



NEWSLETTER

Trinity 16

Sunday 20th September

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

Monday 21st September

9.15am Glow Toddlers - Centre

Wednesday 23rd September

10.15am Wednesday Coffee Club
10.30am Holy Communion Service - Centre
5pm Youth Café - Centre

Friday 25th September

3pm Choir Practice

Saturday 26th September

8.30am Men-in-Fellowship Breakfast with Dan Frith
Women-in-Fellowship Theatre Trip

Sunday 27th September

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

(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)

September

Tues 29th Sept Green Team 4pm

October

Sat 3rd Oct Churchyard Tidy-up 9.30am
Sun 4th Oct Harvest Lunch
Sat 10th Oct Women-in-Fellowship breakfast 8.30am
Sun 11th Oct Sparks 5-11s group - during 10am service in church
Tues 13th Oct Green Team 4pm
Thur 15th Oct Men-in-Fellowship - Mulligans Evening 6.30pm
Sun 18th Oct Inter-Church 4pm in church
Sun 25th Oct Sparks 5-11s group - during 10am service in church
Sun 25th Oct All Souls Service 4pm in church

November

Tues 3rd Nov Green Team 4pm
Thur 5th Nov Women-in-Fellowship - Visit to the Spike 2pm
Sat 7th Nov Churchyard Tidy-up 9.30am
Sat 7th Nov Men-in-Fellowship - Pub & Curry Night
Sun 8th Nov Remembrance Sunday
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
Sun 29th Nov Sparks 5-11s group - during 10am service in church

Hymns

814 Thy hand, O God, has guided

666 I cannot tell why he, whom angels worship

532 All creatures of our God and King (omit *)

763 Praise to the holiest in the height (tune 1)

Collect

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear
the prayers of your people who call upon you;
and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do,
and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them;
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.

or

Lord of creation,
whose glory is around and within us:
open our eyes to your wonders,
that we may serve you with reverence
and know your peace at our lives' end,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reading

Jonah 3.10-end of 4

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, 'O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.' And the Lord said, 'Is it right for you to be angry?' Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, 'It is better for me to die than to live.'

But God said to Jonah, 'Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?' And he said, 'Yes, angry enough to die.' Then the Lord said, 'You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?'

Gospel

Matthew 20.1-16

'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

Readings next week:

Philippians 2.1-13

Matthew 21.23-32

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God,
you have taught us through your Son
that love is the fulfilling of the law:
grant that we may love you with our whole heart
and our neighbours as ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Sick or in need - Amelia Butler, Sophie, Shirley Harrington

Departed - Natalie Peacock (ex-Head Teacher of Merrow Infant School)

NEWS

The church remains closed until further notice other than for scheduled services. If you would like to go into church, please come to the Parish Office and we can open the church for you.

Friends of 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 12:00pm 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.

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

Harvest Lunch - Sunday 4th October after the 10am service and coffee

Please come and join us for this year's Harvest Lunch, but don't forget to sign up on the forms at the back of church.

If you would like to make a Shepherd's Pie/Cottage Pie or Fruit Crumble for the lunch then please can you also fill in a form at the back of church. We can provide foil containers (collect from the back of church after the 8am or 10am service on Sunday 20th and 27th September or the Parish Office). Please bring your Shepherd's/ Cottage Pies and Fruit Crumbles to the centre kitchen in the morning before the 10am service.

Any questions please speak/call to Carol Potter 07712 586167.

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 13th October, and we can't wait to try them all out!



Men-in-Fellowship Autumn/Winter Calendar of Events

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



Thursday 15th October (18.30)

Evening games entertainment at Mulligan's (crazy golf and electro shuffle) followed by pizza at a local restaurant

Saturday 7th November (evening)

Pub Social Night with a curry aimed at new and established members

Thursday 10th 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, but in the meantime please contact Robert robertavis@raavis.plus.com or Richard Richard.burtonwood@saintjohns.org.uk if you need more information.

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 10th October - 8.30 am

Breakfast & talk from the Shooting Star Children's Hospices

Thursday November 5th 2pm - 4pm

Visit to the Spike (St Luke's workhouse) with refreshments

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

All Saints' Day - Bring a Piece of Your World - Sunday 1st November

As part of our year of celebrating diversity, we'll be celebrating the wonderful diversity of God's worldwide Church this All Saints' Day. We're asking you to bring a small object that connects you with a place somewhere in the world – perhaps somewhere you were born, have lived, have family or simply somewhere special to you.

If you can, have a think about a Christian or saint connected with that place – you might know someone already, or perhaps do a little research! Don't worry if you can't find anyone, though; simply bringing something that represents your connection with the place is absolutely fine.

One church. Many places. Many people. One God

St John's Quiz Night- Friday 7th November St John's Centre

We are holding a fund raising Quiz Night on Friday 7th November! Doors open at 19:00, quiz to start at 19:30 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!



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.

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.

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.

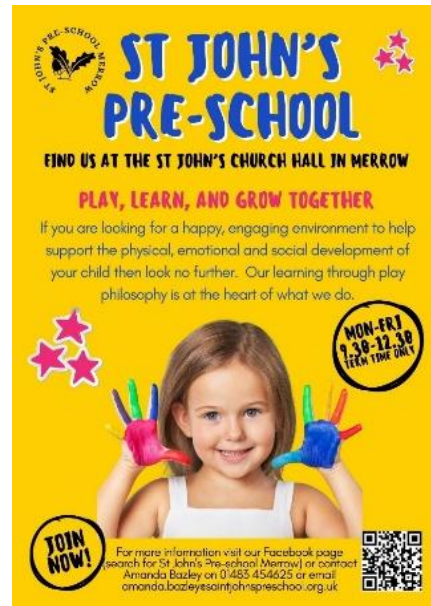
Regular Giving at St John's

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).



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



Wednesday Morning Coffee Club

We are taking bookings to see an amateur production of Beauty & the Beast on Saturday 12th December at 3pm, which is always very enjoyable. Oh no it's not etc! Tickets are £23.00 and you will need to arrange your own transport. Please contact me if you want to buy tickets. 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

Jane's Bardathon crowd-funding appeal



She did it! Jane MacIntyre (8 o'clocker) completed her 8-hour reading of 4 of Shakespeare's best-known plays at 18:11 at the top of Guildford High Street on Saturday 12 September. It was so encouraging to see friendly, familiar faces throughout the day. Their support helped keep her going. Her aim is to raise funds for her local theatre group, The Herald Players, a registered charity promoting general education and public appreciation of the arts through drama, who need funds to help continue their programme of

drama for the community. If you would like to congratulate her, please visit

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/jane-macintyrebardathon or scan the bar code. The Herald Players' next production is Rules For Living by Sam Holcroft - a quirky Christmas comedy at the Nomad Studio 13-16 January (an amateur production by arrangement with Nick Hern Books).



Food Bank

The food bank would greatly appreciate donations of

- Tinned Fish
- Ketchup/Mayo
- Chocolate/Crisps
- Rice
- Shower Gel

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 are currently well stocked but do need following items and donations would be greatly appreciated.

- *Mother and Baby Toiletries*
- *Baby Wipes*
- *Breast Pads*
- *Baby Sleep Bags*

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

We are looking for volunteers to wash the baby clothes that people donate. If you think you can help, then please contact Robyn 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

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Churchwarden:
Michael Eagle

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Churchwarden:
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Deputy Churchwarden:
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Treasurer:
Lindsay Dobson

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Safeguarding Officer:
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Organist & Choir Director:
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Coffee Club:
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