



St John the Evangelist, Dormansland Newsletter – August 2026

<https://lingfieldparishchurch.org/>

Thought for August

At this time of year, we are just about to end another season. The season of sport has been everywhere: World Cup drama, a Test match, Wimbledon, the Open, and now the Commonwealth Games. Whatever the event, there is one question that lingers: why does it grip us so deeply?

I read a comment from 'The Uncontrollability of Life', by a German sociologist Hartmut Rosa, and she writes that modern life is marked by a drive to master and control as much of the world as possible. She says we manage the economy to secure growth; gather information so it sits in our pockets, available at any moment; minimise risk through actuarial calculations; and develop algorithms that deliver exactly what consumers want. When we see a mountain, we want to climb it; when we have a headache, we want to get rid of it.

It's certainly true that life can become an endless to-do list. We try to control it from birth to death: through contraception and abortion, by managing our children's education to ensure success, and even by attempting to control death through 'assisted dying', choosing the time and manner of our own passing away.

And yet, Rosa says, it is precisely the unpredictability and uncontrollability of life that makes it interesting. We are surprised by a sudden fall of snow, the smell of freshly cut grass, or a joke that makes us laugh – and in those moments we feel the delight and joy of being alive. If we could make it snow whenever we wished, as a machine pumps out fake snow in a warm ski resort, there would be little enchantment in it. If we knew the result of every football match before it began, there would be little point in playing. The very unpredictability of sport is what makes it worth watching.

Living in an unpredictable world, as we do, where we can't control everything, means we have to learn to accept it by not becoming frustrated when life will not bend to our will, but by receiving its ups and downs without anger or resentment. Yet we can only do that with a degree of confidence when we can trust that what is out of our control is ultimately in the hand of a God who has our best interests at heart.

The apostle James writes, 'You do not even know what will happen tomorrow.' (4:14). That is not meant to make us anxious, but humble and attentive. In everyday life and work – the meeting taking an unexpected turn, the conversation we didn't plan, the changes we think are not going to be fruitful – we are invited not just to manage outcomes, but to notice where God may be at work beyond our control.

Services at St John's in August 2026

Sunday 2nd August – 8am – Said Communion, 9am – Bubble Church, 10am – Parish Communion, 5pm – Informal Worship

Sunday 9th August – 8am – Said Communion, 10am – All Age Service with children helping lead service, 5pm – Informal Worship

Sunday 16th August – 8am – Service of the Word, 10am – Parish Communion with Sunday Smilers, 5pm – Informal Worship

Sunday 23rd August – 8am – Said Communion, 10am – Parish Communion, 5pm – Informal Worship

30th August – 8am – Said Communion, 10am – Parish Communion, 5pm – Informal Worship

Messy Church

Tuesday 29th Sept. - 3:30pm



Compline on Zoom

Every Wednesday at 8pm

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74615258857?pwd=QXfPyoDEbLeuxPq5sCNBcQDsfTCgyX.1>

Meeting ID: 746 1525 8857

Passcode: compline

Meeting Up & Warm Hub

We meet in the Centenary Room

4th & 18th August – 10am-12pm

Saturday Lunches

A free simple lunch is offered in St Bernard's on the last Saturday of every month from **12.30 pm**. The next one will be on **Saturday 26th September**.

Friday Prayer

Jesus prioritised prayer in his busy life. We are setting aside an hour each Friday to pray from 4pm in St Andrews Chapel for the needs of the parish and the wider world.



Home Groups

These groups meet in people's homes on a regular basis. They involve times of Bible study/or discussion, a time of prayer and mutual support. The group meets at various homes on a **Wednesday** afternoon beginning at **2:30pm**. Please see Jackie Harrison for further information.

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

CANCELLED!!! Due to poor numbers, it has been decided that we will cancel.

Hymns and Pimms

Thanks to everyone involved in our hugely successful Hymns and Pimms event at the end of July. we had a great time but that is thanks to so many people who went above and beyond...

Thanks to Richard and Caroline Matthews for being such accommodating and welcoming hosts; to Richard and Ray for their amazing keyboard talents and leading our singing; to Helen, Michael, Rosemary, Roz, Clive and so many others for helping in organising the event and on the day; and of course, our refreshments team, headed up by Kathy and Kathy and Naomi; and to everyone who came along on the day and enjoyed the tractor ride, the milking, the sunflowers, the singing and the Pimms! Let's do it again next year!

