



Sunday 22nd February 2026

Lent I

Theme: Testing Times

Lectionary Readings

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

8am Holy Communion

Leader: Rev Clare Challis

Preacher: Chris Hollis

Supported by Sarah

10 am Morning Worship

Leader: Rev Clare Challis

Preacher: Chris Hollis

Welcoming: Rachel & Lesley

Prayers: Graham M

Readings: Jan R

Sound & Vision: Andrew

Prayer Ministry: Jane & Mel

Refreshments: Rachel & Lesley

THIS WEEK

Monday

9-11am. Little Fishes - A very friendly Toddler group for all pre-school ages and expectant Mums.

Monday Evening Zoom Prayers

7.30pm – 8.15 ish.

Zoom ID 852 8403 5699 Passcode qtPJY

Wednesday

9am Morning Prayer in church.

Interim Administrator

Following Gill's departure we will be looking to employ someone as an interim administrator while we decide what the role should look like in

the future. If you, or anyone you may know, would be interested in the role, whether in the short term or longer term, please get in touch with Rev Clare.

Verger Training – 6th March at 1pm

The role of a church verger plays a vital part in making sure that our services and events run smoothly, and provides a welcoming environment for visitors. If you would be interested in learning more about this paid role, with a view to joining our verger team, primarily to attend weddings and funerals, we will be running an hour's informal training session on Friday 6th March in the church. Please contact Rev Clare for more information.

Moving Outwards

Clare recently spoke about us being on a journey moving outwards. She shared with us four new words as we seek to do this. **Welcome, Family, Give and Build.** We will be looking at these new words over the forthcoming season.

At the welcome desk in church you can find a copy of the handout summarising our 'Cherish to Thrive' journey that we explored last year.



A new Home Group

A reminder that Annie and Valerie's new home group will begin this Tuesday at 7pm. The group will be a bit more contemplative in approach so give it a try, it will be lovely to see you. For further details speak to Annie or Valerie.

Graveyard Tree Works



Please note that our tree surgeon will be carrying out essential maintenance work to the trees in and around the graveyard on Thursday 26th and Friday 27th February.

For safety reasons, access to certain areas of the graveyard may be temporarily restricted while work is in progress. Please follow any signage and guidance in place during this time.

Hunger Brunch – 8th March

Would you like to assist with making some food or helping to set up? Sign-up sheets are by the welcome desk. We need a few people to make a simple soup, simple salad, rock cakes or scones. Thanks.

Spring Work Party 14th March

Following the great success of our Autumn Work Party, we're delighted to invite everyone to join us for a Spring Work Party at St John's Church.

Together we'll be tidying the churchyard, caring for the grounds and tackling some general maintenance — helping to keep this much-loved shared space looking its very best. This year's work party will also prepare the churchyard for the Mothering Sunday Service on Sunday 15th March and the Easter weekend (3rd–5th April), both of which are always well attended and special occasions for our village.

The churchyard and car park are used daily by walkers on the public footpath, families on the school run and visitors to the village, so this is a wonderful opportunity to come together, lend a hand and make a visible difference for everyone who enjoys this space.

There will be a wide range of jobs to suit all abilities, from light gardening and leaf clearing to small repairs and general maintenance. Following feedback from our last work party, tasks will be broken into manageable sessions, offering flexibility for anyone who can't stay all day or would prefer to work at a gentler pace.

Come for the whole day or just an hour or two — every bit of help really does count.

Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided, along with good company and plenty of fresh air.

When: Saturday 14th March, 9:30am–3:30pm

What to bring: gardening gloves, any tools you may have – particularly wheelbarrows - and a smile!

Sign-up: Please sign up in advance via our website so we know how many people to expect and can plan tasks, tools and refreshments accordingly. Turning up on the day without signing up makes this harder to manage:

Option 1: Sign up via your personal Church Suite account at:

<https://saintjohnschurch.churchsuite.com/my>

Option 2: Use this link to take you straight to the general booking page:

<https://saintjohnschurch.churchsuite.com/events/9kzouxpm>

Option 3: Go to our church website, and sign up at the bottom of the main page:

www.saintjohnschurch.org.uk

Spring Working Party Lunch

If anyone is willing to help with preparing the working party lunch, Marion would be very happy to hear from you.

Church Keys – Important Update

The church door locks have now been replaced and new keys issued.



If you previously held a church key (or keys), please return your old key(s) to Andrew C as soon as possible. This will enable us to ensure that all old keys are accounted for and that our records of current key holders are fully up to date.

This applies to all internal and external doors of the church, including the two vestries.

Church Centre Alarm Upgrade

Over the next few weeks, the security alarm system in the Church Centre will be replaced with a new and updated system. This will help us keep the building secure and ensure everything continues to run smoothly for the many groups and activities that use the space each week.



If you already have a key to the Church Centre, you will need an alarm code and instructions for the new system, please get in touch with the church office by email (admin@saintjohnschurch.org.uk) or have a word with Andrew C. We'll make sure you have everything you need in good time.

Upcoming Bookings for Church Centre

If you plan to be using the church or church centre please make sure it is booked by emailing the Parish Office, so that we can ensure that there are no clashes of events. Please check the Churchsuite calendar [here](#) for full details of when the church and church centre are occupied.

PRAYER REQUESTS

If anyone has any prayer requests that they wish the whole church family to know about, please email the Parish Office or speak to Rev Clare on Sunday. Please continue to pray for

- Mandy and Terry, as Mandy undergoes chemotherapy.
- Continue to pray for Alison and Graham. Graham has been discharged from hospital but is still very poorly and in need of care.
- Thank you to those who have been praying for a mum, caring for her young child and holding down a new job whilst looking after her partner who has been seriously ill in hospital. He is now continuing his recovery at home and will soon begin a slow phased return to work.

Please send any news for next week's sheet to the Parish Office by Wednesday
admin@saintjohnschurch.org.uk

