

The Ship

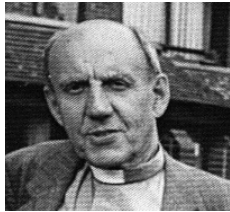
St Jude's Church, Englefield Green Newsletter

Anglicans and Methodists working together

Number 134

August 2021

The Revd Canon John Fowles



On Tuesday 13th July we learned of the death of the Revd Canon John Fowles, a true friend of Englefield Green. John had become increasingly frail

recently. He died peacefully at the College of St Barnabas, Lingfield, the community which had been his home for the last six years.

Canon John's association with Englefield Green began in 1958 when he came to St Jude's as a Curate under the ministry of the Revd Hedley Vallins. Here John met and married his beloved wife, Pat. They went on to serve in various parishes in the Diocese of Guildford, including John's incumbencies in Chessington and Horsell. John was appointed an honorary canon at Guildford Cathedral in recognition of his fruitful and faithful ministry.

In 1995 John and Pat retired to Englefield Green and tirelessly supported the work of St Jude's. Successive clergy benefitted from John's wise counsel and generous assistance. His ministry extended far beyond the church walls. Very few clergy, perhaps, reach out in the way that Canon John did to the community of Englefield Green. Some can trace their first stirrings of faith to a conversation with John. Many were comforted by his care in times of sickness or sorrow. We have laughed with him and cried with him, perhaps in equal measure. He has prayed for us all.

John was no stranger to sorrow. Pat's death was a devastating blow but, with typical courage, he continued to give himself in the service of others. Further sadness came with the sudden and unexpected death of his son David. In 2015 he moved to St Barnabas where he quietly took on a ministry of care for fellow residents there.

John and Pat were blessed with two children, Liz and David. Our hearts go out to Liz and Tim, Hal and Hannah, in the greatness of their loss. John was a good and faithful father and grandfather, although his children will have had, like so many Vicarage children, sometimes to sacrifice time with him for the sake of people like us.

John's funeral service was attended by family and invited friends. A Memorial service will take place later when many more of us can gather with those closest of all to John to celebrate the lasting legacy of his 90 years, including his over 60 years as a priest in the church of God.

Then the King will say... 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. (Matthew 25:34)

From the Vicar

For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbour as yourself." (Galatians 5:14)

These words, from the writings of the Apostle Paul, rest directly on the command of Jesus. I have been especially mindful of them recently, following the lifting of many of the coronavirus restrictions with which we have become familiar. Many of those restrictions have disappeared completely and very few are any longer mandatory. At the time of writing we are wrestling with what one of my colleagues has termed "the pingdemic"! Those of us who have been "pinged" are experiencing the curious challenges and difficulties of self-isolation.

The government – and the Church of England – have entrusted us with personal responsibility for our collective health and well-being. Personal responsibility is a familiar theme in the Bible which reminds us that each of us will one day have to give an account of ourselves to God (Romans 14:12). But the Bible also tells us that we owe to one another the gift of our love.

How do we best, in these present and challenging COVID times, fulfil that obligation to love one another? We are learning to balance a genuine sense of thankfulness and relief that the miracle and availability of powerful vaccines give us a far greater freedom than we would otherwise enjoy, against the stark reality of rising numbers of infections, hospitalisations and deaths.

Many among us remain extremely vulnerable to the threat of the coronavirus, despite the vaccines. The new measures, which spell freedom to some, spell fear to others. In caring for ourselves we must be aware of the needs of those around us.

We are so thankful that we have been able to reopen public worship at St Jude's. It is a joy to be together once again. But for those who are not yet ready to return to gathering week by week in the company of others, we still plan to maintain our weekly "online" service, either pre-recorded, or live-streamed at 9.30am on Sunday mornings. Please see the Ship "Diary" for further details of worship this month. We remain hugely indebted to Guy Bunce for all the work he continues to do to make our services widely available on our YouTube Channel.

During the month of August we shall continue to keep in place in St Jude's most of the safeguards we have established during the months of the pandemic. These include making hand sanitiser available and asking you to wear a face covering during worship. Social distancing measures will remain in place, with the welcome difference, of course, that we can mingle and talk together more freely outside after the service. We shall still provide Increased ventilation.

Our services will continue to be somewhat shorter than they were pre-lockdown and we shall not be reintroducing congregational singing for the time being. I do want to thank the St Jude's Choir, under the skilled leadership of Professor Geoff Chew, for their grace and patience during this long time of furlough. And our immeasurable thanks also to Chloe Spencer for the inspired and inspiring gift of her singing.

St Jude's Church has provided a sanctuary and a place of prayer for our village since 1859. We still want to be a place of safety and peace. During August at least, these measures remain in place, not only as protection for ourselves, but, far more importantly, as an expression of our care for those among our neighbours to whom the pandemic has brought anguish and loss in so many visible and invisible ways.

I admit I'm keen to stay free from the virus! Vaccination may have reduced its impact but the experience of many others, including loved ones, has taught me that to fall prey to it is not an experience I would welcome. If we are genuinely to try to fulfil our Lord's command to love our neighbours as ourselves we must have the same desire to protect them as we do to keep ourselves safe. For some perhaps these continuing safeguards during the coming month will chafe a little. I understand that. But perhaps they also give us the opportunity to demonstrate we care for those around us no less than we care for ourselves.

That, surely, is what Jesus meant. God bless you all and keep you safe. *Judith Allford*

Audio Visual Equipment

Our appeal is creeping up towards £9000! Thank you to everyone for your great generosity. We need roughly another £1,500 to complete this exciting project. Please do get in touch if you can help. Thank you!

How to donate

Donations to St Jude's Church can always be made using online banking directly to our accounts (CAF Bank 40-52-40, 00013020 St Jude's United Church) and (NatWest 60-07-33, 02317990 St Jude's Parochial Church Council). Please mark donations AV if they are for the AV equipment appeal.

Charity Knitting

We know that people have been knitting teddies, hats, jumpers and squares during the various lockdowns and also sewing the squares into blankets. If you have some knitting that you would like to pass on, it can be left in Church (Monsell Room) on Wed/Sun after services or you can contact Pat (patriciadrmason@yahoo.co.uk). When we have sufficient, it can be passed on to the organisation that sends it abroad.

From the Registers

Marriage: (17th July) Ewen Charles O'Brien and Sally Victoria Moore.

Funerals: (5th July) Audrey Armstrong Moody
(22nd July) Christopher John Fowles (Priest)

Memorial Services: (2nd July) "Harry" Charalampos Nicolaou;
(13th July) Margaret Stone

Culture Recovery Fund

In July we received the balance of our substantial award from the Heritage Culture Recovery Fund. This has already enabled us to do some significant pieces of work around the church, including the repainting of our dormer windows. The remaining monies will go some way to restoring the losses which we have inevitably experienced during the pandemic. We are deeply grateful to the administrators of the Fund and to our own Andrew Sheer who has worked so very hard on our behalf to secure this vital grant.

A bit of a polish!

We are looking for volunteers willing to give an hour or so each month to help with the regular cleaning of St Jude's. No qualifications needed! You do not have to be a church attendee – just someone who shares our aim to keep in good shape this beautiful building which has been entrusted to our village.

We are very grateful to Christine Vine who is happy to co-ordinate a rota of weekly volunteers. The more help we receive, the smaller and less time consuming the task! And we shall not be expecting you to work on your own (unless you want to of course!)

Please contact Claudia Tubb or Mike Brooking, (churchwardens), or the Vicar, if you would like to help.

Thank you so very much.

The Village Centre

www.villagecentre.org.uk

01784 471110

Our Village Centre Cafe has been an oasis of cool and calm in the recent days of very hot weather! Following the lifting of many COVID restrictions our aim is still to provide a welcoming and safe environment for all who come in to the Centre.

So...you will still find "sign-in" and hand sanitiser available in the lobby and you are invited to wear face coverings if you wish as you move around the Centre. Our staff and volunteers are continuing to wear masks for the time being. Tables are still well-spaced and we are maintaining a robust routine of cleaning as always.

During August our cafe opening hours are 10am–2pm. We shall be closed throughout the week beginning Monday August 30th.

Our Community Fridge continues to go from strength to strength and we remain grateful for all the support we receive from local volunteers and retailers. Please do call in between 9am–11am, Monday to Friday. We also offer a Food Bank collection point on a Wednesday afternoon.

Please do get in touch with Ali:

manager@villagecentre.org.uk

if you would like to know more about what we are doing, or if you would like to offer to help in any way.

Readings at Communion

1st August
(9th Sunday after Trinity) Exodus 16. 2–4, 9–15
Psalm 78. 23–29

Ephesians 4. 1–16
John 6. 24–35

8th August
(10th Sunday after Trinity)

1 Kings 19. 4–8
Psalm 34. 1–8
Ephesians 4. 25–5.2
John 6.35, 41–51

15th August
(11th Sunday after Trinity)

Isaiah 61. 10–end
Psalm 45. 10–end
Galatians 4.4–7
Luke 1. 46–45

22nd August
(12th Sunday after Trinity)

Joshua 24. 1–2a, 14–18
Psalm 34. 15–end
Ephesians 6. 10–20
John 6. 56–59

29th August
(13th Sunday after Trinity)

Deuteronomy 4.1–2, 6–9
Psalm 15
James 1. 17–end
Mark 7.1–8, 14–15, 21–23

Food Bank Matters

Please do make use of the Food Bank collection crate in the Monsell Room to leave donations of non perishable food items. Geoff and Jenny Chew are continuing regularly to pass on our donations to the Collection point in Egham and will be glad to give you further details of how you can help. Our thanks to them and to you.

Diary for August 2021

- 1 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Informal Holy Communion (live-streamed)
- 4 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 8 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion NO 9.30am Holy Communion in Church
9.30am Pre-recorded service on YouTube
- 11 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 15 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Holy Communion (live-streamed)
- 18 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 22 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion 9.30 Holy Communion (live-streamed)
There will be no live stream but a pre-recorded reflection will premiere at 9.30am on our Youtube channel
- 25 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 29 8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Holy Communion (live-streamed)