

Issue 21: August 30th 2020

Welcome, brothers and sisters to the twenty-first edition of "Church at Home".

It's not a good sign when the optometrist starts umming and arring during a routine check-up! What I expected to take half an hour of my week took quite a bit longer. Two days later my eyes were being looked at in Queen Mary's. The optometrist had seen evidence that my retina was bleeding (This, it appears, can be quite serious!). Long story short, there was nothing to worry about, but it did make me reflect on just how brilliant God made our peepers.

Our eyes are a bit of an enigma to biologists. I can remember when studying Biology at university there was quite a debate about eyes! They are one of the things that evolutionary theory struggles to satisfactorily explain their existence. They are brilliantly simple and wondrously complicated at the same time. I still follow the Intelligent Design theory (It's gone a bit out of fashion since I was at Uni) that evolution is truth but that God is behind it. It's easy to see God's hand in creation, but this week I got a look at all the insides of my eye and I think it has to be one of his greatest achievements.

Follow the guidance, encourage each other, pray and stay safe.

Rev Clive

Church noticeboard

Church Office

The church office will reopen on Friday 4th September. We will be operating social distancing and restricting the number of people at one time. So please DO NOT just turn up at the office. You will need to phone and make an appointment if you need to see Judy for the time being.

Pre-School

Pre-school returns on the 3rd September. If you know anyone with pre-school aged children do let them know about our facility.

Art Club

After many years of leading St Paul's Art Club, Joan Handy is stepping down from the role. Art club members present and past wish to express there sincere thanks to Joan for leading the group and allowing them to explore their creativity.

Exam Success

Congratulations to Emilia Yates, Dylan Davenport, Nellie Silver and all the others who have received the grades they wanted.



Church noticeboard (cont.)

Volunteers needed for key church roles.

We are looking for new Church Wardens to take on the maintenance and management of our buildings and to manage our paid staff.

We need a new treasurer to look after our finances

We need new Church Council Members who meet 6 times a year to make decisions about the mission and ministry of the church and to decide how we spend our budget.

APCM

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place in the church on Wednesday 21st October at 7:30pm

This is what to expect when you come to Church.

You must wear a covering over your nose and mouth, unless you have a good reason not to do so.

We are providing sanitizing gel and this must be applied on entering the church.

Please do not congregate at the entrance or in church, but move to your seats as directed.

Seating will be distanced, but of course, you may sit with other members of your household or anyone you have formed a bubble with.

Communion will be given in one kind only. You will be asked to keep a one metre distance whilst queuing and you will be required to use sanitising gel before receiving communion.

Unfortunately, at the end of the service it will not be possible to socialise in the church.

Please help our stewards, who have volunteered, to ensure that we can hold the service in safety and fellowship to the Glory of our L^3 rd Jesus Christ.

Community Notices

Road closure

Resurfacing works will start at Park Crescent, Erith, (btw Victoria Rd & Hind Crescent) on Tues 1 Sept. Weather permitting, the work should take approximately 5 days. A road closure and restricted parking will be in place.









Free Cycling Training

Free Cycling training available now through Bexley Council Road safety team. 1-1's will be tailored courses to suit individual abilities and goals. If you haven't been on a bike for some time and need to get back into cycling, this is the perfect way to improve your confidence and skills

A free 1-1 cycle session to improve your urban (on-road) cycling skills

For further information or to book your sessions at a time and day to suit you please contact roadsafetyeducation@bexley.gov.uk

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This week's prayer

We are not people of fear: we are people of courage.

We are not people who protect our own safety: we are people who protect our neighbours' safely.

We are not people of greed:
we are people of generosity.
We are your people God,
giving and loving,
wherever we are,
whatever it costs
for as long as it takes
wherever you call us.
Amen

From The Methodist Conference

Prayer

There are many who still need our prayers. Those who have asked for our prayers are: Ann Easter, Ann Batchelor (Reader at St Martin's), Andrew Bennett, Charles Brooke, Elizabeth Foster and Joan Handy. For Marjorie and Eileen Hoare, Monica Lindridge, Christine Meaton and Christine Minns. For Carol & John O'Connor, John Ralph and Amanda Ralph. For Jane & George Stafford. For Karen Vaughan (Cameo), Jeanette Watts and Mark Williams.

Access Church services online

A number of places are offering closed services online. If you are able why don't you try one of the following.

Holy Trinity Brompton – Nicky Gumbel https://www.htb.org/sundayonline.

Freedom Church – Sim Dendy https://www.freedomchurch.uk

All Souls Langham Place https://www.allsouls.org

Watch on TV

TBN (Freeveiw 65 / Sky 582) Hillsongs TV (Sky 595)

Resources for children and young people

Primary

Veggietales (Netflix)

Superbook (Amazon Prime & Youtube)

Hillsongs: https://www.youtube.com/user/hillsongkids

Rend Collective: https://rendcokids.com

Bethel Kids

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUmTiGOxKUOhwpvDtOl62m

c4bs9JEUyFP

Secondary

Bible society short videos - https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/study-the-bible/gnb-youth-edition/videos/

Bible Game for Apple or Android - "The Guardians of Ancora" https://guardiansofancora.com

What you're up to. - Pictures and messages



Noah, Gavin and Clair Gill Family bowling fun.



Julia & Paul Davenport "Looking a bit windy!"



Alan Brockwell
My bubble visitor Alan
in his shorts. Elaine.



<u>Lavinia, Miria and Leon Smith</u> Celebrating Miria's 50th Birthday.



Carol and Doug Bowern
Dot and John had a trip to Hever to see
Carol and Doug Bowern (for those who
remember them!). Seen here with The
Tiger who Came to Tea – their entry in the
Annual Scarecrow Competition. Methinks
they are in with a chance of winning!

Faith & Joshua Beazley-Long School Shoe Shop with a difference!



Please send me your pictures and messages to each other. Let's encourage each other and stay in touch. It will be good to see familiar faces each week. revclive@hotmail.co.uk



<u>Tifeoluwa Olabintan &</u> <u>Cousin</u>

Tifeoluwa had her cousin visiting us from Croydon and they had fun day at the park. Its over five months she went to the park.



<u>Pigeon, Oscar & Lauraine</u>
<u>Wells</u>
A visitor at the wells home

and feeding pigeons with
Grandson Oscar

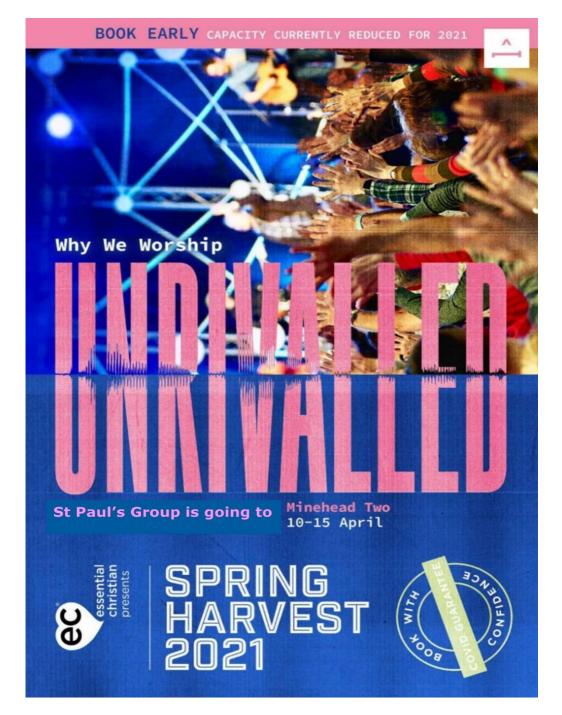


Uncle Rich, Linda Mayes, Robyn & Drew
At Howletts zoo with
Robyn, Drew and Uncle
Rich. Wonderful day had
by all as my
granddaughters adore
their uncle Linda

Your picture here!

Pick of the Pics

A tough choice this week. So many great pictures of you all. I have gone with the Gills for there fun selfie at the bowling alley. A book is on its way to you.





St Paul's Booking Form Saturday 10th April — Thursday 15th April 2021 £285 adult / £265 Under 15*

Discounts available for low income families & individuals.

<u>Minehead week two - Please Return this form by **September 20th** to get the discounted price shown.</u>

In order to book you in we will need a deposit of £35 per person. This is not refundable after November 26th. Spring Harvest advises you take the optional insurance available which is an additional £25.

We need details of each member of your party. Please fill in the form below

Name	Address ("As above" if the same)	Postcode	Date of Birth	Telephone	(over 16) E Mail
Optional E	xtras				
Insurance	£25 Gr	ound Floor	Request	£15 C	Cot £0
Signed			Date		
* We will do c	our hest to secure accomm	modation at this	nrice If we :	are unable to and vo	ou don't want to

^{*} We will do our best to secure accommodation at this price. If we are unable to and you don't want to pay any extra then your deposit will be returned and your booking cancelled. We do our best at St Paul's to make sure anyone who wants to attend Spring Harvest can go. If you are worried about finances please speak to Clive confidentially.

A message from Archdeacon Paul



Last week's Gospel had Peter declaring that Jesus is the Messiah - and good on him for recognising that. And yet today in the Gospel reading, Peter's response to Jesus' remarks about suffering and dying brings out a very different response. 'No way,' he cries, 'not you Jesus. It's not going to happen that way.' And Jesus replies to him, 'you are a stumbling block.' Quite a hard thing for somebody to say, especially to a friend, a follower, a disciple. But the point

is, Jesus needs to stay focused. He's preparing to go up to Jerusalem to be arrested and to pay the full price for the salvation of the world by hanging on a cross. This is not easy stuff. But you don't need me to tell you that.

So, the last thing Jesus wanted was a well-meaning disciple saying, well it's not going to happen to you now. This can't be right. It doesn't take much, even for Jesus to be distracted, and so he's saying to Peter, 'Please let's not talk like this. You are thinking about human things, I'm thinking about heavenly things.' What are you thinking about? Well, there are many things to distract us all at the moment. Some of them are of our making and many of them may not be. We live in a complicated time and some of the routines and structures are just not there anymore.

For some people, that's been in some ways a blessing, in that they've slowed down, they've reassessed their values. But it's very easy for us to be distracted; as soon as rules are starting to be relaxed people are already doing different things, perhaps getting back in the old routine. And that really isn't the best way forward it seems to me, particularly for those of us who are Christian.

So, what are you thinking about? Well it may be that you've got a difficult thing to deal with, it may be that you've got some good news happening in your life, or that of your family. You may be just be pleased that every morning when you get up, that the aches

and pains are not too great. Or perhaps you've not been in the mood to get up.

I wonder what you're thinking about?

There is much to distract us from the way of God's will and purpose, and the irony is God wants us to lead a full and wholesome life. A life to the full, brimming over and yet we make decisions so often that kind of cut short or cut back, the very life that we're hoping to live - one of purpose and meaning, enjoyment, pleasure.

But for some of course, it'll be about the self rather than the other. What I need, what's good for me.

What are you thinking about?

Now Jesus said, 'if you want to be a follower, then you take up your cross and you follow me.' Your cross. Not his cross and not my cross. Your cross. To take it up means being less bothered about ourselves, losing our life when often much of that life can be shallow and selfish.

We need help in order to find that life which God has planned for us. We need to clear away those stumbling blocks. And sometimes it will be one of our family or a member of our church, who will help us with that. Perhaps one of the lay ministers or clergy, they live down your road, or as you know are available through your local church.

Clearing away stumbling blocks can be just too hard for us as individuals, but by God's grace and the power of his Holy Spirit, we can do amazing things when it comes to clearing stuff away.

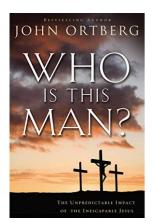
If you want to find out what life God has planned for you, then you really ought to start asking for help. And one thing I've learned over the years, is that's a good place to start.

So, whatever you're thinking about, perhaps you should start thinking about asking God for help, in a way that will enable you to lead life to the fullnessathat God has planned for you.

Paul, Archdeacon of Bexley and Bromley

Books

This week's book suggestions come from waynation.com

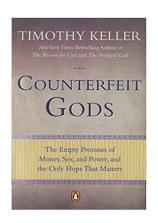


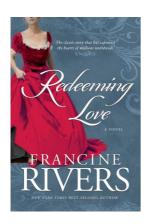
Who Is This Man? By John Ortberg

Before I read this book, I viewed ancient Greece and Rome as pretty decent places. I also viewed Jesus as someone who just saved my soul. It turns out neither is true. John uncovers the truth about ancient humanity's past and how God's unrelenting love through Jesus literally saved the world from itself.

Counterfeit Gods by Timothy Keller

I used to think I was a pretty good dude. Then, I read this book. Since I read it, I've slowly begun to uncover and give up a few of my counterfeit gods who have controlled me from the shadows for most of my life.





Redeeming Love by Francine Rivers

It's fair to say, "I cried my way through this book both times I read it." This Gold Rush era re-telling of Hosea showed me how much God loves me even when I've traded Him in for other lovers.

Poets Corner

EVE'S LAMENT

The Safety Net

WHY ARE YOU TRUE TO ME?

YES, ME OF LITTLE WORTH.

I FEEL SO TINY IN YOUR MIND,

LIKE A SPECK OF DUST,

BUT HUMAN KIND.

YOUR BRAIN'S AS BIG AS

THE UNIVERSE

AND MINE'S STILL AWARE

OF THE DREADFUL CURSE.

AN APPLE ROUND AND SWEET

DID BRING, PAIN

AND SUFFERING TO OUR KING.

FORGIVE ME FOR THE MESS I MADE.

I LOVE YOU FOR THE PRICE YOU PAID.

Falling – but God is in the wind,
Plummeting – but encouragement masks the fear,
Dropping – but knowledge is the thrill,
There is no danger,
Only the safety net.

In the safety net is the comfort of freedom,
A place to rest, to listen and hear,
Far from the burden of action and
damage of politic,
Now is the time for spiritual detox,
A full and deep healing

From this place the horizon is clear but is far away,

A tapestry of the past reveals its
lessons in intricate detail,

The promise of the future flashes
forth in glimpses of glory,

But for now,

I'll listen

I'll Wait,

I'll Rest.

Clive Beazley-Long

BY CAROL O'CONNOR

LEAT MY PEAS WITH HONEY

I'VE DONE IT ALL MY LIFE

IT MAKES THE PEAS TASTE FUNNY

BUT IT KEEPS THEM ON THE KNIFE!

Your Recipes

This week's recipe was sent in by Dot Turner. Vietnamese Stir Fry

*Ingredients*1 1/2 tbsp cooking oil

1/2 onion
2 tsp ginger, grated or minced
2 garlic cloves, minced (2 tsp
paste)
1 birds' eye or Thai chili,
deseeded and finely chopped
1 lb / 500g pork mince
5 tbsp brown sugar
2 tbsp fish sauce



Instructions

Heat the oil in a large skillet over high heat. Add the onion, ginger, garlic and chili and cook for 2 minutes.

Add the pork mince and cook for 2 minutes until its white all over, breaking up the meat with a wooden spoon.

Add the sugar and fish sauce. Stir, then leave it to cook without touching until all the juices cook out and the pork starts to caramelise (about 2 minutes.) Then stir it and leave it again, without stirring, for around 30 seconds to get more caramelisation. Repeat twice more until caramelised to your taste.

Serve with rice or noodles. I like to have chunks of plain cucumber and carrots on the side which is a classic way of making Vietnamese bowls. $_{16} \\$

Do you have a recipe you want to share — Email to revelive@hotmail.co.uk_along with a picture.

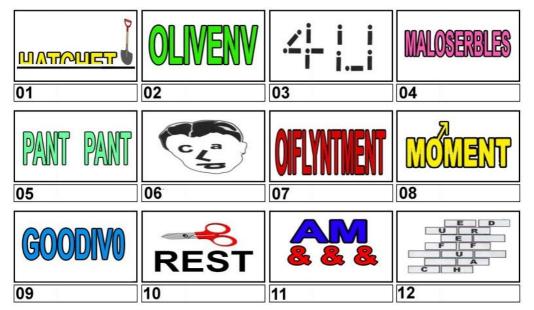
Official UK Christian & Gospel Albums Chart Top 20

Pos	LW	Title, A	rtist	Peak Pos	WoC
1	1	-	THE SEARCH NF NF REAL MUSIC	1	56
2	2		JESUS IS KING KANYE WEST EMI	1	43
3	4 1	Mar.	LOOK UP CHILD LAUREN DAIGLE CENTRICITY MUSIC	1	12
4	3 ↓	Skiller	VITAL SIGNS SKILLET WARNER BROS	2	272
5	5	mile in	MANSION NF CCMG	1	158
6	New	光	WILD HEART KIM WALKER-SMITH JESUS CULTURE MUSIC	4	1
7	7		THERE IS MORE HILLSONG WORSHIP HILLSONG MUSIC	1	124
8	6↓		AWAKE SKILLET ATLANTIC	2	337
9	8 +	*	GRAVES INTO GARDENS - LIVE ELEVATION WORSHIP ELEVATION WORSHIP	2	16
10	10		AWAKE HILLSONG WORSHIP HILLSONG MUSIC	2	45
11	9 +	B CAL	UNLEASHED SKILLET ROADRUNNER	1	211
12	11 🕹		VICTORIOUS SKILLET WARNER RECORDS	3	52
13	13		VICTORY - LIVE BETHEL MUSIC BETHEL MUSIC	1	82
14	12 🗸	UNITED	PEOPLE - LIVE HILLSONG UNITED HILLSONG MUSIC	1	34
15	17 🛧	tame trans	HOW CAN IT BE LAUREN DAIGLE CENTRICITY MUSIC	9	112
16	20 1	1	LET THERE BE LIGHT HILLSONG WORSHIP HILLSONG MUSIC	1	196
17	16 🕹	COD.	GREATEST HITS (THE ATLANTIC YEARS) POD ATLANTIC	6	80
18	Re		OF DIRT AND GRACE - LIVE FROM THE LAND HILLSONG UNITED HILLSONG MUSIC	1	130
19	19	JUST DE MID	JUST BE HELD - CASTING CROWNS FAVORITES CASTING CROWNS REUNION	16	30
20	18 🕹		JESUS IS BORN SUNDAY SERVICE CHOIR INC	3	33

Answers on Page 23

Mrs T's quiz page

Dingbats



Anagrams of horror stories and films

1	Company Cashier	
2	Car Dual	
3	Heroic Texts	
4	Tanners Knife	
5	Highest Inn	
6	No Éclair	
7	Thinkable Cowman	
8	Lost Meals	
9	Leading Me	
10	Few Coherent Truths	18

reflection

Armour

As we are now coming out of lockdown and into the world with all the changes. It feels strange and a feeling of uncertainty in each place we would visit. I have been reading about putting on our 'Spiritual Armour' from Ephesians 6 14-20 which when you read it, it is like a soldier's outfit. Relevant for protection in spiritual warfare today. In society today I feel that there is also another relevant outfit from Colossians 3 v12-14, which is compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. It ends with 'over all these virtues put on Love which binds them all together in perfect unity.' So, when we put on our mask which covers our smiles, get our shoes, purse and keys ready to face the world. Remember that we to can show Compassion, Kindness, humility, gentleness and patience that are covered by the greatest of these Love. This because we are saved and want others to know God's love for humanity. May Our Lord give you courage and his peace to face this new way of life.

Elaine Fermer



Blast from the Past

From "St Pauls Parish News November 1998"

8.

THE WEST AFRICAN EXPERIENCE (Mauritania/Senegal)

The first thing the intrepid explorer notices in Mauritania is the sand. You find it not only in the usual places, like the beach and the desert, but also in your ears, up your nose, in your socks, in the wind - in a word, everywhere! Sand colour, which we'll call 'camel' for convenience, is equally omnipresent. However, not everything is camel. The white and black Moors, the dominant ethnic group here, have their own particular way of dressing. All the men are clothed in pale blue or white *boubous*, while the women wear brightly coloured dresses covered by an all-enveloping, coloured, transparent veil called a *malafa*.



The visitor to Mauritania cannot avoid seeing the vast differences in lifestyle between the rich and poor - on the one hand the undernourished children in the capital, the nomads in their primitive camps, the patients in the sole general hospital lying on sheetless beds and lacking essential medicines through

no fault of their own, and on the other hand certain wealthy businessmen with their fast cars, their domestic servants (we could equally call them slaves) and their way of looking down their noses at their inferiors.

As far as their spiritual life is concerned, most Mauritanians seem to practise basic Islam without the pagan, or just superstitious, additions widespread over most of the continent. Very ordinary young men who spend their time talking about football, their studies, girls and music, suddenly stop without any embarrassment and say their prayers in front of the guests. Islam has a religious monopoly - no other way is known, allowed or even contemplated. For all that, the majority of Mauritanians are not fanatics and the Christian foreigner does not feel any hostility in their attitude.

How can we help the handful of expatriate workers in Mauritania? By praying, of course, but also by giving, as the needs are enormous. As Paul said to the Romans:

"If your adversary is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him something to drink..."

Or if you prefer the words of Jesus himself:



"If you show love only to those who love you, what reward do you deserve? Even the pagans do that."

On the other side of the flowing border, known as the Senegal River, we find ourselves in a completely different culture. It even looks different. The

endless camel is replaced by a whole spectrum of colours - even green in the fields! In Senegal, faces are definitely black. We pack away our boubous and malafas in favour of cotton suits in every colour under the sun: black and white for the most sober team member, orange, yellow and green for the most adventurous. The local children look bigger and stronger - though Wolofs may well be naturally bigger than Moors.



The population is Muslim, but fetishes and grigris (good luck charms) can be seen more easily than people at prayer. A sect which provides a mixture of nationalism and extremist Islam is gaining a lot of supporters. The Christian minority (which is very small in the north of the country, where we were) is tolerated but not exactly encouraged. Nevertheless, we were able to go to church, to sing hymns in Wolof and to listen to the testimonies of a few local believers. Foreign missionaries can reveal the reason for their presence with no fear of reprisals. The astonishing thing here is the absence of missionaries and evangelists. Christians are free to tell people about Jesus, but very few actually do so. We can quite understand that the north of Senegal is not the prettiest or most agreeable place in the world - but then neither is Manchester, Huddersfield or Thamesmead. You can live there cheaply with very few problems. May the Lord send labourers into his harvest field!

Sue Bray

I Am Unique.	Within your warmth,	By your grace,
I am me.	Hold me, embrace me.	I am me.
I matter to you Lord,	Let me be whole,	
You are with me.	At peace in your love.	SUSAN MARLOW

On TV this week Freeview Sky Virgin Freesat BT

Saturday

23:05: Father Ted: More4 (18 136 147 124)

Sunday

06:00: Hour of Power: Sky One (106 110) 10:00: Sunday Morning Live: BBC1

13:15: Songs of Praise: BBC1

20:00: Call The Midwife: Drama (20 143 130 158)

22:20: Father Brown: Alibi (132 126 312)

Monday

21:00: Father Brown: Alibi (132 126 312)

Tuesday

Wednesday

23:55: I Am Johnny Cash: Sky Documentaries (144)

Thursday

Friday

15:15: I Am Johnny Cash: Sky Documentaries (144)

20:00: Father Brown: Drama (20 143 130 158)

21:30: Soul America: BBC4 (9 116 107 107)

Radio programs

Prayer for the Day daily at 5.43am on Radio 4 Sunday Worship Sundays at 8.10am on Radio 4 Daily Service Monday to Friday at 9.45am on Radio 4 Longwave and DAB

Lent Talks Wednesdays at 8.45pm on Radio 4 Choral evensong- Wednesdays at 3.30pm and the same service is repeated Sundays at 3pm on BBC Radio 3

Thank you

To all those who give regularly towards the mission and ministry of St Paul's

Use this information to set up regular giving through your bank

Code 60-15-28 Account No: 66526434.
Account Name: St Paul's Church.
Reference: your name

Quiz answers

Dingbats

1.Bury the Hatchet; 2.Green with Envy; 3.I Only have Eyes for You; 4.Losing your marbles; 5.A Pair of Pants; 6.Face like Thunder; 7.A Fly in the Ointment; 8.Man of the Moment; 9.Good for Nothing; 10.A Cut above the rest; 11.Time on Your Hands; 12.Driven up the Wall.

Anagrams

1.American Psycho; 2.Dracula; 3.The Exorcist; 4.Frankenstein; 5.The Shining; 6. Coraline; 7.The Woman in Black; 8. Salem's Lot; 9.I Am Legend; 10.The Turn of the Screw..



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Name	Address ("As above" if the same)	Postcode	Date of Birth	Telephone	(over 16) E Mail
Optional E	<u>xtras</u>				
Insurance	£25 Gr	ound Floor	Request	£15 C	Cot £0
<u>Signed</u>			Date		

^{*} We will do our best to secure accommodation at this price. If we are unable to and you don't want to pay any extra then your deposit will be returned and your booking cancelled. We do our best at St Paul's to make sure anyone who wants to attend Spring Harvest can go. If you are worried about finances please speak to Clive confidentially.