

Issue 7/24

Sunday 28th April 2024

THE FRONT PAGE

Thankfulness or Vision?

This Sunday we will have our Annual Meeting (APCM) - something we are legally obliged to have, and so is quite important - but which many churches find it hard to make the congregation excited about!

Over the last few years, we have tried hard to make this as relevant as possible to our life as a church. It's a really good opportunity to look back at the past year and remember how God has been at work – and we can always see signs of that. This is why we have held the APCM directly following a joint Worship Service, and why we have often called this day **Thankfulness Sunday**.

However, it should also give us a chance, as a church together, to look forward and think about where God might be leading us – to renew our vision as a church family... and to do this together. This is something that I want to focus on a bit more this year, and why I've called it **Vision Sunday**. In fact, those who were in church last week would have heard how I hope to use Jesus' (now 2000-year-old) vision, which he shared with the 72 disciples who he sent out, as a reminder of the work that the Lord has given us to do in our parish and town – see *Luke ch.10 vs.1-24*. I will be saying more about this on Sunday.

Of course, we don't have to choose between Thankfulness and Vision – and on Sunday we hopefully will be encouraging both of these. In fact, as we think about how God has blessed us in the year gone by, it should encourage us to have confidence that the vision he has given us for the future is a good one.

So don't be put off - sometimes APCMs get a bad reputation, but hopefully that won't be deserved this week. Please do come along if you can – let's be thankful together and together let's reaffirm our commitment to the vision Jesus gives his followers. *Mark*.

Sunday 28th April 2024

Easter 5

Vision Sunday & APCM

Theme: Rejoicing and blessed – Luke Ch. 10 vs. 17 – 24
(Church Bibles - St. John's pg. 1041; St. Mark's pg. 1041)

	NO 9am in St. John's & NO 10.30am in St. Mark's
10.30 am	JOINT SERVICE followed by the APCM in St. John's Church (Preacher: Mark)
11.00 am (Premiere)	Online Service on YouTube (Preacher: Christine) (And also available at any time after this.)
4.00 pm	Evening Communion in St John's Church

Activities this week

Mon 29 th	8.30 am	Morning Prayers in St John's Church
	10.00 am	Little Fishes in St John's Church
	3.30 - 4.45 pm	Searchlights in St John's Church
Tues 30 th	11.45 am	Stewsdays in St. Mark's Church
Wed 1 st May	8.00 am	Morning Prayers on WhatsApp (PLEASE ASK MARK IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THIS)
	11.00 am	Wednesday Worshippers – 1 st Wednesday Special in St Mark's
	1.45 pm	Funeral of Henry Irving in St John's
	7.00 pm	Ignite youth group – at St Paul's
Thurs 2 nd	6.15 am - 10.15 pm	St. Mark's will be used as a Polling Station
	9.00 am	Persecuted Church Prayers – in SJC
	10.15 for 11.00 am	Together in St John's Church (refreshments beforehand, from 10.15)
	2.00 pm	Confirmation Preparation in SJC
	7.30 pm	Thursday Group at Ti's house
Fri 3 rd	8.30 am	Morning Prayers in St John's Church
	5.00 pm	Prayers for our Mission Links in SJC
	7.30 pm	Events Planning Meeting - Vicarage

Sunday 5th May 2024

Easter 6

Rogation Sunday

Theme: Neighbours & Samaritans – Luke Ch. 10 vs 25 - 37

(Church Bibles - St. John's pg.1042; St. Mark's pg. 1042)

9.00 am	Holy Communion in St John's Church (Preacher: Sheila)
10.30 am	Holy Communion in St Mark's Church (Preacher: Sheila)
11.00 am (Premiere)	Online Service on YouTube (including 321 Course – wk 1) (And also available at any time after this.)
4.00 pm	Tea Time Church in St. John's Church

Activities this week

Mon 6 th		MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY
	start: 9.30 am	Beating the Bounds starting at St John's Church
Wed 8 th	8.00 am	Morning Prayers on WhatsApp (PLEASE ASK MARK IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THIS)
	11. 00 am	Wednesday Worshippers Holy Communion in St. Mark's (TC)
	7.00 pm	Ignite youth group - St Paul's Church
Thurs 9 th	9.00 am	Persecuted Church Prayers in SJC
	10. 30 am	Community Cuppa in Church Hall
	2.00 pm	Confirmation Preparation in SJC
	7.30 pm	Thursday Group in St Mark's
Fri 10 th	8.30 am	Morning Prayers in St John's Church
	11.00 am	Pastoral Care Meeting in the Vicarage
	5.00 pm	Prayers for our Mission Links in SJC

Prayer after Church

We pray for anyone who asks – we can pray for all sorts of requests.

St. John's: 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month.

St. Mark's: 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month.

Sunday 12th May 2024

Easter 7

Visit of Bishop Rob & Confirmation

Theme: Ask and seek – Luke Ch. 11 vs. 1 – 13

(Church Bibles - St. John's pg. 1042 St. Mark's pg.1042)

	NO 9am in St. John's & NO 10.30am in St. Mark's
10.30 am	JOINT SERVICE in St. John's Church (Preacher: Bishop Rob Munro) followed at 12 noon by a light lunch (please sign up)
11.00 am	Online Service on YouTube (including 321 Course: wk 2)
2.30 pm	Confirmation Service in St. John's Church followed by refreshments in the Church Hall

TOILETRIES FOR BETEL

During the month of May, we will be having our annual collection of toiletries for Betel. This is a practical way that we can help Mark & Ruth Cuthbert and the work in Birmingham as they support and help men and women find freedom from their addictions. Many enter Betel with nothing, so to receive a gift of toiletries is always a blessing to those receiving them and a blessing to us as we share what we have with others in the name of Jesus. Below is a list of gifts which are always needed and appreciated for both men and women:

Shower gel

Shampoo / conditioner

Tooth brushes / Toothpaste

Deodorant

Disposable razors (twin blades)/ shaving foam

Any unwanted gift sets (Perfume etc)

Soap (liquid or solid)

Ladies' sanitary products

There will be a basket at the back of each church during the month for donations, but please may we ask that you do not donate anything which has already be opened and used as it has to travel to Birmingham! *With many thanks in anticipation – Mission Committee.*

Beating the Bounds (6th May): **Maps and directions** are available for anyone who would like to join us for part of the walk, or wave as we go past. **Sponsorship Forms** are out for anyone who would like to give towards our Schools and Families Project. (At the back of our churches.)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Beating of the Bounds

Mark, Caroline and friends will be "Beating the Bounds" of our parish
on Bank Holiday Monday (6th May)

starting at 9.30 am at St John's Church

This involves walking round the boundary of Great Clacton Parish.
If you would like to join them for all or part of the walk, that would be great.

Craft Group

(LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH USUALLY)

This one is a week early!

Our Craft Group meets on

Wednesday 22nd May, 4-5.30 pm at St Mark's

we'll be making a macrame cover for a jar (good for flowers / tea light)

Please bring a wide necked jar, this could be a 1lb jam jar, a coffee jar
or anything similar, scissors and a ruler.

The cost will be £3, including refreshments.

We look forward to seeing you there, everyone is welcome.

Thanks, Pam.

Coffee Mornings

(LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH)

Next one: Saturday 25th May

9.30-11.30am

in the Church Hall at St John's

Stewsdays

(LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH)

Tuesday 28th May

at St Mark's Church

Please choose: Lasagne

Veggie Lasagne

Doors open at 11.45am, lunch served at 12.15

Please book through the church office: 01255 475704

Bishop Rob's Visit

Rob Munro, the Bishop of Ebbsfleet will be visiting us on
Sunday 12th May at St John's Church

What's happening on the day has had to change a bit since we first advertised it – but I hope it's changed for the better...

10.30 am – **Joint Service at St John's**, with Bishop Rob preaching
this service will include a Baptism & a special time of prayer for the Church of England, which CEEC has called for

12 noon – a simple **Church Lunch** in the church hall
and a chance to meet and chat to Bishop Rob
(this will be a light lunch, with filled rolls and wraps & salad and then a selection of desserts, tea & coffee)
WE WILL NEED PEOPLE TO SIGN UP FOR THIS – SHEETS ARE AT THE BACK OF BOTH CHURCHES

2.30 pm – **Confirmation Service at St John's Church**
(including Renewal of Baptismal Faith)
led by Bishop Rob, who will also preach
*This service will be **joint with St Paul's Parish.***

Then – **Tea and Coffee** in the Church Hall
(before Bishop Rob heads off home)

Please do come and be part of as much of this special day as you can. We want to give Bishop Rob a really good welcome and also to support those involved in the Confirmation Service.

If you would like to be Confirmed, or to Renew your Baptismal Faith on that day, please speak to Mark. (There will also be a sheet to fill in, with all the details that we need – available soon.)

There are two more preparation afternoons, to get ready for the day:

Thursdays 9th May, 2-3.15pm at St John's

(but if you can't attend these, we can make other arrangements)

I hope that we can make 12th May a very special day. Please do get in touch with me with any questions or thoughts. *Thanks, Mark.*

Please pray for the work of Open Doors as they provide help for the Persecuted Church across the world.

Please pray for those we know who are not well, or are undergoing or waiting for treatment at the moment. *(Please continue to pray for Rob Harper, who is still waiting for his hospital treatment.)*

Please pray for all those families, who we have had contact with, as they mourn the loss of their loved ones.

Please pray for Ukraine and for Israel/Palestine - pray for peace and for the fighting to cease. Pray for a just outcome in each situation.

We always love to welcome new volunteers for various jobs at church – so if you see something that you think you could help with, please have a word with Mark or the Churchwardens or contact the Office.

At the moment, it would especially be great to have some more people on the **Tea and Coffee Rota** at St Mark's. Thank you.

Thank you to everyone who has responded to our appeal for help with extending our **Schools and Families Project**. We will have a fuller update at the APCM. And let's keep praying for Hannah and Rachel's work, and for the full funding to come in.

(There is also a letter available at the back of our churches, which explains a bit more about the Project and its funding.)

Afternoon Services in St. John's at 4pm

Sunday 28th April – Evening Communion

Sunday 5th May – Tea Time Church

Sunday 26th May – Evening Communion

Sunday 2nd June - Tea Time Church

Sunday 30th June – Evening Communion

Normal **Church Office** opening times are

Monday 9.00 am - 1.30 pm

Tuesday 10.00 am - 1.00 pm

Wednesday 10.00 am - 1.00 pm

Thursday 9.00 am - 1.30 pm

Friday 9.00 am - 3.30 pm

Saturday 9.00 am - 11.00 am

(On Fridays 9–10 am we have a Staff Meeting.)

Clergy days off

Mark – day off Tuesday

Ti – day off Saturday

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