

St John the Evangelist Newsletter



SUNDAY 19 MARCH 2023

LENT FOUR – MOTHERING SUNDAY

If you wish to contribute to the next edition of the newsletter, please email office@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk marking your email 'Newsletter Article' by **12 noon Thursdays weekly**.

Church Services (also on-line)

Saturday 18 March

10.00 Mass and Stations of the Cross
Fr Brendan Clover

Sunday 19 March – Lent 4 – Mothering Sunday

10.30 Solemn Mass– Fr Brendan Clover
17.30 Lent Course and Benediction

Monday 20 March – St Joseph

18.00 Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

Tuesday 21 March

10.00 Mass and Stations of the Cross
Fr Brendan Clover

Wednesday 22 March

10.00 Mass – Revd Prebendary John Andrews

Thursday 23 March

12.30 Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

Friday 24 March

10.00 BCP Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

Saturday 25 March – Annunciation of the Lord

10.00 Mass and Stations of the Cross
Fr Brendan Clover

Sunday 26 March – Lent 5

10.30 Solemn Mass – Fr Brendan Clover
17.30 Lent Course and Benediction

The Mass readings for this Sunday:

Exodus 2:1-10

Psalms 127:1-4

R: O blessed are those who fear the Lord

2 Corinthians 1:3-7 (Reader: Alison)

St John 19:25b-27

Intercessor – Judith

Words from Fr Brendan Clover

Dear friends,

As you know Mothering Sunday is about Mother Church, and Mary, mother of the Lord. As a consequence of our love for Mother Church, and Mary, mother of the Lord, we honour our own mothers and give thanks for them.

Nick Fawcett, a modern preacher and poet has written the following:

Meditation of Mary, mother of Jesus

What was that Simeon said – 'A sword will pierce your soul'?

I spent so long wondering what that meant, tossing and turning on my bed, brooding and fretting when I'd a moment to myself.

It seemed such a strange thing to say, especially at what was meant to be a time of joy.

We'd only had Jesus a few days, and my heart was still bursting with happiness.

We were over the moon, Simeon too, that's the odd thing – he was almost dancing with delight.

But then his expression clouded, and he gave that awful warning which has haunted me ever since.

I just haven't been able to forget it, try as I might. Always the question has been there, nagging away at the back of my mind, even in the brightest moments: what did he mean?

And if you'd asked me as little as a week ago, I still wouldn't have been sure.

Oh, I'd a fair idea by then, of course – the fears were mounting up – but I'd still kept on hoping, praying that I might be wrong.

Now I know though, all too well.

My heart is not just pierced – it's broken!

For I've stood here today and seen my son die. I watched him cursed and ridiculed, scourged and beaten.

.../cont

The Bible is meant to be
bread for daily use, not
cake for special occasions.

cont/...

I watched as they hammered nails through his hands and lifted him onto a cross.

I watched in agony and cried out in despair.

And a moment ago I watched as they plunged a spear into his side.

At least he didn't feel that – thank God he was dead by then – but I did. It thrust deep inside, running me through without mercy.

I've never known such pain, such agony, such horror.

And now life has gone for me too; I feel it has nothing left to offer.

Yet he's given me joy, no one can take that away.

He was with me for thirty wonderful years, everything a son could be – not many mothers can say that.

I've had joy, and now I have pain. Maybe that's the way it had to be, the way it has to be, if there's to be any joy at all.

With my love and prayers,

Fr Brendan

CHRISM MASS

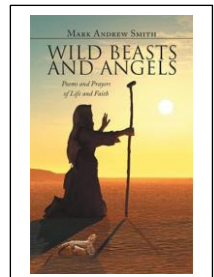
The Chrism Mass is to be held at Bristol Cathedral on Thursday 30th April at 11.30am. This is the Eucharist at which the Bishop consecrates the holy oils and those who are ordained renew their ordination vows.

The Market Mass at St John's will therefore not happen that day and we are encouraged to attend the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral.

It should be a splendid occasion which is followed by refreshments for all who attend.

What's Happening During Lent

- * Stations of the Cross after Mass every **Tuesday** and **Saturday**
- * 5.30pm every **Sunday** our Lent Course: The Aisle Windows - Talk, Lectio Divina, and Benediction
- * Every **Thursday**: Lent lunch (soup and a roll) after Market Mass with proceeds to Clevedon Food Bank
- * Our Lent Book is 'Wild Beasts and Angels' by Mark Andrew Smith. It is available from Blackwells (other retailers are available) for a cost of £11.23
- * Please make it part of your Lenten observance to attend at least one extra service each week.



CONGREGATIONAL LENTEN DISCIPLINE

Before Mass, talk to God

During Mass, let God talk to you

After Mass, talk to each other.

The Worship Committee want to suggest that we try to make that our Congregational Lenten Discipline this year to seek to recover the calm before the most important duty we can perform as Christians, our attending the Lord's Supper on the Lord's Day.

So, we suggest that you might like to come earlier to church so that you can hear the glorious bellringing and say your hellos. The notices will be given at 10.25am sharp, and then silence descends until the Sacristy bell rings. That way, please God, we may be more prepared for all that is to follow.

AN IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM FR BRENDAN

Dear friends,

A decision was made by the PCC at an Extraordinary Meeting on 27th February which will have far-reaching effects on us all. In saying this, I am not being overdramatic, but merely stating facts. That decision was ultimately to seek the union of this parish with that of All Saints and St Saviour's, Weston super Mare. As a precursor to this I am to be licensed there as Interim Minister at St Saviour's Church Hall on Wednesday 29th March at 11am.

Let me explain what lies behind this.

The diocese is facing a significant shortfall due in part to the effects of COVID. This Deanery is being asked to cut three full time clergy posts. As part of the Diocese's savings' plan, the criteria for parishes to warrant a single priest has been changed, both in terms of Common Fund paid, and church membership. Unless a parish pays at least £50k into the Common Fund each year they will not receive a full-time priest.

In both financial and membership terms, St John's does not warrant, and with the modest growth we have seen, a full-time priest. Since I arrived in April 2021 this parish has been subsidized by the Diocese to the tune of tens of thousands of pounds. I am anxious that we are not caught in an invidious and vulnerable position, and at the mercy of those all around. I have no doubt that unless we seize the initiative, then St John's, as a Society parish with its beautiful liturgy and Catholic practice, will be severely compromised by an inevitable union with a neighboring parish, (though which one is hard to see!).

As I have said before the only way out of the current crisis is to grow and to adapt to changing circumstances.

Increasingly, across the country parishes such as ours are joining with others with shared outlook and beliefs, in what are called 'Affinity' parishes. These are parishes which do not share a physical boundary but share the same position within the Church of England. The Diocese has asked me to take on All Saints and St Saviour's in Weston super Mare and will license me there, as here, up until April next year, 2024. If we can make the new situation work, and if both parishes see growth, then there is a chance my time among you may be extended. I very much want that to happen.

What I intend is that over the next year, we share me, as parish priest, increasingly more. There will continue to be a weekday Mass, but it will be across the two parishes. I will, as best as I can, alternate presiding and preaching here and there, Sunday by Sunday. I will be heavily dependent on my retired colleagues here and there. There will be no formal, legal union in the next year, but rather it is a period in which we can see how things may work, and if they do work. If this is successful, then the remaining time of my ministry here - if I am granted it - will be spent in bedding things down more permanently, so that when I do eventually retire, there will be a viable, and attractive, full-time post for a successor.

I am not unaware of the additional pressure this will put me under as an individual, nor the effect on you as members of the congregation. However, I have been perfectly clear and brutally honest about the future from day one. We are in a very weak position to negotiate. Things are changing and changing fast. In taking this decision, the PCC are seizing control of events, rather than being victims of them. This is a very significant time in our life together. I do urge you to hold this parish, its officers and PCC in your prayers, recognizing that we cannot cling to the past. The Christian life is one of continual movement, onwards and upwards. And please do pray for the people of All Saints and St Saviour's, who have been without a parish priest for some time, and pray for me.

With my prayers and all good wishes,

Fr Brendan

PRAYER DIARY

Please include the following in your daily intercessions:-

Saturday 18 March	The Blessed Virgin Mary and all shrines dedicated to her
Sunday 19 March	Mothering Sunday – St Joseph, husband of our Blessed Virgin Mary. Our Church and parish and all residents of Hazell Close
Monday 20 March	Delivery drivers, bus drivers and train drivers
Tuesday 21 March	Thomas Cranmer, all Archbishops and Bishops
Wednesday 22 March	The Prayerbook Society and all churches that adhere to its guidance
Thursday 23 March	The market traders and town chaplains of Clevedon
Friday 24 March	Young people with problems and all who guide and mentor them
Saturday 25 March	The Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary and all pregnant ladies
Sunday 26 March	Our Church and parish and the residents of Kenn Moor Drive

LENT LUNCH

Don't forget the Lent lunch in the Vicarage after the Thursday Market Mass.
Soup and a bread roll with donations to Clevedon Food Bank.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 19 March	THIS WEEK! Rose Reception for Mothering Sunday Cream tea and prosecco in the Church Hall after Mass
Sunday 9 April	Celebration Sunday – Easter Day
Sunday 7 May	St John's Patronal Festival and Celebration of the Coronation of King Charles Bring and Share Picnic Lunch in the Church grounds (if fine) or Church Hall
Thursday 11 May	Organ Recital by Matthew Clark at 19.30 with a glass of wine afterwards
Friday 12 May	Betjeman evening in the Church Hall at 19.30 with light refreshments
Saturday 20 May	Plant Sale – 10.00 – 12 noon in the Church grounds NEW DATE!
Sunday 25 June	Parish Lunch to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Fr Brendan's ordination
Saturday 15 July	St John's Summer Fayre – 14.00 – 16.00 in the Church grounds
Sunday 13 August	Parish BBQ, after Mass
Saturday 16 September	Quiz Evening, time to be confirmed, in the Church Hall
Sunday 1 October	Harvest Lunch – 12.30 in the Church Hall
Saturday 2 December	Christmas Fayre – 14.00 – 16.00 in the Church Hall

SEE OF OSWESTRY CHRISM MASS



11.30am Monday 27 March at Worcester Cathedral

11.30am Thursday 30 March at Bristol Cathedral

11.30am Monday 3 April at Lichfield Cathedral

11 am Tuesday 4 April at Exeter Cathedral

SEEOFOSWESTRY.ORG.UK

All are welcome at any of the above services. Please speak to Fr Brendan for more details.

ST JOHN'S ONE HUNDRED CLUB

We have recently been able to transfer £700 (the profits from 2022) into Church funds. Our thanks to everyone who helped us raise this donation by subscribing to the 100 Club.

We now have 107 members for 2023 and anyone may join at any time. Please contact Arlene or Fiona if you are interested.

The February winners are listed below:

1st - Debra 2nd - Stephanie 3rd - John

Plant Sale

Saturday 20 May - 10-12noon

NEW DATE!

**A date has
now been set for
our plant sale to be
held in the
Church grounds.**

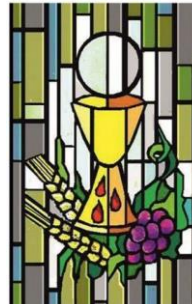


If you are taking
cuttings
or splitting plants
this winter/spring, please
do a few extra for the
church plant sale.

Sick List

If you need to let the clergy know of anyone who is unwell and/or is needing pastoral care, please email office@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk or mention this to David or Betty, our Sickness Points of Contact (SPOC's), after the service outside of the church building. Any requests will be passed on to Fr Brendan and names will be added to the sick list.

VOLUNTEERS PLEASE!



If you would like to take one of the Communion elements to the altar during the offertory hymn, please let one of the sidespeople know when you come into Church on Sunday morning.

Clevedon Choral Society is holding a quiz evening on **Wednesday 29 March** to raise funds for their May concert. The venue is Princes Hall, Clevedon at 6:45pm for a 7:15pm start. The cost is £5 a head (not a lot of money for an evening's entertainment 😊). Make up teams of 4 but if you want to come but can't make up a team then just drop David or Anne a message to reevefamily4@btinternet.com and they will sort it out. It would be good if you could confirm your team and team name here as well. Most importantly the bar will be open!

Do you have any pearls of wisdom which could be used in the newsletter? They don't need to be religious; perhaps a special gardening tip, favourite recipe or an interesting story you'd like to share with your Church family. You can even remain anonymous if you wish. If so, please speak to Nicola or Gary or email office@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk

Fund Raise as You Shop

We have registered St John's with easy fundraising, which means you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online. Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easy fundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself!

Although you may only raise a few pence with every purchase, these donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjohntheevangelistclevedon/>

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



The **HOUSE UPON THE ROCK** versus
The **HOUSE UPON THE SAND** you
choose. **Lk 6:46-49**

Calling all bakers! If you would like to provide a cake(s) for one of our regular Celebration Sundays, please add your name to the list at the back of Church. Alternatively, if you would like to celebrate a special occasion (perhaps an anniversary, birthday or exam success) please put your name against the relevant date and bring along your cake (it doesn't have to be homemade) on the day. Any questions, please speak to Sarah or Debra.



Chat and Craft Group continues to meet every Thursday afternoon in the Church Hall between 2 and 4pm. Bring your own project along to work on, and chat to fellow crafters. A drink and biscuits will be available. For more information, talk to Sue at church or ring on 01275 877710.



PRAISE AND WORSHIP EVENING

Join us for an evening of
prayer, praise & meal

Immaculate Conception Church, Clevedon
(Marine Hill, Clevedon, BS21 7PP)
PALM SUNDAY—2nd April 2023

6pm-6.45pm: Praise and Worship
7pm-8pm: Bring and Share Meal

**SING and MAKE MUSIC FROM
your HEART to the LORD!**

Ephesians 5:19



**Immaculate Conception Catholic Parish
Clevedon & Yatton**

PASSOVER MEAL

TUESDAY 4th April 2023

7.15 for 7.30pm

**GREYFRIARS HALL,
Marine Hill, Clevedon**

Tickets: Adults £8 Child/Student £4

**Available from Ruth Hale
mc.rmhole@gmail.com
01275 870333**

Tickets after Mass via Ruth Hale



TESCO

**A BIG Thankyou to Tesco Clevedon who donated two thirds of the Daffodils
for our Mothering Sunday posies from their community fund!!**

Do you have talents and experience to share?

After many years of loyal and dedicated service to this parish and the PCC, with much sadness we are saying farewell to our PCC Secretary, Sue and our Treasurer, Fiona at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in April. Sue and Fiona have done a fabulous job at keeping the PCC on track procedurally and financially. We thank them so much for all they have done for St John's Church.

We are now in search of replacements for Sue and Fiona, who are difficult acts to follow. However, both these roles are supported by the diocese who run an induction programme, regular updates, access to the diocese Finance Department and the Diocesan Secretary's office, plus buddies in similar roles in other parishes, and the support of the Churchwardens, PCC Chair and relevant sub-committees at St John's.

We hope the following provides a brief insight into the roles we are looking to fill:

PCC Secretary

The primary responsibilities of a PCC Secretary are to support the PCC Chair in the preparation and organisation of meetings and to handle all correspondence on behalf of the PCC. The Diocesan Office contacts the parish from time to time to request specific information, every effort is made to keep this to a minimum and all meeting agendas are issued and minutes stored electronically using Microsoft Office.

PCC Treasurer

You do not need to have been a treasurer of an organisation before. In many respects it is not dissimilar from keeping good control of household finances, however, if you have an understanding of some accountancy practice it will be useful but not essential. This role implements decisions made by the PCC. This role is also supported with diocesan induction training for new treasurers, updates and continued support throughout the financial year for all financial procedures and processes.

For further information about both roles please speak with Nicola or Gary, Churchwardens.

General Quiz Time!!

1. From which village did the disciples obtain an ass for Jesus to enter Jerusalem?	9. How many Popes called Benedict have there been?
2. Which city was America's capital between 1790 and 1800?	10. When was the Clean Air Act introduced in England?
3. Which Asian state was formerly known as Burma?	11. Which is the smallest whale?
4. How many awards did the film Everything Everywhere All At Once win at this year's Oscars?	12. What new TV series of Sir David Attenborough is set in the UK?
5. When was Clevedon's Cottage Hospital opened?	13. What is the French highest form of decoration for merit called?
6. Who wrote, compiled the first two editions of The Book Of Common Prayer?	14. Which chief advisor of Henry VIII drafted his reformation legislation?
7. What is the currency of Thailand?	15. Which part of the marshmallow plant is used for the sweet?
8. Which sculptor created the works The Thinker and The Kiss?	16. Which discipline was added to the Winter Olympics in 1976? GORDON'S POSERS a:Huntham; b:Old Ford; c: Swell Wood (RSPB)



THE IMPORTANT CAREER

Today I left some dishes dirty,
The bed got made around two-thirty.
The nappies soaked a little longer,
The odour grew a little stronger.

The crumbs I spilled the day before
Were staring at me from the floor.
The dirty streaks on window panes
Will still be there next time it rains.

"For shame, Oh Lazy One!" you say,
And "Just what have you done all day?"

"I nursed a baby while she slept,
I held a toddler while he wept.
I played a game of hide and seek,
I squeezed a toy so it would squeak.
I pushed a swing, I sang a song,
I taught a child what's right and wrong."

"What did I do the whole day through?
Not much that shows- I guess that's true
Unless you think that what I've done
Might be important to someone
With bright blue eyes and soft brown hair.
If that is true, I've done my share !"
Janet

Humanity loves God in a multitude of ways.
How do we love God?
By loving and serving God in our own unique way.
Showing our love for God by loving and caring for our fellow man and all of creation.
Through our heart God guides us along our chosen path.
To love in our own particular way a specific part of God's creation.

We express our love for God and his creation in many ways a doctor saving lives, a priest serving his flock and God's church, a veterinarian caring for God's animals, an environmentalist protecting and caring for God's planet, UNHCR caring for God's refugees, Scientists finding a cure for diseases, Lolli Pop lady seeing children safely across the road, World Wildlife Fund protecting God's endangered species from extinction, etc., etc.

I believe God wants or hopes for every area of his creation to be loved and cared for from the smallest atom to the largest solar system and everything in between. After all we are his caretaker species

When we have learnt to love all God's creations, is our love for God COMPLETE?
Jane

On-line Giving

Here is the link to our on line facility:

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/b8e3af98-2c05-4dfb-bd27-570f15c91a21> this link has been added to our Website, our Church Near You page and all our YouTube and other online offerings including social media. Please feel free to share it with all your friends to help with the ongoing good work of our Parish and the exciting outreach plans for our near future (not to mention the maintenance of our beautiful building and Hall!!) The QR code appears further on in this newsletter.

Website

Please log into our website with as much frequency as you are able in order to bring it up the Google ratings...

It is <https://www.stjohns-clevedon.org.uk/>

The website is a dynamic tool, so please send any comments, criticisms or ideas to Fr Brendan

For those technically minded, here is the QR code for our online giving. Simply scan the code with your smartphone QR scanner and be magically directed to our 'givealittle' page.



If you need to contact a Churchwarden please contact Nicola Coaker or Gary Lewis. Nicola can be emailed at churchwarden@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk

Gary's email address is churchwarden2@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk

If you have any safeguarding questions or issues, please email parishsafeguardingofficer@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk



The Vicarage telephone number is 01275 879617

The Office Number is 07522 494 504

Please follow us on our website at: <https://www.stjohns-clevedon.org.uk/> or at

www.achurchnearyou.com/church/111185/ or on YouTube 'St John's Clevedon' or on Facebook: St John the Evangelist Church, Clevedon or join our WhatsApp group.

