



The Ship

St Jude's Church, Englefield Green Newsletter

Anglicans and Methodists working together

Number 160

October 2023

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 14th October. Do come along for a cup of tea and a chat and have a look round.

Fourth Sunday at Four

We warmly welcome you to join us for our monthly Service – Fourth Sunday at Four. This service is shorter (probably about half-an-hour long) and a little more informal than our morning services, with some lively singing!

It takes place every fourth Sunday in the month at 4pm and next happens on Sunday 22nd October. Just to make a change – refreshments are served *before* the service – from 3.15pm onwards in the Monsell Room. Do come and join us – there is also opportunity for those who would like to do so to share in leading our readings and prayers. It would be lovely to see you there. Thank you!

Piano Recital

by James Kirby

playing music by

Schubert, Chopin and Debussy

Sat 28th October

4.00pm

St Jude's Church

Admission free

Refreshments available

Donations welcome

A Thankful Heart

"All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above; then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all his love!"

It's Harvest time again! Once again a festival celebration offers us an opportunity to thank God for all his goodness to us in so many incalculable ways.

But these are also, in so many ways, hard times. The Covid 19 pandemic still casts its long shadow, with many still facing financial difficulty or ongoing health issues, both physical and mental. Conflict and natural disasters, the latter often the effect of climate change, continue to bring suffering and devastation to so many parts of our world. Imponderable questions still face us day by day – this past month for me has been my struggle and failure to make any sense of the sudden and tragic death of Tom. Tom was a young man of only 33, for whom I had the privilege of conducting his marriage in St Jude's to his beautiful bride, Madison, just five years ago. Tom leaves not only Madison, but their wonderful son, James, who is just two years old.

Within our community, bereavement – the loss of someone dearly loved – remains a major source of sorrow, just as it does in communities everywhere. Some, like Tom's family experience, in the words of a beautiful prayer, "the slenderness of the thread which separates life from death and the suddenness with which it can be broken". Others spend many months, even years, caring for a loved one as their health slowly declines. I am constantly humbled by the courage of those who have been bereaved, by their empathy with the situation of others, and by their generosity and thought for those around them. But I am equally as aware of the pain which never goes away.

Of late I have been looking more closely at the beautiful stained glass windows in St Jude's Church. Two in particular, both part of what is now the Monsell Room, were commissioned by John Monsell. The Revd John Samuel Bewley Monsell was at that time Vicar of Egham, but he was inspired to take up the vision of establishing a Church building in the village of Englefield Green. The first stone was laid on Thursday 28th October 1858, the feast day of St Simon and St Jude. The church was dedicated the following year, in July 1859. During that year the Church architect, Edward Buckton Lamb, created a large stained glass window in memory of John and Ann Monsell's son, another Thomas, who had died at sea in February 1855 on his way to the Crimea. Just a year or so later the Monsells were also to lose their eldest daughter, Elizabeth.

I was very struck that, whilst John Monsell had been faithfully pursuing his vision for the foundation and care of the young St Jude's Church, he too was facing the agony of intolerable loss. No wonder he wrote the wonderful and very famous hymn; "Fight the good fight!" He too had his own battles.

And yet John Monsell had a thankful heart. The words of that hymn continue: "Cast cares aside, lean on thy guide; his boundless mercy will provide". Whatever his battles may have been, John Monsell continued to thank the Lord for all his love.

For those of us who have followed in his steps in ministry at St Jude's, John Monsell's shoes are big ones to fill! And it is his thankful heart that I have pondered in the last few days as I took a fresh look at this magnificent window. Life in the mid-19th century was as hard in many ways, and harder in many more, than life today. Yet John Monsell, like so many of those around us, learned to count his blessings.

Maybe John Monsell felt as many of us do – that life's losses and crosses, challenges and battles, are far better faced knowing that God is in them with us, rather than tackled without him. Even in our 21st century world God remains our provider, our strength and our peace. Please join us in giving thanks to him, not only at our Harvest Festival celebration but also at the end of the month, Sunday 29th October, when we celebrate St Jude's day, and rejoice that, whatever our circumstances, God will never offer us less than all his love.

Judith Allford

To be confirmed

Perhaps you were baptised as a child but have never had the opportunity to think about Confirmation? We shall be starting a Confirmation course some time in the next few months. If you would like the chance to explore the Christian faith a little bit more – and to think about making for yourself the promises made for you at your Baptism – please do get in touch.

And maybe you have never been baptised? Well then perhaps now is the time to think about both Baptism and Confirmation? We don't as yet have a date for a Confirmation service but hopefully it would be in the early months of 2024 – so please contact us for further details. (01784 434133) We look forward to hearing from you.

Readings at Communion

Sunday 1st October (Trinity 17)	Ezekiel 18. 1–4, 25–end Psalm 25. 1–8 Philippians 2. 1–13 Matthew 21. 23–32
Sunday 8th October (Trinity 18 Harvest)	Deuteronomy 8. 7–18 Psalm 65 2 Corinthians 9. 6–end Luke 12. 16–30
Sunday 15th October (Trinity 19)	Isaiah 25. 1–9 Psalm 23 Philippians 4. 1–9 Matthew 22. 1–14
Sunday 22nd October (Trinity 20)	Isaiah 45. 1–7 Psalm 96. 1–9 1 Thessalonians 1. 1–10 Matthew 22. 15–22
Sunday 29th October (Last Sunday after Trinity) (St Jude's Day)	Leviticus 19. 1–2, 15–18 Psalm 1 1 Thessalonians 2. 1–8 Matthew 22. 34–end

Glass Jars

Many jams and preserves have been produced over the summer – and we are still very much looking for jam jars to contain them. If you have spare jam jars we would be very grateful to receive them! Please bring them along when the church is open or leave them somewhere very safe! Thank you!

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 over £1400 (so far) for us through this scheme.

Diary for October

- 1 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Informal Holy Communion
- 4 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 7 Saturday 1.00pm Harvest Lunch (one or two spaces still available – see below)
- 8 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist (Harvest Thanksgiving) 6.00pm Compline (Zoom)
- 11 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion service
- 14 Saturday 2.00–4.00pm Church open
- 15 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist
- 18 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 22 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist 4.00pm Fourth Sunday at Four service
- 24 Tuesday 7.30pm Church Council Standing Committee meets (Zoom)
- 25 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 29 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Sung Eucharist (to celebrate St Jude's Day)

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.

The Village Centre

www.villagecentre.org.uk 01784 471110

Have you found our Facebook Page: "The Village Centre"? This month's Village Centre notices are taken directly from it!

Did you know that the café and children's play areas are open till 5pm on a Thursday? Come down with the kids for a play and a snack!

Our next free adult's cooking class will be held on Friday 6th October, from 6.30-8.30pm! This class's focus will be on beans and how they're such an easy & healthy boost that can be used in so many dishes We'll be making delicious sausage & bean patties, as well as a cosy leek, potato & chickpea soup. Email us at manager@villagecentre.org.uk to book your place now (and let us know if you have any food allergies)!

GLOWFIT Classes have now started on Monday evenings at The Village Centre. First class is free otherwise £7 per class when pre-booking or £8 on the door. Glowfit is a great all over dance class with simple to follow tunes that everyone knows! Open to everyone (including beginners), the aim is to have fun! Tone your arms as well as your legs as you hold your glow sticks! Contact Emma-Christine to book on 07738 015820 or mcdaltd@gmail.com

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

And, as always, 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, our Centre Manager as below. Thank you!

manager@villagecentre.org.uk

From the Registers

Baptisms:

(10th September) Martha Elizabeth Anne Beauchamp

Funerals:

(29th September) Thomas Stephen Nash "Tom"

Runnymede Food Bank

During the last week in August Geoff Chew was able to take a record donation of 42kg of non-perishable foodstuffs and other items to the Runnymede Food Bank!

Thank you to all who continue to leave regular donations of non-perishable food items in our Food Bank crate in church and special thanks to Geoff Chew for taking our gifts to the Runnymede Food Bank week by week.

Harvest Thanksgiving at St Jude's

We have a few spaces left for our Harvest Lunch this coming Saturday, 7th October, at 1.00pm in the Monsell Room at St Jude's Church. Lunch will be hot soup, followed by a main course and dessert. The cost of £10 per head is payable on the day but we need to know in advance (please ring 01784 434133) if you hope to come as spaces are limited. Proceeds from the lunch will be donated to Water Aid.

The following day, Sunday 8th October, is our Harvest Thanksgiving celebration in Church and our services will have a Harvest theme:

8.00am Holy Communion (said)

9.30am Holy Communion with a family focus (Live-streamed and with hymns!)

6.00pm Compline, via Zoom

We are grateful to Pat, Brian and Sue for decorating St Jude's for Harvest, and to Homebase of Staines, and Waitrose of Egham, for donations of plants and groceries respectively. All donated groceries will be passed on to the Runnymede Food Bank after the weekend.

Refresh and Repair!

The refurbishing of the external stonework of St Jude's Church has now been completed at a cost of about £16,000.

Thank you for your patience whilst the work was under way.

At the time of writing we are still waiting for confirmation that we have ecclesiastical permission to progress with the work on the clock face. We have not launched a formal appeal to provide for the cost of the work but clearly it is an expensive undertaking (it will cost in the region of £10,000). If you are willing to help by making a donation to either of these projects, there are several ways in which you can do this and we are very grateful to you for considering it.

Donations may be made directly to the Church's bank accounts as follows:

CAF Bank Ltd St Jude's United Church 40-52-40 00013020

OR

NatWest Bank St Jude's Parochial Church Council 60-07-33 02317990

OR

Clicking on the Donate now button on the front page of our website www.stjudeschurch.info

OR

Cheques made out to St Jude's United Church may be sent to our treasurer, Brian Hooker, 11 Willson Road, Englefield Green, Egham, Surrey TW20 0QB

We are so very grateful to God that we can all enjoy a beautiful church building right in the heart of our lovely village. We pray that the iconic building of St Jude's will be preserved as a place of worship and welcome for generations to come.



St Jude's Church of England Schools Federation

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



We greatly value your support and prayer for our St Jude's Church schools. Term is well under way and children from both the Infant and Junior Schools will be holding their Harvest Festival service in St Jude's Church on Thursday 5th October. This will be the first time that the Infant and Junior School children have come together for their annual service of Harvest Worship and we are very excited to be welcoming them all! Hopefully, they will also come into church for a celebration of St Jude's day at the end of the month.

Our Governing Body has already met for the first time this term. Early in November the Governors are looking forward to a visit from Mr Alec Tear, Direction of Education at the Diocese of Guildford, to one of our regular meetings. The Diocese has huge input into our schools and it will be good to hear from such a senior member of the Board of Education.

Please continue to pray for all those involved in the life of our schools. Every new day holds fresh challenges – and fresh opportunities too!