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PARISH MAGAZINE
August 2025



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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.

August 2025 Sunday Services (Year C)

Sunday 3rd August 7th Sunday after Trinity, Green

Colossians 3.1-11, Luke 12.13-21

8am BCP Holy Communion

10am All Age Worship

Sunday 10th August 8th Sunday after Trinity, Green

Hebrews 11.1-3, 8-16, Luke 12.32-40

8am BCP Holy Communion

10am CW Holy Communion

Sunday 17th August 9th Sunday after Trinity, Green

Hebrews 11.29-12.2, Luke 12.49-56

8am BCP Holy Communion

10am CW Holy Communion

Sunday 24th August Bartholomew the Apostle, Red

Acts 5.12-16, Luke 22.24-30

8am BCP Holy Communion

10am Holiday Club Service

Sunday 31st August 11th Sunday after Trinity, Green

Hebrews 13.1-8, 15-16, Luke 14.1, 7-14

8am BCP Holy Communion

10am CW Holy Communion

Sunday 7th September 12th Sunday after Trinity. Green

Philemon 1-12, Luke 14.25-33

8am BCP Holy Communion

10am All Age Worship

Baptisms

June 29th Michael (Henry) Cunnington

Coffee, Cake and Chat Morning

On Wednesday 13th August at St John's Centre in the main hall

Drop in anytime between 10.00 and 12.00

Suggested Donation £1 for Young
People's Ministry Fund

ALL WELCOME!

For further information contact

Rosanne Bond 579462



Letter from the Youth Worker's Office

Welcome to the August edition of the Parish Magazine! As we step into the heart of summer and the slower rhythm that August often brings, many of us find a little more time to pause and enjoy the beauty around us. Whether you're at home tending the garden, away visiting family, venturing off on holiday or simply enjoying the longer days, I hope you're finding some time for rest, renewal and the odd moment of peace.

Here at St John's, however, the quiet of August comes with a joyful burst of energy—our Holiday Club is just around the corner! Starship Discovery launches on



Monday 18th August and runs until Friday 22nd August. During that time our church centre will be filled with children, music, crafts, and storytelling as we welcome local families into the heart of our church community.

This year's Holiday Club is especially exciting as it ties in with our continuing **Year of Discipleship**. As we blast off on a voyage of discovery, we will be looking at the story of Peter- one of Jesus' disciples- following his journey from that first moment he was called to follow Jesus into the unknown. With Bible stories, games, and creative activities, we'll be helping our young people discover what it means to follow Jesus.

A huge thank you to everyone who is helping to bring it all together—from decorating the hall to being a team leader, and from preparing snacks and crafts to praying behind the scenes. It's truly a whole-church effort and a wonderful expression of discipleship in action.

Please continue to pray for all involved—for energy, joy, and for God's love to shine through every moment, and may this summer be a time for all of us, young and old, to take another step forward in our adventure of following Jesus.

Georgie xx



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St. John's Church Fete 2025

Thank you for helping to make the 2025 Fete so successful. Hosted by Rev. Tim and Alexandra, we had the pleasure of welcoming so many people from Merrow, the local surroundings, and friends & relatives of the wonderful dancers.

The entertainment was brilliant, with Merrow School Maypole Dancers performing a traditional folk dance with ribbons woven into complex patterns. Our thanks to their teachers and parents.

For the first time, the Italia Conti Academy squeezed us into their busy schedule, and performed a magnificent, energetic, foot-tapping routine.



A few successful numbers:

- £3000 of takings after costs and sponsorship (our thanks to Chancies & Pewleys for their support)
- more than 400 people attended (plus a few dogs!)
- 12 stalls offering food, drink, art, plants, books, activities, children's entertainment (and a zoo!)
- Thanks to 70+ valued volunteers who pulled it together for us and loan of gazebos

Thank you all,

Richard Burtonwood, on behalf of Organizing Committee

Parish BBQ – 20th July 2025

Thank you for helping to make the 2025 BBQ such a successful social gathering for the whole Parish.

Once again, Rev. Tim and Alexandra were first class hosts and welcomed over 100 parishioners to their garden.

The organization was handled by the Men-in-Fellowship team with the invaluable support of many, including Georgie, Carole, Tricia & the Pimms/bar team.

The English country garden atmosphere was encapsulated by the musical trio, led by Ken MacIntyre who gave up their afternoon in support of the BBQ Event. Our thanks to all three of them for their delightful music.



Your generous donations were gratefully received and will see another £400 going towards the Young People's Ministry Fund.

Thank you

On behalf of the Organizing Committee



Friendship experiment – 60 years on!

Merrow's Wednesday Morning coffee club celebrated in style at St John's Centre on the 23rd of July for our 60th year Anniversary of continuous coffee mornings (barring Covid). We were very honoured to have our MP Zoe Franklin, our Mayor, Howard Smith, and our Deputy Mayor, Jane Tyson among others, come to help us celebrate this milestone, and it was lovely to meet them and show them what a vibrant group we are.

As always there was a lovely buzz and all the helpers had worked hard to make fresh sandwiches, fruit scones and an assortment of cakes, so there was something for everyone, including goodie bags to save all the food left over going to waste!



The event was, as much as anything, to celebrate the hard work of all the helpers (in all aspects) who have kept the club running over all these years, and hopefully will continue to do so for the next forty years till we reach our centenary.

A person said to me, 'oh yes, the coffee morning, that is for the elderly, isn't it?', and the answer

has to be Yes, as the oldest Member is over 100, but this does not mean they are mentally 100, as he is still driving, and as you would hear, if you came along, there are always lively conversations.

The coffee club is not a Club for the Elderly - yes it does have older people, but it works, because it has people of various ages, who come along when free on a Wednesday Morning for a friendly chat over a good cup of coffee or tea. Those who are younger and think that it is not for them, are more than welcome to come and help serve the coffee and biscuits, with no more commitment than helping a flexible team once a month, 3 hours in a month is hardly a major commitment and you would be doing your bit to keep the community of Merrow thriving.

If you want to know more, then either just turn up after 10.15am on a Wednesday, or ring or email me, and I would be happy to give more details.

This was our last coffee morning before the school Holidays, but we hope to see you when we return on the 3rd of September.

Have a great Summer.

Gerald Hunt (Coffee Club organizer)

T: 07545 256114 E: merrowcoffeemorning @hotmail.com





View from the Pews

Attendance at St John's is increasing to our immense delight. New projects are frequently started, and old ones are invigorated. Different approaches are taken in many areas. Our wonderful youth worker is to be a permanent fixture. Being English I feel there must be a but here somewhere, but I can't think of one. Let's just thank God for the plentiful blessings we are receiving.

Chris Starr

Thank you very much to Channies & Pewleys for sponsoring our colour cover again this year. This month's photo was taken by Carole Burtonwood at the Women in Fellowship's trip to Wisley in May and shows the group with Kate Dumbleton who guided them round.

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.



From Merrow C of E Infant School

Dear Friends,

We hope that many of you were able to enjoy seeing the Maypole Dancers at the recent Rectory Fair. We are so proud of them for learning their dances and performing them to the wider community as well as grateful to the staff who teach them the dances. It is a lovely tradition that we are so pleased we can uphold each year.

As ever, this has been a very busy few months at Merrow Infants School. We are busy with Transition across the school; welcoming the new children who will start in YR in September, supporting the children who will be moving up to the juniors and onto other schools as well as all the end of term activities that we all love.

We are looking forward to seeing the Y2 Leavers production; it is always great to hear their memories of 3 years at Merrow, what they have enjoyed the most, the trips they have been on and to see their photos from over the years. We also have the Leavers Service to look forward to; we hold it on the school field, with parents and the rest of school. It is always quite a poignant occasion.

As ever at this point in the year we say many 'thank yous'. A particular big thank you goes to our wonderful PTA who do so much to enhance the experiences for the children at school in a myriad of ways; they work very hard to organise high profile events such as the Fairs but they also work quietly in less visible ways. Each year money is donated by the PTA to a 'Class Fund' which is used by teachers to buy those extras that every classroom needs - special craft activities, gardening & cooking resources and new toys - we very much appreciate this additional budget each year!

We also say goodbye to Mrs Williams who is leaving to have a baby, Ms Clark who is going to further her academic studies and to Mrs Carter and Mrs Carr who are leaving the infant site to go to the juniors. We thank them all for their hard work and dedication to the Infant School and wish them well in this next step in their lives and careers.

We thank you for your prayers, good wishes and support and look forward to seeing you in the new academic year.

Warm regards,

Emma Hooper

Gardening Hints for August

I trust that by the time that you read this article, the heat wave will have past, without killing off too many plants and then we await the next one.

Continue to harvest fast growing vegetables and salad crops as they mature.

Keep Runner Beans well watered, so that the flowers set fruit.

Increase the feeding of Tomatoes as the fruit begins to form.

Spring Cabbage and Turnip can still be sown, as can Parsley, Lettuce and Radish, to provide a late crop. Main Crop Potatoes can be lifted now.

When harvesting Onions, wait until 75% of the tops have fallen over naturally, before lifting. Store the Onions in a dry place with good ventilation for two weeks, after which, they should keep for winter use.



Complete the Summer pruning of Apple and Pear Espaliers, Fans and Cordons, remove any fruit which has been affected with brown rot and rake up any diseased leaves.

Rambling Roses, which only flower once, should be pruned after flowering, cutting out one in three stems at the base, to encourage new growth.

Summer prune Wisteria, removing all new shoots to five buds from the main stem.

Now is the time to set traps amongst your Dahlias, to catch Earwigs before they damage the blooms, fill a 3" pot with hay or straw and place it upside down on the end of the cane supporting the plant. The Earwigs will climb into the pot before dawn and will be waiting for you to shake them out to be disposed of.

This month on dry sunny days, you can start collecting seed from Annuals for sowing next Spring. Do not collect seed from F1 Hybrids as they will not produce flowers true to type next year.

Continue to water the garden during dry spells - watering in the evening will give the plants a better chance of retaining the moisture.

To keep your flowers in peak condition, continue to dead head them and give them a liquid feed of a high potash fertilizer, such as Tomorite once a fortnight.

Set the mower blades on a higher setting when cutting the grass during periods of dry weather.

Start collecting the seed of annuals such as French Marigold and Tagetes for sowing in the Spring.

Continue to keep containerised plants well watered, especially Camellias and Rhododendrons.

John Boon

Forthcoming magazine information

Issue	Copy date	Editor	Editor's email address
September	17 th August	Cathy Thompson	cathy.thompson@saintjohns.org.uk
October	14 th September	Chris Starr	chrisstarr10@btinternet.com
November	12 th October	Susan Harrington	suzh90@outlook.com

Men in Fellowship

This morning, our Men in Fellowship group enjoyed a most engaging talk from Uncle George Quarm, the minister at Merrow Methodists, along with the care of Stoughton Methodist Church, West Horsley Methodist Church and Sheerwater Community Hub Church.

Wearing traditional dress from his home country Ghana, Uncle George took us through his intriguing faith journey. Inspired to come to faith by a missionary in Ghana, he came to the UK 30 years ago and has worked in a faith capacity both across the UK and, during frequent visits, Europe. He is also an avid learner, holding a diploma in Theology and Religions, a BA in Mental Health, an MSc in Counselling Psychology, and he is currently pursuing a PhD in Parapsychology; and much of his ministry has focussed on supporting those facing problems with addiction or mental health. It was a most interesting talk, and good discussion followed.

Uncle George is also an avid fan of country music, so as well as our usual breakfast, we were treated to a rendition of "I Can't Stop Loving You." So as ever, a most enjoyable, and thought-provoking gathering was enjoyed by all.



The Ride & Stride September 13th, 2025

www.SurreyChurchesPreservationTrust.org

Most counties in England hold an annual 'Ride & Stride', on the second Saturday in September, to raise money for church restoration and repair. The idea is that cyclists and walkers are given a list of churches and chapels in the area of their choice. They map out their own route to pedal or walk to places of Christian worship having arranged to be sponsored by friends for a fixed sum or donation per church visited.

The money that is collected is divided in two. Half goes to the church or chapel of the cyclist's or walker's choice, the other half is retained by the Surrey Churches Preservation Trust for distribution to churches in need. The Trust looks more favourably on applications from supporters of the Ride & Stride event. In the twenty-five years that Ride & Stride has been running in Surrey, over £500,000 has been raised.

The Trust, whose trustees are from most Christian denominations, runs the annual event in Surrey, supported by a dozen or so Area Organisers. These organisers give support to Church Organisers, providing the paperwork and any guidance they need for preserving our precious heritage.

Ride & Stride is a fun way to spend time on a pleasant Saturday in September while getting to know some Surrey places of Christian worship and raising funds for this worthy cause. Why not make up a group and join in this year! Some suggested routes are available from the SCPT website. Ask your Church Organiser for lists of participating churches and chapels together with sponsorship forms.

Supporters who prefer not to 'ride or stride', please consider sponsoring volunteers involved in this important event. In addition, joining the Trust costs very little and contributes to its vital work.

Contact: jane.farquharson@saintjohns.org.uk Useful websites:

www.SurreyChurchesPreservationTrust.org

www.nationalchurchestrust.org www.ridestride.org



SURREY CHURCHES PRESERVATION TRUST

**SURREY CHURCHES RIDE & STRIDE
SATURDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2025**

Ride or Stride & raise money for our own churches and the Trust.

Your contribution will be divided equally between the two.

We have benefitted from a small grant for church repairs at St Johns, but could qualify for more, with your participation in this event!

Sponsorship forms will be available soon

About our Cathedral...



Did you recently find the weather so hot that you couldn't seem able to breathe or even step outdoors but when so doing needing to turn and rush inside immediately to shelter from the blistering, burning sun? Shadows were scarce and you desperately wanted to feel the fresh breeze on your face and the wind in your hair and a cool mountain stream beside you? Well, for future hot days take a trip out of Guildford in the direction of the Hog's Back and just off the A3 on the left side you'll espy a very large, red brick building that stands high up on a hill and is open all day (especially on Sundays) with free entry. Yes, you've guessed: it's Our Cathedral! So what's the attraction? It's just another stuffy old building, surely. Only, it's not. Our Cathedral is cool (being the true definition of the word as in "coldish" and not in today's parlance for the [aesthetic](#) quality of [attitude](#), behaviour, appearance or [style](#)). Anyway, never mind about aesthetic qualities let's take a trip to our Cathedral in the heat of the day and push through those large glass doors simultaneously taking in the wonderful ice-like etchings of angelic musicians thereon and enter the large, airy space and breath in the coolness. Then turn to look outside and observe the heat shimmering off the concrete steps, the unnerving stillness of the tree branches, the brown baked, parched and patchy grass and the cloudless blue sky with its pitiless sun rolling around heaven all day. Turn and stroll into this light filled haven with its soaringly airy chambers and long high-ceilinged walkways delicious in their coolness and laugh at the pounding midday heat outside. The pale, beigey interior colours seem to filter and absorb the sun's rays turning them into streaks of light bouncing off the invitingly cold marble floor. How does that sound? Stay there all day and bathe in the sheer heavenliness of it all. And at the day's end venture outside and feel the fresh hilltop breeze on your face and watch the sun sinking slowly in the West as the heat of the day dissipates. Of course, all this hinges on whether we get more hot weather this year – which we probably won't!

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES!

(find out more in our weekly St John's newsletters!)

AUGUST

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

Wed 13th Aug Coffee, Cake and Chat Morning – 10am

Thurs 14th Aug Time to talk! 2pm

Sat 16th Aug Men-in-Fellowship – Real Ale Train

Sun 17th Aug Starship Discovery Set Up 2pm

18th-22nd Aug Starship Discovery Holiday Club – (Monday – Friday)

Sun 24th Aug Holiday Club All Age Service 10am in church

SEPTEMBER

Mon 1st Sept Glow Toddlers returns after the summer break at 9.15am

Sat 6th Sept Churchyard Tidy Up 9.30am

Tues 9th Sept Green Team returns after the summer break at 4pm

Sat 13th Sept Ride and Stride

Sun 14th Sept Sparks 5-11s group – during 10am service in church

Thur 18th Sept Time to talk! 2pm

Sun 21st Sept Inter-Church 4pm in church

Tues 23rd Sept Green Team 4pm

Sun 28th Sept Sparks 5-11s group – during 10am service in church

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 Verger	Michael Eagle	07850 000224
	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 Administrator	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
	Michael Eagle	07850 000224
Church Governors	Lindsay Dobson	07809 836896
Safeguarding Officer	Rosanne Bond	579462
St John's Merrow, Pre-School	Amanda Bazley (Manager)	454625
Diocesan Lay Pastoral Assistant	Helen Chambers	846574
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