

## Remembrance

As is our tradition Remembrance Sunday was marked in church by parishioners, Scouts, Guides and members of the congregation, with wreaths laid at the foot of the altar following the last post, then

two minutes silence before the reveille.

It was good to see a full church and so many young people following the tradition of nearly 100 years.

## December Services and Events

<b>Saturday 3</b>	<b>19.30</b>	<b>Harp Concert in aid of church funds</b>
<b>Sunday 4</b>	<b>08.00</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>09.30</b>	<b>Sung Communion &amp; Children's Groups</b>
	<b>19.00</b>	<b>Epsom &amp; Ewell Silver Band Concert in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support</b>
<b>Sunday 11</b>	<b>08.00</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>09.30</b>	<b>Café Church</b>
	<b>18.00</b>	<b>Said Evensong</b>
<b>Saturday 17</b>	<b>12.00</b>	<b>Women's Group Bring &amp; Share Lunch in the church hall</b>
<b>Sunday 18</b>	<b>08.00</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>09.30</b>	<b>Sung Communion &amp; Children's Groups</b>
	<b>18.00</b>	<b>Nine Lessons and Carols</b>
<b>Saturday 24</b>	<b>15.00</b>	<b>Blessing the Crib — Family Service</b>
	<b>17.00</b>	<b>Blessing the Crib — Family Service</b>
	<b>23.30</b>	<b>Midnight Communion</b>
<b>Sunday 25</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>Family Communion with Carols</b>

**Advance Notice Sunday 8 January 2017 15.00 Christingle**

**'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' Luke 2.15**

## Welcome

This is the eleventh edition of The Listening Post and I can't believe how quickly those months have passed. Looking back I am impressed by the wide range of activities in which church members are involved.

If you are thinking that your group or activity hasn't been mentioned now is the time to speak to me, and if you don't know who I am please ask a sidesman or churchwarden to point me out.

We are now approaching the run up to Christmas. Please don't

forget the Christmas Fair after church next Sunday.

Events and services in December are listed on the back page and it would be good to see some new faces at the concerts and services.

Why not share the December calendar with friends, relatives and neighbours and see if we can raise the roof this Christmas?

And finally . . . we have some cautiously optimistic news from Sara and Dan. Do please read on.

**Linda Charlton** (Editor)

## Vacancy Update – The Bishop's Candidate

The two churchwardens (as the parish representatives) met informally with The Ven Paul Bryer (Archdeacon of Dorking), The Rev Des Williamson (Area Dean for Epsom) and the Bishop's Candidate for priest in charge of St Mary's Cuddington.

Beforehand, we churchwardens had been discussing how the candidate had been determined – would this be someone who was dissatisfied with their current parish or who had been selected by the Church of England hierarchy for difficult situations?

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The candidate explained that, despite being very satisfied in their current position, upon hearing about our situation through the diocesan grapevine, they had felt a calling to accept a new challenge. The calling was compared to the candidate's calling to ordination. In fact, the candidate had made the approach and had suggested the move.

Using the brief profile, statement of needs and person specification, we expanded on St Mary's current situation. In many ways, the needs and specification indicate a need for healing and recovery, of which the candidate has had experience in previous parish work.

We concluded that the healing that we need is not one of bandages and bed-rest (inactivity) but more of physiotherapy for injured athletes where we stretch our muscles and build up to full fitness. This sort of healing may be a little painful, but we all recognise the future benefits.

The discussion also covered addressing our financial problems. The candidate was undaunted by the position of the finances at St. Mary's, and detailed previous experience of turning around a

church's finances.

We also talked about the need for change in St Mary's. Although we (the PCC) had expressed a desire for change in previous parish profiles, the last two incumbents had both felt that this was not apparent in the congregation as a whole.

In our latest profile, we recognised both the need for St Mary's to change and also the need to move together. This was something that the candidate's previous work experience in both the secular world and in their ordained ministry would be useful. The candidate has management experience in intense collaborative situations.

The discussion was friendly and relaxed and both churchwardens feel that the three of us could work well together to take St Mary's forward. We hope that the proposed candidate will feel the same. The candidate will bring valuable new experience and talent that, we think, will re-invigorate our church and fellowship together.

We await further developments.

**Sara and Dan**  
Churchwardens

## **Trix Café**

Trix Café, in Stoneleigh Broadway, opened in September 2008 for 11 to 16 year olds who were wandering about the Broadway after school and getting up to mischief. The Stoneleigh Youth Project, as it is officially known, is supported by local churches and was welcomed by shopkeepers and the Police.

The café is run by volunteers and is open from 3.30pm to 6.00pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, but not

Thursday because there are not two volunteers available then.

Table tennis, snooker, billiards and other games are available and pizzas, chips and milk shakes are served.

Fundraising is a constant problem. A team from St Mary's attended the last quiz and fish and chip night which was great fun. Despite naming our team 'We Haven't a Clue' we somehow came second.

**Jenny Snailham**

## **Retreat at St Cuthman's**



As seen above seven St Mary's stalwarts joined a retreat at St Cuthman's in Sussex at the end of October. The theme of the retreat was Blessings and we were blessed with beautiful weather and amazing autumn scenery.

We were also blessed in being led by the Reverend Virginia Smith

whose down to earth approach to faith and unfailing attention to detail makes these events special.

Next year Virginia is leading retreats on 7-9 July and 23-25 October. If you would like to know more about them please ask anyone in the photograph.