

St. John the Evangelist,

Walton



Open Door



April & May 2025



Details of information in this magazine and more can be found at

www.stjohnschurchwalton.org.uk

and

www.facebook.com/stjohnswalton/



Sunday and Regular Services

Sunday /Morning Service 10.00 am

Morning Worship — 1st and 3rd Sundays

Holy Communion — 2nd and 4th Sundays

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5th Sunday Holy Communion Service 10.00am

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These services will be live streamed through our website:

<https://stjohnschurchwalton.org.uk/>

Holy Communion Sunday Service

8.30 am

1st & 3rd Sundays only

Wednesday Celtic Service

10.00 am

Special Services

Palm Sunday

Holy Communion Service

13th April @ 10.00 am

Maundy Thursday

Holy Communion Service

17th April @ 7.00 pm

Good Friday

Service of Reflection

18th April @ 10.00 am

Easter Day

Holy Communion Service

20th April @ 10.00 am

Also on Good Friday

Bridgewater Churches Together Service

in Victoria Square, Stockton Heath

18th April @ 12 noon

Everyone welcome to any or all services



Contact Details

We are now in a Vacancy
For any church enquiries please make contact via

Tel: 01925 262 939

or through our website at
www.stjohnschurchwalton.org.uk

Lay Reader

Mr. I. Jerrard-Dinn — 01925 265 557

Lay Reader

Mr. K. Fletcher — 07359 445564

Pastoral Worker + Safeguarding Officer
Mrs. G. Povey-Robins — 07970 983 308

Church Warden

Mr. T. Robins — 01925 261 922

Church Warden

Mr. C. Lloyd — 01925 212 644

Treasurer

Mrs. M. Highmore — 01925 473 904

P.C.C. Secretary

Mrs. N. Chadwick — 01925 263 449

If you would like to give to the work and ministry of St. John's you can use the QR code below, click on this link bit.ly/give-st-johns, or type it into your browser, to take you to our online giving website.

With many thanks.



A letter to the Parish

Dear Friends,

For the last eighty years, since the end of the second world war, we in the western world have experienced the development of a rules based order, agreed and policed between nations great and small, giving us a sense of collective security and peace of mind. Sadly all this has been thrown into doubt. The Talking Heads tell us that this has abruptly come to an end, brought about by just a handful of powerful individuals. Some are political leaders of large nations and other individuals with unimaginable wealth controlling and massaging minds with their personal agendas and oppressive attitudes.

These are certainly unsettling, maybe alarming times. We turn to our televisions, radios, smart phones and newspapers with apprehension as to what might be happening. Our peace of mind is being turned upside down. We are living through what feels like a very significant moment in the history for humankind. It is, though, just that — a *moment in history*.

At the same time, we have concerns for the physical world of nature and climate change. The seasons seem to be changing. Again our peace of mind is being turned upside down. You may have been battered by the severe storms at the beginning of the year. However, such storms do not last forever.

If we look out of our windows or go for a walk, we soon realise that there still are the four seasons in the year fixed by the calendar — **Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter just as our creator God intended**. These are not just another moment in history. They are like their creator — Everlasting.

Celtic Christians of old were at one with nature and felt secure and provided for by it underpinning their faith. (In his book 'The Cry of the Deer', David Adam uses the phrase *Strength through Faith*.)

God's Power and Purpose are totally different to that of those who would turn our world upside down.

St. Paul, writing to the early church in Rome, put it this way: "There is nothing in all Creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord."

As David Adam points out, it is that same conviction that moved the sixteenth century hymn writer A. I. Waring to pen these words in her hymn 'In heav'nly love abiding':

*The storm may roar about me
My heart may low be laid
But God is round about me
And can I be dismayed?*

God is the same Yesterday, Today and Forever. So as we look forward to Easter rather than backwards may you draw strength from the Eternal God and His promise through Jesus that better life awaits us. Eternal Life where there will be no more power struggles, no more tears and no more fears, but joy everlasting.

I wish you all a happy and peaceful Easter.

Ian Jerrard-Dinn
Reader Emeritas

Electoral Roll Renewal

This year we will be completing the renewal of the Electoral Roll for St John's Church, Walton. The forms to renew or apply for your membership of the Electoral Roll will be available at the back of church and should be completed and returned to the Wardens or the Electoral Roll Officer, Noel Parr.

For those who are unable to visit the church but wish to remain on the Roll, forms will be either hand delivered or posted and should be returned in the stamped addressed envelope provided.

All forms must be returned by no later than 2nd May 2025.

Where did your Easter egg come from?

Your Easter egg can be traced back to the early Church in Mesopotamia.

Since ancient times, people had been giving each other eggs at pagan Spring festivals, as eggs were a symbol of the new life and rebirth in nature all around them. Then came Jesus and His death and resurrection, which made Easter the ultimate time for Christians to celebrate new life and rebirth. After that, it was only a matter of time before eggs found their way into commemorating Easter.

This seems to have first happened with the very early church in Mesopotamia, where those early Christians began dyeing their eggs after Easter, to celebrate the new birth that Jesus had given to them. The practice of using eggs in Easter celebrations then spread to the Orthodox Churches, and from there to the Western Churches across Europe.

This year, why not buy an extra Easter egg and donate it to the local food bank?

You will make some local children very happy!



Dates for your diary

Prayer Groups

2nd Tuesday of each month
Lady Chapel of St. John's
6.30pm

April

Tuesday 8th

May

Tuesday 13th

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4th Wednesday of each month
Lady Chapel of St. John's
11.00am

April

Wednesday 23rd

May

Wednesday 28th

If you would like to join us it would be great to see you



Knit and Natter

1.30pm—3.30pm

Church Community Hall

April

Tuesday 1st

Tuesday 15th

May

Tuesday 6th

Tuesday 20th

Tuesday Group

7.15 – 9.00 pm



Church Community Hall

April

1st

8th

May

6th

13th

20th

27th



APCM

(Annual Parochial Church Meeting)

11th May

11.15am

(after church service)

in

St. John's Church

Please join us if you can



**Now in its
10th year!**

Thy Kingdom Come 2025

29th May - 8th June

This global ecumenical prayer movement invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus.

For more information please visit
www.thykingdomcome.global



Prayer pages

Beauty

Gracious God, we thank You for the beauty of this world that you have gifted to us. As we look out onto your world, help us to see anew the miracles that surround us each day, as the Spring season unfolds the awakening of the soil, to reveal new growth in our gardens and the fields that surround us. We give you thanks for the abundance of food that the earth offers us, and for the beauty of the flowers that grace our lives with such a richness of colour and fragrance. You are truly the God of all creation. **Amen**



The World

Loving God, we are daily surrounded by media images and reporting of all the troubles that are happening around the world, from economic hardships to brutal wars. We see where lives that are lost to conflict are reduced only to numbers, devoid of any sense of the relationships from which they are torn, or of the sorrow that their loss causes to those left behind. You gifted us a world of beauty, and we repay that gift with violence, hatred and war. Father of all, help us to rediscover paths of peace, and enable national leaders everywhere to work for the common good, rather than national or greedy self-interest.

Amen

Neighbours

Father God, open our eyes to the human needs of our world. We share our community with those who suffer from poverty, hunger, injustice, loneliness, and mental health problems. Help us, we pray, to reach out to all those that are perhaps unknown to us, but who are suffering. Let them know that they are loved by you, and no matter what darkness may engulf them, the light of your love can never be extinguished, and they will never be truly alone. Help each of us to be a 'good neighbour', and to offer all that we can to bring comfort to others, whether through food, money or our time. Help us to follow the example of compassion to all that Jesus gave to us. **Amen**

Politics

God of compassion, we pray for the world, and the impact of politics on that world. We bring before you the instability and fear that politicians can bring, as a result of their quest for profit or power – for themselves or their countries. We pray that we may act wisely when voting, seeking to elect people of integrity and compassion to manage our governments and public services. We pray for those whom we have elected, that they may hold on to the ideals that they believed when they chose public office, and we give thanks for those that offer honest and faithful service on behalf of those they seek to serve. Amen



God's love for us

Loving God, in a world that changes constantly, and at an ever-increasing rate of change, help us to recognise that your church here on earth is unchanging. It seeks to reflect the unchanging nature of your love for us. *'God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.'* (John 3:16) We give you thanks for the surety of that love in our changing world. When all around us is a constant maelstrom of competing demands and expectations, help us to find comfort and peace in the stillness and security of your unconditional love, that is given so freely and so constantly. **Amen**



Faith Communities/Working together

God of All,

Cultures, faiths, denominations may vary, but You love **all**.

Thoughts, understanding, paths may vary, but You love **all**.

Thank You.

Help us, despite our differences, to respect each other and work together to serve our surrounding community. We ask Your blessing on all faith communities in Warrington and in particular we pray for everyone within Bridgewater Churches Together. Amen

St. John's Prayer Chain

As part of our Pastoral Ministry at St. John's some church members make up our Prayer Chain. They pray daily for those in need, with requests normally being included for two weeks.



If you would like prayers to be offered on behalf of yourself or someone for whom you have a particular concern at this time, then we would be pleased to do so.

To make a request please contact either of the following:

Ian Jerrard-Dinn (Lay Reader) on 01925 265 557

Gill Povey-Robins (Pastoral Worker) on 07970 983 308

Accessible Church



'Accessible Church' was the theme of a special service on Sunday 2nd March.

The pastoral team and Dementia Friendly Group came up with the idea so as to celebrate the progress made over many years in providing a safe and accessible space for all who come to St John's. It was an opportunity also to think about and identify new opportunities and next steps.

At the heart of the service were live interviews with two members of the church family who shared their own experiences and insights with the congregation.

Becky Goulston explained that she was born with cerebral palsy, and said that it was the honesty and warmth of welcome that she found here that encouraged her to make St John's her church 'home', when she returned to the area 15 years ago, after university.

Asked about the help and support she has given to St John's in her different voluntary roles, Becky told us about her work over some 20 years with the charity, Through the Roof, which has enabled her to share resources and be involved with everything from accessible holidays to signposting other resources.

Becky is also a member of Chester Diocese Disability Forum which means she contributes to and stays abreast of best practice in making our churches accessible to all. The introduction of a ramp and the streaming of services online are just two of the improvements that Becky mentioned as having improved access to church in recent times.

The other person interviewed was Sally Adams, who is a nurse with some 30 years experience of working with people with learning difficulties.

Sally spoke to us about the vast number of hidden disabilities. She explained that these include not only health conditions, such as epilepsy or diabetes, but also mental health conditions, or neurological problems including autism and ADHD, or sensory loss, people who are blind or hard of hearing.

Leaving the room, standing up and down, or repetitive sounds were just some of the mannerisms that Sally mentioned as signs that might tell us that another person is merely expressing an emotional need in a way that might be different to others. Church is all the more accessible when those mannerisms are recognised and accepted.

Sally gave some really helpful guidance about being patient, taking care with instructions, and not being too literal.

Sally also stressed the importance of training so as to learn more about the vast number of different disabilities, which will help to build upon the warmth of welcome already evident at St John's.

It is only possible to summarise the content here, but the full 'Accessible Church' Service, complete with music, prayers and readings is available in full on the church website or on You Tube. A visit or re-visit is strongly recommended!



Reverend Chris Moore

Shut your curtains

If you live in the countryside, here's a way to help keep local wildlife alive: draw your curtains at night and turn off your outside lights.

Apparently, the darker we can keep it outside, the better. Animals and insects who live in rural areas are especially susceptible to bright lights, which can confuse and disorientate them.

As one evolutionary biologist at Harvard explains, many of the insects drawn to lights at night suffer terrible consequences. "One estimate is that 33 per cent of them die before morning. And even if they don't die, they're spending all their time at the light instead of doing all the things they're supposed to be doing."

Light pollution, which disrupts natural rhythms and ecosystems, is contributing to what some scientists have called "insect Armageddon", with a 75 per cent decline in insect populations in 30 years

A couple of anniversaries from April and May

250 years ago, on 23rd April 1775 J M W Turner, the British artist was born. Turner is known for his landscapes and turbulent marine paintings.

25 years ago, on 11th May 2000 HM Queen Elizabeth II officially opened the Tate Modern art gallery. It is housed in a converted power station on Bankside, which cost £134m and took four years to reconstruct.



Funerals

February 2025

Frances Elizabeth Henrys

Remembering your loved ones at St John's

Have you thought about celebrating or remembering a special event or person by sponsoring the flowers at St. John's? We would love to hear from you.

Please contact Christine Hughes on 01925 210 792 to discuss a donation.





Christian Aid Week 2025

11-17 May

Christian Aid's 80th anniversary:

For 80 years, Christian Aid has been fighting poverty and injustice. We've partnered with communities and organisations across the world to support people of every faith and none. We know that eradicating poverty can seem like an impossible task. But over these 80 years, we've harnessed something formidable. Something so full of love that it can't be silenced. We call it the unstoppable power of hope. Hope has compelled us to stand up for communities in crisis and support people living in poverty. And right now, we need it more than ever. As tragic events unfold across the world, from Gaza to Ukraine and South Sudan, we need your support to offer hope to communities in crisis. Together we're unstoppable. Find out more at caid.org.uk

Dying crops means food stops

In Guatemala, the climate crisis is killing Amelia's precious crops. She relies on the land to feed her eight-year-old son, Lázaro, and four-year-old daughter, Yakelin.

Amelia says:

'I worry about what my children will eat.'



A river passes through Amelia's farm, but deadly heatwaves are causing it to run dangerously low. Both communities and crops stand to lose life-giving water.

Amelia, by the river where the water level used to reach waist-height.

Credit: A.Sheppey/Christian Aid



Amelia with her 4-year-old daughter, Yakelin, surveying the tragedy of their dying banana trees during an intense heatwave.

Credit: A.Sheppey/Christian Aid

The cruel injustice is that Indigenous communities like Amelia's have done the least to cause the climate crisis, yet they endure its impact the most. As their farms are devastated, the search for solutions becomes critical: **'With high heat, there is little we can do but adapt.'**

Amelia's hopeful that she can combat extreme weather by changing the way she farms. With the support of specialist training from our partner, Congcoop, Amelia's planting resilient crops, conserving water and making fertiliser.

Amelia's also a leader in her community, sharing her knowledge with other households, so that one day, no family will worry about their children going without food. This is the unstoppable power of Amelia's hope in action.

Christian Aid, now in its 80th year, and its supporters are joining together once again during **Christian Aid Week** to fundraise in all kinds of ways – from coffee mornings and craft stalls to hiking and biking for the 70k in May challenge.

With **7 days to make a difference**, every gift, act and prayer counts.

Will you demonstrate the unstoppable power of hope and help fund vital tools and training, so farmers like Amelia can push back against the climate crisis and beat hunger?



Amelia with her daughter, Yakelin.

*Credit: A. Sheppey/
Christian Aid*

£6 could pay for the seed trays that kickstart a plant nursery at someone's home.

£10 could pay for the pruning scissors that mean a farmer can care for their cacao trees.

£20 could buy two pounds of climate resilient seeds that diversify a family's crop.

Find out more about the campaign at caweek.org

**70^k
IN MAY**

As you have just read, this year's Christian Aid Week is focused on Guatemala, where families are working hard to beat poverty and hunger in the face of the climate crisis.

Meanwhile, Christian Aid's supporters are showing solidarity with their global neighbours by signing up for the annual **70k in May** fundraising challenge.

You can cover the 70km distance any way you like. You could take part by yourself or form a group with your church, friends or family. You can split it into manageable sections or even do it in relay. However you take on 70k in May, do it your way!

Don't forget to share your progress on our dedicated Facebook page. If you're on social media, you could post your challenge and inspire others. You can even bag yourself a welcome pack with a t-shirt when your fundraising hits £10!

Find out more and how you can take part at christianaid.org.uk/70kinmay

Have you heard?

... just something to ponder ...

... on the Christian Faith ...

"If you believe what you like in the Gospel, and reject what you like, it is not the Gospel you believe, but yourself."

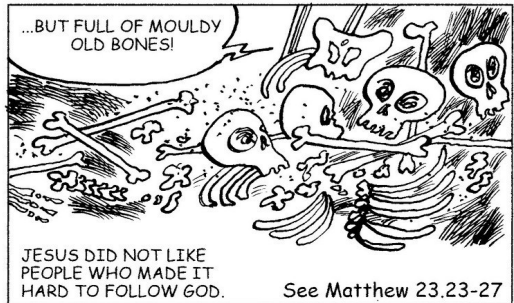
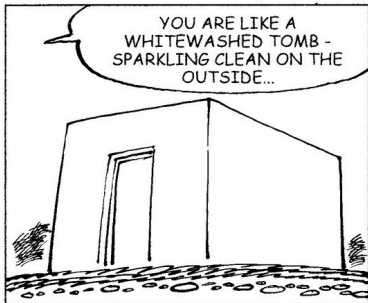
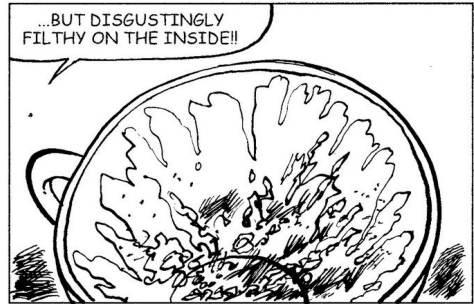
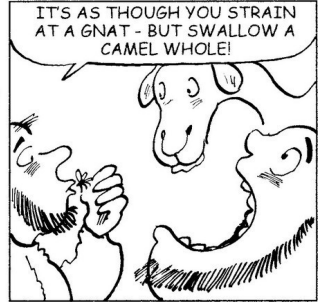
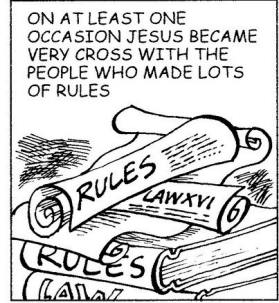
St Augustine



For the children

(and young at heart!)

"Some tough talking"



JESUS DID NOT LIKE PEOPLE WHO MADE IT HARD TO FOLLOW GOD.

See Matthew 23.23-27

Social goings on

St. John's Knit and Natter

1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month

Church Community Hall

1.30pm — 3.30pm



Guaranteed a warm welcome

For more details please contact
Mrs. D. Armitage on 01925 268540

OR

Mrs. G. Hatch on 01925 262315

St. John's Ensemble

meets In **Church**
on

Thursday from **7.30 pm**



Enjoy singing?

Why not come
along and join us?

Ability to read music a
help but not essential.

Tuesday Group



Want to learn more about God and the Christian faith outside the formal setting of Church?

Friendly, ordinary folk getting to grips with what living in the 21st Century means for their personal faith.

If you are interested, please speak to Noelle or make contact via noelle_briggs@hotmail.co.uk



Did you know?

St John's Church Community Hall is available for hire

Situated in the heart of Walton village

Suitable for

parties societies and clubs fitness classes a rehearsal space
local community meetings

- ◆ Grade 2 listed building
- ◆ 2 rooms available for hire:
The Walton Room (capacity 49) and the Daresbury Room (capacity 27)
- ◆ Kitchen
- ◆ Disabled toilet and baby change facilities

Bookings are available for local groups or private hire.

Please contact Nina Chadwick on 07840119659 or

Christine Hughes on 01925 210 792.



Raise a smile;

Mr Bones

The orthopedic surgeon I work for was moving to a new office, and we, his staff, were helping transport many of the items. I sat the display skeleton in the front of my car, his boney arm across the back of my seat. I hadn't considered the drive across town. At one traffic light, the stares of the people in the car beside me became obvious, and I looked across and called, "I'm delivering him to my doctor's office."

The other driver leaned out of his window. "I hate to tell you, lady," he said, "but I think it's too late!"



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Note from the editor

Every effort is made to produce a magazine which looks inviting and contains correct information, spelling, and grammar. However, no-one and nothing is perfect (especially myself), hence errors can get missed, both in production and proof-reading (done by someone else). As you peruse 'Open Door' award yourself 5 points when you find any mistakes which have escaped correction. Have fun! Hopefully you won't find too many! No need to report back.

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www.parishpump.co.uk — for some of the articles and graphics included

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Magazine issues

December/January

February/March

April/May

June/July

August/September

October/November

Open Door Editorial Team

The Ven John Barton considers Easter amid the evil all around us...

The Ultimate Offer to Humanity

This Easter the media will rightly remind us of the carnage in Ukraine and the Middle East. For as we celebrate this great Festival, commemorating Christ's victory over evil, we are confronted with death, barbarity and terror in the world. Unless we choose to live in fantasyland, we have to relate the two.

First, Jesus Christ did not escape death. Nor did He promise His followers a trouble-free world. Actually, they themselves can expect an above average share of suffering.

Secondly, we believe that Christ's death was no accident, no mistake. It was typical of the evil deeds that human beings mete out to each other. Innocent suffering did not begin in Jerusalem and will not end there. But the crucifixion was a calculated risk: God's costly and unexpected intervention in human affairs. The Christian claim that God's Son was put to death is deeply offensive to religious groups who cannot believe that the remote and all-powerful God to whom human beings should submit, has Himself submitted to our brutality. Yet it is in this way that God enlists in His creation without violating it.

Thirdly, Christ's way of sacrifice, forgiveness and reconciliation is God's ultimate offer to the human race.

The first reaction of the people who witnessed the resurrection of Jesus Christ was fear. Incredulity, too, but fear. And no wonder: they were seeing the King of Kings.

In the last book of the Bible, the Risen Christ is described like this: "I saw one like the Son of Man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash across His chest. His head and His hair were white as white wool, white as snow; His eyes were like a flame of fire, His feet were like burnished bronze refined in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters..... When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead."

That is the proper first response of reverence and respect to a vision of God. Only then can we hear the words spoken by this terrifying figure:

"Do not be afraid: I am the First and the Last, and the Living One. I was dead, and see I am alive forever and ever; and I have the keys of death and the world of the dead."

God's rule over the world – the world at its worst and the world at its best – was reasserted at the first Easter. This is no domestic, ecclesiastical event. It is God's glorious yet solemn challenge to His rebellious creation: the grip of evil and death is terminally weakened. Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!

Some words spoken by Jesus:

".....in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." *John 16: verse 33*