



St. John the Evangelist  
Merrow



# NEWSLETTER

## Patronal Festival

### **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**

9.30am Churchyard Tidy Up

### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**

Parish Breakfast 9.30am in the Church Centre

5pm BCP Said Holy Communion - Church

### **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May**

9.15am Glow Toddlers - Centre

### **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May**

10.15am Wednesday Coffee Club - Centre

10.30am Holy Communion Service - Centre

5pm Youth Café - Centre

### **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May**

3pm Choir Practice - Centre

### **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May**

8am BCP Holy Communion - Church

10am Parish Communion - Church (Livestreamed)

Sparks 5-11s Group

APCM after the 10am coffee service

*(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)

### **May**

Tues 12 <sup>th</sup> May	Green Team 4pm
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Inter-Church 4pm in Church
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Sparks 5-11s group - during 10am service in church
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup> May	Men & Women-in-Fellowship - Tour of Guildford Cathedral
Sun 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Bring and Buy Sale - after 10am service

### **June**

Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jun	Sewing Group 10.30am
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Churchyard Tidy Up 9.30am
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Green Team 4pm
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Sparks 5-11s group - during 10am service in church
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Men-in-Fellowship - Walk in local area
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> Jun	Inter-Church 4pm in Church
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jun	Green Team 4pm
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Sparks 5-11s group - during 10am service in church

### **July**

Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Church Fete - Rectory Garden 12.30-3pm
Thur 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jul	Mission Rescue Holiday Club Prep Session 9.30am - 1pm
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Mission Rescue Holiday Club Prep Session 12.30pm - 4pm

## **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**

Psalm 117

Praise the Lord, all you nations!  
Extol him, all you peoples!  
For great is his steadfast love towards us,  
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for ever.  
Praise the Lord!

## **Gospel**

John 21.1-19b-end

After this Jesus said to him, 'Follow me.'  
Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; he was the one who had reclined next to Jesus at the supper and had said, 'Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?' When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, 'Lord, what about him?' Jesus said to him, 'If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!' So the rumour spread in the community that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, 'If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?'

This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

## **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 3.13-end

John 14.15-21

**Post Communion Prayer**

Living God,

your Son made himself known to his disciples

in the breaking of bread:

open the eyes of our faith,

that we may see him in all his redeeming work;

who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

**FOR YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK**

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

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

# NEWS

## **Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 11am in the Church Centre**

Please note the date of our forthcoming APCM. For anyone who doesn't know what this is, the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in the Diocese of Guildford is a mandatory yearly gathering (before 31<sup>st</sup> May), where parishioners review church activities, financial reports, and elect key officers like Churchwardens and PCC members. It serves to ensure legal compliance, foster community reflection, and plan for the parish's mission. Anyone can attend this, so please do join us to find out more about what we are doing at St John's.

Thank you, Cathy & Jane (Churchwardens)

## **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 30<sup>th</sup> May** (from 10am) - Exclusive tour of Guildford Cathedral shared with members of St. John's Women-in-Fellowship
- **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June** - Walk in the local area - details to follow
- **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July** - Watercress Line "Real Ale Train" - evening departure from Alton Station - always a popular event / more details to follow.
- **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July** (8.30am) - Breakfast Meeting with Philip Pratley on a talk entitled "Reflecting Ethics in leadership; inverted or subverted"

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.



## 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 30<sup>th</sup> May** (from 10am) - Exclusive tour of Guildford Cathedral with St John's Men-in-Fellowship
- **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July - 8.30 am** - Breakfast with talk by Rev. Margaret Dean - Life in a rural parish
- **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October - 8.30 am** - 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)

## Bring & Buy Sale - Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May after the 10am service

Just to let you know that we are holding our next, ever popular, Bring & Buy Sale on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May after the 10am service (so starting at about 11/11.15am). Please start to look at home for items you no longer want, that you feel others may like, to bring along on the day. And please note the date and join us on the day, to enjoy some tasty cakes and to browse items you may wish to buy for a donation. Proceeds to our Young Peoples' Ministry Fund.

If you would like further information, please speak to Cathy Thompson.

A yellow poster for a "Bring & Buy Sale". At the top left is the St. John the Evangelist logo. The main text "BRING & BUY SALE" is written in large, blue, curved letters. In the center is a circular illustration of a table with various household items like a lamp, a teapot, and a vase. Below the table, it says "Bring along items in good condition that you no longer want or need". At the bottom, there are icons of a coffee cup and a slice of cake, with the text "Coffee and cakes". The location and date are listed as "St. Johns Centre, Merrow" and "Sunday 31st May after 10am Service". Contact information for Cathy Thompson is provided at the bottom. Two circular logos for the Young Peoples' Ministry Fund are at the bottom corners.

**BRING & BUY SALE**

Bring along items in good condition that you no longer want or need

Coffee and cakes

**St. Johns Centre, Merrow**  
**Sunday 31st May after 10am Service**

Contact - Cathy Thompson - [cathy.thompson@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:cathy.thompson@saintjohns.org.uk)

Fundraiser for St John's Young Person's Ministry Fund

## **Volunteers - Church Fete on 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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

## **Church Fete Donations**

We will be collecting donations of bottles, paperback books, jigsaws and chocolate during June, ready for the Church Fete on the 4<sup>th</sup> July. You will be able to leave your donations in church on Sundays or at the Parish office between 9am and 1pm Monday to Friday.



## **Mission Rescue Holiday Club Prep Sessions - 23<sup>rd</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> July**

This year we will be holding two sessions to prep for our holiday club if you are free to come and help. There will be things such as painting, sewing, constructing, cutting, sticking, laminating and organising to do. NO SKILLS REQUIRED, drop in anytime. Tea, coffee, biscuits and the chance for a good natter. Held upstairs in the Church centre - pop the dates in your diary!

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 9:30-13:00

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July 12:30-16:00



## **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](mailto:giftaid@saintjohns.org.uk)).



## **Wednesday Morning Coffee Club**

As you may know we have tickets to go to Paddington in which one of our members sons, is playing Mr Curry in Paddington the Musical, at the Savoy theatre. He has just won best supporting actor at this year's Olivier awards. We have sold all the tickets but if anyone is still interested can you let me know as we have already had a couple of drop outs and it's likely we will have more before the day, so having some standbys would be good as the tickets will be used and secondly the people who cannot go can get a refund. If you are interested, the cost is £70.00 for a ticket and coach transport for the Thursday matinee at 2.30 on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026. The seats are in the dress circle which has 45 steps down and there is no lift. So unfortunately, we are only able to take people who can walk unaided up and down the stairs. If anyone would like to be on the waiting list, then can you please let me know.

Gerald Hunt - Email: [merrowcoffeemornign@hotmail.com](mailto:merrowcoffeemornign@hotmail.com) Tel :07545 256114

## 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**  
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](mailto:amanda.bazley@saintjohnspreschool.org.uk)

## Food Bank

The food bank would greatly appreciate donations of

- Tinned Tuna
- Tinned Meat
- Tinned Fruit
- Sugar
- Curry Sauce
- Biscuits

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.

- *Mum and Baby Toiletries*
- *Nappies*
- *Baby Towels*
- *Breast Pads*
- *Boys Bibs*
- *We are also low on Moses Baskets, Girls Vests and Girls Sleep Suits*

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](mailto:babybasics@saintjohns.org.uk), or if you would like to contribute financially to the work we do please visit [www.saintjohns.org.uk/babybasics](http://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](mailto: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: Annual leave 27<sup>th</sup> April to 18<sup>th</sup> May

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

[rector@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:rector@saintjohns.org.uk)  
01483 951649

**Youth & Families Minister:**  
Georgie Gregson (days off: Fri & Sat)

[youthworker@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:youthworker@saintjohns.org.uk)  
07974 494504

**Parish Administrator:**  
Sandra Rayner

[office@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:office@saintjohns.org.uk)  
01483 454621

**Centre Manager (inc Room Bookings):**  
Barry Dickinson

[centremanager@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:centremanager@saintjohns.org.uk)  
01483 454621

**Churchwarden:**  
Jane Farquharson

[jane.farquharson@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:jane.farquharson@saintjohns.org.uk)  
07765 620017

**Churchwarden:**  
Cathy Thompson

[cathy.thompson@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:cathy.thompson@saintjohns.org.uk)  
07518 202920

**Deputy Churchwarden:**  
Michael Eagle

[michael.eagle@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:michael.eagle@saintjohns.org.uk)  
07850 000224

**Treasurer:**  
Lindsay Dobson

[treasurer@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@saintjohns.org.uk)  
07809 836896

**Safeguarding Officer:**  
Rosanne Bond

[safeguarding@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@saintjohns.org.uk)  
01483 579462

**Organist & Choir Director:**  
Micky Clare

[mickyclare2@icloud.com](mailto:mickyclare2@icloud.com)  
01483 538306

**Coffee Club:**  
Gerald Hunt

[merrowcoffeemorning@hotmail.com](mailto:merrowcoffeemorning@hotmail.com)  
07545 256114

**Bell Ringing:**  
Jane Farquharson

[jane.farquharson@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:jane.farquharson@saintjohns.org.uk)  
07765 620017