

Sunrise Service

Join members and friends of St John's on Easter Day, Sunday 31st March for our annual Sunrise Service in Richmond Park. Meet at Robin Hood Gate at 6.30am for a short walk inside the park. The short service gives an opportunity to appreciate the quietness and beauty of the park as we wait together for the sun to rise and hope to dawn. (Note, the clocks spring forward an hour during the night.)



LENT LUNCH



Everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy a Lent Lunch in aid of the Southwark Lent Appeal. The lunch will be held in

the main hall each Monday until 25th March. Lunch will be homemade soup, bread and cheese served at approximately 1pm, followed by tea/coffee and cake. A donation of £5.00 would be appreciated.

Everyone is very welcome to stay on and join in the activities of the Monday Afternoon Club.

Maundy Thursday commemorates the retelling of the story of the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt which Jesus celebrated by sitting down with his disciples to what we as Christians call 'The Last Supper'. St John's invite you to join their Maundy Thursday 3-course meal on Thursday, 28th March at 6.30pm in the church. We would appreciate a donation of £8.00.

Please email the parish office or use the link on our website to reserve a place.



GOOD FRIDAY

2-3pm **Stations of the Cross**, a very special quiet and spiritual service.

3.30-4.30pm **Children's Easter fun activities** in the hall. All welcome but please sign up via our website or the parish office.

4.30-6.30pm **Youth film and snacks** in the Andrew's wing. Please sign up via our website or the parish office.

This is part of a whole range of youth activities we are running. We also have planned our own bake-off event and some more sporting activities.

Keep in touch: sign up via our website to receive emails of events and happenings or

Website: www.inthevale.org.uk

www.facebook.com/StJohnKingstonVale

Email: stjohns@inthevale.org.uk

Dear All,

Easter is the greatest ever story of hope! Jesus's story is one where his resurrection smashes through the despair of death. It's a story of life overcoming death and goodness triumphing over evil.

And my word we need hope! Life is really tough; our world is at war. People are struggling financially, emotionally, and physically.

For the disciples, the crucifixion of Jesus plunged them into grief and despair. On Holy Saturday it probably felt like there was no way out and no hope. Dreams were shattered; they were at once without direction or purpose. Everything would have felt meaningless. Some walked away. I wonder how this resonates for so many of us. Easter Saturday is not the end of the story however, we are resurrection people. We know the story of Jesus overcoming death itself as the one who is The Resurrection; of his coming alongside those who were walking away so that they would return and sing the song of life overcoming death and of God's mighty deeds in Jesus. We know the story that God is out working his purpose in the world and that by the gift of the Holy Spirit in us, we are participants in Jesus' mission, today and tomorrow and until he comes in glory.

So we have hope, hope for ourselves and hope for our community. I am delighted to say that St John's is a church full of hope, every Sunday something special is being shared. I have been moved to tears as members have shared the storms they face in their lives, and sung for joy as we have celebrated together. The band on the last of the month has proved so popular they are from Easter onwards, also going to play on the first Sunday of the month. We are experimenting with new things, and if you have not come to a service recently Easter could be the day to try it. There will be celebratory worship in church with a band and fun in the garden afterwards with Egg Hunts and a chance for kids of all ages to stroke the Easter bunnies.

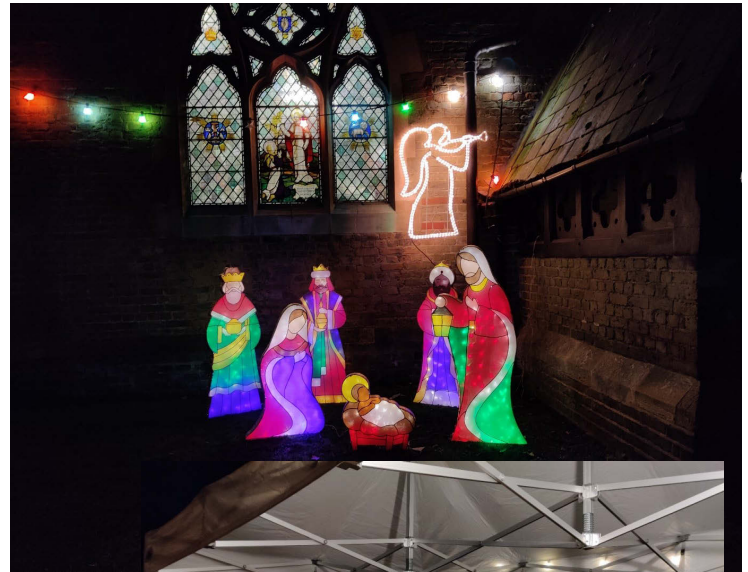
The church is here for the whole community and seeks to find ways we can bring blessing to the body, mind and spirit to all. We welcome you to join us.

Yours, Rev Mandy Beck



PAST EVENTS

Although Christmas seems like a long time ago, St John's celebrated with their Light in the Dark event, Nativity Service and Country & Western Evening. Here are some reminders.



AGM

Annual General Meeting

This year the AGM will be on 5th May at 12pm in the church hall and will be a chance to hear about exciting new plans for St John's and be involved in it's future. All welcome.



CLIMATE PILGRIMAGE and GARDENING

On Saturday, 24th February Bishop Martin planted a new apple tree as part of a climate pilgrimage. We are looking at ways to care for and develop our garden. If you would like to join in a **Garden Working Party** we will have one on 17th March from 12.30pm.



Read more about the climate pilgrimage by going to our website and clicking on the link to an article in the Kingston Courier.



ISABELLA PLANTATION WALK & PICNIC

Friday, 12th April

An opportunity to walk together and enjoy a picnic and walk in Richmond Park and the beautiful Isabella Plantation. We will meet at Robin Hood gate at 12 noon or 12.30pm at Broomfield car park. This is intended for all ages.



Sunday Mornings at 8am: Quiet said service, traditional language. 1st Sunday of the month.

Sunday Mornings at 10.30am: Live streamed on Facebook. **Communion service including music.** The last Sunday of the month is a Band led Morning Prayer service. All are welcome.

Orchard Church: 10.30am-11.30am.

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

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If you go down to your local church today, you might be surprised at what has been happening!!



- Book of Common Prayer, Quiet, Reflective services the first Sunday in the month at 8am including Communion.
- First and Last Sunday in the month at 10.30am, lively music, with a band to help you sing.
- Coffee before and after service on the last Sunday of the month.
- Middle Sundays of the month, traditional services accompanied by the organ, children's activities in the garden with Orchard Church and coffee after the service.
- If you enjoy singing we have a small choir which welcomes new members.

Other regular events happening at St John's include, Pilates, Bible Wednesdays, Judo, Monday Afternoon Club, Young People's Council (for planning events), Mother & Toddler Group. *Visit our website for more information.*

The spacious garden behind the church is available to the local community for picnics or just playing in a safe space. For large gatherings and exclusive use, it can be booked through the parish office and this will give you access to our facilities.

PARISH OFFICE

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

email: stjohns@inthevale.org.uk

website: 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.*

We run One Off Special events, including Tribute Bands, Quiz's, Supper Club and Children's Workshops. We would welcome suggestions for other events.

Annual Events: Easter Extravaganza, Light in the Dark and Summer Fayre which this year is being held on 8th June. We would love to hear from you if you would like to be involved.



Robin Hood Judo Club returns to the church hall

The club was established in 1993 at the church hall by current club instructor Mark Callis. It met every week at the church for about 2 years before moving to Robin Hood Primary School, as it was much easier for the pupils, most of whom attended the school, to go straight from school to judo without the need for parents to collect them until after the class. But now the club has returned to its spiritual home and are pleased to be practising again in the church hall, every Wednesday during term time from 4.30pm to 6.00pm. The class caters for all children from school year 1 to school year 11, of all abilities, and beginners are always welcome.

Mark said "being based at the church hall has given us the opportunity to instruct pupils from all over the community and surrounding areas, and not just current pupils at the school, and we are excited for meeting potential new pupils and making new acquaintances".

To find out more about the class, email Mark at: mark.callis@btinternet.com

Hall Hire

Don't forget our hall is available to hire at very reasonable rates. We do have a time curfew due to the hall being in a residential area. Very good for (under 10yr) Children's parties, use of the garden available.

At the present time we also have mornings available, Monday to Friday.

More details are available on our website.



We invite you to join us at our services and events this Easter.

EASTER SUNDAY 31st MARCH

6.30am Sunrise Service in Richmond Park

10.30am Easter Family Communion service

12-1pm **EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA** with an Egg Hunt in the garden, prizes for the best Easter Bonnet, meet some Easter animals and more.

A donation of £3.00 per family would be appreciated. Here are some pictures from last year's **Easter Eggstravaganza**.

