



# St John the Evangelist – a beacon on the hill



## St John's Newsletter for April 2025

Inspiring a personal relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer, sharing our faith, pastoral care, making disciples and by being the heart of the community

### Verse of the Month

**Romans 5:8** But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **Romans 5:8**

### Services at St John's 10.00am unless otherwise stated

Date		
6 <sup>th</sup> April	Fifth Sunday of Lent	Holy Communion
13 <sup>th</sup> April	Palm Sunday	Holy Communion
17 <sup>th</sup> April	Maundy Thursday	NO SERVICE
<b>18<sup>th</sup> April 12.00noon</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
20 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter	Holy Communion
27 <sup>th</sup> April	Second Sunday of Easter	Morning Worship

### Refreshments following Sunday Service

Do stay for refreshments after the Sunday Service. A great time for a chat and to get to know each other.



### WEEKLY EVENTS AT ST JOHN'S

**Monday - Singing for Fun** – Do come along and join this friendly group.

Opens at 10am for coffee/tea and biscuits and time for a meet up before the singing which starts at 11am. You will sing a variety of popular songs "just for fun" with Stephen Page.

Cost £5.00 per session which includes tea/coffee and a biscuit.

**Please note: NO SINGING FOR FUN ON 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL and 21<sup>ST</sup> APRIL**

## Tuesday and Thursday - Common Grounds Coffee Café - Open from 10am to 12noon



Café sells a variety of coffees (filter, latte, cappuccinos), teas and hot chocolate plus cakes and savouries. There are also cold drinks  
There is a free top up of filter coffee and tea.  
Come along and visit the café and perhaps bring a friend. There is always someone to chat to. Dogs and children welcome.

**Please note: CAFÉ WILL BE CLOSED ON THURSDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**

## Tuesdays 10am to 12noon – The Chatty Craft Club – Takes place in the Church

Come along, have a chat and make new friends. Bring your own materials/crafts or use the materials which are already in the Church. Come and use your skills or learn new ones. Free to attend.

The Common Grounds Coffee Café is open at the same time for drinks and food.

## Meeting in April

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April – High Glades Patient Participation Group (PPG) 12.30pm in Church

## Renewal of Parish Electoral Roll

Are you on the current roll? You need to complete an application form.

Not on the roll? You need to complete an application form.

"What is the Electoral Roll?" It is the parish's register of electors. In the same way that being on the civic Electoral Roll allows you to vote in parliamentary and local elections and referenda, joining the Church Electoral Roll means that you can vote on Church matters, attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and stand for election to the PCC. The number on the Electoral Roll also determines the maximum number of PCC members and Deanery Synod representatives we may have. If the Roll is not representative of the church membership, this means that the PCC is too small for the workload involved, putting heavy strain on the members.

"Who can be on the Electoral Roll?" To apply for the Electoral Roll you must meet ALL the following conditions:

- You must be aged 16 or over (though you can apply in the year you become 16 and your name will be entered once your birth date has passed).
- You must be baptised.
- You must be a member of the Church of England and EITHER live in the parish OR have attended a church in the parish regularly for at least 6 months.
- You must complete an Application Form.

The Electoral Roll is Revised every year and totally Renewed every six years.

**This year, 2025, the roll is being RENEWED.**

The renewal of the Roll ends on **20th April 2025**. Application Forms are available in both our churches and must be returned by **20th April** if you wish to attend and vote at the Annual Meeting on 21st May.

**If you are not currently on the Electoral Roll** of the parish, please give it some thought and if you wish to join, please complete and return an application form by **20th April**.

If you are already on the Roll, as the roll is being renewed, you **MUST** complete an Application Form and return it by **20th April** if you wish to remain on the Roll.

### Annual Meetings

Our Annual Meetings will be held on Wednesday 21st May. Full details will be given later but it is not too early to remind you to give thought and prayer as to who you may consider to nominate for election to one or more of the following posts:-

Churchwarden - 2 posts.

Deputy Warden - 2 posts.

Deanery Synod Representative - 3 posts.

Parish PCC representative - 1; St John's PCC representative - 2; St Peter & St Paul PCC representative - 1

All the above are members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC). The PCC is responsible for the overall wellbeing, practical as well as spiritual, of the church, the church members and the church buildings. The PCC also has a duty to promote the mission of the church within the wider community. As the PCC is a charity, all members are also charity trustees. With a full complement of members the Council can more effectively carry out its responsibilities. Please give thought and prayer as to possible future members.

*John Mercer.* PCC Secretary

**Annual Meeting Buffet:** A finger buffet will be available before the meeting which will be provided by both church families. This is so that we can have an hour to socialise with each other as well as enjoying the delicacies provided by both churches. Amanda Green will be asking for contributions towards this from our church and Sally and Betty will be making the same request at St Peter & St Paul. It would be helpful in advance to know who will be attending the meeting, so please keep an eye out for both an attendance and food contribution list.

### Whats App Community

Stay up to date on parish news and events by joining our new parish WhatsApp community. A WhatsApp 'Community' is different from a basic chat: by joining you will automatically be added to an 'Announcements' chat, which is one way communication from the community admins (myself and the Churchwardens, so you won't be bombarded with messages), with all the most up to date information from the parish. Within the community there is also a designated space to share your prayer requests, encouragements, and testimonies of what God is up to in our parish.

To join, either scan the QR code on your smartphone, or email Toby at [tobiasilancaster@gmail.com](mailto:tobiasilancaster@gmail.com) with your name and number and he will send you an invitation to join in WhatsApp.





### 'St Johns 3 G's' Grounds Gardening Group

Wow, Spring has come round again and it's time to start our monthly Gardening.

This a quick reminder that, weather permitting, (*hopefully*) we are working in the church grounds on **Saturday morning, 5th April, 9- 11a.m.** for those of you who are available to join us. Thanks again for all your hard work during last year and we look forward to a fruitful new year's results.

Date for next month will be Saturday, 3rd May.

God bless - Maureen



### 'St John's Holy DustBusters'

Thanks for all those who came along in March. The date for the next "St John's Holy DustBusters" will be **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April** from 10am to 12 noon. Come along and join in the fun of cleaning together. Look forward to seeing you there. *Maureen Hinkley*

Contact - by speaking with me, 01424 754872 or by email [hinkley872@btinternet.com](mailto:hinkley872@btinternet.com)

### Family Support Work

Extract from recent newsletter from Family Support Team

*Dear Friends,*

*The recent weeks have seen successful appointment to 3 posts here at FSW. We are delighted to have recruited a new practitioner for Hastings; a new volunteer and engagement co-ordinator for East Sussex; and a digital fundraising and communications officer. We will be sharing more details about these appointments in due course, but are delighted to have been able to strengthen the team.*

*With secondary school places having recently been allocated, many of our families are disappointed at not securing their preferred choice. This is particularly the case for children with SEN (which is a significant percentage of the young people we support), and there is a lot of worry about the future. Practitioners are supporting where they can in investigating whether or not an appeal is appropriate, and if not, giving emotional support around coming to terms with the disappointment and putting strategies in place for a successful transition.*

*We are now really full into our events schedule, with the first Open Gardens of the year taking place at a new venue for us – The Old Rectory at Warbleton. All of our Open Garden dates are listed on our website so do take the chance to visit one near you if you can. We are also still busily planning our Cuckmere Valley sponsored walk on May 15<sup>th</sup>, so if you haven't yet registered then please contact Jason in the fundraising team for further information [jason@familysupportwork.org.uk](mailto:jason@familysupportwork.org.uk)*

**Nikki Kerr, FSW Director of Fundraising and Marketing**

## Collection of food items for Diocesan Family Support



Very many thanks to those in the congregation and the Singing for Fun Songsters who generously donate items for the families supported by the Diocesan Family Support team. All items collected go to the Diocesan food bank where they are sorted and distributed to families in need.

Items requested for this month are: Ketchup, Jams and spreads



## Easter Table Sale At St Peter and St Paul

**Saturday APRIL 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**10.30am – 1.00pm**

**A variety of stalls, cakes and refreshments**  
**Do go along and support**

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### A Poem by Coffee Café member Hobbies

To think of all hobbies  
That anyone can try;  
To go and climb Mount Everest,  
I'll give that one a bye.

Pot-holing seems to be good fun,  
But I don't see how,  
To crawl along those tunnels deep  
Would scare and give me the creeps.  
(Especially if the cavern leaks!!)

Perhaps I'll keep a python,  
No phobia have I.  
But then it might well crush me  
And then I might well die!

A bungee-jump they tell me,  
Is the trendiest thing to do.  
Suspended by an elastic band,  
My weight will make it really expand!  
(No thanks! I'll miss that one out too!)

Now fishing, that's more like it,  
Relaxing sport they say.  
To sit for hours waiting,  
While the fish all swim away.

The thing I love to do the best  
Is playing different sports.  
But my body now is past its best  
And I can't get into my shorts!!

So now it's sewing, walking and a poem or two,  
And this little ditty, which I now offer to you.

*Marilyn Holdstock*

### Local Morning Prayer Group (Everyone Welcome)

Do join for Morning Prayer. Log in and try this small group meeting for Morning Prayer.  
Takes place every **Tuesday and Friday at 8am on zoom**

Morning Prayer takes the form of bible readings, followed by a very short reflection on one of the readings, thought for the Day, open prayers followed by the Lord's Prayer and closing with the Grace. Lasts for approx 20/25mins.

The daily plan can be requested by emailing [tommotompkins@aol.com](mailto:tommotompkins@aol.com) or can be found via link on St John's calendar under morning prayer.

### Please remember in your prayers

Christ Church Ore and St Helen's with St Barnabas; St Matthew's and St Ethelburga;  
Church in the Wood; King's Church; His Place;  
Sonrise Church; Parochial Church Council; St. John's Domestic & Outreach;  
Barnabas Fund; Hope Kitchen; Seaview Project; Snowflake

St Leonards-on-Sea Methodist Church; Chichester Diocesan Association for Family  
Support Work; CMS;  
Doctors, nurses and support staff at the Conquest Hospital

Please also remember those who are named in the St John's Prayer Leaflet

## **SUPPORTING THE WORLDWIDE PERSECUTED CHURCH IN PRAYER**



Three Iranian Christian converts have been sentenced to a combined total of over 40 years in prison. Nargas age 37, pregnant with her first child, has been sentenced to 16 years, Abbas, age 48, 15 years and Mehran, age 37, 10 years. They also received fines. Their punishments are mainly for house church involvement and reflects an increasing crackdown by the Iranian authorities on converts. Please pray for their protection, their health, including that of Nargas' unborn child, and that the Holy Spirit will strengthen them in their faith despite the harsh prison conditions they will face. Please pray too for wisdom for underground churches in the face of this latest bout of persecution.

Sasha became a Christian in Bangladesh when she was twelve, when she, her mum and aunt experienced miraculous healings. She kept her faith in Jesus secret from her Hindu father, but, at the age of 18 he discovered her copy of the gospels and started beating her then forced her to burn the gospels. She cried and begged against this but eventually had to comply. He continued beating her only stopping on the instruction that if he saw her near a church he would kill her. In her culture, Sasha is expected to be obedient to her father. As a young woman she is vulnerable and scared. Despite these risks, she still meets secretly with other Christian girls to pray and read the Bible in her own language. Please pray for Sasha and many other girls like her who are in fear yet maintain their belief in Jesus. Please pray for fathers like Sasha's to learn to love their child in the choices they make. Amen

**Safeguarding Mobile Contact Number: 07759 230927**

This the number to call if you need to share something with me, seek advice or raise a concern. **Sally**

For the moment please contact [hinkley872@btinternet.com](mailto:hinkley872@btinternet.com) for Baptisms, Banns of Marriage, Weddings and Funerals

The Diocesan website can be accessed via this link:- <https://www.chichester.anglican.org/>

You can subscribe to the Diocesan e-news via this link:-

<https://diochi.us4.listmanage.com/subscribe/post?u=7a86e90c11bd11bb3e7fe22e6&id=1b2e7005c3>

Deadline for the next Newsletter is Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025. Please send Items via email to [newsletter@stjohnshollington.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@stjohnshollington.co.uk)