



# The Ship

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

Anglicans and Methodists working together

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## **World Day of Prayer Service 2022 Friday 4th March 2.00pm**

We welcome you to this special service when we join with Christians the world over in praying for the needs of the world. The World Day of Prayer service for 2022 has been prepared by Christian women from England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The theme of the service is HOPE, drawn from God's wonderful promise to his people of old: "I know the plans I have for you" (Jeremiah 29:11). Many of us have never before known a time when the need to pray and the promise of hope has been more relevant than it is today.

We shall greatly enjoy the privilege of welcoming our friends from other local churches to join us in worship at St Jude's. Please come and join us.

**Recital**  
by students from  
**Royal Holloway**  
**Saturday 5th March**  
**4.00pm**  
**St Jude's Church**  
Admission free  
Refreshments available  
Donations welcome

**Coffee  
Morning**  
outside St Jude's Church  
**Saturday 19th March**  
**10.00-11.30am**  
Cakes, preserves, marmalade  
will be available  
Please do come along for coffee  
and a (suitably distanced) chat

## **Walking back in time**

Very many years ago, I was a pupil at St Jude's, both in the Infant and Junior Schools. To give you a clue as to how long ago this was, these were then in the old buildings on St Jude's Road, long since knocked down. I expect some of you reading this will have also have their own fond memories of having gone there, and one of mine is playing games with my peers in the playground at break and lunchtime, sometimes accompanied by traditional rhymes, often with actions. A favourite was 'Ring a Ring of Roses', written about a previous pandemic, with its very dramatic falling down at the end. One wonders if in years to come children will sing about Covid? Another I recall, was a means of remembering the four Gospel writers.

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John,  
Bless the bed that I lie on.  
Four corners to my bed,  
Four angels round my head;  
One to watch and one to pray  
And two to bear my soul away.

As many such rhymes, it has an ancient past and it can be traced back to Babylonian times along with a little whiff of our own mortality, perhaps its as well I can't remember the actions to this one.

The four gospel writers are of course at the heart of our worship at St Jude's; the Church of England has a three rotation for readings and for the last few weeks we have been hearing from Luke. Now, I must confess I like Luke, his writing is very descriptive but he is also very precise and he cuts to the chase, his message is always very clear.

Maybe this is because Luke was a doctor, bringing his scientific training to analyse the situations he described. Luke was one of Paul's companions on his many journeys, travelling with him all over the Middle East and was one of the very few who accompanied Paul on his final journey to Rome. He must have walked thousands of miles as he worked with Paul to spread the Good News. I'm sure he would have had no problem in achieving his daily allocation of 'steps' as we are all encouraged to do these days. I can just imagine him striding along, with a 'fit-bit', or its ancient equivalent on his wrist.

Above all, though, Luke was a great communicator, with his Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles, he wrote more of the New Testament than any other author and probably helped Paul write some of his letters as well. Just imagine what he would have achieved if he had access to the internet, a mobile phone or even zoom.

Luke, though, is the odd one out of the Gospel writers, because he was born a Gentile, indeed he is the only non-Jewish writer in the whole of the Bible, which makes him all the more extraordinary. His background is reflected in his writing as he describes Jesus' ministry and the very mixed bag of people who came to listen to him. From the very start Luke makes it clear that Jesus' message was for everyone, that Jesus did not discriminate, anyone was welcome to come to listen to what he had to say; He was inclusive. This of course, did not always endear him to the authorities, as Luke himself found some years later when relaying the same message on his travels with Paul. Travels that were to change the world, as the Good News of Christ spread.

The message of inclusivity and the importance of communication resonate with us today, as we gradually come to terms with a world that feels very different from the one we knew two years ago. Our world has changed too and recent times have seen us separated from our friends and families, but now we are able to reconnect with each other, we can learn from Luke's writings by remembering how important inclusivity and communication are to all of us.

*Diana Bendall*

## **From the Registers**

*Funerals:* (3rd February) Rosina May Wilson "Rose"; (9th) Simon Patric Glasheen.

## Readings at Communion

6th March (1st Sunday of Lent)	Deuteronomy 26. 1-11 Psalm 91 1-2, 9-end Romans 10. 8b-13 Luke 4. 1-13
13th March (2nd Sunday of Lent)	Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18 Psalm 27 Philippians 3. 17-4.1 Luke 13. 31-end
20th March (3rd Sunday of Lent)	Isaiah 55. 1-9 Psalm 63. 1-9 1 Corinthians 10. 1-13 Luke 13. 1-9
27th March (Mothering Sunday)	1 Samuel 1. 20-end Psalm 34. 11-20 Colossians 3. 12-17 John 19. 25b-27



Staines Musical Theatre Group are just 4 weeks away from their riotous comedy 'The Wind In The Willows' following Mole, Rat, Badger, and the impulsive Mr Toad. Full of humour, wit, and heart warming lessons of friendship, it is a thoroughly entertaining show for all ages with our very own Guy Bunce directing the music.

Wednesday 16th, Thursday 17th, Friday 18th March  
at 7.30pm.

Saturday 19th March at 2pm and 6.30pm.

Adults £16 Children £13

Book your tickets now at [www.smtg.org.uk](http://www.smtg.org.uk) or phone 01784 605805.

## The Village Centre

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

01784 471110

These are exciting times for our Village Centre. We have been able to go ahead with the repairs to the Café floor, which has needed to be done for a while, and certainly before the refurbishment of the cafe begins. We were delighted to be told that only a small portion of the floor was affected so the work will be completed within the week. However, not surprisingly, dust levels have been at an all time high and we have had to move the café furniture! The Café will now reopen on Tuesday 1st March at 9am. See you there!

The refurbishment of the café will go ahead in April and the Café will be closed for a month from Monday 4th April. Regular and one-off lettings will continue as usual, as will our Outreach Projects, including Baby Basics, our Child Contact Centre, our Community Fridge and our food deliveries. Our Manager and staff will be in work as usual so please keep your requests for bookings and so on coming in!

And it certainly isn't all about the building!! We have been delighted to establish some contact with newly arrived members of the Afghan community and we are enjoying developing relationships with them and with those who support them. Our plans for the summer are well under way, including some cooking classes for children. Watch this space!

It is truly exciting to see how the Village Centre has adapted to the challenges and opportunities of the last two years. We are grateful still to be here and flourishing in so many ways. Thank you to everyone for your practical and financial support and for your prayers.

And finally – a COVID note. In the light of the Government's decision to withdraw remaining COVID regulations we want to enable all our visitors, and our staff and volunteers, to feel free to follow coronavirus guidance and advice in the way that they feel most comfortable. We shall be withdrawing the QR codes and signing in procedures but we shall continue to provide hand sanitiser for those who wish to use it. In the same way the wearing of masks will be optional as will the degree of social distancing that you prefer to choose. We shall continue to keep the Centre well ventilated and to encourage you not to come in if you feel unwell. In that way we hope to keep you all as safe as we can, whilst enjoying new freedom.

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!

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

## Diary for March

- 2 ASH WEDNESDAY 10.00am Holy Communion 2.00-4.00pm Church open for private prayer for peace in the world 7.00pm Holy Communion  
(the services at 10.00am and 7.00pm will both include the imposition of ashes for those who would like to receive it)
- 6 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Informal Holy Communion
- 9 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 13 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Holy Communion
- 16 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 19 Saturday Coffee Morning outside St Jude's Church (inside if wet)
- 20 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Holy Communion
- 22 Tuesday 7.30pm Church Council meets
- 23 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 27 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am 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.

## **STAYING SAFE (Part 2)**

On the day I am writing this all COVID restrictions in England have been removed. How we behave and how we care for each other is now a matter of personal choice.

St Paul makes an interesting comment about freedom of choice in his letter to the Galatians. *You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. (Galatians 5:13)* In other words, freedom of choice is not given so that we can first satisfy ourselves, but so that we can best care for and protect each other. That seems a helpful rule of thumb!

So our plan at St Jude's is to continue to find ways in which we can all continue to feel welcome, supported, accepted and safe, whatever our views, our needs and our responsibilities.

### **NHS TEST AND TRACE**

We have been told by the NHS that visitors are no longer required to sign in when coming to St Jude's so we must remove all QR codes and any other check in systems. This means we shall not anymore be placing Test and Trace forms in the pews. Thank you for all your patience in completing them.

### **SOCIAL DISTANCING**

We shall continue to do as we have done in the last few weeks, that is, to reserve an area of the church where people who wish to socially distance can do so. We would ask, please, that if you choose to sit in this area you also wear a face covering.

### **FACE COVERINGS**

Whilst the wearing of face coverings in certain public areas is still recommended, we do know that for some people this has become increasingly intolerable. So, we would simply ask that, if you choose not to socially distance, and not to wear a mask, you do check with any near neighbours in your pew that they are comfortable with this. If necessary there is plenty of space to move around.

### **OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU**

Those assisting in leading worship will continue to wear face coverings as we have done until now. This will include those distributing Holy Communion, which for the time being will remain as it is at present. We shall continue to ensure the church is well ventilated and hand sanitisers are available.

We are still being advised not to mix with others if we feel unwell. Our online services and reflections remain available from 9.30am on a Sunday morning, so that we can continue to worship alongside each other, even if we cannot get to church.

We have so much for which to be thankful, even in these strange times. Vaccines have kept us far safer than when the pandemic first began, and the latest variant of the coronavirus does seem to have been a much milder one. But we shall always be mindful of those to whom the pandemic has brought the most suffering, and the most anxiety. As Sir Patrick Vallance said earlier this week "Let's be glad the sun is shining, but let's still keep our umbrellas with us!" God bless you all.

## **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. We have now raised £1243.71 by this means. Many thanks to all of you who use this scheme on our behalf.

## **Annual Meetings**

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Vestry Meeting (where we elect churchwardens – currently Claudia Tubb and Mike Brooking) will take place on Sunday 8th May at 11.00am. You are warmly invited to attend.

The meeting will probably take place largely digitally, via Zoom. To take part, please ensure that we have your email address and an invitation, with a digital link, will be sent to you nearer the time. We shall also be able to invite those who prefer it, to join us in person in church. Again, please let us know if you would like to do that. Thank you all!

The APCM is where we receive the revised Electoral Roll and the Annual Report and Accounts and elect members of the Church Council.

If you would like your name to be added to the Church Electoral Roll, please email [roll@stjudeschurch.info](mailto:roll@stjudeschurch.info) for an application form. Please note that this is nothing to do with the local authority Register of Electors.

## **Prayers for Peace**

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York are inviting us to make this Sunday, 27th February a Day of Prayer for Ukraine, Russia and World Peace. Together with Pope Francis, they are also calling for a Day of Prayer on Ash Wednesday, 2nd March. St. Jude's Church will be open from 2pm-4pm on both Sunday and Wednesday for those who wish to come in for private prayer.

*Jesus Christ, on the eve of his crucifixion, told his disciples: 'In the world you will have trouble, but do not be afraid, I have overcome the world.' For me and for many of faith, the great and only certainty in the world is that we know that God does not change. Let us find our resolution, our peace, our certainty in the knowledge of the eternal arms that hold us. May God be with those who suffer today.* (Archbishop Justin Welby, 24th February 2022)