



NEWSLETTER

Sunday 14th September – Holy Cross Day

8am Holy Communion – Church
10am Parish Communion – Church (Livestreamed)
10am Sparks 5-11s group – Church
3pm Pet Service

Monday 15th September

9.15am Glow Toddlers – Centre

Tuesday 16th September

9.15am Sewing Group – Centre

Wednesday 17th September

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

Thursday 18th September

2pm Time to Talk! – Centre

Friday 19th September

3pm Choir Practice – Centre

Saturday 20th September

Men-in-Fellowship – Chithurst Buddhist Monastery Visit

Sunday 21st September

8am Holy Communion – Church
10am Parish Communion – Church (Livestreamed)
4pm Inter-Church – 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
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)

September

Tue 23 rd Sept	Green Team 4pm
Sun 28 th Sept	Sparks 5-11s group - during 10am service in church

October

Sat 4 th Oct	Churchyard Tidy Up 9.30am
Sun 5 th Oct	Harvest Lunch
Tue 7 th Oct	Green Team 4pm
Sun 12 th Oct	Sparks 5-11s group - during 10am service in church
Thur 16 th Oct	Time to talk! 2pm
Sat 18 th Oct	An Autumn Musical Delight - A Capella Group - Sound Mix
Sun 19 th Oct	Inter-Church 4pm in church
Tue 21 st Oct	Sewing Group 10.30am
Tue 21 st Oct	Green Team 4pm
Sun 26 th Oct	Bishop Andrew attending parish communion
Sun 26 th Oct	Sparks 5-11s group - during 10am service in church

November

Fri 7 th Nov	Church Quiz Night
Sat 15 th Nov	Men-in-Fellowship Breakfast
Sun 16 th Nov	Inter-Church 4pm in church

December

Fri 5 th Dec	FoStJ - Wine Tasting Event
Mon 22 nd Dec	Carols in the Pub

Holy Cross Day

Each year on 14th September the church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Cross. Known as 'Holy Cross Day' this major feast reminds us to boast of nothing "except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Galatians 6: 14). The cross is a central symbol for the Christian church across the globe.

Hymns

576 And did those feet in ancient time
587 Amazing Grace
510 Will you come and follow me
676 Immortal, invisible God only wise

Collect

Almighty God,
who in the passion of your blessed Son
made an instrument of painful death
to be for us the means of life and peace:
grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ
that we may gladly suffer for his sake;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Reading

Philippians 2.6-11

who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel

John 3.13-17

No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Readings next week:

2 Corinthians 4.1-6

Matthew 9.9-13

Post Communion

Faithful God,

whose Son bore our sins in his body on the tree
and gave us this sacrament to show forth his death until he comes:
give us grace to glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
for he is our salvation, our life and our hope,
who reigns as Lord, now and for ever.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Sick or in need - Dick Pyper, Edward, Ben, Jean Lockwood, Michael Stoughton, Christine Mabbort

Departed - Sue Shilibar

NEWS

Rector invited to preach at Cathedral - 11th October at 5pm

Tim has been invited to preach at Guildford Cathedral at Choral Evensong on 11th October at 5pm, as part of the annual Cathedral Old Choristers Association Evensong. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Baptism Service 2nd November

We will be holding a baptism service on 2nd November within our 10am All Age Worship. If you are not baptised and would like to be, please talk to Tim. There is no age limit! One of our congregation has asked to be fully immersed at their baptism and we have borrowed a baptism pool for this service. Full immersion is not compulsory and if you would like to be baptised but not fully immersed, please let Tim know.

First Communion Course for Young People

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.

Safeguarding Training: The Church of England has introduced additional training for volunteers who work with vulnerable groups within the parish. It demonstrates our commitment to those who may need additional support. It also links with the work that the PCC is currently doing to promote a healthy and safe culture within the parish. I will be in touch with those of you who are affected by these new requirements, but please feel free to contact me if you have any queries. Rosanne 01483 579462

Songs of Praise - Merrow Methodist Church Sunday 14th September 6.30pm

Everyone is welcome to join Songs of Praise at the Methodist church to sing some of their favourite hymns.

Group - Tuesday 16th September 10.30am

We are looking for a group of people who are interested in sewing to help with our children's ministry. Initially this group is going to be helping with the making and mending of our Open the Book Assemblies props and costumes for the year. We will meet monthly on a Tuesday morning 10:30-12:00 upstairs in the church centre. Our first meeting will be this Tuesday 16th September at 10.30am. If this sound like something that interests you, the dates for the year are below. For more information please email Georgie Gregson.

The dates are:

Tuesday 16th September

Tuesday 21st October

Tuesday 6th January

Tuesday 3rd March

Tuesday 7th April

Tuesday 2nd June

Time to Talk - Do you need a listening ear? - Thursday 18th September, 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 18th September 2pm-3pm

Thursday 16th October 2pm-3pm

Thursday 20th November 2pm-3pm

Thursday 18th December 2pm-3pm

Men-in-Fellowship visit to Chithurst Buddhist Monastery 20th September

As a follow on to our most enjoyable breakfast meeting last year, our next MiF excursion will take us into West Sussex to visit Chithurst Buddhist Monastery. The monastery is located just under an hour away in beautiful surroundings, between Midhurst and Petersfield.



You may remember Ajahn Ahimsako's visit to us in June 2024, which was most interesting, enjoyable, and thought-provoking, so this promises to be an excellent experience.

We can expect and enjoy a guided tour around the buildings and grounds, with an opportunity to discuss any topics of interest, and we will then have lunch with a chanted blessing by the monastics in gratitude in the meditation hall. Please contact Richard Burtonwood or Robert Avis for details.

Choir during Communion - Sunday 21st September 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.

21st September: 557, Beauty for brokenness

Bring & Buy Sale - Sunday 28th September after the 10am service

Bring your unwanted items to our Bring & Buy Sale during coffee after the 10am service on Sunday 28th September (at approximately 11am), and perhaps buy some items that others bring!

We will also be serving delicious cakes with coffee/tea.

This is a fundraiser for our Young People's Ministry Fund. Please speak with Sandra in the Parish Office if you need further information.



Autumn Musical Delight - Saturday 18th October 7.30pm St John's Centre

An award winning A Capella group "Sound Mix", with new arrangements in a kaleidoscope of songs from the shows, such as "Moon River" and "Singing in the Rain" and many more. <https://soundmixchorus.co.uk>

The evening will also feature a classical Clarinet and Piano duo presented by local artists.

An evening guaranteed to experience uplifting and joyful music, all in aid of St. John's Church and the Cheryl King Trust.

Tickets £10 at door or online at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/sound-mix>

Open the Book

Would you like to join our Open the Book team? Once a half term we go in to the primary schools of Merrow and act out a Bible story as part of their assemblies or collective worship. You do not need to be the next Laurence Olivier but if you have a passion for sharing the Bible with children, then this is for you! One school we visit on a Monday afternoon, others Tuesday morning, Wednesday afternoon or Thursday morning so if you generally free on one or more of those occasions we would love to have you. For more information please contact Georgie Gregson (Training and resources provided) .

Servers

The team of servers for the Parish Communion at 10am has reduced over recent years and shortly will become a "team" of one which is not sustainable. We therefore, are seeking people who would be willing to join the team and support the clergy at this service. Training will be given. If you would like to consider taking on this role, please talk to the Rector or to Helen Chambers.

Volunteers needed - We are looking for people to do some ad hoc laundry for Baby Basics donations? They will be contacted as and when the need arises. Please contact Jane on Jane.farquharson@saintjohns.org.uk if you can help.

Linen Rota

We are asking for people to join the rota for washing the altar linen. This usually means volunteering for one month of the year to wash and iron the linen used at both the 8am and 10am Sunday services. If you would like to be part of this team, then please talk to Helen Chambers.

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).



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.

Treasurer opportunity at Matrix Trust, a Christian youth work charity

If you are interested or want to find out more, please contact us at hr@matrixtrust.com or call 01483 574900. We’d be glad to arrange an informal conversation with Dan Setterfield, our CEO, and/or Simon Slater, our Chair of Trustees, to share more about the role and the heart behind our work.

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 Ham
Tinned Fish
Ketchup
Toilet Rolls
Toothbrushes



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