

Horsell Matters

The Village Magazine from your Parish Church



February – March 2024

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	755618
Children & Families' Worker	Rebecca Connolly childrenandfamiliesstmarys@gmail.com	772134
Church Wardens	Brian Sheriff Mark McMurtrie	474975 07815 635609
Treasurer	David Leach	823439
Cathedral Link	Gill Saville	773799
Pastoral Assistants	Margaret Johnson Hilary Mitchell Coral Colclough	762481 715459 747481
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	832943
Twinkle Tots	Rebecca Connolly, St Andrew's Room Thurs 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	Acting Head Teacher Miss M Eaton	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	Alison Evans-Wyatt amevans705@gmail.com	765570
	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	

Easter

Easter is a time when we recall the story of God's salvation fulfilled in Jesus' death and resurrection.

This is a major turning point in human history when the creator God came down to be with his creation and laid down his life for us. He bore our sins, though being innocent, so we can be accepted into God's presence once again. Jesus became our way back to God, a path to forgiveness, restoration and acceptance.



These days we witness suffering all around us, locally, nationally, and internationally. The cost of living crisis is still biting hard, further afield several wars are raging, and devastating natural disasters seem to come one after the other. In every society, be it home or abroad, the most vulnerable are most at risk.

Prophecy in the book of Isaiah chapter 53 reminds of the depth of pain Jesus suffered for us on the cross. Before returning to his disciples triumphantly on Easter day, Jesus went through the roller coaster of emotional, mental and physical suffering, as well as rejection by the crowds and, even more painfully, rejection by his disciples.

This Easter season, as we are preparing to celebrate Jesus' victory over sin and death, let us not forget his path of suffering to this victory.

These are big questions and problems, with no easy solutions. For most of them we can do no more than pray for wisdom, trust in God's plan and guidance, and do what we can within our power to help those around us.

Easter time reminds us of the miraculous power of Jesus' resurrection. Keep believing, keep praying, keep trusting God.

Revd Dmitry Lutsenko
The Vicar of St Mary's Horsell

ST MARY'S CHURCH REGISTERS

Deaths, Funerals, Burials and Cremations

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

Brian Couter Sylvia Lavarack Jimmy Medland Terri Wilson Brian Fensome

ST MARY'S CHURCH DIARY **FEBRUARY 2024**

Thurs 1st	9.30am-11.00am 11.00am-4.00pm	Twinkle Tots Private Prayer
Fri 2nd	8.45am-12noon	Pop in Coffee
Sun 4th	8.00am 10.00am	Holy Communion (CW) All Age Morning Worship
Tues 6th	9.30am-11.00am 2.00pm	Tiny Treasures Baby & Toddler Group Service at Kettlewell House
Wed 7th	11.00am 8.00pm	Mid-Week Holy Communion Engine Room House of Prayer
Thurs 8th	9.30am-11.00am	Twinkle Tots
Fri 9th	8.45am-12noon	Pop In Coffee
Sun 11th	8.00am 10.00am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion Contemplative Meditation
Tues 13th	9.30am-11.00am	NO Tiny Treasures Baby & Toddler Group
Wed 14th	7.00pm	Ash Wednesday Communion
Thurs 15th	9.30am-11.00am	NO Twinkle Tots
Fri 16th	8.45am-12noon	Pop In Coffee
Sun 18th	8.00am 10.00am 4.00pm	Holy Communion (CW) Parish Communion Messy Church
Tues 20th	9.30am-11.00am	Tiny Treasures Baby & Toddler Group
Thurs 22nd	9.30am-11.00am	Twinkle Tots
Fri 23rd	8.45am-12noon	Pop In Coffee
Sun 25th	8.00am 10.00am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion Peaceful Prayer & Praise
Tues 27th	9.30am-11.00am	Tiny Treasures Baby & Toddler Group
Thurs 29th	9.30am-11.00am	Twinkle Tots

THE CHURCH BUILDING WILL BE OPEN:

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from **9am** to **3pm**

Fridays from **12 noon** to **3pm**

Sundays from **8am** to **3pm**



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

ST MARY'S CHURCH DIARY **MARCH 2024**

Fri 1st	8.45am-12noon	Pop In Coffee
Sun 3rd	8.00am 10.00am	Holy Communion Service (CW) All Age Morning Worship
Tues 5th	9.30am-11.00am 2.00pm	Tiny Treasures Baby & Toddler Group Service Kettlewell House
Wed 6th	11.00am 8.00pm	Mid-Week Holy Communion Engine Room House of Prayer
Thurs 7th	9.30am-11.00am	Twinkle Tots
Fri 8th	8.45am-12noon	Pop In Coffee
Sat 9th	7.30pm	Organ Recital
Sun 10th	8.00am 10.00am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Service (BCP) Mothering Sunday Parish Communion Contemplative Meditation
Tues 12th	9.30am-11.00am	Tiny Treasures Baby & Toddler Group
Thurs 14th	9.30am-11.00am	Twinkle Tots
Fri 15th	8.45am-12noon	Pop In Coffee
Sun 17th	8.00am 10.00am 4.00pm	Holy Communion (CW) Parish Communion Messy Church
Tues 19th	9.30am-11.00am	Tiny Treasures Baby & Toddler Group
Thurs 21st	9.30am-11.00am	Twinkle Tots
Fri 22nd	8.45am-12noon	Pop In Coffee
Sun 24th	8.00am 10.00am 12.15pm 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Palm Sunday Parish Communion On Your Own Lunch Peaceful Prayer & Praise
Tues 26th	9.30am-11.00am	Tiny Treasures Baby & Toddler Group
Thurs 28th	9.30am-11.00am 8.00pm	Twinkle Tots Maundy Thursday Communion
Fri 29th	9.30am 10.30am-12noon	Good Friday Family Service Pop In Coffee
Sat 30th	8.00pm	Easter Vigil & Renewal of Baptism Vows
Sun 31st	10.00am	Easter Day Family Communion

ST MARY'S CHURCH DIARY **APRIL 2024**

Tues 2nd	9.30am-11.00am	No Tiny Treasures Baby & Toddler Group
Wed 3rd	11.00am 8.00pm	NO Mid-Week Communion Service Engine Room House of Prayer
Thurs 4th	9.30am-11.00am 9.30am-4.00pm	NO Twinkle Tots NO Private Prayer
Fri 5th	10.00am-12noon	Pop in Coffee
Sun 7th	8.00am 10.00am	Holy Communion (CW) All Age Morning Worship

My First Three Years

Our vicar at St Mary's in Horsell, Dmitry Lutsenko and his family joined us three years ago during the pandemic. Here's an update since our introductory article from Horsell Matters* in 2021.



Revd Dmitry Lutsenko

Remind us about your background and family.

Both my wife and I are Ukrainian born. We arrived in the UK in 2003 to study initially for one year and loved living here. Since then, we have moved around for study and work, and lived in Exeter, the New Forest, Basingstoke, Oxford, and Leicestershire, before moving to Horsell. We have two children, one at Horsell Junior school and the elder at Woking College.

What do you like about living in Horsell?

The strong sense of community. Horsell retains a village like feel, despite being so conveniently close to Woking town centre. The village is green, has thriving High Street shops, great schools, exciting village events, and is so close to London by train. What's not to like?

What was it like arriving during the COVID pandemic? How have things recovered?

It was a strange and challenging time to start in post during the third lockdown. The church building was closed, there were no Sunday services, no meetings. In the first few months I remember going around, knocking on the doors of church members to introduce myself. It took some time, but gradually we have restarted all the pre Covid activities, services, and meetings.

How has God lead you since coming to Horsell in January 2021?

A first incumbency is a major step up from training, and one would expect it to be tough at the best of times. Starting at such an unusual time (during a pandemic and lockdown) presented additional challenges. I had no choice but to rely on God's provision and guidance. I believe that God led me to Horsell, and I rely on his guidance for ministry here.

What achievements are you especially proud off?

All that we achieved thus far, being a strong collective effort by all our church members and volunteers. I'm blessed to have supportive PCC, church wardens, ministry leaders, and a small staff team. All played an important role in reopening the church, restarting and reshaping the activities. I'm proud of many things that we have achieved, from our involvement in local schools, care homes, and village events, developing our preaching team, focus on ministry to children and families, our response to the war in Ukraine, numerous practical and building projects around the church and the church yard, and many more.

What do you see as St Mary's role in the local community and schools?

St Mary's church is already actively involved with the local schools, with the junior school being a church school (CoE) our involvement is most notable – Open the Book, seasonal assemblies, handbell club, young carers, etc.

The church building is often used by the schools for their special services, just now in December we welcomed the children, their parents and teachers for Nativity services and performances.

We usually get involved in the events organised by community groups and are open to new ways of deepening relationships with them. Some events are organised by St Mary's – Nine Lessons and Carols, Christmas Tree Festival, Heritage weekend, various fundraising events.

What would you like to see in the next three years?

I would like for everyone in the St Mary's community to focus on discovering God's calling upon their lives and to see how they can make a difference for God at home, work, church and in the community. I wish to see people living their life to the full, using their gifts and sharing God's love.

Churchyard Cat

When patrolling my churchyard, I often pass by two sets of painted stone blocks; one is inscribed HOPE and the other FAITH, I ponder their significance when laying in front of a warm fire, (where else would one want to be at this cold time of year?) I concluded these must be important words for my human visitors to the churchyard.

I've been known to put my whiskers through the church doors and this is what I've learnt. Hope for salvation, hope for

What surprising challenges have you faced?

Just to name a few: in the beginning the challenge of doing the ministry in Covid times; after that, managing the change, managing people's expectations, and handling conflict. These may not sound unique, but every situation is different and every time dealing with people I learn to do it better next time – communicate, reconcile, mediate. What surprises me sometimes, is that small, seemingly insignificant changes can be met with more resistance than the bigger ones.

How can an improved Christian understanding and faith help in difficult economic times and global conflicts?

Proverbs 3:5-6 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.' In difficult times I am reminded to trust the Lord. I encourage you to read it several times and I pray that readers might accept the truth of our Almighty God and his authority.

*Horsell Matters Feb-March 2021

<https://www.stmarys-horsell.org.uk/horsellmattersmagazine>



the second coming of our Lord, and hope in our Lord Jesus

Christ. Faith in the Holy Trinity: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, the three manifestations of the one true God, who created the universe, visited us to redeem us from our sins and is ever present in our lives. A comforting thought as I quietly doze off dreaming of warmer weather.

A World Day of Prayer

"I beg you, bear with one another in love". Taken from Ephesians chapter 4, this is the theme of World Day of Prayer on 1 March.



Each year, the Christian women of a different country are asked to write the form of service which will be used all over the world. The Christian women of Palestine started on this task over two years ago, long before the current conflict in Israel/Palestine began. This year's service contains the stories of three very different Palestinian women of different generations and uses the symbol of the olive tree to represent everlasting and abundant life. Olive trees can live for thousands of years and some still survive which would have been alive in the time of Christ.

As we hear the women's stories, we are urged to bear with one another in love despite difficulties and differences, to unite in prayer for just and harmonious solutions that would bring an end to human suffering, and to commit ourselves to journey with each other to achieve security and peace for people all around the world.

In the light of the events of the last six months, this becomes extremely poignant. As we are now all too painfully aware, Israel and Palestine have had a very turbulent recent history, and the future is bleak. We have no way of knowing whether any of the women featured in our service are alive or dead, but we can be sure that they would still be urging us on to 'bear with one another in love' as we seek to work for peace.

Everyone is very welcome to come and join us on **Friday 1 March at 10.30am at St Dunstan's RC Church, Shaftesbury Road, Woking** as we join with our sisters in Palestine and around the world to share in the service they have written.

The Christian Women of Palestine are calling us to connect with the land from where Jesus came; where he was born, ministered, and died – and from where our faith began and is rooted.
wwdp.org.uk

St. Mary's verses of the year:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Proverbs 3: 5-6

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This rating is correct at time of print

Horsell Lodge

CARING HOMES

Grave Matters

The first of two articles which tells the history of the Rowland family and the St Andrew's Room. The second will be published in the next edition of Horsell Matters.

On the path from Wilson Way to the church, near the rear gate to the Vicarage, is a substantial table tomb to General Andrew Rowland. Further inspection reveals the names of his wife Louisa, his son Andrew and daughter Gertrude on the ends and far side of the tomb.

Andrew Rowland was born in 1801 in Westminster, the son of a major, and followed him into the Army, being a cadet at the East India College at the age of 19 and joining the Bombay Artillery in the service of the East India Company as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1820. He rose through the ranks in India, to Lieutenant Colonel by 1851. With retirement in view he purchased Grove Barrs, then an isolated former farm by 1849 and his family were there at the 1851 census. With the end of the East India Company and the Indian Mutiny he had retired by 1863 but still gained promotions up to Lieutenant General in the Indian Army. His uniform dress jacket from the 1850s survives, and with permission, is illustrated here. He



The General's Dress jacket; reproduced by permission of Bates and Hindmarsh, Cheltenham

married Louisa Pilfold (1817-1873) in Bombay in 1834 and they had three children – Catherine born in India in 1840, Andrew and Gertrude both born in Westminster in 1844 and 1848. Catherine married in India in 1861 and Andrew died on the Isle of Wight in 1863 and is named on the family grave.

General Rowland died in Horsell in 1878 but Gertrude continued to live there until her death in 1936, making her mark on Horsell to be described in our next article. She was married at a small ceremony to Charles Blanchard in 1930. Incidentally, Barbara Freire-Marreco and her husband, the subjects of an article we wrote for 'The Resident' last year, were respectively granted probate to her will and witness to her wedding. The house was renamed 'Rowlands', but Charles left after Gertrude's death in 1936 and it was subsequently demolished and Grobars Avenue built on its site.

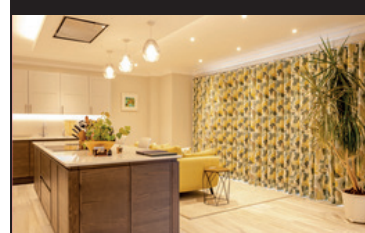
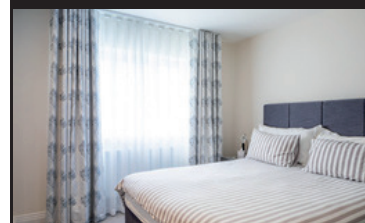
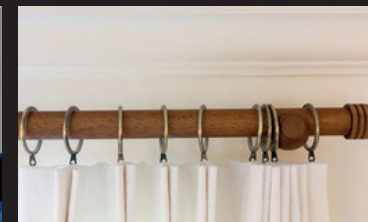
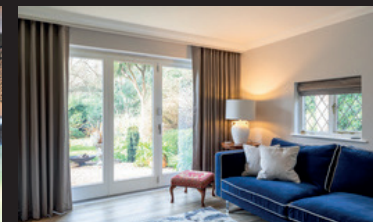
Richard and Rosemary Christophers



The Rowland Grave

Sophie Sews

CURTAINS | BLINDS | INTERIORS



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A Trip to the Holy Land

Last September I was privileged to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land of Israel and visit its many sacred sites.

For a long time I've been wanting to visit the town of Nazareth, site of the annunciation and childhood of Jesus; Bethlehem, now populated by Arab Christians, where 2000 years ago our Lord became flesh as an Israeli Jew; Cana, the site of his first recorded miracle; Capernaum on the sea of Galilee, where Jesus recruited his first disciples; and the Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus delivered the sermon on the mount.

The river Jordan, where the Lord was baptised by John the Baptist; the garden of Gethsemane and Mount of Olives, where our Lord ascended into Heaven; Temple Mount, where Solomon built the first Temple; the mountain fortress of Masada, where the Jews stood against Rome.

The very special city of Jerusalem, where I prayed at the Western Wall, and entered the largely Crusader built Church of the Holy Sepulchre, site of the crucifixion, burial and resurrection of the Lord. The Via Dolorosa with the stations of the cross along the route to Golgotha, where we witnessed many emotional scenes as people became overcome by the location.

Personally, sailing on the sea of Galilee and being joined on our Dow by a Nigerian Church group singing spirituals was the most emotional for me. There

were many church groups from Africa, Asia, North and South America and Europe, emphasising the universal reach of Christian faith.

I would like to welcome you to our services at St Mary's Horsell and to join us in getting to know Jesus better and sharing in his love for our Community and the World.

Brian Sheriff (Church Warden)



Brian Sheriff at the Jaffa Gate, entered by General Allenby in 1917 at the head of the British Army, to liberate Jerusalem, the eternal Capital of Israel.

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<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">Hotpoint</div> <h3 style="margin: 5px 0;">1400 Spin 8kg Washing Machine</h3> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">NSWE845CWSUKN</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 progs incl. Quick Wash Built-in display, dial controls Digital inverter motor H85 x W59.5 x D60.5cm <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;"> Only £329.99 1 Year Labour 10 Year Parts B Energy Rating </div>	<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">Hotpoint</div> <h3 style="margin: 5px 0;">Built-in Dishwasher</h3> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">H2IHKD526UK</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 programmes, 3 temperature settings Digital inverter motor Static drying technology H82 x W59.8 x D55.5cm <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;"> Only £319.99 1 Year Labour 10 Year Parts E Energy Rating </div>

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Collecting for Charity

Two Horsell businesses, across the road from each other, are collecting for charities and they invite you to join in.

The beginning of the New Year welcomed the return of the **Bra Bank** at **Woking Funeral Service** in the High Street. This is a highly popular way to recycle unused and preloved bras and last year the generous residents of Horsell donated over 46 kgs of bras, giving them a new lease of life and raising vital funds for the charity **Against Breast Cancer** for research into secondary breast cancer. Depositing bras in a bra bank also helps small businesses across Africa and other developing countries. Rachel and Debby thank you and look forward to welcoming you with your bra donations this year.



Collection Box at Woking Funeral Services

Apples and Pears are a collection point for **milk bottle tops** in aid of Air Ambulance. A collection box is to the right as you walk in - please drop off your milk bottle tops, which are currently not accepted via household recycling.



Collection box in Apples and Pears

Horsell resident Mike Wheeler is collecting all colours of milk bottle tops - please rinse and take foils out. Mike sorts the bottle tops and takes them to a contact in Blackwater, who gathers bags of bottle tops from numerous collectors and sends them onto a company in Kent for a donation in aid of Air Ambulance. Last year the total raised was around £1000! The company in Kent either recycle the bottle tops or sterilise and pass onto milk packaging companies to be reused.

Mike is looking for storage in Horsell (a corner of a shed or garage) which will allow Mike to collect more bags, bypass the intermediary in Blackwater and send directly to Kent.

If you have a suitable space that you can offer Mike for this worthy cause, please contact

the Parish Office:
stmaryshorsell@btinternet.com

Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth. (Mohammed Ali)

YOGA CLASSES IN HORSELL VILLAGE



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4 week introduction course
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Intermediate

Fun, relaxed, energising weekly classes teaching classical yoga poses to those who are not new to yoga.



Starts Sunday 14th January 2024 5.30pm Beginners, 6.45pm for all others
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Contact: Sara Jane directly on 07771816177 or Direct Message on Instagram @SJyoga2023



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First Sunday
of every month

February 4th
March 3rd
April 7th

Saint Mary the Virgin
Horsell

JESUS AND ME



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 have
All Age Worship

Saint Mary the Virgin
Horsell

TINY TREASURES

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

Term ends
26th March, 2024

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

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

Saint Mary the Virgin
Horsell



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

Term ends
28th March, 2024

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

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



Saint Mary the Virgin
Horsell



4.00pm to 5.30pm

Sunday 18th February

Sunday 21st April

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!
Please bring your own picnic tea

Saint Mary the Virgin
Horsell

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
Horsell

EASTER party

Sunday 24th March

St Mary's Church, Horsell
3.30-5.30pm

Crafts and refreshments for
0-11s and their families
Free event. donations welcome



STAY IN TOUCH

St Mary's Parish Office is open
Tuesday 9am to 4pm
Wednesday & Friday 9am to 1pm
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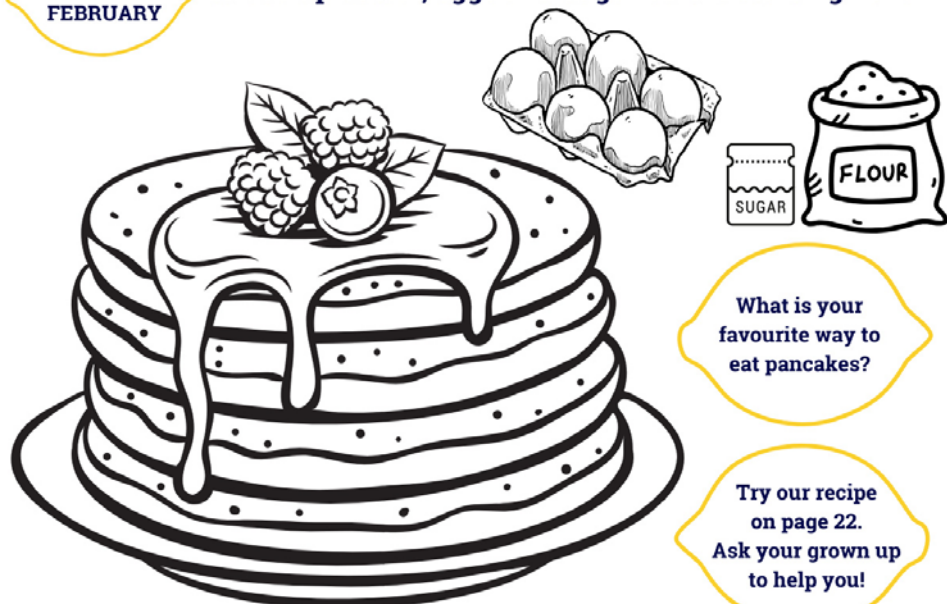
Saint Mary the Virgin
Horsell

COLOUR AND LEARN ABOUT SHROVE TUESDAY

Shrove Tuesday is the day
before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday.

TUESDAY
13th
FEBRUARY

Shrove Tuesday, known as 'Pancake day', is the day to use up butter, eggs and sugar before starting Lent.



What is your
favourite way to
eat pancakes?

Try our recipe
on page 22.
Ask your grown up
to help you!

Did you know that the words 'Shrove Tuesday', 'Ash Wednesday' and 'Lent' do not appear in the Bible? The time of lent is linked with the 40 days Jesus spent praying and fasting in the desert. You can read all about it in the Bible in the Gospel of Matthew chapter 4 and Gospel of Luke chapter 4.



We look forward to seeing you and your family at St Mary's Easter Services.

Easter Services

PALM SUNDAY 24TH MARCH

Holy Communion at 8am

Celebratory Parish Communion at 10am

MAUNDY THURSDAY 28TH MARCH

Communion service at 8pm Share the Lord's Supper and remember his life of service

GOOD FRIDAY 29TH MARCH

Family Communion Service at 9.30am

followed by hot cross buns

HOLY SATURDAY 30TH MARCH

Longing for Light – a short candlelit

Easter Vigil Service at 8pm with the opportunity to renew our baptismal promises

EASTER SUNDAY 31ST MARCH

Holy Communion at 8am

Celebratory Family Communion at 10.00am

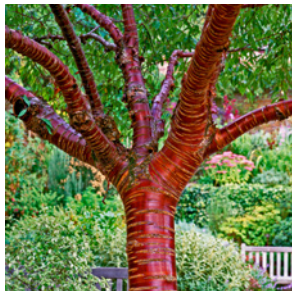
"He is Risen!"

Saint Mary the Virgin
— Horsell —

Gardening Matters

Winter has undeniable beauty and February and March are busy months for any gardener.

Ornamental cherry trees start flowering, much to the delight of bees making an appearance on milder days. From my kitchen window I can see the striking bark of a *Prunus serrula* (pictured). The snow-white trunk and branches of a compact *Betula* (also pictured) create an eerie but beautiful backdrop for the *Prunus* and nearby *Mahonia Charity* shows off her yellow flowers. However, I can see a hedge gap that needs addressing. An evergreen variegated holly, with year-round interest, pruned occasionally to keep it in shape, will fit the bill. Planted soon, some garden compost added to the planting hole, and watered well during dry spells, it will hopefully provide something else to look forward to in future winters.



Close up of the decorative bark of the *Prunus serrula*



Betula in winter

Whilst I wait in anticipation of my delivery, there is plenty to do! My apple tree needs pruning in February, removing dead wood and branches that are causing congestion, thereby allowing

more light into the crown. Unless heavy frost or snow is imminent, buddleias can also be pruned now.

I grow blueberries in ericaceous compost in large pots (they hate my clay soil!). I'll replace the top 5 - 8 cm of old compost with new, taking care not to damage the roots. A mulch of pebbles will keep in moisture and deter weeds. In the vegetable garden, preparing the soil with organic mulch for hungry crops such as potatoes, beans and peas will be advantageous.

There are seeds to plant: basil, broad beans, summer cabbage and chard can be planted under glass in late February. In March peas, lettuce, kale, purple sprouting broccoli and

tomatoes can be sown under glass; beetroot, radishes, parsnips and carrots can be sown outside and (chitted) potatoes planted from late March; the chilli seeds will be started off on a sunny windowsill.

Never a dull moment for a gardener!

Elna Broe



Time to plant my garden...or as the local squirrels call it, my "all you can eat buffet".



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When: Tuesdays and Thursdays


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Fruit Pancakes Recipe

Shrove Tuesday falls on 13 February. Use this recipe to make 5 thick and fluffy American style pancakes and add any fruit or berries you like.



Pancakes with tinned pineapple slices

135g/4¾oz plain flour
1 tsp baking powder
Pinch salt
1 tbsp caster sugar (optional)
125ml/4½fl oz milk
1 large egg
2 tbsp melted butter, or coconut oil, plus extra for cooking
Your choice of fruit, fresh or tinned e.g pineapple slices, drained
Golden syrup, to serve (optional)

In a large bowl sift the flour, baking powder, salt and sugar, if using.

In a jug whisk the egg with a fork or whisk, add the milk and melted butter. Whisk together. Add the liquid into the flour mixture, mix until smooth.

Melt a knob of butter in a frying pan over a medium heat, reduce the heat to low. Add a ladle of batter for each pancake, making them a little larger than a pineapple ring. After a few seconds top each pancake with a pineapple slice/ring pressing it down into the pancake.

If you're not keen on pineapple, you could use tinned peaches, fresh thinly sliced apple or pear, any berries, or even banana cut into coin pieces.

Cook approximately 3 mins per side until golden brown and cooked through.

Repeat until all the batter is used up. Meanwhile, keep the already cooked pancakes warm until ready to serve.

Serve the pancakes topped with additional fruit or berries, if desired. For a traditional topping use golden syrup, cream, butter, or lemon juice.

Recipe adapted from bbc.co.uk/food/recipes

Our tips for the best fluffiest pancakes:

- use room temperature eggs and milk
- do not overmix the batter
- once mixed, leave the batter to stand for few minutes before cooking



It's hard to believe 13th February is already Pancake Day. It really crêped up on us.



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School PTAs Matter

The schools' Parent Teacher Association works tirelessly to raise funds which are split equally between Horsell Village and Horsell CofE Junior schools.

Despite the cold weather, there was a real buzz at the PTA Christmas Fair in December, as an estimated 1,600 children and adults visited the Horsell Village School to try their luck at our tombolas, visit Mrs Claus, see Mr Tim's Magic Show, or compete in Elf Olympics. Teachers ran a "secret room" where children could purchase a small gift for their special adults. Hot dogs, mulled wine and delicious home-baked cakes helped warm visitors up.

The PTA run a variety of fund raisers throughout the year. The summer fair, firework evening, Christmas fair, discos and trails around the village not only bring our families together, they raise vital funds which are split equally between the Horsell Village and Horsell CofE Junior schools. Additionally, our popular second-hand uniform sales save family's money whilst doing our bit for the environment.

With school budgets increasingly under pressure, money raised helps enhance pupil's time in school, funding things like play equipment, library refurbishments, visiting theatre shows and much more.



New PTA chair, Sima Huddy, and secretary, Jenny Dutfield, with other PTA committee members after the summer fair

We hope that funds raised this year will help fund a new wellbeing hub for the Village School, and the Junior school are looking to purchase an electronic keyboard, install a sandpit and purchase Chromebooks.

We are fortunate to be part of the Horsell community, receiving a lot of support not only from parents, carers, and staff but also our local businesses who regularly donate raffle prizes, sponsorship, and their time.

If you have an idea, wish to get involved or donate, please email horsellschoolspta@gmail.com



A very popular annual fireworks evening is a great fund raiser!

Horsell Matters: Next Edition April /May 2024

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

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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.

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CONTACT

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Horsell C of E School Handbell Club

The wonderful Handbell club performing a selection of Christmas songs created a truly special festive atmosphere at St Mary's Christmas Party on 10th December.



The Handbell Club at Horsell CoE Junior School meets to practise during Friday lunch times. The children give up their 'play time' to attend. The club is run by a group of dedicated volunteers from the church – Mike Couper, Anne-Marie Claxton and Isabella Craig, supported by Roz Haynes, who works at school and attends St Mary's. We are extremely grateful to all of them.

Some of the children already play instruments, so they are familiar with reading music; others are taught about the note values and other musical terms that they can transfer to other instruments in the future. Each child plays 2 bells at a time – one in each hand. The music is marked up with

yellow notes for the left hand and red notes for the right hand. The handles of the bells are white or black – just like the notes on the piano and we have 3 full octaves (with all the black notes), so we can play quite a selection of music – mostly written for handbell groups.

We particularly enjoy playing 'The Can Can', 'Carol of the Bells' and 'Mamma Mia' – quite a variety!

The club is free to attend. The parents of Junior school children receive sign up details every term.

We'd like to invite more adults to help with the club. You do not need to be able to read music, as you can learn with the children. Please get in touch via the church office.



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