

June 2018 Edition 30

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 3:11

The Vicar writes ...

I feel rather sorry for the green hangings in church, signalling the beginning of “Ordinary Time” – which extends throughout the summer. I’m not sure that any of us would relish being described as “ordinary”, but more than ever our society appears to place a high value on that which stands out and is *out of* the ordinary.

Perhaps social media makes it more noticeable. It is the unusual, the special, the quirky, the amusing, the exceptional which is worthy of note. I don’t see many comments about doing the laundry or filling up the car with petrol – those ordinary necessities of life.

I am struck this year by the importance of the ordinary. Although we enter “Ordinary Time” in the church calendar, this time will not be ordinary for everyone. For some it will be a time for going on holiday; for some



exams – followed by results; for some a time of new beginnings; and of course there will be some of us for whom it is unexpectedly out of the ordinary.

One of the most important aspects of a community like St. Mary’s is that we hold one another – literally and metaphorically – in the good times and the bad. We can only do that if our foundations are secure – if we seek to remain faithful through prayer, worship

(Continued on page 2)

and acts of service on a regular basis.

There is something about the green hangings of ordinary time that can help us to understand the importance of continuity, not as a block on change, but as the firm foundation from which we might discern the direction of God's call. And if that foundation is secure we shouldn't be battered by the unexpected, but more able to

discern where God might be in the middle of it.

So perhaps "Ordinary Time" might provide some of us with an opportunity to remember the foundations of our faith and consciously spend a little extra time with God in prayer, worship, meditation or whatever it is that brings you closest to God.

Rev Theresa Ricketts

Epsom and Ewell Foodbank



On 10 June Jonathan Lees from Epsom and Ewell Food Bank (pictured here with the Reverend Theresa Ricketts) joined us at Café Church to tell us about the Food Bank.

Although Surrey is deemed a prosperous area there are many people who are struggling to survive on state benefits or low wages. They include people of all ages and for families the school holidays, when there are no school meals, can be an extremely difficult time.

To qualify for food, a voucher has to be obtained from Social Services or another agency and since Epsom and Ewell food bank opened 14,000 people have been provided with food.

We were thanked for the regular donations of non-perishable food that we collect at the back of church.

The passage of time at St Mary's: 106 years

The top picture is from David Rymill's archive and the bottom one is from my mobile 'phone this week. The Old Vicarage is very much the same but the church complex has undergone two extensions since 1912: the extension of the church adding several rows of pews, the gallery, the foyer and the imposing west door that took place in the 1950s and the addition of the church halls and office in the 1990s.

The early picture shows trees, standing like soldiers at attention, at regular intervals in St Mary's Road. Many churches had elms planted round them, and that is what I think these might be, and if so they will have succumbed to Dutch Elm Disease in the 1970s.

I am not convinced that the large tree that is seen behind the church hall in the modern picture can be seen at all in the older one and I wondered if anyone knows how it came to be there?

This large tree is a hornbeam, mistakenly identified as a beech by a surveyor who carried out our last quinquennial inspection. Hornbeam is in the flowering plant genus *Carpinus* in the birch family



The Old Vicarage and the Church from St Mary's Road in 1912



The Old Vicarage and the Church from St Mary's Road in 2018

Betulaceae. Hornbeam means 'hardwood tree'. It was not traditionally used in everyday carpentry because of its hardness but was used for carving boards, coach wheels, shoe lasts, parquet flooring and gear pegs in traditional windmills. If you do know the history of our hornbeam, please let me know.

Linda Charlton

July Services and Events

Sunday 1	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Sung Communion and Children's Groups
Saturday 7	08.30	Men's Breakfast at The Queen Adelaide
Sunday 8	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Café Church followed by Holy Communion
	18.00	Choral Evensong
Monday 9	20.00	Estates Committee in the Leverton Room
Sunday 15	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Family Communion and Baptism
	12.00	Church Barbecue
Wednesday 18	20.00	PCC in the Choir Vestry
Thursday 19	14.30	Thursday Club in the Cuddington Hall
Saturday 21	10.00	Women's Group in the Cuddington Hall
Sunday 22	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Sung Communion
Sunday 29	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Sung Communion

Morning Prayer is said in church every weekday morning at 9am and there is a service of communion in Church at 10am each Wednesday. All are welcome.

Please let me know what you would like to see in The Listening Post, and do give some thought to writing something for publication. It is your newsletter and I would like it to provide the news and information you want to read. I am usually in the hall after church on Sunday morning if you would like to speak to me.

Please send feedback, photographs and articles to: **Linda Charlton (Editor)** thelisteningpost@cuddingtonparish.org.uk Text 07778 127670. Longhand welcomed. Please hand to me or leave in the C pigeonhole beside the choir vestry door.