

St Mary's Monthly Newsletter



Issue 13



November 2022

Message from Phe

From the Rectory



I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." ...A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. Psalm 91

Every November we commemorate the end of the First World War and remember those whose lives were affected by it and other wars since. Every year we do this on Armistice Day, 11th November and in churches the closest Sunday to 11th. In 2022 remembrance Sunday will be on 13th November. The world had not seen a war like the First World War, 65 million men were mobilised across Europe. Nearly a third of them – some 21 million – were wounded and another 8.5 million were killed, with 7.7 million taken prisoners of war. All of them had family and friends whose lives were changed forever by the events of 1914-1918. I would hazard a guess that all of us have a story to tell of at least 1 member of our distant family who was affected by that war.

One lady, Grace Cross, from nearby Leatherhead, Surrey, tells a fascinating story about her grandad, Pte Frank Viner. Frank was 21 when he joined the army and found himself in some of the worst fighting at the Somme, France. Grace says that her grandad was a jovial, thoughtful and happy person who was always willing to help others. Just three before he joined up, his father had given Frank a Bible for his birthday. Frank always kept the Bible in his right-hand pocket but for some reason, whilst he was in the trenches at the Somme, he moved the bible to his left-hand pocket. He remembered the words

'A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.'

Psalm 91

Just as he remembered these words there was an enormous blast as a shell hit the trench he was in. All his comrades around him were killed. Frank was thrown to the ground by the shell's impact, his uniform was torn, and his helmet blown off. Frank would have been dead if it had not been for his Bible. A huge piece of shrapnel was embedded in the bible ripping it open from cover-to-cover. 'If Frank hadn't moved the bible to his left pocket, he would have been killed,' said Grace. Frank always said to Grace that his bible saved his life, believing that God was protecting him.

Frank being protected and saved didn't mean that he was totally unscathed. Frank suffered shellshock and was admitted to hospital. What then followed was years of mental health problems resulting in two nervous breakdowns. But Frank never lost his faith in God, and he always went to church, twice, each Sunday! Frank did go to Bible college and considered going into full time ministry, instead he worked fulltime in his family's bakery business and fulfilled his calling as a Lay Preacher, ensuring people knew the redemptive power of God.

There are countless stories of bravery, survival and hope just like Frank's. What touched me by this story is the reality of Frank's ordeal, that 'yes', he survived but he was scarred for the rest of his life, and I'm sure those scars had an impact on his family too. Frank's story reminds us that bad, horrible and tragic things do happen and none of us are immune to them, and some people live with those scars for a lifetime. Yet in the dark, unforgiving hole of the trench, Frank heard the voice of God and trusted in those words, then and for the rest of his life.

As we remember the men, women and children who have lived through WW1, WW2 and others war since, let us also stop for a moment and listen. Whatever dark place we may find ourselves in, there will be a glimmer of light that shines through giving us a window of hope where God is trying to speak into our situation. What is God saying to you? How do you respond?





Some confusion seems to have arisen regarding the arrangements for visitors to St Mary's, and I have been invited to provide some clarification.

Guided tours can be organised at any time of year by prior arrangement with the Parish Office, provided the church is available on the chosen date and a Church Guide is on hand to lead the tour. No charge is made, although donations to St Mary's are welcome. In recent years, our tour groups have included Probus groups, heraldry groups and a party of Americans on a tour of locations associated with the soldier and statesman, William Marshal.

In addition, the church is open to visitors on a regular basis on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays from April to October between 2pm and 4pm, except when the church is in use for, say, a wedding. A Church Guide is always in attendance at these times to welcome visitors and to answer questions.

Stephen Chater



Mary-Beth will be running an Advent Bible study again this year.

It will be held at the Rectory on Thursday mornings, meeting at 10am for fellowship and then starting the course at 10:30am. We will aim to finish by 11:30am. The course will start on 1st December and run each week until 15th December

We'll be using a book by Archbishop Stephen Cottrell called *Walking Backwards to Christmas*, which reflects on the nature of love through central characters in the Biblical birth narrative of Jesus. You can order a copy through Eden books or probably through Amazon.

Phe will be graciously hosting our study. If you plan to come, would you please email Mary-Beth in advance of the start date. She would be grateful if you could email her on mhawrish@yahoo.co.uk

Why not put these dates in your diary, as an opportunity to engage in some spiritual preparation for Christmas.

I look forward to sharing our Advent journey together again this year.

Mary –Beth Hawrish



On Sunday 30th October a moving reflective service was held at St Mary's to remember our relatives and friends who are no longer with us but are never forgotten. It was entitled 'Fallen Leaves' and during the service the congregation was invited to come and lay a leaf on the ground in front of the altar. The leaves were set down so that in combination they made the shape of a cross. Our special Votive candle table (a gift to St Mary's by June Burt, in memory of her husband) had been placed in front of our statue of St Mary and participants were able to light a candle in memory of their loved ones. One parishioner commented, "I am sure all who could attend found the service moving and restorative in our faith and hope."



Photographs courtesy of Christopher Harwood

Sara Read

Church Services

Sunday 6th November	3rd before Advent	8.00am	Holy Communion
		10.00am	Choral Eucharist
Sunday 13th November	Remembrance Sunday	10.50am	Service of Remembrance
		6.00pm	Evensong
Sunday 20th November	Christ the King	8.00am	Holy Communion
		10.00am	Parish Eucharist
Sunday 27th November	Advent Sunday	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
		6.00pm	Advent Carol Service



The Anglican Communion Office announced on Monday 17th October that Bishop Jo, currently Bishop of Dorking, has been appointed to a new post as *'Bishop of Episcopal Ministry in the Anglican Communion'*. It is a role that has grown out of the recent Lambeth Conference—to follow up its work and to continue to build friendship and fellowship between bishops and provinces around the Communion. Bishop Jo will take up this new role from mid January. More details of this new post may be found at the link below:

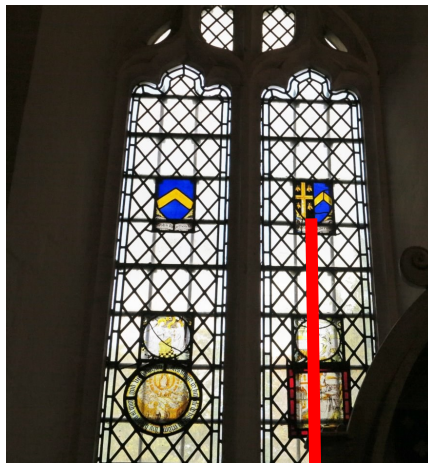
[Bishop for Episcopal Ministry in the Anglican Communion appointed to build on the successful Lambeth Conference](#)

Sir William Croyser

With the lying-in-state of the late Queen Elizabeth in Westminster Great Hall still fresh in our minds, it is interesting to know that some of the timbers used in the magnificent roof of the building came from royal woods in Hampshire, Hertfordshire, and the park of Sir William Croyser of Stoke D'Abernon who supplied over six hundred oaks in 1395.

Sir William had married Elizabeth the daughter of William D'Abernon, and so became the Lord of the Manor and, we assume, lived in the Manor House.

The heraldic crests Croyser/D'Abernon and Norbury/Croyser can be seen in two of the windows of the Norbury Chapel as well as elsewhere in the church.



Croyser/D'Abernon



Norbury/Croyser

Brenda Brown

Choral Eucharist at St Mary's

Choral Eucharist: Sunday 6th November

The setting for the Choral Eucharist on 6TH November is the 'Missa Princeps Pacis' (Mass of the Prince of Peace) by William Lloyd Webber 1914-1982.

A pupil of Vaughan Williams at the Royal College of Music he later returned to the college as a teacher of composition before being appointed Principal of the London College of Music.



William Lloyd Webber

For many years William was organist of the Methodist Central Hall, Westminster. His two sons Andrew the composer and entrepreneur and Julian the cellist, fly the family's musical flag today.

The communion anthem is 'Lord for thy tender mercy's sake' is variously contributed to composers Richard Farrant 1525-1580 and John Hilton the younger 1599-1657. This anthem is sung, by tradition, at the annual Royal Maundy Service. Farrant was organist of Queen Elizabeth I Chapel Royal and St. George's Chapel, Windsor. He was co-founder of the Blackfriars Theatre where the choristers of the Chapel Royal took part in many staged productions. Hilton was organist of St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, and a Lutenist to King Charles I. He composed many songs, published in several volumes during his lifetime.



Richard Farrant



John Hilton the younger

The Choirs of the HM Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace and Christ Church, Oxford

Richard Marshall highlights this special event with wonderful music and the opportunity to see parts of Hampton Court Palace which are not generally open to the public.

The Choirs of the HM Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace and Christ Church, Oxford, join together in an exclusive event to celebrate the patroness of music and musicians in the magnificent Chapel Royal at Hampton Court Palace on 22nd November 2022.

Starting at 4:30pm, there will be exclusive “behind the scenes” tours and talks for supporters of the Choral Foundation and Music Trust, to include:

- a talk with Tracy Borman FSA, Co-Chief Curator of Historic Royal Palaces & The Reverend Canon Anthony Howe FSA, Chaplain of Hampton Court, on the Boleyn Griffin and a unique copy of the Prayer Book from the Reign of Elizabeth I*
- a tour of the Royal Beds in the Prince of Wales Apartments (not usually open to the public) with a dash of scandal thrown in...*
- a tour of Grace & Favour Apartments (not usually open to the public) and the salacious gossip in the lives of the residents*
- a tour of Haunted Hampton Court (not usually offered as a tour option) - if you are brave enough...*

After the tours, we move to the Chapel Royal for a joint concert by both choirs, at 6:00, to include music celebrating St. Cecilia.

The evening will conclude with a reception in the spectacular King’s Guard Chamber, with canapés and Chilworth Manor sparkling wine from the Surrey Hills. Members of the Establishments of the Chapel Royal, Christ Church and Historic Royal Palaces will be hosting you during the reception.

Tickets are available online at the cost of £75 p.p. We will also be grateful if donors would like to pay, in addition, the booking fee of £6.44. Please follow the link to book and pay, and to select a tour.

Further information is provided on the ticket website.

We very much look forward to welcoming you to the Chapel Royal.

Yehudi Menuhin School

At our St Mary's November Concert we will be entertained by the talented pupils of the Yehudi Menuhin School but most of us know very little about the school.

The concerts given by the pupils of the Yehudi Menuhin School are always extremely popular, and we are so lucky to have the school and the Menuhin Hall as our near neighbour. There are now 80 pupils at the school from all corners of the world. Alumni include Nicola Benedetti, Nigel Kennedy and Alina Ibragimova.

The 300-seat concert hall provides rehearsal, recording and performance space for the pupils, who give in the region of 20 public Showcase concerts there each year. The Hall also presents a guest artist series for musicians of international renown, offering an alternative to traveling to London for top-quality classical concerts. Local arts groups also regularly hire the auditorium for lectures and concerts.

Many of our parishioners are aware of the school and indeed are Friends of the Yehudi Menuhin. Menuhin himself founded the Friends in the early '70s with the help of a few dedicated, local supporters. Since then, the Friends have grown to over 750 people from all over the globe, offering financial assistance to the School and a warm, enthusiastic presence at concerts. Many Friends have followed the careers of the pupils throughout their time at the school, and out into the wider world where they have become soloists, conductors, composers, teachers and ensemble players. Becoming a Friend enables priority booking at concerts, invitations to some free events and involvement in the school.

As with many things at present the school is under increased financial pressure. Pupils are admitted based on talent and potential and more than 90% need financial assistance to attend the school. The school needs support and is very keen to grow the Friends membership.

For information on becoming a Friend, contact <https://www.menuhinschool.co.uk/support-us/become-a-friend> or call 01932 584409.

Sue Prentice

**Lunchtime concerts at
St Mary's, Stoke D'Abernon
1-2pm**

2022

Thursday 24th November

Yehudi Menuhin School

2023

Thursday 26th January

Katherine Dienes-Williams

*(Organist and Director of Music
Guildford Cathedral)*

Thursday 23rd February

Crispian Steele-Perkins (Trumpet)

Oliver Macfarlane (Organ)

Thursday 30th March

Sarah Gait (cello)

Simone Tivoni (piano)

Thursday 27th April

Parkside School

Thursday 25th May

Oliver Macfarlane (Organist)

A retiring collection will be taken.

There is no charge, and no need to book for our lunchtime concerts but there will be a retiring collection which funds the fees paid to the musicians and to support the cost of music at St Mary's.

If you are a tax payer and are happy for us to claim Gift Aid please put your contribution in the blue envelopes on the pews and complete your details on the envelopes giving your name and home address before signing it.

For more details of future events please contact St Mary's Parish Office on

01932 866005 or visit our website www.stmarystokedabernon.org.uk

Stoke D'Abernon Memorial Park

With this being the season of Remembrance it seems opportune to include a feature regarding the renovation and rededication of the Stoke D'Abernon Memorial Park, which is opposite The Old Plough Public House in Station Road. We are grateful to Ian Nelson for permission to reproduce his article written for the Heritage Trust Newsletter.

In early 2021, David Cooke, Secretary and Archivist of CCHT, discovered during his research, that the popular children's playground, opposite the Old Plough in Stoke D'Abernon, was registered on the Imperial War Museum website as a war memorial...

This was news to everyone and was met with a mixture of surprise and embarrassment, as the community was blissfully unaware of this war memorial site on our doorstep.

It emerged that in 1946 the Women's Institute had planted eleven cherry trees: each tree to commemorate a local service man or woman who had given their life in service of their country during World War 2, and those names are shown on stone memorials on the Tilt and in St Mary's churchyard.

Since then some of the trees had died, the site had been equipped as a children's playground, and the original planting forgotten.

A successful application was made to the Elmbridge CIL Fund, and the Stoke D'Abernon's Residents Association, supported by Cobham Heritage Trust and Elmbridge Green Spaces team, commenced restoring and reviving the site. Five new trees of assorted species were planted to complement the remaining six surviving trees, and to create a 'grove' rather than a formal 'avenue'. Old tree stumps and dead tree branches were removed, and a wild play area was created. Two new benches were also acquired and a stylish new 'explanatory board' designed and installed.

On 27th September 2022, a dedication ceremony was held at the park with a formal renaming of the site as 'Stoke D'Abernon Memorial Park'. This was conducted by Rev Phe as one of her first tasks in her new parish.

In attendance was the Mayor of Elmbridge—Cllr Simon Waugh, Dominic Raab MP, Councillors and the Royal British Legion. After the ceremony the Old Plough served coffee and the WI provided plenty of delicious cakes.

We hope visitors will enjoy their visits to the new Memorial park and take time to remember the residents of Stoke D'Abernon who gave their lives for our country.



Ian Nelson

Threads through Creation—Spectacular Scenes in Fabric

By Jacqui Parkinson

One recent Sunday afternoon, while browsing the internet my attention was drawn to some photographs of the most amazing needlework I had ever seen. Not only were the pieces detailed but they were VAST in size. On reading more I discovered that this exhibition was on show at Guildford Cathedral. I was lucky enough to get the opportunity to visit it. Guildford Cathedral lends itself well to large exhibitions because of its simplistic design, good lighting and size which allows the viewer to stand back and admire the exhibits clearly.

The Exhibition ***Threads through Creation*** was inspired by the first pages of the book of Genesis. It was completed in 2021 and took nearly three years of work—although you would be forgiven for thinking it would have taken at least double that time! It comprises twelve huge panels.

Unfortunately the exhibition is no longer available to view at Guildford but you can visit Jacqui's website to see where the exhibition will be visiting during the remainder of 2022, 2023 and the first half of 2024. If you get the opportunity I thoroughly recommend it.

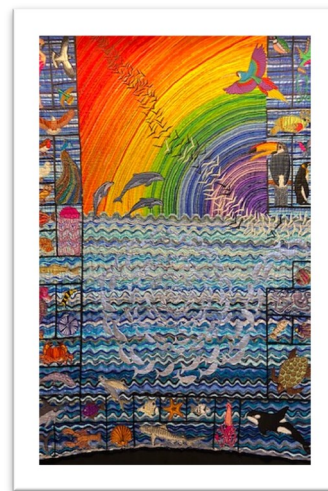
Sara Read

[Threads Through Creation Jacqui Parkinson Textile Artist \(jacqui-textile.com\)](http://jacqui-textile.com)

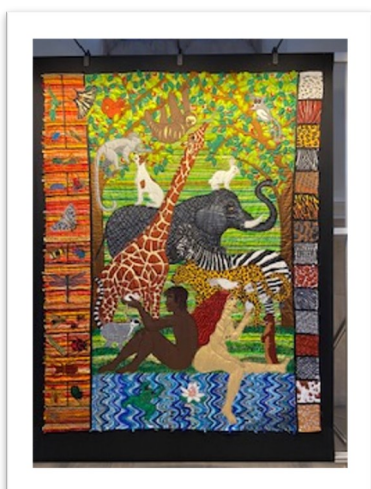
Below is just a snapshot of a few of the tapestries being exhibited...



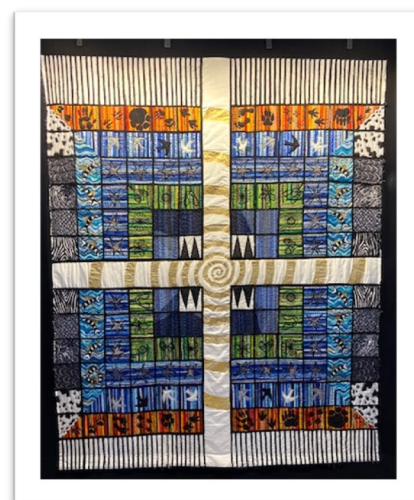
Day 2—Water—The creator continues his work—the second large space created with sky above and water below



Day 5—The creator fills the second large of waters above and below with multitudes of birds and fish



Day 6—The Creator fills the third large space of earth with extravagant and extraordinary living creatures.



Day 7—The Creator has made and filled three large faces and now he rests.

Parish News



St Mary's Choir

We are hoping to grow our own choir. If you enjoy singing and would like to give your vocal chords a tickle, why not come along on **Saturday mornings at 10.00am to the hall** and have a go.



St Mary's Christmas Lunch

The Parish Christmas Lunch will be held on:

WEDNESDAY 7th DECEMBER @ 1pm

Suggested donation £15 per person

(all profits to Crisis at Christmas)

[Lists to sign to reserve your place will be in the church during November. Please give your donation to Polly in the parish office.]

Safeguarding in our Parish



Loving God,
we pray that this church may be a place of welcome,
security and compassion.
Keep us watchful yet caring,
trusting yet ready to question,
that all who worship here may do so
in safety and in the knowledge of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is intended to serve as a reminder to us all about our shared responsibilities to keep each other, our local and our wider community safe from neglect, abuse and trauma in whatever ways we can. People from all walks of life, all social backgrounds, all income levels, all ethnicities, all ages can be victims of neglect and abuse. We can never assume that people we know and care about are not experiencing harm at the hands of a trusted person, or at the hands of a stranger – we are all required to be vigilant to protect those too vulnerable to protect themselves. In most cases our people around us are safe, healthy, happy and thriving but for some this is not the case, and it is for those people that we must be forever aware, attentive and willing to intervene.

Minister and Clergy Sexual Abuse Survivors

MACSAS supports women and men who have been sexually abused, as children or adults, by ministers, clergy or others under the guise of the Church. The website offers useful resources. There is also offer a telephone and email helpline for victims and survivors of Minister and Clergy sexual abuse – and for relatives of victims and survivors. Helpline is on 08088 01 03 40.

Stop It Now! UK and Ireland helpline

Stop It Now! UK and Ireland is run by The Lucy Faithfull Foundation, the only UK-wide charity dedicated solely to preventing child sexual abuse. They offer confidential support and advice for anyone concerned about their own thoughts or behaviours towards children, or concerns about the sexual behaviour of anyone else towards children. Helpline is on 0808 1000 900.

The National Association for People Abused in Childhood (NAPAC)

For adult survivor of any form of child abuse. Taking a first step is difficult, but they can provide support and signposting on 0808 801 0331.

MOSAC

Mosac provides supportive services in a safe & non-judgemental environment for non-abusing parents and carers whose children have been sexually abused on 0800 980 1958.

Respect Phoneline

Help for domestic abuse perpetrators to stop their abusive behaviour on 0808 8024040.

Refuge

Help to find specialist services in the community which provide support whether you have left your partner or not on 0808 200 0247

NSPCC

For any concerns about a child, contact the helpline and speak to one of the trained counsellors for information and advice 0808 800 5000.

Children can call Childline with any concerns they have on 0800 1111.

Samaritans

Whatever you're going through, a Samaritan will face it with you. They are there 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

If you are ever concerned about anyone's behaviour you can report this to the Police on 101 or in an emergency dial 999.

Vicky Young

(St Mary's Safeguarding officer)

Safeguarding Sunday is 20th November. Vicky will be speaking to the congregation at the 10.00am Parish Eucharist.

Following the success of last year's Reverse Advent Calendar and given that many families are finding life difficult at the moment with ever upward spiralling prices St Mary's has decided to repeat the initiative. Please share this with your friends!



Reverse Advent Calendar

Help us get ready to help lots of people this Christmas



Simply add one item each day for the month of November, or consider sharing with list with your colleagues or friends.

1 st	Big strong bag	16 th	Washing up liquid
2 nd	UHT Milk 1L (semi skimmed)	17 th	Tinned meat
3 rd	UHT Fruit juice 1L	18 th	Tinned potatoes
4 th	Sugar 500g (small packs)	19 th	Tinned peas
5 th	Pasta sauce	20 th	Tinned carrots
6 th	Fruit squash	21 st	Hot chocolate
7 th	Stuffing Mix	22 nd	Gravy granules
8 th	Christmas pudding	23 rd	Mince pies
9 th	Tinned custard	24 th	Christmas snacks
10 th	Christmas sweets/chocolates	25 th	Cup-a-soup packs
11 th	Chocolate spread	26 th	Christmas crackers
12 th	Cheese biscuits	27 th	Hair conditioner
13 th	Hair shampoo	28 th	Shaving foam
14 th	Liquid hand soap	29 th	Bleach
15 th	Cleaning sprays	30 th	Laundry powder/liquid/capsules



Please bring your donations to either St Mary's Church on Sundays, or any weekday morning to the collection point in the

hall.

Ideally all Christmas donations should be in by first week of December so they can be distributed in time for Christmas.



PLEASE NO OUT OF DATE ITEMS AS THEY CANNOT BE USED.

Parish Registers

BAPTISMS

We welcome the following to the family of God:

8th October—Harry George Parsons

23rd October—Vivienne Victoria Mackay Turk

MARRIAGES

We offer our congratulations to:

29th October—Naomi Puri and Munraj Gill

MICHAEL AXTON R.I.P.

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Michael Axton. For many years he was a wonderful vergers at St. Mary's, full of wit and wisdom and with a great singing voice to lead us in our responses. Many of us have very happy memories of him and his association with the church.

Are you looking for someone to help tidy up your garden before winter comes?

Most of you will know Marie, who recently married Rob at St Mary's. They come to church regularly. Marie is happy to offer her services to anyone who is in need of having their garden tidied.

No job too small!

She will prune, weed and generally tidy for you. She is available from Saturday to Tuesday and has her own tools.

Marie is also happy to walk dogs and dog sit!

Contact Tel: 07506 964282

DBS Registered.

[Marie is a part time teacher]



Parish Notices

The next meeting of the Discussion group is on **Monday 7th November at 2.30pm at the home of Audrey Binyon** . All are welcome.



We continue to need helpers to transport people, with no transport of their own, to the 10.00am Parish Eucharist and other parish events. If anyone can offer their services either for one-off occasions or on a regular basis please give your name to Polly. With thanks.

Mothers and Others is held every Thursday morning 12.00. Sometimes help is needed to run this popular event. If you would be prepared to help out on an occasional basis please get in touch with Sara Read at sread104@gmail.com.



We are very grateful to everyone who contributes articles towards St Mary's Monthly Newsletter. If you feel you have something of interest that you would like to share please get in touch with Sara Read at sread104@gmail.com. The closing date for contributions for the December/ January edition is **Wednesday 16th November 2022**.

Newsletter edited by Sara Read