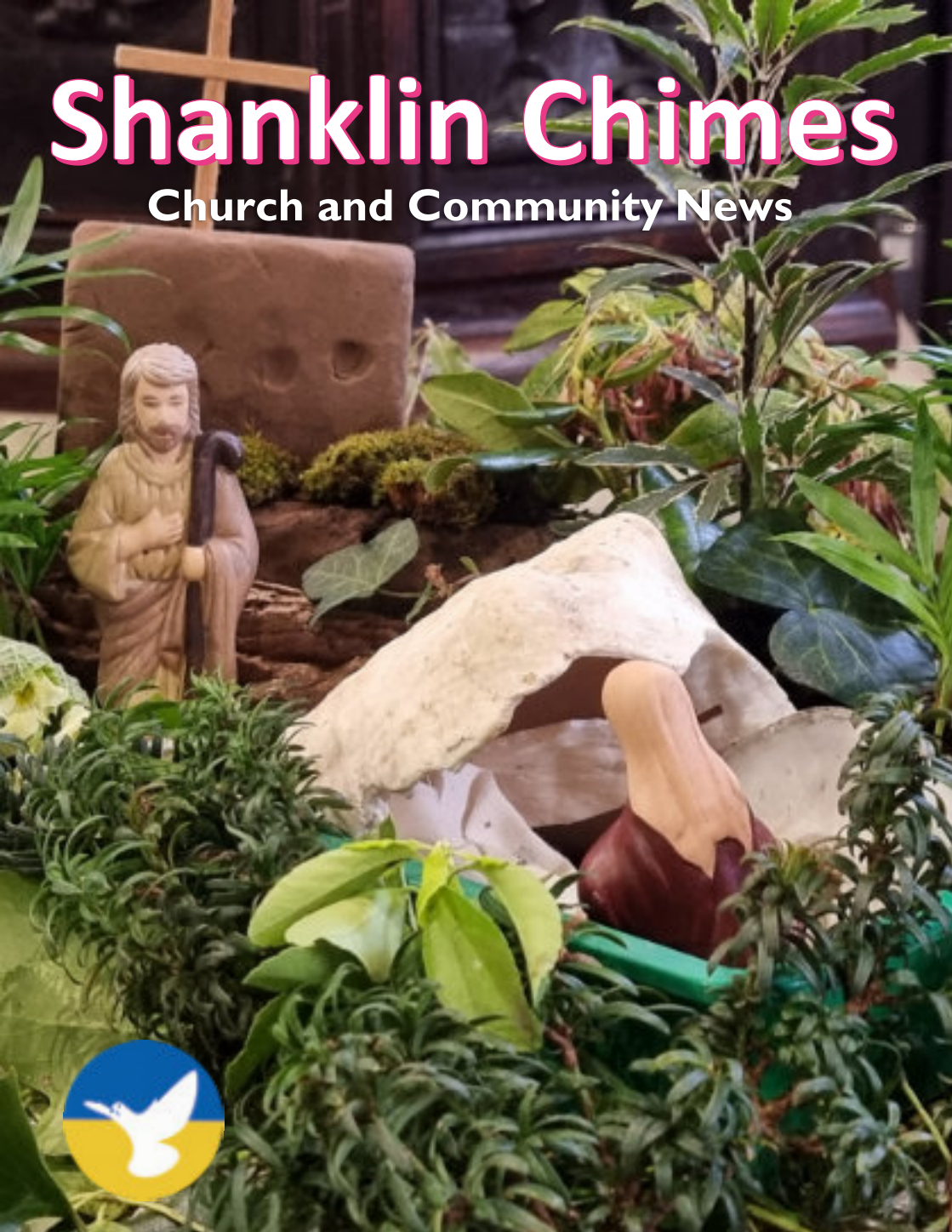


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Church and Community News



APRIL
2026

The monthly magazine of
St Blasius Old Parish Church

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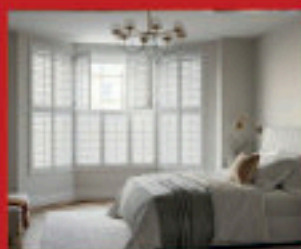
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Visitors are welcome

For details of talks and other events please see our website
shanklinhistory.net



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St. Blasius Old Parish Church Magazine

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TOGETHER**

— CHURCH SERVICES —

We warmly invite you to join us - See details on Page 3

For enquiries relating to Banns and Marriage services, Baptisms and Funerals
please contact: Revd. Tony Richards (details below)

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Cost of Magazine: £1.00 DONATION

St Blasius Old Parish Church, Church Road, Shanklin, PO37 6QY

NEW website: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/16793/



Thought for the Month

A 2026 EASTER REFLECTION

Easter isn't just about chocolate eggs and bunny rabbits. (much as I am fond of chocolate, and small furry animals) It's a time that has a much deeper meaning—one of renewal, hope, and reflection. So, what does Easter mean to us? It's more than just a religious festival, rather it's a time to reflect, reconnect with ourselves, the world around us God and Christ

Easter can be and is for many a time filled with family gatherings, days out together and Easter egg hunts. But as I've aged, I've come to appreciate the spiritual significance behind the festival. It's a reminder that even in our darkest moments there's always a glimmer of hope, a chance for a fresh start. As the disciples watched Jesus on the cross, they would have felt that everything was lost, that it was all over. Yet the reality of Easter is the truth that from that dark moment came a new beginning for us all! Hope in the midst of change.

Easter is a time of renewal which coincides with Spring, which feels like nature's way of hitting the reset button encouraging us to look ahead into the future. It's a time to let go of the past and move forward with a renewed sense of purpose and direction. At Easter, the old order of things passed away and the new has come – the resurrection of Jesus and the promise of a new beginning! It's also a time of introspection, a chance to take a step back and think about what truly matters in the hustle and bustle of everyday life. It's easy to lose sight of the things that are most important. But Easter gives us an opportunity to pause, reflect, and reconnect with our values and faith.

As you have all heard, I shall be retiring on Easter day, not retirement in the accepted sense but a new phase in my life and ministry. Although I will be leaving St. Blasius and St. John's as their Local Minister, I will still be active with Permission to Officiate, allowing my ministry to continue through the chaplaincy work and no doubt other challenges.

We (Annette and I) felt that with advancing years and the health issues that come with ageing we should spend a little more time together and help prepare the ground for the future not just of ourselves but for our parishes. It's not a goodbye but a leap into the prospect of a new future.

In a world that so often feels chaotic and uncertain, when we see darkness and fear across our world, Easter reminds us that there's always light at the end of the tunnel; that even in our darkest moments, there's still reason to believe that things will get better. It's a message of resilience, strength and the unbreakable love of Jesus that I find incredibly comforting, especially during challenging times.

This Easter, in the presence of Jesus, let us all allow Him to refresh us and be reminded of all that He has done in our lives; what he has in store for us in the future and embrace the Easter message of the hope it brings.

As I reflect on Easter, I feel a sense of gratitude; Gratitude for the incredible reality of the resurrection, for the beauty of nature, for the love and support of family and friends, and for the opportunity to experience life in all its ups and downs. Easter is a time to count our blessings and to remember just how fortunate we are to be alive, and to know and love Jesus.

Easter is a time of renewal, reflection, and hope. It's a time to be reminded of the truth of Easter, embrace new beginnings, to reconnect with what truly matters, and to find comfort in the knowledge that brighter days lie ahead. So as we celebrate Easter this year, let's do so with a heart full of gratitude and a renewed sense of optimism for the future.

With Easter Blessings to you all.

Reverend Tony Richards, Local Minister for St Blasius and St John's



OUR CHURCH SERVICES IN APRIL



*You are warmly invited to join us for
our Sunday Worship
at 10.15am unless otherwise stated*



Friday 3rd April - Good Friday

10.30 am Contemplation of the Cross

Reverend Tony Richards

Followed by Ecumenical Walk of Witness at 11.15am (see page 6)

3.00 pm Seven Last Words of Christ

Reverend Karen Crowhurst

Sunday 5th April - EASTER SUNDAY

Parish Eucharist

Reverend Tony Richards

Sunday 12nd April - Second Sunday of Easter

Matins

Reverend Karen Crowhurst

Sunday 19th April - Third Sunday of Easter

Parish Eucharist

Reverend Janet Hallam

Sunday 26th April - Fourth Sunday of Easter

Parish Eucharist

Reverend Karen Crowhurst



PRAYERS FOR THE MONTH

*The Sunday and Special Collects for this month
(with endings omitted)*

2nd April - MAUNDY THURSDAY

God our Father, you have invited us to share in the supper which your Son gave to his Church to proclaim his death until he comes: may he nourish us by his presence, and unite us in his love; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

3rd April - GOOD FRIDAY

Almighty Father, look with mercy on this your family for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed and given up into the hands of sinners and to suffer death upon the cross; who is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

5th April - EASTER SUNDAY

Grant, Lord, that we who are baptized into the death of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ may continually put to death our evil desires and be buried with him; and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass to our joyful resurrection; through his merits, who died and was buried and rose again for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

12th April - Second Sunday of Easter

Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

19th April - Third Sunday of Easter

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

26th April - Fourth Sunday of Easter

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father...

FESTIVALS IN APRIL

From the Church of England Calendar

1 Frederick Denison Maurice, Priest, Teacher of the Faith, 1872

2 MAUNDY THURSDAY

3 GOOD FRIDAY

5 EASTER SUNDAY

9 Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran Pastor, Martyr, 1945

10 William Law, Priest, Spiritual Writer, 1761

10 William of Ockham, Friar, Philosopher, Teacher of the Faith, 1347

11 George Augustus Selwyn, first Bishop of New Zealand, 1878

16 Isabella Gilmore, Deaconess, 1923

19 Alphege, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr, 1012

**21 Anselm, Abbot of Le Bec, Archbishop of Canterbury,
Teacher of the Faith, 1109**

23 George, Martyr, Patron of England, c.304

24 Mellitus, Bishop of London, first Bishop at St Paul's, 624

25 Mark the Evangelist

27 Christina Rossetti, Poet, 1894

28 Peter Chanel, Missionary in the South Pacific, Martyr, 1841

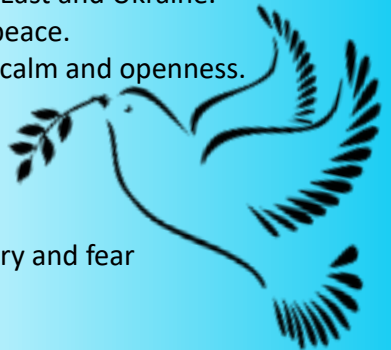
29 Catherine of Siena, Teacher of the Faith, 1380

30 Pandita Mary Ramabai, Translator of the Scriptures, 1922

Praying for Peace

God of peace, bearer of hope,
we seek your help for the peoples of the Middle East and Ukraine.
Quiet the clamour of war and guide us towards peace.
Where there is hatred and division sow seeds of calm and openness.
Where there is destruction help us to rebuild.
Where children are crying bring an end to tears.
Shelter your peoples and protect them.
Guide them and keep them from harm.
Show us how to break down the barriers of history and fear
and breathe whispers of hope. Amen.

Linda Jones / CAFOD



Christians Working Together in Shanklin



Good Friday

Procession of Witness

Commencing at St Blasius Church at 11.15am

- 11.45am St Saviour on the Cliff
- 11.55am United Reformed Church
- 12.05pm Methodist Church
- 12.20pm Sacred Heart
- 12.30pm St Paul's

You are warmly invited for refreshments at the end

Easter Sunday Morning

Open Air Sunrise Celebration

6.15 am

on the seafront

(at the bottom of Hope Road)

Followed by Breakfast -

The South East Beach Café

are opening especially for us



Shared Worship

at 6.30pm

Christians Working Together in the Bay

Warmly invite you to join them on Sunday evenings in a different Church each week.

Details will be published in the weekly newsletter.



Beetle Success...

We held our Beetle Drive on Thursday, 12th March, at the Rowing Club. A lovely evening was had by all! We were looked after very well by Ian and Jane from the Rowing Club; we consumed a generous fish and chips supper (with mushy peas for those who wanted them), followed by delicious home baked cakes at half time. The raffle was drawn as the evening was coming to a close, with lovely prizes for the lucky winners. But, of course, the main event was the Beetle Drive which as always was great fun, with noisy cries of BEETLE!!

We had a few other prizes, highest score, lowest score, best drawn beetle and worst one.

All in all - a truly enjoyable evening!

Thanks to everyone who helped to organise and supported the event.



SUMMERTIME COFFEE MORNINGS

at St Blasius Church, Shanklin

COFFEE AND CAKE

On the 1st MONDAY of each month
From 10.00 am until 12.00 noon

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6th April

6th July

4th May

3rd August

1st June

7th September

Palm Sunday

P is for **palms** laid for Jesus the King
A is for His **angels** rejoicing did sing,
L is for **love** for my Saviour today,
M is for His **mother**, for her Son she did pray.

S is for **sadness** when they crucified Him,
U is for **us**, He saved from all sin
N is for **night** when this sad world turned dark.
D is for **dying** on a cross cold and stark
A is for **anguish** felt by all His loved ones
Y is for **yield** when God took back His Son.

Put these letters together
and PALM SUNDAY it reads
Giving a message of love to all creeds.

*Thank you to V. Taplin
for contributing this acrostic poem.*



A Good Friday Reflection by Bear Grylls

I've always being so moved by the story of the thief on the cross beside Jesus.

What did he have to offer in his torment?

No formal prayers. No religious words. Just a dying man in agony asking Jesus to remember him. That's it. And it was enough. It's all we need. We can't earn the favour of God. It's a gift, accessed by humble hearts asking for help.

As a distraught teenager who had lost someone so close to me, my own prayer, sat by a tree on my own, was not dissimilar: please be with me. Nothing dramatic happened that day. But from little acorns, great oaks grow. And something lit in my heart that day. Like a pilot light. Sometimes it burns brighter than at others, and sometimes it has dimmed quite a bit. But it's never gone out. And Christ has never left my heart.

The Secret Disciples of Jesus

From a meditation by Scott Silverii

Based on The Gospel of John Chapter 19 verses 38 to 42

Joseph came from a town in Judea called Arimathea.
Joseph was a wealthy man. A member of the Sanhedrin. A respected Jew.
The Jewish law was clear: Touch a dead body. You are unclean for 7 days.
Can't worship. Can't celebrate. Can't enter the temple.
Joseph knew this. He'd spent his entire life following these laws.

When Joseph of Arimathea took down the body of Jesus, he became ceremonially unclean for Passover. The holiest day of the year.
Joseph approaches Pilate—the man who just murdered his Lord—and asks permission. "Can I have the body?" Pilate grants it.
And Passover was 3 hours away. The holiest day of the year.

But he climbed Golgotha anyway.
Jesus was still hanging on that cross.
The crowds are gone. The soldiers drunk. The women weeping.

Nicodemus, who had first gone to see Jesus at night, went with Joseph.
Another secret disciple. Another Sanhedrin member.
He brings 30 kg of spices, a mixture of myrrh and aloes.
Two wealthy men. Finally brave when it's already too late.
They work fast. The Sabbath is coming. They have maybe 3 hours.
Wrap the body. Pour the spices. Seal the tomb.
The sun is setting.

Joseph is now officially unclean. Can't celebrate Passover tomorrow.
Can't enter the temple for a week.
Think about what he just gave up:
His ceremonial purity. His Passover celebration.
His reputation (everyone saw him bury a "blasphemer").
His position (the Sanhedrin won't forget this).
His safety (Romans might come for disciples next).
All for a dead man.

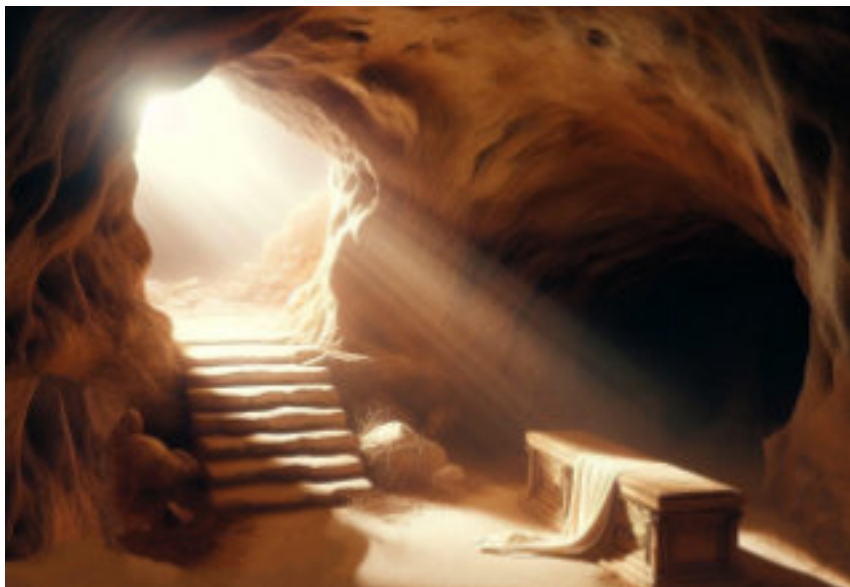
But Joseph didn't do this expecting resurrection.
He did it expecting NOTHING. Jesus was dead. Gone. Finished.

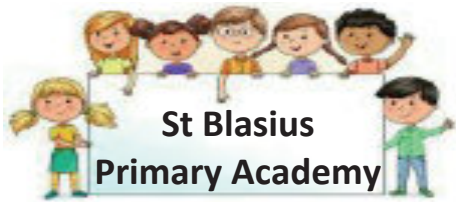
This wasn't faith in resurrection. This was love and respect for a dead man. Joseph touched death, literally, knowing it meant giving up everything.

Not because Jesus had asked him to do anything.
But because Jesus deserved honour and respect even in death.
Joseph shows us something different:
Joseph climbed Golgotha when everyone else went home.
He wrapped a corpse when he could've stayed clean.
He missed the holiest day in his life to honour a dead "criminal."
He risked everything when there was no visible reward.

Three days later, that tomb was empty.
Joseph gave his grave to Jesus. Jesus left it empty. Forever.
Joseph thought he was burying God.
He was actually setting the stage for resurrection.

God can use us even when we don't understand.
Even when we can't see the point.
Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus held death in their arms.
They got blood on their hands. They became ceremonially unclean
Missed Passover. Lost their reputations.
Yet through their devotion as a secret disciple of Jesus, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus are each remembered by name for their brave acts of love and respect in all four Gospels.





Extracts from Recent Newsletters

By Jemma Powell, Assistant Principal

During the first week in March, our school was overflowing with love, pride, and togetherness as we celebrated the incredible mothers and female role models who play such an important part in our children's lives. It has been truly heartwarming to see our community honour the special people who support, guide, and inspire our young people every day.

In our Worship, we shared how a Samaritan woman experienced that Jesus' love is for everyone. In this prayer time, children had an opportunity to accept the love Jesus offers and shares this love with others. This Lent, we can say 'Yes!' to Jesus' transforming love in our lives. The Scripture Matthew John 4:5-42 was shared with the children to help support this.

We also welcomed our mums and female role models into school to share some creative and heartwarming activities, giving our children a special opportunity to show just how important these remarkable women are in their lives.

"A mother's love is the first light that guides us and the longest shadow that protects us."

Our Early Years Foundation Stage children have also enjoyed a wonderful trip to the Wildheart Sanctuary, joining Reception pupils from St Francis for a day filled with exploration and awe. The children represented our school brilliantly, showing curiosity, kindness, and a great sense of adventure.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported our Scholastic Book Fair. Thanks to your generosity, we have raised over £90, which will go directly towards purchasing new books for our school library. Your support helps us continue to nurture a love of reading across the school, and we are incredibly grateful. Our School Council enjoyed a fantastic visit to Waterstones in Newport, where they carefully selected a range of new books for our library. A huge thank you to the PTA for funding these purchases—your support continues to enrich our reading spaces and inspire our young learners. We are also incredibly proud of the School Council; we received wonderful feedback from members of the public and the Waterstones team, who shared how polite, enthusiastic, and engaged the children were throughout the visit. They represented our school beautifully.

A Report from the Mothers' Union at St Blasius

Members thoroughly enjoyed a visit to see the snowdrops and daffodils at All Saint's Church, Newchurch on Monday, 23 February. There followed tea and cakes at Poppies Café at Thompsons Nurseries. We were so pleased we'd avoided the rain!

Saturday, 7 March saw members helping at St Blasius Church with the "Big Spring Clean". This was followed by a beautiful Celtic Communion led by the Rev Tony Richards.



On Sunday, 15 March, our annual fund-raising Cake Sale took place, raising much-needed funds for our "Away from it All" charity. The money raised will help provide days away or short breaks for parents and families who are living in crisis or in need.

On Monday, 30 March we will travel to Carisbrooke Priory for our annual "Day of Reflection". The Rev Charlotte Hudd will guide us through the day with periods of quiet, music and reflection. There will be time to wander in the beautiful gardens, to read or to make

use of the art room. For lunch we'll enjoy homemade soup with crusty bread, and we'll close the session with a delicious cream tea. It will be a wonderful opportunity to spend time with God, to see old friends from across the Island and to enjoy the peace and quiet of Carisbrooke Priory.



Continued...

Our next meeting will be on 27 April when Judith Lassam will be talking about her “Life as A Navel Officer’s Wife”. I’m sure it will be an amusing afternoon.

If you are interested in joining the Mothers’ Union, please contact me on 07484 714892. We are always happy to welcome new members. To find out more about MU projects in the UK and overseas go to: www.mothersunion.org.

Suzanne Cook
Branch Leader

Celebrating Easter
at St John’s Church, Sandown
Easter Sunday 5th April
10.30 am Holy Communion
All Welcome



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We are always pleased to include poems or articles written by a readers of the magazine. Have you read a good book, or been to an interesting place or event and would like to share your experience with others? The editor would be very happy to receive written contributions by email: editor.shanklinchimes@gmail.com

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A business card for JMW Electrical. The card has a dark blue background with a circuit diagram at the top featuring a lightbulb, a plug, and a lightning bolt. The text on the card includes the company name 'JMW ELECTRICAL', 'Electrical Contractors', and the email 'jmwelectrical.lw@gmail.com'. It also lists the name 'Jason Whitehead Director' and the address '20 Nunwell Street Sandown PO36 9DE'. A phone number '07968 335159' is displayed in a white box. On the right side, there are three logos: 'ECA REGISTERED MEMBER', 'ISLE OF WIGHT TRADER APPROVAL SCHEME', and 'TRUSTMARK'.

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East Cowes
PO32 6RU

COWES

2nd Weds of the month
2pm - 4pm
Football Club
Reynolds Close
(off Park Road)
PO31 7NT

TOTLAND

3rd Weds of the month
2pm - 4pm
St Saviour's
Holy Family Centre
Weston Lane
Totland
PO39 0HE

SANDOWN

4th Weds of the month
2pm - 4pm
The Broadway Centre
1 Broadway, Sandown
PO36 9GG



ACE7 (under 65s)

1st & 3rd Tues of the month
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Church Hall
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