

Horsell Matters



The Village Magazine from your Parish Church
February/March 2021

Horsell Directory

St Mary's Church	Website: www.stmarys-horsell.org.uk Baptisms, Weddings or Funerals	772134
Parish Office open:	Tuesday 9am-4pm, Wednesday & Friday 9am-1.00pm stmaryshorsell@btinternet.com	772134
Vicar	Rev Dmitry Lutsenko	
Church Wardens	Pamela Rowe Michael Couper	761625 770920
Children's Worker	Marcus Brookfield children@stmarys-horsell.org.uk	
Treasurer	David Leach	823439
Cathedral Link	Gill Saville	773799
Pastoral Assistant	Margaret Johnson Hilary Mills Coral Colclough	762481 772952 747481
JAM (Jesus and Me)	Marcus Brookfield (3+) 10am most Sundays	772134
Babies and Toddlers	Angela Murphy St Andrew's Room, Tues 9.30am to 11.30am, term time	832943
Twinkle Tots	Marcus Brookfield, St. Andrew's Room Thursdays 9.30 to 11.30, term time	772134
Bellringers	Avril Blagbrough Tuesday evening practice— occasional. Please check	767421
Trinity Methodist Church	office@trinitywoking.org.uk	730754
Horsell Evangelical Church	Revd Andrew Bents	822259
To Book: Village Hall	Paul Bower	764047
Parish Institute	www.horsell-parish-institute.org.uk	772134
Horsell Village School	Infants Head Teacher - Mrs Reeve	714804
Horsell C of E School	Junior Head Teacher—Mrs C Wand	761531

Woking High School	Head Teacher - Mrs M Walter	888447
Horsell Care	Helpline	730740
Residents Association	Robin Hoyle robin_hoyle@hotmail.com	
Scouts, Beavers, Cubs	Ali Stubbs alistubbs59@googlemail.com	07734 424568
Explorer Scouts (14-18 Yrs)	Brian Pinto	480904
Guides & Brownies	www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/	
WI Horsell Afternoon	Alison Evans-Wyatt amevans705@gmail.com Meets on 1 st Thursday at 1.45pm in the Village Hall	765570
WI Horsell Evening	Mrs Sheila Tickner Meets on 4 th Tuesday at 8.00pm in the Village Hall	760783
Woking Police Station	dial 101 from mobile or landline	101

St Mary's Church Diary

Feb-March 2021

At time of printing all services will be via Zoom.

Private Prayer will remain in church.

FEBRUARY

Wed 3 rd	11.00am-4pm 8.00pm	Private Prayer Engine Room House of Prayer
Sun 7 th	10.00am	All Age Worship
Tues 9 th	4.00pm	Prayer at 4pm
Wed 10 th	11.00am-4pm	Private Prayer
Sun 14 th	10.00am	Parish Communion
Tues 16 th	4.00pm	Prayer at 4pm
Wed 17 th	11.00am-4pm 8.00pm	Private Prayer Ash Wednesday Communion Service
Sun 21 st	10.00am 6.30pm	Morning Prayer Contemplative Meditation
Tues 23 rd	4.00pm	Prayer at 4pm
Wed 24 th	11am-4pm	Private Prayer
Sun 28 th	10.00am 6.30pm	Parish Communion Prayer & Peaceful Praise

MARCH

Tues 2 nd	4.00pm	Prayer at 4pm
Wed 3 rd	11.00am-4pm 8.00pm	Private Prayer Engine Room House of Prayer
Sun 7 th	10.00am	Parish Communion
Tues 9 th	4.00pm	Prayer at 4pm
Wed 10 th	11.00am-4pm	Private Prayer
Sun 14 th	10.00am 6.30pm	Mothering Sunday All Age Worship Contemplative Meditation
Tues 16 th	4.00pm	Prayer at 4pm
Wed 17 th	11.00am-4pm	Private Prayer
Sun 21 st	10.00am 4.30pm	Morning Prayer Messy Church

Tues 22 nd	4.00pm	Prayer at 4pm
Wed 24 th	11.00am-4pm	Private Prayer
Sun 28 th	10.00am	Parish Communion
	6.30pm	Praise & Peaceful Prayer
Tues 30 th	4.00pm	Prayer at 4pm
Wed 31 st	11.00am-4pm	Private Prayer

APRIL

Thurs 1 st	8.00pm	Maundy Thursday Communion
Fri 2 nd	9.30am	All Age Service
	2.00pm-3.00pm	An hour at the cross
Sat 3 rd	8.00pm	Easter Vigil and renewal of Baptism vows
Sun 4 th	10.00am	Easter Day Celebratory Family Communion

We are hoping to organise a Lent Course based on Prayer.

Our pattern of worship at Easter may change.

For further details please look at our website www.stmarys-horsell.org.uk

ST MARY'S CHURCH REGISTERS

BURIALS AND CREMATIONS

We offer our sympathy to the families and friends of those who have died:

Joan Simpson & Renee Fensome

New Beginnings ...

This is a time of year for new beginnings and for looking forward with hope.

As the days lengthen and winter's grip slowly loosens, we eagerly await the arrival of Spring next month. What other new beginnings might we look forward to this year?

At St Mary's we warmly welcome Revd Dmitry Lutsenko as our new vicar. Originally from the Ukraine, Dmitry joins us from the parish of Walsgrave in Leicester Diocese. He first came to Britain as a student, loved being here and decided to stay. We are delighted that Dmitry, his wife, Olya, and their two children, fourteen year old Olivia and six year old Thomas, are joining our church family. Please welcome them as they start to find their way around our village community. (See later in this issue for an interview with Dmitry.)

In the wider world, we are gradually getting used to new beginnings post Brexit as we establish new relationships and new ways of working, with our European brothers and sisters and with others beyond Europe.

Closer to home, the roll out of Covid vaccines offers hope of new beginnings with a gradual easing of the pandemic that has been so traumatic, bringing suffering to many and severely limiting our liberty, movement and activities for much of 2020. Latterly, the cold, dark days of winter have made these things that bit harder to bear.

Ash Wednesday on 17 February (the day after Shrove Tuesday aka pancake day) marks a different sort of new beginning. This is the start of the season of Lent which runs for the 40 days from then until Easter. Lent is traditionally a time for fasting, charitable giving and spiritual renewal, perhaps by prayer or some wider reading.

The gardeners among us know this as a busy time of new beginnings. A time to be busy planting and sowing seeds that we hope will flourish and produce good things through the coming summer season.

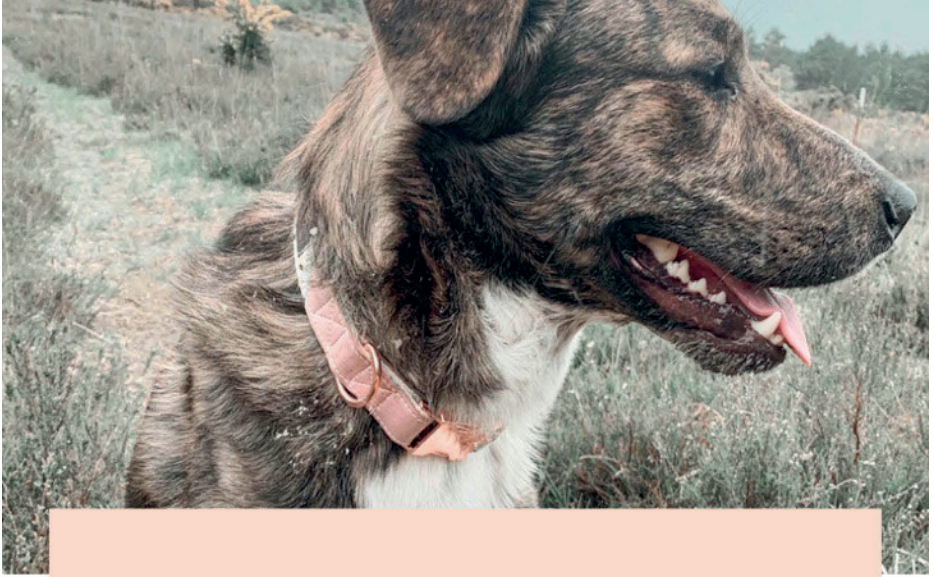
Jesus was a carpenter who also knew a thing or two about gardening. He told a story about a sower (Luke ch 8), a man who sowed seed in his field.

Some of the seed fell on a path and was eaten by birds. Some of it fell among thorns which choked the seedlings. Some seed fell on stony soil; there it germinated but then withered away from lack of moisture. But much seed fell on good soil; there it grew, flourished and produced a great harvest.

Not every seed the gardener sows will flourish - but many do. By the same token, we know that, in our lives, we will sometimes experience setbacks and discouragements. But the story of the sower reminds us that, while there may be some setbacks, there are none that can defeat the harvest of God.

Roy Wernham
Licensed Lay preacher





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Welcome to our new parish priest

Dmitry Lutsenko is our new parish priest and we are delighted to welcome him and his family to Horsell. It is a challenging time to be moving here while there are so many restrictions to meeting everyone but Dmitry has kindly given us a little insight into his life in this interview. We are all looking forward to finding out more about you all in the months ahead as you take up your work in the parish.

Tell us about your life before you came to England

I was born in Ukraine (former USSR) in 1980. At the age of 18 a close friend shared the Gospel story with me and supported me in exploring Christian faith on a deeper level. After a few months of going to church, attending a weekly home group and keeping regular contact with my friend I gave my life to Jesus in August 1998, and was baptised one year later.

Since the moment of my conversion, God's sense of calling upon my life was undeniably strong. After one year of giving my life to Christ I was leading a home group, then a year later I started working for the church as an accountant and a youth pastor. During these years I was actively seeking God's will for my life. Many people recognised and affirmed God's calling upon my life. They saw God-given gifts and abilities and encouraged me to grow, develop and use them in the service to Him. In 1999 I met my future wife (Olya) at a church prayer meeting. We got married in 2001.

My wife and I came to England in September 2003 to study at a Bible school in Exeter for one year initially. After that we carried on studying, working and serving the Lord, and now, 17 years later, we call England our home.

How did you get involved with the youth work in a number of parishes?

To begin with, I was a youth pastor in Ukraine for a couple of years. Youth work was part of the course at the Bible school in Exeter, I enjoyed it and decided to continue with it further.

I applied to Moorlands College to read their BA (Hons) degree in Applied Theology with specialisation in Youth and Community work which I later extended to an MA degree. During my time at Moorlands I got a part-time job as a youth worker at a local church (Bransgore Community church) in a village on the edge of the New Forest. After completing the BA course at Moorlands I started looking for a full time position in youth work. After applying for several posts I was offered a job at Christ Church Chineham, Basingstoke (Winchester Diocese) where I spent seven years working as a full time youth work leader. After that I moved on to do my ordination training at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford University.

Was it the youth work that led you to consider training to be ordained?

During my time as a youth work leader at Christ Church, Chineham, I happened to preach several times at the main Sunday service and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. The vicar of Chineham church encouraged me to explore the ordained ministry. My initial response was: “Who?! Me?! No way!!” I’ve always done youth work and was comfortable in my role, but God had other plans for me. I kept receiving numerous confirmations and affirmations from the people around me (both within and outside the church) commenting on my passion for Jesus, skills and experiences. After months of praying and wrestling with God, eventually I surrendered and contacted the diocese for more info on ordination.

How does God lead you?

I value time of personal prayer and Bible study. When I spend time with God reading, praying and meditating on the Scripture, I sense that God is speaking and guiding me. The role of the Spirit is also important to me, as Spirit brings the Scriptures alive and helps to make sense of various situations.

You have a lovely family – tell us about them.

I’ve been married to Olya for over 19 years now and we’ve been through quite a lot together.

When we first met she was a teacher of English as a foreign language and worked in translating and interpreting. After we moved to England she completed a chartered accountancy qualification and worked in corporate finance.

She wanted to spend more time with the family and support my ministry. For a long time she's had an interest in healthy eating and last year took the opportunity to retrain as a weight loss consultant with the one2one diet.

Olivia is in Year 10 at school, she is very friendly and lively. She is a good swimmer and used to compete at a county level. She plays drums and piano.

Thomas is in Year 2 at school. He is very knowledgeable in all things concerning space, dinosaurs and bugs. He likes to play drums a lot and very loud.

How do you feel about the prospect of your first Incumbency?

I am very excited, this is something that I have been studying and working towards. After reading the church profile and learning about the fantastic work that St Mary's are already doing in the community, I have lots of ideas buzzing in my head and I look forward to meeting everyone and getting stuck in. At the same time I feel the weight of responsibility on my shoulders. I feel humbled and honoured to be chosen as your next vicar.

This reminds me of when the apostle Paul writes to the Ephesians: 'I am less than the least of all Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ' (Eph. 3:8).

Do you have any ideas that you might hope to include in your early days/weeks/months? Or Are you going to settle in and watch and observe?

I'd say a bit of both. It is important to take time to settle in and observe in order to understand the local context before starting any new initiatives. I would like to get to know the people, listen to their stories and hopefully through this to discern what God is already doing in Horsell and how we can join in with his work that is already under way.

Firstly, with the new lockdown in place and the church not meeting face-to-face, the challenge is to find the best way of delivering Sunday services remotely/online.

Secondly, with the church not meeting in person, we need to find new ways of offering pastoral care, so that people feel connected, cared for and supported.

Thirdly, with Easter coming up I'm thinking of offering a Lent course, focused on The Lord's Prayer, in order to encourage and enhance our prayer life. The course will probably be delivered via zoom.

These are just some initial thoughts which will develop as I get to know the community and as we work together.

And finally, how do you relax?

Despite being only 5'9" I like playing basketball and used to play in a semi-pro league back in my college days. I love spending time with my family: days out, walks, travelling, watching movies, playing board games etc.





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News from Alton

Warm Christian greetings from Alton.

We have been here for nearly five months and we are settling well. Hampshire is a beautiful county and we feel very blessed to live here. There are some delightful walks very near to the house.

Unfortunately, lockdown has prevented us from exploring further afield. Discovering the area is something to look forward to! We are thrilled that St. Mary's is welcoming their new vicar, Dmitry.

Much prayer has gone into his appointment and we now pray that he will be anointed by the Holy Spirit to lead the further growth of the Kingdom of God in Horsell.

We both know that you will make him and his family feel at home, as you did, when we moved into the parish. If Dmitry and family are half as happy at St. Mary's as we were – he will be extremely happy indeed.

Elaine and I wish him every blessing as he begins a new season of his ministry. Praying that he and the family settle quickly into a great church family and a wonderful village.

Sending you all our love and prayers

Peter and Elaine.



For when we are allowed out...

Brooklands – a local attraction

If you are an aircraft and or motoring enthusiast a visit to Brooklands Museum near to Weybridge is highly recommended. Upon arrival you are transported back to an earlier era in time and the short introductory video of the Brooklands history starts off the excitement. Take your time to look around this thoroughly British institution and one visit is never enough. There's something there for everyone.

The Formula 1 section has a fascinating range of racing cars from very early examples through to cars driven by names you will recognise including Lewis Hamilton. Several examples of the vintage cars and motorcycles have been seen in action on the track with the drivers all wearing period clothing. This is so evocative of times gone by with the sight, smell and sound of them being driven as they were and should be.

The aircraft, well here we have a feast of extremely early examples through to commercial airliners including the Vanguard, a BAC 1-11, the opulent VC10 owned by the Sultan of Oman and yes, Concorde. The Concorde experience recreates what it would have been like to fly on this remarkable aircraft. The display includes equally early military aircraft, several Hawkers, the vertical take-off Harriers and a magnificently restored Hurricane. Let us not forget the Wellington on show in the Aircraft Factory that was discovered in Loch Ness, was raised and restored.

The Barnes Wallis designed "Stratosphere Chamber" was built in 1946 to investigate high-speed flight at very high altitudes is must see together with other examples of his innovations.

The London Bus Museum houses a remarkable collection of around 35 buses and coaches, in fact the largest collection of working historic London buses in the world. They date from about 1875 to 1979 and are arranged in a timeline from the early horse bus to more modern buses similar to those seen on London's streets today.

Brooklands is not just a museum, it has its own history attributed to being a major centre for aircraft design, construction and flight testing for most of the 20th century. Take a look at the remains of the purpose built and banked racing circuit, read about the drivers winning races and creating new speed records.

You are encouraged to go and enjoy all that Brooklands offers, there is so much more than I have mentioned for you to see, read and learn about. Savour the atmosphere of a bygone era, listen to the 1930s music in the background and imagine all the people that worked there. Make sure that you talk to the volunteers as they want to tell you all about the exhibits on display and make your visit special.

At the time of writing this article Brooklands was temporarily closed due to the Government guidelines but see www.brooklandsmuseum.com for further information.

Nick Duncan-Brown





PHILIPPA
GREGORY

AUTHOR OF *The Other Boleyn Girl*

*A
Respectable
Trade*

A Respectable Trade

by *Philippa Gregory*

First published in 1996 this book about the slave trade is set in Bristol in 1787. Certainly I found it a very thought provoking particularly with the recent events following the toppling of the Colston statue last year and the whole Black Lives Matter movement.

Philippa Gregory is a highly skilled writer of historical fiction such as *The Other Boleyn Girl* and her characters are vividly drawn. The highly born Meheru coming from the African kingdom of Yoruba (modern day Gabon) is a central character and the vivid account of his journey to England is a hard read. He has been bought, along with about a dozen others, by the ship owner Josiah Cole. His wife Frances is finding it difficult to adjust to married life to an older man she does not love and with whom she has nothing in common.

Certainly the central theme of the book is the slave trade but equally fascinating is the importance of class. Frances is the plain daughter of a clergyman and after his death she is dependent on her uncle Lord Scott and sees marriage to Josiah as preferable to life as a governess. However the stinking dockside of Bristol is a shock to her delicate sensibilities, not helped by the barely hidden animosity of her sister in law, Sarah, who, hitherto, was closely involved in Josiah's business. She kept the books and a tight rein on Josiah's ambition to be a member of the Venturers, the closed shop of merchants who ran the trade.

The depiction of the way the slaves were treated, almost as badly kept pets, is grim. They are given English names and at one point slave collars are introduced. The narrative tells of the unfolding of the relationship between the isolated Frances and the towering figure of Meheru.

As Josiah's fortunes rise and he buys a smart house you begin to worry that he will over-reach himself and feel sympathy for him as you fear his new found friends are out to fleece him.

The plot and the drama, carry you on till a sad and satisfactorily romantic conclusion is reached.

Margaret Johnson

Kristin
Hannah

Two sisters. One must be brave.
One should be afraid.

the
nightingale

From the *New York Times* Number One
bestselling author of *Winter Garden*

Nightingale

By Maria Kemp

Marina Kemp was born in London, where she now lives with her husband and daughter. She studied Classics at Oxford University and Creative Writing at Goldsmiths. **Nightingale** is her first novel and was shortlisted for The Sunday Times Young Writers Award 2020.

Marguerite Duras is a nurse running away from her past in this moving tale of village secrets and romance in the south of France.

The novel begins as 24-year-old Marguerite leaves Paris for the sleepy southern village of Saint-Sulpice, to take up a job as a live-in nurse. Her charge is Jerome Lanvier, a manipulative and tyrannical man who has scared away all his previous nurses. His house is large and secluded, surrounded by rambling neglected gardens and it is not long before the other villagers have formed opinions of Marguerite and we discover that many of the locals are also hiding secrets. Marguerite forms an unlikely connection with Jerome, and finds herself confronting the guilt she carries from her past.

One of the book's greatest strengths lies in its descriptions of caring for an elderly person: Jerome's misdirected rage as he taunts and manipulates Marguerite, his loss of dignity. The characters are complex, the novel moves from the off-season when the land is "winter bitten" and builds slowly towards summer where the evenings are filled with cicada song. The book throws up big questions on life and how best to live it, traces the ways in which guilt can be transformed and how people can unexpectedly find a sense of redemption.

The novel is full of intrigue, has a good plot with compassion, love, death, prejudice and sorrow. A real treat for any reader.

Anne Smith



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And for while we are staying inside.....

One of our favourite pastimes, pre-Covid, was playing board games with friends and family. We treated them mainly as social occasions, much like going out for a nice meal: we might howl in protest when our ship (with its precious cargo) was sunk without trace, or commiserate with the other players if an unfortunate dice-throw rendered them almost bankrupt. With some games, the very essence is to thwart or destroy the other players so they are naturally quite competitive - we simply chose the game and style of play to match our mood. You might think that all of this is put on hold during lockdown, but in some respects the opposite is true, thanks to a wonderful web site: boardgamearena.com. The site is host to a wide selection of games that can be played on-line by anyone with access to the web, anywhere in the world. It clearly has benefits way beyond the current pandemic because one can play games with people who live too far away to visit in person. There are other benefits too, as we will see.

Setting up

Any computer device can be used for Board Game Arena (BGA) – phone, tablet, computer; Android, PC or Apple, and different players can use different platforms simultaneously. You will need to register with a username, password and e-mail address but the site is not at all invasive.

Once registered you can choose to play a game with specified friends (you will need to know their user names) or you can set up a “table” for a particular game and number of players and throw it open to anyone else on BGA at the time. The latter option is probably best left to hardened gamers, our own preference is to play with friends because that is more of a social occasion. BGA provides a facility to communicate via text or voice but we normally use Skype for that: it can run in another window on the same device as BGA if you wish. Some games are collaborative (all players are on one side with the game as their opponent) and verbal communication is not merely allowed, it is essential. BGA boasts that it is free and while that is technically correct, you may struggle to set up a game because the site is massively over-used at present, for obvious reasons.

You can become a premium member for about £4 per month or £23 for a full year and this allows you *instant* access to *all* the games on the site (some of the most popular titles are only available to Premium members). It also allows you to play with other people in the same location, using either different devices or “hot seating” at the same device. If a Premium Member sets up a game and invites non-paying members to join, they will also get instant access.

The games

There are currently 270 different games available on BGA. The selection is a little idiosyncratic - you won't find Monopoly or Risk there and you can play chess but not drafts. Nonetheless, there are a great number of very good games available and you can filter them by number of players, duration and complexity. Some are simple, quick and fun whereas others are best played with a clear head and a few hours to spare. One of the advantages of BGA is that the computer will set up the game for you, tell you what you can and can't do when it's your move and keep accurate score.

Another advantage of BGA is that one can try a wide number of games without buying them first – and with some of the games costing £50 or more that is a big deal. We play regularly with a group of friends and try at least one new game a month. Two of them have been disappointing and we won't play them again but most have been fun and two more have been so good that we bought the physical games to play by ourselves. One of the downsides of playing on line is that the tactile pleasure of moving cards and pieces around the board is missing. And if we find a game we really enjoy, buying the hard copy and supporting the designers and publishers seems like the right thing to do.



For what it's worth, our favourite games on BGA, arranged in increasing order of complexity, are: -

- Carcassonne
- Hanabi
- Saboteur
- Eruption
- Trekking the World
- Kingdom Builder
- Puerto Rico

We hope that you will enjoy one or more of them!

Bob and Helen Allison





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OPEN DAY AT HORSELL BOWLING CLUB

Horsell Bowling Club is a thriving, friendly club which had its Centenary in 2020.

This year we are holding our **Open Day on Saturday 17 April 2021** between 10.00 am and 12 noon, which is the ideal time for novice and experienced bowlers to try out their bowling skills. Come along to meet our qualified coaches, play bowls, have a chat and see how you get on. The club is always happy to welcome and help new members.

We are very easy to find in Queen Elizabeth Gardens, High Street, Horsell, next to the Village Hall and opposite The Crown.

All equipment will be provided, just wear flat shoes. Further details from John on 01483 760146 or john.bowls@cafeaulait46.co.uk or Alison on 1483 720201 or a.ferries@sky.com.



Songs, poetry and cakes – celebrating Wales’s national saint

School children in Wales are accustomed to cheer up the end of winter (or welcome the very beginning of spring) by celebrating St David’s day on March 1st.

He is often depicted in pictures with a white dove on his shoulder. It transpires that this comes from the famous miracle that happened when he was preaching in Llanddewi Brefi. The crowd was so large, many people could not see him so the ground rose to form a hill under him so they could. The white dove appeared on his shoulder at the same time. He was the bishop of St David’s, which is known as a cathedral town: Minevia. It is the smallest of the cathedral towns. He also founded a monastery in Glastonbury but his views on popular music are not known!

The saint, who died on March 1 about 500 A D, was a powerful preacher and an ascetic man who allegedly lived on leeks and water. Or so our Welsh Correspondent tells us.

Nowadays, leeks may be worn to mark St David’s day, though daffodils are more popular, and it’s a day on which to sing the Welsh national anthem. Many school girls dress up in their national costume on the day. Schools hold eisteddfods, with competitions in instrumental music, singing, poetry, and in languages and handwriting too. Our correspondent is not a native Welsh speaker; she takes part in English.

The best poets, the bards, get prizes. The prize in a regional or national eisteddfod is traditionally a chair, but schools settle for a trophy, or a teddy bear.

A vegetarian, St David is associated with leeks but also with Glamorgan sausages which contain no meat. They are delicious!

St David’s final words to us all resonate especially today: “Do the little things, the small things you have seen me do.”

Celebrate the day!

Welsh cakes

Cooks may compete with delicacies such as Welsh cakes. There are individual variations. The recipe below depends on producing a dough which is neither too wet nor too dry, and on cooking the cakes on a suitably hot surface, such as a lightly greased heavy frying pan – too hot, and they burn, too cool and their texture is too dry.

Makes 10 cakes

110g margarine

225g mixed self raising white and wholemeal flour

85g mixed caster and light soft brown sugar

A handful of currants, or sultanas, or mixed dried fruit

A medium egg, beaten

Milk – probably won't be necessary

Rub the fat into the flour until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Add the mixed sugars and the fruit. Stir in egg and mix until the dough can be assembled in a firm ball.

Roll out to 5mm thickness and cut out individual circular cakes.

Cook these in batches on a lightly greased pan or griddle, for about 2 ½ minutes each side (and watch them - lightly burnt Welsh cake can still be delicious, but the ideal is a caramel coloured surface.) Eat at once, when they may be slightly squishy in the middle, or allow to cool.



RACHEL'S SPECIAL CHOCOLATE GUINNESS CAKE

INGREDIENTS

Makes: about 12 slices

FOR THE CAKE

- 250ml Guinness
- 250g butter
- 75g cocoa powder
- 400g caster sugar
- 150ml sour cream
- 2 large eggs
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 275g plain flour
- 2½ teaspoons bicarbonate of soda

FOR THE TOPPING

- 300g cream cheese
- 150g icing sugar
- 2 teaspoons cornflour
- 125ml double cream
- Blueberries to decorate (optional)

METHOD

1. Preheat the oven to gas mark 4/180°C, and butter and line a 23cm / 9 inch spring form tin.
2. Pour the Guinness into a large wide saucepan, add the butter, in slices, and heat until the butter's melted, and then whisk in the cocoa and sugar. Beat the sour cream with the eggs and vanilla and then pour into the pan and then whisk in the flour and bicarb.
3. Pour the cake batter into the greased and lined tin and bake for 45 minutes to an hour. Leave to cool completely in the tin on a cooling rack, as it is quite a damp cake.
4. When the cake is cold, lightly whip the cream cheese until smooth, sieve in the icing sugar and cornflour and then beat to combine.
5. Beat the double cream until it has a spreadable consistency, add a couple of spoonfuls into the cream cheese mixture and once this is combined, fold in the rest.
6. Ice the top of the cake and decorate with blueberries, if desired



Churchyard Cat



They have the strangest tastes, my humans. Every year I go to see the Vee Eee Tee (that's what they say: "Time for Samuel to see the Vee Eee Tee"). And I'm caught, forced into my carrying basket, conveyed to somewhere smelling of disinfectant, and of dogs, examined, somewhat disrespectfully, and – jabbed. A hole is punched in me with a needle. Then there's lot of "Poor cat!" being said and home we go. This year, they are off to be jabbed themselves, it seems. And they want to go! They're laughing. They're working out how soon it will be before each of them can have a turn. No hiding under the beds for them; no nipping out of the cat flap before it's locked. I heard them talking to our Granny on the phone. "Wonderful! You're getting the vaccine on Friday!". I thought they were fond of her. I shall never understand them.

Parish in the Past

Ninety years ago Norman Pares, the Vicar of Horsell welcomed the forthcoming opening of a new building in which Horsell people would be able to worship.

'The Bishop of Guildford has fixed Thursday 26th March for the Dedication of the Mission Church of St. Andrew in the Viggory field near Russell Road.

'The time of the Service is 6 pm which will give an opportunity to many who are at work all day to be present....I am sorry that the hour fixed for the service is so late, that it is unlikely that Mrs Blanchard [who gave the land for the building] who has had the plan of a Church very dear to her heart...will be able to be present, but it is her wish that the Service be arranged to suit the convenience of those who will use the Church.'

The little brick structure was designed by J Pocock M.C., and erected by Ernest Fisher, the local builder, and his workmen. Various furnishings had been provided as gifts. There had also been contributions towards the cost of a good path to the church. 'I should be very grateful for any further gifts to meet this expense,' remarked Mr Pares.

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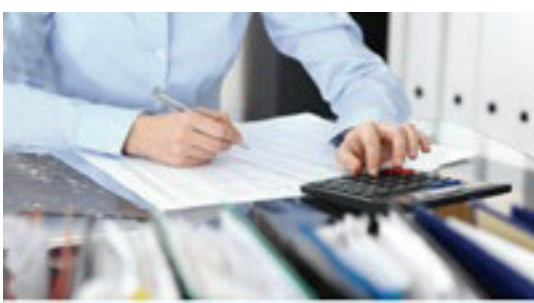
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