



St John's Methodist Church
Baker Street
Potters Bar
Herts EN6 2DZ
Registered Charity No 1130633

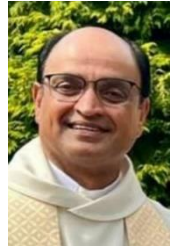
St John's News

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FEBRUARY 2025
(Services on next page)

From our Minister – Revd David Jebb

In a world that often feels overwhelming and chaotic, marked by uncertainty and despair, the message of love stands as a beacon of hope. As Christians, we are called not only to receive love but also to give it freely to others, reflecting the very heart of our faith. In these times when hopelessness can easily seep into our lives, it is essential for us to remember the profound importance of love in nurturing our souls and uplifting our communities. Regardless of our circumstances, background, or beliefs, every person has a fundamental need for love. Love is an intrinsic part of what it means to be human. It is through love that we find connection, reassurance, and a sense of belonging. In a world that often isolates individuals and highlights despair, love acts as a lifeline that connects us to one another and to God.



Jesus exemplified this unconditional love throughout His ministry. He reached out to the marginalised, the hurting, and the broken-hearted, showing us that no one is beyond the reach of love. His command in John 15:12 to “love one another as I have loved you” serves as our guiding principle. In a world that can feel hopeless, we have the power—and the responsibility—to embody this love through our actions.

When we are faced with the trials of life—loss, grief, illness, or personal struggles—hope can often feel distant. Yet love has the incredible ability to restore that hope. Acts of kindness, words of encouragement, or simply being present for someone in their time of need can illuminate the darkest corners of life. Think about a time when someone’s simple act of love made a difference in your life. Perhaps it was a friend who listened when you needed to talk, a stranger who offered a helping hand, or a family member who simply stood by you in silence. These moments teach us that love has the power to heal and bring light into our lives, reminding us that we are never alone.

Creating a Love-Filled Community: As members of our church community, we are called to serve as representatives of God’s love to one another and to the world. Here are some practical ways we can cultivate a culture of love within our church and beyond:

1. **Practice Active Listening:** Sometimes, the most loving thing we can do is to simply listen without judgment. Whether it’s a friend going through a tough time or a newcomer at our church, offering our ears and hearts can create lasting connections.
2. **Volunteer Your Time:** Love is often expressed through action. Consider volunteering for church programs, outreach initiatives, or community service projects. Your contributions can make a real difference in the lives of those who may feel forgotten.
3. **Reach Out:** Don’t wait for others to come to you. Make an effort to reach out to those who may be struggling with loneliness or despair. A text, a phone call, or an invitation to coffee can remind them that they are loved and valued.
4. **Pray for Others:** Interceding for others in prayer is a powerful form of love. Lift up those who are hurting, anxious, or in need of hope. A heartfelt prayer can be a profound expression of support and an avenue for God’s love to penetrate their hearts.
5. **Share Your Story:** Openly sharing your experiences of love, hope, and faith can inspire others. Your testimony can serve as a powerful reminder that love prevails, even amidst life’s storms.

Conclusion: In these times when hopelessness can feel overwhelming, let us commit to being a source of love in our world. As we strive to reflect the love of Christ, we can help to lift the burdens of those around us, offering them hope and encouragement.

Together, let us create a culture where love abounds—within our church, within our families, and within our communities. If we each take the time to actively love and support one another, we can be a transformative force in a world longing for connection and hope. Remember, everyone needs love, and as we share God’s love, we can make a difference, one heart at a time. Let us be the light and love that this world so desperately needs.

With every blessing *David Jebb*

Minister of St John's Methodist Church - also see David's monthly blog on our website @ www.stjohnspb.org.uk/ministers-blog.



Copy deadline for next issue is Sunday 16th February 2025

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

Sunday Services

Date	Time	Service	Preacher
Sunday 2 nd February	10.30am	Morning Worship	Stuart Johnson
Sunday 9 th February	10.30am	Morning Worship	Stuart Watkin
	7.00pm	Informal Café Worship	Guy & Dawn Fenner
Sunday 16 th February	10.30am	Creative Church and Celebration	Revd David Jebb
Sunday 23 rd February	10.30am	Holy Communion	Revd David Jebb
Sunday 2 nd March	10.30am	Parade Family Service	Revd David Jebb

All ages are welcome to our 10.30am services. Under 3s are welcome in church and in the adjoining crèche area at the back of the church. Other children are invited to Junior Johns in the Garden Room. More information from a Steward or Jackie Hart 07825 211657.

Care Homes Services

Date	Time	Location
Wednesday 5 th February	3pm	Cooperscroft Care Home
Wednesday 19 th February	3pm	Cuffley Manor Care Home

Come and join us to support the services by singing, participating in the activities, or chatting with the staff and residents. Your help is greatly appreciated!

We lead services at both Cuffley Manor and Cooperscroft Care Homes – Services are about half an hour with time to chat over a cuppa afterwards.

A Joyful Afternoon of Carol Singing at Cuffley Care Home



On the afternoon of December 16th, a group of eight volunteers from St. John's set out for Cuffley Care Home, filled with excitement to spread Christmas cheer through carol singing and a special service for the residents and staff. From the moment we arrived, we were greeted with friendly smiles and a warm sense of community that beautifully set the tone for the day. As we gathered to sing a selection of beloved Christmas carols, the room transformed into a lively celebration, with approximately 30 residents joining in. The air was alive with laughter and joyful chatter as voices harmonised in a wonderful symphony. The enticing aroma of freshly brewed coffee added

to the inviting ambience, creating a really festive atmosphere. It was truly heartwarming to witness the residents' faces light up with genuine happiness, capturing the very essence of the holiday season.

Our participation in these bi-weekly services at Cuffley Care Home and Cooperscroft Care Home has evolved into something much more than a mere obligation—it has become a fulfilling mission that brings us immense joy. Each visit allows us to forge connections with the residents, exchange stories, and provide companionship during this meaningful time of year, creating cherished moments for everyone involved. As we look to the future, let's continue to nurture joy and warmth within our community, cultivating spaces filled with laughter and love. Together, we have a wonderful opportunity to make a lasting impact and to celebrate the true spirit of Christmas—not just during the holiday season, but throughout the entire year!



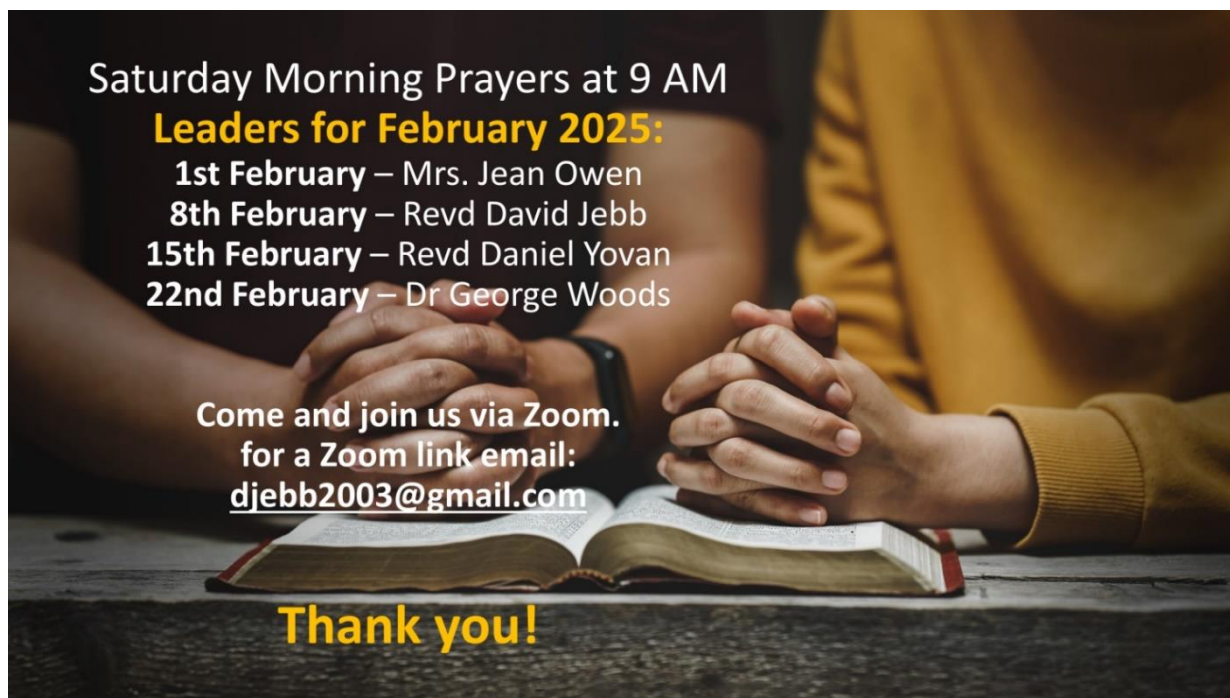
Revd David Jebb

Saturday Morning Prayer Ministry

Please join us on Saturday Mornings 9am to 9.45am for a brief online prayer time where we have the opportunity to pray for our churches, communities, global events and other concerns.

Join Zoom Meeting on: <https://zoom.us/j/99737525318?pwd=R1hHNTE2Z2l0RndvaU1idWpVYktndz09>

Meeting ID: 997 3752 5318 Passcode: 251590



Church Decorations and Flowers

Thank you to everyone who has donated towards the flowers and decorations in the church during 2024. The flower group hope you've liked the displays in the pedestal at the front of the church and those in different areas at Festival times.

If anyone would like to contribute towards the flowers in 2025 the form for donating is on the notice board at the far end of the vestibule. Please indicate on the form by your chosen date and pass your donation to me, Barbara or one of the stewards as the date approaches.

Thank you, Margaret Bland. (07887 532128)



'Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these.'

Luke 12:27 (NIV)



Answers to Hymn Lyrics on page 8 - B - How Great thou Art; D - Dear Lord and Father of Mankind; A - Jerusalem; E - Abide with Me; C - In Christ Alone. The Wordsearch words are from the hymn 'And Can It Be'

Family News

Celebrate!



♥ Congratulations to Heather and Tim Crichton on the birth of a new granddaughter. Baby Georgia Gabriella was born on Christmas Eve to proud parents Charlotte and Tim – what a wonderful time to welcome a new baby into the world! Our best wishes to Georgia and her parents and family!

♥ Felicitations also to Sue Branch and our very own Co-Editor, Margaret Rhodes, who both enjoyed significant (but different) birthdays at the end of December. Much love to all our members who have reached another milestone in the last few months.

Prayer Needed

We ask for your prayers for the following members of our community at this time:

- † Helen Strand who has had a fall and has broken her humerus, which is currently limiting her activities.
- † Belinda Havercroft who has also had some falls, possibly because of an infection, and is now experiencing some pain in her ankle which is making it hard for her to walk.
- † Anne and Roger Croughton who are finding it difficult to get to church at the moment as Roger is having to care for Anne at home.



*My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.
Psalm 73:26*

Pastoral Administrator – Guy Fenner - phone 07866 624549 or email guyfenner333@gmail.com

Pastoral Coordinator - Helen Strand – phone 07821 786170 or email hstrand@aol.com

World Day of Prayer



Please join us at St John's Methodist Church for the World Day of Prayer on Friday 7th March at 10.30am. The service has been prepared by Christian women from the Cook Islands and the theme is "I Made You Wonderful". Everyone is welcome to this service!

*I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful, I know that full well.
Psalm 139:14*

Friday Morning Coffee Dates

Please come and join us for coffee or tea and biscuits from 10.30-12pm on the following Fridays:

- ♥ 7th and 21st February
- ♥ 7th and 21st March.

All are most welcome!



Churches Together in Potters Bar

CTPB would like to invite you to join them at 8.30am on the 1st Saturday of each month as they pray for the Churches and Community of Potters Bar. Meetings last for approximately 45 minutes followed by breakfast.



DATE	LOCATION
Saturday 1 February	United Reformed Church Darkes Lane, EN6 1BZ
Saturday 1 March	St Mary and All Saints The Walk, EN6 1QQ
Saturday 5 April	PB Baptist Church Barnet Road, EN6 2RB

Anna Chaplaincy
 for older people
 St Albans

Join us for a special
Candlemas Tea
 CELEBRATING THE WORK
 OF ANNA CHAPLAINCY
Sunday 2 February at 3pm
 in the Octagon at St Peter's Church, St Albans

All welcome to join us for refreshments
 and hear about the ministry
 of Anna Chaplaincy, followed by
 a brief time of worship

CHRISTIAN HUMOUR

My husband laughed - will you?

A man stranded on an island for 5 years was finally rescued one day. The man rescuing him noticed he had built 3 huts. He asked him what they were for.



The man said, "One was my house, and one was my church." The rescuer said, "Okay, that makes sense, but what about the 3rd hut?" The man replied, "That was the church I used to go to before I changed denominations."



<https://ponly.com/christian-jokes>

4th POTTERS BAR SCOUT GROUP



SATURDAY 8th March - JUMBLE SALE



WHERE? St John's Methodist Church (Entry from Heather Way)

WHEN? From 10am to noon

ENTRY FEE? £2 from 10am or 50p from 10.30 onwards

Any donations of items suitable for sale at the Jumble Sale will be gratefully received. (No furniture, tapes, CDs or DVDs thank you.)

ADVANCED NOTICE!

SPRING MARKET - SATURDAY 31st MAY 2025

WHERE? St John's Methodist Church, Baker Street

WHEN? From 10.30am to 1pm

Any contributions of items to sell at the Market will be gratefully received. For the gardeners among you, plants of any kind will be particularly welcome - maybe you could sow some extra seeds when you are getting plants organised for your own gardens?



For more information on either of the above, please contact Liz Bekooy (01707 659597)

Regular Activities

Day	Time	Activity	Contact
Mondays	10.00 – 11.45am	Jumping Johns Toddlers	Margaret Bland 07887 532128
	10.00am – 12.00pm	Can We Fix It Group	Roger Croughton 01707 650438
	10.30 – 11.30am	Vestry Hour	Revd David Jebb 01707 652978
	2.30 – 4.00pm	Women's Guild (Only 1 st Monday of each month)	Jo Hutton 01707 658436
	8.00 – 10.00pm	Badminton	Margaret Bland 07887 532128
Tuesdays	11.00am – 3.00pm	Welcome Space	Barbara Thompson 01707 665621
Wednesdays	6.30 – 8.00pm	Cubs	www.4thpottersbar.scoutsonline.co.uk
	2.30 – 4.30pm	Strafford Gate House Group (usually 3 rd Wednesday in the month)	David Carter 07709 284852
	7.45 – 9.00pm	Bible Study in Clifton Room (Fortnightly)	Lesley Humphreys 07961 347152
Thursdays	7.00 – 8.30pm	Scouts	www.4thpottersbar.scoutsonline.co.uk
Fridays	10.30am – 12.00pm	Morning Coffee in Clifton Room 1 st and 3 rd Fridays	
	10.30am	Byng Drive House Group (Fortnightly)	Dawn Fenner 07969 924346
	6.15 – 7.15pm	Beavers	www.4thpottersbar.scoutsonline.co.uk
Saturdays	9.00 – 9.45am	Let's Pray Together (by Zoom)	Revd David Jebb 01707 652978

Circuit Events

Thinking Lunches at Marlborough Road Methodist Church



Marlborough Road **Methodist** Church

Thursday 6th February 2025

Geoff Sutton, Associate Director of Step

'What Youth Need' - how to make a positive difference to young people.

Thursday 6th March 2025

Becca Byass, Engagement Officer, 'All We Can'

'Words Create Worlds' - an exploration of how the stories we tell shape the actions we take.

Thursday 3rd April 2025

Rev Peter Crumpler

'Trust in a sceptical world' - who do you trust to tell you the truth - and how can we build trust within society.

Thursday 1st May 2025

Sophie Lawrence, Community Protection Herts CC

'Prevent: a Home Office programme' - helping people vulnerable to radicalisation move away from extremism.

Thursday 5th June 2025

Tim Wood, Chief Executive, Through the Roof

How a Christian charity changes the lives of disabled people around the world.

From 12.30pm to 1.30pm. Please bring your own lunch and drinks. Half an hour talk and then discussion. Donations will be gratefully received to cover expenses and any profits will be given to the speaker for a charity of their choice.

Puzzle Page

The words in the wordsearch below come from a famous hymn – which one?

I	M	M	O	R	T	A	L	N	I	A	Y	H	I
T	P	S	Y	P	O	A	A	R	F	M	D	C	E
B	D	M	B	D	E	N	I	A	H	C	E	A	L
I	I	T	P	U	R	S	U	E	D	N	M	O	N
E	T	N	Y	V	S	G	T	S	O	M	A	R	R
E	L	E	R	D	L	U	I	A	N	T	L	P	O
S	M	T	E	E	F	D	E	V	O	A	F	P	B
N	I	E	T	S	N	G	O	I	V	M	C	A	T
E	H	R	S	I	L	I	S	O	I	P	R	C	S
M	E	N	Y	G	S	O	V	R	N	A	O	M	R
M	S	A	M	N	R	E	V	I	G	N	W	N	I
I	M	L	N	G	S	O	H	E	D	G	N	T	F
Z	N	I	E	T	H	R	O	N	E	E	T	F	M
O	A	M	A	Z	I	N	G	O	D	L	T	V	R

IMMORTAL
 DIVINE
 SAVIOR
 CROWN
 CHAINED
 ANGEL
 MYSTERY
 APPROACH
 IMMENSE
 THRONE
 FLAMED
 PURSUED
 ETERNAL
 FIRSTBORN
 DESIGN
 LOVE
 AMAZING

Made using
<https://thewordsearch.com>

HYMN LYRICS

These lyrics are from the UK's Top 5 Hymns as voted for in 2019 by BBC Viewers – can you identify which hymns they are from?

- "And did the countenance divine shine forth upon our clouded hills?"*
- "I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder ..."*
- "Scorned by the ones he came to save ..."*
- "Where Jesus knelt to share with thee the silence of eternity ..."*
- "What but thy presence can foil the tempters power?"*



(Answers can be found upside down on the bottom of page 3)

Copies of next month's SJ News will be available in Church on Sunday 23rd February