

THE PARISH CHURCH OF

ST JOHN



THE DIVINE

BROOKLANDS • SALE



40p

October 2018

1868-2018



ST JOHN THE DIVINE
BROOKLANDS

150 Years of Welcome & Worship

From the Editor

One of the things I enjoy in the Anglican Church is the sense of continuity, which is probably a more positive way of expressing traditionalism. For me, this is best represented by Harvest. Ploughing the fields and scattering alongside the annual procession of God's bounty flowing up the aisle as we bring our Harvest thanksgiving gifts. Not only does the good seed grow in our climate but we are spared the extremes we witness across the globe. It is something that we should give thanks for on a frequent basis but this time of year does bring us a focus and that is reflected in this edition of the magazine. As well as thanking God for his bounty though we also need to reflect that this is not fairly shared, sadly even in our own country and some information is provided from the Trussell Trust on foodbanks and a note about a response from the Wythenshawe team.

A Harvest reference is given in both our Archive years and interestingly reference to a strategy to develop a more family church is revealed in 1968. This chimes with the report on our recent Parish Vision Day which is provided. More on that to follow, I am sure.

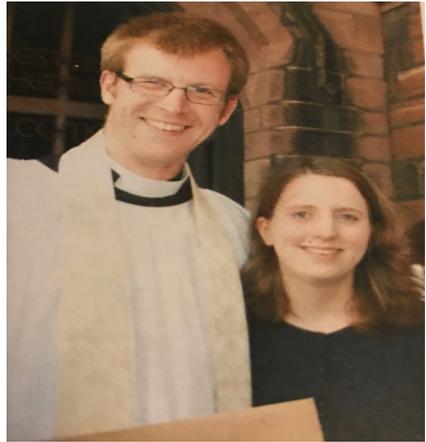
Next month brings our Winter Fair, donations will be welcomed as will offers of support. November also brings the Centenary of the 1918 Armistice.

The Editor

brooklandsmag@gmail.com

Richard writes...

Over the summer I read a really helpful book by Tony Payne called *How to Walk into Church*. His answer is that 'we should walk into church *praying about where to sit!*' Tony unpacks what he means by this over seven chapters. It is a really good read: short, punchy, and challenging. Two things I was challenged by were: (1) 1 Corinthians 13 is about the church; and, (2) church doesn't finish when the meeting ends.



In discussing the nature of church gatherings Tony draws attention to 1 Corinthians 12-14. Tony points out that chapter 13, whilst popular at weddings, is actually about the church and this has profound implications for what we do when we meet together: 'the one abiding and ultimate principle that should drive our church gatherings is love!' He goes on to say that in chapters 12-13 'Paul's big point is that if we are to be driven by love, our aim at church should be to build up and encourage *other people* - rather than thinking about how much we're getting out of it or whether we've had a chance to exercise our gifts. Love does not insist on its own way or press its own claims. It is not obsessed with its own enjoyment or convenience. Love doesn't complain or grumble, or stay at home in bed because it couldn't be bothered. Love seeks the good of the other-patiently, kindly, truthfully, joyfully, constantly' (2015: 31). Not only does this have implications for what we do during the service itself, but it also causes us to rethink what we do once the service finishes.

One of the most provoking thing Tony points out is that church doesn't finish when the meeting ends: he asks, '*when does church actually finish?*' He reminds us that 'church is not just the series of activities we do together - the preaching, the songs, the collection, the announcements. Church is *us* - the joyful gathering of God's people in his presence, where we build each other in love through his word' (2015: 51) and this means that 'if we continue to meet together informally over tea and coffee, then...we're still

gathering...And it's often during this informal church time that we are presented with prime opportunities to encourage and love and build up other people' (2015: 52). Are we looking out for newcomers who might be feeling a bit awkward? Are we finding opportunities to share questions we might have about the readings or something that encouraged you in the sermon. Do we offer to pray for those who have had a tough week or are facing an important decision in the week to come?

So how will you walk into church this Sunday?

Richard



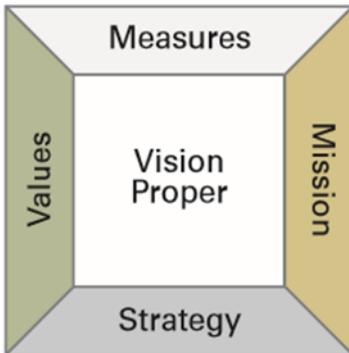
Vision Day Report

At our Vision Day on Saturday 15th September we spent our time in three sessions. In the first we focused on discovering our context and knowing our story. In other words, we looked at the demographics of our local community and some of the significant societal shifts since the 1970 which mean that we need to do things differently. And we looked at the story of St John's and reflected on what our greatest achievements have been, why we did them, and what it was that made them successful.

We then looked at some Bible passages to help us focus on what God calls the church to be. The first was the Great Commission found in Matthew 28:19-20 where we saw Jesus commission the church to make disciples, to baptize, and to teach. This is something Jesus commissions every disciple to do, we are to disciples who make disciples and who teach others by speaking God's word to each other in the power of the Spirit. The second passage was Acts 2:42-47, again baptism was mentioned as were teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, prayer, giving, and praise. We were challenged to ask how close St John's reflects this biblical pattern.

In our second session Richard set out the framework for our ten-year vision. In doing so he set out St John's mission, values, strategy, and measures.

At the heart of our **mission** is welcome. This is the “*What are we doing?*” Our mission was summarised as: ‘Welcoming you into God’s family’. We may add something to unpack what it means to belong to God’s family.



This reflects the deep **value** of welcome and by describing St John’s as a **welcoming** church we are able to clarify nine things that are valued at St John’s: worship, evangelism, liturgy, community, outward-looking, missional, invitational, nurturing, and generous. The first letter of each spelling what we are: a **welcoming** church!

We then turned to think about how we are fulfilling our mission? This is our **strategy** and we used worship as a way in; namely, the narrative flow of the eucharistic liturgy. We gather together and are welcomed into God’s presence, we then grow in our relationship with God as we hear his word read and preached and then we respond to God in confessing our faith in him and praying for God’s world, then we share in our family meal to the Lord’s Table, before being sent out into the world to love and serve. These then provide a strategy of welcome/welcome, grow/growing, share/sharing, and serve/serving.

Finally, we ask what a Christian at St John’s will look like. What **measures** will we use? When are we successful? Based on our mission, values, and strategy we can say that a growing disciple of Jesus at St John’s will be marked out by extravagant welcome, deepening relationships, radical hospitality, and committed service.

In session 3 we looked at our vision? We asked ‘Where do we want to be in ten years and what are the four main things we will need to achieve in 3-5 years to accomplish this vision?’ Each of the four tables answered this for themselves (see overleaf) and there were some common themes (see below). This provides the big picture. Now the hard work begins in filling out the detail and the PCC is going to meet in October/November to begin to take the ideas put forward in the second half of the vision day to form a strategic development plan, so please watch this space and keep us in your prayers...

Our four Scripts

Table 1: In the next 10 years we dream of *a flourishing hub, lovingly serving all ages of God's family*. In order to reach that destination, we first have to accomplish these four big things:

- Make the fabric (incl. technology) fit for purpose
- Provision of opportunities for all people to grow in faith and belong
- Involvement of every attender in ministry and use of their gifts
- Increased presence in the wider community

Table 2: In the next 10 years we dream of *a worshipping community encouraging one another in love and service*. In order to reach that destination, we first have to accomplish these four big things:

- Grow the congregation, particularly young families
- Variety of service and activities to appeal to all age groups
- Establish a church-backed mums/tots group
- Welcome board to ensure more familiarity with each other (particularly names)

Table 3: In the next 10 years we dream of *being a living example of the words and deeds of Christ*. In order to reach that destination, we first have to accomplish these four big things:

- Develop worship styles, times and locations (Grow)
- Dedicated children and youth worker (Grow)
- Facilities fit for our future (Welcome)
- Prayer resources and development (Grow)

Table 4: In the next 10 years we dream of *That we can truly be a friendly and welcoming church; to show more reverence when we enter God's house; to be strengthened in our faith; to find peace and love*. In order to reach that destination, we first have to accomplish these four big things:

- Encouraging visitors; i.e. coffee mornings and people we meet in the community
- Development of youth activities; i.e. youth pastor or leader to encourage neighbourhood care etc
- Share our faith and experiences to bring and share food for family lunch once a month; i.e. family service or parade
- Preparing future generations to care for community and church family to be willing to work together helping each other

Prayer and Praise

The last edition gave an example of the daily email from '100 Days of Peace and Hope'. The one below will be sent out on October 10th, under the title 'Peace in Syria', a reminder, as if we needed it, that conflict continues today. It was provided by Larissa Morava, the Editor for the Bible Society's magazine Word in Action.



I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. John 16:33 (ESV)

A colleague, who runs Bible Society in Syria, shared this message and verse with us. 'Our part of Aleppo had been under a merciless siege for almost three years. We were used to shells and barrel-bombs, and the endless screaming of people who had been injured or lost loved ones. But one afternoon when I was standing on the balcony of our home, there was an incredible bang. The whole building shook violently and I was shaking along with it as I sobbed convulsively. Then I suddenly felt still, as Jesus was speaking to me in his consoling and encouraging way with this verse. At that moment I knew that God is good and that he doesn't leave us alone. Jesus is there to give us peace in a world of struggle and war and he has overcome the whole world!'

PRAYER

Loving Heavenly Father, in our fractured world please bring your peace. We lift up our brothers and sisters around the world who live and work in war torn countries, that they will shine as beacons of your peace to everyone around them. Protect and surround them with your love, we pray.



All 100 days of reflections can be found at <https://www.hopetogether.org.uk/>

From the Archive

October 1918

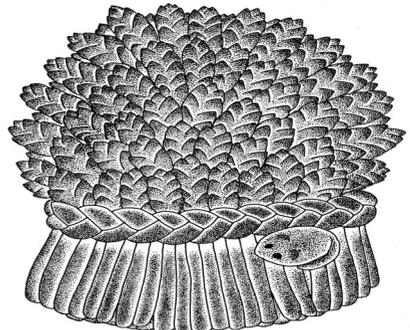
While we often focus on the headline numbers of people killed in the Great War, we must also remember that each of them was an individual. The following extract illustrates that fact.

“Since the last issue of our Parish magazine, many troubles and anxieties have affected members our congregation and Parish, and our sincere and heartfelt sympathy have again been extended to all those who are in sorrow.

It was with genuine distress that we all heard that Mr and Mrs Alfred Hough had been bereaved of their only child, Geoffrey, who had risen to the honoured position of a Captaincy in the K.R.R., and who died in France from acute pneumonia, brought on by a zealous attention to his duties. He was christened and confirmed at St John’s, and always afforded the example of a young man, who, I the issues of war had spared him to his parents and the community, would by his abilities have advanced to manhood in a rigid observance of duty and integrity of purpose. Their many friends deeply deplore the sad blow that this war has inflicted upon Mr and Mrs Hough in the great loss they have sustained in the death of their only and much loved son.”

The magazine also went on to record the accidental death of Reverend Frederick Mentha, Vicar of Blakesley in Northamptonshire. His connection with St John’s was that he had been Assistant Priest here from 1882-1894. He had also run a private school for boys in Ashton-on-Mersey and appears to have kept in very close contact with his former Parish after he moved to Blakesley.

Finally, the Harvest Festival gifts were sent to Linden Lea Hospital.



October 1968

Reverend Buckley in his letter reflected on the mechanisation of farming that had come about during the twentieth century. He quoted an example of a farm he knew where far, 'm workers were better educated, housed and paid than their predecessors but noted that none of them went to church. He went on to say that, "(P)erhaps it is that seventy years ago God and the Church were bright lights in an otherwise dark and grim world of toil and poverty, sickness and insecurity. Where these evils have been virtually removed perhaps men don't feel quite the same need for God any more. Or perhaps the Church may seem to be so rooted in the unpleasant past because of its archaic words and customs that it cannot speak clearly to a new generation.

Before we start shaking our heads church people do at least two things. We should thank God with all our hearts that the bad old days are gone. I can't imagine anybody really wishing that they could change places with their great grandfather. And then we have just got to be prepared to look objectively at ourselves and all that we do and say in church, to see to it, as much as lies within our power, that the glorious treasures of the Christian faith are not obscured, but are expressed and revealed for a new generation to see and make their own."

By way of illustration, a copy of an updated version of 'We plough the fields and scatter' was provided. The first verse is given below.

We plough the fields with tractors
 With drills we sow the land;
But growth is still the wondrous gift
 Of God's almighty hand.
We add our fertilizers
 To help the growing grain.
But for its full fruition
 It needs God's sun and rain.

Elsewhere in the magazine, reference was made to the start of a creche as the first stage of a planned Family Church and an advert for Divine Music by the Alan Caxton Singers had one Owen Wynne as Counter-Tenor.



A Harvest Reflection

One of the most significant and depressing developments in society has been the huge increase in foodbanks. It is hard to comprehend how, what is still the fifth largest economy in the world, the UK has a growing section of its population reliant on charity to meet its most basic needs. St John's has and continues to support local foodbanks and it is hoped that the following extracts from the last Trussell Trust Annual Report will encourage parishioners to contribute regularly.

“Between 1st April 2017 and 31st March 2018, The Trussell Trust’s foodbank network distributed 1,332,952 three day emergency food supplies to people in crisis, a 13% increase on the previous year. 484,026 of these went to children. This is a higher increase than the previous financial year, when foodbank use was up by 6.64%.

For the first time, new national data highlights the growing proportion of foodbank referrals due to benefit levels not covering the costs of essentials, driving the increase in foodbank use overall. ‘Low income - benefits, not earning’ is the biggest single, and fastest growing, reason for referral to a foodbank, with ‘low income’ accounting for 28% of referrals UK-wide compared to 26% in the previous year. Analysis of trends over time demonstrates it has significantly increased since April 2016, suggesting an urgent need to look at the adequacy of current benefit levels.

Debt accounted for an increasing percentage of referrals - 9% up from 8% of referrals in the past year - and the statistics show the essential costs of housing and utility bills are increasingly driving foodbank referrals for this reason, with the proportion of referrals due to housing debt and utility bill debt increasing significantly since April 2016.

The other main primary referral reasons in 2017-18 were benefit delays (24%) and benefit changes (18%). New data about the types of benefit change driving foodbank use is clear: whilst referrals due to ‘benefit sanction’ have declined over the last year, those due to ‘reduction in benefit value’ have the fastest growth rate of all referrals made due to a benefit change, and those due to ‘moving to a different benefit’ have also grown significantly.

Universal Credit is not the only benefit people at foodbanks are experiencing issues with, but it is a significant factor in many areas. New analysis of foodbanks that have been in full UC rollout areas for a year or more shows that these projects experienced an average increase of 52% in the twelve months after the full rollout date in their area. Analysis of foodbanks either not in full UC areas, or only in full rollout areas for up to three months, showed an average increase of 13%.”

And a local response to the problem...

The Wythenshawe Team ran a breakfast club during the school holidays to which St John's contributed. Some headlines and comments are provided by Tracey Rawlins from the Team.

“There were over 700 visits over the holiday period
We clocked up 525 hours of volunteer time between 25 people
Toasted more than 60 loaves
Served more than 500 bowls of cereal and over 100 litres of squash
Used in excess of 150 pints of milk
Made over 350 packed lunches
Brewed over 400 teas and coffees

Too many people to thank individually but a special mention to the Sandwich Soldiers who enabled many children to have not just breakfast this Summer but lunch too! Lunches were a pilot so I will let you all know in due course the impact across wider Wythenshawe and whether they will happen again.

So a huge heartfelt thanks to everyone, I hope you have been blessed by these last few weeks and that you will be ready for October half term which starts on October 22nd!”



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From Around St John's

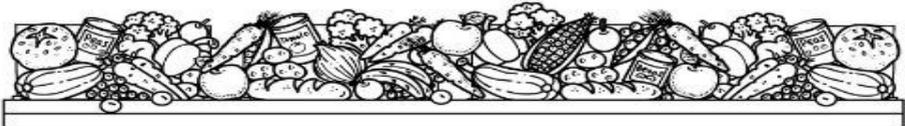


Hello everyone, I hope this missive finds you well. Our September meeting, saw us conducting a bring and tell session. Several of us, brought items of food mentioned in the Bible, or to represent them. We then read out the relevant passage or verse. Freda read the story of Lot's wife, being turned into a pillar of salt. Sharon read the account of Moses getting water from a rock in the desert. We then auctioned off the items, raising £6.

Our next meeting is our October bring and buy on the tenth. All are welcome, come and enjoy some fellowship and some homemade refreshments, and you may pick up a bargain.

All Mothers' Union meetings are open to none members. The monthly meetings is how it began. MU dates 10 October, 14 November and 12 December

Best wishes Sharon



Sanctuary Guild - October

Volunteers in the Sanctuary Guild take turns to clean the brasses in church, such as the altar cross, candlesticks, offertory plates and lecterns.

12th Mrs D Ellerton

26th Mrs M Hopkins and Mrs S Grimley



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God, whose love is never failing
Look with mercy upon me;
My transgressions I'm bewailing -
Wash my soul's iniquity!
Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy
Set my guilty spirit free!

Lord, I've sinned against You only -
Done what's evil in Your sight.
Yet great wisdom You have shown
me
Shown what's just and what is right.
Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy
Make my black soul snowy white!

A pure heart create within me
A new spirit, steadfast, true.
From Your presence Holy, Kingly
Do not cast me forth from you!
Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy
May Your Spirit make me new!

Lord, have mercy

I would teach all poor
transgressors
I would teach them all Your
ways
Turning may we, true
confessors
Daily sing Your song of praise!
Lord, have mercy; Lord, have
mercy
Our glad song to You we raise!

Open now my lips, O Father
Then I can Your praises sing
Sacrifices? Nay! You'd rather
That my broken heart I bring.
Lord, have mercy; Lord, have
mercy
God of mercy, Mighty King!

By Nigel Beeton

Saint Theresa of Avila 1515-1582

Theresa was born into aristocratic family in Avila. After the death of her mother she was sent to be educated, by Augustinian nuns, but became ill eighteen months later. Whilst recuperating, she read St Jerome's Letters, resulting in her wish to become a nun. At the age of twenty she entered the local Carmelite nunnery. The atmosphere was very relaxed, local ladies and gentlemen being frequent visitors.

In 1555 Theresa experienced an interior conversion, identifying herself with St Mary Magdalene and St Augustine. As a result of this she had several visions. Uncomfortable with life at the Avila nunnery, Theresa, founded a small nunnery in 1562, which adhered to strict primitive rules. The nuns wore rough sackcloth, were vegetarian and much devoted to prayer. Theresa herself joined in with daily chores. She allowed only intelligent ladies in, believing them more likely to see their faults. The movement grew to a number of small convents. Theresa was also responsible for reforming the Carmelite friars. She died at Alba De Tormes, in 1582, whilst returning from founding a convent at Burges, and is buried there.
Feast day 12 October

Church Flowers

If you would like to make a donation for church flowers in memory of a loved one, a birthday or an anniversary, please contact Ruth Shaw on 973 9255 or Lynda Tattersall on 973 7140. A typical donation would be the equivalent cost of a bouquet delivered to someone's home.



Thanks to digital technology, the vicar never got the name wrong again



"I hope you don't mind me checking, but we've received an anonymous tip-off about your Harvest Festival offering."

Upcoming Events

Harvest Barn Dance

Saturday 13 October

7.30 pm – 11:00 pm

Cost: £10.00 including Supper

Bring own drinks.



150th Celebration beer will be available to buy.

This will be the last batch, don't miss out.

Tickets from Carys available from 15 September

WINTER FAIR

Saturday 17
November

11:00 am – 2:00 pm



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

Say again?

Three elderly church ministers, all hard of hearing, were playing golf one sunny spring morning. The Methodist minister observed, 'Windy, isn't it?' 'No,' the Baptist pastor said, 'it's Thursday.' The Anglican vicar agreed: 'So am I! Let's go get a pint.'

Of mice and men

A minister went into his local pet shop to ask for some help. 'I need at least 50 mice, 2,000 ants and as many of those little silverfish that you can get.'

The pet shop owner was startled. 'We can probably do that, but it might take some time. Mind if I ask why you are placing such an unusual order?'

The minister shrugged. 'It's simple. I've accepted a call to another church, and the church council told me to leave the parsonage the way I found it.'

Bow wow!

'Doctor, I can hear all kinds of animals talk in my head.'

'Well, don't worry,' said the doctor. 'You're just having Disney spells.'

Oh dear

Confidence is that feeling you have just before you fully understand the situation.

Tiny tots

While visiting the Lake District, I walked through a lovely park with a wide path where people could jog, run their dogs or ride trail bikes. As I descended a hill, I saw a woman coming toward me, pushing a buggy with two toddlers in it. 'We're coming to a hill,' the mother announced to her children, 'so you'll have to help me - are you ready?'

I wondered how the little ones could be of assistance, but as I passed by I heard them earnestly repeating their encouragement: 'I think I can, I think I can...'

The hat

After several months of unhappiness, it came time for the visiting minister to leave the little local church where he had been filling in. During the last Sunday service, his hat was passed around for a goodwill offering.

When it returned to the minister, the hat was empty. But he didn't flinch. He raised the hat to Heaven and said, 'I thank You, Lord, that at least I got my hat back from this congregation.'



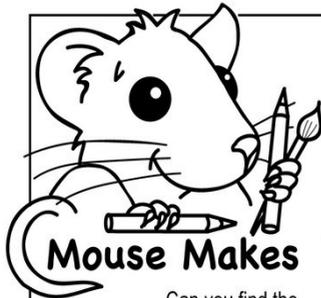
Baptism Anniversary: October

Lotti-Jai Kay Hoban

Orla Grace Ryan

Max Thomas Ryan





Can you find the mouse?

A HARVEST PUZZLE

Change each letter to the letter **before** it in the alphabet to see how QSPWFSCT 3:9 says we can give thanks to God.



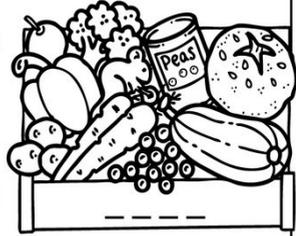
IPOPVS



UIF MPSE



XJUI



ZPVS



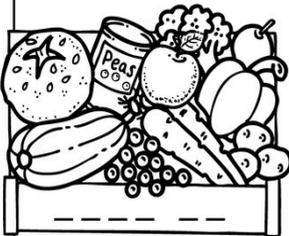
XFBMUI



BOE UIF



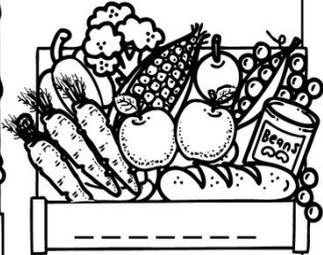
GJSTU



QBSU PG



ZPVS



IBSWFTU

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Which two boxes have the same harvest food?

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Say a ‘thank you’ prayer at home

A line in the Lord’s Prayer asks God to ‘Give us this day our daily bread’. When we say that line, we’re asking God to provide the basic things in life that keep us healthy and happy. It can start with the food we need to eat each day, but for lots of different reasons, not everyone has enough.

So saying thank you for our food is important - we might thank the person who cooked it, and we might go back further and think of the people in the shops where we bought the ingredients, and even trace it right back to the farmers who grew the crops in the first place.

For children who are old enough, try talking about this together one meal time, taking each item on the plate and thinking about where it came from and all the people and work that has gone into bringing it to your table.

Saying grace before a meal is a way of saying thank you to God for making the earth and everything in it - all good things come from God, and it’s up to us to use them in the very best and most generous way. Try singing this grace: “One, two, three, four, five, thank you God that I’m alive. Six, seven, eight, nine, ten, thank you God for food. Amen!”

One of the most traditional graces goes like this: “For what we are about to receive, may the Lord make us truly thankful and keep us always mindful of the needs of others.”

Some families hold hands while they say grace - this reminds us that we are thankful not only for our food, but that we can share it with people we love, as in this prayer: “Thank you God for food, and family, and friends. Amen. or “Thank you God for food, and family, and friends, we remember those who have no food today, and those who have food, but nobody to share it. As you have blessed us, help us be a blessing for others. Amen.”

Article taken from www.churchofenglandchristenings.org with permission.



Parish Diary October 2018

- 3rd 10.00 Holy Communion
 2.00 Crafty Chat
- 7th *Trinity 19*
 8.30 Holy Communion
 9.30 Breakfast Welcome
 10.30 Family Communion
 12.30 Holy Baptism
 6.30 Evensong
- 10th 10.00 Holy Communion
 2.30 Mothers' Union
- 14th *Trinity 20 Harvest Festival*
 8.30 Holy Communion
 9.30 Breakfast Welcome
 10.30 All Age and Parade
 6.30 Evensong
- 17th 10.00 Holy Communion
 2.00 Crafty Chat
- 21st *Trinity 21*
 8.30 Holy Communion
 9.30 Breakfast Welcome
 10.30 Morning Worship and Baptism
 6.30 Evensong
- 24th 10.00 Holy Communion
 7.30 Holy Communion and Women's Fellowship
- 28th *Last Sunday after Trinity*
 8.30 Holy Communion
 9.30 Breakfast Welcome
 10.30 Family Communion
 12.30 Holy Baptism
 6.30 Evensong
- 31st 10.00 Holy Communion

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

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.30am Holy Communion
10.30 am Family Communion
 (Second Sunday of the Month All-Age Worship)
5.30pm Choral Evensong

Holy Communion is celebrated on Holy Days and Saints Days as announced.

POINTS OF CONTACT

		<u>Telephone</u>
VICAR	Revd Richard Sherratt vicarbrooklands@gmail.com	973 5220
READER	David Newton	973 8145
CHURCH WARDEN	Caroline Windle	610 3956
CHURCH WARDEN	Philip Dykes	905 2212
ASSISTANT WARDEN	Janet Hunter	
ASSISTANT WARDEN	Angela Mather	282 7656
ASSISTANT WARDEN (Health And Safety)	Simon Mather	282 7656
AUTHORISED LAY MINISTERS (PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY)		
	Isabel Bryce	980 5762
	Sue Withenshaw	969 2521
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC	Vacancy	
ORGANISTS	Katie Jones	
SUNDAY SCHOOL	Carys Pugh	973 5111
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let us not
grow weary
of doing good
for at the
harvest

we will reap

if we **DO NOT**
give up

Galatians 6:9

