

# Horsell Matters

A photograph of a stone church building with a crenellated tower and a flag flying on top, set against a blue sky with white clouds. The church is constructed from dark, irregular stones and features a prominent arched doorway and a large window with a decorative surround. The tower has two smaller arched windows and a flagpole with a flag on top. The sky is bright blue with scattered white clouds.

The Village Magazine from your Parish Church  
August –September 2023

## Horsell Directory

<b>St Mary's Church</b>	<a href="http://www.stmarys-horsell.org.uk">www.stmarys-horsell.org.uk</a>	
	Baptisms, Weddings or Funerals	772134
<b>Parish Office open</b>	Helen Gravette Tues 9am-4pm, Wed & Fri 9am-1.00pm	772134
	<a href="mailto:stmaryshorsell@btinternet.com">stmaryshorsell@btinternet.com</a>	
<b>Vicar</b>	Rev'd Dmitry Lutsenko	755618
	<a href="mailto:vicar@stmarys-horsell.org.uk">vicar@stmarys-horsell.org.uk</a>	
<b>Church Wardens</b>	Brian Sheriff	474975
	Mark McMurtrie	07815 635609
<b>Treasurer</b>	David Leach	823439
<b>Cathedral Link</b>	Gill Saville	773799
<b>Pastoral Assistants</b>	Janet Johnson	591756
	Margaret Johnson	762481
	Hilary Mitchell	715459
	Coral Colclough	747481
<b>JAM (Jesus and Me)</b>	Rev'd Dmitry Lutsenko (3+) 10am most Sundays	772134
<b>Babies and Toddlers</b>	Angela Murphy, St Andrew's Room Tues 9.30am to 11.30am, term time	832943
<b>Twinkle Tots</b>	Mike Couper, St Andrew's Room Thurs 9.30am to 11.30am, term time	772134
<b>Bell-ringers and Servers</b>	Alan Nichols [occasional] Tues. evening practice	767852
<b>Trinity Methodist Church</b>	<a href="mailto:office@trinitywoking.org.uk">office@trinitywoking.org.uk</a>	730754
<b>Horsell Evangelical Church</b>	Revd Andrew Bents	822259
<b>To Book the Village Hall</b>	Paul Bowyer	764047
<b>Parish Institute</b>	<a href="http://www.horsell-parish-institute.org.uk">www.horsell-parish-institute.org.uk</a>	772134
<b>Horsell Village School</b>	Infants Head Teacher – Mrs J Reeve	714804
<b>Horsell C of E School</b>	Junior Head Teacher – Mrs C Wand	761531
<b>Woking High School</b>	Head Teacher – Mrs M Walter	888447
<b>St Andrew's School</b>	Headmaster – Mr D Fitzgerald	760943
<b>Horsell Care</b>	Helpline	07552 553414
<b>Residents Association</b>	Alan Taylor	<a href="mailto:ajrolyat@gmail.com">ajrolyat@gmail.com</a>
<b>Scouts, Beavers, Cubs</b>	Ali Stubbs	<a href="mailto:gsl@horsellscouts.org.uk">gsl@horsellscouts.org.uk</a> 07734 424568
<b>Explorer Scouts (14-18 Yrs)</b>	Roy Thompson	<a href="mailto:explorers@woking.scouts.host">explorers@woking.scouts.host</a>
<b>Guides &amp; Brownies</b>	<a href="http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents">www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents</a>	
<b>WI Horsell Afternoon</b>	Alison Evans-Wyatt	<a href="mailto:amevans705@gmail.com">amevans705@gmail.com</a> 765570
	Meets on 1st Thursday at 1.45pm in the Village Hall	
<b>WI Horsell Evening</b>	Mrs Joan Cox	760783
	Meets on 4th Tuesday at 8.00pm in the Village Hall	
<b>Woking Police Station</b>	dial 101 from mobile or landline	

## The Bible

At St Mary's we hold the Holy Bible in high regard. The Word of God is preached from the pulpit to the whole congregation every Sunday. We have a preaching team consisting of 4 people led by the vicar. All 4 of us have different styles and come from different backgrounds, but what unites us is our passion to proclaim the Gospel (the Good News of Jesus) faithfully, so that everyone can get a chance to hear the Good News and get saved. We are passionate about reading, studying and applying the Bible in our lives, because it says in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 that *'All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.'*

Through the human agents (prophets and apostles) God gave us his instructions to live our lives according to his will and purposes, which *are able to make us wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus (v15)*.

The Bible is also studied at home groups that meet fortnightly and offer Bible based discussion, prayer and fellowship.



We are planning to run an 8-week *'The Bible course'* by the Bible Society on weekday evenings, which will equip us to read, understand and apply the Bible in our daily lives. The first four sessions will be run in Autumn 2023 and the final 4 – during Lent 2024. If you are interested in attending, please contact the parish office for more information.

Rev'd Dmitry Lutsenko

### ST MARY'S CHURCH REGISTERS

#### Burials and Cremations

*We offer our sympathy to the families and friends of those who have died:*  
Gail Bromley Karen Lonsdale Molly Price Helen Woodland

#### Weddings

*We offer congratulations to:*  
Annalisa Timbrell and Thomas Rowles Holly Kaufman and Nicholas Elgar

## ST MARY'S CHURCH DIARY **AUGUST 2023**

<b>Tues 1st</b>	9.30am-11.30am 11.00am-4.00pm 2.00pm	NO Baby & Toddler Group Private Prayer NO Service at Kettlewell House
<b>Wed 2nd</b>	11.00am 8.00pm	NO Mid-Week Holy Communion Engine Room House of Prayer
<b>Thurs 3rd</b>	9.30am-11.00am 11.00am-4.00pm	NO Twinkle Tots Private Prayer
<b>Fri 4th</b>	10.00am-12noon	Pop In Coffee
<b>Sat 5th</b>	11.00am	Thanksgiving Service
<b>Sun 6th</b>	8.00am 10.00am	Holy Communion (CW) All Age Morning Worship
<b>Tues 8th</b>	9.30am-11.30am 11.00am-4.00pm	NO Baby & Toddler Group Private Prayer
<b>Wed 9th</b>	11.00am-4.00pm	Private Prayer
<b>Thurs 10th</b>	9.30am-11.00am 11.00am-4.00pm	NO Twinkle Tots Private Prayer
<b>Fri 9th</b>	10am-12noon	Pop-in-Coffee
<b>Sun 13th</b>	8.00am 10.00am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion Contemplative Meditation
<b>Tues 15th</b>	9.30am-11.30am 11.00am-4.00pm	NO Baby & Toddler Group Private Prayer
<b>Wed 16th</b>	11.30am-4.00pm	Private Prayer
<b>Thurs 17th</b>	9.30am-11.00am 11.00am-4.00pm	NO Twinkle Tots Private Prayer
<b>Fri 18th</b>	10am-12noon	Pop In Coffee
<b>Sun 20th</b>	8.00am 10.00am 4.00pm	Holy Communion (CW) Parish Communion NO Messy Church
<b>Tues 22nd</b>	9.30am-11.00am 11.00am-4.00pm	NO Baby & Toddler Group Private Prayer
<b>Wed 23rd</b>	11.00am-4.00pm	Private Prayer
<b>Thurs 24th</b>	11.00am-1.00pm 11.00am-4.00pm	Twinkle Tots Picnic at Parish Institute Garden Private Prayer
<b>Fri 25th</b>	10am-12noon	Pop In Coffee
<b>Sat 26th</b>	11.00am	Wedding
<b>Sun 27th</b>	8.00am 10.00am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion NO Peaceful Prayer and Praise
<b>Tues 29th</b>	9.30am-11.30am 11.00am-4.00pm	NO Baby & Toddler Group Private Prayer
<b>Wed 30th</b>	11.00am-4.00pm	Private Prayer
<b>Thurs 31st</b>	11.00am-1.00pm	Twinkle Tots Picnic at Parish Institute Garden

## ST MARY'S CHURCH DIARY **SEPTEMBER 2023**

<b>Fri 1st</b>	10am-12noon	Pop In Coffee
<b>Sun 3rd</b>	8.00am 10.00am	Holy Communion Service (CW) All Age Morning Worship & Baptism
<b>Tues 5th</b>	9.30am-11.30am 11.00am-4.00pm 2.00pm	NO Baby & Toddler Group Private Prayer Service at Kettlewell House
<b>Wed 6th</b>	11.00am 11am-4.00pm 8.00pm	Mid-Week Holy Communion Private Prayer Engine Room House of Prayer
<b>Thurs 7th</b>	9.30am-11.00am 11.00am-4.00pm	Twinkle Tots Private Prayer
<b>Fri 8th</b>	8.45am-12noon	Pop In Coffee
<b>Sat 9th</b>	11.00am-5pm	Heritage Weekend
<b>Sun 10th</b>	8.00am 10.00am Midday-4.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Communion Service (BCP) Parish Communion Heritage Weekend Contemplative Meditation
<b>Tues 12th</b>	9.30am-11.30am 11.00am-4.00pm	Baby & Toddler Group Private Prayer
<b>Wed 13th</b>	11.00am-4.00pm	Private Prayer
<b>Thurs 14th</b>	9.30am-11.00am 11.00am-4.00pm	Twinkle Tots Private Prayer
<b>Fri 15th</b>	8.45am-12noon	Pop In Coffee
<b>Sun 17th</b>	8.00am 10.00am 4.00pm	Holy Communion (CW) Parish Communion Messy Church
<b>Tues 19th</b>	9.30am-11.30am 11.00am-4.00pm	Baby & Toddler Group Private Prayer
<b>Wed 20th</b>	11.00am-4.00pm	Private Prayer
<b>Thurs 21st</b>	9.30am-11.00am 11.00am-4.00pm	Twinkle Tots Private Prayer
<b>Fri 22nd</b>	8.45am-12noon	Pop In Coffee
<b>Sun 24th</b>	8.00am 10.00am 12.15pm 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion On Your Own Lunch Peaceful Prayer & Praise
<b>Tues 26th</b>	9.30am-11.30am 11.00am-4.00pm	Baby & Toddler Group Private Prayer
<b>Wed 27th</b>	11.00am-4.00pm	Private Prayer
<b>Thurs 28th</b>	9.30am-11.00am 11.00am-4.00pm	Twinkle Tots Private Prayer
<b>Fri 29th</b>	8.45am-12noon	Pop in Coffee
<b>Sat 30th</b>	7.30pm	Organ Recital

## ST MARY'S CHURCH DIARY **OCTOBER 2023**

<b>Sun 1st</b>	8.00am 10.00am	Holy Communion (CW) All Age Morning Worship
<b>Sun 8th</b>	8.00am 10.00am	Holy Communion Service (BCP) Harvest Festival and Parish Communion



**St Mary's Church, Horsell**

@StMarysChurchHorsell

**CW** means Common Worship. **BCP** means Book of Common Prayer.

All correct at the time of going to print.

For further details please look at our website: [www.stmarys-horsell.org.uk](http://www.stmarys-horsell.org.uk)

# An Old Spiral Staircase

Did you know it is ten years since the St Mary's tower steps were renovated?

Those who have climbed the tower on Heritage Weekend Open Days will know there is a great view from the top, making it well worth the climb to see Horsell and surrounding areas from a new perspective.

Ten years ago, in 2013 building works were undertaken to improve access to the bell chamber (no longer did the bell ringers have to climb a steep, rickety wooden ladder from the porch). The tower has stone steps, which had worn from years of use. They could not be replaced because of their heritage status. An innovative solution was required to cap them with new wooden treads. A new entry arch had to be knocked through to the ringing chamber to install a new wooden door.

The oak steps and handrail in the spiral stairway to the ringing chamber and up to the clock room were built by local

man Winton Wightman, who readers may know because of his passion for vintage cars.

Each step had to be hand made to fit into the unique profile of the ancient

tower walls, made from an irregular mix of Flint (silica nodules from Chalk), Clunch (a softer limestone found in the lower chalk) and Carrstone/Heathstone (a type of sandstone). The tower wall was especially challenging to attach the handrail to as the stones were either very soft (clunch) or extremely hard (flint).



*Old stone steps, capped with wooden treads, providing access to the Bell Chamber and Tower*

The stone used in the tower was formed under ancient seas in the Cretaceous period, the age of the dinosaurs;

however, there are no Dinosaur fragments in these rocks - the only fossils that could possibly be found would be the microfossils known as "coccoliths" - planktonic organisms that thrived in the ancient seas millions of years ago.

## Horsell Matters: Next Edition October/November 2023

Copy to be sent by 1st September by email please to: [stmaryshorsell@btinternet.com](mailto:stmaryshorsell@btinternet.com)

Advertising: please contact: Sales at Knaphill Print, Tel: 01483 474900 or email: [sales@knaphillprint.com](mailto:sales@knaphillprint.com)

The Horsell Matters team extend their grateful thanks to **Knaphill Print Co Ltd**

for producing this not-for-profit Parish magazine.

*The views expressed by contributors to the magazine are not necessarily those of the PCC of St. Mary's Church. All advertisements are accepted in good faith.*

# Welcome Rebecca

We are delighted to share the good news that Rebecca Connolly is joining St Mary's Ministry team as Children and Families' Worker from the middle of August.

Rebecca will be coordinating and developing our programme of activities for children and their families to enable our vision of: Making Jesus Known – Getting to Know Jesus Better – and Sharing Jesus' Love in our Community and World; to be fulfilled. You will have the chance to meet her at church services and activities, and in Open the Book



sessions held at our village schools. She will be based in the Parish Office.

Rebecca has spent the last year working at Christ Church, Woking, as a Childrens Ministry Assistant. Please introduce yourself to Rebecca and help her settle in her new role at St Mary's and welcome her to Horsell.

A longer article is planned for inclusion in the next issue.

## Churchyard Cat

Not all cats are as well placed as I am, with a comfortable home to return to after my adventures in the churchyard, with plenty to eat and drink and attentive humans at my beck and call. Even so, we cats do enjoy a drink during our patrols, which is even more important during the hot summer months: a Churchyard puddle, a bird bath or a garden pond have interesting flavours. I understand that most dogs agree and I know that all those wild creatures and birds who visit my territory rely on outside water, whether it comes from the sky or a tap. A kind



soul regularly fills the water sources in my churchyard, and of course I respect the code observed by my larger cousins in the cat family, not to hunt at watering holes. Please keep your water sources well filled during hot weather; you never know, I may even pay a visit.

# Climb the Tower



During the Heritage Weekend on Saturday 9th September between 10am-5pm we offer the chance to climb to the top of the Tower to experience breathtaking views of the village and surrounding area.

**B**ook your slot to climb up the Tower by using the QR code below or by going to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/heritage-weekend-climbing-the-st-marys-horsell-tower-9th-september-tickets-668751332237>.

There are 64 steps to climb\* to reach the top. The twisting staircase is aged and narrow in places. For safety reasons, those aged between 8-18 must have an adult over 18 years old with them (no under 8s are allowed up the Tower).

We want you to have the best experience climbing to the top of the Tower and admiring the views, so we are limiting the number of visitors to 6 at any one time at the top of the Tower. There will be a volunteer at the top of the Tower throughout. Please arrive 5 minutes before your booked time for a safety brief.

Any donations will be used to maintain the Grade II listed Church building and

the Tower. A suggested donation is £5 per person please. If you are unable to make your slot, do let us know by contacting the office on 01483 772134 or via [stmaryshorsell@btinternet.com](mailto:stmaryshorsell@btinternet.com) before 12pm Friday 8th September.

On both Saturday and Sunday, you will have the opportunity to go around the Church and enjoy the displays of informative guides and notes telling you about the history of the Church dating back to the 12th century. Refreshments and other activities will be available.

Please note that the Church will be open for the Heritage Weekend both days, Saturday (10am-5pm) and Sunday (12noon – 4pm), but the trips up the Tower will be on Saturday only.

\* The climb is physically challenging and not recommended to anyone unsteady on their feet, or who might feel claustrophobic.



## St Mary's Church Heritage Weekend 9th & 10th September

**Saturday 9th 11am - 5pm**

**Sunday 10th Midday – 4pm**

Climb the Tower (no under 8s) – Saturday only

Midday Organ Recital – Saturday only

2pm Rock Talk– Saturday only

Crafts and Trails for children and Refreshments available both days

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# Grave Matters

Against the wall on the far side of the churchyard near the shed is the imposing marble tomb of Jasper John Boswell and his first wife Isabella (née Schofield).



*The Boswell Gravestone*

Isabella was born in Leeds in 1835, the daughter of William a market gardener, and Mary, being one of eight children. By 1851 she is a pupil teacher but by 1861 had risen to head governess of Norwich Training School an Anglican teacher training college. In 1864 Isabella married Jasper, a descendant of the biographer James Boswell, and they had five children of whom only one, Gertrude, lived into adulthood. Gertrude married Gaudenzio Sella, one of the founders of Banco Sella, now one of the national banks of Italy. Jasper had been in the Army in India before becoming a wine and spirit merchant.



*Gertrude, Isabella and Jasper Boswell*

Isabella died in Horsell in 1876 after suffering from tuberculosis for four years, probably



*Gertrude Boswell and Gaudenzio Sella's wedding*

coming here for the good of her health, although we cannot find where she was living. Jasper re-married to Sarah Baxendale, by whom he had five more children, including Jessie Boswell, who became a well-known artist in Italy. Jasper never lived in Horsell, but has two links to the village – a friendship with Richard Brettell, the local surveyor, property developer and part owner of the advowson of the church, who is buried nearby in a similar large tomb, and that at his death in 1912 he was reunited with his first wife and is buried with her.

Acknowledgements and thanks to Carolyn Timms for information and photographs of the Boswell family.

Richard and Rosemary Christophers

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# What's So Good About Evensong?

Never been to choral evensong? You really should try it.

It's my favourite service. Whether it's in the summer with the sun filtering through the stained glass, catching the motes of dust as they float around, or a dull autumn day with the rain lashing down, it's a very calming experience. Even if the church or cathedral is in the middle of a bustling city, it's usually quiet inside. Take a seat, not too near the front, but certainly not too far back, and wait. The soft organ music before the service creates a calm and reverent atmosphere as the choir glides in. You can't help being affected by the timeless holiness of what follows. The form of words may not be contemporary but there's no problem understanding them (OK, I admit I struggled with "both our hearts" as a

boy, being only aware of having the one), and that very difference from the everyday is one of the things which makes it special.

Your active participation is limited but, just as the members of the congregation make the prayers read by the intercessor their own, so you can offer in worship the music performed by those capable of doing it well. Approached in this way, it can be truly uplifting.

Even if the concluding voluntary is big and loud (as it often is), the overall effect of the 40 or so minutes of the service is invariably calming and spiritual.

Alan Rapley

**The choir of Guildford Cathedral** will be singing choral evensong at St Mary's Church at 6.00pm on 15th October.

## Horsell Matters needs you!

We are looking for someone to deliver Horsell Matters to Waldens Park Road. Can you, or do you know someone who could do this? It's only 6 times a year. Contact Helen Gravette on 01483 772134 (Tuesday 9am-4pm, Wednesday and Friday mornings 9am -1pm) if you are able to take this on – thank you.

## Christian Aid Week



We are delighted to say that we raised £2,898.78 from cash, online giving, envelopes, gift aid and support for the craft and cake stalls. Thank you.

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# Halstead and St. Andrew's – a new partnership

Halstead Preparatory School for Girls and St. Andrew's School, Woking recently announced they have formed a partnership to create a new school in Horsell.

Halstead St Andrew's will open in September 2023. The vision of the new school is to build on the current success of both schools, develop the best they both offer and create a dynamic and exciting new school which prepares pupils for an ever-changing world.

Halstead St Andrew's will be co-ed and aims to educate around 500 pupils aged 2-16 across the two schools' current sites in Horsell. The School will extend its provision to Year 9 in 2026 giving children currently in Year 5 the opportunity to complete their GCSEs at Halstead St Andrew's. Pupils in Nursery to Year 2 will be based on Halstead's site, to be known as Woodham Rise, and pupils from Year 3 upwards will be based on the St. Andrew's School site, to be known as Church Hill House.

At Halstead St Andrew's a successful education will go beyond academic studies. The inspiring educational experience the School will offer will ensure that pupils leave as well-rounded, determined young adults, prepared for the future.



Dominic Fitzgerald, Headmaster of Halstead St Andrew's

A current parent commented: 'We are delighted with the merger and the new opportunities that combine the best of both schools (the family atmospheres, teachers and facilities mainly) and we look forward to enjoying a bigger school community with lots of new friendships in September.'



St Andrews School and Halstead School sites

# Incredible Little Functions

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**What's On in August, September and early October**  
for children, young people and families at St Mary's  
Your Parish Church in Horsell

For more details about any of our services and activities  
please contact the Parish Office on 01483 772134  
or email [stmaryshorsell@btinternet.com](mailto:stmaryshorsell@btinternet.com)



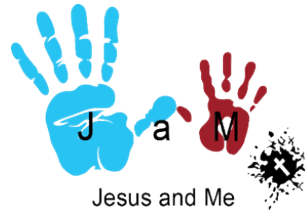
## Sunday Morning All-Age Worship

Lively songs, thought-provoking Bible stories, fun and family fellowship at 10am



On the first Sunday  
of every month  
6th August  
3rd September  
1st October

## Jesus and Me



**A time for children aged 3+ to learn and worship together during our 10am Sunday services**  
Every Sunday except when we have All Age Worship or school holidays

## Tuesday Morning Baby and Toddler Group



Weekly in term time only  
9.30am to 11.30am  
Term starts 12th September  
Pop in for a coffee, chat, play and meet new friends

## Thursday Twinkle Tots



Group for babies and toddlers  
Weekly in term time only  
9.30am to 11.00am  
Term starts 7th September  
Come and make friends, enjoy play, craft, Bible stories and songs



4.00pm to 5.30pm  
None in August  
17th September  
15th October

**Fun activities for all ages**  
Please bring your own picnic tea

## Friday Pop-in Coffee

8.45am until noon (term time)  
10am-12 noon (school holiday)



Why not drop in for a cuppa, a piece of cake and a chat once you have done the school drop-off?  
(Toys available)

## Come and celebrate with us Harvest Festival Family Communion Service

10.00am Sunday 8th October

Donations of non-perishable items will be collected during the service and, in the week following, distributed to the community and the

York Road Project



**Please join us**  
**All welcome**

## Twinkle Tots Teddy Bears' Picnic

All babies, toddlers, family and friends welcome



Thursday 24th & 31st August  
11am—1pm

Horsell Parish Institute

(behind the War Memorial)

To include stories, songs and fun activities  
Please bring your teddy bears and a picnic

# COLOUR AND FIND

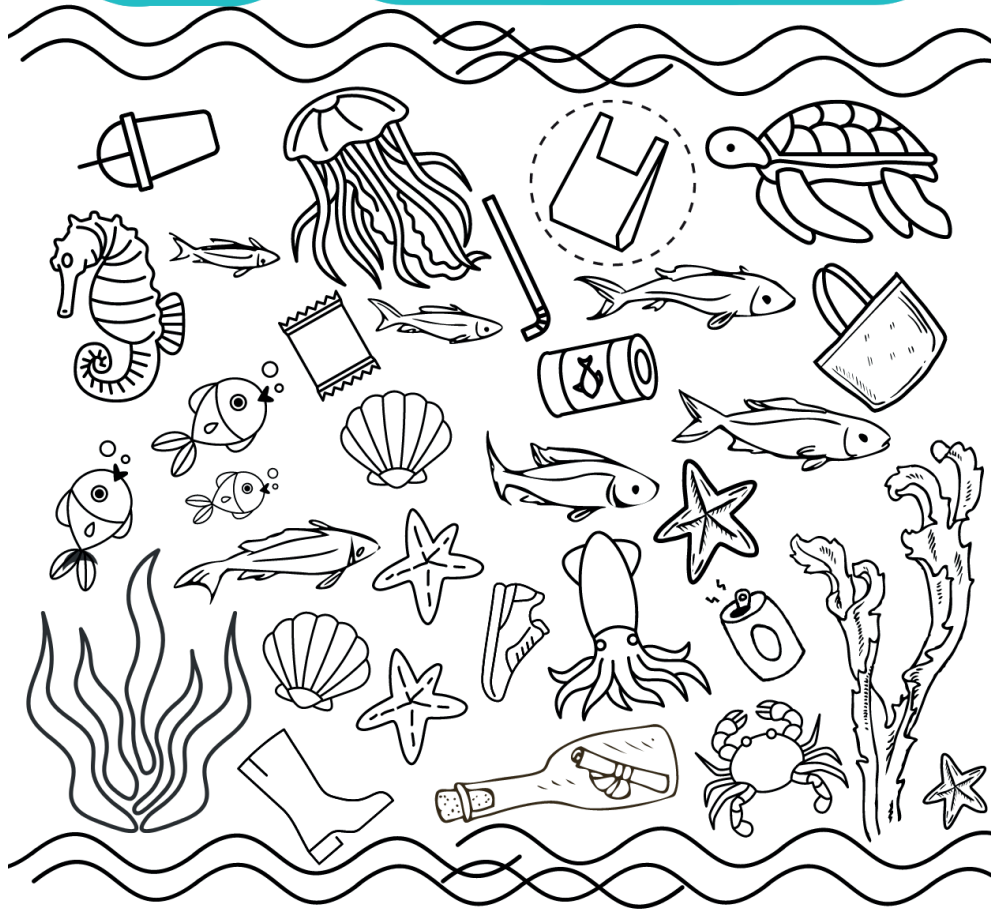
Are you spending time by the seaside this summer?

Take a look at the underwater colouring picture.

Did you see any of the objects in the sea? What else can you spot?

Colour the waves and creatures that live in the sea.

There are 10 objects floating in the water that shouldn't be there. Leave them uncoloured and draw circles around them. First one has been done for you.



Did you know that the first 4 of Jesus' disciples were fishermen? Their names were Peter, Andrew, James and John. They spent lots of time by the water and on boats catching fish to eat. You can read about them in the Bible in the book of Matthew chapter 4 starting from verse 18.

# It Takes a Village to Raise a Child

At Horsell Junior School we strive to provide our children with a diverse and enriching education. Now that COVID restrictions have been consigned to the past, we have been able to return to offering our pupils a wide variety of educational and extra-curricular experiences.

Our current cohort continues our sporting tradition and has successfully represented the school in football, netball and cricket competitions. Our swimming pool enables termly swimming lessons, and participation in local swimming galas. This year, the children also decided - as part of learning about our school value of service - to put their love of sport to good use by setting up a sponsored run to support local Woking charity, LinkAble, raising over £1000 for this charity.



Mrs Wand at St Mary's

Music is also important to the children, and our Music Festival at the end of May showcased our many talented children. Parents spent a warm spring evening listening to our school orchestra, choir, string ensemble, guitar group, bell ringers and many soloists, some of whom were performing in

At Horsell C of E Junior School, we believe we are all 'made in the image of God'. Through a commitment to Christian values and high academic aspirations, we strive to provide a rich and inclusive education for every member of our school family  
[School's Vision Statement](#)

public for the first time. After Easter, our Year 5 children took part in a 2-day music workshop, where they composed and performed their own music based on their history topic of 'Crime and Punishment'.

As a church school we have strong links with St Mary's Church from which a team of volunteers support

our school in a variety of ways. For example, the 'Open the Book' team visits the school every week to enact different stories from the bible, and other volunteers help to run a Young

Carers group.

I recently attended St Mary's Church and spoke about the oft-quoted African proverb,

'it takes a village to raise a child'. We are very thankful for all those people in our community who support, help and care for our children.

Mrs Wand, Headteacher

# Gardening Matters

Read how Elna Broe finds ways to cope with the challenge of dry, hot spells whilst continuing to encourage bees and other insects to her garden and her update on the wildlife pond border.

The hot weather this year has again been challenging, particularly for the vegetable plot; irregular watering can easily cause lettuce to bolt and make some vegetables more susceptible to disease. However, my move towards drought tolerant planting in the flower borders has proved to be successful. Eupatorium, perennial sunflowers, echinops, anthemis, verbascum and verbena bonariensis stand proud; hardy geraniums such as Eureka Blue and Sanguineum Var. Striatum provide good ground cover. The annual nigella is also undeterred by weather conditions and is a reliable gap filler. The only area that has needed regular watering is my fern garden, which has thrived on water from the washing machine. Eco detergent ensures that no harmful chemicals are going into the soil. The planting in the pond has produced more growth on the water surface this year and the blanket weed is much reduced. There have been successes and



Elna's pond in March (above) and in July (below). What a difference!



failures in my surrounding wildflower area. Perhaps the biggest surprise was the almost overnight disappearance of my yarrow plug plants. Clearly all yarrow-eating wildlife in Horsell reside in my garden as uncut verges and roundabouts close by are positively overflowing with yarrow! Conversely, I have enough birds foot trefoil, much to the delight of visiting bees, to start selling on a commercial scale. Other varieties, such as corn cockle, corn marigold, oxeye daisy and vipers bugloss have been well-behaved and grown gracefully and the area is much improved on last year. I recently read that a wildflower meadow with a mix of grasses has more stability from year to year. Another tweak to the planting is therefore required; I will spread an appropriate seed mix in the autumn.

I'm off now to plant lettuce, chard and spring cabbage seeds. Spinach, turnip and broad bean seeds will have their turn in September. Enjoy the rest of your summer.

♥ A garden is not a place. It's a journey. (Monty Don)



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# Recipe

## Nectarine, tomato, and basil salad with torn mozzarella.

Whether you are growing your own tomatoes or buying local, now is the best time to follow the growing season and eat British, home-grown produce. Try this tomato-based salad which can act as a starter for 6 or main course for 4, perfumed with basil. It can be ready to serve in less than ten minutes. As this is a simple dish, good-quality ingredients are recommended.

For a more indulgent taste, swap mozzarella for burrata (but note it has a higher fat content).



*\*White balsamic vinegar is recommended if you have it. The photo shows dark balsamic vinegar which colours the mozzarella.*

3 nectarines

275g (9¾ oz) tomatoes, mixed colours and sizes if possible

250g tub of buffalo mozzarella, drained of whey

Leaves from one large bunch of basil

Salt and pepper to taste

1½ tbsp balsamic\* vinegar

3 tbsp extra virgin olive oil

Halve and pit the nectarines and cut each half into four equal wedges.

Halve the smaller tomatoes, quarter the larger ones (or cut into six or eight, depending on the size).

Tear the mozzarella roughly into pieces.

Using a broad, shallow bowl, layer all the components of the salad, seasoning and sprinkling with the balsamic and oil as you go.

Serve immediately.

**If you are a local food business and wish to share a recipe with Horsell Matters readers, please contact the editorial team for requirements: [stmaryshorsell@btinternet.com](mailto:stmaryshorsell@btinternet.com)**

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# Book Review: I am, I am, I am

A memoir with a difference by novelist Maggie O'Farrell

Although non-fiction, it reads like a novel. A tour de force narrative of the author's own brushes with death, eloquently written, each one (and there are 16, the last brush with death is her daughter's) a stand-alone story.

This is more than just a book about dodging a bullet and there is nothing that made this reviewer think: "oh come on, really?"

in that airy fairy way that some write about near-death experiences. The approach is not chronological and at the beginning of each chapter is line drawing of the main body part affected by what follows. A novel approach to memoir writing.

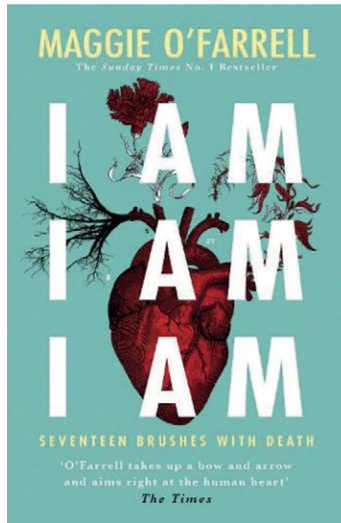
The narrative includes childhood illness, stranger danger on a narrow path, robbery at knifepoint in a jungle, near drowning, appalling mismanagement of labour in an understaffed NHS hospital (back in 2003), miscarriage, amoebic dysentery and many more.

O'Farrell's memoir makes you think about the fragility of life and has a poignancy that reflects our own

vulnerabilities and strengths. It's not sensationally written; instead, vivid and descriptive as the author shares with us her love of travel, reading and writing. She tells a good story without unnecessary embellishments. The book isn't depressing or morbid nor is it self-congratulatory for so many bullets dodged.

If you are not usually drawn to reading

novels, give this book a go. Its only 285 pages (softback) with bite-size chapters.



♥ Love is never wasted, for its value does not rest upon reciprocity. (C. S. Lewis)

A vacancy exists for a lead Editor of *The Resident*, the magazine of the Horsell Residents' Association (HRA). For an informal chat about the role, please email Alan Taylor, HRA Chair at [ajrolyat@gmail.com](mailto:ajrolyat@gmail.com) in the first instance.



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Margaret Atwood

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<https://wokingwriters.wordpress.com/>  
Contact Peter Morley, morleypg@gmail.com

# Lecture on Gothic Glory by John Sherlock

Thursday 14 September 2023 at St Andrew's Church, Goldsworth Park Centre, Denton Way, Woking, GU21 3LG at 10.30 am.

**H**ow did church architecture develop in the way it did – particularly pointed arches? In this richly illustrated lecture, John looks at the development of Gothic styles across Europe. From its earliest origins in France he traces its progress all across Europe, with a special focus on the Early English, Decorated and Perpendicular styles in Britain. He brings an engineering viewpoint to the discussion of why 'pointed arches' seem to have become so symbolic of church architecture in the west.



Interior of the Notre-Dame-de-la-Jonquière church in Lisle sur Tarn, in the Tarn, in Occitanie, France

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