



PARISH NEWSLETTER



The Parish Church of
St John the Evangelist
Palmers Green

December Edition

Vicar's Letter

A reflection in the light of Christmas

Dear Friends,

At a Mission Council I once belonged to one of the Bishops quoted from Walter Brueggemann, saying, 'Churches should be the most honest place in town, not the happiest place in town.' How hard is that to hear?

We are coming up to Christmas, to the time of year when we think of the lovely story of the Nativity: of Mary and Joseph travelling to Bethlehem, the birth of the adorable Baby Jesus and the animals gathered around, missing out the tough bits and focusing instead on the heavenly choir and cuddly lambs. Yet, in reality, much of the Nativity is hard: the tough journey, hard for a pregnant woman and with only a donkey, cold nights and long days; nowhere to rest and a smelly (by our standards) lean-to attached to an inn; the birth of a baby with no obvious help and support from others; then a story of persecution and anger and becoming refugees. Much in our world is tough. Stories confront us with the reality of suffering and struggle.

Think of the last few weeks and months – the situation in Syria and Nigeria is not getting any better, refugees, persecution, fighting and abuse unchecked: the Covid-19 pandemic is highlighting the people who have lost everything including life; the increasing stories of those living below the breadline, homelessness, mental health issues and a fear of tomorrow. We as Churches, are not called to peddle the nice stuff. We are given a Gospel that is real, a God that called people in times of suffering and a saviour who came, lived, suffered and died to show us love.

We will focus on the amazing narrative that we have put together from Scripture that tells the story of Jesus and we will celebrate but we also need to make sure that the story allows for the reality of the world. That we don't ignore the struggles, the tough times, the conflict and the pain that is in the story, our lives and the lives of those we encounter. We need to be honest with those we meet, with each other and with God. How easy is it?

Well, we often shy away from sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ, we often shy away from conflict and disagreement and we often cannot be honest with God because we feel that it's not acceptable or it makes us a 'bad' Christian or others will judge us. Yet, to be truly human is to fall short, to fail, to fall out, to make mistakes, to be angry or disappointed. And if we cannot be honest with God and with each other, then we will struggle to be honest with ourselves and with those whom we encounter. God knows we are fallible, God knows we are weak and he still we are loved. What a message to share, how important we share it well.

(continued overleaf)

So this Christmas, let us truly open our hearts to God. Let us share the wonderous story of love coming into the world. But let us also acknowledging that life is not always angels and stars, glory on high and chubby babies. And let us make time to be, as we really are, before God and allow God to speak to us once again through this Christmas story. Then let us speak honestly, sharing the blessings we have received. And as we speak, our words can touch the hearts of others – whether happy or sad, well or ill, angry or at peace. And God’s love will come, as it did all those years ago through the birth of a tiny baby – Saviour of the world.

*“Do not be afraid, I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.”
Luke 2:10*

Happy Christmas to you all.

Love,
Rev Julie



Christmas is coming...



6th December: 2nd Sunday of Advent
10am Holy Communion

13th December: 3rd Sunday of Advent
10am Holy Communion & Toy Service

20th December: 4th Sunday of Advent
10am Holy Communion
6.30pm Carols & Nine Lessons

24th December: Christmas Eve
4.30pm - Crib and Christingle service (online reflection)
11.30pm – Midnight Mass

25th December: Christmas Day
10.30am – Holy Communion

27th December: John, Apostle and Evangelist
10.00am – Holy Communion

28th December: Holy Innocents
10.30am – BCP Holy Communion



St John's Alternative Advent Calendar

St John's Alternative Advent Calendar

Advent season, we love it. It is a BIG thing here in the Church. We use advent as a way to celebrate the build up to Christmas and to take the commercialism out of it. We have created an activity advent calendar as an alternative to a commercial advent calendar. This will support us in continuing to worship and praise God together while we prepare for the coming of the Christ child at Christmas.

1. Nourishing Joy – donate food to a need. Luke 2:16-17	2. Acts of Kindness – offer an act of kindness today. Luke 1:38	3. Letter Heading – write a letter to someone telling them that you care. Luke 2:1	4. Get the Message – donate a coat or jumper to a charity. Luke 2:20	5. A message of Goodwill – start writing Christmas cards Luke 2: 6-7	6. Hope – Pray for the NHS and all those fighting Covid-19. Jer 29:11
7. Recycle – make a Christmas wreath to welcome visitors. Matt 2:11	8. Thank You – write a thank you note for the collections and post person. Luke 2:10	9. The Bells are Ringing – Ring an elderly person you know for a chat. Luke 2:11	10. A Gift – give the gift of a compliment to people today. 2 Cor 9:15	11. Remain a Star – Let someone go in front of you in a queue. Matt 2:10	12. Shoebox – Donate a Christmas shoe box with gift for St Johns to deliver. Matt 2:11
13. Joy – Pray for those who need joy in their lives. James: 5:16	14. Holiday Helper - create Christmas flowers for the reception of a school, doctors or dentist. Luke 2:9	15. Be an Angel – make mince pies, cakes or cookies to be delivered to care homes. Luke 1:26	16. Neighbourhood – leave chalk messages around where you live. Isaiah 9:6	17. Follow the Yellow Brick Road – shop for someone who is isolating. Matt 5:42	18. Post It – On a post it note, write 3 things you are thankful for and leave it on display. Phil 4:6
19. Light at the end of the Tunnel – Join us for Nine Lessons and Carols at 6.30pm Eph 4:32	20. Tears of Gold – Pray for all persecuted, abused and missing people. Matt 2:11	21. Pearly Whites – Smile at people today. Acts 20:35	22. Lend a Hand – Put something out in your garden to feed hedgehogs and birds. Prov 19:17	23. Finding Family – Reflect on the Christmas Story. John 3:16	24. Dress up with an Orange – Watch our Nativity and prepare your Christingle at 4.30pm. Then join us for 11.30pm Midnight Mass Luke 2:11
25. MERRY CHRISTMAS!					
Keep acts of kindness going all year round as we greet the Christ child at 10.00am. John 1: 1-9					



With these thoughts in mind, let's close our time with an Advent prayer.

*God of hope, who brought love into this world, be the love that dwells between us.
God of hope, who brought peace into this world, be the peace that dwells between us.
God of hope, who brought joy into this world, be the joy that dwells between us.
God of hope, the rock we stand on, be the foundation of our lives. Amen.*





Thank Yous

We would like to thank everyone for their kind donations of clothes, toys, books, shoes etc to our Ark Project at St John's. We have truly been overwhelmed! Any available storage is now full and we are working on getting everything to those who need it. At present we cannot accept any more donations of clothing, toys, books or shoes. If you would still like to support, we would appreciate donations of cakes and also of food (non-perishable such as canned ready meals, cereals, biscuits, etc). Many thanks.



These lovely Advent Hampers that were put together by someone at St John's. There is a number that represents each day during Advent and a treat or food for that day.
Thank you



A big shout out to Serena and all the team at Wagamama's in Enfield who very kindly provided us with 20 hot meals on Friday for vulnerable people we support. It's been amazing to see how well they were received! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



"For there is born to you this day in the city of David a SAVIOR who is CHRIST the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." And SUDDENLY there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly hosts praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" Luke 2:11-14

Rev Julie has written the following letter to update you on our 'Ark' project at St John's. It is n amazing project that has been supporting people in our local community throughout the lockdowns and beyond. We are incredibly grateful for all the support that we have received.

Please know that you can contact us if you need any help as well as contact us if you would like to contribute either by the giving of your time or by giving food donations. Many thanks.



St John's Ark of Palmers Green



The Ark has now be running since March 2020. It was mainly initiated due to the first Covid-19 lockdown. We have noticed as the year has gone on and people have become tired, afraid, anxious and vulnerable, a lot more people have come onboard to volunteer or seek assistance. St Johns would not be able to sustain this initiative if it was not for the help of the people community who have become the resource for food, clothes, etc. I will never be able to thank you enough.

What takes place on The Ark

The Boutique - is open every Friday between 12noon and 2pm. It supplies items for a people of all ages to wear. It also supply nappies, baby milk, items for pregnant women, etc. Plus, a suit or outfit to assist people for interviews.

Heart Rock Café - runs a take away system form the parish centre door every Friday between 12noon and 2pm. It offers a full packed lunch, soup, roll and a meal when available. Food Hygiene and certificates are maintained at all times. The amount of people who come for food has increased. We feed approx. 54 every week.

St John's Food Pantry - A bag of food is given to every person who comes to the Heart Rock Cafe on a Friday. If more is needed for a family, it is offered. A bag of toiletry specific to an individual's needs are also offered.

Food Parcels and Deliveries – home delivery food bags are prepared on a Thursday. The deliveries take place by helpers who meet us outside the parish centre on a Friday at 10.30am and or at 2.30pm so as to prevent overcrowding. At this present moment we deliver food to approx. 168 people.

Cake Deliveries – Cakes are delivered to nursing/residential homes, carers old and young, schools, doctors and dentist surgeries to promote well-being during the week.

Furniture Delivers – are undertaken by those who know the vulnerable families or refuge centres.

Youth Provision – has its own volunteers who are informed of any changes and updates. The youth provision is currently not taking place due to Covid-19.

Stay and Play – Usually meets in the parish centre on a Thursday morning. As above.

Mentoring – has its own volunteers who are informed of any changes and updates. The mentoring is currently not taking place due to Covid-19.



The Ark (continued)

Nurseries – Clothes and food are delivered every two weeks (unless earlier is requested) after the Friday session at 2.30pm to our two local nurseries Leading Strings and St John's Nursery.

Mid-Week Food Emergencies – If food is needed by individuals or individuals self-isolating during the week this is arranged by Rev Julie and other volunteers who collect and deliver.

Community Donations – We are so fortunate to live in a community with people who have a heart for it! We thankfully have key streets, people and organisations that support The Ark. Without their kindness we would not be able to support so many. They are being encouraged to deliver donations between 9.30am and 11am Saturday to Wednesday.

Pastoral care and mentoring – is be done by me and lay-chaplains who have been trained and who are DBS checked. Often people are sign-posted to specific agencies to offer further assistance.

Covid-19 regulations and Safety – All volunteers must follow the governments Covid-19 guidelines e.g. risk assessment, sign in, wear a mask, wash their hands regularly and keep the 2-metre distance. If anyone else comes into the building the same applies. As the Covid- coordinator, I keep guidance updated as the regulations are changed by the Government and Church.

Beginning and End – As per usual I check in with all volunteers before and a checkout after each session on a Friday. When needed a meeting is held if issues arise. A prayer is said before we begin and before we leave so as to ensure the Trinity remain at the centre of all we do.

Team – I have learnt throughout the years that no one person has all the gifts. This is evident if you work as a team which we do. The team of many men and women come from different walks of life and yet it has been created through humility, a love of people and a willingness to serve is evident on The Ark. I hope and pray that we will grow together as long standing friends who value the people in the community and beyond.

Money – If money donations are given it goes into St John's PCC account and ringfenced specifically for this outreach project.

Receipts – For anything that has been purchased receipts are given to Rev Julie.

GDPR – Any personal details are kept in accordance of GDPR or Covid-sign in regulations.

Conclusion – Unfortunately, you will always find the occasional person who will grumble and moan about what you are doing or what you are not doing but we have risen above that. The Ark is a marvellous witness of community and faith and a wonderful work that we do together. We minister to all those in need who come to be clothed, fed, loved and cared for. As one of God's priests, I believe we do for them, what Jesus did for us.

If you can help with food donations we would be very grateful. Can you please drop items of at St Johns Parish Centre or ring me on 020 8886 9557 and we will collect.

With love in Christ,
Rev Julie Coleman



Rev Julie's Article in the Edmonton Newsletter

Deliverance Ministry & Mental Health during Covid



"Be strong. Have no fear!" (Isaiah.35: 4) The words from Isaiah and what a simple phrase – to say. Sometimes to hear as well. But not always. Listening to the words of Isaiah we are told in no uncertain terms that God will be there – that he is there. That we have no reason to doubt. That all the vulnerabilities of God's people will be cured. But life can at times throw up things that create a great deal of fear, and here the concept of Covid-19 – and how that effects our spiritual well-being and mental health – is a challenging one.

As in any Church, for deliverance ministry to have triumph over evil it must have the full support of the Diocesan Bishop and whoever is the local Area Bishop. For us, as Anglicans, this ministry must always be rooted in our rich tradition of both word and sacrament, so that our pastoral actions and words reflect this ethos, whilst being sensitive to each person we seek to help. For all the great benefits that come from legitimate deliverance, it can also attract the weird and the wacky, giving deliverance a bad reputation so, it is essential that this particular ministry is grounded in the liturgical and prayerful tradition of our Church.

Jesus ministered deliverance as a vital part of the healing process. He gave His disciples, as well as the Church, His power and authority to deal with the demonic and yet having a multitude of knowledge without walking it out is futile. Jesus declared that casting out demons is not something to get excited about or focused upon. What is most important is to know our relationship as children of God. Our attention to His truth will keep us from getting enthralled with tantalising "mysteries" and heretical doctrines. Effective deliverance is the result of being grounded in God's Word and ways. "Do not give the devil a foothold" – (Ephesians 4:27).

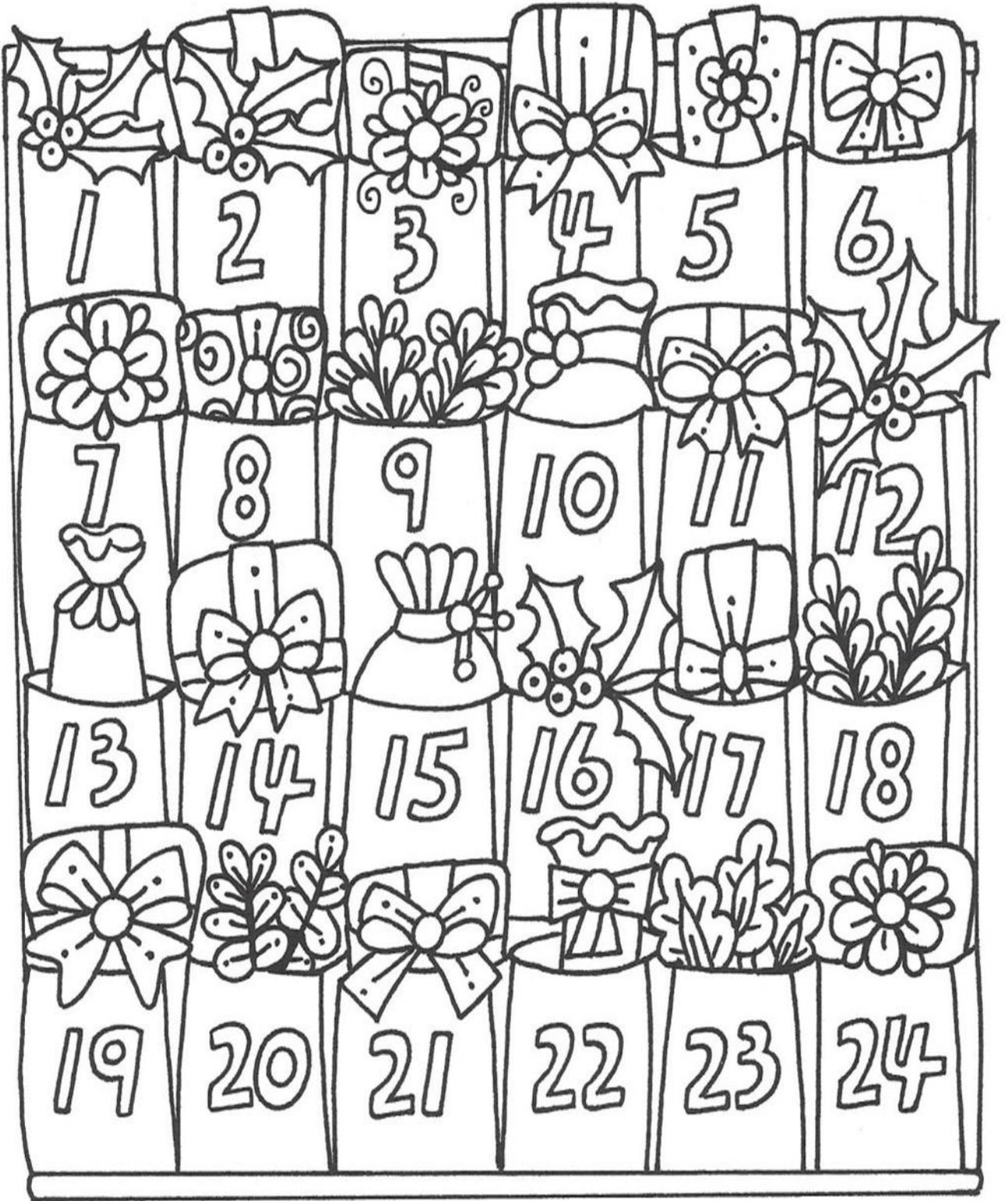
For a number of reasons, this ministry is particularly open to abuse when dealing with people with mental health difficulties. This is partly historical, from a time when mental illness was believed to be caused by evil influence and (whilst physical illness is now largely seen to have a biological cause) our understanding of mental illness has lagged behind. There is also a need to tread carefully, because many people with mental illness will already be low in self-esteem and have been in embarrassing situations; so any ministry should aim to preserve dignity and respect.

It can be easy to label all of a person's unusual views as due to mental illness. However just because we do not believe something does not mean it is wrong. In fact, we may be wrong. Likewise, it is wrong to label all experiences as 'spiritual' in origin as some may be due to mental illness especially as statistics are showing that mental health has increased since Covid-19 began. Within the team we have a nominated person who usually has a lot of mental health experience which in this case is the Rev Julie. Together we work closely with Bishop Rob, Safeguarding and the parish priest when invited into someone's parish for deliverance ministry.

As Bishop Rob's Advisors for Deliverance we have noticed an increase in 'spiritual' incidents since May. Recent cases have shown that during lockdown people have learnt how to make Ouija boards, use Tarot and Angela cards while others are active in Circles that communicate with the dead or some believe they are cursed. While speaking with people we have gained a deeper insight into people's boredom, anxieties, fears, frustrations and their vulnerabilities which all seem to be seeking answers.

From these experiences one lesson we have learnt to take into any future Covid-19 lockdown will be to focus support where it is needed most whether that be in deliverance or mental health. If you have any concerns with regards to Deliverance Ministry please contact Bishop Rob's office.

Kid's Page



There are 12 more church mice running around this magazine. One for each day of Christmas. Can you find them all?



Debbie Peaty and 3 other artists associated with St John's will be exhibiting their work in this online exhibition of the Enfield Art Circle and Debbie thought you might be interested in looking at this amazing exhibition from the comfort of your homes. Enjoy!

Enfield Art Circle Online Art Exhibition 2020

Enfield Art Circle invites you to our first online exhibition, which will showcase the artistic talents from over 30 of our members made up of local painters and ceramicists. Works range from creative abstract works, stunning landscapes and figurative styles, all well worth exploring.

Enfield Art Circle was started back in 1932 by some local artists and continued, without a break, even throughout the war years. Ever since its foundation, it has held exhibitions annually.

For the last 10 years, we have organised a summer exhibition held at Capel Manor. Their generosity in providing us with facilities has been invaluable, however, due to the coronavirus, like many others, we cannot offer an open exhibition this year, so, undaunted, we are putting our skills to the test with an online show.

We are always keen to welcome new members both experienced and inexperienced, professional and amateur with an interest in exploring the creative arts. So do consider joining us as a way of expanding your interests. During normal times, we offer a range of activities such as talks, demonstrations, practical sessions, occasional workshops, outings to places of artistic interest and we also support some local art classes.

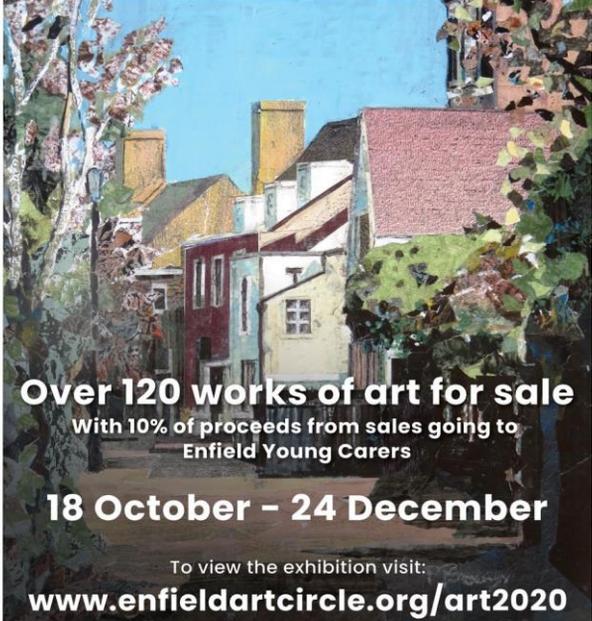
Details of how to join us,
our history and what we do
are on our website www.enfieldartcircle.org

**Visit the Enfield Art Circle's online art exhibition
at www.enfieldartcircle.org/art2020**

The exhibition will be open from October 18th -
24th December 2020.
You can browse our paintings and ceramics at your
leisure and many works will be available to
purchase.

A charitable donation taken from a percentage of
sales proceeds will go to Enfield Young Carers, so
each sale will make a difference to them.

We hope you will enable us to support others by
purchasing from this exhibition.



Enfield Art Circle
Online Exhibition 2020

Over 120 works of art for sale
With 10% of proceeds from sales going to
Enfield Young Carers

18 October – 24 December

To view the exhibition visit:
www.enfieldartcircle.org/art2020

Enfield Art Circle offers a range of creative
activities for anyone interested in the arts
from amateur to professional.

EAC
Enfield Art Circle
Founded in 1932

Painting by Peter Brown – Collage of Gentlemen's Row Enfield

If You Look For Me At Christmas...

... you won't need a special star –
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,
I'm right there where you are.

You may not be aware of me amid the celebrations -
You'll have to look beyond the stores
and all the decorations.

But if you take a moment
from the list of things to do
and listen to your heart,
you'll find I'm waiting there for you.

You're the one I want to be with,
you're the reason that I came,
and you'll find me in the stillness
as I'm whispering your name.

Love, Jesus



Information and Directory



Regular Services

Sunday

10.00am Service with Holy Communion

Weekly Holy Communions

Tuesdays 9.30am

Wednesdays 9.30am

Thursdays 10.30am

Fridays 9.30am

Morning and Evening Prayer will take place at 9.30am and 5.30pm but will be clergy only due to Covid-19 restrictions.



Find and follow us on Social Media:



Facebook:

St-John-the-Evangelist-Palmers-Green



Twitter: @stjohnspalmersg

Directory and Contacts

The Vicar

Rev Julie Coleman

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Parish Office

020 8886 0847

SJPGoffice@gmail.com

Licensed Lay Minister

Julia Holder

Lay Chaplains

Celia Brown

Shan Clark

For information regarding weddings, baptisms and funerals, please get in touch with Rev Julie Coleman. Thank you.

Please check our website for full details

www.stjohnspg.org