



St. John the Evangelist
Merrow



NEWSLETTER

Double Issue - Sunday 5th and Sunday 12th April

Easter Sunday

Saturday 4th April

9.30am Churchyard Tidy Up

Sunday 5th April

8am BCP Holy Communion - Church

10am All Age Communion - Church (Livestreamed)

Followed by our Easter Egg Hunt in the Churchyard

Tuesday 7th April

10.30am Sewing Group - Centre

2pm Holiday Club Information Meeting - Centre

Wednesday 8th April

NO Wednesday Coffee Club - Centre

NO Holy Communion Service - Centre

Friday 10th April

NO Choir Practice

Sunday 12th April

8am BCP Holy Communion - Church

10am Holy Communion - Church (Livestreamed)

Sparks 5-11s Group

(Please take this news sheet home with you)

Easter 2

Sunday 12th April

8am BCP Holy Communion - Church
10am Holy Communion - Church (Livestreamed)
Sparks 5-11s Group

Monday 13th April

9.15am Glow Toddlers - Centre

Tuesday 14th April

4pm Green Team - Centre

Wednesday 15th April

NO Wednesday Coffee Club - Centre
NO Holy Communion Service - Centre
1pm Michael Stoughton Funeral - Church
5pm Youth Café - Centre

Thursday 16th April

1pm Sue Peckham Memorial Service - Church

Friday 17th April

3pm Choir Practice - Centre

Saturday 18th April

8.30am Women-in-Fellowship Breakfast - Centre

Sunday 19th April

8am Holy Communion - Church
10am Parish Communion - Church (Livestreamed)
4pm Inter-Church - Church

Regular Calendar Events

(in the Centre unless mentioned otherwise)

Sundays	8am Holy Communion - Church 10am Parish Communion - Church
Mondays	9.15am Glow Toddlers (returns on 13th April)
Tuesdays	7.30-9pm Bell Ringing Practice
Wednesdays	10.15am Wednesday Coffee Club (returns on 22nd April) 10.30am Holy Communion Service 5pm Youth Café (returns on 15th April)
Fridays	3pm Choir Practice

Other Calendar Events

(in the Centre unless mentioned otherwise)

April

Sat 25 th Apr	Men-in-Fellowship - Breakfast meeting with Stephen Hall
Sun 26 th Apr	Sparks 5-11s group - during 10am service in church
Tues 28 th Apr	Green Team 4pm

May

Sat 2 nd May	Churchyard Tidy Up 9.30am
Sun 10 th May	Sparks 5-11s group - during 10am service in church
Sun 10 th May	APCM - save the date
Tues 12 th May	Green Team 4pm
Sun 17 th May	Inter-Church 4pm in Church
Sun 24 th May	Sparks 5-11s group - during 10am service in church
Tues 26 th May	Green Team 4pm
Sat 30 th May	Men and Women-in-Fellowship - Tour of Guildford Cathedral

Easter Sunday - 5th April

Hymns

205 Jesus Christ is risen today

667 I danced into the morning

208 Light's glittering morn bedecks the sky

Communion Hymn - 219 This Joyful Eastertide

218 Thine be the glory

Collect

Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son
overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity.

Amen.

or

God of glory,
by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death and hell:
fill your Church with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned
and the way to life stands open
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Reading**Acts 10.34-43**

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

Gospel**Matthew 28.1-10**

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.' So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

Readings next week:

1 Peter 1.3-9

John 20.19-end

Post Communion Prayer

God of Life,

who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son

to the death of the cross,

and by his glorious resurrection

have delivered us from the power of our enemy:

grant us so to die daily to sin,

that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Sick or in need - Ben, Amelia Butler, Sophie, Anna Collins

Departed - Michael Stoughton, Sue Peckham

Easter 2 - 12th April

Hymns

- 216 The day of resurrection
211 Now is eternal life
200 Christ the Lord is risen again (tune 228) (omit *)
207 Jesus lives! Thy terrors now

Collect

Almighty Father,
you have given your only Son to die for our sins
and to rise again for our justification:
grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness
that we may always serve you
in pureness of living and truth;
through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

or

Risen Christ,
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father.

Reading

1 Peter 1.3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Gospel

John 20.19-end

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.' A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Seasonal material

Invitation to Confession

Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil
and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

Introduction to the Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples
and said, 'Peace be with you.'
Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

Extended Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
almighty and eternal Father,
and in these days of Easter
to celebrate with joyful hearts
the memory of your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion
Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
has conquered the powers of death and hell
and restored in men and women the image of your glory.
He has placed them once more in paradise
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.
And so, in the joy of this Passover,
earth and heaven resound with gladness,
while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation
sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

Blessing

The God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
through the blood of the eternal covenant,
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,
working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight;
and the blessing . .

Readings next week:

1 Peter 1.17-23

Luke 24.13-35

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God our Father,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ
you have assured your children of eternal life
and in baptism have made us one with him:
deliver us from the death of sin
and raise us to new life in your love,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Sick or in need - Ben, Amelia Butler, Sophie, Anna Collins

Departed - Michael Stoughton, Sue Peckham

NEWS

Michael Stoughton Funeral

Michael Stoughton's funeral will be held at St John's in Mellow on Wednesday 15th April at 1pm, followed by a reception in the Church Hall. If you are planning to attend, please can you let Rosemary know at rcostoughton@gmail.com or 07493 372215, so that she can make sure she caters for everyone.

Sue Peckham Memorial Service

The Memorial Service for Sue Peckham will be held at St John's in Mellow on the 16th April at 1pm.

Sewing Group - Tuesday 7th April 10.30am

Anyone is welcome to come along, sewing skills or not! This time we are going to be making some tablecloths for the Infant school and tackling a few plans and patterns for holiday club. We have two more sessions before the summer holidays. The dates are:

Tuesday 7th April
Tuesday 2nd Jun



Women in Fellowship upcoming Events

Your Women-in-Fellowship team are busy planning events for 2026 and here is a summary of what you can look forward to....

- **Saturday 18th April - 8.30 am** - Breakfast talk with Sarah Frith about her role working as a psychologist for the prison service
- **Saturday 30th May** - Exclusive tour of Guildford Cathedral with St John's Men-in-Fellowship
- **Saturday 11th July - 8.30 am** - Breakfast with talk by Rev. Margaret Dean - Life in a rural parish
- **Saturday 10th October - 8.30 am** - Breakfast and talk - TBA

If you wish to know more about the W-I-F or the events, please contact Carole Burtonwood carole.burtonwood@saintjohns.org.uk or Lindsay Dobson treasurer@saintjohns.org.uk

Men-in-Fellowship upcoming Events

Your Men-in-Fellowship team has been busy planning events for Spring/Summer 2026 and here's a summary of what's coming soon.....

- **Saturday 25th April** (8.30am) - Breakfast Meeting with Stephen Hall, who is a Mediator, Leadership Coach and Strategy Consultant, talking about conflict in business and Christianity
- **Saturday 30th May** - Exclusive tour of Guildford Cathedral shared with members of St. John's Women-in-Fellowship
- **Friday 19th June** - Walk in the local area - details to follow
- **Saturday 18th July** - Watercress Line "Real Ale Train" - evening departure from Alton Station - always a popular event / more details to follow.

Please save the dates and we hope you can join us. More details will follow, meanwhile contact Robert robertavis@raavis.plus.com or Richard Richard.burtonwood@saintjohns.org.uk if you need more information.

Volunteers - Church Fete on 4th July 12.30-3pm

The Church Fete team are looking for volunteers to run some of the stalls at the Fete this year.

Children's area - This year we will have 10 stalls in the children's area. We are looking for volunteers for all the stalls. If you can help please contact Georgie at youthworker@saintjohns.org.uk

Jolly Jars Stall Request - In the children's corner we have a new stall this year; Jolly Jars. We would love for people to make Jolly Jars to donate to this stall. These can be filled with anything children would like and that can fit. These can contain sweets, chocolate, stickers, stationery or anything else similar. You can also decorate these to make them extra special! If you'd prefer, you can just donate some glass jars or items that can fill them as we will have a morning nearer the time to fill these. Anything is very much appreciated! All jars can be dropped off at the Parish Office 9-1pm Monday to Friday. Many Thanks, Hannah

May edition of the Parish Magazine

I am starting to put together copy for the above and would welcome any articles please about life at St John's – perhaps you'd like to share your experience about an event or activity you have recently attended or to publicise events happening in May. You may wish to just share an interesting experience you have recently had that you think others may be interested in too. I would be grateful for poems, puzzles, recipes, useful bits of advice...anything like this. Please send to Cathy at: cathy.thompson@saintjohns.org.uk as soon as possible. Thank you!

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.

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).



Wednesday Morning Coffee Club

If you are at home on a Wednesday morning with nothing to do, then why not come and join us from 10.15am till 11.30am, for a bit of lively conversation over a hot drink and a biscuit or two. Everyone is welcome and it may just be better than sitting at home twiddling your thumbs!

If interested, it is open house so just turn up any Wednesday during School term times. Gerald Hunt

Should you have any queries, please contact me on my e-mail merrowcoffeemorning@hotmail.com or call 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.



ST JOHN'S PRE-SCHOOL MERROW

ST JOHN'S PRE-SCHOOL

AT ST JOHN'S CENTRE, MERROW

PLAY, LEARN, AND GROW TOGETHER

If you are looking for a happy, engaging environment to help support the physical, emotional and social development of your child then look no further. Our learning through play philosophy is at the heart of what we do.

MON-FRI 9.30-12.30 TERM TIME ONLY

JOIN NOW!

For more information visit our Facebook page (search for St John's Pre-school Merrow) or contact Amanda Bazley on 01483 454625 or email amanda.bazley@saintjohnspreschool.org.uk



Food Bank

The food bank would greatly appreciate donations of

- Tinned Vegetables
- Tinned Pasta
- Baked Beans
- Cloths/Sponges
- Coffee (not Decaf)



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 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.

We do have a high demand for the following items and donations would be greatly appreciated.

- *Mother and Baby Toiletries*

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

For more information 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:

Barry: Tues, Thur, Fri (9am to 1pm) Wed (9am to 12noon)

Sandra: Mon, Wed and Fri (9am to 1pm) - Annual Leave 6th -10th April

The office will be closed on Monday 6th April

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:
Jane Farquharson

jane.farquharson@saintjohns.org.uk
07765 620017

Churchwarden:
Cathy Thompson

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07850 000224

Treasurer:
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Organist & Choir Director:
Micky Clare

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Coffee Club:
Gerald Hunt

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07545 256114

Bell Ringing:
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07765 620017