



St Mary's
WEST HORSLEY

Christmas 2025

TOU

TO THE
WORLD



With our best wishes for a very Happy Christmas

WHAT'S ON

at ST MARY'S

Each Week

SUNDAY

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



SUNDAY

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



SUNDAY

Reclaim Youth Group
for school years
6-13
5pm-6.30pm
at the Wheelhouse



TUESDAY

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



THURSDAY

Noah's Ark
Baby & Toddler Group
10am-11.30am
at the Wheelhouse
East Lane



FRIDAY

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



Welcome

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

Welcome to our Christmas magazine 2025. How we've reached the end of another year so quickly is beyond me — it seems to have flown by!

One of the TV shows I've enjoyed most recently has been *Celebrity Traitors*. I never watched the original version, but I was drawn by the quality of the celebrity cast. The idea of pitting 'the faithful' against 'the traitors' makes for terrific drama, as the faithful try to uncover their enemies while the traitors hide their deceit through lies and manipulation.

If only life were that simple — if only we could divide people neatly into two groups: the faithful and the traitors. Most of us would naturally see ourselves as faithful, yet the truth is that every human heart contains both good and evil.

At Christmas, we're reminded of the extraordinary truth that God broke into the world He created — coming in the flesh, knowing full well that we don't fit into neat categories. Jesus Christ came for everyone: the 'good' and the 'bad'. His call, 'Come, follow me,' was, and still is, a universal invitation. Time and again, it was those labelled as 'bad' by the self-proclaimed 'good' who responded to that call and discovered what it meant to walk with Him, learn from Him, and live as He lived.

One of our most loved carols, *O Come, All Ye Faithful*, will echo through churches again this Christmas. But Jesus didn't invite only the faithful. So, if you're imperfect, flawed, broken, selfish, struggling with addiction or burdened by your past, you're in good company and you're invited too.

O come, all ye humans, join us this Christmas. You are so welcome....



As ever,
Phil Herrington
Rector



www.stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk



We sometimes try to sum up an event in one word. What word would best describe Christmas? The Bible is clear – JOY.

Our first hint of it comes some months before Jesus is born. His pregnant mother Mary, probably in her late teens, goes to visit her very much older cousin Elizabeth. Elizabeth welcomes her: ‘When I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy’. The two women, so very different in age, had one thing in common – each was to give birth by a miracle. Elizabeth was well past child-bearing age, and Mary had never had sex with a man. Both had been chosen by God to play a vital part in His plans.

It’s the joy of that meeting that shines through, and it seems the baby boy inside Elizabeth wanted to play his part! We read about it in Luke chapter one. Later in the chapter, there are two songs full of heartfelt joy, one by Mary, the other by Zechariah, Elizabeth’s husband. They each wonder at the way God’s blessing had come upon them – Mary on the coming birth of God’s Son, her Saviour, and Zechariah on all that his own son (John the Baptist to be) would do to prepare the way for Jesus.

Part of Mary’s song goes like this: ‘O how my soul praises the Lord. How my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour! For He took notice of His lowly servant girl, and from now on all generations will call me blessed’. She is amazed that God should have noticed her and given her one of the most awesome roles in all history.

On the night Jesus was born, an angel came and spoke to a group of astonished and terrified shepherds near Bethlehem: ‘I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people’. Shepherds were then reckoned the lowest of the low, outsiders in society. Yet, they are the first to get the news of Jesus’ birth. They rush off to see the child and are overjoyed.

A single angel brought that news. But there then followed a vast assembly of angels to sing a wondrous chorus of praise. The coming of Jesus would give rise to a kind of new humanity on earth, and the whole population of heaven seemed to want to join in the joyful act of worship. Down the centuries, artists have pictured the whole sky alight. Our Christmas cards still try to copy it.

Let’s be clear what Christians mean by joy. Joy is so much more than happiness. Happiness always hinges on something good happening to us or around us. It is temporary, depending on how we feel that day. We may feel quite different tomorrow. And so, happiness is always fleeting, and therefore uncertain. Joy, however, has nothing to do with circumstances, but everything to do with a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. As a result, it impacts and changes all parts of life, and it rises above every earthly difficulty we may be in.

It needs to be added that Jesus often made it clear that following Him, even though it brings inner joy, would often be tough going. We will be opposed by many. We won’t always be happy. But He was consistently clear that He came to bring joy. ‘I have told you these things that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow’.

And that experience can be yours and mine. Why not pray for it this Christmas, for yourself and for those you love. Once you find it, it’s not just for Christmas. You never lose it.

BY PETER DAVIES
ST MARY’S OCCASIONAL PREACHER

Christmas at St Mary’s

Carols by Candlelight
Sunday 14th December at 7pm

Pub Carols
at the King William IV,
The Street, West Horsley
Monday 15th December at 6.30pm

 Family Carols Service
with children’s choir
Sunday 21st December at 10.30am

 Christingle Service
children can come dressed as angels
or shepherds
Christmas Eve at 3pm

Midnight Mass
Christmas Eve at 11pm

 Christmas Day
Celebration
Christmas Day at 10.30am

 Family
Friendly

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)



The Quiet Revival?

BY PHIL HERRINGTON

RECTOR

You may have heard talk about a quiet revival that is apparently happening in this country, and wonder what is it about and is it happening here in Horsley? In this article, I am going to try and answer those two questions....

In April this year, The Bible Society published the results of a large-scale research project carried out on their behalf by YouGov. What it showed was so surprising that The Bible Society asked for it to be rechecked before it was published. In short, it revealed that there has been a four-fold increase in the number of people attending churches, mainly amongst young people aged 18-24 and mainly young men, though not exclusively. Now, 45% of young people say they believe in God. There has been a huge increase in the number of Bibles sold since 2019, and organisations that work with young people on university campuses are also reporting an increase in numbers attending events.

Why might this be? Given that behind statistics are actual people, the reasons and motivations are varied. They include the unsettling nature of the Covid pandemic, the increased instability in the world, a loss of hope that the future will be better than the past, talk of war, the impact of the so-called culture wars and, having been raised in an environment that has focused so much upon 'love', a wondering of whether there is 'truth' as well. How much weight you put on each one is difficult to estimate, but cumulatively it looks like people are asking, 'Is there more to life than this?'

So, is any of this happening here in the Horsleys? I can say 'Yes!' But it looks very different. Here at St Mary's, we are seeing more people come who may have had a church

upbringing as a child, but ditched it many decades ago. People have shared with me stories of being forced to go to church many times on a Sunday by a parent, being made to feel guilty by a priest or nun, being mistreated in some way, or they just found it all incredibly boring.

But now they are dipping their toes back into Church to revisit faith, asking questions like: Did I fully understand Jesus' teaching when I rejected it? Can I be loved by God when I have turned my back on Him for so long? As I write, our Autumn Alpha is the biggest we've had in the nine years I've been at St Mary's and the guests are enjoying the space to ask questions and air their experiences alongside others who are curious once again.

Is it a revival? I don't know; but we are seeing people looking for depth, meaning, silence, something solid, bigger than themselves that has been around for more than 20 minutes, something that satisfies.

St Mary's has stood in this village, through seasons of growth and decline, for nearly a thousand years. If you have been put off God by Church, or Christians – as I have at times – then I want to say I am so, so sorry. I also want to encourage you to maybe join others in dipping your toe in once more, and to re-examine who Jesus is and why He came.



Alpha

Monday evenings
starting

12th January 2026

7pm - 9.30pm

at the Wheelhouse
82 East Lane, West Horsley
KT24 6LQ

Join us for a meal
followed by a short
talk/video and a
discussion over
tea and coffee

Alpha is a relaxed and friendly course that freely explores the difference Christianity makes to our sense of identity, meaning and purpose in life.

The talks encourage conversation in an open and informal environment. No question is out of bounds and you are free to discuss as much or as little as you wish. At any point, if you think Alpha isn't for you, that's not a problem. There's no pressure, no follow up and no charge.



Try Alpha.

For the curious

Unpack the
Christian faith
together

For more information or to register for the Alpha course, please sign up on our website stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk or contact our Church Office at office@stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk or 01483 281898

What's cooking at the Wheelhouse?

The Horsley Lunch Club for Men met for their first session at the Wheelhouse in January 2025. It began with just seven members and now there are sixteen. Over this period the members have cooked meals from India, China, Spain, France, Italy, Greece, the Levant, Mexico and the UK.

All the meals we've cooked have been enjoyed but three favourites are pork steaks in a creamy mushroom and onion sauce, greek yoghurt chicken stroganoff and mediterranean pork, lemon and parmesan meatballs. All of these were served with fresh vegetables.

More mouthwatering dishes are planned for future sessions.

How can it help me?

The club is aimed at men who feel lonely, want to get out more or just wish to learn more about cooking 'real food', new recipes and skills in the company of other men. They may be a carer, widower, single or someone looking for company in a supportive and welcoming environment. Several of the members are married and were encouraged to come along by their wives! The intention is to have a sociable session, talking and cooking together, with no stress, no pressure and a nice lunch at the end.

The key is cooking real food from scratch that can be replicated at home. All the recipes can be done as a single portion or as a batch for freezing.

Why should I come?

We all know that life isn't always easy, but cooking simple real food can be. Getting together for a meal and a chat is a great way to get out of the house to help look after our physical and mental health.

The members cook new recipes, gain new skills and confidence in their own abilities and, most importantly, make new friends.



What do we do?

We meet at the Wheelhouse in West Horsley from 10am to 1pm and begin by looking at a new recipe whilst having a mug of tea or coffee and a chat with the other members. From there, we divide out the jobs, start the preparation and then cook with an aim of serving lunch around noon - all the food and equipment is provided. At the end, we clear up, repack the pop-up kitchen and go home with full tummies.

If you would like to learn more about this club, please contact Edward Scott on 01483 285394 or send an e-mail to horsleylunchclubformen@gmail.com



Providing unconditional friendship, support and practical help to those in crisis and need in Guildford

The Salvation Army began in the East End of London in 1865 when Methodists William and Catherine Booth started to take God's word directly to the people. They provided shelter for homeless people and generally helped everyone living in poor conditions or fleeing from abuse or prostitution.

In 1878 the name officially became The Salvation Army and the movement spread rapidly around the world. The organisation is currently active across 130 countries offering God's love and hope to all in need of comfort.

Today, at The Salvation Army Centre in Guildford, the team work tirelessly to serve the needs of those in the community who for whatever reason require help and rely on their services. They run a very busy programme with activities every day of the week including a food bank, coffee and chat, games and craft mornings, a parent and toddler group and a twice-monthly lunch club for older adults. They provide support and advice for those struggling with homelessness, loneliness, mental health and financial worries and give out emergency food parcels, clothing vouchers and emergency gas and electric card top-ups for people who are in fuel poverty.

At this time of the year, donations of gifts for Christmas are most welcome. Toys and games for all ages are required as well as make-up, toiletries, gloves, scarves etc. for the older children. Gifts can be dropped off at The

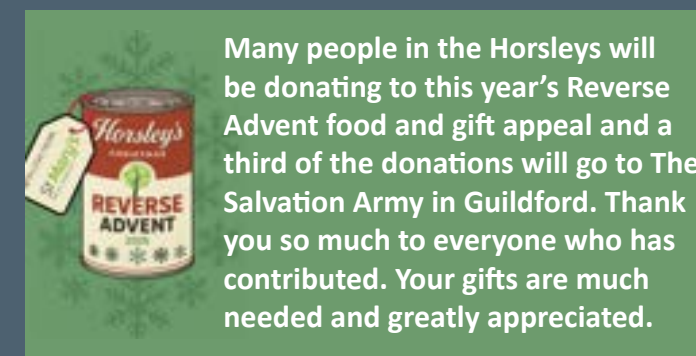


Salvation Army Centre in Woodbridge Road Guildford from Monday to Saturday.

At St Mary's, we have a collection box for The Salvation Army food bank that can be used throughout the year. Donations of in-date non-perishable food items are gratefully received and regularly delivered to Guildford. The box can be found next to the Church Office front door, to the side of the Wheelhouse building.



At The Salvation Army Centre, a kitchen project to improve the catering facilities on site is ongoing. Achievement of this project will enable more hot meals to be prepared so serving a greater number of people including families with school-age children. They are currently fundraising in order to carry out this much needed work. Contributions to this project can be made through the Guildford Salvation Army Just Giving page.



Many people in the Horsleys will be donating to this year's Reverse Advent food and gift appeal and a third of the donations will go to The Salvation Army in Guildford. Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed. Your gifts are much needed and greatly appreciated.



St Mary's actively supports the work of The Salvation Army in Guildford with prayer, financial donations, food and clothing and practical help where possible.



Noah's Ark

NOAH'S ARK BABY & TODDLER GROUP

CHRISTMAS

Celebration

11 DEC

10 AM
until 11:30 am

AT ST MARY'S CHURCH, WEST HORSLEY

ACTIVITIES | CRAFT | TOYS
NATIVITY | CAROLS | CAKE



Join us for our Christmas Party

on Friday 12th December
10.30am-12noon
at the Wheelhouse

Are you grieving the death of a loved one or struggling with the long-term effects of loss?

You are invited to join a seven-session course led by St Mary's Bereavement Team

Thursday evenings from 7.30pm - 9pm at the Wheelhouse

12th February - 26th March 2026

For more information or to sign up go to stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk or contact Catherine at the Church Office 01483 281898



We can help you raise your children!

There is an African proverb that says, "It takes a village to raise a child" meaning that the support of an entire community, a broad network of people, is needed to provide the safe and supportive environment for children to develop and grow successfully. This may be one of your reasons for choosing to live in a lovely village like West Horsley. So, what part could St Mary's play in helping raise children?

In his book *The Anxious Generation*, the psychologist Jonathan Haidt expounds the thesis that since the rise of the smart phone between 2010 and 2015, anxiety levels have gone through the roof for teenagers and young people, and continue on into this generation. Whilst he offers a range of very realistic reasons why this is, one of his solutions is to get children and young people off their phones and interacting with others IRL – In Real Life.

At St Mary's we have groups for the littlest babies through to the young adult about to sit their A levels. We give them the space to come and be themselves, engage with other children, and help develop deep roots in understanding who they are, why they exist, and how to make the most of the rest of their lives. By leaning into the ancient Biblical wisdom that has stood the test of time, we aim to give children a secure identity.



Thursday 10am-11.30am
termtime, the Wheelhouse

Noah's Ark Baby and Toddler Group
Lots of free play, stories, and cakes for the grown-ups.

Sunday 10.45am East Horsley Village Hall

Roots – for children from 0-reception age
Stories, songs and games with lots of craft too!
It's brilliant fun and organised chaos.

Construction Zone – for school years 1-5
Games, fun and teaching from some of the more famous Bible stories and characters, helping children begin learning about their place in the world around them.

I.D. – for school years 6-10
More games, discussion and teaching that helps young people explore what it means to know and be known by God, helping them develop resilience and a rounded sense of who they are.

Sunday 5pm the Wheelhouse, East Lane

Reclaim – for school years 6-13
Sweet treats, table tennis, fun games, and separate age-appropriate teaching exploring what it means to travel through school and the teenage years learning about Jesus and what he has to say about life in all its fullness.

Children and young people are growing up in a world of intense pressure, unrealistic expectations and increasing isolation. It's well known now that anxiety amongst teenagers is on the rise, we want to help them write a different story.

All team members are DBS checked and safeguarding trained



Christmas *at St Mary's*

A full list of our Christmas Services and events can be found on page 5

Carols by Candlelight
Sunday 14th December at 7pm



Christingle Service
*children can come dressed as angels
or shepherds*

Christmas Eve at 3pm

Midnight Mass
Christmas Eve at 11pm



Christmas Day
Celebration
Christmas Day at 10.30am



Family
Friendly



St Mary's
WEST HORSLEY

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