# St Nicolas News

## 50p

## February 2024







www.stnicolasbookham.org.uk Building Faith in the Community

#### **Services at St Nicolas**

#### Sundays

8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Holy Communion - 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays Morning Praise - 1st Sunday, GLOW - Children's Provision
6.30pm	Evensong - 3rd Sunday - with choir

#### **Weekday Services**

8.30am	Bible Reading and Open Pr Monday and Wednesday	ayer
10.00am	Holy Communion (Said)	Thursday
9.00am	Prayers for our church - 2n	d and 4th Saturdays
10.00 am	Church Development Plan 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday	Prayers –



**Tots Alive!** (term time) - Monday 10.00am in church with social time afterwards

For other services please see Notice Board by the Lychgate

#### Letter from the Ministry Team

One of the many great joys of my *Extended Ministerial Development Leave* last year was studying the biblical Book of Job. Why I was drawn to Job I can't fully explain. But perhaps it was a desire to understand it better combined with an awareness that the book has been a bit of a stumbling block for some people I know.

As I began studying the book, I didn't do so with the intention of preaching on it. Ouite the opposite, in fact; I was looking forward to studying simply for my learning and growth. own However, as time went on. I was drawn to the thought that a series of sermons might be helpful and, given the content of the book, Lent seemed an appropriate time to do this. And so my hope and prayer is that as I embark on a series of sermons this Lent all based on the Book of Job, this biblical book might bless you as it has blessed me.

Following a brief introduction to the person of Job and after hearing how nearly everything that was precious to him was taken away, we'll consider the place of spiritual battle today – a firm Lenten theme!

We'll meet Job's three (so-called) friends and consider to what extent their presence in Job's life was a help, and to what extent a hindrance, and the place of lament in our lives today.

We'll see how essential it is that our theology is informed and what damage ensues when it is not.

For a brief glorious moment, we'll rejoice as the sun breaks through the clouds of Job's despair as he declares his confidence in a Redeemer who will attest to his genuineness and right relationship with God. This naturally reminds us that we too have such a Redeemer who transforms not just our future but also our present.

In our penultimate sermon, we'll focus on the heart of the message of the Book of Job which, contrary to what we might previously have thought, is not principally about Job or suffering, but is about God and the reassuring and ultimately uplifting truth that God is omniscient and omnipotent and thus holds all things in his hands.

As we conclude (Palm Sunday) we'll consider the necessity for perseverance, exemplified by Job, of course, but supremely by Jesus as he faced the cross.

I look forward to journeying with you.

In Christian love,

Alantenkin

#### Report from the PCC meeting 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024

On a cold January evening, Alan welcomed us all to the first PCC meeting of 2024 with a reading from Ecclesiastes 3 (v1-8) – "A time for everything".

We were joined by Vicki Dixon and Chris Turner, leads for two of the Church Development Plan working groups, Communications and Buildings, who had come along to present updates on the work done by these teams.

Highlights from the meeting included:

#### **Church Development Plan updates:**

Vicki's presentation of a Communication Strategy and Guidance report covered a summary of key elements of the report and what the **Communications** group had worked on so far. Some elements of the Strategy such as the Church of England Digital Charter had already been widely shared. Several of the ideas in the Strategy document were discussed by the PCC and the importance of ensuring a pastoral emphasis in all of our messaging was highlighted. Further PCC feedback on the report content and proposals was requested as a prelude to discussion at a future PCC meeting.

The **Buildings** group is currently working on updating the processes for bookings and use of our Church buildings. Chris advised the PCC of existing permissions which apply to room bookings. Chris also presented an interesting report on the successful use of Digital Advertising (via Facebook) to advertise our Christmas services. The report highlighted that the Facebook posts were seen by up to 73% of those living in Great Bookham.

#### Finance:

Our PCC Treasurer, Neil MacDonald, presented a very thorough analysis of the expected income and spend for 2024 and the budget was approved by the PCC. The budget is "tight", and the importance of fundraising needed for larger church projects such as the planned toilet refurbishment was highlighted. Essential repairs and maintenance costs are going to be higher than last year.

#### **Buildings and Fabric:**

The PCC agreed 3 items of expenditure relating to essential repairs to the boiler house roof and the gardeners' shed as well as maintenance costs for the property in the Lorne.

Anne Shears



As January passes and the days slowly get longer we look forward to what lies ahead. Before that, however, I think back on what has happened within our Mothers' Union. In December, following our Corporate Communion, we gathered in the Pastoral Centre for Christmassy activities and a Bring and Share lunch. Although we were few in number a good time was had by all.

Our January meeting provided a mixture of seriousness and humour; we began with 'Genesis – a Creation Meditation,' some of which I quote:

## Then God looked at the land He had created and saw that it was littered with missile shells

Landmines had been planted in other places; the land was dry. And God saw that it was not good.

And so on – until hope came in the last stanza:

God saw that things were not good. But He did not banish them this time. He came to them and offered them ... Light in the darkness, Rain in the drought, Purity in pollution, Forgiveness for cruelty, Arms of love for their neglect,

The truth in the face of betrayal, Life for death.

#### God offered them Jesus.

By contrast, there was much laughter at some of the 'clangers' which had appeared in various Church bulletins; here are a couple:

'For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs' and 'The Fasting and Prayer conference includes meals.'

Tea and home-made cakes, together with much good conversation, rounded off the meeting.

Looking ahead, there is much happening both in our branch and in the Diocese over coming months. February brings our **Monthly Prayers on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> at 11.30 am,** followed by the **AGM on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> at 2.15 pm.** 

The March Corporate Communion will be on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> followed by a talk and the Lent Lunch.** The Lady Day service is taking place on **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March in the Cathedral,** and finally on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June the Bishop of Guildford is opening his home for a Garden Party at Willow Grange.

All are welcome at our monthly meetings, second Thursday in the month in the Pastoral Centre at 2.15 pm. Julia Watts.

#### Barnabas



Fellowship

November 2023

Ethics and Morality

I was prompted to suggest this topic for discussion principally in the light of the Hamas atrocities in Israel, Israel's response to them and reaction that has been displayed in the West, and particularly this country, as a result.

None of these things is simple, and the populist approach is often to be very black and white, even extreme, in promoting the views of one side or the other. And often by people who firmly believe their position is a moral one.

Take the Labour leader's position on an Israeli ceasefire and the uproar that has caused as ten front benchers quit their positions so as to be able to vote as their consciences dictated.

Or the reaction of the Tory right to the judgement by the Supreme Court that Rwanda is a place unfit to send refugees to whom we owe a duty of care.

We also considered Archbishop Justin's measured appeal for protection for the civilian populations and adherence to international law

So I asked : what do we think? What do we believe Christ would be saying to us? What do we say to our friends and neighbours when the subject comes up of ceasefire, retribution, self-defence or hostages?

As always, members of the group had insights to share, and related topics to discuss, all over coffee and pastries. A very enjoyable, and enlightening, fellowship.

Do join us for the next one on February 17<sup>th</sup>, 9am in the Pastoral Centre – contact David King.

#### Sunday Matters by Paul David Tripp

In *Sunday Matters,* Paul David Tripp shares 52 devotions about the beauty and significance of church, helping Christians engage in vibrant gathered worship each week.



Each short, accessible meditation highlights an essential spiritual topic, including divine grace, gratitude, our identity in Christ and dependence on the Lord.

Over the course of a year, *Sunday Matters* will strengthen each believer's personal relationship with God and fill churches with joyful, engaged and passionate worshippers.

Deborah Gallacher

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#### Prayers for February A prayer for troubled times

Shelter is vital for people, particularly the men, women and children living in Gaza who we know currently have no shelter, safety, food, or drinkable water and who live in fear of death or injury.

**God of the nations,** we pray for Palestine and Israel and the continuing war in Ukraine and Russia and in countless other countries besides.

1. We pray for those grieving the sudden loss of loved ones, captives, and those whose homes have been destroyed.

2. We pray for a de-escalation of these conflicts, asking for reason to overcome rage and revenge.

3. We pray for effective international peace making, seeking diplomacy over warmongering on all sides.

Blessed are the merciful and the peacemakers. (Matthew 5:7,9) Amen

Deborah Gallacher

#### AN ACCESSIBLE WELCOME AT ST NICOLAS

To foster a sense of welcome and belonging, it is important for our church to be as accessible as possible, whether for regular or occasional services, visitors or guests at baptisms, weddings, funerals and other special events. This concerns not only mobility, but also the ways in which we communicate. Guidance and advice is available on our website to inform prospective attendees on a range of accessibility topics. It has also been shared with our Wardens, Sidesmen, Welcomers and others to help inform respective welcoming roles. It is well worth a read by all.

Accessible communication is fair, inclusive and makes good sense. It ensures that people are treated as equals, that people receive the dignity and respect they deserve and that differences are celebrated. It requires appreciation of equality and diversity, embracing different ways in which we communicate, so that all people feel welcome. This forms an important element of the Communications Strategy being developed.



Vicki Dixon, Chair – Communications Strategy Group



#### WILL WRITING SERVICE

If you are over 50 and live in the Mole Valley area, you can use Age Concern Mole Valley's Will Writing Service.

Once a month, local solicitors, Meaby & Co, are taking appointments for Will Writing at their offices in Dorking. A



donation of £100 can be given to Age Concern Mole Valley for the service. (A solicitor would normally charge over £250 plus VAT per Will.)

To book an appointment for the Will Writing Clinic, please call 01306 899104/07442 017169 or by email: <u>info@ageconcernmolevalley.org.uk</u> Registered Charity No 1111678

#### Just a thought:

"Happiness is a journey, not a destination."

Source unknown.



Fairtrade Fortnight 2024 Saturday 24th February 10am - 12 noon St Nicolas Church Great Bookham



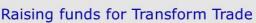
inving care fully in oods world ...













Tea and coffee, cakes, books, 'Eco' Easter cards, bric-a-brac, the FairTrade stall and more. 'A warm place'



We look forward to seeing you!

Tea/coffee & cake—suggestion donation £3

#### **Welcoming People With Sensory Impairments**

#### "Every 6 minutes someone in the UK starts to lose their sight."

Torch Trust (2023)

In researching guidance on how we can improve accessibility for people with sensory impairments, the 'Torch Trust' was recommended to us by 'Sensory Services by Sight for Surrey'. Torch Trust is an ecumenical Christian ministry that focuses on the spiritual support and encouragement of blind and partially sighted people. They provide accessible resources and a variety of ways to connect and support people living with sight loss.

St Nicolas has signed up to be a 'Sight Friendly Church'. We already provide large print service books, hymn books and weekly newsletters and our services posted online have sub-titles. However, there is more we can do to help and we welcome anyone to contact us if there are particular ways in which we can do this. For example, following Torch Trust advice, we can follow the following simple steps when welcoming someone with visual impairments.

**Think -** When planning church events, services or communications think to yourself, "What can we do to include blind or partially sighted people?"

Ask - Approach individuals and ask what would be best for them.

**Act** - Make changes, adapt room layouts or use Torch resources so that everyone with sight loss feels included in our church.



Vicki Dixon, Chair – Communications Strategy Group

#### **Useful Services:**

#### **Torch Trust**

"If you are living with sight loss or support someone who is, Torch is here for you. All sorts of help and support are available from lots of different sources, but Torch has a unique focus on the spiritual needs of blind and partially sighted people. So, whether it's an accessible Bible or Christian book, encouragement, fellowship or support, we're here to serve you."

#### Website: https://torchtrust.org; Tel: 01858 438260 email: info@torchtrust.org





#### Sensory Services by Sight for Surrey

'Sensory Services by Sight for Surrey' offers a lifetime of support for people who are blind, vision impaired, deaf, deafened, deafblind or hard of hearing.

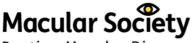
"We're here for individuals and their family, providing specialist, hands-on, practical services tailored to their needs. We want

#### Sensory Services by Sight for Surrey

Website: https://sightforsurrey.org.uk/ Address: Rentwood, School Lane, Fetcham Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 9JX Tel: 01372 377701 Skype: sensory.services Facetime: Dutysw@sensoryservices.org.uk Email: info@sensoryservices.org.uk to inspire people to take the small steps today and achieve the breakthroughs tomorrow and lead full and independent lives."



More useful services:



Beating Macular Disease

Nearly 1.5m people in the UK have macular disease. It affects people of all ages. Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is the most common condition, generally affecting people over the age of 55. AMD is the biggest cause of sight loss in the UK, affecting more than 700,000 people.

A group of rare inherited conditions called macular dystrophies can affect much younger people. Some of these rare conditions can appear in childhood, although some are not diagnosed until later in life.

The Macular Society provides free information and support to those with macular disease, along with their family and friends, to help people keep their independence. Along with our online resources, they have a team of friendly and knowledgeable professionals who can answer questions and provide information and advice about any aspect of living with macular disease.

Website: <u>https://www.macularsociety.org/support/</u> Advice line phone number: 0300 3030 111



## RNIB

#### See differently

With beginnings more than 150 years ago, RNIB, the Royal National Institute of Blind People, is the UK's leading sight loss charity helping blind and partially sighted people build the essential skills, knowledge, and confidence they need. They offer practical and emotional support to blind and partially sighted people, their families and carers. They also raise awareness of the experiences of blind and partially sighted people and campaign for change to make our society more accessible for all, without barriers to people with sight loss.

Website: <u>https://www.rnib.org.uk/</u> Advice line: 0303 123 9999





#### Earth Hour "Switch off your world" 8.30 to 9.30 pm LIGHTS OFF - EARTH ON



WWF - Earth Hour is one of the world's largest grassroots movements for the environment. It's a catalyst for positive

environmental impact, driving major legislative changes by harnessing the power of the people and supporting collective action for our planet; a movement for our future.



As part of our local carbon footprint can you:

- Switch off as much as possible in your home on Saturday 23rd March for one hour.
- Make changes in your daily life: change what you eat use the Community Fridge; change how and what you buy - try Fairtrade or the Greenwise Shop; change to clean energy; recycle; re-use; restore; get involved, volunteer, donate.



#### Quick Link Service Requests and Reporting

Not sure to whom one should report a street cleaning request or overhanging branches or a pothole or seen something suspicious on your video doorbell?

Our Councils have multiple responsibilities and it is often a challenge to find out which Council and Council department or organisation is responsible for what. To help residents make a service request or report, BRA (Bookham Residents Association) has launched the Quick Link Service Requests portal. The portal page will take you directly to the relevant council department and reporting forms. Also included in the portal are the National Trust, Surrey Police Suspicious Activity, Surrey Wildlife Trust and emergency flooding.

You can find the Quick Link Service Request Portal at www.bookhamresidents.org.uk or type https://www.bookhamresidents.org.uk/#reporting into your search window. Contributed by Gill Caldwell A monthly singing group for people with dementia or Parkinson's

**Burnett Music Fund** 

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St Alphege Church Hall, Lower Road, Effingham KT24 5JP 2.30pm First Tuesday of the month

For more information contact Gill Walker 01372 457987 or gillconnect1@gmail.com Supported by Churches Together in Effingham & Little Bookham









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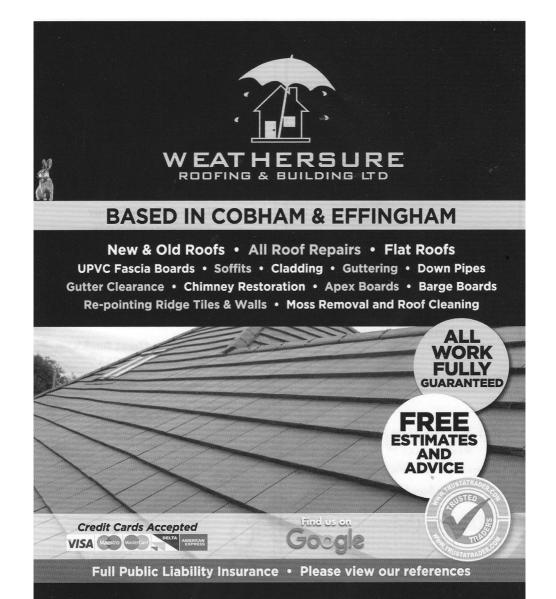
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#### Holy Days

#### 6<sup>th</sup> February – The Martyrs of Japan, courage in persecution

Persecution of Christians in various countries is making the headlines these days. Believers facing such opposition might well find inspiration from the courage of the Japanese Christians of the late 16<sup>th</sup> and early 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The Jesuit Francis Xavier had first brought Christianity to Japan in 1549, when he persuaded Shimazu Takahisa, the daimyo of Satsuma, to give him permission to build the first Catholic mission in Japan. All went well at first, and the Japanese responded to the message of Jesus Christ more warmly than anyone could have foretold. By the end of the century, it has been estimated that there were nearly 300,000 baptised converts to Christianity in Japan.

But soon the very success of the Japanese Church led it into trouble: its vibrant growth as an indigenous community believing a faith brought in from the West meant trouble. It was caught up in a maelstrom of tensions between the shogunate, imperial government, Buddhist monks, Shintoists, and colonial ambitions of Spain and Portugal. Gradually, the Japanese rulers came to see Christians as a threat. So Christianity was banned, and those Japanese who refused to abandon their faith were to be killed.

Trouble flared at Nagasaki on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1597, when six European Franciscan missionaries, three Japanese Jesuits and 17 Japanese laity, three of whom were young boys, were executed in a form of crucifixion by being elevated on crosses and then pierced with spears. Within a year, more than 130 churches had been burned. The persecution subsided, then flared up in 1613. Japanese Christians were beheaded, burned alive or imprisoned. They responded with courage and a willingness to sing praises and preach the gospel even as they were led to their deaths.

Such was the brutality of the persecution that by 1630 the Japanese Church had been driven underground and was thought to be lost. So, when missionaries arrived in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, they were astonished to find a community of Japanese Christians. It had survived for 250 years without clergy, churches, the Bible and only a sketchy idea of the Christian faith beyond one main thing: that Jesus Christ was Lord.





#### Friendship Lunch – request for helpers

The St Nicolas Friendship Lunch is offered to people who may otherwise eat on their own and has now been running for over 20 years. Held on a Sunday about 3 or 4 times a year, guests enjoy a buffet meal followed by mainly homemade desserts. The meal is very much enjoyed by many people both from St Nicolas and from the wider community.

We have a wonderful group of helpers who serve the food, help clear up and also socialise with our 30 or so guests. However, none of us are getting any younger and we urgently need a few more volunteers to come forward. This would **not** mean a commitment to help at every lunch or to make desserts.

Without some more helpers, it may not be possible to carry on offering the lunch to our guests. If you are able to help in any way, please let the Parish Office know and they will pass on your name. Otherwise please contact me direct for more details.

Thank you.

Sylvia Solarski (for the Friendship Lunch Team)

#### World Day of Prayer-

A Women-led, Global, Ecumenical Movement. Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 10.30am Our Lady of Sorrows, Effingham 7.30 pm Bookham Baptist Church, Bookham

This year's service is written by the women of Palestine.

At our committee meeting at the end of October our thoughts went to the possibility that some of the women involved may have been caught up with the troubles. Palestine is not a country on a map, but part of Israel. Israel has been divided into various areas; Israel, Palestine, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which is where the troubles are.

Please come and join us and see what the ladies have written.

#### ALL WELCOME

#### 2023 Report from the Eco Team

We thought you might find it interesting to hear about some of the "unusual recycling" efforts of the St Nicolas Eco Team. The amounts we raise for the charities are often only small, but through them we are linked to the valuable work of these organisations. All donations can be left in the blue chest box next to the South door in the church

#### Transform We support Transform Trade (tormerly Traidcrait Exchange), by recycling inkjet cartridges through (formerly Traidcraft Exchange), by

Recycle4charity (NB: they do not take Epson cartridges). Over the years we've raised over £150 from recycling these cartridges, £27.55 last year. We also support them through the "Eco Easter cards" and the refreshments sold at our annual Fair Trade Fortnight Coffee Morning - next year's event will be on 24 Feb 2024 - do join us!

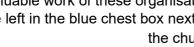
A Rocha, the conservation charity which runs the Eco Church Awards scheme benefits from our milk bottle top collections. We have collected many thousands of bottletops and raised about £150 for them in this way. Last year we took four loads totalling approximately 334kg to be recycled.

> Guildford Cathedral collects foreign currency in coins and notes which are either sold to dealers, or if they are commonly used, "sold on" to people going on holiday. They have collected over £28,000 since the scheme began and are always

particularly appreciative of our efforts. We dropped off four deliveries in 2023.

**RSPB** take second hand binoculars which

are refurbished and distributed to conservation charities worldwide. We delivered 3 pairs last year.







living care fully in Gods world







**Mission Aviation Fellowship** is one of the "main" charities we support at St Nicolas. They collect new and used postcards which they sell on to benefit their work. Last year they raised £25,000. There is a special box for these

near the blue recycling chest at the South door.

Used postage stamps are sent to the **Church of Scotland's Stamp Appeal** which in 2023 supported **Firmly Planted**, a community-based

agroforestry initiative with the ambition of making a sustainable impact across Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe – so keep collecting and please encourage your friends and family to join in! In 2023 we sent 3 packages totalling 13.85kg – that's a lot of postage stamps!



We started a new project last year offering to get

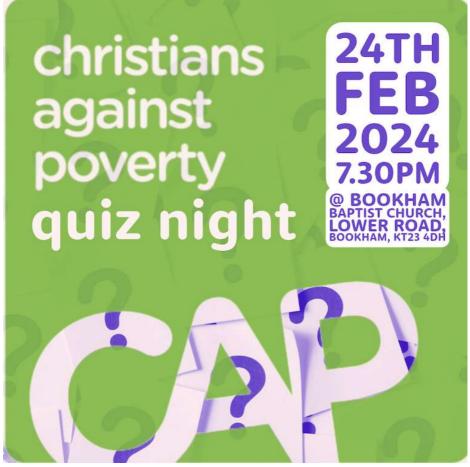
medicine blister packs recycled by sending them to specialist recycler Terracycle. In the few months we have offered this service we estimate we have recycled over 9000 blister packs – there is clearly a great demand.

Margaret Hibbert

#### **Bookham United Charities**

Bookham United Charities need a new Clerk (Secretary) to the Trustees with immediate effect. A full job description is available and in the first instance please contact either Ken Picknell on 07785 244036 or speak to the Rector, Alan Jenkins.





If you go to bookhambaptist.churchsuite.com this will bring up more information about the quiz.

#### Ten Bible Verses to Guide Your Year in 2024

As we draw closer to the conclusion of 2023 and welcome in the New Year, people typically look for a life verse from the Bible that can guide their year. This can usually be in the place of a resolution, focusing instead on insightful Bible verses to engage with as we venture into the New Year. Consider focusing on one of these 10 verses in 2024, not only to enhance your journey as a Christian, but also to gain perspective on how God orchestrates the events of our lives to bring us all closer to Him.

## **1.** Galatians 6:9 - "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart"

Doing good in this world, can sometimes feel more of a punishment than a reward, especially if we see others seemingly being blessed even after causing trouble for others. However, what the apostle Paul is saying here is that, although it might be tempting to complain in weariness when doing good, God will grant blessings we have longed for if we don't lose heart and give up. It may be easy to give up and choose the way that doesn't wait on God, but by being faithful and waiting on Him, He will bring more blessings than you could ever imagine

## 2. Proverbs 4:23 - "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life"

Our world encourages us to live with open hearts, embracing everything and everyone we cross paths with. Yet King Solomon advises us in this verse from Proverbs to be watchful with our spiritual hearts, knowing that our hearts direct us through situations in life. Going into 2024, we can make the choice to strengthen our spiritual journeys by living and loving like God, while protecting our hearts from the schemes of the devil and sins of the world.

## 3. Psalm 46:10 - "Be still, and know that I am God, I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

One of the most recognised verses from the book of Psalms, it is almost one of the simplest verses to understand but hardest to implement. Instead of jumping into action into action for any situation we are in, we need to be still and know that God is who He is and will lead the way. He has determined the outcome of every situation long ago. By allowing Him to lead instead of leading ourselves, we avoid unnecessary pain and receive unexpected blessings as He is glorified and known by more people.

## 4. Genesis 50:20 - "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."

When you read the story of Joseph and what he endured due to the actions of his brothers, you would think he would be justified in exacting revenge against them in their most vulnerable time. However, his words captured in Genesis 50:20 remind us that what harmful things others do and say towards us will be eventually used for good. We will prosper despite what others have tried to do to us, and God will use our experience to help others as well, as He did for Joseph during the famine.

## 5. Revelation 21:4 - "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Enduring the struggles of this fallen world can make it hard to see a positive end. But it is revealed to us in Revelation 21:4 that when we enter heaven, all the sorrows of this world will be gone. We won't cry anymore or deal with death or pain any longer. Things that caused us discomfort and heartache before will be gone in an instant, replaced with overwhelming joy and peace living with God in heaven. This verse serves as a reminder that our pains today will be no more when we get to heaven.

## 6. Romans 8:28 - "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

Just as Joseph shared with us in Genesis about God using our trials for good, the same applies for Romans 8:28 when Paul shares that everything works together for good for those called according to God's purpose and who are loved by Him. It may seem strange that some situations in our lives won't have a good conclusion, but we have to have faith in our God and know He will work for our good according to His will.

## 7. Colossians 1:9 - "For this reason, we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding."

With this verse instead of focusing on our own needs, we focus more on praying for the needs and spiritual guidance of others. This verse compels us to understand that in praying continuously for others, asking that God fill them with knowledge of Himself and his will, we will see others prosper under these prayers. And others will do the same for us, wanting God's guidance and love to flow through us as well, which he will do.

## 8. Ecclesiastes 3:1 - "For everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven."

The discussion of seasons is common in the Christian vernacular. It is an explanation for when we go through trials or periods of growth, expected and not. There is truth behind this mindset of experiencing seasons, as King Solomon (the likely author of Ecclesiastes) is stating here that there is a season for everything because God has a purpose for everything and everyone under heaven. So, know that whatever season you are experiencing in 2024, God has a purpose in it.

## 9. Matthew 25 - The parable of the five prepared virgins and the five unprepared virgins awaiting the bridegroom.

This parable from Jesus encourages readers to stay vigilantly prepared for the arrival of Jesus in the Second Coming. The story includes five virgins who stay awake and ready for the approaching bridegroom, and five virgins who decided to sleep and remain unprepared, missing his arrival. What Jesus counsels us through this chapter from Matthew is that we must stay vigilant in keeping our spiritual lives ready for Jesus' arrival, living lives pleasing to God instead of thinking that we can do whatever we want and still please God.

# 10. Isaiah 43:19 - "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

To conclude the ten verses for 2024, we end with a reminder that God is always doing a new thing in our lives, making a way in the wilderness or the tough times. When we see this new thing it is up to us to recognise it and accept what God is doing in our lives. This verse from Isaiah encourages us to see that God is always doing new things for us, even in the most challenging times when we feel God isn't there. He is making a way where there isn't a way.

Maybe this coming year is the time to change you spiritual focus in life, to embrace a new direction and see where God is leading you in 2024. Maybe you need to change your mindset from unhealthy to healthy, and that might be by adopting a new verse to shape your steps around. Whatever changes you are hoping to make in 2024, may it be a life-changing experience that draws you closer to the Lord and His plan for your life!



# **Citizens Advice**

#### Need help with benefits, debt or employment problems?

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#### Visit our website

www.citizensadvicemolevalley.org.uk

#### Email our offices

dorking@camv.org.uk leatherhead@camv.org.uk



HM Government COMMUNITY FUND

|                  | READINGS AT THE SUNDAY SERVICES<br>February 2024                 |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Second Sunday before Lent                                        |
|                  | Colossians 1: 15-20; John 1: 1-14                                |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> | Sunday Next before Lent                                          |
|                  | 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6; Mark 9: 2-9                                |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> | First Sunday of Lent                                             |
| Morning          | Job 1:1-22; Matthew 4:1-11                                       |
| Evensong         | Psalm 119:17-32; Genesis 2: 15-17 and 3: 1-7;<br>Romans 5: 12-19 |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> | Second Sunday of Lent                                            |
|                  | Job 2:11-13 and 3:1-10; Luke 22:39-46                            |

During Lent we will be having a sermon series on the book of Job

| F                              | rom the Parish Registe | ers     |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------|
| Deaths                         |                        |         |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> November 2023  | Sheila Knight          | Aged 94 |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> November 2023 | David Wishart          | Aged 88 |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2023 | James Crisp            | Aged 84 |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2023 | Francis Rice           | Aged 95 |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2023 | Barbara Jones          | Aged 91 |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2023 | Michael Anderson       | Aged 93 |
| Baptisms                       |                        |         |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2023 | Dylan Case             |         |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2023 | Matilda Dienn Sunassee |         |

#### St Nicolas Cycle of Prayer February and March 2024

Please remember the following missions, St Nicolas groups and residents of Great Bookham roads in your prayers

| February<br>4 <sup>th</sup> | LeatherHEAD Start<br>Mary Railton<br>Barbara H                  | Tots Alive<br>Celeste Rios              | Middlemead Road<br>Middlemead Close<br>Middlemead Place<br>Oak Tree Close |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11 <sup>th</sup>            | The Mission to<br>Seafarers<br><i>John Adie</i><br>Eldred Clark | Sole Farm Roa<br>Fairlawn               |                                                                           |
| 18 <sup>th</sup>            | Oasis Charitable Trust<br>Gill Caldwell<br>Celeste Rios         | Coffee<br>Julia Watts                   | Sole Farm Close<br>Tudor Close                                            |
| 25 <sup>th</sup>            | Fairtrade and Eco<br>Team<br>Margaret Hibbert and<br>Team       | The Fabric<br>Team<br><i>David Wall</i> | The Garstons                                                              |

Occupation for February: Finance, Accounting, Insurance

| Church Development Plan Prayer Focus |                                                     |              |  |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| 4 <sup>th</sup> February             | Effective Communications<br>Strategy                | Vicki Dixon  |  |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> February            | Confident in our witness and service                | Alan Jenkins |  |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> February            | Changes to our building                             | Chris Turner |  |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> February            | Growing a diverse families' and children's ministry | Celeste Rios |  |

#### Calendar February 2024

Please note that although the calendar has events scheduled, these may happen in different forms. Please check beforehand (see 'Contact' person on the back page or the St Nicolas website).

| January          | /     |      |                                      |
|------------------|-------|------|--------------------------------------|
| 29 <sup>th</sup> | Mon   | 1000 | Tots Alive! (Church and Church Room) |
|                  |       | 1530 | BYouth (Pastoral Centre)             |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> | Tues  | 1000 | Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre)     |
| 31st             | Weds  | 0830 | Morning Prayers (online)             |
|                  |       | 1000 | Mothers' Union (Pastoral Centre)     |
| Februar          | ry    |      |                                      |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Thurs | 1000 | Holy Communion (Church)              |
|                  |       | 1040 | Thursday Coffee (Church Room)        |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | Fri   | 1530 | BYouth (Pastoral Centre)             |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Sat   | 1000 | CDP Prayers (Church Room)            |
|                  |       |      |                                      |
| 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Sun   | 1000 | Morning Praise                       |
|                  |       | 1600 | Alpha (Church)                       |
|                  |       |      |                                      |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Mon   | 0830 | Morning Prayer (online)              |
|                  |       | 1000 | Tots Alive! (Church and Church Room) |
| 0.1              | _     | 1530 | BYouth (Pastoral Centre)             |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Tues  | 1000 | Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre)     |
| 7.16             |       | 1130 | Mothers' Union Prayers (Church)      |
| 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Weds  | 0830 | Morning Prayers (online)             |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Thurs | 1000 | Holy Communion (Church Room)         |
|                  |       | 1040 | Thursday Coffee (Church Room)        |
| 0.1              |       | 1330 | Mothers' Union (Pastoral Centre)     |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Fri   | 1530 | BYouth (Pastoral Centre)             |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> | Sat   | 0900 | Saturday Prayers (online)            |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> | Sun   | 1600 | Alpha Course (Church)                |
|                  |       |      |                                      |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> | Mon   | 0830 | Morning Prayers (online)             |
|                  |       | 1000 | Tots Alive (Church and Church Room)  |
|                  |       | 1400 | Craft Group                          |
|                  |       | 1530 | BYouth (Pastoral Centre)             |
| 13th             | Tues  | 1000 | Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre)     |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> | Weds  | 0830 | Morning Prayers (online)             |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> | Thurs | 1000 | Holy Communion (Church)              |
|                  |       | 1040 | Thursday Coffee (Church Room         |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> | Fri   | 1530 | BYouth (Pastoral Centre)             |

| 17 <sup>th</sup> | Sat       | 0900                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Barnabas Men's Fellowship (Pastoral Centre)             |
|------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 18 <sup>th</sup> | Sun       | 1600                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Alpha Course (Pastoral Centre or Church Room)           |
|                  |           | 1830                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Evensong (Church)                                       |
|                  |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                         |
| 19th             | Mon       | 0830                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Morning Prayers (online)                                |
|                  |           | 1000                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Tots Alive (Church and Church Room)                     |
|                  |           | 1530                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | BYouth (Pastoral Centre)                                |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | Tues      | 1000                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre)                        |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> | Weds      | 0830                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Morning Prayers (online)                                |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Thurs     | 1000                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Holy Communion (church)                                 |
|                  |           | 1040                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Thursday Coffee (Church Room)                           |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Fri       | 1530                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | BYouth (Pastoral Centre)                                |
|                  |           | 1930                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Next Level Youth Worship Night (Church and Church Room) |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> | Sat       | 0900                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Saturday Prayers (online)                               |
|                  |           | 1000                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | ECO Coffee Morning (Church and Church Room)             |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> | Sun       | 1200                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Baptism of Sebastian Leigh                              |
|                  |           | 1600                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Alpha Course (Pastoral Centre or Church Room)           |
|                  |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                         |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> | Mon       | 0830                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Morning Prayers (online)                                |
|                  |           | 1000                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Tots Alive (Church and Church Room)                     |
|                  |           | 1200                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Silent Prayer Group (Pastoral Centre)                   |
|                  |           | 1530                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | BYouth (Pastoral Centre)                                |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> | Tues      | 1000                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre)                        |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> | Weds      | 0830                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Morning Prayers (online)                                |
| 29th             | Thurs     | 1000                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Holy Communion (church)                                 |
|                  |           | 1040                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Thursday Coffee (Church Room)                           |
| March            |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                         |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Fri       | 1530                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | BYouth (Pastoral Centre)                                |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | Sat       | 1000                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | CDP Prayers (Church Room)                               |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Sun       | 1000                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Morning Praise                                          |
|                  |           | 1600                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Alpha (Church)                                          |
|                  |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                         |
|                  |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                         |
| 9th Febr         | uary 2024 | 4 - Copy for the second sec | or March 2024                                           |



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| Giving Secret     |                               | Richard S                            |           | 458131 |
| Church Room       |                               | Parish                               |           | 450709 |
| Electoral Roll    |                               | Catherine                            |           | 451503 |
| Friends of St     |                               | Angela St                            |           | 456713 |
|                   |                               | Barbara                              |           | 800381 |
| Guiding Book      | ham and Effingham             | Christine                            |           | 368362 |
| House Group       | s for i                       | nformation contact Jean Fo           |           | 450709 |
| Mothers' Unio     |                               | s – Julia Watts and Chris C          |           | 450709 |
| Samaritans        | in distress or despair?.      | (24 hour service) ring Fre           | efone 1   | 116123 |
| Scouting          |                               | kham Group GSL Christine             |           |        |
|                   | 3rd Bookha                    | am Group - Mrs Karen Whe             | eler ,    | 000740 |
|                   |                               | n.wheeler@3rdbookham.org             |           | 800712 |
| Sunday Grou       | ps GLO <sup>v</sup>           | W at 10am – Celeste Rios             | 07707 4   | 139799 |
| Tots Alive!       |                               | Celeste Rios                         | 07707 4   | 439799 |
|                   | ighbour Scheme (Mon-Fri       |                                      | 0798 6 1  |        |
|                   |                               |                                      | 2.000     |        |
|                   |                               |                                      |           |        |