

# Horsell Matters

A photograph of a brick building with a white window and a stone church tower in the background, framed by purple cherry blossom branches.

**The Village Magazine from your Parish Church  
August/September 2020**

# Horsell Directory

<b>St Mary's Church</b>	Website: <a href="http://www.stmarys-horsell.org.uk">www.stmarys-horsell.org.uk</a>	
<b>Parish Office open:</b>	Baptisms, Weddings or Funerals Tuesday 9am-4pm, Wednesday & Friday 9am-1.00pm	772134
<b>Vicar</b>	<a href="mailto:stmaryshorsell@btinternet.com">stmaryshorsell@btinternet.com</a>	772134
<b>Assistant Minister</b>	<i>currently post vacant</i>	
<b>Church Wardens</b>	Revd Peter Brown (until August)	765308
	Pamela Rowe	761625
	Michael Couper	770920
<b>Children's Worker</b>	Marcus Brookfield	<a href="mailto:children@stmarys-horsell.org.uk">children@stmarys-horsell.org.uk</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	David Leach	823439
<b>Cathedral Link</b>	Gill Saville	773799
<b>Pastoral Assistant</b>	Margaret Johnson	762481
	Hilary Mills	772952
	Coral Colclough	747481
<b>JAM (Jesus and Me)</b>	Marcus Brookfield (3+) 10am most Sundays	772134
<b>Babies and Toddlers</b>	Angela Murphy	832943
	St Andrew's Room, Tues 9.30am to 11.30am, term time	
<b>Twinkle Tots</b>	Marcus Brookfield, St. Andrew's Room	772134
	Thursdays 9.30 to 11.30, term time	
<b>Bellringers</b>	Avril Blagbrough Tuesday evening practice— occasional. Please check	767421
<b>Trinity Methodist Church</b>	<a href="mailto:office@trinitywoking.org.uk">office@trinitywoking.org.uk</a>	730754
<b>Horsell Evangelical Church</b>	Revd Andrew Bents	822259
<b>To Book: Village Hall</b>	Paul Bower	764047
<b>Parish Institute</b>	<a href="http://www.horsell-parish-institute.org.uk">www.horsell-parish-institute.org.uk</a>	772134
<b>Horsell Village School</b>	Infants Head Teacher - Mrs Reeve	714804
<b>Horsell C of E School</b>	Junior Head Teacher—Mrs C Wand	761531
<b>Woking High School</b>	Head Teacher - Mrs M Walter	888447
<b>Horsell Care</b>	Helpline	730740
<b>Residents Association</b>	Robin Hoyle	<a href="mailto:robin_hoyle@hotmail.com">robin_hoyle@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Scouts, Beavers, Cubs</b>	Ali Stubbs 07734 424568 <a href="mailto:alistubbs59@gmail.com">alistubbs59@gmail.com</a>	
<b>Explorer Scouts (14-18 Yrs)</b>	Brian Pinto	480904
<b>Guides &amp; Brownies</b>	<a href="http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/">www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/</a>	
<b>WI Horsell Afternoon</b>	Alison Evans-Wyatt	765570 <a href="mailto:amevans705@gmail.com">amevans705@gmail.com</a>
	Meets on 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday at 1.45pm in the Village Hall	
<b>WI Horsell Evening</b>	Mrs Sheila Tickner	760783
	Meets on 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 8.00pm in the Village Hall	
<b>Woking Police Station</b>	dial 101 from mobile or landline	

# Reflection



It will be with great sadness that Elaine and I will be leaving Horsell in September.

By the time we move on we will have been in this beautiful village for nearly four years and it has been 'the best of times' We have loved every minute.

The church and village communities have been so welcoming. We have felt loved and accepted and it will be so hard to leave.

But life is and an adventure. God calls us all to new things, as we read in the book of Isaiah (43:19).

For us a new area for us to explore and for Horsell a new vicar.

We walk step by step not seeing all that the future holds. This is especially so at the moment with all the uncertainties of the current pandemic.

There is a Māori proverb that Elaine and I have found helpful. It expresses a great truth around a simple image. The image is of a person rowing backwards into the future. It suggests that the past is clearly visible but the future is not, that we have imperfect information for the road ahead, but also that this is a natural state of affairs. Let us look back for clues to the way forward, but also understand that the future is unwritten. The future comes out of the past but will not be identical to it. The only unchanging thing is change.

It has been a delight for us both to have helped Sarah and the church family. My gifts complimented those of Sarah. I believe the church benefited significantly.

It has been great to share in a ministry with Jesus at the centre.

We will be retiring fully and are not far away in Alton Hampshire. As we have family in Horsell we will be visiting regularly and we hope to see some of you on those trips.

You are also very welcome to come and see us in our new home as it is just off the A31.

May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

*(traditional Irish blessing.)*



## Vacancy Update

Sadly, short and to the point. As you know, the whole process has been put on hold during the coronavirus pandemic. Eventually they will re-advertise the post and hopefully the selection process will be as quick as possible, with due care to the correct procedure being followed. In the meantime, we ask for your prayers to continue, in the hope that the right person is called to our parish to become our next Incumbent

# Peter's Farewell



## Fond Farewell to Peter and Elaine Brown

It seems such a short time since we welcomed Peter and Elaine to join our congregation.

In his post as Assistant Minister Peter has made certain parts of his weekly ministry much appreciated to a small group of regular people. They have turned up every Wednesday morning for the 10.30 Holy Communion service, followed by a time of companionship having coffee and chat. This proved to be a favourite time for Peter to develop his life-time ministry with his strong faith and patience to listen to people's problems.

His faithful stewardship to the 8am Holy Communion congregation has also been much appreciated.

The retreats that have been organised by Peter have proved to be very popular, once again giving individuals time to reflect, meditate and look at where they are on their Christian journey. How very important in these uncertain times!

His regular visits to Throwleigh Lodge, on the edge of our parish towards Chobham have become another link restored after many years of no link. We occasionally have members from the Home attending our service on Sunday. *Continued on next page.*

# Peter's Farewell (continued)

His genuine belief in the presence of the Holy Spirit has also become a great aid to many of us who find this quite a difficult concept to understand. I had the wonderful opportunity to benefit from this being one of the 20 people who attended the Alpha Course, run by both Peter & Elaine.

We have been so blessed with having two, rather than one, wonderful people over the time they have been with us. Elaine has been a close friend to many of our congregation, always ready to listen and her warm smile always cheers even the most lonely person. She is always ready to offer help, guidance and prayer in some quite difficult situations. We will always remember her excellent sermons, her amazing memory for verses from the Bible and her good humour.

All of us will miss you so much, but we wish you good health and a well-earned retirement in your home at Alton – not too far away.

May God bless you and keep you safe and well.

*Mike Couper, Churchwarden*

## House Group Valete

**P**eter and Elaine Brown started this House Group meeting on Sunday evenings at their home. It followed on from the Alpha courses they had held earlier. We were part of the ten member group which was a very interesting, helpful and relaxed experience.

We studied Paul's life and teachings and the Bible Society's 'Lyfe' Study Sessions.

Nobody felt pressured to join in the discussions but very quickly even the less confident members were soon expressing their views and reading passages from the Bible, followed by questions and answers.

We had lots of laughs at the meetings and Peter said we were the most amusing group he had encountered! We would like to thank Peter and Elaine for their hospitality and the sharing of their faith and guidance in the studies. We wish them health and happiness in their future life.

*George and Joan Allen*

# ST MARY'S

## PRAYERFULNESS

Resources and Services to help prayer can be found at:  
**[www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org)** also **[www.cofeguildford.org.uk](http://www.cofeguildford.org.uk)**  
and indeed St Mary's own website: **[stmarys-horsell.org.uk](http://stmarys-horsell.org.uk)**  
There is also a free telephone number called **Daily Hope** on  
which you can hear prayer and music – 0800 804 8044

## CHURCH RE-OPENING

We are very pleased to announce that there will be services on  
Sunday at 10am. Morning Prayer will take place except on the  
third Sunday when the service will be Holy Communion.

Please look at the website for more information.

## HOME COMMUNION

One of the casualties of lockdown and the current restrictions  
has been Home Communion whereby we can offer  
communion at home to any unable to get to church. The team  
look forward to being able to do this once again sometime in  
the future. If you, or anyone you know, would like this please  
get in touch with Margaret Johnson 01483 762481.

## ST MARY'S CHURCH REGISTERS

**Register Deaths: Stephen Bruckshaw**

## BURIALS AND CREMATIONS

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

**Brian Ashley, Sheila Cooke, Christopher Eatough,  
Denise Franchetti, Sandra Golding, Laura Marsden, Betty Ross**

# Horsell Village WI



**M**embers have been supporting the RAF Memorial Museum at Biggin Hill, Kent in their request to the public to knit or crochet 88,000 poppies.

The poppies will be used to make a trailing curtain down from the bell tower of St. George's Chapel of Remembrance from the 31st October to the end of November. The Chapel is next door to the museum.

They have launched plans for the Spirit of Kent spitfire to drop 80,000 poppy petals over the Chapel of Remembrance to mark the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain and to remember all those who have died in conflict since WW1.

The poppies are so easy and quick to knit - only 4 rows of plain and pearl and then 2 rows to cast off. The patterns for both knitted or crochet are on their website or you can use your own. The closing date for sending in the poppies is 30th September.

Poppies should be returned to: Katie Edwards, BHMM, Main Road, Westerham, Kent, TN16.3EJ. For more information go to Biggin Hill Memorial Museum, Battle of Britain 80.

So far we have knitted over 100 poppies and attached is a photo of poppies made by our President, Joan Cox.

# Horsell Runners

**A** RUNNING club that was started by one woman's wish to exercise with other people on a route that began and ended close to her front door celebrated its 10th anniversary in December 2018.

Science teacher Abigail Greaves moved to Horsell in 2007 and wanted to go running locally but didn't want to venture out on her own.

After months of organisation and discussions with friends, Abigail and six other people set out together from the High Street on a five-mile run on 3 December 2008. It was the start of a regular Wednesday evening session that takes place each week and attracts up to 30 participants.

Horsell Runners has no clubhouse and there are no joining fees, but has grown through word of mouth and has spawned two weekend sessions for those who prefer an early morning run.

With the growth in numbers, the club now has a website on which the Wednesday routes are available for more than a year in advance. The club has a logo featuring a depiction of the Martian Sculpture in Woking town centre and many of the runners wear a specially designed orange club T-shirt.



# Horsell Runners (Continued)

Abigail says that Horsell Runners enter the Endure24 as a club with six to eight people running in relays over 24 hours. “There is great camaraderie,” she says.

Abigail teaches at Ripley Court school and lives in Horsell, still close to the High Street, with her children Madeleine, 13, and Arthur, 11, who have taken part in the kids’ race at the Surrey Half Marathon.

The Wednesday sessions remain the core of the club and have been cancelled only twice in ten years when it was felt the conditions were too icy to be safe.

“Even then, we had some people turning up prepared to give it a go,” Abigail says.

Sadly, at the present time, these runs have not been taking place but do keep looking at the website for news of information on current status in this very fluid situation.

FOR more information, visit <http://horsellrunners.org>, subscribe to [http://www.horsellrunners.org/Horsell\\_Runners/Mail\\_Lists.html](http://www.horsellrunners.org/Horsell_Runners/Mail_Lists.html) to be included on weekly emails or turn up outside the Beijing restaurant in Horsell on Wednesdays at 7.35pm.



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# Horsell Flowerpot Festival Summer 2020



The Horsell Flowerpot Festival will be running again this summer.

It will run from July 25<sup>th</sup> through to August 30<sup>th</sup>.

It's simple and free to enter, just make a flowerpot creation and display it in your front garden, shop window, forecourt.

Take a photo and post your picture on the Horsell Village Wire so others can see it too!

An album has been especially created on The Horsell Village Wire so all the wonderful creations are in one place and easy to find.

To post your picture - open The Horsell Village Wire Facebook page, click on albums and then Flowerpot Festival 2020. If you put in your location too - even better - so we know where to find your flowerpot creation.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/horsell-flowerpot-festival-2020-workshop-tickets-111957313338>

If you want some help or need some flowerpots email [secondthursdayclub@horsellresidents.com](mailto:secondthursdayclub@horsellresidents.com)

For more info go to: <https://hra.interests.me>

**Second Thursday Club**   
Horsell Residents' Association



# A Lockdown Silver Lining

Maya Shankla was half way through a few months overseas adventure, which followed her achieving her MA in architecture, when the Covid 19 lockdown caught her in New Zealand and she had to come home, back to her mother and sisters in Horsell, her life on hold.

But she was not idle for long. She had begun to draw her friends' houses, using photographs sent to her, while she was still overseas, and now she continued to draw the village, creating some 30 pictures in her 'Homes of Horsell' series. Perhaps you read her piece in the Horsell Wire in the spring.

She broadened her work, and produced three studies as gifts – presents for three pivotal shops in the High Street, the Post Office/ Cost Cutter, Prince's, and Boz.



Maya feels she has been involved in an ideal lockdown project. She has got know more of her neighbours and has contributed something to the community. And she still has plenty to do.

However, she has had to postpone the next stage of her architectural career.

By now Maya should have been temporarily attached to a practice in Nairobi. She was looking forward very much to working in Kenya, the country where she lived as a child, but she's hoping that the delay is only a temporary one. You can contact Maya by email: [maya.shankla@gmail.com](mailto:maya.shankla@gmail.com) or on the web:

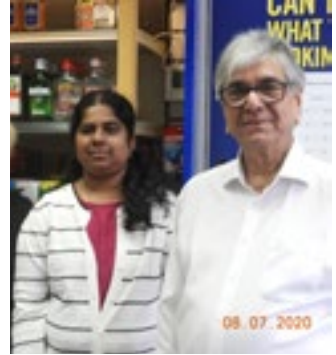
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# Chander Parkash, Postmaster and Friend

The first thing they would do in their retirement, Chander and Anita Parkash, assured me, was to have breakfast together, something which, for over a quarter of a century, they had been able to do only on Christmas Day.

Running the post office cum shop in Horsell has meant very early rising every day of the week, busy days, and going home in the evening well after most other people. In fact, it was hard to find time to talk with Chander at all, during his final week in the village in July, as a stream of customers and well-wishers queued to see him. His twenty seven years as Horsell's postmaster has seen the post office move from its old site over the street to its present home as part of a useful general store, a branch of Spar until 2014 and now of Costcutter.



Chander's single-minded service to the village has given him, he says, fun and a source of livelihood ("What more could anyone want?"). It has certainly won him countless appreciative friends.

He came from the Punjab in 1980, aged 26, following several close schoolfriends who were already working in Britain. "It was a new life for me. I arrived on a Thursday and started work the following Monday." There was also time in 1980 for Chander and Anita to marry. After a job in a shop in Southall,

the Parkashes moved to one in Reading in 1983, and then to St John's to run a shop on the Hermitage Estate from 1986 to 2002.



And what comes next? There will be some time to please themselves while they are still healthy and vigorous, Chander hopes, time to see more of their two sons, time, it appears, to contribute even more to the community, for he talks of several ways in which he hopes to be helpful. And time, he hopes, for coffee or two in the High Street. "I'll have to be here once a month anyway, to pick up my prescription," says Horsell's well-loved former postmaster.

# Face Masks

The warnings from the PM at the beginning of May that the public would soon be advised to wear face coverings in shops and on public transport quickly escalated to a more urgent need, so I oiled my sewing machine and began to make face masks for family and close friends out of material remnants and unused sheeting I have had at home for years, using a 'Public Health England' pattern on the internet.

This just happened to coincide with Christian Aid week, when this year the usual house-to-house collections unfortunately could not take place. Having been a supporter of Christian Aid for very many years, I decided to extend the offer of making masks to a wider group of contacts, through St. Mary's Church, in return for an online donation to Christian Aid.



With the welcome addition of some different coloured sheeting from one friend, and donations of suitable elastic from two others, I have enjoyed making 72 of these simple face coverings for my 'customers' in colours of their choice, and hopefully Christian Aid has benefited.

*Marian Wernham*

# Parish in the Past

**N**inety years ago, the elderly Miss Rowland, who had recently presented the parish with land on which to build a little church off Russell Road, surprised the neighbourhood by getting married. The event was of temporary interest beyond Horsell, but, as the Vicar, Norman Pares, commented in the parish magazine:

‘It is a pity that those who are on the look out for events which provide sensational headlines for the London press do not take a little trouble to verify their facts. I counted at least eight mistakes in the short paragraph which appeared in one paper.’



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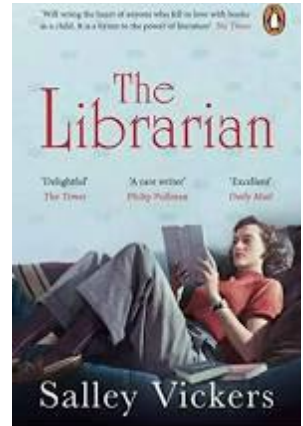
# The Librarian by Salley Vickers

In 1958 young Sylvia Blackwell moves to take up her first job as the Children's Librarian in the small town of East Mole. As the story unfolds we follow her as she tries to fit into the life of the community and make friends. The rigidity of society is well drawn and might bring back memories for older readers. I loved it reminding me of my trips to the local children's library which helped kindle the love of books I still have.

We meet the family who live in the next door cottage with their three children. As they and Sylvia become friends we are reminded of the formality of the day when their mother is horrified to hear the children calling her, as she had suggested, by her Christian name. The eldest boy Sam is bright and about to take his 11 plus exam for entry to the local Grammar School. The comprehension questions on 'You are old Father William' are way out of the reach of Sam who is more at home with the natural world around him and his passion for a litter of young foxes at the bottom of the garden. Sylvia offers to help by going through some papers with him and also Lizzie the grand-daughter of her landlady.

Lacking companionship of her own age Sylvia tries to get to know Gwen, a teacher at the school and despite the antagonism of her boss Mr. Booth and the Library Committee is successful in getting permission for the school to visit the library. By the end of the book we understand why Gwen was never going to be the friend Sylvia had hoped for and the power of the Library Committee is reduced, although too late for Sylvia.

In an effort to fit in she joins the WI who are portrayed as snobbish small-minded and bureaucratic, in tune with the small town and an era where everybody knows everybody and everybody knows their place. When Sylvia is invited to a drinks party at the home of the local doctor Sylvia's assistant and ally Dee suggests Sylvia changes for the party at her house. Dee tells her 'I haven't been invited.....not the right class.'



# The Librarian by Salley Vickers

## (Continued)

It is the doctor, Hugh, with whom Sylvia falls in love. A sad and familiar tale which, of course ends in him staying with a wife he claims not too love, for the sake of their daughter. It is the friendship between Sam, posh Marigold and young deprived Lizzie that is the catalyst to the denouement and the subject of Part Two of the book a generation later and which our book group found a bit confusing and unsatisfying.

There are many themes in this book and the relationship of Sylvia, an only child, to her parents. Their relationship with each other is also portrayed in a sometimes sad but convincing way.

I felt great empathy with Sylvia and the characters believable. There are many different strands in the book, love of the countryside, an unsolved mystery, family relationships, doomed love, small town living and of course the central theme of a love of books.

I hope you enjoy it as much as I and our book group did.

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# Woking High School

Students and staff from Woking High School have shown incredible resilience towards adapting to new ways of teaching and learning, as well as continuing to engage in community activities.

Woking High School responded to the plea by local health care providers for PPE equipment – we donated all of the safety goggles from the school to Woking and Sam Beare Hospice (see photo on the next page), and made 300 visors to donate to ten local care homes. In addition, a number staff and students supported ‘Horsell Scrubbers’ in providing homemade ‘scrubs’ for frontline workers – including this fabulous donation by Amy in Year 11. You may also have seen these lovely ‘Thank You NHS’ painted logs, created by Woking High School student, Jasmine, which have been used to raise funds for charity.



Students have continued to receive high quality lessons for all subjects, and have submitted some amazing examples of work they have completed at home. Not only have students been producing fantastic academic work, they have also been exploring different mediums for presenting their achievements via photography, film, drama, poetry, short stories, art and technology. To see the range of examples of their work, please visit the Woking High School Twitter Page @WokingHigh

# Woking High School (Continued)

The high quality work of our students has been recognised in a number of collaborations and competitions. The Arête Book of Hope is a book combining students work in short stories poetry, art and photography on the theme of what Hope means to them. The book can be viewed on the school website [www.wokinghigh.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.wokinghigh.surrey.sch.uk) In addition, Ollie won the @weare\_woking Short Stories competition, with Gemma receiving a highly commended award – their stories can be viewed here <https://t.co/MSUp6kApDu?amp=1>. Finally, congratulations to Elliot, Emma and Grace for their entry into the Shell Brilliant Ideas Challenge – their innovative solutions to tackling a potential energy crisis in 2050 have been submitted; we await their feedback!

Woking High School has continued to remain open for vulnerable students, and children of key workers. It was fantastic to welcome Year 10 students back to school from 1 June to receive some face-to-face contact with their tutors and teachers ahead of their final year. The Senior leadership Team are now in the process of digesting the government’s guidelines and developing plans for welcoming all students back to school from September.



# Horsell Junior School

Lockdown has had a huge impact on our country. Our children have had to be adaptable, positive and resilient. For some children life can already be challenging.

At Horsell CofE Junior School, we have been teaching the children of key workers throughout lockdown. We recently welcomed back year 6 children then also the children of year 5, as well as providing remote learning for those children learning at home. There are many children who value routine and have missed the relationships and support they experience in school.

School is going to be fully reopened in September. We know when our children return they will need greater emotional support. Prior to lockdown, some of our children already received support through weekly therapy dog sessions, seeing a school counsellor or taking part in small nurture groups. We envisage that there will be more of our children requiring support like this and we want to be able to meet this need.

We are setting up a new nurture space. The room that we are going to use is now tired and in need of refurbishment. Our vision is to create a bright and cheerful outside 'wrapping' of the room which will create a warm welcome to those attending the provision. We would like the inside to have resources which are ideal for therapy sessions such as a sandpit, small world toys and comfortable seating where children can relax. Our aim is for staff to receive high quality training through Nurture UK enabling us to provide a high level of support for our most vulnerable children. There will be a small area for the preparation of snacks and drinks, making this an ideal meeting room for outside specialists and professionals to meet children and parents.

We are asking the community for your help, to support our children, for their future. Thank you!



<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/horsellcofe-juniorschool>

# Recipes

## Lemon Dill Salmon Pasta Salad

An easy to make pasta salad, ideal for a picnic.

Serves 4.

### Ingredients

225g pasta shapes

340g cooked salmon fillets

100g frozen peas, thawed

One tin of sweetcorn, drained.

Dressing

2½ tbsp. fresh lemon juice

1 tsp. lemon zest

2 tsp. honey

4 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil

1 tbsp. Dijon mustard

2 cloves garlic, crushed

2 tbsp. chopped fresh dill

Salt & pepper to taste

### Method

In a small bowl, combine all dressing ingredients using a whisk.

Cook pasta according to instructions on package, drain well in a colander and run under cold water. Transfer pasta to a large bowl and pour over the prepared dressing. Toss well until evenly coated.

Flake the salmon and add to bowl with corn and peas. Give it a good stir, and then adjust seasoning, if needed.

Garnish with lemon slices and enjoy.

# Recipes

## Raspberry Crumble Bars

### Ingredients

- 180g Unsalted butter, softened
- 125g Light brown sugar
- 125g Rolled Oats
- 175g Plain flour
- 250g Raspberries, lightly crushed
- 15g Cornflour
- 40g Caster sugar

### Method

Preheat the oven to 180°C (160°C Fan, Gas Mark 4) Grease and line a 20cm (8 inch) square cake tin.

In a mixing bowl, beat together the butter and brown sugar then stir in the oats, flour and baking powder to form a crumbly mixture. Press half of the mixture into the base of the prepared tin to form a smooth base. Prick all over with a fork and bake for 15 minutes until lightly golden.

Mix the crushed raspberries with the caster sugar and cornflour and spread over the cooked base. Sprinkle with the remaining crumble topping.

Bake for about 30 minutes until lightly golden. Cool for 10 minutes then cut into bars and allow to cool in the tin before carefully removing to serve.



# Recipes

## Spinach and Chive Frittatas

These individual frittatas are equally delicious hot or cold. The recipe can be quite easily adapted to make more or less.

Makes 6.

### Ingredients

4 large eggs

40g baby spinach roughly chopped

Pinch of salt and pepper

Pinch of mustard powder or small tsp. mustard

3 heaped tbsp. natural yoghurt

2 tbsp. chopped chives

Grated cheese for topping

### Method

Preheat oven to 180C.

Lightly grease (butter or olive oil) a six tin muffin tray.

Whisk the eggs, yoghurt and mustard together until the mixture is smooth.

Add salt, pepper, spinach & chives and mix well.

Add equal amounts of the frittata mixture to each muffin cup and sprinkle over the grated cheese (any hard cheese will do).

Bake in the oven for about 20mins until golden and cooked through.

Enjoy hot or cold.



# Churchyard Cat



'He whispered,' said the story teller. Well, it was a she really, and she shouted. She shouted because she was two metres away from the ear into which she was meant to be whispering.

'And hand in hand, they set off for home,' ended the storyteller. But they were metres apart – far beyond touching distance – as they made their way through the churchyard grass, dressed in varieties of old clothing worn over their own stuff and holding their books.

'We'd better do that bit again,' said someone whom the rest of them appeared to respect. The person standing behind a camera tripod rather nobly did not sigh aloud, and the players re-grouped – far apart – and they tried again.

I'm constantly surprised at the ways people amuse themselves. Apparently that morning's effort was aimed at schoolchildren – though almost all those six people in the churchyard were certainly no longer kittens themselves.

'We'll need lions next time,' someone said. I'm a natural for the part. But they never asked me.

*Samuel was observing St Mary's Open the Book team filming a story from the Bible for use in a Junior School Assembly a few days later.*

A wedding photograph of a bride and groom standing on a dirt path. The groom is on the left, wearing a dark blue suit, a brown waistcoat, a patterned tie, and dark green boots. The bride is on the right, wearing a white strapless wedding dress with a long train and a white veil, also wearing dark green boots. They are holding hands and a large white sign between them. The sign features the text 'Joosy Photography' in a gold, cursive font, surrounded by a gold circular border and a floral arrangement of pink and orange roses. At the bottom of the sign, there are small icons for Facebook and Instagram. Below the sign, the website address 'www.jdoorphotography.co.uk' is written in a dark grey, sans-serif font. Underneath the website address, the text 'Dreamy, Alternative and Natural light photographer' is written in a smaller, dark grey, sans-serif font. The background shows a dirt path leading through a green field with trees in the distance under a bright sky.

*Joosy  
Photography*

[www.jdoorphotography.co.uk](http://www.jdoorphotography.co.uk)

Dreamy, Alternative and Natural light photographer