

Issue 3/26

Sunday 8th 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 9th/13th Feb.)

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

Sunday 8th 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 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 11 th	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 th	10.30 am	Together in St John's Church Hall
	12 noon	Prayers for the Persecuted Church 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 26th Feb</i>
Fri 13 th	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 15th 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	Lego Church in St John's Church	
5.15 pm	Holiday Club Set-up & Prayer – St John's Church	

Activities this week

Half Term this week – no morning/evening prayers

Mon 16 th	9.15 am	Meeting & Prayers for Holiday Club
	10 – 12 noon	Holiday Club – Day 1 in St John's
Tues 17 th Shrove Tuesday	10 – 12 noon	Holiday Club – Day 2 in St John's
	12.30 – 2 pm	Pancake Party – St John's Hall
Weds 18 th Ash Wed	10 – 12 noon	Holiday Club – Day 3 in St John's
	11.00 am	Wednesday Worshippers – St. Mark's Ash Wednesday Holy Communion (Preacher: Mark M)
		NO Ignite Youth Group
	6.30 pm	Ash Wednesday Holy Communion in St. John's Church (with Mark M)
Thurs 19 th	10.30 am to 12 noon	Bethany Again in St John's Church Hall
		NO 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 22nd 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)	Prayer after Church
10.30 am	Morning Worship with a Thanksgiving – St Mark's (Preacher: Mark Galliers)	Prayer after Church
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	Evening Communion 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 – 17th February** (the day before Lent starts)
Our PANCAKE PARTY follows the end of Hol Club at St John's
- **Ash Wednesday – 18th 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 – 15th March**
- **Palm Sunday – 29th March** (*Clocks go forward*)
- **Maundy Thursday – 2nd April**
- **Good Friday – 3rd April**
- **Easter Sunday – 5th April**

Our Lent Meetings start on **Thursday 26th 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 26th March – Gerry Blake from Wycliffe Bible Translators
Thurs 5th 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 10th 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 10th 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 8th Feb until Sunday 12th 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 24th 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

Craft Group

(LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH)

Wednesday 25th 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

Coffee Morning

(LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH)

Saturday 28th February 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, 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 5th – Sunday 8th March

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

Harp Concert (Sat 7th – 3pm – at St John's)

Sun Morning Services (Sun 8th – 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.

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 8th February

(Second Sunday of the month)

Prayer & Praise

Sunday 15th February

(Third Sunday of the month)

Lego Church

Sunday 22nd February

(Fourth Sunday of the month)

Evening Communion

Sunday 1st March

(First Sunday of the month)

Tea Time Church

Sunday 8th March

(Second Sunday of the month)

Prayer & Praise

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