

THE PARISH CHURCH OF

ST JOHN



THE DIVINE

BROOKLANDS • SALE



50p

September 2020

From the Editor

Welcome to the September Magazine. A standard question these days is to be asked how you are doing in the pandemic. Mrs Editor characterises our experience as us having had a 'good war'. We haven't been ill, don't have to home school, have no caring responsibilities, haven't had to worry about our jobs or income, haven't suffered any bereavements in the family and have a spacious house and garden. So why do we feel as we do? The mix of anger at what has happened; bemusement at how it has been handled; great sadness about those whose lives have been devastated, many of them young; and an overriding sense of helplessness. Add in Beirut, refugees, the exam result fiasco and it isn't surprising that we feel weary. How can we put this to God when we are supposed to give praise and thanks? Well we can. Sometimes what we need is a good moan. Just to let it all out. All the things that worry you, tell Him. It's not a rant at God but to him.

This edition carries some of the usual items you have come to know and love. As a bonus from Sharon we have not one but three Saints. A very upbeat worship song (for when you have finished your lament to God) and some interesting snippets to get you thinking.

Regretfully this edition also reports that the life of the magazine in its current form is drawing to a close. I am unable to continue as Editor beyond the year end and as Richard explains in detail the decision has been taken to close the magazine after the December edition. But right now we are still here so please read, enjoy and pass on.

The Editor

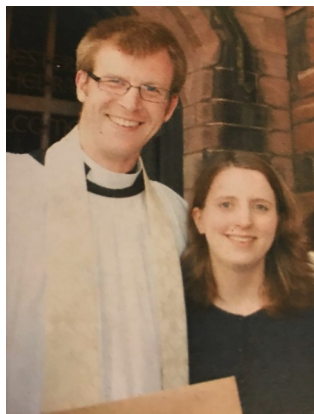
(brooklandsmag@gmail.com)

Deadline for October edition 18th September.

Cover photo of River Bollin at Dunham after August rain.

Richard writes...

I am delighted that we are now able to gather in-person on Sunday morning to worship God, giving thanks for all he has done for us, and sharing in the family meal of bread and wine. I have really missed worshipping with you and having written the Annual Report for 2019, I realised just how much we've missed out on as a result of the current crisis.



In October we shall be holding our Annual Parochial Church Meeting and presenting our Annual Report, this will be provided to everyone on our electoral roll. To save the cutting down of many trees you will be able to download it from our website and it will be emailed to those on our electoral roll whose email addresses I have. Paper copies can be sent out if you let me know you'd like a copy! We shall also be revising the Electoral Roll up until the 27th September so if you're not currently on our electoral roll and you would like to be, please get in touch.

Having begun with some good news I also have some sad news to share with you. Our current magazine editor, John Vaughan, has informed me that he will be stepping down from this role at the end of the year. I have been impressed by his dedication to the magazine and thankful for his ministry over the past few years. As a result of this I have spoken with members of the Parish Communications Team to decide the future possibilities of the parish magazine.

As a result of these discussions I've discerned that the most obvious option is to cease publication in December 2020 and make the final issue a bumper edition. In its place we shall be starting up a free quarterly newsletter keeping you up-to-date with what's going on in our church family. These will be printed every February/March to cover Lent and Easter, May/June to cover the summer months, August/September to cover the Autumn term, and November/December to cover Advent and Christmas. This will be available to download from our website and we will make sure there are printed copies available for those who prefer a printed format. If you would like to receive a printed copy of the quarterly newsletter please contact me and I will ensure you get a copy.

The reasons for ceasing publication of the magazine are three-fold:

- (1) difficulty in recruiting a new editor;
- (2) issues with the production and distribution of the magazine; and,
- (3) the magazine finances and our budget.

If you're into SWOT analysis, the strengths and opportunities have become overtaken by the weaknesses and threats.

Since I have been at St John's there have been two magazine editors, both have done a great job, but there are difficulties in recruiting a new editor, namely the lack of candidates applying for the role! There is a significant time commitment to the role, and this has been expanded due to the editor now coordinating the distribution aspect of the operation. Producing the magazine involves....

- Ensuring the magazine has sufficient appropriate content
- Liaising with content providers to ensure timely provision of material.

- Liaising with advertisers to ensure that we have the correct copy and billing.

- Laying the content out using appropriate software.

- Setting the content into a PDF document ready for printing

- Liaising with the printer over printing and delivery.

Producing the magazine is only part of the picture, the magazine also needs distributing and whilst we have a great bunch of fantastic volunteers who deliver the magazine this number is slowly declining. To make the magazine viable in the long term we'd also need to recruit more distributors as well as someone to coordinate the delivery and distribution, namely:

- Receiving the magazines from the printer and bundling for distribution.

- Taking bundles to magazine distributors for onward delivery.

- Receiving the annual magazine subscriptions and passing of money to Treasurer, usually in January and February.

Further, since there are few new subscribers and a handful of people don't renew their subscription each year, the circulation of the magazine is also in gentle decline.

Finally, we come to the finances. Each year the parish magazine runs at a substantial loss as the following figures illustrate:

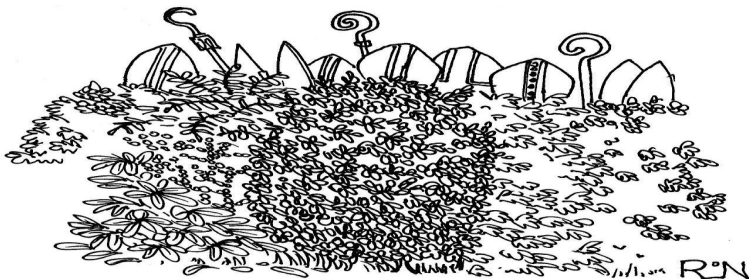
2015 = -£498
2016 = -£664
2017 = -£722
2018 = -£1209
2019 = -£559

In order to make the magazine financially viable we'd need to look at increasing the price, reducing the frequency, or perhaps both.

When faced with all of this it becomes clear that the unfortunate reality is that the general trajectory of the magazine is one of gradual decline and it is hard to see how its fortunes can be revived. With this in mind it's probably best that we are proactive and ensure that it has a good ending, thus the bumper edition in December looking back at the magazine highlights over the years!

If I may finish with some happy news. Many of you will already know but Suzanne and I are expecting the birth of our second child in mid-November. Please keep us in your prayers as we look forward to a return to many nights of interrupted sleep! Christmas 2020 will be a very different one from last year, for a variety of reasons!

Richard



The bishops had formed a 'support bubble' all on their own.

My Lighthouse

As we aren't singing any hymns currently the Editor continues a series of worship songs designed to cheer you up and dance. This one has some semi-official actions so if you struggle with waving your arms around at the morning service maybe avoid that link.

Written by Rend Collective, the song presents Jesus as a light shining out and calming our doubts and fears. The metaphor of a lighthouse as a bulwark against the storms and a signal to mariners is not a new way of trying to explain Jesus as the light of the world but this song is a joyous exposition of it. It reminds us of the words in John 8:12 that Jesus is the light of the world and also how in John 3:19-21 we see that living in the light is what we should strive for. The song also gives us echoes of how Jesus walked on the stormy water to calm the fears of his disciples.

*In my wrestling and in my doubts
In my failures You won't walk out
You're great love will lead me
through
You are the peace in my troubled
sea
You are the peace in my troubled
sea*

*In the silence You won't let go
In the questions Your truth will
hold
Your great love will lead me
through
You are the peace in my troubled
sea
You are the peace in my troubled
sea*

*My lighthouse
My lighthouse
Shining in the darkness I will
follow You*

*My lighthouse
My lighthouse
I will trust the promise
You will carry me safe to
shore
Safe to shore*

*I won't fear what tomorrow
brings
With each morning I'll rise
and sing
My God's love will lead me
through
You are the peace in my
troubled sea
You are the peace in my
troubled sea*

*Fire before us You're the
brightest
You will lead us through the
storms*

The easiest way to find the song is simply to search on Youtube for 'My Lighthouse'. The official video comes up first so start there. But if you do want to learn the actions, a couple of links down check out the Grace Vineyard Kids version. Either way, enjoy.

After writing this, I was sent the photo below. Roker Lighthouse, Sunderland.



From the Archive

September 1920

The September 1920 magazine gave an account of the dedication and commemoration of the cross erected as a monument to those who died in the First World War. The relevant paragraph is given in full.

“The outstanding event parochially since our last issue has been the accomplishment of our debt to the memory of our friends and fellow-worshippers who, during the Great War, made the supreme sacrifice of their lives for us and for humanity upon the battlefields of Europe. The beautiful cross placed in the churchyard, with its inscription so simple and yet so full of meaning, and the chaste tablet of mosaic and alabaster containing the names and regiment of those who fell, will remain for generations as a lasting and fitting record of their memory and a constant reminder of their great self-sacrifice. It is a great happiness to us all, and must be a source of comfort to the bereaved, to feel that we have been privileged to pay this last and fitting tribute to their memory. The service of dedication and commemoration of the departed was as beautiful as we could render it, and we all felt that it afforded us a very sacred opportunity of associating ourselves in mind and heart with our brethren who have been bereaved by sickness and death of their loved ones. It was extremely kind of our Archdeacon, Bishop Mercer, to come among us for the occasion and his sympathetic kindness and his address upon the need and spirit of self-sacrifice were very helpful to us all.”

The report went on to say that some small donations were still needed and that the area around the cross was to be re-turfed. Reverend Bethel Jones noted that he was due to take his annual holiday early in September and discussed the arrangements for the coverage of services which unfortunately were not complete. He also thanked people for the painting of the exterior of the Vicarage.



September
2020

September 1970

Reverend Ernest Buckley's September newsletter focused on the 'bricks and mortar' of Saint John's. He expressed the view that there was not another church in the Diocese which had such a fine and useful set of buildings in such spacious and delightful surroundings. He commented on how well the gardens were looking and the favourable impressions of visitors and members of the congregation. He went on to discuss the organisations which existed within Saint John's and the interesting and useful programmes that they had. This included a recent Men's' Society and with the introduction of a social evening for modern sequence dancing there really was something for everybody. The hall and hut, it was reported, were being used extensively by other local organisations and the community generally. The church interior had been helped by a new chancel carpet, following a generous donation, and new kneelers at the altar rail contributed by the Mother's Union. Despite all this activity, Rev Buckley pointed out the true role of the Church in his final paragraph.

"We do not lose sight of the main function of the church, which is the worship of God. I am all too conscious of the greatness of this task, the privilege and the responsibility which attaches to it. I always remember the quotation from Bede Frost with which a memorable course of lectures began: 'to pray and to teach souls to pray, it is all, for given this everything else follows'. Will you all share with me the vision of a church, bustling with activities, engaged in all manner of useful good works but, above all, growing in spiritual maturity an ever deepening appreciation of the Majesty and grace of God.

The magazine also described the Summer Supper for 1970. This was organised by the Young Mums and was on an international theme, although it was commented that the person who thought of this moved to Oldham before the hard work was required. Despite this it was reported that the evening was memorable and included lots of singing. It was preceded by communion which Reverend Buckley said he felt was one of the more moving services of the year, with the church full with three women's group meeting all worshipping together.

Finally, there was a report of an Old Peoples Tea. Possibly not a politically correct description in 2020 (like Young Mum's) but it sounds a grand event with 105 people over 60 from the parish being entertained to tea. They were also entertained with some light opera. It sounds to have been great fun with various members of the cast dying at the hands of the ruthless Antonio only to rise again and join a boisterous chorus and the story needing to be told so people knew what was going on. I suspect if we were to do this now the entertainment would be a sixties cover band.

Churches warned to prepare for ‘tidal wave of poverty’

Church leaders are being urged to be ready to respond to the lasting impact of the pandemic on the country’s poorest people. The effect on urban, suburban and rural communities is likely to be severe with many thousands of jobs being lost and livelihoods threatened. The poorest in society may find themselves hardest hit. Churches are being encouraged to respond to the devastating impact of the pandemic and to build on the numerous social projects already in place.

The Trussell Trust that supports around 1200 UK foodbanks is warning of a ‘tidal wave of poverty’ poised to engulf the country. Chief Executive Emma Revie has called on church leaders to talk to their congregations about justice and compassion and to work to address the root causes of poverty. Speaking at a Bible Society webinar she encouraged church leaders “increasingly to talk to their congregations about God’s concern for justice and compassion to characterise the structures of our society: the way our benefit system works, the way our economy functions, people’s employment conditions and wage levels.”

Emma Revie said that the Trussell Trust was “very clear that food banks are not a solution to poverty” and the charity wanted “to see people experiencing fulness of life and not being trapped by poverty.” She praised the vital role played by churches in running foodbanks and encouraged congregations “That when we pray for our foodbanks, that we would also allow ourselves room to lament the injustices that make them necessary in the first place and seek wisdom about how we might be part of bringing about change. Because if we don’t concern ourselves with these things, the tidal wave of poverty is going to be too high and too powerful for us to respond to and we will see many more people being swept into destitution in the UK.”

The Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the CofE



A thank-you from Sharon

A big thank you to everyone, who sent cards and phoned during my treatment for cancer, and also for all the prayers. It certainly helped knowing I was being thought of and supported. I've tried to remain positive and carry on when I could. Having faith helps a great deal,

It is important, throughout life to look on the positive side, we all go through difficult times. Carrying on and keeping busy, really helps.

Alpha Online Starts Wednesday 9th Sept 8.00pm

Alpha offers you the chance to ask the big questions in life and to share what you think with a small group of people just like you. Each session looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation.

Contact Rev Richard Sherratt for details. vicarbroolands@gmail.com

Explore Faith at Home.
Try Alpha Online

#AlphaOnline



A grain of sand at a time

This autumn, do you feel overwhelmed with all the things that you need to get done? Then think of your life as an hourglass. There are thousands of grains of sand in the top of the hourglass; and they all pass slowly and evenly through the narrow neck in the middle.

We are like that hourglass. When we start in the morning, there are hundreds of tasks which we feel that we must accomplish that day. But if we do not take them one at a time and let them pass through the day slowly and evenly, as do the grains of sand passing through the narrow neck of the hourglass, then we are bound to break our own fragile physical and mental structure. Do not attempt more than God designed you to do.

God in the Arts

The Rev Michael Burgess continues his series on animals and birds as seen in art and scripture... this month he considers 'The Madonna of the Goldfinch' by Raphael. It hangs in the Uffizi in Florence.

He gave us eyes to see them: 'The Madonna of the Goldfinch' by Raphael

The weeks and months of lockdown have been difficult and testing times for many of us, but they have also provided the opportunity to look afresh at the world of nature. With less traffic on the roads, less air pollution, and less noise pollution, the sky has somehow seemed bluer and the bird song more joyful and confident.

It is appropriate that we focus this month on one such bird noted for its liquid, tinkling song - the goldfinch. In this month we also celebrate the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on 8 September, and so the painting is 'The Madonna of the Goldfinch' by Raphael.

Raphael was only 37 years old when he died in 1520, but his work is marked by maturity and great beauty. No more so than in this painting which shows Mary with a young Jesus and John the Baptist. You could easily miss the tiny bird which is carefully held by John and gently stroked by Jesus, who has one foot resting on His mother's. It is an intimate, tender scene which was painted in 1505 as a wedding gift for Lorenzo Nasi. It was badly damaged by an earthquake in 1548, painstakingly restored in the early part of this century, and now hangs in the Uffizi in Florence.

As we look, we rejoice in the grace and simplicity of the scene. We look again and ask ourselves 'Why a goldfinch?' The bird has a red spot on its head, and legend tells that the goldfinch flew down to the cross of Calvary to take a thorn from the crown of thorns. As it pulled the thorn in its beak, its head was splashed with a drop of blood.

And so this painting of gentleness and innocence opens out into a wider canvas of redemptive love. Our thoughts move from infancy to the cross. Mary, sat on a rock, is reading 'The Throne of Wisdom', and the artist is inviting us to ponder where true wisdom is found. Here, as we look at the wonder of nature and new life with a mother and children, but also as we look ahead to the 'wisest love' of Jesus who is our Redeemer.



St Michael, St Gabriel and St Raphael

Gabriel (man of God)

Gabriel, one of the archangels, appears to Daniel, in the Old Testament, to help him interpret his visions. The New Testament (Luke), sees Gabriel, appearing, first to Zacariah, then Mary, to announce the forthcoming births of John the Baptist and Jesus. There has been a chapel dedicated to him, near Rome, since before 687.

In 1921, Gabriel, was invoked as the patron saint of post office, telephone and telegraph workers. He is also the patron saint of broadcasters.

St Michael

Michael was the chief of all angels. He also appears in Daniel, also in Jude and Revelation, where he, along with an army of angels, fights a dragon, possibly, the incarnation of the devil.

Some fishermen are said to have seen a vision of St Michael, in 500 AD at, what is now known as, St Michael's Mount in Cornwall. Michael is the patron saint of grocers.

St Raphael

The last of the three archangels, Raphael, appears in the book of Tobit, in the Apocrypha, where he aids Tobias, in catching a fish, said to have cured his father's eyesight. Raphael, also appears in the Gospel of John' chapter 5, where he is said to be the one who stirs the waters of the healing pool. Hence, Raphael, is the patron saint of healers.

Feast day 29 September (St Michael and all Angels)



September
2020



A Lourdes Prayer Request

Heavenly King, You have given us archangels
to assist us during our pilgrimage on earth.

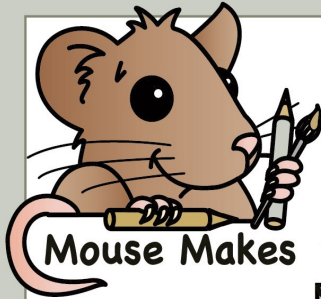
Saint Michael is our protector;
I ask him to come to my aid,
fight for all my loved ones,
and protect us from danger.

Saint Gabriel is a messenger of the Good News;
I ask him to help me
clearly hear Your voice
and to teach me the truth.

Saint Raphael is the healing angel;
I ask him to take my need for healing
and that of everyone I know,
lift it up to Your throne of grace
and deliver back to us the gift of recovery.

Help us, O Lord,
to realize more fully the reality of the archangels
and their desire to serve us.

Holy angels,
pray for us.



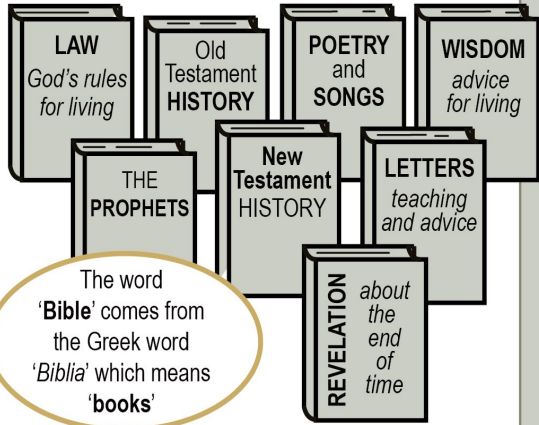
The **Bible** is a collection of **books** that took over 2,000 years to write! The books were written by many different people, all helped and inspired by God. The Bible has books about:

There are **66** books in the Bible. How many can you name?

BIBLE WORDS

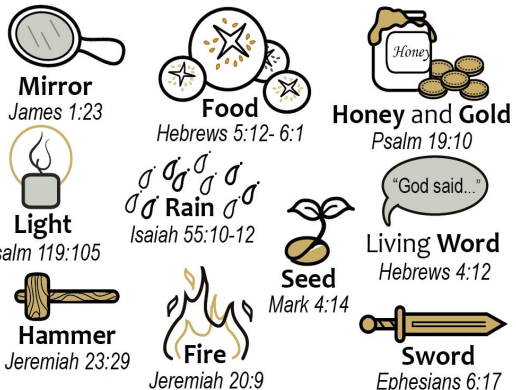
The Bible words in **BOLD** type on this page are also hidden in the word search, can you find them?

P L B O W I K
 R I O S I L G
 O G O N S W O
 P H K E D O L
 H T S W O R D
 E R L T M D O
 T E A E G O D
 S V W S E E D
 L E T T E R S
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 E O R T S A B
 Y N O R T I I
 F I R E O N B
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 F O O D Y O E



The word '**Bible**' comes from the Greek word '*Biblia*' which means '**books**'

God speaks to us today as we read the Bible. The Bible encourages us, corrects us and shows us how to live, it also describes itself as:



...but most of all The Bible teaches us about **God** and how we can be friends with Him.

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Oberammergau

Megan Carter writes: "Oberammergau is a small village in Bavaria, Germany. When in 1633 bubonic plague was sweeping through Europe, a man travelling back home to Oberammergau for Christmas brought the plague with him. It spread throughout the village. According to local tradition, a vow was made that if God would spare them, the villagers would perform a play depicting the life and passion of Jesus Christ every ten years. The village was saved from all effects of the plague and the villagers kept their word and first performed the Passion Play in 1634. It has since been performed every ten years." (The 2020 Play has been rescheduled for May 2022, due to the pandemic)

Death stalked the streets in the Bavarian village
As the plague brought havoc, death and despair,
Europe was ravaged as millions died,
Neither man or woman or child was spared.

They gathered together in desperation
A vow was given - if they could be saved
A play would be made of the Saviour's life
This was the promise the villagers gave.

Miracle of miracles their village survived,
Not one more death their lives had been saved,
So every ten years this Play is performed
To honour the God who had come to their aid.

Prayers were made and the answer came
A heavenly lesson we too can own,
That He who dwells in ineffable light
Is also the One who brings blessings down.

By Megan Carter

"Have you a computer problem? If so, I am local and here to help..."

Here are just a few of the services I can offer

- Virus removal and health checks
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- I can supply computers & laptops at very competitive prices and include data transfer, full set up & full guidance

Quite simply my aim is to provide an effective, quick, reliable and friendly service without unnecessary jargon.

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DO GIVE ME A CALL NOW OR AT ANY TIME IN THE FUTURE. I AM HERE TO HELP YOU WITH ANY TECHNOLOGY PROBLEM, HOWEVER BIG OR SMALL.

STOP PRESS!!! Microsoft have now removed support for all Windows XP systems, which could affect the security of your software. If you are using XP, do give me a call for FREE & independent advice.

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

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**EVERY 1ST & 3RD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH.
2.00 – 4.00PM.**

**£1.00 PER MEETING
INCLUDES TEA / COFFEE & BISCUITS**



"Looks like no one was available to fill
in for the vicar's annual holiday again."

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

Keep your distance!

I never thought the comment, "I wouldn't touch you with a six-foot pole" would become national policy, but here we are!

What am I?

A teacher gave her young class a lesson on Zoom on the magnet and what it does. The next day in a short test, she included this question: "My full name has six letters. The first one is M. I am strong and attractive. I pick up lots of things. What am I?"

When the answers were sent in, the teacher was astonished to find that more than half her students had answered the question with the word: "Mother."

Multiply

Noah opened up the ark and let all the animals out, telling them to "Go forth and multiply!" He began to close the great doors of the ark when he noticed that there were two snakes still sitting in a dark corner. Concerned, he said to them: "Didn't you hear me? You can go now. Go forth and multiply."

"We can't," said the snakes sadly. "We're adders."

Joke of the Month

A man was very sick. Doctors feared the worst. As he lay at home, he suddenly looked up and said weakly: "Is my wife here?" His wife replied, "Yes, dear, I'm here, next to you."

The man whispered: "Are my children here?" "Yes, Daddy, we are all here," said the children.

"Are my brother and sister also here?" And they say, "Yes, we are all here..."

The man sat up and cried, "Then why in the world is the light on in the kitchen?"

Cat

This morning I saw a neighbour talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came into my house and told my dog. We laughed a lot.

E&M

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Online Version

The online version has full colour and some added content. Do take a look and please pass on the link to friends and family via whatever social media you use. It can be found on the Church website.

Stjohnsbrooklands.org.uk and click on the magazine tab at the top.



SUNDAY SERVICES

9.30am A spoken Communion in Church.

Unfortunately due to Covid restrictions this is by ticket only. A link to book is sent out in the weekly update. If you do not receive this and want to book tickets or join this mailing list please contact Rev. Richard Sherratt by email vicarbrooklands@gmail.com



10.30am Online worship.

Details to access this are sent out weekly so, as above, please contact Richard if you have not received them.



11.15am Zoom Coffee.

An opportunity to meet virtually after one of the services. Again, for codes please contact Richard if you do not have them.



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

Due to current restrictions, normal Sunday Services are suspended but opportunities to worship both in the Church building and online are available. Please see the separate listing opposite. If you wish to pray privately in Church please contact Richard.

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	Sue Withenshaw	969 2521
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ORGANISTS	Katie Jones	
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GUIDES etc.	Jackie Eastwood	976 4613
BROWNIES	Janet Shaw	973 8238
BEAVERS & CUBS	Greg Hart	07506 584579

GOD

is our

refuge

and

STRENGTH

a very present

help in trouble

*therefore we will **not** fear.*

Psalm 46:1