

Issue 16/26

Sunday 4th October 2026

THE FRONT PAGE

New Church Hall Update & Prayer

I'm really pleased to be able to report some significant, further progress with our New Church Hall Project...

A fortnight ago, **the Faculty** for the new building **was granted** – this is the official permission needed from the church authorities in the diocese to build in the Churchyard. (I have received a fancy, signed letter if you want to have a look!)

Then last week, we obtained the final report that we needed for the site (the one about drainage and groundwater). This meant that the **Planning Permission Application** could be submitted, which the architects did straight away. So, the plans are now going through the Local Authority's planning process.

While this is happening the architects will press ahead, working on the package that will be needed for the tendering process – when building firms are invited to bid for the work.

Although there are still lots of steps needed before our new hall will be built and ready for use, this is real progress, and it is right to **give thanks to God** that we have got this far over the past year. (It was last September when we had the initial meeting in St John's to announce the project.) However, **let's keep praying** for all that lies ahead, not least obtaining the Planning Permission needed.

With all of this in mind, it seems right to call a **Prayer Meeting**, for all those who can make it – in the **Church Hall** itself on **Wednesday 14th October, 3-4 pm**. We will be praying for the proposals to get safely through the planning process, but also taking the opportunity to thank God for his wonderful provision of our current church hall (through so many years) and for the miraculous provision of the resources now to replace it. *Please come and pray!*

Sunday 4th October 2026

Trinity 18

Pictures of the Church: The family

Mark Ch.3 vs.20-21 & vs.31-35

(Church Bibles - St. John's pg.1005; St. Mark's pg.1005)

9.00 am	Morning Prayer with Baptism – St John's Church (Ocean Sage, one of our Little Fishes, will be baptised) (Preacher: Mark M) Prayer after Church
10.30 am	Holy Communion – St Mark's Church (Preacher: Mark M) 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	Harvest Tea Time Church - St John's Church

Activities this week

Mon 5 th	8.30 am	Morning Prayers - St John's Church
	10 - 11.30 am	Little Fishes in St John's Church
	2.00 pm	Harvest Hymns at Havenvale
Tue 6 th	1.00 pm	Burial of Mary Garratt's ashes at St Michael's Church, Hamworthy
Weds 7 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 <i>Songs of Praise for Harvest</i>
	7.00 pm	Ignite Youth Group – at St Paul's
Thurs 8 th	10.30 for 11.00 am	Together Service St John's Church
	12 noon	Prayers for the Persecuted Church following on from Together
	7.30 pm	Thursday Evening Group St Mark's Church (<i>starting the 321 Course</i>)
Fri 9 th	8.30 am	Morning Prayers - St John's Church
	5.00 pm	Prayers for Mission Links - St John's
Sat 10 th	9.00 – 11.00 am	Work Party in and around St John's <i>please come and join in at any point</i>

Sunday 11th October 2026

Trinity 19

Pictures of the Church: The Living Building

Ephesians Ch.2 vs.17-22

(Church Bibles - St. John's pg.1174; St. Mark's pg.1174)

9.00 am	Holy Communion – St John's Church (Preacher: Mark M) Prayer after Church
10.30 am	Morning Worship – St Mark's Church (Preacher: Mark M) 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 – St John's Church

Activities this week

Mon 12 th	8.30 am	Morning Prayers - St John's Church
	10 – 11.30 am	Little Fishes in St John's Church
	2 – 3.00 pm	Bethany in St John's Church Hall
Weds 14 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 (Preacher: Christine)
	3.00 pm	Prayer Meeting in the Church Hall
	7.00 pm	Ignite Youth Group - St Paul's Church
Thurs 15 th	10.30 am	Bethany Again St John's Church Hall
	7.00 for 7.30 pm	Thursday Evening Group St Mark's Church (continuing the 321 Course)
Fri 16 th	8.30 am	Morning Prayers in St John's Church
	5.00 pm	Prayers for Mission Links - St John's

Prayers after our Morning Services

After our Morning Services at St John's and St Mark's, each week, there are people available to pray with you or for you - prayer for yourself, someone else, or whatever is on your heart.

Sunday 18th October 2026

Trinity 20

Mission Sunday

Pictures of the Church: The Body

1 Corinthians Ch.12 vs.12-31

(Church Bibles - St. John's pg.1153; St. Mark's pg.1153)

9.00 am	Morning Prayer – St John's Church (Preacher: Mark Cuthbert) Prayer after Church
10.30 am	Morning Worship – St Mark's Church (Preacher: Mark Cuthbert) 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	Lego Church - St John's Church

Our **Harvest Coffee Morning**, raised a whopping **£331.45** with all proceeds going to the **St John's Building Fund**.

A BIG **THANK YOU** to all who attended and made it such a wonderful morning!

(As you are aware, St. John's is an old building, and its Building Fund is constantly added to from the proceeds of every Coffee Morning – this helps pay for any repair work that needs to be done, and can also go towards bigger projects for the future.)

St John's Work Party – Sat 10th October, 9-11am

We will be tidying the churchyard, dusting and cleaning in St John's and doing all the jobs that need to be done.

Please come and join in - or even just encourage and make the tea! Thank you for all your help. Mark

Church Bells at St John's

It would be lovely if we could start ringing the bells at St John's more regularly on a Sunday morning, to mark the time of our services in the traditional way.

If anyone would like to have a go at ringing the bells, even just to see what it's like – please have a word with Mark. (There would be a chance at the Work Morning on Sat 10th Oct.)

General Synod Elections

In the wider Church of England this Autumn is an important time because there are elections to the church's **General Synod** – both the parts of this with the clergy and with the laity – these are called the *House of Clergy* and the *House of Laity*. The General Synod has an important role in deciding the policies of the C of E, and so the direction it takes in the future. Many of us have been praying for it over recent years as it has considered important matters around marriage and sexuality.

The voting process (by post and online) is about to start. Our Deanery Synod Reps will have a vote in the election for lay representatives, while Mark gets to vote in the clergy election. (General Synod Reps will be voted in diocese by diocese.) One other bit of good news is that David Lower, from St Paul's, is standing as a candidate for the House of Clergy.

The CEEC and the Alliance, who campaign for traditional and orthodox Christian viewpoints to be maintained within the Church of England, have asked us to pray especially for these important elections – that good candidates will be elected throughout – and for the new Synod, when it meets and considers important issues.

HARVEST FESTIVAL FORTNIGHT

A big thank you to everyone who has taken part in and contributed to our special Harvest events this year. Our church buildings have looked wonderful and many harvest gifts have been brought along. It was also great to see both St John's and St Mark's so well attended for our main Harvest Thanksgiving services last Sunday. Thank you.

If you weren't able to get along to these, there are still a few chances to come and thank God for his goodness...

Our remaining Harvest Festival events are:-

Tea Time Church Harvest Special - Sun 4th Oct - 4pm at St John's
especially aimed at children and families, but all welcome

Harvest Hymns at Havenvale - Mon 5th Oct at 2pm

Songs of Praise for Harvest - Wed 7th Oct – 11am at St Mark's
a First Wednesday Special at Wednesday Worshippers

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Stewsdays

(LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH)

Tuesday 27th October at St Mark's Church

Please choose: Meat Balls/Falafel

Doors open at 11.45am, lunch served at 12.15pm

Booking is **essential**: 01255 475704 (Church Office)

Craft Group

(LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH)

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

We'll be making a hanging decoration using felt leaves.

Please bring:

Ballpoint pen

Scissors

A twig

(we'll be using this to hang our leaves from),
about 12 – 18 inches (30 – 45 cm), it can be a bit contorted,
it needs to be strong enough to hang the leaves from.

£4

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL

Coffee Morning

(LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH)

Saturday 31st October 2026, 9.30-11.30am

in St John's Church Hall

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Sunday 8th November

Looking slightly further ahead to next month...
as we normally do, we will have two special services that day:

Remembrance Sunday Service – 10.30am in St John's

This is a joint service and will include the national 2 minutes silence.

The Memorial Service – 3.00pm in St John's

This is a chance to remember and give thanks for loved ones we have lost.

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Please continue to pray for Chris Pearce – who is recovering now, after illness – and for Rob, who has been looking after her.

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 in many places around the world. *(Our Thursday morning opportunities to pray for the persecuted church, after our Together Services, have restarted – please do come and join in, if you can.)*

Please continue to pray for our local schools as many will be having special events for Harvest. Please pray for Hannah and Mark, who will be involved with these.

Our new **Sunday Morning Sermon Series**, starting this week, is called ***“Pictures of the Church”***. It looks at the way the New Testament describes the people in the church through a series of pictures or metaphors. **Let’s continue to pray** for ourselves as a church family, that we will remain united, loving and useful to God.

A very big **THANK YOU...**

Anita has decided to step back from her work in the Church Office and to retire properly. (This will be from mid-November.)

We want to say **a really big thank you** to her for all that she has done here over the last 10 years, for all that she has done to help and serve. **Please pray** for her at this time of change.

Afternoon Services in St. John's at 4pm

Sunday 4th October

Tea Time Church
(with a special Harvest theme)

Sunday 11th October

Evening Communion
(A FORTNIGHT EARLIER THAN USUAL!!)

Sunday 18th October

Lego Church

Sunday 25th October

THERE IS NO 4PM SERVICE TODAY
(HALF TERM BREAK)

Sunday 1st November

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

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