



NEWSLETTER

Safeguarding Sunday

Sunday 16th November

8am Holy Communion - Church
10am Parish Communion - Church

First Communion Service

(Livestreamed)

4pm Inter-Church - Church

Monday 17th November

9.15am Glow Toddlers - Centre

Tuesday 18th November

4pm Green Team - Centre

Wednesday 19th November

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

Thursday 20th November

2pm Time to Talk! - Centre

Friday 21st November

3pm Choir Practice - Centre

Sunday 23rd November

8am 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 (term time only)
Fridays	3pm Choir Practice

Other Calendar Events

(in the Centre unless mentioned otherwise)

November

Sun 30 th Nov	Sparks 5-11s group - during 10am service in church
Sun 30 th Nov	Singing Sparks 11.30am

December

Tue 2 nd Dec	Green Team 4pm
Fri 5 th Dec	FoStJ - Wine Tasting Evening
Sat 6 th Dec	Women-in-Fellowship Nativity Craft Afternoon, 2-5pm
Sun 7 th Dec	Singing Sparks 11.30am
12 th – 14 th Dec	Nativity Festival
Sun 14 th Dec	Sparks 5-11s group - during 10am service in church
Sun 14 th Dec	Singing Sparks 11.30am
Tue 16 th Dec	Green Team 4pm
Sun 21 st Dec	Singing Sparks 11.30am
Sun 21 st Dec	Carol Service 4pm
Mon 22 nd Dec	Carols in the Pub 6pm
Wed 24 th Dec	Crib Service 4pm

January

Sun 4 th Jan	Christingle Service 4pm
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Hymns

641 Glorious things of thee are spoken (omit *)(tune 1)
116 Be thou my guardian and my guide
546 O lord my God
Communion hymn
415 Glory in the highest
475 Forth in the peace of Christ we go

Collect

Loving God,
we pray that this church may be a place of welcome,
security and compassion.
Keep us watchful yet caring,
trusting yet ready to question,
that all who worship here may do so
in safety and in the knowledge of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reading

1 Corinthians 11:23-25

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me. "In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Gospel

Mark 14:22-25

And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

Safeguarding Liturgy

Together we join each other to commit this church to safeguarding everyone who comes into this ancient and holy space.

May the doors of this church be wide enough

to receive all who come seeking God and fellowship.

May the doors of this church be narrow enough

to shut out pettiness and pride, envy and enmity.

May the threshold of this church be no stumbling block

to young or frail feet.

May this church be, for all who enter, a safe place

and the doorway to a richer life in Christ.

For your goodness to us at all times

We praise you, O Lord.

For your blessings on this parish of Merrow

We praise you, O Lord.

For all who safeguard the well-being of your people here

We pray to you, O Lord.

For the call to vigilance that you give to each one of us

We pray to you, O Lord.

For your grace and guidance

We praise you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Together we pray

Gracious God, pour upon all people in this place your life-giving Spirit. Guide us with your peaceable wisdom, that our community may be a place of safety and joy as we delight in your gift of life, and grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Readings next week:

Colossians 1.11-20

Luke 23.33-43

Post Communion

Gracious Lord,
in this holy sacrament
you give substance to our hope:
bring us at the last
to that fullness of life for which we long;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Sick or in need - Dick Pyper, Edward, Ben, Michael Stoughton, Amelia Butler, Toni Gardner

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

NEWS

Christmas Gifts from St John's are requested to enable us to give a gift to parishioners who would particularly benefit from our love and support at Christmas time. A box will be placed in church only on Sunday 16th, 23rd and 30th November for donations of luxury biscuits and chocolates, preserves, chutneys and other small sweet/savoury seasonal items. Savoury items are particularly welcome for diabetics. It means a great deal to recipients to know that we are thinking of them. Any surplus donations will be given to the Food Bank. Thank you, Rosanne 01483 579462.

Christmas Cards

Our St John's Christmas Cards are now available to buy!

Packs are available from the Parish Office at £5 for a pack of 10 cards (5 red & 5 Green cards in each pack).

Please pop in and pick up your supplies in good time! We have limited stock!



Merrow Schools Federation - Christmas Fair 29th November 12-2.30pm

Merrow Schools Federation will be holding their Christmas Fair on the 29th November at Merrow Infant School, Kingfisher Drive, Merrow.

It's free entry and the School Choir will entertain you with Christmas Carols! You will also find stalls for Face Painting, Christmas Games & Activities, Festive Photo-Booth, Raffle, Bake Sale, Winter Café and mulled wine.



Wednesday Morning Coffee Club - Guildford Illuminate

The coffee club are going to see the Guildford Castle grounds lit up at "Illuminate", on Wednesday 3rd December at 6.30pm. If you would like to join us, tickets are £15.00 per person.

Please contact me or ask Barry in the office for tickets. If you would like more details or have any queries, please contact me Gerald Hunt, on my e-mail merrowcoffeemorning@hotmail.com or call on 07545 256114.

Home Visiting Team

In January 2026 we hope to start a 'home visiting team' - a team of people trained by Tim to occasionally visit members of our congregation who can't get to church. If you would like to know more about this please ask Tim.

Time to Talk - Do you need a listening ear? - Thursday 20th November 2pm

We are trialling a new pastoral care initiative called 'Time to Talk.' This is a time for anyone to come and talk to Tim and one of our pastoral care team. You can come and talk to us if you have a pastoral issue, a theological question or even if you just want to chat. Time to Talk will initially be held in the parish office, where we will have access to coffee, tea and biscuits too.

The dates are:

Thursday 20th November 2pm-3pm

Thursday 18th December 2pm-3pm

Christmas Carol Service Choir Rehearsals - Fridays 6pm

The choir will be holding their Christmas Carol Service rehearsals on Fridays at 6pm this year.

The dates are:

Friday 28th November

Friday 5th December

Friday 12th December

Friday 19th December



Singing Sparks!

This year, during Advent, we are going to be running "Singing Sparks" after the 10:00 service. For any Sparks aged children (5-16) who want to come and learn a few Christmas songs we will meet from 11:30- 12:30 in the Church centre. We will then take part in the Carol Service and Christingle Service by singing the pieces we have learnt! If you would be interested in coming to join please talk to Alexandra or Georgie.

Dates:

Sunday 30th November - Practice

Sunday 7th, 14th, 21st December - Practice

Sunday 21st December - Carol Service 4pm

Sunday 4th January - Christingle 4pm



Nativity Festival – Friday 12th – Sunday 14th December

This year St John's is hosting a Nativity Festival for the first time from Friday 12th - Sunday 14th December. We hope to fill the church with nativity scenes and over the weekend, invite the whole community to come in, look around, have a cup of tea and vote for their favourite. Anyone can enter- individuals, families, businesses, local groups, schools- it cost just £5 per entry and then on Sunday 14th December at 16:00 we will have the prize giving! Please take a letter with more information from the back of church and share this with any groups/people you think would be interested in taking part. We are asking for volunteers (below) to help with refreshments/welcoming, so please think about if you might like to come along and help!



Choir during Communion – Sunday 14th December 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.

14th December: 464 Sweet sacrament divine

Nativity Festival Helper's Sign up

For the Nativity Festival we are going to need a fair bit of people-power, but to try and make it less arduous, we have broken it down into hour slots, across the three days. We will need two people for each hour to be in church - one to serve the teas and coffees, and one to welcome people and collect in their voting slips. Before your diaries get chock-a-block with festival fun, we hope you might be able to spare us an hour of your time to help make this a success! There is a sign-up sheet at the back of church on Sundays, and then it will be in the office during the week. Thank you!

Nativity Festival Bakers

For those keen bakers, we would love some cakes, biscuits and bakes for the weekend to offer to people coming to visit our church! If you think you could make a batch of something, please contact Jo Stokes or Carol Potter.

Wednesday Morning Coffee Club - Theatre Trip - Paddington

One of our members son, is playing Mr Curry in Paddington the Musical, at the Savoy Theatre. So we decided it would be fun to go and see it. We have bought 20 tickets, (which are priced at £80.00) for £45.00 each plus say £15 for the coach (exact cost to be finalised) for Thursday 2.30 on 21st May 2026. This is in the dress circle and apparently there is no lift and 45 steps down so unfortunately, we are only able to take "mobile" people.

If anyone would like to join us then can you please let me know, it is on a first come first served basis, but we may be able to get more tickets if there is enough demand.

Contact Gerald Hunt by email merrowcoffeemornign@hotmail.com or call on 07545 256114.

IT Team

We have recently formed a new IT Team and are looking for people with an IT/ Software /Hardware background who might be interested in joining and supporting this work in our Church. Please speak to Martin Thompson or email him at martin.thompson@saintjohns.org.uk, many thanks.

St John's Pre-School

Are you looking for a nursery place for your little ones. We have St John's Pre-School at the St John's Centre. Contact Amanda Bazley on 01483 454625.



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).



Easyfundraising

If you are already registered with Easyfundraising to donate to St John's Church, you can now use in-store donations. First you will need to download Easyfundraising App. I have listed the 3 steps that you need to follow. Then every time you shop in-store a donation will go to St John's Church or your other chosen charities.

- Step 1 Get the app - Download the app from the Apple store on your iPhone, or from the Play store for your Android.
- Step 2 Add your bank card(s) to your app - Within the app, select 'In-store' from the bottom of the screen, then follow the on-screen instructions to add a card(s).
- Step 3 Shop in person at participating stores - Pay using your card or Apple/Google Pay, and you'll raise free donations for your cause.

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.

A warm/welcoming space at St John's Centre

If you need somewhere to take a moment or a work space for a short time, we have a warm/welcoming space at the St John's Centre in the foyer on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday between 10am and 2pm.

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.

Food Bank

The food bank would greatly appreciate donations of:

*Pasta Sauce, Curry Sauce, Sugar,
Razors, Shaving Foam, Bleach*

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.



Food Bank – Christmas Donations

In December we are expecting to support over 400 households, which is double the number we saw in December 2022! We are currently making plans to ensure we can support everyone. If you can help by providing donations - ideally by 1st December, we would very much like the following:

Suggested Christmas donations:

Sharing boxes of chocolates or sweets

Bags/boxes of sharing savory snacks (such as crackers or "special" crisps)

Gift toiletries

Other items we are in need of:

Tinned Meat, Tinned Fish, Dried Flavoured Noodles,

Toothpaste Laundry Detergent

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.

- *Nappies size 1*
- *baby wipes*
- *baby toiletries (shampoo, body wash, lotion)*
- *mum toiletries (breast pads and maternity pads)*

If you have prams to donate, please get in contact before dropping off.

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:

Barry: Tues, Thur, Fri (9am to 1pm) Wed (9am to 12noon)

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

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:
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 safeguarding@saintjohns.org.uk
01483 579462

Organist & Choir Director:
Micky Clare mickyclare2@icloud.com
01483 538306

Coffee Club:
Gerald Hunt merrowcoffeemorning@hotmail.com
07545 256114

Bell Ringing:
Jane Farquharson jane.farquharson@saintjohns.org.uk
07765 620017