



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

# St John's News

Website: [stjohnspb.org.uk](http://stjohnspb.org.uk) Email: [sjnews@stjohnspb.org.uk](mailto:sjnews@stjohnspb.org.uk)

Minister: Revd David Jebb: 01707 652978 / 07786 907634 [djebb2003@gmail.com](mailto:djebb2003@gmail.com)

Senior Steward: Robin Burns: 07956 879451 [seniorsteward@stjohnspb.org.uk](mailto:seniorsteward@stjohnspb.org.uk)

## February 2024

Date	Time	Service	Preacher
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	10.30am	Morning Worship	Peter Wallace
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	10.30am	Morning Worship	Joanne Mead
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	7.00pm	Informal Café Worship	Revd Daniel Yovan
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	10.30am	Creative Church and Celebration	Revd David Jebb
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	10.30am	Holy Communion	Revd John Churcher

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.

## From our minister – Revd David Jebb

### 'Hospitality is not a gift; it's a command.'

Dear Friends,

First of all, let me thank the manager and also Ms Dawn Cawley, Business Development Manager at the Cooperscroft Care Home in Potters Bar, who fundraised an amount of £200 towards our Church Christmas Charity appeal for 'Herts Young Homeless' in December 2023. We are so grateful for their generosity and their loving hospitality.



I saw how hospitality is at the heart of the Bible's message. It isn't something that we do as an add-on, but it is a central part of who we are.

What is hospitality? It seems to me to very simply mean, welcoming strangers. In Matthew 25 verse 35-36 Jesus describes the act of hospitality: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me."

I used to think I had the gift of hospitality. Jenet & I loved cooking and inviting people over for a meal, but only when I thought I could do it perfectly. We would spend hours planning, cleaning, and preparing. Finally, after another exhausting day ending in what



hospitality. Jenet & I loved cooking and inviting people over for a meal, but only when I thought I could do it perfectly. We would spend hours planning, cleaning, and preparing. Finally, after another exhausting day ending in what

**Copy deadline for next issue is Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

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should have been a simple dinner with friends, we had a revelation. This wasn't hospitality, this was us trying to impress people. we had to take a deep, hard dive into what biblical hospitality looks like.

When I got out my concordance, I found that hospitality is not a gift; it's a command. In his letter to the church in Rome, Paul urges his fellow believers to "Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality" (Rom 12:13). Likewise, Peter, in his first epistle, calls on believers to "Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling" (1 Pet 4:9).

Most of the early believers had very little, but they were willing to share what they had. Jesus modelled this generosity when He fed the crowds with what He had on hand, a few loaves and fishes. When the church grew exponentially at Pentecost, many of these new Christians sold their possessions to be able to provide for others' needs, they "broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people" (Acts 2: 46-47).

I've learned that hospitality may mean opening my doors to an unexpected visitor when my sink is full of dishes and the dust bunnies are crawling out from under the sofa. It might look like allowing my daughter to invite her six friends for dinner when I was hoping for some quality family time. This is how we can share the blessings God has given us and demonstrate to others how much He loves them.

Our welcome should reflect the gospel, and hospitality is central to the meaning of the gospel. The gospel is God's invitation to strangers who don't belong. Think of the message we have: "You've wandered too long, homeless, eking out an existence, wandering from place to place never satisfied." The gospel offers a home, a relationship with God, a place to belong.

As a church, we are moving into the season of Lent from Ash Wednesday on 14<sup>th</sup> February, which will lead to the events of Holy Week, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and finally Easter Sunday when we celebrate the resurrection, Jesus' victory over death and evil and brokenness. What are you doing to make this Lenten period meaningful as we journey towards Easter? Lent could also be an opportunity to hear what God is saying about his call on our lives. Are we where God wants us to be? Should we be moving on or doing something differently?

During the season of Lent 2024, we are doing a series of Lent Studies online (Zoom) on Wednesdays at 7.45 to 9.00pm and also in person studies on Thursdays from 10.00 to 11.00am in the Clifton Room. If you are interested in learning more about the Lent Studies or would like to attend any of these sessions, please do not hesitate to contact me via my mobile at 07786907634 or email: [djebb2003@gmail.com](mailto:djebb2003@gmail.com).

I pray that your Lenten journey will be meaningful and special and that you will be renewed in your faith and enthusiasm for God's word and hospitality.

Yours as ever

*David Jebb*

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

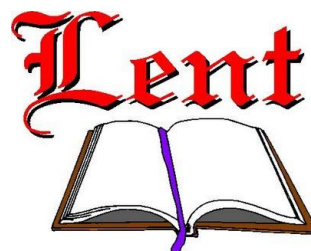
You can also see David's monthly blog on our website at [www.stjohnspb.org.uk/ministers-blog](http://www.stjohnspb.org.uk/ministers-blog).

## Lent Studies – "Loving My Neighbour"

A series of Lent Studies will be held on Zoom and in Person in the Clifton Room.

Please contact Revd David Jebb for more information and for the Zoom link.

On Zoom on Wednesdays 7.45 – 9.00pm	From 21 <sup>st</sup> February to 27 <sup>th</sup> March
In Person on Thursdays 10.00 – 11.00am	From 15 <sup>th</sup> February to 21 <sup>st</sup> March



## Membership Classes

Revd David Jebb plans to start a 'Come as you are' Church membership course for new people and others who want to become a full church member. 'Come as you are' is a course exploring Christian discipleship in the Methodist Church. The course will start after the Easter Holiday. Please speak to Revd David Jebb know if you are interested.

# Family News

We send our love and best wishes to Sophie (née Bowler) and Patrick Abbey who welcomed the safe delivery of Matilda Nina on 20<sup>th</sup> January weighing 7lb 15oz. Congratulations to Nana Sandra and Grandad David.

We are delighted to welcome back Rosemary Bootle, Ruth Lence (pictured below) and Jackie White who are now well enough to worship with us again at St John's. We missed seeing you.

Sybil Long remains in hospital undergoing tests and treatment. Our love and prayers go to Sybil, Eric and Anne.

Sue Finch is still in Hammersmith hospital and hoping for a diagnosis which will help provide the right treatment.

We also have several of our St John's family waiting for treatment or surgery in the coming weeks. Often the winter months and bad weather challenge those with mental health issues at this time of year. Day to day life can be a real struggle. Please pray for comfort, healing and inner peace to all of those known to us.

Barbara Biaggini celebrated her 97th birthday in January. It was lovely to see Barbara in church last week looking so well.

Helen Barlow Email: [foodtech16@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:foodtech16@hotmail.co.uk) Tel: 01707 662254



## Care Homes Services

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.

### Cooperscroft



1st Wednesdays in the month at 3.00pm:  
Next service - 7<sup>th</sup> February

### Cuffley Manor



3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays in the month at 3.00pm:  
Next service – 21<sup>st</sup> February

## Let's Pray Together (Zoom)



SATURDAY  
MORNING  
PRAYERS  
AND  
BLESSINGS

PRAYERS VIA ZOOM  
3<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY AT 9AM - JENET JEBB  
10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY AT 9AM - NIGEL PERROTT  
17<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY AT 9AM - JACQI GUY  
24<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY AT 9AM - DAVID JEBB

FOR A ZOOM LINK, PLEASE EMAIL: [DJEBB2003@GMAIL.COM](mailto:djebb2003@gmail.com)

## Meet to Pray (In Person)



### Meet to Pray – 10.00am Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February

**Come and join us to talk to our God!**

Prayer meeting in the Garden Room starts at 10.00am and ends at 10.30am so we can join the Friday Coffee Morning.

Everyone is welcome. There is no need to pray out loud if you don't want to.

# Diary of an All-Age Nativity

St John's family is blessed to have many creative and technical gifts. The all-age Nativity is one of the occasions where all our creativity comes together to deliver worship that uses all our gifts from the Spirit for the glory of God. Anyone driving along Baker Street who sees the exciting glow of coloured lighting from within the building will know that something special is happening.

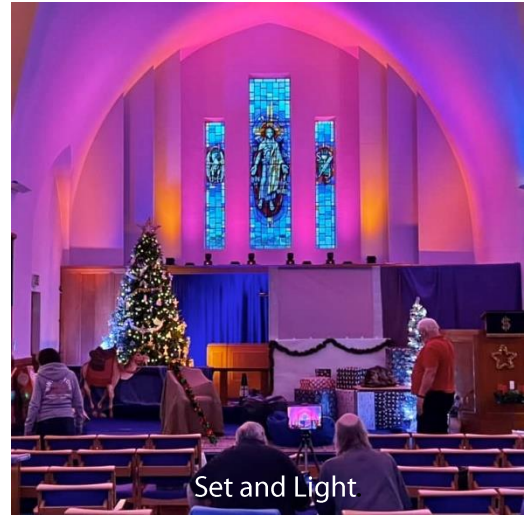
The concept of 'Popp into Christmas' was first proposed by David and Margaret Rhodes for 2022 but postponed before detailed planning had commenced. The first informal brainstorm meeting was after the Christingle service. From this a visualisation of how the Nativity could best be presented was created and discussed at the planning meeting on 5th December. This revolved around a scene from the Disney 1964 film version of the P.L. Travers novel where Mary Poppins produces large objects from a small carpet bag. Much to the amazement of her charges.

Critical to this idea was how to create a magic bag that a coat rack or lampstand could be produced from. This magic bag would reveal four objects – Angel, Donkey, Crook, Star - used to retell four scenes from the nativity. Dick Waterhouse had an idea involving a table with a 'trap door' and an operator hiding underneath. This was scribbled on a stage plan along with a sketch of the Banks family playroom. Mags and Don developed the idea of a 'magic window' in the playroom which would take the objects through the window frame, to the sky, and finally to a Nativity scene created in the stable in the vestibule.

During the following week Dick constructed oversized props, graphics were created, projection system set up, tested and the screen dressed by Mags and Jackie to become a window - complete with a windowsill. Christmas tree was dressed, props sourced, and large boxes wrapped. Paul checked the specially written lyrics would fit familiar tunes and rehearsed our worship group. 18 intelligent LED luminaires were rigged to plotted positions, data network established, and 30 scenes designed by Les and Don.

Finally, everything came together on the Sunday morning rehearsal. SongPro rehearsed, and microphones adjusted. Then our stars brought the script to life.

Don Hart



# World Day of Prayer



The theme for the 2024 World Day of Prayer is "I beg you, bear with one another in love" and has been prepared by the Christian women of Palestine.

The Potters Bar service is at St. Giles in South Mimms on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 11.00am.

Heather Crichton

On the first Friday in March the Day of Prayer begins on the international dateline, in **Samoa**. Early in the morning, Christian women begin praying for our world...as the earth rotates, a great wave of prayer begins to build. It sweeps across **the Pacific**, touching **Fiji** and **New Zealand**, rolling on through **Asia - Japan, the Philippines, Korea, Bangladesh...**The countries of **Africa** are next, and then **the Middle East**. The wave reaches the shores of **Europe** as the day dawns there. Across **the Atlantic**, it moves onwards - **the Caribbean, the Americas**, and on to **the Pacific** again...until the sun finally sets over **American Samoa**, where the final service takes place...a worldwide circle of prayer is complete.

Palestine 2024 - I beg you, bear with one another in love

# Friday Morning Coffee

We still need another 2 people to go on the Friday morning coffee rota.

Please consider whether you can help. It would work out being available just 4 times between 10.00am and 12.00noon from 16<sup>th</sup> February until the end of June.

Please see Valerie Vessey or phone her on 07958 450014.



# Charity Donations

In November, we collected £945 for the Embrace the Middle East Gaza Crisis Appeal.

Through December we collected £1883 for our Christmas charity Herts Young Homeless.

Thank you so much for your generosity to these deserving causes.



# Cooperscroft Care Home

As many of you will already know, St John's has recently started holding a monthly service at Cooperscroft. Mandy, the member of staff responsible for the welfare of the people working there, recently mentioned that when new workers first arrive, often from overseas, they can usually be accommodated for a short time at Cooperscroft, but then have to move into rented accommodation, and so need to acquire basic furniture and household goods. If anyone has now, or has at any future date, items you no longer need, please could you let me know so that I can contact Mandy to see whether they might be of use. Thank you!

Liz Bekooy - Tel. 01707 659597

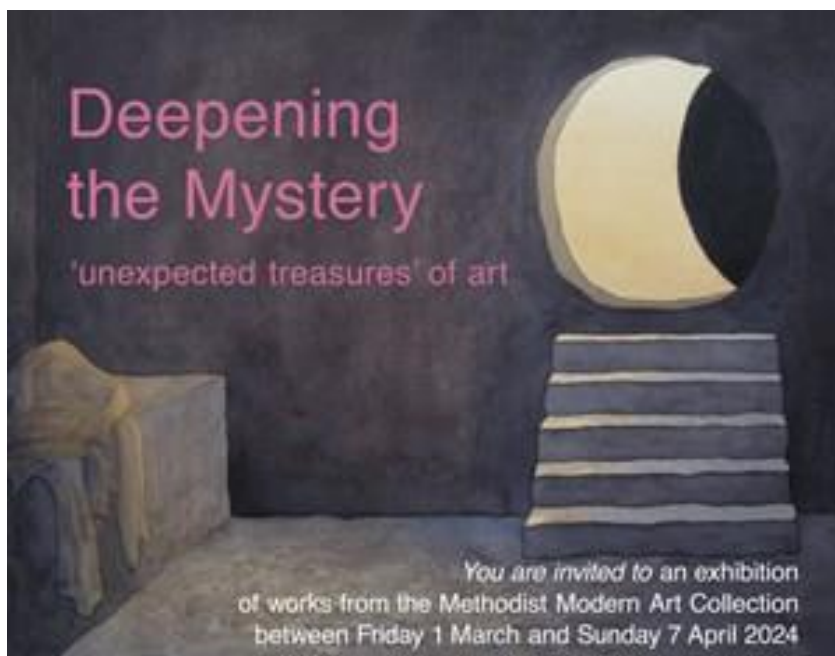
# Regular activities

Day	Time	Activity	Contact
Mondays	10.00 – 11.45am	Jumping Johns Toddlers	Margaret Bland 07887 532128
Mondays	10.00am – 12.00pm	Can We Fix It Group	Roger Croughton 01707 650438
Mondays	10.30 – 11.30am	Vestry Hour	Revd David Jebb 01707 652978
Mondays	2.30 – 4.00pm	Women's Guild	Jo Hutton 01707 658436
Mondays	8.00 – 10.00pm	Badminton	Margaret Bland 07887 532128
Tuesdays	11.00am – 3.00pm	Welcome Space	Barbara Thompson 01707 665621
Wednesdays	6.30 – 8.00pm	Cubs	<a href="http://www.4thpottersbar.scoutsonline.co.uk">www.4thpottersbar.scoutsonline.co.uk</a>
Wednesdays	2.30 – 4.30pm	Strafford Gate House Group (usually 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in the month)	David Carter 07709 284852
Wednesdays	7.45 – 9.00pm	Bible Study in Clifton Room (Fortnightly)	Lesley Humphreys 07961 347152
Thursdays	7.00 – 8.30pm	Scouts	<a href="http://www.4thpottersbar.scoutsonline.co.uk">www.4thpottersbar.scoutsonline.co.uk</a>
Fridays	10.00 – 10.30am	Meet to Pray (usually 2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday in the month in the Garden Room)	Robin Burns 07956 879451
Fridays	10.30am – 12.00pm	Morning Coffee in Clifton Room	
Fridays	10.30am	Byng Drive House Group (Fortnightly)	Dawn Fenner 07969 924346
Fridays	6.15 – 7.15pm	Beavers	<a href="http://www.4thpottersbar.scoutsonline.co.uk">www.4thpottersbar.scoutsonline.co.uk</a>
Saturdays	9.00 – 9.45am	Let's Pray Together (by Zoom)	Revd David Jebb 01707 652978

# Methodist Modern Art Collection

We sometimes feature pictures from the art collection in St John's News. There will be an exhibition of works from the collection called "Deepening the Mystery" in Welwyn Garden City from 1<sup>st</sup> March – 7<sup>th</sup> April at:

Focolare Centre for Unity  
69 Parkway,  
Welwyn Garden City  
AL8 6JG.



## 4th Potters Bar Scout Group



### Quiz 2023 "Christmas Time"

Congratulations to our winners and very many thanks to everybody who took part. We received 72 entries of a very high standard and from the hat the winners emerged as

- |              |                                |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| First place  | Mr J Connell of Potters Bar    |
| Second place | Ms J Bunker of Milton Keynes   |
| Third place  | Mr R Walker of Banstead Surrey |

Your very generous donations helped us raise over £900 for the Scout Group funds. We are most grateful to you all. Special thanks, though, to two persons who donated via JustGiving whom we cannot thank directly – "Murray" who was a Scout in Canada and "John and Sue" who wished to remember our previous secretary of 4th Potters Bar Group, Mr. Howard Cox.

In our view the most desirous answer submitted, although incorrect for the Quiz, would have been

Question 29. The reason for the season. Goodwill.

Thank you all again. We look forward to your participation in our next quiz – our thirtieth - the subject of which is already under discussion. But do you have any suggestions for us?

A happy and heathy New Year to you all.

Derek Smith Assistant Scout Leader

### Jumble Sale – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March

The jumble sale will take place on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March at St John's. Entry is from Heather Way.

£2 at 10.00am or 50p at 10.30am.

Donations of goods to be sold at the Jumble Sale welcome (but no furniture, electrical goods or videos, thank you.).

Contact Liz Bekooy on 01707 659597.

### Grow Plants for the Spring Market

4th Potters Bar Scouts will be holding a Spring Market, including a plant stall, at St John's on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June. If you are a gardener, we would be very grateful if you could maybe produce some extra plants (vegetables or flowers) which we can sell on the stall! Contact Liz Bekooy for more information.

# Churches Together in Potters Bar

For more information see [www.ctpb.org.uk](http://www.ctpb.org.uk).



## Prayer Meetings

Join us 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 mins followed by breakfast.

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February

United Reformed Church, Darkes Lane, EN6 1BZ

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

St Mary and All Saints, The Walk, EN6 1QQ

## Ash Wednesday Service

There will be a united Ash Wednesday service on 14<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm in Our Lady & St Vincent Church, 243, Mutton Lane, Potters Bar EN6 2AT.

This is an ecumenical service to begin our journey of Lent together with the opportunity of receiving ashes for those who wish. The preacher will be the Very Reverend Jo Kelly-Moore, Dean of St Albans. Music will be provided by combined singers from churches in Potters Bar. Light refreshments afterwards.

The service will be available on Live Streaming for those who cannot attend at [www.churchservices.tv/pottersbar](http://www.churchservices.tv/pottersbar)

## Circuit News

St John's Methodist Church is part of the St Albans and Welwyn Circuit. See [www.stalbansandwelwyncircuit.org.uk](http://www.stalbansandwelwyncircuit.org.uk) for more details. Our superintendent is Revd David Jebb. The circuit office can be contacted at [admin@midhertsmethodists.org.uk](mailto:admin@midhertsmethodists.org.uk) or on 01727 854211.

## Thinking Lunches at Marlborough Road Methodist Church, St Albans

12.30 to 1.30pm. Please bring your own sandwiches and drinks. Half an hour talk, and then discussion.

1<sup>st</sup> February - Revd Peter Crumpler "Distinguishing fact from fiction – truth in a modern age"

Peter is a retired Anglican Vicar with a background in journalism and communications, and well known to local readers for his contributions to 'Faith Focus' in the Herts Advertiser.



Marlborough Road **Methodist Church**

## Ash Wednesday Service

There will be a Circuit Ash Wednesday service on 14<sup>th</sup> February at 4.00pm at Hatfield Road Methodist Church, St Albans.