



NEWSLETTER

Sunday 23rd March

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

Monday 24th March

9.15am Glow Toddlers - Centre

Tuesday 25th March

4.30pm Green Team - Centre

Wednesday 26th March

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

Friday 28th March

3pm Choir Practice - Centre

Saturday 29th March

9.30am Mothering Sunday Posie Making - Centre

Sunday 30th March - Mothering Sunday

8am Holy Communion - Church
10am All Age Worship - Church (Livestreamed)

(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
Fridays	3pm Choir Practice

Other Calendar Events

(in the Centre unless mentioned otherwise)

April

Sat 5 th Apr	Church Yard Tidy Up 9.30am
Sun 6 th Apr	Sparks 5-11s group – during 10am service in church
Mon 7 th Apr	Men in Fellowship – Visit to Chichester Cathedral
Tues 8 th Apr	Green Team 4.30pm
Wed 9 th Apr	Lent Lunch 12noon
Sat 12 th Apr	Church Annual Spring Clean 9.30am-noon
Sun 13 th Apr	Sparks 5-11s group – during 10am service in church
Tues 22 nd Apr	Green Team 4.30pm
Sun 27 th Apr	Sparks 5-11s group – during 10am service in church
Sun 27 th Apr	Inter-Church 4pm in Church

May

Sat 3 rd May	Church Yard Tidy Up 9.30am
Sat 10 th May	Pilgrimage to Winchester Cathedral
Sun 18 th May	Inter-Church 4pm in Church
Tues 6 th May	Green Team 4.30pm
Sun 11 th May	Sparks 5-11s group – during 10am service in church
Sun 11 th May	Songs of Praise 6pm in Church
Tues 20 th May	Green Team 4.30pm
Sun 25 th May	Sparks 5-11s group – during 10am service in church

Hymns

823 Who would true valour see

116 Be thou my guardian and my guide

128 Jesu lover of my soul (tune 1)

763 Praise to the holiest in the height (tune1)

Collect

Almighty God,

whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,

and entered not into glory before he was crucified:

mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,

may find it none other than the way of life and peace;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

or

Eternal God,

give us insight

to discern your will for us,

to give up what harms us,

and to seek the perfection we are promised

in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reading

1 Corinthians 10.1-13

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.' We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Gospel

Luke 13.1-9

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Readings next week:

2 Corinthians 1.3-7

Luke 2.33-35

Post Communion

Merciful Lord,

grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil,

and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Sick or in need - Dick Pyper, Baby Edward, Baby Jesse, Christopher Frith

Departed - Wendy Arrow, Tom Combeer

NEWS

Visiting Preachers

20th April - Rev Dr John Valentine

11th May - Rev Dr Craig Holmes

22nd June - Archdeacon Catherine Mabuza

26th October - Bishop of Guildford

Easter Lillies - A reminder that if you would like to make a donation towards the Easter lillies in memory of a loved one, names and monies need to be received by Thursday 27th March. Helen Chambers 01483 846574

St John's Electoral Roll – preparation of a new Roll in 2025

Every church in the Church of England is obliged to have an Electoral Roll which is a register of people who are able to elect other people in the church. This is reviewed every year and the updated Roll published before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) which will be in May 2025.

Every six years a completely new roll is prepared where every person who wishes to have his or her name entered on the new Roll, **whether it is entered on the present Roll or not**, is requested to apply for enrolment. I will be contacting current members and talking to potential new members from the end of March with a form to fill in and information on how and when to return it. Carole Burtonwood - Electoral Roll Officer Carole.burtonwood@saintjohns.org.uk

Women in Fellowship - Due to a lack of availability of our volunteers we have sadly had to cancel our breakfast planned for 4th April. I will be on holiday for a few weeks, but on my return we will be arranging our Wisley trip hopefully for the week beginning 12th May.

Mothering Sunday Posie Making - 29th March 9.30-11am

We would like to invite you to come and join us on Saturday 29th March, upstairs in the Church Centre from 9:30 - 11:00, to help make posies ready for Mothering Sunday. If you are able to bring any greenery from your garden and a pair of secateurs/snips that would be very helpful. We will provide the tea, coffee, biscuits and chat! All ages welcome, hope to see you there. For more information or to let us know you are coming please email youthworker@saintjohns.org.uk

Men in Fellowship - Tour of Chichester Cathedral - Monday 7th April 2025

We are delighted to invite members of St. John's Men in Fellowship to a tour of Chichester Cathedral. This is a continuation of our popular cathedral visits, having previously sampled the sights of Winchester, Southwark and Portsmouth. It will be a relaxed social outing to this Roman cathedral city, in West Sussex. Leaving Merrow at 9am we can look forward to an exclusive tour, led by a member of the cathedral staff. Lunch will be at the Cloisters Kitchen & Garden Café located within the Cathedral grounds. Followed by an optional walk around the Bishop's Palace Gardens. Departure for Merrow about 2pm. Cost of Cathedral tour £8.00 - payable at time of booking.

Go to the website and reserve your place www.saintjohns.org.uk

Any queries to Robert Avis or Richard Burtonwood

Lent Lunch - 9th April

We will be holding our second Lent lunch on Wednesday 9th April. If you wish to attend, please sign up on the sheets in church on a Sunday or the office during the week. Lunch is free but donations for the Bishops Community are appreciated.

Winchester Cathedral Pilgrimage - Saturday 10th May 2025

Our Parish Pilgrimage to Winchester Cathedral on 10th May will give us an opportunity to spend time together in worship, prayer and fellowship in the historic surroundings of Winchester Cathedral.

The day will be led by our own Rev. Tim Clifford Hill and includes a private tour of the cathedral, a Pilgrim's Mass and lunch at the cathedral. In the afternoon we can either spend time in reflection in the cathedral or explore this most historic and ancient city. We will then join in Choral Evensong in the cathedral before returning to Guildford.

The itinerary will be:

- 10:00 Depart St. John's Centre by executive coach
- 12:00 Pilgrim Mass in the Lady Chapel followed by lunch and an afternoon tour of the cathedral
- 15:00 Free time followed by Choral Evensong
- 18:30 Depart for home (estimated arrival time 19.45)

The cost per head will be £44 which includes executive coach travel, a quality lunch, cathedral tour and gratuities. Help with the cost is available if required – see the Rector. Bookings open at the start of April; details of how to book will follow soon.

Everyone is invited to join us for what promises to be a wonderful and enlightening day of pilgrimage to Winchester Cathedral. So watch this space.
The Parish Pilgrimage Team

Open the Book – Our fabulous volunteer team is performing the story of John the Baptist baptising Jesus at our local schools this week and next. Here is the cast at the St Thomas of Canterbury primary school.



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.

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 Fish, Biscuits, Cooking Oil, Tinned Custard, Small/Medium Easter Eggs, Fruit Squash

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, 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 (10am to 1pm)

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

youthworker@saintjohns.org.uk
07974 494504

Parish Administrator:
Sandra Rayner

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01483 454621

Centre Manager:
Barry Dickinson

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Churchwarden:
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Churchwarden:
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Deputy Churchwarden:
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Organist & Choir Director:
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Coffee Club: Gerald Hunt

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