

St Mary's Monthly Newsletter

Issue 21



*Christ the Redeemer Statue cradles the moon in Rio de Janeiro
by Leonardo Sens*

September 2023

Church Services

Sunday 3rd September	Trinity 13	8.00am 10.00am	Holy Communion Choral Eucharist
Sunday 10th September	Trinity 14	10.00am 6.00pm	Parish Eucharist Evensong
Sunday 17th September	Trinity 15	8.00am 10.00am	Holy Communion Choral Eucharist
Sunday 24th September	Trinity 16	10.00am 4.00pm 6.00pm	Parish Eucharist 4th@4 Evensong

Please note a service of Mattins is held every Thursday at 10.00am

Front Cover:

This photograph was taken by Leonardo Sens, a Brazilian photographer, who after three years of observing celestial patterns successfully captured this sought-after image on 4th June. He took the photograph while positioned on Icarai Beach, about seven miles from the statue. The photograph was taken as the moon passed behind the figure, who appears to hold the glowing orb in his outstretched arms in the act of divine alignment..

Message from the Rectory...

September is one of those 'start again' months. Schools start their new year; people take something up at evening classes and the Jewish New Year 'Rosh Hashanah' begins on 25th September this year. For universities this first term back is often called 'Michaelmas', which for many, means nothing. The reason it's called Michaelmas is because the feast of St. Michael and All Angels is held on 29th September and it's a really interesting festival.

The name Michael means, who is like God, and he is described in the Book of Daniel as a chief prince who protects God's chosen people, Israel. He is mentioned in the Book of Jude, where he argues with the devil over the body of Moses, not allowing the whereabouts of Moses' body to be known. He is then found in the Book of Revelation, where he defends the mother of Christ and the Church by fighting the war in heaven against the fallen angel Satan, also known as the great dragon and his demons. All of this can seem like the stuff of a fairy tale and that it belongs more to the 'Lord of the Rings' than to the Bible. But Michaelmas is important as it reminds us that there is more to this world than what we see around us. Michaelmas reminds us that humanity is not the centre of the universe, that this world we live in is not two dimensional, that we are spiritual beings as well as earthly beings, and that there is a whole other dimension surrounding us that we don't understand.

But I think the thing that intrigues me more about Michaelmas, is that it brings us face to face with the fact that there is a spiritual battle which has raged on from the beginning of time and continues. It would be easy if Satan looked like a dragon, but he doesn't. He can look like any one of us, anyone who wants to cause havoc, harm, destroy, divide and threaten. People who try to destroy relationships and hurt others don't look like dragons, they look like you and me. The horrific details of the Lucy Letby case have used the term 'evil' when describing her, and I think this brings us into the stark reality that evil comes in many guises.

Michaelmas reminds us that we live in a hostile world where we are called to defend and uphold what is right and true and just and honourable. Michael and the angels fought against the dragon, they didn't sit quietly in a corner of the heavenly places, having a committee meeting, drinking tea, and eating biscuits, while the powers of evil raged on. No, they fought against the powers of evil.

So, what about us? Are there battles that we need to fight? Certainly, working for Social Services, opened my eyes to the battle ground of inequality, poverty, depravation, unemployment, mental illness, depression, drug and alcohol abuse, domestic abuse and child abuse that is raging all around us. We may not be called to lift a sword and fight in the physical sense, but we are called to stand up for justice, truth, righteousness, and freedom. You may think you don't have the words or the time or the ability, but remember it's September, it is that new start month. Maybe there is a cause or a charity that you feel you'd like to find out about, help with, campaign or volunteer for. We don't have to do much to fight injustice, but we do need to do something, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." As a Christian I believe we are not alone in this battle, when we have a relationship with God- He will provide all that we need, he will live in us, protect us, guide us and help us.

So, what are you waiting for? Let this new Michaelmas term inspire you to take a stand and make the world you live in a better place.

Rev. Sr. Phaedra Pamphilon-Green CA

Eulogy for Dorothy Wheeler,
delivered by David,
at her Funeral 28th June 2023.

When I was growing up at Robins Croft, we had a ritual at mealtimes where mum would ask my father and me, "Have you had enough?" and we would always reply, "Yes... FTB (full to brim)". I can't help thinking that this is a wonderful acronym to sum up mum's life as it was indeed 'full to the brim' of so many facets.

Today we bring mum for the final time to her beloved church. A place which has been her spiritual home for 60 years and which has, during that time, been the centre and focus of her life.

From the beginning of her life in Cobham, following her marriage to my father Leslie in 1959, she threw herself into the church community and soon joined the St Mary's Guild, which comprised a band of trusty ladies and gentlemen who organised the church events. Parish breakfasts were one such event which took place two or three times a year after the 8.00am service, and I remember the old church hall being full of parishioners sitting down to a hearty breakfast of porridge, a good English fry up and large quantities of toast, batch produced by the youngsters.

Harvest suppers were another parish highlight, especially when it was suggested the barn at Slyfield be used for a harvest thanksgiving service followed by supper. To mum supper for 200 in an old barn with no hot water and barely any electricity was a doddle, and her organisation and team leadership ensured these events ran like clockwork.

She was a member of the discussion group from its earliest years, a church guide and was the first lady Churchwarden to be appointed here at St Mary's serving with Anthony Elliott and Andrew Stribley.

Dorothy's father insisted his daughter had a profession and after leaving school, St James' West Malvern, she was accepted to train as a physiotherapist at the Woodlands Hospital in Birmingham, specialising in orthopaedics.

Marriage, and the move from her home near Kidderminster to Cobham, and starting a family, interrupted her career, but once I had started school full time, she returned to work part time as one of the physios at the Schiff Hospital, located diagonally opposite the house. It was the perfect job, in a post operative 90 bed care unit, founded after the first world war, in an extended country house, where first class care and family values ensured patients recovered quickly from their operations. Oh, how we miss the Schiff today! After its closure, she transferred to the outpatient's department at the Cobham Cottage Hospital treating many local residents referred from the Doctors, including David Glover, Gordon Winter and Alastair Dunlop. She also occasionally treated pupils from the Yehudi

Menuhin School who were sent down with swollen finger joints due to too much practice!! She remained there until retiring after I left school in the early 80s.

Dorothy was also a talented sports woman and from an early age could out throw the boys with a cricket ball. She played hockey, lacrosse and tennis at school and bowled a mean ball at the men's cricket net practise at the Old Hill Sports Club near Halesowen. This was recounted to me very recently by one of those cricket players Ron Dovey, who was married to her oldest friend Lorna. Ron is now 102 and Lorna 94!

She also played county level tennis at Old Hill partnering in doubles another lifelong friend Melvyn Hickey. Melvyn went on to captain the English Ladies hockey team and married the legendary sportswriter and Wimbledon correspondent Laurie Pignon and who was made an honorary life member of the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Club. He also introduced me to the joys of Gin and tonic... at the age of seven! Mum and Dad had little or no say in the matter. Mum always enjoyed her annual trip to the centre court at Wimbledon usually on ladies' semi-finals day as Laurie received two debenture tickets for each day at the tournament but used to sit in the press box with all his mates.

Following her move to Cobham mum joined the Oxshott Village Sports Club tennis section, a great way to meet new friends and start a new life whilst my father was away on long trips as a navigator with BOAC.

She excelled at singles and the club tournament final was often a battle between Dorothy and her arch-rival and close friend Daphne Lee.

A shoulder injury resulted in her finding the demon Dorothy serve increasingly difficult and she gracefully retired in the mid 80's ... and took up golf selling her mother's old Morris 1100 for scrap to buy a set of clubs! She joined Effingham Golf Club enjoying and participating in the sports and social scene right to the end. Her tennis days were not quite over as I was told by her dear friend Gail Norman that the golf ladies used to play the tennis section in an annual match and that the formidable duo of Norman and Wheeler used to win... beating the regular tennis ladies. Following her accident and fall, breaking her hip she decided to call it a day with golf... and took up indoor bowls at the Leatherhead Leisure Centre encouraged by our wonderful friend and neighbour Roland Pollit. and which she played right up to and after the pandemic usually once a week.

Although not a sport in the true sense, I have to mention her love of Bridge which is probably a more mental sporting activity. Dorothy loved her bridge, and it formed a common bond between so many of her other activities ... golf, bridge church, bridge, WI, bridge, and Queen Elizabeth disabled bridge as well as rounds simply with friends.

Charity work and helping others has always been an important part of mum's life and she has thrown herself with enthusiasm into many local causes. The British Sailors' Society and the fantastic coffee mornings held in the Drive at the homes of Lesley Fairbain and Hermione Carter. The Schiff Home League of friends and its renowned garden fetes held

back in the seventies and eighties, where mum ran a nearly new clothes stall with her beloved friend Betsy Butterfield. This was an eagerly anticipated event and mum's stall was often the top money-spinner in an era before the charity shop and Ebay! Clothes were collected all year from friends and contacts and the spare rooms were often groaning with stock. On the day changing rooms were constructed from screens borrowed from the Physio dept and all furnished with full length mirrors!

When funds were needed to refurbish the village hall at Stoke d'Abernion Dorothy stepped in with her team of loyal friends and arranged a series of fund-raising suppers with entertainment provided by a small light entertainment group I belonged to called, 'Good Company'. They were fun evenings, which always ended with a good communal singalong.

Her main charity in recent times has been the Queen Elizabeth Foundation for the Disabled, the friends' group of which she took over running from Beryl and Norman Wight. Arranging lunches and bridge drives as well as helping at larger events held at Sandown Park and Epsom racecourses... where she was usually found in the coat cupboard on cloakroom duty.

She was always up for new challenges and when I happened to mention that Buckingham Palace were looking for volunteers to help in the correspondence office, to process the Diamond Jubilee messages and cards, she was up for it: one day a week for about six months., opening post and sorting letters for reply by the ladies in waiting.

After my father's death in 2000 life did not stop and she very quickly adapted and was a keen supporter of events run by my Father's Probus Group which welcomed widows of former members. New friendships blossomed and she shared many happy events and holidays including a very adventurous trip to Peru.

She was welcomed on two English Chamber Choir trips to France organised by Ann and Guy Protheroe notably introducing herself to one of their neighbours at a barbecue as 'the token old bag on the tour!' Mum also sang and was a founder member of the Oxshott Choral Society when it was reconvened by Valerie Beynon in the early 70's.

She also sang in the Concert choir at St John's Leatherhead which rehearsed on a Sunday afternoon in term time. Much better to join in than sit in the car waiting for me to rehearse!

I almost forgot the most important charitable organisation... the WI!! Mum came to this perhaps later than a lot of the members and she threw herself into the many activities, serving on the committee and a term as President. Some of the activities strayed a little bit outside the ladies circle and on a number of occasions I found myself enrolled to help... making hats of various descriptions, a scarecrow and an entire display cabinet to house items for a county competition. I also gave talks on the Royal Collection and drafted in Household colleagues as speakers, including Mark Lane the former Head Gardener and

Ken Wharf, former bodyguard to Diana Princess of Wales and a former member of the English Chamber Choir.

At home Dorothy was the consummate home maker, a skilled sewer and lover of all aspects of needlework crafts including knitting, dressmaking, embroidery, and tapestry. She loved to fill her evenings working on an embroidered picture or tapestry cushion and her beautiful creations are the most precious items to me in the home. She made curtains not only for Robins Croft but also for my flat in London, all beautifully hand finished and interlined. She knitted... how could I ever forget the yellow football jersey she crafted when horrified at the cost of buying one from the uniform shop at Danes Hill School

She made many of her own clothes often from pieces of material given by friends or purchased from John Lewis or her favourite Cobham shop... the haberdashers 'Zigzag' and prior to that the infamous 'Gammons'. She made me waistcoats out of beautiful furnishing fabrics which I loved to wear... who else could have a waistcoat with a chair covered in the same material!

She was also the bag lady of Cobham... for every purpose made from all sorts of offcuts... even bags to hold other bags... how proud I was of my games kit bag at school made of old recycled deckchair canvas... far too good to throw away!

Nothing was wasted and she was the consummate recycler. Following an exhibition at the Queen's Gallery some years ago, we were left with a quantity of blue cotton fabric which had lined the showcases, slightly damaged where fixing holes had gone through. This was of definite interest and a large pile of pieces were brought home. Some months later she paraded a completely new golfing outfit... shirt, culottes, skirt and shorts all matching and a final accessory a revamped blue woollen sleeveless sweater now faced down the front with the same matching blue fabric... to cover a large hole which the dog had previously chewed in this favoured garment.

Following the move from Broome Hill in Fairmile Avenue, Robins Croft has been her home for the last 58 years, a home to nurture both inside and in the garden which she loved so much, especially growing the vegetables. (Sadly, the leeks this year got a bit neglected due to her ill health and ran to seed but the flowers, I am happy to say, have been used in the spray on the coffin). It has been a place to raise a family and to entertain which was an integral part of her being.

When constructed in 1966 the eight houses built on a plot of vacant orchard and vegetable garden were the essence of family living and neighbourliness... no fancy gates or high security walls just builders' rubble and wire fences but occupied by families who were always there for each other and whom, along with other close neighbours, Dorothy considered her wider family. Friends with whom we celebrated, commiserated... good times and sad times. She cared for her many friends and also her brother Ken in his later

years and she loved to drop by delivering a home-made meal or one of her rounds of home-made shortbread. I am working on the shortbread recipe to keep up the tradition ...it's taking a little time to perfect but am slowly getting there!

I stand here... a proud son. Proud of his mother's care and commitment to others and ever hopeful I can attain a small portion of what she achieved in her lifetime. A life that was FTB with so many good things.

May flights of Angels sing thee to thy rest.

Music for Choral Eucharist

Sunday 3rd September 2023

Sunday 3rd September is the first service under our new choral system, with our rebranded "choral scholars" - the Norbury Singers. (*Editor: see next article Page 11 of this newsletter.*) We are greatly looking forward to the many benefits that having a consistent group of singers in attendance for choral services will bring, and the support they can provide to our flourishing Parish Choir.

This week, the Norbury Singers and Parish Choir will sing William Byrd's Mass for 4 Voices for our Mass setting; a timeless classic of the English church repertoire, which is especially important in this year as 2023 marks 400 years since the death of William Byrd. His excellent mass setting will be complemented by an introit by Richard Farrant, "Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake" and an anthem by Ludovico Viadana, "Exultate Justi". Byrd and Viadana lived at almost exactly the same time, but in very different places, and it is very interesting to observe the musical differences between the English and Italian composers' works.

Matthew Brown (Musical Director and organist)

The Norbury Singers

We are delighted to be beginning a new system for choral singing at St Mary's, which will allow us a continuation of the high-quality choral singing we are accustomed to, but with much better community involvement in choral music, and a number of exciting additions to the schedule of music and services at St Mary's.

The Norbury Singers is the new programme which will replace the previous "choral scholars" of St Mary's; a year-long engagement of five professional singers, many of whom were engaged previously as "choral scholars". They will provide high-quality choral music and support for our Parish Choir. They will continue to sing at the Choral Eucharist on the first Sunday of every month, (in support of the Parish Choir,) at seasonal and festival occasions such as a Christmas Carol Service, Midnight Mass, Tenebrae on Good Friday and Easter Morning, and also at a number of exciting new services, detailed below! In select months, the Norbury Singers will join the Parish Choir for Choral Evensong, allowing us to expand our repertoire of choral music at this important evening service for the church. At these services, we will add choral settings of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis, as well as a chanted psalm, introit and anthem.

Finally, on selected dates throughout the year, the Norbury Singers will act as the choir for a new type of service entitled **Bach Evensong**; an Evensong service at which an entire cantata by J.S. Bach will be performed as a part of the service, with professional instrumentalists and vocal soloists to complement the Norbury Singers. These services should prove very exciting; a rare chance to hear the music of J.S. Bach in its intended liturgical context, with the exquisite music providing an unparalleled opportunity to reflect, meditate, and connect with the liturgy.

The first of these Bach Evensongs will be on **Sunday 12th November, 6pm**. This is Remembrance Sunday, and in commemoration of this the chosen Bach cantata is a funeral cantata entitled "Gotteszeit ist die allerbeste Zeit", or "Actus Tragicus", BWV 109. This is an incredibly moving and emotional piece of music, commemorating the death of friends and their journey to be with God in Heaven, and should make for an extremely meaningful Remembrance Sunday service.

Matthew Brown

The Queenes Chappell - New Artists-in-Residence

Beginning in September, a new and exciting collaboration will begin between St Mary's and *The Queenes Chappell*, a young professional vocal ensemble specialising in historically-informed performance, which was founded by our Director of Music Matthew in 2022. Over the course of the coming months, the group will perform several concerts at St Mary's, which should prove exciting and musically fulfilling. The first of these will take place on **Saturday 30th September** at **6pm**, where the ensemble will perform a programme entitled '**WILLIAM BYRD: The Nightingale's Own Brother.**' This concert is an homage to the great English composer William Byrd in his 400th anniversary year, with selections of his sacred and secular vocal music, as well as contributions from his contemporaries. Entry to this inaugural concert will be by donation.

Founded in January 2022, The Queenes Chappell aims to re-engage audiences with the exciting solo and consort vocal repertoire of the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, through a fresh, vivid, and historically informed approach.



Its members are drawn from the very best of London's solo and consort singers, who are also heard with premier groups such as the Monteverdi Choir, Amsterdam Baroque Choir, Tenebrae, and the Gabrieli Consort.

The group have been engaged as Artist-in-Residence at St Mary le Strand Church in central London since September 2022, and have presented a series of successful concerts, including performances of early English consort music, French high baroque, and a large-scale conclusion to their inaugural season of Monteverdi's *Vespers of 1610*. The group is looking forward to an exciting upcoming season, including performances at the *Italian Sounds in London* and *Baroquestock* festivals, and a new residency at St Mary's Stoke D'Abernon.

If you are interested in helping to support bringing this high-quality music making to Stoke D'Abernon, please do get in touch with our **DoM, Matthew Brown**, who would be delighted to hear from you. We will be in need of occasional overnight billets and transportation for our artists, and some financial support in order to secure the practical costs of concert-giving at St Mary's.

Will Barry—Jazz Pianist

At St. Mary's Church Hall Stoke D'Abernon

27th July 2023



A full audience welcomed Will Barry to our piano in the church hall that produces a quality sound. The programme placed on the chairs showed an impressive profile and awards.

He introduced himself by playing some jazz blues. The twelve-bar improvisation was immediately tuneful, melodic, slow, and put me in a thoughtful mood. As Will described afterwards, it illustrated the blues and expresses the hard life suffered in the American south from which jazz originated to find a voice and tell a story of resistance and fortitude. This improvisation was therefore a unique example of the inspiration that blues music has on the emotions and was a small gift to us, the audience.

Will wanted to give a recognisable and entertaining anthology of how Jazz started with the blues played on the piano and how that sound developed by composers and was defined in each decade through popular instrumentals and used in film.

Will's piano playing was much marvelled at. His friendly talk about jazz history in between the numbers that he played was educational and his expansive musical experience was evident. Will was delighted to come to us at St. Mary's as he grew up locally where both his musical and academic education began and welcomed questions.

Will's performance included excerpts from:

1936 composer Benny Carter with 'When lights are low'.

1938 composer Duke Ellington (the master of melodies) 'Prelude to a kiss'

1942 Composer Jerome Kern 'I am old fashioned' was co-written with lyrics by Johnny Mercer, for the film, *You Were Never Lovelier* the Fred Astaire-Rita Hayworth film musical.

1946 Bud Powell, 'Bouncing with Bud'

1954 Erroll Garner 'Misty' – one of the first pieces of jazz that Will had learnt as a 12-year-old pupil at Daneshill School

1965 Herbie Hancock, 'Maiden Voyage' an example of modal jazz

Concluding with a 1950's English composer popular in USA today, Ray Noble, 'Cherokee'.

Will Barry's accomplished musicianship will be remembered. I hope that Richard Marshall can arrange another visit for the future in Will's busy international schedule.

By audience member Christopher Harwood



Crispian Steele Perkins—Trumpet with

Ian Le Grice –Organist

At St. Mary's Church Stoke D'Abernon

22nd June 2023

The joy and enthusiasm with which St Mary's welcomed Crispian Steele-Perkins, the international trumpet player, was reflected by him in equal measure at his pleasure in playing for us again.

Crispian is the world's leading Baroque trumpet player known as a soloist for his purity of tone and artistic ability.

Ian Le Grice, formerly of the Temple Church Choir when Dr George Thalben-Ball was Organist and Choir Master, is a regular deputy organist at St Mary's, who is familiar with our baroque organ and always welcome at our church.

The combination of trumpet and organ works surprisingly well so both musicians complement each other's instruments.

The opening piece of music was Handel's Sinfonia from the opera Floridante and commences with a grand trumpet flourish accompanied by the organ. The Piccolo trumpet is played for this, it being half the size of the ordinary orchestral trumpet and is the trumpet used to herald the opening of the Antiques Road Show.

We move from Handel, 1685-1759, to the Trumpet Sonata by Scarlatti which was written in the early 18th century when the trumpet was twice the size of today's orchestral instrument. The Trumpet Sonata is in three parts with the organ providing the link with a soft bell like tune. In this musical setting the trumpet gives a much softer sound.

Mozart's 'Alleluia from Exultate Jubilate' (1756-1791) is a joyful and happy tune fully demonstrating how the trumpet can convey these emotions.

In the year 1820 the military trumpet was completely transformed by adjustable valves thus providing both high and low registers. Previously, the trumpet had only played in a high register.

At this stage Crispian gave a demonstration on the evolution of the trumpet.

Basically, the sound of a trumpet is made by the player vibrating their lips on the mouthpiece resulting in a far from musical noise so the sound needs adjusting.

The hunting horn being the most basic form of trumpet is limited in its repertoire due to its one basic note. Likewise, the basic Egyptian trumpet was a military instrument to signal advance and retreat. It is simply a noise making machine, for instance if you vibrate the lips faster it makes the note more harmonic and the longer the tube the longer the note.

At this point a surprising interlude took place when Crispian played Handel's Water Music on a length of garden hose with a mouth piece. This was an unexpectedly musical sound which both surprised and amused us all! To continue his demonstration Crispian dismantled a second trumpet, the same type as that used on State military occasions. He showed how to put in lower notes by adding a loop and mouthpiece which gave the type of sound as heard in Purcell's time.

However, Handel wanted to write out of doors music so a hole was made in the tubing and when open made another series of notes one fifth higher, adding the two together, another higher note was formed.

At the Court of Esterhazy, the Court Trumpeter of the 1790's played a trumpet to which a clarinet had been added so tubes could be pushed up and down to make semi-tones as in the music written by Haydn.

The music of J N Hummel (1778-1837) is written with the new invention of 4 or 5 keys as illustrated with 'Allegro Vivace' which includes organ interludes. In the year 1690, only Henry Purcell was playing the fanfare trumpet. The subtle sound of notes being in a slightly different order than now was used to support singers and this was gracefully demonstrated in 'Three Airs' by Purcell.

Then the programme took a leap forward to modern times, in fact the 1980's -1990's, with Burt Bacharach's theme from 'Alfie' as it was sung by Cilla Black.

This haunting melody was played on the cornet and reminded many of us of our more youthful days when 'Alfie' was a popular tune.

The last item on the programme was a set of Trumpet Voluntaries. For this a re-built baroque trumpet was used with the valve halfway along the instrument. Two other valves had been added which enabled the player to play very accurately and with a gentle sound as heard in John Stanley's 'Trumpet Voluntary'. In this tune the organ repeats the sound of the trumpet.

To conclude `A set of Voluntaries` written by a present-day composer, John James was played. They were composed from improvised scraps of music which the composer heard at his church, St Olaf`s.

For an encore, Crispian played another Trumpet Voluntary by John Stanley, the remarkable musician, who although blinded from the age of two, was organist of the Temple Church and Master of the King`s Music during the reign of George III.

We offer our sincere thanks to Ian Le Grice as organist and to Crispian Steele-Perkins we send our warmest thanks for his talented musicianship, his mischievous sense of humour and his joy at interacting with us, his audience, to produce a most memorable concert.

Diana Thalben -Ball

St Mary`s Concert—28th September 2023 1-2pm

Martin Toyer—Organ recital

Classical Organist for Frobenius Organ

Martin Toyer was appointed Director of Music at the Church of Our Lady, St John`s Wood, London in Advent 2014. As a child, Martin was a chorister in Luton; his first appointment as Director of Music was when he was sixteen years old and he has been directing choirs ever since. Whilst studying at Oxford University, Martin was Organ Scholar and director of the chapel choir at Brasenose College. During his time at university, he performed as soloist, director and ensemble member for many groups around the city. Whilst the liturgy of Our Lady gives Martin plenty of opportunities to indulge in his passions for organ music, plainchant, and Renaissance polyphony, he also directs Ensemble 42, a small group of musicians who perform solo and ensemble works, exploring all genres of music from plainchant to lieder, from Baroque to modern opera. Martin is also busy as a singer, conductor, and accompanist in London. We look forward to welcoming him on **Thursday 28th September in St Mary`s Church.**



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

2023

Thursday 28 September	Martin Toyer, Organ recital
Thursday 26 October	Dawn Hardwick, Piano recital
Thursday 30 November	Pupils of Yehudi Menuhin School
Thursday 14 December	Philip White-Jones, Christmas organ music recital

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. Thank you for your contribution.

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 envelope 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

Organ recitals at St Mary's and elsewhere in the country can be found at

www.organrecitals.uk



Cobham Area Foodbank

by Christina van Roest

It is sad that we are still asking for the support of the community to help families in need of food. The cost of living is in every one's mind and has an influence, not just on the material issues, but also on the mind and soul which lead to mental health problems.

There still seems to be an element of stigma attached to the use of a foodbank and we are convinced there are more people out there who would benefit from our support and the help of the community.

We receive items of our listed most needed products and financial donations. The latter are used to buy additional items needed, as our demand outstrips our stocks...more food goes out than comes in.

Every Tuesday (our day when clients attend the distribution centre) we receive freshly grown vegetables and fruit from the Community Gardens of East Horsley, "Grace and Flavour," which is a great addition to our products for distribution.

We are delighted to report that Squire's Garden Centre (Stoke D'Abernon/Cobham) has chosen our Foodbank as their Charity of the year 2023/2024.

Squires say:

"Our staff chose the charity and are passionate about supporting the local community. We hope to be able to donate a generous amount throughout the year, with thanks to our customers, and also to support the charity on specific projects through the sharing of our time, skills and expertise."

More information on activities during the year will be available on their Website:

<https://www.squiresgardencentres.co.uk/garden-centres/cobham>



Please do support Squires activities that they organise in support of our charity. Why not look up the website, see what is being offered and enjoy passing the time there whilst funds are raised for our Foodbank?

We continue to ask for your food items to be placed in the bins located in the church and in the hall. Any financial donations are always welcome.

Thank you all for your continued, generous support.

Christina

Do you like to sing?

Oxshott Choral Society's new season starts soon:

OCS, your friendly , local choir is looking for new singers (especially in the lower voices!) We are always delighted to meet new members, but at the start of the season we extend a special invitation.

Please join us on:

Wednesday 27th September at 7.45-10pm

St Mary's Church Hall

Stoke D'Abernon

This is an opportunity to meet members and the musical team, while enjoying refreshments, before warming up our voices to sing Mozart's much-loved *Requiem*.

Spud Suppers

As co-coordinator (with Polly) of the St Mary's new initiative, (*editor: and highly popular*) Spud Suppers I was asked to share a recipe that I enjoy making. I thought I would take the opportunity to write a short piece about how 'spud suppers' were first started and a little insight into what goes into their planning by writing about my experience of the first one...

On Shrove Tuesday, and as a preparation for the parish of the start of Lent Phe and Polly organised a baked potato and pancake night. Families were encouraged to participate with delicious fillings being served with the potatoes before everyone indulged in pancakes with a vast variety of toppings. It was wonderful to have 'rising 5 year olds' sharing fellowship with 95+ year olds and everyone chatting and laughing informally together.

Following this success the idea of a Spud Supper, on the first Monday of the month, was borne. I was delighted to be asked to help. I know Polly will agree that the two of us have really enjoyed planning and cooking for these first three events. We try to provide some informal entertainment. The first supper in May was our Coronation Evening and as the '3rd' was our July date we featured an American celebration. We have plans for subsequent Autumn events.

The obvious menu choice for our May supper had to feature Coronation Chicken as the centre piece. I had agreed to help when it occurred to me that I was actually away until the Monday morning. So, I knew I had to be organised! Michael to the rescue! On Sunday he roasted five chickens for me. My first job on my return was to strip the meat off each carcass. Then I prepared the tuna. (At the suppers we like to give the option of at least one popular filling—tuna, baked beans, cheese, coleslaw).

[At this point I should say that when first asked to provide a recipe I made it clear that I rely on guesswork for my cooking—I'm just one of those type of cooks! "No worries," was the response from the editor, "but perhaps you could just add that as a note with your recipe!" From this conversation two types of cooks were 'devised' - 'Weighers' and 'Estimators'. I fall into the second 'camp' so I am unable to give you any quantities as I add all the ingredients for the sauce together and mix. When the appearance is good I taste and add extra of anything that seems lacking.]

My recipe for Coronation Chicken:

- Chickens (roasted and cooled before being stripped of their meat)
 - Apricot Compote (Bonne Maman is best)
 - Greek Yoghurt
 - Mayonnaise
 - Juice of Half a Lemon
 - Curry Powder
1. Mix all ingredients together
 2. Once sauce is of the desired taste and consistency add meat flaked, chopped meat
 3. Add additional ingredients to help bulk-up and add taste. Such ingredients may comprise a mixture of fruit and nuts—sliced banana, chopped apple, grapes, mango, nuts, sultanas etc—or anything else of your choosing.

(For the Spud Supper I used mango, grapes and flaked almonds)

I can't deny it was a bit of a rush as we had to be at the hall by 3.30pm to set up the tables and decorations but around forty people enjoyed a fun-filled evening together.

If you have not yet been to a Spud Supper, please do come along. Just sign up in the church or let Polly know you are coming.

SPUD SUPPERS

- ***First Monday of the month (except August and December)***
- ***5.00-7.00pm***
- ***Adults £10, Children £5***
- ***Bring your own wine (if desired). Juice and water provided***
- ***Entertainment***

Parish Registers

Baptisms

We welcome into God's Family at St Mary's:

Sunday 9th July—Florence Cross

Sunday 20th August—Gabriel Olivier Louis Slater-Dobinson

Marriage

8th July— Rebecca Dempsey and Adam Davy

Funerals

Wednesday 5th July—Patricia Champness

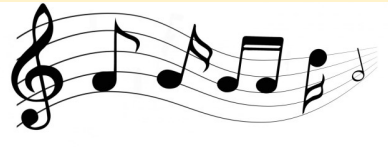
May she rest in peace and in rise in Glory

A big thank you to everyone who responded to my request for photographs of beautiful views, unexpected delights or hidden gems that they have visited or 'happened upon'. If you have read this leaflet and are disappointed that there is no mention of them then I apologise! There was no leaflet in August so we have had a vast amount of material to include this month. For this reason your wonderful photographs will be part of the October Newsletter. [I can assure everyone they are worth waiting for!] Anyone who has not yet sent their photograph please do; there is still time!

Editor.

Monthly Discussion Group

The next discussion group will take place on Tuesday 5th September
The meeting starts at 2.30pm and will be held at the home of Brenda Brown.



Forthcoming Event

SPUD SUPPER



Enjoy an evening when Rev Phe will interview our organist Matthew about 'all things Musical'.

Monday 4th September 5-7pm



The church will be open from April to October on Saturday and Sunday afternoons between 2pm and 4pm and we need some new guides. If you are interested please contact Polly.

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***. [Please may I request that if you are writing a feature for the newsletter that you use 'Microsoft Word' as that is the easiest format for me to transfer from, Thank you.]

Closing date for contributions for the October issue is **Wednesday 20th September 2023.**