



St John's Magazine December 2025

Vicar:
**Reverend
Ruth Mock**

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Here to worship God and share his love

Dear reader,

TO FOLLOW....

Best wishes, Barbie

Website

<https://stjohnsandaway.wixsite.com/website>

Magazine submissions

Magazine deadline each month is the 1st of the month before.

Thank you to all contributors, and as always, if you have any comments or suggestions, please get in touch with Ali using the contact details below.

Join the mailing list

To get the magazine every month, as a paper or email copy, please call **Ali** on 07796 787245 or email editor.stjohnsandaway@gmail.com

Advertising

Michael

01606 889879

As the nights lengthen and the world seems to grow a little darker, Christmas arrives with its promise of light. More than the twinkling decorations or the warmth of family gatherings, Christmas brings with it a message of hope — a hope that reaches across time and circumstance.

At the heart of Christmas is the story of a child born in humble surroundings — not in a palace or among the powerful, but in a simple Palestinian home. In that quiet, ordinary place, heaven touched earth. The birth of Jesus reminds us that God chooses to come close, not in grand displays, but in the simplicity of love. It is a story that tells us no one is forgotten, and no situation is beyond redemption.



This hope is not naïve optimism, nor does it ignore the pain and struggle that many feel, especially at this time of year. Instead, it is a deep assurance that light will shine in the darkness, and the darkness will not overcome it. It is the hope that love can heal, forgiveness can restore, and peace can be born again — even in the most unlikely places.

As the Gospel of John reminds us:

**“The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.” - John 1:5**

This is the hope we hold at Christmas. As we gather this Christmas — whether in church, around a table, or simply in spirit — may we carry that hope with us. Let it renew our hearts, inspire our compassion, and remind us that God's promise of joy and peace is for all people, everywhere.

Wishing you a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year!

Ruth

Christmas Services at St John's Sandiway

(all in held in church except for Breakfast Church)

Sunday 30th November

6.30pm Advent Evening Prayer

Sunday 7th December (*at the Church Hall*)

10.15am Advent Breakfast Church

Sunday 14th December

6.30pm A service of 9 Lessons and Carols

Wednesday 24th December

4.30pm Crib Service

11pm Christmas Holy Communion

Thursday 25th December

10.15am Holy Communion for Christmas Morning

Refreshments will be served BEFORE Breakfast Church on December 7th, AFTER the service of 9 Lessons & Carols on the 14th, but BEFORE the Christmas Eve Communion – from 10.30pm

Heritage Snippets



A few weeks ago, Revd Ruth was asked why our visitor's leaflet says that Gilbert Percival Gamon made the West Window when the maker's monogram in the right-hand corner has an 'O' over an 'N'. Why indeed...? On looking closely, a weird black shape could also be seen in the centre of the 'O'

It is known that Gamon made a window at Holt Church, Wrexham, but that was simply signed with Gamon's initials, GPG, which made



much more sense. Finally, after a great deal of research, an expert in stained glass, Peter Hilderbrand, supplied the answer. Our beautiful West Window, which was placed in the Baptistry in 1903, **WAS** made by the esteemed stained-glass designer and maker, Gilbert

Percival Gamon. Peter explained that in heraldic terms 'gamb' is a word for the fore-leg of a lion or other beast and then the O and N finish Gilbert Gamon's surname. The weird shape in the centre is a rampant lion's leg. Would anyone have guessed that?

GPG was born in Chester, the son of a wealthy solicitor. After serving an apprenticeship at the Lancaster-based stained-glass firm Shrigley & Hunt he joined the company as a designer in 1891. In the early 1900s he went into partnership with Godfrey Wood Humphry in Fitzroy Square, London.

Thank you to Jo Lloyd and Peter Bennett for the photographs.

There is now a booklet available to read in the Baptistry on the research so far into the seven stained glass windows in St John's.

Jill King



CHRISTMAS

Craft Market & Brunch Café


SATURDAY 06 DECEMBER 10.30-3PM
ST JOHN'S CHURCH HALL, CUDDINGTON

We have unique artists with hand made gifts,
crafts, treats and art to browse 10.30-3pm

Treat yourself to brunch or a cake and drink
at the Brunch Café 11-2pm

at

St John's Church Hall 51 Norley Rd Cuddington
Northwich CW8 2JY



Mothers' UNION

Tuesday 2nd December
2.30pm in the church hall

***Christmas Celebration and Tea
with Mince Pies and Raffle***

***Musical Entertainment from Sandiway School &
Community Carol Singing***
All donations are welcome

To find out more about the event, or joining the MU,
please contact Cherry (301513) or Wendy (883955)



Do you have an art or craft hobby?

Join us in the Ark Café for a
friendly couple of hours to
have a chat and work on your
project.

Every Wednesday afternoon
2-4pm with refreshments
£1 per person.

**No formal teaching - we learn
from each other.**

**The Ark Café is at the side of St
John's Church Hall, Norley Rd**

Joy Coulbeck 07795314424



JOY to the WORLD



display in
church



Open 1st – 20th December

Monday – Saturday 10.00 – 2.00

Please call in and enjoy the free display of 'Joy to the World' inspired items made by individuals and groups, of all ages, from our community and beyond!



But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people'. Luke 2 v 10



*Wishing you joy and peace this
Christmas – and every blessing for
the New Year*

Prayer Support

The Ark Café

Norley Road, CW8 2JX

Open Fridays 9am-2pm

10am-2pm in school holidays



A reminder that anyone wishing to suggest a local good cause that the 2025 profits may benefit, please contact Kathryn 01606 889879 or call into the Ark & speak to one of the team on a Friday.

Special events

BRUNCH DAY - 5th December

when profits will be for new equipment for the cafe.

Enjoy full English/ eggs Benedict/ florentine / healthy options

9am -1.30pm. Seasonal baps also available

12th December - CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

in aid of the Children's Society.

Christmas fare served. Christmas jumpers welcome, we'll put an extra £1 to the charity for every one we see!

Then we take a break & wish you all
a happy peaceful Christmas season.

Next year we open on FRIDAY 6th MARCH 9am.



Are you struggling to come to terms with the loss of a loved one and feel you have no one who understands how you feel? If this is the case, then please come along to CAMEO.

C.A.M.E.O is a new group starting February 2026. It stands for Come and Meet Each Other, it will be a monthly, informal group for those who are bereaved. We will meet over a coffee in the beauty of the Church on the first Tuesday of the month from 1.30pm to 3pm. The aim is to provide an opportunity to talk to other people who know how grief can feel, whether it is a recent loss or in the past. The group will be a listening ear and offer mutual support to each other. Two volunteers will be there to support and everything that is said will be treated as confidential. Grief has no time limit and every experience of it is individual, there is no right or wrong way to grieve.

Our first meeting is on Tuesday, 3rd February, in church at 1.30pm.

If you would like to ask any questions or know more about it, please contact Mandy Shaw via mandysjc@btinternet.com or leave your name and phone number with Reverend Ruth to pass on.

Breakfast Church 2026

Sunday 11th January

Sunday 8th February

Sunday 1st March

Sunday 3rd May

Sunday 7th June

Sunday 5th July

Sunday 4th October

Sunday 1st November

Sunday 6th December

*Come and join us for a Sunday service
with creative, intergenerational worship.*

St John's Church Hall
51 Norley Road, Cuddington
Refreshments served from 9.45am
Creative worship begins at 10.15am
All Welcome!



Who is this Man?

Curious about Christianity? Come and join us as we find out more about Jesus!

A welcoming, discussion group based on the book by John Ortberg, open to all!

Contact Rev Ruth Mock for more details.

Email: vicar.stjohnsandiway@gmail.com

Join us for a five-session Bible study course exploring the life and significance of Jesus and his influence on history.

Venue: The Vicarage.

Meeting on Tuesday evenings 7 - 8.30pm

Dates: 13th, 20th, 27th January;

3rd & 10th February.

Baptisms from the registers

12th October

Indie and Luna Emerson Woods.

Funerals from the registers

10th October

Rosalind Brookes at St John's church

15th October

Margaret Barrett at St John's church



QUIZ NIGHT

WITH PRIZE RAFFLE

Saturday 10 January

7PM - 10PM

ST JOHN'S CHURCH HALL

Norley Road, Cuddington, CW8 2JY

Entry £5

Nibbles provided

BYO drinks and a glass

Contact Julie on 07713 813147 or
fundraisingatstjohns@gmail.com



What's happening at St John's this month

1st - 20th Dec (Mon-Sat)	Joy to the World Display	10am-2pm	Church	Page 9
2nd Dec (Tuesday)	Mothers Union Christmas Celebration	2pm	Church hall	Page 8
5th Dec (Friday)	Brunch Day at the Ark	9am-2pm	Church hall	Page 10
6th Dec (Saturday)	Christmas Craft Market	10.30am-3pm	Church hall	Page 7
7th Dec (Sunday)	Breakfast Church refreshments from 9.45am	10.15am	Church hall	Page 17
7th Dec (Sunday)	Evening Prayer with Advent Hymns	6.30pm	Church	
12th Dec (Friday)	Christmas Jumper Day at the Ark	9am-2pm	Church hall	Page 10
13th Dec (Saturday)	Wildlife Gardening Group	10am-12	Church grounds	Page 19
14th Dec (Sunday)	Morning Praise with Sunday Club	10.15am	Church hall	
14th Dec (Sunday)	Nine Lessons and Carols followed by Christmas refreshments	6.30pm	Church	
21st Dec (Sunday)	Holy Communion	10.15am	Church hall	
21st Dec (Sunday)	Celtic Communion	6.30pm	Church	

What’s happening at St John’s this month

Christmas Eve	Crib Service	4.30pm	Church
Christmas Eve	Christmas Eve Communion	11pm Refreshments served from 10.30pm	Church
Christmas Day	Christmas Day Communion	10.15am	Church
28 th Dec (Sunday)	Morning Praise in church	10.15am	Church

Weekly services and events

Church open 10am-3pm every weekday

Arts in the Ark	Wednesdays	2 - 4pm	Church hall
Holy Communion	Thursdays	9.30am	Church
Night Prayer	Thursdays	6.15pm	Church
Ark Café	Fridays	9am - 2pm	Church hall
Saturday Sanctuary	Saturdays	10am - 12 noon	Church

What's happening at St John's in January

4 th January (Sunday)	Morning Praise with Sunday Club	10.15am	Church hall	
10 th January (Saturday)	Wildlife Gardening Group	10am-12	Church grounds	Page 19
10 th January (Saturday)	Quiz Night	7-10pm	Church hall	Page 13
11 th January (Sunday)	Breakfast Church with refreshments from 9.45am	10.15am	Church hall	
11 th January (Sunday)	Celtic Communion	6.30pm	Church	
13 th January (Tuesday)	Bible Study Group	7-8.30pm	Vicarage	Page 12
18 th January (Sunday)	Morning Praise with Sunday Club	10.15am	Church hall	
18 th January (Sunday)	Celtic Communion	6.30pm	Church	
20 th January (Tuesday)	Bible Study Group	7-8.30pm	Vicarage	Page 12
25 th January (Sunday)	Holy Communion in church with Bishop Julie	10.15am	Church	
25 th January (Sunday)	Take 40	6.30pm	Church	
27 th January (Tuesday)	Bible Study Group	7-8.30pm	Vicarage	Page 12



2026 Season of Lunchtime Recitals

St John's Church, Sandiway



All concerts start at 12 noon
Followed by a soup lunch at the Church Hall
Inclusive price **£15** | Students £5 | Under 18s free
Pay at the door | cash or card
Please book with Kathryn 01606 889879

02 March Lewis Kingsley Peart Piano

13 April Paddy Davies Percussion

May no concert

01 June Lewis Barton Trumpet with Pianist tbc
By kind permission of the RNCM

06 July Cary's Nunn Saxophone with Pianist tbc

03 August Alice Roberts Harp

07 September Tbc

05 October Jazz Trio By kind permission of the RNCM
Theo Sanders Piano Jack Wilson Drums Marcel Rodrigues Double Bass

02 November Joe Chu Yu Yang Violin with Irene Loh Piano



Give a dishcloth this Christmas!

This may seem a strange idea, but read on ,,,,
Over the previous decades, we have increasingly been using synthetic, or partly synthetic, fabrics, in the production of our clothing and household items, including our dishcloths! This may have seemed a very practical way forward, but these synthetic fibres come from plastics like polyester and polyamide, which in turn have been produced from raw materials like petroleum. And, when we wash synthetic, or partly synthetic products, tiny microfibres break off and go into our wastewater as microplastics, and from there into streams and rivers, and eventually find their way into the world's seas and oceans! In 2023, the British Antarctic Survey found microplastics in krill, an important source of food for penguins, whales, and seals! (Emperor Penguins Photo credit: David Goodger, British Antarctic Survey.)



Back to dishcloths! Just think how many times every day we run our dishcloths under the tap? Each time, we may be adding to the microplastics in our water systems. But we can avoid this by using eco-friendly dishcloths made from 100% fibres like cotton, hemp, and linen.

So, **give a dishcloth this Christmas!** (and an accompanying explanation would be helpful). You can buy eco-friendly dishcloths from on-line companies such as *Big Green Smile*, and *Composty*, or, if you knit or crochet, you could make your gift. There are patterns available on-line, and Organic Cotton is available in Chester at both *Hobbycraft* and *Aberkhan*.



Welcome Suzanne!

We are delighted to welcome Suzanne Witham to the Eco team.

“Hi, my name is Suzanne and, like so many people, when I immerse myself in the natural world, I find joy, comfort and peace. Protecting this for future



generations and for all the plant and animal life that thrive within it is so very important for all. This is why I am so excited to become part of our eco team. Together in mindfulness we can protect the earth. “May we all give more to the earth than we take””.

Let your live Christmas tree live on!

A message from Suzanne:

A local landowner is kindly allowing us to replant 15 pot-grown or dug-up-and-potted (with a good root ball) Christmas trees on her land. After Christmas we will collect your tree and replant it so it can live on and help reduce our carbon footprint, potentially absorbing 21.77 kg to 31.5 kg of carbon annually. Remember to water your tree whilst its decorated! Please speak to Suzanne to secure a new home for your rooted tree, post-Christmas.

Church Wildlife Gardening Group. Saturday, December 13th 2025 and Saturday January 10th 2026, 10.00am-12.00 noon,

Come and join us for a couple of hours in the fresh air as we try to improve the church garden as a habitat for local wildlife. Sturdy footwear and weatherproof clothing are essential and if you have your own spade, fork or secateurs, please bring them with you. If you would like to find out more, please contact the eco team at:

eco.stjohnsandway@gmail.com We look forward to seeing you!

Walk and Wonder

Join us on Sunday, 8th February for a winter stroll of about 3km, taking in the sights and sounds and learning more about our local natural landscape. Meet outside Sandiway and Cuddington Scout Hall at 2.00pm. Please wear sturdy footwear and weather-proof clothing.

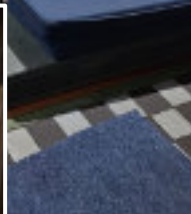
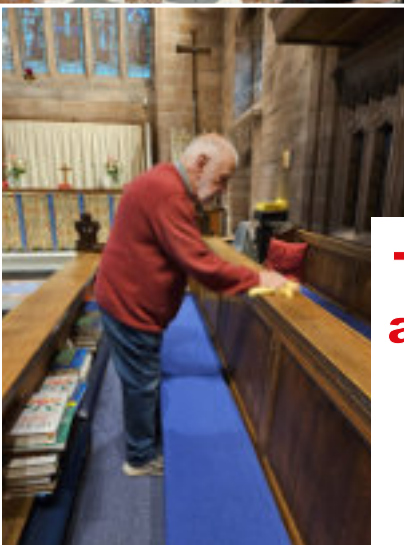
Environment Days coming up...

January 17-23. Big Energy Saving Week

January 26. International Environmental Education Day

January 24-26. RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch.

May we all work together to tread a little more lightly on our precious earth. **Alison, Jane, Suzanne and Bev.**



**Thank you to
all those who
helped with the Cobweb
Day in
November.**



St John's Mothers' Union: A Visit from the Hedgehogs

Northwich Hedgehog Rescue visited us in November. They brought along one of their rescues, a hoglet called Piglet.



Around 2007, Helen first became involved with wild hedgehogs by helping raise funds for Warrington Hedgehog Rescue. Helen kept African pygmy hedgehogs and people would turn up at her door with 'wildies' requiring help. These would be treated and returned - Helen would concentrate on fattening them up prior to release.

In 2020, in memory of her father, Helen decided to branch out as Northwich Hedgehog Rescue. At the heart of their operation is the sad fact that hedgehogs are endangered and at risk of extinction. Warmer winters, new roads and building work have significantly affected their habitats and behaviour. Many of the hedgehogs that arrive at the rescue require weeks of treatment which can be very costly. The Hedgehog Rescue treat and return to the wild numerous hedgehogs that would die without help. This is funded through their own fundraising and by public donations.



We can help by putting out pet food such as kitten biscuits as a welcome supplement to their normal diet. We should always make sure that a dish of water is available especially during the summer months or in extreme weather conditions.

For more information and an opportunity to donate see <https://northwichhedgehogrescue.co.uk/>

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ROUND TOWER WI

**Weds 10th December
Christmas Party Fun**

7.30pm at the Blue Cap / Visitors welcome (£5 charge)

For information contact roundtowerwi@outlook.com



CUDDINGTON & SANDIWAY WI

**Weds 10th December
Christmas Lunch**

Thursdays at 1.45pm at Cuddington & Sandiway Village Hall

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Nicola.NHcounselling@gmail.com



Cuddington and Sandiway Community Village Website

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Round Tower Online
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Images & Maps



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And much more!

**Drop by your community village website for
Cuddington, Sandiway, and Delamere Park**

**www.cuddingtonandsandiwayonline.org
or www.candsonline.org**

For more information or to join the website team as a volunteer
email: info@cuddingtonandsandiwayonline.org

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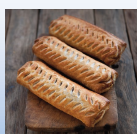
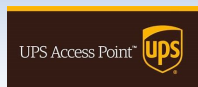
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