



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

St John's News

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April 2025

From our Minister – Revd David Jebb

Dear Friends

One of the deepest convictions of the Easter story is this: Christ is Risen - He is risen indeed. Alleluia! This truth brings us a message of unlimited grace, victory, joy and hope, for in His resurrection, Jesus triumphed over death.

In Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, death is described as "the undiscovered country from whose bourn no traveller returns." Yet for Christians, that is not the end - Jesus, the Christ, returned, affirming that death is not the final chapter.

Had Jesus' story ended with the crucifixion, He might have been remembered merely as an inspirational teacher, a charismatic figure, or even a martyr. Instead, His victory over death, rising from the grave on the third day, transforms our understanding of life and promises us resurrection. We are a people of the resurrection because we know that Easter is inseparable from the sacrifice of Good Friday. We cannot have Christ without the cross - a symbol of a compassionate, loving God who identifies with human suffering and uses it as an instrument of salvation. No other faith speaks so clearly of a suffering God who stands against injustice and oppression.



Throughout history, God has worked through human beings - the very signets of His creation - to continue the healing and transforming ministry of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ. It is my sincere prayer that, in this Easter season, we all come to know the hope, joy, and peace that the resurrection brings.

Please join us for our upcoming services.

Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday (CTiPB Walk of Witness at the War Memorial at 11am), Easter Sunrise Service (Shenley Walled Garden at 5.30am) and Easter Holy Communion on Easter Sunday at St John's.

For more details, please see page 2.

Christ is Risen - He is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!

Wishing you a blessed and joyful Easter,

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 18 April 2025

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Services

Date	Time	Service	Preacher
Sunday 6 April	10.30am	Morning Worship	Dr George Woods
Sunday 13 April Palm Sunday	10.30am	Creative Church	Dr Paul Dakin
	7pm	Café Worship	Dr Paul Dakin
Thursday 17 April	7pm	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion	Revd David Jebb
Friday 18 April Good Friday	11am	Churches Together in Potters Bar, Walk of Witness at the War Memorial	
Sunday 20 April	5.30am	Easter Sunrise Service at Shenley Walled Garden	Revd David Jebb
	10.30am	Easter Sunday Family Service with Holy Communion	Revd David Jebb
Sunday 27 April	10.30am	Morning Worship	Pastor Dave Chuck
	3pm	Scouts and Guides St. George's Day Parade	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.

Dr George Woods started as a local preacher in South Africa. He returned to the UK three years ago and attends Marlborough Road 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.

Dr Paul Dakin is a former GP trainer and also a familiar face at St John's as he has led services before. He lives in Cuffley and continues to keep his 'work motto' by training five days a week at a gym in Potters Bar!

Pastor Dave Chuck, a previous visitor to St John's, travels to us from Chelmsford. During the week he is a Salvation Army street pastor working in the Romford area.

Revd David Jebb is our very own minister here at St John's and is also the Superintendent of all the Methodist churches in the St Albans and Welwyn area (Circuit).

Care Homes Services

Date	Time	Location
Wednesday 16 April	3pm	Cuffley Manor Care Home
Wednesday 7 May <i>(please note there is no April service)</i>	3pm	Cooperscroft Care Home

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.

Saturday Morning Prayers



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.

Please note the new Zoom link below. We hope you will be able to spend 45 minutes with us in this meaningful ministry.

<https://zoom.us/j/98382699249?pwd=OThXWEc5WnZ0Tm piajNhS3E3NGYvQT09>

Meeting ID: 983 8269 9249, Passcode: 178314



Family News

In March, Lorna Bryant celebrated her 85th birthday and Miranda Carter her 91st birthday. In April, Christine Phillips and Helen Jeckells celebrate birthdays and Sandra and David Bowler their 34th wedding anniversary. Congratulations to them all!

Sandra Bowler had her long-awaited operation which was successful and she is now recovering at home.

Jackie and Don's daughter, Penny, is nearing the end of her hospital treatment and will be discharged to the care of the Community Team. Please pray that the doctors will have wisdom as they draw up their care plan and for the whole family at this time.

Helen Strand thanks everyone for their prayers and offers of assistance while recovering from a broken arm.

Barbara Biaggini's funeral is on 2 April. Details to be announced. Please remember her friends in your prayers.

Several church members have concerns about the health of family and friends. Please remember them in your prayers.

Helen Strand - Pastoral Co-ordinator. (Email: hstrand@aol.com Telephone: 07821-786-170)

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Scouts Spring Market



4th Potters Bar Scouts
St John's Methodist Church, Potters Bar, EN62DZ
Saturday 31st May 10:30 - 13:00

SPRING Market

Take a browse among our wide selection of Seasonal Stalls... plants, handmade garden figures, bird feeders, tombola, raffle, chutneys + treats, toys, gifts, bric-a-brac, 3D prints, cakes, books and more!

Grab a bite to eat with some hot food + drinks.

Explore our beautiful Church.

Have a go in our hall of games - get your face painted + have some glitter tattoos while you wait too.

Come and say hello to some reptiles + creepy crawlies!

Babies + toddlers can rest and play in our ball pit room too.

Scouts Jumble Sale



A big thank you to everyone who helped with the Jumble Sale on Saturday 8 March. The hard work was much appreciated and helped to raise a massive £1,550!



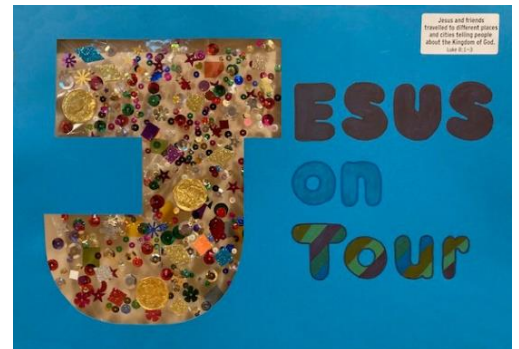
The next jumble sale is on Saturday 4 October 2025.



Creative Church

Jesus on Tour

Our March Creative had a Strictly Come Dancing theme! The production team for Strictly is made up of lots of different people with lots of different skills - costumes, props and lighting. After the winner is announced Strictly Come Dancing goes on tour around the country. They will have a tour coach and tour lorries to take all the costumes, props and lighting around the country. The team that help set up the stage are called Roadies because they spend a lot of time on the road travelling. They set up everything before the rest of the team arrive. All the people that put the show on may call themselves 'Team Strictly'. The bible story we read in Luke 8:1-3 was about Jesus on Tour! Jesus, along with his 12 disciples plus Mary, Joanna, Susanna and other women used their skills to help Jesus and his disciples tell people about the Kingdom of God. They travelled on the road with Jesus and were part of his team - 'Team Jesus!'

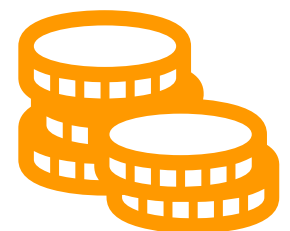


Our crafts this month were Fruit Flan wheels, cardboard Tour Bus, Jesus on Tour Sparkly Sign and Team Jesus Shiny Tour Globe. These along with a Team Jesus colouring sheet, word search and table games are also available on a Creative Sunday as well as refreshments with a chill and relax area. After our craft time we join everyone in church for show and tell and sing some lively songs together. One of our families that regularly attend posted these photos saying how much they enjoyed coming to Creative Church. Thank you to Elise and Riley for sharing your wonderful creations!



March Parade Service

Our recent parade service focused on the the Parable of the Lost Coin, Luke 15:8-10, the joy of finding something lost. Our scout group had to assemble three sets of items - a chess board with all the pieces, all the spades from a pack of playing cards and a jigsaw puzzle, but the scouts were all sad as one item was missing from all of the sets. This reminded us how the woman in the bible must have felt when she realised she had lost one of her coins. Fortunately after a bit of looking, all items were found somewhere in the church. So too was the lost coin found by the woman in the bible story. The woman was so happy that she invited neighbours to come to her house for a celebration! The Bible says 'God cares as much about every person as that woman cared for every coin'. How reassuring this is for all of us!



Anniversary Sunday - 9 March

We were thrilled to welcome back to St John's the Revd Alan Combes to lead our service on the Church's 84th birthday weekend! Alan is a former member of St John's who trained as a minister 12 years ago and then moved to the Vale of Stour in the West Midlands. He reminded us how St John's has grown over the years yet kept its focus on welcoming and nurturing all those who come along. He said he and his wife Michele were warmly welcomed the first time they came to a service which was very soon after they were married and had just moved to Potters Bar. He then interviewed two members - Pat Griffith and David Rhodes about what drew them to coming along to St John's too. Alan and Michele's two daughters - Emma and Rachel, also joined us for the service.



Christmas Charity – Noah's Ark Children's Hospice



This year we chose Noah's Ark Children's Hospice as our Christmas charity. We raised £2,479.72 for the good cause and received this lovely letter from them;

Dear all at St John's Methodist Church

On behalf of all of us here at Noah's Ark, I am writing to say thank you so much to the parish of St John's Methodist for your incredibly generous donation of £2,479.72, raised through your Christmas Collection - we are very grateful for your support.

As you know Noah's Ark Children's Hospice cares for babies, children and young people who are seriously unwell, and their families. We know that every moment together is precious to our families and we want to make sure these moments count. For Katie and Tom, Noah's Ark were there from the moment they received the news that their daughter Leia may only have a few months to live. The family now access most of the services at The Ark, receiving music therapy and overnight respite care which is very important for the family as it's the only place they can leave Leia, safe in the knowledge that our expert team are on hand as she is PEG fed, has serious epilepsy and is profoundly disabled. Katie says of her visit to The Ark: "Here we were in a place with smiling faces, cups of tea, bright and accessible rooms for children to be children, I was so grateful this place existed to support us." The family also receive support from Specialist Carer, Alice, with whom Leia has developed a very special bond. "When Alice either comes to our house or the hospital or we bring Leia here to The Ark, we know Leia is very safe, that she is very loved and that she will do everything to make Leia happy." Katie realises that her initial ideas of what Noah's Ark Children's Hospice would be like were very different to the reality. She adds: "A children's hospice is a place for children to live. It's a place where memories are made and where you feel supported. It's about making the most of the life that you have, even if it's not as long a life as the average person."

It costs around £18,000 a day for us to be there for those who need us most, with around 83% of our funding from voluntary donations. It is only thanks to the support of our community that we can keep being there for children like Leia and their families. Thank you so much for helping us to be there for families such as Leia's. We couldn't do it without you!

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 <i>(1st Monday in the month)</i>	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 <i>(Usually 3rd Wednesday in the month)</i>	David Carter 07709 284852
	7.45pm – 9pm	Bible Study in Clifton Room <i>(Fortnightly)</i>	Lesley Humphreys 07961 347152
Thursdays	7pm – 8.30pm	Scouts	www.4thpottersbar.scoutsonline.co.uk
Fridays	10.30am – 12pm	Morning Coffee in Clifton Room <i>(1st and 3rd Fridays in the month)</i>	
	10.30am	Byng Drive House Group <i>(Fortnightly)</i>	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

Circuit Events

Thinking Lunch

Thursday 3 April 12.30pm - 1.30pm at Marlborough Road Methodist Church AL1 3XG

Speaker: Rev Peter Crumpler

"Trust in a sceptical world" - who do you trust to tell you the truth - and how can we build trust within society. Please bring your own lunch and drinks. Half an hour talk and then discussion. Donations will be gratefully received to cover expenses and any profits will be given to the speaker for a charity of their choice.



Churches Together in Potters Bar

CTPB would like to invite you to join them at 8.30am on the 1st Saturday of each month as they pray for the Churches and Community of Potters Bar. Meetings last for approximately 45 minutes followed by breakfast.



DATE	LOCATION
Saturday 5 April	Potters Bar Baptist Church, Barnet Road, Potters Bar EN6 2RB
Saturday 3 May	St John's Methodist Church Baker Street, Potters Bar EN6 2DZ

Shenley Methodist Church



EASTER

SUNRISE SERVICE

SUNDAY 20 APRIL

**5:30AM AT SHENLEY WALLED GARDEN
RADLETT WD7 9DW**

**Join us for a Holy Communion service
with an Easter message, led by the
Circuit Staff.**

After the service, enjoy a freshly made Easter breakfast
at a nearby restaurant, which we have specially booked
to open early on Easter Sunday.

Breakfast will be available for purchase.

Please bring a head torch or a light
to help you see the order of service and
sing the joyous Easter hymns.

ALL WELCOME!

Easter Prayer

When everything was dark and it seemed that the sun would never shine again,
your love broke through.

Your love was too strong, too wide, too deep for death to hold.

The sparks cast by your love, dance and spread and burst forth with resurrection light.

Gracious God, we praise you for the light of new life made possible through Jesus.
We praise you for the light of new life that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.
We praise you for the light of new life that continues to shine in our hearts today.

We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy, will live in us each day;
and that we will be bearers of that light into the lives of others.

Amen.

Written by the Revd Michaela Youngson.