



# St John the Evangelist Newsletter: May 2019



## The Vicar's Letter - Out of Control

Watching the news last night there were a number of stories that were based on fear and insecurity. So many situations where people were seeking to stay in control of their lives in the way that they responded to what was happening around them. In the Church we are now bombarded by the need for risk assessments and staying safe. I recently had to argue for the use of real candles in a nursing home Holy Communion service as we had been offered safer candles that were battery operated.

Now clearly we need to be cautious at times and make sure that everything is done to avoid accidents or injury. But can we really ever get to a point when we are truly "in control". It almost seems as if we should avoid any chance of a mess in case it overwhelms us. But in order to make anything worthwhile there is usually a stage in that creative process which involves being at least a little "out of control". When decorating a room, baking a cake or having a baby there is always a stage that is just a little out of control: that part when the walls are laid bare and the imperfections underneath become obvious, the mixing of all the ingredients and the peering through the oven door, that point in a birth when all the pre-arranged plans are put to one side. In order to make something beautiful you need to take risks.

One of the remarkable things about the Easter story is that God became man and suffered for us. The cross and the resurrection point to a God who triumphed only after he had suffered and sacrificed himself for us. In doing this he put himself into a position when others had power over him. Jesus emptied himself of all privilege and status. He became the object of scorn of some bored, brutal soldiers who took out on him their frustration at being posted to Palestine. Then they nailed him, naked, to the cross.

What happened at Easter all those years ago was a defining moment in the history of humanity. It was a place of restoration and renewal. It has inspired some of the greatest achievements of the human race and yet it all happened because God was prepared to give up his security so that a new way forward could be fashioned for us all.

In difficult times we need to hold on to the capacity to trust God when we feel out of control. For we can never be totally in charge of all that happens to us. We need to learn to live with a degree of insecurity and accept that is how life works best. In the end it is our choice to be either anxious, fearful people, or those who have faith, hope and love. May the God of love bless us with his peace during this Easter-tide.

Rev Julie.

**Easter at St John's:** We have had a very moving Easter at St John's, which started with the Agape meal and service on Maundy Thursday. Thank you to all the cooks and the team for organising and preparing the meal, for those who prepared the church and to Rev Julie for showing us what a traditional Seder meal - that Jesus would have participated in - would have looked like.

On Good Friday we started with the Sunday School activities which were well-attended and continued with the Walk of Witness up the high street with the Uniting Churches. In the afternoon we had our Good Friday service, which was very visual and brought home the horrible events of that day. We were then able to share the joy of the resurrection twice on Easter Sunday with the dawn service and a 10am service. Alleluia! Christ is risen!



(More Easter photos on our website)

A special "thank you" goes to everyone who was involved and contributed to the organization of the Easter services – for the music and singing, the liturgy, speaking and prayers and all that goes on behind the scenes, including the sound system. Thank you, too, to all the gifted ladies who prepared the church with Easter flowers. They were beautiful, inspiring and praiseworthy of a time when we cry out 'Alleluia, the Lord has risen, He has risen indeed, Alleluia'!!!

A heart-felt thank you to Rev Julie for her continued ministry at St John's – we feel so blessed to have her here!

## Easter Eggs:



Rev Julie and Maliyah on their way to deliver the eggs you donated to local shops and care homes – all greatly appreciated.

**Prayer Space:** You might have already noticed that the theme of the prayer space has changed again for May and this month it picks up on the theme of Easter. It invites you to come and reflect on God's love for each and every single one of us, by giving His Son. Please come and have a look.

**Music in the Liturgy:** Over the coming weeks we will be expanding liturgical music slightly and I will be teaching you some new regular items. All our orders of service now include a sung Kyrie immediately before the Absolution, so it would be great to make these congregational rather than choir-only. We'll also re-introduce Psalm singing between the Old and New Testament readings. Stay tuned during the notices in the coming weeks as we learn to sing together these important parts of the liturgy. Robert (Director of Music)

**Praise and Worship:** with effect from 12<sup>th</sup> May we will be introducing a new style Family "Praise and Worship" service on the second Sunday of each month. It will be relaxed and informal, with hymns, songs, prayer, and Bible readings along with a talk or drama and a "Bring and Share" lunch every 3 months. The main Eucharist on the 2nd Sunday of the month will be at the 8.30am service with Praise and Worship taking place at 10am. If you are musically talented and would like to play as part of the new Praise and Worship Service – or if you have any other questions or suggestions - please let us know, by contacting Rev Julie.

**Junior Choir:** We will be starting a children's choir on Sunday 12th May after the service at approximately 11.45am. The first rehearsal will last for half an hour and will likely grow to three-quarters of an hour as time goes on. All children are welcome whether they have any experience of singing or none at all. It is advisable that small children be accompanied by an adult to help them navigate the sheet music, read words, etc. No prior music-reading knowledge is required. The music will be simple, fun and accessible, and particularly talented and enthusiastic choristers may have the opportunity to graduate to the robed choir. We hope the Junior Choir will sing an item at one Sunday service a month. Robert (Director of Music)

## Spring Clean Palmers

**Green:** The Palmers Green Action team has organized a community "spring clean" to help tidy up the Palmers Green area on Saturday 11 May. If you are able to support this local community event please assemble at the Triangle at 10:00am on 11<sup>th</sup> May. Further information is available from [palmsgreenactionteam@gmail.com](mailto:palmsgreenactionteam@gmail.com)

**CAMEO Launch: Come And Meet Each Other:** our vision is to provide an opportunity for men and women of all ages to meet together with the simple aim of providing human kindness in action when serving our parish church, community and wider world. Our inaugural meeting is at 12:00 noon 'till 2:00pm on 14<sup>th</sup> May. A light lunch will be provided. Please come and find out how you can get involved.

**Gin tasting evening:** Our first very own Gin tasting evening - at 7:30pm on 15<sup>th</sup> May in the small church hall. Old Bakery Gin (made locally in Palmers Green) will come to talk about their story. They will also do a gin tasting session and have their own exquisite gin available to purchase. Entry is free but we ask that you bring a bottle of your own favourite gin to share during the tasting session. There will be a raffle to raise funds for the church fabric.

## Safer Local Community

**Meeting:** *Making provisions for our young people.* An opportunity to come together to discuss how we can all play a vital part in keeping our community safe and vibrant. Please join us. Friday 17th May at 7.30pm at St John's.

**In-house training:** Rev Julie will be offering in-house training for everybody who is either already involved or would like to help with various aspects of our regular services. This includes serving on the welcome team, leading our prayers, reading the Bible, or serving at the altar. Training will take place at 7:00pm on 24th May in the church. This is an opportunity for those who would like to take up a role in the church and to enable those who already hold a role to share their experience with others.



**The Churches Together Good Friday Walk of Witness** – en route from the station to Winchmore Hill Methodist Church.

## 25th Anniversary of the ordination of women to the priesthood:

Dear Friends, this year is the 25th Anniversary of the ordination of women to the priesthood. There will be a service of celebration in St Paul's Cathedral on Tuesday 4th June at 7pm. I have been invited to attend and to extend that invitation to my family, friends, supporters, colleagues, congregation members - anybody who would like to join with me in celebrating 25 wonderful years of women in priestly ministry! Rev Julie

# Information and Directory

## Regular services:

### **Sundays**

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

10.00am: Parish Holy Communion

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month is a Praise and Worship service
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, prayer is available during Communion from a member of the prayer team in the Lady Chapel
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month is a Healing Service

6:30pm: Evensong (First Sunday of the month)

### Other Service Times

Thursdays 10:30am: Holy Communion

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

9.30am Morning Prayer

5.30pm Evening Prayer

## Some key dates for your diary



- 7<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> May, Home Church Bible study 7:00pm to 8:15pm
- 8<sup>th</sup> May: PCC at 7:00pm in the Vicarage
- 11<sup>th</sup> May: Palmers Green Spring Clean
- 12<sup>th</sup> May: Praise and Worship service followed by "Bring and Share" lunch and Youth Bible Study at 4:00pm to 5:00pm
- 14<sup>th</sup> May: CAMEO, 12noon to 2:00pm in the Parish Centre
- 15<sup>th</sup> May: St John's Gin tasting evening, 7:30pm in the small church hall
- 22<sup>nd</sup> May: Prayer meeting, 7:30pm to 8:30pm
- 1<sup>st</sup> June: JAM @ St John's, 10:00am to 12:00 noon in the Church
- 4<sup>th</sup> June: 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ordination of women to the priesthood. St Paul's Cathedral
- 29<sup>th</sup> June: Summer Fete
- 28<sup>th</sup> July: Julia's re-licensing with Bishop Rob

**Please check the pew sheet and website for full details:** [www.stjohnspg.org](http://www.stjohnspg.org)

**Items for June Newsletter?** Please email any corrections, suggestions or proposed content for the next edition to: [sjpgnews@gmail.com](mailto:sjpgnews@gmail.com) by 24<sup>th</sup> May.

## Directory and Contacts:

**The Vicar:** Rev Julie Coleman

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**Director of Music:** Robert Hainault

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**Parish & Facilities Administrator:**

Theodora Diamandi

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**The Parish Office** is open between 9:15am and 3:00pm every weekday except Thursdays.  
1 Bourne Hill, London N13 4DA

**PCC Members:** Rev Julie Coleman (Vicar); Richard Godfrey and Kathy Forsyth (Church Wardens); Rick Arkwright; Eme Brasnett; Audrey Clovey; Nick Easton Moira Foster; Roger Gardner; JP Godfrey; Julia Holder; Nick Jones; and Garf Vennoyer.

**Staying in Touch:** Sign up to receive our occasional Mailchimp email alerts. Ask to be added to the circulation by emailing [SJPGsocialmedia@gmail.com](mailto:SJPGsocialmedia@gmail.com)

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