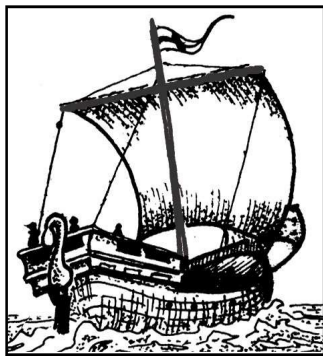




The Ship

St Jude's Church, Englefield Green Newsletter

Anglicans and Methodists working together

Number 196

October 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 10th October (following on from the Harvest Lunch for which tickets are required).

Macmillan Cancer Care

Many thanks to all who came along last month to support our Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Care. We are able to send £150 to this good cause.

Fourth Sunday at Four

Our next Fourth Sunday at Four service will be on Sunday 25th October at 4.00pm. Please save the date, and plan to join us for this shorter and more informal service. Refreshments are served from 3.15pm in the Monsell Room.

A date for your diaries

On the last Sunday in the month, Sunday 25th October, we shall be celebrating the Feast Day of St Simon and St Jude. It is from the life and ministry of St Jude, and his devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ, that our church and schools continue to take their inspiration today.

Please join us in thanksgiving at our 9.30am Holy Communion service.

Piano Recital by Geoff Chew

playing music by J S Bach,

Janáček and Haydn

Saturday 3rd October

4.00pm

Admission free

Donation welcome

Refreshments after
the recital

Meet Sophie

We are delighted to have appointed Sofie Palmer as Volunteer Ministry Assistant at St Jude's. Here is Sofie in her own words!

Hello everyone. It has been a pleasure to be with you over this past month in my new role as a Volunteer Ministry Assistant.

For those of you who have yet to meet me, my name is Sofie. I have recently graduated from Royal Holloway University of London with an integrated Masters in Geoscience. I grew up in Cornwall, attending church on Sundays, where my dad would pass me over to a lovely elderly lady at the back of church so he could play the organ. I liked going to church because that lady always had chocolate in her walker for me! I was baptised in 2009 alongside my younger brothers. I went to a Methodist school growing up, where my parents taught. I always enjoyed learning about faith in an academic setting. At the age of 13, I became a girl chorister. This became a huge part of my faith journey although I didn't realise at the time. Singing the liturgy familiarised me with the Bible story more and brought the words of scripture to life. However, it was being outside in nature where I first really felt God must exist. Aged 18, I decided to get confirmed and take the next step on my faith journey.

Once at university I became a Chapel Warden at Royal Holloway. During my time there I have volunteered close to 400 hours. I have helped serve as crucifer, on welcoming, refreshments and giving readings. Whilst the College was without an Anglican Chaplain I led morning prayer and evensong services. I also spent a lot of time serving at St John's Egham in various forms over the years. It is through the church and volunteering I feel as if I have joined a community. I sang in the church choir, the worship band, I led intercessions, I helped at the youth group, and I gave my first ever sermon. St John's gave me a family in Egham. Through them I also started to volunteer at the parkrun for a while where I met even more of the community. Through serving the church whether at Royal Holloway Chapel or St John's Egham, I felt my faith grow.

Before I applied for this ministry role, I had felt I needed to serve the church in a more intentional and committed way. Alongside this, I had been feeling like I needed to continue to learn more and live a life God would want me to. This role felt like an amazing opportunity to bring these hopes together and explore where God might be leading me.

As part of my ministry role, I have already been volunteering at the Village Centre one day a week. It has been a pleasure getting to work alongside Helen and the rest of the team. Most excitingly for me, I learnt how to make hot chocolate on the fancy coffee machine! It was truly a life goal completed! I am looking forward to getting to know more people across the parish and discovering many ways our church serves the wider community.

During this year, I hope to continue to grow in my faith and continue to study my Bible in greater detail. I also hope to grow in confidence when teaching others about the word of God, whether through life groups or conversations. I feel a particular calling to Youth and Student ministries, but I would love to serve the church in whatever way I can. I have lived in this parish the last four years and truly have loved my time here. I am grateful for the sense of belonging I have found while being here.

Finally, I hope this ministry year will help me gain clarity about what I am going to do after this year. I have recently been considering both teaching and priesthood as potential future paths and hoping this year working in the church will help as well. I look forward to getting to know more of you over the coming year, and I am excited to see what God has in store for us. Thank you all for making me feel so welcome!

Sofie, Volunteer Ministry Assistant

Looking to the future

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future". (Jeremiah 29v.11)

In September our ECC met with the Revd Jens Mankel, one of the Mission Enablers from the Diocese of Guildford and explored with him possibilities and hopes for the future. It was a positive and productive meeting and will provide the basis of the St Jude's Statement of Needs, which will be shared with the Revd Holly Byles, our preferred candidate to be our next Vicar. Gill Sloan and Diana Bendall will act as our Parish Representatives in the appointment process. Please pray for them as they continue to discern God's will for a new season of ministry.

In the meantime, Judith will still be with us until the end of the year. However, she will now need to focus on her own plans for the future. So, in the terms of the House for Duty agreement under which she has continued her ministry at St Jude's over the last year, she will need to take a step back from some of her current duties. If you need to get in touch with her, and find her elusive, please email enquiries@stjudeschurch.info and there will be someone who can help you.

Harvest Festival Weekend

"He crowns the year with his goodness" Psalm 65v.11

Please join us for our Harvest Festival Celebrations. We have a Harvest Lunch on Saturday 10th October at 1pm. Tickets are £10, payable on the day, but you will need to sign up in advance, so please check to see if there are still spaces available. Our special Harvest Thanksgiving Holy Communion Service is at 9.30am on the following day, Sunday 11th October. Please see elsewhere in this newsletter the Runnymede foodbank poster with some suggestions for Harvest time donations.

Our special thanks to those who prepare and provide our Harvest Lunch and to those who decorate St Jude's to reflect the abundant goodness of God in creation. We are delighted that on Monday 12th October we shall welcome the children of St Jude's Schools for their own Harvest celebration.

From the Registers

Baptism: (6th September) Reuben Wilfred Henry Vardy

Funerals: (10th September) Jeannette Belson "Jane"
(11th September) Edna Connie Rolph "Elaine"

Burial of Cremated Remains: (14th September) Michael John Henderson

Readings at Communion

Sunday 4th October
(18th Sunday after Trinity) Isaiah 5. 1-7
Psalm 80. 8-16
Philippians 3. 4b-14
Matthew 21 33-end

Sunday 11th October
(Harvest Thanksgiving) Deuteronomy 8. 7-18
Psalm 65
2 Corinthians 9. 6-end
Luke 12. 16-30

Sunday 18th October
(Luke the Evangelist) Acts 16. 6-12a
Psalm 147. 1-7
2 Timothy 4. 5-7
Luke 10. 1-9

Sunday 25th October
(St Simon and St Jude) Isaiah 28. 14-16
Psalm 119. 89-96
Ephesians 2. 19-end
John 15. 17-end

Putting your stamp on it

Thank you to everyone who contributes to our charity stamp collection and to Joan who manages the collection for us and passes on the stamps. Our supplies are running a bit low! Please look to see if you have any used stamps at home! They are put to good use!

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 £1700 (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.

From the October 1966 magazine

Unfortunately very little is known about St Jude. The name is not uncommon in New Testament times. In addition to Judas Iscariot who betrayed Jesus, there are several other men connected with Christ. One appears in the list of the twelve disciples whom Jesus chose. It is possible that he was one of the "brethren" of Jesus and likely that he wrote the Epistle of St Jude, found in the New Testament. The story is that he and St Simon, another of the twelve, died as martyrs in Persia. For this reason they are usually linked together.

We give thanks for him on the nearest Sunday to 28th October (25th October)

Diary for October

- 3 Saturday 4.00pm Piano Recital by Geoff Chew
- 4 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Holy Communion (Methodist Liturgy)
- 7 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 10 Saturday Harvest Lunch 1.00pm (tickets required) 2.00-4.00pm Church open
- 11 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist Harvest Thanksgiving 6.00pm Compline (Zoom)
- 14 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 18 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist
- 20 Tuesday 7.00pm Church Council meets
- 21 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 25 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist 4.00pm Fourth Sunday at Four service
- 28 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.

Choir Matters

It's good to welcome back Joshua Davis, our Organ Scholar after the summer break. At the end of September Joshua held an Open Choir in church, and regular members of the St Jude's choir were joined by some first-year RHUL students, plus Sofie Palmer, who had also come along to sing. It was a joy to welcome them, and regular choir rehearsals are now under way for this term.

If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in joining them, please come along to meet Joshua, or Geoff Chew, our regular Organist, at one of our Sunday morning services.

Special thanks to our choir and organists for all they offer in the service of God at St Jude's.

St Jude's Church of England Schools Federation

The Full Governing Body of our Schools' Federation met at the end of September, our first meeting of the new academic year. This is always the meeting where individual roles and committee memberships within the wider body are established for the coming year. Most of the governors have specific responsibilities and all belong to one or other of our committees, which include Education, Finance and Christian Distinctiveness.

This meeting saw some changes, the most significant of which was Juan Pemberton's stepping down as our Chair. Juan first joined the Board of Governors of St Jude's Junior School in 2015. He was nominated as a Foundation Governor representing the St Jude's Church Council. In 2023 Juan was elected as co-chair of the newly formed Governing Body of the two federated schools and in 2024 he was elected as our Chair.

We owe Juan a great debt of gratitude for his faithful and uncompromising service to both our schools. He has been an inspiring and challenging leader. He has been outstanding in fulfilling a duty of care to all the individual governors on the Board. He is very well-known across both schools, and he has been tireless in the support he has given. He has also, of course, brought to us the considerable skills and business acumen of his own professional background. He will be much missed.

But at the same time, we elected and welcomed a new Chair, who will take up the reins from Juan! Sam Taylor is a Foundation Governor nominated by the PCC of Christ Church, Virginia Water, and he has already served since 2023 on our own governing body, as well as chairing for a short time the governing body of another school. Sam is also an Independent Councillor at Runnymede Borough Council, a position from which he will step down in 2027, when the new unitary body is formed. We are very grateful indeed for the experience and skills that Sam brings to his new role with us and we wish him well.

Please pray with thanksgiving for both Juan and Sam. May God bless them both.

Food Bank

Thank you as always to those of you who contribute to the work of our local Foodbank through St Jude's. This month we are including in this newsletter the Foodbank's Harvest Appeal Poster for 2026. If you feel able to give a little extra at Harvest time, the poster includes a list of some of the items most needed at present. Thank you all — and thank you to Geoff for co-ordinating this ministry from St Jude's.

The Village Centre

68 Victoria Street, Englefield Green TW20 0QX

01784 471110

manager@villagecentre.org.uk

website:www.villagecentre.org.uk

This month we are focussing on a particular aspect of the work of our Village Centre: The Village Centre Monday Lunch Club

Every Monday at 12 o'clock we open our doors for lunch. This is available to anyone who is over the age of 55. You will be welcomed by a friendly team of volunteers who will be waiting ready to serve you.

You will be served a freshly cooked 2 course meal consisting of a main course, a dessert followed by tea or coffee.

It is a friendly group of people who come along to enjoy a home cooked meal and an opportunity to meet up with friends. The group is well attended and we provide around 25 meals each week. There is no charge for your meal but if you may like to make a voluntary donation if you wish.

We are always happy to welcome new people. If this is something you might be interested in then why not come along and pay us a visit.

To book your place call 01784 471110 or email the manager at manager@villagecentre.org.uk by midday on the Friday before.

See you there!

Valerie Barbet

Bereavement Coffee Morning

Thursday 29th October 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, 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 glad to see you.

Forthcoming Concerts at 4.00pm

Saturday 7th November

Valerie Fry and Dimitri Kennaway
(words and music of World War I)

Saturday 21st November

James Kirby (piano)

Saturday 12th December

Simon Lindley (organ)

Other events

Saturday 14th November at 2-4.00pm

Church open

Saturday 28th November at 2-4.00pm

Christmas Fair

in St Jude's Church

Harvest appeal



Help support your food bank this Harvest

Runnymede Foodbank, on average, provides food parcels for 748 local individuals and families facing hardship each month.

Donate food



Donate an item or two from our shopping list, ensuring we can provide food for people facing hardship in your community.

Donate money



Help to cover the costs of storing and distributing food, as well as developing sustainable projects.

Shopping list

Tinned meat/fish

Tinned veg/fruit

Cooking sauces

Tinned soup

Milk (UHT or powdered)

Cereals

Fruit juice (long-life)

Sponge pudding

Biscuits

Instant mashed potato

runnymede.foodbank.org.uk

Registered Charity in England & Wales 1095763

