



St John the Evangelist, Dormansland Newsletter – June 2026

<https://lingfieldparishchurch.org/>

Thought for June

I am hoping you will have noticed after the sermon slot on a Sunday morning, an increased concentration on taking time to pray. It isn't a mistake. As a church we need to pray more together, for our church, for our world and for each other.

In the third century, there was a desert father named Abba Paul who truly understood the benefits of prayer. "While the other monks made their homes on the outskirts of cities in order to make a living selling woven baskets, Abba Paul lived further out in a remote area. Unlike the other monks who could sell their baskets in town, he had no way to make a traditional living for himself. Despite this major detail, Abba Paul collected palm fronds every morning and worked faithfully as if basket-making was his primary source of income. Each day without exception, he would work a day's wage of creating baskets as he prayed. He prayed unceasingly. Each frond a woven prayer. And at the end of the year when his cave overflowed with a year's worth of toil, he took a torch to the work of his hands and watched the flames devour it all to ash." A comment I read seemed to sum up this story best when they wrote "Prayer is not what we do before we work, nor is prayer what we do instead of work. Prayer is our life's work."

The more I think about this story, the more I wonder if we need to revitalise our prayer life as a church. What do you think? I would love it if we could have prayer ministry after our 10am service every Sunday. Just a time of prayer for one another. If we truly understood the benefits of prayer, perhaps we would be more apt to fervently tell God what's on our hearts as we live out the gift of each day instead of working fervently to produce the work of our hands. Or am I jumping to conclusions, making it up, and you are all avid secret pray-ers! I'd be delighted to hear that. After all, we are told not to stand on street corners praying for all to see but to take time out on our own...

Is the work of our hands more important than the prayers of our hearts? What if our most important contribution to God's kingdom and this world is our prayers? What if our life's work is in our prayers instead of in our hands?

Whatever is on your to-do list today—whether it's a sink full of dishes, cooking for the family, endless data to enter into a spreadsheet on your desk, a lesson to teach, or a fussy child in your arms—God sees you. He appreciates the work of your hands, but He wants you to know that your prayers are far more important. He wants you to come to Him. Not only is He the Creator that wants to commune with His created—He wants us to reap the benefits of time spent in prayer. I'm sure you don't need a list of what those benefits are. If you do...try it and find out!

Services at St John's in June 2026

- Sunday 7th June - 8am – Said Communion, 9am – Bubble Church, 10am – Parish Communion, 5pm – Informal Worship
- Sunday 14th June - 8am – Said Communion, 10am – All Age Service with Sunday Smilers, 5pm – Informal Worship
- Sunday 21st June – 8am – Service of the Word, 10am – Parish Communion, 5pm – Informal Worship
- Sunday 28th June - 8am – Said Communion, 10am – Parish Communion, 5pm – Informal Worship

Messy Church
Tuesday 30th June - 3:30pm



Paint for a Purpose In aid of St Catherine's Hospice.
Sunday 7th June, 3pm-6m at Carlo Lounge,
Queens Walk East Grinstead. Items range from £3-
£15. WhatsApp Laura on 07757780280 to reserve
your pottery piece or just turn up on the day!

Meeting Up & Warm Hub

We meet in the Centenary
Room
16th June. – 10am-12pm

Compline on Zoom

Every Wednesday at 8pm
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74615258857?pwd=QXfPyoDEbLeuxPq5sCNBcQDsftCgyX.1>
Meeting ID: 746 1525 8857
Passcode: compline

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 27th June.

Live Streaming

Please note that we will be live
streaming our Sunday services at
10am from **Sunday 14th June.**
The congregation will not be
visible on the YouTube recording.
Those who will appear on screen
(choir, servers, readers,
intercessors) should complete a
consent form obtained from Clive
Cobby.

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.

**Deanery Picnic in the
Field**

Glebe Field, near St
Peter's Church,
Tandridge.

Sunday 21st June,
12:30pm-3pm.

All Welcome
Challenge – Each Parish
group to bring a Vegan
Cake to share!
Games and fun for all
while getting to know
others in the Deanery

**Hymns and Pimm's
Sunday 26th July at 2.30pm**

All are invited to an
afternoon of singing and
sipping
as we join together at
Felcourt Farm in the Dutch
Barn.
Refreshments, calf cuddling
and possible tractor rides
also included!
More details to follow....

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**

at St John's at 2pm on
4th August. Suitable for
all ages. For more details
of how to book 07732
253311

Invitation to The People's Emergency Briefing.

Thursday 9th July, 7:45pm at Jubilee Community Church,
East Grinstead. Free local screening of People's
Emergency Briefing film on the threats to British life from
ongoing damage to nature and to our climate.
Here is a Booking Link - used to reserve the free tickets:
<https://buytickets.at/jubileecomunitychurch/2210216>