

# Sydenham Life



May 2026

In and around the parish of St Bartholomew

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## Destruction and resurrection

At the time of writing we remain in the Easter season – as with Christmas and the incarnation, Easter and the resurrection are too wonderful, too mysterious, too extraordinary to keep to just a single day; we continue celebrating for weeks after the day itself, because resurrection changes everything about how we view the world.

I'm sure I've written before about the window in our Memorial Chapel, but I often reflect on it in this season of resurrection. The background image shows damaged buildings, reflecting the destruction caused to the area by bombs during the Second World War. In front of that is a crucifix, reflecting the 'destruction' experienced by Christ on the cross and the Christian belief that Jesus walks with us through the 'destruction' that we experience, whether actual, such as that depicted in the damaged buildings, or metaphorical

– the personal hurts and crises we sometimes experience personally. In the window image, behind the crucifix, is a large golden iris shape, representing, I believe, resurrection. Celebrating first and foremost, Jesus' resurrection, the defeat of death itself. But also celebrating the rising of the modern town of Sydenham out of the destruction caused by the war; the hope of new life for individuals and for communities. The promise that Jesus, who experienced the destruction of the cross and walks with us through the damages we experience, continues to walk with us and brings the hope of resurrection, of new life.

I never grow tired of the joy of Easter or the hope of resurrection. And I pray that we all, in whatever way we need to in our own lives, will know something of that joy and that hope.

*Rev'd Jim*

### Comment p3

From the Editor

### Memories Carried in a Suitcase p4

by Angela B Morgan

### Waymo – 21st Century Transportation p5

by Geri Falconer-Ferneau

### Caption competition p5

by Rev'd Jim

### Ever wondered what the Church Liturgical Calendar is? p6

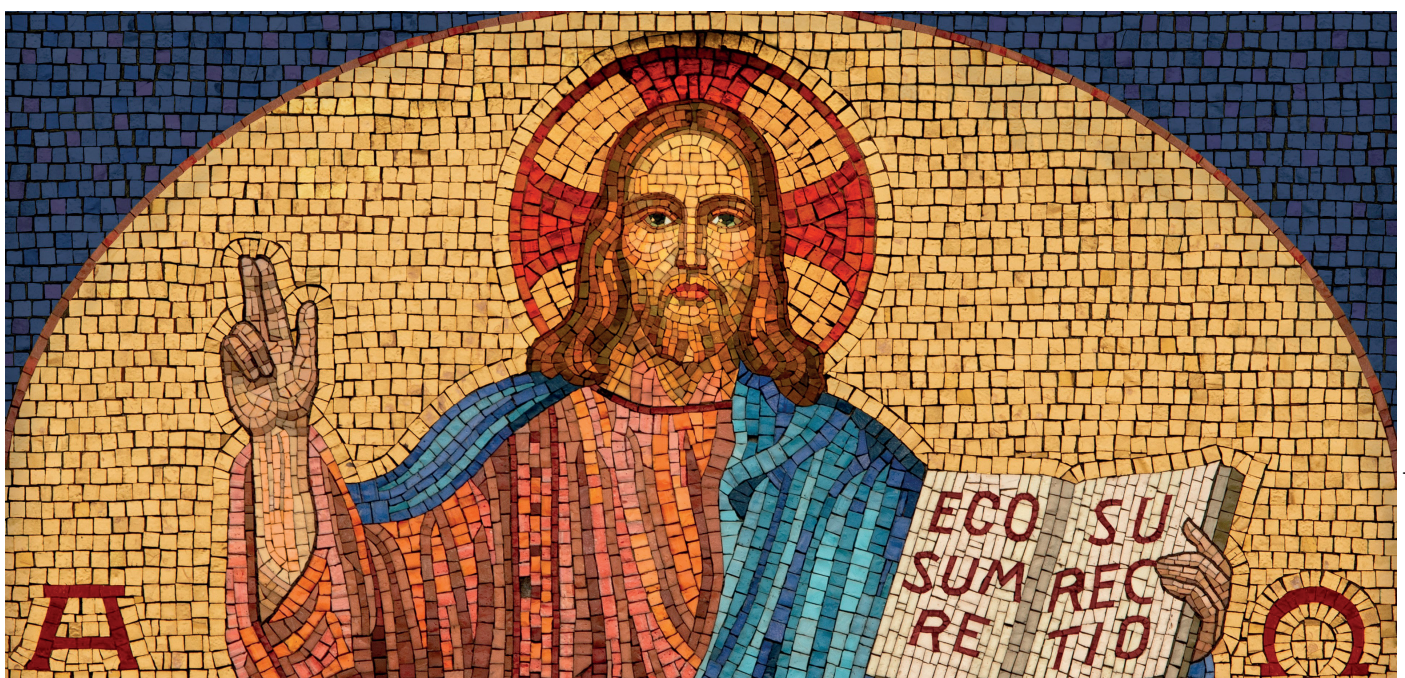
by Jane Somers

### Poem for Thought p6

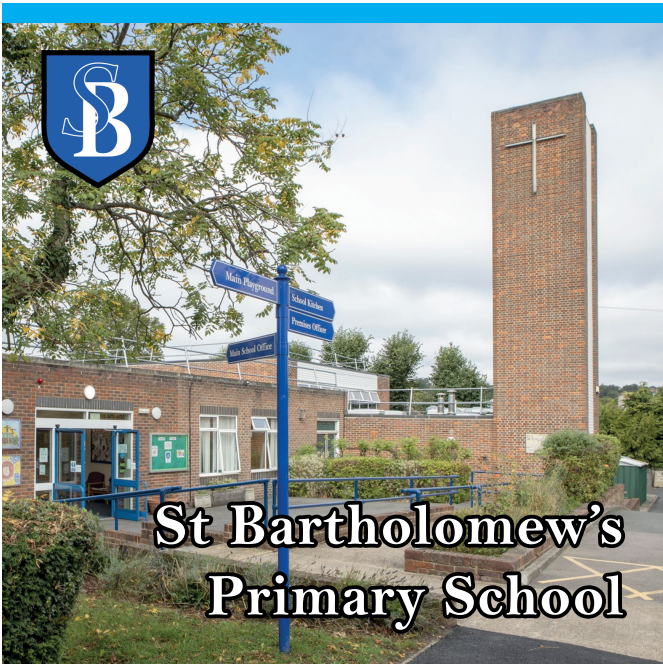
by Anon

### May crossword p7

by Mthr Bea



Unsplash / Salvatore Favata



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# From the Editor

I recently attended the St Bart's ten o'clock service: it was more by accident than design. I cannot remember when I last attend a ten o'clock service as I am one of those few who attend at eight o'clock. Firstly, because I prefer a quite meditative service, with a short sermon that usually finishes within forty-five minutes. You can then get on with the rest of the day.

Of course, it has the disadvantage that even on a Sunday you have to get up early when it might be preferable to have a little lie in. As it happened, I missed the previous week's eight am service and did not know the eight o'clock had been cancelled. I decided that I would complete my round of deliveries of Sydenham Life and attend the ten o'clock. Another reason to attend the eight o'clock as this can be completed by eleven thirty and not drag on into the late afternoon.

The thing about changing one's routine is that you come across individuals that you might not ordinarily encounter and I saw a reverend wearing a green clerical shirt and dog collar. I was curious and I learnt that he was the new vicar at The Grove Centre Church and said that Jim, the vicar at St Bartholmew's, is his friend. I explained that I knew that cubs had physically distributed leaflets in the local vicinity when they were looking for his new residence and therefore saved on the estate agent's commission.

I attended the ten o'clock and the church was almost filled. There was much excitement as the congregation beat their small tambourines, stomped their feet, and proclaimed that "Christ has Risen" on a number of occasions. I may have last had this type of experience when as a young boy I attended Elim Pentecostal Church in another part of South London. At the Service was a young person who was in attendance as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award. She was called up by Rev Jim and given the accolade of Easter Bunny and handed a set of rabbit ears. She was tasked with going into the church yard and placing tokens which, when found by children, could be exchanged for Easter Eggs. The adults had theirs at the door.

Geoffrey Cave, Sydenham Life Editor



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# Memories Carried in a Suitcase



Basil Watson



Angela B Morgan

Mock-up of the National Windrush Monument in Waterloo Station

The National Windrush Monument

When travelling through mainline railway stations, I see art installations that are often innocuous, abstract and easily forgettable. I am drawn to sculptures that depict people or events that reflect times in our history or ordinary lives. So, on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022, Prince William unveiled the National Windrush Monument in Waterloo Station– Britain’s largest and busiest station. The symbolism was unmistakable. It showed three figures -a man, woman and child representing the family, climbing a pile of suitcases, representing their culture.

By its presence, it is a public acknowledgement of those men, women and children who travelled to Britain by sea and plane from the Caribbean during the 40s – 60s. Those who eventually arrived at Waterloo Station with their suitcases, were dressed in their Sunday best, filled with optimism, ready to help rebuild the *Mother Country* that had been ravaged by war and to fulfil their own ambitions.



The date is also significant as it was on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1948 the ship HMT Empire Windrush arrived in Tilbury Docks, Essex with passengers from the Caribbean. The date also marks Windrush Day in the Black British History Calendar.

The Windrush Commemoration Committee invited artists to put forward their design for a permanent memorial in Waterloo Station. Of the four finalists, the Committee chose the design by Basil Watson, a Jamaican born figurative sculptor. Basil commented “The suitcase holds within it everything this family has in their possession from their place of origin – in this case the Caribbean. It holds within it all things valuable.”

The Chairperson of the Windrush commemoration committee, Baroness Floella Benjamin, said the monument “will act as a symbolic link to our past, and a permanent reminder of our shared history and heritage for generations to come”.

The photo I recently took of the statue, now a popular meeting point for many, shows people gathering and engaged in their conversations. Take a look at them. I assume that they are from other cultural backgrounds who may have made Britain their home.

I recall an exhibition at The Immigration Museum where people were invited to bring something that was from their former homeland that was a connection to the people and

homes they had left behind. A simple shawl, a book, a child’s hairclip becomes precious, priceless items that kept their loved ones close even in times of difficulties.

The stacked suitcases upon which this imagined family stand also represents the uphill struggle, but as they climb, their faces show hope of reaching their goals. It is telling that it is the child that looks behind her whilst still holding her mother’s hand. I believe she represents the memories of the family their former home and the familiar way of life that is now far away and out of reach.

When I travel to Waterloo and head for the main exit, I look at this statue, and always with a smile. I think of all families who come to London, to this fair isle with their hopes and dreams and the promise of a better life. Occasionally I will hear someone asking what it represents. I’m tempted to tell them, but I leave them to look at the statue and the information board and learn a little bit of British History.

Angela B Morgan MITG  
Instagram: angelamorgan365

# Waymo – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Transportation



Source: Waymo.

Life is a series of experiences – some repeats, and some new adventures. Throughout the course of one's life these experiences produce memories. I have found some of which are deeply moving and some just plain silly or frivolous.

I want to share with you one of our most recent new adventures – our Waymo experience. For those of you not familiar with Waymo it is a driverless, self-driving vehicle. Very much like Uber but without a human driver. Now get ready for it, Waymo mode of transportation is coming to London. It is currently mapping the streets so as to go live later this year.

The thought of Waymo at first is a little scary, but as someone I know said the advantage to Waymo is that when he is too old to drive, Waymo will allow him to maintain his independence. He will not have to rely on someone to drive him around.

Another friend of mine who had done some research on Waymo informed me there is no incidence of any passenger in a Waymo ever being injured. As I considered the idea of riding in a Waymo I found this a very comforting thought.

I have seen many Waymo vehicles, which by the way are all Jaguars, when I am in Phoenix, Arizona but I was always leery or apprehensive of them. That was until we were talking with our son who lives in San Francisco. He told me that he and his partner have stopped using Uber or Lyft and switched to Waymo. Explaining that they preferred it because the service was punctual, he could enjoy his own music, needn't talk with the driver if he was not in the mood for conversation, and the vehicle did not have an offensive odor in the interior. As he talked about it, I found myself getting more and more excited to try Waymo when we went to visit them. I think I felt that if someone I knew was using it and comfortable with it, it would be all right for me to try it.

When we went to visit them, we rode in a Waymo more than once. We were a bit nervous but trusted our son's partner when she called for one. She graciously explained to us how the process worked. The vehicle arrived, we approached and entered the vehicle, seat belted ourselves in, and away the car went. Surprisingly we weren't scared but curious about the operation of the vehicle. The driver's seatbelt is locked and the car will not move if someone gets into the driver's seat. As the car turned a corner, we watched

the steering wheel turn and laughed asking ourselves why the wheel needed to turn. It was like the invisible man was driving. The funniest part of the ride was when it started to rain, and the windscreen wipers automatically went on. We were totally perplexed as to why the wipers needed to be activated when there was no one who needed to see out the windscreen for the vehicular performance. All in all, it was a good ride; so that over the course of our visit to San Francisco we took a Waymo ride three times.

Just as young children are sometimes amazed and sometimes fearful of new things or experiences they encounter, adults are too! Initially a bit fearful of Waymo but after trying it, we were amazed. After our San Francisco experience we decided we would be willing to use it in the future, so I downloaded the app on my phone. We weren't back in Phoenix three weeks when we had the opportunity to try it out on our own. We used Lyft on our way to a venue with friends of ours and decided we would try out Waymo on the way home. This decision necessitated my contacting my son for a tutorial on the use of the Waymo app. We successfully manoeuvred the process so much so that our friends were suitably impressed enough with the experience that one downloaded the app for future use. Of note the Scot in me was quite pleased too, as the Lyft cost approximately \$3.50 more than the Waymo ride – and with Waymo there is no tip.

Me? I'm proud of myself for navigating a new experience, expanding my horizon and now having another new memory.

Take a chance, give it a spin and try out the future.

CW McCall once sang a line in a song that went, "I realized life is just a collection of memories. And memories are like starlight, they go on forever."

*Gerri Falconer-Ferneau*

## Caption competition!

Add a caption to this photo taken earlier this year at our Burn's Night social. Email suggestions to [stbarts.parish@tutanota.com](mailto:stbarts.parish@tutanota.com).

The one we find funniest will win a £10 book token.



# Ever wondered what the Church Liturgical Calendar is?

The Calendar goes in a 3-year cycle:

- a) St Matthew's Gospel
- b) St Mark's
- c) St Luke + St John at Easter

## \*Advent

Violet Vestments worn by the Clergy.  
No flowers in the Church  
Longest nights – the darkest time of the year.  
An extra candle is lit each week.  
John the Baptist – prepare for the Lord  
Mary – prepare for the birth.

## \*Christmas

White / Gold Vestments worn by the Clergy  
Jesus' birth celebration  
Fulfill the Prophecy of Isaiah  
Feast of Christmas – white colour flowers.

## \*Epiphany

6<sup>th</sup> January – Feast of Epiphany.  
Wise men (Magi) go to Jesus.  
Jesus' Baptism by John the Baptist.

## \*Ordinary Time

Green Vestments worn by the Clergy.  
Two Periods of Ordinary Time:

- A) Christmas to Lent.
- B) Ordinary Time Themes.

### A) Christmas – Lent

The End is Shrove Tuesday – Pancake day.  
Jesus and Healing.  
Gathering Disciples.  
Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent.  
The Previous years' Crosses are used.  
40 days of Fasting before Easter.

### B) Ordinary Time Themes such as:

Saints' Days – St Bartholomew.  
Education Day – St Bartholomew's Primary School.  
Environment.  
Christian Aid Week (was founded after World War II).  
More Scriptures in the Service.

### Harvest Festival Sept/Oct

An ancient tradition – Pagan times – for good things God has brought.  
Non-perishable food is brought to Church for Voluntary Services  
Lewisham.

## \*Lent

Violet Vestments worn by the Clergy.  
No Flowers in Church.  
The 40 days fast in Lent is for a positive change to Self.

## \*Holy Week – (entry to Jerusalem)

Palm Sunday Procession.  
Washing of feet / the last supper.  
Maundy Thursday – Betrayal, Trial and Crucifixion.  
Good Friday / Easter Saturday – Desolation and Dispair.

## \*Easter – (50 days)

White/Gold Vestments worn by the Clergy.  
Holy Saturday – The night of the day before Easter.  
The first part of the service has a procession round the Church carrying candles in the dark then the Church lights come on – The Resurrection!

## \*Easter Day

Celebrate the Risen Christ.  
Feast of Pentecost.  
Holy Spirit on the Disciples for their Mission.

*Jane Somers*

## Poem for Thought

To grow a little wiser day by day  
To school my mind and body to obey  
To keep my inner life both clear and strong  
To free my life from guile, my hands from wrong  
To shut the door on hate and scorn and pride  
To open then to love the windows wide  
To meet with cheerful heart what comes to me  
To turn life's discord in to harmony  
To share some weary worker's heavy load  
To point some straying comrade to the road  
To know that what I have is not my own  
To feel that I am never quite alone.  
This I pray from day to day  
As I go upon my way.

*Anon.*

## 2026 Study groups The Eucharist

**Tuesdays, April 28th to  
June 9th, 19:00.**

NB: No meeting on May 28th.

A six-session 'Pilgrim' group exploring The Eucharist through Scripture, discussion and conversation.

All groups will take place in Church or the hall. It is possible that precise dates and times may need to change – look out for notices near the time.

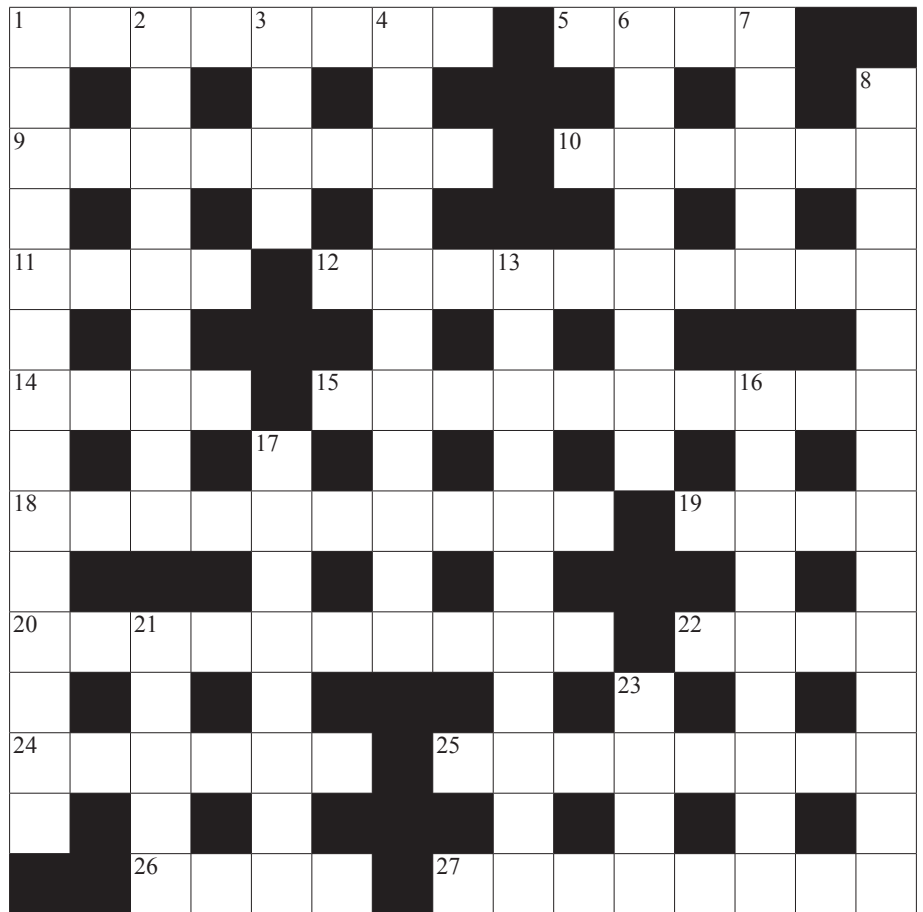
# May — Mthr Bea

## Across

- 1 Get ready for a man captivated by concerning buttocks (8)
- 5 Apple festival (4)
- 9 Mthr Bea, at a dance, has kofta (4-4)
- 10 In the auditorium, a carbon copy of an Italian city (6)
- 11 You see inside a Yorkshire flower (4)
- 12 Eastern cat playing with string and getting it everywhere (10)
- 14 Negative, I see a boat builder (4)
- 15 I'll go over it again and again. I can't read. (10)
- 18 Are they biscuits or not? Ask Jeff to ruminate with the Association of Chartered Accountants (5,5)
- 19 The French take Virginia with hot rocks (4)
- 20 Missing out on sin with Religious Education that's poor (10)
- 22 Look, you sound, ultimately, noisy (4)
- 24 Hastily used ox as escape from Egypt (6)
- 25 Specific tool for a smooth boss (8)
- 26 Leah returns without enthusiasm initially, but one says "Hello!" (4)
- 27 Chaos may bless a gathering (8)

## Down

- 1 Shakespearean characters frequently heard on the radio (5,3,6)
- 2 Man notices auto-female in a hijab (9)
- 3 White clothes for blast off? No time! (4)

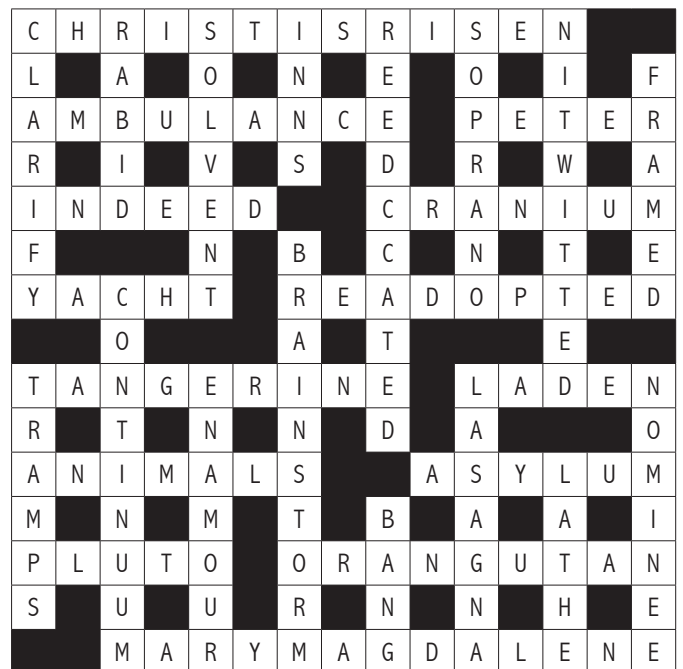


- 4 Apparently a merchant sailor sits upon a piece of table-ware (4,7)
- 6 East London's parliamentary recorder gave a response (8)
- 7 1 in 3 change the ending to Mthr Bea giving evidence of innocence (5)
- 8 Dean's dying, he'll rot alone (6-8)
- 13 Poet upset mythical creatures commonly found in the bathroom (6,5)
- 16 Knackered, broken elbow and a tibia missing its main components (2,1,3,3)
- 17 Cheese of note found under assembly room by Oxford University (8)
- 21 Primarily constitutes lots of tailored habits? (5)
- 23 Disease of the eye turning its front part to stone (4)

## April – Solution

I must apologise, the clue for 23d (Tool making coffee's temperature hot (5)) was missing in this puzzle – MB

- Across:** 1 (NICE SHIRTS SIR)\* 9 (CUBAN MALE)\*  
 10 PET ER 11 I N DEE D 12 (yo)U IRAN\* UM  
 14 CATHY\* 16 READ OPTED 17 ANGER in TINE  
 19 LAD(I)E N 21 A(I) N(on) I(ndigenous) M(ammals)  
 A(re) L(egitimately) S(cary) 22 dd 25 dd 26 ORANG(e)  
 (d)U(e) TAN 27 (MADMAN EAGERLY)\*  
**Down:** 1 ((wh)Y FIR ALC(ohol))< 2 RAB(b)I D 3 dd 4 IN N  
 S 5 (DUCAT after E) in REED 6 SO AN in PRO 7 TED after  
 NIT WIT 8 R in FAMED 13 (MARTIN BROS)\* 15 CON  
 UNIT< MU< 17 dd 18 EN A MO UR 19 NA after LA SAG  
 20 gua(NO MINE E)levator 23 LATTE with T as H 24 dd





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## Vicar – The Reverend Jim Perry

Email: revjimperry@mailfence.com  
Tel: 020 3422 5343

## Assistant Curate –

### Mother Bethany Middleton

Email: contact@motherbea.com  
Tel: 07549 003895

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