

ABINGER AND COLDHARBOUR

Parish News



November 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 (hilaryswift@btinternet.com)

and Amber Wood (amber@abingerandcoldharbour.org)

Parish Office: parishoffice@abingerandcoldharbour.org

Secretary: Sally McCance (01306 737160) Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu 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
(contact via Parish Office)

PCC Secretary:

Sally McCance (737160)

Treasurer:

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)

Church Choir: Lucy Harlow: lucyharlow@me.com

D&G Choir: Jess Brown (07936542411) danielthreec@aol.com

Fair Secretary: Liz Irvine: lizandkeithi@btinternet.com

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

Booking Secretary: Ed Bigland (07968 417852)

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

SALV Rep for Abinger: Alyson Webber: alysonjwebber@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: clerk@abinger-pc.gov.uk www.abinger-pc.gov.uk
Coldharbour (Capel): Stuart McLachlan (712009) www.capel-pc.gov.uk

Surrey County Council

Councillor: Hazel Watson (880120) h.watson@surreycc.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, Tue, Thu & Fri: 8.30am - 6.15pm (Closed 12.30 - 2.30pm)

Wed: 8.30am - 12.30pm

Capel Surgery 01306 711105 / Fax 01036 712751

Mon – Fri: 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

Mon to Fri: 8.00am - 1.00pm.

Medwyn Surgery 01306 883816 (Pharmacy 01306 740865)

Mon, Thu, Fri: 8.00am – 6.30pm Tue, Wed: 8.00am – 8.30pm

Pharmacy, Mon – Sat: 8.00am – 11.00pm, 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.surrey.sch.uk



EVENTS

November

- 5th SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9-11
- 6th Shere Cinema, 1917, 7.30
- 6th WI Wotton Village Hall, 2.30, Talk by Dr N Henderson
- 8th Surrey Serenaders, St James', 10-12
- 8th Firework displays at Holmbury St Mary and Brockham
- 11th Remembrance Day Service at the QRMW
- 12th SJ's café & Repair café, St James', 9-11
- 15th Christmas Craft Fair Christ Church 11 -2.30
- 15th West festivity 10-3
- 16th Shere Cinema, *Hard Truths*, 7.30
- 17th Parish Council meeting 7.30 pm Capel Parish Hall
- 19th SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
- 20th Hear Here Clinic, Holmbury Church Café 11-12
- 22nd Surrey Serenaders, St James', 10-12
- 23rd Community lunch, Evelyn Hall 12 – 2.30
- 26th SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11

December

- 3rd Meadvales Sleigh Ride concert, St James', 7.30
- 4th Holmbury Choral concert, St Mary's, 8pm
- 5th Christ Church Leaf sweep

From the Editors We thank Steve Belcher for the stunning photo of Autumn trees on the front cover. National Tree Week starts on 27th November. Now is the season to plant trees. See Robin's Garden article on page 39.

Reflections from the Rectory

Dear friends,

November is the month for remembering. In particular this year on Sunday 9th November at the memorial ground in Coldharbour (11.50) and St. James' (10.30). We mark the 85th anniversaries of significant events like the Dunkirk evacuation and the Battle of Britain and the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. We will be giving out commemorative books of the Gospel of John at these services which contain personal stories of soldiers from World War II.



We will also be holding All Souls services to remember our loved ones who have died either recently or some time ago – see below. All are very welcome

Our churches are beautiful spaces in which to find peace and connect with a power greater than ourselves. There are several free resources in both churches (prayer cards and copies of Mark's gospel) that may be of help. As ever, I am always available for chats/coffee/walks if you feel would like some company and a listening ear. *With love, Rev'd Kia*

All Souls Services on Sunday 2nd November

10.00am at Christ Church Coldharbour

3.00 pm at St James' Abinger

Both services will be quiet and contemplative, to remember with love and affection those who have died and whose memories we still honour and treasure. Names will be read out, and candles may be lit to remind us of the light with which they enriched and still enrich our lives. All are most welcome to attend, and after each service refreshments will be offered, providing a time in which to share memories and bring consolation and comfort to one another.

At St James', Abinger, Kia will light a candle and give a blessing for all those names listed for past services. The list will be placed near the altar, but these names will not be read out. Those attending will be invited on arrival to write down the name of loved ones whose names will be read out during the service, and they will be invited to light a candle.

At Christ Church, Coldharbour, Kia will read the list of names and those present will be invited to light a candle in memory of their loved ones.

If you have recently lost a loved one and cannot attend a service but would like their name read out, please let Sally at the Parish Office know.

You are warmly invited
to a

COMMUNITY LUNCH

SUNDAY 23rd NOVEMBER
at

The Evelyn Hall, Abinger Common
from

12 NOON TO 2.30PM

● **£5 PER PERSON ~ U18s FREE** ●

● **EVERYONE IS WELCOME** ●

SEASONAL MENU ~ DONATIONS BAR

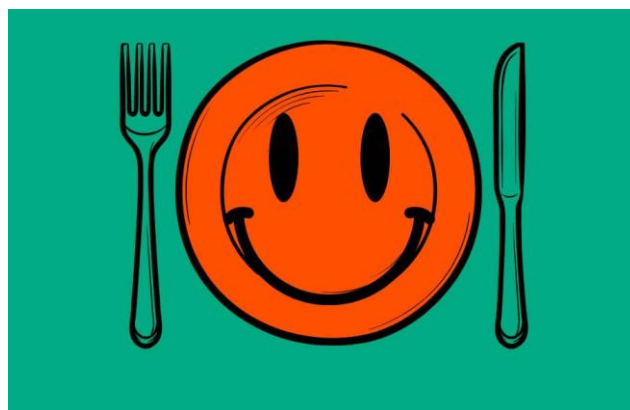
LIMITED TO 50 PLACES

**PLEASE BOOK YOUR SEATS and GIVE DIETARY
REQUIREMENTS**

by emailing

parishoffice@abingerandcoldharbour.org

or call 01306 737160



Parish Council Meeting – Monday 17 November 2025 at 7:30pm in Capel Parish Hall - GATWICK'S SECOND RUNWAY

We are pleased to announce that Peter Barclay from the Gatwick Airport Conservation Campaign (GACC) will be attending our Parish Council meeting. Peter will explain how the Government's recent approval of a second runway at Gatwick Airport could affect the villages in and around our Parish. We encourage all residents to attend to learn more about the plans and share your views— whether you are for or against the proposal.



Stuart McLachlan

Leaf Sweep at Christ Church Coldharbour on Friday 5th December



Any time you can spare will be much appreciated. We start at 9.30am. Please bring your own gloves and tools if you have them. There will be tea, coffee and mince pies to keep your strength up.

Kerry Day

Abinger Leaf sweep - to be arranged. Please contact Sally at the Parish Office if you would like to help.

FIREWORK DISPLAYS



The Bonfire Boys are holding their display at Felday Glade in Holmbury on Saturday 8th November. Starting at 5.30pm with a barbecue, the fireworks start at 7pm and end at 7.45pm. Tickets £7.50 in advance or £10 on the night.

Under 10s free. From Kingfisher Farm Shop, The Royal Oak, The Kings Head and Heartwork Café. Please check all details on the day.

Brockham Village are holding their firework display on the Brockham Village Green on Saturday 8th November. Carparks will open at 4.30pm. The torchlit procession begins at 6.30, the bonfire will be lit at 7.45 with the firework display starting at 8.15.

Please check all details on the day.



Village Coffee Mornings

SJs in Abinger

Coffee, tea, cakes and chat at St James' in Abinger every Wednesday, from 9 – 11ish. The next one is on **November 5th** - see the events page for other

dates. Remember you can bring your items that need a stitch or two, to the Repair Café, at the same time.

Coldharbour Coffee Morning – Usually held on the first Friday of the month. The next is on **7th November** at the JV Hall 10.30-11.30.

As usual there will be extra special edible delights and a raffle. All proceeds from the Christmas coffee morning go to charity. In other months they go towards the upkeep of the village hall. Contact Debby: debbychapman@hotmail.com



Please note that the December coffee morning will be a week later on the 12th December

In Holmbury St Mary, at the church café, there is a Free Hearing Aid Clinic in the Church Room

The **Hear Here clinic** runs from 11 to 12 noon on the 3rd Thursday of every month at the Holmbury church café. NHS volunteers are offering a retubing, earmould cleaning and battery replacement for NHS hearing aids. No appointment needed.

Debby Skeil

How can we help?

Would you be a Volunteer Befriender for Age Concern and so make a difference to someone's life?

Age Concern have a waiting list of older, lonely and isolated people who need a Volunteer Befriender. If you have 1-2 hours free a week and would like to make a difference to someone's life, then Age Concern Mole Valley has the perfect opportunity for you. They are looking for volunteers to join the Befriending Service across Mole Valley.



Donations to support the services are also gratefully received and can be made online or by sending a cheque made payable to Age Concern Mole Valley to The Point, Mayflower, Lyons Court, Dorking RH4 1AB

For more details, please contact: Volunteer Coordinator Diana Webb on email: diana@ageconcernmolevalley.org.uk or Tel: 07821 649683, 01306 899104.

THE DORKING FOODBANK

A TIN OF BEANS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

It can help the life of a hungry child.....

It can ease the mind of an anxious mother.....

It can change the world of a poor, desperate family.....



In these tricky times in the world, I am thankful that charitable giving still remains a high priority in our society, and the Dorking Food Bank is a fantastic, worthy and local charity that urgently needs our support.

I volunteered at the Food Bank at its beginning in 2015 and I saw, at first hand, the amazing generosity of people and companies, and the effect that that generosity had. Yet, sadly, it was never enough. The number of tragic examples of families in dire need of practical help to enable survival is rising. And we can be sure that, at the food bank, every family that comes to them, genuinely, is in need. All the families are referred to the food bank by churches, Citizens Advice, emergency services, schools. There are over 2.500 food banks in the UK, and they are all dependent on the support of their local community.

How many tins of beans have I left in the porch of St James over the past 10 years since the beginning of the Food Bank in Dorking? I'm ashamed to say that the answer is - a few in the first few months of the food bank in 2015, but since then, in the last 9 years – NONE!!

I give money to the poverty-ridden children in Africa, to the homeless at Christmas time in London and for the health and safety of children all over the UK – and I'm proud of that.

But the desperately poor families on our doorstep in the Dorking area somehow escape my attention. And seeing the paltry contribution that this village makes and Michael Sharman delivers every month on our behalf is, quite honestly, embarrassing.

I learnt of a shocking fact the other day – that the e-mail that Sally faithfully sends round to us each month, is the most-ignored e-mail that she sends out. Lots of us, it seems, see the words “Food Bank” and reach immediately for the delete button.

Surely, it is time that we all have the words DORKING FOOD BANK at the top of our shopping list. Firstly, you've got to open that e-mail from Sally, then head off to do your weekly shop - whether it be at Waitrose or Lidl – and buy that proverbial tin of baked beans – or better still a real one - or a can of soup or a tin of corned beef. **IT'S TIME WE CHANGED THE WORLD – at least in DORKING! SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL FOOD BANK**

Colin Swift



You can leave any donations in the porch at St James' and in the Annabel Room at Christ Church. Here's a list of some of the things that are always needed - instant coffee, tea bags, tins of custard, tinned puddings, tins of meat/fish, longlife milk and fruit juice, cereals, toiletries.

www.dorkingarea.foodbank.org.uk

Midsurrey Community Fridge are looking for volunteers.

No food should go to waste - everyone should have access to fresh, healthy food. Our award-winning team works tirelessly to rescue good, surplus food so it can be shared with our community. The food we save is available to everyone; we just ask for a voluntary donation of £2.50 per visit. Can you volunteer for a few hours a week to help with collecting surplus food or supporting the mobile stops and fridges. <https://www.msccfridges.org> for more information.

Harvest Festival was held at St James' in Abinger

An enormous THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to our Harvest Service collections. We were able to give the Dorking Foodbank five hefty boxes of delights and raised £420 for LeatherHEAD START, a local charity supporting homeless members of our community.

On receiving our donation, LeatherHEAD START said;

“That's wonderful news. Thank you so much for this donation to our work. Please pass our thanks to the church community who raised this for us. I hope everyone had a great time at the auction.”

For more information on both of these charities, please go to their websites.

<https://dorkingarea.foodbank.org.uk/>

<https://leatherheadstart.org/>

Coldharbour's Quiz Night at the Plough

A very enjoyable evening was spent on Friday 3rd October celebrating another of Piers Cooke's noisy quiz nights. There were 9 tables of enthusiastic, argumentative and somewhat deaf teams! All subjects covered - music caused the most amount of controversy with disagreements going on into the next day!

Halfway through Enes and his team brought out plate after plate of delicious fish and chips, tartare sauce and mushy peas for about 50 people. It was an outstanding evening and for those few punters (outsiders!) who found themselves at the bar that evening they must have observed what an amazing village atmosphere they had landed amongst.

Thank you to the Plough and to Piers.

Hils Jupe

Tis the season to be jolly so let's



get started **COLDHARBOUR CHRISTMAS
CRAFT FAIR AT CHRIST CHURCH**

Saturday November 15th from 11.00- 2.30

Beautiful handmade gifts from local artists and artisans

Free entry to include a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie

Cash and card accepted

Shelley Bock – ceramic Christmas decorations and cards, tea lights, bowls and flower garden stakes

Gabby Rapson – decorative wood art, driftwood mobiles and wire animals

Victoria Edwards – Christmas wreaths and macrame

Jo Chaytor – Coldharbour sheepskins and felted/vegetarian sheepskins

Tony King-Smith – hand crafted bowls, boards, salt/pepper pots, bottle stoppers, decorative boxes

Bella Pakenham – short stories, poetry and literary gifting

Chris Williams & Anna Brewer – handmade glass work and Christmas decorations

Terry O'Brien – ceramic pots, indoor/outdoor mobiles and light pods

Sue Hamilton-Skerritt – unique mixed media paintings

Caroline Sack – printed cards from original hand painted drawings

Nicole Stringer – handmade aromatherapy candles and candle stick holders

Angie Turner-Fever – quoted glasses and frames, quoted light up bottles

Lucy Brill – locally produced honey, beeswax products and hand turned wooden bowls

Patsy Simpson – paintings

Henny Maxwell – homemade jams and chutneys

Chelsea Lee Winterbottom – handmade jewellery, bags and crystals

Paul Orme Smith – handmade ceramics

The Cake Stall – homemade Christmas puddings, cakes and Christmas treats

Meet Martin Milton - Abinger Author.

Author, psychologist and psychotherapist, Martin grew up in South Africa and spent time living in New York before settling in London and establishing his career as a psychologist.



He now lives in Abinger in Broadmoor, with his husband, two cats and cocker spaniel.

Martin has an impressive academic career but has recently turned his hand to writing fiction. And his latest book is due out at the end of November! It's called '*I, Jack Parker?*'

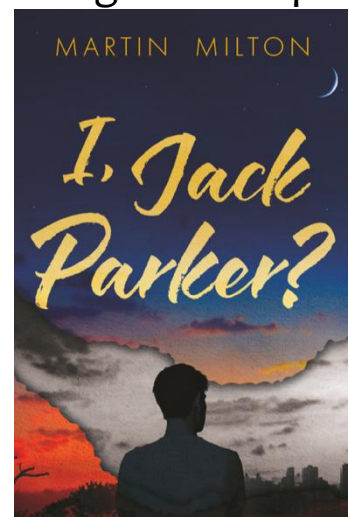
(You can preorder on Amazon or at troubador.co.uk/bookshop.)

Here's a quick idea of the story:

In the summer of 1995, South African Jack Parker arrives in New York City, ready for a year of adventure and discovery. But as he settles into his new life, Jack's world begins to unravel. Nightmare, panic attacks and haunting déjà vu moments disturb him, hinting at a dark past long buried.

In different ways, a chance encounter, and a growing relationship with Cal, his neighbour, force Jack to confront his inner turmoil. He embarks on a harrowing process to uncover the truth about his childhood.

As memories of trauma and loss resurface, Jack must grapple with who he is—and who he fears he might become.



Services

St James' Church, Abinger

- 2nd November** **The Fourth Sunday before Advent**
10.30am Parish Communion (Common Worship) with provision for children
Refreshments after the service
- 3.00pm All Souls Service
Remembering with thanksgiving, those who have died
Refreshments after the service
(further information on page 7)
- 9th November** **Remembrance Sunday**
10.30am Remembrance Service
Refreshments after the service
- 16th November** **The Second Sunday before Advent**
10.30am 'Come and See' Sunday
Refreshments after the service
- 23rd November** **Christ the King - Sunday next before Advent**
10.30am Sideways Church
New angles on faith with breakfast, laughter and conversation
- 6.00pm Joint Advent Meditation
An hour of reflective poetry and music to help us enter the season of Advent
- 30th November** **Advent Sunday**
10.30am Benefice service at St. Mary's, Holmbury



Services

Christ Church, Coldharbour

- 2nd November** **The Fourth Sunday before Advent**
10.00am All Souls Service
Remembering with thanksgiving, those who have died
Refreshments after the service
(further information on page 7)
- 9th November** **Remembrance Sunday**
10.50am Remembrance Service at the Memorial Ground
Refreshments will be served in the JV Hall after the service
- 16th November** **The Second Sunday before Advent**
9.00am Parish Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
6.00pm Congregational Evensong
- 23rd November** **Christ the King - Sunday next before Advent**
10.00am Parish Communion (Common Worship)
Patronal Festival
Refreshments after the service
6.00pm Joint Advent Meditation at St. James' Abinger
An hour of reflective poetry and music to help us enter the season of Advent
- 30th November** **Advent Sunday**
10.30am Benefice service at St. Mary's, Holmbury

Parish Office at Coldharbour will take place on:
Monday 3rd November and Monday 17th November from 10am - 11am in the JV Hall.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

The Remembrance Day Services at the churches in Coldharbour and Abinger will be held on **Sunday 9th November**. See centre pages for times.



The QRMW service is on 11th November. Meet at the Memorial at 10.40.

Hot drinks will be served after the service. All are welcome.

ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

TUESDAY 11th NOVEMBER 2025

At

THE QUICK RESPONSE MEMORIAL WOODLAND

Pasturewood Road, Holmbury St Mary RH5 6LG

Dorking Museums Exhibition: *To the Last Man*, is about the Home Guard in Dorking and the villages during WWII.

The Museum's autumn exhibition tells the story of the men of Dorking and the villages who stepped forward to enlist in the 'People's Army' – later, the Home Guard – in 1940, to defend the nation. Five hundred men living in the town and immediate neighbourhood offered their services – many without any military experience, often in full-time work – and many also volunteered for other home front organisations. The 7th (Dorking) Battalion, Surrey Home Guard was commanded by Major Geoffrey Lane.

The Dorking area was clearly identified as being of key strategic importance – for an invading force, the route to London from the coast ran through the Mole Gap and the town was also the operational headquarters for the Southern Railway, responsible for transport of troops and supplies across the south of England. The Home Guard was called upon to establish strongholds, secure sites to ensure public safety and guard aircraft crash sites.

The Dorking Battalion gave a public demonstration of weapons and defensive techniques on the Nower before being stood down at the end of 1944, having proved its value throughout the war.



How school children helped in the War.

Coldharbour: Wartime Christ's Hospital School Harvest Camp

During World War II (1939-45) help was often given to farmers at harvest



time by older school pupils during their summer holidays. This photo was taken in 1942 – somewhere in England. Mary Hustings brings us this article from William Alcock.

William Alcock, who spent summers helping bring in the harvest at Harthurst Farm in Coldharbour shares his memories

‘In July/August 1943, and again in 1944, a party of about 20 boys from Christ's Hospital school (near Horsham) helped at Harthurst Farm on the south side of Leith Hill. (If memory is correct, Farmer Gooding).

The main Christ's Hospital camps were at Marden (Petersfield area), but the Leith Hill camp was organised by an old C.H boy, Robert Ewan, for members of the school Christian Union. Robert Ewan lived at Crawley Down near East Grinstead, and he gave assistance to the Christian Union.

The choice of Harthurst Farm was because the camp chaplain (the Rev. Alan Stibbs, later Principal of Oakhill Theological College) had arranged to be locum for that period at Coldharbour church, living in the Rectory with his wife and family.

Accommodation for the boys was arranged in the village hall, but evening and weekend meals were provided in the Rectory (in good weather in the garden with its magnificent view).

The farm work was on Mondays to Fridays, and consisted almost entirely of collecting the cornstooks, loading them onto the farm trailers, which were then hauled by paraffin tractors (with their characteristic exhaust smell) up to the farm, where we then helped to unload them. In the hot weather, this was strenuous and sweaty work. One or two of the oldest boys were allowed to drive the tractors sometimes: there were about three regular labourers, all older men.



Although the threat of invasion had then receded, there were no signposts in the countryside (and no placenames elsewhere) this did not affect us, except on the Sunday several of us went across country by cycle to Robert Ewans home at Crawley Down. (There was of course no major airport at Gatwick then, only a small aerodrome).

We got to Robert's home all right, but on the return, we got pretty lost in the Charlwood area and took a long time to find our way to Ockley, thence up Leith Hill. The countryside was indescribably quiet and lonely that summer's eve; I cannot recollect seeing even one car, or for that matter, anyone walking. Thankfully we got back to the village in the end!

Some of the boys on the 1943 camp went on to quite interesting careers. One eventually became the Headmaster of King Edwards school, Witley and later to Christ's Hospital itself. (John Hansford). Another became the director of a major overseas mission in the Far East, while several became clergy. The writer became a Commander in the Royal Navy.

I did not attend the 1944 camp which, I believe, witnessed one or two VI "Doodlebugs" flying over.

We were well received by the village in both years, and that wartime harvesting stay has certainly left pleasant memories for those of us still around.

Coldharbour, high on Leith Hill, is a very pleasant place to come back to sometimes.



A quick reminder that Graham Mytton has stamps for your Christmas cards More information next month or contact Graham: gmytton@gn.apc.org.

Introducing Coldharbour's new residents: Nicola and Graeme McDonald

Graeme and I have always dreamed about living in the country. For decades we looked for properties spanning Scotland to Cornwall dreaming of our tomorrow, when the children left school. It was Graeme who spotted this Grade II Cottage in Coldharbour,



and we fell in love. There's so much history here. I imagine myself walking in the ghostly footsteps of past occupants who brought buckets of water from the well for washing and bathing. I imagine each human conversation over generations etched upon the surface of every brick. I imagine the walls will tell a story of the humans it cosseted, if you care to listen. We can still smell the coal of the fireplace that has not been lit for many years. And letters from previous owners are left in our care. We have four children. The two youngest moved with us. The oldest two live in London. In September, our youngest moved out to Brighton to begin his new life at university. Graeme, an IT consultant, commutes into London 2-3 times a week. He says he's not fazed by the longer commute because of what meets him at the end of the day. My happy place is escaping on the page. This month, I started my third fictional novel. I'll incorporate Coldharbour's history into chapters.

As well as an author, I'm a creative writing coach. I encourage clients to 'get out of their heads and onto the page' for emotional wellbeing and escape. I also created an online writing school for adults: *The Introverts Paper Playground*. I promised I'd consciously take better care of our environment for the sake of the environment and the health benefits, when we moved. So, I make green products myself.

Moving from Sunbury earlier this year gave us the opportunity to reset and simplify our life. When friends and family visit, we typically book a table at The Plough Inn. We've had our fair share of loss and I'm in living grief as we lose dad to mixed dementia.

Life is precious, so we keep body and mind active walking and running the hills. We've found a new peace and pace of life in Coldharbour.

MUSIC IN DORKING – NOVEMBER 2025 by Ian Codd

There is a wide range of musical events in Dorking in November.

1st at 7.30, Chromatica Orchestra at Dorking Halls, 01306 881717

2nd at 3.00, Glenn Miller Orchestra at Dorking Halls, £30, 01306 881717

5th at 7.15, La Fille Mal Gardee ballet screening at Dorking Halls, 01306 881717

8th at 7.30, Dorking Philharmonia at St Martin's church, £15

9th at 2.00, La Fille Mal Gardee ballet screening at Dorking Halls, 01306 881717

15th at 7.30, English Arts Chorale at Dorking Halls, £25-30, 01306 881717

16th at 7.00, Dorking Choral Society at St Martin's church, £18

22nd at 7.30, The Nutcracker at Dorking Halls, £30, 01306 881717

28th at 7.15, Cinderella ballet screening at Dorking Halls, 01306 881717

30th at 2.00, Cinderella ballet screening at Dorking Halls, 01306 881717

30th at 2.00 & 4.30, The Snowman at Dorking Halls, 01306 881717

At Dorking Halls: The English Arts Chorale has a programme entitled War and Peace. They will sing Karl Jenkins' mass *The Armed Man – A Mass for Peace*, and Fauré's beautiful *Requiem*.

The Chromatica Orchestra will play Mozart's *Haffner Serenade* and Bartók's atmospheric *Music for Strings, Percussion and Celesta*.



The Glenn Miller Orchestra perform their most popular hits. Featuring *In the Mood*, *Moonlight Serenade*, *Pennsylvania 6-5000*. With singers the Moonlight Serenaders and the band's soloists. Tickets £30



The Snowman – 2 performances

The film of Raymond Briggs' story is accompanied by a live orchestra. Experience the wonder as Howard Blake's unforgettable score comes to life. Music performed by The Hapax orchestra.

CHILDREN



We have gone bonkers for conkers!!!! We are very fortunate to have a few beautiful horse chestnut trees to collect our fallen bounty from. Shiny, rough, teeny, humungous, perfectly round or wibbly wobbly they all make the cut. Can you imagine the many things you can do with a conker? Well for starters we created a marvellous masterpiece of artwork by rolling them in paint and onto a huge piece of paper. We then carefully crafted conker key rings to hang onto our backpacks. And just riffling through them with our hands and peering at them through magnifying glasses gave us tremendous joy. You should try it!

Another autumn glory is fallen leaves and the ever-stunning colours that transform the landscape. Stomping through them with a careful amount of kicking is a wonderful past time (again another thing that will bring out your inner child!). You can also collect and crinkle them into leaf confetti which comes in handy when decorating a (pretend) hedgehog or producing a fanciful autumnal wreath.



With the shift of season comes an opportunity to cook up some winter warmers to fill our tummies. We started the term with a classic delight of apple crumble – is there anything more heart-warming? Followed closely by vegetable spider stew (no real spiders were harmed or eaten) and chose your own toppings ‘face’ pizza. Yes, they really did look very much like us.

Our parents tell us they had a rip-roaring time on the dance floor at the Abinger Hatch Barn Dance which raised vital funds for our nursery. The dancing was led by the brilliant Lydia who heads up The Stage Studio in Reigate. Delicious fresh pizza was served by Matt and his team from Club Pizza who visit Albury Village Hall every Thursday from 4 until 8pm. Thanks a million, to you all.

Just in case you weren't aware we have wraparound options from 7.45am to 5pm Monday to Thursday and until 12.45 Friday. If you have a child looking to start nursery, please don't hesitate to get in touch as there are still spaces for this term. Please call 07842 978823 or email: abingercommonnursery@gmail.com. We can't wait to meet you!

Surrey Hills All Saints Primary School



Year 2 have been busy at Forest School making shelters and growing! Our sunflowers are now taller than most of the children!! A big THANK YOU to FASH for providing new watering cans and trowels to help us tend the plants as well as new materials for den building.

Year 3 had an exciting opportunity this half term! They have been loving our latest class book of 'An alien in the Jam factory' so as a reward they had a virtual interview with the author Chrissie Sains herself. Hedgehogs were extremely excited



to be able to see a real author and ask her all of their interesting questions that they had thought of. They loved hearing about the thought processes behind Chrissie's ideas and even got to see a sneak peak of her new book - coming out in a few months' time! It was a real pleasure to see how inspired they were by her.



Year 3 & 4 enjoyed their rocket launch science workshop. They loved making their own rockets, thinking how to make objects move with balloons and watching various rocket launches happen.

"I enjoyed it because he set off a real rocket and it went more than 100ft into the air which was really cool!" Ben "You make your rocket fly by blowing air powerfully into the straw which propels the rocket upwards into the air!" - Keavy

WI Report - October 2025

It was a well-attended gathering for our October meeting, chaired this time by our Secretary in the absence of President, Lesley Childs. The only announcement: no traditional Christmas lunch this year (too expensive) instead a meal in January. Felicity Francis introduced Peter Poplam whose talk was entitled “**Gandhi v. Churchill**”.

Churchill, from an illustrious English aristocratic family, was hopeless at school, but found his feet in the army in a cavalry regiment. He fought the ancestors of the Taliban in the Northwest Frontier War and wrote despatches which earned him celebrity status. He was intoxicated by Empire at its peak, which included the rule of India.

Gandhi was an Indian Hindu from a ‘shopkeeper caste’ family whose father was advisor to the local Rajah. He trained as a lawyer at the Inns of Court in London having agreed to his father’s conditions: no meat, no alcohol and no promiscuous sex. (He was married with two children.) He was a strict vegetarian at a time when this was just catching on here. He first practised in South Africa among the Indian population, where he had a hard time with the colour bar and from this grew his passion to challenge the domination of colonial people by whites. In 1907 Gandhi visited London and met Churchill, then Under Secretary of State for the Colonies. Their loyalties and aspirations were diametrically opposed: Gandhi was championing self-government for India, whilst imperialist Churchill believed that Britain needed India for us to remain a world class power.

After the massacre at Amritsah, Gandhi adopted the working man’s dhoti in solidarity with the people, became celibate (insisting his followers did the same) and founded the Indian National Conference party. He began spinning cotton every day in support of India’s rag trade, led the “Salt March” in protest at the Salt Tax, and had some fairly cranky notions about avoiding “animal instincts”. In 1930 Churchill persuaded the Viceroy to lock him up for a time. Gandhi visited London in 1931 and was received as a celebrity, but Churchill refused to meet him. In 1947 India finally achieved independence, but there was partition between Hindu India and Moslem Pakistan followed by mass migrations and violence, not a fulfilment of Gandhi’s hopes.

So - a fascinating and informative talk followed by the usual tasty tea provided by Liz Bennet, Annie Evelyn and Kathleen Miller.

Next: Thursday, 6th November 2.30 p.m. at the Wotton Hall with a talk entitled “Mysteries and Explaining the Inexplicable”.

Pat O’Brien

November in your Garden

I hate to say this, but we still need lots more rain! The ground is still very hard and almost unworkable especially if you are putting in barefooted trees or shrubs.



Autumn to early winter when the soil is still warm is the best time for this, but plants need to be well watered to survive. If we do not get the rain, it means carrying a can!

November is also the best time to plant tulip bulbs. Remember they need to be 3 times deeper than the bulb themselves. Layering in a pot with daffodils, crocus etc can give a colourful portable display in spring. A good Christmas gift for someone maybe?

This year has been an incredible year for fruit, especially apples. Once they are all picked, branches broken by the weight of fruit can easily be seen. These should be removed when pruning.

If a tree looks very denuded, don't worry, it may take a year or so, but the tree will recover.

Should you have a holly bush in your garden and like to use holly as a decoration at Christmas I suggest you cover any berried branches now. If we do get a very cold snap birds and squirrels will make short work of feasting on the berries!



Don't be too hasty in tidying up borders.



This year's growth will provide protection for new growth next year if we get a very cold winter, it can also provide food for wildlife.





Thursday 6th November – 1917 – 7.30pm. This is a fundraising event for the British Legion

A first world war drama of the Western Front, where two lance corporals (George MacKay & Dean-Charles Chapman) are sent on a mad dash across enemy territory to alert troops on the other side of this no-man's land that they are walking into a trap. The film shows their journey and the thrilling finale. Directed by Sam Mendes, the film won three Oscars for: Best Cinematography, Best Sound Mixing, and Best Visual Effects. Classification 15 (Running time is 1 hr 59 mins).



Friday 14th November - Ivanko's Childhood -7pm. This is a fundraising event in aid of Ukraine. Funds raised will be put towards buying a van to take medical and humanitarian supplies to the East of the country.

6.30pm doors open, cash bar, raffle tickets on sale. **7pm** the film starts followed by Q&A with Directors. **7.30** Teenage soloist – Luca's sister. **8pm** Women's Choir. **8.30pm** Lively traditional Ukrainian entertainers. **9.30 pm** Raffle draw and finish.

The film follows a young Ukrainian refugee's touching mission to save his homeland. (See sherevillagecinema.com for more information)

Sunday 16th November – Hard Truths – 7.30pm. A fierce, compassionate, and often darkly humorous study of family and the thorny ties that bind us, directed by the 'Legendary' Mike Leigh. Marianne Jean-Baptiste plays Pansy, a woman wracked by fear, tormented by afflictions, and prone to raging tirades against her husband, son, and anyone who looks her way. Meanwhile, her easy-going younger sister Chantal (Michele Austin), is a single mother with a life as different from Pansy's as their clashing temperaments. Classification 12A (Running time 1 hr 37 mins.).

Sunday December 7th - The Penguin Lessons - 7.30pm. A comedy drama starring Steve Coogan and Jonathan Pryce. Inspired by the true story of a disillusioned Englishman who went to work in a school in Argentina in 1976. Expecting an easy ride Tom discovered a divided nation and a class of unteachable students. However, after he rescues a penguin from an oil-slicked beach his life is turned upside down. 12A. (Duration 1hr 51 minutes).

We hope that you will join us for some or all of our films in November and December if you can.

Shere Village Cinema Team

DECEMBER - events for your diaries



**QRMW, Pasturewood Rd,
Holmbury St Mary RH5 6LG
JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS
AT THE WOODLAND
SATURDAY 6th DECEMBER AT 12.30
FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY**

**Childrens Treasure Hunt at 12.30pm
Followed by a visit to see Santa in his Grotto
and receive a present**

**Bottle Tombola
Christmas Raffle
Childrens Lucky Dip
Fabulous Toy Stall
Sweet Stall
Games for all Ages
And More**

Hot drinks and Hot dogs

**Please Register the children its only £8 each Child to join in and
receive a goodie bag on completion of the treasure hunt plus a gift from
Father Christmas**

**DO REGISTER EARLY TO ENSURE FATHER CHRISTMAS'S ELVES
MAKE THE RIGHT PRESENTS AND
TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT—NUMBERS ARE LIMITED
CONTACT DEBBIE HORNBLow**

Email: debbiehornblow@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 07778873806

All Proceeds go to help Veterans in Need

Make your Own Christmas Wreath

There are workshops running in both villages early in December.

On Saturday December 6th at St James' Church Abinger, 1pm-4pm

Join Hui MacDonagh in the Lady Chapel to make a Christmas Wreath. There are only 12 places so book early. To book a place for Hui's workshop please contact Sally: parishoffice@abingerandcoldharbour.org. Tel 01306 737160.

Cost:-by donation.

On Thursday December 11th & Friday 12th at Chasemores in Coldharbour, (opposite the village hall) from 2pm – 4pm.

Join Amanda Hanlin for a festive workshop with full and simple guidance on how to create your own unique wreath. Up to 6 people per session so book early to secure your space.

To book a place and for more details Contact Amanda on 07770 324083.

Cost: £35 per person to include a 10" wreath ring and natural foliage.

'It's a Sleigh Ride!' Wednesday December 3rd, 7.30pm, at St James' Church, Abinger Common. The

Meadvale Singers will be presenting a programme of light and uplifting Christmas music in aid of local charities.



Come & Sing Christmas Carols with Holmbury Choral Thursday December 11th - Abinger Hammer Village Hall 8pm

A chance to sing your favourite carols and perhaps some new ones as well and enjoy festive refreshments with the choir. With Cole and Suzy. Just come along – all welcome.

Holmbury St Mary Choral Society

Centenary Celebration Concert –
Thursday December 4th

St Mary's Church, Holmbury St Mary,
8pm

Holmbury Choral are celebrating 100 years of singing in the Surrey Hills with Poulenc's *Gloria*, Tippett's *Spirituals* from *A Child of Our Time* and Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*. Cole Bendall will be conducting, Suzy Ruffles will be accompanying, and there will also be percussion and glorious soloists.

More information and tickets (£16, 19 and under free) from www.holmburychoral.org.

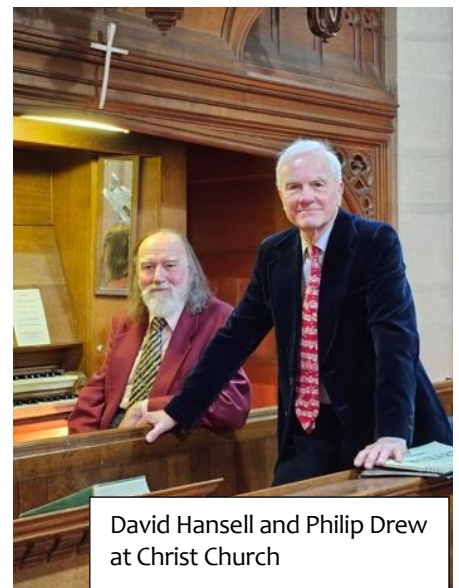


Evensong 14th December

Organist and Choirmaster, David tells the story of two composers and their importance to church music

On 11th October, Philip and David gave a wonderful concert for two organs at Christ Church. This most enjoyable performance included tributes to Orlando Gibbons and the Rev'd Arthur Gore Ouseley.

When I am planning the music for services my starting points are, of course, the readings for the day and the time of year. Sometimes I also toss into the mix composers whose music I feel we should feature. At last year's Carol Services, I played *Toccata in Seven* by John Rutter to salute his being knighted; this year I will include carols by him to mark his 80th birthday. This year I have had in mind the two gentlemen named above – we have sampled their canticles, anthems, hymns and psalm chants; the October organ recital at Christ Church contained music by them both; and I have played further pieces by Gibbons at our regular services. Why?



David Hansell and Philip Drew
at Christ Church



Taking Ouseley first, it is barely an exaggeration to say that without him we might not have choral singing in our churches. In his youth singing and music in the Church of England was at a low ebb. Cathedrals often could not raise a full choir; at Victoria's coronation only one third of the singers expected, turned up; the singing of hymns was regarded with suspicion in some circles; and only with reluctance did English organists accept the idea that pedals, and the sonorous bass notes they could supply, should be incorporated into our instruments.

Ouseley resolved '*To Do Something About This*'. He was educated privately – by the then Vicar of Dorking, amongst others – and by the mid-1850s he was ordained, had been awarded a Doctorate in Music and appointed Professor of Music by the University of Oxford, and Precentor of Hereford Cathedral. He had inherited considerable wealth and in 1856 used this to found a Choir School almost exactly where Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire meet: – St Michael's College, Tenbury. He designed an impressive organ for the chapel, incorporating elements of the instruments in Spain and Germany that he had heard on his travels. He also enjoyed the famous choirs in Leipzig and Dresden, which prompted this response: '*I am quite certain I shall never care for English Cathedral trebles again!*'

The aim of his new college was unequivocal – '*to form a model for the daily choral services of the Church of these realms*'. And for 130 years it did just that. Organists and adult singers in the choir (me, for instance) were often in their early careers, gaining invaluable experience, before moving to more senior positions. Former choristers include multiple cathedral and parish organists and singers and at least one organ builder.

But what of Orlando Gibbons, and what was his link to Ouseley who was born 200 years later? Gibbons was born in Oxford, was a chorister at King's College, Cambridge and was a member of the Chapel Royal by the time he was 20. Shortly afterwards he was promoted to organist, became a member of the royal 'privy chamber' musicians and by the end of his life was also organist of Westminster Abbey, renowned as '*the best hand in the kingdom*'. Amongst much other music of the highest quality, he composed the tunes included in the first English hymn book (1623). (Yes, we do use some of them.) Ouseley had the means and



the interest to accumulate a large library which included much church music from around 1600 in its earliest, usually hand-written state, and the anthems and service music by Gibbons struck his eye as being of particular interest. He patiently transcribed them into modern musical notation, commissioned new texts to replace those that were too much 'of their time', oversaw their publication and added them to the repertoire of his new choir.

So, we now have the link between two figures, who many regard as central figures in the development and revival of English church music.

Shere Surgery & Dispensary

As Christmas approaches, we are preparing for the busy winter season at the surgery. Winter always causes a huge upsurge in demand, and we approach this winter with some trepidation due to the Government changes - hailed as 'making it as easy to see your GP as seeing a hairdresser or booking a taxi'. But keeping access open from 8am to 6.30pm doesn't create more doctors, or appointments, or working hours in the day. We will need to direct patients to Haslemere Urgent Treatment Centre and Woking Walk in Centre once we have reached capacity. We know this will create dissatisfaction and will be hard on our staff. The British Medical Association (and many others) are worried that the change is unsafe. Please watch this space for updates. If you would like to support us, we would very much appreciate you directing your thoughts to your local MP.

Named Doctor: all patients must have a named doctor. At Shere we really value this continuity and find it rewarding to follow you on your life journeys. However, sometimes there might be another doctor in the building that may better meet a specific need you have. We want to reassure you that we aim for continuity and patient choice.

Weight Loss Injections: we are having MANY questions about these. Please try not to contact us to ask if you are eligible as we are struggling to manage the queries. We will be searching the system, and we will contact you if you meet the criteria.

We are actively trying to protect the good qualities of rural general practice which mainly stem from continuity of care from a team you know in a trusted environment. We very much appreciate your ongoing support with this.

Directory of Local Businesses

Animal care	
The Mutt Hut dog grooming.	07760 162661
The House Vet	01483 272999 info@rowlyhousevet.net
Beauty	
Peaslake Beauty Room.	Avril Munford 01306 731182 pamperyourself@thepeaslakebeautyroom.co.uk
Builders etc.	
B A Gunter	01306 628291
Dorking Glass	01306 882971
RB Fencing	01306 640143 01483 414745 info@rbfencingltd.co.uk
LHP Groundwork and Drainage	01306 628412 info@lhpl.co.uk
Lyne & Co Capel Building and Renovation	01293 871008 info@lyneandco.co.uk
Carpenters	
Tony Winch – Carpenter, Joiner Cabinet Maker	01306 742373 07969 016924 www.tonywinch.com
Charities	
Abinger Consolidated Charities	kimclark50@gmail.com
Chartered Accountants	
Bullimores	01306 880880 partners@bullimores.co.uk
Chimneys	
Joe Lund (sweep)	07930 507115 and 01243 583430
Computers	
Surrey Hills PC MAC and PC WMF-IT consultants	01483 608242 07771 665863 david@surreyhillspc.co.uk 01306 731253 sales@wmf-it.co.uk
Decorators	
Dorking Decorators	01306 640418 www.dorkingdecorators.co.uk
Electricians	
Phase Electrical	Toby Stevenson 07903 773996 phase.surrey@gmail.com
Financial Advisors	
Porter & Co	01306 644695 admin@porterifa.co.uk www.porterifa.co.uk
Funeral Services	
Sherlock & Sons	01306 882266
Gardens & Trees	
David Ford Tree Care	01306 611661 07940 197911 info@davefordtreecare.co.uk
Capel Tree Surgeons	01306 711124 07775 727121 www.capeltreesurgeons.co.uk
FCS	0800 146 122 support@fcscleaning.co.uk
Osborne Landscapes & construction.	Mark Osborne 07818 001840 01306 730090
Phil's Mowing	07905 160765 phil@philsmowingdorking.co.uk
SJH Garden Services	07792 628785 sam@sjhgardeservices.co.uk

Jobs in Care Home Instead Epsom & Mole Valley	01372 741544 Maggie.adenmosun@homeinstead.co.uk
Pest Control Emwood	01483 203823 www.emwoodpestcontrol.com
Piano Tuning Nick Harris	07476 729389 info@leithhillpianos.co.uk
Printing Barkers, Dorking	01306 888858 rob@barkerprint.co.uk
Health, Psychotherapy, Wellbeing Jodechi Morton: Psychotherapy, CBT, TA, Life Coaching Qigong, meditation, natural health and healing	07825 138508 info@jodechicoachingandcbt.com internitylife@pm.me 07919 102332 http://internity.life
Removals Ede Bros	01306 711293 edebros.co.uk
Shops Coldharbour Village Shop Kingfisher Farm Shop Abinger Hammer Village Shop	01306 711793 01306 730703 01306 730701
Solar Panels UK Solar Power Panels	01306 733965 admin@solarpanels.co.uk
Sport & Fitness Abinger Sports Club Dance a Ramix Dorking Lawn Tennis and Squash Club The Albury Gym	01306 730320 robert.a.dunn@btinternet.com 01306 731182. 07899 842 727 dancearamix@btinternet.com 01306 889009 www.dltsc.co.uk 07407 532057 info@thealburygym.co.uk
Swimming Pools Burgess Pools	01306 730952 burgesspools@yahoo.co.uk

NEXT ISSUE:
 Dec/Jan 2026
 Closes 1pm
 Tuesday 18th November
 abingerpn@gmail.com

