



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

St John's News

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September 2025

From our Minister – Revd David Jebb

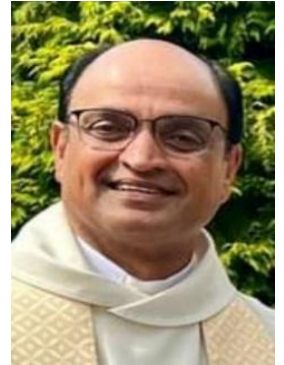
'Embracing A New Generation'

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the new Methodist Connexional Year 2025–2026.

It is with profound joy and reverence that I share a reflection sparked by remarkable news: According to the *Sunday Express* (July 27, 2025), church attendance among young people in the UK aged 16 to 24 has soared from 4% to an astounding 21%. This significant increase is more than encouraging—it is a trumpet call from heaven, echoing the promise of Job 37:5b: *"God's voice thunders in marvellous ways; he does great things beyond our understanding."*

We are witnessing a powerful spiritual awakening—a movement of the Holy Spirit stirring in the hearts of a generation once assumed to be distant or disinterested. In a world marked by uncertainty and fragmentation, young people are not turning away from faith. Instead, they are running toward it drawn by the hope, meaning, and deep sense of belonging found in the presence of God and within His Church. This is not a decline; it is a divine resurgence.



A Call to Readiness

Church, this moment calls for more than celebration, it requires transformation. It beckons us to examine our posture, our message, and our ministries with humility and intentionality. Are we ready not just to receive these young souls, but to truly **welcome** them? Let us reflect deeply on how we embody Christ's hospitality:

- **Belonging Before Believing** - Many are seeking safety, community, and authenticity before they ever hear a sermon. May our church be a place where they feel seen, accepted, and loved just as they are.
- **A Voice at the Table** - This generation is not passive they are insightful, passionate, and ready to engage. Let us not simply include them, let us invite them to shape the Church alongside us. Give them room to lead, dream, and build.
- **Relevant Discipleship** - The message of Jesus is timeless, but our methods must evolve. Mentorship, creative worship, mental health advocacy, missional service, and honest conversations must all play a role in how we disciple today's young hearts.
- **Intergenerational Unity** - Spiritual growth is not a solo journey. May elders walk with youth—not to govern, but to guide. May we pass on the torch with grace and confidence, trusting that the Spirit is at work in each age and stage.

This 17% rise in engagement is not a statistic, it is a divine invitation. Let us not miss this holy moment. May our church be a refuge, a training ground, and a family for every young person who walks through our doors.

Let us pray with expectant hope: ***Lord, help us to be a Church that welcomes, nurtures, and empowers the next generation. May we reflect Your heart in all we do. Amen.***

Yours as ever

David Jebb

Revd 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.

Copy deadline for next issue is Friday 19 September 2025

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

Services

Date	Time	Service	Preacher
Sunday 7 September	10.30am	Morning Worship	Dr Paul Dakin
Sunday 14 September	10.30am	Morning Worship	Stuart Johnson
	7pm	Café Worship	Claire Debnam
Sunday 21 September	10.30am	Creative Church	Dr George Woods
Sunday 28 September	10.30am	Holy Communion	Rev David Jebb
Sunday 5 October	10.30am	Harvest Festival	Rev David Jebb
<i>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.</i>			

About Our Preachers ...

Dr Paul Dakin is a retired medical doctor who dedicates a significant time to local preaching. He comes from the Cuffley area so is fairly local. He has always been close to the Methodist denomination. Paul has preached here before and his style and message is always thought provoking.

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.

Claire Debnam has been training to be a local preacher for two years and has visited St John's a few times before. She has been a practising Christian for over 40 years, but is a relative newcomer to Methodism as she joined the Methodist Church in 2022. She and her husband Rob became Methodists because they were impressed by how inclusive and affirming the Methodist Church had become. Claire originally trained as a language teacher, but in recent years she felt called to study Theology, and in 2023 she completed her Masters Degree..

Dr George Woods started as a local preacher in South Africa. He returned to the UK three years ago and attends Marlborough Methodist Church but has visited St John's in the past. He works for St John's Ambulance leading their commercial and charitable work in conjunction with the NHS.

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 and non-alcoholic wine as a reminder of the last meal Jesus ate with his disciples.

Themed Preaching

Empowered By The Holy Spirit – A September Journey Through Acts

This September, we will journey together through the book of Acts in a four-week preaching series called “**Empowered by the Spirit.**” Acts is not just a story of the early Church — it’s a living testimony of how the Holy Spirit breathes life, courage, and direction into God’s people.

Sunday 7th September – Led by Paul Dakin

Week 1: The Promise Fulfilled / The Breath of Creation

Scripture: Acts 1:1–11; Acts 2:1–4

We begin with **the promise fulfilled**. At Pentecost, the Spirit came as Jesus had promised — wind and fire igniting boldness, diversity, and renewal. This is the breath of creation filling the Church for its mission.

Sunday 14th September – Led by Stuart Johnson

Week 2: Spirit-Empowered Witness / The Comforter and Advocate

Scripture: Acts 2:42–47; Acts 4:23–31

We then move into **Spirit-empowered witness**. The same Peter who once denied Jesus now proclaims Him with courage, and the early believers share life in unity, compassion, and prayer. The Spirit builds communities of healing and hope.

Sunday 21st September – Led by George Woods

Week 3: Guided by the Spirit / Transformer of Character

Scripture: Acts 8:26–40; Acts 10:9–20

In the third week, we explore **being guided by the Spirit**. From Philip’s unexpected encounter on a desert road to Peter’s vision of radical inclusion, we see that divine detours lead to life-changing possibilities. The Spirit calls us to listen, trust, and respond.



Sunday 28th September – Led by Revd David Jebb

Week 4: Living in the Spirit’s Power / Empowered for Mission

Scripture: Acts 16:6–15; Acts 20:17–24

Finally, we focus on **living in the Spirit’s power**. Paul’s missionary journeys and Lydia’s open heart show us that the Spirit not only opens doors but empowers us for courage, sacrifice, and lasting legacy.

Summary

Throughout the series, our worship will be woven with prayers, songs, and imagery — the flame, the dove, the wind — all reminding us of the Spirit’s presence. Midweek gatherings will give space for conversation and storytelling, so together we can discern where God is leading us next.

As we set out on this journey, let us open ourselves to the Spirit’s renewing work. May we be bold in witness, deep in unity, and alive to God’s call. **Come, Holy Spirit — breathe on us again.**

Care Homes Services

We will be resuming our Care Home Services from September, and the dates are as follows:

Date	Time	Location
Wednesday 3 September	3pm	Cooperscroft Care Home
Wednesday 17 September	3pm	Cuffley Manor Care Home
<i>We lead services at both Cuffley Manor and Cooperscroft Care Homes. All are welcome to come and join the small team as we worship with and talk to the residents. The service lasts about half an hour with time to talk over tea and coffee afterwards.</i>		

If any members are free on these dates and would be willing to come along to sing or simply spend time with the residents, they would be very welcome, but please let Revd David Jebb know a few days beforehand, so that the care homes can be informed in good time.

Saturday Morning Prayers



September 2025 'Let's Pray together' Leaders ([via Zoom](#))

6 Sept at 9am – Calinah Reus	20 Sept – Jacqi Guy
13 Sept at 9am – George Woods	27 Sept – Michelle van Wyk

We would like to warmly invite you to a brief prayer time on Saturday mornings.

9 am to 9.45 am.

During this time, we will focus on prayer for our churches, the circuit, global needs, and other concerns.

<https://zoom.us/j/98382699249?pwd=OThXWEc5WnZ0TmpiajNhS3E3NGYvOT09>

Meeting ID: 983 8269 9249, Passcode: 178314

(NB There will be a different Zoom link for the session on 13th September, if you don't received an update please email the Circuit Office after Thursday 11 Sept for details – circuitastaandw@gmail.com)

Churches Together in Potters Bar (CTPB)



Licensing of Revd Emma-Jane Wilkinson – Saturday 6 September: There will be no Prayer Breakfast on Saturday 6 September. Instead, CTPB would like to invite you to join with them at the licensing of Revd Emma-Jane Wilkinson at 11am at King Charles the Martyr Church, 368 Mutton Lane, EN6 3AS.

Prayer Breakfasts Resume – Saturday 4 October: Come and pray for the churches and community of Potters Bar at 8.30 am on Saturday 4 October at St Mary and All Saints Church, The Walk, EN6 1QQ. Meetings last for approximately 45 minutes followed by breakfast.

Coffee With The Pastor



“If you are new to our church, we would be delighted for you to join us for coffee with the Pastor.”

- Our next Newcomers' Gathering Saturday 18th October 2025 at 4pm in the Clifton Room
- If you've joined us at church over the past year or two, we would be delighted to welcome you to a special gathering just for you! This is a relaxed and friendly opportunity to meet others, share your thoughts and ideas, and help shape future events and programmes together.
- We'll enjoy tea, coffee, sandwiches, cakes, and snacks while getting to know one another and feeling part of our church family.
- To help us with catering, please let Revd David Jebb know if you can join us by Friday 10th October. We look forward to seeing you there!

4th Potters Bar Scout News



4th POTTERS BAR SCOUT GROUP

SATURDAY 4th OCTOBER – JUMBLE SALE

WHERE? St John's Methodist Church (Entry from Heather Way)

WHEN? From 10am to noon

ENTRY FEE? £2 from 10am or 50p from 10.30 onwards

Any donations of items suitable for sale at the Jumble Sale will be gratefully received. (No furniture, tapes, CDs or DVDs thank you.) Please contact Liz Bekooy (01707 659597)

Friday Morning Coffee



An invitation to join us for coffee in the Clifton Room on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month, from 10.30am to 12pm starting from Friday 5th of September. You will be most welcome to come along for a cuppa and a chat!

IMPORTANT! - Please note that unfortunately the **MacMillan Coffee Morning** scheduled for Friday 26th September has been **postponed** and will take place later on in the year – watch this space!

St John's Nursery Playgroups News

The Playgroup Says Thank You And Farewell To Manager Celia Mills



At the end of the Playgroup summer term on a lovely sunny day in July a retirement and farewell party was held in the Clifton Room and Courtyard for Celia Mills, our Playgroup Manager. After working at the Playgroup for an amazing 30 years, over 20 of those years as Manager, Celia had decided to retire. We are so grateful to Celia for all the changes in early years education she has expertly managed and overseen and the endless amounts of paperwork she has had to do, whilst leading a fantastic and professional staff team to nurture, educate and support a large number of pre-school children 5 days a week.

Thank you so much Celia for your dedication and loyalty to the Playgroups and we wish you every happiness in your retirement - think of all the extra time you will now have to catch up with all your hobbies and interests!



The Playgroup is now looking forward to welcoming Nikki Haylock in September who is becoming the new Manager and we wish her well as she settles into her new role. Another occasion is also shortly being marked, as Celia's retirement coincides with the Playgroup's 60th Birthday year - see article below...

Margaret Rhodes

Happy 60th Birthday St John's Nursery Playgroups! – Come and Celebrate with Us!

It is time to celebrate 60 years of exceptional teaching and learning at our Playgroups! We have been a constant presence in Potters Bar since we opened in September 1965 for a small group of children at a time when there was nowhere to bring them.

We started as a small volunteer-run group admitting children from 3 to 5 years old, before the days of school nurseries. We have since expanded into 2 settings with one at St John's Methodist Church and another one based in the Wayside Jubilee Centre (formerly at Sunny Bank school, then at Oakmere School). We are now a fully professional setting with highly qualified staff dedicated to the care and education of children from 2 to 5 years old.

Since opening 1000's of families have passed through the Playgroups with happy memories of their time with us. We have been able to admit the next generations of those children, always maintaining a welcoming and caring ethos for all children, including those who need additional help.

Please join us on **Sunday 21 September from 3 pm** when you will be able to see slide shows, videos and a lovely display of photos including our registration books. Do spread the word to others you may know who have a link with the Playgroup too. If you have photos from the earlier days (1965-1995) of the playgroup and are willing to share them, please contact us 07969 924482 or email enquiries@stjohnsbakerstreet.co.uk

Celia Mills



St John's Methodist Church ● Wayside Jubilee Centre

INVITATION

Past, current and future children, parents,
staff and local community

Help us spread the word to celebrate

60 years

of care and education

on **Sunday 21 September from 3 pm**

at **St John's Methodist Church**

Lots of activities, crafts and games



Plus **Smartie Artie** at 3.45-4.45

Pictures, slide show and display

Refreshments, cake and treats.

Chance to meet up with colleagues past and
present and find out what we do today!

Shenley News

Let's Play Baby & Toddler Group - Our First Graduation Ceremony!



The craziest, noisiest, loveliest morning celebrating six of our little people who are heading off to 'big school' this September.

A packed Church of children, parents, grandparents & child minders enjoyed indoor and outdoor play, crafts, sensory activities and refreshments. Along with our usual tea & toast we were treated to delicious graduation cupcakes kindly made by Julie.

Then for the main event....

celebration music sounded, we waved our streamers and cheered for each graduate as they paraded down the aisle in their mini graduation caps & gowns. (We admit some bribery was used to encourage the wearing of them!)

Rev David greeted each graduate, presenting a certificate and small gift. Tissues were at the ready as we watched a short video depicting their time with us - how they have grown! We will miss Alfie, Becca, Henry, Iris, Loukas & Leon very much but send them off with so much love for the next stage of their exciting journey.

Everyone left with a huge smile and a mini mortarboard gift box filled with sweet treats. It's truly such a privilege to welcome this incredible group of local families into our Church every week.



3 Generate 2025



3Generate is an annual event organised by The Methodist Church for children and young people aged 4-18. The programme offers various activities, workshops, and worship sessions designed to help young people explore their faith. This year, the focus of the weekend is the 'Journey of a Lifetime' that children and young people take as part of their faith formation.

We are thrilled that 21 children along with 15 parents and leaders are attending 3Generate at NEC Birmingham over 3-5 October, representing our circuit. Please pray for this event and the young people who are attending.

Shenley Messy Church Summer BBQ



In the week leading up to our BBQ - a heatwave. The weekend of our event - a Biblical storm! After a little stress and a lot of prayer (pleading) the sun came out and dried up all the rain just in time!

Well End Scout centre was the venue for our outdoor Messy Church this year and 99 of us enjoyed this vast outside space. (If we're allowed to count Ziggy Jeckells then there were 100 at the event!)



A scavenger hunt in the woods, jewellery making, face painting, ball games, creating masks, tape art, wind chimes, bird feeders, wooden crosses..... the list of activities goes on!

Rev David led a reflection which included a display of hearts. On each heart was written a name representing each of us there that afternoon and highlighting our uniqueness and importance to God. It was so good that families from St John's and Hatfield Rd joined us. We really want to encourage more interaction within our circuit.

Then came the BBQ! A Huge thank you to the incredible team from Potters Bar (Dick, Nico & scouts) who worked so hard and provided an endless supply of hotdogs, burgers & drinks. A perfect end to a wonderful time together.

Everyone is welcome to join in with Messy Church at Shenley on the first Sunday of each month. See you on 7 September 4-6pm!



St John's Church Family News

With Sympathy



- **Graham Phillips** - We are very sad to announce that Graham Phillips died peacefully on Sunday 3rd August. Graham, who recently celebrated his 83rd birthday was a lifelong member of St John's. Over the years he had been actively involved in all aspects of Church life, including youth work, property maintenance and leading worship as an accredited local preacher. He will be sorely missed.

Please pray for Christine, Jeremy, Ben, Anne and Sarah and their families as they come to terms with the loss of Graham.

There will be a Service of Thanksgiving at St John's at 12noon on Monday 1st September and donations can be made to Rennie Grove Peace Hospice.

- **Belinda Havercroft** – Sadly we also remember and celebrate the life of Belinda Havercroft, who passed away in Greenhill Care Home on Monday 25th August. Thankfully she was comfortable and pain free and received excellent care from the Care Home team in her last few weeks (and before!). Belinda joined St John's Church in the 1960's after she was married and was fully engaged in church life, joining the Young Wives and Women's Guild group and taking on a variety of roles including house group leader, prayer chain coordinator and pastoral visiting.

Prayers please for Dawn, Guy, Phil, Neil, Nat, Beth and Lewis in the difficult coming weeks.

Funeral and thanksgiving service details will be made available shortly.

Please Also pray for -



- John and Myra Sloper as John continues to undergo medical tests and treatment
- Pat Griffith's mother, Doris, who is also receiving end of life care but in her own home – we are asked to pray that she has a comfortable and peaceful passing. Pat's brother, Gary, has been very unwell, but has thankfully been showing signs of improvement – Pat asks us to pray that this improvement will continue and restore him back to full health.
- Please pray for our members who are house bound or living in care homes and are no longer able to worship with us in person.
- The new academic year starts in September, and we think particularly of children starting school for the first time, especially the children who have been attending our

Nursery Playgroup. Also, others who are changing schools, going off to university, or starting new careers. We pray they will receive any encouragement or support they might need to settle into these new experiences.

- **In Remembrance** - The Book of Remembrance records the following past worshippers who died in September: **Sue Lence, Griff Griffith, Ron Thompson, Peggy Hart**. We remember them in our prayers.

And thanks go to Don Hart for keeping the Book of Remembrance up to date with his impressive calligraphy.

Other Family News:

- In July Margaret Jackson celebrated the arrival of another granddaughter, Lyra, a sister for Lucia.
- In September King Charles the Martyr Church welcomes their new vicar - Reverend Emma-Jane Wilkinson. We pray for Revd Emma-Jane as she starts her ministry in Potters Bar, and the congregation of King Charles the Martyr as they get to know their new vicar.
- Congratulations and best wishes to Sarah Stares as she starts her new job
- Valerie Vessey is proud to announce that the GB men's Canoe Polo team, coached by her son Alan, have just returned from the World Games in China with bronze medals. Congratulations!

Helen Strand, Pastoral Coordinator (hstrand@aol.com Tel: 07821 786170)

Circuit Events

Mr. Stuart Johnson

40

Anniversary Year

Preaching

Come & Celebrate with us!

Guest Preacher
Rev. Carl Howarth

CIRCUIT SERVICE SUNDAY
21 SEPTEMBER 2025
4:00PM

*MUSIC *REFRESHMENT
HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

WHAT WOULD JOHN WESLEY'S MESSAGE BE TODAY?

Friday 12th September 1:00-4:30pm

at Wesley's Chapel, near Old Street tube.

Listen to Methodist presbyter Rev Canon Dr Julian Pursehouse and experience a free guided walkabout to local places of significance to John Wesley.

To book a free place
www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/london-methodist-lunch-club-87588879133 or call 07928 016

Fun Zone – Bible Facts

Did you know these fun facts about the Bible?
(they must be true because I found them through Google)

- ☺ The Bible has a total of 66 books by 40 authors and was written on 3 continents.
- ☺ The King James version of the bible has 788,258 words
- ☺ The Bible full bible has been translated into 756 languages and the New testament into 1,726 languages
- ☺ In 1631 London Printers Martin Lucas and Robert Baker accidentally omitted the word 'not' in the 7th Commandment (I'll leave you to look it up!) – and were compelled to pay a hefty fine for the mistake.
- ☺ The verse that is in the exact centre of the Bible is Psalm 118:8 – "It is better to Trust in the Lord"
- ☺ Noah's Ark had more than two of each animal – there are in fact 7 pairs of every clean animal and 2 of every unclean animal.

(Information sourced from: www.thinkaboutsuchthings.com/fun-fact-about-the-bible/)

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 David Jebb 01707 652978
	2.30pm – 4pm	Women's Guild (1 st Monday in the month)	Jo Hutton 01707 658436
	8pm – 10pm	Badminton	Margaret Bland 07887 532128
Tuesdays	11am – 3pm	Welcome Space	Barbara Thompson 01707 665621
Wednesdays	6.30pm – 8pm	Cubs	www.4thpottersbar.scoutsonline.co.uk
	2.30pm – 4.30pm	Strafford Gate House Group (Usually 3 rd Wednesday in the month)	David Carter 07709 284852
	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 David Jebb 01707 652978

Let's Pray

This prayer was recently a Prayer for the Day on the Methodist Church Website:

Prayer is a cry in the dark, a child's longing for home, and a hollowed soul's seeking of fulfilment.

Prayer is a two fingered salute to the hopeless cynicism of endless false promises, and a bunting-waving celebration of love in action.

Prayer is a sacred space, found in the midst of the unholyest of battlegrounds, and in the desolation of loss.

Prayer is a memory of long-lost conversations with wise elders, and an exuberance of youthful anticipation.

Prayer is a shared longing, a whispered dream, and an open conversation.

Prayer is a revolutionary act, it is hope in , and a grace-filled weaving of love's intent.



May God bless us with the desire to pray, that we might better act, for the sake of all.

Amen

Michaela Youngson, Assistant Secretary of the Conference

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/faith/prayer-for-the-day>

Copies of next month's SJ News will be available in Church on Sunday 28 September 2025!