



# NEWSLETTER

## 2 Before Lent

### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February**

8am Holy Communion - Church  
10am Parish Communion - Church (Livestreamed)  
Sparks 5-11s Group

### **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February**

9.15am Glow Toddlers - Centre

### **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February**

4pm Green Team - Centre

### **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February**

10.15am Wednesday Coffee Club - Centre  
10.30am Holy Communion Service - Centre  
5pm Youth Café - Centre

### **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February**

3pm Choir Practice - Centre

### **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February**

8am Holy Communion - Church  
10am Parish Communion - Church (Livestreamed)  
4pm Inter-Church

*(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
Tuesdays	7.30-9pm Bell Ringing Practice
Wednesdays	10.15am Wednesday Coffee Club 10.30am Holy Communion Service 5pm Youth Café
Fridays	3pm Choir Practice

## **Other Calendar Events**

(in the Centre unless mentioned otherwise)

### **February**

Tues 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Pancake Party 4pm
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Ash Wednesday Family Service 3pm in Church
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Friends of St. Johns Quiz 7pm
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	Sparks 5-11s group - during 10am service in church
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Green Team 4pm - Cancelled
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Lent Lunch
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Lent Course
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Melissa James Concert in Church

### **March**

Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Lent Course
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Sparks 5-11s group - during 10am service in church
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Green Team 4pm
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Lent Course
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Mothering Sunday Posie Making 9.30am
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Lent Course
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	Sparks 5-11s group - during 10am service in church
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	Inter-Church 4pm in Church
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Green Team 4pm
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Lent Course
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Men-in-Fellowship - Darts Evening - Mulligans 5.30-7.30pm
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Sparks 5-11s group - during 10am service in church

## **Hymns**

- 362 Come, let us join our cheerful songs
- 381 God in his wisdom
- 453 Lord enthroned in heavenly splendour
- 595 Be thou my vision

## **Collect**

Almighty God,  
you have created the heavens and the earth  
and made us in your own image:  
teach us to discern your hand in all your works  
and your likeness in all your children;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things,  
now and for ever.

or

Almighty God,  
give us reverence for all creation  
and respect for every person,  
that we may mirror your likeness  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **Reading**

## **Romans 8.18-25**

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

## **Gospel**

**Matthew 6.25-end**

'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

'So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

## **Readings next week:**

2 Peter 1.16-end

Matthew 17.1-9

## **Post Communion Prayer**

God our creator,

by your gift

the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise,  
and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:

may we who have been nourished at your table on earth  
be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross  
and enjoy the delights of eternity;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **FOR YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK**

**Sick or in need** - Ben, Amelia Butler, Sophie

**Departed** - Jean Lockwood, Bunty Coates, Michael Stoughton, Rita Pemberton

# NEWS

Our Deputy Church Warden, Michael Eagle and Verger, Helen Chambers have just returned from a fabulous month in New Zealand. They visited Christchurch and the Cardboard Cathedral. This transitional (cardboard) Cathedral in Christchurch was built while a decision is made on what to do with the old cathedral that suffered so badly in the 2011 earthquake. They found this prayer whilst inside and wanted to share it with everyone.

## Prayer for Peace

God of many names  
Lover of all peoples;  
we pray for peace in our nations  
and in our world.

We pray for all who have the awesome responsibility  
of power and decision-making.

We pray for the innocent victims of violence and war.

Lead us and all the peoples of the world  
from death to life, from falsehood to truth.

Lead us from despair to hope,  
from fear to trust.

Lead us from hate to love,  
from war to peace.

Let peace with justice fill our hearts,  
our world,  
our universe.



## **Magazine Subscriptions - Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February - last day**

Just a reminder to the magazine distributors that the subscriptions need to be in by Wednesday 11th February. Let me know if you have any difficulties. Thank you. Rosanne

## **Pancake Party - Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 4-5.30pm**

Pop into the Church Centre on Pancake Day to enjoy some home make pancakes served with your favourite toppings.

Everyone is welcome!

It's free, but we would be grateful if you would like to make a donation.



## **Friends of St John's - Quiz Night 20<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm**

The Friends of St John's team will be hosting a Quiz Night on Friday 20th February at 7.30pm. Tickets can be purchased from their website [www.fostj.org.quiz](http://www.fostj.org.quiz).

Funds raised will support the renovation and repair of our historic Church building and graveyard.



## **Choir during Communion - Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 10am**

On one Sunday in each month, we ask members of our congregation to gather in a choir of singers, to sing a hymn during communion. This choir consists of members of our church choir and anyone else who wishes to join in! If you wish to sing, please arrive at church at 9.30am on Sunday for a run-through before the 10am service if you can. Contact Micky or Tim for more information.

22<sup>nd</sup> February: 451 Just as I am (tune 1)

## **Lent Lunches**

We are holding 2 Lent lunches this year. One on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February and the other on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March. Sign-up sheets will be at the back of church on Sundays nearer the time.

## Lent Courses

Have you ever wanted to ask some big questions about faith? This year our Lent Course 2026 will enable you to do so!

Normally churches use national resources for a Lent course but this year we at St. John's have devised our own course which enables us to ask the big questions about our faith. The course is entitled **Big Questions 2026**.

**How will it work?** We will leave forms and a post box on the font in church. If you have a big question to ask, please fill in a form and post it into the post box. The forms will be available to post from Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January. We will take note of all the questions and include as many as we can for the discussion and the forms will be anonymous.

At a Big Question evening the form will include some time for prayer, discussion and refreshment and will end with prayer too. The discussions will be led by me and one of the members of our ministry team.

### What will the question topics and dates be?

7-9pm - 25<sup>th</sup> February - The Bible

7-9pm - 4<sup>th</sup> March - Current Affairs

7-9pm - 11<sup>th</sup> March - Living out faith

7-9pm - 18<sup>th</sup> March - Decision making

7-9pm - 25<sup>th</sup> March - What would you ask Jesus?

There will be a sign-up sheet at the back of church on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January if you wish to come along to the course. You are welcome to come to one or more sessions. If you would like more information, please do get in touch with Tim.

## Men-in-Fellowship - February Social Event on 27<sup>th</sup> February

The Men-in-Fellowship continue to blend the serious and the light-hearted in our annual programme. So, this month we have planned a darts evening, which is a relaxed and fun, social evening at Mulligans Sports Bar, Guildford.

We've booked a couple of Dart Boards for exclusive use by the MiF which is limited to 12 of us (2 teams of 6 with no darts experience is necessary). It's known as Electro Darts, which is an "Electrifying twist on a pub classic with augmented reality games and dart tracking, Electro-Darts adds a real buzz to traditional darts." You'll be standing on the "Oche" before you know it.

There is a bar area that also serves food.

When: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026 from 5.30 – 7.30pm

Places are limited - reserve by contacting Richard

[Richard.burtonwood@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:Richard.burtonwood@saintjohns.org.uk) or Robert [robertavis@raavis.plus.com](mailto:robertavis@raavis.plus.com)



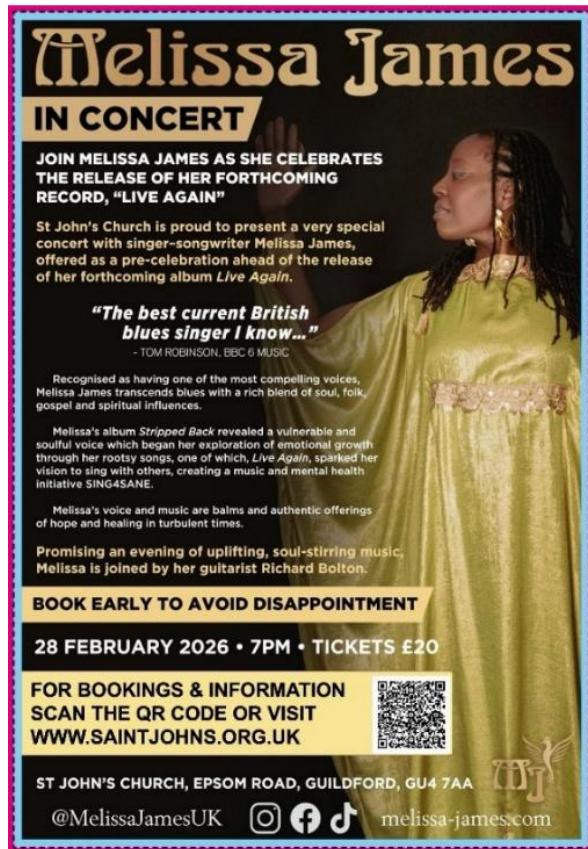
## Melissa James in Concert - 28<sup>th</sup> February 7pm

Have you got your tickets yet?

Come and join us on 28th February in church for a wonderful concert.

Check out the link for a preview of Melissa's music.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bsirLT5bAGY>



## Beating Hearts Merrow - Next Training Course 7<sup>th</sup> March at the St John's Centre, Merrow 10.30-11.30am

On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026, you are invited to a free Learn to Save a Life demonstration session.

Led by a highly experienced paramedic, you will learn what to do if someone collapses from a sudden cardiac arrest or a traumatic bleed. In one hour you will have the confidence to use an automated defibrillator and a Bleed Kit (now found in many defib cabinets). Questions and hands on practice.

Spaces are limited, so please register:

Email: [beatingheartsmerrow@outlook.com](mailto:beatingheartsmerrow@outlook.com) or text: 07590 045751

## Servers

The serving team has been pleased to welcome new members to the team who are settling well into the role. However, there is always room for others to join the team for both 8am and 10am communion and other occasional services. If this is something you would like to consider, please talk to Helen Chambers.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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](mailto:giftaid@saintjohns.org.uk)).



## St John's Pre-School

Are you looking for a nursery place for your little ones?  
We have the St John's Pre-School here at the St John's Centre.  
Contact Amanda Bazley on 01483 454625 for more details.



## Food Bank

The food bank would greatly appreciate donations of

- Tinned Meat
- Small Tinned Ham
- Cooking Oil
- Sugar 500g
- Toilet Rolls



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 do have a high demand for the following items and donations would be greatly appreciated.

- *baby toiletries (shampoo, body wash, lotion)*
- *mum toiletries (breast pads and maternity pads)*

If you have prams to donate, please get in contact before dropping off.

For more information email [babybasics@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:babybasics@saintjohns.org.uk), or if you would like to contribute financially to the work we do please visit [www.saintjohns.org.uk/babybasics](http://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](mailto: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:

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

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

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

[rector@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:rector@saintjohns.org.uk)  
01483 951649

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

[youthworker@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:youthworker@saintjohns.org.uk)

**Parish Administrator:**  
Sandra Rayner

[office@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:office@saintjohns.org.uk)  
01483 454621

**Centre Manager (inc Room Bookings):** [centremanager@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:centremanager@saintjohns.org.uk)  
Barry Dickinson 01483 454621

**Churchwarden:**  
Jane Farquharson

[jane.farquharson@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:jane.farquharson@saintjohns.org.uk)

**Churchwarden:**  
Cathy Thompson

[cathy.thompson@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:cathy.thompson@saintjohns.org.uk)

**Deputy Churchwarden:**  
Michael Eagle

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**Treasurer:**  
Lindsay Dobson

[treasurer@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@saintjohns.org.uk)

**Safeguarding Officer:**  
Rosanne Bond

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**Organist & Choir Director:**  
Micky Clare

[mickyclare2@icloud.com](mailto:mickyclare2@icloud.com)

**Coffee Club:**  
Gerald Hunt

[merrowcoffeemorning@hotmail.com](mailto:merrowcoffeemorning@hotmail.com)

**Bell Ringing:**  
Jane Farquharson

[jane.farquharson@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:jane.farquharson@saintjohns.org.uk)