# Westcott Village Magazine December 2022



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Westcott has a population of over 2,000 and this is the only magazine written specifically for the Westcott area by the people of Westcott. It is hand delivered, free of charge, to every household and further copies are available at the church, local shops, pub and doctor's surgery.



If you have any articles, photos, letters, etc that you think we may like to feature in the next issue, please email the Editor on:

### editor@westcottmag.com

But please note, publication will always be subject to space and at the discretion of the Editor.

Copy deadline for **January** issue:

8th December 2022

This magazine, published by the Church in Westcott, is printed on Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) accredited paper from a sustainable source. The views expressed are those of the individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Church, Editor or Westcott residents.

### FROM THE EDITOR



I hope you've all been ok with the rain we've had lately. I've had journeys cancelled because several different rands were shut due

to flooding, and there was no other way round which has been frustrating, but staying safe is more important, so be careful out there!

The Christmas tree is going up on the Village Green again this year on 3rd December, and the lights will be switched on at dusk, around 4.15pm. The supplier is offering trees for sale to residents so please see page 11 for full details and get your orders in.

We have lots of concerts to choose

from this month, but if you only go to one, don't miss Carols on the Green (round the tree) on 16th December at 6pm, bring your own torch and best loud voices.

I have given you some cheesy Christmas jokes below - just in case your crackers aren't up to scratch this year, or feel free to use them if making your own, which is always fun to do, although you do have to shout 'Bang' when you pull them, which I think just adds to the fun!

I hope you have a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year. See you in 2023!

Cath editor@westcottmag.com

Why did the scarecrow get a big Christmas bonus? Because he was outstanding in his field

What do Santa's little helpers learn at school? The elf-abet!

What did one snowman say to the other? "Is it just me, or do you smell carrots?"

What do you call a bunch of chess masters bragging about their games in a hotel lobby over the holidays?

Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer



Who is a Christmas tree's favourite singer? Spruce Springsteen

#### ...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT





#### HOLDING ONTO HOPE

There is plenty of change in the air as I write this, both in the UK and further afield. In a rapidly changing world where so much is uncertain, Christmas can be a point to return to our own familiar festive traditions.

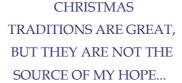
When I married Jenny I suddenly discovered that things I had always assumed to be universal laws about how Christmas Day should unfold turned out to be just one way of doing SOURCE Of things. This was deeply unsettling. It turns

out that there is nothing legally binding that means you have to wait until after lunch is cleared to open presents, and there is no high court ruling that everyone must head outside for a Christmas Day walk in the afternoon. I had thought that these unwritten rules of festive etiquette went back to the Jurassic Era but alas, apparently they were invented by my parents. Jenny and I have now worked out our own Christmas traditions for family which I am sure our children will, in time, come to assume are the "proper way" of doing things.

Christmas traditions are great, but they are not the source of my hope in an ever-changing world. It is the story which lies behind Christmas

which sustains and anchors me. The claim of a creator God who so loved his creatures that he chose to be born in their midst to walk and laugh and suffer alongside them so that they may

know what He is truly like. An all-powerful God who chose the path of vulnerability and uncertainty to offer a strong, certain and eternal hope to all.





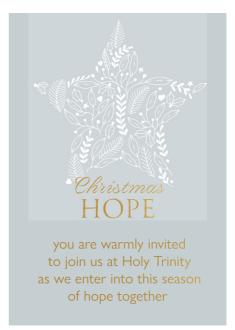
Holding onto HOPE

#### ...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

If you need to seek out a strong and certain hope this Christmas season, or indeed if you are just looking to join in with some familiar seasonal traditions, come along to one of our services over the coming weeks. Whether your Christmas joy comes from seeing the children cause chaos in their nativity costumes at our crib service, or from a peaceful evening of carols and reflection, you are warmly invited to join us at Holy Trinity as we celebrate this season of hope together.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas,

Rev'd. Tim Armstrong
Vicar





### Sunday, 27th November, 10:15am

Holy Trinity Church, Westcott

Everyone is invited to join us for a Christingle Celebration at the start of Advent

A lovely service for all ages, preparing for Christmas with candles, sweets, oranges and prayers, and an opportunity to give to the work of the Children's Society

Join us to give & share HOPE with a child this Christmas

#### SUNDAY SERVICES AT HOLY TRINITY



**8.30am** Book of Common Prayer Communion, A warm welcome in our beautiful, traditional service.

**10.15am** Friendly, relaxed service, using Common Worship and a range of music styles. This service is also livestreamed on Zoom.

For details of all Christmas services, please see the Advent and Christmas pullout in the centre of this magazine. All are welcome!



**For 10:15am Zoom service connection**, please scan this QR code, or visit the Online Services page of thechurchinwestcott.org.uk

The church is open every day, 9am-4pm for private prayer & reflection

DATE	THEME	8:30AM	10:15AM	
4th Dec	Advent 2: Preparing for hope	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion	
11th Dec	Advent 3: Hoping for what?	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion	
18th Dec	Christmas Carols	Book of Common Prayer Communion	No 10:15am service - Carol Service at <b>6:30pm</b>	
25th Dec	Christmas Day	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Morning Worship	
1st Jan	One 9:30am service this morning, to welcome in the New Year with Communion and Carols			

### MIDWEEK PRAYER & WORSHIP

Wednesdays

10am

Communion at St John's

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LIFE

# Christmas Eve Crib Service

3pm, Christmas Eve Holy Trinity, Westcott



A lovely retelling of the events of the first Christmas, for all the family
Children are invited to come dressed as a character from the Nativity
scene, and join in the story!





#### THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

The Church in Westcott is part of the Westcott Good Neighbour Scheme and we are always here for a chat, prayer, pastoral need.

Paul Stacey paulstacey88@gmail.com, may be able to help with debt advice.

#### **Holy Trinity Pastoral Assistants:**

Mark Shakespeare 01306 888010 Ali Mabley 01306 889641 For help, more information, please contact churchwardens: churchwardens@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk, or visit thechurchinwestcott.org.uk

### 

### **Ukrainian Support**

Are you hosting, or planning to host, Ukrainian visitors? are you interested in helping? or just finding more about what's involved? Information, and links, can be found in the Resources section of the Church in Westcott website:





https://thechurchinwestcott.org.uk/ Groups/377459/Ukrainian\_Support.aspx



A big thank you to everyone who contributed to our Harvest Service on Sunday 23rd October! Thank you for your generosity in giving non-perishable goods to LeatherHead Start. There were an amazing amount of donations. We sent a very full carload to Leatherhead which was very gratefully received.

And thank you to the team who made our church so beautiful, all with edible displays of Autumn produce. What a lovely way to give thanks for Harvest!

#### THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



### Holy Trinity Church

A Sacred Place of Peace & Prayer, Open to All

Holy Trinity Church is open for you to visit, for private prayer or reflection

Every Day 9:00am-4:00pm Come to enjoy the beauty and peace, pray, reflect, breathe, be.

All are welcome

#### FLOODLIGHTING

The church is illuminated during December by Andrew and Edwina Gordon as a big thank you to Holy Trinity for Christening their grandchildren Max and Sofia. A wonderful service by Virginia.

If you would like to sponsor the floodlighting, please contact Sarah Massey at sarah@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk. (Suggested donation of £75 to Westcott Church Funds.)

#### FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

#### **Baptism:**

9th October Annalise Mabel Badman

Death:

6th December 2011 Patrick Newson (80)

31st August 2022 Diana Mary Newson (88)





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### WESTCOTT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION NEWS 🔌





Thank you to everyone who helped out at the Annual Westcott Litter Pick last month. The small team of volunteers managed to collect several bags of rubbish from our communal spaces including the village green, Cradhurst and the cycle path. A quick bit of tidying up around the Westcott signs at either end of the village was also done, so we are much more presentable than before.



By the time you read this the Westcott Christmas Fair will have also taken place, which is always a great way to kick start your festive plans and a good excuse to catch up with friends and neighbours.

Staying with Christmas, the Westcott Village Christmas Tree will go up on the Green on Saturday 3rd December, kindly funded by the Westcott 100 Club and the Westcott Gardeners Club. Special thanks must also go to

Dunning & Evans Roofing & Building Services (www.dunningandevans. co.uk) and Burt Broom for helping the WVA volunteers with the installation and decoration of the tree.

Peter Read, the local supplier of the tree is also offering a special price to any Westcott residents who would like to order their own tree from him. They must be pre-ordered and will be available to collect, netted or baled, between 10am and 11am on Saturday 3rd December. Please order your tree directly from Peter by text message to 07802 332843 quoting your Surname and the tree you would like from the list below. Pay by cash on collection

Norway

5-6ft £22.50, 6-7ft £27.50, 7-8ft £32.50 8-9ft £42.50. 10ft £65.00. 12ft £85.00 Noble Fir

10ft £95, 12ft £115, 14ft £150, 16ft £185 18ft £225.

Nordmann Fir

5-6ft £40, 6-7ft £45, 7-8ft £55, 8-9ft £75 10ft £95, 12ft £110, 14ft £150, 16ft £185

We are looking forward to welcoming you to the next WVA Open Meeting which is on Wednesday 7th December at 7.30pm at Holy Trinity. This is a great opportunity for a festive get together and social over a glass of wine after the meeting in addition to the usual updates from the Committee and an opportunity for you to raise and share any views about village life. The



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### WESTCOTT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION (cont.)



Notice of Meeting and Agenda will be available for you to read in advance on the Westcott Village website. Everyone is welcome.

While thinking about feedback let's



talk for a moment about planning applications. As you probably know

the WVA monitors all Westcott planning applications submitted to Mole Valley District and Surrey County Council and when appropriate will comment in the context of the Westcott Neighbourhood Development Plan and other relevant planning policy. As the WVA is a Residents' Association and not a Parish Council it is not a statutory consultee however, if the Planning Officer is mindful to recommend approval for an application the WVA can make a formal request for the planning application to go to the Development Management Committee for decision making and a process is then followed which treats any WVA submission as if it has come from a Parish Council. All written submissions from the WVA are posted under the Planning section of the Westcott Village website for everyone to see.

If you are thinking about submitting a planning application it may surprise you to know what a shock it is for a neighbour if the first thing they know about your intentions is a notification letter from Mole Valley District Council planning

department in their mailbox. Even if your plans are minor and do not affect anyone outside your property, this is an unpleasant way to let your neighbours know. Please be considerate and tell your neighbours what you are planning before submitting, better still, ask them for their views, most people will be delighted you have asked. Anything they contribute at this stage may save a great deal of trouble later on, which is better for everyone concerned.

If any Westcott resident is considering submitting an application.

consider discussing your prospective plans with the WVA as we can offer some



guidance or equally if any resident has specific concerns or wishes to bring a planning matter to the WVA's attention please do so by getting in touch with James Leaver who is our Planning Representative on the committee by email at jamesandfrancesca@hotmail. co.uk

The Mid Surrey Community Fridge continues to visit Westcott every



Monday lunchtime, you will find them outside St John's around 1pm. If you haven't visited yet do pop along and take a look, everyone is



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### WESTCOTT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION (cont.)





welcome and any food not after the Westcott visit goes straight to

landfill, so please come along and help vourself. Those who can afford it are asked to make a donation.

Finally, please do make sure you have Carols around the Christmas Tree on the Village Green on Friday 16th December at 6pm in your diary. Mulled wine will be available with all donations

going to charity. You will be able to download or view the carol sheets on the Westcott Village website in

t a k e n advance, with a few paper copies of the carol sheets also available on the night.



As always please do get in touch with any issues or to share your views on village life.

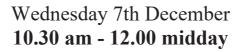
> **Tim Way Chairman WVA Committee** contact@westcottvillage.com

### WESTCOTT VILLAGE **COFFEE MORNING**





The Village Hall (formerly The Reading Room)





We are delighted once again to welcome the **Surrey Hills School Choir** 

> A very warm welcome to all, especially parents & grandparents

Please note that there will be no Coffee Morning in January



### The Perfect Venue for any event

The Westcott Village Hall, previously the Reading Room, is in the heart of the village of Westcott, in the Surrey Hills close to Dorking. It is a flexible space with diverse amenities available for hosting classes, meetings and functions.

#### About the venue:

- 1 x large hall (100 pax)
- · 1 x meeting room (8 pax)
- Drop down projector screen
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- Wi-Fi
- Male and female cloak rooms
- High capacity gas heating
- · Large car park onsite

#### Hire rates:

- Mornings £19 £32
- Afternoons £24 £61
- Evenings £35 £69
- · Kitchen (fully equipped) £25
- Sale of alcohol licence £20

Mobile: 07967 286636 Email: info@westcottvillagehall.com www.westcottvillagehall.com

# HUGE Thank you to the Westcott "Baby Meals" Volunteer Cooks!

Together we've bought, cooked and delivered 88 Happy Christmas times in 2022, feeding 11 families (that's about 280 individual meals!). This is a highly valued service, supporting families during challenging times (eg, new baby, after being in hospital, during financial difficulty etc). Thanks again to the incredible community of Westcott Cooks!

Contact: annakemkers@hotmail.co.uk

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### WESTCOTT FELLOWSHIP COTTAGE TRUST

The Westcott Fellowship Cottage Trust is a charity established about 100 years ago using an initial endowment of £1000 from a Westcott resident called Mrs Alice Brook. The purpose of the Trust was to provide an improved standard of housing for those in need - and this is still at the core of the Trust's objectives today.



Currently the Trust owns sixteen well maintained properties in Westcott which are let to Westcott people and families. The properties range in size from one to three bedrooms and include bungalows and houses. The sixteen includes a house that has recently been bequeathed to the Trust. The house requires some repair and maintenance work to be done to make it available for letting. This work will take up to three months.

This is advance notice that in early January 2023, the Trustees will confirm the process that Applicants will need to follow if they wish to be considered to be a tenant of this property. In addition, the Trustees will outline the selection criteria they will consider when reviewing these applications. Please note that those that have previously applied to be considered for a property will be asked to provide up to date details.

The information to be communicated in January 2023 will be published in the Village Magazine, the Village Notice board at the bus stop and extensively on social media.

#### **BROCKHAM CHORAL**

Invite you to their concert at 7.30pm on Saturday 3rd December at St. Martin's Church Dorking, RH4 1UX. Their



performance, supported by the British Sinfonietta under the baton of Cole Bendall, will comprise Haydn's Nelson Mass, Vaughn Williams' Five Mystical Songs, and Mozart's Laudate Dominum and Eine Kleine Nachmusik

Admission Adults £16 in advance, £20 on the day, children, students under 25 in full time education £10.

Tickets By email brockhamcstickets@gmail.com More information & tickets www.brockhamchoral.org



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### THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES...



#### **Cost of Living Support**

With the rate of inflation impacting every household, Surrey County Council has created a Directory of Support that has been delivered to every home in the village. The Directory sets out ways to make sure that you and your family are getting the correct money from the government for benefits and grants available to make your home more efficient.



There are also many ways that Mole Valley District Council can help out – from the common sense realm of how to reduce your food waste to connecting you with free activities for children to keep them active. Free energy advice is also available at Dorking Library, which this winter is also opening its doors as one of Surrey's "Warm Hubs" where you can drop in, aet warm and meet others.

The key message from all these organisations is, if you need help, please do ask. If you don't know who to turn to this winter, or if other routes have failed – then please do get in touch with me. It's a key part of being a District Councillor to help individuals and families. I am always happy to meet up, chat on the phone (07710 433793) or email (use either james@10rookery.com or councillor. friend@molevalley.gov.uk) – whatever works for you.

One final thought – if your domestic fuel use – gas or electric) seems unfeasibly high then it might well be. Get your gas supplier to come and check for minor leaks, or advice from your electricity supplier around a smart meter. Likewise – get your water company to check for water leaks between your water meter and your property.

#### **Gas Safety**

On the same lines, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service have shared their advice on gas safety in the home.







### THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

You should have your gas fuelled appliances serviced every 12 months by a Gas Safe registered engineer. Not only will this ensure your appliances or heating system is safe to use and working correctly but will also make sure they are running efficiently.

Warning signs which you may be able to spot yourself that gas appliances are not working properly include lazy yellow flames instead of crisp blue ones, black marks or stains on or around the appliance and too much condensation in the room. You can find a Gas Safe Register approved engineer via Gas Safe Register's search tool or by calling 0800 408 5500.

Carbon Monoxide Leaks - Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colourless, odourless, tasteless and poisonous gas produced by incomplete burning of carbon-based fuels. The most common sources of CO leaks are from faulty boilers, gas fires and cookers. Carbon monoxide detectors should be installed in every room with a gas or solid fuel heating or cooking appliance and alarms should be tested weekly with your smoke alarms.

Finally, it is worth drawing attention to the possibilities that you might be at risk of gas theft or gas meter fraud. That's where somebody bypasses or rigs the gas meter in some way so that it does not accurately record the amount of gas that is being used. Obviously, not only is gas meter tampering illegal, but it is also extremely dangerous and could put your life and the lives of others in danger. Tampering with meters can cause leaks, which you may not always be able to smell. It could cause the gas flames on your hob or gas fire to change size or burn more yellow than blue. Sometimes there are no signs at all until the build-up of gas in the air explodes, putting you and your family in real danger.



Visit Stay
Energy Safe
(https://www.
stayenergysafe.
co.uk/gas-theft)
or call 08000 232
777 to see how

to spot if you have been the victim of gas theft.

#### **Looking Back Again**

Thanks to everyone who got in touch to reflect on last month's article looking back to the Westcott Neighbourhood

Forum work in 2012; how times fly when you are having fun. Moving a little closer to the present day, back in December 2013 we were





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### THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

marking the official opening of the Westcott to Dorking cycle path. It never ceases to amaze me how many people I meet using the path – when



we think back to the old footpath with its cobbled brick style at the end of Bailey Road, we can really see how much the new path is easier to use.



mobile app. The connect service uses accessible minibuses with journey bookings made on a first come first served basis. Their software groups customer demands together in real time

#### On Demand Bus Service

Up until 6th January 2023, Surrey County Council are running a consultation on changes to the bus services in the village. For us the proposed change is that the two Monday to Saturday services on the 32 route that currently divert via Holmbury St Mary and Abinger Common would be rerouted to operate along the A25.

This seems to be as a result of low use of service into the rural villages and an opportunity to get travellers between Dorking and Guildford faster. If you use the service to get to the hills already then a Digital Demand Responsive Transport service will be available. This is like the current arrangement that also runs along the A25 whereby people wanting to travel can book a journey using the "Surrey Connect"

When the booking is made with the "leave at" feature, the software takes the requested time and compares it with other customer requests in the area, and links them up to create single journeys that are convenient for a group of users at once, scheduling the pickup time within a window of 10 minutes before or 10 minutes after the preferred booking time.

Alternatively, if you need to be at your destination for a specific time, such as a train departure, you can use the "arrive at" feature. It will then dynamically generate options for you that will get you there with up to 10 minutes to spare and ensure you are never late.

To book your journey it's super simple. They just need four pieces of information from you:

• Where do you want to be picked up

# Westcott 100 Club

Another Christmas and New Year is approaching quickly and the Westcott 100 Club will hold its 29th quarterly and 8th annual draws. We will bring you the results in the January edition of the magazine, but with a number of new members joining the scheme – thank you! – the value of both the prize fund and the amount of money we have for grants will increase. Great news for Christmas! The Westcott 100 Club is again pleased to contribute to the cost of the village Christmas tree.

Our 2023 draws will be held, as usual, in March, June, September and December. We remain open both for new subscribers and for grant applications. For more information on joining the scheme or for the process for applying for funds from the scheme, please email us at westcott.100. club@gmail.com.

We look forward to hearing from you soon. We wish you all a merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Alda Andreotti (Chair), Edwin Harland (Treasurer), Richard Packer (Secretary)

The Westcott 100 Club is a Small Society Lottery registered with Mole Valley DC no. 48965.

#### GARDENER WANTED

Please! Part time gardener (perhaps 2 hours a week or thereabouts), a lot of flexibility, needed by long standing Westcott Street resident who is getting a bit tired! Some skills needed, and perhaps doing the occasional odd job.



Telephone 01306 885554

### THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

and dropped off?

- How many passengers will be travelling?
- When you would like to travel and what time? Remember to select "arrive at" if you need to get somewhere at a specific time!
- Do you need wheelchair access?

You'll then be presented with a list of journey options that suit your needs. Choose your option and confirm the journey. You will receive an email confirmation of your journey straight away. Two text message reminders will be sent the day of your journey. The first will be 30 minutes before your pick-up time and the second will be 10 minutes before. If there are any delays (more than 10 minutes) or interruptions you will be notified straight away.

#### **Westcott Winter Sports**

If you find yourself at a loose end one Saturday afternoon this winter, why not take a wander down to Westcott Sports Club in Milton Street and support our own Westcott 1935 Football club in their West Sussex league fixtures.



Upcoming games at Stable Meadow include playing TD Shipley Reserves on 17th December.

James Friend



### Blenheim Palace: The Agony and the Ecstacy

Our Lecture on Tuesday 13th December 2022 is titled 'Blenheim Palace:The Agony and the Ecstasy'. Blenheim is possibly the most admired historic English building outside London. Anthony Powell will talk about this monument to English military ambition, one family's self importance and so much more.

The Arts Society brings people together through a shared interest in the arts. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month in the Dorking Halls and

welcome new members and visitors, however please visit our website for more information theartssocietydorking.org.uk. We look forward to welcoming you.





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### MUSIC IN DORKING



1st at 7.30, The Nutcracker ballet at Dorking Halls, £26, 01306 881717
3rd at 3.00, Ladybirds choir at United Reformed Church hall, £7.50, 01737 843662
3rd at 7.30, Brockham Choral Society at St Martin's church, £16/20
4th at 7.30, A Christmas Carol at Dorking Halls, £24, 01306 881717
10th at 4.00, Dorking Choral Society at United Reformed Church

December begins with a Christmas carol concert given by the Ladybirds choir, conducted by Helena Twentyman. They will perform a range of Christmas music, including carols by Vaughan Williams and John Rutter, together with old favourites such as Jingle Bells and an unusual version of The Holly and The Ivy. The concert will raise funds for the Mary Frances Trust, a Leatherhead charity that helps adults with a range of mental health issues. There will be tea and mince pies afterwards.

Brockham Choral Society's concert features Haydn's Nelson Mass, Vaughan Williams's Five Mystical Songs, and Mozart's Laudate Dominum and Eine Kleine Nachtmusik. The choir, together with soloists and orchestra, will be conducted by Cole Bendall. Tickets are £16 if bought in advance and £20 on the day.

Dorking Choral Society will also be presenting its Christmas concert with a mix of seasonal music.

The Dorking Halls presents Crown Ballet with their delightful production of Tchaikovsky's ever-popular Christmas ballet, The Nutcracker. Also coming to the Halls as part of its tour is a musical version of Charles Dickens's tale A Christmas Carol. With a score by Broadway composer Bob Christianson, and featuring a large cast accompanied by an orchestra, this unusual production is billed as 'the theatrical event of the festive season'!

The Nutcracker can also be seen in a live screening on 8 December from the Royal Ballet in London.

Happy Christmas!

Ian Codd

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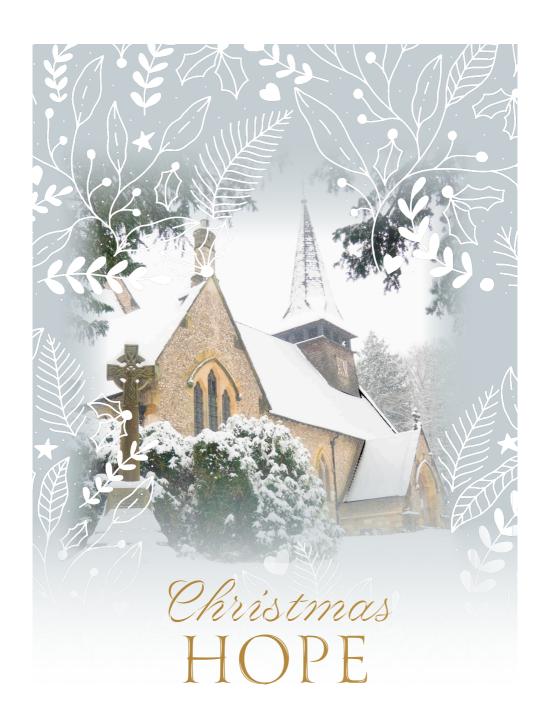


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Welcome to Christmas with the Church in Westcott

### ADVENT & CH

### SUNDAY, 27TH NOVEMBER

### Christingle Service \*

### Holy Trinity Church & Zoom 10:15am

A lovely, family-friendly service as we begin Advent Give to the work of the Children's Society, and recieve a Christingle to take home

### FRIDAY, 16TH DECEMBER

### Carols on the Green \*

### Westcott Green 6pm

Gather around the village Christmas tree on the Green, and spread some Christmas cheer with friends, neighbours and Westcott Village Association

### SUNDAY, 18TH DECEMBER

### Carol Service

### Holy Trinity Church & Zoom 6:30pm

Traditional Christmas readings, and carols old and new

- \* No 10:30am service on this day just one service at 8:30am
- \* Carol Service at 6:30pm to allow for Football World Cup Final

#### DATE TO BE CONFIRMED

### Residential Home Carols

For many years, we have shared Christmas hope and joy with older members of our village community, at Bramley House and Westcott House.

Holding

Contact the vicar, Rev Tim Armstrong: vicar@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk for details, if you'd be interested in coming along.



### RISTMAS 2022

### CHRISTMAS EVE, 24TH DECEMBER

\* Crib Service

### Holy Trinity Church 3pm

Join in the story of the first Nativity (come dressed in character if you wish!)

### Christmas Eve Communion

### Holy Trinity Church 8pm

Gather on this holy night, to celebrate the hope at the heart of Christmas

#### CHRISTMAS DAY, 25TH DECEMBER

### Book of Common Prayer Communion

Holy Trinity Church 8:30am

A traditional service to celebrate Christmas Day

### \* All Age Christmas Service

Holy Trinity Church & Zoom 10:15am

Celebrate Jesus' birth together!

#### SUNDAY, 1ST JANUARY

New Year's Day Morning Worship

### Holy Trinity Church 9:30am

(only one church service today. No Zoom broadcast.)



\* Great for families and children \*



Throughout the changing years, people in Westcott have stepped through Holy Trinity church doors, gathering together to celebrate the hope that lies at the heart of Christmas.

This year, with its challenges and changes, you are invited once again to step through the church doors. Join us as we gather together - celebrating and holding on to the hope that lies at the heart of Christmas.

In the beauty of traditional carols, moments of still reflection, or joyful worship and celebration, you're invited to step into this season of hope.

Hope found in knowing Jesus - God with us, born into a world of challenges and changes, offering strong and certain hope to everyone.



For Zoom service connection, please scan the QR code or go to the online services page on our website

thechurchinwestcott.org.uk





### WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP



#### A Medieval Westcott Christmas

Most of us know that the Manor of Westcott and its mill gets a mention in the Domesday Book and its history through medieval times is well recorded. But what would Christmas have been like then? Well, very different from now of course for the Church then ensured that Christmas was a true religious holiday. Celebrations were for the birth of Christ as opposed to simply for people to enjoy themselves.

The first recorded use of the word 'Christmas' was in 1038 when a book from Saxon England used the words 'Cristes Maesse' in it. William the Conqueror had himself crowned king of England on Christmas Day 1066. The noblemen allowed inside Westminster Abbey cheered so loudly when the crowning ceremony was taking place that the guards outside thought



something was happening to their master inside the abbey and rushed inside to restore order.

Some of the problems experienced at Christmas then have had a knockon effect for us. For example, carol singers going from house to house is as a result of carols being banned within churches in medieval times. Carol singers took the word 'carol' literally - it means to sing and dance in a circle. Because Christmas services were spoiled by carol singers doing just this, the Church banned them and ordered the carol singers into the street.

December 28th is a day children may not have enjoyed in medieval times. December 28th is 'Holy Innocents Day' or 'Childermass Day' - the day when King Herod ordered that all children under two years of age be killed and children might well be reminded of Herod's cruelty by being beaten, whether they needed it or not. December 28th was seen by many then as a day of bad luck. No-one would get married on that day; no-one would start a building on that day and Edward IV refused to be crowned on that day.

What was eaten on Christmas Day? Certainly not turkey. Turkeys are native to America and only arrived in Europe after the discovery of that continent in the late 15th century. The rich would eat goose and, with the king's permission, swan. Medieval

cooks would very likely cover the cooking bird with butter and





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#### WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP (cont.)



saffron plant to give the cooked bird a golden colour when it was served. The Church had a fixed price of 7 pence for a ready cooked goose. An uncooked goose would cost 6 pence - about a day's wages.

Venison from deer was in keeping with the spirit of Christmas and a decent lord might let the poor have what was left of the deer. These parts were known as the deer's 'umbles' - the heart, liver, tongue, feet, ears and brains. Mixed with whatever else a cook could get, they were made into a pie. Thus, the poor would eat 'umble pie' and so nowadays, if you have taken a tumble in life it might be said that you are having to eat 'humble pie'.



Mince pies are a Christmas tradition nowadays. In Medieval England

a large mince pie was always baked. They were filled with all sorts of shredded meat along with spices and fruit. This recipe only changed in Victorian times when the shredded meat was left out. It was believed that if you made a wish with the first bite of your first mince pie, your wish would come true but if you refused the first mince pie someone offered you over

Christmas, you might have bad luck.

Christmas
puddings in
Medieval
England were
spicy porridge,
known as



'frumenty'. This was considered a real treat. It was made of thick porridge (or boiled wheat). Currants and dried fruit were stirred in and the yolks of eggs were also added together with other spices such as cinnamon and nutmeg. The mixture was left to cool and set before being served.

Christmas Day was also a 'quarter day'. This meant that the poor had to pay their rent on this day! Boxing Day has traditionally been associated with the rich giving gifts to the poor in boxes. This is not strictly true. On Boxing Day, the poor did receive money from their masters but in hollow clay pots

with a slit in the top. These had to be broken to get the money out. These small clay pots were nicknamed 'piggies'. As a result, we now have piggy



banks for collecting money. Happy Christmas to everybody from the WLHG!

John Clachan

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#### SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL



We seem to have hurtled our way into the winter with thoughts in our minds of Christmas Day to come, of lights, warmth and celebration. A moment when togetherness is uppermost in our minds. It is a time full of hope and joy, of rest and reflection. A time to miss loved ones who are no longer with us and a time to celebrate family togetherness, practising forgiveness, preparing and partaking in the pleasure of giving.

It is also of course a time of difficulty and hardship for many in our community and beyond, and I would urge all of us to think of those who are less fortunate than ourselves and may find themselves alone and vulnerable. Each and every one of us can make a big difference in a small way, watching out for our neighbours and friends and all those who can benefit from a little bit of time and consideration. This can have such an impact...sometimes more than we ever know. We will certainly be doing this as a school community, living our values in a very real and meaningful sense.

As a school we will be in the community singing in the church, the Village Hall and performing the nativity. This will be a wonderful opportunity to share our thoughts and prayers, to think about the deeper, truer meaning of this period in our calendar. As we approach the winter solstice and the

darkest and longest of nights, our thoughts will soon turn to the new year and spring.

Much has been achieved during our autumn term including celebrating Harvest - all the children and staff made their way to Westcott Church to sing, read and explore what harvest means in different parts of the world. The children considered those who are less fortunate than us and came together to be joyful and appreciative of all we are blessed with. This was an amazing moment of togetherness and connection. Tim was fantastic and I'd like to say, to all of those involved with hosting us, a huge warm thank you.

#### Value of the half term

As a school we are deepening our offer, ensuring all of our children are given an educational experience to be envied. As you know we have spent time as a school community considering and re-establishing our Vision, Aims and Values. This half term our value is Believe.

#### **Bees Class - Reception**

Bees Class have been investigating









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#### SURREY HILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL (cont)



different habitats and thinking about which animals live where. They have also been considering what animals



eat and helping out the birds by filling up the feeders with fat balls provided by FASH! Thank you!

went on a fact finding mission.

We were able to handle lots of genuine World War II items. Toys



made of shrapnel, gas masks, ration



books, uniforms and stretchers. We were also treated to some wartime items of memorabilia which the children brought in to show and tell.

#### **Butterflies Class - Year 1 & 2**

Butterflies had great fun learning all about our senses during Forest School. We made jam and our sense of taste told us it was delicious!



#### Foxes Class - Year 5

Foxes Class had a fabulous day reenacting life, role playing and learning so many facts about World War II.



Our bomb d i s p o s a l experts at work!

The children dressed as evacuees and

#### **Cross Country competition**

We had great results at our first Cross Country. More sporting competitions to come in the following weeks!



I would like to wish you all, on behalf of all in our school community, a very warm and wonderful Christmas and New Year.

With warmth, hope and faith,

Simon Coles
Headteacher









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#### **ABINGER NURSERY**



Twas the month before Christmas, when next to the Hatch, The nursery were crafting, mostly from scratch.

The nativity play was being practiced with care, In hopes that all the parents would be there;

We all were playing together wrapped up in the warm, Thinking about the time when baby Jesus was born,



And our teachers settled down in a cosy nook, to read to us our favourite book.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter, We sprang to see what was the matter.

Away to the window we flew like a flash,

Tore open the shutters, and threw up the sash.





With a little old driver, so lively and quick, we knew in a moment it must be St. Nick. On went our coats, gloves, hats and wellies,

We did not want to miss this chance to see Santa's belly! He was dress'd all in fur, from his head to his foot, And his clothes were all tarnish'd with ashes and soot;

A bundle of toys was flung on his back, And he look'd like a peddler just opening his pack: His eyes - how they twinkled! his dimples how merry, His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry;



To each one of us by name he said hello, then exclaimed he really must go, He'd been so eager to see the nursery nativity, he'd flown in to visit rather too early!

He sprung to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle, And they flew over Donkey Lane, like the down of a thistle: But we heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight -Happy Christmas Abinger, and to all a good night.



PS pictures are of our fabulous pumpkin/bonfire season and cake sale!

Kate Fairbrass



# Maiastra



Friday 16th December at 7.30pm The Musical Museum

399 High Street, Brentford, TW8 0DU

Saturday 17th December at 7.30pm Holy Trinity, Westcott

Logmore Lane, Westcott, Dorking, RH4 3NN

Sunday 18th December at 4.00pm (please note start time)
The Menuhin Hall

Cobham Road, Stoke D'Abernon, KT11 3QQ

Arisa Fujita - violin Yente Lottman - violin Hugo Haag - viola

Eddie Mead - cello

Haydn - String Quartet in Eb major, Op. 33 No. 2 "The Joke"

Beethoven - String Quartet in F minor, Op. 95 "Serioso"

Tchaikovsky - String Quartet No. 3 in Eb minor, Op. 30

Admission free / donations welcome

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www.maiastra.org

The Aidan Woodcock Charitable Trust Registered Charity Number 1167616

#### MAIASTRA CONCERT

#### 7.30pm on Saturday 17 December 2022 at Holy Trinity Westcott

Following a week of rehearsing at Logmore Farm barn in Westcott, I am pleased to announce that the Maiastra String Quartet will perform three wonderful chamber music works directed by Arisa Fujita, violinist and Trustee of The Aidan Woodcock Charitable Trust. Free entry with retiring collection at 7.30pm on Saturday 17 December 2022 at Holy Trinity Westcott.

First on the programme is Haydn's String Quartet, Op. 33 No. 2 "The Joke". Written in 1781, it garnered its nickname due to the light-hearted character and many instances of musical humour. The second piece will be Beethoven's String Quartet in F minor, Op. 95. Named "Serioso" by Beethoven himself, it is the shortest of his quartet compositions and is the last of his 'middle period' chamber works. Finally, the String Quartet in Eb minor, Op. 30 by Tchaikovsky will be performed. There is an air of lyrical grief and sorrow throughout, as it was written in memory of his close friend, violinist Ferdinand Laub.

The Aidan Woodcock Charitable Trust, under the name 'Maiastra', provides courses for emerging young professionals who are hoping to make chamber music a major part of their career. More information on https://www.maiastra.org/

Hugh Parry Chairman of The Aidan Woodcock Charitable Trust

#### HOLMBURY CHORAL SOCIETY



#### Peace on Earth - Holmbury St Mary Choral Society's Christmas Concert Thursday 15th December, 8pm, Holmbury Church

Please join us to celebrate the run-up to Christmas with our new conductor, Cole Bendall. The concert starts with movements from Rachmaninoff's Vespers, interspersed with music to mark the winter season by composers such as Errollyn Wallen, Amy Beach, Sally Beamish, Olivia Sparkhall and John Rutter. We then move on to familiar territory with Christmas Carols for audience participation before concluding with complimentary mince pies and a glass of wine.

Tickets £15 from holmburychoral@btinternet.com www.holmburychoral.org

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#### CAROLS ON THE GREEN

Following on from the success of the Carols on the Green last year, and by popular request, we are holding the event again.

The Carols on the Green choir will lead the singing on the Village Green, starting

at 6pm on Friday 16th December. hope you and your family and friends will join us and celebrate Christmas with some traditional carols. Last year we thought the community singing was great and much appreciated. There will be mulled wine to help you along and please do bring a torch if you can.

We look forward to seeing you there, by the Christmas Tree on the Green.



Madeleine Brooks and Hannah Mayo



Do you have 1-2 hours free a week? Would you like to make a difference to someone's life? Yes? Then Age Concern Mole Valley has

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#### THE LADYBIRDS CONCERT

Dírected by Helena Twentyman
Saturday 3rd December at 3pm
United Reformed Church Hall, West Street, Dorking RH4 1BS

The Ladybirds Choir warmly invites everybody to their Christmas concert, which will be held on Saturday 3rd December at 3pm in the United Reformed Church Hall in West Street, Dorking. The choir will present a variety of songs both well-known and less familiar. Among this year's highlights will be John Rutter's Angels' Carol, a lively Wassail Song arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams and the beautiful Peace On Earth / Little Drummer Boy. More light-hearted numbers will include Jingle Bells and Here Comes Santa Claus, and there will be an unusual rendition of The Holly And The Ivy!

This year the choir is raising funds for Mary Frances Trust (MFT), a Leatherhead-based charity supporting adults (16+) in Surrey who are experiencing any kind of mental health or emotional well-being issue. MFT offers face-to-face and online support via a range of support groups, physical activities and courses as well as a specific programme for young people (16-25). For more information visit www.maryfrancestrust.org.uk.

Tea and mince pies will be served after the performance. Tickets are priced at £7.50 and are available on the door (cash or cheque) or in advance from Jenny Abbott on 01737 843662.

#### **DORKING CHORAL SOCIETY**

#### **Christmas Concert 2022**

Our Christmas Concert will be at the United Reformed Church, West Street, Dorking on Saturday 10th December at 4pm. This will be a joint concert along with the children's choir from St Joseph's School, Dorking. It will be an event with plenty of opportunities for all the family to participate in singing well known carols and hearing Christmas music to get into the festive spirit. Join us and bring all the family - mince pies and seasonal refreshments afterwards.

Tickets: £5, Under 18 free. from our website or phone 07847 477 052

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As we draw close to the end of 2022 we look back on an eventful year with many mixed emotions. At QRMW, personally and nationally we have lost some special people in our lives, our wonderful Queen being one of them. We have kept in touch with the young Princes, William and Harry ever since we opened the Memorial Woodland and gained Charity Status. But when our wonderful Queen passed away on 8th September we felt for Prince Charles as he not only lost his Mother but immediately took on the role as Kina Charles III, therefore we wrote to him with our heartfelt condolences.

We never expected a response but on 17th October an envelope was delivered from Buckingham Palace which my lovely postman insisted on handing over rather than putting through the letter box! I am delighted to share its contents with all of you.



On November 11th we held our annual Remembrance Service at the

Woodland which was attended by local residents, ex-servicemen and the children from St John's C of E School in Dorking, plus our own Reverend David Grundy from Holmbury St Mary and Abinger Churches. This is always a special event as the leaves fall from the trees reminding us of the hundreds of thousands of servicemen and women who died in conflict so that we might be free.

As Christmas draws near we have our annual *Christmas at the Woodland* event which is always popular with local families whose children get the opportunity to explore the woodland whilst carrying out a treasure hunt followed by a visit to our very own Veteran Father Christmas. This is of course a fund raising event when monies from participation in the treasure hunt, raffle and Christmas stalls all goes into the Memorial Fund to assist those Veterans who are in need.

May I now wish you all A Very Happy Christmas and Good Health, Happiness and Good Fortune for the New Year ahead and look forward to meeting up with you at the Memorial Woodland in 2023, remember all are welcome to visit.

Best wishes

Paul Cooling Chairman QRMW



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#### **Dorking Local History Group**

The DLHG continues its popular programme of talks on a fascinating range of topics, some of which are live and

some accessible via Zoom. Talks are free to members, but non-members are welcome. Upcoming dates include:

• The Roaring Twenties: Art Deco in Surrey and London: The ever-popular art historian Dr Anne Anderson will point out a few gems of Art Deco in Surrey and more in London within an hour or so of Dorking. Monday 5th December at

Crossways Community Baptist Church, Junction Road, Dorking RH4 3HB, 7.15 for 7.30pm, £2 at the door for non-members.

For further details of these talks and other activities – or to join DLHG – go to https://dlhg.org.uk.



#### DORKING MUSEUM



Dorking Museum offers seasonal greetings to all readers and to the supporters and friends of the Museum.

Regrettably, there is little Museum activity that we can announce. Following a fire in an adjacent building in late October, the Museum is currently (at the time of writing) closed for necessary repair and restoration work. It is unlikely that we will be able to open fully or have a normal programme of activities until early 2023. Until we re-open, some limited activity may be possible, so please check the Museum's website or social media pages (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) or other listings sites for Museum activities and news of future opening.

Although the building might be closed, the Museum's online shop is open for the sale of new and vintage books, postcards, maps and

is open for the sale of new and educativintage books, postcards, maps and the Must borking Museum's Box of Extraordinary Delights

Peter Brown

Assembling true

Language books and the Museum's Box of Extraordinary Delights

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Susannah Horne

Assembling true

Language books and the Museum's Box of Extraordinary Delights

Susannah Horne

other items relating to Dorking and the surrounding area. This includes books from The Cockerel Press, the Museum's own publishing arm. Two recent contrasting publications are Dorking Museum's Box of Extraordinary Delights by Peter Brown, an innovative action book for children and families with a range of activities and free online extras, and A Hundred Years on a Medieval Manor by Susannah Horne, exploring the development of the town and manor of Dorking between the 1280s and 1380s. These and many other items of local interest can be found at dorkingmuseum.org. uk/dorking-museum-shop/.

In preparation for re-opening, the Museum urgently requires volunteers who can spend a few hours on the desk or in key functional roles in recruitment and HR, events, retail, education and family activities (in the Museum, in the community and/

or working from home): training is provided. Please see dorkingmuseum. org.uk/about/volunteer-opportunities.

The Museum is at 62 West Street, Dorking RH4 1BS. For an update on activities, to visit the shop, to become a member or to donate, please visit www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk.

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#### KIDS FOR KIDS

#### Calling for help this Christmas!

"Do you want to give a gift to a child this Christmas that will save her life?" This is what Patricia Parker OBE, who founded Kids for Kids 21 years ago, is asking. She says "Christmas is the time of giving but few gifts will last beyond New Year but not the gifts I want. I want a goat, a mosquito net and a sack of seed."



Why a Goat? Because it's milk will save a 5 year old from starving. Conditions are so bad this year in Darfur that even in our Kids for Kids villages little ones are in urgent need of emergency food if they are to survive. It's the smallest that succumb first. A goat costs £50

Why a Mosquito Net? The military government failed to spray standing water and mosquitos have bred uncontrollably. Malaria is still the biggest killer in Africa. Mosquitos also spread dengue fever, chikungunya, and yellow fever. All deadly. Our Project Officer has malaria for the second time this year. When he managed to get himself to hospital in search of the malaria drugs he desperately needed, he saw every bed filled with children. Sadly he said half of those will die. They are too undersized from months of malnutrition to fight the disease. 2 mosquito nets cost £18

Why a Sack of Seed? Darfur struggled with prolonged drought this year. People had scarcely enough to eat. I am being asked for emergency seed so that a family can have one meal of porridge a day to keep them alive until the harvest.

#### A sack of seed costs £15

The good news? Give one or even all three of these and I will make sure they reach a family in Darfur. There are volunteers waiting to deliver them, by truck, by donkey or on foot. In Darfur they do what it takes to save a child – will you?

What will we give you? We will create a lovely Christmas Certificate which you can give as the best gift you have ever given to someone you love. You can tell them that their gift is saving a child's life this Christmas. How amazing is that?

To donate: www.kidsforkids.org.uk Go to donate. Choose your gifts. Further information email patricia@kidsforkids.org.uk



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#### **GREEN WESTCOTT**



#### Wishing you a happy 'green' Christmas

Why not show a little extra care for the environment during the season of celebration. With a little effort and imagination, we can reduce the environmental impact of the holiday season. Here are some ideas to help celebrate the season while caring for the earth.

# Plan ahead, buy less and avoid last minute panic buying

We have all been there, we ran out of time and dashed to the shops for some last-minute gift buying. This leads to spending way too much money on things that people really don't need just for the sake of giving a gift. The most treasured gifts are gestures of thoughtfulness and are often personal and unique. When considering buying gifts think about the person you are giving the gift to - what are their hobbies, interests or the "longevity "of the gift.

#### Think 'green', local and recycled

Many gifts come from halfway around the world, the impact of transportation contributes significantly to greenhouse emissions and global



warming.
Local craft
fairs and
artisan
shops are a
good source
for gifts that

come without the added costs of transportation. Many individuals and small businesses have also developed great products using recycled materials. Why not support these shops in your local area.

#### **Batteries** are villains

About 40% of battery sales happen during the holiday season. If you are buying gifts that are battery operated, consider buying rechargeable ones. They hold their charge a long time and are quick and easy to recharge.

#### Make & Bake

If you are feeling the financial pinch think about making or baking your own gifts. There are some great ideas online for homemade gifts and



they are often the most talked about after Christmas. Consider creating a hamper with family-made goodies.

#### It's a Wrap

I love wrapping gifts, the prettier the better, but this year I am considering

going greener with my wrapping extravaganza. Consider using old fabrics like tea towels, napkins, scarves or old bits of





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#### GREEN WESTCOTT (cont.)





fabric lying around. Instead of buying wrapping paper, recycle the paper that you already have, like old maps, sheet

music, wallpaper. We all have a couple of rolls stashed away or look for some at charity shops, they can be super cheap and have wonderful

textures and patterns. Add a natural touch to your gifts wrapping with a short walk through the forest, a nearby park, or even your backyard will provide you with plenty of natural materials to use in trimming your gift package, get the kids involved, they will love it!

Happy "green" Christmas from all of us at Green Westcott.

Lize Copeland



#### **COMMUNITY FRIDGE VAN**

The Mid Surrey Community Fridge van is visiting Westcott every Monday at 1:30pm

It will stay in the village for around an hour parked at the front door of St John's Chapel in Chapel Lane. They will be giving away surplus food that is heading for land fill, it is perfect food, the supermarkets for many reasons allocate it as surplus

If you can afford a small donation, it would be appreciated ~ they rely upon donations (£2.50 is the suggested minimum amount)

Bring your shopping bags, bring your friends,
pick up for your neighbour

If you want to volunteer to help (just 11/2 hours every couple of weeks), please speak to Jon at JonandMum tel 07496 036398 or Sally from WVA tel 07772 989 509



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