



St John's Methodist Church
Baker Street
Potters Bar
Herts EN6 2DZ
Registered Charity No 1130633

St John's News

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OCTOBER 2026

From our Minister – Revd David Jebb

The Harvest is Plentiful!

The Beatitudes

Matthew 5:1-10

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

**⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for
righteousness,**
for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

**¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted
because of righteousness,**
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Dear Friends in Christ, as we look ahead to the month of October, I want to share with you something that fills me with great hope and anticipation. Throughout September and October, we at St John's are reflecting and learning on a themed preaching series on the Sermon on the Mount, beginning with the Beatitudes those extraordinary words in Matthew 5:1–12 that stand at the very heart of Jesus' teaching.



The Beatitudes are not simply beautiful sayings or poetic blessings. They are nothing less than Jesus' manifesto for the Church—a vision of what life looks like when God's grace shapes our hearts, our words, and our actions. They reveal the character of Christ Himself, and they call us to reflect that same character in the way we live, speak, serve, and love. My prayer is that this autumn will be a season of deepening discipleship, where we allow the Holy Spirit to shape us more fully into the likeness of Christ. The Sermon on the Mount is not merely something to study; it is something to live.

The Meaning of Harvest

As we enter this season, we also approach Harvest, one of the most beloved celebrations in the Christian year. Harvest reminds us that everything we have—our food, our resources, our opportunities, our very breath is a gift from God. It is a time to give thanks, but also a time to recognise our calling to be generous, compassionate, and attentive to the needs of others. Harvest is not only about the fruit of the fields; it is about the fruit of our lives. It invites us to ask: *What is God growing in us? What Christ-like qualities are taking root? What Kingdom fruit is visible in our words, our actions, and our relationships?*



This year, while we normally support the Whitechapel Mission, we have prayerfully decided to direct our Harvest giving to our **local Food Bank in Potters Bar**, where the need is particularly great at this time. Many local families are facing real hardship, and our support will help provide essential food, dignity, and hope to those in our own community. In this way, Harvest aligns beautifully with the Beatitudes, describing the kind of "harvest" God longs to see in His people: mercy, purity of heart, peace, humility, righteousness, and courageous love. As we bring our gifts for Harvest, may we also bring our lives open, willing, and ready for God to cultivate Christ's image within us.

Copy deadline for next issue is Friday 23 October 2026

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A Church Growing in Mission and Outreach

As we prepare for this journey, we also rejoice in the signs of God's Spirit already at work among us. We delight that **Rebecca Lin** is settling into her ministry with grace and enthusiasm, and that she is already engaging in mission and outreach with a heart that reflects Christ's compassion. Her presence among us is a gift, and her early work is helping us grow into a church where the Beatitudes are not only preached but practiced. Rebecca's ministry will support us as we seek to become a community where Christ's image is visible—in our welcome, in our service, in our conversations, and in our care for our neighbours.



Walking the Way of Christ Together

The Beatitudes remind us that the way forward is not through self-reliance or striving for status, but through surrender, humility, mercy, and love. They call us to trust God more deeply and to embody Christ more faithfully.

This is the way of Christ. This is the way of the Kingdom. This is the way we are called to walk together as St John's Methodist Church.

I look forward to sharing this journey with you listening, learning, and growing together as Christ forms His life within us.

With every blessing in Christ,

David Jebb

Revd Dr David Jebb, Minister of St John's Methodist Church

You can also see David's monthly blog on our website at www.stjohnspb.org.uk/ministers-blog

Services

Date	Time	Service	Preacher
Sunday 4 October	10.30am	Harvest Festival and Parade Service	Revd David Jebb
Sunday 11 October	10.30am	Morning Worship	Gerry Cohen
Sunday 11 October	7pm	Café Worship	Jason Hollier and Dr Nick Day
Sunday 18 October	10.30am	Morning Worship (and Creative Church for families)	Stuart Johnson
Sunday 25 October	10.30am	Holy Communion	Revd Daniel Yovan
Sunday 1 November	10.30am	Morning Worship	Revd David Jebb
Sunday 1 November	3pm	Memorial Service	Revd David Jebb

All ages are welcome to our 10.30am services. Under 3s are welcome in church and in the adjoining crèche area at the back of the church. Other children are invited to Junior Johns in the Garden Room. More information from a Steward or Jackie Hart 07825 211657.

Our Preachers

Revd David Jebb is our Minister at St John's Methodist Church and Superintendent Minister of the St Albans & Welwyn Circuit, overseeing the work of nine churches and one Mission Project and one Methodist Centre. He has ministered in several circuits across England and brings a strong missional focus, valuing contemporary and formal worship styles and flexible approaches that help people encounter Christ and grow as disciples.

Gerry Cohen was brought up in a North London Jewish family. He co-leads Beit Sar Shalom, the Messianic congregation of Chosen People Ministries in London, and serves as Vice-President of the British Messianic Jewish Alliance. He works as a secondary school teacher of Philosophy, Religion and Ethics, and is actively involved in professional RE organisations.

Stuart Johnson has spoken at St John's many times before and he has served as a local preacher for 40 years. He is also the Senior Circuit Steward which means he oversees all the churches in the St Albans and Welwyn Circuit.

Jason Hollier is a worship leader at The King's Church, Chesham and leads a music band. He is actively involved in the local community through community singing, and his passion for evangelism enables him to connect with others and share the love of Christ through music and worship.

Dr Nick Day is a lecturer at Buckinghamshire University and is actively involved in supporting the band's music ministry. He enjoys working alongside Jason and others, using music to engage with and bring people together in the community for Christ.

Revd Daniel Yovan is a St Albans Methodist Minister and has pastoral care of both Hatfield Road Methodist Church and Marlborough Road Methodist Church in St Albans. Daniel has visited and preached at St John's before, but some time ago, so we look forward to welcoming Daniel again after a long absence!

Saturday Morning Prayers



Saturday Morning Prayers continue throughout October, led by our committed team of leaders. You are warmly invited to join us if you can on Zoom at 9am every Saturday. It is just **45 minutes** of quiet reflection, listening for the voice of God through Scripture, and praying for one another's needs and concerns.

For the Zoom link, please contact Circuit Administrator **Autumn Leung** by email. She will send out the link each Thursday, ready for Saturday morning.

If you need the link, please email:
admin@midhertsmethodists.org.uk

We look forward to having you with us whenever you are able to join.



Memorial and Thanksgiving Service

ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE SUNDAY 1st NOVEMBER @ 3PM

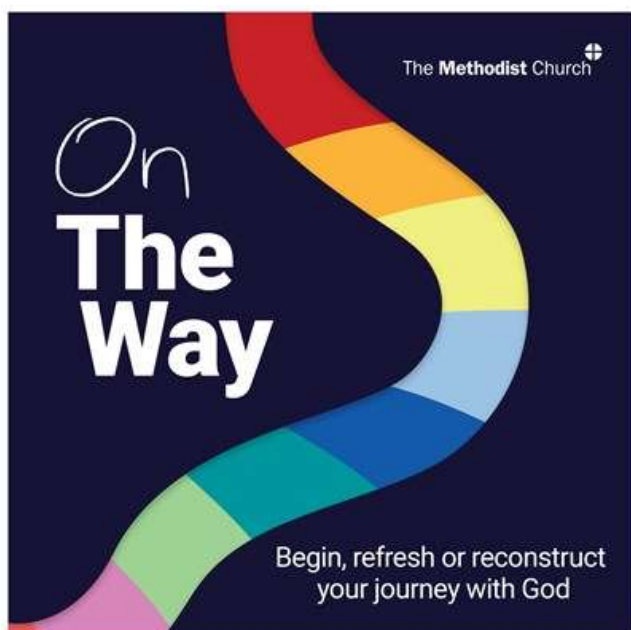


IF YOU WISH US TO READ THE NAME OF A LOVED ONE DURING THIS SERVICE, PLEASE SPEAK TO HELEN STRAND OR GUY FENNER, OR SEND US AN EMAIL.

We have been running a well-attended memorial and thanksgiving service for a number of years at St John's. Our service gives those attending the chance to light a candle for a loved one but, if you are unable to attend, we do also read a list of names of people we want to remember.

If you would like the name of a loved one to be read during this year's service then please either speak to Helen Strand or Guy Fenner, or send an email to guyfenner333@gmail.com – names to be given before 25th October please.

On The Way – A Journey of Faith



On the Way is a welcoming 12-session course for anyone who would like to explore the Christian faith, grow deeper in their relationship with God, or reflect on life's bigger questions in a relaxed and friendly setting. Rooted in *A Methodist Way of Life*, the course includes discussion, prayer, Bible reflection and practical encouragement for everyday life.

There are two opportunities to join:

The last Thursday of each month from 10:00am–12:00pm

The last Saturday of each month from 4:00pm–6:30pm

Sessions will begin on **Thursday 24th September** and **Saturday 26th September**. The course will take place in the **Clifton Room at St John's Methodist Church**.

Whether you are new to faith, returning to church, or simply curious to explore, you are warmly invited. Come as you are and join us *On the Way*.



Care Homes Services

Cuffley Manor Care Home Service –Tuesday 6 October at 3pm

Our next Cuffley Manor Care Home Afternoon Service will be on Tuesday 6 October at 3pm. The service will be led by Paul Guppy and Myra Sloper and a group of friends from St John's. We are looking forward to worshipping and praying with the lovely residents and staff. Please come and join us to support this outreach if you are able. **Thank you**



St John's Family News

Let's Celebrate! ...



Dawn and Guy are pleased to announce that they successfully moved house at the beginning of August and are now settling into their new home, still in Potters Bar and just around the corner from the Church! They still have a few boxes to unpack (and lots in storage in the loft!), but they look forward to welcoming friends to drop in for a coffee!

Correction! ...



Apologies to the Bowler family. The recent arrival of baby Jacob was to Josie and Joe, not Sophie as reported last month.

Congratulations to Josie and Joe, we pray that lovely Jacob continues to bring joy to them and their families.

Prayers Please ...



♥ We were sorry to hear about the death of Barbara Thompson's sister Marian. Please pray for Barbara and Marian's family as they come to terms with her loss.

♥ Ouch! We wish Jeremy Phillips a speedy recovery as he heals from a broken collarbone and ribs following a fall from a ladder.

♥ You may also like to remember the following friends recorded in the Book of Remembrance who died in October in years gone by - Derek Goodwin, Pat Ware, Robin Hutton, John Sloper, and two of our previous ministers - Revd John Palmer and Revd Bob White

If you have items to include in future editions of Family News eg significant birthdays, anniversaries, achievements, or people you would like us to pray for, please contact.

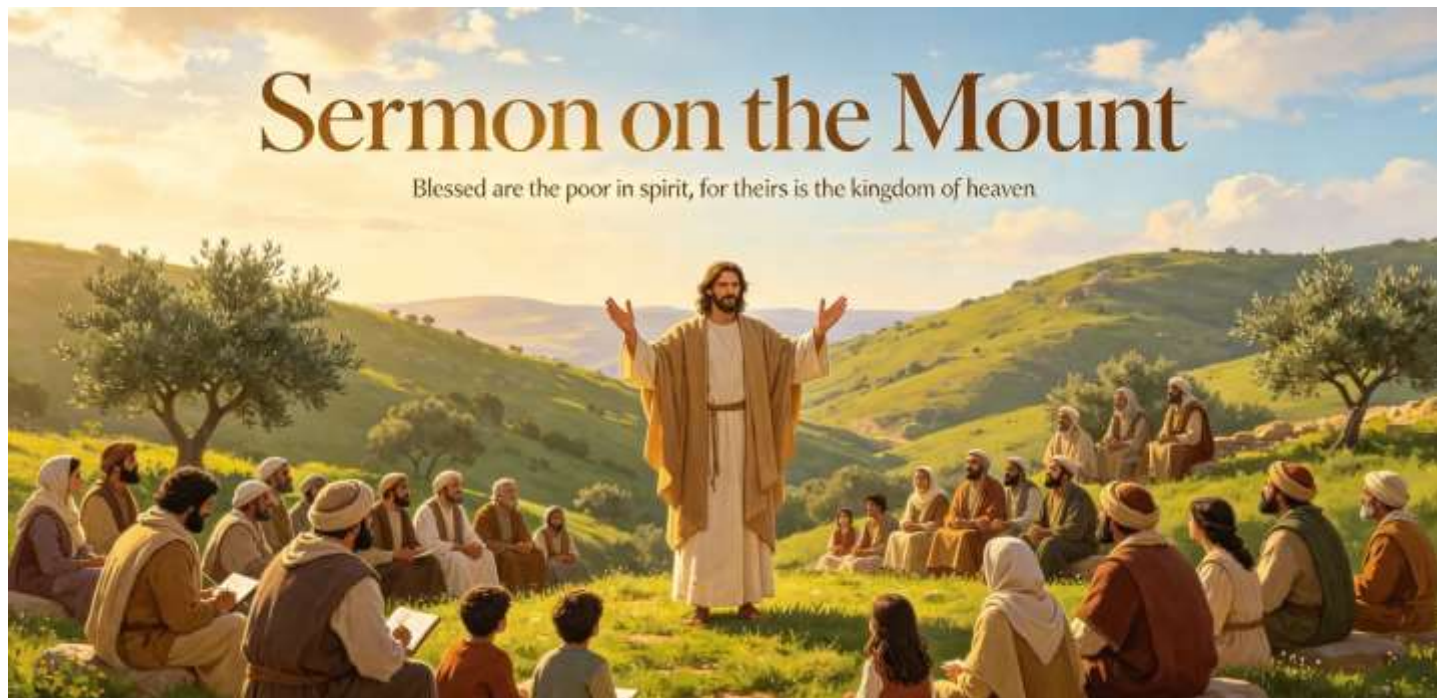
Helen Strand - Pastoral Co-ordinator at hstrand@aol.com, or ring/text on 07821 786 170.

Remember that I have commanded you to be determined and confident! Do not be afraid or discouraged, for I, the Lord your God, am with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

Themed Preaching

THE WAY OF THE KINGDOM – OCTOBER SERIES SUMMARY

EXPLORING THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT (MATTHEW 5–7) - October 2026 – Weeks 5 to 7



As we continue our autumn journey through the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus leads us deeper into the heart of Kingdom living. These October themes invite us to consider how love, prayer, trust, obedience, and spiritual resilience shape our daily walk with Christ. Each Sunday explores a different aspect of Kingdom life, helping us grow in Christlike character and strengthen our witness in the world.

House groups and study groups are encouraged to follow the same passages, using the weekly questions to reflect, share, and pray together.

11 October — Week 5 – Gerry Cohen - Radical Love: Loving Enemies - Matthew 5:38–48

Theme & Focus Kingdom love goes beyond fairness and reciprocity; it mirrors God's generous love.

Core Message Jesus calls His followers to respond to hostility with grace, generosity, and prayer. Loving enemies is not weakness but the deepest expression of God's character.

Key Insights

- Turning the other cheek — resisting retaliation without violence
- Going the extra mile — surprising generosity
- Loving enemies — the heart of Kingdom ethics
- Children of your Father — love reveals our identity

Pastoral Applications

- Reflect on difficult relationships
- Pray for those who hurt us
- Become agents of peace in conflict

Group Discussion Questions

1. What does "loving your enemies" mean in real, everyday situations?
2. Why is retaliation so tempting, and how does Jesus offer a different way?
3. Who is the hardest person for you to pray for — and what happens when you try?

Prayer Focus Christlike love



18 October — Week 6 – Stuart Johnson - Hidden Holiness & Trust: The Lord's Prayer - Matthew 6:1–18

Theme & Focus Kingdom life is rooted in secret devotion, sincere prayer, and trust in God's provision.

Core Message Jesus invites us into a hidden life with God — giving, praying, and fasting not for show but for love. The Lord's Prayer shapes our desires, priorities, and trust.

Key Insights

- Practising righteousness in secret — authenticity over performance
- *Our Father* — intimacy and community
- *Your Kingdom come* — aligning our desires
- *Daily bread* — trust
- *Forgive us* — grace
- *Deliver us* — spiritual dependence
- Fasting — humility and focus

Pastoral Applications

- Encourage private prayer habits
- Pray the Lord's Prayer slowly each day
- Challenge performance-based spirituality

Group Discussion Questions

1. What part of your spiritual life is most "hidden" — and how does God meet you there?
2. Which line of the Lord's Prayer speaks most powerfully to you right now?
3. What does praying "Your Kingdom come" mean for your daily choices?

Prayer Focus Renewed trust and intimacy with God

*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily
bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin
against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.*

25 October Week 7 – Rev Daniel Yovan - Choosing the Narrow Way & Building on the Rock - Matthew 7:1–29

Theme & Focus Jesus concludes the Sermon with a call to decision: choose the narrow way and build life on His words.

Core Message Kingdom life requires discernment, perseverance, and obedience. Hearing Jesus' words is not enough — we must build our lives upon them.

Key Insights

- Judging vs discernment — humility in relationships
- Ask, seek, knock — persistence in prayer
- Narrow gate — costly discipleship
- True and false prophets — fruit reveals authenticity
- Wise and foolish builders — obedience as foundation

Pastoral Applications

- Recommit to Christ's way
- Challenge cultural "wide gate" thinking
- Encourage perseverance in prayer and discipleship

Group Discussion Questions

1. What does choosing the "narrow way" look like in your life at present?
2. How do we balance humility with discernment when Jesus warns against judgement?
3. Where have you experienced God answering your "ask, seek, knock" prayers?

Prayer Focus Perseverance and obedience



Shenley News – 3 Generate 2026



We are delighted that **30 young people** from the **St Albans & Welwyn Methodist Circuit** will be attending **3Generate 2026**, the Methodist Church's annual youth gathering, held from **2nd–4th October** at the **NEC Birmingham**.

3Generate is a vibrant weekend of worship, creativity, conversation, and fun, helping young people explore faith and discover what it means to follow Jesus "on the way." Our Circuit is blessed with a wonderful group of young people taking part this year, representing churches across St Albans, Welwyn, Hatfield, Potters Bar, Radlett, and Shenley.

A very special **thank you to Heather Moir (Shenley)** for coordinating all arrangements. Her dedication and organisation have made it possible for so many of our young people from the circuit churches to attend.

We pray this will be an inspiring and memorable weekend for them all.

Shenley Church - Messy Church Update

It was wonderful to meet again on **Sunday 13th September** at Shenley Messy Church after the August summer break. Today's message reminded us that **we are one body with many parts**, each with a different role to play. A heartfelt thank-you to **Heather and her team** for organising everything so well and to everyone who took part in the activities, shared creative ideas, and enjoyed the lovely food and fellowship. We look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Thank you to Heather Moir and to the Messy Church Community!

Heather shared that, after much thought, she has decided that it is time for her to step down from leading Messy Church. She has been part of Messy Church for ten years and has had the privilege of leading it for the last eight. These years have brought countless precious memories, crafts, food, worship, celebrations, outdoor events, and above all, the joy of being together as a community. She expressed deep gratitude to every volunteer who has stood alongside her, giving their time, energy, ideas and friendship.

Although emotional, Heather encouraged the wonderful team to continue this valued ministry, believing strongly in what has been built together. She hopes Messy Church will remain a place where everyone feels welcomed, accepted, valued, and able to explore faith at their own pace. She ended by thanking everyone for allowing her to be part of their lives and for making Messy Church such a special part of hers.



We in turn want to thank Heather so much for the enormous amounts of hard work, dedication and time that she has put in to make Messy Church such a valued, successful and joyful experience for everyone involved – she has been amazing!

Looking Ahead: Our next Messy Church will be on **Sunday 1st November at 4pm**, led by a dedicated team of volunteers together with **Rebecca Lin**. If you can help the team, please do speak to Rebecca as soon as you can. We look forward to another joyful gathering of creativity, worship, and community.

Alpha Course Reunion – Invitation



We are delighted to invite everyone who followed the **Alpha Course in 2023, 2024, and 2026** to join us for a special **Alpha Reunion Lunch** on **Sunday 29th November at 1pm**, immediately after the morning service.

We will gather in the **Garden Room** at St John's Methodist Church, Potters Bar, to share stories, food, fellowship, and to reconnect with friends who journeyed together through Alpha. This is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on how God has been at work in our lives and to enjoy time together as a community.

Please RSVP on or before **10th November 2026** so we can prepare the lunch accordingly. Email: minister@stjohnspb.org.uk

Everyone is warmly welcome — we look forward to seeing you there and celebrating all that God has done through Alpha.

4th Potters Bar Scout Group

4th POTTERS BAR SCOUT GROUP

CANCELLATION OF OCTOBER JUMBLE SALE!

Regrettably, due to circumstances beyond our control, the Scout Jumble Sale which was due to take place on Saturday 3rd October had to be cancelled.

However, donations of good quality bric-a-brac, books, toiletries, Christmas and gift items for the Scout Christmas Market on 7th November would still be very welcome in due course!



(Liz Bekooy - PB 659597)

4th POTTERS BAR SCOUT GROUP

CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday 7 November
10.30am to 1pm

A variety of stalls, games, tombola, raffle and other attractions.

Plus delicious refreshments including a choice of hot snacks.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:



AN EARLY VISIT FROM
FATHER CHRISTMAS
IS EXPECTED

Church Lighting Project

Some of you will recall that we had a wonderful Christmas play performed at St Johns with friends from churches together which drew a large audience. This prompted a discussion about lighting and how we might make our worship space more flexible to be used for community outreach projects such as concerts, plays and other special events - especially as we now have Rebecca working with us as our Mission Outreach Enabler.

Sound and light systems can have a substantial impact on the quality of the experiences we are able to offer people. And whilst we have made improvements to the Sound system over this last year, we felt that installing some light facilities was equally important. In addition, a number of you had given feedback about the communion table area being quite dark and so a central part of this project was to lift the light levels there and at the lectern as well.



Church Council approved the general idea and we were blessed by a legacy gift in memory of John Sloper as well as gifts from others and a successful grant bid to the district.

So in the last few days, two lighting bars have been discreetly installed, additional spotlights for the communion area have been added and the main presentation screens have been remounted to angle them in towards the congregation and avoid reflections.

You'll see in the attached pictures how much more light there is at the Lectern and communion table. Rev David

was delighted that we could see him in all his glory now!!

Thanks to all who played their part in enabling this project to move forward. Rev Alan and Don Hart

Café Church – Sunday 11 October 7pm



Grab a coffee and a cake and come and join us at St John's Methodist Church for an evening of music, worship and moving testimony in a relaxed and prayerful atmosphere. It will be a wonderful opportunity to be encouraged, uplifted, and blessed as Jason and Nick share their gifts, faith and passion for music with us.

Celebrating 60 Years of Local Preaching – Richard Seddon



On 27th September, I had the great joy of leading, and take part in, the celebration of **60 years of Local Preaching ministry by Richard Seddon**, held at **Oxlease Methodist Church** as a Circuit Service. The occasion was wonderfully supported by the **Hatfield Road Music Group**, our Circuit staff, and many friends from across the churches and beyond the Circuit.

We were delighted to welcome **well over 100 people** who gathered to honour Richard's remarkable ministry. Oxlease offered outstanding hospitality: a beautifully prepared African banquet, shared with love and generosity, was enjoyed by all after the service. The church was thoughtfully decorated to welcome guests, and at the end of the service the congregation distributed their harvest produce to others — a touching sign of gratitude and community care.

The atmosphere throughout was warm, joyful, and deeply appreciative. During his interview, Richard reminded us that we must never give up "*gossiping the Gospel*" — a phrase that captured his lifelong passion for sharing Christ. He spoke with humility and clarity about Christ as our cornerstone and salvation, walking with us every step of the way.

What a remarkable man Richard is: vibrant, approachable, kind, and still full of grace at **94 years old**, with **60 years of preaching ministry** behind him. We give thanks to God for his faithful service and pray that the Lord will continue to bless him abundantly in the days ahead.

Revd David Jebb

St John's Baker Street Refurb



Some of you may have noticed that a lot of work has been carried out to the Upper Room and Rainbow Room over the summer break to update and enhance the Playgroup setting at Baker Street. Nikki, Jayne and David R were able to maximize non-profit money, including grant money, by purchasing several furniture items at half-price from another charity playgroup that was closing, meaning they were also able to get some additional outside items. The closing playgroup also very kindly donated some items to us for free, which were greatly appreciated and means their setting can live on through ours! True charity partnership working!



Churches Together in Potters Bar (CTPB)



Prayer Breakfasts

Churches Together in Potters Bar invite you to join them at 8.30am on the first Saturday of each month as they pray for the Churches and Community of Potters Bar. Meetings last for approximately 45 minutes followed by breakfast.

The next two Prayer Breakfast will take place on:

- Saturday 3 October at St Mary the Virgin and All Saints, The Walk, EN6 1QQ
- Saturday 7 November at Our Lady and St Vincent, 243 Mutton Lane, EN6 2AT

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Day	Time	Activity	Contact
Mondays	10am – 11.45am	Jumping Johns Toddlers	Margaret Bland 07887 532128
	10am – 12pm	Can We Fix It Group	Roger Croughton 01707 650438
	10.30am – 11.30am	Vestry Hour	Revd Dr David Jebb 01707 440863
	8pm – 10pm	Badminton	Margaret Bland 07887 532128
Tuesdays	11am – 3pm	Welcome Space	Barbara Thompson 01707 665621
Wednesdays	2.30pm – 4.30pm	Strafford Gate House Group (Usually 3 rd Wednesday in the month)	David Carter 07709 284852
	6.30pm - 8pm	Cubs	www.4thpottersbar.scoutsonline.co.uk
	7.45pm – 9pm	Bible Study in Clifton Room (Fortnightly)	Lesley Humphreys 07961 347152
Thursdays	7pm – 8.30pm	Scouts	www.4thpottersbar.scoutsonline.co.uk
Fridays	10.30am – 12pm	Morning Coffee in Clifton Room (1 st and 3 rd Fridays in the month)	
	10.30am	Byng Drive House Group (Fortnightly)	Dawn Fenner 07969 924346
	6.15pm – 7.15pm	Beavers	www.4thpottersbar.scoutsonline.co.uk
Saturdays	9am – 9.45am	Let's Pray Together (by Zoom)	Revd Dr David Jebb 01707 440863

*Your word is a lamp to guide me and
a light for my path.*

Psalms 119 verse 105

Copies of next month's SJ News will be available in Church and online on Sunday 1 November.