



*St Mary's*  
WEST HORSLEY

Easter 2024



With our best wishes for a very  
**Happy Easter**



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



**'Every good thing comes to an end'** goes the saying, and it's fair to say that our Curate, Steve Green, has been a very good thing at St Mary's. So it's with sadness that we confirm that he is moving on, having finished his training, to take on his own parish in a village on the outskirts of Farnham. Having been a successful headteacher before being called into Ordained ministry, he brought with him a wealth of experience and we have been hugely blessed by his presence with us. He has preached with humour and humility, organised some fantastic events, married numerous couples, baptised young children, taken many, many funerals and been a tremendous support to our Rector, Phil. **So we wish him and his wife Helen well and send them off with our prayers and gratitude.**



We have a team dedicated to all things 'Eco' here at St Mary's and are pleased to say that we have recently been awarded our **Bronze Eco Badge**. We have been trying to make small, simple changes to take better care of God's planet; including less printing, using reusable mugs at our services, creating a bug hotel in our churchyard and recycling our printer cartridges. Thank you to our Eco team for all their efforts and ideas - we are already on the journey to achieving our silver award - so watch this space!



**Thank you to everyone who recently came to our Community Consultation Drop-In** to find out more about our building project. We were genuinely thrilled and encouraged to see and speak to so many local residents and business owners - thank you for your time and interest. If you would like to receive updates about the project, please email [buildproject@stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk](mailto:buildproject@stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk)

**Keep an eye out in the coming weeks for a calendar of fundraising events to help support this exciting project.**

# Hello

Dear friends,

Sometimes it takes someone from outside of your world to remind you of something that is beautiful but has become your wallpaper. Last summer I was taking the wedding of a young couple who met at Birmingham University. Friends travelled from far and wide to be with them, and one young lady came over to me before the service started to tell me that she thought St Mary's churchyard was a beautiful place. She said, 'I live in the city and there is nowhere like this near me. Your churchyard tells the story of your village, those who lived here, married here and died here, young and old. It's beautiful.'

I walk through the churchyard several times a week and it's easy for it to become part of the furniture, to think of it as little more than a thoroughfare from the car park to the Church. But it is a history of the village as much as a place of worship and, given its history of being there for more than a thousand years, that place has witnessed extraordinary events – plagues, civil wars, invasions, European wars, World Wars, pandemics and so much more.

St Mary's is there to serve the village, and each generation has tried to do so to the best of its ability, reshaping the building to meet changing needs.

We're no different as we begin a building project ourselves and you can find out more about this in the included booklet.

The churchyard is a reminder that our time on earth is fleeting and fragile and, in the grand scheme of things, we're really not that significant... our lives are a tiny, tiny dot in the history of the world.

Yet, that's not the whole story, for the Bible teaches that you are created in the image of God and so have purpose. Fallen, imperfect and flawed, yes. But with inherent worth. Christians believe that, however extraordinary it may seem, Jesus of Nazareth was God incarnate, God revealed to humans in the flesh. His teaching shows us how best to live this human life, for he said *'I have come to bring life, and life in all its fullness.'* His death by crucifixion somehow paid the price for all the wrong that human beings have done and will do, making forgiveness - that oh so needed gift - possible. And his resurrection from the dead is a deposit that guarantees our resurrection for anyone who believes and trusts in this, and offers the possibility of salvation from God's coming judgement and eternal life.

You can discover a little more about this in the following pages as well as seeing how, in partnership with our friends in East Horsley, Ockham and Ripley, you can journey through Holy Week into Good Friday and the Easter Sunday celebrations. Whether you believe this or think it all nonsense, I want to remind you that your life is no mistake, you are inherently valuable and were made for a purpose. Happy Easter!

As ever,  
Phil Herrington  
Rector



Join us for a family celebration on Easter Sunday!

Sunday 31st March 2024 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!



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





# St Mary's in the COMMUNITY

## We are here for you...

As a Church, we seek to do all we can to be at the heart of our local community and to be a blessing to others. We cater for all different ages and stages of life, and here are just a few examples...



### School Assemblies

Phil - our Rector, and Edd - our Children's & Youth Minister regularly lead assemblies at The Raleigh and Glenesk. Please do say hi if you see them! We love to be a blessing to our local schools and enjoy treating the teachers with cake to help get them through their day! Over the last few years, we have supported The Raleigh Summer Fair by providing a bouncy castle for the children to enjoy for free.



### Noah's Ark Baby & Toddler Group

**Every Thursday morning** in term time, we create a welcoming space for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers to come and play! We love to chat over homemade cake and coffee and offer free play time with a range of toys, soft play, craft, sensory play, story and song time. If you're a new mum or recently moved to the village - we would love to meet you. **From 10-11.30am at The Wheelhouse.**



### Youth Group & Activities

*All youth welcome from School years 6-13*

We are committed to providing a safe and supportive space for young people to find friendships, ask the big questions in life and discover their purpose. Each week our youth group meets on **Sunday evenings at 5pm in**

**The Wheelhouse** to hang out and journey through life together in a fun and relational way. The youth enjoy many socials and activities together throughout the year including Sports, AirHop, Games, Activity Days and lots more...



### Courses - Marriage, Parenting & Bereavement

We are passionate about supporting people through some of the key stages of life and we offer several courses to help come alongside you and equip you to navigate these stages. This includes marriage courses, bereavement courses to support people with their grief journey and also parenting courses for the highs and lows of raising children! **Keep an eye out for a 'Parenting Teenagers' course later this year.**



### Reverse Advent Collection

Since 2015, the Horsley Community has been supporting local foodbanks and charities in the run-up to Christmas by collecting donations of food and toiletries to give to those in need. **Last Christmas, we had our biggest donation year yet thanks to the generosity of Horsley!** The organising team from St Mary's are already looking forward to what can be achieved this coming year - so do look out for the reminders in November and let's all get involved so no-one goes without this Christmas time.



### Weddings, Christenings & Funerals

At St Mary's, we are here for you for some of life's key events, including weddings, christenings and funerals. We have a friendly and understanding team who will help you with arrangements for your special service. We love to be there to celebrate with you in times of joy and support you in times of grief.

*Please do contact our Church Office if you would like anymore information on 01483 281898 or email [office@stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk](mailto:office@stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk)*



### Horsley Lunch Club

A lady from St Mary's had the idea for this lunch club after receiving such a friendly and warm welcome when moving to Horsley. The vision is to have a place each month where our community can gather to meet new people and offer support and friendship to each other. Everyone welcome!

**Meeting on the first Monday of every month (not including bank holidays) from 12.30pm - 2pm** at a local pub.

*Find out more on page 11*



### The Wheelhouse Cafe

**If you're looking for a different way to spend a Friday morning, why not visit our Wheelhouse Cafe?** A warm welcome awaits you as well as complimentary tea, coffee and delicious home-baked cakes. It is a friendly local meeting point where you can chat with friends old and new. **Open every Friday, except Good Friday and Christmas. 10.30am-12noon at The Wheelhouse, 82 East Lane, West Horsley KT24 6LQ**

*Lifts to and from the Wheelhouse Cafe on the Horsley Community Bus can be arranged*



You are invited to...  
*Celebrate Easter*

with the Horsley, Ripley, Ockham and Downside  
**Group Ministry**

**Monday 25th March: Easter Meditation**, St Mary Magdalen, Ripley at 7pm

**Wednesday 27th March: Taize Prayer around the Cross**, St Martin's East Horsley at 7pm

**Thursday 28th March: Maundy Thursday Services**, See individual churches for details

**Good Friday 29th March**  
**Churches Together in Horsley and Ockham**

**Outdoor Service on the Village Green**, Station Parade (outside Quaich), East Horsley at 10am



## Easter at St Mary's

**Thursday 28th March**  
**Maundy Thursday Service**, St Mary's Church at 8pm

**Good Friday 29th March**  
**Family Easter Trail around the Sheepleas**, St Mary's Church from 2-4pm

**Easter Sunday 31st March**  
**Family Easter Celebration**  
10am at St Mary's Church

# Easter Resurrection

**What gave birth to Christianity? Was it Jesus' teaching? Was it Jesus' healing ministry? Was it the virgin birth?**

BY REV DR STEVE GREEN - ST MARY'S CURATE

Interestingly, it was none of these things. Without doubt, Jesus' teaching has been widely accepted as being some of the most profound philosophical teaching in history. Without doubt, Jesus' healing ministry in curing diseases and raising people from death to life is unparalleled. Without doubt, the story of the virgin birth is remarkable. However, none of these things, of themselves, gave birth to Christianity.

**What inspired the early Christians to risk everything, including their own lives, was the resurrection. What caused the Christian message to spread from a small group of people in Israel to become the religion of the Roman empire and then shape civilisation was the resurrection.**

Why? The biggest enemy confronting our existence is death. Jesus promised to overcome sin and death. Nobody had ever done this before or since. Could Jesus really overcome death? Following his crucifixion at the hands of his executioners, Jesus appeared many times to many people. This was recorded in many manuscripts and these manuscripts were circulated only a few years after Jesus' death. As a result, there is an overwhelming volume of evidence to suggest that the resurrection is one of the best attested facts of the ancient world. If what Jesus said about his death and resurrection was correct then, it follows, everything else he said was also correct. God, the creator of the universe, loves us and wants to have a relationship with us through His Son. But there is even more.

There is a Chinese proverb, 'we live in interesting times'. This is not to be regarded as a good thing but as

a dangerous thing. As we journey through 2024, there are many things in the world that concern us. Wars in the Middle East, Eastern Europe and the ongoing conflict in many other parts of the world continue to be a cause for great concern. However, eclipsing even these catastrophes is the devastating threat caused to the planet and all life forms by global warming.

What should be our response? A few years ago, there was a slogan for Christian Aid 'we believe in life before death'. This must remain a priority for the church. We must, by all means possible, partner with God in caring for all life forms on this planet and yet we also have to acknowledge that we can't do it all. Like the disciples who, on the night of the first good Friday, grieved the loss of their Messiah, we need the hope of the first Easter day. We need the God of the universe who promises to make all things new. We need the God of the cosmos who holds the planets in his hand. This is the God who can restore everything. Everything. This is the God of the Church yesterday, today, and forever. And the evidence, the visible and tangible proof of this reality was, is and always will be the resurrection.

**The same power that brought Jesus back from death to life is the same power that will restore the universe. For all of us, that is the significance of the resurrection.**

**Happy Easter**





BY RHIANNON STROUD

# CS Lewis on Living in Perilous Times

*This morning, with the sun shining on lush grass and dancing daffodils, I find that it's not so difficult to forget some of the rhetoric in the news about the perilous age we are living in.*

But there have been many times over the last few months when I have avoided watching the news on TV: the stories tell of such atrocities and suffering and seem to relish highlighting the possibility of worse to come. The conflict between feeling that I should know what is happening in the world while also wanting to block out the news and maintain a personal sense of peace is quite unsettling.

**While you'll probably be familiar with the Chronicles of Narnia by CS Lewis the famous Christian author, like me, you may be less familiar with his non-fiction essays and Christian apologetics.**

I have been fascinated to find a number of recent articles and social media posts about facing dangerous times, referencing an essay written by CS Lewis in 1948 'On Living in an Atomic Age'. They observe how relevant his words are for today, reminding us how to keep concerns and fears for the future of the world in perspective. Here's the much-quoted excerpt:

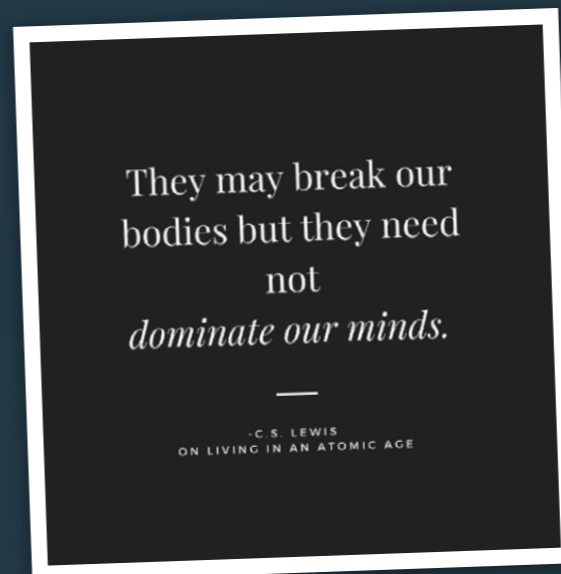
*'In one way we think a great deal too much of the atomic bomb. "How are we to live in an atomic age?" I am tempted to reply: "Why, as*

*you would have lived in the sixteenth century when the plague visited London almost every year, or as you would have lived in a Viking age when raiders from Scandinavia might land and cut your throat any night; or indeed, as you are already living in an age of cancer, an age of syphilis, an age of paralysis, an age of air raids, an age of railway accidents, an age of motor accidents."*

*In other words, do not let us begin by exaggerating the novelty of our situation. Believe me, dear sir or madam, you and all whom you love were already sentenced to death before the atomic bomb was invented: and quite a high percentage of us were going to die in unpleasant ways. We had, indeed, one very great advantage over our ancestors — anaesthetics; but we have that still. It is perfectly ridiculous to go about whimpering and drawing long faces because the scientists have added one more chance of painful and premature death to a world which already bristled with such chances and in which death itself was not a chance at all, but a certainty.*

*This is the first point to be made: and the first action to be taken is to pull ourselves together. If we are all going to be destroyed by an atomic*

*bomb, let that bomb when it comes find us doing sensible and human things — praying, working, teaching, reading, listening to music, bathing the children, playing tennis, chatting to our friends over a pint and a game of darts — not huddled together like frightened sheep and thinking about bombs. They may break our bodies (a microbe can do that) but they need not dominate our minds.'*



This is just the sort of common-sense approach I need to hear. Giving in to fear doesn't make things better and news of impending doom isn't anything different or new. While 'pull yourself together' probably isn't considered a helpful phrase these days, I find the point about remembering to focus on the ordinary everyday precious things of life to be a useful reminder.

So next time the sun doesn't shine and the world news makes my heart sink, I will endeavour to remember CS Lewis' wise words. His simple outlook reminds me of a poem my Nan loved to quote when facing hard times:

**'God has not promised sun without rain, joy without sorrow, peace without pain. But he has promised strength from above, unfailing sympathy, undying love'**





# 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

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



## Tuesdays

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

## Thursdays

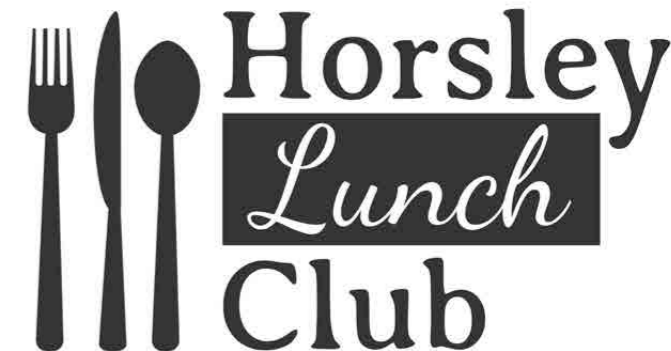
**Noah's Ark Toddler Group**  
10-11.30am at The Wheelhouse, East Lane

## Fridays

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



**'A great idea and a way of getting to know new people.'** Desmond



**Meet friends, make friends and enjoy conversation and company**

**Horsley Lunch Club started in September 2023 - Everybody welcome to join!**  
**Meeting on the first Monday of every month (not including bank holidays)**  
**from 12.30pm - 2pm at The Barley Mow, 181 The Street, West Horsley, Surrey, KT24 6HR**  
*(venue may change, please check [www.stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk](http://www.stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk) or contact our Church Office)*

A lovely group of people meet every month to enjoy one another's company and a choice of food from the lunch menu. If you would like to join in, please contact St Mary's Church Office for more info and to sign-up! 01483 281898 [office@stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk](mailto:office@stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk)

*Lifts are available from the Horsley Community Bus - please let us know if this is required*

**'It's always so lovely to get together, meeting new friends and using local venues. Provision of transport if necessary is an added bonus.'** Pauline

**New to the area? Come and join us - we would love to meet you!**



## Forget Me Not Service

A service to remember loved ones who have died

**Sunday 12th May from 3-4pm**  
**at St Mary's Church West Horsley**

*followed by refreshments*

For more details, please contact The St Mary's Bereavement Team at St Mary's Office 01483 281898 or [office@stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk](mailto:office@stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk)

*A time of reflection and remembrance*



**We also run events and courses throughout the year, including Ladies and Men's Events and socials for Children & Youth.**

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



# FAMILY EASTER TRAIL

## Good Friday 29th March

Come for a fun afternoon for all the family, no matter the weather! We have a free Easter Egg Trail around the Sheepleas... 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](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