The background of the entire page is a vibrant blue, decorated with numerous pink cherry blossoms. Each flower has five petals and a cluster of yellow stamens in the center. The blossoms are scattered across the page, with some appearing to be on dark, thin branches. The overall aesthetic is bright and cheerful, typical of spring.

st JOHN'S

Living God's Love

Parish Magazine
SPRING 2020

st JOHN'S

Living God's Love

*Spring 2020
in this issue*

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ADDRESS

St John's Church
5 St John's Road, Harpenden
Herts AL5 1DJ
www.stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

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magazine@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

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The Cross as the Tree of Life, Apse Mosaic, San Clemente Church, Rome c.1200 AD

Reconciling and healing

As human beings we constantly define who we are by expressing *who we are not*. We constantly look for difference, placing ourselves in the group (or ‘in the crowd’) we know, and placing that which we don’t know or understand in the ‘other’ group. Research seems to show it’s an in-built survival mechanism – a base instinct to keep us safe as we evolved into the humans we are today. It is also the root of lots of problems we see in society globally today. It is also at the heart of

the persecution of others due to age, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexuality, the list goes on... It is at the heart of the divide that this nation has seen surrounding our exit from the European Union. The word ‘Brexit’ might be out of the headlines now because the Prime Minister has managed to ‘Get Brexit Done’, but the repercussions of this event and the deep divisions highlighted in the country by the initial vote are far from over; reconciliation and healing are still required.

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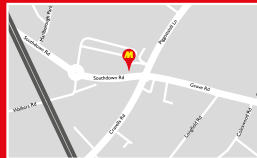
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So the question arises: when it comes to reconciliation and healing, on any level – from the personal to the (inter)national – where do we begin? I'd like to suggest that Christian tradition and experience has something to contribute to this debate, irrespective of whether you're a person of faith or not. The Jewish (and Christian) scriptures say that humankind (irrespective of gender) is made in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1.27). Whether or not you believe this, the truth is that fundamentally all human beings are alike – we are not alien species to each other; we are all driven by the same biology and the same psychology; driven by the same passions and the same desires and needs. We have far more in common than not, and holding onto this truth is the first step in reconciliation and healing.

Christians throughout the world are about to enter the season of Lent, preparing themselves for Holy Week and Easter, when we remember Jesus' Passion – his death on the Cross and his Resurrection to new and eternal life. For Christians the Cross is a moment and a symbol of deep reconciliation; what to the world was a symbol of pain, isolation and death is transformed into a symbol of victory, transformation and new life in Jesus' Resurrection. Sometimes, therefore, the Cross is depicted as the Tree of Life (as in the c. 1200 AD mosaic in the Apse of the Church of San Clemente in Rome; pictured). For Christians, the Cross and Resurrection achieve a reconciliation between God and

humanity. They break down the barriers which previously kept us apart and therefore also aid us in our reconciliation and healing with each other, not just in our relationship with God.

There is another truth hidden in this Christian account of reconciliation which I think applies more generally. Namely that the barriers between us as humans are ones of our own creation. The Christian truth of the Cross and Resurrection is meant to help us to see that, to see that when we don't travel the paths of trying to understand each other, the roads grow dusty and clogged with debris from disuse. These barriers are artificial and if we took the time to travel the roads of understanding each other, we would realise that reconciliation and healing of differences have already begun, if we allow them to.

That doesn't mean that any of this is easy, that there isn't work to be done in healing the things that divide us. But it does remind us that the barriers, our perceived differences, are not insurmountable. Christians are reminded of this every time we embark upon the annual journey through Lent and Easter. There is good reason we mark these Church seasons roughly during the season of Spring each year, because as new life springs around us, we are reminded that hope is never lost and new life and healing is always to be found. ●

Berkeley Zych
Vicar

Churchwardens' Report

Spring is a changeable time that may become progressively warmer but can also deceive by occasionally delivering a cold, sharp shock. We look forward to longer days, yet the light of a single candle can also inspire and cheer; candlelight at several of our winter services contributed to a calm, prayerful ambience.

The Christmas season and the New Year, as for most people, have been busy at St. John's. A wide range of events and services has taken place since the beginning of December. A most enjoyable evening Advent service of carols and hymns, together with readings by members of the local community, and followed by refreshments, began the countdown to Christmas. Our Junior Church performed a thoughtful Nativity Play closely aligned to the theme of light, which has been a constant motif for many of our events. The Community Nine Lessons and Carols on the Sunday before Christmas was greatly enhanced by the uplifting choral works, sung by our choir, who, with our musical director, Roger Carter, provided us with consistently high standards of music. On Christmas Day, the 9.30am service was made even more special by some very talented young musicians whose efforts gilded the festive occasion.

Despite the persistent rain and the cold, nearly 130 people of all ages (and a dog or two) joined in the 'Walking to Bethlehem' event on Christmas Eve in the afternoon, which started by the Southdown Christmas tree. We pro-

gressed, with appropriate stops for the singing of carols and prayers, up to its culmination: a short service in the church. We must extend a very grateful thank you to Tony in the Carpenters' Arms, who provided us with refreshments at our scheduled stop (at the inn) where he made sure that there was room for all of us! On other evenings, a smaller group joined in an evening of beer and carol singing at The Engineer, and a hardy band of carol singers sang up and down Cravells Road to spread some further Christmas cheer. On the last Sunday of December there was a short family carol service in the afternoon, again followed by mulled wine and other seasonal refreshments. Thank you to all who helped with the provision of food and drink for the festive season. St. John's strives to be a most hospitable church in every respect!

Alongside the special events, there has been the continuous programme of prayers and services. Our church has looked amazingly beautiful as a result of the magnificent and imaginative floral decorations on a theme of white, green and silver designed by the Flower Guild; we thank them for the many hours of time, patience and skill that they have given and we have all appreciated the results. We are grateful to everyone who contributes to the church: many individuals are well-known as they have a public face, such as the ministry team, but many work behind the scenes to keep the church clean and in good repair and the grounds looking neat as well as

working to maintain everything that is needed for the services and to support our ministry to the congregation and the local community.

Looking ahead, the campaign to raise funds for our new parish centre is a major priority as we move through the next few years. This will be an exciting project to renew and develop our facilities, both for church and community use. It is an ambitious undertaking but we are confident in its realisation, as the community demonstrated when they built the current church. Interestingly, the previous church building, known as 'paper church' and situated at the corner of Crabtree Lane and Southdown Road, burned down on New Year's Eve 1905. Funds were raised by the community and the building of St. John's was completed, all within three years. Over 110

years later, we continue to benefit from the selfless example of previous generations - an example that perhaps should be reflected in an aspiration for us today.

During Lent, which begins on 26 February, there will be a number of additional services and discussion groups to prepare for the next great church festival of Easter. After Easter, we then look forward to holding our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) after the 9:30 Eucharist on Sunday 19 April in the church hall. Please look at the dates and details of our activities, and come and join us at some, or all of them. You will be most welcome!

James Hillman

Jane Donati

Churchwardens

Parish registers

Baptisms

Welcome to the family of God

27 October 2019

Harry Alexander Marriott

17 November 2019

Elodie Jennifer Pitman

24 November 2019

Ivy Florence Stott Soul

8 December 2019

Annabel Catherine Phillips

12 January 2020

Matilda Jean Chambers

Marriages

Joined by God

There were no weddings in this period

Funerals in Church

May they rest in peace

5 November 2019

Anthony Whittaker

7 January 2020

Margaret Ruth Sampson

Not Giving Up for Lent

We remember the idea of wilderness during Lent.

40 days of Lent. 40 days of Jesus tested in the wilderness. 40 years of the liberated people of Israel wandering the wilderness before entering the promised land.

‘Wilderness’ might conjure up many different things for us. Perhaps dry, lifeless desert land in need of revitalisation and renewal. Perhaps it makes us think of a wild condition, of the flourishing natural world in the absence of human domination.

Either would be a rich vein to tap as we consider our role in the world. Much of the earth is deathly and desert-like, much in the deathly grip of human misuse.

For many the present climate crisis is devastating. For many more the future looks terrifying.

Droughts are already ruinous for small scale agricultural South American families. Bushfires have raged across Australia killing well over a billion wild animals and emitting extraordinary levels of carbon into the atmosphere. Ice caps melting at unprecedented rates leading to the loss of habitat and the rising of sea levels. All the while companies

green-wash their efforts and governments make misleading promises.

Whatever wilderness metaphor we use for this time, it would be tempting to simply give up for Lent.

The wisdom of the old book tells us that hope is an anchor for the soul (Hebrews 6.19). The deepest parts of ourselves are held steady by hope.

This hope doesn’t come from the occasional good news story, rather it comes from knowing that we are part of a bigger story.

God promises that all things will be renewed. Christians look forward with hope for the day when all shall be well; when every tear is wiped away, when all shall live in harmony and joy, knowing the reality of God’s goodness.

Is this pie in the sky? Wishful thinking? Escapist nonsense?

Not if it inspires us to love what God loves and to join in to create a better kind of world, all the while trusting that the ultimate trajectory of everything is towards the God of love.

It is not our job to save the world but to savour the Saviour and join in with joy.



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10 - 16 MAY 2020

America, Iran, Australia, the EU, Hong Kong - but when do we ever hear news from Africa? Very rarely! Do the people who live there not matter? Fortunately, as far as Christian Aid is concerned, they matter very much!

Last year, Christian Aid Week (CAW) focussed its appeal on the plight of women in Sierra Leone, the world's most dangerous place to become a mum. The red envelope featured a photograph of Jebbeh, very heavily pregnant (which some people found unsettling) who feared that, like her sister, she would die giving birth. The good news is that, thanks to Christian Aid, Jebbah has since given birth safely to a healthy baby boy! Her community have come together to build a new health centre in her village, equipped with maternity beds and solar power to help women give birth at night.

This year, the annual CAW appeal is devoted to helping poor and margin-



alised rural communities in Kenya adapt to climate change and related disasters. Christian Aid believes that unjust power relations are at the centre of poverty.

The people of Harpenden have always generously supported CAW - last year we raised the magnificent sum of £16,965 (including Gift Aid). We very much hope that we can be as successful this CAW (10-16 May). Each of us can play our part, by volunteering as collectors and/or by responding as generously as possible when that red envelope pops through the letter box. Remember - we really can make a difference to the lives of some of the poorest people in the world!

Progress update - our new Parish Centre

A transformational project for the church and the community of Southdown.

Since planning permission was granted for our new Parish Centre in September 2019, we have been focussing our energies on the next phase of this ambitious project. The launch of our fundraising campaign will begin with a celebratory launch party on Saturday 29 February in the church hall from 5.30-6.30pm. You and your friends and family are warmly invited to join us for drinks and canapés as we share the vision for the



new parish centre in the company of the Bishop of St Albans and the Town Mayor of Harpenden. Plans and architectural images will be available, and the team will be on hand to answer your questions. Come along to find out all about this exciting next step on our journey together.

We look forward to seeing you there!
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Confirmation is a special church service in which a person confirms the promises that were made when they were baptised. It can be a very special part of a lifetime journey of faith as a follower of Jesus Christ. If you were baptised at a christening when you were a child, your parents and godparents made promises on your behalf. Later in life, you may be ready to affirm these promises for yourself and commit your life to following Jesus Christ. At a confirmation service, you make these promises for yourself. Your friends and family as well as the local Christian community will be there to promise to support and pray for you.

There will be a confirmation service at St John's on

17 May, 6.30pm

If you are interested in being part of this or if you have any questions about God, Jesus and the journey of faith, then please get in touch with Berkeley at vicar@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

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 All Age Services, see separate list below)

We begin in the church building and move to the hall for the session

 Junior Church St Johns Harpenden



All-Age Services

Specially designed services that are suitable for all;
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with a child-friendly take on the Communion service

Sun 22 March, 9.30am - Mothering Sunday

An opportunity to give thanks for all those who are and have been
mothering figures in our lives.

Sun 5 April, 9.30am - Palm Sunday

Starting on the green in Southdown, we retell the story of Jesus'
triumphant entry into Jerusalem before the events which led to the Cross

Sun 3 May, 9.30am - Jesus the Shepherd

Jesus describes himself as the shepherd, the one who knows each of our
voices, and will help us find good and safe pasture. We'll reflect together
what this means for us today.

Christenings at St John's



The birth of a baby is a wonderful, life-changing and life-enhancing moment, which we rightly want to celebrate with family and friends. Everyone is welcome to have their child christened in their parish church. Even if you no longer live in this parish but have a previous connection with us – maybe you were christened here yourself – you are welcome to return to St John's for your own baby to be christened.

During the christening service your child will be baptised and, with the support of the church community, parents and godparents, they begin an amazing journey of faith.

Families are helped in the preparation for christenings, including an evening shared with other families going through the same steps.



For more information or to talk about having your child christened, please get in touch with us at parishoffice@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

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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



Jesus, when all is darkness and we feel our weakness and helplessness, give us the sense of Your presence, Your love and Your strength. Help us to have perfect trust in Your protecting love and strengthening power, so that nothing may frighten or worry us, for, living close to You, we shall see Your hand, Your purpose, Your will through all things.

(a prayer of Ignatius of Loyola, quoted in *God on Mute* by Pete Greig, Kingsway Publishing, 2007, p.86)

Lent and Holy Week at St John's 2020

Ash Wednesday 26 February

9.30am Holy Communion

8.00pm Sung Eucharist

Both services have the opportunity to receive the imposition of ashes as we begin the journey of Lent.

Soup Lunches

12.30pm Thursdays in St John's Church

Simple soup lunch with short reflection and good company.

Voluntary financial donations to Foodbank.

**5 March, 12 March (preceded by 12noon Holy Communion in the Lady Chapel),
19 March, 26 March, 2 April**

Study groups

Exploring the Parables of Jesus

Running for five weeks beginning 2 / 3 March. Same content runs at two alternative times and locations. Feel free to join either.

Monday 8pm at St John's Church Hall

Tuesday 3pm at Southdown Methodist Church

Compline

This simple and beautiful service of night prayer takes place in the Lady Chapel at St John's.

Mondays 9pm (The study group will finish in time to do both, should you choose)

Holy Week

Palm Sunday 5 April

8am Holy Communion

9.30am All-Age Parish Eucharist, with commemoration of the Lord's entry into Jerusalem with the blessing of palms and the Passion story from Matthew's Gospel.

This service begins on the green in Southdown with St John's Church and Methodists Southdouth joining for a procession to St John's. For those who cannot walk that distance, the service will begin in church at the same time, with reading of the palm gospel and a period of quiet reflection.

6.30pm Special evening service of prayers and readings as we begin Holy Week.

Holy Monday 6 April

8pm Stations of the Cross

Holy Tuesday 7 April

8pm A shared evening service with Southdown Methodists

Holy Wednesday 8 April

9.30am Holy Communion

8pm Taizé style worship

Maundy Thursday 9 April

11am Chrism Eucharist at St Albans Cathedral

8pm Sung Eucharist commemorating the Last Supper, including foot washing and the Watch following the service. Feel free to drop in and out of the watch until midnight.

Good Friday 10 April

10.00am **All-Age service** – joint with the Southdown Methodists. Begins on the green in Southdown (Particularly suitable for children)

12noon-3pm **Three hours devotion.**

12noon - 2pm: **‘Wellspring in the Wilderness’** - a collection of songs, poems and paintings created by Malcolm Guite, Adam Boutler, and James Christie Brown, reflecting on the spirituality of the wilderness. Drawing on themes from the times of the Bible and thereafter, they explore how the fresh springs of life can be found in the driest of places.

2pm – 3pm: **‘Liturgy of the Cross’** - time to reflect upon the Passion of Jesus, including the traditional Veneration of the Cross, when we contemplate all that Jesus has done for us through his willing embrace of the Cross, which lead to his death and subsequent resurrection. Feel free to drop in and out of the three hours.

Easter Sunday 12 April

5.30am **Sunrise service.** Begin on the common opposite the church. Followed by breakfast.

8am **Holy Communion**

9.30am **Parish Eucharist followed by Easter egg hunt**

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Getting to know the congregation

An interview with Andrew Harbord

How long have you lived in the area?

I've lived here since 1998, so that's just over 20 years. Funnily enough, I did actually grow up here as well, so you can in fact add another seven years to that. I went to school in St Albans, then away to uni, came back and lived and worked in London. When our children were born, we came to Harpenden. So this is now my second stint!

And what do you do now in the area?

I work quite a lot from home in sales; it's for an IT company, so I do a bit of travelling and a bit at home which is good. But in terms of hobbies I sing bass and do that in the St Albans Bach Choir and also the Imperial Male Voice Choir. And I guess since I've been here so long I just feel at home. I also like walking and cycling, too.

And how are you involved in St John's?

Funnily enough, way back when I was a boy, I sang in the church choir with Roger Carter and when I came back to church for that second stint, I was encouraged to join. So I sang in the choir and of course Roger Carter was still there! All the time I've been here I've always sung in the church choir. I've also been on a few other rotas, which I sometimes struggle to keep up with!

I came back to church partly because I had children and partly because I felt a kind of need for something more in my life. You know, I'd been at university and probably didn't really go anywhere near a church at all and found that when I came

back it was just as special as it was before.

You say you felt a kind of need for something more, is that something you've now found?

Well, yes, and it's about being able to see another channel, if you like, in our world. I spend a lot of time in the commercial world, which can be quite hard nosed, about economics and so on, and there's a moral side to life that is quite often ignored. There is also a feeling of being part of the universe and connecting. It is almost like we're talking about higher thoughts, and they sometimes feel like they're higher thoughts, but in reality they're everywhere. And so for me faith is about how you deal with strangers, your family, the people that you love, and being in a much more connected world rather than always just being an individual just gathering what you can for yourself. ●





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Venue: High Street Methodist Church, Harpenden, 7.30 pm, on Saturday 4 April.

Tickets £17, £15 concession, £8 students and children, available from Maria 07947 800153, at www.ticketsource.co.uk/musicmakers or on the door.

Join us for refreshments afterwards. Visit our website for further details about our choir: www.musicmakerschoir.wordpress.com.

Coffee Concerts

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Sat 18th April, 10.30am

Roger Carter gives a recital for National Organ Day.

Sat 16th May, 10.30am

Timothy Easter, organist.

Sat 27th June, 10.30am

Roger Carter gives an organ recital as part of the Cultivate Arts Festival

st JOHN'S





Building Hope and Confidence

Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul
And sings the tune without the words
And never stops - at all.

And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard
And sore must be the storm
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm -

I've heard it in the chilliest land
And on the strangest sea
Yet - never - in Extremity
It asked a crumb - of me.'

Emily Dickinson

'Building Hope and Confidence' is the Mothers' Union theme for 2020 and has been placed at the heart of the Mothers' Union call to support individuals and families. If we build our hope and confidence in God and nurture our faith we will be better placed to inspire and support others, in both a local and global context.

Helen Keller, author, political activist and lecturer, said, 'Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.'

Meeting together every first Wednesday

in the month in the committee room, we pray together, we learn together, we talk together and in so doing we strengthen our faith. We have all been given special gifts by God, talents, skills, aptitudes, abilities. This year Mothers' Union is asking all members to think about the gifts they have been given. Are we using these gifts to enrich the lives of others, to support those we know who are in need, to bear witness to our faith so that others are aware of the love of God?

For some members the call is easily answered, for others it is difficult to step forward and say, 'I can offer my time, my enthusiasm, my talent, small as it is.' Which is why we are also being asked to support each other, to put our trust in God and through prayer and determination to build our confidence and the confidence of others so that amazing things may be achieved.

Christopher Robin said, 'Always remember you are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem and smarter than you think.'

In Zambia Mothers' Union teaches women how to plant pumpkins for their families to eat during years of poor harvest. They are shown how to dry the leaves to sell. With this income and growing confidence the women are able to set up small businesses, such as baking, and are able to send their children to school. In South Sudan Mothers' Union teaches illiterate women to read and write so that they have the confidence to improve their lives. In the Democratic Republic of Congo prisoners in the overcrowded jails are taught to read and write and taught skills such as bread making and gardening, so when they are released they will be able to make a life for themselves and their families. In this country, Mothers' Union provides holidays

which allow families to spend quality time together, to restore relationships when families are at breaking point. These are just some examples of the amazing work carried out by Mothers' Union in over 80 countries across the world, bringing hope in the name of Christ.

Here at St John's we support this work through prayer, fundraising and practical action in our local area. We have 33 members in our branch at St John's, all proud to

be active members of this brilliant organisation. We welcome guests at our meetings and we are always delighted when new members join us.

'All these [gifts] are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.'
Corinthians 12:11 (ESV)

Carol Cooke



Do Nothing for Lent

Lots of us approach Lent with the same attitude as New Year's resolutions. We ask ourselves, what shall I give up or what can I do to improve myself? Quite often the answer seems to be some form of deprivation, no chocolate or wine perhaps, or some equally unattainable goal of increased activity or betterment – 'I'll go to the gym three times a week' or 'I'll read a whole book of the Bible every day'. All of these are very worthy and if you manage to maintain them for the whole of Lent, well done. I'm going to suggest something a bit different though. How about doing nothing?

Of course, I don't mean to suggest that for six weeks you do absolutely nothing - there are jobs to go to, families to look af-

ter, school work to complete, dogs to walk – the list is endless and that is the point. Life is very full, it's demanding, busy and incredibly fast paced.

We just don't stop and allow ourselves the time to be still and do nothing, to be fully in the present and in the moment, with no looking back to the past or planning for the future.

*'A poor life this if full of care we
have no time to stop and stare'*
W H Davies

Richard Rohr, the inspirational American author and Franciscan friar, reminds us that the only time that Jesus talks of the future, he tells his disciples not to

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worry about it and when he speaks of the past, it is often in language of forgetting it, for the past is forgiven. Jesus certainly advocated living in the moment. There are 1703 occurrences of the word 'now' in the Bible compared with 68 appearances of 'tomorrow'.

Can we and do we want to experience the present? Is it something we might fear – does busyness prevent painful reflection? If we did nothing and at the end of the day had no tangible evidence of productivity, would we fear that our day might be considered 'a waste of time'?

Making the conscious choice to live in the present, to actively do nothing, requires and enables us to pay attention to the tiny details that often pass us by in a flash and yet are the things which can transform mere existence into a life of richness and joy. If we can't press the 'pause' button on life and immerse ourselves in the present, we will miss so much: a child's excited chatter, the smell of a brushed lavender bush, the warmth of the sun on our skin. We also need to stop to feel the sadness and brokenness of life, to shed tears and process difficult emotions.

Lent and Advent are the two periods in the church calendar earmarked for reflection and preparation for the festivals they precede. Whereas Advent is a rush of parties and present-buying, Lent is longer and quieter. Commercialisation only runs riot in the chocolate egg department, there aren't masses of social occasions nor endless lists of things to buy. It can be a time of gentle abstinence or of specific activity.

'People say nothing's impossible, but I do nothing every day.'

Winnie the Pooh

So, this Lent, why not try carving out a small space each day in which to do nothing, maybe even get to know God a bit better in that time, become aware of him in the life that surrounds you by using all your senses. Let go of the past, stop worrying about the future, rest in the peace of God who knows all our thoughts. Being fully in the present can enable us to encounter the presence of God's Spirit working within us and it can help us to find an inner peace and contentedness.

'... if we have no hope of being at peace with ourselves in our personal loneliness and silence.... we will keep running and never stop.'

Thomas Merton

Christ died on the cross for us and in his risen life we have new life, a precious gift that we are commanded to enjoy to the full. To have any hope of achieving that, we need to stop and look and breathe in what is all around us. Perhaps Lent is a good time to introduce this new regime, allowing ourselves space in which to do nothing but simply acknowledge and thank God for the wonder of life, the amazing richness of 'now'. ●

Emma Bresslaw

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Glaze Time

Pottery painting for everyone

Drop in and create something special...

- * capture your baby's footprint for their grandparents / you to treasure
- * let your little ones express themselves avoiding the mess at home!

Weekly (term time only) at:

The Skew Bridge, Southdown Rd, Harpenden

Tuesday 2.00-4.00pm

Inn on the Green*, Leyton Rd, Harpenden

Wednesday 11.00-1.00pm

Park Cafe, Leyton Rd, Harpenden

Thursday 2.00-4.00pm



Like to know more about Glaze Time? (m) 07958 324520

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* sessions run here during school holidays



Building on the joy and success of the previous two town-wide Cultivate arts festivals, we present the date and theme for this summer.

Cultivate Connections 16-28 June 2020



Cultivate
ARTS FESTIVAL

St John's will be focussing its events in the second week of the festival, leading up to our Patronal Festival on the 28th June.

Look out for more details to come.

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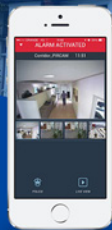
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Last Friday of the month, 3pm
St John's Hall, St Johns Road, Harpenden



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



Second Thursday of the month
St John's Church, St Johns Road, Harpenden

12noon Holy Communion
12.30pm Soup lunch

Come and enjoy a light lunch of homemade soup
Informal atmosphere and relaxing company

Why not come for sustenance for the soul
at the communion service beforehand too?



All Welcome!

Need a lift to either? Contact Margaret • (01582) 762651

Forthcoming events

February 2020

Sunday 2 February	3.45 pm	Faith and Light in the parish hall
Wednesday 5 February	7.30 pm	Mothers' Union Branch meeting
Thursday 6 February	1.30 pm	Little Acorns in the parish hall
Sunday 16 February	6.30 pm	Amici Voices performance in church
Thursday 13 February	12.30 pm	Soup4the Soul
Thursday 13 February	1.30 pm	Little Acorns in the parish hall
Tuesday 25 February	5.00 pm	Church Pancake party in the parish hall
Wednesday 26 February		Ash Wednesday
Thursday 27 February	1.30 pm	Little Acorns in the parish hall
Friday 28 February	3.00 pm	Tea at Three in the parish hall
Saturday 29 February	5.30 pm	Project Phoenix Fund-raising launch in the parish hall

March 2020

Sunday 1 March	3.45 pm	Faith and Light in the parish hall
Wednesday 4 March	7.30 pm	Mothers' Union Branch meeting
Thursday 5 March	1.30 pm	Little Acorns in the parish hall
Thursday 12 March	12.30 pm	Soup4theSoul
Thursday 12 March	1.30 pm	Little Acorns in the parish hall
Thursday 12 March	8.00 pm	Baptism preparation evening
Thursday 19 March	1.30 pm	Little Acorns in the parish hall
Wednesday 25 March	9.30 am	Mothers' Union Lady Day Service
Thursday 26 March	1.30 pm	Little Acorns in the parish hall
Friday 27 March	3.00 pm	Tea at Three in the parish hall

April 2020

Wednesday 1 April	7.30 pm	Mothers' Union Branch meeting
Thursday 2 April	1.30 pm	Little Acorns in the parish hall
Sunday 5 April	3.45 pm	Faith and Light in the parish hall
Saturday 18 April	10.30 am	Coffee Concert in church
Thursday 23 April	1.30 pm	Little Acorns in the parish hall
Friday 24 April	3.00 pm	Tea at Three in the parish hall
Thursday 30 April	1.30 pm	Little Acorns in the parish hall

TODDLER GROUP



Little Acorns

All toddlers and their carers are welcome to drop in at this fun, friendly, supportive, group.

Little Acorns has had a good term, hosting up to 12 children. We are always looking to welcome more guests so please come and join us.

We have enhanced our extensive toy collection, with some stickle bricks and mega blocks. Each week we have toys, singing and healthy snacks for children, and hot drinks for adults.

Occasionally, however, we have special activities for festive days.

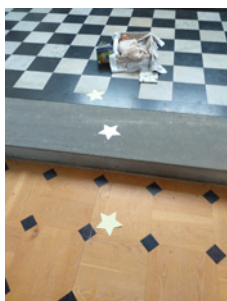


At harvest we had a wonderful time together, sharing stories and looking at different fruits from around the world. We talked about how God sends the sun and rain to make the fruits grow.

At Christmas, we followed the stars into the church to find the baby Jesus.

Leaving the hall, we walked around the church and into the building. As we entered, one little boy exclaimed, 'WOW!' Once inside the beautiful church building, we found the baby Jesus, who had left a present for all children, which told the story of the first Christmas.

Our next special activity will be on Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day. We shall be having Pancake races on 27th February, with a medal for every child who takes part.



Little Acorns meets every Thursday from 1.30 to 2.45 in term time. It is open to all parents, grandparents, carers, and nannies with children from 0-4. We meet in St John's Church Hall, St John's Road, Southdown, Harpenden AL5 1DJ. You are welcome to come along any Thursday in term time.



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 in the hall, *except for All-Age Eucharists*
- 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.

Julie Birkett

Telephone: 01582 712776
parish.office@
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Parish Directory

VICAR

Revd Dr Berkeley Zych

Telephone: 01582 469343
vicar@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

CURATE

Revd James Brown

Telephone: 07813 464643
james@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

ASSISTANT PRIEST

Revd Julia White

READERS

Lauryn Awbrey

Telephone: 01582 624823
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