

COULSDON
PARISH
CHURCH
St. John



50p

November 2023

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Everyone

Welcome

at St. John's

November

2—Thursday

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion, in Church

4—Saturday

10.00 a.m.. Gardening Morning in Garden of Remembrance (to 12.00)

7.30 p.m. Downland Chorale Concert, at St. John's

5—FOURTH SUNDAY before ADVENT

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion, in Church

9.30 a.m. Parish Communion, in Church *(and live-streamed
on Facebook/through church website)*

7—Tuesday

9.45 a.m. MU Service, in the Old Church

8—Wednesday

5.00 p.m. Life Group meets, in the Old Church

9—Thursday

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion, in Church

11—Saturday

10.00 a.m.. Baptism Preparation, in Church

12—REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

10.00 a.m. Remembrance Day Parade Service, in Church
followed by

10.50 a.m. Act of Remembrance, at the War Memorial, Canon's Hill

11.30 a.m. Family Service,, in Church

15—Wednesday

5.00 p.m. Life Group meets, in the Old Church

16—Thursday

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion, in Church

18—Saturday

12.00 noon St. John's Christmas Fair, in the Church

19—SECOND SUNDAY before ADVENT

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion, in Church
- 9.30 a.m. Worship Together, in Church
- 11.00 a.m. Baptism Service, in Church

21—Tuesday

- 9.45 for 10.00 a.m. Pram Service for Babies & Toddlers, in Church

22—Wednesday

- 2.00 p.m. Pray, Knit & Chat, in the Old Church
- 5.00 p.m. Life Group meets, in the Old Church

23—Thursday

- 11.00 a.m. Holy Communion, in Church

26—CHRIST THE KING

SUNDAY next before ADVENT

- 9.30 a.m. Parish Communion with Archdeacon Moira Astin, in Church
(*and live-streamed on Facebook/ through church website*)
- 11.15 a.m. Family Service, in Church

28—Tuesday

- 2.00 p.m. MU Christmas Tea, in Church
- 7.30 p.m. Prayer for St. John's, in the Old Church

29—Wednesday

- 5.00 p.m. Life Group meets, in the Old Church

30—Thursday

- 11.00 a.m. Holy Communion, in Church

December

2—Saturday

- 10.00 a.m.. Gardening Morning in Garden of Remembrance (to 12.00)
- 10.00 a.m. St. John's Christmas Tree Festival opens

3—ADVENT SUNDAY

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion, in Church
- 9.30 a.m. Parish Communion, in Church (*and live-streamed on Facebook/through church website*)
- 2.00 p.m. Christmas Tree Festival (open to 5.00 p.m.)

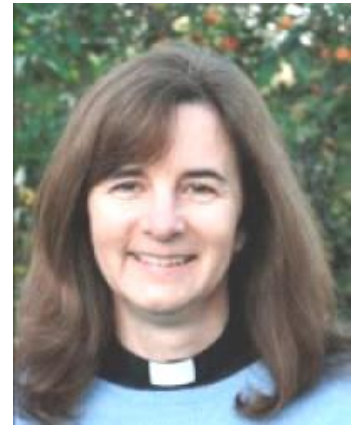
WHEREVER YOU ARE YOU CAN STILL JOIN US ONLINE FOR SOME SERVICES:

Can't get to Church? You can still follow the Parish Communion services, etc. online live as they're streamed from the Church on Facebook via our website at www.stjohns.coulsdon.net (or watch later) .





St John the Evangelist
Helping people meet Jesus



Rev'd Sue Thomas writes...

What a year! With visiting the Holy Land in March to see where Jesus lived out his ministry, both in Jerusalem and around the shores of Lake Galilee, it is with poignancy that I look back, remembering the warm welcome of the faces in the



retirement home for Palestine Christians. Our group guides, and the pilgrimage tour guide, were amazing and cared for us so well. But now their livelihoods are at risk because of war. Here is Bishop Christopher with the Mayor of Bethlehem



and Palestinian Christians at this Retirement Day Centre. They would appreciate our prayers, I know, and we have had a message that they are all safe.



Here is the owner and her sister who run this Retirement Centre. We travelled through the 'wall' to see them. Who would have thought that this is so unsafe for them now. Visiting the Holy Land was the most joyful and uplifting experience and has given me many insights to hand on.

Joy and suffering, pain and sorrow, are bound up together as we hear the devastation caused in the conflicts going on, both in Israel and Ukraine, and in other places not mentioned in the news. Manipur in India and Pakistan are both places of unrest where persecution of all faiths, and none is happening. So alongside prayer for those we hear about in the media, please do pray for those outside of the focus of media attention. It is especially right that we do this in November as this is the time for remembering. Remembrance Sunday is a time of giving thanks for those who put their lives first before others. This community event draws many of all faiths and none to remember together, in unity, that never again can these things happen. We hold on to that trust in hope and peace, and where peace breaks down, then we can stand up and speak out.

I sit on the UKFoRB Forum once a month and hear live issues of global persecution. Up to 90 civil institutions and NGOs attend. The Prime Minister's Special Envoy, Fiona Bruce MP, participates to take back to Parliament those situations to address them. Each situation is full of individual lives. In remembering conflicts, our hearts become moved when we focus on one individual. Mervyn Thomas CMG is UKFoRB Forum's Chair, and Founder President of CSW (Christian Solidarity Worldwide), and he did just that for us when he visited Croydon South Deanery Synod to tell us how to address daunting Justice issues. He read from Hebrews 11 and said it was our: 'Christian duty to speak out against persecution - otherwise we were complicit.' He suggests four things

we can do in this country: pray, protest, provide support (by connecting with and encouraging those under persecution), and proclaim: telling other people about the issue.

Being overburdened by the suffering seen in the media can be turned into an action to address this. Taking small steps, together, will change lives. What about writing to someone suffering persecution - a real person in a real situation? You are not putting yourself in jeopardy—it is quite safe to write. Here is the link and be that person who makes a change in someone's life today.

<https://www.csw.org.uk/connectencourage>



Sue

*Assistant Priest, St John's, Coulsdon
Area Dean Croydon South*



Message from the Wardens



Since Paul and Nicy's retirement, you may have been wondering about the future of the Rectory. Although it is a beautiful building and set in extensive grounds, sadly a decision has been made by the Diocese to sell. The Rectory is no longer appropriate for use due to the cost of heating, necessary repairs, and ongoing upkeep of the property and grounds.

In addition, the Diocese is making arrangements for the purchase of a property suitable for the new incumbent.

The PCC is saddened by this decision, but our main focus is now to find our new incumbent.

Gill Thaxter, Ralph Goodwin (Churchwardens)



Well, here we are with the clocks turned back—*hope you were able to enjoy the extra hour in bed*—shorter days and the promise of colder weather on the horizon. But, please don't let that stop you from coming along and joining in with all our services and

events. In fact it's a good reason to be involved and chase away the 'winter blues'. This month brings Remembrance Sunday—perhaps even more poignant this year as we hear of the current war-torn areas—with a Parade Service in Church followed by a short service outside at the war memorial. Our Christmas Fair brings a multitude of opportunities to be involved in preparations and on the day—and a chance to pick up some Christmas shopping bargains and have fun. You will always be very welcome at any of our services and events, but if you want to find out more about anything first then just contact the Parish Office [01737 552461 or at stjohns@coulsdon.net].

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY ~ 12 November

Our main service will be at 10.15 a.m. when we hope to be joined by some of the local cadets, members of the TA, scouts & guides and leaders of the local community. We are always delighted that there is a very full church for this special parade service and we look forward to welcoming everyone who would like to come along. We suggest you come early.

After the service in Church we will move out to the Memorial (on the corner of Canon's Hill and Coulsdon Road) for a short Act of Remembrance at about 10.50 a.m. and the laying of wreaths. We hope you will be able to join us for what is very much a community time for remembering with gratitude those who lost their lives in the service of the nation and especially those from the local area.



FAMILY SERVICE ...



... on **Remembrance Sunday** will start at the later time of **11.30 a.m.** to ease congestion and access to the Church following the service at the Memorial. This popular service takes place on the second and fourth Sundays each month and is usually at 11.15 a.m. All families with young children – from babies to grandparents – and the young-at-heart will find a warm welcome! It's a very relaxed service with 'bouncy' songs and an easy format. It's a lovely way to introduce your family to the

church ... and nobody minds if your children are not good at sitting still! We look forward to welcoming you.

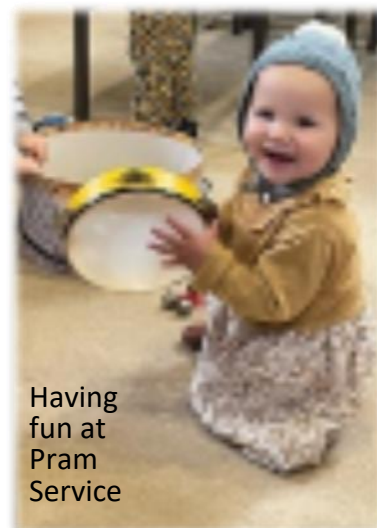
ST. JOHN'S CHRISTMAS FAIR ~ Sat. 18 November!

As they say, many hands make light work – so we'd like you all to get involved in some way if you possibly can! The **Christmas Fair** is on **Saturday 18th No-**

November 12.00-3.00 p.m. in the Church. Full details are further on but meanwhile you will see that we have requests for goods and help galore. Please read them and see if you could offer to lend a hand – if only for a short while - or collect some goods together to stock the stalls. And be sure to bring all your friends, relations and neighbours along for an enjoyable afternoon – perhaps they will treat you to lunch or you could treat them to tea and cake! Father Christmas will be waiting in his magical grotto. And perhaps best of all—entry to the Fair is FREE!

PRAM SERVICE FOR BABIES, TODDLERS & PRESCHOOLERS

On the third Tuesday in the month at 9.45 for 10.00 a.m. start in the church —**Tuesday 21 November** this month—we have Pram Service—a sort of ‘Tots’ Praise’! All parents and grandparents with babies or toddlers will find a warm welcome at this very relaxed little service. Come for songs, an interactive story, activity, prayers, musical instruments and birthday celebrations—and lots of fun—with refreshments afterwards while we play and chat. Lively toddlers, restless babies, tired mums and grannies all very welcome. Last month we thought about all the food we have to eat, chose pictures of what we liked best and made a lovely ‘thank-you’ card to say thank you to God. Then we learned about ‘sharing’ by dividing a fresh roll and making sure everybody had some. Why don’t you and your little one(s) come and give us a try.—we’d love to see you.



Having
fun at
Pram
Service

PRAYER for ST. JOHN’S

A Prayer Evening has been arranged for **Tuesday 28 November** at 7.30 p.m. in the Old Church when everyone is invited to join in prayers for St. John’s especially through the interregnum, and the preparations in the search for our new incumbent-to-be. Your support would be much appreciated. Do come.



Old Coulsdon Congregational Church

warmly invites you to our

QUIZ NIGHT & SUPPER

for the St. John’s Spire Fund

Friday 10 November

Cameron Hall, Canon’s Hill

Doors open: 7.00 Quiz starts at 7.30 p.m.

£15 per head to include Fish/Sausage & Chips Supper

Teams (of up to 8), couples, individuals all welcome.

Booking forms available from the St. John’s Parish Office.

Bookings with payment must be made in advance.

CALLING ALL SINGERS for our CHRISTMAS CHOIR!

Rehearsals starting at the end of this month!

We are in need of choir members to lead the **Carols and Lessons** service on the evening of **Sunday 17th December**. We will rehearse on the four Friday evenings prior to the service and it's vital that you are able to attend at least three of these evenings.

It is not essential that you can read music, but an ability to follow written music is certainly helpful. I will aim to provide you with as many rehearsal resources as possible to aid with learning the pieces. The choir will lead the congregational hymns and there will be four or five additional choir pieces. The Friday rehearsal schedule is as follows: **24th November, 1st December, 8th December, 15th December**. All rehearsals will take place in the church 7:30-9.00 pm with an additional rehearsal on the afternoon of the service at 4.00 pm. Please let me know if you would like to join us!



Karen Jackson dingdingdong13@hotmail.com 07968 023938



POPPY APPEAL 2023

Poppies are available in the Church throughout the week and Sandra Jeffrey will be in Church on Sun. 5th November with other Poppy Appeal merchandise. She will also be available outside Danny's Fish & Chip shop on the parade for the first two Fridays and Saturdays in November and by the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday - 12th November.

MOTHERS' UNION - *Transformation - Now!* NOVEMBER focus: **Gender justice**

Mothers' Union is a Christian organisation that has been supporting families worldwide for over 140 years. Started by our founder Mary Sumner in 1876 in her local parish, we have grown into an international charity with over 4 million members in 84 countries. We demonstrate our faith in action as we work towards stopping poverty, stopping inequality, and stopping injustice. Our members work at grassroots level around the world. They bring hope and practical support to millions of people every year through parenting, literacy and community development programmes.



Our prayer is that we can:

- ◆ *Transform ourselves, personally and spiritually, to live out our faith*
- ◆ *Transform the churches and communities we work with, and of which we are a part, to reflect Christ's kingdom*
- ◆ *Transform Mothers' Union to be relevant for 21st century life.*

" For with God nothing shall be impossible" - Luke 1:37

BRANCH DATES:

Tues. 7 Nov: 9.45am Service of Prayer and Reflection, followed by refreshments

Wed. 22 Nov: 2.00pm Pray, Knit & Chat in Church - do join us! All welcome whether you knit or not, we offer delicious cakes and good company.



Tues. 28 Nov 'CHRISTMAS TEA'
2.00-3.30 p.m. in the Church
for invited guests. A little different from previous years but a wonderful afternoon of Christmas carols with Coulsdon CofE School Choir and refreshments. A lovely start to the Christmas season. If you would like to receive an invitation please let the Parish Office know—stjohns@coulsdon.net or 01737 552461

REFLECTION:

The Jewish world into which Jesus was born was not one which championed gender justice. Indeed every morning a Jewish man thanked God in prayer for not making him a woman. However, Jesus radically challenged this culture through his words and actions. He openly conversed with women, met their needs and included them amongst his followers and supporters. It was to a woman that he first revealed himself as the risen Christ. However history has unfolded since then, we look to Jesus as the perfect Champion for gender justice. His example is ours to follow, in attitude, action and advocacy.



FAITH IN ACTION

Campaigning against FGM - "Seek good, not evil, that you may live."

Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) is defined by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as '*any procedure that injures the female genital organs for non-*

medical reasons.' As well as causing severe pain and distress, it can lead to serious long-term health concerns and infections, mental-health problems and difficulties in childbirth, which can be dangerous or even fatal to both mother and child.



FGM is most common in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Girls who remain 'uncut' are seen as unfit for marriage, due to misconceptions about them being promiscuous, unclean, bad luck, or less fertile. In some regions of Sudan, prevalence is as high as

96%. In Kenya, it is most widespread in the North-Eastern region and amongst the Kikuyu and Kalenjin ethnic groups. In Uganda, it is most common in the rural areas of the Diocese of Sebei. Progress is, however, being made in urban areas of Sebei, where campaigning has empowered girls in urban areas to pursue education without fear. Women are openly talking about the issue, educating their communities and leading the way to a brighter future.

Pray for: areas where damaging cultural norms mean that FGM is widely practised, that better education can mean an end to this cruel procedure.

MONTHLY PRAYER

As a worldwide movement, we embrace our mission to champion the cause of gender justice. May the God of righteousness equip us with all we need to play our part in creating a just and equal society. *Amen*

SMALL CHANGES

Last month's article by one of our Eco group offered some powerful reasons why we should care for our environment. Here are some suggestions about small changes we could make which would help.

Yes, you can guess what this is mainly about! One of the problems with buying eco-friendly items can be the price. I confess I failed to buy a tube of a well-advertised brand of eco-friendly toothpaste when I discovered it cost 4 times as much as a usual brand. (Dilemma here: is it better to buy eco-friendly, or to buy cheap and donate the savings to an environmental charity?) What do you think?

Do tell us at hazel.collis@yahoo.co.uk

To resume. Another problem is that supermarkets rarely sell environmentally friendly products. Andrex, promoted by that delightful playful puppy, comes bottom of the list of ethical paper products. They animal test and use palm oil amongst other sins. At one time recycled kitchen and toilet rolls were readily available. Now they are hard to find, though I did see some in Waitrose.

Another way to save the trees we love, and which our planet needs so much, is to choose bamboo products. You can buy bamboo toothbrushes, disposable cutlery, kitchen rolls of which each sheet can be washed and re-used up to 25 times, long-lasting socks with attractive designs and several other items. If you have ever had bamboo in your garden, you will know how fast it regrows after being cut.

We write fewer notes and letters now but one paper product in use



every day is the toilet roll. Just think how many trees may be being felled for that. No, I am not suggesting a return to using little squares of newspaper as we had to during the war, but we can save trees by choosing recycled or bamboo. These are readily available online, and the good news is that they need not involve a lot of extra expense. For less than £1 I bought a roll of bamboo paper which lasted three weeks!

If they were on sale one Sunday after church, with proceeds going to our Spire fund would anyone like to try one? Do let us know.

Eco Group



‘READY for the PARTY to BEGIN’

‘Such a joyous Worship Together service today (15 Oct) with Revd Sue, based on the parable of the wedding feast (Matthew 22:1-14).

Who would have thought there’d be such a party atmosphere in church! We were asked our favourite party games and first up was ‘Pass the Parcel’, quickly followed by ‘Pass the Orange’, ‘Pin the tail on the Donkey’, ‘Musical Chairs’ and a paddling pool game with pennies and halfpennies which Sue remembered and loved from her childhood birthday parties. Tension and excitement mounted when Sue produced a brightly wrapped parcel and volunteered a scout leader to be in charge of starting and stopping the music. The music began and the parcel was passed along the rows, slowly by some hoping the music would stop at them, and faster by others throwing it like a hot potato! Smiles and laughs of joy when a layer was removed and chocolate was revealed. The game ended and everyone was smiling, laughing and clapping.

Sue tied this nicely in to the atmosphere in Southwark Cathedral the previous day. It was early in the morning, before the Spirituality Conference began. She showed a photo of all the empty chairs, expectant, waiting to be filled. Followed by a later photo with the Cathedral full, not only of people, but of joy and excitement.

Sue told us that we should indeed be *‘ready for the party to begin’*. Not in the



outward sense of being dressed in our finest expensive clothes, but ready on the inside. Clean. Hearts open. Jesus doesn’t look at our outward self, he sees our innermost self. He doesn’t mind if we come to church in jeans but He does want us to come to Him and to

come 'clean' and party-ready on the inside. Joyful and expectant to join his party Kingdom. All are invited. Everybody is welcome in the Kingdom. Will you come? We can all have this party attitude now. Full of the fruit of the Spirit. Abundant life. There is plenty of room for all, with space at His table.

A few of us were talking after the service. We talked about the joy and excitement we feel on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings knowing we are coming to church. The expectant joy of being in the presence of the Lord, of not knowing how He will speak to us, or what He will say, whether through great worship music, prayer or that day's message. Will we be listening?

This is just a taster of Sue's message. There were so many layers; if you weren't able to be at church, why not go to the catch up and watch it online?' **Wendy J**



YOUR CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAIR NEEDS YOU!

THREE AMAZING OFFERS .. expiring on 18 November ..

1. THE CHANCE TO MAKE ROOM ...

IN YOUR CUPBOARDS, THE SPARE ROOM or YOUR LOFT!

We need all sorts of everything to fill the Stalls at the Christmas Fair. So **PLEASE** turn out your loft, cupboards, etc. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to have a clear out and put all those things you don't want or need to good use! We will be collecting just about anything (*BUT NOT CLOTHES OR 'WHITE ELEPHANTS'*) to stock the wide variety of stalls at the Fair such as:

- * Toys * Books (adults'/children's) * Jewellery * Toiletries
- * Stationery items * Glass & China * Chocolates * Pictures
- * Games & Puzzles * Any Craft items for our 'Homemade Stall'
- * Jams & Pickles * Full Bottles (from ketchup to champagne)
- * Cakes (large/small for Cake Stall & Refreshments) * Bottles of Wine
- * Something special for the Grand Raffle

If you have some gifts you have received but have stuffed in a cupboard unopened or unused they could be just right for the Gift Stall or Raffle prizes!

Please help us to fill the stalls to overflowing - get busy and think of all that extra space you will have! Please bring any items to the Church during the week **Mon. 13-Fri. 17 November** any morning 9.30-12.00 or afternoon 2.00-4.00 (not before this please as we will have a very full church on Remembrance Sunday).

2. THE CHANCE TO HAVE FUN ...

We're hoping to have lots of exciting stalls including some new ones.

Would you like to join the fun – it's not all hard work and many who've helped in the past have been surprised to find they really enjoyed it. We're asking if you could spare an hour (or more) on the day and what time you could offer this. There are so many different jobs on offer we'd just love to have some of your time. So why not take the plunge and contact the Parish Office on 01737 552461 or stjohns@coulsdon.net to offer some help?

3. IN NEED OF EXERCISE—LOVE FRESH AIR?

Here's a really useful chance to get some exercise, build up those steps you've been meaning to do and help your church!! Bundles of leaflets galore advertising the **Christmas Fair** are at the back of the church, sorted into roads or parts of roads, waiting to be delivered. This is our most important way of letting people know about the Fair and we'd like to get a leaflet to every one of the 5000+ homes in the parish. Have a really useful healthy walk and give St. John's a hand – please! Bundles can be collected on Sundays after services or on weekday mornings or ring the Parish Office and we'll bring some to you.



And whether you're able to help or not, be sure to come along on the day and have fun, do some shopping, have lunch, visit Father Christmas, maybe win some prizes and all while you're helping St. John's to raise much-needed funds!

KEEPING UP WITH TONY

As I start to write this I am relieved to note that the threatened storm Agnes seems to have passed us by; but at least that threat encouraged me to get the grass cut at home, and hope that with Autumn upon us, it might now stop growing and so give us a chance to really get on top of the churchyard maintenance and upkeep. In that connection 'things' are afoot, with tree surgeons due to be attending early this month. They will be having a serious look at the big Yew tree in the middle of the churchyard that is looking so distressed. Sadly too they will be taking down the Gingko tree at the side of the path that has died. Then we have the bats that live in the spire and which are partly holding up the restoration plans. The 'experts' who discovered their presence during the (expensive) survey demanded by the authorities advised that they do not like light, and so we are pruning back a couple of branches from the tree/s that partially block the floodlights that illuminate the top of the tower and the spire itself, and that – unharmed – they will fly off to roost somewhere else – and there is a large uninhabited rectory nearby!

On a brighter note we have had the pleasure of welcoming Archdeacon Greg Prior to St John's where he led the worship whilst Rev Sue was on holiday; and I think I can speak for all when I say we were mightily impressed and **he** was impressed with the decorations in the nave of the Old Church left over from the night before's Latin Fiesta. What a night that was and huge thanks must go to Roxanne Moore for coming up with the idea, and putting it into place. Here we have a few pictures of the revellers relaxing after the best part of an hour of training for the Cha-Cha-Cha under the masterful eye of Strictly Come Dancing trainer Lorraine Drolet.



Our glamorous hostess – Roxy



Lorraine with the mic



and finally Andrew King getting down and dirty – with Roxy's husband Richard in the background

On a slightly less cheerful note, the nearby sixth form college has received its latest batch of students – fresh out of school, and finding their wings. Unfortunately some have decided to turn left rather than right in their life plan, and are happy to

dump litter in our churchyard – litter of course is bad enough, but vapes and drug paraphernalia I find totally unacceptable. I have spoken to college authorities and am hopeful the situation will improve very soon.



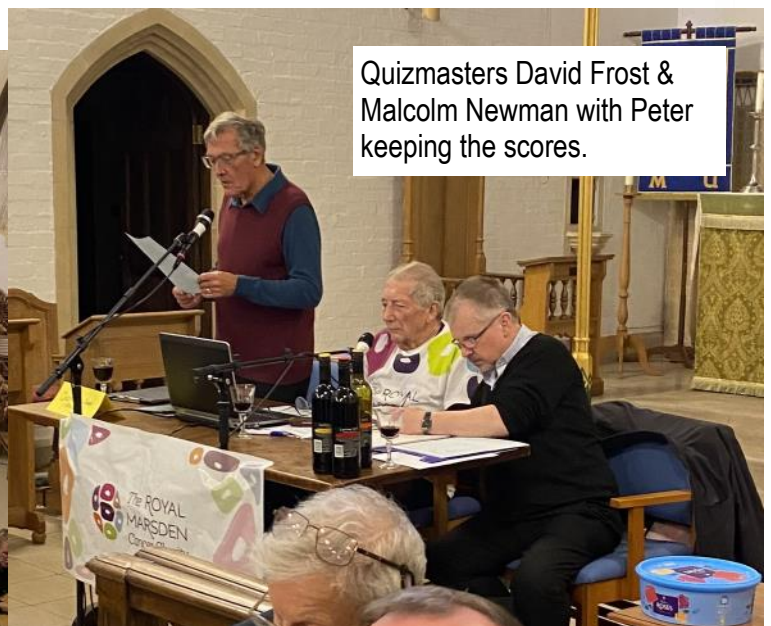
Unfortunately I missed out on the last meeting of the Saturday Gardening Club as Enid and I were lucky enough to grab a few quiet days on the coast between Pevensey and Bexhill-on-Sea, but Gill and the team still managed to clear weeds (particularly round the area of the tap) and tend the grass; and as it is still growing vigorously we have managed to put in a few more hours over the last few days, although this morning's frost should slow things down.

Saturday the 14th was a busy busy day with an early start for the Spirituality Day at Southwark Cathedral which was led by our very own Rev Sue, and where the important concept of Rest was explored in some depth by the speakers; part of

which included Meditation which saw some of the audience/ congregation nodding off to sleep – not through boredom but an opportunity to actually rest, which was the nature of the day. Towards the end, the day morphed into a service of anointing where the (now) congregation were offered the chance to be blessed with oil. Bishop Rosemary was joined by Bishop Martin Gainsborough of Kingston, whose words brought the day to a very memorable conclusion. Readers will have already seen this – but I couldn't pass without including another picture of the art installation practically filling the nave of the cathedral.



Come the evening and we had Peter Burton's Big Quiz Night in aid of the Royal Marsden Hospital – and what a night it was. I'm sure there will be a report elsewhere, but suffice to say the evening raised £2000 which was a wonderful achievement, and we should all be proud to have joined in such a fantastically successful fundraiser.



Quizmasters David Frost & Malcolm Newman with Peter keeping the scores.

A packed church!

Well having started this article with a mention of storm Agnes, I must draw it to a close before getting swept away by storm Babet who is already hurling wind and rain at my windows; so as I've already missed our Editor's deadline for copy, I really had better get my skates on!!

So as always thank you to Rev. Sue, our Wardens, Singers, and all the many volunteers who keep St John's on track. May you all be blessed.

Tony



17th PURLEY SCOUT GROUP ANNUAL CHRISTMAS POSTAL SERVICE

Delivering your **CHRISTMAS CARDS** within the
Parish of St Johns Church—Old Coulsdon

Place your cards in the post box at the back of the church and for a donation we will deliver your Christmas cards to any address within the Parish of St John's Old Coulsdon—check list of roads covered on the side of the box. You can post your cards in the box on Sundays or any weekday when the church is open up to **Sunday 17th December**

**The final collection will be at
9.30 a.m. on Sunday 17th December.**

Cards will be delivered on the 17 December by the Beavers, Cubs & Scouts.

Look out for the box towards the end of November

Thank you for your support



‘FAIRIES’ at WORK in the CHURCHYARD?

Spotted this week in the churchyard—to the left of the path to the door—masses of mushrooms/toadstools—forming a ‘fairy ring’ around a tree. WB.

CHRISTMAS CHARITY OPEN HOUSE

We are holding our Christmas Charity Day to raise money for the Porridge Pot Fund—which provides a daily bowl of ‘porridge’ for each child in The Children’s Alpha Ministry School near Kasese, Uganda.

Friday 24th November

11.00-5.00

9 Placehouse Lane, CR5 1 LA

The usual gifts, crafts, cards, tombola, raffle and refreshments will be available. Do hope you can join us. It is always a lovely Christmassy opportunity to meet others and perhaps buy a few Christmas gifts.

Sandra and Trevor Meadowcroft.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO DISPLAY A TREE?



We are delighted to be having another Christmas Tree Festival—definitely by popular demand. As you can see the festival will be open at various times throughout the week with lots of fun festivities taking place including Craft Stall, Festive Teas, Children’s Activities and a Quiz Night.

If you are interested in displaying a tree then all you need to do is reserve your tree space and on set up day bring along an artificial/real tree, battery lighting and your choice of decorations – this could be linked with your business or group, you can be as creative, colourful and as original as you like. (*Please note that **ONLY***

battery lighting can be used) Set-up days will be Thurs. 30 Nov. (1.00-4.00) and Fri. 1 Dec. (10.00-4.00).

To book your tree space by 27 November or for any further information please contact Janice Hollobone at j.hollobone@hotmail.com or contact the Parish Office on 01737 552461 (10.00 to 12.00 weekdays).



Festival 2018



**St John's Church
Old Coulsdon**



**Christmas Tree
Festival**

**Saturday 2nd DECEMBER to
Sunday 10th DECEMBER**

Open Daily with Free Entry

Saturday 2nd December 10am - 5pm

Sunday 3rd December 2pm - 5pm

Monday 4th - Friday 8th

10am - 12pm & 2pm - 5pm

(excluding Tuesday & Thursday morning as church services on)

Saturday 9th 10am - 5pm

Saturday 9th Quiz Night 7pm

**Sunday 10th December 2pm onwards
for Christingle craft followed by the Christingle
church service starting at 4pm**



THANK YOU for making the 'BIG QUIZ' so 'BIG'



With 18 teams in the Church and four teams joining in online—two in Canada, one in Oxfordshire and one in Devon—about 150 people took part altogether. There seemed to be a lovely happy atmosphere in the church and we understand the 'onliners' were delighted to be able to join us. As with many such events it

takes a lot of help to bring it together and I'm so grateful to everyone who helped to make it possible including the two inimitable quizmasters—David Frost and Malcolm Newman, John Alger—the 'tech whizz' - who joined us all up, Tony Tucker and his team who valiantly set out tables and chairs—and put them all away again afterwards, Carole who masterminded distribution of the supper and everyone else who so willingly offered their help. The biggest thank you must go to everyone who came along—or joined online—to support the event enabling us to raise the amazing total of £2,325 for the Royal Marsden Cancer Charity. The Charity was thrilled to hear about this. Thank you everyone for making it a very special evening. **Peter Burton**



DO YOU LIKE TO BAKE?

Could you make a cake/some cakes to help stock the Cake Stall for the Christmas Fair? Last year we had very few cakes and the stall soon sold out. Everybody loves to have some homemade cake, so if you could make a large cake (or more) or some small ones and bring them along to the stall on the day, that would be wonderful.



PURLEY FOOD HUB WRITES ...



MAGNIFIICENT RESPONSE TO HARVEST APPEAL

‘Between 28 September and 25 October we were absolutely delighted to receive some huge harvest collections from no fewer than 19 schools and 1 nursery—a magnificent response as we head towards what we anticipate will be another extremely busy Christmas/New Year period. In addition in October we received food and some money donations from 24 churches including some Harvest collections. Louise Wilmer, who chairs the Food Hub’s Management Committee extended a huge thank you on behalf of the Management Committee and the Food Hub’s Trustees for every single donation received. “We are, as always, at this time overwhelmed by the generosity of the Harvest donations. Thank you everyone for your amazing support.”’

FOOD LIST - NOVEMBER 2023



At Purley Food Hub we provide food and toiletries, etc, for local people going through tough times. Please consider donating any of our 10 priority items for November:

- **Toddler Microwave Meals for 12 months+**
- **Baby Food in Jars & Microwave Meals for 10 months+**
- **Cartons of Longlife Fruit Juice & Small Bottles of Squash**
- **Packet & Tinned Potatoes**
- **500g Packets of Sugar**
- **Tinned Dessert Fruit**
- **Puddings / Jellies / Angel Delight**
- **Toilet Rolls**
- **Unisex Deodorant**
- **Bars of Soap**

Thank you to Sylvia & Graham who took all our Harvest and other donations down to the Hub in October.

If you would like to help the Food Hub by donating any of the items on this list, they may be left in the wooden box just inside the church door.

READY FOR ANOTHER QUIZ?



You may have noticed that a Quiz is mentioned on the Tree Festival advert. This will be in the Church—amongst the trees—on

Saturday 9 December

With Sausage & Chip
Supper

Full details, tickets, etc.
available mid-November
from the Parish Office
01737 552461
stjohns@coulsdon.net

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www.downlandchorale.org.uk

If the Ten Commandments were followed by everyone we would be able to fire half of the police force and in six months the prisons would be all half empty.” (John Hagee: [1940-present]: American pastor and author)

CHURCH OF OLD COULSDON

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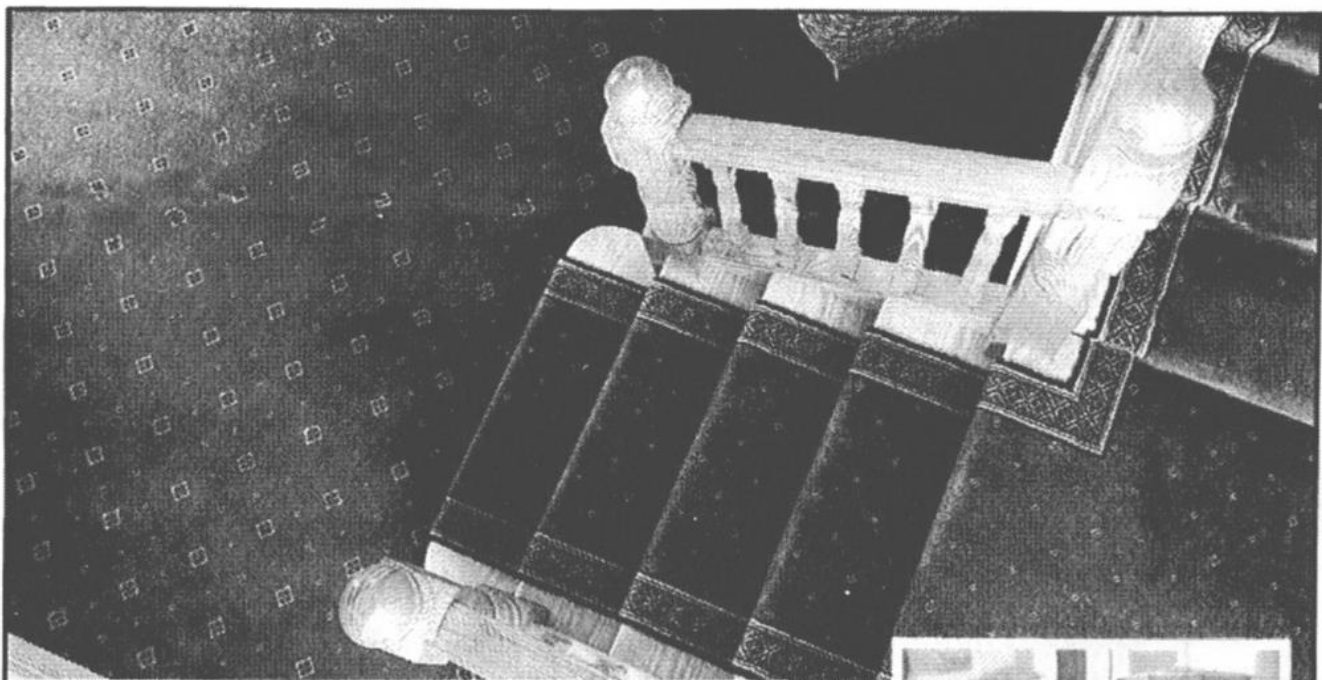
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