

THE PARISH CHURCH OF

ST JOHN



THE DIVINE

BROOKLANDS • SALE



March 2018
40p

1868-2018



From the Editor

Well, we managed to get the first edition of 2018 published. Thank you for the encouraging comments.

What does the March edition bring? Actually, pretty much the same as the last one. An archive piece looks at the magazines from the golden jubilee and centenary years and there is an oddity dug up about a former incumbent plus the regular 'Saint of the Month'.

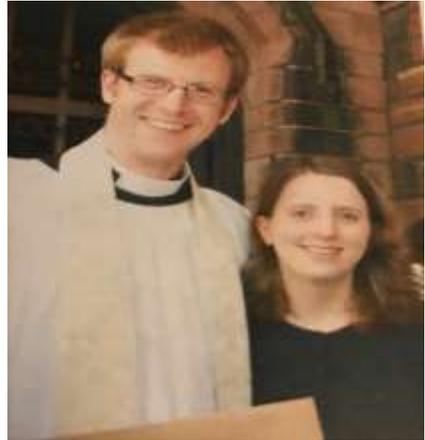
Pause for thought is morphing into a trip through the Editor's playlist, look forward to something profound on 'Sugar, Sugar' by the Archies in a future magazine. We have details of the Easter activities and a piece to help younger people better understand the Lent and Easter season. There is also information on some special events to celebrate St John's sesquicentennial anniversary, or, for those of us who can't pronounce that, our 150th birthday. And, of course, details of the activities of some of the organisations affiliated to St John's.

The order of content is being shuffled to try to make things more logical and will settle down at some point, so apologies if you have to hunt through this edition to find what you want.

If you have anything that you would like to see in the magazine or anything that you want to have published do please email it (brooklandsmag@gmail.com) or leave it in the red folder at the back of the church. Finally if you or somebody that you know wants to advertise then please use the same contact email.

Richard writes...

A large part of my childhood was spent in South Wales and the arrival of March brings with it great delight: St David's day with its daffodils, leeks, costumes, and Welsh cakes. Winter is well and truly over and spring has sprung. The days are getting longer, brighter and warmer! There is much to celebrate and be thankful for.



As a parish we have begun our celebrations to commemorate our 150th year. We had our quiz night back in January and in February a group of us went to watch the rugby and share a meal together. This year is a busy year for our parish and March is a busy month liturgically: we have Mothering Sunday, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter. As a parish each of these will be marked by worship and I am also really excited to participate in our Messy Easter on Good Friday and the Easter Egg Hunt on Holy Saturday.

Last month I mentioned that I have been reading Ian Parkinson's *Reignite* which seeks to be a guide to *seeing God rekindle life and purpose in your church*. In the second chapter Ian turns our attention to 'moving things forward' and reflects upon the gift of leadership. He dispenses with common leadership myths: it is not just a position we hold nor is it a talent we are born with. Instead effective leadership is marked out by: (1) **Passion:** leaders possess spiritual passion and a growing love for God; (2) **Transformation:** leaders are focused on moving things forward and enabling change to happen; (3) **Relationship:** leaders prioritise relationship since leadership is to do with people; (4) **Focus:** leaders set priorities in order to be effective; and, (5) **Humility:** leaders recognise all leadership is a delegated responsibility, a gift from God.

Authentic leadership is not just something for the vicar or PCC! Each one of us is called to exercise leadership. We are all called to exercise influence for God! This is quite a challenge: are we growing in our love for God? Are we focussed on enabling change? Are we prioritising our relationships with each other? Are we setting priorities for the future? Are we remembering our responsibility before God?

As he unpacks these marks of effective leadership, Ian draws upon the example of Nehemiah who led Israel during the early part of the post-exilic period, when Israel had returned to Judah following the end of the Babylonian exile. Not too long ago I was reading Haggai, a post-exilic prophet. I was struck afresh by his message concerning the future glory of the temple. The inhabitants of Judah were getting despondent, pining after a lost past, seeking to remember a former glory. They said to one another, 'Does anyone remember this Temple in its former splendour?' Haggai delivered a message from God: 'The future glory of this Temple will be greater than its past glory.' This is, I believe, a word for us as we celebrate the history of St John's. It is only right for us to celebrate the past and rejoice over what God has done at St John's over the past 150 years, but God is not finished with us yet!

R Ichard



Behind the scenes at St Johns

Good as New

One of the most important elements of our outreach work is the Thursday morning Good as New (GAN). This began in 1993 to raise money for repairs to the organ and was an immediate success. So much so that once the target was achieved the faithful band of volunteers continued with the service and it has remained a vital part of the life of St John's to the present day. Since 1993 and until the end of January 2018 it has raised more than £250,000 but the money is only part of the story, perhaps more importantly, GAN is recognised as a place of welcome for all in our community providing fellowship, fun and a bargain! And cakes. As such we hope that it will continue for many years to come.

A few of the original volunteers still serve faithfully and St John's owes sincere gratitude to them and to the many others (some no longer with us) who have been part of the team over the years. Time though moves on and some of the regular crew are now finding the work of setting up increasingly difficult. The income has dropped too, but its key role as a welcoming meeting place continues. As GAN evolves in the future we pray that the doors will stay open in the future and it will remain a vital part of our outreach work.

Altogether, there are nearly 50 volunteers involved in the setting out and packing away of stock, running the various stalls, working in the kitchen, and baking cakes. Six of our volunteers are not worshippers at St John's and without their support we would find it difficult to provide the service we do.

There is insufficient magazine space to list the names of all our volunteers. However, two volunteers deserve individual mention. Special thanks to Llew Morris for his drive and commitment to keeping the service going. All of those involved with GAN know that once Llew decides to 'retire' it will be a big gap to fill. Secondly, special thanks to Terry Molyneux who gave a lot of support to Llew until his retirement at the end of last year.

St John's and the patrons of GAN thank you all.

From the Archive

In 1918, Easter Sunday was on the 31st March and that was keenly anticipated. A Diocesan Inspection on 5th March though was occupying people's minds. Not as much though as the financial state of the church as this extract indicates.

“The Sunday Collections,- If every member of the congregation would during the month of March increase his or her offerings to the collection as a Lenten effort, and if absent from Divine Service make the amount up on the following Sunday, the anxieties of the Wardens would in a measure be relieved and the expected deficiency at Easter be so far diminished. The price of coke and gas has so greatly increased that the ordinary receipts by no means equal the necessary expenditure for our comfort during Divine Service. Shall we all try to respond to this simple appeal?”

The Vicar's letter in March 1968 began by criticising the number of young people selling magazine subscriptions door to door and suggesting they do something more useful with their lives. Perhaps a rather harsh introduction but more positively it commented on some members of the congregation who had entered the teaching or medical professions. The magazine also carried a letter from Ann Cross who was doing two years voluntary work in Zambia. Ann was working at a girls school attached to a Catholic mission. She reports on the problems of transportation in and out and the fact that they only have electricity for three hours in the evening. The generator being switched off at 9.30 when the nuns go to bed.

Canon Frank Wright had started a Lenten programme which, it was reported, would focus on themes linked to the centenary. The article said that the sessions would “provide us with an opportunity for a serious re-appraisal together of our role as Christians at this particular time in our history”.

In looking at these things it is striking how wheels turn. In 2018 we still face financial problems and the need to assess our role as a Church.

Reverend C Bethel Jones (Vicar from 1912 to 1938) and Psalm 109

Mike Lawrence writes on this extract from the Lancashire Evening Post dated 23 February 1931 which reads:

Vicar Censors Psalm

“As they are not fit to be sung by a Christian congregation we will omit verses 5 to 20 of Psalm 109” said the Rev. C Bethel Jones, vicar of St John’s Church Brooklands, Sale at evensong last night. “These verses contain curses upon the Psalmists enemies”.

Interviewed after the service the Vicar said: “These verses are callous and crude, and were composed before Christianity was introduced. All clergymen should be empowered to delete them”.

I came across this article in the Local History Department at Sale Library. I leave it to magazine readers to decide if they agree with him. (*A good reason to reach for your Bible to see whether you do or not. Ed.*)

And some anniversaries

200 years ago, on 11th March 1818 Mary Shelley’s novel ‘Frankenstein, or, The Modern Prometheus’, was published.

150 years ago, on 27th March 1868 Patty Hill, American kindergarten teacher and nursery education reformer, was born. She co-wrote the melody of ‘Happy Birthday to You’ with her sister Mildred.

40 years ago, on 8th March 1978 the first episode of Douglas Adam’s science fiction comedy series ‘The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy’ was broadcast on BBC Radio 4.

Countdown to Easter

If you are unsure how to explain Easter to a younger person then this article, provided by the Church of England might help.

Pancake Day, Lent and Holy Week are all part of the journey to Easter Day, the biggest Christian celebration of the year. It is a time when lots of people make time to think carefully about their life. For Christians, this means trying to live God's way and remembering all that Jesus did.

Why we have Pancake Day

Pancake Day is also called Shrove Tuesday and is one last chance for a big party before Lent begins with Ash Wednesday the next day. Long ago, Christians traditionally used up all the eggs and fat they had in store by making pancakes and feasting on them. This was because when Lent came, they would eat less food, or even fast (do without food sometimes) to help them focus on God and not on the things they wanted. This tradition has been passed down the generations.

Shrove Tuesday always falls 47 days before Easter, a date which changes every year. This year, we ate our pancakes on February 13th, with Lent beginning the next day, so by the time you read this you will be well into the Lent period.

Why is Lent important?

Lent is a time of getting ready for Easter. When Jesus was just getting started with his work, he went into the desert for 40 days to be all alone with God. He even went without food and prayed, and was tempted away from what God wanted him to do in all kinds of ways, but he resisted that temptation. You can read that story here in the Bible: Matthew 4:1-11.

During Lent, Christians often do something different too, like praying every day or reading the Bible. This reminds us of Jesus' time in the desert to focus just on God and feel closer to him. The good news is that Sundays are still celebration days – so you can take a break from fasting! Even young children can take part in Lent. For example, giving up a sweet treat every day might remind them that we can live more simply.

The last week of Lent is called Holy Week – during this time, the church remembers Jesus' death on a cross.

St John's in Lent

Our church, like many others, looks quite different during Lent. You might notice the colour purple, or there may be very few decorations or flowers. This is because it's a time to concentrate on God and remember how Jesus gave up his life on the cross to save all of us.. Because Lent is a time to reflect, church music and songs will tend to be more reflective and services won't ever include the word 'Alleluia' – a very joyful word to express praise for God.

It's a big contrast when Easter Day arrives, when the colourful decorations come out, there's lots of celebration, 'Alleuias' and joyful music!

Why not go along to a church service in Lent and play a game of spot-the-difference – how is it different to other services you have been to? Then go at Easter and play again! Talk about how each service feels and why they have these different moods. Details of our services are in the Parish Diary and we would love to welcome you and your family.

Messy Easter

All children are invited to join us on Good Friday for a fun session of Easter crafts. There will be plenty of things to make and take home.

We will also tell the Easter story, and make a large Easter garden which will be blessed in Church afterwards.

Venue: Church Hall at St Johns Church

Date: Friday 30th March

Time: 12.00 noon – 2.00 pm

Cost: Free of charge.

We will provide a light lunch, a drink and all craft materials. Just bring a friend and have some fun.

If you want further details, please



Prayer and Praise

Isobel writes about an artwork she saw in London and invites us to remember the plight of refugees in our prayers.

Suspended... an installation artwork by Arabella Dorman was created in St James's Church, London in December. The work was created out of hundreds of items of clothing discarded by refugees arriving on the beaches of Lesbos.

The empty garments suspended above the nave of the church, created a stark reminder of the thousands of refugees still fleeing from war, persecution and famine for the hoped for safety of European shores. It highlighted the plight of those refugees – men, women and children now stranded in cities and detention centres across Europe - hung between loss and hope, suspended between a past to which they cannot return, and a future to which they cannot move forward.

“Lit from the centre the clothes are seen clearly, then lost in shadow as the light changes in density. While the installation brightens it represents the light of hope by which a refugee is carried forwards; as it dims, it seems to remind us that we leave these individuals unseen and in darkness should we choose to ignore their plight and turn away...”

In the time we spent there as visitors, a group of young cellists began practising for their lunch time concert. An old lady explained to a young couple that Jesus was a refugee, and all the while homeless people in need of warmth and care slept. Every pew on the Piccadilly side of the church was taken. A sign said: **‘Notice to our homeless guests You are welcome here at St James’s church’**.

We were glad to have found this lovely church, built by Sir Christopher Wren, and to have had the opportunity to see this powerful work of art. (The day after our visit on February 8th it was dismantled, and will be moved to Canterbury Cathedral.) It was a very moving and humbling experience.

From Around St John's



Our February meeting was our annual, bring and buy in aid of overseas funds. The Mothers' Union has flourished in many countries, since its foundation 142 years ago. The event was well attended, people enjoyed home made refreshments along with their tea.

Our March meeting, will be our Annual General Meeting. All are welcome to attend and get an insight into our yearly activities.

Sharon Marlow

Quiz

The first of the events linked to the 150th Anniversary celebrations was a quiz. The event was described as a BYO 'bring your own' and it was clear that participants weren't subscribing to a dry January from the clink of glassware as people settled into their teams.

Over 60 people in a dozen or so teams fought it out over 8 rounds answering questions on topics from history to TV and attempting to identify the celebrities (or non-celebrities) of the picture quiz. By the end there were two teams sharing the top spot who agreed to share the glory and the prizes. So congratulations to the 'Off Limits' and the 'Gin Slings' teams.

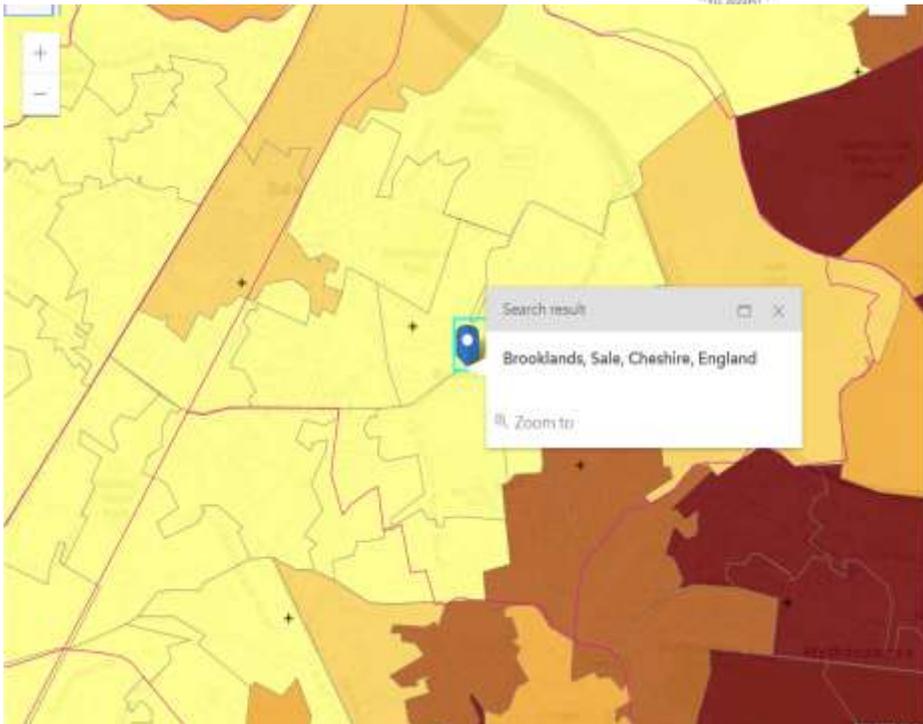
The event raised £450, a great effort. Thanks are due to Carys and Quizmeister Steve and all those who helped on the night. (The editor would also like to thank fellow members of the Gin Slings.) It was a fun evening and just what was needed to cheer up a dank January Friday. Other events are scheduled during the year so do please join us.

Pancake Party

We had great fun at our Pancake Party on Shrove Tuesday! Around 70 people came along and were treated to a choice of savoury and sweet pancakes with a variety of toppings and prizes were awarded to the best decorated pancakes.

We raised £128 which will go to the Church Urban Fund to help tackle food poverty. A big thank you to all those who helped make the afternoon such a great success!

While Sale is a relatively affluent area as the map below shows (the dark parts) we also have on our boundaries some of the most deprived parts of the UK.



Womens' Fellowship

Mary Webster writes

Well, the holidays have gone and we're looking forward to spring and with that in mind our January Meeting was entitled 'A Life Less Cluttered'. We welcomed Amanda Manson who had some words of wisdom as well as hints and tips on how to 'downsize' your possessions which didn't involve losing weight, a great advantage for me.

The response from our ladies seemed very positive and Amanda gave us a lot to think about and try to achieve.

By the time you read this we will also have held our February Meeting entitled 'Crochet Take Two' which led on from a hysterical evening last year when we tried, succeeded or fell about laughing in our attempts to learn to crochet.

Let's hope this year's crochet lesson will have been as much fun.

Our March Meeting entitled 'Favourite Melodies' will have been presented by a Mr E W Mason and I can only guess that our ladies will have the opportunity to listen to some wonderful songs and hopefully sing along as well.

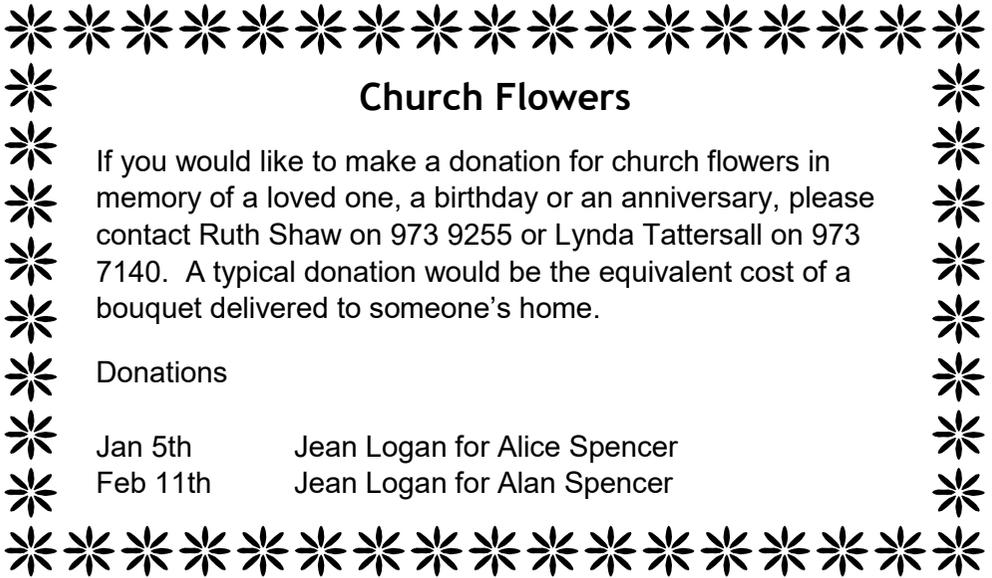
April sounds intriguing and I'm sure will be of interest to gardeners and non-gardeners alike as we're going to be treated to a wonderful evening, presented by Ed Peirson, with the title of 'Tell it to the Bees'. One to look forward to I think.

I'd like to take this opportunity to assure all the ladies of the congregation, and their friends, that if they would like to come along to any of our meetings they would be made most welcome. We are a really friendly bunch who love to enjoy ourselves and it is great to hear the hall ring out with laughter. As always, meetings in the hall are free to Members who have paid their subscriptions and there is a £2 charge for visitors.

I will arrange to display a copy of our 2018 Programme on the Women's Fellowship Noticeboard. Where is it I hear you ask? It will be next to the 'Scouting' Noticeboard and will also show some photographs from our previous meetings.

I look forward to welcoming all you ladies and hopefully forging new friendships.

God Bless.



Church Flowers

If you would like to make a donation for church flowers in memory of a loved one, a birthday or an anniversary, please contact Ruth Shaw on 973 9255 or Lynda Tattersall on 973 7140. A typical donation would be the equivalent cost of a bouquet delivered to someone's home.

Donations

Jan 5th Jean Logan for Alice Spencer
Feb 11th Jean Logan for Alan Spencer

Sanctuary Guild - March

Volunteers in the Sanctuary Guild take turns to clean the brasses in church, such as the altar cross, candlesticks, offertory plates and lecterns.

2nd March Mrs S Marlow and Miss L McCaw
23rd March Mrs M Hopkins and Mrs S. Grimley

Sale District Swimming Gala - Scouting

Carys aka Fox writes

On Sat 3rd FEB we held our annual Sale District Swimming Gala at Sales Swimming baths. There are nine Scout groups in our district so each section - Beavers; Cubs and Scouts compete against each other. There are also two Explorer groups.

2nd Brooklands put a team in from each of the sections and tried really hard and had lots of fun along the way. Our Beavers came 3rd in their group which was fantastic news. Congratulations to everyone who participated.

Upcoming Events

1868-2018



150 Years of Welcome and Worship

On Saturday 21st April 2108 we shall be hosting a special display and various activity stations allowing you to experience Brooklands through the years.

To Help us put this collection together we are inviting you to submit your memories of living in Brooklands.

We'd love to display your photographs too! Perhaps you were christened here? Maybe your parents were married here? We'd love to hear from you.

Anniversary Events

Saturday 21st also sees a dinner to be held in the Hall. Tickets are on sale for £20 for a terrific menu and what promises to be a memorable evening. Previous incumbents have been invited.

Please contact Richard for further information. (973 5220 vicarbrooklands@gmail.com)

There will also be some souvenirs of the anniversary, such as pens, available to purchase and, rumour has it, a special beer.

Have you a computer problem?

If so, I am local and here to help...

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"Your service is very good, it is good to know someone is available to help and understands we are not all experts." GS, Sale

"It has been a pleasure dealing with you & the service I have received is second to none." Vivian, Sale



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PARISH REGISTER: January/February

Holy Baptism

January

7th Jenny Diane Howarth
Tracey Abigail Howarth

28th Lewis Consalvey, son of Stuart and Hayley
Olivia Renee Cooke, daughter of Peter and Jenny

February

4th Rashad Khalif Gayden, son of Rashad and Rebecca

11th Amelia Nancy Ashton, daughter of Robert and Nicola

Baptismal Anniversaries

Lauren Elizabeth Dale Billingham and Edwin James Dryden Drake



'God has received you by Baptism into his Church. We welcome you into the Lord's family'

Christian Committal

February

7th Robert Wilson



'May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.'

And in case you thought there were no funnies...

Hymns we sing?

The Laodicean church is described in the Bible in the book of The Revelation as being lukewarm. If the Laodiceans were to have a hymnal, suitable for their conviction, here's a list of some of the hymns it may contain:

Just as I Am, with Lots of Excuses
Make Suggestions to Me, My God and King
My Hope Is Built on Nothing Much
Not My Life - Let Me Be
O Come, All Ye Wishy Washy
O Come Let Us Ignore Him.
Oh, for a Couple of Tongues to Sing
Part of the Way with Jesus
Pillow of Ages, Fluffed for Me

**

Scared

Some people are scared of church like they are scared of helicopters – they are frightened of being sucked into the rotas.

Community Chest

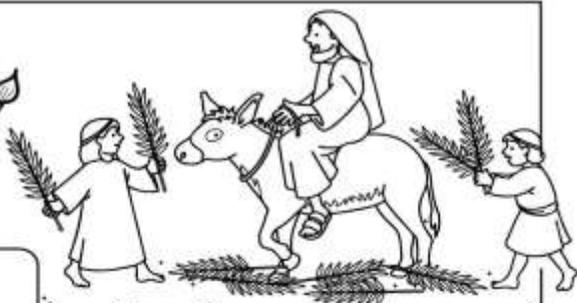
Not exactly our local community but if you like organ music you may be interested in the installation of the new Stoller Organ at Manchester Cathedral. Saturday 10th March at 7.30 sees Leonard Bernstein's 'Chichester Psalms' www.manchesterchamberchoir.org.uk for tickets. A free lunchtime concert (plus coffee and cake) at 11.00 on Saturday 24th March is also on offer and described as 'one of the loveliest ways to start your weekend'. And it probably is.



Mouse Makes

Journey to the Cross

Read the Bible - find the answers



READ Matthew 21:1-11

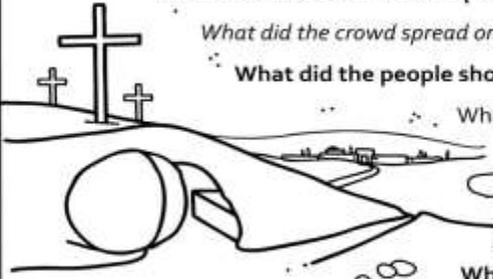
Where did Jesus stop on his journey? vs 1

What did Jesus send his disciples to get? vs 2

What did the crowd spread on the road in front of Jesus? vs 8

What did the people shout? vs 9

What city was Jesus going to? vs 10



READ Matthew 26:17-75

What festival did the disciples celebrate? vs 17

Which disciple denied Jesus? vs 34

Which disciple betrayed Jesus? vs 47

READ Matthew 27

When Jesus was taken to be crucified, what did the soldiers put on him? vs 28-29

What time did Jesus die? vs 45

Whose tomb was Jesus buried in? vs 57

READ Matthew 28

On the third day who rolled away the stone covering the tomb? vs 2

What had happened to Jesus? vs 6,7

Parish Diary March 2018

4 th	3 rd Sunday of Lent	
	8.30	Holy Communion
	10.30	Family Communion
	12.30	Holy Baptism
	5.30	Evensong
7 th	10.00	Holy Communion
	12.30-1.30	Lent Course: Pilgrim – The Eucharist (Hut/Hall)
	2.00	Crafty Chat
	8-9.00	Lent Course: - Pilgrim – The Eucharist (Hut/Hall)
11 th	4 th Sunday of Lent	Mothering Sunday
	8.30	Holy Communion
	9.15	Breakfast Welcome
	10.30	All Age Worship and Parade
	5.30	Evensong
14 th	10.00	Holy Communion
	12.30-1.30	Lent Course: Pilgrim – The Eucharist (Hut/Hall)
	2.30	Mothers' Union
	8-9.00	Lent Course: - Pilgrim – The Eucharist (Hut/Hall)
18 th	5 th Sunday of Lent	Passiontide begins
	8.30	Holy Communion
	10.30	Family Communion
	5.30	Evensong
21 st	10.00	Holy Communion
	12-30-1.30	Lent Course: Pilgrim – The Eucharist (Hut/Hall)
	2.00	Crafty Chat
	7.30	Holy Communion and Women's Fellowship
	8-9.00	Lent Course: - Pilgrim – The Eucharist (Hut/Hall)

- 28th 10.00 Holy Communion
- 29th **Maundy Thursday**
8.00pm Holy Communion and Watch
- 30th **Good Friday Services**
11.00am and 2.00pm
- 12.00 – 2.00pm Messy Easter
- 31st **Easter Eve Vigil**
8.30pm Renewal of Baptism Vows

ALPHA COURSE ?

St John's is running its first Alpha course in 2018 and we're really Monday evenings at 8pm, at the Vicarage, on the following dates:

April 16th, 23rd, 30th
June 11th, 18th, 25th

May 14th, 21st, 28th
July 2nd



February–April Calendar

February

- 4th Second Sunday before Lent
Family Communion
Baptism
- 11th Sunday next before Lent
Breakfast Welcome 9.30am
All Age Communion
Baptism
- 13th *Pancake Party*
- 14th Ash Wednesday
- 18th First Sunday of Lent
Family Communion
- 25th Second Sunday of Lent
Family Communion

March

- 4th Third Sunday of Lent
Family Communion
Baptism
- 11th Mothering Sunday
Breakfast Welcome 9.15am
All Age Worship & Parade
- 18th Fifth Sunday of Lent: Pas-
siontide begins
Family Communion
- 25th Palm Sunday – Procession
of Palms
10.30 *Family Communion*
12.30 *Baptism*
14.00 *Baptism Afternoon 2-*
3pm
6.30 *Music & Readings*
for Passiontide
- 29th Maundy Thursday
8pm *Holy Communion*
and Watch

- 30th Good Friday Services
11.00am and 2.00pm
Messy Easter 12.00 –
2.00pm
- 31st Easter Eve Vigil
Renewal of Baptism Vows
8.30pm

April

- 1st Easter Day
All Age Communion
- 8th Second Sunday of Easter
(Manchester Marathon)
Services (TBC)
- 15th Third Sunday of Easter
Family Communion
- 21st St John's Birthday Weekend

9am-3pm Experience Brook-
lands
7.30pm Celebration Dinner
- 22nd Fourth Sunday of Easter
10.30 Patronal Festal Eu-
charist with Bishop David
12.00 Birthday Party
- 29th Fifth Sunday of Easter
All Age Baptism and Com-
munion

The Parish Church of *St. John the Divine, Brooklands*

*In the Deanery of Withington, In the Diocese of Manchester,
In the Province of York*

Website: www.stjohnsbrooklands.org.uk

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.30am Holy Communion
10.30 am Family Communion
 (Second Sunday of the Month All-Age Worship)
5.30pm Choral Evensong

Holy Communion is celebrated on Holy Days and Saints Days as announced.

POINTS OF CONTACT

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		vicarbrooklands@gmail.com
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CHURCH WARDEN	Sue Withenshaw	969 2521
DEPUTY WARDEN	Ros Morris	973 1996
DEPUTY WARDEN	Angela Mather	282 7656
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ORGANISTS	Katie Jones	
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	(For Mar/Apr Sue Withenshaw)	969 2521
CARETAKER	Vacancy	
SCOUTS etc.	Clive Winby	973 6507
GUIDES etc.	Jackie Eastwood	976 4613
BROWNIES	Janet Shaw	973 8238
BEAVERS & CUBS	David Hughes	865 0189

