

Issue 1/26

Sunday 11th January 2026

THE FRONT PAGE

The year ahead...

Our plans for a new church hall

This week I received the good news that the DAC members (who advise the diocese about church building projects) were impressed with our plans for a our new church hall, when they visited St John's just before Christmas to receive a presentation from the architects. They haven't recommended that any changes be made to the most recent plans that we have. They say that we should go ahead and apply for a Faculty (which is the formal permission needed from the diocese for the building work to go ahead). We have started to gather the information needed to make this application.

We also need to get Planning Permission from the Tendring Council before we can proceed. We have asked the architects to help us make this application as soon as we can.

Any project like this is likely to face complications along the way – so we are asking everyone to pray that it will continue to make progress. We will also be arranging some special prayer times for the project. We will announce these when it becomes clearer what the next steps will be – *please watch out for details.*

As the year goes on, especially when the current hall is removed and then when the building work starts, we will have to make changes to how we do things. These won't always be straightforward or easy – and there will be an element of sacrifice needed from all of us. However, I'm hoping that this will all be worth it in the end. Being able to build a hall like this is a "once in a lifetime" opportunity. Let's pray that God will help us to make it work - and He will use the new building for His work and for His glory. Thank you, Mark.

P.S. *We will put a copy of the plans for the hall up at the back of our churches so that everyone can have a look at what we're working towards.*

Sunday 11th January 2026

Epiphany 1

Theme: Gleaning at the barley harvest

Ruth Ch.2

(Church Bibles - St. John's pg.268; St. Mark's pg.267)

9.00 am	Holy Communion in St John's Church <i>(Preacher: Christine Sanders) Prayer after Church</i>
10.30 am	Morning Worship in St Mark's Church <i>(Preacher: Christine Sanders) Prayer after Church</i>
11.00 am (Premier)	Online Service on YouTube <i>(Preacher: Mark M)</i> <i>(And also available at any time after this.)</i>
4.00 pm	Prayer & Praise in St John's Church <i>we'll pray for the C of E, our new hall & a great awakening</i>

Activities this week

Mon 12 th	8.30 am	Morning Prayers in St John's Church
	10 - 11.30 am	Little Fishes in St John's Church
	2.00 pm	Bethany in St John's Church Hall
Weds 14 th	8.00 am	Morning Prayers on WhatsApp <i>please ask Mark, if you would like to join</i>
	11.00 am	Wednesday Worshippers Holy Communion - St Mark's Church <i>(Preacher: Mark M)</i>
	7.00 pm	Ignite Youth Group - St Paul's Church
Thurs 15 th	9.30 am	Persecuted Church Prayers - SJC
	10.30am - 12 noon	Bethany Again in St John's Church Hall
	7.30 pm	Thursday Evening Group - St Mark's
Fri 16 th	8.30 am	Morning Prayers in St John's Church
	2.30 pm	Mission Committee at Jackie's
	5.00 pm	Prayers for our Mission Links in St John's Church

Morning and Evening Prayers have restarted

It's never too late to join.

If you would like more information, please just ask.

Sunday 18th January 2026

Epiphany 2

Theme: The Guardian-Redeemer

Ruth Ch.3

(Church Bibles - St. John's pg.269; St. Mark's pg.269)

9.00 am	Morning Prayer in St John's Church (Preacher: Mark Galliers) <i>Prayer after Church</i>
10.30am	Morning Worship in St Mark's Church (Preacher: Mark Galliers)
11.00 am (Premier)	Online Service on YouTube (Preacher: Mark M) (And also available at any time after this.)
4.00 pm	Lego Church in St John's Church

Activities this week

Mon 19 th	8.30 am	Morning Prayers in St John's Church
	10 – 11.30 am	Little Fishes in St John's Church
	2.00 pm	Monthly Service at Havernale
Weds 21 st	11.00 am	Wednesday Worshippers Holy Communion - St Mark's Church
	7.00 pm	Ignite Youth Group - St Paul's Church
	7.30 pm	PCC in St John's Church Hall
Thurs 22 nd	9.30 am	Persecuted Church Prayers - SJC
	10.30 am for 11.00 am	Together in St John's Church Hall
	7.30 pm	Thursday Evening Group - St Mark's
Fri 23 rd	8.30 am	Morning Prayers in St John's Church
	5.00 pm	Prayers for our Mission Links in St John's Church

Prayer after our Morning Services

*There are people available to pray with anyone who asks.
You can ask for prayer for yourself or for someone else*

St. Mark's – 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month
St. John's – we now offer this every Sunday

Sunday 25th January 2026

Epiphany 3

Theme: At the town gate

Ruth Ch.4 vs.1-12

(Church Bibles - St. John's pg.269; St. Mark's pg.269)

9.00 am	Morning Prayer in St John's Church (Preacher: Sheila Neale)	Prayer after Church
10.30 am	Morning Worship in St Mark's Church (Preacher: Sheila Neale)	Prayer after Church
11.00 am (Premier)	Online Service on YouTube (Preacher: Mark M) (And also available at any time after this.)	
4.00 pm	Evening Communion in St John's Church	

HEATED CUSHIONS AT ST JOHN'S

We have decided to buy a few more of these (maybe 5 to start with) that will be at the back of St John's, charged up and ready to use each Sunday. These will be paid for using some of the money donated in the refreshments pot each week. If you would also like a personal one, please have a word with Mark.

Thank you to everyone who helped over Christmas

Lots of people worked very hard in the run-up to Christmas and then getting ready for and helping with our special services as well. So we want to say **a big thank** you to everyone who delivered invites, made our buildings look really lovely, prepared for our services, got food and refreshments ready, and helped at the events on the day – and in many other ways. People found the services helpful and we were also able to welcome many visitors.

Christmas Collection

Each year we like to give our collections, from the **Torchlit Service** in the churchyard and our main **Carols by Candlelight** at 6.30 on Christmas Eve, to a charity. This year it was to the **“Let’s read together”** project that Kathryn Asiku runs in Uganda. The great news is that **£712.58** was given. **THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!**

Kathryn has told us a bit more about how this money will be used - see on the next page.

“What can we read next? We want more books to read!”

For 2 years, children have been meeting once a week in reading groups at 20 churches in the Lunyole and Lugwere speaking communities in Uganda, where they are able to listen to stories being read and practice reading in their own language - something most of them rarely get the chance to do at school, where English is usually the order of the day. These groups were started as part of the **“Let’s Read Together”** literacy project, funded by Wycliffe UK and managed by Kathryn Asiku and the literacy team in Uganda. Stories written and illustrated by community members were used to produce a set of books and each group has received a box of the story books for the children to use. As a result of these groups, children are now being asked to read the Bible in church services and are doing better at school due to improved reading skills and growing self-confidence levels. Due to the success of the project, children have been asking for more books to read, especially at the higher reading levels. So earlier this year, more stories were written and illustrated and now more books are ready to be printed. However, as the funding for the project has already come to an end, we are inviting contributions towards the costs of providing these additional books. This will enable the children to have more books to read, and in particular more Bible stories.

Latest Crossway Magazine & Bishop Rob’s newsletter

These are now available at the back of our churches. (Sorry, it’s Rob’s Christmas Newsletter – just a little bit late!)

Half Term Holiday Club

We are hoping to run this again this year: **Mon 16th – Wed 18th Feb.** We just need to check that we have enough leaders and helpers available for these days – so if you can help, please have a word with Hannah or Mark, or drop a message to the Church Office.

Summer Christian Camps for young people

We have good links with a number of these, for a range of ages. We also have received a grant to help with the cost of them. *If you know any families who would be interested see Hannah or Mark.*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Stewsdays

(LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH)

Tuesday 27th January at St Mark's Church

Please choose: Toad in the hole/Vegetarian Toad in the hole

Doors open at 11.45am, lunch served at 12.15pm

Booking is essential: 01255 475704 (Church Office)

*If you think this is something you would like to know more about or get involved with
please have a word with Pam Dench*

Craft Group

(LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH)

Wednesday 28th January 2026 - 4pm at St Mark's

*This month our Craft Group will enjoy a **Craftea** together.*

*There will be an opportunity (but no pressure) to show
any crafts that you are working on or have completed recently.
The cost will be £4 and I'll need to know numbers for the catering.
So contact the Church Office or me personally if you can be there.*

Looking forward to a fun time together. Pam

Coffee Morning

(LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH)

Saturday 31st January 2026, 9.30-11.30am

in St. John's Church Hall

Catherine Porter's Visit

Catherine will be spending several days with us here in Clacton
as part of her time back in this country.

She will be able to tell us lots about what she has been doing in Japan
and we will also have a chance to hear her wonderful harp playing.

So let's get these dates in our diaries and on our calendars...

Thursday 5th – Sunday 8th March

Lent Meeting (Thurs evening), Concert (Sat evening), Sun Morning Services

Look out for more details coming soon.

Please continue to pray for Chris Pearce, who is now home from hospital, but still recovering.

Please continue to pray for all those families, who we have had contact with, as they mourn the loss of their loved ones.

Please continue to pray for those we know who are not well or are undergoing or waiting for treatment at the moment.

Please pray for Darren, who has had a long stay in hospital. He's now home and feeling a lot better but needs to continue to build up his strength.

Please continue to pray for the persecuted churches around the world. *Don't forget our regular Thursday Prayer Meetings.*

Please pray for our local schools – for the children and staff, as they start a new term. Pray for Hannah and Mark as we offer help to them and we try to maintain all of our links with them.

Please pray for the new Archbishop of Canterbury, as she takes up this new role in the coming weeks. She will have an influence on how the C of E tries to work through its present difficulties.

A MESSAGE FROM MARGARET

Hello everyone, I have been thinking of you all and would like to wish you all a happy and healthy new year. Many thanks to those who have kept me in prayer, I am well cared for here in Penny Pots but I do miss you all. Sending love and best wishes, Margaret Slater

A MESSAGE FROM JOSIE, FOLLOWING HER SAD NEWS

Thank you to my friends in the church family for cards, prayers and words of comfort at the passing of my dear son. Josie Kennard

Afternoon Services in St. John's at 4pm

Sunday 11th January

(Second Sunday of the month)

Prayer & Praise

Sunday 18th January

(Third Sunday of the month)

Lego Church

Sunday 25th January

(Fourth Sunday of the month)

Evening Communion

Sunday 1st February

(First Sunday of the month)

Tea Time Church

Normal Church Office opening times are

Monday	10.00 am	-	1.30 pm	-	Ann-Marie
Tuesday	10.00 am	-	1.00 pm	-	Anita
Wednesday	10.00 am	-	1.00 pm	-	Anita
Thursday	9.00 am	-	1.30 pm	-	Ann-Marie
Friday	9.00 am	-	3.30 pm	-	Ann-Marie
Saturday	9.00 am	-	11.00 am	-	Anita

(On Fridays 9–10 am we have a Staff Meeting.)

Clergy day off

Mark – day off: Tuesday

The Parish Office,
St. John's Church,
Great Clacton, Essex.
CO15 4BP

Tel: 01255 475704

Email: gtclactonparish@gmail.com

Website: gtclactonparish.co.uk

YouTube: Great Clacton Parish