



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

St John's News

Website: stjohnspb.org.uk Email: sjnews@stjohnspb.org.uk

Minister: Rev Andrew Prout 01727 851834 andrew.prout@methodist.org.uk

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

July and August 2022

DATE	TIME	SERVICE	PREACHER
Sunday 3rd July	10.30	Morning Worship	Ros Hancock
Sunday 10th July	10.30	Creative Church and Celebration	Rev Rosemary Fletcher
Sunday 10th July	19.00	Café Worship	Rev Andrew Prout
Sunday 17th July	10.30	Morning Worship	Stuart Johnson
Sunday 24th July	10.30	Holy Communion	Rev Sue Stilwell
Sunday 31st July	10.30	Morning Worship	Local arrangement
Sunday 7th August	10.30	Morning Worship	Rev David Mullins
Sunday 14th August	10.30	Morning Worship	Stuart Johnson
Sunday 21st August	10.30	Morning Worship	Stephen Poxon
Sunday 28th August	10.30	Holy Communion	Rev Sue Stilwell

All ages are welcome to our 10.30am services. Under 3s are welcome in church and in the adjoining crèche area at the back. Other children are invited to Junior Johns in the Garden Room. More information from a Steward or Jackie Hart 07825 211657.

A letter from our Minister

Jesus said 'The king will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it for me" (Matthew 25:40)

As I write this letter I have just led a service at Hatfield Road Methodist Church to mark Refugee Sunday (19th June). It precedes UK Refugee Week (20th-26th June) and UN World Refugee Day (20th June). The UNHCR (United Nations High Commission for Refugees) currently places the number of refugees fleeing conflict, persecution and conflict in the world at over 26 million alone, and those internally displaced at over 48 million. Needless to say we are also beginning to see vast movements of people around the world as a result of climate change.



The issue of refugees and asylum seekers has been high on the news agenda recently with the controversial policy of the UK Government to relocate people who make the dangerous crossing across the channel to Rwanda. The Methodist Church with other Churches has spoken out strongly against this policy which it believes lacks coherency. The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Sonia Hicks and Barbara Easton in a press release on 14th April stated... 'Whilst it is important to address the dangerous trade of people smuggling across the channel, the lack of safe and accessible routes by which people can claim asylum in the UK will ultimately contribute significantly to increased small boat crossings. The Government have shied away from committing to a resettlement target, and the Nationality and Borders Bill lacks detail of new or expanded resettlement routes. Now, the government is passing the issue onto another country which the UK has previously criticised for holding a poor record on human rights. Offshore processing is a distraction from the real work which needs to be done to establish workable, safe and welcoming routes through which the UK can play its part in responding to need'.

Whatever our views in terms of how best we and governments can respond it goes without saying that these matters demand our most serious attention. Jesus said (and I summarize) of the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick and the imprisoned... 'As much as you show compassion, give welcome and exercise kindness to the least of these you do it unto me' (Matthew 25:34-40). I am also reminded of how two disciples on the road to Emmaus took in a stranger and offered him both hospitality and shelter. As the stranger at the meal table gave thanks, broke bread

Copy deadline for next issue is Sunday 21st August

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and began to share it with them, the Gospel of Luke records how that then their eyes were opened and they recognized it was the Lord (Luke 24:31).

On a final and separate note a reminder that this month we say as a Circuit a formal farewell to Revs Rosemary Fletcher, Bruce Anderson and Ali Facey, and to Deacon Linda Kinchenton. We are thankful to each for all they have given to the Circuit not least to Rosemary as Superintendent these last nine years. Details of the Circuit Farewell Service can be found within this issue as well as detail of the Welcome Service for Revs David Jebb and Rosemary Mutopo, and Deacon Nigel Perrott in September. God bless each one in their departing and in their arriving, and alongside them the wanderers and refugees of this world who seek and long for somewhere they can call home. And God grant unto us all, and unto all governments such wisdom, compassion and desire to answer need, and to bring about true change for those who with every reason cry out for welcome. *Rev Andrew Prout*



Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

The centrepiece of our celebrations was a wonderful display of royal memorabilia curated by Margaret Rhodes and helpers. There were various magazines showing royal occasions and even a newspaper from 2nd June 1953 showing the Coronation! There were photos of family members meeting various members of the royal family and a great collection of commemorative mugs from several different royal occasions. The exhibit was beautifully lit in red, white and blue by Don Hart and was topped off by matching balloons and flags. Many people had the opportunity to peruse the collection and our thanks go to all those who contributed items.

We held a special Jubilee Friday Coffee which was well attended and Sally's Jubilee cupcakes and jam tarts were much appreciated. After coffee, we had a singalong of music from the Queen's favourite musical - Oklahoma and thanks go to Jo Hutton and Margaret Rhodes for accompanying the songs.

The church was well decorated with purple and white Jubilee bunting, which went well with our décor. A popular figure was the life-size cardboard cut-out of the Queen dressed in a fetching turquoise outfit. Many people took selfies with Her Majesty! She even travelled to the next event – the Churches Together in Potters Bar (CTPB) Picnic.



A CTPB event to celebrate Pentecost and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee was held on Sunday 5th June. It had been planned as a picnic and open-air service in Oakmere park but as the weather was poor, it was held in the hall of St Mary's. After the picnic lunch, there was a short service led by Fr Stefan Chrysostomou, assisted by Rev Atalie Gaines, Rev Mark Maloney and representatives from other churches in Potters Bar. St John's was invited to provide music for the event and we had a group of seven musicians to lead the singing. The music before and after the service was also much appreciated. *Myra Sloper, Senior Steward*

Scouts Spring Market

The 4th Potters Bar Scouts Spring Market took place on Saturday 28th May at St John's. This was a new fund raising venture for us, as we are missing the income from the three Jumble Sales we have traditionally held each year, until the Covid epidemic put paid to them - temporarily we hope. We were blessed with good weather so were able to use the outside space as well as the Church buildings, and as a result the very impressive plant and garden stall on the front lawn, attracted considerable interest from passers-by before the Market had even officially opened.

Our customers also enjoyed a variety of other stalls, including bric-a-brac, books, jigsaws, toys and games, jewellery, toiletries and a tombola, plus various games and sideshows, with tea, coffee and cake, and burgers, hot dogs, baked potatoes and other hot food to sustain them when needed. St John's kindly contributed to the day with a lovely Platinum Jubilee display in the Church, together with some games and crafts for children and information about Church activities.

Altogether the Market was a busy and happy event, and we are delighted that it raised the very welcome sum of £1,064.81 for Group funds, which will enable us to continue to provide a high quality scouting experience for the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts of the 4th.

Very many thanks to everyone who made the Market such a success, both beforehand and on the day, to everyone who contributed items for the stalls, and to everyone who came to the Market to support us. *Liz Bekooy*



The Potters Bar Carnival returns!

After 3 years of waiting, we gathered early on Sunday morning at Elm Court to setup our carnival stall. We had ordered an extended pitch in order to accommodate our extra activities for the day! David drove his Austin 7 onto the pitch and reversed it into place. After a short discussion, it was decided that it was too windy to have our 'life size' cut out of the Queen standing beside the car so instead she sat 'folded' as the passenger in the car so... we were now all ready for our Royal Photo Booth "Selfies with the Queen!" We setup the 'lucky sock' and 'penny in the tank' sideshows ready for the punters. Cakes were forthcoming from church members and Dick kindly made 70 cup cakes for us to sell as well. We also had a wooden cross and stones for people to draw or write a prayer on.

The stall was ready. At 2pm the crowds came into the showground and the cakes were selling well. The Austin 7 and Queen selfies turned out to be a really big hit with everyone who saw it. We charged a nominal 50p and it was popular all afternoon. We sold out of cakes. A few people managed to cover a coin with the penny in the tank winning a small cash prize and the side shows were busy. We gave out a small goodie bag to some of those who visited the stall. In it we had information about the church and activities that we do. Some colouring pencils, adult & childrens colouring sheets and some sweets.

We felt the afternoon was a big success. Thank you to all those who helped setup and/or run it on the day. *Sally Gunning*



Future dates for your diaries

Sunday 10th July

Rev Rosemary Fletcher's last service at St John's has two baptisms and will be Creative Church too, followed by our Church Barbecue at Morven Guide Centre, The Causeway, Potters Bar EN6 5HA which provides indoor shelter and large enclosed grounds. Transport is available so please ask a steward.

Sunday 17th July 6.30pm

Circuit Farewell Service for Rev Rosemary Fletcher, Rev Bruce Anderson, Rev Ali Facey and Deacon Linda Kinchenton at Marlborough Road Methodist Church, St Albans AL1 3XG. Lifts will be available.

Sunday 24th July

Farewell lunch after the service at St John's for Rev Rosemary Fletcher and Rev Sue Stilwell. Further details will be announced.

Friday 5th August - St John's Holiday at Home (see panel below)

Monday 22nd - Friday 26th August

Churches Together in Potters Bar Holiday Club (see advert opposite)

Friday 2nd September 7.30pm

Circuit welcome service for Rev David Jebb (St John's new minister), Rev Rosemary Mutopo & Deacon Nigel Perrott. Refreshments beforehand.



Potters Bar Churches Holiday Club is back in 2022

22nd – 26th August
9.30am – 1.00pm

Pope Paul School, Baker Street, Potters Bar

Cost: £10 per child/teenager
For ages 5 – 16 years

Drama Crafts
Bible story time Games Songs

Teen Team: Extra fun and responsibility

End the week with a lunchtime BBQ
Parents and carers welcome

BOOKINGS:
OR VISIT:

pottersbarchurchesholidayclub.co.uk

In partnership with
Scripture Union

Holiday at Home - Friday 5th August

Our Holiday at Home for the more mature members of our church and community is returning this summer on Friday 5th August.

Come and meet with friends without the hassle of going away. We want everyone to feel welcome and enjoy a time of fun, friendship, and renewal together, backed by prayer, but with a holiday atmosphere.

We ask for a donation towards costs of £7.50, which covers everything. However, we don't want anyone to be excluded. If this cost might cause a problem, please talk to us. Invitations with more details and a registration form will be available soon at church or on our website www.stjohnspb.org.uk.



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

Best wishes to Sophie Bowler and Patrick Abbey whose wedding will be held at St John's on Saturday 2nd July, at 2pm. David, Sandra and Sophie would be delighted to see friends from the St John's family at the wedding service which will be conducted by Rev Ali Facey. We wish them well in their future life together.

On Sunday 10th July, Rev Rosemary Fletcher will conduct the baptismal service for Lia Jo Ranga and Tiana Rose Ranga, grandchildren of Rosemary Sharaunga where they will be welcomed into the family of St John's. We hope they will have a lovely day celebrating together with family and friends.

Roger & Anne Croughton would like to thank all our friends for the prayers and concern for our son David. He has had a successful operation on his throat and neck

but still has to face further treatment. Your continued prayers will be very much appreciated.

Linda Parker has fallen and broken her hip. Linda is recovering after surgery in Barnet hospital. We pray for a steady recovery and that we will see her again very soon.

Congratulations! On 18th June in Gloucester Cathedral, Gareth Griffith was fully ordained into the priesthood of the Church of England by the Bishop of Gloucester.

Gareth grew up at St John's being part of the junior Church and latterly led the senior group. He is a talented musician who regularly played trumpet with the worship group. It was also Gareth's birthday. He was treated to an impromptu rendition of Happy Birthday on the steps of the cathedral sung by two bishops, archdeacons, vicars and friends.





Rev Sue Stilwell (right) recently organised a trip for St John's to visit Wesley Chapel in City Road, London

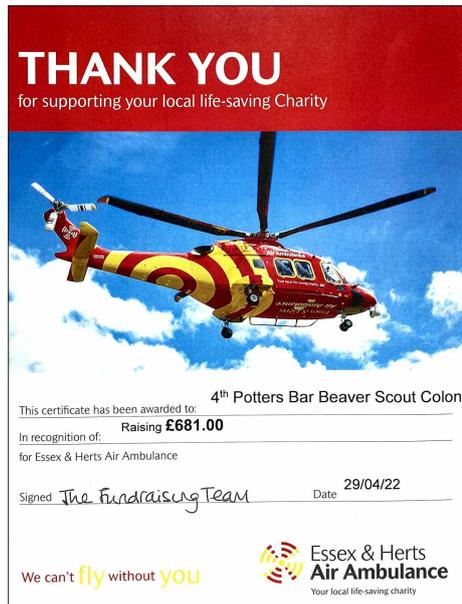
Rotary Club Sponsored Swim

The St John's Team who took part in the Rotary Club Sponsored Swim at Furzefield on Saturday 21st May swam an impressive total of 33 lengths of the pool in relay, in the 20 minutes allowed - the second highest number of lengths of the 17 teams who entered - and raised the magnificent sum of £752.50 in sponsorship for Save the Children's Ukraine Appeal.

Many congratulations and thanks to the swimmers - Nico Bekooy, Rob Branch, Sue Branch, Freda Ward and Carol Durkan, a friend of Alison Alcock, who kindly agreed to be our 5th swimmer. Thank you Alison for introducing Carol to us! Finally, a big 'thank you' to all the many people at St John's and elsewhere, who sponsored the team so generously. *Liz Bekooy*

Well done Beavers

The Beavers raised money for Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Trust (EHAAT) as part of their Personal Challenge Badge. They raised the money in a variety of ways such as selling some of their toys; doing a phenomenal number of press ups (for which they were handsomely rewarded!); tidying their rooms and helping with household chores. When the two volunteers came to collect the donations they showed a video of the work done by the air ambulance and told us that it costs on average over £2000 each time it is launched. *Carol Stewart*



Well done Sally

As well as helping run the St John's stall at the carnival, Sally found time to make this very impressive elephant costume for the Carnival procession. She was walking with the Guides and their theme this year was Circus.

Saturday Morning Prayer - Churches Together in Potters Bar

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

Saturday 2nd July - Potters Bar Baptist Church, 60 Barnet Road, EN6 2RB

Saturday 6th August - King Charles the Martyr, 368 Mutton Lane, EN6 3AS



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 (www.4thpottersbar.scoutsonline.co.uk)
	7.30pm	Stafford 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 (www.4thpottersbar.scoutsonline.co.uk)
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 (www.4thpottersbar.scoutsonline.co.uk)