
As June steps aside to make way for July, I find myself feeling very grateful for all the people involved in parish life, whether it's the hard work and faithful service of volunteers making teas and coffees, giving warm welcomes and friendly smiles, or people praying, giving, organising, meeting, creating and collaborating, or the many people who for myriad reasons call our churches 'home' – whether it be great or small, near or far, thank you for the part you play in making this parish what it is.

Here's what's in the spotlight for this month's newsletter:

Monday 28th July

The ParkinSongsters Summer Concert
St Johns | 3-4:30pm | Free Admission

Sunday 31st August

Another joint service and more Baptisms
10:30am at P&P

ChurchSuite and the *Parish Passions Project*

Help us help you take control of your data



THE PARKINSONGSTERS SUMMER CONCERT

St Johns | Monday 28th July | 3-4:30pm

The ParkinSongsters originally started out as a therapy group for individuals living with Parkinson's by providing breathing and vocal exercises through singing.

We are delighted to welcome them to St John's for their Summer Concert this year. Admission is free with a discretionary collection for Parkinson's UK and St John's Building Fund. Refreshments will also be available.

If you would like to find out more about the ParkinSongsters, you can visit their website [here](#).



JOINT SERVICE WITH BAPTISMS AND LUNCH
St Peter & St Paul | Sunday 31st August | 10:30am

After the success of our joint Pentecost service, bringing both churches in the parish together to celebrate the Baptism of the Filkin's family, St Peter & St Paul will be hosting another joint service on the 5th Sunday in August.

We will be rejoicing again as several more individuals make their public profession of faith and are welcomed them into this household of faith through Baptism. We will make the most of both churches being together by sharing lunch and fellowship together after the service.

Pop it in your diary and come prepared to celebrate!

NB: This will be the only service in the parish on this Sunday, there will be no service at St John's.



CHURCHSUITE AND THE "PARISH PASSIONS PROJECT"

We care about your data and want to use it as responsibly and effectively as possible, that's why we are transitioning the way that we handle your data to a secure system called 'ChurchSuite.'

Churchsuite not only enables us to be fully GDPR compliant but it also gives you more control over how your information is handled and used by us. For example, you can tell us how you want us to communicate with you (which is not about communicating with you *more* than we currently do, but about communicating *more effectively*). In fact, this very email has been sent via ChurchSuite and you can changed your communication preferences already by clicking the links at the bottom of this email.

We'll be rolling this out across the parish fairly soon, so keep your ears and eyes peeled for an email or a paper form at a Sunday service soon.

One thing I will be using ChurchSuite for is what I'm calling the "Parish Passions Project".

I would love you to ask yourself, "*what am I passionate about?*"

I am passionate about enabling the individuals in this parish community to flourish and serve our local community as best they can. Perhaps you're passionate about fundraising for specific projects, or crafting for a good cause, or teaching people to cook, or children and young people, or prayer, or music, or technology, or books, or gardening, or cleaning...

If you're unsure, think about what kind of experience you have, e.g. do you know something about bereavement, or care, or finances, or education?

It doesn't matter if you have very limited capacity, it doesn't matter if you join in for worship on a Sunday or you attend church in another capacity (such as through a group), or if you just have a small intuition about something, however great or small we want to hear it all and dream about how we can enable you to serve this community and

personally flourish.

When the ChurchSuite form comes round, there will be the opportunity to update your details, communication preferences and so on, but there will also the opportunity to tell us about your passions and experience. I would love to encourage you to give this some serious thought.

If you're the praying type, please read on for a couple of prayer requests, otherwise, it just leaves me to say thank you so much for taking the time to read this, and again for the part you play in making this parish what it is.

Much love, grace, and peace,
Toby
Priest-in-Charge
St John's Hollington with St Peter & St Paul



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray for the flourishing of mission in this Parish and for both of our church communities to increasingly grow in their vocation to serve the local community.
- Please pray for those preparing for Baptism (currently 3-4 individuals) on 31st August.
- Please pray for [Samara's Aid Appeal](#), a Christian charity we support who serve poor families with medical and humanitarian aid in Syria. This is a particularly devastating time for them as one of their projects – a rural outreach centre served by a local shepherd and his family – was recently attacked by militants. This came just two days after a local church in Syria was bombed. Please pray for Syria, and for protection for those working for Samara's Aid Appeal.

The Collect of the day:

*Lord, you have taught us
that all our doings without love are worth nothing;
send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love,
the true bond of peace and of all virtues,
without which whoever lives is counted as dead before you.
Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake,
who is alive and reigns with you,*

*in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.*



St John's with P&P

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