



# ST JOHN'S CHURCH STRATFORD, E15

## St John's Church Stratford Monthly Newsletter - June 2025

### Message from the Vicar

First of all, thank you so much for your prayers and love during my time away. I'm glad to share that the surgery went very well — so well, in fact, that even the hospital staff were surprised by how quickly I recovered! I continue to rely on your prayers as my body adjusts — I'm praying that the remaining half of my thyroid will function properly in the coming weeks.

I also want to give heartfelt thanks to our wonderful churchwardens, lay leaders, and volunteers. Your faithfulness and sacrificial service during my absence made it possible for me to rest well — and I truly did rest, because I had full trust in you. Thank you for being such a blessing to me and to our church community.

As we move into the summer months, I'm looking forward to our new sermon series in July: 'Travel Light.' Life is a journey — and like any journey, we need clarity about where we're going, why we're heading that way, what we need for the road, and how we'll know we've arrived. Over four weeks, we'll explore these key questions through Scripture as we think about what it means to walk lightly and faithfully on the path of spiritual growth.

We often associate summer with rest — and rightly so. But rest isn't the absence of growth; it's space for growth. So I want to invite you to join me in using this season as a time to travel light — with open hands, open hearts, and a renewed desire to grow in Christ.

Thank you again for your prayers, your welcome, and your partnership in the gospel.

### Forthcoming Events in July

- Healing Cafe Outing to Broadstairs - Saturday 19th July - Coach leaving St. John's at 8:45am and returning from Broadstairs at 4:30pm. Contact Sheva via Whatsapp for more information.
- Open Air Service - Sunday 27th July

### Regular Meetings taking place in July

- Tuesday 11am - Healing Cafe - Bible study with hot meal in the church cafe area, speak to Sheva or Iris
- Wednesday 10:30am 9th & 30th July - Bible with Baby - Bible study for parents/carers and their preschool children. We will be going out of the church on the 16th July speak to Hannah Thomas-Davies for more details.
- Friday 25th July - 10pm - Friday Night evening prayer on Zoom - speak to Ayo for more details
- Sunday 13th July - 12:45pm - Men's ministry meeting - St Stephen's Room
- Sunday 13th July - 12:45pm - Women's ministry meeting - Christchurch Room

## Sunday Services for July

- 6th July - Check the Compass: Staying Oriented on the Journey of Faith, Philippians 2:12-18 & John 15 1-11
- 13th July - Thirst for the Trail: Let your longing lead you, Psalm 42:1-11 & Isaiah 55:1-9
- 20th July - Pack Light: Fight Strong: The Gear you need for spiritual battle, Matthew 4:1-11 & Deuteronomy 8:1-10
- 27th July - Eyes on the Endgame: Growing Strong Finishing Well, Colossians 2:1-23 & Hebrews 12:1-14

## Looking forward to dates in August and September

- Joint Open Air Service with Christchurch Three Mills - Sunday 31st August
- Confirmation Class for under 18s starts on Sunday 7th September. Speak to Richard Aubrey or Corin Barton if your child would like to make a faith commitment through confirmation and sign up to the class via ChurchSuite  
<https://stjohnse15.churchsuite.com/events/4x4gmsy9>  
If you are an adult interested in making a faith commitment through confirmation speak to Rev. Young Lee.

---

## Monthly Prayer Update - July 2025

### Our Community

- For those working within education as they come to the end of the academic year
- For our Sunday Club volunteers as they come to the end of another year sharing Jesus' love with our young people, that they would find rest and spiritual growth over the summer.

### Recently Bereaved members of our Congregation

- The family of Kathleen Williams, particularly her niece Pet and her brother.

### Members of the Congregation requiring prayer for health issues

- Lilian
- Joan
- Patrick
- Kim

### Charities we support

- St. Joseph's Hospice