

Oct/Nov 2024

The Lychgate



The magazine for the people and community of Long Ditton

New and Larger Shed Opening Ceremony at St Mary's Community Hall

On Friday 13th September, Neil Houston, Mayor of Elmbridge, officially opened the new larger storage shed at St Mary's Community Hall. He was accompanied by a particularly keen helper, Ellie, from the Babes and Tots group!



The storage shed is mainly used by the very popular St Mary's Babes and Tots group, which meets every Friday in term time. Fundraising began earlier in the year and donations from church members, Babes and Tots and the wider community raised almost £2,000. This was further supplemented by £5,000 from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) from Elmbridge Borough Council.



For many years the Babes and Tots group has struggled with the somewhat dilapidated and smaller shed to store equipment and toys. The shed leaked and was very slippery in wet weather. More importantly it was too small to safely stack the toys.

The new larger loglap shed complete with bespoke shelving and a double door for ease of access is a vast improvement on the old shed. It is positioned far enough away from the boundary for ease of maintenance. This will ensure the maximum lifespan of the shed and increase the longevity of the toys.



Cathy Doyle, Leader of the Babes and Tots group, said "The new shed has made a massive difference. We no longer have to triple stack our equipment and toys in a rather haphazard manner. It is brilliant to have a solid building that is easy to access and totally waterproof. The whole of the Babes and Tots team are so grateful to Elmbridge Borough Council for supporting our project through their CIL funding programme.

Front cover shows Neil Houston, Mayor of Elmbridge cutting the shed cakes in the Community Hall

The Rectory, 5 Church Meadow
Long Ditton, KT6 5EP
Tele: 020 8398 1583
email: rector@stmaryslongditton.org.uk

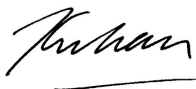
I wonder if you saw the playful animal-themed murals by street artist Banksy this summer, which began with a goat, shortly followed by monkeys, a rhino, piranhas and ending with a mural at London Zoo of a gorilla lifting up shutters to allow other animals to escape.

Banksy is an anonymous English based graffiti artist based in Bristol. His work consists mostly of a distinctive stencil-based technique, and can be found on streets, bridges and walls of cities round the world offering a controversial social commentary on modern life. Art is one of those things that can be incredibly subjective. One man's graffiti art and installation is another man's vandalism and waste of space.

Many artists have found their inspiration in the pages of the Bible. Visiting the great art galleries of the world, the sheer number of painters who put brush to canvas to give image to words from scripture is striking. Michelangelo's work on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Rome and Leonardo da Vinci's Last Supper at the convent of Santa Maria in Milan, are works that have been reproduced countless times. They speak across the generations, in very much the same way that the Bible, which gave birth to them, did in the first place.

Art in our places of worship didn't cease to be produced hundreds of years ago. In the crypt at Winchester Cathedral stands a sculpture by British artist Anthony Gormley. 'Sound II' is described as a 'mysterious' life-size statue of a man, contemplating the water held in his cupped hands. It is striking, especially when it stands in the foot or so of water that has filled the crypt which is regularly flooded during rainy months.

Art in our church buildings doesn't have to detract from them being places that we gather to worship God. Instead, like the songs we sing, the words we speak and the scripture we read, it can focus us back on the creator God who has given us that creative urge himself.



REGULAR GROUPS AT ST MARY'S

Friendship Lunch

Friday 4th October and Friday 1st November at 1pm £8 per person
To book contact either Diana 020 8398 1184 or
Florence 020 8398 3182

Babes and Tots

Every Friday in term time. All carers and their little ones welcome for
singing, outdoor play and crafting. 09.30 - 11.30
Coffee makers always welcome!

Film Friday

Friday 18th October & Friday 15th November at 2pm

All of the above activities take place in St Mary's Community Hall

BOOK BOX

Wed Oct 16th - Matthew Taylor - will talk about his research into the incredible story of enslaved African Americans who found freedom fighting for Britain in the Royal Navy during the war of 1812. His book 'Black Redcoats' can be ordered from Regency bookshop, Surbiton

Wed Nov 20th - Martin Cooper a professional soldier will tell the fascinating story of the ~Reverend Captain Theodore Hardy VC, the most decorated non-combatant of WW1 and the only military padre ever to win a Victoria Cross. Copies of the book, 'Theodore Bailey Hardy VC' by David Raw will be available from Regency bookshop

Tickets £10—available in church, on the door or through
the church website

Tea/coffee and homemade cake
included in the ticket price

These events will be held in St Mary's Community Hall
starting at 8pm

ST MARY'S 100 CLUB 21 RESULTS

WINNING NUMBERS

AUGUST

1st Prize: No.41
2nd Prize: No.11
3rd Prize: No.91

SEPTEMBER

1st Prize: No20
2nd Prize: No.41
3rd Prize: No.67

Congratulations to all the winners!

QUIZ NIGHT

**SATURDAY 5th OCTOBER
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6.30pm FOR 7pm

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Diana Jemmett 020 8398 1184

£10 per person
teams - a maximum of eight



Kitchen Refurbishment Opening Ceremony in St Mary's Community Hall

On Sunday 1st September, Councillor Nick Darby officially opened the refurbished kitchen at St Mary's Community Hall. Since summer 2023, when the toilets were refurbished and the main hall redecorated, Long Ditton PCC has been keen to bring the kitchen up to the same standard.



The flooring has been redone with a coving to enable thorough cleaning and now matches the hallway and toilets; retiling has been done where necessary; electrical fittings have been upgraded; the sink unit has been modified to have better closed in storage and a new oven has been installed.

All this has been made possible due to the generosity of a grant of almost £20,000 from Your Fund Surrey, supported by our County Councillor Nick Darby and a £1,000 donation from Walsingham Care and £150 from Long Ditton Residents Association.

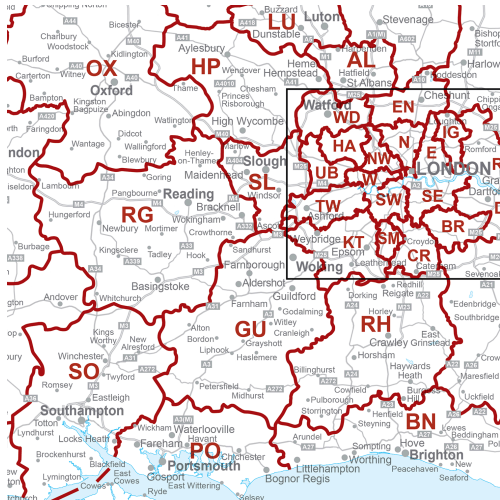
The celebrations marked the end of a year-long refurbishment project to bring the Hall back to the standard of (if not better than) when the Hall first opened in September 2007.

St Mary's Community Hall is extremely popular and offers yoga and pilates groups, choirs, a babes and tots group, Monkey Music, friendship lunches, bookbox evenings and much more. There are still a few slots available for long-term hirers and the hall accepts bookings for one-off events. For more information please visit www.stmaryslongditton.org.uk/communityhall or call 020 8339 0008.



Where do postcodes come from?

Some 65 years ago, on 11th October 1959, Britain began introducing postcodes. They started in Norwich and by 1974 had been rolled out across the whole country. The idea was to speed up sorting following the mechanisation of the postal system. For the process to work, people had to use it and it was, therefore, important to make sure that people could remember their postcode easily. So, psychologists from Cambridge University were asked to assist in their design.



This worked so well that a survey in 2016 revealed that people are now more likely to remember their postcode than their debit card PIN (92%, compared with 77%). The information sticks: apparently 17% of people questioned could still remember the postcode of the house they lived in up to 30 years earlier.

When the first postcodes were trialled in Norwich, the first three characters were NOR (now NR followed by a number) representing the name of the city and the last three signified a particular street or large business. Why Norwich? Because of its new sorting machines.

The main point of a postcode is to ensure that a letter or parcel gets to the correct Royal Mail sorting office, where it can then be sorted into the correct round. So the “outcode” will specify a postcode area and district and will have up to four characters. The “incode” designates a particular postcode sector and delivery point and always has one number and two letters.

What is a delivery point? It could be a street, part of a street or a single property or in rural areas, something a bit bigger. The postcode area is of course much larger: the smallest in Britain is WC in London, covering one square mile. The largest is IV, Inverness, at 6,243 square miles.

Remembering Desmond Tutu



Forty years ago, on 16th October 1984, the South African Anglican, Bishop Desmond Tutu won the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize for his role in the opposition to apartheid.

Born into a Methodist family in Transvaal in 1931, Tutu first went into teaching, but after three years retired in protest at the deteriorating standard of black education, in particular the discriminatory Bantu Education Act of 1953. Instead, he went into the church, enrolling at St Peter's Theological College in Johannesburg and becoming an Anglican priest, then studying theology at King's College, London.

In 1975 he became the first black person to hold the position of Dean of St Mary's Cathedral in Johannesburg, following this by becoming Bishop of Lesotho and then in 1978 the first black General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches.

Regarded by many as a prophet in the liberation theology sense of the word – someone challenging power – Tutu became Archbishop of Cape Town in 1986, therefore, the leader of South Africa's 1.6 million Anglicans. Always a pacifist, he was already one of the most prominent voices calling for sanctions on the apartheid regime from the international community.

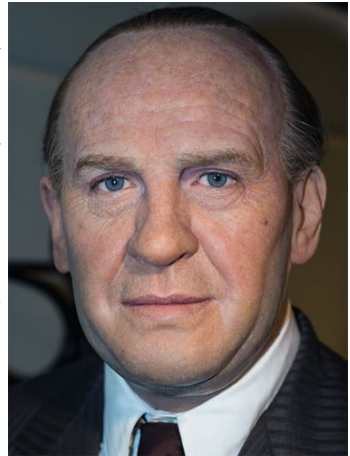
On the release of Nelson Mandela from prison in 1990 after 27 years when South Africa moved towards democracy, he saw his country as "the Rainbow Nation". Mandela responded by making him Chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 1995.

Exhilarated by a new vision for the future of South Africa, he described himself as "on cloud nine" when the election results came in 1994. He planned the religious component of Mandela's inauguration ceremony, including Jewish, Muslim and Hindu leaders.

Tutu's Nobel Prize medal was stolen in June 2007 from his home in Johannesburg, but was recovered a week later.

Oskar Schindler – the German businessman who befriended the Jews

Fifty years ago, on 9th October 1974, Oskar Schindler, Austria-Hungarian-born German businessman, died. He saved more than 1,100 Jews during the Holocaust by employing them in his factories. The story is told in the film *Schindler's List*.



At the time of his death, in Hildesheim, Germany, he was almost unknown and very poor. After the war he and his wife Emilie (both now recognised by Israel as Righteous Among the Nations) had emigrated to Argentina, where they separated in 1957 and Oskar returned to Germany alone. Money was raised to pay for his burial in Israel. Emilie died in Germany in 2001, having spent most of her later life in Argentina.

Oskar Schindler had been an opportunistic German industrialist and a 'convenient' member of the Nazi Party who set himself up in an enamel factory in occupied Krakow, Poland, as part of a 'Germanisation' programme in 1939. The factory had previously been Jewish-owned.

Schindler employed Jews from a nearby concentration camp and used bribes and his own diplomatic skills to protect his workers from the brutality of life in the camp and ensure they were not deported. He added an armaments division and convinced the SS that his employees were essential to the war effort – although very little was produced.

The risks he took, which included dubious business deals, brought suspicion of giving unauthorised aid to Jews and of corruption: he was arrested three times but not charged.

His factory was relocated to Brännlitz, near his hometown, at his request and reopened there purely as an armaments factory – and, thanks to Schindler's persuasive powers, a sub-camp of a nearby concentration camp. An assistant compiled a list of almost 1,200 Jewish workers needed to move from Krakow to work in the new factory – 'Schindler's list' – which enabled their survival.

Walkers could lose 40,000 miles of footpaths

Walkers in Britain could stand to lose thousands of miles of rights of way, because of the sheer size of the growing backlog of applications for footpaths to be recognised and protected.

The Government has set a deadline of 2031 for public footpaths and bridleways to be officially mapped but, local authorities still have nearly 8,000 applications still waiting to be processed. This has caused concern that some rights of way could be lost forever.

The Ramblers, the walking charity, reckons there are about 41,628 miles of missing rights of way. They are encouraging people to track these down, in their '*Don't Lose Your Way*' campaign.

The post and the gastropods

You may worry that your letter will be lost in the post, but you probably don't worry that your letter may be eaten by snails but, perhaps it is time to start. Especially, if your letter is being posted in rural Northumberland. It seems some hungry snails there have developed a taste for eating the post. They crawl through the flap of the post box and munch away.

Duncan Hutt, of Northumberland Wildlife Trust, explains that "Snails eat paper because most contains cellulose from the wood pulp, which they can digest and use for energy, and they also get calcium from paper and that's what they need to build their shells. Slugs and snails have a very varied diet." And it might include your letter!



The names people give their homes

Many people name their homes, and there is certainly a dizzying variety of names out there but, now a new study has found that nearly all the most common property names have something to do with nature. In Britain, the most popular house name of all is short and sweet: 'The Cottage'. Next in line? 'Rose Cottage'.

Other popular house names include Ivy Cottage, Garden Cottage, Orchard Cottage, Yew Tree Cottage, The Barn, The Stables, Orchard House, The Lodge and The Granary.

Dr Lynn Robson, Fellow in English at Regent's Park College, Oxford said the trend seems "to reflect a nostalgia for a rural past."

The survey also found that Newcastle has the greatest number of named homes, followed by Glasgow and Sheffield. The survey was carried out by Admiral Home Insurance.

Our hedgehogs are in crisis

It is feared that there may be just one million hedgehogs left in Britain. This compares to about 36 million during the 1960s. About 150,000 hedgehogs are killed on our roads every year. With this in mind, England's first 'hedgehog crossing' road signs have recently been launched in several Borough Councils around the country. The aim is to try and save the species from eventual extinction.



The new sign features a hedgehog with white quills inside a red triangle above a message that reads 'hedgehogs crossing'. The design has been approved by the Department for Transport and it is hoped that the signs will make a big difference in preserving the hedgehog population. The aim is to raise awareness among motorists, to get them to slow down, and also among people using a strimmer in their garden.

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www.longditton.org

Contact: Mark Herbert Tel: 020 8398 6037

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- Preserve Long Ditton from over development
- Maintain the character of the district
- Improve the amenities and defend our Green Belt
- Keep in close contact with our councillors

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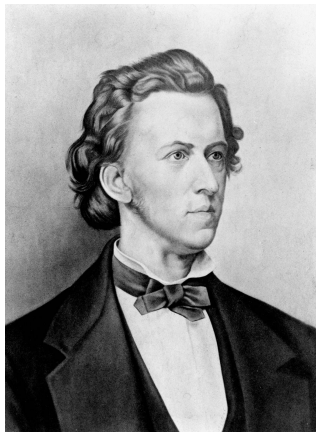
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Remembering the music of Chopin

It was 175 years ago, on 17th October 1849, that Frederic Chopin, Polish composer and piano virtuoso, died.

His final words – “Swear to make them cut me open, so that I won’t be buried alive” –revealed his taphephobia, a fairly common nineteenth-century fear shared by Alfred Nobel.

Chopin had been quite seriously ill for several years with respiratory problems and was concerned that exhaustion after a coughing fit might be mistaken for death. The actual cause of his death was uncertain; though it is usually ascribed to tuberculosis, other factors were possible, such as cystic fibrosis.



Chopin was born near Warsaw of a Polish mother and a French father who was devoted to his adopted country. Frederic was a child prodigy on the piano – all his compositions featured the instrument – but he always disliked giving public performances, preferring the intimacy of the salon.

He had left Poland at the age of 20, a month before the 1830 Uprising, and eventually settled in Paris, where his genius was recognised and he formed friendships with those at the top of the musical and artistic tree, such as Liszt and Berlioz. Towards the end of his life he formed a non-marital relationship with the novelist George Sand (Amantine Dupin), which went against the Catholic faith which he had inherited from his strongly Christian mother, Justyna Krzyżanowska, but which he rarely practised.

He took the sacrament as he was dying, but said it was out of respect for his mother. He regarded it simply as a blessing. His funeral took place on 30th October at the Church of the Madeleine in Paris and was restricted to invited ticket-holders. Nevertheless, more than 3,000 people arrived without invitations from as far afield as London, Vienna and Berlin.



LONG DITTON
INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL
THE HEART OF LONG DITTON SINCE 1911

 **Long Ditton St. Mary's**
Church of England (Aided) Junior School

News from the schools of the new Long Ditton Federation:

We are delighted to be back at school and have started the term with bundles of energy – the classrooms are bright (refreshed with new lighting), the children are taller and looking smart and teachers are smiling ready to get learning started. It is always an exciting time and this year it is especially the case as we are now federated working under one governing body. Long Ditton St Mary's and Long Ditton Infants are working closely together under the Long Ditton Federation. By being able to share staff and expertise across the two schools, the journey ahead will provide the children of Long Ditton with exceptional opportunities to thrive.

Long Ditton Infant and Nursery School

It has been lovely to welcome the new nursery and reception children and their families to the school. The children have settled brilliantly and we look forward to getting to know them better. Years 1 and 2 have returned ready to get started. This term there is a focus on our local area. They will be learning about maps, working creatively across subjects and getting out and about to immerse in the topic. Towards the end of the half term, the children will host events to share their learning with parents and carers, including a local area walk and a tea party. Our phonics programme has got off to a flying start to embed those crucial early reading and writing skills.



Long Ditton St. Mary's CE (Aided) Junior School

In the Autumn term, we have a history focus in the juniors and topics such as the Vikings in Year 5 and Egyptians in Year 4 are very popular.



The children are looking forward to trips such as the British Museum and Cabinet War Rooms, along with visitors who create an immersive environment to help the children go back in time and imagine what life was like during these key points in history.

The children love to dress up and, on these days, the school is filled with colourful costumes, headdresses and face paint – our parents do an exceptional job and who doesn't love a dress up day?

Our learning will culminate this term in a Night at the Museum event, where the school comes together to showcase the children's learning. We have interactive activities, children's work, poetry, readings, drama and much more.



Please continue to follow us on our website and social media channels as we will share lots of pictures and information about what we are doing in both the schools.

Sarah Martin - Headteacher

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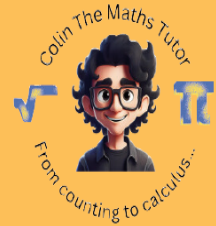
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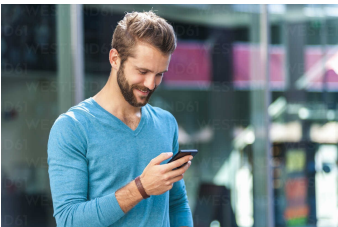
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The problem with swiping through videos

When you're bored, do you follow the growing popular trend of flicking from one short video to another on your phone? It is a habit many people have picked up from visiting YouTube Shorts, Instagram Reels, and TikTok but, if you do it for hours on end, it is called 'doomscrolling'.

Now a recent study has found that the habit can increase your malaise, instead of helping it. Scientists at the University of Toronto in Canada admit that while it is hard to "quantify exactly how *much* more bored a person feels when swiping", nevertheless "there are "small but noticeable increases."



So, scientists advise that "More enjoyment comes from immersing yourself in online videos, rather than swiping through them." The study was published in the *Journal of Experimental Psychology*.

Reflecting Faith : Window Glass

The Rev'd Dr Jo White considers the reasons for stained glass windows

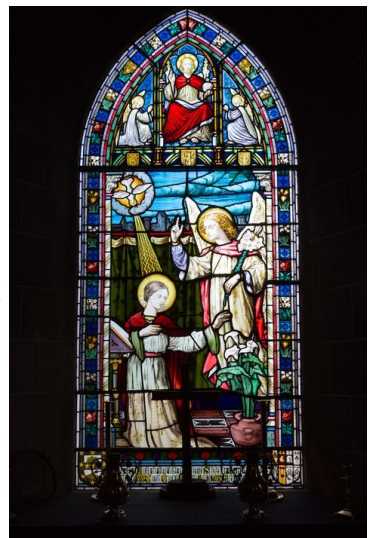
Recently, I wrote about the Arts and Crafts Movement's influence in the decoration of churches in Britain. This is often evidenced in the designs of windows – but why do we have so much coloured glass of all shapes and sizes in church buildings?

Stained glass in churches is similar to wall paintings in that it adds colour as well as traditionally serving the purpose of teaching non-literate people the great events and characters of their religion, but glass is so much more than that. The techniques used to create these windows have been refined over the centuries and their intricate beauty has inspired countless artists and designers.

The way the light shines through the glass creates a unique atmosphere that is often described as ethereal or heavenly. In this way, the use of stained-glass windows helps to create a sacred space that is set apart from the secular world. The light shining through the glass is shown onto the brickwork or stonework surrounding the glass and depending on the original colours, the intensity of the light, the angle of the sun's rays as well as the height and angle away from the watcher: these can range from vibrantly strong to softly muted.

Hundreds of years ago people saw the changes in light in this way as being very significant. It was thought that the light passing through was transformed or transmuted and because of this it had a healing and revivifying effect on people who placed themselves within its light.

Why not visit soon, a church on a sunny day and just enjoy the play of light being put on for you. What does it say about God's love for you?



Feeding hungry children in Kenya

Do you know that in Kenya, many parents and caregivers struggle to provide their children with even one meal a day? As a response to the need, the Kisumu Children Trust has long been feeding as many desperately hungry children as it can in the Kisumu area of Kenya, where food is often scarce and expensive.



The Trust provides a nutritious cooked lunch, and currently gives free daily lunches to 150 children a day. It has served more than 120,000 meals since it began the free meals in September 2020. For 80% of those children, it is the only meal they get that day.

Is it worth it? The headmistress of the local school says that the children are now more attentive in the afternoons, learning is better, and they are getting better exam results.

The Kisumu Children Trust also runs Bible Camps and Bible lessons. The children are eager to learn about God, and many have come to faith in the Lord Jesus. For the past 20 years the Trust has also run a sponsorship programme. With the support of Christians in the UK, more than 200 youngsters have been accommodated, educated, medically cared for, clothed, and befriended.

As one visitor to Kisumu said: “It was a privilege to see children, who have lost parents and family and faced lives filled with hunger and despair, become dressmakers, carpenters, nurses, teachers, and more besides. Above all, they have self-belief and the skills to face life’s challenges in Kenya with optimism, hope, and Christian values.”

The Trust says: “Jesus cares about poor people, and we seek to share His compassion.”

The Kisumu Children Trust is a small charity based in Tunbridge Wells. For more details, please visit:

<https://www.kisumuchildren.org.uk/> or write to

Kisumu Children Trust 36, Beulah Road, Tunbridge Wells,
Kent, TN1 2N

India – where Christian arrests and attacks continue to rise

Hostility towards Christians is growing in India. In the past four years, almost 1700 people have been arrested under anti-conversion laws in one state, Uttar Pradesh, alone. Uttar Pradesh is moving to tighten that law. A new bill increases the maximum penalty for fraudulent or forced conversion to 20 years with provision for life imprisonment.

Some 12 states in India have now passed anti-conversion laws, reflecting the rise in Hindu religious nationalism and accompanying intolerance in the country. Intolerance against Christians has been growing since the election of the nationalist BJP government in 2014. The party's re-election in June has strengthened the hand of Hindu militants, and it is BJP-governed states that are leading the anti-conversion charge.

The Religious Liberty Commission of the Evangelical Fellowship of India (EFI) recorded a record 601 cases of persecution against Christians in India last year – a rise of 45 per cent and in the first six months of 2024 there were 361 attacks against Christians, according to India's United Christian Forum (UCF).

The growing *Hindutva* nationalist movement aims to keep India a Hindu nation and to prevent Hindus from converting to Islam or Christianity.



St James the Least of All

On the perils of being a school governor

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I was interested to hear that from this academic year your vicar has asked you to take his place as a school governor. A whole new world of exciting meetings is about to open up to you.

Naturally, you will have been told that the governors only meet three times a year. You will probably not have been told that you will also be expected to be on at least two sub-committees, where you will be immediately asked to become secretary, as a way of getting to know the job. Add on training days, parents' evenings, sports days, school socials, end of term services, charity events and accompanying classes on days out and you will begin to realise that your vicar's suggestion was not as innocent as you may have thought.

Remember, too, that all meetings require you sit on chairs designed for five-year-olds. You will then spend countless hours going through a 40-item agenda, trying to look dignified with your knees somewhere round your ears while drawing up school plans as if they were the Normandy landing. Be prepared to receive paperwork measured by the hundredweight; entire rainforests have been obliterated by your education authority sending what they seem to think is vital information; it does, however, make good cat litter.

Most meetings will be so full of acronyms that for the first few years you will have the feeling that conversation is taking place in a language that may bear a passing resemblance to English, but isn't. There is little point in trying to learn what they all mean because before too long, they will all be replaced by another set anyway, which will be equally incomprehensible.

Your computer abilities will be expected to be far beyond what anyone over the age of 30 could ever be expected to achieve; if you sink without trace, ask a seven-year-old, who will soon put you right.

You will also be encouraged to attend training days; I strongly suggest you select all-day events, as at least you will get a lunch out of it. You needn't bother to arrive on time, since the first hour will be spent with everyone introducing themselves and you can leave early, as the final hour will go on filling in evaluation forms.

Just keep reminding yourself that your term of office is a mere five years; you may even get remission for good behaviour.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Smile Lines

Growing up

Your child has started growing up when he stops asking you where he came from and starts refusing to tell you where he's going.

Too eloquent?

Fresh out of seminary, a young pastor found an associate position at a prestigious church. One Sunday early on, he was given the opportunity to preach. He prepared diligently – perhaps a bit too excited to use all the learning he'd acquired – and worked hard to make his words eloquent and smooth.

Shaking hands at the end of the service, he was approached by one of the older ladies who was known and respected in both the church and community. "Sir," she said with a smile, "your sermon was like the peace of God!" The young preacher's grin widened and his chest puffed a bit ... until she continued on, "it surpassed ALL understanding

Passwords

An elderly vicar got a call from a scammer who said, "I've got all of your passwords."

The vicar replied: "Excellent! What are they? Just wait while I grab a pen."



Elmbridge Borough Council – New Local Plan

At time of going to press, the Elmbridge Borough Council (EBC) Local Plan has been paused pending a response from the Inspector. More up to date information is available on the EBC website. (<https://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/local-plan-examination>)

2024 LDRA Annual Subscriptions

2024 annual subs are due as online payments (and cheques for those who do not use online banking – to be sent to the Treasurer, 7 Chalcott Gardens, KT6 5HJ). We suggest £3.00 or more per household. Bank details remain the same:

Sort Code: 20 – 46 – 73 Account No.: 3350 6282 Payment
Reference: <<*Your road name*>>

Overgrown Verges and Public Areas

LDRA co-opted supporter Paul Fagan has been challenging EBC and SCC on the state of Long Ditton's verges, church environs and open public spaces. Paul's tireless efforts press home the fact that the gardening contractors are not fulfilling their contractual obligations. We trust that action will be taken.

Surrey Highways - 20mph Zones, Parking, Line Painting

SCC Councillor Nick Darby is waiting for a confirmed date for implementation of the 20mph zones around Long Ditton Infants School and Long Ditton St. Mary's Junior School. The parking review has concluded and we are waiting for the changes to take place. Cllr Darby continues to chase Surrey Highways for the re-painting of the faded white lines and other road markings around the Dittons. This is proving most challenging.

Long Ditton 'Lights Up' – Christmas Tree Lights Switch On Event

The popular Long Ditton Christmas 'Lights Up' event will be held from 4.00pm – 6.00pm on Sunday 24th November. All residents are welcome to attend. Nick Darby, our SCC councillor, has arranged his regular major contribution towards the costs of the Christmas trees above the Fleece Road shops.

LDRA Autumn Public Meeting

The autumn public meeting at the LD Village Hall will be held on Wednesday 27th November (8.15pm) and all residents are welcome to attend. This is a chance to meet our councillors and discuss local issues.

LDRA Committee

We are seeking new volunteers, so if you are interested in a position on the LDRA committee, please contact Mark Herbert (Vice Chair) or Paul Bartlett (Treasurer).

LDRA on Facebook

The LDRA Facebook page continues to grow in popularity and has over 2,500 members. It is a great source of local information. You can join by searching FB for 'Long Ditton Residents Association' and requesting membership. Please read and agree to the FB page rules to be accepted.

Monthly LDRA Committee Meetings – St, Mary's Community Hall

The LDRA continues to hold monthly committee meetings in the Long Ditton Community Hall, behind St. Mary's Church. All residents are welcome to attend, especially if they have an issue to raise. The meetings start at 8.00pm, on the first Wednesday in the month, except May, August and November.

Local Police

All incidents of anti-social behaviour should be reported to Surrey Police (ring 101 or online <https://www.surrey.police.uk/>). The LDRA is working with the local police team, so please feel free to keep us informed too. Information on police matters can be viewed on <https://www.police.uk/pu/your-area/surrey-police/the-dittons-and-hinchley-wood/>

Help us to help you!

In addition to Facebook and our website, we would like to use e-mail to keep you informed. If you would like to be on our e-mailing list please send your full name, your road and e-mail address to: mark.herbert@longditton.org. All information supplied will be used in accordance with GDPR, strictly by the LDRA Officers only, and not made public. All recipients are e-mailed using *Blind carbon copy* (Bcc).

LONG DITTON
GENERAL CONTACTS

Group	Contact	Tele Number
Babes 'n' Tots	Cathy Doyle	020 8398 0715
LD Residents' Assn	Mark Herbert	020 8398 6037
LD Garden Club	Sue Corb	07766 742370
Village Hall	Michelle Aveson	07804 057589
Rainbows	Lesley Sullivan	020 8398 0150
Brownies (Wednesday)	Lesley Sullivan	020 8398 0150
Brownies (Thursday)	Hannah Siebert	020 8398 0576
Guides	Fay Tiplady	07486 696167
Rangers	Cat Smith	07738 599318
Dittons Scouts contact	Stuart Jack	07971 479740
LDSM Junior School Sugden Road, KT7 0AD	Sarah Martin (Head)	020 8398 1070
LD Infant School Ditton Hill Road, KT6 5JB	Sarah Martin (Head)	020 8398 4398
Long Ditton Youth Club	Glenn Sampson	07588 825917
Ditton Bridge Club	Redvers Cunningham	020 8398 4338
Sugden Road Allotments	David Wiltshire	07718 054345
Long Ditton Cricket Club	Jeremy Huntingford	07876 171899
Surbiton Bowls Club	Keith Stedman	07543 095070
Editor of Lychgate	Janet Burton	07810 810822
Citizens Advice Bureau Esher	01372 464770	
Elmbridge Borough Council	01372 474474	
Elmbridge Dial-A-Ride	01372 474944	
Thames Water Emergency Line	0800 980 8800	
Samaritans Kingston	Freephone: 116123	
Dittons & Weston Green Neighbourhood Care	020 8398 8600	

ST MARY'S CHURCH CONTACTS

Ministry Team	The Rev'd Dr. Kuhan Satkunanayagam	020 8398 1583 (Day off -Tuesday)
Associate Priest	The Rev'd Prof Alison Baverstock	020 8546 9267
Churchwardens	Bob Hancock Joanne Hall	020 8398 0519 020 8398 5637
Pastoral Team	<i>Call us if you need someone to listen or talk with you</i>	
Pastoral Assistants	Cathy Doyle Joanne Hall Diana Jemmett Kenneth Mould Judith Topp	020 8398 0715 020 8398 5637 020 8398 1184 020 8339 0933 020 8399 1004
Sunday Club		children@stmaryslongditton.org.uk
Churches Together	Cathy Doyle	020 8398 0715
Director of Music	Julia Bowyer	music@stmaryslongditton.org.uk
Church Electoral Roll	Lucy McMullan	office@stmaryslongditton.org.uk
Flowers	Tessa Vallings	020 8398 4807
Sacristan	Val Tanner	020 8974 2713
Stewardship Hon Treasurer	Sarah Carvalho	treasurer@stmaryslongditton.org.uk
PCC Hon Sec	Penny Fussell	020 8672 0838
PCC Hon Treasurer	Sarah Carvalho	treasurer@stmaryslongditton.org.uk
Parish Office & Community Hall	Mandy Ali The Parish Office Church Road	020 8339 0008 office@stmaryslongditton.org.uk

[www.stmaryslong ditton.org.uk](http://www.stmaryslongditton.org.uk)

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism of: Ella Mooney Sienna Mooney
Eliza Conrad



Funeral of: Tim Boulting Barbara de Rox

Burial of Ashes Derek Watkins



Memorial service for: David May

[DATES FOR YOUR DIARY](#)

- Sat 5th Oct 6.30pm Quiz in Long Ditton Parish Hall - see Page 5 for details
- Wed 16th Oct BookBox - Matthew Taylor - will talk about his research into the incredible story of enslaved African-Americans who found freedom fighting for Britain in The Royal Navy during the 1812 war. See page 4
- Fri 18th Oct 2pm Film Friday in the Community Hall
- Fri 15th Nov 2pm Film Friday in the Community Hall
- Wed 20th Nov BookBox—Martin Cooper - talking about Reverend Captain Theodore Hardy VC - the only military padre to receive a VC - see page 4

[ADVANCE NOTICE :](#)

- Mon 2nd Dec Christmas Buffet lunch—details in next magazine
- Sat 25th Jan 2025 Burns Night supper - details in next magazine

REGULAR SERVICES AT ST MARY'S

Sundays:

08.00am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion
10.15am Parish Communion with Organ and hymns
6pm Evening Prayer (Choral Evensong 3rd Sunday of month)

Wednesdays:

10.00 am Holy Communion followed by Coffee Club

Prayer Chain

If you, or someone you know, would like to be prayed for (for any reason) please send your request by e-mail to:-
prayerchain@stmaryslongditton.org.uk

Your request will only be known to those in the Prayer Chain and your confidentiality will be respected.

NOTES FOR SERVICES

Sun 3 Nov 4pm All Souls' Service of memories
Sun 10 Nov 9.45am Parish Communion followed by
Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial
Sun 1 Dec 6pm Advent Carol Service

A prayer for morning... and for evening

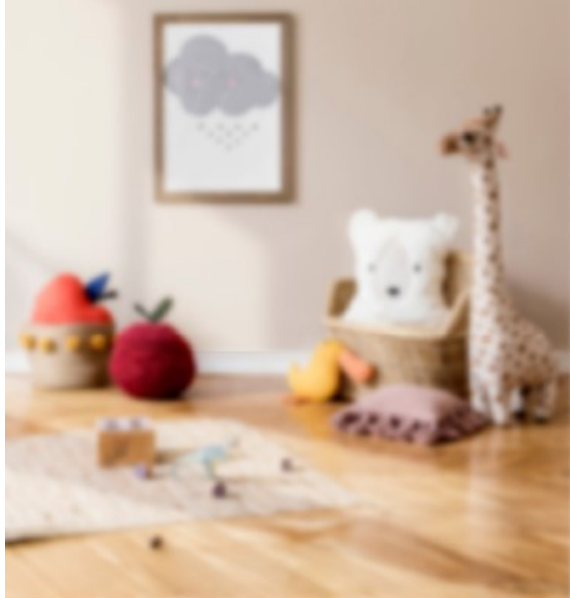
O God, who divides the day from the night, separate our deeds from the darkness of sin, and let us continually live in Your light, reflecting in all that we do Your eternal beauty.

O God, who gives the day for work and the night for sleep, refresh our bodies and our minds through the quiet hours of night, and let our inward eyes be directed towards You, dreaming of Your eternal glory.

From the Leonine Sacramentary, 5th century

HUMPHREY
& BRAND

Whatever you're
leaving behind...



Oliver 145cm
(16/5/24)

Mia 131cm
(16/5/24)

Oliver 128cm
(6/8/22)

MIA 122cm (8/12/21)

OLIVER 118cm (5/11/20)

Oliver 116cm
(2/1/20)

MIA 108cm (2/1/20)

Mia 101cm (8/9/19)

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