The background of the cover is a light green color with a subtle pattern of small yellow and white dots. It is decorated with several stylized pumpkins and leaves. The pumpkins are in various shades of orange and yellow, some with a glittery texture. The leaves are in shades of blue and green, some with a striped pattern. The text is centered in the upper half of the cover.

st JOHN'S

Living God's Love

Parish Magazine

HARVEST 2019

st JOHN'S

Living God's Love

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ADDRESS

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www.stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

Our magazine is published four times a year and is delivered free to all homes and businesses in the parish.

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.

We welcome advertisements and are delighted to be able to provide full colour.

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magazine@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

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'Creation' is somewhat of a loaded term. This is, at least in part, thanks to famous atheist apologists and writers such as Richard Dawkins. They often paint the idea that Christians believe that God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh, precisely and literally as it is written in the first chapter of the book of Genesis in the Bible, a view of creation which is called *Creationism*. Actually, the reverse is true – Creationism is a minority and unorthodox view amongst Christians. The point of the various creation myths in the Bible (there are at least three or four different ones) is not to give a scientific account of how the universe came to be but rather to explore the relationship between God and humankind.

In Church, we use the term 'Creation' to refer to everything that exists because, fundamentally, Christians believe that everything we have, including our very life and being, is a *gift* from God – it is not about mechanics, but relationship. Remembering that everything we have is a gift helps us to appreciate even more everything we do have and be even more thankful for it. It also makes us better realise our responsibility to look after the gift of Creation, which does not *belong* to us but is a gift we hold for a little while before we pass it on to others to care for.

What all the creation myths in the Bible show us is that God wants to share the gift of life, the gifts of Creation, with us; God wants us to understand that gift and to care for it; God wants a relationship with us and for us to have a proper relationship

with God and all that is around us. All of this is beautifully captured in the *Creation of Adam* fresco from the Sistine Chapel in Rome, painted by Michelangelo (pictured). In that fresco, you see the yearning and reaching out both by God and by Adam, their finger tips almost touching as they seek a relationship, but yet that separation remains between them - between humanity and God - since the fingers do not quite meet. What the Christian faith teaches us is that it is not *Creation vs Big Bang* in a pseudo-Science vs. Religion debate, nor *Creation vs humanity*, as if the world around us needs to be tamed, subdued, controlled and exploited, but *Creation and relationship*. It is about our relationship with God, our relationship with each other, our relationship with the wider world and environment around us.

This September in church, beginning on the 8th of that month and culminating in our Harvest Festival celebrations on 6th October, we will be thinking about Creation as gift and our role and place within it, the responsibilities we have and how our faith can help us, particularly in our care for the environment and our stewardship and sharing of all the worlds resources. Several of the articles in this edition of the parish magazine highlight particular issues and explore what more we can do; come along to some of our services in September to find out more. ●

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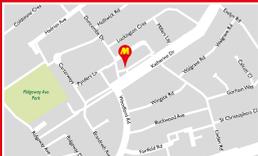
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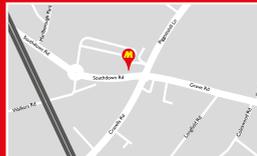


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Churchwardens' Report

As Shakespeare wrote, 'summer's lease hath all too short a date' and we fast approach the autumn. Every season in the church year has its unique characteristics: we look forward to Harvest, and beyond that to Advent and preparations for Christmas.

At our APCM in April, we welcomed Liz Newell, Heather Nye and Andrew Harbord to the PCC and said goodbye and thank you to Liz Swinscoe and Carol Cooke, now the Leader of the Mothers' Union.

Mary Jean Pritchard has stood down as churchwarden after six years both in that role and in the role of deputy. During her time as churchwarden, she has always demonstrated the utmost commitment and dedication to all aspects of the life of St John's, and although we shall miss her in this role, we wish her a calmer future. We are hugely grateful to her for all her hard work. Jane Donati and James Hillman were both elected as churchwarden for the coming year. Bill Moore continues as a Deputy Warden and is now joined by Martin Myers and Heather Nye.

Soon after Easter, our celebrations continued with the installation and induction of our new vicar, Revd Dr Berkeley Zych, on Thursday 16 May. Bishop Michael, Archdeacon Jonathan Smith and Will Gibbs, acting Rural Dean, together with many others, took part in the service, as well as members of our own congregation and community. It was also attended by Berkeley's family and friends from St Albans Cathedral

and from further afield, all of whom joined us in welcoming him to St. John's Church. A most pleasant reception followed the symbolic and spiritually-charged service, providing an opportunity for everyone to celebrate this very special event. We convey our thanks to everyone involved in the many tasks that made up this wonderful occasion.

At Pentecost, a deeply thoughtful and meaningful service enabled many of us to enjoy this important feast of the Christian calendar.

Our summer started in earnest with our celebrations of the feast day of our patron, St John the Baptist, whose traditional birthday is set as 24 June. In the last magazine, Berkeley wrote about the various practical and spiritual purposes of gardens throughout history, and to illustrate this further, our patronal festival had a barbecue on his front lawn! Again, many people were involved in the special service and the barbecue, and their hard work was much appreciated.

The patronal festival coincided beautifully with the start of the Cultivate Arts Festival in Harpenden. Although planned as a slightly lower key event than last year, St John's took part wholeheartedly with an uplifting and moving art installation on the theme of 'Generosity'. (Please see the middle of the magazine for photographs.) It was exhibited throughout the week through the church. The inspiration for the magnificent fountain, always giving of itself, the many types of fish and the fantastic floral displays were realised through the

Junior Church

All welcome

Games, crafts, stories

Appropriate for all ages up to and including year 6
Activities for preschoolers if a parent / carer stays with them

Every Sunday 9.30am during term time

(apart from 1st Sunday of month, which is a service to involve all ages)
St John's Church Hall, AL5 1DJ

 Junior Church St Johns Harpenden



Coffee Concerts

FREE classical concerts within the beautiful acoustic of St John's Church followed by coffee

Sat 7th Sept at 10.30

Roger Carter (organ)

Sun 20th Oct at 3.00

Daniel Roscia (clarinet) &
Rosanna Rolton (harp)

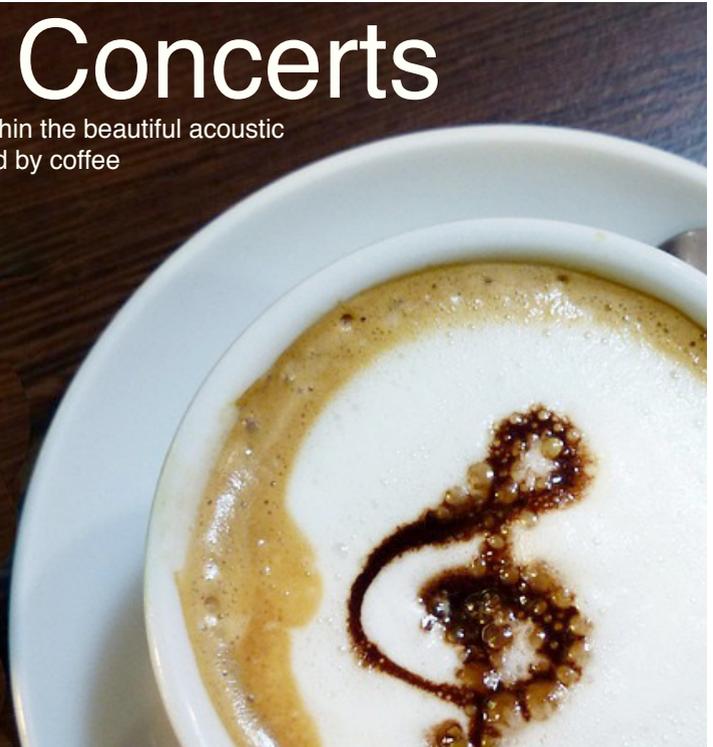
Sun 10th Nov at 3.00

Terence Charlston
(organ & chamber organ)

Sat 14th Dec at 10.30

Roger Carter (organ)





efforts of Liz Sergeant; Debbie Knight; our curate, James Brown, and the team of florists. Many local children visited and contributed wholeheartedly during the week. There was an evening of words, music and song, which continued the theme, and Roger Carter put on a Coffee Concert with an interesting range of music that complemented the artwork. On the final Sunday a waterfall of cupcakes was presented after the Sunday morning Eucharist and, served with Prosecco, provided a fitting conclusion to the week. As with every event, there is always a large team of hidden helpers who stewarded, helped with the setting up and taking down, provided refreshments, and who pitched in with many other 'minor' jobs that contributed to the entire event. We are grateful to all those who helped.

Also over the summer, Berkeley has arranged a series of 'soapbox' evenings on themes relating to our life at St John's. These have been designed to help inform

and steer our worship and ministry in the parish. Many people have given their time and their views in attending these sessions, which are important as we consider the challenges and opportunities of the next months and years.

As this magazine goes to print, we will be preparing for our Harvest celebrations, which will be taking place on Sunday 6 October with an All-Age Service, followed by activities and a lunch. Details of this and our other services can be found in the magazine.

St John's is a diverse community and many people are 'unsung' yet essential to our continued ministry in our parish. If we have not mentioned you by name, we apologise, but be assured that we know what you do and we are very grateful for your unstinting efforts.

James Hillman

Jane Donati

Churchwardens

Parish registers

Baptisms

Welcome to the family of God

23 May 2019

Jonathan George Wansbury

2 June 2019

Martha Charlotte Salisbury

Marriages

Joined by God

6 May 2019

David Swinscoe and Rachel Boothroyd

15 June 2019

Martin Williamson to Elizabeth Rollings

Funerals in Church

May they rest in peace

9 May 2019

Tony McNairn

28 May 2019

Susan Faulkner East

6 June 2019

Angela Robinson



Little Acorns



What is Little Acorns?

Little Acorns is a group for preschool children and their carers which is run by a group of volunteers from St John's Church.

What is our aim?

We provide a safe and friendly environment where children can play while the adults chat and enjoy a hot cup of coffee or tea undisturbed!

When?

1.30 - 2.45pm every Thursday in term time.

Where?

St John's Church Hall, AL5 1DJ (walk down the right side of the church and the hall is ahead of you).

What happens during a session?

You will be met by one of the three helpers wearing a name badge and we will ask you to sign in. There is a voluntary donation of £2, but we don't turn anyone away! You will be offered tea, coffee and a biscuit.

We play until about 2.20pm, with a wide variety of toys for the children. At around 2.20pm, we clear up and then sit around a table for a healthy snack and a drink followed by a story or some singing before going home.



So, if you have a child of pre-school age do come along and give us a try.
You will be given a warm welcome!

For any further information please contact Christine Kenyon 07984 448999.

News from St Nicholas Primary School - Harpenden's smallest school wins District Sports Championship

This autumn, as usual, St Nicholas School is seeking new Reception children to start in September 2020. However, for the first time in very many years, church attendance will play no part in this process.

St Nicholas is Harpenden's only Church of England school, educating children from both parishes in the town. In line with the published 'Church of England Vision for Education' and following extensive consultation (including a meeting of St John's Parish Church Council), the school Governing Body voted to simplify the admissions criteria and remove the requirement for church attendance 12-months prior to application. Stuart Burnett, the school Governor representing St John's Parish, said, 'This brings the school into line with most other Church of England schools. These changes do not in any way alter our school's Christian ethos and values.'

The school year ended with outstanding achievement in the classroom and the sports field. The school returned from the District Sports event at Sir John Lawes School at the end of June overloaded with silverware, having won the Bonner Cup

(awarded for the best small school overall for sports in the district over the whole year), the President's Cup (overall athletics winners across all schools), the Boys Athletics Cup and the Year 5-6 Football League Cup. The Year 3-4 football team also triumphed in their football tournament.

Caroline Fleming, Chair of Governors, said, 'These are outstanding achievements, particularly winning the President's Cup which is for all 14 primary schools in Harpenden and the surrounding villages which we don't recall winning ever before. We only have 22 children in each year group and were competing against schools four times our size. We are incredibly proud of the teamwork and friendly spirit in which the children took part, and what an amazing result!'

Children from St. Nicholas were thrilled to be part of their team:

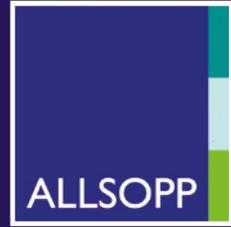
'I really enjoyed being out there with my friends, doing the sport that I love,' said 11 year old Freya.

'The cheer from the crowd was brilliant and it pushed me to go further,' said Toby, from year 6.



Last year, St Nicholas was the top school in Hertfordshire in 'The Times Top Ten Schools' list, based on the 2018 Key Stage 2 results (the 'SATS' tests carried out by all children in their last year at primary school). This year has seen similarly stellar results in these tests, with 100% achieving the expected standard in reading, grammar, punctuation, spelling and maths, and 91% in writing. Please see the school website for more information: <http://www.stnicholasce.org/>.

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Giving thanks for the harvest

One of the many gifts that we enjoy is the ever changing seasons of the year. The dark and cold days of Winter quickly give way to Spring, which is the living picture of new life. Then comes the summer sun and longer days, with time for tennis, cricket, swimming, BBQs and long walks; and finally, Autumn, the 'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' (Keats) ...and the harvest.

Thanksgiving ceremonies and celebrations for a successful harvest are very ancient and now worldwide. In Britain, we have given thanks for successful harvests since pagan times. We celebrate this day by singing, praying and decorating our churches with baskets of fruit and food in a festival known as 'Harvest Festival'.

It is an occasion not only to give thanks for the harvest itself but to thank God for the farmers who grew the food, for the ships and lorries that delivered it to our shops and supermarkets and for those who prepare it. Yet the food chain can be traced back further: farmers depend on fertile soil, on sunshine and on rain at the right times.

The annual miracle of the harvest is not without its dangers and difficulties for those who work on the land and on the seas. Deep sea fishermen daily experience challenging conditions, whilst farmers often face financial problems. For some, the pressures become too much to bear. Round the world, things

can be more difficult. Australia is facing the worst droughts it has ever known. The ground is so hard in some places that crops cannot even be planted let alone harvested. Sheep and cattle are starving to death. In America, in Africa and elsewhere, crops are failing and people are going hungry. Sometimes the crops are attacked and decimated by disease - more people go without.

We are sometimes told that there is enough food in the world to feed everyone, but so far we have failed to distribute it fairly. Whilst we continue to thank God for his goodness to us in providing all we need, what can we do to help those around the world who are less fortunate?

At St Johns, we contribute each year to the Bishop's Harvest appeal. This year, the funds will go to help people in Singida, Tanzania. All through the year we contribute to the local foodbank to support those living close to us who do not have enough to eat. Importantly, we regularly pray for all those in need. At Rothamsted Research in Harpenden, work continues to improve the yield, the quality and the efficiency of crops so that a growing world population can be fed in a more sustainable manner.

We give thanks to God for the annual harvest but we also remember those less fortunate than us and strive to do what we can to help them.

David Nye

All Souls Service Sunday 3rd November, 6.30pm

All are welcome to join us for this special occasion to remember those we love but see no longer.

This simple service of hymns and readings will include an opportunity to light a candle in the memory of a loved one, holding that light is greater than darkness, love is stronger than death.

The names of all those whose funerals have taken place at St Johns in recent years will be read out. If you would like us to add further names to this list then please do let us know at parish@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

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3.30-5.30pm MESSY CHURCH @ SOUTHDOWN METHODIST CHURCH

8pm COMEDY NIGHT @ THE PLOUGH AND HARROW

SATURDAY

10.30-11.15am COFFEE CONCERT @ ST JOHN'S CHURCH

11am-4pm SOUTHDOWN FETE @ GROVE SCHOOL FIELD

including BBQ by Jay's Delicatessen, Live Music, Gift & Craft Stalls, Children's Activities, Fire Engine, Bouncy Castle, Food Stalls (inc. Vegan)

12-8pm MINI BEER FESTIVAL @ THE CARPENTERS ARMS

2.30-5pm HARPENDEN TRUST OPEN HOUSE @ THE TRUST HALLS

7.30pm QUIZ NIGHT @ THE HARPENDEN TRUST

9.30pm LIVE ROCK 'N' ROLL BAND @ THE PLOUGH & HARROW
with Allergy, an alternative covers band

SUNDAY

12-8pm MINI BEER FESTIVAL @ THE CARPENTERS ARMS
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5pm SONGS OF PRAISE @ ST JOHN'S CHURCH
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St Luke's Cell prayer group

Would you like us to pray for you?

We pray for anyone in the parish who has asked for our prayers for themselves or for their loved ones. St Luke's Cell prayer group is named after the disciple and physician Luke, who is the patron saint of doctors. The group meets monthly to pray and is made up of members from St John's and Southdown Methodist churches.

If you would like us to pray for you or someone else then please be in contact with Michael Hughes 01582 765576

Father, give to us, and to all people, in times of anxiety, serenity; in times of hardship, courage; in times of uncertainty, patience; and at all times, a quiet trust in your wisdom and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Quoted from the radio program 'New Every Morning', BBC Worldwide)



The Heavens are telling the Glory of God!

Amici Voices – Bach Cantatas

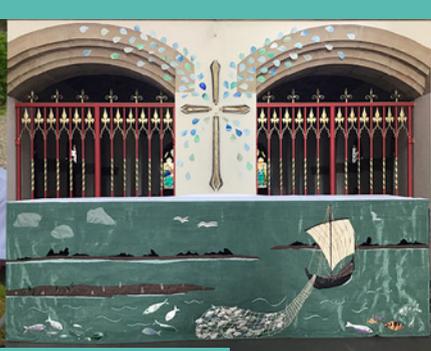
Saturday 26th October – 7:30pm

Following the success of their recent Bach Cantatas CD, Amici Voices continue their exploration of Bach's immense output at St John's with three cantatas traversing calls for lamentation, purification and adoration which formed the centre of worship for congregations in Weimar and Leipzig.

Tickets: £18 (students and under 18s £5)

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www.amicivoices.com




Cultivate
ARTS FESTIVAL

Many thanks to everyone who supported Harpenden's Cultivate Arts Festival from 23-30 June. This year's theme was 'Generosity', and St John's hosted a variety of services and free events.

If you would like more information or to be involved with next year's Cultivate Arts Festival please contact the parish office.

'This is so beautiful and has greatly inspired me. I loved how everything linked together.' L. Black

'The children's contributions are amazing!' C. Holiday.

'Brilliant activities, really thought-provoking'.
Mrs Copp and Mulberry Class





Cultivate Arts Festival at St John's in numbers! 2019

700 visitors to St John's, including
420 children from The Grove Schools,

1 fountain installation 9ft high and 6ft wide,
made from recycled & generously donated materials,
5 artists, 10 installers, 6 floral artists

3 exciting events featuring
4 poets, 3 musicians, 1 guest speaker

124 assorted fish
(made by the Grove Infants School)
16 paper fish sculptures
(made by the 19th Harpenden Rainbows & Brownies)

700 generous droplets
decorating the arches and the cross
(made by Junior Church and Faith & Light)
700 'Keep Generosity Flowing' bookmarks
given to our visitors

29 welcomers, 15 caterers

3 social media accounts, reaching over 2.8k people,
30 appreciative comments in the visitors' book

Our 2nd Cultivate Arts Festival - roll on the 3rd!



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| 10:00 – 12:00pm | 13th April 2019 |
| 10:00 – 12:00pm | 01st June 2019 |

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Getting to know the congregation

An interview with Nick Luckett

How long have you lived in the area?

I've been in Harpenden since 1968, so that's just over 50 years. My wife, Christine, and I got married in '68 and moved to Highfield Avenue for several years and then we moved on here to Wheathampstead Road in about 1981. We joined St John's at the time that the children were baptised and we had a dear neighbour opposite, Les Henson, who was a staunch St John's goer and he encouraged us to go down and we've been there ever since.

What ways are you involved in the wider community?

I retired early from working for Kodak and then took up tennis coaching as a part-time profession at Elliswick tennis club. I did ten years of coaching there and also at various schools, the Grove, Sauncey Wood, and High Beeches, where I ran some after-school classes and I had great fun doing that. That was kind of a pre-retirement job. My wife Chris and I both retired in 2008, and around 2010 we did a lot of travelling, which was good because, sadly, she died in 2012. That was obviously a very difficult time but the family and I got through it.

And you're involved in the Harpenden Trust, is that right?

I am now, yes, and have been for about six years, strangely enough. Christine was a great supporter of me and also a great member of St John's; she was the chairperson of the Mother's Union, and even Diocesan chair as well; so of course 2012 was a real turning point. I suppose two years later I saw an advert in the Herts Advertiser looking for Home Visitors, helping people in need. So I just went along to Harpenden Trust to learn more and started doing some home visiting. I've found that most reward-

ing. Then after a while the chairman of homevisiting retired and I took over as the chair. I'm also now the chair and director of the Trust's care fund, which is part of the Harpenden Trust. We've got The Care Fund and The Community Fund, which are run separately. I spend a lot of time on that.

And at St John's?

A couple of years ago I rejoined the PCC (Parochial Church Council), having been a member of the PCC about 40 years ago when my kids used to run riot with Roger in the choir! I also attend the 8am service, which I find a rather peaceful service, a nice thoughtful service and that suits me very well. More recently I have also helped on the odd occasion at Faith and Light (a group for adults with learning difficulties). Last time we had a sports related session, I did some mini-Wimbledon tennis in the hall with the participants, which they hugely enjoyed. You would have been proud of Berkeley the vicar, too, because I actually got him to wield a tennis racket on Sunday!

What does your faith mean to you?

Well, it means a huge amount. I find it a great support and inspiration. When Chris died, it all seemed to happen very quickly at the end and was, really, a catastrophic time. Philippa, a previous vicar here, was such a help. I find great peace in faith and it has helped me through some of the harder times tremendously. ●



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Upcoming Dates

Sun 1 September, 9.30am – Back to School

A focus on education and the start of the school year, including the blessing of school bags

Sun 6 October, 9.30am – Harvest Festival

Think about God and food with a special visit from a local farmer, followed by activities and harvest lunch if you can stay

Sun 3 November, 9.30am – All Saints'

Celebrating all the saints of the church and the examples they give us of how to live well

Sun 15 December, 9.30am – Nativity

Our annual telling of the story of the birth of Jesus

Hope in a Hopeless World

It is easy to feel hopeless and overwhelmed by the scale of damage we are doing to the planet. From the rising global temperature, to mass extinction, to extreme weather events there is plenty to worry about. This is all without even naming the impact upon human life and death already witnessed and which will worsen over time.

Now of course there are many and obvious things that we are encouraged to do in response: switching our energy provision to renewables, eating less meat, flying less often, avoiding single-use plastics. The list goes on and seems more or less achievable depending on our own situations. It is good to make the changes that we can.

The overwhelming scale of the problem is not only in the effects, however, but in its causes. The impact of big business and governments far outweighs what you or I can do individually, making our efforts to refuse single use plastic, for example, feel like a drop in the choking ocean.

Indeed terms like 'Eco-Anxiety' are now being used to describe the 'depression, socio-ethical paralysis, and loss of well-being' associated with climate change. With this in mind, why might there be hope in this hopeless world?

Over the millennia deep Christian wisdom has developed regarding the very areas that have got us into this mess.

- Contentment and practiced gratitude in the face of greed;

The 20 hottest years ever recorded globally have occurred in the last 22 years and the four most recent have been the hottest ever.

<https://public.wmo.int/en/files/gmtprepng>

- Awe, wonder and worship, which naturally lead to compassionate and healthy awareness of your own place in the world;

- A call to the mysterious truth that life is to be found most abundantly when we give it away in self-sacrificial love. In Jesus we have a not only the chief pattern and example of self-sacrifice but we also find in him forgiveness for those inevitable times when we mess up and need to start again; regret goes out the window and God calls us on to start over.

And so there are indeed many reasons to hope. We believe that all people are made in the image of God and that all are worthy of love and care. The effects of climate breakdown are here already and will increasingly impact the poorest and most vulnerable in the world and so, as difficult as it may seem, we are compelled to make the changes we need. At St John's Church we have signed up to the Eco Church

scheme organised by A Rocha. Through this, we will improve our own corporate and individual creation care as well as explore what we can do in the face of the large scale systems and structures that could otherwise be overwhelming. Together and with the help of God there is indeed hope in a hopeless world. •

Revd. James Brown

1 Pihkala, 2018. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/zygo.12407>

Pollution of different forms caused nine million premature deaths worldwide in one single year, 2015.

<https://ehp.nichs.nih.gov/doi/10.1289/EHP3141>

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First Communion Club

Fun preparation classes to receive the bread and wine for the first time (for school year 3 and older)

11am - 11.30am

Sunday 15, 22, 29 Sept, 13, 20 Oct

In the committee room in the church hall



Contact Berkeley for more info and to sign up
vicar@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

Exploring your faith & Confirmation

Are you wanting to explore the Christian faith a bit more?

Whether you're new to Christianity, or just want to know a little more, we're planning to organize a group in the autumn

This can lead to Confirmation for those who wish to take that step

Contact Berkeley for more info
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Little Gidding Pilgrimage

Saturday 18th May 2019

Prior to our new vicar, Berkeley, joining us at St Johns we were invited to meet him on a pilgrimage he was involved with, The Little Gidding Pilgrimage. This took place on the weekend after Berkeley's installation at St Johns. The Pilgrimage is a walk from the church in Leighton Bromswold to the church in Little Gidding, and is organised by The Friends of Little Gidding.

A little history is important to explain what we were all up to. The Pilgrimage commemorates Nicholas Ferrar, who in 1626 moved to Little Gidding with his family and led a life of prayer. Together with all his charitable work he was an example to all of a life full of spirituality and Christian devotion which has 'stood as a beacon to all who have followed.' He was a great friend of George Herbert, a poet and priest, and his devout life and example have made Little Gidding 'a place where prayer has been valid' to this day.

Our day was lead by Canon Mark Oakley, the Dean of Chapel at St John's College, Cambridge, and the author of several books on contemporary spirituality and poetry, and poetry was to play a large part in our day.

Twelve of us took up the challenge of a walk of about five miles through the Huntingdonshire countryside. David Nye organised us into car shares and we all met up at Leighton Bromswold Church, about an hour's drive away, ready for a Eucharist service at 10:30am. About 40 or so of us enjoyed the service in this beautiful and airy church, though it was a little chilly! Mark's address was powerful and

thought-provoking, with emotional stories and memories from his childhood. The service included prayers based on the words of Nicholas Ferrar and hymns written by George Herbert.

After the service the Friends of Little Gidding provided us with a wonderful outdoor lunch of roasted pork rolls and salads, followed by plenty of cake to chose from, a welcome mug of hot tea or coffee and, for some, a glass of wine. This also gave us a time to chat and enjoy the countryside and surroundings while we drivers took our cars over to Little Gidding before David brought us back again to the start. We were ready to set off.

Many more people then joined us for the start of the pilgrimage. And our numbers swelled to over 100, including a coach of people from a church in North London, and many others, some with dogs in tow. The five mile walk had five stations, which were stops along the way to pause for a short reflection given by Mark. Each was followed by Berkeley leading us in sung prayer as we then walked onwards. Mark's reflections took on the theme of Awakening: Awakening to Being, Awakening to the Becoming, Awakening to Love, Awakening to Hate and Awakening to Mortality, 'Life is not for beginners'. Poetry was at the heart of all the reflections. Mark read many poems, even one from 'Winnie the Pooh' by A A Milne. The pauses in our pilgrimage gave us a chance to reflect and also enjoy the quiet and bird song. The countryside and undulating hills were beautiful and provided a wonderful back drop to the walk.

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Thursday 3.00-5.00pm

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* sessions run here during school holidays



The First Station was at the Hundred Stone. The stone is the ancient meeting place for the Moot Court of the Hundred of Leightonstone, a division of the old county of Huntingdonshire.

The Second Station: Salome Wood. Salome Wood (pronounced 'sollum') preserves the name of a former small settlement where there was a chapel and a well.

The Third Station: Hammerton. Hamerton Church contains some impressive stone memorials as well as a spiral

staircase leading to the former rood loft.

The Fourth Station: Steeple Gidding. Steeple Gidding Church is where the Ferrar family worshipped each Sunday. The Church is today in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust.

The Fifth Station: the Tomb of Nicholas Ferrar.

This photograph was taken as we approached the Fifth Station, towards the little chapel containing the Tomb of Nicholas Ferrar.



Flowers were then laid on the tomb of Nicholas Ferrar. Since the chapel is quite small, those of us for whom it was the first time visiting there went in to sit in the tiny chapel for a short Evensong. The service was led by the Revd Bob Torrens, who was baptized at Little Gidding, and is celebrating the 60th anniversary of his ordination as a priest.

Of course, the day was finished off with a splendid tea laid on the by Friends in the next door Ferrar House. We all enjoyed the grounds and wonderful views while eating cake or scones, a great way to end a day full

of reflection, prayer, fresh air, bird song and companionship. (And of course, a chance to get to know our new vicar, Berkeley!)

The Friends of Little Gidding organise other events, such as the Annual T S Eliot Festival (T S Eliot wrote a poem inspired by his visit here). They also run quiet days, and pilgrimages at other times of the year. For more information about Little Gidding have a look at the websites <http://www.ferrarhouse.co.uk/> and www.littlegidding.org.uk



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Last Friday of the month, 3pm
St John's Hall, St Johns Road, Harpenden

Come for a cup of tea, some homemade cakes and a chat
Come meet old friends and make new friends
Come and enjoy informal and relaxing company

All Welcome!

Need a lift? Contact Margaret • (01582) 762651

Forthcoming events

August 2019

Wednesday 7 August	3.00 pm	Mother's Union Garden Party
Thursday 8 August	12.30 pm	Soup4theSoul
Friday 30 August	3.00 pm	Tea at Three in the parish hall

September 2019

Monday 2 September	8.00 pm	Fellowship & Study group in the committee room
Friday 6 September	2.00 pm	Dorcas in the committee room
Friday 6 – Sunday 8 September		Southdown Festival
Saturday 7 September	10.30 am	Coffee Concert in church (Roger Carter – organ)
Sunday 8 September	4.00 pm	Faith and Light in the parish hall – joining Southdown Festival Songs of Praise
Monday 9 September	8.00 pm	Fellowship & Study Group in the committee room
Thursday 12 September	12.30 pm	Soup4theSoul
Friday 13 September	2.00 pm	Dorcas in the committee room
Saturday 14 September	10.00 am	Bike'n Hike
Sunday 15 September	11.00 am	First Communion Club in the committee room
Monday 16 September	8.00 pm	Fellowship & Study Group in the committee room
Wednesday 18 September	8.15 pm	Standing committee
Sunday 22 September	11.00 am	First Communion Club in the committee room
Monday 23 September	8.00 pm	Fellowship & Study Group in the committee room
Friday 27 September	3.00 pm	Tea at Three in the parish hall
Saturday 28 September	10.00 am	Server Training and Taster Day
Sunday 29 September	11.30 am	Family Baptism

Sunday 29 September	11.00 am	First Communion Club in the committee room
Monday 30 September	8.15 pm	PCC Meeting

October 2019

Sunday 6 October	4.00 pm	Faith and Light in the parish hall
Monday 7 October	8.00 pm	Fellowship & Study Group in the committee room
Thursday 10 October	12.30 pm	Soup4theSoul
Sunday 13 October	6.30 pm	Deanery Evensong Service in church
Sunday 13 October	11.00 am	First Communion Club in the committee room
Monday 14 October	8.00 pm	Fellowship & Study Group in the committee room
Sunday 20 October	11.00 am	First Communion Club in the committee room
Sunday 20 October	3.00 pm	Coffee Concert in church (Daniel Roscia – clarinet and Rosanna Rolton - harp)
Monday 21 October	8.00 pm	Fellowship & Study Group in the committee room
Friday 25 October	3.00 pm	Tea at Three in the parish hall
Saturday 26 October	7.30 pm	Amici Voices Concert in church

November 2019

Sunday 3 November	4.00 pm	Faith and Light in the parish hall
Sunday 10 November	3.00 pm	Coffee Concert (Terence Charlston – organ & chamber organ)
Wednesday 13 November	8.15 pm	Standing committee
Saturday 16 November	7.30 pm	Lea Singers Concert in church
Thursday 28 November	8.15 pm	PCC Meeting
Friday 29 November	3.00 pm	Tea at Three in the parish hall



Services at St John's

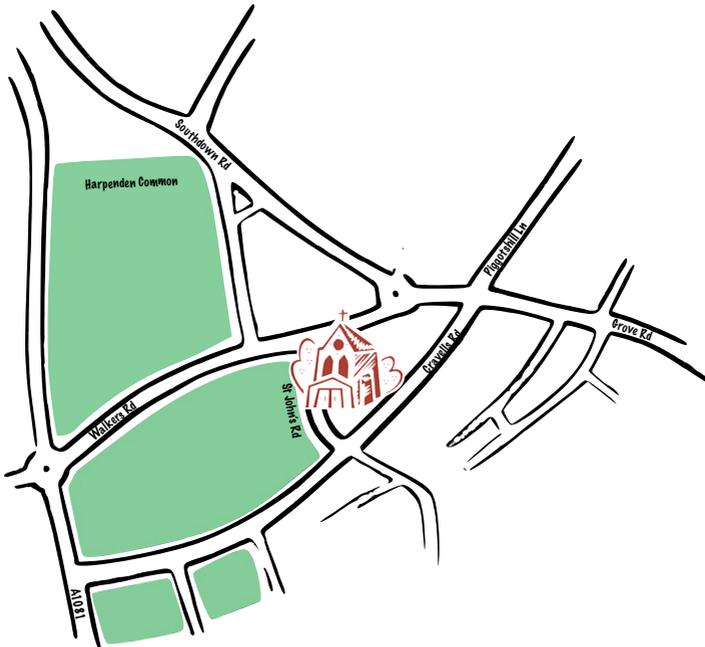
Sunday

- 8.00 am Said Eucharist
- 9.30 am Parish Eucharist followed by coffee time in the hall
All-Age Eucharist, *normally first Sunday of the month*
- 9.30 am Junior Church, *except for All-Age Eucharists,*
and Little Gems in the hall
- 11.30 am Holy Baptism, *last Sunday of the month*
- 6.30 pm Evening Worship

Wednesday

- 9.30 am Said Eucharist

Major festivals advertised when appropriate in the magazine



PARISH OFFICE

For enquiries, including marriages, baptisms, funerals and hall bookings, please contact the parish office open from Monday 9am to 5:30pm and Wednesday to Friday 9:30am to 1:30pm.

Telephone: 01582 712776
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