



St. John's Newsletter

Charity No 1162162

www.stjohnschurchbroadstone.org.uk

December 2024 / January 2025



Letter from the Vicar

Winter can be a strange time for many of us. Dark nights sometimes cause isolation or sadness, it can be difficult to get out and about in the same way, or be motivated to do so. Many of us just try to get through winter, longing for the spring. And while some of us may have a lot of



family and lots of activities goes on, those of us who rely on friendships as our family may find

they are harder to spend time with because they are caught up with family time. The bright lights of a busy and jolly Christmas season are sometimes out of kilter with how we feel, and that can make us feel worse.



Our Longest Night service on 21st December, the Winter Solstice, is a place where we can be honest about how we are feeling. The church will be open from 5pm for anyone to quietly pop in, light a candle, and spend a moment in the beauty of our church. At 6pm, a short half hour service will gently minister to us, and offer a word of hope and comfort, as well as the lighting of candles during that service. Do join us if you are not feeling so merry this Christmas, or even if you are feeling fine, but just want to spend a quiet half hour in a season that is otherwise bustling and busy.



On 1st December we begin Advent, a season that speaks of exactly those themes. A season that begins in darkness, but waits with expectancy and hope for the coming of the light, in the birth of the Christ-child. In our various services we will tell, once more, the stories of the history of the faith we share. We will hear the declarations of John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus Christ. The messenger who proclaims the good news, and who encourages us to be similar messengers to a world in need. We will kneel with Mary, as she gives her ascent to being part of

God's plan, declaring herself willing to be the Mother of God. She too brings us encouragement, to let God be God in our lives and give our ascent to God's plans for us. And finally, at our Midnight Mass and on Christmas Day we will celebrate with joy the child born to us. Not born into riches or into a safe world, but born into the complexities, sorrow, mess and muddle, so that he might bring us hope and walk with us into that promised light.

With my best wishes for a meaningful Advent journey, and, when it comes, a Christmas that is all you need it to be.

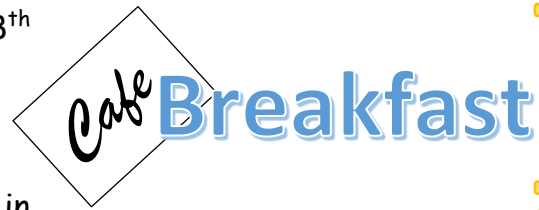
St John's Christmas Fayre/Wreath-making photos!



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

Church

Café Breakfast Church in January, Saturday 18th 10 - 11am, is very special, It is the start of Christian Unity Week, and so we are inviting our sisters and brothers from the other three



churches in

Broadstone to join together for our Café Breakfast Church! There will be the usual breakfast, crafts, workshop and teaching slot, so do come and join us. We need unity in our world so much, and it is such a strong witness and encouragement when the four Broadstone churches come together in this way.



Christian Unity Week will end with a mid-week service at the URC Church - we will let you have the details via our Weekly News in early January.

Meanwhile for our December **Muddy Church** on Sat 14th Dec 10.30am - 12pm, we are looking forward to our Big Winter Solstice Christmas Party with Christingles! This year we will make the Christingles as part of this event, as well as other party games, feasting and crafts. We will end with a short service in the church with the Christingles lit.



Muddy Church continues to be a growing work with new family connections being made all the time. Do pray for all our families and for those of us who lead this exciting work!



Finally our **school connections**: On Wed 18th December the church will be packed with the children and parents of Broadstone First School as they tell the Christmas story with the usual songs, readings and carols. The day after, on Thursday 19th December, Revd Helen will be in Broadstone First School to take the assembly and tell the story of the Christingle.

News from the St John's Eco Gang



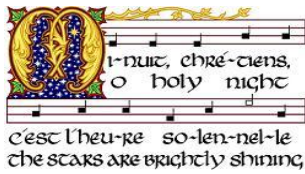
THE BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH 25th & 26th January 2025



It may be dark and dreary but this is the time when garden birds are really making the most of the food, water and shelter in our gardens. The Big Garden Birdwatch is a chance to focus on your birds for just one hour and contribute to this national survey by the RSPB. You can take part at home or in a park any time over the weekend. Tip - mornings are best as the birds are more active then. The Eco Gang will be doing a Birdwatch at St John's on Saturday 25th January from 8.30am to 9.30am. Visit www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch for more information.

Happy Birdwatching! *The Eco Gang*

Advent Carol Service



Sunday 1st December 5pm

A beautiful service with candlelit procession, Advent Carols and readings.

St John's Church, Macaulay Rd

ALL WELCOME!

Advent tea is served in the Parish Hall at 4pm before the service.



**Christmas at St John's Church,
Broadstone**

Join us for our Christmas services!



**Saturday 14th Dec
10.30am-12pm Muddy
Church Christmas
Christingle party with
Christingles.**

**Sunday 15th Dec 6.30pm
Festival of 9
Lessons/Carols with the
Community Band**

**Sat 21st Dec 6pm Longest
Night Service** A quiet service

for those who find Christmas a difficult or uneasy time. The church will be open from 5pm to light candles.

Christmas Eve

11am Community sing-a-long carols in churchyard.

3pm Crib service: Journey to Bethlehem: children - come dressed as your favourite nativity character!

Angels, shepherds, wise men, Mary, Joseph, the star! Help us tell the Christmas story. There will be **two live donkeys coming**, with petting / photo opportunities!

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 8am Eucharist; 10am Sung Eucharist with carols and surprises!

Christmas for Children

The Big Winter Solstice Christmas Party with Christingles Sat 14th Dec

10.30am – 12 noon



We will make Christingles and end with a short Christingle service.

For Muddy events please book at

revdhelenbailey@gmail.com

Crib Service: Journey to Bethlehem 3pm Christmas Eve.

Help us retell the Christmas story.

Children come dressed as a favourite nativity character: stars, angels, shepherds, sheep, Mary, Joseph etc all welcome!

Two live donkeys coming with photo and petting opportunities after the service!

(No Christingles at this event.)



Sat 7th Dec 10am-4pm * Drinks & cakes in the parish hall. Also open Sun 8th Dec 2-4pm.

FREE ENTRY Programme £1 entitles to free drink Sat only. SANTA CLAUS will be here 3.15-4pm Sat only.



Diary Round-up: Events at St John's Dec and Jan



Sun 1 st Dec	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Parish Eucharist 4pm Advent Tea with service at 5pm
Wed 4 th Dec	10.30am Eucharist 6pm Griffin Funeral Care Memorial Service
Thurs 5 th Dec	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning
Sat 7 th Dec	10am – 4pm Christmas Tree Festival
Sun 8 th Dec	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist 2pm – 4pm Christmas Tree Festival
Wed 11 th Dec	10.30am Eucharist 7.30pm House Group in NorthReach
Thurs 12 th Dec	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning
Sat 14 th Dec	10.30am – 12 noon Muddy Church Christmas Party 2pm Craft & Chat Group 7pm St John's Fellowship Christmas Party
Sun 15 th Dec	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist 6.30pm Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols
Wed 18 th Dec	Office Closed 10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 19 th Dec	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning
Fri 20 th Dec	Office Closed
Sat 21 st Dec	6pm Longest Night Service (Candles from 5pm)
Sun 22 nd Dec	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist
Tues 24 th Dec	Office Closed and will reopen on Thursday 2 nd January 11am Community Sing-a-long Carols in the Churchyard 3pm Crib Service: Journey to Bethlehem 11.30pm Midnight Mass
Wed 25 th Dec	8am Eucharist 10am Sung Eucharist with carols & surprises!
Sun 29 th Dec	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist
Wed 1 st Jan	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 2 nd Jan	Office reopens at 9.30am 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning
Sun 5 th Jan	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Parish Eucharist
Mon 6 th Jan	Office Closed
Wed 8 th Jan	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 9 th Jan	10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning 7pm Standing Committee in Vicarage 7.30pm St Johns Fellowship
Sat 11 th Jan	9.45am Getting to grips with the Gospel in NorthReach 2pm – 4pm St John's Craft & Chat Group in NorthReach
Sun 12 th Jan	8am Holy Communion

Sun 12 th Jan	10am Parish Eucharist 3pm Muddy Church
Tues 14 th Jan	Office opening at 11.30am
Wed 15 th Jan	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 16 th Jan	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning 7.30pm PCC in large hall
Fri 17 th Jan	2pm Worship & Spirituality Group
Sat 18 th Jan	10am – 11am Unity Café Breakfast Church (see notice above)
Sun 19 th Jan	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist
Wed 22 nd Jan	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 23 rd Jan	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning
Sat 25 th Jan	Big Brains and Burgers (and Sausages too) time tbc
Sun 26 th Jan	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist
Wed 29 th Jan	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 30 th Jan	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning

Service readings in December & January

Date	Sunday	OT	Psalm	NT	Gospel
Sun 1 st Dec	Advent 1 Year C begins	Jeremiah 33.14-16	Psalm 25.1-9	1 Thessalonians 3.9-end	Luke 21. 25-36
Sun 8 th Dec	Advent 2	Malachi 3.1-4	Canticle Magnificat	Philippians 1.3- 11	Luke 3.1-6
Sun 15 th Dec	Advent 3	Zephaniah 3.14- end	Psalm 146.4- end	Philippians 4.4- 7	Luke 3.7- 18
Sun 22 nd Dec	Advent 4	Micah 5.2-5a	Psalm 80.1-8	Hebrews 10.5- 10	Luke 1.39- 45
Sun 29 th Dec	1st Sunday of Christmas	1 Samuel 2.18-20,26	Psalm 148. 1-6	Colossians 3.12-17	Luke 2.41- end
Sun 5 th Jan	The Epiphany	Isaiah 60.1-6	Psalm 72.1- 15	Ephesians 3.1- 12	Matthew 2.2-12
Sun 12 th Jan	1st Sunday of Epiphany	Isaiah 43.1-7	Psalm 29	Acts 8.14-17	Luke 3.15- 17, 21-22
Sun 19 th Jan	2nd Sunday of Epiphany	Isaiah 62.1-5	Psalm 36.5- 10	1 Corinthians 12.1-11	John 2.1- 11
Sun 26 th Jan	3rd Sunday of Epiphany	Nehemiah 8. 1-3,5-6, 8,10	Psalm 19.1-6	1 Corinthians 12.12-31a	Luke 4.14- 21

Occasional Offices from November

Funerals

9th November
25th November

Barbara Nash (Harbour View)
Kenneth Brown (Harbour View)



St John's News from the Pews

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

REVD HELEN ANNUAL LEAVE & COMPASSIONATE LEAVE My Mum's funeral takes place at the end of this week, and I am also due some compassionate leave, which I held off so I could carry on working until now. I will be here for Advent Sunday, 1st Dec, and for the Griffin Funeral Memorial Care Service on 4th Dec, but otherwise not back working in the parish until 6th Dec. May I thank you all for your many kindnesses to me since I lost my Mum, as I've not had time to respond to the various emails & cards that have come, nor the many good wishes I have had from you all. But thank you. They mean much, and have brought me much comfort at a complex time. *Revd Helen*

NO ONLINE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER Please note there will be no Evening Prayer online this week, nor will there be any on Wed 4th December. Online prayer will resume for Evening Prayer on Friday 6th December. However, I am pleased to report that the Thurs morning prayer in church will continue in my absence, which Eric will lead. *Revd Helen*

CHARITY VOTE The charities you voted for which St John's will support next year are as follows: Local Charities: **Broadstone Stepping Stones and Routes to Roots, 12 votes each.** UK and International Charities: **Water Aid 16 votes and Leprosy Mission 9 votes plus tie-breaking vote from PCC** Eco Charities: **Dorset Wildlife Trust 26 votes and Woodland Trust 17 votes.**

NEW CAKE TINS Please collect cake tins that were used for the Christmas Fayre from the office. Thank you for all your delicious cake donations!

ADVENT TEA AND CAROL SERVICE Sunday 1st December Advent tea at 4pm in the parish hall, with Advent Carol service at 5pm in church. Do join us!



MUDDY CHURCH MAKING THE CHRISTINGLES THIS YEAR We are normally so grateful to our helpers who worked hard to make all the Christingles we needed for our crib service on previous years. Given the success of the Christmas crib service, to which huge crowds of people (plus two donkeys!) came, we have taken the Christingles out of this service as it is simply becoming a fire hazard to continue. We have moved our Christingles into our Muddy Church Christmas Party, and one of the crafts will be making their own Christingles which we can then take into church and light while we enjoy a brief service. Thank you to all who have done this on previous years. We may need your help again sometime, but we thought we'd try it this year in a different way.

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

ST. JOHN'S FELLOWSHIP You are invited to St. John's Fellowship Christmas Party on December 14th at 7.00pm in the Parish Hall. Guests are welcome and can purchase a ticket costing £5.00 each from Jean Rigler. Drinks and mince pies will be provided but please bring your own snacks and nibbles. It should be a fun evening. For any further information contact Jean on 01202 601109



NEW CHURCH OF ENGLAND CHILDREN'S SOCIETY I shall be opening and counting boxes at end of December. Would all box holders kindly let the office have them or I can collect them. My number is 01202 247674. Thank you, *Susan Jones*

NEW APPEAL FOR CARDBOARD Our Muddy Church in January will need lots of cardboard so we can make things with it. Please save any nice cardboard you might get over Christmas and bring to the office so Revd Helen can use it with the children. Thank you!

LPA TO BE COMMISSIONED IN FEBRUARY FOR ST JOHN'S I am delighted to let you know that Sheila Winning has been training with me to become a new Lay Pastoral Assistant for St John's. Bishop Karen will be returning to St John's on Sunday 16th February to lead our 10am service and commission Sheila during that service. Sheila will be a great addition to our wonderful team of LPAs and we are all looking forward to her joining the team. *Revd Helen*

GETTING TO GRIPS WITH THE GOSPELS It isn't too late to join in, but let Revd Helen know you are coming, so she can provide enough resources. 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: Sat 11th Jan, Sat 8th Feb, Sat 8th March, Sat 12th April, Sat 24th May (AMENDED DATE FOR MAY), no meetings in June or July.

WILD FLOWERS We are looking to plant some wild flowers in our Churchyard such as Ajuga, Betony, Primrose, Pulmonaria and Marjoram. All donations gratefully received.

VERGERS NEEDED The vicar still needs extra people to be a verger at funerals and weddings at St John's. If interested, have a word with Revd Helen.



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 who provide food for Broadstone individuals & families, and vouchers to Broadstone / Hillbourne Schools. All food especially welcome but the need is also for **toiletries and larger size Nappies**. With many thanks to all for your generous donations from the Corfe Mullen FoodBank. Visit parishofcorfemullen.church/foodbank to make cash donation or contact Sheila & Ken.

Further Afield

BOURNEMOUTH WILLIAM TEMPLE ASSOCIATION Monday 2nd Dec at the Marsham Court Hotel, Bournemouth. The meeting starts at 7.40pm but beforehand there is an optional dinner at 6.30pm. The speaker is Bishop Karen, speaking on Hildegard of Bingham.

DORSET CHAMBER CHOIR Carols for Christmas on Monday 9th December, 7.00pm at Wimborne Methodist Church. Tickets £15 (under 18s free). Tickets from David Hopkins or on the door on the night.

And Finally... Garden Work Day

A big thank you to all at the Garden Work Day on the 2nd Nov and to those who help during the week tidying the garden and clearing the garden rubbish. We had another good morning's work tidying up the around the Church and Northreach buildings. The photo shows the Group on the day just after having a well-deserved break with coffee & doughnuts. On the bench is Patrick Mills with his daughter Julie holding the garden spade Patrick has kindly donated to the Church for use on the garden. The work can be as heavy or as light as people can manage, weeding, pruning, sweeping or helping with the coffee break half way through the morning. Keep an eye out in the Weekly Newsletter for the next Work Day, everyone welcome. *Ken Pearce*



DEADLINE FOR FEB EDITION SUBMISSIONS FRI 19th Jan.

Please email all items to admin@stjohnschurchbroadstone.org.uk,

AND a copy to Revd Helen at revdhelenbailey@gmail.com