



# The Ship

**St Jude's Church, Englefield Green Newsletter**

Anglicans and Methodists working together

Number 92

February 2018

## Concert

**Anna Ryland-Jones ('cello)  
and Louis Perera (piano)**

performing a varied recital  
programme including Beethoven  
variation on Mozart, Tchaikovsky,  
and Martinu

**Saturday 3rd February  
4.00pm**

**St Jude's Church**

Admission free

Refreshments provided

Donations welcome



on Sunday 11th February  
(and on the **second  
Sunday** of each month)

in St Jude's Church

at 4.00pm

*Children should be accompanied  
by a parent*



For the time being at least,  
Messy Family Fun will  
no longer take place.

## All-Age Service

Why not consider coming to our informal worship services at 11.15am on the last Sunday of each month? These are short (usually little more than half an hour).

## Medicine and Mystery

In the midst of all the recent publicity surrounding the National Health Service I have been reflecting a little on my own experience of this extraordinary institution which is just a little older than me and without whose assistance I may well not even have been welcomed safely into the world. For 25 years I was privileged to work within the NHS, both locally and a little further afield. I met some of the most hard-working, skilled, committed, decent, courageous, loving people I could have ever hoped to meet - among both patients and staff. I saw lives lost but many saved; hopes dashed but many fulfilled, plus mind-boggling developments in care undreamed of even 20 years ago, let alone when the NHS was first conceived almost 70 years ago.

In retirement I have found myself among those of us needing regular access to NHS care. In the last year I have witnessed from a much more personal perspective the dedication of our local out-of-hours GP service; the warmth, kindness and extensive knowledge of a number of paramedics; the swift response of acute care; the breadth of qualification and research and the breath-taking competence of several teams of surgeons and physicians; the devotion of a variety of nursing teams including those who day by day administer a gruelling regime of chemotherapy with kindness and love; and a GP whose experience and expertise, and unfailing ability to think "outside the box" has been a lifeline throughout. Neither can I forget the most front-line of front-line staff - the switchboard operators, secretaries and receptionists who will probably never know how very much it means to hear a smile in their voice even as they pick up the phone. God bless you all - and thank you.

But many of us, of course experience the care of the NHS as a "gift wrapped in thorns". Our need for medical care will come often at the most vulnerable times in our lives or in the life of someone unbearably dear to us. Even the highest standard of care cannot completely eliminate suffering or protect us from the inevitability of loss. Even Luke, the writer of the third of the New Testament Gospels, who is reputed to have been a Doctor himself, includes in his portrayal of the life of Jesus the account of a woman who had been ill for 12 long years despite seeking the attention of many doctors. There is an elusive mystery within the things of life and death that somehow still evades the very brightest of medical and scientific minds.

For some of us it is in wrestling with that mystery that we encounter God Himself. In his introduction to last month's edition of "The Ship" Roy offered us a challenge for 2018: "Search, and you will find". Perhaps we search most for God when we come to the end of the best and most obvious means of support that this life has to offer. When human resources alone can no longer meet our needs we sometimes find that we must look elsewhere and search beyond ourselves.

In the course of this month we shall celebrate Ash Wednesday and embark on the season of Lent. Very fittingly this year Ash Wednesday falls on St. Valentine's Day. The celebration of the power and joy of human love, a celebration which can both embrace and exclude, depending on where we may be in our life-journey, is marked side by side with the commemoration of the journey of Jesus through the wilderness at the beginning of His ministry. In that journey we see that even in the bleakest and most loveless places of our lives God is to be found. Jesus comes to us as God's gift of perfect Love wrapped in the thorns of human suffering and offers us the possibility of never again being alone in our pain.

Perhaps, like the desperately ill woman recorded in Luke's Gospel (Luke 8: 43-48), there may come a point in our lives when, however truly blessed we have been in our means of support, we see that only God Himself can meet our deepest needs. Lent exposes again to the mystery of human suffering. You are warmly invited to come and share this season with us at St. Jude's when we shall also find it exposes us to the far greater mystery of God's immeasurable, unfailing, sacrificial love for each and every one of us. Let me quote again Roy's words from last month: "Ask anyone who has experienced God's love and kindness and they say it is never to be forgotten".

*Judith Allford*

## Congratulations

Congratulations to our Vicar, The Revd Mark Ewbank, on his appointment as Rector of the Cathedral Church of the Good Shepherd in Lima, Peru. Mark will be taking up his new appointment some time after 22nd April.

## Easyfundraising.org.uk

Please do remember that if you register with [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) and select St Jude's Church, Englefield Green as your chosen charity, you can then shop online with many organisations and make money for St Jude's without costing you a penny.

## 2018 Concerts

The first concert on the new year is a Community Concert and will take place on Saturday 6th January. There may still be space for you to take part – musically or spoken word. Please let Geoff Chew know as soon as possible.

3 March	Corinna Boylan (chamber group)
7 April	Geoff Chew (piano)
5 May	James Kirby's students (piano)
2 June	Vox Mundi (ladies' international choir)
7 July	Emilio Casco and Rocío Herrera (Mexican concert)
4 August	James Webb (piano)
1 September	Keep the Home Fires Burning – Wind and Words (about WWI)
6 October	River City Saxes
3 November	James Kirby, piano

## Annual Meetings

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Vestry Meeting (at which the Churchwardens are elected (currently Diana Bendall and Claudia Tubb) and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place at approx 11.15am service on Sunday 22nd April. This is where we receive the revised Electoral Roll and the Annual Report and Accounts and elect members of the Church Council.

We also have an opportunity to say thank you to those who work so hard to keep our church clean and running and those who arrange flowers, look after the gardens round the church and so many other jobs.

## Lent Groups

The Lent Course this year will be *On the Third Day* from the York series. The dates are :-

Thursdays 15th February–15th March at 3.00pm at 40 Bond Street.

Wednesdays 21st February–21st March at 7.30pm in the Monsell Room at St Jude's Church. For more information, go to [www.stjudeschurch.info/activities/studygroups.html](http://www.stjudeschurch.info/activities/studygroups.html).

## Diary for February

- 3 Saturday 4.00pm Concert Anna Ryland-Jones (cello) Louis Perera (piano) – admission free – donations welcome
- 4 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Holy Communion (Methodist service) 11.15am Mattins  
6.30pm Taizé service
- 7 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion (said)
- 11 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist 4.00pm Messy Church  
6.30pm Evensong and Sermon
- 14 Ash Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion (said) NO Messy Family Fun in the Village Centre – this has now stopped  
8.00pm Holy Communion (with hymns)
- 18 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist
- 21 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion (said)
- 25 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist 11.15am Informal All-age service 12.15pm Lunch
- 28 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion (said)

All events take place at St Jude's Church unless otherwise stated

The Church is open every Saturday 2-4pm for tea and a chat

## The Village Centre (01784 471110)

The Village Centre has now been open for seven years and it continues to grow from strength to strength. The building is now booked, virtually every day, for regular events and provides a real variety of activities such as exercise and slimming classes, karaoke, a dementia support group, pre-school French lessons and of course ballet and dance. For full details please see our website:

[www.villagecentre.org.uk](http://www.villagecentre.org.uk).

The 'Friends of the Village Centre' scheme is progressing well, but if you would like to be involved in supporting us financially please give Jayne, the manager a call. We are always looking for more volunteers, so if you have at least two hours a week to spare let us know.

## Rendezvous Café

The Village Centre has a thriving café and a perfect place for you to meet your friends, let your children play, or just to have a fantastic coffee from our new barista style coffee machine. You will always receive a warm welcome. We are open Mon–Wed 9am to 4pm, Thurs and Fri 9am to 5pm, and in school holidays 10am to 2pm.

## Computer Room

Our volunteers are available Monday–Thursday 9am to 12noon (10 to 12 in school holidays) and they can help you with lots of issues such as using the internet, getting on line, CVs, laptop issues, tablets, iphones etc. Why not come and learn some new skills; only £2.50 which includes a free tea or coffee.

## Our new 9.30am Sunday service

St Jude's Church has introduced a new service of Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month. This is intended to be more relaxed and child-friendly, livelier, and shorter, than our usual 9.30am services, and rather in the style of our all-age services at 11.15am on the last Sunday of each month.

We think it important that all our families with children, including those who currently come to our 11.15 services and to Messy Church, should have regular access to a Communion service in which they will feel comfortable. It will be led by our Methodist minister, Andrew Reed, and will be based on a Methodist form of service. Do come!

## From the Registers

*Funerals:*

(4th January) Janet Clarke; (11th) Patricia Otterswell; (15th) Dennis Rand.