draw Farnham, a local art group which offers a range of meetups, workshops, events and talks, will be in St Mark's on the morning of Saturday, March 15th, to see the Kitty Milroy murals and to sketch, chat and eat cake.

The group is run by local artist [@knitchings](#) and she welcomes anybody who would like to drop in on the day. So, please, do pop in. They will be there all morning.



Looking after people in the Parish

The importance of Safeguarding, Domestic abuse awareness, DBS checks

Firstly, it is important to remember that not only is this an important subject, but that it is one that is difficult one to many, as a significant number of people in most parishes will have been bruised (or worse) by one aspect or another of it in their lives.

I personally find it a challenging area to get the balance between, on the one hand, having the appropriate safeguards in place, and, on the other, making the role of a volunteer so onerous that people are put off volunteering and consequently we do not provide support to those in our parish and beyond.

Ask yourself—What do they mean to the Church as a whole? The Parish and us individually?

People of my age, even if they barely follow the news, will have heard a number of stories over the years of abuse and missed opportunities to stop it. They are not that frequent, but they are devastating to those impacted. When you analyse the incidents they have some common threads:

- They are **environment agnostic**, sadly the Church is far from exempt from incidents.
- They can be perpetrated by **individuals or groups**.
- The perpetrators are often

outwardly very nice people.

- There is often enough information to stop things much earlier than actually happens, but this information is often not ALL seen by the same person or group for its weight to be seen and acted upon.
- False accusations are not unheard of, but are equally devastating particularly in this social media age.

How does the Church in general deal with this?

- All those appointed to official posts are thoroughly vetted before they can take up their post – although as we know this does not always stop future problems.
- It requires parishes to follow procedures to ensure that volunteers are not putting themselves or others at risk

Settling in/Getting to know you

periods before new people get heavily involved.

Joining the tea rota is fine, but leading Sunday school too soon would be inappropriate.

DBS checks –

Are you who you say that you are?

Highlight those with known pasts.

Details are seen by only a very small group of people.

Only history relevant to the role is disclosed.

Taking up References – people to vouch for them.

Train volunteers

not to **put themselves at risks** – eg being alone with vulnerable or dangerous people
to **look after those** who they come in contact with.

To **spot signs** that others are in difficulties.

To **pass their concerns** on, NOT investigate them themselves
Provide support for those running and assisting at activities.

Appointing a Safeguarding Officer who is independent of the management chain – to avoid conflicts of interest

is the person that concerns should be shared with IN PRIVATE.

Keeps the parish up to date with changes in procedures.

Ensures volunteers have up to date training and DBS checks

The training for volunteers normally has tests to ensure understanding, but is now often online and hence we can support those doing the tests. This should not be off-putting, especially for those who struggle with exams.

Whilst this is all to stop big problems, it is important to remember if something is **not as it might be**, it is probable that the adults involved just need to be **reminded of good practice**. Most examples of poor practice are not signs of a real problem, so we must not worry about sharing what concerns us with those tasked with investigating or passing the concern to a higher authority – this is normally what we individually should do, as should the Safeguarding Officer. It is important that we DO NOT investigate our concerns ourselves.

The Church has a Safeguarding Sunday in its calendar, normally late in the autumn. Last year's was **let's talk about it** –

Why do you think that was the chosen?

Experience shows that because most people are afraid to talk about the subject bad practice goes on unchallenged for longer than it should.

The parish will need a new Safeguarding officer after the APCM in May as Jo is standing down after many years of excellent service, for which the parish is very grateful. Please have a think about whether you could fulfil this role and have a talk to me, a churchwarden, or Jo to find out more. It would be great for the new person to work beside Jo for a month or two as part of the handover process.

Conclusion

The purpose of this piece is hopefully to:

- Refresh everyone's understanding of the reason behind our approach to **Looking after people**,
- Maybe even increase your knowledge in this area.
- Dispel some misconceptions
- Reduce the chances of you being put off from volunteering for church activities 'because of the paperwork'

If we are really lucky it has encouraged one of you to step forward to become our new Safeguarding officers at the **APCM!**

Dave Walter
PCC Safeguarding Lead



***Midday Music for Christian Aid at
St Thomas-on-The Bourne Church
Frensham Road, Farnham GU9 8HA***

12 noon followed by a light lunch of soup and bread

Tuesday, 18th March 2025

Brodie Mauluka - Mayor of Farnham

A recital of guitar music covering an eclectic mix of modern music ranging from jazz to reggae.

Tuesday, 25th March 2025

King Edward's School Witley

The choral and music scholars bring us a selection of songs and instrumental pieces thoughtfully chosen by their Director of Music and the Scholars.

Tuesday, 1st April 2025

**Marjorie Carrington, Mikhail Lezdikan and
Amy Muller**

This concert will feature three professional musicians on oboe, cello and piano. With a repertoire ranging from Handel and Locatelli to an Alyssa Morris jazzy oboe number, they will entertain you with a varied selection of music.

Tuesday, 8th April 2025

St Thomas-on-The Bourne Church Choir

A selection of choral and keyboard music featuring current and former St Thomas-on-The Bourne choristers.

Donations welcomed to support the work of **Christian Aid**

PARISH SOCIAL CALENDAR

	Sat 8 th March – 7pm-9pm Top Ten Worship Songs	St George's	
	Sat 22 nd March – 10am-2pm Craft Market	St Mark's	
	Sat 5 th April – time TBC Quiz	St Mark's	
	Sat 17 th May – 10am-12pm Plant sale	St George's	
	Saturday 7 th June – 1pm-3pm Community Fete	St George's	
	Sat 21 st June – 10am-2pm Craft Market	St Mark's	
	Fri 4 th July – time TBC Jane Austin Day	St John's	
	Sat 13 th Sept – 6pm-9pm Murder Mystery Bring & Share supper	TBC	
	Sat 20 th Sept – 10am-2pm Craft Market	St Mark's	
	Sat 4 th Oct – 6pm-9pm Harvest Supper	St George's	
	Mon TBC – 5:30-8:30pm Christmas Light Switch on	St George's	

Janet Martin offers a personal take on safeguarding

Anyone who pays attention to the news can scarcely have missed this issue and its effect on the church amongst many other institutions. A failure to carry out safeguarding in order to protect children and vulnerable people can cost reputations and employment, even resulting in prosecution.

This means that many have become fearful of failure to follow safeguarding procedures. Fear has resulted in some becoming defensive, some interpreting what is needed in an unrealistic manner. From my time working for a trade union, I can give an example of what I perceived to be an overzealous interpretation which resulted in a great deal of misery. I should point out that I am free to tell this story because the person involved is no longer alive.

I was contacted by a successful deputy headteacher of a Kent primary school who was suddenly dismissed from her post. The background involved a young organist, one with no teaching qualification, who had been recruited to work in the same school to help with music teaching.

To support this young man, the deputy was asked to act as his mentor. She was well qualified for this role because, in addition to her teaching experience, she was the mother of five adult children. She discovered this young man lived in a bedsit with no cooking facilities. He had no support network at all. He loved to cook so she invited him to her home at weekends so he could enjoy her cooking facilities.

So far so good but... and there often is a but in such situations.

After the young man had been in the school for a while, it was discovered that he had been viewing pictures of young boys online. As you may imagine his feet didn't touch the ground and the police were called. The deputy felt sympathy for him. He was now in an even worse situation than before and completely isolated. She reassured him that he would still be welcome at her home at weekends.

Once this became known, the Chair of Governors called a meeting and declared that the deputy was now seen as a danger to the children in the school and she was dismissed. My task was to try to save her job.

In my view she was still the same person as before, one who had been loved and admired in the community and certainly not any sort of danger to children. Sadly, I was unable to save her job, but I did manage to ensure she was still in receipt of her full salary. After a long struggle I managed to secure a new equivalent post for her.

The negotiations involved meetings with Kent Human Relations. During this process she explained that she had tried to behave in a Christian manner with the young man. The HR

representative then became very uncomfortable and said she didn't know about Christian behaviour but, if the deputy wished to talk about that, she would need to meet another HR representative. This was a shock to me as much as anything else associated with this case.

Sadly, just over a year later the deputy became ill with pancreatic cancer and she died six months later. I have often wondered whether the stress of this situation caused her ill health.

If you have any thoughts on this topic, or any other, please do write in to us

editor@badshotleaandhale.org or

Editor

Parish Magazine

St Mark's Church and Community Centre

Alma Lane

GU9 0LT

From the Parish Registers

Baptisms

We welcome into our church family those who have been baptised recently:

9th February at St John's Church

William David St Leger Stimpson



Weddings

We congratulate those who have recently married:

1st February at St John's

Lucy Brown and Jay Blackford



Funerals

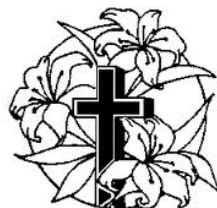
We commend to God those whose funerals have recently taken place:

28th January at Guildford Crematorium

Helen Pearson

21st February at St Mark's Church

Peter Alderton



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025

Friday 7 March

A service for everyone!

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10.30am

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Cook Islands *I made you wonderful*

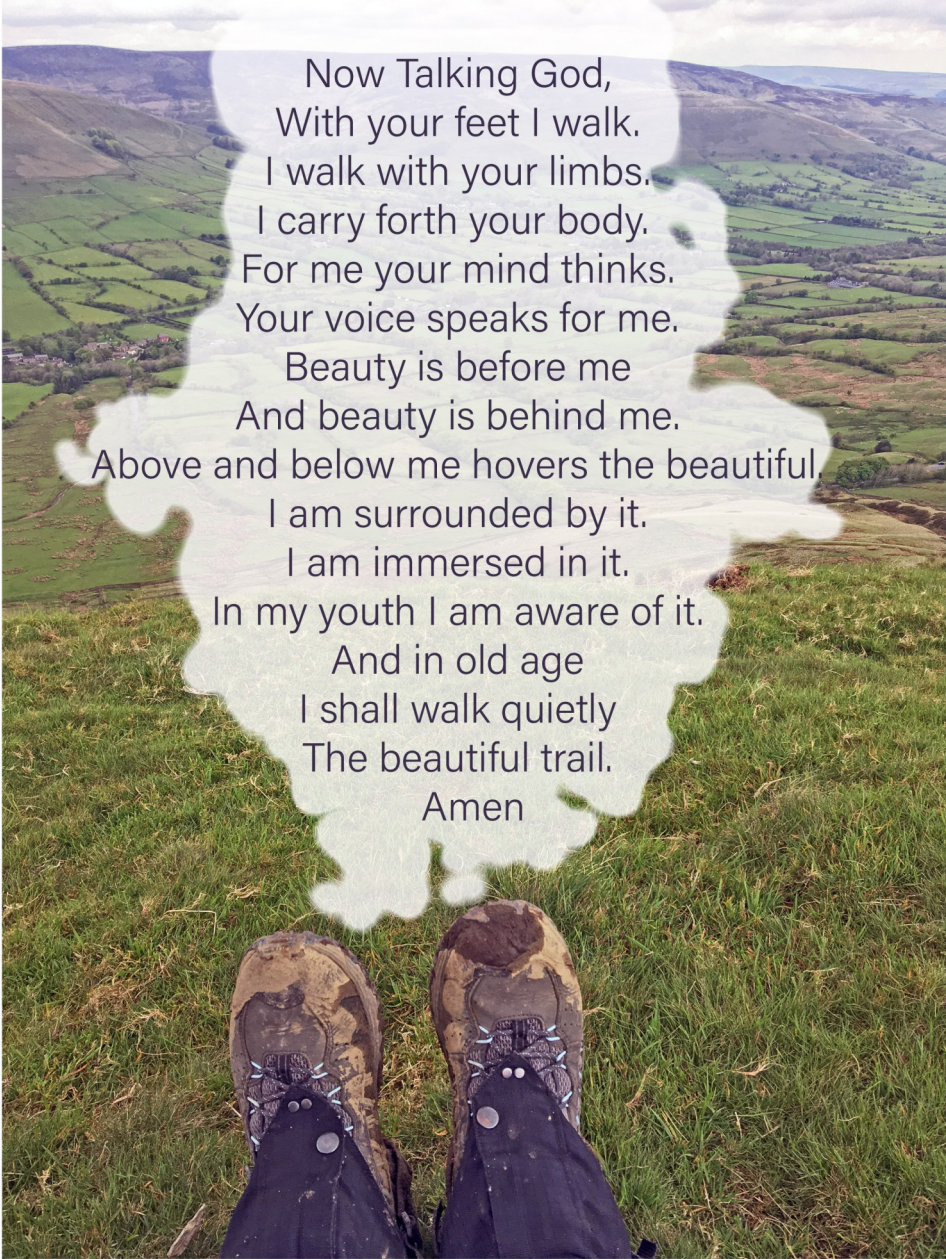


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Now Talking God,
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I walk with your limbs.
I carry forth your body.
For me your mind thinks.
Your voice speaks for me.
Beauty is before me
And beauty is behind me.
Above and below me hovers the beautiful
I am surrounded by it.
I am immersed in it.
In my youth I am aware of it.
And in old age
I shall walk quietly
The beautiful trail.
Amen

*Acknowledgements
Prayer from Navajo prayer tradition by Christian American Women
for World Day of Prayer 1981.
Photo: Lord's Seat, Peak District, by LS*

SUPPORTING THOSE "LIVING WITH CANCER AND BEYOND" - FROM A RELATIVE'S PERSPECTIVE



Led by Daphne Bleach

Saturday 15th March 2025

10 am – 12.30 pm

(Coffee available from 9.30 am)

**at Godalming Baptist Church,
Queen Street, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1BA**

- * Do you know what to say, and not to say, when someone says "I have cancer"?
- * How does a diagnosis of cancer affect someone?
- * How can we encourage someone to "live well with cancer"?
- * What help and support is available to patients and their relatives?
- * Living beyond treatment - the "elephant in the room".
- * Who is there for those when no further treatment is available?

Daphne is a Care Companion, offering help and support to families and those who are dying as they approach end of life.

Following her talk in 2024, Daphne will lead another informative and sensitive talk about how to come alongside and support those living with cancer, to help all of us make the best of the precious time we have together.

Daphne Bleach is a Christian, whose nursing career spans over 40 years.

Please reserve a place, with payment of £7, by contacting Sally Pollard email: pollard3@hotmail.co.uk, ~~tel:~~ 01483 428646
by Friday 28th February

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The Badshot Leader March 2025

I lived in Badshot Lea for the first 11 years of my life, moving a few miles away to Roman Way, Farnham in 1949. It never felt far away as various aunts and uncles still lived in the Lea. I returned with my family in 1971. No other place has felt like home, and the place never ceases to surprise. Over the last few weeks, I was fascinated to see magnificent red kites soaring over the fields between Badshot Park and Weybourne. For two hours there were 10. The downside is that I have not seen one common thrush for ages.

This set me thinking about how Badshot Lea has changed over 80 years, from the densely packed working-class old village to the predominantly affluent community it is today. Then, everybody did know everybody, (and their business!). Much of the housing had no electricity or inside bath or toilet, and some bordered on the squalid. Now, having been completely modernised, these houses are popular with first-time buyers or for rent. Back in the 1950s there were never parked cars in the street, because most residents rode bikes, but the half-hourly Number 32 bus ran to Aldershot from 6.30am to 10.30 pm, allowing courting couples to get home after the cinema shut. We had about 10 shops, including two butchers', a baker and fishmonger, as well as a coal yard with horse-and-cart deliveries. Village identity was strong. With the large number of new buildings over the last 10 years, is it inevitable that community spirit will decline? I hope not.

Maurice Hewins

New Estates and their Playgrounds

During lockdown times, when we could only walk from home, we developed a routine of exploring Badshot Lea and the immediate locality on foot. While trying to go out for a walk most days, I have continued with this habit and lately, owing to the rather wet weather, I have been walking on pavements through the new estates, such as Skylark Place, Bartlett Avenue and Peckham Williams Place. The last two called after local historical figures. I'm not sure where Skylark Place came from!

It has been pleasing to see that each estate incorporates a children's play area, all slightly different in design. Also, that the new houses are now becoming an established part of the village. Hopefully their occupants will become involved in local affairs if they haven't done so already; there is a lot going on for Badshot Lea residents of all ages. Recently I walked down Carpenter's Path and noticed Goslings Place, which I had not explored before. I wondered about the name and Maurice explained that Goslings is an old field name from before 1837. It was the last hop ground in the village and grubbed out in 1972. Although why almost every road these days is called a "Place" he doesn't know. That term was only applied to the "Big House" in a village and the only one here was Badshot Place, with its Park.

I followed the Goslings Place Road round and found another new and original playground with interesting equipment being constructed for children to enjoy. As I continued along the circular path round this area, I realised it was bordered by a well-established orchard. I am told this was saved from further building, at least for the present, when it was realised that it was an old orchard, with important varieties of apple trees, which are becoming nationally rare. At the time of my visit the developer had completed the playground with new turf and pruned the apple trees as had been agreed.

Judy Hewins

Badshot Lea Tennis Club Update



The club project for 2023 was to re-landscape the area surrounding the clubhouse, to make it a more accessible area and provide bike stands for those cycling to club sessions. This has been completed, and was formally opened by Town Mayor, Councillor Alan Earwaker in May 2024.

The club now holds regular coaching sessions for juniors and adults through the local coaching company, Return Tennis. There are open days during the year, club tournaments and various social events, including quiz evenings, skittles and bbq's.

The club will give you a warm welcome if you would like to come and see us, to try the sport or return to it. Club sessions are Thursday evenings, 6pm onwards or Saturday mornings 10:00am onwards. Please come along and meet some of the members.

The photo to the right shows the Tennis Club, c. 1945. Left to right, Violet Viggars, May Gibbs, Vera Hewins, May Hewins. (Ed). For further information please see the club's website www.badshotleatennisclub.org.uk

Gillian Hyman.



The Community Garden

Our keen gardeners are at work on Wednesday and Sunday mornings getting the garden ready for spring. Despite the wet cold weather, we have seen up to 13 people helping on a Sundays.

We are hoping to arrange a litter pick and volunteer morning at the pond one Saturday in February or March, when notices will be put up by the pond beforehand. The usual suspects would be pleased to welcome extra help, especially from new residents. Waverley Countryside Warden, Nick Macfarlane will be on hand as usual, and hopefully refreshments will be served

The Community Gardeners will be at the Farnham in Bloom Community Fair on Saturday 22nd March at Gostrey Meadow, where we will be launching this year's tallest sunflower competition. We will also be part of the village wide Easter egg hunt, run by the school on Saturday 5th April.

John Martin

Badshot Lea Community Association Planning Issues

The planning system seems to have been constantly under review these last few years. This government has continued this with its updated National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) last autumn, supported by a nationwide consultation. Many local authorities, including Waverley, commented on the seemingly impossible new housing targets. Unfortunately, little changed due to the consultation process so the new, very high housing target remains.

English Devolution

In December, the Government launched its English Devolution White Paper. Surrey County Council had already registered an interest in Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and has now committed to go ahead with the move to a two-tier system whereby Waverley Borough Council will be abolished and Farnham Town Council will work directly to a new Unitary Authority.

At the time of writing, it is not clear whether Surrey will be split into two or three new authorities. The timescales are extremely tight with an interim plan required by the 21st March and a full proposal by the 9th May. Surrey have stated that during this period they will consult with stakeholders, presumably the residents of the county, but this seems a tall ask given the short timescale.

A major problem exists with the new setup because, whatever way the county is split, it appears that Waverley will be paired with a number of adjacent boroughs including Woking and Guildford. It is not known what will happen to Woking's £2 billion of debt but clearly the other authorities will not want to inherit it. Given the timescale it should not be long before we find out.

Cliff Watts

Badshot Lea Ladies Group.

Badshot Lea Ladies Group was formed in 1966 and is an established and popular group within the village. The group is for ladies age 18+ to 90+. They meet in St George's Church Hall, on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month, at 7:30pm for 7:45pm. The meetings alternate between speakers and games and chat evenings. The topics can vary from cake decorating to local history, unusual hobbies and travel, to local charities and personalities. Recent visits include Badshot Lea Community Garden, Farnborough Observatory, and a boat trip along the Basingstoke Canal. A warm welcome awaits you at any of the meetings.

A brief history of the group

In 1966 the group was founded by the then vicar, Rev Peter Gotlee and his wife Gill as the St George's Young Married Woman's Guild. This was for ladies in the 18-40 age range. The vicar was president. The group met in those days at St George's Hall which was the first school in the village, and later a Church Mission Room in St George's Road. They had a charity for the year – which was Guide Dogs for the Blind in the first year. Charity for the Year continues to be an annual item on the events calendar.

When the old St George's Hall closed, the group met in the school for a short while. The hire charges forced the group to move on to somewhere cheaper – Weybourne Village Hall. At this time under the then president Jean Deeks, the group changed their name to Badshot Lea Wives Group and removed the under-40 age restriction. The group expanded again when the Badshot Park estate was built, with new villagers bringing fresh ideas to the group.

At the 2019 AGM the members unanimously agreed to change the group's name to Badshot Lea Ladies Group – as being more inclusive.

Over the years the group has had a variety of speakers talking on subjects from handkerchief collecting, to body therapy, to lavender products. They always try to get out in the summer months to local events; fuchsia gardens, canal trips along Basingstoke Canal from either Mytchett or Odiham, and a sensory garden to name a few. The Christmas meal is another popular event each year.



The group looks forward to its celebratory 60th year in 2026 – would you like to be part of it? The visitor fee is just £4. Membership is available at £12 per year (Sep-Jul) and £3 per meeting. Please contact the chair – Gillian on 07941 099268 for further details.

Badshot Lea Community Garden on the occasion of the Ladies Group visit.

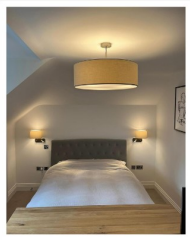


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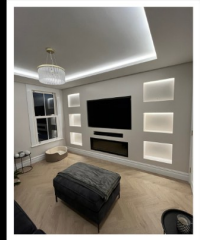
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What have you seen today?

We are all on the look-out for signs of spring, this year more than ever. Sunny days are greeted like a lottery win, putting a smile on everyone's faces. We wait greedily for the first spring flowers to emerge, like crocuses, daffodils and primroses, and the bees are waiting too, for that early spring nectar and pollen which is so vital to them. The earliest pollinators you might see are the large queens of the buff-tailed bumblebee (*Bombus terrestris*), on the look-out for a suitable nesting site. They are easy to spot because of their size! Another early visitor is the hairy-footed flower bee, one of the many solitary bees which visit our gardens, particularly in the south of the country.

Bee of the month – Hairy-footed flower bee

The hairy-footed flower bee (*Anthophora plumipes*) looks a little like a bumblebee in that it's very furry, and only a little smaller than



buff-tailed workers. Like all solitary bees, the previous year's queen will have laid her eggs singly and provisioned them with pollen and nectar, after which she dies, and the bees emerge the following spring. Mud and clay walls and banks of bare earth on south-facing sites may be used for nests, and after the last

egg has been laid, it will be sealed with mud and water, licked into shape by the bee!

The gingery males are the first to emerge, in March or sometimes even February. They sport long hairs on their legs and feet designed to attract the females, which emerge a couple of weeks later and are slightly less hairy and black. Both sexes are excellent pollinators, trapping pollen all over their hairy bodies! Although they look a little like bumblebees, the males have a very different, high-pitched buzz, together with a fast, hovering flight, and you may be able to spot them hovering around one of their favourite plants, lungwort.

Pollinator plant of the month – lungwort

Lungwort (*Pulmonaria officinalis*) is a low-growing, spring-flowering herbaceous plant which thrives in shade. It can be easily identified by its mottled leaves, thought to resemble lung (pulmonary) diseases, and in fact lungworts were traditionally used to treat lung infections. There are several species and hybrids with different flower colours, but the common lungwort

emerges as pink, soon changing to blue. The funnel-shaped flowers which emerge in early spring are what attracts our friend the hairy-footed flower bee, which, unusually for solitary bees, has a long tongue, enabling it to feed from deep-tubed flowers.

Other March plants for pollinators

Another plant loved by long-tongued pollinators is our native primrose (*Primula vulgaris*). Spring-flowering hellebores, including the native stinking hellebore (*Helleborus foetidus*) are also good sources of early nectar and pollen – and don't forget to leave your dandelions to flower!

For a comprehensive list of plants for pollinators, visit www.rhs.org.uk/science/research/plants-for-pollinators and download the garden plants list.

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Chaos theory

There is chaos everywhere. Not just that The Curate decided to tidy out a cupboard and then got bored part-way through, but politics is wild. I know this because I am now on social media (@churchcatblah, follow me on Instagram) and it feels more like watching a film about a civil war than anything else. Maybe that's what it is.

There are right-wingers who despise left-wingers, left-wingers who despise right-wingers, and some people who despise everyone. Then there are some who are trying to be kind.

Right, you humans have got this all wrong (again). First, it is the job of cats to despise people. We are superior and we know it. Even then, we don't despise everyone – just those who deserve it by not feeding us properly or by not paying us attention when we want it (I'm looking at you, Curate). We particularly despise anyone who tries to give us pills, even hiding them in food. My good friend Phoebus Shenton is being duped as I

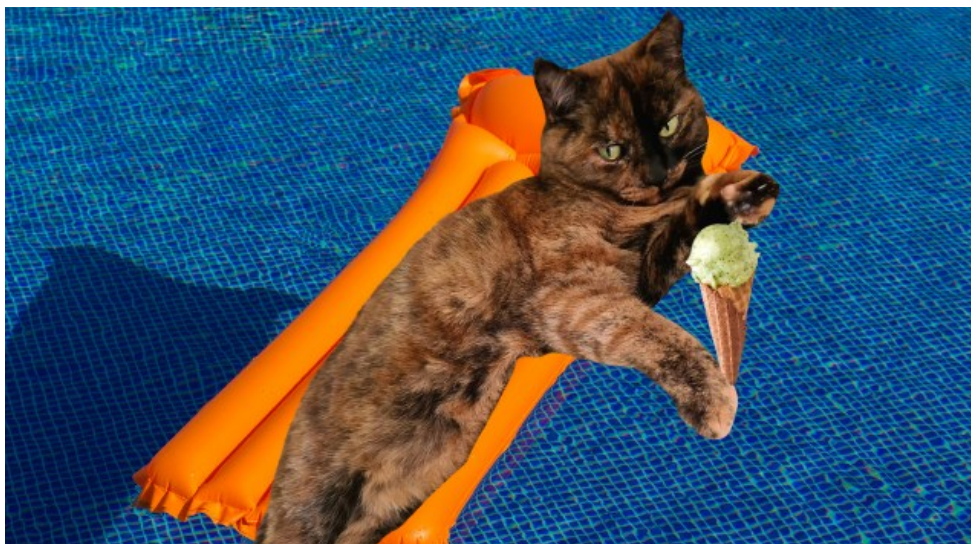
write. His humans are popping the pill into a lake of gravy and he's lapping it up. Phoebus, wake up lad!

Pills aside, what are we going to do with humans? I have two pieces of advice, both of which must be excellent as I am a cat. The first is: pause (paws?). We cats pause a lot while we are hunting prey. It helps us focus on what is important (prey=food=important). The second follows from the first. When pausing, we sometimes consider that this piece of prey is not really worth it (*or is too fast and big for you – Curate*) or maybe the sun starts to shine and we decide that basking in the warmth for a while will be preferable. So we stop and we relax, and often we snooze.

If humans tried doing that on social media, or even in day-to-day conversations, there'd be a lot more calm in the world. And a lot more people asleep in sunny patches. Just follow my example and chill.

Purrs

The Church Cat





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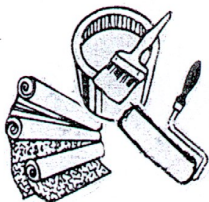
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