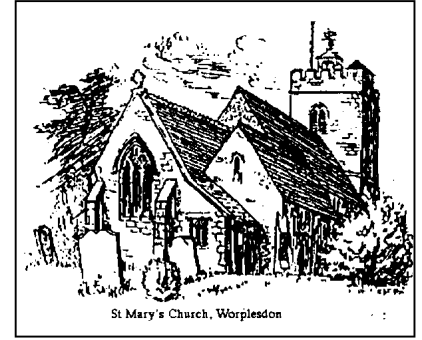


St. Alban's Church, Wood Street

Welcome to **Crossway** Worplesdon Parish Magazine



St. Mary's Church, Worplesdon

Reflections

Until the Nineteenth Century holly, yew, laurel and mistletoe were mainly used to decorate houses for the Christmas season. Great armfuls of greenery would be brought into the house on Christmas Eve, and everyone took part in making the whole house look as festive as possible. These decorations were then left in place for the Forty Days of Christmas which last till the Festival of Candlemass on 2nd February.

It was only with the Victorians and the introduction of the Christmas tree (a German custom) that it was considered right to take all decorations down and burn them on the evening of 5th January, the eve of Epiphany. Traditionally, the new day was held to start at sundown on the previous day, hence the custom of Midnight Mass "the first mass of Christmas" on the eve of Christmas day and Watch Night services to celebrate the New Year on 31 December.

I think it is a great pity that the tradition of keeping the forty days of Christmas has lapsed in most homes and many churches. However for the last few years we have kept this tradition alive at St Alban's by keeping the Jesse tree in place.

In some parts of the world all Christmas Decorations disappear by the end of St Stephen's Day, and attention is focused on the coming year with its attendant cut-price sales and all the New Year hype. The Incarnation is bundled away with the decorations and we have hardly had time to welcome the Christ Child before the crib is stuffed back in the attic.

This discussion about Christmas traditions may seem an odd way to introduce the January "Reflections" but if we brush Christmas under the carpet too quickly then we may lose the significance of the Feast of the Epiphany, and the coming of the Magi to worship the Babe in the Manger. The wise men are after all part of the Christmas story.

In our eagerness to look forward to Holy Week and Easter, the next great milestones in the Church's year it is important not to overlook all that happens in between.

At Epiphany the Western Church has tended to concentrate on the visit of the Wise Men and the significance of their three gifts. There is the gold symbolising the Kingship of Christ, the Frankincense for his priestly role, and myrrh traditionally used to embalm bodies before burial to foretell his great sacrifice for us.

The Magi's visit is indeed of great importance but on 6th January when we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany in both churches we will be exploring the wider significance of this great Festival.

As we continue to celebrate the coming of Christ to earth, we must also remember that the New Year is a time for new beginnings. If we have spent a good Advent and tried to put our spiritual lives in order, then now is the time to put all those good resolutions into practice.

Each New Year I pray that this will be the year when I spend more time in prayer, more time listening to God. It is not always easy to find that quiet time, but it is so important in our busy lives to remember the sacrifice God made for us by sending his Son into the world for our salvation. He is always there waiting for us, and we must find the time to be there with Him.

Betsy

Book of the Month

Transforming the Ordinary

By John Henstridge.

£6.99 ISBN 9 781841 013169

This book is a series of meditations based on Bible passages linking them to ordinary everyday events. The aim is to help us to build awareness of God into the variety and ordinariness of our daily routine.

From the Supermarket to a Bad Hair Day or Being Stuck in a Traffic Jam John Henstridge helps us to make connections between whatever is happening in our lives and God's presence in our hearts and minds.

The meditations can be used by individuals in private prayer times but he also gives suggestions as to how they might be used in a group.

In his forward Archbishop Rowan Williams says that "these pages will lead many to a fuller recognition of the God who is already waiting for us in the depths of our hearts, in the depth of the present moment."

A Prayer for the Year Ahead

For all the possibilities ahead in this New Year,
make us thankful, O Lord.

Give us wisdom, courage, and discernment
in the face of so much chaos, despair, and fear.

Help us to see how, in our circumstances,
we can contribute towards peace, faith, and love.

And give us the will to translate our desires into
actions.

Brother John Charles, SSF

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

For the period between 18th and 25th January each year Christians across our country pray for the unity of God's Church. One of the great shaming features of Church life is the lack of unity among Christians. We need to be reminded of our oneness in Christ, learn to overcome all that divides us, and discover a greater spirit of co-operation

In this parish we mark this important week by joining together with our friends from Worplesdon United Reformed Church for a United Service. **This year the service will take place on 20th January at 6pm at the URC Church, Perry Hill.** We encourage as many members as possible from our congregations to join us for this service as a sign of our commitment to the unity of God's Church.

Sunday Evenings in January

6 pm at St Mary's Church

All are welcome to these quiet reflective services which usually last about 30 minutes – a quiet end to a busy day and/or a moment of peace before a busy week.

6th **Healing Service** – *an opportunity to bring before God the dis-ease in our lives and to pray for all in any kind of need as well as to receive the Ministry of laying on of Hands.* 6 pm at St Mary's.

13th **Celtic Evening Prayers**- *a time of worship inspired by the Iona Community.*

20th **United Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.** 6 pm at Worplesdon United Reformed Church

27th **Celtic Evening Prayers**- *a time of worship inspired by the Iona Community.*

If you live in Wood Street Village and would like transport to the Evening Worship at St Mary's please speak to Revd Mary Kirby (G.237131) who will try to arrange a lift.

The Worplesdon Cycle of Prayer

In the centre pages of this month's Crossway is a revised copy of the Worplesdon Cycle of prayer which invites you to pray both for our world and for our parish. This cycle is based on suggestions from the Church of England's book of Daily Prayer. We will be using this cycle of prayer at both Morning and Evening Prayer in our churches and we invite you to use it as part of your daily prayers. In this way even though we are praying on our own, we are still part of the shared life of the Church. There are two cycles of prayer provided. The first is a weekly pattern for the needs of the World and the Church. The second is a monthly pattern praying for different aspects of the life of our parish and for each road in the parish.

To use the Cycle of Prayer pull out the centre pages and fold them in half and then cut open the top fold to form an A5 booklet.

Parish Registers

Funerals

13th December John Bridel
Mike Gill

Baptisms

2nd December Archie Robert Boulter

Opportunities for Worship in 2008

A leaflet called Opportunities for Worship is now available from both churches. It lists dates for Edward Bear Club, God's Family at Worship, Parade Services and iWorship for the coming year.

Please note there will be no God's Family at Worship in January as we will be welcoming Susan Bloomfield on that Sunday instead. The next God's Family at Worship is on Sunday 10th February at St Mary's at 10.45 am when we will be thinking about how to keep Lent as a special time. The next Parade Service will be at St Alban's Church on Sunday 2nd March at 10.45 am when we will be celebrating Mothering Sunday.

Growing Leaders

Our group undertaking the Growing Leaders have now completed the first term of their three term course. In January they will be going away for their second residential of the course which will take place at Whitehill Chase from 11th-12th January. Please continue to pray for them as they explore the part God may be calling them to in this parish.

Participants

Kevin Davison
Sally Gregory
Julie Lynch
Debbi Porter
Brian Rustell
Chris Rustell
Sue Telfer
Melanie Thornback

Mentors

Gill Cross
Pat Gathercole
Wally Gathercole
Betty Leach
Jeanne Ward
Janet Weill
Brian Williams
Tricia Williams

God of our lives

*you are always calling us to follow you into the future,
inviting us to new ventures, new challenges,
new ways to care, new ways to touch the hearts of all.*

*When I am fearful of the unknown, give me courage.
When I worry that I am not up to the task,
remind me that you would not call me
if you did not believe in me*

*Lord, show me the right seat, find me the fitting task;
give me the willing heart.*

Quotes to ponder

Whatever our regrets about last year, it is important to put them behind us and release them into the hands of Christ, and to place everything that lies before us into his sure hands. *Ray Simpson*

Forgiveness is the answer to the child's dream of a miracle by which what is broken is made whole again, what is soiled is again made clean.

Dag Hammarskjold

Holy Days in January

This year the Feast of the Epiphany falls on the first Sunday in January and we will be celebrating this important Festival in both churches. The commemoration of the Conversion of St Paul falls on the 25th of January, another very important landmark in the Church's year.

Aelred of Hexham is remembered on 12 January. He was born at Hexham in 1109. His father had been a priest and Aelred entered the Cistercian order at Rievaulx in about 1133. He became Abbot of Revesby in 1143 and returned to Rievaulx four years later and remained there for the rest of his life. He shared his spiritual approach with Bernard of Clairvaux and his spiritual writings were much revered. He is sometimes referred to as the "Bernard of the North". He died on this day in 1167.

The Epiphany

Sunday 6th January 2008

St Mary's: 8.00 am Dawn Communion

St Alban's: 9.15am Festal Eucharist

St Mary's: 10.45 am Festal Eucharist

The Epiphany or Manifestation of Christ, has been celebrated in the Christian tradition in a variety of ways. The Feast celebrated on 6 January has been exclusively focused on the Visit of the Magi only in the Western Church. In other Christian traditions, the manifestation of Christ, the revealing of his true nature, has been focused on the Declaration made at his baptism in the Jordan and the revelation made at Cana in Galilee. Our Festal Eucharists will include the Epiphany Processions to help us re-discover this broader understanding of the Epiphany of our Lord. Each of the Gospel writers start the story of a Jesus in a different way; they each want to tell us what they thought was the most important thing about Jesus. Luke begins with the birth of Jesus in the stable, familiar to us from the Christmas story. Matthew marks the birth of Jesus with the arrival of the Magi – the traditional Epiphany story. Mark begins with the Baptism of Jesus and the voice of God proclaiming Jesus as God's Son. John introduces the ministry of Jesus with the miracle at Cana revealing the transforming nature of Jesus. Each of these stories is an Epiphany a making manifest of who Jesus is and each begging the question, "and who is Jesus for you?" We hope you will be able to join us for this celebration.

Gift Day 2007

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Annual Gift Day which raised £3574 for ongoing maintenance work at our two churches. Your support is greatly appreciated.

The Sunday Club

If you enjoy games, stories, drama or craft activities, and are aged between 5 and 11, then come and have fun and learn about Jesus in The Sunday Club. We meet each Sunday during term time during the Parish Communion, which is a 9.15 at St. Alban's, or 10.45 at St. Mary's. For more information contact:

St. Alban's: Nicky Parsons 826774

**St. Mary's: Rosalind Davison
826422**

Perry Hill Youth Club

The next meeting of the PERRY HILL YOUTH CLUB is on Thursday 7th February at Worplesdon Memorial Hall from 6.45 pm to 8.45 pm and is open to young people aged between 8 and 15 years of age. Please note due to the Christmas Holidays there will be no meeting in January.

For more information telephone Andrew on 01483 234616

The next meeting after February is 6th March and thereafter the first Thursday of each month.

Come along and join us and try your hand at a variety of games, be tempted by the Tuck Shop and meet new friends.

New volunteers are always welcome to help run the club; please speak to Andrew.

Edward's Sunday Club

Edward Bear invites all his friends (0-5 years) who come to church on Sunday to join him for a time of fun, play, stories and activities.

To find out more, contact:

St. Alban's: Carol Caven 839157

St. Mary's: Michaela Kelly 870939

Flower Rota for January

	St. Mary's	St. Alban's
5 th	Diana Forder, Karen Pettitt	Ann Tizard
12 th	Marion Gillett	Linda Covey
19 th	Marion Gillett	Ann Tizard
26 th	Tricia Williams	Pat Brewer

Other important dates for January

Tues 8th	2.30pm	Fairwood Helpers Committee
	8.00 pm	WSV Association, St. Alban's
Sun 13th	6.00pm	Parish Youth Group, St. Alban's
Mon 14th	8.00pm	Worship Group at Tullywhisker
Fri 18th	7.00pm	Youth PCC at Rectory
Mon 21st	8.00pm	Fundraising Group at Tangley Cottage
Tues 22nd	8.00pm	PCC Meeting at St. Mary's
Wed 23rd	8.00pm	Holiday Club planning meeting
Fri 25th	8.00pm	Ministry Team meeting at Rectory
Sun 27th	6.00pm	Parish Youth Group at St. Albans
Mon 28th	10.00am	WCRG at St. Mary's
	11.00am	Primrose House Communion
Tues 29th	8.00pm	Property Group at St. Mary's
Wed 30th	8.00pm	Deanery Synod Meeting

The Wednesday Fellowship

Spiritual Encounters for every day living

The Wednesday Fellowship seeks to offer a space where we can make connections between what we do together on a Sunday and the life we live the rest of the week.

It will provide an opportunity where we can:

- * get to know each other better
- * make connections between our faith and our daily lives
- * offer one another prayer and support.

In each quarter we will hear more about the work of the Mothers' Union in linking spirituality and social action, explore with the Meditation Group new techniques of prayer to support us in our daily lives and with the Parish Prayer Forum pray for the needs of our parish and learn more about the work and concerns of members of our congregation.

The first Wednesday Fellowship will take place on **16th January at 8pm** when we will be hearing more about the work of the Mothers' Union in our local prisons and praying for all involved in the judicial and criminal system.

The details of each monthly Wednesday Fellowship will be advertised in both Crossway and the Crossway Supplement. A leaflet listing all the dates for 2008 is available from each church and from the Church Office. Each meeting is open to all who wish to attend and individuals are welcome to attend which ever sessions they wish. Further information is available from members of the Clergy Team.

The Wednesday Fellowship will meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 8 pm in St Mary's Room

Worplesdon Lunch Club

The Club organises a variety of meetings from lunches in people's homes to coffee mornings and gatherings for afternoon tea, as well as opportunities to eat out. Meetings are informal and friendly, and enable friends old and new to meet up.

On 16th January, we meet at The Jolly Farmer, Burdeshott Road at 12.30 pm for lunch. If you would like to join us, or know more about the club, please contact:

Barbara Chasemore **233118**
Vicki Bateman **232217**

The Village Lunch

at
St Alban's Church Hall,
Wood Street Village
 Wednesday 23rd January
 12.30 pm

*Meet up with friends old and new.
 Enjoy good food and good company.
 Open to all, wherever you live.*

Please book 5 days before 01483 233091
 Contact Fairwood Helpers for help with
 transport 01483 237619

United Parish Eucharist

Sunday 13th January
10.45 am at St Mary's

to welcome Sister Susan Bloomfield
 as the new Lay Worker for the
 Parish of Worplesdon

President and Preacher: The Archdeacon of Surrey

We hope as many people as possible will be able
 to join us as we welcome Susan to the parish.

*There will be no 9.15 Parish Communion at
 St Mary's on this Sunday.*

Christians in Fairlands

You are invited to join us for
 our monthly informal time of worship
 On Sunday 13th January
 4.00 pm at
 Fairlands Community Centre

*For further information please contact
 Christopher Peacock on 826532*

The Light of the World
iWorship at St Alban's Church
Sunday 27th January at 9.15 am

**iWorship offers a time of informal
 worship where we can together explore
 prayer, bible study, music and creativity
 and share in fellowship.**

We hope this service will help us find new
 ways of sharing in worship and especially
 those who struggle with more formal wor-
 ship, are unfamiliar with church or who would
 welcome a more participative approach to
 worship. This informal service will, we
 hope, be inclusive of all ages. After the ini-
 tial gathering for worship there will be an op-
 portunity to move around different groups
 offering music, craft, discussion and medita-
 tion and concluding with a sharing from the
 different groups and a simple Agape.

The next iWorship will be on Sunday 24th
 February.

You are warmly invited to

Café Fairlands

4th & 18th January

at

The Fairlands Community Centre

2.30—4.30 pm

In conjunction with the visit of
 The Surrey Mobile Library Bus

*Come and meet friends old and new over a cup
 of tea and home-made cake

*Browse at the Library

*Be tempted by the Fairtrade Stall

*Drop in on your way to or from school

If you need help with transport, please
 contact Fairwood Helpers 237619

Tidy-up Day

at St Mary's Church

Saturday 26th January 10 am-1 pm

Please come along and join us to help with a
 variety of simple maintenance tasks in and
 around St Mary's Church. There will be a
 variety of tasks to suit all ages and abilities.
 Come along when you can and stay for as
 long as you can. All help offered is greatly
 appreciated and the more help offered the
 more we can achieve. Thank you.

Parish Diary

Copies of the 2008 parish Diary are now available from both churches and from the Church Office. This diary lists all the main events and activities at both our churches for the coming year. It would be much appreciated if people could consult the diary before planning other church meetings and events to avoid unnecessary clashes. Please inform both Andrew and the Church Office of any additional dates or changes to dates either in writing or by e-mail. Thank you.

Lent 2008

This year Lent begins very early with Ash Wednesday on 6th February. Once again we will be encouraging every one to keep lent as a special and holy time. This Lent we will be:

Offering **True Resurrection by Harry Williams** for people reading with a weekly group where those who wish can meet to discuss this fascinating and thought-provoking book.

Inviting people to **Count their Blessings** by reflecting on their own quality of life compared with some of the poorest people in the world.

Responding to the **Bishop of Guildford's Call** to the Diocese to keep Lent with prayer, fasting and sacrificial giving.

More details about our Lenten Programme will follow in the February edition of Crossway.

Do you need a new "Toolkit" for your Christian Life?

All good DIYers know how much easier the job is if you have the right tools, so Guildford Diocese has come up with the idea of providing the right toolkit for Christian Living. The course is aimed at those who want to develop their faith and discipleship, understand the grounds of their faith in order to share it, and to think further about God's call on their life.

The programme runs for two terms and offers four modules of five weekly sessions lasting two hours either in the daytime or evening, and will be held in Godalming, Frimley and Ashted. The modules can be taken in any order and can be spread over longer periods. The courses are interdenominational, and held in fairly small groups with two tutors. There are no entry requirements other than an enquiring mind and a willingness to listen and discuss with other Christians.

For more information contact any member of the Clergy team

Worplesdon WI

Worplesdon afternoon WI have had a busy few weeks, beginning on the 22nd November with a trip to the Albert Hall to enjoy the "Classical Spectacular" with the Royal Choral Society and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Robin Staplehurst. It was a wonderful evening of popular classics and songs, with colourful laser lights, fireworks and canons firing in Tchaikovsky's 1812. The evening ended with a mini "last night at the proms" with Union flags, Jerusalem and Land of Hope and Glory!

On Wednesday 5th December we enjoyed our WI Christmas lunch which was beautifully prepared and presented by members of the committee. Our new president, Mrs. Betty Leach, welcomed our three guests, Mrs. Mary Rooke, Mrs. Rosemarie Hunter and the Rev. Andrew Bryant, Rector of Worplesdon. We were entertained during the afternoon with season songs and carols, played by two accordionists. The afternoon ended with a large raffle of twenty-five prizes.

We go to Carlo's on 19th December for our annual Christmas lunch, and in January we plan to go to the pantomime in Woking.

P. Wheatley

Fairwood Helpers

We wish everyone a very happy and healthy New Year. Last year ended with our social event held at Fairlands Community Centre in a hall appropriately decorated for the Christmas season.

We were pleased to greet our Mayor, Cllr. Mike Nevins, accompanied by Mayoress Rhoda. We thanked them for their interest and support in our scheme. Other guests included representatives of Borough and Parish Councils and local clergy, as well as many of our valued volunteers and their partners. All were made very welcome and quickly became engaged in informal chat while enjoying the food and wine provided by some of our members. We now look forward to our tenth anniversary celebrations at our Annual General Meeting to be held at Worplesdon Memorial Hall on Wednesday, 7th May. Please make a note in your new diaries as we would love to meet you there.

Meantime, we continue to provide what help we can in response to calls on **237619**. If you want to know more about our organisation, or think you might be able to help, just ring and speak with the officer on duty.

John Barton, Chairman