

February/ March 26

HASLEMERE

P A R I S H M A G A Z I N E

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S AND ST CHRISTOPHER'S



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Facilities for the disabled;

Both Churches and The Link at St Bartholomew's have ramped access and space for wheelchairs. Toilets suitable for use by the disabled are available in The Link and at St Christopher's.

Facilities for the hard of hearing;

Both churches and The Link have Sound amplification and hearing loops.

Facilities for the visually Impaired;

Both churches have good interior lighting and large print weekly notice sheets and service sheets.

Please recycle this magazine when you have read it. Either into paper recycling, or better still, pass it on to a friend



Bell-ringers

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Friends of the Parish

Chris Lemar 01428 651435

Flowers

St Bartholomew's

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St Christopher's

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Safe Spaces, an independent service supporting survivors of church-related abuse.

Telephone: 0300 303 1056

Email safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk

WebChat via the Safe Spaces website

For all emergencies call 999

The Single Point of Access (SPA)

Children and Adult Service social workers.

Direct information, advice and guidance about where and how to find appropriate support for children and families:

Surrey 0300 470 9100

(children) cspa@surreycc.gov.uk

(adult) acsmash@surreycc.gov.uk

Domestic Abuse

Surrey - YourSanctuary 01483 776822

24hr National Domestic Abuse Helpline

0808 2000 247

DeafHope (BSL) text: 07970 350366

Childline 0800 1111

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

NSPCC 0808 800 5000 or help@nspcc.org.uk

NSPCC Sign Video link nspcc.org.uk/about-us/contact-us

Samaritans 116123 or jo@samaritans.org

Modern Day Slavery Helpline 0800 01210700

Mental Health Crisis Helpline

0300 5000 101

Open 5.00pm - 9.00am Monday to Friday

24 hours cover at weekends inc Bank

Holidays

SMS texting facility for people who are deaf or hard of hearing: 07717 989024

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www.stopitnow.org.uk



Dear Friends

In recent months I've increasingly found myself having good reasons to be visiting some of our local care homes - which for me are Oak Hall and Redcot. It isn't just me either because there are a few teams in the ministry of the parish which visit four different locations each month to hold services of worship for the residents. Across the pastoral ministry of the parish, we are also to be found in the Hunter Centre (dementia day care) and the Whispers Village retired community.

In the colder months such visits can be a blessing, especially since the care home staff like to keep the temperature somewhere near 30 degrees! Whilst that is nice and warm for a visit, I'm also there to feel the warmth of welcome that is sure to be waiting. Care home ministry has always been a pleasure to me, because the residents always seem to be pleased to have us there. Why? Well (tongue in cheek) it could be because they like to see some different faces from time to time.

Loneliness and isolation can be very difficult to bear, especially following some traumatic time of life like a crisis or the loss of a loved-one. It's not an experience I've had myself yet, and in fact I've never lived alone at any point in my life. During the colder and darker months (and granted not everyone likes January as much as I do), it could be even more crushing to find you can't even raise the enthusiasm to go out. Day-time television is also another version of misery, if it's just repeats of Cash in the Attic or Escape to the Country. What a life!

Back in 2020 as the Covid lockdown took hold, I was able to quite quickly set up a system of live streaming for Sunday morning services. To begin with that was from my dining room table with Sophie and I (and Gracie the dog) offering the nearest we could to a formal service of Holy Communion, with robes, sermon and all. Not long after that we were able to add a late evening service of Night Prayer too. I seem to recall much of Christmas 2020 being under similar conditions. Within a year, what had been a makeshift technical system had become a permanent installation for live streaming of services. For over five years now,

every Sunday, the main service has been able to be watched live from any home. In fact, you can watch it from New Zealand if you want (I know someone who does).

Around 30 people watch the services regularly online, which as far as I'm concerned still counts as members of the congregation just as if they were sat in the church. I'm also known to visit people in their homes, just to be friendly and to help people know I'm still around. Even this Parish Magazine goes in the post too, and did you know you can read it and download it from the parish website? I hope it's clear to you that we are really keen to try and reach-out in a number of ways to people who are home-alone, or those who can't make it out to church for whatever reason.

Whilst I'm on the subject of this wonderful Parish Magazine, being so valuable as it is, I want to share with you the news that in the late Spring Jane Slevin, who has been so instrumental and able in the work to produce each version, will be stepping down from the production team. I've been here in Haslemere myself for nearly seven years, all the time of which Jane has been part of the production team. Like me, I'm sure you will wish to celebrate all that Jane has done.

Here is an important point, which I'm asking everyone to consider carefully. Would you like to be a part of the team which prepares this magazine for printing? If you like using a computer, all software, training and assistance can be given to the work of arranging the articles and the format. A certain amount of activity is required each second month for the printing deadline, but it's quite a big team, which includes those who proof-read or look after the local business advertisers. If you want to have a chat about it, I'd be delighted to buy you a coffee in a nice warm coffee shop.

Enjoy the season, with all God's blessings.

Rector Chris.





The Link Community Hub

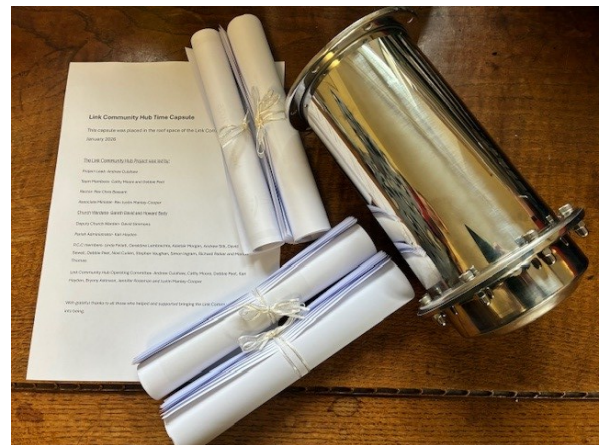
It feels we are on the home straight - with under four months left towards the target completion date of 12th May after four years work!

At the time of writing the roof is finished, windows are going in, the link to STB is complete so work is now hidden way inside. Plumbing and electric cabling are at an advanced stage, internal walls in place and the internal lift installed. By the middle of February the plastering should be complete and soon after the lights, doors and loos will be fitted.



Whilst the ceiling was being closed up we inserted the time capsule which included the names of donors, those who purchased tiles as well as various documents relating to the project. Thank you to all who bought a tiles which raised over £2,000.

The chairs for the main hall arrived just in time for Christmas so as to ensure enough seating in St Barts. If you haven't tried sitting on

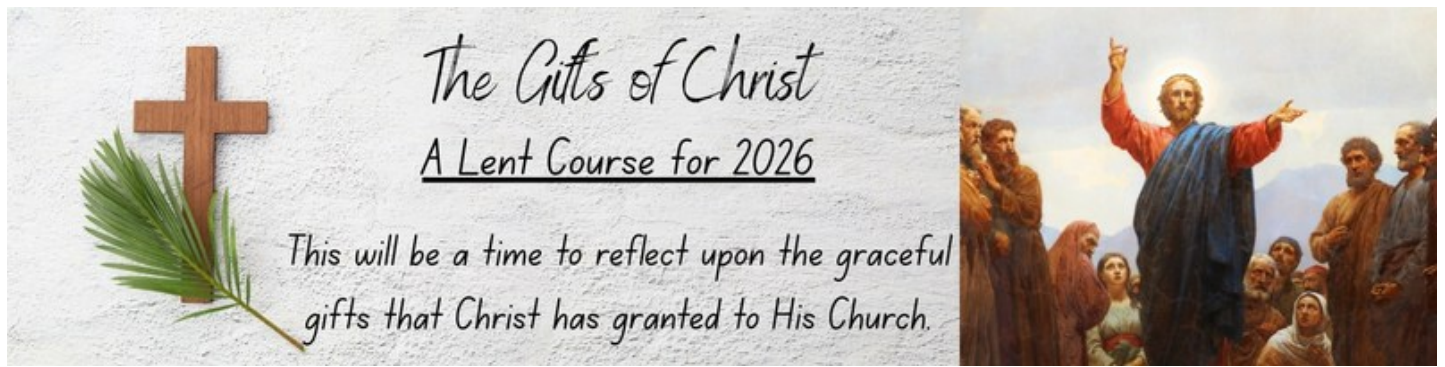


them please do, we hope you will find them very comfortable!

The Operations Team (Bryony, Kari, Jennifer, Rev Justin as well as Cathy, Debbie and me) are now getting into gear for when the Hub opens - the booking system, website, policies, advertising, cleaning and much more. We are looking forward to the official opening on Sunday 14th June (for which helpers will be needed!).

Please keep praying for all those involved in the project.

Andrew Culshaw



An Invitation to Join Us for the Season

The Season of Lent begins from Ash Wednesday on the 18th of February. Over the course of four weeks following, Chris and Justin will be leading a series of spiritual services where we shall gather to reflect upon the Gifts that Christ has given to us.

The New Testament is replete with some of the most beautiful and meaningful passages of scripture we cherish. These tell of the glorious gifts which Christ taught us, and how St Paul and the early Christians understood their calling. It is these scriptures, drawn out as four cornerstones of the Church, that will form the basis of the season. Each weekly gathering will be set within a structure of Evening Prayer, but with a special emphasis on the theme for that week and several passages of scripture to take us into a deeper understanding of Christ's gifts.

On Ash Wednesday we shall offer to Christ those things which he calls us to bring in humility and faith - our sinful lives, the conflict of our souls, and the relationships we fail to keep in love. That evening will be a call to open within ourselves, a realisation that our human failures fall opposite to the graceful gifts of Christ.

The themes for the weeks ahead tell of the gift Christ has given us:

Tuesday 24th February - Salvation, The Renewal of Our Lives

Tuesday 3rd March - The Kingdom of God, A Better World

Tuesday 10th March - Discipleship, Being Called

Tuesday 17th March - The Holy Spirit, His Perpetual Presence

Finally, on Tuesday 24th March we shall draw together our need and thanksgiving for these gifts, with a service of silence, reflection and prayer. Each evening will begin at 7:00pm at St Bartholomew's Church. Please do not worry if you are unable to make it every week, just come to those you can.

It is always helpful to have an idea on the numbers who wish to join the course, so if you are intending to join you can do so in two ways: either let Rector Chris know or drop him an email. Alternatively, you can sign up online at

www.haslemereparish.org/lent



Church Youth Groups



The Den

So much has been happening since our last article. Every year The Den has entered the Parish's Christmas Window Competition and this time we were teamed up with R Miles. Imbhams Farm kindly let us use their large barn for the children to make a wooden sleigh which was decorated with words such as 'Jesus', 'love', 'faith', 'hope', 'kindness', 'generosity', 'joy' etc. These were stuck onto pretend presents to go in the sleigh to remind people of the real gifts at Christmas. What would Jesus ask for from Santa if he was writing him a letter, we wondered? Maybe such things as peace on earth and food and shelter for the homeless. The letters to Santa were put in the window display next to a pretend post box.



We invited some local Ukrainian children to also contribute to our display by adding in their own 'real gifts & letters'.

A fun end of year outing saw us travelling to Ninja Warrior UK in Guildford which consists of a giant assault course, which was lots of fun!

At our last session of the year, we had some Christmas-themed games and then headed out to the Kiln Avenue Estate opposite St Bartholomew's Church where we sang carols and handed out shortbread and Christmas service leaflets.



Summit

In addition to our Summit Late session, where we are following a Young Alpha course, the members of the group took part in two major events last term. One of our sessions involved preparation for the Youth Take-Over Service the following Sunday.



This was well-received by the congregation with the young people leading the service, doing the bible and advent readings, the intercessions, performing acolyte duties and taking up the elements and collection. Instead of a sermon, Rev. Chris had written a skit for them to act out which featured a comical debate set in the House of Commons as to whether Christmas should be cancelled.

Our second 'Advent Sleep Out' to raise awareness and funds for those experiencing homelessness through the Church Urban Fund raised £2208.75 in total - even more than last year - and was enjoyed by all despite the weather.



As well as games and craft, the young people got to hear from Sophie from the Church Urban Fund who came to thank them as well as share the great work that they do and which the donations will go towards.

Dorothea from Mothers' Union spoke to them about the organisation and how they support people facing adversity such as the homeless. Kirsty Jones who works with homeless people in the Mole Valley area also shared some very powerful stories of people she has helped.

During the evening, they made Christmas cracker gifts for vulnerable people living in temporary accommodation and put together toiletry care packages for Guildford Action shelter for the homeless. Thank you to ASK Italian Haslemere who donated pizza for all the children and volunteers.



The Church Urban Fund has written an article about Summit's Sleep Out for their magazine which is out this month. Some of the professional photos from the CUF photographer who attended the event are included here.

In other news

Yasmin and Phoebe Ingram and Felix Foulds will be representing the Parish's Youth Groups and speaking at the Church of England Net Zero Conference this month.

Thank you to all who give their time to help with the running of these groups

Sue & Verity

Photos by Verity & Adam Rowley

For more details of The Den and Summit contact:

Verity Sutherland, Children & Families Worker (Older Children)

Email: Children@haslemereparish.org

Postcard to the Parish



Greetings From India

Sara and David Smith are invited to a wedding in India

The colour, the heat, the odours, the outrageous traffic, the cacophony of sounds, the sheer mass of humanity; you arrive and it hits you like an express train. India!

Sara's nephew, a Christian, is marrying his Indian bride, a Zoroastrian, in a traditional Hindu marriage ceremony in the bride's northwestern home state of Gujarat. Indian outfits for the European guests are mandatory as is the Indian cuisine, admittedly a huge bonus. The setting is lavish and completely garlanded with flowers. The three-day long ceremony commences with the emergence of bride and groom accompanied by drummers, followed by Haldi, a massive paint-throwing riot. Nobody is spared the paint, and the rest of the day is spent in the shower attempting to remove it. Next comes a delicious Persian feast in the Zoroastrian tradition, which might have played a part in a stomach bug, which plagues us over the next 24 hours. Finally, the groom arrives on a white horse to collect his bride and for the last part of the marriage ceremony to take place. What a wedding!

Where in the World are you?



We miss our old friends and would love to hear from you. We are reaching out to our overseas readers, and intrigued about where you are, what you are doing and if we can improve our magazine to better serve you.

This article is prompted for many reasons, one of which being that our on-line publishing platform has revised its terms of business, leading to a very reduced set of statistical analysis. Historically we have been able to know how many overseas readers we have, where in the world they are and which edition of the magazine they read. Sadly no more - however what an opportunity to reach out and ask you to get in touch with us!

We are delighted to see we have been pinged from a great many countries over time. We would be even happier if you would send us a few words and maybe a picture or two for us to include in future magazines.

Email us on office@haslemereparish.org, subject Parish Magazine.

**CHURCH
OPEN**
for quiet & prayer

Our Church Opening Times:

St Bartholomew's is open for private prayer each day, from 9:00am until 4:00pm.

St Christopher's Church is open for private prayer on Tuesdays-Fridays from 10:00am until 4:00pm.

The above may be adjusted should there be other events taking place.



Churchyard Gottings



Philip Hunt

At what might be considered a quiet time of year in the churchyards there is, surprisingly, a fair amount to report. The main focus since the last edition of this magazine has been in Derby Road churchyard. The pergola had been looking somewhat worse for wear, with damaged or missing timbers, not helped by wind damage and possible alternative uses. With financial approval, a set of ten, heavy duty 10cm (4 inch) diameter poles were ordered and delivered from AVS Fencing in Milford. Thanks must go to MCS Construction who took initial delivery and ensured that the poles were stored temporarily in their secure compound.

The heat (or rather lack of it, as it was November) was on to have the pergola repairs completed in time for Advent Sunday on 30 November. It looked as though rain would stop play, with the deadline in doubt, but on Friday 21 November the sun shone and David Simmons, with some modest help from myself, secured all the new poles, both longitudinal and horizontal, to completely revamp the pergola. By meeting the deadline, Karen Bardens was able to set up a wonderful Advent/Christmas display produced by children from St Bartholomew's School, making use of the full length of the pergola. This was greatly appreciated by parishioners and visitors alike. I am sure that much more use will be made of this facility in the future. The first three pictures show David hard at work, admiring his handiwork and a general view showing some of the new poles. The two remaining pictures, taken on Advent Sunday itself, provide a sense of the truly splendid display.





One notable development has been the termination of the grass cutting contract that Waverley had with Krinkels Ltd (formerly known as Continental Landscapes). From 1 November 2025, the responsibility for the maintenance of green spaces (including closed churchyards) has been taken back in-house. Waverley's direct labour force is now responsible for the grass cutting. This has meant recruiting new staff, although some personnel have moved across from Krinkels Ltd. Waverley will also need to invest in equipment. This decision reflects the close working with Guildford Borough Council which has taken similar steps.

One of the features of our regular churchyard working parties has been that Waverley's contractor has removed the green waste for us, saving us considerable time and effort. When I met with Waverley last month I was assured that this practice would continue. Green waste has traditionally been moved to Farnham for composting and this too will continue, as the former Krinkels depot will now be leased by Waverley (the site is currently owned by Surrey County Council).

Inevitably, discussion with Waverley turned to the subject of local government reorganisation and how this might affect current arrangements. As people will be aware, from 1 April 2027, Waverley and five other districts will be merged to form the new unitary authority of West Surrey. This will have responsibility for both county and district matters within one authority. It is not anticipated that it will have any effect on the churchyard grass cutting arrangements which have only recently been set up. In the early days, at least, there are likely to be different approaches in the various geographical areas within the new authority.

Looking ahead, please look out for notice of future working parties in both the main churchyard and Derby Road, where it is hoped we can build upon what has so far been achieved. Once work on The Link Hub has been completed, this might provide new opportunities for enhancements in the main churchyard and for additional seating.

Book Review

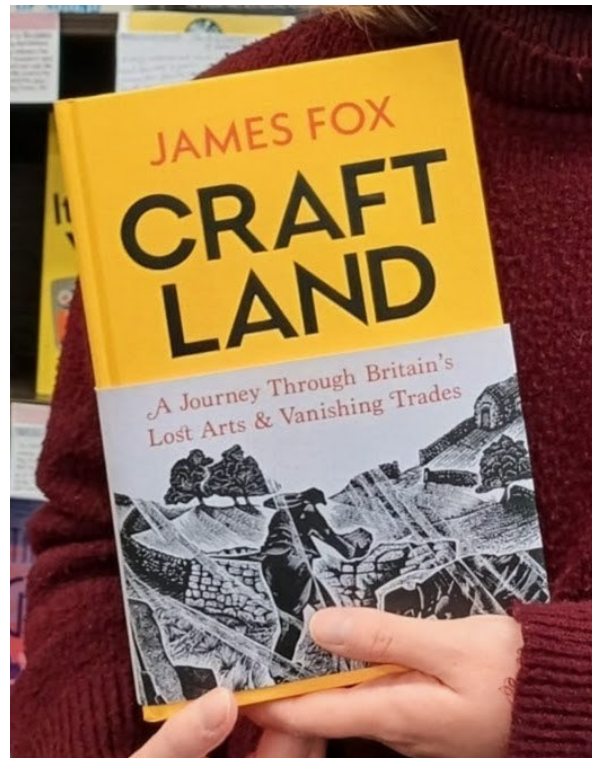
Contributed by Emily

At the Haslemere Bookshop we often start the year reflecting on our best books of the previous twelve months and for me, one of my most memorable books of 2025 was *Craftland* by James Fox.

To begin with, *Craftland* is a beautifully produced book. From stunning end pages to the stark black and white illustrations throughout, this book is a real treat! In *Craftland*, James Fox travels the length of

Britain seeking out the last remaining master craftspeople from thatchers to watchmakers, and wheelwrights to weavers - these are the people who have often dedicated their entire lives to perfecting a skill or trade.

I expected this to be an interesting and thought-provoking read (which it was!) but I didn't expect it to be quite so moving. My husband is a bell ringer (here at St Barts!) so it was the chapter on bell-founding that I found to be the most poignant. There used to be many bell foundries across the UK but there is now just one, John Taylor's in Loughborough. Casting a bell requires a great deal of skill and time, and can even be quite dangerous if not done properly. In *Craftland* James Fox witnesses the founding of a new bell, and is struck by the solemn reverence of the process, for the men and women involved. It's definitely more than a job - it's a vocation. This is the case for all the people that James visits in the book. There's a quiet determination that forces them on even when they are often one of the few remaining that can do their particular skill. A thoughtful and inspiring book!



Craftland by James Fox is available in hardback from The Haslemere Bookshop

THE HASLEMERE BOOKSHOP

2 Causewayside, Highstreet, Haslemere, GU27 2JZ

01428 652952

haslemerebookshop.co.uk





In My Garden

Philip Duly



Much of the focus of spring gardens is rightly on the beautiful bulbs that flower from the beginning of February right through to the middle of May. The wonderful vibrant spring flowering shrubs tend to receive less attention despite adding so much to the gaiety of our spring borders. I find this surprising and somewhat disappointing given the sheer number of stunning and colourful shrubs that flower from March onwards through Spring.

Many of these shrubs provide height and depth to a border but can also be easily shaped and maintained to a proportionate size when space is limited. They should never overshadow the bulbs, nor detract from their splendour. The key is to allow them to work with your display of bulbs and enhance the overall impact.



Ribes

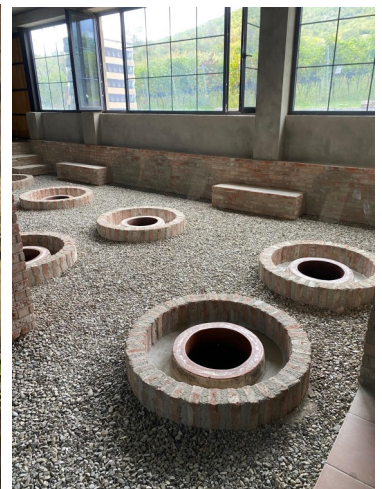
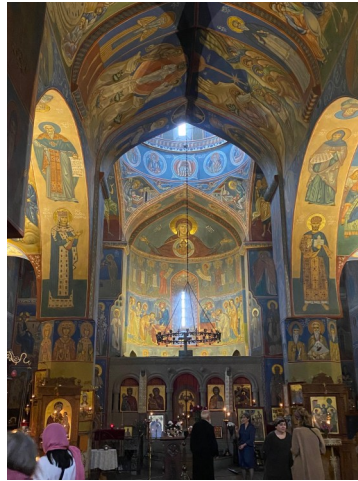
The best spring-flowering shrubs include the perennial favourite, the lemon and yellow-flowering varieties of low maintenance forsythia, the subtle raspberry-coloured *Ribes sanguineum*, *Deutzia Raspberry Sundae* with its glorious pink flowers with magenta purple splashes, and *Chaenomeles* or flowering quince which has beautiful white flowers or dazzling and long-lasting scarlet flowers depending on the variety.

We are most fortunate in Surrey to have acid soil allowing the multi-coloured and glossy leaved camellias to thrive in most gardens which add further impact at various points of the Spring, depending on the variety of which there are hundreds. These outstanding shrubs are expensive to purchase and relatively slow-growing, but their hardiness and beauty throughout the year make them one of the best investments you can make.



Deutzia

Postcard to the Parish



Greetings From Georgia

I have never visited the Caucasus, so when I travelled to Georgia this Autumn I had no idea what to expect but hoped it would be interesting. Georgia did not disappoint!

Let's start with a little geography. Georgia is a small country (about half the size of England) nestled below the Caucasus mountains, with Russia as their northern neighbour. To the south there are borders with Turkey, Armenia and Azerbaijan, and on the West there is a coastline on the Black Sea. It has a fascinating history as has the whole region. Tbilisi, the capital, has been sacked no less than 27 times with invasions from the Mongols, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Ottomans, Persians (I'm sure not in that order - and several times for some!) and also by Russia during the Imperial Tzarist regime, Soviet times ... and most recently they invaded in 2008.

The influences of many cultures are visible in the architecture from the crumbling old town in Tbilisi, the Turkish hot baths, the farms and the monasteries that we visited. The religious buildings were stunning. We were told by our guide that monks from Syria travelled to Georgia in around 540 AD and converted King Mirian to Christianity. Georgia was one of the first 2 countries to adopt Christianity as the national religion (the other being Armenia) and the orthodox Church (fiercely separate from the Russian Orthodox church) has been central to maintaining Georgian culture through the centuries.

I joined a small group of 12 and we travelled by minibus for 9 days with a fabulous local guide. We drove through a huge variety of landscapes from semi desert, mountains, prairie and rolling hills with vineyards and fruit trees. We hiked up to mountain top monasteries and cave villages, some of which are UNESCO sites. Most days we ate lunch with local hosts who cooked seasonal Georgia foods - lots of flatbreads, aubergine, pomegranate and ground nuts. We visited vineyards where the wine is fermented and stored in traditional clay pots sunk into the earth. And it was delicious.

The relationship with Russia provides tension in almost every discussion. We visited the birthplace of Stalin and a museum that has not altered since soviet times. Our guide grew up in Abkhazia and in 2008 her family and whole town became internal refugees, living in single rooms in a derelict hospital in Tbilisi. The graffiti on walls close by the Russian border politely (or not) suggests that the Russians are not welcome, but many young Georgian professionals work in Russia and many Russians live in Tbilisi (perhaps avoiding the draft?). The current Government (the Dream party) are often described as pro-Russian but an argument that some use is that no help will come from West's governments or Nato, so antagonising the Bear next door is foolish.

This is a beautiful country, offering a warm welcome and fabulous food and wine, do visit if you can.

Cathy M



Sunday Families

From February 1st until the Link building work is complete, SMF will meet in the Breakfast Club Room at St. Bartholomew's School. **Parents may drop children off from 9.45am at the school** or stay with them. Parking is available on

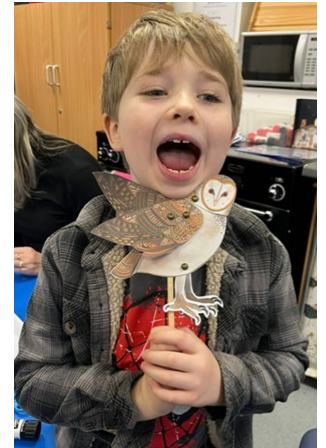
the top playground, and children will return to church in time for Communion

Dec 7th - The Grumpy Owl and The Joy of Christmas

This was based on The Grumpy Owl (C of E recommended book for Christmas), a creative parallel to the Nativity story. The Christmas Craft Session at the school was fun and enjoyed by all. We listened to the story and saw how the owl, who was very grumpy to start with and didn't give a hoot, was no longer



grumpy and felt all warm inside when he eventually saw baby Jesus in his barn! Our own Nativity sets with the owl perched on top supported the story



along with dancing, articulated owls. We ended playing Nativity skittles, had fake snowball fights and everybody left with a mini treat or two to enjoy later!

Jan 4th - Epiphany - The Greatest Gift

We remained in church for this session. We created spinners telling the story of the Magi and wrapped a tiny wooden baby Jesus in swaddling cloth to place inside our 'Greatest Gift' tins along with a tiny wooden heart. Gold stars were followed up to the crib in church and the children placed Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh next to the baby along with a small heart to symbolise what we can give to Jesus.



Christingle making Monday December 22nd at St Bartholomew's Church

We had a good turnout for the Christingle making at the church and made over 230 in total, ready for the Nativity services. Many thanks go to all those who kindly volunteered and made the afternoon so enjoyable.

Coming Up: Sunday Morning Families 1st February- Candlemas

This session will be a 'special' one, and the children will have fun on this feast of candles, celebrating Jesus as the Light of The World and how God always keeps his promises. To give us more time for the session today, drop off at school will be at 9.45am and children will not return to church until the final hymn at the end of the service. Please do try and bring your children along.

SCHOOL UPDATE

Installation Derby Rd

The Christmas installation in the Derby Road Cemetery was a great success as you can see from the photos and contributed to by the whole school. The children worked extremely hard producing their artwork on what



Christmas meant to them.

The story of The Nativity ran down the middle of the pergola, being central to the real meaning of Christmas and the artwork formed the periphery. Thanks go to David and Philip for the urgent repairs to the pergola without which the project would have to have been abandoned!



New Starter Bible Presentations

Reception classes were presented with their Storybook bibles in early December at a very informal affair in the church. I was assisted by four 'angels' from our congregation aptly wearing halos in the form of Joan, Sue, Gill (all of whom retired teachers so angels by the nature of the job) and



and Catriona (who has the voice of an angel) They took on their roles superbly. We all agreed it was an absolute joy to see the church full of inquisitive tiddlers not having to sit on their bottoms, ticking church items off their scavenger lists to jolly music and parents and school staff all joining in. The whole event was extremely

well-received and feedback was exceptional. I have had children tell me since that parents have read some of the book to them and it's very good, I couldn't agree more! I very much hope that given the feedback from everybody involved this will be an annual event.



and feedback was exceptional. I have had children tell me since that parents have read some of the book to them and it's very good, I couldn't agree more! I very much hope that given the feedback from everybody involved this will be an annual event.



Plans for the Spiritual Garden are progressing well and final fund raising continues to bring the project closer to reality. I am currently in talks with our Link building company to see if they are able to assist with the project in some way which would be amazing.

The new altar cloth for the school assembly hall is now completed. Thanks go to Sue and Celia for all their hard work.

I am currently in talks with Luke (the very talented artist in our congregation) about the possibility of a large, framed rendition of The Lord's Prayer to go above the altar in the school to support children in their learning of the prayer.

New repositionable wooden display panels have been acquired to display changing school artwork in church. Watch this space!

The new list of Christian books both reference and storybooks across the range of ages is nearing completion to refresh the outdated library section. Suggestions for books to be added to the list, donations of new books or sponsorships are warmly welcomed.

Heartfelt thanks go out to everyone who has supported, volunteered, encouraged and prayed for all I am trying to achieve and I very much look forward to another year building on our children's ministries.

God Bless,

Karen

Many Hands Make Light Work.

Frances Reincke & Jane Slevin

Every Sunday, as we gather to worship, something amazing happens long before the choir sings the first hymn. The coffee for after the service is brewed, the flowers are arranged, the bells are rung, the church linen is clean, the brass is gleaming and there is a welcoming band of sides people at the door. Countless small acts of care quietly prepare the churches for everyone who walks through the door - not forgetting the trim and tidy churchyard or garden you have walked through to get there.





During the service we have readers who read the first lesson of the day and intercessors who have compiled prayers on behalf of our church and for those unable to get to church, then the technical team makes sure the service can be



watched online.



If you are unwell or in need, the pastoral team will probably have called or visited you during the week. There are coffee mornings, annual gatherings and fund raising activities, and of course contributions to our parish magazine. Every day we have good souls who unlock the churches in the morning and lock up again at night.



All of these things don't happen by accident. They happen because ordinary people choose to give a little of their time to help and our churches, just like a family, thrive when everyone plays a part.



Much has been written about the benefits to be gained from volunteering. It's a practical way to live out our faith, help with

loneliness, a chance to make new friends and gives a sense of purpose and belonging to name but a few.

If you have ever thought, "I could help with that", then over the next few editions of the Parish Magazine we will be putting a spotlight on many of the different opportunities to help within the parish. So watch this space!





Christmas Windows Competition

Rev Justin

Well done to all the retailers who took part in our Christmas Window Competition this year. The standard was very high again and the judges, Rev. Chris Bessant, Rev. Fiona Gwynn, Frances Reincke and town crier, Christian Ashdown, had a hard time choosing the winners. This year we had a total of 17 local schools and youth groups joining in, including local Cubs and Beavers, two sets of Brownies and of course The Den. They helped to make the town look so beautiful and it really felt like a community destination over the festive period. Although this year the retailers fought back and only three of the windows dressed by schools/youth groups won prizes down from six last year.

As I'm sure you already know the community vote was won by R. T. Mechanics, a very worthy winner but only just- Mia's Hair was not too far behind.



The Most Festive was judged as The Dog Room with the runner up being Past and Present.

The most stylish winner was The Book Shop, with Allen Avery in second spot.



Finally, the winners for the most complementary to the shops underlying business, went to The Bathroom shop followed by Optical Studio dressed by

Camelsdale Brownies

There were also

another five windows highly commended by the judges: Scope, Seymours dressed by Camelsdale School, The Library, Tantum Trust and No.1 Charter Walk dressed by Grayswood Primary.



Photo Credits:-

Gareth David, Kari Hayden, Justin Manley-Cooper & Frances Reincke

Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Day

February 16th 2026

Ever wonder why we eat pancakes just before Lent? The tradition dates back to Anglo-Saxon times, when Christians spent Lent in repentance and severe fasting.

So on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the church bell would summon them to confession, where they would be 'shriven', or absolved from their sins, which gives us *Shrove* Tuesday. At home, they would then eat up their last eggs and fat, and making a pancake was the easiest way to do this. For the next 47 days, they pretty well starved themselves.

Pancakes feature in cookery books as far back as 1439, and today's pancake races are in remembrance of a panicked woman back in 1445 in Olney, Buckinghamshire. She was making pancakes when she heard the shriving bell calling her to confession. Afraid she'd be late, she ran to the church in a panic, still in her apron, and still holding the pan.

Flipping pancakes is also centuries old. A poem from Pasquil's Palin in 1619 runs: "And every man and maide doe take their turne, And tosse their Pancakes up for feare they burne."

Some people have noted that the ingredients of pancakes can be used to highlight four significant things about this time of year: eggs stand for creation, flour is the staff of life, while salt keeps things wholesome, and milk stands for purity.

Shrove Tuesday is always 47 days before Easter Sunday and falls between 3rd February and 9th March.



Parish Pump Resources



Signs of the Season

Samantha George



We often begrudge the wet and colder months but this quieter time of year gives us a wonderful opportunity to gently recharge and notice things we wouldn't usually; birds' nests waiting in bare trees for their new springtime inhabitants; tawny owls calling each other as their waking hours overlap ours with the early darkness; and overwintering geese flying between roosting and feeding sites.

With a lack of food, garden birds have been enthusiastically visiting our bird feeders stuffed with seeds, suet and other goodness. Mr Fox wanders through the garden nightly in search of tasty treats, and bulbs - no longer hidden by summer blooms - are peeking up through the frosty ground once more. Spring is on its way.

Our chickens, however, have been in complete denial about winter and have continued to lay eggs throughout, thanks to their built-in feather duvets! No doubt one or two will go broody by Easter like last year and we will have to be content with chocolate eggs - but I suppose needs must!



There is much to look forward to over the coming months. In our garden we've been missing the hedgehog who waddled through the hole in our back fence every evening before hibernating in October. Our children have named her Roly Poly. Hopefully she's had a good rest (I'm quite jealous to be honest!) Bats and dormice will also come out of hibernation and around Valentine's Day on milder, damp nights, toads will migrate back to the ponds where they were born to continue the cycle and breed. I'll be looking out for the first butterflies (Brimstone, Peacock

and Small Tortoiseshell) as early as mid-February and worker bees will be leaving their hives to find nectar-rich flowers. Chiffchaffs, with their distinctive call, are some of the first migrating birds to arrive back home after their long flight from Africa. Long-tailed tits eagerly start collecting nesting material in March and badgers and squirrels will already be having their young. The dawn chorus, which significantly lessens over winter, will slowly begin to gather momentum once again.

If you do decide to venture out, an extra layer or two may be necessary. But whether from our gardens, footpaths or even just our own windows, there really is much joy to be found in these darkest, coldest months.

A PICTURE FOR SPRING

Stanley Spencer (1939)

Christ in the Wilderness: Consider the lilies



The picture illustrates part of the Sermon on the Mount: Matthew 6: 28 - 30: *Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet, I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you - you of little faith.*

Of course, Spencer depicts not lilies but daisies! Jesus stares at the daisies just as they are, and he delights in them that they are what they have been created for. He marvels in God's creation. Therese of Lisieux (in the *Story of a Soul*), describes her soul as being like a flower in God's garden. Our Lord "takes special interest in each soul, as though there were no other like it". She speaks of daisies having equal status with the lilies. (Stephen Cottrell, *Christ in the Wilderness*, SPCK, 2012).

Spencer shows us the supreme vision of God's dwelling in the eternal now. "What we need to do is seek his kingdom, and we need to do it with the same child-like dependency and joy that we see here in Jesus. We are called to look upon each other in the same way that Jesus looks on the daisies. This is what dwelling in God's kingdom looks like".

Cottrell quotes Nadine Stair (an American Psychology professor) on reflections towards the end of her life about the hidden message of this painting, taking no thought for tomorrow.

"If I had my life to live over, I'd dare to make more mistakes next time. I'd relax. If I had to do it again, I would go places and do things and I would travel lighter than I have. If I had my life to live over, I would start barefoot earlier in the spring and stay that way later in the fall. I would play hookey more, I wouldn't make such good grades except by accident. I would ride more merry-go rounds. I would pick more daisies" .

Peter Sellars

**Drop in
Coffee Morning &
Hearing Aid Clinic**

**When? 10am-12pm
2nd & 4th Thursdays**

**Where?
St Bartholomew's Church,
Haslemere, GU27 1BW**

All are welcome!
Come and meet your
friends for coffee,
cake and a chat.

**Hearing
Champions**

Parish of Haslemere
ST BARTHOLOMEW'S AND ST CHRISTOPHER'S

Where Are They Now?

Rev'd Mary Bowden

For two years of my incumbency we had an associate priest, Rev Chuks Iwuagwu, and as fate will have it he and I are both now living and serving in the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway, as, respectively, p/t Priest-in-Charge of Motherwell and Wishaw, and Interim Priest-in-Charge of All Saints Jordanhill and Bishop's Advisor for Transitional Ministry

I'm attaching two pictures taken at Chuks' licensing in Motherwell, just before Christmas. Some in the parish may be interested and even amused to see them.

The first one includes Bishop Nick Bundock, who arrived in the diocese in May and is really stirring things up - in a good way!

With love and best wishes to everyone in the parish



Parish News in Pictures



Rev'd Justin, spreading Christmas cheer at the slightly damp Christmas Fair.
Picture Credit: Georgia Hase



First Steps celebrate Victoria's birthday.
Photo credit: Sarah Strudwick



Our Junior Choir carol singing for Elivia Homes on Scotland Lane.
Photo Credit: Samantha George.



The three wise people visiting First Steps.
Picture Credit: Margaret Hunt



The Gospel of The Wild Messiah

Reverend Jon Swales

He did not come robed in safety.
He did not come crowned in gold.
He came with dust on his sandals,
blood in his future,
and fire in his bones.

Not to keep the peace -
but to break it open.

The penniless preacher from Nazareth
walks towards the pain,
kneels where no king kneels,
calls friends what the world calls
waste.

The mission of the wild messiah is
madness to the market and
mercy to the margins.

Here is a man.
Exiled flesh.
Olive skin cracked like parched land.
No one hugs lepers.
But he does.
No ritual.
Just reach.

Let the church be like this -
touching what others avoid.
Body of Christ,
move your hands.

Here is a man.
Dropped through a broken roof.
They say his legs are cursed,
but Jesus says,
"Friend".

Forgiveness before healing.
Wholeness before walking.

Let the church be like this -
tearing open ceilings
so mercy can get in.

Here is a man.
Sworn to Caesar.
A soldier's posture,
a servant's pain.
Faith speaks from strange lips.
Jesus listens.
Heals.

Let the church be like this -
wide lunged enough
to breathe in
foreign hope.

Here is a woman,
Tears on feet,
perfume in air,
shame in the room.
They call her sinner.
He calls her forgiven.

Let the church be like this -
welcoming the shamed.
Less pointing.
More tears.
Less tally.

Here is a man.
Naked in tombs.
Self-harm scrawled across his skin.
Unclean, unkempt. unloved.
Jesus asks one thing:
What is your name?
And the demons,
tremble.

Let the church be like this -
naming the silenced,
holding the haunted.

Here is a woman.

Twelve years of blood.

Invisible in a crowd.

She dares a touch –
and it stops him.

He says,

“Daughter.”

A word that heals
more than wounds.

Let the church be like this -
interruptible.

Alive to power
in the unnoticed.

Here is a man.

Short in stature,
tall in corruption.

Collaboration money
stacked in a crooked house.

Jesus invites himself in.

No lecture.

Just presence.

And something changes.

Let the church be like this -
hosting grace
before repentance,
feasting with the fallen.

Here is a man.

Blind and begging.

Shouting louder
than the crowd’s comfort.

Jesus halts.

Sees what others pass by.

And lets light in.

Let the church be like this -
attentive
to inconvenient cries.

This is not a clean gospel.

It smells of spit and soil,
rupture and resistance.

It weeps in alleyways
and whispers beside beds.

It eats with the wrong people
and sings in the dark.

The kingdom is not far.

It is falling

like a tear

from the face of God.

And still - he walks.

Still - he calls.

Still - he touches the untouchable
and invites the forgotten home.

Let the church be like this.

Let us be

wounded,

wild,

and faithful.

Amen
and amen again.





Leeks with Ham in Cheese Sauce

A cheese sauce served over any cooked vegetables helps to supply the protein necessary to make them into a nourishing supper dish.

Linda Donaldson

Ingredients:

4-6 leeks
4-6 slices of ham

For the cheese sauce

1oz. butter
1 oz. flour
½ pint milk
½ teaspoon made mustard
4oz. hard cheese, grated
Salt and pepper



Method:

Slice away the root and trim the green top on the leeks. Wash well and then add to a pan of boiling water for about 20 mins or until just tender. Drain thoroughly.

Melt the butter for the sauce over a low heat. Stir in the flour and cook gently for 1 min. Gradually stir in the milk, beating well to get a smooth sauce. Bring to the boil and simmer for 1-2 minutes. Season well with salt and pepper, and then stir in the mustard and half the cheese. Wrap each leek in a slice of ham. Spoon a little of the sauce into a well-buttered shallow baking dish and arrange the leeks on top. Pour over the remaining sauce and sprinkle with the rest of the cheese. Place in moderately hot oven and bake for 15-20 minutes or until bubbling hot and brown.



Junior Choir

*Samantha George
Pictures by Samantha
George & Flic Glaysher*



The Junior Parish Choir had a very busy December, with four festive events, one social occasion and quite a number of rehearsals! There were three new joiners in the autumn term, so we now have a very healthy number of junior choristers.

December began with the Christmas Concert for the Hunter Centre, followed by the Junior Choir Christmas Concert. There were a number of fantastic solo performances, and the Junior Choir sang several pieces, including a beautiful rendition of 'Star Carol' by John Rutter, alongside the choir favourite 'Jamaican Noel'. The Youth Choir also gave a fantastic performance of 'I Sing of a Maiden', written by Clive.

Midway through the month there was joyful carol singing up on Scotland Lane for Elivia Homes, followed by a packed congregation at the Christmas Carol Service on 21st December at St Christopher's. A fun-filled and well-deserved Christmas party helped to round off a busy festive period.

In January, rehearsals began for upcoming performances on Mothering Sunday, Evensong and Easter events.

A huge thank you to everyone involved with the Junior Choir, including the choristers, their parents/carers, and to Clive, Sally, Liz, Scarlett and Carol for their time, dedication and enthusiasm.



A Lasting Gift of Faith:

Haslemere Parish's 30-Year Bond with a village Church in South India

By Colin Wagstaff

Thirty years ago, a modest act of generosity by Haslemere Parish helped transform the spiritual life of a remote village in rural south India - a legacy that continues to flourish today.

In the mid-1990s, the village of South Vaigkulam was cut off from the outside world. Access was only possible via a shallow ford across a river which, during the monsoon season, became impassable. At such times, villagers were forced to walk five miles to reach the nearest road.

Despite these challenges, the local Christian community was determined to build its own place of worship. The villagers themselves raised enough money to lay the foundations of a new Anglican church. A donation of £1,000 from Haslemere Parish completed the structure, funding the walls and roof.



The result was St. Paul's Church, a simple yet deeply cherished building that has served as the heart of the community's worship for three decades.

Over the years, the church has hosted countless services, celebrations, and milestones. I have had the privilege of returning many times for special occasions, each visit reinforcing the importance of that original act of support.

In 2024, the congregation launched a new fundraising drive to extend the church and install a permanent marble floor, bringing both beauty and durability to the building. These efforts culminated on 29 December 2025, when I was honoured to attend the rededication of the newly extended and modernised church.

The rededication service was led by the Bishop of the Tirunelveli Diocese, the Rt. Rev. Argst Baranabas, alongside





the church’s pastor, the Rev. Victor Arockiaraj. The church was filled to capacity - not only with its regular congregation, but also with well-wishers from neighbouring churches who came to share in the celebration.

During the service, Haslemere Parish received a lengthy and

heartfelt tribute for its role in bringing a church to a poor Christian community so many years ago. It was a moving reminder that even a small gift, given with faith and compassion, can echo across generations and continents.

Three decades on, St. Paul’s Church stands not just as a building of stone and marble, but as a symbol of enduring partnership, shared belief, and the quiet power of generosity.



KINGS WORLD TRUST FOR CHILDREN (INDIA)

First CBSE Alumni Meet - A Memorable Reunion

“Alumni forever, a bond that never breaks”.



The first Kings CBSE Alumni Meet was successfully conducted on 29th December 2025 with the blessings and guidance of Uncle Colin, marking a special milestone for our institution. The event commenced with a welcome address by Mr. Joshua, Vice Principal (Non-Academic). This was followed by inspiring addresses from the esteemed Correspondent, Mr. Navamani, and the Director, Mrs. Jeya Agnes Daniel, who warmly welcomed the alumni and appreciated their continued bond with the school.

The highlight of the programme was the reflections shared by teachers and



alumni which were heart-warming and filled with nostalgia. These moments brought back cherished memories of school life and strengthened the connection between the past and the present. Alumni from Batch 1 (2020–21) to Batch 5 (2024–25) participated enthusiastically, with nearly 80 alumni attending the

meet. The programme was concluded with a vote of thanks by Mrs. Manimala, ACS.

The event continued with indoor games, adding fun and excitement to the gathering, followed by a lunch session. The alumni also enjoyed a campus visit, revisiting familiar places and reminiscing about their school days.



Overall, the alumni meet was well-ordered and successful, leaving the participants with joyful memories and a renewed sense of belonging to their alma mater.

King’s World Trust for Children, 1 Stonehill Cottage, Wilsons Road, Headley Down, Hampshire GU35 8JE Tel: 01428 712365 Email: kwtc@haslemere.com



Haslemere's Wildlife Revival



Across Haslemere, Beacon Hill and Shottermill, something wonderful is happening. Residents are planting gardens, volunteers are building nest boxes, and neighbours are looking forward to the first swifts of summer. This Spring, Haslemere Biodiversity invites the whole community to get involved in the **Swift Recovery Project** and a hedgehog focused **Wildlife Gardening Event**. These initiatives reflect a belief that nature recovery starts right here in our gardens, footpaths and rooftops.

Welcoming Swifts Back

Swifts are among the most remarkable birds to share our town. They spend almost their entire lives on the wing, eating, drinking and even sleeping in flight, and return to the same nesting sites year after year. For centuries, having swifts under your eaves was considered a sign of good luck.



Across the South East, numbers have fallen sharply, in the majority due to loss of nest spaces. The project aims to help halt declines, by installing nest boxes and caller systems across key streets where swift activity has been recorded.



Leaflets have already been delivered to households in target streets but if you live locally, and would like to take part, please email info@haslemerebiodiversity.org.uk as they are operating a wait list.

Behind the scenes, volunteers are hard at work. One of the founders of Haslemere's Repair Café, Christopher, has built more than 50 nest boxes in his home workshop. Meanwhile in a new craft shed in Lynchmere with links to the Weald & Downland Museum, Bob Butterfield is making boxes using traditional woodworking techniques. Every box is sturdy, weather resistant and ready for installation before the swifts return.

Meanwhile head of finance, Diane, has been securing grants and donations to

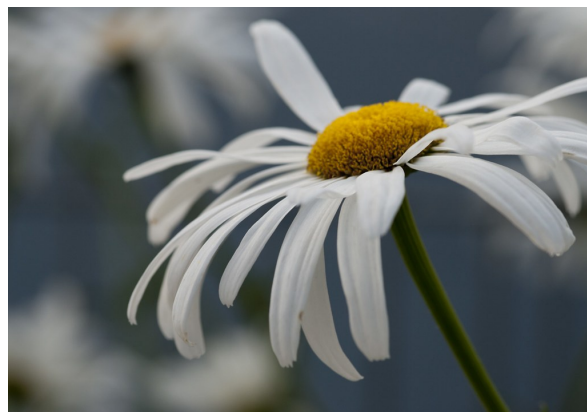
help subsidise boxes for households who need support. Her efforts ensure action remains accessible to everyone.

How You Can Help Right Now

Swifts feed entirely on flying insects, so planting for insects is one of the best ways to support them. Every addition helps:

- **Wildflowers:** oxeye daisy, knapweed, yarrow, bird's foot trefoil
- **Herbs:** marjoram, thyme, mint, oregano
- **Shrubs & hedges:** hawthorn, dog rose, guelder rose
- **Ponds:** even a bowl with stones and a ramp
- **Messy corners:** leaf piles, log stacks, unmown patches

Many residents have already begun planting, and keen gardeners in a position to advise neighbours can make a real difference.



Wildlife Gardening at the Museum

7 April, 6.30pm (booking essential)

The evening focuses on one of Britain's most loved mammals: the hedgehog. We're thrilled to welcome **Dr Sophie Lund Rasmussen**, known internationally as '**Dr Hedgehog**', joining us live from her current research base. Sophie is one of Europe's leading hedgehog researchers, whose work has featured on the BBC and who is known for her warm, engaging style and pioneering studies into hedgehog behaviour and survival.



The evening includes simple steps to make your garden a safe haven, and a chance to meet other local enthusiasts over drinks and nibbles. Guests will also have a preview of the Haslemere Nature Recovery Strategy, and a chance to help shape its direction.

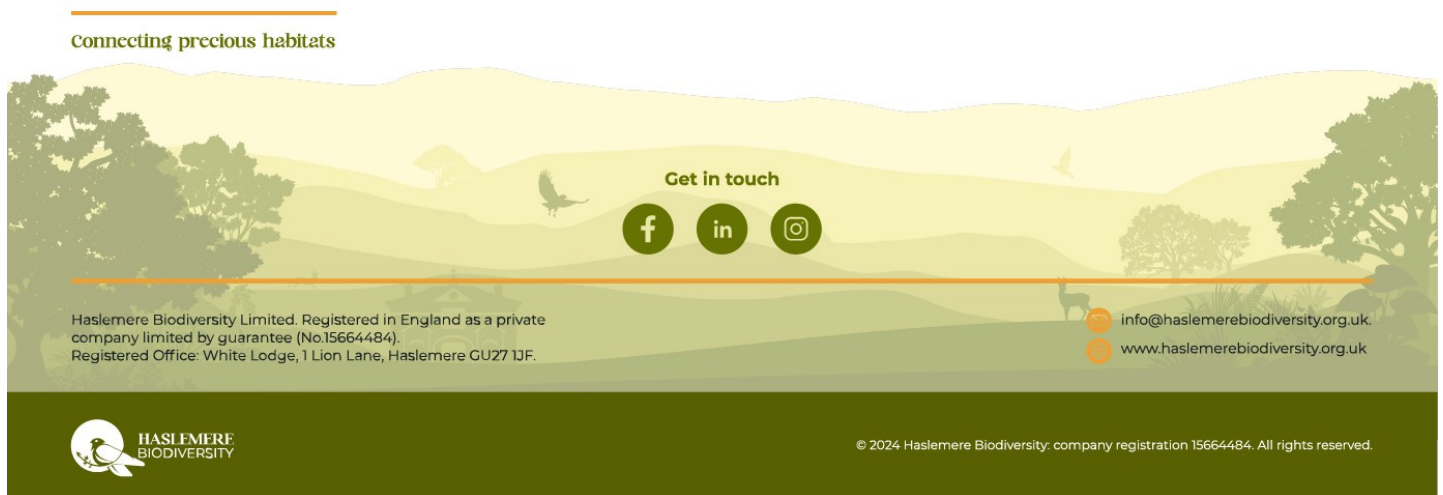
Tickets are free but limited to 90 due to

space. Booking is via <https://tinyurl.com/hedgehogevent>.

Nature Recovery Starts at Home

Whether leaving a corner wild, or welcoming swifts under the eaves, every action contributes to the bigger picture. We'd love to see you at April's event, and hope many of you will join us in welcoming swifts back.

For more information, visit www.haslemerebiodiversity.org.uk or email info@haslemerebiodiversity.org.uk and ask to be added to their newsletter updates.




Connecting precious habitats

Get in touch

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Registered Office: White Lodge, 1 Lion Lane, Haslemere GU27 1JF.

info@haslemerebiodiversity.org.uk
www.haslemerebiodiversity.org.uk

 HASLEMERE
BIODIVERSITY

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Peace Be With You

The Bible tells the story of Jesus and His stressed disciples in a boat in a storm. Like them, we also get hit by storms in life. And like them, we can know that Jesus is also with us. Why not take a moment to ponder these promises:

Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never let the righteous be shaken. (Psalm 55:22)

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. (John 14:27)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4: 6-8)

Parish Pump Resources

SATURDAY EVENING CONCERTS

SATURDAY 28
FEBRUARY, 7.30pm
St Christopher's Church,
Haslemere GU27 1DD

SITKOVETSKY
TRIO with
JULIAN BLISS
(clarinet)

Clara Schumann

Andante from
Piano Trio No. 1 in
G minor Op. 17

Chaminade Piano Trio No.2
Op. 34

Messiaen Quatuor pour la
fin du temps



SATURDAY 21 MARCH,
7.30pm

St Christopher's Church,
Haslemere GU27 1DD

FIBONACCI
STRING
QUARTET

Haydn String Quartet
Op. 64 No. 5 in D major 'The Lark'

Debussy String Quartet in G minor

Schumann String Quartet No. 3 in A major



KIRCKMAN
CONCERTS

Tickets £25 each and Under 21s go free of charge

All tickets available from HHH website: www.hhhconcerts.org.uk/tickets

NAVIGATING RETIREMENT: THE NEXT PHASE OF LIFE



Led by Peter Shaw

Saturday 14th March 2026

10 am – 12.30 pm

(Coffee available from 9.30 am)

**at Godalming Baptist Church,
Queen Street, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1BA**

Are you at a decision point approaching retirement or thinking through how best to use your time and energy now you are retired?

This morning will be an opportunity to explore the choices and frustrations that come to the fore at this stage of life.

How best might you deploy your experience, time and energy in ways that are creative and fulfilling?

How can we experience retirement as an exciting entry into the next phase of life?

The morning will be led by Peter Shaw who spent 32 years in the senior civil service, and has subsequently been coaching leaders and teams over the last 20 years. He is a Licensed Lay Minister at Godalming Minster.

Participants in similar sessions led by Peter at Godalming Minster and St Saviour's Church in Guildford have found them very valuable, and **this session is suitable for those with any or no faith.**

The session will be free of charge, but voluntary donations are invited towards the vital work of Tear Fund

**To help with managing numbers, please reserve a place by contacting Sally Pollard
email: pollard3@hotmail.co.uk, tel: 01483 428646
by ***Friday 6th March*****



What's on at Haslemere Museum

For paid events book in advance via the

What's On Page of the museum website.

Tuesday 10 February, 2.30pm - **Tea & talk**

Winter Flowers - Join Dr June Chatfield to hear all about seasonal flowers from our gardens and town centres. A relaxed talk with tea and biscuits. £3.

Friday 13 February, 10.30-11.30am - **Early years activity for under 5s**

Fascinating Fossils - Travel into the past to discover a time long ago through looking at fascinating fossils. Includes a story and making a fossil to take home. Children need to be accompanied. £3 per child, plus £2 per accompanying adult.

Monday 16 February, 11am-1pm - **Activity for ages 11+**

HYPE (youth) activity: Willow Wonders - Go along to the Museum and help make some willow structures to form the bases of lanterns for the Chinese lantern celebration in March. Free for young people of secondary age or above. Book in advance via the What's On page of the Haslemere Museum website.

Tuesday 17 February, 10.30am-1pm - **Family activity**

Mardi Gras - A morning of carnival celebrations, making masks, armbands and a simple musical instrument suitable for a Mardi Gras parade. Children need to be accompanied. £5 per child, plus £2 per accompanying adult.

Wednesday 18 February, 9-10am - **Family activity**

Early Birds - Special opening for families with children who have an Autism Spectrum Condition to enjoy the Museum free from the general public. Children need to be accompanied. Booking essential. No charge but donations welcome.

Wednesday 18 February, 10.30am-12.30pm - **Family activity**

LEGO - Search through the Museum's LEGO and let your imagination run wild. Note that models cannot be taken home. Children need to be accompanied. £3 per person.

Thursday 19 February, 10.30am-12.00pm - **Activity for ages 5-11**

Museum Explorers: Lovely Lanterns - Make some lantern structures for the Museum's Chinese lantern celebration in March, plus make a lantern to take home. Adults can stay but don't have to. £8 per child, plus £2 per accompanying adult.

Friday 20 February, 10.30am-12.30pm - **Family activity**

LEGO - Search through the Museum's LEGO and let your imagination run wild. Note that models cannot be taken home. Children need to be accompanied. £3 per person. Book in advance via the What's On page of the Haslemere Museum website.

Friday 20 February, 3.30-5.30pm - **For ages 5-11**

Children's Silent Disco - A fun afternoon of dancing. Choose your own songs from three different play lists. Why not dress up as your favourite pop star? Café open. £5 per person.

Friday 20 February, 7.30-11pm - **Evening Silent Disco**

A fun evening of dancing. Choose your own songs from three different play lists. With bar. Tickets £15. Early bird booking discounts available.

Thursday 26 February, 7-9pm - **Creative Wellbeing Workshop**

Wonderful Willow - Enjoy a relaxed evening experimenting with willow to make lanterns ahead of the Museum's lantern festival. £15.

Friday 27 February, 1.30-2.30pm - **Early years activity for under 5s**

Bear's Shadow - Listen to this story and learn all about shadows. Make a shadow puppet of your own to take home. Children need to be accompanied. £3 per child plus £2 per accompanying adult.

Tuesday 3 March, 5.30-7.30pm - **Garden lantern trail**

Chinese Lantern Celebration - Celebrate the Chinese New Year and coming of spring with a trail in the museum gardens. Roast marshmallows and make smores. Children need to be accompanied. Tickets £6.

Friday 6 March, 10.30-11.30am - **Early years activity for under 5s**

Toys from the Past - Find out how toys of today differ from those in the past. See and try toys in our handling collection. Story time and activity. Children need to be accompanied. £3 per child, plus £2 per accompanying adult.

Tuesday 17 March, 2.30pm - **Tea & talk**

Ladies Aloft - A talk by John Childs telling stories of pioneering female aviators. With tea and biscuits. £3.

Thursday 19 March, 7.30pm - **Evening show**

Discovery of Witchcraft - Greg Chapman's show combines magic, storytelling, history and comedy to talk about witch trials from the 15th to the 20th century. Tickets £14.

Friday 20 March, 1.30-2.30pm - **Early years activity for under 5s**

Clive Eats Crocodiles - Story and crafts to celebrate how our individual likes make us unique. Children need to be accompanied. £3 per child plus £2 per accompanying adult.

Friday 21 March, 10.30-1pm - **Community Show & Tell**

Memorabilia - Drop in to the Museum with your family's memorabilia. We'd love to see objects, photos or documents of family or local history. Free admission.

Tuesday 31 March, 10.30am-1pm - **Easter event**

Easter Egg-citement - Easter arts and crafts and a garden trail for children, who will be rewarded with a treat when they find hidden characters. Children need to be accompanied. £5 per child, plus £2 per accompanying adult.



TROUGH

EVENT CATERING

CELEBRATIONS, SMALL OR LARGE GATHERINGS, SUPPERCLUBS, CREW CATERING & PHOTOSHOOTS. SURREY/SUSSEX BASED

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*These very special rates are only available if you are over 60 years old. Minimum spend for a free home visit is £95. Our normal price for a standard single Will is £160, or £270 for a couple. VAT, when applicable, is included in these prices. Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) registration fee, when applicable, is not included in these prices.

2 Big Musical Events

Haslemere Methodist Church
Lion Green, Haslemere. GU27 1LD

Friday March 27th 2026 at 7.00pm

The South Of England
Salvation Army Band

Playing at their favourite acoustic location,
with musicians from Surrey, East & West Sussex, Kent
Hampshire & Berkshire.

Ticket price includes coffee or ice cream during the interval.

Saturday April 18th 2026 at 11.00am

Archie Mac

Back by popular demand, South of England's favourite busker, sings songs
from the musical shows.

Coffee and cake starting at 10am.

Tickets for each event are just **£10** cash and available in person from The Methodist
Church Open Door Cafe from 10.00am to Noon, Tuesday to Saturday

Tickets are also available by ending a SAE and cheque, payable to **Haslemere
Methodist Church** and mailed to **2 Crofton, Lion Lane, Haslemere, GU27 1JE**

For more information call Malcolm Harris on **07842 973341**

A retiring collection for both
events will be available to support
the great local work of

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Haslemere Library February Events 2026



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No drawing skills required
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Tuesday 3rd
March

13:00 - 15:30

£8.50 per
adult

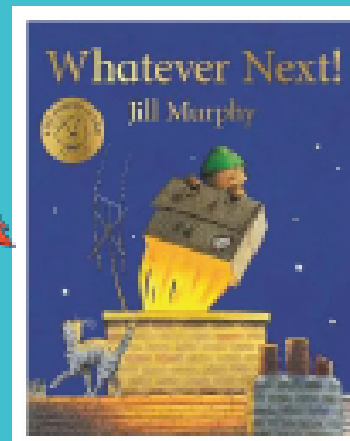
Book Now:

haslemere.library@surreycc.gov.uk

Please wear old clothing or bring an apron!



Junk Modelling Rockets and story



Thursday 19th Feb

11am-12pm

£1 per child

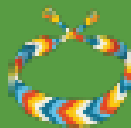
FRIENDSHIP BRACELETS

Friday 20th February

Drop-in: 10am-4pm

Age 5+yrs

£2.50 PER PERSON



Crochet Heart Accessory Making

Saturday 14th February

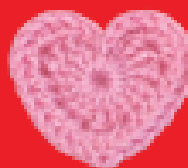
2.00pm - 4.00pm

Ages 10yrs+

£8.50 per person

Book at

haslemere.library@surreycc.gov.uk



Lunar New Year

LANTERN SCULPTURES

Book Folding Craft Event

Drop-in: 10am-4pm

TUESDAY 17TH
FEBRUARY

£2.50



Coffee and Company : Meet the Police

Saturday 7th February

10-11.30am

FREE





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Our NHS volunteers are trained by the audiology department of the Royal Surrey County Hospital. Visiting the Hear Here clinic may save travelling long distances or the difficulties of access to the hospital.

The Hear Here scheme was launched in March 2013 as a partnership between Guildford Diocese and the NHS. There are now over 200 people trained in hearing aid maintenance. Hear Here was successful in winning the Faith Action & Health Award in 2018 for continuing to provide support for those with hearing loss across Surrey and North-East Hampshire.

Enquiries to:

Hearingchampion@haslemereparish.org



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We meet on the first and third Thursdays of each month from 11am—1pm ending with a relaxation session.

We like to keep in touch and know how you are at other times too, so please feel free to contact Carolyn Low on 01483 203540 or email Carolyn.graeme@hotmail.co.uk

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office@haslemereparish.org 01428 644578

Safeguarding in our Parish

Our parish safeguarding officer is

Kari Hayden 07762 737309

Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor

Jackie Broadfoot 07918 559387 jackie.broadfoot@cofeguildford.org.uk



Safe Spaces, an independent service supporting survivors of church-related abuse.

Telephone: 0300 303 1056 (answerphone available outside of opening times)

Email safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk WebChat via the Safe Spaces website

For all emergencies call 999

The Single Point of Access (SPA)

Children and Adult Service social workers. Direct information, advice and guidance about where and how to find appropriate support for children and families

Surrey

0300 470 9100

(children) cspa@surreycc.gov.uk

(adult) acsmash@surreycc.gov.uk

Domestic Abuse

Surrey - YourSanctuary

01483 776822

24hr National Domestic Abuse Helpline

0808 2000 247

DeafHope (BSL)

text: 07970 350366

Childline

0800 1111

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

NSPCC

0808 800 5000 or help@nspcc.org.uk

NSPCC Sign Video link

nspcc.org.uk/about-us/contact-us

Samaritans

116123 or jo@samaritans.org

Modern Day Slavery Helpline

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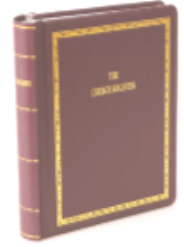
Stop it Now!

0808 1000 900 www.stopitnow.org.uk

cofeguildford.org.uk/safeguarding



From the Registers



Funerals

Martin Saunders - 5th January at Guildford Crematorium

Members of the church are reminded that online copies of approved PCC minutes are available on the parish website.

The link is as follows:

<https://www.haslemereparish.org/info/minutes-of-the-pcc>

This magazine is also available online from the parish website, www.haslemereparish.org,

COPY DATE

For the Apr/May issue of the magazine is

Friday March 6th 2026

We'd love to hear from you, please take or send your contributions to the Parish Office: office@haslemereparish.org

Responsibility for opinions and accuracy in statements expressed in articles and in advertisements in this magazine rests solely with the individual contributors

Sunday Services

1 Feb

Candlemas

8.00 Holy Communion | St Christopher's
10.00 Holy Communion | St Bartholomew's
Sunday Morning Families
18.00 Candlemas Evensong | St Christopher's

8 Feb

2nd Sunday before Lent

8.00 Holy Communion | St Bartholomew's
10.00 Holy Communion | St Christopher's
18.00 Evensong | St Bartholomew's

15 Feb

Last Sunday before Lent

8.00 Holy Communion | St Christopher's
10.00 Holy Communion | St Bartholomew's
11.30 Praying on Sunday | St Christopher's

18 Feb

Ash Wednesday

18.30 Imposition of Ashes | St Bartholomew's

22 Feb

1st Sunday of Lent

8.00 Holy Communion | St Bartholomew's
10.00 Holy Communion | St Christopher's
18.00 Evensong | St Bartholomew's

1 Mar

2nd Sunday of Lent

8.00 Holy Communion | St Christopher's
10.00 Holy Communion | St Bartholomew's
Sunday Morning Families

8 Mar

3rd Sunday of Lent

8.00 Holy Communion | St Bartholomew's
10.00 Holy Communion | St Christopher's
18.00 Evensong | St Bartholomew's

15 Mar

Mothering Sunday

8.00 Holy Communion | St Christopher's
10.00 Holy Communion | St Bartholomew's
11.30 Praying on Sunday | St Christopher's

22 Mar

5th Sunday of Lent

8.00 Holy Communion | St Bartholomew's
10.00 Holy Communion | St Christopher's
18.00 Evensong | St Bartholomew's

29 Mar

Palm Sunday

8.00 Holy Communion | St Bartholomew's
10.00 Holy Communion | St Christopher's

10am services are live streamed via
the Parish Youtube channel.

www.haslemereparish.org/online



www.haslemereparish.org/services