



ST JOHN'S
HEDGE END



THE SPIRE



WINTER EDITION

DECEMBER
2021

Please join us in our Advent Window Trail around Hedge End. We will have a window opening every day throughout December sharing the story and joy of Christmas. They will stay up until 1st January 2022.

Find the map on our website:
www.stjohns-hedgeend.org.uk
Facebook: @StJohnsHedgeEnd
Email: office@stjohns-hedgeend.org.uk





Underhill Art Group –see Page 23 for article



BCM

Lyn and Carol at the Cathedral.
See page 11
Below their Badge



Article on Society of St. James - see page 18



**“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace,
Goodwill toward men” (Luke 2:14 nkjv)**

As many of you who are reading this Christmas edition of St. John’s Spire magazine will know, on the 21st November we commemorated our annual service for Persecuted Christians in so many unsafe countries around the world. Our Lord Jesus came to bring peace and goodwill, but peace between peoples of the earth often seem hard to find. Our Christian sisters and brothers bear the brunt of violence, imprisonment, torture and death especially at Christmas time—yet despite their desperate situations, even in the midst of the darkness that surrounds them, the light of God’s love and grace is not extinguished. How extremely blessed we are here in the West at being able to worship Almighty God freely without fear, at Christmas or any other time.

Sadly though today, many people in the affluent parts of the world miss the real point of Christmas. Oh yes, the decorations are displayed. Parties are attended. Expensive gifts bought and exchanged, but somehow it never dawns on them that it is the birthday of Jesus, the Saviour of the world. (Matthew 1:21 says, “She shall bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, and He who will save His people from their sins.”)

We have been through a very sad and challenging time with the Corvid 19 virus, the deaths, the lockdowns, the isolation and the confusion, but this Christmas we are so thankful that families and friends can at last get together and enjoy this holiday time, - but please don’t leave Jesus out of your Christmas celebrations, HE IS GOD’S GIFT TO YOU AND ME.

But why so serious? After all the decorations are up, the lights, the trees, the tinsel and sparkling baubles. The advertisements flash upon the television screen, “Come on it’s Christmas, enjoy yourself, time to spend, spend, spend—buy, buy, buy.” People cram in the shops or buy online, Christmas seems to be on hectic, mad, expensive rush and when the Big Day comes many are totally shattered. Then there are the parties, many are just an excuse to over indulge with food and booze and have a good time? Admit it, looking back most of us have been there.

I remember Christmas 1940 at the height of the Battle of Britain, aged 5 and my father was able to bring home presents for Christmas and I received some unpainted lead soldiers in a tin box and an orange. Wow! I remember Christmas 1954 on leave from my posting in Germany, meeting up with ‘the lads’ - going from pub to pub getting totally blotto and wandering down to St. Andrews Church in Cricklewood for the midnight service and being refused admittance because of our inebriated condition (shame). I remember Christmas 1962 with a thick carpet of snow covering Hedge End. Snow is white stuff that used to fall from the sky. (what global warming?) I remember other Christmas mornings, romping on the bed with the children screaming and laughing, wanting to open their presents.

I remember Christmas 1982 in particular. After a family tragedy struck in July we never thought we could ever enjoy Christmas again, but the following six months turned out to be my time of Epiphany. With the loss of my daughter I began to see the futility of life without Jesus. Is life just—birth, - school, - work, - marriage, - children and then the grim reaper? Surely there is more to life? Well, Yes there is. (Shakespeare says, in Hamlet “What piece of work is man! How noble in reason! How infinite in faculty! ... In action how like an angel! ... In apprehension how like a god! ... unparalleled among the animals!” Psalm 8:4 “what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? You have made them a little lower than the animals and crowned them with glory and honour. And you made them rulers over the works of your hands.” Yes, of course there’ more to life.

Since I came to faith in 1982, despite many, many set backs; (Jesus said “In this world you will have trouble, but take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33) I can honestly say that my life has been genuinely blessed. I have enjoyed Christmas again because Jesus is my rock, my refuge, my love and my salvation. Even when alone I’m not alone and it’s great to have Him around. My dear friends, through HIS presence working in us we can be healed, transformed, reconciled and made whole. Alleluia!

Frequently it seems as if we are in a world of violence and oppression, disaster and fear, prejudice and guilt, BUT the light of Christ still shines amidst the darkness of this world, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:5) This is the cause of our joy as we get ready to celebrate Christmas. And let us not forget the resolution, courage and the deep overwhelming love that our persecuted Christian brethren have for Jesus. Despite the passing times and changes, with Covid 19, economic hard times for many, political friction and sleaze, and an overall spiritual coldness, we need a word of positive, good news to give us hope and faith. We need the Good News of Christmas everyday. Let us remember that GOD IS LOVE and Jesus is the epitome of that LOVE—and LOVE kills hatred and overcomes all misfortune.

Blessed by God forever

It is a privilege to be asked to write a few words for this Christmas edition of the Spire, please excuse my meandering. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy, peaceful and healthy Christmas with all God’s blessings and love from Roy. X
(Lim St: John’s)

THE CHILDREN’S SOCIETY

For the big Christmas card in Church this year we have been collecting for the Children’s Society, it’s a way of wishing friends at St John’s Happy Christmas but not sending individual cards, by giving a donation your name is added to the card which is displayed in church. This is a good charity in support at Christmas, as the name implies, all the money raised goes to children in many ways like supporting them when they are unloved and feel unable to cope. The Children’s Society, formally the Church of England Children’s Society, is a United Kingdom national children’s charity allied to the Church of England.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH - INFORMATION PAGE

ENQUIRES

PARISH OFFICE, Underhill Centre, St. John's Church

St. John's Road, Hedge End, SO30 4AF

tel: 01489 790048

Website: www.stjohns-hedgeend.org.uk

email: office@stjohns-hedgeend.org.uk

Office Hours: Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday 9.00am - 12.00 noon

Baptism, Weddings etc. - Please contact The Parish Office

CHURCHWARDENS

email: churchwardens@stjohns-hedgeend.org.uk

Lyn Colman

PASTORAL CARE CO-ORDINATOR

Parish Office, Underhill Centre, St. John's Church

tel: 01489 790048

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER AT ST. JOHN'S

Catherine Lynch

email: safeguarding@stjohns-hedgeend.org.uk

Tel. Parish Office 01489 790048 or out of hours 024980 404333 mobile 07835094527

Please leave a message if there is no reply and I will get back to you asap.

MOTHERS' UNION

(2nd Wednesday 7.30pm)

THE SPIRE' CHURCH MAGAZINE

email: spire.editor@stjohns-hedgeend.org.uk

Sunday Service

9.30am

Eucharist

Christmas Services

12th	4pm	Carol Countdown followed by Mulled Wine/Coffee/Mince Pies
24th	5pm	Naivety
24th	11.30	Midnight Mass
25th	9.30am	Christmas Day service
26th	9.30	Sunday service



St. John's has a Facebook page

www.facebook.com/pages/St-John-Hedge-End/138210156255616

Christmas Memories of Pat Brierley

As a child, I lived in London in a three-story family home. From me to my Grandparents there were 13 of us. Christmas Dinner - old Aunt Nell (there was a young Aunt Nell) would not sit down until my teddy with his own chair joined us, making 14!. Other than my morning stocking 'proper' presents were always after the Queen's speech. The youngest - that was me and my cousin Margaret - gave them out. Wrapping paper was collected and straightened out for re-use if possible. Not possible for me and Margaret. We just tore the paper off!

My Aunt Ellen and I were in the church choir at St Peters but one special Christmas Eve I joined Roy and we got engaged during midnight Mass. That year I did not sing Once in Royal David City as a solo! My singing days are now over but I did love being in the choir especially for Christmas carols. A favourite is Three Kings from Eastern Lands Afar.

Stephen was born in October 1969, Such a very special Christmas. We had our long-for baby. There were some very proud grandparents. We were very late home from St Peters on that Christmas morning, everyone wanted a cuddle. Iain came along and we had some wonderful Christmases with the boys running up and downstairs. We always had to find them, they 'visited' everyone.

Mum and Auntie Ada came to live in Hedge End. Mum loved the house in Valerian Road. It had a good roof - 26 Claremont was always a problem!! Their first Christmas was so special. Midnight Mass at St Johns with my beautiful mum. We had to leave early as the Church was usually over full with the congregations spilling into the Porch and outside. I made a Nativity for them with instructions from Woman's Own. Stephen made the stable. I still have it and every year we have added to it. A black sheep from Iceland won in a competition. A camel was bought at Marwell Zoo. Roy said it was too small so we went and bought a bigger one. Both now feature plus so many more and many more stories. It is a very unusual family treasure.

Polly joined us for her first Christmas out of the Brethren. The Brethren do not have a traditional Christmas, so I think she was somewhat overawed. As a family Christmas has always been so special and so joyfully celebrated. For several years Polly and I took turns for Christmas Day but as Josh and Ella-Rose grew older - electronic gadgets, pedal cars, bicycles etc - it was more sensible to stay with Stephen and Polly. Polly has really embraced all of Christmas. I love joining them the first weekend in December to help decorate their house. There are many many decorations. It takes quite a time but together with a sherry, it is such a happy occasion. The full-size tree was Iain's which, with help, I used to decorate but over the years it had become rather old and last year a new tree was purchased. The family decorated it differently but still used some of Iain's baubles. A fitting and beautiful replacement.

Polly's sister together with three children have also now left the Brethren. They joined Polly and Stephen for a proper Christmas. They used Stephens van which lives on his drive and we put our caravan also on the drive. Two extra bedrooms! On Christmas Eve, Regan, the eldest, joined me for Midnight Mass. That was so special. Christmas morning saw four children hammering on our door so we could join them for Christmas Stockings. The 'sacks' had miraculously been filed and were waiting in the lounge. The wonder on those children's faces was amazing. I now have three more grandchildren, adopted ones!!

This year will be different. As some of you know I have sold our car and caravan and purchased a motorhome, called Daffodil. I have just bought her first Christmas present. A string of 12 small motorhome battery lights. Well she has to be decorated doesn't she!!!

Why Is the church always asking for money?

A question often not spoken aloud but often in the minds of both those who regularly attend church and those who do not. Surely the church is rich, they own huge tracts of land and property so why is our local church always trying to raise money for itself?

Well quite simply the local parish church receives no grant towards its running costs. It must raise from its congregation and fundraising events all the running costs of the church. It must contribute to the work of the church from its own funds through what is known as the Common Mission Fund. This is our contribution to the work of the church in the diocese and nationally. Currently for St John The Evangelist this amounts to over £40,000 per year.

We also have to pay for lighting, heating, insurance, telephone, internet, maintenance, and repairs, similar to any homeowner as well as the salary of our part time Parish Administrator and the inspections and testing required in buildings with public access, which when you add it all up comes to another £40,000 a year. The recent pandemic has placed increased pressure on the finances with no lettings possible in the Underhill Centre attached to the church and no fundraising events but still expenses to cover.

The church did of course benefit from the furlough scheme for the parish administrator, and we are slowly increasing the lettings in the centre, but this still leaves a large sum to raise. The church has been gifted money by people in their wills but looking after buildings is expensive. Most of the congregation give regularly through various means and for those who are taxpayers we can claim Gift Aid from the taxman (HMRC), but it is never enough.

The church is a public building available to anyone for worship, baptism, wedding, or funeral, in times of joy or sorrow or just a place for quiet reflection away from the rush and hubbub of everyday life. Why not take a look sometime. Can you help us to keep it available for anyone who needs it?



ST. JOHN'S TABLE TENNIS CLUB



The over 60's table tennis club meets every Tuesday morning 10am to 12 noon, there are four tables available to members, we usually play doubles and play can be Continuous with short breaks to get a drink.

It is a fairly energetic game, but it does wonders for our fitness. There is at present a waiting list, but please come along as a visitor and put your name down to join, The cost of each session is £2.00.

The Revd. Kelvin Taylor has been officiating at the 9.30am Sunday Service over the past few weeks and has kindly written the following interesting article

From Police Officer to Vicar

Fans of the TV programme *Grantchester* will recognise the roles of police officer and vicar as they are central to the storylines. Both roles have much in common; so, this is my story of my move from one to the other.

Have I always been a committed Christian?

The simple answer is no, I don't come from a church background. Jane my wife, if you were to ask her, would say she came from a church going family but not necessarily committed in the Christian faith. It wasn't until we came back to Southampton in 1989 and Jane started to go to the local parish church, that she realised something was missing in her life; there was something she wasn't engaging with. So, she started to get involved in the church and its life. And I felt really excluded from it; I couldn't see the sense in it all. I had thoughts about God, about the meaning and purpose of why we are here...those that we run around in our heads from time to time – but I hadn't really been interested in going to church. The times I had been to church with Jane were more under sufferance than anything else.

So, what changed?

Well, Jane went on an *Alpha* course – it had just been introduced into the parish soon after she started to go there. And I noticed the change in her. There was something mellower about her – there was a kind of a bounce in her step. And I couldn't account for it in any other way. We'd been married for a number of years, and I thought, '*What's suddenly made this change happen?*' And Jane said to me that it was her faith. She had met with the Risen Christ.

How did that leave me feeling?

It made me feel quite resentful - she would confirm that 100%! Because here we were an established married couple with two children and there was something else intruding into this life. And I thought, '*Who is this guy Jesus? What's all this about? Why has this change happened?*'

The way *Alpha* courses used to run in the parish was at the end there would be a party held at someone's house where people who had been on the previous *Alpha* would hand out invitations...

So, did I go to the next party?

Absolutely! Free food and drink and the chance to meet some interesting people – things not to be passed up lightly! Apart from that I didn't really know what to expect. I had seen something had changed in Jane, so I thought...

What happened?

Well, my expectations were exceeded – the food and company were great. But what struck me was a little sketch that took place part way through the evening. Two people acted out the role of two birds (complete with beaks!) One teaching the other to fly. The ‘older bird’ tried to encourage the ‘younger one’ to launch off from the roof but to no avail – *‘No, no I can’t step off the edge of this roof because I haven’t got the confidence. What happens if I fall? What happens if I can’t flap my wings?’*

Of course, it was directed at those types of situations that occur in our lives when we need to take a decision but are a little apprehensive about taking that first step. Well, I thought I’ve seen a change in Jane...

Next steps

Following that evening I decided to go onto the next *Alpha* course – just to see. This course included a weekend in Bournemouth (all these pluses) – and over the weekend (we had had a number of evening meetings before this time) I thought this all makes sense to me. Working in situations where you had to rely on the other people with you for your own safety – it struck me how Jesus had given his life for me, something which in my work environment could have happened.

Was it difficult?

I’m the kind of individual that if I have set my mind on something then I want to do it to the best of my ability. So, the issue of giving my life to Christ meant there was no turning back. The fact I was a police officer working in a cynical environment didn’t really dent the faith I had. I can’t say things have always been easy over the intervening years but with an open mind I’ve continued like countless others to follow Christ and he has kept me going.

The rest as they say is history.

Kelvin Taylor

Forget-me-not

At St John’s Church there are people who have received training in bereavement and also in listening.

This group are offering their time to anyone who would like some support.

Talking to someone who understands may help.



Please contact us at the
Church Parish Office 01489 790048

Underhill Ale – The story so far

I last wrote an article about the activities of the Underhill Ale brewing group for the December 2019 edition of The Spire and at that time I was optimistic about the future. As we all know the pandemic put paid to that and brewing and socialising had to cease. The Christmas Ales for 2019 were very well received and both batches sold out in record time at the Christmas Bazaar.

In February 2020 we did manage to brew a beer at the beginning of lent (25th). Mardi Gras was an experimental ale that, in the tradition of “Fat Tuesday”, used up the majority of our remaining stocks of malt and hops so that we would not have to dispose of them, due to being out of date, when brewing could resume once more. Mardi Gras was a pale ale style produced using three different malts, torrified wheat (an unmalted wheat subjected to high-temperature to release the cell contents), four different hops in the hop boil along with the zest and juice of lemons and finally two different hops added during the fermentation. It produced a beer that was, in my opinion, rather good although some disliked the acidity given by the lemon, but we are an experimental brewery and do not expect to produce beers that everyone likes every time.

Eventually, when the lockdown restrictions were eased, in September 2020 we finally managed to brew our Harvest Ale using the fresh picked Goldings and Cascade hops grown in the vicarage garden. Using the green hops, straight from the bine, allows all the subtle aromas and flavours of the hops to be preserved and imparted into the beer to make a light, golden, refreshing ale. The problem is that you have to use about twelve times more mass of green hops than the traditional dried hops thus making the hop boil operation a little more difficult in a small 25 litre Braumeister but the effort was worth it for the quality of the ale produced.

In October 2020 we made the decision to brew just a single batch of our Christmas Ale. This was because there would be limited opportunity to sell the bottles and for people to collect them. Nevertheless they sold well and were the last made for a long time with the re-introduction of C-19 restrictions.

When the restrictions were finally lifted in July 2021 we decided to get back into brewing with our signature Underhill Pale Ale (UPA). This was a little problematical as many suppliers were out of stocks of the ingredients required so a small tweak to the malt used was made. In August 2021 we made the UPA using one different malt to our usual which resulted in a slightly different result being smoother and darker than previous UPA brews. This was a pleasant result and, from the comments received back, was a fortuitous change that may become the norm in future. Beers should evolve to achieve perfection and this was a good example of how a small change can improve the final product.

Our last brew in October 2021 was a single batch of our traditional Christmas Ale brewed with dark and roasted malts, hopped with five different hop varieties and fermented using an Irish Ale yeast. I need not describe the ale as many of you will have experienced it and enjoyed it. It sells very well and is highly sort after. Profits from the sale of this ale were donated to the Church at the Christmas Coffee Morning.

Finally I would like to thank Dave Lynch, Carol Watson and Chris Kearsley for their considerable help and for making themselves available for the production of the beers. Brewing is a long full day and cannot be achieved by one person alone and without their assistance there would not be any Underhill Ales. If you are interested in brewing beer and would like to know more about Underhill Ale, and perhaps get involved yourself, you can contact me through the Office in the Underhill Centre. We remain optimistic for the future of Underhill Ale and hope that 2022 is a better year for us all.

Gary Morse. See photographs on page 35.

BCM (Bishops Commission for Mission)

In September 2019, two members of St John's were accepted onto the BCM course to train as (lay) Pioneer Ministers. Lyn Colman and Carol Watson. In September there was A Commissioning Service for Lay Ministries, which took place in Winchester Cathedral and led by Bishop Debbie. Where we were given our Certificate of Commission for Mission, and a badge.

What does this mean? Pioneer Ministers enable their church to become more effective in reaching out to the local community, with the Good News of Jesus in (possibly) new and creative ways.

Pioneer Ministers work more in the community, they look 'away' from the church building. For some people, as beautiful as church buildings are, they do not want to come in. So Pioneer Ministers take the Good News of Jesus out with them, in all they do within the community, trying to live the mission of Jesus. One idea being looked at is Forest Church. Another, that came about because of lock down, is car park worship. At St John's we are lucky enough to have a large car park, so a SHED was built. We have had services in the carpark and we have used the SHED as a showcase for bible stories, as well as for Christmas and Easter. This year the 3rd Sunday Team held a Harvest Festival @the SHED. There will, again be a Christmas tableau, complete with manger.

If you are unsure what is 'going on' in the SHED please do ask.

There are many different streams of BCM, if you like the sound of it, or you would like to look more fully into an aspect of worship, have a look at the Diocesan website under BCM, or speak to Lyn or Carol.

See photos on page 2

St. John's, a few snippets from the first 50 years by Dennis White

St. John's was built, as a Botley extra, because the population of Hedge End had to walk 1.5 – 2 miles for Church at either West End or Botley and with a population nearing 700 it needed its own Church. The estimated cost was £2000 but this soon rose to £3500.

The Bishop of Winchester consecrated St. John's on 15th July 1874. There were many hundreds of people present and the "elite" were treated to luncheon and several toasts – later the poor of the Parish were treated to tea and plum cake!

St. John's supported the, Sick and Needy National School in Hedge End and the Mission School in Madagascar. It also paid the school fees for Choir boys who attended the Day School. 2d – 4d a week, old pence that is; a lot of money in those days.

May 1880 – Organ fitted and three stained glass windows.

Until 1885, the two Churchwardens were the only men whose responsibility it was to shoulder the smooth running of services. From this date two sidesmen were also appointed.

1889 – The Church clock was fitted

1892 – Joint Church magazine for Botley and Hedge end started

1897 – The Churchwardens were presented with two wands so that they could escort the Bishop when he visited.

1901 – Population of Hedge End 893. Church Average attendances

Morning 86

Evening 99

Sunday School 119

Total 304

Just over a third of the population attended Church on a Sunday and of course there were other denominations to consider. If a third of the population of Hedge End came to Church on Sunday now, and we could cram in say 200 at a time, we would need 35 services!!!

1907 – St. John's Room built and opened, now Little Acorns. It was later sold to pay for the new Underhill Centre.

1912 – The Vicar, Richard Payne, at a Men's Club meeting stated –

"That the legal age of marriage, 14 for boys and 12 for girls, should be raised to 21 and 18".

1914-1918 – Church very active in helping families who were in extra need because of the war conditions. Top essential, food.

1919 – A direct water supply was connected to the Church!

The Church Enabling Act became law. Although the State only allowed women of 30+ to vote, the Church allowed all women over 18 to be on the Church Electoral Roll and to vote for the newly formed Parochial Church Council.

1927 – The Diocese of Winchester split in to three; Botley in the new Diocese of Portsmouth and Hedge End remaining in Winchester.

Memories of Christmas Past by Keith Field

I was born in 1936 and, obviously I have no recollection of anything relating to the festive season until about 3 years later, although I do have an inkling of the concern within the family due to the outbreak of the war in 1939 but it meant very little to me then.

My aunt Lily and Uncle Fred lived next door but one on Southampton Road, Eastleigh and it was a regular event to spend the evening of Christmas Day with them which included a sleepover with my cousin Malcolm, a year and a half older than me, that was always something to look forward to, great fun. One game which the elders played with Malcolm and I was called, I think, submarines, it involved a lot of nautical shouting, we had to stand on a plank, in turn, blindfolded and supported, this board was raised and lowered very jerkily to represent high seas until "submarines, abandon ship" was shouted and "jump for it". Was it a big drop or a small one, we couldn't tell by this time, but scared by now it was leap for your life, to find that it was about 6" off the floor, #anyway, the elders thought it was great sport. This ritual lasted for a couple more years and then the event was abandoned, good while it lasted, never mind, there was always plenty of jelly and cake there, and there were plenty of other activities to enjoy.

Malcolm and I were close buddies until he went into the RAF as a National Serviceman when 18, after then, although we were still close, other interests took over between us.

There was always a stocking, or rather pillow case, to hang up on Christmas Eve. I loved to find some books, "Rupert" early on followed later by the "Beano" and "Dandy" annuals which were my favourites, there were also "Film Fun" and "Radio Fun" annuals I recall. Despite shortages in the shops and probably a shortage of cash during the War, it must have been a struggle by most parents to bulk up the stockings with a variety of goodies, I only appreciated the hardship of my parents later on, they were both very good and loving parents. I think that I was about 6 when I had a three-wheeled bike, a blue one, Malcolm had his some time earlier, and for us the footpaths to Southampton road and Market Street which converged to a point with the Eastleigh Hotel (now flats) and the bit of Derby Road outside our house became our racecourse. It was certainly hazardous when the hoards of railway workers were homeward bound, I remember a few clipped ears.

Boxing Day was different, my brother Jim together with my parents and I lived with my grandparents, best behaviour was required as we spent the evening with them that day, my grandma was lovely but I was in awe of grandad, he was very Edwardian, children to be seen and not heard etc. The evening was spent in their living room, the bigger room of the house and certainly the coldest, a chill wind would start at Waterloo station and it the front corner of the house, it was warm near the fire but nowhere else and I had to play in the coldest bit, poor me.

Mother used to cook the Christmas lunch for the two days for all of us, we kept two chickens each year raised for the event and kept in a run in the garden, my Uncle Frank was a butcher and prepared them for us, I remember helping plucking the birds. One year we had one brown and one white chicken, and, boy, wasn't that white one savage, they were allowed to have a spell to peck in the garden, my mother and our cat refused to come outside whilst it was loose, my father wasn't too keen either and he served in WW1. I was detailed and considered old enough to steer the brute back into its run with the aid of a small spade. I hated that white monster but it tasted wonderful in the Christmas dinner, I felt sorry for the other bird which was a much gentler soul.

It was later in life when I first went to the dances held in Eastleigh's old town hall on Christmas Eve, they were always excellent, a highlight in the year, war had finished by then, and everything was available in the shops, but things were recovering and restrictions lifted. Christmas with my parents was, by then, so different, both grandparents had passed away, my brother had married and had his own house, Uncle Frank, aunty Lily and family with Malcolm had moved to Southampton, and I had become, more than likely, a nuisance, but I still hung out my pillow case on Christmas Eve and Santa always came and put plenty in it.

SOCIAL EVENTS AT ST JOHNS

By the time this goes to print we will have held our Christmas Coffee morning. It was our first event after lockdown and we were happy to start on a small scale. Hopefully it was a success !

Next year we will be bringing back our Christmas Market, on the last Saturday in November. We will be planning to have as many stalls as possible to fill the Centre once again. Our next event, which has been booked into the Centre, is a Quiz with a fish and chip supper. The last quiz we hosted was a fun evening, raising funds for the Flower festival we had hoped to stage in June 2020. The date to put in your diaries is Saturday 12th February 2022 starting at 6.00 pm. More details to follow.

Going forward we would like to hold our Annual Plant sale in May. However we would like your help with this, so if you have green fingers and have any spare plants/cuttings please consider donating them.

Many thanks, we look forward to welcoming you back to St Johns in the not too distant future.

The Social Committee

Advent Service – Pilgrimage to the Manger

Come, follow us as we pilgrimage to the manger,
To wait in wonder for the arrival of a tiny stranger.

Wrap up warm to keep out the cold,
and as we travel, please do as you're told!

Look up there, at the sky so bright!
Listen to the silence, in the darkness of the night.

A new king will be born, to show us the way.
He'll be born in a stable, not so far away,
in the town of Bethlehem, but how can it be?
We must keep travelling on, so that we can go and see.

What gift can we take him, this special child
who comes into the world, so meek and so mild.

The angels say he's precious, the Son of God on High
and we must go and spread His message, to everyone nearby.

We've got nothing much to give him, but here's what we can do.
Show love and care for each other, because He so loves us too.

Di Hawkins, Advent 2020

Beautiful celtic crosses, but where
in the churchyard are they?



An autumn day
in the churchyard during October



Third Sunday Team

Hello from the Third Sunday Team! We are a small group of volunteers who run the All-age worship service on the third Sunday of each month at St John's, with the support of our vicar, Chris. We believe that it's important that the congregation of St John's should come together to worship together as a family, to learn from one another and to grow in our Christian faith together. This means that we aim to put together a service that is accessible for the youngest members of the congregation but that contains depth to help the adults think too.

It has always been our aim to try to explore our faith in different ways and through various fun activities, but the Covid-19 pandemic has forced this issue somewhat! As was the case across the country, when we were forced into lockdown in 2020, we moved the service online. The service currently goes out on our St John's Hedge End YouTube channel, and is available from 9.30am but can be watched at any time. A link can be found from the church website, <https://www.stjohns-hedgeend.org.uk/>. We are extremely blessed to have team members who are very gifted with technology and manage to make even the shakiest recording from a mobile phone into something we can share, or who seamlessly merge individual music recordings to make it sound as though we are singing in one room! We often record our own music and try to have a mix of old familiar hymns alongside new worship songs.

In fact, the pandemic has presented us with some unexpectedly wonderful opportunities to think creatively and worship in new ways. 'For nothing will be impossible with God'. Luke 1: 37. Here is a quick look back at some of the ways we have explored and shared our faith over the past XX-months of pandemic!

In November 2020 we made Hope Lanterns – to shine the light of hope into our streets and communities. It felt dark at the end of last year, with covid cases rising and a Christmas lockdown looming, but the lanterns were a way to remember that we were just about to celebrate Christmas – the Light of the World, Jesus, coming to us, to show us God's love for us! What hope and joy to counter the challenges that we perhaps all felt at that time!



In the spring we did some nature weaving – to think about the beautiful, diverse world that God has given to us, and to encourage us to think about our own God-given gifts and how we are all part of God's creation – interdependent and intertwined.



At Easter we made transformation pictures with kitchen roll and pens, to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. When added to water, the hidden picture on the second piece of kitchen roll 'shone through' the top piece, transforming the simple black cross into a colourful resurrection cross that celebrated the good news that Jesus was risen from the dead!

Our services often include drama, Lego animations or other activities (like playing frisbee, archery or painting, to name a few) to bring the Bible lesson to life and draw out the meaning for an all-age audience.

Here are some of our favourite bits....

Please see back page for photographs



Who could forget the gritty, Oscar-nominated* short film, retelling when Jesus Calmed the Storm.

*May not actually have been nominated for Oscars. I presume our paperwork got lost in the post, but with such talent amongst us, who can tell where the young starlets at St John's will go next?

The Parable of the workers in the Vineyard., David and Goliath

Christingle

This October we held a harvest service @TheShed, (a space in the church carpark where the church sometimes holds outdoor services, or prayer trails). Members of the church, young and older, came for a craft morning and helped to decorate the Shed with flowers and bugs made from plastic bottles and other recycled materials. During the service, congregation members were asked to write a prayer giving thanks for 'All good gifts sent from Heaven above', and these were made into prayer bunting that was hung up around the church grounds. As you can see, we were blessed with a bounty of tins and packaged goods to add to the church's donations for the Society of St James.

Remembrance Day @the Shed. Some of the red and purple flowers from the harvest display have now been used to make a Remembrance Day display. Please do come and spend a few moments thinking about the places in the world that need our prayers for peace, and for those men, women and children caught up in war and conflict.



There are lots of exciting things coming up for Advent and Christmas. Our Advent challenge will go live at the beginning of December – with a challenge a day to help us learn more about our faith. This year we will also be running an Advent Window Trail for families and friends to explore around Hedge End. More information about both of these activities will be circulated soon via the St John’s email list and via the website.

If you haven’t joined us for a Third Sunday Service online, we really hope you will come and worship with us soon. You are warmly invited and very much welcome! We also really hope to be back to worshipping in person in church again soon!

The Third Sunday Team.

The Society of St. James

The Society of St James is a Southampton based homelessness Charity, providing a range of supported living services in Southampton, Portsmouth and across Hampshire. It provides a wide range of support to people from all walks of life experiencing homelessness, problematic alcohol or substance use or mental health problems.

The Society began in 1972 by establishing a night shelter for homeless men in St James’ Church Hall, followed by a soup run in the city.

The soup kitchen was discontinued in 2009, when it was realised that far more was required especially accommodation.

Now, the Society manages over 25 projects, with over 180 people being housed at any one time. The Society also runs several projects supporting people in the community and an employment and training project, Jamie’s, where computers are refurbished and recycled. They did run a bicycle refurbishment operation but this has now been discontinued. St John’s church has been supporting SSJ for a number of years now, with a Shopping trolley situated in the Underhill Centre so that anyone can put foodstuffs or other useful items such as cutlery, mugs, alarm clocks and other such useful items that could be used for someone moving into accommodation for the first time.

I took on the mantle of St John’s Rep. from Geoff Hollebon some 6-7 years ago, and as such, when the trolley is full I load it into my car and take it to the St James hostel in Southampton Road. The hostel has some 26 rooms and this gives me a terrific insight as to the people we are helping, as when I arrive even though many are struggling with their problems, they are extremely courteous, friendly and helpful.

During and since the Lockdown, St James has only been opening to receive items other than food, on the 15th of the month as storage is a problem for them.

The picture below shows an excellent example of a boot load of “goodies” ready to go to St James. This was the result of the Harvest Festival collection and probably weighed in excess of a quarter of a ton!

So it’s a “Well done!” from St. James to St John’s, and please keep up the good work!
Photos please see page 2.

David Taylor

Chocolate Orange Roulade (8 people)

5 (medium to large) eggs whites

10oz golden caster sugar

1 tbsp cocoa powder

300ml double cream – whipped

1 Chocolate Orange – chopped into 1-1.5cm pieces

1-2oz dark chocolate – to melt and drizzle

Icing sugar for dusting

Oven 150 °C/300°F/Gas mark 2

Grease and line a 30cmx20cm swiss roll tin



1. Gently stir together the sugar and cocoa powder in a mixing bowl, make sure there aren't any lumps of cocoa.
2. Using electric hand whisk, whisk egg whites in a separate large mixing bowl till they form soft peaks, then gradually add the sugar mix a tablespoon at a time while you whisk it in.
3. Carefully pour mixture into baking tray, try not to disturb air too much, tilt tray to help it reach sides, or gently use palette knife to spread into corners.
4. Place on middle shelf in preheated oven 150 °C/300°F/Gas mark 2 and cook for 1 hour.
5. Leave in tin to cool after cooking. Take some foil and place on work top, tip cooled meringue onto this foil (so it is upside down) and remove grease-proof paper. Spread whipped double cream to cover and sprinkle over as much of the chopped chocolate orange as you feel is decent! I usually use nearly all of 1 chocolate orange then nibble a few segments!
6. Now using the foil to help you, attempt to roll it into log shape (along its longest length) – it will crack but don't worry, typically I end up folding it 1/3 in on itself then over again with the join at the bottom. Now dust with icing sugar and drizzle some melted dark chocolate over the top!
ENJOY!

Recipe from Emily Collings (who invented it because her kids didn't like strawberries and she loves Chocolate Orange!!)

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The Greatest Story by William Sambrook

What has been done, again will be done.
There is nothing new under the sun.
Is there anything of which one can say,
“Look, this is something new. Hooray!”

History repeats itself, empires rise and fall.
The crest of every wave will come crashing
to the floor,
And in its wake a swell grows larger,
outreaches, topples over.
The sea of time, as we can see, keeps dying
on the shore.

The Greatest Story’s being told, world’s
longest ever run!
The show began a long time ago you know.
For those who missed the start, there is a
theme,
A leitmotif to be discovered in the flow.

How costly was the fruit that Adam ate!
Full of fruit, yet not to be fruitful he.
And so begins man’s sempiternal fate.
Wasn’t he told to steer clear of that tree?
Oh dear me!

Cain and Abel did not found sibling rivalry.
An angel became serpent-guardian of a
tree.
The Eden-innocence of youth believed the
lies,
And did not see that the monster had
green eyes.

And so we settle down to a performance
by God.
Theme and variations in the Land of Nod.
God favoured Abel, who was killed by Cain.
First blood drawn over a disliking for grain.
The green-eyed monster appears again.
He is the outsider looking in.
Inside everything’s hunky-dory.
If you’re blessed by God, what is Sin?

Sin, perhaps, is a possessive jealousy.
“Envidia” is what the Spanish say.
Jacob became Israel when he wrestled with
God.
When he welcomed Esau he opened the
way.

That way was lost,
But it can be refund.
A man died on a cross.
His advice was sound.

Love your neighbour,” is what he said.
Everyone on Earth is in the same game.
Through seventy years to Death we are led.
As God’s creations we’re all one and the
same.

3RD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

TRAIDCRAFT STALL — Please don’t forget to have a look at this stall on the 3rd and 4th Sunday of the month.

St. James’ Shelter —
collection of food and toiletries for the Society of St. James

CHURCHES TOGETHER

We are always very pleased to hear about all St John's community projects throughout the year. Especially to bring Christ back into Christmas. Even the adverts call this season "The Holidays"! It was a brilliant idea to think of getting people from all around our Parish to make a lighted, numbered window Advent picture. They also have the verse number to tell the story from Day one at the Centre all the way to Christmas Day at the Shed. What a good way to get families involved and a reminder of the true meaning. JOY not just TOY!

Churches Together are especially encouraging churches to have communication/ interaction with young people and the Third Sunday Team with Jennie, Emily, and others have been doing a fabulous job with encouraging children to be included in the story of the day by making drawings, lego and other things with nature.

A shed was made in the carpark last year and has been used a lot since then for many different events and decorated by all age groups to suit the occasion. Grateful to all the people organising and helping to bring such happiness to all.

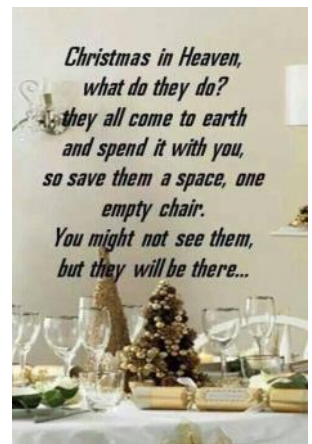
It is SO wonderful that Tim has continued to bring us the live and the recordings of the church services, Toria with the Pew Sheets and Marsha with The Spire. We are so grateful for all this communication.

During July, Rev Chris sent out a request for help under Situations Vacant and one of these was Churches Together representation, as both Daphne and Margaret had retired from their posts after many years of dedicated service, which deserves many thanks. I emailed Rev Chris and offered my help as I was a Rep for St Johns in the past and also for All Saints recently so am known in other churches. As he was unable to attend any meetings, it was agreed that I should attend to keep up the communication between St Johns and Churches Together. I have attended the September meeting and will be at the 11th November meeting on Zoom. I was able to update them on all that St Johns has been doing this year and have reported back information to St Johns from the other churches in the group.

By the time this goes to print the Coffee Morning on 27th will have already happened. I hope all their hard work was rewarded by a good result.

We wish you all a very Happy "Christ"mas

Pat Jenkins and Mandy Cool (Jenkins)



The Garden by the Underhill Centre and the Round Gardens by the Church

I hope you have enjoyed looking at these 2 gardens during the summer and enjoyed the colours.

Most of the Herbaceous plants have now been cut back ready for the winter and I have removed the old Lavender Bushes and some of the Japanese Anemones.

I am hoping to plant some new Azaleas more tete a tete Daffodils in their places. Next year I hope to add Dahlias and Lupins in this garden to encourage more Butterflies and Bees.

The other garden in front of the Church has looked good this year. There are a lot of Cyclamen appearing so this part of the Church Yard should look colourful in the spring with Tete a tetes joining them.

There is one more "Garden Plot" which could do with some TLC. It is planted with Heathers and Daffodils (in spring). If any one would like to give the much- needed TLC we would be very happy to talk to you.

Happy Christmas to you all – and happy gardening for 2022

Daphne Dimmick

BAPTISM GIRLS

The Baptism Girls are Hazel, Jill, Dee and Daphne.

The idea came from the Rev Chris Rowberry. He needed help to run the Baptism Service which used to be on one Sunday a month when we had 3 or 4 Baptisms split between 12 o'clock and 2 pm.

Each candidate is given a Bible (Donated by Hedge End Mothers Union)
We set up the Church by putting out Service Sheets and filling the Font.

During the Service a large candle has to be lit- a Bible is given at the end of the Service.
The Baptism candle is lit from the large candle.

The Baptism Girls do these jobs.

It is very enjoyable service for St Johns and we love doing it.

Daphne Dimmick

I am that little robin
That sits upon a tree
I sing to you each morning
But you don't know its me
I am that little robin
In your garden every day
I will never leave you
I will never fly away

['Little Robin' by John F. Connor]



The Underhill Art Group

The Underhill Art Group was started up in 2003 by the then Church Warden, Roger Vain, and in a very pleasing legacy to Roger it is still going and probably with a few more participants than in those start up days. Indeed, there is a couple of members who joined that initial group that still come along on a regular basis, and will do so until their brushes become "hairless!". The group is made up from anyone that likes to draw or paint and has Wednesday mornings free. I should also mention that anybody is welcome to come along, I mean anybody, and you don't have to go to church. Please don't feel that you'd like to come but don't feel good enough, because we don't set standards we just enjoy a morning doing something we like doing. Should anyone feel that they would like to give it a try but don't want to spend out on brushes etc.....just in case! Then we have all the accoutrements to get you started. Not only that, but a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit adds to the occasion making Wednesday mornings at the Art Group something Special!

The cost of the morning is £4.00 (This may soon rise to £5.00 as the £1.00 change is getting awkward!) It's pay as you go so if you don't come you don't pay, but when you do come it's worth every penny!

David Taylor

See photos on page 2

A TREASURED MEMORY

This little note was left for me to read by my Dad many years ago, he suffered with MS and found it most difficult to write, he passed away some 30 years ago and is still missed very much. The thing that is so sad is that I cannot remember what I did to make him take the time and the effort to write it to me, but it is something I treasure more than most.

DAD

DEAR DELIA

I HAD A LOVELY SURPRISE
LAST NIGHT WHEN I WENT TO BED, ~~LAST~~
THANK YOU DAD. DON'T YOU THINK YOU
HAVE DONE ENOUGH FOR ME? I AM SORRY
I CANNOT DO SOMETHING IN RETURN.

GOOD LUCK NOW. IT IS
LOVELY TO HAVE A DAUGHTER LIKE YOU

FONDEST LOVE
DAD, XXX

Delia McAdam.

The Underhill Centre

After well over a year of closure due to the Pandemic, the Underhill has been able to once again open its doors to allow people to meet, socialise and pursue a variety of activities. Not least of these is the congregation at a Sunday service are now able to share a coffee and a chat afterwards. Both the Art Group and the Table Tennis Club as well as “Crafty Thursday” have resumed on their usual days and there has also been the return of other non-church groups such as Yoga and Pilates but sadly not all our previous hirers have decided to come back to the Centre.

The closure allowed several major jobs to take place which included the installation of a new lift, which was well tested during a recent Beaver Group sleep-over, and thanks to the Community Payback Team some tired looking walls and stairways were given a fresh coat of paint. Unfortunately the enforced closure did have a significant impact on the finances of the Centre since there was continuing expenditure in the form of standing charges for utilities and other essential maintenance services. For instance it was necessary to keep the Centre heated during the winter months albeit at a minimum temperature to ensure there no frost damage etc. This financial setback came at a time when there was no income from lettings and therefore the contingency reserves had to be used.

The Management Committee for the Centre are however now actively looking at several ways in which the situation might be improved: A new website has been created (www.underhillcentre.org.uk) together with a Facebook presence, direct marketing and leaflet advertising all aimed solely at attracting new hirers in order to enhance our income.

It is hoped also that the ‘200’ Club could be expanded by attracting additional members and asking existing ones if they would consider purchasing more numbers. This would result in a win-win situation for everyone because the prize fund will be higher to be shared among three lucky winners each month including a 1st prize of at least £100 and more funds will be generated to help towards the upkeep of the Centre. How about considering an annual subscription for a loved one as a Christmas present this year or asking your friends and neighbours to join? For further information please contact 200club@stjohns-hedgeend.org.uk

The committee is very much open to suggestions as to other ideas which might help. Please speak with any of us and please promote the Centre to family, friends and colleagues whenever an opportunity presents itself.

The Management Committee; Malcolm, Amanda, Chris C, Jenny and John wish everyone a very happy and healthy Christmas and certainly a much better 2022. God Bless.
Jenny Collings

Mission to Seafarers



St John’s Church supports The Mission to Seafarers, a Christian Charity which looks after over 1.5 million people who work at sea, our *seafarers* risk their lives every day to aid our global economy. We help support the Mission with a coffee morning, making woollen hats etc,

St John's Mothers' Union

During the Covid-19 lockdowns, members of St John's Mothers' Union kept in touch by monthly emails and Zoom meetings, along with their copy of the diocesan *Archway* magazine.

However, in July of this year, as restrictions gradually eased, we were able to meet in person again for the first time in several months when we held a small garden party in July. This was to raise money for the Summer of Hope Appeal which helps to promote and fund Mothers' Union projects overseas. As restrictions were still in place, we adhered to the Covid-19 rules by limiting the event to no more than thirty people and meeting outside in the lovely garden of one of our members - fortunately the weather was kind to us that day! The tea was kept simple with just lots of delicious homemade cakes, several cups of tea and a raffle. As well as raising money, it was a wonderful opportunity to just be together again as a branch after so long and wander around and admire such a beautiful garden. Although the event was quite small due to restrictions, £205 was still raised for the Summer of Hope Appeal.

In September, we held our first in-person meeting again in the Underhill Centre. Although we didn't have a speaker, we enjoyed catching up and deciding on the way forward with a possibility to holding future events such as our annual December Christmas party and carol service followed by a festive tea. At our October meeting, David Baynes was our speaker and gave us a very interesting talk about the Christmas shoebox appeal that is organised by the Hedge End Rotary Club. The evening finished with time for a chat over tea and biscuits.

October was the turn of our branch to lead the monthly Mothers' Union prayer service in Winchester Cathedral. Until recently, these services were on-line but we were blessed to be able to meet in person once again in the Epiphany Chapel. Our theme was: 'Prisons' Week and Beyond,' which not only remembered those in prison but also those who face another type of imprisonment either by a harsh political regime or by having no freedom to worship or practice their faith.

We meet in the Underhill Centre on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm and anybody wishing to come along to one of our meetings is more than welcome.

Sally Lloyds

THURSDAY CRAFTY AFTERNOON

The Thursday Crafty Afternoon returned in August, we have a good number of ladies regularly attending. It was so nice to see so many coming back

We still knit / crochet and sew supporting many charities, the shoe box appeal, mission to seamen, the special baby unit, Parkinson and the church fundraising events.

Everyone is welcome, join us for a chat and cuppa, it will be lovely to see you.

Sue Garvey



Mothers; Union tea, see page 34



Photographs:
Carol Watson filling bottles with Mardi Gras and Chris Kearsley fitting the crown corks. Christmas Ale 2021 bottled.



Crafty Thursday Afternoon see page 26

Christingle—
see page 17 for full article





Christmas Eve 2018



Jesus calmed the storm see page 17 for full article



The parable of the workers
in the vineyard



David & Goliath

