



St John's News

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

Registered Charity No 1130633



SERVICES

Our Junior Church will restart on Sunday 1st November and take place in the Garden Room following Covid-19 precautions.

Sunday 1st November

10.30am Morning Worship
Rev David Mullins
Duty Steward - Myra Sloper

Sunday 8th Nov - Remembrance

10.30am Morning Worship
Rev Ali Facey
Duty Steward - Robin Burns

Sunday 15th November

10.30am Morning Worship
Rev Ali Facey
Duty Steward - Helen Jeckells

Sunday 22nd November

10.30am Morning Worship
Rev Gareth Powell
Duty Steward - Dave Best

Sunday 29th November

10.30am Morning Worship
with Holy Communion
Rev Ali Facey
Duty Steward - Chris Humphreys

St John's is now open on Sunday mornings and we would love to welcome you at one of our services, but do read these important details. Please...

- 1 stay at home if you have any symptoms of Covid-19.
- 2 observe social distancing and be guided by the welcomers and signs.
- 3 wear a face covering.
- 4 use the hand sanitizer on entry to the building.
- 5 record your name for Track & Trace.
- 6 note chairs have been spaced out.
- 7 be aware there is currently no singing during the service.
- 8 be aware there is no after service chat or refreshments although toilets will be available.

St John's Leadership Team

November 2020

Jubilee Debt Campaign

The world is facing a unprecedented global pandemic. The Americans are now the epicentre of the crisis and there are reports that Covid is accelerating quickly in Africa. Countries like the Central African Republic has 3 ventilators for almost 5 million people. The country can't afford to spend any more money on healthcare because in 2020 it is due to spend \$25 million on external debt payments.



ple through history. In the 1990s, campaigners for debt cancellation for countries in the global south decided to call for a Jubilee for the year 2000. Jubilee Debt Campaign is the organisation in the UK, which has continued and evolved that campaign.

In the 2000's a huge global campaign led to the write off of \$130 billion worth of debt. But unfortunately it's started to build up again and the Covid crisis is sending debt levels through the roof.

The debt crisis has actually been made worse by the pandemic. Turmoil in global markets and the fact that developing countries are getting less for the products they export means that debt levels have increased. In 2020 alone developing countries owe \$40.6 billion in debt repayments. And right now 64 countries spend more on external debt payments than on public healthcare.

The Jubilee Debt Campaign has had some success. As a result of over 800,000 signing petitions ahead of the IMF and World Bank Spring meetings in April they managed to get a commitment for up to \$12 billion of debt owed in 2020 to be suspended. This is obviously good news for countries struggling to fight Covid-19 but more is needed. The Jubilee Debt Campaign are calling for debt cancellation. You can get involved in the campaign by going to jubileedebt.org.uk/coronavirus or by picking up a Drop it booklet from the back of the church and send a postcard to the Chancellor.

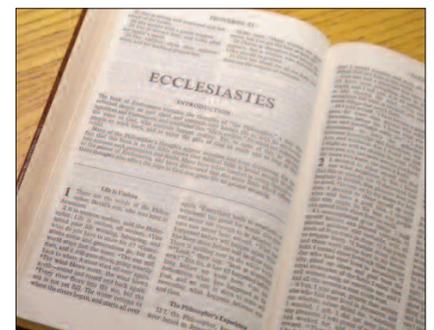
Some of you will have heard of the Jubilee Debt Campaign. The word 'Jubilee' comes from the Old Testament of the Bible. It was a periodic celebration in ancient times when debts were cancelled, slaves freed, land returned to its original owners and fields left fallow. The idea of a debt jubilee has continued to inspire peo-

Rev Ali Facey

St John's Readers List

Would you like to join people on the rota for reading at church? We are compiling a new list of those who would like to read under the current measures.

During these times, readers will put a face visor on over their mask when walking up to the reading point. You will also be given a lapel microphone. When reading you are asked to remove your mask (but keep the visor on) so that you can be clearly heard. When you finish reading, you should put the mask back on under the visor and return to your seat. At that point, you can take the visor off. The reading point is on the steps near the pulpit - please note there will be no stand so you will need to be able to hold the paper in your hand to read from. If there are two readings in the service, you will usually be asked to read both to minimise the movement and the number of face visors we need.



If you are interested, please email info@stjohnbspb.org.uk, or speak to one of the stewards

Service Recordings

Following our re-opening we are again recording all the services. These are stored electronically, so if you would like to hear the service then these can easily be made available. Please ask Peter Barlow (01707 662254) or Chris Humphreys (01707 851320) or anyone at the sound desk on Sundays.

Thank you...

Can I take this opportunity to thank all the church family for their prayers, cards and best wishes leading up to, and following my recent hip surgery. It is a privilege to belong to such a caring church family. Sandra Bowler

Thinking Evening - Thursday 12th Nov

As you are aware I have been organising Thinking Lunches since 2017 and we have been holding these at Marlborough Road Methodist Church (MRMC) since September 2017 once a month September to June, and then a quarterly Thinking Evening, which was a response to a request to those who could not attend at lunchtimes.

Obviously since Lockdown all of this has been in abeyance but I have received several enquiries as to how we might continue with these.

We had hosted an event in Interfaith week 2018 on an evening at MRMC which some of you will remember and this year I had planned to hold something similar. In 2018 it was an Invest in Peace Event / Solutions not Sides and was organised jointly by the Board of Deputies of British Jews and Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and MRMC hosted the event.

Sometime ago I had invited Dr Chris Hewer to take an evening for 2020 Interfaith Week. Dr Chris Hewer is a Christian who comes from a background in Christian theology, education, Islamic studies and inter-faith studies. He has



More information about Dr Chris Hewer can be found at www.chrishewer.org

worked in the field of Muslims in Britain and Christian-Muslim relations since 1986, including 6 years as Adviser on Inter-Faith Relations to the Bishop of Birmingham. His current work is to teach study days and residential courses, and to develop written and electronic resources. His book 'A Short Guide to Understanding Islam' has been published by a London mosque to be given to non-Muslims wanting to learn about Islam, whilst he was invited by a Muslim TV channel to produce a 46 part series of half hour programmes (each accompanied by an article on the same theme) on Understanding Islam. All of these can be accessed on his website (see above) along with written audio visual resources

on Islam for Religious Studies GCSE, available to download free from the website. Chris regularly runs study days to help explore what Muslims believe plus days for Muslims to understand Christianity.

Inter Faith Week 2020 will take place from Sunday 8 - Sunday 15 Nov. Chris Hewer is speaking on Thurs 12th Nov at 7.30pm at Marlborough Road Methodist Church via Zoom. If you wish to attend please let Chris Hancock, know at admin@midhertsmethodists.org.uk

so he can send you the the zoom link and more information. The subject of Chris Hewer's talk is "The Three Abrahamic Faiths: elements of unity and diversity"

2020 Inter Faith Week's aims are to:

1. Strengthen good inter faith relations at all levels
2. Increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, in particular celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society
3. Increase understanding between people of religious & non-religious beliefs.

*Rev Rosemary Fletcher
Circuit Superintendent*

Vacancy

Anna Chaplain (chaplain to the elderly) in St. Albans under the auspices of Hatfield Road and Marlborough Road Methodist Churches. Full time for 5 years. Work ecumenically in partnership with ministers and lay volunteers to help meet the spiritual needs of older people in the city of St Albans using the model of the Gift of Years / Anna Chaplain initiative of the Bible Reading Fellowship. Lay or ordained can apply. Please visit www.mrmc.org.uk/index.php/future-projects/ for advert and job description. Closing date 8th Nov with interviews held on 13th November.

We realise the Covid-19 situation complicates the work but we do believe the need has never been greater.

Prayers for the current Covid-19 pandemic

For all whose day starts with anxiety, as they leave the security of home worrying about the risk of infection; particularly those whose health or age classifies them as vulnerable. Loving God, be close, keep them safe, along with all whose tasks today includes the care of frail and elderly.

And for all of us, grant wisdom to make sensible choices, not just for ourselves, but for everybody.

We give thanks for all those people whose daily lives are about giving; be it medical or physical assistance, teaching, training and encouraging, loving, caring, supporting, praying; all the many ways that one life can be blessed and enriched by another. For all these people we give thanks.

Loving God, we give thanks for the extended family of local communities assisting with the needs of both frail and elderly confined to their homes.

May every gift of love, every encouraging word, bring hope into lonely lives and a blessing to the giver.

<https://www.faithandworship.com/>

Church Flowers

We are displaying an artificial flower arrangement in the pedestal at the front of the church which will remain in place for the time being. Sadly, therefore, we're unable to distribute any flowers after the service. Hopefully we will be able to have lovely fresh flowers again before too long.

Margaret Bland

Keep in touch

Free phone lines for prayers and news from the Methodist Church

Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514

Listen to news: 0808 281 2478

Content updated weekly on Thursday afternoon



Playing music during the Covid-19 pandemic crisis

It is a tremendous joy to be back in St John's praising God through making music. Covid-19 is not from God, though it is a product of his creation and God has blessed us with technology, skills and techniques to enable our lives and worship to carry on - if in a new way.

It took the government scientists some time to assess the impact of wind-blown musical instruments in public performance. First finding method statements to enable professional use, then non-professional in worship.

Industry leaders for example the Berlin Philharmonic and the Vienna Phil working with emanant university research teams conducted research into aerosol dispersion of water droplets that could potentially carry the Covid-19 virus in May this year. This image details testing carried out in Munich for the Vienna Philharmonic.

You will see that aerosol dispersion emanates from the lips and to a lesser degree from the finger pads. Research found that dispersion is less than 75cm in horizontal plane. Vertical dispersion is governed by temperature and air conditioning which dictate air mobility.

When I play the clarinet, you will notice I wear a peaked baseball cap with face shield. This captures aerosol droplets from my lips and the peak cap limits vertical travel. Dispersion from finger pads is secondary but measured as greatly reduced compared to dispersion from normal breathing. With this baseball cap PPE, regular instrument cleaning and 1 metre distancing the clarinettist is actually the lowest Covid-19 distributor in the church.



A clarinettist illustrating that aerosol dispersion comes mainly from the mouth

Public perception will be that breath and aerosol droplets leave the clarinet through the bell of the instrument. Unlike brass instruments the vibration of clarinet reeds reduces aerosol velocities, and all that exits the bell is the occasional water droplet created by condensation. In a 3-hymn service this may not even occur. When it does, the droplet does not disperse but falls harmlessly under gravity to the floor, there is no horizontal velocity vector. While there is scientific research that bell end protection has proved to be effective with brass instruments, there is no data to show bell end protection is necessary with clarinets.

Don Hart



Don playing in the St John's worship band before Covid-19

Minister: Rev Rosemary Fletcher 01727 857826 (rosemary.fletcher@methodist.org.uk)

Senior Steward: Chris Humphreys 01707 851320 (seniorsteward@stjohnspb.org.uk)

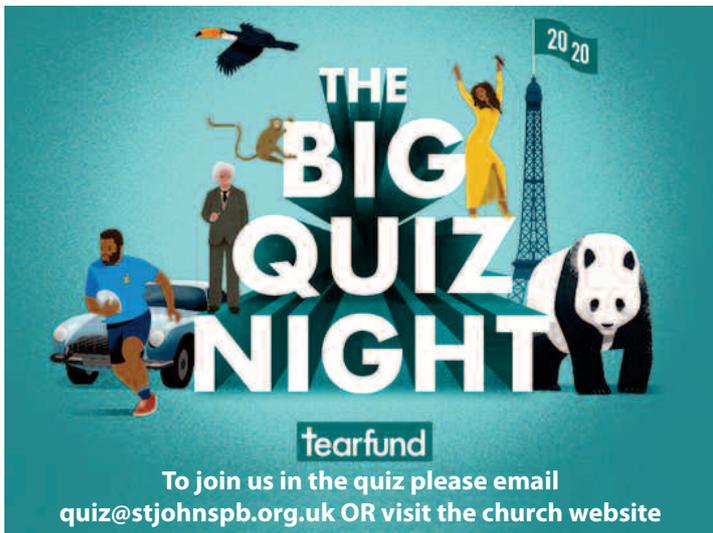
Treasurer: Rob Ward (treasurer@stjohnspb.org.uk)

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 November

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



The poster for 'THE BIG QUIZ NIGHT' features a collage of various subjects: a toucan bird, a monkey, a man in a suit, a woman in a yellow dress, a panda, a man in a blue shirt, and a car. The text '2020' is in a green flag. Below the title is the 'tearfund' logo and the text: 'To join us in the quiz please email quiz@stjohnspb.org.uk OR visit the church website'.

St John's will be hosting a quiz as part of Tearfund Big Quiz Night on Saturday 14th November at 7.30pm. Tearfund is a charity (registration no 265464) passionate about ending global poverty. Founded in 1968, Tearfund works alongside local churches and organisations in more than 50 countries, reaching those in the greatest need to overcome the effects of poverty and disaster. The Big Quiz Night is a nationwide, multi-venue quiz. On 14 November 2020 hundreds of churches and thousands of people will come together in communities across the country for a night of quizzing fun, raising money to help end extreme poverty.

We welcome everyone to come and take part - join us to have some fun and raise money to help end extreme poverty.

The quiz will be run online using Zoom. To join in, email quiz@stjohnspb.org.uk. You can set up a team yourselves, or just join as an individual and we can put you in a team. Please let us know your name and your team (if any) in your email.

The questions for each round will be presented to everyone; at the end of each round, teams will be put into Zoom groups so you can discuss your answers. Some of you may be able to meet in one house - please follow the current COVID-19 guidelines. We expect the quiz to last about 2 hours with a short break in the middle.

Connection details will be sent later to those who have signed up. We suggest a donation of £5 a head, but any donation is welcome. These should be made through our JustGiving page at

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stjohnspottersbar>

2020 Christmas Quiz Sheets

will be available very shortly, in return for a donation of £1 (or more if you wish!) for Scout Funds. Why not buy extra copies to send to friends and relatives to keep them entertained at Christmas? As we have not been able to hold our usual fund-raising Jumble Sales and Christmas Market this year, we would greatly appreciate your support in buying the Quiz! Please contact Liz Bekooy on 01707 659597 to obtain your copy or copies either in paper form or online. Thank you.



Wedding Day at St John's

Proud parents and members of St John's - Graham & Christine Phillips celebrated their daughter's marriage to Joshua Stares on Saturday 5th September. Joshua and Sarah were attended by their 4 young nephews as page boys, and 1 niece as a flower girl. Joshua's parents, Graham and Sarah Stares, (yes, their names really are the same as the bride and father of the bride!) travelled from Luton to be at the wedding which was followed by a family reception at Graham & Christine's house.



CHURCH GROUPS and REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Most of our groups and activities are still not operating as normal. If you are in any doubt, or need to contact those leading our regular groups and activities, please go to our website stjohnspb.org.uk to find the contact details for the relevant people. Our Nursery Playgroup is back and we are booking rooms for some of our regular users. Careful progress is being made.

COFFEE MEETING

We invite you to join us for our weekly chats on Zoom at 12.00 on Sunday mornings following the morning service. Details can be found in the weekly update emails.