



The Pews News

United benefice of Shenstone & Stonnall

“Time for us to come together”

Life can be busy, and weeks can rush by – but God calls us to pause, gather, and be with one another. Church is more than a building; it's a family where we worship, share, and grow together in faith. Let's come together, lift our voices in praise, and encourage one another in God's love.



Sunday 31st August 2025

| | St John the Baptist | St Peter's |
|----------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 9.30am | No Early Birds | |
| 10.45am | No morning service | Joint Benefice service All welcome |

Collect

God of glory,
the end of our searching,
help us to lay aside
all that prevents us from seeking your kingdom,
and to give all that we have
to gain the pearl beyond all price,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen

Sunday 7th September 2025

| | St John the Baptist | St Peter's |
|----------------|--|--|
| 9.30am | Early Birds Meet in the community hall for light Breakfast | |
| 10.45am | Morning worship Led by Alan Bateman | Service of Holy Communion Rev Jonathan Iddon |
| 6.30pm | Shenstone library Our launch night – By the River Rev Jonathan Iddon All welcome | |

Time for Prayer

Prayer for World Peace

Lord, we ask for your Almighty intervention in all the war-torn areas of our world. In particular UKRAINE & RUSSIA. We ask that your Holy Spirit is present when World Leaders meet to bring an end to these conflicts and your will overpowers the will of leaders. We Pray for your Peace to reign in their hearts.

Prayer for Rev. Jonathan Iddon

Please pray for Rev. Jonathan Iddon as he continues his ministry here in Shenstone and Stonnall. Pray also for his family as they settle into their new home in the Village. We also pray for our congregation as they support and walk alongside him. Help us to be a strong community of encouragement, unity and grace. May we work together to share Your love, deepen our faith, and serve our churches and the wider communities.

- We pray for our Church, our Bishops and Clergy.
- We pray for our churches, St Peter's and St John the Baptist. We pray for Rev Jonathan Iddon as he continues his ministry within our united benefice, we ask that the Lord guide and strengthen our Ministry teams, Church Wardens, and PCC members in his work.
- We pray for King Charles and for all the Royal family.
- We hold in prayer those members of our church family who are caring for loved ones at home, in hospital or in residential care.
- We pray for those known to us who are ill, and we particularly hold in prayer Di Gavan.
- We pray for Val Neale.
- We pray for those who are undergoing medical tests and awaiting results.
- We pray for calm and peace as we read and listen to stories in the news and help us to discern the truth.
- We pray for the people of Ukraine as the war there continues, and all those in countries of unrest and dispute.
- We pray for the people of Israel and Gaza, we pray for civilians, for aid workers, for all impacted by this war.
- We thank you Lord for the earth and all you have provided for us. We are especially grateful to live in our beautiful villages.

Time for Church Notices



admin@shenstone-stonnall.church

Our email address for all church enquiries, event updates and pastoral support. Thanks for keeping in touch with us!!!



GET CONNECTED...there's plenty on our Facebook page. Start following **St John the Baptist Shenstone** for news, **Jonathan's online services** and various snippets. Why not also follow his own **Facebook page Revd Jonathan Iddon**.



Parish office update

Our Parish office has relocated to St John the Baptist Church. For any enquiries or to get in touch, please contact – calls/WhatsApp - **07476 351436** or email at admin@shenstone-stonnall.church
We look forward to hearing from you!!!!

New online platform – ChurchSuite

As part of our church family, we want to make it as easy as possible for you to stay connected and involved. That's why we have decided to use a system called Church Suite – a secure and simple online platform designed to help us manage church life and communicate with our members. We are currently in the process of building this exciting online platform and will keep you updated on the progress of this new project!!!

Early Birds

Unfortunately, due to the lack of numbers during the holiday period the decision has been made to cancel Early Birds for the remainder of August – this will be publicised on the website and social media. We will be starting up again on 7th September with a breakfast in the Community Hall. Should you encounter any prospective interested families we would be grateful if you would make this known.

Giving and Support

We are so thankful for all who give their time, prayers, and resources to support the life and ministry of our churches. Your generosity enables us to keep our doors open for worship, prayer and community care. If you would like to contribute to the work of the church, there are several ways to give: For more details on how to donate, please speak to Rev Jonathan Iddon or a member of the church team. Every gift, no matter how small, makes a real difference. Thank you for supporting the mission and ministry of our churches here in Shenstone and Stonnall.

Useful Contacts

Vicar: - Rev. Jonathan Iddon – vicar@shenstone-stonnall.church

Associate Minister Revd John Aston: - 01543 480388, bradston@btinternet.com

St John the Baptist Church Wardens: - Veronica Raybould 01543 480756 & Ian Law 07973 548785

St Peters Church Warden: Colin Birchall – 01543 328711

Parish Admin: Calls & WhatsApp: 07476 351436 admin@shenstone-stonnall.church

St Johns Hill community hall Booking & Administration: Calls & WhatsApp: 07476 351436 admin@shenstone-stonnall.church

Website: www.achurchnearyou.com (search Shenstone or Stonnall)

Facebook: St John the Baptist Shenstone and St Peters Church Stonnall.

Time for Reflection



This week's readings are:
Hebrews 13.1-8, 15,16

Luke 14.1, 7-14

'For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted' (v.11)

Throughout his ministry, Jesus used meals as signs of God's kingdom, where each has a place at the table and each enjoys the company with shared gifts and common purpose.

Jesus has taken up an invitation to a sabbath meal at the house of one of the leaders of the Pharisees. As he looks around, though, he sees that the company has made this meal exclusive and not inclusive. It is a meal that reflects their pride rather than humility, as they jostle for the best places. He shows them that a meal works best when your gratitude at being present outweighs any desire to push others aside. A meal becomes a feast when all feel welcome, all share the same foods, and each looks to the other to make the occasion rich in friendship and hope. As in the meal, so in life. Those who exalt themselves miss out on the true shared beauty of the kingdom.

In Isak Dinesen's story called Babette's feast, extraordinary transformations happen to ordinary people eating together. The two sisters who hosted the meal watch the guests make their way home at the end and comment that 'the stars have come closer tonight'. Heaven draws nearer when humility makes place for everyone.

Reflection by Mark Oakley.

The Best Seat

Jesus watched the people there,
All choosing seats with little care.
They wanted spots where they'd be seen,
The fanciest place, the one that's keen.

But Jesus said, "Don't rush to shine,
Don't grab the seat that looks so fine.
Be humble, sit where others don't,
For pride won't last, it surely won't.

Invite the ones who can't repay,
The poor, the weak – show love today.
God sees your heart, He'll give the prize,
A place with him in Paradise."