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PARISH MAGAZINE
July 2025



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St John the Evangelist

Epsom Road, Merrow

www.saintjohns.org.uk



The Revd Tim Clifford Hill
Rector



Georgie Gregson
Youth Worker

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. Warm Space in the Centre Foyer 10am to 2pm, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday during the winter months.

Sunday services are listed on Page 2.

Services during the week:

Morning Prayer Monday to Thursday at 9.00am in Church.

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

Evening Prayer on Fridays at 5.00pm in Church.

All are welcome.

July 2025 Services (Year C)

Sunday 6th July 3rd Sunday after Trinity, Green
Galatians 6.[1-6] 7-16, Luke 10.1-11, 16-20
8am BCP Holy Communion
10am All Age Worship

Sunday 13th July 4th Sunday after Trinity, Green
Colossians 1.1-14, Luke 10.25-37
8am BCP Holy Communion
10am CW Holy Communion
6pm Songs of Praise

Sunday 20th July 5th Sunday after Trinity, Green
Colossians 1.15-28, Luke 10.38-end
8am BCP Holy Communion
10am CW Holy Communion

Sunday 27th July 6th Sunday after Trinity 9, Green
Colossians 2.6-15[16-19], Luke 11.1-13
8am BCP Holy Communion
10am CW Holy Communion

Sunday 3rd August 7th Sunday after Trinity, Green
Colossians 3.1-11, Luke 12.13-21
8am BCP Holy Communion
10am All Age Worship

Wednesday Holy Communion will be weekly at 10.30am in the Merrow Hall

From The Rectory

Welcome to the July parish magazine!

This month kicks off with our church fete in the rectory garden on 5th July, from 12:30pm until 3pm. It includes lots of activities for children, a barbecue, tea and cakes, maypole dancing from our church school and a performance from our friends at Italia Conti. It is always a fun afternoon and is set to be bigger and better this year, so do come along!

Last month we marked a year since the start of our Young People's Ministry Fund. We have created a wonderful presentation (which is now on our website) to show everyone all that we do to minister to the young people of Merrow, guided by our Families and Youth Minister, Georgie. If you have time to look at it please do. Above all, the video shows that St. John's is here for everyone and is a warm, joyful, caring and generous church.

In the liturgical life of the Church we are now in what is known as 'Ordinary Time.' It's called Ordinary Time because of the ordinal numerals which are used to identify each Sunday (First, Second, Third after Trinity etc). Nothing to do with us returning to the boring ordinary days when we are not leading up to either Easter or Christmas!

Life with God is anything but ordinary! It is filled with adventure. Life with God isn't boring, because there is always something interesting around the corner. Life with God can be hard. However, when the times get tough it's God who walks with us, propping us up and keeping us company. And he's with us in the times that might feel ordinary and dull to us.

So I hope that this month will be a sunny, joyful and relaxing time for you, as you walk through it with God at your side.

If you need our help in anyway please do be in touch.

With good wishes,

Tim

Christian Aid Week 2025



Thank you so much to everyone who gave so generously in Christian Aid Week.

We raised a total of £1,332.50 including gift-aid. Just over half was given via our e-envelope on the Christian Aid website and the rest from the cash and cheques given in the CA envelopes.

Sara England

Thank you very much to Chantries & Pewleys for sponsoring our colour cover again this year. This month's photo was taken at our Pentecost service. Tim and Georgie are standing with the winners of the "Dress in Red for Pentecost" competition: Rachel Wood on left and Shan Roal in the middle.

From the Registers:

Funeral 29th May Mae Pink



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The Ride & Stride September 13th, 2025

www.SurreyChurchesPreservationTrust.org

Most counties in England hold an annual 'Ride & Stride', on the second Saturday in September, to raise money for church restoration and repair. The idea is that cyclists and walkers are given a list of churches and chapels in the area of their choice. They map out their own route to pedal or walk to places of Christian worship having arranged to be sponsored by friends for a fixed sum or donation per church visited.

The money that is collected is divided in two. Half goes to the church or chapel of the cyclist's or walker's choice, the other half is retained by the Surrey Churches Preservation Trust for distribution to churches in need. The Trust looks more favourably on applications from supporters of the Ride & Stride event. In the twenty-five years that Ride & Stride has been running in Surrey, over £500,000 has been raised.

The Trust, whose trustees are from most Christian denominations, runs the annual event in Surrey, supported by a dozen or so Area Organisers. These organisers give support to Church Organisers, providing the paperwork and any guidance they need for preserving our precious heritage.

Ride & Stride is a fun way to spend time on a pleasant Saturday in September while getting to know some Surrey places of Christian worship and raising funds for this worthy cause. Why not make up a group and join in this year! Some suggested routes are available from the SCPT website. Ask your Church Organiser for lists of participating churches and chapels together with sponsorship forms.

Supporters who prefer not to 'ride or stride', please consider sponsoring volunteers involved in this important event. In addition, joining the Trust costs very little and contributes to its vital work.

Contact: jane.farquharson@saintjohns.org.uk

Useful websites: www.SurreyChurchesPreservationTrust.org
www.nationalchurchestrust.org www.ridestride.org



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We have benefitted from a small
grant for church repairs at St Johns,
but could qualify for more with your
participation in this event**

Sponsorship forms will be available soon



St John's Women in Fellowship so far.....

The Women in Fellowship has had four events since it was set up.

Our inaugural meeting was a cream tea in the church centre on 26th October 2024 with 22 attending. This was an ideal opportunity to get to know each other better and to come up with ideas for future events. The aim is to have activities that will appeal to all tastes, ages and abilities. The list was very comprehensive and will give us plenty to work on for some time to come so thank you all for your thoughts and input.

On January 11th we had a breakfast meeting, again with good attendance. We were unable to secure a speaker so soon after Christmas but that didn't seem to matter as again it was a chance to build on friendships and women love to chat!

We went from early morning to an evening event with a showing of the popular film Wicked on February 11th in the church centre. I for one now feel that I can talk about this with my granddaughter and thank you to Lindsay for making the IT work.



Our latest event was a visit to RHS Wisley Garden on 13th May.

We were given a very informative talk by our own Kate Dumbleton who has volunteered as tour guide at Wisley for 25 years. We were blessed with a warm sunny day, the sunshine setting off the colours beautifully. It was a perfect time of year with the wisteria in full bloom on the long arch and spring flowers all around. Kate did a wonderful job and even those who were regulars to Wisley learned something new about the garden and those who had developed it. Thank you Kate.

Men in Fellowship – Events

Saturday 19th July – George Quarm Breakfast Meeting

- Breakfast Meeting – as part of our Men-in Fellowship series of Breakfast Meetings exploring other religions and types of spirituality, we welcome George Quarm from Merrow Methodist Church. Call him Uncle George if you are under 40 or "King George" if you're older
- It's going to be a stimulating session with many anecdotes and lively conversation from a most interesting and full of life character
- As ever, our meeting starts with a hearty and nutritious breakfast!

Saturday 16th August – Real Ale Train - Change of date!

Back by popular demand, The Real Ale Train on the Watercress Line. The RAT as it is affectionately known, returns in 2025 to continue its tradition of serving real ale from the bar car whilst travelling by train through the Hampshire countryside. Food is available along with non-alcoholic beverages. We will be leaving Merrow late afternoon, in time for the steam train departing Alton at 7pm

For more details please contact Richard at richard.burtonwood@saintjohns.org.uk



Views from the Pews

“Growing old is not for wimps” – a quote from Bette Davis – is a very succinct understatement. I do not remember my parents’ generation being quite so hard pressed, but then they did not live through an age of alarming and ever advancing technology.

The inevitable hardship of medical issues and hospital appointments are quite enough to endure without the niggling ongoing frustrations involving house maintenance, plumbers, electricians and pest control, but especially appalling customer services which involve the pressing of constant telephone buttons while hoping to hear a human voice with an accent possible to decipher. All too often one is met with “you are number 123!! in the queue – your call is important to us” or you might like to reach us on an incomprehensible gobbledygook code if you just happen to have a computer PLUS the expertise.

Apart from major setbacks, daily tasks and activities are a challenge. Whatever happened to original tin openers? The new sophisticated ones are hard to manoeuvre with shaky hands. Information on food packets is in miniscule print. Ditto crossword and codeword newspaper clues, tiny even with glasses and certainly with dimming sight.

I should mention above all that living on a main road I’m a target whom scammers are happy to harass. Most recently I was scared rigid when informed our chimney was in a state of dangerous disrepair and was about to plunge us into untold disastrous horrors! This was eventually solved by a panic call out to a reputable roofer with a photo drone.

The final heavy blow was the arrival of our Thames Water bill back in November with pages of calculations amounting to over £8000 – presumably to help pay for their current enormous fine! This is not solved yet, but seems to have involved the misreading of the meter or so we hope.

So thank you St John's – thank you so much for your spiritual guidance, friendship and comforting peace of mind. You are certainly "here for us all". Carol Jeffreys

I attended the Annual meeting after church in May. It was a heartwarming occasion. There was lots of good news about the work being done for God amongst the congregation and the community which was started last year and was continuing well on into 2025. Under the leadership of Tim and Georgie, the churchwardens and volunteers, we have had a year of great benefit and a goodly harvest on so many fronts. Particular mention was made at the meeting of the continuing work with young people and the exciting projects envisaged for the next twelve months. I am inspired by the news of the Gift Sunday for the YPMF in June to help continue this work.

I also reflected on another part of our church work which is so often taken for granted that it sometimes gets missed. That is our great community of the maturer generation, and the work done there. I thought of our super Wednesday morning Communion Service, our Coffee Club with its weekly fellowship and great outings, and the network of help with transport and other essentials for us Oldies. And that is not to forget the never-ending struggle to keep the sound system and the hearing loop working in church.

So let's add that part of our ministry and outreach to the list of great works done in God's name last year and give thanks and prayers for all involved in it.

An Ever-Thankful Oldie

I do not really have pew,
From which to form a thoughtful "view"
My place is movable, each week
And so, my view is quite unique.
From floor to chair, from cushion to pew,
From lectern to Centre from aisle too,
A church that's full of God's great light,
It fills me with such great delight!

I love to be in church on a Sunday morning a little early if I can. If I catch the 8:00er's as they have their coffee, I am always welcomed with a "good morning" and the offer of a cup. As I potter around setting up my things for the 10:00 service, I hear the conversations flow. They talk about what they have heard in the service, discussing difference of opinion with interest and respect, they ask after one another's health and wellbeing, they share together their troubles and worries. Then I see the care that is taken over packing away, returning the service sheets, washing up the cups, helping people back to their cars, making sure each person is cared for. God's love in action- what a joy to be part of a church like this.

Then comes in the next shift- the 10:00'ers begin to arrive. Those who have volunteered to help set up, hand out books, put up the hymn numbers, serve tea and coffee- all arriving to make sure this is a welcoming place when the rest of the congregation arrive. And arrive they do! From the people who arrive early to those who tumble in a little late. The church begins to fill as I see hand-shakes, high fives and hugs taking place. Other churches only talk to the people who sit left and right of them but not here at St John's! People go out of their way (and out of their pew!) to talk to each other. This church understands building community, this church understands how to welcome people, and it understands that it is a whole church responsibility. I am not saying we ALWAYS get EVERYTHING right but this is a wonderful church of people who give it everything they have, to help people feel the Love of God - what a privilege to be part of a church like this.

The service begins... children are excited to hear what we are doing today, adults are settling in to be spiritually fed and together we worship. We don't all worship in the same way- some are loud, some are quiet, some connect through the music, others the sermon, others the prayers- some stay in their pews, others prefer the carpet, little ones toddle round with a parent in tow- but from wherever we are and whichever service we attend, we worship together. Together in Christ, and when we are invited to share what we have been exploring and learning with the younger members of our congregation at the end, it hits me. I look out at our Church family, I am greeted..... by a sea of grins. The encouragement, the looks of excitement and shared pleasure in seeing others get to know Jesus..... oh, what fun to be part of a church like this!!

Friendship experiment - 60 years on

"A series of coffee mornings are to be held in the church hall Merrow beginning this month as an experiment in friendliness and Fellowship organised by Mrs Durrant & Mrs Gilson". So proclaimed the June edition of the church magazine back in 1965. The people may have changed through the years but the ethos of Friendliness & Fellowship shines on brightly.

We have an equal mix of church goers and a combination of other religions & agnostics, and you will always find there is a friendly buzz of conversation and laughter encouraged by a selection of hot & cold drinks, and various biscuits and savouries (on the last Wednesday of the month) with special events like a fish lunch or a Cream tea during the year. The church does not charge us for the use of the Centre as it is an event for the whole community, while everyone is a volunteer, so it is a genuine bargain, I challenge you to find a fresh filter coffee and biscuits for £1.00 anywhere else in Guildford.

As part of the morning, we can organise transport for parishioners who have mobility issues.

We always welcome new members but the club will not reach its 100th Anniversary without fresh volunteers as well, so if you could spare 1 Wednesday morning a month, dates are flexible as a driver or helper, we would love to hear from you .

So thanks to Mrs Durrant & Mrs Gilson's far sightedness all those years ago we are able to celebrate our Wednesday morning coffee club's 60th Anniversary, with our MP and other dignitaries who have kindly said they would come. It will be a very special event starting **at 11.30 on the 23rd July in the main hall at St John's Centre, Epsom Road Merrow GU4 7AA**. We would love to see anyone who would like to come along and join us in our celebration, if you are interested, then if you could let me know, to have an idea for numbers it would be very helpful.

Hope to see you on the 23rd.

Gerald Hunt current organiser of the Coffee morning

T: 07545 256114 E: merrowcoffeemorning@hotmail.com

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GIFT SUNDAY AND OUR YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRY

The theme of our Gift Sunday on 15th June was our young people's ministry. The sermon was replaced by a video showcasing all the activities we currently offer to spread the Christian message to the young people of Merrow.

Over coffee after the service, people commented that they had not realised how extensive was our work and how many opportunities beyond Sunday morning's there are for talking about God with young people.

We were all given a booklet about the YPMF, the Young People's Ministry Fund. This sets out the status of the Fund and how our gifts this year will enable the work to continue in the long term. If you have not received a copy, please ask a sides person on your next visit to St. John's.

When the fund was launched last year, we set ourselves a five year target of £150,000 to which we have generously contributed £69,000 to date. This year's Gift Sunday appeal is to add another £30,000 to the fund.

The YPMF Booklet tells you how you can contribute and help the green shoots grow. Without your gifts the green shoots may shrivel and that's surely not what St. John's wants to happen.

Thank you

Tim and the Stewardship and Giving Team

GARDENING HINTS FOR JULY

Tomatoes should be watered regularly to prevent Blossom End Rot.

Feed Tomatoes and Dahlias once a week with a high potash feed, except for Bush Tomatoes. All side shoots on Tomatoes need to be removed and the top cut off above the fourth truss to prevent the plant wasting energy producing tomatoes that will not ripen.

Pick Courgettes and Beans regularly to prevent them becoming too big, tough and stringy. Leeks, Brussel Sprouts, Kale, Purple Sprouting and Winter Cabbage should be planted out. Make sowings of Spring Cabbage, Turnip, and for a late crop, French and Runner Beans.

Harvest Autumn planted Onions, Shallots and Garlic.

As the weather pundits are forecasting a drought it is important to keep all containerised plants watered regularly and fed occasional with a liquid feed such as Tomorite or Maxi Crop.

Start dead heading bedding plants for a continuous display. Once you allow them to set seed, they will think that their job is done, and will stop flowering! Roses too should be dead headed and fed with a Rose fertiliser, to produce a good second flush.

House plants need to be watered when the pot feels light, and fed every 2 weeks.

Apply a summer feed to the lawn just before rain is forecast.

Among the most popular foliage plants are Hostas, but they do suffer from problems:-

Slugs and snails affect Hostas more than any other plant. They will enjoy 'midnight feasts' until nothing is left. Growing in pots can provide some protection, when they are stood on copper impregnated mats, or fitted with copper tape bands. Copper tape can also be used in the soil as a barrier around the plant which slugs and snails will be reluctant to cross, or thinly scatter slug pellets around the plants.

Pot grown Hostas can be attacked by Vine Weevil grubs eating the roots. To protect the plant, water with Provado Vine Weevil Killer 2.

Containerised Hostas need to be watered regularly. They are best grown in John Innes No. 3 compost. Feed in spring with a general purpose fertiliser such as Growmore, or Fish, Blood and Bone. Use a liquid feed during the growing season. Divide and re-pot every 2-3 years depending on your plant's vigour.

John Boon

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. We would love you to become a member.

Forthcoming magazine information

Issue	Copy date	Editor	Editor's email address
August	13 th July	Susan Harrington	suzh90@outlook.com
September	17 th August	Cathy Thompson	cathy.thompson@saintjohns.org.uk
October	14 th September	Chris Starr	chrisstarr10@btinternet.com

(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.)

Who's Who

Rector	The Revd Tim Clifford Hill (Day off Friday and Sat am)	951649
Youth Worker	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	9.00 – 2 Mon, Wed and Fri	01483 454621
	9.30 – 1 Tues and Thurs	
- Centre Manager	Barry Dickinson	centremanager@saintjohns.org.uk
- Parish Administrator	Sandra Rayner	office@saintjohns.org.uk

Web site: www.saintjohns.org.uk

Email: 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	Sara England	504205
Electoral Roll	Carole Burtonwood	
	carole.burtonwood@saintjohns.org.uk	
Flower coordinator	Helen Chambers	846574
Magazine Advertisements	Sara England	merrowadverts@gmail.com
Merrow C of E Infant School	Louisa Dormer (Executive Head Teacher)	
	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
Sunday Newssheet		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 Sara on merrowadverts@gmail.com

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