St. John the Evangelist
Merrow

Diocese of Guildford
TRANSFORMING CHURCH
TRANSFORMING LIVES

NEWSLETTER

Christ the King

Sunday 22nd November
8am BCP Holy Communion – **Centre**
10am Parish Communion – **Centre** (Livestreamed)
Sparks 5-11s group

Monday 23rd November
9.15am Glow Toddlers – Centre

Tuesday 24th November
10am Sewing Group – Centre

Wednesday 25th November
10.15am Wednesday Coffee Club
10.30am Holy Communion Service – Centre
5pm Youth Café - Centre

Friday 27th November
6pm Christmas Choir Practice – Centre
7pm FoSJ Wine Tasting – Centre

Saturday 28th November
From 12noon - Merrow School Federation Christmas Fair at the Infant School

Sunday 29th November
8am BCP Holy Communion – Church
10am Parish Communion – Church (Livestreamed)
Sparks 5-11s group
11.30am Singing Sparks - Centre

(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)

December

Tues 1st Dec	Green Team 4pm
Sat 5th Dec	Women-in-Fellowship – Craft Afternoon 2pm
Sun 6th Dec	Church Christmas Tree Decorating 2.30pm in church
Thur 10th Dec	Men-in-Fellowship – Local walk and Christmas Pub Lunch
Fri 11th – Sun 13th	Lantern Festival in church
Sun 13th Dec	Sparks 5-11s group – during 10am service in church
Tues 15th Dec	Green Team 4pm
Sun 20th Dec	Christmas Carol Service 4pm in church
Thur 24th Dec	Crib Service 4pm in church
Thur 24th Dec	Midnight Mass 11pm in church
Sun 27th Dec	Sparks 5-11s group – during 10am service in church

January 2027

Sun 3rd Jan	Christingle Service 4pm

February 2027

Sat 6th Feb	Barn Dance 7pm

Hymns

227 Crown him with many crowns
691 Jesus shall reign (tune 1)
486 Christ is the King!
612 Christ Triumphant ever reigning

Collect

God the Father,
help us to hear the call of Christ the King
and to follow in his service,
whose kingdom has no end;
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, one glory.
Amen.
or
Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven
that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Reading **Ephesians 1.15–end**

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Gospel **Matthew 25.31–end**

'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

Readings next week:
Ephesians 1.15–end
Matthew 25.31–end

Post Communion Prayer
Stir up, O Lord,
the wills of your faithful people;
that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works,
may by you be plenteously rewarded;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Sick or in need - Amelia Butler, Sophie, Ben

Departed – Anne Luff

NEWS

The church will reopen from Advent Sunday - 29th November onwards and be open from 9am until 3pm every day.

Christmas Gifts from St John's are needed to enable us to give a Christmas gift to various parishioners each of whom has a particular need. A box will be placed in church only on Sunday 22nd and 29th November for donations of luxury biscuits and chocolates, preserves, chutneys and other small sweet/savoury seasonal items. Savoury items are particularly welcome for diabetics. It means a great deal to recipients to know that we are thinking of them. Any surplus donations will be given to the Food Bank. Thank you, Rosanne 01483 579462.

Safeguarding Audit Survey

As part of the Church of England's independent safeguarding audit programme the Diocese of Guildford is being audited by safeguarding specialists, INEQE. The team wants to hear directly from a broad range of people so that strengths can be identified alongside opportunities to improve.

The surveys are anonymous and confidential. Survey links can be found on the Diocese of Guildford website. www.cofeguildford.org.uk

Please reply by 1 January.

Sewing Group – Next date Tuesday 24th November 10am-12noon

The last of our sessions making items to sell at the lantern festival- if you have any festive fabric you would like to donate please let Georgie know. Everyone is welcome to pop along - coffee and chat provided and we meet upstairs in the church centre.



Christmas Carol Service Choir Rehearsals – Fridays 6pm



The choir will be holding their Christmas Carol Service rehearsals on Fridays at 6pm this year.
The dates are:
Friday 27th November – Seminar Room
Friday 4th December – Main Hall
Friday 11th December - Church
Friday 18th December – Church

Music:
Sussex carol (Wilcocks)
In the bleak midwinter (Darke)
Along with other Christmas Favourites

Singing Sparks

This year, during Advent, we are going to be running "Singing Sparks" again, after the 10:00 service. For any Sparks aged children (6-18) who want to come and learn a few Christmas songs we will meet from 11:30 - 12:30 in the Church centre. We will then take part in the Carol Service and Christingle Service by singing the pieces we have learnt!
If you are interested in coming to join, please talk to Alexandra or Georgie.
Dates:
Sunday 29th November - Practice
Sunday 6th December - Practice
Sunday 13th December - Practice
Sunday 20th December - Practice
Sunday 20th December at 4pm Carol Service
Sunday 3rd January at 4pm Christingle Service

Women in Fellowship upcoming Events

Your Women-in-Fellowship team have one more event planned for 2026! On **Saturday 5th December** we will be holding a Christmas themed craft afternoon to make lanterns for the Lantern Festival. It will run from 2 – 4 pm in the centre with refreshments.
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

Men-in-Fellowship Winter Calendar of Events



Your Men-in-Fellowship team have their final event of 2026.

Thursday 10th December (morning & lunchtime)

A local walk followed by Christmas Pub Lunch

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

Lantern Festival – Friday 11th – Sunday 13th December



This year St John's is hosting a Lantern Festival for the first time from Friday 11th - Sunday 13th December. We hope to fill the church with Lanterns and over the weekend, invite the whole community to come in, look around, have a cup of tea and vote for their favourite. There are two different ways to take part this year – ALL DETAILS ARE ON THE WEBSITE. Anyone can enter - individuals, families, businesses, local groups and schools. Please take a leaflet from the back of church and share this with any groups/people you think would be interested in taking part. We will need volunteers to help with refreshments/manning stalls and welcoming, so please think about if you might like to come along and help!

Lantern Festival Helper's Sign up

For the Lantern Festival we are going to need a fair bit of people-power, but to try and make it less arduous, we have broken it down into hour slots, across the three days. We will need two to three people for each hour to be in church (number of volunteers depends on what additional activities are running at what times on top of welcoming and refreshments.) Before your diaries get chock-a-block with festive fun, we hope you might be able to spare us an hour of your time to help make this a success! There will be a sign-up sheet at the back of church on sundays, and then it will be in the office during the week. Thank you!

Lantern Festival Bakers

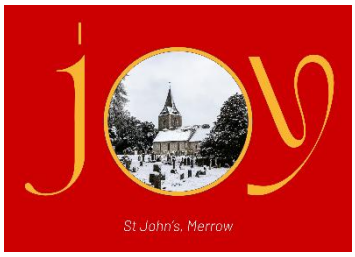
For those keen bakers, we would love some cakes, biscuits and bakes for the weekend to offer to people coming to visit out church! If you think you could make a batch of something, please contact Jo Stokes on 07984196658 or let Carol Potter know.

Lantern Festival – Fairy Lights

We are looking to borrow white fairy lights for our Lantern Festival. Do you have some that you could lend us for the 3 days of the festival. We will return them!

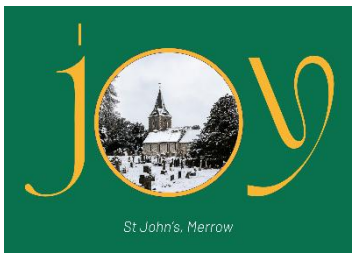
Opportunities Booklet – St John's
'Opportunities to join in the life of St John's' booklet! Please help yourselves to one at the back of church or in the Church Centre.

Christmas Cards
Our St John's Christmas Cards are now available to buy!



Packs are available from the Parish Office at £5 for a pack of 10 cards (5 red & 5 Green cards in each pack).

Please pop in and pick up your supplies in good time! We have limited stock!



Merrow School Federation Christmas Fair at Merrow Infants School on Saturday 28th November 12noon - 2.30pm – everyone welcome!
Join us on Saturday 28 November, 12–2:30pm, for festive fun for the whole family! Entry is free.

Enjoy games and activities for all ages, including challenges for older children and adults, external shopping stalls, festive refreshments and more!

Santa's Grotto – £5 per child - Book your visit to Santa in advance! Thanks to generous donations from three publishers, we have a wonderful selection of books, including plenty for older children too.

Wreath-making workshops – £25 per wreath - Create your own festive wreath at 12noon – 1pm or 1.15pm – 2.15pm. Only 10 wreaths per session, so please book early!
Book Santa's Grotto and wreath-making here:
https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/organizations/merrow-c-of-e-infants-school-parent-teacher-association

Could you lend a hand? With only just over 3 weeks to go, we urgently need volunteers to help set up, run stalls and games, and clear away. A single shift makes a real difference!
Choose your volunteer slot here: https://volunteersignup.org/R83TF
Please invite friends, family and neighbours along. Thank you for supporting our school and community! Merrow Infant School PTA

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).

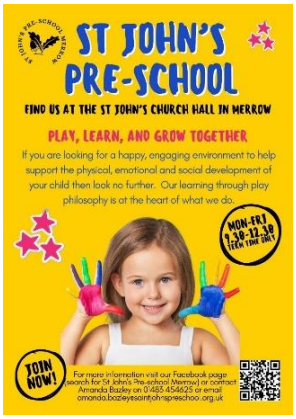
Old Reading Glasses – Do you have any old reading glasses lying around your house? I am collecting old glasses to take over to the funeral directors, James & Thomas as they have a collection box. Please either bring to the office or leave them on the table next to the Food Bank basket if the office is closed.

Wednesday Morning Coffee Club

We are in business every Wednesday at 10.15am for drinks and a natter, so please feel free to drop in, anyone and everyone is welcome. We are finishing on Wednesday the 16th December with our Christmas party including raffle & Christmas carols please come and join the party!
But before that we will be having our monthly Thursday lunch at 1pm on the 10th December, at Carlo's on Newlands Corner (£33.00 for 2 courses and £36.00 for 3 course Christmas Menu)
We are also going to the Pantomime at Godalming Borough Hall on 12th December to see Beauty & the Beast for £ 23.00 if anyone is wishing to join us, please let me know. Both events are fully subscribed but we should be able to get a few more seats and we would love you to come and you do not have to be a member. Hope to see soon, Gerald
Should you have any queries, please contact me on my e-mail merrowcoffeemorning@hotmail.com or ring me on 07545256114

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



Guildford Food Bank

The food bank would greatly appreciate donations of

- Hair Conditioner
- Disposable Razors
- Spray Cleaners
- Christmas Toiletries
- Christmas Biscuits

Please put donations in the boxes in the Church Centre, thank you.
Guildford Food Bank helps many people/families around Guildford, but in the last financial year they have a huge financial deficit. For them to continue their good work they need to raise funds. If you think you could help, then please use the QR code for monetary donations or go to their website.

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

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:
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 07974 494504
Parish Administrator: Sandra Rayner	office@saintjohns.org.uk 01483 454621
Centre Manager (inc Room Bookings): Barry Dickinson	centremanager@saintjohns.org.uk 01483 454621
Churchwarden: Michael Eagle	michael.eagle@saintjohns.org.uk 07850 000224
Churchwarden: Cathy Thompson	cathy.thompson@saintjohns.org.uk 07518 202920
Deputy Churchwarden: Rosemary Stoughton	rosemary.stoughton@saintjohns.org.uk 07493 372215
Treasurer: Lindsay Dobson	treasurer@saintjohns.org.uk 07809 836896
Safeguarding Officer: Rosanne Bond	safeguarding@saintjohns.org.uk 01483 579462
Coffee Club: Gerald Hunt	merrowcoffeemorning@hotmail.com 07545 256114
Bell Ringing: Jane Farquharson	jane.farquharson@saintjohns.org.uk 07765 620017
Music Team: Micky Clare	mickyclare2@icloud.com 01483 538306
Matt Hewetson	matt.hewetson@saintjohns.org.uk 01483 387300