

Issue 3/26

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**THE FRONT PAGE**

**The year ahead...**

**Let's pray, pray, pray**

On the last couple of Front Pages, I've talked about some of the things that we will focus on over the next year – our New Hall Project and the need to maintain our regular ministry, in order to build one another up as Christians. Doing both of these will take a lot of energy and so it's so important that we keep praying for God to give us all the strength that we need.

There are also many other things that we can be praying for as well. I'm just going to highlight two of them -

**A Great Awakening in Great Clacton**

This is something that Guy got us praying for quite a few years ago – and it's something that some people have committed themselves to praying for ever since. God seems to have been answering prayers like these – not just in Clacton, but across the country – many churches are reporting new people coming, others wanting to find out about Jesus, and even rising church attendance. It's been described as the *Quiet Revival*, as it just seems to be quietly happening! Let's pray that it will continue and strengthen this year – here in Clacton, as well as other places. And let's pray that we will be ready and willing to help all those who are searching and will be popping in to see us.

**The wider Church of England**

While there are many encouragements in local churches, in many ways our national church seems to have lost its way. Let's pray for church leaders, including the bishops and synod members, as matters are discussed and important decisions taken. (*Synod meets 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> Feb.*)

Let's keep using the **Prayer Diaries** and join with our **Prayer Meetings** when we can. *Thank you, Mark*

## Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Epiphany

Theme: **Ruth: the four prayers**

Ruth Ch.1 vs.8-9a, Ch.2 vs.11-12, Ch.2 vs.19-21, Ch.4 vs.11-12 & 13-15  
(Church Bibles - St. John's pg.267; St. Mark's pg.267)

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

### Activities this week

Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am	Morning Prayers in St John's Church
	10 - 11.30 am	Little Fishes in St John's Church
	2.00 pm	<b>Bethany</b> in St John's Church Hall
Weds 11 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 am	Morning Prayers on WhatsApp <i>if you would like to join, please ask Mark</i>
	11.00 am	Wednesday Worshippers Holy Communion – St Mark's Church (Preacher: Mark Galliers)
	7.00 pm	Ignite Youth Group - St Paul's Church
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	<b>Together</b> in St John's Church Hall
	12 noon	<b>Prayers for the Persecuted Church</b> in St John's Church Hall
	7.30 pm	Thursday Evening Group - St Mark's <i>This is the last one before Easter, as our Lent Meetings start on 26<sup>th</sup> Feb</i>
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am	Morning Prayers in St John's Church
	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.**

*(These take a break in the Half Term Week – next week.)*

## Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Sunday before Lent

Theme: Starting a church - The merchant

Acts Ch. 16 vs. 6 - 15

(Church Bibles - St. John's pg. 1111; St. Mark's pg. 1111)

9.00 am	Morning Prayer in St John's Church (Preacher: Mark M)      Prayer after Church
10.30am	Morning Worship with a Thanksgiving – St Mark's (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	<b>Lego Church</b> in St John's Church
5.15 pm	<b>Holiday Club Set-up &amp; Prayer</b> – St John's Church

### Activities this week

#### ***Half Term this week – no morning/evening prayers***

Mon 16 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 am	Meeting & Prayers for Holiday Club
	10 – 12 noon	<b>Holiday Club – Day 1</b> in St John's
Tues 17 <sup>th</sup> <b>Shrove Tuesday</b>	10 – 12 noon	<b>Holiday Club – Day 2</b> in St John's
	12.30 – 2 pm	<b>Pancake Party</b> – St John's Hall
Weds 18 <sup>th</sup> <b>Ash Wed</b>	10 – 12 noon	<b>Holiday Club – Day 3</b> in St John's
	11.00 am	Wednesday Worshippers – St. Mark's <b>Ash Wednesday Holy Communion</b> (Preacher: Mark M)
		NO Ignite Youth Group
	6.30 pm	<b>Ash Wednesday Holy Communion</b> in St. John's Church (with Mark M)
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am to 12 noon	<b>Bethany Again</b> in St John's Church Hall
		<b>NO</b> Thursday Evening Group

### **Prayer after our Morning Services**

*We hope to offer this at St Mark's every Sunday, as well as at St John's, from now on.*

## Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2026

Lent 1

Theme: Starting a church - The slave girl

Acts Ch. 16 vs.16 - 25

(Church Bibles - St. John's pg. 1112; St. Mark's pg. 1112)

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

### Dates for Lent & Easter 2026

These are dates that move around each year, so we thought it might be useful to have them all here together -

- **Shrove Tuesday – 17<sup>th</sup> February** (the day before Lent starts)  
*Our **PANCAKE PARTY** follows the end of Hol Club at St John's*
- **Ash Wednesday – 18<sup>th</sup> February** (this is when Lent starts)  
**HOLY COMMUNION SERVICES FOR ASH WEDNESDAY**  
*11 am – St Mark's Church (part of Wednesday Worshippers)*  
*6.30 pm – St John's Church*
- **Mothering Sunday – 15<sup>th</sup> March**
- **Palm Sunday – 29<sup>th</sup> March** (Clocks go forward)
- **Maundy Thursday – 2<sup>nd</sup> April**
- **Good Friday – 3<sup>rd</sup> April**
- **Easter Sunday – 5<sup>th</sup> April**

Our **Lent Meetings** start on **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March**, then on each of the following Thursdays through until Easter. There will be a different speaker each week, focusing on Mission, near and far.

*Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> March – Gerry Blake from Wycliffe Bible Translators*  
*Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> March – Catherine Porter talks about her work in Japan*  
7 pm for refreshments – 7.15 pm for the Meeting – at St Mark's  
(we will finish by 8.45 at the latest)

## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2026**

**SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**following the Joint Morning Service in St. John's Church**

Part of our meeting will be to elect up to 4 **members** to the **Parochial Church Council (PCC)**, 3 **Deanery Synod Reps**, and 2 **Churchwardens**. Although we are hoping that some who are coming to the end of their terms will agree to stand again, there will also be space for new faces on the PCC. To be nominated you must be on the Church Electoral Roll. Also, if you are offering yourself, you must have someone who will nominate you and someone who will second that nomination at the Annual Meeting. If you wish to nominate someone else, please discuss it with them first to ensure they wish to be nominated. Finally, before you take any action, please commit your thoughts and actions to prayer.

*Please use the official nomination forms these can be found at the back of both churches or in the Church Office.*

### **Preparation of Church Electoral Roll for 2026**

Under Church of England rules, we only have to prepare a new Electoral Roll every six years and this is **not** one of those years. So, if you are already on the list you don't need to complete a new form until 2031. *However, new people may want to come onto the Electoral Roll.* In order to be eligible for the Roll you must be 16 years old or over (*before 10<sup>th</sup> May 2026*), be baptised or being prepared for baptism in 2026, and live within the parish – or if you live outside the parish, you must have been attending church here on a regular basis for at least 6 months.

The significance of being on the Church Electoral Roll is that you are showing your support of our church and its work in our parish. It goes along with making a commitment to the church, by attending regularly, supporting the mission and ministry through regular giving, and giving of your time and skills in service.

The preparation of our Electoral Roll will take place from **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Feb until Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April**. If you would like to be registered, please ask Mark or the office. *Thank you.*

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **Stewsdays**

(LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH)

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February at St Mark's Church**

Please choose: Meatballs/Falafel

**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*

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### **Craft Group**

(LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH)

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026 - 4pm at St Mark's**

*This month our Craft Group will be making a Denim "feather"*

*Unfortunately, there won't be Craft Group in March as I am unable to be there.*

*Please let any potential Crafters know. Thank you, Pam*

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### **Coffee Morning**

(LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH)

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2026, 9.30-11.30am**

in St. John's Church Hall

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### **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,  
something of her own personal testimony,  
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 5<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March**

Lent Meeting (Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> – 7pm for 7.15 – at St Mark's)

Harp Concert (Sat 7<sup>th</sup> – 3pm – at St John's)

Sun Morning Services (Sun 8<sup>th</sup> – 9am & 10.30am – at St John's & St Mark's)

**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 continue to pray for** the persecuted churches around the world. *Please ask about our regular Thursday Prayer Meetings.*

**Please pray for** our local schools – for the children and staff, in this 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.

Also, please keep praying for Bishop Rob and all that he does to support churches (like ours) in the Ebbsfleet Network.

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#### *PRAYERS FOR THE NEW CHURCH HALL:*

Let's take the opportunity over the coming months to pray for progress on the Church Hall Project. At the moment –

- Pray for the architects as they complete the detailed plans
- Pray for the Faculty Application & Planning Permission
- Thank God for the amazing funding that we have received and please pray for the remaining money to come in

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

### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February**

*(Second Sunday of the month)*

Prayer & Praise

### **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February**

*(Third Sunday of the month)*

Lego Church

### **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

*(Fourth Sunday of the month)*

Evening Communion

### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March**

*(First Sunday of the month)*

Tea Time Church

### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March**

*(Second Sunday of the month)*

Prayer & Praise

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#### **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.)*

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#### **Clergy day off**

Mark – day off: Tuesday

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