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PARISH MAGAZINE
March 2024



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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 9.30am to 4pm, Monday to Thursday 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.

March 2024 Sunday Services (Year B)

Sunday 3rd March 3rd Sunday of Lent, Purple
1 Corinthians 1.18-25, John 2.13-22
8am BCP Holy Communion
10am CW Holy Communion
6pm Sing a New Song

Sunday 10th March Mothering Sunday, 4th Sunday of Lent, Purple
John 19.25b-27
8am BCP Holy Communion
10am All Age Worship for Mothering Sunday

Sunday 17th March 5th Sunday of Lent, Purple
Hebrews 5.5-10, John 12.20-33
8am BCP Holy Communion
10am CW Holy Communion

Sunday 24th March Palm Sunday, Red
Philippians 2.5-11, Mark 11.1-11
8am BCP Holy Communion
10am CW Holy Communion

Sunday 31st March Easter Day, White
Acts 10.34-43, Mark 16.1-8
8am BCP Holy Communion
10am CW Holy Communion

Sunday 7th April 2nd Sunday of Easter, White
Acts 4.32-35, John 20.19-end
8am BCP Holy Communion
10am All Age Worship
6pm Sing a New Song

Please note there is **no** Holy Communion on Wednesday 3rd April

From The Rectory

In March we are into the depths of Lent. Lent started with Ash Wednesday, when those who attended an Ash Wednesday service were marked on their forehead with ash.

During these services, the celebrant made a sign of the cross on people's foreheads with ash, reciting the words 'Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.' It's a deeply personal moment that reminds us firstly to thank God for our life on this earth and secondly of how fragile life can be. The ashes express the brokenness of nature and their use in the Liturgy of Ash Wednesday points us to God as the source of all wholeness.

Some of you may choose to have given up something up for Lent. However, I find it better to take something up for Lent. Taking something up is a positive action and Lent is a season that takes us toward the positive day of Easter – which also falls in March this year, on 31st March. Last year, I took up reading Archbishop Stephen Cottrell's Lent book called *Godforsaken*. The book was an excellent companion throughout the season and reading it also awoke within me an enjoyment of reading (I was not a great reader as a child) that has stuck with me. Taking up something for Lent is also harder than giving something up. But the results will be greater and better for us.

So my challenge for you this month, and as you prepare to plunge into the darkness of Lent and rise in the light of Easter, is to take something up for Lent. Do let me know what you take up and how it goes!

With good wishes,

Tim

Holy Week and Easter Services

25th March Holy Monday

8pm Compline in Church

26th March Holy Tuesday

8pm Compline in Church

27th March Spy Wednesday

8pm Compline in Church

28th March Maundy Thursday

8pm Eucharist and Foot Washing

29th March Good Friday

10.30 Family Service – followed by Chocolate Egg Hunt in the
 Rectory Garden

2pm Good Friday Liturgy

30th March Holy Saturday

8pm Vigil and Service of Light

31st March Easter Sunday

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10am All Age Eucharist





From the Registers:

Funeral

John Michael Ballington

8th February

Sheila Marshall

22nd February



Decorating the Church for Easter

The flower team will be busy in Church on Saturday 31st March from 9am to 12 noon decorating the Church for Easter. If you have ever thought that you would like to find out what the flower team does this is your opportunity! Experience is not necessary, and materials will be available for you to use. There will be refreshments too and you will be very welcome to join us even if just for a cup of coffee.

Helen Chambers

View from the Pews



Through my life I have sadly seen the steady decline in the number of people attending Midnight Mass at Christmas and other services, with the number of under 50's attending being very scarce. I love the 8 o'clock service and all the church traditions, and the archaic language, with words such as art, hallowed, trespasses, remission and lively sacrifice, but these words have no meaning to the youth of today, so there is a disconnect between these staid services and the world we now live in.

The world has moved so far since the 60's with technology revolutionising the way we live with items like mobile phones with their plethora of Apps and ways of communicating such as Facebook, X, snapchat etc. The church has to adapt if it is to be relevant in this new world.

Which is why I am so glad that we are looking to find funding with the initiative to raise £150K over the next 5 years in order to carry on with employing Georgie as Youth Worker. Yes, the church will and needs to look after the wishes of the existing congregation, but to be relevant it has to build the congregations of the future and this must be the priority, not that this means one size for all, but different services with relevance to the various sections of the congregation.

The church has no purpose if it is a place where you go to on a Sunday but has no other relevance. It has to be active in the community serving all people's needs, luckily we already have among other things a mother & toddler group, a youth café, and a coffee morning for the older members, but we need to build on these. With Georgie innovating

new ideas and bringing life into our community I am sure we will make the church relevant to more young people.

The council is basically bankrupt and with however much good will, and regardless of whichever political party is in power, they will need to continue cutting back services. As this happens people already in need, will need others to replace this support in all manner of ways. The ethos of helping in the community is dying with younger people generally not seeing it as being anything to do with them and surely it is our duty as Christians to step up to the mark and be as the good Samaritan. If a close relation of yours was in need would you do anything in your power to help? Of course you would, so should we not do the same for others in our community? As the second commandment says love thy neighbour as thyself.

We all need to carry out more volunteering work, and hopefully convince others that this is not only essential but is also morally very rewarding and a Christian act of kindness to do so.



Join us for Messy Church

Saturday 9th March 3.30 – 5pm

Join us for a busy afternoon of Crafts,

Worship and Tea

Church Youth Group

Our Sunday night church youth group at St John's has started back up again!

We will be meeting in the Church Centre, upstairs in the St John's Room, from 17:00 -18:30 on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. (Dates below)

For Teenagers from aged 11- 16. Each week we plan to have various activities and games alongside diving into the bible to help us explore our faith together. We will also end the session with some food (pizza/ pasta bake for example) so that we can spend some time getting to know each other.

Once the group is up and running, we plan to organise some fun trips as well so watch this space.

If you would like any more information or to get hold of a registration form, please get in touch with Georgie Gregson at:
youthworker@saintjohns.org.uk

Upcoming dates:

Sunday 10 th March	24 th March
14 th April	28 th April
12 th May	26 th May
9 th June	23 rd June
14 th July	28 th July



Thank you very much to Chantries & Pewleys for sponsoring our colour cover again throughout 2024 and to Jane Stevenson for taking the photograph.

On Saturday 16th March, the Cathedral is hosting a vintage bus rally to celebrate 100 years of Safeguard Coaches serving the town of Guildford. Free bus rides in heritage vehicles will be available during the afternoon (12noon to 4pm) which will take you up to the Cathedral from both the bus station and the railway station (Guildford Park Road entrance). The timetable is here:

<https://www.safeguardcoaches.co.uk/centenary-day-heritage-bus-timetable/>



Mothering Sunday Posies

It's that time of year again! Can you spare a couple of hours to help to make the posies for Mothering Sunday?

We will meet at 9.30 am on Saturday, 9 March, at my house, 56 Horseshoe Lane East. If you can bring some greenery (overnight in water) and your secateurs that would be a great help. I will provide the flowers, ribbon etc. I hope you can come – as usual a chat over coffee and biscuits afterwards. Alison Scudamore 01483 572706





From Marrow C of E Infant School

Celebrating Our Ofsted Rating

We are delighted to share that Marrow Infant C of E school has received a glowing assessment following our recent Ofsted Inspection.

The report affirms the school's commitment to providing high-quality care and education, highlighting the nurturing and inclusive environment that we are so proud of. It recognises that at the heart of our success is the emphasis on warm and respectful relationships within the school community and that our School Values are key to all we do. This creates a safe and supportive atmosphere where our children quickly develop confidence and are proud of the high quality work they produce.

The Inspector noted that staff have high expectations for pupils' behaviour, and the implementation of clear and consistent routines helps children meet these expectations. In addition, our broad and balanced curriculum focuses on the needs of all children, especially those with Special Education Needs and/or Disabilities, ensuring the strong foundations developed in our Early Years are built upon.

The report emphasises our commitment to embracing diversity. Children who speak English as an additional language (EAL) play a vital role in enriching the cultural tapestry of our school, sharing their experiences and fostering an environment where everyone is welcomed and respected.

Ofsted recognised the progress that the school has made in the past few years and the positive impact the Federation has had. The school is on an upward trajectory and has the capacity for further improvements.

Perhaps most gratifying is the overwhelming endorsement we received from our parents, who wholeheartedly support the school's work. One parent aptly summarised the sentiments of many, stating, "There is a high level of care and joy. Any child can flourish in this school."



Wednesday Coffee Club

We had our Fish Lunch on the 14th February with about fifty people attending and everyone had a great time. We have luckily got a few new helpers which is always appreciated as it helps share the load and means no one has to work more than once a month.

For wonderful Health & Safety reasons we serve wrapped biscuits, so they can be reused if not eaten and have now found various sources to move away from just serving chocolate biscuits to include plain biscuits as well. On the last Wednesday of the month we serve savouries such as Sausage Rolls & Pizza which also goes down very well.

We have a couple of members who are Gluten free, and we provide Gluten free biscuits and cakes. We are happy to cater for any other dietary requirements, as long as we have warning.

We are now well into Lent and Easter is fast approaching and we will break up on the 27th of March and will come back on the 17th of April

Hoping everyone keeps well and wishing you a very Happy Easter

Gerald Hunt

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

Dementia Friends

Most of us know someone who is living with dementia which is why I thought it might be helpful to return to an article I wrote for the parish magazine in May 2015.

We are encouraged to remember five things about dementia

- It's not a natural part of ageing
- It's caused by diseases of the brain
- It's not just about your memory – it can affect thinking, communicating and doing everyday tasks
- It's possible to live well with dementia
- There's more to a person than the dementia

With support, people with dementia can and do take an active role in life.
Alzheimer's Society

So how can St John's create a more dementia friendly community?

- Become aware of those who appear to be in difficulty for whatever reason
- Do they know where to sit when they come into church?
- Can they find their place when returning from receiving Communion?

Sidespersons, in particular, could be ready to reassure in the event of a fire evacuation. People with dementia can find the unexpected difficult to handle.

Could you encourage them to stay for coffee after 10am service and go with them down to the Centre? It's a noisy environment. Where do you go to get the coffee? Where do you sit?

- Talk about happy times from years gone by, for example a parish fete, flower arranging. "I remember when we.....". Short term memory is often impaired.
- Try to avoid direct questions. A statement is often easier to deal with, for example, "I like your red coat...."

- Recognise that a person living with dementia often has low self esteem as he/she is likely to be aware that life is more difficult. Perhaps you could give them a lift when the Mothering Sunday posies are being made. A small group and the opportunity to create a posy could be very satisfying as well as being a social occasion. It's a good idea to telephone on the day to serve as a reminder.
- Laughter and music are both very therapeutic – for everyone!
- Recognise that dementia affects individuals in different ways and that they can have difficult and also good days.

It's important to remember the carer/family member as he/she will be dealing with many issues on a practical and on an emotional level. Giving them time to talk over a coffee or an offer to stay with the person they care for whilst they go out for short periods of time can make an enormous difference to their lives.

For more information, support and advice about dementia the Alzheimer's Society suggests you

- Go to alzheimers.org.uk for information, fact sheets and signposting to local services
- Contact the National Dementia Helpline on 0300 222 1122
- Join the Talking Point discussion forums at forum.alzheimers.org.uk

Dementia friendly communities are not difficult to create. A smile and a small act of kindness can make the world of difference to anyone but they are particularly important to those whose world may have become more confused. As individuals and as a church community we need to ask what can we do to make a difference?

Rosanne Bond
Parish Safeguarding Officer

Ed: Thank you for this timely reminder and important when we aspire to being a welcoming and inclusive Church.

WHAT A GREAT, GENEROUS CROWD OF BARNSTORMING BARN DANCERS YOU ALL ARE!

Thank you, all of you for joining us at our Charity Evening Barn Dance on Saturday 17th February. We haven't got the total figure yet but so far you have generously contributed to our charities

over £1000

You must have enjoyed yourselves. Whether it was the stirring music of the Hogs Back Band, a great Ploughman's supper, or the get-up-and-let's-dance spirit of the barn dancers, you gave most generously. Our three charities will be most grateful; Foodwise providing help through training and free meals to those struggling against cost of living pressures in Guildford, Christians Against Poverty helping the unemployed and debt laden in Surrey and Compassion UK through whom we support families and children in Haiti who still suffer severe deprivation from the effects of earthquakes and typhoons.

We just hope that you weren't stiff and sore from all that exercise when you woke up on Sunday morning.



ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN OF THE CHURCH

will take place on Saturday 23rd March from 9.30am until noon.

Wonderful company! Tea break with cake!

And hopefully a lovely clean church at the end of the morning

Come for all or part of the time. Bring your duster, dustpan and brush etc.



Rosanne Bond – 579462

Ed: It seems appropriate at this time to thank Rosanne and her team of cleaners and brass polishers who give their time to keep our beautiful Church clean and tidy. It is easy to take these jobs for granted so if you can spare time on 23rd March to help Rosanne it would be much appreciated.

Dave Kelly

founder member of **THE BLUES BAND**

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Dave Kelly at St. John the Evangelist Church, Merrow, GU4 7AA

Doors OPEN at 7pm for 7:30 start

Tickets £18.00 online at <https://www.saintjohns.org.uk>



Men-in-Fellowship Early Spring Walk

The Men-in-Fellowship commenced their 2024 Activity Calendar by striding out across the picturesque National Trust land at Witley & Milford Commons, taking in the open countryside and hill-top views over Godalming & Guildford.

The fine weather made it even more enjoyable, and the group shared a very sociable morning with excellent conversation, finishing at the Dog & Pheasant Pub for a well-earned lunch.



And talking of lunch:

Join us for Lent Lunch on Wednesday 13th March in the Merrow Hall from 12.30 – 2pm. A sign-up sheet will be in Church or please let the Parish Office know if you wish to come.

Donations will be for the Bishop of Guildford's Communities Fund

NORTH GUILDFORD FOOD BANK – A LOOK BACK AT 2023

Dear Donors

After another busy year at North Guildford Food Bank I am writing to thank you so much for the support you have provided us in the past year. We have so many donors who give either produce or financial support and without you all, we would not have been able to serve the number of people we did in 2023.

- I have attached statistics which summarise our work in 2023. We have provided 1,709 food parcels, feeding 2,669 adults and 2072 children. This was a small increase of 43 parcels from the previous year.
- The main reasons for needing help this year were unemployment and debt. Our main referrers were Guildford Borough Council, Home School Link Workers and Citizens Advice.
- Since early 2023 we have no longer needed to provide funding for fuel vouchers, but instead, we partner with The Fuel Bank Foundation which is a charitable organisation. We refer our clients on prepayment meters who are in fuel poverty to the Fuel Bank Foundation and they provide fuel vouchers. The value of these vouchers varies depending on the time of year, but the aim is to provide sufficient fuel funding to last the household a week.
- Guildford Council Wellbeing team is continuing to provide a driver and van on Wednesdays to take parcels to clients who need them to be delivered and we have volunteer drivers to do deliveries on other days for clients who are housebound. Robin (GBC) is also very helpful in bringing boxes from supermarkets for us to pack parcels into.

Christmas 2023

- In the two weeks before Christmas we saw demand like never before and in December served 306 clients, compared to 200 in December last year. We are blessed to have some reserves in the bank so that we were able to buy more stock, in addition to food donations, which was needed on an almost daily basis. Our monthly spend on food more than doubled in December and our healthy stock levels were reduced to nothing for many foods.

- As last year, we increased our regular client sessions from three to four per week for the two weeks before Christmas. Due to the large numbers of clients, our volunteers started packing food parcels much earlier than normal and when demand was highest, we staggered client arrival times.
- We also provided Tesco vouchers to our clients in December, in addition to their food parcels, giving them the opportunity to buy extra items for their families over Christmas.
- We are very thankful for Guildford Lions who continue to buy eggs, potatoes and carrots for us each week. They have been so supportive, even when we had such an increase in demand.
- We are in the process of building our stocks and reserves up again, so please look on our Facebook page and website for our weekly requests. We are also so thankful to those of you who donate financially to the food bank as food donations alone are not sufficient to meet the needs of the number of clients who are being referred to us.

<http://northguildfordfoodbank.co.uk/food-donations/>

Volunteers and St Clare's

- Our team of volunteers continues to grow and it is such a joy to work alongside so many caring, compassionate and hardworking people. We currently have close to 100 volunteers.
- We would also like to thank St Clare's church for continuing to host us. It is such a lovely space for our clients to come to to collect their food parcels and having a permanent place for food storage is a wonderful blessing.
- North Guildford Food Bank more visible in the community.
-

With all of the above in mind, your giving is more important than ever, so thank you. We will also put an annual update on our website within the next few days.

Wishing you a blessed year.

Jessica, Manager

Ed: If anyone would like to see the attached statistics please ask!

Surrey Hills International Music Festival 2024

Tickets are now on sale for our 2024 season with a wealth of fantastic music. With superb chamber music, fascinating talks, incredible pianism and a finale of magnificent Baroque arias, we're looking forward to bringing a huge variety of amazing music to the Surrey Hills between 7-18 May.

Whether you're a regular at the Festival or would like to try out a classical concert, you are most welcome. Join us on a guided walk to take in some of our glorious local countryside ahead of a short lunchtime talk with music - Tue 7 May at West Horsley Place - or a lunchtime concert on Mon 13 May in Betchworth. Or enjoy a full evening performance in one of our beautiful venues, Holy Trinity Church in Guildford, the stunning Hilltop building at RHS Garden Wisley and the intimate and atmospheric Menuhin Hall in Cobham.

As ever, we're bringing some inspirational world-class musicians to perform for you including Dame Sarah Connolly who performs a very special programme of Bach and Handel arias with leading early music ensemble, the English Concert (Sat 18 May); the gorgeous Mendelssohn Octet performed by leading chamber players (Sat 11 May) Sharon Kam and the award-winning Sitkovetsky Trio with the Mozart Clarinet Quintet (Thurs 9 May) plus a spectacular concert for two pianos including our Artistic Director Wu Qian and featuring the winning entry in the 2024 Young Composer competition (Thurs 16 May).

To view all details in our online brochure and book your tickets, visit our website - and do please get in touch with Festival Manager Tracy Lees at hello@shimf.co.uk if you're interested in becoming more closely involved as a Friend or Volunteer - she'd love to hear from you!

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 be 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 fertilizer 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 and moss killer should be applied just before rain is forecast.

Slugs and Snail 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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

5 th March	3 rd Lent course session in the Centre at 7.30pm
9 th March	Posy making at Alison Scudamore at 9.30am
9 th March	Messy Church in the Centre at 3.30pm
10 th March	St Johns Youth Group in the Centre at 5pm
10 th March	Choral Evensong with Guildford Cathedral choir in Church at 6pm
12 th March	4 th Lent course session in the Centre at 7.30pm
16 th March	Vintage bus rally at the Cathedral from 12 noon
19 th March	Final Lent course session in the Centre at 7.30pm
23 rd March	Church Spring Clean
24 th March	St Johns Youth Group in the Centre at 5pm
27 th March	Last Coffee Club before Easter
31 st March	Decorating the Church for Easter from 9am
5 th April	Dave Kelly concert in Church at 7.30pm
17 th April	Coffee Club returns
5 th May	Bring and share lunch in the Centre at 12 noon
12 th May	APCM in the Centre at 11.30am
8 th June	Rectory Fete

News from Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice

The hospice is continuing to provide the same expert, compassionate Hospice Care as it always has, from alternative locations, while building work on its new hospice continues.

Its In-patient unit (IPU), which offers symptom management and end-of-life care, has been temporarily relocated to Camberley under Phyllis Tuckwell management and the care is given by the same Phyllis Tuckwell staff as in the old Hospice.

The Community team continues to care for patients in their own homes or care homes, providing support for them and their families as they live everyday life with their illness, and offering compassionate end of life care for patients who are spending their last days at home.

The Living Well services for individual outpatient appointments and groups are based at the Beacon Centre in Guildford, recently refurbished with new consulting and group session rooms, updated IT infrastructure, and flooring materials and colours appropriate for dementia care.

Phyllis Tuckwell provides Hospice Care for people who are living with an advanced or terminal illness, such as cancer, and its new state-of-the-art Hospice will enable its specialist teams to care for more local patients and families in the coming years. To find out more about the project, visit www.pth.org.uk/new-hospice

OR TO HELP FUNDRAISE If you have a garden that others would love to visit and admire, or maybe could even get together with your neighbours or local community to arrange a group opening, Phyllis Tuckwell would love to hear from you. Visit www.pth.org.uk/open-gardens, email fundraising@pth.org.uk or call 01252 729446 to find out more and to register.

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



You may not be aware that a vandal has smashed one of the panes of glass on the west front door of our Cathedral – part of a sacred set of sentinel angels carrying musical instruments engraved on each door by renowned artist John Hutton. These striking and beautiful engravings are an acclaimed piece of 20th-century art. The vandalism took place in the early hours of the 12th of January. A Cathedral representative said that everyone is devastated by this senseless act and hoped the whole community will recognise that places like our Cathedral need to be preserved as shrines of peace, tranquillity, and spirituality.

The Artist, New Zealander John Hutton (1906-1978), spent most of his career in the UK. His ashes are buried beneath a stone at the foot of the acclaimed West Screen that he created at Coventry Cathedral. Hutton's glass panels on the west front doors of our Cathedral were completed in 1961 and are an example of his later work. Additionally, internal doors on the south transept of our Cathedral are one of Hutton's early glass engravings, completed in 1955. He felt strongly that his work must be more than purely decorative: that it must be part of the spiritual surge of the architecture.

Surrey Police have charged a man in relation to a series of offences on the 11th & 12th January, including criminal damage at Guildford Cathedral. Insurers have estimated the cost of replacing and restoring the single pane of glass and additional damage to be over £15,000 but the Cathedral advises that this does not cover the total costs of the repair and it has launched a fundraising appeal to cover these additional costs.

Whilst John Hutton died many years ago some of his students are still active in glass engraving and our Cathedral plans for one of these students or someone with appropriate experience to be engaged to undertake the new engraving. I shall be following this issue and the actual engraving over the next few months and will report in due course.

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.

If you would like to help in our endeavours in any way and keep up with our news, please visit www.fostj.org. We would love you to become a member.

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 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", or "mad as a bag of hammers".

Forthcoming magazine information

Issue	Copy date	Editor	Editor's email address
April	17 th Mar	Sara England	saraengland@gmail.com
May	14 th April	Cathy Thompson	cathy.thompson@saintjohns.org.uk
June	12 th May	Barbara Lawrence	lawrebarbara@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	The Revd Tim Clifford Hill (Day off Friday)	951649
Youth Worker	Georgie Gregson (Days off Friday & Saturday)	07974 494504
Churchwardens	Mr Peter Tappin	07776 183701
	Mrs Jane Farquharson	07765 620017
Deputy Churchwarden	Mrs Cathy Thompson	07518 202920
Verger	Mrs Helen Chambers	846574
St Johns Centre Office	9.30 - 4 Mon -Thurs	01483 454621
- Centre Manager	Mr Barry Dickinson	centremanager@saintjohns.org.uk
- Parish Admin Assistant	Mr Harry Talboys	office@saintjohns.org.uk

Web site: www.saintjohns.org.uk

Email: office@saintjohns.org.uk

PCC Secretary	Mrs Tricia Tappin	579193
PCC Treasurer	Mrs Lindsay Dobson	07809 836896
Gift Aid, Legacies and Parish Giving Scheme	Martin Thompson	578923
Joint Directors of Music and Choir	Mrs Micky Clare & Mrs Mavis Martin	
Babies and Toddlers Group	Mrs Jane Farquharson	07765 620017
Baby Basics	babybasics@saintjohns.org.uk	458128
Bell Ringers	Mrs Jane Farquharson	07765 620017
Bible Reading Fellowship	Mrs Jenny Welbourn	825541
Cathedral Link	Nick Bond	579462
Children's Society representative	Mrs Judith Sampson	571847
Christian Aid Organiser	Mrs Sara England	504205
Electoral Roll	Chris Starr	07970 870028
Flower coordinator	Mrs Helen Chambers	846574
Head Server	Mrs Kate Verschoyle	533449
Magazine Advertisements	Mrs Sara England	
	merrowadverts@gmail.com	
Merrow C of E Infant School	Mrs Louisa Dormer (Executive Head Teacher)	
	Emma Hooper (Deputy Head)	561501
Church Governors	Joe Bullock	
	Michael Eagle	
Safeguarding Officer	Rosanne Bond	579462
St John's Merrow, Pre-School	Ms Amanda Bazley (Manager)	454625
Diocesan Lay Pastoral Assistant	Mrs Helen Chambers	846574
Readings and Intercessions Rota	Joe Bullock	07521 960480
Sunday Newssheet	Harry Talboys	office@saintjohns.org.uk
TiC and Lay Parish representative	Mrs Isla Stables	567599
Wednesday Coffee Mornings	Gerald Hunt	07545 256114
Transport	Mrs Rosanne Bond	579462
Website contact	Parish Office (as above)	

For any changes to Who's Who, please email Sara on merrowadverts@gmail.com

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