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
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November 2026

From our Minister...



Reflection and gratitude



Dear Friends

November is always a month of deep reflection in the life of the Church. It is a time when we pause, remember, and allow God to speak into the places of our lives where gratitude, grief, hope and longing all meet. This month, our worship and fellowship will guide us gently through these themes.

Focusing on the Lord's Prayer

On three of the Sundays in November, we will explore the Lord's Prayer together. This prayer, given to us by Jesus, is not only a pattern for prayer but a pattern for living. Each phrase invites us to see the world as God sees it, to align our hearts with His kingdom, and to trust Him with our daily needs.

We will reflect on what it means to say:

"Our Father…" - *belonging to God and to one another*

"Your kingdom come…" - *longing for God's justice & peace*

"Give us this day…" - *learning to depend on God in all things*

My hope is that these Sundays will help us rediscover the beauty and depth of this prayer, and how it shapes our discipleship today.

Memorial Service - Sunday 1st November at 3pm

We warmly invite you to our annual Memorial Service on Sunday 1st November at 3pm, a gentle and meaningful time to remember loved ones who have died. Whether your loss is recent or many years past, all are welcome.

During the service, there will be an opportunity to light a candle in remembrance, symbolising love, hope, and the unfading light of Christ.

If you would like a loved one's name read aloud, please pass their name to Guy Fenner or Helen Strand when you arrive. Family members and friends will then be invited to come forward and light a candle in their memory.



Remembrance and Peace

This month, we join others across the nation and wider world in marking Remembrance. Our Parade Service on Sunday 8th November, will honour all who served and sacrificed in the First and Second World Wars and in conflicts since.

On Remembrance Day - 11th November, we will pause with the world to pray for peace - remembering past wars whilst recognising the suffering in many nations today. We hold in prayer those who have never known peace, and ommunities torn apart by violence, fear, and injustice.

We also give thanks for the United Nations, peace building charities, and humanitarian organisations who work tirelessly to rebuild hope and promote reconciliation. Their work reminds us that true peace is more than the absence of war; it is the presence of justice, compassion, and healing.

A Call to Look Within

As we remember the world, we also look at ourselves - our own country, our community, our town and our church. How might we be instruments of peace? How might we welcome those who have never stepped inside a church before? How might we embody the prayer we say each week: ***"Your will be done, on earth as in heaven"?***

May this month be a time of gentle reflection, deep gratitude, and renewed commitment to living as people of Christ's peace. With every blessing,

Revd Dr David Jebb

SUNDAY SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S

more details on website - www.stjohnspb.org.uk

DATE	TIME	SERVICE	PREACHER
Sunday 1 November	10.30	Morning Worship Service	Revd David Jebb
Sunday 1 November	15.00	Memorial and Thanksgiving Service	Revd David Jebb
Sunday 8 November	10.30	Remembrance Service with Scout Parade	Revd Alan Combes
Sunday 8 November	19.00	Cafe Worship	Revd Marcia Tull
Sunday 15 November	10.30	Morning Service and Creative Church in main hall	Revd David Jebb
Sunday 22 November	10.30	Morning Service	Dr Paul Dakin
Sunday 29 November	10.30	Holy Communion	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. Other children are invited to Junior Johns in the Garden Room. More information from a Steward or Jackie Hart 07825 211657

Revd David Jebb is our Minister at St John's Methodist Church and Superintendent Minister of the St Albans & Welwyn Circuit, overseeing the work of nine churches and one Mission Project and one Methodist Centre. He has ministered in several Circuits across England and brings a strong missional focus, valuing contemporary and formal worship styles and flexible approaches that help people encounter Christ and grow as disciples.

Revd Alan Combes is a former member of St John's who, after training as a minister, was appointed to the Enfield Circuit in 2013 and then to be Superintendent in the Vale of Stour in the West Midlands in 2019. Alan has recently retired and with his wife Michele has returned 'home' to live in Potters Bar. Alan continues preaching as a supernumerary minister in our circuit, so we are pleased to welcome him back.

Dr Paul Dakin is a retired medical doctor who dedicates a significant time to local preaching. He comes from the Cuffley area and also usually joins our worship group with his guitar. He has always been close to the Methodist denomination. Paul has preached here before and his style and message is always thought provoking.

Marcia Tull this will be Marcia's first time visiting St John's to lead our worship. She will be leading our more informal Cafe Worship which takes place in the evening at 7pm and lasts about an hour in length.

'On the Way' discipleship course

Good News!

'On the Way' Course Is Going Ahead! We're delighted to confirm that our 'On the Way' discipleship course is running over 12 sessions at St John's Methodist Church, Baker Street, Potters Bar EN6 2DZ.

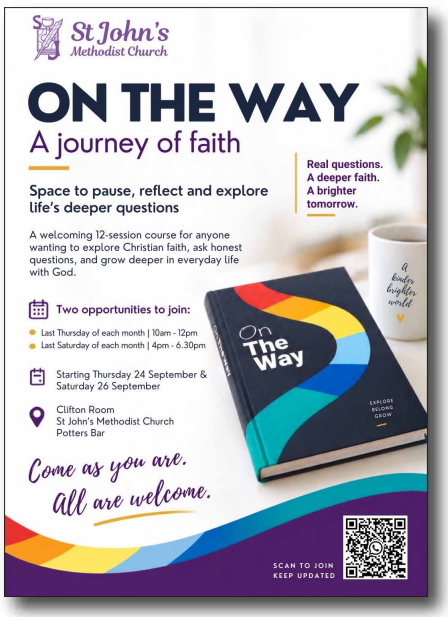
This monthly course offers a choice of two different days and times each month so you can choose the one that suits you best:

- **Last Thursday of each month 10.00 - 12.00 noon**
- **Last Saturday of each month 4.00pm - 6.00pm**

'On the Way' is a gentle, welcoming space to grow in faith, deepen discipleship, and explore what it means to walk with Christ in everyday life.

What is 'On the Way'?

This course offers simple weekly mini-adventures and reflection time to help you see the sacred in everyday life. You are welcome exactly as you are - whether curious, hopeful, uncertain, or tired - no pretence or perfection needed. God is already seeking you, and His love is patient, kind, and persistent: like the shepherd searching for the lost sheep (Luke 15), He knows, loves, and delights in you. This is your space to slow down, notice, and grow.



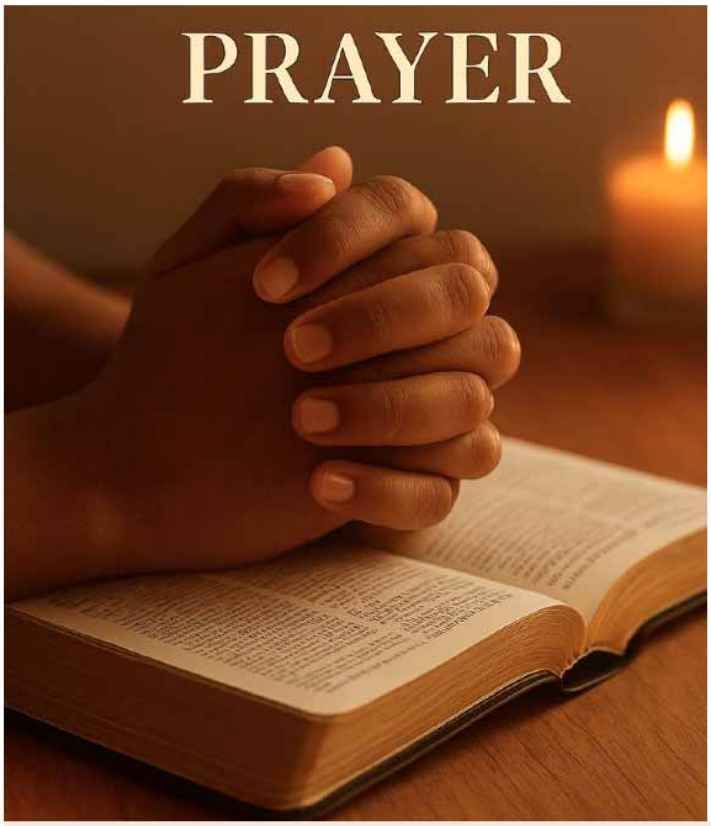
Let's begin...

If you haven't signed up yet, there's still time to join us! Whether you're exploring faith, wanting to grow deeper in your relationship with God, or simply looking to journey with others, you would be very welcome. Join the On the Way WhatsApp group here: https://chat.whatsapp.com/Ci5DLmUsHjcJ18LC2gvXUc?s=cl&p=i... Please join the WhatsApp group so I can keep everyone updated with course information, reminders and anything you need to know before we begin. We're really looking forward to starting this journey together!

Rebecca Lin
Mission Outreach Enabler

The Lord's Prayer - sermon series

"Everyday the Lord's Prayer" - Exploring the Prayer that Shapes Christian Life



A three week journey exploring the prayer that Jesus gave us - a prayer that shapes our relationship with God, aligns our lives with His Kingdom, and teaches us daily dependence, forgiveness, and hope. Join us throughout November as we rediscover the depth, beauty, and transforming power of the Lord's Prayer.

Overall movement of the series

Relationship → Surrender → Dependence

The series presents the Lord's Prayer not simply as words to recite, but as a prayer that forms the way Christians live:

- ***"Our Father"*** *- Who are we in relationship with God?*
- ***"Your Kingdom come"*** *- How should we align our lives with God's purposes?*
- ***"Give us… Forgive us… Deliver us"*** *- How do we learn to depend on God each day?*

Overall message

The Lord's Prayer re-orients us towards God, shapes us as Kingdom people, and teaches us to live each day with **trust, humility, forgiveness, dependence and hope.**

Date	Theme	Main Focus
1 November - Part 1	*"Our Father in Heaven..."* A Prayer of Relationship and Reorientation	We begin with who God is, discovering prayer as relationship, belonging and trust. *"Our Father"* reminds us that faith is both personal and communal, while "in heaven" points to God's holiness and sovereignty.
15 November - Part 2	*"Your Kingdom Come..."* A Prayer of Surrender and Alignment	We move from relationship to surrender, asking God's Kingdom and will to shape our lives. The Beatitudes show what Kingdom living looks like, challenging our personal agendas and calling us to discipleship.
22 November - Part 3	*"Give, Forgive, Deliver..."* A Prayer of Dependence and Transformation	We learn daily dependence on God for provision, forgiveness and protection. *"Daily bread,"* forgiveness and deliverance shape our gratitude, relationships, resilience and trust in God.

FAMILY NEWS - NOVEMBER

Helen Strand - Telephone: 07821 786170 Email: hstrand@aol.com

Congratulations to **Sybil Long** who celebrates her 90th birthday on 1st November. Although Sybil is unable to join us at Sunday worship as she is living in Mayfair Lodge I am sure some people can remember her strong singing voice for the hymns. **Rosemary B** also celebrates her birthday in November.

Several members of the church family are unwell. Others are receiving hospital treatment or awaiting test results. Pray for them that they will soon be restored to health or receive appropriate treatment to ease their condition.

The Book of Remembrance at the back of the church records the following members who died in November in years gone by. **Reg Merrill, Marjorie Borrows, Anne Carter, Pat Goodwin,** and **Joan Manners**. If you knew these people take a minute to think of them and any times you shared together.

On 1st November - All Saints Day at the annual Memorial Service many people will come and light candles in memory of their family members or friends who are no longer with us.

If you have news to include in future issues of SJNews please contact Helen Strand, Pastoral Coordinator, with details above.

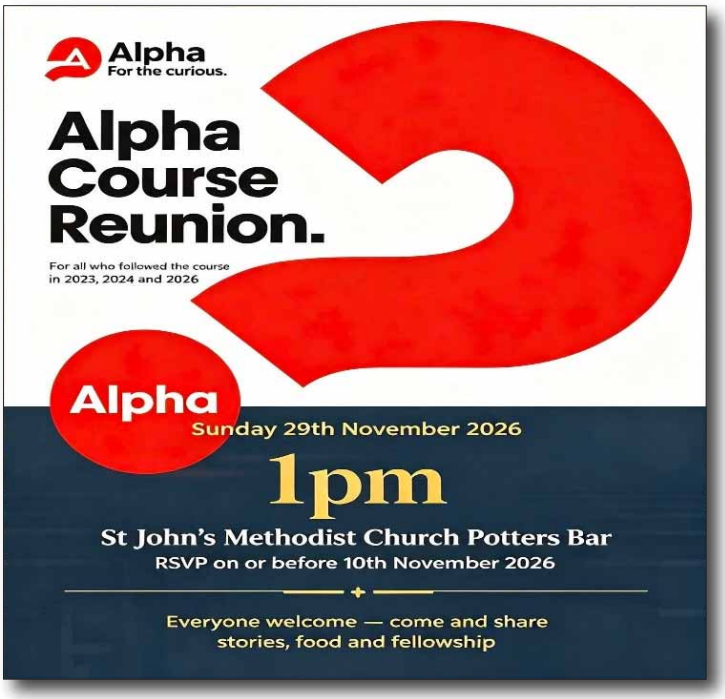
Alpha Reunion Lunch - Sunday 29 November, 1pm

Over the past years - 2023, 2024, and 2026 more than 65 people have taken part in the Alpha Courses at St John's. Each course brought a wonderful mix of people, stories, and experiences, and every ten week journey became a place where lives were touched in unexpected ways.

I still remember one participant saying, "I was a non-believer, thank you for introducing Christ to me which I am ever so grateful for," and another, who had been coming to church for thirty years, sharing that Alpha 2024 finally helped him to understand Jesus Christ as his Saviour. A Muslim participant also spoke with deep sincerity saying that through Alpha he had come to see Christ as the Messiah, and that salvation is found in Him alone.

To celebrate all that God has done through Alpha, we are holding a Reunion Lunch for all participants from the three years on: Sunday 29th November 2026 at 1pm, in the Garden Room at St John's. Please let me know if you are able to come so that we can cater accordingly.

Email: minister@stjohnspb.org.uk





A Short Alpha Course in April - May 2027 (5 sessions)

Following the success of our previous courses, several people have asked for a shorter version of Alpha. We are very pleased to be able to offer a 5 week Alpha Course on **Saturdays 10th April, 17th April, 24th April, and Saturdays 1st May, 8th May**

Timetable

4.00pm - Afternoon meal in the Garden Room

5.00pm - Video and discussion in the Clifton Room

We can accommodate 12 participants so if you, or someone you know would like to join, contact David Jebb

Tel: 07786 907634 Email: minister@stjohnspb.org.uk

Saturday Morning Prayers - November, 9am to 9.45am

Our Saturday Morning Prayer gatherings continue throughout November, offering a gentle and uplifting space to listen for God's voice, share our concerns, and pray for our churches, our community, and the wider world. Each week a different leader will guide us through a short reflection, Scripture, and prayer.

These sessions run on Zoom, and everyone is warmly invited to join. For the link, please contact:
Circuit Administrator: admin@midhertsmethodists.org.uk



Adding light helping us see more clearly

For centuries tradition kept preachers at a safe distance from ordinary folk. There was the medieval Rood screen. Then, after the Reformation, the reading desk and the towering pulpit. As a former "preacher on note", I can confirm that both feel wonderfully secure - rather like a knight's shield or a castle keep. The one moment of terror came when I was encouraged to leave the safe haven to approach small children, otherwise known as delivering the Children's Address.

Now chaos has shaken the ship. Preachers are escaping their confines, casting off the shackles of convention and confidently advancing upon the congregation. Fear and dread abound. "Bring the Word of God? Ten metres is close enough, thank you." Comfort zones are under threat.



This is not a twenty-first-century horror. It is the heritage of Georgian preachers and church architects - and in this story our own St John's architect. Georgian church architecture of the evangelical revival embodied a change of focus in worship: a focus on the Word of God rather than on ritual. The Word expounded by the preacher, surrounded by prayer and by songs of faith and praise. A preacher's skill lay in learning how to use a building's acoustic footprint to amplify their voice and make sure the Word was heard. The architect's job was to introduce leading lines.

With the help of an excellent photo (not mine) it is possible to reveal how the leading lines within our building point to a central preacher.

Reinforced by the lighting, all eyes are on David Rhodes, whose green shirt helps to separate him from the blue and tan backing.

The photo also reveals that David has chosen the perfect place from which to project his voice clearly: on the stage blocks, forward of the chancel. The beautiful elliptical ceiling creates multiple echoes that travel different distances, arriving out of phase and lacking coherence to the ears of the congregation. The only place in the building where the ellipse is destroyed is at the centre of the transept, where the organ and choir cut the nave. Which is exactly where David is standing.

When a preacher chooses to stand front and centre, they are using the building to help you hear - and to focus on the delivery of the Word.

Don Hart

Staging gets a face lift too

We are very pleased with the staging at the front of church which has been enhanced with new carpet. The extra heightened area really helps both the preacher and those participating in our Parade Services and Creative Church be seen and heard better.

Margaret Rhodes





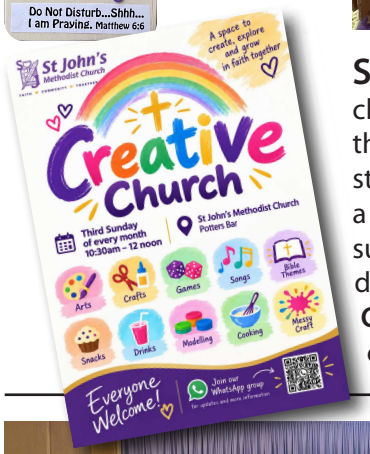
September







October



September In the Old Testament Moses climbed up Mount Sinai and God gave him the 10 commandments on 2 tablets of stone. In the New Testament Jesus went up a mountain and spoke to the crowds. Jesus summarised the 10 commandments to his disciples as shown in the painting above. **Crafts** - edible mountains, clay tablets, coasters, heart card and painting.

October A Premier Inn guarantees you a good night's sleep with no one disturbing you in the morning! Jesus continues speaking to his disciples saying - This is how you pray - go into your room, close the door and pray on your own to God, who hears what you say. **Crafts** - edible beds/pillows, tactile crosses, door hangers, closing door flaps, stone painting and painting. ***MR***





Our Harvest charity this year was Potters Bar Foodbank which is based at the Wayside Centre. Various tins and packets of food were donated at our Harvest Parade Service. We learnt how important our crops are in making our familiar and favourite foods e.g. potatoes make chips, bananas make milkshakes, oranges make orange juice, apples make apple pie, cocoa beans make chocolate! Our Nursery Playgroup also enjoyed their Harvest Celebration service in the church and learnt how the sun and rain make the farmers crops grow.

St Albans & Welwyn **Methodist** Circuit

What is ALL AGE WORSHIP?

Saturday 28th November 2026, 10am-1pm

St John's Methodist Church, Potters Bar EN6 2DZ

An open session for everyone interested in exploring creative, intergenerational worship

LED BY DAVID BETTS

Lay Army Families & Children Worker (Hampshire), with over 25 years' experience in contemporary and all-age worship

NOT JUST FOR LEADERS AND PREACHERS
EVERYONE WELCOME!
REGISTER BY 20TH NOVEMBER 2026
admin@midhertsmethodists.org.uk





Carol Singing

In aid of
Action for Children Charity

Friday 18 December
6.15pm at St John's

We sing and collect in the surrounding roads for about 2 hours, then return to the Clifton Room for soup and cakes

All welcome but children must be accompanied by a responsible adult

Dress code: warm clothes, santa hats, antlers, tinsel, fairy lights, etc!

More information:
Sally Gunning 07941 223102

Christmas Services

Sunday 6 December, 10.30am
Christingle Scout Parade

Sunday 13 December, 10.30am
9 Lessons and Carols in Church
OR Christmas Creative in hall

Sunday 20 December, 4pm
All Age Carol Service

Thursday 24 December, 11pm
Christmas Eve with Communion

Friday 25 December, 10.30am
Christmas Day All Age Worship

CIRCUIT NEWS - NOVEMBER

admin@midhertsmethodists.org.uk

We are delighted to announce that our new Circuit website is now live! You can visit the new website here:

https://www.stalbansandwelwynmethodists.org.uk

Autumn Leung, Circuit Administrator

Thinking Lunch announcement

Dear Friends,

As announced at the June Thinking Lunch, we are suspending thinking lunches for the foreseeable future due to some changes in our weekly programme in the church building at Hatfield Road and lack of numbers. We are sorry for any inconvenience already caused as some have travelled to church only to find it was closed. We will be in touch with you if there is any change in the current arrangement. Every blessing ***Revd Daniel Yovan***

3Generate 2026

A group of 30 young people and 6 leaders from the St Albans & Welwyn Circuit plus the Herts & Essex Border Circuit had three uplifting days at the 3Generate Youth Rally at the NEC in Birmingham in October. They had a wonderful and enriching experience meeting many other young people (around 2000 young people) from across the Connexion. My sincere thanks go to everyone involved, and especially to Heather Moir, for organising this year's group. We are grateful to the Circuit and District for supporting our young people for the third consecutive year. ***Revd David Jebb***

Churches Together in Potters Bar - Prayer Breakfast

CTPB invite you to join them at 8.30am on the first Saturday of each month to pray for the Churches and community of Potters Bar. Meetings last 45 minutes followed by breakfast. *www.ctpb.org.uk*

Saturday 7 November - Our Lady and St Vincent, 243 Mutton Lane EN6 2AT

Saturday 5 December - Potters Bar United Reformed Church, Darkes Lane EN6 1BZ

Macmillan Bring & Buy Coffee Morning - Friday 25 Sept

A big thank you to all who supported our Macmillan Coffee Morning back in September. The final amount raised for the charity was £352.55p. Many thanks. *Pat Griffith*

REGULAR ACTIVITIES AT ST JOHN'S

more details on website - www.stjohnspb.org.uk

Mondays	10.00 - 11.45am	Jumping Johns - Main Hall	*Margaret Bland 07887 532128*
	10.00am - 12.00pm	Can We Fix It Group	*Roger Croughton 01707 650438*
	10.30 - 11.30am	Vestry Hour	*Rev David Jebb 01707 440863*
	8.00 - 10.00pm	Badminton - Main Hall	*Margaret Bland 07887 532128*
Tuesdays	11.00am - 3.00pm	Welcome Space	*Barbara Thompson 01707 665621*
Wednesdays	2.30 - 4.30pm	Strafford Gate House Group - 3rd Wednesday	*David Carter 07709 284852*
	6.30 - 8.00pm	Cubs - Main Hall	*www.4thpottersbarscouts.co.uk*
	7.45 - 9.00pm	Bible Study in Clifton Room - fortnightly	*Lesley Humphreys 07961 3471520*
Thursdays	7.00 - 8.00pm	Prayer Meeting - Church vestibule	*missionoutreachenabler@gmail.com*
	7.00 - 8.30pm	Scouts - Main Hall	*www.4thpottersbarscouts.co.uk*
Fridays	10.30am - 12.00pm	Morning Coffee, Clifton Room - 1st and 3rd Fridays in month	
	10.30am	Byng Drive House Group - fortnightly	*Dawn Fenner 07969 924346*
	6.15 - 7.15pm	Beavers - Rainbow Room	*www.4thpottersbarscouts.co.uk*
Saturdays	9.00 - 9.45am	Let's Pray Together (zoom)	*Revd David Jebb 01707 440863*

Copy deadline for next issue is Friday 20 November 2026

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

8 of 8