



NEWSLETTER

Sunday 27th April

8am Holy Communion - Church
10am Parish Communion - Church (Livestreamed)
10am Sparks 5-11s - Church
4pm Inter-Church - Church

Monday 28th April

9.15am Glow Toddlers - Centre

Wednesday 30th April

NO Wednesday Coffee Club - Centre
10.30am Holy Communion Service - Centre
5pm Youth Café - Centre

Friday 2nd May

NO Choir Practice - Centre

Saturday 3rd May

9.30am Churchyard Tidy Up

Sunday 4th May

8am Holy Communion - Church
10am Patronal Festival - All Age Worship - Church
(Livestreamed)
Followed by brunch in the church centre. Come and join us!

(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
Wednesdays	10.15am Wednesday Coffee Club (not on 30 th April) 10.30am Holy Communion Service 5pm Youth Café (term time only)
Fridays	3pm Choir Practice (not on 2 nd or 9 th May)

Other Calendar Events

(in the Centre unless mentioned otherwise)

May

Tues 6 th May	Green Team 4.30pm
Sat 10 th May	Pilgrimage to Winchester Cathedral
Sun 11 th May	Vocations Sunday
Sun 11 th May	Christian Aid Week Begins
Sun 11 th May	Sparks 5-11s group - during 10am service in church
Sun 11 th May	Songs of Praise 6pm in Church
Sun 18 th May	Inter-Church 4pm in Church
Sun 18 th May	Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Tues 20 th May	Green Team 4.30pm
Sat 24 th May	MiF - Social Evening
Sun 25 th May	Sparks 5-11s group - during 10am service in church

June

Tues 3 rd Jun	Green Team 4.30pm
Sat 7 th Jun	Churchyard Tidy Up 9.30am
Sun 8 th Jun	Sparks 5-11s group - during 10am service in church
Sun 15 th Jun	Inter-Church 4pm in Church
Sun 21 st Jun	Dave Kelly & Christine Collister Concert 7.30pm
Sat 28 th Jun	MiF - Real Ale Train

July

Sat 5 th Jul	Rectory Fete
Sun 6 th Jul	Baptism Service
Sun 13 th Jul	First Communion Service
Sun 20 th Jul	Parish BBQ

Hymns

216 The day of resurrection
211 Now is eternal life
213 'O sons and daughters
207 Jesus lives! Thy terrors now

Collect

Merciful Lord,
cast your bright beams of light upon the Church:
that, being enlightened by the teaching
of your blessed apostle and evangelist Saint John,
we may so walk in the light of your truth
that we may at last attain to the light of everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ your incarnate Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Reading

Revelation 1.4-8

John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come,
and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ,
the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the
earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to
be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and
dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every
eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes
of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. 'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says
the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

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:

Revelation 5.11-end

John 21.1-19

Post Communion

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 - Dick Pyper, Edward, Mae Pink

Departed - All whom we have known and loved but see no longer.

NEWS

Visiting Preachers

11th May - Rev Dr Craig Holmes

22nd June - Archdeacon Catherine Mabuza

26th October - Bishop of Guildford

First Communion Course and Baptism

Is your child aged 8 or over and interested in taking the next step on their faith journey? At St John's we have permission to admit children to communion and are aware that some of our young people are keen to take part! So, this June we will be running a course for any eligible young people consisting of three sessions, then holding their first communion Service on Sunday 13th July at 10am. To be admitted to communion in the Church of England a child must first be baptised and have gone through a preparation course. If your child has not yet been baptised, do not worry, as we are going to hold an All-Age Baptism Service on Sunday 6th July at 10am as well. If you would like more information or to sign up, please talk to Tim or Georgie by Sunday 18th May.

Winchester Cathedral Pilgrimage - Saturday 10th May 2025

Only 2 weeks until our Parish Pilgrimage to Winchester Cathedral on Saturday 10th May. We have our special Pilgrims Mass and lunch organised, and our cathedral guide ready to take us on our private tour of the cathedral. After some time to explore the city, we end on a high at Choral Evensong before returning to Guildford. The cost per person is £44 which includes transport, lunch the cathedral tour and gratuities.

To book your place

Either: Go to the church website, www.saintjohns.org.uk, click on the picture of Winchester Cathedral and follow the instructions to pay by credit/debit card.

Or:

Come to the Parish Office on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays with cash or a cheque made payable to Merrow PCC (Write on the back Winchester Pilgrimage).

If you have any queries, please contact either, Tim, Robert or Richard. Full details of the day will be sent in advance to those who have signed up.

David Hunt's Sponsored Walk to Winchester Cathedral on 9th/10th May, for the Young People's Ministry Fund

On Friday 9th May, David will be setting off from St John's and walking to the top of St Marthas. From there, he will then follow the Pilgrims Way to Winchester. The Pilgrims Way roughly follows the North Down's Way to Farnham and then the St Swithun's Way to Winchester Cathedral.



He will stay overnight at the Four Marks Travelodge and hopefully arrive at Winchester Cathedral on the Saturday morning just before 10.30am! The total length of the walk is 52 miles with the total of the climbs approaching the height of Ben Nevis!! He will be walking 35 miles on the Friday and 17 miles on the Saturday.

Spiddles, his very energetic Pointer dog will join him on Friday from Merrow to Farnham! He has compiled a Pilgrimage audio playlist to keep him company for the rest of the journey! If anyone has any suggestions for songs to add, please let him know.

He is fundraising for the Young People's Ministry fund - Georgie is doing a fantastic job creating much needed community links and providing safe and fun spaces for all ages through an amazing variety of groups and activities.

If you would like to sponsor David, please go to the Young People's Ministry Fund page on the Saint John's website (link here:

<https://www.saintjohns.org.uk/young-peoples-ministry-fund->

and make a donation, thank you! If you could write

'Pilgrimage' in the Comments section, that would be very helpful. And here is the QR code to the link too!



Songs of Praise - Sunday 11th May 6pm

On Sunday 11th May we will hold our first Songs of Praise. Thank you to all those who have sent in their favourite hymns. Tim has had a huge response and has more hymns than he can use, but we hope to do this again in the future.

Christian Aid Week - 11th to 17th May

St John's is raising money for Christian Aid in its 80th Anniversary year. Envelopes will be given out at church on May 11th and can be returned to Sara England or to the Parish Office. Alternatively you can give from now on through the St John's e-envelope on the Christian Aid website - use this QR code or go to

<https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2025/st-johns-merrow-envelope>.



Choir during Communion – Sunday 18th May 10am

On one Sunday in each month, we ask members of our congregation to gather in a choir of singers, to sing a hymn during communion. This choir consists of members of our church choir and anyone else who wishes to join in! If you wish to sing, please arrive at church at 9.30am on Sunday for a run-through before the 10am service if you can. Contact Micky or Tim for more information.

18th May: 458 Here proclaim the glorious mystery

Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Sunday 18th May – Save the Date!

Men in Fellowship – Events

Saturday 24th May – Social Evening

A social evening around the fire pit, off Trodds Lane, Merrow (located in one of our member's gardens). It will be a relaxed evening socializing with your M-i-F friends sharing anecdotes and enjoying good conversation. The chefs will provide us with BBQ hot-dogs and snacks, and bring your own drinks.

Saturday 28th June – Real Ale Train

Back by popular demand, **The Real Ale Train** on the Watercress Line. The RAT as it is affectionately known, returns in 2025 to continue its tradition of serving real ale from the bar car whilst travelling by train through the Hampshire countryside. Food is available along with non-alcoholic beverages.

We'll be leaving Merrow late afternoon, in time for the steam train departing Alton at 7pm.

Saturday 19th July – George Quarm

Breakfast meeting – as part of our Men-in-Fellowship series of Breakfast Meetings exploring other religions and types of spirituality, we welcome **George Quarm** from Merrow Methodist Church. Call him Uncle George if you are under 40 or "King George" if you're older. It's going to be a stimulating session with many anecdotes and lively conversation from a most interesting and full of life character

Rectory Fete – 5th July 12.30 to 3pm – Save the date!

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.

The Friends of St John the Evangelist (FOSTJ)

The Registered Charity 'Friends of the Church of St John the Evangelist, Merrow' (known as Friends of St. John's (FoStJ)) was formed by members of the community to assist in maintaining and preserving the buildings and grounds of the magnificent Grade II listed Church, for the benefit of the local Community as a whole. If you would like to help our endeavours in any way, and keep up with our news, please visit www.fostj.org.

Opportunities Booklet - St John's

We have just produced a brand new, updated 'Opportunities to join in the life of St John's' booklet! Please help yourselves to one at the back of church.

Tool Bank - Tools With A Mission (TWAM) for Africa

Our St. John's "Tools for Africa" initiative links with TWAM's larger collection, triage, preparation and shipping tools in the form of affordable kits to many developing nations. The link, if you want more information about our partner TWAM, is www.twam.uk

If you want to find out more or want to donate tools, please contact Gordon Farquharson, on 07785 265 909 or email gj.farquharson@gmail.com

Hygiene Bank

The St John's Centre is a Hygiene Bank collection point. If you wish to find out more about what they do or find out what to donate, then please go to their website for more information. www.thehygienebank.com

Warm Space

A 'Warm Space' is available on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings between 10am and 2pm.

Great News! The Merrow Post Office will be re-opening on the 15th May at the NISA store on the Epsom Road.

Opening hours will be Mon - Sat: 07:00-18:00, Sun: 07:00-14:00

Food Bank

The food bank would greatly appreciate donations of

- Tinned Soup
- Tinned Vegetables
- Tinned Meat
- Tomato Ketchup/Mayo
- Tinned Custard
- Toilet Roll



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 is outside the Church Centre to the left of the main door.

Monday - Friday 9am - 1pm and Saturdays (term time only) 12pm - 3pm

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. Prams or pushchairs that are suitable from birth can be accepted, but by prior appointment only.

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

Parish Office

Please note the following Parish Office opening times:

The office will be open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am to 1pm.

Barry: Annual leave until 16th May - please contact the Parish Office.

Sandra: Mon, Wed and Fri (9am to 1pm)

Rector: Rev. Tim Clifford Hill
(days off: whole Fri, & Sat am)

rector@saintjohns.org.uk
01483 951649

Youth worker: Georgie Gregson
(days off: Fri & Sat)

youthworker@saintjohns.org.uk
07974 494504

Parish Administrator:
Sandra Rayner

office@saintjohns.org.uk
01483 454621

Centre Manager:
Barry Dickinson

centremanager@saintjohns.org.uk
01483 454621

Churchwarden:
Jane Farquharson

jane.farquharson@saintjohns.org.uk
07765 620017

Churchwarden:
Cathy Thompson

cathy.thompson@saintjohns.org.uk
07518 202920

Deputy Churchwarden:
Michael Eagle

michael.eagle@saintjohns.org.uk
07850 000224

Treasurer:
Lindsay Dobson

treasurer@saintjohns.org.uk
07809 836896

Safeguarding Officer:
Rosanne Bond

safeguardingstjohn@gmail.com
01483 579462

Organist & Choir Director:
Micky Clare

mickyclare2@icloud.com
01483 538306

Coffee Club: Gerald Hunt

merrowcoffeemorning@hotmail.com
07545 256114