

*Remembrance  
Services  
inside*

# st JOHN'S

*Living God's Love*

Parish Magazine

AUTUMN 2024

*What's going on in the lead-up  
to Harvest, and beyond*

limbs half bare  
and all around crimson leaves  
at her feet

Haiku by Susan Lee Kerr, 2021. First published in Time Haiku No. 54, 2021. Haiku in English are based on a Japanese form of poetry, briefly conveying a moment of awareness of nature or human life.

Thoughtful, quietly spiritual, this page in the magazine is intended as a space for reflection. St John's Church and its Remembrance Garden is open every day from 10.00am to 5.00pm for anyone who wants a quiet place for personal reflection.

# st JOHN'S

Living God's Love

AUTUMN 2024

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# Vicar's Welcome

**W**elcome to the autumn issue of the St John's Parish Magazine. Autumn is one of my favourite times of the year - especially living right by the Common, and getting to see all the changing colours. In the church, it's a time when we reflect – first on the gifts of creation at Harvest, and then on those who have gone from this world to be with God. You'll see details of all these and more in this magazine.



*Summer travels took me to the Peak District.*

With blessings,

Tim

*Revd Tim Vickers*

*Vicar of St John's Harpenden*

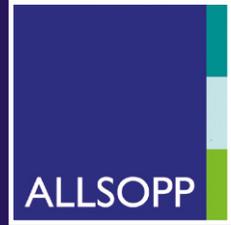
## Christian Aid Week 2024



Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this year's Christian Aid Week (12<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup> May) 2024. Over £5,000 was donated in Harpenden via the envelopes distributed by our many dedicated volunteers, including over £700 from Gift Aid. The focus this year was Burundi, where malnourishment and poverty affect more than 70% of the population, pushing them to the edge of survival. Christian Aid supports projects that provide vital training to ensure more people get the skills and knowledge they need to push back against the inhumanity of poverty. We are especially grateful to the late Pat Hudis, chair of the Harpenden Christian Aid group for many years, and organiser of the St John's collection. Pat was a dedicated Christian Aid supporter, and this year's collection is a fitting tribute to her.



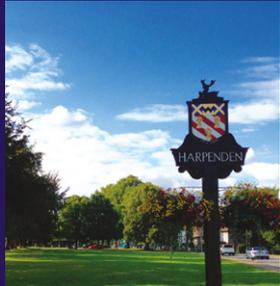
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# Harvest Festival

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2024 9.30am  
All-Age Eucharist

As we rejoice in the abundance of our harvest,  
may our thanks overflow with the joy of giving.  
Give us the imagination and generosity  
to share our plentiful resources with those in need

— From the Bishop's 2024 Harvest Appeal Prayer

Rainbows and Brownies lead the prayers in a special service of thanksgiving, including a collection for the [Bishop's Harvest Appeal](#) and donations for St Albans and District Foodbank.

For the foodbank, please bring tinned and packaged food, not fresh foods. See the shopping list of current needs at <https://stalbandsdistrict.foodbank.org.uk> And see the list of local foodbanks and how to get vouchers to access them; or phone 01727 811 118.

## Thrive: Nutrition and Sustainable Agriculture in Sri Lanka

This year the Bishop's Harvest Appeal is being run in partnership with The Leprosy Mission to support a project in Sri Lanka, which provides those affected by leprosy with the means to grow their own food and raise their standard of living. Nutritious food and community meals are part of the programme.





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# Mind donation

Over the year St John's gives away 10% of our income to outside causes. 'Mind in Mid Herts' is one of the three charities chosen this year, and received a donation of £4,893. This local mental health charity is dedicated to providing essential services and support to those facing mental health challenges. On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June 'Mind in Mid Herts' came to express gratitude to the congregation and the local community for their generosity, explaining how it makes a difference to people in need. 'This donation is more than just a financial contribution; it's a powerful message of solidarity and care for those who are struggling with their mental health.'



*St John's Outside Giving team: Nick Lockett, Linda Jermy from 'Mind mid Herts', Revd Tim, Eranda Wickramasinghe (missing from photo, team member Keith Slinn). The team manages the selection of charities and the administration of donated funds.*



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mental health problem  
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## Pat Hudis, Rest in peace

St John's Church calls to mind with sadness and thankfulness the life of Pat Hudis. She died in May from cancer, with the funeral held at St John's on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Chair of the Harpenden Christian Aid group for many years, she was also organiser of the St John's collection.

Ever since Pat's childhood in Peterborough she was interested in supporting charities, and she never stopped regularly supporting various causes. She was also always generous to her family and friends. The first in her family to go to university, Pat went to the University of Sussex, and then on to Sheffield University to qualify as a social worker. She and husband Mike moved to Harpenden in 1970. Whilst working she took a master's degree in political science. After Mike's death in 1996, and after retiring Pat took other courses as well as giving time to various charities – the Oxfam Shop and Christian Aid being two examples. Pat's interests were wide-ranging, including music – both performing in choirs and going to concerts – travel, history, politics and art.



*Patricia Eugenie Hudis  
25<sup>th</sup> November 1946 –  
15<sup>th</sup> May 2024*

## Silver Thank You

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2024 9.30am**  
**Parish Eucharist**  
**Feast of Michael and All Angels**  
**(to include incense)**

Michael Readman celebrates 25 years as Head Server at St John's on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September. The Eucharist – which is also the Feast of Michael and All Angels – will give thanks for his years of service as he takes this role for the last time.

The Head Server oversees all the servers at St John's. The role includes recruiting and training new servers, organising the rota and making sure things happen as they should on a Sunday morning. Following Michael's retirement, Matt Barter will become Head Server. St John's is always looking to recruit more servers of all ages, a meaningful contribution in assisting the clergy to provide divine worship. Get in touch on [head.server@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk](mailto:head.server@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk)



*Rev. Tim and Head Server Michael Readman serving together during our parish pilgrimage to St Edmundsbury Cathedral in May 2024.*

## Need a prayer?

St Luke's Cell Prayer Group are always happy to pray for you (confidentially if needed). The group is named after the disciple and physician Luke, who is the patron saint of doctors. A request can be as simple as a name, if preferred. We don't need to know details in order to pray. Members pray individually and also meet monthly to pray for anyone in the parish who asks for prayers for themselves or for their loved ones.

If you would like us to pray for you or someone else then please contact Michael Hughes 01582 765576

## Quiz night

Back by popular demand!

St John's Quiz Night  
with Fish & Chip supper

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September

6.30pm for 7.00pm start

St John's Church Hall



Quiz Master Paul Bedding is preparing a fun and challenging night to raise funds for St John's new Parish Centre. Please register your interest with the Parish Office or Liz Sergeant ([quiz@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk](mailto:quiz@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk)). Max 8 people per team. Fish & Chip supper included (Vegetarian and Vegan options available). BYO drinks. £20 per person.

### *Quiz warm-up*

*No one knows what the questions will be, but stimulate those little grey cells with the aerial photograph above. Can you identify this city? Find the answer on page 15.*



# Lay Leaders of Worship

Celebrating two new Lay Leaders of Worship. On St John's Patronal Festival, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2024, Revd Tim commissioned Alison Bygrave (centre) and Christine Kenyon (right) to take up new roles as Lay Leaders. The Lay Leader of Worship is someone authorised by the Bishop to lead non-eucharistic worship. They have been on a training course to learn what this means. Alison and Christine will now be able to lead worship more regularly at St John's and are warmly welcomed.



## DID YOU KNOW?



This timber frame in the middle of a brick wall in Grove Road was once a potential life-saver. The wall masks a surface run-off drainage pond. When bombs fell on Harpenden in World War II, a wooden door was cut to allow fire service hoses access to pump water for putting out fires. Overall, 180 houses suffered some damage, and the worst was within the parish of St John's, at 10 Crabtree Lane.

*Thanks to Davide Keen, curator of the Harpenden Museum at the Eric Morecambe Centre in Rothamsted Park. [www.harpenden-history.org.uk](http://www.harpenden-history.org.uk)*

# Silver Eco Church Award

With pride we announce that St John's was awarded the Silver Eco Church award in May 2024, three years after getting the Bronze award.

- The Eco Church award scheme guides churches to work through practical ways to care for creation
- Over 3,000 churches in England and Wales have achieved a Bronze, Silver or Gold award since the scheme started in 2016
- The surveys cover five areas of church life: worship and teaching; buildings; land; community and global engagement; lifestyle

## Some of the things we do at St John's to minimize our use of resources:

- We recycle as much as we can and use recycled paper in the office
- We use recycled loo roll and try to use environmentally friendly cleaning products
- We rarely use disposables in our catering, preferring to wash up our crockery
- We encourage walking/cycling to church and lift shares, and provide cycle racks
- We have measured our carbon footprint, and found ways to reduce it
- We hold recycling/reuse events
- We carried out an energy survey of the church
- We use energy efficient light bulbs
- We have insulated our lofts and ceilings where possible

## Some of the things we do to care for our natural environment:

- We take part in No Mow May, encouraging wildflowers for pollinators
- We have an area of native wildflowers
- We avoid the use of pesticides and herbicides
- We grow plants to benefit bees, birds and butterflies
- We provide bee 'hotels'
- We compost all garden waste
- We regularly hold litter picks
- We regularly pray for environmental issues and have special Sundays related to caring for God's world



If you are interested in finding out more, see the Eco Church website: [ecochurch.arocha.org.uk](https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk) or contact the St Johns Eco Church team: [eco.church@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk](mailto:eco.church@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk)

## Blessings on beginnings...

Bags of blessings

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024 9.30am

All-Age Eucharist

It's the time of year for beginnings! Back to school, back to work, off to university. Bring your school bags, back packs, briefcases, lap tops for a blessing at the altar on the first Sunday in September.



## Parking reminder

There is limited parking at St John's when people visit either for Sunday morning worship or to use our Church Hall. When you visit, kindly keep in mind those living locally when you decide where to park. Please avoid parking on double yellow lines, on dropped curbs, or near to junctions, especially on St John's Road, and opposite Walkers Close on Walkers Road.

We try to save the space in front of St John's for those who have mobility issues, so if you can walk to church, please do, or cycle (we have a place to securely lock bikes), or car share. Alternatively, there are places you can park nearby and walk.

As well as keeping peace with local residents, courteous parking will avoid possible intervention by the council to make parking more restrictive. Thank you for your co-operation.

*ANSWER to Aerial Cities Quiz puzzler (p.14) - Cape Town*





All Together Now!



© Michael Readman

To celebrate the birthday of the church at Pentecost, on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024 we took our annual church photo. We are blessed to be a church of all ages, and you'd be welcome to join us any Sunday at 9.30am!

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# Little Acorns

Little Acorns is a friendly toddler group for babies, pre-school children and their carers.

We meet in St. John's Hall on Tuesdays, 10.00 – 11.30am. Come for a warm welcome, a cup of coffee and home-made cakes. The children enjoy a healthy snack, activities, a story and singing.



Term time dates:

Autumn term 10<sup>th</sup> September – 17<sup>th</sup> December

No meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> October (half term)

On 5<sup>th</sup> November Little Acorns celebrates its 3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday!

No booking necessary. A voluntary donation is all that is asked.

For more information, please contact [parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk](mailto:parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk)

Telephone 01582 712776

## Harpenden's latest Community Café

The Well Bean Café, run by the **Harpenden Trust** at their new premises above the Co-op in Southdown Road

A warm welcome will be extended to all between **10.30 and 12.30 on all weekdays**



st JOHN'S  
Living God's Love

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5pm

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Second Sunday of the Month

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THE YEAR



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**Marshalswick**  
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67 The Quadrant  
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AL4 9RD  
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## All Souls' Service

*Remembering departed loved ones*

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2024 3.00pm

Everyone is welcome.

The service is followed by refreshments.

Names to be remembered can be added on the day, but ideally please email the Parish Office in advance.

[parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk](mailto:parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk)



## Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2024 9.30am  
Parish Eucharist



## Local treasures **Southdown Hardware lives!**

Pete Metcalfe (right) has taken over the Southdown Hardware shop from Paul Russell who retired this spring. Paul, and his family before him, had run this much appreciated shop for some sixty years. Many locals will be relieved that it has been saved! Opening hours have been extended: 9.15am - 5.00pm Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays. Early closing 9.15am - 2.00pm on Wednesdays. Sunday openings are under review.



*Photo credit: Harpenden Society*

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## T@3

st JOHN'S

Please join us for some delicious cakes and sandwiches whilst you enjoy some good companionship over a cup of tea. Everyone is very welcome to come along and join us, to meet up with old friends or indeed make new ones.

**St John's Church Hall 3.00pm,  
last Friday of the month,  
but please check the date on  
[stjohnsharpenden.org.uk](http://stjohnsharpenden.org.uk) or phone Parish Office  
01582 712776**



## Sundays @ 5pm at St John's

- 1st Sunday - Faith and Light
- 2nd Sunday - BCP Evensong
- 3rd Sunday - Celtic
- 4th Sunday - Said Eucharist
- 5th Sunday - Taize




# Reflection on my ordination as a priest

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of June 2024, at St Albans Cathedral, I had the privilege of being ordained as a priest along with thirteen friends of mine with whom I have walked for the last twelve months. The day marked another milestone in my spiritual journey, evoking a sense of humility and deep gratitude for being called to serve God. The service was an incredibly moving experience, but it was the profound invocation for the Holy Spirit to descend upon us that stirred the depths of my soul. It was in that moment that I realised that I am called to be God's vessel, to be used for His divine purposes. It is an invitation to surrender my own ambitions, desires, and plans, and to yield to God's will.



The ordination service was an affirmation that my life is no longer solely my own. It has been consecrated to a higher purpose, a purpose that extends beyond my personal sphere. I am called to continually seek a deeper relationship with God, to nurture my spiritual growth, and to embody the teachings of Christ in all aspects of my life. It is through this transformation that I can effectively serve as an instrument of God's love and light to those entrusted to my care.

As a newly ordained priest, my heart is filled with a burning desire to extend God's compassion and mercy to those in need. This ministry of compassion is not limited to the walls of the church building but extends to every corner of the world where there is pain, injustice, and suffering.

The ordination service emphasised to me the importance of unity within the body of Christ. It reminded me that as a priest, I am called to foster unity and harmony within the community I serve. This entails creating a safe and inclusive space where people from diverse backgrounds can come together, worship, learn, and grow in their faith. It involves bridging divides, healing wounds, and embracing all who seek the love and grace of God. Through this commitment to unity, I can contribute to the larger tapestry of God's kingdom and work towards the realization of His divine plan for humanity.

May the Holy Spirit continue to guide and empower me as I strive to faithfully fulfil my calling and serve God with all my heart, mind, and soul.

*Rev'd Ritah Namakula*  
Curate of St John's Harpenden

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# Repair Fair

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2024**  
**2.00pm - 5.00pm**  
**St John's Church Hall**

Don't chuck it, repair it! Book your slot! St Albans District Fixers are coming to St John's to help repair household fabrics and electrical items you might otherwise throw away.



This is part of a wider initiative to reduce waste, save people money and in the longer term prevent our planet from being destroyed by over exploitation of our shared resources.

[The St Albans District Fixers](#) are part of [Sustainable St Albans](#). They hold Repair Fairs around the district inspired by [The Restart Project](#). Fixing rather than buying replacements has already saved thousands of tons from going to landfill or incineration helping in a not insignificant way to reduce our CO2 emissions.

So book for Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November and bring along your faulty electrical items and worn, torn fabrics. The team of skilled amateur fixers will do their best to put them right or offer advice. You may even learn to repair things yourself!

Booking opens about one month before the event. You can book your slot on the fixers page of the Sustainable St Albans website or via the St Albans District Fixers Facebook page.

If you have skills in any of their product areas (electrics, electronics, clothing and fabrics) and want to join the fixers, the team would be delighted to hear from you. Even if you think your skills are quite basic you will be welcome, the team learn on the job and from one another. Just email or use the Facebook page.

Contact [fixers@sustainablestalbens.org](mailto:fixers@sustainablestalbens.org)  
 Facebook group St Albans District Fixers

# Mothers' Union



Why not pop in to one of our meetings held on the first Thursday of each month at 2.30pm in St John's Church Hall committee room. You'll hear an interesting talk among friendly people.

On September 5<sup>th</sup> The Ven Andrew Ballard talks about St Thérèse of Lisieux. Born in France in 1873, she entered the Carmelite order and dedicated her life to simple acts. She wrote her autobiography, *Story of a Soul*, which is still popular reading today. He will provide insight into her life and her spiritual legacy.



*St Thérèse of Lisieux*

On October 3<sup>rd</sup> Revd Ritah Namakula tells us something of her life leading up to her recent ordination as priest in St Albans Cathedral.

November 7<sup>th</sup> sees Mothers' Union Branch Leader Carol Cooke sharing a look back over her life. She will consider 'words that have inspired me' from literature to speeches and from letters to casual conversations.

We are always delighted to welcome new members. You may be inspired to join us!

*Carol Cooke, Branch Leader. Contact [parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk](mailto:parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk)*



*'Summer of Hope' was the theme, and fund-raiser, for St John's MU when members gathered in this pretty back garden for afternoon tea. The campaign transforms the lives of women and girls in sub-Saharan Africa. The Mothers' Union Literacy Circles in four dioceses in the Democratic Republic of Congo enable women to learn life-changing literacy, numeracy, agriculture and business skills. Expansion is planned for four more dioceses where women could be given the skills to release themselves from the cycle of poverty.*

## A different flavour: Celtic Christianity

Quiet and focussed, Celtic Evening Prayer is held at St John's at 5.00pm on the third Sunday of every month.\* The short service meets in the small, softly lit Lady Chapel behind the main altar, usually with just a handful of people attending. There's a printed leaflet so a new person needn't feel lost or shy. Words from psalms, a couple of Bible readings, a hymn or two, a prayer and a blessing are interspersed with silent times for reflection and meditation.

But what is Celtic Christianity? It developed in rural parts of the British Isles in the early 5<sup>th</sup> century after the Roman occupiers left to defend Rome. Early Roman Christianity tended to be authoritarian, hierarchical, male dominated, rational and strongly legalistic. On its own, over the next centuries, the Celtic church became diverse and organic. It recognised the sacredness of all creation, celebrated grace and nature, had a love of mysticism and poetry, and included women in its leadership.

Today, contemporary Celtic Christianity portrays a gentle, tolerant, 'green', meditative, egalitarian and holistic form of Christian faith and practice

— *With thanks to Anne Edwards and David Nye*

\* Dates vary on occasion, please check on [www.stjohnsharpenden.org.uk/calendar](http://www.stjohnsharpenden.org.uk/calendar)

## Toddler Service

Thursdays 10.15am

In the church and fun for all. This service is designed as worship with younger ones in mind. Suitable for babies upwards to those nearly ready for preschool. Starting with a beverage and snacks we gather round the altar, do some singing, hear a Bible story and respond with a craft.

Autumn term  
10<sup>th</sup> September – 17<sup>th</sup> December

No meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> October (half term)



All welcome or contact [parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk](mailto:parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk) if you'd like to join our WhatsApp group.

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## Parish registers

### Baptisms

*Welcome to the family of God*

14<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Arwen Rose Gratton

Primrose Emme Moray Gratton

28<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Freddie Valentino Summers

7<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Oscar James McKay

### Funerals in Church

*May they rest in peace*

14<sup>th</sup> May 2024

John Alfred Catton (Jack)

30<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Kathleen Molly Angus

11<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Patricia Hudis (Pat)

25<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Janet Friar



## Christening at St John's

Are you interested in having  
your child christened?

If you live in Southdown you can have  
your child christened at St John's (even  
if you're not a regular church goer)

If you'd like to have a chat about what's  
involved please email  
[parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk](mailto:parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk)





## Regular Services at St John's

### Sundays

- 8.00am Holy Communion in the Lady Chapel
- 9.30am Parish Eucharist (*also live streamed*) followed by coffee in the hall.  
All Age Eucharist, *normally 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month*
- 5.00pm Evening service, *see website for details*

### Wednesdays

- 10.30am Holy Eucharist is celebrated in the Lady Chapel

### Monday - Friday inclusive

- 9.30am Morning prayer is said
- 5.00pm Evening Prayer is said

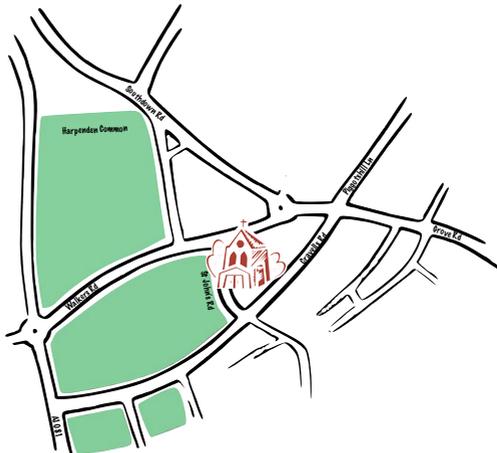
Church is open every day from 10.00am to 5.00pm.

Service times may change so please check the calendar on our website or sign up there to our weekly or monthly newsletter [www.stjohnsharpenden.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsharpenden.org.uk)

Watch our Parish Eucharist and other special services on our YouTube channel - search for "St John's Church, Harpenden" or visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/StJohnsChurchHarpenden>

The Parish Office is open Monday – Thursday 10.00am - 2.00pm



PARISH OFFICE

*For enquiries, including marriages, baptisms, funerals and hall bookings, please contact the parish office.*

**Amanda Knights**

Telephone: 01582 712776  
parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

*If you are in need of help or know anyone in need of support, please contact support@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk*

*Parish Directory*

VICAR

**Revd Tim Vickers**

Telephone: 01582 469343  
vicar@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

CURATE

**Revd Ritah Namakula**

ritah@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

READERS

**Lauryn Awbrey**

Telephone: 01582 624823  
lauryn.awbrey@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

**David Nye**

Telephone: 01582 762785  
dandhnye@btinternet.com

**Anne Edwards**

Telephone: 01582 767449

WARDENS

**Position vacant**

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

**Position vacant**

TREASURER

**Position vacant**

Our magazine is published four times a year and is delivered free to all homes and businesses in the parish.

We are very grateful to those who write contributions and the many volunteers who distribute and deliver the magazines, come rain or shine, to everyone in the parish.

We welcome advertisements and are delighted to be able to provide full colour.

St John's PCC takes no responsibility for statements made in advertisements or other content in this magazine nor linked websites, nor for any matter arising therefrom.

To protect privacy, personal email addresses do not appear in the web edition, unless requested.

*Remembrance  
Services  
inside*

stJOHN'S  
*Living God's Love*

*What's going on in the lead-up to Harvest, and beyond*

[www.stjohnsharpenden.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsharpenden.org.uk)  
St John's Church, 5 St John's Road, Harpenden, Herts AL5 1DJ  
Parish Office 01582 712776

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