



# The Ship

## St Jude's Church, Englefield Green Newsletter

Anglicans and Methodists working together

Number 183

September 2025

### Are you new to St Jude's?

It's lovely to welcome you among us — in person or online. If you have any questions or requests for prayer or if you would like to come and talk more personally, please contact our Vicar on [vicar@stjudeschurch.info](mailto:vicar@stjudeschurch.info)

### Open Church

In addition to service times, St Jude's Church will be open between 2.00pm and 4.00pm on Saturday 13th September with a cream tea and coffee available. Do come along.

### Fourth Sunday at Four

We apologise that there was no fourth Sunday at Four service on Sunday 24th August. Our next Fourth Sunday at Four service is on Sunday 28th September at 4pm. Refreshments are served in the Monsell Room from 3.15pm. We look forward to seeing you!

### Stewardship Sunday

We are marking Sunday 14th September as our Stewardship Sunday, when we shall be thinking especially about how we might continue to respond in both giving and acts of service, to God's amazing generosity to us. Our 9.30am service will include a presentation of our new Stewardship Video, to which members of our congregation have contributed. Please join us for this special service.

## Coffee Morning

Saturday 6th September

10.00–11.30am

Cakes, biscuits, jams  
preserves, marmalade  
cards, notelets

Crab Apple jelly is back!

Do come along for coffee  
and a chat

## Cream Tea and Open Church

Saturday 13th September

2.00–4.00pm

### Hello! And Welcome!

The last few months seem to have been punctuated by a series of "goodbyes" so it's nice, as the year begins to turn to autumn, to record two very special "hellos". Our two new Methodist ministers, the Revd Lansford Penn-Timity, and Deacon Jacqueline Esama-John, will both be stepping into their posts from Monday 1st September.

Lansford and his wife Grace will be moving into the Methodist Manse in Ashford, previously occupied by the Revd Andrew Reed. Lansford is the new Superintendent of the Staines and Feltham Methodist Circuit, in succession to Andrew. He will be with us at St Jude's on Sunday 7th September to conduct our more informal service of Holy Communion, taken from the Methodist Liturgy. We look forward to welcoming him then and to getting to know him better in the months ahead.

We look forward also to welcoming Jacqueline and her family who will be living in the Methodist Manse in Feltham, close to the churches at the far end of our circuit. Like Lansford, Jacqueline comes originally from Sierra Leone, although they did not know each other previously there. The Methodist Diaconate is a permanent order with a real focus on worship, mission and pastoral outreach, so we know that Jacqueline, like Lansford, will have an invaluable role amongst us.

We shall receive them both with gratitude and joy. There is a Circuit welcome service for them both at the United Church of Egham, High Street, Egham TW20 9EX on Wednesday 3rd September 6.45pm. The service will be led by the Revd Conrad Hicks, the newly appointed chair of the Methodist South East District. Refreshments will be served beforehand, and a warm invitation is extended to everyone to join us on this very special occasion.

Greetings and "hellos" have a significant part to play in all our lives. I sometimes ask couples preparing for marriage where they first met. Answers this year have ranged from "Thorpe Park", "on a train" to "the wedding of my fiancé's sister" — and everything else in between. Those first meetings are treasured, marking as they did the beginning of a new step on the adventure of life.

First impressions matter but they are not always accurate! When I first met someone who would eventually become a dear friend, I thought they were stand-offish and aloof!! I later realised they were simply shy — and that, in fact, they had had the same first impression of me!

Some of us will remember painful job interviews where everything seemed to hang on making a good first impression. As a teenager attending a series of university interviews, someone advised me always to appear very enthusiastic about everything. I wonder what kind of first impression I made as I gushed passionately about my desire to live and learn in various towns and cities which I had never previously visited and might never visit again! We've all done it!

Both Jacqueline and Lansford are coming to us as people who have had personal encounters with the Lord Jesus Christ. As time goes on, perhaps they will share with us something about their first meetings with him. One of my best-loved first encounters in the New Testament is that of Zacchaeus, a tax collector in the pay of the Roman occupying power, meeting Jesus. Zacchaeus was small in stature and scrambled up a tree so that he could see Jesus over the heads of the crowd. I suspect he was also hoping that he would not himself be seen! How astonished he must have been when Jesus called him down from the tree — and asked him for a cup of tea!! That was the beginning for Zacchaeus of a life-changing relationship with Jesus.

Thank God for our "hellos" and for everything that they come to mean. Let's pray especially too for the children and young people of our Village currently transitioning to new schools, classes, colleges and universities, that they too may experience some warm "hellos". And as Lansford and Jacqueline come amongst us in the weeks ahead let us pray that they will lead many into a fresh encounter with our risen Lord Jesus Christ. May God bless them both and those dear to them. May they find a warm welcome among us and may many be blessed through their ministries.

Judith Allford



## **The Village Centre**

Victoria Street, Englefield Green TW20 0QX 01784 471110

manager@villagecentre.org.uk <https://www.villagecentre.org.uk>

<https://www.facebook.com/villagecentreenglefieldgreen>

<https://www.instagram.com/villagecentreenglefieldgreen>

As the heat subsides, it signals the end of the summer holidays and at the Village Centre we are looking forward to September and the return to regular routines.

The highlight this month is a visit to our Monday Lunch Club for over 55's from the Mayor of Runnymede, Councillor Margaret Harnden and her consort, Dennis Brown BEM. The Mayor will be visiting Lunch Club on 15th September to meet our regulars and volunteers and see all the projects taking place at the Village Centre.

The Community Bus is going to Camberley M&S on 9th September and Brooklands M&S on 23rd September. It is £5 for the return trip, departing from various points around the village at 10.30 and returning at 1.30pm. Booking is essential, email [manager@villagecentre.org.uk](mailto:manager@villagecentre.org.uk) or call and leave a message on 01784 471110.

Our Tuesday community hub has grown. Residents can come and meet with Catalyst Mental Health Services, HomeStart every week and Citizens Advice & Surrey Family Services SEN support (2nd Tuesday of the month). The hub is open 10am–12noon and the service is free and no appointment is required.

Our Men's talking service Pitstop runs every Wednesday between 1–3pm. All welcome, no booking required. Come down and enjoy a hot or cold drink on the house and have a chat with Blair.

Our local PCSO Will Bhamra is coming into the café for a 'Meet the Beat' drop in on Monday 8th September. Anyone who wants to pop in to discuss any concerns will be able to chat with him between 10.30am–12noon.

We have enjoyed seeing all the children in the café this past month and wish them a successful term and all the best in their new classes.

Anyone who has a spare hour or two, please drop us a line with your availability we would really welcome some new faces to our volunteer team.

*Warm wishes, Helen Hallett*



## **St Jude's Church of England Schools Federation**

"Excellence in Education,  
Kindness in Community,  
Courage through Faith"



"Always remember what you have learnt. Your education is your life — guard it well" Proverbs 4. Verse 13.

What has been your life's learning ? Who has exerted most influence on your personal development ? Where have you learnt most ? When do you stop to evaluate what you have learnt ? How do you apply that learning ? How are you failing ? Is it ever too late to stop developing ?

The start of a new academic year brings with it a mixture of emotion. Excitement and a little trepidation perhaps for pupils. And for the adults, an often overwhelming sense of accountability and with that, a degree of nervous anticipation. Life in a school is wonderfully intense. Expectation is high. 'Pressure' pervades. 'Potential' is everywhere...

After an incredibly 'consequential' past couple of years where OFSTED have twice inspected, 2 separate schools have joined together under one leadership team and governance model, teaching practices have necessarily changed, staff have been restructured and budgets have been squeezed, 2025/26 for St Jude's Infant & Junior schools is likely to prove the most transformative yet.

Falling pupil numbers, challenges around teacher recruitment and ever-changing expectations from the Department of Education are dilemmas facing very many schools, each and every day. For Headteacher Vicki Chiverton and the Governing body, added into this mix is an upcoming statutory inspection that will focus on how effective our Christian vision impacts the work and culture at the Infants school, critical considerations around the teaching & developmental provision for our significantly higher than national average numbers of pupils with special educational needs, the bringing on to one physical site, our two schools ( and with that, the realisation of economies of scale ) as well as official membership of the Enlighth Learning Trust ( an Academy ) and with that, all the associated changes and adaptations. The agenda is as unrelenting as it is uncompromising.

As a local community — i.e. the 'church' and with it, all Englefield Green inhabitants — we are reliant on the very many 'parts' that combined, make up St Jude's Church of England Schools Federation and sustain its

viability. The Diocese has significant financial decisions to make around how it invests its income. Vicki Chiverton and her leadership team have responsibility for raising standards and increasing the performance of every pupil...all within a context that is distinctively and effectively Christian in both character and ethos. In that, we are blessed to have such a dedicated, committed and experienced team of educators & supporters across both our schools. I lead a terrifically talented & eclectic group of governors. Each one is a 'volunteer' and collectively we are legally accountable for setting direction and overseeing performance. Major decisions have been aplenty in recent years and the strategic impact of each and every one these are 'out there' in our schools, day in, day out.

And finally — critically — there's the stewardship of the religious ethos in our schools. In Reverend Judith, we have a role model who works tirelessly for the good of our pupils and staff and whose influence is immense. I've seen first hand just how engaged and engaging she is with the children and how they respond to her with both respect and love. She brings to life the biblical stories in the most magical of ways and in doing this, translates 'theory' into everyday behaviour and thinking. She inspires. And only a fool would dismiss — not listen to and take stock of — the many occasions at Board meetings when Judith challenges human and corporate orthodoxy. She cares. She's not bound by material gain. She's principled. She's brave! And as a community, we are so incredibly lucky to have her as a leader.

As we hurtle towards Autumn and look to 2026, everyone associated with St Jude's schools does so with a spring (no pun!) in their step and the weight of much expectation on their shoulders. Teamwork is of the essence. Together 'we can'. Together 'we will'.

*Juan Pemberton*  
*Chair of Governors*  
*St. Jude's CoE Federated Schools*