



The Ship

St Jude's Church, Englefield Green Newsletter

Anglicans and Methodists working together

Number 188

February 2026

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

Open Church

In addition to service times, St Jude's Church will be open between 2.00pm and 4.00pm on Saturday 14th February (tea and coffee available). Do come along.

Fourth Sunday at Four

Our next Fourth Sunday at Four Service is on Sunday 22nd February at 4.00pm. Please do think about joining us for the service! It lasts only about 30 minutes and doesn't include Holy Communion. Refreshments are served in the Monsell Room from 3.15pm. It would be great to see you there.

Food Bank

We continue to be enormously grateful to everyone who contributes to our Food Bank appeal. Please leave items of non-perishable foodstuffs, toiletries and hygiene goods, cleaning products and so on, in the crate in the Monsell Room. Each week Geoff Chew kindly takes our donations to the Runnymede Food Bank collection point on the Thorpe Trading estate. Cash donations can once again be accepted. Please contact Geoff for further details.

Putting your stamp on it

We are grateful to all who continue to pass on their used postage stamps to us. They are sent on to a charity and put to very good use! Thank you to Joan who so kindly manages this collection for us.

Chamber Concert

by members of
Royal Holloway
Symphony Orchestra
Saturday 21st February
4.00pm

Admission free Donations welcome
Refreshments provided

Give thanks with a grateful heart

"Blow, blow, thou winter wind, Thou art not so unkind as man's ingratitude".

(William Shakespeare)

I have thought about those words in the high winds and heavy rain of January. Also, as the media carried the disturbing story of the disregard of one of our world leaders for the enormous sacrifices made by our own troops in allied conflict. Disregard and disrespect also of the enduring and intolerable pain of all whose lives have been irrevocably changed by that conflict, including those within our own community. Ingratitude writ large and barely acknowledged.

I am immensely grateful that we have within our village several different places where such inestimable sacrifice is honoured. In recent years our Village War Memorial within the cemetery, alongside the cross of sacrifice, has enabled us to know the names of those from Englefield Green who have given their lives that we might continue to enjoy the peace of this beautiful village from which they came. And, behind every name, unseen, there are loved ones and comrades, bereaved, disabled and beset by trauma, who every day continue to wrestle with the consequence of their sacrifice.

Please pause with me, as we acknowledge our own gratitude and the debt of thanks we owe. Thank you to John Scott MBE and to others alongside him, who help to keep these painful and uniquely precious memories alive in the heart of our community. Please especially remember Richard Scott, who sadly died just before Christmas. Richard served as Treasurer most recently of the Englefield Memorial Trust, and before that of EGVRA. We give thanks for him.

At a recent New Year Service, we prayed that, in 2026, we might "choose gratitude". In the world as so often we see it today, thankfulness does not always spring easily to our lips or to our minds. But poignantly, the world's pain can sometimes ignite gratitude for our own good fortune, and make us glad for the legacy of stability, security and hope that is ours in so many ways.

So, for what I am especially grateful today, still just about at the beginning of 2026? I am thankful that January has given the St Jude's congregation, and some members of our wider community, the opportunity to benefit from the ministry of another local priest. The Revd Holly Byles, at present Curate at St John the Baptist Church in Egham, has spent a month on placement with us. Her ministry has been joyous and inspirational. We are looking forward to a closer partnership with her in the not-too-distant future. Please pray for Holly as she returns to her present full-time ministry at St John's and please pray too for the Revd Lydia Corbett who takes up her new appointment as Vicar of St John's from 16th February. May God bless them both as they serve him together.

Holly spent some time in our St Jude's Schools. Thank you all for the welcome she received. We are so aware of the tremendous commitment invested by the staff and leadership teams of all our village schools, pre-schools and nurseries, and by the staff of Royal Holloway University College. Thank you to all who devote time, energy, vision and love to ensuring our children and young people receive the best possible holistic education.

Some of you may know the Radio 4 magazine programme "Saturday Live". A regular "thank you" slot provides an opportunity for individual listeners to say thank you for some random act of selfless kindness, given to them, sometimes years ago, by a stranger never seen again. Their stories are often moving and thought-provoking. They remind me how good it would be to say "thank you" to people who have touched my life in different ways but never knew the extent of my gratitude or saw how they have influenced and blessed me.

But by far the greatest debt of gratitude I owe to the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave his life that we might live eternally. His faithfulness and love day by day know no limits. "How can I repay the Lord for all his goodness to me? (Psalm 116). As Lent and Easter approach we warmly invite you to come and worship with us at St Jude's and join us in thanksgiving and praise.

Judith Allford

Lent 2026

Our Lent programme begins on Ash Wednesday, 18th February 2026 with two services to mark the beginning of Lent — these are at 10.00am and 7.00pm (Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday), with the imposition of ashes for those who wish to receive it.

For the remaining Wednesdays in Lent (25th February, 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th March and 1st April) our Holy Communion service will be at 11.00am. The service will be followed by a light Lent Lunch. Please join us. Lunch is free but, if you can, you are invited to make a small donation to cover our costs. Thank you!

We know that not everyone who comes to the service will be able to stay for lunch! We simply welcome you to worship with us. Equally, if you would like to stay for a time of food and fellowship, you are very welcome to do so.

Still looking towards Easter — our services include:

Sunday 15th March Mothering Sunday

Sunday 29th March Palm Sunday

Full details of all our Easter Services will be available in the March Edition of this Newsletter.

God bless you as you prepare to begin the Lenten Season.

The Valerie Ward Organ Scholarship

Just a reminder that St Jude's has recently established an organ scholarship, so named in memory of Mrs Valerie Ward, who very sadly died in 2014 and who had contributed so much to the life of St Jude's, not least musically. Val is remembered among us with great gratitude, and her presence is much missed. It is wonderful to have the opportunity to honour her memory in such a tangible way.

The first to benefit from our organ scholarship will be Joshua Davis, a music student at RHUL whom we are privileged to have appointed as our first Organ Scholar. As we noted last month, it has been a joy to welcome Joshua. We are thrilled that the scholarship will enable us to support him, and, we hope, many other students in the future.

Would you be willing to help us grow this exciting new venture? If you would like to know how you can support this project, please contact our treasurer, Brian Hooker, at his email address — brian.hooker@stjudeschurch.info

We would be very grateful for your help to ensure that this significant scholarship thrives. Please contact us if you would like further information. Thank you all.

From the Registers

Funeral:

(9th January) Hermione Chloe Martin "Chloe"

Diary for February

- 1 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Informal Holy Communion (Methodist Liturgy)
- 4 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 8 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist 6.00pm Compline (Zoom)
- 11 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 14 Saturday 2.00–4.00pm Church open
- 15 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist
- 18 Ash Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion 7.00pm Holy Communion both with imposition of ashes
- 21 Saturday 4.00pm Concert — Royal Holloway Symphony Orchestra
- 22 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist 4.00pm Fourth Sunday at Four service
- 25 Wednesday 11.00am Holy Communion (said) 12.30pm Lent Lunch

Please note that our 9.30am service each Sunday is always live-streamed on our YouTube Channel. If you are unable to join us in church we warmly invite you to tune in.

The Village Centre

Victoria Street, Englefield Green TW20 0QX

01784 471110

manager@villagecentre.org.uk

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

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

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

Here are some exciting statistics for 2025!

By the end of last year, we had completed:

8000 hours of volunteering 108 bus journeys

696 Monday Lunch Club meals

3,074 items given out through Baby Basics

14,290kg of food given out through the Community Fridge

1,800 community meals produced

192 Play sessions at the Contact Centre.

This represents an enormous amount of commitment and hard work from our Centre Manager, staff and volunteers.

Our great gratitude to everyone who contributed in any way and thank you also to those who support us by your regularly giving, financially, or in kind.

If you are not already involved in the life of our Centre and if there is any way you feel could help us, please do email our Village Centre Manager, Helen Hallett:

manager@villagecentre.org.uk

For details of all our regular activities, plus any special events, please visit our website.

Readings at Communion

Sunday 1st February (Candlemas)	Malachi 3. 1-5 Psalm 24 Hebrews 2. 14-end Luke 2. 22-40
Sunday 8th February (2nd Sunday before Lent)	Genesis 1.1-2.3 Psalm 136. 1-9, 23-end Romans 8. 18-25 Matthew 6. 25-end
Sunday 15th February (Sunday next before Lent)	Exodus 24. 12-end Psalm 2 2 Peter 1. 16-end Matthew 17. 1-9
Sunday 22nd February (First Sunday of Lent)	Genesis 2. 15-17, 3. 1-7 Psalm 32 Romans 5. 12-19 Matthew 4. 1-11

Easyfundraising.co.uk

We are very grateful to all those who are supporting us when buying things through Amazon, John Lewis by using easyfundraising.co.uk. You have raised well over £1500 (so far) for us through this scheme and that is without any cost to you.

Bereavement Coffee Morning

Thursday 26th February at 10.15am

at the Jurgens Centre,

Church of the Assumption of our Lady, Harvest Road

Everyone is welcome

We have an open invitation to join our neighbours at the Church of the Assumption of our Lady, Harvest Road, TW20 0QR, on the last Thursday in each month, for their regular Coffee Morning in the Jurgens Centre beside the Church.

You may have been recently bereaved, or your loss may be further back in time. Whatever your circumstances, you will find a quiet and welcoming space to talk or simply to listen and to be amongst friends. The invitation is to everyone; you may or may not be a church goer. You may drop in and out as you wish. We shall be very glad to see you.

From our archives... fifty years on

Extracts from the February 1976 Newsletter

St Jude's School

Another step towards the change-over to being a Middle School in September was made in February. The contractors handed over the two classrooms which have been converted to provide rooms for teaching crafts, science and home economics. What was a classroom has become an area for teaching languages. The benches and equipment are now ready for use. Meanwhile we wait to see what effects the proposed cuts in spending on schools will have on us.

Somehow a sentence was omitted by accident from last month's account of Mr Leigh's retiring party. We are sorry that no mention was made — after all they had done — of the Headmaster and Mrs Pascoe, who arranged the evening and welcomed everyone.

A wise man...

At the January meeting of the Mothers' Union Mrs Falkner told the story of the Fourth Wise Man who set out with the others but used the treasures he was bringing to save lives on the way.

...and a lovely lady

A representative of Vanda Beauty Products came to the meeting of the Young Wives' Group with lots of samples for members to try. Their February meeting will be concerned with safety, especially in the home, for young children.

Mrs W.M. Smith

The affection and respect felt for Mrs Win Smith who died suddenly last month brought a large number to Church for the service. Gifts made for her sake to St Jude's Appeal Fund (at

the request of her son and daughter) amounted to more than £100. She had been an active member of the Women's Institute (being particularly interested in the drama section), and of Runnymede Art Society. She also had much to do with crafts, particularly in connection with Egham Old people's Welfare. When there was anything to be done in or for St Jude's she was there, and she had very many friends.

Through the month...

We congratulate Mrs W. Russell on celebrating her ninetieth birthday. Mrs Russell is a member of the MU and of other local organisations. Our choir was taken to the pantomime at Windsor in January as a Christmas outing after their hard work. In January Peter Selby was admitted after a time of probation and received his surplice.

High winds last month caused a stone cross to fall from a gable on St Jude's. Fortunately no other damage was done, and an inspection has shown no further danger at present.

Fair Shares

This name has been given to the plans for sharing out in a better way that the Church of England has in resources and especially in clergy. Our deanery is now working on the first stage, that of finding out what the needs of our parishes and hospitals and colleges are. We shall also try to discover what 'lay' people are doing, and what more they could do. For this exercise our parish is grouped with Egham and Egham Hythe since they obviously have much in common in this area.