

January 2017 Edition 13

From the very beginning the Word was with God.



New Year 2017

On 15th January 2017 we celebrate the fact that the site of St Mary's Church has been a place of worship for 150 years. In 1867 the first service was held in what became known as the Iron Church, which was used for the next 28 years.

There have been many changes during that time, not just at St Mary's, but throughout the church and even more in the wider world. This year we will experience another change when we welcome Lynn as our priest and pastor. Over the past 150 years there have

been many priests at St Mary's – you may remember some of them – and as you think of your time at St Mary's, you may reflect on the changes that have taken place over that time.

The future of our Church is in our hands. If we want St Mary's to be here as a place of worship and prayer then we must resolve to do what we can as disciples of Christ to hand on our heritage to the next generation. In that way it will still be here witnessing to the love of God for his people in 2167.

Rev John Richardson

A Date for your Diary

Bishop Andrew would like to license Lynn to her new post in Cuddington in the evening of Monday 8 May. The time will be confirmed nearer the date.

Dan Smithers

Dancing to Prayer

We are a group, currently all ladies, who meet once a month for a lovely peaceful session dancing to prayer. Isabel runs these sessions and brings along some delightful music from round the world and teaches us a new dance every time, plus some we have learnt during the year.

Through the winter months we are starting sessions on a Monday afternoon, meeting every second Monday of the month during February, March and April.

In the summer we hope to revert to our usual Wednesday evenings. Everyone is welcome to join us for a relaxing, prayerful hour with a little exercise.

Sue Ayling asked Isabel to start this group a few years ago and it has proved very popular with members from St Mary's but also from Ewell, Reigate and Kingston.

Please come and join us as we would love to welcome you.

Jenie Dore

Seasonal Colours

Just as the seasons of the year are associated with particular colours, each season of the church's calendar also has its own colour. These are the colours we see on the altar frontals and the clergy's stoles.

The church's year begins with Advent when the colour is purple. Purple was reserved for royalty and symbolises the coming of Christ the King. During the Christmas season the colour is white or gold to show our joy. It also represents innocence and holiness.

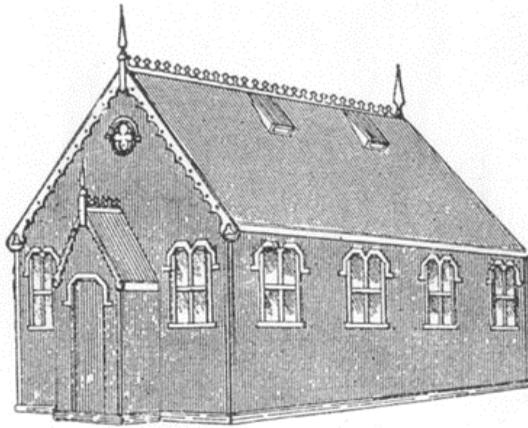
During Lent we return again to

purple which this time symbolises penance and reflection. The colour for Easter is white, signifying the joy of the resurrection. The Easter season ends on Pentecost Sunday when the colour is red representing the fire of the Holy Spirit.

Between Trinity Sunday and Advent is the season of Pentecost when the colour is green as a sign of hope of the triumph of life over death, like regrowth in springtime.

These changes result in a lot of climbing up and down ladders by our willing volunteer, for which we are very grateful.

Celebrating 150 years of worship



How long has the top of The Avenue been a place of worship? The present church was opened in 1895, but services had already been held here for 28 years, so this month we have a 150th anniversary to celebrate.

Cuddington parish dated back to Anglo-Saxon times, with a church nearly two miles to the south-east, in the present Nonsuch Park, but in 1538 this was swept away to make room for Nonsuch Palace, and Cuddington was a parish without a church for 300 years.

In 1866, with development under way in The Avenue, the new residents wanted a church. The first step was to install an iron church, paid for by the developers, the Landed Estates Company, between the present church and

lych-gate. The first services were held on 13th January 1867, and were well attended despite the previous day's snow.

The Iron Church would face various problems, including the uncertain ownership of the land (one Sunday the congregation was locked out and the service was held in a house in Cleveland Road), and the lack of resident clergy, but it remained open until 14th July 1895, a week before the first services were held in the new church.

We do not know exactly what the Iron Church looked like, but this illustration, from a catalogue in the parish records, probably gives a good impression of it.

David Rymill

New Year, New Beginnings?

While the calendar year starts on 1 January, the church's year began on Advent Sunday, and some of us may feel that Spring is the start of the new year.

Whenever we think the year really begins it brings the opportunity for reflection and new beginnings. 2016 already has a reputation as a turbulent year globally and we have also had our share of turbulence at St Mary's.

Let's reflect and resolve to make the most of all the new beginnings 2017 brings.

Please make 2017 the year you write something for the Listening Post, or at least let me know what you would like to read about.

I am usually in the hall after the 9.30 service but you can also text me on 07778 127670 or email me at the email address below.

Linda Charlton (Editor)

February Services and Events

Saturday 4	09.00	Men's Breakfast at The Plough Harvester
Sunday 5	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Sung Communion and Children's Groups
Sunday 12	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Café Church
	18.00	Evensong
Wednesday 15	20.30	PCC in Church
Saturday 18	10.00	Women's Group at Rowe Hall
Sunday 19	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Sung Communion and Children's Groups
Sunday 26	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Family Communion with Baptism

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