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PARISH MAGAZINE
June 2025



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St John the Evangelist

Epsom Road, Merrow

www.saintjohns.org.uk



The Revd Tim Clifford Hill
Rector



Georgie Gregson
Youth Worker

A Caring Christian Community, here for everyone

St John's is open every day from 9.30am to 4pm. Please feel welcome to visit us. Warm Space in the Centre Foyer 10am to 2pm, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday during the winter months.

Sunday services are listed on Page 2.

Services during the week:

Morning Prayer Monday to Thursday at 9.00am in Church.

Holy Communion on Wednesdays at 10.30am in the Merrow Hall, St John's Centre.

Evening Prayer on Fridays at 5.00pm in Church.

All are welcome.

June 2025 Sunday Services (Year C)

- Sunday 1st June** 7th Sunday of Easter, White
Acts 16.16-34, John 17.20-end
8am BCP Holy Communion
10am All Age Worship
- Sunday 8th June** Pentecost, Red
Acts 2.1-21, John 14.8-17[25-27]
8am BCP Holy Communion
10am CW Holy Communion
6pm Songs of Praise
- Sunday 15th June** Trinity Sunday, White
Romans 5.1-4,22-31, John 16.12-15
8am BCP Holy Communion
10am CW Holy Communion
- Sunday 22nd June** 1st Sunday after Trinity, Green
Galatians 3.23-end, Luke 8.26-39
8am BCP Holy Communion
10am CW Holy Communion
- Sunday 29th June** 2nd Sunday after Trinity, Green
Galatians 5.1,13-25, Luke 9.51-end
8am BCP Holy Communion
10am CW Holy Communion
- Sunday 6th July** 3rd Sunday after Trinity, Green
Galatians 6.[1-6], 7-16, Luke 10.1-11,16-20
8am BCP Holy Communion
10am All Age Worship

Letter from the Youth Worker's Office

Welcome to the June edition of the Parish Magazine! Summer has officially begun and after such a sunny start to the year it is hard not to walk around with a spring in your step.

This month, on Sunday 8th June, we come together for Pentecost to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. A time in the church year where we hear the story of the first apostles, how they were filled with the Holy Spirit and empowered to spread the word about Jesus! If you are coming to celebrate with us on the 8th, we have a little competition to see who has the best red outfit - red to represent the tongues of fire which appeared above the disciples' heads.... There is also a prize, so bring your A-game!

Sunday 15th June will see our fourth InterChurch service taking place! InterChurch is our new once a month service which is Interactive, Interconnecting and Intergenerational. Find out a bit more on page 12.

This month our InterChurch theme is "Choices for Everyone". We will be exploring the story of the woman who anointed Jesus' feet, alongside the themes of Pentecost. Within the service we will use activities and crafts to explore the idea of choosing to follow Jesus and how we share that with the world.

Sharing the story of Jesus is something we are all called to do, like those first Spirit filled apostles, but it can be difficult, which is another reason this is a very special month for me. Since I was nine years old my family and I have taken part in the Wintershall Productions - the Nativity, the Passion and the Life of Christ. Drama is a great way to share the Gospel with people...as is having a donkey (for those of you who have met Sam, Wintershall is where he comes from!).

The Life of Christ is taking place this year from 17th - 21st June, at the Wintershall estate, just outside of Bramley. The production runs from 10:00-15:30 and you move around the beautiful grounds while watching the story of Jesus unfold. We love bringing the words of Jesus to life so that people can see, hear and engage with them; and to be

able to share that with over 1000 people a day is incredible! For more information see <https://www.wintershall.org.uk/>

So, a month to think about sharing God's word with others... I wonder who first told you about God?

Georgie

Thank you very much to Chantries & Pewleys for sponsoring our colour cover again this year.

The photo this month shows our parish pilgrimage to Winchester Cathedral on May 10th. We had a wonderful day with our own communion service in the Lady Chapel, a private lunch, guided tours of the cathedral and time to look around before attending Choral Evensong. An unforgettable day! Many thanks to Tim, Alexandra and Henry and to the organising team: Robert Avis, Richard Burtonwood, Martin Thompson and David Mulvey.



St. John the Evangelist
Merrow





St. John the Evangelist
Merrow

GIFT DAY - SUNDAY 15TH JUNE 2025

What's Happening?

We're raising funds for
our Young People's
Ministry

Why are we doing this?

Ensure the future of
our church by having a
thriving youth
community

When's this Happening?

5-year programme to
raise funding
Our gift day is Sunday
15th June 2025

How can I Help?

One-off donation
Regular giving
Legacy



View from the Pews

As I think about 'View from the pews' I see it in two ways: literally and in faith.

Literally, our Church comes into view approaching from the road, or as we walk up the path. We carry in our hearts an expectation of what the service will hold for us. We may be feeling heavy hearted, grieving, worried, experiencing a new love; but whatever we bring, church is familiar and reassuring, particularly when the world of wars, fighting, mindless violence on our streets can seem anything but 'safe' at the moment.

We bring our fears, sorrows and joy to lay them at the foot of the cross.

We confess and reconcile ourselves to Our Lord, to be forgiven.

Can we leave lighter of heart, let laughter in, be kinder and more loving to others if we keep the Cross in 'view'? Surely we can.

Trish

London Marathon - Thank You!

Thank you so much to everyone who donated to my fundraising page when I ran the London Marathon. I really appreciated everyone's generosity. It was the most amazing day and I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of the race – well almost every minute!!

I raised over £8,000 and am absolutely stoked to have been able to donate so much to Breast Cancer Now – a charity doing great work in the fight against breast cancer.

Thanks so much again

Anna xx



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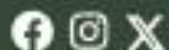


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Dave Kelly & Christine Collister 2025

A note about the musicians performing at St John's on 21st June.

Dave Kelly – is a founder member of The Blues Band. The band retired in 2023... after completing their 42nd Anniversary Tour a little late – due to Covid restrictions. Dave is a stalwart of the British Blues Scene, having cut his teeth in the backing bands of Howlin' Wolf and John Lee Hooker as well as playing with Buddy Guy, Son House & Muddy Waters. The Blues Band has released about 20 albums, and Dave has 18 either solo or with his own Dave Kelly Band

Christine Collister - Came to prominence originally in the UK folk scene in the eighties, singing the title song for the BBC drama series *'Life & Loves Of A She Devil'*. She was in Richard Thompson's touring Band 1985-1988 as vocalist and acoustic guitarist. 1984-1990 saw five acclaimed albums with Clive Gregson with many successful collaborations since such as *Daphne's Flight; Hell Bent Heaven Bound; Wild Honey Orchestra; Iain Matthews; Loudon Wainwright III*.

Christine & Dave recorded a session for *The Paul Jones Radio Two* show in 1994. A fan gave Dave a copy of that recording. Dave thought it sounded great and forwarded a copy to Christine. This resulted in a decision to get together again and do some more shows.

Their material is drawn from both their musical backgrounds, but mainly covering songs which they both love but have not previously had an opportunity to perform, within their usual formats. Some soul standards, country songs, rock, folk & blues, Stax, Tamla, The Band, Emmylou Harris, The Everly Brothers, Elvis, (to name but a few) as well as some great contemporary writers and of course, their own songs.

They had a huge success at Vancouver Island Festival in July 2018. Drawing from their mutual love of classic rock, pop, country, jazz & blues, Christine and Dave dived headlong and full throttle into the songs they love and they then toured the UK with their fabulous concert. Their combined passion, talent and fun-loving personalities bring a natural warmth and great charm to their performances.

Spring 2025 sees them return to their favourite songs and beautifully crafted harmonies.

CHRISTINE COLLISTER and DAVE KELLY



ACOUSTIC DUO

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Wednesday Coffee Club

Well it looks to be shaping up for a nice summer, so what could be nicer than a gentle stroll up to the Church Centre and have a cup of tea? Well it just so happens on a Wednesday from 10.15 we are all set up. Filter coffee; a variety of teas; hot chocolate and cold drinks are available as well as a biscuit or two (and even savouries on the last Wednesday of the month). While it is aimed at our more senior citizens, we are a mixed age group, a lively atmosphere and even if you feel this is too old for you, we could always do with more helpers of all sorts, so do feel free to wander in and see what is going on.

There has got to be something special about the club as we are celebrating a staggering 60 years of continuous coffee mornings on the 23rd July. More details next month but we are looking to make it a very special party.

Hoping everyone keeps well.

Gerald Hunt

Should you have any queries, please contact me on my e-mail merrowcoffeemorning@hotmail.com or ring me on 07545256114

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A NEW MONTHLY
SERVICE FOR 2025

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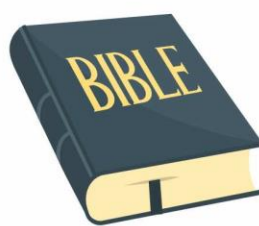
NEXT DATE: SUNDAY 15TH JUNE

What can you expect from this new service?

Inter- Active We could have crafts, discussions, activities, hymns, action songs, prayer stations, challenges and interactive talks.

Inter-Connecting This service aims to give time and space for people of all ages and walks of life to get to know each other.... and there will always be a chance for tea, coffee and cake at the end!

Inter- Generational We really want this to be a service that has something for everyone. A service where everyone can engage at different levels but experience it together; helping each other, crafting together, talking to each other, worshiping and praying together.



THIRD SUNDAY AT 16:00 IN CHURCH

About our Cathedral...



**GUILDFORD
CATHEDRAL**

Enter the Main Doors and you'll find a large noticeboard bearing quotes and photographs by members and visitors to our Cathedral, recalling impressions and memories of their time at The People's Cathedral. Here are just a few:

Guildford Cathedral is more than just a building. It is a refuge, a venue, a community...

We can all value what a treasure we have on our doorstep.

Singing in the Cathedral is fun, enjoyable, uplifting...

I have loved every minute of being a Chorister at Guildford Cathedral and I am so proud to be part of a wonderful choir.

Special memories of buying a brick and watching the Cathedral being built. A place close to my heart. Three family weddings took place here and it was always part of my childhood.

To me Guildford Cathedral is so many things. At the end of a long journey it's a sign of home. It's a place of joy. As we pray it's a place of peace. It's a place of belonging.

Its famously plain exterior gives way on entering to an extraordinary sense of light and peace which is somehow unexpected even after many visits.

Those soaring white stone columns lift your eyes and spirit together.

Stunning backdrop to our school's commendation Service.

The foregoing is just a brief sample of the comments I read today. All of them ring true.

If I have a particular favourite it is:

At the end of a long journey it's a sign of home.

Nick Bond



St. John the Evangelist
Merrow

Rectory Fete



BBQ & Ice Cream

Refreshments

Children's activities

Animal Experience

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Live music and dance

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12.30PM - 3PM

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Forthcoming events – please note in your diary

June

Tues 3rd Jun Green Team 4pm

Sat 7th Jun Churchyard Tidy Up 9.30am

Sun 8th Jun Sparks 5-11s group – during 10am service in church

Sun 15th Jun Inter-Church 4pm in Church

Tues 17th Jun Green Team 4pm

Sat 21st Jun Dave Kelly & Christine Collister Concert 7.30pm

Sun 22nd Jun Sparks 5-11s group – during 10am service in church

Sat 28th Jun Men-in-Fellowship – Real Ale Train

Sun 29th Jun Sparks 5-11s group – during 10am service in church

Sun 29th Jun Rectory Fete Gardening Party 2pm

July

Sat 5th Jul Rectory Fete

Sun 6th Jul Baptism Service

Sun 13th Jul First Communion Service

Sun 13th Jul Sparks 5-11s group – during 10am service in church

Sat 19th Jul Men-in-Fellowship – Breakfast Meeting

Sun 20th Jul Inter-Church 4pm in Church

Sun 20th Jul Parish BBQ in Rectory Garden

Sun 27th Jul Sparks 5-11s group – during 10am service in church



ST JOHN'S, MERROW
PRESENTS

STARSHIP DISCOVERY

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18TH - 22ND AUGUST

9:15 - 12:00

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FOR THE
WEEK

WWW.SAINTJOHNS.ORG.UK

Details of how to register and for more information

Transitional Cathedral, Christchurch in New Zealand

We recently had the privilege of holidaying in New Zealand and found our way to an extraordinary place.

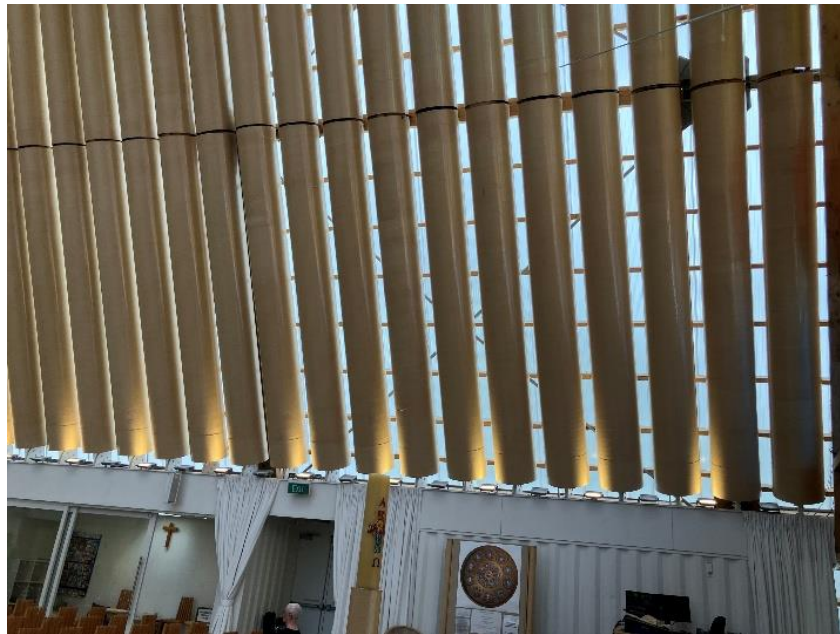
In February 2011, Christchurch suffered a devastating earthquake which destroyed large parts of the city, killing 185 people and injuring many more. During the quake, the tower of the original neo-Gothic Cathedral collapsed. Further aftershocks destroyed the iconic rose window and cracked the whole cathedral like a plate.

Soon afterwards the Cathedral staff contacted an “emergency architect” called Shigeru Ban from Japan, who offered to design a cardboard structure as a temporary cathedral.

Two years later, the building became a reality. Made of cardboard, local wood, and steel, this simple design is a magical space whilst being earthquake proof.



The design is quite simple, with waves of cardboard tubes drawing the eye and attention towards the cross and the altar. It seats 700 yet provides a remarkable sense of space and spirituality.



Cathedrals are by nature multi-dimensional, and this building is too. It exudes quiet beauty and provides a perfect spiritual meeting place.

If you are fortunate enough to visit this beautiful country, aka Aotearoa, we recommend adding the cathedral to your itinerary.

Richard and Carole Burtonwood

Visiting preachers at St John's

We are delighted to welcome the following preachers to St John's over the coming months:

Sun 22nd June Archdeacon Catherine Mabuza

Sun 26th October The Bishop of Guildford

Help wanted with the Parish Magazine

Please consider if you could help with the Parish Magazine. The magazine is a focal point for information about our activities and makes a healthy profit for church funds. We now have one more guest editor but we need another one and an advertisements manager.

Guest editor

The guest editors generally produce two issues of the magazine a year. They are sent a document template with the magazine cover, adverts and regular pages already inserted. They then insert articles from both regular and occasional contributors and are free to add anything of particular interest to them. After proof-reading they send the completed copy to the printers.

Advertisements manager

- responds to new requests for advertising and liaises with the advertisers to help them prepare their copy if necessary.
- uses Microsoft Word to insert, move around and delete adverts as required into the existing magazine template.
- invoices advertisers when their advert has appeared and issues repeat invoices to regular advertisers once a year. This has been done manually up to now by email but the church has just bought new bookkeeping software which the adverts manager will be able to use in future.
- checks with the treasurer that payments have been received. This will happen automatically with the new system.
- thanks advertisers for paying.
- each month gets the template ready for the guest editor by adding a cover photograph kindly supplied by Jane Stevenson and updating the regular text if necessary.

We would be very happy to tell you more. Speak to Sara about being the advertisements manager. Ask Helen Chambers, Sara England, Frances Jewson, Chris Starr or Cathy Thompson about being a guest editor.

The magazine team (Rosanne Bond, Helen Chambers and Sara England)

Gardening hints for June

With no real rain forecast we could soon be in for a hosepipe ban, still at last the risk of frost has passed and we can safely plant out our tender plants into their bedding positions and look forward, we hope, to keeping them well watered throughout the warm and hot summer months ahead.

Roses should have any wild suckers (that is shoots with seven or more leaves) removed; they should then be sprayed regularly with a systemic insecticide against aphids, blackspot and mildew and fed with a rose fertiliser. Climbing and rambling roses need to be tied in as near to the horizontal as possible to encourage better flowering. Dahlias should be planted out and staked as they grow.

Dead head delphiniums and lupins to encourage a second flush of bloom. Spring flowering shrubs such as forsythia and philadelphus should be pruned after flowering. Perennial aubretia and alyssum should be trimmed after flowering to encourage new growth. Clematis, honeysuckle and sweet peas should be tied to supports as they grow. Lift tulips when the foliage is dry and papery.

Pinch out the leading shoots of chrysanthemum, fuchsia and helianthus to encourage bushy growth. Divide bearded iris after flowering.

Containerised plants should be fed once or twice a month.

In hot weather the greenhouse should be dampened down with water to maintain a humid atmosphere.

Protect delphiniums, hostas, lilies and lupins from slug and snail damage using animal and bird friendly pellets.

Indoor tomatoes should be staked and have their sideshoots removed unless they are a bush variety, start feeding when the first fruits have formed.

Brussel sprouts, winter cabbage, courgettes, purple sprouting and outdoor tomatoes should be planted out. Early potatoes should be dug as soon as they come into flower. Runner and French beans should be planted out; sow seed now for a later crop. Continue to sow small quantities of salad crops.

Thin out apple, pear and plum fruits after the natural June drop has occurred.

Make sure that newly planted shrubs and trees are kept well-watered during dry weather.

Now is a good time to sow herbs outdoors. Parsley can be slow to germinate and can be speeded up by placing the seed in the refrigerator before sowing or by pouring boiling water over the soil after sowing. French tarragon cannot be grown from seed, only by vegetative propagation while Russian tarragon which can be grown from seed is bland and tasteless.

Continue to mow the lawn frequently and apply a dressing of summer weed and feed just before rain is forecast we hope.

John Boon

The Friends of St John the Evangelist (FOSTJ)



The Friends of St John the Evangelist is a registered charity formed by members of the community of Merrow to assist in maintaining and preserving the buildings and grounds of the magnificent Grade II listed Church.

If you would like to help in our endeavours in any way and keep up with our news, please visit www.fostj.org. We would love you to become a member.

Forthcoming magazine information

Issue	Copy date	Editor	Editor's email address
July	15 th June	Chris Starr	chrisstarr10@btinternet.com

(If you draft your copy in Tahoma, 16 point, on an A4 page, you'll get a good idea of how much space it will take up.)



Rectory Fete Gardening Party – Sunday 29th June 2pm

We are looking for volunteers to help prepare the Rectory garden for the Fete on Saturday 5th July. Come along on Sunday 29th June at 2pm with your garden tools.

Tea and cake will be provided. If you are not able to help with the gardening, please still come along for tea and cake.

Who's Who

Rector	The Revd Tim Clifford Hill (Day off Friday and Sat am)	951649
Youth Worker	Georgie Gregson (Days off Friday & Saturday)	07974 494504
Churchwardens	Jane Farquharson	07765 620017
	Cathy Thompson	07518 202920
Deputy Churchwarden	Michael Eagle	07850 000224
Verger	Helen Chambers	846574
St Johns Centre Office	9.00 – 2 Mon, Wed and Fri 9.30 – 1 Tues and Thurs	01483 454621
- Centre Manager	Barry Dickinson	centremanager@saintjohns.org.uk
- Parish Admin Assistant	Sandra Rayner	office@saintjohns.org.uk

Web site: www.saintjohns.org.uk

Email: office@saintjohns.org.uk

PCC Secretary	Tricia Tappin	579193
PCC Treasurer	Lindsay Dobson	07809 836896
Gift Aid, Legacies and Parish Giving Scheme	Martin Thompson	578923
Organist and Choir Director	Micky Clare	538306
Babies and Toddlers Group	Jane Farquharson	07765 620017
Baby Basics	babybasics@saintjohns.org.uk	458128
Bell Ringers	Jane Farquharson	07765 620017
Bible Reading Fellowship	Jenny Welbourn	825541
Cathedral Link	Nick Bond	579462
Children's Society representative	Judith Sampson	571847
Christian Aid Organiser	Sara England	504205
Electoral Roll	Carole Burtonwood	
	carole.burtonwood@saintjohns.org.uk	
Flower coordinator	Helen Chambers	846574
Magazine Advertisements	Sara England	merrowadverts@gmail.com
Merrow C of E Infant School	Louisa Dormer (Executive Head Teacher)	
	Emma Hooper (Deputy Head)	561501
Church Governors		
	Michael Eagle	07850 000224
Safeguarding Officer	Rosanne Bond	579462
St John's Merrow, Pre-School	Amanda Bazley (Manager)	454625
Diocesan Lay Pastoral Assistant	Helen Chambers	846574
Readings and Intercessions Rota	Joe Bullock	07521 960480
Sunday Newssheet		office@saintjohns.org.uk
TiC and Lay Parish representative	Isla Stables	567599
Wednesday Coffee Mornings	Gerald Hunt	07545 256114
Transport	Rosanne Bond	579462
Website contact	Parish Office (as above)	

For any changes to Who's Who, please email Sara on merrowadverts@gmail.com

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