



St. John's Newsletter

Charity No 1162162

www.stjohnschurchbroadstone.org.uk

December 2025 / January 2026



Letter from the Vicar

Dear friends,

Each year, Advent invites us into a season filled with longing and hope. It is a time when the Church asks us to slow down and watch. Not to fill every space with noise and activity, but to listen. Hope, peace, joy and love are traditional themes of Advent for the four Advent Sundays.



Hope, in this context, is not the thin, modern hope that wishes vaguely for better days, but thick, biblical hope that roots itself in God's promises. Hope looks honestly at the world - its fractures, injustices, and griefs - and still dares to say, 'God is coming.' Advent hope is born in darkness, where God's people learn again that light coming is the gift of divine mercy. It is the hope that steadies us when the nights grow long, reminding us that no shadow can extinguish the Light of the World.

Peace is another Advent theme, threaded into each Scripture reading and hymn. It is not simply the absence of conflict, but the deep, reconciling peace that Christ brings: a peace that heals what is broken inside us and between us. It calls us to become peacemakers ourselves, even in small ways: offering forgiveness, choosing gentleness and grace, and sowing kindness into others' lives.



A quiet Joy also emerges in Advent. It is not loud or flashy. It springs from knowing God is near - that Emmanuel, 'God with us', steps into our world, not as a distant ruler but as a child who shares our humanity. This joy is not naive; it still knows sorrow, but it is like the joy and trust Mary knew when she sang her Magnificat, a song rooted in God's faithfulness.



Finally, Love stands at the heart of Advent, drawing all the other themes into itself. The season prepares us not only for the birth of Christ long ago, but for the continual birth of God's love in us. It invites us to open our hearts - to Christ, to one another, and to the world God longs to redeem. This is the love that moved God to take on flesh, to dwell among us, and to walk with humanity through every valley and shadow.

Advent is, at its core, a season of holy waiting. Not passive, but expectant. We wait with hope for what God will do. We seek peace in a world aching for it. We choose joy, even in uncertainty. We practice love that reflects the very heart of Christ. May this Advent season draw us deeper into God's story, and help prepare us to welcome the Christ-child once more.

With the hope of many Advent blessings for you,



Come & See! Family Work at St John's!



Our November **Café Church** combined with **Muddy Church** to make up our



Church

wonderful Christmas wreath-making workshop, where we had 48



adults and 26 children attend! Our next Muddy Church is our Big Winter Solstice Christmas Party with Christingles on Saturday 13th December at 10.30am. Our next is Café Breakfast Church is on Saturday 17th January, back at the usual time of 10-11am.



Do join us - and you get breakfast too!

Pop-Up Pub Night a Great Success



Our Pop-up Pub Night in October was a wonderful occasion and probably our biggest turn-out yet! Do look out for the next one for which we will put in a date early next year and come and join us!



New Noticeboard up in Time for Christmas!



We were thrilled that a brave team of volunteers battled through heavy rain to ensure the new noticeboard (at the entrance to the Vicarage) was up in time for our busy festive season! Thank you

to all who helped, and hope you dried off soon! At last the community can actually read our posters advertising all our many events and services!



All the Fun of the Christmas Fayre!



A fantastic way to get this season off to a brilliant start: the St John's Christmas Fayre didn't disappoint. Thank you to all who helped decorate the church, set up stalls and run them, organise all aspects of the event and our caterers and helpers.



It is through such teamwork we are able to put on events like this – and of course, thank you to all those who came and supported us!

Eco Tip: Travelling Light



As we dream of warmer days and holidays next year, here are some travel tips, with thanks to National Geographic. The most effective way to reduce carbon emissions of travelling is to reduce the distance travelled and to travel in a way that burns less or, even better, no fossil fuels, using more sustainable modes of transport.



For the time being, the emissions from just one long-haul flight can be more than those caused by someone driving a standard petrol car for a whole year. Cruise ships have even higher emissions per passenger than aircraft. Taking the train within the UK emits about six times less than flying and taking the

bus or coach emits about nine times less. In Europe, where many trains (including Eurostar) are electric, the emissions from rail travel can be as much as 10 times less than flying.



If you do fly, you can use online tools such as the 'lower CO2e' filter on trip results provided by flight search engines like [Skyscanner](#) and [Opodo](#), which flags up those flights that have less than average emissions.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! THE ECO GANG

Results of the Charity Voting at St John's

Thanks to all who nominated and voted for charities that St John's will support this year. The six charities (the top two in each of the three categories, with the number of votes they received) are Local: Dorset and Air Ambulance (29) and Julia's House (12); UK and International: Motor Neurone Disease Association (22) and Medicin Sans Frontieres (14); Eco: Dorset Wildlife Trust (30) and Marine Conservation (17).

Other charities not successful this year but which were in the running, were: Broadstone Steeping Stones (11), Dorset Mind (4); Faithworks (4); Routes to Roots (3); Mission to Seafarers (12); Leprosy Mission (9); UNICEF (4); SAT-7 (1); Zimbabwe A National Emergency (1); Woodland Trust (12); Soil Association (3).



Crib Service: Journey to Bethlehem 3pm Christmas Eve.

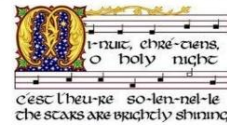
Help us retell the Christmas story.

Children come dressed as a favourite nativity character: stars, angels, shepherds, sheep, Mary, Joseph etc all welcome!

THERE WILL BE TWO LIVE DONKEYS COMING, WITH PETTING AND PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES AFTER THE SERVICE!

(No Christingles at this event.)

Advent Carol Service



Sunday 30th November 5pm - A beautiful service with candlelit procession, Advent Carols and readings.

St John's Church, Macaulay Rd – **ALL WELCOME!**



Advent tea & cakes served in the Parish Hall at 4pm before the service.



Christmas at St John's Church, Broadstone

Come and join us for some or all of our Christmas services!



Saturday 13th Dec 10.30am-12pm Muddy Church Christmas Christingle party with Christingle-making and service!

Sunday 14th Dec 6.30pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols with the Community Band A traditional Christmas Carol Service to help you enter the heart of Christmas. Come and join us!

Sun 21st Dec 6pm Longest Night Service A quiet service for those who find Christmas a difficult or uneasy time. The church will be open from 5pm to light candles if you prefer not to attend the service.

Christmas Eve 11am Community sing-a-long carols in churchyard (indoors if weather bad).

3pm Crib service: Journey to Bethlehem: children - come dressed as your favourite nativity

character! Angels, shepherds, wise men, Mary, Joseph, the star! Help us tell the Christmas story. There will be **two live donkeys coming**, with petting / photo opportunities! This service no longer has Christingles – see our 13th Dec event.

Christmas Eve 11.30pm Midnight Mass: A traditional service as we gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Christmas Day 8am Eucharist; 10am Sung Eucharist with carols and surprises! Celebrate Christmas morning with us!



Have a very Merry Christmas!

Occasional Offices from November

Baptisms

30th November Ava Emily Fresle



Service Readings in December/January

Date	Sunday	OT	Psalm	NT	Gospel
Sun 7 th Dec	Advent 2	Isaiah 11.1-10	Psalm 72.1-7	Romans 15.4-13	Matthew 3.1-12
Sun 14 th Dec	Advent 3	Isaiah 35.1-10	Canticle: Magnificat	James 5.7-10	Matthew 11.2-11
Sun 21 st Dec	Kingdom 3	Malachi 4.1-2a	Psalm 98	2 Thessalonians 3.6-13	Luke 21.5-19
Sun 28 th Dec	Advent 4	Isaiah 7.10-16	Psalm 80.1-8	Romans 1.1-7	Matthew 1.18-end
Sun 30 th November	The Holy Innocents	Jeremiah 31.15-17	Psalm 124	1 Corinthians 1.26-29	Matthew 2.13-18
Sun 4 th Jan 2026	The Epiphany	Isaiah 60.1-6	Psalm 72.1-15	Ephesians 3.1-12	Matthew 2.1-12
Sun 11 th Jan	1 st Sunday of Epiphany	Isaiah 42.1-9	Psalm 29	Acts 10.34-43	Matthew 3.13-end
Sun 18 th Jan	2 nd Sunday of Epiphany	Isaiah 49.1-7	Psalm 40.1-12	1 Corinthians 1.1-9	John 1.29-42
Sun 25 th Jan	Conversion of St Paul	Jeremiah 1.4-10	Psalm 67	Acts 9.1-22	Matthew 19.27-end

Diary Round-up: Events at St John's in Dec/Jan

Tues 2 nd Dec	Parish Office opening at 11.30am
Wed 3 rd Dec	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 4 th Dec	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning
Sat 6 th Dec	10am – 4pm Christmas Tree Festival
Sun 7 th Dec	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Parish Eucharist 2pm – 4pm Christmas Tree Festival
Wed 10 th Dec	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 11 th Dec	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning 1pm Burial of Ashes in Churchyard
Fri 12 th Dec	7.30pm Cantilena Voices Concert - see notice
Sat 13 th Dec	10.30am – 12pm Muddy Church Christmas Christingle Party 7pm St John's Fellowship Christmas Party
Sun 14 th Dec	8am Eucharist 10am Parish Eucharist & FAIRTRADE STALL 1pm Baptism 6.30pm Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols with the Community Band
Wed 17 th Dec	Parish Office Closed 10.30am Eucharist 5pm Broadstone First School Christmas Concert
Thurs 18 th Dec	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church

	10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning Parish Office Closed from 11.45am
Sun 21 st Dec	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist 6pm Longest Night Service - Church open from 5pm to light candles
Wed 24 th Dec	Parish Office Closed until Monday 5 th January 10.30am Eucharist 11am Community song-a-long Carols in Churchyard 3pm Crib Service: Journey to Bethlehem 11.30pm Midnight Mass
Thurs 25 th Dec	8am Eucharist 10am Sung with Carols & Surprises!
Sun 28 th Dec	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist
Wed 31 st Dec	10.30am Eucharist
Sun 4 th Jan 2026	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Parish Eucharist 12 noon Baptism
Mon 5 th Jan	Parish Office reopens at 9.30am
Tues 6 th Jan	2pm CTinB meeting at St Anthony's
Wed 7 th Jan	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 8 th Jan	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning 7pm Standing Committee Meeting 7.30pm St John's Fellowship
Fri 9 th Jan	10am – 12pm SHAPE Course led by Revd Gary
Sat 10 th Jan	2pm – 4pm Craft & Chat
Sun 11 th Jan	8am Eucharist 10am Parish Eucharist & FAIRTRADE STALL 3pm – 5pm SHAPE Course led by Revd Gary
Wed 14 th Jan	10.30am Eucharist 7.30pm Events Committee Meeting
Thurs 15 th Jan	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning 7.30pm PCC in Parish Hall
Sat 17 th Jan	10am Café Breakfast Church
Sun 18 th Jan	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist
Tues 20 th Jan	Churches Together in Broadstone Christian Unity Service at St Anthony's 10.30am coffee for 11am service
Wed 21 st Jan	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 22 nd Jan	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning
Fri 23 rd Jan	10am – 12pm SHAPE Course led by Revd Gary 11am Children's Work Meeting at Vicarage 1pm Worship & Spirituality Meeting at Vicarage
Sat 24 th Jan	10.30am Muddy Church
Sun 25 th Jan	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist 3pm – 5pm SHAPE Course led by Revd Gary in Parish Hall 4pm Churches Together in Broadstone closing Service for Christian Unity week at Cafe Church at Methodist Church.
Wed 28 th Jan	10.30am Eucharist
Thurs 29 th Jan	8.45am Morning Prayer in Church 10am – 12 noon Holy Grounds Coffee Morning
Fri 30 th Jan	10.30am LPA Meeting at Vicarage
Sat 31 st Jan	7pm Pub Quiz Night – details to follow

St John's News from the Pews

A more detailed look at what is happening in and around the church...

NEW POOLE WAU PRAYER MEETING on Mon 1st Dec, 12.30pm in our Annexe.

NEW ADVENT BREAK Revd Helen is taking a short Advent break and will not be at her desk Tuesday or Wednesday next week. On Thursday 4th Dec both Revd Helen and Revd Gary are at the Bishop's Advent Quiet Day for clergy, so you may not get a response to emails until Friday.

AMENDED CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 10am – 4pm on the 6th Dec & 2pm – 4pm on the 7th. Free entry, programme £1 which entitles you to a free drink on Sat only. Santa Claus will also be here 3.15 – 4pm on Saturday. We look forward to seeing you there!



TUES 2ND & TUES 9TH DECEMBER, please avoid parking at the parish hall as it is the Sunny Days Christmas party and Christmas concert. Parents will need the parking spaces that day.



NEW CANTILENA VOICES invite you to their Christmas Concert on Fri 12th Dec, 7.30pm. Enjoy seasonal songs from the choir, with refreshments & raffle. Tickets £10 from www.cantilenavoices.co.uk/events or contact Sheila 01929 781777.

NEW ST JOHN'S FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS PARTY Sat 13 Dec, 7pm in hall. Please bring your own snacks & nibbles, drinks & mince pies will be provided. Come along and be entertained by the Land Girls, a vocal Duo. Guest are welcome £5 per person pay on arrival.

CRAFT AND CHAT restarts in January, but with a difference! It will be run by either Heather McGregor-Wright or Sue Bennett, and it will be mostly 'bring-your-own' craft, but on occasions Heather will show you how to make different crafts. First session **Sat 10th Jan 2pm - 4pm**, then every 2nd Sat of the month, 2pm-4pm. Bring your own crafts or just drop in for company & a cuppa!

SHAPE COURSE Thanks to all who have signed up for the SHAPE course early next year. Since there is almost an equal split of interest across suggested dates, we are running it on both dates (Fri Morning and Sun Afternoon), meaning you can attend either as suits you. The sign-up sheet has been returned to the church, so please carry on signing up if you are interested. Thank you. Rev Gary

NEW CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK Churches Together in Broadstone invites you to two Christian Unity events as we celebrate faith and friendship together. **Tues 20th January** at St Antony's Church we gather for coffee & cake at 10.30am with a service at 11am. To mark the end of the week, we meet at the Methodist Church Sun 25th Jan at 4pm for their Cafe Church.

FAITH MATTERS COURSE Revd Helen is running this next year (6 sessions) starting in Feb - dates below. It's suitable for finding out more about the Christian faith, as a refresher on the basics of Faith, or for exploring adult baptism & confirmation. There is a sign up sheet in church. They are all Fridays at 10am (finish 12 noon). 13th Feb, 27th Feb, 20th Mar, 17th April, 1st May, 15th May.

NEW HELP NEEDED Do you have a car/trailer that would carry table tops to the recycling centre? Please see Caroline in the office if you can help!

CAKES Any cakes provided for events (including the Tree Festival) will need ingredients to be listed. Slips to be completed for this can be collected from the office and after Sunday services.

CONTACT DETAILS FOR NEXT OF KIN Do get your next of kin form in. Due to GDPR, it must be signed by you and your named next of kin, so we can store details. Revd Helen

PHISHING EMAILS Be vigilant re any emails you receive and do not give out any details, especially bank details, to anyone. Phishing emails often appear from legitimate email addresses, but

often when you reply the email address changes. You can forward suspicious emails to report@phishing.gov.uk or <https://www.gov.uk/report-suspicious-emails-websites-phishing>

SERVERS REQUIRED. We need new servers (those who carry candles and the cross during services) and **VERGERS** for funerals and weddings. Let the Vicar know if interested!

PARKING AT THE PARISH HALL If there is room, you are allowed to park but ONLY on church business. Park in a way that uses a genuine space and DO NOT block anyone in nor prevent emergency access to the hall by a vehicle from the gate. Ensure all cars are removed by 12 noon on Wednesdays if you have parked by the fence nearest to church / outside parish hall Thank you.

STRICTLY NO ACCESS TO PARISH HALL ITSELF MON TO FRI 7.30am - 6.25pm
No access to the building for any reason whatsoever Mon to Fri 7.30am to 6.25pm. Many thanks.

RAISE MONEY FOR ST JOHNS WITH TRUST130 For every new home insurance policy taken out with Ecclesiastical, they'll donate £130 to an Anglican church of the policy holder's choice. For info, contact Caroline in the office or call Ecclesiastical on **0800 7830 130**.

OFFERTORY LIST if you would like to take up the offertory on a particular date please let one of the sidespeople know to sign up on the list.

CORFE MULLEN FOOD BANKS Food donations can be left in the Church Porch Mon - Fri 10am-1pm & Sun 11.30am – 12.15pm. All given to St Nicholas' Church Corfe Mullen Food Bank for Broadstone individuals & families, and vouchers to Broadstone/Hillbourne Schools. They are currently short of: **selection boxes**. Visit parishofcorfemullen.church/foodbank to make cash donation or contact Sheila & Ken.



HOLY GROUNDS COFFEE MORNING Free tea & coffee every Thursday morning, 10am – 12noon. Come and enjoy a drink and a chat with old friends and new.

Further Afield

LUNCH BUNCH at Broadstone Baptist Church is back on 18 Dec. 11am – 2.30pm. 2 course hot lunch for £5. To book contact Dave Turner on 07773 082092

BOURNEMOUTH WILLIAM TEMPLE ASSOCIATION Mon 1st Dec, Marsham Court Hotel, Bournemouth. Starts 7.40pm but an optional dinner at 6.30pm beforehand.

HANDEL'S MESSIAH Saturday 6th December, 7.30pm at St Peter's Church, Parkstone. Tickets £16 from <https://www.stpetersparkstone.org.uk/#eventSection>

DORSET CHAMBER CHOIR CAROLS AT CHRISTMAS Mon 15th Dec, 7pm at Wimborne Methodist Church. Tickets £10 (under 18s free) from choir members, website at the door.

DONATIONS FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS BIKES WANTED Contact Judith 07840490525 judithw0651@gmail.com for more information.

CHITTER CHATTER CLUB Every Wednesday, 2.30pm – 4pm at Cafe Gardenia.

TUESDAY CLUB AT BROADSTONE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH We are open 10.30 am till 2pm. Please contact Ann on 01202 849136 for more information

DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY EDITION SUBMISSIONS FRI 23rd January.

Please email all items to admin@stjohnschurchbroadstone.org.uk,
AND a copy to Revd Helen at revdhelenbailey@gmail.com