



The Ship

St Jude's Church, Englefield Green Newsletter

Anglicans and Methodists working together

Number 176

February 2025

Are you new to St Jude's?

It's lovely to welcome you among us — in person or online. If you have any questions or 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 Saturday 8th February with tea and coffee available. Do come along.

Fourth Sunday at Four

We apologise that we were unable to hold our Fourth Sunday at Four service in January. The next service is on Sunday 23rd February at 4pm. Refreshments are served before the service (from about 3.15pm) in the Monsell Room.

Putting your stamp on it

We are grateful to all who continue to pass on their used postage stamps to us. They are sent on to a charity and put to very good use! Thank you and thank you to Joan who so kindly organises this collection for us.

Food Bank

Thank you as always for your generous giving. An update from Geoff Chew encourages us that the most recent donations from St Jude's to the Runnymede Food Bank, from December 2024 to January 2025, have averaged 29kg per week. We continue to thank Geoff for making these regular deliveries on behalf of us all. Donations of imperishable food-stuffs and other items can still be left in the crate in the Monsell Room.

Please see Geoff if you would like to make a cash donation. God Bless you all.

Easyfundraising.co.uk

We are very grateful to all those who are supporting us when buying things through Amazon, John Lewis by using easyfundraising.co.uk. You have raised well over £1500 (so far) for us through this scheme and that is without any cost to you. Many thanks.

Did you know?

There is a service of Choral Evensong (according to the Book of Common Prayer) every Thursday at 6.15pm in the Chapel of Royal Holloway to which members of the public are all invited.

Broken Promises

In January you may have made some Resolutions about things that you would try to do this year. I wonder how you are getting on with them? If you are like me, some of these promises will have fallen by the wayside by now but others are hopefully still intact. New Year's Resolutions are one thing, but the fact is that day by day we all make lots of promises. Some of our promises are more public than others. I know that you are aware that towards the end of January 2025 President Trump was inaugurated as President of the United States of America. It was very difficult to miss that particular piece of news. One thing that I thought about was the Oath of Office which he took. This is a huge public promise made by each President at inauguration as they take up the mantle of the presidency. It is an awe inspiring promise which most of us would be glad that we do not have to make. We do know however that promises are important and being able to rely on a promise is what enables society to function.

On a personal level the promises we make are promises that we intend to keep, but we know only too well how easy it is to break them.

Sometimes we can get into a real mess when it comes to promises. The story is told about Ludwig van Beethoven who asked his pupil, Ferdinand Ries, who was on the Board of Directors of the London Philharmonic Society, to see if they would commission a symphony from him and if they did, Beethoven promised that they would have exclusive rights to the world premiere and he would start to work on it as soon as he could. This was in 1817. However, the Board had to wait a long time and Beethoven did not keep to his promise. The first performance of the symphony was given in May 1824 in Vienna where it was warmly received. Over the years Beethoven thought about who he should dedicate the symphony to and this included Tsar Alexander 1 of Russia, (but he ended up with a Violin Sonata instead). Then Beethoven thought he should dedicate it to Emperor Francis 1 of Austria or perhaps Louis XVIII of France. In the end it went to King Friedrich Wilhelm III of Prussia. Maybe Beethoven "forgot" about his earlier promise or perhaps he decided that he had not broken it because it was not really a symphony because it had a choir, soloists and a poem in it. The piece of music in his 9th Symphony with the famous Ode to Joy. I was interested to discover that since 2001 the autograph score is classed as a world cultural heritage treasure. The story itself is a sad reminder of a broken promise. The story of humanity is littered with such stories and we will have been on the receiving end when people have let us down and we will have failed others as well. On the other hand there have been times when we have kept our promises even though it might have been a challenge or at deep personal cost.

I was reading Psalm 145 the other day which may well have been written by King David. He was someone who often got it wrong, but he recognised that God is faithful. In the Psalm he writes, "The Lord is faithful to his promises, and he is merciful in all his acts." (v13 GNB). I am glad that I can rely on the fact that God is completely trustworthy. Others have felt the same and I offer you a few comments from people who throughout their lives have discovered that God can indeed be trusted in all the circumstances of life.

Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.

Martin Luther

Faith, mighty faith, the promise sees, and looks to God alone; Laughs at impossibilities, and cries it shall be done.

Charles Wesley

God never made a promise that was too good to be true.

Dwight L Moody

Your ordinary acts of love and hope point to the extraordinary promise that every human life is of inestimable value.

Desmond Tutu

I finish this month with a quotation from Mark Twain who said, "Better a broken promise than none at all". I wonder if you agree with him?

Andrew Reed

Mrs Joyce Falkner

Some of you will still remember with great gratitude the ministry in Englefield Green of the Revd Richard Falkner. Richard became Vicar of St Jude's in 1966 and sadly and suddenly died in 1986 whilst still in post. His wife, Joyce, who outlived Richard by many years, died peacefully on New Year's Day this year, well into her 98th year.

Joyce was born in Edinburgh on 11th May 1927 to her parents Albert and Ellen (Nellie) Knevett. She later lived in Sri Lanka, Salisbury and then Exeter where she met Richard.

After leaving school, Joyce went to Royal Holloway College where she read English — one of her grandsons (Mark) later read zoology there. After graduation, she began her teaching career at Horns School in Bedford, continuing a family tradition as her mother had been a primary teacher — and headmistress — in Devon. Following their marriage, Richard and Joyce lived in Ilfracombe and then moved to Sheerwater, and then went to Reed's School in Oxshott. A time in Epsom then brought the family to Englefield Green in February 1966 when Richard was appointed Vicar here.

A kind lady, with an interest in poetry and literature, Joyce started a book club here in Englefield Green which is still going strong after 41 years. When she moved into Manorhead and then to Woodbury House, she started poetry groups. She also travelled extensively in Europe with her friend, Joan Kitney. The two of them also used to go to London regularly to cook meals for the homeless.

Her culinary skills and kindness were regularly combined: whether it was in her own home (for many years the vicarage) or volunteering to help feed the homeless. Among her achievements must count her nourishing casseroles, steamed puddings, raspberry buns and other afternoon tea treats, not to mention the peppermint creams and other confectionery purveyed on an industrial scale at the annual summer fete that took place in the gardens of the vicarage.

Joyce was laid to rest with Richard in a grave just a few metres from the church on 27th January on a cold and blustery day. Those who remembered them were pleased to be able to attend the service and even to take a small part.

Joyce leaves her daughter Janet and son Peter, and their families, including Joyce's grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Please pray for them in the greatness of their loss.

"People may forget what you did. People may forget what you said. But people will never forget how you made them feel." (Maya Angelou)

From the Registers

Funerals: (6th January) Colin George Edward Brown
(27th January) Joyce Falkner
(30th January) Elizabeth Morag Macfarlane

Diary for February

- 2 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Informal Holy Communion
- 5 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 8 Saturday 2.00–4.00pm Church open
- 9 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist 6.00pm Compline (Zoom)
- 12 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 16 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist
- 19 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 23 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist 4.00pm Fourth Sunday at Four service
- 26 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion

Please note that our 9.30am service 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.

The Village Centre

Victoria Street, Englefield Green TW20 0QX

The Village Centre Café opens on weekdays from 9 am to 2 pm (late closing at 5 pm on Thursdays). Our Community Fridge is open on Monday and Friday mornings, 9am-11am. We also run our Lunch Club for the over-55s on Mondays. Please book by the Friday before to join us on a Monday for lunch.

Our Café, Hall and Meeting Room lend themselves to a broad range of activities, from dance and exercise classes to music clubs, to children's parties, large meetings, trainings, and functions. We have availability weekdays and weekends, both daytime and evening, and currently have space for one or two more regular weekly hirers. You can hire a space on a regular basis (ideal if you're running a regular class or event), or ad hoc. Get in touch with our Manager to discuss your needs by calling 01784 471110 or emailing manager@villagecentre.org.uk — or visit our website for more information.

Our Royal Holloway student volunteers are inviting local senior citizens to join in their Seniors' tea parties at the Village Centre. The next dates are 16 February and 30 March, and the tea parties run 2.30-4pm in our Café. Call us on 01784 471110 if you'd like to come along, and do let us know if you need taxi collection from your home.

For details about all Village Centre activities, and for regular news of events, please do visit our website and social media. If you have any queries, suggestions, requests for bookings, or wish to offer your help to the Centre, please contact us on 01784 471110 or email Ali Griffin, our Centre Manager.

manager@villagecentre.org.uk

<https://www.villagecentre.org.uk>

<https://www.facebook.com/villagecentreenglefieldgreen>

<https://www.instagram.com/villagecentreenglefieldgreen>

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Concerts for 2025

Some dates for your diaries — we are pleased to announce the following concerts for 2025

- 15 Mar Royal Holloway students
- 5 Apr Royal Holloway students
- 17 May James Kirby students
- 24 May Isabella Morgan (piano)
- 7 June Christopher Hill (flute)
- 5 July Ben Norris (piano)
- 19 July Julian Hellaby (piano)
- 4 Oct Julie Aherne and group (baroque chamber music)
- 8 Nov James Kirby (piano)

Readings at Communion

Sunday 2nd February
(Candlemas)

Malachi 3. 1-5
Psalm 24. 7-end
Hebrews 2. 14-end
Luke 2. 22-40

Sunday 9th February
(Fourth Sunday before Lent)

Isaiah 6. 1-8
Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15. 1-11
Luke 5. 1-11

Sunday 16th February
(3rd Sunday before Lent)

Jeremiah 17. 5-10
Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 1. 12-20
Luke 6. 17-26

Sunday 23rd February
(2nd Sunday before Lent)

Genesis 2.4b-9, 15-end
Psalm 65
Revelation 4
Luke 8. 22-25



St Jude's Church of England Schools Federation

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



Term is already well under way, and our thoughts and prayers are very much with our children, teachers and school staff. Thank you for all you are doing as another busy term unfolds.

News from our Governing Body is that Xavier Brice, formerly our Co-Chair, has stepped down from the board. We are grateful to Xavier for his wise and committed leadership, particularly in co-ordinating our adoption of our Vision and Values, in leading us through the federation of our Schools, and in supporting us through a series of statutory inspections last year. Our gratitude and good wishes go with Xavier for the future.

Equal thanks are due to Juan Pemberton who has been Xavier's Co-Chair and has also been instrumental in all the initiatives outlined above. We are glad that Juan remains Co-Chair at present, alongside the newly appointed Belin Maginn. Sam Jenkins steps up into the role of Vice Chair. We are grateful to them all and invite your prayers for them.

Bereavement Coffee Morning

Thursday 27th February 2025 at 10.15am

at the Jurgens Centre,
Church of the Assumption of our Lady,
Harvest Road

Everyone is welcome

We have an open invitation to join our neighbours at the Church of the Assumption of our Lady, Harvest Road, TW20 0QR for their regular Coffee Morning in the Jurgens Centre beside the Church. The Coffee Morning is on the last Thursday of each month. We welcome anyone who has been bereaved, whether recently, or further back in time. You will find a quiet and welcoming space to talk or simply to listen and to be amongst friends. The invitation is to everyone, you may or may not be a church goer. You may drop in and out as you wish. We shall be very glad to see you.