



St. John the Evangelist  
Merrow

# NEWS & RESOURCES

*Please take this home with you*

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent**

## THIS WEEK

### Today

8am Holy Communion BCP

10am Parish Communion

### Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February

9.15am St John's Baby & Toddler Group – in the Centre

### Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February

7.30pm - Lent Course commences

### Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February

10.15am Coffee Club

10.30am Communion in the centre

5pm Youth Café – in the Centre

### Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

NB. No choir practice this week

### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February

8am Holy Communion BCP

10am Parish Communion

## **Hymns**

121 Forty Days and Forty Nights

678 In Christ Alone

142 Glory be to Jesus

702 Lead us Heavenly Father, Lead us

## **Collects**

Almighty God,

whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness,

and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:

give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit;

and, as you know our weakness,

so may we know your power to save;

through 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

Heavenly Father,

your Son battled with the powers of darkness,

and grew closer to you in the desert:

help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer

that we may witness to your saving love

in Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **Readings**

*1 Peter 3.18-end*

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times

did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

### *Mark 1.9-15*

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

## **Seasonal material**

### *Invitation to Confession*

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;

a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.

Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion,

and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

### *Introduction to the Peace*

Since we are justified by faith,

we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

who has given us access to his grace.

### *Extended Preface*

It is indeed right and good  
to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty God and everlasting Father,  
through Jesus Christ your Son.  
For in these forty days  
you lead us into the desert of repentance  
that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline  
we may grow in grace  
and learn to be your people once again.  
Through fasting, prayer and acts of service  
you bring us back to your generous heart.  
Through study of your holy word  
you open our eyes to your presence in the world  
and free our hands to welcome others  
into the radiant splendour of your love.  
As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast  
with joyful hearts and minds  
we bless you for your mercy  
and join with saints and angels  
for ever praising you and saying:

### *Blessing*

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,  
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;  
and the blessing . . .

### *Post Communion*

Lord God,  
you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven;  
by it you nourish our faith,  
increase our hope,  
and strengthen our love:  
teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread,

and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **FOR YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK**

The sick or in need

Jim Styles, Jenny Shales, Dick Pyper, Toni Gardner and Carol Jeffreys

The Departed

All we have known and love but see no longer.

## **ST. JOHN'S NEWS**

### **Lent Course 2024**

The Diocese of Guildford has created a Lent Course which will be running from this Tuesday. If you wish to attend, please pencil the below dates into your diary. The course will take place in the church centre and will be run by the Rector.

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February. 7.30 – 8.45pm

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February. 7.30 – 8.45pm

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March. 7.30 – 8.45pm

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March. 7.30 – 8.45pm

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March. 7.30 – 8.45pm.

### **St John's Choir Practice**

Please note that there will be no choir practice on 23rd February

### **St John's Baby & Toddler Group**

Please note the Babies & Toddler Group is held in the Centre at 9.15am to 10.45am on Monday mornings. Toddlers with parents, grandparents, childminders and carers are all welcome to enjoy the play area with toys and crafts, and there is a baby area with lots to

engage the younger ones, as well as singing and stories. Adults can enjoy coffee, tea and biscuits!

## **Online Shopping**

We would be grateful for your help in raising money for St. John's when you shop online. Follow this link to sign up and join many others at St. John's who already kindly contribute.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/how-it-works/>

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

### **Pub refurbishment**

A reminder that our neighbours at the Horse & Groom will be closed for refurbishment from 18<sup>th</sup> March - 20<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Baby Basics**

Baby basics is open for donations by appointment. Please contact Lisa at [babybasics@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:babybasics@saintjohns.org.uk)

We are always in need of any financial donations to keep this vital charity running. If you are able to consider donating to this work please visit [www.saintjohns.org.uk/babybasics](http://www.saintjohns.org.uk/babybasics)

### **Food Bank**

The food bank greatly appreciates your donations and this week would be grateful for cereal, porridge, pasta, curry sauce, instant coffee (not decaff), squash and drinking chocolate.

All donations gratefully received in the boxes in the Church porch.

### **Newsletter Content**

If you have anything to advertise or news from the Church family or community that you would like to add to this newsletter please email [office@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:office@saintjohns.org.uk) by Wednesday 21st February.

## **The Friends of St John the Evangelist (FOSTJ)**



The Registered Charity 'Friends of the Church of St John the Evangelist, Merrow' (known as Friends of St. John's (FoStJ)) was formed by members of the community to assist in maintaining and preserving the buildings and grounds of the magnificent Grade II listed Church, for the benefit of the local Community as a whole.

If you would like to help 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.

### **SERVICES COMING UP**

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> March**

8am Holy Communion BCP

10am Holy Communion

6pm Sing a New Song

#### **10<sup>th</sup> March - Mothering Sunday**

8am Holy Communion BCP

10am All Age Worship

6pm - Choral Evensong Guildford Cathedral choir at St John's

#### **24<sup>th</sup> March - Palm Sunday**

8am – Holy Communion BCP

10am – Palm Sunday Service

#### **25<sup>th</sup> March - Holy Monday**

8pm Compline in Church

#### **26<sup>th</sup> March - Holy Tuesday**

8pm Compline in Church

**27<sup>th</sup> March - Spy Wednesday**

8pm Compline in Church

**28<sup>th</sup> March - Maundy Thursday**

8pm Eucharist & Foot Washing

**29<sup>th</sup> March - Good Friday**

10.30am Family Service

followed by Chocolate Egg Hunt in the Rectory Garden

2pm Good Friday Liturgy

**30<sup>th</sup> March - Holy Saturday**

8pm Vigil & Service of Light

**31<sup>st</sup> March - Easter Sunday**

8am Holy Communion BCP

10am All Age Eucharist

**5<sup>th</sup> May - Rogation Sunday**

10am All Age Worship

12noon Bring and Share Lunch in Church Centre.

**Events Coming Up**

Please pencil the following in your diary:

- 12<sup>th</sup> May                      APCM - 11.30am
- 8<sup>th</sup> June                        Rectory Fête. Time TBA
- 19<sup>th</sup>- 23<sup>rd</sup> August          Holiday Club Timings TBA



## CONTACTS

Rev. Tim Clifford Hill <i>Rector</i> Day off: Friday	<a href="mailto:rector@saintjohns.org.uk">rector@saintjohns.org.uk</a>	01483 951649
Georgie Gregson Youth and Families worker Days off: Friday & Saturday	<a href="mailto:youthworker@saintjohns.org.uk">youthworker@saintjohns.org.uk</a>	0797449 4504
Harry Talboys <i>Parish Administrator</i> Mon 10am – 4.30pm Tues – Thurs 9.30 - 4pm	<a href="mailto:office@saintjohns.org.uk">office@saintjohns.org.uk</a>	01483 454621
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