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PARISH CHURCHES

Church Magazine March 2026





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March 2026

Vicar's letter . . .

Dear Friends,

What a year we have had so far! The British public are known the world over for loving to talk about the weather. This year we have had plenty of material for conversation. As I write, some parts of the country have had rain every day of the year. The sky has been resolutely grey most days and walking the dog has been a battle of avoiding the puddles, staying upright on slippery mud and having a towel handy on return home.

On these days, it may seem improbable, or even impossible, that the sun will ever appear again and that our bodies may be warmed under a blue sky.

Sometimes we feel as though our lives are grey as we struggle through difficulty, illness or circumstance. The church year reflects these times of sadness and celebration. As we pass through Lent, we live through a period of reflection and penitence. We remove flowers from church, and some will fast or give up certain foods. We seemingly live under a cloud and struggle to see the positives.

Lent is a season which focuses on what is to come. Jesus walked through the days before Easter, preparing for the time of his death and resurrection and the fulfilment of his plan for salvation. These are days of foreboding and darkness: humankind was scheming and plotting ill.

However, the joy of knowing God is that there is certainty in the sun (or SON), to come. The cloud is not permanent: there is hope, there is joy and celebration to come. It is a bit like climbing in an aeroplane and passing through the cloud to find that the sun was blazing all the time.

And for us, as we continue to struggle through the rain and the overcast skies, we know that the sun is still shining and will return. Jesus, the Son, is still shining, even in the dark days of Lent and the feeling of dreariness. There is joy to come when the Son returns after Easter, as risen and glorified.

The next time I am sliding in the mud as I follow my dog uphill, I shall try to celebrate what is to come and what we can look forward to. Take some time this Lent to stop, reflect and think about the path that Jesus was following. It puts the rain in perspective!

With love,

David

March Diary

for St John's Church, Wonersh and St Martin's Church, Blackheath

Sun 1		2nd SUNDAY OF LENT
	10am	All-Age Service
	10am	Sung Holy Communion
Tues 3	9am	Morning Prayer
Wed 4	9am	Morning Prayer
Thurs 5	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Sun 8		3rd SUNDAY OF LENT
	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10am	Morning Worship
Tues 10	9am	Morning Prayer
Wed 11	9am	Morning Prayer
Thurs 12	10.30am	Morning Worship
Sun 15		4th SUNDAY OF LENT / MOTHERING SUNDAY
	10am	Holy Communion (CW)
	6pm	Choral Evensong
Tues 17	9am	Morning Prayer
Wed 18	9am	Morning Prayer
Thurs 19	10.30am	Holy Communion (CW)
Sun 22		5th SUNDAY OF LENT
	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10am	Morning Worship
	6pm	'Be Still with God'
Tues 24	9am	Morning Prayer
Wed 25	9am	Morning Prayer
Thurs 26	10.30am	Discovery Service
Sun 29		PALM SUNDAY
	10am	Holy Communion (CW)
Tues 31	9am	Morning Prayer

April

Wed 1	9am	Morning Prayer
Thurs 2		MAUNDY THURSDAY
	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Fri 3		GOOD FRIDAY
	12pm	Good Friday Reflection
	2pm	Good Friday Reflection
Sun 5		EASTER SUNDAY
	9am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10am	Family Celebration with Short Communion followed by Easter Egg Hunt in churchyard
	10am	Sung Holy Communion
	

CW = Common Worship (2000) BCP = Book of Common Prayer (Traditional 1662)

Connect Groups

We want to encourage each other to grow in faith. Our small groups offer a place where we can learn and develop in an informal environment.

Groups of around 10-12 people meet on a regular basis (usually weekly) in local homes to study the Bible, pray, get to know each other and develop deeper friendships. Most groups meet in the evening, but there are some during the day.

If you are interested in joining a group or would like to find out more, then please contact **David Peters** (vicar@wonershchurch.org.uk / 07521 090179).



Church Office

The Church Office (in The Vicarage) is open as follows:

Monday	9 am - 2 pm
Tuesday - Thursday	9 am - 1 pm
Friday	9 am - 2 pm

The office number is **01483 890266** (if outside office hours you may leave a message), or email office@wonershchurch.org.uk.

Copy Deadline for April 2026

Please submit articles for the April issue by **Tuesday 10th March**.

E-mail address for copy is magazine@wonershchurch.org.uk.

For advertising, please contact John Gosden (JohnGosden@aol.com or tel.502076).

Looking Ahead to Easter at St John's, Wonersh

As we move through spring and towards Easter, there is a real sense of excitement growing at St. John's.

We're especially looking forward to our **Mother's Day Craft Workshop** on **Saturday 14th March**, where children can come along with their dads, carers, or grandparents to make something special for the mums in their lives. Mums, if you're in charge that day, do come along with your children too. It's a joyful afternoon, full of colour, creativity, and smiles.

Then, in the Easter holidays, we'll be hosting our **Easter Craft Workshop** on **Friday 3rd April**, with fun, hands-on activities exploring the Easter story in a child-friendly and creative way.

Please see our flyers (below and opposite) for more details; and book by emailing me: clare@wonershchurch.org.uk.

At St John's, Easter is at the heart of what we celebrate. For Christians, it's a time of hope, life and joy, reminding us that love and light are stronger than darkness. Through crafts, stories and shared time together, we love finding gentle ways to share that message with children and families.

Whether you're part of our church community or simply live locally, you are very welcome to come along and join us.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Clare



MOTHER'S DAY CRAFT WORKSHOP

SATURDAY 14 MARCH 3- 4:30PM

THE VICARAGE ST JOHN'S WONERSH

Dads, carers and grandparents bring your little ones to make something for their mummies

£2 suggested donation per child
Sign up required
Email: clare@wonershchurch.org.uk

A colorful poster for an Easter Craft Workshop. At the top, the words "EASTER CRAFT WORKSHOP" are written in a large, white, bubbly font with a blue outline, arched over a central illustration. The illustration depicts a scene with a yellow sun, a green landscape with rolling hills, a purple flower, a blue and red striped figure, a white figure with a beard, and a large grey stone. Below the illustration, the words "HE IS RISEN" are written in large, colorful, block letters. The text "FRIDAY 3rd APRIL 9:30-11AM" is written in red, bold letters. Below this, "LAWNSMEAD HALL, WONERSH" is written in red. Further down, "Suggested donation £2 per child at the door" and "Sign up required" are written in blue. At the bottom, the email address "Email: clare@wonershchurch.org.uk" is written in blue.

FRIDAY 3rd APRIL 9:30-11AM

LAWNSMEAD HALL, WONERSH

Suggested donation £2 per child at the door
Sign up required
Email: clare@wonershchurch.org.uk

Church Electoral Roll

Last year saw the periodic complete overhaul of the church electoral roll, and we are approaching the time for its annual update. Essentially any baptised person over the age of 16 who lives in the parish, or who attends our services regularly, is entitled to have their name added to the roll (with certain conditions). Having your name on the roll not only allows you to vote at the Annual Parochial Church meeting (APCM), it also makes a statement that you are a member of the church community. The revision will take place on 28th March – no applications can be considered after this date, to be effective in time for the APCM on 26th April. The revised roll (names only) will be published in the churches in the period before the APCM. Only those whose names are on the roll may vote at the APCM, or become a member of the PCC.

Forms are available in both churches, and should be returned by **Friday 27th March**, either in the box in St. John's or by post to: *Wonersh Church Office, The Street, Wonersh GU5 0PG*. The forms should also be used if there have been any changes in your personal details.

If you have recently moved to the parish, or have become a regular member of our congregation, please consider joining the roll and getting involved.

Meet Nicky Cooke and Open the Book



Jesus said “Let the children come to me and do not stop them” (*Mark 10:14*). I first read those words in a prayer and hymn book, given to me by a neighbour when I was 7 years old. They were under a beautiful picture of Jesus, surrounded by children from many nations, with one child on his knee. From that picture, I sensed then the love, care and understanding that God has for us all. I believe this was the start of my own love for children, showing love to them, whatever their circumstances.

I was the eldest of 5 and from an early age I often looked after my siblings and younger cousins, and also “helped” in a local Children’s Home. After au pair jobs I trained as a Speech and Language Therapist, working mainly with children - I loved it all! Similarly, becoming a mother, foster mother and the Church Children and Families Worker in Wonersh & Blackheath. What a joy and privilege it has been to play a part in the lives of hundreds of children! And how thankful I am for all the amazing adults who loved and cared for me, influencing and encouraging me so positively right up to this day. Yes, there have been heartaches and challenges that at times seemed overwhelming, but I also developed a certainty that God loves me, understands me and is with me. This is thanks largely to the early introduction to Jesus that I had through Bible stories at home, in school and in church.

So, with my life experiences, my faith in God and a love for his Word, it is no surprise that I became passionate about passing on his Word and sharing the Good Shepherd’s love especially to children. I gladly took up the challenge to lead, with Patsy Kettle, an “Open the Book” (OtB) team - currently 12 dedicated volunteers from several churches including Wonersh and Shamley Green - acting out Bible stories in WSG and Bramley Infant Schools each week since April 2010.

OtB started as a small group in Bedford in 1999 with the vision of “sharing Bible stories with all children everywhere, through the power of storytelling”. It has now expanded and flourished in thousands of schools. The teachers and children in “our” schools welcome us warmly. Taking turns to act with the team and seeing the stories come alive, helps the children remember and engage with them. Characters are in costume, with sound effects and exciting props – like a 9 ft giant, “hobby” camels, a chariot, and more! We are often amazed by the children’s deep thoughts, comments and concentrated listening, as we draw the assemblies to a close after reflection, prayers and a song. We plan the programme to fit with the school curriculum, so there is reinforcement of the good values from all sides.

It’s good fun preparing the presentations, with a few helping each week: rehearsing, learning words by heart and coping with the early morning starts! It’s all worth it for the joy of sharing the wonderful Bible Stories and God’s love, in answer to his command to “hear my words ... and teach them to the children” (*Deuteronomy 4:10*). The smiling and sometimes earnest or serious faces of the children as they concentrate and take it all in is an added bonus. We are all so grateful to have this opportunity!

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From Dust to Bloom

Floral workshops for Lent

Join us in the vicarage at St John's Wonersh for relaxed, practical sessions. All flowers & materials provided. Beginners welcome.

TABLE ARRANGEMENTS
 Fri 20 March | 7:30–9:30pm | £10

EASTER WREATHS
 Sat 28 March | 10am–12pm | £15

Book:
community@wonershchurch.org.uk



Wonersh Community Garden

We are growing vegetables, flowers, and friendship and we'd love you to be part of it.

Join us Saturday mornings
 10 am – Noon
 St John's Wonersh, GU5 0PG

Everyone's welcome, no experience needed.

If you're carrying something heavy, you don't have to carry it alone.

PASTORAL & BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

Life can sometimes present us with difficulties that feel overwhelming:

- The loss of someone close
- Family tensions or breakdown
- A difficult diagnosis
- Feeling isolated, exhausted, or numb

Our Pastoral and Bereavement Support Team is here to listen. We offer a free, safe, confidential space to talk with someone trained in pastoral care or bereavement support.

Get in Touch:
<https://www.wonershchurch.org.uk/>
office@wonershchurch.org.uk




Meals ministry

For when you need a little help

Are you recently bereaved?
 Facing serious illness?
 Or have you just welcomed a new baby?

We'd love to support you with some free home-cooked meals delivered to your door – a small way to show care and compassion during a challenging time.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch
clare@wonershchurch.org.uk
 01483 890266

Guildford Food Bank **(previously North Guildford Foodbank)**



After a cold, wet start to the year, at last Spring is on the horizon and our spirits are lifted when we see the new life it brings and the promise of better days ahead. The same can be said of our clients when they come to collect their food parcels. They leave, feeling lighter in spirit and with a little more hope for the future. Thank you for your part in making that possible.

Our requests this month are for:

Tinned Meat	Fruit Squash
Tinned Tomatoes	Shower Gel
Flavoured Noodles	Easter Eggs

In addition, we always need strong carrier bags / bags for life.

Donated items can be left in the foyer of St John's church, or in the crate on Rosie Couzens' doorstep (**10 Little Orchard Way, Shalford, GU4 8JY**).

If you would rather make a financial donation, please refer to our website: guildfordfoodbank.org/donate, which lists the ways you can donate (if you are a taxpayer, Gift Aid can be claimed by the Food Bank on personal donations).

Church Walking Group

The next walk will be on **Thursday 12th March** – further details from Catherine Keech (catherine@keechonline.com).

Defibrillator at St John's Church

A Mindray C1A Defibrillator has been purchased by St John's PCC from the charity London Hearts and installed to the right of the main entrance to St John's church in Womersh. It is dual-functioning so can therefore be applied to a person of any age and the pads are universal (so no need for different sizes of pads, i.e. adult or paediatric – which causes confusion and wastes time). The defibrillator has been registered on the National Ambulance Service database.

Previous experience or first aid qualification/training is not necessary as the defibrillator is fully automatic. Once opened it will guide you through the steps to be taken. Please note that the machine will determine whether it is appropriate to administer a shock to the patient so there is no risk of you causing harm.

If you are interested in how to use the defibrillator there is a professionally recorded full demonstration training session at <https://vimeo.com/557677120/e7524918c5>.



Blackheath Focus

March 2026



 *Coffee morning,
Monday 2nd March
10.30am-12.00pm
Blackheath Village Hall*


St Martin's Blackheath
Pray with us
Wednesdays
9 am

St Martin's Church, Blackheath Electoral Roll Review 2026

As you will see elsewhere in this issue, we are approaching the time for the annual update of the church electoral roll. Having your name on the roll not only allows you to vote at the St Martin's Annual District Church Meeting on 19th April, it also makes a statement that you are a member of the church community. The revision will take place on **28th March** – no applications can be considered after this date, to be effective in time for the Wonersh and Blackheath Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 26th April.

Forms are available in St Martin's Church, and should be returned by **27th March**, either in the box in St. Martin's or by post to: *Wonersh Church Office, The Street, Wonersh GU5 0PG*. The forms should also be used if there have been any changes in your personal details.

If you have recently moved to the parish, or have become a regular member of our congregation, please consider joining the roll and getting involved.



Lent in Wonersh & Blackheath

Exhibitions

A series of paintings illustrating the last 24 hours of Jesus' life and usually termed 'The Stations of the Cross'.

St Martin's – 19th March to 4th April, open 8am – 4pm

St John's – 19th March to 4th April, open 9am – 1pm

From Dust to Bloom

Flower workshops

St John's Vicarage

Table Decoration

20th March,

7.30pm – 9.30pm

&

Easter Wreath

28th March,

10am – 12pm

Wardrobes & Rings

Book Group

A Lenten journey
with the Inklings

St John's Vicarage

8th & 29th March

4pm – 5.30pm

Wisdom Years

Study Group

Sharing the stored
wisdom of the now
retired

St John's Vicarage

24th Feb, 3rd, 10th,

17th & 24th March.

10.45am – 12pm

For more details and to sign up, email: office@wonershchurch.org.uk

Village News

Wonersh & District Garden Club



On **Wednesday 4th March**, our speaker is **Julia Corden** who has a passion for alpinines, herbaceous and unusual plants. She will be focusing on easy alpinines for South East England.

The meeting on **Wednesday 1st April** features a talk on cottage garden plants by Rosy Hardy, the renowned plantswoman behind **Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants**. Rosy has been a regular prizewinner at Chelsea Flower Show for many years.

Both meetings start from 7pm at the Wonersh Memorial Hall. Visitors are welcome at £3 for the March meeting, and £10 for the April meeting.

A special date for your diaries: our colourful **Spring Show** will be held on **Saturday 28th March**. Visitors are welcome to view for free in the Memorial Hall from 12.30pm. The judge on this occasion is Geoff Peach.

If you would like any further information about the Club, please contact Hilary Goodridge: tel. **01483 535108** or email hilarygoodridge@ymail.com.

Wonersh History Society **Saturday 21st March, 2.30pm** **Wonersh Memorial Hall**



Perhaps one of the little thought-of achievements of 18th-century England was the creation of a network of well-maintained roads – turnpikes. These roads were created on an *ad hoc* basis through Acts of Parliament with boards of trustees empowered to levy tolls. At one time there was a toll house in Wonersh, and it is at Wonersh History Society's next meeting that Stuart Dennison will expand upon the network that developed in SW Surrey and which dictates many of the routes still in use today. This promises to be a fascinating look at some 150 years of road transport development.

Guests are welcome for a fee of £3.

To find out more about the Society visit www.wonershhistory.co.uk.

Village Barn Dance – **Delicious Supper included**



The Stockbrokersbelt Band is coming back to Wonersh Memorial Hall on **Saturday 7th March, 7pm for 7.30pm start**. Come and join us for what promises to be another great evening. No previous experience needed - the band will tell you what to do!

Tickets **£20** each. Bring your own drinks.

Please email Graham on grahamjhealy@gmail.com or tel. **01483 898539** to book, or for more information.

In Memory of Kalpesh

On an unusually bright Saturday morning at the end of January a few Wonersh folk happened upon Neela, her children, their partners and her grandchildren at the unveiling of a new bench in memory of Kalpesh.



It was a very low-key event, but the bench has replaced a rather tired one in front of Diamond Cottages. Sitting on it gives a lovely view of Chinthurst Hill and, true to Kalpesh's heart, an excellent view of any cricket match. **Do** use it: it can seat a whole family as the photo shows, and the inscription is lovely.

U3A Wonersh & District

Your local U3A, covering **Blackheath, Bramley, Chilworth, Shalford, Shamley Green and Wonersh**



What's on in March 2026 – join us for these activities

Mon 2	Pilates: Lawnsmead Hall, Wonersh	Tues 17	Tai Chi (2 groups): Lawnsmead Hall
	Annual General Meeting: Bramley Village Hall	Wed 18	Table Tennis: Bramley Village Hall
Tues 3	Tai Chi (2 groups): Lawnsmead Hall	Thurs 19	Country Walk: meet Red Lion, Shamley Green
	Listen to Classical Music: Shalford Club Rm		Latin: Godalming
Wed 4	Table Tennis: Bramley Village Hall	Fri 20	French: Godalming
Thurs 5	Mah Jong: Bramley Library Room	Mon 23	Pilates: Lawnsmead Hall, Wonersh
	Latin: Godalming		Coffee Morning: Percy Arms, Chilworth
Fri 6	French: Godalming	Tues 24	Tai Chi (2 groups): Lawnsmead Hall
Mon 9	Pilates: Lawnsmead Hall, Wonersh	Wed 25	Coach Trip: Sandhurst Military Academy
	Book Club: Selwyn Room, Parish Church		Table Tennis: Bramley Village Hall
Tues 10	Tai Chi (2 groups): Lawnsmead Hall	Thurs 26	Line Dancing: Shalford Upper Hall
	Exploring Churches: St Mary Magdalen, Ripley		Latin: Godalming
Wed 11	Table Tennis: Bramley Village Hall		Pottery: Farley Green
	Pub Lunch: Onslow Arms, West Clandon	Fri 27	Art: Shalford Upper Hall
Thurs 12	Line Dancing: Shalford Upper Hall	Mon 30	Pilates: Lawnsmead Hall, Wonersh
	Latin: Godalming		
	Pottery: Farley Green		
Mon 16	Pilates: Lawnsmead Hall, Wonersh		
	Play Reading: Selwyn Room, Parish Church		

Join us for some very interesting talks, visits and activities. Newcomers are welcome. For further details, please phone Jacqui on 07814 379294 or visit: <https://wonersh.u3asite.uk>

Want to Make a Difference in your Village? Become a Parish Councillor!

Wonersh Parish Council is looking for a new Parish Councillor to help represent Wonersh village.

No special qualifications are required to be a councillor: indeed it is important that all sorts of people serve as councillors to give a good representation of the community. Training for new councillors is available, and we are supported by our Clerk and team of paid staff.

If you would like to put yourself forward as a Wonersh Parish Councillor for the Wonersh Ward, please get in touch with the clerk: call **892601** or email clerk@wonershparish.gov.uk; and/or download the application forms from our website: www.wonershparish.gov.uk.

If a number of people indicate their interest in the role by **Tuesday 10th March**, candidates will be asked to give a short verbal statement about why they are interested in the role, at the Council Meeting on 19th March.

What do Parish Councillors do?

Wonersh Parish Council is made up of 9 voluntary councillors - 4 from the Wonersh Ward, 4 from the Shamley Green Ward and 1 from Blackheath Ward - who meet once a month to discuss and act on issues of importance to the local community.

The Parish Council sets and monitors how a proportion of local taxes are spent in the Parish, makes comments on planning applications in the Parish and considers projects to help maintain, improve or enhance the local area.

Local Government is changing and Parish Councils are seeing an increase in the responsibilities and opportunities to influence decisions made that affect our local community.

What hours will I need to commit to the role?

The role is voluntary and unpaid. The Council holds meetings on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7.30pm, usually in Wonersh Sports Pavilion. We don't usually meet in August or December. There are opportunities to sit on committees and working groups, and the role can be as little or as much as you make it.

Sheep Grazing in Barnett Fields

Wonersh Parish Council is finalising arrangements with Surrey Wildlife Trust to graze sheep, owned by the Trust, for a few weeks in the spring and autumn. This has been successfully trialled on adjacent fields and would help control ragwort at the rosette stage, as well as improving the botanical diversity and health of the fields in general; and also providing improved pollinator and small animal habitats, by maintaining varied sward heights.

The Parish Council is keen to ensure that walkers can still access the field margins, so additional fencing and signage will be needed for the safety of both sheep and walkers. **DOGS will be required to be on leads** whilst sheep are present - this is of course already expected in the birdnesting season from 1st March to 31st July.

Assistant Manager needed for the Villages Wednesday Club

Would this suit you?



We are looking for a new volunteer who will take on the role of Assistant Manager to help run the **Villages Wednesday Club** at Blunden Court in Bramley. He or she would initially help with general volunteering, learning about the club and shadowing the current Assistant Manager until a suitable handover can take place. The Assistant Manager is generally at the club every other Wednesday, alternating with the Manager, and a small retainer is paid to reflect that responsibility.

The club provides a day out each week for elderly people living in the local community who are a bit lonely and isolated. They can have a chat over morning coffee, followed by a cooked lunch, afternoon tea and entertainment; and this gives their carers a day off too. The job of Assistant Manager is interesting and varied, and you will be helping to provide a fantastic service to improve the lives of local elderly people.

As the Assistant Manager, you would work with the Manager and a great team of volunteers to provide a warm, friendly and caring environment. The role involves assisting in organising the activities, whilst maintaining simple records such as registers, rotas and petty cash; as well as some admin, which can be done at home.

The role may suit someone who has nursing or care experience or has worked with elderly people; but this is not essential, as it's more important that we find someone who is friendly, caring, and practical. If you have some time on your hands and think you would enjoy being part of this team providing invaluable support for the community, do get in touch.

For further details, please contact Sue Searle: email manager@fourvillages.co.uk, or **07771 558541**; see www.fourvillages.co.uk for more about the Wednesday Club.

Junior Football on Wonersh Common

Wonersh Football Club is starting for U5 and U6 girls and boys in March 2026. Wonersh FC will initially run one training session per week on Wonersh Common and is looking for players to join.

Parents and guardians who would like to be involved should contact wonershfc@gmail.com.

Cre8tivity

On **Tuesday 10th March**, 8 - 9.30pm at the Vicarage, we will be exploring some thoughts for Lent by painting pebbles - all materials provided. Come and be creative and have some inspirational fun.



Further details from community@wonershchurch.org.uk.

Twinkle toes
 Mobile foot care clinic

MEMBER OF


Kirsten Hall MCFHP MAFHP
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Life Issues: Navigating Retirement

Saturday 14th March, 10am - 12.30pm

Godalming Baptist Church, GU7 1BA

Are you at a decision point approaching retirement, or thinking through how best to use your time and energy now you are retired? Join us to explore the choices and frustrations that come to the fore at this stage of life. How best might you deploy your experience, time and energy in ways that are creative and fulfilling? How can we experience retirement as an exciting entry into the next phase of life?

The morning will be led by Peter Shaw who spent 32 years in the senior civil service, and has been coaching leaders and teams over the last 20 years.

The session will be free of charge, but voluntary donations are invited towards the vital work of Tearfund.

To help with managing numbers, please reserve a place by contacting Sally Pollard: pollard3@hotmail.co.uk or 01483 428646, by Friday 6th March.



Memory Lane

Memory Lane has started the new year with many new exciting activities in its calendar. Following a constructive presentation by Dr Jill Rasmussen (national authority on Dementia), guests then experienced the introduction of Motoview. This was set up by Zoe Susijn from the Leisure Centre for the benefit of each guest, to support their wellbeing through mental and physical exercise; and was well appreciated, especially by people experiencing dementia.

A two-session course entitled *Art for Fun* will be led by Kathy Plank this month, again something new to stimulate guests and those Memory Lane team members who will not be able to resist the fun of painting together.

Apart from the Memory Lane *Walk in the Park* on the second Monday morning each month, the other main event is planning for the concert mentioned last month.



Rehearsals by the Music Group and guest artists are taking place, with additional gatherings for the formation of a Dementia Choir. The concert this year, entitled *“Musical Memories”*, is being staged in the comfort of Cranleigh Baptist Church on **Saturday 25th April** - tickets just £10, to include interval refreshments.

To book tickets for *Musical Memories* please telephone Jan on **07876 528704**;
or for any other information on Memory Lane activities, just call **01483 274398**
or email mamwild@aol.com.

WonCares

Can you spare the odd hour or two?

The Wonerish Village Good Neighbour Scheme, **WonCares**, is one of over 100 such schemes operating throughout Surrey. Our volunteers provide a range of services – mostly comprising transport to medical appointments or similar. We have also undertaken companionship visits, one-off special shopping trips (we cannot provide a regular service) and emergency dog walking.

Our very first assignment, a return trip to Cranleigh Hospital, took place in February 2012. In the 14 years since then we have helped 182 clients at least once. Not surprisingly, in that time a good number of our original volunteers have moved away or stood down, and although others have come forward we are now in need of more.

Could you help?

Being a **WonCares** volunteer does not obligate you in terms of how often you volunteer or what you do (although most requests are for transport). The most assignments any one volunteer undertook last year was just 13. There are some minor administrative hurdles to be passed - a DBS check (carried out by Surrey Community Action), and driving licence / insurance checks - all relatively painless!

Could you be a coordinator?

WonCares works by clients leaving a request on our answerphone. Once every weekday a coordinator will pick up any messages, liaise with the client and find a suitable volunteer to undertake the assignment. This seldom takes more than an hour. If we can find two or three more people to manage this task we will be able to ensure that no one need do more than one session per week. All assignment details are logged on an Excel spreadsheet and a coordinator must be willing to sign up to Dropbox. A short training session will be provided.

Find out more

We would love to meet anyone interested in becoming a volunteer or coordinator (or both!) at our AGM which will take place on **Thursday 30th April** in the Turner Room, Lawnsmead, at 2pm. Members of our volunteer committee will be on hand to answer any questions - **and there will be cake!**

‘Showstoppers’

Saturday 21st March, 7.30pm

Godalming Borough Hall, GU7 1HR

Godalming Rotary presents a fantastic evening of popular songs and items from the shows, featuring the GSA (Guildford School of Acting) Singers, in support of the vital work of the charity **Sight for Surrey**.

Tickets **£20** - available online from buytickets.at/godalmingrotary, or in person (by cash) at Record Corner, Godalming.





Step by Step

Step by Step is a local charity dedicated to empowering young people and preventing homelessness. For nearly 40 years, they have supported around 1,500 young people aged 16–25 each year, providing safe, stable accommodation alongside tailored support. Their services go beyond housing, helping young people build essential life skills, improve emotional wellbeing, and develop the confidence and independence needed to move beyond crisis and build independent, fulfilling futures.

Now, Womersley resident Anna Reid is appealing to others in the Parish to contact her, if interested, for community presentations about the charity's work - available as a guest speaker for local WI groups, rotary clubs, local golf clubs, churches or U3A groups. People living locally are encouraged to get in touch to receive a charity presentation wherever guest speakers may be sought.

The charity also runs sessions in secondary schools, about **'Launch'** - a service available for age 11+ years. Launch is a free advice service offering knowledgeable and confidential advice on a range of issues covering housing, health, work and wellbeing. Teachers reading this are invited to get in touch to arrange a school presentation, fundraising opportunities and more!

For more information, please contact Anna, the Community Fundraiser,
on **01252 346100**.

Spring Events at St Augustine's Abbey

St Augustine's Abbey is hosting three inspiring events this spring, bringing together literature, poetry and global spiritual insight in the peaceful surroundings of the Abbey's Assisi Room.



Every Photograph Tells 'The Great Gatsby' Story - Friday 20 March, 7.30-9pm
An evocative evening exploring *The Great Gatsby* through rare images, storytelling and live Jazz Age music. Advance booking essential - **£15**.

Indigenous Spirituality - Saturday 28 March, 10am-12 noon

The final part of a six-month study of the spirit of indigenous wisdom, this month considering the sacred places of early Britain. Advance booking essential - **£10** per person, or **£25** for three people.

Women of Words and Wisdom - Thursday 16 April, 7.30-9pm

A celebration of three remarkable poets spanning three centuries - Anne Bradstreet, Emily Dickinson and Mary Oliver - combining biography, readings and reflection. Advance booking essential - **£12** if booked by 16 March, then **£15**.

All events must be booked in advance via [ticketsource.co.uk](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk) (search 'Chilworth Abbey') - a small booking fee applies.

Reminders of the Wonersh Wool Trade

From the 15th to the early 17th century, Wonersh was part of a flourishing wool trade in south-west Surrey. As we look around the village today, it seems hard to associate what we see with the hustle, bustle, and noise of that cloth manufacturing past. Knowing where to look and understanding some village history helps identify connections to that past.



Perhaps the earliest of the remaining evidence can be found in St John's Church where the North Chapel (now the Lady Chapel) is thought to have been built by the Guild of Wonersh Weavers. There is little written evidence to support that contention, but it was built in the C15th when the addition of guild chapels to parish churches was common. This was the conclusion of Rev. Algernon Brown

who did a lot of research into the history of the church and the village.

Between Wonersh and Lordshill is the house called Yieldhurst, which is thought to have been the 'guild house' of the Wonersh Weavers.

There are several houses in Wonersh Street that were once the homes and workplaces of local weavers. The first is Medd House, known earlier as The Gables or Four Gables. This was previously 3 or 4 separate cottages occupied by weavers. The next are The Old House and its adjoining property, known as Throwsters (a 'throwster' is a person who twists silk or other fibres into yarn) – also known to have been 3 or 4 separate weavers' cottages. In the late 19th century, both blocks of weavers' cottages were refurbished and consolidated into larger homes by local architect Ralph Nevill. The image opposite shows the Old House and Throwsters in the 1870s.



The fourth house is named Weavers - although somewhat smaller than the first three, it is very interesting as it contains the remains of the wooden frame of a weaver's loom. The image opposite appeared in the Wonersh WI Scrapbook of 1949. Recent Estate Agents' photographs show the loom frame still in place.

For our next reminder, we go back to St John's Church. Near the side door of the South Chapel (formerly the Vestry, and before that the vault of the Grantleys) stands the largely hidden tomb of Richard Gwynn, the top of which bears his coat of arms and states he was a 'Clothier of London'. Richard Gwynn died in 1701 and in his Will, he left money to buy bread for the poor of Wonersh. The loaves were left each Sunday morning on his tomb.



Until some years ago there was a house named Rack's Close on Barnett Lane, albeit subsequently renamed. That name is reminiscent of an area used by weavers for the drying and stretching of their cloth. There is an area in Guildford similarly named. Other evidence we have of this former industry takes the form of Weavers' Wills, of which we have several examples in the archive of the History Society.

Wonersh History Society



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