

St. John the Evangelist,  
Walton



# Open Door



October & November 2024



*Details of information in this magazine and more can be found at*  
[www.stjohnschurchwalton.org.uk](http://www.stjohnschurchwalton.org.uk) and [www.facebook.com/stjohnswalton/](https://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 at

<https://www.youtube.com/@stjohnschurchwalton1705/streams>

and

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

### Holy Communion

### Sunday Service 8.30 am

1st & 3rd Sundays only

### Wednesday Morning

### Service 10.00 am

## Special Services

### Sunday 6th October

Harvest Festival @ 10.00 am

—

### Sunday 10th November

Act of Remembrance

Lower Walton War Memorial

@ 9.30 am

—

Remembrance Sunday Service

St. John's Church @ 10.00 am

Memorial Service @ 4.00 pm

**All are welcome**



## 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](http://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

## ***A letter to the Parish***

Dear Friends,

At this time of the year we give our thoughts to Remembrance Day and so many who fought for our freedom and others, such as Guy Fawkes who tried to change things in a major way. Also there are times when we all have personal memories, for me some recent ones are tinged with sadness, but with well over half a century of pleasant and lovable memories too.

Being a pre-war baby, my friends and I had great times playing innocent childish games and had the freedom to wander into the countryside a mile or so from home or even in the local park, where the park-keeper would keep his eye on us to make sure no mischief caused problems.

What has happened over those seventy-odd years that we have lost that innocence and now see the violence and theft that has come to those youngsters not much older than we were at the end of the war?

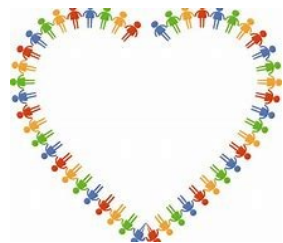
Over that time many things have changed, not many for the better.

When the time comes it will be Jesus who determines the final judgement. In the meantime, it is the authorities' responsibility to find ways to improve the situation for a better world and environment.

As Chris recently said, as Christians we have been trained to say NO to the wrong things in our lives. As Christians, we regularly seek God's forgiveness when we have erred.

I pray that, however difficult it is, some serious improvement can be made for a better and happier future for the young and the community at large.

*George Clark, member of PCC, and friend*



# Dates for your diary

## Prayer Groups

1st Tuesday of each month  
in the **Lady Chapel** of St. John's  
**6.30pm**

### October

Tuesday 3rd

### November

Wednesday 13th

∞∞∞∞

3rd Tuesday of each month  
In **Church Community Hall**  
**3.45pm**

### October

Tuesday 15th

### November

Tuesday 19th



*If you would like to join us  
please do come along*

## Tuesday Group

7.15 – 9.00pm

Church

Community Hall

### October

1st

8th

15th

22nd

29th

### November

5th

12th

19th

26th



## Knit and Natter

1.30pm—3.30pm

### October

Tuesday 1st

Tuesday 15th

### November

Tuesday 5th

Tuesday 19th



## Harvest Supper and Quiz



Friday 4th October

7pm

Church Community Hall

Adults £7.50

Family £20

*Ticket price includes  
light supper*

*Bring your own drink*

Come and join us

Everyone welcome

Tickets available in church  
or contact Nina on

07840119659

## All-Age Harvest Festival Service

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October – 10.00am

All are welcome to come and help  
answer this question:

**'What makes a good harvest?'**

Come and watch, listen and take part  
as much, or as little, as you wish.

Food donations will be given to the Salvation Army and the  
Foodbank, both based in Warrington.

You can also give monetary donations to  
Warrington Foodbank via the following link:

[warrington.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/](http://warrington.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/)



## Dates for your diary continued

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, HIGHER WALTON, WA4 6TQ

### ST JOHN'S ENSEMBLE

#### AUTUMN CONCERT

Featuring music by:

HAYDN

MOZART

BRUCKNER



SATURDAY 12<sup>th</sup> October 2024

7:30pm

£6.00 Entry, Including Light Refreshments



**Looking forward ...**

**Christmas Concert**

*by St. John's Ensemble*

*Sunday 7th December*

**DON'T FORGET!!!!**



Clocks move back on the  
**27th of October.**

British summertime ends!

A festive poster for a Christmas event. It features a green Christmas tree with colorful ornaments, a red gift box with a white bow, and a cartoon Santa Claus in a red suit holding a sack. The background is decorated with red and green swirls and holly leaves. The text is in red and black.

**CHRISTMAS  
CRAFT & COFFEE**

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November**  
St John's Church Community Hall, Walton

**12 – 2pm**

Hot food, cakes,  
tombola, raffle,  
children's craft  
activity

£1 to see me  
from  
12.30 – 1pm

FREE entry

## Keeping you informed ...

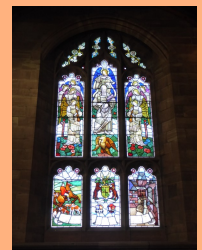


Unfortunately our Film Club needs to be paused.

We hope to return at some point in the future, but for now would like to thank everyone who has joined us over the years in watching a wide variety of films.

These Friday afternoons (and evenings too) have always been great social occasions, made all the more enjoyable with tea and delicious cakes being shared during an intermission.

Thank you for all your support since Film Club's inception.





# Prayer pages

Joy

Gracious God, thank You for the many blessings You've bestowed upon us. We have so many things to be thankful for. Help us to remember that though happiness can come from our families, our children and our friends, real joy is a gift that comes directly from you. The gift of a loving God, is that he sent his Son Jesus Christ, to die that we might be forgiven, and find true joy in life eternal.

Thank you God.

Amen



Press 'Pause'

Loving God, we are daily surrounded by the wonder of nature, and yet all too often we daily ignore the beauty that engulfs us. Help us to press 'pause' on our busy lives, to stop and stand in awe at what nature has to offer to us, the mystery that nature contains. The flower slowly bursting free of its wrapping and opening up with such delicate beauty – often going on to produce fruits behind those flowers, aided by bees and other insects. Help us to stand in awe of nature, and to give thanks for the myriad of miracles that happen all around us, if only we can 'pause', to properly wonder at the many gifts of a loving God.

Amen



## Neighbours

Father God, we bring before you all the neighbours of our world, whether in this country or in far away places.

We pray for all those who are in need, through famine, oppression, violence and war. Help each one of us to stretch out our hands to reach those who are our neighbours, giving freely of our time, our effort and our money.

We pray for those who need the support of Food Banks to feed their children, and ask you help us in remembering how easy it is to help them in even very small ways. If we could see their suffering we would not hesitate to give generously, but because they are so often hidden from us, it can be easy to forget the need.

Open our eyes that we might see the need in our neighbours, and then open our hearts to respond to them in love, as you have loved us. **Amen**

Those touched by war.

Heavenly King, we bring before you all who are touched by war. Those who are: injured; those whose loved ones are killed; those children who have lost the support and protection of their families; those who lose their homes and everything they possess; those who are forced to flee to neighbouring countries. Please let them know that they are loved by you, and no matter what darkness engulfs them, the light of your love can never be extinguished, and they will never be truly alone. We pray for temperance and forbearance in the world's leaders, so that the instant response to aggression is not further and even more savage aggression. Help all in the world to give peace a chance, and to climb down from aggression as quickly as possible.

'God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.' (Matt 5:9)

Amen



### **Never too late...**

It is never too late to turn once more to God.

If we stumble on our journey through life, it does not end the journey.

If we reach out and hold hands with God, he will never let us go, and will always be alongside us.

God knows us in our darker times, when loving him is not easy, and he is always ready and willing to forget and forgive what is past, and to guide us into glorious new life through Jesus.

**Amen**

### *Diocese and St. John's leadership and teaching*

Loving God,

Thank you for all who feel called to serve You in positions of leadership and teaching. We pray for all Clergy, Readers and Pastoral Workers within the Chester Diocese and especially ask your blessing on those within our own midst here at St. John's — Ian, Keith and Gill — as they minister to us in the Parish of Walton. We also thank you for, and ask your blessing on, all visiting Clergy who continue to help us so willingly and in such love during our time of Vacancy.

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



## *St John's Wednesday Morning Celtic Prayer and Communion*

*Wednesday @10.00 is a lovely informal time of prayer, reflection and community which lasts for about half an hour. This is then followed by a cuppa with toast and butter (or some other tasty morsel) and lots of chats and exchanges. One of our members commented on how much they enjoy the space and the feeling of God's love around them.*

*On the first Wednesday of each month we have an informal Celtic Communion, which also lasts about half an hour. The other Wednesdays are Celtic Morning Prayer which is led by members of St John's Church.*

*We are a very friendly bunch and would love to welcome anyone who is interested in joining us.*

*For all service times please refer to inside of front cover.*

### **St John's Prayer Life**

Over the years, St John's has developed an excellent tradition of intercessory prayer, bringing to God the needs of our world, our country, our local community and our church family.

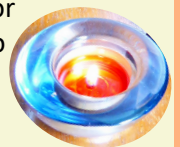
In the Bible, Luke 11:9 Jesus says "Ask and it will be given you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." Jesus wants us to talk to him, to ask him for help and for his presence to go with us and to guide us in our lives.

Charles Spurgeon, a 19<sup>th</sup> century English preacher, who was known as the 'Prince of Preachers' is quoted as saying that the prayer room, in his church, was the 'Boiler Room' - it keeps the church warm. Whenever he was asked as to the secret of his ministry he always replied, "My people pray for me."

We believe that praying together is something in which God wants us to be involved, so we meet for prayer twice each month; on the first Tuesday at 6.30pm in the church; then on the third Tuesday at 3.45pm in the Church Community Hall. We would welcome anybody who would like to join us.

If you have any prayer requests, please contact Gill Povey-Robins or Ian Jerrard-Dinn, both of whose details can be found under Contacts, inside front cover, or under St. John's Prayer Chain section of Prayer Pages. We would love to support you through prayer.

All times are in the 'Dates for your diary' section of the magazine.





## 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.

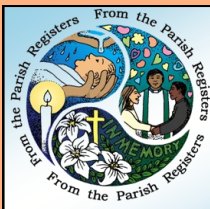
## Tuesday Group



*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](mailto:noelle_briggs@hotmail.co.uk)



**Funeral**  
**Betty Cliffe**



**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.

***Have you heard?  
... just a couple of quotes  
to ponder ...***

*"Worship is no longer worship when it reflects the culture around us more than the Christ within us." Tozer*

*"We do the works, but God works in us the doing of the works."*

*Augustine*

*As a result of Tuesday Group's Act on Poverty course several actions were agreed upon. This article for the magazine is one of them and has kindly been written by Becky.*

## **Act on Poverty**

To coincide with Christian Aid week this year, during May & June members of St John's met together in the Church Community Hall on Tuesday evenings and completed the Act on Poverty Course. This 6-week course, created by Christian Aid with UK partners, aims to empower Christians to gain a deeper understanding of poverty, as well as providing ideas for achievable actions we can take to help combat it. Consisting of Bible readings, audio/video clips and periods of discussion this was an interesting and informative course that has challenged our perceptions, as well as engaging all of us – heart, mind, and soul.

Each of the 6 weeks had a theme:

**Prophetic** – Exploring how finding and nurturing our prophetic voice can be an important way to respond to poverty. We learnt that in this context a prophetic voice is the way we advocate for causes or respond to issues in new imaginative/creative ways with the help of God.

**Broken** – Looking together at our fears, what divides us, and how we can take steps towards a more just world.

**Generous** – Considering the difference that even the smallest acts of generosity can make and how we share with others the abundance of God's love. Especially in 2024, when many people in the UK and in other countries around the world are wrestling with a cost-of-living crisis and we may feel that we have limited time and energy as we seek to navigate the world's challenges.

**Located** – Thinking together about where Jesus chose to locate himself and about our experience of place and community. The way we see our community and the way it is perceived by others matters – especially when labels like 'poor' or 'deprived' are used.

**Hopeful** – Jesus encourages us to have big hopes, but it can be difficult to remain hopeful in challenging times. So here we discussed ways to encourage each other, develop practices of hope and proclaim that change is possible, in spite of the hardships or difficulties that we experience in life.

**Together** – Justice. Righteousness. Mercy. Good News. What would it look like if we shaped our response to poverty as a society around these principles? This session was a little bit different to others in the series. Using resources from Christian Aid we developed our own Act on Poverty plan, as individuals and as a church group. Through the resources we were encouraged to use this plan to plant seeds of change that together as a community we can nurture – seeds that will grow God's kingdom of justice and love.

Because of this course and the resultant Act on Poverty plan there is now a box at the back of church for Foodbank donations. Additionally, the Tuesday group and the

Church Council are considering other opportunities to help us engage with social initiatives in Walton and the wider Warrington and Halton areas.

The agreed action to write an article for this magazine was to let you know that St John's is not only thinking and praying for the community of which we are a part, we are actively here via events, services and groups to encourage and support everyone in Walton and the wider area. Maybe church isn't your thing. However, we have a walking group, a knit and natter group, a gardening group and choral ensemble as well as a few quiz nights each year – so if one of those activities is 'your thing' maybe try one out. We promise we don't just talk about church all the time!



Finally, maybe all this talk about action on poverty has made you feel that you want to do something, but you don't know where to start – the problem is too big, and you are too small. One of the key messages from this course was that it doesn't matter who you are or where you are, you can do something. Put a tin in a foodbank donation box, phone someone you know who is lonely or ill, pray, write to your MP, join the Act on Poverty mailing list to be kept up-to-date on the latest initiatives, take part in a peaceful protest, sign a petition. All are equally valid and important ways to help improve social justice and Act on Poverty.



## Did you know?

### St John's Church Community Hall is available for hire

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*parties societies and clubs fitness classes a rehearsal space*  
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- ◆ 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.



**A few anniversaries from October and November you may find interesting**

**100 years ago**, on 15<sup>th</sup> Oct 1924 the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbour was designated a US National Monument.

**90 years ago**, on 16<sup>th</sup> Oct 1934 the Long March took place. Chinese communists led by Mao Zedong began a year-long 8,000-mile march from south-east China to north-west China to evade the armies of the Chinese National Party and establish a new base. It led to the founding of the People's Republic of China.

**20 years ago**, on 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 2004 the first Parkrun was held in Bushy Park, London. Parkruns are now held every Saturday morning at more than 2,000 locations in 22 countries.

**100 years ago**, on 2nd Nov 1924 The Sunday Express became the first newspaper to publish a crossword.

**90 years ago**, on 30th Nov 1934 the steam locomotive Flying Scotsman became the first to officially exceed 100mph.

**50 years ago**, on 12th Nov 1974 a large salmon was caught in the Thames – the first time that such a fish had been caught in the river since 1834.



**MONEY FROM NOTHING?**

As the summer holiday season comes to an end those of us who may have been abroad are bound to have loose change and notes in various currencies that, at best we put aside for a next trip, or put in a drawer somewhere to be forgotten/lost for ever.

**BUT** we could make better use of our Left Over Currency by putting it towards helping train a Guide Dog pup!!



Unused holiday change, out of circulation coins and notes of almost all denominations, can be converted into legal tender ££ sterling and be used for the benefit of the charity *Guide Dogs for the Blind*.

If you or friends and family discover they have a stash of currency idling a way in a dark corner or pocket, please do get in touch and I will arrange to convert to much needed funds for Guide Dogs, using the organisation LOC which adds 5% to the current exchange value of monies received, to support the work of charities.

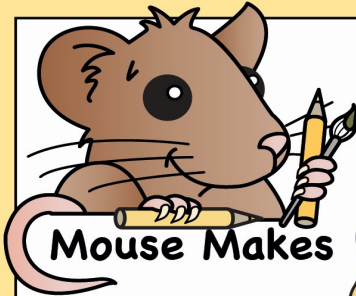
Thanks in anticipation.

Gill Bruce  
Mobile 07876 058934



# For the children

(and young at heart!)



## WALK WITH THE LORD

"Teach me your way,  
O Lord, that I would  
**walk** in your \_\_\_\_\_."  
*Psalm 86:11*

"For we **walk** by  
\_\_\_\_\_  
not by sight."  
*2 Corinthians 5:7*

"**Walk** by the  
\_\_\_\_\_  
"  
*Galatians 5:16*



Jesus said:  
"I am the light  
of the world.  
If you

\_\_\_\_\_  
me you won't  
have to **walk**  
in darkness  
because  
you have  
the light  
that leads  
to life."  
*John 8:12*



"**Walk** in  
\_\_\_\_\_  
as Christ loved  
us and gave  
himself up for us."  
*Ephesians 5:2*

"**Walk** in  
a manner  
worthy of the  
Lord, fully pleasing  
to him, bearing  
\_\_\_\_\_  
in every good work  
and increasing in  
the knowledge  
of God"  
*John 8:12*

\_\_\_\_\_  
is everyone who  
fears the Lord,  
who **walks** in  
his ways."  
*Psalm 128:1*

GOD • JESUS • LORD • WALK  
WAYS • STEP • FEET • PATH • GO • TEACH • KNOWLEDGE • LIGHT

Find the words from the questions too!

Raise a smile;

## Passwords



An elderly vicar got a call from a scammer who said, "I've got all of your passwords."

The vicar replied: "Excellent! What are they? Just wait while I grab a pen."

## Growing up

Your child has started growing up when he stops asking you where he came from and starts refusing to tell you where he's going.



## When children meet liturgy...

"Give us this steak and daily bread, and forgive us our mattresses."

"Hail, Mary, full of grapes."

### 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.

# RIGBY LENNON & Co

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## Acknowledgements

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 story behind ... Come Ye Thankful People Come

*Come, ye thankful people, come,  
Raise the song of harvest home!  
All is safely gathered in,  
Ere the winter storms begin;  
God, our maker, doth provide  
For our wants to be supplied;  
Come to God's own temple, come;  
Raise the song of harvest home!*

*We ourselves are God's own field,  
Fruit unto his praise to yield;  
Wheat and tares together sown,  
Unto joy or sorrow grown;  
First the blade and then the ear,  
Then the full corn shall appear:  
Grant, O harvest Lord, that we  
Wholesome grain and pure may be....*

*By H Alford (1810 – 71)*

Very probably, you will sing this well-loved Harvest hymn this month. It was written by the Revd Henry Alford, DD, a Victorian clergyman who had been a fellow student at Trinity College, Cambridge with Alfred Tennyson, and whose transparent goodness and friendliness seem to have made him liked and appreciated wherever he went.

His ministry began as vicar of Wymeswold, a tiny village in Leicestershire with a badly neglected church. Over 18 years, Henry rebuilt the faltering Christian community, faithfully visiting every person in his parish, and preaching his way through the Bible in sermons that were so clear that everyone could understand him. He then moved on to the incumbency of Quebec Chapel in London for four years, before moving to the Deanery of Canterbury, in 1857, where he lived until his death in early 1871.

Henry was one of life's good people; gentle, kindly, grateful for everything he had (he used to say 'grace' before AND after each meal), and eager to encourage all those whom he served. He was prodigiously productive: writing something like 50 books. The best known of these was a four-volume exposition of the New Testament, which took him nearly 20 years.

His famous hymn draws upon two of Jesus' parables: the story of the wheat and tares (Mt 13:24-30) and also the story of the seed that grows unbeknown to the sower (Mark 4:26-29). Both are parables drawn from agriculture; both are about the ultimate harvest of our souls before God. During this lifetime we properly give thanks to God for our harvest of His gifts of creation, but we should also reflect on what seed we are sowing in our lives, and what harvest we may expect; as one day God will gather together *only His own* for the eternal heavenly harvest.

Some words about God':

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.."

*Psalms 19; Verse 1*