



st JOHN^ts
Living God's Love

Parish Magazine
AUTUMN 2022

st JOHN'S

Living God's Love

*Autumn 2022
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ADDRESS

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www.stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

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.

EDITOR

Susan Kerr

magazine@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

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Welcome from the Vicar

Welcome to this Autumn edition of the St John's Parish Magazine. In it you'll find details of key community events at St John's including our Harvest Festival on 2nd October and All Souls' service when we remember those who have died (5th November).

See inside for more information about activities for families, as well as for community users of our Church Hall (and plans for its redevelopment).

I hope you enjoy reading the magazine, and do say hello if you see me around the parish.

With blessings,

Rev. Tim



Special Services Autumn

Harvest Festival

Sunday 2 October 2022 9.30am

All-Age Parish Eucharist with uniformed organisations

Followed by Harvest Brunch in St John's Church Hall

Donations for the Foodbank and collection for the Bishops Harvest Appeal

<https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/faith/bishops-annual-harvest-appeal>

All Souls Remembrance Service

Saturday 5 November 2022 3.00pm

Everyone is welcome. For names to be remembered, email the Parish Office.

United Nations Service

Sunday 6 November 6.30pm

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Churchwardens' report

CHURCH LIFE – Big and small

It is only one year since Tim, our vicar, began at St John's but it has passed like a whirlwind which shook us up with so many new initiatives and events that kept the church wardens, and many others, quite well occupied.

Our patron saint, John the Baptist, had his life and significance to Christianity recognised by the church in general on 24th June. So, on the nearest Sunday, the 26th, we held our celebration of our patron. After a lovely service a social occasion was highlighted by an exhibition of the history of St John's Church in Harpenden going back to the 19th century. This linked to 2022 and Project Phoenix – the campaign to raise funds to replace the existing elderly hall with a new community facility. The day included coffee and cake, then a barbecue with drinks, followed by some exquisite puddings, fruit salad, and more cakes. Everyone sat in the vicarage garden in the sun (thanks to God and the weatherman) to eat, drink, chat and listen to live music. Children enjoyed fun activities, and a rounders match on the common 'rounded up' the day.

Although we write here of one special event and give thanks to the legions of generous people who volunteered their help, every single day someone is actively supporting the church and the community, mostly unseen and unsung. The results of some of their efforts can be seen by walking around the outside of the building, or entering into its

cool, quiet space. In the fast pace of life, the hurly burly of organising, doing, reviewing, improving and planning, just to sit quietly for five minutes in the church, or outside on the bench in the sun, can be most restorative and helps us to remember God is present in small unnoticed things too.

Autumn in the church is a bit like a school term, with special traditional services such as Harvest, Remembrance, Advent, Christmas, alongside the wider gamut of daily and weekly events and even non-events. You can find dates elsewhere in the magazine, or sign up for the new monthly newsletter via www.stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

Certainly, Harvest will be possibly more significant this year, owing to factors already affecting the supply and cost of food, and our thanks for it will be all the more heartfelt. After the relaxation of the summer, a new start in the autumn brings a renewed focus on what is most important to us, both the big and the small.

Jane Donati and Heather Nye
wardens@stjohsharpenden.org.uk

Churchwardens – At St John's we have two churchwardens appointed from the congregation. Working with the vicar, they are key to all aspects of coordinating church activities and running the church buildings.



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St John's new Parish Centre back on track

The project to build a new Parish Centre at St John's to serve the people of Southdown and the wider Harpenden community has re-launched.

The current hall is over 50 years old and although currently in use, an enhanced Parish Centre will serve not just St John's, but also provide a much-needed community space.

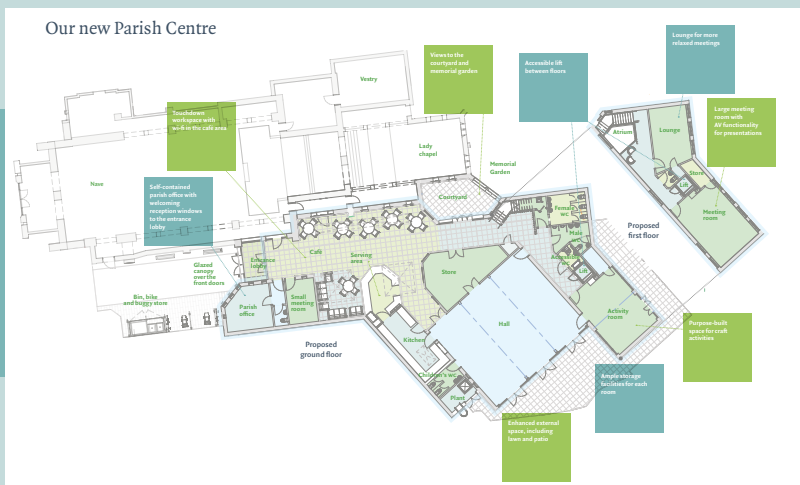
The re-launch event on 26th June was opened by the youngest and oldest persons present in a celebration of the history of St John's.

The Story of St John's -- now available on stjohnsharpenden.org.uk/exhibition -- follows the origins of the church from its beginning in 1865, the burning down of the old St John's in 1905, the construction of the current church in 1907-8 and various additions over time. The new Parish Centre is about enriching the current generation, as well as leaving a legacy for the next.



Local Councillor Brian Ellis said, "A new Parish Centre will enable St John's to expand its good work in the community and will be a valuable asset for people of all faiths and of none. I wish the fundraising every success."

This project can only succeed with your support. Please get in touch with the Parish Office (parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk) to find out how you can become a donor.



People: Welcome to Anna Chambers, our new Parish Administrator

Meet Anna Chambers, our new parish administrator. She has been a member of St John's Church for over twenty years and looks forward to supporting the church in her new role. If you need to contact the office, then she will be the person you are speaking to. The office can take all requests for hall bookings, baptisms, weddings, funerals or any other matters to do with the church and she looks forward to speaking with you.

Anna's working hours are Monday-Thursday 9.30 am-2.30 pm, though occasionally subject to change. You can contact her or leave a message by phone or email: 01582 712776 parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk



Repair Fair

Saturday 15 October

2.00 – 5.00 pm

SUSTAINABLE
St Albans



Don't chuck it, repair it! St Albans District Fixers are coming to St John's Parish Hall to help repair household fabrics and electrical items you might otherwise throw away.

This is part of a wider initiative to reduce waste, save people money and in the longer term prevent our planet from being destroyed by over exploitation of our shared resources.

The St Albans District Fixers are part of [Sustainable St Albans](#). They hold Repair Fairs around the district inspired by [The Restart Project](#). Fixing rather than buying replacements has already saved thousands of tons from going to landfill or incineration helping in a not insignificant way to reduce our CO2 emissions.

So on Saturday 15th October bring along your faulty electrical items and worn, torn fabrics. The team of skilled amateur fixers will do their best to put them right or offer advice. You may even learn to repair things yourself!

The fixers run a booking system for the event and you can book a time for your repair on the [fixers page](#) of the Sustainable St Albans website or via the [fixers Facebook page](#). Bookings will open on the 15th September. There are always a few open slots but booking assures the team can help you.

Contact Fixers@sustainablestalbans.org
www.sustainablestalbans.org/st-albans-district-fixers



Author's Book Reading Night

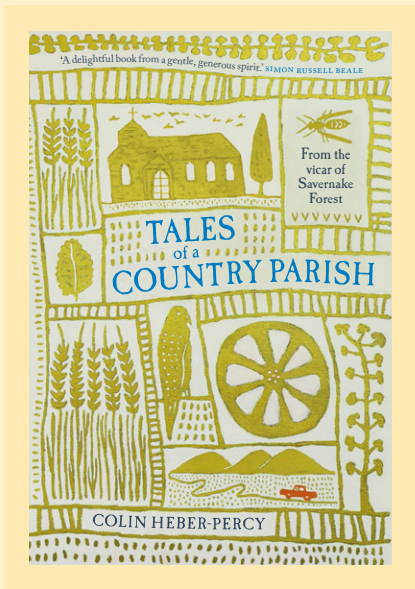
Tales of a Country Parish

by Colin Heber-Percy

7.30pm Thursday September 29
at St John's Church Hall



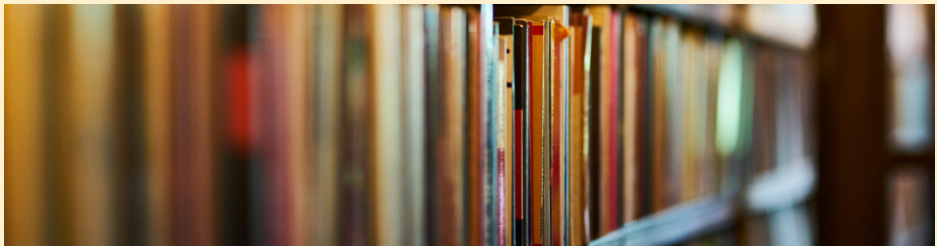
Enjoy a glass of wine and the chance to hear Colin reading from his thought provoking and invigorating book.



As he follows the changing seasons, the Wiltshire vicar moves from the seemingly small and mundane to ponder big life questions – can you find heaven in a Londis shop, why is the Bible not like the Highway Code, what on earth are we all doing here – while gently offering up wisdom and sustenance for all, regardless of faith and creed.

There will be a chance to buy the book and have it signed.

'Erudite and beautifully written, this collection of reflections and meditations is a surprise and a delight. The kind of shot in the arm the Church of England badly needs - and is so rarely to be found.' – SALLEY VICKERS



Mothers' Union news



I have never grown runner beans before. Having downsized from a large garden to a courtyard filled with pots I smiled when my daughter presented me with a small pot containing two tiny shoots. Before long I had two trips to the garden centre to buy longer canes as these intrepid plants clung, twisted and climbed!

When I sat in the sunshine enjoying a coffee they delighted me! Clinging through the strongest wind, they twisted on up during the heaviest downpour and eventually they provided me with a dish of delicious beans to eat with some butter and a sprinkling of pepper.

The last two and a half years have been difficult for us all and we needed to hang on and remain positive. Did we manage to grow spiritually and reach for the light? Did we work towards something which enriched our lives and benefited others? Did we help others to smile because of actions we took?

Mothers' Union does all that. We are a Christian Organisation of over 4 million members in 84 countries. Members demonstrate their Christian faith by working at grass roots level to transform communities. The 28 members of St John's Branch work with the Diocese to offer support to women in local refuges. A few further examples:

- Helping families under stress through Away from it All holidays
- Sending Christmas cards to those in prison
- Supporting local hospitals with baby items, wash bags and activity packs
- Raising funds for the MU Jubilee Summer of Hope Appeal

As we struggle with rising prices, the continued threat of Covid, the warnings of climate change and threatened industrial action it is easy to become disheartened. Mothers' Union members put their trust in God and "continue climbing up towards the light."

We meet on the first Thursday of each month in St John's Lady Chapel at 2.30pm; often outings and tea are part of the meeting. We welcome new members.

Carol Cooke, Branch Leader. Contact: Parish Office.



Susan Hammersley

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Glaze Time



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Weekly Harpenden sessions at:

The Cabin, Southdown	Monday 1030-1230pm & 4-530pm
Inn on the Green	Wednesday 1030-1pm
The Cabin, Southdown	Thursday 4-530pm
The Cabin, Southdown	Saturday 2-5pm (monthly)

Please call or check Facebook for the latest session dates / times

We are also available for birthday parties, private bookings, clay impressions, commissions & takeaway kits.

For more info please contact Michelle on:
07958 324520 michelle@glazetime.co.uk
www.glazetime.co.uk #glazetimeharpenden



People: Celebrating David Nye

Early in December we celebrate the ministry of David Nye. He has been a Reader (a licensed lay minister, with permission to preach and lead funerals) for 40 years!

He will be known to many local people, not just regular church goers, for all the many ways he has served Southdown and Harpenden.

St John's Church will be celebrating with a special Parish Eucharist at 9.30 am on Sunday 4th December. All are welcome to attend, or if you'd like to send a note of thanks for David's ministry over four decades, please get in touch via the Parish Office.



St John's cookbook launch!

A mouthwatering collection of tried-and-true favourites, St John's cookbook is on sale from September. For all who love browsing through delicious recipes and for those new to cooking, as well – every taste has been covered. In good time for Harvest and a wonderful Christmas gift, too.

For details: parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk



A warm

St John's Harpenden, a friendly Anglican church with a warm welcome – and sometimes silly hats!



welcome

This photo was taken at Pentecost, also known as Whitsunday, on 5th June 2022.

St Luke's Cell prayer group

Would you like us to pray for you?

- St Luke's Cell is a group that prays for anyone in the parish who has asked for our prayers for themselves or for their loved ones. The group is named after the disciple and physician Luke, who is the patron saint of doctors.
- We pray individually for a small number of people and also meet monthly where we pray for all the people on the list. We include members from St John's and Southdown Methodist churches.
- If you would like us to pray for you or someone else then please contact Michael Hughes 01582 765576

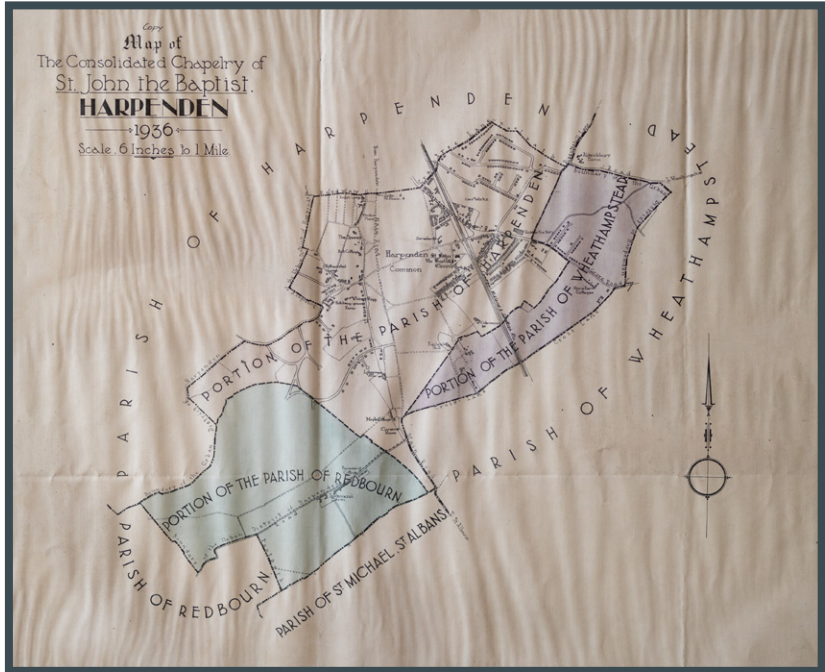


*Lord you are with us even when everything seems dark.
We ask your blessing upon all who are in pain or in fear.
We pray for those who are ill at home or in hospital
and all who have been injured this week.
We remember those who feel life has little meaning
and those who have lost their way
or who are anxious about their future.
Be a reassuring presence with them.*

(David Adam, from *Prayers for Healing*, Kevin Mayhew Publishing, 2013, 53)

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the Parish of St John's Harpenden came into being on 10th November 1936? This year we will be 86 years old!



Art, literature, history and more...

“Making Sense of Modern Art”, led by local artist Liz Sergeant, is one of a rich new selection of eight courses running in St John's parish starting in September. Harpenden Learning for Leisure courses are usually held at the Harpenden Trust Hall or at The Plough pub.

For information see <http://www.harpendenlearningforleisure.org.uk>

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St John's Eco Church



Coming soon

- As part of our commitment to cutting wastage of precious resources, we are holding a **Repair Fair** on Saturday October 15th. Run by St Albans District Fixers, a group of experienced volunteers will repair items people bring in, for free. (For details see page 11.)
- St John's is hoping to become **carbon neutral** by 2030. In preparation for this, we are carrying out an audit of all the energy that we use in the day-to-day life of the church. This includes heating and lighting, but also travel, food and drink, rubbish disposal, and all consumables, like paper, cleaning products, etc. We have just completed a "travel to church" survey for the whole congregation. This is the first step towards reducing our greenhouse gas emissions.

Recent news

- We regularly hold a **Traidcraft** stall, selling Fairtrade goods (tea, coffee, chocolate, cards, etc) at St John's. Fairtrade means worker's rights, safer working conditions and fair prices for the farmers and growers, and high quality, ethically produced goods for shoppers.
- Many of us took part in **The Big Plastic Count** in May, counting the pieces of single-use plastic we used in a week. I try hard to restrict single-use plastic, yet I still used over 70 items in one week. This information was collected nationally, as a step towards understanding and stopping the plastic crisis. See <https://thebigplasticcount.com/> for more details. We will be doing this again next year, if you want to join us.

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- We held a **Litter Pick** as part of the St Albans Sustainability Festival in May, helping to keep the local area litter free. We hold litter picks regularly, do contact us if you would like to know when the next one is.

Eco Church – we are a small but active group with a vision to care for all of God's creation. We use the A Rocha award scheme, working towards our Silver Award. This covers five areas of church life: Worship and teaching; church buildings; church land; community and global engagement; lifestyle.

Contact Margaret Charlston, eco.church@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk



We are delighted to announce the opening of Fusion Pre School Southdown from September 2022 at St John's Church Hall.

We are Ofsted Registered and currently open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9.10 am to 12.10 pm with the option of a lunch club until 1.10 pm from age 2 years upwards.

Please contact Rebecca Wilkins for more information on 07908 121891 or email us PreSchoolSouthdown@fusionchildcareservices.co.uk



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St John's Hall Hire

Are you looking for a hall or meeting room to hire on either a regular or occasional basis?

St John's Parish Hall will once again be available to hire during weekdays and is ideal for a playgroup or other group needing a large space. Our meeting room is perfect for smaller numbers.

Please contact: parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk or phone (01582) 712776 for further details or to arrange a viewing.

Little Acorns news



Little Acorns is a group for preschool children and their carers. Here are some things we did in the recent term.

- Decorating biscuits is one of our favourite activities
- We have been busy planting in the outside area. Our strawberry plants are doing well.
- We celebrated the Platinum Jubilee in great style with corgi races.

Next term will include:

- Planting bulbs
- Celebrating Harvest
- Christmas activities including following the stars into church to find the stable

Our dates for next term are
13 September - 18 October
1 November - 13 December

We meet in St. John's Hall every Tuesday from 10.00 - 11.30 am. You are assured of a warm welcome, a cup of delicious coffee and home-made cakes. The children get a healthy snack around 11.00 followed by a story and singing. No booking necessary. A voluntary donation is all that is asked. For more information, please contact the Parish Office 01582 712776.



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2022



Zimbabwe rarely hits the headlines, though there was a recent report that inflation had reached 191%!! (Now that really is a "cost of living crisis"!) Fortunately, Christian Aid Week this year, 15th to 21st May, focussed on Zimbabwe and the desperate plight of women farmers trying to feed their families during a prolonged drought. For the first time in a generation, global poverty is rising. Coronavirus, conflict and the climate crisis are pushing more of our global neighbours into a struggle for survival. As the climate crisis rages on, vulnerable communities in Zimbabwe face the threat of more intense droughts, floods and storms.

But there is hope. With the support of Christian Aid, farmers can learn how to grow drought-resistant crops and turn their barren land into a garden of plenty.

So, many thanks to all church members who delivered envelopes and to everyone who donated so generously to this year's Christian Aid Appeal. Harpenden raised the grand total of £5,911 in cash including Gift Aid and many more will have given directly online. St John's own website raised another £362.50.

Otherwise, Christian's Aid's Ukraine Appeal (which includes about £21m from the national DEC Appeal) is supporting five key partner organisations in Ukraine, Hungary and Romania, providing food, emergency aid and shelter, as well as supplying trauma first aid emergency kits and medical supplies to the Ukrainian Ministry of Health.

Looking ahead, there will be a Harvest Horn of Africa appeal to help the millions of people facing drought and starvation, exacerbated by dwindling wheat supplies, as Russia prevents Ukraine from exporting its crops. ●

Pat Hudis, Chair of Harpenden Christian Aid Committee. Contact via Parish Office.





Rainbows & Brownies thriving



The 19th Harpenden Brownies and Rainbows have managed to survive and thrive despite the efforts of Covid, and are now back meeting in St John's Hall on Thursday evenings. We all became reluctant experts on Zoom but face to face is so much better!

Our Brownie unit has been part of St John's for over forty years now and our Rainbows for nearly ten, long enough for some of our old girls to now have daughters in the units!

The programme has changed over the years, but we still focus on the most important thing – having fun and making new friends. As both of our units are full, it looks like we are doing something right. Spaces sometimes come up and we recommend that parents register as early as possible as places are offered in the order in which girls go on the list.



Register your interest here:

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/>

Linda Traynor (Snowy)

Liz Harbord (Dolphin)



YOU'RE INVITED



A Church for All Ages

Junior Church – meets on the second Sunday of the month during the service. It is for primary school ages, reception and up. A chance for children to learn and explore about God through games, activities and teaching.

Mini Church – meets on the second Sunday of the month during the service. It is for preschool children under 5 years old. A chance for young children to explore, play and hear the story the Junior Church will be discussing.

Junior Music – open to all ages up to 18. They meet a few times a month to rehearse a piece that we perform within the All-Age Sunday services. All musical offerings are welcome from singing to instruments, any and all abilities!

T@3 – aimed at those of wiser years, held on the last Friday of each month at 3.00pm in the church hall. It provides enjoyable companionship over a cup of tea, homemade cakes and sandwiches. Everyone is welcome to come and meet up with old friends or indeed make new ones. Do let us know if you might require a lift.

Faith and Light – a non-denominational worship and fellowship group for adults with learning difficulties, their families and carers. It meets on the first Sunday of most months at 4.00pm in the church hall. Most meetings include some craft, occasionally drama and a time of worship followed by tea.

For more information or to register your interest contact lauryn.awbrey@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk or call Lauryn on 01582 624823

Parish registers

Baptisms

Welcome to the family of God

8th May 2022

Maxwell Taylor

8th May 2022

Oliver and Harry Noblet

15th May 2022

Finlay Chambers

22nd May 2022

Isabel Pitman

12th June 2022

Orla O'Neill

24th July 2022

Rosalie Gaughan

7th August 2022

Grace Kierney

28th August 2022

Asher Ferguson-Gould

11th September 2022

Reece Hodkinson

Confirmations

Confirming promises made at baptism

19th June 2022

by Bishop Stephen Venner

Gemma Smith, Paul Ellison and
Anna Chambers

Marriages

Joined by God

22nd July 2022

Danielle Fletcher and Darren Flay

3rd September 2022

Sarah Norwood and Russell Green

Funerals in Church

May they rest in peace

30th May 2022

Simon Creedy

21st June 2022

Muriel Stone and Geoffrey Stone

24th May 2022

Geraldine Mockler

11th August 2022

Elizabeth Annie Noble





Regular Services at St John's

Sundays

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

Wednesday

- 10.30 am Holy Eucharist is celebrated in the Lady Chapel

Monday to Thursday

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

Church is open every day from 10am to 5pm.

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

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>



PARISH OFFICE

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

Anna Chambers

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

READERS

Lauryn Awbrey

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DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Roger Carter

music@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

TREASURER

Jon Pitman

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stJOHN'S
Living God's Love

www.stjohnsharpenden.org.uk
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Parish Office 01582 712776



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