



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 2026

From our Minister – Revd David Jebb

From Aldersgate to Pentecost – Hearts Aflame with the Spirit

As we continue our journey of faith together at St John's Church, I invite you to reflect on two transformative moments in Christian history: the experience of the disciples at Pentecost and the conversion of John Wesley at Aldersgate. Though separated by centuries, both reveal the life-changing power of the Holy Spirit and the call to share the Good News with the world.

At Pentecost, as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles 2:1-4, we read:

"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven... All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."

This was a moment of divine empowerment. The disciples, once fearful and uncertain, were transformed into bold witnesses. Peter, who had denied Jesus, now stood up and proclaimed the Gospel with courage and clarity. The coming of the Holy Spirit marked the birth of the Church - a community sent out into the world.



Centuries later, on 24 May 1738, John Wesley experienced his own spiritual awakening at a meeting in Aldersgate Street, London. As he listened to a reading from Martin Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans, Wesley famously wrote in his journal: *"I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation..."*

This deeply personal encounter with God's grace ignited a movement. Methodism was born, not as an institution at first, but as a revival - a renewal of faith marked by heartfelt assurance, disciplined discipleship, and a passion for social holiness.

What connects Pentecost and Aldersgate is the work of the same Holy Spirit. At Pentecost, the Spirit came with power; at Aldersgate, the Spirit warmed a heart. One was dramatic and communal, the other quiet and personal - yet both led to mission.

Copy deadline for next issue is Friday 22 May 2026

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

Jesus' command in the Gospel of Matthew 28:19-20 remains central to both experiences:

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

The disciples obeyed this call, spreading the Gospel across the known world. Wesley and the early Methodists took this same commission seriously, preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ in fields, organising societies, and reaching those often neglected by the established church.

Today, we are heirs of both Pentecost and Aldersgate. We are called not only to believe, but to be filled with the Spirit; not only to receive grace, but to share it. The Church is at its best when hearts are warmed and lives are transformed - when we are both inwardly renewed and outwardly engaged.

So I ask: where is God calling us, as a church and as individuals, to be witnesses today? How might the Holy Spirit be stirring our hearts, equipping us to serve, to speak, and to love?

There are encouraging signs of a fresh movement of the Holy Spirit in the life of St John's. There is a growing sense of excitement about reaching out for Christ, a deepening sense of belonging together, and a renewed openness to the Spirit working through each one of us.

May we be open to that same Spirit who moved at Pentecost and warmed Wesley's heart. May we go, in Christ's name, to make disciples in our communities and beyond.

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 3 May	10.30am	Morning Worship	Revd Dr David Jebb
Sunday 10 May	10.30am	Morning Worship	Dr Paul Dakin
Sunday 10 May	7pm	Café Worship	Guy & Dawn Fenner
Sunday 17 May	10.30am	Creative Church	Revd Alan Combes
Sunday 24 May	10.30am	Morning Worship	Stuart Johnson
Sunday 31 May	10.30am	Holy Communion	Revd Dr David Mullins

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.

Our Preachers

Revd Dr 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, 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.

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.

Guy and Dawn Fenner are long standing members of St Johns. Dawn grew up in Potters Bar and attended children and youth groups here so knows our church very well! Guy moved to this area in his teenage years and works locally. They have led our informal evening service together before and offer a relaxed style of worship along with a time of sharing and discussion.

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 but continues preaching as a supernumerary minister in our circuit, so we are pleased to welcome him and his wife Michele back as they have returned to live in Potters Bar.

Stuart Johnson has spoken at St John's many times before and he has served as a local preacher for 40 years. He is also the Senior Circuit Steward which means he oversees all the churches in the St Albans and Welwyn Circuit.

Care Homes Services

Cuffley Manor Care Home Service –Tuesday 5 May 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



St John's Family News



Please pray for Barbara Thompson 's sister who has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, and for the housebound members of our congregation who are unable to join us at Sunday worship.

Congratulations to Pat Griffith who celebrates her birthday in May. Happy Birthday!

The Book of Remembrance records the following members and friends who died in May in past years...

Sue Finch, Albert Kearns, Robert Hutton, Frank Manners and Leonie Banks.

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 Breakfast will take place on Saturday 2 May at St John's Methodist Church, Baker Street EN6 2DZ.

Summer Holiday Club

SHIPWRECKED

**A Summer Holiday Club in Jonah
at King Charles the Martyr Church,
Mutton Lane, Potters Bar**

Monday 27th July - Friday 31st July 2026
9.30 am - 1pm

For Primary Aged Children School Years 1-6 - £30
Teens - School Years 7-12 - Free

faith
in
kids

For information about volunteering or joining the Teen Team Volunteers (years 7-12) please see the [Holiday Club](https://www.ctpb.org.uk) page on the CTPB website - www.ctpb.org.uk

Book your child's place on:

<https://cclh.churchsuite.com/events/po7pz0mp>

Or scan the QR code on this page.



April Café Worship

An Evening with a Jewish Teacher at St John's Methodist Church



Our April Café Worship was led by Gerry Cohen, a Jewish teacher, worship leader, and songwriter, whose faith and insight enriched our worship in a meaningful and memorable way.

We had the joy and privilege of welcoming Gerry to lead our monthly Café Worship, on Sunday 12th April at 7pm at St John's. He guided us through Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs inspired by the writings of King David.

Gerry led us through a selection of Psalms, skilfully weaving them together with his own story. The evening was lively, engaging, and deeply reflective, helping us to see afresh how the Psalms point us towards Jesus and deepen our relationship with the Father.

A gifted and engaging teacher, Gerry was raised in a North London Jewish family. While preparing for his Bar Mitzvah, a remarkable encounter changed the course of his life. At a carnival in Finchley, he came across "The Jesus Tent" and went in intending to challenge Christians for using Hebrew on their display. Yet in that very place, through the Hebrew Scriptures, God revealed to him the truth of Yeshua, the Messiah. Gerry has now followed and trusted in Yeshua for over 55 years.

He co-leads Beit Sar Shalom, the Messianic congregation of Chosen People Ministries in London, and serves as Vice-President of the British Messianic Jewish Alliance. For more than four decades, he has faithfully exercised a ministry of teaching and leading worship.

Gerry's passion is to encourage others, gently challenge misconceptions, and uncover the "treasures old and new" within Scripture. He speaks at conferences, leads retreats, writes articles, composes songs, leads worship - and, as he cheerfully admits, tells some rather dreadful puns!

He holds an honours degree in Theology and a PGCE in Religious Studies from Canterbury Christ Church University. In his "tentmaking" role, he teaches Philosophy, Religion and Ethics in a secondary school in Borehamwood and is actively involved in several professional RE organisations. He has also undertaken intensive Holocaust studies at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem and serves as Educational Adviser to The Anne Frank Trust, using these opportunities to speak about faith in relevant and engaging ways. Above all, Gerry's heart is to draw people to Yeshua, the Messiah for both Jews and Gentiles.

We all attended the Café Worship and thoroughly enjoyed his leadership in worship, as well as the way he shared the Psalms alongside his own personal testimony.

David Jebb

Shenley Methodist Church

Let's Play Baby & Toddler Group - Easter Special

Our Easter playgroup party was a wonderful occasion, with a full house and a Church filled with smiles, laughter, and joy.

The children (and adults!) had a great time exploring a variety of Easter-themed activities. Our messy play station was a big hit, giving little ones the chance to dive into sensory fun with an Easter twist. Easter card making, using potato mashers & yellow paint, allowed the children to create a special keepsake to take home.

Our cheerful Easter sing-along was followed by the highlight of the morning - an outdoor egg hunt. Everyone wore their adorable bunny ears, adding to the Easter spirit. To top it all off, each child received a lovely Easter goodie bag to take home.

We loved seeing so many happy faces sharing in the fun. Thank you to everyone who joined us and made the morning so special.



Messy Church Easter Outreach - Delivering More Than Just Boxes

This Easter, our Messy Church took church beyond the building and out into the community by delivering Easter activity boxes to 66 children in their own homes.

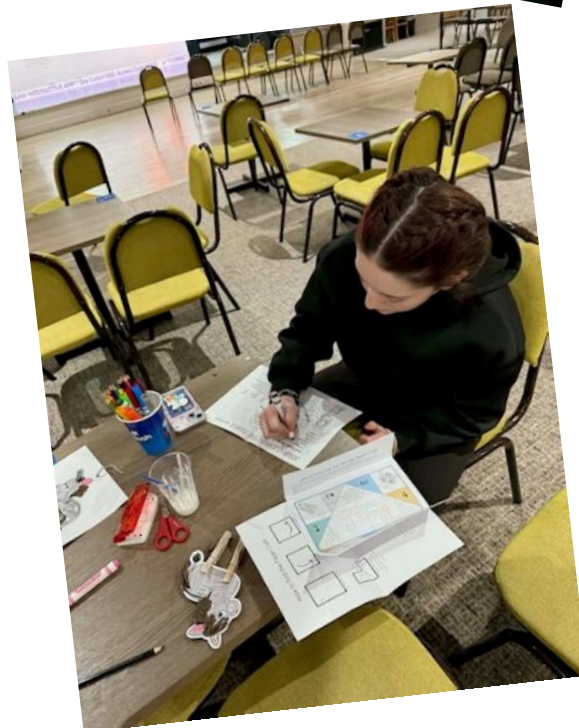
Each box was carefully prepared, filled with crafts, reflections, and activities to complete on each day of Holy Week, helping families engage with the Easter story in a creative and accessible way. Palm Sunday donkeys, puzzles, cakes & relighting candles, Easter cards, foot washing, painting crosses, decorating stones and of course chocolate eggs - Easter in a box!

At each home, there was an opportunity to say hello and share. I was even invited to stay for Sunday roast at one home! (Sadly on this occasion I had to decline. Next time though?!). These small interactions carry real weight. Church isn't just a place or an event, it's people and relationships. This kind of outreach takes more time and effort but reflects the heart of what we believe, - that every individual matters.

Easter is a story of hope and connection, of reaching out and meeting people where they are. In a small but meaningful way, this outreach reflected that message

Thank you to everyone who helped prepare and deliver the boxes. Your time and care made a real difference.

Heather Moir



Themed Preaching Series

The Light is Here – Finding Hope in Local Mission When the World is Dark



Core Thesis:

When global headlines breed cynicism and paralysis, Jesus models and commands a theology of proximate hope. Our faith is not measured by our opinion on the world's problems, but by our loving attention to the person, need, and community in front of us. Through local, Christ-centred engagement, - teaching, healing, fellowship, and advocacy - we become agents of God's kingdom light, right where we are.

May 3rd: The Command – Abide Here, in the True Vine – Revd Dr David Jebb

- **Biblical Reading:** John 15:9-17 ("You did not choose me, but I chose you...to go and bear fruit")
- **Sermon Title:** *Chosen for This Place*
- **Focus:** In the face of global instability, our primary calling is not to solve everything but to *abide* in Christ. From that place of secure love and closeness, our "fruit" (local mission) naturally grows. We are not randomly placed; we are appointed *here* to bear lasting fruit. Our local engagement is the direct result of our friendship with Jesus.

May 10th: The Spirit – Empowered Here, for Local Witness – Dr Paul Dakin

- **Biblical Reading:** Acts 10:44-48 (The Holy Spirit falls on all at Cornelius's house) & John 17:11b-19 (Jesus prays for protection and sanctification)
- **Sermon Title:** *When the Spirit Shows Up Next Door*
- **Focus:** The Holy Spirit surprises the church by showing up powerfully in a *local*, "unexpected" household (Cornelius). God's global mission advances through local, Spirit-led encounters that break our prejudices. When the world is dark, we don't need a global strategy first; we need the Spirit's courage to cross the street, to engage the "other" in our own city.

May 17th: The Community – Unified Here, as a Counter-Witness – Revd Alan Combes

- **Biblical Reading:** Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 (Replacing Judas to restore the Twelve) & John 17:20-26 ("That they may be one...so the world may believe")
- **Sermon Title:** *The Integrity of Our Circle*
- **Focus:** Before tackling global darkness, the early church ensured its *local* leadership was whole, trustworthy, and unified. A world fractured by conflict needs to see a community where reconciliation, integrity, and oneness are possible. Our local church's health is our primary testimony. Healing the world starts by being a healed and whole community *here*.

May 24th: The Power – Sent Here, by the Spirit's Might – Mr Stuart Johnson


- **Biblical Reading:** Acts 2:1-21 (Pentecost) & John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15 (The Spirit of truth will guide you)
- **Sermon Title:** *Power for This Postcode*

- **Focus:** Pentecost globalized the Gospel but activated it *locally*, people heard in their own languages. The Spirit's power is given not for dramatic global domination but for effective, understandable witness in our specific context ("Judea"). We receive power to be Christ's witnesses in our city, to address its issues with gospel truth and courage.


May 31st: The Heart – Serving Here, in the Name of Christ - Revd Dr David Mullins

- **Biblical Reading:** Acts 16:16-34 (Paul and Silas in Philippi: healing, imprisonment, jailer's conversion) & John 20:19-23 (Jesus sends the disciples)
- **Sermon Title:** *From the Jailhouse to the Household*
- **Focus:** In one local city (Philippi), Paul's ministry moves from the public square, to a prison, then to a household. Kingdom impact happens through a chain of local engagements: confronting exploitation, worshiping in suffering, caring for a jailer's family. The darkness of the world is pushed back one converted household, one healed injustice, one act of midnight worship at a time.


ArtServe – Christian Creativity



ArtServe is a movement of people discovering and reflecting God's creative gifts shared among us, so that God is known more fully and lives are transformed.



We are delighted to be hosting a
Regional ArtServe Day
 at Hatfield Road Methodist Church in St Albans
 on Saturday 9th May, 10am to 3pm.




ALL WELCOME!

The day will include four different workshops, of which there will be time to participate in up to three. The workshops are:

- Poetry Inspiration
- Handmade book for journalling and sketching
- Paper craft
- Worship Group for singers and instrumentalists

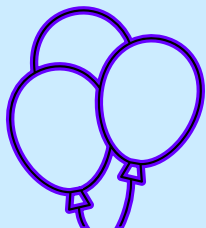
All materials provided free of charge, although donations will be welcomed.
 Drinks available all day - please bring your own packed lunch.

To book your place, and for more information on the workshops, please use the QR code below, or [click here](#).



Dates for you Diary

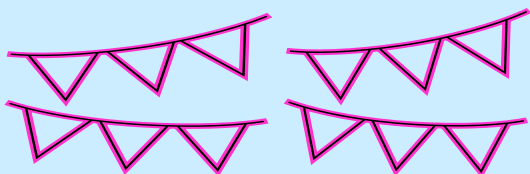
Potters Bar Carnival at Elm Court Sunday 14 June, 1-5pm



St John's organises a stall with cakes, games and crafts.

We will need lots of help setting up in the morning, then running the stall in the afternoon.

More helpers mean we can share the jobs out. Please speak to Sally Gunning or Margaret Rhodes for more details.



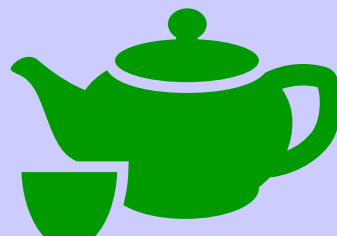
Morning service followed by picnic Sunday 5 July, 10-3pm

Morven Guide Centre, The Causeway,
Potters Bar EN6 5HA

Please bring a chair or blanket and a picnic for a fellowship lunch after an informal worship service.

Hot and cold drinks will be provided.

Morven has a large, enclosed grounds and an indoor shelter, so the weather will not deter us!



Thinking Lunch



Marlborough Road Methodist Church

Thursday 7th May 2026
Reverend Hendry Ponniah

Tribal Mission in Borneo

Thursday 4th June 2026

Neil Kieran, SADC Principal Emergency Planning and Community Safety Officer

How do we respond to a local emergency?

From 12.30pm to 1.30pm. Please bring your own lunch and drinks. Half an hour talk and then discussion. Donations will be gratefully received to cover expenses, any profits will be given to the speaker for a charity of their choice

4th POTTERS BAR SCOUT GROUP

JUMBO JUMBLE SALE

(including jigsaw stall)

Saturday 23 May

St John's Methodist Church

Entry from Baker Street only

£2 at 10am or 50p at 10.30am.

Finishes about noon.



Saturday Morning Prayers



SATURDAY MORNING PRAYER

- LEADERS**

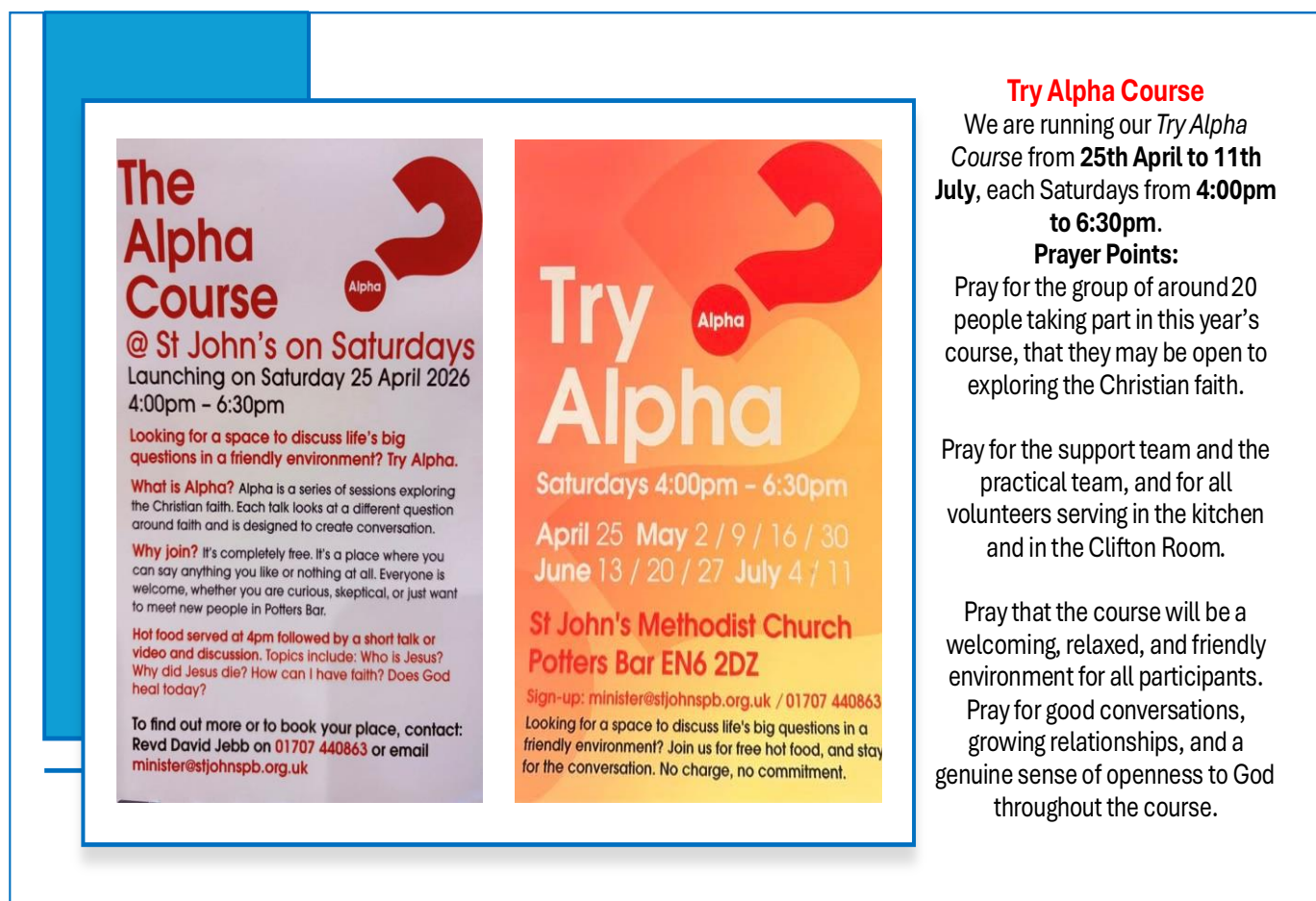
2 nd May 9am – Jacqi Guy	9 th May 9am – Calinah Rus
16 th May 9am – George Woods	23 rd May 9am – Michelle van Wyk
30 th May 9am – Jean Owen	

The prayer ministry has a dedicated team of prayer leaders for the month of May, 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.

Alpha Course



The Alpha Course

@ St John's on Saturdays
Launching on Saturday 25 April 2026
4:00pm – 6:30pm

Looking for a space to discuss life's big questions in a friendly environment? Try Alpha.

What is Alpha? Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation.

Why join? It's completely free. It's a place where you can say anything you like or nothing at all. Everyone is welcome, whether you are curious, skeptical, or just want to meet new people in Potters Bar.

Hot food served at 4pm followed by a short talk or video and discussion. Topics include: Who is Jesus? Why did Jesus die? How can I have faith? Does God heal today?

To find out more or to book your place, contact: Revd David Jebb on 01707 440863 or email minister@stjohnspb.org.uk

Try Alpha

Saturdays 4:00pm – 6:30pm

April 25 May 2 / 9 / 16 / 30
June 13 / 20 / 27 July 4 / 11

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

Sign-up: minister@stjohnspb.org.uk / 01707 440863

Looking for a space to discuss life's big questions in a friendly environment? Join us for free hot food, and stay for the conversation. No charge, no commitment.

Try Alpha Course

We are running our *Try Alpha Course* from **25th April to 11th July**, each Saturdays from **4:00pm to 6:30pm**.

Prayer Points:

Pray for the group of around 20 people taking part in this year's course, that they may be open to exploring the Christian faith.

Pray for the support team and the practical team, and for all volunteers serving in the kitchen and in the Clifton Room.

Pray that the course will be a welcoming, relaxed, and friendly environment for all participants.

Pray for good conversations, growing relationships, and a genuine sense of openness to God throughout the course.

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 <i>(Usually 3rd Wednesday in the month)</i>	David Carter 07709 284852
	6.30pm - 8pm	Cubs	www.4thpottersbar.scoutsonline.co.uk
	7.45pm – 9pm	Bible Study in Clifton Room <i>(Fortnightly)</i>	Lesley Humphreys 07961 347152
Thursdays	7pm – 8.30pm	Scouts	www.4thpottersbar.scoutsonline.co.uk
Fridays	10.30am – 12pm	Morning Coffee in Clifton Room <i>(1st and 3rd Fridays in the month)</i>	
	10.30am	Byng Drive House Group <i>(Fortnightly)</i>	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

Church General Meeting

Church General Meeting Sunday 10 May at 12.15pm



The Church General Meeting will be held after the service on Sunday 10 May at 12.15pm in the church. Please feel free to grab a cup of tea or coffee from the Clifton Room and bring it into the church as you join the meeting. All are warmly encouraged to attend and hear updates on finance, mission, ministry, the life of the church, and our future plans. This is an important opportunity to listen to one another, share ideas, and explore how we can continue to grow and develop together ♥

Copies of next month's SJ News will be available in Church on Sunday 31 May 2026!