



March 2024

Date	Time	Service	Preacher
Sunday 3 rd March	10.30am	Service with Scout Parade	Revd David Jebb
Sunday 10 th March	10.30am	Church Anniversary and Mothering Sunday	Revd Nick Young
Sunday 10 th March	7.00pm	Informal Café Worship	Deacon Nigel Perrott
Sunday 17 th March	10.30am	Creative Church and Celebration	Joan and Trevor Pugsley
Sunday 24 th March	10.30am	All-age Palm Sunday Special Service	Dawn and Guy Fenner
Thursday 28 th March	7.00pm	Maundy Thursday Reflective Service with Holy Communion	Revd David Jebb
Friday 29 th March	Leave St John's at 10.15am	Good Friday Walk of Witness to Joint Service (11am at the War Memorial in the High Street)	Churches Together in Potters Bar
Sunday 31 st March	10.30am	Easter Sunday Holy Communion	Revd David and Jenet 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.

From our minister – Revd David Jebb

'May this Easter be a time of joy, peace, and renewal for you and your loved ones.'



Dear Friends,

Imagine for a moment: if you could go anywhere, with no constraints, where would you choose to go? Would you seek out an exotic holiday, indulge in pampering, or perhaps reconnect with loved ones? The possibilities are endless.

Now, let's take it a step further. What if you could travel back in time? Where would you go, and who would you visit? Would you witness historical milestones, marvel at nature's wonders, or immerse yourself in biblical events?

Consider the moments of Jesus' life. Would you stand among the crowds as he delivered the Sermon on the Mount? Witness the miraculous feeding of the 5,000? Or experience the awe of seeing Lazarus raised from the dead? But perhaps the most profound destination of all is the cross and the empty tomb. To stand at the foot of the cross and witness the birth of complete forgiveness. To gaze upon the empty tomb and grasp the victory of eternal life.

We don't need to imagine these events; we can revisit them daily. The cross reminds us of forgiveness, past, present, and future. The empty tomb assures us of victory, even in life's trials. So, as we approach Easter, let us reflect on the significance of the cross and the empty tomb. They are not merely historical events but ongoing sources of hope and assurance for all who believe.

Copy deadline for next issue is Sunday 24th March 2024

Easter is a time of profound significance for Christians around the world. It is a time when we reflect on the ultimate sacrifice made by Jesus Christ and rejoice in his triumphant resurrection. It is a time when we are reminded of the boundless love and grace of our Lord, and the promise of new life that comes through him.

This Easter, as we gather together as a congregation, let us remember the journey of Jesus, from his entry into Jerusalem to his crucifixion on the cross. Let us reflect on the significance of his sacrifice and the immense love that compelled him to lay down his life for us.



But Easter is not just a time of reflection; it is also a time of celebration. For on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead, conquering sin and death once and for all. His resurrection is a testament to the power of God and the promise of eternal life for all who believe in him.

As we come together to celebrate Easter, let us rejoice in the hope that it brings. Let us be renewed in our faith and strengthened in our commitment to follow Christ. And let us extend the message of Easter to all those around us, sharing the good news of salvation and redemption.

The significance of Jesus' resurrection lies not only in its improbability but also in its transformative power. The resurrection defies naturalistic explanations and challenges our understanding of the physical world, pointing to divine intervention and the sovereignty of God over life and death.

May this Easter be a time of joy, peace, and renewal for you and your loved ones. May the hope of Christ's resurrection fill your hearts and inspire you to live each day in his light.

May you have a blessed Easter filled with the joy and victory of our risen Lord.

Yours as ever

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.

Care Homes Services

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.

Cooperscroft



1st Wednesday in each month at 3.00pm:

Next service – 6th March

Cuffley Manor



3rd Wednesday in each month at 3.00pm:

Next service – 20th March

Family News

Best wishes go to Miranda Carter, who celebrates her 90th birthday on 18th March. Congratulations, Miranda. You are marvellous.

Iris Ellicott, Pam Taylor and Pat Ware have all been unwell in Barnet hospital. We do hope and pray for a steady recovery.

The chaplain at Barnet hospital has visited, prayed with and offered support for our St John's family when they have stayed in hospital, and we thank him for all his care.

Sybil has moved from Barnet hospital and is currently being looked after in Watford with the hope of a move back to Potters Bar soon.

Ruth Lence is feeling much better and has been able to return home after many months. For that we are all very thankful.

Graham Phillips asks for prayers for both himself and his family as he progresses with his treatment. Please pray at this difficult time for strength, patience, and healing.

Very sadly Pat (Grace) Merrill died aged 94 years on 8th February. Pat had moved to Cooperscroft care home over a year ago. Pat attended the St John's Church service at her care home the day before she died, singing beautifully without using a hymn sheet. Biscuits were served to everyone, made by Pat and her carer earlier in the day. She was happy, talkative and delightful company. Pat had had a busy day and thought she would go to bed early. The funeral service for Pat will take place here at St John's on 15th March at 2.00pm. You are all warmly invited to come. This will be followed by a committal at Harwood.

At the 10.30am service on Easter Sunday (31st March), Festus and Favour Asoro will be bringing their daughter Michelle to be baptised. We look forward to welcoming her into the church.

Helen Barlow Email: foodtech16@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 01707 662254

Lent Studies – “Loving My Neighbour”

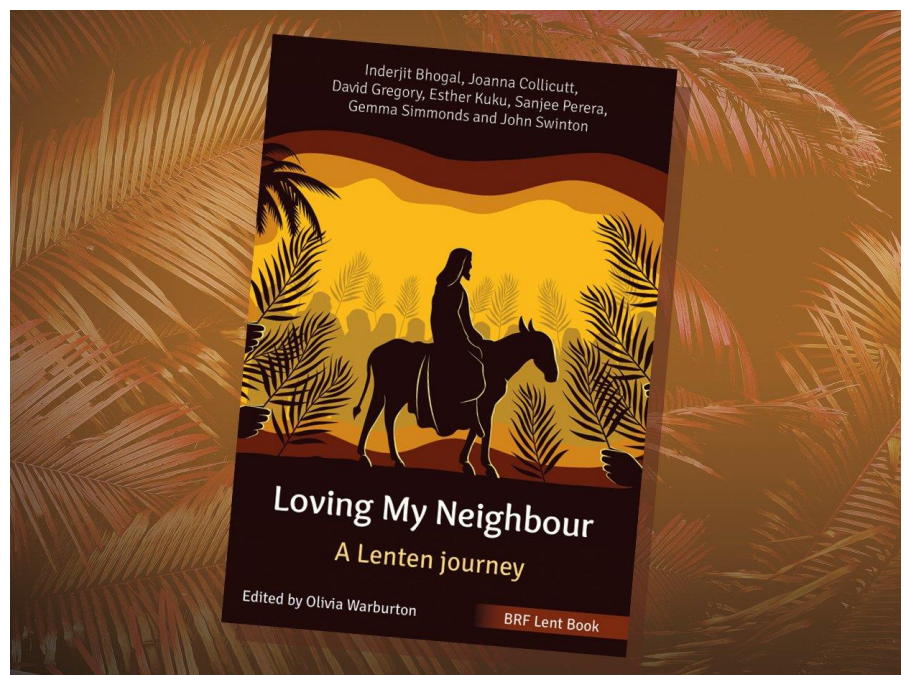
Our Lent studies have started, but everyone is very welcome to join in the remaining sessions. Please contact Revd David Jebb for more information and for the Zoom link.

**Sessions led by our
Circuit Ministers
and Local Preachers**

Mondays (from 19 Feb)
at 7:30pm
Hatfield Road

Wednesdays (from 21 Feb)
at 7:45pm
on Zoom

Thursdays (from 15 Feb)
at 10am
St John's Potters Bar



Holy Week and Good Friday Meditations

You are invited to join us at these reflective services; we will journey together through the events of Holy Week, culminating in a special Good Friday Meditation.

It's an opportunity to pause, reflect, and draw closer to God as we remember the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

We hope you can join us as we observe this meaningful time in the Christian calendar. All are welcome!

If you have any questions or need further information, please don't hesitate to contact us at djebb2003@gmail.com

<https://zoom.us/j/97097234660?pwd=SEpJQlhRV0drRHFXdmNRaE15Zy81UT09>

Meeting ID: 970 9723 4660 Passcode: 690264



Holy Week and Good Friday Meditations

'At the foot of the Cross'

Mon 25th March, 7:30 pm to 8 pm [Zoom](#)

Tues 26th March, 7:30 pm to 8 pm [Zoom](#)

Wed 27th March from 7:45 pm to 9 pm (Lent final session) [Zoom](#)

Thurs 28th March - Maundy Thursday Service at 7pm **(in person)**

Good Friday, 29th March, 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm [Zoom](#)

Via Zoom / Youtube

FB page

Easter Sunrise Services

Would you like to join others and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ at sunrise on Easter Day?

At 6.00am on Easter Day (take care, as the clocks change that morning) Revd David Jebb and the team will be leading an Easter Sunrise Service with Holy Communion in the Walled Gardens at Shenley Park, Shenley, WD7 9DW. The Tearooms will be open after the service for breakfast.

At 6.30am Churches Together in Potters Bar will be holding a United Service. This will start at the cricket field opposite St Mary's, and then move into the church for Holy Communion.

Sunrise is 6.37am in Potters Bar, and 6.38am in Shenley!



Let's Pray Together (Zoom)

Let's join together in prayer! Whether you are in need of prayer or you simply want to join in praying and interceding for others, these are times when the prayers of God's people are essential.

We invite you to join us on Saturday morning from 9.00 to 9:45am, accessible via ZOOM. Prayer requests can be submitted via email at djebb2003@gmail.com.

Let's come together in unity and lift our voices in words and silence, seeking God's presence and guidance. See you there!

<https://zoom.us/j/99737525318?pwd=R1hHNTE2Z2l0RndvaU1idWpVYktndz09>

Meeting ID: 997 3752 5318 Passcode: 251590



Let's Pray
together via
Zoom

- 2nd March at 9 am - Deacon Nigel Perrott
- 9th March at 9 am - Diana Holt
- 16th March at 9 am - Calinah Rus
- 23rd March at 9 am - Rev Rosemary Mutopo
- 30th March at 9 am - Wete Alberto / Rev D Jebb

Meet to Pray (In Person)

If you like to meet in person to pray, please join us at our monthly prayer meeting in the Garden Room at 10.00am on the second Friday in each month, finishing in time for the Friday Coffee Morning at 10.30am.



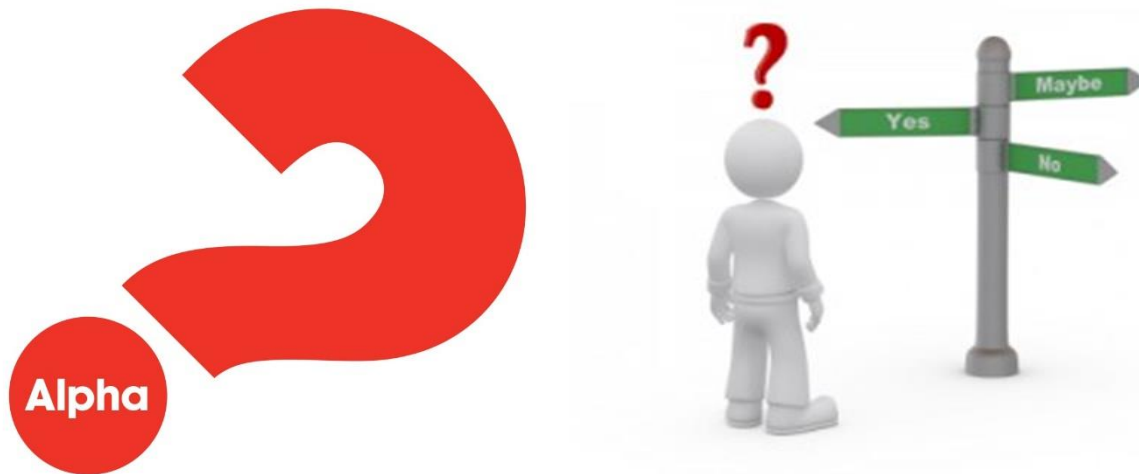
**Meet to Pray – 10.00am
Friday 8th March**

Come and join us to talk to our God!

Prayer meeting in the Garden Room starts at 10.00am and ends at 10.30am so we can join the Friday Coffee Morning.

Everyone is welcome to pray either out loud or silently if you prefer.

Alpha Feedback



Many people have been greatly impressed by the Alpha course. Designed to be an introduction to the Christian faith through talks, video presentations, small-group discussions, and a special Holy Spirit Day, lots of churches are now employing it as part of their Mission / Evangelism outreach.

In the eyes of many it has been a run-away success, and its fame has spread far beyond the UK, and Holy Trinity Brompton, the London church where it originated.

It is no exaggeration to say it has spread right across the world and is now finding friends in several continents. It has been adapted to be accessible to young people (i.e. Youth Alpha) and has also proved versatile enough to be used in prisons, schools and places of work.

Churches in inner cities and rural areas have found it sufficiently flexible for their needs. Future plans for expansion suggest that Alpha is very much here to stay. What is more, many people claim to have been helped through going on the Alpha course and believe it has brought them an understanding of God and how to respond to Him. Testimonies and accounts of wonderful things that have happened to individuals abound; In the light of all this, surely there cannot be anything wrong with it?

We had an opportunity to run 12 sessions, including the Holy Spirit Day at St John's, and 22 people attended—two of our participants are sharing their reflections on the Alpha Course which they followed.

'Go with an open mind and Lord knows where it may take you!' - Julie Guppy

I'm not from a religious family and never really thought much about God or the church. It wasn't that I didn't believe, just more a case of I didn't know what to believe and always thought the church to be a bit stuffy and preachy.

So, when my friend Sue Branch mentioned she was going along to the ALPHA course, my first reaction was, WHY??!

However, I have always tried to keep an open mind and was interested in what other people thought on the subject, so feeling intrigued (but not holding too much hope), I decided to join her.

The sessions always began with a very nice dinner (and pudding) followed by a short but beautifully produced film on a different topic each week. We were then put into small groups to discuss further.

The films were easy to watch and not at all preachy and I found them quite thought provoking. It was also interesting to see the clips of everyday people and their thoughts and beliefs on the subject to hand.

The discussions afterwards were always enjoyable. My group were a lovely bunch, and we all had a chance to air our own views and beliefs. If I had any questions that I didn't understand, I always felt comfortable enough to ask and it gave everyone a chance to air their views and be completely honest and open about what we thought.

The sessions left me wanting to know more and I always looked forward to the next one.

Most who attended already believe and have a deep faith, so although I was in the minority, everyone was respectful of my opinion or questions and a good discussion would always follow.

I will always have questions on Christianity and will never understand it completely, but I can say that attending these sessions has surprisingly sparked an interest within me that I didn't know I had, and I will continue to try and achieve a deeper understanding, which will in turn strengthen my own faith.

I've met some lovely people, had great in-depth discussions, ate lovely food, and enjoyed the whole experience.

So, whether you believe or not, I think it's a very good starting point to understanding Christianity but it's also more than that. It's social interaction with others, talking and listening to what people think and what their faith means to them and would recommend everyone to try it. Go with an open mind and Lord knows where it may take you!

'I had really embraced the Alpha Course for myself and really benefited from it' - Valerie Vessey

When the Alpha Course was first advertised my first thought was, this is not for me. Here I am, over 80 years old, a St. John's member for over 66 years and with uncomfortable memories of the Billy Graham rallies I went to, with the Youth Club, in my mid-teens, which ever since has left me very wary of any activities that suggested loud tub-thumping Evangelicalism.

I surprised myself, therefore, when a friend at church expressed a hesitant interest in attending Alpha, and I suddenly said, "Would you go if I came with you?" and so we signed up.

Having attended the course for 9 weeks, in the Autumn of last year, and the Holy Spirit sessions Day in January, I have to say I was so glad I had made that decision and, instead of just coming as a support, I had really embraced the Alpha Course for myself and really benefited from it.

The group averaged 20 to 22 each week plus the 3 group leaders, comprised of people from various age groups and diverse backgrounds, several from St John's and others from other churches or none.

The evenings started with a meal in the Garden Room, which is the format for Alpha Courses. It would be very remiss of me not to mention the superb efforts the cooking team put in. Led by Dick Waterhouse and Nico Bekooy, with help from Jess and Lucy, every week we had a themed meal from around the world and took the opportunity to share this time with others, especially the people we didn't already know. Usually on Alpha courses the meals are much more simple - pizzas, burgers etc. but for us it was a weekly feast and much appreciated.

Following the meal, we all went to the Clifton Room to watch the film, set for that week's study, and then broke into small groups to discuss the questions that related to it.

Any preconceived ideas I had of how we might be lectured at and loudly cajoled, flew out the window. Nick Gumbel's words were inspiring and the strong faith of other participants in the film shone through. There were interviews with those whose faith was strong, those who had been converted and also with non-believers. The message was to encourage us to follow Jesus' teachings and give us food for thought to take into our discussion groups.

After the first couple of sessions, we went into the same groups each week. The advantage of this meant we learnt more about each other and gained in confidence to speak but, it did mean we didn't get to interact so closely with some of the others.

I can only speak for myself, but I found the whole experience, one of the best decisions I have made in a long time. The warmth and friendship generated, made it an excellent space for learning of others' journeys and together exploring our faith further.

Membership Classes

Revd David Jebb plans to start a 'Come as you are' Church membership course for new people and others who want to become a full church member. 'Come as you are' is a course exploring Christian discipleship in the Methodist Church. The course will start after the Easter Holiday. Please speak to Revd David Jebb if you are interested.

Tea Towels

The new tea towel washing Rota has been placed on the notice board in the vestibule. Please sign up if you are able. There are still a few vacant months between March and August for the current year.

If you feel that you could assist us in this role, which is not at all onerous, and have any questions please ask Anne or Roger Croughton.

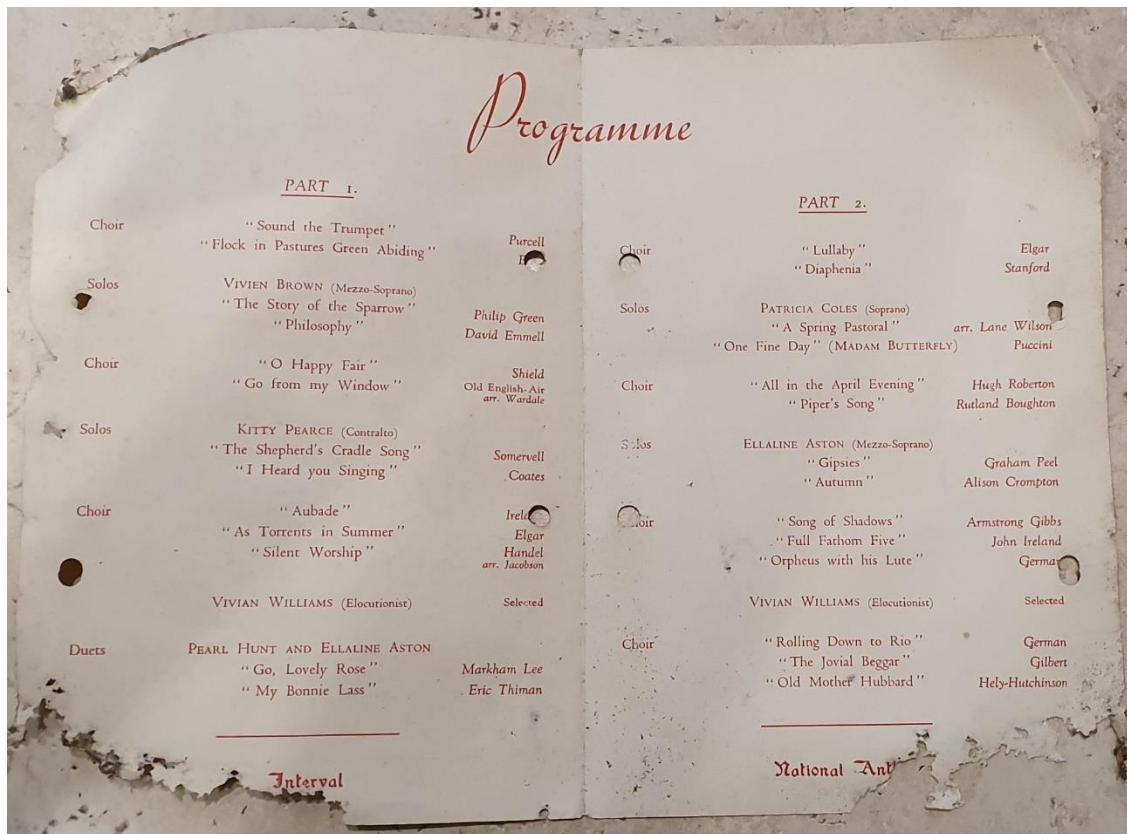
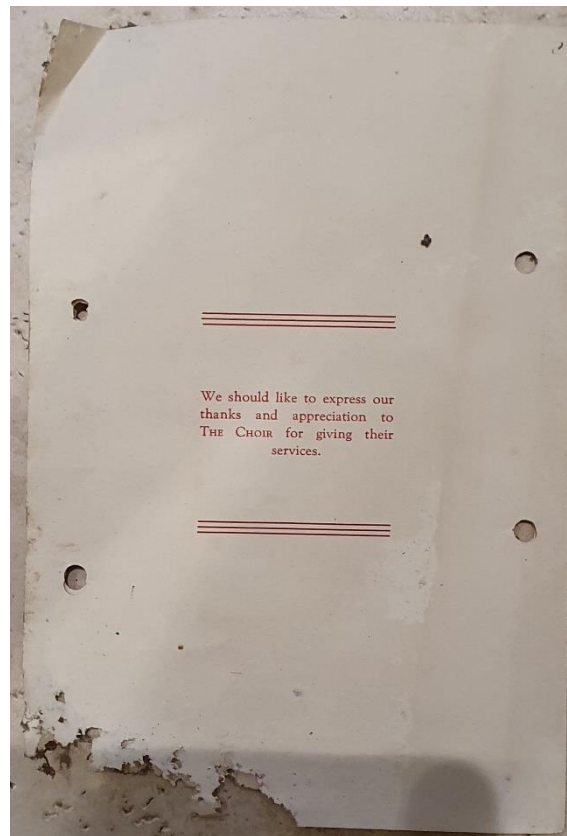
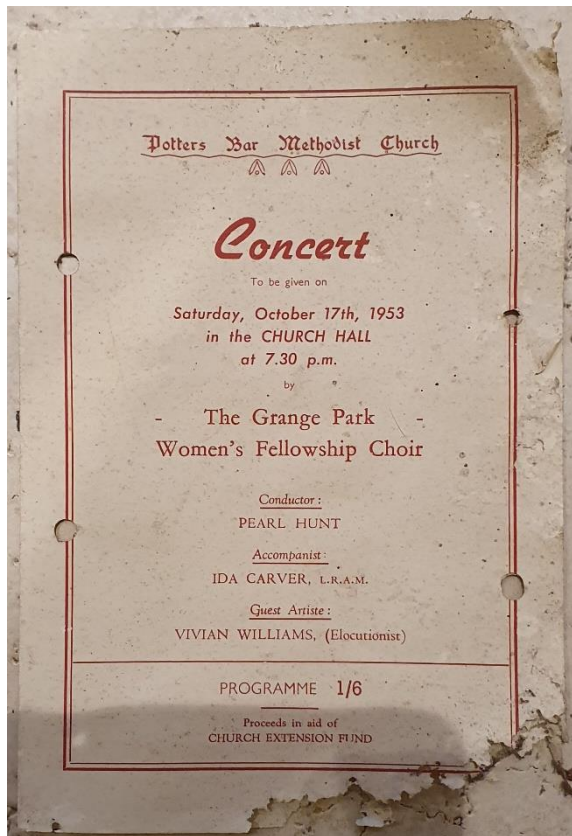
Many thanks for your support.

Roger & Anne Croughton

Were you here in 1953?

Liz Kyriacou has kindly sent us a copy of this leaflet. She writes "My husband was clearing an old fitted wardrobe in our home when he came across this booklet promoting a choir event at the Potter's Bar Methodist Church. You can see that the leaflet is dated 17th October 1953, and you can also see that the conductor was a lady called Pearl Hunt. Pearl was the previous owner to our house which was built in 1928 in Winchmore Hill, and she was the original owner from when it was built. This makes us the 2nd owners! Thought this would be of interest to you."

Thank you very much, Liz!



Can You Help?

There is always a need for people to help with lots of roles, but there are a few administrative roles where we need someone to take over from September. For those who find the more pastoral work difficult, this may be for you! Please consider whether you could help with any of these and speak to Robin Burns if you would like more information.

St John's News Producer	Gather content from sources, put SJ News together using a template, print and arrange distribution.
Church Emails Administrator	Send out emails on behalf of St John's using an online service Mailchimp. (Usually one weekly and 2 or 3 monthly)
Copy and Music Rights Administrator	Manage the copyright, performance and recording rights for music used by the church. This involves obtaining licenses when needed, maintaining systems for recording use, reporting use back to licensing organisations, advising church on what can and cannot be done.
Communications Committee Chair and Secretary	The committee meets every other month and organises public communications from St John's, including SJ News, emails, noticeboards, flyers, TV screen notices and entries in other newsletters.

Regular activities

Day	Time	Activity	Contact
Mondays	10.00 – 11.45am	Jumping Johns Toddlers	Margaret Bland 07887 532128
Mondays	10.00am – 12.00pm	Can We Fix It Group	Roger Croughton 01707 650438
Mondays	10.30 – 11.30am	Vestry Hour	Revd David Jebb 01707 652978
Mondays	2.30 – 4.00pm	Women's Guild	Jo Hutton 01707 658436
Mondays	8.00 – 10.00pm	Badminton	Margaret Bland 07887 532128
Tuesdays	11.00am – 3.00pm	Welcome Space	Barbara Thompson 01707 665621
Wednesdays	6.30 – 8.00pm	Cubs	www.4thpottersbar.scoutsonline.co.uk
Wednesdays	2.30 – 4.30pm	Strafford Gate House Group (usually 3 rd Wednesday in the month)	David Carter 07709 284852
Wednesdays	7.45 – 9.00pm	Bible Study in Clifton Room (Fortnightly)	Lesley Humphreys 07961 347152
Thursdays	7.00 – 8.30pm	Scouts	www.4thpottersbar.scoutsonline.co.uk
Fridays	10.00 – 10.30am	Meet to Pray (usually 2 nd Friday in the month in the Garden Room)	Robin Burns 07956 879451
Fridays	10.30am – 12.00pm	Morning Coffee in Clifton Room	
Fridays	10.30am	Byng Drive House Group (Fortnightly)	Dawn Fenner 07969 924346
Fridays	6.15 – 7.15pm	Beavers	www.4thpottersbar.scoutsonline.co.uk
Saturdays	9.00 – 9.45am	Let's Pray Together (by Zoom)	Revd David Jebb 01707 652978

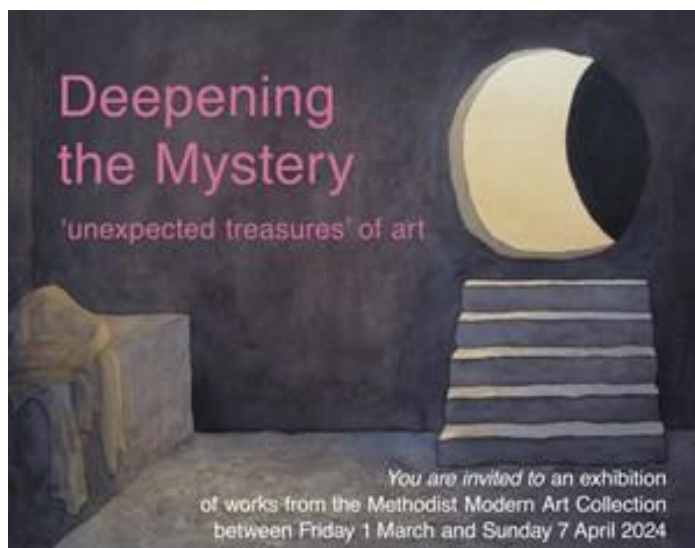
Circuit

St John's Methodist Church is part of the St Albans and Welwyn Circuit. See www.stalbansandwelwyncircuit.org.uk for more details. Our superintendent is Revd David Jebb. The circuit office can be contacted at admin@midhertsmethodists.org.uk or on 01727 854211.

Methodist Modern Art Collection

We sometimes feature pictures from the art collection in St John's News. There will be an exhibition of works from the collection called "Deepening the Mystery" in Welwyn Garden City from 1st March – 7th April at Focolare Centre for Unity, 69 Parkway, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6JG.

Exhibition open Tuesdays - Fridays 11am - 4pm and Saturdays & Sundays 2pm - 5pm. The exhibition will be closed to the public every Monday and on ; 1st March, 16th March, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. During the exhibition, there will be a community café serving refreshments and cakes: Tuesdays - Fridays 11am - 3.30pm; Saturdays - Sundays 2pm - 4.30pm.



Rotary Club Charity Swim

I am pleased to say that a St John's team will again be taking part in the annual Charity Swim organised by Brookmans Park Rotary Club, which this year will be held on Saturday 9th March at Furzefield. A team of 5 people (Nico Bekooy, Sue Branch, Rob Branch, Chris Humphreys and Margaret Rhodes) will swim in relay as many lengths as they can manage in the 20 minutes allocated, and would welcome as much sponsorship as possible. (Sponsorship forms will be appearing soon!)

50% of the amount raised by the team will go to the Charities being supported this year by the Rotary Club (Noah's Ark Hospice, Potters Bar Food Bank and Isabel Hospice) and 50% to our linked Church, Shenley Methodist, to support the very valuable youth work, such as Messy Church they are doing in Shenley.

To sponsor the team please contact me or any of the swimmers. Thank you!

Liz Bekooy (01707 659597)

SPONSORED SWIM CHALLENGE



Enter a team to support your favourite Charity

Saturday 9th March 2024
at Furzefield Leisure Centre
Potters Bar

Swim for your own group as well as charities supported by Rotary including:-



TO ENTER A TEAM EMAIL

swim@brookmansparkrotary.org.uk

The Rotary Club of Brookmans Park Trust Fund Reg Charity No 1021658.

4th Potters Bar Scout Group

Jumble Sale – Saturday 9th March

The jumble sale will take place on Saturday 9th March at St John's. Entry is from Heather Way.

£2 at 10.00am or 50p at 10.30am.

Donations of goods to be sold at the Jumble Sale welcome (but no furniture, electrical goods or videos, thank you.).

Contact Liz Bekooy on 01707 659597.



Grow Plants for the Spring Market

4th Potters Bar Scouts will be holding a Spring Market, including a plant stall, at St John's on Saturday 1st June. If you are a gardener, we would be very grateful if you could maybe produce some extra plants (vegetables or flowers) which we can sell on the stall! Contact Liz Bekooy for more information.

Churches Together in Potters Bar

For more information see www.ctpb.org.uk.



Prayer Meetings

Join us at 8.30am on the first Saturday of each month as we pray for the Churches and Community of Potters Bar. Meetings last about 45 mins followed by breakfast.

Saturday 2nd March St Mary and All Saints, The Walk, EN6 1QQ

Saturday 6th April PB Baptist Church, Barnet Road, EN6 2RB

Good Friday – Walk of Witness and Joint Service

On Good Friday, 29th March, there will be a joint service at the War Memorial at 11.00am. Groups will walk from various churches and meet up at the War Memorial for the service. Please see your individual church for the starting time for the walk, as this will vary depending on the distance.

Easter Day Dawn Service

There will be a united service on Easter Day, 31st March, at 6.30am. This will start at the cricket field opposite St Mary's, and then move into the church for Holy Communion.



The Crucifixion by William Roberts (1895-1980)

From the Methodist Modern Art Collection © TMCP, used with permission. www.methodist.org.uk/artcollection

Colour in Yourself

