

# **GOOD NEWS**



**The parish magazine of  
St John's Church, Preston, Brighton**

**October 2025**

**50p**

# ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, PRESTON, BRIGHTON

Knole Road, Brighton BN1 6RB

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

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**BAPTISMS and MARRIAGES** by appointment

# From Rev'd Emma

*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit . . .*

*Matthew 28:19*

These are words from what's known as the Great Commission at the end of Matthew's Gospel. As Priests, it is both a joy and a privilege to be able to do just that: to baptise in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. And it's a great joy to begin this month of October with a baptism, especially as baptism is a celebration by the whole church community. In the Pastoral Introduction to baptism, we read:

*The wider community of the local church and friends welcome the new Christian, promising support and prayer for the future. Hearing and doing these things provides an opportunity to remember our own baptism and reflect on the progress made on that journey, which is now to be shared with this new member of the Church.*

As with many things in the church, there are no 'hard and fast rules' about who can baptise, so as with many things in the church, we depend on 'Scripture, Tradition and Reason' to inform our practice and decisions. In the Diocese of Chichester, the three Bishops prefer adult candidates for baptism to be baptised by them at the same time as Confirmation, but as Priests, we can baptise adults if there are strong pastoral reasons to do so, on the understanding that they will be confirmed at the first opportunity. So on Wednesday 8 October, you're invited to celebrate a confirmation too at St Peter's, West Blatchington! There are so many candidates (34!) that the venue has had to change to accommodate all of them and their supporters.

This month, I'll leave you to reflect on the whole Pastoral Introduction to baptism:

Baptism marks the beginning of a journey with God which continues for the rest of our lives, the first step in response to God's love. For all involved, particularly the candidates but also parents, godparents and sponsors, it is a joyful moment when we rejoice in what God has done for us in Christ, making serious promises and declaring the faith. The wider community of the local church and friends welcome the new Christian, promising support and prayer for the future. Hearing and doing these things provides an opportunity to remember our own baptism and reflect on

the progress made on that journey, which is now to be shared with this new member of the Church.

The service paints many vivid pictures of what happens on the Christian way. There is the sign of the cross, the badge of faith in the Christian journey, which reminds us of Christ's death for us. Our 'drowning' in the water of baptism, where we believe we die to sin and are raised to new life, unites us to Christ's dying and rising, a picture that can be brought home vividly by the way the baptism is administered. Water is also a sign of new life, as we are born again by water and the Spirit. This reminds us of Jesus' baptism. And as a sign of that new life, there may be a lighted candle, a picture of the light of Christ conquering the darkness of evil. Everyone who is baptised walks in that light for the rest of their lives.

As you pray for the candidates, picture them with yourself and the whole Church throughout the ages, journeying into the fullness of God's love.

**Jesus said, 'I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.'**

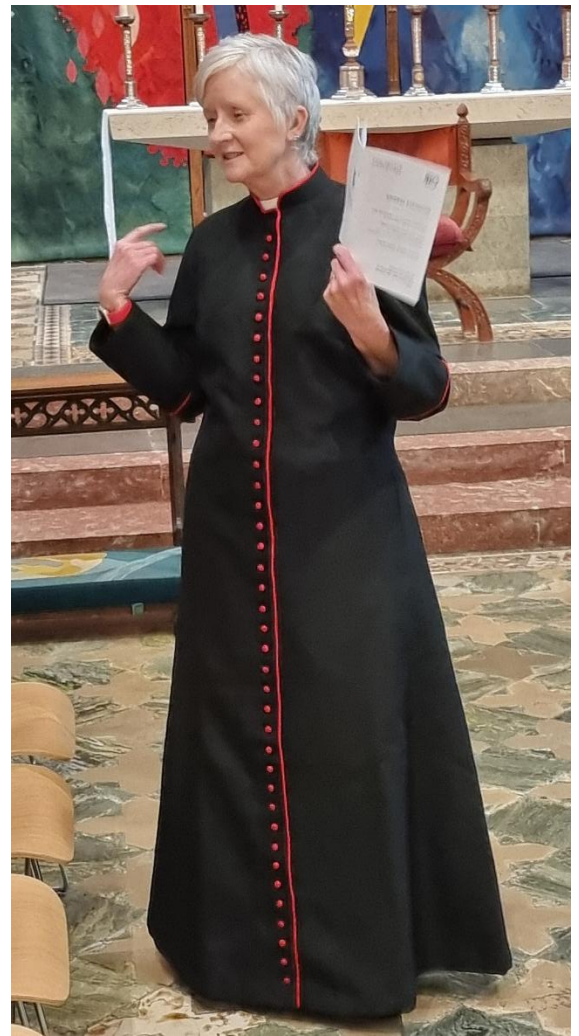
*John 10.10*

XX

On Sunday 28 September a group of us attended Choral Evensong at Chichester Cathedral when Rev'd Emma was installed as Canon and commissioned as Associate Archdeacon for Diversity & Inclusion







## The Friend at Midnight

As we remember St Luke this month, let's note that one of the major themes in his gospel is prayer. Jesus tells the *Parable of the Friend at Midnight* (Luke 11:5-8) in the context of teaching His disciples to pray (1).

### ***Pray Shamelessly:***

In the parable a man approaches his friend at midnight and asking: *'Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'* (5-6). Despite the hour, the rules of hospitality mean that this is not an unreasonable request. Jesus says, *'though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness he will rise and give him whatever he needs'* (8). Jesus is telling us to approach our heavenly Father in *'shameless boldness'* with our needs. As adopted children we should have no

hesitancy in coming to talk with our Father. It is not God who is reluctant to answer, but we to ask. Do we pray with shameless boldness?

***Pray Persistently:***

Like children we should be persistent in our requests: *'Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.'* (9). All three verbs indicate a continual habit: *'Keep on asking...seeking...knocking'*. We will not be content simply to ask once and then move on. Jesus tells us to bring our prayers to God persistently. Do we give up too easily in prayer?

***Pray Expectantly:***

*'For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.'* (10). Are we expectant in our prayers, believing that God delights in meeting our requests? Why not begin this adventure of prayer today!

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## *Could this be you?*

Are you someone who reaches for a sudoku rather than crossword? Are you more a Carol Vorderman than a Suzi Dent? Are you that wonderful friend at the end of an evening in a restaurant, who works out how to split the bill?

We're looking for someone who likes solving conundrums, whilst creating opportunities for the developing life of our church; for someone who would enjoy working with others on the PCC to turn scarcity into abundance.

If any of these resonate with you, you might be the person we're looking for to help St John's move into the next phase of growth within our community, within God's community.

We're not looking for an accountant. We're not looking for a bookkeeper. We're not even looking for a payroll or Gift Aid officer - we're blessed with lovely people who do these already.

We need someone who likes figures and can take an overview of the parish finances, keeping an eye on the budget of the church and the halls, and apply for grants etc. They won't be working alone, but will be supported by the PCC to develop financial plans to ensure St John's resources are effectively managed.

Could this person be you?!      If you might be interested, please speak to Rev'd Emma.

# Saturday 11 October

2.00pm in the church



Come as a team or join one  
when you arrive.  
All proceeds to church funds.

# From Sue's Kitchen

## Walnut Rock Cakes

4oz butter  
5oz flour  
4oz caster sugar  
1tsp orange zest  
2oz chopped walnuts

Cream the butter and sugar together, until light and fluffy.  
Fold in the flour, orange zest and chopped walnuts to form a stiff dough  
Place in small heaps on a greased and floured baking tray.  
Bake for 10 to 15 minutes, until golden brown, at Gas mark 4 / 180° C.  
Remove from the tray and place on a wire rack.



## *Jars appeal ...*

Immediately after Christmas sees the start of marmalade making season so I would be pleased to receive 1lb (454 gm), 12oz (340 gm) and 8oz (226 gm) jam jars - sorry not coffee, pickle or sauce jars/bottles as these are not suitable. Earlier this year I made 63 jars and this has not been enough for everybody with some people suffering from withdrawal symptoms having run out of Carole's marmalade. I should like to make more jars for 2026 but am limited by the number of empty jars I get to recycle. The marmalade sale will probably take place sometime in March after 10.00 service. Thank you in advance.

*Carole Copelin*



**BRIGHTON AND HOVE CHRISTIANS TOGETHER LECTURE 2025**

# The Legacy of Nicaea

## Rev Dr Susan Durber

**7.00PM 10 OCTOBER, FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS  
CHAPEL ROYAL, 164 NORTH STREET, BRIGHTON, BN1 1EA**



2025 marks 1700 years since the  
ground-breaking Ecumenical  
Council at Nicaea in 325.

Dr Durber reflects on the legacy of  
the Council  
and its resonance for  
faith, unity and mission  
in today's Church.

Rev Dr Susan Durber is a minister  
in the United Reformed Church and  
the World Council of Churches  
President from Europe. She has  
served local churches, as Principal  
of Westminster College in  
Cambridge, and as Theology Advisor  
for Christian Aid.

To confirm your attendance at this free event, please  
book on Eventbrite using the link or QR code  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/brighton-and-hove-christians-together-lecture-2025-tickets-1654127543009?aff=oddttdtcreator>



# *Read this when I've gone*

When this old bag of bones is done  
and in a box it goes,  
Don't grieve too much even if  
it leaves behind some holes.

Surprise, surprise! I'm still alive –  
More than I was before,  
I'm free, rejoicing, full of praise,  
wonder, life, and yet more.

Any rubbish in my baggage: dumped –  
I saw it disappear.  
Lists of failures went with it too.  
Love said, 'Come, do not fear'.

Life is suddenly much more real,  
colours vivid, people at one;  
Relationships healed, no more tears,  
pain abolished, heartache gone.

Please join me in thankfulness  
for life without measure.  
No need for hiding or pretence,  
Nowt to spoil the pleasure.

The total love unfolding here  
always surrounds us all.  
Don't be so busy or so deaf  
You do not hear His call.

It's Jesus made this possible;  
He died in our place.  
He's risen to show he's conquered death.  
Free love for us: that's grace!

*Written by Lynn Miller who died on 3 October 2024.*

# *All Hallows Eve – or Holy Evening*

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots with the Celtic peoples of pre-Christian times.

In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Celts celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End'. The priests, or Druids, performed ceremonies to thank and honour the sun. For there was a very dark side to all this: Samhain also signalled the onset of winter, a time when it was feared that unfriendly ghosts, nature-spirits, and witches roamed the earth, creating mischief. So the Druid priests lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off or appease these dark supernatural powers.

Then the Romans arrived, and brought their Harvest Festival which honoured the Goddess Pomona with gifts of apples and nuts. The two festivals slowly merged.

When Christianity arrived still later, it began to replace the Roman and Druid religions. 1<sup>st</sup> November - All Saints' Day - was dedicated to all Christian Martyrs and Saints who had died. It was called 'All Hallows' Day'. The evening before became an evening of prayer and preparation and was called 'All Hallows' Eve', The Holy Evening, later shortened to 'Halloween'.

For many centuries, however, fear of the supernatural remained strong. During the Middle Ages, animal costumes and frightening masks were worn to ward off the evil spirits of darkness on Halloween. Magic words and charms were used to keep away bad luck, and everybody believed that witches ride about on broomsticks. Fortune telling was popular, and predicting the future by the use of nuts and apples was so popular that Halloween is still sometimes known as Nutcrack Night or Snap-Apple Night.

Today, Christians have learned to turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve, should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.





Wednesday 11:30-1:00pm  
Followed by lunch @ junk food café

Tel: 07900 902952  
Email: [DASHBrighton@hotmail.com](mailto:DASHBrighton@hotmail.com)  
Facebook: DASHbrighton

St Luke's Prestonville  
64 Old Shoreham Road  
Brighton, BN1 6DL



# Readings & Collects

## Sunday 5 October – 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity

**Readings**     *Habakkuk 1: 1-4; 2: 1-4*     *2 Timothy 1: 1-14*     *Luke 17: 5-10*

### Collect

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers  
of your people who call upon you;  
and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do,  
and also have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen

## Sunday 12 October – 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity

**Readings**     *2 Kings 5: 1-3, 7-15c*     *2 Timothy 2: 8-15*     *Luke 17: 11-19*

### Collect

Almighty God,  
you have made us for yourself,  
and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you:  
pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself,  
and so bring us at the last to your heavenly city  
where we shall see you face to face;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen

## **Sunday 19 October – 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**Readings**     *Genesis 32: 22-31*     *2 Timothy 3: 14 – 4: 5*     *Luke 18: 1-8*

### **Collect**

Almighty and everlasting God,  
increase in us your gift of faith  
that, forsaking what lies behind  
and reaching out to that which is before,  
we may run the way of your commandments  
and win the crown of everlasting joy;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen

## **Sunday 26 October – Last Sunday after Trinity**

**Reading**     *Ecclesiasticus 35: 12-17*     *2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18*     *Luke 18: 9-14*

### **Collect**

Blessed Lord,  
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:  
help us so to hear them,  
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them  
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,  
we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life,  
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen

## **Sunday 2 November – All Saints’ Day**

**Readings**     *Daniel 7: 1-3, 15-18   Ephesians 1: 11-end   Luke 6: 20-31*

### **Collect**

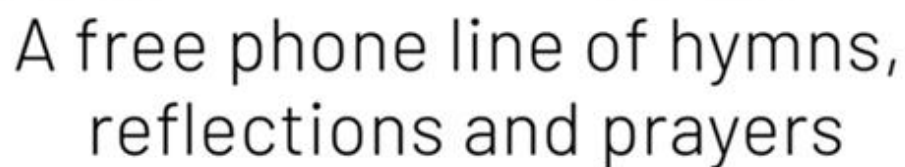
Almighty God,  
you have knit together your elect  
in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord:  
grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints  
in all virtuous and godly living  
that we may come to those inexpressible joys  
that you have prepared for those who truly love you;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen

## **Sunday 9 November – Remembrance Sunday**

**Readings**     *Job 19: 23-27a   2 Thessalonians 2: 1-5,13-end   Luke 20: 27-38*

### **Collect**

Almighty Father,  
whose will is to restore all things  
in your beloved Son, the King of all:  
govern the hearts and minds of those in authority,  
and bring the families of the nations,  
divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin,  
to be subject to his just and gentle rule;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen



0800 804 8044



[www.faithinlaterlife.org](http://www.faithinlaterlife.org)



# Messy Church at St John's

is on the second Sunday of the month from 4.00 to 5.00pm in the church

Each month there is a bible story, crafts and activities,  
and afternoon tea with sandwiches & cake!

*Sunday 12 October*

## Sunday 9 November



# Brighton Bike Hub

is delivering 3 Adult Cycle Training Sessions:

05, 12, 19 October

12:30 - 2:30pm

If you would like to attend any of these sessions, please register using the Eventbrite link.

The meeting place for these will be in the north east corner of Preston Park, at the south east corner of the Velodrome.

These free sessions are open to all adults in Brighton & Hove, donations welcome.

Returnable £1 donation needed to book.

There will be 3 groups: beginners, park based and road based.

Bikes, helmets and hi-viz are provided, and people are welcome to bring their own bikes too.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/brighton-bike-hub-75876059333>

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Dear Lord,

So far today, I am doing all right.

I have not gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish,  
or self-indulgent.

I have not whined, complained, or cursed.

I have not charged on my credit card or eaten any chocolate.

However, I am going to get out of bed in a few minutes, and I will need a  
lot more help after that!

Amen.



# VOICES OF POWER

## Black History Month Concert 2025

Saturday 25th October 2–6 pm



Come and celebrate Black history, culture and heritage through music, food and storytelling. This inclusive event welcomes **everyone** to come together in

**SOLIDARITY, PRIDE & HOPE.**

Tickets from £5 can be purchased via the QR code or Church Office.

Donations to raise funds for community projects that support Black History and Culture can also be made via the QR code

**B:M**  
**2025**



Hove Methodist Church  
Portland Road  
email or call for more information:  
office@hovemethodistchurch.co.uk  
01273 324 600

## *William Tyndale, Bible translator and Reformation martyr*

Tyndale was an outstanding English scholar, translator and martyr of the Reformation.

William Tyndale (c. 1494 - 6<sup>th</sup> October 1536) was born near Gloucester and studied at Oxford and Cambridge. He could speak seven languages and was proficient in ancient Hebrew and Greek. As a priest, his abilities would have taken him a long way, but by 1523 Tyndale's only desire was to translate the Bible, so that English men and women could read it for themselves. It became his life's passion.

For Tyndale had rediscovered a vital doctrine that the Church had been ignoring: that of justification by faith. He had found it when reading Erasmus's Greek edition of the New Testament. In fact, his life's work was well summed up in some words of his mentor, Erasmus: "Christ desires His mysteries to be published abroad as widely as possible. I would that [the Gospels and the epistles of Paul] were translated into all languages, of all Christian people, and that they might be read and known."

Tyndale's translation was the first Bible to be published in English, the first to draw directly from Hebrew and Greek texts, and the first English translation to take advantage of the printing press.

It was to cost him his life. For Tyndale's work was seen as a direct challenge to the power of both the Roman Catholic Church and the laws of England in maintaining the Church's position.

When the authorities had tried to stop his translation, Tyndale fled to Hamburg, Wittenberg, Cologne, and finally to the Lutheran city of Worms. It was there, in 1525, his New Testament emerged. It was quickly smuggled into England, and King Henry VIII, Cardinal Wolsey, and others, were furious.

Tyndale moved on to Antwerp, where for nine more years he continued his work. Then in May 1535 he was betrayed, arrested, and jailed in a castle near Brussels. Tied to the stake for strangulation and burning, his dying prayer was that the King of England's eyes would be opened. Sure enough, two years later King Henry authorised the Great Bible for the Church of England, which relied largely on Tyndale's work.

Not only that, but in 1611, the 54 scholars who produced the King James Bible drew very heavily from Tyndale. Even today we honour him: in 2002, Tyndale was placed at number 26 in the BBC's poll of 100 Greatest Britons.

# CURRENT NEEDS LIST

**TINNED MEAT** - Spam, Corned beef, Meatballs, Mince, Steak, Chicken Curry, Hot dogs, Ham

**TINNED FISH** - Tuna, Mackerel, Sardines, Salmon

**TINNED VEGETABLES** - Sweetcorn, Potatoes, Carrots, Peas

**TINNED TOMATOES & PASSATA**

**TINNED PULSES**

**PASTA & CURRY SAUCES**

**NOODLES & RICE** - Including microwave options

**TINNED FRUIT**

**TINNED DESSERTS** - Custard, Evaporated milk, Rice Pudding

**INSTANT COFFEE**

**SOMETHING TO MAKE OUR CLIENTS SMILE**



Thank you so much for your amazing support.

*There is a collection basket at the back of the church for your donations. Thank you.*



# CALENDAR

## OCTOBER

Wednesday 1	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
	10.00 am	Said Eucharist
	10.45 am	Preston Coffee Pot
Thursday 2	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
Friday 3	2.00 pm	Friday Club
		<i>Talk/Video ~ Paul Green</i>
Sunday 5	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist
		Ministry of prayer for healing
Tuesday 7	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
Wednesday 8	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
	10.00 am	Said Eucharist
	10.45 am	Preston Coffee Pot
Thursday 9	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
Saturday 11	2.00 pm	Quiz with Afternoon Tea <i>in the church</i>
Sunday 12	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist
Tuesday 14	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
	2.30 pm	Bible Study Group
Wednesday 15	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
	10.00 am	Said Eucharist
	10.45 am	Preston Coffee Pot
	7.30 pm	PCC Meeting
Thursday 16	8.00 am	Morning Prayer

Friday 17	2.00 pm	Friday Club <i>Brighton through the 1960s ~ Chris Horlock</i>
Sunday 19	10.00 am	All-Age Worship <i>The flowers today are in memory of Jean Haywood</i>
Tuesday 21	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
Wednesday 22	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
	10.00 am	Said Eucharist
	10.45 am	Preston Coffee Pot
Thursday 23	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 26	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist <i>The flowers today are in memory of Frances Mary O'Malley</i>
Tuesday 28	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
	2.30 pm	Bible Study Group
Wednesday 29	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
	10.00 am	Said Eucharist
	10.45 am	Preston Coffee Pot
Thursday 30	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
Friday 31	2.00 pm	Friday Club <i>Offenbach the King of Operetta ~ Ian Gledhill</i>

## NOVEMBER

Sunday 2	ALL SAINTS' DAY	
	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist Ministry of prayer for healing
Tuesday 4	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
Wednesday 5	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
	10.00 am	Said Eucharist
	10.45 am	Preston Coffee Pot

Thursday 6      8.00 am      Morning Prayer

Sunday 9      REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY  
10.00 am      Parish Eucharist  
4.00 pm      Messy Church



to  
Carrie Donohoe and  
Sue O'Malley on the 11<sup>th</sup>  
Lisa Williamson on the 12<sup>th</sup>  
Peter Robinson on the 19<sup>th</sup>  
Samantha Asher on the 21<sup>st</sup>  
Sue Nye on the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
and  
Joan Whitwell on the 25<sup>th</sup>

UPCOMING events

Saturday 29 November

**CHRISTMAS FAYRE**



CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL

CHORAL EVENSONG FOR  
**BLACK HISTORY  
MONTH**

Sun 5 Oct (3.00pm)

Join Chichester Cathedral and the  
Diocese of Chichester for a **special  
service to mark Black History  
Month**, with Preacher the Bishop of  
Lewes, The Right Reverend William  
Hazlewood.

 **CHICHESTERCATHEDRAL.ORG.UK**

Chichester Cathedral, Chichester, PO19 1PX

Charity Number: 1205740



# MONKS IN THE CITY

St John the Baptist Church  
2 Bristol Rd, BRIGHTON, BN2 1AP

*Season 7 dates and times*

*From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025*

*Unless stated please feel free to just turn up*

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## SATURDAY SANCTUARY

Take time out to reflect and pray with the monks

4<sup>th</sup> Oct; 1<sup>st</sup> Nov - 10:45am -12:45pm

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## MONK TALKS

**Monk Talks - Living the Benedictine Life**

16<sup>th</sup> Sept - 'Life as an Oblate' Bishop Richard Moth, Bishop of Arundel & Brighton

28<sup>th</sup> Oct - 'The enclosed monastic life' A nun from St Mildred's Priory, Minster Abbey

18<sup>th</sup> Nov - 'The Lay Benedictine life' Adam Simon, Leader of the Lay Community of St Benedict

6pm Evening Prayer, 6.30pm simple supper, 7pm Talk

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## MIDDAY STILLNESS – From 12<sup>th</sup> Sept to 12<sup>th</sup> Dec

Drop in Fridays between 12noon - 1pm for a time of music, prayer and reflection with a monk, stay as long as you like.

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## SPECIAL EVENTS

Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Oct Vespers for the Solemnity of St Philip Howard, 4pm

Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov Vespers for the Solemnity of Christ the King, 4pm

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Dec an Advent Retreat Day, 10:10am – 3pm (Booking requested)

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## PRAY WITH US

Morning Prayer 9am Mon - Sat

Evening Prayer 6pm Mon - Thurs

5pm Sat, Sun

For more details, please use the QR code to visit our website:  
or phone: 07444 802368



www.monksinthecity.uk

# PRESTON FRIDAY CLUB



Crowhurst Community Centre,  
Knogle Road, Brighton BN1 6RB  
*[behind Knogle Hall]*

Alternate Friday afternoons in term time  
2.00pm to 4.00pm

Talks, activities, tea & chat with friends



Friday 3 October  
*Talk/Video ~ Paul Green*

Friday  
*Talk 17 October*  
*Brighton through the 1960s ~ Chris Horlock*

Friday 31  
*Offenbach, the King of Operetta ~ Ian Gledhill*

*Happily, the Church of England still retains some singular parish clergy. Take the parish of St James-the-Least in the county of C- for example. Here the elderly Anglo-Catholic vicar, Eustace, continues his correspondence to Darren, his nephew, a low-church curate recently ordained...*

## ***On what those adverts from parishes wanting clergy REALLY mean...***

The Rectory

St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

So, you are being encouraged to look at adverts for parishes for that happy day when you will have charge of your own church. You wonder if you should look to moving to another part of the country; I suspect it may be better if you look to moving to another planet, as your reputation may not yet have travelled that far.

Reading the specifications that parishes provide, giving a picture of life in their community, need to be read in the same way as estate agents' specifications for houses for sale. Both demonstrate a triumph of optimism over reality. Let me help you decode some of the statements you will find:

"We look to grow our Sunday School" – We do not have a Sunday School.

"Our youth group is always eager to learn" - Our youth group experiments with some strange substances.

"While cherishing our traditions, we see the need for change" – We always see the need for change, but alter anything at your peril.

"Plans for church renovations are in hand" – The building is in imminent danger of collapse.

"We have a large range of church groups" – You will have to run a large range of church groups singlehandedly.

"The vicarage is being refurbished" – The vicarage is a death trap. Its rising damp and dangerous electrics will not be fixed for many months yet.

“There is opportunity for developing ecumenical relations” – No one in living memory has ever spoken to clergy of other denominations in our town.

“The new incumbent should have a sense of humour” – He or she will need it when reading this specification.

My dear nephew, *caveat emptor*. Let the buyer beware!

Your loving uncle,  
Eustace



## *Millions are still available to help Listed Places of Worship*

Almost three-quarters of the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme funding remains available for the 2025-26 period.

With seven months still to go in which applications can be made, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) says that - of the £23 million available — £5,498,850 has been used to date, and there is currently £591,237 worth of claims in progress.

The 2025-26 scheme will close on 31 March 2026, or once the £23-million cap has been reached, whichever is earlier. According to Church House, at least 38 churches and cathedrals are undertaking initiatives at an estimated cost of more than £2 million.



## *Listening*

While visiting a cathedral recently, I couldn't hear the service over the chatter of the two people sitting in front of me. Finally, I tapped one of them on the shoulder. "Excuse me," I said, "I can't hear."

The reply was swift and indignant. "I should hope not! This is a private conversation."

# ST JOHN'S

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## *A quiz for the foodies among us this month ...*

- 1 What is the most commonly eaten fruit in the world?  
a) Banana    b) Apple   c) Grape
- 2 What is the main ingredient in hummus?  
a) Tahini    b) Chickpeas    c) Lentils
- 3 What type of pastry is used to make a Beef Wellington?  
a) Phyllo Pastry   b) Choux pastry   c) Puff pastry
- 4 Which vegetable has the highest water content?  
a) Lettuce    b) Cucumber    c) Celery
- 5 Which nut is added to chocolate to make Nutella?  
a) Almonds    b) Peanuts    c) Hazelnuts
- 6 Which cheese is usually found in fondue?  
a) Gruyère    b) Emmenthal    c) Gouda
- 7 Which fast food outlet has the most stores?  
a) Kentucky Fried Chicken    b) Subway    c) McDonalds
- 8 Which cabbage dish is a staple in Korean cuisine?  
a) Sauerkraut    b) Kimchi    c) Coleslaw
- 9 Maria Ann Smith is credited with growing the first Granny Smith apple.  
In which country was her orchard?  
a) England    b) Canada    c) Australia
- 10 What type of seafood is used in the Spanish dish paella?  
a) Shrimp    b) Prawn    c) Crayfish
- 11 What type of cheese is traditionally used in tiramisu?  
a) Ricotta    b) Mascarpone    c) Parmesan
- 12 What wine grape is the most widely planted in the world?  
a) Chardonnay    b) Pinot Noir    c) Cabernet Sauvignon

- 13 What sauce is used to make Eggs Benedict?  
a) Béarnaise      b) Hollandaise      c) Béchamel
- 14 The UK's oldest recorded cheese is mentioned in the Domesday Book.  
What is it?   a) Stilton      b) Cheddar   c) Cheshire
- 15 What is the only fruit with seeds on the outside?  
a) Blackberry      b) Strawberry      c) Raspberry
- 16 Which food contains the most calories per gram?  
a) Avocado      b) Pistachio      c) Chocolate
- 17 What is the staple food of almost one third of the world's population?  
a) Wheat      b) Lentils      c) Rice
- 18 What meat is traditional used in a cottage pie?  
a) Lamb      b) Beef      c) Pork
- 19 What is nori, the traditional sushi wrapping, made from?  
a) Seaweed   b) Rice paper      c) Bamboo leaves
- 20 What is the most stolen grocery item worldwide?  
a) Bread      b) Tea      c) Cheese

*Can you unscramble these different foodie anagrams?*

- |                               |                               |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 21 BAD MAN GNASHERS (7,3,4)   | 26 ICED DRIP GUN (4,7)        |
| 22 SEE ACE HECK (10)          | 27 HER SHEEP DIPS (9,3)       |
| 23 SHAGGIEST NOBLE POET (9,9) | 28 SCRUB HOST SON (3,4,5)     |
| 24 FIND HIS CHAPS (4,3,4)     | 29 FAREWELL USE CHOICE (11,6) |
| 25 SOUL BURST PRESS (7,7)     | 30 ASSUAGE (7)                |

## *And the answers to last month's book/TV quiz ...*

1. Gerald Campion played which overweight pupil of Greyfriars school?  
b) Billy Bunter
2. What type of entertainer was David Nixon? c) Magician
3. In *Upstairs Downstairs* what was the name of the family who owned 165 Eaton Place? a) Bellamy
4. Which fictional detective had a manservant called Magersfontein Lugg?  
a) Campion
5. What was the title of the sequel to *Porridge*? b) Going Straight
6. Who played the part of Rowdy Yates in *Rawhide*? b) Clint Eastwood
7. Which TV comedy series was set in a Leisure Centre? b) The Brittas Empire
8. Which girl's school was created by Ronald Searle? d) St Trinian's
9. Which comedian wrote the book *Adolf Hitler - my part in his downfall*?  
b) Spike Milligan
10. Which novel by James Joyce deals with the events of 16th June 1904 in Dublin?  
d) Ulysses
11. In which county were Jane Austin & Charles Dickens born? b) Hampshire
12. What type of books does Patricia Highsmith write? a) Crime
13. Which story has the alternative title, *The Modern Prometheus*?  
b) Frankenstein
14. Crockfords is a reference book relating to which group of people? b) Clergy
15. How many tales are told In Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*? c) 24
16. Who wrote the novel *The strange case of Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde*?  
c) Robert Louis Stevenson
17. In which Shakespeare play is the jester, *Feste*? d) Twelfth Night
18. What was Dick Francis's profession before he took up writing? c) Jockey
19. Where does *Postman Pat* live? c) Greendale

20. Who wrote the novels *Bear Island* and *Puppet on a Chain*?

d) Alistair Maclean

*Can you unscramble these BOOK related words?*

21. L I T T E      G E A P      TITLE PAGE

22. P A D P I X E N      APPENDIX

23. N I B G I N D      BINDING

24. C R O V E      COVER

25. P A T C H E R      CHAPTER

26. O L I O F      FOLIO

27. E N I P S      SPINE

28. N I X E D      INDEX

29. F R O D O W E R      FOREWORD

30. T R I N U S C A M P      MANUSCRIPT



## *Plastic carrier bags*

This year marks ten years since England introduced the 5p charge for single-use plastic carrier bags. The charge has had a dramatic effect – with a reduction of 98% in sales.

In 2014, 7.6 billion single-use plastic bags were sold in the UK. By 2023, 133 million single-use bags had been sold in the major supermarkets. The average person in the UK now buys only about two single-use plastic bags per year.



## *Who is God?*

During a youth service, the minister asked if anyone could tell her who God is. One youngster waved a hand, and ventured: “Isn’t God the man who saves the King?”



# CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

<b>MESSY CHURCH</b>	Every second Sunday (except August & December) in the church 4.00 - 6.00 pm	
<b>FLOWERS</b>	Contact the Church Office	07847 352889 office@brightonstjohn.org.uk
<b>HALLS/CHURCH for HIRE</b>	Halls Administrator	07847 352889 halls@brightonstjohn.org.uk
<b>PRESTON COFFEE POT</b>	Every Wednesday after the 10.00 am service	
<b>FRIDAY CLUB</b>	Crowhurst Community Centre alternate Fridays in term time 2.00 - 4.00 pm	Sue O'Malley 01273 700150
<b>THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY</b>	Judith Lawson	
<b>6<sup>th</sup> / 7<sup>th</sup> PRESTON PARK GUIDES - Crowhurst Community Centre</b>		
<b>Rainbow Guides</b>	Tuesday in term time 5.30 – 6.30 pm Wednesday in term time 5.30 - 6.30 pm	Mrs Jackie Vidler girlguiding.org.uk
<b>Brownie Guides</b>	Tuesday in term time 6.15 - 7.45 pm	Ms Jo Mander girlguiding.org.uk
<b>Guides</b>	Wednesday in term time 6.45 - 8.45 pm	Miss Helen Emerson girlguiding.org.uk

For more information about activities at St John's please see our website  
[www.brightonstjohn.org.uk](http://www.brightonstjohn.org.uk)



If you're able to contribute to St John's on a regular basis, please consider signing up to the Parish Giving Scheme.

For more information: <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/preston-st-john-the-evangelist-brighton/>



St John's is now registered with easyfundraising Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself!  
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[www.brightonstjohn.org.uk](http://www.brightonstjohn.org.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/prestonstjohn](https://www.facebook.com/prestonstjohn)

*Parish Office opening times: Wednesdays & Fridays 9:30am-12pm*

*Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sue Seymour  
[safeguarding@brightonstjohn.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@brightonstjohn.org.uk)*



**St John the Evangelist**  
**Knoyle Road**  
**Brighton BN1 6RB**

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