



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

St John's News

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May 2025

From our Minister – Revd David Jebb

On May 24, 1738, Anglican priest John Wesley experienced a life-changing spiritual awakening at a small gathering on Aldersgate Street, London. Though deeply devoted to his faith, Wesley had long wrestled with doubts about his salvation. That evening, as he listened to a reading from Martin Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans, he felt his "heart strangely warmed". In that moment, he gained a deep assurance that Christ had truly saved him - even him - and he placed his trust fully in Christ alone.



This Aldersgate experience became the spark of a mighty revival. With his brother Charles Wesley and fellow evangelist George Whitefield, John Wesley led an evangelical renewal across England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland. He preached in open fields, reached out to the poor and forgotten, and organised societies and class meetings that nurtured faith and discipleship. What began as a renewal movement within the Church of England eventually grew into the worldwide Methodist Church.

Even today - 287 years later - Wesley's passion, discipline, and vision continue to inspire millions across the globe. Methodism is still growing, transforming lives and communities with its message of grace, holiness, and love in action. If you'd like to explore more of Wesley's incredible story, a visit to the Wesley Chapel at City Road and Museum of Methodism in London offers a powerful glimpse into his life and legacy.



As we mark this important anniversary in May, we give thanks for our founder, John Wesley, whose "strangely warmed heart" continues to set hearts ablaze around the world.

Today, there are over 84 million Methodists worldwide, and the movement continues to grow rapidly. This growth is fuelled by a passionate heart for evangelism, a deep commitment to community outreach, and a willingness to meet people wherever they are - both spiritually and practically.

Methodists are engaged in countless social and missional projects that inspire people to follow Christ personally and live out their faith through acts of love and service. The spirit of Aldersgate lives on as we reach out to those who have yet to experience the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

Let us be encouraged and empowered to continue this mission today.

"The best of all is, God is with us." – John Wesley's final words

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 23 May 2025

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Services

Date	Time	Service	Preacher
Sunday 4 May <i>(Vocation Sunday)</i>	10.30am	Morning Worship	Jenet Jebb
Sunday 11 May <i>(Start of Christian Aid Week)</i>	10.30am	Morning Worship Followed by General Church Meeting	Rev David Jebb
	7pm	Café Worship	Guy and Dawn Fenner
Sunday 18 May	10.30am	Creative Church	Deacon Nigel Perrott
Sunday 25 May <i>(Aldersgate Sunday)</i>	10.30am	Holy Communion	Rev 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.

Jenet Jebb is married to our minister, David, and with their two daughters moved from Sri Lanka to the UK 33 years ago. Before joining us Jenet attended Methodist Churches in Romford and Amersham and has been a worship leader for 14 years. Jenet has built her career in the finance field. When not leading worship, Jenet enjoys singing with our worship band here at St John's.

Guy and Dawn Fenner are long standing members of St John's. Dawn is a true Potters 'Barbarian' and attended all the children and youth groups here, so she knows our church very well! Guy also grew up here and works in a local firm. They have led informal evening services together before and offer a relaxed style of worship along with a time of sharing and discussion.

Deacon Nigel Perrott serves at two churches in St Albans, and with his wife Jane, also looks after Cornerstone House in Hatfield - a community house that serves Salisbury Village. He is passionate about Jesus, chocolate and coffee! and has just published a book about his life which will be available to purchase soon.

Revd David Jebb is our minister here at St John's and often leads our more thought-provoking morning services, including Holy Communion which takes place towards the end of the service. All children and adults are invited to eat some bread and drink some non-alcoholic wine as a reminder of the last meal Jesus ate with his disciples, or can alternatively come up to receive a blessing instead.

Care Homes Services

Date	Time	Location
Wednesday 7 May	3pm	Cooperscroft Care Home
Wednesday 21 May	3pm	Cuffley Manor

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



Saturday Morning Prayer Leaders
 3rd May – Michelle Vanmaak
 10th May – Jenet Jebb
 17th May – Jacqi Guy
 24th May – Nigel Perrott
 31st May – Rosemary Mutopo

Come and join us via Zoom from 9am to 9:45am

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.

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=OThXWEc5WnZ0TmphiajNhS3E3NGYvOT09>

Meeting ID: 983 8269 9249, Passcode: 178314

Churches Together in Potters Bar



GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE - Members of the Churches together in Potters Bar united to mark Good Friday by participating in a Walk of Witness and Open Air Service at the War Memorial near Oakmere Park to reflect on the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The open-air service, led by clergy and lay leaders from a range of Christian communities across the town and attended by over 120 people, was marked by hymn singing, scripture and prayers – and focussed on the hope, redemption and promise of new life that is central to the Easter Story. The Chair of CTPB, Rev David Jebb, finished the service by saying *“May we continue walking together in the love and life of Christ ... sharing the hope of the Gospel not only on Good Friday, but every day”*.

PRAYER BREAKFAST - 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 3 May	St John’s Methodist Baker Street, EN6 2DZ
Saturday 7 June	St Giles Church Blanche Ln South Mymms, EN6 3PE

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Family News

Let's Celebrate!

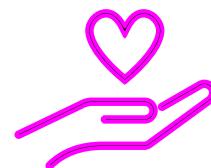
- 😊 On 11th May we welcome Frankie Charley Prime to be baptised into the Christian family. Pray for his parents and Godparents as they consider the promises they are about to make on behalf of Frankie.
- 😊 We send congratulations to Doreen and Leigh who celebrate their first wedding anniversary on 18th May.
- 😊 Myra and John Sloper's Grandson is representing Suffolk County in swimming competitions.
- 😊 Sandra and David Bowler would like to thank the St John's Church Family for all their concern, love, prayers, gift and cards. Sandra is pleased to report that she is making slow but steady progress with her mobility and is in less pain than before. We continue to wish her all the best in her recovery.
- 😊 Pat Griffith is delighted to announce that her son Gareth is transferring to Moreton Vale. His installation as Priest in Charge will be on 29 May. We offer congratulations and prayers as he continues his ministry in his new parish.



Prayers Please!

Please pray for the family and friends of the following members who are unwell or in need of support at the moment and others known to us:

- ♥ Beth Wickens who is recovering from a leg injury.
- ♥ Barbara Wright who is on the road to recovery and now in Potters Bar Hospital.
- ♥ Revd Peter Hudson who is out of hospital and being cared for at home.
- ♥ Marianne Matthew's son, Michael, who is now home from hospital following a Crohn's flare up and awaiting news of what the next treatment steps will involve.
- ♥ Penny Hart who is now under the care of the community team.
- ♥ Roger Croughton thanks everyone at St John's for all their thoughts, love and prayers following the recent death of his brother Geoff.



In the vestibule at the back of the church there is a Book of Remembrance recording past worshippers. Some members may remember the following people who died in May over the years: *Sue Finch, Alan Plummer, Albert Kearns, Robin Hutton, Frank Manners and Leonie Banks*. If they were known to you, take time to think of times and experiences you may have shared together.

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

Circuit Events



Thinking Lunch

Thursday 1 May - 12.30pm - 1.30pm - at Marlborough Road Methodist Church AL1 3XG

Speaker: Sophie Lawrence, Community Protection Herts CC

**"Prevent: a Home Office Programme"
– helping people vulnerable to radicalisation move away from extremism.**

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. You are very welcome to bring friends and guests.



Thank You From Whitechapel Mission



Whitechapel is very very grateful to St John's for the very generous gift as a result of the Harvest Appeal last year. The final total received was £4,097.39 including Gift Aid, plus 4 large boxes of food and a full carload of clothing.

Provision of services to the homeless is currently a very great challenge – currently more demanding than we have ever seen before. Unfortunately the numbers have grown greatly, but also vary considerably from day to day – which makes planning tricky! In the past a typical day saw us serve about 150 breakfasts, but on two days last week we served 248 and 379 breakfast on successive days! Even more sadly, the behaviour of the guests has deteriorated and we are having difficulties due to the differences between the many cultures who are with us and the much increased use of drugs such as crack cocaine. The effect of this is that our costs have grown, not just because of the extra food bills, but the need for additional staff and vigilance in the canteen area. This has also brought a lot of additional stress onto our staff, some of whom now need a break after working every day over the winter.

The Trustees have therefore agreed that during the summer months, starting in May, the Mission will be closed at the weekends in order to give staff a break and put in place some new ways of working, and to secure extra staff who are appropriately trained. It is felt that this way forward will minimise the disruption to our service as the weekends tend to be slightly less busy, and the opportunities don't exist to assist guests who are looking for accommodation and other professional help. Hopefully we can return to 7 day opening by October for the start of what will be the 150th year of operating for the Whitechapel Mission.

Thank you again for your great generosity. I can assure you that your donations will be put to very good use indeed.

Peter Barlow, Trustee

Placement Student

A Warm Welcome to Genevieve!

We are delighted to shortly be welcoming a Placement Student from The Queen's Foundation in Birmingham:



I am **Genevieve Musey**, 1st year Presbyteral Student at the Queens Foundation in Birmingham and looking forward to doing my one month student placement in June 2025 with Revd David Jebb and St Albans & Welwyn Circuit... a few lines of introduction of myself. I am a devoted and active member of my church community, where my deep commitment to faith and service is at the heart of all I do. Rooted in a strong theological foundation and enriched by years of leadership experience, I seek to nurture spiritual growth, unity, and purpose among my fellow congregants. My faith journey began in a warm and supportive church environment that allowed me to explore and grow in ministry from a young age. Over the years, I have taken on various roles, including that of **youth leader**, **community prayer coordinator**, and spiritual mentor—each offering me a profound opportunity to walk alongside others in their

faith journey.

I believe that true faith is most powerfully expressed through compassionate action. For me, Christianity is not just a belief system, or attending the Church on Sunday, but a call to serve as a disciple of Jesus Christ, to love deeply, and to uplift those in need. I regularly emphasise the transformative power of love and grace, encouraging those I serve to live out their faith with boldness and integrity. Whether through coordinated community outreach, times of prayer and reflection, or practical support for the vulnerable, I remain dedicated to creating spaces where the love of Christ is made tangible.

Through my **sermons, teachings, and written reflections**, I aim to inspire individuals to deepen their relationship with God while also becoming agents of change in the world. I am particularly passionate about addressing social issues from a faith perspective, helping others see how their spiritual convictions can lead to meaningful impact in their communities.

My enduring commitment to service is a reflection of my belief in the redemptive and life-giving power of the Gospel. I am constantly inspired by the potential for transformation—within individuals, families, and entire communities—when we choose to live in love, walk in faith, and lead with humility. It is my hope and prayer that through my ministry and witness, many will be encouraged to embrace their calling and become active participants in God's work of healing and restoration in the world.

*NOTE: Please join me in welcoming and offering our support to **Genevieve Musey** when you see her at your churches or other events in / outside the church throughout **June** as she is doing her placement with us. Your kindness and encouragement will be greatly appreciated. Revd David Jebb*



Let's Play – A Growing Community of Love and Laughter at Shenley Methodist Church



What began more than a year ago as a small gathering of four mums and their toddlers has since blossomed into a vibrant and thriving group at Shenley Methodist Church, located on London Road. Though the church itself may be modest in size, its heart is unmistakably large - overflowing with love for the community and a deep commitment to supporting young families.

Every Tuesday from 10:30am to 12 noon, Let's Play opens its doors to welcome parents, grandparents, carers, and their little ones. It started simply—just a few mums, including Naomi Moir and Heather Moir, coming together to create a safe and joyful space for toddlers to play and for parents to connect. For the first few months, the numbers stayed small, but the atmosphere was full of warmth and genuine care.

The turning point came when the group began offering light breakfasts—delicious toast with butter and jam, accompanied by freshly brewed tea and coffee. But more than that, people found something deeper: a warm welcome, meaningful friendships, and a sense of belonging in a world that can often feel isolating for new parents.

Since then, Let's Play has grown exponentially. From just four children, the group now regularly welcomes around 35 children—along with their parents, grandparents, and carers—each week. It has become a place of fellowship and fun, where community is built not only through shared activities but through shared lives.

Though Naomi had to step down to pursue further studies, Heather has continued to lead the group with heartfelt dedication. She's been wonderfully supported by Louise and John and a few parents (taking a turn to prepare breakfast), who contribute in practical and meaningful ways. John, for instance, transformed the church side garden into a safe, inviting space where children can play freely and safely.



This year's Let's Play Easter celebration was a beautiful example of what this group has become. The day was filled with joy—crafts, painting, and a lively toddler disco with 3D sensory lights that had both children and parents dancing together. An astonishing 94 people gathered to celebrate, making it one of the most memorable days in the group's journey so far. Every child received a thoughtfully prepared Easter activity bag, lovingly put together by Nico.



The team is deeply grateful for the ongoing support from Dick, Nico, Liz and Maggie from St John's, whose contributions continue to make a difference.

If you happen to be free on a Tuesday morning, we warmly invite you to pop in and see what Let's Play is all about. Come enjoy a light breakfast, meet wonderful people, and experience firsthand the spirit of welcome, care, and joy that fills Shenley Methodist Church every week.
Let's Play together Team - Shenley

[Jesus said] "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me, but the one who sent me." Mark 9:37 (NIV)

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 (1 st Monday in the month)	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 (Usually 3 rd Wednesday in the month)	David Carter 07709 284852
	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 (1 st and 3 rd 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 David Jebb 01707 652978

St

80 Years Anniversary
of Victory in Europe

VE Day Celebration
Thursday 8 May

5pm Cream Tea
6.15pm Short Reflection
& Prayer for Peace
6.30pm National Ringing
of the Bells

Tickets £5
from Church Office
mail@stpeterschurch.uk.com

ST PETER'S
ST ALBANS

St Peter's Church, St Peter's Street,
St Albans AL1 3HG - 01707 855485

*Do all the good you can.
By all the means you can.
In all the ways you can.
In all the places you can.
At all the times you can.
To all the people you can.
As long as ever you can.*

*John Wesley - Founder of
the Methodist Church*

*(Words still as relevant today as
they were 280+ years ago!)*

Copies of next month's SJ News will be available in Church on Sunday 1 June 2025