

# St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

Kingston & Putney Vale  
Robin Hood Lane SW15 3PY

Welcoming, Worshipping and Serving

Spring 2022

Dear All,

The Ukrainian flag is flying outside St John's, as it flies in many places up and down this land and across the world, a sign of solidarity. We pray for all those in Ukraine, we pray for all those fleeing Ukraine. We pray for all those caught up in and affected by this war. We pray for Ukrainian and Russian families living in this parish. We pray for those in this parish who have come here as refugees, from this or other conflicts. We pray for those welcoming Ukrainian refugees into their homes. We pray for the Sanctuary Foundation and others who seek to welcome Ukrainian refugees.

If you would like to pray with us, you are welcome to join in silent prayer on a Monday between 2pm and 3pm each week, between now and Easter. On a Monday evening you can join in Korean prayers. At any time you can come and tie blue and yellow ribbons on the church gate. You may like to plant a sunflower and watch it grow in your garden, as a sign of hope.

There are many ways to give but if you would like to give via St John's, please visit our website to find out more.

This war may also cause you to reflect upon your own life and what you should be doing. I found these words of CS Lewis most helpful as he encouraged his listeners in the face of WW2 to consider that the presence of war was a reminder to listen once more to their calling. "I think it important to try to see the present calamity in a true perspective. The war creates no absolutely new situation: it simply aggravates the permanent human situation so that we can no longer ignore it. Human life has always been lived on the edge of a precipice. Human culture has always had to exist under the shadow of something infinitely more important than itself. If [people] had postponed the search for knowledge and beauty until they were secure, the search would never have begun. Plausible reasons have never been lacking for putting off all merely cultural activities until some imminent danger has been averted or some crying injustice put right. But humanity long ago chose to neglect those plausible reasons. They wanted knowledge and beauty now, and would not wait for the suitable moment that never comes. ...People propound mathematical theorems in beleaguered cities, conduct metaphysical arguments in condemned cells, make jokes on scaffolds, discuss the last new poem while advancing to the walls. This is not panache: it is our nature" So may each of us consider our calling and the part we are called to play in the world. Yours, Mandy Beck



Holy and Gracious God We pray for the people of the Ukraine and the people of Russia; for their countries and their leaders. We pray for all those who are afraid; that your everlasting arms hold them in this time of great fear. We pray for all those who have the power over life and death; that they will choose for all people life, and life in all its fullness. We pray for those who choose war; that they will remember that you direct your people to turn our swords into ploughshares and seek for peace. We pray for leaders on the world stage; that they are inspired by the wisdom and courage of Christ. Above all, Lord, today we pray for peace for Ukraine. And we ask this in the name of your blessed Son. Lord have mercy. Amen



sanctuaryfoundation.org.uk is one of the organisations helping refugees. You can pledge to help in the way best for you, and you can make a real difference.

Praying for the people of Ukraine

*The Lord shall give strength to his people; the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace. (Psalm 29.10)*

God of strength and peace, send your blessing on the people of Ukraine. Sustain them in their struggles, hold them in their fear, protect them from all danger and be for them the hope they desire; for Jesus Christ's sake.

Amen.

Keep in touch: sign up via our website to receive emails of events and happenings or  
www.facebook.com/StJohnKingstonVale Website: www.inthevale.org.uk Email: stjohns@inthevale.org.uk



St John's, its hall and church are here for the whole community and runs all kinds of events and activities. The ministry of our church changes lives, both within our church and in the wider community and, despite the challenges of this year, we continue to look forward to an exciting future. The church relies on the charitable giving of local people. If as a local resident you would like to give a regular donation in order to ensure the presence of a church in this parish into the future, please consider signing up to the Parish Giving Scheme. All the money comes to St John the Baptist and if relevant, gift aid is automatically added to your donation. There is no minimum or maximum amount and you can cancel at anytime. You can set it up via the website if you go to our website and click through to Giving page or by using the QR code on the left or over the telephone 0333 002 1271, please ask for Kingston Vale St John SJTB.

### JOINT SERVICE

The last Sunday of the month is a service held in Korean and English and includes lively music and is followed by a meal. This monthly new style bilingual service is fast becoming an exciting new tradition at St John's, so come along and try it out.

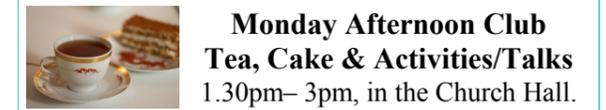


Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 2.30pm sees the return of our popular Messy Church including crafts, games, music and food. Families welcome. No need to book, just come along and join in.



**TODDLER ALONG GROUP FOR UNDER 5'S**

Join us at St John's at our stay and play group for under 5's and their carers. Monday mornings, 10am -12pm, in the Andrew's Wing, £2 per family - first session free. Drop in any Monday morning in term time. Play, chat, and have fun together. So Toddle along to St John's.



**Monday Afternoon Club Tea, Cake & Activities/Talks**  
1.30pm- 3pm, in the Church Hall.

For more information contact  
Ruth Ruocco Brown Mob: 07790 899987  
Email: ruthderina@tiscali.co.uk



Our Summer Fair in the Jubilee Garden will take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. It's still in the planning stages, so look out for more information soon.



Ezemiah UK  
Holiday Bible club

New Testament 1

**Jesus Master of the Way**

For Primary school students  
From 11. April to 14. April 2022  
10 am - 2 pm  
£30 for 4 days club  
@ St. John the Baptist Church Hall  
Robin Hood Lane, London, SW15 3PY  
Contact: ezemiahuk@gmail.com  
07970281665

St John's is looking to become a **Be Well Church**, following local consultation,

and in conjunction with the survey carried out by Citizens UK across South London. It is clear that we all at times need support to be well and a listening ear can be a help, as well as joint community activities, and support. The pandemic has exacerbated the need for support and at St John's we are responding by becoming a Be Well Church.

**Core elements of a Be Well Hub:**

**Commit to building relationships and providing a place to talk:**

1. Commit to combating stigma surrounding mental health
  2. Hosting regular listening opportunities
- Offer Practical Support to members:**
3. Train members as Be Well champions
  4. Provide information, resources and signpost to mental health support
  5. Build a relationship with their local mental health trust

**Take action with the wider community:**

Identify and take action to reduce the causes of mental ill health



We are in the early stages and would welcome others in this community to become involved.

We will provide a listening ear to anyone in the community, so contact us via the office and make a time to come and talk.

We will be organising walks as they not only provide great wellness for the body but also means that we can walk and talk. The other outside activity you may like to come and join in with is our monthly gardening which is followed by tea and cake.

We are planning Saturday discussion and wellness activities.

With others in Kingston including the Mosque and Synagogue, we will be supporting a listening café in Kingston town centre.

Please look at our website and Facebook page for future activities.



Our First Be Well Hub Walk

**PARISH OFFICE**  
Sue Richardson  
Administrator  
Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday  
9.30 am – 12.30 pm

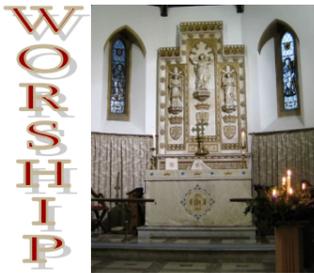
email: [stjohns@inthevale.org.uk](mailto:stjohns@inthevale.org.uk)  
website: [www.inthevale.org.uk](http://www.inthevale.org.uk)  
Facebook: [StJohnKingstonVale](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnKingstonVale)

**For Weddings, Banns of Marriage, Baptisms** etc., please contact Mandy Beck, Team Vicar, on **020 8546 4079** for an appointment. Messages can be left in confidence.

**Sunday Mornings at 8am:** Quiet said service, traditional language.

**Sunday Mornings at 10.30am:** Communion service including music. All are welcome. This service is live streamed on Facebook. Church in the Orchard: 10.30am-11.30am.

**Morning Prayer 9am Monday & 10.30am Wednesday.** An opportunity for quiet and informal prayer. All are welcome.



**AGM** this takes place on 24<sup>th</sup> April in the Church Hall at 1pm. We will have a joint service in the morning at 10.30am with the Korean church, so if you have not tried one out already do come along. All are then invited to lunch. The formal meeting will begin at 1pm. This is an opportunity to hear what has been happening in the church year and for St John members on the electoral roll to vote for the voluntary positions within St John's.

**ORCHARD CHURCH**  
Exploring nature and the great outdoors.

Every Sunday  
10.30am to 11.30 am

in the church grounds at St John's

For further details please contact Vicky at [orchardchurch@inthevale.org.uk](mailto:orchardchurch@inthevale.org.uk)

This is a Children's church which is held outdoors and in our log cabin all year round, so please come dressed appropriately for time of year and weather.



**ORCHARD CHURCH AT DUSK**  
**DISCOVERS EASTER**  
through exploring nature and the great outdoors.

All children age 8 to 13 years  
Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022  
For further details please contact Vicky at [orchardchurch@inthevale.org.uk](mailto:orchardchurch@inthevale.org.uk)

**Our Grounds**

At St John's we have beautiful grounds which many enjoy. We get together on the last Saturday (11am) and the middle Thursday (4pm) of the month to keep them looking good. All welcome.

We have a number of old and beautiful trees across the site including a small orchard of heritage apple and pear trees, which are entrusted to our care. Britain has a rich and ancient history of growing apples and has the perfect climate for them, much of the Vale at one time was planted to orchard. Our heritage apples are associated with this area and provide unique homes for wildlife. For the first time, Kingston University Biodiversity Action Group came and worked with The Orchard Project and volunteers from St John's on our Orchard. The event covered fruit tree care and maintenance, including restorative pruning of established trees. The Orchard Project advocates a permaculture approach to orchard care; teaming with, not working against nature; seeking to enhance biodiversity, create healthy soil and build human communities; all while providing healthy, organic fruit for all.



**Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Garden Party**  
Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> June



**We are planning a party for the whole community.**

"In these testing times, it is my hope that you can draw strength and inspiration from what we share, as we work together towards a healthy, sustainable and prosperous future for all." *Her Majesty The Queen*

**Would you like to be part of the planning committee? Would you like to provide entertainment or food for the bring and share supper? Please email [mandy.beck@alty.org](mailto:mandy.beck@alty.org) if you would like to offer help.**

**Our plans for the celebration so far (full details and tickets will be available soon):**

11am-11.30am outside service, including traditional hymns.

All welcome to attend the service and stay or arrive from 11.30am.

Your ticket will include a packed lunch (sandwich, fruit etc.).

Activities will be available for children, and a Royal quiz for adults if you wish to participate.

**Children are the responsibility of their parents at all times.**

Tickets will be £1 on Eventbrite, everyone of all ages needs a ticket - we will welcome additional donations on the day, from those who wish to do so. Later in the day you are invited to stay and buy items from the BBQ or bring and share food with others.

*The Big Lunch has encouraged communities to celebrate their connections and get to know each other a little bit better, coming together in a spirit of fun and friendship. In 2022 The Big Lunch will bring the Jubilee celebrations into the heart of every community.*



picture credit: Jacob King/PA Wire/PA Images.

**Wishing you a Happy Easter**

**Maundy Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 6.30pm** Meal and service. (book your place via our website or Facebook page)

**Good Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2pm** Stations of the Cross

**Easter Day 17<sup>th</sup> April**

6am Sunrise Service meeting at Robin Hood gate for a short service in Richmond Park and then breakfast back in the hall.

10.30am Easter Celebration in church and Easter Egg Hunt.



**Lent Lunches**

Lunches are being held at 1pm on each Monday in the church hall until 11<sup>th</sup> April. There is home-made soup, cheese and bread for a donation in aid of the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Appeal (recommended £5.00). Everyone Welcome.

