



St John's News

St John's Methodist Church, Baker Street, Potters Bar EN6 2DZ
stjohnspb.org.uk email: sjnews@stjohnspb.org.uk

Registered Charity No 1130633

SERVICES

Sunday 4th July

10.30am Morning Worship
(Action for Children)
led by Rev Ali Facey

Duty Steward: Dave Best

**Find more details about
Action for Children on page 3**

Sunday 11th July

10.30am Morning Worship
led by Graham Phillips

Duty steward: Helen Jeckells

Sunday 18th July

10.30am Morning Worship
led by Rev Ali Facey

Duty steward: Myra Sloper

Sunday 25th July

10.30am Morning Worship
led by Rev Ali Facey

Duty steward: Dave Best

Sunday 1st August

10.30am Morning Worship
led by Rev Ali Facey

Duty steward: Helen Jeckells

Sunday 8th August

10.30am Morning Worship
led by Graham Phillips

Duty steward: Myra Sloper

Sunday 15th August

10.30am Morning Worship
led by Rev Rosemary Fletcher

Duty steward: Robin Burns

Sunday 22nd August

10.30am Morning Worship with
Holy Communion
led by Rev Ali Facey

Duty steward: Dave Best

Sunday 29th August

10.30am Morning Worship
led by Rev Ali Facey

Duty steward: Robin Burns

Activities resuming

In accordance with government guidance and our own assessments, we are gradually resuming church activities. Junior Church has now restarted on a Sunday, and all children are welcome!

July & August 2021

Holiday at Home

We are used to hearing about holiday clubs for children, but what about the more mature members of our community?



In the life and mission of St John's Methodist Church, older members of the church family matter, and that is why this year we have decided to arrange a two day **Holiday at Home** on **Tuesday 3rd August and Wednesday 4th August, 10.30-4.30pm**. Everyone needs something to look forward to. It is lovely to go away on holiday but this year it is a bit more difficult to arrange and sometimes we just want to sleep in our own beds.

We hope the event will provide people with an opportunity to meet up with friends and make new ones without the hassle of going away. We want everyone to feel welcome and enjoy a time of fun, friendship and renewal together, backed by prayer, but with a

holiday atmosphere! We hope there will be something for everyone from crafts, board games, puzzles, entertainment, gentle exercise, stimulating talks, and a chance to try your hand at something new, to simple chat and relaxation. In addition there will be morning coffee, a hot meal at lunchtime and afternoon tea with cake. With good company, we can guarantee lots of fun and laughter.

There will be plenty of friendly helpers to assist, however, we are unable to provide adequate cover for people with severe dementia or those needing assistance with personal care, unless they can provide their own carer.

If you need help getting here or help with transport, please let us know.

We need volunteers to help as there are lots of jobs that need doing (including setting up on Monday 2nd August). If you are able to help for all or part of the time, please contact me or Myra Sloper (our details are on the back cover).

Rev Ali Facey

Heavenly Father we pray for our holiday at home event in August. We pray for the team planning and organising this new venture. We pray for a positive response for those who are able to attend and that this may be a successful event.

We pray for the church at St Johns in its 80th anniversary year. We pray that we may be able to resume normal church services once restrictions have been eased, and that once again we may be able to sing your praises!



Finally, we pray for Graham and the new outreach committee (see page 2) as they try to develop what we are offering people who come on to our premises, and improve our community interaction.

Photo: Paolo Nicoletto on unsplash.com

Monthly prayers

Join us at **8.30am on the 1st Saturday of each month (usually)** to pray for the Churches and Community of Potters Bar. Meetings last approximately 45 minutes. Held in person and on Zoom (Zoom joining information from ctipbsecretary@gmail.com. Coming up:

3rd July: United Reformed Church, 245 Darkes Lane

14th August: Our Lady & St Vincent, 243 Mutton Lane

4th September: St John's Methodist Church

Potters Bar Community Music Centre

This centre, run by Pam Moutoussi, a member of St John's, is based at Mount Grace school on Saturday mornings, 8.30am to 11.30am in term time. They have a range of lessons and groups to suit all ages and abilities (including an adult group). Further details can be found here:

<http://www.pbcms.org.uk>

Reaching out and beyond...

We continue with our **creative activity packs** which have been well received in the past, and we are in the process of getting 120 packs ready to give to families prior to the schools breaking up for the summer. They go to families from both playgroup settings, church families, Creative Church families and the Beavers.

In September from 18th-26th there is to be a **"Big Green Week,"** a national event to celebrate action on climate change which we are looking to highlight. Our MP, Oliver Dowden, has provisionally accepted our invitation to come and answer questions relating to government initiatives on climate change both locally and internationally. If, finally, he can come, we plan publicity (including to local secondary schools), and so

hope to engage with the community over these important issues, including giving young people a chance to come and question those in power themselves. We hope to show that we too are concerned, and not just here on Sundays for worship!

When St John's is fully open again to all the normal activities, we hope to put out a **questionnaire** to those who use the church building, such as "Jumping John's", the uniformed organisations and the playgroup, to give us their views on how we can improve our connection with them and what they would like to see us do.

We are investigating the possibility of opening a **food "pantry"** (like a food bank but for fresh produce) mid-week or maybe more often on the Oakmere estate (and even

perhaps a **clothing bank**, especially for children's clothing, which could run alongside it), but these ideas are in the early stages of planning.

The pandemic hasn't been an easy period in which to explore new initiatives but we are taking these exciting plans one step at a time! We would like the whole church family to become involved and supportive of these efforts - we will rely on that to be able to move forward together. All that goes on at St. John's needs to be underpinned by prayer, so we would ask you to pray daily for the life of St John's and all who come through our doors.

Graham Phillips (on behalf of the Outreach Committee: Nico Bekooy, Maggie Day, Chris Esdaile, Helen Jeckells, Margaret Rhodes, Graham and Ali)

St John's welcomes Shenley!



Shenley is a small village with a population of 4,000 people and is located in Hertsmere, just north of Borehamwood. Shenley Methodist Church is a sister church to St John's in the St Albans Circuit which for many years had a congregation of around 20. In recent years this has reduced to mid single figures. Their current minister is Rev Andrew Prout and they currently

meet for worship every Sunday at 9.30am before the preacher then goes on to lead a separate service at Radlett.

Sadly their senior steward died of Covid-19 last year and their treasurer and family have now relocated to elsewhere in the county, and as a result they are no longer able to meet the minimum membership required to act as Managing Trustees. For the past year, Rob Ward has been acting as their treasurer.

Following consultation with the Circuit and the Church Council at St John's, Shenley has now accepted that the responsibilities of Managing Trustees should transfer to St John's and that they will become a 'class' of St John's from September. Under this arrangement St John's will become their Managing Trustees and the Shenley Church Council will integrate

with ours so that St John's will have responsibility for the accounts and the building. Their members will become members of St John's with Rev Andrew Prout as their pastoral contact for the coming year until the new Superintendent Minister arrives. (S)he will then be the new minister of St John's (including Shenley) and Radlett.

Rev Ali Facey said: "This is a very big moment for the congregations at both Potters Bar and Shenley, and St John's is delighted to be able to help Shenley continue to worship in their building for as long as possible. We are pleased to welcome their congregation as part of our fellowship."

The next edition of *St John's News* will carry further information to introduce St John's to the people and activities at Shenley.

Peter Barlow

Holiday Club afternoon: *Build your house on rock!*

Potters Bar Churches are running a Holiday Club Afternoon with activities for primary-school-aged children on **Saturday 7th August 2021 from 1.30 – 5.30pm at Pope Paul School** in Baker Street. There will be fully-supervised art, craft and outdoor activities including a mini-olympics. Parents/Guardians are invited to join us at 4.30pm for the concluding celebration and BBQ.

Booking in advance is essential as places are limited, so you should book early to avoid disappointment. The afternoon will cost £5 per child and families with two or more children pay £10 maximum. To book please go to <https://cclh.churchsuite.com/events/4ydtlykl>

Working with torture survivors

In a recent service at St John's, I spoke about my work as a legal adviser at REDRESS. Several people have asked for more information about what we do.

REDRESS is a small charity (with less than 20 staff) that pursues legal claims on behalf of survivors of torture in the UK and around the world to obtain justice and reparation for the violation of their human rights. As well as representing individuals, we target the policy reasons that enabled the torture to take place, by building campaigns that use other techniques (such as community engagement, press and social media) to influence change.

Bringing a legal case for accountability can be an essential part of the recovery for a torture survivor. We partner with other organisations to develop the

campaign, including medics, lawyers, advocates, and activists. We also work collaboratively with other international organisations within the anti-torture movement, including organisations that provide rehabilitation for survivors, and we work with States to encourage them

REDRESS

Ending torture, seeking justice for survivors

to sign up to treaties protecting against torture, and to provide training to judges and prosecutors.

My work involves running cases on behalf of clients in a range of tribunals and courts around the world. I am presently running cases at the European Court of Human Rights, the Inter-American Commission and

Court of Human Rights, the UN Human Rights Committee, and the UK Investigatory Powers Tribunal. Some of my clients are based in the UK (many having come here as refugees) and others remain in their countries of origin. In June, we launched a new case before the UN

Human Rights Committee regarding an Eritrean Christian, Tariku Asefa, who was tortured in Libya whilst fleeing to Europe. Our other clients include [Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe](#), the British-Iranian dual national who is in prison in Iran,

and [Azul Rojas Marín](#), from Peru, whose story I shared with you at St John's recently.

If you are interested in keeping in touch with our work, you can receive a free regular newsletter by signing up [here](#), or donate via our website: www.redress.org

Chris Esdaile



Action for Children

Action for Children is working to improve life for children in the UK.

Their vision is that every child and young person should

have a safe and happy childhood, and the foundations they need to thrive. They protect and support children and young people. They do this by providing practical and emotional care and support. They make sure their voices are heard. And they campaign to bring lasting improvements to their lives.

They take action in three ways:

INTERVENTION. Anyone can get trapped in poverty, abuse or violence. When they spot problems, they take action early. They step in to help children, young people and families before things get worse.

PREVENTION. They give young people the support they need to grow up safe and happy. Projects like The Blues Programme teach important life skills and help to build resilience. This wellbeing programme is for young people aged 13-19. Over six weeks, it teaches emotional resilience, and reduces low mood and anxious thoughts. So far, they've delivered The Blues Programme in over 150 schools, to more than 5,500 young people. Blues involves a one-hour group

session at school each week, plus home tasks. Students learn how to challenge negative thoughts, and talk about different coping strategies. This is especially important in the current Covid pandemic. It's simple and it works.

ADVOCACY. Children don't have a say in many things that affect their lives. They listen to what they want. They take their concerns to the government. And they campaign for better support and resources.

You can support **Action for Children** in a variety of ways:

- A regular or single donation (please remember to use Gift Aid)
- You can also use the [Just Giving Page](#)

Thank you for your support!

Myra Sloper

Minister: Rev Ali Facey 01707 652978 (minister@stjohnspb.org.uk) - day off Friday

Senior Steward: Myra Sloper 01707 875846 (seniorsteward@stjohnspb.org.uk)

Treasurer: Rob Ward (treasurer@stjohnspb.org.uk)

Lettings: Chris and Lesley Humphreys 01707 851320 (bookings@stjohnspb.org.uk)

Nursery Playgroup: Celia Mills 07969 924482

Copy deadline for next issue is Sunday 22nd August

Articles in 'St John's News' contain personal opinions of contributors and may not reflect the opinions of the Editors, Minister or Members



The UK is hosting the COP26 Conference and we, the UK, have a unique opportunity to make our mark. COP ('The Conference of the parties') is the overall decision making body of the United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change. This is its 26th year, hence COP 26.

Ali wrote in the May issue of SJ News about COP 26 and the impact it could have on the world's future. I would like to share some of the initiatives churches in the 'Make COP26 count' scheme are taking to make the outcome a good one. There are three basic thrusts: Making our church more energy efficient and move to a carbon neutral state, letting our political leaders know our views and encourage positive action, and finally, making each of us more thoughtful and responsible for our individual situations.

The first initiative is to sign up to Eco Church and work towards an award. The awards are Bronze, Silver and Gold. The scheme is concerned

with all aspects of life. Energy consumption is one aspect, but aspects of teaching, worship, land management, community and lifestyle are also covered. To date St John's has signed up to Eco Church and has

sufficient points for a Bronze award. We have made a start, but there is much to do if we are to achieve Silver and then Gold.

On the second initiative, the 'Make COP26 count' scheme encourages us to work on our politicians, and is providing training and ideas. The politicians will reflect our voices to the world, especially this year. Let us work to see they deliver the message we want.

We must encourage all political parties to work together and

find common ground. They can point out the devastating effects of climate change on communities around the world. In this year of opportunity, they have to set the UK agenda as an example to the world and then get other countries to follow.

The third initiative is about individual behaviour, about spreading the message of climate change to

'When our land is submerging slowly but visibly, any ideological debate on ecological issues is only a luxury of the privileged communities.'

Rev Tafue Molu
Lusama Pacific,
Eklasia Kelisiano,
Tuvalu

News of the church family

Congratulations to parents **Sarah and Joshua** for the safe arrival of **Luca Benjamin Joshua** and to **Christine and Graham Phillips** on becoming grandparents again. We are absolutely thrilled for you all. Sarah and Josh would like to thank you for the cards and good wishes they received after Luca's arrival - they are all doing well.

Congratulations also to **Gareth Griffith** who was ordained in Gloucester Cathedral on June 27th. There was a link included with last week's Sunday service email for those wishing to view the service.

This will be available for a few weeks. Gareth attended St John's Church for many years. We pray for **Sonia, Gareth, Myfanwy and Vaughan** as they prepare for their move to Lechlade, Gloucestershire where Gareth will serve as a curate.

Roger Wright remains in intensive care awaiting heart surgery. We pray for Roger, Barbara and their daughters at an incredibly difficult time.

If you would like to include any future news, please contact Helen Barlow (Pastoral Secretary) on 01707 662254 or foodtech16@hotmail.co.uk

every person, and considering our own lifestyles. Each one of us needs to be aware of the actions required to save the world for our children and our grandchildren.

Finally, why not review your carbon footprint? You can find a very useful guide using the link [here](#), which provides some background, and covers home energy use, travel by car and public transport, and shopping.

David Carter