



St. John's Newsletter

Charity No 1162162
www.stjohnschurchbroadstone.org.uk

May 2026



Letter from the Vicar

As usual, the May letter from the Vicar shares the vision in full which she set out at the recent APCM for the coming year.

Dear friends,

As you know, the APCM is a time to look back on the previous year, ending December 2025, and celebrate it. It is more than just an AGM when it is an APCM for a church community which is joyful and thriving, as this one is. But it is always good for the vicar to set a steer for the year ahead.

And sometimes that is about setting a steady course because we are making good progress but need to continue in the same direction. So we are continuing to work on some priorities identified last year, which as I explained then, map onto the Bishop's Priorities for the Diocese.

The Diocese has identified *Championing for Climate Justice* as a priority aim. We continue 'Going for Gold' with our desire to achieve the Gold Award as Eco Church. I am grateful to Nicky and the Eco team for all the many ways they have kept us on track. I'm not going to repeat the Eco Report here that you'll find in the Parish Reports, except to say from keeping us mindful as a congregation, challenging us where we have overlooked something, pushing us forward where we can do better, this team is invaluable to us. This is a harder Award level to achieve, but we continue to make progress, and it will stay as an objective until we make it!



Another priority, *Courageous Christian Leadership*, is a focus for both the Diocese and ourselves. This doesn't just mean the clergy daring to take risks, but that inevitably means the PCC also stepping out alongside the vicar in decisions we make for our church. Where are we putting our time, and where are we putting our money? Are we being good stewards?

One sub-theme of this, is that I am firmly convinced that having spent several years investing in our buildings, through the NorthReach project, it is time now to invest in people. It is easy for buildings to become all-consuming, and of course all the maintenance and repair needed for buildings like ours, will continue. We do continue to invest in that. But for a while, a good couple of years, we need to hold off new building projects or improvements that we may wish to make in the future. We keep an eye on future needs by building up a proper maintenance fund in our account, and we do need to do that. Funds were stripped down completely in finishing NorthReach, so we need to build those funds up again.



But as you know, the 'church building' is really just the building that houses the church, because WE are the church. We know that, but we sometimes forget. And there are three facets of this aim.

Our first focus is to value all those who currently serve in our church. Are we mindful of saying thank you? Can we offer any further support or training for the work they do? That inevitably leads to in-house teaching we do, such as the SHAPE course Gary led, the Faith Matters course I led, and the Gospels course I led last year, as well as Housegroups run by Paul and Ken at intervals during the year. Are we resourcing our congregation? This was called 'Equipping the saints' in one denomination. Are we equipping you? Equipping the saints to live fruitful, active Christian lives?



The second focus is to look at what other people we may need as a church to achieve further outreach and ministry in our community. Are there roles we could and should be developing and nurturing to aid this? Are there paid roles we might wish to look at to enable that work to take place and take the burden off others? We currently have three paid staff: a parish administrator, a



caretaker and an organist. We couldn't function without them. But is there a role we might wish to develop, to reduce the burden on our churchwardens and the Vicar? Of course we can't do everything, and we'd rather do less but brilliantly! That might be the right answer: to stick to what we're good at, knowing we are doing all we can with the resources we have. But I think we need to explore the question, so we examine how we are investing in people.

A third way we invest in people, is to help nurture new ministries within our congregation. That might be enabling someone who has been welcomed as a newcomer who joined our church to start giving back some time and feel confident enough to take on a role. It might be helping someone who has been here a long time to step into a new volunteer role, or explore a vocation. It is easy for us to hide out light under a bushel, and not realise we're capable of so much more than we think we are.

All of these ways of enabling people and investing in them are essential if church growth is to remain healthy and live, with great mission happening in our community. I've spent the most time on this, because those 3 aspects are so important to church life. So people, not buildings, is our focus for the next couple of years.

Finally, our community partnerships is another vision for both Diocese and ourselves. And while we do partner well with Churches Together and other organisations we have explored links with, there is more to come. The most fruitful of these will be the partnership with St Nicholas in Corfe Mullen, where we are working with the Community Lead Rachel Stevens across parish boundaries. These partnerships are creative together, not competitive apart. It doesn't matter that Broadstone Middle



Classes came here for sessions with me to learn about faith, or that the current youth worker at the URC has managed to get in to Middle School to start a Christian Union. These are partnerships where we work together, and realise we can't all do everything, but if someone is doing it somewhere, we can bless it. To that end,

and in case you have forgotten what our link with the Community Lead at Corfe Mullen is, I have invited Rachel to come and speak to us at a Sunday service later in the year. I did write a newsletter article and speak about it some time back but meeting Rachel for yourselves might help crystallise in our minds the fact that relationship exists.

So to conclude and summarise: Going for Gold in the Eco World; investing in people through nurturing new ministries and vocations, teaching and learning to resource, and exploring where further paid roles might be required; and community networks and especially through the Community Lead work with Corfe Mullen.

That should keep us busy for the next year or two! Thank you for listening.

With my love

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



Muddy Church on Palm Sunday saw 18 children and 24 adults attend. We made sweet bunny cress gardens and easter gardens, and told the story of the cross and the resurrection. After the usual easter egg hunt, we blessed the water butt and the children gave our beautiful



beechnut tree (which is dying and had to be cut down, sadly) a final hug and farewell prayer of blessing. In April we looked at 'The

Flutter of the Butterfly' and likened the life cycle of the butterfly to the promise of new life and Easter resurrection. Our next one in May is on Sunday 24th May at 3pm

Our next Café Breakfast Church takes place on Saturday 16th May. Do come and join us - and you get breakfast too!



Finally, the Cubs! Revd Helen enjoyed the cubs coming to church one evening in April to have a session about faith as part of their religion badge. All of these are wonderful opportunities to welcome young people into our church to hear about Christian faith.

Meet the New PCC!

The PCC (Parochial Church Council) is always a really important committee in church life. They are the trustees of the church, and together with the vicar, make careful and informed decisions about the church. We could not function without them! I am delighted to introduce our new four members just elected on to PCC, and look forward to working with them and the rest of the PCC members for what I hope will be another successful year. *Revd Helen*



Roger Leach: I think I am fairly well known by the majority of the congregation. However, for those who don't know me, I and my wife Penny have been active members of St. John's since the late 1970s, we have two grown up sons and four grandchildren. I am a retired mechanical engineer, my last post prior to retirement was as Group Supply Chain Manager for Hamworthy Engineering at Fleetsbridge. I have previously served four terms on the PCC, one on Deanery Synod and six years as churchwarden from 2015 until 2021. Since retiring as churchwarden, I chaired the Building Committee, managing the NorthReach Annexe Project, and I also chair the Events Committee.

Linda Mackenzie: I have been a member of St John's church since 2000, having moved to Broadstone in 1998 from Manchester. I grew up in Wiltshire and trained as a nurse at Frenchay hospital in Bristol. On moving to Manchester, after I married Steve, I trained as a midwife. Steve and I have 3 grown up children who are all married and we have 2 granddaughters. I have previously served on the PCC and was part of the cleaning team and organised the coffee rota until I passed the baton on to June 2 years ago. I also used to volunteer in the Parish Office one morning a week and looked after the Hall Hire. I am looking forward to serving on the PCC again.



Steve Mackenzie: I was brought up in north Manchester and moved to Dorset in 1998 with my wife Linda and our three children. I was confirmed in Manchester and joined St John's in 2000. As a Chartered Accountant I was appointed as Treasurer to the PCC in 2007 and served as the Treasurer for 13 years. I decided to retire as Treasurer when I retired from work, although the pandemic delayed the APCM that year. I've decided to put myself forward for the PCC in anticipation of reducing my post retirement travelling in the forthcoming years.

Nick Heckford: PCC Treasurer I was born in Poole and attended Poole Grammar School. I worked for Sainsbury's and took my degree distance learning and passed my Chartered Management Accountant examinations with them. After 24 years I left to work for Cunard in Southampton for 10 years before the pandemic and currently I am Finance Manager of Pivotal Housing Association in Bournemouth. My wife, Teresa, and I have two children. We have been part of the St John's congregation since 2003 and married here in 2005. I took over as treasurer in 2020 after a number of terms on the PCC. In my spare time I am an International Volleyball Referee. I manage all referee activities for Volleyball England as the head referee. My first sporting love, however, was cricket and I have been a member of Poole Town CC for many years.



Eco Tip: Bird Feeding



We all want to help birds and make our gardens or outdoor spaces a place where all wildlife can thrive but some species, such as Greenfinches, are in serious decline because of disease. Following extensive research into how, where and when disease is spread, new guidance has been issued by RSPB and BTO.

Feed Seasonally

During summer and autumn, there's a higher risk of disease spreading. But it's also when there are more natural foods available to birds, such as seeds and insects.

- 1 May to 31 October Pause filling your bird feeders with seeds or peanuts. You can continue to offer small amounts of mealworms, fatballs or suet.
- 1 November to 30 April You can feed your birds a full range of bird foods, including seeds and peanuts.

Feed Safely

Busy bird feeders can become hotspots for disease. To help keep birds healthy, it's vital to keep things clean – which is why we've strengthened our existing hygiene guidance.

- Clean your bird feeders and water baths at least once a week.
- Place your bird feeders in a different spot every week. Avoid putting feeders under places where birds roost, such as under trees.
- Don't use bird feeders with flat surfaces, such as bird tables, window feeders and feeders with trays.
- Feed in moderation and keep food as dry as possible.
- Change water in bird baths daily.
- Help birds find their own natural food.

More information at <https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/news/how-to-help-garden-birds>

At St John's we are pausing feeding seeds and nuts and will be reviewing how we place feeders.

THE ECO GANG

Occasional Offices from April



Funerals

13th April Delores Florence Melville (St John's Church)
 18th April Nick Dunn (St John's Church)

Burials

17th April Christine Ann Slater (St John's Church)

Service Readings in May

Date	Sunday	OT	Psalm	NT	Gospel
Sun 3 rd May	Easter 5	Genesis 8.1-19	Psalm 31. 1-5	Acts 7.55-end	John 14.1-14
Sun 10 th May	Easter 6	Genesis 8.20-9.17	Psalm 66.7-end	Acts 17.22-31	John 14.15-21
Sun 17 th May	Sunday after Ascension / Easter 7	Ezekiel 36.24-28	Psalm 68.1-10	Acts 1.6-14	John 17.1-11
Sun 24 th May	Pentecost	Numbers 11.24-30	Psalm 104. 26-36,37 b	Acts 2.1-12	John 20.19-23
Sun 31 st May	Trinity Sunday	Isaiah 40.12-17, 27-end	Psalm 8	2 Corinthians 13.11-end	Matthew 28.16-end

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

Fri 1 st May	10am – 12 noon Faith Matters Course led by Revd Helen
Sat 2 nd May	10am – 12pm Coffee morning in support of Forest Holme Hospice
Sun 3 rd May	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist - with speaker Sarah Isherwood-Harris from Dorset Wildlife Trust at the 10am.
Mon 4 th May	Office & Church Closed (Bank Holiday)
Tues 5 th May	Churches Together in Broadstone meeting 2pm St Anthony's.
Wed 6 th May	10.30am Eucharist 7.30pm Richard Durrant Concert (see flyers for more information)
Thurs 7 th May	Office & Church for Private Prayer Closed due to Polling Station NO Morning Prayer in Church NO Holy Grounds 7pm Standing Committee at the vicarage
Fri 8 th May	Fri 8th May 10.30am LPA meeting at the vicarage. 12.30 Burial of Ashes
Sat 9 th May	10am – 12 noon Plant Sale; 2pm – 4pm Craft & Chat
Sun 10 th May	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist with speaker John Good from the YMCA at both services; Fairtrade Stall after 10am service; Refreshments in hall with plants left over on sale
Tues 12 th May	1.30pm Funeral at St John's for Sandra Roberts
Wed 13 th May	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 14 th May	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning 7pm Ascension Day Service; 7.45pm St John's Fellowship
Fri 15 th May	10am – 12 noon Faith Matters Course led by Revd Helen. Final session
Sat 16 th May	10am – 11am Café Breakfast Church
Sun 17 th May	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist
Wed 20 th May	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 21 st May	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning 7.30pm PCC Meeting
Sun 24 th May	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist: Pentecost 3pm – 4.30pm Muddy Church
Mon 25 th May	Office & Church Closed (Bank Holiday)
Wed 27 th May	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 28 th May	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning
Fri 29 th May	Office & Church Closed
Sat 30 th May	9.30 - 3pm Quiet day 5pm Baptism & Confirmation of Alex, followed by Bring & Share tea in Parish Hall
Sun 31 st May	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist: Trinity Sunday



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. Suitable for those exploring new faith or revisiting the basics of the faith. Fridays 10am - 12 noon: 1st May & 15th May.

NEW NEXT WEEK Parish Office & Church for private prayer will be closed on Mon 4th May.

NORTHREACH CLOSED FOR COUNCIL ELECTIONS NorthReach and the church (for private prayer) closed on Thurs 7th May. The Parish Office is also closed Caroline will still be available by email and working from home.



PLANT SALE SAT 9th MAY 10AM – 12PM Please bring plants, vegetables, herbs, shrubs, unwanted tools etc. together with cakes, preserves, and chutneys from **8.30am** onwards. If homemade, please add a list of ingredients. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of Church if you can offer a cake or help in any way from setting up at 8am to closing down at 12 noon, and everything in between. Please ask me or one of the team for more information. The Sale will open at 10am and there will be a Plant Creche in the car park where you can leave your purchases, whilst you enjoy tea/coffee and cake in a garden like setting. This is one of the main fund raising events for St John's so please come along and support it and have an enjoyable morning. *Marion Marsh.*



ASCENSION DAY SERVICE 7pm ON THURSDAY 14th MAY Please join us for this simple half-hour service which continues the Easter Season story. St John's fellowship will meet afterwards, aiming for a slightly later start at 7.45pm, in the parish hall as usual. We hope many of those who come to the fellowship will first come along to our Ascension Day service.



QUIET DAY AT ST JOHN'S SAT 30th MAY 9.30am The Theme will be Reflecting on a Beautiful World. Bring and share lunch - please bring a food contribution for the table. It will be a time of quiet reflection on a series of Biblical themes: living beyond past experiences, anger and finding peace, finding completeness and enjoying the beauty of where you are in life right now. As usual there will be a variety of prayers, reflections, meditations and plenty of personal quiet space.

BRING AND SHARE TEA FOLLOWING THE BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION OF ALEX Sat 30th MAY 5pm We would love as many as possible to come and support this fantastic step in Alex's faith journey, and afterwards we are going to enjoy a faith tea together. Sign up on the sheet at the back of church to say you are coming, and on the evening bring a food contribution with ingredient slips (see office if slips are needed) **READY-PLATED** (not just in a box!) and place it on the tables in the **Parish Hall**.

NO CORPUS CHRISTI SERVICE Unfortunately we won't be able to offer this service on Thurs 4th June as there are no clergy available to take it. We will reinstate it next year.

VOLUNTEERS DAY FRIDAY 5TH JUNE 10AM - 4PM Join Bishop Karen and DBF staff at Emmaus House, Wilton, as we resource and celebrate volunteer who serve our churches across the Diocese of Salisbury. To book and for more information on sessions, go to this link: <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=TrIEFZGRIUaLmM3hwnI30zeTVDZc8GxLg0E2IW2QqjRUQjIKUUhXUFFEMzY3QIo3M0pXRDFRNTFURS4u&route=shorturl>

NEED 3 PEOPLE TO SERVE TEA / COFFEE AT DEANERY SYNOD On Wed 10th June at 7pm, it is our turn to host the Deanery Synod Meeting. Please let me know if you can help with refreshments? Three people needed, as quite a crowd turn up! Thanks! *Revd Helen*

SUMMER FAYRE SAT 20th JUNE 11am - 2pm Note the date of our fabulous fayre. Sign-up sheets in church and a special Summer Fayre Supplement is now out for help we need!



BROADSTONE FUN DAY SUNDAY 5th JULY Later we shall be appealing for help with St John's stall at it, as part of our Churches Together presence in the community.

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 £5 include refreshments and cake - will be on sale later this year. Come and hear some wonderful pieces played by the band, be taken on a behind-the-scenes tour of how those pieces are chosen and come together. This will be an informal evening of great fun, entertainment, music and cake!

HELP AT HOLY GROUNDS REQUIRED We need 3 or 4 people to help serve tea and coffee at Holy Grounds. This might be monthly or less often. A team and a rota are in place. As the wider community attends, there will be a safer recruitment process for this (a simple form to fill in for volunteering and a couple of references). Otherwise is the same as serving tea and coffee after church on Sundays. Have a word with the vicar or Paul Winsworth if interested.

TERRACOTTA PLANT POTS NEEDED If you have any spare medium terracotta plant pots (size 10 cm or more) please could you bring them to the office. It does not matter if cracked or broken rim. Many thanks, *Heather*



BOTTLES FOR REMEMBRANCE DAY I am wanting bottles, i.e. coke, lemonade, mixer drinks etc... to take the bottoms off to make poppies for a Remembrance Day project. Please bring any clean bottles to the Parish Office. Many thanks *Ann Biggs*



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. Visit parishofcorfemullen.church/foodbank to make cash donation or contact Sheila & Ken.

Further Afield

MISSION SUPPER AT URC Come to our Mission Supper Sat 2nd May 6:00pm. The evening includes a presentation by Elizabeth Cottell from Immanuel URC. Theme: the work of Mercy Ships, a faith-based international development organisation deploying hospital ships to the poorest countries in the world, delivering free healthcare to people in need. Tickets £5 each include a 2-course meal. Contact Ian McDonald ian@igkpmcdonald.plus.com or 07854 352722.

QUIZ EVENING AT ST ANTHONY'S (135 York Rd) on Friday 8th May in aid of the Catholic Children's Society. The Society supports any family, of any faith or none, which is in need. Arrive 7pm for prompt 7.30pm start. Come as a team of six or join a team on the night. Price £5 per person to include sandwiches, tea / coffee (feel free to bring your own drinks and snacks). Tickets to be ordered in advance from Dorothy on 01202 698204 or email: dot.brant@sky.com

CRAFTY CORNER AT ST ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH HALL 3rd Monday of the month, 2pm - 4pm. Bring a craft - tea and biscuits included.

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

DEADLINE FOR JUNE EDITION SUBMISSIONS FRI 22nd MAY.

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