



2023 Year of the Old Testament



Proclaiming the
Mystery of Faith 2023-2025

Newsletter



Sundays 3rd and 10th December 2023



WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH!

Services



Sunday 3rd December 	Sunday 10th December
8am Communion at Holy Trinity	8am Communion at St Mary's
10am Sung Holy Communion* (and children and youth groups)	10am All Age Christingle Service*
3.30pm All Age Informal Service	
6pm Advent Carols	6pm Evensong
Midweek Service Wednesday 6th Dec	Midweek Service Wednesday 13th Dec
10.30am St Mary's	10.30am St Leonard's

* This service will be live streamed

We have at least **50m of treated 50mm x 50mm softwood** available in +/-4m lengths. Also about **4 square meters** (i.e. 2m x 2m) of 20mm thick **natural limestone flooring** is also available. The latter are the excess supplied by the quarry for the South Aisle floor. The cost of the flooring is £250 but £400 if the timber is included. Those interested should contact Nick O'Riordan at nick.oriordan@horshamstmarys.org.uk.

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



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 laptops** 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@stmaryshorsham.org.uk to arrange collection or for queries.

Becky Hunsberger has been a member of our church for 6 years, and works in Horsham for **TeachBeyond**, an international mission organisation that provides transformational education services. The church that she's come from in the US closed two years ago, and so she's asked for us to become her '**sending church**', offering her prayerful support and encouragement. Sarah White is going to be drawing together a group of people who will commit to meeting with Becky a few times each year to hear about her work, and then praying for her. If you are interested in being part of this group, please get in touch with Sarah on sarah@whitex.net

Across the Parish

The **Christmas Remembrance Service** to remember precious babies gone too soon will take place on **Friday 8th December** at St Mary's Church. Arrive from 6.30pm, the service will start at **7.00pm**.



As part of our Christmas preparations, an **Advent Course** will be held at Holy Trinity and St Leonard's on the three Thursdays preceding Christmas at 7.30-9pm. At each session we will reflect on the gospel for the coming Sunday and how this ties into the broader Advent themes of expectation and alertness. The sessions will be held in-person at Holy Trinity and all are welcome to attend: **7th December:** John the Baptist, a voice crying in the wilderness; **14th December:** John's testimony, and pointing to the True Light; **21st December:** the Annunciation, and Mary's faithful response.

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 are required by **6th December** and can be placed in the shopping trolley at the front of their Redkiln offices, Monday-Friday 9.30-2pm or in the box at the front of church.

The QEII School are holding their **Globetrotters Christmas Fayre** at the QEII Studio on **Thursday 7th December** between **10am and 12pm**. Lots of different stalls, refreshments and carol singing will be available. For tickets please email office@qe2school.co.uk.

St Mary's School Christmas Fair is on **Friday 8th December** from **4-7pm**. Come along to St Mary's School to see the festive market stalls, fun and games, tombola, Brolly's bar, Fatties BBQ and lots of Christmas treats! Cheer workshops, carols from the school choir, secret present wrapping, plus Santa's Grotto and a fabulous raffle with lots of great prizes to be won. All the proceeds from the Fair go to supporting our wonderful school.



The Nativity Journey – a play for all the family from **13th-18th December**. The **Wintershall** Nativity Journey is an unforgettable experience, bringing the true meaning of Christmas to life for the whole family. Book tickets now on our website: www.wintershall.org.uk or call 01483 892167.

The Living Theatre present: **A Christmas Carol – A Reading** at Holy Trinity Church at **7.30pm** on **Wednesday 20th December**. The Audience Bar opens at 7pm and tickets cost £12 (adults) and £6 (under 18s). Some of the proceeds will go towards Holy Trinity Church. To book tickets visit: the-livingtheatrewhitwell.org.

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, Alan, Sheila, Stuart, Jenny, Kathleen, Jane, Stef, Christine, Helen, Veronica and Tala. We remember before God those who have died and pray for their families.

**God of hope, who brought love into this world,
be the love that dwells between us.**
**God of hope, who brought peace into this world,
be the peace that dwells between us.**
**God of hope, who brought joy into this world,
be the joy that dwells between us.**
**God of hope, the rock we stand upon,
be the centre, the focus of our lives
always, and particularly this Advent time. Amen.**