

### Prayer for the Persecuted Church

What was the last thing you Googled? Was it to ask a question about faith or the Bible? For many new Christians on the Arabian Peninsula – where the men's FIFA World Cup 2022 is underway – this is exactly how they've come to know Jesus. It's often not possible for those curious about Christianity to pop into a church or Christian bookshop, or drop round to a believer's house, so they go online.

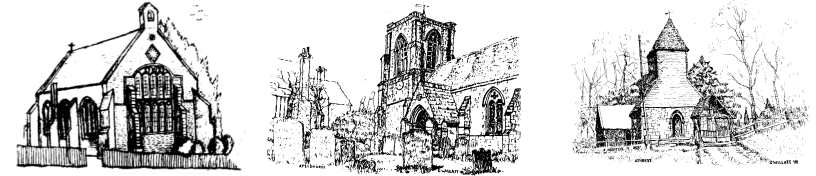
According to a local partner, 'tens of thousands' of people ask such questions every year, thousands of whom subsequently have an online conversation with one of the team. This is leading to some 200 face-to-face meetings each year. For the team and any seekers, these encounters can carry risk, such is the hostility to Christianity. But the reward is great, with many coming to know Jesus.

Please pray:

- Give thanks to God that the ministry has led to many people encountering Jesus
- That each new Christian will grow in faith and witness
- For people's safety and the provision of wisdom, people and resources so this ministry can grow in effectiveness and reach (more local people are especially needed).

Information supplied by Open Doors

# ST. MARY'S CHURCH, SPELDHURST ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, GROOMBRIDGE ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH, ASHURST



## DECEMBER 4TH 2022

### THIS WEEK:

10 am Confirmation Service at St Mary's

11 am Traditional Matins (Book of Common Prayer) at St John's

### NEXT WEEK: Sunday 11th December

10 am Online Act of Worship on You Tube: [Youtube.com/StMarysSpeldhurst](https://www.youtube.com/StMarysSpeldhurst)

10 am Morning Worship at St Mary's

11 am Carol Service at St John's



### Confirmation

St Mary's is delighted to welcome Bishop Jonathan this Sunday. Do please pray for everyone being confirmed including the following from our parish: George Carter, Jacob Cogger, Camilla Fleetham, Amy Goodsell and Olivia Lewis.

Douglas



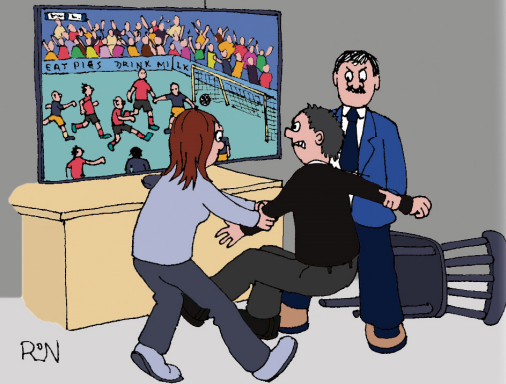
### Phone problems

Gremlins are at The Rectory and Office numbers. BT are coming on Tuesday. Meanwhile, please be patient if you can't get through. Emails are still working.

Douglas and Andrea

### Special Meeting

Next Sunday (11th) there is an important meeting at 11.15am in St Mary's to elect a Churchwarden and Deanery Synod Representative, both based in St Mary's. Could this be you? Please speak with me or one of the existing wardens if you have any questions. Douglas



The churchwardens reminded Barry  
it was time for Evensong

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The Church Office

Andrea Burgess

(Parish Administrator)

01892 861187

[speldhurst.church](http://speldhurst.church)

[@btopenworld.com](https://www.facebook.com/btopenworld.com)

Website:

[www.speldhurstchurch.org](http://www.speldhurstchurch.org)

Facebook:

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

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

## News from St Mary's

### Gift Day

We have received a small number of responses following the Gift Day on 20<sup>th</sup> November and the follow up emails which everyone should have received, so if you are still thinking about your own response it would be good to hear from you before long. The Response Form can be returned to Julian Bardo, or if you find it easier, just email him on [jebardo@hotmail.com](mailto:jebardo@hotmail.com) with your plans. As Douglas said last weekend, we are hoping to cover the predicted deficit of about £8,000 this year and increase our regular giving levels to cut the anticipated large deficit next year. We are also looking for new support for the finance committee: accountancy/bookkeeping skills are not required but some knowledge of Excel would be very helpful. Please contact me if you would like to know more.

*Martin Atkinson*

862037/07808 093930/martinatkinson46@gmail.com



### Church Christmas Decoration

Calling all men with artistic flare, some carol singing enthusiasm and an appetite for fish and chips.

Every year some of our male congregation meet in the church just before Christmas to put up the Christmas tree, decorate the church, have

something to eat and sing a few carols.

This year's event will be held on the evening of Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December starting at 6.30pm in church, eating at about 8pm with a few carols to follow.

The food plan is fish and chips this year, so if you would like to join us, please contact Paul Eames either by phone or e mail to let him know you are coming and to state your fish and chip requirements.

He will then place the order and collect on the night. Food, sauces and eating devices will come from the chippy but please bring your own beverage and a glass.

Look forward to seeing you there for a few festivities.

*John Fitzsimmons*

Pauls contact details are:-

Phone: 07975577630

e mail: [kentcricketdirect@outlook.com](mailto:kentcricketdirect@outlook.com)



### Crib Service at St Mary's - Christmas Eve Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December between 2 pm and 4 pm

#### A family focused celebration of Christ's Birth

Final reminder to let Jo Eames know if you wish your child or children to be part of this year's Crib Service.

E-mail: [joannaheames@gmail.com](mailto:joannaheames@gmail.com) with your child's name and school year group.



### Carols at the George & Dragon

Thursday December 8th at 7.30 pm

Come along and join us for a fun evening

ALL WELCOME!!!



### Nourish Foodbank

We now have a Collection Point for Nourish in the Church porch. It is a sad fact that there is currently a huge demand for the Foodbank and unfortunately this has coincided with a drop in the level of donations.

If we could offer our support by giving food and other requested items on a regular basis I know it would be hugely appreciated. There is a list on the Collection Point of the items that Nourish are currently in desperate need of. These include: tins of baked beans, fish, soup, fruit and rice pudding. Also pasta and spreads such as jam, peanut butter etc. Toiletries, such as shampoo and deodorant are needed too.

If it is easier for anyone, especially when passing to/ from the shop, please feel free to leave any items on our doorstep, 27, Northfields.

I have already made 2 trips to Nourish with our donations, so a huge thank you to everyone who has already given. I very much hope that I will continue to need to make the journey to Nourish on a weekly basis!

Many thanks

*Paul Eames*

### DO YOU WANT TO HELP SECURE THE FUTURE OF SPELDHURST SHOP AND ALLOW COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES IN THE CHAPEL TO CONTINUE?

#### IF SO, PLEASE SPEND A FEW MINUTES ANSWERING THIS ONLINE SURVEY

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/N6GS3G7>

The owners of the chapel wish to sell it which will mean the loss of a community asset that for more than 130 years has provided a home for all sorts of village activities from youth work meetings and church services to Age UK lunches. In addition, the village Shop and Post Office, opposite the chapel, operates out of rented premises and although it generates a profit has an uncertain future. By working together, we hope to be able to secure the long-term survival of the shop by relocating it to the chapel site at the same time as protecting the community activities of the chapel.

To be able to secure funding to make this dream a reality, including bidding for up to £250,000 from the government's Community Ownership Fund, it is essential to be able to show support from the village and wider parish for this project.

#### THIS IS WHY YOUR RESPONSE TO THIS ONLINE SURVEY IS SO IMPORTANT!

Please complete the survey online at the link above; it is only 10 questions and takes a couple of minutes. A paper survey is available in the shop for those unable to complete the online version. THANK YOU.