



St. John's Newsletter

Charity No 1162162

www.stjohnschurchbroadstone.org.uk

April 2024



Letter from the Vicar

Dear all

We shall be sending this newsletter out in time for Easter Sunday, so you will get it sometime during Holy Week, but as it is our April edition, I do hope you will forgive me for beginning by wishing you a very Happy Easter! If we haven't quite got there by the time you are reading this, I hope you will save the sentiment (and indeed maybe even the newsletter!) for when Easter Day dawns!



Of course we know that Easter is not just one day, but Christians enjoy an Easter season of a full seven weeks, culminating in Pentecost on (this year) Sunday 19th May. The Easter story doesn't end with the Resurrection. The story is not complete without the 40 days the Risen Lord walked among his disciples, teaching them what Resurrection meant both this side of eternity and in the life to come (for resurrection life is for the here and now, as well as beyond the grave). It isn't complete without the Ascension, when the Risen Jesus returns to his Father as the Christ, and in so doing, takes all of our wounded humanity into the Father heart. And it isn't complete without the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost,

when God's very Spirit is poured out on all humankind, promising us we do not walk alone.



Even there, at Pentecost, while the Easter Season 'officially' draws to a close, and we move into what the Church calls Ordinary Time, the Easter story doesn't end. Because we are called to be the Easter people, always walking in the light and hope of Resurrection. We are called to witness to the signs of God's renewal in our world. We are called to declare and rejoice in the signs of God's renewal in our world. And we are called to be the signs of God's renewal in our world.

So I make no apology that the next few pages are dedicated to signs of resurrection life and joy in our community at St John's and in what we seek to offer the world. You have seen the bad news. It is on our TV screens and in our newspapers every day. Now hear / read the Good News – and come and be part of it!

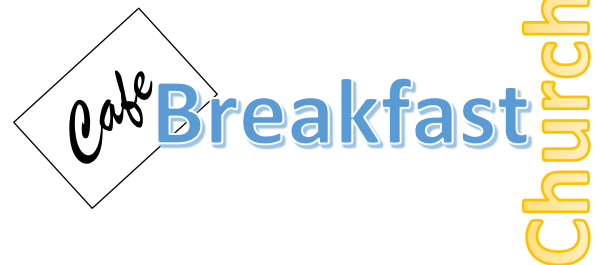


With love, blessings, resurrection joy and more blessings beside!

Helen

Come & See! Family Work at St John's!

So what seeds of hope are we seeing in our children's and family work?



This may be hidden to those of you who just come on Sunday or Wednesday, but it is vibrant, lively and growing! **Café Breakfast Church** in March attracted a smallish crowd, but a committed one, as together, led by Sheila Wilson, we shared in the Lion and the Lamb, and what this can teach us about faith.



Our last **Muddy Church** on Palm Sunday had 50 of us (24 children) as we explored the story of Easter through Nature. We have very many Muddy Church families, and four new



families alone joined us last month. We now have a massive email list and we email the families each month, building regular contact. We are connected by our desire to care for the planet, our love of Nature, and the God we see and learn about in Creation. This is a fresh expression of church, pioneer work, with some families just beginning to hear the Christian Gospel perhaps for the first time, but it is all a real sign of resurrection hope. It is true mission.

Finally, we continue to work with the schools where we can. Revd Helen remains on the Board of Members for the Castleman Academy, a trust of five schools including Broadstone First and Broadstone Middle, and she goes into to take an assembly whenever she can / is asked, perhaps once a term. We enjoy other links with the schools at various points of the year though.



Seeds of Hope: What else are we celebrating?

THE NEW CURATE IS COMING SOON! We will be thrilled to welcome Gary Waldron as our curate in July. I know how much he is looking forward to joining us. He has been 'with us virtually' for much of this year, watching online and enjoying seeing all we get up to!



Just to remind you Gary works full-time, and is coming as a part-time non-stipendiary curate. That means his day job supports the ministry he will share with us. We will see him most Sundays, but not all, and while the final working agreement is not yet in place, we think we are likely to see him for a few hours on *either* a Friday afternoon *or* a weekend afternoon, depending on what is taking place, but that pattern will vary week-to-week. He will also have an evening or two each week. That time also has to allow Gary to study and fulfil his ongoing ministerial training with the Diocese, spend time training and in supervisions with me, and give space for all the planning and preparation needed for different services. Nevertheless I am sure you will all get to know him soon – and I am very much looking forward to his coming!

His ordination as deacon takes place at Salisbury Cathedral on Sunday 30th June, and we will first welcome Gary to our services and into our lives on **Sunday 7th July, when we will also host one of our famous bring and share lunches** to celebrate his arrival! Do keep Gary and his wife Sam in your prayers as they make what is a huge transition through this journey of ordination and beyond.

HOLY GROUNDS COFFEE MORNING IS UP AND RUNNING

We are thrilled that the new Holy Grounds on Thursday morning is going so well. We have been pleased to welcome members of the community as well as church folk, and provide a space that is friendly, welcoming, warm and free. It was my dream to see something like this happening in NorthReach, and I am so grateful to the tea and coffee team for their willingness to support, and to Paul Winsworth for co-ordinating it all.



ADVERTISING FOR A NEW ORGANIST



We continue to miss our dear Jim Bull, who will always be in our hearts. It is however wonderful that the advertising for the new organist post is out: details on our website. Do pray for that process. The deadline for applications is 3rd May and we shall be interviewing later that month. We give grateful thanks to all our organists, particularly to David Hopkins, who we simply could not have managed without.

ECO GROUP AND ST JOHN'S HEADING FOR SILVER AWARD!

At the APCM we will officially launch our challenge to reach our Silver Award, and I am grateful to Nicky Hoar who leads the Eco Group, as well as every member of that team. They are really helping to challenge us to live in ways which are sustainable and support the environment. Seeds of hope for



the planet, not just us! And later this year we have a speaker from A Rocha coming. A Rocha is a Christian Charity working to protect and restore the natural world, and is committed to equipping churches and Christians to caring for our planet. They set up the Eco Awards, and I am sure will encourage us in all sorts of practical ways as we work towards Silver.

WELCOMING NEWCOMERS



We have been thrilled to welcome lots of new people to church again over this last 12 months, and looking forward to inviting them to our newcomers party we hold for them each summer at the vicarage. Thank you to all the congregation for being such a welcoming group of people. The new community space of Northreach is also really helping us to draw the community in and get to know all sorts of new folk. I think we are in really encouraging times.

THE CRAFT AND CHAT GROUP is just one of those welcoming spaces where church and community meet! Thanks to Heather McGregor-Wright who co-ordinates and leads this fantastic piece of mission and ministry.



MONTHLY SUNDAY LUNCHEAS MAY BE RETURNING SOON Finally we think we may have a way of bringing back the Sunday lunches for those who live alone, without anyone at church having to do the cooking or washing up! Details still to be firmed up, but we are hopeful that this could get going later in the year, and be another way of supporting those who live alone.

HOWEVER... WHERE DO WE NEED MORE SIGNS OF RENEWAL?

One of the areas we really are struggling in, is the number of volunteers needed to help run events or simply help out at them. I am still missing an Events Committee Co-ordinator, and could really do with someone stepping into this role so I can stand down from it. But I also need more people on the events committee who can help us organise the great socials and fund-raising events that this church has always offered.



We may have reached a point where some things we have traditionally organised, such as the Church BBQ, can't happen unless we get new people willing to set up / cook on the BBQ for us and so on. Some of those who have done this in the past will not be able to help us this year. There are quite a few jobs like this that we need some more willing helpers to support. Do consider whether you are able to offer any help! It doesn't matter how new you are: just jump in and offer – it is the best way to get to know the church congregation!

Our events have always brought in valuable funds for the church, but also our socials are part of the lifeblood of this church – what makes our community a community. Partly what makes us special. I would hate to see our social life slimmed down. Please have a word with me if you think you could help with this or anything else. Thank you. *Revd Helen*

Diary Round-up: Events at St John's in April

Mon 1 st Apr	OFFICE CLOSED
Wed 3 rd Apr	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 4 th Apr	10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning OFFICE CLOSED
Fri 5 th Apr	OFFICE CLOSED
Sun 7 th Apr	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Parish Eucharist
Mon 8 th Apr	OFFICE CLOSED
Tues 9 th Apr	1.30pm, Funeral of Robert Peake
Wed 10 th Apr	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 11 th Apr	10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning 7.30pm St John's Fellowship
Fi 12 th Apr	2pm Children's team meeting at the vicarage.
Sat 13 th Apr	2pm St John's Craft and Chat Group
Sun 14 th Apr	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist
Tues 16 th Apr	2pm, Burial of ashes at St John's Churchyard
Wed 17 th Apr	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 18 th Apr	10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning 7pm APCM in large hall
Sun 21 st Apr	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist (All Age)
Tues 23 rd Apr	7.30pm Events Committee venue tbc
Wed 24 th Apr	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 25 th Apr	10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning
Sat 27 th Apr	10.30am – 12 noon Muddy Church
Sun 28 th Apr	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist with RBL and blessing of the new standard (refreshments in hall after service) 12 noon Baptism



Service readings in April

Date	Sunday	OT	Psalm	NT	Gospel
Sun 7 th April	Easter 2	Exodus 14.10-end, 15.20-21	Psalm 133	Acts 4.32-35	John 20.19-end
Sun 14 th April	Easter 3	Zephaniah 3.14-end	Psalm 4	Acts 3.12-19	Luke 24.36b-48
Sun 21 st April	Easter 4	Genesis 7.1-5, 11-18; 8.6-18; 9.8-13	Psalm 23	Acts 4.5-12	John 10.11-18
Sun 28 th April	Easter 5	Genesis 22.1-18	Psalm 22.25-end	Acts 8.26-end	John 15.1-8

Occasional Offices from March



Funerals

8 th March	Ernest (Ernie) Morton (St John's)
15 th March	Donald (Don) Pearman (St John's Church)
26 th March	Dean Thomas (Harbour View)

Burial of Ashes

22 nd March	Dorothy Mitchell (St John's Church)
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JUNE MORTON & FAMILY would like to thank all the dear friends who sent beautiful cards and messages of condolences to us when Ernie passed away. Our thanks also to those who were able to be his funeral and to see him leave on his final earthly journey. We could not have organised the funeral without all the practical help and support given to us by the people who stewarded in Church, served in the kitchen and quietly prepared the beautiful spring flowers for the service. We owe a real debt of gratitude to all of them. Finally, our sincere thanks to Revd Helen for all her kind ministrations and her care and thoughtfulness in conducting such a lovely service. You have all helped in making lasting memories for us.

St John's News from the Pews

A more detailed look at what is happening in and around the church...

OFFICE OPENING HOURS The office is open from 9.30am every Monday, Tuesday and Friday, 10am on Wed and 10.30am on Thurs. It closes at 1pm everyday. **Please note, the office will be closed on Thurs 28 March, Fri 29 March & Mon April, and from Thurs 5th April – Mon 8th April. It will reopen at 9.30am on Tues 9th April.**

MAUNDY THURSDAY service 8pm, followed by The Watch for those who wish to stay for a short while or for the whole hour after the service. It is quite OK to come to just the Maundy service and not stay for The Watch.

GOOD FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS held at 9am for 45 minutes. **THE GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS** meets in St John's annexe at 10am, and sets off at 10.15am to go to outside the Methodist Church on the Broadway. Please note where we are meeting, NOT at the URC as in previous years. This year the walk of witness service will be conducted outside the Methodist Church with no additional service there. **GOOD FRIDAY HOUR AT THE CROSS** at 2pm with Revd Helen. Do join us as we mark together the last hour of Jesus' life.

EASTER EVE VIGIL AND SERVICE OF LIGHT 8pm on the Saturday Eve. Join us for this most special of services, which begins with a bonfire in the church grounds and ends with the glorious celebration of the first Eucharist of Easter.

EASTER SUNDAY: Please remember the **CLOCKS GO FORWARD** an hour over the Saturday night, so if you don't put your clocks forward an hour, you will arrive as we are finishing our Easter Day services! I'd hate anyone to do that on



Easter Day!! Someone has suggested it might be fun to wear hats or some yellow clothing to the church services on Easter Day, as a celebration of the day, and you are very welcome to do so if you wish!

EASTER DAY REFRESHMENTS There will be special refreshments after the service on Easter Day, thanks to Gez and Elaine, who have provided them so we can join in a glass with them before their imminent move to Cheshire.

DEDICATION OF THE NEW ROYAL BRITISH LEGION STANDARD We are delighted to welcome some of the members of the Broadstone Branch of the RBL and others to our Eucharist at 10am on Sunday 28th April.

READERS AND INTERCESSORS SIGN UP SHEET MAY, JUNE & JULY These are now at the back of church. Please sign up as soon as you can and many thanks for all who help with this vital ministry in church.

HOLY GROUNDS COFFEE MORNING Free tea & coffee every Thursday morning, from 10am – 12noon. Come and enjoy a drink & a chat with old friends and new.

SUNDAY COFFEE ROTA If you would like to join the Sunday coffee rota starting in June, please contact June Webber on 01202 259844 or junecwebber@outlook.com. I have a list of existing helpers.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 50 CLUB WINNERS FOR MARCH

March 50 Club - £50: Chris and Phyl Walton; £10: Chris Cullen.

HEALTH CHECK EVENT Aged 40 – 74? LiveWell Dorset will be delivering free NHS health checks at St John's Annexe on Tuesday 9th April. Here is the link to the booking system <https://www.livewelldorset.co.uk/healthcare-professionals/nhs-health-check-form/>

CORFE MULLEN FOOD BANKS Thank you all for your support for our foodbank collections on Sundays and Wednesdays. All donations given to Corfe Mullen foodbank run by St. Nicholas's Church: they provide food for individuals & families local to Broadstone, and issue vouchers to all Broadstone and Hillbourne Schools. **They are in short supply of tinned fruit & UHT milk.** If you would like to make a cash donation, visit their website parishofcorfemullen.church/foodbank or speak to Gez or Elaine.

APCM PAPERS These have now been emailed to all those on the electoral roll. If you would like a print out of these documents, please see Caroline in the office.

Further Afield

THE WILLIAM TEMPLE ASSOCIATION The next meeting is on Monday 8th April.

PRESENTATION ON THE WORK OF ROUTES TO ROOTS At Broadstone URC Sara Turner, one of the trustees of Routes to Roots, will be speaking on Sat 13 April, at 6pm. Tickets £4 each, to include a two-course meal from: Ian McDonald: email: ian@igkpmcdonald.plus.com

telephone: 07854 352722 For catering purposes please book tickets in advance. There will be opportunity to donate towards the work of Routes to Roots.

STRICTLY COME TEA DANCING Come and dance to live music at the Memorial Hall on Tudor Road. Usually the first Wednesday of the month at 2pm – 4pm.

CHITTER CHATTER CLUB Every Wednesday, 2.30pm – 4pm at Cafe Gardenia.

BROADSTONE LUNCH BUNCH Baptist Church, York Rd. Every last Thursday in the month, from 11am - 2.30pm. Tea and biscuits on arrival, and 2 course hot lunch for £5. Transport can be arranged. To book your place contact Dave Turner on 0777 308 2092.

TUESDAY CLUB AT BROADSTONE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH We are desperate for some extra help serving and clearing away lunches and coffee. We are open from 10.30 am till 2pm - It does not have to be a weekly commitment. Please contact Ann on 01202849136 if you could spare a few hours.

And Finally...

PLANT SALE A reminder for the PLANT SALE which will take place on Saturday 11th May from 10am – 12 noon. Please look in your garden and see if there are any seedlings which can be potted up or cuttings be taken that can be sold. All plants and shrubs are welcome. Please use potting compost and put a label in the pot with the variety and colour of possible. You might like to grow some from seed. If you do not have a greenhouse, it is possible to grow things on a windowsill. If you have herbs perhaps you can split them or sow some seeds in pots yourself. Likewise sow vegetables like cucumber, peppers, chilli, courgettes, aubergines, tomatoes (some for hanging baskets or pots are good sellers). Please put in potting compost in individual pots. Runner beans or climbing or French dwarf beans are good sellers, preferably with a deep pot like mushroom/meat containers or similar. Half dozen is often more sellable than 12 in a pot. Please label all varieties. Perhaps your indoor plants need splitting and again put into pots with potting compost and label them please. Try to do this in time for roots to establish before the sale. Even if you don't need to buy plants there is coffee/tea and home-made cakes on sale and it is nice to sit and enjoy this in an indoor garden setting. If you can supply a cake then Penny Leach or Gill Jones would love to hear from you. New this year is the produce stall. If you don't make your own jam or chutney, perhaps you would buy a nice jar of either for us to sell on the day. Some folk who have helped in the past are unable to do so this year and we really need a few more people willing to sell on a stall. If you could help, I would be glad to hear from you. Please contact me if you have any questions. Marion Marsh

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR PLANT SALE We are appealing for gardening 'odds and ends' and accessories, for example gardening gloves, plant pots, tools etc... Please take them to the parish office, and many thanks.



DEADLINE FOR MAY EDITION SUBMISSIONS FRIDAY 19th April.

Please email all items to admin@stjohnschurchbroadstone.org.uk,
AND a copy to Revd Helen at revdhelenbailey@gmail.com