



VILLAGE NEWS

WEST END

Volume 16 Issue 4
CHRISTMAS 2019

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE

'Remembrance Day' was first observed in 1919 when the tradition was inaugurated by King George V. The day is also marked by war remembrances throughout the British Commonwealth and many non-Commonwealth countries. It was originally called 'Armistice Day' to commemorate armistice agreement that ended the First World War on Monday, 11th November 1918 at 11am. This year marks the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Normandy and D-Day, (6 June 1944), the Battle of Kohima, India and the Battle of Monte Cassino, Italy. It also marks the 100th anniversary of the Government Communications HQ (GCHQ).



Members of the local community gathered at Esher War Memorial to honour those who fell in both World Wars as well as other more recent conflicts. Malcolm Parsons laid the wreath for The Village Club West End, Margaret Dane laid the wreath for the Village News and Glenyce Alexander laid the wreath for Winterdown WI. The Royal British Legion, Surrey County Council Leader, Esher Borough Ward Councillors and representatives from local organisations also laid wreaths. The Remembrance Service at the War Memorial and in Christ Church was led by Revd Sarb Klair and David Whymark. More photos inside.



Left:
The processional
cross was carried by
Michael Birnie who
led the Clergy and
Choir to the War
Memorial.

Right:
Trumpeter,
Will
O'Brien



Left: Local residents gathering for the Service on a gloriously sunny day.

Below right: The War Memorial in its new position on the green surrounded by local residents.

Photos: Margaret Dane



VILLAGE NEWS

We would like to thank our donors, all volunteers who help with the proof reading, collation and delivery of the Village News as well as our readers for their continued support. If anyone is willing to join the team and help with local deliveries we would be very pleased to hear from you.

The team looks forward to bringing you news from the Village of West End in 2020.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.



BURGLARS STRIKE IN WEST END YET AGAIN!

It may be a bit late in the year but this is a reminder that West End continues to be a target to burglars. Another reader was burgled in August and it seems that the culprits were opportunistic and looked for open windows as a point of entry. The owners had only been away from the house for 30 mins and were clearly being observed.

The burglars were very brazen but undetected by neighbours. This serves as a reminder to all West Enders. We are lucky enough to live in a beautiful village, but it is clearly a target and we should be wary of strangers.

This also serves as a reminder to be fully insured and to check the terms of your insurance. There is a capped limit on individual items unless they are listed separately. This applies to a number of insurance providers.

Please let none of these thieves ruin Christmas!

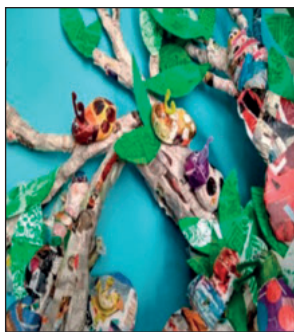


CLAREMONT ARTS SOCIETY



YOUNG ARTS: Bugs and Butterflies

Our Society was very pleased to provide the children of St Andrew's School, Cobham with a wonderful time this summer creating "bugs and butterflies" out of papier mache. The School was able to use the money we donated to hire in a special tutor for the young ones. Some of us went down to offer our practical help in July and came away with sticky glued fingers and a warm feeling from all their enthusiasm.



Photos: Dee De glanville and Marigold Haworth

Our next lecture is at 10.00 am on Wednesday the 4th December on Stocking Fillers from Faberge - by Claire Phillips

Although the Russian jeweller Carl Faberge is best known for his magnificent Imperial Easter Eggs, these represent only one aspect of his firm's great creativity. This lecture examines the exquisite jewellery, vivid enamelled boxes and trinkets, intricate hard-stone figures and naturalistic flower studies that were the mainstay of his success, and which delighted his customers throughout Europe. The lecture will be a visual feast, in which we escape into the most privileged realms of Edwardian Christmas shopping.



Why not come at 10.00am for coffee and mince pies to the Yehudi Menuhin Hall at Stoke D'Abernon KT11 3QQ? The lecture will begin at 10.30 am. Guest Fee £5 if you mention the "West End Village News".

Report: Glenyce Alexander

For further information please contact Marigold Haworth marigoldhaworth@googlemail.com - 07814 966386

PUBLICITY OFFICER

Needed for WEST END VILLAGE SHOW

This voluntary role involves placing articles into local press & publications and running our Facebook & Twitter accounts

Come and join a fun team!

Contact Steve Kelly: steve@techniquesgroup.co.uk

INDY'S DOG BLOG

Oh boy! I love autumn in West End. The colours of the trees, the smell of wet leaves, the mist on the green and mud! Yes lots of lovely mud! But before I get to that a lot has happened in West End since my last blog! Firstly and most importantly it was my birthday at the end of August and I was 3 years old but my mummy says I still behave like a puppy. Well I'm a flat coat so what does she expect? The day started with a brisk walk around the village followed by the biggest and best bone known to dog which came with a bow that I wasn't allowed to eat. In the afternoon we went to Garson's. I just love the biscuity aroma of the pet department. It was the best day ever as I was allowed to choose a treat - it took me ages as I like to sniff all the varieties very thoroughly letting the bouquet dance on my 300 million sensors in my black twitching nose but I finally settled on a particularly good vintage of chicken chews, which I have to say were especially delicious. I got lots of strokes from the staff as I walked around with the bag in my mouth ready to pay. So kind, I do love shopping.

Sadly I missed the pet service in the Church on the green as my family took me out with them for the day. Very inconsiderate. Perhaps there will be one at Christmas? If not I hope I can go next year as I hear it was quite charming and I would like to meet you all.

A very nice neighbour brought us some apples and the older of my girls made lovely German apple cakes which she shared with family, friends and neighbours. Not with me though as she said it would make me sick. I thought I'd like to be the judge of that and looked sad so that I got a sausage or two instead.

Halloween was entertaining this year as the younger of my two girls dressed up as a cat but although I thought it would be fun, I was not allowed to chase her. I was dressed up as a spider and carried an orange bucket as we pranced around West End asking for treats from people with pumpkins outside their houses. Even though I had my bucket for treats nobody gave me any. (Note to West End diary-please can we have doggy treats at Halloween next year?) In West End Gardens Bailey, the dog, scared the pants off me when he burst out of his house - that was a good trick and we all barked with laughter.

On the way home, as an extra Halloween trick, we saw another run away van rolling down our road and a man had to run after it to jump in and put the brake on. Personally I much prefer chasing sticks but van chasing seems to be becoming quite the sport on the hill.

Great news guys! The Prince of Wales, which is where I often go with Daddy when he takes me for a walk (don't tell Mummy 'cos she says going to the pub is not exercise) now sells Doggie ice cream and has a water station in the pub with doggy snacks. So drag your owner in and we'll meet up there instead of on the green now it's raining so much.

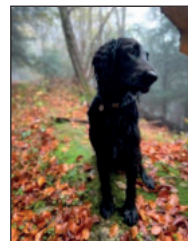
I know lots of you don't like fireworks so I hope you kept your heads down, your paws over your ears and got lots of sympathy from your owners.

Autumn this year has been very wet and as you may remember, I do love a muddy puddle or two. Such fun splashing and sploshing even though I know it means the rather degrading hose down when we get home. The girls seem to enjoy giving me a shampoo and towel rub and if I shimmy sideways a bit, the hose misses me so I can get them wet too. Well, we all have to share in our family. I even got Nana the other day and everyone laughed so I think it's a good joke.

I'm sure you are all looking forward to Christmas and Santa Paws. I know I am. I love Christmas. Have a wonderful time and if I ever catch those reindeer.....

Indy

You can now listen to this Dog Blog narrated by Indy herself available from indysdogblog@gmail.com



WEST END CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

'THE SHOW'

The kindly faced woman knocked on the door as she did every year.

"You know why I am here don't you?"

"Indeed I do, you're wanting the subscription for the village show."

She smiles as I get my wallet out and pass over a note.

"And you know what I am going to ask next don't you?"

"I do"

"Would you enter the village show. It can only be successful if local villagers enter." She says almost apologetically.

"We will be entering lots of classes this year, photographs, vegetables, fruit, painting, flowers and children's cakes. Our granddaughter Bella is coming to stay you see. She loves entering."

There is a pause in the conversation. She hesitates and then proceeds with a message she has now repeated on many door steps.

"You see there is a men's only floral class and cake class. And not enough men enter. Would...could you consider entering?"

She always asks and I always say no without hesitation. However this year is different. My wife has encouraged me to enter a cake although I have never made a cake before. I will show you how to make it she promises. You just need to follow my instructions.

"Ok" I respond to the woman who appears to be delighted as if she had just made a significant sale.

I shut the door feeling pleased that she is happy.

The Friday night before the show sees our kitchen humming with activity. And for once I am at the centre of it. Dressed to kill in a Cath Kidson floral apron with shirt sleeves rolled up to the elbow. I produce flour from the cupboard and waft it about with a flourish.

This is after all for me acting a role that I am unaccustomed to-cake baker. And I have decided that I need to fake it till I bake it. The apple tree in our garden has been festooned with fruit and has offered up a plentiful crop of slightly sour large green and red apples which have dropped regularly from the canopy on to the shady grass below. Every morning I inspect the fallen and often find they have been attacked by the feverish pecking of the crows or hollowed out by the sharp teeth of the ravenous squirrel. And if they don't get them then I find the slugs sat on the apple in what appears to be an attempt to suck the life out of it. And then there are the joyous moments when I find an unblemished, uneaten apple with the dew still sitting in plump droplets on its surface. It is these very apples gathered with love that I am skinning and chopping in readiness to put in my apple cake.

Now I have to admit that I have short cut the method and have brought out the big guns in the form of an ancient food mixer. I fire it up and pour in the mix, press the go button and hold on tight. This machine has a life of its own and the vibration launches it across the work surface with vigour. I rest the whole of my upper body weight on it and then it happens. A sickly smoky burning smell starts emanating from the machine.

"It can't cope Mark, it's going to burn out!"

I plough on regardless and watch as the mix changes consistency.

"She's gonna blow" I shout over the clattering noise the machine is now making and then it starts to give a shrill whine and then nothing. It is defeated.

"I am sure that will do" I say to myself. I open up the mixer lid and a pungent electrical burning smell emits from within.

I pour the mix into the greased baking tin and sling it uncereemoniously in the oven. Feeling rather pleased with myself I open a bottle of lager and take a long swig.

"Thirsty work, this baking lark". I receive no response as my wife and Bella are focused on making decorated fairy cakes. To be fair Bella is more interested in licking the bowl clean than decorating the cakes.

I know the method said half an hour but you've got to make sure it's cooked haven't you I say. An hour later I open the oven door to receive a billowing waft of hot steam. What greets me looks more like a giant apple cake biscuit. It's pretty bloody heavy as well and for some reason hasn't risen as much as it should have done. I let it cool and give it an overly generous sprinkling of sugar to dress the cake, so the recipe method said.

As I walked to the show marquee with my offering I watch a dog galloping across the green. I did wonder whether I should throw my cake frisbee like for the dog to catch but thought better of it. I must keep to my promise and do the right thing. It's all about participating. As my cake sits on the table streaked with the early morning sunlight coming through a gap in the marquee I am quietly proud of my achievement. Three hours later I enter the marquee with members of the family in tow.

The judge's comments are brutal

'A good recipe. Unfortunately not for you. The apple could be a bit bigger for the mix. Thank you for your entry.'

Who do they think I am West End's male version of Mary bloody Berry.

Suffice to say when the kindly faced lady knocks on the door next year and asks the question just like the prime minister at the weekly PM's questions I will refer her to my previous answer with a very unequivocal No baking for me I am afraid.

Mark Bisson



The Village Show - Class 73 My Favourite Cake (for Men Only)
(as seen on the righthand side, above)

Photo: Angela Stockbridge

MOORE PLACE GOLF COURSE

The owners/developers of Moore Place Golf Course have closed the golf course presumably with the aim of creating 'weakly performing green belt land'. This strengthens their hand in applying for permission to build on the land. In addition this land is included for possible development within 2 of the 5 options within the new Borough Development Plan.

I would encourage readers to take an interest in this and take photographs of the golf course over the seasons and send them to the Village News to draw attention to the value of retaining undeveloped land in this lovely part of Esher.

Photo and article: Doug Fryer



WALTON ASTRONOMY GROUP 'Transit of Mercury'

This event, where the planet Mercury passed in front of the Sun, had been long anticipated by the group as it is something which happens only around fourteen times each century; the next one is not until 2032! As is often the case with special astronomical events, the forecasts in the weeks running up to it were very poor, and hopes were not high of seeing anything but clouds. A number of us had the day off work especially, and much discussion was had about where to go to have the best chance of at least some clear sky. Ultimately we opted to stay in Esher and observe from the green.

So, with the Transit starting at 12.36pm, we started to assemble and setup from about 11.30am. Solar observing must be done with care and knowledge, and each



of the six scopes we used had special filtration in order to make it safe to observe the sun. It is possible to view the sun in different frequencies of light, and two of the scopes were able to show views of spectacular solar prominences, or flares, which appear around the edge of the sun.

Despite the poor forecast, we had a decent clear spell at the start time of the transit. One of our members picked Mercury up first in his scope and alerted the rest of us. We were then able to find it and follow as the planet first showed as a notch, and then moved fully in front of the sun. The image at the end of this report shows Mercury at around 12.39pm. Each of the scopes was giving different, but very nice

views when the conditions allowed. It was particularly lovely to be able to see the jet black dot of Mercury in the same field of view as one of the large solar flares nearby.

We had a reasonable period of clear skies at the start of the transit, then over the next couple of hours the clouds started to dominate with ever decreasing gaps to observe through. Still, we were able to follow Mercury for a good while and had the satisfaction of witnessing this rare event as a group.

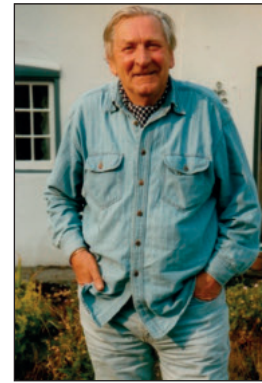
The other great pleasure was being approached by a number of people out on the green to ask what we were looking at, and when the clouds allowed we were able to show most of them the views through the scopes which they all appreciated. Sharing the experience is a big part of what we get out of astronomy so being able to show these views made the day all the more special.

Another successful WAG event!



Stuart Davis (Chairman)

ESHER RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION BLUE PLAQUE AWARD



The ERA committee has agreed the award of a Residents' Association Blue Plaque to record the fact that A.W. (Bill) Bedford – Test Pilot - lived at The Chequers, West End Lane, Esher, from 1968 to 1996.

Bill Bedford was a wartime fighter pilot who went on to become Chief Test Pilot for Hawker Aircraft Ltd. He will always be remembered for his trailblazing role in the test flying of the Harrier jump-jet, the world's first vertical/short take-off and landing (VSTOL) aircraft. He was at the controls of the prototype Harrier for its first flight on 21st October, 1960, and did the first ever vertical jet operations on an aircraft carrier (HMS Ark Royal). He then, as International Marketing Manager, promoted the Harrier through to its delivery to the RAF and Royal Navy as a unique operational fighter jet.

The plaque, which commemorates Bill Bedford's life and role in this historic aviation story, will be unveiled at 3pm on Saturday, 1st February, 2020, in a short ceremony at The Chequers. Spectators are warmly invited to attend the unveiling.

David Bramley

BUTTONS & BOW (The Busy Bs)

Wow! Where do I begin? My head is spinning with everything the Club has achieved!

The Charity, "Crohns & Colitis" which the Club supported this year must take precedence. On 30th September a Charity Coffee and Cake afternoon, together with the Grand Raffle, supported by many local businesses, raised a staggering £1020.18p. Thank you to all visitors as well as all the club members who helped make the afternoon a success.

The second important piece of news, is that our Black Labrador puppy, 'Star' who we were able to purchase with funds made at last year's "Canine Partners" has just reached her 1st birthday and is doing well in her training.

Trips to Arundel and Littlehampton in September were both very much enjoyed by all. A visit to Grayshotts Pottery factory in October had a wonderful Christmas atmosphere and was followed by a scrumptious lunch and a chance to buy those early Christmas gifts.

Twenty eight members will be departing for Weymouth in November for the next Turkey and Tinsel weekend which is always great fun!

December always proves to be a busy time for all with the annual Carol Service, lunch at the Rectory in Milford as well as one in the local Prince of Wales pub, and a Christmas Tea with a visit from Father Christmas bearing gifts for all.

2020 kicks off with a visit to the pantomime "Aladdin" at Woking Theatre.

Don't sit alone at home, pop over to the Village Club on a Monday between 2 and 4.30pm and enjoy a cup of tea and a chat. Need to know more? Contact Betty on 01372 465937.

Betty Bowpitt

IMPORTANT PLEASE READ.....

Call 999 for Emergencies only.

Call 0800 555111 for Crimestoppers.

Call 101 - Surrey Police for General Enquiries and non-urgent matters.

This number will also transfer you to Esher Police Station, which is open from

09.00-17.00 hours Monday to Friday.

Sgt 2190 Greg Turner covers Esher

PCSO 13867 Nigel Oates covers West End

PC40489 Chris Smith is the local PC Tel: 101 or ext. 38298

14614 Mike Bessent is the contact for Neighbourhood Watch, Surrey Police, Elmbridge Borough :

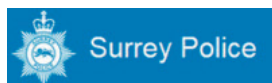
Tel: 101 Extension: 38857

Officers can be contacted by dialling 101 or email: the Elmbridge Policing Team at elmbridge@surrey.pnn.police.uk

♦ **WATCH OUT— THE BURGLARS ARE ABOUT!**

♦ **Please report suspicious incidents via 101, or in an emergency 999.**

KEEP YOUR DOORS AND WINDOWS SECURELY AT ALL TIMES AND ONCE AGAIN PLEASE REMOVE ALL VALUABLES FROM CARS WHEN PARKED.



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE ESHER WAR MEMORIAL



1034 (Surbiton & Esher) Squadron holding the Royal British Legion standard.
(Photo: Naomi Bedford)



Standard Bearers looking very smart



Photos: S1034 (Surbiton & Esher) Squadron

Ian Kenyon



Above: The Air Cadets (1034) Surbiton and Esher Squadron). Ember Manor Lodge, the Scouts, Rainbows, the Guides and Esher 1st Bownies also attended.

Left: The Christ Church font beautifully decorated for Remembrance Sunday by Carol Calvert

Photos: Margaret Dane



SWANS ON THE RIVER MOLE

The Swans with their cygnets on the River Mole near Riverside Drive. They produced seven cygnets, six of them survived and are doing well. It's a great shame that since the tragic loss of the pair of West End Swans who were victims several years ago to both a vicious dog attack in the pond and a local traffic accident respectively, they no longer nest on the village pond.

Another reason for this was the previous clearing of vital nesting vegetation from within and around the pond. Let's hope that the swans return to nest again next Spring and give us the pleasure of putting up the balloons again!

Photo: Bridget Williams



PHOTOGRAPHIC CORNER



The name unedo is attributed to Pliny the Elder, who claimed "I only eat one". Did he mean it was good he ate only one or so bad he ate just one?

ARBUTUS UNEDO COMPACTA (Strawberry Tree)

This unusual shrub was captured by eagle-eyed Don Tyzack growing by the roadside in Horsley. The shrub is an evergreen with small bell-shaped creamy-white or pink flowers, bearing red strawberry-like fruits in Autumn.

The shrub's name has an interesting link to history (as you can see from Don's caption) it is attributed to Pliny the Elder (AD 23-79)



the Roman officer and author of the world's first encyclopaedia, 'Natural History'. He died in AD79 in Stabiae while attempting to rescue a friend and his family by ship from the eruption of Mount Vesuvius which had already destroyed the cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum—and not from eating the fruit!

WEST END BRIDGE CLUB

Keep the percentages on your side

Say you've got a nice 6-card suit in Dummy—

♦ AKQ742, and you as Declarer have ♦ 53, You're in 3 No Trumps, and there are no other entries to Dummy. You need five tricks from that Diamond suit, How d'you set about it?

- A) It's very tempting to think 'Right, I have eight cards as against the opponents' five. The most likely way those 5 cards will split is 3-2. So I'll bang out the Ace, King, Queen in Dummy. Unfortunately the split turns out to be 4-1 against you. No other entries in Dummy. So you go down. Hard luck.
- B) Or D'you make a Safety Play by deliberately losing the first trick, meaning that you still have a second diamond to collect the five tricks in Dummy that you need. In fact, this simple Safety Play increases your chances of making your contract by a whopping 40%.

Another profitable way to lose a first trick is when the Opening Lead is a King, probably from a holding like K, Q, x, x, and you as declarer hold Ace, Jack, x in this suit. Try the effect of Ducking the King. If Opener persists with the Queen, you collect two tricks.

This play rejoices in the grand name of the Bath Coup, and can be a useful delaying tactic as the Opener may well be put off the suit led, and try something else.

Our friendly Bridge Club meets every Tuesday at 1.30pm in West End Village Hall. Ring Kay Moulton on 01372 464775 for further details.

Clive Craigmile



West End Village Hall



Ideal for children's parties, meetings, functions and family occasions.
Adult parties strictly for Village Residents only by special arrangement.

TO BOOK

Visit: wevh.org

Mail: hirehall@wevh.org



WINTERDOWN WI

We were unable to use the Village Hall for our August meeting but were fortunate to be able to hold it in St Georges Church. Everyone enjoyed the venue and our Speaker was Matthew Piggot from the Surrey History Centre based at Woking. He gave us a very interesting introduction of the work there and explained how photos and films dating from 1911 to 1953 were discovered and made into a fascinating one hour film.

The Emlyn Vale group meeting was held in October and Winterdown were tasked with making the flower arrangements for each table. Ann Tennant designed and made them all. It proved to be an enjoyable afternoon but sadly the speaker was a disappointment.

At our meeting in October we were given a very uplifting talk by Abigail Smart from 'Mane Chance' a horse rescue centre at Compton. Set up by Jenny Seagrove the charity provides sanctuary for abandoned and abused horses. The Sanctuary also involves special needs youngsters and disadvantaged children to have supervised interaction with some of the horses.

Our annual Chris Burrows bursary was won this year by Marion Ford and she will be going to Denman College to make stained glass panels for the garden. We await the result with interest. Ann Tennant had attended Denman in September and she showed us the results of her course on Eco Dyeing on Fabric. This involved taking plant material and applying the dyeing process to give some very surprising results.

Two members attended The Grange in Bookham, a charity supporting people with disabilities, to see the unveiling of their 'Window of Light' which was a visual tribute to everyone who had supported them. They were given a guided tour of the Grange and shown some of the refurbishments and the wonderful walled garden that the residents were able to care for.

At the Remembrance Service at the War Memorial on Esher Green a wreath was laid by Glenyce Alexander on behalf of Winterdown WI and Margaret Dollimore and Caroline Thyer were two of the six people who rang the bells at Christ Church. At our Annual Meeting in November Marion Ford was elected as President. We wish her well for the forthcoming year.

Coming up: Thursday 5th December Christmas Social evening and entertainment with guitarist Hector Gilchrist.

Winterdown WI meet on the first Thursday of the month at 8.00pm in West End Village Hall. Visitors and new members are always very welcome. Contact: Secretary, Ann Tennant on 01372 466725 or visit our website: www.winterdownwi.co.uk Caroline Thyer

WEST END SUPPER CLUB

Are you bored with cooking the same thing week in, week out? Interested in cooking something different or tasting something different cooked at home? Indian, Italian, Vegan, Otto Lenghi, Slater, Delia or Jamie?

If there's any interest in the village for a 'come dine with me' (without the conflict or stupid voting) experience, drop me a line and we can try to organise it. It could be fun!
Email: merle.nygate@btinternet.com

Merle Nygate

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN FRENCH LANGUAGE, LIFE AND CULTURE?



If so, do come to West End Village Hall to listen to carefully selected speakers talking in French on a variety of topics.

Talks take place monthly from October to June on the third Wednesday of the month except December when it is the second Wednesday. They start at 8.00pm, last for an hour and are usually attended by 60/70 members of the Cercle and visitors whose ability in the French language varies from the fairly basic to the completely fluent.

*Relaxed and friendly atmosphere *Free coffee and biscuits from 7.00pm *Only £5 per talk or £30 for the whole season.
Opportunities to improve your French at language workshops.'

For further information or our complete programme, please contact:

*Brigitte Tiller on 01932 860842 or

brigitte@ptiller.com or

*Cavan Taylor on 01932 864258 or

cavan.taylor@btopenworld.com or

*Visit our website:

www.dontyack.care4free.net/cercle.html



ST GEORGE'S CHURCH, WEST END

As Christmas approaches – we are still Rectorless! However, after re-advertising for the position – we are delighted to have had a number of applicants. The recruitment process is scheduled for late November – and so by the time we write our next update in the New Year, we hope to be able to give you good news.

As the seasons progress, we are benefitting from the expertise of our gardening team – who choose and maintain the plants, to provide colour and interest throughout the winter months. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated team who are so keen and enthusiastic.

The money raised from your support at the Village Flower Show has enabled us this year to rebuild and paint the cupboards in the vestry, which now means that the various coloured robes worn by the clergy, now hang in a separate cupboard away from the mops and brooms! The rotten wood beneath the inside windowsills has also been repaired and repainted. We are now also in a position to replace a makeshift ramp which provides wheelchair access – with a safer and sturdier version.

Our Vicar of Dibley style Pet Service was held on Sunday 22nd September. We were yet again lucky with the weather, and by 4 o'clock the rain had stopped and the clouds dispersed.

The popularity of this Service increases year on year as word spreads - and this, our 12th one - was no exception.



It was delightful watching the dogs assembling on the Village green before the Service, and witnessing their enthusiasm as they dragged their owners inside the church! This year we had 14 dogs of various sizes, shapes and colours, ranging in age from 5 months to 14

years, plus two lovely guinea pigs - all of whom behaved impeccably. With over thirty owners, friends and families (who I am glad to say also behaved!) we had a lovely full house.

We were delighted to yet again welcome back the Rev Helen Kempster (right) to conduct the Service, and to have Keith Howell-Jones play the organ. Sincere thanks to both of them for making the Service so enjoyable. Helen's chosen charity was Cats Protection, Woking Branch, with whom she has had personal contact, and our retiring collection has raised an impressive £104.50 for this very worthwhile cause. Thank you everyone for your generosity. There is something unique about a Pet Service, and there is a wonderful atmosphere of great fun



and happiness as we sing the hymns, bless the animals and pray for all creatures created by God. I think all of us feel uplifted after this happy Service, and leave with a smile on our faces. Long may this very special event continue to thrive and be enjoyed by us all.

You might like to note the date for next year – Sunday 20th September 2020 at 4pm!

As we approach Christmas, please make a note in your diaries of our forthcoming services at St George's (see our website for other Christmas Services at Christ Church):

CHRISTMAS EVE - Tuesday 24th December

3pm Crib Service

6pm Village Carol concert (organized by the Village Club)

CHRISTMAS DAY - Wednesday 25th December

9am Eucharist

THERE WILL BE NO SERVICE AT ST GEORGE'S ON SUNDAY 29TH DECEMBER but there will be a 10.30am service at Christ Church

For more information about all our services (at both churches) please do visit our website: <http://www.esherparish.org.uk> Here you can find everything you might want to know about the Parish of Esher including Music on The Green. We put topical notices and a monthly events calendar on the fence outside the church – so please do stop and look to see what's going on as you pass by.

Finally – thank you as always for your continued support and we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Andrea Lindow and Bridget Williams



ESHER GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Hi there fellow West Enders,

Ryan here with an update on some things that you may be interested in over the Christmas period.

Christmas is a time when we remember that . . . 'God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life' **John 3:16**.

An elderly man I once met, who reported having never believed in God, commented "I am undecided about Jesus, but I suppose I haven't got anything to lose by finding out more . . . after all if it is true, his birth is indeed the most amazing and significant event in human history".

So this Christmas season, why not find out more for yourself and come along to the Christmas services at St Georges Church or at Esher Green Baptist Church. After all . . . what have you got to lose?

Sunday 22 December

6.30pm - Candlelit Carol Service followed by mince pies.

Tuesday 24 December

11.30pm - Candlelit Midnight Service (including Communion)

Wednesday 25 December

10.30am - Christmas Day Family Celebration. . . . Christmas has arrived!

Come along in your Christmas jumpers or onesies with a chance to win our competition!

Sunday 30 December

10.30am - Testimony Service on the impact of God in local people's lives

Also as we kick off the New Year . . . why not join us for:

Film Club (second Monday evening of the month – 7.30pm) Come along and sit back in front of our massive cinema screen while enjoying free drinks (including wine), nibbles and great company. A great opportunity to make new friends and see great films!

The Happiness Course - Everyone wants to be happy! But . . . what exactly is happiness, and how can we become happier? Is happiness really what we should be aiming for, or does it come as a by-product of something deeper? Some people seem naturally happy; others are seemingly programmed to be grumpy! So is there any point trying to change? What affects our wellbeing and can we bring about a lasting change?

These, and many other questions, are explored in 'The Happiness Course'. The course runs over 4 Tuesday evening sessions. **4 week course - Starting date - Tuesday 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th February @ 8pm**

For more information on these and our many other activities please visit our website www.esherchurch.org

Warmest regards to you all,

Ryan (Pastor – Esher Green Baptist Church - 6 Park Road, Esher, KT10 8NP)



VILLAGE NEWS WEST END

Please make a diary note of the copy dates for the next two editions: Spring 2020: Friday 20th March by 1pm

Summer: Friday 10th July by 1pm

please contact Angela Stockbridge

Email: angelastockbridge1115@gmail.com 07817 498531



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