



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

St John's News

Website: stjohnspb.org.uk Email: sjnews@stjohnspb.org.uk

Minister: Revd David Jebb: 01707 652978 / 07786 907634 minister@stjohnspb.org.uk

Senior Steward: David Carter: 07709 284852 seniorsteward@stjohnspb.org.uk

March 2025

SUNDAY SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S

more details on website - www.stjohnspb.org.uk

DATE	TIME	SERVICE	PREACHER
Sunday 3 March	10.30am	Scout Parade Service for all ages	Revd David Jebb
Sunday 9 March	10.30am	Church Anniversary Service (1941 to present day)	Revd Alan Combes
Sunday 9 March	7pm	Informal Café Worship with refreshments	Mrs Joanne Mead
Sunday 16 March	10.30am	Creative Church and Celebration	Revd David Jebb
Sunday 23 March	10.30am	Holy Communion	Revd David Jebb
Sunday 30 March	10.30am	Morning Worship	Mrs Jackie Hall

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

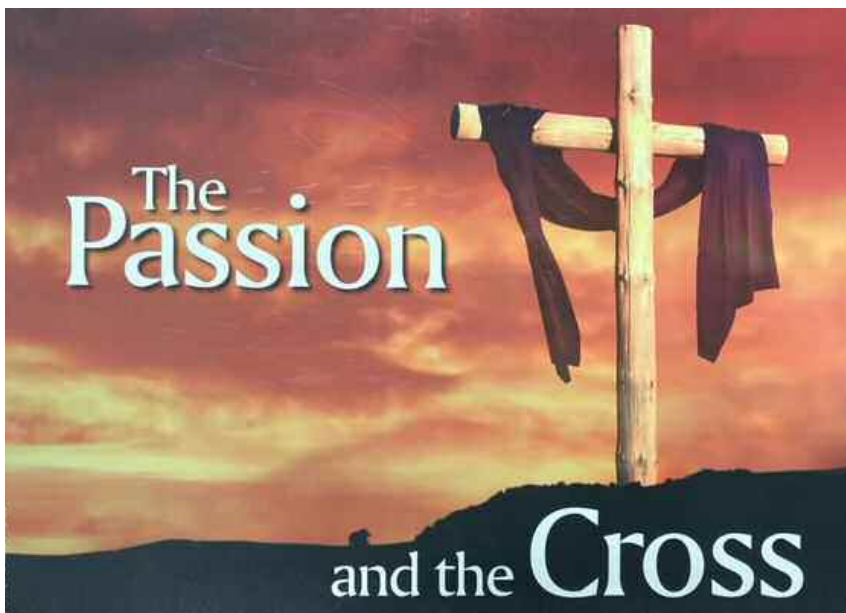
St John's seeks to nurture, pray and support those who are seeking God and starting their faith journey, and to equip members of St John's to reach out to all those that seek fellowship in our church family.

Revd David Jebb is our Minister at St John's and also Superintendent for 10 churches in the St Albans & Welwyn Circuit. David likes leading our monthly Holy Communion service where all children and adults are invited if they would like, to eat bread and drink some and non-alcoholic wine as a reminder of the last meal Jesus ate with his disciples.

Revd Alan Combes is a former member of St John's who, after training as a minister 12 years ago, moved to the Enfield Circuit in 2013 and then to be Superintendent in the Vale of Stour in the West Midlands in 2019. We welcome Alan and his wife Michele back on the church's birthday!

Mrs Joanne Mead was accredited as a local preacher in 2014. Joanne lives in Cheshunt with her husband Peter - she is a keen birdwatcher and enjoys playing her saxophones and clarinet in her free time!

Mrs Jackie Hall is a URC preacher who worships at a joint Methodist-URC church in Hertfordshire. With over 30 years of experience as a certified preacher, she brings deep wisdom and dedication to her ministry of word. She continues to serve with great commitment and passion.



Lent: let us remember

Lent is a Journey...

that moves us towards the cross
"Lent is a new beginning, a path leading to the certain goal of Easter, Christ's victory over death." Pope Francis

Lent is a Challenge...

40 Days of Spiritual Fitness
"At once the Spirit made him [Jesus] go into the desert, where he stayed for forty days, being tempted by Satan. Wild animals were there also, but angels came and helped him." Mark 1:12-13 (GNB)

Lent is a Reflection...

on understanding the Christian faith
read about the Passion of Jesus in the bible - John chapters 18 and 19.

From our Minister...



Embracing the Lenten Journey - A reflection on Lent, Holy Week and Easter

Dear Church Family and friends

As we prepare to enter the season of Lent, we are presented with a profound opportunity to embark on a meaningful spiritual journey. This season, lasting 40 days (not including Sundays), invites us to deepen our faith, reflect on our lives, and seek a closer relationship with God.

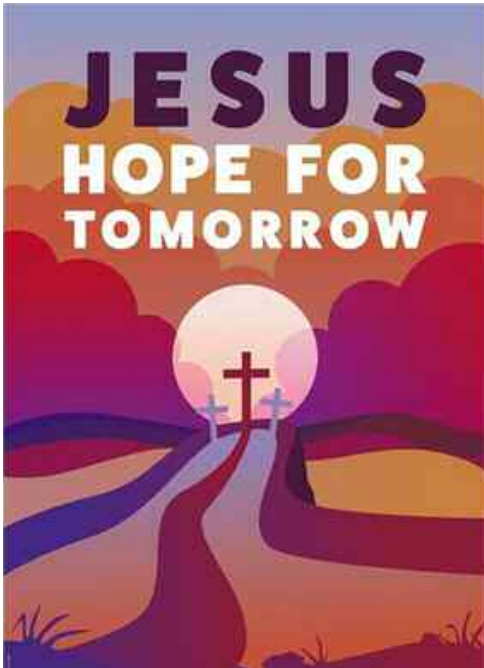
Beginning with Ash Wednesday on 5 March, we will gather for a Churches Together Ash Wednesday Service at 7.30pm at Our Lady & St. Vincent Church. This event unites Christians from Potters Bar in a collective act of worship and reflection at the beginning of Lent.

Understanding Lent

This journey calls us to self-examination, helping us identify the barriers that hinder our relationship with God and encouraging us to seek ways to grow in faith and love. This year, as we engage with the Lenten theme of '**Hope in Hard Places**', we are reminded that even amidst our struggles and challenges, God's presence is always with us. Throughout the season, consider implementing personal practices such as meditation on Scripture, journaling your thoughts and prayers, or joining in communal worship to enrich your journey. A list of dates for the Lenten Study at St John's is included in this newsletter. We encourage you to review the schedule and join us for these enriching sessions if you are able.

The Significance of Holy Week

As we progress through Lent, we arrive at Holy Week - a deeply significant period commemorating the final days of Jesus' earthly ministry. Beginning with Palm Sunday, we celebrate Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, followed by poignant events that lead to His crucifixion. During Holy Week, we are invited to reflect on the profound love demonstrated in Christ's Passion. Each day offers an opportunity to delve deeper into the biblical narrative:



Maundy Thursday - Join us at 7pm for a service that commemorates the Last Supper and the establishment of the Eucharist. Here, we are called to serve one another as Jesus served.

Good Friday - This year, we will join other churches at the War Memorial at 11am for our Good Friday Open Air service. As Chair of Churches Together, I will lead the service and representatives from other churches will also participate. We will be able to sing moving Good Friday hymns accompanied by our St John's music group.

Celebrating the Resurrection

Easter Sunday marks the pinnacle of the Christian calendar, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. This event signifies not only victory over death but also ushers in the promise of new life for all who believe. On Easter Sunday, we will gather in celebration and worship, reflecting on the significance of the resurrection. Let this day serve as a reminder of the incredible grace extended to us through Christ, encouraging us to share this message of hope with others.

A Call to Action

As we embark on this journey through Lent, Holy Week, and Easter, we urge each of you to take this opportunity seriously. Engage with the themes of contemplation, repentance, and renewal in your daily lives. Consider how you can positively impact your community by serving others and spreading the Good News and kindness. Let us walk together, supporting one another as we seek to deepen our relationship with God and prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter.

With blessings of hope and love

Revd David Jebb

The **Methodist** Church
The Methodist Church, Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire District
St Albans & Welwyn Circuit



LENT QUIET DAY

LED BY DEACON MALCOLM KNOWLES

BIRCHWOOD METHODIST CENTRE
BIRCHWOOD AVENUE, BIRCHWOOD
HATFIELD, AL10 OPR

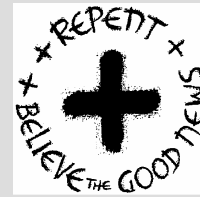
1 MARCH 2025
AT 9:30AM FOR 10:00AM
FINISHING AT 1:00PM

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH
ENQUIRY: ADMIN@MIDHERTSMETHODISTS.ORG.UK



Churches Together in Potters Bar

UNITED SERVICE



ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday 5th March
7.30pm

Church of Our Lady & St Vincent
243 Mutton Lane EN6 2AT

Preacher: Revd Dr David Chapman,
District Chair Bedfordshire, Essex and
Hertfordshire Methodist District

All are very welcome -
refreshments & fellowship in the hall afterwards

Join us for a transformative Lenten Journey

As we look forward to the Lenten season, we are filled with excitement to extend a heartfelt invitation to you for a profound and enriching study course that several churches within the St Albans and Welwyn Methodist Circuit will be participating in this year **Hope in Hard Places** published by Embrace the Middle East. This thought-provoking course invites us to explore the essential question: Where is God in all of this? Within this study guide, you'll discover a treasure trove of resources designed to foster reflection and spiritual growth, including:

- **Weekly Bible Passages** Each session offers a chance for deep contemplation.
- **Reflection Questions** Thoughtful prompts to help you delve deeper into your understanding and faith.
- **Guided Prayers** Spiritual support for your journey during this meaningful time.
- **Inspiring Stories** Witness the incredible ways God is working in the Middle East, even in the face of adversity.

Whether you live in St Albans, Welwyn, Hatfield, or Hertsmere, we warmly welcome you to join our gatherings, where we can grow together in faith and community. We will be meeting in person at three or four locations throughout Lent 2025. St John's will graciously host our sessions in the Clifton Room on the following dates:

- **Week 1** Thursday 6 March 10am - 11.30am **I Know that My Redeemer Lives**
- **Week 2** Thursday 13 March 10am - 11.30am **For This Child I Prayed**
- **Week 3** Thursday 20 March 10am - 11.30am **We Will Not Serve your Gods**
- **Week 4** Thursday 27 March 10am - 11.30am **The Spirit of the Lord is Upon Me**
- **Week 5** Thursday 3 April 10am - 11.30am **Your Will Be Done**
- **Week 6** Thursday 10 April 10am - 11.30am **Believe in the Lord Jesus**

Join us for coffee and tea starting at 9.30am, allowing time to connect with one another before we begin our sessions.

If you would like to obtain a copy of the study resource, you can conveniently order it online: Lenten Study 2025: Hope in Hard Places (published by Embrace the Middle East). Alternatively, feel free to reach out to Valerie Vessey on 07958 450014, who will be happy to assist you in securing a copy.

We are truly looking forward to embarking on this journey of faith and reflection together during Lent. Together, let us seek understanding, encouragement, and hope in challenging times. Your presence will enrich our shared experience, and we can't wait to welcome you!

Revd David Jebb

Building Bridges and Growing Faith

The vital need for a Community Outreach Worker at St John's

By Revd David Jebb

I have been asked to share my thoughts in this month's SJNews on a topic that has generated significant discussion in our recent Leadership, Church Council, and Task Force meetings: the potential appointment of a Community Mission Outreach Worker.

In this letter, I aim to outline our reflections on this important initiative and its potential impact on our church and community. I sincerely encourage you to read the thoughts behind it and prayerfully consider and share any suggestions, comments, or questions you may have. Your insights are greatly valued, and I welcome further dialogue on this matter. Thank you for taking the time to engage with this crucial subject.

St. John's Methodist Church has long been a pillar of our Potters Bar community, a beacon of faith and a source of support for those around us for years. From providing spiritual guidance to offering practical assistance, the church's presence has woven itself into the fabric of our society. However, we need to grow in faith and impact. We need to truly realise our potential as a vibrant and thriving community hub, and effectively nurture existing connections and forge new ones. In order to do this we urgently need to invest in a **Community Outreach Worker to help us to develop and grow as a church for the years to come, strengthen our relationships and extend Christ's love in action.**

This is not merely a "nice-to-have" addition; it's a fundamental necessity for fulfilling our mission and living out the core values of our faith. It is a biblical response to Christ's command to **go and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19)** and to **care for those in need (James 1:27)**. Our church possesses a wealth of existing links within the community – including premises users, partnerships with local charities, support for schools, involvement in community events, and a historical legacy of caring for those in need. A dedicated Outreach Worker would serve as the crucial link, the catalyst that empowers us to **develop and nurture these relationships**, and ultimately, to **bring more people to the church through acts of witness, mission and service.**

Why a Community Outreach Worker is Crucial

- **Strengthening Existing Ties** A dedicated worker can proactively maintain and deepen existing partnerships with local organisations.
- **Identifying and Reaching Underserved Populations** The Outreach Worker can conduct community assessments, identify vulnerable populations, and develop targeted programs to reach those who may not traditionally engage with the church. This might include initiatives for seniors, families with youth and children, individuals struggling with poverty or addiction, or those seeking spiritual guidance and connection.
- **Developing Innovative Outreach Programs** A skilled Outreach Worker can brainstorm and implement fresh, engaging programs that speak to the community's needs and interests.
- **Elevating the Church's Visibility and Reputation** By actively participating in community events, promoting the church's activities, and highlighting the positive impact we're making, the Outreach Worker will raise the profile of St. John's. This increased visibility will attract new members, volunteers, and donors, further strengthening our capacity to serve.
- **Nurturing New Relationships** The Outreach Worker will actively seek out opportunities to build relationships with community leaders, businesses, and organisations that align with our values. These new connections can open doors to collaborative efforts, resource sharing, and expanded outreach opportunities.
- **Facilitating a Welcoming Environment** The Outreach Worker can also play a critical role in ensuring that the church's physical space and programs are welcoming and inclusive to all. This might involve training volunteers on welcoming visitors, adapting programs to meet diverse needs, and creating a sense of belonging for all.
- **Sharing the Good News through Action and Witness** The most fundamental impact is that the Community Outreach worker will be a living embodiment of our faith. Their work will allow the church to be more directly involved in the community and become a physical manifestation of our mission to serve others. This active service will demonstrate our values and bring more people to the church as they witness our dedication to helping others.



Investing in a Brighter Future

The financial commitment to employ a Community Outreach Worker is an investment in our future. It's an investment in the growth of our faith, the betterment of our town, and in the lives we touch. The benefits will extend beyond a rise in membership, enhancing our community, improving social well-being and a renewed spirit of purpose at St. John's.

I encourage each of you to embrace this opportunity to invest in this crucial role. Let's work together to make St. John's a beacon of hope, a welcoming home for all who seek it. Let's empower our Community Outreach Worker to build bridges, nurture relationships, and grow our faith, one act of service at a time.

Mark Your Diaries: General Church Meeting

We will be discussing this important matter in detail at our **General Church Meeting on Sunday 11 May, immediately following the service**. I urge you all to attend and share your thoughts, suggestions, and ideas. Your input is invaluable to the success of this vision. Further details will be circulated closer to the date. **Let us pray, plan and act together** so that St. Johns can continue to **be a light on a hill (Matthew 5:14)** for generations to come.

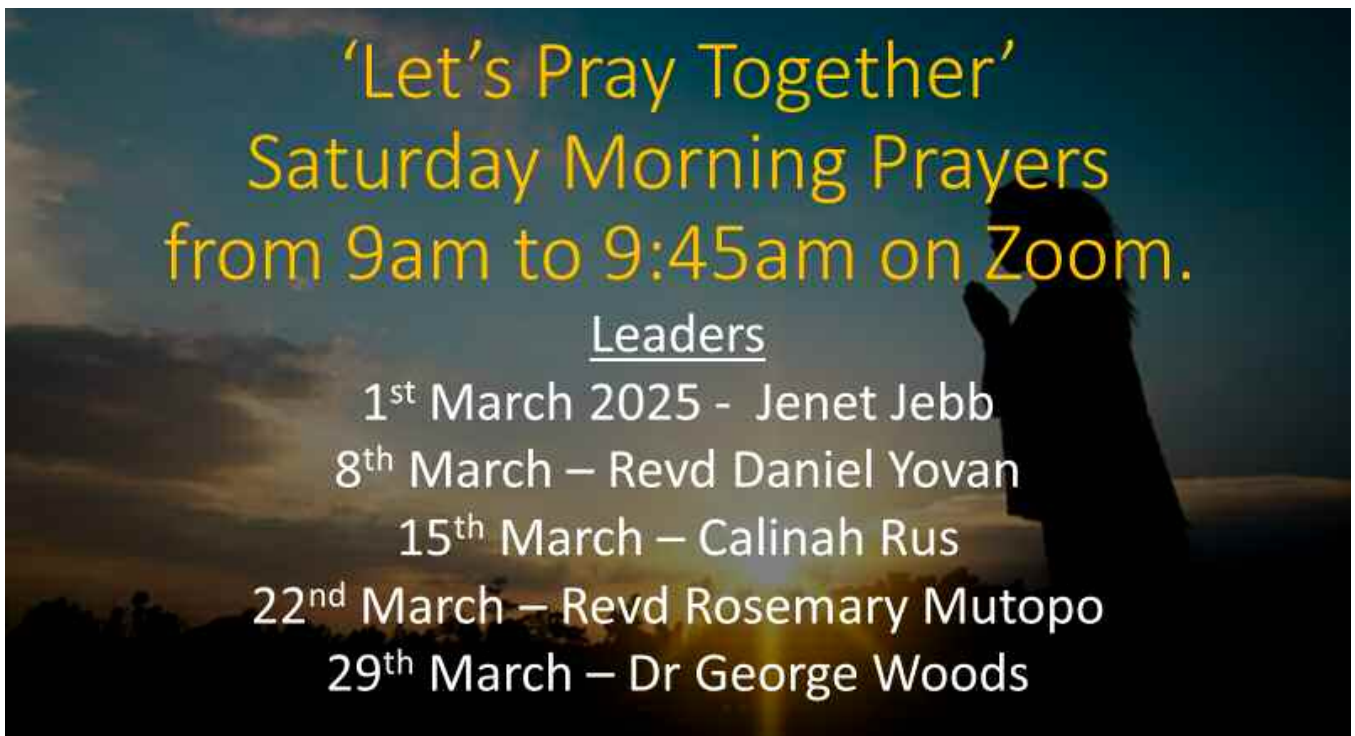
With blessings - David Jebb

CARE HOME SERVICES

more details from Revd David Jebb - 01707 652978

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Wednesday 5 March	3pm	Cooperscroft Care Home
Wednesday 26 March	3pm	Cuffley Manor Care Home

We lead services at Cuffley Manor and Cooperscroft Care Homes. All are welcome to come and join the small team as we worship with and talk to the residents with time to talk over tea and coffee afterwards.



ZOOM LINK: <https://zoom.us/j/99737525318?pwd=R1hHNTE2Z2l0RndvaU1idWpVYktndz09>

FAMILY NEWS

Helen Strand - Telephone: 07821 786170 Email: hstrand@aol.com

Please remember and pray for...

David Francis who is suffering from shoulder pain. Claire Tozer has had a minor operation and is now having physiotherapy treatment. Helen Strand who is continuing to have treatment for a fractured humerus.

Plus, Belinda and family are very grateful to all their friends at St John's for their prayers and kind support during Belinda's brief time in hospital recently due to gastric concerns and are pleased to report that Belinda is now back and settled in Greenhill Care Home.

Scout Quiz evening raises £650

I am pleased to report that our annual Scout Quiz Evening, held this year on Saturday 1st February, was a great success, with ten tables of quizzers participating, and raised an impressive amount of £650, after deduction of expenses. This addition to the Group's funds will help us to continue to provide a high quality scouting experience for our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

Sally and Giles, fresh from their recent visit to Australia and New Zealand, were the Question Masters (having very kindly compiled the quiz before their departure), and the quizzers faced a wide variety of interesting and challenging questions, sustained halfway through by a meal consisting of home made soup followed by baked potatoes with a choice of fillings, and cake to finish off with.

Thank you to everyone who came to the Quiz Evening, and a big thank you to Sally and Giles, Dick, who master-minded the meal, and the team of Scout Committee members, Scout young leaders and older scouts, who all worked so hard to make the evening such a success.

Liz Bekooy

Please support our future events

Jumble Sale

Saturday 8th March at St John's

Entry (from Heather Way)

£2 at 10am or 50p at 10.30am - finishes at noon

Spring Market

Saturday 31st May, 10.30am to 1pm

Any contributions of items to sell at the Market will be gratefully received.

For any gardeners among you, plants of any kind will be particularly welcome - maybe you could sow extra seeds when getting plants organised for your own gardens?!

More information - Liz Bekooy 01707 659597

PLUS A huge thank you to all those who joined St John's and other churches across the UK last November for the 2024 Big Quiz Night in aid of Tearfund. An incredible £195,000 was raised by the 570 churches taking part with St John's donating £315. Every penny is helping people around the world lift themselves out of poverty - thank you.



Carol singing for Action for Children



After a frantic few weeks trying to find the collecting boxes and carol sheets, the carol singing went ahead in December with freshly laminated carol sheets and new collecting boxes supplied by Action for Children and others borrowed from Christian Aid.

The intermittent rain did not deter the 25 people who made up the throng of singers and Michele, Emma and Caleb provided the brass accompaniment. We wandered around Aberdale Gardens, Allandale Crescent and Elmscroft Gardens singing our way through the carols. A number of people stood and listened to us from their doorstep and we raised a healthy £374.08 for Action for Children.

We returned to the Clifton room for some warming soup with bread and cheese. Thank you to all who came and helped in any way. *Sally Gunning*

Lent Mystery 'knit-along' 2025

For the past two years I have participated in the Lent Mystery Knit-along organised by Victoria Methodist Church in Bristol. Each day from Ash Wednesday till Good Friday there are instructions for a few rows of knitting accompanied by a short meditation. This year's project produces a lap blanket, but as it's a Mystery knit alone the design will not be revealed until the blanket is almost completed.

If anyone is interested in joining knitters around the UK and further afield or wants more information, please contact *Helen Strand* (hstrand@aol.com or phone 07821 786170)

Creative Church - Stop being so busy!

Our Creative Church theme in February was the story of when Jesus went to see Mary and Martha, Luke 10: 38-42. Jesus visits people in their homes to get some rest after a busy day. What he wanted was calm. Jesus knocks on the door - Martha opens the door and welcomes him in. Jesus the Son of God has come to visit!

Mary stops what she was doing and sits down to listen to Jesus, but... Martha rushed about getting things ready, preparing a lunch and tidying up. Martha became upset that she was doing all the work, so she complained to Jesus - this is not fair. Jesus said "Martha you are worried and troubled by so many things". Luke 10:41

Mary stopped what she was doing, sat down, was still and listened to Jesus. Mary has chosen the right way and it will not be taken from her. David Rhodes

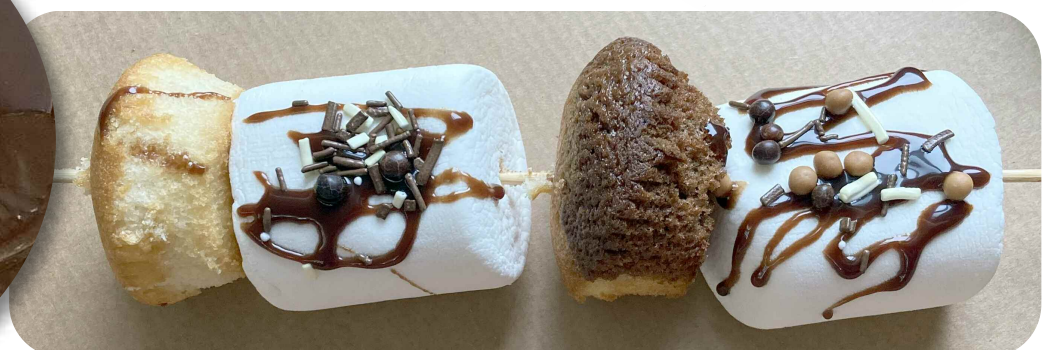
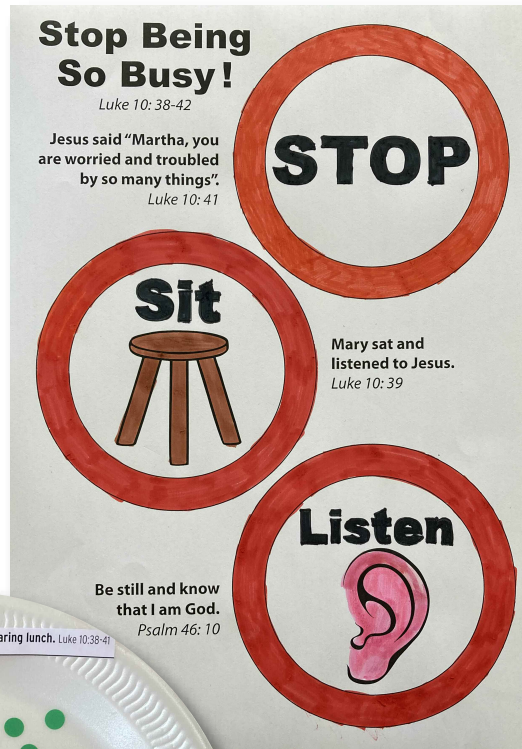
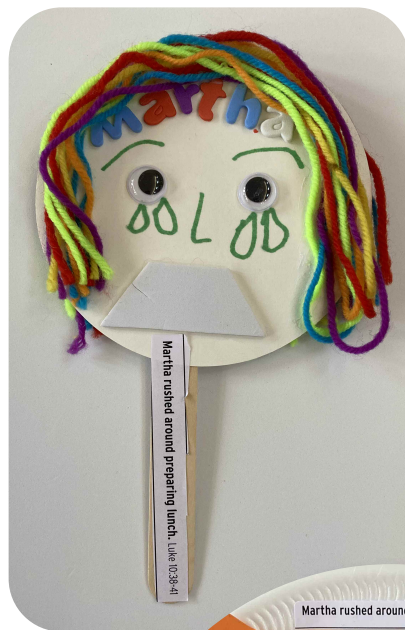
Martha crafts

Fabulous Food, A Lovely Lunch

Martha and Mary Faces

Mary Crafts

Model of a stool, Stop-Sit-Listen picture



Morning Prayers - Saturday 1 March

Churches Together in Potters Bar invite you to join them at 8.30am on the first Saturday of each month as we pray for the Churches and Community of Potters Bar. Meetings last about 45 minutes followed by breakfast. This month it takes place at **St Mary's Church, The Walk EN6 1QQ**



World Day of Prayer - Friday 7 March

This year the service takes place at St John's 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.
Heather Crichton

CIRCUIT EVENTS

www.midhertsmethodists.org.uk Tel: 01727 854211 admin@midhertsmethodists.org.uk

1 March - Lent Quiet Day at Birchwood Methodist Centre, led by Deacon Malcolm Knowles, a retired deacon from the North Hertfordshire Circuit. 9:30am - 1pm with bring you own lunch. Hot and cold drinks available. Spaces limited.

5 March - Ash Wednesday Service, 2:30pm at Digswell Village Church, includes tradition of ashes on the forehead.

Lent Studies - at various churches, during the 6 weeks leading up to Easter.

Call Circuit Administrator, Autumn Leung, or David Jebb, for more information and to reserve your place

Brookmans Park Rotary Club Charity Swim 2025

A St John's team is again taking part in the Rotary Club Charity Swim, which this year is taking place at Furze Field on Saturday 15th March. A team of 5 people (St John's Jonahs) will swim in relay as many lengths as they can in the allotted time of 20 minutes, and they would very much appreciate the support of as many people as possible in sponsoring them. Half of the amount raised will go to the Rotary Club's own nominated charities - Isabel Hospice, Noah's Ark Children's Hospice and Potters Bar Foodbank - and half to help our sister Church, Shenley Methodist, to develop the Baby and Toddler Group they have recently started. If you would like to sponsor the team, but have not been asked by one of the swimmers please talk to Liz Bekooy.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES AT ST JOHN'S

more details on website - www.stjohnspb.org.uk

Mondays	10am - 11.45am	Jumping Johns - Main Hall	<i>Margaret Bland 07887 532128</i>
	10am - 12.00pm	Can We Fix It Group	<i>Roger Croughton 01707 650438</i>
	10.30am - 11.30am	Vestry Hour	<i>Rev David Jebb 01707 652978</i>
	2.30pm - 4pm	Women's Guild - Clifton Room, 1st Monday in month	<i>Jo Hutton 01707 658436</i>
Tuesdays	8pm - 10pm	Badminton - Main Hall	<i>Margaret Bland 07887 532128</i>
	11am - 3pm	Welcome Space	<i>Barbara Thompson 01707 665621</i>
Wednesdays	6.30pm - 8pm	Cubs - Main Hall	<i>www.4thpottersbar.scoutsonline.co.uk</i>
	2.30pm - 4.30pm	Strafford Gate House Group - 3rd Wednesday	<i>David Carter 07709 284852pm</i>
	7.45pm - 9pm	Bible Study in Clifton Room - fortnightly	<i>Lesley Humphreys 07961 347152</i>
Thursdays	7pm - 8.30pm	Scouts - Main Hall	<i>www.4thpottersbar.scoutsonline.co.uk</i>
Fridays	10.30am - 12.00pm	Morning Coffee, Clifton Room - 1st and 3rd Fridays in month	
	10.30am	Byng Drive House Group - fortnightly	<i>Dawn Fenner 07969 924346</i>
	6.15pm - 7.15pm	Beavers - Rainbow Room	<i>www.4thpottersbar.scoutsonline.co.uk</i>
Saturdays	9am - 9.45am	Let's Pray Together (zoom)	<i>Revd David Jebb 01707 652978</i>

Copy deadline for next issue is Friday 21st March 2025

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