

Horsell Matters



**The Village Magazine from your Parish Church
February/March 2020**

Horsell Directory

St Mary's Church	Website: www.stmarys-horsell.org.uk	
	Baptisms, Weddings or Funerals	772134
Parish Office open:	Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9am-1.00pm	
	stmaryshorsell@btinternet.com	
Vicar	<i>currently post vacant</i>	
Assistant Minister	Revd Peter Brown	765308
Church Wardens	Pamela Rowe	761625
	Michael Couper	770920
Children's Worker	Marcus Brookfield	children@stmarys-horsell.org.uk
Treasurer	David Leach	823439
Cathedral Link	Gill Saville	773799
Pastoral Assistants	Margaret Johnson	762481
	Hilary Mills	772952
	Coral Colclough	747481
JAM (Jesus and Me)	Marcus Brookfield (3+) 10am most Sundays	772134
Babies and Toddlers	Angela Murphy	832943
	St Andrew's Room, Tues 9.30am to 11.30am, term time	
Twinkle Tots	Marcus Brookfield, St. Andrew's Room	772134
	Thursdays 9.30am to 11.30am, term time	
Bellringers	Avril Blagbrough Tuesdays 8-9.00pm	767421
Trinity Methodist Church	office@trinitywoking.org.uk	730754
Horsell Evangelical Church	Revd Andrew Bents	822259
To Book: Village Hall	Avril Clarke	747870
Parish Institute	www.horsell-parish-institute.org.uk	772134
Horsell Village School	Infants Head Teacher - Mrs Reeve	714804
Horsell C of E School	Junior Head Teacher—Mrs C Wand	761531
Woking High School	Head Teacher - Mrs M Walter	888447
Horsell Care	Helpline	730740
Residents Association	Robin Hoyle	robin_hoyle@hotmail.com
Scouts, Beavers, Cubs	Ali Stubbs 07734 424568	alistubbs59@googlemail.com
Explorer Scouts (14-18 Yrs)	Brian Pinto	480904
Guides & Brownies	www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/	
WI Horsell Afternoon	Alison Evans-Wyatt 765570	amevans705@gmail.com
	Meets on 1 st Thursday at 1.45pm in the Village Hall	
WI Horsell Evening	Mrs Sheila Tickner	760783
	Meets on 4 th Tuesday at 8.00pm in the Village Hall	
Woking Police Station	dial 101 from mobile or landline	

Plans, Plans, Plans



Iwonder if you like making plans? Personally I love planning holidays, doing the research, working out just where I want to go and what I want to see and then seeing how it all fits together best. I find the planning almost as exciting as going on the holiday itself.

Sometimes though life can be a bit confusing, can't it? We aren't quite sure how we ended up in a particular place or job or situation. We aren't sure what the future holds for us. In today's world few of us have jobs for life, we can suddenly be made redundant. Relationships can fall apart. A health scare can be traumatic. A loved one we have spent our life with can die. Life can get confusing and the future very uncertain.

And for many of us that can be really unsettling. And in any event we certainly live in an uncertain world, even if by the time this magazine is published the first stage of Brexit will finally have happened! Anxiety about the future is a commonplace feeling for many of us and there are few of us who fail to worry or who don't have a sleepless night at times.

Well if that is you and you are unsure what the coming months hold for you or your family, can I encourage you to take St. Mary's Verse for the Year 2020 to heart. It's a verse from the prophet Jeremiah, spoken to people who were in enforced exile, people who had lost their homes and in many cases their loved ones too; people who didn't know what the future held for them and who found it very hard to look beyond the shock and misery of their current situation. And into this situation the Lord said 'I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future'.

I find that immensely reassuring. My heavenly Father knows the way ahead and he will ensure I have a safe landing, a future with a purpose and a place just for me. And he has the same for you too!

As I leave my role here as Vicar of St. Mary's I wish you every blessing that Jesus brings. He is amazing!

Sarah Hayes

Waterways Chaplaincy



Sarah, our Vicar, has left us for pastures new. This month she is taking up a part time role as Lead Waterways Chaplain for the South of England, a post which will also enable her to better support her elderly father, who has reached the ripe old age of 93. We asked Sarah to explain how she got into boating and what this chaplaincy does.

I have been a boater for many years, owning a 58 foot narrowboat since 2005. Boating was the perfect antidote to my pre-ordination life as a corporate lawyer in the City. The sedate pace, averaging about 2 miles an hour, and the immense peace and quiet of our inland waterways was hugely relaxing. That is until you hit an enormous lock flight like the 30 Tardebigge locks in Worcestershire or the Caen flight of 29 double locks at Devizes. Then you need some serious energy and a good amount of planning if you are operating the boat single handed to get up or down the flight without mishap.

There are over 2000 miles of inland waterways and over 4 million people use these every fortnight. Many are fishermen, walkers, cyclists in addition to those out for a week's holiday boating or the continuous cruisers who live aboard and roam our waterways. Leisure time cruisers enjoying the beauty of God's creation. But the continuing impact of house price inflation, universal credit and high levels of family breakdown have resulted in the use of many more boats as homes, often family homes with young children in my experience. It's very easy for these residential boaters to form an invisible social grouping, under the radar of local social services, employment agencies and health authorities. It's all too easy for them to become vulnerable boaters, drifting into debt; struggling with their mental and physical health and the challenges of living aboard, particularly in winter.

Waterways Chaplains offers support to those who use and live on the UK waterways and canals. The Chaplains are volunteers from local churches who regularly visit the waterways offering companionship and a listening ear to individuals and businesses. They form a very significant role as Christian witnesses on the canals and rivers of the UK and in sharing the love of Jesus with all who especially need his care.



There are about 100 volunteer chaplains currently but the need is so great that there are plans in place to double this number by the end of 2020. Much of my new role will involve recruiting new chaplains, training and encouraging them as they reach out with the love of Jesus to all who use our waterways. It's an immense privilege to be able to share Jesus' love in this way and I am looking forward to it immensely.

Saying goodbye, but not forgotten

At the 10am Parish Communion on Sunday 19th January, Sarah was given a warm, affectionate send off after six years here at St Mary's. She was very embarrassed by the way in which she was assured of our love, best wishes and success in her new job.

Sarah has been so keen to spread her strong faith with every single member of the congregation, and towards all ages. We have all learned how to become a much more welcoming church, deeper in prayer and forging strong links with the local community in our pretty village of Horsell. We have grown to become a vital part of the village, spreading God's good news to all we can.

We have been introduced to new ways of worshipping, wonderful, thoughtful and challenging sermons, and efforts to explore new ventures like Twinkle Tots and Messy Church.

As one of the churchwardens, I have finally learned to keep up with Sarah. I have enjoyed working with her, and speak on behalf of the congregation.

We will all miss her, seen striding out around the village, organising us with her favourite phrase – 'Come on 'chaps', it's time to.....'. Good luck to you Sarah.

Mike Couper

Racing Motorcars

60 second interview with Matthew Lewis of Frazers Surveyors, Horsell

Mike Couper met with local surveyor Matthew Lewis recently and established that he has a rather interesting and somewhat reckless hobby building and racing motorcars.

Tell us about your family

I have been married for over 40 years to Allison (who until recently worked locally in the Finance Department at Woking High School) and we have three children – all of whom went to all three schools in Horsell: Naomi, lives in South Road with her husband and two children and is a qualified Registered Valuer and Director of Frazers, Tobie who is Head of Brand Marketing and PR for Office Shoes, and Charlotte who works at Winch Designs in Procurement, which involves dealing with 100 metre long luxury yachts (a fascinating job).

What about your own life?

I was born in Derbyshire and grew up in the beautiful countryside. After school, I went to the College of Estate Management at Reading University, but realised during my first year that Rural Estate Management was not exactly what I wanted to pursue. I changed courses and became involved in the building side of management with farms. I enjoyed taking things to pieces and used this curiosity when looking at the structure of buildings. I was fascinated by the different ways design can influence everyday buildings. In 1987 I opened up my own Surveying business working alongside Frazers Estate Agents, as the surveyor running that side of the business. I have remained in Horsell ever since.



When did your interesting hobby start?

My interest in machines (well before buildings) started when I was just two years old, when I was the proud owner of a two-wheeled push bike. At the age of 4 I had my first accident at 'high' speed down a local farm track, finding myself unable to stop



before hitting the farmer's van. The farmer was talking to the cowman, and both men were somewhat surprised when they heard a crash! I was convinced that by oiling the chain on my bike it would make it move faster! It was 1974 before I bought and rode my first motorbike but with the onset of marriage the bikes were sadly sold, only returning again in 2004 when I started using a bike for work. I still use my bike most days, clocking up over 10,000 miles a year. I even ride to work from Waldens Park Road to the Office each day.

What about your love of racing?

In 1989 I began my love affair with racing motor cars. My current vehicle is a red Marcos Mantula which I bought as a wreck on e-bay. It has an exciting and eventful life, being taken to a number of racing circuits during any one season – starting in March this year at Snetterton, then visits to Silverstone, Brands Hatch, Spa in Belgium and Dijon last year.

My real enthusiasm though lies with the design upgrading and building of these machines. I have, so far, built eight different cars, six of which have been racers. I definitely get a 'thrill' not so much as in the racing and winning (although I quite enjoy coming first!), but in 'prepping' and testing the parts as I design and make and build each invention. I don't find relaxing easy and so this keeps me busy.

Have any of your family shared this 'love' of cars and motorbikes? Definitely not! Allison has never chosen to ride pillion, even on the smallest motor bike that I owned. She did once try to 'drive' a scooter, which had a twist and go system to make it move. So doing, she shot down the garden, through a rose hoop and through the rear boundary fence panel. First and last time she got on a motor bike.

World Day of Prayer



Why isn't it in the Guinness Book of Records? World Day of Prayer is the largest ecumenical movement in the world, celebrated in over 170 countries. The Day begins in Samoa, and prayer continues all round the world before finishing in American Samoa more than 36 hours later.

The service for 2020 has been written by the women of Zimbabwe and they encourage us all to reflect on the difficulties and challenges which have plagued their country over many years. They ask us to 'Rise, take our mats and walk' with them as they continue their often turbulent journey towards full reconciliation.

Locally, services will be held at St John's Church, St John's at 10.00 am, and at St Peter's Church, Old Woking at 7.30 pm on Friday 6 March. Twelve local churches of six different denominations are involved in these services, and we would love you to come along and join in.



Dreaming of a GREEN Christmas

One of the winning trees in St. Mary's Christmas Tree Festival, beautifully decorated by the children and staff of the Horsell Village School. Many thanks to all who contributed to such a fun and creative Festival.

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Welcome to your local Care Home Horsell Lodge, Kettlewell Hill in Woking.



Dacre Lassauniere
Home Manager

Horsell Lodge is looking wonderful following our recent opening. As soon as you step inside you find a clean, bright, fresh space with flowers everywhere. Residents can decorate their own room, there are living rooms, a cinema, a quiet room with books on the shelves, games and puzzles. There is a landscaped garden and a gardening club. The Red Lion and Heather Farm are popular places for outings.

Families are always welcome and can be partners in the care.

Part of Caring Homes where person-centred care is our life's work and remains our family business, we support residents and their families 24 hours a day, 7 days a week — from honest advice on the right type of care to being there every moment that matters. Family and friends are welcome at all times.

We know that the best care comes from a genuine interest in people, so we get to know all our residents and their families personally. Understanding their stories, their needs and their interests which shapes the personalised care we give them. We pay attention to the details that make everyday life as comfortable, stimulating and enjoyable as possible. By listening to what matters, we help our residents continue to be themselves and to be actively involved in a lively community.

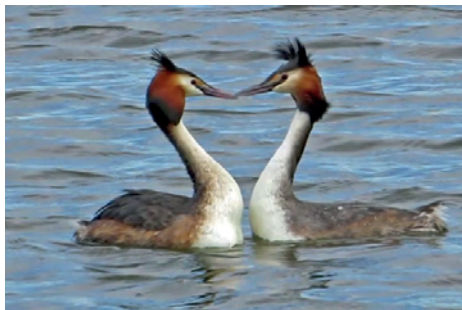
We offer residential, nursing and dementia care and are proud to be the only care home group to have our own accredited City and Guilds Dementia training. This covers the importance of providing meaningful activities, a stimulating environment, good food and nutrition as well as the clinical side of care.

We would be delighted to show you around and to introduce you to our team and residents. And if you're unsure on what type of care you need, we are happy to help with the details.

Call freephone 0808 223 5401
Visit www.caringhomes.org/horsell-lodge

Elegant Bird, Elegant Courtship

It's still winter, but some birds are already looking very smart in their breeding plumage. Among them are some water birds particularly distinguished by their chestnut coloured headruffs and black crests. They are great crested grebes, good at swimming, excellent at diving, smaller than a mallard duck, with an air of sophistication.



Goldsworth Park Lake is probably the nearest place to see great crested grebes and late winter is a good time to see them, for that is when they begin to engage in attracting each other.

These grebes court on the water, with a number of distinctive manoeuvres. A lot of mutual head shaking goes on, there's diving, and occasionally you may catch a pair simultaneously rising so that they look as if they are standing on their tails, to offer one another beakfuls of water weed.

Great crested grebe babies are delightful too. They are striped. Sometimes they ride on their parents' backs. Great crested grebes are careful and devoted parents. And even without their ruffs and tufts, later in the year, they are elegant birds.

ORGAN CONCERT

7.30pm, 7th March

“An Evening in Paris” with Tim Muggeridge

Our series of organ concerts continues in March with a programme provided by Tim Muggeridge. Time hasn't given a recital here before, but he has played the organ a number of times as a student at St George's College in Weybridge. His talent can be gauged by his having been awarded the Parry Wood Organ Scholarship at Exeter College, Oxford just two years after taking up the instrument. He is planning an evening of music based on Paris. It promises to be a very interesting and enjoyable occasion.

Later in the year, two more up-and-coming young organists are to give concerts at St Mary's: William Campbell, Organ Scholar at Guildford Cathedral, is to give us “A Blast from the Past” at 7.30pm on 13th June and Phoebe Tak Man Chow is planning a Halloween-themed concert on 31st October.

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for young people and families at St. Mary's.
Your parish church in Horsell
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Sunday Morning All-Age Worship

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On the first Sunday of the month

2nd February, 1st March, 5th April



Jesus and Me

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

(Every Sunday except when we have All-Age Worship or a Celebratory Service)



9th February

8th March

4 - 5.30pm

Fun activities for all ages



Celebrate Mothers!

Mothering Sunday

22nd March

10 am Family Communion Service

An opportunity to say a big 'Thank you' for our mothers!

St Mary's Young People's Group

Saturday

29th February

28th March

5 - 6.30pm

**Share friendship &
fun together**

See Event flyers for further details



**For those
aged 9+**

Barn Dance

**With Live Caller and Band
Friday**

28th February

Bring your own food
and drink



In the Village Hall

**Tickets: £12.50 per Adult
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(01483 770920) Couper**

Pop In Coffee

**Why not drop in for a cuppa,
piece of cake & chat?**



(Toys available)

**Fridays - School drop off
time onwards until Noon**

Tuesday Morning

Baby and Toddler Group

**Weekly during
term time**

9.30 to 11.30am



**Closed: 18th February
(Half Term)**

Pop in for a coffee, chat,
play, and meet new friends

**Thursday
twinkle
tots**

Baby and Toddler Group

**Weekly in term time
9.30am to 11.00am**

**Closed : 20th February
(Half Term)**

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

**For more details, contact the Church Office on
01483 772134**

St Mary's Church Diary Feb/Mar 2020

FEBRUARY

Sun 2nd	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.00am	All Age Worship
	6.30pm	Informal Holy Communion
Tues 4th	9.30am-11.30am	Baby & Toddler Group
	2.30pm	Kettlewell House Service
	4.30pm	Vacancy Prayers in St. Andrew's Room
Wed 5th	10.30am	Mid-Week Communion (BCP)
	8.00pm	Engine Room House of Prayer
Thurs 6th	9.30am	Twinkle Tots
Fri 7th	9am-12noon	Pop in Coffee
Sun 9th	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Parish Communion
	4.00pm	Messy Church
Tue 11th	9.30am-11.30am	Baby & Toddler Group
	4.30pm	Vacancy Prayers in St. Andrew's Room
Wed 12th	10.30am	Mid-Week Communion
Thurs 13th	9.30am	Twinkle Tots
Fri 14th	9am-12noon	Pop in Coffee
Sun 16th	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.00am	Parish Communion
	6.30pm	Contemplative Meditation
Tue 18th	9.30am-11.30am	NO Baby & Toddler Group
	4.30pm	Vacancy Prayers in St. Andrew's Room
	8.00pm	Bell Ringers AGM in St. Andrew's Room
Wed 19th	10.30am	Mid-Week Communion (BCP)
Thurs 20th	9.30am	NO Twinkle Tots
Fri 21st	10am-12noon	Pop in Coffee
Sat 22nd	9.30am-5.30pm	Music Workshop in Church
Sun 23rd	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Parish Communion
	6.30pm	Praise & Peaceful Prayer
Tues 25th	9.30am-11.30am	Baby & Toddler Group
	4.30pm	Vacancy Prayers in St. Andrew's Room
Wed 26th	10.30am	Ash Wednesday Spoken Communion
	8.00pm	Ash Wednesday Communion with hymns
Thurs 27th	9.30am	Twinkle Tots
Fri 28th	9am-12noon	Pop in Coffee
	10.30am	Throwleigh Lodge Service
Sat 29th	5.00pm-6.30pm	Young People's Group

MARCH

Sun 1st	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.00am	All Age Worship
	6.30pm	Informal Holy Communion
Tue 3rd	9.30am-11.30am	Baby & Toddler Group
	2.30pm	Kettlewell House Service
	4.30pm	Vacancy Prayers in St. Andrew's Room
Wed 4th	10.30am	Mid-Week Communion (BCP)
	8.00pm	Engine Room House of Prayer
Thurs 5th	9.30am	Twinkle Tots
Fri 6th	9am-12noon	Pop in Coffee
Sat 7th	7.00pm	Organ Concert
Sun 8th	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Parish Communion
	4.00pm	Messy Church
Tue 10th	9.30am-11.30am	Baby & Toddler Group
	4.30pm	Vacancy Prayers in St. Andrew's Room
Wed 11th	10.30am	Mid-Week Communion
Thurs 12th	9.30am-11am	Twinkle Tots
Fri 13th	9am-12noon	Pop in Coffee
Sun 15th	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.00am	Parish Communion
	6.30pm	Contemplative Meditation
Mon 16th	8.00pm	PCC Meeting
Tue 17th	9.30am-11.30am	Baby & Toddler Group
	4.30pm	Vacancy Prayers in St. Andrew's Room
Wed 18th	10.30am	Mid-Week Communion (BCP)
Thurs 19th	9.30am	Twinkle Tots
Fri 20th	9am-12noon	Pop in Coffee
Sun 22nd	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Mothering Sunday Family Communion
Tue 24th	9.30am-11.30am	Baby & Toddler Group
	4.30pm	Vacancy Prayers in St. Andrew's Room
Wed 25th	10.30am	Mid-Week Communion
Thurs 26th	9.30am-11am	Twinkle Tots
Fri 27th	9am-12noon	Pop in Coffee
	10.30am	Throwleigh Lodge Service
Sat 28th	5.00pm-6.30pm	Young People's Group
Sun 29th	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.00am	Parish Communion
Tue 31st	9.30am-11.30am	Baby & Toddler Group
	4.30pm	Vacancy Prayers in St. Andrew's Room

APRIL

Wed 1st	10.30am 8.00pm	Mid-Week Communion (BCP) Engine Room House of Prayer
Thurs 2nd	9.30am 9.30am	Twinkle Tots Village School Easter Service
Fri 3rd	9am12noon 9.15am	Pop in Coffee Junior School Easter Service
Sun 5th	8.00am 10.00am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Palm Sunday All Age Worship Informal Holy Communion

ST MARY'S CHURCH REGISTERS

BURIALS AND CREMATIONS

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

Rosemary Baker, Barbara Kale, Valerie Sage, Gordon Watson

BAPTISMS AND THANKSGIVINGS

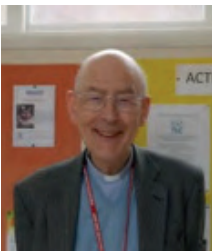
We welcome into the family of the church:

Emily Layton

When will we get our new Vicar?

The plan is to advertise the vacancy in early March with a closing date for applications of early April. The shortlisting for applicants will take place on 20th April and interviews will be held on 29th and 30th April. Do please pray for God's guidance for all involved in this appointment process and for the person He is calling to be our next Vicar.

Over the next few months St. Mary's is very thankful that we have a good team of people leading services and preaching. This includes our home team of Rev'd Peter Brown, Roy Wernham, Michael Templeman and Elaine Brown. We are also very grateful for the help being given by:



Rev'd Richard Hay,
Honorary Assistant
Minister at St. Paul's
Church, Woking



Rev'd Sam Waako,
Curate at St. Peter's
Church, Old Woking

Open Day at Horsell Bowling Club

Horsell Bowling Club is a thriving, friendly club which will be celebrating its Centenary in 2020.

This year we are holding our **Open Day on Saturday 11th April** between 9.45 am and 11.30 am., which is the ideal time for novice and experienced bowlers to try out their bowling skills. Come along to meet our qualified coaches, play bowls, have a chat and coffee and see how you get on. The club is always happy to welcome and help new members.

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

All equipment will be provided, just wear flat shoes. Further details from Tricia on 01483 760170 or tricia.horsell.bowls@gmail.com



Trinity Methodist Church's next Neighbourhood Party

for housebound folk will be on **Sunday 29 March 2020** from 4 to 6 pm. You can get more information or an invitation from Trinity for yourself or anyone you know by emailing office@trinitywoking.org.uk, or telephoning 01483 730754

Horsell Matters – next edition April/May 2020

Copy to be sent by Monday 2nd March by email please to susan.rowlatt@hotmail.com or stmaryshorsell@btinternet.com

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Churchyard Cat

Farewell, Bella, you beautiful cat, with your coffee coloured fur and your perfect whiskers, your neat little paws and your expressive tail. You're off, I know, to fresh mousing in the Cotswolds, new friends, new admirers, new triumphs.

You've certainly worked hard while you've been in Horsell, keeping an eye (according to you) on all the

Vicar did. You supported churchyard events – you appeared as an uninvited guest at funerals, for instance. You were tireless in your attendance at church, though you were usually ejected before a service began. But the story goes that when a group from the Junior School were in church one spring, the person who was



telling them about the first Easter Day turned to the empty tomb, to find it not empty after all, but filled with you, cosily installed.

As for me, I was never good enough for you. For six years you spurned me, neither clever nor handsome enough to be a worthy acquaintance. But I shall never forget you.

Farewell, Bella, you gorgeous creature.

Ever yours,

Samuel

Horsell Remembers

– a prize-winning resource

Was one of your ancestors a Horsell person who died as a result of the First World War?

If you're not sure, or if you'd like to find out more about him (or her) a new resource is now available to you.

Horsell Remembers, 1914-1919 is in the county archives at the Surrey History Centre in Goldsworth Road and also in Horsell Parish Church. It contains information about all of Horsell's First World War dead, before they joined up, as well as their military service. There are references to where they are buried and commemorated and in many cases a personal photograph.

St Mary's copy is in two albums, which are usually displayed near the main entrance to the church.

It began in 2011 as a project honouring those from Horsell who died in the First World War, intended to mark its centenary. Several people helped with the initial research, finding references in Censuses and other documents that related to the men listed on the village War Memorial, but the bulk of the work - much of the research, all the compilation and organising for publication - was done by Richard and Rosemary Christophers. They completed it in 2019, in time to mark the centenary of the very end of the First World War. The project also grew. Twenty names (including that of one woman) have been added to the original 58 on the village war memorial, so there are 78 in total.

The value of the Christophers's work has already been recognised. In December they won the Atherstone Cup, which is awarded by Woking History Society for contributions to the study of local history.





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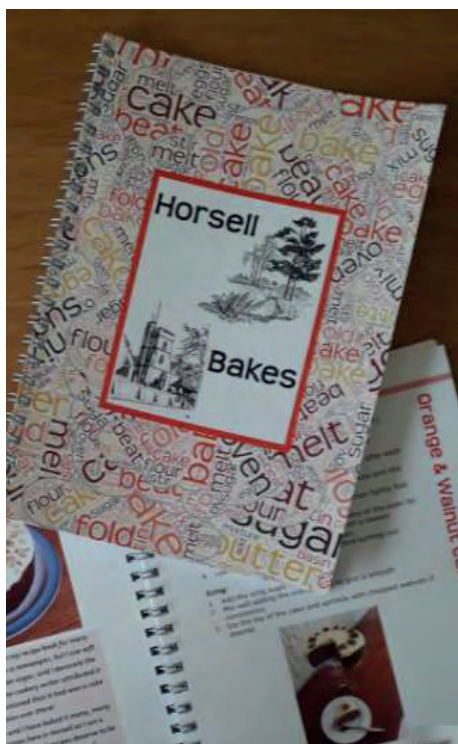
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Parish in the Past

When the Rev. Norman Pares's bicycle was damaged beyond repair (see the previous issue of *Horsell Matters*), his parishioners and others got together and bought a car for the 72-year-old vicar. He responded in the parish magazine in May 1930.

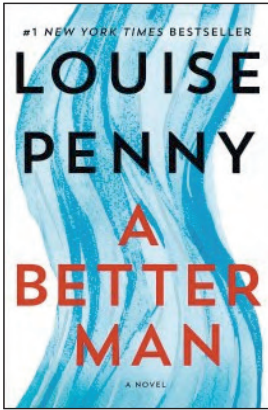
'The words "happy in my lot" have been in my mind today. It is the kindness of you Horsell people and of many others which has made me "happy in my lot", and my happiness is increased because my dear wife shares it with me. We value [the new car] very much for its own sake; also because we hope to find it very useful for the work of the parish; and, more than I can say, for the kind feeling of which it is the outward sign.

'Mrs Pares and I hope to go away in the new car to Bath for a short holiday, taking with us, or, perhaps, to speak more correctly, being conveyed in what will remind us of your kindness.'



Woking was a little less congested in 1930 as this picture of the Chertsey Road shows! Nowadays of course we are all being encouraged to give up our car and get back on our bicycles!

A Better Man by Louise Penny



Many authors writing an extended series of books in which the principal characters appear throughout would have begun to run out of ideas by their fifteenth volume. Not so Louise Penny with *A Better Man*, the fifteenth outing for her Canadian detective Armand Gamache.

The story opens with the newly demoted Gamache (the reasons for his demotion are given in earlier books but are not really material to the story here)

going to work alongside his associate of many years and his son-in-law Jean-Guy as head of homicide. One of the members of the team asks for help in looking into the

disappearance of a friend who had been reported missing by her father. Having no other cases allocated to him at that point Gamache agrees to help personally. The investigation moves rapidly from a missing persons inquiry to investigation of a possible, then actual, murder. Along the way Gamache and his colleagues learn again that the obvious answer is not necessarily the right one and that it takes real effort not to let personal feelings and dislike of some they suspect cloud their judgement.

As usual Gamache faces hostility from politicians and from some parts of the Surete. To an English reader the level of corruption, factionalism, and political interference depicted within the police force is surprising and, if accurate, far from flattering.

Most of the action takes place in Gamache's beloved Three Pines, a village in the wilds of Quebec close to the American border, and progresses against a background of the most dangerous thaw in years in which dams and bridges are threatened and the province faces the imminent prospect of catastrophic flooding. Gamache and the residents of Three Pines battle to save their village from being inundated by the usually benign river flowing through the village.

The author herself describes her books as being "...about community. About love and belonging. About the great gift of friendship." This book is much more than a routine detective story. The depth given to the characters makes this book both a gripping and a satisfying read.

Roger King



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Fish Chowder

It first came across this recipe in Boston USA more than 25 years ago. It is served in every eating place throughout the city.

Ingredients

1 bay leaf

1 tablespoon of olive oil

1 tablespoon of unsalted butter

1 leek, finely chopped

1 garlic clove minced

250 ml, 9 fl oz skimmed milk

500 ml, 17 fl oz hot fish or vegetable stock

200g, 7 oz potatoes chopped into cubes

100g, 4 oz smoked white fish, skin removed

100g, 4 oz white fish, skin removed

75 g, 3 oz smoked salmon off cuts

1 x 198g tin of sweet corn, drained

2 tablespoons creme fraiche

100g, clams or mussels optional (if fresh clams are not readily available, use canned)

2 tablespoons of chopped chives

2 tablespoons of chopped dill

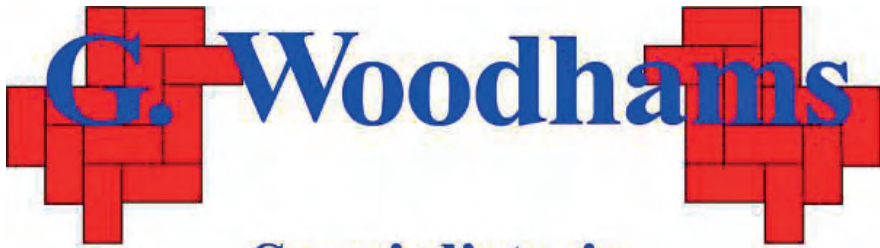
Brown or white soda bread to serve

Method

Heat the oil & butter in a large pan with a lid over a medium heat, then add the leek & bay leaf, fry slowly until the leek is soft & translucent, about 10 mins. Add the garlic, fry for 2-3 mins then add the milk and fish stock. Add the chopped potatoes then simmer for 10-15 mins until tender. Stir in the fish, which should be in bite size pieces, plus the sweet corn. Simmer for 3 mins, add the creme fraiche & the clams or mussels if using, for a further 3 mins or until the mussels open. Carefully stir in half the herbs with a good amount of black pepper, check to see if salt is needed. Serve in bowls garnished with the remaining herbs.

Traditionally it is served in bowls of scooped out bread in Boston.





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