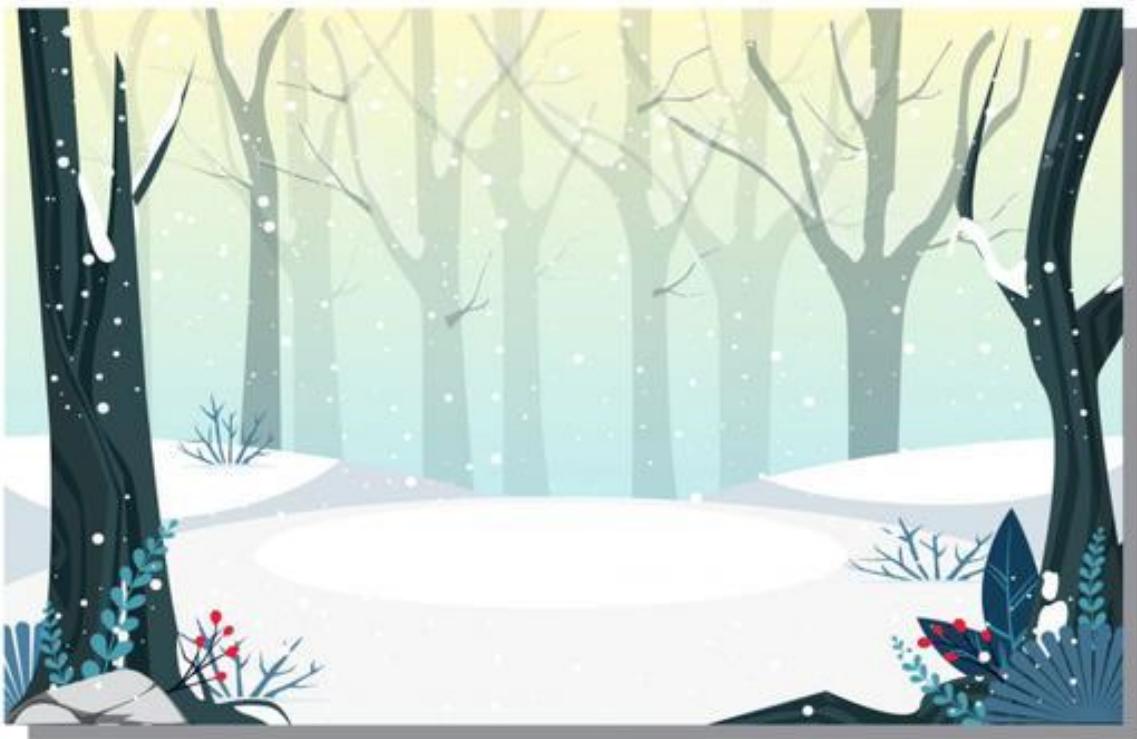


GOOD NEWS



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

February 2026

50p

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, PRESTON, BRIGHTON

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BAPTISMS and **MARRIAGES** by appointment

From Rev'd Anna

Your new year's resolutions, then; how many have you already broken? Every year I have a resolution to give up smoking and because I gave up smoking 10 years ago, I'm guaranteed success from now forward, every year.

New year's re-solutions are almost always about achieving something practical. Perhaps we think if we fix ourselves through these new habits, we will eventually solve the riddle of our lives. But that practical thing everyone seems to be saying really matters. Most of the time, it doesn't matter. You don't really need it. It is sometimes wise to avoid life-hackers, here's howlers, guides, gurus, advice peddlers and weekend workshop punters who insist they are now experts and can fix you. In my experience, most of them know less about my life than the dog, and I don't have a dog.

Here we are in February which arrives like a held breath between winter's retreat and spring's first stirrings. In this liminal month we can sense a need to pay attention to something more than practicalities. The poet Rilke has this to say 'be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves.' This is the question of candlelight at Candlemas, how it illuminates God's presence in ordinary life, and the question in our remembering that we are but dust at Ash Wednesday. These questions have no answers, they are encounters, they are a way of living.

In February let's practice tending questions like seeds, trusting that warmth, time, and faithful attention will coax their meaning into being. Where in this month might you let a question live a little longer before you try to fix it? Questions are not failures; they are the soil in which vocation and wisdom grow.



Happy moments, praise God.
Difficult moments, seek God.
Quiet moments, worship God.
Painful moments, trust God.
Every moment, thank God.

Anon

Candlemas, The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2nd February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present Him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So, where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimitis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimitis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.



Winnie the Pooh and Lent 2026

By the Revd Roy Shaw, a retired but active priest in the diocese of York, where he is a spiritual director.

Remember the Winnie the Pooh stories? And Kanga's insistence on Baby Roo's taking his Strengthening Medicine? It's 'really quite a nice taste when you get used to it', she explained, although I'm not convinced Baby Roo always agreed.

It can be helpful to think of Lent as a sort of medicine; an opportunity to strengthen us in the things that are good, rein in other facets of our personality, and reset the compass to the true North of following Jesus. A Spring-clean of the soul, if you like.

Baby Roo (and Piglet on the one occasion he was subject to it) found Strengthening Medicine not to their liking, and we may groan inwardly at the thought of 'giving up something for Lent'. Think of what lies behind this 'giving up'. It's so that we may be strengthened, our character refined, our prejudices examined, our junk thrown overboard, and we may come to Passontide and Easter more fit to walk the way of the Cross, and rise in new life with Jesus at His Resurrection.

Nor is Lent just a case of giving up chocolate. One year I gave up Facebook for Lent, having spent far too much time scrolling through it each day. It freed me to do other, more constructive things. And instead of giving up, why not take up something you've been meaning to do but never got round to; something life-affirming, something good for God.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year falls on 18th February. Many Christians go public with their intention to keep a good Lent by being 'ashed' - the sign of the Cross made on the forehead in a mixture of ash and holy oil at a special service that day. The ash is usually the burnt remains of the palm crosses from last year. Having been ashed, the intention of the 40 days of Lent is to maintain a steady course closer to God, symbolised by the giving up of something - like chocolate - which has a hold on us. We walk with Jesus on the way to the Cross, mindful of the 'riches of God's kindness, forbearance and patience' as St Paul has it, and mindful too of Jesus' choice of the Cross as a way for us to enter those riches more fully.

And to face the immensity of that sacrifice, and the immensity of God's riches made available to us in Jesus, we need all the Strengthening Medicine we can get!



Silver Eco Church Award Certificate

This is to certify that

St John the Evangelist Church, Brighton

has won a Silver Eco Church Award in recognition of their efforts to care for God's earth in each of the following areas (as applicable):

Worship and Teaching
Management of Buildings and Land
Community and Global Engagement
Lifestyle

Signed

Date

17 January 2026

CEO, A Rocha UK



ecochurch.arocha.org.uk
arocha.org.uk



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

The
Methodist
Church

tearfund

The
United
Reformed
Church

BENEFACT TRUST

Eco Church and Eco Diocese • Equipping us to care for Creation

DIOCESAN ENVIRONMENT DAY

St Peter's Church & Centre, Church Street, Bexhill-on-Sea TN40 2HE

Saturday May 16th • 9.30 am to 4 pm

'Speaking up for Creation'

Keynote Speaker: Polly Eaton, A Rocha UK

Choose workshops • drinks & cake provided • bring your own lunch

The Revd Buff Forbes Stone

Diocesan Environment Officer

environment.officer@chichester.anglican.org

07954 652824



Scan for
Eventbrite



Lent Courses 2026

Tuesdays at 2.30pm

24 February and 3, 10, 27 & 24 March

Led by Sue Crossfield

Thursdays at 7.00pm

26 February and 5, 12, 9, 26 March

Led by Rev'd Anna

All in the Vestry and everyone welcome

How to Handle Temptation

'I can resist everything but temptation' (Oscar Wilde). During Lent we remember Jesus' experience in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11), when *'He was led by the Spirit to be tempted by the devil.'* (1). Temptation is a test of whether we do things our way or God's way. After 40 days of fasting Jesus was tired, hungry and vulnerable. Like Him, the Devil will attack us at our most vulnerable moments, especially when we are stressed.

The first temptation was to turn stones into bread: Jesus' ministry was not about putting His own needs first, but being nourished by God's word. *'We do not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God'* (Deuteronomy 8:3). Like Jesus, we need to make God our priority and trust Him completely.

The second temptation was to put God to the test: Jumping off the Temple pinnacle would have been a dramatic way for Jesus to gain popularity, but this was not God's way! *'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'* (Deuteronomy 6:16). We too need to learn this lesson!

The third temptation was to worship Satan: The devil took Jesus up a mountain to offer Him worldly power. In contrast, His calling as Messiah was to be marked by suffering and honouring God. *'Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only'* (Deuteronomy 6:13). This is to be our experience of living for God.

Jesus stands with us in our temptations. As we claim the promises of Scripture, like Him, we will find strength in the Spirit's power and the victory of the Cross.

Consider these verses:

'Watch and pray, so that you enter not into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.' (Matthew 26:41)

'Since Jesus Himself has endured being tempted, He is able to help those who are tempted.' (Hebrews 2:18)

'Blessed is the man that endures temptation, for when he is tested, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.' (James 1:12)

'If you look at the world, you'll be distressed. If you look within, you'll be depressed. But if you look at Christ, you'll be at rest!' (Corrie Ten Boom).



Saturday 21 February 2026

2.00pm in the church

Afternoon tea will be served

All proceeds to church funds

**Please sign the list at the back of the church
if you would like to come**

From Sue's Kitchen

Cheesy Chicken & Sweetcorn Pie

Makes 4 individual pies

2 medium leeks, trimmed & sliced finely

250g cooked chicken, shredded

110g frozen sweetcorn

100g grated cheddar

1 egg

1 sheet of ready make puff pastry

30g plain flour

300ml chicken stock

300ml milk

1 tsp mustard

Seasoning

Oil for frying

Preheat the oven to 190°C or Gas 5.

Drizzle the oil into a large, nonstick frying pan.

Add the leeks and fry until soft.

Stir in the flour then add the milk and chicken stock slowly, stirring continuously until the sauce thickens.

Add the rest of the ingredients.

Stir well and simmer for 3 minutes.

Divide the mixture into 4 pie dishes.

Cut the pastry to fit the dishes and place on top of the filling, present the pastry round the rims.

Brush with beaten egg and score surface with a sharp knife.

Bake in the oven for 20 to 25 minutes.

Introducing Dame Sarah Mullally - the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury

The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE officially became Archbishop of Canterbury on 28th January 2026, when she was legally confirmed at St Paul's Cathedral.

Most people know that she had been Bishop of London for several years, and that she is the first woman to ever become Archbishop of Canterbury. But what else do you know about her?

She was born in Woking in 1962, and is one of four children, with two sisters and one brother.

She attended Winston Churchill Comprehensive School and Woking Sixth Form College. She went on to South Bank Polytechnic and Heythrop College, University of London

She worked as a nurse in the National Health Service, which she has described as "an opportunity to reflect the love of God". She specialised as a cancer nurse and became a ward sister at Westminster Hospital, before being made Director of Nursing at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital.

In 1999, at the age of 37, she was appointed the Government's Chief Nursing Officer for England in the Department of Health. She was the youngest person ever to be appointed to the post. Bishop Sarah was made a Dame Commander of the British Empire in 2005 in recognition of her outstanding contribution to nursing.

She had become a Christian at the age of 16. While working as the Chief Nursing Officer for England, she discerned a call to ordination and entered training ministry at the South East Institute for Theological Education.

She was ordained in 2001 and served her curacy in St Saviour's Battersea Fields, initially as a self-supporting minister, before leaving her government post in 2004, which she has described at the time as "the biggest decision I have ever made".

In 2012 she was installed as Canon Treasurer at Salisbury Cathedral and three years later took the role as Suffragan Bishop of Crediton in the Diocese of Exeter, the fourth woman to become a Bishop in the Church of England.

On 12th May 2018, Bishop Sarah was installed as the 133rd Bishop of London at St Paul's Cathedral, the first woman to hold the role.

Bishop Sarah sits in the House of Lords as one of the Lords Spirituals, having been introduced on 24th May 2018. Her maiden speech paid tribute to the NHS on its 70th anniversary, telling the Lords: "I am the Bishop I am today because of that first vocation to nursing, and compassion and healing are constants at the heart of who I am."

She was sworn in as a member of the Privy Council in March 2018 and became Dean of Her Majesty's Chapels Royal in July 2019.

As Bishop of London, she led the Church of England's Living in Love and Faith process from 2020 to 2023. This included the formative stages of discernment and decision making which saw the introduction of the Prayers of Love and Faith for same-sex couples.

She has served on the Church's National Safeguarding Steering Group and is also Lead Bishop for Health and Social Care issues.

As a Lord Spiritual, she has drawn from both her pastoral experience and her background in nursing and healthcare and has played a key role in the ongoing debates on assisted dying.

This year, she chaired the Triennium Funding Working Group that developed the Church of England's three-year spending plan that led to significant investments in local churches and parish clergy.

Archbishop Sarah is married to Eamonn, an Irish-born IT and Enterprise Architect who enjoys beekeeping and volunteering as a London tourist guide.

The couple have two grown-up children, Liam and Grace.

Archbishop Sarah has continued her interest in the health service having been a non-executive director at the Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust then at Salisbury NHS Foundation Hospital.

She is Chair of Christian Aid.

She has spoken openly about her dyslexia, describing her difficulties with writing and reading.

In her spare time, she loves cooking, walking and pottery.

The Seven Deadly Sins: Greed

Canon Paul Hardingham continues his seven-part series.

'How much money is enough? Just a little bit more.' (John D Rockefeller).

In the second of our series on the Seven Deadly Sins, we are looking at greed. It is the overwhelming desire for *more and more* in our lives. In our consumer culture it can be hard to tell the difference between needs and wants - e.g. buying a new laptop or shoes for different occasions? We need to ask the question: *How much is enough?*

Jesus was approached by a man who wanted Him to settle a dispute about family inheritance. He said, *'Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.'* (Luke 12:15). Jesus goes on to tell the story of a rich farmer who builds bigger and bigger barns, but whose life is unexpectedly cut short by death. He concludes: *'This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich towards God.'* (21).

How do we overcome greed and become '*rich towards God*'? Paul writes: *'I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.'* (Philippians 4:13). Overcoming greed involves learning to be content in whatever situation we find ourselves, in need or plenty. Paul is not saying that there is anything wrong with having food, money or possessions, but these cannot be the primary source of our contentment. The secret of contentment is found in a transforming relationship with Jesus: *'I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.'* (13). He is the one who enables us to overcome greed and know riches.

'Contentment makes poor men rich; discontent makes rich men poor.' (Benjamin Franklin).



Readings & Collects

Sunday 1 February – Presentation of Christ in the Temple [Candlemas]

Readings

Malachi 3: 1-5 Hebrews 2: 14-end Luke 2: 22-40

Collect

Almighty and ever-living God,
clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple,
in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to you
with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Sunday 8 February – 2nd Sunday before Lent

Readings

Genesis 1: 1 – 2: 3 Romans 8: 18-25 Matthew 6: 25-end

Collect

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things,
now and for ever.

Amen

Sunday 15 February - Sunday next before Lent

Readings

Exodus 24: 12-end 2 Peter 1: 16-end Matthew 17: 1-9

Collect

Almighty God,
who alone can bring order
to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity:
give your people grace
so to love what you command
and to desire what you promise,
that, among the many changes of this world,
our hearts may surely there be fixed
where true joys are to be found;
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 22 February - 1st Sunday of Lent

Readings

Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7 Romans 5: 12-19 Matthew 4: 1-11

Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:
give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness,
so may we know your power to save;
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 1 March – 2nd Sunday of Lent

Readings

Genesis 12: 1-4a Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17 John 3: 1-17

Collect

Almighty God,
you show to those who are in error the light of your truth,
that they may return to the way of righteousness:
grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion,
that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession,
and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;
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 8 March – 3rd Sunday of Lent

Readings

Exodus 17: 1-7 Romans 5: 1-11 John 4: 5-42

Collect

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
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



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

0800 804 8044



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 8 February

Sunday 8 March

Disturb us, Lord

Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true
Because we have dreamed too little,
When we arrived safely
Because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, Lord, when
With the abundance of things we possess
We have lost our thirst
For the waters of life;
Having fallen in love with life,
We have ceased to dream of eternity
And in our efforts to build a new earth,
We have allowed our vision
Of the new Heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
To venture on wider seas
Where storms will show your mastery;
Where losing sight of land,
We shall find the stars.
We ask You to push back
The horizons of our hopes;
And to push into the future
In strength, courage, hope, and love.

Attributed to Sir Francis Drake, 16th Century

Flower Sponsorship

In the past, St John's had a large and thriving flower team, but more recently the responsibility for purchasing, arranging and looking after the flowers has fallen to just one or two willing volunteers, occasionally assisted by one or two others. Therefore, **there will be no more flower sponsorship at St John's after 31 December 2025**. Instead, please let Rev'd Emma know the date of your loved one's anniversary, and their name will be included in the notice sheet so that they can be remembered during the Intercessions that week.

There will still be fresh flowers at St John's at Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, Harvest and Remembrance, as well as posies for Mothering Sunday, and you will be invited to donate towards these in memory of loved ones if you wish to. The names of those to be remembered will be displayed in the church. At other times, the silk flowers will be used.

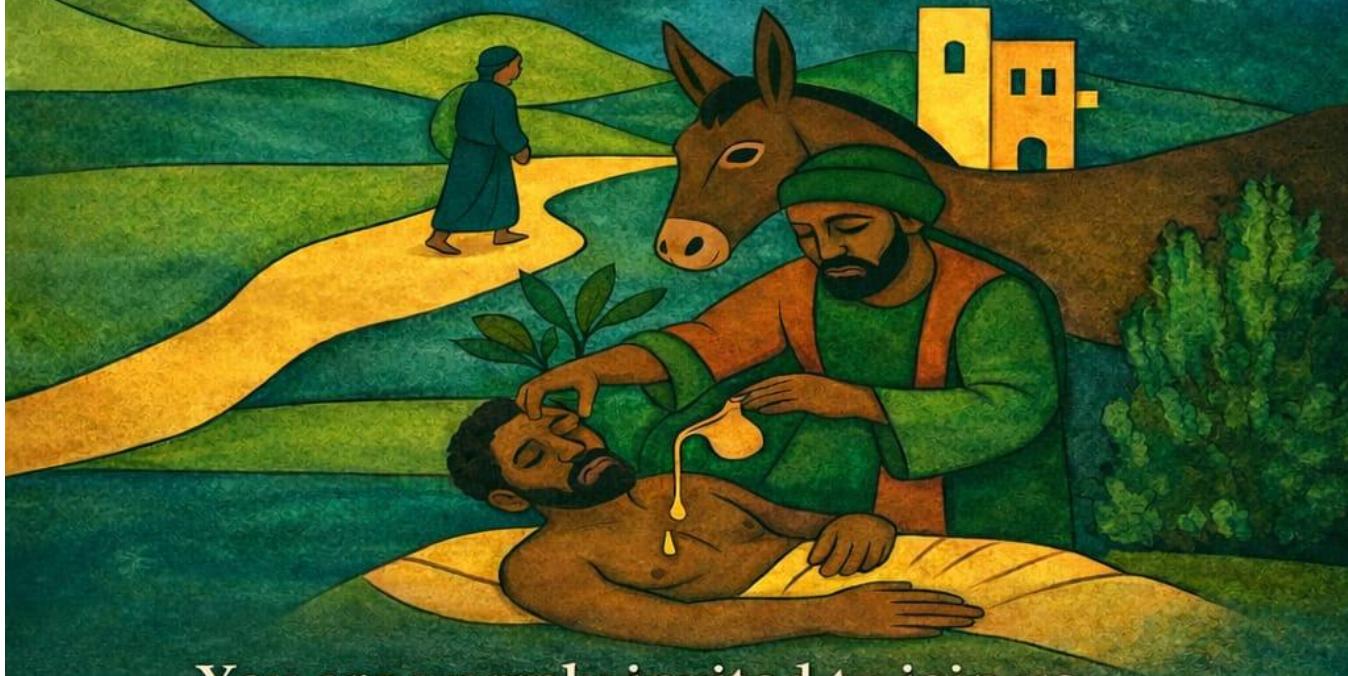
St John's is working towards its Eco Church silver award, and this will also help the church to use fresh flowers in ways that are more in tune with the season and our local environment - to enjoy creation in a healthy and sustainable way and bring glory to our Creator. The oasis used for cut flowers is not biodegradable. It is a product of the petrochemical industry and made of plastic.



LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY | 8 FEBRUARY 2026

"Love your neighbour as yourself" Luke 10:27



You are warmly invited to join us

as we come together in prayer, worship, and reflection, committing ourselves anew to God's call for justice, dignity, and love for all.



Chichester Cathedral

11:00am

The Cathedral will host the main service for Racial Justice Sunday, with

Mr Vitalis Ngwambi

Diocesan Racial Justice Co-ordinator
delivering the Key Address.

Telephone: 01273 425 005

Email: Vitalis.Ngwambi@Chichester.Anglican.Org

Other Services Taking Place

⌚ St John the Baptist Church, Westfield

⌚ St Paul's Church, Chichester

⌚ St Luke's Church, Prestonville, Brighton

Why Racial Justice Sunday?

Racial Justice Sunday invites us to reflect on God's call to love our neighbour, challenge injustice, and build communities where everyone is seen, valued, and respected.



✉️📞 Telephone: 01273 425 005

Email: Vitalis.Ngwambi@Chichester.Anglican.Org

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

Sunday 1	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist Ministry of prayer for healing
Tuesday 3	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
Wednesday 4	8.00 am 10.00 am 10.45 am 7.30 pm	Morning Prayer Said Eucharist Preston Coffee Pot PCC Meeting
Thursday 5	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
Friday 6	2.00 pm	Friday Club <i>Brighton through the 1950s ~ Chris Horlock</i>
Sunday 8	10.00 am 4.00 pm	Parish Eucharist Messy Church
Tuesday 10	8.00 am 2.30 pm	Morning Prayer Bible Study <i>in the Vestry</i>
Wednesday 11	8.00 am 10.00 am 10.45 am	Morning Prayer Said Eucharist Preston Coffee Pot
Thursday 12	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
Saturday 14	10.00 am	Community Garden Working Party
Sunday 15	10.00 am	All-Age Worship
Tuesday 17	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
Wednesday 18	ASH WEDNESDAY 8.00 am 10.00 am 10.45 am 7.00 pm	Morning Prayer Said Eucharist <i>with Imposition of Ashes</i> Preston Coffee Pot Said Eucharist <i>with Imposition of Ashes</i>

Thursday 19	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
Friday 20	2.00 pm	Friday Club <i>History of the Tower of London Part 1 ~ Alan Kingshott</i>
Saturday 21	2.00 pm	Quiz with Afternoon Tea
Sunday 22	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist
Tuesday 24	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
	2.30 pm	Lent Course <i>in the Vestry</i>
Wednesday 25	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
	10.00 am	Said Eucharist
	10.45 am	Preston Coffee Pot
Thursday 26	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
	7.00 pm	Lent Course <i>in the Vestry</i>
Saturday 28	10.00 am	Community Garden Working Party

MARCH

Sunday 1	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist Ministry of prayer for healing
Tuesday 3	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
	2.30 pm	Lent Course <i>in the Vestry</i>
Wednesday 4	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
	10.00 am	Said Eucharist
	10.45 am	Preston Coffee Pot
Thursday 5	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
	7.00 pm	Lent Course <i>in the Vestry</i>
Friday 6	World Day of Prayer	
	2.30 pm	Patcham Methodist Church
Sunday 8	10.00 am	All-Age Worship with Baptism
	4.00 pm	Messy Church



to
Ivana Coe on the 4th
Richard Benton-Stace
& Diane Long on the 6th
David Earle
& Colette Northage on the 8th
Elizabeth Armstrong
& Carrie Donohoe on the 11th
Bill Lyon on the 12th
Pamela Hubbard on the 13th
Diana Warnes on the 17th
Megan Walker on the 19th
and
Sue Benton-Stace on the 24th



Open House/Flat Warming

At Jane's new home;

**41 Preston Grange
Grange Close
BN1 6BH**

**Sunday 1st March
from 3pm**

MONKS IN THE CITY

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

Season 8 dates and times

From 9th January 2026

Unless stated please feel free to just turn up

SATURDAY SANCTUARY

7th Feb 10:45am - 12:45pm

Take time out to reflect and pray with the monks

TUESDAY MONK TALKS - Living the Benedictine Life

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

20th Jan – One Body – One Spirit an ecumenical journey with Fr Aidan

17th Feb – A Benedictine approach to Lent with Fr Peter

17th Mar – Exploring the Spiritual Inheritance of St. Patrick with Fr Patrick

MIDDAY STILLNESS – every Friday from 9th Jan to 27th Mar

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sun 25th Jan Ecumenical Vespers at 4pm

in the *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th – 25th Jan)*

Fri 20th Mar Vespers for the Solemnity of St Benedict, 6pm

Sat 7th Mar a Lent Retreat Day, 10:45am – 4pm (Booking requested)

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

Donations to support the Community and its mission are welcome.



People are coming to faith amidst the 'darkness' of crises around the world

So says several Church of England bishops. They believe that increasing numbers of people have been turning to the Christian faith.

The Bishop of Rochester, Jonathan Gibbs said: "Something is going on. Or rather, God Himself seems to be up to something – way beyond what we as Christians have been doing to share the message of the gospel with the people around us.

"Humanly speaking, I believe this is happening because people have begun to realise that the things in which they had placed their hopes – things like ever-increasing prosperity or the ability of science and technology to solve all our problems – have started to crumble in the face of economic crises, global pandemics and climate change."

The Bishop of Gloucester, Rachel Treweek said: "As I have listened to the voices of children, young people and adults across this diocese; the voices in Westminster, and indeed in prisons; I believe there is a yearning for certainty amid the turbulence, anxiety and uncertainty, and the endless messaging of crises."

The Bishop of Chichester, Martin Warner, speaks of joyful celebrations of baptisms and confirmations in his Diocese and new congregation members at Chichester Cathedral. "A new generation attending Chichester Cathedral have shifted the atmosphere," he said. "Buggies now take their place alongside the Zimmer frames, to the delight of everyone."

God made us

A little girl sitting on her grandfather's lap reached up to touch his wrinkled cheek.
"Grandpa, did God make you?"

"Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago."

"Oh," she paused. "Grandpa, did God make me too?"

Her grandfather assured her that He had. Feeling his wrinkled cheek again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't He?"

PRESTON FRIDAY CLUB



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

Alternate Friday afternoons in term time
2.00pm to 4.00pm

Talks, activities, tea & chat with friends

£2.00

Friday 6 February
Brighton through the 1950s ~ Chris Horlock

Friday 20 February
History of the Tower of London part 1 ~ Alan Kingshott

Historically, the Church of England has had its share of eccentric clergy. Even nowadays, hiding away in remote parishes, there are still some colourful clergy about. Clergy such as the elderly, Anglo-Catholic Uncle Eustace, who is incumbent in the small parish of St James-the-Least-of All, somewhere in Very Rural England. Eustace despairs of his nephew, Darren, who has become an Evangelical curate in a busy urban parish... and so he writes letters, to try and properly 'educate' Darren in parish life. By the Revd Gary Bowness.

On the art of drinking well ...

The Rectory
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

You closed your last letter with the remark that it was time to retire to bed with a cup of cocoa. That may be all very well for the pious intensity of a theological college - although a stiff whisky was always acceptable in my day - but it is not a style to continue once in the parish. I do feel obliged to give you a few hints about what should and should not be drunk in public as a parish priest.

Morning visits are to be discouraged, but if one is unavoidable, and you are invited to have a drink, then it has to be coffee. It is the only time of day when a mug is acceptable - provided, of course, that it is bone china or porcelain. In the afternoons one changes to tea, but only from cups. Blended varieties may be all very well for Curates in their first year, but it should be Darjeeling for an incumbent. And fruit teas are for Quakers only.

If an inappropriate vessel is offered, then the drink should be accepted, but left untouched. Since the visit will be discussed in the finest detail throughout the parish the moment you have left, your host will soon learn why and not make the same error a second time. It is for the same reason that if you ever want to circulate a piece of news round the parish as quickly as possible, never put it in the parish magazine, just mention it casually during one of your visits. Everyone will know by teatime.

Alcoholic drinks must be carefully judged. A sherry - dry, naturally - is probably best if you are invited to lunch. In the early evening, a gin and tonic would be the drink of choice. To ask for whisky would indicate that you are about to go over to Rome, and a mineral water that you have your roots in non-conformity. Beer is never, ever

drunk in someone's house unless you suffer from some personal tragedy, such as being the diocesan youth chaplain.

However, an occasional beer in the pub with the bell-ringers (who will be real ale fanatics to a man) or after choir practice - which seems to be the real purpose of holding practices anyway - or as a treat for the sacristan, will show you are a man of the people. It is some years since I visited the pub.

Understanding wine should be taught at every theological college as an essential part of the ministry. Develop a taste for claret, dear boy, and you will be starting your journey towards high office.

And perhaps you should give that tin of cocoa to the verger.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



Peaceful mind

The Bible tells the story of Jesus and His stressed disciples in a boat in a storm. Like them, we also get hit by storms in life. And like them, we can know that Jesus is also with us. Why not take a moment to ponder these promises:

Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never let the righteous be shaken. (Psalm 55:22)

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. (John 14:27)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4: 6-8)

Why not take a moment to memorise one of these verses?

A Quiz about children's books

How well do you remember the books you read as children and how much do you know about what your children/grandchildren are reading now?

- 1 Which of these famous bears is the oldest?
a) Rupert Bear b) Paddington Bear c) Winnie-the-Pooh
- 2 In her Adventures in Wonderland what kind of party does Alice go to?
a) Birthday party b) Anniversary party c) Tea Party
- 3 Pippi Longstocking lives in a small village in which country?
a) Norway b) Denmark c) Sweden
- 4 Who wrote 'The Wind in the Willows'?
a) Kenneth Grahame b) Arthur Ransome c) Edward Lear
- 5 Can you name Peter Rabbit's three sisters? *1 point for each*
- 6 The White Witch who rules Narnia make it always winter but never what?
a) Christmas b) Spring c) Summer
- 7 What is the title of the sequel to 'Little Women' by Louisa May Alcott?
a) Little Men b) Good Wives c) Eight Cousins
- 8 Which famous puppet was created by Carlo Collodi?
a) Andy Pandy b) Mr Punch c) Pinocchio
- 9 In Edward Lear's 'The Owl and the Pussy-Cat' what coloured boat did they go to sea in?
a) Pea green b) Olive green c) Emerald green
- 10 What is Paddington Bear's favourite food?
a) Jam sandwiches b) Marmalade sandwiches c) Marmite sandwiches
- 11 Who has a younger brother called Perfect Peter in a series of books written by Francesca Simon?
a) Horrid Henry b) Nasty Norman c) Dirty David
- 12 How old was Harry Potter when he learned that he is a wizard?
a) 9 b) 10 c) 11
- 13 Complete the title of Eric Carle's 'The Very Hungry ...'
a) Mouse b) Kitten c) Caterpillar

14 What kind of animal is Wilbur in *Charlotte's Web*?
a) Spider b) Pig c) Rat

15 In the story by Roald Dahl, what is the name of Matilda's teacher?
a) Miss Jennifer Honey b) Mrs Lizzie Sugar c) Mrs Agatha Trunchbull

16 What is the Gruffalo scared of?
a) An owl b) A snake c) A mouse

17 Who wrote 'Gangsta Granny', 'Mr Stink' and 'Megamonster'?
a) David Walliams b) David Baddiel c) Charlie Higson

18 In Judith Kerr's story what sort of animal came to tea?
a) Cat b) Tiger c) Lion

19 What is the name of the horse in Michael Morpurgo's 'War Horse'?
a) Jack b) Johnny c) Joey

20 Who wrote the Mr Men and Little Miss books?
a) Roger Hargreaves b) Michael Rosen c) David Baddiel

Can you unscramble these alphabetical anagram book titles?

21 AABBCELTUY – Anna Sewell [5, 6]

22 AADEEILNRSTU – Robert Louis Stevenson [7, 6]

23 AIMNOPPPRSY – P L Travers [4, 7]

24 AACFFIMNORSTX – Roald Dahl [9, 2, 3]

25 CEHHIORWSTTW – Jill Murphy [3, 5, 5]

26 AAAADLLMNNOOSSWWZ – Arthur Ransome [8, 3, 7]

27 BEHMMNOOOOORRT – Julia Donaldson [4, 2, 3, 5]

28 ACDEEEGHNRSTT – Frances Hodgson Burnett [3, 6, 6]

29 DEFGHIMOPSTTU - Clive King [4, 2, 3, 4]

30 CEIKLMRT – Roger Hargreaves [2, 6]

And the answers to last month's quiz to celebrate the New Year

1. What is another name for the Chinese New Year? b) Spring Festival
2. What name was given to the predicted computer meltdown at the beginning of the year 2000? b) Millennium Bug
3. Which English author, born on New Year's Day 1879, wrote *A Passage to India*?
b) E.M. Forster
4. What name is given to the Jewish New Year? a) Rosh Hashanah
5. Which sovereign state became independent of the United Kingdom on New Year's Day 1984? b) Brunei
6. What is thrown out of windows in Puerto Rico at New Year? a) Bucket of Water
7. In which county is the village of Allendale which is famous for its New Year fire festival? b) Northumberland
8. New Year's Eve is also known as which Saint's Day in many countries?
d) Sylvester
9. The *Ball Drop* is a famous part of the New Year's Eve celebration where in New York City? c) Times Square
10. In which county is it traditional to say '*Black Rabbits*' at midnight on New Year's Eve? d) Yorkshire
11. *Songkran*, often celebrated by water fights, is the New Year's festival in which Asian country? c) Thailand
12. What food is eaten in Spain at midnight of New Year ? b) Grapes
13. In which country is *Soba Noodles* a traditional New Year's dish? b) Japan
14. In Greece what are smashed on doorsteps at New Year? c) Pomegranates
15. Which country celebrates the New Year first? c) Kiribati
16. Which country is the last to celebrate the New year? a) American Samoa
17. What gift was traditionally given when 'first-footing' In Scotland? a) Coal
18. On January 1st, 1899, Spanish rule ended in which country? a) Cuba

19. In 46 B.C., which Roman leader made 1st January New Year's Day?
b) Julius Caesar

20. Which country smashes plates on New Year's to ward off evil spirits?
b) Denmark

Can you fill in the first word of these classic book titles?

21. Lord of the Flies

22. Anne of Green Gables

23. Pride and Prejudice

24. Brave New World

25. Wuthering Heights

27. Alice in Wonderland

28. Oliver Twist

29. Great Expectations

30. Around the World in Eighty Days



If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it. – *Anon*

The person who never makes a mistake must get tired of doing nothing. – *Anon*

It costs to follow Jesus Christ, but it costs more not to. – *Anon*

When you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced.
Live your life so when you die, the world cries and you rejoice.
- *Native American saying*

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. - *Martin Luther King Jnr*



BRIGHTON FOOD BANK ITEMS NEEDED IN JANUARY

MICROWAVE FOOD POUCHES

PASTA AND RICE MEALS

TINNED MEAT MEALS

CHICKEN CURRY, BEEF STEW, CHICKEN IN WHITE SAUCE

TINNED FRUIT

UHT MILK

PORRIDGE OATS

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OR GLUTEN FREE ITEMS FOR NOW.

Thank You!

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CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

MESSY CHURCH	Every second Sunday (except August & December) in the church 4.00 - 6.00 pm	
FLOWERS	Contact the Church Office	07847 352889 office@brightonstjohn.org.uk
HALLS/CHURCH for HIRE	Halls Administrator	07847 352889 halls@brightonstjohn.org.uk
PRESTON COFFEE POT	Every Wednesday after the 10.00 am service	
PRESTON FRIDAY CLUB	Crowhurst Community Centre alternate Fridays in term time 2.00 - 4.00 pm	Sue O'Malley 01273 700150
THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY	Judith Lawson	

6th / 7th PRESTON PARK GUIDES - Crowhurst Community Centre

Rainbow Guides	Tuesday in term time 5.30 – 6.30 pm Wednesday in term time 5.30 - 6.30 pm	Mrs Jackie Vidler girlguiding.org.uk
Brownie Guides	Tuesday in term time 6.15 - 7.45 pm	Ms Jo Mander girlguiding.org.uk
Guides	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



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/>



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<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/brightonstjohn/>

Using your smartphone this QR code enables you to support St John's via a debit or credit card:



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www.facebook.com/prestonstjohn

Parish Office opening times: Mondays & Fridays 9:30am-12.30pm

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