



The Ship

St Jude's Church, Englefield Green Newsletter

Anglicans and Methodists working together

Number 162

December 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 is normally open between 2.00pm and 4.00pm on the second Saturday of each month. In December, this open afternoon will take the form of a Mince Pie and Lebkuchen Tea. (see below).

Fourth Sunday at Four

Our Fourth Sunday at Four Service for December will be replaced by our Children's Crib Service at 4pm on Christmas Eve, Sunday 24th December! See you there!

Concert series 2024

For our next Saturday concerts in church, please watch our announcements. We are asking once more for volunteers to perform at a community concert in February 2024 – all comers at such concerts are welcome as performers (either musical or in reading poetry), and no auditions are required.

We also expect that Royal Holloway students will be offering concerts as usual in March and April 2024, and our concerts will additionally include a performance of Pergolesi's Stabat Mater during Lent, on 16 March 2024.

Mince Pie and Lebkuchen Tea

Saturday 9th December

2.00–4.00pm

St Jude's Church

Admission free

Donations welcome

A Starry Night

One of the Christmas Carols I especially enjoy is "A Starry Night" which I'm told made the school assembly pop charts in 1967! I was saddened to hear recently of the death of that carol's composer – Major Joy Webb of the Salvation Army. I asked Kathy Kerslake, a member of the congregation at St Jude's, whose faith was formed within the ministry, life, and music of the Salvation Army, to tell us something about Joy Webb. This is what she wrote:

I had the privilege of knowing and working with Joy Webb since the mid-sixties. A chance remark by the then General Coutts of the Salvation Army, had changed the direction of her life, challenging her to bring the message of the Christian Gospel into places where people were, but which perhaps had not been reached before. In 1964 Joy had founded a music group, aptly named "The Joy Strings". So, with guitars to the fore, the group began to find ways to bring the Gospel to many people who probably would not have thought about going into a church. What a God blessed venture it proved to be!

Joy remembered responding to a request from a local vicar to sing at a service in honour of the late Elvis Presley. Approaching the church, she was met by Elvis' "fans" all dressed as Elvis! She recalled how the vicar spoke of a loving God to whom Elvis had gone to be received as his child. Joy sang "It is no secret what God can do..." and the fans responded- "thank you for being here...". The service then had to be repeated for the hundreds of fans waiting patiently in the church yard!

Joy loved Christmas! She wrote and directed a special carol celebration each year for her "little people", children from "The Haven", a home for children in the care of the Salvation Army. She once reflected what an enormous surprise it must have been for those who witnessed the events of the first Christmas night. And so, the song "The Surprise" was born. "Let the Surprise fill your heart again, making the old story new...."

I recall playing for a performance called "The star that lost its way" at Wembley, another of Joy's creations. This was in the presence of the Princess Royal and had to be perfect! Unfortunately, when the cherubs were due to appear to sing "The Star Song" they were nowhere to be seen! They had indeed lost their way! Joy as always, covered the blip magnificently and order was restored very quickly! BUT the Princess Royal DID notice and mentioned it (with a twinkle in her eye) when Joy was presented to her afterwards!

There is so much I could share about Joy. Her shining Christian example, always having time for people, her ministry, shared spiritual experiences, sadness, joy, laughter, the real presence of God when listening to her words. She often said that when writing words and melody, she would place the work in her lap and pray that God would in-breathe it with his Spirit. Many will testify that Joy's unique approach to ministry helped them to find the faith for which they longed.

"And their hearts believed again, for the peace of men; for a Boy was born, King of all the world." '

I am very grateful to Kathy for sharing those lovely reminiscences. This Christmas we shall be singing once again the many carols that have become so precious and familiar to us. Behind every one of those carols is a writer who, like Joy Webb, longed to share the glorious truth of the first Christmas in fresh and vivid ways. We thank God for them all.

As our hearts lift once again with the beauty of Christmas music, let's pray that the words too will touch our lives afresh. Let's pray that in the dark streets of so many parts of the world today the everlasting light of God's love in the Lord Jesus Christ will shine. You will find details of all our Christmas Services elsewhere in this newsletter. Please come and sing with us!

Judith Allford

A Farewell

Sadly, we shall be saying "Farewell" this month to the Revd Dr Orion Edgar, who has been Anglican Chaplain at Royal Holloway College, University of London, since September 2019. Orion is leaving Englefield Green to become Vicar of Christchurch, Roath Park, Cardiff. Orion and his family will be much missed in Englefield Green but England's loss is Wales' gain and we wish Orion every blessing in his new ministry.

As Vicar at St Jude's I have been greatly blessed by Orion's fellowship and support in ministry. He will be especially missed by our 8 o'clock congregation who have hugely valued his presiding and preaching at their service on the first Sunday in each month.

It has also been a real privilege to serve alongside Orion's wife, Sharon, on our Village Centre Management Committee. For a while Orion also served as a Governor at St Jude's Infant School and both their daughters attend our St Jude's Schools. Please pray for them all as they move on, and for the College as they seek to fill the vacancy for Anglican Chaplain and also for Roman Catholic Chaplain, following the retirement of Father John Dickson.

Readings at Communion

Sunday 3rd December (Advent 1)	Isaiah 64. 1-9 Psalm 80. 1-8 1 Corinthians 1. 3-9 Mark 13. 24-end
Sunday 10th December (Advent 2)	Isaiah 40. 1-11 Psalm 85. 1-2, 8-end 2 Peter 3. 8-15a Mark 1. 1-8
Sunday 17th December (Advent 3)	Isaiah 61. 1-4, 8-end Magnificat 1 Thessalonians 5. 16-24 John 1. 6-8, 19-28
Sunday 24th December (Advent 4 Christmas Eve)	2 Samuel 7. 1-11, 16 Psalm 89. 1-4, 19-26 Romans 16. 25-end Luke 1. 26-38
Sunday 31st December (1st Sunday of Christmas)	Isaiah 61. 10-62.3 Psalm 148. 7-end Galatians 4. 4-7 Luke 2. 15-21

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 December

- 3 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Informal Holy Communion
- 6 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 9 Saturday 2.00-4.00pm Church open for Mince Pie and Lebkuchen Tea
- 10 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist 6.00pm Compline (Zoom)
- 13 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion service
- 16 Saturday 3.00pm Blue Christmas Service (for those who find Christmas difficult — for whatever reason)
- 17 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist 4.00pm Carol Service
- 20 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 24 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist 4.00pm Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Mass
- 25 Monday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Family Eucharist with carols
- 27 Wednesday NO 10.00am Holy Communion
- 31 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 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.

Email: enquiries@stjudeschurch.info

Clocking On!



Work on our church clock is now under way, and the clock face is presently residing with our specialist contractors, Smiths of Derby, where work is being carried out to restore the clock to its former glory. We look forward to its return in the coming weeks. We are appealing for support to cover the cost of this further expensive, but

very needful, maintenance. Please do get in touch if you are able to help.

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.

Runnymede Food Bank

We remain extremely grateful to everyone who contributes either in cash or in kind to our support of our local Runnymede Food Bank. Thank you all for your continuing support.

Save our stamps

Many of us will receive more post than usual at Christmas. Joan Raine asks that we bring used Christmas stamps into church so that she can send them off to charity. Thank you!

From the Registers

Baptisms:

(12th November) Calista Lily Brewer;
(19th November) Theodore Maxwell Saloway

Funerals:

(2nd November) Gwynne Rees
(13th November) Trevor Reginald Bold
(14th November) Terence George Conroy
(17th November) Margaret Brooker
(29th November) Lewis Willett
(29th November) Jennifer Mary Reed

Web: www.stjudeschurch.info

The Village Centre

www.villagecentre.org.uk 01784 471110

Café Opening Hours

These will be our usual 9am–2pm for the first part of December. From Monday 18th December – Friday 22nd December (inclusive) we shall be opening at 10am. We shall then be closed from Christmas Day, reopening at 9am on Tuesday 2nd January.

Cooking classes

We have an Adult Cooking Class on Monday 11th December, 12.30–2.30pm when we shall be cooking up a variety of winter warmers!

Contact Centre

Our last Contact Centre of 2023 is on Saturday 16th December. It will have an appropriately festive theme with Christmas gifts for the children!

In Addition

Our Manager will be visiting Enterprise in Egham early in December to collect the children's Christmas parcels which have once again this Christmas been prepared for us by the staff there. She will go on to visit the Foodbank in Egham where she will collect some generously donated food parcels. We are very grateful to both Enterprise and the Foodbank for this very welcome Christmas cheer. THANK YOU!

St Jude's Christmas Fair

This took place early in November. Attendance at the traditional Christmas market and mince pies in our Cafe was greatly boosted by those who came to the Children's Fair which was happening in the Hall. A special thank you to staff and volunteers from the Centre, and volunteers from St Jude's who worked so hard to make this such a happy afternoon!

And finally

We wish all our staff, volunteers, hirers, customers and everyone who has so wonderfully supported the work of the Village Centre through another year, a very special Christmas and a happy 2024. God Bless you.

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



St Jude's Church of England Schools Federation

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



The Schools' Christmas Fayre is this Saturday, 2nd December, from 12 noon–3pm at the Junior School in Bagshot Road. Please do spare some time to come along and support us. EVERYONE WELCOME. Later that same day members of the Schools Choir and Band will be performing at the traditional lighting of the Englefield Green Christmas tree, from 4.30pm on St Jude's Road. In other news from our schools Facebook page:

Remembrance Week 2023

We weren't going to let the weather beat us so this year our Remembrance Service took place in the Junior School Hall instead of at the Memorial. Lovely to welcome children from St Cuthbert's to join us. A special thank you to John Scott.

Christmas Nativity

Midway through November we welcomed the Wintershall Travelling Crib. We met many characters from the nativity. It's never too early to get in the Christmas spirit!

Year Six Exhibition

We opened the classrooms up to parents one morning recently so the children could show off their learning. Year 6 held an exhibition in the hall of their projects on inspirational people of black origin relating to their Maafa topic. Amongst their chosen subjects were Sir Trevor McDonald, Mary Seacole, Dame Kelly Holmes, Sir Mo'Nique, Marcus Rashford, and Lauren James.

14th December

On 14th December we are delighted to welcome both schools into church for their special Christmas worship. And then we wish a happy and well-deserved Christmas break to all our staff, children, parents, carers and governors. Happy 2024!

Christmas at St Jude's Church 2023

Saturday 9th December

Mince Pies (and Lebkuchen) Tea

2.00–4.00pm

Saturday 16th December

Blue Christmas Service

3.00pm

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

Sunday 17th December

Carol Service

4.00pm

Sunday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

Holy Communion (said)

8.00am

Sung Eucharist

9.30pm

Crib Service

4.00pm

Midnight Mass

11.30pm

Monday 25th December (Christmas Day)

Holy Communion (said)

8.00am

Family Eucharist with carols

9.30am