

Serving God
Engaging Community
Nurturing Faith
Developing Disciples

St Mary's Church Send Outlook 2026 September



[See page 8](#)

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(01483)

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YAC (Year 7 and above)	yac@sendparishchurch.co.uk	

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ST.MARY'S PARISH OUTLOOK

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Care for Creation

It is perhaps by a quirk of timing that the season of Creationtide at the start of September arrives this year after one of the longest, driest and hottest summers on record. The stark evidence of climate change is surely beyond denial for even the most devoted of conspiracy theorists. Our climate is not merely changing; it has already changed. The cycle of warmer, wetter winters and long, hot summers is already a consistent pattern.

At the time of writing, the UK and Europe have seen blaze after blaze of summer wildfires and even, shockingly, in a housing estate. Rivers, reservoirs, gardeners and farmers have been desperately in need of rain. We may well see our natural and human-made water sources replenish quickly in autumn and winter. Yet the worry remains that after the fire may come the flood.

So, into such troubled times for this ailing planet does the Church of England mark Creationtide, the annual period in the calendar - running from September to early October - dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life.

According to the CofE, churches and congregations, "are called to pay special attention to the responsibility of humanity for the Earth and for all that lives upon it.

"While its adoption was in part driven by the complex environmental crises the human race faces, the season of Creation draws on much deeper roots in Scripture and in older Christian traditions of the relationship between God, humanity and the created order."

The theme for the Season of Creation 2026 is - appropriately in more ways than one - living water, based on Ezekiel 47:1-12. God's life-giving water flows from the temple of God, growing deeper, restoring barren land, reviving waters and sustaining flourishing ecosystems. The world is rather crying out for this right now, both physically and spiritually.

This year also sees a new date in the season, the Feast of Creation in Christ, which is being marked on the first Sunday in September (the 6th, this year). The new Festival offers an opportunity for Christians to give thanks for God's creation and redemption of the world, reflect on humanity's responsibility to care for the natural world and pray for its renewal. The title 'Creation in Christ' emphasises that creation is understood through the person and work of Jesus Christ: created through him, sustained in him and destined for renewal in him.

In terms of action, happily the church has not been paying mere lip service and is trying to demonstrate leadership on the environmental challenge. During the summer, it published a major teaching document on care for creation *Hope for All Creation: A Theological Response* (read a PDF copy at: <https://tinyurl.com/43yfdrtm>). The document sets out a Christian understanding of the environmental crises facing the world, rooting care for creation in the biblical story of creation, redemption and renewal, structured around the themes See, Reflect, Respond.

In addition, in 2020 the governing General Synod set the church a challenge of becoming net-zero carbon by 2030. Since then, some £30 million has been invested in the first phase of the programme, supporting dioceses, churches, cathedrals, schools and clergy housing. The CofE says that every diocese has now received funding to build net-zero capacity, more than 6000 churches are engaged with Eco Church and over 1000 churches have been supported with decarbonisation projects.

While these are encouraging efforts, it is acknowledged that, "achieving long-term emissions reductions will require sustained commitment, investment and local action across the church. Additional funding has been allocated through to 2034, with the church reaffirming its commitment to work towards its net-zero ambitions while creating warmer, more energy-efficient buildings that support worship, mission and community life."

But of course, wider action starts with us all. Every effort to live more sustainably, no matter how small, is a step to a low-carbon world. St Mary's has achieved a Bronze Eco Church award; a sign that it takes its environmental responsibilities seriously. The church is also celebrating creation and giving thanks to God with its Harvest Festival on Sunday 11 October. Do join us for that special service.

In the meantime, St Mary's is running the Bible Course, devised by the Bible Society, in September. It is a friendly and welcoming course exploring the big story of the Bible, how it fits together and applies to our lives today. Whether you know a little or a lot about Scripture, or are just curious, you are very welcome to come along. The first session is at 7.30pm on Monday 21st September.

Contact: vicar@sendparishchurch.co.uk for more details.

Blessings,

Rev'd James Luckey
Assistant Curate, St Mary's Church, Send



Small Steps



St Mary's Church warmly invites you to a Parent/Carer & Tinies Group in the Church Rooms, 171-176 Send Road, GU23 7EU on Wednesday mornings, drop-in anytime from 10-12.

We meet in September on 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30.

Anyone interested, come and see our set-up or contact Kate by email or text:

kmpearmain@gmail.com or 07767 753823.



CRAFT AND CHAT



Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 30 September between 2pm and 4pm in the Church Rooms. If you have a crafty hobby - knitting, sewing, embroidery, card making, drawing etc - why not call in and meet us. There is no charge to come along, just £1 for a cup of tea and cake. We look forward to seeing you!

ST MARY'S STROLLERS

We will next meet at the gazebo on Send Recreation Ground at 2pm on 16 September. Why not join us for a stroll around the local footpaths. This is a small friendly group and gives people a chance to walk locally in the company of others while enjoying the fresh air. We finish up at the Church Rooms for tea and cake!

For more information contact editor@sendparishchurch.co.uk



Who said this?

All the months are crude experiments, out of which the perfect September is made.

Answer inside back page



Next time in the Coffee Shop
Monday 21 September
Special stall: Household
goods
Proceeds to: ShelterBox



St Mary's Church Coffee Shop is held in the Church Room on the third Monday of each month from **9:30am to 11:30am**. If you haven't been to the Coffee Shop before why not call in! We make good coffee and delicious home-made cakes. We do not charge for refreshments but instead suggest a donation, however small, to the charity of the month. All the coffee, tea, cakes and items for the stall are donated, so every penny goes direct to the chosen charity. Each month we have a themed stall and in September it will be Household Goods. Items for the stall can be given to any of the Coffee Shop Team at church or brought along on the day. We look forward to seeing you!

ShelterBox exists to ensure no one is without shelter after disaster. They often work in places that others don't, making sure that they reach families who need support to take the next step in resuming their livelihoods. By providing emergency shelter and tools for families robbed of their homes by disaster, they're transforming despair into hope. From Cameroon to Syria, all the way to the Philippines and the Caribbean, ShelterBox has provided shelter to over three million people so far. They won't stop until they see a world where no family goes without shelter after disaster.

August total for Christopher's
Children's Hospice £280.00
Thank you for your very generous support

St. Mary's Memory Locketts

If when we think of lockets and the precious memories contained within them, how sometimes the glass gets cracked or the photos fade, we continue to treasure the contents as a valued part of who we are. On the last Sunday of the month at 3pm, St Mary's will play host to tea in the chapel area of the Church Rooms for an hour. If you are holding tight to personal memories of loved ones, to broken dreams or a way of life now lost to you and would like to share some memories in a small informal group please consider coming along. You might like to bring an item or photo along that is meaningful to you and that reminds you of past times. Be assured of a warm welcome and a compassionate listening ear and tea/coffee and cake.

What's not to like!

Next meeting Sunday 27 September.

Anne Haynes Charity

Late summer sees many of the young people in Send and Ripley taking the next step in their preparation for earning their own living. For some this means apprenticeships, for others it means some further or higher education course. But all of these are eligible for an **"Anne Haynes Grant"**.

This fund has been available since 1702 when Dame Anne Haynes donated a sum to assist children in apprenticeships. The Charity Commission now says of the charity "the interest earned is distributed to young people to help in their further education". A meeting is held annually in the Autumn to administer the available funds which is shared among the young people who qualify and apply for the grant.

The criteria for young people to qualify is that they must live in the Parish of Send or Ripley, they must be under 21 and the money must be used to further their education and prepare them for the workplace.

Two trustees have been appointed to administer and distribute available funds from the charity. Rowland Cornell represents Ripley Parish and Arthur Thomas represents Send Parish.

If any young person, their parent or guardian wishes to apply for funding, please apply with details by email to:-

Arthur Thomas [for Send Parish] jillarty1@gmail.com or

Rowland Cornell [for Ripley Parish] rowlandcornell@ripleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

NEURODIVERSITY BASKET

New - for every service at St Mary's there is now a neurodiversity basket in the porch, containing items such as ear defenders, small whiteboards for creativity and fidget spinners. Please help yourself to anything in the basket that will help you to feel comfortable and to get the most out of your time at St Mary's. The basket is for the young and the not so young. We want everyone to feel welcome and included at St Mary's.



NATIONAL FOOD BANK DAY 2006

A day dedicated to raising awareness of food insecurity and encouraging donations and volunteering at local food banks.

National Food Bank Day is always observed on the first Friday of September, which falls on 4 September 2026. It is a day dedicated to raising awareness about hunger, supporting local food banks, and honouring volunteers. St Mary's currently supports Runnymede Foodbank where some members of our congregation volunteer. We have a collection box in the porch each Sunday for donations to the Foodbank.

How to Participate

- **Donate items**
Give non-perishable goods like tinned meat, vegetables, pasta, and cereal. Details of items currently needed at the Runnymede foodbank are advertised in the weekly newsletter.
- **Volunteer time**
Offer help at a local distribution centre or warehouse.
- **Run a food drive**
Organize a collection at your workplace, school, or community group.
- **Financial donations**
These enable the Foodbank to purchase any items in short supply. One-off or recurring payments can be made with Gift Aid as applicable.
<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/13203>
- **All-year need**
While the day highlights food insecurity, support is needed 365 days a year.

SEND MU

Our next meeting will be on Monday 7 September when we will be finalising arrangements for our 150th party, which will take place on Saturday 12 September. Full details can be found on page 9.

Rachel (rachelwlk.mobile@gmail.com)
or Helen (helengalvin467@gmail.com)



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Christian care for families

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Saturday 12th September 2026 



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SEND GARDENING SOCIETY by Linda Davis

September is the month of bounty when it comes to harvesting the rewards of your edible gardening efforts. Apples, pears, plums, and berries should be ripe and ready for picking. Likewise, many vegetables such as pumpkins, squash, carrots, and beans are at their peak. Harvesting these crops at the right time ensures the best flavour and quality. If you are growing your own tomatoes, peppers, pumpkins, collect their seeds to cut down on costs and connect more closely to the full lifecycle of your crops.

Now is the time to split or divide herbaceous perennials that will form the structural foundation of next year's displays. These long-term investments, which typically last for decades, reward autumn planting with stronger root systems and earlier flowering. By planting the majority of your garden with herbaceous perennials which are packed full of pollen and nectar for wildlife it will cut down on your carbon footprint compared to annuals, which need growing every year with fresh compost, water, etc. Now is the time to plant a mixture of early, mid, and late varieties of snowdrops, crocuses, muscari and daffodils for continuous displays from February through until May. Spring bulbs also provide much-needed pollen and early nectar for honeybees and other wildlife.

Brassicas establish well in late summer conditions and provide essential fresh greens throughout winter. Winter Cabbage varieties planted out earlier mature perfectly for winter harvests. 'January King' develops stunning purple-tinged leaves that are not only delicious but provide ornamental value in winter vegetable plots.

At the time of writing, we are still waiting for rain, the lawns are scorched, water butts are empty, many plants look sad with some hedges and trees also suffering. As disappointing as it has been to see plants wilt and wither this year, watching Mother Nature is still fascinating and brings variety to life. Think about what has worked in your garden so you can repeat next year. September is a good month for ornamental grasses flowering so watch them catch and reflect the low autumn light around the garden. There is still colour from late season perennials like Rudbeckias, Heleniums and Japanese Anemones, plus bright red Rowan berries for the birds, so the outlook is still good. Butterflies and bees will thank you for growing a range of late-flowering nectar plants, such as Buddleia, Abelia, Dahlias, Salvias, Sedum and Verbena bonariensis. Leave a few small piles of leaves in tucked away spots on the ground as shelter for overwintering wildlife. Embrace the crisp air and changing colours, and make the most of this transitional period in the gardening calendar.



We do not meet in September so our next meeting will be Wednesday 7th October when Tim Woodland will be speaking to us about 'Summer bulbs'. We can be reached by e-mail at f.veybrookcollett@gmail.com or by phone on 01483 765730 (Secretary Fiona Collett) or by coming along to our next meeting. We are not experts, just a bunch of people who enjoy tending our gardens and trying new ideas. We hold bi-monthly meetings at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of alternate months at the Church Rooms, with speakers who are experts and teach us something about the art of gardening.

Could you use a bit of extra help?

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THE BELLS OF ST MARY'S!

We have wonderful news for all of you who have been eagerly asking "When will we hear the beautiful bells again?" The wait is over! Starting on Thursday 13 August, our bells will be rung every week from 7.30pm to 9.00pm. There may also be some Sunday morning ringing before our 10.30am service.

This opportunity arose because West Clandon Church will be out of action for approximately 7-8 months. The tower captain there reached out, knowing we had not been ringing, and asked if they could use our bells. Of course, I agreed! This arrangement will also provide our new ringers from Send the chance to gain more practice on their own bells. In turn, this will help them continue ringing at St Mary's once the Clandon ringers return to their own tower in the spring of next year.

Rachel Wilkinson
Tower Captain, St Mary's

Sunday Club and YAC news September 2026

On Sunday 19 July Sunday Club and YAC members and their families celebrated the end of the year by attending and taking part in an All Age service of Holy Communion in church. The service was based around the ROOTS on the Web teaching materials that we use at each of our meetings. The session for that day was based on Jacob's dream about a stairway to the sky. When he woke up from his dream Jacob said "God is in this place". SC and YAC leaders Jane and Mary explored the vivid nature of Jacob's dream with an activity using 5 of our senses to remind us that God was with us in St Mary's that morning as he is in everyday of our lives. It reminded us of God's presence in everything. The activity was based on five Bible verses. Here is a summary.

Taste 'O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.' (Ps. 34:8) For this we tasted some very sweet grapes.

Sight 'for it is your own eyes that have seen every great deed that the Lord did'. (Deut. 11:7) Jacob saw everything in his dream very clearly. We looked around us at the church building to see if we could spot something which we don't usually notice and we also pointed to our favourite bit of St Mary's.

Touch 'Jesus reached out and touched the leper. "I am willing" he said "be healed". Instantly the leprosy disappeared.' (Matt. 8:3) We heard how God promised Jacob that he would stay with him and protect him wherever he went. We reached out to someone sitting near us - with their permission of course - and touched them, thinking how reassuring it is to know that someone is with us when we are worried or afraid and remembering that God is always with us

Hearing 'And Jesus said, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!"' (Mark. 4:9) We listened to a Robin singing and asked ourselves how good we are at hearing God's voice. Sometimes we are so busy we do not stop and pause to listen

Smell 'For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ'. (2 Cor. 2:15) We took a sprig of Rosemary and were asked what memories rushed back as we smelled it. Churches all have a particular smell - sometimes in a church it is of incense or possibly the coffee brewing for refreshments at the end of the service

After the activity we sang the hymn "How great thou art" thinking about the awesomeness that we can taste, see, touch, hear and smell in God's creation. Our annual church family picnic in the churchyard followed the service on a beautiful sunny afternoon.

Soon afterwards the SC and YAC leaders, along with Rev Louise and Helen, one of our Churchwardens, met to review the past year and plan our programme for the autumn term. The nativity service was, of course, discussed and is planned for Sunday 6 December 2026. The title is yet to be confirmed but we know in advance that Mary will be writing an amazing script and that all our young people will be fantastic in their roles. They are all very talented in so many ways. During the summer term one of our YAC members, Alexander, rehearsed and performed in a very successful production of "Cats". Then during the summer break two of our young members, Enora and Indira, took part in the G LIVE Summer Youth Project 2026 and performed in a production of Shrek the Musical. Well done to all three of them.

Sunday Club and YAC restart on Sunday 13 September. Let us know at sundayclub@sendparishchurch.co.uk if you'd like to join us! Sunday Club is for age 3-12 and YAC is for secondary school aged children.

Sunday Club and YAC Programme Autumn Term 2026			
	Sunday Club 10.30 am		YAC 6.00 pm
13 September	SC Session 1	Go with God Exodus 14: 19 – 31 	YAC Session 1
20 September	All together service at 10.30 am at Send Primary School celebrating the school's 10 th Anniversary		
27 September	SC Session 2	Moses the Middleman Exodus 17: 1-7	
11 October	Harvest Festival service at church followed by harvest lunch		
17 October – 1 November	Half term		
1 November	SC session 3	Living legacy Deuteronomy 34: 1- 12	
8 November	SC session 4	Looking forward, looking back Joshua 24: 1-3a and 14 - 25	YAC session 2
Saturday 21 November	St Mary's Christmas Fair		
Sunday 22 November	Christ the King – Stir up service in Church Rooms at 10.30 am		
29 November 10.30 am	Nativity rehearsal in Church Rooms		
Saturday 5 December	Nativity dress rehearsal in Church Time to be confirmed		
Sunday 6 December	Nativity in church at 10.30 am		
All children aged 3 to 12 are very welcome to join us at Sunday Club. YAC welcomes all those in school year 7 and above. If you want to get in touch about coming to a meeting please follow one of these links: sundayclub@sendparishchurch.co.uk yac@sendparishchurch.co.uk All images - © Roots for Churches Ltd (www.rootsforchurches.com) 2002-2026. Reproduced with permission.			

The Bible Course

NEW EDITION



We are running *The Bible Course* New Edition, and *you are invited to join.*



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WHERE

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WHEN

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7.30pm – 9.00pm
Dates:
21st & 28th September
5th & 12th October
2nd, 16th, 23rd & 30th November

About the Course

A friendly and welcoming course exploring the big story of the Bible and how it fits together. Whether you know a little or a lot, you are very welcome to come along.

To register your interest or
find out more, get in touch with
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Saint Mary's recommitment to being a Fairtrade Place of Worship



Places of worship in the UK have been at the heart of the success of Fairtrade for many years. The Bible has a lot to say about trade. In Psalm 33 verse 5 we read "The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love". God calls each one of us to love others as we love ourselves. Fairtrade offers us all the opportunity to "do it fair" and to show our love towards others.

At their meeting in July, Saint Mary's PCC made the decision that Saint Mary's Church is to renew its commitment to being a Fairtrade Place of Worship. This process has begun and it will take two years to gather the required evidence, submit an application and achieve recognition that St Mary's is a committed Fairtrade Place of Worship.

To achieve Fairtrade status and be able to celebrate this in two year's time, we need to do two things starting now:

- Use Fairtrade products - at least tea, coffee and sugar - after services and at all meetings and events for which St Mary's has responsibility and share this information with the wider congregation.
- Integrate Fairtrade into the life and worship of St Mary's at Fairtrade Fortnight or at other events during the year.

Fairtrade Fortnight this year runs from Monday 21 September to Sunday 4 October 2026. The theme is "Do it Fair " focusing on three core pillars: for People, for Planet and for Fair Pay.

For people: encouraging everyone to support sustainable and ethical choices.

For planet: raising awareness of the climate crisis. Highlighting the struggles of farmers and workers facing environmental challenges.

For fair pay: promoting living wages/fair pay and better working conditions for developing world communities.

We are focusing on our recommitment journey in our worship at the 10.30 am service of Holy Communion on Sunday 27 September to which all are very welcome.





From the Archives

The following article appeared in the Parish Magazine in September 2004. The advice still applies to youngsters starting school at Send Primary School this year!

I wonder where the authors are now?

Advice to the children joining Send First School

from the children who are leaving

"It's fun at school" - Tim Y.

"The work is exciting" - Bryce

"If you try you can learn to do lots of different things" - Joshua

"You succeed in doing harder and harder work" - Elizabeth

"As you get older you learn more and more" - Rachel

"If you listen the work will be easy" - Matthew

"If you think you can't do it just try it" - Mikey

"You learn more and more each year" - Tim J.

Try your best" - Katie

Dear God,

As this new school year begins, we ask for your wisdom, peace, and protection.

Bless all students with eager minds and courage.

Guide their teachers with patience and strength.

Fill every classroom with safety, kindness, and the joy of learning.

Amen.

September Services and Events

St Mary's church serves the whole parish community. People of all faiths and no faith are welcome. For questions about faith or life events please contact Rev Louise: vicar@sendparishchurch.co.uk

Wednesday 2 September

10am-12 Small Steps (see page 5)

6 September - Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion - Rev James Luckey

10.30am Holy Communion - Fr Gerard Mee

Wednesday 9 September

10am-12 Small Steps

Saturday 12 September

from 2pm MU 150th Cream Tea (see page 9)

13 September - Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 16 September

10am-12 Small Steps

2pm Strollers (see page 5)

20 September - Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

10.30am 10th Anniversary All Together service at Send CofE Primary School, with Bishop Paul

Monday 21 September

9.30-11.30 Coffee Shop (see page 6)

7.30-9.00 The Bible Course - session 1 (see page 14)

Wednesday 23 September

10am-12 Small Steps

27 September - Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Holy Communion marking Fair Trade Sunday

3pm Memory Locketts (see page 6)

Monday 28th September

7.30-9.00 The Bible Course - session 2 (see page 14)

Wednesday 30 September

10am-12 Small Steps

2-4pm Craft & Chat (see page 5)

For Morning Prayer details please see the weekly Green Sheet which you can subscribe to by emailing news@sendparishchurch.co.uk

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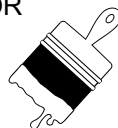
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