



The Ship

St Jude's Church, Englefield Green Newsletter

Anglicans and Methodists working together

Number 190

April 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 11th April (tea and coffee available).

Fourth Sunday at Four

Our next Fourth Sunday at Four service is on Sunday 26th April at 4pm. This service will have an Easter theme, as we continue to rejoice in all that God has done for us in Jesus. As always – we extend to everyone the warmest invitation to join us for this service which lasts only about 30 minutes and doesn't include Holy Communion. If you've not been before, why not come along just to see if this service may perhaps suit your needs? If you have been before, then we look forward to welcoming you again. Refreshments are served in the Monsell Room from 3.15pm.

Coffee Morning

Saturday 18th April

10.00–11.30am

Cakes, preserves
marmalade, etc

Do come along for coffee
and a chat

Concert

by students from
Royal Holloway

Saturday 25th April

4.00pm

Admission free

Donations welcome

Refreshments provided

The stones will shout

In what feels like a postscript to my previous editorial for the Ship, on Monday 23rd March I was privileged to attend the funeral service of the Rt Revd Andrew Watson, Bishop of Guildford from 2014-2026. Guildford Cathedral was packed with mourners, family and loved ones, friends and colleagues, eminent and ordinary. Across the Diocese, those unable to attend the service in the Cathedral, watched on screens in local churches, or at home through a video link.

It was a magnificent service, full of sorrow and thanksgiving, heartbreak and hope. Tributes to Bishop Andrew were lovingly and courageously given by family members. Others close to him offered Bible Readings, prayers and beautiful music. We learned things about Bishop Andrew that perhaps we had not known before; his love of photography, his inclination to thrift, and his discipline of putting his phone away in a drawer when he was off-duty, thus able to give his undivided attention to his beloved family. Please pray for them all in their immeasurable loss.

But at the heart of the service were some things we had all known: Bishop Andrew's unshakeable faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and his unquenchable longing to lead others to discover the love of Jesus for themselves. The knowledge he was dying only strengthened his faith and led him to an even greater confidence in that love which will not let us go.

One of those taking part in the service was the Most Revd Sarah Mullally, two days before she would be formally installed as Archbishop of Canterbury. In tribute she said: "It is with great sorrow that I received news of Bishop Andrew's death. Andrew was a man of deep Christian faith who lived his life in the service of Christ and others". Archbishop Sarah watched with us all as, towards the close of the service, Bishop Andrew's crozier and mitre, two of the powerful symbols of his ministry, were removed from the surface of his coffin and placed on the cathedral's high altar. I could not help but think that, as Bishop Andrew took his place before the throne of God, needing the tools of his ministry no longer, Archbishop Sarah was preparing to take on the tools and symbols of her own calling to high office in the church. Hers too is a challenging calling, and she will need our prayer.

But as we approach Palm Sunday, I am reminded of a point in the story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Some religious leaders in the crowd criticise Jesus' disciples for proclaiming his praises. Jesus responded, "If they keep quiet, the stones will cry out". (Luke 19:40)

Bishop Andrew may be gone from among us, but the message he preached so faithfully lives on. Others will continue to take up the glad shout of Jesus' unflinching love. Suffering and death could not extinguish the fire of that love. The boulder across the tomb of Jesus could not prevent the life of Jesus from bursting forth anew. In the words of Sydney Carter: "They cut me down and I leapt up high; I am the life that'll never, never die"

In the City of Old Jerusalem today, access to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, first built in the 4th Century, and believed to be founded on the site both of Jesus' cross and of his tomb, is restricted because of the war. Even as Easter approaches it may still be considered too dangerous for worshippers to gather there in honour of Jesus' death and resurrection. But Jesus is still risen. Above the conflict, tears and suffering of our world, his voice of life and love can still be heard. If the church of the Holy Sepulchre stands empty – so did the tomb of Jesus! Easter renews his promise "I am the resurrection and the life, whoever believes in me, though they die, yet shall they live..." (John 11:25).

Please come and celebrate afresh this Easter the wonder of that promise. A joyful welcome awaits you in St Jude's.

Judith Allford

Save the date!

St Jude's is privileged to be part of the Staines and Feltham Methodist Circuit and to benefit especially from the ministry of our Methodist Superintendent, the Revd Lansford Penn-Timothy and our Methodist Deacon, Jacqueline Esama-John.

The Circuit has a regular programme of united services and the next one of these is being held at one of our neighbouring churches, the United Church of Egham. It will take place at 6.30pm on Sunday 24th May, Pentecost Sunday, and a warm invitation is extended to us all. Lansford will be preaching at that service and the other churches in the Circuit will also be contributing to our worship. It promises to be a lovely occasion — please join us if you can.

Alan Fone 1938–2026

On Monday 16th March we gathered in St Jude's Church to give thanks for the life of Mr Alan Fone, a beloved husband, father and grandfather, and a dear friend to many in Englefield Green and beyond.

Alan had had a long career in education. Described as "the very best of headteachers" he had influenced for good the lives of very many children and young people and enhanced and enriched their learning. As residents of this village, we are indebted to the work he has done amongst us through the years, both as one-time chairman of the Englefield Green Village Residents' Association, and as a Trustee of the Englefield Green Village Memorial Trust. Tributes were received from Mrs Joyce Taylor, another former Chair of EGVRA, and from Mr John Scott MBE, Chair of the EGVMT. Mr Scott said, "We respected him greatly and will sadly miss him".

But none will miss Alan more than Di, his devoted wife of 65 years, and their family. Di and Alan were longtime worshippers at St Jude's. Alan was also a sterling supporter of Di's leadership of our "Knit and Natter Group". Our hearts go out to Di, and to all those dearest to Alan, in their loss.

May they, and all who walk the way of sorrow at this time, find renewed comfort and hope in the recollection of the Easter promise of resurrection life in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Easyfundraising.co.uk

We are very grateful to all those who are supporting us when buying things through Amazon, John Lewis and others 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. All you need to do is to go to easyfundraising.co.uk online and choose St Jude's United Church Englefield Green as your charity.

Diary for April

- 1 Wednesday 11.00am Holy Communion followed by Lent lunch
- 2 Thursday 7.00pm Liturgy for Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion
- 3 Friday 12 noon Good Friday Liturgy 1.00–3.00pm Good Friday reflection
- 4 Saturday 7.00pm Easter Vigil
- 5 **Easter Day** 7.00am Sunrise service on The Green 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Sung Eucharist
- 8 Wednesday SORRY — NO 10.00am Holy Communion
11. Saturday 2.00–4.00pm Church open
- 12 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist 6.00pm Compline (Zoom)
- 13 Monday 7.30pm Church Council meets
- 15 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 18 Saturday 10.00–11.30am Coffee Morning
- 19 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist
- 22 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 25 Saturday 4.00pm Concert by students from Royal Holloway
- 26 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist 4.00pm Fourth Sunday at Four service
- 29 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion

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

Readings at Communion

Sunday 5th April (Easter Day)	Jeremiah 31. 1–6 Psalm 118. 1–2, 14–24 Acts 10. 34–43 Matthew 28. 1–10
Sunday 12th April (2nd Sunday of Easter)	Exodus 14. 10–end, 15. 20–21 Psalm 16 Acts 2. 14a, 22–32 John 20. 19–end
Sunday 19th April (3rd Sunday of Easter)	Zephaniah 3.14–end Psalm 116. 1–7 Acts 2.1a. 36–41 Luke 2. 33–35
Sunday 26th April (4th Sunday of Easter)	Genesis 7. Psalm 23 Acts 2.42–end John 10. 1–10

Food Bank

During another holiday season we are particularly aware that the demand on Foodbank provision across the country inevitably increase. All our Foodbanks play a wonderful role in supporting those who from time to time find themselves in particular need. Here in this village, we are grateful to the Runnymede Foodbank for the vital help they give to our community. Thank you as always to those of you who contribute to this work through St Jude's. Your regular contributions, in kind or in cash, are passed on to Runnymede Foodbank week by week, and we are grateful for all the donations which find their way to our Foodbank crate in the Monsell Room. Thank you to Geoff Chew who continues to co-ordinate this on behalf of us all. Thank you!

From the Registers

Baptisms: (8th March) Oliver James Stafford
Parker George Stafford

Funerals: (16th March) Jill Gooch
(20th March) Edward Charles George
(24th March) Nigel John Belchamber
(26th March) Alan James Granados

Memorial Service: (16th March) Alan William Fone

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.

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!

Bereavement Coffee Morning

Thursday 30th April 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 OQR, usually 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"



I am writing this article on the day that the children of St Jude's Infant and Junior Schools held their Easter Celebration Service in St Jude's Church. It was such a privilege to be part of that service, which was entirely led by the children. The singing was joyous, the reading of the Easter narrative was beautifully shared by some of the older children, and children from the Infant School contributed appropriately thought-provoking prayers which they had written themselves. It was a lovely occasion, and thanks are due not only to the children, but also to all the members of staff who helped put the service together – thank you all.

As we celebrate the Easter promise of new life, our Infant School has been nurturing some new life of their own! This week has seen the hatching from their eggs of several tiny fluffy chicks, which has been a great joy to watch. Thank you to all who continue to care so carefully for the fledgling birds. Thank you also to the staff of Ladybirds and Butterflies, for inviting me to come and share part of the Easter Story with the youngest children in the school. That was a special joy for me as we thought about how the sadness of the first Good Friday became the new happiness and hope of the Resurrection Sunday.

This has been another busy and challenging term for our children, staff, parents, carers and governors. Please have a lovely Easter break – as always, you deserve it!

The Village Centre

Victoria Street, Englefield Green TW20 OQX

01784 471110

manager@villagecentre.org.uk

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

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

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

As the Easter holidays begin, our Café opening hours will be 10am–2pm from now until Monday 13th April. We shall be closed on the Bank Holidays but otherwise continue to offer you the warmest of welcomes and the nicest of snacks, meals and hot and soft drinks!

As we celebrate Easter, we are grateful to F. Harrison and Son for arranging an Easter Egg collection so that we can distribute these Easter goodies in the community! Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to the collection.

And a reminder that we continue to be grateful for the hard work and support of all our Centre staff and volunteers. God bless you all with Easter joy!

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.

Holy Week and Easter

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