



NEWSLETTER

Trinity 12/13

Sunday 23rd August

8am BCP Holy Communion – Church
10am Holiday Club Service – Church (Livestreamed)

Wednesday 26th August

NO Wednesday Coffee Club
10.30am Holy Communion Service – Centre

Sunday 30th August

8am BCP Holy Communion – Church
10am Parish Communion – Church (Livestreamed)
Sparks 5-11s group

Wednesday 2nd September

10.15am Wednesday Coffee Club
10.30am Holy Communion Service – Centre

Friday 4th September

NO Choir Practice

Saturday 5th September

9.30am Churchyard Tidy Up

Sunday 6th September

8am BCP Holy Communion – Church
10am All Age Service with Blessing of Backpacks – Church
(Livestreamed)
(Please take this news sheet home with you)

Regular Calendar Events

(in the Centre unless mentioned otherwise)

Sundays	8am Holy Communion - Church 10am Parish Communion - Church
Mondays	9.15am Glow Toddlers (not during August)
Tuesdays	7.30-9pm Bell Ringing Practice
Wednesdays	10.15am Wednesday Coffee Club (returns on 2nd Sept) 10.30am Holy Communion Service 5pm Youth Café (term time only)
Fridays	3pm Choir Practice (no practice until 11th September)

Other Calendar Events

(in the Centre unless mentioned otherwise)

September

Sun 13 th Sept	Sparks 5-11s group - during 10am service in church
Sun 13 th Sept	Pet Service 3pm in church
Sun 20 th Sept	Inter-Church 4pm in church
Sun 27 th Sept	Sparks 5-11s group - during 10am service in church

October

Sat 3 rd Oct	Churchyard Tidy-up 9.30 am
Sun 4 th Oct	Harvest Lunch
Sat 10 th Oct	Women-in-Fellowship breakfast
Sun 18 th Oct	Inter-Church 4pm in church

Sunday 23rd August

Hymns

721 Love divine
Game Changers
God who made the Universe
667 I danced in the morning

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear than we to pray
and to give more than either we desire or deserve:
pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid
and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask
but through the merits and mediation
of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
or
God of constant mercy,
who sent your Son to save us:
remind us of your goodness,
increase your grace within us,
that our thankfulness may grow,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reading

Romans 12.1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Gospel

Matthew 16.13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Readings next week:

Romans 12.9-end

Matthew 16.21-end

Post Communion Prayer

God of all mercy,
in this eucharist you have set aside our sins
and given us your healing:
grant that we who are made whole in Christ
may bring that healing to this broken world,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Sick or in need - Amelia Butler, Sophie, Siobhan Parker, Shirley Harrington

Departed - Eileen Enderson

Sunday 30th August

Hymns

676 Immortal, invisible God only wise
384 O Christ the Word incarnate
510 Will you come and follow me
589 Angel voices ever singing

Collect

Almighty God,
who called your Church to bear witness
that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself:
help us to proclaim the good news of your love,
that all who hear it may be drawn to you;
through him who was lifted up on the cross,
and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

or

Almighty God,
you search us and know us:
may we rely on you in strength
and rest on you in weakness,
now and in all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reading

Romans 12.9-end

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Gospel

Matthew 16.21-end

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? 'For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

Readings next week:

Romans 13: 8-end

Matthew 18 15-20

Post Communion Prayer

God our creator,
you feed your children with the true manna,
the living bread from heaven:
let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage
until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Sick or in need - Amelia Butler, Sophie, Siobhan Parker, Shirley Harrington

Departed - Eileen Enderson

NEWS

The church remains closed until further notice other than for scheduled services. If you would like to go into church, please come to the Parish Office and we can open the church for you.

The Parish Office will be closed 24th to 28th August due to annual leave.

Mission Rescue Holiday Club - Mission Accomplished!

What an amazing week we have had! Over 50 wonderful volunteers have helped to make this year's Holiday Club possible, as we became secret agents and followed the story of Moses through ****Mission Rescue****!

From Bible stories in the Bible Briefing room, to crafts in Q's Lab, games with the Field Ops, singing, drama and team challenges, there has been so much fun, laughter and learning along the way. And, as usual, that was just the adults!

A huge thank you to everyone who gave up their time to prepare, plan, decorate, lead activities, make cups of tea, tell stories, play games, pray and encourage our children. Holiday Club simply wouldn't happen without the incredible team of people who give so generously of their time and energy.

We are so grateful for everyone who helped make this week such a special one for the children - and we hope you had as much fun as we did! We do hope you will all be able to join us for our holiday club celebration service this Sunday at 10:00!

Sunday 10am Livestreaming

Our Sunday 10am livestreamed service has moved from Facebook to YouTube as of 16th August. If you wish to watch the livestream then you need to go to our website and click on the red box at the top right. That will then show you a page which has our logo on it. If the logo is framed in RED then the livestream is working. Or click on the link if you are reading this newsletter online.

[St. John's Merrow - YouTube](#)

Friends of St John's Heritage Open Days event 19th & 20th September

The church will be open on Saturday 19th September from 10am to 4pm with guided tours at 10:30am, 12:30pm and 2:30pm, and on Sunday 20th September from 11:30am to 3:30pm with guided tours at 12:00pm and 2pm.



As well as joining one of the guided tours, visitors can explore the church interior, learn about the pipe organ, follow the trail around the war memorial and war graves, and watch the ringers in action in the bell tower. There will also be a range of displays about the history of the church and the site, interesting artefacts (did you know that St John's has a copy of the rare 'Vinegar Bible' printed in 1717, named for its famous misprint in Luke Ch 20?) and connections with the Merrow community.

This will be a rare opportunity to explore parts of the church not usually open to the public and to learn more about the Friends' current and recently-completed heritage projects.

And if all of that leaves you feeling in need of a cup of tea and a biscuit, refreshments will be available throughout the day!

Men-in-Fellowship Autumn/Winter Calendar of Events

Your Men-in-Fellowship team have been busy planning events for later in 2026 and here is a summary of what's coming.....



Saturday 26th September (8.30am)

- Breakfast Meeting with Dan Frith on a talk entitled "Why Food Banks are necessary in the 21st Century"

Thursday 15th October (18.30)

- Evening games entertainment at Mulligan's (crazy golf and electro shuffle) followed by pizza at a local restaurant

Saturday 7th November (evening)

- Pub Social Night with a curry aimed at new and established members

Thursday 10th December (morning & lunchtime)

- A local walk followed by Christmas Pub Lunch together

Please save the dates and we hope you can join us. More details will follow, but in the meantime please contact Robert robertavis@raavis.plus.com or Richard Richard.burtonwood@saintjohns.org.uk if you need more information.

Women in Fellowship upcoming Events

Your Women-in-Fellowship team are busy planning events for 2026 and here is a summary of what you can look forward to....

- **Saturday 10th October - 8.30 am** - Breakfast & talk

If you wish to know more about the Women-In-Fellowship or the events, please contact Carole Burtonwood carole.burtonwood@saintjohns.org.uk or Lindsay Dobson treasurer@saintjohns.org.uk



Opportunities Booklet - St John's

'Opportunities to join in the life of St John's' booklet! Please help yourselves to one at the back of church or in the Church Centre.

Old Reading Glasses – Do you have any old reading glasses lying around your house? I am collecting old glasses to take over to the funeral directors, James & Thomas as they have a collection box. Please either bring to the office or leave them on the table next to the Food Bank basket if the office is not open.

Wednesday Morning Coffee Club

Coffee club is now closed until September. But please come and join me at Edwins Garden Centre at Clandon Park on 26th August at 11.30am. Everyone is welcome to join me, members & non-members, there is no need to book, just turn up! Should you have any queries, please contact Gerald Hunt at merrowcoffeemorning@hotmail.com or call on 07545256114

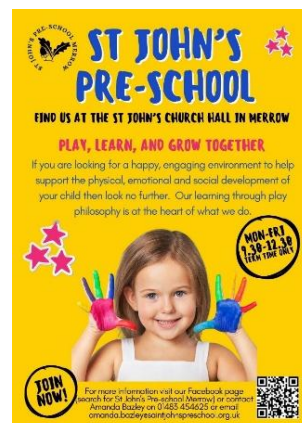


St John's Pre-School

Are you looking for a nursery place for your little ones for this September?

We have the St John's Pre-School here at the St John's Centre.

Contact Amanda Bazley on 01483 454625 for more details



Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care in a church should be something we all share, even if some people take a lead on it through training and their personal gifts. We have a vision of Christ-centred pastoral care as a major element of the life of any church, along with worship and teaching. At St. John's, the whole church family aims to care for each other. If you know anyone who would like to be visited (at home or in hospital) or receive communion at home, please let Tim know.

Regular Giving at St John's

Do you give to St John's in the collection pouch on Sundays, or use the card machine at the back of church? If so, would you consider giving regularly by direct debit instead? Having the regularity of giving helps us considerably in terms of planning and budgeting, and it is easier for you too! If you are interested to find out more, please scan this QR code or speak with Tim, or Martin Thompson (giftaid@saintjohns.org.uk).



Food Bank

The food bank would greatly appreciate donations of

- Tinned Fish
- Tinned Fruit
- Long Life Puddings
- Biscuits
- Shower Gel
- Shampoo & Conditioner

Please put donations in the boxes in the Church Centre, thank you. The QR code can be used for monetary donations to the food bank.



Baby Basics

The donation point will be open Monday - Friday 9am - 1pm, outside the Church Centre to the left of the main door

Please refer to our baby basics website/Facebook page for a list of items that we accept. Please refrain from leaving other items as space is limited.

We are currently well stocked but do need following items and donations would be greatly appreciated.

- *Mother and Baby Toiletries, Baby Wipes, Baby Sleeping Bags, Prams*

If you have prams or larger items to donate, please get in contact before dropping off these items.

We are looking for volunteers to wash the baby clothes that people donate. If you think you can help, then please contact Robyn at babybasics@saintjohns.org.uk.

If you would like to know more about Baby Basics, please email babybasics@saintjohns.org.uk, or if you would like to contribute financially to the work we do, please visit www.saintjohns.org.uk/babybasics. Thank you.



This Newsletter - content

If you have anything to advertise, or news from the Church family or community for this newsletter, please email office@saintjohns.org.uk by Tuesday each week. Please be aware that anything you ask to be advertised in the newsletter may also appear on Facebook and our website. If you do not wish to have personal details advertised, then please make it clear when asking to have items advertised in the newsletter. Many Thanks, Sandra.

CONTACTS

Please note the following Parish Office opening times:

The office will be closed from Monday 24th August until Friday 28th August

Sandra: Mon, Wed, Fri (9am to 1pm)

Barry: Tues, Thur, Fri (9am to 1pm) Wed (9am to 12noon)

Rector: Rev. Tim Clifford Hill
(days off: whole Fri, & Sat am)

rector@saintjohns.org.uk
01483 951649

Youth & Families Minister:
Georgie Gregson (days off: Fri & Sat)

youthworker@saintjohns.org.uk
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Parish Administrator:
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01483 454621

Centre Manager (inc Room Bookings):
Barry Dickinson

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Churchwarden:
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Churchwarden:
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Deputy Churchwarden:
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Treasurer:
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Organist & Choir Director:
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Coffee Club:
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