



# The Ship

**St Jude's Church, Englefield Green Newsletter**

Anglicans and Methodists working together

Number 127

January 2021

## THANK YOU!

We owe a huge debt of thanks to all those who are providing and supporting our worship during this continuing pandemic. We are extremely grateful to Guy Bunce who has edited, recorded, filmed and live streamed for us every week and who will generously continue to do so. The professionalism and expertise that Guy has brought to this vital piece of ministry are exceptional and we thank God for him.

Equally, we thank Geoff Chew and Chloe Spencer for their skilled and sensitive leadership of our music and for the added beauty they bring to our worship.

We are also very dependent on those who faithfully contribute to our services week by week: our preachers, readers and intercessors, plus those who have shared with us on camera some insights into their own pandemic experience. Thank you to Diana Bendall for her "View from a Churchwarden's Laptop"!

Like me, I am sure you have also much valued Claudia Tubb's weekly message in our YouTube services for the young and young at heart. Thank you, Claudia, and thank you to all our Junior Church members for leading us in prayer.

Our Christmas was blessed by our Carol Service and our Children's Crib Service. Both required additional hard work on the part of some of those whom I have already mentioned, plus Cassandra Gouriet who assembled our readers for us, and our Christmas choristers. Guy's wonderful photography within St Jude's was enhanced by the Christmas decorations lovingly created by Pat and Brian Summers. We are grateful to them all and especially to our Junior Church members and their families, near and far, for their wonderful presentation of the events of the first Christmas.

Looking to the future we recognise that the present situation may continue for quite a while to come. We remain grateful to the members of our St Jude's COVID 19 committee who enable us to hold our "live" services as safely as we possibly can. Thank you to those who

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## Share your questions with God

The trouble with writing articles for magazines and Newsletters at the moment is that by the time they are read things have moved on and they are out of date. This is the case as I write this in the lead up to Christmas. By the time you read it, we should know the answers the following questions:

Will we have a deal with the European Union?

Have the most recent restrictions had a significant impact on the Coronavirus "R" number?

Will we still be in Tier 2"?

Did we manage to meet some or all of our families over the Christmas period?

At the time these questions were written they all seemed very important, and indeed, they are. I know that you have your own set of questions and some of them will be even more significant than the ones I have posed.

Over the past year one of the things that I have noticed is the need we have for assurance that someone, somewhere knows what is going on and has the answers that we need in order not to worry and just get on with our lives. Maybe this is the case with the Coronavirus vaccine. It is about to be sent to local hospitals and by the time you read this the roll out will have begun. You may even have received it. For many people this will be an immense relief and marks the process of getting back to normal. For others, they may have yet more questions for which they seek answers. For the scientists the vaccine itself is the answer to many questions that they have been asking each other for the whole of 2020. I am grateful that they have been able to come up with a solution to the problem and, as the vaccine is delivered my hope is that any issues that do arise will have simple and straightforward answers.

I am grateful that I can place the questions I have in the hands of God. This does not take responsibility away from me and there remains a need for me to use my mind and resources in coming up with suitable answers, but as I enter 2021 I remind myself of Paul's words to the Christians in Rome when he wrote, "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." My guess is that they were facing all sorts of problems and Paul just reminds them that God knows all about our individual circumstances as well as those of our family and our friends and indeed of our world. I invite you, as we move into 2021 to share your questions with God as they arise and listen out for the answers.

I wish you a peaceful and happy New Year.

*Andrew Reed*

*continued from Col. 1*

have prepared and updated our Risk Assessments, procured and monitored our supplies of protective equipment, kept the church clean and acted as stewards and guides.

I also want to mention our own St Jude's Choir. These strange and difficult times have meant that your own ministry among us has had to be placed on hold. We miss you and the special contribution you too make to our worship. We pray God's safe-keeping for you and your loved ones and look forward to the day when you share once again in the leadership of our singing.

There are always those who work faithfully and consistently behind the scenes to keep things up and running, even in these strange times. You know who you are — and we thank God for you always.

*Judith Allford*

*There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. (1 Corinthians 12:4-6)*

## January 2021 at St Jude's Church

Please find below our St Jude's service pattern for January. Whilst it is correct at the time of going to press we still wait to see if further guidance is issued as to whether churches can continue to remain open. Please check our website: [www.stjudeschurch.info](http://www.stjudeschurch.info) or our St Jude's United Church Englefield Green Facebook page for more up to date information week by week.

### Sunday 3rd January

8.00am Holy Communion in Church  
9.30am Service on our YouTube Channel

### Sunday 10th January

9.30am Family Communion in Church  
(Live streamed on our YouTube channel)

### Sunday 17th January

8.00am Holy Communion in Church  
9.30am Service on our YouTube Channel

### Sunday 24th January

9.30am Holy Communion in Church  
(Live streamed on our YouTube channel)

### Sunday 31st January

8.00am Holy Communion in Church  
9.30am Service on our YouTube Channel

## God be with you in 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." (Minnie Louise Haskins)

## Readings at Communion

3rd January (Epiphany)	Isaiah 60. 1-6 Psalm 72. 10-15 Ephesians 3. 1-12 Matthew 2. 1-12
10th January (Baptism of Christ)	Genesis 1. 1-5 Psalm 29 Acts 19.1-7 Mark 1. 4-11
17th January (2nd Sunday of Epiphany)	1 Samuel 3. 1-10 Psalm 139. 1-5, 12-18 Revelation 5. 1-10 John 1. 43-end
24th January (3rd Sunday of Epiphany)	Genesis 14. 17-20 Psalm 128 Revelation 19. 6-10 John 2. 1-11
31st January (4th Sunday of Epiphany) (Presentation of Christ in the Temple)	Malachi 3.1-5 Psalm 24 Hebrews 2. 14-end Luke 2. 22-40

## Easyfundraising.org.uk

Please do remember that if you register with [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) and select St Jude's Church, Englefield Green as your chosen charity, you can then shop online with many organisations (including Amazon, John Lewis, etc) and make money for St Jude's at the same time without costing you a penny.

## Diary for January 2021

For details of services, etc please see above

Email: [enquiries@stjudeschurch.info](mailto:enquiries@stjudeschurch.info)

## The Village Centre

[www.villagecentre.org.uk](http://www.villagecentre.org.uk)  
01784 471110

Please check our website or follow our social media channels for up-to-date information about our current activities and available facilities. Please pray for Ali Watts, our Centre Manager, and our Team of staff and volunteers who continue to maintain the work of our Centre in all the ways they possibly can.

We are grateful to Ali and to those who have supported her in the development and consistent updating of the many Risk Assessments which are essential at this present time.

Please remember, in the continued wake of COVID 19, that if you, or someone you know, has particular needs, you can still access help from the Village Centre/Mutual Aid by contacting 07526 360704 or the Runnymede Borough Council triage line, 01932 838383. If you would like to contribute to the work of the Village Centre please contact Ali:—  
[manager@villagecentre.org.uk](mailto:manager@villagecentre.org.uk)

## From the Registers

*Funerals:* (2nd December) Thomas Joseph Glimstead; (3rd) Anne Cotton; (4th) Henry Tuke; (8th) Patricia Ellen Craik; (11th) Daphne Moir.

*Wedding:* (17th December) Ian Stewart Gray and Chanel Jade Sharp.

## Giving to St Jude's Church

Thank you to those who made special donations over Christmas to the continuing work of St Jude's. We are especially mindful of the challenging financial circumstances faced now by so many. Churches are no exception to this and your generosity means so much to us.

Please do access our website for details of ways in which you can give — [www.stjudeschurch.info](http://www.stjudeschurch.info)

## Pandemic Prayers

God of all, in whom we live and move and have our being,  
Breathe upon our leaders your Holy Spirit;  
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and of might,  
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord,  
that through your guidance they may direct our steps  
in the ways of safety, wisdom and hope  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy.  
Sustain and support the anxious,  
be with those who care for the sick,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may find comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

## Knitting Update

Although the Saturday Knit and Natter session has not been able to take place for some time, a great deal of knitting has been going on. Many thanks to Di and Alan Fone, the knitters and those who have sewn up the squares into blankets. We took a car load of knitting ( 60 hats, 17 blankets, 68 jumpers + 8 teddies ) to "Revive 'n' Thrive" at Mytchett at the end of October. This was gratefully received and will be sent to Syria in the next load. Please can we encourage everyone to keep on knitting!  
*Brian and Pat Summers*

Web: [www.stjudeschurch.info](http://www.stjudeschurch.info)