

GOOD NEWS



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

March 2026

50p

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, PRESTON, BRIGHTON

Knogle Road, Brighton BN1 6RB

www.brightonstjohn.org.uk

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BAPTISMS and **MARRIAGES** by appointment

From Rev'd Sarah

The Return of the Light.

After weeks of grey skies and constant rain, there are small but unmistakable signs that something is changing. The mornings and evenings are lighter. And in gardens and window boxes, green shoots are pushing through. Bulbs planted months ago are beginning to flower - have a look in the Church Garden! They're a perfect reminder of the fact that growth doesn't announce itself loudly. It happens in its own time, beneath the surface, long before it's visible.

This feels especially fitting as we move through Lent, that gentle, challenging season that leads us towards Easter. Lent isn't about turning away from the world, or pretending that everything is fine. It's about staying present. About paying attention. And about choosing, again and again, the way of love - even when it feels difficult.

And right now, there's lots about life on our beautiful planet that feels difficult. The news can feel relentless, and many of us are struggling with a sense of weariness or distrust. It's easy to feel disillusioned or hopeless. Faced with so much noise and uncertainty, the temptation is either to become hardened or to turn away altogether. Yet neither response brings healing.

Instead, Lent invites us to ask a quieter, braver question: what can we do?

One simple, profound answer lies in the words of Pope Leo, who invites people to a very practical form of abstinence for Lent: refraining from words that offend or wound our neighbour. Disarming our language. Avoiding harsh words, rash judgements, gossip, and speaking ill of those who aren't present and can't defend themselves. It might seem small, but it's not insignificant. Words shape the world we inhabit. They can inflame fear. Or they can create space for peace.

Prayer, too, plays its part. Not as an escape from reality, but as a way of standing firmly within it. Prayer keeps our hearts soft when everything around us encourages hardness. It helps us resist despair and remain open to compassion, truth, and hope.

Like the bulbs beneath the soil, much of this work is hidden. But it is real. And it matters. As the days grow lighter and Easter draws closer, let's trust that love is at work - quietly, persistently - bringing hope to our lives, which we can share.

The Way of the Cross

'Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow Me.' (Luke 9: 23)

These words of Jesus are spoken at a turning point in the gospel. Jesus challenged the disciples about His identity and their commitment to Him: *'who do the crowds say I am?'* (Luke 9:18). It is at this point that He *'resolutely set out for Jerusalem'* (9:51). On our journey through Lent, as we look to the events of Good Friday and Easter, what are our priorities as Jesus' disciples?

To deny ourselves: this means to saying *No* to ourselves and *Yes* to God, as we humbly submit our will to His. Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane *'not My will but Yours be done.'* (Luke 22:42). It means putting Jesus first in everything: our work, family, ambitions, possessions, marriage, finance and future. We will not be guided by self-interest, but by allowing God to show us how to live in His way.

To take up our cross: this reminds us that the disciple is not immune from suffering, as we follow Jesus along the way of the cross. Just as He carried His cross to Golgotha, we cannot avoid experiencing suffering in a fallen world. Every day we are to live in way that demonstrates to everyone that we have died to ourselves, our selfish ways and ambitions, and seek to live for God. It means breaking old selfish habits and ways of thinking, as we allow God to renew us by His Spirit.

Perhaps that is something we should learn—to wait for Jesus our Master, to be always obedient to Him, to serve Him with all our hearts, and to bear the mark of His grace in our lives.

In all of this we cannot lose, because like Jesus, it is only through death that we find God's new life. *'He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain that which he cannot lose.'* (Jim Elliot).



Mothersing Sunday

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

Mothering Sunday - the fourth Sunday of Lent- offers families an opportunity to honour the women who have nurtured them. Lots of different streams and traditions have come together to make today's Mothering Sunday the special day that it is.

In the Middle Ages it was an occasion for everyone to visit their 'mother' church - the place where they had been baptised. Later, an opportunity for those who worked away from home to visit their mothers became added to the mix of reasons to make it a special day.

Today we honour all women who have in one way or another been special to us, and in church this is usually signalled by small bunches of flowers for every woman present.

Treating mums and grans to Sunday lunch, chocolates and flowers is also part of the present mix. And will there be a simnel cake to be seen - a tradition from ages past - with its rich layers of marzipan, and eleven balls of marzipan on top, reminders of the 11 disciples who remained faithful to Jesus?

Not everyone has enjoyed a wonderful or enduring relationship with their mum, so lest we get carried away on a wave of love and sentimentality, there is usually space in the Mothering Sunday church service to reflect on and pray for those whose relationships with their mother were not all they might have been.

Also, there are the families blighted by the lack of, or death of a child; families remembering a mum who died tragically young; women who never had a child but would have dearly loved the opportunity; all these and more are a recognition of the imperfections of human love, human life.

These imperfections can be brought in prayer to the God who mothers us. In the Old Testament, Isaiah speaks of God comforting His people like a mother hen. In the New Testament, both Matthew and Luke bear witness to Jesus expressing His desire to gather His people as a mother hen gathers her chicks under her wings. Yes, God has strong maternal qualities which He invites us to discover and enjoy!

Have you discovered the mothering, nurturing, maternal qualities which God offers to all people? It's lovelier than flowers, more long-lasting than simnel cake, better than a visit from family, and it's free to everyone who wants it - it could be yours!

HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2026

Experience the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus through song, prayer and reflection.



Sunday 29 March **PALM SUNDAY**

10.00am Eucharist with Procession & Blessing of Palms

Thursday 2 April **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

8.00pm The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday
followed by Vigil until 10.00pm

Friday 3 April **GOOD FRIDAY**

3.00pm The Liturgy of Good Friday

Saturday 4 April **HOLY SATURDAY**

8.00pm The Easter Liturgy

Sunday 5 April **EASTER DAY**

8.00am Eucharist

St Peter's Preston Park

10.00am Parish Eucharist

St John's needs three new PCC members!

This year the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) is on Sunday 17 May at 11:30am at St John's, and there will be **FOUR** vacancies for PCC members



Could this be you?

- The PCC are the Trustees of the parish (which has charitable status), and the PCC, in co-operation with the priest, “consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the parish. ...[the PCC] co-operates with the priest in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.” [PCC (Powers) Measure 1956, section 2]
- The PCC controls how the money is spent and how the buildings are looked after.
- The PCC is a link between lay people and the wider deanery, the wider diocese and the wider Church beyond.
- The PCC does not decide matters of doctrine, nor of worship.
- The PCC is not there to “rubber-stamp” the Priest-in-Charge’s views or decisions!
- As a member of the PCC you will be expected to come to PCC meetings (approx. every 6-8 weeks); to pray for the parish, its mission and ministry; get involved, where appropriate, in areas where you have the time and where you feel God is calling you (eg: sit on a subcommittee, be asked to look into a matter occasionally etc.)

PCC Meetings are usually held in the Vestry start at 7:30pm and aim to finish by 9pm.

Want to know more? Talk to Rev'd Emma or a current PCC member!

To become a member of the PCC you need to fill in a nomination form and be proposed and seconded by two people on the Electoral Roll and elected at the APCM

St John's needs TWO Churchwardens!

At the Annual Parish Meeting (11:30am 17 May), St John's need to appoint 2 Churchwardens.

Could this be you?

We should try to be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit: will you think and pray about whether this is a role that God might be calling you to? There are one or two "qualifications" for a churchwarden (see below) and a "job description" (also see below), but in summary the churchwarden is a link between bishop and priest; and between priest and congregation. The churchwarden is the officer of the bishop and owes duty to the bishop before the parish priest!

QUALIFICATIONS

A churchwarden must be on the electoral roll; aged over 21; baptised, confirmed and a communicant member of the parish; and may be required to undergo a DBS check.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Leadership, labour & love!: maintenance of buildings, records and registers; keeping order in church(!); making reports to APCM & Archdeacon when necessary; attending PCC & Standing Committee Meetings; meeting regularly with the Vicar; caring for the Priest-in-Charge & their family; encouraging, caring for and praying for the congregation.

The churchwardens co-operate with the Priest-in-Charge in serving the parish. A churchwarden may stand for a maximum term of 6 years, but you don't *have* to serve for 6 years

DESIRABLE QUALITIES!

Prayerful; not a "yes" person (!); leadership & vision; honesty; discretion; approachability; loyalty; a passion for St John's church!



Churchwardens are responsible for all moveable furniture and ornaments within the church. Ensuring that none are removed or new ones introduced without a Faculty.

It is usual for one Churchwarden to be Vice-Chair of the PCC.

To be responsible for the care, maintenance and preservation of the fabric of the church, reporting regularly to the PCC (or delegating this).

Keeping a full inventory of all articles appertaining to the church, and a logbook recording alterations, additions and repairs.

If you think this might be you, or you'd like a "no obligation" discussion (!), please come and chat to Revd Emma, or any member of the PCC. You will need to be proposed and seconded by two different members of the electoral roll and elected at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Skills Share

St John's is a growing community that thrives on the skills and commitment of everyone who comes through our doors.

Each Sunday – each day of the week, people are visited in their homes, gardeners have tended the outside areas; intercessions are carefully crafted; readers share their words; the healing team meet and pray; Messy Church rings out with squeals and delight, the flowers are arranged, bakers and cooks provide an array of delicious food. All the time, the beating heart of our community is pulsing away, keeping our doors open and God's plans for us alive.

And yet, there is so much more that we can do. We're looking to how best we can open the church to concerts and exhibitions, how we can share our beautiful space with people who would otherwise be too unnerved to cross the threshold. We need your enthusiasm, your time, your greeting abilities, your prayerfulness, your artistry, your compassion and listening skills to keep the lifeblood of our church flowing and bringing others with us.

Over the coming weeks, there will be a form at the back of the church with suggestions of groups which we're keen to expand.

There will also be an opportunity to add to the list any of the skills that you've acquired over the years that would be helpful to us all. For instance, we have an ex-florist who will be running a flower arranging workshop and Charlie will be running a course for readers and speakers.

If your immediate reaction is 'I have little to offer', take another think – what has God offered you across your lifetime? How might you thank God by passing on those gifts to others? With careful prayer and discernment, this is a time that we can grow together whilst growing our church. How can you be part of that story?

We aim to bring all of this together in May, for a Skills Share Fair, where your suggestions, enthusiasm and queries will be aired as an exciting launchpad for the next stage in the life of St John's.

If you feel that you would like to take a step further into the fun that comes with joining others to make things happen in our community, please sign up at the back of the church or email Charlie on chdaeth@aol.com to find out more.



Inclusive Church



An ecumenical network of churches working together towards a shared vision



We believe in **inclusive church** – a church which **celebrates and affirms** every person and does not discriminate. We will continue to challenge the Church where it continues to discriminate against people on grounds of **disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity or sexuality.**

A Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is **scripturally faithful**; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel **afresh for each generation**; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows **all people** to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ



Here we
include
invite
involve
invest in
everyone

Visit www.inclusive-church.org
to **join in & find out more**



Registered Charity 1102676

From Sue's Kitchen

Cheese Straws

4oz plain flour

2oz butter

2oz grated cheddar

1 egg, beaten

½ tsp curry powder (optional)

Pinch of salt

Poppy & cumin seeds

Sift the flour, salt and curry powder into a bowl.

Rub in the butter until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs.

Add the cheese and half the egg.

Mix to form a dough.

Cover and chill for 30 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 200°C or Gas 6.

Butter several baking sheets.

Roll out the dough on a floured surface to ¼ inch thickness.

Cut into 3 x ½ inch strips.

Twist and place on the baking sheets.

Brush with the remaining egg.

Sprinkle half the straws with poppy seeds and half with cumin seeds.

Bake in the oven for 10 to 15 minutes until golden.

From Elizabeth

I was completely overwhelmed with the Birthday Wishes that I received on 8th February .

My gratitude also to Emma, Sue Crossfield, Sue and Gerry O'Malley for making it such a special Birthday in every way.

The Seven Deadly Sins: Anger

'Anger is never without a reason, but seldom with a good one.' (Benjamin Franklin).

Who or what makes you angry? In the third of our 7 Deadly Sins, we are looking at *anger* (or *wrath*).

It describes uncontrolled feelings of hatred and resentment, and it can lead to resentment and grudges, quarrelling and damaged relationships. Jesus warns us about the consequence of anger: *'I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment.'* (Matt 5:22).

Jesus Himself got angry, notably when He saw the Temple being exploited by the money changers (Matt 21:12-13). Such *righteous anger* is a measured response to injustice or evil, motivated by love not vengeance.

However, it is important for us to deal with unrighteous anger in our lives: *'In your anger do not sin: do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.'* (Ephesians 4:26,27). What practical steps can we take to do this?

Acknowledge your anger: What are the root causes of our anger? Often it comes from deeper feelings, like fear, inadequacy or the desire to control.

Control your anger: Stepping back before reacting can prevent anger from controlling us: *'everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry'* (James 1:19,20).

Seek to forgive: Practising forgiveness, not seeking revenge or holding grudges, will enable us to overcome anger: *'Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone.'* (Colossians 3:12,13). Christ died to take the wrath of God we deserve, that we might know God's forgiveness.

'People who fly into a rage always make a bad landing' (Will Rogers).

Peaceful mind in Lent

Lent is a time of prayer and inward reflection, when we take stock of where we are with God...with this in mind, the following may be helpful.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” *Matthew 11: 28-30.*

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” *John 16:33*

“Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love Him.” *James 1:12*

Earth Hour 2026 – a time to turn off your lights

The Earth Hour 2026 takes place on Saturday 28th March, when at 8.30pm in their local time millions of people worldwide will turn off their non-essential lights for one hour.

Organised by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the 20th anniversary of this global initiative will aim to raise awareness of the earth’s climate crisis, and to encourage environmental action through sustainable, actionable lifestyle changes.

The first Earth Hour was held in Sydney, Australia, on 31st March 2007, and has since become a global movement. The 2025/26 theme is ‘Giving an Hour for Earth’ is encouraging people to adapt sustainable habits in their daily lives.

And while our lights are off for an hour, Earth Hour will encourage us to spend the time in nature, or stargazing, or engaging in environmental, educational, or sustainable activities.

More info at: <https://www.earthhour.org>

Welcome to the Church of the Annunciation

89 Washington St, Brighton BN2 9SR

Interfaith Friendship Hour

Wednesday 11th March • 6pm

A Unique Evening of Reflection & Community

— 20-Minute Light & Music Micro-Service

Learn About Our Outreach &
Christian Climate Action

— Tea & Cake • Relax and Chat —

See the Ecological Stations of the Cross Artwork

A Hidden Gem in Hanover!
Inclusive, Welcoming & Accessible to All

I feel The Annunciation is a safe place for me, and I feel privileged and proud to be involved in such an inclusive and progressive church. The congregation offer a welcoming, inclusive place for all to come and be themselves."



Readings & Collects

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

Sunday 15 March – Mothering Sunday

Readings Exodus 2: 1-10 2 Corinthians 1: 3-7 Luke 2: 33-35

Collect

Merciful Lord,
absolve your people from their offences,
that through your bountiful goodness
we may all be delivered from the chains of those sins
which by our frailty we have committed,
grant this, heavenly Father,
for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

Sunday 22 March – 5th Sunday of Lent

Readings Ezekiel 37: 1-14 romans 8: 6-11 John 11: 1-45

Collect

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
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 29 March – Palm Sunday

Readings Isaiah 50: 4-9a Philippians 2: 5-11 Matthew 26: 14-end

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
who in your tender love towards the human race
 sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to take upon him our flesh
and to suffer death upon the cross:
grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility,
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
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 5 April – Easter Sunday

Readings Acts 10: 34-43 Colossians 3: 1-4 John 20: 1-18

Collect

Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son
overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity.
Amen



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 March

Sunday 12 April



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 2026 • 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

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FXVQ>

Scan to book online



CALENDAR

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>
	5.30 pm	Evening Prayer
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
	5.30 pm	Evening Prayer
	7.00 pm	Lent Course <i>in the Vestry</i>
Friday 6	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
	2.30 pm	World Day of Prayer <i>Patcham Methodist Church</i>
Sunday 8	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist
	4.00 pm	Messy Church
Tuesday 10	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
	2.30 pm	Lent Course <i>in the Vestry</i>
	5.30 pm	Evening Prayer
Wednesday 11	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
	10.00 am	Said Eucharist
	10.45 am	Preston Coffee Pot
Thursday 12	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
	5.30 pm	Evening Prayer
	7.00 pm	Lent Course <i>in the Vestry</i>

Friday 13	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
	2.00 pm	Preston Friday Club <i>Film Show ~ Ray</i>
Sunday 15	MOTHERING SUNDAY	
	10.00 am	All-Age Worship
Tuesday 17	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
	2.30 pm	Lent Course <i>in the Vestry</i>
	5.30 pm	Evening Prayer
Wednesday 18	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
	10.00 am	Said Eucharist
	10.45 am	Preston Coffee Pot
Thursday 19	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
	5.30 pm	Evening Prayer
	7.00 pm	Lent Course <i>in the Vestry</i>
Friday 20	8.00am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 22	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist
Tuesday 24	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
	2.30 pm	Lent Course <i>in the Vestry</i>
	5.30 pm	Evening Prayer
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
	5.30 pm	Evening Prayer
	7.00 pm	Lent Course <i>in the Vestry</i>
	7.30 pm	PCC Meeting
Friday 27	8.00 am	Morning Prayer

Sunday 29	PALM SUNDAY	
	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist <i>with Procession & Blessing of Palms</i>
Tuesday 31	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
	5.30 pm	Evening Prayer
APRIL		
Wednesday 1	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
	10.00 am	Said Eucharist
	10.45 am	Preston Coffee Pot
Thursday 2	MAUNDY THURSDAY	
	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
	8.00 pm	The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday <i>followed by Vigil until 10.00pm</i>
Friday 3	GOOD FRIDAY	
	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
	3.00 pm	The Liturgy of Good Friday
Saturday 4	HOLY SATURDAY	
	8.00 pm	The Easter Liturgy
Sunday 5	EASTER SUNDAY	
	8.00 am	Eucharist <i>St Peter's Preston Park</i>
	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist
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
Friday 10	2.00 pm	Friday Club <i>A Life in Television ~ Barry Chaston</i>

Sunday 12

BRIGHTON MARATHON

9.00 am Parish Eucharist

4.00 pm Messy Church



UPCOMING

Saturday 25 April
2.00 pm

QUIZ at TEATIME

Sunday 17 May
11.30 am

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Saturday 27 June
11.00 am – 2.00 pm

SUMMER FAYRE

More details about these events nearer the time

Choral Evensong for Rogation Sunday

Sunday May 10th at 3pm
Chichester Cathedral

Preacher: The Bishop of Lewes

Followed by a reception to celebrate our Eco Church awards.

Refreshments provided.

Bring your certificate or plaque for our display
or a photo/poster of your achievements!



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 6th March
World Day of Prayer
3.00pm *Patcham Methodist Church*

Friday 13th March
Film Show

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 how to run a Council meeting ...

The Rectory

St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

Clearly, the sight of your vicar running out of the room halfway through your last church council meeting, saying he should have stayed as a traffic warden, where he was universally liked, has unnerved you. It would have unnerved me too, since a universally popular traffic warden is an exceptional creature.

But perhaps it is necessary to give you some advice for the day when you do have to chair your first church council meeting.

1. Consider every agenda issue carefully beforehand and decide what you would like to do. Then, at the meeting, consult widely, listen to every opinion, weigh all the arguments, and then do precisely what you had decided before the meeting ever took place.
2. Never, ever, let council members discuss hymns, which avoids getting blood on the carpets.
3. Arrange the seating in rows, all facing the front, so that everyone must respond directly to you. The last thing you want is for council members to be able to discuss matters freely with one another.
4. Start smoking a pipe. At those times when you are faced with an issue when you really are unsure of how to respond, taking out your pipe, dismantling it, searching for a pipe cleaner, squinting down the stem to see if it is clean, mopping out the goo in the bowl, searching for your tobacco pouch, filling the pipe, tamping it down, asking if you can borrow matches and attempting to light it several times over, will give you more than sufficient time to formulate a reply. Once you have perfected the routine, the silence will have been so protracted, that most of the committee will have long forgotten what the question was anyway.

5. If someone is talking too long, consult your diary, noisily and obsessively, about next month's appointments, or write a note to a committee member who is at the back of the room and get it passed to him. The speaker should soon get the message.

These are the simpler techniques of committee management. The advanced procedures must wait until you are strong enough to bear them.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



Two donkeys

Two donkeys were walking the streets of Jerusalem. One said: "Just a few days ago I came down that hill carrying Jesus, and the people were all singing and shouting and throwing down their cloaks and palms for me to walk on. But today they don't even recognise me."

The other donkey replied: "That is how it is, my friend. Without Jesus, none of us amounts to much."



How God works

A grandmother was taking her young grandson for a walk in the park. The daffodils were in bloom, and it was a beautiful Spring day. Wanting to encourage her grandson's spiritual understanding of the world, she said: "Doesn't it look like an artist painted this scenery? Did you know God did all this?"

Her grandson replied: "Oh yes, and God did it left-handed, too." In astonishment, the grandmother asked what he meant. "Well, He must have done," said her grandson, "because we learned at church last week that Jesus sits on God's right hand."

What God won't ask when you die

~ God won't ask what kind of car you drove, He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.

~ God won't ask the square footage of your house, He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.

~ God won't ask about the clothes you had in your closet, He'll ask how many you helped to clothe.

~ God won't ask what your highest salary was, He'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.

~ God won't ask what your job title was, He'll ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.

~ God won't ask how many friends you had, He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.

~ God won't ask in what neighbourhood you lived, He'll ask how you treated your neighbours.

~ God won't ask about the colour of your skin, He'll ask about the content of your character.



Mothering Sunday – what people have said about mothers

God could not be everywhere and therefore He made mothers. - *Jewish Proverb*

Motherhood is about raising and celebrating the child you have, not the child you thought you would have. – *Joan Ryan*

There are places in the heart you don't even know exist until you love a child.

- *Anne Lamott*

A quiz for Armchair travellers – how well do you know the UK?

1. In which town is the National Library of Wales?
a) Aberystwyth b) Bangor c) Cardiff d) Swansea
2. Dunedin is the Celtic name for which city?
a) Aberdeen B) Dundee c) Dunfermline d) Edinburgh
3. Near which town would you find "The Angel of the North"?
a) Gateshead b) Newcastle c) Scarborough d) Whitby
4. Which monarch granted city status to Cambridge?
a) Elizabeth II b) George VI c) Henry VIII d) Victoria
5. In Cornwall who are referred to as Emmets ?
a) Dog Walkers b) Estate Agents c) Tourists` d) Traffic Wardens
6. In which county is Kinder Scout, the highest peak in the Peak District?
a) Cheshire b) Derbyshire c) Staffordshire d) Yorkshire
7. Rothesay is the principal town on which Scottish island?
a) Arran b) Bute c) Mull d) Skye
8. Where would you find the Spinnaker Tower?
a) Dover b) Plymouth c) Portsmouth d) Southampton
9. How long do you have to be happily married to be awarded the "Dunmow Flich"?
a) A year and a day b) 7 years c) 21 years d) 45 years
10. Which large lake sits in the centre of Northern Ireland?
a)Lough Corrib b) Lough Dere c) Lough Erne d) Lough Neagh
11. Which Cumbrian town hosts of one of the oldest horse fairs in the UK?
a) Appleby b) Kirby c) Maryport d) Penrith
12. On which island in Poole harbour did Lord Baden-Powell found the Scout Movement?
a) Alney Island b) Brownsea Island c) Burgh Island d) Furzey Island
13. In which English county is the Forest of Dean?
a) Gloucestershire b) Oxfordshire c) Warwickshire
d) Worcestershire

- 14 Which Prime Minister became the first resident of Chequers?
a) Stanley Baldwin b) Winston Churchill c) David Lloyd George
d) Ramsay Macdonald
- 15 Which is the largest of the Isles of Scilly?
a) St Agnes b) St Martin's c) St Mary's d) Tresco
- 16 Which river does the city of Manchester sit on the east bank of?
a) Irwell b) Ribble c) Trent d) Tyne
- 17 In which Cheshire town is the annual International Cheese Show held?
a) Chester b) Macclesfield c) Nantwich d) Runcorn
- 18 Which range of hills runs through Buckinghamshire?
a) Cheviot Hills b) Chilterns c) Mendips d) Pennines
19. In which city was the "Titanic" built?
a) Barrow -in-Furness b) Belfast c) Birkenhead d) Glasgow
20. Which UK city was called Eboracum by the Romans?
a) Chester b) Lincoln c) St Albans d) York

As armchair travellers can you unscramble these anagrams to find the different types of Chair?

21. D A N S E
22. C O I N G R K
23. H A B T
24. I G H H
25. S W O N R I D
26. P I C M A N G
27. F I F E C O
28. G R I N S U N
29. H U S P
30. S T O R C R I E D

And the answers to last month's quiz about children's books

- 1 Which of these famous bears is the oldest?
a) Rupert Bear
Rupert Bear was created in 1920, Winnie-the-Pooh in 1926 and Paddington Bear in 1956
- 2 In her Adventures in Wonderland what kind of party does Alice go to?
c) Tea Party
- 3 Pippi Longstocking lives in a small village in which country?
c) Sweden
- 4 Who wrote 'The Wind in the Willows'? a) Kenneth Grahame
- 5 Can you name Peter Rabbit's three sisters? 1 point for each
Flopsy, Mopsy, Cottontail
- 6 The White Witch who rules Narnia make it always winter but never what?
a) Christmas
- 7 What is the title of the sequel to 'Little Women' by Louisa May Alcott?
b) Good Wives
- 8 Which famous puppet was created by Carlo Collodi?
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
- 10 What is Paddington Bear's favourite food? b) Marmalade sandwiches
- 11 Who has a younger brother called Perfect Peter in a series of books written by Francesca Simon? a) Horrid Henry
- 12 How old was Harry Potter when he learned that he is a wizard? c) 11
- 13 Complete the title of Eric Carle's 'The Very Hungry ...' c) Caterpillar
- 14 What kind of animal is Wilbur in *Charlotte's Web*? b) Pig

- 15 In the story by Roald Dahl, what is the name of Matilda's teacher?
a) Miss Jennifer Honey
- 16 What is the Gruffalo scared of?
c) A mouse
- 17 Who wrote 'Gangsta Granny', 'Mr Stink' and 'Megamonster'?
a) David Walliams
- 18 In Judith Kerr's story what sort of animal came to tea?
b) Tiger
- 19 What is the name of the horse in Michael Morpurgo's 'War Horse'?
c) Joey
- 20 Who wrote the Mr Men and Little Miss books?
a) Roger Hargreaves

Can you unscramble these alphabetical anagram book titles?

- | | | |
|----|--|----------------------|
| 21 | AABBCELTUY – Anna Sewell [5, 6] | Black Beauty |
| 22 | AADEEILNRSTU – Robert Louis Stevenson [7, 6] | Treasure Island |
| 23 | AIMNOPPPRSY – P L Travers [4, 7] | Mary Poppins |
| 24 | AACFFIMNORSTX – Roald Dahl [9, 2, 3] | Fantastic Mr Fox |
| 25 | CEHHIORWSTTTW – Jill Murphy [3, 5, 5] | The Worst Witch |
| 26 | AAAADLLMNNOOSSSWWZ – Arthur Ransome [8, 3, 7] | Swallows and Amazons |
| 27 | BEHMMNOOOORRT – Julia Donaldson[4, 2, 3, 5] | Room on the Broom |
| 28 | ACDEEEEGHNRSTT – Frances Hodgson Burnett [3, 6, 6] | The Secret Garden |
| 29 | DEFGHIMOPSTTU - Clive King [4, 2, 3, 4] | Stig of the Dump |
| 30 | CEIKLMRT – Roger Hargreaves [2, 6] | Mr Tickle |



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

**WE DO NOT NEED ANY MORE MORE BISCUITS, CRISPS,
OR GLUTEN FREE ITEMS FOR NOW.**

Thank You!

You can place an online order with a supermarket, and ask them to deliver it to: Brighton Food Bank, Calvary Church Building, Stanley Road, Brighton, BN1 4NJ.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO DONATE MONEY ONLINE

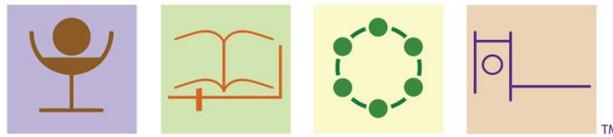
Please note, we are part of Brighton and Hove City Mission and this page reflects this. All money donated using this link goes directly to Brighton Food Bank.



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



PARISH GIVING SCHEME

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!

<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:



Parish Church of St John the Evangelist
Knole Road Brighton BN1 6RB
www.brightonstjohn.org.uk
www.facebook.com/prestonstjohn

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

*Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sue Seymour
safeguarding@brightonstjohn.org.uk*

CCL Licence no 2199043

Registered Charity Number: 113510



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