

Horsell Matters

The Village Magazine from your Parish Church
December 2025 – January 2026



Horsell Directory

St Mary's Church	www.stmarys-horsell.org.uk	
	Baptisms, Weddings or Funerals	772134
Parish Office open	Helen Gravette Tues 9am-4pm, Wed & Fri 9am-1.00pm	772134
	stmaryshorsell@btinternet.com	
Vicar	Revd Dmitry Lutsenko vicar@stmarys-horsell.org.uk	07365 356228
Children & Families' Worker	Rebecca Connolly childrenandfamiliesstmarys@gmail.com	772134
Church Wardens	Brian Sheriff Mark McMurtrie	474975 07815 635609
Treasurer	David Leach	07708 866196
Pastoral Assistants	Janet Johnson Margaret Johnson Hilary Mitchell	591756 762481 715459
JAM (Jesus and Me)	Rebecca Connolly (3+) 10am most Sundays	772134
Tiny Treasures	Rebecca Connolly, St Andrew's Room Tues 9.30am to 11.30am, term time	772134
Bell-ringers and Servers	Alan Nichols [occasional] Tues. evening practice	767852
Trinity Methodist Church	office@trinitywoking.org.uk	730754
Horsell Evangelical Church	Revd Andrew Bents	822259
To Book the Village Hall	Paul Bowyer	764047
Parish Institute	www.horsell-parish-institute.org.uk	772134
Horsell Village School	Infants Head Teacher – Mrs J Reeve	714804
Horsell C of E School	Junior Head Teacher – Mrs C Wand	761531
Woking High School	Head Teacher – Mrs M Walter	888447
Halstead St Andrew's School	Head Teacher – Mr A Ward	760943
Horsell Care	Helpline	07552 553414
Residents Association	Alan Taylor ajrolyat@gmail.com	
Scouts, Beavers, Cubs	Ali Stubbs gsl@horsellscouts.org.uk	07734 424568
Explorer Scouts (14-18 Yrs)	Roy Thompson explorers@woking.scouts.host	
Guides & Brownies	www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents	
WI Horsell Afternoon	Lyn Clark lyn.clark@btinternet.com	01932 353382
	Meets on 1st Thursday at 1.45pm in the Village Hall	
WI Horsell Evening	Mrs Joan Cox	760783
	Meets on 4th Tuesday at 7.45pm in the Village Hall	
Woking Police Station	dial 101 from mobile or landline	

Join us for the 5 candles of Advent at St Mary's

As the festive season draws near, it's easy to jump straight into the excitement of Christmas. But here at St Mary's, we'd love to invite you to pause and journey with us through a beautiful, often overlooked season called Advent.

Advent is the four-week (5 Sundays) period leading up to Christmas - a time of expectant waiting and spiritual preparation. The word itself comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning "coming." During Advent, we reflect not only on the birth of Christ in Bethlehem but also on his promised return.

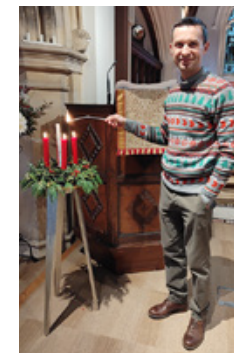
At St Mary's, each Sunday of Advent, during the 10am services, a child from the congregation lights a candle. The candles remind us of those who prepared the way for Jesus:

- The Patriarchs (we light a candle on 30 Nov): Abraham, the father of faith, and King David, whose lineage leads to Jesus.
- The Prophets (7 Dec): Those who foretold the coming of the Messiah with hope and conviction.
- John the Baptist (14 Dec): The voice crying out in the wilderness, proclaiming the arrival of the Saviour.

- Mary (21 Dec): The young woman who said "yes" to God and carried Christ in her womb.

On Christmas Day, we light the fifth candle – the Christ candle – celebrating the birth of Jesus, the light of the world.

We warmly invite everyone in the Horsell community to join us for this special tradition. Whether you're a regular churchgoer or simply curious, come and witness the lighting of the Advent candles.



So, before the mince pies and carols take centre stage, why not come along and experience the quiet joy of Advent? We'd love to welcome you.

Revd Dmitry Lutsenko,
The Vicar of St Mary the Virgin Horsell

SERVICES CARRIED AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

FUNERALS, BURIALS AND CREMATIONS

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

Denise Balmer Monica Cobbett Stojana Mitic Tony Mundy
Garry Rutherford Pauline Schlotel

WEDDINGS

We offer congratulations to: Tom Staton & Saule Suleimenova

ST MARY'S CHURCH DIARY **DECEMBER 2025**

Mon 1st	11.00am	Halstead St Andrew's School Service
Tues 2nd	9.30am-11.00am 2.00pm	Tiny Treasures Baby & Toddler Group Service at Kettlewell House
Wed 3rd	8.00pm	Engine Room House of Prayer
Fri 5th	8.45am-12noon 10.00am	Pop In Coffee Engine Room House of Prayer
Sat 6th	7.30pm	Mosaic Chamber Choir Concert
Sun 7th	8.00am 10.00am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) First Sunday Service Peaceful Prayer & Praise
Tues 9th	9.30am-11.00am	Tiny Treasures Baby & Toddler Group
Wed 10th	2.30pm 6.30pm	Halstead St Andrew's Years 2-4 Nativity Halstead St Andrew's Years 5-8 Nativity
Fri 12th	8.45am-12noon 7.30pm	Pop In Coffee Horsell Sings! Christmas Concert
Sun 14th	10.00am 4.00pm-5.30pm	Parish Communion Messy Church Christmas Party
Mon 15th	6.00pm	Three Horsell Schools' Christmas Concert
Tues 16th	9.30am-11.00am 9.30am 5.00pm	Tiny Treasures Baby & Toddler Group Village School Year 1 Nativity Village School Year 1 Nativity
Wed 17th	9.30am 5.00pm	Village School Year 2 Nativity Village School Year 2 Nativity
Fri 19th	8.45am-12noon	Pop In Coffee
Sun 21st	8.00am 10.00am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Informal Service Nine Lessons & Carols
Tues 23rd	9.30am-11.00am	NO Tiny Treasures Baby & Toddler Group
Wed 24th	4.00pm 6.00pm 11.30pm	Nativity Service for Younger Children Nativity Service for Slightly Older Children Midnight Communion Service
Thurs 25th	8.00am 10.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) with Hymns Christmas Family Celebration Service
Fri 26th	8.45am-12noon	NO Pop In Coffee
Sun 28th	10.00am	Parish Communion
Tues 30th	9.30am-11.00am	NO Tiny Treasures Baby & Toddler Group

THE CHURCH BUILDING WILL BE OPEN:
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 11am until 3pm

ST MARY'S CHURCH DIARY **JANUARY 2026**

Fri 2nd	10.00am-12noon 10.00am	Pop In Coffee Engine Room House of Prayer in the Trinity Chapel
Sun 4th	8.00am 10.00am	Holy Communion Service (BCP) First Sunday Service
Tues 6th	9.30am-11.00am 2.00pm	Tiny Treasures Baby & Toddler Group Service at Kettlewell House
Wed 7th	8.00pm	Engine Room House of Prayer
Fri 9th	8.45am-12noon	Pop In Coffee
Sun 11th	10.00am	Parish Communion
Tues 13th	9.30am-11.00am	Tiny Treasures Baby & Toddler Group
Fri 16th	8.45am-12noon	Pop In Coffee
Sun 18th	8.00am 10.00am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Informal Service Contemplative Meditation
Tues 20th	9.30am-11.00am	Tiny Treasures Baby & Toddler Group
Fri 23rd	8.45am-12noon	Pop In Coffee
Sun 25th	10.00am 4.00pm	Parish Communion Messy Church
Tues 27th	9.30am-11.00am	Tiny Treasures Baby & Toddler Group
Fri 30th	8.45am-12noon	Pop In Coffee

ST MARY'S CHURCH DIARY **FEBRUARY 2026**

Sun 1st	8.00am 10.00am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) First Sunday Service Peaceful Prayer & Praise
Tues 3rd	9.30am-11.00am 2.00pm	Tiny Treasures Baby & Toddler Group Service at Kettlewell House
Wed 4th	8.00pm	Engine Room House of Prayer
Fri 6th	8.45am-12noon 10.00am	Pop In Coffee Engine Room House of Prayer



St Mary's Church, Horsell: @StMarysChurchHorsell
All correct at the time of going to print.

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

News from St Mary's



How appropriate it was that in celebrating the Harvest Festival in October the donated gifts went to the **York Road Project**, within a few weeks of saying a final farewell to Garry Rutherford who died in September.

Garry was a trustee of the Project, which he had supported for many years, and which began in 1995 as a soup kitchen, set up by members of several churches in the area who were concerned about the growing number of homeless people in town. It was known as 'Woking Winter Watch' and ran for 5 years offering emergency relief – food and warmth – all through the cold winter months.



Brian Sheriif delivering donated food to the YRP

Wind forward 30 years, and now called The York Road Project, a registered charity, it owns two properties, and every day works to help people get off the street, navigate the complexity of the housing system, and find a secure, long-term home.

St Mary's Church includes The York Road Project as one of the charities it supports as part of its outward giving throughout the year, not just with donated non-perishable food items at harvest time.



Harvest donations

We were sad to say au revoir to the lovely **June Osborne** who has worshipped at St Mary's for 60 years and seen no less than 7 incumbents in post!

The photo shows June receiving flowers at the Pop-in Coffee on a Friday morning (June was a regular, enjoying the coffee, cake and chat on offer). She has moved to Dorset to be nearer family. June - we will miss your smile and beautiful singing voice but wish you well in your new home.



June Osborne

We are hoping to run the **Alpha Course** again at St Mary's starting in January. Why not start the New Year by taking up this opportunity.

Alpha

Alpha is a series of group conversations, to be held weekly in the St Andrew's Room, that freely explore the basics of Christian faith in an open, friendly environment. Everyone's welcome, no matter your background, beliefs or age. Come on your own or with a friend, it's a chance to learn, meet people and have fun.

Alpha covers many interesting topics including:

- Is there more to life?
- Who is Jesus?
- Why did Jesus die?
- How can we have faith?
- Why and how do I pray?
- And why and how do I read the bible?

You can expect:

- Improved Connection as Alpha brings together people from all walks of life
- Engaging Content through videos, talks and small group discussions
- An opportunity for Conversations – learning about the Christian faith and how it fits into the big issues of today

Millions of people have already experienced Alpha in over 100 countries and found it to have a positive impact on the quality of their lives. It's an open and welcoming environment, no matter what your opinion, and no pressure to say anything - but the floor is there if you want to speak.

There is no cost to attend, and a warm welcome awaits you. To confirm your interest and find out more details please contact the Parish Office at stmaryshorsell@btinternet.com or by phone on 01483 772134.

Churchyard Cat

Christmas time again, when we celebrate the birth of our saviour Jesus Christ, the most important person who has ever lived, the centrepiece of our civilisation, and we give gifts as the wise men did in Bethlehem. Us cats don't give presents, but I did hear



of a cat who worked with Santa, she was called Santa Claws. We like climbing the decorated trees which appear in our homes at this time of year, and knocking off the hanging decorations, but we are a bit afraid of the Bark. There is a lot going on in my Church in December, starting with the HAS School Nativity services on 10th and followed by other school services on 15th, 16th and 17th, then the ever popular Nine Lessons and Carols on 21st, Nativity Services and Midnight Service on 24th and of course Communion on Christmas Day. Plus, lots of choir practices with our new organist, I hear that the singing will be even better this year. As you know I can't speak, but with the right Cattitude, anything is Pawsible, so have a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2026.

Horsell Christmas Market

Saturday 6th December 2025 12.00 – 4.00pm



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Christmas Market Matters

The Horsell Residents' Association Second Thursday Club is delighted to present the 13th Horsell Christmas Market. This year the Christmas Market will be both indoors and outdoors!

There will be 40 indoor stalls in Horsell Village Hall, Horsell Scout HQ and Horsell Evangelical Church. A further 14 stalls will be outside in Horsell High Street, plus live music, dancers, Father Christmas and stalls outside the shops. Plus, a lineup of Classic cars. The High Street will be closed to traffic from 11am to 5pm. [See the map on page 8.](#)

Entertainment highlights include bands by the Evangelical Church and outside Masala Spice. At 3.30 there will be Community Carol singing. Summerscales Performing Arts will be dancing in front of Woking and Sam Beare Charity shop.

If you are hungry or thirsty during the afternoon there is a huge choice from all the lovely cafes and restaurants in Horsell to a choice of street food. The Red Lion, Squisito, The Cricketers, Prince & Sons, Café Primo, Beijing, Horsell Kitchen, Deli Clas, and The Crown are open as usual, and stalls with delightful offerings. Burgers, sausages, Chinese, pizza, Indian snacks and cake to sustain a busy afternoon!

Stalls with beer, mulled wine, coffee and soft drinks to slake your thirst all on the High Street as usual.

There will be a wide selection of local crafts, art work, children's books and designer clothes. Make sure to visit the Evangelical Church (12 stalls), Village Hall (12 stalls), Scout HQ (16 stalls) and the High Street (14 stalls). The popular bi-annual Christmas Tree Festival will return at St Mary's in 2026. Plenty of time for you to plan your tree entry.

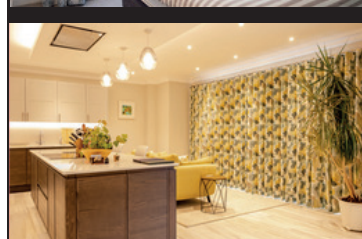
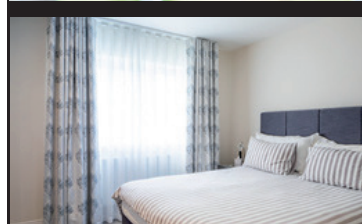
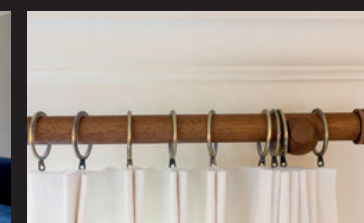
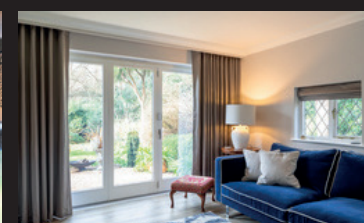
It's a perfect way to join your community in an afternoon of shopping and entertainment for all the family. There is a rumour that Father Christmas will turn up!

Thanks to all for the support from the local shops, Seymours, Boz, and all the volunteers who set this up. If you can help, please contact xmas@horsellresidents.com

NB The High Street will be closed completely between Meadway Drive and The Crown pub from 11am-5pm.

Sophie Sews

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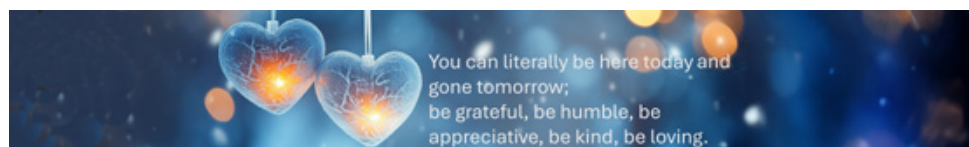
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Adult Confirmation

I was one of the candidates who was confirmed on Sunday 21st Sept. The service was wonderful and was conducted by Bishop Paul from Dorking, hosted by St Mary's Church (so a lot of work for Dimitry and the team) and the church was full.

There were over 20 of us being confirmed, from multiple parishes across the diocese, with three from St Mary's. Before the start of the service, Bishop Paul met us in small groups so we could tell him a bit about ourselves and thus give him a sense of each of us and our faith journey. This was a special and intimate moment.

Deciding to be confirmed was a gradual process for me. I grew up in a Church of England family, but we rarely attended church. My parents sent me and my sister to Sunday school for a few weeks when I was 9 but we were country children and preferred being outdoors. I went to boarding school between the age of 11 and 14 and during that time, some boys were confirmed. It didn't appeal then as I was in the school young farmers club and preferred mucking out pigs and feeding the chickens!

In 2022, I moved to Horsell and I go to the Friday coffee mornings, and Sunday Holy Communion. I also often attend the Sunday evening 6.30pm meditation service that occurs once a month. A while back I asked our vicar, Dimitry about being confirmed and was really



Bishop Paul of Dorking with the confirmation candidates

I was pleased to know that there was a diocese confirmation service planned for September and that St Mary's were hosting. It was a wonderful and spiritual evening. Receiving Holy Communion for the first time was a very significant occasion for me, and especially so from the Bishop.

The confirmation service was wonderful, the church was full of family and friends of each of the candidates, plus members of the St Mary's congregation. The music was special thanks to the efforts of our organist and choir.

Steve Drinkwater

When life feels overwhelming, God doesn't ask you to fix it, He invites you to be still.
Psalm 46:10 Be still, and know that I am God.

Deliver us from evil and be glorified

This is the closing set of reflections by Roy Wernham, Licenced Lay Minister, on the Lord's Prayer which is found in Matthew's gospel ch 6 v 9-13.

In the Lord's Prayer Jesus taught his followers to pray: '... deliver us from evil ...'.

The Bible uses the word 'evil' to describe a force at work in the world that is opposed to the loving purposes of God. Jesus spoke about evil, he also referred to the Devil and to Satan. When Jesus was fasting in the wilderness, he was tempted by Satan. There he showed his followers that when he stood up to Satan, then Satan had no power over him.

The Hebrew word translated as 'Satan' originally meant an opponent or adversary and was used in a wide range of contexts including wrestling. The meaning of the word narrowed. By the time of Jesus, it was specifically a religious term used to mean the force in the world that was anti-God and anti-human.

In his death and resurrection Jesus defeated the powers of evil and delivered from evil those who follow him.

By today's standards, medical knowledge in the ancient world was

poor and physical deformities and illnesses were often thought to have been caused by evil spirits.

The usual form of the Lord's Prayer as it is generally used within the church, ends:

'... for yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, now and forever. Amen' Bible scholars call this final section the doxology (which means a word expressing glory) since it declares the supreme power and glory of God over the world and everything in it.

The doxology is not part of the New Testament text which records the words that Jesus taught his disciples, and the Lord's Prayer is occasionally said omitting it.

The doxology was added to the Lord's Prayer by the first Christians very early in the life of the church and its value was widely recognised. It is much loved and has been retained.

The doxology reminds us that, as William Barclay wrote, Jesus is not just a name in a book but a presence in our lives walking with us every step along the way.

Horsell Matters: Next Edition February / March 2026

Copy to be sent by 1st January by email please to: stmaryshorsell@btinternet.com

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4th and 18th January

Saint Mary the Virgin

JESUS AND ME



A time for children aged 3+ to learn
and worship together during our
10am Sunday Services

Every Sunday except the first
Sunday of the month
when we are all together in church

Saint Mary the Virgin

FRIDAY POP-IN COFFEE

8.45am until noon
(term time)



10am to 12 noon
(school holidays)

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

Saint Mary the Virgin

NATIVITY SERVICES



Christmas Eve
St Mary's Church



4pm Nativity Service
especially for the younger members
of the family.

Come dressed
as a Nativity character!

6pm Nativity Service
for slightly older children, teenagers
and all the young at heart!



Saint Mary the Virgin



4.00pm to 5.30pm

Christmas Party on
14th December

25th January

Explore a Bible theme through
craft, food, games or nature.
There will be a short celebration
with a story, songs and prayers.

For all ages! Picnic tea provided

Messy Church is part of The Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF), a
Registered Charity.
brf.org.uk

Saint Mary the Virgin

TINY TREASURES

Baby and Toddler Group
Every Tuesday (term time)
9.30am to 11.00am

No session on
23rd or 30th
December

In the St Andrew's Room
St Mary's Church, Horsell

Come and make friends,
enjoy play, craft,
and songs

Saint Mary the Virgin



2ND & 4TH SUNDAY HOLY COMMUNION



A formal
service of Parish
Holy Communion
at 10am
All welcome



Young children can enjoy their own time
at 'Jesus and Me' during the service
before returning as we take communion.

14th and 28th December
11th and 25th January



Saint Mary the Virgin

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday 21st December at 6.30pm
All are welcome to join in this special
service, including traditional carols and
seasonal bible readings.



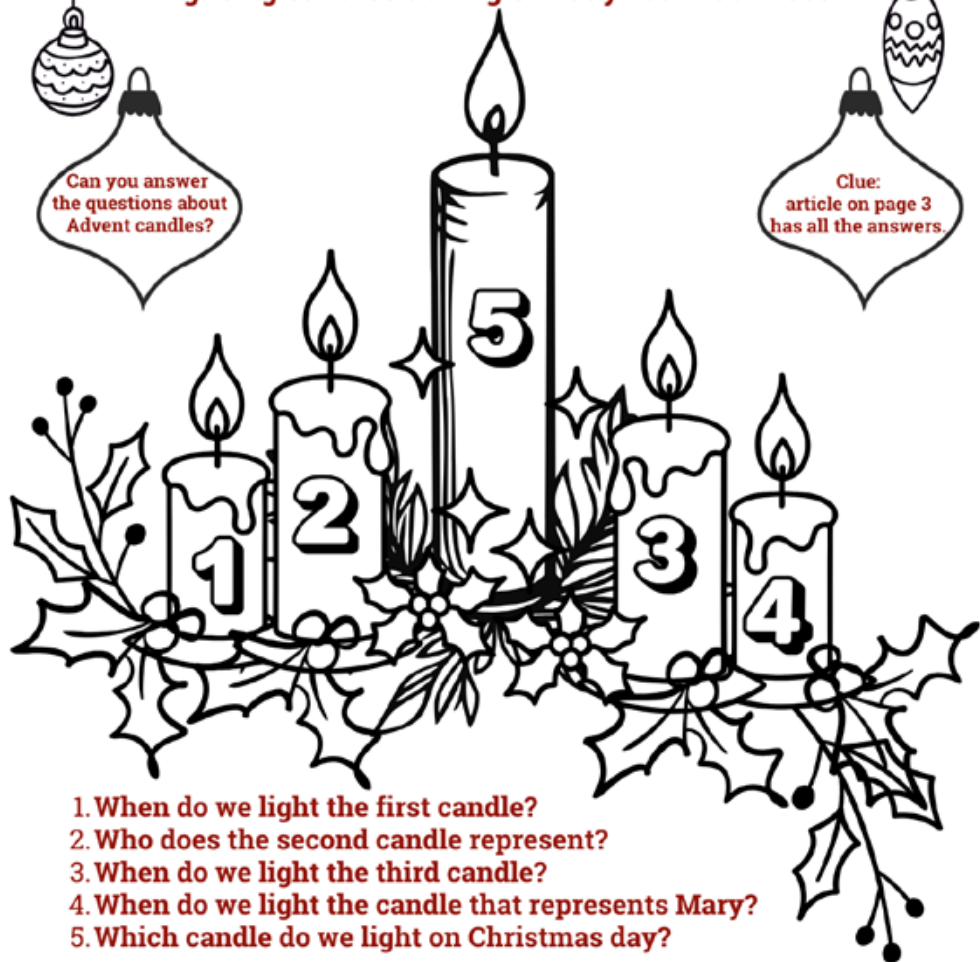
Saint Mary the Virgin

COLOUR IN THE ADVENT CANDLES AND JOIN US TO LIGHT THEM!

At St Mary's we celebrate the season of Advent by lighting candles during Sunday 10am services.

Can you answer the questions about Advent candles?

Clue: article on page 3 has all the answers.



1. When do we light the first candle?
2. Who does the second candle represent?
3. When do we light the third candle?
4. When do we light the candle that represents Mary?
5. Which candle do we light on Christmas day?

Do join us at St Mary's Horsell to celebrate the lighting of Advent candles at 10am every Sunday in December and on Christmas Day!

WHAT'S ON AT ST MARY'S OVER CHRISTMAS

Sunday 14th December 4pm-5.30pm
Messy Church Christmas Party

Sunday 21st December
6.30pm Nine Lessons & Carols

Christmas Eve Wednesday 24th December
4pm Nativity Service for younger children
6pm Nativity Service for slightly older children
11.30pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day
Thursday 25th December
8am Holy Communion (BCP)
10am Christmas Family Celebration

Saint Mary the Virgin
Horsell

Garden Matters

At this time of year, it's nice to bring some of the outside in. The smell of freshly cut pine is the essence of Christmas and is a lovely way to bring this festive scent indoors.



Potted rosemary and other herbs

If you don't have your own pines to prune, Christmas tree farms and farmers' markets often sell bunches of small branches, which can be incorporated into wreaths and garlands, perhaps adding a little spruce, yew, ivy, eucalyptus or holly if you have some growing in the garden. Remember, though, to leave some holly berries in situ for the birds as they rely on them for food over the winter. RHS Christmas Wreath Making on YouTube gives very clear and easy-to-follow instructions if you are feeling creative. Whilst poinsettias are the indoor flower of the festive season, they don't react well to sudden environmental changes, often dropping leaves within a few days. Hyacinths are also popular

but when forced to grow early in indoor temperatures, in my experience, they rarely do well the following year when subsequently planted out in the garden. More sustainable alternatives include the Christmas cactus which is evergreen all year and has pink, white or red flowers in winter, also rosemary. A potted rosemary is both attractive and useful: a few sprigs over the top is a great way to enhance roast vegetables and it makes a tasty addition to tomato sauces. Cuttings can be grown on to provide further windowsill plants whilst the parent plant will then grow happily outside provided it is given good drainage and sunshine.

Elna Broe

"What good is the warmth of summer without the cold of winter to give it sweetness". *John Steinbeck*



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Recipe: Spiced Christmas Biscuits

This recipe is simple to mix, roll, and bake, giving you delicious biscuits ready for icing and decorating. One that can be done with children.



Ingredients

- **360g** plain flour
- **1 tsp** bicarbonate of soda
- **4 tsp** ground ginger
- **2 tsp** ground cinnamon
- **130g** unsalted butter, softened
- **175g** light soft brown sugar
- **4 tbsp** golden syrup
- **1** medium egg, lightly beaten

Preheat your oven to 180 °C (Gas Mark 4) and line a couple of baking trays with greaseproof paper. Sift the flour, bicarbonate of soda, ground ginger, and ground cinnamon into a large mixing bowl. Add the softened butter to the dry ingredients and mix with a wooden spoon or rub in with your fingers until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Then stir in the brown sugar. Beat the egg and golden syrup together, then add this mixture to the bowl.

Mix with a wooden spoon until it starts to clump together, then use your hands to briefly knead the mixture into a smooth ball of dough. Wrap the dough in cling film and place it in the fridge to chill for at least **20 minutes**. This makes it much easier to roll out.

Take the chilled dough and roll it out on a lightly floured surface to about 5mm thick. Use your favourite Christmas biscuit cutters (stars, trees, snowmen, etc.) to cut out shapes.

Transfer the shapes to your prepared baking trays, leaving a small gap between them. Bake for **15-20 minutes**, or until they are a light golden colour.

Leave them on the tray for about 15 minutes before carefully moving them to a wire rack to cool completely. Once fully cooled, they are ready to decorate with icing, sprinkles, or melted chocolate, for all the family to enjoy.



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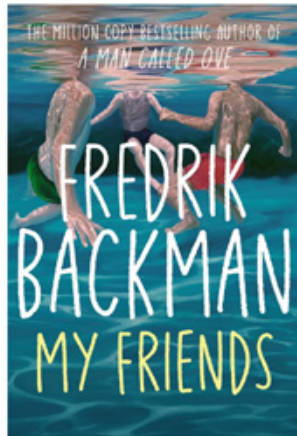
Book Review: My Friends by Frederik Backman

Backman is back with his signature blend of humour, profound emotional insight, and focus on the human condition.

My Friends is a story that interweaves two timelines. The past focuses on the intense, life-affirming friendship of four teenagers from difficult upbringings—Joar, Ted, Ali, and "the artist"—who find refuge and family in each other one unforgettable summer on a pier in their seaside town. This summer leads to the creation of a famous painting.

The present follows Louisa, an 18-year-old aspiring artist and care-home child who is grappling with loss. She embarks on a cross-country journey to learn the story behind the famous painting, which holds a special significance for her, leading her to cross paths with one of the original friends, Ted, who is also grieving.

The painting is a central element of the story, depicted as an extremely famous work by the artist C. Jat. It's described as mostly a seascape with a long pier, but only a close look reveals three (or four, depending on the account) tiny figures



sitting on the end of the pier, representing the artist and his friends in their youth.

The book illustrates a fierce loyalty and love between the characters, especially the four teenagers. The famous (fictional)

painting is a pivotal element, symbolising memory, love, and the way creativity can transcend pain and impact lives decades later.

The story doesn't shy away from difficult topics like domestic abuse, neglect, and loss, but balances this darkness with moments of joy, resilience, and the possibility of a hopeful future.

Backman creates deeply flawed yet immensely lovable and memorable individuals whose struggles

and triumphs feel real. His writing is insightful, with pithy statements about humanity with engaging and witty storytelling. I liked the alternating timelines which built up the four teenager friends' story and gave momentum as Louisa unravels their past story.

Vanessa McMurtrie

"The world is full of miracles, but none greater than how far a young person can be carried by someone else's belief in them."
Frederik Backman, My Friends.

Wishing all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

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