

Christmas 2022

IS BORN

Warm Welcome Spaces In Horsley

Guildford Refugee Aid

A Place For Youth - With A Difference

The True King Of Christmas



With our best wishes for a very Happy Christmas



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 11th December at 7pm

Family Carol Service

Sunday 18th December at 10am

Christingle Service

Children can come dressed as a Nativity Character Christmas Eve at 3pm

Midnight Mass

Christmas Eve at 11.15pm

H Family Christmas Celebration

Christmas Day at 10.30am

Family Friendly

Who is this child in the manger?

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.

Welcome to the Christmas edition of the St Mary's Church magazine, especially if you are new to the village having moved in recently. West Horsley is a fantastic village and we hope you guickly feel part of it.

I was listening to an interview on the radio recently, where people were calling in to share how the cost-of-living crisis was going to affect their Christmas plans this year. I was struck by the comment of one lady who said that Christmas seemed to offer empty promises- the ads depicted a season of warmth, sumptuous food, company, fun and laughter.

But the reality for so many people, she noted, was different- on Christmas Day there would be loneliness, sadness, not enough food, heartache and very little joy.

At St Mary's we, like many people, see the difficulties that people face and seek to do something about it. We recently raised some money so we can make small gifts to those in need. You can read about the initiative on page 5. We are also starting up a 'Warm Welcome Space' in the Wheelhouse on East Lane, and have liaised with other community groups to advertise their initiatives too. You can see these details on page 9. We're playing a small part in trying to alleviate some of the pain people are experiencing.

If the lady on the radio lamented the gap between the Christmas perpetrated by the adverts and the reality of it, what is it really about?

To understand that, you have to push your way past the false promises of 21st-century hyper-consumerism and head back to the first century.

www.stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk

OUR CHRISTMAS SERVICE

When the angels announced (an extraordinary event in itself) the extraordinary news that a baby just born in Bethlehem was God, they promised that it was good news, that he was their Saviour, that he was going to rule forever as the King of Kings – you can read more about this on page 11.

Jesus was born into poverty, forced to flee persecution in the first couple of years of his life and had very little of the things the world values. He took on the role of a slave, a servant, who came to serve and not be served. He came to preach good news to the poor, bind up the broken-hearted and bring freedom to those struggling with things that bind them. His promises never fail, as billions of people over the past two thousand years can testify.

This Christmas we're asking the question: Who is this child in the manger? You are warmly invited to come and explore that for yourself and encounter the God whose

promises satisfy.

As ever,

Phil







In the lead-up to Christmas, what are our views on giving and receiving gifts? Do we prefer to receive a gift, or do we prefer to give one? Probably most of us would say the former, but we would also acknowledge that there is something very special about giving a gift. As every parent will testify, there is nothing so heart-warming as seeing your children blissfully happy on Christmas morning with what you have worked hard to give them.

Of course, the two go hand-in hand. It is simply not possible to give unless someone is prepared to receive and vice versa. In the first century, the fledgling Christian community in Israel and Asia Minor understood the importance of giving and receiving. We read in the Bible that they shared all their possessions so that nobody was in need. That is, if anyone had too much of something, they would give to someone who had too little or nothing. The recipients would willingly accept, knowing that one day they may be called upon to give something themselves.

The modern Church is keen to continue this tradition twenty centuries later, in the 21st century. Indeed, today, the Church of England is still one of the biggest givers in the UK and the global church remains the world's biggest provider of free education, health care, medicines and food.

Yet there is more to giving than just simply blessing others. That is why Jesus said it is more blessed to give than to receive.

This is because there is a spiritual dimension to giving as well. It is in giving that we can draw closer to the heart of God, who is the world's ultimate giver. The Bible reminds us that 'God so loved the world that he GAVE his only begotten Son, so that all who believe in him would not perish but have everlasting life'. However, it is important to point out that this can only work, and givers can only be blessed, if someone is **PREPARED TO RECEIVE.**

Unfortunately, our society in modern Britain is very often proud and independent. We feel somehow unable to receive from someone. Why is this? This is certainly not the culture in other parts of the world and, indeed, Jesus himself was often happy to receive meals and hospitality at other people's homes and at other people's expense. St Mary's church, which comprises a couple of hundred people, has raised several thousand pounds to spend on those members of our community who have heating bills and food bills to pay.

The church would be blessed if we could distribute this money to the places where it is most needed. My prayer this Christmas is that people in the local community would set aside any feelings of pride and independence and bless the church by receiving financial gifts.

In this way, I hope that our community can be more like the community of the Middle East in the first century. Like the community that genuinely shared resources so that nobody went without. A community which did not reject offers of kindness with the result that nobody went hungry and cold. A community which knew how to receive as well as give and, above all, a community which was NEVER EMBARRASSED to receive from others.

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 If you want to know more about receiving a financial gift this Christmas, please contact our Rector, Reverend Phil Herrington, and he would be happy to help. If you receive a gift, thank you for blessing the church.

Email: philherrington@stmaryswesthorsey.co.uk Phone: 01483 283821



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

YouTube



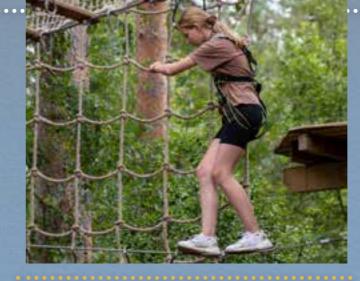
For the past six months, members of the congregation at St Mary's have been volunteering through Guildford Refugee Aid (GRA) to help and support people who are seeking asylum and living locally. GRA is a local voluntary organisation set up to provide support to displaced people in the UK and overseas.

The families living in our village often arrive with nothing, after long and arduous journeys, feeling vulnerable and alone. Once here, life continues to be incredibly challenging. The living arrangements are difficult; particularly so for families, with cramped conditions and low quality, pre-packaged food. Their lives are 'on hold' as they are unable to work and the timescales for next steps are unknown. Added to that, a very limited amount of funds, limited transport, and without a network of family and friends nearby, it can be extremely difficult for people to remain in a positive state of mind.

GRA provides practical support in the way of clothing and shoes to meet the immediate needs. It also seeks to provide some minor reprieve from the uncertainty and fear of what may lie ahead in the coming months and years, through regular English classes and a variety of other activities, and helps find educational learning opportunities and volunteer experiences.

Through activities such as walks, art classes, sewing and knitting, as well as facilitating links with local sports clubs and other organisations, church members and other GRA volunteers aim to show compassion, to build community, and to help people regain a sense of self-worth. Over the summer, the children benefitted considerably from the enthusiastic volunteer teams and a day trip to Go Ape. We are very grateful to the Horsley Community Bus team for their wonderful care and flexibility in providing many trips for our families in their already busy schedule.





Caroline Burnett, who runs Guildford Refugee Aid, says, 'The way that the Horsley community, both individuals and local organisations, have stepped in to welcome and so wholeheartedly show solidarity with people during this time of need has been incredible. We would like to sincerely thank all of you for your support.'

If you are interested in getting involved with any of the activities mentioned above, or indeed have other new ideas, we would be delighted to hear from you-please contact

guildfordrefugeeaid@gmail.com to find out more.

A friendly smile and willing pair of hands goes such a long way to help people feel welcome and valued, and the opportunity to chat and improve their English is always appreciated.

From the beginning of December, we're also planning to run cooking events in East Horsley Village Hall, as the simple pleasure of sharing home-cooked meals hasn't been possible. We'd love to gather a small group of volunteer buddies for shopping and to come along to help on the day, with the chance to sample the delicious food from all over the world that the eager cooks are so very keen to share.

'It has been so rewarding to spend time doing something that I take for granted speaking English - to help give a voice to people who so desperately need one.

Louisa, St Mary's congregation member and GRA volunteer

who are running some great youth and craft activities, and Horsley football club - it really is a growing village project!

'Despite the headlines, the reality is a group of very vulnerable people, each with their own difficult stories, in need of our help.'

Sammy, St Mary's congregation member and GRA volunteer

Meanwhile, the Ukrainian families hosted in our village homes continue to be well supported at the schools and workplaces they attend, with their English gradually improving. There are a couple of families who found it too hard to be split from their loved ones at home and have now returned to Western Ukraine. As a church, we will be praying for their continued safety and wellbeing and also, for those who may take the difficult risk of going back temporarily over Christmas.

As we reach the 6 months mark, some families are now looking for new hosts and understandably wish to stay in the area where they are settled. Surrey council is very keen to hear from any new host families and has also increased the monthly 'thank you' payment to £600 to cover winter bills.

At St Mary's, we are praying for peace in Ukraine and across other troubled countries, for the wellbeing of our guests in our local community and for protection over their extended families back home. We hope that their lives may become safer, more independent and more meaningful as they seek to navigate the decisions and challenges ahead.



We would also like to acknowledge and give our thanks to; the volunteers at St Martin's East Horsley, West Horsley Place

Warm Welcome Spaces in the Horsleys BY ANDY LEWIS ST MARY'S CHURCH WARDEN

No doubt we are all only too aware of the cost-of-living crisis that we are living through – it's on the news every day, and with mortgage rates increasing so dramatically, we may all start to feel the pinch. In some cases, it's quite possible that our income might not match our outgoings anymore. As the news has talked about, with the fuel costs escalating, this might mean needing to cut back on heating.

In the depths of winter, that is a terrible decision to have to take, and so, to assist those struggling to heat their homes, there is a national initiative to create Warm Welcome Spaces for local people to use. As the name implies, these places will be warm and welcoming, but equally important they are free to use, staffed by volunteers to ensure safety, and will have facilities to provide free hot drinks.

The most important aspect is that they are local, available to people to use within a mile or two of their homes. St Mary's, St Martin's and the Methodist Church run free, open-to-all coffee mornings each week- Warm Welcome Spaces that are already available.



Please, if you are one of so many struggling with the costs of heating your home, come and use these warm spaces.

this information on St Mary's and the

Parish Council websites.

At St Mary's, we have decided to extend

throughout the afternoon with hot drink

simple lunch of soup and rolls. There will

(timings may vary each week, so please do check

www.stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk for latest details)

We are also working with others in the village to

included in these Warm Welcome Spaces at other

times in the week – for the period of the coldest

activities that they are happy to open to anyone

participate, just come and have a cup of tea and

open to all during their regular opening hours.

There may well be more spaces made available

in the coming weeks, and you will be able to find

warm up), and the Horsley library is a warm space

weeks through the next few months. For

needing warmth (and you don't need to

example, the Wheel of Care runs a couple of

see what other local facilities or groups can be

the current opening hours of our

on Fridays). We will remain open

Wheelhouse Cafe (10.30am-12noon

making facilities available and over

be decks of cards and board games

available for folk to use, as well as

perhaps a small reading library.

lunchtime (1-2pm) we will offer a

ELCOATE BAO

WARM WELCOME SPACE

The Horsleys are responding to the cost-of-living crisis by offering Warm Welcome Spaces in our community providing a free, warm and safe place for people to go to this winter. Please do come and make use of them!

Current Warm Welcome Spaces in Horsley:

Monday:	Horsley Library 2-5pm, Parade Court, Oci
Tuesday:	Horsley Library 10am-1pm, 2-5pm, Para Wheel of Care Scrabble Club 2-3.45pm, West Horsley (next to the village hall)
Wednesd	ay: Wheel of Care Seated Exercise 10.3 Hall, The Street, West Horsley
Thursday	 Horsley Library 10am-1pm, 2-5pm, Par Community Coffee Morning 10am-12n East Horsley Coffee Morning 10.30am-12noon, Met.
Th	Mary's Wheelhouse Cafe 10.30am-5pm (ne Wheelhouse, 82 East Lane, West Horsley ww.stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk for latest det

Horsley Library 10am-1pm, 2-5pm, Parade Court, Ockham Road South, East Horsley

Saturday: Horsley Library 10am-4pm, Parade Court, Ockham Road South, East Horsley

Please refer to East and West Horsley Parish Council websites for more information in the coming weeks.



ckham Road South, East Horsley

ade Court, Ockham Road South, East Horsley , Wesley Room, Methodist Church, 97 The Street,

.15-11.30am, Cedar Room, West Horsley Village

rade Court, Ockham Road South, East Horsley **noon,** St Martin's Church, Ockham Road South,

thodist Church, 97 The Street, West Horsley

(2pm on the third Friday of the month) by (timings may vary, so please do check etails)





The Bereavement JOURNEY BY CAROLINE TITFORD ST MARY'S CHURCH WARDEN



Hope for this life and beyond

In 2021, we were moved by the numbers of people experiencing loss and potential impact of unprocessed grief from COVID, and so St Mary's decided to set up a Bereavement Team as a new ministry. The core purpose of the team is to come alongside and support those in our congregation, and in the wider community, in their own bereavement journey. The broader aim of the team is to encourage and help St Mary's to become a Bereavement Friendly Church. Through this ministry, we want our church family to help those who are grieving process their grief, find new or renewed confidence in God, and hope for this life and beyond.

On 27th November we hosted a Forget Me Not Service, inviting people from our community to a time of reflection and remembrance. Services like this provide an opportunity for people to hear about the God of love who comes to us in the midst of loss and pain.

Christmas can be a difficult time for those who have lost a loved one, are lonely, or struggling with any kind of pain or loss. Christmas is the story of the joyous birth of a son and our Saviour, but there is room in the stable for sorrow as well as joy. Jesus said, 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be **comforted'**(*Matthew 5:4, The Bible*). **We want** to recognise the struggles that many face at this time of year by offering some links to special bereavement support organisations, and, in the New Year, we will run the Bereavement Journey Course, developed at Holy Trinity Brompton (HTB).

The Bereavement Journey Course is a tried and tested way to help anyone who has been bereaved, whether recently or several years ago, with or without a Christian faith.

The course is made up of five/six sessions with short talks and small group discussions, and covers topics including: attachment, separation and loss, the pain of grief, and adjusting to change. It is available both in person and online. For more information go to www.htb.org/thebereavementjourney

Members of the St Mary's bereavement team have all received training as facilitators for the Bereavement Journey Course and in helping people process their grief.

If you would like to contact us for support, please email or phone Catherine Robinson: office@stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk 01483 281898

USEFUL LINKS

To find help at a time of loss: At a Loss - www.ataloss.org **Care for the Family -** *www.careforthefamily.orq.uk/* support-for-you/family-life/bereaveent-support/ Church of England - www.churchofengland.org/ life-events/funerals

To find out more about the 'Bereavement Friendly **Church' -** www.lossandhope.org/whats-on-offer/ becoming-bereavement-friendly/ •

THE TRUE KING OF CHRISTMAS

In the days that followed the sad and painful news of the Queen's death, we witnessed how the State formally proclaims the passing of the crown from one monarch to another. It was extraordinary to witness the pageantry involved.

There was a time when, following the meeting of the Accession Council, the announcement would be made by the Senior Herald (also known as the Garter King of Arms) in London, backed by the troop of trumpeters to get people's attention. The message was then taken by junior heralds, who were sent out to the towns and villages of the nation to communicate the good news of the new King.

I stood outside the village hall when the Chair of the Parish Council read out the formal Proclamation to the West Horsley community. The language seemed archaic and was certainly a test for all those charged with the responsibility of reading it out across the land! It made clear that Charles had become 'our only lawful and rightful King by the grace of God.'

The Proclamation pointed to the truth that there is a God- who is the supreme, ultimate power; the King of Kings, the one whom Queen Elizabeth II served so faithfully; the God who called her home to himself the day she died.

Whilst the Senior Herald recently proclaimed the good news of a new King, 2000 years ago, it was angels who proclaimed the good news of the arrival of the true

Engaging with questions like this would make Christmas interesting! Join us this December at our Christmas Services as we ask the question: Who is this child in the manger?



King. They came to Mary to proclaim that the child she would give birth to:

'will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'

Angels then went to the shepherds to proclaim the coming King to them as well:

'Fear not, for behold I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.'

It's easy for these verses, found in the Bible, to become dull through their familiarity, but they make explosive claims that some of you reading this may want to dismiss: God is real; that at a point in human history he came to earth to reveal his existence physically; that we're not the centre of everything, that life is really not about us at all...

Charles III is our new King, and he needs all the prayers he can get as he navigates this new chapter in his life. But Christmas reminds us that Jesus is the true King, the only King! If God is real then surely we must ask, 'What difference should that make? How does he want me to live? What does God think of me, my family, my work, everything?!'

A PLACE FOR YOUTH



'CAN I BE MYSELF OR DO I HAVE TO HIDE WHAT I THINK AND FEEL TO FIT IN? HOW MUCH MORE HAVE I GOT TO DO TO SUCCEED? WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT THE WAR, POVERTY AND RACISM GOING ON IN THE WORLD AROUND ME? WHAT I SEE ON SOCIAL MEDIA KEEPS MAKING ME FEEL BAD ABOUT MYSELF.'



These are questions and thoughts that our current generation of teenagers (Gen Z) are living with! It's no wonder that Youthsight's research (www.youthsight.com) says that half of Gen Z are always anxious.

As a parent of two young boys, I look at the culture they are growing up in and can see that it is likely to place more and more pressure on them. What I find encouraging though is that *Youthscape Centre for Research* shows us that 92% of Gen Z see family as a positive influence in their life and 93% of them see their friends as a positive influence as well.

This means that my role as a parent and the influence that I can have to equip my children to navigate this challenging world matters. Finding the right environments where they will be encouraged to be themselves, use their gifts and ask big questions in the face of life's challenges, is important. Finding a place where we know they will be valued for who they truly are, is vital.

Finding this kind of community for our children and teenagers can seem out of reach, but this is what we have on offer for the teenagers in our village and beyond. The community and culture in our St Mary's Youth Group are shaped by different values; these values create a space that looks and feels different from anything else they may have experienced before.

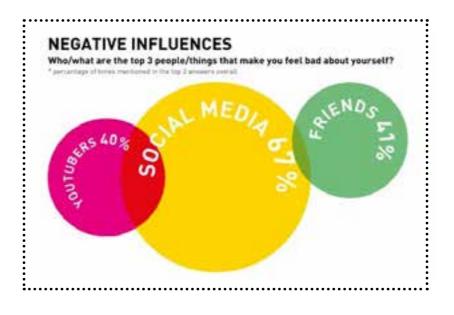
LIFE CONCERNS

In your own life, what are the top 3 things that you are most worried about?



We offer to all young people a safe space to come and think about the bigger things of life. A place to gather, to make life-long friendships, where there's no fear of judgement, and no pressure of trying to 'prove themselves' like they are constantly having to do at school – getting the right grades, or on the sport field etc...





We also seek to support parents and champion them in the best way we can, coming alongside them and journeying through the ups and downs of life together. At St Mary's, we understand that parenting is a real rollercoaster ride, and are constantly trying to figure things out as we go; each day seems to produce new joys and challenges! There is an amazing community of parents at St Mary's who help and support each other in this adventure of parenthood – something I value and appreciate so much.

If this kind of community sounds like the place you want for your teenagers, we would love to walk alongside you and your family and offer support as you navigate this crazy world!

Please do get in touch with me, Edd Cope, the Children's and Youth Minister, and I would be really happy to chat with you.

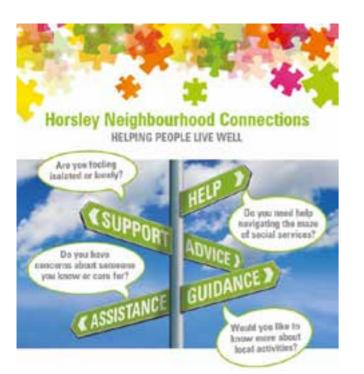
eddcope@stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk 01483 281898





YOUTH GROUP school years 6-13 sundays at 5pm

The Wheelhouse, 82 East Lane, West Horsley - All youth welcome!



If you've lived in East or West Horsley for any length of time, you'll surely know this area to be rather special: not only surrounded by beautiful countryside but also full of community projects, and wonderful neighbours and volunteers.

The challenge can be finding what help is available when we need it, and despite local Facebook groups, noticeboards and email lists, it can still be tough to find things out or know who to ask for help - even more so if you are unfamiliar with the locality.

To quote Donald Rumsfeld, there are things 'we don't know we don't know.'

Some years ago, in response to this very challenge, Neighbourhood Connections was set up.

This community project aims to help people live happy, healthy and independent lives in the Horsleys. This is not a medical service: it's there to help signpost local residents to support services that may be relevant, and to make connections in the area.

How does it work?

Neighbourhood Connections has a number of trained volunteers. They can provide a listening ear, as well as information and advice about local support and activities.

You might be looking for local transport, interest groups or activities, household help, statutory services or any other local info – or maybe you are feeling a bit isolated, or worried about someone you know or care for. Neighbourhood Connections is a great first point of call.

There is also a relevant publication: 'Living and Ageing Well in the Horsleys' is a guide to community services in East and West Horsley in a handy brochure which has been distributed by both parish councils twice to local houses, with the help of the Horsleys Community Fund.

If you wish to volunteer, or require help, please contact the Medical Centre on 01483 284151 or send an email to ktolley1@hotmail.co.uk



THANK

YOÜ



For the past 6 years, The Horsleys and surrounding villages have come together each Christmas to donate food and essential items to give to those most in need in our community.

A big thank you once again to everyone who kindly and generously donated to this year's Reverse Advent Collection for our two local foodbanks and the Salvation Army in Guildford. Once again you went above and beyond, and we couldn't do it without you! Same again next year?

The Reverse Advent Team





During the Covid-19 lockdown in 2021/22, Surrey textile designer Diana Burch from Haslemere Museum approached Clare Clinton (Arts, Heritage & Learning Manager) at West Horsley Place with the idea of involving the community in making a wall hanging that would epitomise the pandemic period. The intent was then for the result to be displayed at West Horsley Place (WHP) for everyone to enjoy.

Anyone could take part – all they had to do was create an embroidered, painted or sewn 6-inch square, using materials available at home, to represent what the memories of lockdown were for them. The villagers worked on their squares independently and Nancy Schafe (our own West Horsley felt-maker) guided and encouraged everyone with ideas and updates via a weekly blog. Many members of our St Mary's church family contributed a square sharing our faith through a difficult time.

Once the lockdown was over, Clare and Nancy asked for volunteers to work on joining the 84 squares together, first making the decision on how to arrange them! Thus the 'GladRags' group was formed and, with kind permission from the Trustees of WHP, we have been able to use their barn to work together and complete a historical reminder of the Covid-19 pandemic.

foyer of the WHP barn.

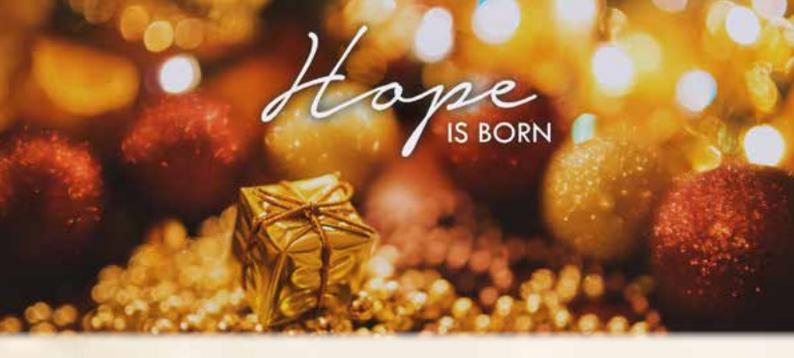
The GladRags continue to meet weekly and there are plans to work on projects associated with WHP once approved by the Trustees. In the meantime, there has been much creativity with knitting for 'Blankets Without Borders'- another Diana Burch project, and making items to sell at WHP events.

This has also been a great opportunity for three of us from the GladRags (Amanda de Haast, Meryl Hayes and me) to renovate three long, forlorn looking pew cushions discovered in St Mary's church vestry cupboard. Their repair was a challenge but, with Amanda and Meryl's expert knowledge, we were able to re-stuff, line, rework the tapestry top, make new hessian covers and even pipe the edges!

A Creative Comminity

The completed wall hanging is now a prominent feature in the





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 11th December at 7pm

M Christingle Service

Children can come dressed as a Nativity Character Christmas Eve at 3pm

M Family Christmas Celebration

Christmas Day at 10.30am

Family Friendly

A full list of our Christmas Services can be found on the inside front cover.



01483 281898 office@stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk 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