



The Ship

St Jude's Church, Englefield Green Newsletter

Anglicans and Methodists working together

Number 164

February 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 10th February. Do come along for a cup of tea and a chat and have a look round.

Fourth Sunday at Four

Our February Fourth Sunday at Four Service is on Sunday 25th February 2024 (4.00pm with refreshments beforehand in the Monsell Room). The service will have a Lenten theme. Please come if you can.

Lent 2024

You will also find information about Lent 2024 in our front page article. Details as follows:

ASH WEDNESDAY, 14th February
11.00am Holy Communion service with the imposition of ashes followed by simple Lent Lunch

7.00pm Holy Communion with the imposition of ashes and hymns

Wednesdays 21st, 28th February, 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th March: 11.00am Holy Communion Service followed by a simple Lent lunch.

Community Concert

a mixed programme

Sat 3rd February at 4.00pm

St Jude's Church

Admission free — donations welcome

Refreshments available

Coffee Morning

Saturday 24th February

10.00–11.30am

St Jude's Church

Cakes, biscuits, preserves,
marmalade etc available

Lent 2024

Did you know that "loneliness" is considered by many to be one of the biggest public health challenges faced in the UK? Figures released in 2022 by the Campaign to End Loneliness suggested that almost 4 million of us experience what is described as "chronic loneliness", meaning that we feel lonely "often" or "always".

We know that being alone doesn't always equate to loneliness. It can be far lonelier to be in a difficult relationship than to be single. Equally, we can feel at our most lonely when we are surrounded by others: perhaps in a challenging workplace or in a social setting or home environment that we find deeply uncomfortable. Illness, perhaps our own, or that of someone for whom we are caring, can often bring isolation as well as loneliness. Many of you reading this will have experienced the unique loneliness of bereavement or separation. The impact of the loss of someone dearly loved can often never be fully shared, even with those closest of all to us.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find an invitation to a "Bereavement Coffee Morning". The invitation comes from the Church of the Assumption of Our Lady and several of us at St Jude's have already enjoyed a morning there. It provides a peaceful space where experiences of loss and loneliness can be safely shared and the invitation is open to all.

We soon begin the season of Lent which will focus our thoughts on the experience of the Lord Jesus Christ in the wilderness of Judea. At the age of 30, following his Baptism by John the Baptist in the River Jordan, we are told that "Jesus was led by the Spirit in the desert" (Luke 4:1). There he spent almost six weeks, with the voice of the devil constantly challenging and tempting him.

Was Jesus lonely during that time — or was he simply alone? He had come from the shelter of a loving family and the busy-ness of the carpenter's shop in Nazareth, to this time of solitary reflection. I think maybe he was not only alone, but perhaps also tasting the loneliness that must have marked much of his ministry, despite the companionship of his disciples and the attentions of the crowds which so often pursued him. And so the weeks of Lent can perhaps invite us to ponder that the Son of God can understand, and has even shared our loneliness too.

During Lent we shall be continuing our usual Wednesday Service of Holy Communion but we shall be moving it from its usual time of 10.00am to a temporary start time of 11.00am. This will enable us to share a simple Lenten Lunch together afterwards. As well perhaps as choosing to give up something for Lent you may like to add to your Wednesdays a quiet and reflective service of worship, followed by a light lunch in the company of others. We shall be inviting donations just to cover the cost of the lunch. Please join us if you would like to.

Jesus used his time alone to prepare himself for the challenge of his future ministry. It was a time given to him by God that would confirm his intention to embrace God's will for his life. Lent can afford us that opportunity too and enable our spiritual life to grow and deepen. Lent this year begins on 14th February, Ash Wednesday, with two services in St Jude's: our midweek service at 11.00am and an evening service at 7.00pm. Both services will include the imposition of ashes for those who wish to receive it. Again — you are warmly invited to be with us.

But let me close with a beautiful night prayer from the pen of the sixth century Irish Saint, St Columba of Iona, which perhaps has something to say to us all as Lent begins:

Be a bright flame before me, O God, a guiding star above me.

Be a smooth path below me, a kindly shepherd behind me, today, tonight, and forever.

Alone with none but you, my God I journey on my way;

What need I fear when you are near, O Lord of night and day?

More secure am I within your hand than if a multitude did round me stand.

Amen

Judith Allford

World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer, 2024 (formerly The Women's World Day of Prayer) falls on Friday 1st March 2024 and we shall be holding a service in St Jude's at 2pm on that day.

Poignantly, the Service this year has been prepared by Christian Palestinian women and its theme is "I beg you, bear with one another in love". This is an ecumenical service and a warm invitation is extended to members of all our local churches to come and worship with us. Please do pass on this invitation to other local Christian friends.

The service will also present a significant opportunity for us to pray especially for peace in the Middle East, the lands where Jesus walked.

To be confirmed

We shall this year be holding a Confirmation course for those who would like to take part. 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.

I am proposing to lead an all age course beginning in Lent. If this would interest you, please do get in touch with me, even if you have previously spoken to me about this, as it would be helpful to have a clearer idea about numbers. My suggestion is that we would meet for about an hour on a Saturday morning, from Saturday 17th February onwards. This would be an informal time and an opportunity to explore together some of the fundamental truths about our faith and our church. By making it an all-age course we would learn a great deal from each other. The lower age limit is about 12 years (although that too is open to discussion) and there is no upper age limit! Do get in touch with me – it would be good to talk about the most suitable time to meet.

Judith Allford

Readings at Communion

Sunday 4th February (2nd Sunday before Lent)	Proverbs 8.1, 22-31 Psalm 104. 26-end Colossians 1. 15-20 John 1. 1-14
Sunday 11th February (Sunday next before Lent)	2 Kings 2, 1-12 Psalm 50. 1-6 2 Corinthians 4. 3-6 Mark 9. 2-9
Sunday 18th February (First Sunday of Lent)	Genesis 9. 8-17 Psalm 25. 1-9 1 Peter 3. 18-end Mark 1. 9-15
Sunday 25th February (Second Sunday of Lent)	Genesis 17. 1-7, 15-16 Psalm 22. 23-end Romans 4. 13-end Mark 8. 31-end

Diary for February

- 3 Saturday 4.00pm Community Concert
- 4 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Informal 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 Sung Eucharist 6.00pm Compline (Zoom)
- 14 ASH WEDNESDAY 11.00am Holy Communion followed by lunch 7.00pm Holy Communion (with hymns)
- 18 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist
- 21 Wednesday 11.00am Holy Communion followed by lunch
- 24 Saturday 10.00-11.30am Coffee Morning at St Jude's Church
- 25 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist 4.00pm Fourth Sunday at Four service
- 28 Wednesday 11.00am Holy Communion followed by lunch

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.

Marking Time!



Great news!! Our beautiful clock, refurbished and repainted, is due to be returned to us at the very end of February. We are hugely grateful to all who have supported us with donations towards the completion of this important piece of work. If anyone wishes to contribute to the amount we still need to raise to cover the costs of this repair (in the

region of £800), 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 QQB

Thank you, all of you.

Runnymede Food Bank

We have made an excellent start to 2024 with the continuing regularity and amount of the donations from St Jude's to the Runnymede Food Bank. It is common for food banks to experience a dip in donations during the first weeks after Christmas but our donations have remained constant and even increased a little. Thank you to all of you who give – in cash or in kind – and thank you to Geoff Chew for continuing to co-ordinate this important piece of outreach. Our donations so far in January have averaged 19kg per week.

From the Registers

Funerals: (11th January) Margaret Marie Evans

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!

Concerts

Following the community concert on 3rd February, our next concerts in church will be on 9 March and 27 April, and both of these will feature performance specialist students from Royal Holloway. We hope to see you at these. (We regret that the Lent concert scheduled for 16 March has unfortunately had to be cancelled, for reasons beyond our control.)

After that there will be a concert on 15th June by Vox Mundi.

The Village Centre

www.villagecentre.org.uk 01784 471110

The Village Centre invites you to come in out of the cold and enjoy a hot drink, a snack, or even lunch with us. The Village Centre Café is a warm and welcoming place for you to bring your laptop, come along with your little ones, or meet a friend for coffee. There's plenty for children to do in our lovely play area. The Cafe is open from 9am–2pm during the week (9am–5pm on Thursdays).

If you're on Facebook or Instagram, do give us a follow so you get all the latest updates about what's on! <https://www.facebook.com/villagecentreenglefieldgreen> and <https://www.instagram.com/villagecentreenglefieldgreen>

A beautiful new floor has been laid in our Hall, and regular Hall bookings and all classes have resumed.

Our Community Fridge is open on Monday and Friday mornings, 9am–11am.

The Child Contact Centre is running regular fortnightly sessions with the next dates for this quarter on 3 February, 17 February, 2 March and 16 March. Sessions run on the first and third Saturdays of the month from 2pm–4pm. There is no charge for this service. You can contact coordinator@villagecentre.org.uk or call 01784 471110 for more information on making a referral to this service.

Our wish for this year is for more wonderful volunteers to join our lovely supportive team at the Village Centre. We have a number of outreach programmes where volunteers can get involved. The Englefield Green Child Contact Centre, our Community Fridge, our Café, and our Baby Basics scheme all benefit from our volunteers' dedicated support, and being a volunteer with us means making a difference and being a welcomed and appreciated part of our family. Please do get in touch if you'd like to join us as a volunteer.

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 social media accounts <https://www.facebook.com/villagecentreenglefieldgreen> and <https://www.instagram.com/villagecentreenglefieldgreen>.

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

Siobhan Elliott



St Jude's Church of England Schools Federation

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



There is something different about St Jude's Junior School this term. Mrs Chiverton explains: "For the next couple of months the school will be hosting a small number of students (no more than 10) from the St Peter's Centre while their building on Corby Drive has some building work done. The students will be based in our spare Year 6 classroom."

The Head of the St Peter's Centre is Mrs Yolande Mead. This is what Mrs Mead has to say:

"Students attend St Peter's due to being temporarily unwell or if they are being assessed for an EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan). We have secondary aged children who work with us to build their confidence and resilience. They are a joy to work with and are well behaved, calm and focused. Our staff are very experienced, both in student learning but also in student well-being and pastoral support. We hope to give plenty back to the St Jude's community and complement the many excellent things we have already seen with our presence".

Mrs Chiverton adds: "The students will be accompanied at all times by Mrs Mead and members of her staff team. Also with them will be Mrs Mead's beautiful little dog, Bertie, who has already begun to make new friends. We are looking forward to the collaboration between our two schools and the mutual benefits that will be gained".

We wish all our schools well over the coming term - and we wish all teachers and pupils a happy half-term break later this month.

Bereavement Coffee Morning



Thursday 29th February 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.**

