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PARISH MAGAZINE  
**November 2024**



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# **St John the Evangelist**

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*[www.saintjohns.org.uk](http://www.saintjohns.org.uk)*



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.

## **November 2024 Sunday Services (Year B)**

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November** 4<sup>th</sup> All Saints' Day, White

*Revelation 21.1-6a, John 11.32-44*

8am BCP Holy Communion

10am All Age Worship

4pm All Souls

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November** Remembrance Sunday, Red

*Hebrews 9.24-end, Mark 1.14-20*

9am CW Holy Communion

10.45 Act of Remembrance

11.45 Uniformed Organisations

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent, Green

*Hebrews 10.11-14[15-18]19-25, Mark 13.1-8*

8am BCP Holy Communion

10am CW Holy Communion

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November** Christ the King, Red/White

*Revelation 1.4b-8, John 18.33-37*

8am BCP Holy Communion

10am CW Holy Communion

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December** First Sunday of Advent, White/Gold

*1 Thessalonians 3.9-end, Luke 21.25-36*

8am BCP Holy Communion

10am All Age Worship

## **Letter from St John's Rectory**

Welcome to the November edition of the parish magazine!

This month marks the beginning of my second year as your rector. As I mentioned in a sermon in October, Alexandra, Henry and I have really enjoyed our first year with you all and we feel very blessed indeed to have been called here to be with you. We can't wait to see what God has in store for us here this year. Thank you for making our first year so wonderful. You are all part of making St. John's the special place it is and we look forward to journeying with you in the years to come.

November is a month of looking back and looking forward. At the start of the month we celebrate All Saints' at our All Age Worship on 3rd November. Last year you all came to church dressed as your favourite saint, with Ron winning the prize for best dressed! This year your challenge is to bring something to church that tells us what you would be the patron saint of, if you had the option. Georgie and I have been wondering whether we will see hopeful patron saints of golfers or musicians, flower arrangers or even (like St. Jude) lost causes! Do let your imaginations run wild!

In the evening of 3rd November we will gather at 4 pm to remember those souls who have gone before us, whom we love and miss. Do come and join us to light a candle and remember anyone you love but see no longer.

The following weekend is Remembrance Sunday, when our traditional two services will take place and the month ends as we begin the season of Advent and look forward to the light of Christ lighting up our Christmases – but more about that next month!

November is the month when the temperature starts to drop. Please know that our church centre foyer is a warm place where you are welcome to come, sit, be, and not feel alone. This is your church and it's here for you.

With good wishes,

*Tim*



## **From the Registers:**

### **Baptism**

15<sup>th</sup> September     Matilda Genge

### **Wedding**

14<sup>th</sup> September     Mary Chambers and Mark Sweetland

### **Funerals**

9<sup>th</sup> September     Antony Neale

11<sup>th</sup> September     Jenny Shales

## **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.

Do come to our quiz evening on 15<sup>th</sup> November – see details on Page 18.

**Date for your diary:** Christmas Wine Tasting Extravaganza on 6<sup>th</sup> December from 6.00 to 10.30 pm at St John's Centre. Tickets are £16 from <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/fostj/1393110>

Thank you very much to Chantries & Pewleys for sponsoring our colour cover again throughout 2024 and to Jane Stevenson for taking the photograph which this month shows Alexandra Stevenson, our Rector's wife, at the concert on October 12<sup>th</sup>. See Page 7 for more information.

# ALL SOULS' SERVICE

**SUNDAY 3RD NOVEMBER**

**4:00PM**

**A SERVICE TO REMEMBER LOVED  
ONES WHO ARE NO LONGER WITH US.**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE THE NAME OF A  
LOVED TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SERVICE  
PLEASE CONTACT HELEN CHAMBERS  
[HELEN.CHAMBERS@SAINTJOHNS.ORG.UK](mailto:HELEN.CHAMBERS@SAINTJOHNS.ORG.UK)**



St. John the Evangelist  
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**NEW CHILDREN'S CHOIR!**

**Starting Thursday 7th November**

**15:45–16:30 in Church**

For anyone aged 6-16 who enjoys singing.

For more information on Christmas events  
where we will be singing and details on  
how to sign up to join us visit:

**[www.saintjohns.org.uk](http://www.saintjohns.org.uk)**



## **A British Songbook – concert of music October 12<sup>th</sup>**

People started filling up the church very early for the concert at St John's given by our own Alexandra Stevenson, Soprano and of course Tim's wife, accompanied by Nicola Rose playing the wonderful new piano which we have been given.

We were treated to a musical tour of Britain starting in the seventeenth century and going up to the twentieth with some familiar and some unusual pieces.

Songs to lift the heart, thoughtful and happy songs, a hymn for evening contemplation. Purcell and Handel, Quilter and Coward and that glorious soprano voice filling the church with a truly heavenly sound. Magnificent!

What a treat we had on Saturday. I had misgivings over whether it was going to be my kind of music. It did not matter. Alexandra has an amazing voice and stage presence, and Nicola accompanied her on the piano so beautifully.

Alexandra's range, from soft staccato notes to amazingly held long notes, was wonderful and she kept the audience enthralled. The rapport between her and Nicola and their amazing talent shone through the whole concert.

Nicola, Barry Rose's daughter, also played a beautiful solo piano piece: The Darkened Valley by John Ireland.

The final billed item was a tenderly beautiful duet "Summer Sunset" by Roger Quilter sung by Alexandra and Tim. However, that was not the end of the concert as six-year-old Henry stepped forward to sing beautifully all the verses of All Things Bright and Beautiful – bravo Henry!

I so loved the concert, being a blend of classical and classics that we all know and love. How fortunate are we to have such a gifted family dwelling among us and blessing us with their beautiful voices!

We all enjoyed tea and home-made cakes afterwards – thank you Helen, Carol and Georgie. It was a wonderful community event and we shall hope for more to come. £1600 was raised for St John's mission and ministry.

*A joint effort from the Thursday evening House Group*

## **Legacy**

Giving a gift in our wills is worth considering whatever our financial situation or current stage of life.

We may have made a will when we got married, when children were born or after some life changing event like retirement. It is worth reviewing our wills as we pass these milestones because the things which matter to us tend to change the longer we live.

Is it perhaps time to revisit or review your will? Even a small legacy left to St John's will make a difference. Thank you.

*PCC Stewardship and Planned Giving Committee*

## **Advent Fair 1st December 2-4.30 pm**

This should be a great afternoon, combining the fair with turning on the lights for the Church decorations.

We are hoping to get as much community support as possible for this event, as Christmas should be a happy time for all, but it is also a time of reflection on those who for numerous reasons cannot celebrate Christmas as they are homeless, in food poverty etc. Please let me know if you can help in any way.

We would love donations for the bottle tombola, chocolate tombola and the raffle. Please take contributions to the church office.

*Gerald Hunt Committee Lead*

Gerald.hunt@SaintJohns.org.uk or ring me on 07545256114

## **M-i-F Adventure in Chilworth – 28<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

The Men-in-Fellowship broke the mould by making September, rather than November, their Gunpowder Trip.



The Chilworth Gunpowder Mills were their target and led by chief conspirator, Mark Harrington, twelve of us set off furtively from the Percy Arms on a brilliantly sunny Saturday morning to explore the ruins of this industry that once thrived on the banks of the River Tillingbourne. Gunpowder had been manufactured along the river since 1626 - up to as late as 1920. Blessed with a strong flow of water to drive the mills and an abundant supply of alder trees for charcoal, the mills employed some 600 workers at their height. We viewed the ruins of the mills, the waterways for transporting the gunpowder to the River Wey and the protective mounds which tried to shield workers from the ever-present danger of explosions. Regretfully these were aplenty with loss of life and, in 1727, a blast which destroyed even the church on St. Martha's Hill.

We navigated these hazards safely, finally emerging at the haven of The Percy Arms for a good fellowship lunch, happy in the knowledge that the mills are a Scheduled Ancient Monument managed by English Heritage.





**CAP - Christians Against Poverty**- is one of the three charities we support as a church. Here is their monthly newsletter for October which references an important report.

### **Deficit budgets: The cost to stay alive**

In early September CAP released their latest report: "Deficit Budgets - the cost to stay alive", which shines a light on the brutal reality that over 11 million people are now trying to live off a budget that isn't enough to meet their essential needs. I know that you, like me, find it just as heartbreaking to see people accessing our services and yet still struggling with a budget that simply won't balance, despite our and their best efforts. Isolation, disempowerment, deteriorating mental wellbeing and physical health are all highlighted as awful impacts of a deficit budget – and many here in Guildford need the hope, love and care that CAP, working with churches such as yours, can provide. Please do take a look at the report using the link included below and join me in praying that God will be at work in the lives of our clients. Yours in Christ, Helen Kershaw

<https://bynder.capuk.org/m/3b0abab6da421a86/original/Deficit-budgets-The-cost-to-stay-alive.pdf>

### **Prayer and Praise**

- ♥ Praise God for the client who received a very unexpected answer to prayer that has enabled her to pay off debts and make a new start.
- ♥ Please pray for a couple of clients who are keen to come along to church but struggle with anxiety which makes coming out difficult.
- ♥ Please praise God for a client who has finally been able to have life changing surgery and is now feeling well enough to progress dealing with her debts after long delays.
- ♥ An older client is in real need of rehoming, but her debts are making this difficult so please pray that a solution can be found.
- ♥ Another young couple also have similar housing issues so please pray that they can get on the housing list and a suitable property is made available.

♥ Please do pray for several of our clients with long term physical and mental health issues which impact their ability to work, and also their ability to engage with CAP.

♥ The new CAP Job Club, Money Coaching and Life Skills courses are starting up so do pray for the team and all those that attend.

♥ Finally, please pray that the Lord will provide the additional befrienders we need to support the work in Guildford over the coming months. Please do get in touch if you would like to know more about what this would involve! Contact [helenkershaw@capuk.org](mailto:helenkershaw@capuk.org)



### **Wednesday Coffee Club**

Happy November! Doesn't time fly? We are now well into Autumn, as John Keats says:

"Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,  
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;  
Conspiring with him how to load and bless  
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eaves run"

We had our Silver Service afternoon tea on the 29th September, celebrating the contribution of the elderly to the community in so many ways, sponsored by Home Counties Carers and with over 40 people coming I am sure we had a marvellous afternoon. We would appreciate your feedback to see if we should make this a yearly event.

Apart from this we hope to see new and old faces every Wednesday up till Christmas.

(Scary fact : there are only 12 Wednesdays till Christmas! Ho Ho Ho)

Hope to see you soon for a cuppa,

*Gerald Hunt* (merrowcoffeemorning@hotmail.com or ring me on 07545 256114)



St. John the Evangelist  
Merrow

*Advent Sunday is our start of the lead up to Christmas at St John's Merrow*

DECEMBER

1

ADVENT SUNDAY

2 PM - 4.30 PM

*Christmas light turn on at 4.30pm*

# ADVENT FAIR

*in St. John's Centre*

***School and Gospel Choir***

***BBQ - Christmas Menu***

***Refreshments and cakes***

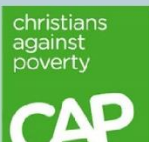
***Children's Activities - arts, crafts & games***

***Christmas gifts & crafts***

***Chocolate & Bottle tombola's***

***Raffle***

*All Proceeds to Charities below and St. John's*



**foodwise**







## **View from the Pews**

I wonder why some people are reluctant to volunteer these days? Yes, people have busy lives and their lives are stressful, but people have always had busy lives.

The Good Samaritan did not phone 999, or St John's and say, "Oh by the way I saw this bloke who was wounded on the road to Jericho can you sort him out?" He actively got the man to an inn and got his wounds attended to and agreed to pay for his lodgings until he was well enough to leave. At the end of the parable, Jesus says "Now which of these three do you think seemed to be a neighbour to him who fell among the robbers?" The lawyer said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise." The Samaritan was obviously the most compassionate and as the second commandment requires, loved the injured man as himself.

Volunteering generally means a commitment of anything from a few hours a month and is there anyone who really cannot find this time in their schedule? Every aspect of life needs support from the homeless and hungry to people with illness and if you look you will find a charity that meets your interests.

So in this material world why should you volunteer? There is the obvious self-serving interest, that at some point in time, you may need the help of one of these charities and if it has folded due to lack of members you only have yourself to blame. The other reason is to do with the soul, something that is not in medical dictionaries but to me is your credit card into the hereafter. To the question have I personally accrued enough credits to go to heaven, then I believe the answer is no, but I will keep banking and hopefully it will be enough for Christ to have mercy on me.

Maybe in this world which is so materialistic and is so stressful, a good dose of balm to the soul by volunteering is just what is needed to help in balancing the work/life balance, but even if not, the world can never have too many good Samaritans.



About **our** Cathedral.....

## **Archdeacon of Sunderland to be new Dean of Guildford.**

The Venerable Robert (Bob) Cooper, Archdeacon of Sunderland, has been appointed as the new Dean of Guildford. The official appointment, which has been approved by the King, will be followed by an installation at our Cathedral on 26 January 2025.

Born and raised in Lancashire, Bob studied theology at the Universities of Aberystwyth and Nottingham. He has a passion for mission, church growth and social justice, having played leading roles in prison chaplaincy and as part of his local board of education. Bob Cooper will be our Cathedral's sixth Dean.

Despite coming from the Diocese of Durham almost 300 miles away, there are strong links in the very brickwork of Guildford Cathedral, with the Jarrow Stone plaque honouring the philanthropic efforts of Surrey in supporting Jarrow, Co Durham during the economic depression of the 1930s.

Bob, who is married to Kate Cooper and has four children, has served as Archdeacon of Sunderland since 2018. During his time there he championed under-represented communities to address issues including urban and rural poverty.

He will take on his new role as our Cathedral fast approaches its 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary and looks to the future.

### **Speaking of his appointment, Bob Cooper, Dean Designate**

**said:** *"I am excited to be starting this new chapter at Guildford Cathedral and to help grow numbers and outreach to all. There is a fantastic mission potential in this town and diocese, and I'd like to pay tribute to my predecessors, Dianna Gwilliams and Stuart Beake for their leadership and ministry. While Guildford may have different issues and challenges to Durham, I look forward to continuing my focus in championing those people whose voices struggle to be heard, and ensuring the word of God inspires every connection and interaction the Cathedral has with our communities."*

*Nick Bond*



## From Marrow C of E Infant School

Dear Friends,

Last week was very busy as we had our lovely Harvest Festival Collective Worship. The children sang and spoke beautifully in KS1 and in YR and both services were very well attended by our families. We have been able to send a good donation of groceries to the North Guildford Foodbank. We are so grateful for the continued generosity of our families for this worthy and vital cause.

The children have all settled back into term and are busy learning new things. Around school there are some fantastic displays that showcase the children's artwork and all their hard work. In YR we have read the book Leaf Man and created our own Leaf Man character; in Y1 the children have been reading The Creation Story and have created a display from paper plates to show what was created each day; and in Y2 the children followed up their trip to RHS Wisley with an art display of their transient art made with natural objects. The displays all looked very impressive as Mrs Dormer showed prospective parents around on our Open Day. If you have any neighbours, friends or families that may like to look round Marrow Infant School with a view to sending their children here in Autumn 2025 our next Open Day is Tuesday 26 November at 9.15am and 1.30pm or Wednesday 8 January at 9.15am.

We are looking forward to our first Open the Book Collective Worship for this year: the team are going to tell us the story of David and Goliath. The children very much enjoy the team's visit and we are sure they will all be singing along with the catchy Open the Book song very soon.

The plans are already well underway with the PTA for the Christmas Fair. This year it is on Saturday 30 November, 12pm-2.30pm. It would be lovely to see some of you there – the choir will be performing and we have lovely turkey baps available, mulled wine and mince pies as well as tea and cakes. It is also a great opportunity to see and hear the school in all its festive glory!

Warm regards to you all,

*Emma Hooper*



## **Gardening hints for November**

The planting of tulips should be completed by the end of this month.

Cut down faded perennials leaving penstemon and other late flowering perennials to continue flowering. If you do not want to risk frost damage to dahlias and cannas by overwintering them in the ground, they should be lifted, dried and stored in a frost-free place ready for planting next spring. If they are being overwintered in the ground they should be covered with a mulch dressing. Apply an application of a mulch dressing to protect agapanthus from the frost.

Stand pots and containers on feet to prevent waterlogging. Half-hardy fuchsias and pelargoniums should be cut back and brought undercover. Watering should be reduced so that they remain dormant during the winter months.

Bare root roses should be planted this month. The roots should be plunged into a bucket of water overnight and planted in a mixture containing bonemeal, and compost. Complete the pruning of climbing roses and reduce the height of bush roses to prevent wind rock during the winter months.

Continue to sow sweet peas under glass or indoors. Once they produce two pairs of leaves they should be pricked out into 3" pots and then placed into a cold frame or frost-free place to continue growing slowly. Oriental grasses should be left until the spring before being trimmed back.

This is a good month for taking hard wood cuttings of shrubs, they should be 6"-8" long with the top cut angled to shed water just below a pair of buds; the lower cut should be straight just above a pair of buds. Push the cuttings into a deep pot filled with compost - the cuttings should be pushed in around the edge of the pot with the angled cut uppermost. Water the compost and then place the pots in a frost-free place to overwinter.

Amaryllis bulbs should be potted up for Christmas flowering. Bring potted hyacinths into a light cool area once they begin to shoot.

Reduce the watering of houseplants so that the soil surface is dry but the roots are slightly moist. Give the plants plenty of light but do not leave them close to a window on frosty nights.

Now is a good time to plant raspberry canes, fruit trees and bushes. Start the winter pruning of apple and pear trees. Aquadulce broad beans should be planted now to produce an early crop ahead of the spring invasion of blackfly. Garlic cloves can still be planted.

The grass should be cut on warm dry days with mower blades set on a higher setting. Try to keep off the lawn when it is frosty. Continue to rake fallen leaves off the lawn.

*John Boon*

## **Breast Screening over the age of 70**

Did you know that you can request Breast Screening every three years after the age of 70?

The NHS Breast Screening Programme invites all women registered with a GP for breast screening every 3 years from 50 to 70. Breast screening can detect cancers at an early stage before they can be felt but not all cancers are visible on mammograms and you should always remain Breast Aware for any changes.

There are risks as well as benefits to screening after the age of 70 and many women choose not to take it up so appointments are not routinely offered. However, you can request screening every 3 years by contacting your local Breast Screening Centre - in Guildford it is the Jarvis Centre and you can phone them for an appointment on 0333 200 2062.

Breast cancer is more common with age and 1 in 3 breast cancers occur after the age of 71. However, over diagnosis at screening is also more common. This is where changes of breast cancer are detected which might not have become apparent in your lifetime resulting in unnecessary treatment and concern. It is up to individual women to decide whether they wish to have screening but it is available free on request if you would like to have it. For more information consult this section of the NHS website: <http://tiny.cc/kjcgzz> (shortened link as the page name is very long).



## The Friends of St John's Church Merrow Quiz Night

Do come to our quiz night on the 15th November at 6.30pm. Funds raised will support the renovation and repair of the historic Church buildings and graveyard.

Arrive 6:30 pm

7:00 pm Pizza & Salad Supper. You may bring your own drink and glasses

7:30 pm start of quiz

Raffle draw around 9.00 pm

Tickets cost £18 and can be bought from the FoSTJ website at <https://www.fostj.org/events/>

### Forthcoming magazine information

Issue	Copy date	Editor	Editor's email address
December	10 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Helen Chambers	hmchambers@virginmedia.com
January	15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Barbara Lawrence	lawrebarbara@gmail.com
February	12 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Frances Jewson	frances.jewson@ntlworld.com

(If you draft your copy in Tahoma, **16 point**, on an A4 page, you'll get a good idea of how much space it will take up.)



## 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	Michael Eagle	07850 000224
Verger	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 Admin Assistant	Sandra Rayner	office@saintjohns.org.uk

Web site: [www.saintjohns.org.uk](http://www.saintjohns.org.uk)

Email: [office@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto: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
Church Governors		
	Michael Eagle	07850 000224
Safeguarding Officer	Rosanne Bond	579462
St John's Merrow, Pre-School	Amanda Bazley (Manager)	454625
Diocesan Lay Pastoral Assistant	Helen Chambers	846574
Readings and Intercessions Rota	Joe Bullock	07521 960480
Sunday Newssheet		office@saintjohns.org.uk
TiC and Lay Parish representative	Isla Stables	567599
Wednesday Coffee Mornings	Gerald Hunt	07545 256114
Transport	Rosanne Bond	579462
Website contact	Parish Office (as above)	

For any changes to Who's Who, please email Sara on [merrowadverts@gmail.com](mailto:merrowadverts@gmail.com)

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