

St John's Update

19th April 2026



Sunday 19th April 2026 - Third Sunday of Easter

9.30 am Parish Communion in St John's Church

Wednesday 22nd April

10.00 am Holy Communion in St John's Centre

I find as I get older, I get increasingly hot under the collar over a great variety of subjects. In Holy Week it was the TV and radio offerings over the Easter Weekend that got me going. There was a time when a fair amount of Christian content was available on offer. But it seems to have got less and less as the years have gone by. This year on TV we had 'King of Kings' on Good Friday and on Easter Day there was an Easter Mass, Urbi et Orbi and 'The Greatest Story Ever Told'. On Good Friday there was a Radio 3 concert with Lenten music including Duruflé's Requiem.

In the early 60s I remember the furore caused by 'King of Kings'; how dare anyone play the part of Christ in a film, especially an actor like Jeffrey Hunter. We have come a long way since then and many different actors have taken on the role of Christ and now you too may take it on. 'How?' you may well ask. By playing a video game, that's how.

I was amazed to read an article (which rejoiced in the heading 'Let us play') in last Saturday's *Times* about a video game called 'I am Jesus Christ' in which the player walks in Christ's sandals, acting out his life from Baptism to Crucifixion. I quote from the article: 'Players can roam through Roman Judea performing 30 miracles, resisting temptations in the wilderness, battling demons, casting the money changers out of the Temple, and getting up the noses of the Sanhedrin'. All this comes with accompanying verbatim quotes from the New Testament.

I am not sure how I feel about this. I'm not a player of video games (no surprise there) so I won't be trying the game. Some Christians believe it is trivialising the Gospel message and maybe blasphemous. Others support popularising the Gospel through a modern medium. I am very much a traditionalist but I fully acknowledge that we have to adopt new means of mission to appeal to today's population. If this game draws people in to enquire further, then it will be a positive use of the media which

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can be the source of evil. I wonder how you feel about the subject.

If you fancy yourself in the role, you can acquire the game for the princely sum of £10.25 from Steam...apparently the world's largest platform for downloading games. If you are tempted and decide to have a go, do let the rest of us know how you got on.

Every blessing, *Pat*.

New/amended items

TODAY'S SERVICES *The Leader, Preacher & Celebrant at the 9.30 am service will be Revd Simon Tillotson.*

WELCOME *If you are visiting or new to St John's this morning we offer you a warm welcome, please do stay and join us for refreshments after the service. There are toilets also available; speak to someone at the back.*

BOOK BOX We will be removing the book box shortly and disposing of unwanted books. Please do feel free to take any books you might like to use.

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER If you have not previously helped with the delivery of our community newsletter around Swalecliffe but would like to volunteer for a road or two at the end of May/early June, please contact Karen:

(karenmckane@gmail.com)

OUR ANNUAL DISTRICT CHURCH MEETING will take place

on Thursday 23rd April at 7.00 pm in St John's Centre. All are welcome - only electoral roll members can vote but this is a small part of the meeting. The formal meeting will be followed by a presentation from the LYCiG group about the 'Three Things' the Diocese has asked us to focus on this year, with a particular emphasis today on the importance of prayer.

CLEANERS WANTED to clean the church. Just an hour each month. If you can help please speak to Stewart or Jan.

LOOK & LEARN will take place (with a slightly different format) at 3.00 pm in St John's Centre on Mondays 27th April and 11th May: Do join us for tea/coffee, a short Bible passage and fellowship. All welcome.

LOOKING AHEAD.... We are planning to hold a photo exhibition in the church on the theme of 'Everyday Histories' to coincide with national Heritage

WEEKLY PRAYERS This week please pray for: Arnold, Mike, Sarah, Stephen, Maxine L, Chris C and Corrina.

This month we pray for: Thanet Way, including the Medical Centre, commercial area, restaurants; Reeves Way (as far as Swalecliffe Brook) and Maydowns Road.

Open Days in September. If you would be interested in joining our small planning team for this event please get in touch. **Karen.**

A PRAYER FESTIVAL to explore different ways of praying, Saturday 30th May, 10.00 am-4.00 pm at West Malling St Benedict's Centre and Malling Abbey. Keynote speaker: Canon Dr Neville Emslie, Director of Mission and Ministry, Canterbury Diocese. With workshops on: Pilgrimage, Christian meditation, Celtic Prayer, Labyrinth Pilgrimage, Praying with Dreams, Ignatian Prayer & the Jesus Prayer Suggested donation £10-£20. To book:

tickets.myknowchurch.co.uk/gb/MzAxLTkwNA/t

For info: email susanne.carlsson@rochester.anglican.org

CATCHING LIVES following my sending the money given for my 80th birthday to Catching Lives,

(£475 was donated and I rounded this up) the following email has been received:

Dear Nick,

On behalf of everybody at Catching Lives, I wanted to thank you for so kindly choosing to donate to us for your birthday.

We really appreciate your generous donation of £500, which will ensure we can continue to open our doors every day for people who are homeless in our community, providing warmth, food and support every day while they are at their most vulnerable.

We really appreciate your kind gesture of choosing us to receive donations for your birthday, and what an amazing amount to have raised for Catching Lives.

Wishing you a very happy and healthy 80th birthday!

With sincere thanks,

Georgia Jefferson, Fundraising Officer

BIRTHDAYS

Friday 24th April

Barbara Brenson



NEXT SUNDAY'S SERVICE

Sunday, 26th April 2026 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

9.30 am - Morning Worship in St John's Church

Leader & Leader & Preacher: Revd Simon Tillotson

Readings: Acts 2.14a,42-end & John 10.1-10

Collect

Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

NT: Acts 2.14a,36-41

¹⁴ On the day of Pentecost, Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:

³⁶ Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.'

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' ³⁸Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.' ⁴⁰And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' ⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Gospel: Luke 24.13-35

¹³ On the day that Jesus rose, two disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' ¹⁹He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in

deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' ²⁵Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. ²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, SWALECLIFFE WITH CHESTFIELD
CHURCH OF ENGLAND PARISH CHURCH IN THE WHITSTABLE TEAM MINISTRY

Compiled by Nick Widdows (01227 792498, 07778 947005, mail@nickw.enterprise-plc.com). Items for next issue should be supplied by 7.00 pm Thursday.

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