

St John the Evangelist Newsletter



SUNDAY 26 MARCH 2023

LENT FIVE

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 25 March – Annunciation of the Lord

10.00 Mass and Stations of the Cross
Fr Brendan Clover

Sunday 26 March – Lent 5 – Passion Sunday

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

Monday 27 March

18.00 Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

Tuesday 28 March

10.00 Mass and Stations of the Cross
Fr Brendan Clover

Wednesday 29 March

10.00 Mass – Fr Robert Ward

Thursday 30 March

No Mass Today at St John's as Chrism Mass at
Bristol Cathedral at 11.30am. All are
welcome to attend.

Friday 31 March

10.00 BCP Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

Saturday 1 April

10.00 Mass and Stations of the Cross
Fr Brendan Clover

Sunday 2 April – Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

10.30 Solemn Mass – Fr Brendan Clover
17.30 Evening Prayer and Benediction

The Mass readings for this Sunday:

Ezekiel 37:12-14 (*Reader: Robert*)

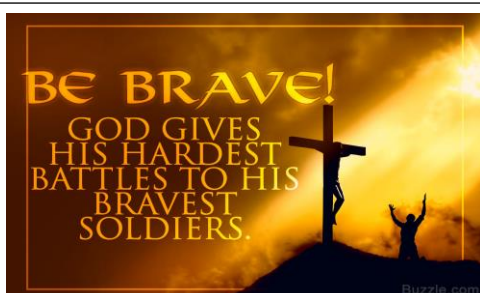
Psalms 130

**R: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of
redemption**

Romans 8:8-11 (*Reader: Celia*)

St John 11:1-45

Intercessor – Debra



Words from Fr Brendan Clover

Dear friends,

On Sunday Passiontide begins.

You will see some differences.

First all crosses and statues are veiled.

During Lent it is considered important to avoid distractions and dissipations, and to ensure a certain concentration of effort on religious duties. Not only should worldly festivities be discontinued, but from the fifth and sixth centuries onwards we find that even feasts of the saints were eliminated or postponed to times outside the season of Lent. That explains why the present calendar of the universal Church, from the middle of February onwards, gives us an unusual number of days on which there fall no feasts of the saints.

To limit the veiling of cross, statues and pictures to the last two weeks of Lent is a practice that came in only during the seventeenth century. The origin of this usage lies in the Fasting Veil that was hung up in front of the altar at the beginning of Lent; we have evidence of it ever since the tenth century. The statues, after all, show the saints in their heavenly glory, and the crucifix of that period represented Christ as the triumphant king. With these images hidden we are getting back to basics and are invited to enter into the Passion of Christ without distraction.

The Worship Committee has suggested that for Passiontide we should use the High Altar, not the Nave altar. This will help us focus on the objectivity of God the Father, his omnipotence and glory, and his willingness to sacrifice his only Son. The Nave altar will be replaced for the Easter Vigil. On weekdays feel free to sit in the Sanctuary.

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The readings on Sunday focus on resurrection. Not the resurrection of Jesus which bursts in as an absolute innovation, but our own resurrection, to which we aspire, and which Christ gave to us in rising from the dead. Christ pulls down the wall of death and in him dwells all the fullness of God, who is life, eternal life.

It isn't too late in these last days of Lent to seek to walk a little closer with that Lord Jesus.

With my love and prayers,

Fr Brendan

CHRISM MASS

The Chrism Mass is to be held at Bristol Cathedral on Thursday 30th March 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.

**The very successful Lent course finishes this Sunday 25 March.
On Palm Sunday there will be Evensong and Benediction.**

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

MEET OUR BISHOP

On Wednesday of this week - 29th March - from 6.30pm to 9.30pm - there is open house at the Vicarage and the chance to meet our Bishop Paul.

Do please come along.

ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION

We are revising the elector roll, our list of members, in preparation for our Annual Meeting, which will be on 23 April. If you are not on the roll please pick up a form in church. ***You need to be on the roll to vote or stand for office. If you are already on the roll, you do not need to do anything.***

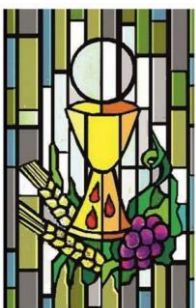
PRAYER DIARY

Please include the following in your daily intercessions:-

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
Monday 27 March	Orphanages and all orphans who long to be part of a loving family
Tuesday 28 March	All travellers and pilgrims
Wednesday 29 March	Scientists and all with the vision to explore and experiment
Thursday 30 March	Market traders and all providers of local produce
Friday 31 March	Those who come to faith in their later years
Saturday 1 April	Mass for St John's Cell of Our Lady of Walsingham. Our Blessed Virgin Mary and all our sister cells
Sunday 2 April	Palm Sunday. Our Church and parish and the residents of Tutton Way and Sercombe Park

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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
Monday 8 May	Mass at 12.00 noon followed by fizz at the Vicarage
Monday 8 May	17.30 Solemn Evensong for the Coronation sung by Clevedon Choral
Thursday 11 May	Recital by Matthew Clark at 19.30 with a glass of wine afterwards Tickets £10.00 to include a glass of wine
Friday 12 May	Betjeman evening in the Church Hall at 19.30 with light refreshments Tickets £10 to include madeira and cake
Saturday 13 May	Festival Concert by Clevedon Choral Society
Sunday 14 May	Solemn Mass followed by the dedication of the refurbished Lower Hall and Kitchen
Saturday 20 May	Plant Sale – 10.00 – 12 noon in the Church grounds
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



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.

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.

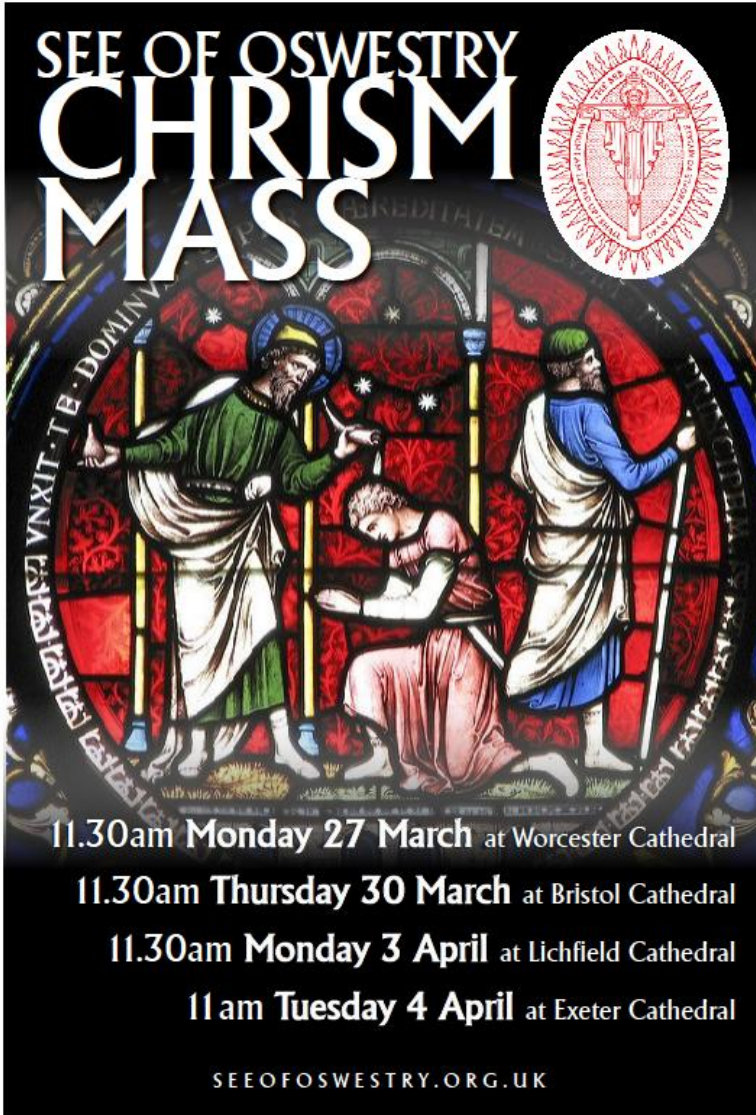
What I intend is that over the next year, we share me, as parish priest, increasingly more. There will continue to be a weekday Mass, but it will be across the two parishes. I will, as best as I can, alternate presiding and preaching here and there, Sunday by Sunday. I will be heavily dependent on my 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

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
 11am Tuesday 4 April at Exeter Cathedral

SEEOFOSWESTRY.ORG.UK

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

PLEASE NOTE;
There will be no Lent Lunch this week – instead you are encouraged to come to Bristol Cathedral for the Chrism Mass on Thursday 30 March at 11.30 am

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.



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.

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/>



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.



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.



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*

PASSEOVER 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.rmhale@gmail.com
01275 870333

Tickets after Mass via Ruth Hale



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.



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.

Clevedon District Foodbank has now moved. The new address is Speedwell Industrial Estate Neads Court Unit 3 Knowles Road Clevedon BS21 7XS. You may notice that the address is similar to our previous one. That's because we have only moved two doors down. You can now find us next to the Coffee Hut. Our opening times are still the same Mondays and Fridays 9.30 am – 11.30 am.

Operation Christmas Child update

The UK sent 252,022 shoeboxes (that's over a quarter of a million boxes!) in a total 9 shipping containers and 28 lorries. They went to **seven countries across Eastern Europe, Africa and Central Asia!**: Albania, Belarus, Bosnia, Central Asia, Moldova, Nigeria and Ukraine. Of those 30,827 had been gifted online.

Shoeboxes are also collected in the USA, Canada, Australia and Germany and in total **Globally we sent over 10 million** gift-filled boxes of Love to children all around the world.

We are very grateful for all the donations received, either actual boxes, gifts to help top up those which needed it, or money to help with transport. We wish to thank God for all the boxes and support received last year and will be holding a **Thank You Service on Sunday 26th March at 2 pm at Christ the Servant Church in Stockwood, Bristol**. We would love to see you there to share in our gratitude and celebrate the wonderful work which God has helped us to achieve.

Annunciation

Lord, why choose me?
Lord, why choose me?
I should be the last
To be chosen for this task.
That's why I ask you
Lord, why choose me?

I'm just a poor, simple girl of no learning
Not fit to bear you a son.
Joseph and I will have little to give him –
Nothing for such a one.

Is this to be?
Must it be me?
Is there no other way?
But I will serve you
In all that I do
So, dear Lord, let it be as you say.

I will do what I can to be ready,
Make myself worthy of this;
Your son will grow up as one of the people
And know life just as it is.

Lord, you chose me.
Lord you chose me.
Then so be it, Lord,
But help me to see
What I must be. Lord,
What I must be.

Peter Canwell

Celia Quiz answers !!

1. Bethage
2. Philadelphia
3. Myanmar
4. Seven
5. 1875
6. Thomas Cranmer
7. Baht
8. Auguste Rodin
9. 16 (latest 2013)
10. 1952
11. Dolphin
12. Wild Isles
13. Legion d' Honneur
14. Thomas Cranmer (again!)
15. Root
16. Ice Dance

GORDON'S

a: Chase piggy; b: Ancient river crossing; c: Gurt forest!

If you need to contact a Churchwarden please contact Nicola Coaker or Gary Lewis. Nicola can 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.