

David Weightman who conducted the service at St Nicholas' Church.

Accompanying the donkeys were a group of villagers who carried palms as they walked the windy and wet route to the church. The donkeys were led to the west door where members of the congregation, including children, came out to greet and admire the donkeys. Every year the donkeys take part in the lead up to the Palm Sunday service.

### Oh what a night!

THE local Lions Jersey Boys and Girls concert which was held in the concert Hall at Caterham School was a fantastic success.

The tribute band played to a packed house that made up a very enthusiastic audience.

On leaving, some people said it was the best concert, of quite a few, that the Lions had held. It was agreed that it was a great night and the Lions expect that a good sum will have been collected for local worthy causes.

After the concert, members of the band mixed with the audience in the foyer where they were congratulated on their performance.

Tony Carter, one of the Lions, said that he watched the real Jersey Boys on TV the following day and said that there was nothing to choose between them!

## Caterham

### First farmers' market

THE first farmers' market took place at the Soper Hall on Sunday and the town's foodies were treated to an array of fresh, local food and drink from within a 30-mile radius.

Despite the rainy blustery weather, residents turned out in numbers to snap up the delicious produce on offer and helped to support the restoration of the Soper Hall.

Stallholders at the inaugural event included Nutfield's Chalk Hills Bakery, Halliloo Longhorn beef from Woldingham, ciders, wines and juices from Merstham's Iron Railway Vineyard, artisan chocolates by Cocoa Bombon and handcrafted cakes from The Cake House.

Bartie's Sussex Faire and Green Apron served up a wide range of jams, chutneys and preserves and Godstone's Glebe House had its home-produced honey on offer.

High Weald Dairy brought along its ever-popular cheeses and SS Patisserie set out a stunning array of pies, flans and pastries. West Fisher Winery also brought its wines from just up the road in Chelsham and The Little Honey Bee Company rounded out the sellers with a range of honey and beeswax bath and body products.

The event was organised by volunteer Charlotte Drinkwater and supported by Nutfield-based organisation Local Food Britain, whose founder Tracy Carroll greeted shoppers at the market.

"I'm very pleased with how the first market has gone," said Charlotte. "The event is important to support local producers - there's nothing like this around here and the stallholders seem keen to support it as well as to support the Soper Hall. This is a small part of our plans to make the hall sustainable and interesting for the local community."

"It was great to see so many people coming out to support their local producers."

"It's clear that Caterham has been in need of an event like this for some time, and we're looking forward to seeing it grow into a successful regular market."

"This is not only a fantastic way for people to support small producers and their local economy, but as the proceeds are going to the restoration and maintenance of the Soper Hall, it will also pave the way for many more community events."

Visitors to the market were just as enthusiastic.

"There is a good selection of produce," said Julie Candy of Harestone Valley Road. "It's all about buying local."

The next event will take place on Sunday, May 3, over the bank holiday weekend.

Find out more about events at the Soper Hall at [www.soperhall.org.uk](http://www.soperhall.org.uk) and for more information about local food in Surrey and Sussex, visit [www.localfoodbritain.com](http://www.localfoodbritain.com).

## Bletchingley

### Lady Day

ON THE Feast of the Annunciation of Our Lord, on March 25, traditionally known as "Lady Day" in the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Bletchingley, the newly resorted statue of Our Lady and the Child Jesus was blessed and rededicated by the Right Rev. Jonathon Clark, Bishop of Croydon, writes *Ann Lardeur*.

The ceremony took place within the Sung Eucharist, Bishop Jonathon wearing a beautiful white chasuble with an embroidered front panel showing the Madonna and child and the back bearing the emblem M and a lily both in gold.

In his sermon he said that the many titles given to Mary, including Star of the Sea, Mystical Rose, and Queen of Heaven, detached her in our minds for the real bodily existence from the rest of humanity.

Our bodies are part of our identity and remain so in eternity, he said: The belief in the resurrection of the body is fundamental to the Creed we proclaim.

The Catholic Parish of the Nativity of the Lord has a long association with Bletchingley's Parish Church. Members of the Catholic community were present. People mingled afterwards with full glasses and an array of nibbles.

**BLESSING:** The ceremony at St Mary's Church, Bletchingley

Photo by Ann Lardeur



**MMM! VERY TASTY:** Visitors try out the food on offer at the first farmers' market to be held at The Soper Hall, Caterham, on Sunday



**TRY THIS:** Above, John Dicken of Iron Railway vineyard, Merstham, with some of his home-produced wines

**IN CHARGE:** Left, farmers' market manager Charlotte Drinkwater seen at the event in Soper Hall on Sunday



**SWEET SUCCESS:** Honey from Godstone was on show



**HOME PRODUCE:** Emma Fuller from At The Cakehouse, Dorking, was just one of the many stallholders who set up at Soper Hall on Sunday