

Horsell Matters



The Village Magazine from your Parish Church
June – July 2025

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	474975
	Mark McMurtrie	07815 635609
Treasurer	David Leach	07708 866196
Pastoral Assistants	Janet Johnson	591756
	Margaret Johnson	762481
	Hilary Mitchell	715459
	Coral Colclough	747481
JAM (Jesus and Me)	Rebecca Connolly (3+) 10am most Sundays	772134
Tiny Treasures	Rebecca Connolly, St Andrew's Room	772134
	Tues 9.30am to 11.30am, term time	
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	

Pentecost Homily

On 8th June, we celebrate the festival of Pentecost. This falls about 50 days after the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter. At Pentecost, we remember when the Holy Spirit came to the first followers of Jesus. That experience inspired them to take the good news of Jesus to all the then-known world as he had told them to do. He said, 'Go and make disciples of all nations. And remember, I am with you always to the end of this age' (*Matthew chapter 28 verse 19*).



Our study during the Spring of the book of Romans, Paul's letter to the first Christians in Rome, will continue later in the year. The names mentioned in Paul's letter show that women like Phoebe, a Deaconess, had played an important part in the development of the early church, as they have done in developing the church ever since.

Are you travelling to Greece, Spain or other Mediterranean areas for holidays? If so, you will find yourselves following in the footsteps of the first disciples of Jesus, and others such as Paul, as they travelled around

spreading his teachings. As a result, the early church grew rapidly.

Closer to home, we look forward to forthcoming events like the Garden Safari in June and our Village Fair in July.

This is a busy time of year for many of us and stressful for those

preparing for exams and moving on to a new school, college, university or place of work. We support them in prayer as we pray for the people of Horsell.

We can worship God in many ways, so we are experimenting with some changes. We hope these will better meet your needs. We are holding a more informal style of worship at 10 am on the first and third Sundays of each month with help from our music band. On the second and fourth Sundays, we will continue to hold Communion services. In addition, Communion will still be available on the first and third Sundays at 8 am.

Please join us and tell us what helps you get closer to God.

Roy Wernham, Licensed Lay Minister

SERVICES CARRIED OUT BY THE VICAR OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

FUNERALS, BURIALS AND CREMATIONS

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

Mick Collyer Robert Ready

BAPTISM AND THANKSGIVING

We welcome into the family of the church:

Lando & Kobe Wilson Johnny & Rae Smyth

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

Sun 1st	8.00am 10.00am	Holy Communion (CW) First Sunday Service
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 in the Trinity Chapel
Sun 8th	10.00am 6.30pm	Parish Communion Contemplative Meditation
Tues 10th	9.30am-11.00am	Tiny Treasures Baby & Toddler Group
Fri 13th	8.45am-12noon	Pop In Coffee
Sun 15th	8.00am 10.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) Informal Service
Tues 17th	9.30am-11.00am	Tiny Treasures Baby & Toddler Group
Fri 20th	8.45am-12noon	Pop In Coffee
Sun 22nd	10.00am 4.00pm 6.30pm	Parish Communion Messy Church Peaceful Prayer & Praise
Tues 24th	9.30am-11.00am	Tiny Treasures Baby & Toddler Group
Fri 27th	8.45am-12noon	Pop In Coffee
Sun 29th	10.00am	Fifth Sunday Service

THE CHURCH BUILDING WILL BE OPEN:
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9.30am to 3pm.



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

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

Tues 1st	9.30am-11.00am 2.00pm	Tiny Treasures Baby & Toddler Group Service at Kettlewell House
Wed 2nd	8.00pm	Engine Room House of Prayer
Fri 4th	8.45am-12noon 10.00am	Pop In Coffee Engine Room House of Prayer in the Trinity Chapel
Sun 6th	8.00am 10.00am	Holy Communion Service (CW) First Sunday Service
Tues 8th	9.30am-11.00am	Tiny Treasures Baby & Toddler Group
Fri 11th	8.45am-12noon	Pop In Coffee
Sun 13th	10.00am 4.00pm 6.30pm	Parish Communion Messy Church Contemplative Meditation
Tues 15th	9.30am-11.00am	Tiny Treasures Baby & Toddler Group
Fri 18th	8.45am-12noon	Pop In Coffee
Sun 20th	8.00am 10.00am	Holy Communion (CW) Informal Service
Tues 22nd	9.30am-11.00am	Tiny Treasures Baby & Toddler Group
Fri 25th	10.00am-12noon	Pop In Coffee
Sun 27th	10.00am 6.30pm	Parish Communion Peaceful Prayer & Praise
Tues 29th	9.30am-11.00am	NO Tiny Treasures Baby & Toddler Group

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

Fri 1st	10.00am-12noon	Pop In Coffee
Sun 3rd	8.00am 10.00am	Holy Communion (CW) First Sunday Service

Church is Not Just for Christmas

'A dog is for life, not just for Christmas' is a sticker often placed in car windows. Christmas can be a popular time to get a dog, but when the initial excitement wears off, the ongoing responsibility remains. Owning any pet is a daily commitment.

I do not own a dog, but when I see others walking their four-legged friends, I delight in the beauty and variety of God's creation!

I've been reflecting on this. During Christmas, we had well over a thousand people through the

doors of St Mary's for the Christmas Tree Festival, the Nativity and other Christmas Services. But now we are back to the same predictable Sunday attendance.

The church is open all year round. We are here to welcome you and share the Good News of Jesus with residents of Horsell and beyond.

We have services for all age groups, and with some recent changes, we are modernising how we run our services.

On the first and third Sundays of every month at 10am, we have an informal and lively service with the music band. On the second and fourth Sundays, we continue to hold Communion services. Children enjoy their own



Rev. Dmitry Lutsenko

dedicated group run by our Children and Family's worker on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays. And we have exciting plans for the 5th Sunday, so please watch this space. And this is just the tip of the iceberg.

Look through the pages of Horsell Matters, see our Facebook page, visit our website, follow us on Instagram or contact the office to find out what else we have to offer. We have groups and activities throughout the week, plus monthly Messy Church, lunch for those on their own, reflective meditation service to name just a few. We have lots going on every week – there is no need to wait until Christmas to step through the doors of St Mary's. You will be very welcome.

The church, faith, and a personal relationship with God and other believers are for life, not just for Christmas!

Rev. Dmitry Lutsenko



Horsell Sings! partners **St John's Community Choir** here at St Mary's Church on **Friday, 11th July**. Doors open at 7 pm for a **7.30 pm** start. All are welcome to hear and support these two local combined a cappella choirs!

Handbell Matters

On a sunny Friday afternoon in March, ten children from Horsell C of E Junior School Handbell Group set off on foot to Horsell Lodge.

Upon arrival, we were warmly welcomed with squash and biscuits for everyone, which we enjoyed whilst setting up the room.

The elderly residents then started to arrive and take their seats. Some of the children were surprised by how many of them were able to fit in - we were already taking up quite a bit of space with all the tables that had our bells and music on!

We played a variety of tunes – many well-known ones – including "All Things Bright and Beautiful", "Morning Has Broken", "Ode to Joy" and an extract from the "Surprise Symphony". The children played superbly and were impeccably behaved throughout. The residents enjoyed it, and many were

humming and singing along. We received much applause and have been invited to return!

We then walked back to school.

Here are a few quotes from some of those who attended:

Abigail: "A good connection to music."

Annabel: "It was really fun and the people were clapping and singing along to the songs they knew."

Izzy: "A good opportunity to spend time with other people."

Mike: "I knew the audience would join in and they enjoyed it as well. The children were superb. Great fun!"

Roz Haynes



Churchyard Cat

The seasons are constantly changing in my Churchyard. Now we are entering full summer, my favourite time, when I can idly lie back on one of the stones and warm my golden fur in full sun, watching the *Krinkels' workers cutting my grass, a change from the SERCO lads.

I hear a lot of talk about change in my Church. We want to welcome new families with improved services and worship styles; the results of a great survey of attendees overwhelmingly sought change. As St Matthew reported in Chapter 18, verse 3,

unless we change, we will never enter the kingdom of heaven. So, change can be a good thing. We cats are good at accepting change, but we do need to be kept indoors for a few days after a house move, until we get used to our new neighbourhood. I am sure the regular humans that attend my Church will soon get used to its changes, hopefully without resorting to a congregation lock-in!

*Krinkels UK provides professional grounds maintenance services to organisations throughout the UK, now including Woking BC.

Chobham Hair Studio

Nestled in the heart of Chobham village, Chobham Hair Studio offers a harmonious blend of historic charm and contemporary hairdressing. Situated within the 300-year-old listed Spire House, the salon's modern interior complements the building's rich heritage, creating a unique and inviting atmosphere. Established in 2003, the studio has built a reputation for delivering exceptional hair care services to the local community.

We're excited to share some wonderful updates from Chobham Hair Studio! Izzy and Candra are now back from maternity leave and are thrilled to be reconnecting with their clients and

bringing their signature creativity and expertise back to the salon floor. We're also pleased to introduce our newest junior stylist, Tilly, who is now taking appointments and quickly building a loyal following with her fresh talent and enthusiasm. In addition, we've recently welcomed Salvo, an experienced senior stylist with a passion for precision cutting and bespoke colour work. His skills and warm personality make him a fantastic addition to our team. With these exciting changes, Chobham Hair Studio continues to grow and evolve, offering an even wider range of services delivered by a dedicated and dynamic team.

Picnic on the Green



Ice Cream Pimms Games and Competitions

Sunday 6th July, 12 to 4pm

Bring your own picnic

Opposite The Cricketers, Horsell Birch GU21 4XB

Come and enjoy this relaxed, FREE family event with some fabulous bands for Picnic on the Green.

A great mix of rock music, jazz, and old favourites from Lost in Surrey and Bluestone Bills

New to Picnic on the Green – Almac Bisley Brass Band

And "Brëss", a 5-piece brass ensemble playing anything from classical music to film tracks

Please come on foot or park on Kestrel Way – no parking on site



BOOK NOW Pirbright Players Present

Ladies' Day

A Comedy by Amanda Whittington
4 Ladies visit York Racecourse with fascinating results

Saturday 7th June
2pm & 7.30pm

Lord Pirbright's Hall, Pirbright, GU24 0JE
Tickets: pirbrightplayers.spanglefish.org

CHOBHAM HAIR STUDIO

My name is Salvatore, and I am thrilled to bring over 30 years of hairdressing experience to Chobham Hair Studio. Born and raised in Italy, I learned the art of hairdressing in the heart of a culture that values beauty and craftsmanship. Over the years, I've had the privilege of working on countless amazing clients, including styling for the prestigious Royal Ascot events—a true highlight of my career.



My passion for hairdressing is matched only by my love for my family and my life outside the salon. I'm a proud parent to a bright 7 year old daughter, and when I'm not crafting beautiful styles, you'll find me taking long walks with my family and my cocker spaniel, Ginger.

Whether you're looking for a fresh, modern look or a timeless style, I'm here to listen, advise, and create something uniquely yours. I can't wait to welcome you to the salon and share my expertise and passion with you!

Chobham Hair Studio are offering a FREE wash, cut and blowdry with any colouring services with Salvo until May 31st 2025.

40-42 THE HIGH STREET, CHOBHAM, SURREY, GU24 8AA

TEL: 01276 855 585

WEB: www.chobhamhairstudio.com

Bible Matters

The last in a series of articles by Roy Wernham, Licenced Lay Minister

The New Testament of the Bible starts with four gospel accounts of the life, work, death and resurrection of Jesus. These are followed by the book of the Acts of the Apostles (Acts), then letters and finally the book of Revelation.

Acts was written by Luke, author of the third gospel. It details the explosive growth of the early church as news of Jesus spread to the countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea between 30 AD and 60 AD. It also describes the challenges and persecution that the early Christians faced.

Saint Paul viciously opposed the early church until he was met by Jesus in a vision. He then became the church's greatest advocate. Paul wrote letters to the first Christians in Rome, in parts of Greece and Turkey. He also wrote personal letters to some of his co-workers. Paul's letters gave advice and guidance and were (and remain) helpful to Jesus's followers as they sought to apply the teachings of Jesus in their situations. Christians face many of those same issues still.



Paul's letters are followed by similar surviving letters from other early disciples of Jesus - James, Peter (possibly the disciple of Jesus mentioned in the Gospels), Jude and John.

The final book of the New Testament is Revelation. It consists of a series of visions about the second coming of Jesus and the renewal of this world as we know it now and of a new heaven and a new earth, when God will be with his people, to wipe all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying, nor pain. Revelation is not an easy read for the modern eye as it contains many Old Testament and contemporary cultural references. It is best read with the help of an explanatory commentary.

Horsell Matters: Next Edition August /September 2025

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

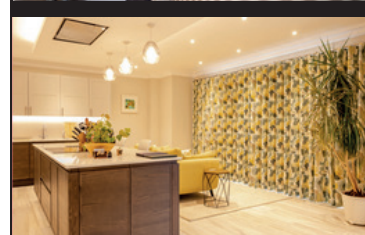
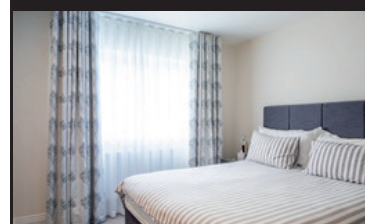
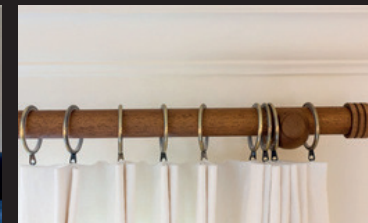
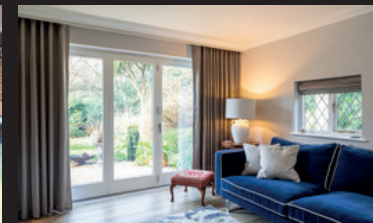
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The Horsell Matters team extend their grateful thanks to **Knaphill Print Co Ltd** for producing this not-for-profit Parish magazine.

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

Sophie Sews

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Grave Matters

In April's issue of *Horsell Matters*, Rosemary and Richard Christophers wrote about the history of the churchyard. Here is part 2.

By the mid-19th century, Horsell was growing, and the original churchyard was extended eastwards in 1857. The churchyard wall was mended with 19,650 bricks, with further rebuilding in 1887. In 1903 Canon Pares gave some land at the end of his garden and some of the field beyond, held by family trustees, for a further extension. The cross near the Pares' family graves probably dates from that time. Still more graves were required and more of the field was given in 1923. In 1939 the rest of the field was acquired, not without local opposition, bringing the churchyard to its final extent. Consecration took place in 1941, but WWII had intervened and the new area became allotments. The parish and diocese take care to preserve the churchyard's atmosphere. In 1942 chippings were not allowed on future graves, and local stone was preferred to marble. In 1945 the PCC allowed only full names on gravestones, and this was reported in

newspapers as far away as Newcastle. To ease mowing, kerbstones were removed from the graves nearest to the church, but this practice was not continued.

A balance is constantly sought between respecting the graves by tidiness and respecting nature by keeping the area friendly to plants and wildlife. The two major trees, the beech in the centre of the churchyard and the cedar by the roadside, became dangerous and were felled in 2004 and 2022. Welcome efforts have come from volunteers to keep the churchyard maintained, supplementing the work of Serco (now Kinkels), and from probationers as part of Community Pay-back. More recently, a consecrated area was made for the interment of ashes as the graveyard is full.

Sources: Surrey History Centre for parish records.

Rosemary and Richard Christophers



At St Mary's, our Friday morning Coffee Shop is as popular as ever. Come and join us in the St Andrew's Room from 8.45 am for coffee, cake and a chat. There is no charge, although donations are welcome and help fund local activities such as those for young carers.

Events in the Village

Over the weekend of **Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th June**, between 11am – 5pm there are 30 gardens to visit during the **Garden Safari**. Schedules with all the details cost £10, which includes both days. Free to anyone 16 years and under and carers.

Schedules can be bought in advance from Apples and Pears and Seymours in Horsell High Street and from open gardens on the day.



This is a great way to see gardens large and small, manicured or wild. The allotments will be open and there will be a "Community garden trail" celebrating the work done locally by Horsell volunteers. Cakes and tea will be available in several gardens. Proceeds from the schedules and sale of teas are all donated to a charity. This year, we will donate to Woking and Sam Beare Hospices, Horsell Care and Horsell Village Hall.

On Sunday 6th of July the Picnic on the Green will take place from midday until 4pm – a free, low-key, fun family event, with plenty of free games for children, four different bands (two brass) ice cream and Pimms.

All you need do is bring yourself and a picnic along to the green opposite The Cricketers. Please come on foot or park in Kestral Way as there is no on-site parking. Any questions to caroline.hughes@horsellresidents.com Second Thursday Club, HRA.

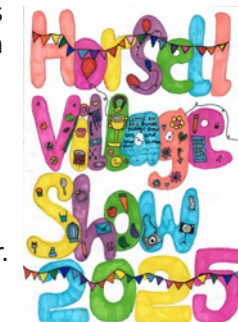
Another Summer event not to miss is the **Horsell Village Show on Saturday 26th of July**, at Horsell C of E Junior School in Meadway Drive, opening at 12 noon. Entry: £2, under 15s free.

Entertainment includes a magician, games organised by our local Guides, dancing, a choir, and bands. You can find details of the classes for the competitive element of the show, allowing you to plan your entries and other information at www.horsellvillageshow.co.uk

There will be plenty of refreshments, with afternoon teas organised by Woking Rotary Club, a BBQ, Dee's Indian snacks, a Pimm's stand, Thurston's beers and ice creams.

We hope to have a wide variety of craft stalls - always popular. Stall bookings can be made via Shona Friend by email at shonafrienduk@gmail.com

Committee, Horsell Village Show www.horsellvillageshow.co.uk



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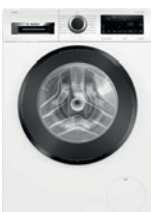
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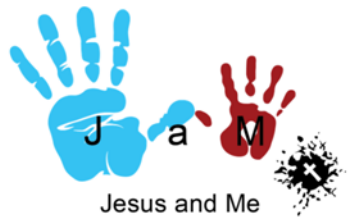


First and Third Sunday
Every month at 10am

1st and 15th June
6th and 20th July
3rd and 17th August

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 are all together in church

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

ST. MARY'S VERSE OF THE YEAR



"I AM THE VINE,
YOU ARE THE BRANCHES.
IF YOU REMAIN IN ME
AND I IN YOU,
YOU WILL BEAR MUCH FRUIT;
APART FROM ME
YOU CAN DO NOTHING"

JOHN 15: 5



Saint Mary the Virgin
Horsell



4.00pm to 5.30pm

22nd June
13th July

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
Horsell

TINY TREASURES

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

Term ends
22nd July

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

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



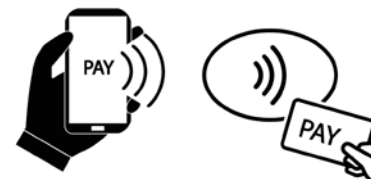
Saint Mary the Virgin
Horsell



CASHLESS GIVING



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Saint Mary the Virgin
Horsell

STAY IN TOUCH



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Tuesday 9am to 4pm
Wednesday & Friday 9am to 1pm
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Visit our website at
stmarys-horsell.org.uk



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horsellmatters@gmail.com

Our services are streamed via You Tube

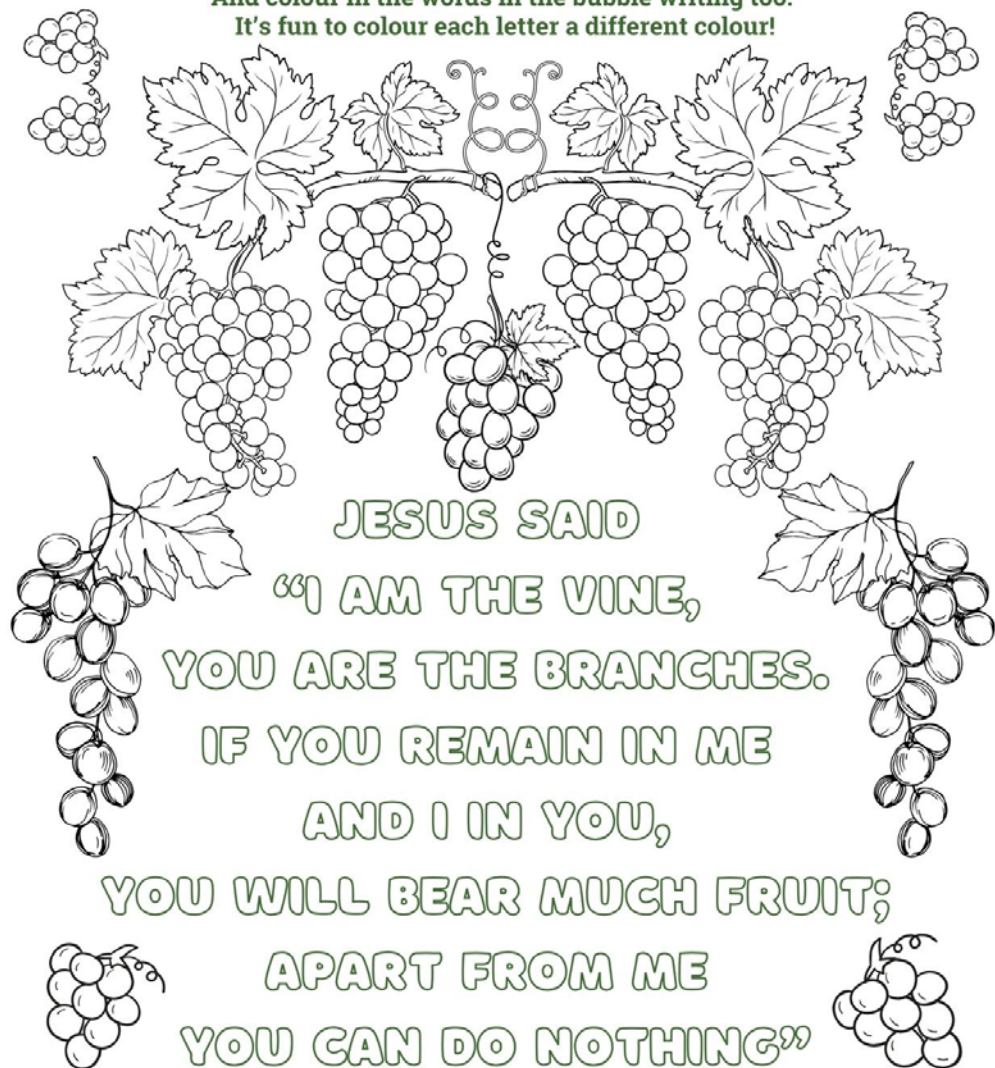
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Saint Mary the Virgin
Horsell

COLOUR IN THE VINES AND THE GRAPES AND LEARN ST MARY'S VERSE OF THE YEAR

And colour in the words in the bubble writing too.
It's fun to colour each letter a different colour!



In your Bible. In the Gospel of John, chapters 13 to 17, Jesus talks to his disciples and prepares them for their lives and ministry in His absence. Jesus' teachings about God being the vine and Christians being the branches are important for the believers today.



Did you know? The branch gains its nutrition from the parent vine. This is a beautiful description for Christian believers of our dependence upon God. Our faith connects us to God and makes us dependent on Him.

Can you find St Mary's verse of the year - John chapter 15 verse 5 - in your Bible?

A Smartphone-Free Childhood

In April, Horsell Parents heard the case for delaying smartphones and social media and establishing good tech boundaries for their children.

Horsell CofE Junior School opened its doors to local parents for a talk by Jennifer Powers, who was there on behalf of PAPAAYA (Parents Against Phone Addiction in Young Adolescents). Mrs Wand, the Head of the Junior School, kicked things off by welcoming everyone—parents, carers and other school leaders. She shared her support for the Smartphone-Free Childhood campaign, as a headteacher and parent who'd seen firsthand how phones can affect children.

Jennifer shared findings from different studies and stories from her own life and families she has connected with through her work at PAPAAYA. The talk covered compelling evidence using statistics from the past 15 years as to why the introduction of smartphones is detrimental to young people. Themes included an increase in loneliness, depression, anxiety and low self-esteem in young people who have had access to devices from an increasingly early age.

She also provided many reassuring examples of how parents have successfully made compromises around tech use with their children and highlighted the expanding market of available phones and other devices with heightened restrictions.

The message was clear: Parents have a



choice – they don't have to give their child a smartphone equipped with social media apps before they begin secondary school. While it is natural for parents to worry about their child feeling excluded, meaningful societal change can begin when as few as 25% of individuals collectively take a different course.

If you're a parent looking to join discussions taking place at your child's school, you can explore active WhatsApp groups in Woking through this link: <http://bit.ly/4k39A1z>

Find out more about PAPAAYA and the Smartphone Free Childhood campaign here: papayaparents.com smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk

Sarah Taylor



Garden Matters

How do you feel about insects as we enter the warmer summer months?



Violet ground beetle (Carabus violaceus) attacking a slug

It saddens me to see shelves of pesticides in garden centres. These kill every insect that encounters them, not just the 'pests' and do damage to other creatures that feed on anything contaminated by the pesticide. Whilst I welcome all insects into my garden and consider that they all have a purpose in the ecosystem, for me, there are five that stand out as exceedingly useful for pest control. In a healthy garden, these should be abundant in the summer months.

Adult ladybirds can eat 50 aphids per day and 5,000 over its lifetime. Their larvae, said to resemble mini alligators, eat up to 400 aphids in the 3 weeks before turning into a pupa, then a ladybird.

Parasitic Wasps (they are stingless) eat many garden pests, from aphids to brassica-munching caterpillars.

Violet Ground Beetles eat slugs and snails. They take refuge under logs, stones and leaves and lay eggs in the

ground – one of the many reasons why I use the no-dig method, thereby not disturbing these gardeners' friends.

Lacewings are beautiful creatures with bright green bodies and pretty transparent wings with green veins. They are ferocious predators of aphids and aphid larvae.

Hoverflies, like honeybees in appearance, are super-effective pollinators and control aphids.

So, forget the pesticides! Your garden will be a happier and healthier place without them. And if caterpillars have munched a few leaves, take solace in the fact that the caterpillars may have provided a few meals for baby blue tits.

Elna Broe

Another Local Allotment

Horsell residents who are keen growers of fruit and vegetables, or who own a beehive, may know of the Bullbeggars Allotment. The site is very popular and has a long waiting list. However, there is an alternative, not far away, at Littlewicks Allotment in Carhouse Lane, which borders Squires Garden Centre. The waiting list is shorter, and applicants can usually be accommodated relatively quickly.

For more information, please see our website at www.littlewicksaa.co
Ian Wilson, secretary.



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Needlework, Repair, Conservation, Royalty



Susan Kay-Williams* is giving a lecture entitled 'A history of the Royal School of Needlework - 5 Coronations, 3 Weddings and a Funeral' on **Thursday 12 June at 10.30 am** at the Welcome Church, 1-5 Church Street West, Woking, GU21 6DJ

The RSN's royal connections began from the outset when Princess Helena became its President, and in 1875 Queen Victoria became its Patron. This lecture tells the story of the royal connections. It especially focuses on the RSN's role in the past five coronations: Edward VII, George V, George VI, Elizabeth II and Charles III and the work the RSN did for each of them. Learn why the Royal School made the funeral pall for Queen Victoria and the weddings they worked on from Princess

Alice, Duchess of Gloucester in 1935 to the Princess of Wales in 2011.

Free to members of TASM; £10 for visitors. For more information, see <https://theartsocietymayford.org.uk/Lectures/FutureLectures.aspx>

*Susan Kay-Williams is Chief Executive of the Royal School of Needlework, based at Hampton Court Palace. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and the Chartered Institute of Marketing, and in 2015 was made a Fellow of the Society of Dyers and Colourists in recognition of her work on the history of dyes

Recipe: Watermelon and Feta Salad

The combination of sweet watermelon and salty feta cheese creates a surprisingly delightful and refreshing salad, perfect for warm weather.



Simple Recipe

1. Gently combine the cubed watermelon and feta cheese in a bowl.
2. Add the chopped fresh mint.
3. Drizzle with olive oil and a squeeze of lemon or lime juice, if using.
4. Season with a pinch of salt and pepper, if needed.
5. Toss gently and serve immediately or chill for a short time to allow the flavours to meld.

Experiment by adding any of the following: thinly sliced red onion, diced cucumber, halved cherry tomatoes, black olives, flaked almonds or chopped walnuts.

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Adult Confirmation

Are you an adult who wants to be baptised/confirmed? St. Mary's will host a Deanery Confirmation Service on **21st September**. Rev. Dmitry Lutsenko will be running confirmation classes to prepare the candidates from St Mary's later this summer.

Meanwhile, here is a personal testimony from our Editor about adult confirmation.

In my late teens, I went to confirmation classes at St John's Church (in St John's); the expectation was that a loyal group of youngsters would follow through and get confirmed. But at age 16, turning 17, I decided the time wasn't right for me to commit. I enjoyed partying, being a teenager, and I was already embarrassed by teasing from within my year group, calling after me "God-squad" or worse. My commitment was shallow.



Vanessa McMurtrie

Wind forward 20 years. I'd got married and had one healthy 5-year-old son. I began to understand what God did for this broken world. I thought deeply about Abraham's faithⁱ, which he demonstrated by being prepared to sacrifice his only son and its parallel with the Easter story, without which we would be managing our lives today with no Jesus-given Holy Spirit, through our triuneⁱⁱ God. It wasn't until I had my son that the significance of Jesus' brutal

death on the cross brought home to me what I believe to be true. That God sent his only son in human form to die for our collective sins, that there were witnesses to testify that Jesus rose from the dead, that he stayed with his disciples for only a few weeks before Jesus left them at Pentecostⁱⁱⁱ, but in his absence he left a presence – the Holy Spirit.

Wow! Could I sacrifice my son? No way. But I could affirm my Christian belief. And that's what I did, as an adult, on 23rd November 2002 when I was confirmed at Christchurch by the then Bishop of Guildford. At 37, not 17, the time was right, and I have no regrets. Am I 'holier than thou'? Certainly not. I still mess up, but (I hope) less so, and my commitment following confirmation 22 years ago continues to grow.

Vanessa McMurtrie

ⁱ Genesis 22 1-19

ⁱⁱ God is triune, meaning he exists in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This doctrine is essential to the Christian faith and distinguishes it from other religions.

ⁱⁱⁱ **Pentecost (Whit Sunday)** is a Christian holiday (the 50th day when inclusive counting is used) after Easter Day. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles of Jesus while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:1–31). The Catholic Church believes the Holy Spirit descended upon Mary, the mother of Jesus, at the same time, as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 1:14).

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