



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

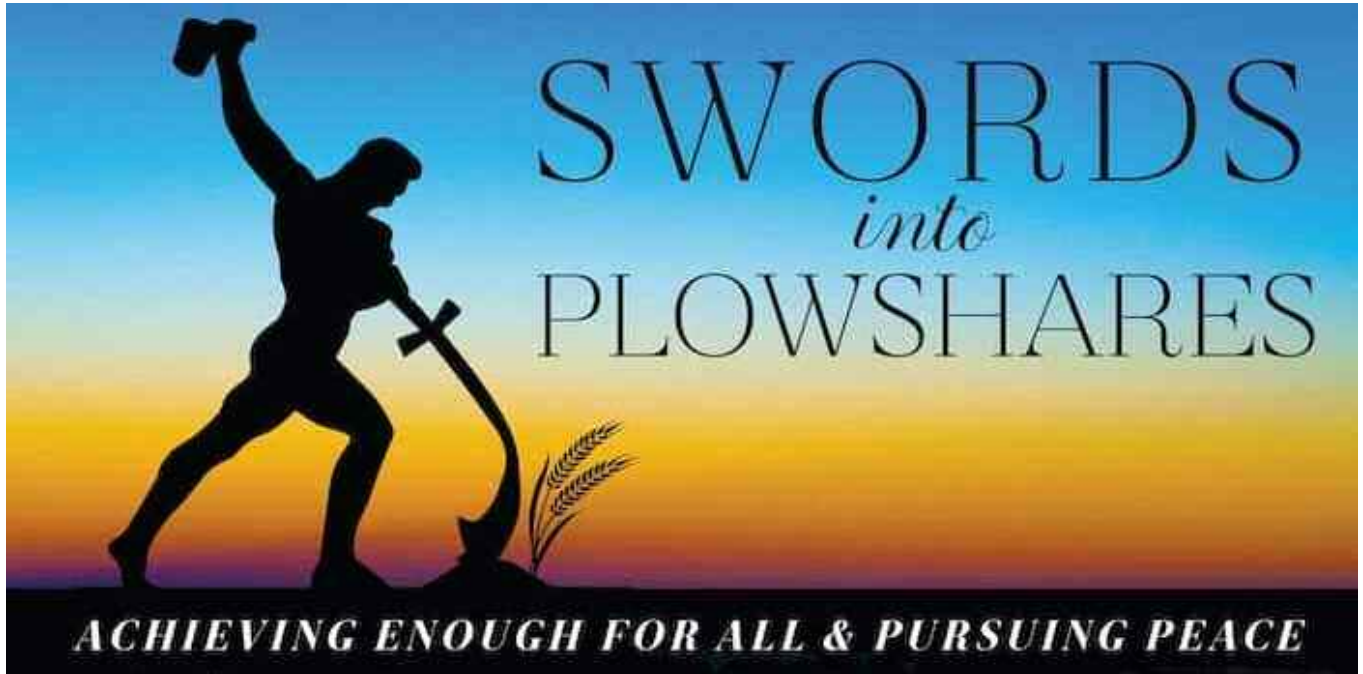
St John's News

Website: stjohnspb.org.uk Email: sjnews@stjohnspb.org.uk

Minister: Revd David Jebb: 01707 440863 / 07786 907634 djebb2003@gmail.com

Senior Steward: David Carter: 07709 284852 seniorsteward@stjohnspb.org.uk

November 2025



From our Minister



Dear Friends

As we approach Remembrance Day on 11th November & Remembrance Sunday this month, we are called to pause, remember, and reflect. We honour those who have served, those who have sacrificed, and

those who continue to work for peace in our world.

In a time when conflicts persist, ceasefires are fragile, and negotiations are ongoing, it is important to turn to the wisdom of Scripture for guidance. The Bible reminds us of our calling to pursue peace and justice: *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God"* (Matthew 5:9). It also reminds us of the cost of conflict and the responsibility we bear: *"If you want peace, work for justice"* (Isaiah 32:17).

In 2025, the world faces a record number of conflicts with 59 active conflicts across more than 35 countries – the highest since World War II. Thirteen countries, including Somalia, South Sudan, North Nigeria, Sudan, Syria, and Ukraine, are experiencing severe crises. These conflicts are driven by wars, regional violence, and ongoing civil and ethnic disputes, resulting in significant loss of life and major humanitarian challenges.

As we remember the sacrifices of those who served in war, we are also reminded of the hope for lasting peace.

The biblical vision in Isaiah 2:4 inspires us: *"They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."*

This image, often used in UN peace symbols, shows a sword being reshaped into a plough, a tool for nurturing life rather than taking it. It reminds us that the ultimate goal of remembrance is not only to honour the past but to work toward a world where conflict gives way to reconciliation, and where human energy is devoted to growth, sustenance, and peace.

At St John's we remember the bravery of those who have served and pray for lasting peace and reconciliation. On Remembrance Sunday, we hold in prayer the families affected by war, those working for diplomacy, and communities striving for harmony, asking God to transform instruments of conflict into tools of hope and goodness.

May this season of remembrance inspire us to be peacemakers in our lives, homes, and communities. May God's wisdom guide us toward a world where understanding, compassion, and love triumph over conflict, fear, and division. As the hymn from Singing the Faith no. 707 reminds us: *"Make me a channel of your peace... where there is hatred, let me bring your love."*

With heartfelt remembrance, **Revd David Jebb**

SUNDAY SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S

more details on website - www.stjohnspb.org.uk

DATE	TIME	SERVICE	PREACHER
Sunday 2 November	10.30am	Morning Worship	Peter Wallace
Sunday 2 November	3pm	Memorial and Thanksgiving Service	Revd David Jebb
Sunday 9 November	10.30am	Remembrance Service with Scout Parade	Deacon Nigel Perrott
Sunday 9 November	7pm	Informal Café Worship with refreshments	Stuart Johnson
Sunday 16 November	10.30am	Creative Church	Revd David Jebb
Sunday 23 November	10.30am	Christ the King Sunday	Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler
Sunday 30 November	10.30am	Advent Sunday - Holy Communion	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. Other children are invited to Junior Johns in the Garden Room. More information from a Steward or Jackie Hart 07825 211657

Peter Wallace has been a Local Preacher for almost 40 years and settled in St Albans (Hatfield Road) with his wife Ruth in 1998 and where their two daughters were born. Peter is a Chartered Electrical Engineer who began his career in industrial research before moving into railway projects and consulting.

Deacon Nigel Perrott serves at two churches in St Albans, and with his wife Jane, also looks after Cornerstone House in Hatfield - a community house that serves Salisbury Village. He is passionate about Jesus, chocolate and coffee! and has recently published a book about his life.

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

Revd David Jebb is our Minister at St John's and also Superintendent for 10 churches in the St Albans & Welwyn Circuit. David likes leading our monthly Holy Communion service where all children and adults are invited if they would like, to eat bread and drink some non-alcoholic wine as a reminder of the last meal Jesus ate with his disciples.

Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler this will be Jonathan's first time visiting St John's so we look forward to hearing him speak about 'The Cost of Discipleship - Take Up Your Cross' which is part 2 of our 3 week preaching series in November (more details opposite on page 3)

Memorial and Thanksgiving Service - Sunday 2 November, 3pm

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 out during this year's service then please speak to either:

Helen Strand or Guy Fenner or email guyfenner333@gmail.com Names to be given before 31 October please

Cuffley Care Home Service - Wednesday 19 November, 3pm

Once a month we lead a short service of worship followed by an opportunity to chat to the residents over tea and coffee afterwards. We do need 3 or 4 people to help with the singing this month and to also take a small part in the service. Please speak to Revd David Jebb (01707 440863) if you can help with this.



November Preaching Themes - Discipleship

Following Jesus in the 21st Century: The Call, Cost and Commitment

As we journey through November and draw near to the season of Advent, our three-week preaching series invites us to pause and reflect on what it truly means to be a disciple of Christ in today's complex, fast changing, and often distracted world. Together we will explore **The Call, the Cost, and the Commitment of following Jesus** - discovering how His timeless invitation continues to shape our lives and our church community. Discipleship in the 21st Century is not about perfection but direction - walking each day in the footsteps of Jesus with faith, humility, and courage. May this series renew our hearts and inspire us to live as transformed people, ready to transform the world with the love of Christ. I warmly invite you to journey with us; to listen for Christ's call afresh, to consider the cost of following Him, and to renew your commitment to walk in His way. My prayer is that we will rediscover the beauty and challenge of discipleship and as a church family grow in faith, love, and service. May the grace of Christ strengthen us, the light of His Spirit guide us, and the hope of Advent fill our hearts with joy and peace. **Revd David Jebb**



Sunday 16th Nov - The Call to Discipleship: Come, Follow Me *Leader: Revd David Jebb, Preacher: Revd Alan Combes*
Key Readings: Matthew 4:18–22; Luke 5:1–11; Isaiah 6:1–8

When Jesus called His first disciples by the Sea of Galilee, His words were simple yet life-changing: *'Come, follow me.'* That same call still echoes to each of us today. Discipleship begins with obedience - a readiness to leave behind our 'nets' of comfort and distraction in order to trust Him fully. In our homes, workplaces, relationships, and even our digital lives, we are invited to live out this calling daily. Following Jesus is not a Sunday activity but a lifelong journey that shapes every aspect of who we are. Let us ask ourselves: Where is Jesus calling me today? What might I need to let go of to follow Him more faithfully?

Sunday 23rd Nov - The Cost of Discipleship: Take Up Your Cross *Leader and Preacher: Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler*
Key Readings: Luke 9:23–26; Mark 10:17–31; Philippians 3:7–14

To follow Christ is to embrace a path of faithfulness and commitment, not comfort. In a world of moral compromise, social pressure, and endless distractions, Jesus calls us to take up our cross daily - to live courageously and authentically for Him. True discipleship may ask us to sacrifice time, priorities, or personal ambitions, yet through that surrender, we discover lasting joy and deeper purpose in Christ. His way may not be easy, but it is always meaningful.

Sunday 30th Nov - The Commitment of Discipleship: Go and Make Disciples *Preacher: Revd David Jebb*
Key Readings: Luke 9:23–26; Mark 10:17–31; Philippians 3:7–14 *Assisting: Sandra Lopez*

Our final week coincides with the beginning of Advent, a season of expectation and hope. It reminds us that discipleship is not only about following Jesus but also about going where He sends us. Jesus commissions His followers: *'Go and make disciples of all nations.'* We are called to share Christ's love and help others grow in faith. The Church of today must be a community of hope, relational, inclusive, and mission-focused using every gift and opportunity to proclaim the Good News with authenticity and grace.

St John's seeks to nurture, pray and support those who are seeking God and starting their faith journey, and to equip members of St John's to reach out to all those that seek fellowship in our church family.

Coffee with the Pastor

On Saturday 18th October we hosted our second 'Coffee with the Pastor' session bringing together seven newcomers, four children, and four long-standing members of our church for an intergenerational time of fellowship and sharing. It was a reminder of the joy found in a Christ-centred community, where all ages can meet, connect and grow.

Each newcomer introduced themselves and gave an outline of their life and their Christian journey. They were also invited to give views on their St John's experience! The newcomers spoke about their hopes for a church. They expressed a desire for Bible based teaching and preaching that is Christ-centred, relevant and life-transforming especially for young people seeking to know Jesus. Their longing was clear: to grow in the knowledge of Christ and

make Him known to others. They also emphasised the importance of a church that is welcoming, honest, open, and non-judgmental - a place where every person can belong and flourish.

One new member shared a moving testimony of her journey to faith in China and how God guided her and her husband to Singapore where they worshipped at a Wesley Methodist Church with a growing congregation. As they seek to put down roots here they are eager to continue growing in faith and serving alongside others in our community. It was so encouraging to witness such genuine sharing and connection across generations. Jesus said: 'For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.' Matthew 18:20.



We hope the newcomers felt welcomed, valued, and embraced - not as strangers, but as cherished members of our family in Christ. We look forward to walking and growing with them in faith, fellowship, and love for the Lord.

We are very excited to be planning another Alpha Course in Spring 2026 as many of the newcomers expressed a desire to come. It will be a perfect opportunity for them to explore faith more deeply, ask questions, and continue growing in Christ alongside our church community.

Our next Coffee with the Pastor will be in February 2026 (date to be confirmed).

Helen Strand and David Jebb

Harvest celebrations for both the church and the playgroup families

Our two Harvest celebrations in October both featured a green tractor - one was rather large (see opposite) and it travelled up the church aisle 4 times, with the help of some willing Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, who pushed it and sowed some seed with it's red seed scatterer. This helped remind us of the farmer who sowed his seed and waited for the seed to grow but... some seed fell on the path, some fell into rocky places, some fell amongst thorns and some fell on good soil! The seed is God's message which falls in different places so we must be patient waiting for it to take root in our hearts. (Matthew 13:3-9)

Our second smaller tractor was driven by Helen for the playgroup families and also sowed some seed, and with the help of the sun and rain, or rather some watering cans, this helped the corn to grow. The children then sung their harvest songs thanking God for the harvest.

Our harvest donations from the church went to the Whitechapel Mission - a Methodist charity that serves breakfast and offers help to the homeless, and our Playgroup donations went to the Potters Bar Food Bank. Thank you for supporting these charities. *Margaret Rhodes*





Saturday Morning Prayer Time - Leaders

1st November **Jenet Jebb** (Worship Leader)

8th November **Sue Trotter** (Worship Leader)

15th November **Diana Holt** (Worship Leader)

22nd November **Revd Rosemary Mutopo** (Circuit Presbyter)

29th November **Revd Roxanne Steyn** (Minister from South African Methodist Church)

We look forward to welcoming you on Saturdays from 9:00 AM to 9:45 AM.
For the Zoom link, please email: minister@stjohnspb.org.uk or

Ring 01707 440863.

FAMILY NEWS

Helen Strand - Telephone: 07821 786170 Email: hstrand@aol.com

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of **John Sloper** on Sunday 19 October. Please play for **Myra along with Phillip and Jenny** and their families as they come to terms with the loss of John. We thank John for his faithful witness and contribution to life at St John's, especially for his skill with the technical presentations at our services as well as being chair of the Playgroup Board for a good number of years. The Thanksgiving Service for John will take place on Friday 14 November, 12 noon at St John's.

Pat Griffith would like to thank all her church friends and family for the love, care and prayers shown to Pat and her mother Doris over these past weeks before Doris sadly died. Please also continue to pray for Pat's brother **Gary** who is making progress following major heart surgery and hopes to be able to attend Doris' funeral on 29 October.

Several members of our church family are unwell at this time so we remember them in our prayers and from **The Book of Remembrance** we think of members who died in the month of November in years gone by: **Reg Merrill, Marjorie Borrows, Ann Carter, Pat Goodwin and Joan Manners.**

Congratulations this month to...

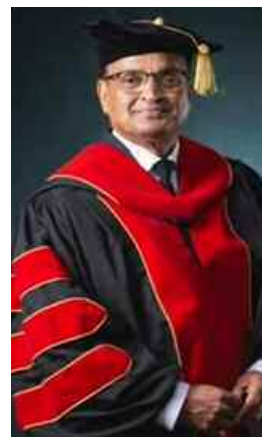
Liz and Nico Bekooy who celebrated the arrival of their first granddaughter, **Evelyn Elizabeth**, who was born to **Amy and Matt** on 5 October, exactly 6 years after they were married at St John's (no excuse for forgetting future wedding anniversaries !)

Eric Long who celebrates his 90th birthday on 1 November.

Helen Jeckells who has successfully completed her Contemporary Chaplaincy course.

Revd David Jebb we are delighted to share that Revd David Jebb was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Divinity (D.D.) by Kennedy University, Florida recently. This prestigious recognition celebrates his outstanding contributions to Applied Missional Theology and over forty years of dedicated service to the Church and wider community across Sri Lanka, the USA, and the UK. We give thanks to God for His unwavering guidance and grace which has sustained him throughout his ministry. May this recognition inspire us all as a church community to continue striving for faithful service, reconciliation and hope in the world.

If you have any items to include in future editions of St John's News please contact **Helen Strand (Pastoral Coordinator)** whose details are at the top of article



Creative Church

Psalm 23 theme

Do you remember your first day at school or nursery?
My first school was Trent School in Cockfosters, and this is where I had...

Good times - as made friends

Bad times - scoring an own goal in a football match !

Scary times - in an assembly the minister from the church told my class 'This morning I am going to see if you can write out from memory the words of Psalm 23.'

Psalms is a book of poems found in the bible, and sadly I did not do very well as I could not remember all of it.

What would have helped me remember Psalm 23 would have been colours...

The Lord is my Shepherd

Green He lets me rest in fields of green grass green fields

Blue He leads me by pools of fresh water a lake

Grey He guides me in the right paths a path

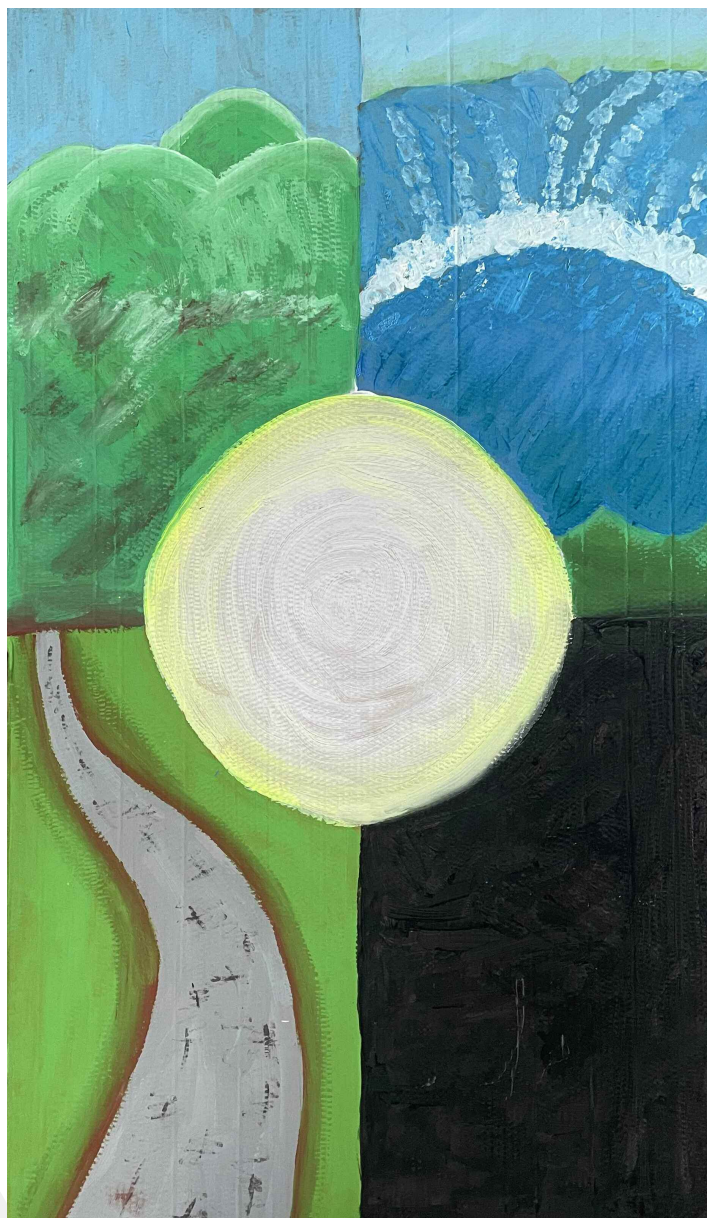
Black Even in darkness I will not be afraid darkness

White For God is with me bright light

Jesus called himself the good shepherd because we follow his teaching. Our crafts remind us of this...
colourful cakes, colourful hands, colourful beads,
colourful painting and colouring sheet and wordsearch

So let's remember to 'trust in God's loving care.'

David Rhodes



The Lord is my Shepherd - Psalm 23 - Trust in God's loving care
Green He lets me rest in fields of green grass green field
Blue He leads me by pools of fresh water waterfall/lake
Grey He guides me in the right paths grey path
Black Even in darkness I will not be afraid darkness
White For God is with me light



(top clockwise)
colourful painting
serving drinks
colourful cakes
colourful hand
colourful beads



Our Music Group Frequent visitors to St John's will be aware of the music group which comes together most Sundays to enrich our worship. The group comprises of both instrumentalists and singers who are grouped around the organ and piano. The group rehearse before the morning service starts and practises any new songs as well as the old favourites, and also prepares us for worship. Recently the Church Council suggested that on the first Sunday of each month members of the congregation are invited if they are able, to arrive at church from 10am onwards, so before the service starts, to enjoy the music and if they wish participate in the singing. We want to start this in December so please come and enjoy. **David Carter**

3Generate 2025 - Methodist Children & Youth Assembly

On Saturday 4 October 2025, a 32-seater coach carrying 30 people – half of whom were not previously connected to the church – from St Albans and Welwyn Circuit departed Shenley for the 3Generate Methodist Church Children and Youth Assembly at the National Exhibition Centre (NEC), Birmingham. While 3Generate is traditionally a three-day event from Friday to Sunday, some first-time attendees opted for the one-day programme, while a smaller group from our circuit participated over the full weekend.

Two members from St John's along with David Jebb joined the team. 3Generate is the annual children's and youth assembly of the Methodist Church designed for young people aged 4-18 to explore their faith, develop their voices, connect with peers and be inspired to make a positive impact in their communities. The event features a wide range of activities, workshops, and worship sessions for both attendees and adult volunteers.

Saturday's programme included:

**Creation Station Discovery Centre Boundary Globe Great Outdoors Health and Wellbeing
The Orb Stage, Sound Studio, Tech Hub, Portal Theatre Royal, The Well, and Town Hall**

Each station offered multiple activities suitable for all ages. With over 2,000 young people attending and 500 volunteers supporting the event, it was a joyful and exciting experience for all. Participants explored the Bible, faith, and discipleship, while enjoying worship, food, play and numerous opportunities for learning and fun.

The enthusiasm among participants was palpable, with many expressing a desire to return for 3Generate 2026 (2-4 October). If you are interested in attending next year, please speak to us.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Heather Moir from Shenley for organising this year's trip so excellently, to the Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire District for sponsoring our tickets, and to the St Albans and Welwyn Circuit for arranging and sponsoring the transport.

If you know a young person aged 4-18 who would like to attend, please let us know as we would love to arrange participation from our Circuit Churches next year. *(continued overleaf)*

Revd David Jebb - djebb2003@gmail.com AND Heather Moir - heathermoir@aol.com



3Generate 2025 – continued from page 7

Quotes from those who went...

From an early morning departure to a midnight return, our day was packed full of fun, faith and friends.

Arriving at Birmingham NEC we met up with the rest of our group where 35 of us joined together with over 1800 young people to enjoy an incredible day of the most diverse activities, worship, discussion groups, food and new friends.

Inside, the NEC was setup as a village with a Town Hall, village green, inflatable Methodist Church etc. Each area housed the vast array of activities on offer; climbing walls, caves, inflatable surf boarding, street art, crocheting, music studios, DJ workshops, anime, Lego robotics, dance, drama... the list goes on!

Along with physical activities the discussion groups and workshops were varied too; fake news, poverty challenges, hair discrimination, gospel according to Netflix, praying in different languages, global cuisine and so much more.

Big worship took place at the Orb Stage. The group Saintz led worship and performed their new recording 'Journey' written especially for 3Generate 2025 reminding us of a very powerful message that on our life journey, God is with us 'through it all.'

Heather Moir



Saturday 8th November
10:30 - 13:00

4th POTTERS BAR SCOUTS Christmas Market

Handmade Gifts, LIVE Music!

Christmas Cakes, Crafts, Seasonal Stalls, Candles & Wax Melts, Tombola, Raffle, Chutneys & Treats, Gifts, Soft Toys, Games, Bric-a-Brac, Books and more!

Father Christmas and his sleigh
Snowglobe stage
Axe Throwing
Reptiles & creepy crawlies
Baby Ballpit Room
Face paint
Glitter Tattoos

St John's Methodist Church, Baker Street, Potters Bar, EN62DZ

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN POTTERS BAR

www.ctpb.org.uk



Morning Prayers - Saturday 1 November

Churches Together in Potters Bar invite you to join them at 8.30am on the first Saturday of each month as we pray for the Churches and Community of Potters Bar. Meetings last about 45 minutes followed by breakfast. Saturday 1 November takes place at The United Reformed Church, Darkes Lane, EN6 1BZ

REGULAR ACTIVITIES AT ST JOHN'S

[more details on website - www.stjohnspb.org.uk](http://www.stjohnspb.org.uk)

Mondays	10am - 11.45am	Jumping Johns - Main Hall	<i>Margaret Bland 07887 532128</i>
	10am - 12.00pm	Can We Fix It Group	<i>Roger Croughton 01707 650438</i>
	10.30am - 11.30am	Vestry Hour	<i>Rev David Jebb 01707 652978</i>
	2.30pm - 4pm	Women's Guild - Clifton Room, 1st Monday in month	<i>Jo Hutton 01707 658436</i>
	8pm - 10pm	Badminton - Main Hall	<i>Margaret Bland 07887 532128</i>
Tuesdays	11am - 3pm	Welcome Space	<i>Barbara Thompson 01707 665621</i>
Wednesdays	6.30pm - 8pm	Cubs - Main Hall	<i>www.4thpottersbar.scoutsonline.co.uk</i>
	2.30pm - 4.30pm	Strafford Gate House Group - 3rd Wednesday	<i>David Carter 07709 284852pm</i>
	7.45pm - 9pm	Bible Study in Clifton Room - fortnightly	<i>Lesley Humphreys 07961 347152</i>
Thursdays	7pm - 8.30pm	Scouts - Main Hall	<i>www.4thpottersbar.scoutsonline.co.uk</i>
Fridays	10.30am - 12.00pm	Morning Coffee, Clifton Room - 1st and 3rd Fridays in month	
	10.30am	Byng Drive House Group - fortnightly	<i>Dawn Fenner 07969 924346</i>
	6.15pm - 7.15pm	Beavers - Rainbow Room	<i>www.4thpottersbar.scoutsonline.co.uk</i>
Saturdays	9am - 9.45am	Let's Pray Together (zoom)	<i>Revd David Jebb 01707 652978</i>

Copy deadline for next issue is Friday 21 November 2025

Articles in 'St John's News' contain personal opinions of contributors and may not reflect the opinions of the Editors, Minister or Members