



# The Ship

**St Jude's Church, Englefield Green Newsletter**

Anglicans and Methodists working together

Number 91

January 2018

## Community Concert of words and music

Saturday 6th January

4.00pm

St Jude's Church

Admission free

Donations welcome

You are invited to take part – musically or spoken word – items lasting between 3 and 4 minutes.

Please let Geoff Chew know  
(concert@stjudeschurch.info)



on Sunday 14th January  
(and on the **second Sunday** of each month)

in St Jude's Church

at 4.00pm

*Children should be accompanied  
by a parent*



Wednesday 10th January  
(and on the **second Wednesday** of each month)

The Village Centre

3.45 to 5.15pm

Art and craft – Bible story  
Singing – Sharing a meal

## Happy New Year

Here we are the Christmas lights put away, the decorations coming down for another year and the Winter is still with us. But, we greet each other with the words "Happy New Year" with the fervent wish it will be one. It is a quiet period as we recover from the festivities and cut down on our eating after all that rich food. Perhaps it could be a time of reflection when we ask ourselves 'what will this new year actually be like?' How much can I do to make it a better one than last year, even if it was a good one, or if it wasn't so good, then it could get better.

For us at St Jude's we are also in a quiet period. A week ago we were celebrating God coming to earth as a baby and the wonder of that great occasion and the meaning behind it, but now it seems a long way to our next very big celebration Easter. No Easter eggs have appeared as yet in the shop! For us too it is a time of reflection weighing up the two, God coming to earth and God on the cross. In the middle we have Jesus' teachings on God loving the world so much, each individual, amazing! Jesus gave us two Commands 'Love God with all our being, and our neighbour as ourselves.' The first one I am sure many people are hardly aware of but the second you do see in action in the world, when appeals are put out for relief for earthquake, famine victims or homeless refugees of war.

But what about the first one? God is often called upon in emergency, especially in times of national crises and also at times when we as individuals can see no way out of a bad situation. We believe he does draw near and help, give strength and surround us with his love. However when that time is over we can forget and go our separate ways, 'Life goes on', we say. Yet, ask anyone who has experienced God's love and kindness they say it is never to be forgotten and now they cannot live without it. For them Jesus' first command comes quite naturally and hopefully the second follows on as it should.

The New Year is a time for a check up on our lives, where are we going in our relationships, attitudes, values even our physical lifestyle. We all make New Year's resolutions and endeavour to keep them up, but this could be something deeper and long lasting, a time to reflect, a time to wonder. A moments pause in a busy life of work, family and social time, just take stock.

For some it might be as basic as 'is there a God?' For others the answer is 'yes, but how do I see him?' The celebration of Christmas spoke of God coming to earth in the form of a baby, to become a man and eventually to die on a cross and rise again to return to heaven. That is a big step to take in faith, but many over the centuries up to today have taken that step and never looked back. What if it is true? Does it merit research in a busy life? God is wanting us to be open and is willing to meet us half way. He does not force us but, leaves it up to us, that is way of showing he loves us.

Jesus said, "Ask, and it will be given you, search, and you will find, knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone searches finds, and everyone who knocks the door will be opened." *Matthew 7 v7.*

Could this be a late Christmas present? A lifetime New Year's resolution?

Happy New Year!

Roy Gouriet

## All-Age Service

Why not consider coming to our informal worship services at 11.15am on the last Sunday of each month? These are short (usually little more than half an hour). There's a short child-friendly talk, and children can play percussion instruments during the singing. Refreshments are available from about 10.45am. The next one will be on Sunday 28th January. Traidcraft goods will be available before the service. The service is followed by a pot luck lunch.

## Christmas Tree

We extend a special thank you to Mr Nigel Long of Longacres, Bagshot for a generous discount towards the Christmas Tree which we decorated and displayed in St Jude's.

## The New Year

And I said to the one who stood at the gate of the year "Give me a light that I may walk safely into the unknown." And the reply came back: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That will be better for you than a light and safer than a known way."

## Christmas at St Jude's Church

We were delighted to welcome so many people to St Jude's Church for the Crib Service on Christmas Eve.

Many thanks to those who helped decorate the church and those who provided refreshments after the services.

Sadly too few people turned up for the Carol Singing so it didn't happen but donations for the Children's Society still came in and will enable us to send more than last year. If you would like to add to this amount, please contact the Treasurer for details of our bank (treasurer@stjudeschurch.info).

## St Jude's School

We were very pleased to welcome the staff and children from St Jude's School to their Carol Service in Church on 18th December.

## 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 and make money for St Jude's without costing you a penny.

## 2018 Concerts

The first concert on the new year is a Community Concert and will take place on Saturday 6th January. There may still be space for you to take part – musically or spoken word. Please let Geoff Chew know as soon as possible.

3 February	Anna Ryland-Jones, 'cello, and Louis Perera, piano
3 March	Corinna Boylan (chamber group)
7 April	Geoff Chew (piano)
5 May	James Kirby's students (piano)
2 June	Vox Mundi (ladies' international choir)
7 July	Emilio Casco and Rocío Herrera (Mexican concert)
4 August	James Webb (piano)
1 September	Keep the Home Fires Burning – Wind and Words (about WWI)
6 October	River City Saxes
3 November	James Kirby, piano

## Diary for January

- 3 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion (said)
- 6 Saturday **The Epiphany** 4.00pm Community Concert – admission free – donations welcome
- 7 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Holy Communion (Methodist service) 6.30pm Taizé service
- 10 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion (said) 3.45–5.15pm Messy Family Fun in the Village Centre
- 14 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist 4.00pm Messy Church 6.30pm Evensong and Sermon
- 17 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion (said)
- 18 Thursday Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins
- 21 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist
- 24 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion (said)
- 25 Thursday 8.00pm Church Council meets
- 28 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist 11.15am Informal All-age service 12.15pm Lunch
- 31 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion (said)

All events take place at St Jude's Church unless otherwise stated

The Church is open every Saturday 2-4pm for tea and a chat

## The Village Centre (01784 471110)

The Village Centre has now been open for seven years and it continues to grow from strength to strength. The building is now booked, virtually every day, for regular events and provides a real variety of activities such as exercise and slimming classes, karaoke, a dementia support group, pre-school French lessons and of course ballet and dance. For full details please see our website:

[www.villagecentre.org.uk](http://www.villagecentre.org.uk)

The 'Friends of the Village Centre' scheme is progressing well, but if you would like to be involved in supporting us financially please give Jayne, the manager a call. We are always looking for more volunteers, so if you have at least two hours a week to spare let us know.

## Computer Room

Our volunteers are available Monday–Thursday 9am to 12noon (10 to 12 in school holidays) and they can help you with lots of issues such as using the internet, getting on line, CVs, laptop issues, tablets, iphones etc. Why not come and learn some new skills; only £2.50 which includes a free tea or coffee.

## Our new 9.30am Sunday service

St Jude's Church has introduced a new service of Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month. This is intended to be more relaxed and child-friendly, livelier, and shorter, than our usual 9.30am services, and rather in the style of our all-age services at 11.15am on the last Sunday of each month.

We think it important that all our families with children, including those who currently come to our 11.15 services and to Messy Church, should have regular access to a Communion service in which they will feel comfortable. It will be led by our Methodist minister, Andrew Reed, and will be based on a Methodist form of service. Do come, and bring children of any age!

## From the Registers

*Holy Matrimony:*

(25th November) Callum Robertson and Sarah Dolan; (29th December) Daniel Brewer and Janet Hopkins.

*Funerals:*

(11th October) Bernard Agars; (2nd November) Mary Hopkins; (5th December) Maurice Brugère, (18th) Doreen Sturt.

*Memorial Service:*

(30th October) Helen Lewington