



st JOHN'S

Parish Magazine

WINTER 2017

st JOHN'S

Living God's Love

*Winter 2017
in this issue*

Letter from the Vicarage **5**
by the Reverend Nicholas Anderson

From the Churchwardens **9**
by James Hillman,
Mary Jean Pritchard

Women's World Way of Prayer **11**
Parish registers **11**
Helping hand for Harpenden **13**
Christmas should be materialistic **15**
Christmas at St John's **16**
My name is Emma and I pray **18**
Helping hand for Harpenden **21**
Christingle at St Nicholas **21**
Project Phoenix **23**
Safeguarding and the church **23**
Mothers' Union **25**
St Luke's Cell **27**
Forthcoming events **28**

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We are very grateful to those who write contributions and the many volunteers who distribute and deliver the magazines, come rain or shine, to everyone in the parish.

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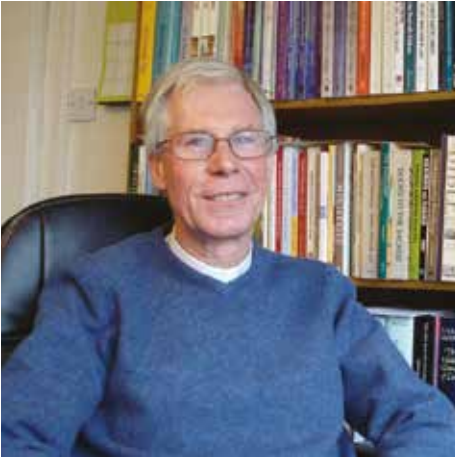
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... As rays of gold representing God's grace radiate towards her, Mary's modest, poor and humble bow indicate that she has accepted this precious mission.



Letter from the Vicarage by the Reverend Nicholas Anderson

Hanging in the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in Glasgow is an astonishingly beautiful painting by Sandro Botticelli of the Annunciation. Botticelli was an important Florentine Renaissance artist who excelled in painting both religious and Greek mythological scenes.

His depiction of the Annunciation is a delightfully realistic presentation of three-dimensional space in which the Angel Gabriel hurries to tell the Virgin Mary that she is to bear God's Son, Jesus. As rays of gold representing God's grace radiate towards her, Mary's modest, poor and humble bow indicate that she has accepted this precious mission.

The Angel Gabriel seems to float across a long-arched corridor behind which can be seen a lake, trees, and a hillside. Botticelli, like many Renaissance artists, became adept at creating perspective, which was a new discovery based on mathematics. The straight lines recede at carefully worked out intervals towards a fixed vanishing point in the background. The figures and objects in the foreground were also painted larger than those in the background to help make sense of perspective.

The Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin, as told to us in Luke's Gospel (Luke 1:26-38) is both a past event and a present reality. It is an annunciation to the entire human race that the Son and Word of God has become enfleshed. What happened physically in Mary happens spiritually in everyone who seeks to live a life that is purified of all that holds us back from authenticity.

So, every time we seek to say, 'Let it be with me according to your word' (Luke 1:38) we relinquish control; we surrender to the Mystery of God; we entrust ourselves to the Unknowing, and we open our lives to God's presence. 'Let it be' are words of creation echoing God's 'Let there be...' The 14th century Archbishop of Thessalonica, St. Gregory Palamas, speaking of Mary says, 'Having been fashioned by God through grace ... she shaped God in human form.'

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Another important mystical writer who can speak to our age is the Dominican Friar Meister Eckhart, a notable teacher – he lectured in Paris and Cologne – and charismatic preacher, who was quite unique in his approach. In one sermon that is genuinely his, he says:

We are all meant to be mothers of God. What good is it to me if this eternal birth of the divine Son takes place unceasingly but does not take place within myself? And what good is it to me if Mary is full of grace if I am not also full of grace? What good is it to me for the Creator to give birth to his Son if I also do not give birth to him in my time and my culture? This, then, is the fullness of time. When the Son of God is begotten in us.

Eckhart's questions invite us to see humanity, and not Bethlehem, as the true birthplace of God. Obviously, he is not denying the historical events of either the Annunciation or Christ's birth, but is rather making the point that unless they address us now they have little purpose.

God, he says in his Christmas sermons, has chosen humanity to give birth, to give life, to make real, God in this world. That says a lot about what God thinks of us. So often we look at ourselves and actually downplay who we are, 'I'm only human. What do you expect?' But God looks at us and says, 'Humanity, created in my image and likeness. They shall be the ones through whom, by whom, and in whom my Son will be born.'

Meister Eckhart, in many ways a perplexing figure, both invites and challenges us to answer his question this Christmas. How will we give birth to the Son of God in our time and in our culture? In our local community of Harpenden, in our schools and workplaces, in our families, in our churches, in meeting the needs of the poor, in speaking for justice, in our relationships, in our brokenness and pain, in our joys and celebrations?

May God send His angel to purify, illumine, and perfect us so that we may be eternally blessed with God.

James Brown (our Curate) and I wish you all a very blessed Christmas and New Year,

Nicholas P. Anderson

Nicholas Anderson

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From the Churchwardens

In September, the PCC considered a proposal from the design group of Project Phoenix to progress to the planning stage of a two-storey building for our new parish centre. We are most grateful to the design group for the care with which they have considered the architects' plans, presented to the congregation and considered all the questions and comments in response. While the planning process continues we will be considering the next steps in terms of fundraising.

Many members of the congregation attended the service for the induction of Revd Mmasape Zilhe in her post as the new Methodist minister in Southdown. We are delighted to welcome her, and look forward to many shared initiatives with Southdown Methodists.

We held a cheese and wine evening in late September, at which we were entertained both by Emma McGrath, a local singer, and by James Brown, our curate. We are grateful to the committee who put this together, particularly Jackie Dodd and Steve Whiting.

We celebrated our Harvest Thanksgiving this year on 1 October with an all-age service in which the singing was led by an augmented choir (which we hope will be able to lead the singing at other special services) and the prayers were led by the Brownies. As always, there was a wonderful collection of flowers, fruit and vegetables decorating all corners of our church and many welcome donations of produce for the Food Bank. The Bishop's Harvest Appeal this year was 'Full of Beans', which is supporting the development of community projects in rural areas

of the Philippines. Lauryn's sermon gave us some entertaining insights into beans, helped by some scientific facts provided by Margaret Charlston, who works at Rothamsted.

We were delighted to welcome Emma Bresslaw, who already makes an important contribution to the life of St John's in many ways, including as PCC Secretary, as a Lay Leader of Worship. Emma wrote about her training in the last edition of the magazine, and is now licensed by the bishop and accepted as a member of the ministerial team here, leading Evensong occasionally on Sundays and joining in the daily services of morning and evening prayer, to which all are welcome.

As a church, our policy is to give 10% of our total income to charitable causes. For the past year we have been supporting EMBRACE, the Church Urban Fund, Christian Aid and the St Albans & District Foodbank, in addition to one-off donations to specific appeals. For 2018 we have agreed to continue supporting EMBRACE and to contribute towards the running costs of Harpenden Citizens Advice; we will be asking the congregation to nominate other charities over the next month and will report on the decision in the next edition.

Work is progressing on our new website, which we hope to launch well before Christmas. Do look out for it! Details of our Christmas services are given elsewhere in the magazine; we would be delighted to welcome you to St John's over the festive period.

*Mary Jean Pritchard and James Hillman
Churchwardens*

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Women's World Day of Prayer

This international and ecumenical event, which is always held on the first Friday in March, sees women from a chosen country take responsibility for preparing the service, and this year it is the turn of the Christian women of Suriname. (Where's that? Yes, I wasn't sure either!) Suriname lies in the north-eastern part of South America and is part of the Guianas, meaning 'land of many waters'. Climate change is a very real concern for the people there, as 15% of their land is coastal and less than two metres above sea level, whilst 90% of the country is covered by pristine tropical rain forest. It is therefore entirely appropriate that their theme should be 'All God's Creation is very good', based on Genesis 1:31.

Women's World Day of Prayer seems to have a bit of an image problem in the UK these days, being associated with elderly ladies getting together on a weekday for an

extra service and a cup of tea. The reality is so very different!

Starting on the international dateline, this service will be shared across the world, over 24 hours, in some 170 countries, translated into more than 60 languages, and will involve an estimated three million women, men and young people from all backgrounds. Each year as we prepare for the Day of Prayer, we are encouraged to learn about the lives of women in different countries, to pray with and for them and to turn all our prayers into positive action.

Protecting our fragile planet is a challenge for us all, so please do join us on 2 March. All welcome, including men!

Friday 2 March 2018

10.30 am High Street Methodist Church
7.45 pm St Mary's, Kinsbourne Green

Pat Hudis

Parish registers

Baptisms

Welcome to the family of God

27 August 2017

Theo Jacob Marsh

17 September 2017

Joshua O'Toole

17 September 2017

Alexander John David
Walrond

1 October 2017

James Robert Tucker

8 October 2017

Amélie Jacqueline Gaughan

Funerals in Church

May they rest in peace

15 August 2017

Joy May Stares

5 September 2017

Alan Russell Stephenson

Marriages

Joined by God

9 September 2017

David Wright to Sarah Nye

16 September 2017

Matthew Grindrod to

Katie Middleton

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Helping hand for Harpenden

Every year, just about now, every home in Harpenden finds a purple envelope bearing the message 'Help us to help others' on the doormat.

Not an unusual message perhaps, but uniquely the Harpenden Trust Christmas Appeal delivers, through the generosity of Harpenden people, help and support only to those who live in the AL5 postcode area. That has been the Fund's remit since it began almost 70 years ago.

From the Trust Centre, not far from St John's Church at the bottom of Southdown Road by the bus stop, pours forth help to the tune of over £70,000 a year for families and individuals as well as separately funded aid for organisations in the town, ranging from the Harpenden Colts to improvements to playgrounds in places like the Oakley Road play area, and provides or updates amenities in our local schools.

The proceeds of the appeal allow the Trust's Care Fund to work with people who need some help. So it:

- Provides grants for help with household bills, vouchers for food and clothing, and help with furniture and white goods

- Supports families to meet the cost of essential school trips
- Offers coffee and tea for pensioners twice a week, in town and in Southdown
- Delivers Christmas parcels and summer coach outings.

The Trust's volunteers also brighten the day by providing companionship through visits to lonely and often elderly people.

The Community Fund (totally separately from the Care Fund) makes grants to support appropriate community projects.

It goes without saying that the Trust always needs more help, and is always ready to warmly welcome volunteers – to help perhaps once a week, once a fortnight, once a month or even once a year. You might be able to be a befriender, to help at coffee mornings, or be a volunteer driver. The list is endless and the rewards are great.

When you look at the purple envelope please see it as an opportunity to be a Harpenden person helping a Harpenden person.

If you can help, please get in touch through the Centre. Thank you.

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Christmas should be materialistic



Every year we get given more tat. Every year we buy more than just the lie that possessions satisfy.

Every year we hear someone complain that Christmas has been hijacked by Capitalism.

But right to its core this has always been a materialistic festival.

Bear with me.

The story of Christmas is that God was born into the world as a tiny and vulnerable little boy. The Divine became human, shared our fleshly experience, our wonders and woes.

The Divine became material. Christmas is a festival to celebrate this materialism.

The fancy word is incarnation – like chilli con carne. Incarnation means that God became meaty. God shared our physical, fleshy, human nature.

I wince a little every time I sing the line Little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes. Working for the church, I have to do that a lot!

Jesus would have screamed like any other kid, red cheeked and annoying. He would have needed calming and

burping and changing just as you and I did. Fully human. God enters and knows our human experience from the inside and in some sense He is our understanding companion in our struggles and pains.

More than this, though, the incarnation validates and celebrates the material. If blood, sweat and tears were good enough for the Son of God, they are good enough for us. The physical world is utterly charged with the Divine and so let us be properly materialistic. Let us give the material world the respect it is due.

That means presents that are worthwhile in respect both to producer and receiver.

That means feasts that celebrate the effort, skill and dignity of food producers, cooks, and animals.

It means realizing the indignity of a thoughtless last-minute-panic present - the sort that will be land fill in a few weeks and for a few centuries in the case of most plastic.

Let's do materialism properly.

The gospels are clear that Jesus is into parties, and gifts, and feasts.

Let's do all of that with joy as we celebrate this festival of Divine Materialism!

James Brown

james@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk





Night Prayer in Advent

We will say Night Prayer Monday to Saturday during Advent in the Lady Chapel at 8pm. The form will either be *Common Worship Night Prayer* or *Night Prayer* as found in *Celtic Daily Prayer Book Two* as used by the Northumbrian Community. Both forms are short, not lasting more than 15 minutes.



Saturday 2 December

9.30 am – 1 pm

Exploring Advent Activities and Prayers to prepare us for Advent and Christmas. For children and grown ups. Home made biscuits and drinks. Drop in any time.



Sunday 3 December

6.30 pm

Harpden Churches Together
Advent Carol Service at
Our Lady of Lourdes church,
Rothamstead Avenue.



Friday 8 December

3.30 – 5.30 pm

Messy Christingle

These will take place in Southdown Methodist Parish Hall (above the Co-op); mums, dads, toddlers and primary school children are all welcome.



Wednesday 13 December

8.00 pm

Beer and Carols Friendly, festive sing along in The Engineer pub.
Over 18s only.



Sunday 17 December

9.30 am

All Age Christmas Nativity Service.
Led by members of the
Junior Church.

6.30 pm

Community Carol Service
A service of nine lessons and carols
followed by mulled wine and
mince pies.



**Sunday 24 December
Christmas Eve**

3.00 pm

Walking to Bethlehem

Our annual Children's Walking Nativity will begin on Christmas Eve at 3pm. We will walk from The Carpenters Arms to The Engineer and will finish with a short service in St John's. Everyone is welcome to dress up as a character if they so wish. Meet by the Christmas tree on the green opp the Co-op and end at St John's.

11.30 pm

Midnight Communion



**Sunday 25 December
Christmas Day**

8.00 am

Christmas Day
Parish Communion

9.30 am

Christmas Day
Parish Communion



Sunday 7 January

9.30am

All Age Communion Service for
The Epiphany

A friendly service for people
of any age remembering
the arrival of the Magi.



Friday 12 January

3.30 – 5.30 pm

These will take place in Southdown Methodist Parish Hall (above the Co-Op); mums, dads, toddlers and primary school children are all welcome.

**Week of Prayer for
Christian Unity 2018**



Sunday 21 January

9.30 am

Parish Communion

Guest Preacher: Neil Chitty,
Senior Pastor of Bethany
Community Church.

Sunday 21 January

6.30 pm

The annual Harpenden Churches
Together service will take place
here at St John's.

My name is Emma and I pray

It sounds like a confession of a bad habit, doesn't it? but I am very open about it and would readily admit that I actually pray quite a lot. I suspect that this prayer habit of mine has really got me to where I am at the moment on my path of discovery and enlightenment as a believer. Taking the step to becoming a LLW ('Lay Leader of Worship', for anyone who didn't read last quarter's magazine) was not part of any pre-existing, long-term plan that I had made for myself, quite the opposite really, and I am surprised, but equally elated, by the turn of events in my life. I honestly believe that it is prayer that has been the motivator for me, the fuel in the tank if you like, that has driven, and indeed continues to drive my faith forward. I am very much aware that I am still wearing my 'L' plates as a disciple and I offer my personal thoughts on prayer very much with that caveat in mind.

Some years ago, I decided that instead of giving anything up for Lent, I would attend mid-week Communion in the Lady Chapel at St John's, which is held every Wednesday at 9.30 am. Numbers are sometimes quite low but there is often a palpable spirituality about the time shared with fellow worshippers. Lent came and went, but I discovered that I really wanted to continue attending these services. Over time, it has become a highlight of my worshipping week. Our serene and beautiful chapel provides a holy and quiet space in which to worship, and the atmosphere is highly conducive to prayer. I have had some of my best experiences of prayer on these Wednesday mornings (although midweek Evening Prayer held at 5 pm is now in hot

contention for the top spot). Looking back, I think it would be fair to blame Wednesday mornings for really turning on the ignition which lit the spark to my prayer fuel!

I walk my dogs every day for a couple of hours (another great opportunity for prayer) and I always carry my mobile phone. Should the need arise, I am contactable and able to contact others. It is a reassuring presence in my pocket. As I certainly find regular phone conversations with close family members and friends a source of great joy and a way of keeping in touch with their lives, getting to know them better and better as the years go by, so I have discovered that the same is true of prayer; the more time I spend talking to God, the more I feel his presence in my life; he supports me like a friend, he lifts my spirits, he makes my life richer and more joyous. Like my phone, but much more so, he is a reassuring presence wherever I go and, unlike my phone, there is always reception. He hears me if I am walking round the fields at Rothamsted; he hears me when I am at home, in the car, abroad, in church; he hears me if I am alone or if I am with others – wherever and whenever.

Prayer and worship are not, in my opinion, the preserve of a building called a church, nor of a period of time called a service; I do not have to kneel nor do I have to find special words to say. They can happen wherever and whenever because God's church is our whole world and his divine and wonderful love for us all is not constrained or limited by time or place. Recognising that his phone line is open all

hours is both exhilarating and enabling.

Advent and Lent, those two great periods of preparation in the Christian calendar, provide great scope and opportunity for regular prayer, either alone or with others. During Advent, which starts this year on December 3, I shall find an appropriate book to complement my prayer habit, which will have a wonderful boost as there will be a service of Night Prayer (or 'Compline' to use its traditional name) every weekday in our Lady Chapel at 8 pm. This short service, full of calm words and soothing imagery, will ensure that my Christmas lists and preparations do not take on the starring role during December. The birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ, in a humble stable in Bethlehem, his ultimate sacrifice on the cross at Calvary and glorious Resurrection and Ascension to save us from our sins – that should be at the foundation of, and our motive for, all our seasonal activities.

In our hectic and rapid world, the qualities of stillness and calm have been sadly overlooked, yet without them we forget to really live the moment. The Bible tells us that Jesus liked a party as much as the next man, but they should not dominate our every waking moment or preoccupy our every thought. If we are always rushing onto the next thing, or worrying about the past, the present fails to register; but it is precious, a gift from God, and deserves our full attention. In the words of the American theologian Frederick Buechner, 'all moments are key moments and life itself is grace'.

The final week of Advent raises the bar even higher in the prayer stakes as we enter the period of what are known as the 'O Antiphons', or responses, which is one of the oldest forms of Christian prayer, dating

back to the 6 or 7 century. The prayers were recited as part of the nightly service of Vespers (and included during Mass in the Roman Catholic Church) from 17–23 December and each begins with a title for Christ drawn from the Old Testament Book of Isaiah. Thus, we have: O Sapientia (Wisdom), O Adonai (Lord and Ruler of the House of Israel), O Radix Jesse (Root of Jesse), O Clavis David (Key of David), O Oriens (Dayspring), O Rex Gentium (King of the Gentiles) and finally O Emmanuel (God with Us). If, like me, you spend time most days juggling anagrams for either crosswords or Scrabble, you will find it interesting to note that the first letters of the titles in Latin are SARCORE. Read backwards that is *ero cras*, meaning 'Tomorrow I come/shall be'.

If prayer is not part of your life at the moment, I would urge you to try it out and 'Pick up the phone' this Advent, wherever you are and whatever time of day it is, and have a conversation. My own experience leads me to be confident that you will not be disappointed and the conversation will not remain one-sided for long. (Come and join us in church, if you think it would help; everyone is very welcome to every service, be it Sunday or midweek.) Prayer works. What you put into prayer you will be more than amply rewarded for. It is not a magic solution to human problems and woes, and it can be quite an emotional experience, but it is the best way to get closer to God and that brings riches and joys way beyond my powers of description or comprehension.

*With every blessing for a prayerful Advent
and a joyous and peaceful Christmas,
Emma Bresslaw*

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Harpenden Child Contact Centre

The Harpenden Child Contact Centre (HCCC) is a voluntary organisation based at but independent of All Saints' Church, Station Road, Batford, Harpenden. A Child Contact Centre is a safe, friendly and neutral place where children from separated families can spend time with one or both parents and sometimes other family members. It is a child-centred environment that puts the needs of the children first and enables children who might not otherwise see their parent the opportunity to spend time together in a safe and happy environment. HCCC is an accredited member of the National Association of Contact Centres.

HCCC is run by two co-ordinators and staffed by volunteers. The centre is open on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month from 1 – 4 pm. All volunteers need to undergo DBS vetting and also attend

three or four training sessions a year, which are usually on a Saturday morning for a couple of hours before the Centre opens. There are four teams of volunteers who attend the sessions on a rota basis and thus about six times a year. They set up the hall with toys, games etc., of which the Centre has a good supply, and then support (not supervise) the contact. Many parents are allowed to leave the Centre for all or part of the session; others stay there for the whole time. Afterwards the volunteers tidy up and debrief.

It is not an onerous task but worthwhile; to enable children to see their parents is hugely rewarding.

HCCC is in need of a few more volunteers to join the team. Interested in learning more? Please contact Steve Pam or Ken Brennan on 07842 167767 or harpendendccc@gmail.com.

Christingle at St Nicholas

Please join us for The Christingle Service at St Nicholas Church on Sunday 3 December at 4.30 pm.

Christingle was specifically created with children in mind; the celebrations are the perfect event to take children along to and can be enjoyed by people of all ages.

*Proceeds to The Children's Society
Reg. Charity No. 221124*



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Project Phoenix – Parish Centre

With a new project name symbolising regeneration and renewal, the Parish Centre, aka Project Phoenix, has completed a major milestone.

Over the summer, our architects, MEB Design Ltd, working with our technical team, developed various different design options which were presented to the congregation on Sunday 25 June. At the back of the church, a number of plans and drawings were displayed on easels, open to scrutiny, comments and feedback from a very interested audience. Our architect, Mark Eddison, presented an overview of the process to date, and the details of eight options, which had been developed as part of the feasibility study to meet our brief. After outlining the pros

and cons of each option, he then shared the recommendation of two short-listed options, A & B: one single storey, one two storey, both connecting into the church near the pulpit. After a three-week period of consultation in which we gathered feedback from the congregation on these options, MEB completed the feasibility study, which the technical team submitted with their recommendations to the PCC. At their October meeting, the PCC endorsed the progression of option A, the two-storey option, based on cost, practicality and reduced impact on the external space. So now the next steps will be to apply to the council for planning permission and to begin the exciting task of fund-raising.

Safeguarding and the church

You may have read recently some newspaper articles concerning historic child abuse allegations made against the late Hubert Victor Whitsey, Bishop of Chester, who was previously Bishop of Hertford from 1970 to 1974. Unfortunately, this has not been the only case of this kind to come to light over the last few years. If this news has affected you in any way, please contact Jeremy Hirst, the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer at safeguarding@stalbans.anglican.org or the Hertfordshire police.

The Church of England has worked diligently to ensure that its churches and institutions have the information and training to secure a protective environment for children, young people,

and adults who may be vulnerable. At St John's Church, we adhere to safeguarding policies, procedures and advice from our Diocese of St Albans. However, effective safeguarding is not just contingent upon policies but must be embedded into our everyday practice through various means - obtaining Disclosure and Barring Clearance for key people, raising awareness, vigilance, risk assessment, and correct responses to issues. Safeguarding is regularly reviewed by the Parish Council and updated to reflect policy developments and the current context.

Jane Donati

Safeguarding Lead at St. John's

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Mothers' Union

I recall the late summer weather as a bit of a 'mixed bag' and that was certainly brought home to me on the day of our garden party at my address. During the morning, the gazebos, tables and chairs were set up, but at noon I realised that this was going to be a house party. Four rooms downstairs were quickly cleared and at 2 pm members and visitors duly arrived. The weather had not dampened their enthusiasm, fellowship, appetites or generosity and at 5 pm all 40 set off for home after an enjoyable and profitable afternoon, having raised around £260.

In September we had an interesting and enlightening talk about Women's Aid in Luton, and as a result we are collecting underwear and washbags to help the ladies there. Lauryn Awbrey came in October to show pictures of and reminisce about one of her visits to Jerusalem. We were pleased to have the company of some of the members of the Church congregation at the meeting; you will always be welcome.

The MU Deanery lunch was hosted by St. Mary's, Redbourn, and as usual was a treat in more ways than one. The

delicious lunch was followed by Revd Will Gibbs recalling the life of our founder, Mary Sumner, and concluding with some amusing anecdotes on the subject of 'relationships'. A good profit was made to pass on for the work of the Mothers' Union.

We were pleased to host a Songs of Praise at St. John's, led by Pam Rhodes of TV fame, although it was not televised. There was some lusty singing, and we thank Roger Carter, our organist, and also those members who volunteered, for enlightening us about why the chosen hymns meant so much to them.

It was a great pleasure in October to enrol three new members during one of our parish Eucharists; we hope these new members will enjoy our fellowship whilst helping to raise funds for those in the world less fortunate than ourselves. Our programme continues with talks held on the first Wednesday evening of the month and Corporate Communion on the third Wednesday morning of the month. Please take a programme from the church porch notice board.

Julia Smith

St Luke's Cell

Loving God, we bring to you our world of so much pain, so much need and sorrow; a world you care for so deeply that you willingly gave your all for it, living and dying among us through your Son, Jesus Christ. Reach out again in mercy, and heal our wounds. In the name of Christ we ask it.

Nick Fawcett in 'Prayers for Healing' (Kevin Mayhew Ltd., 2013)

St Luke's Cell meets monthly to pray for those in any kind of need, including the long-term sick.

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We offer a Forest School session once a week where the children are able to access the local woods for a unique learning experience.

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For more information call or text Amanda on 07526789730 or email amanda@buzbymae.co.uk.

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Forthcoming events

December 2017

Sunday 3 December	11.30 am	Family Baptism
Sunday 3 December	4.00 pm	Faith & Light in the parish hall
Wednesday 6 December	7.30 pm	Mothers' Union Branch party
Thursday 7 December	7.00 pm	Roundwood Park School Christmas concert in church
Friday 8 December	2.00 pm	Dorcas in the committee room
Saturday 9 December	10.30 am	Coffee Concert in church Roger Carter (organ)
Sunday 10 December	6.30 pm	Aldwickbury School Carol Concert in church
Tuesday 12 December	1.45 pm	Grove School Christmas service (Years 3 & 6)
Thursday 14 December	1.45 pm	Grove School Christmas service (Years 4 & 5)
Friday 15 December	3.00 pm	Tea at Three in the parish hall
Saturday 16 December	7.30 pm	Carillon Christmas Concert in church Advent Alleluia!
Sunday 17 December	6.30 pm	Community Carol service
Monday 18 December	8.00 pm	Hardynge Choir carol concert in church
Friday 22 December	2.00 pm	Dorcas in the committee room
Monday 25 December	9.30 am	Christmas Day family communion

January 2018

Sunday 7 January	4.00 pm	Faith and Light
Tuesday 9 January	8.15 pm	Standing Committee in the vicarage
Friday 12 January	2.00 pm	Dorcas in the committee room
Friday 12 January	3.30 pm	Messy Church
Saturday 13 January	12 noon	Inner Wheel Soup Kitchen
Friday 19 January	2.00 pm	Dorcas in the committee room
Tuesday 23 January	8.15 pm	PCC meeting in the committee room
Friday 26 January	3.00 pm	Tea at Three in the parish hall
Sunday 28 January	11.30 am	Family baptism x 2

PARISH OFFICE

For enquiries, including marriages, baptisms, funerals and hall bookings, please contact the parish office open from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm Monday to Friday.

Telephone 01582 712776
parish.office@
stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

Parish Directory

VICAR

Canon Nicholas Anderson
vicar@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk
5 St John's Road
Telephone 07983 561387

Revd James Brown
Telephone 07813 464 643
james@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

PERMISSION TO OFFICIATE

Revd Mary Monk
Telephone 01582 462057

Revd Julia White

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James Hillman
Telephone 07788 567826
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Mary Jean Pritchard
Telephone 01582 712962
wardens@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Roger Carter
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Christmas at St John's

- Sat 2 December** **9.30 am – 1 pm Exploring Advent**
Activities and prayers to prepare us for Advent and Christmas.
For children and grown ups. Homemade biscuits and drinks.
- Sun 3 December** **6.30 pm Harpenden Churches Together Advent carol service**
At Our Lady of Lourdes church, Rothamsted Avenue.
- Fri 8 December** **3.30 – 5.30 pm Messy Christingle**
These will take place in Southdown Methodist Parish Hall
(above the Co-op); mums, dads, toddlers and primary school
children are all welcome.
- Wed 13 December** **8 pm Beer and Carols**
Friendly, festive sing along in The Engineer pub. Over 18s only.
- Sun 17 December** **9.30 am All age Christmas Nativity service**
Led by members of the Junior Church.
- 6.30 pm Community carol service**
A service of nine lessons and carols followed by mulled wine
and mince pies.
- Sun 24 December** **3 pm 'Walking to Bethlehem'**
Telling the Christmas story as we walk through Southdown;
meet by the Christmas tree on the green opposite the Co-op
and end at St John's. Ideal for children.
- 11.30 pm Midnight communion**
- Sun 25 December** **8 am Christmas Day parish communion**
9.30 am Christmas Day parish communion
- Sun 7 January** **9.30 am All age communion service for The Epiphany**
A friendly service for people of any age remembering the arrival
of the Magi.

Advent Night Prayer in the Lady Chapel 8pm
every Monday – Saturday from 4 until 23 December.
Short service of prayer and reflection, not lasting more than 15 minutes.



www.stjohnsharpenden.org.uk
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