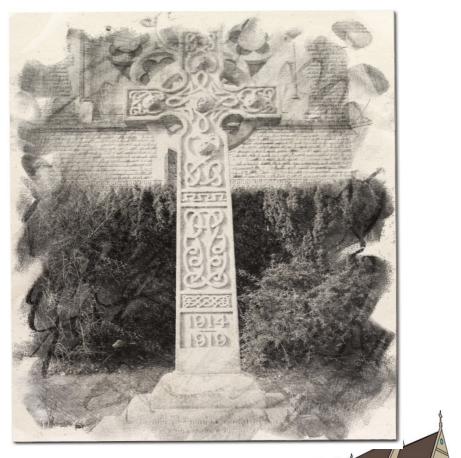
# <u>ST</u> JOHN <u>THE</u> <u>THE</u> <u>DIVINE</u> BROOKLANDS · SALE



# 40p November 2018

ST OHN THE DIVINE BROOKLANDS 150 Years of Welcome & Worship

## From the Editor

We reach the centenary of the end of the Great War. The war to end all wars, except sadly it didn't. The Armistice is commented on in the December 1918 magazine so extracts from that have been taken. The comment about the need for a peace to be moderate was forward thinking given that the subsequent Treaty of Versailles arguably contained the seeds for the 1939-45 conflict.

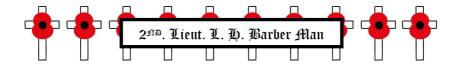
The end of the 1914-18 war does though take centre stage here with some examples of war poetry and even some jokes from the era. The magazine also contains the names of those written on the striking blue Roll of Honour inside our Church.

Commemorating the war started long ago of course. Of the many things I've read over the past few months, two stand out for me. The first is what was called the 'Great Gift', huge swathes of Lakeland, including Scafell Pike and Great Gable, fourteen peaks in total, gifted to the nation. From the huge to the small, the jelly babies that we give out during the Manchester marathon were originally called 'Peace Babies' and were first sold in 1918. Who knew that. Special commemorative packs are currently available.

The last couple of editions have had extracts from Remembrance100. The final piece is by Archbishop Justin. It is too long to be included here but do look at it, https:// www.remembrance100.co.uk/

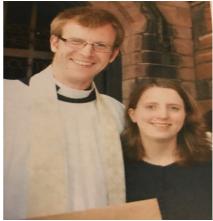
The 1968 newsletter contains a reference to baptism which is interesting to read in the light of our own discussions. And so that this edition isn't entirely backward looking there is a hand grenade tossed in to get us to think about the fabric of the building. In a gentler spirit of looking forward, Richard's letter discusses how we might seek to do that and the discussion around 'Giving Sunday' (which happened after this edition was printed) looks at how we might financially support it.

Next month is the Christmas/New Year edition. All contributions welcome.



# **Richard writes...**

In October we agreed our 2030 vision to be **Extending God's Welcome to Everyone!** This vision is rooted in Scripture, especially Paul's exhortation: 'Welcome one another...just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God' (Rom. 15:7). This is hugely exciting for St John's and sets the direction of travel for us over the next decade.



In order to achieve this vision we will need to accomplish the following four things by 2025:

- (1) Integrating newcomers;
- (2) Increasing leadership capacity;
- (3) Initiating gathering opportunities; and,
- (4) Investing in our facilities.

What does this look like? It means that over the next three/five years we shall look at creating opportunities to engage with new people of different ages and stages and help them to make the transition from being strangers to friends, integrating newcomers into the church family.

We will also look at how we can increase leadership capacity within St John's by providing training for existing leaders, identifying and equipping newly identified leaders as well as recruiting a paid staff member to oversee our ministry to children and young families.

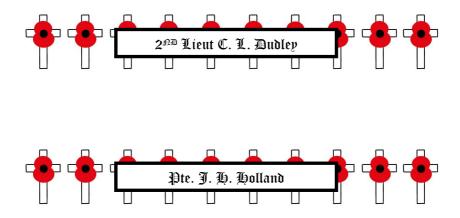
We're also going to multiply the opportunities for people to gather together and encourage one another as we grow as disciples shaped by God's word and Spirit. This will include planting a new Sunday afternoon congregation called Café Church as well as developing and launching a small group web, groups of around 12 people who meet regularly to pray, read the Bible and share their lives with each other.

Finally, we'll be proactive in working to future-proof our facilities so that they are fit for our mission of welcoming you into God's family as we grow in Christ together. One of the projects we'll explore is redeveloping the church hall which has served the parish so well but is now in need of looking at. The focus for the next 12-18 months is what we're calling: Welcome2Grow (W2G). This is based on our Strategy of welcome, grow, share, and serve as we seek to move everyone along this discipleship process to accomplish our mission on the broadest level. Our immediate goal is to move *both* newcomers *and* regular attenders to become small group members who are growing in their faith! There is a lot more I could add, but I'm currently working on some literature that will provide more details in due course. Do continue to pray for our parish as we seek to live out our mission and achieve our vision.

In other news: throughout November we're conducting a Worship Review. We'll take a look at our worship and evaluate some of the changes that have been introduced over the past twelve months. A questionnaire shall be provided throughout November.

Finally, this year we're commemorating the centenary of Armistice and to help us with this we're holding a Peace Party following the Remembrance Sunday service and we'll hold a special evening service of music and readings at 6.30pm. Please do come along if you're able.

Richard



# **GIVING SUNDAY REPORT**

28<sup>th</sup> October marks the first 'Giving Sunday' at St John's. The information that went to it is given below. The event is intended to become a regular feature of parish life to provide us with an opportunity to reflect together on how God's generosity towards us influences what a Christian attitude to giving looks like. The event was to look at the parish's financial situation within the context of the Parish Vision and give encouragement to excel in the 'grace of giving' (2 Cor. 8:7).

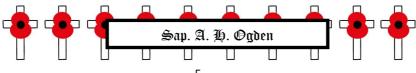
In 2017 we received £40,818 from planned giving (*excluding* Gift Aid). In addition to this we received £6,975 through the collection plate and donations of £2171.

#### <u>Thank you!</u>

We are so thankful for the generosity of those who give financially to support the vision, mission and ministry of St John's. Having the finances available means we can: (1) invite our community to know Jesus for themselves and grow to maturity in Christ, (2) serve our community through funding the projects and events we run and/or support; and, (3) continue with the normal day-to-day running of the parish.

During the service we looked at how God's generosity towards us results in a mature Christian attitude towards giving that should be **prayerful**, **planned**, and a **priority**!

- **Prayerful giving -** Without prayer at the heart of our giving we risk separating money from our Christian discipleship. Thinking, talking and acting well around money is a natural part church life. The church at Corinth was proud of its spiritual gifts. Paul knew and valued them but was keen that they should add financial generosity to this list of spiritual gifts. He writes, 'Just as you excel in all things in faith, speech, knowledge...so we want you to excel also in this grace of giving' (2 Cor 8:7). For Paul giving was not fundraising but the outworking of grace.
- Planned giving Planning our giving is more than how we give our gift; it is about *being intentional* in our giving rather than reacting to appeals or circumstances. Paul advised setting aside our gifts to God as part of the journey to generous giving (1 Cor. 16:2). Regular, planned giving helps us do the same. The generosity to which we are called in Christ cannot be achieved if we are not disciplined and intentional about our giving.



Prioritising giving - Prayerfully planned giving reflects the intention of making giving a priority and as such it becomes 'a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given' (2 Cor. 9:5). It is also an expression of a thankful heart for the generous grace which God has lavished upon each one of us: 'For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich' (2 Cor. 8:9). Within this context practising financial generosity reflects our being caught up in the flow of God's gracious giving.

We then asked: **How can we excel in this 'grace of giving'?** At St John's, along with the Church of England nationally, we encourage all of our church members to set the target of giving 5% of their (net) income to support the growth of God's kingdom through the church. This simple table helps us see what this looks like:

Weekly income	1%	5%	Monthly income	1%	5%
£100	£1	£5	£1000	£10	£50
£150	£1.50	£7.50	£1500	£15	£75
£250	£2.50	£12.50	£2500	£25	£125
£350	£3.50	£17.50	£3500	£35	£175

We were then invited to consider the following questions:

- Is it time for you to join the envelope scheme/move to a standing order?
- Is it appropriate for you to join the Gift Aid scheme?
- Is it time to increase what you are currently giving?
- Is it time to give a percentage of what you receive?

If you would like to join our planned giving scheme to support the work of our parish financially please arrange your own internet banking regular payments using the details shown below. Alternatively complete a standing order mandate and send it to your bank. These can be picked up from the back of church or ask our treasurer (Adele Lane) for details.

#### Our bank details

Bank: NatWest Sort Code: 01-07-71 Account No: 02596334 Account Name: PCC of St John the Divine Reference: Please use your full name

# How about something controversial...

#### Modernise the church - or close down

Parish church buildings must modernise or risk being closed, according to a Church of England judge. Chancellor June Rodgers was warning traditionalists and heritage groups that church buildings must stay relevant to the needs of their communities.

In a ruling published earlier this month, she said: "If people disagree with sensible and necessary re-ordering of an existing church building to keep it in use, then they should think what redundant churches have been turned into: a supermarket, climbing walls, dance studios, or even demolition." Thus, she has recently ruled that a Grade II listed Mariners' Church in Gloucester could install a kitchen, new lighting system, sound system and monitors, and remove pews, as part of an overhaul to help it accommodate a growing congregation. 'The church needs people (and money) to survive unless it is to become an empty unused shell.'

Her comments came as the bishop in charge of cathedrals recently warned that parish churches were becoming "mausoleums" which were no longer at the centre of communities.

Dr John Inge, the Bishop of Worcester, told the national cathedrals conference in Manchester: 'Far too many churches remain locked, despite the advice of the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company that they should remain open, and stand like mausoleums except when they open for worship, and have become increasingly marginal to the life of the communities they exist to serve.

Traditionally, churches have been at the heart of the communities in which they stand, in both a human and geographical sense. It is well known that in the medieval period much of what we would now term secular activity would have taken place within churches and cathedrals.

'Over the years, particularly during Victorian periods, a piety crept in which tended to exclude everything but public worship from them, all other activities being transferred to other places, halls and community centres.'

#### Editor's note

The author of this suggested that reader's might want to respond. Printable responses welcome.

# From the Archive

#### Thanksgiving for Peace-December 1918

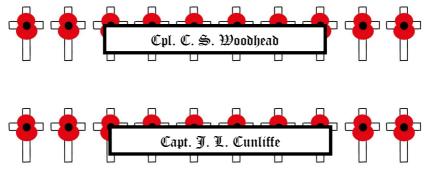
The conclusion of an Armistice between the Allied Forces and Germany, at her own urgent request, upon November 11<sup>th</sup> was received with cries of joy and heartfelt thanksgiving throughout the world. Our service of Thanksgiving was held on Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> when 100 members of the Sale Company of Cheshire Volunteer Regiment, under Captain E Wingate-Saul, joined with us in our simple and heartfelt service of gratitude to Almighty God who had brought this mighty conflict to a close.

So, the greatest war in history is over and Germany finally defeated. We remember with reverence and hearts of gratitude that great company of men on land and sea and in the air, brave as they were unselfish, who have given their lives to save the world, and that our children might find life instead of slavery and live it abundantly.

Never must be in indifference or careless want of thought permit us to forget their memory year by year as the years shall come and go. Our thoughts go out to the wounded and suffering, the blinded, the maimed, the prisoners of war, to those who for a lifetime shall bear the honourable burden of their weakness and their suffering for us and for humanity.

In all things they are beyond human praise, but the acknowledgment is our first duty, and only so are we entitled to rejoice over the sacred blessings of peace. For the future of our country - a future as many see it's of enhance greatness and advancement under the Divine guidance lies within our hands; but that future is within our power only through the achievements of our men. We owe it to their constant memory to use it well, and in the hours of victory and elation strive in thought and action for a peace that by its moderation shall secure a lasting peace, and banish forever the appalling losses and dreadfulness of war for the generations that are yet unborn.

> "Lord God of Hosts, that bidst the conflict cease, Grant us that we be worthy of Thy peace."



Our enemies have fallen and the sword Of lust and tyranny is beaten down. Joyful, the nations shout with one accord, And eager hands entwine the victor's crown. Lord, grant that in this hour we may be still In everything obedient to Thy will. The night was long and dark, and hard the way But ever to the distance goal we pressed. Weary and faint, sore stricken in the fray, But never yet by craven fears distressed, We kept our living faith, undimmed and bright, In the our glorious captain in the fight.	Though gavest us one heart, one mind, one soul, To battle nobly in a noble cause. To keep the very heart of freedom whole, And still uphold the high and sacred law, Of justice band and of right on many a field, Trusting in Thee who wert our sword and shield. Grant us today a spirit calm and strong, That in our hour of victory we may claim, Who spent our dearest blood to right the wrong, A triumph over every selfish aim. Lord God of Hosts, That bidst the conflict cease, Grant us that we may be worthy of Thy peace.
	Touchstone

## November 1968

Interestingly, and given current discussions, the November 1968 letter from Reverend Buckley, considered what were then experimental changes to the Baptism services to place a greater onus on the promises of parents and goparents. On the subject and in support of the proposals, he wrote-

"Infant baptism has always presented problems. We have, I hope been able to make sense of it, but not the same sense as that which it carries in the New Testament. This is the difficulty. Symolism which applied naturally to adult converts who were joining the Christian church from pagan backgrounds—the washing away of past sins, the dying to an old way of life and rising to a new life in Christ can only be applied to a baby by a very tortuous processes of thought which have come to seem more and more illogical. Further, many people—and not least parents—have been unhappy at the rather casual way in which some godparents have taken their responsibilities. Neither parents nor the Church are really happy for baptism to be regarded as little more than a social occasion."

Food for thought.

#### Dulce et Decorum Est

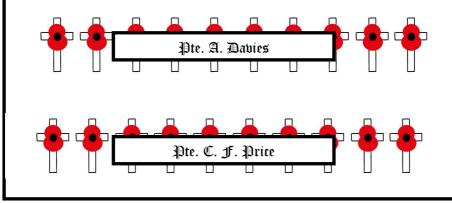
Bent double, like old beggars under sacks, Knock-kneed, coughing like hags, we cursed through sludge, Till on the haunting flares we turned our backs And towards our distant rest began to trudge. Men marched asleep. Many had lost their boots But limped on, blood-shod. All went lame; all blind; Drunk with fatigue; deaf even to the hoots Of tired, outstripped Five-Nines that dropped behind.

Gas! GAS! Quick, boys! - An ecstasy of fumbling, Fitting the clumsy helmets just in time; But someone still was yelling out and stumbling And flound'ring like a man in fire or lime ... Dim, through the misty panes and thick green light, As under I green sea, I saw him drowning.

In all my dreams, before my helpless sight, He plunges at me, guttering, choking, drowning.

If in some smothering dreams you too could pace Behind the wagon that we flung him in, And watch the white eyes writhing in his face, His hanging face, like a devil's sick of sin; If you could hear, at every jolt, the blood Come gargling from the froth-corrupted lungs, Obscene as cancer, bitter as the cud Of vile, incurable sores on innocent tongues, --My friend, you would not tell with such high zest To children ardent for some desperate glory, The old lie: Dulce et decorum est Pro patria mori.

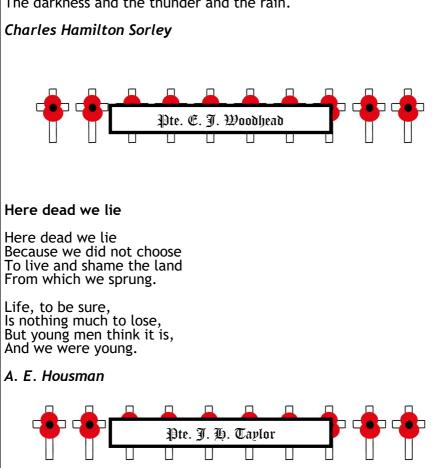
#### Wilfred Owen



#### To Germany

You are blind like us. Your hurt no man designed, And no man claimed the conquest of your land. But gropers both through fields of thought confined We stumble and we do not understand. You only saw your future bigly planned, And we, the tapering paths of our own mind, And in each others dearest ways we stand, And hiss and hate. And the blind fight the blind.

When it is peace, then we may view again With new won eyes each other's truer form And wonder. Grown more loving kind and warm We'll grasp firm hands and laugh at the old pain, When it is peace. But until peace, the storm, The darkness and the thunder and the rain.



# From Around St John's



Hello everyone. I hope you are all well and enjoying the autumnal atmosphere. Our October meeting, was a bring and buy, in aid of our funds. We had a good attendance, making just over £97. Everyone enjoyed some chat, homemade scones, biscuits and tea.

On November 14, we will be staging a version of the pantomime Cinderella. All are welcome to attend, so do come and enjoy a sociable afternoon. Sharon Marlow

#### The Mothers' Union

Mary Sumner, a vicars wife, in Winchester, started The Mothers' Union in 1876, following the birth of her first grandchild. It began as small meetings, in the vicarage. In 1885 after her first public speech, entitled "Those that rock the cradle rule the world", the bishop of Winchester endorsed the organisation, and it spread throughout the diocese. It then spread across the country, and, following Queen Victoria's endorsement, the British Empire. There are now Mothers' Unions throughout the world. The MU slogan is "Christian care for families". At first you had to be a married mother to be a member, now the only requirement, is that you are christened.

Anyone can attend the meetings. They are social occasions, to allow people to have an afternoon off from their busy lives.

Among the things done to help those in need is knitting for premature babies and providing holidays for those who can't afford them.

# Sanctuary Guild - November Volunteers in the Sanctuary Guild take turns to clean the brasses in church, such as the altar cross, candlesticks, offertory plates and lecterns. 9th Nov: Mrs A Piling and Mrs A Howard 23rd Nov: Mrs L Vickers and Mrs C Parry

## Mary Webster writes

Well here we are in the last quarter of the year, I'm writing this on October 14, and I don't know where the year has gone but I know I enjoyed it. I hope you did too.

We held our Annual General Meeting on 26 September and I was amazed just how swiftly we managed to get through the business, in fact it was shorter than even I anticipated.

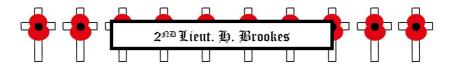
One of the things we discussed was celebrating Holy Communion prior to our meetings. Richard had asked what members views were as we begin a new phase of parish life. In February he will be coming along to our meeting to facilitate a discussion of how Women's Fellowship can work towards our vision of *Extending God's Welcome to Everyone* as we work out our mission of *Welcoming you into God's family as we grow in Christ together*. The feeling of the meeting was that they valued worship prior to meeting although it was recognised that we do not have a lot of attendees. When my term of office finishes next September, I shall be able to take part on a regular basis as well. We look forward to further discussions on this.

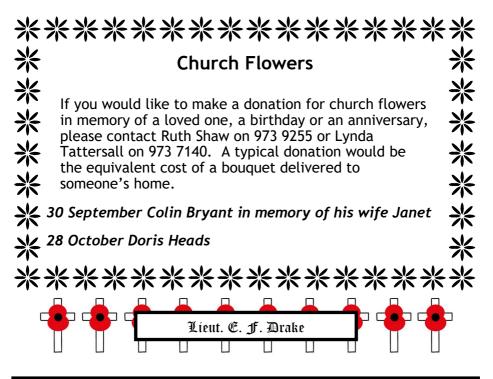
By the time you read this we will have heard from Keith Vigurs on how it is to be a 'Mystery Shopper' and what that entails. I've heard him before and enjoyed it, hopefully so will everyone else.

Our meeting on 28 November will be a cracker, not literally but it does relate to Christmas. We will have the pleasure of the company of Ruth Shaw and Pamela Tallis who will demonstrate how to create a floral decoration for the Christmas Table.

Wonderful, but even better we will all have the chance to 'have a go' ourselves. Ladies, even if you're not a Women's Fellowship member, if you would like to join us on that evening then come along. The cost for non-members is £2 per person which I'm sure you will agree is great value for money, so don't be shy we'd love to see you. Worship is at 7.30pm and our meeting begins at 8pm. I look forward to seeing you then.

Just a thought, if, as non-members you would like to take part, could you please give me a call on 0161 973 9916 to let me know as it will allow Ruth and Pamela to gauge what materials they are likely to need. Thank you in advance.





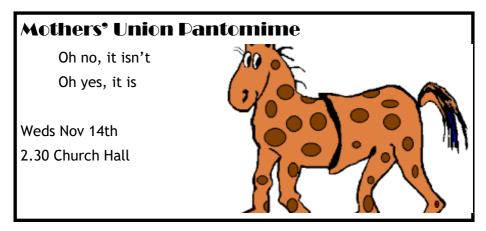
# St Martin of Porres

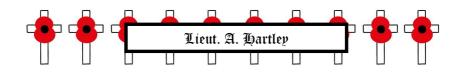
Martin was born in Lima Peru, of mixed race. His father abandoned his mother and siblings, thus they were thrown into poverty. However, Martin did spend two years at school before working for a barber surgeon and learning the trade. Being a very devout young man, he persuaded the local Dominican Holy Rosary Priory to take him in, as a volunteer. He performed menial tasks in exchange for being allowed to wear the habit. In due course he became a chief officer, distributing money to the poor. He also used his skills as of barbering and healing.

Eventually Martin was allowed to take holy orders, and , in 1603 he became a lay brother. He attended the sick in the priory infirmary regardless of their age, race or wealth. Martin's many gifts included aerial flight, bilocation and instant cures. He founded an orphanage for abandoned children and raised money for young girls' dowries.

He died in 1639 and his feast day is 3 November. Martin is the patron saint of barbers, innkeepers and those of mixed race, among

# Upcoming Events







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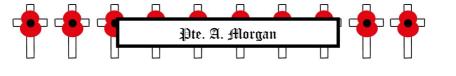
I can also supply computers & laptops at very competitive prices & include data transfer, setup & guidance

# Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance

#### 4th November at 6.30pm

At this special service we remember those whom we love but see no longer. During the service the names of our loved ones are read out and there is an opportunity to light a candle in their memory. If you would like the name of a loved one to be read out during the service please email Richard, <u>vicarbrooklands@gmail.com</u>.

The service will be followed by refreshments









The Flower Ladies would like to thank everybody who contributed to funding the Harvest flowers.

On behalf of everybody, the Editor thanks them for a stunning display.



Baptism Anniversary: November

Orla Holz Walker



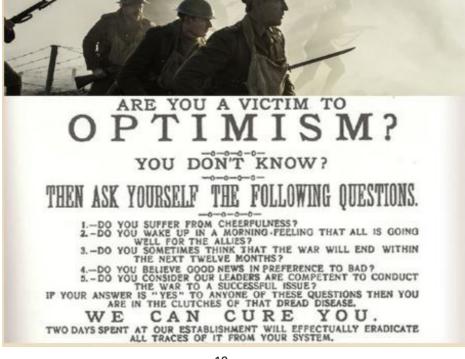
# And in case you thought there were no funnies...

Trench humour in WWI was not, in the main, something that could be printed in a Parish Magazine but here are a couple of acceptable pieces. The first is from a letter written by JHM Max Stanniforth who survived the war and saw his collected letters published. The second is a piece from the famous Wipers Times.

The only way to be here is to be philosophical. We have evolved a philosophy accordingly. What do you think of it?

If you are a soldier, you are either:

- (1) at home or (2) at the Front.
- *If* (1), you needn't worry.
- If (2), you are either (1) out of the danger zone or (2) in it.
- If (1), you needn't worry.
- If (2), you are either (1) not hit, or (2) hit.
- *If* (1), you needn't worry.
- If (2) you are either (1) trivial or (2) dangerous.
- *If (1), you needn't worry.*
- If (2), you either (1) live or (2) die.
- If you live, you needn't worry: and If you die, YOU CAN'T WORRY!!





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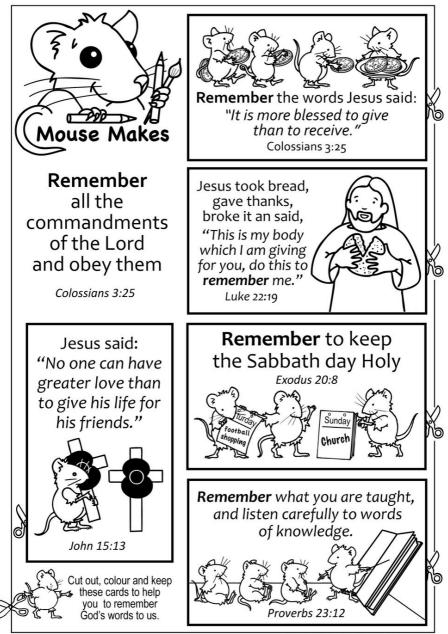
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# Parish Diary November 2018

4 <sup>th</sup>	All Saints' Sunday			
		Holy Communion		
		Breakfast Welcome		
		Family Communion		
	0.30	All Souls' Service		
<b>7</b> <sup>th</sup>	10.00	Holy Communion		
	2.00	Crafty Chat		
11 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Sunday			
11		Holy Communion		
		Remembrance Service		
		Followed by a Peace Party		
	6.30	Special Service for Armistice		
+h	(			
14 <sup>th</sup>		Holy Communion		
	2.30	Mothers' Union		
17 <sup>th</sup>	11am-2pm	nWinter Fair		
17 <sup>th</sup> 18 <sup>th</sup>		nWinter Fair ny Before Advent		
	Second Sunda			
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# The Parish Church of

#### St. John the Divine, Brooklands

#### In the Deanery of Withington, In the Diocese of Manchester, In the Province of York

Website: www.stjohnsbrooklands.org.uk

#### SUNDAY SERVICES

8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30 am	Family Communion
	(Second Sunday of the Month All-Age Worship)
5.30pm	Choral Evensong

Holy Communion is celebrated on Holy Days and Saints Days as announced.

#### POINTS OF CONTACT

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ASSISTANT WARDEN	Simon Mather	282 7656		
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	Sue Withenshaw	969 2521		
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