

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.



Join us for a family celebration on Easter Sunday!

Sunday 9th April 2023 at 10am St Mary's Church, Epsom Road KT24 6AP

There will be activities for children and refreshments served after the service.

Come and celebrate the greatest day in history with us!

Don't forget

We have two life saving defibrillators:

one located in the front porch of St Mary's Church,
Epsom Road and another on the front wall of
The Wheelhouse, 82 East Lane.
Both are accessible at all times.







Hella!

Welcome to this spring edition of the St Mary's Parish magazine. We're currently marking Lent in our Church year, which normally involves many of us giving up something we like a little too much in order to ensure it doesn't have any power over us.

This year I am also choosing to wake up a little earlier than normal in order to have a period of silence at the beginning of each day, enabling me to hear from God in ways that are impossible once the family are up, the school run looms and the working day begins. At times it has been difficult, when there is so much internal noise remaining even if externally all is quiet, but slowly this has settled as I meditated on the ancient wisdom of Psalm 46 where God says, 'Be still, and know that I am God'.

This edition is packed full of interesting articles from St Mary's and the wider community.

Steve, our curate, writes about the forthcoming Coronation of King Charles III and reminds us that his power is still secondary (as all power is) to that of the King of Kings, as Jesus is sometimes known.

One of our members, Hazel, shares about her role as a Prison Visitor in Send Women's Prison, and all that she is learning through this

endeavour. You can read about Martin's epic 1000 km bike ride to raise funds for one of our partner charities – The Message Trust – who are doing an extraordinary thing in very deprived areas of the UK and elsewhere.

Grace and Flavour, the Community Garden based in West Horsley, was set up by a member of the Church, but remains separate from us. Gerry Robbins, its chairman, writes about how the garden is doing and invites us all to a forthcoming open day.

As Lent comes to an end we will soon be celebrating the turning point of human history – the resurrection of Jesus Christ that first Easter Sunday. When we plan our services each year, we have a rich heritage of hymns to choose from, so we thought we'd ask our worship leader, Andy, to help us understand what Easter is all about by drawing upon some of the terrific lyrics contained in them.

So, we hope this magazine is interesting, thought-provoking and worth reading. We look forward to welcoming you again very soon at St Mary's – look out for details on page 8 for the upcoming service times or go to our website www.stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk

Happy Easter!

As ever, Phil Herrington

Rector



www.stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk

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The King's Coronation

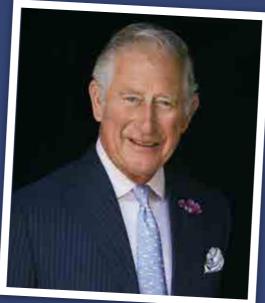
King Charles III's coronation will take place on Saturday 6th May at Westminster Abbey in London.

However, once again, some in Britain are questioning the purpose of the monarchy. Is it an expensive distraction with little relevance to modern life? Harsh critics may cite the recent events and allegations surrounding Prince Andrew and Prince Harry as examples of an 'out-of-touch' elite standing at the apex of an unequal society. Are these criticisms fair or even correct?

In Bible times, ancient Israel wanted a king. God granted them their request, but this did not go well for them. Their first king, King Saul, was unreasonable and there followed a catalogue of unsuccessful kings. The implication being that the only leader Israel needed was Yahweh, or God. Even their most revered king, King David, was found guilty of adultery and murder. So, what was, and what is, the purpose of the monarchy?

I believe that the monarchy in Britain is both a necessary and important component in the fabric of our nation. I believe that the United Kingdom and indeed the Commonwealth benefited from the stability that our late Queen, Queen Elizabeth II provided. In a time of unprecedented social and cultural change, her values and character were, for many, a rock on which to build. In their unique position of being 'above' politics, the reigning monarchs can champion causes without being constrained by political party politics and the wishes of donors. We have seen this with King Charles who remains one of the leading world advocates on the environment.

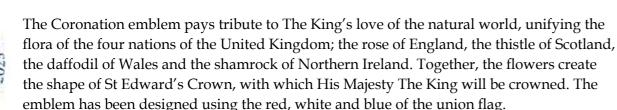
BY STEVE GREEN
ST MARY'S CURATE



The alleged misdemeanours of some members of the Royal Family should not detract from the great work that the majority of 'royals' carry out in supporting charities, promoting good causes and trying to champion the reputation of our nation abroad. God is hugely forgiving and despite for example, David's indiscretions, He used him and blessed him in a remarkable way. What would the King of Kings say? That is, what would Jesus say?

Jesus was unquestionably on the side of the poor, but He was also very pragmatic and realised that the best interests of the poor were not served by eliminating the rich. Nowhere did Jesus suggest that the ruling elite in Israel should be removed. Moreover, Jesus did not suggest the Emperor of Rome should be replaced. For Jesus it was not a conflict between rich and poor. Rather, it was a mutual coexistence based not on radical reform but radical love. A revolution not of arms but of love.

For all these reasons, I wish King Charles and his Queen Consort, Camilla, a long and happy reign. My prayer is that they would sense God's leading in all their decisions and that King Charles would reign with the same wisdom, compassion and integrity that defined his mother's reign.





YOU ARE INVITED TO CELEBRATE WITH US AT

Our Special Service for the King's Coronation

SUNDAY 7TH MAY 10AM AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

This will be a family-friendly service of celebration including themed activites for children.

AFTER THE SERVICE, THERE WILL BE A

Celebration Picnic

12PM IN THE RECTORY GARDEN 80 EAST LANE, WEST HORSLEY KT24 6LQ



BRING YOUR OWN PICNICS - ALL INVITED

(A) (B) (B) (C)







FUNDRAISING FOR THE MESSAGE TRUST

AT THE BEGINNING OF MARCH THIS YEAR, MARTIN KITCATT FROM ST MARY'S, JOINED A GROUP OF 15 AMATEUR CYCLISTS IN AN EXTRAORDINARY FUNDRAISING CYCLE RIDE ACROSS SOUTH AFRICA.

Each year, supporters of The Message Trust set off on the adventure of a lifetime to help raise funds for the ongoing work of the charity. After raising over £500,000 from challenges across South Africa (2016), Israel (2017) and Canada (2019), the aim this year is to raise £250,000 to support the work of The Message with some of the hardest-to-reach people and deprived communities across the globe.



South Africa is known as a cycling paradise with world-class roads greeting you around each corner. However, a 1000 km cycle ride with a climb of 7750 m was a physically and mentally demanding venture and the group had to undertake a thorough training programme to reach a fitness level that could maintain a peloton speed of over 20 km/h.

The route across South Africa began at the Pacific coastline in Port Elizabeth and involved over 7620 m of uphill cycling through legendary mountain passes, remote savannahs and breath-taking coastlines.



'Little did we know that we had chosen to start our journey on the day of a world Ironman series event in Port Elizabeth. We found ourselves surrounded by thousands of other cyclists, many of whom were planning on doing the same as us, namely to cycle all the way to Cape Town and finish the journey with the world's largest timed cycle race - the Cape Town Cycle Tour. So, on the way, we encountered many other mini pelotons like us as well as some amazing scenery, slightly scary wildlife and some biblical thunderstorms.

The highlights of the trip had to be cycling the ravine that hosts the world's highest bungee jump, and the final day round Cape Town taking in Table Mountain, the Cape, penguins and dolphins. We also managed to bookend the cycling with visits to The Message's operations in Cape Town. It was truly humbling to meet staff and partners from The Message who live and work bravely and tirelessly on the front line, in the townships, helping to turn vicious circles of decline into virtuous circles of hope.'

Martin Kitcatt

Martin's fundraising page: justgiving.com/fundraising/martinsmessagepage

WHAT IS THE MESSAGE TRUST?

The Message is a worldwide movement with • Message Community Groceries a passion to share Jesus Christ with the hardest-to-reach young people through community transformation, creative mission and Christ-centred enterprise.

Community Transformation

Eden sends urban missionaries into tough urban communities to model a new way of living for young people – as they share their lives, they also share the good news of Jesus.

Message Buses are mobile youth centres, kitted out with sports and creative gear to attract young people inside and off the streets. More important are the volunteer youth workers who engage young people, offering care and support.

Creative Mission

Our cutting-edge mission teams work all year round sharing the good news in schools. Teams working in prisons and young offenders' units deliver accredited creative arts courses leading to discipleship and mentoring opportunities.

Our weekly 'Genetik' sessions provide discipleship for young people alongside developing their talent and skills in dance and music.

Message Academy gives gifted 17 to 25-year-olds the chance to train alongside our team of creative and urban evangelists in Manchester for one year.

Enterprise

The Message Enterprise Centre supports people leaving prison and those at risk of offending by providing full-time jobs, training and discipleship, in businesses across the UK and South Africa, helping them break out of the cycle of re-offending.

The Message is one of our partner charities at St Mary's and will be visiting us on Sunday 14th May. Come along and find out more about The Message and the fantastic work it is doing: 9am at St Mary's Church or 10.45am at East Horsley Village Hall

Step inside a grocery and you'll find a range of food options fresh from local supermarkets. Our members can come and shop for their whole family at the fraction of the cost of a supermarket shop – and tonnes of food is saved from being wasted each year.

In each store there is also a range of free support like job clubs, money management support, healthy cooking classes, exploring Christianity courses and much more.

Achieving the goal of raising £250,000 would enable The Message Trust to:

- Set up eight new Eden teams of youth workers who choose to live in deprived communities across the UK
- Help launch a new Message Gangstar Café in Cape Town
- Create two new prison teams, one here in the UK and one in South Africa
- Open three new Community Groceries that will provide food support to over 1,500 families.

View the challenge total here: www.justgiving.com/team/messagecyclechallenge2





You are invited to...

Celebrate Easter

with the Horsleys and Ockham Group Ministry







Monday 3rd April: Easter Meditation, St Michael's Chapel, Downside at 7pm Tuesday 4th April: Film: The Passion of the Christ, St Mary's Wheelhouse (82 East Lane) at 7.30pm

Wednesday 5th April: Taize Prayer around the Cross, St Martin's East Horsley at 7pm

Good Friday 7th April Churches Together in Horsley and Ockham

Outdoor Service on the Village Green, Station Parade, East Horsley at 10am



Easter at St Mary's

Thursday 6th April Maundy Thursday Service, St Mary's Church at 8pm

Good Friday 7th April

Family Easter Trail around the Sheepleas, *St Mary's Church from 2-4pm*

Easter Sunday 9th April **Family Easter Celebration** 10am at St Mary's Church



What does Easter mean for us today?

If you want a summary of Easter in a hymn, Charles Wesley's And Can It Be, written in May 1738, could be one of the best places to start. In October 2013, the BBC's team at Songs of Praise conducted a survey to find the UK's best loved hymns. Out of the top 100, And Can It Be finished sixth!

BY ANDREW KITCATT - ST MARY'S WORSHIP LEADER

The message of Easter is a REALLY big deal. I'd go as far as to say it is what gives life meaning or purpose. It shows us what it means to be human, in that we are unconditionally loved by the God who literally put thought into making each one of us. And for those times when we have made a mess of our lives, through things we are ashamed of that make us feel we don't deserve love, God said 'Yes, you do, because I made you.'

How might Easter affect us today? Let's take a closer look at Wesley's beautiful hymn. I like to think of it as a before-and-after scenario he went through before he really 'got' what Easter is all about. The before situation did not look good -'Long my imprisoned spirit lay'. He also speaks about having dreaded 'condemnation'. At a time when mental health has never been more on the agenda, I'm sure that it is a familiar feeling for many of us. In the 21st Century, the message 'I'm not good enough' is everywhere. How many of us regularly say it to ourselves? How many of us hear it every day? 'Buy this! Be more successful!' Wesley believed he was not good enough for God and that God couldn't love him.

Even after having a Christian upbringing, a father who was an Anglican clergyman, and joining a club in his second year at university which was

dedicated to studying the Bible, prayer and charity, Wesley still hadn't got it - he needed

And the difference it made? Well, that can be found in some of the powerful words in this hymn... 'My chains fell off, my heart was free'. We see in the hymn that the whole realisation was quite overwhelming (hence the title 'And can it be'). He writes, 'Who can explore his strange design?' What was this design, exactly? It was Jesus saving us from condemnation, by dying on a cross. His own blood was the currency which he paid to free us from shame. But it doesn't stop there! Jesus came back to life, and then went up into heaven, and wonderfully, says you can do this too.

Wesley is telling us through this hymn that because Jesus' died and came back to life at Easter all those years ago, we can be free! Free from the guilt of all the things we are ashamed of. Why did he do this? As Wesley put it, 'Amazing love!' Thank God for Easter!



Scan the QR Code to take a listen to this best loved hymn

And can it be that I should gain, An interest in the Saviour's blood? Died He for me, who caused His pain? For me, who Him to death pursued? Amazing love! how can it be, That Thou, my God, should die for me?



'There but for the grace of God...'

What I have learnt through being a Prison Visitor

BY HAZEL BLACK

My connection with prison visiting came following my meeting a young homeless man.

In January 2011, I was in Putney when I saw a young man - let's call him M - sitting in a doorway next to Putney station, drawing. I was particularly moved to speak to him as he was a similar age to my youngest son; the words 'there but for the grace of God...' went through my mind.

I sat on the pavement next to him and we chatted as I admired his art. I asked how he had become homeless. He told me that his father had been killed in a motorbike accident, his mother had an affair with his best friend, so he had moved out when his friend had moved in! He went to live with his paternal grandparents, but his grandmother died and a couple of months later his grandfather also died. This meant M had nowhere to go, so he had no option but to sleep rough.



I spent many months going to and from Putney on a weekly basis to see M, to take him out for something to eat, to get his hair cut, get some

warm clothing and help him out when he had lost his phone, topping up his phone credit, getting him a TV for his hostel room and so on. M ended up in prison for shop lifting, to feed his drug habit. Thankfully, whilst there he managed to come off drugs. Once released he found himself various employments in warehouses and factories, but he seemed incapable of holding down a job or coping with responsibilities. His relationships with friends, girlfriends and family were equally unstable.

I learnt a huge amount from M. I learnt that whatever I gave him - clothes, TV, phone - he would sell to fund his drug habit. How naive I had been! Most of all though, I learnt that the mess M's life was in, was not out of choice but because of life's circumstances. He didn't want to be on the streets in all weathers. He would love to have been with his family, to have a job, to have money in his pocket, to not have scarred arms from needles, and rotten teeth from the drugs. Maybe if his father had not been killed, if his mother had put him first instead of having an affair with his best friend, if his grandparents had not died, his life would have turned out so differently.

It got me thinking about the stories of other people in prison. How many of them were there, not because they were hardened criminals but because they had not had a stable and loving upbringing? Because their home life was dysfunctional and broken? Because no one had shown them real love and care?

I spoke with a friend in St Mary's who was a prison visitor at the local women's prison at Send. I felt for those women. They were locked up 24/7. They had lost the freedoms that I take for granted every day. I wondered what the outlook was for them on their release if nothing changed while they were in prison. Was prison really the best place for many of them to turn their lives around? What difference could I

The Chaplaincy in Send Prison is very proactive and supportive and makes an enormous difference in the lives of many women there. In the 5 years or so I have been an Official Prison Visitor, I have been blessed to meet several fascinating and lovely ladies. Two had similar poor starts in life to M with parents who were drug addicts, alcoholics and had been in prison. No one had taught them how to be good mothers, how to run a home, how to manage their finances, how to handle relationship problems, how to nurture and love their own children. Also, contrary to what I imagined before I started prison visiting, two were ladies who under any other circumstances I could easily befriend - business women, educated, intelligent, well-read; but life had taken a tragic turn. What a surprise this was to me. How judgemental I had been.



Many people's attitude, I believe, is that they trust, without question, the judicial system and its decisions. They feel these 'criminals' deserve to be punished. They need to be locked up. They are in the right place. They are not our responsibility. For some, of course, prison is the best place.

However, how differently I now feel about many of those women. What an eye-opener it has been to meet these individuals and get to know them personally. I visit them sometimes once a week for two hours, sometimes just once a month, depending on their wishes. We chat about everyday things, share tea and biscuits together. They love to hear about life outside those enormous gates and barred windows. Some of these women are so far from their home that they never receive visits from family, so they are very grateful for someone to befriend them, someone who genuinely cares.



It is not my place to ask and none of them have chosen to tell me their full story; I take them as I find them, at face value and I feel blessed to have met them. From our visits together, I have gained at least as much from them as I hope they have from me.

The biggest lesson of all for me has been - never judge. You don't know the back story.

'There but for the grace of God, go I...'





My husband and I moved to the Horsleys from Cheshire five years ago and were immediately overwhelmed by the friendliness of the 'southerners' here, both at St Mary's and in the wider community. Sadly, my husband passed away two and a half years ago but I continue to benefit from the support and friendship that was originally offered to us.

I began to wonder if there was something I could do to pay back some of the goodwill that I have experienced. I started to think about a lunch club as this would be an opportunity for everyone to meet up with existing friends or indeed to meet new people and make new friends. This is what is now planned!

Anyone on their own will have a chance for companionship, young parents can meet up and exchange stories and newcomers to the village will have the opportunity to meet others and establish links in their new environment. In fact, I hope that everyone will feel welcome to come and enjoy company and conversation.



The date and venue for the first lunch are still being worked out, but it will happen soon so watch this space! Look out for flyers in the village and more info on our website at www.stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk

Grace + Flavour

From Rubbish Dump to Green Community Kitchen Garden

BY GERRY ROBBINS - G+F CHAIRMAN



The media are currently awash with concerns about food costs and security, carbon footprints and the environmental impact of agriculture. So, it is timely to remind you about this local project that is doing its bit to address these problems. Once you have read more, we hope you will be inspired to come along and join us as one of our volunteers. We promise you a friendly welcome.

In 2008 the abandoned three-acre walled garden and orchard at Dene Place, Ripley Lane, West Horsley caught the imagination of a community-spirited local by the name of Su Johnston. With the support of the landlord - the National Trust - and a brave army of volunteers, it was cleared over 18 months and in 2010 opened as the Horsley Villages' community kitchen garden and allotments. A tireless construction team resurrected its derelict building to create our very own 'Potting Shed' a name that belies its enormous usefulness for storage and display of produce, and as a welcoming place for our very important tea breaks.

What Does Grace + Flavour Do?

At a material level our volunteers simply grow vegetables, fruits, flowers and herbs in a communal setting. We also manage the 28 allotments adjacent to the communal garden supported by the two Horsley parish councils. But dig deeper (although actually we are a 'no dig' garden) and you will discover much more.

We produce all of the above without the use of artificial fertilisers or biocides. During the high season, we provide vegetable and flower boxes to local residents in need and we open a small shop to sell to the public. We sell some produce

at local events, open days and farmers' markets. We recycle our organic waste through composting. We encourage local wildlife through such features as a wildlife pond, nectar-rich flower beds, rough scrub areas, native-species hedgerows, and nest boxes. We look after the important boundary trees with the support and advice of the excellent team at Hatchlands.

Grace + Flavour also provides companionship, the joy of team work, an opportunity to indulge in friendly local gossip and some outdoor exercise, and achieve something useful at the same time. You can learn more about horticulture from our very knowledgeable head gardener, John Whitlock, our flower guru, Helena Stuart-Matthews, and the other members of the team.

A Special Event This Year

In addition to our usual social events, for the first time we will open on **Sunday 2nd July**, from 10.30am-5pm as part of the National Open Garden Scheme. Entrance £5 for adults, free for children. No booking required. Car parking and refreshments will be available. Further details are available at www.findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/44510/grace-flavour-cic

Wonderful Support

Grace + Flavour would not exist without its volunteers, the support of West and East Horsley Parish Councils, the National Trust Estates Management team and many others. The website has further details.





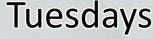


Sundays

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

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



Said Communion Service (with refreshments) 11-11.30am at St Mary's Church

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

We also run events and courses throughout the year, including Ladies and Men's Events, Children & Youth Socials and Parenting Courses.

Keep an eye out for up-coming events on our website and social media.









www.stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk

Can you leave a lasting gift to St Mary's?

We have a Legacy Policy that promises to use your gift to make a real difference to St Mary's

It has always been a great encouragement whenever someone has left a gift to St Mary's in his or her will. It's their testimony to the faithfulness of God and their thankfulness for the life of St Mary's. We would like to invite you to consider the difference a gift in your will could make.

Phil & Louise Herrington

Gifts in memory of a loved one

If you would like to make a gift to St Mary's in memoriam, please do get in touch to discuss this with us. It can be a wonderful way to remember a loved one.

At St Mary's, we welcome all gifts in wills, however large or small and we promise to use your gift to make a difference to our parish. Our Legacy Policy is to use gifts to help fund significant development projects, whether buildings, equipment or staff.

Since needs change over the years, we encourage you to leave a gift in your will for the general purposes of the parish rather than for a restricted purpose. We will discuss possible uses of your gift with your executors when the time comes, bearing in mind your known areas of interest in the church (e.g. music, buildings, children and youth, overseas mission or aid) and the church's priorities at the time.

You can be confident that your gift will be used to make a real difference to our future mission and ministry.

If you would like to talk to someone in confidence about legacies, please contact Rhiannon Stroud

rhiannonstroud@stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk | 01483 281898

Many people give regularly to the mission and ministry of the parish of West

proclaim the gospel to each generation. Leaving a gift in your will is a valuable

Horsley and over centuries of generous giving, St Mary's has been able to

expression of gratitude, love and thanksgiving towards God but it can also

help us invigorate life at St Mary's as we seek to follow Jesus, share the

gospel and be a blessing to our local community.







FAMILY EASTER TRAIL GOOD FRIDAY 7TH APRIL

Come for a fun afternoon for all the family, no matter the weather! We have a free Easter Egg Trail around the Sheepleas with prizes... plus games, activities, Easter craft and creative fun in the church.

There will also be Easter cakes, hot cross buns and refreshments.

St Mary's Church 2-4pm

Epsom Road, West Horsley KT24 6AP - *Free Parking*









01483 281898 office@stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk www.stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk