



St. John's Newsletter

Charity No 1162162

www.stjohnschurchbroadstone.org.uk

October 2024



Letter from the Vicar

I have always loved the season of autumn for many reasons. Something about the quality of light, often a golden light streaming through orange and red leaves, something about the smells of the earth, a kind of natural woodiness which connects me with simple things and maybe even simpler times. Having enjoyed the summer sunshine, when we've had it, we still have those last warm days outside amid the sense of perhaps hunkering down as the nights draw in and preparing ourselves for a different season.



The writer John O'Donohue writes about autumn as a fruitful time, linking it to harvest of course, describing it as a time when all we sowed in the spring now yields its fruit. In his book 'Anam Cara' he describes it as *'the homecoming of the seeds' long and lonely journey through darkness and silence under the earth's surface*, and relates this to the autumn of our own life, when *'the things that happened in the past or experiences sown in the clay of our hearts, almost unknown to you, yield their fruit.'*

As we approach the autumn of our years it can be a time of great richness, a time of gathering in, of treasured memories, of a wealth of experience, a time of inner harvesting. O'Donoghue explains that inner harvesting means we actually begin to sift the fruits of our experiences. Learning what we need to let be, and heal itself, is as important as learning what we need to allow to surface and to address. Many of our wounds in life heal over, heal well, and it is important to know we do not need to open them up again. But some wounds we have not allowed to heal, we have only buried, and these are often our own mistakes. A journey of sifting through the harvest of our life allows us to realise we have often grown richer because of these mistakes or arrived where we would never have gone because of them. They can be unexpected riches too. But what we do need to do, is ensure we have forgiven ourselves.



Forgiving ourselves can be as hard, if not harder, than forgiving others. We are often our own worst critic. While it is important we face the mistakes we have made along the way, I think the Church has often had an unhealthy attitude to sin, making us wallow in our unworthiness rather than focusing on celebrating the worth we have been given in Christ. So often I come across people still suffering guilt for things in their past, when if they but knew it, God forgave them long ago. It only remains for us to forgive ourselves.

Sometimes when we have struggled to forgive ourselves, we need help to lay it to rest, for we can have carried our guilt for many years. You may not know that the Anglican Church also offers confession and absolution, not just the Roman Catholic Church. Whilst Anglicanism allows us all together to repent and receive absolution at the start of each Eucharistic service, rather than offering the confessional box for a weekly confession, sometimes it may be we feel in need of a mediator between us and God (do note this is our need, not God's requirement, but nevertheless that need is real to us and our feelings). It can sometimes be helpful, as well as a relief, to say something out loud, in a safe place, to someone else, and to be told directly: it is forgiven.



I have always offered confession and absolution, but in a quiet way, usually offered when someone approaches me with a problem that will not go away. Talking the problem through leads into a very short little service, just the two of us, in which those mistakes or issues are spoken out loud, and then I am able to give absolution as a priest, with the assurance that God has indeed forgiven, and that God longs for us to forgive ourselves and move on. It can be a wonderfully releasing experience.

If at any time you find yourself sifting through and harvesting all the good, rich and fruitful things of your life, but discover you are still troubled by a wound or a mistake that will not go away, I hope you would always feel able to ask me for support, knowing that God longs to give (and forgive) even before we ask. We are all frail, we all makes mistakes, and we are all blessed with God's love and his rich and wonderful mercy.

Autumn is a beautiful and fruitful season, and so is the freedom that can come through an inner harvesting of all life's twists and turns.

With my best wishes

Harvest Supper and Harvest Festival



Our Harvest Supper takes place on the evening of Saturday 5th October, and we are looking forward to the usual *St John's Got Talent* as part of that evening! Our Harvest Festival the following morning also brings our Stewardship appeal to an end, though there is still of course time to act on praying and deciding how you might support St John's financially this year. As we celebrate the gathering in of the crops for farmers, which directly impacts our own food, so we celebrate the gathering in of our giving and support to church. And we also focus our giving elsewhere: please bring your harvest gifts to the Sunday morning services on 6th October (or the Wednesday service before if you will not be there on the Sunday) and all of these will be taken to Routes to Roots and used for those in need.

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

Café Breakfast Church in September was a great session led by Revd Gary, which looked at creation from a different point of view.

Our next one takes place Saturday 16th November at the later time of 10.30am, and is our

special Christmas wreath-making workshop. We will also be inviting our Muddy Church families to this one as a joint session with alternative activities for the children. ***Come and join us to see what it is all about. Further details will emerge about this special Christmas workshop.***



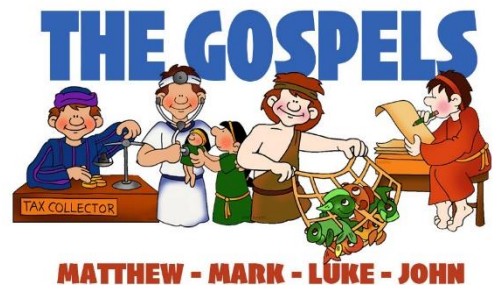
Our September **Muddy Church** is scheduled for Sunday 29th September, so just too late to get any photos of it for our October newsletter! We will be sure to bring some to next month's edition, as we explore Bugs, Bees and Bombs of Seeds, make little bee feeders for our gardens, bug hotels for our churchyard, and some seed bomb sowing for the good of all! We also look forward to our usual October Muddy on Sunday 13th October, when we shall be doing our usual Bulb Planting in the churchyard with hot chocolate to boot!



Getting to Grips with the Gospels

A vicar walks into a bar and says, 'What do a tax collector, a missionary ghost writer, a doctor and an esoteric philosophizer have in common?' Well the answer is they are all Gospel writers – or are they?

This new monthly session, led by me, will be held on each second Saturday of the month, at 9.45am for coffee, with a 10am start, finishing at 11am. Dates for this year are 12th October and 9th November (there isn't one in December). These will resume again on Sat 11th January, 8th February, 8th March, 12th April and 3rd May (1 week earlier than usual). There will be no session in June or July. There is still time to sign up: you don't have to be able to come to every session!



The four Gospels have very different characters, audiences and purposes, and knowing these helps us to understand what we are reading. We will explore the writers, the different contexts, look at how the Gospels were spread and how they became part of our canon we call the New Testament. Together we will discuss all this, plus what life was like in 1st century Palestine, which will help to make sense of what we hear and read in church on Sundays week by week. We will explore how we might helpfully approach scripture, and what we do with those 'difficult bits' we come across! *Revd Helen*

Words from the Curate...



St Francis of Assisi - A new life in Christ through poverty and joy

Some 800 years after his death, it indicates his profound impact that most people, even those outside the church, are aware of Francis of Assisi or St Francis. Francis was born into a wealthy merchant family, and as a young man, he lived the high life this wealth afforded him. However, following a transformative vision where God challenged him with the idea of serving two masters (ie War or God), his eyes were opened to the poverty around him. This profound experience led him to sell all the cloth his father had entrusted him with, giving the money to a beggar, a move that saw his father bringing him before the bishop for judgment.

During the trial, Francis rejected his earthly father by tearing off his clothes, declaring "Up to today I called you father, but now I can say in all honesty, "Our Father who art in heaven". He is my patrimony, and I put my faith in Him." The bishop, admiring Francis, wrapped him in his cloak, symbolically wrapping in the church's protection.

Aged around 22, now living a life of poverty, rejecting his old life, many began to follow his ways, creating a new monastic order. The Brothers Minor lived this new Franciscan spirituality based on "living the Gospel" believing that true discipleship involved not just understanding or preaching the Gospel but living its principles, embracing poverty as a path to spiritual freedom, renouncing material wealth and status to live a life dependent on God's providence.



Another key aspect included the "universal brotherhood," in which they viewed all people, animals, and nature as part of God's creation, calling them brothers and sisters. This aspect of spirituality fosters a deep sense of solidarity with all creatures, seeing them as reflections of the divine. It promotes a love for all people, especially the poor, marginalised, and oppressed, and a commitment to social justice and peace. Joy and gratitude are not just incidental but central to Franciscan spirituality. Despite his austere lifestyle, St. Francis is remembered for his joy, seeing the world as a gift from God. He encouraged his followers to praise God in every circumstance, and this joyful spirit became a hallmark of the Franciscan way, uplifting and inspiring all who encountered it.

Francis challenged the church in many ways, and his message challenges us today; as a professed member of the Franciscan Third Order, I have committed to living a life founded on these principles. This is a challenge in today's consumer-led society, but one that the world needs more now than ever. As Franciscans sign off "Pax et Bonum" or Peace and All Good Rev. Gary Waldron

News from the St John's Eco Gang



LIVING WITH LESS PLASTIC An enjoyable outing to the Court Yard Craft Centre in Huntick Lane, Lytchett Matravers will find a cafe, and among its other treasures Jen's Refill Hub. (Jen used to bring the Zero Waste van to our church car park.) Take your empty containers and stock up! The shop carries a very wide range of products, from shampoos, washing up liquids, laundry products, pastas, flour, rice, lentils, spices, nuts, seeds, dried fruits, coffee, tea and more. The opening hours for the Refill Hub are 10 am - 4 pm Tuesday to Saturday. If you are visiting Wimborne, have a look at Spill the Beans, 6A and 7, West Street which carries a similar range of products for your containers. Both shops will supply paper bags for dry goods.

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



Wed 2 nd Oct	10.30am Eucharist 11.30am Burial of Ashes 7.30pm House Group in NorthReach
Thurs 3 rd Oct	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning
Sat 5 th Oct	7pm Harvest Supper
Sun 6 th Oct	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Harvest Sunday Parish Eucharist
Tues 8 th Oct	7.30pm Events Committee in Lady Chapel
Wed 9 th Oct	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 10 th Oct	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning 7.30pm St John's Fellowship 7.30pm Deanery Synod meeting at Church of the Good Shepherd for all deanery synod reps.
Fri 11 th Oct	Burial of Ashes
Sat 12 th Oct	10am Getting to Grips with the Gospels 2pm Craft & Chat Group
Sun 13 th Oct	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist 12 noon Baptism 3pm Muddy Church
Tues 15 th Oct	2pm Churches Together in Broadstone Meeting 2pm at St Antony's
Wed 16 th Oct	10.30am Eucharist 7.30pm House Group in NorthReach
Thurs 17 th Oct	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning 10.45am Service at The Links Care Home led by Revd Helen 2.30pm service at The Potteries Care Home led by Revd Helen
Fri 18 th Oct	12 noon Baptism
Sat 19 th Oct	8am Holy Communion
Sun 20 th Oct	10am Parish Eucharist (All Age)
Wed 23 rd Oct	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 24 th Oct	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning
Sat 26 th Oct	11.30am Baptism
Sun 27 th Oct	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist
Mon 28 th Oct	OFFICE CLOSED
Wed 30 th Oct	10.30am Eucharist 11.45am Burial of Ashes 7.30pm House Group in NorthReach
Thurs 31 st Oct	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning

Service readings in October

Date	Sunday	OT	Psalm	NT	Gospel
Sun 6 th Oct	Harvest Sunday	Joel 2.21-27	Psalm 126	1 Timothy 2.1-7	Matthew 6.25-33
Sun 13 th Oct	20 th after Trinity	Amos 5.6-7, 10-15	Psalm 90.12-end	Hebrews 4.12-end	Mark 10.17-31
Sun 20 th Oct	21 st after Trinity	Isaiah 53.4-end	Psalm 91.9-end	Hebrews 5.1-10	Mark 10.35-45
Sun 27 th Oct	Last after Trinity	Jeremiah 31.7-9	Psalm 126	Hebrews 7.23-end	Mark 10.46-end

Occasional Offices from September

Funerals

4th September Betty Roberts (Harbour View)

5th September Coral Wilby (Harbour View)

Burial of Ashes

25th September Doreen Paul (St John's Churchyard)



St John's News from the Pews

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



GETTING TO GRIPS WITH THE GOSPELS In the autumn Revd Helen will launch a monthly session looking at our four Gospels. We know they are the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, but who wrote them, who did they write them for? How did they spread? How did they become part of our canon we call the New Testament? What was their context of the day? Together we will explore all this, plus what life was like in 1st century Palestine, which will help to make sense of what we hear and read in church on Sundays week by week. We will explore how we might helpfully approach scripture, and what we do with those 'difficult bits' we come across! These will take place on **the second Saturday of the month, 9.45am (coffee), 10am start until 11am**. There is no meeting in December however! Dates are: **Saturday 12th October, Sat 9th November. Providing there is take-up for this, they will continue with Sat 11th January, Sat 8th Feb, Sat 8th March, Sat 12th April, Sat 3rd May (1 week earlier than usual), no meetings in June or July.**

GROUNDS CLEAR UP DAY 28TH SEPTEMBER The Gardening Group are having an "Autumn Clear Up" of the Church Grounds and would ask if anyone would like to join us on Saturday 28th September for anytime between 09:30 and 12:00 you will be more than welcome. There is no requirement to come for the whole time and coffee and biscuits will be available in Northreach throughout that period. If you are able to come and could bring your own hand tools such as forks and secateurs that would be helpful. And if you can please let me or the Parish Office know you are coming as that would help me with allocating jobs. Many thanks Ken Pearce

KITCHEN CLEAR UP In addition to our garden clear up, we are going to use this time to give both kitchens a thorough clean. If you available to help, please come along at 9.30am (or any time before 12 noon). Many thanks Gill Jones

HEALTH CHECK EVENT Aged 40 – 74? LiveWell Dorset will be delivering free NHS health checks at St John's Annexe on Monday 30th September. Here is the link to the booking system <https://www.livewelldorset.co.uk/healthcare-professionals/nhs-health-check-form/>

AMENDED HARVEST SUPPER & HARVEST FOOD DONATIONS FOR HARVEST SERVICE We look forward to our Harvest Supper on Sat 5th October at 7pm, this has now sold out! We ask people to bring their own drinks and glasses. We are running our popular St John's Got Talent, and there is also a sign- up sheet for that. For our Harvest Service on Sunday 6th October, we are asking you to bring food donations which will go straight to Routes to Roots. Please bring your goods to church on Harvest Sunday itself and place it around the altar at the start of the service. If you come on a Wednesday rather than Sunday, please bring it on Wed 2nd October. The following Wednesday will be too late to take the goods down to Routes to Roots as they will go on the Sunday. Thank you!

SIGN UP LIST FOR HARVEST SUPPER HELPERS There will be a sign up list for helpers needed with Harvest Supper at the back of Church. Please help if you can. Thank you!

NEW SINGING GROUP FOR SERVICES IN CARE HOMES We have a singing group to accompany a short service in local Care Homes. Revd Helen will be taking two services in October: Thurs 17th 10.45am at The Links & Friday 18th 2.30pm at the Potteries. As always, if you would like to join the singing group to lead the hymns, you would be very welcome. Please phone Pat Longstaff (01202 691148)

REMEDY OAK 2024/25! Our dates are as follows: Christmas lunch 2024 - 24th November & Spring/ summer 2025 - 27th April. Please keep these dates in your diary. *Phyl*



SILVER ECO CHURCH AWARD! St John's Church has achieved its Silver Eco Church Award from A Rocha UK in recognition of our efforts to care for God's earth in each of the following areas: Worship & Teaching; Management of Buildings and Land; Community & Global Engagement; Lifestyle. This has involved huge efforts in many areas of our church work and life, from everyone. Thank you especially to Revd Helen, the Churchwardens (past and present), PCC and everybody who works in any area of St John's because you are all part of this success. Congratulations! With love from the Eco Gang.

CHECK YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR PENSION CREDIT: The Winter Fuel Payment is an annual payment to help you with heating costs during the colder months. The Government announced in July 2024 that, from this year onwards, to be eligible you must have reached State Pension age and also receive a qualifying means-tested benefit e.g. pension credit, universal credit or income support. The last possible date to make a successful backdated claim to receive the Winter Fuel Payment is 21 December. Applications for Pension Credit can be made on the [How to Claim](#) page on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) or over the phone by calling 0800 99 1234 (Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm). There is also a [Pension Credit toolkit](#) to help spread the campaign message to your audiences.

CALLING THOSE WHO KNIT I need more knitted red poppies to make some more wreaths to decorate the church for Remembrance Day. Also, Christmas baubles to make wreaths to decorate the church for Christmas! If you need wool, let Caroline know and I can get you some. Thanks *Ann*



ACTS 435 is a Christian Charity to enable Acts 4.35 to 'bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need.' Donated money is only accessed through advocates connected with a church but helps anybody in need. Advocates post situations on the Acts435 website and within

2 weeks the money is given to the person in need. At the moment we hope to help a newly qualified nurse plug the gap of a month before she her first pay cheque. To help this charity, go on line to acts435.org.uk If you know of someone who needs help, contact janetgreen34@hotmail.com. Many thanks, Janet Green (Acts435 Advocate)

VERGERS NEEDED The vicar still needs extra people to be a verger at funerals and weddings at St John's. It is not so different from a sidesperson's duties, though there are a few things to learn. There are always two vergers on at every funeral or wedding, so you won't be alone! If interested, have a word with Revd Helen who can talk you through what the role involves. It is impossible to take funerals and weddings without this support!



CORFE MULLEN FOOD BANKS Food donations can be left in the Church porch every weekday morning 10am-1pm, Sundays 12noon- 4.30pm. All donations are 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 local Schools. **They need tinned vegetables & Tomatoes; Jam; tinned Fruit & Cat Food.** If you wish to make a cash donation, visit their website parishofcorfemullen.church/foodbank or contact Sheila & Ken for details.

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



Further Afield

NEW WOMEN'S DAY 2024 Saturday 5th October 9.30am – 3.15pm at St Nicholas Church, Corfe Mullen. Tickets £15. A day for women to connect with each other and God.

NEW BOURNEMOUTH WILLIAM TEMPLE ASSOCIATION Monday 14th Oct at the Marsham Court Hotel, Bournemouth. The meeting starts at 7.40pm but beforehand there is our annual Eucharist starting at 5.45pm and then an optional dinner at 6.30pm.

DONATIONS FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS We are appealing for good quality **trainers** (adult size 6–11). For information call Judith 01202 460162 Mob 07840490525 or drop donations to Caroline in the Office. *Thanks to those who have donated: much appreciated.*

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

TUESDAY CLUB AT BROADSTONE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH We are open 10.30 am till 2pm. Please contact Ann on 01202 849136 for more information.



And Finally... Each year St Johns make donations to carefully selected worthwhile charities. As in recent years, we would like the whole membership of the church to be involved in the choices. With that in mind we now invite nominations of charities that we might support. Nominations can be accompanied by brief details of the nominated charity's aims, and this is particularly important if the charity is not well-known. Nominations should be passed in writing to the parish office or can be sent by email to admin@stjohnschurchbroadstone.org.uk. Nominations will close on Sunday 20th Oct.

DEADLINE FOR NOV EDITION SUBMISSIONS FRI 25th October.

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