



St John the Evangelist Newsletter: February 2019

The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends,

It is a great joy to be writing my second letter from the Vicarage for St. John the Evangelist. We are now settling into our new home: rather than boxes everywhere, there are various piles of books, toys, plates etc. waiting to be found a home.

As we continue our journey together, as priest and people, I want to thank everyone who has worked so hard during the vacancy – churchwardens and all the others who have led services - and the whole host of people who have not only “kept things going” but have continued to bring vision and action to the Church’s ministry in the parish.

I am really grateful that I have been made to feel so welcome since I arrived in my new post as Vicar of St John’s. My licensing service in November was a very special occasion and one that I will remember very fondly. It was especially touching, as part of the service, to be formally welcomed by individuals on behalf of groups and organisations from the local communities.

Now a new chapter in the life of the parish is beginning and we wonder where God will take us. I pray that as we get to know each other we will find ourselves listening not only to each other but also to God. I have valued your prayers for my family and I since the news of my appointment and I am confident that the prayer support will go on. I too have been praying for the parish, for all who live and work here and these prayers will continue.

I believe it will be as we pray together, as God’s people in this place, that we will grow together as a parish and so discover God’s will for us for the coming months and years ahead. There is so much I could say, but there is time enough in the future. For now, let me reiterate my joy at being here as part of this community.

I conclude with the words from my licensing service:

*“In Christ alone our hope is found,
he is our light, our strength, our song;
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
Our Comforter, our All in All,
here in the love of Christ we stand”.*

Grace, mercy and peace be with you all.
Rev Julie



Thank you: A big “THANK YOU” to all those members of the congregation who came to church on the morning of Saturday 12 January to help take up the carpet in the chancel. What a great team effort!

Security: Over the last few months we have witnessed a serious increase in the level of anti-social behavior around the church building. This has included alcoholism, aggressive begging, drug dealing during the night and loud parties between 2:00am and 4:00am causing disturbance to the occupants of the Vicarage and local neighbours. Users of our halls, including young mothers taking their children to play school, have suffered abuse, as have Rev Julie, the children in her care and Theodora our Parish Administrator. Our reputation in the community has suffered. This cannot be allowed to continue.

In the light of advice from the Head of Anti-Social Behaviour for Enfield Council and the local police, and with the active engagement and support of Bishop Rob Wickham and Archdeacon John Hawkins the PCC has agreed to put in place a range of additional security arrangements in order to safeguard members of the community, congregation and employees. These arrangements include gates across the two porches; additional external security lighting; CCTV and an intercom for the parish office.

We are sorry that, in coming to St John’s, Rev Julie has been subject to this behaviour and we are grateful to her for her patience whilst these works are undertaken.

Stefan: A sad story with a happy ending. Stefan had come to the UK from Sofia, Bulgaria, with the promise of work, which failed to materialize. With no job, no money and little English his dreams of finding work to support his family and ill child back home were shattered. He ended up homeless, sleeping in our church porch – and one night was on the receiving end of the anti-social behavior we are trying to deal with.

Stefan (cont) The next day, through the combined efforts of Rev Julie, Jenny, Theodora and Maria from the after school club, Stefan was provided with some new clothes and a good cooked breakfast. The council and other agencies were contacted for help but it was heart-breaking to be passed from one to the next. No one could help or point Stefan in the right direction - he was absolutely not a priority.

Eventually Stefan was able to explain that, after eight weeks homeless, all he wanted to do was go back home. Not wanting him to spend another night on the streets, a flight was booked for early the next morning from Stanstead and a taxi arranged so he could over-night at the Airport.

Jenny says *“When we finally printed his ticket and gave it to him, you should have seen the look on his face! I will never in my life forget the joy. When he finally got in the cab that night at 6.30pm, we were all just moved to tears and prayed for his safe return to his family. Please pray for Stefan and his family”.*

Safeguarding Training: Saturday 16th February - St Andrew’s, Southgate - 10am-1pm. The Deanery has organized safeguarding training for volunteers in the Deanery. If you are being DBS checked at St John’s please try to attend. Places are limited. Please confirm attendance to Fr Stuart Owen, Area Dean email: fr.stuart@gmail.com

Nurses get together: An invitation to past and present nurses. Rev Julie is hosting a “bring and share” lunch on 13th February. Venue tbc. Please contact Rev Julie or Eric Banton by Sunday 10th Feb.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED. We would like to invite people to be part of a new Events Committee. They will work alongside the PCC and help plan and prepare future events to raise funds for the fabric of the building and mission. Interested? Speak to Rev Julie or email sjpgnews@gmail.com

Up and coming

Jam @ St John's: This is a new community and church event that embraces live music, books, DVDs, food and fellowship. Jam @ St Johns will be held at St John the Evangelist on the first Saturday of each month beginning on 2nd March from 10am to 12 noon.

If you have any unwanted books, DVDs and CDs to help us raise funds for the fabric and mission of the church through this event can you please leave them in church or we can collect them. And if you feel that you could donate a cake, please bring it along with you on the Saturday morning. We are truly grateful for your support and ask for your continued prayers. Rev Julie.

Choral Evensong: I am delighted that from the first Sunday of March, monthly Choral Evensong will be included in the programme of services at St John's.

Created by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer during the Reformation, Evening Prayer is a mixture of the monastic offices of Compline and Vespers, and is more commonly called 'Choral Evensong' when the service is sung by a choir. Since its inception, its comforting liturgy and wide musical repertoire have made it a favourite service amongst English congregations who come to set aside time for quiet reflection in the presence of God at the end of the day.

The service begins with opening prayers called 'Preces' sung by a cantor and the choir, and then one or two Psalms are sung in a uniquely English style of chant called 'Anglican chant'. Lessons from the Bible are read in alternation with two canticles: The *Magnificat*, or Song of Mary, and the *Nunc Dimittis*, or Song of Simeon. Countless settings of these texts have been written by English composers over the centuries, and they are often complex and evocative choral pieces that enjoy enduring popularity with Christians and non-Christians alike.

Choral Evensong (Cont): Further prayers called 'Responses' are sung after the readings and Evensong usually also contains two or three congregational hymns of a reflective nature, often on a theme of evening. It is a perfect way to spend an hour after dusk on a Sunday with God, and I hope that you will join us to discover its beauty and peace for yourself.

Robert Hainault, Director of Music

Lent Bible Study: We are rapidly approaching the season of Lent - a time for looking at ourselves, at what we are rather than at what we do and a time to allow God to change us into what He wants us to be. To be specific, I hope there are two aspects of our lives that we will consider, firstly our working with other people rather than on our own, and secondly, allowing ourselves to be shaped by the Word of God, rather than following some supposedly Christian self-help manual. There will be an opportunity, this Lent, to follow a Lent Study course with a group of people in the Vicarage. We will focus our reflections on words from the Bible and the film "The Passion of Christ". Let them re-form us this Lent, changing what we are and therefore transforming what we do. Then we will be able to do the things we do with greater confidence that these are not our good works, but God's, and that what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord - with us serving the community in his name. *(Yes, you are meant to hear echoes of 2 Corinthians 4v5!)*

Lent Study course dates: Tuesdays
12 March; 19 March; 26 March; 2 April; 9 April;
16 April. Please make a note in your diary!

A new series of "**Bring and Share**" lunches at St John's after the Family Service on:

- 10th February 2019
- 12th May 2019
- 8th September 2019
- 8th December 2019 (tbc Christmas Party).

Information and Directory

Regular services:

Sundays

8.30am: Parish Holy Communion (quieter, more reflective service in the Lady Chapel)

10.00am Parish Holy Communion

- 2nd Sunday of the month is a Family Service, with Communion
- 3rd Sunday of the month, prayer is available during Communion from a member of the prayer team in the Lady Chapel
- 5th Sunday of the month is a Healing Service

Other Service Times

Wednesday 6:30pm: Holy Communion

Thursdays 10:30am: Holy Communion

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
9.30am Morning Prayer

Dates for your Diary



- 5th and 26th Feb: Home Church Bible study
- 6th Feb: Parochial Church Council
- 10th Feb: Bring and share lunch
- 13th Feb: Nurses lunch
- 13th Feb: Deanery Synod at St John's
- 17th Feb: Confirmation service
- 27th Feb: Monthly church prayer meeting.
7:30pm in the Parish Centre.
- 2nd March: JAM @ St John's
- 3rd March: Choral Evensong
- 3rd April: Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Items for March Newsletter?

Please email any corrections, suggestions or proposed content for the next edition to:

sjpgnews@gmail.com by 24 February.

The editor retains full editorial control!

Staying in Touch

To stay in touch with up to the minute news of activities at St John's sign up to receive our occasional Mailchimp email alerts for key events by emailing SJPGsocialmedia@gmail.com and ask to be added to our list.

Church Cleaning Rota: Cathy Godfrey

Churches Together: Tony Hall

Deanery Synod Reps: Eme Brasnett & Julia Holder

Electoral Roll Officer: Maureen Arkwright

Flower Rota: Helen Sasia

Reading Rota: Julia Holder

Refreshments Rota: Moira Stansfield

Safeguarding Officer: Jenny Godfrey

Children's Champion & Safeguarding

Evidence checker: Sharon Easton

Servers/Intercessions Rota: Marilyn Jackson

St John's Players: Helen Sasia

Welcoming Team: Helen Sasia

PCC Members:

Rev Julie Coleman (Vicar); Richard Godfrey (Church Warden); Rick Arkwright; Rachel Barnes; Eme Brasnett; Mark Brinkley; Audrey Clovey; Terence Dawkins; Nick Easton; Kathy Forsyth; Moira Foster; Roger Gardner; JP Godfrey; Jenny Godfrey; Julia Holder; Nick Jones; Sam Parker and Garf Vennoyer.

Find and follow us on Social Media:



Facebook:

St-John-the-Evangelist-Palmers-Green



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@stjohnspalmersg



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