

## Children's Sunday Groups at St John's

These are the groups we run for children and young people during the 9.30am service each Sunday:

*Rising Stars* - Ages 0-5 in the Pauling Room

*The Big God Space* - Ages 5-10 in the Jubilee Hall

*Streetwise* - Age 11+ in the Lodge

### Attention families!

For services where there are no Sunday Clubs, or if you come to church without your child, please use the 'sign in' book at the back of church so that you are registered as attending. Thank you.

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## Contacts at St John's Church

*Vicar:* Revd Giles Carpenter  
01323 739679  
email: vicar@stjm.org.uk

*Assistant Minister & Pastoral Care Co-ordinator:* Revd Jill Preece  
01323 638020  
email: jill@stjm.org.uk

*Children & Families Minister:* Tristram Peattie  
01323 738671  
email: tris@stjm.org.uk

*Church Administrator:* Joanne Naunton  
01323 738671  
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*Church Wardens:* Margaret Kowszun & Tony Mottram  
contact via the office on:  
01323 738671  
email: office@stjm.org.uk

**Office opening hours**  
Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 12.30pm

14 May 2017

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

**8.00am Heritage Communion**  
Presiding & Preaching: Revd David Maddock  
Assisting: Nick & Rosemary Bland

Epistle: James 1 : 17 - 21  
Gospel: Mark 12 : 28 - 34

**9.30am Contemporary Communion**  
Presiding: Revd Giles Carpenter  
Preaching: Nick Pendry  
Assisting: Rowena Adams, Sheila O'Hanlon, Clive & Kate Dilloway, Jorj & Margaret Kowszun

**11.15am Choral Matins**  
Leading: Revd Giles Carpenter  
Preaching: Nick Pendry

**5.30pm Prayer & Praise** (Jubilee Hall)  
Led by Sarah Hassell & Catherine Butcher

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Next Sunday 21 May 2017 - Testimony Sunday

**8.00am Heritage Communion**  
Presiding & Preaching: Revd Giles Carpenter  
Assisting: Richard Wells & Chris Sneath

**9.30am Contemporary Communion**  
Presiding: Revd Giles Carpenter  
Preaching: - various testimonies

**11.15am Classic Communion**  
Presiding: Revd Jill Preece  
Preaching: Revd Giles Carpenter



## EVENTS THIS WEEK

<b>Monday</b>	<b>15 May</b>
9.00am	Morning Prayer (back of church)
10.30am	PARCHE at Alma Lodge
2.00pm	CAMEO (Jubilee Hall)
5.30pm	Scouts (Jubilee Hall)
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>16 May</b>
10.30am	Movement to Music (Jubilee Hall)
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>17 May</b>
9.30am	Quiet Prayer (chapel)
6.00pm	Scouts (Jubilee Hall)
7.00pm	Dilloways' Home Group
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>18 May</b>
10.00am	Parent & Toddler Group (Jubilee Hall)
11.00am	Holy Communion (chapel)
3.00pm	Sunnymead Home Group
7.30pm	Peattie's Home Group
<b>Friday</b>	<b>19 May</b>
10.00am	Paperback Library & Coffee Pot Computing (Parish Hall)
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>20 May</b>
8.30am	Prayer Plus followed by breakfast in the Jubilee Hall

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### Church Office

Jo is on holiday for a week, so the office will only be open on certain days during coming week. The office opening hours will be 9.30am - 12.30pm on the following days:

Monday 15 May  
Wednesday 17 May  
Thursday 18 May

If possible please email the office

### Points for Prayer this week

- For Testimony Sunday on 21<sup>st</sup> May, for those giving their testimonies, and for the impact of those testimonies on our own lives.
- The Eastbourne Food Bank, for generous donations of food and money, and that suitable new premises will soon be found.
- For the General Election campaign, that a good spirit will prevail.
- All of those who have been and will be invited to attend Alpha. For us all to find courage to ask our friends along.



### Testimony Sunday 21 May

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” 1 Peter 3:15

One of our aims at St John's is to grow in three dimensions. **'Up'** as we grow in our knowledge and love of God as our Father. **'In'** as we learn what it is to be the body of Christ loving, encouraging and supporting one another. And lastly **'Out'** as we seek to be a blessing to those on the fringe of church life and beyond, sharing the love of God through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Our journey through the Big Bible Story this year has reminded us how foundational the bible is to this three dimensional growth. The bible reveals a God who, through His dealings with men and women in history, is always active in reaching out to the world and calls us to participate in this mission. From ancient times the church has encouraged its members to share in this mission by adding their own stories or testimonies to those in scripture itself. These testimonies speak of a God who is not confined to the pages of a book but still at work in people's lives today.

Testimony enables us to share our own story of God's faithfulness in our lives (**up**). This reminds us that faith is not simply about a one off event or encounter but an ongoing journey of encountering God afresh as we learn to trust Him more today than we did the day before.

Secondly the apostle Paul encourages us to build each other up (1 Thessalonians 5:11). As a congregation we will have people at different stages of faith. Whilst some may feel dry or be struggling in their faith others will be experiences a fresh touch from God. Testimony encourages people within the body of the Church, reminding us all of the continuing work of the Spirit among us (**in**).

Lastly the good news about Jesus first spread because those first disciples 'gossiped' their experience to their neighbours (Acts 11.20). In our age of social media people are increasingly making decisions on the basis of this same kind of 'social proof'. Testimony gives us an opportunity to invite those on the fringe of church and beyond, through story, to hear of God's action in the lives of other (**out**).

With this in mind, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May will be an opportunity for us as a body to testify to the things that God is doing amongst us. Several people has already approached me to ask if they can share but we would like to give as much opportunity as we can for everyone, regardless of the service they attend, to share a short testimony in their service. If that could be you, please drop me a line at [vicar@stjm.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stjm.org.uk) (or a note via the church office) with a brief outline of what you would like to share and I will be in touch.

Giles

## St John's Diamond Photographic Festival

Thursday 8 - Sunday 11 June

Theme: *Made in His Image - Imago Dei* (Genesis 1:27-28)

At the very beginning of our journey through the Big Bible Story we saw how God created a good world with the pinnacle of His creation being Adam and Eve, made in God's image. Despite the brokenness in the world and in humanity we all still bear the 'imago dei' the image of God. God has given us our creativity, our capacity to love and be loved, to feel empathy and to be those who work for justice.

'Imago Dei' is the theme of our photographic part of the festival this year and all are invited to submit photos (a selection of which will be on display) that reflect this theme. They may be shots of people serving others, playing, creating, working, smiling, praying, gardening etc. In fact anything that expresses the sense of us being made in the image of a creative and life giving God. Made to be a blessing to others. Hard copies or emailed copy to Jo in the office please with a submission deadline of 21st May.

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Also, as part of the Diamond Jubilee Year celebrations in June, and to compliment the photographs of people being displayed around the church, we would like to have some photographs of the current congregation of St John's.

Sue Lockhart will be taking pictures of the congregation (in the Cloister) on Sunday 21st May after the 8am service and 9.30am. If you would like to be 'framed' please look out for her.



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## Festival Events

We are delighted to announce the events taking place during our Festival this year. Inside your News Sheet today are two fliers, one of them has the listed programme of events for each day, the other advertises two events that Mark Edwards have put together.

The first being a Jazz Evening on Friday 9 June at 8pm which promises to be a great, entertaining evening with award winning saxophonist, Jo Fooks, joining Mark and his musicians.

Tickets are £10 per person (includes wine & cheese) and are available from the church office.

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Secondly, as a Festival Finale on Sunday 11 June, Mark has written especially for us, a wonderful performance entitled 'A Part of the Main' including a combination of stories, music, and visuals for a live audience. We have invited a number of people from our parish and across Eastbourne to tell a story. This will be a story from their life. It may be a memory, a near escape, a strange coincidence, a family anecdote... something funny, scary, difficult, irreverent, poignant... Throughout these stories will be woven live music, poems, and visuals. There are two opportunities to see the production; 4.30pm and 7.30pm on Sunday 11 June in the Jubilee Hall.

Tickets are £7 per person and are available from the church office.

*Please purchase your tickets early to avoid disappointment.*



## CONNEXIONS

### New to St John's? - Connexions

A very warm welcome from us all if you are new or visiting St John's for the first time. We hope you enjoy being part of our church family. If you are looking for a church and would like to find out more about us, Giles our vicar, and his wife Rachel, regularly host an informal afternoon with tea and cake at the vicarage. This is a great chance to find out more about the vision of St John's church and our mission to make disciples and to serve the community of Meads. For more details please complete one of the Connexions/Welcome cards (usually available in the pews) and return it to one of our welcome team.

Another way in which we like to reach people is through our 'Keeping In Touch' email list. To be included in the mailing list please sign one of the forms on the Welcome Desk. You'll then receive regular updates and news.

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### Alpha just got better!

Alpha is a great place to ask questions and explore an introduction to Christianity.

We'll be launching with a taster evening on Monday 22 May at 7:30pm This will be held at Peter Picketts we will then run on Monday evenings from Monday 5 June to Monday 17 July at 7:30pm. There will be food, a short talk and time to chat and ask questions.

For more information do visit <http://uk.alpha.org> if you have any questions or you are interested in taking part, please speak to Tris or Hannah, or call the church office on 01323 738671.



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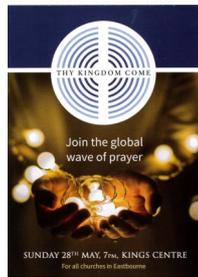
### Christian Aid

Sunday 14th to Saturday 20th May is Christian Aid Week and this year the collection focuses on the needs of refugees. There will be no house to house collection organised within the parish this year. If you wish to contribute to Christian Aid please either make a cash donation in the designated collecting box at the back of the church. Or, alternatively, there are also some Christian Aid envelopes available at the back of the church for you to take home and to return with your donation enclosed via the normal church collections next Sunday.



## Thy Kingdom Come

Join the global wave of prayer on Sunday 28 May, 7pm at the Kings Centre, Eastbourne. This is an invitation to Christians around the world to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus Christ.



## Evening Walks

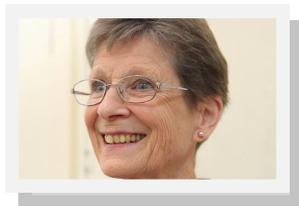
If you enjoy walking then why not join our summer walking group on Thursday evenings. These are easy local walks, ending in a drink at a nearby pub! A few people from St John's are already part of the group so feel free to come along and take part. For walk details please take a look at the notice in the Cloister. **Phyllis & Dennis Hall**

## 'Coffee with Friends', All Saints Centre, Saturday 20 May, coffee from 10am for 11am start

The Eastbourne & Wealden branch of the Gideons International invite you to 'Coffee with Friends'. Glimpses of Gideon ministry from the local to the international scene; including a DVD presentation, testimony, reports and inspirational Bible ministry from their special guest speaker Graham Newton.

## CAMEO Monday 15 May, 2pm Jubilee Hall

Ladies of St John's, Fiona Castle, Roy Castle's widow, is coming to speak to us this month. Do come along to hear her. Tea and cake to follow.



## Streetwise Games Night



Come along this evening for a fun night of games in the Lodge from 7pm! Don't forget to invite your friends.

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## Pastoral Care

Our vision is to be a church that is growing in 3 dimensions: **Up** - as we worship God; **In** - as we build his church; **Out** - as we love and serve our neighbours.

If you can spare an hour or so a month to join 'in' through visiting those within the church who would welcome regular or occasional visitors please come to a meeting on **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May at 2.30 pm** in the Pauling Room.

Our 'out' activity includes several teams who visit residential homes once a month to hold an informal service and to talk with the residents. We now have an opportunity to extend this, so if you would like to join a team, or already do this and would like to visit another home, please contact Jill Preece on 638020 or by email: [jill@stjm.org.uk](mailto:jill@stjm.org.uk).



## St John's Diamond Jubilee Year

Summer Fete - Saturday 10 June, 12 noon - 4pm

## Please keep bringing in your donations...

**Bottles** - Urgently needed for our very popular 'bottle tombola' stall so please feel free to pop into the office with any spare, unopened, bottles.

**Plants** - cuttings, plug plants, house plants or outdoor plants *lots needed!*

**Bric-a-brac**

**Pre-loved clothes in good condition**

**Cakes** - on Friday 9 June please, for our fantastic cake stall, plus jam, preserves, chutney, marmalade.

Please bring your donations to the church office. We look forward to receiving them, thank you.

**NO BOOKS NEEDED THIS YEAR - thank you!**

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## Note from the Wardens

The churchwardens and Deputy Churchwardens at the 11.15am service have felt that it would be beneficial to all if we cease the use of the collection bags during this service. So with effect from the first Sunday in June, in conjunction with the new rota, the collection bag will not be used. If you have any questions please contact Giles or the Wardens.

## Coffee Team

A great opportunity has arisen to join one of the most dynamic teams at St John's .... The hospitality team are urgently seeking people to come and give them a hand serving coffee on a Sunday morning to our thirsty brothers and sisters in Christ.

Anybody is welcome to join all that's needed is a welcoming smile.... please contact me, after church or on the following numbers:

01323 732504 or 07572124512

**Sally Scott-Ralphs**

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## Thank you!

Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to the Lent Appeal for St Wilfrid's Hospice, which with Gift Aid raised over £2,000. We are delighted to receive such a generous sum towards our work, for our community in Meads and also others in Eastbourne and beyond. It is a blessing for the hospice and brings to mind the words of Saint Paul in his second letter to the Corinthians: 'Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.'



**St Wilfrid's Hospice**  
Reaching out to transform  
end of life care

**David Scott-Ralphs, St Wilfrid's CEO**