

COULSDON  
PARISH  
CHURCH  
St. John



50p

October 2024

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## **October**

**1—Tuesday**

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

**2—Wednesday**

9.30 a.m. Churchyard Working Party

**3—Thursday**

9.30 a.m. Coulsdon CofE School Harvest Service, in Church

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

**5—Saturday**

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

**6—NINETEENTH SUNDAY after TRINITY**

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)*

2.30 p.m. 'Why I did a Camino', Trevor Meadowcroft, in the church

**9—Wednesday**

9.30 a.m. Churchyard Working Party

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

7.30 for 8.00 p.m. Deanery Synod 'Open' Meeting, at St. John's

**10—Thursday**

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

**12—Saturday**

7.00 p.m.. Harvest Barn Dance, in the Church

**13—HARVEST FESTIVAL**

**Twentieth Sunday after Trinity**

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

11.15 a.m. Family Service

**15—Tuesday**

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

**16—Wednesday**

9.30 a.m. Churchyard Working Party

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

**17—Thursday**

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

**20—TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY after TRINITY**

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

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

**23—Wednesday**

9.30 a.m. Churchyard Working Party

2.00 p.m. Pray, Knit & Chat, in the Old Church

**24—Thursday**

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

**27—LAST SUNDAY after TRINITY**

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

11.15 a.m. Family Service, in Church

**30—Wednesday**

9.30 a.m. Churchyard Working Party

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

**31—Thursday**

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

## 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



**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](http://www.stjohns.coulsdon.net).

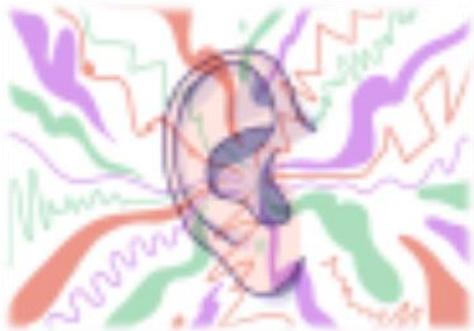
## Jono writes...



### What are your hopes for St. John's ...?

Thank you for welcoming us so warmly! Lucy, Daniel, Arthur, Flora, Emily and I are so excited to be here now in Old Coulsdon. We have been made to feel so welcome by the St John's community.

We're going through a series on the New Testament book of James right now in our Sunday services. In chapter 1 he talks about being quick to listen and slow to speak. For me right now, this is a season for listening - hearing people's stories, understanding their passions, and observing how things work. I



I have been humbled hearing so many inspiring stories already. During this listening phase I am praying that the Lord will lead and guide us as a church into what he is calling us to do. I am excited for the journey ahead as we continue helping people meet Jesus.

We will be running Alpha in January - an opportunity to explore the big questions of life.

As we step into this next chapter at St John's, I would be so grateful if you could pray and then drop me a line ( [revjono@yahoo.com](mailto:revjono@yahoo.com) ) on the question: *What are your hopes for St John's in this next season?*

With love

**Jono**



So here we are in October with nights drawing in and very changeable weather, but we hope it won't stop you from coming along to all that's coming up this month at St. John's. Somebody recently said that she loved coming to St. John's because it's an 'open-arms church'. We hope everybody knows that the welcome is always there for them—for you - at all our various services and events, so please come and join in with as much as you can.



## 'WHY I DID A CAMINO'

An illustrated talk  
by Trevor Meadowcroft  
**Sunday 6 October**  
2.30 p.m. in the Church

A lovely chance to learn all about Trevor's summer trek  
Maybe you've thought about doing one?

Everybody welcome—coffee, tea & cake for all.

**NO CHARGE**

Donations for the Spire & Refurbishment Fund welcome.

## HARVEST FESTIVAL

,,, will be celebrated at St. John's on **Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> October** at the 9.30 Parish Communion service and the 11.15 Family Service. Be sure to join us at one of these for this wonderful time of thanksgiving. when gifts of cans or packets of food and basic supplies for **Croydon Nightwatch** and **Purley Food Hub** would be very welcome.



If you would like to bring something as a thank offering, **Nightwatch**, which cares for homeless people' would be very grateful to receive **cans or cup sachets of soup** for their nightly soup run, **canned vegetables, meat and fish** for people who have basic cooking facilities, and **cans of tinned fruit** for people who have no facilities at all.

**The Food Hub**, a food bank which helps people in crisis and their families in the local community particularly needs: **long life whole milk, boxes/packets of dried potato, tinned meat meals such as meat balls, mince and stew, tinned plain meat – corned beef, ham, chicken, tinned vegetarian meals, tinned tomatoes, small bottles of fruit squash, tins of fruit and rice pudding, packet/tinned custard—and toilet rolls.**



St. John's Church

Canon's Hill, Old Coulsdon. CR5 1HA

# HARVEST BARN DANCE

Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> October

7.00 p.m. in the Church

with a live band & caller  
& a sausage & chips supper

Bring your own drink, glasses & cutlery

Tickets: £17 each

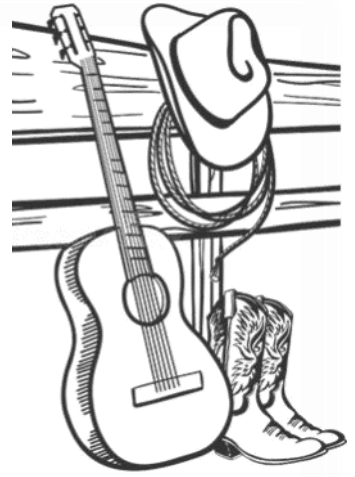
(£8 for children)

Book soon with the Parish Office at  
[stjohns@coulsdon.net](mailto:stjohns@coulsdon.net) or on 01737 552461

Come and join us - but must book before!

## HARVEST SUPPER & BARN DANCE

A barn dance with supper is another lovely way to celebrate the harvest season. So be sure to book your tickets for ours on **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October** at 7.00 in the Church. Everybody can enjoy a barn dance—whether you like to dance or just watch others—and with a live band and caller what could be better than that to make the evening go with a swing. A sausage or vegetable spring roll and chips supper is included. So what are you waiting for? Two left feet? Don't know how to dance? Not a problem - you'll soon be joining in under the direction of the superb caller. Adults and children all welcome. Come on your own or round up some friends. Tickets must be booked in advance—details on previous page.



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## CALLING ALL BABIES, TODDLERS & PRESCHOOLERS!

Something specially for you happens in the church on the third Tuesday morning in the month so if you're free then you really should get your mum, dad, granny, grandpa or other carer whose with you that morning to bring you along.

This month it's happening on **Tuesday, 15 October** at 9.45 for 10.00 a.m. start in the Church.

Pram Service is the gentlest start for a little soul, introducing you to God and Jesus with stories, songs and play. We have a very simple structure – starting with a hymn and a prayer for the grown-ups and then you take over—choosing your favourite rhymes and choruses! There's an interactive Bible story, prayer, birthday celebrations and then the instruments come out usually for the last song ... bells, shakers, tambourines, etc. We are very relaxed! One little regular calls it a party!

We have a lot of fun with plenty of space to move around, so why not get your grown-ups to bring you along on the **15<sup>th</sup>** and give it a try? We don't mind if you're noisy or fidgety — and the babies enjoy the music and watching the older ones. And you can tell the adults it's a chance for them to relax, take a refreshing pause and meet others with young children. There are drinks and biscuits afterwards with time for play and chat. We'd love you to join us!

Last month there were sheep all around the church so we had to round them up and put them safely back in their field. Then we noticed one was missing so off we set again to find it. You can guess we heard the story about the Good Shepherd that Jesus told to show how much God cares for us all.



There were only a few of us there because so many of our older friends had gone off to start school or nursery, so please come along and help us to have even more fun this month.



## ‘WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE’

This is the title of the booklet being studied by the house-groups this autumn. It's set locally which makes it very relevant to us all and also lovely to study at home by yourself. There are still copies available on the Information Desk in church – do take a look and take a copy home to study as you wish (just £1). If you'd like to find out more about joining a house-group, - it's never too late—please contact Carole Caddick (01737 558936)



## WHAT A YEAR!!!

Having just returned from our first holiday this year since Paul and Nicy retired and moved away in 2023, we thought to write a brief report on our experiences as Churchwardens since 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023.

### Are you sitting comfortably?



Full of enthusiasm we started off realizing that the first few months would be hectic. Harvest Festival, Remembering Service and Remembrance Day.

The reception following the Remembrance Service reception was kindly hosted by David and Carole Caddick as we had no



Rectory but at least it was not far to walk for the lovely food.

The Christmas Fair organized by Janice and Claire was a great success and very well supported.



December arrived. Now for the Christmas Tree Festival, Quiz night, Nine Lessons and Carols, Crib Services and the various School Carol concerts.

Then Sue was ill. Nothing daunted, Christine rose to the occasion and services continued as usual with extra help from visiting Clergy, even on Christmas Day at 8am.

Eileen Poore and Karen Jackson organized and ran the Choir for the 9 Lessons and Carols in December. What a great band of singers.

After Christmas we all breathed a sigh of relief and gave



ourselves a pat on the back.

**Never have Ralph and I moved so many chairs, so many times!!!!**

During this busy period, Trudy, Fiona and Christine were producing a Parish Profile for the Archdeacon and Bishop to approve before advertising our vacancy. Ralph was allowed to add a few maps to the important document.

Besides these events, Wendy, Jo, Tech Team, and Singers were busy ensuring that life continued at the normal services on Thursday, Sunday, Pram Service and Mothers' Union Communion. The catering team supported the fund raising events of Shuffleboard, Quiz Night, talks, Carol Service and the Sunday refreshments.

Children's ministry grew with the addition of Chill and Chat together with the usual Sunday morning Children's team of helpers. They were always prepared regardless of how many children turned up.

Family Service gained momentum with a soft start with activities. Well done to all those involved.

The Pastoral team, led by Christine continued with Home Communion, funerals and interments.

**New Year was exciting as we were preparing the vacancy advert. Who would apply? Would anyone apply?**

Success—4 applicants. Now we had a busy schedule to select an interview panel, questions for the interviews, plan parish visits and plan the interview day. In theory the applicants should not meet!!! Luckily one interview was on zoom which helped considerably. Once again Carole provided refreshments and lunch for the panel, applicants, drivers and helpers over the 2 days.

Tony Tucker and John Alger had led the gardening team to ensure the Churchyard was spick and span for the interview days. Indeed well kept all through spring and summer.

**Finally on May 24<sup>th</sup> we had a new Rector - Jono.**

Then we were the only C of E Church in Croydon to recognize the momentous task of D-Day on June 6<sup>th</sup> 1944. We had exhibitions in the Church and a peace walk was organized in Grange Park when nearly a thousand walkers followed a Piper and the air cadets St John's Bells rang to signal the start of the walk.

Our Sexton, Trevor, even found time to walk the Camino Trail in Northern Spain.

**Smiling faces all around**



But wait, we need to plan an Institution service with a welcome reception for Jono and his family. Once again, the tech team, Eileen and the singers rose to the occasion.

September 1<sup>st</sup> was organized with the Congregation providing a magnificent buffet.

**WELCOME TO JONO, LUCY,  
DANIEL, ARTHUR, FLORA AND EMILY**

***Piece of cake!!!! It was with the help of so many members of St John's together with numerous Clergy from other Churches.***

***Thank you everyone who has helped in any way. We are so grateful and look forward to the next chapter at St John's.***

**Gill and Ralph xx**



### **This lovely original watercolour**

Painted by local artist Edwina Downs is to be raffled at Trevor's 'Camino' afternoon (on 6 October) to add to his fundraising for the Spire fund. Tickets are on sale beforehand for those who can't make the afternoon. Contact the Church Office 01737 552461 or at [stjohns@coulsdon.net](mailto:stjohns@coulsdon.net)

## **PARISH SUPPORT FUND**

As many of you are aware, St John's pledges a certain amount of money to the diocese every year, which should cover the cost of the provision of our Rector, with all associated costs, and, additionally, contribute towards the cost of running the diocese and supporting deprived parishes. During the last two years, our annual pledge has been £87,720. For 2025, the diocese is requesting a 3.5% increase, increasing our annual pledge to £90,790. The cost to the diocese of the provision of clergy to St John's (indicative cost) is predicted to be £89,300, which includes clergy stipend, National Insurance, pension and housing.



Our pledge was considered at a recent PCC meeting, and considered guidance from the diocese, including:

- ◆ 'The concept of proportionality is at the centre of biblical insights into stewardship and giving (2 Corinthians 8: 10 -15).' St John's holds reserves, whereas

many parishes do not have the resources to support the provision of a member of the clergy.

- ◆ As people and PCCs we are called to be generous – unmerited divine generosity is at the heart of the good news of the gospel.
- ◆ Since 2019, St John's pledge has decreased by 10.5% whilst clergy stipends have increased by 17%.
- ◆ There is an expectation that churches should aspire to meet at least the cost of the provision of a clergy member
- ◆ Bishop Christopher's message to churches 'Once again I am requesting much of our parishes – that you would fund our projected increase in indicative costs for 2025 which is 3.5%'.



Following discussion, the PCC agreed to increase our pledge to the Parish Support Fund by 3.5% to £90,790 in 2025.

This increase may prove challenging for us at St John's and result in relying on some of our unrestricted reserves, especially as the PCC recognises the need for fundraising towards the essential spire repairs.

**Lynn Howell**  
**Parish Treasurer**

## **World Day of Prayer Coffee Morning** at Old Coulsdon Congregational Church **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October**

10.30am—12 noon.

(to fund next year's WDP service)

A very warm welcome for everyone with coffee and home-made cakes and World Day of Prayer items, such as prayer cards and book marks, etc. on sale. We look forward to seeing you.



## **Autumn Days**

As I wandered amongst the trees today, along the edge of the churchyard wall, feeling thankful for the trees' beauty, the words of the song 'Autumn Days' came into my mind. The words of this song took me straight back to past harvest festivals at my children's school, evoking richly woven pictures in my mind. The colours and images swirl about

today and I feel a tug on my heart of joy for these memories. The words are really prayers of thanks to God for all His bounty and for our senses of sight, sound, smell, touch and taste. Sit back for a moment and read the



words: close your eyes, still your mind, imagine a small child singing them, imagine watching the minnows in the stream, tasting nanny's apple pie, fastening up your laces ready for school, smelling the bacon as dad cooks breakfast, collecting fallen chestnuts on the way to school, and, as Crystal Palace scores just before

the final whistle goes, the jubilant shout of the last line "and a WIN for my home team".

People often say this is 'just a children's song' .... But is it??

Back to the reason I was wandering amongst the trees when my thoughts digressed to the words of this song. I was actually looking for the Gingko Biloba tree which grows just outside the churchyard wall. I wanted to collect some leaves for a project I had in mind. Mission accomplished, I walked back to the car admiring as I went the other trees nearby. But that's a story for another time.

### Autumn Days

Autumn days, when the grass is jewelled  
And the silk inside a chestnut shell  
Jet planes meeting in the air to be refuelled  
All these things I love so well

Chorus: So I mustn't forget  
No, I mustn't forget  
To say a great big thank you  
I mustn't forget.



Clouds that look like familiar faces  
And a winter's moon with frosted rings  
Smell of bacon as I fasten up my laces  
And the song the milkman sings. *Chorus.*

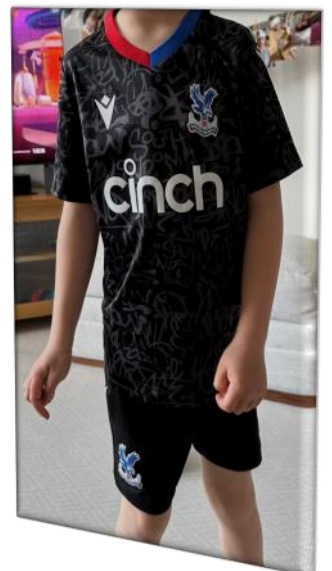
Whipped-up spray that is rainbow-scattered  
And a swallow curving in the sky  
Shoes so comfy though they're  
worn out and they're battered  
And the taste of apple pie.  
*Chorus.*

Scent of gardens when the rain's been falling  
And a minnow darting down a stream  
Picked-up engine that's been stuttering and stalling  
And a win for my home team! *Chorus.*

### Song by Estelle White

[https://youtu.be/w9mvrkQbzgc?si=\\_GAPY35jaickRVxl](https://youtu.be/w9mvrkQbzgc?si=_GAPY35jaickRVxl)

Wendy J



## 'THANK YOU ALL'

If I may, I would like to add to Sue's piece in the last church magazine, 'What an amazing year'.

It has indeed been an amazing year, not only because the services in church have continued, but also because of all the other important functions of the church being fulfilled by many people.

The pastoral work of practical loving, so widely demonstrated by Jesus in his healing ministry, has been carried out by Christine and by many others who have been there for those in trouble or distress. Funerals and interments have been led, largely by Christine, and Home Communion carried out by a small team.

There have been the occasions when the church offered hospitality to those who do not usually attend, like the cream teas, master-minded by Carole and we have been kept going, encouraged and enabled by our hardworking churchwardens.

We want to thank you all for all you have done, particularly during this last year to enable the church to fulfil its role.

**Gill Gregson**



## Surrey Churches Preservation Trust 'Ride and Stride'

John Alger, Peter and I had a lovely day out on 14 September, visiting 18 churches. A huge thank you to everyone who sponsored us for

the Ride and Stride. Your generosity has raised £260.00 **Angela Gillman**

## MOTHERS' UNION October focus: Social 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. This happens 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.



Here at St. John's our next Holy Communion Service will be on **Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> October**, at 9.45 am, and **Pray, Knit & Chat** will be on its usual fourth



**Wednesday—23<sup>rd</sup> October** 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!

**An early warning that our Afternoon of Christmas Carols and Tea will be on Tuesday 26 November** at 2.00-3.30 and we are offering an open invitation to anyone who would like to join us. So be sure to keep the afternoon free, tell all your friends about it and bring them along. **Elaine**

### Reflection

Throughout scripture, elements of family and community life in adversity are highlighted as issues to be addressed. Isaiah 1:17 calls us to seek justice and take up the cause of the vulnerable, whilst Proverbs 31:8 challenges us to speak out for justice on behalf of the voiceless. As we seek to address the impact of social injustice, we know that our faith is much more important than simply being a tool to supplement our social awareness. Rather it is the inspiration that awakens that conscience and then provides both the motive and the power to carry out our work.



### Monthly prayer

Let us not turn from the world, but be engaged within it. Where there is injustice let us strive for equality and dignity. May our actions be based upon Gospel values, our motives be to serve God alone, and through him, to transform this world. Amen



### A MORE ECO-FRIENDLY CHURCHYARD

At the last PCC it was agreed that as part of our EcoChurch campaign we would actively encourage more birds to visit the Church Grounds. If you could donate any bird boxes, bird feeders or bird food and leave the donations in a box in the Church Porch that would be appreciated. Thank you.



### IT'S CREEPING UP ON US!

What is? Well Christmas, of course with only 85 days to go (at the time of writing! But first we have the Christmas Fair—**St. John's Christmas Fair** which is on **Saturday 16 November**—and only 46 days away (under 7 weeks). So after our note in last month's magazine we hope some of you are already busy making things—jars or pots of something tasty or some lovely hand-crafted items. Thank you so much if you're already on it or are making plans. We'd like to stock the Craft Stall with lots of hand-made Christmas crafts and decorations. Could you help make a Christmas item to sell? It's lovely to have a real 'home-made' craft

and provisions stall so please use your talents so we can fill it to overflowing. Any questions or ideas, please talk to Janice or Claire or the Parish Office.

And, of course we'd like you to start collecting items for all our other stalls, at home, from now on please:

- > books > jewellery > toys > unwanted gifts
- > bottles – shampoo to champagne > items for tombolas and raffles
- > sweets & chocolates (nearer the time) > toiletries > stationery items
- > puzzles > ornaments > cakes on the day >> etc., etc., etc.



Gifts in the cupboard you're never going to use? This is a wonderful opportunity to declutter!. Just about anything in good condition – but NOT white elephants nor clothes please – and we would be glad if you could bring items to the church from Monday 11 Nov. and we'll let you know times when it will be open next month.



There are other ways everybody can help too, Would you like to run or help on a stall for some of the time? Or perhaps you could help with getting the church ready the day beforehand, serving refreshments during the afternoon, washing up, or even giving a hand with clearing up afterwards (always a job that gets left to a few and where an extra pair of hands can make such a difference!)?

To have a successful Fair we need to make sure as many as possible get to hear about it. So, as in previous years we're producing a flier—well 5,000 actually—to go through all the doors in the parish. We don't always manage to complete this so perhaps you could help by taking one of the marked bundles for a road or section of a road near you when they appear in church from the end of this month.

**For whatever you can do to help—we will be very grateful indeed!**



### **SPECIAL OFFER PRICE REDUCTION!**

The remaining packs of our beautiful St. John's notelets are being reduced in time for the Christmas Fair. But you can get yours now at just £4.00 for a pack of ten very useful and attractive notelets. They make a lovely little gift—especially for people who've moved away - perhaps a special



'stocking filler' for Christmas or handy notelets suitable for many occasions just for yourself. So, as all the commercials say, grab some while you can!



## **A SERVICE for REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE DIED** **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2024 at 3pm at St John's Church**



A special service held annually, when we remember those who have died. Anyone who has lost a loved one is welcome to come and have their loved one's name read out. If you would like someone remembered, please contact the Parish Office on 01737 552461 or email [stjohns@coulsdon.net](mailto:stjohns@coulsdon.net). The names will be read out in a setting of praise and thanksgiving, and you will be given an opportunity to light a candle. For those unable to attend, the service will be live-streamed.

## **CATCHING UP WITH TONY**

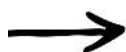
Searching around for subject matter this month there was really only one topic of conversation, and that has been the very welcome Institution and Induction of Rev Jonathan Simpson as Rector; and what a joyous occasion it turned out to be, after what has felt to be a very long interregnum

Jono – as he wishes to be known – came face to face with his new congregation for the first time on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September in the company of Bishop Christopher, Archdeacon Greg Prior, Area Dean Sue Thomas, local church leaders, Chris Philp MP, local Croydon councillors, our churchwardens Gill and Ralph, his twin brother Rev David Simpson, his Mum and Dad, a goodly collection of supporters from HTB, and on the livestream, Rev Paul and Nicy Roberts. A congregation totalling 172 souls plus onlookers from afar. I don't think it could have been possible for him to receive a finer welcome from any other community in the country. Jono - we all wish you the very best of luck with your ministry, and you may rest assured that help or advice will always be available from any of us you might like to call upon.



We've all got a fair idea of the amount of work that went in to that service and we must offer our thanks to Rev Sue who has carried the parish since August last year, helped in no small part by our wardens Gill and Ralph, and Reader Christine. We must thank the whole of the tech team for everything that they've done, although it was disappointing for some – especially

Andrew – when the format of the service was changed at the very last minute. Thank you too Carole, for the refreshment arrangements afterwards, and to all those folk who contributed plates of canapés and cake. Thank you as well to everyone who worked so hard getting the churchyard looking its best, and special thanks to Patricia who in addition to stocking and tending the flower bed beside the path has also dug over the circular area previously occupied by the huge Box shrub shaped like a wedding cake, and planted it up,



.. and planted lavender in another bed where the dreaded moth destroyed the Box hedge. David, Steve and Diane, who made the area to the right of the lychgate look tidier than it has for some time, and to Mary Balaam for her determination to rid very old gravestones of their dressings of ivy and bramble. Thank you all – and all those as well that I've forgotten – like the singers. Again lots of work and rehearsal time went in to their performance ably assisted by Eileen on the piano



Readers may remember that last month I bemoaned the visit to our garden by a deer, who during a day and a night not only ate all our roses, but the leaves as well.

Isn't nature wonderful; since that time all the shrubs have burst back in to life and given us a wonderful display – almost as if they enjoyed being eaten!



And after saying goodbye to an 'old friend' last month,





I am delighted to welcome back another

During the winter someone or something broke the gnomon off this memorial plinth and I had been waiting for things to warm up properly so that the epoxy resin would



'go off' successfully – and now it has, and it is fixed - and even tells the time!

Well after all the excitement and preparations for the new era of ministry at St John's, it was time for a bit of a break.

Rev Sue took some 'me time' and a chance to recharge her batteries, our wardens Gill and Ralph took a holiday in the sun, and Enid and I headed west to care for our daughter's cottage ...



and three cats down in Wiltshire whilst she was hiking and wild water swimming in the Scottish Highlands. All was well, the cats were fine, and the garden kept me 'entertained', whilst the thatched roof became home to some savage wasps! A wasp sting HURTS, but it was probably retribution for me encouraging them to leave! Much as I hate to do it, on this occasion we called in some professional pest control people to save us from further hurt.

I started this month's story with our new Rector, so I'll finish it in the same way by saying a big 'thank you' to the bell ringers who rang a quarter peal on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September to welcome him and his family in to our community. Jono - we understand that moving day will be this coming Wednesday – may the sun shine (and the paint be dry) on your new home, and we really do wish you, Lucy, and your children great joy and happiness as you settle in to life in Old Coulsdon.

**Tony**

# A POEM FOR CREATIONTIDE

## God bless this pale blue dot

God of butterflies, sparrow hawks and bees,  
of jellyfish, beetles, and bright smiling daisies.  
God of plasma, teeny cells, and primal  
slime from which we all emerged,

as we contemplate the devastation of the  
predicament our species has created for  
mother earth and her creatures,  
for the atmosphere and the climate that sustains us,

we pray that, through this catastrophe,  
we will rediscover the wonder of our home -  
this 'pale blue dot suspended on a sunbeam'  
- teeming with life, ingeniously conceived,  
utterly irreplaceable.

We mourn for communities across the world  
already suffering the effects of climate change,  
and the shattering loss of flora, fauna,  
and species too many to name.

God grant us resilience in adapting  
to things we can no longer alter,  
resolve to change what we can,  
and unyielding imagination  
to re-envisage a future of justice  
and sustainability for all.



[Reproduced from 'A Bad Christian's Book of Prayers by permission of its author, Dave Tomlinson]

## CHURCH OF OLD COULSDON

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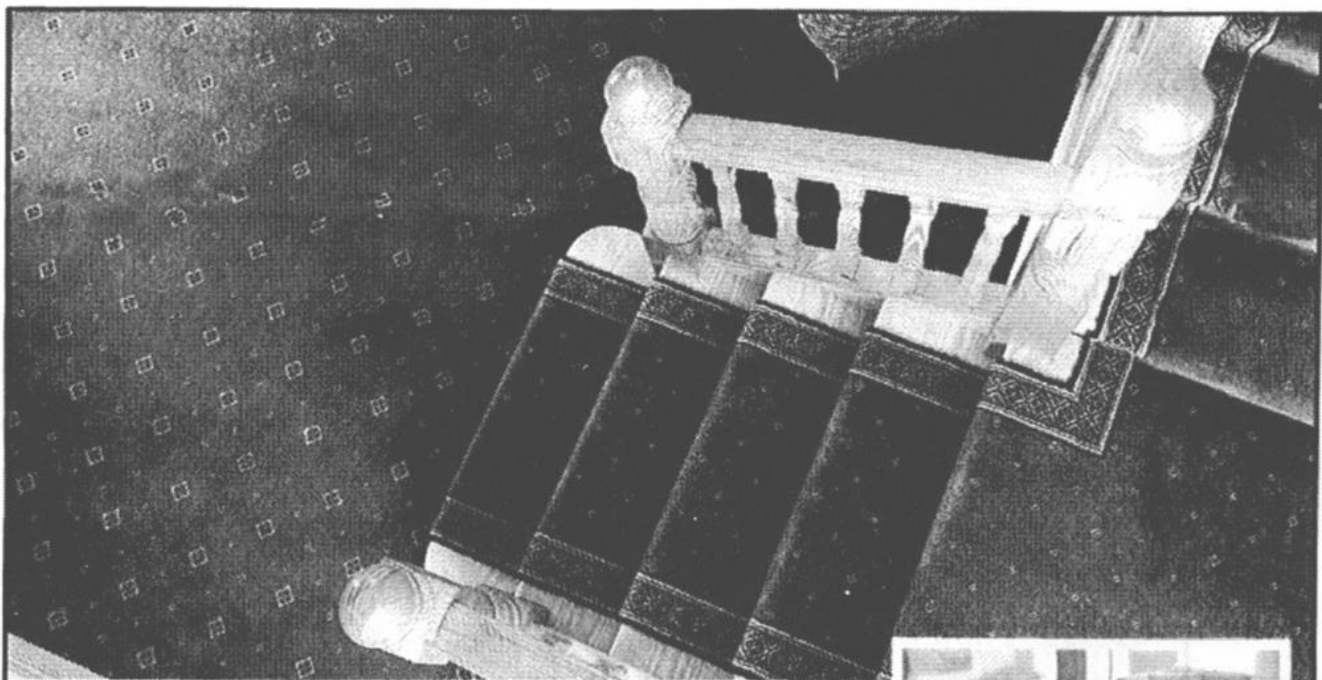
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