A stylized, high-contrast illustration of a tropical beach scene. The background is a solid light blue. In the foreground, there are several palm trees with dark green fronds and trunks. A small boat is visible on the water in the distance. The overall style is graphic and modern.

# st JOHN'S

Parish Magazine

LENT & EASTER

2017

# st JOHN'S

Lent & Easter 2017  
in this issue

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We are very grateful to those who write contributions and the many volunteers who distribute and deliver the magazines, come rain or shine, to everyone in the parish.

We welcome advertisements and are delighted to be able to provide full colour.

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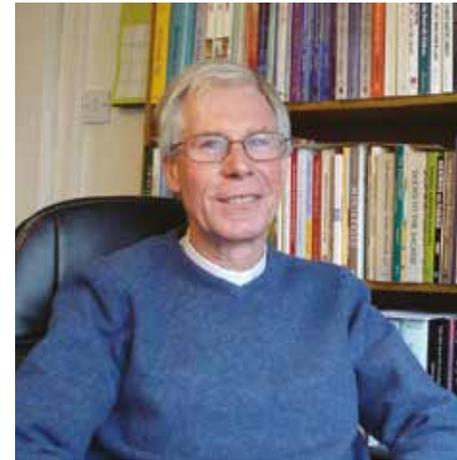
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## An Easter letter from the Vicarage by the Reverend Nicholas Anderson

Recently reading a compelling new biography of Martin Luther, I was reminded of just how much time and effort was spent in the late medieval world worrying about one's relationship with God, with death, judgement and hell very much part of the equation. The post-Enlightenment world has led to a seismic shift, with people worrying less about God and more about their relationships with one another. In the political sphere – it was an age of revolution – came the collapse of the old order but also at the personal level – agony columns used to be full of angst about psychotherapy and sex. Novelists have used their characters to plot these changes through careful and compelling stories. Then even more recently non-human animals became the focus of attention, with some primates even being afforded the equivalent of human rights. This has led to changing attitudes towards eating, farming, hunting, and even zoos; some of that conversation can be acrimonious and even quite violent. It seemed acceptable in some quarters for people to consider harming or injuring other people in defence of non-humans.

A new conversation is now taking place as we consider how to relate to non-humans in the shape of robots with artificial intelligence. In most supermarkets, it is possible to go through the store and on through the checkout quite legitimately without interacting with another human person. Google is experimenting with driverless cars and lorries; within a generation it is said that the latter will become commonplace for long-distance haulage. It has, of course, been possible for some time to travel on tram and rail systems that are driverless and think nothing of it. Already, where robotics is a flourishing academic discipline, we hear stories of a generation of 'sentient' robots that can learn, adapt, take decisions. This is no longer the preserve of sci-fi films and novels. These sentient robots will, we are assured, work for us, alongside us, assist us and interact with us, not only in defence and transport but in the oil and gas industries, health care, renewable energies, space exploration, to name but a few.



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What this will mean for meaningful employment for most citizens is difficult to envisage at this moment in time. What we do know is that it raises moral and practical issues about the right to work, the dignity of labour, and so on. Full employment would become nigh-on impossible; that poses a serious challenge to societies as well as individuals given that employment has become so intertwined with identity and personal fulfilment.

Another challenging arena is so-called lethal autonomous weapon systems. Drones programmed and guided from airbases within the United States and the United Kingdom have already been operational in combat zones. The United States is probably not the only government funding research programmes that will create autonomous weapons: fast, lightweight autonomy, tiny rotorcraft that will move at high speed through a building, designed to eliminate every person they meet. Or aerial vehicles designed to carry out strike missions when enemy signal-jamming makes communication with, and so control by, a human commander impossible.

The moral issues are relatively easy to see. The 1949 Geneva Convention requires any attack to satisfy three criteria: military necessity, discrimination between combatants and non-combatants, and proportionality between the value of the military objective and the potential for collateral damage. It would be fair to say that these criteria have not always, or even often, been satisfied when humans are deciding. How, we might ask, would autonomous weapon systems judge for themselves on the two last criteria?

With ethically more demanding relations with non-human animals on one side, and on the other the risk for humans of being supplanted by autonomous robots, there will be plenty for academics in the disciplines of anthropology, IT and computer studies, philosophy and theology to research; and plenty for our elected politicians to think about in the coming decades.

For some, this explosion of artificial intelligence poses the possibility of a threat to humans, real enough that some scientists are advocating for precautionary measures. Should governments create Robotics Commissions to monitor and regulate developments so that we don't innovate irresponsibly?

While concerns mostly centre on economics, government, and ethics, there is also a spiritual dimension to what we are making and doing. If we create other things that think for themselves, and act for themselves, then we raise serious theological issues that will require careful reflection. History lends credibility to this prediction. When Galileo promoted heliocentrism in the 1600s, it famously challenged traditional Christian interpretations of certain Bible passages, which seemed to teach that the earth was the centre of the universe. When Charles Darwin popularised the theory of natural selection in the 1800s, it challenged traditional Christian beliefs about the origins of life. The trend has continued with modern genetics.

Churches and their more traditional theologians do not have a particularly good track record in engaging in conversations like this because it is easier to revisit old questions than to focus on new ones. Yet one might argue that any non-biological, non-human intelligence will present a greater challenge to religion and human

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philosophy than anything else we have so far encountered.

Despite the challenges, artificial intelligence need not necessarily undermine faith. Part of the point of religion is to recognise that I, as a contingent human person, am not God and so I do not have all the answers and will inevitably be wrong about things. This simply confirms what a conflicted Augustinian friar, Martin Luther, discovered: that life is about trusting God and not trusting in our own understanding, which is invariably flawed and partial.

With best wishes to you all,

*Nicholas P. Anderson*

## From the Churchwardens

As our thoughts turn to Lent and Easter, Advent and Christmas seem a long time ago! We held Night Prayer each evening in the Lady Chapel during Advent. This quieter, more meditative service allowed us to prepare for Christmas in a more reflective atmosphere. We thank Roger Carter and the choir for their annual service of Nine Lessons and Carols and Celia Halsey and the Junior Church for providing a fitting start to our Christmas celebrations through their Nativity play at which, as usual, the acting and musical talents of our youngsters were on display.

At this year's Christmas walk on Christmas Eve from the green in Southdown, via the Carpenter's Arms, we were delighted to be joined for the completion of the service by many of those we met along the route. The Crib Service captured the true spirit of Christmas and was again a time for families to come together for their own special worship.

Our thanks go to the clergy and all those who helped to make the Advent

and Christmas services run so smoothly. The church was full for most of our services, and it was a great joy to share our celebrations with so many regular members of the congregation as well as seasonal visitors. We are very grateful to everyone who contributed to our collections, which totaled more than £750 and as always were donated to Crisis. Thank you for your generosity.

And so we look forward to preparing during Lent for the joys of the Easter season. Lent is relatively late this year, with Ash Wednesday falling on 1 March. During Lent we will be holding Night Prayer in the Lady Chapel each evening. As always, details of our services during this period will be found elsewhere in the magazine. Please join us for these and in our celebrations of this time of year. We would be delighted to see you.

During Lent there will be a number of house groups available: on Mondays at 8pm from 6 March in the committee room of the church hall, using the Lent

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EMBRACE course; on Wednesdays at 10:30am from 1 March in the Vicarage using the 'Following Jesus' course; and joining with Southdown Methodist Church from Wednesday 8 March in the evening, using the CTBI course 'Returning home'.

We also look forward to our Annual Parochial Church Meeting at the end of April. This is a good opportunity for the congregation to celebrate and reflect on our activities of the past year, and to participate in and hear about our plans and challenges for the future.

We as churchwardens very much appreciate the support we receive from the ministerial team and from the many members of the congregation who give of their time and commitment to the work of St John's. The coming months will no doubt present challenges, so if you think you can help in any way we would be pleased to hear from you. We are continually seeking (among others) people to: deliver the magazine; serve coffee after the main Sunday Eucharist; welcome people to our services; give lifts to the elderly and infirm for the 9:30 Sunday services; help clean the church.

At this stage we would like to thank Rob

Newby for his efforts over the past years in co-ordinating the distribution of the magazine and a big thank you to Steve Whiting for volunteering to take over this role.

As with most buildings of more than 100 years old there is always maintenance to be carried out. Whether concerned with the church heating, the sound system, problems with a leaky shed, replacement light bulbs, or defrosting the church hall fridge, we are fortunate to have a team of dedicated individuals who take pride in our building and in the maintenance and repair of our hall and grounds.

It is especially exciting, therefore, to turn from maintenance of the old to creation of the new. During 2017 (and beyond) we will progress our plans for a new Parish Centre. At the time of writing we are engaged in a selection process for architects to undertake a feasibility study, which is the next phase in making our ambitions for an outward-looking, mission-enhancing centre a reality. We pray for God's blessing on these activities.

With best wishes for Lent and Easter,  
James Hillman  
Mary Jean Pritchard

## Parish registers

### Baptisms

Welcome to the family of God

30 October 2016

James Trevelyan Buckle

20 November 2016

Laurence Gregory Johnstone Venner

22 January 2017

Eleanor May Osborne

29 January 2017

Henry Wilfred North

29 January 2017

Amy Louise Thompson

### Funerals in Church

May they rest in peace

21 December 2016

Eileen Barnard

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## Letter from the Manse

As I am writing this article, on my dining room table is a small bunch of the very first snowdrops from my garden. Fragile and delicate, with beautiful hidden patterning in a delicate green on the inside. By the time you read this, however, the snowdrops will have faded, and the early daffodils will be coming into bloom.

I love to see the spring flowers emerging as the days lengthen. It lifts my spirits and makes me thankful for the quiet beauty that is all around us. Sometimes, that beauty is hidden, rather like the inside of the snowdrop, and you have to search for it. ('Gardeners' Question Time' recently advised planting up pots of snowdrops and placing them higher than usual so that you can easily see the colours and patterning within – I must try that for next year!)

So often, we don't realise how fortunate we are, with the glory of nature around us; we take things for granted, and we rarely 'count our blessings'.

There is a great initiative from the charity Action for Children which encourages us to 'count our blessings' during Lent while at the same time raising money for disadvantaged children; you can find out more at: [www.actionforchildren.org.uk/how-to-help/fundraising-ideas/count-your-blessings-2017](http://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/how-to-help/fundraising-ideas/count-your-blessings-2017)

One of the things I am particularly thankful for is the faith of those in the past who had the vision to bring people together for worship in our Methodist Church at Southdown, putting so much into the building and rebuilding of our church. I'm also very thankful for the faithful members who continue to contribute so much, on a Sunday, at Tuesdays@Three, and midweek.

During Lent our fortnightly discussion group will be moving to weekly on Wednesday evenings at 7.45pm for coffee, and an 8pm start, and we will be using the Churches Together in Britain resource 'Returning home'. The introduction talks about travelling and that when we return to the familiar, home is often viewed with different eyes and a deeper appreciation. The course starts on Wednesday 8 March and runs for five weeks. Everyone is most welcome, even if you can't make every week. However you choose to mark Lent, I do hope you will continue to give thanks for our wonderful world, our faith and the God who loves us, indeed, that you will 'count your blessings!'

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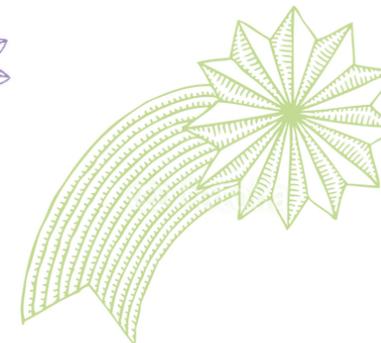
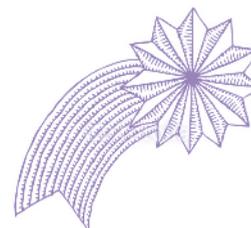
## Junior Church

As a parish, we are immensely grateful to Celia Halsey for running the Junior Church at St John's with such enthusiasm and flair for more than five years. Introducing children to faith is an important responsibility but can also be great fun!

With changes in her family and work circumstances Celia took the decision in the autumn to step down in December, ending on a high with a fantastic Nativity Service on the fourth Sunday of Advent. A new group of parents has now taken

over the running of Junior Church and will use a programme drawn from ROOTS. This programme offers ways for children and young people to get to know and think about one of the readings from the Bible from the Revised Common Lectionary – the readings we use in church each Sunday – and to explore how it relates to their everyday lives.

The use of this material fosters a closer link between Junior Church and the worship that the adults are taking part in in church on a Sunday morning.



## Lent courses, all welcome

There are three different Lent courses running in the parish. On Monday evenings at 8 pm in the committee room following the EMBRACE course; on Wednesday mornings at 10.30am in the

vicarage Following Jesus course, and on Wednesday evenings 7.45pm coffee for an 8pm start at Southdown Methodist church hall, the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland course.

## The Garden View

**You are invited to submit a picture to this open exhibition on Sunday 30 April at Amwell Cottage, Amwell Lane, Wheathampstead, AL4 8EA**

On this day the gardens at Amwell Cottage will be open to the public as part of the National Gardens Scheme (NGS) with teas available. This event and art exhibition have been publicised in the Yellow Book of garden openings for 2017. The open garden event supports the NGS charities such as Macmillan and Marie Curie.

The refreshments and sales from the art exhibition will support Hope and Homes for Children.

The Garden View will feature work of any media representing the garden, whether this is a view or a botanical specimen, British or more exotic. Work should be no more than 2ft square and mounted or framed so that it is ready to hang.

A private view will take place on Friday

28 April from 6.30pm, to which all participating artists will be invited. The art exhibition is open to all artists; students, amateurs and professionals. If you would like a brief biography to be displayed with your picture please deliver it with the artwork. We regret we cannot print out information received as emails. We hope artists will be happy to donate the art work to help support the inspiring work of Hope and Homes for Children. For more information please see [www.hopeandhomes.org](http://www.hopeandhomes.org).

All work should be delivered to Amwell Cottage or 4 St Andrews Avenue by Friday 14th April with this form completed and attached firmly to the work. This deadline will enable us to produce the price list for all works and organise the hanging so that all works can be seen to their maximum advantage. If you would like to participate or have any questions please email Kate Birss [kate@amwellcottage.net](mailto:kate@amwellcottage.net)

Name of artist

Title of work

Medium

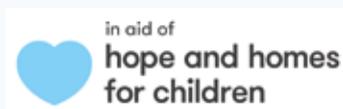
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% to charity – circle as preferred    25%    50%    75%    100%

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Artist's email

Where the charity will receive a percentage, the purchaser will be asked to make two separate payments, one to you and one to Hope and Homes for Children. Thank you for supporting this new initiative and contributing your skills and materials to bring a new garden view into someone's home.



## Inter-church quiz

Despite being held during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, there was a highly competitive spirit in the air for the Harpenden Inter-Church Quiz in January. With excellent representation from all the churches in Harpenden, we were entertained to eight rounds of brainteasers and challenges. These included naming: the composer and lyricist of My Fair Lady; the number of plays by Shakespeare and novels by Dickens; and the capitals of North and South Sudan. Answers such as: Ronnie Corbett and Terry Wogan; 1989 and 1990; and Lincoln and York all scored points at some stage during the evening, but only when related to the right questions.

The St John's team of Paul and Debbie Bedding, James and Thomas Hillman, Liz Sergeant and Anthony Armstrong of the

team 'Worts and All' defended the title successfully for St John's, narrowly keeping at bay the challenges of teams from High Street Methodist Church and All Saints.

As always, this was a highly enjoyable evening, and our sincere thanks go to Tony Gilbert and his team for masterminding the event once again.



## Carillon Chamber Choir

Carillon Chamber Choir, conducted by David Ireson, will perform Heinrich Schutz's Matthew Passion in two local churches as part of the keeping of Lent. Sung in English, this one-hour performance, a meditation on the Passion story, is a forerunner of the more famous Bach Passions; it is hoped the work will bridge the gap between concert platform and church congregations.

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Rogers Covey-Crump, 2 April,  
Peter Martin, 9 April.  
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Sunday 9 April at 6.30 pm  
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## Parish Centre: starting the journey

You will have read in previous editions of our magazine that our current church hall is reaching the end of its life in its current form, and we are excited by the opportunity this offers to make a real difference to our ministry and mission in the parish. In November, following several months of consultation with existing hall users, representatives from the local council and the church advisory body, together with extensive research into the experiences of other local churches and investigations into possible sources of funding, the small steering group presented their findings to the Standing Committee and then the PCC. This detailed report outlined a number of possible options for consideration. After weighing all the factors carefully, there was overall agreement that the most appropriate option at this point in time,

and the one that is in line with our Mission Action Plan, is to replace our old church hall with a brand new (contemporary) parish centre.

This is an ambitious undertaking for our church and for our community, yet it is an inspiring project, which will enable us to support each other more effectively in the coming years.

Now, the next step on this journey is to commission an architect to progress the work that has been done so far and to produce a feasibility study over the spring and early summer. At the time of writing, five architects have been invited to tender for this work, and we are currently assessing their proposals with a view to inviting the shortlisted practices to interview on 3 February.

We will update you in our next edition.  
*Steering group*

## Jesus the carpenter

Jesus the carpenter who cared  
the carpenter who transformed  
wood and nails into beautiful  
objects, useful articles.

Jesus the carpenter killed by the  
very same wood and nails,  
yet still transformed the  
ugly brutality of the cross  
into beauty and value by  
His love and care.

What about me, my life?  
do I care? do I love?  
do I transform?

What are my tools?  
can I lend a hand,  
or am I too blind to see the need?  
can I share the little I have,  
or am I too selfish?

Jesus,  
I pray that your transforming  
love and care may continue  
... through me.

Ann Edwards

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## Christian Aid Week 14-20 May 2017

Christian Aid Week is fast approaching, and we very much hope that we can repeat last year's success; in just seven days, Christian Aid in Harpenden raised £16,000 to help some of the poorest people in the world. Heartfelt thanks are due to all those who gave so generously and to all our dedicated house-to-house collectors, who may sometimes doubt whether their efforts are worthwhile. With a total like this, all doubts should disappear! And money raised by Christian Aid has never been more vital.

Tragically, the Syrian civil war continues with no end in sight. Years of conflict have left the country and its people in crisis. The situation is truly shocking. Half the population have had to flee their homes, and more than 4.9 million are now refugees. More than 400,000 have been killed (just try to imagine that happening in the UK).

Christian Aid is working with local partners in Syria, Lebanon and Iraq to provide support to some of the most vulnerable Syrian refugees, ensuring children continue with education as well as providing psychological help to deal with their trauma and supporting women victims of domestic violence, now even more at risk as refugees. More than one in five refugees suffer from some sort of impairment, whether from birth, illness, accident or conflict-related injury. Christian Aid's partners help people with disabilities to obtain the care they need, not otherwise available.

So, when that red envelope drops through your letterbox, please give generously, in gratitude for all that you have. If you would like to help with the house-to-house collection, we would be delighted to hear from you!

Sue Holt, telephone 712320  
 Pat Hudis, telephone 761389

## St Luke's Cell

St Luke's Cell meets monthly to pray for those in any kind of need, including the long-term sick.

Lord God, you alone are skilled to know the cure for every sickness and every soul. If by our lives your grace may be known, then through us, your kingdom come. On all who tend the sick, counsel the distressed, sit with the dying, or develop medical research, we ask your

blessing. In caring for your people may they meet and serve their Lord. For the medical agencies we ask your guidance and support that in all they do, human worth may be valued. This we ask in the name of him whose flesh and blood has made all of God's children precious, Jesus Christ.

John Bell, adapted, from *The SPCK Book of Christian Prayer*, 2009

Michael Hughes 765576

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## Taizé, Birmingham

In co-operation with the local churches of the city, the international and interdenominational Taizé Community will be leading a young adult gathering in Birmingham over the early May Bank Holiday weekend, 28 April – 1 May, 2017. A regular common prayer for all participants will be at the heart of the weekend. Brother Alois, prior of the community, will speak at some of the evening prayers.

In 11 host neighbourhoods of the city, people of different churches are working in teams to prepare accommodation and the morning programme for participants. On Saturday and Sunday afternoons, there will be workshops, forums and visits on a wide variety of subjects.



There are three ways of participating:

1 **Full weekend**

Participation is open to those aged 16-35. Over 35s may only register if they are leading a group of young people (typically under 18s, but also young university students).

The meeting will be an experience of Christian community with common prayers and reflection, as well as sharing in the life of local churches in the city. For this reason, it is not possible to register for just a part of the meeting.

**Arrival:** Friday 28 April, 4:30 - 9pm (preferably by 5:30 for supper, or 7:00 for evening prayer). Those who cannot arrive in time on Friday may instead arrive on Saturday 29 April between 10 and 11am (indicate on your registration).  
**Departure:** Monday 1 May, morning/midday after the final prayer held at 10:30am in the city centre.

See detailed programme on the Taizé Birmingham 2017 website: [www.taize.fr/en\\_article20444.html](http://www.taize.fr/en_article20444.html)

2 **One-day programme:**

Open to those 16-18 years old and their leaders.

**Arrival:** Saturday 29 April between 9:45 and 10:45am

**Departure:** 8:30pm (after evening prayer)  
See detailed programme: [http://www.taize.fr/en\\_article20576.html](http://www.taize.fr/en_article20576.html)

3 **City-centre prayers: no registration needed**  
Open to all. Please come, preferably to the prayers on Friday, Sunday and Monday, to leave space for the one-day participants on Saturday.

Please do not register if you are simply coming to one or more prayers.

More details on the venues and timing of the city-centre prayers will be published nearer the time. For now, consult the programme for approximate information.

Note: We shall not be able to organise children's activities or a crèche during the meeting.

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## Assistant curate for St John's

The churchwardens and I are delighted to announce that the Bishop of St Albans has appointed James Brown to serve alongside us here. James will be ordained a deacon in St Albans Cathedral on Sunday, 2 July at 11.15 am. Given the importance of this service, there will be no 9.30am Parish Communion at St John's on 2 July. Please join us, instead, at the Cathedral for 11.15 am.

A full-time title post in the Diocese of St Albans is considered to be a three-and-a-half-year appointment but, provided James can demonstrate that he has met all agreed expectations, he will be free to consider moving on after the completion of three years, sometime after the summer of 2020.

This training post requires us to draw up a job description and a learning agreement to ensure that James receives the best possible support to allow him to continue to develop his gifts as a minister of the Gospel – as a preacher and teacher, as a person of prayer, and as a facilitator of mission.

This will be a major transition for James and his wife, Lan Rachel, so please remember them in your prayers.

With best wishes,  
Nicholas Anderson

*Editor's note: We hope to include an article from James in our next edition*

## Mothers' Union

Our last talk for 2016 was given by Linda Sweeney, who enlightened us about the role of a hospital chaplain.

During the autumn some members attended a meeting in St Mary Magdalene, Barkway, a large, interesting and historic church in the depths of North Hertfordshire. The theme was exploring prayer through the use of different senses and 'prayer stations' were set up with topics such as Celtic, Wood, Julian of Norwich, Creation, Harvest and Food. During the quiet of the evening God's presence was certainly felt.

We also attended a Vigil in St Nicholas during the 16 days of activism against gender violence.

The year concluded with our annual bring and share supper with a short light-hearted quiz, an opportunity for relaxation and good fellowship.

Our theme for 2017 will be 'Faith in action' and we should be delighted to add some new members to our number. Anyone will be welcome to our meetings on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm in the committee room. Just come along or speak to me, Julia Smith, on 763615.

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or community projects. The Fairtrade premium paid ensures that children can be sent to school, houses and clinics can be built and communities can thrive.

As consumers, we have choices about which products to buy, and by selecting Fairtrade products in the supermarket, we can have a direct impact on the lives of producers in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Buying directly from Traidcraft means that even more of that premium is passed direct to the producers. If you are interested in buying a greater range than we have at St John's, Wesley's café at High Street Methodist Church have a permanent Traidcraft stall at the back of the café. Cornelia's café at St Nicholas Church also stocks a range of Traidcraft goods. Margaret is also very happy to take orders; go to the Traidcraft website: [www.traidcraftshop.co.uk](http://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk)

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### Siji's story

Like women all over the world, Siji Jose is an expert at multi-tasking! Having her tea garden close to her home in Kerala, India, helps her to fit farming, household work and looking after her three children into her working day. But she is also playing an important role in the Sahyadri Tea Farmers' Consortium helping other women farmers to have a voice – and ensuring the Fairtrade premium they receive for their tea is well spent. And on Sundays she and her family join her neighbours at St Sebastian's

RC Church, where she is also a Sunday School teacher. 'My church life is important to me,' she says simply. Selling her tea on Fairtrade terms guarantees Siji a good price – and that means she can send her children to school and put food on the family table. The tea from Sahyadri is used in Traidcraft's Indian Ocean blend. 'You can take our tea without hesitation – it is very nicely blended,' says Siji. 'I am proud that people are enjoying our tea.'

Margaret Charlston, Anne Edwards



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We are open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings from 9:15 to 12:15 and offer a lunch club from 12:15 until 13:15.

These popular sessions help build up the children's confidence and give them an understanding of their environment.

We now provide a breakfast club from 8:30 every day.

We currently have vacancies and are adding to our waiting list for 2017.

For more information call or text Amanda on 07526789730 or email [amanda@buzbymae.co.uk](mailto:amanda@buzbymae.co.uk).

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# Forthcoming events

For regular services, see the back cover

## March 2016

Wednesday 1	9.30am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 1	7.30 pm	Mothers' Union branch meeting Talk: 'MU finance', Janet McKinnery
Wednesday 1	8pm	Holy Communion with ashing
Friday 3		Mothers' Union, Women's World Day of Prayer
Friday 3	2.00 pm	Dorcas in the committee room
Sunday 5	4.00 pm	Faith & Light in the church hall
Friday 10	2.00 pm	Dorcas in the committee room
Saturday 11	10.15am 10.15am – 2.30 pm	Diocesan Spring Sharing Day All Saints, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth
Wednesday 15	8.15 pm	PCC meeting in the committee room
Friday 17	2.00 pm	Dorcas in the committee room
Friday 24	10.30 am	Lady Day service in church (coffee at back of church afterwards)
Friday 24	2.00 pm	Dorcas in the committee room
Saturday 25	10.30 am	Coffee concert in church
Sunday 26	11.30 am	Family baptism
Friday 31	3.00 pm	Tea at three in the church hall

## April 2016

Sunday 2	4.00 pm	Faith & Light in the church hall (service in hall due to Carillon concert rehearsal)
Sunday 2	6.30 pm	Carillon Chamber Choir performing at evening service

Wednesday 5	7.30 pm	Mothers' Union branch meeting Talk: 'The Pilgrims Way', Sue Oxlade
Wednesday 5	8.15 pm	Standing Committee in the vicarage
Friday 7	2.00 pm	Dorcas in the committee room
Friday 21	2.00 pm	Dorcas in the committee room
Friday 28	3.00 pm	Tea at Three in the church hall
Saturday 29	10.30 am	Coffee concert in church
Sunday 30	8.15 pm	APCM in church

## May 2016

Wednesday 3	7.30 pm	Mothers' Union branch meeting Talk by a representative from Community Meeting Point, their local charity
Thursday 4		Hall used as polling station all day for Hertfordshire County Council elections
Friday 5	2.00 pm	Dorcas in the committee room
Sunday 7	4.00 pm	Faith & Light in the church hall
Sunday 7	9.30 am	PCC commissioned at 9.30 am service
Wednesday 10	8.15 pm	Standing Committee in the vicarage
Friday 12	2.00 pm	Dorcas in the committee room
Friday 19	2.00 pm	Dorcas in the committee room
Saturday 20	10.30 am	Coffee concert in church
Sunday 21	6.30 pm	Deanery confirmations at Redbourn Parish Church
Wednesday 24	8.15 pm	PCC meeting in the committee room
Friday 26	3.00 pm	Tea at Three in the church hall
Sunday 28	11.30 am	Family baptism

### Parish Directory

#### VICAR

**Revd Nicholas Anderson**  
vicar@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk  
5 St John's Road  
Telephone 07983 561387

#### PERMISSION TO OFFICIATE

**Revd Mary Monk**  
Telephone 01582 462057

**Revd Julia White**

#### READERS

**Lauryn Awbrey**

**David Halsey**

**David Nye**

Telephone 01582 762785

#### PERMISSION TO OFFICIATE

**Anne Edwards**

Telephone 01582 767449

#### WARDENS

**James Hillman**

Telephone 07788 567826

wardens@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

**Mary Jean Pritchard**

Telephone 01582 712962

wardens@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

#### DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

**Roger Carter**

music@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

#### PARISH OFFICE

For enquiries, including marriages, baptisms, funerals and hall bookings, please contact the parish office open from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm Monday to Friday.  
Telephone 01582 712776  
parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

## Lent and Easter services at St John's

2 April  
Passion Sunday

6.30 pm  
Heinrich Schutz's  
Matthew Passion  
performed by the  
Carillon Chamber Choir,  
conducted by David Ireson

9 April  
Palm Sunday

9.30 am  
Procession with Palms,  
the Passion according to  
St Matthew's Gospel  
and Holy Communion

10 April  
Holy Monday

8 pm  
Stations of the Cross

11 April  
Holy Tuesday

8 pm  
Service at  
Southdown Methodists

12 April  
Holy Wednesday

9.30 am  
Holy Communion  
  
8 pm  
'Watch with me':  
a Taizé-style service

13 April  
Maundy Thursday

11 am  
Chrism Eucharist,  
St Albans Cathedral  
  
8.00 pm  
The Lord's Supper and  
the washing of feet  
  
9.00 pm – midnight  
The Watch

14 April  
Good Friday

10.30 am  
Family Service  
followed by coffee  
and hot cross buns  
  
12 noon – 3 pm  
'The seven last words  
from the Cross': the  
traditional three hours  
led by the Revd Julia White

15 April  
Holy Saturday  
9 pm  
The Easter Vigil

16 April  
Easter Sunday

8 am  
Parish Communion  
  
9.30 am  
All-age Parish Communion

6.30 pm  
Evensong

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