

# NEWS FROM THE PEWS

St John's – Focused on Christ, united in faith, serving our community  
and a place of worship where all are welcome

## Church Services in June

### 1st June:

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.30am All-Age Service (CW)  
6.30pm Evensong (BCP)

### 8th June:

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.30am Morning Worship (CW)

### 15th June:

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.30am Morning Worship (CW)

### 22nd June:

9.00am Matins (BCP)  
10.30am Holy Communion (CW)

### 29th June:

9.00am No Service (5th Sunday)  
10.30am Holy Communion (CW)

BCP - Book of Common Prayer

CW - Common Worship (Modern Language)

## Contacts

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## Contact Us

**Website:** [www.ashtonhayes.church](http://www.ashtonhayes.church)

**Fbook:** [facebook.com/stjohnashton](https://facebook.com/stjohnashton)

**Email:** [contact@ashtonhayes.church](mailto:contact@ashtonhayes.church)

## News

**Thy Kingdom Come** — is celebrating its 10th Anniversary this year. During the period between Ascension and Pentecost, 29th May - 8th June, **TKC** invites us to pray for 5 people, known to us as individuals, to come to know Jesus better. Booklets to help us to do this and to deepen our own understanding of the Lord's Prayer, are available from the church if you would like to obtain one. for your own personal use.

## View from the Vicarage

This month marks the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, which took place in 325 AD under the auspices of Roman Emperor Constantine.

Convened at the ancient city of Nicaea (in modern-day Turkey), the council was born out of a need to address growing theological disputes, particularly the Arian controversy. Arius, a priest from Alexandria, taught that Jesus Christ was not fully divine, but rather a created being. This teaching threatened to fracture the Church, prompting Emperor Constantine to intervene. He summoned over 300 bishops from across the Roman world to reach consensus on the issue. The most enduring outcome of the council was the formulation of the original Nicene Creed, a declaration of faith that affirms the full divinity of Christ, "begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father." This belief continues to unite Christians across the world, including within the Church of England.

So why did the bishops at Nicaea reach this conclusion, and why does it matter? For a start, it fitted the facts – it was consistent with the remarkable claims that Jesus made about himself during his earthly ministry. But most importantly, Jesus' divinity means that we can look at him to see what God is truly like. Jesus' identity as God's Son means that he clearly reveals to us God's character. And being fully divine, Jesus possesses the power to save and sanctify anyone who turns to him. As God incarnate, Christ can grant forgiveness and everlasting life to all who believe in him. No wonder that Christians around the world continue to confess the Nicene faith to this day!

God bless  
Phil Weston

We Believe

**Gift Day: 8th June 2025** — Please read the leaflet which has been distributed with this newsletter. Running and maintaining a church here in Ashton Hayes is expensive and, without your help, it would cease to be.

**The Bug Hotel** — The St John Bug Hotel is now open and ready to receive its first guests! A big thank you to all the children who came along to May's Messy Church for their hard work! Our next Messy Church is on 15th June (details overleaf).



**Forthcoming Events** — Summer is now just around the corner and there are a couple of social events being planned which you might like to add to your diaries..

An **Afternoon Strawberry Cream Tea** will be held on Sunday, 13th July, from 2.30pm onwards, in the garden of 'Orchard Croft', Duck Lane, Ashton Hayes. Tickets will be available from Hilary Clegg (01829 290190) or Margaret Papworth (01829 759086). They will cost

£10 each and all proceeds will be donated to the church.

Our 20th **Annual Summer Concert** (*Music for a Summer's Evening*) will take place in church starting at 7.30pm on Friday, 18th July. As ever, this will be an eclectic mix of music provided by the *St John's Singers and Friends*. Tickets will cost £10 each and will be available from Yvonne Downen (01829 751174) or the Community Shop. Light refreshments are included in the ticket price and, again, all proceeds will be donated to church funds.

## Pause for Thought

by Alan Downen



**"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."**

*African proverb*

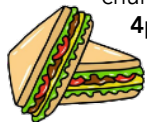
I can't remember a time before I thought of myself as a Christian. I went to a church primary school and I was in a church choir from the age of 8. Since arriving here in Ashton Hayes, my wife, Yvonne, and I have been members of St John's, but, since being here ... I have realised that there is a distinct difference between thinking of oneself as a Christian and actively being one.

In Luke's Gospel (24:13-35) we read about two friends walking together from Jerusalem to Emmaus, a journey of about 7 miles, and during the two hours or so it must have taken them to walk that distance, they had been discussing everything that had taken place during the days following the crucifixion, but they remained totally bemused. However, whilst they were walking they had been joined by a stranger (whom they later realised was Jesus). It was this stranger who managed to explain the reason for everything that had happened and he provided the impetus for them to continue and travel further.

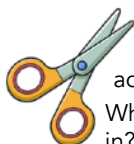
When I look back at my own 'Spiritual Journey' I have come to realise that, whenever I have gained a better understanding of something, or started to explore new avenues, there has always been someone at my side who has acted as a catalyst for fresh thoughts or new discoveries — rarely, if ever, have I managed to do this on my own. So, if you want to know more about Christianity, deepen your understanding, or expand your faith, don't try to do it all on your own — it is so much easier with a companion or friend, whom you know and trust, walking beside you.



Our next Messy Church will be held in church on **Sunday, 15th June at 4pm**. At that event, there will



be food, singing Bible stories, and other fun activities.



Open to children of all ages accompanied by an adult. Why not come along and join in?

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## St John's Café



Join us on **Thursday, 19th June**, between 2.30 and 4.30pm for our All-Age Café. Everyone is welcome to join us for a free cup of tea, coffee or glass of squash and a slice of cake whilst you have a chance to meet up. with and have a chat (or play!) with friends.

**Opening Hours**  
Monday - Saturday  
10am - 5pm  
Late night Thursday  
until 8pm.

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