St. John the Evangelist
Merrow

Diocese of Guildford
TRANSFORMING CHURCH
TRANSFORMING LIVES

NEWSLETTER

All Saints Day

Sunday 1st November
8am BCP Holy Communion – Church
10am All Age Worship – Church (Livestreamed)

Monday 2nd November
9.15am Glow Toddlers – Centre

Tuesday 3rd November
4pm Green Team – Centre

Wednesday 4th November
10.15am Wednesday Coffee Club
10.30am Holy Communion Service – Centre
5pm Youth Café - Centre

Thursday 5th November
2pm Women-in-Fellowship – Visit to the Spike

Friday 6th November
3pm Choir Practice

Saturday 7th November
9.30am Churchyard Tidy-up
Men-in-Fellowship – Pub & Curry Night

Sunday 8th November – Remembrance Sunday
9am Holy Communion – Church
10.45am Remembrance Service – Church (Livestreamed)
11.45am Uniformed Organisations Service - 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)

November

Mon 9th Nov	PCC Meeting
Fri 13th Nov	St John's Quiz Night 6pm
Sun 15th Nov	Inter-Church 4pm in church
Tues 17th Nov	Green Team 4pm
Sun 22nd Nov	Sparks 5-11s group – during 10am service in church
Fri 27th Nov	FoSJ Wine Tasting 7pm
Sun 29th Nov	Sparks 5-11s group – during 10am service in church

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 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

Hymns

296 For all the saints (verses 1, 4 & 8)
721 Love divine (tune 2)
308 Rejoice in God's saints
312 Ye watchers and ye holy ones

Collect

God of holiness,
your glory is proclaimed in every age:
as we rejoice in the faith of your saints,
inspire us to follow their example
with boldness and joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
or
Almighty God,
you have knit together your elect
in one communion and fellowship
in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord:
grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints
in all virtuous and godly living
that we may come to those inexpressible joys
that you have prepared for those who truly love you;
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.

Reading **1 John 3.1-3**

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Gospel **Matthew 5.1-12**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:
'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Readings next week:
1 Thessalonians 4.13–end
Matthew 25.1–13

Post Communion Prayer
God, the source of all holiness and giver of all good things:
may we who have shared at this table
as strangers and pilgrims here on earth
be welcomed with all your saints
to the heavenly feast on the day of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Sick or in need - Amelia Butler, Sophie, Ben, Linda Duncton

Departed – Alan Clark

NEWS

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

St John's Recipe Book

We are looking to create a recipe book from the amazing community here at St John's, to sell at various church events during the year. So we need your help! Do you make a fantastic flapjack, a superb soup, a perfect Paella, or marvellous Moussaka? We would love to have your recipes!

Please go to https://forms.churchdesk.com/f/E0W5wyV31u or use the QR code to access the form to send us your recipe! We would ideally love all recipes in by the first week of November, and we can't wait to try them all out!

Sewing Group – Next date Monday 2nd November 2pm-4pm



The third 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.

Future Meetings: Tuesday 24th November 10am-12noon

Combat Stress Collection 8th November 2025

Combat Stress is the UK's leading veterans' mental health charity. The work they do is life-changing and often life-saving. They provide the only intensive mental health treatment service to UK veterans across the UK, both in-person and online.

Combat Stress provides specialist clinical treatment and support for veterans from the British Armed Forces, focusing on those with PTSD, Complex-PTSD, and moral injury resulting from their experiences during military service.

In the pews on Sunday 8th November, there will be envelopes asking for a donation for this charity. We ask that you please give generously to support the work they do. Thank you.

St John's Quiz Night- Friday 13th November St John's Centre



We are holding a fund raising Quiz Night on Friday 13th November! Doors open at 7pm, quiz to start at 7.30pm and you can have teams of up to 8 people. Tickets are £10 per person. It is bring your own drinks and nibbles and you can sign up by going to our website. www.saintjohns.org.uk. Invite your friends and neighbours!

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 15th, 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.

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
Friday 4th December
Friday 11th December
Friday 18th December

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 7th 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!

Saturday 5th December

Christmas themed craft afternoon

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 if you need more information.

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 from Sunday 8th, and then it will be in the office during the week. Thank you!

Lantern Festival Bakers

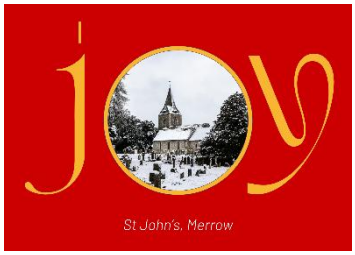
For those keen bakers, we would love some cakes, biscuits and bakes for the weekend to offer to people coming to visit out church! If you think you could make a batch of something, please contact Jo Stokes on 07984196658 or let Carol Potter know.

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.

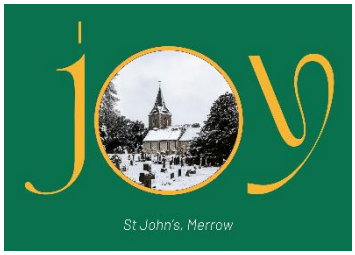
Christmas Cards

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!



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.

Merrow Residents' Association – Monday 2nd November 8pm

MRA is holding its Autumn Event on Monday 2nd November at 8pm at the St John's Centre. The topic will be *'Local Authority Re-organisation & the next Local Plan.'* Together with Councillors George Potter and Jo Shaw important upcoming changes will be discussed - the new local government structure, changes to the Green Belt, a new town council and Guildford's next Local Plan. This is a community event and all are welcome to attend.
For more information contact secretary@merrowresidents.org Anyone who lives in or has a business in Merrow can become a member of MRA, either in person on 2nd Nov or via www.merrowresidents.org.uk

Wednesday Morning Coffee Club

It may be cold and miserable outside but it is warm and friendly at our Wednesday morning coffee club, so come and have a break from being stuck indoors. We would love to meet you. We are in business every Wednesday at 10.15 for drinks and a natter, so please feel free to drop in.

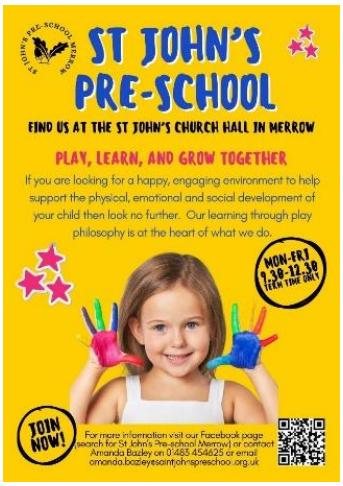
We are also going to see Beauty & the Beast on 12th December at 3pm, at the Godalming Borough halls, tickets are £23.00. Please can you let me know if you would like to come along. You do not have to be a member. Hope to see soon, Gerald
Should you have any queries, please contact me on my e-mail merrowcoffeemorning@hotmail.com or ring me on 07545256114

Pub Lunch – 12th November

I am also organising a lunch at the Bulls Head on Thursday 12th November. Please can you let me know if you want to come along. Gerald

St John's Pre-School

Are you looking for a nursery place
for your little ones for this September?
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 Ham
- Curry Sauce
- Flour
- Christmas Toiletries
- Advent Calendars

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 closed until 2nd November as we are currently fully stocked. Thank you for all your kind donations.

Could you help Baby Basics?

Baby Basics are looking for members of the congregation to join their team. They need people who:

- Would be willing to come along once a month, usually on a Tuesday morning, to help empty and sort the donation point and pack new orders.
- People who could help on an ad hoc basis with meeting midwives to collect baskets outside of the usual Tuesday morning sessions.
- Volunteers to wash the baby clothes that people donate.

If you think you could help with any of these roles, please get in touch with the team at babybasics@saintjohns.org.uk.

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