



St John the Evangelist, Dormansland Newsletter - September 2025

<https://lingfieldparishchurch.org/>

Thought for September

All the trees of the forest will know that I the Lord bring down the tall tree and make the low tree grow tall. Ezekiel 17:24

Creationtide or the Season of Creation is the period in the annual church calendar, from 1st September to 4th October, dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life. During Creationtide Christians around the world are encouraged to pray for, and care for, God's good creation. This is a season to reflect on our place and role in the world that God has made, and to let that inform our faith.

There is a large tree in the middle of the Recreation Ground in Dormansland which I see every morning from my window. I'm no arborist but I know that it provides a safe space for squirrels and crows, ivy and ferns, owls, spiders and countless insects. It's an old tree and its branches overhang and have given shade to hundreds of people during the hot summer this year. I often think about what joys and sorrows, what love, and grief have been shared under its shade by those who lived here before me? You might be used to trees by now but for me this is such a blessing!

Thomas Merton, a great nature lover, wrote that "A tree gives glory to God by being a tree. For in being what God means it to be it is obeying him." From the Garden of Eden onwards, trees have always held a place of special significance for humans.

And I remember two years ago the huge outpouring of righteous fury across news channels and social media, and my own heart, when we awoke to the news that the iconic 'Sycamore Gap' tree on Hadrian's Wall had been illegally felled. This was a crime committed with no obvious motive, against a much beloved natural feature. This was cultural vandalism and emotions were stirred.

Emotions were also stirred when Jesus arrives in Jericho at the beginning of Luke 19, and he looks up into the branches of a sycamore tree on the side of the road and sees a small man. Zacchaeus may well have been accused of first-century Palestinian cultural vandalism because he was a tax collector for the Romans. And his reputation among the community made Jesus' decision to go and eat at his home more than a little surprising! And as a result, Zacchaeus is transformed, making restitution for wrongs, and committing himself to serving the common good.

What does cultural vandalism of God's creation look like in your context? Maybe sitting under a tree in your own garden will help us to search inwards and upwards as well as outwards to our community. Spend some time under a tree today. What stories do you notice playing out there...Revd Annie

Services at St John's in September 2025

Sunday 7th Sept. - 8am – Said Communion, 10am – Family Communion, 5pm – Informal Worship

Sunday 14th Sept. - 8am – Said Communion, 10am – Parish Communion with Sunday Smilers,
5pm – Informal Worship

Sunday 21st Sept. - 10am – Pet Blessing, 5pm – Informal Worship

Sunday 28th Sept. - 8am – Said Communion, 10am – Parish Communion, 5pm – Informal
Worship

Morning Prayer at St John's

Wednesday 10th Sept. – 10am

Wednesday 24th Sept. – 10am

Messy Church

Tuesday 30th Sept. - 3:30pm



Breakfast Hub

1st Saturday of the month –
9am-11am at **St Peter & St Paul, Lingfield**

Wine & Wondering

Tuesday 23rd Sept. – 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 28th Sept.**

Pet Blessing Service

Sunday 21st September, please invite others to bring their animals along for a blessing. It will be outside weather permitting. At the end of the service, there will be a brief Communion opportunity inside the church for those who would like to partake.

Compline on Zoom

Every Wednesday at 8pm

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74615258857?pwd=QXfPyoDEbLeuxPq5sCNBcQDsfcTCgyX.1>

Meeting ID: 746 1525 8857

Passcode: compline

Meeting Up & Warm Hub

We meet in the Centenary Room

Tuesday 2nd Sept. – 10am-12pm

Tuesday 16th Sept. – 10am-12pm

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.