

Welcome

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST
SHENSTONE



October 2025

Whether this is your first visit or you've been part of church life for years, you are warmly welcome. We are a community who gather to worship Jesus, to grow together in faith, and to serve our village with love. Please do stay afterwards for refreshments – it's a lovely way to meet people and feel at home.

This Month's Services

	9.30am	10.45am	Theme & Readings
Sunday 5th October	Early Birds	Morning Worship	Increase Our Faith <i>Lamentations 1:1-6</i> <i>Luke 17:5-10</i>
Sunday 12th October	Early Birds	Morning Worship	One in Ten <i>Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7</i> <i>Luke 17:11-19</i>
Sunday 19th October	Early Birds Communion	Morning Worship	Always Pray and Never Give Up <i>Genesis 32:22-31 & Luke 18:1-8</i>
Sunday 26th October	Early Birds	Holy Communion	Two Prayers <i>Joel 2:23-32</i> <i>Luke 18:9-14</i>
Sunday 2nd November	Early Birds	Joint Communion Service at St Peter's, Stonnall	Blessed Are You... <i>Isaiah 25:6-9</i> <i>Matthew 5:1-12</i>

INTERIM INSIGHTS: The River is running!

I'm excited to introduce **our new monthly newsletter**, replacing the weekly Pews News. Alongside this, a weekly or bi-weekly email newsletter is in the pipeline, giving us more ways to stay connected across our parishes. Our new monthly benefice-wide evening service, **The River**, is now in full flow! **20-25 people have gathered on Sunday evenings** for worship, prayer, fellowship, and teaching. For these evenings, Shenstone library has provided a warm, welcoming space — a little spiritual oasis for members of both St Peter's and St John's, newcomers, and even some involved in other churches. It's early days, but the signs are encouraging. We will be further developing the four "streams"— **teaching, breaking of bread, fellowship, and prayer** — so there is continuity and variety across the months. Some people may follow a particular stream each month, while others may come most weeks to experience the full rhythm of The River. If you haven't yet experienced it, why not dip your toe in?

Revd Jonathan Interim Vicar



GET THE WORD OUT

We're looking for a volunteer to help **deliver copies of the Shenstone Village Magazine along Ashcroft Lane**. It's an easy way to get some exercise, enjoy a stroll, and be part of the friendly distribution team. 🙋 If you can help, please contact Peter Lawrence on 📞 07714 296411.



GOT A NOTICE?

Something happening in our two churches? We'd love to hear about it! Please let Stephanie in the church office know for the next edition, published on the first Sunday of the month.

St Peter's Hub
St Peter's Church, Church Road,
Stonnall, WS9 9HL



SCHERZO

**A quartet of clarinet players plus flutes,
playing light music including
well known tunes from
'The Last Night Of The Proms'**



Friday 17th October 2025 - 7PM for 7:30PM

Tickets (cash only) £10 Adult £5 Child
Includes a glass of wine/soft drink

Tickets available from Linda Birchall (01543 328711)
Or Premier Shop, 174 Main Street, Stonnall. WS9 9DY



COFFEE MORNING & CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

On **Saturday 18 October**, St Peter's will hold its final coffee morning and churchyard working party of the year.

🌿 Volunteers are warmly invited to help us keep our beautiful churchyard looking its best. 🍰 Or simply come along **from 10.00am** to the church to enjoy a drink, delicious homemade cakes, and good company.



TUNING UP

Rehearsals will soon begin for **St John's Carols by Candlelight** on Sunday 21

December. As always, the choir and orchestra will be made up of local singers and instrumentalists, and the evening will be led once again by Pauline Davies.

Practices start in mid-November. Would you like to be part of this highlight of the Shenstone Christmas calendar? No previous choral experience is needed – just enthusiasm! To find out more or to join in, please contact:

Cherry Bingham 📞 01543 480892

✉️ cherry.bingham@hotmail.co.uk

? ALPHA – A FULL HOUSE!

We're thrilled to share that 19 people are now taking part in Alpha on Thursday evenings!

Please pray that each one will encounter Jesus in a fresh and life-changing way.

Remember too the Alpha team and our wonderful chefs, who discovered they'd be catering for far more than expected! **Can you spare an hour on a Thursday evening to help in the kitchen (7–8pm)?** Your support would be a huge blessing. 🙌 To volunteer, contact Carol Law: ✉️ lawcarol19@gmail.com | 📞 07837 307981



BEETLE DRIVE & FISH & CHIPS!

Get ready for a night of laughter, dice-rolling, and delicious food! The Friends of St Peter's invite you to join us on **Friday 14 November at 7.00pm in Stonnall Village Hall** for our ever-popular Beetle Drive, followed by a tasty fish & chip supper.

🎫 Tickets: £12.00 🥤 Bring your own drinks. Come along for fun, food, and friendly competition – all in support of St Peter's!

DIP INTO SOLITUDE



READING GROUP

As part of the third-Sunday fellowship weeks at The River, we'll be exploring ***Invitation to Solitude and Silence* by Ruth Haley Barton**, just two chapters at a time: Oct 19 (Ch. 1 & 2) and Nov 16 (Ch. 3 & 4).

The book is easy to read, with short chapters, making it perfect for reflection and discussion. You're welcome to read ahead, but it's not required – everyone can join the fellowship evenings, whether or not they engage with the book. Discussion questions will be provided for those who wish to reflect on the chapters.



The River

🕒 6:30–8:00pm

📍 **Shenstone Library**

(Main Street, WS14 0NF)

The River is our benefice-wide evening service, shaped by Acts 2:42 – teaching, breaking bread, fellowship, and prayer. Each week has a different focus, but together we're learning to follow Jesus in community.

Sunday 5th October	TEACHING	Prayer Practice: Talking With God
Sunday 12th October	BREAKING OF BREAD	Ask, Seek & Knock (Luke 11:5-13)
Sunday 19th October	FELLOWSHIP	Hearing God in the Whisper
Sunday 26th October	PRAYER	Praying Together
Sunday 2nd November	TEACHING	Prayer Practice: Listening To God



**PARISH
GIVING
SCHEME**

Giving

The life and ministry of St John the Baptist is made possible through the generous and faithful giving of our church family. If you would like to support this work with a one-off gift or by setting up regular giving, please visit www.parishgiving.org.uk and search for 'Shenstone', or simply scan the QR code.



find out more

Contact

Interim Vicar

Rev'd Jonathan Iddon

☎ 07756 752412

✉ vicar@shenstone-stonnall.church

Usual rest days:

Friday afternoon and Saturday

Parish Administrator

Stephanie Fowler

For general enquiries and St John's Hill Community Hall bookings:

☎ 07476 351436

✉ admin@shenstone-stonnall.church

For urgent pastoral needs when the Vicar is unavailable, our **Churchwardens** are here to help:
Veronica Raybould ☎ 01543 480756 and Ian Law ☎ 07973 548785

🌐 **Website:** www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4484/

📘 **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/stjohnthebaptistshenstone

📺 **YouTube:** www.youtube.com/@Shenstone-Stonnall