

St. John's News and Prayers, Sunday 11th January

Baptism of Christ
Welcome to Everyone

Please see the Parish News too.

9.30a.m. All Age Service

Monday 12th January 9.30a.m. Chatterbox Mother and Toddler Group
Wednesday 14th January. 11a.m. St. John's Midweek service

Information from Andy and Marian, our churchwardens

NOTICEBOARDS

Please remember to read the new noticeboards at the back of the church.

Also, there is a newer wheelchair available at the back of the church.

BANNERS

We, as churchwardens, would like to hear from anyone who could look after the banners. This would include keeping them in good order, changing them when the seasons change, (this would take 2 or 3 people), We have dates and information etc. about which banners need to be rotated.

Also, would anyone be interested in making a new banner?

Alpha

You are invited to the Alpha Course at St John's from Tuesday 20th January at 7 p.m. for 1 hour, 30 mins, then every Tuesday Alpha at St John's is a welcoming, 10-week journey exploring life, faith, and meaning through short films and open conversation. It starts on Tuesday 20th January at 7.30pm and runs weekly for ten weeks. To sign up, email Joseph.Shurmer@cofeheartofwight.org

Items most needed by the Foodbank in January

Fruit Juice, Bottles of Squash, Bags / Packets of Rice, Tinned Fruit, Baked Beans, Coffee, Tinned Potatoes / Instant Mash Shaving Gel / Foam, Deodorant, Washing up Liquid

17th January
7pm till 9pm
St John's Church Hall Newport
To help fundraise for
Naomi Hallam
to attend the
World Scout Jamboree in 2027
£2 per book
Or
£10 for 6 book
5 games per book

Isle of Wight Scout Council: Registered Charity Number: 302138

ROMANS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT- THE TOWN CLERK OF EPHESUS

Ephesus was a major city in the Roman Empire situated in modern Turkey. It had many imposing buildings including a magnificent Temple dedicated to the Greek Goddess Diana - Artemis to the Romans. Demetrios was a leading silversmith. Silver ornaments of Diana were a major and profitable product of Ephesus. The success of Paul's 2nd missionary and the growth of Christianity must have caused a decline in the income of the silversmiths. They incite a huge crowd who gather in the Amphitheatre and begin a riot. Some of Paul's followers have been brought there and are in grave danger of being lynched. The unnamed Town Clerk, a powerful administrative figure intervenes. He must have commanded great respect as he speedily calms the excited crowd. He makes a few pithy statements. What is the commotion "Great is Diana of the Ephesians" all about? Everyone knows that Diana is a special Goddess - there is a huge Temple built in her honour. The Christians in the Assembly have done nothing to damage the Temple. Demetrios and his guild of

silversmiths have ample redress in the Law Courts if they wish to press charges against the Christians. Otherwise matters must be conducted in a lawfully convened Public Assembly. By producing Mob Law, he warns, the city faces a major penalty from the Roman Empire - in the form of a huge monetary fine or the loss of special privileges the city enjoys. The crowd slink away. Once again there is no suggestion that the Town Clerk is motivated by love of the Jewish God - he is simply doing his job, ensuring the smooth operation of the city's affairs and keeping it out of trouble. Roman civil administration at its best. JOHN MATTHEWS

St. John's Prayers

- Pray for all who work so hard in our Parish.
- For the family and friends of all those who have died recently, especially our Jennie Ives.
- Give thanks that Edna's son- in- law, Mark, is now back at work.
- For all those who are unwell and their families.
- For all those working in St. Mary's, and all those in our NHS.
- For all those working and volunteering in our Hospice and the patients.
- For all care workers and all those they take care of.
- For the work of our Foodbank.
- For all those who have returned to school and college.
- For all social workers and those families with which they are working.
- For the work of our local council and all our public service workers.
- For those worried and affected by local landslips and road works.
- For our Government and Parliament.
- For attitudes of tolerance, fairness and understanding in our country and the wider world
- For our new Archbishop of Canterbury.
- For Leaders to work together to combat the effects of Climate Change and for all of us to play our part.
- For all those around the world affected by climate change, drought, famine and disease. especially those in East Africa and Sudan.
- For all Relief Agencies in their work around the world and especially, at this time in Palestine.
- For conflict to stop in the Middle East and for all those suffering there.

- For world leaders to work together for just and lasting peace in all parts of the world, especially for Ukraine, Sudan, Iran and Venezuela.
- For swift, sympathetic approaches to refugees.
- For Christians to work together in unity.

Safe from Harm. We take safeguarding seriously. Before working with children or adults at risk in this church, volunteers will have provided references, completed DAB checks and agreed to follow CofE practice, for keeping children or adults at risk, safe. St. John's Safeguarding Officer is Peter Whitlock. Contact him on 07881 950284,

email safeguarding@cofeheartofwight.org

Contact details for St John's Church, St John's Road, Newport, PO30 1LN.

Please now phone the Parish Centre directly on 01983 821961 and messages will be forwarded to St. John's.

email: stjohnadmin@cofeheartofwight.org

Website: www.stjohnsnewport.org

Facebook: [stjohnschurchnewportisleofwight](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnschurchnewportisleofwight)

Wifi password – subject

Please email lizstjohn@gmail.com by Thursday, 12.00, for inclusion in our next newsletter.

You may send items for the next Parish Pew News directly to admin@cofeheartofwight.org by **Wednesday at 12.00** for inclusion in the next edition.

Many Thanks,
Liz