



St. John's Newsletter

Charity No 1162162

www.stjohnschurchbroadstone.org.uk

July / August 2026



Letter from the Vicar

Dear friends,

Below is the transcript of the sermon I preached on Sunday 14th June, because I need everyone in church to be aware of and read about these developments. Many thanks! Helen



'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.' You are going to get a rather different kind of sermon today, because I want to tell you about something happening at St John's for which we need your support.

For a long time now I have been aware of how ripe this community is for hearing the Gospel. We see it in the new people coming to church. This year alone I have invited more than thirty newcomers, or people we've connected with, to our newcomers' party. Last week we celebrated Alex, who turned up at our door a year ago and, through exploring his faith, made that wonderful, life-changing decision to be baptised and confirmed. What a joyful weekend that was.

Over the last few years we have worked hard, sometimes feeling as though we were digging and sowing without seeing much return. Yet I believe St John's has entered a new season. Things have changed. Our community events flourish. The Fayres, Christmas Tree Festival and Muddy Church success bring many people through our doors. The way we make our buildings available to charities and the community has placed this church at the heart of Broadstone.



I genuinely believe the harvest around us is plentiful. The fields are fertile. People are searching, questioning, and open to faith. But as Jesus says, the labourers are few. I do not mean that people here are not working hard. Far from it. Many of you give generously of your time and energy, in a way I know is costly for you. Some of you can no longer do all that you once did, but by contributing plants, cakes, jams to our fayres, or by helping where you can, you play a vital role.

What I mean is that the leadership resources of this parish are becoming stretched. I am grateful for the team around me, but over the next eighteen months we will lose our curate as he moves to his next appointment, and there is no guarantee of when another curate might arrive. Not long after that, Reverend Paul will retire: well-deserved, I might add. The current picture is that I may be the only priest left serving this parish. That means I will need to focus more of my time on those things that only a priest can do, and less on those things that others could take on.

Our churchwardens are also carrying an enormous load. We have three wonderful buildings, but with them come maintenance, inspections, repairs, and endless administration. Particularly with NorthReach, demands are significant. We need to find ways of making this manageable.

Today I want to share two hopeful developments that I believe are part of God's answer to Jesus' command to *ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into his harvest*. For several years I have faithfully prayed that prayer. I am still waiting for God to send us a newly retired sixty-five-year-old priest with endless energy and twenty years of ministry left in them! Please do pray that with me. But God has already been answering that prayer in other ways.

At the end of this month, Zoe Phillips will attend a discernment panel to explore a vocation to Licensed Lay Ministry. Many of you will know Zoe through her reading, serving, and leadership of our recent Quiet Day. Both I and the PCC have wholeheartedly affirmed what we believe may be God's call on her life.



Licensed Lay Ministers, formerly known as Readers, exercise a recognised teaching and pastoral ministry. If accepted, Zoe would begin 2 years' training this September preparing for ministry, while continuing in her current work. During that time she would begin taking on some aspects of ministry here at St John's. As an LLM, Zoe would be able to preach, teach, undertake pastoral visiting, assist with baptism and care-home ministry alongside our LPAs, lead quiet days, and potentially even conduct funerals. She would not be a priest, but she

would significantly strengthen our ministry and mission when licensed to us. Most importantly, we believe this is a ministry in which Zoe herself would flourish. So my first request is simple: pray for Zoe. Pray for wisdom and discernment. Pray that, if this is her calling, the way forward will open.

It is also worth saying that we do now have another Licensed Lay Minister in our midst. Carole Goddard recently joined our church family. Alongside her ministry as a prison chaplain, from which she will soon retire, we will be exploring if there are some aspects of ministry that might be right for her to sometimes be involved in. Some of you will hear her speak later this year on Prisoners' Sunday about her chaplaincy work. So that is one way God is providing labourers for the harvest.

But what about supporting those who carry responsibility for our buildings? At the APCM I shared a vision that, for the next few years, we need to stop investing primarily in buildings and start investing in people. Of course, we will continue to care for our buildings responsibly. They matter. They enable ministry and mission. But we do not need more building projects right now. What we need is capacity. We need people freed to focus on the work God is calling us to do.

I am delighted to say that the PCC has committed to developing Caroline Lennon's role from next April. Alongside her existing responsibilities as Parish Administrator, she will become Manager of Parish Buildings. This is a vital development if we are to release our churchwardens, clergy, and leadership team to focus on ministry and mission. The role will include overseeing building maintenance, coordinating contractors, organising inspections and annual checks, promoting hall hire, helping pursue grant funding opportunities, liaising with our building users, supporting faculty applications, and managing all aspects of the day-to-day running of our premises. This is in addition to the administrative responsibilities she has currently. Most of those tasks at the moment are carried by our churchwardens, alongside all their other responsibilities.

Caroline is exceptionally well placed to take on this role. Through her close work with the churchwardens and myself, she already possesses much of the knowledge and experience required.

But if we are asking her to carry greater responsibility, and a management role which also commands an extra five more hours per week, we must be prepared to fund it properly.



And that brings me to my second request. To make this role sustainable, we need to raise £36,000. That sum would fund the additional costs of the expanded role for the first five years. The PCC has committed to this, but we now need the resources to make it happen. We will be establishing a designated fund. I am asking you to prayerfully consider whether you might be able to contribute towards it. This would need to be additional giving, because our current income is already used up in supporting the ongoing life and ministry of the parish.

In our wonderful caretaker Darren, we ensure our buildings are clean and fit for use. In our appointment of Peter, our amazing organist, we have invested in our worship, and our worship today is so strong thanks to Peter's talent and sensitivity in playing. In Caroline as administrator, we ensured the smooth running of the church. These are all employed roles we fund, without which we could not function. But now we need to invest again. It is not just an investment in a role or Caroline's career development, which we need to offer her; is also an investment in the health, wellbeing and indeed the sanity of your churchwardens and your vicar. It is an investment in ensuring that those called to ministry can spend more time in the harvest fields and less time managing buildings. And so, it is an investment in the future of St John's.

So this is my appeal to you today. Ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into his fields. Pray for Zoe, as she discerns a vocation to Licensed Lay Ministry, and to all who come into this church offering gifts of service, such as Carole. Pray for Caroline and the development of her role. Pray that the £36,000 needed can be raised. Continue to pray for the leadership of this parish, for any new ministries which might join us – and do keep praying for that energetic 65 year old retired priest whom I continue to nag God about on a regular basis!

Because if God provides the labourers, and if we are willing to invest in the people he sends, then we will be free to do what Jesus sent his disciples to do: to go out into the harvest and proclaim the Good News that the Kingdom of Heaven has come near.

With my love

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Helen".

How to Give to the Manager of Parish Buildings Fund

If you would like to contribute to the **£36,000 we need to raise**, which will pay the extra needed to fund the first 5 years of the developed post, you can do this in a number of ways.

If paying by cash or cheque, make cheques out to **St John the Baptist PCC**, put the cash / cheque in an envelope marked 'Manager Parish Buildings Fund' and hand to a churchwarden / the office.

If you would like to pay by BACs, the church account details are below, but PLEASE hand an envelope into the office or to a churchwardens which states how much you have given, again clearly marking the envelope 'Manager Parish Building Fund' so we know that is what the donation is for. **Sort code 30-96-73, account number 02328599, account name St John the Baptist PCC. Please put your surname as the reference.**

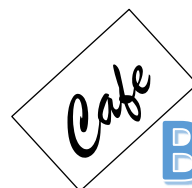
In all these cases, if you pay tax, please fill in a gift aid form so that we can reclaim the tax. It increases your giving by 25% without any additional cost to yourself. Thank you!

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



Muddy Church had great fun on Sunday 14th June at 3pm when we explored the theme of Solstice Suncatchers and Summer Celebrations.

Our next Café Breakfast Church in July takes place on Saturday 18th July. Do come and join us - and you get breakfast too!



Breakfast

Church

Dean of Women's Ministry Report

Every clergy member is ordained not to a local church, but to the whole Church. To that end, while clergy are then licensed to a parish or similar role, the expectation is that we serve the wider Church too, outside of that parish context in some form. My role as DAWM is my contribution.

June was an exciting month in terms of development! Firstly at the beginning of June, I attended a three-day conference run by NADAWM, the organisation to which all Deans of Women's Ministry are members. It is our chance to get together, share good practice, listen to inspiring speakers and encourage one another in our work.



It was a fabulous conference. The highlight was our speaker Revd Charity Tozivepi-Nzsegwu, a liberation theologian, justice advocate, story-teller, author and leader devoted to promoting human dignity and equity, working in the NHS and private sector. A Methodist Presbyterian, she is Chair of the Connexional Justice, Dignity and Solidarity Committee of the Methodist Church in Britain and the regional co-ordinator for Europe in the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians.

She was as wonderful as she sounds! She led us in two sessions, told through the biblical story of the widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17): an unnamed but nevertheless influential widow, who saves the prophet Elijah's life and therefore future prophecy to the church. She reflected on the experiences of women in ministry, examining whose voices are heard, and how power operates within ecclesial structures and relationships. She gave real attention to the themes of visibility, silencing, justice, and the emotional and spiritual cost of leadership in difficult times.

In a second session, she again drew on the widow of Zarephath's collecting sticks to cook her last meal, and explored how we can continue to minister hope, faith and compassion, when resources, energy and confidence feel scarce. We explored through honest theological reflection the themes of endurance, mutual care and the resurrection logic of sharing, sustaining ministry with integrity and humanity in difficult times. Revd Charity is an inspirational woman!

Then, in mid June I had organised a day conference for all the women clergy in our Diocese. I was thrilled that 36 women clergy signed up to come! Our theme was taken from the story in Luke about the woman who anoints Jesus' feet, about whom Jesus says to the pharisees, 'Do you see this woman?' Jesus' words formed the title of our day.





We began with worship and an exploration of our life-stories and experiences of ministry so far, then we had options of workshops and spaces to reflect. I led a session on Language and Gender, Language and Power; the Revd Sheena Williams, Director of Formation and Tutor in Contextual Learning at Sarum College led a theological reflection on the Luke 7 passage of the day. These workshops were repeated in the afternoon after a wonderful lunch, so that people could attend both if they wished. There was also the opportunity to spend time in reflection at a craft station dedicated to St

Hildegard of Bingen, or take part in a short guided spiritual walk through the churchyard where we were based, in Milton on Stour. The day ended in a Eucharist led by Bishop Karen. It was such a joyful and meaningful day! The feedback has been fantastic from those who came. The first gathering of clergy women day in Salisbury Diocese for 20 years.

Revd Helen Bailey

All the Fun of the Summer Fayre – in pictures!



Thanks to all who worked so hard to make this happen and to all who came to support!



Eco Tip: Wild Summer

Swift Awareness Week 27th June to 5th July

Summer is a chance to see and enjoy the wildlife that is out of reach for the rest of the year. Swifts arrive in May from southern Africa to breed in high nooks and crannies in our towns and cities. This will be the first time they touch ground in 10 months!! Their incredible aerobatics, speed (they hold the world record for level flight at just under 70mph) and screaming cries are part of the summer soundtrack. Sadly, they are in steep decline in Britain and one of the reasons is a lack of nesting sites as buildings are renovated or replaced. Another is the huge reduction in numbers of insects for them to eat. There is hope, though. We can help them by providing artificial nesting spaces, encouraging insects in our gardens and helping to monitor existing nest sites. More information on the attached poster. Very exciting news is that we have discovered a small colony of swifts clinging on in Broadstone and have been able to add this to the RSPB's www.swiftmapper.org.uk tool. We will continue to watch and champion our local swifts. If you would like to know more or tell us more about Broadstone's swifts please speak to Nicky Hoar.

The Big Butterfly Count 17th July to 9th August



Butterflies too are putting on their show in July. We will be counting at St John's and you can help butterflies by doing this in your garden or a park. All you need is 15 minutes on a nice day. To join in, visit bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org

THE ECO GANG

Occasional Offices from June



Funerals

2nd June

(Margaret) Wilma Brown (St John's Church)

Service Readings in July/August

Date	Sunday	OT	Psalms	NT	Gospel
Sun 5 th July	5 after Trinity	Zechariah 9.9-12	Psalms 145.8-15	Romans 7.15-25a	Matthew 11.16-19, 25-end
Sun 12 th July	6 after Trinity	Isaiah 55.10-13	Psalms 65.8-end	Romans 8.1-11	Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23
Sun 19 th July	7 after Trinity	Isaiah 44.6-8	Psalms 86.11-end	Romans 8.12-25	Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43
Sun 26 th July	8 after Trinity	1 Kings 3.5-12	Psalms 119.129-136	Romans 8.26-end	Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52
Sun 2 nd August	9 after Trinity	Isaiah 55.1-5	Psalms 145.15-end	Romans 9.1-5	Matthew 14.13-21
Sun 9 th August	10 after Trinity	1 Kings 19.9-18	Psalms 85.8-13	Romans 10.5-15	Matthew 14.22-33
Sun 16 th August	11 after Trinity	Isaiah 56.1, 6-8	Psalms 67	Romans 11.1-2a, 29-32	Matthew 15.21-28
Sun 23 rd August	12 after Trinity	Isaiah 51.1-6	Psalms 138	Romans 12.1-8	Matthew 16.13-20
Sun 30 th August	13 after Trinity	Jeremiah 15.15-21	Psalms 26.1-8	Romans 12.9-end	Matthew 16.21-end

Diary Round-up: Events at St John's in July & August

Wed 1 st July	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 2 nd July	NO Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning
Sun 5 th July	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist
Wed 8 th July	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 9 th July	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning 7pm Standing Committee Meeting at the Vicarage
Sat 11 th July	2pm – 4pm Craft & Chat
Sun 12 th July	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist, followed by Fairtrade 3pm Muddy Church
Wed 15 th July	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 16 th July	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning 7.30pm PCC Meeting in Large Hall
Sat 18 th July	10am – 11am Café Breakfast Church 3pm St John's Fellowship Cream Tea & Beetle Drive in NorthReach
Sun 19 th July	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist 2.30 – 4.30pm Newcomers' Party in the Vicarage Gardens
Wed 22 nd July	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 23 rd July	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning
Fri 24 th July	Parish Office Closed
Sun 26 th July	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist 12 noon Baptism
Wed 29 th July	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 30 th July	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning 7.30pm Behind the Scenes with the Broadstone Community Band
Sun 2 nd Aug	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist
Mon 3 rd Aug	Parish Office Closed - will reopen Monday 10 th August
Wed 5 th Aug	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 6 th Aug	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning
Sat 8 th Aug	12 noon Wedding 2pm – 4pm Craft & Chat
Sun 9 th Aug	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist - Leprosy Mission 3pm St John's Cream Tea
Mon 10 th Aug	Parish Office Reopens
Tues 11 th Aug	6pm Laudemus Choral Evensong at St John's Church
Wed 12 th Aug	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 13 th Aug	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning
Sat 15 th Aug	11am Muddy Church & Baptism Teddy Bears' Picnic
Sun 16 th Aug	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist
Tues 18 th Aug	Parish Office Closed – will reopen Tuesday 1 st September
Wed 19 th Aug	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 20 th Aug	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning
Sun 23 rd Aug	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist



Wed 26th Aug 10.30am Eucharist
Wed 26th Aug 11am – 3pm Holiday at Home in NorthReach Annexe
Thurs 27th Aug 8.45am Morning Prayer in Church
10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning
Sun 30th Aug 8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist
Tues 1st Sept 9.30am Parish Office Reopens

St John's News from the Pews

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

CLERGY LEAVE Please note that Revd Helen is on leave & will be back on Sun 5th July.

SUN 5th JULY FILO PROJECT We look forward to welcoming Russell Saunders from the Filo Project, who will speak about the work the charity does supporting those with dementia.

SUNDAY JULY 5TH BROADSTONE FUN DAY St John's will have a stall on the recreation ground from 12-4 p.m. We need help to erect the gazebo in the morning from 10 am, and help with the stall from 1 to 4 p.m. Please sign up if you can help. June Webber.

ST. JOHN'S FELLOWSHIP The Fellowship are holding their annual cream tea and Beetle Drive on Saturday, 18th July at 3pm in North Reach and extend a warm welcome to any visitors who would like to join us. This is always a friendly and good fun afternoon. Tickets costing £5.00 each are available from Phil Church after the Sunday 10am service.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF NEWCOMERS' PARTY The Newcomers' Party takes place in the vicarage gardens, with drinks and finger food, on Sunday 19th July, 2.30pm-4.30pm. Invites to those who have joined church this year, or those we have met or recently moved into Broadstone, will be sent out nearer the time. Please also let us know you want to come if we don't have your contact details yet! The PCC also is invited to attend and supply the finger-food.

ADVANCE NOTICE: BEHIND THE SCENES WITH THE BROADSTONE COMMUNITY BAND - THURSDAY 30TH JULY 7.30PM Put this date in your diary and join us for a wonderful opportunity to enjoy an informal musical delight. Tickets now available from the Parish Office and £5 each to include cake and tea and coffee. This will be an informal evening of great fun, entertainment, music and cake!

AFTERNOON CREAM TEA Advance notice that St John's Cream Tea will take place on Sunday 9th August at 3pm. Tickets will be £6 this year. We will let you know when they are on sale.

LAUDEMUS CHORAL EVENSONG AT ST JOHN'S CHURCH 6pm on Tuesday 11th August. We are thrilled that Laudemus has included St John's as part of their annual Dorset tour of churches this year. Please join us for a very special choral evensong according to the Book of Common Prayer, with conductor Jeremy Jackman and Organist Sam Hanson. The service will be led by Revd Helen Bailey. Attendance is free but there will be a retiring collection to be split 50/50 between Laudemus and St John's on the evening.

HOLIDAY AT HOME 2026 Fun, Friends & Fabulous Food – all without leaving town! This is for anyone who will not get a holiday away this year - either yourself or someone you know. Joining with visitors from St Nicholas Church for a holiday at home (in the annexe) on Wed 26th Aug for a day of laughter, games, treats and togetherness. 20 places will be available. £5 entry for the day, includes all activities & a fish & chip dinner (or alternative). Please register your details with Caroline.

DEADLINE FOR SEPT EDITION SUBMISSIONS FRI 21st August.

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

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