



# St. John's Newsletter

Charity No 1162162

[www.stjohnschurchbroadstone.org.uk](http://www.stjohnschurchbroadstone.org.uk)

February 2025



## Letter from the Vicar

Dear friends

I'm someone who loves the seasons - both the natural turn of the year with its contrasting dark and light, but also the liturgical turn of the seasons, by which I mean those cyclical events, memories, stories, we live through each year to tell afresh the story of Christ and our own lives in relation to it. 2<sup>nd</sup> February is one such marker: Candlemas, also known as



the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. I won't step on the toes of the preacher that day (I hope!), except to say it marks the mid-point between Christmas and Easter, and as such, in the service, we deliberately turn away from the crib and turn towards the cross. It isn't a mistake that we still have our crib and Christmas tree up in church: the older tradition is that the Christmas season ends at Candlemas. It was the Victorians, anxious that their workers would be partying too long, who made it the twelve days of Christmas and said it ended on 6<sup>th</sup>

January, the Epiphany. At St John's, we reclaim it back from the Victorians and keep celebrating the coming of the light! It is also why we have a tradition at Candlemas that we bless the candles to be used in church over the coming year. Another coming of the light!

And thank goodness the light is starting to return! I always start to feel better by the time I am turning the pages of February's diary, waiting for the first day I will get the scent of spring in the air just a few weeks from now.



As a previous English teacher, it's inevitable that poetry is also something that has always meant a great deal to me, and it is often poetry to which I turn when, in my own life, I am waiting for the light to return. We can often find in the words of a poem some resonance or understanding of something that gives us a sense of companionship in the journey, of not being alone with our situation. I hope that 2025 is a happy, good and fulfilled one for you, and that there is much joy. But I also know for some there have been difficult events the last few months and that sometimes it can feel the darkness is winning. Like the turn of the seasons, we can often find our lives go through their own seasons. So I offer this poem by *Louise Gluck* to those who look for a sign of hope and encouragement. It's a beautiful and moving poem, which recognises honestly the weight life sometimes places upon us, and yet the resilience of the human spirit that pushes on through to live again. And she does it through the words of a simple snowdrop.

## THE SNOWDROP

Do you know what I was, how I lived? You know  
what despair is; then  
winter should have meaning for you.

I did not expect to survive,  
earth suppressing me. I didn't expect  
to waken again, to feel  
in damp earth my body  
able to respond again, remembering  
after so long how to open  
in the cold light  
of earliest spring--

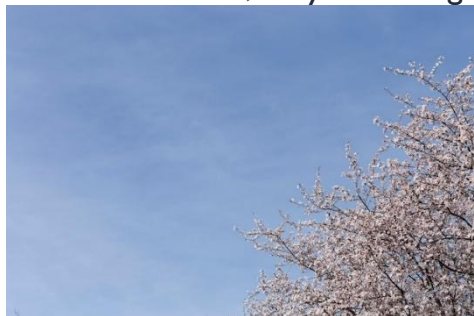
afraid, yes, but among you again  
crying yes risk joy

in the raw wind of the new world.



For me, that poem speaks of our deepest difficulties and yet beckons us, as life always does, to push upwards and seek light once again. It is God's creative spirit in us which cries out for light, that gives us that courage to risk living. For life is a risk and there are no easy promises or answers. But God promises that in that journey from dark to light, he is with us always.

Just now, the vicarage garden has the snowdrops in bloom. They look so frail and delicate, and they risk vulnerability as they grow in their place. Yet each one has accomplished that tremendous journey; has had the strength to push through heavy earth once again, and emerge into daylight. They are a sign to us, that spring always follows winter. There will be new growth. It is written into the fabric of the universe. And whilst each snowdrop has made its own journey into renewed life, they stand together as a testimony of solidarity: they are, in fact, not alone.



So my prayer for each one of us this year is that spring will be born in our hearts. That we will be able to look up and see the blue sky that is coming. Whatever individual difficulties we are asked to overcome or whatever sadness sometimes holds us, or whatever joy and happiness already exists in our hearts, may we know the breaking dawn of God's light washing into our world, and calling us on to greater life, greater joy, in the abundance God longs for us to have.

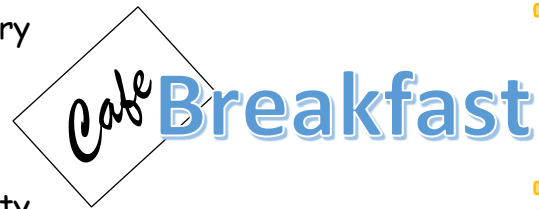
With my very best wishes

*Helen*

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

Church

Café Breakfast Church in January was very special, with Sheila Wilson taking the lead as the team welcomed all four churches in Churches Together in Broadstone for the start



of Christian Unity week. We enjoyed the usual breakfast and crafts, as together we explored how we are all pieces of one puzzle, and together make up the glory of God. We were thrilled to then worship together at the URC Church as we marked the end of the week.



It will not be long before we announce details about our shared Lent Groups, just another strength of the great relationship the four churches enjoy with one another.



Our December and January **Muddy Churches** seem such a long time ago now! But in December we celebrated the coming of Jesus, the light of the world and made Christingles, finishing with a little service in church. We enjoyed a lovely party with games and food,



and even Santa dropped in!



And in January we went on a Winter Safari round the churchyard, learning how animals can survive winter.



We learnt that some hibernate, some have prolonged sleep (sounds lovely!) and some develop other survival traits. We looked at how we can help wildlife during winter, and spoke about how God has created us all so wonderfully various! We used stencils of arctic animals to make cards to give away to friends.

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!

# New Ministries at St John's Church

One of the many reasons I give heartfelt thanks that I am called to be Vicar at St John's are the wonderful teams of people I get to work alongside here. You really are the most wonderful bunch of people I have ever had privilege to serve! I think we are a very healthy church, and there are very positive signs that we are growing, in all sorts of different ways. We have developed our welcome and hospitality to those who come through our doors, and it always gives me real heart to hear that newcomers have felt welcomed by our members here. We have seen new people join our church. We are reaching out to families and young people through Muddy Church, and seeing our connection with baptism families and the wider community grow there. All this gives me such encouragement.



And a sign of a healthy church is that from time-to-time we welcome people into new ministries. That term 'ministry' is wide-reaching. It means everything from arranging flowers to organising rotas to running events, to joining committees or teams such as the cleaning team, to starting a new role in church. I am thrilled that we have had people come forward to do these things, along with taking up the role of vergers, sidesperson and so many more! At last year's APCM I said getting new people into new ministries was one of the things I wanted us to work on, and it seems to have been happening all year.



On Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February I am thrilled that we are welcoming Bishop Karen to take the 10am service at St John's, and that as part of that service she will be commissioning Sheila Winning as a new LPA. Our Lay Pastoral Assistants have an important role alongside the vicar in delivering the pastoral care of the church and working as a team to support those in need, take home communions, give gentle encouragement and go into care homes to take services. This is a position recognised and authorised by Salisbury Diocese and Sheila has been doing an intensive LPA course with myself and other LPAs to prepare for this role. Sheila has also been through all the safer recruitment and safeguarding courses needed, including being DBS checked. I am thrilled that she will resume her role immediately after the commissioning.

So put this date in your diary as we celebrate this new ministry amongst us. Remember that this is also symbolic of all our ministries that together we fulfil, and that you are part of that celebration by all you do and all you bring to the life of St John's. Thank you for that. *Revd Helen.*

## News from the St John's Eco Gang - Recycling, Re-using & The Big Plastic Count



BCP and now Dorset Council accept tetrapaks and foil in home recycling bins. Age Concern shop in Duneats Road recycles scrap metal, electric plugs and all books. Curry's PC World recycles electrical items (not just their own). Tool Aid at Ringwood will refurbish and send tools to Africa [toolaidringwood.org.uk](http://toolaidringwood.org.uk). Soft plastic (wrappers, bags etc) can be deposited for recycling at many supermarkets, including Co-op Corfe Mullen, Sainsbury's (Poole and Wareham) and ALDI Upton. You may have joined in with The Big Plastic Count last March. Read about the results and the campaign to reduce single use plastics at [thebigplasticcount.com](http://thebigplasticcount.com). Please tell us about any other re-use/recycling opportunities you know of locally. Thank you! *The Eco Gang*

# Diary Round-up: Events at St John's February

Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Parish Eucharist for Candlemas
Tues 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb	7.30pm Events Committee Meeting in The Lady Chapel
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	9.45am Getting to Grips with the Gospels 2pm Craft & Chat Group
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist 3pm Muddy Church
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning 7.30pm St John's Fellowship in Parish Hall
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	2.30pm LPA meeting at Vicarage
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup> Feb	10am - 12 noon Marriage Preparation Day for our wedding couples in NR and church
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist (All Age) Bishop Karen Commission LPA
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning 10.45am Care Home Service with the singing group and the Vicar at The Links
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb	11am Care Home service with the singing group and Vicar at The Potteries
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	8am Holy Communion Safeguarding Sunday 10am Parish Eucharist Safeguarding Sunday
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	10.30am Eucharist 5 – 7pm Social at the Goods Yard
Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	10.30am World Day of Prayer Service at St John's Church
Tues 4 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party - details to be announced
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> Mar	10.30am & 7.30pm Ash Wednesday Services with ashing



## Service readings in February

Date	Sunday	OT	Psalm	NT	Gospel
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	Presentation Christ Temple / Candlemas	Malachi 3.1-5a	Psalm 24.7-end	Hebrews 2.14-end	Luke 2.22-40
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	4 before Lent	Isaiah 6.1-8	Psalm 138	1 Corinthians 15.1-11	Luke 5.1-11

Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	3 before Lent	Jeremiah 17.5-10	Psalm 1	1 Corinthians 15.12-20	Luke 6.17-26
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	2 before Lent	Genesis 2.4b – 9,15-end	Psalm 65	Revelation 24	Luke 8.22-25

## Occasional Offices from December & January



### Funerals

17 <sup>th</sup> December	Jean Newell (St John's Church)
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Patricia Mathers (St John's Church)
20 <sup>th</sup> January	Patricia Stirling (St John's Church)
24 <sup>th</sup> January	Doreen Amato (St John's Church)

### Burial of Ashes

12 <sup>th</sup> December	Peter Lawford (St John's Churchyard)
12 <sup>th</sup> December	Wayne Lawford (St John's Churchyard)
12 <sup>th</sup> December	Esther Maria Lawford (St John's Churchyard)

## St John's News from the Pews

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



**APCM: PCC MEMBERS REQUIRED!** While the APCM does not take place until Thursday 1st May, we are now appealing for 5 new members to serve on our PCC. Terms are three years, although one of those posts will only be for 2 years. Please do have a word with the vicar about what is involved. We meet 6 times a year, plus at the APCM, and it will really inform you about what goes on behind the scenes at church! There is lots to discuss, and as a trustee of the church you will help us to make wise decisions for the future of this church. Anyone who has also served on PCC before can serve again, providing you have not served on PCC this last year. Please do consider whether you might be able to do this for me and for St John's!

**APCM: ELECTORAL ROLL** Every 6 years the whole electoral roll has to be revised, which means everyone on it needs to reapply. This is a heads-up about that process. You need to do nothing at the moment, but envelopes will be available for you from Sunday 9th March to collect 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

**APCM REPORTS DUE 21st FEBRUARY** If you have been asked by Marion Marsh to compile a Parish Report for the APCM or a Statutory Report which Sheila Wilson will have

asked you to do, please note the deadline for Marion and Sheila to receive these by is 21st February. Please send Parish Reports to Marion and Statutory Reports to Sheila. Thanks!

**NEW SERVERS REQUIRED.** We are looking for new servers to recruit (those people dressed in white who carry candles and the cross during services, among other things). We hope to have a training session soon. Please let the vicar or Keith Manston know asap if you would like to know more about this role.

**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.* Dates are: Sat 8th Feb, Sat 8th March, Sat 12th April, Sat 24<sup>th</sup> May (AMENDED DATE FOR MAY). May will be the last session.

**ST. JOHN'S FELLOWSHIP, THURSDAY 13TH FEB AT 7.30PM** Our meeting this month starts with a short AGM, when we have to thank Jean for her chairmanship of the group over the past 13 years before she hands over to Phil Church and Phyl Walton. Afterwards, Michael Jones will be talking about The AI Revolution, which is sure to get us thinking. As always visitors are most welcome to join us, we meet at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall on the second Thursday of the month. Our programme this year is very varied thanks to Mike Webber who compiled it for us and at the end of the meeting we have coffee and biscuits and time to chat.

**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*

**SOCIAL AT THE GOODS YARD PUB, WEDNESDAY 26th FEB 5-7pm** I am pleased to announce we are once again gathering to enjoy drinks at the Goods Yard Pub on Station Approach in Broadstone. All welcome. The current deal seems to be between 5-6pm house wine, cider and ale are £4, and then between 6-7pm this changes to being drinks which are 2-for-1 on house wine only. We look forward to seeing you there!



**SHROVE TUESDAY** Advance warning that Shrove Tuesday takes place on 4th March and we will be running our usual pancake party. Details to follow soon.

**ASH WEDNESDAY** is on 5th March and there will be a Eucharist with ashes taking place at both 10.30am & 7.30pm. The evening one will have hymns. Ash Wednesday is a 'Day of Holy Obligation' for all Christians, which means it is important to try to get to either the morning or evening service if you possibly can.



**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BROADSTONE LENT GROUPS** These will be running again on Wednesday evenings from 7.30-9pm at the Methodist Church and Thursday mornings at St Antony's 10.30am - 12 noon. All welcome. This year there will be a small booklet to purchase and there will not be much reading or preparation required between meetings. They will start on Wed 12th March and run for 5 consecutive weeks. Further details to follow, but get these in your diary now!



**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE ON FRIDAY 7 MARCH 2025 AT 10:30 A.M.** This year the service is being hosted by St. John's Church. If you would like to read, do refreshments, be a welcomer at this service or would like more information please speak to Sheila Wilson or email [sheilawilson055@gmail.com](mailto:sheilawilson055@gmail.com)

**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.

**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** 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 welcome but the need is also for **tinned rice pudding, tinned fruit, jams and tinned meats**. Visit [parishofcorfemullen.church/foodbank](http://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.



**CAR PARKING** Please only park for services, to visit the parish office or for meetings.

## Further Afield

**STEPPING STONES** is a Broadstone project to support people with memory loss and their carers and older people who live by themselves. Monthly meetings are held at Broadstone Methodist Church in the coffee lounge, the second Friday in every month, 2.30pm to 4pm. Tea, cakes and plenty of chat are provided and also, if attendees wish, there is a choice of many activities including quizzes, games, singing and much more. Carpet bowls and dominoes are firm favourites. For more details: Contact Annette Brooke - tel 01202 696523

**BOURNEMOUTH WILLIAM TEMPLE ASSOCIATION** Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at the Marsham Court Hotel, Bournemouth. The meeting starts at 7.40pm but beforehand there is an optional dinner at 6.30pm.

**FRIDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY 7.30PM** Hebron Concert at Anglo-Continental, 29-35 Wimborne Road, Bournemouth, BH2 6NA. Gospel Music with a Jewish flavour, with ministry in word and songs. Free, but ticket only. Contact 07790 353616

**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 in donations to Caroline in the Parish Office. *Many thanks.*

**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... Big Garden Birdwatch Results



We saw 16 bird species in St John's Churchyard in one hour for the Big Garden Birdwatch on Saturday 25th January. Top spots were the tops of the trees, the leaf/log pile near the bird feeders, the bottom of the Northreach slope and of course the feeders. You can see the full list of birds in Northreach. *The Eco Gang*

**DEADLINE FOR MARCH EDITION SUBMISSIONS FRI 21<sup>st</sup> Feb.**

Please email all items to [admin@stjohnschurchbroadstone.org.uk](mailto:admin@stjohnschurchbroadstone.org.uk),  
AND a copy to Revd Helen at [revdhelenbailey@gmail.com](mailto:revdhelenbailey@gmail.com)