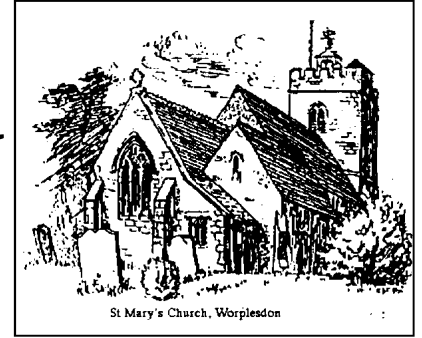


Welcome to
Crossway
 Worplesdon Parish
 Magazine



Rectory Reflections

Recently in a church sermon I told how in my teens I met a group of frightening people in the street and how I did my best to avoid them. The group of people I met were a group of Christians proclaiming rather loudly what they believed.

Training to be a priest in the Church of England means I am looking afresh at ways we communicate and even fail to communicate. Despite the many different ways that we have to communicate with one another we still manage to misunderstand what the other person means. We fail to get across our own message.

I have not long been back from a visit to Birmingham where we looked at interfaith dialogue. It is important when communicating to check out what the other person means when they use terms like faith. What do they believe is important in life? It is common for people who do not know much about the Muslim faith for example to think that all Muslims are the same and believe the same. In a political climate where the media spread negative stereotypes this can be unhealthy and cause friction and misunderstanding. Talking to individuals and visiting different mosques in Birmingham soon helped us to realise the variety of understandings of being a Muslim. This is similar to the Christian Church where there are different groups who have different priorities and ways of living the Christian life so the same is true of other faiths. When we have met one Muslim or group of Muslims it does not mean we know how all Muslims think and believe. The same is true of any other group including Christians.

Trying to communicate with one another is important and it involves taking responsibility not only to communicate clearly but also to listen well. So often we can say something but we are not communicating our message, because we haven't heard what the other person is thinking or feeling. The challenge of communicating clearly is even more important in

today's information age where information bombards us from many different sources.

This month the church celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit in the life of the church. In the account of the coming of the Holy Spirit on the disciples which we read in the Bible, the disciples are able to communicate their enthusiasm about Jesus to people of many different languages and cultures. The disciples amaze these different people because they are able to communicate with them. They hear the disciples telling their experiences of Jesus in a way that is exciting and compelling. They want to know more. The disciples have the attention of their listeners and all because they are communicating using language and ways of speaking with which their hearers are familiar.

Sometimes in church when we read the account of Holy Spirit transforming the lives of disciples and how they communicate to people of all faiths we also have the reading which reminds us of what happens with communication breakdown. The story of the Tower of Babel tells of how people set out to build a tower. The tower was going to be great, seen for miles, and a symbol of what people could achieve. However there was a breakdown in communication and people could not understand one another and they abandoned the project.

If we want to build our communities then we need to listen to one another first and discover the different stories that are people's lives. When we listen then we can begin to work together. And the art of listening is not to judge another's experience as right or wrong but to receive that experience as a gift.

Susan

INSIDE: Days of Worship, Club & Event Dates, News, Fundraising, 100 Club, iWorship, TypeTalk, PCC news



Holy Days in May

The Church Remembers 3 Apostles this Month

Philip and James on 1st May. Philip and James appear in the list of the twelve apostles in the first three gospels but are frequently confused with other early saints who share their names. In John's gospel, Philip has a more prominent role, being the third of the apostles to be called by Jesus and then himself bringing his friend Nathanael to the Lord (John 1.43-45). James is said to be the son of Alphaeus and is often known as 'James the Less', to distinguish him. Philip and James are celebrated on the same day because the church in Rome, where their relics were laid to rest, was dedicated on this day in the year 560.

Matthias on 14th May. After the betrayal of Jesus by Judas Iscariot, the apostles brought their number back to twelve by choosing Matthias to replace him. He was chosen by lot from among the disciples (Acts 1.15-26). The number had to be restored to twelve so that they might 'sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.' The point of being chosen by lot, rather than by some democratic method, indicated for the disciples, the election or choosing by God, rather than mortals.

The church also remembers the visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to her cousin Elizabeth on 31st May. This story is recorded in Luke's gospel (Luke 1.39-56). The celebration of the feast first occurred at a Franciscan Order general chapter in 1263 but quickly spread throughout Europe. Just as Luke sees John the Baptist as the last of the prophets of the old covenant, he uses John's leaping in Elizabeth's womb, as the first time John bears witness to Christ as the promised Messiah. Thereby he links the old covenant with the new.

A VERY Important Date for your Diary

Friday 10th October will be a very important day in the life of this parish. That evening we will be holding our Parish Stewardship Supper at Worplesdon Memorial Hall to which we will be inviting all those on our Church Electoral Roll. This supper will be the culmination of our Stewardship Campaign which will help set the course for our church for at least the next five years.

We very much hope that as many people as possible will be able to attend. More details will follow but for now please put this date in your diary and keep the evening free.

It is over five years since we held a similar Stewardship event which proved both memorable and inspiring and gave a great boost and encouragement to the life of the church in our parish. We look forward to seeing you there.

Quotes to Ponder

'Never build a wall until you know what you are walling in and what you are walling out.'

Robert Frost'

'Our lives are shaped by those who love us - by those who refuse to love us.'

John Powell

Parish Registers

Funerals

- 26th March Margaret Chennell
- 2nd April Alan Reigate
- 3rd April Albert Bateman
- 16th April Elizabeth Norton

Baptism

- 6th April Jesper Claes
Ronald Rosvall

Weddings

- 29th March Jeremy Snelling and
Helen Bicknell

Sunday Evenings



May
6pm
St. Mary's

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.

- 4th **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.*
- 11th **Celtic Evening Prayers**- *a time of worship inspired by the Iona Community*
- 18th **Evening Prayer** – *the traditional evening service of the Church*
- 25th **Celtic Evening Prayers** - *a time of worship inspired by the Iona Community*

If you would like transport to the Evening Worship at St Mary's please speak to Revd Mary Kirby (G.237131) who will endeavour to arrange for a lift.

Tidy-up Day



The next Tidy-Up day will take place at St Alban's on **Saturday 24th May** from **10am-1pm**. Please come along to help with important maintenance tasks indoors and out. Come along any time and stay as long as you can – the more folk who come along the more we can achieve!!.

Book of the Month



Understanding Islam: The first ten steps

C.T.R. Hewer

SCM Press £14.99

ISBN 0-334-04032-9

Recently I attended four days in Birmingham to focus on Interfaith dialogue as part of ordination training. We learnt about Islam and in small groups we each visited a mosque. In preparation for this visit I picked up 'Understanding Islam' from the Cathedral Bookshop.

Chris Hewer's book is based on his experience of running courses in Birmingham to help people understand Islam. I found it a very readable book and one that takes you on a journey to understanding Islam. The author in his introduction states, 'In order to try and ensure that it is as faithful as possible to the Muslim tradition, the text has been read through by a number of Muslim scholars and by others who are involved in communicating about Islam in the West.'

Hewer is also able, with his Christian perspective, to highlight and explain things that might be foreign to our culture and way of thinking. The reader journeys through a brief history of Islam and learns about the different aspects of Muslim faith before moving into the second half of the book where the impact of these beliefs on Muslim life and practice is seen in everyday life, in relation to other faiths and in particular living Muslim faith in the West.

It is a book which is recommended by both Christian and Muslim scholars and the leader of at group in Birmingham, the Revd. Dr. Michael Jagessar, used much material from it as he explained Islam to us.

Youth Club Meeting

The next meeting of the PERRY HILL YOUTH CLUB is on **1st May** at Worplesdon Memorial Hall from **6.45pm to 8.45pm** and is open to young people aged between 8 and 15 years of age.

For more information telephone Andrew on 01483 234616

The next meeting after May is 5th June 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

Café Fairlands

You are warmly invited on **2nd & 16th May**

at **The Fairlands Community Centre 2.00pm - 4.00pm**

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 on 01483 237619

The next **iWorship** at St Alban's Church

will be on **Sunday 25th May at 9.15am**

when the theme will be "Peace & Justice on Earth"

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

- inclusive - interactive – inquiring -

May Fair Loseley Park

The North Hampshire Committee of Action Medical Research invite you to their annual May Fair at Loseley Park near Guildford GU3 1HS on **Wednesday 14th May** from **10.00am** until **4.00pm** and **Thursday 15th May** from **9.30am** until **3.30pm**.

There will be 75 stalls selling fabulous clothes and accessories, gorgeous jewellery, wonderful plants, great gifts, delicious food and much much more. Ten per cent of all you spend with the stalls goes to Action Medical Research, so do come, bring your friends and have a great day out. Tea., coffee and light lunches with wine will be available. Entrance is £5 and there is ample parking. For further information and a list of stalls, please visit www.action.org.uk/mayfair

The Village Lunch

At St Alban's Church Hall, Wood Street Village

Wednesday 28th May at 12.30pm

Meet up with friends old and new good food and good company, open to all where ever you live. Please book 5 days before on 01483 233091

If you need help with transport please contact Fairwood Helpers 01483 237619

Wood Street School May Fair

Saturday 10 May 12.30 – 2.30

We are still raising money for our smart new playground, so come along and do some shopping. We have all the usual popular stalls – children's tombola, bottle tombola, raffle, cake stall etc – plus other stallholders to tempt you. There will be a barbecue and ice cream van, so you can grab some lunch, or if you'd rather, have a cup of tea and a piece of cake instead!

National Garden Scheme Open Garden

The Old Croft , South Holmwood

"Paradise Garden" Surrey Life

Sun 4th - Mon 5th & Sun 25th - Mon 26th May,

Sat 12th - Sun 13th July, Sat 9th - Sun 10th August

2-6pm, Admission £4 children free. All proceeds to National Garden Scheme. Homemade Teas and Plant Stall (money to St.Catherine's Hospice)

Virginia and David Lardner-Burke are once again opening their garden to visitors this year. The 5 acres encompasses many various gardens of exquisite natural beauty. Stunning and imaginative vistas; many unusual specimen trees and shrubs, lake, colourful bog gardens, woodland, pergolas, roses, tropical bamboo maze.

Situated in Holmwood Common, there is free parking on the common with a lovely 600 yard woodland walk in the garden. The garden is situated about 2 miles south of Dorking on the A24. Full directional signs from A24, Mill Road and Blackbrook Road will be in place. For the disabled and elderly please ring 01306 888224 to arrange for direct access.

Evelyn Underhill

St Nicolas' Parish Centre, Bury Street, Guildford Wed 21st May 8pm

A presentation by Fr Martin Warner, Canon Pastor, St Paul's Cathedral.

Discover more about Evelyn Underhill, one of the greatest Anglican spiritual writers of the 20th century. Her books are still read today.

Wednesday Fellowship

Spiritual Encounters for everyday living;
making connections between Sunday and Monday
Wednesday 21st May 8pm at St Mary's

The Wednesday Fellowship offers a space where we can make connections between what we do on a Sunday and the life we live for the rest of the week.

It provides 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.

This month we continue our exploration of Meditation. There will be a guide meditation to help us explore through this medium of prayer our relationship with God and his world.

Whether you have been before or not you will be very welcome.



For many older people who live alone and who find it difficult to get out, something as simple as a having a chat or sharing a laugh could make all difference to their quality of life. Age Concern Surrey's Befriending and Visiting Service aims to make that difference. By providing volunteers who

visit for an hour each week we hope to ease the loneliness and isolation felt by many older housebound people.

Our volunteers come from all walks of life and are carefully selected and screened before they visit anyone. We try to match volunteers and older people who share similar interests and outlooks and the same person will visit each time so that a trusting companionship can be built over time. The service is free and confidential.

If you are older, isolated and lonely or know someone who is then please contact Lindsey at the Befriending service on 01483 514473 or email lindseyc@acsurrey.org.uk to find out more. Similarly, if you would like to join our team of volunteer befrienders then please call Lindsey to talk it through.



Fairwood Helpers - Serving Fairlands, FLG area, Wood Street Village and Worplesdon - Perry Hill

Available for help with transport to the doctors or hospital, filling in forms, collecting prescriptions, shopping, odd jobs, visiting etc.

Telephone 01483 237619

Mon - Fri 10.00am - 12 noon

Fairwood Helpers AGM & Coach Trip

The AGM will be held at Worplesdon Memorial Hall May 7th 7:30pm

Coach Trip to Eastbourne will take place on July 16th

More details from John Barton 01483 232181

Is This You?

If you are or have recently been helping a loved-one, relative or friend to continue living at home you are important to us.

- Do you need someone to talk to?
- Do you need a break?
- Shopping?
- Day Out?
- Holiday? On your own or as a family?

If this is you then you are a Carer. You may or may not be aware that there are various benefits which are available to Carers, that is, people who care for relative or close friend who is ill, frail or disabled. Carers are not paid for this work but carry it out in order to help their loved one continue living at home and to have a good quality of life.

If you would like to know more about the help available, you should talk with your GP and register with him or her that you are a Carer. S/he will be able to advise you of the services available.

Six million Carers in the UK, alongside GPs, help look after family, neighbours and friends, in fact, when it comes to caring they are probably the GPs' greatest partners.

Recognising that you are a Carer opens the door in many cases to entitlement which otherwise you might miss out on; benefits, council tax discounts and services such as short breaks, support groups, home care and equipment. And it's also important not to neglect your own health. Carer's Support workers can give advice and help on this too.

For details of local Carers Support and an information pack, see the website for Surrey Carers: www.carersnets.org.uk or get in touch with the contact centre at Surrey County Council on 08456 009 009.

Alison Brock, has recently been appointed Carer Recognition Worker for South West Surrey to try and increase Carer recognition within GP surgeries. Alison can be contacted on mobile: 07948 122023 or email: alison.brock1@btinternet.com.

Christians in Fairlands

We would like to invite all living on Fairlands to a meeting to discuss the future of Christians in Fairlands. **Sunday 11th May at 4.00pm** at Fairlands Community Centre.

The idea that Christians who live on Fairlands should have an opportunity to meet together and pray for their community seems a good one but what form should this take? Should there continue to be a regular service at the Community Centre and if so on what day and at what time and in what format? Should it just meet to celebrate special occasions such as Christmas, Easter or Harvest? Perhaps it should be more informal and meet in people's homes or perhaps it should evolve into a Prayer Chain? What are your thoughts? Do you have other ideas how Christians in Fairlands should go forward?

We would like to invite you to come to a special meeting of Christians in Fairlands on Sunday 11th May at 4.00pm at Fairlands Community Centre. Please come along so that we can hear your ideas for the future of Christians in Fairlands. To encourage you to come along we will also be offering a free tasting of different brands of Fair Trade Chocolate - discover which should be your good conscience indulgence snack of choice!!!

If you cannot come on that day we would still love to hear your views - please speak to one of us - we do really want to hear from you so that together we can discern the right way forward.

Andrew Bryant 01483 234616 - Christopher Peacock 01483 826532

Christian Aid Week 11th-17th May 2008

Empowering people

In April, we read about the work of the pani parishads (water councils) in Bangladesh which encourage women to take an active role in finding solutions to the problem of accessing fresh water. Minu Basar adds her personal testimony.

She had to cross a wide and sometimes dangerous river and travel up to 10km to buy drinking water for her family. Since joining the village pani parishad, she has learned how to safely gather and store rainwater. 'As a woman, I now feel very good. I have learned to talk. I am confident. In my heart, I have weight. We used to gather water before in big pots, but I never used to put a net over them. We used to go to the toilet without wearing sandals. Now we wear them and we wash our hands with soap. Everyone in the family is happy because now we have good safe water for many months of the year.'

Christian Aid partner, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies, supports the local pani parishads.

Ten things to know about Christian Aid:

1. We believe in life before death – we are passionate about rooting out poverty.
2. We fund long-term development work, respond to emergencies and challenge the unjust systems that make and keep people poor.
3. We are the official development agency of 41 church denominations in the UK and Ireland.
4. We help people of all faiths and none.
5. We believe in helping people to find their own lasting solutions to poverty.
6. We work through more than 600 partners – local organisations – in nearly 50 countries.
7. We challenge those with power to change things that have an adverse effect on poor communities, such as international trade rules and climate change.
8. We don't give money to governments – we work directly with local organisations on the ground.
9. We spend money where it's needed most - for each £1 given in 2006/7, 83p was used for direct charitable expenditure. The remaining 17p was used to raise the next £1.

You can find out more at www.christianaid or by calling 0845 7000 300.

Christian Aid Week raises £15 million to support the world's poorest communities; last year our parish raised £3500. This year £.... Can you help?

Wendy Bryant/Sue Telfer

Prayer for Christian Aid Week

*God of the rushing wind,
Sweep through my indifference.
God of the fiery flames,
Ignite my compassion.
God of the many voices,
Open my mouth to speak out against justice.
That through your Spirit
And my actions
This world may be transformed.
Amen.*

Christian Aid Week 11th-17th May 2008

The theme for this year's Christian Aid Week is Empowering People. Christian Aid with its partner organisations in different parts of the world seeks to help empower some of the most vulnerable and poorest people on the planet. Their grasswork connections means that the money raised during Christian Aid Week goes directly to support projects in villages and local communities. Last year in this parish we raised £3,500 for Christian Aid. If you would like to be part of this exciting fund-raising opportunity by helping with house to house collections please speak to Sue (G.577369) or Wendy (G.234616). And when that red and white envelope comes through your door please be generous in your response.

At church this year we will be marking Christian Aid week with special services at the end of the week of collections.

Sunday 18th May 9.15am at St Alban's Parish Communion

With special readings, prayers and reflection on the work of Christian Aid

God's Family at Worship

Sunday 13th July 10.45am at St Mary's

An informal service for all ages exploring the theme of empowering people. We look forward to welcoming you to service designed to enable all ages to worship together. On this Sunday there will be no Sunday Club as our children join with us for the whole service.

The next God's Family at Worship at St Mary's will be Sunday 13th July, 10.45am (please note this is the 3rd not 2nd Sunday)

The next God's Family at Worship & Parade Service at St Alban's will be Sunday, 8th June at 10.45am

Ascension Day Thursday 1st May Sung Eucharist 8.00pm at St Alban's Church

Join us for this celebration of our Lord's return to glory. Jesus' earthly ministry comes to its natural conclusion; he returns to heaven in order that He may be with us always and everywhere.

Day of Thanksgiving for Holy Communion Known as Corpus Christi Thursday 22nd May Sung Eucharist 8.00pm at St Mary's Church

We invite you to join when we give thanks for the service of Holy Communion which is such a central and important part of our worshipping tradition. We especially invite all our Lay Assistants to join us on this occasion and to renew their commitment to their important ministry. We hope you will join us in offering thanksgiving for something which lies at the heart of our experience of faith and something which we must never take for granted.

In the words Take, eat ... drink there is contained the abyss of God's love for humankind.

O perfect love, O all-embracing love, O irresistible love! What shall we give in gratitude for this love?

Fr John of Kronstadt

PCC Jottings

At its meeting on 8th April the PCC approved the Annual Report and Accounts for the last financial year in preparation for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. The revised Electoral Roll now stands at 301. This means that the Electoral Roll has grown by over seventy during the last eight years and allowing for deaths and people leaving the area that there are approximately 170 new people who have joined the roll over those eight years.

It was reported that new doors have now been installed at St Alban's Hall and a safety rail for the kitchen steps. Andrew asked that the next Property Group look at obtaining quotes for redecorating the narthex entrance at St Alban's. Andrew reported that a report had now been received on the condition of the stained glass at St Mary's. Much of the work to be done should be covered by grants from specialist charitable trusts. The report also shows the quality and rarity of some of the old glass in the church.

The PCC were notified that the Child Protection Policy had now been revised and there would be a number of changes to the way the policy would operate in future. There will now be an annual report on the policy at each APCM. The new policy will be signed at the PCC in May along with a new Drink and Drugs Policy and a Vulnerable Adults Policy. Top up training will also be organised for those involved in children's work.

It was announced that Dan Shaw will chair the new stewardship campaign. The vision guiding the campaign will be shared at the May PCC but from all the conversations held there is a clear desire to see our churches maintaining themselves as vibrant worshipping communities actively engaged with the local community. At present there will not be an increase in the percentage assigned to outward giving but from 2009 wedding couples would be encouraged to assign the collection at their wedding to a particular charities instead of the money, as at present, coming to the PCC. It was also reported that one of the organisations supported by our outward giving, Guildford Community Family Trust, is to close. Instead the PCC agreed the funds should go to support the building of the new church at Ruxley.

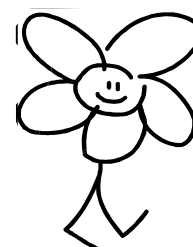
The next PCC meeting will take place on 20th at St Alban's.

Happy Birthday St Columba's House.

This year St Columba's House, Maybury Hill, Woking will be forty years. Originally built by the Sisters at the Community of St Peter, St Columba's is now a nationally recognised Retreat Centre that has set the standard for other such centres. It welcomes groups and individuals to a wide range of retreats, quiet days and events. With the convent of the Community of St Peter now sold St Columba's House is about to undergo a further make over to ensure its facilities are fit for a new century so that it can continue to offer the best hospitality and a place to retreat and reflect on life's journey.

If you would like to know more about the work of St Columba's you are warmly invited to their open day – just turn up any time between 12noon and 7pm on Saturday 7th June. Events will include Magic Show by Revd mark Townsend, Treasure Hunt, Music, Poetry, Displays, Refreshments, Worship, Peace... and of course Party Bags! Everyone welcome.

Flower Arranger Rota



	St.Mary's	St.Alban's
May 4th	Diana Forder	Morag Dillon
11th	Janet Weil	Janet Sutton
18th	Janet Weil	Linda Covey
25th	Miriam Hodgkins	Ann Brown

Fairlands WI

In 1890 St John Ambulance was started in Guildford by some public spirited members of the community. Since then a huge number of volunteers have worked selflessly for the people in the area.

This was the subject of the presentation given to Fairlands WI at their meeting on April 9th. Sarah Bennett has written a book about St. John Ambulance in Guildford up to 1939. You can purchase a copy at Guildford Museum. Since having her delightful baby, Alice, Sarah has had little time for writing. However, she is collecting material for another book which will bring the story up to the present day.

Can you remember the black ambulances which volunteers manned to assist the NHS until 1966? The fleet was then handed over to the NHS.

We are all familiar with their logo and appreciate their presence at public events such as the London Marathon.

Members supported a Bring and Buy stall, the proceeds of which were given to the Brigade.

It was announced that Fairlands WI members have become "Friends of Normandy Therapy Garden" and a visit is to take place in June.

At the meeting in May members will discuss and vote on the two Resolutions which will be taken to the AGM in Liverpool. A collection of slides showing Guildford Children's Centre will be shown and the monthly competition will be for "My favourite toy".

The meeting will take place at Fairlands Community Centre at 7.45pm on Wednesday May 14th. We welcome visitors to join us. For further information, call Dawn Murrell, President, on 01483 823557 or Angela Linington, Secretary, on 01483 233967

Worplesdon WI

Worplesdon afternoon W.I. celebrated its 88th Birthday on 2nd April with a special birthday lunch.

We invited guests from the neighbouring W.I.'s of Christmas Pie, Brookwood, Sutton Green and Fairlands; our special guest was Mrs Rosemary Hunter who is group advisor. The committee prepared and presented a beautiful lunch with a selection of wines, and delicious puddings. A birthday cake was donated, so it was all very festive.

Mrs Weeks was our speaker 'Beating the Blues' and this she certainly did. Dividing us into four groups, each was given a percussion instrument and under her direction bringing each group in at different times to music played, we created bedlam! I don't think I've laughed so much. We were all hysterical. If laughter is this best medicine we must all be 100% fit. Paddie Wheatley gave the vote of thanks. Jean Gable (Brookwood) thanked us on behalf of the guests.

The raffle was drawn with many prizes. We were reminded by Mrs Leach our President, about the auction on the 18th June in aid of this years charity the "Guildford Drop in Centre" at 8.00pm at the Worplesdon Memorial Hall. Admission £1 which includes nibbles and a glass of wine or juice.

Please Support Us

Know Your Bible Better

Emmanuel Church, Stoughton is holding an Old Testament Walk Through the Bible Seminar on **Saturday 10th May, 9.45am – 5.15pm** (bring a bible and a packed lunch). The day will give a memorable overview of the whole Old Testament and the fee includes a manual. To register please send a cheque for £12 per person payable to 'Walk Through the Bible Ministries' to Aretia Debenham, Parish Office, 1 Shepherds Lane, Guildford, GU2 9SJ.

Resurrection

In Lent some of us read Harry Williams' 'True Resurrection' in which he cites resurrection in everyday lives throughout the world, here and now. The work of aid agencies illustrates his point, and the following story of a boy in India is a supreme example - Please read on

Mr Srikant from ActionAid India has asked me to tell you the effect my mother's life has had on me and how your support of The Next Step has changed my story to one of hope.

I am Vijay. I am 24 years old and I live with my mother, Minu, in Shivdaspur, red light area in Varanasi, an international tourist centre in eastern Uttar Pradesh. My mother comes from West Bengal, but when she was 13 years old she was sold by one of her aunts into the sex trade. At first she was sent to Bihar where she was physically and mentally tortured by her 'owners'. Three months later, after being 'seasoned' as a sex worker she was sold to the Shivdaspur red light area. At first, she kept trying to run away but each time she was caught and locked in a room where she was beaten, raped, and starved. Finally, she gave up and accepted her fate as a sex worker:

My childhood was spent in the brothels. I slept under my mother's bed, even when she was working, as we lived in a tiny cubicle with room for only one bed. I was constantly scolded and abused by the brothel-owners and pimps and was sent to buy tobacco and alcohol for clients during 'work time'. The rest of the time I hung around the streets with the other children from the red light area.

That life led me into drugs and alcohol. I also got caught up in gambling as I thought it would be a good way to earn money. All the children in Shivdaspur will tell you the same story of their childhood - abuse, addiction, and gambling. Boys grow up to be pimps, brothel-keepers or small shopkeepers supplying tobacco and alcohol to the clients. Girls grow up to be sex workers like their mothers. There didn't seem to be any escape.

This was my life until I was 14 years old, when ActionAid and their local partner, Guria, started working with children like me. They started evening classes so we could receive a basic education and eventually enrol in a government primary school. The timing was crucial as evening is the main 'business' time when we are unsupervised and get into bad habits.

My mother agreed to send me to the classes. I enjoyed learning and realised this was my chance to change my future. I worked hard and gave up gambling, drugs and alcohol. By the end of that year I was enrolled in the government primary school. I studied hard through primary school and was accepted into high school. Because high school education is not free like primary school, ActionAid paid for me to continue my studies. When I graduated, ActionAid paid for me to attend a training course in computer hardware maintenance.

Now I am a computer hardware engineer and earning through dignified means. I no longer face a future of earning a living through pimping or brothel keeping or becoming a drug addict or a full-time gambler - a future I would have faced without ActionAid's support.

As well as working in my new job, I am helping Guria and ActionAid in their work. During 2007 I worked as a teacher in the evening classes. Now I am actively campaigning for boys and girls to study through to higher education so they can get good jobs that will take them out of

the red light area and its dangers. I give my example to them always and advise them to work hard. Seeing what I have achieved, more and more children are getting into computer education, hairdressing, or sales and marketing in search of an alternative way of earning a living. Even those that are not very good at studying are beginning to believe there are better ways of earning a living such as rickshaw pulling or petty trading.

Looking at the work of Guria and ActionAid, which you have supported, I feel very happy. I am also hopeful that the lives of all the children here in Shivdaspur will change for the better.

Thank you and warm regards

Vijay

Ban The Bag

Why are plastic bags so bad?

- **17.5 Billion bags** given away nationally by supermarkets (enough to cover all of London, Manchester, Newcastle and West Yorkshire).
- **Around 200 million** plastic bags end up as waste and litter on beaches, streets and parks every year.
- **Each consumer uses an average of 290 plastic bags**, every year.
- **Non-degradable** polyethylene is used in construction.
- **Few outlets for recycling** plastic bags.
- **They harm wildlife** - on land, rivers and seas.
- **Cost money** - to produce, clear up and dispose of.
- **Most are used only once and then are throw away.**

So who is trying to change things?

Many people from all walks of life are saying enough is enough:

- **Government** has set a target to reduce the environmental impact of free carrier bags.
- **Retailers and Supermarkets** are slowly adopting different ways to reduce the bags they give out – ‘Bags for Life’, loyalty points and charging for bags.
- **Towns and Communities** are saying ‘NO!’ to the plastic bag. Modbury, in South Devon was the first to declare itself plastic bag free - 50 others are following! **Could Guildford be next?**

What can you or I do?

The answer is **you** can make a **big difference** just saying ‘**NO!**’ to free plastic carrier bags whenever you can. There are hundreds of different re-useable bags you can buy in all shapes, sizes and colours - cotton bags, durable plastic bags, string bags, Hessian bags, jute bags, designer bags, parachute material!

You just need to **get into the habit** of having some bags to hand. So keep some in your car, your handbag, pockets just in case. If you only have a few items, do you really need a bag anyway?

Information from Guildford and Waverley Friends of the Earth <http://www.gwfoe.org.uk/>

Other important dates for May

Sun 4 th	6.00pm	Parish Youth group at St Alban's
Tues 6 th	8.00pm	Property Group at St Mary's
Wed 7 th	1.30pm	Edward Bear Club at St Mary's
Thurs 8 th	8.00pm	Stewardship Planning Meeting at Tanglely Cottage
	8.00pm	House Group at 17 Lyons Drive
Mon 12 th	8.00pm	Fund-raising group at Tanglely Cottage
Tues 13 th	2.30pm	Fairwood helpers Committee
Wed 14 th	1.00pm	Mothers Union at St Alban's
	8.00pm	Holiday Club planning meeting
	8.00pm	WSV Association AGM
Fri 16 th	6.00pm	Youth PCC at Rectory
Sun 18 th	6.00pm	Parish Youth Group at St Alban's
Mon 19 th	10.00am	WCRG at St Mary's
	11.00am	Primrose House Communion
	8.00pm	Growing Leaders at St Mary's
Tues 20 th	8.00pm	PCC meeting at St Alban's
Wed 21 st	12.30pm	Worplesdon Lunch Club at St Alban's

Worplesdon Parish 100 Club Draw

Held on 20th April 2008

**1st Prize £30 Winning
Number 37**

**2nd Prize £16 Winning
Number 15**

The next draw will be held on Sunday 18th May and thereafter 3rd Sunday of every month.

If you would like to join the 100 club please contact the Parish Office on 233091

The Mayor of Guildford

Congratulations to Cllr Jenny Jordan who will be Mayor of Guildford for 2008/09. Jenny will become mayor at a special ceremony at the Guildhall on Wednesday 7th May and the beginning of her year as mayor will be marked by a Civic Service at Holy Trinity, Guildford, on Sunday 11th May at 11.30am. Please pray for Jenny as she takes on this important office for our borough and we wish her well in all her undertakings in this coming year.

Can you handle a call from a deaf person?

It's easy !!! Just follow these few simple steps:

When you answer a call from a deaf person your phone will ring as normal.

1. A Typetalk Operator will join the call and ask you if you have used the service. Don't be afraid to say no, the Operator will talk you through the call.
2. The deaf person will type their conversation and the Typetalk Operator will read this to you. Occasionally the deaf person may speak to you directly, please do not interrupt as they cannot hear you. Your conversation will be typed back to the deaf person by the Typetalk Operator.
3. Be patient, the call will take slightly longer than normal as the conversation is typed. Try to remember to speak a little slower than normal so the Typetalk Operator can type your full conversation.
4. You can always call the person back if you miss any details by prefixing their full number with 18002
5. ALL calls via Typetalk are completely confidential.

Call us today to find out more about RNID Typetalk. 0800 7311 888 (hearing people)

18001 0800 500 888 (textphone users) or www.typetalk.org