



St. John's Newsletter

Charity No 1162162

www.stjohnschurchbroadstone.org.uk

April 2025



Letter from the Vicar

Dear friends

April Fools Day, which is of course how April begins, is not a day I have ever enjoyed, as I am too easily caught out. But have you ever wondered why we have it at all? Some historians say it goes back to the 1500s in France when the Julian calendar, which had been established by Julius Caesar, was



replaced with the Gregorian calendar, introduced by Pope Gregory viii, and still used in most parts of the world today. In the old calendar, New Year's day was on 1st April, but in the new calendar this was moved to 1st January.

However, news travelled slowly in those days, so not everyone got the message that New Year's Day had switched to 1st January. Those who didn't get the news kept celebrating it on 1st April. They were widely mocked, becoming known as 'April Fools.' From that day on, it became a day where jokes were played on one another to fool others – and that has been taking place for over 500 years now!

None of us like to be made fools of, nor do any of us want to appear foolish, or be labelled a fool. In fact in Matthew 5.22 Jesus has harsh words for anyone who calls his brother or sister a fool. We should never insult someone. The word translated *fool* is actually the Greek word *moros*, from which we get our modern word *moron*. It is a real insult Jesus is talking about.

But in the Bible, St Paul describes the story of the cross of Jesus Christ and the redemption of the world through his suffering, death and resurrection, as foolish. Not because he thinks it is nonsense! In 1 Corinthians 18 he writes, *'For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.'* He adds, in verses 20-25, *'Has God not made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.'*



Everything about the cross does look foolish to those who do not believe or understand. How can the torture of a man on a cross bring redemption? How can resurrection be real? How can

death be overcome? But the Easter story is exactly that, and God's foolishness is wiser than our wisdom.

I once heard someone say, 'I'm a fool for Christ. Whose fool are you?' It's a good question. If I am going to be anyone's fool, let me be a fool for Christ. Following Jesus is, after all, the wisest decision I ever made.

As we draw near to Holy Week, may you be fools for Christ too, that we may rejoice all the more when Easter Day dawns!

With my love



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

Café Breakfast Church took place on Saturday 15th March 10-11am. We heard about Abram who upped-sticks and followed God to the marvellous destiny ahead of him. Some volunteers took part in a 'journey' with signs to lead them from start to finish in NorthReach, and there was also notional travel by various means around a game board.



Our next one takes place Saturday 17th May at 10am. This is a delightful space of worship, a brief teaching slot, craft and activity, and of course breakfast! It is suitable for everyone, including families. Do come and join us!



No photos from March Muddy Church, as it only takes place on 29th March, the weekend this newsletter is sent out. Revd Gary is leading it on the subject of human greed and comparing that with the generosity and giving of God. Our April Muddy takes place on Palm Sunday at 3pm, and its theme is: The Chicken and the Egg. We will be exploring why



there are symbols of Easter and what they have to do with Jesus and the Easter story! Revd Gary will tell us about how he keeps chickens, and we will make dangly chickens among

other crafts, including creating a tomb scene from paper plates. An Easter egg hunt will round the whole thing off nicely!



Finally in March, Revd Helen ran two sessions for year 7 classes about the Christian faith, church building and Christian identity while Revd Gary led an Easter Assembly at First School. It is good to be growing our connections with the schools. Revd Helen also serves on the Board of Members of the Castleman Academy, a cluster of five local schools.



Services for Holy Week at St John's



PALM SUNDAY 9.45am with Palm crosses & procession. Meet in the Parish Hall. Moves to the Church after the procession.

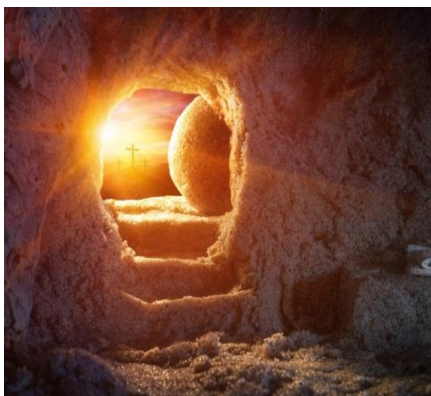
MUDDY CHURCH EASTER SPECIAL 3pm on Palm Sunday. Free event. Learn about the chicken and the egg,

and discover the meaning of Easter. Easter egg hunt and crafts! Please book in for this at revdhelenbailey@gmail.com

HOLY MONDAY & TUESDAY 7pm Eucharist with brief homily.

HOLY WEDNESDAY 10.30am Eucharist with brief homily

MAUNDY THURSDAY 8pm Eucharist recalling the Last Supper followed by The Watch at 9 / 9.15pm – 10 / 10.15pm



GOOD FRIDAY 9am Stations of the Cross

2pm Hour at the Cross: meditations, prayer & hymns

HOLY SATURDAY 8pm

Easter Eve Vigil & Service of Light

EASTER DAY 8am Eucharist **10am** Family Eucharist with hymns, celebrations & surprises for the children. Bring the family!

Do come and join us as we mark the last week of Jesus' life together!

News from the St John's Eco Gang ...



ECO TIP – PLANTING FOR POLLINATORS

With the warmer, longer days, look out for insects foraging for nectar and pollen in your garden. As they feed, bees, wasps, hoverflies, moths, butterflies and beetles help to fertilise plants to produce fruit and seeds, but they are in decline. We can help by providing lots of nectar rich flowers, which can include herbs, fruit trees and ivy (a real star as it provides late season flowers and berries as well as shelter for tiny creatures all year round). For a list of plants, see www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/actions/best-plants-bees-and-pollinators and we have a few leaflets in Northreach. **Top tip - if you need compost, all B&Q and Stewarts composts are now peat free.**



Plant Sale Saturday 10th May 2025, 10-12 noon

Please put this date in your diary. Even if you are new to the Church or have never helped at the Plant Sale before, please think about whether you could help in some way as we really need extra help this year as several folk cannot be there for various reasons. Help needed includes helping to set up tables in the Parish Hall from 8.30am, car park helpers during the morning, putting plants out at 9am and then selling on the stalls from 10am.

Could you pot up any unwanted seedlings growing in your garden? There is still time to sow some seeds of either flower or vegetables like courgettes, peppers, cucumber, chillis, aubergines. Herbs can be split and potted up or again sow some seed. Tomatoes also sell well, including trailing varieties for a hanging basket or pot. Runner, climbing, dwarf or French beans are good sellers. Please sow say half a dozen in a deep pot like mushroom/meat containers or similar. Some folk buy seedlings from a garden centre and then grow them on, even on a windowsill if you don't have a greenhouse. Indoor and outdoor plants can still be split if there is time for roots to establish. Please use potting compost for everything and label with name/variety/colour if possible.



Could you supply a jar of chutney, jam, or marmalade for the produce stall? Any donations would be most welcome. Please deliver them to the Parish Office. If you can supply a cake, both Penny and Gill will be delighted to hear from you nearer the time.



Even if you don't have a garden, come along and enjoy tea/coffee and cake in our garden setting.

For any more information, or offers of help, I will be delighted to hear from you. *Marion Marsh*

St. John's Fellowship, April 10th, 7.30pm in the Parish Hall



Our March meeting started with a presentation to Jean Rigler who has stepped down as chairperson and Phil Church & Phyl Walton have offered to share the chair for the time being. Phil thanked Jean for all her hard work over the past 13 years and gave her a plate commemorating the occasion. We then had a fascinating evening hearing about smuggling over the centuries and in particular the famous Dorset smuggler, Issac Gulliver. Our speaker in April is Sandra Simmonds who will talk on "Life under the Veil" which sounds very interesting and there will be time afterwards to chat over tea & coffee. As always newcomers are welcome to join this friendly group. For further information contact Phil on 01202 695713 or Phyl on 01202 659306.

Occasional Offices from March



Funerals

14th March Anthony Roger Shearing (St John's)
 28th March Robert (Bob) John Williams (Harbour View)

Burial of Ashes

25th March Patricia Stirling (St John's Churchyard)

Service Readings in April

Date	Sunday	OT	Psalm	NT	Gospel
Sun 6 th Apr	Lent 5 Passiontide begins	Isaiah 43.16-21	Psalm 126	Philippians 3.4b - 14	John 12.1-8
Sun 13 th Apr	Palm Sunday	No OT Instead, Palm Gospel - Luke 19.28-40	No Psalm	Philippians 2.5-11	Luke 23.1-49 Dramatic Reading of Passion
Sun 20 th Apr	Easter Day	Isaiah 65.17-end	Psalm 118.14-24	Acts 10.34-43	John 20.1-18
Sun 27 th Apr	Easter 2	Exodus 14.10- end, 15.20-21	Psalm 150	Acts 5.27-32	John 20.19-end

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



Tues 1st Apr 7.30pm Events Committee in Parish Hall
 Wed 2nd Apr 10.30am Eucharist
 Thurs 3rd Apr 8.45am Morning Prayer in Church
 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning
 Fri 4th Apr 1pm Funeral of Pamela Harrison
 10am Children's Work Meeting at The Vicarage
 Sat 5th Apr 9.30am – 12 noon Gardening Group Spring Clear Up
 Sun 6th Apr 8am Holy Communion (BCP)
 10am Parish Eucharist
 Mon 7th Apr Parish Office Closed until Monday 14th April
 Wed 9th Apr 10.30am Eucharist
 Thurs 10th Apr 8.45am Morning Prayer in Church
 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning
 10.45am Care Home Service at The Links with Revd Helen and the Singing Group
 Fri 11th Apr 11am Care Home Service at The Potteries with Revd Helen and the Singing Group
 7.30pm St John's Fellowship in Parish Hall
 Sat 12th Apr 9.45am Getting to Grips with the Gospels
 2pm Craft & Chat Group

Sun 13 th Apr	8am Holy Communion 9.45am Palm Sunday begins in the Parish Hall 3pm, Muddy Church Easter Special
Mon 14 th Apr	Parish Office reopens at 9.30am 7pm Holy Monday Eucharist with brief homily
Tues 15 th Apr	7pm Holy Tuesday Eucharist with brief homily
Wed 16 th Apr	10.30am Holy Wednesday Eucharist with brief homily
Thurs 17 th Apr	NO MORNING PRAYER 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning 8pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist, followed by The Watch
Fri 18 th Apr	Parish Office Closed 9am Stations of the Cross 2pm Hour at the Cross
Sat 19 th Apr	8pm Easter Eve Vigil & Service of Light
Sun 20 th Apr	8am Easter Day Eucharist 10am Family Easter Day Eucharist
Mon 21 st Apr	Parish Office Closed
Tues 22 nd Apr	Parish Office Closed
Wed 23 rd Apr	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 24 th Apr	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning
Sun 27 th Apr	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist Remedy Oak Lunch
Wed 30 th Apr	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 1 st May	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning 7.30pm APCM in Northreach

St John's News from the Pews



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

NEW THIS WEEKEND CLOCKS GO FORWARD AN HOUR A reminder that on Sunday 30th March in the early hours the clocks go forward an hour. Do remember to change your clocks and alarms the night before so you don't arrive as our services are finishing!

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BROADSTONE LENT GROUPS Now running Wednesday evenings from 7.30-9pm at the Methodist Church and Thursday mornings at St Antony's 10.30am - 12 noon. All welcome. **Booklets are £1.85 and will be available from the first session you go to, and you also need to bring a Bible.**



MOTHERING SUNDAY POSIES will be made in the Parish Hall on Saturday 29th March from 9.45am. If you have any small leaved foliage in your garden that you can spare, such as Pittosporum, Hebe, Lonicera, Box, Cypresses, or similar, or foliage with flower such as Forsythia, Spiraea, Heather, Viburnum or Hellebores or other flowers, etc, please could you bring it to the Parish Hall for 9.45am or leave outside door if earlier. If you can help the team to make some posies then please come along with your secateurs at 9.45am. For further details please contact Marion Marsh.

DEANERY CHAPTER MEETING AT ST JOHN'S is on Wednesday 2nd April at 12 noon – 1.30pm in the Northreach Annexe. If you are able to help with refreshments, please let Revd Helen know. Many thanks



CHURCH GROUNDS SPRING GARDENING DAY 5TH APRIL

The Gardening Group are having a Spring Gardening Day and would ask if anyone would like to join us on Saturday 5th April for anytime between 09:30 and 12:00. You will be more than welcome and there is no requirement to come for the whole time. Refreshments 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 let me or the Parish Office know you are coming that would help. If you would like to know more about it please don't hesitate to chat to me. Many thanks Ken Pearce

AMENDED GETTING TO GRIPS WITH THE GOSPELS Final dates are: Sat 12th April, Sat 24th May. May will be the last session.

NEW THURSDAY 17TH APRIL NO MORNING PRAYER There will be no Morning Prayer that day as we are at the cathedral.

AMENDED REMEDY OAK 27TH APRIL We are slightly low on numbers this time, so please come along if you can. Give menus & payment to Phyl or pass to Office.



AMENDED QUIET DAY AT ST JOHN'S Sat 3rd May 9.30am - 3pm (Advance Notice). This will be led by Zoe Phillips, a member of our congregation, with themes of Creation. It will have a Celtic flavour. The day will end with Revd Helen leading a short Communion Service. We will have *a bring and share lunch for all who come, so please remember to bring a contribution on the day.* Sign up sheets are now available.

REVD GARY WALDRON'S ORDINATION is on Saturday 28th June, probably late morning. Everyone is welcome! Please let Caroline in the office know as soon as possible if you can come, so we can gauge if a coach is needed or whether we will share lifts.

COFFEE ROTA Please contact June Webber on junewebber@outlook.com if you would like to join the coffee rota. Thank you to those already on the rota and could you let June know which Sundays you are unavailable June to December inclusive. Many thanks.

PARKING AT THE PARISH HALL A reminder that if there is room, you are allowed to park but ONLY on church business - no other reason. You must only park in a way that uses a genuine space and MUST NOT block anyone in nor prevent emergency access to the hall by a vehicle from the gate. Please ensure all cars are removed by 12 noon on Wednesdays if you have parked by the fence nearest to church / outside parish hall itself. Thank you. *Revd Helen*

STRICTLY NO ACCESS TO PARISH HALL ITSELF MON TO FRI 7.30am - 6.25pm This is a reminder that there is strictly no access to the building for any reason whatsoever Mon to Fri 7.30am to 6.25pm. Many thanks - I appreciate very much your co-operation with this. *Revd Helen*



BOTTLES FOR REMEMBRANCE DAY I am wanting bottles, i.e. coke, lemonade, mixer drinks etc... to take the bottoms off to make poppies for a Remembrance Day project. Please bring any clean bottles to the Parish Office. Many thanks *Ann Biggs*

APCM: ELECTORAL ROLL Every 6 years the whole electoral roll has to be revised, which means everyone on it needs to reapply. Envelopes are now available for you to collect from the Parish Office or during services, which will contain a letter from us and an electoral roll form for you to fill in. The internal deadline for getting these back to Geraldine Willford, our Electoral Roll officer, via the parish office, will be 3rd April, and the roll will formally close on 10th April, after which no one else can be added to the roll until after the APCM on 1st May. **Please note that you can only attend the APCM if you are an electoral roll member.**

APCM: ARE YOU NEW TO CHURCH? If you are new to church and have decided to make St John's your church and have worshipped with us for 6 months, or you live in the parish, you can become a member of our electoral roll, providing you are over 16, baptised and not on any other electoral roll. Do have a word with the Vicar or Geraldine Willford about this. You can only attend the APCM and nominate and vote for our charities if you are on our electoral roll, and it also means you will receive all the papers for the APCM including the parish and statutory reports, the financial reports, as well as later in the year our stewardship packs. Because the roll is about to be revised (see note above), we will be taking in new electoral rolls from 9th March - and you will be added to the roll at that time.

CALL FOR OLD SPECTACLES! A reminder that we have a bin at the back of the church where you can donate your old glasses for charity.

RAISE MONEY FOR ST JOHNS WITH TRUST130 For every new home insurance policy taken out with Ecclesiastical, they'll donate £130 to an Anglican church of the policy holder's choice. For info, contact Caroline in the office or call Ecclesiastical on **0800 7830 130**.



CORFE MULLEN FOOD BANKS Corfe Mullen Food Bank asked us to send their continued thanks for the generous donations that St. John's regularly makes. Donations can be left in the Church Porch Mon - Fri 10am-1pm & Sun 11.30am – 12.15pm. All given to St Nicholas' Church Corfe Mullen FoodBank who provide food for Broadstone individuals & families, and vouchers to Broadstone / Hillbourne Schools. All food welcome but the need is also for **cleaning products including cleaning cloths, cooking sauces, tinned carrots and other tinned vegetables.** Visit parishofcorfemullen.church/foodbank to make cash donation or contact Sheila & Ken.

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

Further Afield

BOURNEMOUTH WILLIAM TEMPLE ASSOCIATION Monday 7th April at the Marsham Court Hotel, Bournemouth. The meeting starts at 7.40pm but beforehand there is an optional dinner at 6.30pm.

DORSET CHAMBER CHOIR CONCERT The Passion Of Our Lord According To St Mark. Monday 14th April, 7.30pm at Broadstone United Reformed Church. Tickets £10 (under 18s free) from David Hopkins, website or on the door.

DONATIONS FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS BIKES WANTED International Care Network (ICN) are looking for bikes for refugees and asylum seekers in BCP. Do you have an unused but usable bike stagnating in your garage or garden? For further info contact Judith on 07840490525 or judithw0651@gmail.com

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.

DEADLINE FOR MAY EDITION SUBMISSIONS FRI 18th April.

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