



St John the Evangelist Newsletter January 2019

The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends,

In recent weeks I have been doing a bit of 'taking stock'. Just this and that – but pondering nonetheless. How much time do I spend doing this? How much concentration and attention do I give to that? For example, I love singing (even though I sound like I'm in agony), but have I joined a choir? I love painting, but when did I last lift a paintbrush? I love reading but prefer to get the last email attended to in the evening before heading to bed so that I know it's done, rather than opening a book.

This 'taking stock' has not been confined only to pastimes that I enjoy. It has also been about prayer and Bible reading and holy conversation and quiet times. I love worshipping with everyone gathered together on a Sunday morning as well as at the quieter Services during the week. This does not fulfill the need for separate, quiet time apart with God. I love listening to the Choir sing one of my favourite Anthems but this does not fulfill the need and desire to sing my own song to the Lord. I love too, walking with others in the sun or rain, sharing good and holy conversation – but know too that God wants me to walk with him too – listening and being with him, sharing who I am and how I am.

I think, in reality, that the taking stock had something to do with the themes we explored in the Advent Sermon Series with the underlying message of 'being ready', 'living life', 'preparing for death'. There is a story that, when we reach heaven, God will not ask us what haven't we done in life but, rather, what have we done with this life. How have we lived it to the full and how have we lived it to God's glory?

As I take stock of different areas of life, I wonder if I might encourage you to do the same. Of course, you will imagine, quite rightly, that I will encourage taking stock of the spiritual facet of life, as well as all the other facets of life. Alongside this encouragement, I also offer time and space so that, if conversation or ideas are needed, you might feel free to come and ask for time and space with me or one of my colleagues in the church.

We will be very happy to welcome you.

With good wishes to you all as we journey together in to 2019.

Love in Christ,
Rev Julie



Christmas at St John's

What a lovely atmosphere there was at church over Christmas. So many highlights: it all started with our hugely successful Christmas market in November; followed by Christmas pudding making with Beryl and copious amounts of Guinness and Brandy (didn't they taste great); wreath making with Kathy and Sharon (these two events are surely set to be part of our regular activities in the run up to Christmas); Christmas jumper Sunday when we raised money for Save the Children Charity and our wonderful



Carols by Candlelight service of nine lessons and carols – didn't Kia do well introducing "Once in Royal David's City" and weren't the choir great.



As we got closer to Christmas the church was transformed by the wonderful decorations from Palmers Green High School, Salcombe, Leading Strings Nursery and St John's Nursery all adding to the Christmas trees from the lovely Christmas Tree Festival which Helen organised with Erica help.

Our Crib service and Christingle on Christmas Eve was really well attended and the children provided a great re-enactment of the Christmas story – and we even had our own baby Jesus!



Safeguarding at St John's

As part of our commitment to being a "safer church" we have to ensure that all those who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults are aware of the House of Bishop's safeguarding guidance and procedures. That means everyone who has a specific role in church needs to be DBS checked and receive safeguarding training from the diocese. If you think this may affect you please contact Jenny Godfrey or Sharon Easton.

Prayer @St John's

At our service on Sunday 30th December Rev Julie formally "commissioned" our prayer team: Nick Easton; Jenny Godfrey; Julia Holder; and Gary Langham.



To contact the prayer team email: SJPGprayer@gmail.com

Our regular church prayer meeting, to which all are invited, is on the fourth Wednesday of every month.

New for 2019

A Prayer for the New Year

Lord help us to walk into this New Year with resolve to bring changes that make ourselves better people and the world a better place in some way great or small. May our commitments remain throughout this year and beyond through the years to come, renewed daily by prayer and empowered by regular Communion with Christ. Amen

Invitation to Morning and Evening Prayer

"I invite you to join me for Morning or Evening Prayer every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 9.30am or 5.30pm at St John the Evangelist Church. These informal Daily Offices are a time of reflection, praise and prayer".

Rev Julie Coleman



We are starting a Home Church Bible Study on Tuesday 8th January and every other Tuesday thereafter from 7:00pm to 8:15pm in the Vicarage. "The Bible course: exploring the BIG story". This is an eight session, video-based, interactive course from the Bible Society. It is designed to help us all get the most out of our Bible reading and to show how the key books and famous characters form one BIG story from Genesis to Revelation. Speak to Rev Julie or Nick Easton for more information or register by adding your name to the "sign-up" sheet at the back of church.

St John's Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation marks the point in the Christian journey at which you affirm for yourself the faith into which you have been baptised and your intention to live a life of committed discipleship. This affirmation is confirmed through prayer and the laying on of hands by the confirming bishop and is open to anyone over the age of 7. If you have you ever asked – 'What is confirmation?' 'How do I get confirmed?' Rev Julie will be holding Confirmation classes just after Easter leading to individuals being confirmed by Bishop Rob on 18th August 2019. If you would like more information please contact Rev Julie.

Winter Night Shelter

With the increase in homelessness all to evident on our streets St John's is once again one of seven churches across Enfield providing a safe and warm environment with a comfortable bed and hot food for up to 12 homeless guests each night. St John's will be hosting the Night Shelter on Monday evenings/Tuesday mornings for 14 weeks from Monday 7th January to Tuesday 9th April.

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.

Please also add and follow us on social media (see reverse for details).



Dates for the Diary

- 23rd January: Monthly church prayer meeting. 7:30pm in the Parish Centre.
- 6th February: Parochial Church Council
- 13th February: Deanery Synod at St John's
- 3rd April: APCM
- 18th August 2019: Confirmation service at 10:00am

Information and Directory

Regular services:

Sundays

8.30am Lady Chapel (quieter, more reflective service)

10.00am Main Church

2nd Sunday of the month is a Family Service

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

6.30pm Evensong (only on 1st Sunday of the month)

Other Service Times

Tuesdays 6:30pm: Mid week Communion

Thursdays 10:30am: Mid week Communion

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

9.30am Morning Prayer

5.30pm Evening Prayer

Directory and Contacts:

The Vicar: Rev Julie Coleman

Tel: 020 8886 9557

E: rev.jcoleman@hotmail.com

Licensed Lay Minister: Julia Holder

Churchwardens:

Richard Godfrey

E: rgodfreylocations@icloud.com

Jon Daniels

E: jon_daniels@outlook.com

Parish & Facilities Administrator:

Theodora Diamandi

Tel: 0208 886 0847

E: stjohnspg@gmail.com

The Parish Office is open between 10am and 12noon every weekday except Thursdays.

1 Bourne Hill, London N13 4DA

Director of Music: Robert Hainault

E: Nebularhatriot@gmail.com

Caretaker: Erica Hewitt

E: ejhewitt13@gmail.com

Churches Together: Tony Hall

Deanery Synod Reps: Eme Brasnett & Julia Holder

Sunday School: Judith Spencer-Knott & Guy Halliwell

Church Cleaning Rota: Cathy Godfrey

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 and Jon Daniels (Church Wardens); 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.

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Items / Suggestions for the next Newsletter?

Please email any suggestions for the content and format of future newsletters, or your written contributions, to: sjpgnews@gmail.com

The editor retains full editorial control!