

COULSDON
PARISH
CHURCH
St. John



50p

November 2024

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A very warm

Welcome

for everyone
to all our services
and events

November

2—Saturday

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

3—FOURTH SUNDAY before ADVENT

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion, in the Old Church

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

3.00 p.m. Remembering Service, in the church

5—Tuesday

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

6—Wednesday

9.30 a.m. Churchyard Working Party

7—Thursday

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion, in the Old Church

7.30 p.m. PCC meets, in the Church

10—REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

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

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

~~11.15 a.m.~~ **NO** Family Service

13—Wednesday

9.30 a.m. Churchyard Working Party

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

14—Thursday

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion, in the Old Church

16—Saturday

12.00 noon **St. John's Christmas Fair, in the Church (to 3.00)**

17—SECOND SUNDAY before ADVENT

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion, in the Old Church

9.30 a.m. Worship Together, in Church *(and live-streamed)*

19—Tuesday

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

20—Wednesday

9.30 a.m. Churchyard Working Party

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

21—Thursday

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion, in the Old Church

22—Friday

7.30 p.m. Christmas Choir starts rehearsing, in the Church

23—Saturday

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

24—CHRIST the KING

Sunday next before Advent

9.30 a.m. Parish Communion, in Church *(and live-streamed)*

11.15 a.m. Family Service, in Church

26—Tuesday

2.00 p.m. 'Afternoon of Carols & Tea', in the Church

27—Wednesday

9.30 a.m. Churchyard Working Party

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

28—Thursday

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion, in the Old Church

30—Saturday

10.00 a.m. 'Festival of Carols' Exhibition opens, in the Church

December

1—ADVENT SUNDAY

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion, in the Old Church

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

2.00 p.m. Festival open, in the church (to 5.00)

2—Monday

10.00-12.00 & 2.00-5.00 Festival open, in the Church

3—Tuesday

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

2.00 p.m. Festival open, in the Church (to 5.00)

4—Wednesday

9.30 a.m. Churchyard Working Party



WHEREVER YOU ARE ...
..you can join us for our 9.30 Sunday ser-
vices online live or watch later on Facebook
via our website at www.stjohns.coulsdon.net.

Jono writes...



Remembering

November provides us an opportunity to reflect and remember. This month at St John's we have both the service of remembering, to give thanks for the lives of those we love who are no longer with us, and the Remembrance Sunday service - thanking God for those who served and sacrificed their lives so we can live in peace. You are so welcome to join us at these services.

The message of Christianity is one of sacrifice and remembering. God remembers us even when we go astray. He is the father who runs out to the prodigal son. Jesus sacrificed his life for us so that God does not 'remember' our sins anymore (Isaiah 43:25). When we trust in Jesus, God treats us as if we had never done anything wrong, and we can be in a close relationship with him.



I spoke to my predecessor the other week and told him how honoured I feel to be Rector here at St John's - this is an amazing church with a wonderful legacy. I continue to hear so many stories of the way God is at work in people's

lives today. God's work here in the past, and his wonderful promises for today fill me with hope for what God is going to do in this new season.

Can I encourage you to spend some time in reflection with the following questions:

- What relationships, both past and present, am I grateful for in my life?
- Where have I seen God's goodness in my life?
- In a relationship that is tricky - what step could I take to bring more of God's love into this relationship?

With love
Jono



A busy month—with just about something for everyone. Come to any of our services, come to our other events—there's always a warm welcome—a real antidote to the shortening days and longer nights of Autumn. And we recently heard it has been proven that coming to church is good for your health, so do come along and join in!

SERVICE of REMEMBERING



This lovely peaceful service when we remember those who have died and we miss will have taken place by the time you read this, but if you are grieving the loss of loved ones, you might like to watch the service online—through the church website, if you're able, at www.stjohns.coulsdon.net.. [Someone who was present and has since watched it online says you might find it quite comforting.] If you're not able to do this, but would still like to see it, please contact the Parish Office (01737 552461).

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY ~ 10 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.

Please note that there **won't be a Family Service** that day. The next will be on **Sunday 24 November** at 11.15 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S CHRISTMAS FAIR ~ Sat. 16 November



As they say, many hands make light work – so please get involved in some way if you possibly can! The **Christmas Fair** is on **Saturday 16th 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 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 do encourage all your friends, relations and neighbours to come along for an enjoyable afternoon of local Christmas shopping, refreshments, Father Christmas, a free raffle, etc..

PRAM SERVICE



Our next **PRAM SERVICE—a kind of 'Tots' Praise'** - will be on **Tuesday 19 November**. All mums, dads, grannies, grandpas or other carers and their babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers who are free on a Tuesday morning will find a very warm welcome for this super fun time in the Church. It's not like any other service! Doors open at 9.45 for a 10.00 a.m. start and there'll be action songs, rhymes, an interactive Bible story, activity, prayers, bells, shakers, tambourines, etc. as well as birthday celebrations! No-one's too young, too fidgety or too noisy to

come! When we've finished, there's time for tea, coffee, squash and biscuits while the children play and the adults chat afterwards. Hope you can make it.— but if not, be sure not to miss our very special **Christmas Pram Service** on **Tuesday 17 December** when we find out what Christmas is really all about!

CRAFTY CAROLS?

After a successful Christmas Tree Festival last year, St John's has decided to hold a **'Celebration of Christmas Carols'** (a Christmas festival/exhibition) this year. The idea is that you can choose a carol and make your display using any form of craft you like - e.g., collage, modelling, painting, floral, any interpretation of your chosen carol. You can always use a Christmas tree if you would prefer. Everyone and anyone is welcome to make a display - e.g., church groups, local shops, families, individuals, schools, playgroups and businesses.

The festival will be open at various times throughout the



week with lots of fun festivities taking place including **Craft Stalls, Festive Teas, Children's Activities** and a **Christmas Quiz Night** on the **Saturday, 7th December** at 7pm (*more details further on*). If you are interested in creating a display of a carol of your choice, then all you need to do is email Janice Hollobone on j.hollobone@hotmail.com or contact the Parish Office on 01737 552461 or at stjohns@coulsdon.net with your chosen carol so that we don't double up. Set-up days will be Thursday 28th November (1.00-4.00) and Friday 29th November (10.00-12.00).

CALLING ALL SINGERS!

We are in need of choir members to lead the Carols and Lessons service on the evening of Sunday 15th December. Rehearsals will be on the four Friday evenings 22nd & 29th November, 6th & 13th December at the church 7:30-9.00 and it's vital that you're able to attend at least three of these. There will be an additional rehearsal on the afternoon of the service at 4pm



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/carols and there will be approximately four choir-only pieces. Please let me know if you would like to join us!

Karen Jackson

Email: dingdingdong13@hotmail.com or call 07968023938

St John's Church Cheque Presentation



Old Coulsdon Bowling Club nominated St. John's Spire appeal as its chosen Charity this summer and raised £2,130. Ian McCracken was invited to the club's Presentation Evening where he and Gill Thaxter were delighted to receive this wonderful cheque. Thank you to everyone at the Club who had contributed towards this throughout the year.

We were NOT made to walk through this Christian life all by ourselves. We are part of an incredible team.

MOTHERS' UNION

November focus: Women's Equality & Empowerment

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 by working towards stopping poverty, stopping inequality, and stopping injustice. Our members work at grassroots level around the world and bring hope and practical support to millions of people every year through parenting, literacy and community development programmes.



Here at St. John's our monthly Holy Communion Service was on **Tuesday, 5th November**. The next will be on **Tuesday 3rd December**, at 9.45 am, **Pray, Knit & Chat** will be on its usual fourth **Wednesday—27th November** at 2.00 p.m. in the Old Church. All knitters very welcome but this isn't just for knitters. It's for anyone who would like to join us for good company and tea, coffee and delicious cake! But before that we have ..



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

We invite you to join us for
AN AFTERNOON OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS
Tuesday 26 November
2.00-3.30 p.m.
in St. John's Church, Canon's Hill, Old Coulsdon, CR5 1HA
to get us into the festive spirit!
Coulsdon CofE School choir and musicians will be entertaining us
before we all enjoy some carol singing ourselves
and then round off the afternoon with tea, coffee & mince pies.

*Please reply as soon as possible, by 22nd November if possible,
and also let us know if you require transport to and from the church.*

Please contact Elaine Caines on 07712 825015 or email: elainecaines@yahoo.co.uk

Everyone's invited—this isn't just for MU members—so please join us and bring friends and neighbours to enjoy this lovely Christmassy afternoon.
(I would be grateful for offers of help to make tea etc, and help with lifts. Please let me know if you can help.) Thank you ***Elaine***



Reflection

A woman's place in her society or culture can affect the potential power she might hold. Thousands of women and girls struggle to be educated and live with the threat, fear and consequences of gender-based violence; the root of this is gender inequality. Yet Jesus embodied empowerment. He related to women on equal terms and sought

to transform the unjust structures of his society. With wisdom and compassion Jesus broke down the cultural barriers of his day, conversed with women, met their needs and included them as his followers and supporters. May we mirror his example, in our day.

Monthly prayer

May our championing of women's equality and empowerment provide women with the means to lift themselves up in their communities; highlighting God's restoration of human dignity in relationships, based on love and justice, not domination. Amen



GLOVES, SCARVES, HATS, WARM COATS TO SPARE?

As the wintry weather approaches Nightwatch would be grateful to receive any of the above to offer to guests who particularly need them. New or used in good condition would be super. Please bring items to the Parish Office or let Wendy (01737 552461) know if you need to have coats collected..



TREES

I love trees and can often be found wandering in woodland at all times of the year, touching both hands on the trunk of a beautiful tree, feeling its heartbeat and wondering at its age and what events it has witnessed in its life. An old tree seems to have a strength and power that you can feel through the bark.

It is in forests, woods and amongst trees that I feel most alive, receptive and at one with Christ. The atmosphere of peace and tranquillity feels right at the very edge of Heaven and earth.



In 1999, at a previous church, my family was chosen to be the parish representa-

tives and 'keepers of the yew' to go to a special service at St Paul's Cathedral to collect a tiny tree; just a few centimetres high. That yew is part of the Yews for the Millennium Project, one of 8000 cuttings taken from trees that were alive at the time of Christ. At a moving service at St Paul's these tiny yews were blessed and distributed to representatives from the London and Southwark Dioceses. We brought our yew home and nurtured it until the Spring when at a special service it was planted in the church grounds. Our tree is now over 4 metres high and could still be alive in 1000 years time.

While the world churns around it, the yew stands as a silent witness to centuries of history in a way no other tree does. Our tree represents permanence and endurance as well as abundance and the vitality of life.

Our own lives and the life of the church are like the natural cycle of the yew tree. There are periods of growth, stagnation or the appearance of being closed off. But the yew can 'hibernate' until it feels the environment is right for its growth and expansion, mirroring our own personal journey of faith.

Joining St John's, I noticed the beautiful old yew by the front entrance to the old church. I do not know its history, but next time you are passing, reflect on the fact that its ancestor was probably alive when Christ walked this earth. What suffering and joy it must have seen.



Oaks are another favourite. Oak trees don't stop growing. Just as God loves to grow our lives, He is growing us into beautiful trees, deep rooted, strong in spirit, never failing to bear fruit. When an oak is felled the whole forest echoes with its fall, but a hundred acorns are sown in silence by an unnoticed breeze. You never quite know what you do in life that leaves a seed behind. Storms make the oak grow deeper roots, trees with deeper roots grow stronger trunks. The oak tree is a blueprint for our lives, a picture of the life God intends for us.

It is very beautiful to see trees stretching out to their full potential when allowed space to develop their individual shape and characteristics, but it is also beautiful to see trees growing close to one another, supporting each other in the woods. Near enough to be a support but not so close that they suffocate or restrict each other, also known as 'canopy shyness'.

This is an analogy for our lives as Christians. Allowing each other to grow but there to support each other when needed, all through the grace and love of God.

Jeremiah 17:7-8 Psalm 1:3

A prayer:

Father,

Thank you for blessing us with Your beautiful creation, which is our world. Thank you for showing us the special places, the thin places, that deepen our love and joy at knowing You. These places, where You are so close to us, just a breath

away, fill our hearts with awe at Your creation. The trees, woods, fields, forests, sea and coast, the sky full of stars. Your awesome presence is painted into these places, like the most beautiful watercolour wash overlaying everything. Touched with your grace, infused with your love. Father, when we are in these places our joy knows no bounds and the air is heavy with the presence of Your Spirit. As we pray and listen for Your whisper, these beautiful places inspire us to write, to paint, to create, and for this we thank you. Amen

Wendy J

YOUR CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAIR NEEDS YOU!

**THREE AMAZING OFFERS ..
expiring on 16 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 new or in good condition (**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 Tombola 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. 11 -Fri. 15 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). Thank you.

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 have 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 would 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?

Here's a really useful chance to get some exercise and help your church!! There are lots of bundles of leaflets advertising the **Christmas Fair** 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.



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

CHRISTMAS FAIR

FREE ENTRY

Saturday, 16 November

12.00 – 3.00

in St. John's Church, Canon's Hill, Old Coulsdon, CR5 1HA
(opposite Grange Park)

REAL FAMILY OCCASION WITH SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

**CHRISTMAS GIFTS, GAMES FOR THE CHILDREN,
TOMBOLAS, CHILDREN'S TOYS, SELECTION OF FOOD AND DRINKS,
MULLED WINE WITH MINCE PIES. GRAND RAFFLE
AND OF COURSE A VISIT TO SANTA'S MAGICAL GROTTTO.**

Local Christmas shopping, fun, refreshments to keep you going
and helping St. John's Church Funds all in one lively afternoon

YOU COULD WIN A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS HAMPER...
just by posting the slip below when you arrive!

HELPERS in the CHURCHYARD?



Two unusual sightings in the churchyard recently—one definitely being very helpful but we're not sure about the other!

We can all be very grateful to Andrew who 'power-washed' away all the yew berries which fall from our grand old tree making the path quite dangerously slippery as well as bringing a lot of mess into the church.

Thank you very much Andrew for a job well done which we think you really enjoyed doing.!

This deer certainly enjoyed its morning in the churchyard! Although eating away near several graves it did later seem to be quite helpful clearing some of the greenery on a wall.



A WARM SPACE

Old Coulsdon Congregational Church is again offering a 'warm space' on Wednesdays & Saturdays 10.30-1.30 in the Heath Room with hot drinks, biscuits, crisps & rolls available .

CATCHING UP WITH TONY

Caught off-guard by our dear editor, I find myself scrambling to fill a few lines with something interesting. Funny how it goes sometimes; there's been lots to do/sort out at home, but with more people involved in maintaining our lovely churchyard, I've been a bit lacking on that front. I did meet up with Steve the other day though whilst he continued with his wonderful job of excavating the crazy paved path bordering the churchyard from the lychgate round behind Carole and

David's cottage. The grass was pretty wet but I'd strimmed round the gravestones and after chatting to Steve I decided to give the garden of remembrance a quick whizz over with the mower. It looked a lot better afterwards – especially as the sun had come out, but I did notice just how many broadleaf plantains had seeded themselves and really spoiled the overall look of the grass – as had the moss – but we'll talk more of that when Spring arrives.

Just a few seasons ago John Alger spent quite some time taking the plantains out, but (in my opinion) they are a pernicious weed and need to be kept at bay; so I checked the font of all knowledge - Mr Google – only to be told that the young leaves can make a tasty addition to salads, and instructions were given as to how to plant and cultivate them !

www.thespruce.com/what-is-a-plantain-herb-1762301



Maybe we should start salad growing as a fundraising sideline – nah – I'm going to have a go at them this winter!

Whilst thinking about the churchyard I'm going to start 'wintering' the machinery soon – the plan being to clean and service the best of the mowers, and the strimmers; and then decommission all but one of each, so that we don't wake up next Spring to find that stale petrol has gummed up the carburettors. I think we'll keep one of the big mowers and maybe the little Honda *easy-start* ready to go, should the winter be mild and the grass keeps growing. I'll fuel them with Aspen – an ethanol free fuel which doesn't go 'off' – but which is very expensive (£39.55 for 5L on Amazon and the same price for the 2-stroke strimmer fuel too) so don't use them willy-nilly! Getting Captain Poldark round with a scythe and a linen shirt might be an option?

Whilst the sun was shining briefly, our grandsons (12 and 10) enjoined their first driving experience at Mercedes World near Weybridge (immediately adjacent to the Brooklands Museum). These young driver experiences are very booked up and these ones were Christmas presents from a year ago – but what a great time they had. The only stipulations are that they have to be under 17 and have a minimum height of 1.5m

So off they went with an instructor alongside in dual controlled cars – firstly an A-class Mercedes on the 'learner track' and then a G-class on the off-road. We've never seen boys quite so excited beforehand, or thrilled afterwards, and it would have been good to overhear their conversations at school on Monday!





So if there's a 'petrolhead' in your family and you've never been, it is a great day out – even without the driving experience. Entry is free and there are three floors of cars and activities to keep everyone happy – and a very nice Bistro too. Then perhaps on another day visit the Brooklands Museum and have a blast up the Hill Climb, and roar round the banking of the old Brooklands race circuit, imagining you



are Isadora Duncan (before her accident), or John Cobb driving the huge Napier Railton and creating a lap record of 143.44mph in 1935!

Apologies for drifting off into dreamland, but we did have fun – and fun too was had at the recent Barn Dance in church, where it was great to see Rev Jono strutting his stuff to the Stovepipe band. Great thanks to Carole and her team for all the organisation, food ordering, and chair shifters – both before and after-

wards – even if I couldn't find one of the wardens' wands! Photos don't really do the event justice, but the numbers were pretty well perfect for the venue, and practically everyone had the best time – even if poor Veronica did bonk her head – recovering well now though.



On a sadder note we said goodbye to Geoff Caines who recently passed away in a care home in Oxted; Christine led a lovely service for his family and numerous friends from church and elsewhere, and his son Andrew gave an excellent tribute – full of wonderful little anecdotes recounting all the fun and humour that had been enjoyed over the years, and daughter Amanda read from the John's gospel 14: 1-6 and 27. Traditional hymns were sung before we were all invited for drinks and a buffet lunch at the Tudor Rose. It was a lovely if sad occasion, but it was nice for Enid and I to once again meet Elaine's 'children' who we used to baby-sit for, many many years ago! In fact one of the things I remember was that Geoff had a wonderful collection of jazz records, which I used to enjoy if Enid was unable to do the 'sit'. Rest well Geoff and rise again in glory.

Well the sun is out, Enid and I have just had our Flu and Covid boosters and celebrated by enjoying a couple of hot, spicy, Spring Rolls from Danny's. If you haven't tried them – do – they are scrumptious.

Blessings to all our readers – until the next time

Tony



17th PURLEY SCOUT GROUP ANNUAL CHRISTMAS POSTAL SERVICE 2024

Delivering your **CHRISTMAS CARDS**
within the Parish of
St John's 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. A list of roads covered will be on the box. The following Sundays are when you need to post your cards in the box. Cards will be delivered on or before the 15th December by the Beavers, Cubs & Scouts.

Sundays 24th November; 1st, 8th & 15th December

Final collection will be at 9:30am on Sunday 15th December.

St John's Church

Old Coulsdon

A Celebration of

Christmas

Carols

Exhibition

Carols being displayed around St John's

Saturday 30th November

to

Sunday 8th December

Open Daily (Admission FREE)

Saturday 30th November 10am - 5pm

Sunday 1st December 2pm - 5pm

Monday 2nd - Friday 6th

10am - 12pm & 2pm - 5pm

(excluding Tuesday & Thursday morning as church services on)

Saturday 7th 10am - 5pm

Saturday 7th Quiz Night 7pm (book in advance)

Sunday 8th December 2.30pm onwards

for Christingle craft followed by the

Christingle church service starting at 4pm

Craft Stalls, Festive Teas, Children's Activities and a Quiz Night (7th December 7pm). Contact the church office – 01737 552461 or stjohns@coulsdon.net for more information or to book your place for the Quiz Night

'PORRIDGE POT' CHRISTMAS CHARITY DAY

Friday 29th November

Can't believe it is that time of year again.

We welcome you to our home,
9 Placehouse Lane, anytime between 11am and 5 pm
to help support the children in the Alpha Ministry School, just
outside Kasese, Western Uganda. It's a school that our family
has helped to build over a number of years since 2010.

It's managed by our Ugandan friend Pastor Alfonse
and his family.

There will be refreshments throughout the day;
crafts, cards, gifts for sale, a tombola and a raffle.

All proceeds help to provide the children in the
school with a daily bowl of cassava (porridge).
It is also a lovely chance to socialise with friends .

Do hope you are able to join us.

Sandra and Trevor Meadowcroft.



'Come Dine with Jesus' and 'Toys for Joy'

are two Purley Food Hub Christmas community projects to help families/
individuals in crisis. Families are provided with an Aldi gift card for £75
(singles £50) to buy ingredients for a Christmas dinner and a toy and choc-
olate is purchased for each child (£15). (*Unfortunately they cannot accept
gifts of toys*) If you would like to make a financial contribution to either of
these Christmas projects you can donate online by the following link

www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/PKCTChristmasProjects2024

HAS ST. JOHN'S GOT TALENT?

Mary Balaam and Hazel Collis would love to know!

Do come on **Sunday 23rd February** from 2.30 to 4.30 pm
for an afternoon of poems, stories, favourite readings, musical
contributions of any kind,
or any other brief entertainment you can offer!

Your reward will be tea & cake

Watch out a little nearer the time for a list to book your place
(so we know how many to cater for) and add a tick if you're
willing to entertain us for just a few minutes

**Early warning so plenty of time to hone your talent -
and note the date in your new diary**

No charge but donations for the Spire Fund will be very welcome





ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Canon's Hill
OLD COULSDON
CR5 1HA

CHRISTMAS QUIZ NIGHT

with
SAUSAGE SUPPER
7.00 p.m. in the Church

Saturday 7 December

Come with a team (up to 8) or
come on your own

Tickets: just £12 each

Book your place on 01737 552461
or at stjohns@coulsdon.net

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CHURCH OF OLD COULSDON

CLERGY	The Rector - The Revd Jonathan 'Jono' Simpson (Email address: revjono@yahoo.com) (Not available on Fridays)	07704 650085
	The Rev. Sue Thomas (available Thursdays & Sundays)	020 8406 9300
READER:	Christine McCutcheon	01737 553681
WARDENS	Gill Thaxter Ralph Goodwin	01737 553596 020 8409 1662
TREASURER	Lynn Howell (Cheques should be made payable to: Coulsdon St. John's Church PCC)	01737 551652
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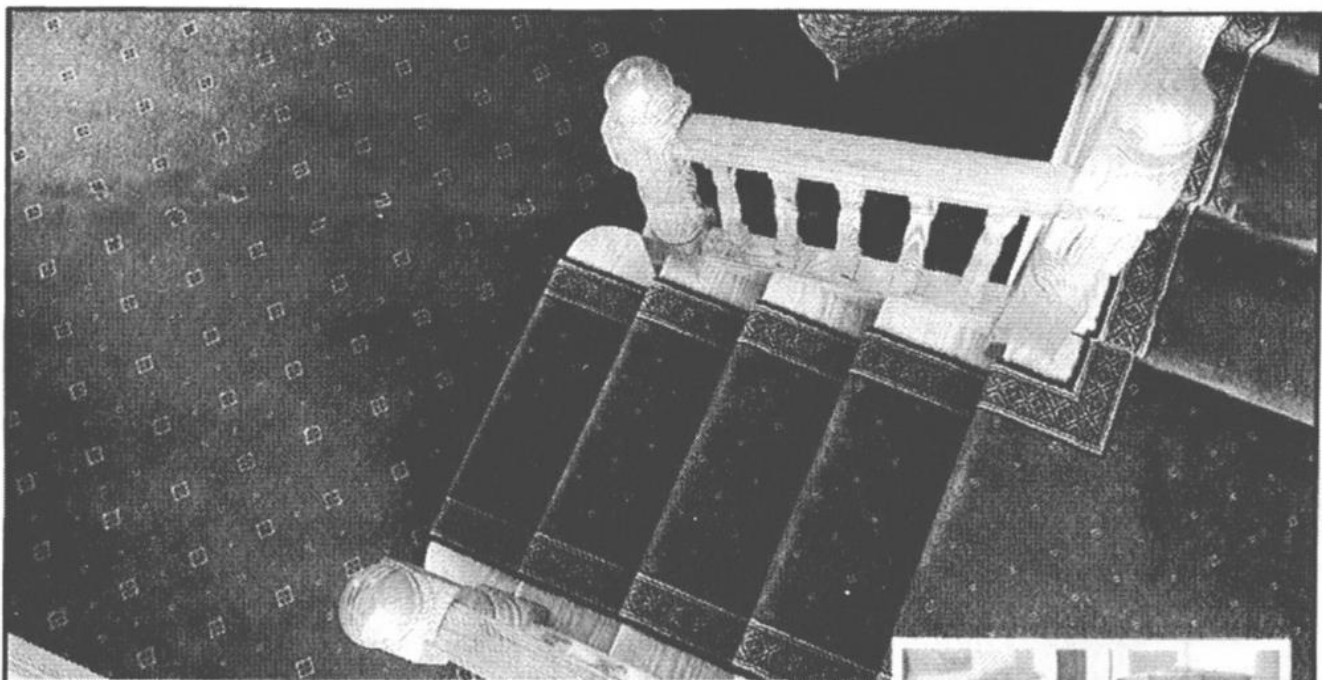
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