



St. John the Evangelist
Merrow

NEWS & RESOURCES

Sunday 28th January – Candlemas

THIS WEEK

Today – Candlemas

8am Holy Communion BCP
10am Holy Communion CW
4pm Christingle Service

Monday 29th January 2024

9.15am St John's Baby & Toddler Group – in the Centre

Wednesday 31st January

10.15am Coffee Club – in the Centre
10.30am Communion in the Centre
5pm Youth Café – in the Centre

Friday 2nd February

3pm St John's Choir Practice – in the Centre

Sunday 4th February

8am Holy Communion BCP
10am All Age service
6pm Sing a New Song

Hymns

589 Angel Voices Ever Singing
781 Son of God, eternal Saviour
608 Christ is our corner-stone
99 Hail to the Lord's anointed

Collects

Almighty and ever-living God,
clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple,
in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to you
with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Readings

Hebrews 2. 14 – end

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore, he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Luke 2. 22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.”

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-

four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

The Return to Nazareth

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Seasonal Material

Invitation to Confession

Hear the words of our Saviour Jesus Christ:

‘I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me shall never walk in darkness but shall have the light of life.’

Let us therefore bring our sins into his light and confess them in penitence and faith.

Introduction to the Peace

In the tender mercy of our God
the dayspring from on high has broken upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Extended Preface

It is indeed right and good,
always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise
through Jesus Christ, who is one with you from all eternity.
For on this day he appeared in the temple
in substance of our flesh
to come near to us in judgement.

He searches the hearts of all your people
and brings to light the image of your splendour.
Your servant Simeon acclaimed him as the light to lighten the
nations
while Anna spoke of him to all who looked for your redemption.
Destined for the falling and rising of many,
he was lifted high upon the cross
and a sword of sorrow pierced his mother's heart
when by his sacrifice he made our peace with you.
And now we rejoice and glorify your name
that we, too, have seen your salvation
and join with angels and archangels
in their unending hymn of praise:

Post communion

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna,
who lived to welcome the Messiah:
may we, who have received these gifts beyond words,
prepare to meet Christ Jesus
when he comes to bring us to eternal life;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Blessing

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,
fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will; and the
blessing . . .

FOR YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Diocesan Calendar of Prayer

Monday – The Admin Team - Church House Guildford and & the
Diocese of Calabar (Nigeria)

Tuesday – The Finance Team - Church House Guildford & the
Diocese of Calcutta (West Bengal)

Wednesday – The Property Department - Church House Guildford

& the Diocese of Caledonia (Canada)

Sick or in need

Jim Styles, Jenny Shales, Dick Pyper, Toni Gardner.

The Departed

John Michael Ballington, Betty Arrow

ST. JOHN'S NEWS

Parish Magazine

REMINDER to parish magazine deliverers that it would be helpful to have all subs in by Wednesday 7th February. This will assist us to plan for the year. Any difficulties please contact me. Thanks. Rosanne 579462

St John's Barn Dance & Supper

Tickets are now available for St John's Barn Dance & Supper on Sat 10th February, 7pm to 10.30pm.

This is our big fundraiser and we have limited tickets available, so please buy your tickets as soon as possible at the following link: saintjohns.org.uk/barndance or see Harry in the Parish Office. We look forward to a fun evening with everyone! Ploughman's Supper and Barn Dance provided. Bring your own drinks and there will be a raffle.

Barn Dance – raffle prizes

We are looking forward to our St John's Barn Dance on Saturday 10th February. If you feel that you might be able to donate a raffle prize for this event, we would be very grateful. A box will be left at the back of Church this Sunday for donations. Thank you.

St John's Baby & Toddler Group

Please note Babies & Toddlers Group is now held in the Centre at the new time of 9.15am to 10.45am.

Toddlers with parents, grandparents, childminders and carers are all welcome. The toddlers can explore the play area with toys and crafts, and there is a baby area with lots to engage the younger ones, as well as singing and stories. Adults can enjoy coffee, tea and biscuits!

Lent Course 2024

The Diocese of Guildford is creating a Lent Course for churches in the diocese to use. The course is released at the end of January 2024, 14 days before the start of Lent. More information will be available once the course has been released. If you wish to attend please pencil the below dates into your diary. The course will take place in the church centre and will be run by the Rector.

Tuesday 20th February. 7.30 – 8.45pm

Tuesday 27th February. 7.30 – 8.45pm

Tuesday 5th March. 7.30 – 8.45pm

Tuesday 12th March. 7.30 – 8.45pm

Tuesday 19th March. 7.30 – 8.45pm.

Online Shopping

We would be grateful for your help in raising money for St. John's when you shop online. Follow this link to sign up and join many others at St. John's who already kindly contribute.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/how-it-works/>

COMMUNITY NEWS

Baby Basics

Baby basics is open for donations by appointment. Please contact Lisa at babybasics@saintjohns.org.uk

We are always in need of any financial donations to keep this vital charity running. If you are able to consider donating to this work please visit www.saintjohns.org.uk/babybasics

Thank you from Guildford Besom

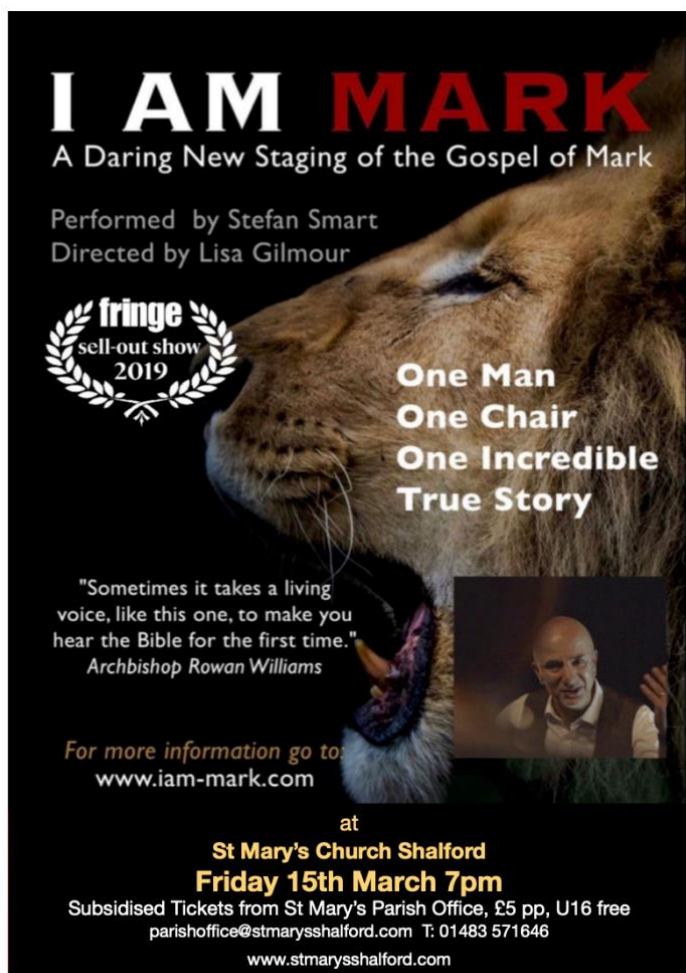
We wanted to write to say a Huge Thank You for all the fantastic Christmas Hampers from St Johns Merrow. We were able to give them to - a couple with physical challenges - a family struggling to make ends meet - to hostels supporting families that have escaped domestic violence and women who are homeless The hampers were such a super gift – such a lovely way of bringing something of God's Love and Hope into people's lives. They were very gratefully received! So thank you so much again! So very much appreciated! Simon On behalf of Guildford Besom

Children's Society house boxes

If you have one of the house boxes for the Children's Society could you please bring it to the office for me to pick it up or ring me on 01483 571847 if you would like me to arrange collection of your box from home. Please do not leave the boxes either in church or the centre foyer. Many thanks. Judith Sampson

Food Bank

The food bank greatly appreciates donations of tinned vegetables, pasta, toilet roll, cooking oil, baked beans/spaghetti hoops, tea bags, tinned meat, laundry liquid, rice pudding, ketchup/mayo. All donations gratefully received in the boxes in the Church porch.



‘I am Mark’

There will be a performance of this exciting one man show at St. Mary’s Shalford on 15th March. Tickets available via St Mary’s parish office.

Newsletter Content

If you have anything to advertise or news from the Church family or community that you would like to add to this newsletter please email

office@saintjohns.org.uk by Wednesday 31st January.

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. We would love you to become a member.

SERVICES COMING UP

14th February - Ash Wednesday

10.30am Communion in the centre with Imposition of Ashes

8pm Communion with Imposition of Ashes

3rd March

8am Holy Communion BCP

10am Holy Communion CW

6pm Sing a New Song

10th March - Mothering Sunday

8am Holy Communion BCP

10am All Age Worship

6pm - Choral Evensong Guildford Cathedral choir at St John's

24th March – Palm Sunday

8am – Holy Communion BCP

10am – Palm Sunday Service

25th March – Holy Monday

8pm Compline in church

26th March – Holy Tuesday

8pm Compline in church

27th March – Spy Wednesday

8pm Compline in Church

28th March – Maundy Thursday

8pm Eucharist & Foot Washing

29th March - Good Friday

10.30am Family Service

followed by Chocolate Egg Hunt in the Rectory Garden

2pm Good Friday Liturgy

30th March – Holy Saturday

8pm Vigil & Service of Light

31st March – Easter Sunday

8am Holy Communion BCP

10am All Age Eucharist

5th May – Rogation Sunday

10am All Age Worship

12noon Bring and Share Lunch in Church Centre.

CONTACTS

Rev. Tim Clifford Hill <i>Rector</i> Day off: Friday	rector@saintjohns.org.uk	01483 951649
Georgie Gregson Youth and Families worker Days off: Friday & Saturday	youthworker@saintjohns.org.uk	0797449 4504
Harry Talboys <i>Parish Administrator</i> Mon 10am – 4.30pm Tues – Thurs 9.30 - 4pm	office@saintjohns.org.uk	01483 454621
Barry Dickinson <i>Centre Manager</i>	centremanager@saintjohns.org.uk	01483 454621
Peter Tappin <i>Churchwarden</i>	peter.tappin@saintjohns.org.uk	07776 183701
Jane Farquharson <i>Churchwarden</i>	jane.farquharson@saintjohns.org.uk	07765 620017
Cathy Thompson <i>Deputy churchwarden</i>	cathy.thompson@saintjohns.org.uk	07518 202920
Rosanne Bond <i>Safeguarding officer</i>	safeguardingstjohn@gmail.com	01483 579462
Micky Clare <i>Organist & Choir Director</i>	mickyclare2@icloud.com	01483 538306
Gerald Hunt <i>Coffee Club</i>	merrowcoffeemorning@hotmail.com	07545 256114