

# Shanklin Chimes

Church and Community News



**May**  
2026

The monthly magazine of  
**St Blasius Old Parish Church**

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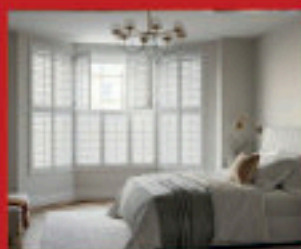
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# Shanklin & District History Society



Meetings with a speaker and archive display are held at the Falcon Cross Hall (next door to the library) on the first Thursday of the month at 7.25

Visitors are welcome

For details of talks and other events please see our website  
[shanklinhistory.net](http://shanklinhistory.net)



**CAN YOU HELP US** by adding an item from our most needed items in your nearest supermarket collection basket?



To find out what and where to donate or to make a financial donation, please visit our website:

[isleofwight.foodbank.org.uk](http://isleofwight.foodbank.org.uk)

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Today on the Isle of Wight there are families struggling to put food on the table. No money + no food = crisis. Isle of Wight foodbank provides 3 days worth nutritionally balanced emergency food parcels to local people in crisis.



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We are a registered Island charity that supports care home residents without family and friends or those suffering isolation and loneliness.

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[rebecca@embracingage.org.uk](mailto:rebecca@embracingage.org.uk) or Tel. No 07419338066



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# St. Blasius Old Parish Church Magazine

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**— 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)

Local Minister:	Revd. Tony Richards.	Tel: 863607
Curate:	Revd. Karen Crowhurst	Tel: 867727
Churchwardens:	Mr. Robert Crawley. (VACANT)	Tel: 868436
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Children's Society:	Mrs. Charlotte Coppin	Tel: 07724 852024

Cost of Magazine: £1.00 DONATION

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

**NEW website:** [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/16793/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/16793/)



## Thought for the Month



May is always a month I look forward to as so many flowering plants are at their very best. In our churchyard at St Blasius, for instance, the rhododendrons are already in full bud in mid-April, as I write this article, and should look spectacular by the time May begins. There are also two bank holidays in May – something else for children and many adults to look forward to.

In the church, two notable festivals are celebrated in May: Ascension and Pentecost.

Ascension Day is one of the most important Christian feasts, marking the moment when Jesus ascended into heaven, 40 days after the Resurrection. Pentecost marks the great event when the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples. According to Acts 2, the disciples were gathered together when “a sound like a mighty rushing wind” filled the house, and “tongues like flames of fire” rested on each of them. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them.

This moment marks the dramatic fulfillment of Jesus’ promise that the Holy Spirit would come to the disciples after his Ascension.

Jerusalem was full of Jewish pilgrims from across the world for the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost). When they heard the sound, a crowd gathered, astonished because each person heard the disciples speaking in their own native language — Parthians, Medes, Egyptians, Romans, Arabs, and many more – in fact, they thought the disciples must be drunk!

It can be difficult for us to understand what the Holy Spirit really is. The church teaches that the Trinity is composed of ‘three persons’ – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Most of us probably have a strong image of what the Father and the Son might look like – even if we think of God the Father as an old man with

a long white beard, but the Holy Spirit is a bit more difficult, perhaps.

Put simply, theologians understand the Holy Spirit, often symbolized by a dove, to be God's personal, personal, life-giving presence, the power that brings life, beauty, and order out of chaos. And scripture teaches that the Holy Spirit is not just out there in the world, but also at work in the lives of Christians – in fact dwelling within us and helping us to live the kind of lives that God wants us to.

And that really is good news for all of us!

*Reverend Karen Crowhurst*



Beautiful Lord, may we say "yes" to you,  
so that the Spirit in our hearts will once again be set ablaze:  
Spirit of Wisdom, guide our actions so they tell of God's love.  
Spirit of Truth, open our eyes to see the world as it really is.  
Spirit of Power, enthuse us to work for justice throughout the world.  
Spirit of Love, inspire us to respect the dignity of each person.  
Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.  
Come, Holy Spirit, fill our hearts.  
Come, Holy Spirit, fill us.  
Come, Holy Spirit, Come.

### ***Hearts Ablaze***

Prayer by Stephen Davies/CAFOD

## OUR CHURCH SERVICES IN MAY



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



**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May - Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**Matins**

Reverend Karen Crowhurst

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May - Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**Holy Communion**

Reverend Janet Hallam

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May - Seventh Sunday of Easter**

**Holy Communion**

Reverend Karen Crowhurst

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May - PENTECOST**

**Holy Communion**

Reverend Karen Crowhurst

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May - TRINITY SUNDAY**

**Holy Communion**

Reverend Karen Crowhurst

***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.

## **PRAYERS FOR THE MONTH**

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

### **3<sup>rd</sup> May – Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ  
have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:  
grant that, as by your grace going before us  
you put into our minds good desires,  
so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect...

### **10<sup>th</sup> May – Sixth Sunday of Easter**

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness  
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:  
grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,  
so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy...

### **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May – Ascension Day**

Grant, we pray, almighty God,  
that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ  
to have ascended into the heavens, so we in heart and mind may also ascend  
and with him continually dwell...

### **17<sup>th</sup> May – Seventh Sunday of Easter**

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ  
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:  
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,  
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us  
and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before...

### **24<sup>th</sup> May – Pentecost Sunday**

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people  
by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit:  
grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things  
and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort...

### **31<sup>st</sup> May - Trinity Sunday**

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us your servants grace,  
by the confession of a true faith,  
to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity  
and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity:  
keep us steadfast in this faith,  
that we may evermore be defended from all adversities...

# FESTIVALS IN MAY

From the Church of England Calendar

## 1 Philip and James, Apostles

2 Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, Teacher of the Faith, 373

4 English Saints and Martyrs of the Reformation Era

8 Julian of Norwich, Spiritual Writer, c.1417

## 14 ASCENSION DAY

### 14 Matthias the Apostle

16 Caroline Chisholm, Social Reformer, 1877

19 Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, Restorer of Monastic Life, 988

20 Alcuin of York, Deacon, Abbot of Tours, 804

21 Helena, Protector of the Holy Places, 330

## 24 PENTECOST SUNDAY

24 John and Charles Wesley, Evangelists, Hymn Writers, 1791 and 1788

25 The Venerable Bede, Monk at Jarrow, Scholar, Historian, 735

25 Aldhelm, Bishop of Sherborne, 709

26 Augustine, first Archbishop of Canterbury, 605

26 John Calvin, Reformer, 1564

26 Philip Neri, Founder of the Oratorians, Spiritual Guide, 1595

28 Lanfranc, Prior of Le Bec, Archbishop of Canterbury, Scholar, 1089

30 Josephine Butler, Social Reformer, 1906

30 Joan of Arc, Visionary, 1431

30 Apolo Kivebulaya, Priest, Evangelist in Central Africa, 1933

## 31 TRINITY SUNDAY

### 31 The Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth



Thy Kingdom Come (TKC) is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus. Since it began in May 2016, God has grown TKC into a movement which unites more than a million Christians in prayer, in nearly 90% of countries worldwide, across 85 different denominations and traditions - so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith

in Jesus Christ. **Every person, household and church are encouraged to pray during the 11 days in their own way. Specifically, each and every Christian across the globe is invited to pray that God's Spirit might work in the lives of 5 people who have not responded with their 'Yes' to God's call.**

## A Well Earned Rest!

Reverend Tony Richards retired from his role as Priest-in-Charge of St Blasius and St Johns, Sandown on Easter Sunday when he led the service of Holy Communion at St Blasius.

The service was very well attended (140+) with our congregation boosted by many people who came to wish Tony well in his retirement. The Island's biker community was well represented as was the Royal British Legion and the Naval Association. Presentations were made to Tony and Annette after the service and they both enjoyed a generous and well earned round of applause.



*Photography by Jackie Ridley*

In 2006 after a busy and challenging career which took him all around the world and at an age when the majority of us would be looking forward to a well earned retirement Tony committed himself to a new career and took Holy Orders. He was Ordained on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009, undertook his Curacy at Christchurch and St Johns in Sandown and was appointed Local Minister for St Blasius in August 2015 following the retirement of Rev.d Victor Standing. He worked closely with Rev.d Jonathan Hall whilst he was Priest-in-Charge of St Blasius and St Johns and took over this role following Reverend Jonathan's retirement. He was also Rev.d Karen Crowhurst's mentor in her Curacy.

During a period when the leadership of our two parishes changed on a number of occasions Tony was the glue that kept the Mission and Ministry of St Blasius and St Johns together for which we are very grateful.

Whilst Tony has formally retired he will still be coming back to lead the occasional service but in the meantime we wish him all the best for his well earned rest.

From both of the Church Families of St Blasius and St Johns, thank you Tony for all of your dedication, love and hard work and a very big thank you to Annette who has supported you throughout.

*Bob Crawley, Churchwarden, St Blasius*

## St Blasius 2026 Annual Meetings

**Our Annual Meetings will take place at 11.30am on Sunday, May 17th.**

There will be two meetings starting with the Annual Meeting of Parishioners which is open to anyone who lives in the Parish or anyone who lives outside the Parish but is on our Electoral Roll. The sole purpose of this meeting is to elect the two churchwardens for the forthcoming year. As you may have read, after ten years as your churchwarden I am stepping down so we are looking for two people to take on this important role. Taking on this responsibility may seem a little intimidating but you will not be doing the job by yourselves. You will have the full and active support of Reverend Karen and the members of your Parochial Church Council, including myself. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to hear more about the role of churchwarden.

The second meeting is the Annual Parochial Church Meeting which is open to everyone on our Electoral Roll. During this meeting you will hear reports from our Church leaders and you will have the opportunity to ask questions on all facets of our Church life both looking back on 2025 and looking forward.

As we approach our Annual Meetings please give some thought as to whether you would like to become more involved in the management of our Church by becoming a member of our Parochial Church Council. If you would like to know more please contact reverend Karen or myself.

*Bob Crawley, Churchwarden.*



## 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**

### ALL WELCOME

**4<sup>th</sup> May**

**1<sup>st</sup> June**

**6<sup>th</sup> July**

**3<sup>rd</sup> August**

**7<sup>th</sup> September**

## YMCA Mother and Baby Unit

### *Update*

*By Rodney and Ann Foster*

Once again it's that time of year when Shanklin Town Brass Band are holding a Charity Concert to raise funds for the Mother and Baby Unit, on Friday 1st May starting at 7.30pm, at Shanklin United Reformed Church.

Please come and join us in an evening of joyful music, entertainment, laughter and community friendship and of course there will be delightful refreshments available. Admission is free with a retiring collection for the Mother and Baby Unit. A great big "THANK YOU" to the Shanklin Brass Band, Yvonne and the URC team in organising this event.

A very big "Thank You" to all those who continue to support the Mother and Baby Unit in many ways and through the giving of clothes, toys, baby equipment, nappies, creams, shampoos and food parcels for the kitchen.

### **Urgently Needed...**

The Mother and Baby Unit is in urgent need of a **toddler bath seat** and a **cot bed**; that would ideally be one that turns into a bed, suitable for a 20 month old.

**Cot/bed linen; bath towels, nappies, and baby toiletries** are always gratefully appreciated.

If you are able to help with gifting any of these items, please contact:

**Rod on 07394 044614 or Ann on 07481 596958.**



**Shanklin Town  
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is holding a...

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**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May**  
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## Book Review



**Title:** A Nature Poem for Every Day of the Year

**Editor:** Jane Mc Moorland Hunter

**Publisher:** Pavillion Books Ltd.

**ISBN:** ISBN 978-1-84994-500-4

This book is a beautiful anthology of poems that celebrates the changes in the natural seasons through the year. I was delighted to find this book recently in good condition and at a bargain price in a local charity shop.

Jane Mc Moorland is a writer and editor, working at Hatchards Bookshop in London. She writes, “In the bookshop I am constantly making new discoveries; research for the anthologies leads me to long-forgotten poets and writers.”

The anthology covers poems from many different times, with early poems from the fourteenth century, many loved and well-known poems, right up to writing from contemporary poets, including Wendy Cope. It is easy to find your favourite poems in the book, because there is both an index of first lines and an index of poets.

The book is divided into months of the year and each begins with an illustration by Tatiana Boyko and a short phrase taken from one of the poems featured in that month. Tatiana is a “designer, illustrator and pattern maker, inspired by nature’s beauty and details”. You may have already seen her distinctive illustrations on the packets of *Dragonfly tea* in supermarkets.

The poem on the facing page, is one of the poems that has been included for the month of May. (The bluebell wood pictured is from a lovely springtime walk at Mottistone, on the Isle of Wight, earlier this year. (Photography by Jonathan Hall).

In the introduction, Jane Mc Moorland writes, “Animals, birds, flowers, trees, the sea and the sky allow our imaginations to soar. This can only improve our lives.”

A photograph of a forest path covered in purple bluebells. The path is a dirt trail that winds through a dense forest. The ground is covered with a thick carpet of small, purple flowers. The trees are tall and thin, with their branches reaching up. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day. The overall scene is peaceful and beautiful.

## **Bounty**

*by Mary Webb (1881 – 1927)*

**The full woods overflow  
Among the meadow's gold!  
A blue-bell wave has rolled,  
Where crowded cowslips grow.  
The drifting hawthorn snow  
Brimms over hill and wold.  
The full woods overflow  
Among the meadow's gold;  
The ditches are aglow!  
The marshes cannot hold  
Their kingcups manifold.  
Heav'n's beauty crowds below  
The full woods overflow!**



## Extracts from Recent Newsletters

By Jemma Powell, Assistant Principal

Year 2 had a fantastic day exploring Marwell Zoo! The children were full of excitement as they spotted a range of animals and eagerly shared their stories back at school. Their enthusiasm was infectious and it was wonderful to hear how much they enjoyed the experience.

To further enhance their curriculum learning, Year 5 also visited Nature zones. The hands-on activities helped deepen their understanding of nature, habitats and the environment—a brilliant opportunity to bring their classroom learning to life.

We were thrilled to welcome Tina Rowson from the Isle of Wight Cricket Club, who came to share information about the fantastic cricket opportunities available to our children. It was inspiring to see so many pupils enthusiastic about giving cricket a try!

Our Under 11 Girls Football Team played their hearts out in the semifinal against Bembridge Primary. Although they were unable to secure a win, their determination, teamwork and resilience made us incredibly proud. It was touching to see how much the result meant to them, and we couldn't be prouder of the way they represented St Blasius.

A huge well done to the 28 pupils from Years 5 and 6 who took part in the mini football tournament at Lanesend. Despite the challenging windy conditions, the children played brilliantly!

The last week of term included something completely new—our first-ever Quidditch competition! The children were thrilled to try this unique sport,

We were honoured to welcome representatives from Mountbatten Hospice, who came to introduce this year's Walk the Wight. The children were truly inspired and many expressed enthusiasm about taking part. It was wonderful to see them so motivated to support such an important community event.

We finished the term with great excitement as the children took part in our Easter egg hunt. Their efforts were rewarded with a chocolate lolly—yummy indeed! We also had our colourful Easter Bonnet and Accessory Parade! The children shared their creative designs. It was a joyful celebration filled with smiles, music and plenty of Easter cheer.

## A Report from the Mothers' Union at St Blasius

Our Day of Reflection at Carisbrooke Priory on 30 March began with a warm welcome from Revd. Charlotte Hudd, who led us through an interesting and thought-provoking day. The overall theme was, "Extravagance, Fragrance and Obedience", based on the Gospel of John, chapter 12 verses 1 - 8. The story is set in the home of Lazarus where Mary, Martha's sister, takes a pound of costly perfume and anoints Jesus' feet, wiping them with her hair. Judas Iscariot is furious, suggesting the perfume could have been sold and the proceeds given to the poor. His intentions, however, were dishonourable having been known to steal from the common purse. Judas had completely misunderstood Mary's original intention, to use the perfume for the day of Jesus' burial – a beautiful act of love.



*Mary wipes Jesus' feet with her hair.*

During our quiet sessions, we were invited to spend time listening and talking to God either through stitching fabric, reflecting on the symbolism of a chosen icon, walking in the beautiful gardens, reading, sketching or just finding space alone with God for quiet contemplation or prayer.

After enjoying a home-made soup lunch, the afternoon culminated with Holy Communion and an illuminating sermon on the verses in John's Gospel chapter twelve. Later, members later enjoyed a delicious cream tea and were pleased to be able to break the silence and catch up with one another. A truly memorable day.

During our meeting in April, Judith Lassam, one of our own MU members, gave an interesting and amusing talk about her life as naval officer's wife.

On Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May, we will be visiting Farringford Gardens in Freshwater and have tea at a nearby café. If you would be interested in joining the group for this visit, please contact Revd. Karen Crowhurst.

To know more about MU projects in the UK and world-wide, please go to [www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org). If you would like to join us, please call me on 07484 714892. We are always pleased to welcome new members.

*Suzanne V Cook, Branch Leader, Shanklin*

## May Eco Tips



Growing more of our own food is a good way of caring for our local environment, reducing 'Air miles' and living more sustainably. Now is the time to plant runner bean seeds!

Runner beans are rewarding to grow, because they germinate reliably, with little waste. I

have found it helpful to save cardboard tubes, usually toilet rolls, with one bean seed put into compost in each roll. The seeds can be started off indoors in early May, safely away from any late frost, because they need warmth to germinate. The compost needs to be kept moist but not wet.

Then, after about 7 to 10 days, the seedlings should appear. Turn the tubes regularly to make sure the seedlings grow up straight as they will bend towards the sunlight.

Before planting the young beans outside, they need to 'harden off'. Runner beans are not as hardy as broad beans. Put the pots outside during the day for about 4 days, bringing them in at night. Then, they will be ready for transplanting outside.

Keep the bean plants well-watered and you should have a good harvest from mid-August.



***Copy Deadline for the June Magazine - Wednesday 20th May***

### **ADVANCE NOTICE**

**The copy deadline for the July Magazine will be much earlier than usual. All articles will need to be submitted by Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June**

## Articles for the Magazine are always welcome!

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](mailto:editor.shanklinchimes@gmail.com)

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Email:

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**Meetings held at the  
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(No meeting in August)



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A business card for JMW Electrical. The card has a dark blue background with a light blue border. At the top, there is a horizontal line of icons: a lightbulb, a plug, a lightning bolt, and a diode. Below the icons, the text reads 'JMW ELECTRICAL' in large, bold, orange letters, followed by 'Electrical Contractors' in smaller white text. The email address 'jmwelectrical.lw@gmail.com' is listed below. A horizontal line separates the contact information from the address: 'Jason Whitehead Director' and '20 Nunwell Street Sandown PO36 9DE'. At the bottom, the phone number '07968 335159' is displayed in orange. On the right side of the card, there are three logos: 'ECA REGISTERED MEMBER', 'ISLE OF WIGHT TRADER APPROVAL SCHEME', and 'TRUSTMARK'.

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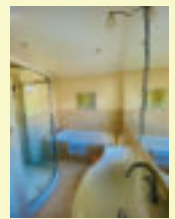


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2pm - 4pm  
Town Hall, York Avenue  
East Cowes  
PO32 6RU

## 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  
10am - 12pm  
Castlehold Baptist  
Church Hall  
High Street, Newport  
PO30 1BH

- [www.alzheimercafeiow.org.uk](http://www.alzheimercafeiow.org.uk)
- [info@alzheimercafeiow.org.uk](mailto:info@alzheimercafeiow.org.uk)
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