



St Mary's
WEST HORSLEY

Christmas 2021

Magazine

LOVE
CAME DOWN

With our Best Wishes for a very Happy Christmas

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: Committed | Connected | Courageous

Here at St Mary's, we want to try and do all we can to care for God's earth, so we have decided to print this edition of our magazine on 100% recycled paper. Find out more about our new ECO Church project on pages 4 & 5.



A big thank you to everyone who kindly and generously donated to this year's Reverse Advent Collection for North Guildford Food Bank, the Salvation Army in Guildford and local charities in Leatherhead. Once again you went above and beyond, and your donations have gone to support those most in need this Christmas time.

Hello!

Friends,

Last year there was lots of talk about 'Christmas being cancelled' and this year there have been similar headlines. World supply chains have been disrupted - so will the toys and presents we want to buy arrive in this country? There aren't enough lorry drivers at present, so even if those containers dock in our ports, will they make it to the shops? We may not even be able to get the exact size turkey we want, because there are not enough farm labourers to process the birds.

I want to assure you that Christmas is never cancelled, even if we can't buy all the stuff we want, argue with our family, or eat too much. Maybe a simpler Christmas this year would be good for us?

Whatever happens, you will still have the chance to think again about the astonishing truth that God entered the world he created, in all the fallen, complicated mess we have made of it, to begin the ultimate rescue mission.

We all have individual stories of how the last 20 months have affected us. For some it has been a time of taking up new hobbies. Others enjoyed working from home and seeing the family more. If you had school age children, it was about surviving home-schooling and realizing just how amazing teachers are!

One thing I notice is that its impact continues to work itself out. People struggle with fatigue and are weary. For all the privileges of living in a western nation, of living in a wonderful village, it hasn't protected us.

Jesus offers all of us an invitation: 'Come to me, all who are weary, and I will give you rest.' Real rest, and a way of life that satisfies.

I want to make an invitation to you too, to come to one of our services this Christmas. All our favourites - like Carols by Candlelight, Christingle, and the Christmas Day celebrations - are back, but we are having to ask people to book this year so we can manage the numbers safely. All the details can be found on page 9 and on our website.

God makes his invitation to everyone in the Horsley's. Let's regather as a village this Christmas to remind ourselves of the extraordinary truth that God came into the world, because he loves you and loves me. Christmas is never cancelled.

As ever, Phil

Phil and Louise Herrington



Dreaming of a Simpler Christmas

The Joy of Enough

BY LYNDA RIDGE

Climate change is this year's other big subject, it feels like we need to ramp up what we've been doing too slowly over the last few decades; ideas and instructions hit us from every quarter. It's overwhelming. It hurts that there are no easy solutions. All the good ideas seem to have a sting in the tail. I'd love to be able to say 'if we did this... and this... then climate change will be reversed and our planet saved'. But I can't.

But I am fairly certain that we consume too much. I know I do. So, consuming less seems like a good idea. Even that will have a knock-on effect globally and we will need to work that out too. Our current economy feels like a juggernaut of endless spend, more, bigger, better... and it won't be turned 'in a moment', but we could make a start - being satisfied with what we have, making things last longer, repairing, buying preloved.

The Gift of Giving

Giving is important; it keeps our hearts tender and warms relationships: so, I hope you find the perfect present for your loved ones this Christmas. A really great gift for our children would be for them to know the joy of enough. A new generation growing up not tied to a quantity of 'stuff'. What might they then achieve in working to undo some of our planet-costly mistakes?



Zero-tolerance on waste

My eco-passion: nothing, absolutely nothing to landfill! It's hard - impossible - at present. But promise me this for Christmas: enjoy your turkey and all the glorious food that makes up our Christmas eating, but value your leftovers, buy less, share your meals, freeze, be recipe-inventive, use it all, compost a little, make use of your food waste collection if you must. But not a scrap to landfill!

This week, I've just been rereading the story of the feeding of the five thousand in the Bible. Jesus says: 'Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.' How amazing is that!

A New Eco Direction

I'm privileged to write this article because St Mary's church is committing to becoming an eco-friendly church and I'm one of the champions for this initiative. We are not alone in this; along with many other churches in the UK, we have recently registered with A Rocha's Eco-church to help us keep focused on what is good to do.

You can find out more info at www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk

An important part is appreciating and celebrating our world which we see as a gift from God, and learning why we need to care for it. We are beginning to make sure we have greener processes and practices in our buildings and on our land. And our congregations will be encouraged into more sustainable lifestyles and in using their voices and energies to support local, national or global campaigns to protect our planet.

We are currently trying to reduce our paper cup waste as a Church so do remember to bring your own mug/flask for your coffee after our services!





Talking with Children about Climate Change

BY ANNEKE THERON

Thinking about the reality of Climate Change could be overwhelming. Talking with our children about the challenges that they may be facing, could feel like a daunting task. However, with our increased awareness and understanding of what is happening in the world, I believe that it is our responsibility to talk with our children to help prepare and empower them – and for us to take an active role in supporting positive change.

It could be difficult to start the conversation about Climate Change, especially because of the difficult feelings it may evoke in us. As parents, we would like to reassure our children that everything is OK, and it could be uncomfortable to talk with them about things that seem rather out of control.

As we think about opening up this topic with our children and trying to instil a sense of active hope, I personally find it so reassuring that we have a solid foundation in a loving and powerful Father God. Knowing that he holds the world and the future in his hand is such a security in these uncertain times.

When we talk with our children, I think it is important to remember that we can never start the conversation too early – use those moments that come up naturally with questions our children may ask or in a supermarket aisle when making shopping choices.

Here are a few thoughts about how we could raise our children to tackle the challenges around Climate Change:



Build a connection with nature

For our children to prioritise sustainability and making a positive difference, they need to have a connection with, and appreciation of, the natural world. Making sure that our children spend enough time outside and in nature will help them to value and understand how eco-systems work and how living things are reliant upon one another to survive and thrive. With modern life and so many demands on our time, it is easy to lose a connection with our beautiful surroundings and the wonderful feeling that comes when we truly spend time in nature and get in touch with the smells, sounds and the sense of soil between our fingers.

Opportunities for delayed gratification and the value of the process

In a world where things happen with increasing speed at the click of a button, it is not surprising that it can be difficult to teach our children the

value of waiting and creating. Buying a product with quick online delivery or picking up a food item from a supermarket shelf does not always help our children to understand the process. In preparing our children for a future world where things are going to have to be done differently, it would be great if we can help them understand and appreciate the process. For example, planting a seed, all the way through to the harvest and beyond, which although slow and delaying gratification, could also be deeply satisfying!

The long-term benefits of developing our children's perseverance and resilience when they are young will put them in a steadfast place to face future challenges.

How we define pleasure and celebrations

For our generation, there is a strong association between instant 'pleasure' and a quick and easy clear-up. Whilst conveniences do make life easier, we can choose to think differently about the pleasure associations that we want our children to make as they grow up in a world where we have to carefully evaluate the impact of our actions on the environment. The good news is that real joy is far removed from any material things anyway, but instead embedded in our relationships and, above all, security in our faith.



Exploring other choices and making this a positive process

Perhaps it feels as if our individual choices have little impact, but collectively what we all do matters so much! If we live with a mind-set that our choices don't matter, not only is this untrue, but it also

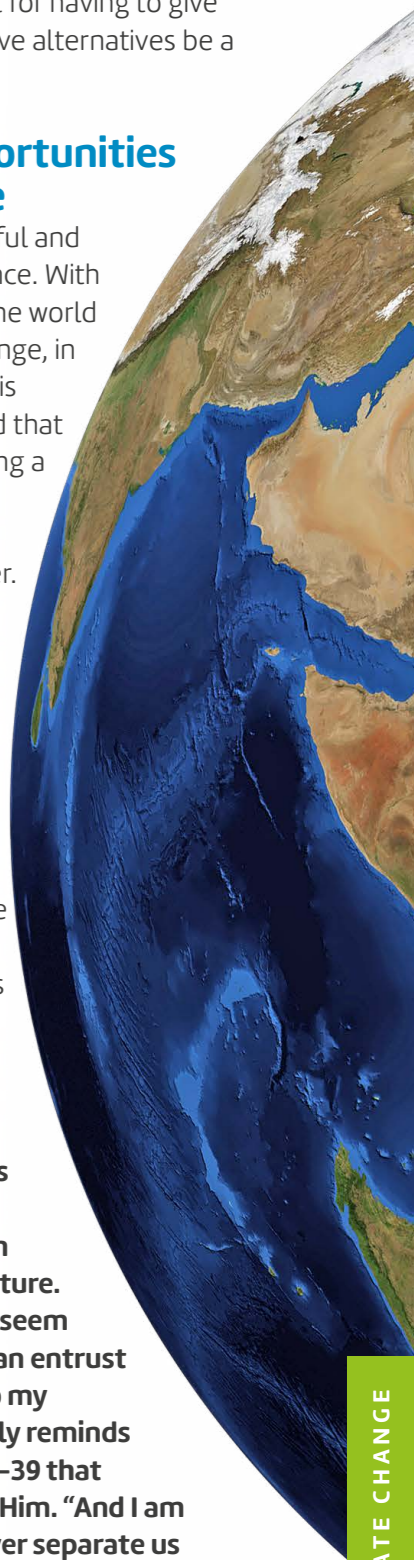
makes us feel powerless and takes away our focus from enabling our children to feel that they can make a positive difference in the world. So, when we seek alternatives, instead of looking at this as a sacrifice and feeling resentful for having to give something up, let finding positive alternatives be a joyful and meaningful process.

Create practical opportunities to make a difference

We all know that it can be helpful and empowering to make a difference. With much of what is happening in the world right now and with Climate Change, in particular, out of our control, it is important for our wellbeing and that of our children (as well as making a positive contribution to those around us) to focus on those things that we have control over. We may not have control over the decisions of others, but we can make a difference in our own environments, for example, by picking up litter in our local park, and get our children to participate in these actions. Greta Thunberg is a good example of what could be achieved by determination and even though for most of us making a difference may look very different, imagine what we could achieve together.

Perhaps this article only skims the surface of opening up the conversation with our children and preparing them for the future. Although the challenges may seem overwhelming, I know that I can entrust my worries and anxieties onto my Heavenly Father, who so clearly reminds us in the Bible in Romans 8:38-39 that nothing can separate us from Him. "And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love."

With the certainty that God has the whole world in his hand, I rest easy, and I trust him in everything – Climate Change included!



explore

life
faith
meaning



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

Try Alpha with us this January

For more information or to register your interest about doing Alpha, please email our Church Office at office@stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk or phone 01483 281898

Is there more to life than this?

I wonder who made all this?

What am I doing here?

Do I have a purpose?

Does God exist?

8 TRY ALPHA

Got questions about life? Find out more about Alpha on their website www.alpha.org

LOVE CAME DOWN



We invite you to celebrate Christmas with us at our
Christmas Services

All of our Christmas Services will be held at **St Mary's Church, Epsom Road KT24 6AP**
(Free car parking available to the rear of the church)

Carols by Candlelight *

Sunday 12th December at 7pm



Family Carol Service

Sunday 19th December at 10am



Christingle Service *

Children can come dressed as an angel, shepherd, animal or wise man

Christmas Eve at 3pm

First Communion of Christmas

Christmas Eve at 10pm



Family Christmas Celebration

with Holy Communion

Christmas Day at 10.30am

* Booking will be required for these services at www.stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk/bookings



Family
Friendly

9 CHRISTMAS AT ST MARY'S

Introducing Andrew Kitcatt



I was beyond delighted to join the team at St Mary's at the beginning of September as the Worship Leader. What does that mean? Well, my main role is to organise the music at St Mary's, and, with the help of the wonderful musicians we have, create space for everyone to enjoy God in sung worship.

A little bit about me...

I am East Horsley through and through (#eastisbeast). I have lived in the area my whole life with my loving Mum and Dad (Sue and Martin), and my 3 brothers (Daniel, Stephen and David). There are also 5 beautiful dogs in my life. I attended Parkside and Reed's School, so that does mean that I am a Chelsea fan. During this time, I kicked footballs about

with friends, discovered my love for Theology and Philosophy, and, most importantly, picked up the guitar for the first time.

After school, I packed up and was shipped off to the University of Exeter (probably the best university in the world) to study *Theology and Religion*. I loved it so much that I even stayed on and did a Master's. God taught me so much whilst I was there, not just academically, but also with the life-long relationships I made. And all the while, my passion for music grew and grew as I played plenty of gigs with some great musicians. Exeter's Grace Church granted me the privilege of playing guitar for multiple Commission Conferences hosted in Exeter and Portsmouth, which remain among my fondest memories there. The productions were immense

What is your favourite Christmas Carol?

Christmas is a big deal for us. And rightly so! It's easily my favourite Christian holiday. The films, the food, the tree, and seeing all my family. But I think I speak for a lot of people when I say the best thing about Christmas is the music. Of course, we all love a good classic Christmas hit, and remembering that Michael Bublé exists, but for me nothing beats the carols. For the past few years, I have been leaning on *Silent Night*. Now, the theologian in me is screaming 'Silent night?? There's nothing silent about a baby being born! Jesus was human, the song is unrealistic!' But then I think that Jesus is described as the 'Prince of Peace' in the Bible (Isaiah 9:6), which the song melody and the words clearly capture so beautifully - and so I can easily let that minor technicality slide!



in scale, and I must confess to feeling a fair bit of pride when I gave a 'masterclass' in lead guitar, and when random attendees would approach me for a 'rig-rundown'.

After university, in a rather odd turn of events, I spent a few years working for *Pets Corner*, and hopped between branches. Remember the multiple dogs I mentioned? That came in handy on many occasions. After a few years, I tried my hand at accountancy, which, it transpires, was not for me, and this is when the Worship Leader role comes into play. So here I am!

What are you most looking forward to?

I have been a member of the worship team at St Mary's since I was a teenager. Several musicians from St Mary's, Stuart Smith, Andy Callin and Nic Berry, took me under their wing and helped me develop into a confident musician, which I took to university and beyond. Just prior to leaving for university, I formed and led a team comprised of the church's youth. Now, as Worship Leader, I can't wait to use what I've learned over the years and to experience moments where God is going to move and inspire. And of course, I'm looking forward to learning all the hymns!



andrewkitcatt@stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk

the message®

BY DANIELLE CAMPSALL

At St Mary's, we support the work of five charitable organisations, providing financial and practical support as well as praying regularly for their work. We call these our Mission Partners, the newest being 'The Message' which is a UK Christian charity. They seek to deliver Christian schools work, creating Christian youth resources whilst encouraging local Christian mission and evangelism training. Danielle Campsall works for The Message and she explains more about who they are and the work they do...

The Message Trust has grown over nearly 30 years from a 'one man band' to now one of the largest UK Christian charities with hubs in the North West, North East, Yorkshire, West Midlands, East Midlands, London, Wales and Scotland – plus growing international hubs in South Africa, Canada and Germany.

We are passionate about sharing the love of Jesus in words and deeds. We know that the gospel is good news to be proclaimed and has lost none of its power to save, so you will find us in schools, local communities and prisons sharing the power of the gospel and the hope of Jesus.



From building up evangelists all over the world through our Advance groups, equipping and training young people on our Academy programme, declaring the love of Jesus in our schools and prisons, going into the poorest neighbourhoods with our Eden teams and Community Groceries, we are

seeing lives transformed as people discover their true identity in Christ.

To give a snapshot of the work of The Message:

Creative Mission

- Each year, 100,000 young people hear the good news of Jesus through our missions teams going into schools, assemblies and gigs.
- We have taken our evangelism online and have seen over 1.2 million people view our content over the last 12 months.
- Over 12,000 young people hear about their true value and identity through our UK Respect Me teams.

Community Transformation

- Over 750 Eden volunteers have moved into communities in the UK's Poorest 10% as long-term urban missionaries.
- Our high-tech mobile youth buses provide a safe 'off the street' environment for young people to go to. We partner with local churches for short term mission in their locality to help build a youth group, inviting those from the community to use the bus and hear the gospel at the same time as connecting with the youth workers of the church.
- Our new initiative, the 'Community Grocery', provides not only highly discounted food for families in need but also lots of wrap-around support courses for our members and their families. Over the last 12 months, we have launched our first 10

groceries with many more to follow, we have over 9000 members and have seen hundreds come to Christ through the work.



Equipping & Training

- Every year, as we train our young people on our Academy programme and send them out on mission, they themselves see hundreds come to

Christ and we see them growing in confidence in the gospel they're sharing.

- Our Advance groups are growing at pace, now with over 850 multiplying groups of evangelists in over 70 nations and the Advance groups guide has been translated into over 15 languages.

Christ-centred Enterprise

- Over 150 hours are spent supporting and leading services and discipleship groups in youth offending institutes and prisons every month. Many of these people are making decisions for Christ.
- Our enterprise centres employ ex-offenders and those who would struggle to find employment, providing them with jobs in our businesses, and with homes, discipleship and accredited training. The national re-offending rate says that 48% of adults and 40.4% of juveniles re-offend within 12 months; at our enterprise centres this figure is just 2%.



'Thank you St Mary's West Horsley for choosing The Message as a mission partner. We are so grateful for your support both financially and in prayer as we continue to step out in faith to see many more come to know the hope of Jesus. This really is an incredible time to stand with The Message. We are seeing God do remarkable things in people's lives and we're so pleased that you are part of this mission.'

CHRISTMAS IN THE COMMUNITY

What's on at St Mary's? Sundays

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

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

Whole Church Service together, once a month
10am at St Mary's Church

Reclaim Youth Group for school years 6-13
5-6.30pm at The Wheelhouse, East Lane

Thursdays

Noah's Ark Toddler Group
10-11.30am at The Wheelhouse, East Lane

Fridays

The Wheelhouse Cafe
Free coffee, cake and conversation
10.30am-12noon at The Wheelhouse, East Lane



West Horsley Parish Council
invites you to join our 2021
CHRISTMAS LANTERN PARADE
(for 4 to 12 year olds)
on Saturday 11th December

On the day, meet at 3.45pm to make a free lantern at Crossroads Stores. Adults and other youngsters can take their own lanterns **(No live flames please)** and meet at The Village Orchard at 4.30pm. We'll all enjoy carols and mince pies together, washed down with a little mulled wine or spiced fruit juice...

Register as soon as possible at Crossroads Stores, The Street, West Horsley
(places limited to 30)

For further information, contact Jenni at Crossroads Stores or refer to the Parish Council website

Horsley, Ockham and Downside Group Ministry present:

TENORS Un LIMITED

'the rat pack of Opera'



'Christmas Concert 2021'
Friday 17th December at 7.00pm
St Martin's Church, Ockham Road South, KT24 6RL
Tickets: £16 adults / £7.50 under 16's

Tickets on sale after services at St Martin's, St Mary's and All Saints Ockham, at Bishopsmead Parade Post Office or by visiting: tenorsunlimited.com/tickets

* all interval refreshment proceeds go to Duchenne / Harrison's fund.

Free parking is available at Horsley Towers, and overflow at Thatcher's Hotel.

 tenorsunlimited.com Follow us on... 



LOVE CAME DOWN

Christmas Services

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Carols by Candlelight *

Sunday 12th December at 7pm



Christingle Service *

Children can come dressed as an angel, shepherd, animal or wise man

Christmas Eve at 3pm



Family Christmas Celebration

with Holy Communion

Christmas Day at 10.30am

* Booking will be required for these services at
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St Mary's Church

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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