



St. John the Evangelist
Merrow



NEWSLETTER

Last Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 26th October

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

Monday 27th October

9.15am Glow Toddlers - Centre

Wednesday 29th October

10.15am Wednesday Coffee Club - Centre
10.30am Holy Communion Service - Centre

Friday 31st October

No Choir Practice - Centre

Saturday 1st November

9.30am Churchyard Tidy Up - Centre

Sunday 2nd November - All Saints and All Souls

8am Holy Communion - Church
10am Parish Communion - Baptism Service
(Livestreamed)
4pm All Souls Service

(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

Tue 4 th Nov	Green Team 4pm
Fri 7 th Nov	Church Quiz Night
Sat 15 th Nov	Men-in-Fellowship Breakfast
Sun 16 th Nov	1st Communion Service
Sun 16 th Nov	Inter-Church 4pm in church
Tue 18 th Nov	Green Team 4pm
Thur 20 th Nov	Time to talk! 2pm
Sun 23 rd Nov	Sparks 5-11s group - during 10am service in church
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 Event
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
Sun 28 th Dec	Sparks 5-11s group - during 10am service in church

Hymns

753 O praise ye the Lord
669 I heard the voice of Jesus say
453 Lord enthroned in heavenly splendour
Communion Hymns
592 As the deer pants for the water
557 Beauty of Brokenness
593 At the name of Jesus

Collect

Merciful God, teach us to be faithful
in change and uncertainty,
that trusting in your word and obeying your will
we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reading

Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-end

Although our iniquities testify against us, act, O Lord, for your name's sake; our apostasies indeed are many, and we have sinned against you.

O hope of Israel, its saviour in time of trouble, why should you be like a stranger in the land, like a traveller turning aside for the night?

Why should you be like someone confused, like a mighty warrior who cannot give help? Yet you, O Lord, are in the midst of us, and we are called by your name; do not forsake us!

Thus says the Lord concerning this people: Truly they have loved to wander, they have not restrained their feet; therefore the Lord does not accept them, now he will remember their iniquity and punish their sins.

Have you completely rejected Judah? Does your heart loathe Zion?

Why have you struck us down so that there is no healing for us?

We look for peace, but find no good; for a time of healing, but there is terror instead.

We acknowledge our wickedness, O Lord, the iniquity of our ancestors, for we have sinned against you. Do not spurn us, for your name's sake; do not dishonour your glorious throne; remember and do not break your covenant with us.

Can any idols of the nations bring rain? Or can the heavens give showers? Is it not you, O Lord our God? We set our hope on you, for it is you who do all this.

Gospel

Luke 18.9-14

Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt:

'Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax-collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, "God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income." But the tax-collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.'

Readings next week:

2 Thessalonians 1

Luke 19.1-10

Post Communion

God of all grace, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of his life and the word of his kingdom: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread; who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

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

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

NEWS

Clocks Change this Sunday - Reminder that the clocks go back by 1 hour at 2am this Sunday 26th October.

Christmas Cards

Our St John's Christmas Cards have arrived. They are now on sale at £5 for a pack of 10 and are available from the parish office.

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.

Green Team

Do you have any old glass jars (without labels please) that you could donate to the Green Team? Thanks so much- Georgie



Merrow Infant PTA - Christmas Fair

We have been asked if we can collect plastic milk bottle tops for the School Christmas Fair. If you have any please give them to Georgie, many thanks.



Choir Practice Dates

No Choir Practice on Friday 31st October
Friday 7th November - 3pm
Friday 14th November - 3pm
Friday 21st November - 3pm

All Souls Service - Sunday 2nd November

Our annual All Souls Service will be held on Sunday 2nd November at 4pm. If you would like the name of a loved one to be included in the service, could you please email Helen Chambers: helen.chambers@saintjohns.org.uk

St John's Quiz Night- Friday 7th November St John's Centre

We are holding a fund raising Quiz Night on Friday 7th November! Doors open at 19:00, quiz to start at 19:30 and you can have teams of up to 8 people. Tickets are £7 per person, it is bring your own drinks and nibbles and you can sign up by going to our website. www.saintjohns.org.uk. Invite your friends and neighbours!



Remembrance Sunday Services - 9th November

9am Holy Communion
10.45am Act of Remembrance
11.45am Uniformed Organisations Service



First Communion Course for Young People - 16th November

On 16th November we hope that some of our young people will be able to receive communion for the first time. If you know any young person who would like to take part in our First Communion Course, which will enable them to receive communion for ever, please let Tim and Georgie know. Candidates must be aged 8 and older and baptised.

Choir during Communion - Sunday 16th November 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.

16th November: 415 Glory in the highest

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 December - Practice

Sunday 14th December - Practice

Sunday 21st December - Practice

Sunday 21st December - Carol Service

Sunday 4th January - Christingle



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 will be asking for volunteers to help with refreshments/welcoming closer to the time, so please pop it in your diary and think about if you might like to come along and help!



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 in to 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 you time to help make this a success! There is a sign- up sheet at the back of church on a Sunday and then it will be in the office during the week.

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 on 07984196658 or let Carol Potter know.

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.

Sewing Group - Tuesday 6th January 10.30am

Thank you so much to everyone who came to help with making our herd of camels last week! We are well on our way to telling the story of Abraham in the local primary schools. Our next session will be on Tuesday 6th January where we will be continuing the "herd" theme with cows!

The dates are:

Tuesday 6th January

Tuesday 3rd March

Tuesday 7th April

Tuesday 2nd June



Volunteer Roles

Youth Café Helpers

We have a happy problem... there are too many teenagers turning up to Youth Cafe! To maintain our safeguarding ratios of adults to children we are looking for more adults to join our Youth Café team. The role entails setting up, packing down, and supervision of teenagers and helping make a few toasties! We run on a rota system, with each person being on about one Wednesday a month from 4.30pm to 7pm (term time only). If you think you might be able to help us, please contact Georgie on youthworker@saintjohns.org.uk and she will send you a role description so you can decide if it is for you. These roles will require a DBS check and to complete the basic safeguarding training.



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).



Hygiene Bank

The St John's Centre is a Hygiene Bank collection point. If you wish to find out more about what they do or find out what to donate, then please go to their website for more information. www.thehygienebank.com

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:

Tinned Fruit

Cooking Oil

Curry Sauce

Toilet Rolls

Conditioner/Shampoo

Dry Dog & Dry Cat Foods



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 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