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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 over the page.

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.

March 2025 Sunday Services (Year C)

Sunday 2nd March

Sunday next before Lent, Green 2 Corinthians 3.12-4.2, Luke 9.28-36[37-43a] 8am BCP Holy Communion 10am All Age Worship

Sunday 9th March

1st Sunday of Lent, Purple or Lenten array *Romans 10.8b-13, Luke 4.1-13* 8am BCP Holy Communion 10am All Age Worship 6pm Songs of Praise

Sunday 16th March

2nd Sunday of Lent, Purple or Lenten array *Philippians 3.17-4.1, Luke 13.31-end* 8am BCP Holy Communion 10am CW Holy Communion

Sunday 23rd March

3rd Sunday of Lent, Purple or Lenten array *1 Corinthians 10.1-13, Luke 13.1-9* 8am BCP Holy Communion 10am CW Holy Communion

Sunday 30th March

4th Sunday of Lent, Purple or Lenten array 2 Corinthians 5.16-end, Luke 15.1-3,11b-end 8am BCP Holy Communion 10am CW Holy Communion

Sunday 6th April

5th Sunday of Lent, Purple or Lenten array *Philippians 3.4b-14, John 12.1-8* 8am BCP Holy Communion 10am All Age Worship

From the Registers	
Funerals	
7 th January	Jennifer Reid
20 th January	Barbara Lawrence
Wedding	
15 th February	Michelle Maddocks and Peter Cotton

Easter Flowers

If you would like to make a donation towards the Easter lilies in Church, in memory of a loved one, and to include their names on the memorial roll, I should be grateful if you would let me have names and monies by **Thursday 27th March at the latest**. Cheques (made payable to St. John's Merrow PCC) and money can be left in the parish office but please do not leave money in Church.

Helen Chambers

846574

helen.chambers@saintjohns.org.uk

Thank you very much to Chantries & Pewleys for sponsoring our colour cover again this year and to Jane Stevenson for taking the photograph.

Letter from St John's Rectory

Greetings!

This month we have a guest joining us in the life of St. John's. Sarah Murphy is an ordinand who will be on placement with us during Lent and Holy Week. If you have the chance to meet her please do say hello.

Lent begins this month and, apart from the standard Lent services, may I draw your attention to our parish pancake party on Shrove Tuesday. For more information please see the posters dotted around both the church and centre.

Despite its popular representation, Lent is not a time for us to become miserable. You may wish to give up chocolate or alcohol – once a diocesan bishop decided to ban diocesan meetings during Lent! – but whatever we choose to do we must be sure that Lent is a time for growing deeper in our faith. The main purpose of Lent is to prepare ourselves for Easter so please don't take the joy out of your Lenten journey. Keep the light of faith strong as your travel through the darkness.

My own task for Lent is to re-read *The Way of Christ-likeness* by the late Bishop and liturgist Michael Perham. If you are looking for a Lent book to read and a companion to read it with then do seek this book out and let me know. It will be nice to journey with other people through this book and not feel alone.

Lent should not be a time when we feel alone. Jesus took on our loneliness when he travelled through the desert for forty days and nights. Throughout Lent and every day and season we are not alone because Jesus travels with us.

However you may wish to mark this season, I hope it will be a season where we can keep hold of the light of Christ as we walk through the darkness.

With good wishes,

Tim

Lent: Ash Wednesday

Welcome dear feast of Lent: who loves not thee, He loves not Temperance, or Authority, But is composed of passion. The Scriptures bid us fast; the Church says, now: Give to your Mother, what you would allow To every Corporation.

It 's true, we cannot reach Christ's fortieth day; Yet to go part of that religious way, Is better than to rest: We cannot reach our Savior's purity; Yet are bid, Be holy ev'n as he. In both let 's do our best.

Who goes in the way which Christ has gone, Is much more sure to meet with him, than one Who travels the by-ways: Perhaps my God, though he be far before, May turn, and take me by the hand, and more May strengthen my decays.

Yet Lord instruct us to improve our fast By starving sin and taking such repast As may our faults control: That ev'ry man may revel at his door, Not in his parlor; banqueting the poor, And among those his soul

George Herbert

MOTHERING SUNDAY POSY MAKING



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 any more information or to let us know you are coming please email <u>youthworker@saintjohns.org.uk</u>

Anna's Running the London Marathon on April 27th

For those of you that remember me, I am running the London Marathon this year, raising funds for Breast Cancer Now. Many of you will know that I have fought this disease twice and won both times. I'd be so grateful for any sponsorship. I have an online page that you can donate on: <u>https://www.justgiving.com/page/anna-collins-</u> <u>1718647417198</u>. Alternatively, if it is easier, please give the cash to Mum, Diana Matthews. Thank you so much in advance.

Best wishes and thanks

Anna x





View from the Pews



Groucho Marx said he would not want to belong to any club which would accept someone like him, implicitly equating exclusivity with desirability. The Christian church strives to be as inclusive as possible without hiding that the path to salvation is described as narrow and the effort to reach it compared to a camel squeezing through a very narrow gap indeed. The badges of belonging to a church should be carefully, though not grudgingly, given out. Priests need the wisdom of Solomon to fathom the motives of otherwise secular people seeking the authenticity of baptism, wedding and funeral services conducted with wonderful rituals in the sacred space of a church. The re-marriage in church of the casualties of divorce provoked endless debate, and General Synod has been agonising over the marriage of same sex couples for quite some time. A pragmatic approach would be for worship to be joyfully offered to all, with some barriers of understanding and commitment in place for the privileges of faith. Taking communion, for instance, could involve knowing the story of the last supper and of Jesus' institution of the act of remembrance. The depth and sincerity of a person's faith is between them and God and the last thing we want is to hamper anyone's sincere search for a deeper faith. Our own faith should be strong enough to lend a hand in such a search.

Sinners all are most welcome to come

Not just for another pew bum.

To expose us to truth

'Neath a sacred space roof

Is a practice will make the church hum.

St John's Electoral Roll –

Preparation of a new Electoral 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 from the end of March with a form to fill in and information on how and when to return it.

If you are not currently on the Electoral Roll and would like to join you can do so at anytime by filling in your details on the form that is on the website <u>https://www.saintjohns.org.uk/community-growing-faith/electoral-roll</u> or e-mail me, Carole Burtonwood, at <u>carole.burtonwood@saintjohns.org.uk</u> and I will gladly send you a form and answer any questions you may have.

Why join?

Being entered on the Electoral Roll shows commitment to St John's and the wonderful people who make up our church community. The Roll itself demonstrates the strength of this community and enables members to take a full part in and vote at the Annual Meeting, to be involved in any necessary decision-making and stand for various positions such as member of the PCC and sides person. The Roll is voluntary and confidential and not open to general scrutiny.

Carole Burtonwood Electoral Roll Officer



MERROW INFANT PTA QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 7th March 2025 @ 7.30pm (Quiz starts at 7.45pm) Venue: St John's Centre, Merrow, GU4 7AA Tickets: £15.00 per person including Domino's Pizza (Margherita and Pepperoni) Bring your own drinks & snacks (alcohol permitted). Send us an email - <u>quizmerrow@gmail.com</u> and let us know your Team Name & Numbers, and any dietary requirements. We will then

send you a payment link to complete your entry.

The Children's Society

Children's Society house boxes

A big thank you to those of you who have a house box for The Children's Society. The total amount donated this year is £572.25 which will go to help the work of the charity with vulnerable and disadvantaged children.

If there is anyone else who would like a house box for the charity then please email me on <u>Judithsampson@aol.com</u> or speak to me in person.

Thank you again for the continued support. Judith Sampson

Wednesday Coffee Club



So spring is in the air, the snow drops and daffodils have been out. The days are getting longer and there is even some heat in the sun if you are sheltered, so hopefully the worst is over and we are now firmly in spring.

Hopefully, like the flowers, some of the old faithful will be able to venture back and come and join us.

We have a blend of people from 70s upwards and it would be great to see some new faces. There is a very wide range of people but as you will find if you come along there is always a lively and friendly atmosphere so why not pop in on a Wednesday and see if it is as it says on the tin.

Unfortunately, you have missed the Fish Lunch which we had just after going to press but if it is as normal, then Coopers will have done us proud with their delicious fish, the desserts went down a treat and there were lots of prizes won on the raffle.

Gerald Hunt

Should you have any queries, please contact me on my e-mail <u>merrowcoffeemorning@hotmail.com</u> or ring me on 07545256114

According to a 2020 study, the Netherlands were said to consume the most Coffee per capita with a whopping 8.3 kilograms. They were followed by Finland at 7.8 and Sweden at 7.6 – the Uk did not make the top 15!

A coffee bean isn't actually a bean. It's the pit (or seed) that's found inside the coffee cherry.

The earliest term for coffee was the Arabic word "qahwah", a type of wine.

From the Stewardship and Giving Committee

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Debt Advice Charity

Here are some facts about this wonderful charity that we support:

They have helped more than 20,000 people become debt free since 2010.

Website: https://capuk.org/ has resources on how to practically improve your financial situation, including how to build a budget and low-cost recipes.

There is a benefits calculator on the website so that people can calculate whether they are entitled to benefits.

The website has suggestions for saving on utilities.

CAP offers money coaching; life skills courses; and job clubs are organised regularly at different venues across Surrey.

We hope that you will continue to support this worthwhile charity.

Save the date: We will have a visitor from CAP who will be talking to us on Sunday 11 May at the 10am service.

Friday 16th May

A visit to Salisbury Cathedral, to include "The Spirit of Water" Flower Festival taking place at the Cathedral.

The Friends of Guildford Cathedral are organising a trip to Salisbury to coincide with the flower festival and "non-friends" are invited to join this trip.

The cost will be £36 for friends and £38 for non-friends and will include coach fare, entrance to the cathedral and flower festival. The coach will leave Guildford Cathedral at 9am and return about 6pm.

If you are interested please speak to Helen Chambers: 01483 846574

St. John's Barn Dance



Our February Barn Dance was an evening of great fun. There was active participation, by all ages, in the dances under the guidance of the Hog's Back Band and an excellent Ploughman's Supper organised by our very own Georgie. The evening brought together people from both Church and the community of Merrow for fun and fellowship and, of course, to raise funds for the work of St. John's.

As Mad As a March Hare

Lewis Carroll also refers to the madness of the March hare in "Alice in Wonderland": "The March hare will be much the most interesting and perhaps, as this is May, it won't be raving mad – at least not so mad as it was in March."

The phrase comes from the observation that hares run wild in March, the beginning of their rutting season, exhibiting excitable behaviour such as racing and boxing. The phrase first appeared in the print in the late 14th century in Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales", and has remained popular ever since, though in recent years it has been superseded by similar phrases such as "mad as a box of frogs".

GARDENING HINTS FOR MARCH

We have so far been very lucky in not having had any snow, just a few heavy frosts, but this month can traditionally be very cold so we need to be careful with any tender plants and not to put anything out too soon where it can be killed by frost.

Things to do in the garden in March.

Shallots and Onion Sets should be planted this month and if it is mild Early Potatoes can be planted towards the end of the month.

Most vegetable seed can now be sown outdoors in prepared beds.

If you did not do so last month you can still sow Aubergine, Cucumber, Sweet Peppers and Tomatoes in a heated propagator or indoors.

Cut back last year's autumn fruiting Raspberry canes to ground level, prune Blueberries and Gooseberries and apply a dressing of a balanced fertiliser or Sulphate of Potash at 15g per sq m.

Basal cuttings of Dahlias should be taken this month to provide plants for summer flowering. Sweet Peas can still be sown in a sheltered position. Annuals such as Alyssum, Lobelia, and French Marigold should be sown indoors this month.

Remove the top 3" of compost from containers and replace with fresh.

Bush and Standard Roses should be pruned and fed with a Rose fertiliser. Continue to prune summer flowering Shrubs and Dogwoods.

Large flowering Clematis which flower in May and June on short shoots from the previous year can have weak and dead stems removed in early Spring before growth begins.

Small flowering species such as "Montana" flower in early Spring on last year's growth, they need minimum pruning but if they begin to exceed their allotted space they should be pruned after flowering.

Large flowering species such as "Jackmanii" which bloom in late summer on the current year's growth should be pruned to a pair of strong buds 15-20cm above soil level before growth begins.

When conditions are dry the lawn should be scarified to remove moss and thatch before cutting with the mower blades on a high setting for the first few cuts. Weed and feed with Mosskiller which should be applied just before rain is forecast.

Slugs and Snails will need to be controlled with sharp sand or slug pellets especially around Delphiniums, Hostas and Lupins as soon as new shoots begin to appear.

John Boon

A Flower Quiz

Answers will be in the April magazine

- 1. Which flower was once more costly than gold and has bulbs which can replace onions in some recipes?
- 2. Which flower inspired the William Wordsworth poem 'I Wandered Lonely As A Cloud'?
- 3. The largest horticultural campaign in the U.K. is called 'RHS Britain in...' what?
- 4. Which flower's name comes from the Ancient Greek word for star?
- 5. Most species of eucalyptus are native to which country?
- 6. What is Antirrhinum commonly know as, due to the flower's resemblance to a mythical creature?
- 7. What colour is a Welsh Poppy?
- 8. What is the common name for the blue flower 'Myosotis', also known as mouse's ear?
- 9. Which flower's colour depends on the amount of acid in the soil?
- 10.In Floriography, what colour rose means 'Perfect Happiness'?



The following is taken form "David's Crown" by Malcolm Guite.

Malcolm Guite has re-thought the psalms as contemporary prayers and in his introduction says:

"Following the example of John Donne, I have woven these poems together into a *corona*, a crown or coronet of poems, the last line of each linking to the first line of the next, and the last line of the whole sequence linking to the first, thus renewing the circle, completing the crown: a chaplet of praise to garland the head of the one who wore the *corona spinea*, the crown of thorns to us, and who has suffered with us through the corona pandemic."

Psalm 1: I Beatus vir qui no abiit

Come to the place where every breath is praise, And God is breathing through each passing breeze. Be planted by the waterside and raise

Your arms with Christ beneath these rooted trees, Who lift their breathing leaves up to the skies. Be rooted too, as still and strong as these.

Open alike to sun and rain. Arise From meditation by these waters. Bear The fruit of that deep rootedness. Be wise

In the trees' long wisdom. Learn to share The secret of their patience. Pass the day In their green fastness and their quiet air.

Slowly discern a life, a truth, a way, Where simple being flowers in delight. The let the chaff of life blow away.



About our Cathedral...

You may recall that one of our Cathedral's glass panelled West Doors was damaged by vandalism a while ago. The Cathedral staff were obviously anxious to replace the panel as it was of important intrinsic, artistic and historic value. It took some time to find the right person to undertake this very important work and I'm very glad to report that the Fabric Advisory Committee has now commissioned a New Zealander, Claire Bell, who came to our Cathedral to show her drawings of the replacement panel to the Cathedral Architect and the Chair of the Fabric Advisory Committee. Whilst here, she also took rubbings of the intact panels and the engraving of the replacement panel will commence when Claire returns home. Interestingly, the original engraver of the doors was also a New Zealander, John Hutton, whose technique was to use a dentist's drill to etch the outline of the images onto the glass which was then sent to a factory for finishing. He completed the West Doors in 1961 and in 1962 finished the Great West Screen at Coventry Cathedral to universal acclaim. Glass etching, or "French embossing", is a popular technique developed during the mid-1800s that is still widely used today though suitable artists with the right skills to work on a glass panel such as ours are relatively rare. Glass etching comprises the techniques of creating art on the surface of glass by applying acidic, caustic, or abrasive substances. Various techniques are used to achieve an etched surface in glass, whether for artistic effect, or simply to create a translucent surface. At the moment I do not know which technique the new Cathedral's artist will be using though I hope it will be the same as that used by Hutton. Abrasive sandblasting is another common technique for creating patterns in glassware, creating a "frosted" look to the glass. High-pressure air mixed with an abrasive material cuts away at the glass surface to create the desired effect. The longer the stream of air and abrasive material are focused in one spot, the deeper the etching. We will return to this subject when I have further news.

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.

Friends of St. John's If you would like to help in our endeavours in any way and

keep up with our news, please visit <u>www.fostj.org</u>. We would love you to become a member.

MARCH CALENDAR

Tues 4 th Mar	Pancake Party 4pm
Sun 9th Mar	Sparks 5-11s group – during 10am service in church
Sun 9th Mar	Songs of Praise (not the BBC version)
Tues 11th Mar	Green Team 4.30pm
Sun 16th Mar	Choir during Communion 9.15am in church
Sun 16th Mar	Bring & Buy Sale after 10am service
Wed 19th Mar	Lent Lunch 12noon
Sun 23rd Mar	Sparks 5-11s group – during 10am service in church
Tues 25th Mar	Green Team 4.30pm
Sat 29th Mar	Mothering Sunday Posy Making
April	
Sat 5th Apr	Church Yard Tidy Up 9.30am

Forthcoming magazine information

Issue	Copy date	Editor	Editor's email address
April	16 th Mar	Sara England	saraengland@gmail.com
Мау	13 th Apr	Cathy Thompson	cathy.thompson@saintjohns.org.uk
June	11 th May	Sara England	saraengland@gmail.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 Youth Worker Churchwardens	The Revd Tim Clif Georgie Gregson Jane Farquharsor Cathy Thompson	(Days off F		d Sat am) 951649 y) 07974 494504 07765 620017 07518 202920	
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For any changes to Who's Who, please email Sara on merrowadverts@gmail.com

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