



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

Families are welcome to all our 10.30am services. Under 3s are welcome in church and in the adjoining creche. Other children can join our **Creative, Junior Johns** or **Praise & Play** group.

Saturday 2nd November

8am Prayer Meeting at our Lady and St Vincent's Roman Catholic Church followed by refreshments organised by Churches Together in Potters Bar

Sunday 3rd November

9am Morning Prayer led by Gill Hutley

10.30am Morning Worship led by Graham Phillips

Duty Stewards: Robin Burns (9am)
Gill Hutley (10.30am)

Sunday 10th November

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

10.30am All Age Worship with Scout Parade led by Ros Hancock

7pm Café Worship led by Rev Hayley Young

Duty Stewards: Dave Best (am)
Chris Humphreys (pm)

Sunday 17th Nov - Creative Church

10.30am Morning Worship in church led by Peter Wallace **with Creative Crafts** in the Rainbow Room followed by Informal Worship for all in church

Duty Steward: Robin Burns

Tuesday 19th November

12 - 1pm Light lunch and Communion led by Roger Taylor

Sunday 24th November

10.30am Holy Communion led by Rev Rosemary Fletcher

Duty Steward: Myra Sloper

Sunday 1st Dec - CHRISTINGLE

10.30am All Age Worship with Scout Parade led by our Worship Team



November 2019

Build bridges, not walls

It was 30 years ago this month, on 9th November 1989, that the fall of the Berlin Wall began. Over two million people from East Berlin visited the West in a celebration described as 'the greatest street party in the history of the world.'



My Theological College in Birmingham had a long standing link with a seminary in Leipzig, in the former GDR, and each year there was an exchange, alternating countries. That autumn we had listened to the World Service, as people took to the streets each Monday in Leipzig. We knew folks taking those risks.

The public demonstrations began on 4th September 1989 after the weekly *Friedensgebet* (prayer for peace) in the St. Nicholas Church with minister Christian Führer, and eventually filled the nearby Karl Marx Square (today known again as Augustusplatz). Safe in the knowledge that the Lutheran Church supported their resistance, many dissatisfied East German citizens gathered in the court of the church, and non-violent demonstrations began in order to demand rights such as the freedom to travel to foreign countries and to elect a democratic government.

Some of us had link students, and I am still in touch with mine (Rita) and I still have the letters she wrote to me after the events of November 1989. When a group had visited the College in May 1989 there was no talk of the Wall coming down. I was fortunate to be part of the group who went to Leipzig in May 1990 and it was such a privilege to listen to their stories of that time. It reminds us of Hong Kong today.

However, we are still living with walls, think of those dividing Gaza and Palestine from Israel. It seems to be a human instinct to build walls to separate us from those we view as different and threatening. Think of Trump and his threat of a Mexican wall. If Brexit

happens, barriers may ensue again between us and our European neighbours.

We read in the New Testament about Jesus **"for he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us"** (Ephesians 2 v15-16)

Jesus wants to break down the barriers between people of different gender, age, sexuality, class, colour, ethnicity, and language. **"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus"** (Galatians 3:28)

We can easily put up barriers with others, when we make assumptions about them, forgetting that they may be thinking the same things about us. We may want to avoid making ourselves vulnerable or appear needy. **Yet Jesus can break down our defences and enable us to live openly and honestly with others.** As a Church Community God in Christ invites us to be a community of risk-takers, i.e. those who trust each other, handle our weaknesses and fears, and who encourage one another's strengths and gifts.

"A person who thinks only about building walls, wherever they may be, and not building bridges, is not Christian." (Pope Francis).

There are so many walls we erect - between different Christian Communities, different faith communities, different ethnic groups, those whose sexual identity is different from our own, those who have different political views, so, as we come to another Remembrance Sunday on 10th November, may we all seek to understand one another better.

Let there be peace and justice on earth and let it begin with each one of us.

Every Blessing

Rev Rosemary Fletcher
Circuit Superintendent



**Hundreds of churches.
Thousands of people.
One Big Quiz.**

Get together with your friends, family and church for an epic evening of poverty-fighting fun – last year's Big Quiz Night was a huge success with 500 churches and 23,000 people taking part.

Come in teams of 4-6, or come as an individual and we can put you in a team on the night.

£6 per person including refreshments - pay on the door.

Pre-booking would be helpful but not essential.

For more information contact: gillhutley@hotmail.com



**Saturday 16th November at St John's
doors open 7.30pm for 7.45pm start**

EVERYONE WELCOME!

The Two Minute Silence - its 100 year History

It's hard for us to imagine the slaughter of the First World War. The total number of both civilian and military casualties is estimated at around 37 million people, ending only when the Armistice took effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918.



The idea of a 'Two Minute Silence' originated in South Africa. The practice of the Remembrance Day silence originates in Cape Town, where there was a two-minute silence initiated by the daily firing of the noon day gun on Signal Hill for a full year from 14 May 1918 to 14 May 1919, known as the Two Minute Silent Pause of Remembrance.



firing of the noon day gun on Signal Hill

This was instituted by the then Cape Town Mayor, Sir Harry Hands, at the suggestion of councillor Robert Rutherford Brydone, on 14 May 1918, after receiving the news of the death of his son Reginald Hands by gassing on 20 April, adopting into public observance a gesture that had been practised sporadically in city churches since 1916. The first trial observance endured for three minutes on 13 May, after which the Mayor decided that it was too long, and published a notice in the Cape Argus that it should be altered to two minutes instead of three. The first minute was to be a time of thanksgiving for those who had returned alive, and the second minute was to remember the fallen.

It was taken up by King George V, writing in The Times on 7th November 1919, "**it is my desire and hope that at the hour when the Armistice came into force, there may be for the brief space of two minutes a complete suspension of all our normal activities on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.**"

It had an immediate impact. An observer wrote, "The whole World Stands to Attention. From the Indian jungles to Alaska, on the trains, on the ships at sea, in every part of the globe where a few British were gathered together, the Two-Minute pause was observed."

The First World War was said to be 'the war to end all wars'. But we all know it was not. About three per cent of the world population were to die in World War 2. Today's commemoration, repeated on the nearest Sunday, now incorporates all wars.

In keeping the Two Minute Silence, many will long for the day when, in the words of the prophets Isaiah and Micah:

***they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.***

Rev Rosemary Fletcher



Advent Bible Study

A four session Advent Bible Study based on the 2012 BBC series "The Nativity".

Each session to include refreshments,
and a half-hour episode of the DVD followed by bible based discussion.

Everyone is welcome to come to any of the sessions



Friday afternoon Home Group will be running the sessions on:

October 25th
November 8th and 22nd
December 13th

At 70 Byng Drive at 1.30 - 3.00 pm

For more information
contact Dawn Fenner: 07969 924346

Wednesday evening Bible Group will be running the sessions on:

November 6th and 20th
December 4th and 18th

At St John's at 7.30 - 9.00 pm

For more information
contact Lesley Humphreys: 07961 347152

St John's prayer focus for November

We continue to ask for you to pray for three aspects of our church life each month as part of your regular prayers.

This month we ask you to pray for:

- **Our bible and house groups**
- **Flowers (arrangers and distribution)**
- **Pastoral secretary and contacts**

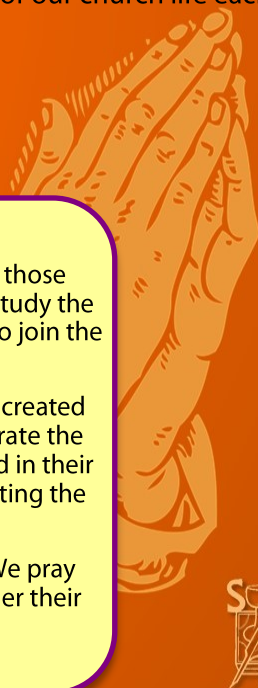
Dear Lord,

We pray for our house groups and bible groups. Guide those who lead the groups and give them all insight as they study the bible and other resources together. Encourage others to join the groups to benefit from the teaching they offer.

We thank you for the beautiful flowers which you have created and for giving the skills to our flower arrangers to decorate the church for our enjoyment. We pray they may be blessed in their work and that you would give them wisdom in distributing the flowers to comfort those who need encouragement.

We thank you for our Pastoral secretary and contacts. We pray that you would help them in their duties so that all under their care will feel well looked after.

AMEN



A BIG THANK YOU

Many thanks to all who supported our Macmillan Coffee morning back in September. The final amount raised before gift aid was **£406.25p**. To date, the amount raised nationwide is close to £15 million!

Pat Griffith



FAMILY NEWS

Nico and Liz Bekooy and **Amy and Matt Playford** would like to say a big 'thank you' to everyone who helped to make Amy and Matt's wedding on 5th October such a memorable occasion. "The service was beautiful, the harvest decorations lovely, and the singing amazing! The presence of so many friends from the family of St John's, sharing in our joyful celebration, was so much appreciated and really made our day."

Our condolences, love and prayers go to **Sue** and **John Wainwright** and Sue's mother **Ann**, together with all their family on the tragic and unexpected death of Sue's brother.

We continue to pray for **David Carter** and his family after the tragic news they have received concerning David's granddaughter, **Imogen**.

At this time of writing **Val Evans**, **Valerie Vessey** and **Tony Ware** are due to have surgery in the very near future. We wish them all a swift recovery after a long wait for surgery.

We also pray for **Colin** who has recently completed his hospital treatment. Colin and his helpers continue to maintain our church garden. At this time of year it is still looking beautiful with its autumnal colours in full display. Thank you.

Sybil continues to improve at home after her recent illness. We miss all our church family unable to worship with us here in St John's at the moment.

Both **Glynne Parry** and **Rae Edmondson** are relocating to be nearer their families before the end of the year. Glynne has been connected to St John's for over 50 years being involved in all aspects of church life. Rae has used her skills as a named first aider for St John's for many years. We will miss you both greatly and hope you will be able to keep in touch.

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

Minister: Rev Ali Facey 01707 652978 (minister@stjohnspb.org.uk) - days off Fri & Sat

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 24th November

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

Christmas Carols

Come and join us!

Sat 7th Dec 2-4pm

Singers needed for charity carol singing in Sainsburys Potters Bar in aid of

Action for Children

contact David Bowler 643672

Fri 20th Dec 7pm

Carol singing around the streets neighbouring St John's in aid of

Action for Children. Please meet at church for a 7pm start

CHURCH GROUPS

For more information about our regular activities, please use the contact information provided, or look at the church website (address on page 1).

Bible Study (Wednesday 7.45pm)

Lesley Humphreys 01707 851320

Study, discussion, prayer and fellowship in the Clifton Room

Dominoes (for Years 6-9)

Guy Fenner 01707 652540

Meets fortnightly in the Clifton Room

Havercroft House Group (Tuesdays)

Belinda Havercroft 01707 652540

**Byng Drive House Group 1.30-3pm
(2nd & 4th Fridays in the month)**

Dawn Fenner 01707 652540

Junior Johns (for ages 3+)

Jackie Hart 01707 642417

Men Out Tonight (MOT)

Dave Best 01707 643023

**Strafford Gate House Group
(Wednesdays)**

David Carter 01707 658297

**Women Connect
(first Friday in the month)**

Contact Tinu or Laetitia or church website
Pudding, Prayers, Movies and Sharing
from 7.30pm- 9.30pm in the Clifton Room

Worship Band

Paul Guppy 07528 858390

Don't forget Christmas comes early at

St John's Methodist Church with the

4th Potters Bar Scout Group

CHRISTMAS MARKET

Sat 9th November, 10.30am - 1.30pm

seasonal stalls, refreshments (including hot dogs,
burgers and soup served to order from the kitchen)

PLUS an early visit from Father Christmas

in his beautifully decorated grotto

EVERYBODY WELCOME!

Adults 50p Children Free

Harvest Thank-You

On behalf of Tony Miller, Director of the Whitechapel Mission, and the Trustees, I would like to thank St John's, the Nursery & the 4th Potters Bar Scouts for their generous donations of food, clothing and money for the Mission. I can promise that the goods will be most appreciated through

the provision of breakfasts, showers and clothing to the homeless of London through our work which continues 365 days a year. Official figures reveal that 8,096 people were found sleeping rough on any given night - an increase of 7% on the previous year. Last year Whitechapel served 101,835 meals, and by encouraging each person to address the issues which caused their homelessness, we help them to gain the skills and confidence to make lasting changes to their lives. **We believe that everyone deserves a chance, regardless of their background, race, or religion.** 5,412 different people used our centre last year, leading to caring for as many as 300 vulnerable men and women every day. Thank you again for your contribution to our work - which takes place without any public funding.

Peter Barlow (Trustee)



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

see website for details

Mondays

10.00 - 12pm 'Can We Fix It?' Group (Roger 01707 650438)

10.00 - 11.45am Jumping Johns Toddlers (Margaret 01707 659845)

2.30pm - 4pm Women's Guild (Barbara 01707 656483)

8pm Badminton Group (Margaret 01707 659845)

Tuesdays

10am - 11.30am Yoga (Ann 01707 655244)

6.30 - 8.00pm Junior Youth Club (School Years 3-6, Liz 01707 659597)

Wednesdays

6.30 - 8.00pm Cubs (see www.4thpottersbar.scoutsonline.co.uk)

Thursdays

7.00 - 8.30pm Scouts (see www.4thpottersbar.scoutsonline.co.uk)

Fridays

10.30am Morning Coffee in the Clifton Room

10.00 - 11.45am Jumping Johns Toddlers (Margaret 01707 659845)

6.00 - 7.00pm Beavers (see www.4thpottersbar.scoutsonline.co.uk)

Mon - Friday

8.55am - 2.55pm St John's Nursery Playgroups (07969 924482)

Two settings - St John's Methodist Church, Baker Street (from 2.5 years)
and Chace Avenue, within Oakmere School (from 2 years)