Great Clacton Parish

Issue 18/26

Sunday 8th November 2026

THE FRONT PAGE

New Church Hall Update

As many of you know, our proposals for our New Church Hall are going through the local council's planning processes at the moment. The good news is that they are through the Consultation Phase, but we are still waiting for a final decision to be made.

Thank you to everyone who took time to pray for our Church Hall Project on our special Day of Prayer last month – either in the Church Hall that afternoon or at home. God has been answering those prayers that were prayed. However, at this crucial time for the project, we thought that it is important for us to encourage each other to continue to pray.

Therefore, along with this Newsletter, you should find a 1-week, special Prayer Diary, which gives lots of things to give thanks for, and lots of important things to pray for at this stage of the Project. Please do use it each day over the next week, if you can.

One thing that our architect has suggested that we pray, is that the council planners won't impose too many conditions along with granting Planning Permission.

I hope that there will be more good news to share about further progress that we are making very soon.

Remembrance Sunday

Please don't forget that the timings of our Sunday Services are different this week, because we join in with many across our land to mark Remembrance Sunday.

- our joint Remembrance Sunday Service - **10.30am** at St John's
- our Online Service starts earlier than usual at **10.45am**
- we have our special Memorial Service in St John's at **3pm**

Please have a look inside for details. *Thank you, Mark*

Sunday 8th November 2026
3rd Sunday before Advent
Remembrance Sunday
Pictures of the Church: Holy Nation
1 Peter Ch.2 vs.9-12
(Church Bibles - St. John's pg.1218)

	NO 9am Service in St John's
	NO 10.30am Service in St Mark's
10.30 am	**JOINT Service – St John's Church** ***including the 2 Minutes Silence at 11am*** *There will also be activities for children in the Church Hall* *(Preacher: Mark Mulryne)*
10.45 am (Premier)	Online Service on YouTube *(Preacher: Mark M)* (And also available at any time after this.)
3.00 pm	**Memorial Service** – St John's Church *a special time to remember loved ones we have lost* followed by refreshments (FEEL FREE TO INVITE OTHERS)

Activities this week

Mon 9th	8.30 am	Morning Prayers - 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 11th	8.00 am	Morning Prayers on WhatsApp *please ask Mark M if you would like to join*
	11.00 am	Wednesday Worshippers - St Mark's Morning Prayer *(Preacher: Mark M)*
	7.00 pm	Ignite Youth Group – at St Paul's
Thurs 12th	10.30 for 11.00 am	**Together Service** St John's Church Hall
	12 noon	**Prayers for the Persecuted Church** following on from Together
	7.30 pm	Thursday Evening Group - *321 Course*
Fri 13th	8.30 am	Morning Prayers - St John's Church
	5.00 pm	Prayers for Mission Links - St John's
Sat 14th	7.30 am	Men's Breakfast at Kirby *(Mark is speaking)*

Sunday 15th November 2026

2nd Sunday before Advent

Pictures of the Church: The Vine

John Ch.15 vs.1-12

(Church Bibles - St. John's pg.1065; St. Mark's pg.1065)

9.00 am	Morning Prayer – St John's Church *(Preacher: Sheila Neale)* *Prayer after Church*
10.30 am	Morning Worship – 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	Lego Church – St John's Church

Activities this week

Mon 16th	8.30 am	Morning Prayers - St John's Church
	10 - 11.30 am	Little Fishes in St John's Church
Tues 17th	11.00 am	Funeral at Weeley Crematorium for Vicky Staples (MM)
Weds 18th	8.00 am	Morning Prayers on WhatsApp *please ask Mark M if you would like to join – we'd love to have some more in the group*
	11.00 am	Wednesday Worshippers - St Mark's Holy Communion *(Preacher: Mark G)*
	7.00 pm	Ignite Youth Group – at St Paul's
	7.30 pm	PCC Meeting in St John's Hall
Thurs 19th	10.30 am - 12.00 noon	**Bethany Again** St John's Church Hall
	7.30 pm	Thursday Evening Group St Mark's Church – *the 321 Course* *(Session 4 – All welcome to join)*
Fri 20th	8.30 am	Morning Prayers - St John's Church
	5.00 pm	Prayers for Mission Links - St John's
Sat 21st	10.00 am – 12 noon	**Holiday Club Reunion** in St John's Church

Sunday 22nd November 2026

Sunday next before Advent

Pictures of the Church: The growing plant

1 Corinthians Ch.3 vs.1-11

(Church Bibles - St. John's pg.1145; St. Mark's pg.1145)

9.00 am	Morning Prayer – 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

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.

We are very pleased to report that an outstanding amount of **£347.10** was raised at our last **Coffee Morning**!
As you may already know, but it's always good to be reminded, all proceeds go to the **St John's Building Fund**, which is set aside for any repairs or improvements that need to be done to St John's Church.

Christmas Coffee Morning

This will be held in **St John's Church** again this year on **Saturday 28th November, 9.30am to 12 noon.**

If you are a 'crafty' person and would like to make something for the craft stall, it would be gratefully received.

If you have any unwanted items that are **NEW** they too would be well received. For craft and new items please get them to me as early as you can for pricing beforehand.

We're also grateful for preserves homemade cakes, etc., but more news on that nearer the time.

Many thanks in anticipation, *Stephanie and the Team*

Men's Breakfast at St Michael's Kirby

7.30 - 8.30 am, Saturday 14th November

Mark Holdaway runs monthly Men's Breakfasts in the church hall at St Michael's, Kirby, and invites someone to give a short 5-minute talk/thought. This time he has asked me along.

It would be lovely if some others wanted to come with me – mainly to see what it is like and how it runs… as you probably don't need another opportunity to hear me speaking!

Please let me know if you would like to join me. Lifts available.

Sorry about the early time! And, sorry, it's MEN ONLY! *Mark*

Advent Devotional Books

Each Advent and Lent we like to promote a book that we can read together as a church – often one that has a Bible passage and a thought for each day. This year we will have a choice of books – all **just for £1**! These have already been sent to us and will be available in church from **Sunday 22nd November**, so we can be ready for the start of Advent the following week.

Christmas Deliveries

In the run-up to Christmas each year we try to deliver a Christmas Card through the doors of as many houses in our parish as we can. This reminds people that we are still here, and that St John's and St Mark's are alive, active and welcoming people once again this year. It will have a list of our special Christmas services and events and we hope that this will bring extra visitors along to these.

Although this means a lot of effort on the part of our deliverers, I think that it is something that is worth doing. And we have, once again, received a grant that will cover the cost of printing the cards.

Delivering the cards works best if there are quite a few people involved. We have a few amazing deliverers who do loads – but it's also so helpful if we can get a good crowd of people doing a few roads each. (Even one is a real help.)

So if you have a favourite road (or two) in the parish, please let us know on the sheets that will be appearing at the back of our churches very soon. *Thank you for all your help with this. Mark*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Men's Breakfast at St Michael's Kirby

Saturday 14th November*, *7.30-8.30 am
in ***St Michael's Church Hall, Kirby-le-Soken***
Mark M has been invited to say a few words
Any men from Great Clacton are welcome to join.

Stewsdays

(LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH)
Tuesday 24th November *at* ***St Mark's Church***
Please choose: Gammon Steak/Stuffed mushrooms
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 25th November 2026 - 4pm *at* ***St Mark's***
We'll be making a Curtain ring santa/gnome
LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL

Christmas Coffee Morning

(LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH)
Saturday 28th November 2026, 9.30-12 noon
in St John's Church
PLEASE NOTE THE SLIGHTLY LONGER TIME
& THE SPECIAL VENUE
(SEE BACK ON P.4 FOR FURTHER DETAILS)

The 321 Course

Thursday Evenings – 7.30pm *at* ***St Mark's Church***
This started on Thurs 5th November and will run until Christmas
It is an interesting, new way to explore the Christian message about Jesus.
ALL WELCOME.
Pick up a yellow leaflet at the back of church
or speak to Mark to find out more.

Please continue to pray for Robert Arr after the loss of Margaret.

Please continue to pray for Chris Pearce – who is recovering now at home, after illness – and for Rob, who is 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 pray for our local schools. Give thanks for the Harvest services and assemblies that Hannah and Mark were involved in before Half Term. We now start planning for Christmas - do pray!

We have some sad news to pass on – we recently heard that **John Tovee** sadly passed away on Sunday 1st November. John and Sandra Tovee were long standing members of St John's and St Mark's, though some time ago. John (a painter and decorator) even painted the interior of St Mark's Church in the past! They moved away from Clacton about 20 years ago to be closer to their family in Norfolk and then a couple of years ago moved to Chipperfield. Please do pray for Sandra and family at this sad time.

We've also heard that **Laurie Bond** died suddenly just over a week ago. Laurie was the Area Dean for several years, even taking on this role after he retired from being a vicar. He was faithful, kind and very helpful to us as a church. Please do pray for his family at this time.

Afternoon Services in **St. John's** at **4pm**

Sunday 8th November at 3pm

Memorial Service

A chance to give thanks for the lives of loved ones we have lost and to light a candle in their memory.
We also remember those for whom we have carried out funerals recently.

Sunday 15th November

Lego Church

Sunday 22nd November

Evening Communion

Sunday 29th November

Lego Church Christmas Special

Sunday 6th December

Christingle Service

Normal **Church Office** opening times are

Monday	10.00 am - 1.30 pm - *Ann-Marie*
Tuesday	T.B.C.
Wednesday	T.B.C.
Thursday	9.00 am - 1.30 pm - *Ann-Marie*
Friday	9.00 am - 3.30 pm - *Ann-Marie*
Saturday	T.B.C.

(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