ABINGER AND COLDHARBOUR

Parish News



APRIL 2025

Who's who in your Parish

Rector: The Rev'd Kia Pakenham (01306 737160) rector@abingerandcoldharbour.org

Honorary Assistant Priest: The Rev'd Virginia Smith (01306 885349)

Licensed Lay Ministers: Hilary Swift and Amber Wood.
Parish Office: parishoffice@abingerandcoldharbour.org

Secretary: Sally McCance (01306 737160) M, T, W, Th 9 -3 pm Organist and Choirmaster: David Hansell:dhabchbr@gmail.com

St. James' website: www.stjameschurchabinger.org

Webmaster: Phil Rawlings (01306 730382) web@stjameschurchabinger.org

Christ Church website: www.coldharbourchurch.org.uk

Webmaster: Martin Richards (01306 711885) webmaster@coldharbourchurch.org.uk

St Mary's, Holmbury: www.holmburychurch.com

St John's, Wotton: www.wottonchurch.org

Abinger

Churchwardens: Lucy Harlow

PCC Secretary:

Treasurer:

(contact via Parish Office) Sally McCance (737160) Tim Prideaux (730730)

Gift Aid Secretary: Tim Prideaux

Flowers Secretary: Kim Edwards (730809)
Hall Bookings: Evelyn Hall (Kim Edwards)

theevelynhall@gmail.com

01306 730809 Ab. Hammer Hall (730703)

Coldharbour

John Anthony Simpson (contact via Parish Office) Sally McCance (737160) Martin Neve (07974 777448) Helen Potter (712214)

Patsy Simpson (via parish office)
John Venus Hall (Su Jones)

suaj1512@gmail.com 07779 726930 Village Pavilion (712009)

PARISH NEWS

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ABINGER ORGANISATIONS

Abinger Consolidated Charities: Kim Clark (07775 531912)

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Fair Secretary: Liz Irvine: lizandkeithi@btinternet.com

Sports Club: Rob Dunn (01306 730320) robert a dunn@btinternet.com

Sports Club Booking Secretary: Ed Bigland (07968 417852)

Abinger Common & Wotton WI: President: Lesley Childs (01483 205461)

Wotton & Abinger Flower Show: Pat Rudling (01306 885696) rudlingpat@gmail.com

SALV Rep for Abinger: Alyson Webber: alyson)webber@aol.com Good Neighbours (lifts): Jo Kelly (01483 205446 or 07900 302794)

COLDHARBOUR ORGANISATIONS

Sports and Social Club/Village Society: www.coldharbour.net Church Electoral Roll Officer: Helen Potter (01306 712214)

Cricket Club: John Hopper (07957 611664) `Golf Society: Stuart McLachlan (01306 712009) Village Band: Debby Chapman (01306 711704)

PARISH COUNCILS

Abinger: abingerpc@hotmail.com www.abinger-pc.gov.uk

Coldharbour (Capel): Stuart McLachlan (712009) www.capel-pc.gov.uk

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

Councillor: Hazel Watson (880120) h.watson@surrevcc.gov.uk/

hva.watson@btinternet.com

SHERE SURGERY 01483 202066; Dispensary 01483 209913*

Monday: 8.30am – 6.30pm (Closed 1.00-2.00pm)
Tuesday: 8.30am – 6.30pm (Closed 1.00-3.00pm)
Wed, Thurs & Fri: 8.30am – 6.30pm (Closed 1.00-2.00pm)

*For dispensary ring after 11.00am. Saturday morning - prescription collection only

WESTCOTT SURGERY & DISPENSARY 01306 875577

Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri: 8.30am - 6.15pm (Closed 12.30 - 2.30pm)

Wednesday: 8.30am - 12.30pm

CAPEL SURGERY 01306 711105 / Fax 01036 712751

Monday – Friday: 08:00 to 18:30.

Emergency appointments can be booked the same day at 08:00 and 14:00. Out-of-hours appointments, including weekends and bank holidays, can be booked via Capel or Holmwood. Dispensary: 10:30 to 13:00.

HOLMWOOD SURGERY 01306 889242

Monday to Friday: 8.00am - 1.00pm.

MEDWYN SURGERY 01306 883816 (PHARMACY 01306 740865)

Mon, Thurs, Fri: 8.00am – 6.30pm Tues, Weds: 8.00am – 8.30pm Pharmacy, Mon – Sat: 8.00am – 11.00pm Pharmacy, Sun: 10.00am – 8.00pm

NHS DIRECT 111

POLICE

Non-emergency: 101 or Emergency: 999

ELECTRICITY POWER CUTS 0800 783 8866

BUSES

COLDHARBOUR and ABINGER COMMON BUS SERVICES: www.buses4U.org.uk

CONNECT BUS: 0300 123 7751

www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/buses-and-other-transport/community-transport/mole-valley-connect

WASP BUS: 07802 460069 or e-mail: waspbusinfo@gmail.com

LOCAL SCHOOLS

Abinger Common Nursery: Pre-School Leader: Hayley Hatton 07842 978823

abingercommonnursery@gmail.com

Surrey Hills All Saints Primary School, Head: Jacky Fyson 01306 881136

Shere School Head: Victoria Beattie head@shere.surrrey.sch.uk



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2nd SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 - 11

3rd WI, Wotton Village Hall, 2.30

3rd Shere Cinema *The Room Next Door*, 7.30

4th Coldharbour coffee morning, JV Hall, 10.30–11.30

5th Haydn's Creation, St Martin's

9th SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11 11th/12th Leith Hill Music Festival, Dorking Halls

12th Surrey Serenaders, St James' 13th Eater Egg Hunt & Fun Day, QRMW

13th Coldharbour pavilion spring clean, 11-1pm 16th SALV evening, Shere Village Hall, 8pm 16th SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11

20th EASTER SUNDAY

21st Easter Family Fun Day at St James', 11–2pm 23rd SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11

26th Surrey Serenaders St James'

27th Shere Cinema *Fly me to the Moon*, 7.30 30th SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11

MAY

1st WI, Wotton Village Hall, 2.30

2nd Coldharbour coffee morning JV Hall 10.30–11.30
 2–5th DGA Spring Exhibition, Betchworth Village Hall
 3rd Albury Plant Sale, Vale End, Albury, 10.30

7th SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11

From the Editors

We thank Steve Belcher for our front cover photograph this month. As the RHS launches their daffodil diaries project and the search for some long-lost varieties we thought we would celebrate the daffodil too - look out for daffodil facts tucked into the pages.

Reflections from the Rectory

Since moving to the Rectory 3 years ago (I know, doesn't time fly when you're having fun!) Guy, my husband, has thrown himself into the garden – literally and figuratively! He is currently waiting for the frosts to subside before he can

plant this year's goodies; I have been promised beans, potatoes, courgettes and tomatoes! The latter will go in the greenhouse which is, as he often tells me, is his Happy Place!

This quote reminds me what our season of Lent is all about; we have tried to spend time allowing God to remove the unnecessary obstacles from our lives so that he can better love us.

There are a plethora of stories in the bible all about sowing, planting, growing and pruning. Partly I think

because Jesus used the ordinary things of life, of which we are familiar, to reveal deeper truths about our humanity. As we emerge from the season of Lent we come into the bright and life-giving season of Easter. As the world wakes up to longer days and warmer winds we too stretch out our limbs and embrace Spring: bluebells, nesting birds and hectic horticulturists!

Do head to the centre pages to find out all about our Easter week services and Easter celebrations – especially our Easter Family Fun day on Easter Monday 21st April!

With love, Rev'd Kia 🐸



Daffodowndilly



A man asked his gardener

"I don't force them to grow.

I remove what stops them."

why his plants grew so

The gardener said:

beautifully.

She wore her yellow sun-bonnet, She wore her greenest gown;
She turned to the south wind, And curtsied up and down.
She turned to the sunlight, And shook her yellow head,
And whispered to her neighbour:
"Winter is dead." By A A Milne

Spring is here and we hope you've remembered to put your clocks forward!

Congratulations to Carol Jolly who has been awarded a Lord Lieutenants Award

Tim Prideaux, who has recently retired as Chair of the trustees of Citizens Advice Mole Valley writes:

Last Autumn Stephen Lamport, Vice Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, presented



Carol Jolly of Abinger Common with a Lord Lieutenant's Award.

Carol retired last year after a remarkable 26 years with Citizen's Advice Mole Valley. For 20 years she was Deputy Manager and Training Manager and trained the majority of the current staff and volunteers in the Dorking and Leatherhead bureaux. She was completely taken by surprise. Stephen also presented 8 Long Service Awards amounting to 115 years of service.

In 2024 Citizens Advice Mole Valley helped 11,672 people with 11,908 new issues. The volunteers have over £260,000 of donated hours. 80% had their problem solved and 90% would recommend our service!



The Romans brought daffodils to Britain. They planted them in memory of loved ones.



We have received a letter from 13-year-old Ronald,

the young person in Uganda who we sponsor across our villages through Compassion. He writes:

"I am blessed to be sponsored by you... what a joy to be part of your support. It reminds me of Christ's love for mankind. I am what I am because of your



support, words of encouragement and prayers you extend to me."

Ronald goes on to say that the Bishop of Rwenzori paid a special visit to celebrate Christmas with all of the children in his project, that he has done so well at school that he has been promoted to the next class up, and that his parents send us their love and greetings. He wishes us all a Happy New Year.

Thank you to everyone who is already generously supporting Ronald. Please do get in touch

with me if you would also like to be part of this inspiring community contribution or to sponsor another child separately at lucyharlow@me.com

Amber

THANK YOU to all the carollers who gathered on Christmas Eve (seems like a long time ago now) and raised £250 for the amazing local charity Amber, which provides residential support to young homeless people.

Follow this link to read more about their wonderful work, which we have been able to support. https://amberweb.org/

Lucy Harlow

Attune Reflexology Dorking

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My Gap Year Journey... So far

by Lucy Pakenham



I had an amazing and life shaping opportunity to go and stay with a family in Ethiopia for a month, from 15th January to 13th February, and to volunteer out there too. I stayed in Addis Ababa, the capital, with my best friend's

godmother Esther and her family. I felt like part of their family. It was fabulous. Through Esther's connections I was able to work for a charity called Shamida, run by Karen who is Australian, who has adopted 3 girls from the orphanage I volunteered at. She is a powerhouse ex-lawyer who I got on with very well (not least because she was one of the only people I worked with whose English was their first language!)

On my first weekend we celebrated Timket which is the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan. It felt like the sermon on the mount with so many people celebrating on the hills trying to see what was going on.

The real Ethiopia is under extreme reconstruction - destroying the shacks that line the roads and displacing the people. This is funded by China with hopes that the Arabs will develop property and make it more like Dubai, which is

evident on the main strip.

I volunteered at Kibebe Tsehay (KT) which was originally a government funded orphanage, but Karen was asked to take it over, which is unheard of! It is for children o-8 years and is the only orphanage in the whole of Addis where babies can be dropped off immediately after being found. Every day I was there police, ambulance or fire services would drive in dropping off another baby.



The volunteering work at Kibebe Tsehay was split into two parts. For the first two weeks I worked with two Ethiopian guys called Sokham and David who were around my age. We were tasked with painting the new bedroom with black outlines of murals which the kids from the local international school were then going to paint in. It was so interesting just chatting to them for days, finding similarities in music but massive differences in culture and general political thought. I felt like a sponge just absorbing all I could from our chats.



The second part was based in the clinic on site which housed the babies 0-6 months as well as sick children.

I was introduced to the doctors but then pretty much left to my own devices to help where I could. As well as the doctors, in each room there were 2-4 nannies who fed, changed and cleaned the babies.

I basically became a nanny. The hardest challenge was that none of the nannies spoke any English so I could not ask what I needed to do.

However, by the end of my time there I had made friends with a couple of the nannies who actually used to be babies in KT and they made me feel very appreciated.

I met so many incredible people out there including a few American women who came over to foster babies and get them fit for adoption, which is such an emotionally strong thing to do.



Trip to Uganda

Rosie McCance and I are going out to Uganda from the 16th - 26th of April (over Easter) to work for a project called 'Fountain of Peace'. Currently there are 87 children in their care. They are one of few registered children's homes in the region, and therefore their services are & gofund.me/27f94584







in great demand. The foundation is based in the village of Kyenjojo District of Western Uganda. They have a church and school based on site, which the children attend on a regular basis. They provide orphaned and abandoned children with a loving Christian home where they receive all the love, care, protection and support they need to thrive.

Our Fundraising Evening on Friday 28th Feb.

For our trip Rosie and I hosted a fundraising night which we were super happy with. We did a short presentation, with the support of Hillary, about why we are going and why we are asking for donations. Then my friend Lydia and I performed a few songs. We set a target of 5K as our expenses of vaccines, flights and accommodation have come to around £3,600 and we would love

Child Care and Development Department Wish List; February 2025.

S/n	Item	Specifications	
1.	Clothes	Boys 5-11 years	
2.	Clothes	Girls 7-12 years	
3.	Under wear for both boys and girls	5-12 years	
4.	Pajamas	5-12 years	
5.	Bottles	0-6 Months	
6.	Beakers	7-12 Months	
7.	Baby Bibs	0-12 months	50111174111 05 5540
8.	Baby Socks	0-24 months	FOUNTAIN OF PEAC
9.	Teethers		Children's roundation C
10	Play items/toys	6Months-3 Years	

to give a donation too. Here is a list of things they need. It would be brilliant if anyone would like to donate things as we will be taking a full suitcase of donations with us Thank you so much to everyone who came to support us on Friday, bought raffle tickets and donated on the GoFundMe. As I write this we have raised £3,635 which is unbelievable and pretty much covers our costs which is amazing. If you would like to donate any things, 1st or 2nd hand for us to take, please drop them at St James' Church Abinger in the porch between the 1st and 11th of April. Thank you very much in advance.

What's on



Village coffee mornings

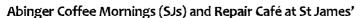
March 7th saw a beautiful day for the Coffee Morning in Coldharbour with hosts Anthony and Patsy Simpson. Freshly back from Cornwall we were treated, along with their usual delicious cakes, to saffron cake with lashings of butter

(optional). Strongly scented Cornish blooms adorned the tables. Such a good turnout required extra tables to be brought in! It was a lovely catch up, Happy



Birthday was sung to Jane Multon, and the Sacks' sun tan was inspected. Do come along to the next one.

The Coldharbour Coffee Morning is held the first Friday of every month In the John Venus Hall. Put April 4th and 2nd May in your diaries!



Every Wednesday, 9 till 11. Join us for tea, coffee, croissants and chat... and bring along your material items to be repaired.



Cleaning the Pavilion at Coldharbour Cricket Ground.

John Hopper invites you to bring along some gardening tools and join him for a spring clean, a bit of a chat and refreshments on **Sunday 13th April 11-1pm.**



Clumps of daffodils have been known to survive for over a century

QRMW's Easter Egg Hunt and Family Fun Day - Sun 13th April

Debbie Hornblow writes: We are now fast approaching our ever-popular

Easter Egg Hunt and family funday. Every year I try to find different things to search for, for the children to win their Easter goody bags. It's all good fun. We also have Egg and Spoon Races and various games, plus a lucky dip for the children. The Easter Egg stall has a variety of eggs for sale at prices cheaper than in the shops, and the Easter Raffle has some excellent Easter related prizes. The sweet stall is a delight for the children and adults. It's all put together by my sister and her daughter. We also have the BBQ on the go and hot and cold drinks. So do come along and join us on Sunday 13th April at12.30. As we move into Spring and Summer, we do hope that you will visit us, bring a picnic and enjoy the flora and fauna and tranquillity



of our beautiful woodland. I look forward to seeing you.



The Teddy Bears Picnic returns on 16th May.

From 4 to 8pm at the Abinger Stream. Get ready for a magical fairy-tale themed evening full of fun for all the family.

Bring your teddy bears and join us for an exciting line-up of activities.

The picnic is supported by Surrey Hills All Saints Primary School and Peaslake Free School Nursery.



The Coldharbour Fete and Abinger Fair are nearly with us — Could you play a part and volunteer in some way?



COLDHARBOUR FETE Saturday 17th MAY

This year's fete on Saturday May 17th will have a VE Day 80th anniversary theme. Capel Parish Council has generously approved a grant, and the bunting is on order! Fete planning is well underway with plenty of discussion, enthusiasm, and ideas from the recent village meeting.

The usual favourites are already lined up including music from the SuperStrings Trio and the Coldharbour Band, Punch & Judy, Tug-o-War, Magic Show, Children's Games, Gifts, Books, Produce, Bottle Tombola, Teas, Beer & Pimms, BBQ, Fun Dog Show, Face Painting, Raffle - the list goes on!

As always, we need your help please:

Our plant and produce stall gets better every year so please start planning



your plant propagation and if your skills are more culinary, the stall would like homemade jams, marmalade, pickles, chutneys, fudge, and any eggs and rhubarb. Both the produce stall and 'tea tent' will need cakes too please.

And it's never too early to start gathering bottles for the tombola, books, gifts, children's prizes and old crockery. Nearer the time we'll contact you about where to deliver them.

Consider joining one of the rotas - a stint on the teas in the church, on the road crossing or on one of the entry gates -

please! That way you get to take part but still have time to wander around and enjoy. As you do, check out a stall you might fancy running in future – we should be training the next generation of fete volunteers! Or plan to conserve



your energy for helping to clear the ground at the end of day when everyone else on stall duty is exhausted!

We are very lucky to have some generous sponsors: Gate-a-Mation who pay



for the ever-popular Superstrings jazz band; Meaby & Co cover the cost of the High Street banner; and the Plough donate to the Bar.

There are other sponsorship opportunities too; can you help, or encourage a local firm, to cover the £175 cost of the Punch and Judy or £80 for the first aider please?

The Fete Committee. Please contact Kerry Day, <u>kemday@btinternet.com</u>

SERVICES AT ST JAMES' CHURCH, ABINGER

6th April 10.30am	The Fifth Sunday of Lent Parish Communion (Common Worship) with provision for children Refreshments after the service
13th April 10.30am	Palm Sunday Joint Palm Sunday Service Refreshments after the service
17 th April 7.00pm	Maundy Thursday Institution of the Lord's Supper at Christ Church Coldharbour
18 th April 1.00pm	Good Friday Good Friday Benefice Service of Reflection and Stillness (this will follow the Good Friday walk from the other Churches in the Benefice and refreshments before the service)
20th April 11.30am	Easter Day Holy Communion Family Service
27 th April 10.30am	The Second Sunday of Easter Benefice Service Refreshments after the service
6.00pm	Julian meeting

Annual Parochial Church Meeting St James', Abinger

Half an hour of stillness with God

All are welcome to attend the following APCM meeting:

Tuesday 13th May at 7.30pm in St. James' Church

Rev'd Kia Pakenham will be chairing the meeting which will include the election of churchwardens, election of PCC members, review of the 2024 accounts and review and discussion of plans for the future.

SERVICES AT CHRIST CHURCH, COLDHARBOUR

6th April The Fifth Sunday of Lent

9.00am Parish Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

13th April Palm Sunday

10.30am Joint Palm Sunday Service at St. James', Abinger

Refreshments after the service

17th April Maundy Thursday

7.00pm Institution of the Lord's Supper

18th April Good Friday

1.00pm Good Friday Benefice Service of Reflection and Stillness

at St. James', Abinger

(this will follow the Good Friday walk from the other Churches in the Benefice and refreshments before the

service)

20th April Easter Day

10.00am Holy Communion Family Service

27th April The Second Sunday of Easter

10.30am Benefice Service <u>at St. James', Abinger</u>
 6.00pm Julian meeting <u>at St. James', Abinger</u>

Half an hour of stillness with God

Parish Office at Coldharbour will take place on:

Monday 7th April from 10am - 11am in the JV Hall.

Do pop in to say hello to Kia and Sally with any questions, or just for a coffee and a chat!

Annual Parochial Church Meeting at Christ Church

All are welcome to attend the following APCM meeting:

Sunday 4th May at 3.00pm in the JV Hall, Coldharbour

Rev'd Kia Pakenham will be chairing the meeting which will include the election of churchwardens, election of PCC members, review of the 2024 accounts and review and discussion of plans for the future.

ABINGER MEDIEVAL FAIR is on June 14th

Since 1956 the Fair has grown enormously. In 2024 it attracted over 2,000 people, and took over £20,000. Over the years many villagers have volunteered and four in particular - Sonia Babister, Sue Bouchier, Cherry Clarke and Di Prideaux - have worked at 50 Fairs or more! The Old Fair is a fantastic achievement, but it can only continue if the next generation and newcomers take up the baton. Please consider coming along to help. It is a chance to get together with local friends and neighbours, to make new acquaintances and most of all it is great fun, and the sense of satisfaction that comes from being a part of this wonderful event is huge! Here are some of the perks of being a volunteer:

The night before the big day, the set-up of the stalls on the Green begins, but by 8pm helpers can be found in the Hatch enjoying a well-deserved pint or two!

On the day itself Henny Maxwell and team will be the first to arrive to prepare the fire for the roast lamb at 6am and by 7am the Green is a hive of activity. By 9am stall holders are decorating and setting up their stalls and then at 12 the Green is cleared – it has taken on its full medieval glory - and volunteers return home to don their medieval attire. But it is the calm before the storm!



PARISH NEWS DONATIONS

If you enjoy receiving the Abinger and Coldharbour News, we would be very grateful if you would consider making a donation towards the cost to produce it.

A BACS payment can be made to either church:

St. James' Abinger

Account name: PCC Abinger (Parish News)

Sort Code: 60 07 02 Account no: 39447332

Christ Church Coldharbour

Account name: Christ Church Coldharbour PCC

Sort Code: 202397 Account no: 40192422

Please contact the Parish Office for information on where to send

a cheque.

With many thanks.





provided.

At 5pm on the dot, the take down begins and incredibly quickly the Green is returned to its usual state.

The takings are counted and at noon the following day villagers and volunteers gather in front of St James' and raise a glass as the results are announced.

For those who have supported the event over the

years - whether by volunteering or by donating to the stalls - THANK YOU!

If you think you could help in any way even if it is just for an hour or two please contact Emma Desmier emmadesmier@hotmail.com

07770 319974



PS DON'T WORRY - MEDIEVAL
OUTFITS CAN BE PROVIDED!



ABINGER COMMON & WOTTON W.I.

We met on a sunny afternoon at the Wotton Hall, with its lovely view across the fields, for a craft session. This was led by one of our members, Val Belam, who has overseen similar sessions making seasonal decorations, like Christmas wreaths. This time it was to create an Easter basket. Val said she goes to workshops and sometimes takes ideas from magazines. She is certainly good at enabling and directing these sessions.

Val said she would provide what was needed to make the baskets and we were to bring suitable things to put in them. To create the baskets (really, small cardboard boxes) she provided rectangles of cardboard in light, spring colours, tissue paper and shredded material to make a lining. She had already marked up the sheets for cutting, folding and sticking or stapling, to make the box and its handle. I was on the same table as Debbie Skeil, who is not only a



doctor who has given us interesting talks about her work in India, but also runs toddler craft sessions in Holmbury, so she was a step ahead! Here I should own up to the fact that I am not at all a crafty person, so I hid behind my reporting role to cop out on this occasion, something which someone observed commenting: "You have done this before!".

People were working on tables of three or four, a good time to chat, so Val had to resort to the bell on a few occasions to give her directions. I walked round watching people at work. The contents brought included: eggs; Easter chicks; an Easter bunny; and one person had filled hers with fresh spring flowers. At the end all the baskets were assembled on the top table and very pretty they looked, too. We rounded off the afternoon with an excellent tea provided by Margaret Yule, Jenny Allen and Kathleen Pike. Kathleen had made a seasonal almondy Simnel cake for the occasion. Altogether it was a very pleasant afternoon.

Next meetings at the Wotton Hall. Thursday 3rd April at 2.30 p.m. - The National Garden Scheme - Annabel Alford Warren. Thursday 1st May - The Indian Diaspora, Sugarcane to Surrey - Jay Wopogara. Visitors and new members welcome

Pat O'Brien



Common names for daffodils are: daffodowndilly, Lent lily, yellow maiden

GARDENS AND GREEN SPACES



Robin's Gardening Tips for APRIL

After the wild variations in the temperature in March, hopefully, this month will settle down to a more normal routine. But don't be tempted to put seeds in the soil too early. Wait until the ground has warmed up a bit so seeds don't rot. Nature has a way of catching up. It is worth growing only a part row of vegetable seeds at a time, sowing more a few weeks later so not all are ready at once. Particularly those that do not freeze well.

If sweet peas have been grown inside, remember to pinch out tips after the second set of leaves before planting them out, they flower better on the side shoot which will be produced. Do harden them off - whilst they are a hardy annual, they don't want too much of a shock!

Whilst they can have an unpleasant effect, stinging nettles in a garden are more helpful than many realise. They seem to aid other plants by increasing resistance to disease and increasing essential oils in herbs, and soil from near their roots is usually a rich humus. Young nettles cooked like spinach are also said to be a good green vegetable! I have yet to try this though despite an elderly aunt's insistence!



Consider companion planting. For example, sow a few nasturtiums near broad beans, they will attract lurking black fly. French marigolds will attract white fly away from tomatoes. Herbs are also of use, not only for culinary purposes, but for stimulating other plants. Many varieties of herbs, grown near the vegetable patch, aid not only each other but plants they are grown near - except Fennel, keep that well away on its own.

Remember, if growing parsley, it can only be safely transplanted on Good Friday, otherwise the devil jumps in the hole first! Robin



The Botanical name is Narcissus. Named after the Greek boy who fell in love with his own reflection

Searching for Rare Daffodils



The RHS are searching for three varieties of daffodils which have gone missing. Mrs R O Backhouse is famous for having a coral pink trumpet and ivory flower and was the first pink daffodil ever bred. Although her husband was first associated with the daffodil it was

actually his wife Sarah who bred it. She began her work in 1888 and won the Peter Barr Cup in 1916 for this new variety. Mrs William Copeland is a white, double-flowered breed. The Sussex bonfire is a vibrant double flowered yellow and orange daffodil that was last seen in 1998.

If you think you've seen one of these varieties go to https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/daffodil-diaries and email a photo to daffocildiaries@rhs.org.uk

Visit the Garden at Feldemore Corner on May 18th

Richard and I will have lived in Holmbury St Mary for fifty years, forty-two of them at Feldemore Corner. To celebrate this, we are opening our four-acre woodland garden to the public under the National Garden Scheme on



Sunday, May 18th, from 11am to 5pm. Details can be found in the NGS booklet for Surrey which is available now. The NGS raises money for a large number of nursing charities, including hospices. Last year they raised over four million pounds.

On Saturday, the 17th, there will be a preview afternoon, 2pm – 5pm, open to local people and friends. The proceeds from this day will go to St Mary's Building Fund. We hope that you will put these dates in your diary and that you will come along and support these good causes. We are looking forward to seeing you. Sally Frost

For more information and a list of other local

gardens you can pick up the booklet or go to ngs.org.uk/gardens/near/surrey/

Albury Produce Association's annual bring-and-buy 'Spring Plant Sale' is on Saturday May 3 from 10.30-12.30 at Vale End, Chilworth Road, Albury GU5 9BE, where you can enjoy a delightful garden with friends while stocking up on a few good plants and treats. Spring hamper raffle, cake stall and delicious cream teas available as usual, with easy parking. All donations of plants or baked treats gratefully received — any advance delivery queries to alburyproducesecretary@gmail.com - thank you. We are always on the lookout for enthusiastic volunteers to join the Albury Produce Association Committee. If you'd like to join our friendly team, please get in touch.

THE ARTS

DORKING GROUP OF ARTISTS

SPRING EXHIBITION 2025



Betchworth Village Hall Station Road Betchworth RH3

Open Friday May 2nd to Sunday May 4th 10-5pm. Monday May 5th 10 – 4pm

Many members are professional artists and all

art is for sale at affordable prices. Entrance is free and the Village Hall is opposite Knights Plant Centre. For more information, exhibition and how to join see www.dga.org.

Angela Hall, email contact@dga.org.uk

Surrey Serenaders' Come & Sing mornings continue at St James'

12th and 26th April, 10th 24th and 31st May. The Surrey Serenaders rehearse on

the second and fourth Saturdays in the month, from 10 till noon at St James' Church. There is no need to sightread and all music is provided. The rehearsals will be led by Liz Wilcox. For more information get in touch with Avril Sharman 01306 731396 or sharden11@mac.com



The Music that became Messiah

Our organist David Hansell explores the origins of the popular choral masterpiece and introduces the music for this year's St James' Dedication Festival.

Many reading this will have sung in, or enjoyed as listeners, the recent performance of Handel's popular oratorio given by Leith Hill Festival forces. Others may have taken part in or heard other local performances, whilst still others will have been familiar with the work for many years from the countless outings that this music receives every year.

What always intrigues me about great works is not only their content, but their context. For example, did Handel really write *Messiah* in just three weeks? Simply writing out the notes in that time would be an impressive feat, let alone conceiving them as well. Well yes, in a way, he really did. He began to write on 22nd August 1741, finished on 12th September and then spent another two days adding and amending details. There were myriad other amendments and adjustments before the first performance (Dublin, April 1742) but the basic work was indeed completed in three weeks.

How did he do it? Well, such speed of composition was not unusual for Handel, but when he sat down with pen and paper on 22nd August he wasn't actually starting from scratch. He probably received the libretto in early July and immediately have started to 'hear' some musical ideas – perhaps writing some of them down (sketches for the final Amen chorus survive). But several movements already existed in one form or another (not necessarily by Handel himself), and a busy composer wasn't going to waste a good tune that had further potential.

Just before the *Messiah* 'script' arrived Handel had composed a number of cantatas for two voices and harpsichord to Italian texts, adding to the considerable number of such pieces he had written throughout his career. These provided the principal musical ideas for four of the choruses (And he shall purify, and His yoke is easy from one cantata and For unto us and Let us break their bonds from another). The duet O death, where is thy sting was less radically re-shaped from a chamber duet some 20 years older.

The skill with which Handel made the adaptations takes one's breath away (literally, when you sing them!). The words were not only completely different but in a different language. The performing forces were expanded from two singers and one instrument to chorus and orchestra (albeit a small one) and new music had to be integrated smoothly into the old when it did not provide suitable material for some of the new text. Perhaps it might have been easier to start from scratch!

All in all, about a dozen movements of *Messiah* seem to draw on older musical ideas – not all of them Handel originals. In the Autumn I played, as a voluntary, an Italian piece from c1710 that provided the melody *For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth* in the most famous chorus of all. And some Messiah music went on to have yet another life: two of the choruses were turned into orchestral pieces. As noted earlier, busy composers don't waste a good tune!



You can enjoy Music that became Messiah as part of the Dedication Festival weekend at St James.

Saturday 10th May 12 noon and 4.00 pm (refreshments served beforehand): Miranda Johnson and Jenny Hansell sopranos will sing the cantatas referred to above and Laura Steele will play Handel's Violin Sonata in G minor. David Hansell will accompany on harpsichord and organ.

On Sunday 11th May at 6.00 pm Choral Evensong will be suitably festive.

David Hansell

Music in Dorking in April By Ian Codd

1st at 7.15, opera screening **Turandot** at Dorking Halls, £19.50, 01306 881717

4th at 1.00, opera screening **Turandot** at Dorking Halls, £19.50, 01306 881717

5th at 7.30, guitar recital by **Fiona Harrison** at Dorking Halls, £23, 01306 740619

5th at 7.30, **Brockham Choral Society**: Haydn's *The Creation* at St Martin's church, Adults £20

Children and students £10

 11^{th} & 12^{th} at 7.30, Leith Hill Music Festival at Dorking Halls, £20-25, 01306 881717

April begins with The Dorking Halls is showing Puccini's final opera Turandot in two screenings - live and encore - from the Royal Opera House. This tale of love for an icy princess includes the famous aria Nessun dorma.

A guitar recital by Fiona Harrison, is the final concert in the Dorking Concertgoers season. Local musician Fiona, who has already played several times for the Concertgoers, will play a varied programme, with music ranging from Scarlatti to contemporary Japanese, with a good selection of pieces by Spanish composers.

Brockham Choral Society will sing Haydn's great oratorio *The Creation* at **St Martins Church in Dorking**. The choir, conducted by Cole Bendall will be joined by vocal soloists Lorna Murray, David Walsh and Ross Cumming, and accompanied by the British Sinfonietta. More information: www.brockhamchoral.org.Tickets: brockhamchoral.org/tickets

The Leith Hill Music Festival holds its two days of competitions and concerts in April. This will be the first festival under the direction of the exciting new festival conductor Neil Ferris. People are invited to attend the morning competitions when the choirs perform separately and compete for a range of trophies. In the evening concerts the choirs join together—

Friday's concert on 11th April features Holmbury Choral in Will Todd's Passion Music and Jazz Missa Brevis. See Ihmf.org.uk

Elgar's masterpiece The Dream of Gerontius is on the programme for Saturday.

Surrey Hills Choirs 20th Anniversary Concert on 10th May



The Surrey Hills Chamber Choir and Surrey Hills Singers will be holding a special concert on Saturday 10th May 7.30pm to celebrate 20 years of high-quality choral singing and long friendships. To mark this unique occasion the concert will be held at the superb auditorium of St Catherine's School, Bramley. Founded in September 2005, both choirs have

evolved over the two decades and past members have been invited back to perform with the current choir to travel back in time and re-live past events through song. The programme will follow the journey of the choirs, starting with the first song ever performed, moving on to songs that mark success at competitions—as well as including favourite songs. As always, the repertoire is diverse and includes all styles of songs from medieval to recent chart toppers.

Don't miss out on this special concert with these popular choirs! Tickets are £18 for adults and £5 for under 16s and are available from www.singsurreyhills.com. Further information about the choirs is available on their website, video performances are available on their youtube channel https://www.youtube.com/@SurreyHillsChoirs and you can also follow both choirs on Instagram and Facebook.

Surrey Hills Music Festival 6th to 17th May

Tickets are now on sale for the 2025 season. With superb chamber music, fascinating talks, a solo piano recital and Baroque brilliance we're looking forward to bringing a huge variety of amazing music to the Surrey Hills. Whether you're a regular at the festival or would like to try out a classical concert, you are most welcome. Join us on a guided walk to take in some of our glorious local countryside ahead of a short lunchtime talk with music - Tue 6 May at West Horsley Place - or a lunchtime concert on Mon 12 May in Betchworth with students from the Yehudi Menuhin School. Or enjoy a full evening performance in one of our beautiful venues, St Martin's Dorking (a new venue for us) on Sat 17 May and the intimate and atmospheric Menuhin

Hall **in Cobham Thurs 8 and 15**. As ever, we're bringing some inspirational world-class musicians to perform for you. Including: Alim Beisembayev, winner of the 2021 Leeds International Piano Competition playing the Chopin Preludes amongst other solo piano works; members of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Centre with the Sitkovetsky Trio in a chamber concert of romantic variety and a concert of Baroque brilliance featuring two of Bach's Brandenburg Concertos and the famous Double concerto for 2 violins. To view all details in our online brochure and book your tickets, visit our website https://tickets.shimf.co.uk/ - and do please get in touch with Festival Manager Tracy Lees at hello@shimf.co.uk if you're interested in becoming more closely involved as a Friend or Volunteer - she'd love to hear from you.



Films in April and May

Thursday 3rd April - The Room Next Door -Tilda Swinton plays Martha, a driven former war correspondent now dying of cervical cancer and keen to reconnect with an old friend, Ingrid

(Julianne Moore), who has latterly become an acclaimed writer. A thought-provoking drama about friendship, life and death. Classification 12. 1 hour 47 minutes. Start: 7.30

Sunday 27th April – Fly Me to the Moon – is set in the 1960s when the space race has revved up and the moon landing is months away. However, the public has lost interest in all things NASA-related, so a professional marketing hotshot Kelly Jones (Scarlett Johansson) is hired by the Nixon administration to reignite the collective excitement around the space programme. Fly Me to the Moon is a refreshing take on the classic romantic-comedy genre. Classification 12A. 2 hour 12 minutes. Start 7.30

May 8th Perfect Days. Hirayama is content with his simple life cleaning toilets in Tokyo. He cherishes music on cassette tapes, books and taking photos of trees. A profound tale of finding peace, meaning and beauty in life. Start 7.30pm. 2hours 4 minutes in Japanese. PG

May 18th Widow Clicquot. Based on the true story behind Veuve Clicquot champagne family and business that began in the 18th century. After her husband's untimely death Barbe-Nicole flouts convention by assuming the reins of the fledgling wine Starring Hayley business. Bennet. mins. Classification 30 Start hr 7.30pm. www.sherevillagecinema.com



CHILDREN



Well, our hard work paid off! We took 1st Place in both the Under 14's Seville Marmalade category and the Under 14's Mixed Fruit category at the Kingfisher Farm Shop Competition. Thank you for making it happen Henny! And parents, we hope you enjoyed your award-winning

produce cooked outside no less!

Growing season is upon us and with this in mind we took the opportunity (any excuse!) to get our hands dirty. Filling buckets with sumptuous compost we then popped a few holes in the bottom carefully using our tools, before



popping in some potatoes. And to continue the fun at home we each took with us a magic bean to nurture until they are ready to be given a permanent place home in our lovely veggie patch.

It has been glorious to see the sun shining once more – for a whole week what a treat! It means we have been able to spend even more time in our garden creating a la carte menus in the mud kitchen and building terribly tall wobbly towers from our wooden blocks! But most of all we just love the freedom to run around and about as fast as we can!

The seaside came to the Evelyn Hall and the tuff tray was transformed into a beachside wonder. There were all kinds of sea creatures emerging from the depths of the sand and shells of all sizes and textures for us to explore. Of course, we needed to get wet being at the coast, so we set up an experiment to see which natural materials floated and which ones sank. There were lots of surprises!

Now if you are very clever have a go at deciphering the song we have been learning in French.....altogether now......

Tête, épaules, genoux et pieds. Genoux et pieds. Tête, épaules, genoux et pieds. Genoux et pieds. J'ai deux yeux, deux oreilles, Une bouche et un nez. Tête, épaules, genoux et pieds.

We are really pleased to announce that our after-school club will be extended to 5pm Monday to Thursday from the Summer Term. If you have a child looking to start nursery, please don't hesitate to get in touch.



Please call 07842 978823 or email abingercommonnursery@gmail.com We can't wait to show you around!

Surrey Hills All Saints Primary School

What another inspirational Spring term we have had. Thank you for all your support in joining us for our Inspire Sessions, for the many



volunteers that have helped with Lego Clubs, sports tournaments, Forest School, reading and trips. We can only continue to offer such a rich curriculum with the help of our volunteers, so let us know if you would like to join the team.

Our SIAMS Inspection went really well. The report will be shared with us in the next few weeks. Thank you to all the parents for your questionnaire feedback. So many positive comments and some good next steps.



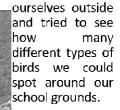
Butterflies had a great 'Wow day' dressed up as Victorian school children and enjoyed a Victorian school workshop from Horsham museum where they found out how different schools were in Victorian times. Luckily for

Butterflies everyone passed the clean hand check, and the cane was not needed very often!

And **Rabbits** stepped back in time and explored what life was like for Victorian children comparing schooling, work and home life to today.

Hedgehogs had a fantastic trip to Ancient Buster Farm where they got to step back in time to experience what it was like to live in the stone age.

Surrey Hills participated in the RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch. We camouflaged



We were surprised with just how many birds we saw!



Family Activities at Dorking Library: In conjunction with Dorking Library, on Saturday 12th April, 10am to noon, we will be celebrating Easter.

Children can use craft materials to make an Easter card.

Aimed at 4–11-year-olds, materials are provided free and children must be accompanied.

Walking in Dorking with Dorking Museum

Sunday 6th April, 2pm, on the edge of town, a Betchworth Castle tour includes exclusive access to the Castle enclosure. This 'castle' is the romantic ruin of the only remaining fortified medieval manor house in Surrey. from the entrance to Betchworth Park Golf Club.

Sunday 6th April, 2pm, from the Cubitt statue opposite Dorking Halls. the Blue Plaques and Statues walk tells of some of the famous people who lived or were active in Dorking, revealing a diverse range of interests and activities.

Sunday 13th **April, 11am.** See Dorking as you have never seen it before on the guided walk of Hidden Historic Dorking, where some features will be hidden round corners or above you, others will be hidden 'in plain sight'.

Saturday 26th **April, 6pm.** Our ever-popular Dorking Historic Pub Walk reveals stories of hostelries, pubs and inns both past and present:

All walks last around an hour and a half and should be booked in advance: details and booking at dorkingmuseum.org.uk/guided-walks-around-dorking/. Walks may also be arranged for private groups on these or other itineraries: see website for details, enquiries and group booking.

South Street Caves tours: One of Dorking's most popular attractions, the 17th



century South Street Caves lie beneath Dorking's streets, complete with graffiti carved into the walls, the oldest dating back to 1666. A series of staircases, galleries, wine vaults and chambers lead down to the 'Mystery Chamber', 50 feet below street level. Guided tours take place on the last Saturday of each month of the season. Open Day on 26th April. Tours at 10am, 11am, 1pm and 2pm, each lasting about 45 minutes and led by a trained guide. For details and open day bookings (which sell out fast!)

dorkingmuseum.org.uk/south-street-caves/. Private group bookings may also be made, e-mail caves@dorkingmuseum.org.uk to arrange a date.

SHERE SURGERY NEWS

I am writing this on a beautiful sunny day. Hopefully all those winter viral illnesses will be behind us for the season! However, to protect those most vulnerable from the ongoing presence of COVID-19, we will be delivering the COVID spring booster vaccinations in April for those in the eligible groups. This will be for: Adults aged 75 years and over. Residents in a care home for older adults. Individuals aged 6 months and over who are immunosuppressed. Hopefully if you fall into one of these groups you will have been contacted by the surgery to book your appointment, but if not then please do get in touch.

As April arrives, we have sadly had to say goodbye to the team from Mobile Physio. We will very much miss having the service, and the team, We do have some good news regarding physiotherapy provision: Mount Alvernia Hospital have an NHS contract for physiotherapy, and they have agreed to come out to Shere two days a week to see patients at the practice. This will be extremely beneficial and enable care to stay close to home. One particularly positive aspect to this is that the physiotherapist coming to Shere, will be Katy Vaughan who was the Clinical Lead for Mobile Physio. So, it is lovely to feel there is still a connection to the Mobile Physio service.

We are pleased to welcome Dr Amy Bissell back from maternity leave. Her days at the practice will be Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Sadly, this does mean we will be seeing less of Dr Ellie Galloway, who we are extremely fond of and proud to work with. Ellie has been covering Amy's maternity leave as a locum. She will be continuing to do locum work for us but may not have such a regular presence at the surgery. The team, and many of the patients, will miss not seeing Ellie so often, but she will certainly remain part of the fold.

Fundraising Updates: Dr Watts would like to thank everyone who has sponsored her so far for the Devizes to Westminster International Canoe Race in aid of the Royal Marsden Cancer Charity. She continues to train on the river at 5:30am, whatever the weather. If you would like to see updates on her race preparation or give a donation, please follow the link https://www.justgiving.com/page/dr-emma-watts-

3?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL If you would like to follow the race virtually, the live tracker will start on Good Friday via www.dwrace.co.uk She is boat 706, and you will be able to watch as she (hopefully) makes good

progress along the Lorraine Knapp



All parts of the daffodil are poisonous

SALV

Menopause Evening

Nearly 100 women and a couple of men crammed into Albury Village Hall to listen to Dr Helen Barnes and Dr Charlotte Knight from Shere Surgery giving a presentation on the menopause. Many different aspects were covered including a very interesting insight into the background of HRT and how it is now typically made from yams (no longer horse urine) and has the same structure as the oestrogen made by a woman's body. The doctors us about the risks and benefits of HRT plus when and if to stop

taking HRT medication. The benefits of additional help were discussed which may come in the form of diet and exercise and Dr Knight was keen to promote wild water swimming as a way of coping with the symptoms of menopause. A question-and-answer session followed the presentation and wine was served!

We were reminded that any woman on HRT can buy a pre-paid prescription certificate (HRT PPC) for £19.80 which covers you for a 12 month supply of HRT medicines and there is information to be found about the menopause on The Menopause Charity website.

Next meeting

Wednesday 16th April 8pm Shere Village Hall

"The gut in health and disease" – what to look out for in

Dr Ozan Hanci, Consultant Paediatrician

Do please join us and bring your friends

Admission is free but donations to SALV very welcome

SALV Shere and Local Villages Health Trust

The Charity that supports Shere Surgery (Registered Charity no 1016023)

Jo Kelly and Helen Esplen, SALV Trustees

Better Balance Classes in Coldharbour

If you are 50 or older and want to feel more stable and confident in your daily activities, these classes concentrate on using gentle movements to improve coordination, strength and flexibility. They start at 6.3 opm. and last for 45 minutes. There are only spaces for 15 people. email pierscooke@duck.com. Cost per session £8.00

For more information call 07931 714812 or visit https://www.surreyhillsaikido.com/services-4.



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Peaslake Beauty Room.	01306 731182	
Avril Munford	pamperyourself@thepeaselakebeautyroom.co.uk	
BUILDERS etc.		
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Mart's Gardening	07480 831178 marts.65.cox@gmail.com	
Maintenance	o/400 0511/0 Than csto /reon@gmaincom	
SJH Garden Services	07792 628785 sam@sjhgardeservices.co.uk	
PEST CONTROL	-11,7	
EMWOOD	01483 203823 www.emwoodpestcontrol.com	
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Nick Harris	07476 729389 info@leithhillpianos.co.uk	
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WELLBEING		
Attune Reflexology, Dorking	07811 526156 @attunereflexdorking	
Jodechi (Tiggs) Morton:	07825 138508	
Psychotherapy, CBT, TA, Life	info@jodechicoachingandcbt.com	
Coaching		
Qigong, meditation, natural	Email: internitylife@pm.me Mobile: 07919 102332	
health and healing	Website: http://internity.life	
Surrey Hill Rehab (for	07456 641 356	
neurological conditions)	surreyhillsrehab@gmail.com	
PROPERTY		
Rebecca Batchelor	Rebecca.Batchelor@KWUK.com	
Country Homes &	07464 043 045	
Equestrian Properties		
REMOVALS		
EDE BROS	01306 711293 edebros.co.uk	
SHOPS		
Coldharbour Village Shop	01306 711793	
Kingfisher Farm Shop	01306 730703	
Abinger Hammer Village	01306 730701	
Shop		
SOLAR PANELS		
UK Solar Power Panels	01306 733965 admin@solarpanels.co.uk	
SPORT & FITNESS		
Abinger Sports Club: Tennis	Charlieye2020@gmail.com 07774 773 993	
Dance a Ramix	01306 731182. 07899 842 727	
	dancearamix@btinternet.com	
Dorking Lawn Tennis and	01306 889009 www.dltsc.co.uk	
Squash Club		
SWIMMING POOLS		
Burgess Pools	01306 730952 burgesspools@yahoo.co.uk	

NEXT ISSUE: May 2025 Closes 1pm Wednesday April 16th abingerpn@gmail.com

Electoral Roll

If you are on the electoral roll of St James' or Christ Church, you will have hopefully received paperwork inviting you to sign up to be on the electoral roll for the next six years.

For those who are not currently on the electoral roll, you are invited to sign up.

You are under no obligation to sign up or renew your membership, but we would encourage you to do so because how many members we have on our electoral roll does affect how we are viewed by the wider church in Guildford Diocese.

The strength of our electoral roll will be taken into account when the Diocese makes decisions that affect how much clergy support and other resources are available to us.

If you are not currently on the electoral roll and would like an application form, please do contact Sally at Parish Office.

You do need to be on the electoral roll to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meetings this year on 4th in Coldharbour and 13th May in Abinger.

(Completed ER forms for Abinger need to be returned by 14th April and for Coldharbour by the 7th April).