



All Saints Guildford

Joyfully Living Jesus

Welcoming Everyone

Growing Disciples Deepening Community



DECEMBER 2025

WHOS WHO

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If you'd like to feature anything in the magazine, we would love to hear from you! Articles should be emailed to **allsaintsmag@gmail.com** by the **15th of the previous month**. We like to keep content varied and interesting so almost anything goes. Please get in touch if you have any questions. Thank you!

ALL SAINTS SERVICES AND OPENING TIMES

Our pattern of services is as follows:

- ★ Morning Prayer takes place Monday to Wednesday at 9.15am in the church and via Zoom for anyone who would like this option.
- ★ A service of Holy Communion is held in church every Thursday morning at 9.30am.
- ★ An 8am service of Holy Communion is held in church on the first and third Sundays of the month (the third Sunday will use the Book of Common Prayer).
- ★ Our 10am Sunday services follow this pattern:
 - ◇ First Sunday: Café-style Altogether Worship
 - ◇ Second, fourth and fifth Sundays:
Church Family Communion with Children's Church
 - ◇ Third Sunday: Morning Worship with Children's Church

Note: Children's Church is term-time only
- ★ Each Sunday, we hold 'Tea-Time Church' at 4pm.
- ★ Each Sunday, we record the sermon and this can be found on our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/@allsaintsguildford



THOUGHTS FROM THE VICARAGE



Every year as Advent begins, and we start to prepare for Christmas, I ask myself the question, 'What is at the heart of Christmas this year?' In one sense the story is the same for us each year, and the message is as old as time. But in another sense it's new every year, as we engage with the season afresh – as we come to worship.

In that poor, irrelevant stable in Bethlehem, in a moment of wonder and worship, the great discovery was made: 'God is with us - Emmanuel.' Mary and Joseph discovered it as they adored their new-born baby. The shepherds glimpsed it as they knelt down in awe before the child. It was revealed to the Magi, as they bowed down in worship, offering their gifts. 'God is with us – Emmanuel.'

Two thousand years later we too can hear that message afresh, as we come to worship again this Christmas. The Lord himself is to be found when we gather together to honour him.

This year let's make coming to worship the focus of this season of Advent and Christmas. Let's bring our families and friends and neighbours with us. We need to know, in the depths of our beings, that 'God is with us' – whatever challenges and problems we face. Our needy world also needs to hear that message: God is with us; he cares; he loves us, and nothing is impossible with him.

And so may the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas, as you come to worship him.



Beverly

MISSION FOCUS:



Mosaic
Middle East

Mosaic Middle East (MME) has been one of our core organisations which All Saints has supported both in prayer and financially for a number of years. This support is set to continue in 2026. Its involvement in one of the hospitals in Gaza was reported in the June magazine, but, in recent weeks, we have been alerted to the worsening situation in Iraq itself, with regional conflict and community differences heightening tension and creating an atmosphere of fear of further conflict and loss of life and deprivation.

Iraq is home to one of the world's oldest Christian communities, yet numbers have plummeted from over 1.5 million in the 1990s to around 150,000 today. The pressures of war, persecution and economic hardship have forced many to leave the country. Those who remain face daily discrimination and genuine threats to their safety. As the Anglican Rector of Baghdad, the Revd Canon Faiz Jirjeez, MBE, has pointed out, "Christians are treated as the bottom of the bottom. They have no jobs, no security, no future for their children and many cannot afford to leave the country." The children have no access to education and women and girls often hide their faith in public for fear of attack. Even small freedoms are eroded by restrictive laws and social hostility. So Christians feel a crushing weight in these times of growing tension.

But... despite all this... MME has witnessed how, against all the odds, the church continues to care for the most vulnerable, offering food, medical support, education and, above all, the assurance that they are not forgotten. This is only possible through the support given by MME's friends in the UK and other supportive countries, organisations and individuals. The Missions Group here at All Saints regularly receives heartfelt thanks for the financial donations and prayers which we regularly and continuously give.

And encouragement for us all may be given in return by the words of

Canon Faiz. "The harvest is so great. Some Muslims now attend services, and many bring prayer requests. Muslim clergy exchange greetings with me at Christmas and Easter. Barriers of fear are breaking down."

Canon Faiz has mentioned two ways that we can help as individuals:
PRAY: Please pray for peace in Iraq, for God's protection over St. George's Church in Baghdad, and for strength for the Revd Faiz and his team as they carry on their ministries in such challenging circumstances.

GIVE: Please consider making a gift yourself in order to provide food parcels and essential support for families in desperate need. Details may easily be found on the MME website: www.mosaicmiddleeast.com.

Richard Hemingway



Collection at All Saints for Christmas parcels

At Sunday services in late November and early December, All Saints' Church will be collecting toiletries and non-perishable food for Guildford Foodbank. These will be donated to Guildford Foodbank (previously the North Guildford Foodbank) in time for their delivery of Christmas parcels. Please check church notices for details.

And, a note from Stacey, the Stock Administrator at the Guildford Food Bank: "Thank you so much for your generous Harvest donation to Guildford Food Bank. Your support, in a time of growing need, is much appreciated!"



FINANCE VISION GROUP UPDATE

It's a busy time for the Finance Vision Group.

We've just completed a reforecast for year end 2025, looked at how to invest the funds from the sale of Thorn Bank, written a Financial Policy document and proposed a two option budget for 2026.

So how about finances at All Saints? Well, we think we will just about break even this year.

It costs us £451 a day to run All Saints' Church - that's £164,615 a year. This enables us to maintain the church, run youth and toddler groups, hold services during the week and at 8am, 10am and 4pm on Sundays. We have a wide outreach to local schools, Dray Court and home visits to members of our congregation. We have many Small Groups that represent our community such as men's and women's Bible study groups, a lunch group and the Hear Here Clinic. We host an autumn fair attended by a large number of people from the community and a Bonfire & Fireworks event for 500 people. It's beautiful to see Missio Dei, God's mission, working here in our community. A large proportion of our income goes to supporting our mission. We also financially support the work of the diocese, clergy remuneration and those churches not able to support themselves. Truly Christian, if you read 2 Corinthians 8-9!

We balance this expense with income from generous donations from the congregation, hiring out the church hall and the church itself. We also benefit from Gift Aid from our donations. There is no income from the diocese or external funding sources. It is all self generating.

Whilst I think we will see our expenses match our income this year, it may not be the case next year. Whichever way I cut it, we are likely to be in the red by several £1000s. We have fixed expenses that must be met and inflation is now catching up with us. A further challenge was the loss of a regular booking of the church which had generated a significant amount of income.

So, I am turning to you all. This is hard to do because I know you have given so generously for the Big Build. This has raised in the region of £275,000 - a wonderful total. Nevertheless, it would be a travesty if we completed the new building and then struggled to cover our day to day running costs as a church.

I am asking you to increase the amount you regularly give by 10% to help us balance 2026. If you don't already give regularly to All Saints, I would strongly encourage you to do so; the health of our finances depends on each one of us giving as generously as we can. Given these challenging circumstances, you may like to give a one off donation as well. It will enable us as a church to live out God's kingdom here in this parish.

There's no secret to any of our finances so please ask me if you'd like to know more. Thank you so much for your continued generosity and support of our wonderful church and community here in this parish.

Best wishes,
Andy Wells
Treasurer

Carol Singing with the Guides

Tuesday 9th December

Join us at church at 6.30pm before we set
off around the village visiting friends
within the parish



All Saints Guildford



Joyfully living Jesus



CONSIDERING BAPTISM?

If you live in our parish, we would love to welcome your family into our church family by baptising your child. We believe that God welcomes all people, and baptism is the first step on the journey of faith. Through baptism each of us begins a journey as a follower of Jesus. Adults may also wish to be baptised, sometimes alongside their children, which makes for a very special celebration.

At All Saints, baptisms take place on Sundays, during the 10 a.m. services.

Your first step is to come to one of our 10 a.m. services, to meet the congregation and our vicar, Revd Beverly Watson, and to get a feel for all that goes on at All Saints. Baptisms can take place at any of our services:

- 'Café-style Altogether Worship' on the first Sunday of each month
- Family Communion on the second, fourth and fifth Sundays
- Morning Worship on the third Sunday.

It's advisable to come to each of these services, to decide which would be most suitable for the baptism of your child.

The next step is to contact our vicar, Beverly, to make an appointment to meet and discuss baptism - its meaning and significance. At this meeting you can explore possible dates for the baptism.

When a date is confirmed, you will need to provide details of the candidate, parents and Godparents. You will be given a paper form or you can complete this online: allsaints.short.gy/baptism

We also offer Thanksgiving Services, for those who would prefer this. At this service we simply give thanks for the life of your child, and ask for God's blessing on his or her life.

On the day, we look forward to welcoming you and your family and friends, and celebrating with you.

You may like to hire our hall for refreshments afterwards: allsaintschurchgfd.org.uk/hall-and-church-hire/

Beverly



*...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,
forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
gentleness and self-control. Against such things
there is no law.*

Galatians 5:22-23



PARISH PROFILE: CHARLES OKWONNA

Charles lives on Elmside with his wife Amara and their three children Favour, Eva and Ivy. He's been a member of All Saints for about 18 months now, having previously attended Guildford Cathedral for a while whilst living on Gill Avenue. Charles works for the NHS at Royal Surrey County Hospital.

Tell us what brought you to All Saints

After moving over to Elmside, I researched on the available options for a family-orientated church that offers an all inclusive worship and that was how my findings led me to All Saints Church. Being a confirmed Anglican from my home country, Nigeria, it was very easy for me and my family to settle into All Saints.

What do you value most about All Saints and its community?

I value the way everyone looks out for each other, as well as the genuine love and compassion. Every member of the community is welcomed with open arms. I also value the fact that there are varieties of fellowship services that fit into most people's desires.

Where do you like to spend time in Guildford?

I enjoy watching my girls play at "The Hive". I also love to just sit out in the open fields around the University of Surrey.

Three desert island discs?

- CeCe Winans: Goodness of God
- Kenny Rogers: Daytime Friends
- Bill & Gloria Gaither: Because He Lives

Favourite books and/or films?

- Dan Brown's Da Vinci Code
- The Indian film 'Three Idiots'
- The Titanic movie

Favourite meal?

Jollof rice with fried plantain – a Nigerian delicacy

Describe yourselves in three words

Committed, caring and curious

ANDY WELLS: MY JOURNEY SO FAR

Four years ago last month, I knew this was not enough.

I had just finished an occasional preachers course at St John's. I felt there was more I had to do. I had just decided to cut my hours at work and retire early. More time in the garden, extended holidays and a rest from 40 years in the insurance industry.

God graciously rescued me from this life of sin and I find myself writing this article in college at a retreat in Henley seven months away, with God's grace, from ordination as a curate at All Saints.

How did I get here?!

Well, back to the occasional preachers course. I felt there was more I had to do, as I mentioned. I had a chance two minute conversation with the course leader and found out there was such a thing as a self-supporting ordained minister. Perfect. Clearly not a chance conversation but God's plan.

I spoke to Beverly who kindly agreed to support me and I spent just over a year in discernment. This is a structured period of working out what God has called you to do. After passing a midway series of interviews, I was sent for a formal two-day assessment called a BAP (or Bishops' Advisory Panel) where delegates are assessed over two days and a report is sent to the bishop. This is accompanied by a further conversation with a separate bishop and the decision of whether to recommend for ordination training is taken.

I started training in 2023 and have just started my final year. I finish at the beginning of June and with God's grace, will be ordained on 28th June 2026 at Guildford Cathedral.

Training takes up 15 to 20 hours per week studying, plus three weekend residential courses a year and three study Saturdays. The training is formalised under the framework of Durham University with assignments set to degree level. After three years you attain a Higher Certificate of Education in Theology and can carry on to complete their theology de-

gree over the next two years, which I hope to do.

The course is, as you can imagine, hugely formational in how you develop your relationship with God and transform into being one of Christ's disciples. I look out across the congregation, now, and see everyone there as a person I look after and care for, even if I've known them for 20 years! The course teaches Bible studies, evangelism and mission, pastoral care, spirituality, preaching, Christian doctrine, multi-faith, reflective practice, worship and mental health. I cannot believe how much I've learnt. Last year students spent 50 hours working in chaplaincy roles. I chose to work at Surrey University and one year later am part of the chaplaincy team staff - something I am really proud of. It's a real actionable discipleship in the community. I never would have thought I'd be doing that a couple of years ago. It just goes to show you how God has a plan for everyone's life!

The third year of training is quite an intense one. This year, we are learning in depth analysis and understanding of the Old and New Testament and church doctrine. Next January to March I will be working at another local church before returning to All Saints at Easter. I'll also be bringing together my sermon portfolio and writing reflectively upon my time at another church and how it differs and compares to All Saints. Then in January, I'll be doing something that makes this very real - ordering my clergy shirts and robes.

Well, this afternoon at college, we're discussing Christology (the person that is Christ), the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit as one yet distinctive) and theological anthropology (humanity in the light of Christ). Phew!



Best wishes,
Andy
Ordinand, All Saints, Guildford

BIG BUILD UPDATE



It has been another month of waiting for a decision to be made by GBC on our planning application. We are hoping that a favourable verdict will emerge in early December. We are not able to make bids for grants until we receive GBC's findings nor are architects happy to start making any detailed construction drawings.

We have been busy deciding which of three architects will be engaged to help us through the next design stages of our project. We met with Symbiosis who would operate with Bijou Harding as their consultant. After a face to face on-site meeting with them, the steering group decided that we should proceed with Symbiosis and this will be confirmed at the next meeting of the PCC. Symbiosis stressed to us that before we put out a tender for the work we must make sure we have decided on all the materials, colours and form of heating we would like to be used.

On the funding side, the sale of 6 Thorn Bank is proceeding with a completion possibly before Christmas. As 2025 ends we would like to thank everyone who has kindly donated to the Big Build. We hope that it will not be too long before you see some work starting.

Robin Holdsworth

Vivace Chorus and Rotary in Guildford present

The Mayor of Guildford's Christmas Concert

in aid of The Mayor's Local Support Fund

Sunday 14th December, 7pm

Holy Trinity Church

Mixture of traditional and contemporary carols sung by the choir, along with your favourite audience carols.

See vivacechorus.org for tickets and more information

All Saints' HEAR HERE CLINIC



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Vicarage Gate
Guildford
GU2 7QJ

Provided by NHS
trained volunteers.

Re-tubing and
battery replacement,
*NHS supplied
hearing aids only.*

MONTHLY
Third Monday
of the month
2pm-3pm

*(no December
clinic)*

January 19th

February 16th

March 16th

April 20th

May 18th

June 15th

**No need to book,
just drop in for
FREE hearing aid
maintenance,
battery changes
and advice**

For more information:

allsaintschurchgfd@gmail.com
01483 563713

ONslow VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB

We do not have a meeting in December so the next one to look forward to is on **21st January 2026**. The speaker will be Mark Saunders and the topic 'Gardening Naturally'. Mark Saunders is a very experienced speaker and has given excellent talks to the Club on several previous occasions. This will be a way of getting us all back into thinking how we garden in the New Year. Do please join us in January.

Anne Bradbeer



St Nicolas Church

Bury Street
Guildford, GU2 4AW
Monday to Saturday
10am - 4pm

You can also find us online
www.cardsforcharity.co.uk



THE NATIVITY PLAY

A Christmas poem, by Cynthia “Trixie” Tuck

The Nativity play at the infant school! Justin wants a part that is really cool - a king perhaps, with a crown of gold and a flowing cloak which would make him feel bold.

But then Joseph was an important part and he was there in the story, right from the start. Or he could be narrator – he’d read well and loud. He knows that his parents would feel really proud.

Now here’s Mrs Spriggs with a clipboard and frown.

‘I want everyone quiet and please all sit down... because I have very important things to say, all about our Nativity play.

‘I’d like Tarquin to be Joseph and Sharon to be Mary. Annabelle and Freddie will both read the story. Aziz and Ezekiel – you will be kings, and king number three will be Su-Shin Lee.

‘I’ll want shepherds and angels and cows and stars – and this year the wise men are coming from Mars!’

How are they coming? ‘By rocket of course! They can’t come from space arriving on a horse!’

Justin’s hand shoots up in the air. ‘Miss what about my part? All this is not fair!’

‘Justin, of course you have not been left out – you are the innkeeper, mean and stout.’

When Justin gets home he cries to his mother ‘The innkeeper, that’s a rotten part – I want another! All the innkeeper does is stand there and say, “No room, No room, please go away!”

‘But Justin, dear,’ his mother says sweetly, ‘if that hadn’t been said, it would have changed history. It’s a very special part to play, so that Jesus was born in a stable and out of danger’s way’.

But Justin says, ‘They’ll be sorry, you’ll see, for giving the most boring part to me.’

The day arrives for the great performance, relations gather – a captive audience
Of mothers and fathers and grandparents too. All of them hoping to get a good view
Of their special darlings pulling their heartstrings as angels and shepherds, as sheep or as kings.

The narrator starts reading, tea-towelled shepherds asleep, as soft toys various pretend to be sheep.
Wayne, (Angel Gabriel) is draped in a sheet and stars haphazardly start to peep.
Then Mary and Joseph wobble along on the donkey (PE teacher wrapped in a blanket)
And arrive at the inn, where Justin is standing. ‘Have you a room, Sir?’ Joseph is pleading.

Justin, a master of improvisation, says, without any hesitation,
‘Yes, yes, I have plenty of room, please come this way, I have one all ready for you to stay!’

The audience gasps, so does Mrs Spriggs, and Mary herself begins to weep,
‘But the baby has got to go in the manger – my dolly’s already there fast asleep!’
The jovial innkeeper grins and says ‘you don’t want a stable, you’d be much better in a bed’.

From then on everything descends into chaos. Nobody knows what to do next.
The scenery shakes, the shepherds start fighting and the narrator has lost the text.
A rocket arrives on top of the donkey and three wise men come tumbling out.
The P.E. teacher can’t get out of his blanket and then in panic begins to shout.

The three wise men lose all their wisdom and become completely confused.
So do the kings and angels with wings, wafting about extremely bemused.

The audience are laughing until they are crying. 'Best Nativity yet' they are all saying.

Forgetting the rules of no photograph taking, cameras are out, clicking and flashing.

In the next local paper the headline reads, 'Nativity Chaos at Infant School'. And there in the photo, right in the middle, Justin stands grinning and looking SO cool.



Guildford Travel Club

travel for travel's sake

Tuesday 2nd December: Andrew Eames will be giving a two-part talk; first an account of following in the surprising footsteps of Agatha Christie: The 8.55 to Baghdad and then down the Danube in the wake of Patrick Leigh Fermor.

Tuesday 16th December: John Beatty will share his most recent images and stories from worldwide wild adventures and show the everyday visible motions and designs of the earth.

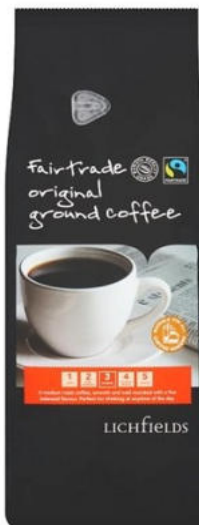
Talks held at Onslow Village Hall, GU2 7QR at 8pm. **Visit:** www.guildfordtravelclub.org.uk for our full programme.

Contact our membership secretary, **Barry Nelson** on **07789 202720** or email: info@guildfordtravelclub.org.uk if you wish to join the club or attend as a visitor.



THE MAGAZINE TEAM REVIEWS FAIRTRADE...

Lichfields Fairtrade Original Coffee



This is the coffee that we buy to serve after our 10am Sunday services. We commit to buy Fairtrade for all our tea and coffee supplies. Buying these 1kg bags also helps us to reduce the amount of waste. As for the coffee...we think it tastes pretty good! As we're making it in a filter machine, the strength can be adjusted to taste – in fact, you may notice a difference Sunday by Sunday as different members of the team take their turn in brewing! It has a strength of 3, meaning that it's a medium roast, so hopefully will appeal to all of our coffee drinkers. We think it's a smooth coffee and mellow, with no bitterness. This coffee is sourced from smallholder farmers in central and South America and Vietnam.

We buy this coffee from Bookers (at £14.49/kg) as the church has an account there, but it can also be found online. Come and try it after church – and if you'd like to help brew it, we'd love to have you as part of the team - just speak to Eve Gunn.

Sainsbury's Fairtrade Decaff House Blend



This is our decaff alternative on a Sunday morning. We always brew a jug of decaf to have alongside the caffeinated. Again, this has a strength of 3, to suit everyone. The beans are arabica and grown at high altitude, producing a soft, balanced flavour. We think it has a good depth of flavour and is strong enough to provide a pick-you-up even without the caffeine!

The price is good too (always important for us) at £3.50/bag (£1.54/100g)

Cafedirect Macchu Picchu



This is the coffee to be found in Eve and Trish's coffee pot. They both enjoy a strong coffee and so a number 4 (or even 5) is what's needed! The Machu Picchu has a full flavour with no harsh undertones - it's nice and smooth.

Café Direct has a few different blends, and is definitely worth a try. The Machu Picchu is around £5.95/bag (£2.98/100g)

Coop Italian Style



This is pretty good value at £3.45 a bag (£1.73/100g), and if you live at the eastern end of the parish, it can be bought at the Madrid Road Co-op.

It's medium strong with a lovely chocolatey aroma. Not sure what the 'Italian Style' branding really means - possibly best served with biscotti!

Coop has been a supporter of Fairtrade since 1994, with 100% Fairtrade commitments for its own-brand coffee, tea, bagged sugar and bananas amongst other products.

Fairtrade ensures decent working conditions, fair prices and sustainable working practices for workers and farmers in developing countries. So, you may expect to pay a little more, but we hope you agree that it's a very worthwhile movement.

Next month: the team taste tests Fairtrade chocolate!

CHRISTMAS AT ALL SAINTS



Christingle

Sunday 7th December

Café-style
Altogether Worship
10am

Tea-time Church
4pm



Nine Lessons & Carols

Sunday 14th December
at 6pm



MORNING WORSHIP & NATIVITY

Sunday 21st December
at 10am



Crib Service

Wednesday
24th December
at 4pm

Christmas Day
BCP Communion
8.00am



Christmas Day

All-Age Communion
10.00am





A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO CHRISTMAS

Our Eco-Tip this month is also a book review. The book is called 'Dreaming of a Green Christmas' and is written by Olivia Warburton.

Wouldn't it be great if we could make Christmas greener, less wasteful, less stressful, more enjoyable, and with more space to focus on what it's really all about? Written for families to work through, Olivia Warburton's *Dreaming of a Green Christmas* is an essential companion as you prepare for the festive season.

With 111 practical eco-tips to select from, you'll find inspiration and encouragement, with pauses in the busyness for moments of biblical reflection that speak of God's love for his creation – people and planet. Olivia leads her local church's eco-group and believes that everyone can make a difference to help our world flourish, however tiny our efforts may seem.

'I wanted to give families a tool kit for approaching Christmas differently', she says, 'and to show that Christmas doesn't have to be expensive and wasteful, as well as hopefully removing some of the stress. My aim was to enable people to make choices they are happier with and give the context for why it's a biblical principle to try to look after the world God has given us'.

Here's a taster of what the book has to offer:

Advent calendars

Create a 'reverse Advent calendar': each day through Advent, put a food item aside in a box and then donate it all to a local food bank. You may want to finish this earlier than Christmas Day, as donating before Christmas will be appreciated by those who can't afford treats or even essentials.)



Decorations

Make your own decorations from recyclable materials, such as dried orange slice ornaments, sticks of cinnamon, loo roll fairies or giant paper snowflakes. Turn scrap paper into paper chains. Foraged materials like pine cones and holly can be used for wreaths, which can then be recycled via the garden waste bin.

Trips and travelling

Think carefully about your travel plans over the Christmas season and whether every trip is essential. Are there any car journeys you could swap out, particularly short local ones?

Clothes

Dressing for the party season starts with 'shopping your wardrobe'. See exactly what you already have and whether you actually need anything else.'

Taken from an A Rocha communication



Guildford **Repair Café** *Throw it away? No way!*

Got a mower on the blink? Holes in your pockets? A lamp that doesn't work anymore?

Our talented volunteers offer free* help with small repairs

The Hive, Park Barn Drive, Guildford, Surrey GU2 8EN



2025 Dates

3rd Saturday of every month 10am – 12 noon
come early to ensure time for your repair

18 January	17 May	20 September
15 February	21 June	18 October
15 March	19 July	15 November
19 April	16 August	20 December

Enjoy a coffee and a sweet treat, meet others, share ideas and be inspired

***donations welcome**



Guildford repair café



[guildford.repair.cafe](https://www.instagram.com/guildford.repair.cafe)

Repair.cafe.guildford@gmail.com

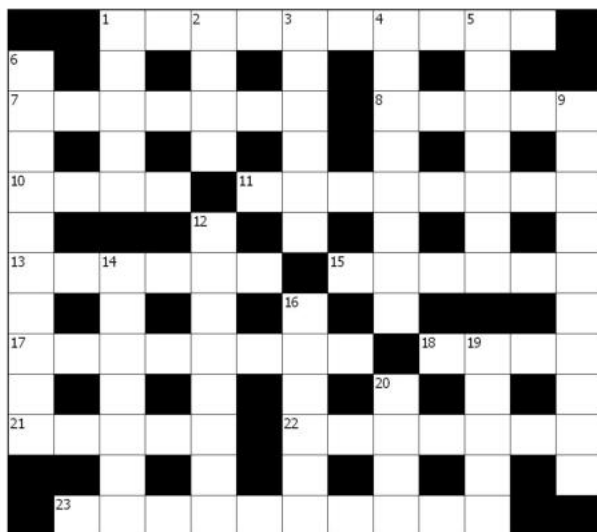
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GUILDFORD
BOROUGH



PUZZLE PAGE



CROSSWORD

Answers on page 30

Across

- 1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)
- 7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14,15) (7)
- 8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5)
- 10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)
- 11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)
- 13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6)
- 15 First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith (6)
- 17 Stormy (8)
- 18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone unclean (Numbers 9:11) (4)
- 21 Arson (anag.) (5)
- 22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7)
- 23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

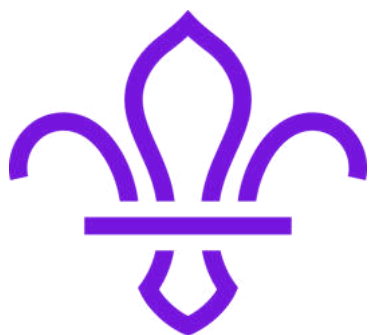
Down

- 1 and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8) (5)
- 2 The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as ... as a lion (Proverbs 28:1) (4)
- 3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)
- 4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1 Samuel 22:19,20) (8)
- 5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)
- 6 Offer your bodies as living , holy and pleasing to God (Romans 12:1) (10)
- 9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)
- 12 One who accepts government by God (8)
- 14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1) (7)
- 16 He asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' (John 18:38) (6)
- 19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)
- 20 You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will ... his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21) (4)

SUDOKU

Solution on page 42

	5					3	7	
			2	7	6			
7					1			
2		3		1				
		7				6		
				3		4		5
			1					9
			5	9	4			
	6	2					1	



5TH GUILDFORD SCOUT GROUP NEEDS YOU!

5th Guildford Scout Group is currently formed of three sections: Cubs (8-10½), Scouts (10½-14), and a recently reinvigorated Beavers (6-8). There is an ambition to start a Squirrels section (4-6)...Watch this space for further news.

All three sections are vibrant and lively, led by an enthusiastic team of leaders and supported by parents volunteering on a weekly basis.

So why do we need YOU? As a charity, the Group needs a Board of Trustees to help ensure that our young people stay safe in a sustainably run, legally compliant, fun place to grow and gain skills. At the moment our Board of Trustees consists of just three people and we would really welcome your support. If you can spare a few hours a month to help with the background administration, scrutiny, and oversight that the trustees provide, please drop me a line to find out more about what is involved.

David Jesson, Chair of Trustees, 5th Guildford Scout Group
5th.guildford.trustees@gmail.com

Crossword answers (grid on page 28)

ACROSS: 1, Tabernacle. 7, Absalom. 8, Incas. 10, Roes. 11, Captured. 13, Fright. 15, Cavell. 17, Cyclonic. 18, Herb. 21, Sonar. 22, Amazing. 23, Settlement.

DOWN: 1, Taste. 2, Bold. 3, Ramiah. 4, Abiathar. 5, Lucerne. 6, Sacrifices. 9, Saddlebags. 12, Theocrat. 14, Incense. 16, Pilate. 19, Exist. 20, Save.

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Guildford Sunset Homes is a small, well-respected charitable trust based in Merrow, near Guildford, registered under the Communities and Societies Benefits Act of 2014.

Providing 87 social rent apartments for retired individuals of limited means from the local area, the estate features a converted Grade II listed Manor House and several purpose-built apartment blocks set within peaceful and well-maintained grounds.

We are currently seeking a new Trustee to join our friendly and dedicated Board. If you have experience in housing associations, the charity or property sectors, and you are passionate about giving back to your community, we'd love to hear from you.

What You Can Expect:

- A voluntary, unremunerated position perfect for someone local
- Around six board meetings per year
- The opportunity to help guide the development and direction of a thriving retirement community
- Work alongside a supportive team and professional estate management company ELM Group, who employ two members of staff to take care of the day to day running of the Estate.

This is an exciting time to join a friendly and well-reputed charitable organisation as we continue to develop and improve the estate for residents.

Interested in making a difference?

Please contact Lorraine Collis, Company Secretary at **01252 356004** or **lcollis@elmgroup.org.uk**

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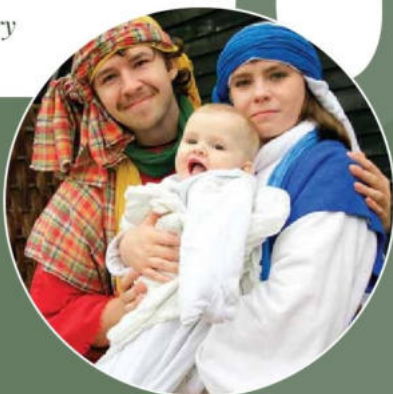
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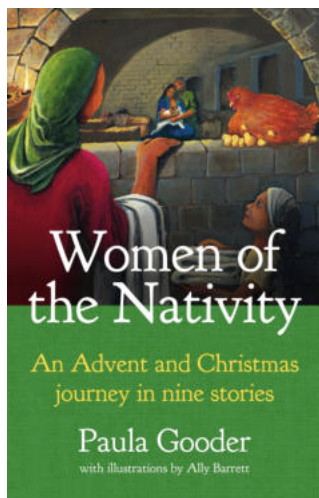
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Women of the Nativity – an Advent and Christmas Journey in Nine Stories

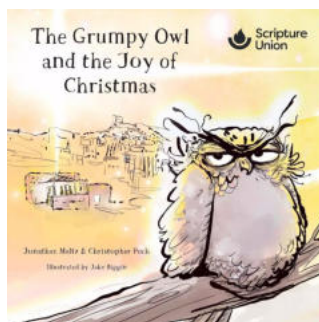
By Paula Gooder, CHP, £9.89

Following on from her bestselling *Women of Holy Week*, Paula Gooder uses her extensive biblical expertise and storytelling skills to recreate the events of the nativity, from the promise of a future people to Sarah, to the presentation in the temple and the encounter with Anna, the prophet.

The story is told from the perspective of nine women in all including Mary, Elizabeth, Rachel, and others whom scripture records or tradition

has imagined, such as the innkeeper's wife. As we hear the familiar stories afresh through their words, the wonder of the incarnation and its consequences for good and for ill, come to vivid life in a new way.

Each story is accompanied by a painting by the priest-artist, Ally Barrett. This will be widely welcomed by all who love Paula's writing and respect her biblical expertise as well as those looking for fresh inspiration for seasonal services from Advent to Candlemas.



The Grumpy Owl and the Joy of Christmas

By Jonathan Maltz and Christopher Poch, CHP, £5.49

Here is a beautifully illustrated children's Nativity story told from the unusual angle of a grumpy owl who lived in a little old empty barn in Bethlehem. When a man, a woman and their donkey burst into his barn, making a lot of noise, the grumpy owl decides to fly away to

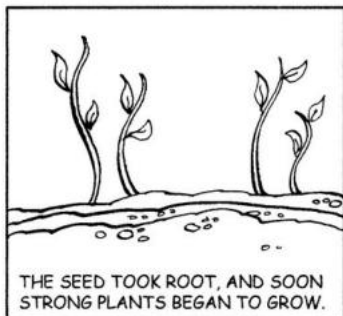
somewhere quiet where he can be grumpy in peace. But can he find such a place, or will he return to his barn in time for a big, not-at-all grumpy, surprise?

The tale of the Wheat and the Weeds

JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS

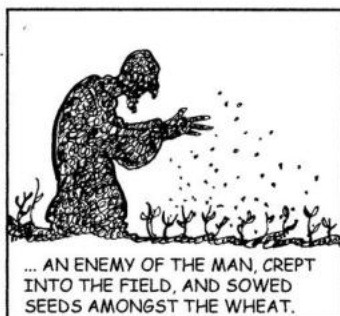
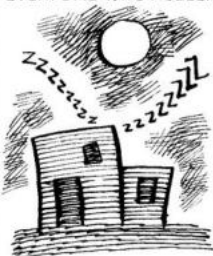


ONE WAS ABOUT A MAN WHO SOWED SEED IN HIS FIELD.

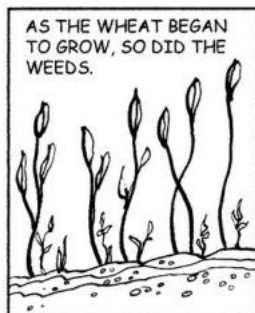


THE SEED TOOK ROOT, AND SOON STRONG PLANTS BEGAN TO GROW.

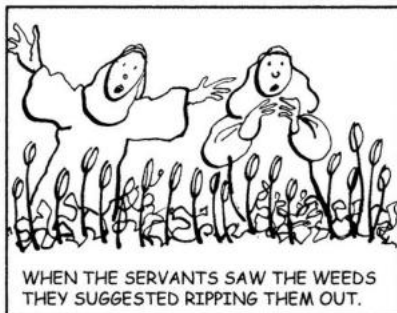
BUT ONE NIGHT, WHEN EVERYONE WAS ASLEEP...



... AN ENEMY OF THE MAN, CREPT INTO THE FIELD, AND SOWED SEEDS AMONGST THE WHEAT.



AS THE WHEAT BEGAN TO GROW, SO DID THE WEEDS.



WHEN THE SERVANTS SAW THE WEEDS THEY SUGGESTED RIPPING THEM OUT.



NO, LET'S LEAVE THEM UNTIL HARVEST TIME!



IF YOU PULL THEM UP NOW, YOU MIGHT KILL THE WHEAT TOO. WE'LL SORT THEM OUT AT HARVEST.



WHEN THE WHEAT WAS READY, IT WAS HARVESTED INTO HUGE BUNDLES.



BUT THE WEEDS WERE BURNED IN A LARGE FIRE.

THE PARABLE TELLS US THAT ALTHOUGH WE LIVE ALONGSIDE BADNESS, WE CAN KEEP SEPARATE FROM IT.

WORSHIP AND READINGS

2025	8am	10am	4pm
7 th December, Advent 2	Holy Communion Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-13 and Matthew 3:1-12	Altogether Worship (Christingle) Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-13 and Matthew 3:1-12	Tea Time Church (Christingle) Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-13 and Matthew 3:1-12
14 th December, Advent 3		Church Family Communion with Children's Church Isaiah 35:1-10, James 5:7-10 and Matthew 11:2-11	6pm Nine Lessons and Carols
21 st December, Advent 4	BCP Communion Isaiah 7:10-16, Romans 1:1-7 and Matthew 1:18-25	Morning Worship + Nativity Isaiah 7:10-16, Romans 1:1-7 and Matthew 1:18-25	Tea Time Church Christmas activities: Jo Dwyer Isaiah 7:10-16, Romans 1:1-7 and Matthew 1:18-25
<i>Wednesday 24th December, Christmas Eve</i>			4pm Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Mass at the Cathedral (and not at All Saints)

WORSHIP AND READINGS CONT.

2025	8am	10am	4pm
Thursday 25 th December, <i>Christmas Day</i>	BCP Communion Isaiah 9:2-7, Titus 2:11-14 and Luke 2:1-14(15-20)	All Age Communion Isaiah 9:2-7, Titus 2:11-14 and Luke 2:1-14(15-20)	
28 th December, First Sunday of Christmas		Church Family Communion Isaiah 63:1-5, He- brews 2:10-18 and Matthew 2:13-23	No Tea Time Church

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Wednesday 3rd, 7.45pm	Sharing & Learning Group
Friday 5th, 10.00am	Baby & Toddler Group
Saturday 6th, 10.00am	Band Rehearsal
Sunday 7th, 5.30pm	Youth Group
Monday 8th, 10.00am	Small Group Leaders Meeting
Monday 8th, 12.30pm	Women's Bible Study Group
Monday 8th, 4.00pm	Barnabas Group
Tuesday 9th, 6.30pm	Carol Singing with the Guides
Wednesday 10th, 10.30am	Men's Coffee Morning
Wednesday 10th, 12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch Group
Wednesday 10th, 7.30pm	Standing Committee Meeting
Thursday 11th, 7.30pm	Big Build Team Meeting
Thursday 11th, 8.00pm	Men's Group - 'Exploring the Way'
Friday 12th 10.00am	Baby & Toddler Group
Friday 12th 3.00pm	Friday Group
Saturday 13th, 9.00am	Prayer Breakfast
Monday 15th, 10.00am	Finance Vision Group
Monday 15th, 12.30pm	Women's Bible Study Group
Tuesday 16th, 7.30pm	Altogether Worship Planning
Wednesday 17th, 2.30pm	Dray Court Service
Wednesday 17th, 7.45pm	Sharing & Learning Group
Friday 19th, 10.00am	Baby & Toddler Group
Wednesday 19th, 7.45pm	Sharing & Learning Group
Friday 21st, 10.00am	Baby & Toddler Group



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Grid on page 29

1	5	6	9	4	8	3	7	2
3	9	4	2	7	6	1	5	8
7	2	8	3	5	1	9	4	6
2	4	3	6	1	5	8	9	7
5	8	7	4	2	9	6	3	1
6	1	9	8	3	7	4	2	5
4	3	5	1	6	2	7	8	9
8	7	1	5	9	4	2	6	3
9	6	2	7	8	3	5	1	4

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