

Ten Reasons to Serve

Service is the writing that goes through the stick of rock that is our Christian lives. Jesus defined his life by it. "I am among you as one who serves." It is the reason the King has come.

Christians are not the only people who serve in our society, but we certainly put in vastly more hours than any other group. And not just on Sundays. Over the next few weeks we are looking at 10 reasons to serve well.

The biggest challenge by far in this church has been to provide children and youth work for four and sometimes no less than five different age ranges. We need to salute those who give up their time to do it. Our leaders and assistants have spent tens of thousands of hours of service over the years doing this for us.

It is easy to miss what is right in front of us. There is a lot of serving going on. Every week, our musicians turn up to play the entire service having practised during the week.

The Rock Café has a host of volunteers, and needs them. But it is not just the number of people that counts – it is the quality. You can purchase expensive food but you cannot buy a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Our volunteers provide that – free of charge!

Our home groups leaders, PCC members and Treasury Team and MLT members provide the spiritual and financial leadership for St John's. We recently applauded our **gardeners** in church. Deservedly so—they turn out in every season. And there are those who tend to people as well as flowers. The members of our **Pastoral Care Team** inevitably focus on those who are ill or elderly.



And I have not even mentioned the **Prayer Ministry Team** or the **Filling Station** or **The Craft Club** or those who run **the multi-media or the sound desk** and those who **produce the floral displays** throughout the year or those who **organise the service at James Wilks** and **those who make tea and coffee** after the servicewell you get the idea.

Whether weeding or preaching or praying or cleaning or playing or caring or teaching, we have a host of people involved in service. And none of the above even touches on the dozens of small jobs that get done which no one even thinks about. Like "How did that loo roll holder get back on the wall?" Or "Who changes the posters outside the church?"

So what is the new series about? We can always improve our serve. (Well it is Wimbledon season.) But we start this series on the back of a huge appreciation for what is already going on in the lives of busy people. Hours of work are longer than ever. Nevertheless, someone recently offered to help with our children's work. And she was holding her baby at the time!

The aim of the Strategic Plan

is to be a thriving church in 2024. Not a declining one or one which is just getting by. We want to see more people involved. (We really should say, "ever more people involved.").

So whether you are running the multi media while still at Primary School, a young mum teaching Sunday School, a busy professional on the FF&G, a middle aged church-warden, a retired ROCK Café volunteer or someone in their nineties who provides prayer support from their arm chair.....God has a place for all of us to serve.

It is what we are here for.



*"Service" is the writing
in the rock*

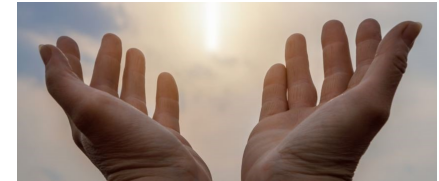
This sounds like a great church.....

It really is. But there is one area we don't do so well in. When we come together to pray we don't see the numbers of people we would love to see.

But we all believe that there is nothing more important than prayer. Ask anybody in the congregation!

Yes...that's the mystery.

Well—next Wednesday at 7.30 pm we will be meeting once again to pray. (Or you can join the Monday home group at 2.00 pm.)



A Note from Our Treasurer

Thank you to everyone so generously supporting the work of St John's through the giving schemes available.

If you are currently giving under a gift aid declaration (thank you!) then this note is just to remind you that should your tax circumstances change going forwards, to let James Bennett (PCC Treasurer) know so that adjustments can be made to future claims that St John's makes to HMRC.

As notified in last week's bulletin, the 2018-19 claim has now been received and contributed nearly £22,000 to St John's General Fund - this makes a massive contribution to our work and to funding for our mission partners.

Should you require a letter from James confirming the amount given under your Gift Aid declaration for the tax year then please let James know. This may be useful if you need to make a claim for higher rate relief through your tax return etc. Do speak to James after any Sunday service or email him at jameshywelbennett@gmail.com.

Prayers: We are really sorry to have to announce that **Sue Branch** has gone back into hospital again, albeit for different reasons than last time. Let's continue to keep her in our prayers asking God for recovery and healing and for emotional strength to face another disappointment. **Doris** is finding life more difficult as she grows older. She is now 94. Her particular concern is her eyes. She has received a diagnosis of macular degeneration. Let's pray that she will retain her sight and find hope in God in a time of anxiety. **Phil and Jenny** are getting married in less than five months time. Pray for all the planning and preparation for the day itself and their future life together. **Kath Ridley's brother, Geoff and sister, Mary.** They both have heart conditions, but Geoff is particularly unwell and has to undergo a procedure on Friday to get his heart back in rhythm.



Sunday
7th July
3rd after Trinity

Mon 8th	9.30-11.30am 2pm	Pram Club Chris Hawkes' Homegroup including prayer time— Quiet Room
Wed 10th	1-3pm 7.30pm	Craft Club in Church Room Prayer Meeting
Fri 12th	10.30-1.30pm	Rock Cafe



Please pray for our church family	
Mon 8th	Linda Simpson
Tue 9th	Howard & Mary Smith
Wed 10th	Rosemary Smith
Thurs 11th	Mike & Mary Southgate
Fri 12th	Pauline Stacey
Sat 13th	Ann Startin-Field
Sun 14th	Dorothy Strowger

Children's Birthday Cards

If you would like your child to receive a birthday card from St. John's and they haven't been, please let Catherine know their name and the date by email to:

parishoffice@stjohnshaydonwick.org.uk

Take Five

Services Next Week			
14th July	9am 11am	Holy Communion 1662 All Age Service	Raymond Adams Raymond Adams

Time	Service	Preacher	Readings
9.00am	Holy Communion	Raymond Adams	1 Samuel 12: 16-25 John 12: 20-26
11.00am	Morning Praise	Raymond Adams	1 Samuel 12: 16-25 John 12: 20-26

Parish Office Email: parishoffice@stjohnshaydonwick.org.uk or Telephone 726000. All items for the bulletin to the office in writing by first thing on Thursday. Thank you.