

St Nicholas Compton

February 2025



Greetings friends,

It seems a long time ago now, but thank you so much for all that you did to make our Christmas celebrations really special!

As we look ahead, we're continuing with our vision of *Deeper Wider Greener* this year by

- Starting a new Lent course at the beginning of March focusing on Elijah
- Participating in the discussions about traffic calming in the village
- Joining in with the Heathlands Connections Nature Recovery project

Of course, there are many other ways in which we can share God's blessings with others. Overleaf we are focusing on Samaritans with an overview by Rosemary. It would be a shame to miss all she has to say, so the full version is available either digitally or on paper.

Also, just a quick reminder that we are looking for a part-time (7 hours per week) Parish Administrator. Please speak to me for further details

Finally, as we approach Valentine's Day, let's be grateful that we are loved by God, and pray that we may share that love with all whom we meet.

Blessings

Rev Sally

SAMARITANS

Rosemary writes

Samaritans was founded in 1953 by the rector of St Stephen Walbrook in London called Chad Varah. He was deeply moved by having to conduct the funeral of a 14-year-old girl who had committed suicide and he was determined to try and help those in despair. He made himself available to talk to people with problems and soon found there was a long queue of people wanting to talk to him. Kind ladies came along to offer tea to those waiting and he soon realized that some people left saying talking to those helpers had helped them enormously.

This, therefore, is the basis of Samaritans - ordinary people listening and supporting those with a variety of problems. Our vision is that fewer people die by suicide and our mission is to alleviate emotional distress. In essence we want to stop distress evolving into despair. It is essential that we are not judgemental and offer confidentiality and support.

Guildford branch of Samaritans opened in 1963 and we are a large and busy branch with over 150 listening volunteers. We take calls from all over the country and **nationally Samaritans answer a call for help every 10 seconds**. All our calls are taken by volunteers working 24/7 and in fact some 13% of our calls are at night - where else can lonely and desperate people find someone to talk to in the middle of the night? It is very important that we listen to our callers and don't tell them what they 'ought' to do. I think the power of listening is very undervalued in this day and age.

This is part of a longer article published in St Nicolas Church Guildford Newsletter. The whole article will be sent out separately by email or by request in print form

Services in February

Sun 2 10:30 **Muddy Church**

All you need is love

18:00 Evensong

Wed 5 10:30 **BCP Holy Communion (said)**

Sun 9 10:30 **Holy Communion**

Sun 16 10:30 **Holy Communion**

Sun 23 10:30 **Holy Communion**

For your diary

Sun 2 March 10:30 **Muddy Church** *Spring is in the Air* + Pancakes!

Wed 5 March 10.30 **Ash Wednesday Communion** *followed by the first Lent group* at the Rectory



In February we pray for ...

Our parish: The proposals for traffic calming

Our local churches: Vacancies across our deanery

Those in particular need: Richard D, Sally G, Martin L

RIP: The families of Anthony May, Denys Wood, Nick Mayer, Ron Collins

Ways to contact the church

Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals Please contact our Rector Sally if you would like to mark a family milestone at St Nicholas.

If you would **like someone to pray for you** or with you, please contact our Rector Sally on stnicholascompton.rector@gmail.com or 07778 681664. Confidences will be respected.

Key contacts

Churchwardens: Ros Lawson and Mike Winterbotham

stnicholascompton.wardens@gmail.com

Safeguarding: stnicholascompton.safeguarding@gmail.com

Make a donation?

Thank you - you can use the sum-up card machine at the back of church or send a cheque to the address below.

For more information

Visit us at www.stnicholascompton.org

Regular Events

Muddy Church A space for all for wandering & wondering with God for all the family on 1st Sunday each month in termtime.

Our **Toddler Group, Fledglings**. All welcome at Pucks Oak Barn on Monday mornings from **9am** in term time. Contact fledglingscompton@gmail.com

Inside Out meets Sat 1 Mar & Sat 5 April 10am-12 noon to keep the church & churchyard looking good. Just turn up or contact stnicholascompton.wardens@gmail.com

Bell Ringing Practice: Morning practice once or twice a month on Tuesdays at 10am. We ring on Sundays from 10.00 - 10.30am. Contact phil.gorton@btinternet.com