



The Ship

St Jude's Church, Englefield Green Newsletter

Anglicans and Methodists working together

Number 189

March 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 3.30pm on Saturday 14th March (tea and coffee available). This will be followed by a concert at 4.00pm (see below)

Fourth Sunday at Four

The next Fourth Sunday at Four service is on Sunday 22nd March, at 4pm. This service is entitled "Towards Easter" and as the title suggests, we shall be focussing on the approach of Easter and on our preparation for the festival which lies at the very heart of our Christian experience. As always – we extend to everyone the warmest invitation to join us for this service which lasts only about 30minutes and doesn't include Holy Communion. Refreshments are served in the Monsell Room from 3.15pm.

Food Bank

Contributions to our Food Bank appeal continue to come in regularly and we are deeply grateful to all those who give in this way, including those who make cash donations which are promptly converted into items currently on Runnymede Foodbank's "most wanted" list. Thank you all – and thank you to Geoff Chew who continues to co-ordinate the collection and delivery of non-perishable foodstuffs and other goods which are left week by week in the crate in our Monsell Room. Please contact Geoff if you would like further information. Thank you!

Concert

by students from
Royal Holloway

Saturday 14th March

4.00pm

Admission free Donations welcome

Refreshments provided

Signposting the way

Many of you will be aware of the news concerning the Rt Rev Andrew Watson, Bishop of the Guildford Diocese. Bishop Andrew was very recently diagnosed with cancer of the pancreas and has been told by doctors that he has very few weeks left to live.

This is very sad news for Bishop Andrew and his family, for senior clergy and staff at the Diocese who work closely with him, and for the churches in Bishop Andrew's care, including St Jude's. His ministry also extends well beyond this diocese as he is a Bishop in the House of Lords, a member of the House of Bishops at General Synod and author of several Christian books. Throughout his ministry he has touched many lives and God has blessed many through him.

Bishop Andrew has kept in close touch with the Diocese and in two letters has shared something of what the journey he is now on means for him. An earlier and more optimistic prognosis had suggested that he might be able to have a course of palliative chemotherapy, which might have extended his quality of life for a little longer. But in the last few days it has become clear that this will probably not be possible and that the length of time left to him here may be very short.

As I write about this, I am so very aware that, among our readers there may well be those facing a similar journey, either personally, or alongside someone dear to them. Bishop Andrew has shared his great appreciation of what he describes as the "tidal wave" of love, prayer and good will that have "Swept us along" since the news of his illness first broke. It is so often the loving support of those around us that can help us bear with what otherwise seems unbearable. I thank God for those who have travelled alongside me during painful times in my own life.

Faced with this news, Bishop Andrew describes his present aim as that of "cheerfully persisting" towards a good death. He has had to relinquish his remaining duties within the Diocese, and these are now being shouldered by Bishop Paul Davies, Bishop of Dorking, and other senior colleagues. One particularly striking element of Bishop Andrew's second letter is his observation that:

"I don't fear the prospect of dying and find to my relief that my faith in the 'resurrection of the body and the life everlasting' has only grown stronger over the past few weeks. I've sometimes had private worries that, when faced with the starkness of a terminal diagnosis, my faith in the Risen Christ might falter. Well, it hasn't. Or better still, God hasn't faltered. Quite the reverse".

Those words testify so clearly to Bishop Andrew's personal courage and, above all, to his commitment to the living Lord Jesus Christ. As someone who has been so privileged to serve under Bishop Andrew's leadership, I have often reflected during these weeks that he has graciously offered us an example of how we should live, and now equally graciously, is giving us an example as to how we might one day seek to die. He has been and continues to be, among so many other things, both a shepherd and a signpost.

And how important life's signposts can be. The work on the refurbished central space in our village, part of the Englefield Green Village Neighbourhood Plan, which was approved in January 2024, continues apace and promises to provide a pleasing focus for the village. Special thanks to the Englefield Green Neighbourhood Forum for their vision for the Plan and their commitment to the implementation of it. In the last few days, I have been thrilled to see that, both the new Village Sign and the Finger Post, signpost St Jude's Church, as well as other significant places in the collective life of our village.

In a different way, the last weeks of winter take on a new meaning as we begin to appreciate the signposts to Spring. Within the Church, as we journey through the season of Lent, we become more aware of the signposts to Easter – the disciplines which Lent asks of us themselves sign the way to a deeper relationship with the God whose Easter promise is resurrection life. Please follow the signposts and come and join us in worship!

Judith Allford

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.

Would you be willing to help us grow this exciting new venture? If you would like further details please talk to our resident organist, Geoff Chew. 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. Thank you all!

Welcome Lydia

On Monday 16th February several of us from St Jude's were privileged to attend a celebration service for a new ministry within the Diocese of Guildford. The Revd Lydia Corbett was licensed by The Rt Revd Paul Davies, Bishop of Dorking, assisted by the Ven Martin Breadmore, Archdeacon of Dorking, for her new priestly ministry of care for the congregation and parish of St John's Egham.

Lydia prepared a mini autobiography for the printed Order of Service and I reproduce that here: "I grew up in London and Birmingham, studied History at York University, and returned to London as an adult to work as a youth pastor for a church in Hammersmith. I served my curacy in Fulham and in between trained for ordained ministry at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. For the past 5 years I have been leading a church plant (St Leo's, Basford) alongside a wider role within the Woven Group of churches, serving on General Synod, and completing an MA in systematics. I am now delighted to be joining the people of St John's, and I am prayerfully expectant for all that God will do in the years ahead, as we minister together and see the Church of Christ grow".

If you were not able to attend Lydia's Licensing, the video of the service is still available on the St. John's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QiX1eV6qjkw>

We thank God for Lydia's appointment. Please pray for her in these early days of her new ministry.

From the Registers

Baptism: (8th February) Arno Bernard Errol McIntosh

Funerals: (9th February) Graham Windsor
(10th February) Scott Peter Davies
(16th February) June Emily Newman
(17th February) Nancy Isabel Jackson

Memorial Service and Burial of Ashes:

(20th February) Donna Yvonne Penelope West

Diary for March

- 1 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Informal Holy Communion (Methodist Liturgy)
- 3 Tuesday 7.30pm Church Council meets
- 4 Wednesday 11.00am Holy Communion followed by Lent lunch
- 6 Friday World Day of Prayer services 2.00pm St Mary's, Thorpe 7.30pm St John's, Egham
- 8 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist 6.00pm Compline (Zoom)
- 11 Wednesday 11.00am Holy Communion followed by Lent lunch
- 14 Saturday 2.00-3.30pm Church open 4.00pm Concert by students from Royal Holloway
- 15 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist
- 18 Wednesday 11.00am Holy Communion followed by Lent lunch
- 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) followed by Lent lunch
- 29 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Procession of Palms and Liturgy for Palm Sunday

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.

Email: enquiries@stjudeschurch.info

Web: www.stjudeschurch.info

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.

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 £1600 (so far) for us through this scheme and that is without any cost to you.

Readings at Communion

Sunday 1st March (2nd Sunday of Lent)	Genesis 12. 1-4a Psalm 121 Romans 4. 1-5, 13-17 John 3. 1-17
Sunday 8th March (3rd Sunday of Lent)	Exodus 17. 1-7 Psalm 95 Romans 5. 1-11 John 4.5-42
Sunday 15th March (4th Sunday of Lent) (Mothering Sunday)	Exodus 2. 1-10 Psalm 34. 11-20 2 Corinthians 1. 3-7 Luke 2. 33-35
Sunday 22nd March (5th Sunday of Lent) (Passion Sunday)	Ezekiel 37. 1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8. 6-11 John 11. 1-45
Sunday 29th March (Palm Sunday)	Isaiah 50. 4-9a Psalm 31. 9-18 Philippians 2. 5-11 Matthew 6.14-end of 27

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
A service for everyone!
Friday 6 March
I will give you rest, come

Nigeria 2026

2.00pm
St Mary's, Thorpe

7.30pm
St John's, Egham



Bereavement Coffee Morning

Thursday 26th March 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.



St Jude's Church of England Schools Federation

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



Collective Worship, or School Assembly, as it was once known, remains an essential part of the life of our church schools and local clergy still have the privilege of being able to contribute to this programme on a regular basis. We are especially grateful to the Revd Jeremy Brown, Children and Families' Pastor at Christchurch, Virginia Water, who plans the church element of the weekly programme, and leads many of the sessions for us. It was also great to have the input of the Revd Holly Byles when she joined us at St Jude's for the month of January.

The theme Jeremy has chosen for this half-term is Matthew 6:12 "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors", which is of course part of "The Lord's Prayer". We are looking particularly at two of Jesus' Parables: The Good Samaritan and the Lost Son, and at the account of Jesus' meeting with Zacchaeus.

At the end of term both our school communities will be coming into church for an Easter Celebration planned and prepared by the children and staff. We look forward to celebrating with them the greatest act of forgiveness ever known, when Jesus died for us, and rose again to be with us forever.

Our special thanks to Jeremy and to all who prepare and lead our Collective Worship week by week. We pray God's blessing on our Schools staff and governors as they guide us through the busy weeks ahead.

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>

Our Village Centre is going from strength to strength. It continues to support various community projects such as a Foodbank Distribution point for the Runnymede Foodbank, a Community Fridge, Baby Basics and the Child Contact Centre. All of these are of vital importance to those who access them, and Helen and her team do essential work in the community on behalf of the Staines and Feltham Methodist Circuit and St Jude's United Church.

We are very blessed that God has given us, Anglicans and Methodists together, the opportunity through this joint Outreach project to reach out to many different parts of our community, in such a practical and focused way.

BUT Helen and her small team can't do it all on their own. We are always looking for additional volunteers who can give even a small amount of time, on a regular basis, to help in our café, or to become involved in one of our additional projects. Our need is often greatest at busy times, such as school holidays, when extra help is particularly vital. Could you spare a couple of hours each week?

We are especially looking for volunteer help with our Monday Community Lunch. This is a very popular event, and, with growing numbers, we need some more chefs! If you enjoy cooking and would be able to spare a few hours on a Monday on a Rota basis, please get in touch with us. Please contact our Centre Manager, Helen Hallett by email on manager@villagecentre.org.uk or at the Village Centre, or have a word with Judith, our Vicar. Thank you to all our staff, volunteers and prospective volunteers!

Gill Sloan (Churchwarden, St Jude's)

Annual Meetings

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Vestry Meeting at which the Churchwardens are elected (currently Mike Brooking and Gill Sloan) and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place at approx 11.15am on Sunday 17th May. This is where we receive the revised Electoral Roll and the Annual Report and Accounts and normally elect members of the Church Council. This year we will also be electing our representatives to the Deanery Synod.

If you would like your name to be added to the Church Electoral Roll, please email roll@stjudeschurch.info for an application form. Please note that this is nothing to do with the local authority Register of Electors.

Lent, Holy Week and Easter 2026

Friday 6th March

2.00pm World Day of Prayer Service

St Mary's, Thorpe

7.30pm World Day of Prayer Service

St John's, Egham

Wednesdays 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th March

11.00am Holy Communion Service

followed by a simple Lent Lunch

Mothering Sunday 15th March

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Family Holy Communion for Mothering Sunday *

Holy Week

Palm Sunday 29th March

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Palm Sunday Liturgy

(with procession of palms, weather permitting) *

Wednesday 1st April

11.00am Holy Communion Service

followed by a simple Lent Lunch

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

7.00pm Maundy Thursday Liturgy with Holy Communion *

Good Friday 3rd April

12 noon Good Friday Liturgy *

1.00pm–3.00pm Good Friday Reflection

Holy Saturday 4th April

7.00pm Easter Vigil

Easter Day 5th April

7.00am Sunrise Service on the Green

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Family Holy Communion *

* = this service is live-streamed on our YouTube channel