

# St John the Baptist

*Welcoming, Worshipping and Serving*

Parish Newsletter  
Kingston & Putney Vale  
Robin Hood Lane SW15 3PY

*Spring 2023*



## EASTER 9<sup>th</sup> April

**6.15am** Sunrise service - meet at Robin Hood Gate, Richmond Park

**10.30am** Family Communion

### 12 noon **Easter Extravaganza**

A great event for all ages. Come and enjoy, games, music, craft activities and a fish finger sandwich. Following the great success of our Christmas nativity play we will have an Easter play written and directed by the same author. Of course there will be lots of eggs to find! Book via Eventbrite or the link on our website. Tickets are £5 and include a fish finger or vegan finger sandwich. Children under 5 free and children must be accompanied by an adult.



**Saturday, 11th March 8pm**

Tickets £8pp

Prizes for the winning team.

All welcome to join us for this evening of fun!

See our website for details & to buy your tickets.

## Lent Lunch

Come and join us for Lent lunch on Monday's in the St John's Church Hall, until Easter. Doors open at 12.30pm for lunch at 1pm. Tasty homemade soup will be served with bread and cheese, followed by cake and tea/coffee.

Everyone is welcome from the community to join us and there is a suggested donation of £5 to the Bishop of Southwark's Lent appeal, but if you are not able to donate at this time, please come along anyway.



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

Dear All,

After the frosts of winter spring bulbs are bursting forth. So it feels in church as we have shared some wonderful events, a warmth and compassion. We have joined in raising money for the earthquake appeal whilst enjoying impressive music. The fun and laughter in Newlands hall at our pancake party was contagious, even adults joined in with games of stealing socks or balancing lemons on spoons. Hope breaking forth in the most unexpected way is the message of Easter.



"It doesn't make any sense!" A house holder said to her visitor. "That daffodil has reseeded itself in the concrete! And it's changed colour and its now a double daffodil. I can't explain how it has happened but somehow it has. See for yourself." She took the visitor to the back door and showed her the rare double bloom poking out of the crazy paving.

The created world is full of impossibilities, to stimulate our sense of wonder and make us awestruck in astonishment. So Easter is not so detached from the rest of our existence; it is part and parcel of wondrous living. New life emerges from impossible situations, new light penetrates the darkest of places, new joy penetrates tear-filled eyes, new hope penetrates the shadows of tragedy and despair. We all know this happens, defying logic and belief.



We will never know or be able to understand what happened to those Easter disciples. Somehow their trauma was turned to triumph; somehow their heartbreak was transformed into rejoicing. Nothing will be able to be proved by argument or reason. The love and the hope are experienced in our lives just as they were experienced that first Easter.

We warmly welcome every person in this community to our services and events. We all have difficulties to face in our lives but we do not need to do so alone. The risen Christ came and walked alongside the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, he bore the scars of the cross on his risen body. We may bear scars yet the hope of Easter is that we may be transformed, transformed by love. Jesus called on his disciples to love one another and to love God, this was a call to relationship. Our hearts and lives are changed as we are filled with God's love and as we show love to one another.

Yours, Rev Mandy Beck

**RISING BILLS** We are all very aware of rising bills, and the pressure this puts on people's budgets. As a local church we are supporting Christians Against Poverty. We believe everyone should experience equal dignity, freedom and opportunity. Poverty robs far too many people of life in all its fullness. Will you play your part and take action to improve our society?

To quote someone who benefited from their personal support. "The budget CAP set for me gave me a plan of attack for managing my money in the future. Now instead of spiralling down, I'm spiralling up! *Pete, outdoor enthusiast, now debt free.*  
If you would like to contact them for one to one support. [www.capuk.org](http://www.capuk.org) There is a link on our website [www.inthevale.org.uk](http://www.inthevale.org.uk) and we also have links to other websites where you can get help and support.



This lent, you are invited to exploring together with others the topic of prayer. Learning how to hear God is an exciting journey for every Christian to explore – and the **Lectio Course** is going to help us do just that.

The **Lectio Course** is a 5-part series created by 24-7 Prayer to help individuals and communities learn to hear God through praying the Bible. Each of the five sessions includes a short video, discussion questions and a time to pray together.

You may have seen Nipper Alley in Kingston, the first week the story behind it's name will be shared.



We will be running the course on a Wednesday evening 8pm till 9.30pm, 8th March till 5th April and on a Monday at 9am.

The group will be held at in a home on Putney Vale please let Mandy know if you will be able to attend. **Mandy.Beck@Alty.Org**

**The Last Supper** is the final meal that, in the Gospel accounts, Jesus shared with his apostles in Jerusalem before his Crucifixion. The Last Supper is commemorated by Christians especially on Holy Thursday. The Last Supper provides the scriptural basis for the Eucharist also known as 'Holy Communion' or 'The Last Supper'.



Here at St John's, we will celebrate the Last Supper on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> April with a 3 course Passover meal at 6.30pm. All ages welcome. Tickets are available from the parish office.

## Coronation of his Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort

The Coronation is centred around a solemn religious ceremony and has remained largely unchanged for over a thousand years. For the last 900 years, the ceremony has taken place at Westminster Abbey, London and is conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

You are invited to join a Celebration Lunch in the Jubilee Garden on Sunday, 7th May at 12 noon.

Entry fee of £10, Children £5, please book on Eventbrite or use the link on our website.

A picnic Lunch will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own drinks and disposable glasses.



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# Mothering Sunday

Come and join us on the Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> March to celebrate Motherhood at our 10.30am family friendly service.

**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.

WORSHIP



## Old Tyme Music Hall

Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> April

in St Johns Church Hall, SW15 3PY

**Sing along with Alcock and Brown**

Includes a Fish and Chip Supper, Vegetarian alternative available.

7.30pm -10pm (doors open 7pm)

Tickets £20.00 - available via Eventbrite (will include booking fee) or the link on our website:

[www.inthevale.org.uk](http://www.inthevale.org.uk)



## St John's Summer Fair

Save the date

# 10<sup>th</sup> June

**ORCHARD CHURCH** An outdoor forest church for children held all year round, each Sunday, 10.30am to 11.30am in the Jubilee Garden behind the church.



**Orchard Church continues to blossom.**

For more information email: [orchardchurch@inthevale.org.uk](mailto:orchardchurch@inthevale.org.uk)

### Wednesday Coffee Morning

11am to 12pm each Wednesday morning in the Andrews Wing. All welcome to join us for friendly chat, coffee and cake.



### Monday Afternoon Club

1.30pm– 3pm in the Church Hall

For more information contact Ruth Ruocco Brown  
Mob: 07790 899987 Email: [ruthderina@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ruthderina@tiscali.co.uk)

All are welcome. We usually begin with tea/coffee and cake followed by an activity. Each session costs £3, but the first is free. Upcoming events include:

27<sup>th</sup> March – Tap About Town. Song and dance with Katie Lewis

15<sup>th</sup> May - Our Amazing Animal World. Make some furry, or not so furry, friends.

TBC – Make an Easter wreath.



### TODDLE ALONG GROUP FOR UNDER 5'S

The stay and play group for under 5's and their carers is held on Monday mornings, 9am -12pm, in the Andrews 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.

**OUR HALLS and GARDEN ARE AVAILABLE FOR HIRE for one off and regular bookings**

For more information see our website or contact the Parish office.



### 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.

### Gardening Work Party

Last Saturday of each month.

11am-12.30pm in the church grounds.

And the middle Thursday—check the calendar on our website for dates and times.

Please come along and garden for one hour and then enjoy a refreshment together.



## RECENT EVENTS AT ST JOHN'S



Apple Tree Pruning in the Jubilee Garden led by Gill.



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKES & FUN

We had a really fun Pancake event in Newlands Hall in Putney Vale. These were just some of the laughing faces, as we played games, drew pictures and ate pancakes.



A Christmas jingling with excitement for young and old.



Light in the Dark. Another fantastic event.



**EARTHQUAKE APPEAL** Thanks go out to all who performed, donated and helped at a very special concert held in church to raise money for the Turkey and Syria Earthquake appeal. We raised over £1,300 and had a wonderful evening.



CAN YOU SPOT THE DONKEY?  
Nativity Play