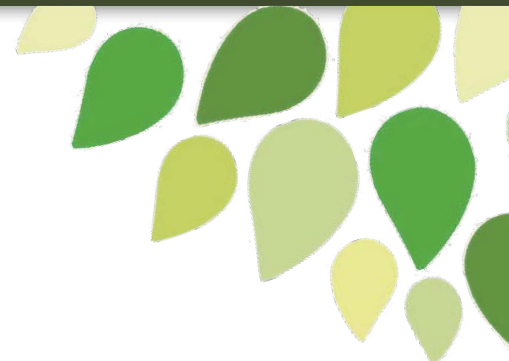




**St Mary's**  
WEST HORSLEY



Autumn 2021

# Magazine

## **What Matters Most?**

Re-evaluating life through a pandemic

## **Save Our Medieval Wall Paintings**

Crowdfunder details inside

## **What's On for Children and Youth?**

Noah's Ark Toddler Group  
Superheroes Party  
Who Let The Dad's Out?





'FORGET THE FORMER THINGS;  
DO NOT DWELL ON THE PAST.

*See, I am doing  
a new thing!*

*Isaiah 43: 18-19*

## Who are we?

**We are your vibrant Anglican parish church in this village of West Horsley, seeking to follow Jesus Christ, shape our lives whole-heartedly around Him and be a blessing to you, our local community.**

**Our Vision:** mmitted | nnected | ourageous

**A warm welcome awaits you at our two main services on Sunday's:**

**9am Traditional Morning Prayer/Communion Service** at St Mary's Church

**10.45am Contemporary Service with children's groups for 0-15 years** at East Horsley Village Hall

### We would love to hear from you!

If you would like to find out more about who we are, what we get up to in the life of St Mary's or if you have any questions, please do get in touch with us.

**01483 281898** [office@stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk](mailto:office@stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk)

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



# Hello!

Dear friends,

We, like many, have recently watched with horror the scale of flooding in Germany and the wildfires in Greece, Turkey and Italy. But after floods recede and fires are put out, scars remain and people are left to assess the debris, deciding what to pick up and what to let go. I think it's the same with the Covid-19 pandemic.

Much has been lost – loved ones have died and we may not have been able to grieve properly due to the restrictions – but we have also lost out in many other ways: precious time with grandchildren, the opportunities of school trips, time with friends, to name a few. Maybe the worst waves of the pandemic have past, but, like the floods and the fires, they leave a mark on us that we may well still be working through.

Out of the 'debris' of the last 18 months, what have you realised is truly precious that you want to re-establish, and what are those things you can leave behind? Some members of the congregation reflect upon this elsewhere in the magazine.

Nature has a way of healing itself and, even in the burnt remains of Greek olive fields, green shoots of new life will emerge again. Here at St Mary's, we have been sensing for some months that God is going to do a new thing in us. We're not sure what that 'new thing' is yet, but we are seeing some new chapters beginning.

We are thrilled to welcome Steve Green to be our Curate, and you can find out more about him inside. You'll discover how a local charity, B@titude, is helping vulnerable people and families in Leatherhead, and ways you can help us to look after and maintain the ancient wall paintings at the back of our St Mary's church building. And, of course, many of the ministries to the community we were running 'pre-Covid' are restarting – new shoots returning.

We so hope you enjoy this edition of the magazine and look forward to seeing you around the village soon.

## Phil and Louise Herrington





# What Matters Most?

## Re-evaluating life through a pandemic

BY ABBY COPE

It seems a lifetime ago now before Covid-19 came along and changed our world. How would you describe your life before the pandemic? For some, it was hurried and fast-paced. Mental health and suicide rates had become the highest they have ever been with the demanding pressures of this modern-day life that we all found ourselves living in.

**With restrictions and lockdowns now lifting, how do we avoid just going back to a pre-pandemic lifestyle of hurry and pressure? How can we make positive steps forward now through all that we have seen of the last year and a half? For so many, the work-life balance has already become a real juggle again. Can we learn anything through the pandemic?**

I asked a few people in our community, from different walks of life, to share their thoughts on this and whether they will be doing anything differently moving forward. I hope that you find some of their answers useful as we all start adjusting, re-emerging and thinking about what matters most.

**'I've learnt to prioritise taking care of myself, which I had felt too rushed to do before with a busy family and work life. I feel in a better place now for having tried to do this over the last year and a bit, as things slowed down and a different routine of life developed – but it has been a learning curve for sure, with mistakes and lessons learned along the way!**

**Learning to say 'no' to some things, however great they sound, has helped me to take better care of my mental and physical health.'**

**Edd – Husband, Dad of Two Boys, Amateur Runner**

**'The enforced isolation has been a challenge on mental well-being and reconnecting face-to-face with friend's post-lockdown has required effort, but it has definitely been worth it! I have learnt that flexible working can be both good and bad – good to be flexible timewise, but bad that workdays then push later into the evenings. The lack of commute saves time, but removes what used to split work and home life.**

**The lockdowns have taught me to enjoy the simpler things in life and have provided more quality time with my family. This pandemic has also allowed opportunity for reflection on what we spend our time and efforts on in everyday life, and now the key is to utilise what we have realised and to not let it go to waste.'**

**Dan – Accountant, Dad, Occasional Cyclist**

**'Between us, we are 176 years old, one of Horsley's long-pensioned couples.**

We have, so far, survived the pandemic – thanks in part, we now realise, to two related things:

**Encouragement** – It was humbling and uplifting to have shopping and meals brought or left on the doorstep, phone calls ('Just making sure you're OK'), friends ready to answer an SOS, often a small matter but the sort that leave old people helpless. God's Spirit is sometimes called the Helper. He has worked in many of you in recent months.

**Gratitude** – not as odd a word as it sounds after all the pains of the past year. We saw ourselves as thankful people before the virus, but we now sense it in a fresh and deeper way – how to give thanks whatever comes our way, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health.

And we can't be thankful for people and for blessings without also thanking God for them.'

**'There is no small way to quantify the effect of Covid-19 on life – what has changed for me is the way I think and see the world, look at family and friends and would define 'togetherness'. This time has also changed the way I deal with uncertainty and change, and most importantly, recognising a time of growth in my journey with God. I think I got in touch with my own vulnerability in a new way, together with a deep awareness of just how little in life we can control.**

**What would I do differently? Going forward, I think that I am generally feeling more appreciative of the little things, being able to connect with friends and family in person, the importance of relationships, learning to be okay with uncertainty and to trust God for the big and the small things. Whilst the lockdowns were hard, it has been good to take a step back from busy calendars, activities and birthday parties, to instead, connect closer within our family, nature, the simple pleasures and embrace a slower pace of life. I would like to preserve this simplicity and a healthy balance as life gets busy again.'**

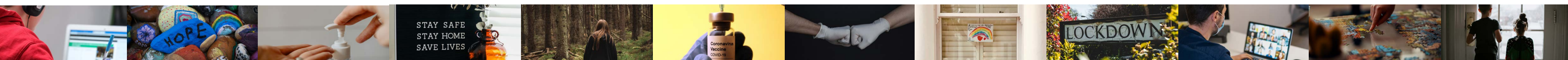
**Anneke – Busy Mum of Two Who Works in Education**

**'Prior to the pandemic, my husband worked full time and I worked three days a week. During the lockdowns however, I was unable to work at all and my husband retired. Our children were working in the NHS system and Legal system as key workers, so we had very restricted contact with them for 18 months. As we 'emerge', we have been negotiating a new balance of life on many fronts. During last year's lockdowns, we began to really appreciate our lovely neighbours and the value of kindness and the connection we had as a small community. We had a strong sense of gratitude for what we were and are blessed with. Life has been so much harder for many and it became apparent that reaching out was so much more important than just looking inward.**

**As we venture into this new pattern of life, I want to prioritise our time to maintain these connections and to ring-fence unscheduled time, not receding back into 'my' busy life. I now work with clients with Long Covid for whom this pandemic has not lifted. So many of them tell me that it has been the thoughtful support of others and a non judgemental listening ear that has helped them have hope of recovery.'**

**Pamela – Wife, Mother of Two Key Workers, Craniosacral Therapist**

**'What matters most? People – knowing them and being known.'**





# Searching for more

#tryalpha

Alpha

## Try Alpha with us this Autumn

A relaxed and friendly course exploring the difference Christianity makes to our sense of identity, meaning and purpose in life.

Alpha will be starting in October – keep an eye out for more info

### What is Alpha?

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith.

### Who's it for?

Alpha is for anyone who's curious. The talks are designed to encourage conversation and explore the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. No question is out of bounds and you are free to discuss as much or as little as you wish.

explore life  
faith  
meaning

For more information or to register interest about doing Alpha, please email our Church Office at [office@stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk](mailto:office@stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk) or phone 01483 281898

Got questions about life? Find out more about Alpha on their website [www.alpha.org](http://www.alpha.org)

## Introducing Steve Green

*Following my ordination at Guildford Cathedral in July, I had the enormous privilege of joining the staff team at St Mary's as a curate. What is a curate? It is someone who acts as an assistant to the rector (here, Phil) in serving the people of the parish.*

As a child I spent time abroad as my dad worked overseas. However, as a family we moved to Plymouth, Devon in the 1970s and I spent my formative years there. For this reason, I still support Plymouth Argyle. More significantly it was in Plymouth that I met Helen following my time at Bath University.



I married Helen in July 1988 and we are fortunate to have four children and two grandchildren, all of whom live locally in Surrey. Apart from spending time with the family, my hobbies are all sports although I am not particularly gifted at any. I used to play in a local football league in Devon and rugby for Totnes town when I was younger. Today, I try and find time for cycling or swimming and playing squash with my grown-up children.

Following a short time in the army and then selling typewriters, I trained as a teacher in the West Midlands and have spent virtually my whole career in education. Once again, I have been fortunate to have held a range of jobs in education: teacher, head teacher, director of education and overseas inspector. It was when I returned from working as a school inspector in the United Arab Emirates that I felt the call to ordination.

In terms of my Christian commitment, I started going to church as a young adolescent in Plymouth. I went to a Church of England church where my mum and dad enjoyed the 1662 traditional service. Without any other Christian fellowship and mixing with friends who lived a different lifestyle, I drifted away from church as a young adult. However, God was gracious and pulled me back. It was during a mission in my final year at Bath university that I re-dedicated my life to God and have never



regretted that decision. Like all of us, Helen and I have gone through testing times, but we have always found God to be faithful in pulling us through.

I trained as a lay preacher in 1989 and for many years have spent Sundays preaching and leading worship in Methodist, Baptist, and other Evangelical churches in the various places where we lived and worked in the South of England. It was in 2005 when God brought me back into the Church of England when, as a family, we went to Christchurch in Woking and then Emmanuel church in Guildford. We learnt a great deal from the many inspirational people that we met at these and all the other churches we attended as we have moved around the country.

**What am I looking forward to at St Mary's?** Learning from the congregation, the staff, and the Rector. Despite being a Spurs supporter, I am very much looking forward to working with and learning from Phil.



**What can I bring to the church and the parish?** Although I don't think there is much I can add to this very talented community, I am acutely aware that God can equip me to be effective in furthering his Kingdom in this part of the world. God, in his graciousness, has given me a wide and diverse range of life experiences and life skills in leadership, communication, organisation and pastoral care. God has also given me a hugely supportive wife. I hope that Helen and I can settle quickly into the church's life and that I can be the servant that the community deserves.

[stevegreen@stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk](mailto:stevegreen@stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk)



# The Wheelhouse Café is Open Again!



**Every Friday from 10.30am-12noon**

**We would love to welcome you at the Café to meet up with friends and neighbours over coffee and home-made cake. Just pop in and give it a go! You will find a friendly and sociable atmosphere.**

The Café originally opened in early 2018, to provide a safe space to gather for those who wanted company close to home. How we have all missed our friends over the last year or so!

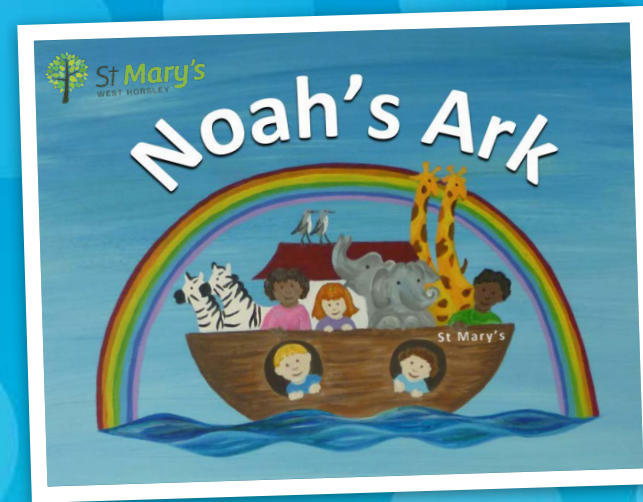
Perhaps, having been isolated for sometime, you may be reluctant to involve yourself just at the moment. We appreciate this, so keep us in mind and when you feel ready, we would love to see you.

Our volunteers, who are mostly from within our two villages, have been invaluable to the success of the Café which could not function without them!

***We are always looking for new people to volunteer, so if you would like to get involved, we would be delighted to hear from you.***

**For enquiries, to volunteer or to book a lift to and from The Wheelhouse Café on the Horsley Community Bus, please call the Church Office on 01483 281898.**

*Please phone before 1pm the previous Wednesday if you are booking a lift - Thank you!*



# Toddler Group

**We are looking forward to welcoming you to our friendly St Mary's Toddler Group, serving the local communities in and around the Horsleys.**

Noah's Ark is a morning of fun for your little ones including toys, activities, crafts, song and story time. There will be homemade cake and drinks for the grown-ups and healthy snacks for the children.

We hope to continue to meet in The Wheelhouse garden for as long as the weather allows, but will move into The Wheelhouse hall if needed. There is a limit of 2 children per adult, who remain your responsibility at all times.

*There is a small charge of £2 for the first child and £1 for each additional sibling over one.*

**There is a booking system in place, so please do not just turn up as we get fully booked most weeks!**

**To book a place or if you have any further questions, please email [stmarysnoahsark@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysnoahsark@gmail.com)**



*Noah's Ark is run by Carolyn, Helen and Hiliary, along with a team of volunteers, who are all looking forward to welcoming you on a Thursday morning.*



**Thursday Mornings  
10-11.30am  
The Wheelhouse, East Lane**



# St Mary's Medieval Wall Paintings



BY JUNE DAVEY



The Horsley villages share a rich history stretching back to Saxon times, and the two parish churches have played an integral part in the story. St Mary's Church is blessed with remarkable examples of 13th century wall paintings. A section of this work is now in desperate need of conservation work, and fund-raising initiatives are underway.

## Historical Background

English medieval church painting which has survived is a rare treasure which is comparable with the sculpture and miniature painting of the period – it was often the same craftsmen practising all these skills. It is only since the 20th century that English medieval wall painting has taken its place in the revival of interest in medieval art and architecture. Sadly, there does not appear to be an official body to protect such treasures; it is left to the individual churches to raise money for their conservation and St Mary's is presently faced with this challenge. These precious artefacts have significance in their own right, and importance for their contribution to art, history, sociology and teaching, as well as their powerful spiritual aspect.

Most medieval churches in this country were painted, many with scenes from the Bible and the life of Christ. They would be repaired and replaced if they became damaged; sometimes new murals would supersede the originals. When the Reformation came, all screens, carved and painted images and wall paintings were obliterated and covered with limewash. The wall paintings at St Mary's were concealed in this way. The most devastating period of destruction for many church paintings was the Victorian period when, in the 19th century, plaster was stripped to reveal stonework. Many wall paintings were ruined, so the limewash covering served St Mary's well.

## Purpose and Meaning of Church Wall Paintings

The purpose of the medieval artist's work was worship and devotion, but above all to teach. The teaching aspect of the painting was fundamental; printed books did not appear until the end of the 15th century. The Bible and Service Books had to be written out by hand, and only the wealthy could afford to buy them. Even if books had been accessible, more than 80% of the village congregation were illiterate. The village priest, in that early period, was no scholar, and the paintings on the church walls were his visual aids in preaching to his villagers the principles of Christianity and the stories of Christ and the saints.

Medieval church paintings contained special signs, gestures and attitudes to help people understand the story and message and these characteristics can be seen in the paintings at St Mary's.



St Mary's wall paintings were finally uncovered in the 1970s, when they were analysed by the Courtauld Institute who carried out some conservation work. Since then, the paintings have deteriorated and are in urgent need of expert attention.

The total cost to carry out the immediate conservation work needed on the most vulnerable areas of the paintings is £12,000. The church has been successful in securing a grant of £6,000 towards this cost from Church Care with financial support from the Pilgrim Trust and the Radcliff Trust. We are now looking to fundraise the shortfall to help protect them for future generations.

**If you would like to make a donation, you can do this via our crowdfunder campaign which is accessible by scanning the QR code on the opposite page, on our website at [www.stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk](http://www.stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk) and our social media platforms.**

*If you would prefer, you can drop off donations at the Church Office at The Wheelhouse, 82 East Lane, West Horsley KT24 6TJ.*

**If you would like to learn more about the history of St Mary's and to view the unique medieval wall paintings, there will be a talk in the church on**

**Friday 15th October at 7pm  
Tickets are £5 to include a glass of wine and nibbles**

**Please book via our Church Office  
on 01483 281898 or  
email [office@stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk](mailto:office@stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk)**



*Scan this QR Code with the camera on your smart phone to go straight to our Crowdfunder Project Page if you would like to donate.*





# We are #HereForCulture

St Mary's Church is a Grade 1 listed building and we are so grateful to have been awarded a Heritage Fund Grant of £25,000 from the government's Covid-19 Recovery fund. This was specifically for the repair of the buttress on the north west wall which we are pleased to say has now been completed. This has made a huge difference in enabling us to continue to care for the building.



# B@titude

## Nurturing Hope in North Leatherhead

BY LOUISA WINTER

Head of the Mission Committee at St Mary's

*You have probably driven past it on your way to B&Q or Tesco without realising. On the Kingston Road, nestled at the heart of the community in North Leatherhead, lies a shop called B@titude. It's a shop, but it's also much more than that. It's a doorway into people's lives, a beacon of Christian love and hope shining into the local neighbourhood.*

Chatting over coffee, Jenny Moore and her friends dreamt of a place where local people could afford to shop for the clothes, toys and equipment they desperately needed for their babies and children. The dream came to life when the B@titude shop opened in January 2005.

Now celebrating its 15th anniversary, B@titude has welcomed so many people through its doors. Once inside, they find not only a treasure-trove of goodies but also, (just as) importantly, a listening ear and a refuge from the challenges of life in a community that is only just down the road but, in so many ways, far-removed from The Horsleys.

Right from the start, having a tea and coffee area had been an important aspect of the shop and a way to build deeper relationships and find solutions for the needs in the community. Although this area has since closed, a new community cafe is opening across the road within the next few months and it has not stopped the strengthening of relationships and ongoing support. It has allowed B@titude to connect more widely with individuals and families who shop.

Opening the door into people's lives enables B@titude to nurture a sense of community and bring hope to relieve despair. Alongside the shop, they offer a counselling service, staffed by professionals, which has been a lifeline for many caught in the cycle of debt and addiction, or facing relationship issues. It takes time and perseverance

but there are so many stories of lives transformed as mindsets are changed. B@titude also organises days out, holidays, theatre trips, Mother's Day meals and many more activities that bring people together and create happy memories.

All this is made possible by the support and sponsorship of many local people and organisations, including St Mary's which supports B@titude financially and in prayer as one of its Mission Partners.

*Reflecting on the last 15 years, Jenny Moore says 'We are so thankful for our shop community and for the many journeys we have made that have changed us all. We really have laughed and cried together through the years. This is a very resourceful, lively community and we are delighted to be part of the Leatherhead story. There are many more dreams waiting!'*

### How can you help?

- Use our shop and/or donate children's clothes, toys and equipment
- Volunteer your time and skills (shop, crafts, gardening, admin, marketing)
- Give money (one-off donation or sponsorship)
- Join our board of trustees - we are currently looking for 2 new trustees.

**Please get in touch - we'd love to hear from you!**

[www.batitude.org](http://www.batitude.org) | 205 Kingston Road, Leatherhead KT22 7PB | 01372 374666 | [hello@batitude.org](mailto:hello@batitude.org)







# CHILDREN AND YOUTH

ST MARY'S



There are three groups that operate at our 10.45am Sunday Morning Service at East Horsley Village Hall:

**Roots** (0 to Reception age) **Construction Zone** (school years 1 to 5)  
**I.D.** (school years 6 to 10)



On Sunday evenings, during term time, we have our youth group called Reclaim for young people in school years 6-13.

5pm - 6.30pm at The Wheelhouse, 82 East Lane

We recognise the importance for children and young people to find a safe place where they can belong, find friendships, feel at home and can explore what a relationship with Jesus is all about. We would love to see you!



For any more information, please contact:  
**Edd Cope - Our Children & Youth Minister**  
01483 281898 or eddcope@stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk

## AFTER SCHOOL YOUTH CAFE

### Coming soon...



## Save the date for our Superheroes Party



### Sunday 31st October 2021

# WHO LET THE DADS OUT?

For children and the men in their life  
(dads, grandads, uncles, carers etc...)

Saturday 9th October 2021  
9.30-11am at The Wheelhouse

Looking for something to do with the kids on a Saturday morning?

- Bacon Butties
- Meet Other Dads
- Toys Sports Games
- Give Mum Some Time Off





# Did you know?

**We now have a defibrillator located in St Mary's Church front porch, which is accessible at all times.**

*We want to make sure that as many people as possible in our community know that this life saving device is available for use, should the need arise.*



## Dates for your Diary:

**Sunday 3rd October**  
10am at St Mary's Church  
**Family Harvest Celebration**



**Sunday 14th November**  
10.30am at St Mary's Church  
**Service of Remembrance**



**01483 281898**  
**[office@stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk](mailto:office@stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk)**  
**[www.stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk](http://www.stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk)**

**St Mary's Church**  
Epsom Road, West Horsley,  
Leatherhead, Surrey KT24 6AP

**St Mary's Church Office**  
The Wheelhouse, 82 East Lane,  
West Horsley, Surrey KT24 6LQ

**East Horsley Village Hall**  
Kingston Avenue, East Horsley,  
Leatherhead, Surrey KT24 6QT