



St John's News

St John's Methodist Church, Baker Street, Potters Bar EN6 2DZ
www.stjohnspottersbar.co.uk email: sjnews@stjohnspottersbar.co.uk

SERVICES

Sunday 5th February

Education Sunday

10.30am Morning Service
led by Rita Hayes

Sunday 12th February

9.00am Holy Communion
led by Rev Ali Facey

10.30am All Age Family Service
(with Parade for
uniformed organisations)
led by Rev Ali Facey

Sunday 19th February

10.30am Morning Service
led by Rev Dave Dickinson

Tuesday 21st February

12-1pm Soup, bread and cheese
lunch followed by
Holy Communion in the
Clifton Room,
led by Rev Ali Facey

Sunday 26th February

First Sunday in Lent

10.30am Holy Communion
led by Rev Ali Facey

7.00pm Informal evening Service



Forthcoming Free Church events:

Wednesday 1st February

11.00am Rev Simon Carver, Dagnall
Street Baptist Church, St Albans

Wednesday 7th March

11.00am Rev Father Brian Reynolds,
(Catholic Ecumenical Chaplain, St.
Albans Cathedral)

At noon join a Fellowship Lunch in the
Abbots Kitchen

February 2012

Who do you think you are?

A number of times recently I have been in the car when the song "A Jar of Hearts" by Christina Perri has been on the radio. Those of you who are familiar with the song, will know that it has an emotive chorus and at times I have found myself singing along. The chorus begins with the words:

*"Who do you think you are?
Running around leaving scars
collecting your jar of hearts
and tearing love apart...."*

Ash Wednesday, on 22nd February, marks the beginning of Lent, a period of 40 days, which Christians are encouraged to observe as a time of self-denial and self-examination, and to ask themselves – "who do you think you are?" By committing ourselves to regular fasting or denying ourselves some source of pleasure (chocolate, cake, a glass of wine etc.), we can seek to identify ourselves with Jesus who



spent forty days and nights fasting in the wilderness. This time of self-examination prepared Jesus for his public ministry. In the wilderness he encountered the devil who tempted him to turn away from the path of love and service to which God the Father had called him, and

instead abuse his power to provide for himself a life of comfort, fame and glory. During Lent we are encouraged to follow Jesus' example and reflect on our relationship with God, how we treat other people and to what extent we use our time, energy and resources to respond to the needs of other people.

Putting time aside for self-examination is something that would perhaps be of benefit to all of us. When was the last time you asked yourself 'who am I and how do other people see me?'

Who do you think you are?

Rev Ali Facey

God's creation!

Have you ever walked (or driven) for ten minutes and realised afterwards you hardly noticed any of the surroundings on your journey? On autopilot! But it's a shame not to see the clouds in the sky, or the moon and stars, or some of the scenery or other people along your way.

"The heavens are telling the glory of God." (Psalm 19). God is all around us and the created world reflects his glory. If you want to connect with God, tuning into the beauty of the world can be a good way to start. Take time to look up and

wonder, or to study a leaf, a flower or the shape of a tree outdoors. Or you could appreciate pot-plants and pieces of stone or wood from the comfort of your sofa! Then you could pray **Thank you.**

Many thanks to the team who look after the gardens around SJ and to those who arrange flowers for the church. You really cheer us up!

Wendy Webb



A big thank you...

...to all at St Johns for your contributions to charity over Christmas! We collected **£804.25 for Action for Children** (this includes the £291 from the Carol Singing mentioned in last month's edition), and **£1,631.65 for MacMillan Cancer Support** (this includes £86.80 from the collections at the Playgroup Nativities). These figures include gift aid being recovered - £36.25 for Action for Children and £163.75 for MacMillan - the gift aid declarations are well worthwhile!

ACTIVITIES

Saturday 4th February

8.00am - Ecumenical Prayer Meeting, URC Church, Darques Lane

Sunday 5th February

8.00pm - PAPA Johns (ages 15-18yrs)

Monday 6th February

2.00pm - Women's Guild in the Clifton Room. A talk by Rev Ali Facey

Tuesday 7th February

7.30pm - 20s bible study - See box

Wednesday 8th February

8.00pm - Worship Band

Thursday 9th February

8.00pm - Havercroft House Group
Contact Belinda 652540

Monday 13th February

2.30pm - Women's Guild in the Clifton Room. Progressive games!

Wednesday 15th February

8.00pm Strafford Gate House Group
Contact David & Anne Carter 658297

8.00pm - Women's Group

Contact Sally 07941 223102

Monday 20th February

2.30pm - Women's Guild in the Clifton Room. Magazine afternoon.

Tuesday 21st February

7.30pm - 20s bible study - See box

Wednesday 22nd February

8.00pm - Worship Band

Thursday 23rd February

8.00pm - Havercroft House Group
Contact Belinda 652540

Monday 27th February

2.30pm - Women's Guild in the Clifton Room. Quiz Afternoon.

Wednesday 29th February

8.00pm - Bible Study Group in Clifton Room, studying Daniel chapter 3
Contact Daniel 659996, Elspeth 655870

8.00pm - Women's Group

Contact Sally 07941 223102

Saturday 3rd March

8.00am - Ecumenical Prayer Meeting, Kings Charles the Martyr

Monday 5th March

2.00pm - Women's Guild in the Clifton Room. A talk by Rev Ali Facey.

Alan Combes reflects on his journey towards becoming a Methodist Minister

Here I am, send me

I am now over half way through my ministry formation and indeed by January next year Michele and I (and the girls) will know where we will be going to start ministry in the summer (2013). It is both scary and exciting to think that this will come so soon. Even knowing that God is with all of us, I still find myself concerned for Michele and the girls as this will be a big change.

I sat the other day with a group in one of the side chapels at St Albans Abbey and we shared in a reflection on growing with God in that beautiful, hushed and tall space. Half lit and surrounded by a sense of large silence we tried to make room for God at the end of a busy day. We spent some time praying and gave thanks for people we had met who by their nature helped us to see God, or to grow with God. I realised that there are many at St John's who fall into this category, who by your open faith encourage others that God is and wants to be part of our daily lives.

Meanwhile in the classroom I have had the great pleasure of discovering new understandings of Scripture, God, Ministry, and the Church and its history. The Church's history on the surface is not always as we would wish it to be, but so often what we miss is the many hundred acts of sacrifice and love practiced every day in so many parts of the world by people committed to the words of Christ - 'love your neighbour as yourself.'



I have had many interesting encounters with people who have asked about my calling. Some are a bit lost for words in this modern day and age, but many others from secular backgrounds are both interested and encouraging. Meanwhile Ali has been finding opportunities for me

to share in and learn from aspects of her ministry. There is a very long check list of practical things that I must experience alongside my theological training from funerals to prison ministry. So to broaden my experience from March to May I will be on placement in the Enfield Circuit and later in the year I will engage in some form of secular ministry.

I have on occasion found the combined pressures of work and study challenging and I remain deeply grateful to all of you for your supportive words, actions and prayers.

Every Blessing to you all.

Alan Combes



STARTING THIS MONTH!
20s Bible Study

for people aged 19 to 29

**Tuesday 7th February
and Tuesday 21st February
between 7.30 - 9.00pm**

at church

**Theme: "Solutions to Stress"
based on the Letter from James**

*text Wendy 07904 517384 to book the
meal at 6.45pm*

Christian books and resources

Following the closure of the Christian bookshop in St Albans, the nearest one is now Cornerstone, 51 Woodhouse Road, Finchley N12 9ET, tel: 020 8446 3056 www.cornerstone.co.uk
If you would like any Bible reading notes or other Christian literature please speak to Margaret Rhodes 642679, who will happily order items for you through our church account.

Fairtrade fortnight

27 February - 11 March

This year we are being invited to "take a step" for Fairtrade. It can be a simple step like swapping our tea to Fairtrade, or a bigger step, like asking everyone in our church to do it too. We'll be joining thousands of others all over the UK - we are encouraged to make our "steps" as inventive, daring, funny or messy as we like. Every step counts for millions of farmers, workers, and their communities in developing countries who urgently need a better deal from trade.

WHAT WILL YOUR STEP BE?

If you are an internet user, you can find out more information about this year's Fairtrade fortnight at <http://step.fairtrade.org.uk/>



Gerardo Arias Camacho collects coffee in his property: Llano Bonito, Costa Rica

"We have planted trees and reduced the amount of pesticides we use by 80% in the last ten years. We've used the Fairtrade premium to buy environmentally friendly ovens to dry our coffee. These are powered by coffee skins and macadamia nutshells, which mean we no longer



need to cut up to 50 acres of forest every year."

"Fairtrade has helped us to improve our environmental protection. Fairtrade isn't just about helping farmers in poor countries; by helping to protect forests, fields and rivers it helps us all to respond to climate change. We have had to change the way we grow and process coffee to meet Fairtrade standards, and have learnt about more sustainable production methods this way."

Gerardo Camacho, coffee farmer



...in Potters Bar

Christian Aid has a vision: to eradicate the causes of poverty globally. In addition to assisting those suffering in disasters and emergencies, Christian aid is focused on challenging the root causes of poverty - striving to achieve equality, dignity and freedom regardless of race or faith.

In 2010/11 Christian Aid channelled more than £60m to 507 partner organisations in 47 countries to continue the fight to eradicate poverty. Door to door collectors raised £13.4m of this money, and Churches in Potters Bar made a valuable contribution to this income and the continuing work of Christian Aid.

For many years Alan Doel (from St John's) has been the Churches Together in Potters Bar 'link person' with Christian Aid helping to ensure that Churches have the materials they need for Christian Aid Week, and then reporting back to Christian Aid and Churches Together in Potters Bar. Alan describes this work as 'simple and straight forward'.

Alan is standing down from this role and Churches Together in Potters Bar is seeking to find a replacement for this role which consists of a small number of administrative / secretarial tasks between January to May each year (this role could suit someone who is housebound).

If you would like to know more about this role (or if you would like to shadow Alan during the run-up to the week in May) then please contact him (644969) or Trevor Alexander 07828779621.

Minister: Rev Ali Facey 652978 (day off Friday)
Community Worker: Wendy Webb 07904 517384
Senior Steward: Elspeth Marmoy 655870
Nursery Playgroup: Celia Mills 07969 924482
Room Bookings: Tony Havercroft 652540

Please email or leave on the notice board any articles for next issue by 26th February

Holiday Club 2012: 2nd -5th April

Planning is now in full swing. If you normally help and haven't yet made contact with Michele about involvement this year, please do.

If you have not been involved before but are interested in volunteering or finding out more, then please contact Michele.

St John's World Mission Supper

Saturday 24th March at 6pm

We are very pleased that Rev Alison Walker will be our guest speaker, talking about her work and experiences in Florence as a Mission Partner.

Activities for the younger children will be provided

Tickets £7 (children under 12 free)

Contact Pat Griffith 656344 or Valerie Vessey 851446

Women's World Day of Prayer (interdenominational)

**Friday 2nd March
10.00 - 11.30am**

This is an interdenominational service at King Charles the Martyr Church, Mutton Lane, based on material prepared by Christian Women of Malaysia

Theme: 'Let Justice Prevail'
**Speaker: Barbara Kentish,
Mother's Union (Westminster
Diocese)**

Includes tea and coffee served afterwards
Men also welcome!



St John's Annual Beetle Drive

**Saturday 25th February
6.00-8.30pm**

Come along and play beetle. Who will be the St John's champion?
Just throw your dice and draw your beetle.

An evening of fun & competitiveness
Tickets £3.50 including soup, a roll and hot drinks

Tickets available from Nico, Roger or Sally 07941 223 102

The Methodist Church

Events taking place in the wider church family...



God's Healing Love

Rev Dr Malcolm White (healing ministry team leader at Central Hall, Westminster) will be preaching, leading a workshop and ministering healing prayer at

**High Street Methodist Church,
Harpden on
Sunday 12th February**

Please contact Rev Ali Facey (652978) if you are interested in attending - she will be going to the Workshop (2.30pm) and the Healing Service (6.30pm).

REGULAR EVENTS

see notice board for details

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Mondays | 10am 'Can We Fix It?' Group 10am - 11.45am Jumping Johns in the main hall 8.00pm Badminton Group |
| Tuesdays | 6.30 - 8pm Junior Youth Club (Years 3-6) |
| Wednesdays | 6.30 - 8pm Cubs (8-10 years) |
| Thursdays | 7.30-9pm Scouts (11-14 years) 8.00 - 10pm Silver Phoenix Explorer Scouts (15-18 years) |
| Fridays | 10.30am Morning Coffee in the Clifton Room 10am - 11.45am Jumping Johns in the main hall 6.00 - 7pm Beavers (6-8 years) 8.00 - 10pm Senior Youth Club (years 7 upwards) |

Learning to live together

Hugh Starkey, Professor of Education at the University of London, will be giving a lecture about how religious and secular communities can draw on human rights language in their shared struggles for justice.

Hinde Street Methodist Church
19 Thayer Street, London W1U 2QJ
Tuesday 14th February at 7.30pm
Free Admission

DISCLAIMER

All contributions to 'SJNews' contain personal opinions of the individual concerned & may not reflect the opinions of the editors, minister or congregation.
Registered Charity No 1130633