

Issue 5/26

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

**THE FRONT PAGE**

**New Hall Update**

Last week I had a couple of emails from the Faculty Application System, following our application for our new church hall.

*Dear Petitioner*

*Your case has now been reviewed by the DAC and they have requested that you fill in the following forms:*

- *No additional forms are required*

*Reference 2026-123721 concerning Great Clacton: St John the Baptist (Church Code 608595).*

*Dear Petitioner*

*The DAC have reviewed your application, and have taken the case forward to the 42 day consultation period. The necessary bodies can now be invited to formally consult on your application. The DAC may contact you within this consultation period should any clarifications be necessary.*

*Reference 2026-123721 concerning Great Clacton: St John the Baptist (Church Code 608595).*

It's really good news that they don't need any more documents, as we have already had to send in quite a few complicated things. The 42-day consultation period, with bodies like *Historic England* is just a standard part of the process – but do pray that no major issues will be raised. Much of the same documentation is going to TDC to start the Planning Permission process. Please pray that this would also go smoothly.

**Help wanted**

We are often looking for help with various aspects of church life. If you ever think of something that you might be able to assist with, please do have a word with Mark.

At the moment it would be really great if there were a couple of people who could help with putting up posters (at St John's and St Mark's), and a couple of people who could read our utility meters.

*Thanks very much, Mark.*

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

Lent 3

### Mission Sunday

Luke Ch.15 vs.3 - 7

(Church Bibles - St. John's pg. 1048; St. Mark's pg. 1048)

9.00 am	Morning Prayer in St John's Church (Preacher: Catherine Porter) <i>Prayer after Church</i>
10.30 am	Morning Worship in St Mark's Church (Preacher: Catherine Porter) <i>Prayer after Church</i>
11.00 am (Premier)	Online Service on YouTube (Preacher: Mark M) (And also available at any time after this.)
4.00 pm	<b>Prayer and Praise</b> in St John's Church

### 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 (please ask Mark if you would like to join)
	11.00 am	Wednesday Worshippers Holy Communion – St Mark's Church (Preacher: Stuart Baker)
	7.00 pm	Ignite Youth Group - St Paul's Church
	7.30 pm	PCC Meeting - St John's Church Hall
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 for 11 am	<b>Together Service</b> in St John's Church Hall
	12 noon	<b>Prayers for the Persecuted Church</b> in St John's Church Hall
	7.00 for 7.15 pm	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Lent Meeting</b> - St. Mark's Church <b>with Hannah and Rachel</b>
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
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Preparing Mothering Sunday gifts in St John's Church (MEN ONLY!!)

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

### Mothing Sunday

Lent 4

Theme: Mothers Together

Ruth Ch.1 vs.6–19 & Ch.4 vs.13–17

(Church Bibles - St. John's pgs. 267 & 270; St. Mark's pgs. 267 & 270)

9.00 am	Morning Prayer in St John's Church (Preacher: Christine) Prayer after Church
10.30am	<b>All-Age Family Service</b> 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.)
4.00 pm	<b>Lego Church</b> in St John's Church

#### Activities this week

Mon 16 <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	Monthly Service at Havenvale
Weds 18 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 am	Morning Prayers on WhatsApp (please ask Mark if you would like to join)
	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 19 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am – 12 noon	<b>Bethany Again</b> in St John's Church Hall
	7.00 for 7.15 pm	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Lent Meeting</b> - St Mark's Church <b>with Howard from Open Doors</b>
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am	Morning Prayers in St John's Church
	5.00 pm	Prayers for Mission Links in St John's Church

#### Prayer after our Morning Services

We hope to offer this at St Mark's every Sunday, as well as at St John's.  
Please use this to ask for prayer for yourself or others,  
whatever is particularly on your mind at the time.

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

Lent 5

Theme: We believe – *For our sake he was crucified*

Matthew Ch. 27 vs.11 - 26

(Church Bibles - St. John's pg. 998; St. Mark's pg. 998)

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

### Dates for Easter 2026

- **Palm Sunday – 29<sup>th</sup> March** (*Clocks go forward*)
- **Maundy Thursday – 2<sup>nd</sup> April** – *Evening Communion Service*
- **Good Friday – 3<sup>rd</sup> April** – *Good Friday Service (10.30am)*
- **Easter Eve – Sat 4<sup>th</sup> April** – *Easter Reflection (4pm)*
- **Easter Sunday – 5<sup>th</sup> April** – *our traditional Easter services*

Our **Lent Meetings** continue on Thursday evenings...

*Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> March – Hannah & Rachel lead the evening*

*Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> March – Howard from Open Doors - the Persecuted Church*

*Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> March – something from closer to home*

*Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> April – Maundy Thursday Service – The Lord's Supper*

**7 pm: refreshments – 7.15 pm: meeting – 8.45 pm (at the latest): finish!**

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### \*\*\*\*Leprosy Mission\*\*\*\*

A big thank you to everyone who gave me donations for the Leprosy Mission. I have sent £350 on behalf of St John's & St Mark's.

Every penny helps towards the goal of diagnosing and treating leprosy in its early stages, to prevent disfigurement and retain dignity, along with bringing the Good News of Jesus to those who haven't heard.

Pam Dench

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**Calling men...** Please come and join Mark to help with putting together the **Mothering Sunday gifts** – on Sat 14<sup>th</sup> March, 9.30am in St John's

## **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**

### **Easter Coffee Morning**

(LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH)

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

in St. John's Church Hall

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### **Stewsdays**

(LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH)

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March at St Mark's Church**

Please choose: Pork Cutlet/Stuffed Peppers

**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 29<sup>th</sup> April 2026 - 4pm at St Mark's**

*This month our Craft Group will be making Bird themed Greetings Cards.*

*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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## **SUMMER CHURCHES WEEKEND**

*joint with St Paul's, St Bart's, Kirby and Great Holland*

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June**

FRIDAY EVENING: Quiz Night at St John's

SATURDAY: Day Away at St Michael's Kirby

*Guest speaker for a couple of talks in the morning*

*A range of activities in the afternoon*

SUNDAY MORNING: Joint Service at St Paul's

*Followed by refreshments together*

**Please continue to pray for** Chris Pearce, who is at home, but still needs our prayers.

**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 – now following on from the Together Service (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays).*

**Please pray for** our local schools – for the children and staff, in this new half 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 starts work in her new role. She will have an important influence on how the C of E tries to work through its present difficulties.

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

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

*(Second Sunday of the month)*

Prayer & Praise

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

*(Third Sunday of the month)*

Lego Church

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

*(Fourth Sunday of the month)*

Evening Communion

### **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March (Palm Sunday)**

Tea Time Church

*(usually first Sunday of the month – but a week earlier than usual this time)*

### **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April**

*No afternoon service on Easter Day*

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#### **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.)*

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#### **Clergy day off**

Mark – day off: Tuesday

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