



The Ship

St Jude's Church, Englefield Green Newsletter

Anglicans and Methodists working together

Number 153

March 2023

Open Church

In addition to service times, St Jude's Church will be open between 2.00pm and 4.00pm on 11th March. Do come along for a cup of tea and a chat and have a look round. This is also an opportunity to discuss Baptisms, Weddings and perhaps Confirmation.

World Day of Prayer

"I have heard of your faith"

A Service prepared by the women of Taiwan

**St Jude's Church
Friday 3rd March
2.00pm**

All welcome

Coffee Morning

in aid of the

DEC Earthquake Appeal
for Turkey and Syria

**Saturday 4th March
10.00-11.30am
St Jude's Church**

Cakes, biscuits, preserves
marmalade etc available

Do come along for coffee
and a chat

Concert

by students from
Royal Holloway

**Saturday 18th March
4.00pm**

St Jude's Church

Admission free

Refreshments provided

Donations welcome

I'm here for you

"What are you giving up for Lent?" Don't worry - I'm not asking that question of you! But it was a question someone has asked me this week. It stopped me in my tracks a bit because I hadn't really given much consideration to giving up anything tangible this Lent. But I found myself answering "I want to give up some of my attitudes..." And then, of course, I was challenged to explain what I meant. First, I realised, I needed to explain it to myself.

There have been many previous Lents when I have tried to give up chocolate or cake or coffee. I have nothing but respect and admiration for those who can do something like that – and who then generously give away the money they have saved. I know that in Lent 2023 if I were to give up on my favourite tuna and cheese sandwiches, it would undoubtedly make me a slimmer person. But I know myself too well to think it would make me a better person.

Our Ash Wednesday Gospel reading from Matthew 6 focussed on Jesus' challenge to three spiritual disciplines: prayer, giving and fasting. All those things were practised by the religious people of Jesus' day and they continue to be practised by many people of faith today. They are habits of life which are far from being unique to the Christian faith, and they are habits which are not confined to a particular season, although at certain times in the cycle of the year greater emphasis is placed on them. Whilst enjoying the huge privilege of working alongside many Muslim brothers and sisters in the NHS, I was deeply moved by the devotion and commitment demonstrated by so many every day in prayer and generosity as well as during the holy season of Ramadan – with its specific challenge to sacrifice and self-denial. For Christians the season of Lent offers a similar challenge and opportunity, but also in the context of a daily life of faith and following Jesus.

And Jesus' teaching emphasises that these disciplines of faith should be rooted in the privacy of our daily relationship with God. Their purpose is to draw us closer to him.

Which brings me back to my attitudes. What I'd really like to give up are some of the many things that, for the most part, only God sees. Things like my tendency to fly to judgment; to criticise; to harbour perceived hurts and grievances. For me, these are the things that disrupt my relationship with God and that prevent me from growing in my relationship with him.

Because Lent is intended to be a season of growth. The very word "Lent" is an ancient word for "Spring". Lent is a season of new life and fresh beginnings. It is an opportunity for me to try to chuck out some of the many things that stunt my growth in holiness and love. But it also offers space for my relationship with God and my understanding of him to grow.

And how I need that greater understanding in 2023. I'm writing this on 24th February, the day that marks the first anniversary of the dreadful war in Ukraine which is tearing so many lives apart. I am writing this in the days following the terrible earthquakes in Turkey and Syria which have likewise taken so many lives and piled yet more agony on the already unspeakable destruction caused by human conflict. I want to understand where God is in Aleppo and Antakya, Kyiv and Kharkiv.

I caught the glimpse of an answer in an email I've just opened from a friend, who, in response to something I'd been telling them, wrote "I'm here for you". Lent reminds us that God in Jesus swapped the glory of heaven for desert dust, the throne of eternity for a scaffold. And why? So that we might always know God is "here for us" even in the darkest places of our planet, and of our lives.

Perhaps Lent is not so much about what we give up for God as about what he gave up for us. Our small sacrifices may bring us closer to God, but Jesus' immeasurable sacrifice brought God to the very heart of our human need. And he is there still. His attitude to us is love alone.

Judith Allford

Audio Visual Project

Many of you will have noticed that our new Audio Visual system is now up and running. We are grateful to everyone who has worked so very hard, and so generously, to bring this about. At present we have been making use of the static camera only but in the coming weeks the full system will gradually be introduced. We are grateful that this will enable us to continue offering our worship online, as well as face to face.

We are definitely looking for volunteers who would like to help us with future live-streaming. Training will be given and this promises to be a very worthwhile and rewarding project. If this is something that appeals to you, we should be really glad to hear from you. Please get in touch via our website — or contact our Vicar on 01784 434133. Thank you!

We still need to make up a shortfall, now closer to £1000 on the cost of the installation and if you do feel able to help us please do let us know. You can contact our Treasurer, Brian Hooker, at brian.hooker@stjudeschurch.info or you can get in touch via our website: www.stjudeschurch.info Thank you so much — and thank you to all who have already given so generously.

Lent Groups

Our Lent Group 2023 will meet via Zoom each Wednesday evening in Lent. We shall be following a Lent Series produced by the Sheffield Diocese, entitled: SHINING AS LIGHTS. The programme will be as follows:

Drawn to the Light
Wednesday 1st March 7.30–8.30pm

Receive the Light
Wednesday 8th March 7.30–8.30pm

Walk in the Light
Wednesday 15th March 7.30–8.30pm

Reflect the Light
Wednesday 22nd March 7.30–8.30pm

Light of the World
Wednesday 29th March 7.30–8.30pm

If you would like more details, including a Zoom Invitation, please contact the Vicar on 01784 434133

Save your stamps

Please consider cutting the postage stamps from any letters you might receive and bringing the stamps to church! Joan will be very happy to collect them and to send them on to The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. Stamps are best cut from the envelope leaving a border of about a quarter of an inch. Thank you!

Diary for March

- 1 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 3 Friday 2.00pm World Day of Prayer service in St Jude's Church
- 4 Saturday 10.00–11.30am Coffee Morning outside St Jude's Church (inside if wet)
- 5 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Informal Family Holy Communion
- 8 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 12 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Holy Communion
- 11 Saturday 2.00–4.00pm Church open
- 15 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 18 Saturday 4.00pm Concert by students from Royal Holloway
- 19 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Holy Communion
- 22 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 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 there is always a live-streamed service 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.

The Village Centre

www.villagecentre.org.uk 01784 471110

The major item of news from the Village Centre this month is that we have recently rejoiced to celebrate the marriage of our Centre Manager, Ali Watts to James Griffin. We offer to them both our warmest congratulations and our prayers and good wishes for a wonderful future together. Ali and James became engaged at New Year and they decided to waste no time in getting married! Their wedding was in the very beautiful church of St John the Baptist, Bisley, and was attended by a loving gathering of close family and friends.

It was a privilege for me to have been invited to conduct their wedding and thus to represent the St Jude's and Village Centre "family". On behalf of us all — this is part of what I said:

"Ali, only you could have so expertly put a wedding together in two and a half weeks! We are in awe! You too are an exceptional human being; gifted, loving and loyal. I know James must be incredibly proud of you, as you are of him. Your care and compassion, determination and vision are an inspiration to so many of us. We rejoice with you in the happiness you have found with James. We pray that you will both always be as happy as you are today".

So the work of our Village Centre continues under the supervision and leadership of the new Mrs Griffin. We continue to welcome new volunteers and to enjoy the support of many people in a variety of different ways. Please do look out for the re-launch of our "Friends of the Village Centre" in the not too distant future. Please do let us know if you would like more details of that scheme.

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, manager@villagecentre.org.uk. And, if like many prospective volunteers, you haven't yet made your first visit to the Centre, please come along and meet us. You will receive a warm welcome and your first visit will probably lead to many more! Thank you all.

Food Bank

Please continue to help us support the work of our local Runnymede Food Bank. Contributions of non-perishable goods can be left in our Food Bank crate in our Monsell Room and are regularly taken by Geoff Chew to the Food Bank Collection and Distribution Centre. Your amazing generosity is hugely appreciated.

From the Registers

Funerals:
(2nd February) John Ball

Revive and Thrive Knitting

We have started collecting knitting again and have several blankets, teddies and hats so far. If anyone has any items that they have knitted over the winter and would like to add these to our collection, the Church will be open on Saturday 11th March 2.00–4.00pm and Pat will be there to receive your contributions.

St Jude's Schools

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

The Federation of St Jude's Junior and Infant Schools has now gone "live". The first meeting of our new Full Governing Body has already taken place. Martyn Shapter, who previously chaired the Infant School Governing Body, was elected Chair of the Federation Governors, with Juan Pemberton and Xavier Brice as Vice-Chairs. Juan and Xavier, plus Dan Boorman continue as Foundation Governors representing St Jude's Church. The new Governing Body also continues to have representation from Christchurch, Virginia Water, which reflects the coming together in September 2021 of the former Christchurch School with the former Englefield Green Infants School, to form St Jude's C of E Infant School. The schools remain on their present sites in Bagshot Road and Barley Mow Road.

During February also I was privileged to be one of the representatives from the Infant School, together with our school's RE Lead, at a Diocesan Training session on the new framework for the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS). The Junior School was represented by our Head Teacher and RE Lead. SIAMS inspections will focus on the Vision adopted by Church Schools, its theological underpinning, and its impact on the life of the school. Our schools vision is at the top of this article.

I continue to lead Collective Worship most weeks in one or other of our schools. That is now a role I am able to share with the Revd Jeremy Brown, Children and Families Pastor at Christchurch. In addition, the Revd Dr Orion Edgar, Anglican Chaplain at RHUL, leads a weekly Collective Worship session for the Reception Class in the Infant School. We all very much value the privilege of being part of the life of our schools in this way.

We are immensely fortunate in our two village Church Schools. This is not an easy time in Education and all our school staff go above and beyond their duty to care for our children. Please remember them in your prayers.

As always, 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

Judith Allford

Readings at Communion

5th March

(2nd Sunday of Lent)

Genesis 12. 1-4

Psalm 121

Romans 4.1-5, 13-17

John 3. 1-17

12th March

(3rd Sunday of Lent)

Exodus 17. 1-7

Psalm 95

Romans 5. 1-11

John 4. 5-42

19th March

(4th Sunday of Lent – Mothering Sunday)

Exodus 2. 1-10

Psalm 34. 11-20

Colossians 3. 12-17

John 19. 25b-27

26th March

(5th Sunday of Lent)

Ezekiel 37. 1-14

Psalm 130

Romans 8. 6-11

John 11. 1-45

Easter at St Jude's Church

We are already preparing our programme of services for Easter and we hope many will be able to join us in worship as we celebrate the message of God's love in Jesus which lies at the very heart of the Christian Gospel.

Our Services as planned so far are as follows:

Palm Sunday 2nd April

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Palm Sunday Celebration with Holy Communion PLUS Palm Sunday activities for children led in our Monsell Room by Claudia Tubb. A warm invitation to all our younger worshippers to come along and get involved!

Monday of Holy Week 3rd April

7.00pm Service of Compline via Zoom

Wednesday of Holy Week 5th April

10.00am Holy Communion

7.00pm Service of Compline via Zoom

Maundy Thursday 6th April

7.00pm A special service for Maundy Thursday

Good Friday 7th April

12 noon A special service for Good Friday

1.00–3.00pm St Jude's remains open for a time of reflection and prayer

Holy Saturday 8th April

Watch this space! Further details of our service will be available nearer the time.

Easter Day 9th April

7.00am Ecumenical Sunrise Service on the Village Green to welcome Easter Day

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Easter Celebration with Holy Communion (and Easter Eggs!)

Easyfundraising.org.uk

Please do remember that if you register with [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.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. So far we have raised over £1200 by this scheme.