

**ABINGER AND COLDHARBOUR**

# Parish News



**APRIL 2026**

## 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 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

Editors: Liz Hamilton (730382) Jenny Parker (731851), abingerpn@gmail.com

Distribution: Kim Edwards (730809)

Advertising: Sally McCance (737160), PNadvertising@aol.co.uk

### 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

Surrey Hills Aikido Club 07931 714812

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: waspbuserinfo@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



## APRIL

- 1st SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
- 2nd WI, 'Ukraine' Wotton Village Hall, 2.30
- 3rd Coldharbour Coffee Morning, JV Hall, 10.30-11.30
- 5th **Easter Sunday**
- 5th Shere cinema. *One Battle After Another*, starts 7pm
- 6th Easter Family Fun Day, St James', 11 – 1.30
- 8th SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
- 10th Coldharbour Coffee Morning, JV Hall, 10.30-11.30
- 11th Surrey Serenaders, St James', 10-12
- 11th Benefice Walk, 9.30am from St Mary's Holmbury
- 15th SALV, Albury Village Hall, 8pm
- 15th SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
- 18th L H Big Band at St Mary Magdalene, S Holmwood
- 19th Shere cinema. *Downton Abbey, the Grand Finale*, 7.30
- 22nd SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11
- 24th All Ages Games Night, St James', 6-8
- 25th Leith Hill Place Literary Festival, 10-5
- 26th Farmers' Market, Royal Oak, Holmbury, 2-5
- 25th Surrey Serenaders, St James', 10-12
- 27th Abinger Hammer Village Hall 'Chris in the Community'
- 28th *The Milky Way*. Talk H.St.M Village Hall 7.30
- 29th SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11

## MAY

- 1st Coldharbour coffee morning, JV Hall, 10.30-11.30
- 2nd Albury Plant Sale, Vale End, 10.30-12.30
- 6th SJ's café & repair café, St James', 9 – 11

## From the Editors

Local elections take place on May 7<sup>th</sup> and village halls are used for polling stations so do watch out for changes to regular meeting times. If you have any questions for Chris Coghlan MP there will be a meeting at Abinger Hammer Village Hall on April 27<sup>th</sup> from 7.30-9 where he will answer questions.

Our lovely front cover is thanks to local photographer Steve Belcher.

## Reflections from the Rectory

I am conscious as I write this that the world feels an uncertain place at the moment. There is fear and confusion as we see and read all the disturbing news, and it can leave us feeling powerless and vulnerable.

We may not be able to control world events, or indeed circumstances within our family! But we do have control over our own actions and responses. We can choose to act with kindness and compassion; we can pray for those far away and those nearby who need comfort and care. We can be kind and gentle to ourselves when we feel overwhelmed. This is a season of hope in the Church as we celebrate Easter – the resurrection of Jesus, which reminds us that all is not lost; that death does not have the final answer. We can glimpse heaven on earth through the love of others, the nature around us and through a relationship with the living God.

Do have a look in the middle pages for all our Easter services– making special note that this year we have a **10.30am service on Easter day at St James’!**

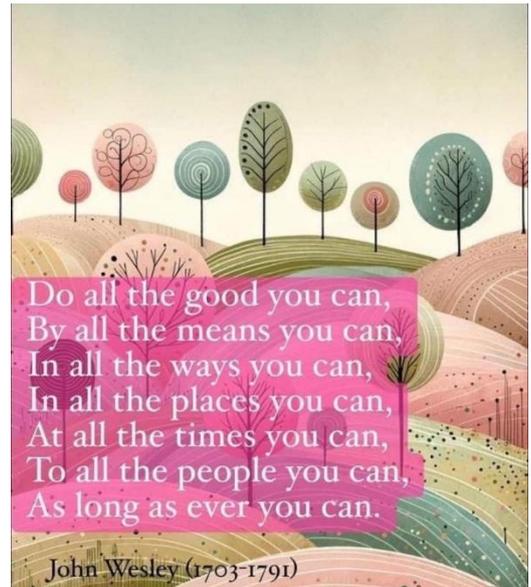
There will be some specially convened ‘Festival singers’ at Christ Church on Easter day which all are welcome to join!

On **Good Friday** do join Virginia for a short service at **Christ Church at 10am** then join **Guy as he leads us down the hill at 11am** to St James where there will be refreshments followed by a reflective service at 1pm.

We look forward to seeing you over Easter and beyond!

With love,

Rev’d Kia 😊

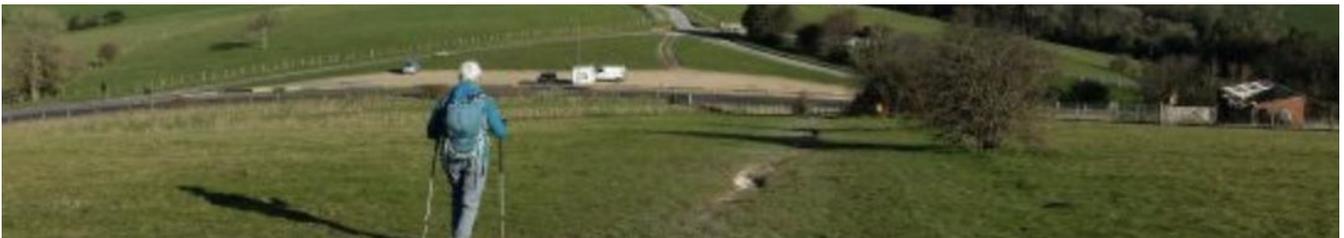




**EASTER FUN DAY –  
BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 11-1.30  
St James' Church Abinger.  
Crafts and Games, Easter Treasure Hunt, Hot dogs  
Everyone is welcome**



## **NEXT BENEFICE WALK... Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April**



**This walk will start from St Mary's Holmbury St Mary at 9.30am prompt!**  
St Mary's Way loops through beautiful woodland to St James' Church in Abinger and back again, taking in Pasture Wood along the way. There will be refreshments at the mid-way point and we'll be back at around 1.30pm. All are welcome, including dogs!

Walk dates and places for 2026 are as follows (and based on which church will be hosting a joint service that weekend):

11/04/26 - from St Mary's, Holmbury St. Mary

30/05/26 - from Christ Church, Coldharbour

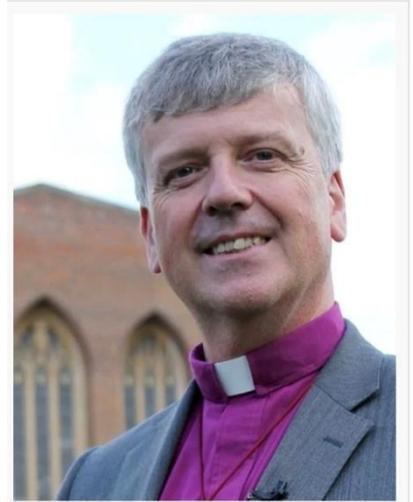
28/11/26 - from St James', Abinger

26/12/26 - from Christ Church, Coldharbour

Please contact Lucy at [lucyharlow@me.com](mailto:lucyharlow@me.com) with any questions or to be put on the Loop Group email list.

# Bishop Andrew

It was with real shock that we learnt of Bishop Andrew's death last month on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. He was diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer at the beginning of the year, and although was hoping to make it to Easter, he succumbed to his illness much quicker than he hoped. It's a true testament to his character and faith and the impact he had on people that tributes have flowed in from around the world and from across religions. I knew him as my 'Boss' but one that was approachable and always had time for you with a kind and encouraging word to say. He was a gentle, wise and supportive Bishop and my prayers go to Beverley, his wife, and his four children and grandchildren as they come to terms with their loss. The last letter he wrote to the clergy across the diocese was inspiring and deeply impactful. I quote it here –



*“I don't fear the prospect of dying and find to my relief that my faith in the 'resurrection of the body and the life everlasting' has only grown stronger over the past few weeks. I've sometimes had private worries that, when faced with the starkness of a terminal diagnosis, my faith in the risen Christ might falter. Well, it hasn't. Or better still, God hasn't faltered. Quite the reverse.”* And he leaves us with a quote from 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28 which *'articulates much of what I would want to say..... to the Diocese of Guildford'*

But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labour among you and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, brothers and sisters, to admonish the idlers, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this: Brothers and sisters, pray for us. Greet all the brothers and sisters with a holy kiss. I solemnly command you by the Lord that this letter be read to all the brothers and sisters. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.



# What happened in February

## The Abinger Progressive Supper

On the evening of the 28th of Feb over 50 people from Abinger took part in a most enjoyable progressive supper. The guests enjoyed starters at 7 different homes and went on to have their main courses at another 7 different homes. Everyone then joined together for drinks and delicious, sweet goodies at the Abinger Hatch. Great care is taken to ensure that people have their starters with a completely different group of guests from those with whom they have their main course so that the evening is spent with as many different people as possible. We all had a lot of fun - and it has the added benefit of raising money for our village church.

**Save the date 27th February 2027** for next year's Progressive Supper!

**Note to Coldharbourites.** Book now for the Coldharbour Progressive Supper on June 6<sup>th</sup>: – [amandahanlin@aol.com](mailto:amandahanlin@aol.com). See page 19 for more details.

## The winners of Fanny's Marmalade Competition

Fanny's Marmalade competition held in memory of Fanny Maiklem (whose recipe is used) and Margaret Arminson of Kingfisher's, took place on February 24<sup>th</sup>. The farm shop received 48 jars of marmalade across all the classes and were able to make a generous donation of £48 to the Phyllis Tuckwell foundation in memory of Fanny and Margaret. Judges were Debbie of Debbies Preserves and Joanna of Two Many Cooks and Ian Oakley.

The winners were:

Katie Richards: Ladies Seville marmalade. And Winner of Winners

Graham Langley: Gentleman's Seville marmalade

Joanne Marsh: Mixed fruit marmalade

Gordon Friend: Gentleman's mixed fruit marmalade

Lucinda Watkinson: Previous winner Open Class

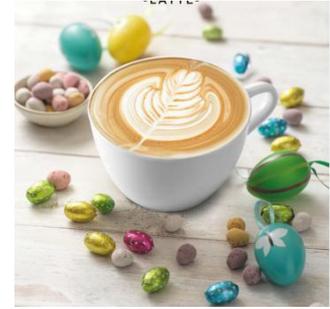
A special mention goes to Raffie Hunter who won the under 14's Seville marmalade section and to the children of Abinger Common Nursery who came second in this class and first in the Mixed Fruit Section.



# Village Coffee Mornings

## SJ's café and repair café at St James' Abinger

Join us every Wednesday 9-11 am for coffee, tea, croissants and chat, and bring any items that need mending to the Repair café which is on at the same time.



**Coldharbour Coffee mornings** are on the first Friday of the month but please note: - as Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April is Good Friday the coffee morning will be on **Friday 10th April** from 10.30-11.30. and on **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May**

## LEITH HILL PLACE – book festival



25<sup>th</sup> April 10am – 5pm

Leith Hill Place hosts its first one-day book festival featuring an intriguing mix of published authors and poets to whet your literary whistle. The festival will include talks on Jane Austen's *Leatherhead*, writing period fiction and the poisons of Agatha Christie.



Plus, there will be workshops on writing prose and poetry, making books and forest bathing and a poetry open mic. All talks and a choice of practical workshops included in the ticket price of £38.

[leithhillplace@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:leithhillplace@nationaltrust.org.uk) 01306 711 685  
Booking is essential



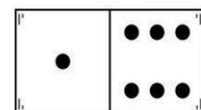
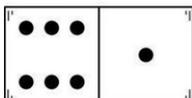
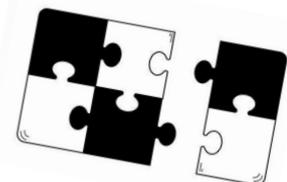
## ALL AGE GAMES NIGHT AT ST JAMES'

FRIDAY APRIL 24th 6-8



Bring along your favourite games and join in with others. There will be pizza, drinks and a bar.

Rsvp to Sally: [parishoffice@abingerandcoldharbour.org](mailto:parishoffice@abingerandcoldharbour.org)





## Local Producers

Ockley Farmers' Market is now mobile, visiting local pubs in the area.

Every fourth Sunday, you can find them at the Royal Oak in Holmbury St Mary.

26<sup>th</sup> April is the next one from 2-5pm.



## Coldharbour Village Fete on Saturday 16th May. Can you help?

This year's fete is on Saturday 16th May and planning is well underway with plenty of discussion and enthusiasm from the recent village meeting. The usual favourites are already lined up, including music from The Superstrings Trio and Coldharbour Band, Punch & Judy, Magic Show, Children's Games, Gifts, Books, Produce, Bottle Tombola, Teas, Beer & Pimms, BBQ, Fun Dog Show, Face Painting, Tug-o-War and Raffle, and this year sees the return of the Auction of Promises.

As always, we need your help please:

Have you an idea for a children's stall or can you help run a Hoopla stall? 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. 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. Penny is bound to be in touch about the Auction of Promises

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 pay for the ever-popular Superstrings jazz band; Meaby & Co cover the cost of the High Street banner; Capel Parish Council has given a grant, and the Plough donate to the Bar. There are other sponsorship opportunities too; can you help, or encourage a local firm to cover the cost of the Punch and Judy, the first aider or programme printing please?

*The Fete Committee. kemday@btinternet.com*

We'll be down on the number of cakes this year so please plan your baking. See below for how to get recipes. **Make a cake for the cake stall**

Many people marvel at the wonderful display of cakes we have at the Fete Tea Tent. In recent years a very large number of these have been made by Pam Pulling-Smith. After providing a large number of cakes and propagating hundreds of plants for the fete in recent years Pam is now planning to take a bit more of a back seat. In order to help ease us all into filling her very big shoes Pam has produced a recipe book containing some of the popular cakes she has made. The idea is that we will all be inspired to make something for the fete!



The recipe book is available from Pam, or there are copies in the church. A £2 donation to the church is suggested. If you'd like a copy and can't get one from the church, please email Pam on [Milehousecottages@gmail.com](mailto:Milehousecottages@gmail.com).

## **COLDHARBOUR PROGRESSIVE SUPPER**

Contact [amandahanlin@aol.com](mailto:amandahanlin@aol.com) before **April 23rd** if you would like to:  
a) attend the event and purchase tickets b) host a starter or main meal (please state how many people you can cater for, including yourselves)  
c) donate a pudding. Date: Saturday June 6th. Time: 18.30hrs. Cost: £30.00 per person or £15.00 per person if you are a host. All proceeds go to the church. The success of the supper is totally reliant on villagers who volunteer to host either a starter or a main meal in their home. It also relies on people donating a pudding for the pudding course. Enes has been generous in giving us use of The Barn free of charge, allowing us to bring our own puddings and providing crockery etc. Thank you, Enes! Alcohol can be purchased at the pub but is not included with the starter or main course, so please bring your own.

Based on the previous supper, it promises to be a great evening so we very much hope to see you there.

# Abinger Bottom welcomes the Rees-Areilza family

Paul and Issy and their family have recently moved into Lemon's farm on King Georges Hill. They moved from Warnham and were still unpacking when I met them on a sunny day in March.



Paul's work is based in Wales where he runs a property development firm and Issy has her hands full with the family. Darcey 16, Honor 15, Hector 12 and their dogs, Tarka and Pirate, and their cats Strudel and Schnitzel, plus their rabbits!

are all settling in and looking forward to being part of the Abinger community. Lovely walks and local pubs have already enamoured them to the area.

We wish them lots of happiness in their new home.



## Following the success of our last talk from the Mullard Space Science Lab.

Dr Ralph Schoenrich, is returning to speak on Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, at Holmbury St Mary Village Hall. Doors open 7:30 pm with talk from 8pm. £5 for members, £7 for public. Tea, Coffee and wine available plus nibbles.

For advance tickets: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/mssl-talk-april--2026>

**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND**

**DR RALPH SCHOENRICH,**  
MULLARD SPACE SCIENCE  
LABORATORY, UCL

will be talking about

**THE MILKY WAY –  
FROM THE SUN'S  
LONG MIGRATION  
TO DARK MATTER**



## MUSIC

**Surrey Serenaders** will meet to sing at St James' in Abinger on 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April and 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 10 - 12.

### SATURDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

– 3pm **COLDHARBOUR'S BIG BAND** will be performing at **St Mary Magdalene Church in South Holmwood**

Coldharbour's very own Leith Hill Big Band are having a repeat visit to St Mary Magdalene's Church in South Holmwood on Saturday 18th April.

A wonderful selection of Big Band classics plus one or two extras. It's a lovely, relaxed atmosphere and the church committee always provides a delicious array of refreshments for the interval. Come along and Swing into Spring with us.

*Debby Chapman*



### **Holmbury St Mary Choral Society**

Come and hear us in concert at the Leith Hill Music Festival on Saturday April 11th at the Dorking Halls, where together with four other choirs we will be singing music by Handel, Vivaldi and Isabella Leonarda. See <https://lhmf.org.uk/future-events>.



We always welcome new singers so why not come and sing with us at our summer concert in St James' Church, Abinger on July 4th? Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings at 8pm in Abinger Hammer Village Hall, starting on April 16th. No auditions. The programme will be music by modern day American composers.

For more details see our website: <https://holmburychoral.org/> or contact Liz Hamilton on 07825 411654.

# Services at St James' Church, Abinger

- 2nd April**     **Maundy Thursday**  
7.00pm     Institution of the Lord's Supper  
              **at Christ Church Coldharbour**
- 3rd April**     **Good Friday**  
10.00am     Service of the Word for Good Friday  
              **at Christ Church Coldharbour**  
  
1.00pm     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)
- 5th April**     **Easter Sunday**  
10.30am     Holy Communion Family Service
- 12th April**    **The Second Sunday of Easter**  
10.30am     Benefice Service **at St. Mary's Holmbury**
- 19th April**    **The Third Sunday of Easter**  
10.30am     'Come and See' Sunday  
              Refreshments after the service
- 26th April**    **The Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
10.30am     Sideways Church  
              New angles on faith with breakfast, laughter and  
              conversation  
  
6.00pm     Julian meeting  
              Half of an hour of stillness with God



# Services at Christ Church, Coldharbour

**2nd April Maundy Thursday**

7.00pm Institution of the Lord's Supper

**3rd April Good Friday**

10.00am Service of the Word for Good Friday at **St. James' Abinger**

1.00pm **at Christ Church Coldharbour**

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)

**5th April Easter Sunday**

10.00am Holy Communion Family Service

**12th April The Second Sunday of Easter**

10.30am Benefice Service **at St. Mary's Holmbury**

**19th April The Third Sunday of Easter**

9.00am Parish Communion

6.00pm Congregational Evensong

**26<sup>th</sup> April The Forth Sunday of Easter**

10.00am Parish Communion (Common Worship)

Refreshments after the service

6.00pm Julian meeting **at St. James' Abinger**

Half of an hour of stillness with God

**Parish Office at Coldharbour will take place on:**

Monday 20th 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!

## The D and G Choir

The D&G Choir are pleased to announce that they have appointed Jody Robinson as their New Musical Director. Jody was one of a shortlist of two superb applicants for the role, but following an excellent Audition process it was clear that Jody was the outstanding candidate and ideally suited to the culture of this unique choir. Jody obtained a 1st Class Honours Degree in Music at Exeter University and was trained at the Royal College of Music and the Royal Academy of Music. She currently teaches at the Trinity Laban Conservatoire. She is experienced in singing, Voice Coaching and Musical Directing.

Chair of the D&G Administration Committee Martin Perry said: "We are absolutely delighted to welcome Jody to take us forward into a new era for the Choir. We felt very privileged that we attracted such high calibre interest in the role, but Jody clearly demonstrated she could lift our performances to a new level, and it will be very exciting to see where she can take us. She understands we like to sing a wide range of music both classical and modern and we are eagerly looking forward to having a lot of fun working and singing with her. Jody Robinson said: "I'm delighted to have the opportunity to work with the D&G Choir. I so enjoyed the audition and look forward to what we can do together." Jody has several existing commitments so will commence her role in early June this year. In the meantime, Lizzie Fulleylove has agreed to lead the Choir on an interim basis.

Due to circumstances beyond our control the D&G choir had to postpone their Anniversary Concert but will announce a new date once Jody has taken up her role.

Anyone interested in joining the Choir should contact the Choir secretary Jess Brown - [danielthreec@aol.com](mailto:danielthreec@aol.com): 07936 542411.

### **MUSIC IN DORKING – APRIL 2026 by Ian Codd**

4<sup>th</sup> at 12.00, lunchtime recital at St Martin's church, free

5<sup>th</sup> at 2.00, opera screening at Dorking Halls, £19.50, 01306 881717

10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> at 7.30, Leith Hill Music Festival, Dorking Halls, £20-25, 01306 881717

11<sup>th</sup> at 4.30, Musical Mingle at Holy Trinity church, Westcott, free, 07304 027835

18<sup>th</sup> at 7.30, Carducci string quartet at Dorking Halls, £20-30, 01306 740619

**The big event of the month is the annual Leith Hill Music Festival** in which a dozen local choirs take part. In the morning there are competitions (which anyone is very welcome to attend) with a large evening concert. Friday night's programme includes Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs* and the ever-popular *The Lark Ascending*, together with a recent piece, the fascinating *Da Vinci Requiem* by Cecilia McDowall. There will be a special pre-concert talk at 6.30 in which Cecilia McDowall will talk about her music, and the violin soloist will explore the links between *The Lark Ascending* and the festival.

**Saturday's concert** is an evening of 'Baroque Splendour' with two of Handel's grand *Coronation Anthems*, and two different settings of the *Dixit Dominus* by Vivaldi and Isabella Leonarda, alongside Bach's beautiful concerto for two violins. Led by the inspiring festival conductor Neil Ferris, both of these are sure to be outstanding concerts.

**The Dorking Concertgoers** present the Carducci string quartet in the last of their series of three concerts. They are joined by clarinetist Julian Bliss to perform two of the best-loved chamber works – Mozart's beautiful clarinet quintet and Schubert's brilliant and light-hearted octet.

**An exciting new venture is being launched in Westcott** with a 'Musical Mingle'. Everyone is invited to enjoy light refreshments afterwards and to meet the musicians, many of whom play with the Dorking Chamber Orchestra. The event is free, with donations invited from those who can contribute, and it is hoped this will be the first of a series of Musical Mingles. The music will include a tango, some short pieces by Dvorak, an oboe concerto, and Percy Grainger's *Molly on the Shore*.

The lunchtime recital at St Martin's will feature music by Gilbert and Sullivan. At the Dorking Halls, there is a second chance to see Wagner's *Siegfried* in an encore screening from the Royal Opera House.

The Dorking Halls will be closed from late April until December for major refurbishment and upgrading works

### **Music Festival Tickets are now on sale**



With chamber and vocal music, fascinating talks, a song recital and jazz quintet we are looking forward to bringing a huge variety of amazing music to the Surrey Hills between 5<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> May.

To view all details go to <https://tickets.shimf.co.uk/> - or contact Tracy Lees [hello@shimf.co.uk](mailto:hello@shimf.co.uk) if you're interested in getting involved.

## ART



# The Dorking Group of Artists Spring Exhibition 2026

at Betchworth village hall Friday May 1st – Sunday May 3rd 10:00 – 17:00, Monday May 4th 10:00 – 16:00

The Dorking Group of Artists, probably the largest art group in Surrey and known for their artistic merit, return to Betchworth Village Hall for their ever-popular Spring Exhibition. Explore the range of affordable, professional quality, original art covering a wide range of subjects and styles. Entry is free. Why not make a day of it as there are plants, lunch, and cake to enjoy at Knights Garden Centre opposite?

[www.dorkingartists.com](http://www.dorkingartists.com) Angela Hall, Chair, Dorking Group of Artists

## Exhibition of watercolour paintings

and Calligraphy work at the Old Bunching Shed at the Kingfisher Farm Shop. April 26. Open 10-4

This special one-day exhibition features the work of local artist Holly Milner and Calligrapher Jackie Thomas.

You are invited to come along, meet the artists and browse their original works, all of which are for sale.



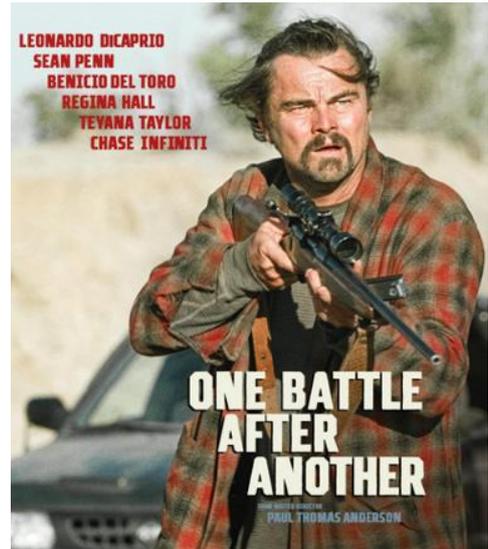
## Book now for films in April at Shere Cinema

Ice Creams – the village hall now has a new freezer, so we plan to serve ice-creams again from mid-March. If you have bought ice cream tokens for any of our previous films, and haven't been able to use them, please bring them with you when you next visit.

All tickets, except where indicated, cost **£6/adult and £4/child**. Please note this is the new price as from April.

## In April we will be showing:

**Thursday April 9<sup>th</sup> – One Battle After Another** – is inspired by the 1990 novel *Vineland* by Thomas Pynchon. The film’s ensemble cast is led by Leonardo DiCaprio, Sean Penn and Benicio Del Toro. Washed-up revolutionary Bob (DiCaprio) exists in a state of stoned paranoia, surviving off grid with his spirited, self-reliant daughter, Willa. When his evil nemesis resurfaces and Willa goes missing, Bob is forced back into his former combative lifestyle when he and his



daughter, are pursued by a corrupt military officer, and both father & daughter battle the consequences of their pasts. The film explores the “collapse of revolution,” the generational gap, and the lasting, personal consequences of political violence, as shown through the lens of a father’s love and a daughter’s journey to define her own, identity. Classification 15 (Running time is 2 hours 50 minutes). **Note - earlier start time of: 7pm**

**Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup> – Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale** – is the third and final film in the series. The film was directed by Simon Curtis and written by Julian Fellowes, the creator and writer of the television series of the same name. The film follows the Crawley family and their staff as they enter the 1930s, navigating the Great Depression and the approaching threat of World War II. When Mary finds herself at the centre of a public scandal and the family faces financial trouble, the entire household grapples with the threat of social disgrace. The Crawleys must embrace change, as the staff prepares for a new chapter with the next generation leading Downton Abbey into the future. Classification PG (Running time is 2 hours 3 minutes). Start time is: **7.30**

**In May we will be showing:**

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May – Lee (Note different day, as hall closed for polling on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>)** - This is a partial biopic of the life of Lee Miller (Kate Winslet), the American model-turned-war photographer, who accompanied US forces through northwestern France and into Germany in 1944-45. with a Life magazine photographer, David Scherman (Andy Samberg). Kate Winslet's performance was rated as “standout”. A fascinating story of a great photographer. Classification 15 (Running time is 1 hour 57 minutes). Start time is: **7.30**



## **Dorking Museum and Library have some fun family activities this April.**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April** – 10-noon Earth Day: Use WWF craft to make a snow leopard doorhanger. Another activity will take place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April, 10am-2pm, but details still to be confirmed (see social media). Both activities at Dorking Library. Free, materials provided and children must be accompanied.

**The Easter Egg Hunt at the Museum finishes on 4<sup>th</sup> April!**

**Family walk** with free kids' worksheet – Explore Building Materials in Dorking: Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2pm.

## **Abinger Nursery**



Our topic 'reduce, re-use, recycle this month has kept us enthralled with so much for us to learn! Rather than just talking about things we like to get stuck in so that's exactly what we did. With mooshy, smooshy and wonderfully slimy hands we've been turning old newspaper into brand new usable plain paper. First, we tore it all up into tiny pieces and popped them in a big bucket of water. Then the fun part! Let the smooshing commence! Once thoroughly smooshed and wrung out as much as possible (through an old bed sheet no less) we rolled the mixture out into trays to dry. And hey presto – paper!

On Mondays it's imagination time. We let our creative minds have a workout when the wonderful Dramas Llamas come to play. Just this week we were visited by Rosie the rabbit who instantly transformed us all into nose twitching happy hoppers! After we were safely back to being ourselves then it was Margot the Granny who showed up, and we donned head scarves and grabbed our walking sticks. Well, we couldn't believe it when Margot found a marvellous magic lamp in her attic! And

you've guessed it there was indeed a genie within who granted us all a wish! Phew what a morning!

There was no need for our parents to make our dinner on Wednesday as we prepared some truly wholesome fishcakes to take home. We were spoilt for choice when it came to which fish to use. Some of us chose Cod or Basa and others chose Salmon or Haddock to mix with locally grown potatoes and crispy breadcrumbs. We then followed a trail of breadcrumbs to the churchyard (just like Hansel and Gretel!) to spot all the super signs of spring.



In our magnificent Tuff tray a beach with all kinds of sea creatures was set up for us to explore. Some silly beach goers had left their rubbish lying around so we were able to help the animals that needed rescuing and do a very good beach tidy. Thank goodness for our helpful little hands!

If you would like to join our nursery family, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Call 07842 978823 or email [abingercommonnursery@gmail.com](mailto:abingercommonnursery@gmail.com) We can't wait to meet you and show you around! We are also on Facebook and now Instagram.

Our opening hours are 7.45 am to 5pm Monday to Thursday and 7.45am to 12.45pm on Fridays.

## The Teddy Bears' Picnic 15<sup>th</sup> May



## April in your Garden

Well, with the clocks having just sprung forward let's hope the weather follows suit! It means as well more work for us gardeners. Due to all the wet weather we have had in many months, paths across lawns which may have become compressed will benefit from aerating by spiking with a fork.



Grassy areas which have had bulbs flowering in them should not be mown till about 6 weeks after they have finished flowering. And please do not cut back daffodil leaves or tie them in knots. The leaves provide food for the bulbs for next year's flowers.

Last year's perennials can now be trimmed back to new growth. Hardy annuals can now be sown directly into ground. Harden off early grown sweet peas before planting out and do remember to pinch out the first growing tips. The plants will then produce side shoots which produce better flowers.

Dig a trench for runner beans and, before adding compost, line it with newspaper or, if you can get it, odd ends of sheep's fleece. This helps to retain some moisture and rots down helping to feed beans. Courgettes, marrows, cucumbers and melons can now be sown indoors ready for planting out in May - or wait to get them at the Coldharbour fete in May! When buying plants in pots, do remove the top 1 inch of soil prior to planting to prevent weed seeds being planted as well.

If you have peach or nectarine trees in flower, help to get a set by using a soft paint brush to just dust each flower, thereby transferring pollen from one flower to another, and hopefully helping to increase the likelihood of getting fruit.

Robin



## Bring-and-buy Spring Plant Sale at Vale End, Albury - May 2

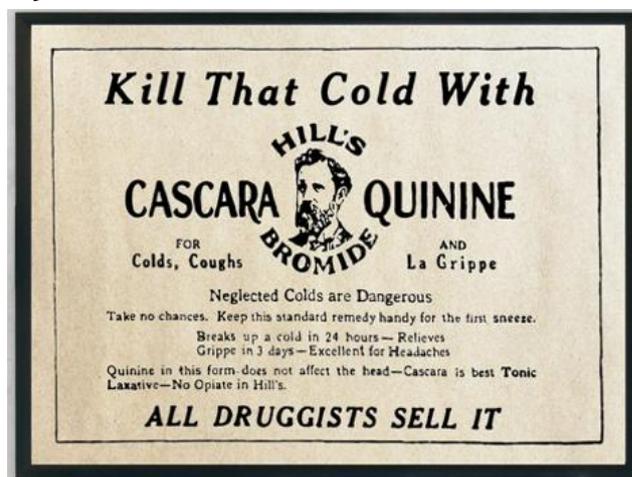


Come along on Saturday May 2, 10.30-12.30 to Vale End, Chilworth Road, Albury GU5 9BE for Albury Produce Association's Spring Plant Sale - a delightful annual bring-and-buy event for plants and cakes set in this glorious garden. Enjoy a lovely morning of springtime garden glories, tea/coffee, cream teas and homemade cakes, local produce and plants.

## WI Report “The Victorian Pharmacy, Kill or Cure”

Our March meeting was well attended. After the usual welcome and business, the speaker, historian Dr Judy Hill, was introduced.

In early times self-medication, using herbs was the norm, as only the well-off could afford a doctor. The ancient Greeks believed that the body contained ‘humours’. Treatment of prayers, bloodletting and purging was used to get the humours back in balance. In George III’s reign, bed rest and tonics were prescribed, opium and alcohol gave pain relief and ointments which contained arsenic and mercury were used. Later, sea water and sea air were recommended as “bad air”, or miasma was blamed for many illnesses.



The transmission of infection was not understood, nor the importance of vitamins, minerals and handwashing. Initially births were at home with a local midwife, but when hospital births became possible, doctors, who had come straight from the operating theatre or mortuary, would deliver - and there were deaths of children and mothers.) The Industrial Revolution brought urbanisation, overcrowding, pollution and poor sanitation, which caused respiratory diseases and rickets among the poor. Consumption, louse-borne diseases, typhus and cholera were rife. Urban rivers became open sewers.

Following the Public Health Act of 1848, the work of Pasteur, surveys and research, improvements, like the until the end of the 19th century when the discovery chloroform development of nursing, were made but nothing was very effective and carbolic spray enabled operations, and in 1868 chemists had to have a qualification. But cure-all proprietary medicines, full of opiates and sometimes poisons, were advertised and sold ruthlessly. Some caused death. Then, in the 20th century came the huge step forward of the introduction of the National Health Service.

It was a very interesting talk followed by the usual excellent tea provided by Dena Burrell and Kathleen Pike. Next meeting: Thursday, 2nd April 2.30 p.m. at the Wotton Hall. Talk on Ukraine. N.B. Because of elections, the following meeting will be on May 14<sup>th</sup>.  
*Pat O'Brien*

## The Abinger Medieval Fair Celebrates turning 70!

As the rain lessens and the spring flowers start to pop up, we know that summer is on its way, bringing with it all the joy of The Abinger Medieval Fair!

This year is not just any ordinary year for the Fair, it is the 70<sup>th</sup> year since the revival of the Medieval Fair in 1956.

As part of our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, we are very pleased and proud to announce that our main arena event this year will feature “*Invicta Medieval Combat*”, one of the UK’s leading **medieval armoured combat teams**.

Their fighters, using armour and weaponry typical of the 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, come as close as it’s possible to get to the way medieval knights battled each other, without getting in a time machine! Their fights are not re-enactments or demonstrations: they are genuine tournaments, with winners and losers, in which they battle with real (but blunted!) axes, swords and halberds (a two-handed weapon, combining an axe blade, a spike and a hook). They say: “*In a tournament the aim is to put the opposing fighter(s) on the floor, while staying on your feet yourself*”! Many of them are serving members of the armed forces, reservists, police and firefighters.

Invicta appears each summer at *The Loxwood Joust*, as well as taking part in tournaments throughout the UK and internationally. They are a highly respected member of the worldwide Buhurt community and last year, took part in the World Championships in Hungary. We are delighted that they are taking time out from their busy schedule to take part in this year’s 70<sup>th</sup> Abinger Medieval Fair. Between performances, their fighters will be happy to answer questions about what they do, and they welcome enquiries about joining them – from both men and women.

Then, of course, there is all the usual fun of the Fair! There will be delicious food and drinks to buy, stalls for adults and kids, races, games and prizes to be won! We already have some amazing raffle prizes to give away to the lucky winners, including a Land Rover experience. There



is also the chance to win a year's family membership to the Abinger Tennis Club, a fantastic local facility right on our doorstep.

This year we are also selling merchandise – if it works for Taylor Swift why not for the Abinger Fair?! Please see the photograph of the T-shirt, available to buy in various sizes, for the bargain price of £15, using the QR code provided. The embroidery is all done by The Grange Centre in Bookham who support adults with disabilities, helping them to live independent and fulfilling lives. See you there!

Liz Irvine

## Abinger Fair Polo shirts

You may have noticed a few people last year were wearing navy polo shirts with “The Old Fair of Abinger” and a piper embroidered on them. You now have a chance to buy one of these polo shirts.

The polo shirts have been ordered from an online company. But, as for the small number of trial shirts in 2025, the embroidery is being done by the Grange Centre in Bookham. The Grange support adults with disabilities, helping them to lead independent and fulfilling lives.



You can order your shirts using the link to go to a simple order form.

The embroidered polo shirts are £15 each and all profits will go to the fair. You can pay by card, bank transfer or pay cash on collection and the details are given on the form.

We have a limited supply, but we can order more if we have enough time before the fair for the embroidery to be completed.

Use this QR code or you can follow this link to the form <https://forms.gle/ip282q9Ut921A5RR9> [use the Lens app on Android phones and the Camera app or Code Scanner on Apple phones].

## ORMW

As I write we have just been informed of the very sad passing of Rt Revd Andrew Watson, Bishop of Guildford. My Trustees and I send our heartfelt condolences to Bishop Andrew's family at this very sad time. We pray that he is now Resting in Peace.

We are very busy at QRMW HQ receiving orders, picking and packing up merchandise for the Reverse London. The Charity receives a percentage of the monies received from the sales, and every penny goes towards assisting our Veterans in times of difficulty

**Can you help?** We need to be able to fill our 5K litre water container for watering the young saplings that families have planted in honour of their veteran husbands, fathers etc. In the past the Fire Service have done this but, due to the financial situation with Southern Water, it is no longer possible. Last summer we lost 4 young trees due to the drought. We do take water in containers but if we could have the big water container filled it would be the answer to our prayers. If you have any ideas or can help in any way, please contact Debbie on 07778873406 or be email [debbiehornblower@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:debbiehornblower@yahoo.co.uk). Thank you



## **SALV SPRING EVENING**

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026 @ 8pm. Albury Village Hall**

**“Why wait to think about your weight?”**

The doctors will be talking about all aspects of weight in men and women of every age. Do please come along to this informal evening.

Admission is free but donations to SALV are very welcome

SALV - Shere and Local Villages Health Trust. The Charity that supports Shere Surgery (Registered Charity no 1016023) [www.SALV.org.uk](http://www.SALV.org.uk)

# Shere Surgery News

Finally, the sun has started to make an appearance, the rainclouds have temporarily gone away, and the daffodils are looking spectacular as we head towards Easter and hay fever season is upon us! So, don't forget to ensure you put requests in for seasonal prescriptions so we can get these ordered in for you.

**We will be giving Dispensary, Doctors, Nurses and Physios a day off on Easter Saturday so we will be closed.**

Here at the surgery, we say goodbye to Dr Smar, and welcome Dr Heilpern to come and learn with us.

**An update on services that are available to you.**

Last year, the ultrasound guided joint injection service was suddenly terminated. I am pleased to say that the service is now running again. Budgetary restriction has meant that Mount Alvernia Physio (who were providing 400 appointments a month) had their budget cut to 40 appointments a month. This should increase from April, under the 2026-27 budget, but I don't know what capacity has been budgeted for. The Chronic Fatigue Service is no longer funded, so we have no one to refer to for this. Royal Surrey is no longer providing audiology services for non-complex patients. This is causing a lot of frustration for patients and us. We are sorry but we have no power to change these budgeting decisions and are every bit as frustrated as you. Please help us by being understanding with our team (it's not our fault) and considering writing to your MP.

**An update on the Covid Spring Vaccination programme.**

This year vaccinations start from 13<sup>th</sup> April, and it will be the Spikevax (Moderna) version. We only have 10 days to use the vaccine from the day it arrives with us. Therefore, we must organise the vaccination programme speedily to create clinics and book people in once we have the delivery date. We will contact everyone eligible by text, and this year we will be including a consent form which we would be grateful if you could reply to, by text, to speed up the programme. There will still be someone around on the day of your appointment if you have any specific questions. We hope you have a restful Easter and a peaceful break

*Dr Emma Watts*

# Directory of Local Businesses

<b>Animal Care</b>	
The Mutt Hut – dog grooming.	07760 162661
The House Vet	01483 272999 info@rowlyhousevet.net
<b>Art</b>	
Austin Art	07760 222921 clive@austin.art
<b>Beauty</b>	
Peaslake Beauty Room.	01306 731182 pamperyoursself@thepeaslakebeautyroom.co.uk
<b>Builders etc.</b>	
B A Gunter	01306 628291
Dorking Glass	01306 882971
LHP Groundwork and Drainage	01306 628412 info@lhpl.co.uk
Lyne & Co Capel Building and Renovation	01293 871008 info@lyneandco.co.uk
<b>Carpenters</b>	
Tony Winch – Carpenter, Joiner, Cabinet Maker	01306 742373 07969 016924 www.tonywinch.com
Matt Flynn – Carpentry, Handyman	07805 456027 matt@thecarpentryhandyman.co.uk
Ohwo Lund Carpentry	07462 810126 owohlundcarpentry@gmail.com
Neil Martin General, Conservation & Historic Carpentry	07411 337600 housemartinoak@gmail.com
<b>Cars</b>	
Service, repairs, MOTs, Car Sales, Part Exchange	Dave Mir 07736 912751 Dave@Mir-Tech.co.uk Neil Howey 07956 391804 neilhowey@gmail.com
<b>Charities</b>	
Abinger Consolidated Charities	kimclark50@gmail.com
<b>Chimneys</b>	
Joe Lund (sweep)	07930 507115 and 01243 583430
<b>Computers</b>	
WMF-IT consultants	01306 731253 sales@wmf-it.co.uk
<b>Decorators</b>	
Dorking Decorators	01306 640418 www.dorkingdecorators.co.uk
<b>Electricians</b>	
Phase Electrical	Toby Stevenson 07903 773996 phase.surrey@gmail.com
<b>Fencing</b>	
RB Fencing	01306 640143 01483 414745 info@rbfencingltd.co.uk
<b>Finance</b>	
Porter & Co	01306 644695 admin@porterifa.co.uk www.porterifa.co.uk
Bullimores	01306 880880 partners@bullimores.co.uk
<b>Funeral Services</b>	
Sherlock & Sons	01306 882266

<b>Gardens &amp; Trees</b>	
David Ford Tree Care	01306 611661 07940 197911 info@davefordtreecare.co.uk
Capel Tree Surgeons	01306 711124 07775 727121 www.capeltreesurgeons.co.uk
FCS Trees & Vegetation Management	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
Steve Heath Gardening	07761 5123791
<b>Heating, Plumbing</b>	
Senegy Heating	01306 302085 www.senergyheating.co.uk
UK Solar Power Panels	01306 733965 admin@solarpanels.co.uk
<b>Jobs in Care</b>	
Home Instead	01372 741544
Epsom & Mole Valley	Maggie.adenmosun@homeinstead.co.uk
<b>Pest Control</b>	
Emwood	01483 203823 www.emwoodpestcontrol.com
<b>Piano Tuning</b>	
Nick Harris	07476 729389 info@leithhillpianos.co.uk
<b>Printing</b>	
Barkers, Dorking	01306 888858 rob@barkerprint.co.uk
<b>Removals</b>	
Ede Bros	01306 711293 edebros.co.uk
<b>Shops</b>	
Coldharbour Village Shop	01306 711793
Kingfisher Farm Shop	01306 730703
Abinger Hammer Village Shop	01306 730701
<b>Sport &amp; Fitness</b>	
Abinger Sports Club	07774 773993 charlieye2020@gmail.com
The Albury Gym	01483 347059 info@thealburygym.co.uk
Dance a Ramix	01306 731182. 07899 842 727 dancearamix@btinternet.com
Dorking Lawn Tennis and Squash Club	01306 889009 www.dltsc.co.uk
<b>Swimming Pools</b>	
Burgess Pools	01306 730952 burgesspools@yahoo.co.uk
<b>Wellbeing</b>	
Nicola MacDonald Adult Courses, workshops, events	Nicola.mcdonald.ppc@gmail.com
Jodechi Morton: Psychotherapy, CBT, TA, Life Coaching	07825 138508 info@jodechicoachingandcvt.com
Qigong, meditation, natural health and healing	internitylife@pm.me 07919 102332 http://internity.life
Skybound Pole & Aerial Studio	info@skyboundaerialstudios.co.uk

### Feeling Stuck with Your Health?

Not sure where to begin or tired of changes that don't last?

As a qualified Health Coach, I offer supportive, non-judgemental one-to-one coaching to help you make realistic, lasting improvements to your health.

How I Can Help You:

- ✿ Explore your current lifestyle
- ✿ Help you improve your nutrition so you feel more energised
- ✿ Identify your lifestyle habits and what may be holding you back
- ✿ Set simple, achievable goals in managing your health
- ✿ Build habits that fit your real life
- ✿ Move forward with confidence and control of your health

Call Liz on 07811 384402 to arrange your free 30-minute First Steps call.

### Making a donation

If you enjoy reading our Parish News, we would be very grateful if you would consider donating towards the cost of producing it.

You can make a BACS payment to either:

Ac name: PCC Abinger (Parish News),  
sort code: 60 07 02, Ac no: 39447332.  
or

Ac name: Christ Church Coldharbour  
PCC, sort code: 202397, Ac no:  
40192422

or contact Sally at the Parish Office  
for details 01306 737160. Thank you.

**NEXT ISSUE:**

**May 2026**

**Closes 1pm**

**Tuesday APRIL 14<sup>th</sup>**

