



St. John the Evangelist  
Merrow



# NEWSLETTER

## Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March – Mothering Sunday

8am Holy Communion – Church

10am All Age Worship - Church (Livestreamed)

## Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March

9.15am Glow Toddlers – Centre

## Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

10.15am Wednesday Coffee Club - Centre

10.30am Holy Communion Service – Centre

5pm Youth Café – Centre

## Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April

3pm Choir Practice – Centre

## Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April

9.30am Churchyard Tidy Up – Centre

## Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April

8am Holy Communion – Church

10am Parish Communion - Church (Livestreamed)

10am Sparks 5-11s – 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)

### **April**

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

### **May**

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

## Hymns

652 Guide me O thou great redeemer

739 Now thank we all our God (tune 1)

394 Tell out my soul

748 O Jesus I have promised (tune: Hathertop castle - *not in hymn book!*)

## Collect

God of compassion,  
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,  
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,  
and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself:  
strengthen us in our daily living  
that in joy and in sorrow  
we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal;  
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

God of love,  
passionate and strong,  
tender and careful:  
watch over us and hold us  
all the days of our life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Reading

Corinthians 1.3-7

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering. Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

## **Gospel**

Luke 2.33-35

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

## **Readings next week:**

Philippians 3.4b -14

John 12.1-8

## **Post Communion**

Loving God,  
as a mother feeds her children at the breast  
you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life:  
help us who have tasted your goodness  
to grow in grace within the household of faith;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **FOR YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK**

**Sick or in need** - Dick Pyper, Edward, Baby Jesse

**Departed** - Tom Combeer

# NEWS

## Visiting Preachers

20<sup>th</sup> April - Rev Dr John Valentine

11<sup>th</sup> May - Rev Dr Craig Holmes

22<sup>nd</sup> June - Archdeacon Catherine Mabuza

26<sup>th</sup> October - Bishop of Guildford

**No Sing a new Song** - There will be no Sing a New Song during Lent (March and April). We will instead have Songs of Praise (not the BBC version) on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May. For this new format Tim has asked for everyone to send him their favourite hymns for everyone to sing at Songs of Praise at St John's!

**Parish Magazine** - Please can you send your items for the May Parish Magazine to Cathy Thompson by the 13<sup>th</sup> April - [cathy.thompson@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:cathy.thompson@saintjohns.org.uk)

## Lent Lunch - Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 12noon

We will be holding our second Lent lunch on the 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Church Annual Spring Clean - Saturday 12th April from 9.30 until noon

Come along and help for all or part of the morning. Refreshments and homemade cakes! Rosanne 01483 579462

## 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

### **Choir during Communion – Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 10am**

On one Sunday in each month (except April), 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 9.15am on Sunday for a run-through before the 10am service if you can. Contact Micky or Tim for more information.

18<sup>th</sup> May: 458 Here proclaim the glorious mystery

**Thank you** – John Martin and family would like to thank everyone who came to church on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March to celebrate his 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday and for singing Happy Birthday at coffee time. Thanks also to all those who have sent cards and gifts. He has also now received his card from the King!

**Great News!** The Merrow Post Office will be re-opening on the 15th May at the NISA store on the Epsom Road.

Opening hours will be Mon - Sat: 07:00-18:00, Sun: 07:00-14:00

### **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 Spaghetti hoops
- Tinned Soup
- Baked Beans
- Tea Bags (not decaf)
- Tinned Meat
- Toilet Rolls



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](mailto:babybasics@saintjohns.org.uk), or if you would like to contribute financially to the work we do please visit [www.saintjohns.org.uk/babybasics](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:rector@saintjohns.org.uk)  
01483 951649

**Youth worker:** Georgie Gregson  
(days off: Fri & Sat)      [youthworker@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:youthworker@saintjohns.org.uk)  
07974 494504

**Parish Administrator:**  
Sandra Rayner      [office@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:office@saintjohns.org.uk)  
01483 454621

**Centre Manager:**  
Barry Dickinson      [centremanager@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:centremanager@saintjohns.org.uk)  
01483 454621

**Churchwarden:**  
Jane Farquharson      [jane.farquharson@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:jane.farquharson@saintjohns.org.uk)  
07765 620017

**Churchwarden:**  
Cathy Thompson      [cathy.thompson@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:cathy.thompson@saintjohns.org.uk)  
07518 202920

**Deputy Churchwarden:**  
Michael Eagle      [michael.eagle@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:michael.eagle@saintjohns.org.uk)  
07850 000224

**Treasurer:**  
Lindsay Dobson      [treasurer@saintjohns.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@saintjohns.org.uk)  
07809 836896

**Safeguarding Officer:**  
Rosanne Bond      [safeguardingstjohn@gmail.com](mailto:safeguardingstjohn@gmail.com)  
01483 579462

**Organist & Choir Director:**  
Micky Clare      [mickyclare2@icloud.com](mailto:mickyclare2@icloud.com)  
01483 538306

**Coffee Club:** Gerald Hunt      [merrowcoffeemorning@hotmail.com](mailto:merrowcoffeemorning@hotmail.com)  
07545 256114