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

St John's News

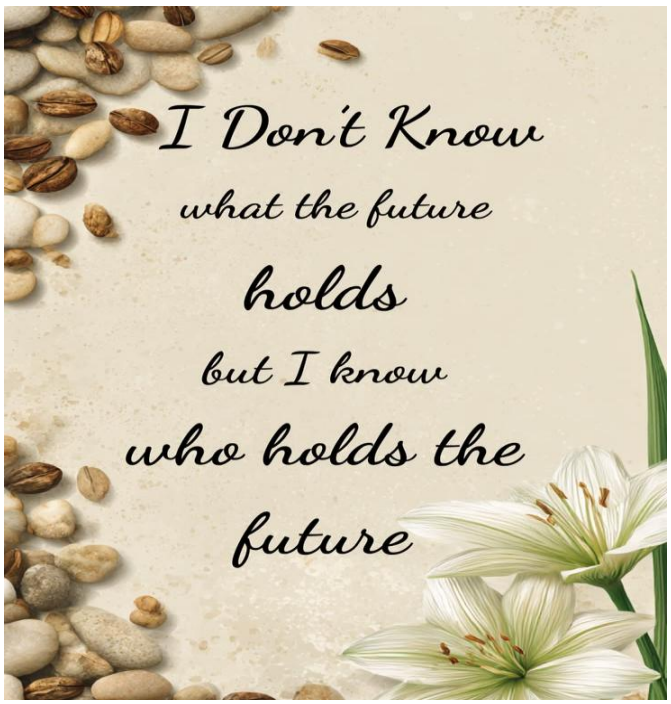
Website: stjohnspb.org.uk Email: sjnews@stjohnspb.org.uk
Minister: Revd Dr David Jebb: 01707 440863/ 07786 907634 djebb2003@gmail.com
Senior Steward: David Carter: 07709 284852 seniorsteward@stjohnspb.org.uk

September 2026

From our Minister – Revd David Jebb

Dear Friends,

As I enter my fifth year in ministry at St John's Methodist Church, serving as Superintendent Minister in the St Albans and Welwyn Circuit, I want to say what a joy it has been to journey alongside so many of you. Over these years, I have met countless people, and many have become very dear friends. I deeply value your support, your kindness, and the love and care you have shown to me and to Jenet.



One of the greatest joys this September is the appointment of our new **Mission Outreach Worker, Rebecca Lin**, who begins her ministry with us and with Shenley on **1 September**. Her **Commissioning Service will take place on 6 September**, and I warmly encourage you to come and join us for this special occasion. An introduction to Rebecca is included in the magazine, please do take time to read it, pray for her, and support her as she begins this important work of reaching out to others for Christ.

It is hard to believe, but this year marks my **40th year in the Methodist Ministry**. I began training as a teenager, sensing God's call at a young age, and after four years of theological education and ministerial formation, I entered the ministry with a heart full of hope and trust. Looking back, I can only say that God has been very good to me. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, He has guided, strengthened, and sustained us every step of the way.

September arrives, and with it the gentle sense that summer is drawing to a close. We may yet enjoy a few more days or even a week of warm sunshine and settled weather, but the season of wall-to-wall heat and soaring temperatures has likely passed. Many will breathe a sigh of relief. The heatwaves of recent months have been uncomfortable for many, bringing temperatures we are not used to experiencing here in England. Across much of Europe the situation has been even more severe. For many, these extremes are a stark reminder of the growing challenge of global warming, an issue that will increasingly shape weather patterns around the world. It naturally prompts the question: *what does the future hold?*

September is also a time of transition for many in education. Some children move from primary to secondary school stepping from being the oldest and most experienced to the youngest and newest. Others have completed their GCSEs and now begin A-Level courses, whether in familiar surroundings or a new school or college. Some, having finished A-Levels, are embarking on university or entering full-time employment for the first time. And others, having completed

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

degrees or vocational qualifications, are beginning new jobs or searching for them. For each one, the question arises again: *what does the future hold?*

It seems that many of us, in different ways, are looking ahead with a mixture of anticipation and uncertainty. Some greet the future with excitement, seeing fresh opportunities and possibilities. Others face it with apprehension, fearful of change and of leaving behind the familiar patterns that have shaped their lives for years or even decades.

I am reminded of a phrase I heard some years ago, though I cannot recall where: *"I don't know what the future holds, but I know who holds the future."* For people of faith, this is a profound reassurance. Though uncertainty is part of every human life, we trust in the One who knows what lies ahead who supports, encourages, and sometimes challenges us as we step into the unknown.

In more recent years, I have come to understand this truth even more deeply. It is not only that God holds the future; it is that **God holds us in the future**. Whatever lies before us new schools, exams, courses, jobs, new opportunities, health concerns, we are held by the One who knew us before we were born, who has walked beside us every day since, and who will remain with us to the grave and beyond.

Whatever the future holds for you, take time to remember that you are held not only by those close to you who love you, but by the One who journeys with you into every season of life: in excitement and fear, hope and worry, strength and frailty, freshness and weariness. As Scripture reminds us, *"The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms."*

With every blessing,

David Jebb

David Jebb - Revd Dr 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

Services

SERVICES			
Date	**Time**	**Service**	**Preacher**
Sunday 6 September	10.30am	Morning Worship	Revd Dr David Jebb
Sunday 13 September	10.30am	Morning Worship	Jenet Jebb
Sunday 13 September	7pm	Café Worship	Revd Tim Swindell
Sunday 20 September	10.30am	Creative Church	Dr Paul Dakin
Sunday 27 September	10.30am	Holy Communion	Revd Dr David Jebb
Sunday 4 October	10.30am	Harvest Festival and Scout Parade	Revd Dr 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.			

St John's Family News

It is with regret that we announce that Pam Taylor passed away peacefully in Barnet hospital on 5 August. (Pam's memorial service was on Wednesday 26 August). We remember her daughter Diane and other members of her family at this time as they come to terms with their sad loss.

Dawn and Guy moved to their new house at the beginning of August. We wish them every happiness in their new home (once they have unpacked all the boxes!)

On 8 August Sandra and David Bowler were delighted to announce the arrival of the latest addition to their family - a grandson Jacob (Jake). Congratulations to parents Sophie (née Bowler) and Joe.

Helen and Peter Barlow are celebrating the arrival of a new grandson. On 3 July, Hannah and Ryan announced the birth of Douglas Jago (Dougie), a brother for Henry and Ruby.

From 1 September we welcome our new Community Mission Outreach Enabler Rebecca Lin to the Church team and Rebecca will be commissioned into the role during the service on 6 September. Pray for Rebecca, her husband Andrew and her children as she takes on this important role in the future life of St John's.

From the Book of Remembrance
People to remember in September:
Sue Vidits (Lence), Griff Griffith, Ron Thompson and Peggy Hart.

If you have news to share, e.g. birthdays, anniversaries etc. in future editions of St John's News, please contact Helen Strand. We are always delighted to hear from you!

Helen Strand - Pastoral Coordinator (email hstrand@aol.com phone 07821 786170)

Churches Together in Potters Bar (CTPB)

Prayer Breakfasts: Churches Together in Potters Bar invite you to join them at 8.30am on the first Saturday of each month as they pray for the Churches and Community of Potters Bar. Meetings last for approximately 45 minutes followed by breakfast.

The next Prayer Breakfasts will take place on Saturday 5 September at King Charles the Martyr Church, 368 Mutton Lane EN6 3AS and Saturday 3 October at St Mary the Virgin and All Saints, The Walk, EN6 1QQ.

Care Homes Services

Cuffley Manor Care Home Service

Tuesday 1 September at 3pm

We lead a service at Cuffley Manor Care Home on the first Tuesday of each month. All are warmly invited to join us if you are able. The residents greatly enjoy the singing of the old hymns - so do come, sing along and share in this special time together.

Thank you

Themed Preaching Series

"Way of the Kingdom – Sermon on the Mount"
A seven-week journey through Matthew 5–7

This autumn we begin a new preaching series exploring the Sermon on the Mount, one of the most beautiful and challenging sections of Jesus' teaching. In these chapters, Jesus reveals what life in God's Kingdom looks like — a life shaped not by status or success, but by humility, mercy, purity, integrity, and deep trust in God.

Across seven Sundays we will walk slowly through Matthew 5–7, discovering how Jesus' words speak into our daily lives, our relationships, and our witness in the world. Each week will focus on a different aspect of Kingdom living, helping us grow in Christlike character and deepen our discipleship. House groups and study groups are warmly encouraged to follow the same passages, using the discussion questions provided to reflect, share, and pray together. May this series open our hearts afresh to the transforming way of Jesus — the Way of the Kingdom.

6 September — Week 1 Revd David Jebb
The Upside-Down Kingdom: The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1–12)

Theme and Focus
Jesus begins His Kingdom manifesto not with commands but with blessings. The Beatitudes reveal the character of those who belong to God's Kingdom.

Core Message
The Beatitudes overturn worldly values and invite us into a life shaped by humility, mercy, purity, and peace. They describe not what we *achieve* but what God *forms* in us.

- Invite the congregation to see the Beatitudes as a mirror of Christ's character.
- Encourage reflection on which Beatitude speaks most personally this season.
- Challenge the church to embody mercy and peace-making in community life.

Discussion Questions

1. Which Beatitude speaks most deeply to you at this moment in your life, and why?
2. Jesus blesses qualities the world often overlooks. Where do you see these Kingdom qualities lived out in our church or community?
3. How does recognising our spiritual poverty help us grow in grace?

Prayer Focus: Formation of Christlike character.

13 September — Week 2 – Jenet Jebb
Salt and Light: Kingdom Influence (Matthew 5:13–16)

Theme and Focus: Disciples are called to be visible signs of God's presence in the world.

Core Message: Salt preserves, purifies, and enhances. Light reveals, guides, and gives hope. Jesus calls His followers to a public faith that is humble yet unmistakable.

- Encourage everyday witness: kindness, integrity, compassion.
- Challenge the church to be present in the neighbourhood.
- Reflect on how fear or busyness dims our light.

Group Discussion Questions

1. Where has God placed you to be "salt" — preserving goodness, bringing hope, or adding flavour?
2. What tends to dim your light or make you hide your faith?
3. Jesus says our good deeds should point others to God. What does this look like in practice?

Prayer Focus- Courage and compassion in public faith.

20 September — Week 3 Paul Dakin
A Righteousness of the Heart (Matthew 5:17–26)

Theme and Focus: Jesus fulfils the Law by revealing its deepest intention: transformation of the heart.

Core Message: Kingdom righteousness is not external compliance but inner transformation. Anger, contempt, and broken relationships matter deeply to God.

- Invite reflection on unresolved conflict.
- Encourage forgiveness and courageous conversations.
- Highlight the healing power of reconciliation.

Discussion Questions

1. Jesus calls for a righteousness that goes deeper than outward behaviour. What does this mean for everyday discipleship?
2. How do anger, frustration, or contempt affect our relationships and spiritual life?
3. Is there a relationship in your life where reconciliation might be needed?

Prayer Focus: Healing of relationships.

27 September — Week 4 – Revd David Jebb
Integrity, Purity & Faithfulness (Matthew 5:27–37)

Theme and Focus: Kingdom life is marked by truthfulness, purity of heart, and faithfulness in relationships.

Core Message
Jesus calls His followers to integrity that goes beyond appearances. Purity is not repression but wholehearted devotion. Truth-telling reflects God's character.

- Encourage integrity in work, home, and church life.
- Offer pastoral sensitivity around marriage and brokenness.
- Invite reflection on speech patterns: exaggeration, half-truths, gossip.

Group Discussion Questions

1. Jesus focuses on the heart rather than outward appearances. Where do you feel challenged by this?
2. What does integrity look like in your workplace, home, or friendships?
3. How can we cultivate purity of heart in a world full of distractions?

Prayer Focus Purity, honesty, and faithfulness.

Introducing Rebecca Lin – Community Mission Outreach Enabler

Rebecca Lin joins us as our new Community Mission Outreach Enabler, bringing a deep Christian faith and a heartfelt desire to share the love of Jesus within the wider community. She is currently studying part-time for a degree in Theology and Ministry, which she will complete next year, further strengthening her understanding of discipleship, mission, and pastoral care.

Rebecca has been actively involved in church leadership for many years. She has served as a Sunday School Lead, Bible teacher, house group leader, and member of the worship team. She also brings hands-on experience in evangelism through Healing on the Streets, and carries a strong passion for prayer, discipleship, and community outreach.

Professionally, Rebecca offers a wealth of creativity and organisational skill from her background in graphic and media design within the investment industry. Her blend of artistic insight, communication ability, and strong people skills enriches her ministry and supports her work in building meaningful connections.

Rebecca speaks fluent English, Mandarin, Cantonese, and French, enabling her to connect with people from diverse cultural backgrounds and to help foster a welcoming, inclusive church community.

She is excited to be part of the mission outreach of St John's and Shenley and looks forward to working alongside the church family to build relationships, strengthen community engagement, and create opportunities for people to encounter Jesus in fresh and life-giving ways, as together we continue to grow in mission, discipleship, evangelism, and community engagement for Christ.

Circuit News

St Albans & Welwyn **Methodist** Circuit

HONOURING **RICHARD SEDDON**

ON HIS 60 YEARS OF LOCAL PREACHING MINISTRY

THANKSGIVING & CELEBRATION

in the Colours and Joy of Africa

SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 4PM

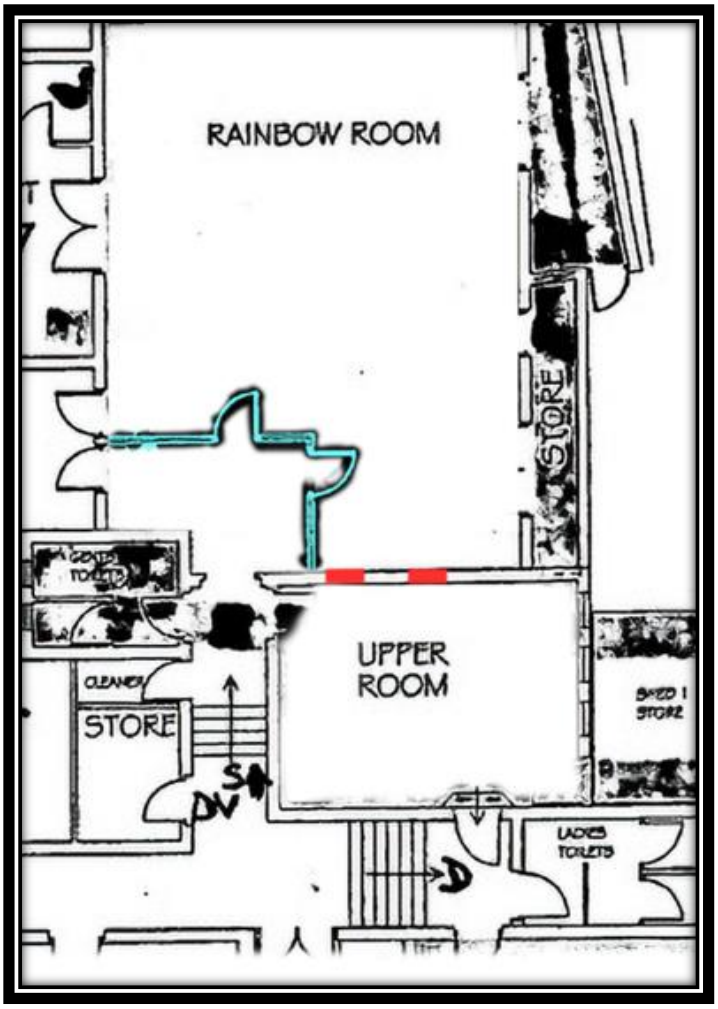
OXLEASE METHODIST CHURCH

Presentation of the Long Service Certificate followed by a delicious fellowship meal.
Please come colourfully dressed for an afternoon of celebration. All welcome!

RSVP by 10 September 2026 email: admin@midhertsmethodists.org.uk

A Hidden Cinema at St John's?

A feature from St John's past has come to light during recent work in the Rainbow Room.



While helping set up for the Nursery Playgroup some time ago, I noticed an old electrical circuit breaker box labelled "Projection" in the Playgroup cupboard. It was a small detail, but an intriguing one. If there was once a projection system, where had it been - and was it ever actually used?

During renovation and decoration this summer a most exciting discovery came to light when metal storage units were removed from the party wall between the Rainbow Room and the Upper Room. Hidden behind them were two projection embrasures (red on the plan) - openings that would have allowed films to be shown in the Rainbow Room (formerly the Back Hall) from a projector hide in the Upper Room.

These apertures would have been a window for the projectionist, and one for the 16mm projector. They had long since been sealed and plastered over on the reverse side. The current doors to the Hall (cyan) were probably added after the Projection operation was abandoned as the new wall would obstruct the embrasure on the hall's centre line.

So far, no one I have contacted- either among church members or on Facebook - remembers the system being used, or any films being shown. Yet many churches once used religious films for Sunday Schools and youth groups, so it seems entirely possible that this was an intended feature when the hall was built. Which leaves an intriguing question: was this a well-planned facility that served generations of church children and young people - or a feature installed but never actually used?

If you remember the projection system, or any films shown at St John's, I would love to hear from you.

Don Hart
lightharted@me.com

Church Coffee Supplies Appeal

We are still looking for someone to help with buying the church coffee supplies, now that Sandra and David Bowler are moving. If you are interested and want to know more about it, please ask David and he can explain what is involved with this job.

Many thanks

Shenley Methodist Church

Messy Church Goes Wild – Shenley Park, Sunday 19 July

Shenley Messy Church, together with the St Albans and Welwyn Methodist Circuit Youth Event Team, hosted a wonderful *Messy Church Goes Wild* afternoon at Shenley Park on Sunday 19 July. Families, children, and young people enjoyed a wide range of creative activities including trebuchet making, shelter building, nature frames, wood-slice painting, bird feeders, and a photo scavenger hunt — all exploring the theme **"Sharing the Good News"** from Isaiah 52:7.

The event concluded with a delicious BBQ, drinks, and marshmallow toasting, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere. A huge thank-you to all volunteers and leaders, to **Liz** for the generous use of the beautiful Shenley Park facilities, and to **Dick, Nico, Phil, and the team** for providing the excellent BBQ.

Special thanks also to **Heather Moir** for coordinating this fantastic event for Messy Church and the Circuit Youth Team. Around **120 people** attended, making it a joyful and memorable day for families, young people, and the whole community.

Dates for your Diary

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Macmillan Bring & Buy Coffee Morning
Come and join us for coffee and cakes and give your support to this great cause.
Friday 25 September 10.30am - 12 noon in the Clifton Room.
Donations of cakes, jams or items for the Bring and Buy stall would be greatly appreciated by Pat Griffith (656344)

4th POTTERS BAR SCOUT GROUP JUMBLE SALE

Saturday 3 October at St John's
Entry (from Heather Way)
£2 at 10am or 50p at 10.30am
Finishes at noon

Contributions to sell at the Jumble Sale welcome, but no furniture, electrical items, videos or cassettes, thank you.

Shipwrecked - The Story of Jonah Holiday Club

A letter for all those who helped with the holiday club last month

Dear Helpers

What a wonderful, rewarding and also exhausting week it was serving at the Churches Together in Potters Bar Holiday Club from 27 - 31 July at KCM Church. I want to express my gratitude to you for serving at Holiday Club. It was a privilege to serve with you. A lot of work went into the Holiday Club but the smiles and sense of joy on the children's faces and the enthusiasm of the Teen Team made all that hard work worth it. We continue to pray that the story of Jonah and the good news of Jesus shapes their young lives. I would like to notify you about and encourage you to put these two dates in your diary:

Sunday 27 September, 3pm at King Charles the Martyr Church - Feedback meeting for all volunteers of Holiday Club and to discern a way forward in the years ahead (please bring cake to share!)

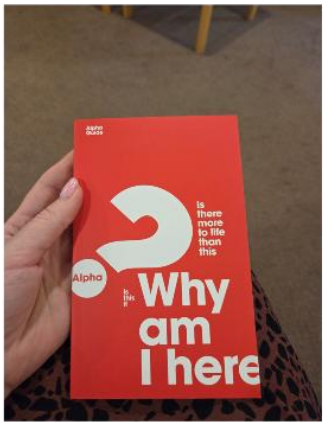
Sunday 18 October, 1pm Lunch (please let us know what dietary requirements you have) at Our Lady at St Vincent Catholic Church - an opportunity for all and anyone who is eager to discern whether there are other missional opportunities we could undertake as Churches Together. There will be space to consider what we understand the needs of the local community are and discern if we as Churches Together can speak something of the gospel into this.

Teen Team - You are most welcome to join us for both of these dates. We'd love to see you and hear your thoughts and ideas.

Please let us know if you are able to attend one or both of the above. I'd also be grateful if you would encourage others in your church to attend both these dates even if they did not serve at this year's Holiday Club, as they may want to hear about it and so get involved in future years. I'd love to hear from you if you have any questions or comments.

Every Blessing
Revd Adrian Wood, Potters Bar Baptist Church, Chair of Churches Together in Potters Bar
minister@pbbc.org.uk

Alpha Course



Alpha 2026 has truly been a profoundly powerful and grace-filled journey for us. This year, twenty wonderful people joined us each bringing their own story, their hopes, and those deeply rooted questions that so often sit quietly in the heart. Week by week, we watched them open up, explore faith with honesty, and discover fresh depths of God's love. It has been a privilege to witness such courage, such longing, and such spiritual hunger.

I want to express my sincere thanks to Dick, Nico, and the whole kitchen team. Their hospitality created a warm home for everyone who came — the meals, the welcome, the gentle presence. It all helped people feel safe enough to stay, to listen, and to learn. My gratitude also goes to those who served in the crèche with Jackie and her team and offered practical help. Your quiet acts of service allowed parents to fully engage and grow in their own faith. Every kindness became part of the ministry.

Our Alpha Celebration Service on **26 July at 10.30am** was deeply moving. The testimonies shared were honest, hopeful, and full of God's gentle work in people's lives. Many spoke of how Alpha had awakened something new within them, and several expressed a desire to take the next steps in their discipleship. Hearing their stories reminded us again that God is at work, transforming lives in ways we sometimes only glimpse.

Alpha 2026 has brought together new faces and long-standing members, reminding us that curiosity, community, and Christ are essential for our journey of salvation. It has been a truly successful and Spirit-filled season one that has strengthened our fellowship and deepened our shared walk with Jesus.

We are now hoping to gather everyone who took part in Alpha 2023, 2024, and 2026 for a joyful reunion over lunch one Sunday in the near future. The date and time will be announced soon. We may even call it **"Lunch with the Pastor"** a chance to reconnect, share stories, and dream together about the future God is shaping for us at St John's -Shenley!

Watch this space, more blessings are surely on the way.

David Jebb

‘One of the Most Rewarding Experiences I’ve Had’

Alpha Course reflection by *Lynnette Sullivan (Local Councillor)*

Over the past few months, from May to July, I've had the privilege of taking part in the Alpha Course at St. John's Methodist Church in Potters Bar, and I can honestly say it has been one of the most rewarding experiences I've had.

Every Saturday, we began by sharing a meal together, with a different theme each week, all lovingly prepared by an incredible team of volunteers. Those meals weren't just about food—they were about friendship, laughter, welcome and community. Having a crèche for the children also meant parents like me could fully immerse ourselves in the course, knowing our little ones were being cared for with such kindness.

Alpha gave me the opportunity to set aside two and a half hours each week to pause, reflect and explore what faith means to me. It wasn't about being told what to think or focusing only on the words of the Bible. Instead, it encouraged honest conversations about how we live out Christian values in our everyday lives. We listened to one another with respect, asked difficult questions, and learned from people whose experiences and perspectives were different from our own.

For me, this journey came at an important time. Through bereavement, personal challenges and growth, it gave me space to reflect, heal and strengthen my faith. Although I was disappointed to miss a few sessions, I'm so grateful for everything I was able to be part of.

Perhaps the biggest gift Alpha has given me is the confidence to be open about my Christianity. Faith isn't something I feel I have to keep hidden. I'm proud to talk about what I believe, while also being genuinely interested in hearing from people of other faiths-or no faith at all. Respectful conversations don't divide us; they help us understand one another better and bring us closer as a community.

I'd encourage anyone to have those conversations. Be curious. Listen well. Share your own experiences with kindness. We don't have to agree on everything to learn from each other. And these conversations apply to those who do not believe in a God, our focus on faith in ourselves, forgiveness and time for personal prayer can be felt even if you don't feel aligned with a certain religion.

Finally, thank you to everyone who made Alpha possible. To Reverend David Jebb, the wonderful volunteers who created amazing themed meals each week, those who kept the tea and coffee flowing, cared for our children in the crèche, and everyone who quietly set up and packed away-thank you. Your generosity, time and love created something truly special. It really does take a village, and I'm so grateful to have been part of it.

I'm so glad I took the leap and made the time for myself each Saturday. It reminded me how important it is to invest in our own spiritual, emotional and personal growth. I'd encourage anyone who's thinking about doing an Alpha Course-or simply taking time to reflect on their faith and life's bigger questions-to do the same.

Lynette Sullivan

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End

Revelation 22:13

Saturday Morning Prayers

The prayer ministry has a dedicated team of prayer leaders for the month of September, who are committed to consistent prayer for the church, circuit, county and the world, as well as for individuals in need.

To join this vital online prayer ministry, interested individuals are invited to participate. To obtain the Zoom link, contact Revd Dr David Jebb via email at djebb2003@gmail.com.

Our wonderful circuit administrator, Autumn Leung, will be in touch with you weekly, providing the name of the upcoming leader and all the necessary Zoom details for you to join us in fellowship and prayer.

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 Dr David Jebb 01707 440863
	8pm – 10pm	Badminton	Margaret Bland 07887 532128
Tuesdays	11am – 3pm	Welcome Space	Barbara Thompson 01707 665621
Wednesdays	2.30pm – 4.30pm	Strafford Gate House Group *(Usually 3rd Wednesday in the month)*	David Carter 07709 284852
	6.30pm - 8pm	Cubs	www.4thpottersbar.scoutsonline.co.uk
	7.45pm – 9pm	Bible Study in Clifton Room *(Fortnightly)*	Lesley Humphreys 07961 347152
Thursdays	7pm – 8.30pm	Scouts	www.4thpottersbar.scoutsonline.co.uk
Fridays	10.30am – 12pm	Morning Coffee in Clifton Room *(1st and 3rd Fridays in the month)*	
	10.30am	Byng Drive House Group *(Fortnightly)*	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 Dr David Jebb 01707 440863

Copies of next month's SJ News will be available in Church on Sunday 4 October 2026!