

*Lent and  
Easter Services  
inside*

# st JOHN<sup>†</sup>s

*Living God's Love*

Parish Magazine

SPRING 2024

*What's going on in the lead-up  
to Easter, and beyond*

## REFUGEES

Brian Bilston

They have no need of our help  
So do not tell me  
Those haggard faces could belong to you or I  
Should life have dealt a different hand  
We need to see them for who they really are  
Chancers and scroungers  
Layabouts and loungers  
With bombs up their sleeves  
Cut-throats and thieves  
They are not  
Welcome here  
We should make them  
Go back to where they came from  
They cannot  
Share our food  
Share our homes  
Share our countries  
Instead let us  
Build a wall to keep them out  
It is not OK to say  
These are people just like us  
A place should only belong to those who are born there  
Do not be so stupid to think that  
The world can be looked at another way

(Now read from bottom to top)

[brianbilston.com](http://brianbilston.com) © Brian Bilston

Thoughtful, quietly spiritual, this page in the magazine is intended as a space for reflection. St John's Church and its Remembrance Garden is open every day from 10.00am to 5.00pm for anyone who wants a quiet place for personal reflection.

# st JOHN'S

Living God's Love

SPRING 2024

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# Vicar's Welcome

**W**elcome to the spring issue of St John's Parish Magazine. With spring comes warmer weather and of course colour and flowers! It's such a positive time of year, and it's the same for the church year. On 10<sup>th</sup> March we celebrate Mothering Sunday, which first and foremost is a celebration of Mother Church (and mothering that is non gender specific). Then comes Easter (early this year on 31<sup>st</sup> March, but I still pray for warm weather) with new growth being a visual reminder of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Creation is such a good indicator of how the divine is made manifest in our world, especially in springtime. I hope when this edition arrives you will be able to make the most of spring, either out walking or through your window. As always, the magazine is full of lots of stuff going on in our community and I hope you find something that resonates for you. And if you would like to contribute something for our next issue, please do get in touch.



With blessings,

Tim

*Revd Tim Vickers*

*Vicar of St John's Harpenden*

PS My photo this time comes from St Paul's Cathedral in London which my boys and I visited recently on a pilgrimage.



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## Join a pilgrimage to St Edmundsbury

### Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024

You no doubt know of the Canterbury Tales, and of Spain's Camino to Santiago de Compostela. The film *The Way* was the theme of St John's Lent Course. The idea of an outer and inner journey made us think this would be a good thing to do together. So, St John's has organised a pilgrimage of our own, in just one day, to St Edmundsbury Cathedral in Suffolk. Maybe you might want to join us?

In medieval times the ruined abbey next door to the cathedral was a major shrine to St Edmund who was martyred about 870AD. It even rivalled St Albans as a destination and centre of holiness. Today's St Edmundsbury Cathedral showcases architectural styles from the 16<sup>th</sup> century onwards and there's a special St John's link: it was extended by Stephen Dykes-Bower, the same architect who designed our own Lady Chapel.

The day will include an opportunity to walk a small part of the pilgrim way, a time for reflection and prayer, a pilgrim's tour and lunch. We finish with Evening Prayer in the cathedral at 3.30pm. We hope this pilgrimage will cost no more than £20 based on sharing lifts. For more information email [parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk](mailto:parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk)



## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 10.30am**  
**High Street Methodist Church**

This service is part of a great wave of prayer encircling the globe involving people in over 146 countries and islands in their own native languages.

Amazingly, some years ago, it was decided that the service this year should be prepared by the Christian women from Palestine on the theme, "I beg you, bear with one another in love" (Ephesians 4 :3). Given the present very tragic situation in the Middle East, this could never be more crucial and appropriate! So, please do join us for a moving and thought-provoking service.

Refreshments served afterwards.

Contact: Pat Hudis [parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk](mailto:parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk)



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## Ballet Bootcamp

When Vivien Sleek asked St John's about hiring the church hall for regular adult ballet fitness classes our vicar's inner dancer awoke. Result: a fundraising ballet bootcamp with Reverend Tim in a sparkly red tutu. The event raised over £1000 for CRISIS, the homelessness charity, adding to St John's Christmas services collections.

The Sleek Technique is a ballet-based workout for adults suited to all fitness levels. No previous dance experience needed, although Revd Tim reveals that he did ballet until age 10. Termly and individual sessions, ballet bootcamps and wellbeing events are now available at St John's Church Hall. Email [sleekballet@gmail.com](mailto:sleekballet@gmail.com) for more information or visit [www.sleekstrong.com](http://www.sleekstrong.com)



*'Tutu Tim' makes a 'pointe' for CRISIS*

## Pet Blessing

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 3.00pm



All creatures great and small... your dog, your turtle, your guinea pig... and if church going won't suit your cat or goldfish, bring a photo! Come along with your companion to St John's Pet Blessing Service at the end of April. A great opportunity to pass on Easter blessing to all God's creatures and mingle with other animal lovers.



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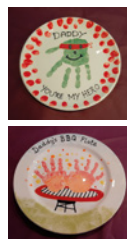
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for further details.

# Rain-proof roof

In St John's Church Hall raindrops kept raining on our heads – but now no more! The roof got a big repair in December. Our thanks to the Harpenden Trust for a generous grant toward the cost of the hall roof. Extra insulation was part of the works, a bonus that makes the repair an eco improvement.

Elsewhere at St John's, better lighting has been installed at the front of the church. Not only is the entrance easier and safer in the darkness, but the new church lights are also more energy efficient than before.



## Parish Walking Group

### Monthly walks

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and abilities.**

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stJOHN'S  
Church

### Upcoming dates for the parish walks:

24<sup>th</sup> February

16<sup>th</sup> March

20<sup>th</sup> April

If you are game for a longer walk, come along to **Beat the Bounds** on Rogation Sunday, **5<sup>th</sup> May**. An ancient custom, it's eight miles around the parish of St John's!

**All walks meet at 2.00pm  
outside St John's Church.**

# Chalk House Blessing



In an ancient tradition, Christians bless their homes on the Feast of the Epiphany every January. Have you seen these chalk markings on the front steps or above the entrances to homes in Southdown? It's a kind of code. Can you guess the meaning?\*

from Jan 24

**NEW!**

**Sundays @ 5pm  
at St John's**

- 1st Sunday - Faith and Light
- 2nd Sunday - BCP Evensong
- 3rd Sunday - Celtic
- 4th Sunday - Said Eucharist
- 5th Sunday - Taize

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**The Children's Society**

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**Perennials, annuals,  
houseplants & vegetable plants  
come along, bag a bargain and  
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**Tea@3**

Please join us for delicious cakes and sandwiches whilst you enjoy good companionship over a cup of tea. Everyone is very welcome to come along, to meet up with old friends or indeed make new ones.

In St John's Church Hall at 3.00pm  
Fridays 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 22<sup>nd</sup> March,  
26<sup>th</sup> April, 24<sup>th</sup> May



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Heavenly Father, open our hearts to the silent presence of the spirit of your Son. Lead us into that mysterious silence where your love is revealed to all who call

**MONDAY  
MEDITATION**

Please join us at 10.15am for half an hour of reflective meditation in the Lady Chapel

**Third Monday of each Month**

\*20 + C + M + B + 24. There are two meanings! C, M, B stand for the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross and 2024 is the year.

# Welcome to Southdown

It was a big upheaval when my husband and I moved to Harpenden two years ago. When I started going to St John's I wondered about a house blessing. I'd heard of it, but never done it, so I asked the vicar. Revd Tim arranged a date to suit us – a spring afternoon. After a nice chat (he had not yet met my husband) and a cup of tea, he began the blessing. What a surprise! I thought it would be just a prayer, like saying grace at a meal, but no, it is a whole proper series, and the sprinkling of Holy Water. From the front door, to living room, kitchen, dining table, study and bedrooms, we followed him to hear and say Amen to a prayer for each place. It was lovely and informal yet very special and helped us to settle.



I've since learned that anyone who lives in the parish can ask for their home to be blessed, whether you've only just moved in, or if you've never had one. The service includes Guest Room and Child's Bedroom, but we don't have those – so it's adaptable. And of course home can be a house or a flat. Some people make this an occasion for a housewarming and invite family and friends.

*Susan and Michael Kerr*

If you would like to have your home blessed, contact Revd Tim Vickers  
[vicar@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk) tel 01582 469343 or [parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk](mailto:parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk)  
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## At the Front Door

May the door of this home be wide enough  
 to receive all who need human love and friendship.  
 May it welcome all who have cares to unburden,  
 thanks to express, hopes to nurture.  
 May the door of this place be narrow enough  
 to shut out pettiness and pride, envy and enmity.  
 May its threshold be no stumbling block to young or strained feet.  
 May it be too high to admit complacency, selfishness and harshness.  
 May this home be for all who enter,  
 the doorway to your eternal kingdom. Amen.

# Focus on Biodiversity

Humans have pushed wildlife to the edges, leading to a huge loss of biodiversity around the world and right here in the UK. That is not only poor stewardship of God's creation but also damages the ecosystems that provide humans with clean air, water and food.

At St John's we are fortunate to have a sizeable garden, which we manage for wildlife. Steve, who creates the beautiful flower beds, plants to encourage pollinator insects, especially solitary bees. We don't use pesticides or herbicides, except on the paths, and have several compost heaps that recycle nearly all our garden 'waste' into fantastic compost that enriches the soil.

You've heard of *No Mow May*? Our grass slope on the south side of the church is cut only once or twice a year to encourage native flowers as food for butterflies, bees, and other pollinators. Yellow rattle (*Rhianthus minor*) is emerging most successfully so far. As a semi-parasitic, it slows grass down, letting other plants flourish. The name comes from its yellow flowers, and when the seed heads dry, they rattle!

You too can help wildlife thrive. Here are easy ways to offer water, shelter, and food if you are lucky enough to have a garden:

- Provide water – even just a simple saucer regularly cleaned and refilled for birds to drink and bathe
- Try *No Mow May* on a part of your lawn – see [plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/](https://plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/) for more tips
- Avoid plastic 'grass' – this has zero wildlife benefit, and the shed bits of plastic will remain in the soil for ever
- Avoid the use of pesticides and herbicides where possible
- Plant flowers for pollinators, and try to ensure there is something flowering all year round
- Start a woodpile/compost heap/leaf pile to provide homes for insects and frogs

Take time to enjoy your wildlife, and the garden at St John's. See how many different plants and insects you can spot during *No Mow May*!

Margaret Charlston [eco.church@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk](mailto:eco.church@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk)





# Nature watch

## Parish Walks

A small group of individuals meet monthly for a walk, followed by refreshments. It's a great way to get to know people. Walking is also good for well-being as well as enabling us to enjoy creation. Everyone is welcome. See page 11 for details

## Beating the Bounds

We will walk the 8-mile Parish boundary on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May. Meet at 2pm at St John's.

## Eco-Church

Our Eco Church Team are encouraging everyone to calculate their own carbon footprints, to help St John's move to 'Silver' in the Lifestyle Category. Could you measure your personal carbon footprint? [footprint.wwf.org.uk](http://footprint.wwf.org.uk)



## DID YOU KNOW?

The anniversary of the tragic sinking of the Titanic is in April, and St John's has a connection. A shining brass plaque in the north aisle reads:



To the Glory of God and in loving Memory of  
Edward Pomery Colley

Born 15<sup>th</sup> April 1875, entered into the Life Beyond  
15<sup>th</sup> April 1912, through the sinking of the  
Steamship Titanic

These Doors were given by his three Brothers

You can see one of the three handsome carved timber doors nearby.

# Lent, Holy Week and Easter at St John's

14<sup>th</sup> February – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

The highlight of the Church year is Holy Week, which this year runs from 24<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> March. Lent began on Ash Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> February, and continues for forty days. St John's invites you to join in our many Lent activities in the preparation for Holy Week and Easter.

## Lent

Lent House Groups are based on the film *The Way*. Starring Martin Sheen as a bereaved father, it observes a group of pilgrims walking the Way of St James to Santiago de Compostela. Weekly, in three different time slots and locations, the course has just begun, so if you'd like to come for interesting reflection contact [parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk](mailto:parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk)

Sundays through Lent offer a sermon series reflecting on St John's priorities, both at morning and 5.00pm evening services. See page 27 for more information about our core values.

Stations of the Cross are installed both inside and outside the church during Lent. The series of images depict Jesus Christ on the day of his crucifixion. You can turn up whenever you like and follow the traditional devotional path with orders of service available either in church or via a QR code.

### Healing Eucharist Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February

**5.00pm** An opportunity for prayers of healing and for anointing, either for yourself or others.

### Mothering Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March

**9.30am** At this All Age Eucharist we remember the role of mothering in the life of the Church. We look forward to welcoming all local uniformed organisations, and our own Brownies will lead our prayers.

## Easter Services

Holy Week is the most important week in the Christian calendar. We follow in the footsteps of Jesus to the cross. All our services this week are geared towards helping us all to journey further and deeper with Jesus.

### Palm Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March

On this day we re-enact Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem with a procession through the streets of Southdown. The procession finishes at St John's where we hear about what will happen to Jesus during this week.

- 9.30am Liturgy of the Palms, meet outside Southdown Co-op.  
 9.45am (ish) Parish Eucharist with Passion Gospel  
 5.00pm Said Eucharist on the eve of Holy Week.

### Holy Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March

- 2.00pm Stations of the Cross  
 7.30pm Taizé. A contemplative service of light and silence.

### Holy Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March

- 2.00pm Stations of the Cross  
 7.30pm Celtic Evening Prayer. A quiet service following the Celtic tradition.

### Holy Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March

- 2.00pm Stations of the Cross  
 7.30pm Compline. The ancient office of Compline, said by candlelight.

### Maundy Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March

7.30pm As a re-enactment we begin in St John's church hall with a simple bring and share meal together. There will be the (voluntary) opportunity to have your feet washed on arrival, just as was the case in Jesus' day. At the end of the meal, we will celebrate a simple service of Holy Communion remembering the Last Supper. We then make our way to church, echoing Jesus' journey to the Garden at Gethsemane. This ends with a short time of prayer and readings from the Bible. People are welcome to stay for as long as they wish until 10pm.

Sign up in church, or let the parish office know you are coming and any dietary requirements.

### Good Friday Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March

On Good Friday we sit with Jesus at the foot of the cross, exploring, reflecting and witnessing to the amazing love God has for all humanity.

- 10.00am All Age Service at St John's  
 11.30am Walk of Witness, meeting outside the Grove School on the corner of Dark Lane.  
 2.00pm Liturgy of Good Friday at St John's. A devotional service where we reflect on the meaning of the cross, with a chance to venerate the cross. We finish with the distribution of Holy Communion.

### Easter Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March

On Easter Sunday we celebrate the joy of the resurrection of our Lord.

- 6.00am Easter Vigil, lighting of the Easter Fire and renewal of baptismal vows before celebrating communion. This will end with breakfast together.  
 10.00am All Age Eucharist followed by Easter Egg hunt in the church grounds.

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# Little Acorns



Little Acorns is a friendly toddler group for babies, pre-school children and their carers.

We meet in St. John's Hall on Tuesdays, 10.00 – 11.30am.

Come for a warm welcome, a cup of coffee and home-made cakes. The children enjoy a healthy snack, activities, a story and singing.

Term time dates:

27<sup>th</sup> Feb to 26<sup>th</sup> March. New term starts 16<sup>th</sup> April.

No booking necessary. A voluntary donation is all that is asked.

For more information, please contact [parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk](mailto:parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk)

Telephone 01582 712776

## Baptism: a family story

We had our three boys baptised at St John's and each service was such a joyful and memorable occasion. It was a pleasure to pick the hymns and readings and involve our friends and family in the celebrations of our children.

St John's were very welcoming and helpful and the services were so relaxed as children were free to move around and enjoy the play corner, as well as get involved in the service by reading or carrying candles. The baptism preparation was also a thought-provoking and interesting event and a lovely way to get to know other families.

*Sarah and Paul Ellison*

If you are getting this magazine delivered, you can get baptised at St John's (even if you're not a regular church goer). If you'd like to have a chat about what's involved please email [parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk](mailto:parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk) or tel 01582 712776







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**01582 461100**

**Marshalswick**

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Marshalswick

AL4 9RD

**01727 812244**



**DIGNITY**  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

# Toddler Service

**Thursdays in term time at 10.15am at St John's Church**

An informal service suitable for pre-schoolers of all ages. We begin with a hot drink and snacks for children, learn about the Bible and make a craft. Lasts about 45 minutes. All are welcome, just turn up!



With a warm welcome (and a cup of tea) our two ministers take time mid-week to run the toddler service with Christine Kenyon of Little Acorns. Each week we sing and build crafts together, giving the children their very own service. It's fun and interactive so they learn through play. They share bread and 'wine', learning what our Sunday service is all about and feel part of it. Each week we say what we are grateful for and we are grateful for their time. Though aimed at pre-school children, during school holidays even teenagers love it. — *Keely Bates*

The Toddler Service is a wonderful opportunity to give young children and babies an insight into the traditions of the church and the Bible stories, in a fun and inclusive setting. The breadstick Eucharist is a fantastic way for children to understand what is happening when their parents take communion, and it is a lovely way of including children in this important tradition. It's a really enjoyable and interesting experience for both children and their parents/carers. — *Gemma Smith*



Some key Lent and Easter dates and themes:

**15<sup>th</sup> February** Forty days in the wilderness

**14<sup>th</sup> March** Palm Sunday

**21<sup>st</sup> March** Holy Week

**28<sup>th</sup> March** Maundy Thursday

Toddler Service starts again on **18<sup>th</sup> April.**

# Harpenden's latest Community Café

The Well Bean Café,  
run by the  
**Harpenden Trust**  
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premises above  
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**Harpenden  
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Supporting Our Community

**Well Bean  
Café**



# Curate's Corner

**W**hat does Christian unity really mean? As I was thinking about this, I considered how many different Christian denominations we have today. I thought about the different ways we worship as well as the things we have in common. We all believe in and worship one triune God, but we worship in different ways. Our worshipping style is a preference and a choice. It is great that we are free to choose a way to connect with, praise and worship our God in a manner that best suits us as individuals.

Unfortunately, these preferences also cause disunity among Christians because we use them to build walls around us. We get into a mindset of believing that one way of worshipping is the right way or the better way. Christian Unity Week was 18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024, a time to remember that it is Christ we all worship. During this week we reflected on what it means to be united as Christians. Are we united? If not, what do we need to do to become united?

In John 17:20-23 Jesus prayed for everyone who would come to know and believe him through the message of the disciples. He prayed for Christians living today to be one just as Jesus himself is one with God the Father.

Each of us is uniquely gifted and each of us contributes to the overall functioning of the body of the Church. We have a duty to bring glory to God's name and the best way we can do this is to be united in our differences.

Ritah

*Revd Ritah Namakula  
Curate of St John's Harpenden*

## IF SOMEONE YOU KNOW NEEDS PRACTICAL HELP...

Good local sources of confidential practical support for food, school uniforms, furniture, energy costs, personal advice, funding, vouchers and more:

The Harpenden Trust. See online [www.theharpentrust.org.uk](http://www.theharpentrust.org.uk) Or ring 01582 460457, email [admin@theharpentrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@theharpentrust.org.uk) or come in person to the Trust's Centre, 90 Southdown Road, Harpenden AL5 1PS, 10am – 12noon Monday – Friday.

HertsHelp. Trained friendly advisors are on hand to offer confidential assistance and can put you in touch with helpful services and support locally. Call 0300 123 4044, email [info@hertshelp.net](mailto:info@hertshelp.net) or visit [www.hertshelp.net](http://www.hertshelp.net)

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## ! ADVERTISING SPACE !

Are you a local business who is looking  
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St John's Parish Magazine has one or two  
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Please contact  
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for further details.





**stJOHN'S**  
Living God's Love

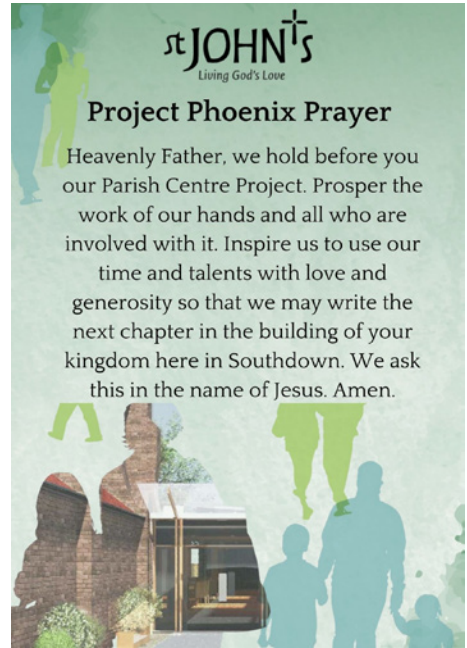
**BCP Evensong**

**5pm**

Join us for this service of Sung Evensong using the Book of Common Prayer, including sung congregation Anglican chant. 30-40 minutes in the Lady Chapel.

**Second Sunday of the Month**

THE ORDER FOR  
EVENING PRAYER  
DAILY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR  
At the beginning of the service



**stJOHN'S**  
Living God's Love

**Project Phoenix Prayer**

Heavenly Father, we hold before you our Parish Centre Project. Prosper the work of our hands and all who are involved with it. Inspire us to use our time and talents with love and generosity so that we may write the next chapter in the building of your kingdom here in Southdown. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

## Need a prayer?

St Luke's Cell Prayer Group are always happy to pray for you (confidentially if needed). The group is named after the disciple and physician Luke, who is the patron saint of doctors. A request can be as simple as a name, if preferred. We don't need to know details in order to pray. Members pray individually and also meet monthly to pray for anyone in the parish who asks for prayers for themselves or for their loved ones.

If you would like us to pray for you or someone else then please contact Michael Hughes 01582 765576



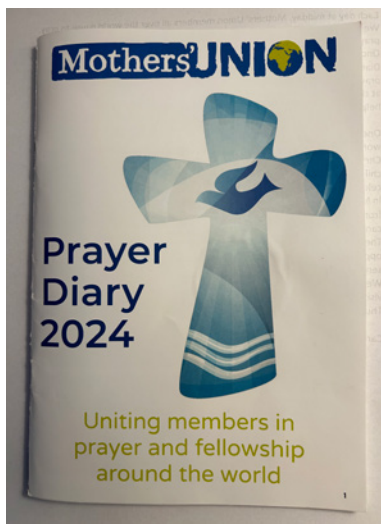
# Mothers' Union

**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families  
Diocese of St. Albans

At the start of every year Mothers' Union members in Britain and Ireland receive a Prayer Diary as part of the annual membership subscription. This booklet is filled with prayers and reflections for each day of the year. Most of us keep our booklets at the side of the bed and our daily prayers unite us with other members and help us grow in our faith and deepen our relationship with God.

One of the many joys of belonging to Mothers' Union is volunteering to join a working group on a Saturday morning in the church hall. In December we make Christingles and these decorated oranges with candles and sweets delight the children at the Christingle Service on the Sunday afternoon. Christingles celebrate Jesus being the Light of the World. In March we make posies for the Mothering Sunday Service, which is on March 10<sup>th</sup> this year. We bring greenery from our gardens and use spring flowers to create small posies which children can present to their mothers and grandmothers.

These busy Saturday mornings when we work for the church are also an opportunity to talk to friends over a cup of coffee. There is a wonderful sense of achievement when the job is done.



We welcome newcomers. Our stimulating programme with guest speakers is held at 2.30pm in the Committee Room on the first Thursday of each month. You can find out then what the Mothers' Union busy hands will be doing next!

Carol Cooke, Branch Leader.  
Contact [parish.office@](mailto:parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk)  
[stjohnsharpenden.org.uk](http://stjohnsharpenden.org.uk)

*Mothers Union Saturday work party. Busy hands and time to chat!*

# CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

## 12<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> MAY 2024



This year the Christian Aid Week focus is supporting Christian Aid projects in Burundi, a very poor African country that only very rarely hits the news. It has one of the highest rates of malnutrition in the world, particularly amongst children under 5, made worse by climate change and the cost of living crisis. So, look out for those red envelopes that will pop through your letterboxes and please give as generously as you can.

*Pat Hudis,*

*Chair of Harpenden Christian Aid Committee*

[parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk](mailto:parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk)

## St John's: core values and vision

Like all good organisations, St John's regularly examines itself and its direction. To grow and be effective, in 2023 we reviewed our core values for going forward, including vision, priorities, focus, goals, actions – and realities. Via St Albans Diocese, the result is a MAP. That is, a Mission Action Plan. For St John's, the end result is summarised in the five points in this list. These priorities will be the themes of sermons on Sundays in Lent, 18<sup>th</sup> February – 17<sup>th</sup> March. Watch for action along these lines at St Johns and in Southdown all year long.



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## Parish registers

### Baptisms

*Welcome to the family of God*

8<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Oliver Morris

15<sup>th</sup> October 2023

James Ellison

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2023

Rosalie Spencer

12<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Ivy Clara Ferguson-Gould

### Funerals in Church

*May they rest in peace*

5<sup>th</sup> December 2023

June Webbe

18<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Revd Mary Monk

## Weddings at St John's

If you're considering a church wedding and you live in the parish, or have a connection to the area, we invite you to consider St John's church for your marriage ceremony. Contact the church office to arrange a time to discuss your plans. We would love to be a part of your special day.

[parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk](mailto:parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk)  
Telephone 01582 712776

To find out about planning a wedding in a Church of England church, visit [www.churchofengland.org./life-events/your-church-wedding](http://www.churchofengland.org./life-events/your-church-wedding)







## Regular Services at St John's

### Sundays

- 8.00am Holy Communion in the Lady Chapel
- 9.30am Parish Eucharist (*also live streamed*) followed by coffee in the hall.  
All Age Eucharist, *normally 1st Sunday of the month*
- 5.00pm Evening service, *see website for details*

### Wednesdays

- 10.30am Holy Eucharist is celebrated in the Lady Chapel

### Monday - Friday inclusive

- 9.30am Morning prayer is said
- 5.00pm Evening Prayer is said

Church is open every day from 10.00am to 5.00pm.

Service times may change so please check the calendar on our website or sign up there to our weekly or monthly newsletter [www.stjohnsharpenden.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsharpenden.org.uk)

Watch our Parish Eucharist and other special services on our YouTube channel - search for "St John's Church, Harpenden" or visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/StJohnsChurchHarpenden>

The Parish Office is open Monday – Thursday 9.30am - 2.30pm



**PARISH OFFICE**

*For enquiries, including marriages, baptisms, funerals and hall bookings, please contact the parish office.*

**Amanda Knights**

Telephone: 01582 712776  
parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

*If you are in need of help or know anyone in need of support, please contact support@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk*

*Parish Directory*

**VICAR**

**Revd Tim Vickers**

Telephone: 01582 469343  
vicar@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

**CURATE**

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ritah@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

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dandhnye@btinternet.com

**Anne Edwards**

Telephone: 01582 767449

**WARDENS**

**Heather Nye**

wardens@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

**Position vacant**

**TREASURER**

**Position vacant**

Our magazine is published four times a year and is delivered free to all homes and businesses in the parish.

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.

St John's PCC takes no responsibility for statements made in advertisements or other content in this magazine nor linked websites, nor for any matter arising therefrom.

To protect privacy, personal email addresses do not appear in the web edition, unless requested.

*Lent and  
Easter Services  
inside*



*What's going on in the lead-up to Easter, and beyond*

[www.stjohnsharpenden.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsharpenden.org.uk)

St John's Church, 5 St John's Road, Harpenden, Herts AL5 1DJ

Parish Office 01582 712776



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