



# St. John's Newsletter

Charity No 1162162

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

March 2026



## Letter from the Vicar

Dear friends,

We are now firmly into the journey through Lent, on our way to the unfolding of the Passion story at the start of April. As I wrote about Lent in our February edition, all I want to add here is a reminder that the word 'lent' comes from the word 'lengthen', when the days in this hemisphere get longer and the light returns. Already by 1<sup>st</sup> March Dorset will get 10 hours and 34 minutes of daylight. By the end of March we shall get over 13 hours of daylight. Folks, we are walking steadily into the light – the light of the returning sun, and the light of Easter Day!



I am excited that so many learning opportunities are happening at St John's at the moment. This too is about a journey – a journey into understanding our faith. I am sure Revd Gary's SHAPE course will have stimulated your thinking about who you are, gifts you have, and how to more fully develop your own vocations and pathways in your discipleship. I am pleased that Churches Together Lent Groups have begun again, and I always find it a very enriching experience to share with our sisters and brothers from across the other churches. And I have been really pleased with the take-up for the Faith Matters course, which has got underway.

In the Faith Matters course there was a delightful moment in the first session, when you could see a penny of understanding drop about how our church building tells the story of our faith journey. We start with baptism as the beginning of our journey, which is why the font is placed by the church door. It signifies our beginning an intentional relationship with God. As we move through life, that journey theme continues. The church word for the middle aisle is the 'nave' – a word relating to naval, navy, navigation. It signifies that we navigate our way through life with God and faith helping us to make sense of things. Finally, we are fed and sustained by the Eucharist meal at the altar, but this is also where in church funerals our last resting place will be. And the promise of the Easter story and the hope of resurrection, which we soon shall be celebrating, tells us this is not the end of the road, but the beginning of a new journey in God's light and love for ever.

The Faith Matters group also then realised that if you look up at the church roof from inside, it is the shape of an upturned wooden boat, and we discussed how the Church is supposed to be the safe ship of salvation in which we make these journeys through life. The Church is our own Ark, a story of salvation and wonder. (And with



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all the rain we have had this year, I have been wondering if we shouldn't get our woodturners and carpenters amongst us to start sawing and constructing one for St John's!)

What is particularly exciting about this year's Faith Matters course, is that it will end with a service taken by Bishop Karen at **St John's on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May at 5pm.** Bishop Karen is coming to baptise and confirm Alex in our congregation, which



Alex is currently preparing for. It is always exciting and encouraging when someone wishes to be baptised and confirmed, and I think really wonderful that it will be held at St John's Church. It is a long time since a confirmation service was held at our church. We look forward to welcoming Bishop Karen but also supporting Alex by coming to this special service. Do put the date in your diary now, and I am sure we shall be marking the occasion with one of those special St John's shared meals afterwards, by way of celebration!

The Easter story tells the story of hope for humanity. But it is not an abstract story; rather it is a story which needs telling and living through our human lives. I can think of no finer way of celebrating the Easter story this year than with a baptism and confirmation service! What a joyful journey that shall be!

With my love as you embrace your own journey this Lent.

## LLF (Living in Love and Faith) Inclusive Church Update



St John's Church is pleased to be an inclusive church. While this means we strive to be a safe and welcoming place for all, and this includes gender, sexuality, mental health, race, poverty, neurodivergent and differently-abled people, it also means we commit to supporting LGBTQIA+ developments.

You may have heard the media reporting that the LLF process has been declared as over by the C of E, and I just want to address that with a bit more nuance. It is terribly disappointing and for some incredibly hurtful, that after a lengthy process which promised so much, LLF has indeed drawn to a close. It has achieved one very tangible change, which is we are now allowed to conduct same-sex blessings in existing services, but sadly we have not yet reached the place where standalone same-sex ceremonies can take place; nor can LGBT clergy take up their legal right to get married without losing their license.



This is still a plea to take heart, though. General Synod did not shut everything down: on the contrary, 65.6% (2/3 majority – the biggest majority yet) voted to let two developments go forward. The first is to start looking at what process would be needed to make changes in Canon Law to enable such changes to be made; the second is to set up a Sexuality Working Group to explore what new ways forward there might be. Disappointingly, heartachingly slow, I know. The C of E is, however, on a journey with this too – yes, it is crawling painstakingly slowly through much confusion and difference, but in a direction that I believe will eventually usher in change. Take heart and keep the faith, however hard that might feel right now. *Revd Helen*

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



Muddy Church thoroughly enjoyed exploring Wonderful Water in February (great timing with such a lot of it about!) and as well as learning



about the water cycle, learnt about conserving it for the sake of the planet, made little crab creatures from shells, and heard the biblical story of Jesus walking on the water. Now that would be a really useful miracle to pull-off right now, given our flooded fields!



In March we shall be celebrating the Easter Garden on the afternoon of Palm Sunday. We shall be making our own, as well as sweet little Easter bunny rabbit gardens, and of course, enjoying the Easter egg hunt!



Finally, our next Café Breakfast Church takes place on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 10-11am. Do join us for that as it is great fun - and you get breakfast too!



Breakfast Church

## Schoolwork



Revd Helen recently attended the AGM for the Southern Schools Education Trust, the new Academy name for what has been a merger between Castleman Academy and Delta Trust. The various schools which are part of this includes Broadstone First and Broadstone Middle.

We are expecting there to be an Easter assembly taking place in First School, sometime towards Holy Week.

In March she is looking forward to several classes coming over to church from Broadstone Middle on various occasions throughout the month, to learn about faith, the Christian journey and the church building.

Finally, Revd Helen is also 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.



# What has Revd Helen, as the Dean of Women's Ministry for Salisbury Diocese, been up to?

It's probably worth saying, first of all, that I'm enjoying the role. It's good for me to have a wider-reaching role across the Diocese and is utilising gifts I am re-engaging with, even while being Vicar of St John's is my unnegotiable main role which I spend 95% of my time doing. Last May I attended my first NADAWM Conference (National Association of Diocesan Advisors for Women's Ministry) and very much enjoyed meeting the other 'DAWMS' (as we are called), and I think I reported on that in a previous monthly newsletter. (I'll be back at this year's DAWM Conference for three days in June, in Northamptonshire.) In July I held a stall at the Bishop's Clergy Day to introduce myself to women clergy, where they could pick up articles, facts and figures relating to women's ministry.



It was in the autumn, however, that the role really took off. I emailed all women clergy, asking who would like to meet up to chat in regional groups, and was very surprised that over 40% responded with a 'Yes please'! So I found myself welcoming a group of local women clergy at my home in October, travelling to Langton Long near Blandford Forum in November, Shrewton near Salisbury in November, and Bridport in January. In each group I met wonderful women clergy who lifted my spirits by all they are doing in their various parishes and roles. There is so much to celebrate. I heard too, though, stories of where their ministry had not been welcomed, how they had dealt with that, frustrations they come up against from time-to-time from other clergy or parishioners' expectations, and where they felt women's voices had not been heard. All of this I fed back to Bishop

Karen in several meetings. Some valuable questions were raised for us to explore: how is gender addressed when vocations are first being discerned; are female ordinands encouraged into incumbency roles (running their own church); how is inclusive language used in Cathedral services?

In November Bishop Karen and I led a day in Blandford Forum to work on policies which specifically impact women clergy. In the morning we met with clergy couples to discuss how in practice that works or doesn't work on the ground, and what issues need resolving in a policy that identifies contexts and gives clarity to working partnerships. It was a really fruitful morning with much sharing of ideas and ways forward. It is interesting that in practice clergy women are significantly impacted by being in a clergy couple – in job shares they are often considered junior to their clergy husband and Canon Law currently has no way of licensing two members of clergy to one post, so it can be difficult for parishioners to perceive an equality in the shared role.



In the afternoon we met with part-time clergy: again this specifically impacts clergy women as the majority in part-time Associate Priest roles (rather than incumbents in their own right), are women.

In addition, I have researched existing maternity / paternity and menopause policies and set up a working group of women clergy to critique these so we can formulate good policy and practice in this Diocese. I met with the Diocesan HR team in Salisbury last week to explore such policies and how to take the writing of these forward. I am also part of a small working group to take forward responses in the recent national survey conducted on clergy well-being, which suggests exhaustion levels for many clergy and negative feelings due to this as common. We will be looking at the responses from Salisbury clergy, again to formulate ways of offering support.

My role also involves offering support to women clergy, and I have found myself sought out by just a handful for situations they are experiencing. It does make me realise a Dean of WM was needed!

I also met with Bishop Stephen and the Bishop’s Leadership Team last week in Salisbury, when I presented my report to them, giving feedback from women clergy, and offering suggestions for how some of these ideas and issues could be addressed and developed.

Finally, I have arranged a gathering open to all clergy women in June, a day to celebrate ordained women’s ministry and consider how some of the culture that still exists in the Church can be tackled. Bishop Karen will lead us in a closing Eucharist, having listened to all that emerges during the course of the morning. I am currently organising a planning day for this with a working group of clergy women. Oh, and I’m looking forward to delivering some teaching in Salisbury to new curates and training incumbents (both men and women) in June on Gender and the Church! That is a direct outcome of the conversations and consultations with women: I’m thrilled we’ve got that in the diary!



## Eco Tip: Big Plastic Count 9th-15th March

For one week in March, thousands of people from households, schools and communities across the country will take part in the UK’s biggest people-powered investigation into household plastic waste. By counting every piece of plastic packaging, together we’ll uncover the true scale of the UK’s plastics crisis and call on the government and businesses to do more about it. After counting, you can recycle as usual and take soft plastic to your local supermarket, which also helps to raise the issue. It is very easy to join in and download your count poster at [thebigplasticcount.com](http://thebigplasticcount.com) We have also printed out some posters, which are on the table in Northreach. Let’s be part of a big push to reduce unnecessary single-use plastic. Governments take notice when enough people make a stand. *THE ECO GANG*

## Occasional Offices from February



### Funerals

19<sup>th</sup> February Raymond Brown (St John’s Church)  
 20<sup>th</sup> February Audrey Pearson (St John’s Church)

### Burials

18<sup>th</sup> February Revd David Price (St John’s Church)

**GILLY FAZAKERLEY'S FUNERAL** will take place in her home church for 40 years, should anyone wish / find themselves able to go. Thursday 5th March at 12 noon at St Cuthberts, Osborne (near Sherborne), DT9 4LA. The service will be taken by the vicar there, the Revd David Bond. Refreshments after the service will take place at The Grange, Osborne, D99 4LA. While many of us will not be able to get there, I know the family will be in your thoughts and prayers.

## Service Readings in March

Date	Sunday	OT	Psalm	NT	Gospel
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Lent 2	Genesis 12.1-4a	Psalm 121	Romans 4.1-5, 13-17	John 3.1-17
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Lent 3	Exodus 17.1-7	Psalm 95	Romans 5.1-11	John 4.5-42
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Mothering Sunday	Exodus 2.1-10	Psalm 34.11-20	2 Corinthians 1.3-7	John 19.25b – 27

Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Passiontide Begins/Lent 5	Ezekiel 37.1-14	Psalm 130	Romans 8.6-11	John 11.1-45
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Palm Sunday	Isaiah 50.4-9a	Psalm 31.9-16	Philippians 2.5-11	Matthew 27.11-54 Dramatic Reading of Passion

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

Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> Mar	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Parish Eucharist: Lent 2 PCC meeting 11.20am in the Lady Chapel, after the 10am service.
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> Mar	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup> Mar	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning 7pm Standing Committee in Vicarage
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> Mar	8am Eucharist 10am Eucharist: Lent 3 Fairtrade Stall after 10am Service
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> Mar	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> Mar	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning 7.30pm St John's Fellowship
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup> Mar	9.45am Posy-Making for Mothering Sunday in NorthReach 2pm – 4pm Craft & Chat 6pm – 10pm DBBF – Sip & Paint (see flyers in Church & NorthReach)
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> Mar	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist: Mothering Sunday
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> Mar	10.30am Eucharist
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Parish Office & Church closed from 10am – 12.30pm
Tues 17 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Events Committee in Lady Chapel
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> Mar	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> Mar	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning Parish Office & Church closed from 11am – 12 noon 7.30pm PCC Meeting in Parish Hall
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Mar	10am – 12 noon Faith Matters Course led by Revd Helen
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> Mar	10am-11am Café Breakfast Church
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist: Lent 5
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> Mar	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup> Mar	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning PCC Party at the Vicarage 6 – 8pm
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup> Mar	8am Holy Communion 10am Eucharist: Palm Sunday (meet in the Parish Hall for 10am start) 3pm Muddy Church Easter Special
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Parish Office Closed until <b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April</b>
Tues 31 <sup>st</sup> Mar	7pm Said Eucharist with Homily 7pm Said Eucharist with Homily



# St John's News from the Pews

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

**FAITH MATTERS COURSE** Run by Revd Helen – see dates below. It's suitable for finding out more about the Christian faith, as a refresher on the basics of Faith, or for exploring adult baptism & confirmation. All Fridays 10am - 12 noon: 20th Mar, 17th April, 1st May, 15th May.



**LENT GROUPS & CHURCHES TOGETHER** Wednesdays at 7.30pm - 8.45 pm at the Methodist Church; Thursdays at 10.30am - 11.45am at St Anthony's Church on York Rd. There is no need to register with us or buy any material this year as it will be provided for you.

**NEW WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** is on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March at Broadstone Methodist Church at 10.30am, prepared by the women of Nigeria. All welcome!



**NEW MOTHERING SUNDAY POSIES** will be made in NorthReach on Sat 14<sup>th</sup> March from 9.45am. If you have any small leaved foliage in your garden you can spare, such as Pittosporum, Hebe, Lonicera, Box, Cypresses, or similar, or foliage with flower such as Forsythia, Spiraea, Heather, Viburnum or Hellebores or other flowers, etc, please bring it to NorthReach for 9.45am or leave outside door if earlier. If you can help the team make some posies please come along with your **secateurs** at 9.45am. Further info from Marion Marsh.



**CRAFT AND CHAT SAT 14<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2pm – 4pm** Bring-your-own craft; on occasions you will be shown you how to make different crafts. Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat of the month.

**NEW 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 e.g. sweeping, weeding, pruning, grass cutting. We start 9.30am and finish at 12.00, tidying up and packing away after that. 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, but please speak to me or let the Office know if you will join as so we can cater for you and sort out the jobs. Thank you. *Ken Pearce*

**CHANGE OF TIME FOR PALM SUNDAY TO USUAL 10am** We are returning Palm Sunday to the usual Sunday 10am start instead of the 9.45am it has been in previous years.

**6 FOOT-WASHEES REQUIRED MAUNDY THURSDAY** Please can you think about whether you are happy to volunteer to have a foot washed in our Maundy Thursday service this year on Thurs 2nd April at 8pm? There is a sign up list in church - please add your name!

**GOOD FRIDAY ON FRI 3RD APR** After our 9am Stations of the Cross at St John's, the CTiB Good Friday gathering will meet in St John's annexe from 10am, ready to begin / 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. Do join us if you can! St John's will then of course have its usual 2pm to 3pm Last Hour at the Cross service.

**NEW APRIL & MAY READERS** Please sign up at the back of the Church, if you are able to read during the month of April and/or May. Once all the spaces have been filled, Caroline will send you the rota and the readings for that month. Many thanks.



**NEW PLANT SALE SAT 9<sup>th</sup> MAY 10AM – 12PM** Hopefully there has been a dry day when you have been able to get into the garden to see if there are any seedlings you can pot up for the Plant Sale. Maybe you could buy some small plants/flower seedlings from a Garden Centre and pot them on. It is not too late to sow vegetables like cucumber, peppers, courgettes, chillis, aubergine, tomatoes (trailing for hanging baskets are a good seller) and also herbs. Again, you can buy small plants to grow on. Maybe some plants including

indoor plants are large and need splitting. Are there any small shrubs to dig up. Later will be a good time for sowing beans, Runner, French, Dwarf, using something like deep meat plastic containers as they have a long root run. Please use potting compost for all plants and label them with type, variety, colour, etc. See articles in recent newsletters for more details. If you haven't made any marmalade, preserves or chutney perhaps you would buy a nice jar for us to sell. If you don't have a garden, please come along to enjoy coffee and cake in a garden setting and have a chat with others. A list will appear at the back of church in due course if you can offer to make a cake. Remember anything homemade needs to have the ingredients listed. Some of the usual helpers are unable to do so this year so if you could offer help on the morning (usually between 9am – 12.15) I will be delighted to hear from you. *Marion Marsh*

**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.

**50 CLUB** Congratulations to our winners! Jan: Teresa Heckford £50, Elsie Pearman £10. Feb: Mike Sharp £50, Nick Heckford £10. Your winnings can be collected from the Office.

**APCM: NEW PCC MEMBER NEEDED** Just one more PCC member needed. Please have a word with the Vicar to find out more.

**ROAD CLOSURES DUE TO GAS REPLACEMENT WORKS 16<sup>TH</sup> FEB – 13<sup>TH</sup> MAR**  
Ridgeway Road closed to all vehicles / parking - no waiting or loading/unloading at any time from its junction with Dunyeats Road to its junction with Lower Blandford Road. Westheath Road closed to all vehicles from outside property No. 6 to its junction with Ridgeway.



**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: **tinned vegetables & teabags.** Visit [parishofcorfemullen.church/foodbank](http://parishofcorfemullen.church/foodbank) to make cash donation or contact Sheila & Ken.

## Further Afield

**NEW POOLE-WAU PARTNERSHIP** Next prayer meeting on Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb from 12.30 at St Clement's Church, 55 Kinson Avenue, Upper Parkstone, Poole BH15 3PH. Do join us from 12.15pm.

**BOURNEMOUTH WILLIAM TEMPLE ASSOCIATION** Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> March, Marsham Court Hotel, Bournemouth. Starts 7.40pm but an optional dinner at 6.30pm beforehand.

**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... Organ Repair!

After replacing some very squashed ducting, the organ is sounding much better, and quieter!



**DEADLINE FOR APRIL EDITION SUBMISSIONS FRI 20<sup>th</sup> MARCH.**

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)