

# st JOHN's

Living God's Love

Parish Magazine

WINTER 2019





*Winter 2019  
in this issue*

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**O** why are we waiting...’ is a carol familiar to many of us, often sung during school years whilst bored and waiting for something to happen. It is, of course, sung to the tune *Adeste Fideles*, well-known to us as the Christmas carol ‘O come all ye faithful’. It’s sung at most carol services in churches around the globe at this time of year during the approach to Christmas Day, the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

We are all waiting, just as the carol proclaims. It’s not idle waiting but, instead, active preparation, looking ahead to Christmas and thinking about all the things we need to do before Christmas Day, from planning to visiting relatives to buying and wrapping presents and organising Christmas Dinner. There might be a mixture of feelings associated with that looking forward: slow-building excitement; dread of visiting certain family members; worry over how we can afford it all... the list goes on.

In Church we’re also waiting – but not just to celebrate Christmas; we are also thinking about what it will mean when Jesus comes again to be with us. Like the waiting for Christmas, it is an active sort of waiting, when we try and make ourselves ready by thinking about whether we’re really living the way that Jesus asks us to

in his teachings. And that, too, just like the waiting for Christmas, brings mixed feelings.

Waiting is a complex thing that comes in different guises, from the facile to the complex, and evokes different emotions in us. To see what I mean, you just have to think of some of the types of waiting we go through in life: for the train or bus; test or exam results; hospital appointments; pregnancy... Some of these are very complex and can often mingle joy and sorrow, relief and anxiety. The key thing about waiting, however, is that it is always better when shared with someone else. That’s true whether you are both waiting for the same thing or whether you’re just sharing your story with an ear ready to listen. The same is important during the Christmas period, too. It isn’t about the worries that inevitably come if we fixate on having all the things we want to make it a ‘good’ Christmas. It’s about the quality of time we spend with those whom we love.

Jesus came into a waiting, expectant, world, to build relationships with us and to help us build our relationships with God and with each other. That’s what we should remember during the seasons of Advent and Christmas. That is the hope we actively wait for. •

Berkeley Zych  
Vicar

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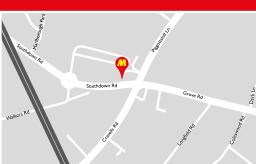
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# Churchwardens' Report

**A**n autumn highlight of this year was the news that at long last we have planning permission for our proposed new parish centre. We are tremendously grateful for all of the hard work of the various groups who have got us this far in our ambitious plans to enhance our ministry in our parish and to provide a centre that is modern and appropriate for our needs and to serve the community in Southdown. We are now entering the next phase of this project – raising the funds to build it. Look out for more information on this in the future.

Autumn at St. John's began with an All-Age Service celebrating the return to school, college, or university, in which school bags were blessed and the interesting contrast of hopes for a successful new academic year mixed with anxiety about coping with new faces and places was explored.

The Southdown Festival Weekend took place from 6-8 September and along with many other events, St John's provided a Coffee Concert by our Director of Music, Roger Carter. The fete at the Grove School was also well supported by St John's. On the Sunday of the festival, we hosted an afternoon of Songs of Praise. A variety of local people chose hymns with particular meaning to them and they explained their choices; the singing was joyful, from both the augmented choir and the congregation. A special mention must be made of the members of Faith and Light, a group for those with additional needs, as their mimed version of the Lord's Prayer

was an absolute delight and touched the hearts of all those present. Refreshments followed the service and formed a lovely finish to the weekend. We especially thank James Brown, our curate, who was instrumental in the realisation of all of the activities both at St John's and more widely in Southdown.

Throughout September and up to our Harvest Celebration, St John's has focused, in both its services and other activities, on God's Creation and our role in its preservation and conservation. At this time, it has been very pertinent to pray, think and consider the environment, climate change, and what we as individuals, and as an organisation, can do to support and resolve this important issue. The Eco-Church Group, led by James Brown, has evaluated church practices according to standards set by the environmental organisation A Rocha. This is a continuing project and will permeate many aspects of St John's daily life and that of its community. Ways to be more 'green' were explored in the Study Group.

The Harvest All-Age Service was held on 6 October and the church was decorated to assail our senses and remind us of the fruits of planet earth. Our collections went to the Bishop of St Albans' Light Up Tanzania Appeal – a project to increase access to light and electricity in that country; physical gifts of food went to the local foodbank. A family quiz and, appropriately, a ploughman's lunch, followed the service. Thanks to Paul Bedding for the

# Junior Church

## All welcome

### Games, crafts, stories

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Activities for preschoolers if a parent / carer stays with them

**Every Sunday 9.30am during term time**

(apart from 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of month, which is a service to involve all ages)

St John's Church Hall, AL5 1DJ



Junior Church St Johns Harpenden



### **Junior Church Nativity Play - 15 December**

If your children would like to be involved in this year's Nativity play, please contact Carolyn ([caz.alexander@gmail.com](mailto:caz.alexander@gmail.com)) or talk to one of the Junior Church leaders after church.

## All Age Services

Specially designed services that are suitable for all;  
a mix of traditional and informal elements,  
with a child-friendly take on the Communion service

**Sun 15 December, 9.30am – Nativity Play**

Junior Church perform the nativity play, with lots of fun carol singing,  
as we celebrate the story of Jesus' birth.

**Sun 5 January, 9.30am – Epiphany**

The three wise men arrive to visit the infant Jesus. In this season of  
presents we think about the gifts they gave to Jesus.

**Sun 2 February, 9.30am – Candlemas**

Jesus was present at the temple in Jerusalem as a baby and his  
parents heard amazing things about him. We think about what that  
means for us today.

intriguing quiz and to all who helped provide the lunch. Again, a fitting conclusion to a very traditional season and reflective of universal current concerns.

A Deanery Evensong was hosted at St John's in October. Members of churches in the Wheathampstead Deanery came together at St. John's for a service of sung Evensong, led by a rousing 80-strong choir of all ages from St John's and neighbouring parishes and directed by Roger Carter. This was followed by a glass of wine and an opportunity to meet friends and colleagues from the Deanery.

Evensong is usually a traditional service which helps to quietly round off a busy Sunday. Here at St John's we alternate between Evensong, Taizé services, which involve prayer and meditation through simple chants, and Celtic services, during which a topic is explored through readings, poetry, presentation of facts, singing, prayer and quietness. These are advertised in the lists of services.

Remembrance Sunday on 10 November is always a reflective time and even more so this year, since it is eighty years since the outbreak of World War II, an event within the living memory of many, which changed so much in Europe and the wider world.

The consequences of the conflict have shaped both individuals, families, nations and institutions. In these politically somewhat unsettling times, it helps to centre our thinking, when we remember those times of great conflict and the bravery and stoicism of many peoples.

On the first day of December it will be Advent, the beginning of the church year and the countdown to our celebrations at Christmas. Please see the detailed lists of services for that season, so important in the church year and to many families. We look forward to welcoming you to St John's at any service or at any time – during the day the church is almost always open. Our Lady Chapel, towards the rear of the church as you enter, is a particularly peaceful and contemplative place.

A large number of people, many of whom do not regularly attend church or publicise themselves, volunteer at St John's in a huge variety of capacities and roles. It would be too lengthy to list them all here but it a great privilege to acknowledge them all and say thank you, even if those words sometimes seem rather inadequate.

*James Hillman*

*Jane Donati*

Churchwardens



**st JOHN's**  
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# How to have a GREEN Christmas

## Presents

Think ‘quality not quantity’. A gift is more special if it comes with care and time rather than just being something to fill a space under the tree that will be thrown away come January. Try fewer, more meaningful presents.

Each Christmas 4000 tonnes of products arrive from China. Try to give locally made gifts or experiences, like tickets, subscriptions or meals out.

You might like to challenge the family to give each other presents from charity shops or maybe try a ‘secret santa’.

Help to cultivate the spirit of generosity in children by encouraging them to pick out a couple of toys they would be happy to give to the charity shop.

## Present Wrapping

Wrap presents with kindness for the environment. Shiny, foil wrapping ‘paper’ and ribbon can’t be recycled and will go to landfill. Try wrapping in beautiful, seasonal scarves or decorating reusable cloth bags, or with natural ribbon around newspaper. Also remember that glittery Christmas cards are not recyclable and will spend their lives in landfill.

DEFRA estimates that you could wrap the whole of Guernsey with last Christmas’s discarded wrapping paper! Make sure to recycle any paper used.

## Food

Researchers from The University of Manchester calculate that a typical Christmas meal generates the equivalent of 20kg of carbon dioxide emissions\*. Most of this comes through the life

cycle of a turkey but other aspects contribute, including transport and kitchen preparation. Think about the ways you can reduce your carbon footprint. Being sensible with meat consumption, treating yourself to locally sourced products, and even not over cooking the sprouts will all help!

Bigger drinks bottles help! It is less wasteful to buy larger bottles than lots of small ones. Cheers!

## Trees

Despite recently published research from the plastic tree industry, real trees are generally better environmentally than their PVC counterparts which aren’t recyclable and have probably been shipped great distances, not to mention the fossil fuels used in their production.

The environmental impact of your tree will obviously vary depending on where it comes from, how it is grown, and how it is disposed of. Friends of the Earth recommend that we search for locally grown trees or at least for those from the UK and ideally with an FSC certification.

Don’t be tempted to throw away your plastic tree in order to ‘go green’, though. That would defeat the point!

We wish you a merry Christmas full of kindness and goodness, not only to you and your loved ones, but even to the whole planet!

\* <https://www.manchester.ac.uk/discover/news/festive-food-footprint-same-as-6000-car-trips-around-world/>





# CARDS FOR GOOD CAUSES

## CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARD POP-UP IN HARPENDEN

The festive season gets under way in Harpenden when the 'Cards for Good Causes' charity Christmas card shop opens in the United Reformed Church, Vaughan Road AL5 4ED on Friday 26 October 2019. Buying Christmas cards through Cards for Good Causes is the best way to get access to the widest selection of Christmas cards available, as well as a fantastic range of seasonal gifts and products, while supporting a range of national and local charities.

Staffed by a team of local volunteers, the Harpenden pop-up shop is part of a network of more than 300 temporary shops run by Cards for Good Causes, the UK's largest charity Christmas card organisation. It represents more than 250 charities including Cancer Research UK, NSPCC, Alzheimer's Society and RNLI.

Shoppers will be able to choose from hundreds of Christmas card designs, **from over 30 different charities** as well as traditional advent calendars and candles, wrapping paper, gift tags, napkins and stocking fillers. Christmas postage stamps will also be on sale.

In the past ten years, charities have received more than £40 million from Cards for Good Causes, representing at least 70p in every pound spent, out of which the charities pay for the production and distribution of their Christmas cards and any VAT.

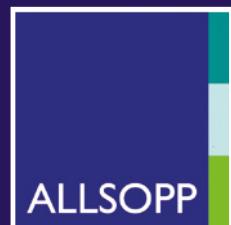
Helen Mellor, Harpenden shop manager for Cards for Good Causes says: 'Buying charity Christmas cards is one of the simplest ways to support good causes and we stock one of the widest ranges of Christmas cards anywhere. The proceeds from every card or product sold make a vital contribution to the work of the charities that we partner. Come and find us in Vaughan Road in the centre of Harpenden and get ahead in your Christmas preparations by getting your cards early.'

United Reformed Church, Vaughan Road, Harpenden AL5 4ED

9.30 - 4.30 Monday-Friday  
9.30 - 3.30 Saturday

For further information visit [www.cardsforcharity.co.uk](http://www.cardsforcharity.co.uk) or follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

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# Coming to Southdown

*A feature from the Southdown Methodist Church*

## HELLO!

**M**y warmest greetings to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As you may imagine, one thing I have been asked many times during both training and stationing is 'Stuart, tell us a little bit about yourself.' It is actually a difficult question because it depends on what one wants to discover from the answer.

The very first thing I want to say is how much I am looking forward to us all getting to know each other over the coming months and years. I'm sure we will both have lots of questions to explore over our time together, over many areas of discussion, and I am eager to see where we will discover that 'slender thread' of God's gracious presence among us.

I was very taken by Pope Francis' statement that he preferred to deal with people in terms of nouns rather than adjectives, which allows for each of us to be open to change and reflection in every aspect of our lives. So, to my 'nouns'! I am 54 years old and married to Chris. Between us we have five children, all of them 'grown ups' and we currently have four grandchildren as well. Chris works for the Church of England and will be commuting in to London from Harpenden.

My first love is music and in my teenage years I took up a life-long passion for drumming, which continues today. As well as attempting to forge a career in music, I have worked for many years as a primary school teacher, supply teacher and music teacher. I am a keen consumer of the arts, especially

film, opera and literature, though I will admit to being somewhat eclectic in my tastes. As well as making time for these, I enjoy running and have completed two half marathons and a couple of the 'Great South Run' events. Chris and I enjoy travel and I would count visits to Cuba, South Africa and the Netherlands as being particularly memorable.

God's wonderful grace has brought me to you, as he has led me, over time, from being a determinedly atheistic teenager to being involved with the Baptist and Charismatic churches and now into 'Candidating for Ministry' in the Methodist Church, where I feel I have found a true home for the out-working of the faith he has given me.

Chris and I are very much looking forward to meeting you all in September!

*Stuart Dyer*



# WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

## Friday 6 March 2020

**10.30am St Nicholas Church**

**7.45pm YWAM, Ambrose Lane - hosted by Bethany Church**

As in previous years, we will be part of a great wave of prayer encircling the globe, joining with people in over 120 countries and islands.

This time the service has been prepared by the Christian women of Zimbabwe, with the title being 'Rise! Take your mat and Walk' and the focus being on peace, reconciliation and love - remarkable given Zimbabwe's turbulent history!

Women form 51% of the popula-

tion and play a significant role in the socio-economic life of the country (e.g. many rural households are headed by women, since husbands migrate to the towns to work), but suffer from severe disadvantages, particularly in health and education. Yet they continue to meet together, to pray, hope - and act.

So, do join us! Open to all, with refreshments after each service.

Pat Hudis

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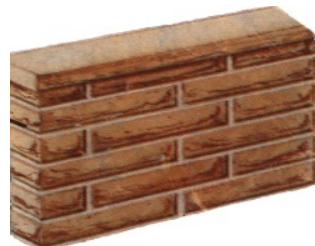
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# St Luke's Cell prayer group

Would you like us to pray for you?

We pray for anyone in the parish who has asked for our prayers for themselves or for their loved ones. St Luke's Cell prayer group is named after the disciple and physician Luke, who is the patron saint of doctors. The group meets monthly to pray and is made up of members from St John's and Southdown Methodist churches.

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



**God of love,**

your Son Jesus Christ brought healing to the sick and hope to the despairing.

We pray for all who suffer pain, who bear the burden of illness, or who have to undergo an operation.

Give them the comfort and strength of your presence, and surround them with your healing love and power.

May they know the fellowship of Christ who bore pain and suffering for us.

[from 'Pocket Prayers for Healing and Wholeness' by Trevor Lloyd, SPCK 2004]

# Advent and Christmas List 2019

You are very welcome to these special events at St Johns.  
All normal service times will continue unless replaced by something below.

**Sun 1 Dec      6.30pm   Advent hymns and readings**  
*With festive refreshments*

**Mon 2 Dec      8pm      Advent Meditation**  
*In church hall (committee room)*

**Wed 4 Dec      8pm      Night Prayer**  
*Short candlelit prayer service with reflection on a favourite advent hymn.*

**Thu 12 Dec    12.30pm Advent Book Group**  
*Short candlelit prayer service in the vicarage.*

**Fri 13 Dec      3pm      T@3 Christmas Special**  
*Friendly companionship over a cup of tea, homemade cakes and sandwiches. Special Christmas music from the Grove Junior's choir.*

**Sat 14 Dec      10.30am Coffee Concert**  
*Free Advent and Christmas themed organ concert and coffee.*

**Sun 15 Dec      9.30am All Age Nativity Service**  
*Led by members of the Junior Church. Ideal for children.*

**Mon 16 Dec 8pm Advent Meditation**  
In church hall (committee room)

**Wed 18 Dec 8pm Night Prayer**  
*Short candlelit prayer service with reflection on a favourite advent hymn.*

**Sun 22 Dec 6.30pm Community Carol Service**  
*A service of nine lessons and carols followed by free mulled wine and mince pies.*

**Tue 24 Dec 3pm ‘Walking to Bethlehem’**  
*Telling the Christmas story as we walk through Southdown.  
Meet by the Christmas tree on the green opposite the Co-op  
and end at St John’s. (Ideal for children)*

**Tue 24 Dec 11.30pm Midnight Mass**

**Wed 25 Dec 8am Christmas Day Parish Eucharist**

**Wed 25 Dec 9.30am Christmas Day Parish Eucharist**  
*(Ideal for children)*

**Sun 29 Dec 4pm Hark the Herald!**  
*A short family-friendly gathering singing carols and  
unwrapping the Christmas story some more. Including festive  
refreshments. (Ideal for children)*

**Sun 5 Jan 9.30am Epiphany All Age Service**  
*A friendly service for people of any age, remembering the  
arrival of the Magi. (Ideal for children)*

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10:00 – 12:00pm                    13<sup>th</sup> April 2019

10:00 – 12:00pm                    01<sup>st</sup> June 2019

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# Getting to know the congregation

*An interview with Liz MacDonald*

## How long have you lived in the area?

We moved to Harpenden in 2011, originally to Cravells Road. That was when it was just the two of us, and then we had our daughter Emily in 2013, which is when we moved to Eastmoor Park and here we had Charlotte, our second daughter.

We had been living London for a couple of years but wanted to move somewhere that felt a bit more 'normal'! Somewhere that was less busy. So we looked around and really liked Harpenden.

## So what do you do with your time in and out of London?

In London, I work four and half days a week as a solicitor. In my free time I like being out of London as much as possible! Life's quite busy because we both work and we've got the children. We like going to National Trust properties together on the weekend. We really just enjoy getting out and about outside with the children. Oh, and we're into doing lots of art and crafts with them as well. They love that.

## And you're involved at St John's as well, aren't you? What is that like?

Yes, it's great. I've recently started helping out with the Junior Church and am on the PCC and have been for about a year now. I originally started trying to go to St Johns when I first moved to Harpenden, before I had the children, but decided that 9.30am was just too early! But now 9.30am is hours and hours after I get up, so it's fine! How things change. I try to go as often as I can. It can be hard to get everyone out of the house and work out who's coming and who's not coming so I don't make it every Sunday but try to go as often as I can. It's

a beautiful building and a very friendly church community.

## And what does your faith mean to you?

I didn't grow up going to church but I started going at university. I suppose I don't experience it just on an intellectual level and, actually, I don't really want to. It's quite simplistic for me in that I feel very happy and peaceful and often very emotional when I'm in church. I just feel that that is a very special feeling and it can't be happening for no reason.

I suppose I haven't really explored it in any huge amount of detail and I'm slightly reluctant to do so actually. I just enjoy the feeling that I have when I'm in church and that's a lovely thing, I think it might be because my mind is so busy the whole time. I have quite an intellectual job and then there's the act of juggling and diary-planning and I almost kind of don't want that in my spiritual life. I just enjoy the fact that it's simple. It's one of the few things that is simple. I mean, of course, it's not simple but I worry that if I start exploring it any further it'll become another complicated thing. And I know my husband always encourages me to go because I always come back in a better mood! •



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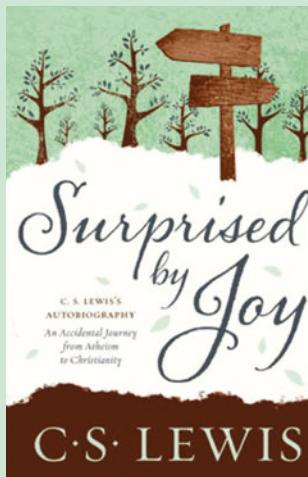
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## Advent Book Club: Surprised by Joy



This Advent, we're encouraging you to be *Surprised by Joy*, and join us in reading the renowned author C S Lewis' autobiography of his journey from Atheism to Christianity.

Do pick up a copy of the book, read it, and join us to discuss the themes and questions raised by the book for those exploring faith today.

There will be two opportunities to join us for discussion, each lasting about 1hr: 10.30am Thursday 5 December & 8pm Thursday 12 December.

For further details contact Berkeley (vicar@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk / 01582 469343)

## Coffee Concerts

FREE classical concerts within the beautiful acoustic of St John's Church followed by coffee

**Sat 7th Sept at 10.30**

Roger Carter (organ)

**Sun 20th Oct at 3.00**

Daniel Roscia (clarinet) &  
Rosanna Rolton (harp)

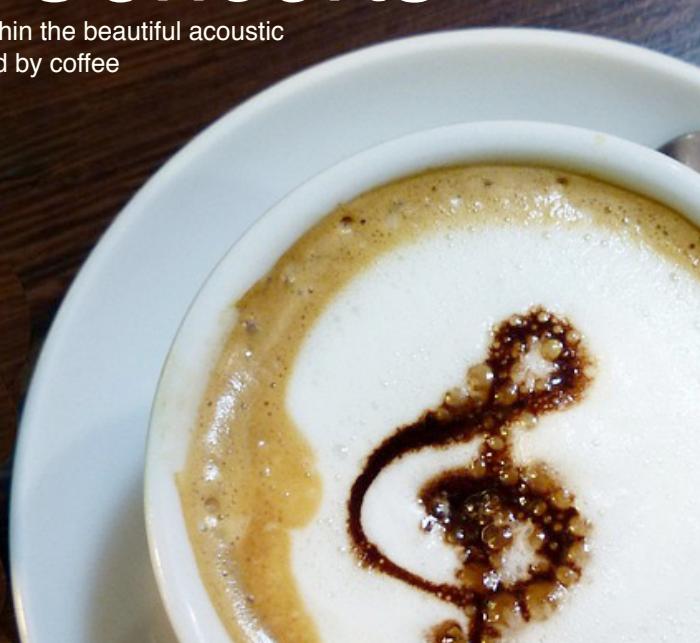
**Sun 10th Nov at 3.00**

Terence Charlston  
(organ & chamber organ)

**Sat 14th Dec at 10.30**

Roger Carter (organ)

St JOHN'S



# Life with M.E.

## by Sophie Crowley



**A** year ago, things were very different to how they are now. As this magazine goes to print, it will mark one year since I fell ill. You may know me from St John's; I'm the one in the wheelchair at the back. Sometimes I'm strong enough to turn up using just my walking stick, but for the majority of the time it's powerchair and me, joining the congregation in weekly prayer.

You see, prior to getting ill a year ago, I was an active, relatively healthy person. I had spent ten years as a primary school teacher and had just returned to work from a year's maternity leave. Despite living with sleepless nights and everything that life with a new-born involves, I'd think nothing of attending back-to-back baby classes with my daughter Evie and think nothing of walking to and from town a mile and a half each way. Walking was one of my main hobbies and I walked everywhere. I had more energy when Evie was tiny than I do now.

November 2018 was when it all started going wrong. One chest infection after another, each sending my asthmatic lungs haywire, put me in hospital on nebulisers and intravenous medicine. I have never recovered.

Slowly but surely over the last year, I have lost my mobility, my walking limit now around 20 metres. You'll often see me wheeling through Southdown on my hired

powerchair, but for the majority of the time I'm lying down on the sofa, laptop on, and writing for my blog. Funnily enough there aren't many jobs one can do while lying on the sofa, but blogging is one of them. I set up Mummying and M.E. ([www.mummyingandme.com](http://www.mummyingandme.com)) to document my life with M.E. but particularly how I'm getting used to life in a wheelchair.

But what is it that living with M.E. actually involves? Contrary to popular opinion, M.E. is not simply 'being tired all the time'. While fatigue is the main symptom, this is not the same as 'being tired'. M.E. is a multi-system disorder, for which medical professionals are not yet able to pinpoint an exact biomarker. That is, there isn't yet a specific blood test to diagnose the condition. Diagnosis is made on studying a patient's symptoms: post-exertional malaise (feeling significantly more unwell following any type of exertion), a clear starting point to the fatigue, muscle or joint pain, constant sore throat, flu-like symptoms, headaches, sleep problems, and problems thinking, remembering or concentrating. The combination of symptoms to each individual is different, with each person having more significant symptoms than others.

One may think this all sounds terribly depressing and how could one possibly find the mental energy to keep going? Well, strangely enough, I can. Through St John's

and the support from the congregation and ministry team, I have found a sense of peace I could only ever have dreamt of. There's no sugar coating the fact that living with M.E. is not easy, each and every day being a challenge, but finding God through St John's has made it all OK. No matter how bad each day gets (and boy do the days get tough when your legs decide to stop working), I always know God is there and when I turn up to church on Sunday, I

will face the most friendly, kind and generous group of people I've ever met.

To each and every person who simply just gives that smile each Sunday, thank you. And if I haven't met you already, look out for me round Southdown, my power-chair is one not to be missed.

If you're interested in finding out more about life with M.E., check out my blog at [www.mummyingandme.com](http://www.mummyingandme.com).

## Parish registers

### Baptisms

*Welcome to the family of God*

28 July 2019

Henry John Foster

29 September 2019

Elliott Douglas Akrigg

20 October 2019

Rhoshen Charles Wickramasinghe

### Funerals in Church

*May they rest in peace*

2 August 2019

Richard Martin Hoare

9 September 2019

Irene Patricia Bond (known as Pat)

21 September 2019

Joyce Lilian Summers

### Marriages

*Joined by God*

5 October 2019

Liam Chambers to Anna Pritchard



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## Little Acorns



**What is Little Acorns?** Little Acorns is a group for preschool children and their carers which is run by a group of volunteers from St John's Church.

**What is our aim?** We provide a safe and friendly environment where children can play while the adults chat and enjoy a hot cup of coffee or tea undisturbed!

**When?** 1.30 – 2.45pm every Thursday in term time.

**Where?** St John's Church Hall, AL5 1DJ (Walk down the right side of the church and the hall is ahead of you).

**What happens during a session?** You will be met by one of the three helpers wearing a name badge and we will ask you to sign in. There is a voluntary donation of £2 but we don't turn anyone away! You will be offered tea, coffee and a biscuit.

We play until about 2.20pm, with a wide variety of toys for the children. At around 2.20pm, we clear up and then sit around a table for a healthy snack and a drink followed by a story or some singing before going home.



So, if you have a child of pre-school age do come along and give us a try.  
You will be given a warm welcome!

For any further information please contact Christine Kenyon 07984 448999.

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## Glaze Time



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- \* capture your baby's footprint for their grandparents / you to treasure
- \* let your little ones express themselves avoiding the mess at home!

Weekly (term time only) at:

**The Skew Bridge**, Southdown Road, Harpenden

Tuesday 2.00-4.00pm

**Inn on the Green\***, Leyton Road, Harpenden

Wednesday 11.00-1.00pm

**Park Cafe**, Leyton Road, Harpenden

Thursday 3.00-5.00pm

Like to know more about Glaze Time? (m) 07958 324520  
(e) michelle@glazetime.co.uk (w) [www.glazetime.co.uk](http://www.glazetime.co.uk)

\* sessions run here during school holidays



# New Christmas Album



Since last winter, St Johns' Curate James Christie Brown has been recording a Christmas album with members of the local community.

This collection of original songs explores the many joys of Christmas, from decorations and Santa, to the meaning of the first nativity.

It has been a real community effort. The album features every student from the Grove junior school, the Grove 'Rotary Choir', the Harpenden Open Choir, as well as many other local singers and musicians.

All funds raised will be donated to the homelessness charity, Crisis.



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A photograph of a large, two-story red brick house with several windows and a prominent chimney. In the foreground, there's some greenery and a small garden area.

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# T@3

**Last Friday of the month, 3pm**  
*St John's Hall, St Johns Road, Harpenden*



Come for a cup of tea, some homemade cakes and a chat

**Come meet old friends and make new friends**

Come and enjoy informal and relaxing company

## Soup 4 the Soul

**Second Thursday of the month**  
*St John's Church, St Johns Road, Harpenden*

**12noon Holy Communion**

**12.30pm Soup lunch**

Come and enjoy a light lunch of homemade soup  
Informal atmosphere and relaxing company

Why not come for sustenance for the soul  
at the communion service beforehand too?



**All Welcome!**

Need a lift to either? Contact Margaret • (01582) 762651

# Forthcoming events

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## November 2019

Sunday 3 November	3.45 pm	Faith and Light in the Parish hall
Wednesday 6 November	7.30 pm	Mothers' Union Branch meeting
Thursday 7 November	1.30 pm	Little Acorns in the parish hall
Sunday 10 November	3.00 pm	Coffee Concert in church (Terence Charlston – organ & chamber organ)
Thursday 14 November	12.30 pm	Soup4theSoul
Thursday 14 November	1.30 pm	Little Acorns in the parish hall
Saturday 16 November	7.30 pm	Lea Singers Concert in church
Thursday 21 November	1.30 pm	Little Acorns in the parish hall
Wednesday 27 November	10.30 am	Deanery Advent Service
Thursday 28 November	1.30 pm	Little Acorns in the parish hall
Friday 29 November	3.00 pm	Tea at Three in the parish hall
Saturday 30 November	8.00 pm	St Albans Chamber Opera concert

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## December 2019

Sunday 1 December	3.45 pm	Faith and Light in the Parish Hall
Wednesday 4 December	7.30 pm	Mothers' Union Bring & Share party
Thursday 5 December	1.30 pm	Little Acorns in the parish hall
Friday 6 December	4.30 pm	Aldwickbury School Carol Service
Thursday 12 December	12.30 pm	Soup4the Soul
Thursday 12 December	7.00 pm	Roundwood Park School Concert in Church
Friday 13 December	3.00 pm	Tea at Three in the parish hall
Saturday 14 December	10.30 am	Coffee Concert in church (Roger Carter – organ)
Monday 16 December	8.00 pm	Hardyngé Choir Carol concert in Church
Thursday 19 December	1.30 pm	Little Acorns in the parish hall

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## January 2020

Sunday 5 January	3.45 pm	Faith and Light in the parish hall
Wednesday 8 January	7.30 pm	Mothers' Union meeting in the committee room
Thursday 9 January	12.30 pm	Soup4theSoul
Friday 31 January	3.00 pm	Tea at Three in the parish hall

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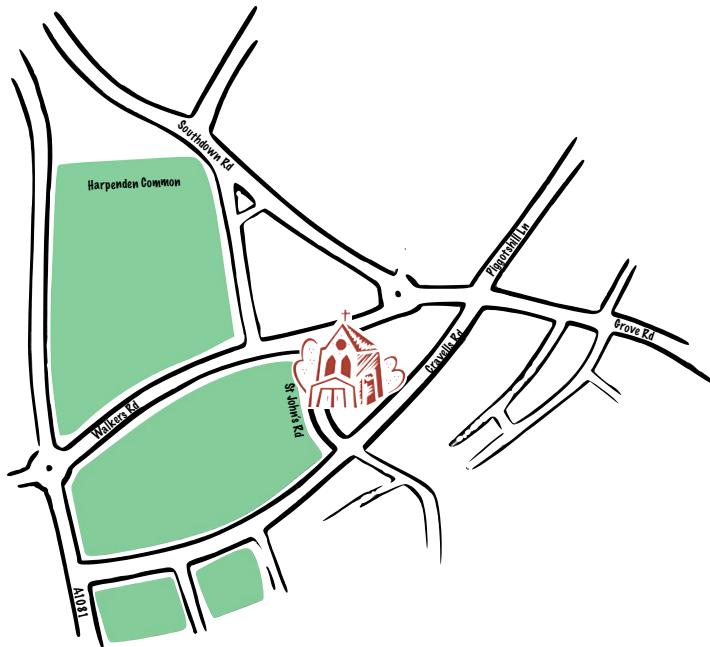
### Sunday

- 8.00 am Said Eucharist  
9.30 am Parish Eucharist followed by coffee time in the hall  
All-Age Eucharist, *normally first Sunday of the month*  
9.30 am Junior Church, *except for All-Age Eucharists,*  
and Little Gems in the hall  
11.30 am Holy Baptism, *last Sunday of the month*  
6.30 pm Evening Worship

### Wednesday

- 9.30 am Said Eucharist

Major festivals advertised when appropriate in the magazine



**PARISH OFFICE**

*For enquiries, including marriages, baptisms, funerals and hall bookings, please contact the parish office open from Monday 9am to 5:30pm and Wednesday to Friday 9:30am to 1:30pm.*

**Julie Birkett**

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

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Telephone: 01582 469343  
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# *Advent and Christmas List 2019*

You are very welcome to these special events at St Johns.

All normal service times will continue unless replaced by something below.

**Sun 1 Dec      6.30pm      Advent hymns and readings**  
*With festive refreshments*

**Sun 15 Dec      9.30am      All Age Nativity Service**  
*Led by members of the Junior Church. Ideal for children.*

**Sun 22 Dec      6.30pm      Community Carol Service**  
*A service of nine lessons and carols followed by free mulled wine and mince pies.*

**Tue 24 Dec      3pm      ‘Walking to Bethlehem’**  
*Telling the Christmas story as we walk through Southdown. Meet by the Christmas tree on the green opposite the Co-op and end at St John’s.  
(Ideal for children)*

**Tue 24 Dec      11.30pm      Midnight Mass**

**Wed 25 Dec      8am      Christmas Day Parish Eucharist**

**Wed 25 Dec      9.30am      Christmas Day Parish Eucharist**  
*(Ideal for children)*

**Sun 29 Dec      4pm      Hark the Herald!**

*A short family-friendly gathering singing carols and unwrapping the Christmas story some more. Including festive refreshments. (Ideal for children)*

**Sun 5 Jan      9.30am      Epiphany All Age Service**

*A friendly service for people of any age, remembering the arrival of the Magi. (Ideal for children)*



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