



# The Ship

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

Anglicans and Methodists working together

**Number 150**

**December 2022**

## Open Church

St Jude's Church will be open between 2.00pm and 4.00pm on Saturday 10th December. Do come along for a cup of tea and a chat and have a look round.

The first Open Church day in the new year will be on Saturday 14th January 2.00pm-4.00pm.

## Christmas

Our Carol Service is at 4.00pm on Sunday 11th December — a week earlier than usual this year. The organist is Geoff Chew and the conductor, Guy Bunce, who is bringing members of his "Allegra" choir to join our own St Jude's Choir for this special occasion.

On Saturday 17th December at 3.00pm we have our Blue Christmas Service especially for those who may find Christmas difficult, for whatever reason. There are many reasons why some of us will find Christmas 2022 especially hard. So this reflective, and not too long service is offered in recognition that, for some, the traditional Christmas celebrations do not hold the same sparkle this year. The service will include an opportunity, for those who wish to do so, to light a candle of remembrance, hope or prayer.

We are rejoicing at the return of our Crib Service on Christmas Eve, Saturday 24th December at 4.00pm. The service will be led once again by Claudia Tubb and there will be plenty of opportunity for children to participate and bring to life the Christmas story.

Details of all our Christmas Services are set out in our December Diary.

## CONCERT by Vox Mundi (a ladies' choir)

**Saturday 3rd December**

**4.00pm**

Admission free

Refreshments provided

Donations welcome

## Let there be light

My earliest Christmases were spent in the beautiful County of Norfolk where I lived for the first three years of my life. I'm very proud of my Norfolk heritage! I'm always delighted when someone correctly guesses my origins although I guess the way I speak now is heavily overlaid with North Hampshire, South-East London and even Surrey!

The Friends of Norfolk Dialect (FOND) seeks to preserve the uniqueness of Norfolk speak. Their website advertises a book called "Larn Yourself Norfolk"! I remember my parents talking about being "on the huh" when referring to something, like a picture on the wall, that was lopsided. And when we were children a ladybird was always a "bishy-barney-bee".

How important words are and how much they tell us about people in so many ways. How significant then that the Bible should tell us that the first words spoken by God at the dawn of the world were "Let there be light". Those first few verses of Genesis introduce us straightaway to the God in whom there are no shadows. The first glimpse the Bible gives us into the very nature of God is that this is the God who speaks light into darkness and chaos. Here is the God who speaks light into a world that is very much "on the huh".

Some of the best known words we hear each Christmas come from the Old Testament prophet Isaiah: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned". (Isaiah 9:2). Those words, spoken to a people struggling in the darkness of oppression, exile and devastating loss are followed by one of the most famous of Biblical promises: "For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given...". (Isaiah 9:6) Once again God speaks light into a world shrouded in shadows, and that light is the promise of his Son.

But it was to be over six centuries later before a group of shepherds, guarding their sheep on the Bethlehem hills, found themselves surrounded by a great light, described by Luke as "The Glory of the Lord". Such was the power and brilliance of the light that at first the shepherds were filled with fear. But the light heralded the Angel's proclamation of the coming of a Saviour. God had spoken once more and his word was Jesus.

If you are a Norfolk Dumpling like me (yes that's what we're called!), you perhaps remember the folk singer Allan Smethurst, aka The Singing Postman. Allan grew up in Sheringham in North Norfolk. Over the years he recorded almost 80 folk songs, mostly in the Norfolk dialect. He was best known for his song "Hev Yew Gotta Lought, boy?" which got into the British charts. The song immortalised his chain-smoking Norfolk sweetheart Molly Windley and her constant request for his help in lighting her latest cigarette!

That song was recorded in 1964. From sad experience over the last 60 years we now know better than to make fun of habitual smoking, which has led to such misery for so many. But...the title of the song and its pronunciation, still make me smile. It also prompts me to ask again this Christmas: Have we got a light?

John's Gospel, which doesn't give us the traditional Christmas story, instead heralds the coming of Jesus with a look back to the dawn of the world: "The light shines in the darkness" (John 1:5). Those words pave the way for the great declaration of Jesus himself, which John records later: "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12)

Long ago, God spoke, and there was light. Just over 2000 years ago God spoke and there was Jesus. Today God still speaks into the darkness. He speaks his living Word, the Lord Jesus Christ himself with the same promise "Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life". If we are looking for light this Christmas it is still to be found in him.

Please come and join us for our Christmas services as we seek to share that light. And, of course, a special welcome for anyone with Norfolk connections!!!

Judith Allford



## Christmas Services at St Jude's



**Sunday 11th December**

at 4.00pm  
Carol Service

**Saturday 17th December**

at 3.00pm

Blue Christmas Service

*(A service for those of us who find  
Christmas difficult — for whatever reason)*

**Saturday 24th December (Christmas Eve)**

at 4.00pm  
Crib Service

**Saturday 24th December (Christmas Eve)**

at 11.30pm  
Midnight Mass

**Sunday 25th December (Christmas Day)**

at 8.00am  
Holy Communion

**Sunday 25th December (Christmas Day)**

at 9.30am  
Sung Eucharist

### Readings at Communion

4th December (2nd Sunday of Advent)	Isaiah 11. 1-10 Psalm 72. 1-7, 18-19 Romans 15. 4-13 Matthew 3. 1-12
11th December (3rd Sunday of Advent)	Isaiah 35. 1-10 Magnificat James 5. 7-10 Matthew 11. 2-11
18th December (4th Sunday of Advent)	Isaiah 7. 10-16 Psalm 80 1-8, 18-20 Romans 1. 1-7 Matthew 1. 18-end
25th December (Christmas Day)	Isaiah 9. 2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2.11-14 Luke 2. 1-20

### From the Registers

#### Funerals:

(7th November) Doris Cameron Engers  
(24th November) Lilian Shirley Medland

### Diary for December

- 3 Saturday 4.00pm Concert in church by Vox Mundi, a ladies' choir
- 4 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Informal Family 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 Holy Communion 4.00pm Carol Service
- 14 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 17 Saturday 3.00pm Blue Christmas service — for those who find Christmas difficult
- 18 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Holy Communion
- 21 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 24 Saturday 4.00pm Crib service 11.30pm Midnight Mass
- 25 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist
- 28 Wednesday 10.00am Sorry! NO Holy Communion

Please note that there will always be either a live-streamed service or a pre-recorded reflection on our YouTube Channel each Sunday from 9.30am. If you are unable to join us in church we warmly invite you to tune in.

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

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

### The Village Centre

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

Our Children's Christmas Fair and Christmas Market on Saturday 12th November were very successful with lots of children taking part in the free face-painting, teddy tombola, piggy racing and much more besides! Adults (and children too!) enjoyed an afternoon of browsing the market stalls and sampling an early season mince pie or muffin! We are grateful to all who gave up their Saturday afternoon to help create such a special afternoon. Thank you!

Our pre-Christmas celebrations continued with a complimentary Christmas Tea Party on Friday 25th November. This event was held in conjunction with student volunteers from Royal Holloway College, University of London and taxis were laid on to collect a number of senior citizens from our village to enjoy tea, cake and a thoroughly good natter!

We continue to strengthen our links with the Resettlement Officers at the local authority, supporting many families arriving into the country by providing clothing, toys and new-born items.

This month we would especially like to thank the Englefield Green Village Residents' Association (EGVRA) for funding for a new till and dishwasher for our kitchen and the Schroder Charity for funding for items for our Baby Basics project.

Please do keep an eye on our lovely new website in the run-up to Christmas. It is updated most days. 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 Watts, our Centre Manager, as below. Thank you!

We wish you peace and blessing at Christmas.

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

### Advent Groups

Please join us over the next four weeks for one of our "Zoom" Advent Groups. Dates and times are as follows:

#### Tuesdays

29th November 6th, 13th and 20th December 7.30-8.30pm. We shall be taking a look at the journey to Bethlehem two thousand years ago and following an Advent Course entitled "Travelling Light"

#### Wednesdays

30th November, 7th, 14th and 21st December 2.30-3.30pm. Our Wednesday course explores some of the great themes of Lent: Hope, Peace, Love and Joy

Please contact the Vicar if you would like a Zoom Invitation to either of the Groups. Thank you!

## St Jude's Schools

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

During November both St Jude's Infant School and St Jude's Junior School have held Open Days inviting prospective parents and children to have a look around. We are so blessed to have two such excellent schools within our village. If you know parents who are looking for a school place for their child please do encourage them to contact the leadership team at the appropriate school. Tours can be arranged at any time. You do not have to wait for a scheduled Open Day.

During December both schools will be coming into church and enjoying their own Christmas celebration service. St Jude's Junior School will be with us on Monday 12th December and the Infant School on Tuesday 13th December. We very much look forward to welcoming them once again.

Please pray for both our schools, and especially for those who staff them, as another busy term draws to a close in the next few weeks.

If you want to know more, please contact:  
Miss Michelle McNamee head@stjudesinfant.surrey.sch.uk  
01784 435586

Mrs Vicki Chiverton head@stjudes.surrey.sch.uk  
01784 432180

## Remembrance 2022

*They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old*

Once again this year we were able to share the great privilege of two significant Acts of Remembrance between our War Memorials in Englefield Green Cemetery. The last time we had been able to gather all together in this way was in 2019, before the beginning of the COVID 19 pandemic, and it was especially poignant to be together again in this way. For some who were present the world has changed greatly since 2019. However, the opportunity to remember those who gave their lives for us in two world wars, and beyond, remains uniquely meaningful.

The Act of Remembrance on Friday 11th November was attended by representatives from several of our local schools – St Jude's Infant and Junior Schools, St Cuthbert's

School and the Montessori Nursery in Victoria Street. The children behaved with the greatest dignity and respect and several placed wreaths of Remembrance at the memorials. We were joined by some village residents and veterans. The trumpeter was Hannah Griffin of the Egham Town Band.

On Sunday 13th November we re-gathered and were joined by children, young people and leaders from our village's uniformed organisations. Again, there was a large representation from the village plus local dignitaries and veterans. A specially printed Order of Service was generously donated by one of our local funeral directors, F. Harrison and Sons. The order of service seamlessly brought together the ceremony at the memorials and the service which followed afterwards in St Jude's Church. The piper was the Revd Will Bisset, who then preached at the service. The trumpeter was Thomas Hicken also of the Egham Town Band. We are indebted to all who took part, including those who laid wreaths. Mr John Walsh, who provides a PA system for us deserves special mention, as does Guy Bunce, who live-streamed the Sunday ceremonies, both outside, and from within the church. Most of all, we are grateful to Mr John Scott, MBE, Chairman of the Englefield Green Memorial Trust, for his outstanding organisation and leadership.

During the service, Mr Scott presented the church with a set of memorial books, Village Sons Remembered:

The Story of the Memorial Project  
The Englefield Green Book of Remembrance  
Englefield Green Village Sons and Daughters Remembered  
World War I  
Englefield Green Village Sons and Daughters Remembered  
World War II  
and beyond, including Royal Marine Ben Reddy who died in Afghanistan in 2007

The presentation was made on behalf of the Memorial Trust. Most of the work on these very special documents has been contributed by Mr Scott himself. They provide a deeply moving study of a community and many individuals within that community who made great sacrifices in order to secure a better future for succeeding generations. In John Scott's own words:

*A name is just a name but people come to life when their story is told, and their sacrifice becomes even more meaningful.*

Copies of the books are available for you to look at in St Jude's Church, the Village Centre and the Egham Museum.



- ★ We at Shining Pandas offer a Friendly and Caring Environment
- ★ For 2 to 5 year olds Monday to Friday
- ★ Timings: 9am till 12pm, 12pm till 3pm or 9am till 3pm
- ★ £12.00 or £24.00 per session
- ★ Early Bird Drop off at 8.30am
- ★ 15+ Hours Accepted
- ★ FEET & 3 Year Funding Accepted

St Jude's Church Hall  
Kings Lane  
Englefield Green

Please contact us on 01784 431230 / 07864 869612  
Shiningpandas17@gmail.com