



# The Ship

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

Anglicans and Methodists working together

Number 163

January 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](mailto:vicar@stjudeschurch.info)

## Open Church

In addition to service times, St Jude's Church will be open between 2.00pm and 4.00pm on 13th January. Do come along for a cup of tea and a chat and have a look round.

## Fourth Sunday at Four

Our January Fourth Sunday at Four Service is on Sunday 28th January 2024 (4.00pm with refreshments beforehand in the Monsell Room). Our theme is Welcome 2024! Please come if you can.

## A Christmas Thank You

Thank you to everyone who shared in our Christmas Services for 2023 – by your presence and your participation. It was a joy to worship with members of our uniformed organisations, our schools, our wider village community and also with some who were visiting Englefield Green for Christmas. Thank you to all those who worked hard to prepare our services, decorate the church and especially to those who led our music.

God bless you all in 2024.

## Concert series 2024

We are asking once more for volunteers to perform at a community concert on 3rd February 2024 – all comers at such concerts are welcome as performers (either musical or in reading poetry), and no auditions are required.

## Easyfundraising.co.uk

We are very grateful to all those who are supporting us by using [easyfundraising.co.uk](http://easyfundraising.co.uk) when buying things through Amazon, John Lewis etc. You have raised well over £1400 (so far) for us through this scheme.

## Save our stamps

Please remember to bring your used Christmas stamps into Church and Joan Raine will send them off to charity on our behalf. Thank you!

## New Year

By now the Christmas festivities are likely to have become just a distant memory. I hope that the days brought joy and pleasure as you celebrated the season. Here at St Jude's we enjoyed coming together to remind ourselves of the gift that God gave us in the birth of his Son, the Lord Jesus. You may have been able to join us at one of the many services that took place throughout the month of December. Now we move on to a new year. 2024 has arrived. You may face it in joyful expectation or there may be a hesitancy as to what may lie ahead. January is not the start of a new year for everyone. It is for nations who follow the Julian or Gregorian Calendars. We all know that this month has thirty one days and that the first day is traditionally known as New Year's Day. You may not know that here in the Northern hemisphere it is, on average the coldest month of the year whilst in the Southern hemisphere, unsurprisingly it is, on average, the warmest month.

Around 713 BC someone worked out that the ten months in the calendar were not enough to cover the standard lunar year of 354 days so it was decided to add two new months which are our January and February. Under the old scheme March had been the first month of the year and it was not until 450 BC that January took on the role. Historically the month has also been known by other names such as "Wulf-monath" and "Wintarmanoth".

Given that most of our festivities have taken place in December it is only to be expected that celebrations in January are more muted. Yet the Church still found the opportunity to celebrate. Perhaps the most significant date in January for Christians is the 6th January which is a Principal Feast of the church which we know as "Epiphany". Before I look at this in more detail it is worth noting that Twelfth Night is the day before Epiphany and for some households this is the day that the Christmas decorations are taken down. The following Monday is known as "Plough Monday" which marked the start of the English agricultural year.

It is fascinating how the Church and the community worked together in creating a pattern that linked everyone together. Between these two dates we celebrate the visit of the Wise Men who travelled vast distances from their home to find what they were looking for. When I was doing some research for this article I discovered that St Matthew does not tell us if the people who visited Jesus were men or women (you will need to look at the footnote to the text to check this out). Neither does he tell us how many people there were in the party and actually, Matthew does not record that they were kings. He does tell us what they brought with them. He mentions three gifts which might explain why we have assumed there were three people. When they arrived at the house where Jesus was living they handed their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. These represent his kingship, his priestly ministry and his death. These three gifts were incredibly costly, but the most expensive and valuable would have been the gift of Myrrh. But the value of the gifts is nothing measured against the fact that simply in the visit itself there is the recognition that the Good News of Jesus is not just for a few people, but it is for everyone. Here is the most wonderful gift offered to all of us; to know the Lord Jesus as our Saviour and friend.

I hope that you have a peaceful and happy new year.

*Andrew Reed*

Happy New Year to you all

## The New Year

And I said to the one who stood at the gate of the year "Give me a light that I may walk safely into the unknown." And the reply came back: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That will be better for you than a light and safer than a known way."

## 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 would be 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.

## Readings at Communion

Sunday 7th January (Epiphany)	Isaiah 60. 1-6 Psalm 72. 1-15 Ephesians 3. 1-12 Matthew 2. 1-12
Sunday 14th January (Epiphany 2)	1 Samuel 3. 1-10 Psalm 139. 1-5, 12-18 Revelation 5. 1-10 John 1. 43-end
Sunday 21st January (Epiphany 3)	Genesis 14. 17-20 Psalm 128 Revelation 19. 6-10 John 2. 1-11
Sunday 28th January (Candlemas)	Malachi 3. 1-5 Psalm 24. 7-end Hebrews 2. 14-end Luke 2. 22-40

## The Epiphany

The Western Church began celebrating the Epiphany in the 4th century where it was, and still is, associated with the visit of the magi (wise men) to the infant Jesus when God revealed himself to the world through the incarnation of Jesus. According to Matthew 2:11 they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

## Diary for January

- 3 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion 7.30pm Standing Committee meets (Zoom)
- 7 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Informal Holy Communion
- 10 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 13 Saturday 2.00-4.00pm Church open
- 14 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist 6.00pm Compline (Zoom)
- 17 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion service 7.30pm Church Council meets (Zoom)
- 21 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist
- 24 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 28 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist 4.00pm Fourth Sunday at Four service
- 31 Wednesday NO 10.00am Holy Communion

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.

## Clocking On!



Work on our Church Clock continues and the clock face remains in the care of our specialist contractors, Smiths of Derby. We look forward to its return early in 2024. We are appealing for support to cover the cost of this further expensive, but very needful, maintenance and we are extremely grateful to those who have already

generously given. Thank you!

If others still wish 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](http://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

Once again Runnymede Food Bank has thanked St Jude's for the generosity and regularity of our donations. Thank you to all those members of St Jude's who give – either in cash or in kind. And thank you to Geoff Chew who continues to make regular trips, to the collection point on the Thorpe Trading Estate, with your donations. 2023 saw a steady increase in your cash and kind donations. We know how very welcome these gifts are during what are, for so many, very straitened times.

Here are the figures for 2022 and 2023 so far for cash donations from St Jude's:

Donations 2022 (cash only, not donations in kind): £540  
Donations 2023 (cash only, not donations in kind): £725  
Donations taken in kind averaged approximately 18/19 kg per week at the end of 2023.

## From the Registers

### Funerals:

- (4th December) Anita Mary Bradley
- (6th December) Roseleen Mary Sunderland
- (8th December) Andrew Robert Burge
- (11th December) Sheila Margaret Fell

# The Village Centre

www.villagecentre.org.uk 01784 471110

The Village Centre reopened on Tuesday 2nd January and our Café is now open as usual from 9am–2pm and from 9am–5pm on Thursdays. Do come in out of the cold and enjoy a hot drink, snack, or even lunch with us.

A complete new floor is currently being laid in our Hall which means that regular Hall bookings and all classes will resume the second week in January, once the work is finished.

Our Community Fridge is open again on Monday and Friday mornings, 9am–11am, from this Friday, 5th January. Our Child Contact Centre re-opens on Saturday 6th January.

We are looking forward to our first Film Night of 2024 on Friday 12th January.

Ali and her team wish you all a happy and peaceful 2024 – a warm welcome is extended to everyone to enjoy the many facilities the Village Centre has to offer. Not found us yet? Let 2024 be the year that you do! And here is a challenge for 2024, from our website:

**DO YOU WANT TO VOLUNTEER?** The Village Centre has a number of different outreach programmes where people can volunteer, if they would like to get involved with our work. 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 Facebook page: "The Village Centre".

And, 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"



It was such a joy to welcome both schools into St Jude's Church on Thursday 14th December for their Christmas Nativity and Carol Service. The Service was led beautifully by children from both schools and there were plenty of traditional carols to enjoy, as well as a lovely presentation of the Nativity. Our special thanks to the teachers and teaching assistants who work so hard to make these services happen! You started our Christmas Celebrations wonderfully. Thank you all so much.

During January we look forward to welcoming our Reception Classes for a visit to the Church. Again, we know it takes planning and preparation to enable these things to take place and we are grateful to everyone involved in co-ordinating these events. Jeremy and Judith continue to lead regular Assemblies in both schools and we are grateful for the welcome we are always given.

Please pray for our schools and especially for our Senior Leadership Team: Vicki Chiverton, Pru Ashplant and Emily Stanton. Please pray also for the Co-chairs of our Governing Body: Xavier Brice and Juan Pemberton. January 2024 marks the beginning of another busy and challenging term, as well as that of a new calendar year! We thank God for all who work tirelessly and often sacrificially to ensure our children receive a high standard of education with the best regard for their safety and well-being.

Happy New Year to you all!