



# The Ship

## St Jude's Church, Englefield Green Newsletter

Anglicans and Methodists working together

Number 175

January 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](mailto: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 11th January with tea and coffee available. Do come along.

### Fourth Sunday at Four

Have you been to one of our Fourth Sunday at Four Services yet? The next service is on Sunday 26th January at 4pm. Refreshments are served before the Service (from about 3.15pm) in the Monsell Room. This service is about half an hour long and it doesn't include Holy Communion. Do join us if you can — we'd love to see you there.

### Christmas at St Jude's

Thank you to everyone who participated in Christmas at St Jude's and made it so very special for us all. It was a real celebration of our wider community and so many did so much to make it happen. Thank you all for everything you did — and may God bless you in 2025.

### 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 and thank you to Joan who so kindly organises this collection for us.

### Food Bank

Thank you for your generous Christmas giving. Donations of imperishable food-stuffs and other items can still be left in the crate in the Monsell Room. God Bless you all.

### From the Registers

#### Funerals:

(10th December) Ann Mary Hartwell Collins; (20th December) Ian Raymond Sadler

#### Interment of Cremated remains:

(17th December) Eric Sunderland; (23rd) Janet Hilda Wedgwood

### With the passing years ...

My Aunt has just celebrated her 100th Christmas! It took me a while to work that out but, since she was 99 in October 2024, I think that must be right. Of course, we're all secretly hoping that she will reach her 100th Birthday in 2025, but 100 Christmases is still pretty good going! And I know that some of you reading this have also achieved a significantly high total of Christmases past. Congratulations to you all and to my Aunt, who is about to greet her 100th New Year!

It's almost unimaginable to reflect on my Aunt's personal journey, from growing up on a farm in Norfolk, to living now on the outskirts of Liverpool. From being the youngest child at the Christmas table, to bringing up four children of her own, two of whom are very sadly no longer with us. From being a pioneering "Home Missionary", in charge of a series of newly established churches, to running a busy sub-Post Office alongside my late uncle. From being engaged and very active in a thriving local church, to being almost completely housebound but still receiving visits from one or two of her fellow-worshippers back then. And all the while retaining her interest in, and understanding of, the rapidly changing world in which we live.

My Aunt still has a very strong faith. Enjoying a little bit of time with her at Christmas, I paused to explore some of the promises of God to those of us who are especially conscious of the passing of the years. One is from the prophet Isaiah, through whom God declares: "Even to your old age and grey hairs, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you" (Isaiah 46 v. 4). I also love this verse from the Book of Job, which speaks of the unique blessings age can bring: "Is not wisdom found among the aged? Doesn't long life bring understanding?" (Job 12v.12).

But, old or young, or somewhere in between, the prospect of another New Year can bring with it challenges of its own. I know my Aunt is acutely conscious of war in Europe, something she had hoped never to see again. She is also deeply saddened by the impact of failings within the Christian Church. She is fearful about the future for some of our young people.

Some of us share those concerns and fears. Often, they are compounded by fears of our own; family worries, health concerns, how to live with unspeakable loss, the list is long. But my Aunt's life-experience and her enduring wisdom remind me that we have a God who keeps his promises to us, even as life changes around us. The Bible speaks of a God with whom there is "no shadow of turning", a God who does not change despite life's ever-changing circumstances.

I often struggle with the simple greeting "Happy New Year". For some, 2025 will undoubtedly bring great happiness and blessing. For others the coming year may not turn out quite as we hope or expect. I would rather pray that the God who has promised never to leave us, nor forsake us, will prove his faithfulness once again, whatever lies ahead.

The terrible suffering endemic in the world at the dawn of 2025 can make it very hard to trace the hand of God in the human struggle. But it was to a hurting, broken world God came 2000 years ago. In our Christmas celebrations we have not forgotten that the events of the first Christmas took place against the harsh unyielding background of suffering and sorrow. And the heart of the Christmas message "God with us" remains unchanged as the years move on.

I find a promise for the coming years in Edmund Sears' Carol "It came upon the midnight clear" which many of us, along with my Aunt, will have sung well over 100 times:

*For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet-bards foretold,  
When, with the ever-circling years, comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendours fling,  
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.*

Judith Allford

## The New Year

And I said to the one who stood at the gate of the year "Give me a light that I may walk safely into the unknown." And the reply came back: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That will be better for you than a light and safer than a known way."

## The Epiphany



The Western Church began celebrating the Epiphany in the 4th century where it was, and still is, associated with the visit of the magi (wise men) to the infant Jesus when God revealed himself to the world through the incarnation of Jesus. According to

Matthew 2:11 they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

## Readings at Communion

Sunday 5th January (2nd Sunday of Christmas)	Jeremiah 31. 7-14 Psalm 147. 12-end Ephesians 1. 3-14 John 1. 10-18
Sunday 12th January (Baptism of Christ)	Isaiah 43. 1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8. 14-17 Luke 3. 15-17, 21-22
Sunday 19th January (2nd Sunday of Epiphany)	Isaiah 62. 1-5 Psalm 36. 5-10 1 Corinthians 12. 1-11 John 2. 1-11
Sunday 26th January (3rd Sunday of Epiphany)	Nehemiah 8. 1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19. 1-6 1 Corinthians 12. 12-31a Luke 4. 14-21

## Bereavement Coffee Morning

Thursday 30th January 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 for their regular Coffee Morning in the Jurgens Centre beside the Church. The Coffee Morning is on the last Thursday of each month. 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.

## Diary for January

- 1 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 5 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Informal Holy Communion
- 8 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 11 Saturday 2.00-4.00pm Church open
- 12 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist
- 15 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 19 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist
- 22 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion 7.30pm Church Council meets (Zoom)
- 26 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist 4.00pm Fourth Sunday at Four service
- 29 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion

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

**Café Opening Hours:** The Village Centre re-opens for 2025 on Monday 6th January at 9am and the Community Fridge reopens on the same morning. Our Lunch for the over-55s restarts the following Monday, 13th January. Please book by Friday 10th January if you wish to join us that day.

At the beginning of a New Year we do wish Sarmila, the longest-standing member of our staff-team, many future blessings. Sarmila has now moved on from working with us. We are enormously grateful for all she has done for the Centre and for so many of us — she will be very greatly missed.

For more details about all our activities and for regular news of events, please do visit our website: <https://www.village-centre.org.uk/> or look at our Facebook page: "The Village Centre".

If you have any queries, suggestions, requests for bookings, or wish to offer your help to the Centre please contact us on 01784 471110 or email Ali Griffin, our Centre Manager as below. Thank you!

[manager@villagecentre.org.uk](mailto:manager@villagecentre.org.uk)

Facebook: [villagecentreenglefieldgreen](https://www.facebook.com/villagecentreenglefieldgreen)

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## St Jude's Church of England Schools Federation



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



Our good wishes to and prayers for our Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team, Teachers and Teaching Assistants, all Staff, Children, Parents and Carers, and to our Governors at the beginning of a New Year. Thanks you all for a wonderful Christmas celebration in church back in December!

## Easyfundraising.co.uk

We are very grateful to all those who are supporting us by using [easyfundraising.co.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.co.uk) when buying things through Amazon, John Lewis etc. You have raised £1555.59 (so far) for us through this scheme and that is without any cost to you. Many thanks.

## Concerts

Details of the 2025 Concert Series will be available soon and certainly in the February edition of this newsletter.

Happy New Year