

A message from Si, our vicar:

Dear all,

As we continue in lent, many of us try to create more space for prayer, the Word and reflection. The spiritual discipline of fasting or 'giving things up' can help to focus on what matters, if we make time to pray things through (otherwise it is just going hungry!). Some Christians are cautious about Christian seasons and I understand this to some degree, because it is true that we have an unchanging gospel message. But while the Lord doesn't change, it does seem that the creation is seasonal, the Christian life ebbs and flows, and maybe therefore the church year should have shape to it too. So much of the Old Testament 'ancient church' was structured around festivals; times of fast and feast. So I wonder what Jesus is teaching you about yourself in this process? Something about your emptiness when resting on your own resources, maybe? Something about where true joy comes from? It is not too late to use lent to reflect on these things. And may the Lord show you the abundance of His supply.

This Week's Bible Reading:

John 4:1-42 The true Bridegroom? and Psalm 39:6-15

The Collect:

Merciful Lord,

Grant your people grace to withstand the temptations  
of the world, the flesh and the devil  
and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

What's On This Week:

**Sunday 8th 9.00am: Holy Communion Service** (& refreshments in the lounge afterwards)

**Sunday 8th 11.00am: Morning Service with The Lords Supper** and childrens groups for ages 3-11.

Refreshments in the hall afterwards. Children are welcome to stay in the service and there is also a relay in the lounge for parents to take their child to if desired.

**Sunday 8th 8.30pm Zoom Prayer Meeting** for half an hour. Everyone is welcome to join us for this; there is no pressure to pray out loud. The zoom meeting link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85963653180>

Monday 9th 10am - Ladies Bible Study

Monday 6.30pm CYFA

Tuesday 6.15pm Explorers and 7.30pm Pathfinders

Midweek Home Bible Study Groups - See Karl Turner for details

Wednesday 11th 10.30am: Mums bible study

Catch Up:

If you miss the Sunday sermon, you can watch a video of it on the St Johns YouTube Channel. It's usually uploaded on a Monday.

Dates for your Diary:

23rd March AGM

2nd April 7.30pm - Maundy Thursday

3rd April 10.20am - Good Friday

7-10th April: Football School

23rd April: Leprosy Mission Meeting

21st June: Confirmation service

## News:

### Glynns 70<sup>th</sup> birthday:

We're very grateful to the Lord for Glynn upon his 70th Birthday. He turns 70 on Saturday 14th March and we would like to give the church family an opportunity to mark this special occasion. To this end, we have asked Glynn to nominate a charity close to his heart and he has chosen Daylight Christian Prison Trust, who share the gospel with those in prison. Glynn has needed some convincing to step into the limelight, but Si has finally got him to agree! If you would like to make a gift, please either place a labelled envelope in the collection plate or give electronically, being sure to use the reference: GJBirthday. You will have the opportunity on Sunday 8th and Sunday 15th March to do this, after which we will create a total. Many thanks.

### Knit & Natter at the Gables:

Glynn has been approached by the Gables Care Home to see if we would be able to help run a Knit & Natter group there for the next couple of months on a Friday morning 10:30 - 11:45pm.

We would need 2 preferably 3 volunteers each week

Not being able to knit would not be a hindrance as there is more nattering done than knitting!!!

All wool & needles are provided and of course tea and coffee.

It is a great opportunity for us to further reach out into the Hensingham community and build upon the work that has been done there already through our monthly Wednesday service.

If anyone would be interested in joining a rota then please contact:

Phil Sisson - Tel. 07940575638 or [phil@stjohnshensingham.org.uk](mailto:phil@stjohnshensingham.org.uk)

### Filming in Church:

Services in church are recorded and uploaded to you tube. The pews on the left side of the church are not visible to the cameras, so if you do not wish to appear in any video, please sit on the furthest left side of the church. Please speak to Sue if you do not wish your image to appear anywhere online as part of church activities.

### Football school leaders meeting - 22nd March

Thanks again for those who've signed up to help out with the football school. We'll have a leaders planning meeting after church in the lounge on 22nd March to share information and work out logistics, assign jobs and prep for the football school.

### AGM:

In advance of the AGM, please find the minutes of the previous meeting and the agenda for this years meeting on the noticeboard

### Financial Giving:

The PCC have decided to move standing order giving onto a Church of England system called the "Parish Giving Scheme" (PGS). Inevitably this means everyone who currently gives by standing order will need to transfer their donations. We will be making available a leaflet which tells you all you need to know. The process is best done over the internet, but there are also paper forms and a telephone number to call. The principal reason for the change is to allow you to inflation proof your giving (PGS will contact you annually to give an opt out should you wish). Additionally, gift aid will be processed by PGS. As ever, please ask Tim Naylor, our treasurer if you have any questions.

### Chinese New Year:

A very successful event was held in the church hall – see notice at the back of church.

### Starting (or Stopping) Volunteering:

One of the things people often say, is that they are afraid to volunteer in case they can't ever stop. I want to reassure you that you absolutely can. In the vast majority of roles, you can decide how often you want to volunteer and you can stop volunteering at any time. Volunteering is voluntary! Just talk to us.

If God is putting it on your heart to contribute to His work at St John's, please don't hesitate to contact Sue

Lane or any of the group leaders. We have plenty of opportunities to serve and can help you find a way to use the gifts that God has given you. We praise God that He is answering our prayer to share the workload between many passionate disciples.

#### Please pray for:

- Jenny Wong, Joyce & David Maudling, Phil Holland, Emily Lane and Thelma Toman.
- Our mission partner, Romauld Lasnes, in Paris.
- The PCC, the wardens, the standing committee and the clergy, as they lead St John's.

#### Praise God for:

- Our vibrant and diverse church family. In Christ we, though many, form one body and each member belongs to all the others. Romans 12:5

#### Pastoral Visits

Si and the pastoral visiting team are available to visit you at home, or elsewhere if you prefer. Pastoral care is very important to us, so please don't be afraid to ask for a visit. To organise a visit, please get in touch with Sue on 07563473620 or [office@stjohnshensingham.org.uk](mailto:office@stjohnshensingham.org.uk)

#### Useful contact details:

Sue Lane, Church Coordinator, [office@stjohnshensingham.org.uk](mailto:office@stjohnshensingham.org.uk), 07563473620

Si Walker, Vicar, [simon@stjohnshensingham.org.uk](mailto:simon@stjohnshensingham.org.uk), 0194663797

Heather Naylor, safeguarding officer, [safeguarding@stjohnshensingham.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@stjohnshensingham.org.uk), 07718961077

Tim Naylor, treasurer, [treasurer@stjohnshensingham.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@stjohnshensingham.org.uk)

Ann Christian, warden, [ann@stjohnshensingham.org.uk](mailto:ann@stjohnshensingham.org.uk)

Rich Davey, warden, [rich@stjohnshensingham.org.uk](mailto:rich@stjohnshensingham.org.uk)

#### Our Mission Community partner churches:

Church on the Moor (Cleator Moor): [www.churchonthemoor.com](http://www.churchonthemoor.com)

St Andrew's Church (Mirehouse): [www.standrewsmirehouse.co.uk](http://www.standrewsmirehouse.co.uk)

St Bridget's Church (Moresby): [www.stbridgetsmoresby.com](http://www.stbridgetsmoresby.com)

#### Mission Community Events website:

<https://www.churchonthemoor.com/mc-events>