

SUMMER 24

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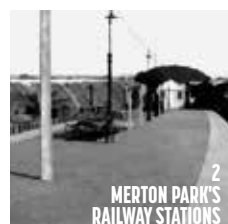
SUMMER 24

It is perhaps surprising that such a relatively small area as St Mary's parish is home to four railway stations (though two are now tram stops). Our lead article looks at the history of these stations.

You will also find a focus on music in this summer issue, with details of the annual Music in the Park event in John Innes Park, an interview with St Mary's two young organ scholars, and news of the welcome return of Harriet Burns and Ian Tindale who will be giving what promises to be a delightful concert in July.

We also offer you a glimpse behind the scenes of the distribution of the magazine, and news of a planned 'come and perform' style of entertainment evening in August in aid of Faith in Action, Merton Homelessness Project. We hear from our bellringers, and of course you will also find regular features such as our book and walk recommendations.

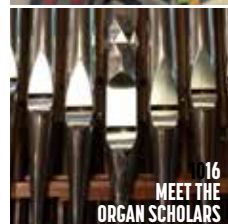
Simon Hillson
Editor



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Merton Park's Railway Stations

Bruce Robertson outlines the history of the four stations within the boundaries of St Mary's parish.

The weekly Wednesday Club meetings held in St. Mary's parish hall are proving more and more popular. Earlier this year I was invited to give an illustrated talk about Merton Park's four railway stations: South Merton, Wimbledon Chase, Merton Park and Morden Road. This seemed to be a subject of wide appeal, with around thirty people attending (or maybe it was the home-made cakes provided!), and so one perhaps worth sharing with a broader audience through these pages.



A



B

Martin Way, had to be raised up 24 feet, the embankments requiring 80,000 cubic yards of chalk obtained from the deep cuttings at the Sutton end of the line. Photo B was taken soon after the line opened and shows a train waiting to leave the temporary terminus. The surrounding land is still to be developed. Photo A, taken from Green Lane in about 1930, shows that the houses in Mostyn Road cul-de-sac have still to be built. South Merton station entered the railway history books on 28 July 1988 when the last Southern Region ticket of the old 'Edmondson' standard small pasteboard design ever to be issued, in use since 1837, was purchased there.



C

South Merton Station

The original act of parliament to build the 5½ mile Wimbledon and Sutton line was obtained by the Metropolitan District Railway in 1910, but the First World War delayed further progress. The line eventually opened to South Merton from Wimbledon on 7 July 1929 and opened fully through to Sutton on 30 January 1930, so for nearly six months South Merton was a terminus station.

The two roads that intersected at the station, Mostyn Road and Green Lane, now

Wimbledon Chase Station

Photo C, taken in 1929, shows the luggage lift tower, which was an architectural feature but was never actually fitted with a lift mechanism. The shops await occupation. Interestingly, steam-hauled trains tended to travel only from Sutton to Wimbledon, as the opposite way involved 'double heading' of locomotives (ie. two steam engines to give increased power) to get up the steep hill on a curve at Sutton. Coming from Sutton, the steep incline down to a right-hand curved concrete wall led to the train drivers nicknaming the line the 'Wall of Death'.



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Merton Park Station

Even though the Wimbledon and Croydon Railway (W&CR) was opened in 1855, there was no station or signal box here until the Tooting, Merton and Wimbledon branch was built and joined the W&CR in 1868. The station opened with the Tooting line in October of that year and was called 'Lower Merton'. It originally had platforms only on that line – the spartan platform on the West Croydon line not being added until November 1870. John Innes managed to get the name changed to the more up-market 'Merton Park' in September 1887 to encourage sales of his estate houses. Access to the station was originally only by footpath alongside the White Hart pub in Kingston Road, but John Innes also managed to have Station Road, now Rutlish Road, put in from Kingston Road to the station, which he personally financed.

Photo D of Merton Park Station, taken in 1929, shows the main station building on the left with the double track branch line to Tooting passing behind it. On the right you can see at the far W&CR platform a two-coach 'push-pull' steam train (ie. one specially adapted so that it could be driven from either end, even though the engine remained fixed at one end). In the distance can be seen the famous long gantry which connected the bridges over the two lines.



Morden Road

The original station, photo E, was built in 1857, two years after the line opened. The building took the form of a station house and ticket office and was reached by steps from the Morden Road, much as it is now for tram passengers. There was no road access. It has always just had a single platform. Originally just called 'Morden', with the introduction of 'push-pull' trains on the line in 1918, it was reduced to an unstaffed halt and renamed 'Morden Halt'. This subsequently changed to 'Morden Road Halt' in 1951 and then 'Morden Road' in 1969, which name it has retained even though the buildings were demolished in 1982 and it eventually became part of the Tramlink line.

An early photograph (F) from the time when it was just 'Morden' shows an additional milk siding which John Innes had installed in 1876 and which was known as 'Innes Siding'. Presumably the milk was brought to the siding from his farm in Morden Road, where the Citroen/Peugeot garage site is currently. This was probably in churns loaded into horse drawn carts which accessed the siding from Dorset Road. The carts were backed up to the side of a wagon for the churns to be unloaded across and transported away.



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Bringing Parish Matters to your door

John and Judy Sargeant, who mastermind the distribution of Parish Matters, explain how the magazine gets to you.



Parish Matters is a team effort and the team is larger than you might think. Once the editors have created and printed the magazine, it has to find its way to all 3,250 homes in the parish. It does so thanks to our more than fifty dedicated deliverers and a group which meets each quarter to sort the magazine into the right quantities.



We are a small but vital link in the chain that leads to your door. We're pleased to be a part of the assurance to our many advertisers that they will reach every household in the parish. Without their support the magazine just couldn't be produced and delivered free.

We keep an updated list of the number of magazines required for each road and print labels ready for each deliverer. The magazines are then counted and placed into plastic bags. We have yet to find a better way of keeping about fifty slippery magazines together with their label, so collation is a 'plastic bag-intensive' process. However, as an aspiring Eco Church, we are proud that we are able to reuse an increasing proportion of the bags, with deliverers returning most of them. Over the past year we have 'saved' over 200.

And then there is also the chance to catch up with each other. Conversation mostly comes after we've finished, as we concentrate on putting the right number of magazines in each bag. It's surprisingly easy to be distracted and lose count! But we do exchange useful information and important parish gossip, with occasional shafts of humour, as at a recent gathering: "Sorry I'm late, I had my grandchildren for lunch." "Well, I had a sandwich!"



As with so many jobs around the parish, you find once you get involved it really is quite fun. If you would like to help deliver Parish Matters each quarter, we would be delighted to hear from you at john.sargeant6@btinternet.com.

With thanks to Mary, Maggi, Lynda, Ian, Bruce and Andrew, and to all the deliverers.

SONGS FOR A SUMMER'S EVENING

Harriet Burns & Ian Tindale

Thursday 18 July. 7.30pm



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BBC Music Magazine
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JUNE
JULY
AUGUST

WHAT'S ON

SUMMER 2024

Regular church services
see page 28

Sunday Club
see page 28

Children First Eucharist
see page 28

Parish Matters is distributed to 3250 homes in the parish of St Mary's, Merton, thanks to a goodly number of volunteer deliverers.

A different member of the editorial team edits each issue. We welcome your feedback.

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Impress Print

John Innes Society Open Gardens Day

Sunday 9 June 1.30pm – 5.30pm.
See local publicity for more information

Classical Guitar Recital by Laura Snowden

Thursday 13 June 7.30pm

'Children First' Eucharists (45 mins)

Sundays 9.30am: 16 June (Fathers' Day); 21 July; 15 Sept; 20 Oct Harvest (10am)

Music in the Park at the John Innes Park Bandstand

Sunday 30 June 3pm – 5.30pm

Sunday Walks from the church

14 Jul; 1 Sept; 27 Oct 10.30am (check weekly pew sheet to confirm dates). Walks up to 6 miles involving public transport

Songs for a summer's evening, Harriet Burns & Ian Tindale

Thursday 18 July 7.30pm. See left for details.

Fellowship Lunches 12 noon for 12.30pm

Sun 21 Jul; 22 Sept. To book: anita_simpson44@yahoo.com

St James' Patronal Festival

Sung Eucharist at St James' Church, Martin Way
Sunday 28 July 10am

Entertainment Evening in the Parish Hall

Circa six minute performances welcomed
Tuesday 27 Aug 7.30pm. See page 19

St Mary's Patronal Festival, Sung Eucharist and garden refreshments

Sunday 8 September 9.30am

St Michael & All Angels, Sung Eucharist

Sunday 29 September 9.30am

Dedication Sunday, Sung Eucharist

Sunday 6 October 9.30am

John Innes Society Quiz Night in the Church Hall

Saturday 6 November. Evening. Times tbc

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The St Catherine window in St Mary's

In the second in our series of short articles on the stained glass windows in the church, Judith Bersweden looks at the St Catherine window.



It's not known why St Cecilia and St Catherine of Alexandria share a window in St Mary's (see Parish Matters Spring 24), although one reason may be the proximity of their feast days – St Cecilia is remembered on 22 November and St Catherine on 25 of that month.

Tradition suggests that she was born to a noble family (her father, Constus, was governor of Alexandria during the reign of the emperor Maximian, 286-305). A vision of the Virgin Mary and the Child Jesus converted her to Christianity, and legends indicate that she refused marriage to the emperor Maxentius as she was already a 'bride of Christ'. Intelligent and well-educated, she is said to have disputed with fifty philosophers whose job was to convince her of her error, but she proved superior in argument to them all. Her manner of death, probably at the very young age of 17 or 18, was grim: she was tortured by being splayed on a wheel, and finally beheaded.

In the sixth century the Eastern Emperor Justinian established what is now Saint Catherine's Monastery in the Sinai Desert in Egypt, where her relics were taken, and where she continues to be venerated by the many pilgrims who make their way there. Over the gate to the monastery is carved a verse from the Psalms: 'This is the gate of the Lord, into which the righteous shall enter.'

In art she is often depicted, as in this window, wearing a crown (as befits her noble status), and holding her martyr's palm, with the wheel of her torture beside her – sometimes broken, as it is said to have shattered at her touch, giving rise to the naming of the Catherine wheel, so vivid a part of firework displays.



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David Reeves reminds us of an important date in this year's Merton Park calendar, Sunday 30 June from 3pm around the bandstand in John Innes Park.

It's hard to believe that the Friends of John Innes Park have been running their popular Music in the Park for 35 years now, with only an interruption during the pandemic.

Originally organised by John Innes Society committee member Jill Hutchins, the aims of the event were twofold. Firstly, to ensure the continued preservation of the historic bandstand designed by Merton Park architect John Sydney Brocklesby, who also adapted the former gardens of John Innes into the park itself in 1909. And secondly the afternoon is a showcase for musicians from the area to entertain local people.

'A very relaxing event for family, our friends and children. We sat back with a glass of wine, enjoying the band while the children danced around the bandstand, which no one minded and brought smiles to people's faces as they watched them dance!'

Over the years, predominantly brass and concert bands have featured, playing either on or near the bandstand, depending on their size. This year the entertainment will be provided by the Merton Concert Band, with around 25 players one of the larger bands to perform. At last year's event, held in record-breaking summer temperatures nearing 40 degrees, the conductor needed to be cooled off in a bucket of ice!

Entry

£10 per adult, free for children.

Tickets are available on the day, and in advance from alisoncousins@gmail.com.

You're welcome to bring your own picnics and drinks, rugs and foldable chairs.

Please note that there is no bar or food available at the event.



Profits support the work of the Friends of John Innes Park.

Who are the Friends of John Innes Park?

According to the John Innes Society website (johninnessociety.org.uk), the Friends were formed out of the Society's gardening group. Today, public-spirited volunteers meet regularly to keep John Innes Park worthy of its Green Flag Award status. They also supplement the limited amount of maintenance Merton Council can provide, ensuring that the park is a colourful place for everyone to enjoy.

The Friends work closely with the Council and parks contractor Idverde, jointly enhancing the park with a particular emphasis on supporting wildlife and biodiversity. Recent projects include new plants for three memorial rose beds, and a new shrub border near the Mostyn Road entrance to provide more structure and year-round appeal.

Similar volunteer groups run by local residents include the Friends of Kendal Gardens (working to enhance their wildlife friendly beds and hedgerows) and the Friends of Mostyn Gardens (The Muslim Women of Merton) who are developing a new community orchard space in conjunction with Merton Council.



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Your giving will support:

- **the pastoral care** from the parish and the services of the clergy;
- **the children's Sunday Club;**
- **the music in the church;**
- **the maintenance and repair** of both the grade 2* listed church and the hall;
- **the six charities which we support**, which are periodically featured in this magazine, as well as poorer parishes in the diocese.

Sudoku

		1		9	5	4
8			5			2
	4	2	1		8	9
			9	3	4	
		8		7	5	
		4		1	8	
	7	6		1	2	4
4				6		3
1	8		3		9	

Solutions on page 28

Please support your parish church through planned giving

Our Annual Report, which sets out all our activities, and the church accounts are both available at www.stmarysmerton.org.uk or in hard copy from the church tower.

We strive to match the regularity of our income to the regularity of bills, which, as for us all, come in every month without fail.

We offer a monthly scheme to enable planned giving, asking you please to sign up to a regular standing order payment, gift aided if appropriate, to support all the work of the church – thank you. The planned giving form can be obtained from the parish office, or the church tower, or from Churchwarden and Planned Giving Recorder, Andrew Mills atmills111@aol.com

If you prefer to give in cash, a pack of 52 weekly envelopes can be sent to you to spread the amount over the year.

An additional way to offer longer term planned giving, but with an attendant timing uncertainty, is to include St Mary's in your will. Recent legacies have enabled us to entirely fund repairs to the church building, support organ/choral scholars and contribute to the refurbishment of the hall. A leaflet identifying four areas of our expenditure that can benefit from legacies is available in the church tower or from the parish office.

Thank you.

Meet the organ scholars

Thanks to a generous legacy, St Mary's funds organ scholarships for two local students. David Reeves met the current scholars.

Maintaining St Mary's impressive musical tradition has many facets, including striving for excellence in organ musicianship – simply put, a congregation and a good choir both need a good organist! Indeed, our current Musical Director, Tristan Weymes was, just a few years ago, a chorister and subsequently organ scholar here.

St Mary's currently has a junior and senior organ scholar, each receiving a yearly retainer, organ tuition, practice time on our excellent new pipe organ, and regular opportunities both to accompany the choir and to play organ voluntaries and improvisations during services.

Cicely Edwards has been junior scholar since last September, having previously practised on the St Mary's organ and so hearing about the junior scholarship. Her long-time interest in the organ was given a big helping hand by her school, Surbiton High. The school runs a 'rare instruments' scheme, which encouraged Cicely to switch from piano to organ about 18 months ago. Cicely has been amazed at how quickly her playing has progressed in such a short time. But the scholarship has also broadened her experience with, for example, learning how



to accompany Anglican-chanted psalms at choral evensong.

Undoubtedly, accompanying the choir is the most challenging aspect of a church organist's role, but Cicely feels that her time at St Mary's - both on the organ console and singing alto in the choir – will stand her in very good stead more broadly as she considers the next stage of both her academic career and future as an organist.

Like Cicely, senior organ scholar Edward Stancombe started playing the organ at school, having played the piano from around 10 years old. His school, St John's Leatherhead, has a good chapel organ and Edward's music teacher was also an organist. Edward was intrigued by the organ, and had some lessons at school, but it was family friend and St Mary's deputy churchwarden Annabel Skinner

who suggested in September 2022 that he apply for the organ scholarship. On the strength of the experience he has already gained at St Mary's, Edward also now studies organ and harpsichord at the Royal College of Music on Saturdays. Former organist Ian Tindale's move to Oxford in September 2022 opened up a huge opportunity for Edward, then only 15, to start accompanying the choir at services, with Tristan conducting. As well as organ lessons and guidance on accompaniment, Tristan has also supported Edward as he considers applying for Oxbridge organ scholarships for 2025.

Tristan says 'I'm delighted to work with both Cicely and Edward – they're great musicians and always so keen to learn and develop. I'm really excited to see where they take this experience next, and how it shapes their musical work in the future. And I hope they can help to inspire the next generation of organists!'



St Mary's is looking for an assistant organist

St Mary's is looking for an Assistant Organist, preferably of at least ARCO standard, to join the music team.

The main duties will involve:

- playing at around 60% of Sunday services (morning Sung Eucharist and Evensong) during term time (primarily evenings, but also some mornings), as well as other major services throughout the year (eg. Christmas and Holy Week)
- occasionally directing the choir when the Director of Music is not available
- acting as a mentor for St Mary's Organ Scholars, aiding their development, and being closely involved in their repertoire planning.

There will be the possibility of supplementing the basic stipend by taking on private piano and organ teaching for choristers, playing at some services during the choir summer break and for occasional offices, and (if he or she wishes) organising concerts during the year.

Anyone interested in this role should please email info@stmarysmertonchoir.com to arrange a conversation with Director of Music Tristan Weymes.

Ring the changes!

Bellringing: a great tradition, alive and well in the heart of Merton Park, writes Niki Tompkinson, one of St Mary's leading ringers.

St Mary's six bells have been in the church for a very long time. The earliest was cast in 1456 (or thereabouts) and the most recent in 1970. They have been in regular use throughout this time (with breaks for World War II and Covid-19) and can be heard ringing for Sunday services, and special occasions such as weddings or other local or national events. Every Monday evening, the local ringers practise for about an hour and a half, developing their skills and simply enjoying themselves!

What does it take to become a bellringer? First, the knack of controlling the bell must be learnt, so that the bell sounds when the ringer wants it to (just like any other musical instrument – this just happens to be the largest and loudest!). After that, ringing is not hard work. It takes coordination, a good ear, and a good memory. We don't just ring one bell alone (that would be boring and lonely): we use many bells (up to sixteen in a few churches, but more typically six or eight) to create the complex patterns of sounds called methods. It is this change ringing (as it is called) that makes the sound of English church bells unique. It exercises the brain as much as the body and means that the ringers have to work together as a team.

What sort of people take up bellringing? All ages from about 10 upwards, all shapes and sizes, people of many faiths and those with none. What they have in common is enthusiasm for this unusual activity and commitment to attending regular practices and ringing for services and other occasions. Bellringing is highly social. Most bellringing bands like to go to the pub after practice to talk about what they have just done and arrange more ringing. Many ringers visit practices at other local churches and attend training sessions provided by local and national associations. Many bands of ringers will arrange regular day outings or short holidays to other parts of the country to sample different bells. Once the ringing bug has bitten you, there just isn't enough time to do it all. Those of us who have rung for much of our lives are still always learning and trying new ways of ringing the changes, just like our latest recruits developing their new skill.

Want to know more?

Anyone is welcome to drop in to St Mary's on a Monday evening between 7.45pm – 9.15pm and see what we do ... and maybe even have a go! Although not essential to let us know in advance, it is helpful. Contact bells@stmarysmerton.org.uk



Tuesday 27 August 7.30pm

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Revisiting St Martha's Church

Simon Hillson suggests a walk from Guildford.

A highlight of St Mary's pilgrimage to Winchester in 2010 was a Eucharist and community picnic on Ascension Day held at the church of St Martha on the Hill near Chilworth just outside Guildford.

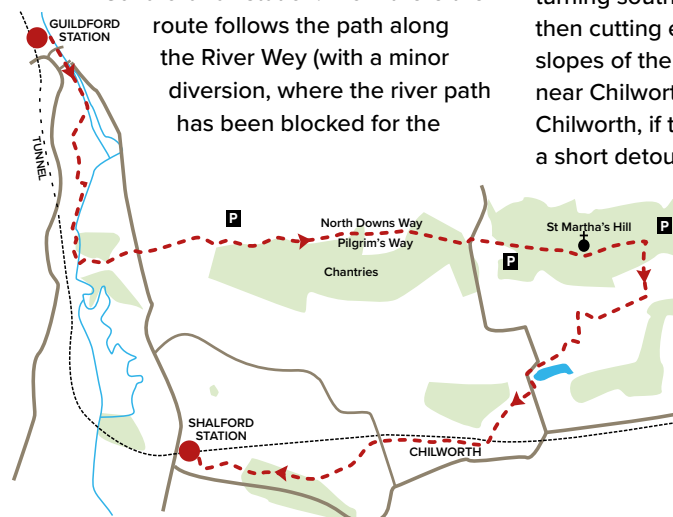


The church, which can only be reached on foot, stands on the ancient Pilgrims' Way between Winchester and Canterbury, at the top of a hill from which there is a splendid panorama towards the South Downs. It was originally constructed in the 12th century, but, by the 1700s it had fallen into disrepair and was rebuilt between 1848 and 1850, incorporating many of the original architectural features, including Norman arches.

St Mary's occasional walking group recently revisited St Martha's church as the focus of a **walk of about six miles** starting at Guildford rail station. From there the route follows the path along the River Wey (with a minor diversion, where the river path has been blocked for the

last few years, along a pleasant residential road charmingly named Flower Walk). The river is crossed at Shalford Park where you pick up the North Downs Way, following it alongside the wooded area known as the Chantries and approaching St Martha's Hill from the west, where the gradient is quite gentle compared with the other sides of the hill. After a little over three miles you reach the top, which is a super place to stop for a picnic lunch, with large south-facing benches running along the walls of the church. Then continue west along the North Downs Way for a short stretch before turning south along the Downs Link and then cutting east across the southern lower slopes of the hill (look out for the llamas near Chilworth Manor!). As you approach Chilworth, if time allows, it's worth making a short detour to explore the ruins of the

Chilworth Gunpowder Mills which operated from the 17th century through until 1920. You then pick up a path which broadly follows the line of the Reading to Gatwick railway until you reach Shalford station, from where you can make the short hop back to Guildford by either train or bus.



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A good read...

Members of St Mary's recommend three good reads for summer.



The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World by Bettany Hughes

In her survey of the ancient seven wonders, historian, author and broadcaster, Bettany Hughes, charts her way through modern day Turkey, Greece, Egypt, and Iraq. These colossal structures have perhaps endured on the 'list' from ancient times to the modern day precisely because each of the seven wonders taps into some enduring human desire and need: to marvel and wonder at humanity's great achievements, to enjoy shared connections over time and geography; and in each case to glimpse something of the divine or, in the case of the hanging gardens, to identify with the delight of growing plants to anchor one's sense of home.



Magisteria – The Entangled Histories of Science and Religion by Nicholas Spencer

This substantial but very readable book addresses the relationship between the two 'magisteria' of science and religion. Spencer's historical survey begins in the ancient classical world and ends with contemporary concerns about artificial intelligence and the implications for our understanding of human identity. It takes in the contributions of Islam and Judaism as well as of Christianity. Despite episodes of tension and sometimes open hostility,

he exposes as myths commonly expressed opinions, such as those which declare that science and religion inevitably offer mutually inconsistent worldviews, or that they are concerned with distinct areas of reality without overlap. Rather, they are, in the author's words 'endlessly and fascinatingly entangled'.



Rose Code by Kate Quinn

This novel is set in 1947, leading up to the wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Philip, with a second timeline that follows three women working at Bletchley Park in WW2. East end Mab, determined to find a socially advantageous husband, sparkling deb and ex- of Prince Philip, Osla, and shy, brilliant Beth form an unlikely friendship until the war, loss and the pressures of their work cause a huge rift. Although on the long side, this is an easy read and a fascinating insight into the era. The notes at the end detail the historical events on which it is based.

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VACANCY

Volunteer Trustee, Merton United Charities

Formed in 1907, the charity owns and manages six residential flats on Mostyn Road available to eligible older female Merton residents. A small board of trustees manages and improves the residential buildings and gardens, appoints new residents, and provides pastoral care. Experience in housing provision or management, or charity management, is useful but certainly not essential. We meet every three months and there is occasional discussion between meetings, usually by email.

Please email the Clerk at mertonunitedcharities@gmail.com with a CV and cover letter to apply or give your name and a contact number for an informal chat about the role.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS 31 JULY 2024

VACANCY

Governor, Priory C of E Primary School, Wimbledon

The board of governors makes strategic decisions for the school and acts as a critical friend to the headteacher and senior leadership team. Staff recruitment, finances, property management and the well-being of staff and pupils are all areas where interest and expertise are welcomed. Being a church school, supporting its spiritual ethos is important, although being a member of St Mary's congregation is not a requirement. The term of office is ideally four years. If you could offer to serve as a St Mary's appointed governor, we would be very pleased to hear from you. If you would like to speak with any former governors for their insight, please ask.

If interested, contact John Hayward on vicar@stmarysmerton.org.uk 07958 959591

Peregrine falcons fly over Merton



**Did you know that
peregrine falcons
have been nesting
on the roof of
Merton Civic Centre**

in Morden since 2015?

These fabulous birds of prey were once heavily persecuted by humans and reached very low numbers in the 1960s. The use of pesticides further added to their woes. However, legislation and protection have improved and numbers are on the up, though sadly they are still hunted down to protect game birds.

The female lays three or four eggs in early spring, which hatch about a month later. The chicks fledge at 38–44 days old and the adults then spend two months or more teaching the young to hunt before they become independent.

Although associated with upland areas and rocky coastlines, they are increasingly common visitors to urban areas – including Merton.



You can watch them nesting on the roof of the Civic Centre on the live webcam at merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/peregrine-falcons-webcam

The Letter in The Window...

When I first saw the advert in the pharmacy window, it broke my heart. I thought, 'That could be my own mum in a few years time'.

I wasn't looking for a new career or anything, but I knew I could give someone a bit of help here and there. So, when I saw the ad, I went for it and called the number.

I spoke to a lovely lady called Sophia who filled me in on what Home Instead Wimbledon and Kingston were looking for and how they helped so many older adults. Honestly, it really didn't feel like I was talking about a job. For the first time in ages, I felt like I could really contribute something good to another person's life.

Deciding to offer a few hours of my week was a simple decision. Those few hours quickly turned into a full-time commitment. Leaving my job at the shop wasn't easy, but what I've found in return is so much better.

Home Instead stands out because everyone is so friendly and welcoming. The immersive training was incredible - it really felt like being in Betty's flat. It didn't just prepare me for the everyday 'tasks' I'd need to do but it helped me understand depth of care, the importance of dignity, and the value of companionship to someone's life and wellbeing.

Now, four months in, I can't imagine doing anything else. The clients I visit, the stories I hear, the smiles we share - I love it. So, to anyone who felt the same as me when they read that note in the window, I'd say, make the call.

Caring and companionship, giving back to the community, that's what life is all about.

All the best,

Aanya



PARISH TOGETHER



Wednesday Club

Meeting in the parish small hall every Wednesday 2:30–4:30pm. The monthly programme includes two film sessions, an afternoon tea, quizzes and lively topic talks. Suggested donation of £5 pp, or £8 per couple/pair.

For further information contact:
Barbara Moreland 020 8542 3427
bmoreland43@gmail.com
Lindsey Jones 020 87156398.
lindsey6456@hotmail.co.uk

Book Club

Meets monthly in different houses across the parish. About two hours.

For further information contact John Combs:
johncombs46@gmail.com



Pilgrim Group

The Pilgrim Group meets on alternate Thursday evenings, and offers an opportunity for informal study, prayer and fellowship. This summer we will be reading **What is the Point of Being a Christian?** by Timothy Radcliffe.

For further information, contact Simon Hillson
simonhillson@me.com

Fellowship Lunch

Join us for an inexpensive lunch in good company – especially for those who might not cook a Sunday roast for themselves.

To book call Anita Simpson on 020 8543 3764 or 07960 324 371 or email her at
adsimpson68@yahoo.co.uk

Walking Group

The Occasional Walking Group meets five or six times a year after the Sunday Parish Eucharist for short walks (maximum six miles), usually in the Surrey countryside.

For further information contact Simon Hillson
simonhillson@me.com

In addition to our services in church, St Mary's offers several activities which are open to all in our local community. You are sure to receive a warm welcome.

For more details get in touch with the contact person mentioned.



Exploring the River Wandle's industrial past at the Wandle Industrial Museum

The Spring issue of Parish Matters featured walks along the River Wandle Trail, which we hope our readers enjoyed. **Alison Cousins**, Hon. Archivist at the Wandle Industrial Museum in Mitcham, says that a visit to the museum will shed a different light on the Wandle through its fascinating history. She writes:

The Wandle Industrial Museum was founded in 1983 and we are now in an annex to The Vestry Hall in Mitcham, where we display information on the traditional industries which took place alongside the river such as snuff milling, textile printing, brewing and lavender growing. We have a unique model of the layout of the William Morris workshops in Colliers Wood and artefacts relating to the Surrey Iron Railway.

An early Wandle walk was organised by the museum back in 1988, followed by the first Wandle Trail map. We also organise talks and walks on various subjects, and offer practical workshops with local schools.

Visit on Wednesday or Sunday afternoons. Free admission. www.wandle.org

Regular Sunday Services

8am Said Eucharist (Book of Common Prayer, fourth Sunday of each month)

9.30am Sung Eucharist ('Children First Eucharist', third Sunday of each month)

NB. On some Festivals the main morning service is at 10am.

6.30pm Evensong

Monthly midweek Said Eucharists 10.30am (30 mins), third Thursday of each month

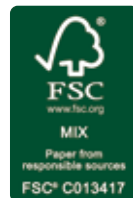
Sunday Club for children meets on the first Sunday of each month in the hall at 9.30 am, before joining the end of the service in church. Children 3+ welcome. Parents/carers are asked to stay with under 3s. judithbersweden@stmarysmerton.org.uk

Children First Eucharist a family-friendly service at 9.30am on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Please check website for details, or contact judithbersweden@stmarysmerton.org.uk



St Mary's Parish Office is open four mornings each week from 9.30am–1pm (closed Wednesdays).

office@stmarysmerton.org.uk
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All the production and paper elements of this magazine have been carbon balanced

Sudoku Solution. Page 5

7	6	1	2	8	9	3	5	4
8	9	3	5	4	7	6	1	2
5	4	2	1	6	3	8	9	7
6	1	7	9	3	5	4	2	8
9	3	8	4	7	2	5	6	1
2	5	4	6	1	8	7	3	9
3	7	6	8	9	1	2	4	5
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1	8	5	3	2	4	9	7	6

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