

# Speldhurst News



## October 2023

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# Contents

## Page(s)

♦	Welcome	2
♦	Diary at a Glance	3
♦	News & Announcements	4-11, 19-20
♦	Nature Watch	12
♦	Parish Council News	13-15
♦	School News	16-17
♦	Allotment & Gardening News	21-22
♦	A letter from St. Mary's	23
♦	Church Diary	24
♦	Clubs & Organisations	25-27
♦	Advertising	28-36

# Welcome

Dear Readers,

Who knows what the weather will be up to when you read this October Edition, At the moment the heatwave is abating but in August I almost put the heating on! Whatever weather you like, our favourite topic has provided plenty of variety recently; it has been a challenge to growers and gardeners but one the Speldhurst allotmenters, cooks and artists rose to brilliantly at the recent show; some families seemed to enter every class!

This month our clocks fall back an hour and the early darker evenings allow us to enjoy some spooky Halloween trick or treating and then, in early November, the fabulous fireworks organised by the Speldhurst school PTA.

If your thoughts are even further ahead there are details of a Christmas Wine-tasting in Blackham and a reminder to join the Community Choir for the Carol Concert in December.

The results of voting on the Speldhurst Chapel Project are in full on p13 along with other important Parish news.

Very best wishes,

Judith

**On behalf of Speldhurst News Editors:**

**Maria Turner, Sara Turner, Judith Malim**

Please remember that copy for the **October 2023 edition** should be sent **before 10th October 2023** to: [speldhurst.news@gmail.com](mailto:speldhurst.news@gmail.com). Word, Publisher or pdf files preferred. Thank you.

SPELDHURST NEWS endeavours to include articles in addition to village, church and chapel news. These are taken in good faith and without prejudice, therefore the committee will not be held responsible for the accuracy of the content, nor will it be held responsible for any work or treatment received from the advertisers. Readers should satisfy themselves of advertisers' abilities before accepting a job quotation or undertaking a course of treatment. All articles & inclusions should be sent as a word document attachment. The editors reserve the right to amend submissions where they feel it is appropriate.



# Diary at a Glance

Mondays	Library	
Tuesdays	Bowls Club Practice	
	Walking Football	
Wednesdays	Praise & Play	p.4

## OCTOBER

Mon 2nd, 16th & 30th	Bumps & Babes	p.4
Mon 2nd	Full Council Meeting	p.15
Sat 7th	Penshurst Market	p,19
Sat 7th	Blackham Village Market	p.20
Sat 13th	RNLI Coffee Morning	p.5
Sat 28th	Penshurst Choir Concert	p.7

## Future Dates

Sat 17th Nov	Blackham Wine Tasting Evening	p.7
Sun 5th Nov	Speldhurst School PTA's Fireworks and Bonfire event	p.5
Sat 16th Dec	Speldhurst Community Choir Concert	p.10

# News & Announcements

## What's on in Speldhurst for the Under 5's in October

### **Praise and Play, St Mary's Toddler Group,**

We will be in church every Wednesday, during term time, from 9-10.30am.

We'll have a craft, some time to play and a short story and song time as well as giving the little ones a chance to ring the church bell. So do tell everyone you know who may be interested. All are welcome. We look forward to seeing you all.

### **Bumps and Babes, the group for Mums with babies up to 12 months,**

Meets three times this month on Monday 2nd, 16th and 30th October. We meet in each other's homes for coffee from 10.30.

For more information about either of these groups, especially if you are new to the village, contact Jenny Fitzsimmons on 07891 318123 or at [jen-ny50fitz@gmail.com](mailto:jen-ny50fitz@gmail.com)

## **Speldhurst Art Exhibition 2023 POSTPONED**

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we are postponing the Art Exhibition to Spring 2024. Dates still to be confirmed. Watch this space!

Please contact Maria at [mariamarianni63@gmail.com](mailto:mariamarianni63@gmail.com) for further details.



**SPELDHURST CEP SCHOOL PTA**

# **BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS NIGHT IS BACK!**

**SUNDAY 5TH NOVEMBER  
4:30 – 6:00PM**



**BUY YOUR TICKETS IN  
ADVANCE AT SCHOOL,  
AT SPELDHURST  
COMMUNITY SHOP &  
GROOMBRIDGE FARM  
SHOP OR AT  
[TINYURL.COM/4WUUN  
77X](https://tinyurl.com/4WUUN77X)**



**ON SALE FROM 13TH OCTOBER**

## **Saving lives at sea .... Lifeboat Charity Coffee Morning**

Our annual Speldhurst village coffee morning in aid of RNLI will take place in the village hall from 10.30am until noon on Saturday 13th October.

Please join us for free tea, coffee and biscuits and a chance to meet friends and browse our stalls. These will include Lifeboat Christmas cards, calendars and diaries, a tombola, books, cakes, Lifeboat themed gifts and a wide range of high-quality bric-a-brac and toys.

It will also be an opportunity to discover more about our work and to ask any questions that you may have

We are always pleased to welcome lots of village residents and friends to this annual event and hope that you will be able to join us this year. All money raised will go directly to support the work of our lifeboats and hovercraft and our beach lifeguards as they continue their great work of saving lives at sea.

## **Speldhurst – Tonbridge School Transport Update**

Another bus route is cut!

This time it is the Hams Travel No.1 which serves Groombridge-Langton-Rusthall-Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge. The service is being withdrawn as at the end of September which will put further pressure on remaining services, unless another company steps forward to pick up the route.

As yet we have not been able to find a community solution for school transport, there are various car sharing arrangements in place. New families continue to move to Speldhurst who need these services so we will continue to lobby for reinstatement of buses with the help of Cllr. Matthew Sankey but as busses are a de-regulated service and KCC have no obligation to provide transport it looks as if it will be up to parents to make their own arrangements for the foreseeable future. If you are looking for car shares we suggest posting on the Speldhurst Community Facebook page.

Judith Malim & Alex Pendaries



Can you shop with us or spare some time to help ensure the success (and continuation) of this invaluable village hub?

We have many opportunities available so if you've got a few hours you can spare, we'd love to hear from you.

To volunteer, just pop in or email us  
[speldhurstcommunityshop@gmail.com](mailto:speldhurstcommunityshop@gmail.com)

Or could you use the shop a little more, and help to secure our shop for us all – now and in the future?

Come in and you'll find:

Fresh bread, milk, cheese, fruit, vegetables and meat  
(all locally sourced wherever possible)

General provisions - Wines and beers - Cards and gifts  
Newspapers and magazines - Dry cleaning and laundry  
Freshly-made coffee and cakes

And don't forget we also have our own Post Office counter available for you 6 days a week.



**ANY QUESTIONS?** Pop in or  
call us on 01892 863158





**Penshurst  
Choral Society**  
with The Clarius Trio

# English Church Anthems

**Joe Tobin** Conductor  
**Thomas Coxhead** Organ & Conductor

**Elizabeth & Thomas Coxhead** My eyes for beauty pine  
**Howells** Like as the Hart  
**Ireland** Greater love  
**Lewis** The souls of the righteous  
**Tallis** If ye love me  
**Wesley** Blessed be the God and Father  
**Wood** O thou, the central orb

**Saturday 28th October**  
concert starts at **4pm**  
**St John the Baptist Church**  
**Penshurst**



Adults £15 Under 16s £5  
Tickets online at  
[penshurstchoralsociety.co.uk](http://penshurstchoralsociety.co.uk)





*Blackham Village Hall*

# *Christmas Wine Tasting*

**FRIDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2023  
7.30PM**



LOCAL WINE EXPERT  
ALL EASILY SOURCED WINES FOR YOU  
TO ENJOY AT CHRISTMAS WITH FAMILY  
AND FRIENDS.

*A FUN EVENING YOU WILL NOT WANT TO  
MISS*

**Tickets £20 per person**  
FOR TICKETS PLEASE CALL  
PENNY ON 01892 740574





## **MEN ON WEDNESDAY [MOW]**

Men on Wednesday [MOW] does what it says on the tin. We are an informal group of blokes who get together each Wednesday in Speldhurst Chapel for wide ranging discussions. We draw our membership mainly from Speldhurst, Langton Green but anyone from the surrounding area is welcome.

Men of all ages and backgrounds come but because we meet in normal working hours, we tend to attract those who are retired. Content of meetings vary from an open forum where we all chip in, to the occasional guest speaker and sometimes we even get cerebral and reflect on the latest Reith lectures.

Anyone interested in giving us a try can contact [revjohnp@outlook.com](mailto:revjohnp@outlook.com)



## **The Village Hall Needs You!**

### **HANDYMAN / CARETAKER REQUIRED**

Our wonderful Caretaker is retiring later this year and we are looking for someone to join us at our thriving village hall.

The position involves minor maintenance work. Heavier/major work will be carried out by contractors and you will not be asked to carry out heavy lifting/complicated electrical work etc.

This position would suit someone who is retired and likes DIY. It is a paid position and hours can be agreed.

If you are interested in helping your local community in this way, please contact Sam for a chat.

Sam Van Niekerk on 07894 903979 or [speldhurstvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:speldhurstvillagehall@gmail.com)

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

# 2023 COMMUNITY CHOIR CONCERT

DATE: 16TH DECEMBER

Rehearsals: Every Friday starting 10th  
November at 7:30pm in St Mary's

If you have a passion for singing, join us! No  
experience required and no auditions.

Contact: Heather Hughes [hhughes8dw@icloud.com](mailto:hhughes8dw@icloud.com)



## NATURE WATCH

We see both Fallow and Roe deer around the village. The Fallow are usually seen in small groups but can be found in the fields with herds over 30+. Roe on the other hand are usually in pairs or on their own. In October it is when Fallow deer are in the rutting season which is spectacular on estates like Knole Park and well worth a visit. Roe deer are about the size of a large dog the Bucks [males] have short antlers with 2 or 3 points. Fallow deer are much larger and the antlers are broad with a number of points. As you mostly see deer running away they can be told apart by the back ends. Roe have one which looks like a white powder puff tail whereas the Fallow has a flat white tail with a black strip down the middle.

In October the ivy comes into its own. The last wild flowering plant of the year for a number of species including those that hibernate through the winter. The last butterflies that over winter as adults are found on ivy with a number of moths and a species of bee called the Ivy Bee whose emergence is timed to coincide with this abundance of food. There are also large numbers of wasps and hover-flies if you stand and watch a patch of ivy flowers in the sun.

I found a caterpillar of the Toadflax Brocade moth on the Purple Toadflax by the Chapel fence opposite the shop, a moth species that is on the up.





## **SPELDHURST CHAPEL PROJECT CONSULTATION UPDATE**

Parish councillors voted to proceed with an application for a Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) loan at a Full Council meeting on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September. This was after receiving a strong mandate from our recent whole parish consultation, with a total of 623 households responding to the consultation, representing 32% of households across the parish.

The results for each of the 3 questions were as follows:

**Q1. Do you think Speldhurst Parish Council should be taking steps to protect local assets such as the Speldhurst Community Shop?**

- **89% said YES**

**Q2. Are you in favour of the parish council proceeding with this project?**

- **85% said YES**

**Q3. Are you in favour of the parish council proceeding with this project knowing it will include a council tax increase of £12.49/yr for a Band D property, for the purpose of loan repayments?**

- **82% said YES.**

A breakdown of answers to each question by village has been published on the parish council website and can be accessed at

[www.speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk) on the 'Speldhurst Chapel Project' page.

While the parish council will now proceed with an application for a PWLB loan, there are several steps to be completed and specific conditions to be met before we will draw down the loan, subject to it being approved, to purchase the chapel site. If unforeseen problems arise or conditions are not met – in particular, if the community share offer fundraise by the Chapel Project team does not raise sufficient funds to meet their obligations – the parish council will not draw down the loan. The parish council only becomes liable for the loan when it is drawn down and not when it is approved.

*Further updates will be provided as the project progresses. Please contact Katie Neve, Clerk, if you have any questions. You can email her at [clerk@speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk) or call the parish council office on 01892 862927.*

## NEWS FROM SPELDHURST PARISH COUNCIL



### JUBILEE AWARD SPELDHURST PRIMARY SCHOOL

Every year we present a Jubilee award for 'Olympic Spirit' to a pupil who has achieved something remarkable, perhaps through contributing to their community, raising money for charity, or overcoming a challenge in their life. For Cllr Paul Curry this is one of the 'best bits' about being Parish Council Chair, and at the end of last term he attended a special assembly to present this year's award to Kitty Thorne. This is what Head Teacher Mrs Hayward said about

Kitty:

"Kitty is a River Guardian for Southeast Rivers Trust for her local river, The Grom in Friezeland Woods. She collects all the litter in the river and has to report whether there are any issues. Kitty also does litter picking around Ramslye when she is out walking her dog, Maple. Kitty has created two wildlife ponds and countless bug hotels and bird feeders."

Thank you so much, Kitty, for helping to improve your local community – the world needs more of you!

### RESULTS OF THE SPELDHURST CHAPEL PROJECT PARISH CONSULTATION

Our consultation on the future of Speldhurst's community shop and post office ended on 30<sup>th</sup> August. It was encouraging to receive responses from many residents. Read more about the outcome elsewhere in this magazine.

### ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGERS – LANGTON GREEN VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK

By the time you read this (fingers crossed!) Kent County Council (KCC) will have installed two 7kw electric vehicle chargers in the car park at Langton Green Village Hall. This is part of a trial which they are funding on parish council owned land throughout Kent. KCC have paid for the installation and maintenance, and will take payment from users via a payment app.

The charging bays will be clearly signposted. We will monitor usage to see how much uptake there is. For more details, please contact the council office.



#### BACK UP TO FULL CAPACITY

With the co-option of Langton Green resident Caroline Davies, we are back up to our full capacity of 13 Parish Councillors once again.

Caroline has worked in the Housing sector for over 15 years, both for private and public organisations. Her current role at a national

housing association includes managing Property Compliance and Building Safety matters for a large property portfolio. She is also a Board Member of a Housing Association that provides affordable housing for women escaping domestic abuse, survivors of trafficking and women leaving prison.

We feel most fortunate to be able to benefit from Caroline's experience, which is particularly relevant to some of our current projects.

#### GATWICK AIRPORT'S APPLICATION TO CONVERT ITS EMERGENCY RUNWAY

Gatwick Airport have applied to the Planning Inspectorate to convert their stand-by runway into a full-use runway. By applying in this way, they have avoided a full public consultation. If successful, two runways will operate simultaneously with plans to serve up to 74m passengers yearly.

We are now preparing to comment in opposition to this application via the Planning Inspectorate website. The deadline for comments is 29<sup>th</sup> October, so if you are concerned about another full-use runway at Gatwick, please visit <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/gatwick-airport-northern-runway/#> to give your feedback.

#### PUBLIC MEETINGS – ALL WELCOME

Full Council, 7.30pm, 2nd October, Ashurst Village Hall

#### TO CONTACT THE PARISH COUNCIL

Call the Clerk, Katie Neve on 01892 862927/07760 769513 or email [clerk@speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk)

For helpful information, visit [www.speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk) or follow us on Facebook as 'Speldhurst Parish Council'





# Speldhurst CEP School News



The start of a new academic year last month saw new beginnings at Speldhurst School. Our 30 reception children, who began their educational journey at the beginning of term with a 'Teddy Bear's Picnic' in beautiful sunny weather, have now settled into the routine of school in Pippin Class.

Children were encouraged to bring their teddies to the picnic. One little boy Oliver Martin dressed his very favourite teddy in a shirt which he'd made with his lovely Gran from her own up-cycled striped T shirt, whilst his other favourite – Pooh that bear of 'very little brain' – had his own school uniform. Courtesy of Grannie's knitting skills of course.



Meanwhile the SEN accommodation 'the Cabin' which was being built over the summer holidays, is now complete. It is now furnished and in regular use for the screening and support of those with special educational needs (SEN) as well as for interventions for those who need a bit of extra help in particular subjects. It is also the base for Michelle Heap, who has just joined the staff as maternity cover for Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) Laura Stanyer-Fisher. Congratulations Laura and her family on the birth of her son, Milo Stanyer-Fisher, who arrived promptly on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September. Other new staff include Teaching Assistants (TAs) Lynnette Voisey in Pippin Class and Georgina Kelly providing 1-1 support, Nicole Pollen teaching those with dyslexia, and a new School secretary Amy Lucas.



As well as the equivalent of seven fulltime TAs in class and a SEN TA who provides the intervention programmes, Speldhurst has a Pastoral Care Lead, a Family Liaison Officer and a School Counsellor to cater to the needs of every child.



And healthy eating is all part of a holistic educational approach. By half term this October, we also expect to have the new kitchen up and running thanks to the fantastic progress made by 'Chris Browne Builders' over the holidays. The new kitchen will mean that meals for pupils and staff will be freshly cooked on site and our caterers 'Independent' are currently recruiting a chef and kitchen staff to start as soon as the work is completed.



And as a Governor I am looking forward to an invitation to sample the new menus once the kitchen is fully operational. In the meantime, I found a quote from Winnie the Pooh that 'food is fuel' although he did of course like a lot of 'hunny'!

**Sara Andrew**  
**Communications Governor**

# **THE SPELDHURST VILLAGE HALL**

**DISCOUNTED RATES  
FOR RESIDENTS**

## **TAKING BOOKINGS**

Parties  
Christenings  
Family Gatherings

**FOR ENQUIRIES VISIT**

[Speldhurstvillagehall.co.uk](http://Speldhurstvillagehall.co.uk)



*Don't miss the Farmers' Market this October  
for all the finest locally produced food & drink*



**Saturday  
7th October  
2023**

**9.30 am  
to  
12.00 pm**

**Penshurst  
Place Visitor  
Car Park**



**The leaves are turning, the summer is over and it's time to enjoy the delights of autumn at the market. Cooler days send us back into the kitchen and where better to buy the best quality ingredients than in the glorious surroundings at Penshurst?**

**Fruit and vegetables are sweet and tasty from summer sunshine so look out for apples, plums, onions and beetroot all full of flavour. Pair with new season's game, grass-fed beef or lamb, or maybe a fine line-caught sea bass. Seafood is also excellent now as the seas start to get colder so buy mussels and oysters to enjoy at their best. Don't miss wonderful home-made seasonal jams and chutneys, breads, cakes, Kentish cobnuts, cheeses and more from our 25 plus stalls.**

**We've a new local flower grower who uses only seasonal home-grown blooms in her arrangements plus you buy locally grown plants and flowers too as Lowwood Nursery are back this month. And you can enjoy a coffee and snack at the Porcupine Pantry.**

**Parking is plentiful, free and close by. Dogs and families welcome!**

*Find us on Facebook*

*Find us on Twitter and Instagram*

*[WWW.kfma.org.uk/penshurst](http://WWW.kfma.org.uk/penshurst)*

# BLACKHAM VILLAGE CAFÉ AND MARKET

(first Saturday of every month except January)

SATURDAY 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023

10.00am – 12.30pm

BLACKHAM VILLAGE HALL



and

Lots of lovely produce for sale: homemade pasties, cakes, scones, free range eggs, bread, bird food and lots lots more.

Also a café serving fresh made coffee/tea with a piece of homemade cake or scone, come meet your friends for a catch up.



*Blackham Village Hall is a registered charity whose sole purpose is to promote and maintain the hall for the enjoyment of and benefit of the community*

## Photos from the Speldhurst Flower, Vegetable and Craft Show 2023





## ~ Allotment & Gardening News ~



### **Why Pumpkins Carved at Halloween?**

Carving pumpkins is a Halloween tradition that originated hundreds of years ago in Ireland. Back then, however, the carvings were made out of turnips or potatoes. It wasn't until Irish immigrants arrived in America and discovered the pumpkin that a new Halloween ritual was born.

Halloween is originally based on the Celtic festival Samhain 'summer's end', a celebration in ancient Britain and Ireland that marked the end of summer and the beginning of the new year on November 1. In the 8th century, the Roman Catholic Church moved All Saints' Day, (a day celebrating the church's saints), to November 1. This meant that All Hallows' Eve (or Halloween) fell on October 31.

So that's how we got to the pumpkin's association with Halloween.

But what about pumpkins? The word "pumpkin" originates from "pepon," which means "large melon" in Greek. It then evolved to "pompon" in French and "pumpion" in Britain. The Americans later changed it to "pumpkin," the name we still use today.

Pumpkins are a member of the gourd family, which includes cucumbers, honeydew melons, cantaloupe, watermelons and zucchini. Scientists believe that pumpkins originated in North America about 9,000 years ago. The oldest pumpkin seeds have been found in Mexico and date back to somewhere between 7,000-5,550 B.C.

Indigenous North Americans have grown pumpkins for thousands of years—even before the cultivation of beans and corn.

The most classic kind of pumpkin is the Connecticut Field pumpkin, named after the state where it was cultivated, and it is not far off from a kind of squash grown by Native Americans long before Europeans arrived in the Americas. With its uniform shape, the Connecticut Field pumpkin is ideal for pumpkin carving and decoration.

Pumpkin cultivation has spread throughout the whole world, and they are grown on every continent except Antarctica. In 2012, the biggest producers of squash were China and India, which put out a combined 10.5 million metric tons of the fruit. The United States is the only country in the top five where squash is native, and it puts out a measly 778,000 tons.





## ~ Allotment & Gardening News ~



Here are some other things that may not be known about pumpkins.

1. Interestingly, pumpkins are 92 percent water. Naturally low in energy density, pumpkins are an excellent source of potassium, vitamin A and beta-carotene, the powerful antioxidant that gives orange vegetables and fruits their colour.
2. The heaviest pumpkin was grown in Belgium in 2016 and weighed a whopping 21,190kg - almost the weight of a small car!. The heaviest pumpkin in the U.S. was grown in New Hampshire in 2018 and weighed 1,146kg. The largest pumpkin pie ever baked was in Ohio in 2010. It weighed 1,678kg and was over 20 feet in diameter.
3. Pumpkin seeds should be planted between the last week of May and the middle of June. They take between 90 and 120 days to grow and are picked in October when they are bright orange in colour. Their seeds can be saved to grow new pumpkins the next year.
4. The average pumpkin has 500 seeds. They are perfect for roasting with olive oil, and enjoying as a snack.

Due to the ever-growing demand for the winter squash, UK farmers are producing more and more each year. In fact, Britain is home to Europe's largest pumpkin grower, in Lincolnshire, producing a whopping 2 million pumpkins per year. But come the end of October, demand drops dramatically – so is it worth it for the farmer.

If you are interested in these topics / types of discussions, there is a Facebook page where we go into a lot of this type of stuff. It is called Speldhurst Allotmenters & Gardeners and the web address is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/305824050847755>. Hope to see you there.

And finally:

If you are interested in acquiring an allotment and doing your bit grow your own food and save our planet, please contact Mark Oddy on 01892 862746.

If there is any topic you would like to address relating to matters gardening or horticultural, please send an email to [kytehouse@stepex.co.uk](mailto:kytehouse@stepex.co.uk).

If you would like to submit something for this article, please also email it to [kytehouse@stepex.co.uk](mailto:kytehouse@stepex.co.uk).

# A Letter from St Mary's

October 2023

Dear Friends,



I hope you all had a good Summer holiday. We certainly did at St. Mary's. Instead of expecting people to come to join us in the church building, we took our main Sunday worship out into the community and held services on the rec, the allotments, in the school and in various gardens throughout the village. There were one or two damp moments but generally the weather was fine and a good time was had by all. It was a reminder that the church was never meant to be an institution confined to a building on Sunday, but a movement of people involved in their local community and sharing the good news of Jesus throughout the week.

This is why that at the heart of St. Mary's we have a network of around a dozen HOME GROUPS. These are small groups of roughly eight to ten people who meet on a weekly basis to build lasting friendships and help one another grow in faith, especially through bible study. Groups meet for a couple of hours in the evening or during the day in people's homes around the village. By joining a Home Group people are welcomed into a close circle of friends where burdens can be shared and joys celebrated. In addition to bible study and prayer, groups meet socially and sometimes come together to organise a church or wider community event. Home Groups are of central importance: they enable the St. Mary's family to grow and reach more people but still support and stay in touch with the needs of everyone. Gathering the whole church together for Sunday worship is fantastic and inspiring but smaller groups allow us to connect with God and each other at a more personal and deeper level.

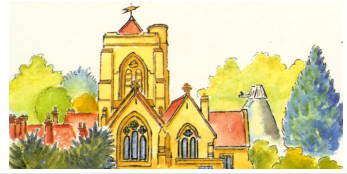
Using small groups to grow the church is not a new idea. Two thousand years ago, before he started his ministry, the first practical thing Jesus did was to call together a small band of twelve disciples. St Luke, in the Book of Acts, tells of an expanding network of home churches where believers *"Devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship - They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts"*.

If you are interested in joining a group please contact me at [revjohnp@outlook.com](mailto:revjohnp@outlook.com) or speak with me after a church service. If you are unsure or just curious and would like to try out a couple of Home Group sessions please also contact me and I will be pleased to arrange this.

Rev John Perkins



# October 2023



## **1st October**

10 am Communion

## **8th October**

10 am Morning Worship with Baptisms

## **15th October**

8 am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10 am Communion

## **22nd October**

10 am All-Age Worship

6 pm Evensong

## **29th October**

10 am Café Communion

**The Church Office can be contacted on 861187 or  
[speldhurst.church@btopenworld.com](mailto:speldhurst.church@btopenworld.com)**

**Normal office hours: 9 am to 12.30 pm**

See our website: [www.speldhurstchurch.org](http://www.speldhurstchurch.org)

St Mary's Facebook page:

[facebook.com/StMarysSpeldhurst/](https://facebook.com/StMarysSpeldhurst/)



## Speldhurst Village Website

Our website includes a calendar of village events, a photo gallery, some village history, a selection of local walks and cycle routes, past editions of Speldhurst News and more.

Why not take a look at: [speldhurst.org](http://speldhurst.org)?

## Your Borough Councillors

	Contact Details	Re-Election Date
Cllr Matthew Sankey (Alliance)	07881 674 310 <a href="mailto:matthew.sankey@tunbridgewells.gov.uk">matthew.sankey@tunbridgewells.gov.uk</a>	May 2024
Cllr Paul Curry (Alliance)	07515 938 765 <a href="mailto:Paul.curry@tunbridgewells.gov.uk">Paul.curry@tunbridgewells.gov.uk</a>	May 2024
Cllr Harry Allen (Conservative)	07523 005 178 <a href="mailto:harry.allen@tunbridgewells.gov.uk">harry.allen@tunbridgewells.gov.uk</a>	May 2024

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GP Surgery		863040
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Library	Olive West	863234
Men on Wednesday	John Perkins	863239
Mothers' Union	Christine Baker	540793
Mothers & Toddlers	Jenny Fitzsimmons	541200
Nursery School		860557
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Vice Chair	Katrina Lyle	862070
Parish Clerk	Katie Neve	862927
Parish Councillors	Richard Ellery	864077
	Alan Rowe	863404
Police Community Support Officer	Gemma.Gilbert@kent.police.uk	
Primary School	Stephanie Hayward	863044
Rainbows	Alex Brown	
	speldhurstainbows@gmail.com	
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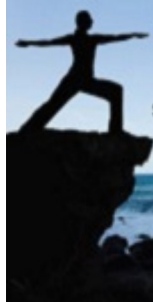
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