

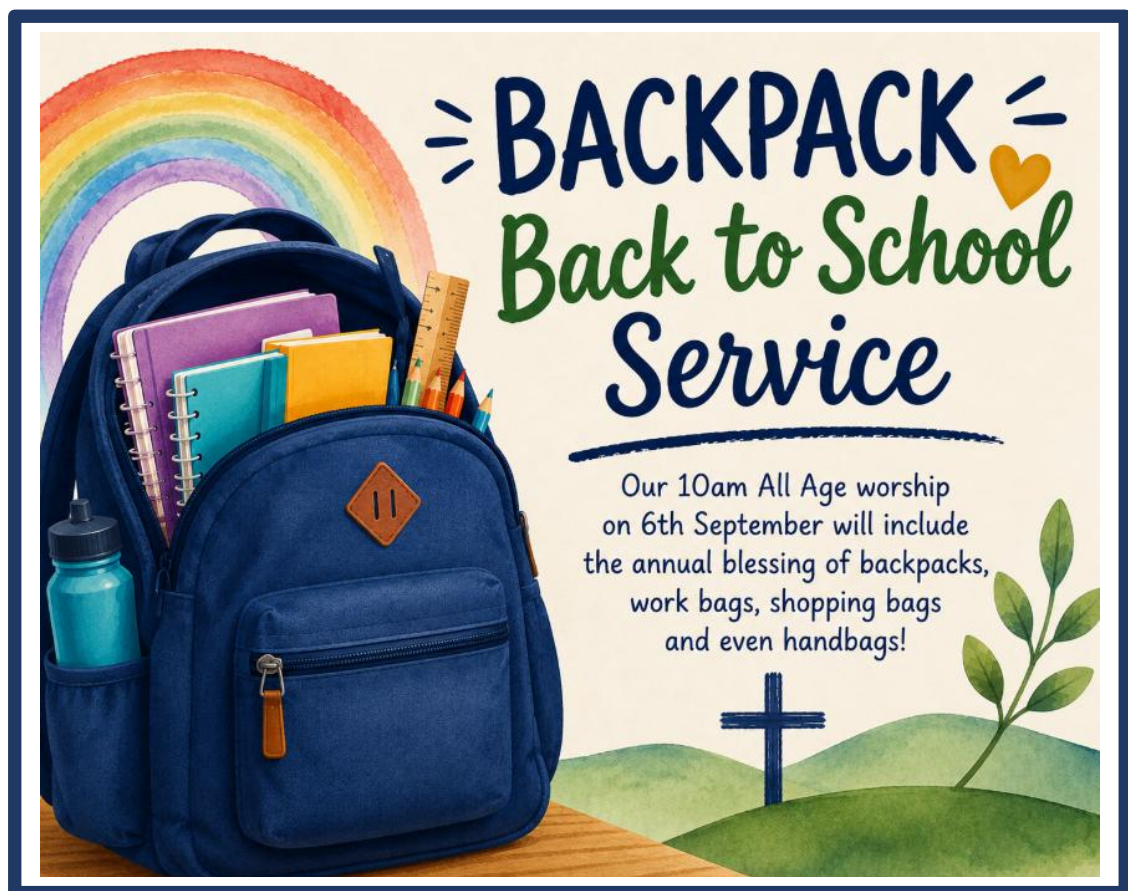
ST JOHN'S MERROW

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know God's love, grow in faith and  
live in hope.**

PARISH MAGAZINE

**September 2026**

**Price: 60p**

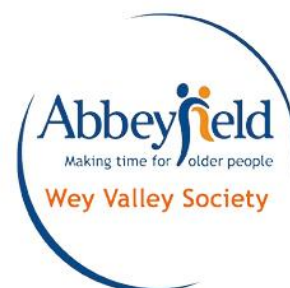


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# **St John the Evangelist**

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The Revd Tim Clifford Hill  
Rector



Georgie Gregson  
Youth & Families  
Minister

A Caring Christian Community, here for everyone

Please note: St John's Church is currently closed during the day, unless there is a scheduled service. We will update you when we are able to re-open at other times.

Sunday services are listed on Page 2.

Services during the week:

Morning Prayer Monday to Thursday at 9am in Church.

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

Evening Prayer on Fridays at 5pm in Church.

All are welcome.

## SEPTEMBER 2026 SUNDAY SERVICES (Year A)

### **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September**

14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity, Green

*Romans 13.8-end, Matthew 18.15-20*

8am BCP Holy Communion

10am All Age Worship

### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September**

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity, Green

*Romans 14.1-12, Matthew 18.21-35*

8am BCP Holy Communion

10am CW Holy Communion

### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September**

16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity, Green

*Philippians 1.21-end, Matthew 20.1-16*

8am BCP Holy Communion

10am CW Holy Communion

### **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September**

17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity, Green

*Philippians 2.1-13, Matthew 21.23-32*

8am BCP Holy Communion

10am CW Holy Communion

### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October**

Harvest Festival, Green

*2 Corinthians 9.6-end, Luke 12.16-30  
(17.11-19)*

8am BCP Holy Communion

10am All Age Worship for Harvest

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

## FROM THE REGISTERS:

### Baptisms:

23<sup>rd</sup> August      Albie Campion Smith



## LETTER FROM THE YOUTH WORKER'S OFFICE

As we begin a new school year, it feels like the perfect time to look back on what has been an amazing summer at St John's!

Our biggest adventure was **Mission Rescue** – our holiday club exploring the story of Moses. What a week it was! From the very first briefing to the final escape across the Red Sea, the children threw themselves into our secret-agent mission and discovered how God was at work throughout Moses' story.

We were absolutely blown away by the number of people who helped make the week happen. Over 50 people were involved in preparing, planning and delivering the club, whether leading teams, telling Bible stories, running games and crafts, creating props, cutting out resources, preparing food and drinks, leading the music, setting up and packing away, or simply being there to encourage the children. And then there were our 48 brilliant children, who spent the week uncovering the *Operation Moses Rescue* papers, taking part in challenges and activities, and discovering more about God's rescue plan.

A huge thank you to everyone who gave their time, energy and creativity to make Mission Rescue such a success. It really was a wonderful example of the church community coming together, and we are so grateful to every person who played a part.

And now, we're kicking off the new term with a bang! We have lots happening over the coming weeks, and we are so excited about all that this new term will bring. We'd love to see you, your family and friends, joining in wherever you can.

We begin with our **Blessing of the Backpacks service on Sunday 6th September at 10am**. As a new school year begins, this is a chance to pray for all our children, young people, teachers and school staff as they start another year. Bring along your school bag or backpack and let's begin the year together, asking God to be with us in all the adventures and challenges ahead. And if you're heading back to work rather than back to school, you're very welcome to bring along your work bag too! It's a chance for all of us to ask God's blessing on the new season ahead.

Then, on **Sunday 13th September at 3pm, we have our Pet Service!** Bring along your pets (or a photograph of them if they would rather stay at home!) for a fun and informal service celebrating all the wonderful creatures God has made. Don't have a pet? Don't worry! Bring along your favourite cuddly toy instead – everyone is welcome.

Looking further ahead, our **Harvest Festival will be on Sunday 4th October at 10am**, followed by our **Harvest Lunch**. It's a wonderful opportunity for us to come together, give thanks for all that God provides, and enjoy good food and fellowship together. More details about the lunch will follow, but save the date now!

There is so much to look forward to this term, from our regular groups and activities to special services and events, and we can't wait to see what God has in store.

Here's to a brilliant new term – let's make it one to remember!

Georgie x

[**Editor's note:** more details available about the services above and Harvest Lunch in the flyers included in this magazine].

The front page of this month's magazine reminds us of our special All Age worship on 6th September at 10am, which will include our annual blessing of backpacks, work bags, shopping bags and even handbags! Please do bring a bag with you to the 10am service.



Thank you very much to **Chantries & Pewleys** for sponsoring our colour magazine cover again this year.

## ST JOHN'S WOMEN-IN-FELLOWSHIP

### Women in Fellowship upcoming Events

Saturday 10th October - 8.30am - Breakfast and talk – TBA

If you wish to know more about the Women-In-Fellowship or the events, please contact Carole Burtonwood [carole.burtonwood@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:carole.burtonwood@saintjohns.org.uk) or Lindsay Dobson [treasurer@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@saintjohns.org.uk)



## **MEN-IN-FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST MEETING WITH THE BRIGADIER**

Our latest Men-in-Fellowship breakfast on 25<sup>th</sup> July ventured into the realm of ethics, complete with a field trip to St John's war graves.

Brigadier Philip Pratley MBE gave us a most engaging talk on leadership and ethics through three case studies, each highlighting the tensions that can arise between the two.



The first, which led us to the war memorial, centred on those who fell in the First World War. We learned how, although both society and military leadership at the time were inherently hierarchical, public opinion strongly challenged this when it came to commemoration. The result was that all Allied service personnel were buried where they fell under identical white headstones, regardless of rank, religion or background.

Our second case study brought us to 9/11 and 7/7, exploring the friction between political leadership and intelligence agencies, and how these tensions led to disconnects in understanding and decision-making.

The third study then brought us right up to the present day, focusing on the ethical challenges of Artificial Intelligence "AI" and the concentration of influence among a small handful of tech leaders.

It was a most thought-provoking talk enjoyed by all, leading to plenty of discussion afterward - fortunately our mental energy had been suitably recharged by our breakfast beforehand!

Joe Bullock

## ST JOHN'S MEN-IN-FELLOWSHIP

### Autumn/Winter 2026 Calendar of Events

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



- Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September (8.30am)
  - Breakfast Meeting with Dan Frith on a talk entitled "Why Food Banks are necessary in the 21st Century"
- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October (18.30)
  - Evening games entertainment at Mulligan's (crazy golf and electro shuffle) followed by pizza at a local restaurant
- Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November (evening)
  - Pub Social Night with a curry aimed at new and established members
- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December (morning & lunchtime)
  - A local walk followed by Christmas Pub Lunch together

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

## WEDNESDAY COFFEE CLUB

Coffee morning will be restarting on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept at 10.15am in the church centre after our Summer Break.

Gerald Hunt



(Should you have any queries, please contact me on e-mail [merrowcoffeemorning@hotmail.com](mailto:merrowcoffeemorning@hotmail.com) or ring me on 07545256114)

## MISSION RESCUE HOLIDAY CLUB – ‘Mission Accomplished’

Another St John’s holiday club, another wonderful week! With a record 50+ volunteers helping out this year, the 48 children attending have had a great time.

During the week, our young people become secret agents with the mission to follow Moses on daring missions. Diving into the book of Exodus, cracking codes, follow clues, and seeing how God’s epic rescue plan shows His power and love for His people.

The morning started with children congregating in their ‘Mission Pods’ with their team leaders, to do craft activities, before gathering at ‘Mission Control’ for Action songs, a mission briefing video (with Padlock and Bones), and the play (acted out by our young leaders) explaining the story but in a fun and accessible way.



Then the children moved with their team leaders to the different activities for the day. Church (the ‘Bible Briefing Room’) was transformed into scenes from the Book of Exodus...the burning bush, the Passover meal, the parting of the Red Sea, where the stories were brought to life, by

being acted out by the children, by members of our congregation, and by the infamous ‘Open the Book’ team. Important reflection time was incorporated to allow the children to explore what and who is important in their lives. The crafts room ‘Q’s lab’ provided great opportunities, using the Bible stories as a basis, to make baskets, clay bugs, reflection fridge magnets, snake sock puppets, and lanyards. ‘Field Ops’ involved fun ‘secret agent’ games drawing inspiration from the day’s theme, like a ‘rescuing Moses’ relay race, laser obstacle course, passing secret messages using the churchyard gravestones, joining ‘pharaoh’s plague patrol’, and crossing the Red Sea, on carpet tiles!

Young people who attend our Youth Café and our church ran the teams. To witness these young leaders supporting the younger children by encouraging them to participate, attentive to their needs, commending them for their contributions, was truly special! They freely gave up their time to help and fully entered into the spirit of things. Two girls even received their GCSE results on Thursday and then came straight to holiday club!



Parents enjoyed joining in with our 'Mission Control' session on the last day, singing action songs with us. The main hall was buzzing with activity – children showing their parents their mission pods, and collecting their bags full of craft items and goodies!

A special Holiday Club service was planned for the Sunday after holiday club. What a lovely way to end what has been such an exciting week!

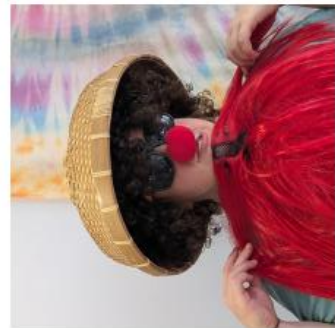
A huge thank you to everyone who gave up their time to prepare, plan, decorate, lead activities, make cups of tea, tell stories, play games, pray and encourage our children.

Of course, leading us from the front was our wonderful Youth & Families Minister, Georgie. Truly inspirational. Holiday Club simply wouldn't happen without her great talents, organizational skills and boundless enthusiasm. Thank you, Georgie.

Cathy Thompson

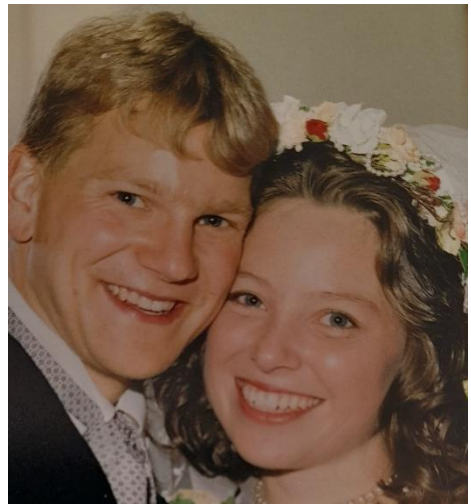


[**Editor's note:** See if you can recognize any of these holiday club volunteers 'incognito'!]



## DAVID'S BENCH

You may have noticed the beautiful new bench which has been placed half-way up the path to church? Some of our congregation have commented on how lovely it is, to have a place to rest, on the way up to church. And some of you have asked who the person is, being remembered on the plaque.



David Holdway and his wife Alison were regular worshippers at St John's during the 1990s and David was a server. They married at St John's and then moved to Fleet and joined a church community nearer to home. He was a teacher and cub scout leader, and later, Group Scout Leader in Farnham.

David passed away from a sudden and unexpected cardiac arrest on 24<sup>th</sup> April two years ago, aged 56. It was a terrible shock for his family and he is greatly missed. David donated all his organs, which in turn has helped to save the lives of two other people and improve the life of a third.

In August this year, shortly after David's bench was installed, Tim blessed it with Holy Oil, with Alison and David's family in attendance.

We include here the prayer said by Tim at the blessing:

God our Father,  
in loving care your hand has created us,  
and as the potter fashions the clay  
you have formed us in your image.  
Through the Holy Spirit  
you have breathed into us the gift of life.  
In the sharing of love you have enriched our  
knowledge of you and of one another.

We claim your love today,  
in sure and certain hope of the resurrection  
to eternal life.

Heavenly Father,  
we thank you for all those whom  
we love but see no longer.  
As we remember David in this place,  
hold before us our beginning and our ending,  
the dust from which we come  
and the death to which we move,  
with a firm hope in your eternal love  
and purposes for us,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

The photo taken here shows  
Alison and their children Ella,  
Bethany and Sebastian, with  
Alison holding a picture of  
David.



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The poster for the Harvest Festival 2026 features a yellow background. At the top left is a logo for St. John the Evangelist, featuring a blue and yellow winged figure. The text 'HARVEST Festival 2026' is prominently displayed in the center. Below this is an illustration of pumpkins and autumn leaves. A red banner across the middle reads '4TH OCTOBER AT 10:00'. Below the banner, the text 'SERVICE AND LUNCH' is written in bold. Further down, it says 'Sign-up for the Harvest Lunch at the back of Church or in the Church Office'. Below that, it states 'Any food donations will go to the North Guildford Food Bank'. At the bottom, the text 'All Age Worship' is written in a large, bold, red font.

**HARVEST**  
**Festival**  
**2026**

**4TH OCTOBER AT 10:00**

**SERVICE AND LUNCH**  
Sign-up for the Harvest Lunch at the  
back of Church or in the Church Office

Any food donations will go to the  
North Guildford Food Bank

**All Age Worship**

## FORTHCOMING MAGAZINE INFORMATION

| Issue    | Copy date                 | Editor      | Editor's email address                                                                 |
|----------|---------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| October  | 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept     | Chris Starr | <a href="mailto:chrisstarr10@btinternet.com">chrisstarr10@btinternet.com</a>           |
| November | 11 <sup>th</sup> October  | Nick Bond   | <a href="mailto:nick.bond@saintjohns.org.uk">nick.bond@saintjohns.org.uk</a>           |
| December | 15 <sup>th</sup> November | Helen Eagle | <a href="mailto:helen.chambers@saintjohns.org.uk">helen.chambers@saintjohns.org.uk</a> |

(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.)

## CONGRATULATIONS TO PAT ON HER 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY!

Martin and I spent a lovely afternoon in August with Pat (a long-standing member of St John's) in Shoreham-on-Sea (where she lives now, close to family). We had so much to chat about...old times, in particular, about dear Brian (Pat's husband, who passed away some twenty five years ago now), about Merrow School (Pat was Deputy Head there), about St John's Toddler Group (when she was a helper and we all brought our (now grown up) children, about Pat's lovely family who are now able to visit her regularly as she is so local, and about developments at St John's.

Pat looks amazing! And definitely has a better memory than me! She is very comfortable in her home and has a lovely team of staff looking after her! At the beginning of September, she will celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday! What a wonderful accomplishment, and what a wonderful lady!

We send you all our love and best wishes, Pat, from everyone here at St John's.

Cathy Thompson

**ST JOHN'S**

# **PET SERVICE**

**Sunday 13th September**

**15:00 in St John's Church**

**All welcome!**

**Bring your pets along,  
great or small, for a blessing in  
this service of thanksgiving!**

**If you don't have a pet you are still  
very welcome, you could even  
bring a cuddly toy instead.**



**St. John the Evangelist  
Merrow**



## SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT MERROW 2!

[Editor's Note: Following on from the article in our August Parish Magazine about Merrow, I thought you may be interested in the following! The Office of National Statistics always has some interesting facts to explore! Please note that content has been produced using ChatGPT]

Using **2021 Census (ONS)** data for the **Merrow ward** in Guildford, a clear socioeconomic profile emerges:

Here are some of the most interesting statistics:

| Indicator          | Merrow                        | What it suggests                           |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Population         | ~8,063 residents              | Medium-sized suburban ward                 |
| Households         | ~3,254                        | Average household size of about 2.5 people |
| Population density | ~1,828 people/km <sup>2</sup> | Fairly low-density suburban development    |

### High educational attainment

Merrow has one of the strongest educational profiles in Guildford.

- A high proportion of residents hold **degree-level qualifications**.
- Many residents work in knowledge-intensive professions such as finance, technology, healthcare, engineering and education.
- Independent analyses based on ONS Census data rate the ward **8/10** for degree-educated residents.

### Professional occupations dominate

The occupational structure is noticeably more affluent than the England average.

Across Merrow neighbourhoods:

- Higher managerial and professional occupations are the largest employment group.

- Lower managerial and professional occupations are also strongly represented.
- Routine and semi-routine occupations make up a comparatively small share of employment.

## Very low deprivation

Marrow ranks as one of the least deprived parts of Guildford.

- Around **95%** of neighbourhoods fall into non-deprived categories.
- Income deprivation, employment deprivation and crime are all relatively low compared with national averages.

## Spacious housing

One striking statistic is bedroom occupancy.

Of approximately **3,252 households**:

- **1,489** have **two or more spare bedrooms**
- **887** have one spare bedroom
- Only **97 households** are overcrowded (95 with one bedroom too few, 2 with two or more too few)

This means roughly **73% of households have at least one extra bedroom**, reflecting larger detached and semi-detached homes and an older population whose children have often left home.

## An older, established population

Compared with Guildford town centre:

- Marrow has a larger proportion of residents aged **40–59**.
- There is also a sizeable, retired population.
- It has fewer students than areas closer to the University of Surrey campus.

## Family-oriented neighbourhood

Household composition is dominated by families.

ONS-based analysis shows:

- Families with children are the most common household type.
- Single-person households are less common than in urban centres.
- The housing stock is geared toward long-term family occupation.

## Ethnic diversity

Merrow is becoming more diverse while remaining predominantly White British.

Approximate Census profile:

- White British: **~76%**
- Growing communities from other European and Asian backgrounds
- Christian remains the largest religion, although the proportion reporting **no religion** has increased since 2011.

## Economic profile

Merrow has:

- High employment
- Low unemployment
- High rates of owner occupation
- Above-average household incomes
- Many commuters working in London or professional jobs across Surrey.

## How Merrow compares with the UK

Compared with the average English neighbourhood, Merrow generally has:

- ✓ Higher household incomes
- ✓ More university graduates
- ✓ More managers and professionals
- ✓ Lower unemployment
- ✓ Lower crime
- ✓ Larger homes
- ✓ Lower deprivation
- ✓ Higher property values (though house prices come from Land Registry rather than the Census).

Overall, the ONS data paints Merrow as a classic **prosperous South East England commuter suburb**: highly educated, professionally employed, family-oriented, and with spacious housing and low deprivation. It is among the more affluent wards within the Guildford Borough area.

## **ST JOHN'S HERITAGE OPEN DAYS EVENT**

**(19th & 20th September)**

The church will be open on Saturday 19th September from 10am to 4pm with guided tours at 10.30am, 12.30pm and 2.30pm, and on Sunday 20th September from 11.30am to 3.30pm with guided tours at 12pm and 2pm.

As well as joining one of the guided tours, visitors can explore the church interior, learn about the pipe organ, follow the trail around the war memorial and war graves, and watch the ringers in action in the bell tower.

There will also be a range of displays about the history of the church and the site, interesting artefacts (did you know that St John's has a copy of the rare 'Vinegar Bible' printed in 1717, named for its famous misprint in Luke Ch 20) and connections with the Merrow community.

This will be a rare opportunity to explore parts of the church not usually open to the public and to learn more about the Friends' current and recently completed heritage projects.

If all of this leaves you feeling in need of a cup of tea and a biscuit, refreshments will be available throughout the day!





## **ABOUT OUR CATHEDRAL...**

### **In September...**

With worship, live music, exhibitions, family activities, tower tours and concerts by candlelight, September offers plenty of ways to experience our Cathedral as a place of reflection, creativity and community.

#### **4, 5, 11, 12 September Guildford Cathedral Tower Tours**

Climb 249 Steps to be rewarded with spectacular views.

Tickets £10 +booking fee

<https://www.guildford-cathedral.org/events/boxoffice>

#### **Wednesday 2 September 10am - 11.30am**

##### **Cathedral Tots**

Monthly informal service for families, Bible story, children's activity and refreshments. Free: no booking necessary

<https://www.guildford-cathedral.org/events/families-2026>

#### **Sunday 6 September 09:45am to 11:00am**

##### **Eucharist with Installation of Head & Deputy Head Boy**

**Choristers** An opportunity to support our senior choristers as they take up their leadership roles.

#### **Tuesday 8 September - Sunday 19 October**

##### **Art Exhibition TRANSFORMATIONS**

The power of "Transformation" captured by an artwork project at HMP Coldingley. Check website for Transformation Exhibition events and National Prison Week details.

#### **Wednesday 9 September 2026 7:30pm to 8:30pm**

##### **Recomposed by Max Richter: Vivaldi, The Four Seasons**

Featuring the unique interpretation of contemporary composer Max Richter, performed by the extraordinary Mystery Ensemble. Seated: From £20

More Info: <https://redevents.world>

**Thursday 10 September 10.30 to 12.00**

**Free Coffee Concert Neil Crossland, pianist & composer**

Ever-popular Coffee Concert series.

More Info: <https://www.guildford-cathedral.org/>

**Saturday 12 September 11am to 4pm Craft & Flea**

Brings together the best independent makers, collectors, designers, and creatives from your area. General sale: £3

More Info: <https://www.thecraftandflea.com/>

**Sunday 13 September 09:45 am to 11:00am**

**EUCCHARIST with Installation of Head & Deputy Girl Choristers.**

An opportunity to support our senior choristers as they take up their leadership role.

**Saturday 19 September 7:30 pm to 11:00 pm**

**Martin Kemp: Back to the 80's DJ Set**

80s icon, actor, and Spandau Ballet star Martin Kemp is taking us Back to the 80s! Standing: £48+booking fee

info: <https://boxoffice.concertsbycandlelight.com/events/kindadustyltd/2061663>

**Friday 25 September 7:30PM to 9:50PM**

**Meat Loaf by Candlelight**

For Crying Out Loud... book your tickets now! This electrifying experience is guaranteed to make your Rock and Roll Dreams Come Through! Seated: From £35+booking fee

More Info: <https://concertsbycandlelight.com/>

**Saturday 26 September 7:30pm to 9:50 pm**

**Bruce Springsteen by Candlelight**

The Music of Bruce Springsteen by Candlelight is rolling into town and guaranteed to have you Dancing In The Dark!

seated: From £35+booking fee

Info: <https://boxoffice.concertsbycandlelight.com/events/kindadustyltd/2051930>

## GARDENING HINTS FOR SEPTEMBER

As the drought is set to continue, all we can do is to water cherished plants and hope that normality returns soon, otherwise as the evenings draw in, enjoy what you can whilst the garden is somewhere near its peak.

On dry sunny days, and there are many of those at the moment, seed can be collected from Annuals such as Alyssum, French Marigold and Tagetes can be collected for sowing next Spring. Do not collect the seed of F1 Hybrids as the new plants will not be the same as the originals.

Continue to deadhead the flower border so that it will stay in bloom until the first frost.

To produce good blooms, Dahlias need to be fed with a high potash liquid feed once a fortnight.

Rambling Roses, which only produce one flush of bloom per year, should be pruned, cutting out a third of the flowered stems at the base of the plant.

Sow Hardy Annuals such as Calendula and Nigella to provide early colour next Summer.

Plant Spring flowering biennials, such as Forget-me-not, Foxglove and Iceland Poppy, to produce early colour in the border.

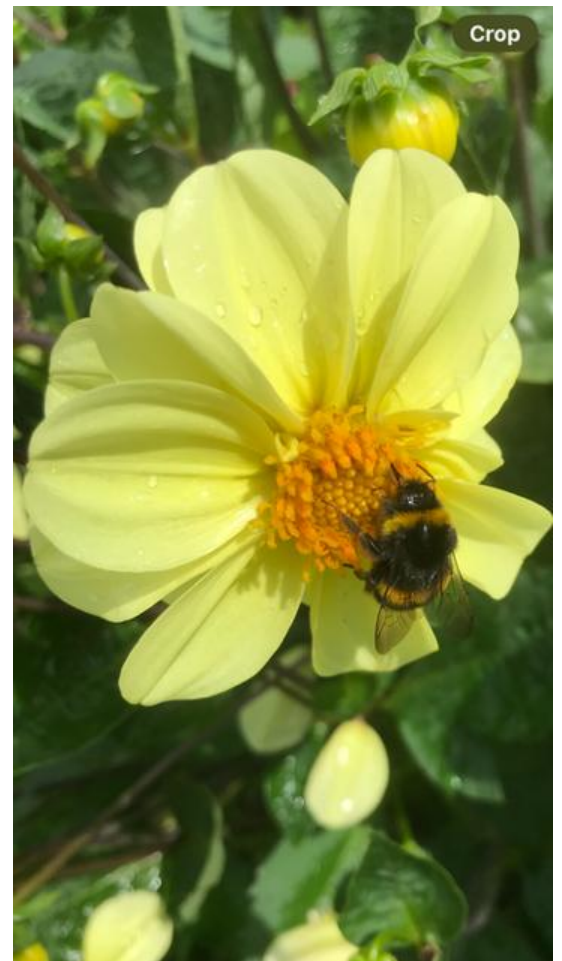
Cuttings of Fuchsia and Pelargonium can still be taken.

Keep Camellias and Rhododendrons well-watered to ensure good bud formation for flowering next Spring.

Evergreen Hedges should be given a final trim before Winter.

Daffodils and Narcissi should be planted this month or next for a good Spring display.

I expect that, like me, you will already have amassed a good collection of bulb catalogues. Although their prices may appear expensive, they offer you the chance of buying varieties that you will not see in the Garden Centres. Remember, the bigger the Bulb, the better the flower.



Towards the end of the month, un-ripened Tomatoes should be brought indoors to ripen, or to be made into chutney.

Main crop Potatoes should be lifted and stored, for use during the Winter months.

A late sowing of Spinach and Turnip can still be made. Overwintering Onion Sets and Spring Cabbage should be planted out. Cut out the fruited canes of Loganberry and Raspberry.

Apply an Autumn Dressing to the Lawn if ever rain is forecast again.

Do not worry about your Lawn, it will soon pick up if the drought is not too long!

*John Boon*

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[**Editor's Note:** A 97-year-old woman who recently did a wing-walk for charity (!) quoted a saying, which resonates. I share with you here...]

*"I expect to pass through this life but once; therefore any good that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now; let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."*

Stephen Grellet 1773-1855

(Prominent French/American Quaker missionary)

## **ST JOHN'S SUNDAY 10AM LIVESTREAMED SERVICE**

Our Sunday 10am livestreamed service has moved from Facebook to **YouTube** as of August. If you wish to watch the livestream then you need to go to our website and click on the red box at the top right. That will then show you a page which has our logo on it. If the logo is framed in **RED** then the livestream is working.

## **REGULAR ST JOHN'S EVENTS**

(in the Centre unless mentioned otherwise)

|            |                                                                                                                          |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sundays    | 8am Holy Communion – Church<br>10am Parish Communion - Church                                                            |
| Mondays    | 9.15am Glow Toddlers                                                                                                     |
| Tuesdays   | 7.30-9pm Bell Ringing Practice                                                                                           |
| Wednesdays | 10.15am Wednesday Coffee Club (returns on 2nd Sept)<br>10.30am Holy Communion Service<br>5pm Youth Café (term time only) |
| Fridays    | 3pm Choir Practice (no practice until 11th September)                                                                    |

## **OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES**

(in the Centre unless mentioned otherwise)

### **September**

|                      |                                                    |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Churchyard Tidy-up 9.30am                          |
| Sun 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Backpack Service 10am in church                    |
| Sun 13 <sup>th</sup> | Sparks 5-11s group – during 10am service in church |
| Sun 13 <sup>th</sup> | Pet Service 3pm in church                          |
| Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> | Inter-Church 4pm in church                         |
| Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> | Sparks 5-11s group – during 10am service in church |

### **October**

|                      |                               |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Churchyard Tidy-up 9.30 am    |
| Sun 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Harvest Lunch                 |
| Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> | Women-in-Fellowship breakfast |
| Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> | Inter-Church 4pm in church    |



St John's Merton

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## 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 our Treasurer, Lindsay Dobson ([giftaid@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:giftaid@saintjohns.org.uk)).



## POEM CORNER

[From Nick Bond: 'This poem we used to say out loud at school; everyone shouted the last line!']

### **Cargoes, by John Masefield**

QUINQUIREME of Nineveh from distant Ophir,  
Rowing home to haven in sunny Palestine,  
With a cargo of ivory,  
And apes and peacocks,  
Sandalwood, cedarwood, and sweet white wine.

Stately Spanish galleon coming from the Isthmus,  
Dipping through the Tropics by the palm-green shores,  
With a cargo of diamonds,  
Emeralds, amethysts,  
Topazes, and cinnamon, and gold moidores.

Dirty British coaster with a salt-caked smoke stack,  
Butting through the Channel in the mad March days,  
With a cargo of Tyne coal,  
Road-rails, pig-lead,  
Firewood, iron-ware, and cheap tin trays.

[Sent in by Carol Jeffreys..]

## A Considerable Speck, by Robert Frost

*A speck that would have been beneath my sight  
On any but a paper sheet so white  
Set off across what I had written there.  
And I had idly poised my pen in air  
To stop it with a period of ink  
When something strange about it made me think.  
This was no dust speck by my breathing blown,  
But unmistakably a living mite  
With inclinations it could call its own.  
It paused as with suspicion of my pen,  
And then came racing wildly on again  
To where my manuscript was not yet dry;  
Then paused again and either drank or smelt—  
With loathing, for again it turned to fly.  
Plainly with an intelligence I dealt.  
It seemed too tiny to have room for feet,  
Yet must have had a set of them complete  
To express how much it didn't want to die.  
It ran with terror and with cunning crept.  
It faltered; I could see it hesitate;  
Then in the middle of the open sheet  
Cower down in desperation to accept  
Whatever I accorded it of fate.  
I have none of the tenderer-than-thou  
Collectivistic regimenting love  
With which the modern world is being swept.  
But this poor microscopic item now!  
Since it was nothing I knew evil of  
I let it lie there and I hope it slept.  
I have a mind myself and recognize  
Mind when I meet with it in any guise.  
No one can know how glad I am to find  
On any sheet the least display of mind.*



## WHO'S WHO

|                           |                                                             |                                      |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Rector                    | The Revd Tim Clifford Hill (Day off: Friday and Sat am)     | 951649                               |
| Youth & Families Minister | Georgie Gregson (Days off: Friday & Saturday)               | 07974 494504                         |
| Churchwardens             | Cathy Thompson                                              | 07518 202920                         |
|                           | Michael Eagle                                               | 07850 000224                         |
| Deputy Churchwarden       | Rosemary Stoughton                                          | rosemary.stoughton@saintjohns.org.uk |
| Verger                    | Helen Eagle                                                 | 07500 222063                         |
| St Johns Centre Office    | 9am – 2pm, Mon, Wed and Fri<br>9.30am – 1pm, Tues and Thurs | 01483 454621                         |
| - Parish Administrator    | Sandra Rayner                                               | office@saintjohns.org.uk             |
| - Centre Manager          | Barry Dickinson                                             | centremanager@saintjohns.org.uk      |

Web site: [www.saintjohns.org.uk](http://www.saintjohns.org.uk)

Email: [office@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:office@saintjohns.org.uk)

|                                             |                                       |                                     |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| (Acting) PCC Secretary                      | Tricia Tappin                         | 01483 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                     | Natalie Excell                        | natalie.excell@saintjohns.org.uk    |
| Electoral Roll                              | Carole Burtonwood                     | carole.burtonwood@saintjohns.org.uk |
| Flower coordinator                          | Helen Eagle                           | 07500 222063                        |
| Magazine Advertisements                     | Alan Thorn                            | adverts@saintjohns.org.uk           |
| Merrow C of E Infant School                 | Louisa Dormer (Executive Headteacher) |                                     |
|                                             | Emma Hooper (Deputy Head)             | 561501                              |
| Church Governors                            | Helen Eagle                           | 07500 222063                        |
|                                             | Lindsay Dobson                        | 07809 836896                        |
| Safeguarding Officer                        | Rosanne Bond                          | 579462                              |
| St John's Merrow, Pre-School                | Amanda Bazley (Manager)               | 454625                              |
| Diocesan Lay Pastoral Assistant             | Helen Eagle                           | 07500 222063                        |
| Readings and Intercessions Rota             | Joe Bullock                           | 07521 960480                        |
| Weekly News Sheet                           |                                       | office@saintjohns.org.uk            |
| 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 [cathy.thompson@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:cathy.thompson@saintjohns.org.uk)

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