



# St John the Evangelist, Dormansland Newsletter – November 2025

<https://lingfieldparishchurch.org/>

## Thought for November

November is a month when we do a lot of remembering.

We remember those who fought for peace in the world wars, giving their lives for their country, in our Remembrance Service.

We remember our loved ones who have made it to heaven before us in our All Souls service.

And I dare say we are trying to remember the days of summer when the long daylight hours brought us out of our houses late into the evenings...

I've spent the last 20 years of ministry surrounded by death and dying; the older I get often finding myself joining families and friends in the congregation to grieve and give thanks for a wonderful life well lived.

I am thankful when suffering is over and I am so grateful for the palliative care that many receive in a hospice, at home, and in nursing homes during their final weeks. It is difficult seeing someone you love in pain and discomfort, but when I think of my own mum, throughout her cancer treatment, she remained positive because of a team of dedicated carers. Of course that depends on individual circumstances, and we should always remember that we are uniquely made in the image of God. It's not just my mum whom I've watched on the journey to the end of her life. I've seen other people and their families doing their best to navigate the challenges of dying. Death, even when it comes as a release, remains an unwelcome enemy. It strips away the life and often the dignity of those created in God's image, and it inflicts suffering on those left behind.

In the middle of all of this, one thing has become even clearer to me: legalising 'assisted dying' is a dangerous step to take, not one to be taken lightly based solely on our own experiences. We should really call it euthanasia, because helping people who are dying is what palliative care is about.

Legalising euthanasia is not compassionate. It's not kind. It's not safe. It is a form of betrayal. It would make already incredibly vulnerable people even more vulnerable. People receiving end of life care can feel guilty enough about being a 'burden' on those caring for them without the added pressure of euthanasia being offered as an option. Canada's experience should serve as a warning to us.

There is a funding crisis in hospice care. Community care teams are stretched beyond their limits. In recent months, I've seen the effects of this also. Surely, it's this, rather than legislation to end life, that we should be supporting...even when parliament has other ideas.

The earliest Christians in the Roman Empire were counter-cultural in promoting an 'ethic of life'. They opposed abortion and infanticide (which disproportionately affected girls) and cared for those who were poor, disabled, and dying. It was this same ethic that led Cicely Saunders to establish the hospice movement.

If we are serious about following Jesus today, I suggest we follow the example of those who have gone before us, by giving careful thought and prayer to that which puts vulnerable people at risk and supporting compassionate end of life care.

## Services at St John's in November 2025

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov** - 8am – Said Communion, 10am – All Saints' Day Service, 5pm – Informal Worship

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> Nov.** - 8am – Said Communion, 10am – Remembrance Day Service with Sunday Smilers, 5pm – Informal Worship

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> Nov.** - 10am – Parish Communion, 5pm – Informal Worship

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov.** - 8am – Said Communion, 10am – Parish Communion, 5pm – Informal Worship

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> Nov** – 10am Parish Communion, 5pm Informal Worship

**Morning Prayer at St John's**  
**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> Nov** at  
10am

**Breakfast Hub**  
**Every Saturday, 9am-11am** at St Peter & St Paul,  
Lingfield



**Messy Church**  
**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> Nov - 3:30pm**



**\*\*All Age Christingle Service\*\***  
**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December!**

**Meeting Up & Warm Hub**  
We meet in the Centenary Room  
**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> Nov.** – 10am-12pm

**Wine & Wondering**  
**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> Nov** – 7:30pm at  
The Star Inn, Lingfield

**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 29<sup>th</sup> Nov.**

### Compline on Zoom

Every Wednesday at 8pm

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74615258857?pwd=QXfPyoDEbLeuxPq5sCNBcQDsfcgYX.1>

Meeting ID: 746 1525 8857

Passcode: compline

### 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.

### Online Home Group Gathering

Join Melinda for a contemplative-focused home group that meets every other Wednesday from 11:00am to 12:00pm on Zoom on November 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> December.

This is a space for reflection, connection, and quiet encouragement on our journey of faith. All are welcome.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83085759497?pwd=YIUmUGGMAT8slzZNgOVbjYgZ2ivQZD.1>

**Meeting ID: 830 8575 9497 Passcode: 57N5yU**

