



St. John's Newsletter

Charity No 1162162

www.stjohnschurchbroadstone.org.uk

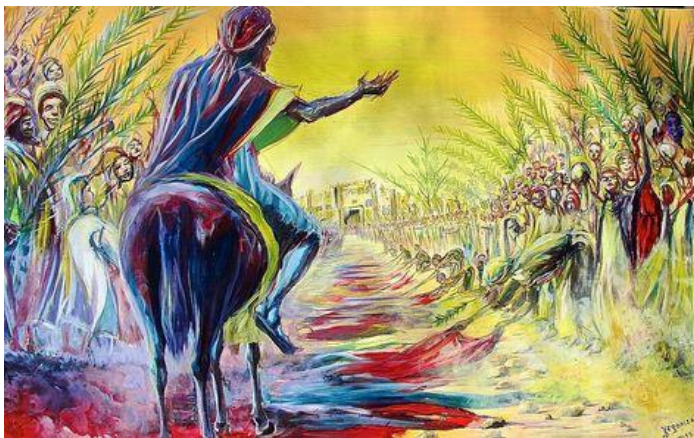
April 2026



Letter from the Vicar

Dear friends,

We are about to enter the most solemn time of the Christian year. Holy Week begins just as this newsletter is published. On Palm Sunday we will remember the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. That day we also have no sermon, but reserve the space for the dramatic reading of Christ's Passion, so the story may tell itself. So perhaps I should say a few words about that day here. For how does a week which begins with such celebration of Jesus by the crowds end in his cruel death on Good Friday, just a few days later?



The reputation of Jesus had spread far and wide by this point. People had met him, crowds had flocked to see him, rumours had circulated. Could this man be the Christ, the Anointed One, the Holy One of God, who had come to save them? Many had heard his teaching. Some had witnessed miracles. Others had heard stories from trusted family and friends. When the rumour spreads that Jesus is coming to Jerusalem for the Passover, the crowds flocked to one of Jerusalem's main gates in its City Walls,

welcoming him with wild joy and abandon.

But not welcomed by everyone, of course. Imagine you are a religious leader in Jerusalem. You already have concerns about all the crowds that will be flooding into the City for the Passover Feast. The place will be busy, heaving, and it will be the usual nightmare to control everything. Then you hear that the 'trouble-maker' is expected. This Jesus, who has been stirring up such interest from so many, and who has openly challenged the religious leaders, is on his way. Was he coming as a political revolutionary to cause riots in the City? To attempt a coup?



John's Gospel also supplies us with another reason for the fear of the Chief Priests and the Roman rulers. The other three Gospels present the last straw as being Jesus overturning the tables of the money-lenders in the Temple, and so they plot to arrest him. However in John's Gospel, that incident happens in chapter 2, right at the start of his ministry, in one of his early pilgrimages to Jerusalem. It used to be thought that John must have had it wrong, but in fact scholars now tend to believe John's versions of events. For in his Gospel, Jesus has just raised his friend Lazarus from the dead, in a place called Bethany, just the other side of the Mount of Olives, on his way to Jerusalem.



It is this event that stirs such fear in the religious leaders' minds and hearts. The crowds are now uncontrollable with 'the whole world going after him'. They determine he must be stopped.

That version of the story also explains why so many started to believe he could be the Christ and flocked to the gate into Jerusalem that was referenced in scripture as being the gate through which the one coming to save them would enter. Indeed, if you read the scripture from

the Prophet Zechariah 9.9, it says this: *Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*

The crowds go wild when they see Jesus riding on a donkey into the City at the very place it had said their Messiah would come! His riding a donkey is a sign he comes bringing peace not military might. They wave palm branches because palm branches were a sign of victory, and lay cloaks on the ground for him as a sign that he is their King. They shout that he is the Son of David, the King of Israel, and shout 'Hosanna' which means 'Save us, we pray'. Many will have believed, as Judas Iscariot did, Jesus was going to overthrow Roman rule, restore Israel's sovereignty, and enter his reign, which they believed would happen immediately. Despite this massive welcome, many of these same people, likely disappointed by his peaceful, spiritual approach rather than political victory, would demand his crucifixion within days.



We only have to look at the political turn of our own world to see how some leaders are prepared to start wars for their own ends. But peace is what God's Kingdom and God's Christ came to bring, and it is peace we pursue in the world.

The Holy Week Story unfolds, Palm Sunday events a catalyst for what plotting then begins. We hear that story anew each year, not simply to tell it and remind ourselves of the events, but to truly enter it. If you come to our Holy Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday Eucharists, you will hear how the story builds to these events. The Triduum, the holy three days which begin in the evening of Maundy Thursday and end in the evening of Easter Day. I would encourage you to come to these mid-week services, and especially those in the period of the Triduum, because otherwise there are huge gaping holes in our experience of Holy Week. We cannot leap from Palm Sunday to Easter Day easily if we have not sat with our Lord at the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, accompanied him to the Garden of Gethsemane at The Watch, and stayed with him by the cross on Good Friday. All our lives, Jesus promises to travel by our side: this is the week we commit to travel by his side.



May I wish you the deepest and most profound experiences of the Holy Week journey as we travel together. And for when it comes, may I wish you a glorious and happy Easter Day! With my love

Helen

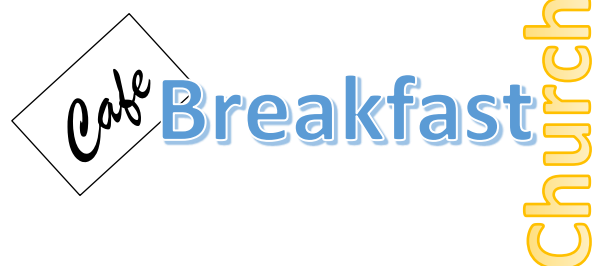
Come & See! Family Work at St John's!



Muddy Church will take place on Palm Sunday, so just after this newsletter for April is published. However, we shall have celebrated the Easter Garden and have made our own, as well as sweet little Easter bunny rabbit gardens, and of course, will all have enjoyed the Easter egg hunt!



At Café Breakfast Church in March we explored the glory of music in our worship, made rainshakers & formed a Whistle Band! The next is Sat 16th May.



Schoolwork



The school came to us in March! Three separate classes of 30 children (so 90 in total!) came down from Broadstone Middle to learn about faith, the Christian journey and the church building. Revd Helen took these sessions, which were great fun and a wonderful, positive relationship-builder as well as learning more about faith.



Revd Helen is looking forward to the cubs coming to church one evening in April to have a session about faith as part of their religion badge. We look forward to welcoming them! All of these are wonderful opportunities to welcome young people into our church to hear about Christian faith.

BRING AND SHARE TEA FOLLOWING THE BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION OF ALEX Saturday 30th MAY 5pm

We are thrilled that Alex is being baptised and confirmed by Bishop Karen at St John's Church on this date. We would love as many people as possible to come and support this fantastic step in Alex's faith journey, and afterwards we are going to enjoy a faith tea / supper together. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of church to say you are coming, and on the evening please bring a food contribution - all the usuals such as quiche, sandwiches, sausage rolls, cheese rolls, pizza, vegetarian options, cheese and biscuits, salad etc, or cakes, fruit and so on. Please bring this **READY-PLATED** (not just in a box!) and place it on the tables in either NorthReach or the Parish Hall (to be confirmed when we know numbers). It will be a wonderful occasion, and a great opportunity to share fun and fellowship together afterwards!





Hospital Chaplaincy Placement from Revd Gary

Since the beginning of the year, I have embarked on a new journey as an additional part of my Curacy here at St. John's, this time in the wider community, within the busy clinical corridors of Poole and Bournemouth Hospitals, as I have served as an Honorary Chaplain within the Chaplaincy team, stepping into a world that is totally new to me.

I wanted to share a little about what this role entails, as the work of a Hospital Chaplain can be misunderstood, as some assume they are only called during the most sombre, final moments of life. While those "end-of-life" vigils can be a sacred and essential part of duty, the reality of daily chaplaincy is much broader. It is mostly about pastoral, spiritual, and sometimes religious care for everyone within the hospital walls, patients, families, any passersby, and, of course, all NHS staff, regardless of their own faith or none.

The word "Honorary" simply means I volunteer my time, but the "Chaplain" part is where the heart of the work lies, and my time involves a mix of scheduled visits and the "Ministry of Interruption." Scheduled visits are for those who have been referred to the Chaplaincy team, either by themselves, by family, or most often by hospital staff.

Over the last few years, there has been an increasing recognition in the NHS that patients are not just Body and Mind but also Spirit, and that just by "being there", (another ministry, the "Ministry of Presence"), chaplains can be an important part of a patient's physical or mental recovery. By providing a safe space where they can speak openly about anything on their hearts, chaplains make a real and tangible difference.

This might sound a bit grand for what can often just be a few minutes of chatting, but I have seen this "chat" provide real solace to people. It is possible to arrive at a person in tears and leave them laughing, something we all know is a great medicine.

As chaplains, it is important to remember that we may be the only people they meet that day who are not focused on their clinical needs. We don't ask people, "Why are you here?", they have often had enough of talking about this and just want to be recognised holistically, as the complete human beings they are, for what is important to them beyond this temporary moment in their lives and so we let them guide the conversation, which sometimes can mean sitting in silence, holding a delicate hand for a bit.

Outside these planned visits to individuals, Chaplains will often just "walk the ward" and see who is there, which can lead to deep, but also funny, conversations. It's surprising how often people start with "I'm not religious, you know", and then go on to ask the deepest questions about life. This impromptu ministry is deeply rewarding and often results in patients being added to the Chaplain's referral list, so they receive further visits.

Finally, staff are encouraged to speak with the Chaplaincy team if they need to, or simply need a bit of quiet time; the beautiful chapel is available to them. This space is shared with other faiths, in particular for the Muslim staff who make up a large percentage of NHS employees.

As I continue with this opportunity, I ask for your prayers, not just for my work, but for the patients in the hospital today and for the staff who work tirelessly to care for them.

If you or a loved one is ever admitted, please do let the nursing staff know that you would like a visit from the Chaplaincy team; they are there for everyone.



Eco Tip: Saving Water

Water is a precious resource with an additional environmental cost of treating it for drinking. We are delighted that we can now water our churchyard using rainwater instead via our new water butt. A huge thank you to Eric and his team for installing it! Thank you also to our Christmas Fayre visitors for their water saving tips (below unedited).

Bath with a friend	Use a watering can and have shorter showers	Put the washing machine on an eco spin
Don't fill the bath with too much water	Don't leave the tap on while you brush your teeth	A garden water butt to water garden pots
Shower not bath	Only flush the toilet when necessary	Reuse waste water to water plants
Have less showers	Don't fill the kettle up if you only want one cup of tea	Use the Cloud sparingly - erase unwanted data
Share a shower	Don't let the husband wash up	Use refillable container to reduce plastic
Fit an eco shower head	Minimum amount in kettle and basin for washing up	Recycle Christmas cards as tags
When having a shower, turn it off when using the soap	When running a tap waiting for it to run warm save the water in 2L milk bottles and use on the garden	Water is essential for everyone
Remember when we didn't shower/bath every day?	Turn all the taps off when you have finished using them	FROM THE ECO GANG

Occasional Offices from March

Funerals

6th March Beatrice Carol Notley (HALO Ceremony Hall, Poole)

Burials

8th March Alan Summers (St John's Church)

20th March Simon James Willford (St John's Church)



NICK DUNN'S FUNERAL will take place at St John's Church on Saturday 18th April at 2 pm. If you are able to attend please let the Parish Office know, so the family know how many orders of service / refreshments to organise. I know the family will be in your thoughts and prayers.

RIP Nick Dunn, Sandra Roberts

Service Readings in April

Date	Sunday	OT	Psalm	NT	Gospel
Sun 5 th April	Easter Day	Jeremiah 31.1-6	Psalm 118.14-24	Acts 10.34-43	Matthew 28.1-10
Sun 12 th April	Easter 2	Exodus 14.10-end, 15.20-21	Psalm 16	Acts 2.14a, 22-32	John 20.19-end
Sun 19 th April	Easter 3	Zephaniah 3.14-end	Psalm 116.1-7	Acts 2.14a, 36-41	Luke 24.13-35
Sun 26 th April	Easter 4	Genesis 7	Psalm 23	Acts 2.42-end	John 10.1-10

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



Wed 1 st Apr	10.30am Eucharist - Holy Wednesday with homily
Thurs 2 nd Apr	NO Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning 8pm Maundy Thursday Service, followed by The Watch at 9pm – 10pm
Fri 3 rd Apr	9am Stations of the Cross 10am Walk of Witness, setting off from Northreach at 10.15am 2pm – 3pm Hour at the Cross
Sat 4 th April	8pm Easter Eve Vigil & Service of Light
Sun 5 th Apr	8am & 10am Easter Day Eucharists
Tues 7 th Apr	9.30am Parish Office Reopens
Wed 8 th Apr	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 9 th Apr	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning 7.30pm St John's Fellowship
Sat 11 th Apr	2pm – 4pm Craft & Chat
Sun 12 th Apr	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist (Fair Trade Stall) 1pm Baptism
Mon 13 th Apr	11am Funeral
Wed 15 th Apr	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 16 th Apr	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning
Fri 17 th Apr	10am – 12 noon Faith Matters Course led by Revd Helen 12.30pm Burial of Ashes
Sat 18 th Apr	2pm Nick Dunn's Funeral
Sun 19 th Apr	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist
Tues 21 st Apr	7.30pm Events Committee Meeting in Parish Hall
Wed 22 nd Apr	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 23 rd Apr	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning 7.30pm APCM in Parish Hall
Fri 24 th Apr	Children's work meeting at the vicarage.
Sat 25 th Apr	10.30am – 12 noon Muddy Church
Sun 26 th Apr	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist Remedy Oak Lunch
Wed 29 th Apr	10.30am Eucharist Cubs in church in eve with Revd Helen and Revd Gary
Thurs 30 th Apr	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning

St John's News from the Pews

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

NEW POST EASTER LEAVE All non-retired clergy go on a week's leave after Easter. Please note both Revd Gary and Revd Helen will be off from lunchtime on Easter Day.

NEW NEXT WEEK The Parish Office & Church for private prayer will be closed from Monday 30th March and will reopen on Tuesday 7th April at 9.30am. Please note, the next Weekly News will be sent on Friday 17th April.

FAITH MATTERS COURSE Run by Revd Helen. Suitable for those exploring new faith or revisiting the basics of the faith. Fridays 10am - 12 noon: 17th April, 1st May, 15th May.

GARDENING SAT 28TH MARCH All welcome to join us to tidy up the church grounds for Easter. There will be a range of the usual gardening jobs, tailored to suit all abilities. We start 9.30am and finish at 12.00. Coffee, biscuits and doughnuts provided for mid-morning break as an enticement for you to join us. Come and go to suit you on the day. Thank you. *Ken Pearce*

GOOD FRIDAY ON FRI 3RD APR After 9am Stations of the Cross at St John's, the CTiB Good Friday gathering meets in NorthReach from 10am, ready to set off at 10.15am. We will make our way down Tudor Rd, Kirkway, and then along the High Street up to the Methodist Church, where the whole of the Good Friday story will be presented with hymns. There will be refreshments and hot cross buns in the Methodist Church for all who have taken part in the Walk of Witness. Do join us if you can! St John's will then of course have its usual 2pm to 3pm Last Hour at the Cross.

CRAFT AND CHAT SAT 11th APRIL 2pm – 4pm Bring-your-own craft; on occasions you will be shown you how to make different crafts. Every 2nd Sat of the month.

TERRACOTTA PLANT POTS NEEDED If you have any spare medium terracotta plant pots (size 10 cm or more) please could you bring them to the office. It does not matter if cracked or broken rim. Many thanks, *Heather*



REMEDY OAK SUNDAY APRIL 26th Sign up list and menus are in Church on a Sunday but otherwise in the office. Give your menus and money to the Office before 12th April. Cheques payable to St John the Baptist PCC.



NEW PLANT SALE SAT 9th MAY 10AM – 12PM The Plant Sale is fast approaching and hopefully some of you have managed to grow some plants for us to sell - flowering plants, shrubs, herbs, house plants, vegetables. There is still time to sow beans – runner, dwarf, French - which are really easy to grow. Half dozen in a deep pot is a good number. Deep meat/mushroom containers are ideal as beans have a long root run. Please use potting compost for all plants and label them with type, variety, colour, etc. Maybe you have some garden tools or other sundries you no longer need that we could sell? There will be a plant crèche in the car park where you can leave your purchases while you enjoy your drink. If you don't have a garden, please come along to enjoy tea/coffee and cake in a garden setting and have a chat with others. If you haven't made any marmalade, preserves or chutney perhaps you would buy a nice jar for us to sell? Please remember anything homemade needs to have the ingredients listed. Please bring all items for sale after 8.30am. Some of the previous helpers are unable to do so this year so could you offer help during the morning (usually between 9am – 12)? We also need a few strong arms to help set up tables/chairs and 1 gazebo at 8am and then put them away around 12 noon. There are sign-up sheets on the usual pew at the rear of Church, including donations of cakes. The PLANT SALE is one of the main fundraising events for St John's during the year so please come along on the 9th and support it in some way. Please have a word with me for further information. We will be delighted to hear from you. *Marion Marsh*.

NEW QUIET DAY AT ST JOHN'S SAT 30th MAY 9.30am The Theme will be Reflecting on a Beautiful World. It will be a bring and share lunch - please bring a food contribution for the table. It will be a time of quiet reflection on a series of Biblical themes such as: living beyond your past experiences, anger and finding peace, finding completeness and enjoying the beauty of where you are in life right now. As usual there will be a variety of prayers, reflections, meditations and plenty of personal quiet space.

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together. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of church to say you are coming, and on the evening please bring a food contribution with ingredient slips (see office if slips are needed) - all the usuals such as quiche, sandwiches, sausage rolls, cheese rolls, pizza, vegetarian options, cheese and biscuits, salad etc, or cakes, fruit and so on. Please bring this **READY-PLATED** (not just in a box!) and place it on the tables in either NorthReach or the Parish Hall (to be confirmed when we know numbers). It will be a wonderful occasion, and a great opportunity to share fun and fellowship together afterwards!

MEMORIAL GARDEN We need someone to tend the memorial garden. If you can help, speak to Caroline in the office. Revd Helen has sent a card to Malcolm to thank him for all he has done.

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*



CORFE MULLEN FOOD BANKS Food 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. They are grateful for what we bring as their shelves were bare last week but currently are short of: **cleaning products & tinned meats.** Visit parishofcorfemullen.church/foodbank to make cash donation or contact Sheila & Ken.

Further Afield

BOURNEMOUTH WILLIAM TEMPLE ASSOCIATION Mon 13th April, Marsham Court Hotel, Bournemouth. Starts 7.40pm but an optional dinner at 6.30pm beforehand.

CRAFTY CORNER AT ST ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH HALL 3rd Monday of the month, 2pm – 4pm. Bring a craft – tea and biscuits included.

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... Volunteers Day Friday 5th June 10am - 4pm

Join bishops and DBF staff at Emmaus House, Wilton, as we resource and celebrate those who volunteer and serve in our churches across the Diocese of Salisbury. This day is for anyone who volunteers and serves regularly in their church, in an official or unofficial capacity. You can choose different sessions to support your work and ministry, and there will also be drop-in sessions available for individual, informal conversations. (Giving and Fundraising, Energy Footprint Tool, Parish services, Governance, Thirtyone: Eight and Safeguarding Hubs, Flower Arranging and research for an Anglican Heritage Trust). There will be a thank-you lunch hosted by Bishop Stephen and Bishop Karen; additionally, Bishop Karen will end the day with a short period of worship together. The day starts at 10am, and there is free parking available at Wilton Park and Ride, The Avenue, SP2 OFG. Do consider giving a lift share to others in your parish or benefice if possible, and if you are getting the train to Salisbury, you can then get a bus to the Wilton Park and Ride. We do hope you can come along to some or all of the day. To book and for more information on the sessions, go to this link: <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=Tr1EFZGRIUaLmM3hwnI30zeTVDZc8GxLg0E2IW2QqjRUQjIKUUhXUFFEMzY3Q1o3M0pXRDFRNTFURS4u&route=shorturl>

DEADLINE FOR MAY EDITION SUBMISSIONS FRI 24th APRIL.

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