

St John the Baptist

Kingston & Putney Vale, Robin Hood Lane, SW15 3PY

Parish Newsletter
Welcoming
Worshipping
Serving

Winter 2025



**Christmas Afternoon
Tea and
Christmas Music**

Monday 15th December 2 till 4
Ticket £10 half price for
Wellspring Members



Christmas Afternoon Tea: Monday 15 December, 2-4pm

Join us at St John the Baptist Church Hall for our popular Christmas afternoon tea, complete with a Frank Sinatra Tribute performance 🎤

£10.00 tickets available via www.inthevale.org.uk

Wellspring members half price.

Seating will be allocated on receipt of booking.



**Children's
Christmas Party**

Saturday 20th December 2 till 4

Old-fashioned
party games
a visit from Father
Christmas and party
food.
£10 or half price for
Wellspring members



9 Lessons and Carols

6.30 21st December
A Community Candlelit
carol service
followed by mince pies and
mulled wine.



Midnight Mass

11.30 pm
24th December



Crib Service: Wednesday 24 December, 4pm

We invite you to our festive crib service, featuring a live nativity with a donkey! This fun and interactive service is perfect for all ages, so bring the whole family for a memorable celebration.

We would love to have your participation, so why not volunteer to be the Angel Gabriel or a whimsical shepherd? No experience is necessary, just a sense of fun! If you're interested, please ring Mandy on 020 85464079. Thank you.



**Children's
Nativity
Service**



4pm 24th December
Everyone is welcome!
Live nativity with a donkey



**Christmas Morning
Fun Community
Service 10.30**



Christmas Morning Celebration:

Thursday 25 December, 10.30am

We gather for a joyous celebration filled with song, laughter, and fun. Everyone is welcome to join as part of our family, whether you're coming alone or with loved ones.



We extend a warm welcome to all, whether you are a long-time friend or visiting us for the first time. If you've never been to our church or any church before, please know that you are especially welcome here.

With warm wishes for a joyful Christmas, however you mark it.

Keep in touch: Sign up via our website to receive emails of events and happenings

Website: www.inthevale.org.uk Facebook: www.facebook.com/stjohnkingstonvale Email: stjohns@inthevale.org.uk

Dear all,

Welcome to our Christmas magazine!

This is the season when, in the midst of winter's darkness, we look for ways to share light, warmth, and joy. We decorate our homes, gather with friends, and give gifts – all reminders of the light that shines in the darkness and the love that Christmas celebrates.



At St John's, we're especially keen to find ways of caring for one another and welcoming our neighbours – and that's exactly what **Wellspring** is all about. We've got off to a wonderful start!

Wellspring is a community enterprise, created by local volunteers for everyone. Whatever your age, background, or interests, take a look at the website and see what you might like to be part of. We especially extend a warm welcome to students who have recently moved into the area and may be looking to meet neighbours.

As we light up the darkness, there'll be plenty to enjoy this festive season; from our Christmas lights and services to a brand-new event, **Ignite the Night**. Many of you told us how much you missed our bonfire and fireworks night, so this year we're bringing it back in a new, safer form – with fire pits, a spectacular professional laser and music show, and plenty of Christmas cheer.

We look forward to celebrating with you and wish you a joyful, peaceful Christmas filled with light and love.

With every blessing,
Rev Mandy Beck



SERVICE INFORMATION

We are an inclusive church that celebrates and affirms every person. Our congregation includes people of all ages and backgrounds – our aim is that you will feel at home here. We believe Worship should be open, joyful, and connected to the life of our community

- **First & last Sunday of the month:** 10.30am. Relaxed, informal worship (keyboard, guitars & singers).
- **Second & third Sunday of the month:** 10.30am. Traditional Holy Communion (organ & choir).
- **Early service:** First Sunday of the month at 8am (Book of Common Prayer).
- **Morning prayer:** Mondays at 9am & Wednesdays at 10.30am Wednesday. An opportunity for quiet and informal prayer.
- **Bible study:** Wednesdays at 7pm (Andrews Wing)
- **Children are welcome:** Stay in service or join Orchard Church activities
- **Accessibility:** Step free access, hearing loop, large print sheets
- **Refreshments:** Tea, coffee & biscuits before or after most services and a chance to chat, if you'd like to.

Coming up in November

Remembrance Service:
Sunday 9 November,
10.30am

We will move to the memorial at 11am.



Games Night
Tuesday 11th November 7pm

Board games for all.
£5 drop in or free for Wellspring members.

Games Night:
Tuesday 11 November,
7pm



Gardening: Sunday 23 November, 12-1pm
Can you spare an hour to help us tidy up the front of the hall? All welcome.

Community Lunch
24th November Monday 12.30-1.30

Everyone welcome.
Join us for soup, bread and cheese.

Free of charge, donations gratefully accepted.

Community Lunch:
Monday 24 November,
12.30-1.30pm
Donations gratefully received



Ignite the night - Laser show & music:
Sunday 30 November, 5pm

Gates open 4.00pm

£10 in advance or £15 on the gate
(under 3 years go free)

Advance tickets via www.inthevale.org.uk

Wellspring members half price.

All children must be supervised by a responsible adult at all times.

Refreshments available to purchase



PARISH OFFICE

Sue Richardson: Administrator
Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 9.30am - 12.30pm

✉ email: stjohns@inthevale.org.uk

🌐 website: www.inthevale.org.uk

📘 facebook: [stjohnkingstonvale](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnkingstonvale)

For Weddings, Banns of marriage, Baptisms etc., please contact
Mandy Beck, Team Vicar, on **020 8546 4079** for an appointment.

Messages can be left in confidence



We had a great Wellspring Launch party.

Wellspring aims to bring life in all its fullness to its members and the community in which it is set. It is for the whole community. We have set the membership price really low so all are included. This is a community activity and is totally reliant on local people volunteering to run activities, make donations and contribute.

At the launch event, we had people eager to start new activities from table tennis to record listening groups, so visit our website to find out what else is starting.

We also have an Instagram account **wellspring_stjohns** which a wonderful young person has volunteered to look after for us.

We had a great launch party and already many local people have joined Wellspring our first events from films to exercise classes have been well attended. To find out more or join please scan the QR code, or visit our website.
www.inthevale.org.uk/wellspring

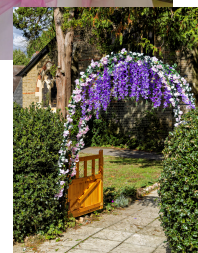
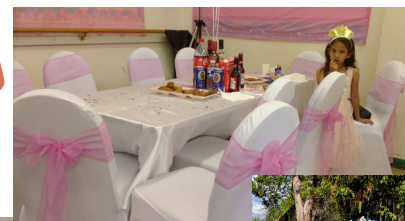
WELLSPRING EVENTS

If you would be interested in attending or supervising any of the undermentioned events, please email stjohns@ionthevale.org.uk

- A - Allotments
- B - Breadmaking, Book Club, Bingo
- C - Craft/Crochet & Chatter, Cooking, Choir, Chess
- D - Dogs, Dance events
- E - Embroidery
- F - Football, Flower Arranging
- G - Gardening Get together
- H - Handyman Jobs, History (inc. local history)
- I - IT, Indoor bowling
- J - Juggling
- K - Knitting & Chatter
- L - Lectures/Workshops one off
- M - Men's Lunches, Murder Mystery Game Night
- N - Natter & Chatter
- O - Origami, Outdoor Movie Night
- P - Painting (art), Puzzle Afternoon, Pool
- Q - Quiz's
- R - Racing (Indoor Horse Racing)
- S - Singing, Seated Exercise, Scrabble
- T - Tea Dances
- U - Urban sketching, Under the Stars, Ukulele
- V - Vlogging, Visits
- W - Wine Tasting
- X - X-stich
- Y - Yodeling
- Z - Zoom Sessions



HIRE ME



Hall hire

Our fully accessible and modern refurbished halls are light and airy and are the perfect choice for a wide range of events like, adult, family or children's parties, regular clubs and meetings and certain indoor sports/exercise groups..

The Rod Stewart Tribute act was very well attended in September, and a great time was had by all!



Kingston Vale Trust

Each year Kingston Vale Trust (charity number 205433) makes grants for the benefit of the people living within the parish of St John the Baptist Kingston Vale. (The parish consists of Kingston Vale, Putney Vale and parts of Kingston Hill - exact details of the boundary are available on request). The Trust intends to make grants of between £500 and £15,000 for 2026.

The trustees make grants once per year, assessing any completed application forms received by the end of November 2025. Grants will be awarded to the successful applicant(s) by the end of December 2025. Applicants must complete the application form and return it to the parish office. For an application form, please contact the Trustee Administrator, email: stjohns@inthevale.org.uk, a paper copy can be collected from the Administrator, on Wednesday or Friday mornings (9.30-12.30) at the Parish Office, St John the Baptist Church, Robin Hood Lane, SW15 3PY.

The trustees will consider any not for profit organisation whose work in the view of the trustees will benefit the people who live in the parish. Grants are made at the complete discretion of the trustees.

Why not apply to the Kingston Vale Trust?



WITE THE NIGHT

SUNDAY 30th NOVEMBER 5PM
GATES FROM 4

UNDER 10s ADVANCE
ON THE GATE
\$15 &
UNDER THREES
GO FREE!

AFK
LIGHT SHOW
FIRE PITS
BY FUSION

WELSPRING
MEMBERS
HALF PRICE

ALL CHILDREN MUST
BE SUPERVISED BY
A RESPONSIBLE ADULT

TICKETS
AVAILABLE
INTHEWALE.
ORG.UK

