

Horsell Matters



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

Homily

A Church is not just for Christmas, according to the sign on Church Hill. So, what is it for? How about all those special 'life' moments, the baptism of a new baby, when friends and family gather to celebrate and give thanks for the joy of new life. Weddings to celebrate the love between a man and a woman and to witness their commitment to a new life together, and funerals to celebrate a life and mourn the passing of a loved one. St Mary's hosts many of these occasions.

How about village events, the much appreciated tolling of the bells for the 80th anniversary of VJ Day, the forthcoming annual Memorial Service for all those who are mourning the loss of a loved one and of course the annual Service of Remembrance for all those who gave their lives for our freedom, which will be held on 9 November, starting at 9.30 in church and continuing at 10:50 at the Village



War Memorial. How about those personal times, when one can just sit in the still quiet of the Nave as our ancestors have done for the best part of a thousand years; think or drift and absorb the presence of our Lord, or enjoy uplifting hymns and worship and feel the joy of a congregation. And the answer—it is for all of these and much, much more.

Brian Sheriff, Church Warden

SERVICES CARRIED AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

FUNERALS, BURIALS AND CREMATIONS

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

Nigel Davis Ann Harington Maurice Hibberd
Mary Mather Janet Rogers Stanley Tiller

BAPTISM AND THANKSGIVING

We welcome into the family of the church: Hayley Aurora Jones

WEDDINGS

We offer congratulations to: Daniel Roddy & Zoe Stabler

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

Wed 1st	8.00pm	Engine Room House of Prayer
Fri 3rd	8.45am-12noon 9.30am 10.00am	Pop In Coffee Village School Harvest Festival Engine Room House of Prayer
Sun 5th	8.00am 10.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) Harvest Festival Service
Tues 7th	9.30am-11.00am 2.00pm	Tiny Treasures Baby & Toddler Group Service at Kettlewell House
Fri 10th	8.45am-12noon	Pop In Coffee
Sun 12th	10.00am 6.30pm	Parish Communion Peaceful Prayer & Praise
Tues 14th	9.30am-11.00am	Tiny Treasures Baby & Toddler Group
Fri 17th	8.45am-12noon	Pop In Coffee
Sun 19th	8.00am 10.00am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Informal Service Contemplative Meditation
Tues 21st	9.30am-11.00am	Tiny Treasures Baby & Toddler Group
Fri 24th	8.45am-12noon	Pop In Coffee
Sun 26th	10.00am 4.00pm	Parish Communion Messy Church
Tues 28th	9.30am-11.00am	NO Tiny Treasures Baby & Toddler Group
Fri 31st	10.00am-12noon	Pop In Coffee

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

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

Sun 2nd	8.00am 10.00am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Service (BCP) First Sunday Service Annual Memorial Service
Tues 4th	9.30am-11.00am 2.00pm	Tiny Treasures Baby & Toddler Group Service at Kettlewell House
Wed 5th	8.00pm	Engine Room House of Prayer
Fri 7th	8.45am-12noon 10.00am 7.30pm	Pop In Coffee Engine Room House of Prayer in the Trinity Chapel Horsell Sings Concert
Sun 9th	9.30am 10.50am	Remembrance Sunday Short Service at the War Memorial
Tues 11th	9.30am-11.00am	Tiny Treasures Baby & Toddler Group
Fri 14th	8.45am-12noon	Pop In Coffee
Sun 16th	8.00am 10.00am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Informal Service Contemplative Meditation
Mon 17th	7.30pm	PCC Meeting
Tues 18th	9.30am-11.00am	Tiny Treasures Baby & Toddler Group
Fri 21st	8.45am-12noon	Pop In Coffee
Sat 22nd	7.30pm	Octavian Singers Concert
Sun 23rd	10.00am 4.00pm	Parish Communion Messy Church
Tues 25th	9.30am-11.00am	Tiny Treasures Baby & Toddler Group
Fri 28th	8.45am-12noon 11.00am	Pop In Coffee Halstead St Andrew's School Service
Sun 30th	8.00am 10.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) Breakfast Church

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

Tues 2nd	9.30am-11.00am 2.00pm	Tiny Treasures Baby & Toddler Group Service at Kettlewell House
Wed 3rd	8.00pm	Engine Room House of Prayer
Fri 5th	8.45am-12noon 10.00am	Pop In Coffee Engine Room House of Prayer
Sat 6th	7.30pm	Mosaic Chamber Choir Concert
Sun 7th	8.00am 10.00am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) First Sunday Service Peaceful Prayer & Praise

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

The Village Remembers

If you are attending the village's **Act of Remembrance on Sunday 9th November** starting at about 10.45am please bring with you your copy of *Horsell Matters* so that you have the words (set out below) to the traditional hymn **Our God, our help in ages past** and the **National Anthem**, both of which will be sung.

It would be great if as many people as possible sing heartily at this community event.

Our God, our help in ages past

- 1. Our God, our help in ages past,**
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.
2. Under the shadow of your throne
Your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone,
And our defence is sure.
3. Before the hills in order stood
Or Earth received her frame,
From everlasting you are God,
To endless years the same.
4. A thousand ages in your sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.
5. Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly, forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the op'ning day.
6. Like flow'ry fields the nations stand,
Pleased with the morning light;
The flow'rs beneath the mower's hand
Lie with'ring ere 'tis night.
7. Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be thou our guard while troubles last
And our eternal home.

Written by Issac Watts
Based on Psalm 90

The words of the **National Anthem** are as follows:

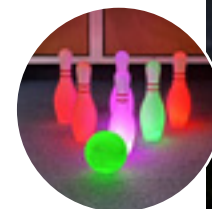
- 1. God save our gracious King!**
Long live our noble King!
God save the King!
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the King.
2. Thy choicest gifts in store
On him be pleased to pour,
Long may he reign.
May he defend our laws,
And ever give us cause,
To sing with heart and voice,
God save the King.

Light Party

We are holding a Light Party again this year, as a Christian alternative to Halloween. Our Children and Families Worker, Rebecca Connolly, will be arranging the party on **Friday 31st of October from 4pm**, to celebrate Jesus, the light of the world.

Last year's games included bowling with light-up glowing skittles, temporary tattoos, bingo (with sweets for counters), a disco, and neon face paints. We will have similar crafts and games again this year. Everyone is invited to dress up in bright, even sparkly, outfits.

Watch out for more details. Children up to Year 6 are warmly invited to the St Mary's light party. A form will be available to register attendance. It should be a fun event for children and their responsible adult.



Churchyard Cat

The glorious long, warm, dry summer we enjoyed, just like those of my kittenhood, seems a while ago. Some people say the weather is changing, but I think it is just the seasons, it's already been cold and wet. I have fun patrolling my churchyard in all weathers, nice to see the red geraniums on all the war



graves, soon to be supplemented by the appearance of poppies. I hear that a local kitten has joined the Red Cross, I understand that she wants to become a first aid kit!

As you will recall, I am a bit wary of fireworks, so are those daft dogs, so please ensure we are all safely indoors for Halloween and Guy Fawkes.

Breakfast Church

Breakfast Church has established itself. In August we held our latest relaxed and informal service which takes place when there is a fifth Sunday in the month. The next will be on **30th November**. A cold continental style breakfast is available from 9.50 am. We all sit down to eat at small tables and chat together in small groups for 20 or so minutes. We pray, sing a worship song and then look at a passage from the bible. In our small groups, we chat about what comes to mind from the passage, known as 'dwelling in the word'. We then share any thoughts from our respective tables and finish with another worship song. Give it a try, if only to have a free breakfast and a chat!



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Commonwealth War Graves

In advance of VE Day on 8th May, a group of volunteers identified and tidied the graves of the thirteen men buried in St Mary's graveyard, who died whilst in service during the First and Second World Wars. On this occasion a red rose was placed on each of the graves. To commemorate VJ Day on 15th August, Horsell Guides tidied the graves again and planted a geranium on each of them.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), remembers and honours the men and women who lost their lives during the World Wars by maintaining cemeteries, graves and memorials across the world. They are responsible for any person who died between 4th August 1914 and 31st August 1921 and 3rd September 1939 and 31st December 1947 either whilst serving in a military force or after they were discharged, if their death was caused by their wartime service.

The CWGC website has details of the thirteen graves for which they have a responsibility and in respect of these graves, St Mary's receives a total of £27 every three years based on an agreement from 1949. There are five graves from the WW1 and eight graves from WW2. At the time of burial, the individual's family were able to choose to have either a CWG headstone or a private memorial. In St Mary's churchyard there are eight CWG headstones and five graves where the families chose a private memorial.

All thirteen of those buried in the churchyard died in England either in accidents, whilst training, of illness,



or of wounds suffered in action. Most of them had families in Horsell which extended just across the canal to include Church Street and Boundary Road. One lived in Brighton but had attended St Mary's School in the village and was the nephew of Norman Pares, who was the Vicar of Horsell for over thirty years from 1897 and who officiated at the burial.

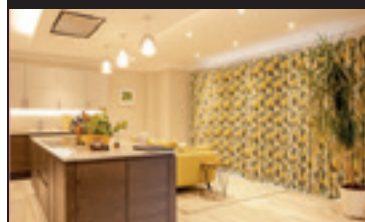
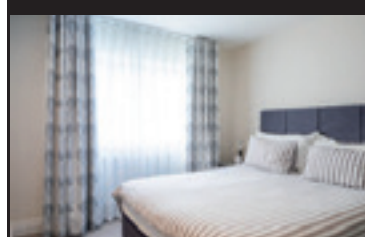
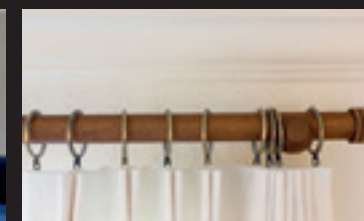
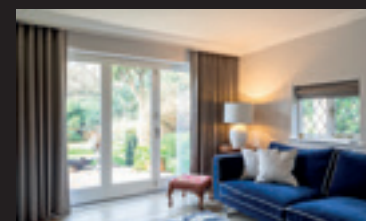
The details of the thirteen can be found on the CWGC website:

<https://www.cwgc.org/visit-us/find-cemeteries-memorials/cemetery-details/44696/horsell-st-marychurchyard>

A copy of these details, together with photographs identifying the position of the graves in the churchyard will also be available in the parish office.

Sophie Sews

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The Horsell War Memorial Matters

During 2025 we have been marking the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, it being probably the last decennial commemoration with the presence of those who saw active service in that war.



The unveiling of Horsell War Memorial WWII plaque bears the inscription "Pass not this stone in sorrow but in pride and strive to live as nobly as they died". To commemorate the fallen of World War II a plaque recording a further 43 names behind the Memorial was dedicated on 14 September 1947.

The League of Memory was set up in 1921 to 'provide for the care and maintenance of the war memorial', but by the 1980s the possibility of Woking BC taking care of the war memorial was explored, which occurred in 1986. In 2015 English Heritage declared it as Grade II listed. This year new benches have been provided by Horsell Residents' Association with funds from the Horsell Garden Safari and the Council Infrastructure Levy. Thus, Horsell can continue to say, "We will remember them".

Rosemary and Richard Christophers



WWII plaque

Even during World War I it was felt that tangible signs of commemoration of the fallen and those on war service were desirable and even necessary. Thus, in February 1917 a 'war shrine' was dedicated in Horsell.

With the war over, in January 1919, the need for a more permanent memorial was considered and Canon Pares called a meeting to consider the design and location of a war memorial and a committee was set up under his chairmanship, but not as a church committee. At that meeting the names of 44 fallen were read out and further meetings held. The suggestion of a wayside cross was generally approved, although Canon Pares felt there should be a memorial tribute to the fallen to the benefit of the living. A cross was approved and a committee considered locations and the names to include, 58 names eventually being engraved. In April 1920 the committee empowered Canon Pares to sign a contract for constructing the Memorial on the present site, at an estimated cost of at least £1000, of which £250 had been given already. Colonel Churchill of Graylands, was Treasurer. Plans were prepared by the architect, Arthur Stratton, and the builders were Messrs Harris of Woking. The Memorial was unveiled on 3 September 1920 by Colonel Churchill and was dedicated by the Suffragan Bishop of Guildford, John Randolph. Other names have been found and are also read out on Remembrance Sunday. The stone nearby

Temptation

In the Lord's Prayer, recorded in Matthew's Gospel ch 6 v 9 – 13, Jesus teaches his followers how to pray including the line '... Lead us not into temptation. ...' .

Oscar Wilde wrote: 'I can resist anything except temptation', which sums up the problem neatly!

In modern usage, the word 'Temptation' has acquired a negative meaning. It often describes a situation in which we feel that we want to do something that we believe is wrong. Wrong, because doing it will harm ourselves or someone else. The temptation might be to over-use a high calorie food say, or use something that belongs to someone else without their permission. There is a clear implication of intentional wrongdoing.

Use of the word 'temptation' has changed over time. In the Bible, for example in the Gospels, the meaning of temptation is neutral rather than negative. For that reason, some scholars prefer to translate 'Lead us not into temptation' as 'Do not bring us to the time of trial' or even 'Keep us safe from ourselves'.

When Jesus was preparing for his ministry, he spent time alone in a

wilderness area, fasting, planning and praying (Matthew ch 4 v 1 – 11). The devil tempted him to break his fast by changing stones into bread, but Jesus resisted the temptation saying 'it takes more than bread to stay alive'. He knew he needed food for his spirit as well as for his body.

A further example of Jesus being tempted was his prayer the night before his last, horrific, day on earth. That night he asked God to spare him from the ordeal that he saw all too clearly lying ahead of him. Jesus resisted the temptation to step away from it and faithfully did what God required him to do (Matthew ch 26 v 36 – 46).

For many of us, life contains temptations and times of trial. Times when we too are tempted to step away. Looking at how Jesus handled his tests might help us as we try to work out what to do for the best in our difficult situations.

Roy Wernham, Licenced Lay Minister

Horsell Matters: Next Edition December 2025 / January 2026

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

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5th and 19th October
2nd and 16th November
7th and 21st December

Saint Mary the Virgin

JESUS AND ME



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

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

Saint Mary the Virgin

FRIDAY POP-IN COFFEE

8.45am until noon
(term time)



10am to 12 noon
(school holidays)

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

Saint Mary the Virgin

BREAKFAST CHURCH

JOIN US FOR ONE HOUR AT 10 AM ON
SUNDAY 30TH NOVEMBER
FOR BREAKFAST, FELLOWSHIP, WORSHIP,
PRAYER, AND BIBLE STUDY.

INFORMAL SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION
LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE BIBLE
CHATTING OVER BREAKFAST



BREAKFAST SERVED IN ST. ANDREW'S ROOM
ALL WELCOME, ALL AGES



Saint Mary the Virgin



4.00pm to 5.30pm

26th October
23rd November
14th December

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

For all ages!
Picnic tea provided!

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

Saint Mary the Virgin

TINY TREASURES

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

Not on 28th October
(Half Term week)

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

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



Saint Mary the Virgin



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

STAY IN TOUCH



St Mary's Parish Office is open
Tuesday 9am to 4pm
Wednesday & Friday 9am to 1pm
Telephone: 01483 772134



Visit our website at
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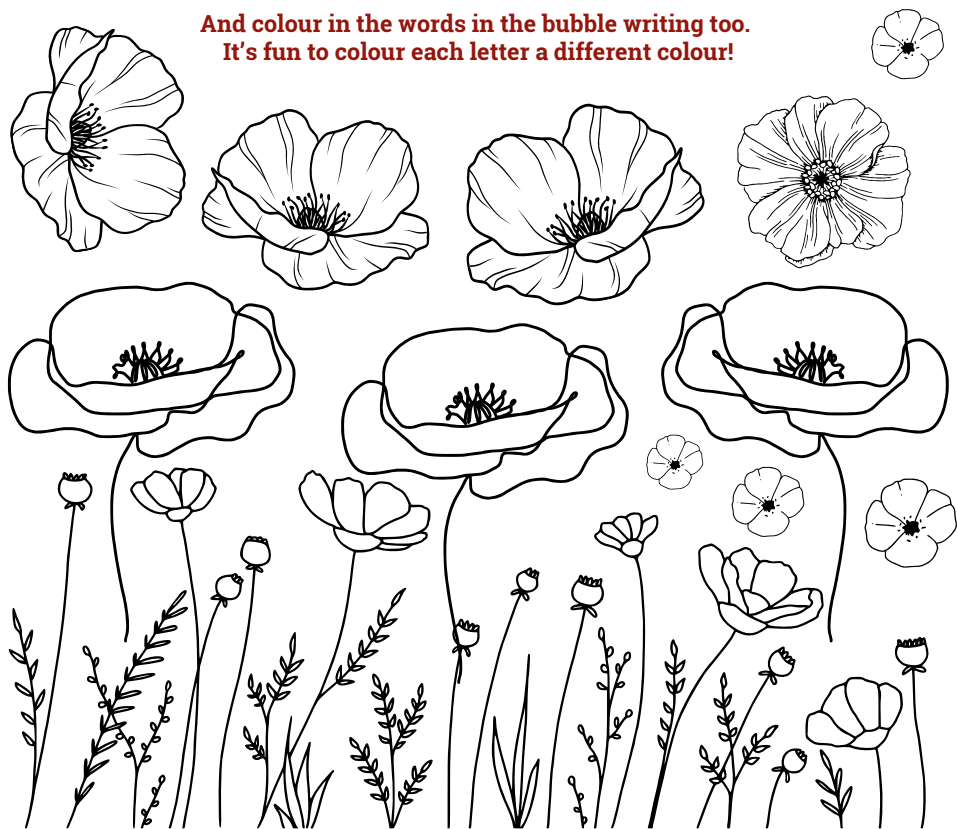
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Saint Mary the Virgin

COLOUR IN THE POPPIES AND JOIN THE REMEMBRANCE SERVICE IN THE VILLAGE

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



REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

WHERE BY THE WAR MEMORIAL IN HORSELL

WHEN SUNDAY 9TH OF NOVEMBER 2025

TIME START AT 10.50AM

Horsell PTA Summer Fair Raises Over £9,000!

Back in July, the Horsell community came together in spectacular fashion for this year's PTA Summer Fair, hosted at Horsell Junior School. The day was packed with fun for all ages.

Crowds enjoyed an array of stalls and classic fair games, from Splat the Rat and Super Soaker to the ever-popular Jolly Jars. The inflatables and ice cream truck proved irresistible, while teachers kept the laughs rolling with their Human Fruit Machine stand, which was so busy they barely had a chance to pause.

There was plenty to eat and drink, with Dee's Kitchen in attendance, a sizzling BBQ hosted by Clucking Crispy, and a bake stand overflowing with delicious homemade cakes and treats donated by parents. Entertainment was equally impressive, with wonderful singing performances from pupils at both Horsell Village and Horsell Junior Schools, alongside breathtaking routines from the Summerscales Dance Troupe.

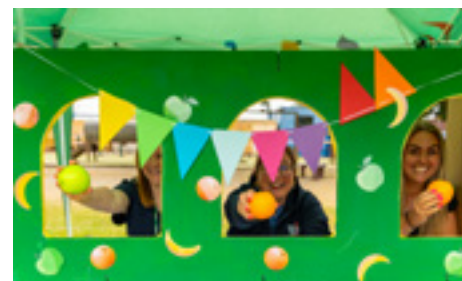
Adding to the excitement, local police officers joined the festivities, delighting children by chatting with them and even letting them explore a police car.



Thanks to the hard work of the organisers, volunteers, and everyone who attended, the fair was a resounding success—raising just over £9,000! These funds will be shared between both schools to support purchasing new educational resources.

Looking ahead, the ever-popular PTA Christmas Fair is set to be another must-save date in the diary. Judging by the massive success of last year's event, it promises to be magical, full of festive fun, and not to be missed. Please join us on **6th December** at Horsell Village School— Everyone is welcome and Christmas cheer for the whole family is guaranteed.

We are grateful for all the support from local businesses and volunteers who help with our events. If you or your business would like to get involved with the PTA please contact; HorsellSchoolsPTA@gmail.com



Garden Matters

With reasonably warm soil and before frosts, now is a fantastic time to plant shrubs and trees; for deciduous specimens, roots can get a foothold in the damp soil whilst there is no competition between the root growth and the forming of new leaves.

Trees with good shape and/or colourful bark and evergreen shrubs provide focal points not only in the depth of winter but also in summer when perennials have started to die back – seemingly earlier these days with the heatwaves we’ve been experiencing. Evergreen shrubs have a variety of amazing leaf shapes and colours, for example Fatsia Japonica (fig-like green or variegated leaves), Cornus alba Sibirica (vivid coral-red stems) and variegated holly (white and green or yellow and green leaves). Many smaller leaved specimens can be pruned easily if topiary is desired whilst those producing berries can provide food for birds.



Sorbus Olympic Flame at Wisley



Malus Laura, laden with fruit

Deciduous trees provide welcome shade in summer and, due to falling leaves, cover for mammals and insects in autumn. They provide an exciting opportunity for underplanting, be it wildflowers beneath the striking white branches of a silver birch or ferns, which are shallow rooted and provide good ground cover and are renowned for their air purifying properties. If space is at a premium, many upright varieties, such as the rowan ‘Olympic Flame’ are impressive year-round. For those who like to make crab apple jelly, malus Laura is again a neat, upright tree, whose leaves are a stunning maroon in autumn after summer’s windfall of beautiful and plentiful fruits.

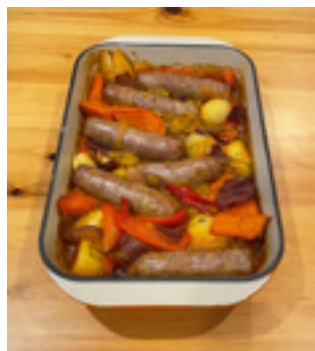
Elna Broe

The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the word of our God stands forever.
Isiah 40:8.

Recipe

A hearty Sausage & Root Vegetable Casserole. This easy-to-follow recipe should use seasonal ingredients available from a local butcher and grocer or farm shop. Serves 3-4.

Allow 10 mins for prep and about 1 hour for all the cooking.



Method

Preheat your oven to 180°C (Gas Mark 4).

Heat the oil in a large, oven-proof casserole dish or a deep frying pan over a medium-high heat. Add the sausages and brown them on all sides. Once browned, remove and set them aside.

In the same pan, add the chopped carrots, parsnips, onions, and potatoes. Sauté for about 5-7 minutes until they start to soften and brown slightly.

Stir in the tomato purée and cook for another minute. Pour in the stock and cider (if using), stirring to scrape any tasty bits from the bottom of the pan.

Return the sausages to the dish, nestling them amongst the vegetables. Add the sprigs of thyme and the bay leaf. Season with salt and pepper.

Bring the mixture to a simmer on the hob, then cover the dish with a lid or foil.

Transfer the casserole to the preheated oven and cook for 45-50 minutes, or until the vegetables are tender and the sausages are cooked through.

Remove the bay leaf before serving. Serve hot with a crusty bread to soak up the delicious sauce.

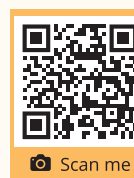
Ingredients

- 1 tbsp vegetable or olive oil
- 6-8 good quality local sausages
- 2 carrots, peeled and chopped into chunks
- 2 parsnips, peeled and chopped into chunks
- 1 large onion, chopped into wedges
- 2-3 potatoes, peeled and chopped into chunks
- 2 sprigs of fresh thyme
- 1 bay leaf
- 400ml chicken or vegetable stock
- 1 tbsp tomato purée
- A dash of cider (optional, for flavour)
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

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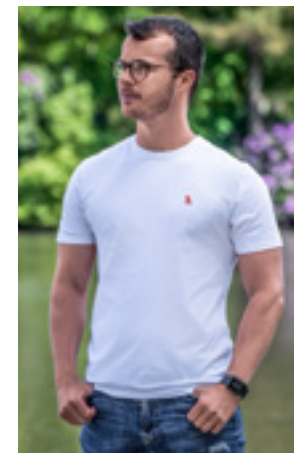
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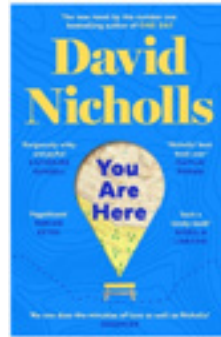


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Book Review

David Nicholls, writer of witty and heartbreaking romances, returns with a gently paced novel in **You Are Here**.



The story features Marnie, a copywriter who feels adrift in her own life, and Michael, an introverted, geography teacher in need of a walking companion for the 192-mile coast-to-coast trail across Northern England. What starts as a practical arrangement between two strangers, introduced by a mutual friend, blossoms into a journey of self-discovery, connection, and emotional awakening.

We get a blend of sharp, observational humour and deep empathy within the story. Nicholls skilfully captures the mundane details of a long walk—blisters, bad weather, and awkward silences—and transforms them into a stage for character development. Marnie's caustic wit acts as a shield, while Michael's gentle vulnerability gradually lowers her guard. The rugged, beautiful landscape is the backdrop to their budding relationship, mirroring the emotional highs and lows of their journey.

You Are Here illustrates different kinds of loneliness; it confirms that companionable silence is ok, and that another person's presence can provide solace. The story is character-driven and it is an easy, comfortable read.

Local Lectures

Welcome Church, 1-5 Church Street West, Woking, GU21 6DJ
Thursday 9 October and 13 November, both at 10.30 am.

'Frans Hals: a look behind the joviality and spontaneity'

Speaker: Mariska Beekenkanp-Wladimiroff

Unlike Vermeer or Rembrandt, little is known about the life of Frans Hals. Despite being one of the three great artists of the Dutch Golden Age, few books are written about this master and few exhibitions on his work organised. This all changed just before Covid when the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium brought together pieces of a large family portrait, long cut up and dispersed all over the world.

November lecture: 'Mad men and artists: how the advertising industry exploited fine art'

Speaker: Tony Rawlins

Fine art has provided advertisers and their agencies with a great deal of material to use in their creative campaigns. This lecture describes some of the processes by which these advertisements have been created and why the works of Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael and Michelangelo have been a particularly rich source of material and inspiration. From the Renaissance, through to the present day, fine art continues to provide opportunities to enhance Brand imagery with admiration, humour, satire and irony.

Free to members of TASM, £10 for visitors. For further info see TASM website:

<https://theartsocietymayford.org.uk/Lectures/FutureLectures.aspx>

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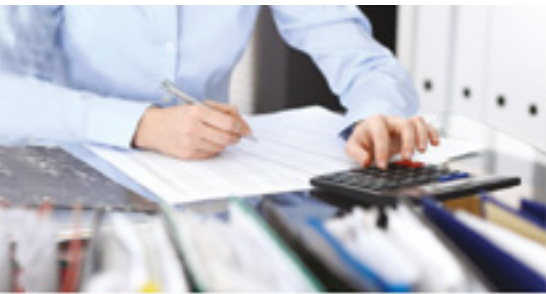
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As autumn draws near we look forward to cooler conditions with more moisture in our gardens and in our soil. But how can we be sure things are going on as they should beneath the surface? Follow these 4 top tips to assess your soil health!

- 1. Colour.** Healthy soil is typically dark brown to black in colour. This indicates the presence of decayed organic matter and humic acids, following the activity of microorganisms.
- 2. Texture.** Soils with the most accessible nutrients will compress into a loose ball in the hand but will easily crumble again when disturbed. This caking can sometimes point to the presence of sticky substances called exudates released by plant roots which encourage beneficial bacteria.
- 3. Moisture.** Look for free-draining retentiveness, as boggy or sodden conditions can be troublesome for plants not suited to waterlogging.
- 4. Creepy crawlies.** Invertebrates like beetles, woodlice and earthworms are a great indicator of a thriving ecosystem around the root zone. If a rockin' robin or a brave blackbird comes nearby when you dig in your garden, this too can be a good sign that there are things for them to eat in your soil.

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