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# Jan & FEB

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**FRONT COVER** 

Surbiton station taken from Ewell Road bridge.

Surbiton station was built in 1867 & rebuilt in 1937. Designed by James Robb Scott (1882-1965) in an Art Deco style.

Scott also designed London Waterloo & Victory Arch war memorial.

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By: Robert Stanier

Once again, we start the New Year off the back of a huge and increased attendance at Christmas. It's a trend that's been going on for some time, and largely it's a cause for rejoicing. It's also something replicated albeit less extravagantly both in neighbouring churches and nationwide. More people in England are coming to church at Christmas now than they did ten years ago.

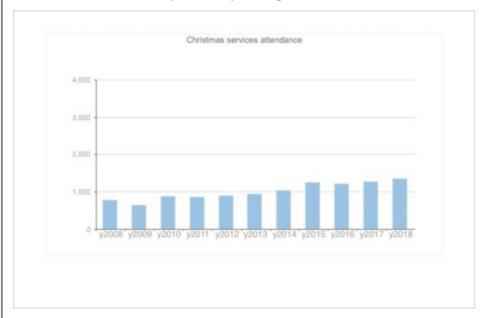


Chart: Combined attendance at St Andrew and St Mark: parish carol service, Christingle, Midnight Mass, Christmas morning eucharist (not including school carol services.)

There are various tempting conclusions. One is that we at St Andrew's and St Mark's are doing a particularly brilliant job of making our church a welcoming and inspiring place to be at Christmas. Another is that Surbiton and the nation as a whole is fed up with the consumerism of Christmas and wants something more spiritual and calm. And there may be some truth in both of those.

But also what about other things: trends in when fathers and mothers take time off work before Christmas starts? What about not needing physically to go to the shops because you can do it online, thus freeing you up to go to Church on Christmas Eve?

Who knows? But it's certainly the case that things that have nothing at all to do with us may have more of an impact than things of which we are in control.

# A VIEW FROM THE VICAR

A few years ago, I had a conversation with a guy who had set up his own business, a consultancy whose main work was advising government departments how to make IT improvements. For a couple of years, business thrived, and, while he did not like to boast, he was quietly delighted in his own brilliance. Then, in 2008, the financial crisis hit home, government spending was slashed, and his clients did not have the money to spend on IT consultancy; suddenly, the work dried up. Now while his business survived, he learned something important, which is that his own talent had a lot less to do with his company's bottom line than a wider context about which he had no control at all.

Psalm 127 is brilliant. "Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labour in vain... it is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil..." How true, how true! So much of the time, we over-emphasise our own importance. Nothing will happen if we don't do it. And there is a place for getting stuck in and making a difference. But equally, there is also sometimes a place for acknowledging that we are just very small parts of a wider picture. And when it happens that our own focus is 'on trend' and things are all on the up, then we should enjoy the ride, but we shouldn't believe that we have had too much to do with it. That will help us when we hit choppier waters, because hopefully we'll be less likely to attribute those failures to ourselves either. Rather, let us love God and our neighbour as ourselves, and leave the rest to Him.

### CONGRATULATIONS SASM



"Spire and Tower was awarded a Certificate of Excellence at the 2018 Association for Church Editors national competition in Coventry. Our magazine was adjudged to be 'Excellent' overall, and also won the 'Best Use of Graphics' section.

Huge thanks to everyone who contributed articles, ideas and photographs and to the Magazine Team, who work so hard.

### **FREE**

Portable garden wormery. Complete with colony of Tiger Worms. Full instructions included. Easy to manage, but need to be kept in a frost-free place over winter (an attached garage etc works well). An interesting project and good source of garden fertilizer.

Call Mike Smith on 0208 399 8865 if interested.





### SOME EXCITING NEWS

We've had some lovely news from Buckingham Palace about our parish magazine!

I sent a copy of the September/October edition of Spire and Tower to The Duke of Edinburgh with a copy for Her Majesty The Queen.

You will remember that this edition contained an excellent article from Commander Michael Vaughan about his naval association with Prince Philip and his appearance in the Channel 5 documentary series "Elizabeth Our Queen".

I received a charming reply from the Duke's Private Secretary which confirms that the Duke read our magazine and my letter 'with interest'. I thought you might like to read the letter.



From: Brigadier Archie Miller-Bakewell Private Secretary to HRH The Duke of Edinburgh

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE** 

3rd December, 2018

Dear M. Smith.

Thank you for your letter dated 9th November, and for the copy of the "Spire & Tower", the Church Magazine of St. Andrew's & St. Mark's in Surbiton.

The Duke of Edinburgh has read both your letter and the Magazine particularly the article by Cdr (Retd) Michael Vaughan - with interest. Prince Philip fully appreciates that at this distance in time the memory plays tricks, so I enclose a list of the Ships in which he served during the Second World War. To clarify, His Royal Highness's wartime Mediterranean service was in HMS Valiant, and post-war service was in HMS Chequers.

Thank you again for taking the time to write. This letter comes with Prince Philip's best wishes to you, Katharine, your family and the parish family of St. Andrew's & St. Mark's.

yours smurely. Archie Miller. Bakenell

Michael Smith, Esq.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE, LONDON, SWIA IAA TELEPHONE: 020 7930 4832 EMAIL: archie.millerbakewell@royal.uk

### FROM THE EDITOR

I subscribe to a quarterly magazine called 'The London Police Pensioner' (not the most riveting start I know, but bear with me). The publication is wide ranging and interesting, but the sections I most enjoy are the story's from retired officers of a society and policing in a bygone age. The accounts are usually humorous and affectionate, almost always rose-tinted and occasionally exaggerated!

As it happened, the pre Christmas edition popped through my door the day after one of Robert's usual excellent Sunday sermons. The vicar's main theme was an encouragement to reflect on how we fit into God's world and what we are called to do within it. As emphasis, Robert used a wonderful response by Bishop Christopher in his interview for selection to Bishop, during which he was asked how he would wish to be remembered. Bishop Christopher replied that he would like to be compared to one of the builders of Durham Cathedral. This beautiful structure took 50 years to complete: most of the artisans and labourers who toiled on it would never see their work finished and as far as we know, none of their names are recorded for posterity. The rest of the interview obviously went just as well because Bishop Christopher got the job!

On hearing this gem, my immediate thought was "what a terrific reply", closely followed by the realisation that few other organisations would applaud such an uncynical and humble response, particularly in an 'Executive Officer' interview. My third, and much later reaction was to cringe at the memory of some of the pretentious, self promoting drivel I have trotted out at various interviews over the years.

As I opened my magazine over a cup of tea, the first page included an apology from the Editor. Apparently, a very small number of the last print run had a couple of pages missing and some other minor problems. I allowed myself a self indulgent smile as I thought of the glitches (usually last minute) that I have had to sort out when producing our modest parish magazine. This smugness was very short lived and I was sharply returned to earth as the Editor went on to explain (in her defence) that the magazine she heads up runs to 116,000 copies, includes over 300 advertisers and an extensive international circulation. My own sense of importance was abruptly brought back into focus.

The magazine also included a short letter from an elderly retired police officer who recalls an incident from 1947. As a newly appointed probationary Constable he underwent a day's attachment in each of the main police departments.

On the day in question he accompanied a Met. traffic crew. They were parked at the top of Constitution Hill, close to Buckingham Palace, when a sports car came flying by, well above the 20mph speed limit in the royal parks. The vehicle was stopped and the driver, a young army Second Lieutenant in uniform, quickly got out. The soldier immediately rebuked the Police Constable for not saluting him. The police officer apologised and saluted him. The driver was unable to provide his documents and without saying another word, the officer quietly wrote out a 'producer'. The police officer then handed the document to the soldier and asked him to read his title at the bottom of the page: he then required that the Second Lieutenant salute him! The police officer had added his rank as 'Squadron Leader' a title he still held as a reserve Royal Air Force officer. He had commanded a fighter squadron during WW2, had seen considerable action and been twice decorated. The soldier was obliged to salute the police officer before he drove off. The writer concludes that it was a silly incident, but the soldier started it. He could have also added that everyone, regardless of 'rank', is always answerable to a higher authority.

I would love to know what the parties learnt from that encounter, particularly the junior Army officer. Did he go on to become one of God's "Durham Builders" or did his vanity and ego take him on a different journey?

And my career as a trainee builder? I'm still really struggling to understand The Architects plans.

By: Michael Smith

# GOD'S WONDERFUL WORLD



### **LADYBIRDS**

Ladybirds, sometimes called Ladybugs or Ladybeatles, live all over the world. There are around 6000 members of this insect family. Many people know them as red insects with black spots, but actually they come in many different colours, including brown and yellow. Like most insects, ladybirds are good fliers although many people never see them fly.

Ladybirds can change from walking to flying very quickly because of the way their wings are designed. Scientists have only recently solved the mystery of how they fold and unfold them. Ladybirds open their wings in a 10th of a second, so high speed cameras were used. This revealed that when they fold their wings, they start with the spotted outer wings that cover the lower wings. The lower wings are soft and have curved creases to help them fold quickly. Scientists plan to copy this design to make better medical equipment and even umbrellas that won't blow inside-out in strong winds.



The London building known as The Gherkin, was opened in 2004. It has 41 stories and is 18 metres tall. The building uses energy-saving methods, which allow it to use half the power that a similar tower would typically consume. Architect, Norman Foster based the design on the structure of a type of coral known as the Venus Flower Basket. The Gerkins skin is modelled on its lattice structure, making it light, but also strong and stable.

Taken from "Cheering Words" the parish magazine of St Georges
Church,
Stamford. Source, 'Creation Trust'.

Human architects are just catching up with nature's efficient plans.

Surely, these wonderful designs could not just have come through millions of years of evolution but must have had an Architect too.





"I am a servant appointed by

"I am a servant the Word of God

God to preach the known."

until it is known."

COLOSSIANS 1:25

"Be ready in season & out of season; reprove, rebuke, & exhort, with complete patience & teaching."

**TIMOTHY** 4:2

# **QUESTION HOUR**

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

#### What is your name?

My name is Rod Pearson.

### Where were you born?

The Middlesex Hospital, London. My Mum was told to get under the bed with me if she heard a doodlebug coming.

#### What family do you have?

My wife, June, and I have three children, Clare, William and Joanna. They have each given us two grandchildren, and William has given us two bonus grandchildren who came with his second partner; so eight grandchildren in all.

### What is your occupation/retired?

Retired architect.

### How long you have been attending St Andrew's & St Mark's?

Since May, 2018.

### What is your idea of perfect happiness?

I am perfectly happy with my life as it is now, with my wife, family and friends.

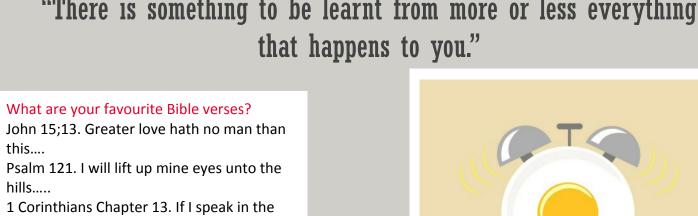
### How do you relax?

Painting, singing, rowing, walking with June in Cornwall and the Lake District, spending time with friends and family.



# **QUESTION HOUR**

"There is something to be learnt from more or less everything



What single thing would improve the quality of your life?

Having more time to do the things that I enjoy.

What is your favourite meal? Breakfast.

have love,....

Most enjoyable book? A Perfect Spy, by John le Carre

Where do you like to go for holidays? Cornwall and the Lake District.

What is the most important lesson life has taught you?

That there is something to be learnt from more or less everything that happens to you.



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# Great Is Thy Faithfulness

"Great is Thy faithfulness," O God my father

There is no shadow of turning with Thee;

Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;

As thou hast been Thou forever wilt be,.

#### Chorus

Great is Thy faithfulness,

Great is Thy faithfulness,

Morning by morning new mercies I see:

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided-

"Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord unto me!

#### Chorus

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,

Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,

Join with all nature in manifold witness

To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

### Chorus

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth.

Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,

Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow

Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Written by: Thomas O Chisholm 1923 & renewed in 1951

We have introduced a new feature in our magazine to celebrate & enjoy a variety of Hymns. If you would like to have one of your favourite Hymns used for our forthcoming editions please email Katie Smith: kns78@outlook.com

## **MOTHERS' UNION**

The St Andrew & St Mark's Mothers' Union Branch has been busy with their monthly meetings as well as helping at Parish events. A number of members manned the bottle tombola at the Parish Fair on Saturday 17th November.

Also in November, they had a very informative talk from Jackie Robb about working with ministers.

In December Mothers' Union members and friends from other parishes joined our Branch at St Mark's Church as they hosted a Christmas Service followed by seasonal refreshments. The Mothers' Union President of Matabeleland, Soneni Lunga, who was staying with Anne Barker, joined us at the service.



### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday 16th January 2019, 19:30 - Branch AGM in St Mark's Church

Wednesday 20th February 2016, 14:30 - in St Mark's Church – 'Re-Membering' - A talk by Revd Simon Hill

The Mothers' Union has a rapidly growing following on Twitter.

You can also sign up for their Monthly E-Newsletter by logging onto www.themothersunion.org



"A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter,

He who finds one finds a treasure"

SIRACH 10:14

### SASM CHILDREN'S CORNER BY CHARLOTTE NEW

### Focus on: Candlemas

Happy New Year! January marks the start of 2019. It is AD 2019 (or Anno Domini), meaning the 2019<sup>th</sup> year in the year of our Lord/after Christ's birth in the Christian Calendar. The Christian Calendar is also known as the Gregorian or Western Calendar.

Any time period before AD 1 is known as BC or Before Christ and counts backwards from 1 BC, which is the year immediately before AD 1.

The Christian Church has its own year, divided into time periods and with its own special days. One special day takes place on 2 February and is called Candlemas. These pages think about Candlemas.

### What is Candlemas all about?

Candlemas remembers the purification of Mary, 40 days after giving birth to Jesus. It also marks Jesus being presented at the temple. See further on in these pages for more information about Jesus' presentation. But first, can you find all the following words about Candlemas in the word search?

Christmas – Mary – Jesus – Forty – Purify – Temple – Candlemas – Anna – Simeon - Synagogue

#### WORD SEARCH

H F O R T Y A P P C Y N E L P M E T A H E W Y E A R O N N R A L L R E A D E N I R J S O F L T P A S H E E C E H I U L T D S R M A R Y R E M N U A S P A G I E A S E U G O G A N Y S N

### SASM CHILDREN'S CORNER BY CHARLOTTE NEW

#### TWELFTH NIGHT TO CANDLEMAS

OOPS! IF YOU FORGOT TO TAKE DOWN YOUR CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS BY TWELFTH NIGHT (WHICH IS THE DATE THE THREE MAGI (ALSO KNOWN AS THE THREE KINGS OR WISE MEN) VISITED JESUS), TRADITION SAYS YOU SHOULD THEN KEEP THOSE DECORATIONS UP UNTIL CANDLEMAS AND THEN TAKE THEM DOWN.

WOULD THERE BE ANY CHRISTMAS TREE CHOCOLATES LEFT BY THEN?!?

#### EXTRA-ORDINARY FACT - JESUS, LIGHT OF THE WORLD!

The first period of Ordinary Time in the Christian Year follows Christ's Presentation in the Temple, the date of which is Candlemas. Candlemas is when Simeon and his wife Anna were meant to have met Jesus and Simeon called him the Light of the World. The festival is called Candlemas as this is the festival when all the church candles are blessed for the coming year.

#### IS THE BEAST FROM THE EAST ON ITS WAY?

Candlemas is thought to have interesting weather related properties and, perversely, we should all cross our fingers for bad weather on the day – perhaps hoping for ice, frost and snow brought by cold winds from Russia like last year. Why? Well. according to this traditional rhyme ...

If Candlemas Day be fair and bright,
Winter will have another fight,
If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain.
Winter won't come again.

Therefore, strange as it may seem, fingers crossed the weather isn't too good on Monday, 2 February!

### FEAST DAYS IN A REAL MUDDLE

Do you know your special days in the Christian year? Rearrange the following letters to help you. In each case, you have the first and last letter.

1. S C E N T P O E T is P	_ T	•
2. H Y E N A P I P is E	Y.	
ACLAMSDEN is C		S





In 2009 Harry Potter & The Half Blood Prince was partly filmed at Surbiton Station.

Platform 1&3 have became our very own 9 3/4!.



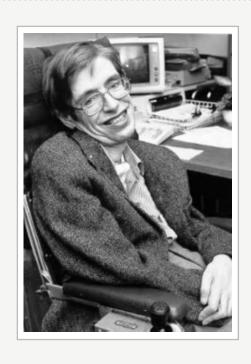


### **JOKES & QUOTES**



Thanks to Stephen Illich (See Genesis 6-8)

WE WERE TOLD YOU WERE TAKING CREATURES THAT CAME TO YOU IN PEARS



"HOWEVER DIFFICULT LIFE MAY SEEM,
THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING YOU CAN
DO, AND SUCCEED AT. IT MATTERS THAT
YOU DON'T JUST GIVE UP."

STEPHEN HAWKING 1942-2018



"RISK IT, GO FOR IT. LIFE ALWAYS
GIVES YOU ANOTHER CHANCE,
ANOTHER GO AT IT. IT'S VERY
IMPORTANT TO TAKE
ENORMOUS RISKS."

MARY QUANT 1934





Where were you born?

Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

What family do you have?

I have my parents, 3 sisters, a brother-in-law and nephew, and my wife Jennah and her family.

What is your job?

**Trade Commissioner Assistant** 

How long you have been attending St Andrew's & St Mark's? I have been attending for 14 months.

What is your idea of perfect happiness?

I gave up the pursuit of perfect happiness and got married.....I mean....ermmm, please see my wife's answer on our behalf.

How do you relax?

Having a beer and watching sports

What are your favourite Bible verses?

John 3:16 and Song of Solomon 2.10-13; 8.6,7

What single thing would improve the quality of your life?

A house with a yard and a dog

What is your favourite meal?

Spaghetti al carbonara as a starter, followed by a Pizza entrée, and finished off with a helping of Lasagne for dessert

Most enjoyable book?

River City by John Farrow

Where do you like to go for holidays?

Anywhere with a good museum or interesting historical sites.

What is the most important lesson life has taught you?

That I'm still learning.



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# QUESTION HOUR WITH

### What is your name?

Jennah Dirksen

### Where were you born?

Seoul, South Korea

### What family do you have?

We're a very large, boisterous, fun-loving crowd with my parents, 4 brothers, 4 sisters-in-law, 7 nieces and nephews, the newly inducted husband, and around 80 aunts, uncles, and cousins with their respective broods.

#### What is your job?

TV Development Exec

How long you have been attending St Andrew's & St Mark's? 14 months

### What is your idea of perfect happiness?

Our wedding pretty much embodied what we imagine it looks like. A big get-together with family and lifelong friends enjoying good food, music, and booze.

#### How do you relax?

I'll sleep as late as possible, then binge watch Netflix. If all goes to plan, I won't budge from the bed until dinnertime.

What single thing would improve the quality of your life? An additional Saturday to the week.

#### What is your favourite meal?

Steak with garlic mashed potatoes.

#### Most enjoyable book?

We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed with Our Families by Philip Gourevitch is an incredibly riveting read and the book I most recommend to others.

### Where do you like to go for holidays?

I like places you can just wander around and experience, before finding a deck lounge by the pool.

What is the most important lesson life has taught you? Karma doesn't exist.



21





In 2013 I saw an advert for Plan International at a friend's house.

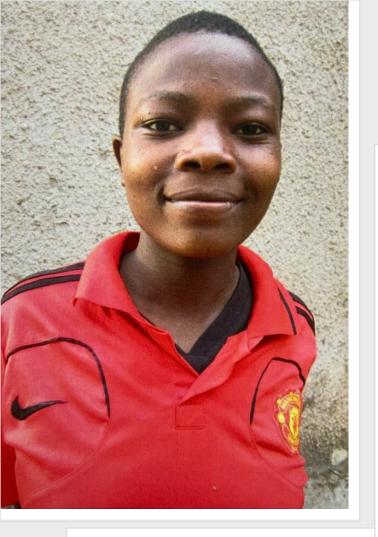
She had recently started sponsoring a child in Africa and explained how rewarding it was.

I immediately felt this was something my family & I would very much like to be involved with. We had only recently been talking about other ways to raise money for children less fortunate.

We spoke with Plan International who asked if we would like to sponsor a boy or a girl and even asked what age we would like. We decided we would like a little girl who was approximately 9-10 years of age.

The administration side was extremely easy to set up and within minutes we had set up a monthly payment and a few weeks later we received correspondence from our child. This was so exciting to all sit down together and hear all about her life and family in Tanzania.

### Plan. ...∠ania Mwanza Program Unit Kwa To: MISS SMIGH NO/SP# Kutoka From: PU/SC#: hwako meazi rafiki Salamu nyingi zikupikie huko uriko femilia yako mim! Bijambo kabisa na wazazi mimi pamoja na wasazi Kupata Kadi na Stika mimi kwefu mikoa yote yaani Ciangazi wakuling water maharage pia kuna ziwa victoria Kama vite Sato Sangara n.12



Plan Tanzania



We regularly write to her, send gifts and receive letters and photographs back.

Over the years we have watched her develop and grow into a young woman alongside her family and village.

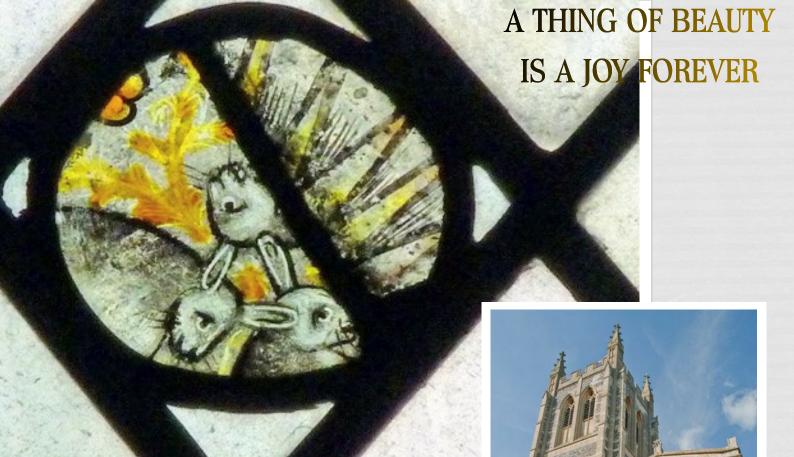
The entire experience has been highly rewarding. The children have learnt so much about her country and culture but also to value how lucky we all are living here in Surbiton.

My daughter recently said "we buy a drink effortlessly in our local coffee shop for £3.50 and our girl in Tanzania could do so much with that money for her and her family."

It has also opened up my own eyes.

If you are interested in sponsoring a child then call the following phone number: 0300 777 9777 or more information can be found at: www.plan-uk.org

Mwanza Program Unit	By: Katie Smith-Jones
Kwa MISS SMITH.  Kutoka	NO/SP#
From:	PU/SC#: 12.7 7648 Continued
Toward you my	sponsor!
n	reetings from me wherever
you are lam o	
parents and they	are all greeting you.
	delighted more to
receive a land and	
lam still attendit	ng to school and its
dummer in almost the	inhole Country. All
peasants are harvestin	ig their trops like
Beans, Maire and of	
Victory that is situated	a with fisher of different
Kind ways like Tilay	pia, and Nile perch.



This beautiful glass found at Holy Trinity, Long Melford is the only known example of a Medieval stained glass window. Showing three hares, each with two ears but with only three ears between them to symbolise the Holy Trinity.

Many thanks to John Kelly for supplying this article & the beautiful stained glass detail.

"If you feel this magazine has been of interest or help to you, please pass it on to a friend"

# PfIST TIMES



No. 34004 "Plymouth" at Surbiton station in about 1963.



No. 34042 at Surbiton station in 1966.

### A New Year With The Lord

A new year is about to unfold
With new opportunities to explore
Doors will open for new experiences,
New adventures with the Lord

Remember not the former things,
The things of this past year,
The Lord will do new things in us,
Much more than we are aware

For He will make a way for us

As we put our trust in Him

And He will guide our every step

By His presence we have within

What God has placed within our hearts,
We find we'll be able to do

If we look for the opportunities,
We'll see the door to go through

We mustn't let anything hold us back,
But rise up and take our place
And be all that God wants us to be
With a fresh touch of His grace.

By: M.S.Lowndes



Michelle Lowndes is a Christian poet & lives in South Auckland, New Zealand with her husband & four children.

### **SERVICE CALENDAR**

### January 2019

Sunday 6th January: Feast of Epiphany 8am St Andrew's, BCP Holy Communion 9.15am St Marks – All age Eucharist with Baptism 11am St Andrew's – Morning Worship 6pm St Andrew's, Evening Prayer with silence

Sunday 13th January— (Baptism of Christ) 8am St Mark's – BCP Holy Communion 9.15am St Mark's – Family Worship 11am St Andrew's – Choral Eucharist with Baptism and Sunday Club 6pm St Andrew's – Compline

Sunday 20th January (3rd Sun of Epiphany) 8am St Andrew's – BCP Holy Communion 9.15am St Mark's – Morning Worship or Holy Baptism (tbc) 11am St Andrew's – Choral Eucharist with Sunday Club

6.30pm Surbiton Hill Methodist Church – Service for Christian Unity (no service at St Andrew's)

Sunday 27th January – 4th Sunday of Epiphany 8am St Mark's – BCP Holy Communion 9.15am St Mark's – Morning Worship 11am St Andrew's – Choral Eucharist with Sunday Club 6pm St Andrew's – Service of wholeness and healing

## **SERVICE CALENDAR**

### February 2019

Sunday 3rd Feb Candlemas 8am St Andrew's BCP Holy Communion 9.15am St Mark's – All Age Eucharist 11am St Andrew's – Morning worship with Baptism

6pm St Andrew's - Choral Evensong

Sunday 10th Feb 4th Sunday before Lent 8am St Mark's – BCP Holy Communion 9.15am St Mark's – Family Worship 11am St Andrew's – Choral Eucharist with Sunday Club

6pm St Andrew's – Compline

Sunday 17th February 3rdSunday before Lent 8am St Andrew's – BCP Holy Communion 9.15am St Mark's – Morning Worship or Holy Baptism (tbc)

11am St Andrew's – Choral Eucharist and Sunday Club

6pm St Andrew's - Service of Wholeness and Healing

Sunday 24th February 2<sup>n</sup>dSunday before Lent 8am St Mark's – BCP Holy Communion 9.15am St Mark's – Family Worship 11am St Andrew's – Choral Eucharist with Sunday Club

6pm St Andrew's – Evening Prayer with silence

### **MINISTRY STAFF TEAM**

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Sarah Stokes Pastoral Assistant sarah\_stokes@btinternet.com

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#### PARISH OFFICE

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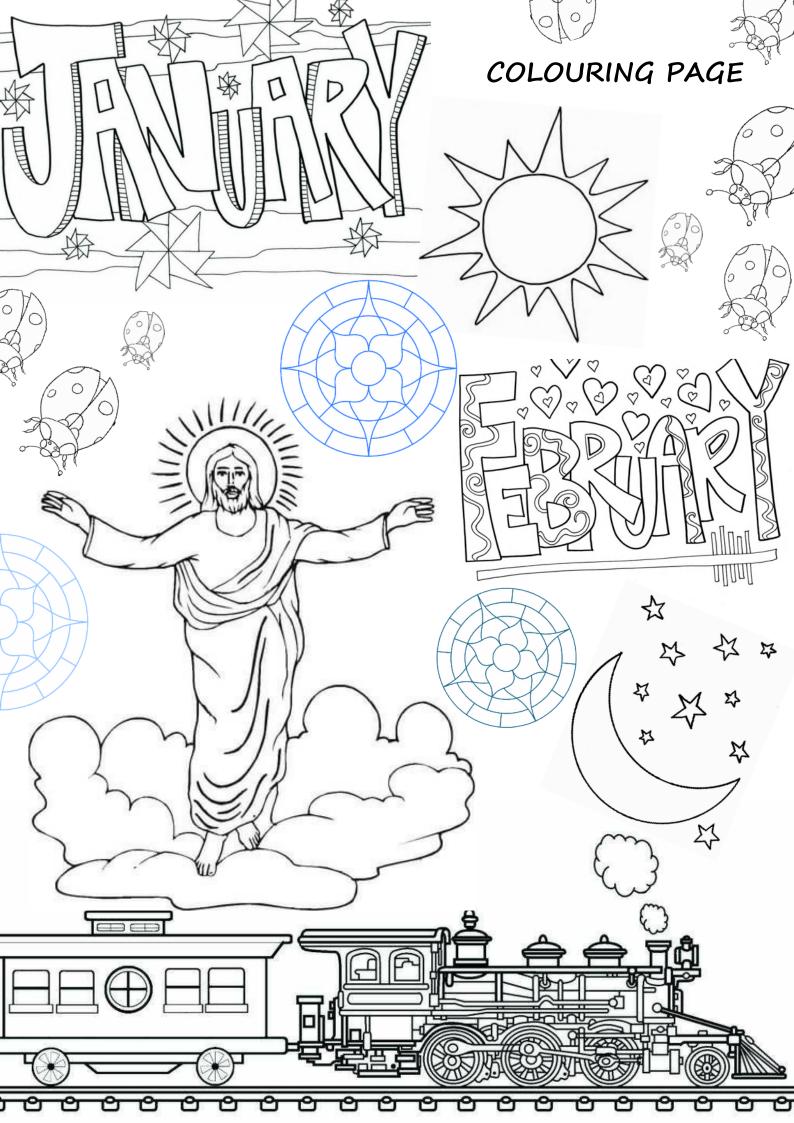
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### **ADDRESS**

St. Mark's Church, St. Mark's Hill, Surbiton, KT6 4LS

### **OPENING TIMES**

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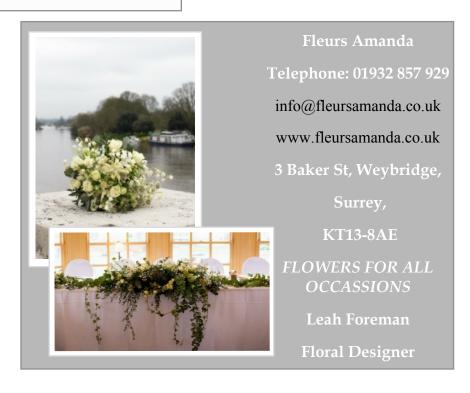
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