



# NEWSLETTER

## Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May

- 8am Holy Communion - Church
- 9.15am Choir during Communion - Church
- 10am Parish Communion - Church (Livestreamed)
- 11.30am Annual Parochial Church Meeting - Centre
- 4pm Inter-Church - Church

## Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May

- 9.15am Glow Toddlers - Centre

## Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May

- 4pm Green Team - Centre

## Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May

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

## Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May

- 3pm Choir Practice - Centre

## Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May

- 8am Holy Communion - Church
- 10am Parish Communion - Church (Livestreamed)
- 10am Sparks 5-11s group - Church

*(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 (term time only)
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)

### **May**

Thur 29 <sup>th</sup> May	Mae Pink Funeral - 12noon in Church
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### **June**

Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jun	Green Team 4pm
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Churchyard Tidy Up 9.30am
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Sparks 5-11s group - during 10am service in church
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Inter-Church 4pm in Church
Tues 17 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Green Team 4pm
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> Jun	Dave Kelly & Christine Collister Concert 7.30pm
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jun	Sparks 5-11s group - during 10am service in church
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Men-in-Fellowship - Real Ale Train
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Sparks 5-11s group - during 10am service in church
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Rectory Fete Gardening Party 2pm

### **July**

Sat 5 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Rectory Fete
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Baptism Service
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup> Jul	First Communion Service
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Sparks 5-11s group - during 10am service in church
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Men-in-Fellowship - Breakfast Meeting
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Inter-Church 4pm in Church
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Parish BBQ in Rectory Garden
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Sparks 5-11s group - during 10am service in church

## Hymns

- 209 Love's redeeming work is done  
See hymn below (to the tune of Jerusalem)  
453 Lord enthroned in heavenly splendour  
Communion hymn:  
458 Here proclaim the glorious mystery  
227 Crown Him with Many Crowns

### Hymn 2 - Bell Ringers Hymn (Tune: Jerusalem)

Ring out, glad bells! Arouse our hearts,  
Shame our indifference and our strife;  
Call us again to leave behind  
All that impedes our spirit's life --  
And with your wide and son'rous mouths  
Inspire our mouths to sing anew  
The praise of Him who reigns above,  
The righteous One, the Just, the True.

Your substance once was hid from sight  
Mute in the darkness of the earth,  
But by man's skill, to give delight,  
You were brought forth and given birth.  
We are from nothing; may we be  
Found, when this mortal life is done  
True-cast by God the Father's love  
To bear the image of the Son.

Ring out, glad bells! From belfries dark  
Call us, with loud resounding voice  
Into that light which never dims,  
Wherein the Holy Ones rejoice;  
And, as your sound goes boldly out,  
So may we go, to make Christ known,  
Till all the sons of God shall shout  
With endless joy before His throne!

## **Collect**

Almighty God,  
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ  
have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:  
grant that, as by your grace going before us  
you put into our minds good desires,  
so by your continual help  
we may bring them to good effect;  
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
or  
Risen Christ,  
your wounds declare your love for the world  
and the wonder of your risen life:  
give us compassion and courage  
to risk ourselves for those we serve,  
to the glory of God the Father.

## **Reading**

Acts 11.1-18

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?' Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth." But a second time the voice answered from heaven, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved." And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, "John baptized with water, but you will be

baptized with the Holy Spirit." If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?' When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, 'Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.'

## **Gospel**

John 13.31-35

When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come."

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

## **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:**

Revelation 21.10, 22–22.5

John 14.23–29 or John 5.1–9

### **Post Communion**

Eternal God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:  
grant us to walk in his way,  
to rejoice in his truth,  
and to share his risen life;  
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

### **FOR YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK**

**Sick or in need** - Dick Pyper, Edward

**Departed** - Mae Pink

# NEWS

## Visiting Preachers

22<sup>nd</sup> June - Archdeacon Catherine Mabuza

26<sup>th</sup> October - Bishop of Guildford

## Dave Hunt's Sponsored Walk to Winchester

A very big thank you to David Hunt for walking from St John's, Merrow to Winchester raising funds for the Young People's Ministry Fund. He has managed to raise a fantastic £1245.

## First Communion Course and Baptism

Is your child aged 8 or over and interested in taking the next step on their faith journey? At St John's we have permission to admit children to communion and are aware that some of our young people are keen to take part! So, this June we will be running a course for any eligible young people consisting of three sessions, then holding their first communion Service on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July at 10am. To be admitted to communion in the Church of England a child must first be baptised and have gone through a preparation course. If your child has not yet been baptised, do not worry, as we are going to hold an All-Age Baptism Service on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July at 10am as well. If you would like more information or to sign up, please talk to Tim or Georgie by Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May.

## Christian Aid Week - 11<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> May

Thank you so much to those who have already donated so generously to Christian Aid. Please return any envelopes to church this Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> or give to Sara England or to the Parish Office. Our e-envelope will remain open through May and June - use this QR code or go to <https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2025/st-johns-merrow-envelope>.



## Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 11:30am

This Sunday at 11:30am we will be holding our Annual Parish Church Meeting. Everyone is welcome to come and join us in the Centre Main Hall. The report is available to read on our website, under the 'About Us' section.

## **NEW! Chair-Based Exercises Taster Session - Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2.30pm**

Free taster session on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2.30 - 3.30. Please sign up before 23<sup>rd</sup> May by contacting Rosanne on 01483 579462 or the Parish Office. If it is successful, it will become a regular event.

## **Choir during Communion - Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 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.

22<sup>nd</sup> June: 464 Sweet sacrament divine

## **Dave Kelly & Christine Collister Concert Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June 7.30pm**

Back by popular demand! Dave Kelly is back with Christine Collister for a unique concert in St John's Church.

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.

This is a fundraising concert for St John's, Merrow.

Doors open at 7 for a 7.30pm start.  
Refreshments will be available on buy.

The tickets are £20 per person and can be bought online at [www.saintjohns.org.uk](http://www.saintjohns.org.uk) or from the parish office.

**CHRISTINE COLLISTER**  
and  
**DAVE KELLY**

**ACOUSTIC DUO**

**TOGETHER AGAIN**  
**TWO SUPERB VOICES**

Dave Kelly is back with Christine Collister for a unique concert  
Saturday 21st June 2025 (doors 7 for 7:30 pm)  
St. John the Evangelist Church, Merrow, GU4 7AA  
Tickets £20 online at [www.saintjohns.org](http://www.saintjohns.org)

**GTA**  
MUSIC AGENTS  
Tel 020 8940 9191  
[www.gtamusic.co.uk](http://www.gtamusic.co.uk)



## Men-in-Fellowship - Events

### Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June - Real Ale Train

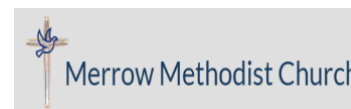
Back by popular demand, **The Real Ale Train** on the Watercress Line. The RAT as it is affectionately known, returns in 2025 to continue its tradition of serving real ale from the bar car whilst travelling by train through the Hampshire countryside. Food is available along with non-alcoholic beverages. We will be leaving Merrow late afternoon, in time for the steam train departing Alton at 7pm.



### Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July - George Quarm Breakfast Meeting

As part of our Men-in-Fellowship series of Breakfast Meetings exploring other religions and types of spirituality, we welcome **George Quarm** from Merrow Methodist Church. Call him Uncle George if you are under 40 or "King George" if you're older. It's going to be a stimulating session with many anecdotes and lively conversation from a most interesting and full of life character.

For more details please contact Richard at [richard.burtonwood@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:richard.burtonwood@saintjohns.org.uk)



### Rectory Fete Gardening Party - Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2pm

We are looking for volunteers to help prepare the Rectory garden for the Fete on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July. Come along on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Rectory Fete - 5<sup>th</sup> July 12.30 to 3pm - Save the date!



## **Starship Discovery Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> August - Helpers needed!**

After the success of last years holiday club, we are doing it again! This year the theme is Starship Discovery, where we will be following the adventures of Peter and he discovers what it takes to be a follower of Jesus. This is a big undertaking and require some people power (something St John's is AMAZING at providing!) So, if you would like to know a bit more, or you think you would be able to help for some, or all, of the week please let Georgie know. There will also be some prep days and a set up/decorating day on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> as well if you can't do the week. More details on everything coming soon.



### **Time to Talk - Do you need a listening ear?**

Once a month, between June and December, we will be 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 26<sup>th</sup> June. 2pm-3pm

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2pm-3pm

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2pm-3pm

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2pm-3pm

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2pm-3pm

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2pm-3pm

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2pm-3pm

### **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.

## **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.

## **Warm Space**

A 'Warm Space' is available on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings between 10am and 2pm.

## **Food Bank**

The food bank would greatly appreciate donations of

- Tinned Flavoured Noodles
- Tinned Fruit
- Tinned Meat
- Tinned Spaghetti Hoops/Rings
- Treats (Crisps/Chocolates etc)



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 is outside the Church Centre to the left of the main door.

**Monday - Friday 9am - 1pm and Saturdays (term time only) 12pm - 3pm**

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. Prams or pushchairs that are suitable from birth can be accepted, but by prior appointment only.

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

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

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

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

**Parish Administrator:**  
Sandra Rayner

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01483 454621

**Centre Manager:**  
Barry Dickinson

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**Coffee Club:** Gerald Hunt

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