

**ST JOHN'S MERROW**

**A place for the whole community to  
know God's love, grow in faith and  
live in hope.**

**PARISH MAGAZINE**

**January 2026**



**Price: 60p**

# Welcome to carefree living at Roundhay

*Live an independent life,*

*with the support of a House Manager, in the heart of Guildford*

- Assisted living rooms & flat-lets
- Delicious home cooked meals
- Friendly community
- Beautiful gardens
- Trips and activities
- One all inclusive monthly rent / no other bills



*Call our customer service line to find out more about living in this wonderful community*

**01252 979111**

or visit **[www.awvs.org.uk](http://www.awvs.org.uk)**

**Availability  
now...**

***Guildford's local Charity  
Improving the lives of older people***

**Roundhay, 3 Pit Farm Road ,Guildford, GU1 2JH**

**Registered Charity No: 1168173**

## Considering Volunteering?

Drivers needed for occasional local trips

Flexible on days - Mileage expenses paid

**01483 566635**



[www.careforguildford.org.uk](http://www.careforguildford.org.uk)

Charity No: 274756

**NJM (GUILDFORD) LTD**  
**Stationery ~ Print ~ Office Furniture**  
**B&W and Colour photocopying**

**Tel 01483 506161**

**Email: [sales@njmstationery.com](mailto:sales@njmstationery.com)**

## MERROW C of E INFANT SCHOOL



To find out more and arrange a visit  
please contact the school office:

[infant@merrowfederation.school](mailto:infant@merrowfederation.school)

[www.merrowfederation.school](http://www.merrowfederation.school)

**01483 561501**

## North Guildford Food Bank

We are very grateful for all  
donations - please leave  
items in the boxes in the foyer  
at the Church centre.

## F CONISBEE & SON

BUTCHERS & FARMERS EST. 1760

BEEF, LAMB, TURKEY FROM OUR OWN  
FARM. OWN CURE BACON & MUCH MORE

EAST HORSLEY 01483 282073

## BACK PROBLEMS, STRESS?

*Try our Hatha Yoga class,  
a gentle yoga which reaches  
all parts of the body and  
lays emphasis on  
stretching and relaxing*

**Mondays 10 - 11.30 am**

**Merrow Methodist Church Hall**

**Contact: Beverley Townsley**

**01372 459324**

**[beverley.townsley@hotmail.com](mailto:beverley.townsley@hotmail.com)**

## J & M GARDEN MACHINERY Ltd

**LAWN MOWER REPAIRS,  
SALES & SERVICE,  
STOCKISTS OF  
HAYTER\*STIHL\*KAWASAKI  
ALKO**

**BIRTLEY ROAD  
BRAMLEY, SURREY  
TEL 01483 894855**





## **Connick Tree Care**

*Specialist in the Preservation &  
Maintenance of Trees*

*We offer the following services and would be  
happy to supply a free no obligation  
quotation:*

**\* Tree Surgery \* Tree Felling \*  
\* Hedge Pruning \* Stump Removal \*  
\* Tree Consultancy \***

*16 Goldfinch Gardens, Merrow,  
Guildford, Surrey, GU4 7DN*

**0800 975 4535**

*Email: [info@connicktreecare.co.uk](mailto:info@connicktreecare.co.uk)*

[www.connicktreecare.co.uk](http://www.connicktreecare.co.uk)



### **PEACOCKS DELICATESSEN**

**Large selection of fresh fruit and vegetables**

**Cooked meats & cheese counter**

**Fresh bread & pastries daily from Hillyers**

**127 Collingwood Crescent Tel: 829768**

## **FUNERAL DIRECTORS & MEMORIAL STONEMASONS**

# **OUR FAMILY HELPING YOUR FAMILY**

For over 240 years, seven generations of the  
Lodge Family have been proud to help local families  
in their time of need. We provide all funerals,  
whether modern, traditional, green or alternative,  
with care and compassion.

### **BURPHAM**

204 London Road 01483 615031

### **GUILDFORD**

70 Woodbridge Road 01483 562780



Robert, Chris & Andrew Lodge



5.0 Excellent as of 08/25

*"An excellent service providing a compassionate  
funeral for our father. Lodge Brothers exceeded  
our expectations and demonstrated a depth of  
care that one would show to their own family."*

- J. Luxton

**Lodge**  
BROTHERS 1780  
& Monk

**Lodge**  
BROTHERS 1780  
the family you can turn to

[www.lodgebrothers.co.uk](http://www.lodgebrothers.co.uk)

**FLORAL TRIBUTES • FUNERAL PLANS • WILLS & PROBATE**



**FIRST  
SESSION  
FREE!**

Scan the code:



or email us:  
**info@motivation  
bymusic.com**

# MbM Contemporary Gospel Choir

Embracing the **person** behind the voice

Merrow, Guildford, Godalming, Woking and At Home.  
Daytime and evening sessions available.

Surrey's **vibrant** and **inclusive**  
adult community choir!



@motivationbymusic  
on socials

Led by inspiring **award-winning** Choir Leader and  
Founder of Motivation by Music, **Emily Bollon**.

## Alan Greenwood & Sons

**Your Local Truly Independent Family Funeral Directors**

[www.alangreenwoodfunerals.com](http://www.alangreenwoodfunerals.com)

**The Funeral Service that caters for everyone's needs**

*A choice of the latest Jaguar or Mercedes  
Hearses and Limousines  
Home visit arrangements  
Memorials Arranged  
Quality 24 hour Service*



*The Greenwood Family are directly  
involved in the running of the  
Company, you can be assured that  
your wishes will be carried out with  
precise attention to detail.*

**34 Madrid Road, Guildford, GU2 7NU**

**01483 449 554**

**66 Send Road, Send, Woking, GU23 7EU**

**01483 210 222**

### **ST JOHN'S CENTRE**

**222 Epsom Road, Merrow, Guildford, GU4 7AA**

**A great venue for your event!**

Good selection of rooms from the spacious Main Hall to the comfortable Meeting Room, and a large, fully equipped kitchen. Contact Barry Dickinson on 01483 454621 or email [centremanager@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:centremanager@saintjohns.org.uk)

# **St John the Evangelist**

Epsom Road, Merrow

*[www.saintjohns.org.uk](http://www.saintjohns.org.uk)*



The Revd Tim Clifford Hill  
Rector



Georgie Gregson  
Youth & Families  
Minister

**A Caring Christian Community, here for everyone**

**St John's is open every day from 9.30am to 4pm. Please feel welcome to visit us.**

Sunday services are listed on Page 2.

Services during the week:

Morning Prayer Monday to Thursday at 9am in Church.

Holy Communion on Wednesdays at 10.30am in the Merrow Hall, St John's Centre.

Evening Prayer on Fridays at 5pm in Church.

All are welcome.

## **January 2026 Services (Year A)**

### **Sunday 4th January**

Epiphany, White

*1 John 3.22-4.6, Matthew 4.12-17, 23-end*

8am BCP Holy Communion

10am All Age Worship for Epiphany

4pm Christingle

### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January**

Baptism of Christ, White

*Acts 10.34-43, Matthew 3.13-end*

8am BCP Holy Communion

10am CW Holy Communion

### **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January**

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany, White

*1 Corinthians 1.1-9, John 1.29-42*

8am BCP Holy Communion

10am CW Holy Communion

### **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany, White

*1 Corinthians 1.10-18, Matthew 4.12-23*

8am BCP Holy Communion

10am CW Holy Communion



## Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February

Presentation of Christ in the Temple, White

*2 Samuel 15.13-14 30 16.5-13, Mark 5.1-20*

8am BCP Holy Communion

10am All Age Worship

### FROM THE REGISTERS:

#### Wedding

13th December

Anna Christina Collins and  
Roberto De Vincent's



#### In Memorium

Dick Pyper

### FROM OUR YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTER, GEORGIE

Happy New Year! After all the Christmas celebrations, this month can seem gloom to a lot of people but as we step into January, I'm excited to share what lies ahead for us as a church in 2026. Each year we try to have a focus, last year was Discipleship and this year is **Diversity**—celebrating the wonderful variety of people, stories and gifts within our parish and our wider community and recognising how richly God works through that diversity to build His Church.

January begins with a lovely opportunity to gather together at our **Christingle Service on Sunday 4th January at 4pm**. This is always a special service for all ages, full of light, hope and joy.





During this service we take a collection for the work of the Children's Society and if you have a Candle collection box from last year, please bring it along. It is a wonderful way to continue the Christmas celebrations as we reflect on God's love shining in our lives and

in the world, we hope you will be able to join us!

We also have our Church Barn Dance coming up on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 7:00pm. After last year's success we are really looking forward to it- get your tickets from the website to avoid missing out.

As we look forward, it's also worth taking a moment to look back and celebrate a fantastic end to last year. As I write this in December, we have just finished our first Christmas Nativity Festival (Photos of some of the entries to be found on pages 4, 5 and 6, and it was truly something special.



Over three days, the church was filled with 35 different Nativity scenes, created by individuals, families, schools, businesses and community groups. It was a beautiful expression of creativity, faith and community spirit, and a real example of diversity in action. Huge congratulations go to our winners:

- James and Thomas Funeral Directors (Adult groups and Businesses)
- Merrow CofE Infant School (Children's groups)
- Isla Stables (Individuals and Families)

A massive thank you to everyone who contributed, visited, and supported the festival—it was a joy to see the church so full of life and conversation. Bring on the Lantern Festival next year which will hopefully reflect our focus of Diversity with lots of entries! So, we say goodbye to 2025 and bring on 2026!

Happy new year to you all!

Georgie xx

Here are the Nativity Festival winners, with the most public votes!







**DON'T MISS ST JOHN'S CHRISTINGLE SERVICE ON SUNDAY  
4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY AT 4PM...**

Continuing the Christmas celebrations...

# St John's Christingle

Sunday 4th January at 16:00 in Church

An interactive service for everyone!  
Followed by tea, coffee and biscuits.



St. John the Evangelist

Supporting the work of  
the Children's Society





## MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Dear Readers

We hope that you have enjoyed reading the magazine each month and would like to renew your subscription for 2026. The amount due remains unchanged at £7.

You can pay in the following ways

- in cash
- by cheque payable to St John's Merrow PCC
- by BACS to St John's Merrow PCC sort code 30-93-74 account number 01511320. Please state your forename and surname adding MS to identify a magazine subscription

If your magazine is delivered, please wait until you are asked by your deliverer for your subscription.

If you receive your magazine by post please send £16-25 to cover the cost of the postage and envelope to the Magazine Treasurer c/o Parish Office, St John's Centre, 222 Epsom Road, Guildford GU4 7AA. Please complete the form below and enclose it with your payment.

If you collect the magazine from the church please hand in your payment and the form in an envelope to the Parish Office for the attention of the Magazine Treasurer.

-----

NAME

ADDRESS

I enclose a cheque/cash for £

Thank you very much to Chantries & Pewleys for sponsoring our colour cover again this year.

This month's photo is a reminder about St John's Christingle Service on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

We also include our brand new vision statement.

## THE FRIENDS OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST (FOSTJ)



The Friends of St John the Evangelist is a registered charity formed by members of the community of Merrow to assist in maintaining and preserving the buildings and grounds of the magnificent Grade II listed Church.

If you would like to help in our endeavours in any way and keep up with our news, please visit [www.fostj.org](http://www.fostj.org). We would love you to become a member.

## FORTHCOMING MAGAZINE INFORMATION

Issue	Copy date	Editor	Editor's email address
February	11 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Frances Jewson	frances.jewson@ntlworld.com
March	8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Helen Chambers	helen.chambers@saintjohns.org.uk
April	15 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Cathy Thompson	cathy.thompson@saintjohns.org.uk

(If you draft your copy in Tahoma, 16 point, on an A4 page, you'll get a good idea of how much space it will take up.)



## VIEW FROM THE PEWS

The nativity scenes created for our festival were absolutely wonderful in themselves, but even more so in demonstrating the many and varied places St John's is touching. Our mission is to be a caring Christian community here for everyone. While the entries did not represent everyone, they certainly covered a good few. It seems the quiet revival of the church is permeating the community very effectively.

We all have our unique contributions to make, by no means all of them within St John's congregation. Our worship in church is a marvellous source of inspiration, but it energises us to go out into the wide world. If we are to be the salt of the world, we need to be right in there if we are going to flavour it. Because Christians have the rich nourishment of worship and fellowship it is a constant temptation to see ourselves as privileged in an entitled rather than an extremely fortunate way. We are given so much so generously it behoves us to give generously to those around us. The Christians of the new testament were noted for how much they loved each other, and mutual love should be our prime characteristic. This can then flow out into love and caring for the community in which we find ourselves. We may have to wait for God's prompting to find out where he wants to use us. This may be scary sometimes but it is also exciting and extremely exhilarating.

To love all the world I confess  
Is a task sometimes causes distress.  
But you just cannot hide  
It's a marvellous ride  
On the faith hope and loving express  
Chris Starr



## **FRIENDS OF ST. JOHNS CHRISTMAS WINE TASTING**

As part of our continuing fund raising efforts towards the maintenance of St. John's Church, we recently selected some really tasty wines, grabbed a corkscrew and proceeded to taste our way towards Christmas.



Led by Shaun Parry-Jones, a WST level 4 qualified wine expert, we sampled five wines specially chosen to drink with the Christmas Day turkey. From a delicious Loire Cremant, through an Alto Adige Pinot Grigio, a Greek Xinomavro and a French Morgon to a warming Madeira to drink with the final mince pie we sat and sipped and sniffed and slurped guided by Shaun to a greater understanding of how wines are made and more importantly how they are drunk.

His knowledge and humour provided a superb thread of information through the increasingly happy evening. Which is more important doesn't matter, but not only did we have a superb evening, but over £700 was contributed to fund Church maintenance projects.

The Friends aim at this time is to help with major renovation work on the main porch to the Church. Watch out in future magazines for more information on this Project.

For more information on the Friends follow the link [www.fostj.org.blog](http://www.fostj.org.blog)



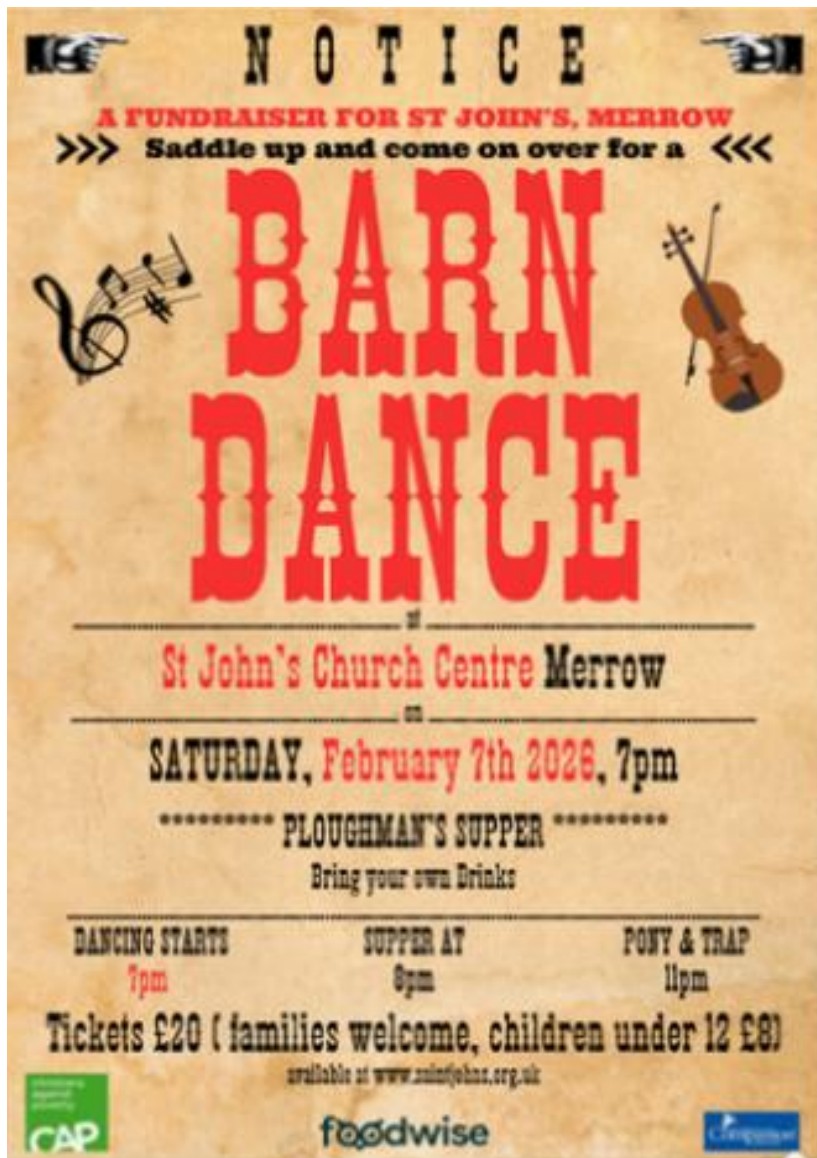
## ST JOHN'S WOMEN-IN-FELLOWSHIP

The Women in Fellowship spent a happy afternoon making the collages for the banners for the Nativity Festival. Some came in trepidation fearing their crafting skills would not make the mark, but it was a splendid effort by all and sustained by tea and cake!



# ST JOHN'S BARN DANCE - Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2026

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!!



Take a photo of this QR code on your phone, and it will take you to the Buy Tickets page!



This is a fundraising event for our three supported charities: Christians Against Poverty, Foodwise, and Compassion.





## **ABOUT OUR CATHEDRAL... this month:**

**Tuesday 6 January | 7pm**

### **Choral Eucharist for The Epiphany**

This service will be sung by the Whyte Effect.

**Wednesday 14 January 10am to 11.30am**

### **Cathedral Tots**

Monthly informal service for families, Bible story, children's activity & refreshments. This month's theme is God's wonderful love: All welcome.

Tickets: free. contact: [FamilyEngagement@guildford-cathedral.org](mailto:FamilyEngagement@guildford-cathedral.org)

**Sunday 18 January • 6pm**

### **Choral Evensong**

As part of this service the choir will sing Benjamin Britten's 'Ceremony of Carols' featuring **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra principal harpist Suzy Kawalec.**

**Thursday 22 January 2026 | 11am to 11.45**

### **Storytime at the Cathedral**

Join us in Seasons Café for songs, stories & rhymes, for preschoolers & carers. Cost of tickets: free but booking recommended as space is limited. Contact details: [FamilyEngagement@guildford-cathedral.org](mailto:FamilyEngagement@guildford-cathedral.org)

**Friday 23 January | 7.30pm**

### **Queen by Candlelight**

Featuring timeless classics including *Bohemian Rhapsody*, *It's a Kind of Magic*, *We Are The Champions* and many more.

 Ticket cost Entry: From £35 Box office/website: [boxoffice.concertsbycandlelight.com](http://boxoffice.concertsbycandlelight.com)

**Saturday 24 January | 7.30pm**

### **Fleetwood Mac by Candlelight**

Brief description: Featuring best loved songs including *Little Lies*, *The Chain*, *Rhiannon*, *Don't Stop* and many more.

 Ticket cost Entry: From £35

 Box office/website: [boxoffice.concertsbycandlelight.com](http://boxoffice.concertsbycandlelight.com)



**Wednesday 28 January | 8pm to 9pm**

**Taizé Service**

This simple yet profound service invites us to pause, listen, and be still in God's presence. The service will begin and end in silence, following the tradition of Taizé.

**30 November 2025 to 2 February 2026**

**Children's Diocesan Schools Art**

The theme for the Schools' Christmas Art exhibition this year will be 'Joy to the World' using the verse from Luke 2:10 'Don't be afraid, because I am bringing you some good news. It will be a joy to all the people.' Schools will be encouraged to illustrate this in any way that they wish. There will be a trail for younger visitors to follow.

**2 hours free parking** is available in the Cathedral car park.

☉ **Visit the Café and Shop** – whether you're after a quiet coffee, a light bite, or a meaningful souvenir, the Cathedral Café and Gift Shop make the perfect stop during your visit.



## **MEN-IN-FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST WITH CHRIS & DENISE ARTHEY**

On 15<sup>th</sup> November, the Men in Fellowship gathered for a breakfast, where we heard the extraordinary story of Chris and Denise Arthey, entitled "Highway 35".

In 2008, whilst living in Texas, they were involved in a major motorcycle accident on Highway 35, caused by a drink-driver of a car, resulting in severe injuries. Their massive injuries included both losing their left leg and despite the severity and bleak outlook of their circumstances, they told us about their story of faith, forgiveness, and hope for the future.

Not only have they recovered their love of life, but also much of their physical fitness. Chris has gone on to run marathons and climb mountains with his prosthetic leg, and they are both ambassadors for the prosthetics industry, regularly participating in trials of new innovations.



Remarkably, they have wholly forgiven the individual responsible for the accident and even meet with him regularly.

It was an extraordinary and captivating story, which prompted much discussion among those attending.



## **CHILDREN'S SOCIETY**

Happy new year to you all and for those of you who have a house box for The Children's Society it's box opening time again.

Could you please let me have your boxes as soon as possible so that I can open, count & bank the money?

You can either bring your boxes down to the centre and hand them in at the office for me to collect from there or ring me on 01483 571847 if you would like to arrange for me to collect it from you. If you are taking your box down to the centre then please do not leave it anywhere else but in the office itself and please do not leave it in church.

Should you have any queries regarding the box-opening then you are welcome to contact me on the number above.

Many thanks in advance.

Judith Sampson - Box holder Co-ordinator

## **"THE GOLDEN STAIRS" BY EDWARD BURNE-JONES (1833-1898)**

Some of you may not be familiar with this painting. The first time I saw it many years ago in an exhibition of Pre-Raphaelite artists I was transfixed.

The picture portrays a winding staircase down which are processing 18 females all dressed in loose fitting gowns of the same colour and style, their hair garlanded with leaves. Where they have come from or are going to is a mystery. Certain of the females are carrying musical instruments. Burne-Jones' figures have a wistful, ethereal air about them and he was famous for his paintings of stories of medieval romantic myths and legends.

The reason this painting is special is that in St. John's we have a stained glass window that I call our version of the "The Golden Stairs". Whether or not there is a connection between the two works I rather doubt though Burne-Jones did produce much religious stained glass - our version has angels, for example, that are processing as if from one stained glass window to the other.

I've always loved these windows with their red and gold colouring and the soft, pale green of the reeds held by the angels. They're situated to the right of the old altar and on sunny mornings catch the rays of the sun to marvellous effect. I'm sure you've seen them. Amongst a significant body of work Burne-Jones executed a series of paintings called "The Briar Rose" that depict the story of Sleeping Beauty (or Briarose). The female figures are so lifelike that it seems almost possible to step into these paintings and gently wake them from their deep slumbers.

The series of paintings was accompanied by a poem by his close friend William Morris written in 1891.

*"The maiden pleasance of the land,  
Knoweth no stir of voice or hand."*



## **WEDNESDAY MORNING COFFEE CLUB**

Hoping everyone has had a restful and Happy Christmas and just to remind you that we return on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026 from 10.15am.

Gerald Hunt

Should you have any queries, please contact me on my e-mail [merrowcoffeemorning@hotmail.com](mailto:merrowcoffeemorning@hotmail.com) or ring me on 07545256114.

## **FROM MERROW C OF E INFANT SCHOOL**

Dear Friends,

As I write we are coming to the end of a hectic and exciting term for the children – just in the last week alone we have performed our Nativity Play three times, had a show from The Pied Piper Theatre, worn Christmas jumpers, eaten Christmas lunch and walked up to Church for our Christmas Service! It sounds exhausting, doesn't it?

We were all very proud of our vote winning entry into the inaugural Nativity Festival. Each class took characters from the story and used wooden spoons and recycled materials to make them. All of the figures were amazing but a special mention must go to the sheep which Tim arrived in YR just in time to lend a hand in their construction! (It is ok – he didn't hold sway over the voting in any way!).

Over the last few weeks of Advent, Georgie has been talking to the children about the birth of Jesus through the Jesse Tree, helping the children understand the genealogy of Jesus and how his birth is part of God's plan from the very beginning of Genesis. Despite it being a whistle stop tour of the Old Testament we have all been surprised by



how many of the OT stories the children have remembered – Jonah being the one most loved by them! Well, I suppose it is a whale of a story! (Sorry – remember as I write we are still in cracker joke times!)

Christmas is an extremely exciting time for the children but can also be quite overwhelming for some. I would like to thank all my colleagues at school who day in, day out, do so much to make not only all the learning experiences impactful and meaningful but also hold up our school values by ensuring that all the children feel loved, cared for and nurtured throughout the day, and in so many ways. A special mention today, for Mrs Pauline Elson who retires this week as a Midday Supervisor at Merrow Infants after 25 years at the school. Just think of the countless children she has helped over all those years. Thank you, Pauline, and we wish you all the best in your (semi) retirement!

Thank you all for your continued support and prayers and we wish you all the very best for the New Year.

Warm regards,  
Emma Hooper

## **CAN YOU HELP?**

Our St John's Parish Magazine contains interesting articles each month about activities we have participated in over the past month or two (men and women in fellowship groups, coffee morning, trips, quiz night, etc), a reflection from Tim or Georgie, news from our church school (Marrow C of E Infant School), info about our charity fundraising and our young peoples' ministry fund progress, info about up-coming activities, news about Friends of St John's projects, gardening tips, parishioners' views, Guildford Cathedral news, and lots more!

The more content we get, the better the magazine, and EVERYONE can contribute! If you have read something interesting that you would like to share with others, or have a favourite poem, please let us know. If you would like to share your experiences about any of the St John's activities and events you have participated in, please let us know. If you have any puzzles, you think others may enjoy (please check for copyright), please let us know. If you've taken any lovely pictures in the parish, and would like to share with others, please let us know. If you have any interesting stories about growing up in Marrow, we'd love to hear from you. Just a few suggestions here, but you get the idea!

We'd love to hear from you! You can find contact information for the guest editors producing the next few parish magazines on page 9. Please do send them content.

Thank you, Cathy Thompson

Magazine Co-ordinator ([cathy.thompson@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:cathy.thompson@saintjohns.org.uk))

PS. We could really do with one additional 'guest editor' to join our team. It really isn't an onerous task, as a lot of the content is sent to you! If you would like more information, please send me an email!  
Thank you, Cathy

# Melissa James

## IN CONCERT

**JOIN MELISSA JAMES AS SHE CELEBRATES THE RELEASE OF HER FORTHCOMING RECORD, "LIVE AGAIN"**

St John's Church is proud to present a very special concert with singer-songwriter Melissa James, offered as a pre-celebration ahead of the release of her forthcoming album *Live Again*.

***"The best current British blues singer I know..."***

- TOM ROBINSON, BBC 6 MUSIC

Recognised as having one of the most compelling voices, Melissa James transcends blues with a rich blend of soul, folk, gospel and spiritual influences.

Melissa's album *Stripped Back* revealed a vulnerable and soulful voice which began her exploration of emotional growth through her rootsy songs, one of which, *Live Again*, sparked her vision to sing with others, creating a music and mental health initiative SING4SANE.

Melissa's voice and music are balms and authentic offerings of hope and healing in turbulent times.

Promising an evening of uplifting, soul-stirring music, Melissa is joined by her guitarist Richard Bolton.

**BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT**

**28 FEBRUARY 2026 • 7PM • TICKETS £20**

**FOR BOOKINGS & INFORMATION,  
SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT  
[WWW.SAINTJOHNS.ORG.UK](http://WWW.SAINTJOHNS.ORG.UK)**



**ST JOHN'S CHURCH, EPSOM ROAD, GUILDFORD, GU4 7AA**

**@MelissaJamesUK**



**[melissa-james.com](http://melissa-james.com)**





## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES!**

(in the Centre unless mentioned otherwise)

### **January**

- Sun 4th Jan Christingle Service 4pm - Church
- Sat 10th Jan Women in Fellowship Breakfast
- Tues 13th Jan Green Team 4pm
- Sun 18th Jan Inter Church 4pm - Church
- Sat 24th Jan Men in Fellowship Breakfast 8.30am
- Tues 27th Jan Green Team 4pm

### **February**

- Sat 7th Feb Barn Dance 7pm
- Tues 10th Feb Green Team 4pm
- Sun 15th Feb Inter Church 4pm - Church
- Fri 20th Feb Friends of St. Johns Quiz 7pm
- Tues 24th Feb Green Team 4pm
- Sat 28th Feb Melissa James Concert



## WHO'S WHO

Rector	The Revd Tim Clifford Hill (Day off: Friday and Sat am)	951649
Youth & Families Minister	Georgie Gregson (Days off: Friday & Saturday)	07974 494504
Churchwardens	Jane Farquharson	07765 620017
	Cathy Thompson	07518 202920
Deputy Churchwarden	Michael Eagle	07850 000224
Verger	Helen Chambers	846574
St Johns Centre Office	9am – 2pm, Mon, Wed and Fri	01483 454621
	9.30am – 1pm, Tues and Thurs	
- Parish Administrator	Sandra Rayner	office@saintjohns.org.uk
- Centre Manager	Barry Dickinson	centremanager@saintjohns.org.uk

Web site: [www.saintjohns.org.uk](http://www.saintjohns.org.uk)

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

PCC Secretary	Tricia Tappin	579193
PCC Treasurer	Lindsay Dobson	07809 836896
Gift Aid, Legacies and Parish Giving Scheme	Martin Thompson	578923
Organist and Choir Director	Micky Clare	538306
Babies and Toddlers Group	Jane Farquharson	07765 620017
Baby Basics	babybasics@saintjohns.org.uk	458128
Bell Ringers	Jane Farquharson	07765 620017
Bible Reading Fellowship	Jenny Welbourn	825541
Cathedral Link	Nick Bond	579462
Children's Society representative	Judith Sampson	571847
Christian Aid Organiser	Cathy Thompson	578923
Electoral Roll	Carole Burtonwood	carole.burtonwood@saintjohns.org.uk
Flower coordinator	Helen Chambers	846574
Magazine Advertisements	Alan Thorn	adverts@saintjohns.org.uk
Merrow C of E Infant School	Louisa Dormer (Executive Headteacher)	
	Emma Hooper (Deputy Head)	561501
Church Governors	Michael Eagle	07850 000224
	Lindsay Dobson	07809 836896
Safeguarding Officer	Rosanne Bond	579462
St John's Merrow, Pre-School	Amanda Bazley (Manager)	454625
Diocesan Lay Pastoral Assistant	Helen Chambers	846574
Readings and Intercessions Rota	Joe Bullock	07521 960480
Weekly News Sheet		office@saintjohns.org.uk
TiC and Lay Parish representative	Isla Stables	567599
Wednesday Coffee Mornings	Gerald Hunt	07545 256114
Transport	Rosanne Bond	579462
Website contact	Parish Office (as above)	

For any changes to Who's Who, please email [cathy.thompson@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:cathy.thompson@saintjohns.org.uk)

# James & Thomas Funeral Directors



**Proudly serving the local community since 1892**

James & Thomas Funeral Directors are here to support and guide you.  
We offer a friendly and professional service to families.

- 24 hour service
- Bereavement advice
- Home visits
- Private chapels of rest
- Floral Tributes
- Memorial Masonry
- Prepaid funeral plans

**Guildford**

**01483 562 153**

259 Epsom Road, Merrow Heights  
GU1 2RE

**Call us for immediate support, advice or to arrange a home visit or to find out more about our prepaid funeral plans. We are here to help 24 hours a day.**



[www.jamesandthomas.co.uk](http://www.jamesandthomas.co.uk)



For a free quote  
| contact Ross Brooker  
01483 614291  
07564 579370

[thegardentamer@gmail.com](mailto:thegardentamer@gmail.com)

## **LANDSCAPING and GARDEN MAINTENANCE**

**Local, reliable and friendly service established 10 Years**

- Landscaping
- Fencing
- Turf Laying
- Tree Surgery
- Decking
- Patio Laying
- Lawn Mowing
- Hedge Trimming
- Lawn Treatment
- Pruning
- Garden Clean Up
- Waste Removal

*Fully insured/Environment Agency Licensed Waste Carrier*

# MERROW SAVOURIES

***"Catering for your Occasion"***

**Delicious home-cooked food  
and great service**

*Christenings ~ Birthdays  
Anniversaries ~ Cocktail Parties  
Barn Dances ~ Funeral Receptions*



Simply telephone Sue on  
Guildford (01483) 850186

[www.merrowsavouries.co.uk](http://www.merrowsavouries.co.uk)

## MARGRAVE SOLICITORS LLP

The Old Post Office, 130 Epsom Road  
Guildford, Surrey GU1 2PT

- Wills, Trusts and Probate
- Lasting Powers of Attorneys
- Court of Protection matters
  - Care Fee advice
- Advising Attorneys / Deputies
  - Non-mortgage related residential conveyancing



**01483 562722**

[enquiries@margravellp.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@margravellp.co.uk)  
[www.margravellp.co.uk](http://www.margravellp.co.uk)

Authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority  
SRA number 533213



**Home Instead... keeping you  
*healthy & independent to enjoy life!***

*"As a family, we have been so  
impressed with the lovely service and  
professionalism. I would definitely  
recommend this company to anyone."*

Call today to **learn** more...

**Home Instead Guildford and Woking**  
Call today on 01483 488222



[www.homeinstead.co.uk/guildford-woking](http://www.homeinstead.co.uk/guildford-woking)





# Curious what your home's worth? Let's talk.

Your home might be your biggest asset — but when was the last time you really checked its value?

Whether you're thinking of moving next month, next year, or just want a clearer picture for future plans, a free, no-pressure valuation is a smart step.

At Chantries & Pewleys, we believe in building relationships for the long term. That means honest advice, expert insight, and no sales pitch — just a helpful conversation about your options.

If you're interested in knowing what your home could be worth — now or in the future — we'd love to hear from you. **No pressure. Just perspective.**

[merrow@chantriesandpewleys.com](mailto:merrow@chantriesandpewleys.com)

  [@chantriesandpewleys](https://www.facebook.com/chantriesandpewleys)

Sales 01483 347100

Lettings 01483 405222

