



St John's Methodist Church
Baker Street
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Registered Charity No 1130633

St John's Update

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September 2024
(Services on next page)

From our Minister – Revd David Jebb

Dear Friends

Over the last 24 months, I've been praying and developing a new working pattern with additional responsibilities within the Circuit, District, and Connexion to support St John's in engaging in a mission project with its community. While I have enjoyed these new responsibilities and the growth in outreach activities and initiatives—such as Parade services, Creative Church, Café Church, Messy Church, and Let's Play activities, as well as reaching out to those on the fringes of the church—I have been struck by the very real challenge we face in the Methodist Church with ageing congregations and declining numbers. Facing these challenges and embracing necessary change is important, and I am glad we have been seeking to do that in and around St John's. We are working to appoint a Church Community Outreach Worker to further develop mission and growth across all ages in our church.



In all of this, I believe it is important to have realistic expectations. As someone who likes to set SMART goals, this is crucial. If we aim too high, we end up disappointed; aim too low, and we miss out on what we could have achieved by striving a bit further. However, it is also essential to take time to listen to what God is saying.

This was highlighted for me at the ecumenical Christian Leaders' Prayer Breakfast when the speaker mentioned how Jesus had time for the one—stopping for the woman who touched his cloak, eating with Zacchaeus, and taking time with the woman at the well. During the worship and prayer time that followed, I sensed God saying clearly, "This is the time of the one." It's a time for us to stop and listen to others and to take time to share what we know with others. It's not about organising events or services for hundreds but about the more personal and costly work of drawing alongside others and bringing them back to Christ.

Those involved in courses like 'Try Alpha', 'Come as you are', and 'Discipleship' will recognise the relevance of this message. It's a reminder that our mission isn't about having a "pre-packaged gospel message" to pass on but about taking time to listen and honestly share what we know and believe, encouraging one another in our journeys to grow closer to God.

This is something we can all do, and I hope we will, as we share responsibility for developing the work and witness of our church community.

Wishing you every blessing as we approach our new Methodist Connexional Year – 2024/2025.

David Jebb

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

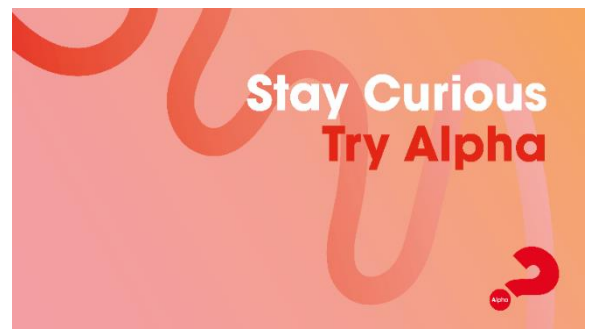
You can also see David's monthly blog on our website at www.stjohnspb.org.uk/ministers-blog.

Join our Alpha Course

Ever wanted to explore the meaning of life? Or ask challenging questions about the Christian faith?

Our 9-week Alpha Course runs on Tuesday evenings 6.30 pm-8.30pm from 24th September to 19th November. Each session starts with meal, followed by a short video and discussion.

For more information, please contact Revd David Jebb on 01707 652978 or at minister@stjohnspb.org.uk.



Copy deadline for next issue is Sunday 22 September 2024

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Sunday Services

Date	Time	Service	Preacher
Sunday 1 st September	10.30am	Morning Worship	Paul Dakin
Sunday 8 th September	10.30am	Confirmation Service	Revd David Jebb
	7pm	Informal Café Worship	S Watkin
Sunday 15 th September	10.30am	Creative Church and Celebration	D Chuck
Sunday 22 nd September	10.30am	Holy Communion	Revd David Jebb
Sunday 29 th September	10.30am	Morning Worship	Nigel Perrott

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.

Care Homes Services

Date	Time	Location
Wednesday 4 th September	3pm	Cooperscroft Care Home
Wednesday 18 September	pm	Cuffley Manor 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.

Family News

Many congratulations to John & Sue Wainwright who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 4 August! ❤️

Praying Together

Let's join together in prayer!

On Zoom - Saturday morning prayers in September

Come and join us on Saturday mornings from 9am to 9:45am, accessible via Zoom.

Prayer requests can be submitted via email at djebb2003@gmail.com.

Please use the Zoom link

<https://zoom.us/j/99737525318?pwd=R1hHNTE2Z2lORndvaU1idWpVYktndz09>

Meeting ID: 997 3752 5318 Passcode: 251590



Prayer Leaders:

7th September – Jenet Jebb

14th September – Wete Alberto

21st September – Calinah Rus

28th September – Nigel Perrott

Regular Activities-starting back this month

Activity	When	Contact
Jumping Johns Toddlers	Starts on Monday 16 th September 10am – 11.45am	Margaret Bland 07887 532128
Welcome Space	Starts on Tuesday 3 rd September from 10.30am	Barbara Thompson 01707 665621
Morning Coffee in the Clifton Room (Now fortnightly)	Friday 6 th September and Friday 20 th September 10.30am - 12 noon	Valerie Vessey



Coffee Morning – Friday 27th September

10am - 12 noon in the Clifton Room. Donations of cakes, jams and items for the 'bring and buy' stall would be gratefully received by Pat Griffith (01707 656344 / 07729 994052).

St John's News will be back in October with a new editing team. Copies will be available in Church on Sunday 6 October!