



St. John's Newsletter

Charity No 1162162

www.stjohnschurchbroadstone.org.uk

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Letter from the Vicar

Dear all

Welcome to our joint December and January newsletter, which is full of information about all our Advent and Christmas services and activities, but also begins to point us beyond 25th December into a New Year. Do look at everything that is going on, as we travel through this festive season together.

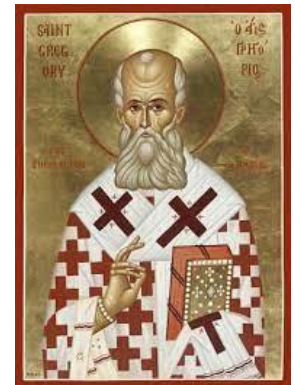


In Advent we prepare ourselves for the birth of Jesus, the incarnation of the divine into human flesh. Whilst the Easter story, with its focus on resurrection, lies at the heart of the Christian faith, I have always felt that we rather leave the incarnation out of our theology much of the time, that might give one the impression faith is all about the cross of Jesus, rather than the life lived. It isn't; it is *both/and*.

Gregory of Nazianzus, a fourth century Archbishop of Constantinople, once said, 'What Christ has not been, Christ has not healed.' Meaning



that the incarnation, which takes up human flesh, the human experience, the human struggle, and dwells in it from the inside, has opened up redemption and wholeness to all of humanity; all of it scooped into Jesus' life, death and resurrection. So that humanity is brought fully alive. As Jesus said, 'I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly' (John 10.10). As Irenaeus, an early church father said, 'The glory of God is a human being fully alive.' The incarnation literally means the dwelling of the divine in human flesh: the incarnation is for Life, not just for Christmas.



But how are we to live life 'abundantly'? The astonishing truth that God's Son took on human flesh to live among us is hard to get our heads round. But this is not some remote God looking upon us from afar, smiling benignly at us. This is the divine life in human form, Jesus Christ, living amongst us, living within us, showing us what a human life, filled with God's loving Spirit, looks like, when it allows the divine to shine through. Did you know the same call is to us? That filled with God's divine life ourselves, through the gift of Jesus Christ, we are called to live the Christian faith in an incarnational way. By which I mean the faith, its values, its loving inclusivity, its power to transform lives – and yes, its overwhelming joy, peace and confidence to live our life well - flows through us, if we let it, and is embedded in what we say and do, how we behave, and how we share that love with a world in need.



So as December soon turns to January, and as we begin to look at how we live this abundant life we have been given, it seems a good time to introduce Bishop Stephen's vision for the Diocese of Salisbury. For it is all about incarnational living.

You will be hearing more about this over the coming weeks and months, but Bishop Stephen, through his work in and with the Diocese, has identified 5 areas in which we should consider our mission and ministry. The overall aim of the vision, 'Making Jesus known' is one to which we can all agree. The five areas are:.

1. Courageous Christian Leadership
2. Championing Climate Justice
3. Forming creative partnerships in local mission
4. Working for justice

And the fifth, which underpins this works and helps to make it possible, is:

5. Commit to building a sustainable financial future for the Church.

There are some aspects St John's is already doing in these key areas:

1. **We share ministry** together at St John's, and our corporate life is vibrant, but there is still much we could do in developing the confidence of leaders to come forward as together we find ways of speaking and showing God's love into a world that needs to hear this message of hope and love.

2. **Our Eco Group**, which has achieved Bronze Award as Eco Church, is now helping us towards our Silver Award, and we are currently measuring our carbon footprint, planting up wildflower areas, and have additionally achieved a Dorset Wildlife Plaque for our work. Muddy Church engages with a love of nature and creating sustainable ways of living as we work towards eco-conscious lives. As Churches Together In Broadstone we now have a joint Eco Group, helping the four churches to work together for their awards. But we cannot be complacent.



3. **We have fantastic partnerships** with the other churches in Churches Together, sharing Lent Groups, Christmas cards, Unity services, sharing calendars so our activities are complementary, not competitive, advertising each others' work, and so on. There is more to be done, but we are already a highly functioning Churches Together. We also seek to build deeper partnerships with school contacts, are exploring work with the YMCA, have developed partnerships with the NHS and local surgeries, and so on. We need them as much as they need us.



4. **Again through Churches Together** we have a joint Justice and Peace Group, but there is still much to do in developing and taking this work forward. We seek to speak out against injustice and bring justice and peace wherever we can. That St John's has joined the Inclusive Church network is part of this work, longing for equality for all human beings.

5. **Well, I wish I knew** the answer to this one! We have just had our annual stewardship appeal explaining church finances, but we all need to find ways of making finances sustainable, though our creative partnership with the Sunny Days pre-school has given us a huge support in terms of received income.

To conclude, I pray that our shared Advent is a time of waiting, preparation and expectancy as we look towards celebrating the Incarnation – God coming as a baby – to change our world. And I pray too, that as we move into a New Year, our understanding of how best to live our lives incarnationally in the light of God's love – and in the light of the Diocesan vision - will grow and gather. May we all know life in all its abundance.

With my love and best wishes for a peaceful and joyful Christmas.

Helen

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

CAFÉ BREAKFAST CHURCH Our next event takes place on Saturday 20th January at 10am and lasts just an hour. Do consider joining us! This is Saturday Church for everyone, old and young alike, and you get breakfast too!



In November, we were thrilled to run a joint Café Breakfast / Muddy, and had 56 attend to make Christmas wreaths and learn about the symbols of eternal life



in both the wreath and the evergreen used to make them. And Sunday 10th December is our Big Winter Solstice Christmas Party with Nativity! Even Santa is coming!

SCHOOLSWORK And we are looking forward to going into Broadstone First School in December, when Revd Helen is taking an assembly all about the Christingle, and is so pleased that Steve Brooker is also coming in with his guitar!

FINALLY, OUR CHRISTINGLES AT THE CRIB SERVICE on Christmas Eve at 3pm is likely to be busy, not least with the two live donkeys we have coming! Shhh, keep that a surprise for the children! They are coming all the way from Weymouth - er, sorry, I mean Nazareth of course - and there will be petting and photo opportunities after the service.



Christmas Tree Festival at St John's



Don't forget our Christmas Tree Festival on **Saturday 2nd Dec and Sunday 3rd Dec**. Open 10am to 4pm on Saturday (when cakes and coffee can also be purchased in the parish hall), and 2-4pm on the Sunday. We are thrilled that Santa will be visiting us at 3.15pm on the Saturday too! Free entry, programme £1 on the door. We ask you to bring some money to vote for your favourite tree in the festival by putting some money into the jars of the trees you like best. The top three trees that get the most money will win!

Advent Tea and Carol Service

Sunday 3rd December Our popular tea of cakes and hot drinks begins at 4pm in the parish hall, and our beautiful Advent Carols by Candlelight service starts at 5pm. Don't miss this most magical of evenings, as we still our hearts and minds for the season of Advent!



Come and join us for some or all of our Christmas services!



Sunday 17th Dec 6.30pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols with the Community Band

A traditional Christmas Carol Service to help you enter the heart of Christmas. Come and join us!

Thurs 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 if you prefer not to attend the service.

Christmas Eve

9.30am Eucharist only

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

3pm Christingles at the Crib: children - come dressed as your favourite nativity character! Angels, shepherds, wise men, Mary, Joseph, the star, all welcome! Help us tell the Christmas story (Yes, it's also the one with the orange...) There will be **two live donkeys coming**, with petting and photo opportunity after the service!

Christmas Eve 11.30pm Midnight Mass: A traditional service as we gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

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



Have a very Merry Christmas!

Diary Round-up: Events at St John's in December & January

Sat 2 nd Dec	10am – 4pm Christmas Tree Festival
Sun 3 rd Dec	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Parish Eucharist 2pm – 4pm Christmas Tree Festival 4pm Advent Tea, service starts at 5pm
Wed 6 th Dec	10.30am Eucharist
Sat 9 th Dec	2pm – 4pm St John's Craft and Chat Group 7pm, St John's Fellowship Christmas Party
Sun 10 th Dec	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist, followed by fire training for sides people 3pm, Muddy Church
Tues 12 th Dec	OFFICE CLOSED
Wed 13 th Dec	10.30am Eucharist
Fri 15 th Dec	OFFICE CLOSED
Sun 17 th Dec	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist 6.30pm, 9 Lessons & Carols with Broadstone Community Band
Wed 20 th Dec	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 21 st Dec	6pm, Longest Night Service with candles at 5pm
Sat 23 rd Dec	10-11am, making Christingles in NorthReach
Sun 24 th Dec	9.30am Eucharist 11am Carols in the Churchyard 3pm Christingles at the Crib 11.30pm Midnight Mass
Mon 25 th Dec	8am Christmas Day Service 10am Family Service with Carols & Surprises! OFFICE CLOSED until Wednesday 3 rd January
Wed 27 th Dec	10.30am Eucharist
Sun 31 st Dec	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist
Wed 3 rd Jan	Office opens – normal hours resume 10.30am Eucharist
Sun 7 th Jan	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Parish Eucharist
Tues 9 th Jan	7.30pm, Events Committee Meeting in Parish Hall
Wed 10 th Jan	10.30am Eucharist 7pm, Standing Committee Meeting
Thurs 11 th Jan	7.30pm, St John's Fellowship
Sat 13 th Jan	2pm – 4pm St John's Craft and Chat Group
Sun 14 th Jan	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist 3pm, Muddy Church
Wed 17 th Jan	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 18 th Jan	Churches Together Unity Service St Anthony's, 10.30am
Sat 20 th Jan	10am – 11am, Café Breakfast Church



Sun 21st Jan 8am Holy Communion
 10am Parish Eucharist, All Age Service

Wed 24th Jan 10.30am Eucharist

Thurs 25th Jan 7.30pm, PCC in Large Hall

Sat 27th Jan 7.30pm, Pub Quiz with Cheese & Wine, in Parish Hall

Sun 28th Jan 8am Holy Communion
 10am Parish Eucharist for Candlemas

Wed 31st Jan 4pm Churches Together Café Breakfast at Methodist Church
 10.30am Eucharist

Service readings in December & January

Date	Sunday	OT	Psalm	NT	Gospel
Sun 3rd Dec	Advent 1 Year B begins	Isaiah 64.1-9	Psalm 80.1-8	1 Corinthians 1.3-9	Mark 13.24-end
Sun 10 th Dec	Advent 2	Isaiah 40.1-11	Psalm 85.8-end	2 Peter 3.8-15a	Mark 1.1-8
Sun 17 th Dec	Advent 3	Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-end	Canticle Magnificat	1 Thessalonians 5.16-24	John 1.6-8, 19-28
Sun 24 th Dec	Advent 4	2 Sam 7.1-11, 16	Psalm 89.1-8	Romans 16.25-end	Luke 1.26-38
Sun 31 st Dec	1st Sunday of Christmas	Isaiah 61.10-62.3	Ps 148.7-end	Galatians 4.4-7	Luke 2.15-21
Sun 7 th Jan	The Epiphany	Isaiah 60.1-6	Psalm 72.10-15	Ephesians 3.1-12	Matthew 2.2-12
Sun 15 th Jan	2nd Sunday of Epiphany	1 Samuel 3.1-10	Psalm 139.1-9	Revelation 5.1-10	John 1.43 – end
Sun 22 nd Jan	3rd Sun of Epiphany	Genesis 14.17-20	Psalm 128	Revelation 19.6-10	John 2.1-11
Sun 28 th Jan	Presentation Christ Temple / Candlemas	Malachi 3.1-5	Psalm 24	Hebrews 2.14-end	Luke 2.22-40

Occasional Offices from November

Baptisms

19th Nov Beatrice Mayo

Funerals

23rd Nov David Breedon (Harbour View)

30th Nov Kathleen Hills (Betty) (St John's Church)



St John's News from the Pews

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

CRAFT & CHAT GROUP Monthly on 2nd Saturdays: next craft is on Saturday 10th December 2pm-4pm, in NorthReach. Drop in to make different crafts, use it as a 'knit and natter' group, bring your own crafts to work on over coffee and tea, provided by us. Or just come and enjoy a cuppa and chat with friends. No charge, but donations welcome.



ADVENT REFLECTION series from Bishops / Dean of Salisbury.

Printable / online version on Salisbury Diocese website. Bishop Karen is offering two home groups for those who would like to follow the short course via Zoom on Tues 12 & 19 Dec 7pm-8pm. To register email comms@salisbury.anglican.org

ST JOHN'S FELLOWSHIP Our Christmas Party is on Sat 9 December at 7pm in the Parish Hall. Members will be given an invitation but guests are welcome to attend and are just asked to contribute £3.00 for a ticket. Look forward to seeing you there. Jean Rigler 01202 601109

SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER 6.30PM 9 LESSONS AND CAROLS We are thrilled that Damon Corio and the Broadstone Community Band lead us in our fantastic traditional 9 Lessons and Carols. Come and sing favourite carols as we draw closer to the Christmas story.

SATURDAY 23RD DECEMBER 10AM Please help us make Christingles in NorthReach for our Christingles at the Crib service on Christmas Eve! We need all hands on orange! This is usually a fun and festive event, and we often finish the oranges after an hour or so.



CHARITY GIVING We asked the congregation to nominate charities that we might support, and we are grateful for some excellent suggestions. The suggestions fall into three categories: local charities; charities that are active throughout the UK and/or internationally; and charities that are eco-friendly. We will support charities from each category and if you are a member of St John's (i.e., on our electoral roll) we will invite you to use your votes: **showing for each category your preferred choice and, if you wish, your second, third etc choice if your first choice doesn't collect enough votes to be chosen.** Early in December a voting slip will be sent by email to each member for whom we have an email address, and votes can be sent to the Parish Office admin@stjohnschurchbroadstone.org.uk by email. There will also be a ballot box and some paper copies of the slip at the back of church for members not on email. The **closing date for voting is Sunday 24th December.**

SUNDAY 14TH JANUARY 3PM - 4.30PM Muddy Church goes Bananas for Apples! We will learn why the apple is a spiritual Christmas and New Year fruit, and play some lovely games!

CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK WITH CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BROADSTONE

Thursday 18th January at 10.30am: a joint service at St Anthony's on York Rd; we ask you to bring a small cake to share at that event if able. Cafe Church event at the Methodist Church on **Sunday 28th January at 4pm** is a chance to explore through craft and discussion this year's theme: Love the Lord your God, and love your neighbour as yourself.



QUIZ NIGHT AT ST JOHN'S SATURDAY 27TH JANUARY 7.30pm Calling all quizzers and everyone else. Let's start the New year with one of our famous socials! We have a fab quiz night planned. The event will be *bring your own drink and glass*, but we

will provide some hot finger food - sausage and vegetarian rolls, crisps - to aid brain power as we enjoy several rounds of pub quiz questions. No need to form a team beforehand - we will team up in tables. Event costs £5 - please put the date in your diary!

NEW EVENTS COMMITTEE CO-ORDINATOR NEEDED Please have a word with Revd Helen if you think you could step into this role. It involves co-ordinating the meeting agenda to discuss what events are coming up - supported by the vicar who provides the diary timetable of events. The committee decides how events are to run, what needs doing, and shares out tasks. The vicar is happy to lead the January one, but really needs someone to take that role after that.

JANUARY & FEBRUARY READERS Please sign up at the back of the Church, if you are able to read during the month of January and/or February. Once all the spaces have been filled, Caroline will send you the rota and the readings for that month. Many thanks.

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 need **tinned tomatoes, tinned meats, puddings, washing up liquid and dog/cat food**. They are currently well stocked with milk. Many rely heavily on foodbanks so please continue to show support ...every little helps. An extra item in your shopping each week brought to church or dropped into the porch makes a difference! Alternatively, if you would like to make a cash donation, visit their website parishofcorfemullen.church/foodbank or speak to Gez or Elaine.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE SHOEBOX APPEAL St John's sent thirteen boxes to support this appeal. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way. *Jean Rigler*

CHURCH OF ENGLAND CHILDREN'S SOCIETY I will be counting boxes at end of Dec. Would all box holders kindly let me have them to count either by giving them into the office or I can collect them from you. We accept cheques made payable to above! *Susan Jones*

Further Afield

BOURNEMOUTH WILLIAM TEMPLE ASSOCIATION Monday 4th December at the Marsham Court Hotel, Bournemouth. The meeting starts at **8.10pm** but beforehand there is an optional dinner at **7.00pm**. Contact John Newbold on 01202-761749.

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 on the Broadway. Enjoy a friendly chitter chatter with friends. Visit thechitterchatterclub.co.uk

TUESDAY CLUB AT BROADSTONE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH Broadstone Tuesday club, URC hall every Tuesday, needs some help! Could you help serve drinks and lunches between 11am and 1pm? No cooking involved. Please ring Ann on 01202849136.

DEADLINE FOR FEB SUBMISSIONS FRIDAY 19th January.

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