

## Dates for your diary

<b>July 4</b> 8.00 am 10.30 am 5.30 pm 7.00 pm	<b>Trinity 5</b> BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Evensong Reflective Service
<b>July 11</b> 8.00 am 10.30 am 5.30 pm 7.00 pm	<b>Trinity 6</b> BCP Holy Communion Family Service BCP Holy Communion Communion Service
<b>July 18</b> 8.00 am 10.30 am 5.30 pm	<b>Trinity 7</b> BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Choral Evensong
<b>July 25</b> 8.00 am 10.30 am 5.30 pm	<b>St James</b> BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Evensong
<b>August 1</b> 8.00 am 10.30 am 5.30 pm	<b>Trinity 9</b> BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Evensong
<b>August 8</b> 8.00 am 10.30 am 5.30 pm	<b>Trinity 10</b> BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Evensong
<b>August 15</b> 8.00 am 10.30 am 5.30 pm	<b>Blessed Virgin Mary</b> BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Evensong
<b>August 22</b> 8.00 am 10.30 am 5.30 pm	<b>Trinity 12</b> BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Evensong
<b>August 29</b> 8.00 am 10.30 am 5.30 pm	<b>Trinity 13</b> BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Evensong
<b>September 5</b> 8.00 am 10.30 am 5.30 pm 7.00 pm	<b>Trinity 14</b> BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Evensong Reflective Service

**First Tuesday at St John's:** the sermon preached at 8am and 10.30am on 4 July will be discussed in the Elm Shades pub on Tuesday 6 July at 8pm. **There will not be a discussion sermon in August** but the sermon preached on 5 September will be discussed on 7 September. All are welcome. The relevant sermons will be posted beforehand on the church website: [www.stjohnsredhill.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsredhill.org.uk)

## From the registers

### Baptisms

6 June  
Amelia Nottage  
13 June  
Isabelle Eddison  
20 June  
Scarlett Gaffney  
Charlie Macklin  
27 June  
Emma Goddard

## Full of hope

Hope and fear are two extremely powerful human emotions and attitudes. They can dramatically affect how we approach the issues that face us and how we live our lives. The fear of financial collapse, poverty, terrorism, and climate change are the 'apocalyptic horsemen' of our age. We are rightly fearful of the dreadful consequences which could turn deeply challenging situations into nightmare scenarios if we fail to take the right action. However, fear in itself will not get us very far in finding a solution which will be lasting. For that we need to appeal to the deep human need for real hope.

Hope and fear operate at every level of human life. As I write we are in the midst of the World Cup, and also of the Wimbledon Tennis tournament. Those who take part could be paralysed by the fear of failure, or inspired by the hope of glory. Getting the balance right is crucial to success. One of the key themes of the World Cup opening ceremony in Johannesburg was the appeal to our hopes and dreams as human beings – wherever we are. As we read in the book of Proverbs: 'Without hope, the people perish'.

Hope and fear operate in our Church life. We are fearful for the future of the Christian faith in our country and worry that the Church is a slowly and inevitably declining institution. We are fearful that the current fault lines in the Anglican Communion and the Church of England over the ordination of women, and over the separate matter of gay and lesbian issues, will cause irreparable damage to our Church. In our own Diocese we might be fearful over the appointment of the next Bishop of Southwark – that he might lead the Diocese in a direction we may not agree with – depending on our viewpoint.

Christians, of all people, should not be governed primarily by our fears. We are called to be full of hope. Not a naive hope which does not see or feel the dangers we face, but a profound hope based on our understanding of God – revealed in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As the heart of our faith is the belief that God is always at work in every situation, no matter how grim to bring new life and new hope.

We are coming up to a period where many people go on holiday and the pace of life slows down. As a Diocese we are also in the midst of our time of Vacancy-in-See. Both of these can be seen as good time to pause and reflect honestly about the things which fundamentally shape our approach to life. What are the real deep drivers? Are we primarily governed by our fears? Or are our lives and actions properly based on the God of hope who raised from the dead Our Lord Jesus Christ? As Paul said, 'May the God of hope fill you all with joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.'

### † Richard Kingston

#### ● Autumn bike ride

Church Bike Ride on Saturday 18th September: a ten-mile circular ride with a couple of extra loops for some cyclists, starting and finishing at St John's Church. For further information please contact Lynne Mulholland (249254), email: [nick.mulholland@btconnect.com](mailto:nick.mulholland@btconnect.com)

#### ● Copy dates

The next magazine will be published on 5 September. Material can be left in the magazine pigeonhole in church, or emailed to [judith.calver@btinternet.com](mailto:judith.calver@btinternet.com) by 29 August.

# St John the Evangelist, Redhill

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July 2010  
Registered charity no. 1135368

## Help for Haiti



The Caribbean evening on 26 June saw the churchyard packed with people, many in fancy dress, eating, drinking and enjoying such sideshows as the bottle stall and coconut shy in appropriately sunny weather. Entertainment came from the men's singing group, performing in public for the first time to huge acclaim! Not only was this a chance to relax and enjoy each others' company, the evening also raised a fantastic £700 for the Haiti Earthquake Appeal. Many thanks to all who supported the event, and especially to Barbara, Donella and Susan who worked so hard to make it such a success. Thanks, too, to local business for their kind donations: The Elm Shades, Plough and Joshua Tree pubs; Ruchita Tandoori; Richard Cloake Photography; Holborns; Davey's Wine and Spirits; Occasions by Natalie; Greensleeves; Sainsbury's, Redhill.

# Thoughts on confirmation

This year's confirmation service took place on 13 June at Christ the King. Here some of the candidates from St John's reflect on what the whole experience meant to them

After many fleeting thoughts of officially belonging to the church and to God over the last 12 months, I finally felt it was time to sign-up for the six-week Confirmation Course after seeing the notice in Pews News. It is hard to explain why I felt ready at this point in my life but after the weary years of bringing up babies and two small children it seemed I had a bit more time to reflect on more than just day-to-day living. I found that I really enjoyed the peacefulness and prayer time on Sundays at St John's. The weeks when I couldn't attend I really missed that connection and that pull towards the Christian Faith.

The confirmation lessons brought together a group of adults that were like-minded. Several of us felt increasingly more spiritual as we were growing older and more aware of the world around us that God has created. I looked forward to our weekly Tuesday evening meet-ups. David was an excellent tutor – very knowledgeable and quite often thought-provoking without making you feel you were in the hot seat! I especially enjoyed getting to know my way around the Bible and discussing our individual interpretations of its different messages.

The Confirmation itself was a day I will always remember. I felt very special and amongst friends with my fellow-confirmation candidates as well as each others' friends, family and the local congregation; they were all there supporting us.

I look forward to continuing my way along the Christian path.

**Helen Anderson**

I got confirmed at Christ the King, Salfords, along with Andrew, Alistair, Catherine, Claire, Helen Stocker, Helen Anderson, Michael and Gerard, who was welcomed into the Church of England.

To get me, Alistair and Andrew ready for Confirmation Nicholas held confirmation classes every Wednesday at the vicarage. The classes made us

It stuck on my tongue. The Bread. The goblet of amber glistening liquid approached my lips – what would it taste like, feel like, to experience the culmination of my first communion? The rich, sweet liquid warmed my throat. The Wine.

I was now sharing, participating in the service in a much more active way – I was sharing the elements that brought everyone together. The sum of the parts greater than the individual components.

The growth, learning and sharing of

the last six weeks course had brought me to this point. I understood I was on a journey. David, Nicholas and Margaret had made the commencement of that journey a multi-layered experience – new doors opening every week.

As I reflect on my Confirmation Service today, I give thanks to all those who have supported me, in their thoughts and prayers at St John's at this time – and in particular to my husband, for his faithful support and encouragement.

**Helen Stocker**



What a journey we all went on: the six-week course challenged our perceptions and explored our faith. We were guided all along our journey by the super St John's team – Nicholas, David and Margaret – and my heartfelt thanks go to all of them for their help, guidance and encouragement.

The confirmation service saw six nervous St John's adults sitting in the front pew listening to the Bishop of Croydon's sermon, receiving lungfuls of incense and a sprinkle of holy water. I wasn't sure what to expect but when the bishop laid his hands on my head, I felt an enormous sense of calm and serenity. It felt special to be able to take my first communion, the bread and wine of Christ, and really become part of St John's Church family. The taking of the communion marked the end of one six-week journey and the continuation of a much longer one.

**Cath McDermott**

think strongly about things that have happened in the past (eg Baptism) and things that might happen in the future (eg marriage). I had a lot of fun at these classes because I got to know Andrew and Alistair much better.

The man who confirmed us was The Bishop of Croydon, his name was Nick Baines. During the service the Bishop swung incense around to cleanse

everyone in the church. At the end of the service everyone who had got confirmed got a candle.

Afterwards me, my parents and my grandparents went out for dinner to celebrate.

I enjoyed my confirmation and I am looking forward to receiving communion in the church services.

**Charlotte Duke**

On 13th June I, and several others, was confirmed at Christ the King, Salfords by Bishop Nick Baines.

I woke up in the morning feeling quite overwhelmed, realising what a momentous event I was being involved in. All day I felt excited because of what was happening. I recall that when it came to the actual event my nerves began to take the excitement away as I took my place at the front of the church.

When I knelt at the altar the Bishop placed his hands on my head and said: "Alistair, God has called you by name and made you his own. Confirm, O lord, your servant Alistair with your holy spirit." At that moment I felt the words reach out to me. I felt like I had overcome another obstacle in my life and it felt wonderful.

I couldn't have been confirmed if it wasn't for the sessions we had before at the vicarage. They settled all my uncertainties about being confirmed and it was interesting to hear other people's thoughts and opinions about what was being said.

The whole experience was very helpful towards me and my faith. I got a chance to meet and get to know new people, I learnt a lot of things I didn't know about before and it also made me feel important and, at the end, triumphant.

I'm glad and thankful that I got the opportunity.

**Alistair Hales**

I have felt very welcomed by St John's Church and after being brought up in the Catholic faith I felt that the time was right to be received into the Church of England, so I could become a more integrated part of the St John's church family.

It was a lovely service, I thoroughly enjoyed the Bishop of Croydon's sermon. I would like to thank the entire St John's team for the informative sessions leading up to the service.

**Gerard McDermott**



Members of Salt and Pepper and Afta8z from St John's took part in two of the Cancer Research UK Races for Life last month to raise money to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer. In Crawley the team consisted of Laura, Hannah, Becky, Caitlin, Lizzie, Esther and Hannah, as well as Sarah and Louise (not pictured), while Anastasia and Claire (left) took part in Epsom. There is still time to sponsor them so look out for sponsor forms in church or visit their websites: [www.justgiving.com/stjohnsraceforlife](http://www.justgiving.com/stjohnsraceforlife) and [www.raceforlifesponsorsome.org/claireandanastasia](http://www.raceforlifesponsorsome.org/claireandanastasia)

## A message from David

David Williams left St John's at the end of June and, after what will be a welcome holiday, he will continue his curacy at St Matthew's in September. He writes:

Although I have said farewell to many friends from St. John's over the past few weeks, I realise that I haven't been able to say goodbye to everyone. So I just wanted to say a huge thank you for all that you have given me, and particularly for your friendship, your warmth, your hospitality and your care. I especially appreciated your support during the time that Nicholas was on sick leave, which was a time of additional responsibility for the ministry and leadership team as a whole.

I was very touched by the wonderful gift of the icon of St John the Evangelist and the book on praying with icons, which I was given on my last Sunday – they will be a very fitting reminder of St John's, and something special to take with me as I continue on my priestly and spiritual journey. I will hold you in my thoughts and prayers, and trust that God will bless your work and your witness in his Name; as I ask you to hold me in your prayers, as you have held me during the past two years.



Lois Kefford was commissioned as a Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary (SPA) by the Bishop of Woolwich in the Cathedral on 29 June. Please pray for Lois as she begins her SPA ministry at St John's.