



The Ship

St Jude's Church, Englefield Green Newsletter

Anglicans and Methodists working together

Number 165

March 2024

Are you new to St Jude's?

It's lovely to welcome you among us — in person or online. Please make yourself known and let us know how we can help you feel at home. If you have any questions, suggestions, 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 9th March. Do come along for a cup of tea and a chat and have a look round.

Fourth Sunday at Four

Our Fourth Sunday at Four Service is on Palm Sunday 24th March. (4.00pm with refreshments beforehand in the Monsell Room). Please come and join us as we prepare for our Easter celebrations! A warm welcome awaits you.

The time has come!



By the time you read this edition of the Ship our lovely church clock should be back in its rightful place. Great news!!

We are enormously grateful to everyone who has contributed so generously.

Thank you, all of you (and our grateful thanks, too, to Jacob Mujuni from Picnic on the Green for providing the picture).

Concert
to be given by
students from
Royal Holloway
Saturday 9th March
4.00pm
Admission free
Donations welcome
Refreshments

Just As He Said

Four little words which speak of a promise kept. They are the words of the Angel at the tomb of Jesus where some of the women, who had kept company with Jesus during His ministry, had gone to anoint His body. The Angel said to them: "Do not be afraid... I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said".

Sometimes it feels as if we are living increasingly in a world where words can no longer always be taken at face value; where there seems to be many different versions of the truth; where artificial intelligence can create falsehoods on the lips of those we want to trust and where promises are often denied or broken. What has come to be known as "The Post Office Scandal" has provoked a huge erosion of trust, not only on the part of those who have been victims of injustice, but also among those who have been watching the sequence of events continue to unfold.

So, I rejoice that Easter introduces us afresh to the One whose word is always his bond. On several occasions Jesus tried to prepare his disciples for the inevitability of his suffering and death. Sometimes his words simply provoked bewildered silence. On one occasion Peter, one of the closest of Jesus' disciples, remonstrated with him. The Gospels tell us that Peter "took Jesus aside and began to rebuke him". (Mark 8v.32) Even if the disciples eventually took in the devastating prospect of Jesus' death, they had no concept that Jesus was also sharing the promise of his resurrection.

And why would they? In their shoes would you or I have accepted such a mind-boggling promise? That a man would rise from the dead? And how unlikely it would have seemed to those who had waited at the foot of the cross and witnessed such unspeakable suffering and the ultimate finality of death.

But the first Good Friday turned into the first Easter Sunday. The dark clouds broke, and the sun rose once more. The stone, which was very large, was rolled away from the tomb. And the angels questioned the grief-stricken visitors to the tomb: "Why do you look for the living among the dead?"

And before the day was out, the risen Jesus had appeared to many of his followers. He had even shared a meal with two of his disciples whom he had encountered whilst they were making their twilight journey home. By the close of the first Easter Sunday there was much rejoicing over a promise hardly remembered but gloriously kept: "He is not here; he has risen, just as he said".

During Holy Week, which begins on Palm Sunday, 24th March, St Jude's Church will be making its annual journey through the events leading up to the first Easter Day. We shall focus once again on the suffering of Jesus, but always against the canvas of his resurrection. Please come and join us. Please rejoice to celebrate with us as sorrow bursts once again into joy. You will find all the details of our services in this newsletter.

And would you look again at one or two other promises that Jesus made along the way? On the very eve of his death Jesus promised his disciples "Because I live, you also will live" (John 14:19) and as he prepared to return to heaven he said: "I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28v.20). Jesus rose again — just as he said. I'm prepared to trust that every other promise he made will turn out "just as he said" too! God bless your Lent as it unfolds into Easter. *Judith Allford*

Lent 2024

Wednesdays 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th March: 11.00am Holy Communion Service followed by a simple Lent lunch

Please do think about joining us for this service and, if you are able to do so, to stay for the lunch which follows. Thank you to those who are providing and preparing our lunch for us. There is no fixed charge but donations are welcomed. See you there!

Mothering Sunday

We celebrate Mothering Sunday on Sunday 10th March and our 9.30am service will have a special Mothering Sunday theme – with gifts of flowers generously donated by members of our congregation. Please join us!

To be confirmed

It is not too late to think about joining our Confirmation course. Confirmation is the way in which we can affirm the promises made on our behalf when we were baptised. It enables us to take a fuller part in the worshipping life of the church by being able to receive Holy Communion.

Please do get in touch with me if you are interested in taking part. You may even feel that you do not really wish to be confirmed but that you would like an informal opportunity to discuss some of the truths of the Christian faith. Days and times can now be quite flexible. Please get in touch if you are interested.

Judith Allford

Readings at Communion

Sunday 3rd March (3rd Sunday of Lent)	Exodus 2. 1-10 Psalm 19. 7-end 1 Corinthians 1. 18-25 John 2. 13-22
Sunday 10th March (4th Sunday of Lent) (Mothering Sunday)	Exodus 2. 1-10 Psalm 34. 11-20 Colossians 3. 12-17 John 19. 25b-27
Sunday 17th March (5th Sunday of Lent) (Passion Sunday)	Jeremiah 31. 31-34 Psalm 51. 1-13 Hebrews 5. 5-10 John 12. 20-33
Sunday 24th March (Palm Sunday)	Isaiah 50. 4-9a Psalm 69. 1-23 Philippians 2. 5-11 Mark 14.1-15. end
Sunday 31st March (EASTER DAY)	Acts 10. 34-43 Easter Anthems 1 Peter 4. 1-8 Mark 16. 1-8

Easyfundraising.co.uk

We are very grateful to all those who are supporting us by using easyfundraising.co.uk when buying things through Amazon, John Lewis etc. You have raised well over £1400 (so far) for us through this scheme.

Concerts

There will be another concert to be given by students from Royal Holloway on Saturday 27th April with further concerts on 11th May (James Kirby's students), 18th May (Tim Travers-Brown's singing students) and 15th June (Vox Mundi (a ladies' choir).

Diary for March

- 3 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Informal Holy Communion
 - 6 Wednesday 11.00am Holy Communion followed by lunch
 - 7 Thursday 7.30pm Church Council meets (Zoom)
 - 9 Saturday 2.00-4.00pm Church open 4.00pm Concert by students from Royal Holloway
 - 10 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist 6.00pm Compline (Zoom)
 - 13 Wednesday 11.00am Holy Communion followed by lunch
 - 17 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist
 - 20 Wednesday 11.00am Holy Communion followed by lunch
 - 24 Palm Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist 4.00pm Fourth Sunday at Four service
- Details of additional Holy Week services are shown below*
- 27 Wednesday 11.00am Holy Communion followed by lunch
 - 31 EASTER DAY 7.00pm Sunrise service on The Green 8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Sung Eucharist

Please note that our 9.30am 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.

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 12th May. This is where we receive the revised Electoral Roll and the Annual Report and Accounts and normally elect members of the Church Council.

If you would like your name to be added to the Church Electoral Roll, please email roll@stjudeschurch.info for an application form. Please note that this is nothing to do with the local authority Register of Electors.

Runnymede Food Bank

Your generous donations to the Runnymede Food Bank have continued to show an increase over the early months of this year. The work of our Food Banks is absolutely vital in these present times and your generosity continues to make life better than it would otherwise be for a number of our local families. We remain grateful to Geoff Chew for coordinating our donations and for delivering our gifts to the Collection Centre week by week.

From the Registers

Funerals:

(6th February) Francis Laval Percy Uckiah
(19th February) Julian Alexander Griffin
(20th February) Denise Susan Beech

Putting your stamp on it!

A special "thank you" from Mrs Joan Raine to everyone who has been bringing used postage stamps into church for Joan to send on to charity. Please keep them coming! Thank you!

Bereavement Coffee Morning



Thursday 28th March from 10.00-11.15am

and then the last Thursday in each month
at the Jurgens Centre,

Church of the Assumption of our Lady, Harvest Road
Everyone is welcome

If you know someone who may find comfort or if you are suffering through bereavement yourself, you will find a warm welcome.

Come and have a cup of coffee and a chat

There will always be someone to talk to



Holy Week and Easter at St Jude's Church

Palm Sunday 24th March

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Palm Sunday Celebration with Holy Communion

4.00pm Fourth Sunday at Four service

Monday of Holy Week 25th March

7.00pm Service of Compline via Zoom

Tuesday of Holy Week 26th March

7.00pm Service of Compline via Zoom

Wednesday of Holy Week 27th March

11.00am Holy Communion followed by lunch

Maundy Thursday 28th March

7.00pm A special service for Maundy Thursday

Good Friday 29th March

12 noon A special service for Good Friday

1.00pm–3.00pm St Jude's remains open for a guided time of Reflection and Prayer

Holy Saturday 30th March

7.00pm A Service of Vigil for Easter Eve.

A warm invitation to this service which includes not only the bringing of the light as we approach the dawn of Easter Day but also an opportunity for all of us together to renew the promises made for us at our Baptisms.

Easter Day 31st March

7.00am Ecumenical Sunrise Service on the Village Green to welcome Easter Day. Come and join us outdoors as we greet Easter morning.

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Easter Family Holy Communion (and Easter Eggs!)



The Village Centre

Victoria Street, Englefield Green TW20 0QX

www.villagecentre.org.uk

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

manager@villagecentre.org.uk

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This month you will find there is a slightly different slant to the article as we will be providing a bit more information about the Village Centre as a building and how it came to be the community building it is today.

The Village Centre was formed due to the joining of the Methodist and Anglican communities within the village. When the Methodist community moved from Victoria Street to St Jude's Church to form St Jude's United Church in 2004, this meant the Methodist Church building was available for the Village Centre to be formed as a Joint Methodist and Anglican community project opening in 2010.

The Village Centre is a listed building and the maintenance of the premises is an ongoing task that takes up far more time than we would like. However we are incredibly fortunate that many of the smaller tasks are carried out by our volunteer handyman, Mark, who lives in the village. Contractors are used for the larger jobs or those requiring special qualifications. Two major tasks we have carried out during the past year has been the installation of a new Fire Alarm system and during the first week of January, a new floor has been laid in our Hall; both jobs were no easy task to arrange, mainly due to our Grade 2 listed building status. For 2024 we are addressing a potential leak in our tower and downpipes. A piece of information that I have learnt during my involvement with the Village Centre is that if any part of a property is listed then the whole property is listed, including any allowed extensions.

As with any old, large property there is always work to be done to keep the building in good condition, which is essential to ensure it is available for the community that use it every week, including: Community Fridge on Mondays and Fridays (09:00–11:00), Runnymede Food Bank on Wednesdays (13:00–15:00), Child Contact Centre on Saturday afternoons and also our Baby Basics project. Did you know we run a Film Club too? See our website for further details.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those that assist with the running of the Village Centre throughout the year, both as volunteers or paid staff either directly interacting with our visitors or behind the scenes.

Here are 2 challenges for you this new year:

If you haven't found us yet, please pop in for a warm welcome that is always extended to everyone.

Could you become a member of our volunteer family to support the local community by helping with one of our outreach programmes? Please do get in contact with the Centre Manager.

For more details about all our activities and for regular news of events, please visit our social media pages or website; details above.

If you have any queries, suggestions, requests for bookings, or if you would like to offer your help to the Centre please contact Ali Griffin, the Centre Manager.

Jonathan Griffiths

Your Village Centre is open, Monday–Friday 9am–2pm and Thursday 9am–5pm

Do come in out of the cold and enjoy a hot drink, snack, or even lunch with us.



St Jude's Church of England Schools Federation

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



As I write this article, a group of children from year five, accompanied by members of staff, have just returned from a trip to High Ashurst, the Surrey Education Outdoor Learning and Development Centre set in the Surrey Hills. One of the teachers commented "What an amazing experience for the children! Great facilities, great instructors and challenging experiences for all!" We are indebted to our teachers and teaching assistants for their generosity in giving up some of their own time so that our children can enjoy such significant and educational adventures. There are some great photos on the school's Facebook page!

For my part, I was privileged to accompany Mrs Chiverton to one of the "Heads and Chairs" meetings run once each term by the Department of Education at the Guildford Diocese. Not being either a Head or a Chair, I crept in wearing my "Governor ex-officio" hat. We spent a very worthwhile afternoon thinking about our schools' visions and how they are underpinned by what we understand about God and his plan for his creation. It was an extremely interesting, and appropriately challenging afternoon.

Now we are beginning to look forward to Easter and especially to welcoming all the children of the St Jude's Federation into church on Maundy Thursday.

Please continue to pray for our schools. Thank you.