



15th May 2022: Fifth Sunday of Easter

Season: Easter. **Liturgical Colour:** White **Why?** White used during Easter to symbolise the resurrection of Jesus Christ. White expresses joy, celebration, purity and victory. Easter is not a one day festival but last for 50 days until Pentecost. The Easter (or Paschal Candle) is lit during every service during Easter.

8.00am Holy Communion (spoken) in the Lady Chapel.

9.30am Parish Eucharist with Baptism of Finlay Chambers

President and preacher: Revd Tim Vickers

Deacon: Anne Edwards

Gospel: John 13.31-35

Reading: Acts 11.1-18

Reader: Paul Bedding

Intercessions: Stuart Burnett

Music Setting: Mass of St Thomas (Thorne)

Hymns: 588, 236, 546, 430, 460, 763i

10.30am Parish Coffee in the Church Hall

4.00pm Christian Aid Week Service

CHILDREN AT ST JOHN'S

All children are very welcome at St John's, and this might help:

- Please don't be afraid to sit at the front – children can see what is going on better.
- There are books and bags at the back of church as well as colouring in packs (updated each week).
- Please make use of the church as you need to, and don't worry about making noise.
- Join us in the hall for refreshments after the service.
- We are starting up a Junior Church, monthly.

Please email junior.church@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk for details.

GIVING AT ST JOHN'S

At St John's we rely on the enormous generosity of our congregation to support our ministry, so that we might live God's love to our Parish. If you are in a position to support us, there are a number of ways you can give, either as a one-off or on a regular basis:

- Collection plate – both cash and contactless either before or after the service
- Set up a direct debit
- Join our Parish Giving Scheme

Envelopes to donate for the collection where gift aid can be claimed are available. For more information contact Andrew Poppleton on andrew.poppleton@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk.

SUNDAY READINGS AND PRAYERS

THE COLLECT

Let us pray

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING Acts 11.1-18

11 Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" ⁴Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵"I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸But I replied,

‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’⁹ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven.¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were.¹² The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house.¹³ He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning.¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’¹⁷ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?”¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

THE GOSPEL: John 13.31-35

31 When he had gone out, Jesus said, ‘Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him.³² If God has been glorified in him,^{*} God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, “Where I am going, you cannot come.”³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.’

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Amen.

IMPORTANT PARISH CONTACTS

Revd Tim Vickers, Vicar of St John's (usual day off Friday)
vicar@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk 01582 469343

Churchwardens, Jane Donati and Heather Nye
wardens@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

Parish Office, - This is currently Vacant so please be patient.
parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk 01582 712776

Safeguarding, Jane Donati safeguarding@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

IN OUR PRAYERS

In our Parish for the sick: Iain Macdonald, Chris Taylor and all whose names are entered on our St Luke's Cell Prayer List.

For the dearly departed: Geraldine Mockler

To be baptised in May: Maxwell Taylor, Oliver and Harry Noblet, Finlay Chambers, Isabel Pitman

In their year's mind: Joyce Cottrell, William Boon (16th), Ronald Gardner, Muriel Newby (17th) Martin Smith (18th) Angela Robinson (19th) John Nanson (20th)

For the homes and families in

Sunday	Cross Lane, Dark Lane
Monday	The Deerings, Dellcroft Way
Tuesday	Dickinsons Field, East Common
Wednesday	Eastcote Drive, Eastmoor Park
Thursday	Ennis Close, Fairmead Avenue
Friday	Fairway Close, Field Close
Saturday	Fovant Close, Gordon's Walk.

Please let Tim know if we can pray for you.

NOTICES*

** deadline for news items midday on Wednesday via
newsletter@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk*

Christian Aid Week 15-21 May Join us this Christian Aid Week, and help turn hunger into hope. Hope lives in you and we have the opportunity to bring hope to those facing hunger around the world. You can do this in a number of ways:

- If you live in the Parish, look out for a delivery only envelope through your door so you can make a donation.
- Join us at 4pm on Sunday 15th May at St John's for a special service suitable for all the family.
- Come to a special Christian Aid Coffee morning at the Vicarage on Thursday 19th May 10am - midday.

Junior Church Success!! It was a wonderful start to Junior Church last Sunday. 16 children in total, and more in church as well. It would be good if we could offer something next month (12th June) for pre-school children as well, but we will need some volunteers. Speak to Tim if you can help.

Meditation in the Lady Chapel. Monday 16th @ 10.15am

Following the success of our weekly silent meditation session during Lent, we have agreed to meet monthly. If you would value a time of silent meditation then this is for you. We are all very much beginners so all welcome.

Beating the Bounds, 2pm 22nd May 2022. The Parish Boundaries are traditionally walked on Rogation Sunday, where we ask God to bless all the crops (and people) in our Parish. Known also as 'Beating the Bounds'. We meet at 2pm outside St John's for a 2-3 hour walk finishing with a pint! All welcome. Speak to the Vicar for more details (please note after a typo last week – this starts at 2pm!)

Project Phoenix Sermon series. During May we will be exploring the rationale for the new Parish Centre by focusing on the Five Marks of Mission. This series is designed to provoke conversation and the reflect more deeply on why this new project matters.

The Five Marks of Mission:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Are you musical? Are you interested in joining an informal music group on the First Sunday of the Month (All Age services)? If so either speak to Madeleine Venner or Anna Chambers All ages and abilities welcome.

Church treasurer Do you have financial skills that might be useful at St Johns? We have an urgent need for someone to take responsibility for looking after our finances on a week to week basis and also for someone who would report to the PCC and help us with the annual budget and accounts. The roles are flexible and could be managed to suit the individual. Everything is digitally based. More details from the Vicar or David Nye.

Prayer for those who have died. Every week when we pray the Daily Office, and on Sunday's, we pray for those who have died, and any whose year minds falls at this time. The current Year Mind list current records all those who have died since 1973. Grief has no time frame and we are always happy to pray for anyone who has died, however long ago. We propose initially pray for those who have died in the last 20 years, and anyone else who wishes to be prayed for. Please speak to the Vicar if this poses a problem.

Lost property! There is a box in the porch full of last property. If you might have lost something – please come and have a look.

Jubilee Tea Party, 3pm on 5th June at the Vicarage. Everyone is invited to join us for a special celebration of the Queens Platinum Jubilee in the Vicarage Gardens from 3pm. If you are able to provide cake / scones, or help with setting up, please let Tim or Sophy know.

Patronal Festival Exhibition, 26th June. We are looking to put on a small art exhibition of photos and paintings of St John's. If you happen to have an old photograph or painting, do let the vicar know.

PARISH DIARY

Monday	10.15am	Meditation Session in the Lady Chapel
Tuesday	10.00am	Litle Acorns in the Church Hall
Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Eucharist in the Lady Chapel
Thursday	10am	Christian Aid Coffee morning at the Vicarage until midday
	8pm	PCC Meeting

NEXT SUNDAY

8am and 9.30am services for Sixth Sunday of Easter Readings: *To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation* New Testament: Acts 16.9-15; Psalm: 67
Gospel: John 5.1-9

Weekday Morning and Evening Prayer (in the Lady Chapel)

Morning Prayer: 9.30 am, Monday to Thursday

Evening Prayer: 5pm Monday to Thursday

Wednesday Eucharist, 10.30am in the Lady Chapel

Sign up to our Newsletter:

We also send out a weekly newsletter. If you would like to receive it, please get in touch:

<https://stjohnsharpenden.org.uk/about-us/newsletter/>

For arrangement of baptisms, weddings & funerals contact the Parish Office or talk to the vicar after the service.



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