



2023 Year of the Old Testament



Proclaiming the
Mystery of Faith 2023-2025

Newsletter



Sundays 17th, 24th and 31st December



WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH!

Services



Sunday 17th December	Sunday 24th December Christmas Eve
8am Communion at Holy Trinity	10am Sung Holy Communion*
10am Sung Holy Communion* (and children and youth groups)	3pm Crib Service
	5pm Crib Service
6pm Nine Lessons & Carols	11.15pm Midnight Mass
Midweek Service Wednesday 20th Dec	Christmas Day 
10.30am St Leonard's	10am Christmas Day Holy Communion*
Sunday 31st December - New Year's Eve	
10am Parish Altogether Service at St Mary's*	

* This service will be live streamed

Join us for **Christmas coffee**, mince pies and a chat at the Coffee Morning at 10.30am on **Thursday 21st December** in the Barn. Everyone welcome.



Notices

A **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who donated to the appeal for **asylum seeker gifts**. The adults were delighted with the gift bags and there were lots of happy, smiling faces when the children received their presents from Santa!

There is a need for more **Church Welcomers** to help us keep the church open during the week. If you think you might be able to help, please contact Sarah Kirby at sarah.kirby@horshamstmarys.org.uk.



The **Book Club** discuss some specifically Christian books and others from a Christian point of view. You can read one or both or neither of the books! Please join us as a one off or come regularly. We meet at **7.45pm** on a **Wednesday** four times a year. Please contact Karen Inglis -Taylor (theitfamily@gmail.com) to find out the venue. Our first session in the New Year is on **31st January** and we will be discussing two books: **A Gentleman In Moscow** by **Amor Towles**. Set in 1922, Count Alexander Ilyich Rostov is sentenced to living out the rest of his life inside a hotel. He is not bitter but makes the best of his circumstances. The second book is: **No Cure for being Human: And other truths I need to hear** by **Kate Bowler**. Kate Bowler believed that life was a series of unlimited choices, until she discovered, at age 35, that her body was wracked with cancer. She finds that we need one another if we're going to tell the truth: Life is beautiful and terrible, full of hope and despair and everything in between.

There is an ongoing need for **second-hand Ipads** or similar for the **asylum seekers** who regularly arrive at the Cisswood House hotel. If you think you might have something you no longer use, please consider donating it. Donations can be left at the Welcome desk in St Mary's or alternatively email Sue Keegan at sue.keegan@horshamstmarys.org.uk to arrange collection or for queries.

There are a number of items of **lost property** in the porch at St Mary's, waiting for their owners to claim them. If they are unclaimed by the end of the month, they will be donated to charity.



Across the Parish



Joy to the World!

You are invited to join in **Christmas Carols** around the **Firepit** at **Holy Trinity Church** on **Saturday 16th December** between 5pm and 7pm. A brass band will entertain you with both Children's Songs and traditional carols, the Christmas lights will be switched on and a selection of festive refreshments will be available. All are welcome.

Festive Foodbank Donations Needed – Horsham Matters are asking for Festive Food donations, including Selection Boxes, festive biscuits, savoury crackers, Christmas Pudding, Christmas Cake, chocolates and sweets, chutneys, gravy, pickles and any other festive food. Donations can be placed in the shopping trolley at the front of their Redkilyn offices, **Monday-Friday 9.30-2pm** or in the box at the front of church.

On **Wednesday 20th December at 7.30 pm** "**A Christmas Carol**" at **Holy Trinity Church**.

The Living Theatre presents a reading of Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' "*I have endeavoured in this ghostly little book, to raise the ghost of an idea...*". Sitting comfortably? Join The Living Theatre as we bring to life Charles' Dickens' timeless classic. A playful and immersive reading that will deck your halls and bring heaps of Christmas cheer to all the family. Running time: 1h 30min including interval. Age Recommendation: 7+ (this is not a strict limit). Some of the proceeds will go towards Holy Trinity Church.



The Horsham Music Circle opens its Spring series on **January 27th** at St Mary's Church 7pm with one of the most successful vocal sextets on the planet! **The King's Singers**. This world renowned group represents the gold standard in a cappella singing on the world's greatest stages. Their appearance at the start of a new year promises to be one of our highlights. This is the first of three Music Circle Spring concerts and there is a discount rate for those attending all three, details available from Horsham Music Circle. Advance booking by phone 01403 252602 (answer machine) or email horshammusiccircle@gmail.com. Online bookings at wegottickets.com/HorshamMusicCircle. Tickets also on the door. Website www.horsham-music-circle.org.uk

Contact Information



Team Rector: Revd Canon Lisa Barnett

Tel: 01403 283787 Email: vicar@horshamstmarys.org.uk

Administrator: Laura Fletcher

Tel: 01403 253762 Email: office@horshamstmarys.org.uk

Churchwardens: Morag Davies, Peter Fruin, Cath Hatton

Tel: 01403 253762 Email: churchwardens@horshamstmarys.org.uk

If you would like to give to St Mary's please contact the Stewardship

Officer: Jean Mitchell, Tel: 01403 253762

Email: stewardship@horshamstmarys.org.uk

For any safeguarding issues please contact Jude Wolstenholme

Email: safeguarding@horshamstmarys.org.uk

For newsletter enquiries please contact Sue Keegan

Email: newsletter@horshamstmarys.org.uk

In Your Prayers



We pray for those from our own church family who are unwell, and among them: Beryl, Betty, Sheila, Stuart, Jenny, Kathleen, Jane, Stef, Christine, Helen, Veronica, Sarah, Elena and Tala. We remember before God those who have died, and among them Alan Strong and pray for their families.

Heavenly Father, as twinkling lights adorn homes and joy fills hearts, may we remember the true Light that dawned on Christmas. Let us embrace Your love, warmth, and guidance, shining it forth to all we meet, and reminding the world of the hope birthed on that holy night. Amen.