

St. John's News and Prayers, Sunday 22nd February
Sunday next before Lent
Welcome to Everyone
Please see the Parish News too,

9.30a.m. Service of the Word

Monday 23rd February 9.30a.m. Chatterbox Mother and Toddler

Wednesday 25th February 11a.m. Morning Prayer

Alpha

You are invited to St John's every Tuesday at 7.30p.m.
Alpha at St John's is a welcoming, 10-week journey exploring life, faith, and meaning through short films and open conversation.
Contact Joseph.Shurmer@cofeheartofwight.org

EASTER FAIR 2026 – A message from Jane

Hello everyone, our Easter Fair will be held on March 28th 10.00 until 2.00 in the Hall. There will be Stalls, Refreshments and Light Lunches, Raffle and an Easter Activity for Children.

Please will you support this event by coming on the day and, as usual, I will be putting a box at the back of the church for any donations of Easter chocolate, bottles or any gifts you would like to pass on to us. I appreciate the price of chocolate has risen in the last year and eggs are smaller, but anything is welcome.

ROMANS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT – The Roman Soldier

We have now met all the Romans in the New Testament. Most of them have been men of authority, men of integrity and honour, a few of them men of great faith. The image of a Roman soldier is so fixed in the mind of Paul that he uses it as a model in his great passage from Ephesians. Paul uses every part of a Roman soldier's uniform to illustrate Christian truths. Thus, he urges us to put on the full armour of God so that we can make our stand. We are to have the belt of truth buckled around our wrist with the breastplate of righteousness fastened on. Even our feet must be fitted with readiness. In addition to what we are to wear, we must grasp the shield of faith and wear the helmet of salvation and brandish the sword of the Spirit. A perfect picture of how we should appear as soldiers of Christ. JOHN MATTHEWS

Give a Little – Change a Lot: Isle of Wight Foodbank's Lent Appeal

Running throughout the six weeks of Lent, the "Give a Little – Change a Lot" campaign invites people to give up something small and familiar, and use the money saved to donate one or more essential food items.

Ideas for simple Lent sacrifices include:

- Giving up chocolate or sugary snacks
- Cutting back on biscuits, cakes, or desserts
- Skipping a weekly takeaway or coffee out
- Giving up alcohol for Lent
- Reducing fizzy drinks or snacks

The money saved from just one of these small changes can help provide vital food to individuals and families in crisis.

As part of the appeal, the Foodbank is particularly asking for donations of the following six items:

- Tinned Soup, Tinned Spaghetti, Tinned Tomatoes, Potatoes
Tea or Coffee, Easter Eggs

While everyday food essentials are always needed, Easter Eggs are especially important at this time of year, helping ensure children supported by the Foodbank can still enjoy a treat at Easter. "We know that not everyone can give a lot," said a spokesperson for the Isle of Wight Foodbank. "But over the six weeks of Lent, even small sacrifices can add up. Giving up something simple can genuinely change a lot for someone who is struggling."

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 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.

St. John's Prayers

- For the family and friends of all those who have died recently, especially our Jennie Ives.
- For all who work so hard in our Parish.
- For Edna's son-in-law, Mark and his family as they cope with appointments, cancellations and the changes that may result after his accident.
- For all those who are unwell and their families.
- For all those working in St. Mary's, and all those in our NHS.
- For those who work in our Emergency Services.
- 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 at 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, flooding 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, Venezuela and Greenland.
- For swift, sympathetic approaches to refugees.
- For Christians to work together in unity.

Please note this information from Graham.

ONLINE DONATIONS

Every donation to St Johns Church helps us to continue inspiring, supporting and serving our community. You can donate at any time by scanning the QR code below.



As a registered charity, we can claim further 25% of the value of your donation from HMRC. If you are eligible to, please fill in a Gift Aid Envelope or scan the QR code. St Johns Church is part of the Parish of Newport and Carisbrooke and is a registered Charity, number 1170906

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. Thank you, Liz