

The Ship

St Jude's Church, Englefield Green Newsletter

Anglicans and Methodists working together

Number 137

November 2021

Harvest Thanksgiving

We are grateful to everyone who helped to decorate St Jude's for our October Harvest Celebration. We would like to thank Homebase (Staines) for donating plants, Waitrose (Egham) for donating food items and all who contributed nonperishable food items. All food items have been taken to the Runnymede Food bank. Thank you to Geoff Chew who continues to collect and to deliver our regular donations to the Food Bank.

AV Appeal

The sound system in St Jude's has recently been upgraded in preparation for the installation of our own visual equipment. Once again, we owe especial gratitude to those who have generously supported our appeal. Thanks to you all we have almost reached our target and we hope to be in a position to progress this project in the near future.

Knitting Update

(although not so much nattering!)

Our Saturday "Knit and Natter" Group has been unable to meet since the beginning of the pandemic. However, fingers have not been still. We have received an update from Pat Summers on progress over these last months.

"During lockdown a lot of us have been very busy knitting items for 'Revive and Thrive', a charity which sends tools and knitted items to areas abroad where there is a need for them. Earlier this week, we delivered a car load to Mytchett Baptist Church which forwards these items. We were able to pass on 38 blankets, 81 hats, 80 jumpers, 30 teddies and a box of tools. These were gratefully received and will be sent abroad with their next consignment. Can I please encourage all our knitters to keep on knitting!!!"

We owe a "thank you" to all our knitters for their sterling work. We are also very grateful to both Pat and Brian Summers for ensuring that knitted goods are collected regularly and delivered to Mychett. We are grateful also to Di Fone who, whilst no longer living in Englefield Green, is still extremely supportive and involved in the work of the group. Thank you everyone for such an amazing contribution on behalf of us all.

Memories

I have reflected recently on the appeal of the acclaimed TV production "The Repair Shop". Such is its popularity that it has been elevated from daytime to primetime TV. Its format is deceptively simple. Participants bring to the team of expert craftsmen an object that holds a special place in their lives but which has been damaged or otherwise fallen prey to age and disrepair. The workmanship which goes into restoring these treasured possessions to their former glory is breathtaking in its skill. The patience and devotion shown by every individual working on the project are extraordinary. So too is their delight when the owner sees the magnificent transformation that has resulted from such loving labour. It is hard to watch the length of the programme without the occasional "teary" moment. Even I find it so.

But I wonder if there is something else which resonates so very deeply with us? Every item brought through the wide doors of the Repair Shop has a story. It may be a story of happily remembered times such as an idyllic childhood, now long gone. It may be a story of loss; even on one occasion the loss of an infant child, on another the loss of a father. Whatever the story, there seems to be in the restoration of a beloved possession a reconnection with memory in a way that brings both joy and peace. There is a sense of healing, of balance regained, even of hope renewed.

Perhaps that is what we need from the month of remembrance which November has become. The memories of war and multiple losses are painful beyond words. It is perhaps only in honouring the sacrifice of those who have died that we can make our own peace with all they relinquished for our sakes. With the passing years, the closest and most precious and vivid memories of the men and women who went out to war, grow fewer. But the connections are still there and with every recent conflict fresh connections grow.

November gives us space for all our memories. It begins with All Souls' Day, honouring the dead of every generation: those whose lives were lost in the service of others; those who battled with painful illness; those who lingered long; those who left us suddenly and without warning; those who tasted life only briefly, those whose years were remarkable for their length as well as their achievement.

On the 7th November this year I shall have the privilege of joining Father Chris Spain, of the Church of Our Lady of the Assumption, Englefield Green as we bless the graves of loved ones laid to rest in Englefield Green Cemetery. Please join us at Englefield Green Cemetery at 3pm as we acknowledge our memory, our loss and God's presence in our pain.

On 14th November we celebrate Armistice Day with simple, profound ceremonies of Remembrance across the village. We share those unique moments when silence falls. And in these challenging times, as we honour those who have died in battle, we cannot but remember those who have in much more recent months, given their lives in the battle with COVID 19. My heart goes out still, in a way that I cannot adequately put into words, to those of you who have lost your very dearest to this cruel and random virus. I believe God's heart breaks with yours.

On the night before he died Jesus shared a simple, yet profound, supper with his friends. As he broke bread with his disciples, and passed among them a cup of wine, he told them: "Do this in remembrance of me". Today for Christians everywhere the bread and the wine of communion still symbolise Jesus' broken body and outpoured blood. They reconnect us with his suffering and his death. In the regular sharing of them we find healing, forgiveness and peace. We understand afresh Jesus' words, so often quoted on Armistice Day: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13).

At the cross of Jesus, as at almost every human loss, love and sorrow meet. As we come to him, broken perhaps by the often hidden fractures of separation and grief, we pray that we may find in him, the master craftsman of our souls, renewal, healing, peace and even joy.

Judith Allford

Spotlight on our Schools

Inspired by St Jude, we pursue excellence in education, kindness in the community and courage through faith.

In preparing the new Vision Statement for St Jude's Church of England Infant and Junior Schools, we looked at what we know about the life of St Jude and at his writing. We know from his New Testament letter that Jude was a passionate contender for the truth, lobbying for sound teaching of the faith and a strong foundation of doctrine. "Excellence in Education" flowed easily from that.

The greeting at the head of his letter: "Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance" and the warm words at the end of his letter reveal him as a man of compassion and this is reflected in "Kindness in Community".

From the little that tradition teaches us about the life of St Jude we believe him to have travelled extensively after Jesus' resurrection and ascension, to share the message of the Gospel. We believe that with St Simon he eventually died a martyr's death: hence "Courage through Faith". For a child growing up in today's diverse society that faith may rest on the Gospel of Christ or on another world faith. It may rest too in a strong self-belief, which we would also pray for all our children.

Please keep in prayer all our village schools and those who lead and staff them

Readings at Communion

7th November Jonah 3. 1-5, 10 (3rd Sunday before Advent) Psalm 62. 5-end Hebrews 9. 24-end Mark 1. 14-20

14th November Daniel 12. 1–3 (2nd Sunday before Advent) Psalm 16

Hebrews 10.11-14, 19-25

Mark 13. 1-8

21st November Daniel 7. 9–10, 13–14 (Christ the King) Psalm 93 Revelation 1. 4b–8

John 18. 33-37

28th November Jeremiah 33. 14–16 (First Sunday of Advent) Psalm 25. 1–9 1 Thessalonians 3. 9–end

Luke 21. 25-36

From the Registers

Baptism: (10th October) Dorothy Pearl Gallop.

Marriage: (30th October) David Nicholas Lovell and Jennifer

Davy.

Funeral: (18th October) Frederick John Docwra.

The Village Centre

www.villagecentre.org.uk 01784 471110

We value your continuing support for our Village Centre, not least in these challenging times. Please do remember that our Café is open each weekday from 10am-2pm and regularly offers a variety of appetising drinks and snacks plus delicious daily specials. We are committed to remaining as COVID secure as we can and you will see that our café staff and volunteers continue to wear face coverings as they serve you.

We were hoping to be able to give news this month of an exciting development for the Centre. That has been subject to a small delay so please continue to watch this space!

Thank you to everyone who continues to contribute in different ways to the work of our major outreach projects, including our Baby Basics Charity, Community Fridge (which now has its own Project Manager — our wonderful chef, Huda!), Food bank collection point and Child Contact Centre. We are so grateful for all the support we receive.

As Christmas approaches we are getting busier with party bookings. If you are celebrating a child's birthday or another special family occasion please do get in touch. Our rates are reasonable and we shall do our best to accommodate you!

Please check our website or social media outlets for further information. Please contact Ali Watts, our Centre Manager, if you would like to make a booking or to offer help of some kind. Thank you all.

Christmas 2021

COVID 19 still casts its shadow and we are sadly aware that some of you have been personally affected by the virus even in recent weeks. We are busy planning our Christmas Services and hoping to hold most of them in Church this year. COVID cannot cancel Christmas! But it could mean that some of our bigger services may have to be at least partly on line. So please watch out for further details on our website and Facebook page, as well as in the next edition of this newsletter.

We look forward to celebrating with you the birth of our Saviour and Lord.

Easyfundraising.org.uk

Please do remember that if you register with easyfundraising.org.uk and select St Jude's Church, Englefield Green as your chosen charity, you can then shop online with many organisations (including Amazon, John Lewis, etc) and make money for St Jude's at the same time without costing you a penny.

Diary for November 2021

- 3 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 7 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Family Holy Communion in Church 3.00pm in Englefield Green Cemetery — Blessing of the Graves with the Revd Canon Chris Spain from the Church of the Assumption
- 10 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 14 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Holy Communion 10.45am Gathering at the War Memorials for the traditional observation of Remembrance Sunday with two minutes' silence
- 17 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 21 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Holy Communion
- 24 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 28 Advent Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Holy Communion

Please do check the St Jude's United Church Englefield Green YouTube Channel each Sunday. You will find that our services are either being live-streamed from 9.30am or that a pre-recorded Sunday reflection is provided for those who prefer to worship with us online.