



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

St John's News

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Senior Steward: Myra Sloper 01707 875846 seniorsteward@stjohnspb.org.uk

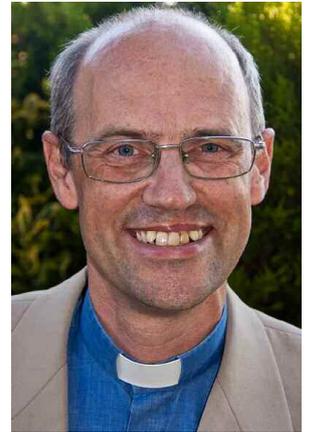
May 2022

DATE	TIME	SERVICE	PREACHER
Sunday 1st May	10.30	Morning Worship	Stephen Poxon
Sunday 8th May	10.30	Morning Worship	Rev Rosemary Fletcher
Sunday 8th May	19.00	Café Worship	Chris and Ros Hancock
Sunday 15th May	10.30	Creative and Celebration	Chris Hancock
Sunday 22nd May	10.30	Holy Communion	Rev Sue Stilwell
Sunday 29th May	10.30	Morning Worship	Stuart Johnson

Letter from our Minister

Paul's Testimony (1 Corinthians 15 verses 1-8)

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.



The above words written by Paul in the years that followed the events of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection testify to the witness on which Christianity was formed and founded. These words together with those recorded in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John remind us of the occasions when the Risen Christ appeared to his followers. What is notable about many of these appearances is how deeply personal they were. For Mary Magdalene and the grief stricken women outside the tomb gentle words are spoken; for Peter in need of forgiveness having thrice denied Jesus mercy is shown and restoration is complete; for travellers on the road to Emmaus despondent and downcast hope is born; for Thomas who could not believe assurance is given; for the Eleven fearful and afraid, peace is Jesus' opening word and gift; and for Paul who had persecuted the Church redemption by grace and new insight is given. And to all the promise of the Holy Spirit.

The Risen Christ continues to meet with us today. He meets us as His people gather to worship and break bread. He meets us in our encounters with the poor. He meets us in our daily life aware of our own needs and our innermost thoughts. And whatever our need in body, mind or spirit, the Risen Christ will speak to us that word, either gentle or strong, which we alone need to hear, a word by which peace, assurance, mercy, inner healing or the hope we seek is imparted. We recall this month as you will see in this newsletter those who were affected by the Potters Bar Rail Crash 20 years ago and forget not their pain.

In these weeks that follow Easter let us then rejoice and equally be consoled, for we serve a Risen Saviour who having gone before us, who having taken on our own flesh and bone, who knowing and understanding of our own human frailties and weakness, is both able to meet us in our need, and by God's grace to lift us up to see the greater horizons of His kingdom, a view that grants us a peace enduring and a hope everlasting. Peace and Blessing in the Name of Risen Christ.

Rev Andrew Prout

Copy deadline for next issue is Sunday 22nd May

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

Café Worship - monthly Sunday evening service at 7.00pm

For those who haven't experienced this informal meeting, I would like to explain what it is all about and encourage you to come and see for yourselves. Café Worship occurs on the second Sunday of each month and starts at 7pm, although people gather a little before then to enjoy cakes and coffee, which are also available during the meeting.

The meeting starts with a call to worship and then we have 2 or 3 worship songs. The idea is to discuss topics of general interest and relevance and we have an invited speaker who gives insight into the topic and then invites discussion. For example, we recently had Rev Atalie Gaines from King Charles the Martyr Church who talked on the subject of war, which was particularly pertinent in view of the conflict in Ukraine.

Last time, as it was coming up to Easter, Rosemary challenged us to ponder why the cross, initially a symbol of Roman brutality, was adopted by the Christian Church as a symbol of hope, salvation, compassion and love. We explored four stations (a sort of Easter labyrinth), which encouraged us to focus our thoughts on these issues and we were invited to make individual prayer lists that we then placed at the foot of the cross. We heard some Prayers of Intercession and concluded with more sung worship. We sit in small groups for the discussion and as it is a very informal atmosphere, everyone feels they can contribute to the discussion.

It is DIFFERENT but if you are keen to have a new experience and enjoy the openness and frankness of others, perhaps you should give it a try! The next Café Worship is on Sunday 8th May at 7.00pm and will be led by Chris & Ros Hancock. *Myra Sloper, Senior Steward*

Future dates for your diaries

Sunday 10th July Church BBQ lunch at Morven Guide Centre The Causeway, Potters Bar EN6 5HA. The venue provides both indoor shelter and large enclosed grounds. Transport is available if required so please do ask one of the stewards.

Sunday 17th July 6.30pm Circuit Farewell Service at Marlborough Road Methodist Church, St Albans AL1 3XG for Rev Rosemary Fletcher, Rev Bruce Anderson, Deacon Linda Kinchenton and Rev Ali Facey

Sunday 24th July St John's farewell lunch for Rev Rosemary Fletcher

Friday 2nd Sept 7.30pm Circuit welcome service for Rev David Jebb, Rev Rosemary Mutopo & Deacon Nigel Perrott

FAMILY NEWS

Helen Barlow Tel: 01707 662254 Email: foodtech16@hotmail.co.uk

Rev Sue Stilwell is also supporting St John's with pastoral care Mobile: 07530 227209 Email: susan.stilwell@clara.co.uk

As most of you are aware John Wilson moved from St John's, Potters Bar to live closer to his sister in Devon. Unfortunately the property John was purchasing fell through at the last moment. John has been living with his sister but has now finally bought a new home in Paignton, and anyone passing through Devon would be very welcome to pop in for a visit. If you would like his new address please ask me.

With shock and sadness we learnt of the very sudden and unexpected death of Charles Fenner, father of Guy. Those of us that had been fortunate enough to meet Charles know what a kind, caring and compassionate man he was. Please pray for his wife Christiane, Dawn, Guy and grandchildren Nathaniel, Bethany, Jessie, Joe and Jack and his great grandson Isaac.

Gloria and David Francis are mourning the death of Gloria's daughter Deborah after a short illness. We pray for the whole family and especially Deborah's daughter Naomi as they come to terms with their loss but also celebrate the life of Deborah.

Exciting news and a date for your diary. Sophie Bowler will be married at St John's on 2nd July. The wedding starts at 2.00 pm and will be conducted by Rev. Ali Facey.

St John's has been added to the churches 'Welcome Network'. This is a website where refugees and those seeking asylum - particularly from Afghanistan and Ukraine at this time - are able to access support. These referrals can be via another church, by a friend or a self referral. If a family or individuals move into our area we will try to match their needs with what we can offer.

As refugees and asylum seekers move around the UK, they can use the Welcome Network to find a Church to welcome them into the community. More information can be found at welcomechurches.org

We are delighted that Frances Gambrill was received into membership of St John's on Sunday 10th April - Welcome Frances! We are also pleased to hear that Gill Hutley has now found a more local Methodist church near Wimpole to attend so has transferred her membership to Haslingfield Methodist. Gill is also supporting them by playing the piano for their services each week.

Several of our church family are still suffering with the after effects of covid and some are unable to attend church services. All services are recorded and available online or on a CD. Please ask Peter Barlow (01707 662254) or Chris Humphreys (01707 851320) for more details.

St John's Easter Offering 2022

Our Easter offering will be dedicated along with others from the rest of the circuit, at Hatfield Road Methodist Church, 133B Hatfield Road, St Albans AL1 4JX on Wednesday 18th May at 2.30pm. The service was prepared by Methodist Women in Britain for the World Mission Fund. This act of worship enables the Methodist Church in Britain and Ireland to give to the work of our global Church Partners.

It would be lovely to see members from St John's there. *Pat Griffith*



The Champion Ensemble

at St John's Methodist Church

Lunchtime Concert

Saturday 30th April - 12.00pm

music by Brahms, Godard,
Lane, Offenbach, Reed,
Strauss and Verroust

Vicky Reed - Piano, Liz Childs - Flute
Mary Pilbery - Oboe/ Cor Anglais

Free entry. Donations to church funds

Scouts Spring Market

Saturday 28th May, from 10.30am - 1pm
at St John's Methodist Church

Various stalls, games and refreshments, including barbecue

Everyone Welcome - please come and support our Scout Group!

*The Scouts would be very grateful for donations of cuddly toys,
books, toys, jewellery, toiletries and good quality bric-a-brac to sell*

Further information from Liz Bekooy 01707 659597



Memorial Service

Twentieth Anniversary of Potters Bar Rail Crash

Tuesday 10th May, 1.15pm

at Church of Our Lady & St Vincent,
243 Mutton Lane EN6 2AT

All Welcome

Refreshments will be served following the service



Ukraine Appeal - thank you

I am pleased to report that the church has responded very generously to this appeal. A total of £4,321, including Gift Aid, has been sent to All We Can for their specific Ukraine appeal. 'All We Can' is the operating name for the Methodist Relief and Development Fund.

Robert Ward, Church Treasurer

Battery recycling

A recycling collaboration which aims to boost UK battery recycling rates whilst providing funds for cancer research, has been launched by Ecosurety and Cancer Research. CRUK receives a donation from Ecosurety for every tonne of batteries donated. There is a box at the back of Church for your used battery donations.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

more details on church website - stjohnspb.org.uk

Mondays	10.00 - 11.45am	Jumping Johns in main hall (<i>Margaret Bland 07887 532128</i>)
	10.00am - 12.00pm	Can We Fix It Group (<i>Roger Croughton 01707 650438</i>)
	2.30 - 4.00pm	Women's Guild in Clifton Room (<i>Barbara Biaggini 01707 656483</i>)
	8.00pm	Badminton in main hall (<i>Margaret Bland 07887 532128</i>)
Wednesdays	6.30 - 8.00pm	Cubs in main hall (<i>www.4thpottersbar.scoutsonline.co.uk</i>)
	7.30pm	Strafford Gate House Group* - meets 3rd Wednesday (<i>David Carter 07709 284852</i>)
	7.45pm	Bible Study in Clifton Room* - fortnightly (<i>Lesley Humphreys 01707 851320</i>)
Thursdays	7.00 - 8.30pm	Scouts in the main hall (<i>www.4thpottersbar.scoutsonline.co.uk</i>)
Fridays	10.30am - 12.00pm	Morning Coffee in the Clifton Room
	2.00pm	Byng Drive House Group* - meets fortnightly (<i>Dawn Fenner 07969 924346</i>)
	6.15 - 7.15pm	Beavers in Rainbow Room (<i>www.4thpottersbar.scoutsonline.co.uk</i>)

* does not meet every week

Churches Together in Potters Bar

Saturday Morning Prayer - Saturday 7th May, 8.30am at St Mary and All Saints, The Walk

Join us at 8.30am on the first Saturday of each month as we pray for the Churches and community in Potters Bar. Meetings last about 45 minutes followed by breakfast.

www.ctpb.org.uk



CIRCUIT EVENTS

www.midhertsmethodists.org.uk

St John's Methodist Church is part of the St Albans and Welwyn Circuit. Superintendent is Rev Rosemary Fletcher.

The Circuit Office can be contacted at admin@midhertsmethodists.org.uk or on 01727 854211

A banner for 'Thinking Lunches' featuring a red and yellow apple resting on a stack of books. The text is in yellow and white.

Thinking Lunches
Marlborough Road Methodist Church, St Albans AL1 3XG
12.30pm to 1.30pm
Please bring your own sandwiches and drinks.
Half an hour talk followed by discussion.

on Thursday 5th May 2022

Dr Justin Thacker

will talk to us about

"How the West steals from Africa"



In his talk, Justin will be exploring how the West does not give to Africa, it actually takes from it, often in illegal and immoral ways. He will explore how a recognition of this challenges our understanding of who is the donor and who is the beneficiary in international relations.

Justin's chosen charity is Christian Aid.

on Thursday 9th June 2022

Kath Clough from Green Christians

will talk to us about:

"Code Red for Humanity - How might we live in a collapsing civilisation"



Kathryn lives and works in St Albans, being both a local community pharmacist and a reader (lay minister) at St Luke's Church. Always a lover of nature, Kathryn joined Green Christian in 2020 having been awakened to the urgency of the climate and ecological crises, and finding much support and strength from the resources and people there. She also co-founded Hope in Action, now a Green Christian local group. It networks and helps to resource climate and nature-minded individuals and churches in the St Albans area.

Kath's chosen charity is Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust