



The Ship

St Jude's Church, Englefield Green Newsletter

Anglicans and Methodists working together

Number 179

May 2025

Are you new to St Jude's?

It's lovely to welcome you among us — in person or online. If you have any questions or requests for prayer or if you would like to come and talk more personally, please contact our Vicar on vicar@stjudeschurch.info

Open Church

In addition to service times, St Jude's Church will be open between 2.00pm and 4.00pm on Saturday 10th May with tea and coffee available. Do come along.

Coffee Morning
Saturday 17th May
10.00-11.30am
St Jude's Church

Concert
by piano students of
James Kirby
Saturday 17th May
4.00pm
St Jude's Church
Admission free Donations welcome
Refreshments provided

Piano Recital
by Isabella Morgan
Saturday 24th May
4.00pm
St Jude's Church
Admission free
Refreshments provided
Donations welcome

Joy (contd)

I would like to end my reflection by thanking Judith and all from St Jude's for this wonderful opportunity, as I have learnt so much and met many wonderful people who have invited me into the life of the church. I look forward to coming aboard again very soon!

Philomena

Joy

It is a joy and a blessing to have been asked by Judith to write a reflection for this month's newsletter! I am an Ordinand at St John's Church, Egham and part of my training has involved attending St Jude's Church for a three-month placement, which has just ended.

When I began in January, I will honestly say that the prospect of beginning at a different church and being immersed into a new community led to a mixture of thoughts and feelings ranging from excitement to apprehension. However, on my very first morning at St Jude's any worrying concerns soon disappeared. As soon as I took a seat I couldn't help but look straight ahead to the stained-glass window of the risen Jesus, directly above the altar. As I sat and gathered myself a ray of bright sunshine shone through, lighting up the whole window and I immediately felt comfort and a sense of peace, aware that the church was not just beautiful from the outside, but also from within.

In the days and weeks that followed I found that this initial feeling continued to be revealed to me as I experienced life within the parish. Before my placement, I looked up a brief history about the church and discovered that the church symbol is that of a ship (hence this newsletter!). I also learned that St Jude is known as the Patron Saint of Sailors, and those in need of help and hope. This background history has been both a visual and theological reminder to me about St Jude's, as over the last few months I have witnessed and experienced this Ship in action as Judith and the church family have opened up the church, inviting others to come inside and aboard.

A few key events offered this perspective, including the Lenten Wednesday Communion service. Throughout Lent the church family offers lunch, refreshments and fellowship to anyone attending this service and during this time I have experienced the blessing of these Wednesdays and witnessed the love and generosity of those involved. Every week delicious food and drink is served by wonderful people who regularly give their time serving and helping others, enabling all present to relax, catch up and share special time together. Judith's weekly reflection offered worldwide prayer, as the Church focused on people and situations in need, with prayer serving as a means of bringing hope in bleak, challenging circumstances.

And then over three consecutive Thursdays I experienced firsthand St Jude's as a Ship in action, as the church opened to a variety of different people and organisations for different events. On the first Thursday the church was packed and filled with children from St Jude's Primary School, who came to celebrate their Easter Service. Every child took part as beautiful songs were sung, the Easter Story was retold, and everyone enjoyed this joyful time together. On the following Thursday a funeral and burial service took place and the church welcomed people from both within and outside the local community. Many had travelled far to mourn, remember and celebrate the life of their loved one, gathering together and being led by Judith in prayers and moments of hope and comfort. The third Thursday was Maundy Thursday, and during this time the church family and community gathered together to worship and reflect upon Jesus and the sacrifice that he made for us all on the cross.

Each of these events was very different and each one involved people of differing ages, backgrounds, and localities gathering together for a common purpose... hope. And for each event the Church became a Ship, holding and uniting everyone together while also enabling each person to receive all they needed to continue their own journey after leaving the building.

There is so much more I could write. However these events sum up my lasting reflection about St Jude's, as I have come to realise that this church is not just about the architecture and design of the building, but is in fact about the people who attend and are involved. The people who serve, love and support others are those who enable this Ship to sail. And at its helm is Christ himself.

Annual Meetings

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Vestry Meeting at which the Churchwardens are elected (currently Claudia Tubb and Mike Brooking) and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place at approx 11.00am on Sunday 18th May to follow the 9.30am morning service. This is an opportunity for us to look back over the past year, receive the annual report and accounts, elect some members of the church council and look forward to the time ahead.

The meeting will be held in church and usually lasts around an hour. PLEASE book the date and plan to be with us. We have some changes ahead of us in the coming months and it would be very good if as many of us as possible can reflect on these together. Your presence for this relatively short meeting would be greatly valued. Thank you all.

This year, a new Electoral Roll is prepared. If you would like your name to be added to the new Church Electoral Roll, please email roll@stjudeschurch.info. Application forms are also available in church.

Food Bank

Renewed thanks to you all for your generous donations to the Runnymede Food Bank and to Geoff Chew for delivering our gifts to the collection point. Donations of imperishable foodstuffs and other items can still be left in the crate in the Monsell Room. Please see Geoff if you would like to make a cash donation.

Please remember too that our Village Centre has a Community Fridge and Kitchen. Huda, who manages this important outreach project, and the team of volunteers who work with her, are very happy to accept donations of perishable foodstuffs which might otherwise go to waste. The Kitchen is open on Mondays and Fridays, 9am–11am, excluding Bank Holidays. Donated food must still be within its sell by/use by date on the Monday or Friday or it will be recycled by the Fridge. If you feel this is something to which you can contribute, please contact the Centre on 01784 471110.

Putting your stamp on it

We are grateful to all who continue to pass on their used postage stamps to us. They are sent on to a charity and put to very good use! Thank you to Joan who so kindly manages this collection for us.

From the Registers

Funerals:

(4th April) Ann Hooker

(10th April) Amanda Preston

(10th April) Denise Joyce Jones

(28th April) Valerie Margaret Glasheen

Easter Blessings

A special thank you to all who supported our Holy Week and Easter Services in whatever way. Thank you to all who attended, to those who decorated St Jude's so beautifully in preparation for our celebration, to those who prepared and participated in our worship, to those who live-streamed our services and to our organist and choir for leading our music.

As one expression of our Easter joy, Guy Bunce has posted some new and beautiful images of St Jude's (including a very lovely video) on our Facebook page (St Jude's United Church Englefield Green). Do look! Thank you Guy!

Our next significant celebration is Ascension Day, Thursday 29th May, when we have an evening service at 7pm. Please join us if you can.

Fourth Sunday at Four

Our next Fourth Sunday at Four Service is on Sunday 25th May at 4pm. Refreshments are served in the Monsell Room from 3.15pm. We look forward to seeing you!

Easyfundraising.co.uk

We are very grateful to all those who are supporting us when buying things through Amazon, John Lewis by using easyfundraising.co.uk. You have raised well over £1500 (so far) for us through this scheme and that is without any cost to you.

Readings at Communion

Sunday 4th May (Third Sunday of Easter)	Acts 9. 1–6 Psalm 30 Revelation 5. 11–end John 21. 1–19
Sunday 11th May (Fourth Sunday of Easter)	Acts 9. 36–end Psalm 23 Revelation 7. 9–end John 10. 22–30
Sunday 18th May (Fifth Sunday of Easter)	Acts 11. 1–18 Psalm 148 Revelation 21. 1–6 John 13. 31–35
Sunday 25th May (Sixth Sunday of Easter)	Acts 16. 9–15 Psalm 67 Revelation 21.10, 22.–22.5 John 14. 23–29

Pope Francis

We are praying especially for all our Roman Catholic friends in Englefield Green following the death of Pope Francis. What a true man of God and what a loss to the world and to the global church. We humbly give thanks that his faithful ministry not only impacted the world but embraced us all. As the Conclave begins we pray that the Holy Spirit of God may grant wisdom, revelation and light.

Diary for May

- 4 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Informal Holy Communion
- 7 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 10 Saturday 2.00–4.00pm Church open
- 11 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist 6.00pm Compline (Zoom)
- 14 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 15 Thursday 7.30pm Church Council meets in church
- 17 Saturday 10.00–11.30am Coffee Morning 4.00pm Concert by piano students of James Kirby
- 18 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist 11.00am Annual Meetings in church
- 21 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 24 Saturday 4.00pm Piano Recital by Isabella Morgan
- 25 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist 4.00pm Fourth Sunday at Four service
- 28 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 29 Thursday Ascension Day 7.00pm Holy Communion (with hymns)

Please note that our 9.30am service each Sunday is always live-streamed on our YouTube Channel. If you are unable to join us in church we warmly invite you to tune in.

The Village Centre

Victoria Street, Englefield Green TW20 0QX

manager@villagecentre.org.uk

<https://www.villagecentre.org.uk>

<https://www.facebook.com/villagecentreenglefieldgreen>

<https://www.instagram.com/villagecentreenglefieldgreen>

01784 471110

Our Village Centre came into being in 2010, before Andrew Reed came into post at St Jude's and certainly well before Judith was appointed as Vicar. At least three people had captured the vision of a creative and exciting way to use the Methodist Church building in Victoria Street as a centre of welcome and outreach to our village community. One of those three was Lou Ashford, then a Methodist Lay Pastor based in the Staines and Feltham Methodist Circuit. The other two were both Methodist Local Preachers: Rita Berry and Margaret Willis.

Lou Ashford was appointed as the Village Centre's first Manager. She was succeeded by Jayne Watson, and five years later by Ali Griffin, who came into post in March 2018. The work of the Centre has flourished under the leadership of each manager. Lou, Jayne and Ali have all brought their own unique style, skill and perspective to the role and, under God, the Centre has evolved and thrived. Its work has been supported by the Village Centre Management Committee and Andrew Sheer has served as the Centre Treasurer for the whole of the last 15 years.

Now it is time for Ali to move on to pastures new, as Lou and Jayne did before her. Ali brought to us her experience in leading the Child Contact Centre within the Village Centre, something she has continued to do throughout her time as Manager. She has also continued to maintain and introduce new outreach projects and to ensure that the Centre is used by an ever-widening variety of community organisations and groups. Assisted by part-time members of staff and a group of volunteers, now numbering between 60-70 people, she has continued to lead and encourage us all in maintaining and growing the original vision for the Centre. Ali has strengthened our links with our local village community and beyond. She has been tirelessly innovative and constantly energetic. Under her leadership the Centre café has been completely refurbished and most recently the hall kitchen has likewise been significantly upgraded.

Ali's last working day will be Friday 23rd May. She will be very greatly missed. We are indebted to her in so many ways and there is so much more we could say. In expressing appreciation to her we speak for all those who have so valued working alongside her as a colleague, for all those who use the centre day by day, for everyone who so enjoys their role as a volunteer, and for every individual and group who have found a welcome in one area of the Centre or another. Ali — we truly thank God for you and for the inspiration you have been to us all. We wish you very many future blessings.

Village Centre Notices for May:

A mini-bus trip to Brooklands on both Thursday 6th and 20th May. Further details from Ali

The Centre will be closed on both Bank Holiday Mondays: 5th and 26th May

During the schools' half-term break, 27th–30th May, the café opening hours will be 10am–2pm

At the time of writing, we believe we have found a successor to Ali. More details soon!

Andrew Reed

Judith Allford



St Jude's Church of England Schools Federation

"Excellence in Education,
Kindness in Community,
Courage through Faith"



Our schools are back for another busy term ahead with SATs and residential trips and leavers' events all to look forward to!

In the meantime, the St Jude's Schools Federation continues to move towards academisation and the positive changes it should bring. Please pray for all those especially involved in leading this process.

News of the residential trip undertaken by Year 5 this week has highlighted once again the enormous commitment that our school staff, in their many different roles, make to our children term by term. We are very blessed to have such a dedicated team whose respect and care for the children and their families is at the heart of everything they do. Thank you all.

Bereavement Coffee Morning

Thursday 29th May 2025 at 10.15am

at the Jurgens Centre,

Church of the Assumption of our Lady,

Harvest Road

Everyone is welcome

We have an open invitation to join our neighbours at the Church of the Assumption of our Lady, Harvest Road, TW20 0QR, on the last Thursday in each month, for their regular Coffee Morning in the Jurgens Centre beside the Church. We welcome anyone who has been bereaved, whether recently, or further back in time. You will find a quiet and welcoming space to talk or simply to listen and to be amongst friends. The invitation is to everyone, you may or may not be a church goer. You may drop in and out as you wish.

We shall be very glad to see you.

Forthcoming concerts

Saturday 17th May at 4.00pm

Piano students of James Kirby

Saturday 24th May at 4.00pm

Isabella Morgan (piano)

Saturday 7th June at 4.00pm

Christopher Hill (flute)

Saturday 5th July at 4.00pm

Ben Norris (piano)

Saturday 19th July at 4.00pm

Julian Hellaby (piano)

Saturday 4th October at 4.00pm

Julie Aherne and group

(baroque chamber music)

Saturday 8th November at 4.00pm

James Kirby (piano)

Other events

Saturday 17th May 10.00–11.30

Coffee Morning

Saturday 14th June 2.00–4.00pm

Church open and Cream Tea

Saturday 12th July 11.15am–4.00pm

Mini Fair and Church open

Saturday 6th September 10.00–11.30am

Coffee Morning