

Issue 15/25

Sunday 7th September 2025

THE FRONT PAGE

Things are starting up again...

...now that it's September and the summer break is over. So maybe now is a good time to try out a new service or group at church or even consider volunteering for something.

As well as the things that were running before the summer, one new thing has started – **Bethany Again**. See inside for details of this and when all our regular events are happening.

If there is something where you think that you could be **involved in helping**, please just have a word with me - or, if you're not sure, maybe I can point you in the right direction with some ideas. And, as mentioned before, we are looking for some more help on the rota for the refreshments after our Sunday services, with the sound equipment at both our churches and the computer at St Mark's (training will be provided). Also, it would be wonderful if some people were interested in learning to ring the bells at St John's.

And **September is a great time to come back to church** for those who maybe have drifted away for a while (or for many years).

There are reports from across the country about many people returning to church over the past few years. Also, it seems that people are more likely to say "yes" to an invitation to come to church than they have for a while. In fact, some people are just waiting for someone to prompt them to return. So now may be the time for us to be courageous and ask someone we know to come along with us on a Sunday morning. And don't worry if they say no.

We have special events and services coming up in our **Harvest Festival Fortnight**. See inside for details and why not think about inviting a friend - some will want to know more about the **Clothes Swap**, while others will be interested in a **Harvest Thanksgiving** service itself. Let's see if we can fill our churches this year! *Mark.*

Sunday 7th September 2025

Trinity 12

Theme: **Summer Psalms** – Psalm 87

(Church Bibles - St. John's pg. 596; St. Mark's pg.596)

9.00 am	Morning Prayer in St John's (<i>Preacher: Mark M</i>) <i>Prayer after Church</i>
10.30 am	Holy Communion in St Mark's (<i>Preacher: Mark M</i>) with Sunday Funtime restarting
11.00 am (Premiere)	Online Service on YouTube (<i>Preacher: Mark M</i>) (And also available at any time after this.)
4.00 pm	Tea Time Church in St John's Church

Activities this week

Mon 8 th	8.30 am	Morning Prayers Restart in St John's Church
	10.00 am	Little Fishes Restarts in St John's Church
	2.00 pm	Bethany in St. John's Church Hall
Weds 10 th	8.00 am	Morning Prayers on WhatsApp <i>please ask Mark M if you would like to join</i>
	11.00 am	Wednesday Worshippers - St Mark's Holy Communion Mark 1: 1-13 (<i>Preacher: Mark M</i>)
	7.00 pm	Ignite Restarts at St. Paul's Church
Thurs 11 th	9.30 am	Prayers for the Persecuted Church Restarts in St John's Church
	10.30 for 11.00 am	Together in St. John's Church – 1 John 1:1-4 (<i>Preacher: Jan Chittock</i>)
	7.30 pm	Thursday Evening Group restarts in St Mark's Church
Fri 12 th	8.30 am	Morning Prayers in St John's Church
	5.00 pm	Prayers for our Mission Links in St John's Church
Sat 13 th	10.30 am	Finance Committee Meeting in St John's Church Hall

Sunday 14th September 2025

Trinity 13

Theme: **Summer Psalms** –

Psalm 27 (at St John's) & Psalm 1 (at St Mark's)
(Church Bibles - St. John's pg.557; St. Mark's pg.541)

9.00 am	Holy Communion St John's (Preacher: Stuart Baker) Prayer after Church
10.30 am	Morning Worship in St Mark's (Preacher: Andy Brown)
11.00 am (Premiere)	Online Service on YouTube (Preacher: Mark M) (And also available at any time after this.)
3.00 pm	Baptism of Alyssa Collis in St. John's Church
4.00 pm	Prayer and Praise in St. John's Church

Activities this week

Mon 15 th	8.30 am	Morning Prayers - St. John's Church
	10.00 am	Little Fishes in St. John's Church
Weds 17 th	8.00 am	Morning Prayers on WhatsApp <i>please ask Mark M if you would like to join</i>
	11.00 am	Wednesday Worshippers - St Mark's Morning Prayer - Mark ch.1 vs.14-20 (Preacher: Sheila Neale)
	7.00 pm	Ignite at St. Paul's Church
Thurs 18 th	10.30 am	Bethany Again in St John's Hall
	7.30 pm	Thursday Evening Group in St Mark's Church
Fri 19 th	8.30 am	Morning Prayers in St John's Church
	5.00 pm	Prayers for our Mission Links in SJC
Sat 20 th	4pm – 6pm	Clothes Swap and Upcycling Session in St. Mark'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 hope to offer this every Sunday

Sunday 21st September 2025

Trinity 13

Theme: **Summer Psalms** – Psalm 145

(Church Bibles - St. John's pg.631; St. Mark's pg.631)

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

Harvest Event

In keeping with celebrating all the good things we enjoy at Harvest, and focussing on how we take care of our world, our Harvest Event this year will be a little different from those of the past.

We're planning a **clothes swap and upcycling session** at St Mark's on **Sat 20th Sept, 4 - 6 pm** (the week before our Harvest services).

We are looking for good quality, clean clothes that you no longer use/need, along with accessories (bags, shoes, hats, fascinators, belts etc).

There will be no charge for items but there will be donations baskets in support of **Tear Fund**. **Light refreshments will be served.**

This will be a great opportunity to invite friends along and promote the work of Tear Fund and local businesses that have an ethical ethos.

Donations can be brought to church or given to Pam Dench, but please remember... we are looking for items in good, clean (ironed) condition.

Thank you. Looking forward to a fun time together. *Pam*

P.S. If anyone has a clothes rail or lightweight display racks / shelving that we could borrow, please get in touch.

Bethany Again is a new venture, organised by the Bethany team, which will give those who come to Bethany another chance to meet.

It is now running on the **first and third Thursdays** of every month
10.30 am to 12 noon in **St. John's Church Hall**.

*This is in the slot when we had Community Cuppa,
which will be taking a break for a while.*

DATES FOR YOUR AUTUMN DIARY

Craft Group

(LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH)

Wednesday 24th September - 4pm at St Mark's

Harvest Coffee Morning

(LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH)

Saturday 27th September, 9.30-11.30am
in the Church Hall at St John's

Stewsdays

(LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH)

Tuesday 30th September at St Mark's Church

Please choose: Sausages in Onion Gravy
Vegetarian sausages

Doors open at 11.45am, lunch served at 12.15pm
Booking is essential: 01255 475704 (Church Office)

And this year we are having a...

Harvest Festival Fortnight

including...

Sat 20th Sept - **Clothes Swap & Upcycling Session** (see p.4 for details)

Mon 22nd Sept - **Harvest Hymns** at Havenvale (2pm)

Sat 27th Sept - **Harvest Coffee Morning** (9.30-11.30am) (see above)

Then **Sunday 28th September -**

Harvest Thanksgiving Services

St John's and St Mark's
9.00am & 10.30am

And Wed 1st Oct - **Songs of Praise for Harvest** - 11am at St Mark's

*There may also be visits from local schools
and Hannah and Mark will be involved in taking special assemblies,
as we help children and schools to celebrate Harvest as well.*

Harvest Coffee Morning **Saturday 27th September**

Our September coffee morning is during our Harvest celebrations so we thought we would have a 'Plant & Produce' stall to make it more harvesty!

So, if you have any plants or produce spare from your gardens or allotments that you would like to donate it would be great to fill the table with lovely things!

Any homemade jams and chutneys would be gratefully received too as well as the usual cakes!

Any donations can be brought into the hall on Friday 26th September so that we can price things ready for Saturday morning.

Many thanks, *Stephanie & The Team*

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS *(with apologies for the advance nature of this notice)*

Just a reminder that we will be having the usual craft stall at the **Christmas Coffee Morning on 29th November.**

It would be great to receive handmade craft items so that we can have a full table once more. So keep crafting and see what you can make!

Also, if you have any new items which are not wanted, we'll be having a 'New' Stall, and all donations will be gratefully received. Thank you.

Happy crafting! *Stephanie & The Team*

As is traditional, we'll be receiving **Harvest Gifts** during our Harvest Thanksgiving services. Once again this year, these donations will be split between our own **Food Bags**, which we provide, and **Clacton Food Bank**. The most useful things are ***tinned and long-life products with a good length of time before the Best Before Date.*** *There will be a list of the most helpful items in the next Newsletter. Thanks.*

*Thank you to all who made it along to our **meeting about the future of the church hall.** There will be a full report on this and more details of what happens now in our next Newsletter.*

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 continue to pray for the persecuted churches around the world. *Our regular Thursday Prayer Meetings are starting again.*

Please pray for our local schools – pupils and staff returning after the summer break. And pray for Hannah, who is back in touch with the schools about what ways we can help them this year.

Afternoon Services in St. John's at 4pm

Sunday 7th September

Tea Time Church

Sunday 14th September

Prayer and Praise

(praying for a Great Awakening in Great Clacton)

Sunday 21st September

Lego Church

Sunday 28th September

Evening Communion

Normal Church Office opening times are

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

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

Please Note that Ann-Marie will be taking annual leave for a fortnight from Mon 15th Sept, so office hours will be shorter during this period.

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