

ST JOHN'S MERROW
A Caring Christian Community,
here for everyone
PARISH MAGAZINE
April 2025



Price: 60p

Welcome to carefree living at Roundhay

Live an independent life,

with the support of a House Manager, in the heart of Guildford

- Assisted living rooms & flat-lets
- Delicious home cooked meals
- Friendly community
- Beautiful gardens
- Trips and activities
- One all inclusive monthly rent / no other bills



Call our customer service line to find out more about living in this wonderful community

01252 979111

or visit **www.awvs.org.uk**

**Availability
now...**

***Guildford's local Charity
Improving the lives of older people***

Roundhay, 3 Pit Farm Road , Guildford, GU1 2JH

Registered Charity No: 1168173

Considering Volunteering?

Drivers needed for occasional local trips

Flexible on days - Mileage expenses paid

01483 566635



www.careforguildford.org.uk

Charity No: 274756

NJM (GUILDFORD) LTD

**Stationery ~ Print ~ Office Furniture
B&W and Colour photocopying**

Tel 01483 506161 Fax 01483 577823

MERROW C of E INFANT SCHOOL



SIAMS 2024: Good

To find out more and arrange a visit

infant@merrowfederation.school

01483 561501

www.merrowfederation.school

North Guildford Food Bank

We are very grateful for all donations – please leave items in the boxes in the Church porch.

F. CONISBEE & SON

Butchers & Farmers Est. 1760

**Beef, lamb & turkey from
our own farm
Own cure bacon and hams**

Park Corner, East Horsley 01483 282073

BACK PROBLEMS, STRESS?

*Try our Hatha Yoga class,
a gentle yoga which reaches
all parts of the body and
lays emphasis on
stretching and relaxing*

Mondays 10 - 11.30 am

Merrow Methodist Church Hall

Contact: Beverley Townsley

01372 459324

beverley.townsley@hotmail.com

J & M GARDEN MACHINERY Ltd

**LAWN MOWER REPAIRS,
SALES & SERVICE,
STOCKISTS OF
HAYTER*STIHL*KAWASAKI
ALKO**

**BIRTLEY ROAD
BRAMLEY, SURREY
TEL 01483 894855**



Connick Tree Care

Specialist in the Preservation & Maintenance of Trees

We offer the following services and would be happy to supply a free no obligation quotation:

*** Tree Surgery * Tree Felling *
* Hedge Pruning * Stump Removal *
* Tree Consultancy ***

*16 Goldfinch Gardens, Merrow,
Guildford, Surrey, GU4 7DN
0800 975 4535*

Email: info@connicktreecare.co.uk

www.connicktreecare.co.uk



of Merrow, Guildford, Surrey

**Commercial and Domestic Wiring
Indoors and Outdoors**

**Specialists in
Electrical Wiring Testing
Free estimates**

**Fully insured with fully qualified
electricians carrying out the work**

Contact Warren Milton

Mobile: 07976 354293

Email: i2relectrical@sky.com



FUNERAL DIRECTORS & MEMORIAL STONEMASONS

OUR FAMILY HELPING YOUR FAMILY

For over 240 years, eight generations of the Lodge Family have been proud to help local families in their time of need. We provide all funerals, whether modern, traditional, green or alternative, with care and compassion.

BURPHAM

204 London Road 01483 615031

GUILDFORD

70 Woodbridge Road 01483 562780



Robert, Chris, Andrew & Michael Lodge



"The staff at Lodge Brothers have been sympathetic, understanding and supportive. They were with us every step of the way throughout a very difficult time." - Mr Robinson

Lodge
BROTHERS 1780
& Monk

Lodge
BROTHERS 1780
the family you can turn to

www.lodgebrothers.co.uk

FLORAL TRIBUTES • FUNERAL PLANS • WILLS & PROBATE



**FIRST
SESSION
FREE!**

Scan the code:



or email us:
**info@motivation
bymusic.com**

MbM Contemporary Gospel Choir

Embracing the **person** behind the voice

Merrow, Guildford, Godalming, Woking and At Home.
Daytime and evening sessions available.

Surrey's **vibrant** and **inclusive**
adult community choir!



@motivationbymusic
on socials

Led by inspiring **award-winning** Choir Leader and
Founder of Motivation by Music, **Emily Bollon**.

sit^{ec}it

Computer support

- Desktop and laptop repairs
- PCs & Mac sales and advice
- Increase speed & memory
- Email & gmail
- Home support
- Broadband & wifi
- Data backup and recovery
- Business support

Experts in Business

Broad oak Lodge, Horsham Road
Cranleigh Surrey GU6 8DJ

01483 806060 sitecit.co.uk

Twinkle toes

Mobile
Foot Care Clinic

- Ingrown & thickened nails
- Corns, calluses & verrucas
- Cracked heels & hard skin
- Fungal infections
- Athletes foot

• All in the comfort of your home •

Kirsten Hall MCFHP MAFHP
07592 853178
twinkletoesfeet@outlook.com

St John the Evangelist

Epsom Road, Merrow

www.saintjohns.org.uk



The Revd Tim Clifford Hill
Rector



Georgie Gregson
Youth Worker

A Caring Christian Community, here for everyone

St John's is open every day from 9.30am to 4pm. Please feel welcome to visit us. Warm Space in the Centre Foyer 10am to 2pm, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday during the winter months.

Sunday services are listed on Page 2.

Services during the week:

Morning Prayer Monday to Thursday at 9.00am in Church.

Holy Communion on Wednesdays at 10.30am in the Merrow Hall, St John's Centre.

Evening Prayer on Fridays at 5.00pm in Church.

All are welcome.

April 2025 Sunday Services (Year C)

Sunday 6th April

5th Sunday of Lent, Purple or Lent Array

Philippians 3.4b-14, John 12.1-8

8am BCP Holy Communion

10am All Age Worship

Sunday 13th April

Palm Sunday, Red

Luke 19.28-40

8am BCP Holy Communion

10am CW Holy Communion

Sunday 20th April

Easter Day, Gold or White

Acts 10.34-43, Luke 24.1-12

8am BCP Holy Communion

10am All Age Communion

Sunday 27th April

2nd Sunday of Easter, White

Acts 5.27-32, John 20.19-end

8am BCP Holy Communion

10am CW Holy Communion

Sunday 4th May

3rd Sunday of Easter, White

Acts 9.1-6[7-20], John 21.1-19

8am BCP Holy Communion

10am All Age Worship

Letter from the Youth Worker's Office

Spring has Sprung! Welcome to the April edition of the Parish Magazine!

There is a feeling of change in the air as we move from one season to the next. From the dark, cold, bare months of winter, April brings light, warmth and life. The bulbs, planted by the Green Team last October, start to bloom, the grass (now in need of a jolly good mow) is growing fast. At our house we have seen, or more accurately, heard, the return of our resident house sparrow, "Shouting Joe Feathers". Whose return, it must be said, is not always welcome at 4:00am but he certainly heralds the beginning of spring! A season full of new life has begun.

It is the same here at St John's. As we come to the end of the season of Lent, a time of self-discipline, fasting and stripping things back, we move toward the Season of Easter and celebration! Easter, a time of transformation, change and joy! We celebrate Jesus' victory over death and the hope of new life through him.

One of the activities we did with the Year 2s, from Merrow Infants, on their Lent retreat at Wintershall, was to ask them to draw on a stone. On one side a simple black cross to remember the sad events of Good Friday, on the other something that brings them immense joy (everything from family to holidays, sunshine to chocolate) to remember the joy of Easter Sunday. Then we asked them to separate the two sides of the stone.... And oh boy did they try! But no matter how hard they tried they could not break that stone in two. We cannot have the joy of Easter without the sadness of Good Friday. So come along this Holy Week and join us as we walk the events of that last week of Jesus's life.

On Palm Sunday, we begin Holy Week with Sam the donkey coming to church to remember Jesus riding in to Jerusalem greeted by great crowds. Following this we have a service each day, up until Good Friday, so that you can really experience the Easter Story with us. Then on Good Friday, a solemn day, we have a Family Service in the morning followed by hot cross buns and our Good Friday Liturgy in the afternoon.

Finally, on Easter Sunday, come and celebrate with us! We will be getting out the Alleluias which we hid at the beginning of Lent (if I can remember where I hid them!) and the 10:00 service will be followed by an Easter egg hunt in the churchyard. We hope to see you there to celebrate this season of new life! See our Holy Week poster for more details on all our services – on Page 9 and on the church noticeboards.

Georgie

Parish Pilgrimage to Winchester Cathedral Saturday 10th May

Our Parish Pilgrimage to Winchester Cathedral on 10th May will give us an opportunity to spend time together in worship, prayer and fellowship in the historic surroundings of Winchester Cathedral.

The day will be led by our own Revd Tim Clifford Hill and includes a private tour of the cathedral, a Pilgrim's Mass and lunch at the cathedral. In the afternoon we can either spend time in reflection in the cathedral or explore this most historic and ancient city. We shall then join in Choral Evensong in the cathedral before returning to Guildford.

The itinerary will be:

10.00 – Depart St John's Centre by executive coach

12.00 - Pilgrim Mass in the Lady Chapel followed by lunch and an afternoon tour of the cathedral

15.00 – free time followed by Choral Evensong

18.30 – Depart for home (estimated arrival time 19.45)

The cost per head will be £44 which includes executive coach travel, a quality lunch, cathedral tour and gratuities. Help with the cost is available if required – see the Rector. Bookings will open in early April.

Everyone is invited to join us for what promises to be a wonderful and enlightening day of pilgrimage to Winchester Cathedral. So Watch this Space.

With good wishes

The Parish Pilgrimage Team

St John's Electoral Roll – preparation of a new Roll in 2025

Every church in the Church of England is obliged to have an Electoral Roll which is a register of people who are able to elect other people in the church. This is reviewed every year and the updated Roll published before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) which will be in May 2025.

Every six years a completely new roll is prepared where every person who wishes to have his or her name entered on the new Roll, **whether it is entered on the present Roll or not**, is requested to apply for enrolment.

I shall be contacting current members from the end of March with a form to fill in and information on how and when to return it.

If you are not currently on the Electoral Roll and would like to join, you can do so at any time by filling in your details on the form that is on the website <https://www.saintjohns.org.uk/community-growing-faith/electoral-roll> or e-mail me, Carole Burtonwood, at carole.burtonwood@saintjohns.org.uk and I'll gladly send you a form and answer any questions you may have.

Why join?

Being entered on the Electoral Roll shows commitment to St John's and the wonderful people who make up our church community. The Roll itself demonstrates the strength of this community and enables members to take a full part in and vote at the Annual Meeting, to be involved in any necessary decision-making and stand for various positions such as member of the PCC and sidesperson. The Roll is voluntary and confidential and not open to general scrutiny.

Carole Burtonwood - Electoral Roll Officer

Thank you very much to Chantries & Pewleys for sponsoring our colour cover again this year and to Jane Stevenson for taking the photograph.



View from the Pews

I was sat in a different sort of pew on Shrove Tuesday - in the Centre Pancake Party, 200 pancakes served to an absolute horde of youngsters, most in their early to mid-teens. I felt dinosaurian. In one way. But uplifted in another.

Two thoughts crossed my mind. At the same time. As a chocolate and maple syrup pancake crossed my lips.

The first: thank God that the future of Christianity and His church was here amongst the youngsters present that day. We oldies must stop bemoaning the oft heralded Death of the Church – it was here in the pancake eating crowd for us to recognise and to do something about; to welcome and embrace and not to keep looking backwards to some mythical golden age we think we remember from years ago.

The second was to thank God that we oldies, some 27 years ago, did look to the future and what St John's role might be. It would be 25 years ago come October that the wrecking ball took its first swing at demolishing the old church hall. Which means that, as you read this, it is coming up to 24 years since the first community event graced the new building. What did the Bishop say when he opened the place? Three things. It should speak to the wonder and majesty of God. And a welcome for all in the community. And a place from which we move the message out into the community.

I decided to have a second pancake. Chocolate and banana this time. I reflected - hold the two thoughts together and we have a good foundation for the future. With God's help that is.

RAA



Christian Aid Week 2025 – 11th-17th May

What is Christian Aid doing in their 80th anniversary year?

Christian Aid has been fighting poverty and injustice for eighty years and this year is focusing on Guatemala in Central America.

There the climate crisis is killing Amelia's precious crops. She relies on the land to feed her eight-year-old son, Lázaro, and four-year-old daughter, Yakelin.

Amelia says: 'I worry about what my children will eat.'

A river passes through Amelia's farm, but deadly heatwaves are causing it to run dangerously low. Both communities and crops stand to lose life-giving water.

The cruel injustice is that Indigenous communities like Amelia's have done the least to cause the climate crisis, yet they endure its impact the most. As their farms are devastated, the search for solutions becomes critical: 'With high heat, there is little we can do but adapt.'



Amelia's hopeful that she can combat extreme weather by changing the way she farms. With the support of specialist training from Christian Aid partner, Congcoop, Amelia's planting resilient crops, conserving water and making fertiliser.

Amelia's also a leader in her community, sharing her knowledge with other households, so that one day, no family will worry about their children going without food. This is the unstoppable power of Amelia's hope in action.

Amelia and her daughter
Yakelin

With 7 days to make a difference, every gift, act and prayer counts.

Will you demonstrate the unstoppable power of hope and help fund vital tools and training, so farmers like Amelia can push back against the climate crisis and beat hunger?

- £6 could pay for the seed trays that kickstart a plant nursery at someone's home.
- £10 could pay for the pruning scissors that mean a farmer can care for their cacao trees.
- £20 could buy two pounds of climate resilient seeds that diversify a family's crop.

What can we do?

We'll be having a collection for Christian Aid in church on 11th May and we'll also have a St Johns e-envelope as usual to give directly to the Christian Aid website. Look out for more information in May's magazine and in church.

Sara England

Anna's Running the London Marathon on April 27th

For those of you that remember me, I am running the London Marathon this year, raising funds for Breast Cancer Now. Many of you will know that I have fought this disease twice and won both times. I'd be so grateful for any sponsorship. I have an online page that you can donate on: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/anna-collins-1718647417198>

Alternatively, if it is easier, please give the cash to Mum, Diana Matthews. Thank you so much in advance.
Best wishes and thanks,

Anna x



St. John the Evangelist
Merrow

Holy Week 2025

St. John's, Merrow

Palm Sunday - 13th April

8am Holy Communion BCP

10am Palm Sunday Liturgy

Monday of Holy Week - 14th

7pm Compline

Tuesday of Holy Week - 15th

7pm Compline

Spy Wednesday - 16th

7pm Compline

Maundy Thursday - 17th

8pm Maundy Thursday Liturgy

Good Friday - 18th

10.30am Family Service

2pm Good Friday Liturgy

Holy Saturday - 19th

8pm Easter Ceremonies

Easter Day - 20th

8am Holy Communion BCP

10am All Age Eucharist

followed by our Egg Hunt in the Church Yard



This is our third monthly report on the three Charities of the Year supported by St John's. This month we focus on the international dimension and our support of Compassion UK.

This is the UK arm of the worldwide Compassion charity, an avowedly Christian organisation helping disadvantaged children around the world through individual sponsorship, along with childcare initiatives such as clean water, health treatments, pre and post-natal care and education resources. Working solely through partnerships with UK and overseas churches it enables Christians in the UK to help directly those in most need without having to navigate the problems of working through government agencies and bureaucratic bodies.

We support Compassion specifically in Haiti, a Caribbean country of some 12 million people, which is still suffering from the disastrous earthquake in 2010; a devastating hurricane in 2016; and lately a gang-launched insurrection which toppled the government. Haiti is the poorest country in Latin America and the Caribbean with more than six in ten people living in poverty.

Since 1968, Compassion has helped nearly **127,000** Haitian children through some 350 church partners. This is especially important as families must cover the cost of education. Most schools in the country are run by religious and not for profit organisations and charge only a small fee. But with the cost of transport, books, and the mandatory uniform, many Haitians just can't afford to send their children to school.

St John's helps with prayer and cash donations and a number of our church members sponsor individual Haitian children.

(<https://www.compassionuk.org>)

The Stewardship and Giving Team

Help wanted with the Parish Magazine

We are looking for more people to get involved with producing the Parish Magazine. The magazine is a focal point for information about our activities and makes a healthy profit for church funds. We currently need two more guest editors and an advertisements manager.

Guest editor

The guest editors generally produce two issues of the magazine a year. They are sent a document template with the magazine cover, adverts and regular pages already inserted. They then insert articles from both regular and occasional contributors and are free to add anything of particular interest to them. After proof-reading they send the completed copy to the printers.

Advertisements manager

- responds to new requests for advertising and liaises with the advertisers to help them prepare their copy if necessary.
- uses Microsoft Word to insert, move around and delete adverts as required into the existing magazine template.
- invoices advertisers when their advert has appeared and issues repeat invoices to regular advertisers once a year. This has been done manually up to now by email but the church has just bought new bookkeeping software which the adverts manager will be able to use in future.
- checks with the treasurer that payments have been received. This will happen automatically with the new system.
- thanks advertisers for paying.
- each month gets the template ready for the guest editor by adding a cover photograph kindly supplied by Jane Stevenson and updating the regular text if necessary.

We would be very happy to tell you more. Speak to Sara about being the advertisements manager. Ask Helen Chambers, Sara England, Frances Jewson, Chris Starr or Cathy Thompson about being a guest editor.

The magazine team (Rosanne Bond, Helen Chambers and Sara England)

Forthcoming Events (in the Centre unless mentioned otherwise)

April

Sat 5th Apr Church Yard Tidy Up 9.30am

Mon 7th Apr Men in Fellowship – Visit to Chichester Cathedral

Tues 8th Apr Green Team 4.30pm

Wed 9th Apr Lent Lunch 12noon

Sat 12th Apr Church Annual Spring Clean 9.30am-noon

Sun 13th Apr Sparks 5-11s group – during 10am service in church

Tues 22nd Apr Green Team 4.30pm

Sun 27th Apr Sparks 5-11s group – during 10am service in church

May

Sat 3rd May Church Yard Tidy Up 9.30am

Sat 10th May Pilgrimage to Winchester Cathedra

Spectacles recycling

Did you know that you can take any unwanted pairs of glasses to our local undertakers, James and Thomas, at the Merrow shops? James and Thomas are long-standing advertisers in this magazine.

They are collecting them on behalf of Guildford Lions. After sorting and grading, they are sent on to Third World countries where they can transform the lives of people and enable them to be educated, work and have productive lives.

Please note that they can't accept any cases – just the glasses.



Inter- Church is our new service for 2025.... "But what is it?", I hear you cry!

Inter-Church is a service that will be held once a month on a Sunday afternoon at 4:00 pm. So, what can you expect if you come to this service? It aims to be:

Inter- Active. We might have crafts, discussions, activities, hymns, action songs, prayer stations, challenges and interactive talks.

Inter- Generational We really want this to be a service that has something for everyone. A service where everyone can engage at different levels and experience it together; helping each other, crafting together, talking to each other, worshipping and praying together.



Inter-Connecting This service aims to give time and space for people from all ages and walks of life to get to know each other..... and there will always be a good chance for tea, coffee and cake at the end!

The service takes place all in church and each month will be a little different. This year our focus is FOR EVERYONE.

In March we had our first Inter- church where our theme was “A Journey for Everyone”. We prayed, sang hymns and songs, talked about what it is like being on a journey with God and how Lent is a journey. Then some made beautiful funky foam flip-flops saying “Walking with Jesus”, others made fridge magnets to remember that when we get a bit lost Jesus said He is the Way. Others hunted round the church for the different types of terrain they might encounter on their journey- the easy roads, the difficult mountains, the sticky situations of a muddy track. Others were invited to discuss and write messages of encouragement for those who were just starting out on their walk with God. Then we all came together in prayer and finished off with some delicious cakes and biscuits.

This service is going to be taking over from our Messy Church and looking to expand on the work that was done there. We would love for you to come along and see what you think. Usually, it will be the third Sunday of the month, but as usual Easter moving around has muddled things a little so here are our themes and dates for the rest of 2025. We hope to see you there!

27-Apr	New life for everyone
18-May	A place for everyone
15-Jun	Choices for everyone
20-Jul	Hope for everyone
17-Aug	Jesus for everyone
21-Sep	Joy for everyone
19-Oct	Time for everyone
16-Nov	Invitation for everyone





Answers to "A Flower Quiz" in the March magazine

- 1 Tulips
- 2 Daffodil
- 3 Bloom
- 4 Aster
- 5 Australia
- 6 Snapdragon
- 7 Yellow
- 8 Forget-Me-Not
- 9 Hydrangeas
- 10 Pink

St John's Men in Fellowship Walk Friday 21st February

Our latest MiF walk began and ended at Tilford, a picturesque village at the confluence of two tributaries of the Wey. As we set out under Martin Day's enthusiastic leadership, the going was slightly muddy but signs of the coming of spring were everywhere. Gradients were deceptively easy at first, but then tightened to an unremitting climb of 330 yards at 1 in 30 till we reached the first summit. Brakes on for a short, rather muddy descent then a gentler down-gradient emerging on to a road.

Onwards on more sandy terrain through a wood in a conservation area, past an artisan cheese atelier, then pressing on further till we arrived at the appointed location for the coffee break, next to a "bird hide" at Frensham Little Pond. Joe Bullock produced a fully working Thermos from nowhere and served us with superb coffee, accompanied by a full assortment of Family Circle biscuits.

We now had to tackle the highlight hazard of the trip: a multi-span plank bridge with the centre span soaring nearly 100 mm above the edge of a small body of shallow water. Thanks to the excellent coffee, however, all participants managed to cross it.

Next up, a well-appointed piggery on the right, swiftly followed on the left by a flock of sheep including a mother sheep, known to us only as "Z", and her two new lambs "Z1" and "Z2", their pink ears glowing in the grey late morning light.

Round the corner and Tilford came back into view, with the Barley Mow to welcome us. To our surprise and delight they had managed to complete a major renovation on time, so we were able to have our lunch indoors, which, it being February, had to be good news. Good food and even better conversation and, sadly, all too soon it was time to return to Merrow.

Merrow Infants Lent Retreat

In my other work, with Wintershall, one of the things I do is help with their education programme. We run Advent and Lent workshops, as well as leavers and staff retreat days. So, it was really special to be able to bring my St John's work and the work I do at Wintershall together recently!

The Year 2 children from Merrow Infants came along on Tuesday 18th April to take part in a Lent retreat day. A time for them to retreat from their daily lives and spend time thinking and wondering about the story of Easter, while enjoying the beautiful countryside and peaceful surroundings.

They began exploring the Easter story in our rehearsal barn by watching a piece of drama, a monologue from Pontius Pilate deliberating over the difficult decision he had to make about a prisoner

called Jesus.

Then on we went, to meet Sam and Denzel the donkeys and talk about the start of Holy Week; Jesus riding into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.



Next we walked to St Francis Chapel, which marks the start of the Wintershall stations of the cross. Each child was given a pilgrim bag to carry on their journey up the hill, stopping at each of the 14 statues to reflect. Each statue is distinctive, each commissioned by a different artist. At each station we heard about what was happening to Jesus,



said a prayer and collected an item for their bags to help them remember each stage of Jesus' journey.

After lunch (and a jolly good run around!) we gathered in the theatre barn to hear the Godly Play story of Lent and how it relates to Easter.

Then on to the three afternoon activities. They heard all about what it was like to be a Roman in Jesus' day- seeing the armour they would have worn and trying some on.

They sat down at low tables, to a Passover meal, trying some of the foods that Jesus and his disciples would have eaten at his last supper whilst considering the words Jesus spoke to his disciples. "Eat this in memory of me; drink this in memory of me."



Lastly they were given the chance to get creative in our craft room. We talked about how the image of the cross has been depicted in art over centuries and the children were given time to create their own cross from different materials.

It was such a great day- enjoyed by all- and a real joy for me to share a place I love with the children and staff of Merrow Infants.

Georgie





Wednesday Coffee Club

March winds and April showers bring May flowers, although I think I might have already seen some flowers on the May trees (global warming?) but it is still good to think we are well into spring, and the sun has some real warmth to it, and we have left winter behind us.

I would like to wish everyone a Happy Easter and hope you have a very enjoyable one. For those that have abstained for Lent, well done for getting so far and only 3 weeks left to go.

The coffee club is having a short break on the 16th April and will return on the 1st May and all the drivers and volunteers can have a well-earned rest, especially Rosanne who each week has to sort out who needs a lift and then sorts out drivers who are available, not an easy job at all. Their help is essential for the running of the club and it is greatly appreciated.

Hoping everyone keeps well.

Gerald Hunt

Should you have any queries, please contact me on my e-mail merrowcoffeemorning@hotmail.com or ring me on 07545256114



Icons on Ammunition Boxes

At the cathedral you can see a deeply moving exhibition, Icons on Ammunition Boxes. It highlights religious icons painted on reclaimed ammunition boxes from Ukraine's war zones. These poignant works bear silent witness to the violence and suffering of conflict while offering hope and reflection during the Christian season of Lent. The exhibition is on till 21st April.

Gardening hints for April

We certainly have had a dry March so far - do not speak too soon, now we await the April showers in the hope that they will bring forth the May flowers.

Second early potatoes should be planted in the first half of the month leaving maincrop potatoes until the end of the month. Beetroot, carrots, leeks, lettuce, radishes, spring onions and turnips can now be sown outdoors. Brassicas should be sown in small pots for transplanting later in the summer. Broad beans which were sown indoors in the autumn can now be planted out.

Tomato seedlings which have developed their first true leaves should be potted up. Plant summer flowering bulbs such as gladioli and lilies.

Remove faded daffodil and tulip flowers leaving the foliage to die back. Dead head pansies and other spring flowering bedding plants to encourage a continuous display.

Sweet peas can still be sown outdoors, plant out Autumn sown plants into their flowering positions.

In the greenhouse sow the seeds of summer bedding plants such as French marigold and tagetes; once they have germinated and have produced a good pair of leaves they should be pricked out into seed boxes before they become leggy.

Cuttings can be taken from dahlias which were started into growth last month. Prune choisya, forsythia and viburnum immediately after flowering. Tie in honeysuckle and clematis branches as they begin to climb.

Cut back lavender to keep the plant bushy, do not cut into old wood as it will not produce new growth. Lift and divide large clumps of herbaceous perennials.

Increase the feeding and watering of indoor plants, repotting into a larger size pot any which are overcrowded or pot bound.

Continue mowing the lawn with the mower blades set on a higher cut, apply weed and feed with mosskiller or lawn sand as necessary.

Slugs and snails are enjoying a banquet at this time of the year with new growth appearing everywhere. They are particularly looking forward to the new shoots of delphinium, hosta and lupin. Use either animal friendly slug pellets or a dressing of sharp sand, grit or crushed eggshell to deter them.

John Boon

The Friends of St John the Evangelist (FOSTJ)



The Friends of St John the Evangelist is a registered charity formed by members of the community of Merrow to assist in maintaining and preserving the buildings and grounds of the magnificent Grade II listed Church.

If you would like to help in our endeavours in any way and keep up with our news, please visit www.fostj.org. We would love you to become a member.

Forthcoming magazine information

Issue	Copy date	Editor	Editor's email address
May	13 th Apr	Cathy Thompson	cathy.thompson@saintjohns.org.uk
June	11 th May	Sara England	saraengland@gmail.com
July	15 th June	tba	

(If you draft your copy in Tahoma, 16 point, on an A4 page, you'll get a good idea of how much space it will take up.)

Who's Who

Rector	The Revd Tim Clifford Hill (Day off Friday and Sat am)	951649
Youth Worker	Georgie Gregson (Days off Friday & Saturday)	07974 494504
Churchwardens	Jane Farquharson	07765 620017
	Cathy Thompson	07518 202920
Deputy Churchwarden	Michael Eagle	07850 000224
Verger	Helen Chambers	846574
St Johns Centre Office	9.00 – 2 Mon, Wed and Fri	01483 454621
	9.30 – 1 Tues and Thurs	
- Centre Manager	Barry Dickinson	centremanager@saintjohns.org.uk
- Parish Admin Assistant	Sandra Rayner	office@saintjohns.org.uk

Web site: www.saintjohns.org.uk

Email: office@saintjohns.org.uk

PCC Secretary	Tricia Tappin	579193
PCC Treasurer	Lindsay Dobson	07809 836896
Gift Aid, Legacies and Parish Giving Scheme	Martin Thompson	578923
Organist and Choir Director	Micky Clare	538306
Babies and Toddlers Group	Jane Farquharson	07765 620017
Baby Basics	babybasics@saintjohns.org.uk	458128
Bell Ringers	Jane Farquharson	07765 620017
Bible Reading Fellowship	Jenny Welbourn	825541
Cathedral Link	Nick Bond	579462
Children's Society representative	Judith Sampson	571847
Christian Aid Organiser	Sara England	504205
Electoral Roll	Carole Burtonwood	
	carole.burtonwood@saintjohns.org.uk	
Flower coordinator	Helen Chambers	846574
Magazine Advertisements	Sara England	merrowadverts@gmail.com
Merrow C of E Infant School	Louisa Dormer (Executive Head Teacher)	
	Emma Hooper (Deputy Head)	561501
Church Governors		
	Michael Eagle	07850 000224
Safeguarding Officer	Rosanne Bond	579462
St John's Merrow, Pre-School	Amanda Bazley (Manager)	454625
Diocesan Lay Pastoral Assistant	Helen Chambers	846574
Readings and Intercessions Rota	Joe Bullock	07521 960480
Sunday Newssheet		office@saintjohns.org.uk
TiC and Lay Parish representative	Isla Stables	567599
Wednesday Coffee Mornings	Gerald Hunt	07545 256114
Transport	Rosanne Bond	579462
Website contact	Parish Office (as above)	

For any changes to Who's Who, please email Sara on merrowadverts@gmail.com

James & Thomas Funeral Directors



Proudly serving the local community since 1892

James & Thomas Funeral Directors are here to support and guide you.

We offer a friendly and professional service to families.

- 24 hour service
- Bereavement advice
- Home visits
- Private chapels of rest
- Floral Tributes
- Memorial Masonry
- Prepaid funeral plans

Guildford

01483 562 153

259 Epsom Road, Merrow Heights
GU1 2RE

Call us for immediate support, advice or to arrange a home visit or to find out more about our prepaid funeral plans. We are here to help 24 hours a day.



www.jamesandthomas.co.uk



Robert Wynter

& PARTNERS LIMITED



Extensions and alterations often require a Structural Engineer

Robert Wynter & Partners Ltd

Small Works Dept

Book House, Vincent Lane, Dorking, Surrey RH4 3HW

Tel: 01306 879 875 Mobile: 07775 913086



BEVAN WILSON
Physiotherapy & Sports Injury Clinics

Highly-regarded clinics in Guildford Boxgrove GU1, Godalming and Wondersh, providing professional treatment and specialist advice to help you achieve your goals....

- Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation
- Sports Injuries & Massage
- Spinal & Joint Pain, Stiffness
- Pilates & Women's Health
- Post-operative Rehabilitation
- Neurological Rehabilitation
- Home & Care Home Visits

01483 424505 / info@bevanwilson.co.uk
www.bevanwilson.co.uk

**GETTING YOU BETTER TOGETHER
FOR 25 YEARS!**



PEACOCKS DELICATESSEN

Large selection of fresh fruit and vegetables

Cooked meats & cheese counter

Fresh bread & pastries daily from Hillyers

127 Collingwood Crescent Tel: 829768

Alan Greenwood & Sons

Your Local Truly Independent Family Funeral Directors

www.alangreenwoodfunerals.com

The Funeral Service that caters for everyone's needs

*A choice of the latest Jaguar or Mercedes
Hearses and Limousines
Home visit arrangements
Pre-paid funeral plans and Memorials
Quality 24 hour Service*



*The Greenwood Family are directly
involved in the running of the
Company, you can be assured that
your wishes will be carried out with
precise attention to detail.*

34 Madrid Road, Guildford, GU2 7NU 01483 449 554
66 Send Road, Send, Woking, GU23 7EU 01483 210 222

ST JOHN'S CENTRE

222 Epsom Road, Merrow, Guildford, GU4 7AA

A great venue for your event!

Good selection of rooms from the spacious Main Hall to the comfortable Meeting Room, and a large, fully equipped kitchen. Contact Barry Dickinson on 01483 454621 or email centremanager@saintjohns.org.uk

MERROW SAVOURIES

"Catering for your Occasion"

Delicious home-cooked food
and great service

*Christenings ~ Birthdays
Anniversaries ~ Cocktail Parties
Barn Dances ~ Funeral Receptions*



Simply telephone Sue on
Guildford (01483) 850186

www.merrowsavouries.co.uk

MARGRAVE SOLICITORS LLP

The Old Post Office, 130 Epsom Road
Guildford, Surrey GU1 2PT

- Wills, Trusts and Probate
- Lasting Powers of Attorneys
- Court of Protection matters
 - Care Fee advice
- Advising Attorneys / Deputies
 - Non-mortgage related residential conveyancing



01483 562722

enquiries@margravellp.co.uk
www.margravellp.co.uk

Authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority
SRA number 533213



For a free quote
| contact Ross Brooker
01483 614291
07564 579370

thegardentamer@gmail.com

LANDSCAPING and GARDEN MAINTENANCE

Local, reliable and friendly service established 10 Years

- Landscaping
- Fencing
- Turf Laying
- Tree Surgery
- Decking
- Patio Laying
- Lawn Mowing
- Hedge Trimming
- Lawn Treatment
- Pruning
- Garden Clean Up
- Waste Removal

Fully insured/Environment Agency Licensed Waste Carrier



**Chantries
& Pewleys**

ESTATE AGENTS

Is it time for a change in 2025?

We specialise in selling and letting the finest homes throughout Merrow and Burpham and combine a calm, considered and refreshing approach in everything we do.

If you're contemplating selling or renting your property, call us today to arrange a valuation appointment.



Merrow Office
01483 347100

Lettings Office
01483 405222

chantriesandpewleys.com

  @chantriesandpewleys