

Issue 9/26

Sunday 17th May 2026

THE FRONT PAGE

Christianity Explored

We are planning to run a **Christianity Explored Course**, starting at the **beginning of June - Thursday evenings, 7.30pm** from 4th June at **St Mark's**. *Please do pray that this will be helpful for lots of people.*

The Christianity Explored team have recently produced a new version of the course, which can be done over 7 weeks. (This is exactly the number of weeks available before the summer break!) It means that it will be a course that's new to everyone – so do feel free to sign up for it, even if you have done an older version of the course before.

This is how the CE website describes the new course...

Seven weeks. Seven Conversations.
One question that could change everything.

Over seven conversations,
Christianity Explored offers an introduction to Jesus
through the Gospel of Mark.

Combining a short film with guided discussion,
Christianity Explored helps you engage directly with what Jesus said and did.
Explore his identity, his mission, and the invitation he offers
in a way that's clear, grounded, and open to everyone.

Do have a look at their website, where there is more information and an introductory video to watch:

www.christianityexplored.org/courses/christianity-explored/

And do please think about whether you would like to join in with the course, and if there is someone you would like to invite to it. *Mark.*

Annual Reports

If you missed our Vision Sunday service last week but still want to find out about all that has been going on over the last year, please pick up a set of Annual Reports. I hope that you find it an encouraging read. *Mark.*

Sunday 17th May 2026

Easter 7

Theme – We believe: And His Kingdom will have no end
Daniel Ch.7 vs.9-14 & Luke Ch.1 vs.30-33

(Church Bibles - St. John's pg. 892 & 1026; St. Mark's pg. 893 & 1026)

9.00 am	Morning Prayer - St John's Church (inc. World Focus) <i>(Preacher: Mark Galliers)</i> <i>Prayer after Church</i>
10.30 am	Morning Worship - St Mark's Church (inc. World Focus) <i>(Preacher: Mark Galliers)</i> <i>Prayer after Church</i>
11.00 am (Premier)	Online Service on YouTube <i>(Preacher: Mark M)</i> (And also available at any time after this.)
4.00 pm	Lego Church in St John's Church

Activities this week

Mon 18 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	Monthly Service at Havenvale(MM&CS)
Weds 20 th	8.00 am	Morning Prayers on WhatsApp
	11.00 am	Wednesday Worshippers - St Mark's Holy Communion <i>(Preacher: Stuart Baker)</i>
	7.30 pm	PCC Meeting - St John's Church Hall
	7.00 pm	Ignite Youth Group - St Paul's Church
Thurs 21 st	10.30 am	Bethany Again - St John's Church Hall
	7.30 pm	Thursday Evening Group - St Mark's
Fri 22 nd	8.30 am	Morning Prayers in St John's Church
	5.00 pm	Prayers for our Mission Links – SJC
Sat 23 rd	Start: 9.30 am	<i>"Beating the Bounds"</i> Sponsored Walk starting at St John's Church see details of the route at the back of our churches or on the website
	Refreshments: 12 noon	<i>Refreshments at Blue Garden Cafe</i>
	Finish:1.30 pm	<i>Picnic in Vicarage Garden at the end</i> <i>Please join for any part of the walk or lunch or refreshments</i> <i>(let Pam know if coming to Blue Garden Café)</i>

Sunday 24th May 2026
Pentecost

Theme – The Holy Spirit, the Lord
Acts Ch.2 vs.1-13 & Romans Ch.8 vs.5-11

(Church Bibles - St. John's pgs. 1093 & 1134; St. Mark's pgs. 1093& 1134)

9am	Morning Prayer - St John's Church with the Baptism of Stuart Harris <i>(Preacher: Christine Sanders)</i> <i>Prayer after Church</i>
10.30am	Morning Worship - St Mark's Church <i>(Preacher: Christine Sanders)</i> <i>Prayer after Church</i>
11.00 am (Premier)	Online Service on YouTube <i>(Preacher: Mark M)</i> (And also available at any time after this.)
	NO 4.00pm Service in St John's Church this week

Activities this week

Mon 25 th		HALF TERM WEEK begins
Tues 26 th	11.45 am	Stewsdays in St Mark's Church
Weds 27 th	4.00 pm	Craft Group in St Mark's Church
Thurs 28 th	10.30 am	Together in St John's Church
	12 noon	Prayers for the Persecuted Church
Sat 30 th	9.30 - 11.30 am	Coffee Morning in St John's Church Hall

Sunday 31st May 2026
Trinity Sunday

Theme – *He proceeds from the Father and the Son*
John 15v26 – 16v15

(Church Bibles - St. John's pg. 993; St. Mark's pg. 993)

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

Activities this week

Mon 1 st Jun	8.30 am	Morning Prayers in St John's Church
	10-11.30 am	Little Fishes in St John's Church
Weds 3 rd	8.00 am	Morning Prayers on WhatsApp
	11.00 am	Wednesday Worshippers – St Mark's First Wed Special - Pentecost Praise
	7.00 pm	Marriage Prep 2 – St John's Church
	7.00 pm	Ignite Youth Group – St Paul's
Thurs 4 th	10.30 am	Bethany Again - St John's Church Hall
	7.30 pm	Christianity Explored – St Mark's
Fri 5 th	8.30 am	Morning Prayers in St John's Church
	5.00 pm	Prayers for our Mission Links in SJC

Sunday 7th June 2026

Trinity 1

Theme - The Holy Spirit, who with the Father and Son is worshipped

Ephesians 4v29 – 5v21

(Church Bibles - St. John's pg.1176; St. Mark's pg.1176)

9.00 am	Holy Communion - St John's Church <i>(Preacher: Mark M) Prayer after Church</i>	
10.30 am	Holy Communion - St Mark's Church <i>(Preacher: Mark M) Prayer after Church</i>	
11.00 am (Premier)	Online Service on YouTube <i>(Preacher: Mark M)</i> (And also available at any time after this.)	
4.00 pm	Tea Time Church - St John's Church	

Activities this week

Mon 8 th	8.30 am	Morning Prayers in St John's Church
	10 -11.30 am	Little Fishes in St John's Church
	2.00 - 3.00 pm	Bethany – St John's Church Hall
Weds 10 th	8.00 am	Morning Prayers on WhatsApp
	11.00 am	Wednesday Worshippers - St Mark's Holy Communion <i>(Preacher: Tom Linnane)</i>
	7.00 pm	Ignite Youth Group – St Paul's

Thurs 11 th	10.30 am	Together - St John's Church
	7.30 pm	Christianity Explored – St Mark's
Fri 12 th	8.30 am	Morning Prayers in St John's Church
	5.00 pm	Prayers for our Mission Links in SJC
	7.00 pm	Churches Weekend at Home Quiz Night in St John's Church
Sat 13 th	9.30 am - 4 pm	Churches Weekend at Home Day Away at St Michael's, Kirby

Sunday 14th June 2026

Trinity 2

Theme – *Song of Songs*

	NO 9am in St John's & NO 10.30am in St Mark's
11.00 am	Churches Weekend at Home - Joint Service at St Paul's Church (<i>Preacher: Tony Heywood</i>)
11.00 am (Premier)	Online Service on YouTube (<i>Preacher: Mark M</i>) (And also available at any time after this.)
4.00 pm	Evening Service - St John's Church (<i>Preacher: Mark M</i>)

TOILETRIES FOR BETEL

Each year during May we have a collection of toiletries for Betel in Birmingham. Men and women who enter Betel for help with their addictions often enter as homeless people with very few belongings. By collecting these gifts, we are helping the ministry of Betel and we know from the past that they are always appreciated and well received. So this is a very practical way in which we can help.

The following toiletries would be appreciated -

Razors (double bladed)

Shaving foam

Deodorant (men & women)

Sanitary towels (any sort)

Tooth brushes

Toothpaste

Liquid or solid soap

Shower gel (men & women)

Please do not put in things that have been opened and started as they have to travel to Birmingham!

There will be a box at the back of each church for your donations.

Many thanks in anticipation,

Stephanie on behalf of the Mission Committee

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Stewsdays

(LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH)

Tuesday 26th May at St Mark's Church

Please choose: Salmon with Tartare sauce/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 27th May 2026 - 4pm at St Mark's

This month our Craft Group will be making mini flowerpot heart flowers.

You will need:- Scissors, Craft Mat (if you have one), Glue stick, Acrylic pens (If you have any). If you do not have any/some of the items please do not let that stop you from coming

Coffee Morning

(LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH)

Saturday 30th May 2026, 9.30-11.30am

in St John's Church Hall

CHURCHES WEEKEND AT HOME

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

Friday 12th – Sunday 14th June

PICK UP A BOOKLET FROM CHURCH FOR DETAILS

PLEASE BOOK ON THE SHEETS AT THE BACK OF CHURCH

Open Garden at Alan and Marian's

Saturday 20th June, 1.30-6.00pm

Alan and Marian invite you to their garden for tea/coffee and cake - stay as long as you like. There will also be plants for sale.

All money will go to the New Church Hall fund.

If anyone has any plants that we could add to the stall, or you would like to make a few cakes, that would be very welcome.

Tel: 01255-317537 with offers!

Please continue to pray for Robert Arr on the loss of his mum, Margaret. *Robert would like to thank everyone who came to his mum's funeral service in St John's – and everyone who helped with the service and the refreshments afterwards. He is very grateful for this and for people's kindness towards him.*

Pray for Chris Annis, who's moved into the Glengariff Care Home.

*There will be a **Thanksgiving Service**
for the life of Gordon Annis
on **Saturday 20th June, 11am at St Mark's Church.**
Gordon and Chris' family will be attending
and anyone from church is welcome.*

Please do keep the whole family in your prayers

Please continue to pray for Chris Pearce – she hasn't been well over recent weeks - and for Rob, who has been 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.

*Please ask about our regular Thursday Prayer Meetings
where we pray for persecuted Christians.*

*They are now following on from the Together Service
(2nd & 4th Thursdays) at about 12 noon.*

Please pray for our local schools – for the children and staff in this busy summer term. Pray for Hannah too, as she helps us keep in touch with the schools and shares the Bible's message with the children.

Afternoon Services in St. John's at 4pm

Sunday 17th May

(Third Sunday of the month)

Lego Church

Sunday 24th May

NO SERVICE THIS EVENING

(Bank Holiday Weekend)

Sunday 31st May

(Last Sunday of the month)

Evening Communion

Sunday 7th June

Tea Time Church

(First Sunday of the month)

Sunday 14th June

(Second Sunday of the month)

Evening Service *(with Hymns and Songs)*

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