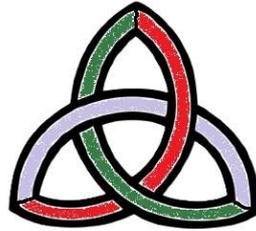


Welcome



1st to 7th March

Welcome to St John's

Thank you for being with us here at St John's.

Whether you are worshipping with us for the first time today or have been worshipping for many years, we pray that you will feel the love of God in our midst.

Please stay for refreshments after the service if you wish; all are welcome.

<https://www.wellingtonteamchurches.org.uk>

Parish Office - Tel: 01823 665254 Email: stjohns.wellington@googlemail.com

Reverend Colin Simpson - Tel: 07961 613410 Email: rector.wawb@googlemail.com

Andrew Maddocks, Churchwarden – Tel: 07944 676984 Email: a.maddocks@icloud.com

Jo Leigh, Churchwarden – Tel: 07847 878703 Email: joleigh241@gmail.com

Sunday service for 1st March (2nd Sunday of Lent)

Holy Communion 9.30 a.m.

Presiding Reverend Colin Simpson

Readings Genesis 12.1-4a, Romans 4.1-5, 13-17
Gospel: John 3.1-17

Organist Richard Stephens

Hymns (19) All my hope on God is founded
(175) From heaven you came
(288) I cannot tell
(92) Christ triumphant

Prayer

Please pray for

John Harmsworth

Brian Carter

David Mills

Lyn Sims

Jenny Whitehead

David & Cynthia Bowen

Diana Smtih

Martyn Hooper

Ann Everett

Shirley Rayson

Mary Nickerson

Jeanette Tucker

Lois Webb

Bethan Davis

Robert Farley

West Buckland Services

This is the usual pattern of services at St Mary's, West Buckland. All are welcome.

1st Sunday of the month

Lay-led Morning Worship at 11.00 a.m.

2nd Sunday of the month

Holy Communion at 11.00 a.m.

3rd Sunday of the month

Join St John's Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m.

4th Sunday of the month

Holy Communion at 11.00 a.m.

What's on this week

Sunday

Holy Communion 9.30 a.m.

Evensong with the Chapel Choir of Wellington school 5.15 p.m. in the church.

Please Note – There will be a retiring collection after Evensong.

Monday

Thanksgiving service for the life of Alwilda 'Elisabeth' Wilkinson 11.30 a.m.

Tuesday

Talking Cafe 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. Supported by CCS, Village Agents and Waitrose

Carers' Group 1.30 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. in the hall

Wednesday

Morning Prayer at St Mary's, West Buckland at 9.00 a.m.

Wednesday Sings 10.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. in the hall

Lent Bible Course with Stephen Bowen 10.15 a.m. for 10.30 a.m. start in church.

Slimming World 5.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. in the hall

Thursday

BCP Communion 10.00 a.m. with Reverend Ian Brierley

Blackdown Community Choir in church 7.00 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

Friday

Quiet Reflection Day 9.45 a.m. in the church and hall. Details on back page.

Service for the World Day of Prayer 2.00 p.m. at St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church. See details on the back page.

NCT Group in the hall 6.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m.

Saturday

Church Cleaning 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon. Volunteers welcome to come and help!

Coming Up

Tuesday 10th March

Armed Forces Outreach Service 1.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. in the church

Saturday 21st March

St John's Spring Fair 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. in the church.

Thursday 26th March

Craft and Chatter 2.30 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. in the hall

Saturday 28th March

Wellington Choral Society concert 'Brahms German Requiem' 7.00 p.m. in church

Organ Recital Update

A huge thank you to David Davies for his magnificent organ recital on 21st February. We are also incredibly grateful to everyone who attended; thanks to your wonderful generosity, we raised over £700 for our organ fund.

Conservation and the Government decision to TAX Churches

You may not be aware that from April, it will be necessary to pay 20% VAT on essential repairs and conservation work to the fabric of St John's church and other churches in England. As a Grade 1 Listed building, we have been helped by a previous Labour Government's decision in 2001 to exempt Grade Listed churches from VAT on repair and conservation work. This was a very welcome financial help for the English church heritage sustained by huge volunteer time and money. This Labour Government has decided to end the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme and replace it with a £92 million four-year fund called the Places of Worship Renewal Fund. This may sound generous, but it is far less generous and practical than the scheme soon to be defunct. First, the £92M is split across four years, i.e. £23 million per year, the same amount as the current scheme for 2025/26 (£42M in 2024/25). Inflation will reduce the figure further. But most importantly for St John's, any essential work to the fabric will attract VAT at 20%. In effect, any grant from the Renewal Fund or from other sources, donations, or church efforts of say £1000 will have only the practical worth of £800. This means St John's will need to find many hundreds of pounds extra to carry out essential fabric work over the foreseeable future. The Treasury will gain a pittance in revenue; the nation's listed churches will lose out massively.

To read what the National Churches Trust has written about this policy, please see the notice boards.

Service for the World Day of Prayer

The service for the World Day of Prayer will be held at **2 p.m. on Friday, 6th March in St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church, Mantle Street, Wellington.**

The World Day of Prayer is a women-led global ecumenical movement, and the service is held nationally and internationally on the first Friday of March each year. This year's service has been prepared by the Christian women of Nigeria and the theme they have chosen is "I will give you rest, come", based on Matthew 11 verses 28-30. All churches send representatives to participate in this group, and many will be reading. The organiser, Maralyn Norman, would welcome your attendance at this service, which is followed by tea and cake!

Quiet Reflection Day

We are holding a day of Quiet Reflection at St. John's Church on 6th March 2026, from 9.45 a.m. to 2.15 p.m. This will be led by Fiona Brown. On this occasion, it is limited to 16 places. If you would like to come, please get in touch with Fiona - fionareflection@btinternet.com or Sharon at the Parish Office.

Whilst this is a free event, donations are appreciated towards heating and materials. Thank you.