

Issue 9/25

Sunday 18th May 2025

THE FRONT PAGE

Our Weekend Away at Home

Church Weekends Away have always been very special times, with the chance, not just to hear from good speakers and focus on our relationship with God, but to do this together, in a more relaxed setting, when we can share together and get to know each other better. In the past these things were a regular part of many churches' programmes – however, in recent years with rising costs and changing lifestyle patterns, quite a few churches have found these more difficult to organise. One way round this is to do a special weekend that is near to home, which cuts down on travelling and costs, and also makes it more flexible for people. We have organised one of these before, a few years ago – and we are having another one – **13th - 15th June**.

However, this time it's going to be slightly different – we're planning it jointly with some other churches - St Paul's and St Bart's, and Kirby and Great Holland. There are a few reasons why I think that working together like this is a good idea (for this weekend and other things).

Firstly, we can do some things together that we would struggle to do as well separately. I'm hoping this weekend will be bigger and more encouraging because we're working together and sharing resources.

Secondly, all of these churches and their leaders share a similar vision to teach from and live by the Scriptures, to share the Good News with others and be a blessing to the community. I'm hoping that, as we mix together, we can encourage and help each other in this task.

Thirdly, in these troubled times in the Church of England, it is important that churches with this shared vision are able to stand together – getting to know each other helps us do this.

Finally, simply mixing with a bigger, more varied group of Christians, to learn from and worship God, will be a great encouragement to us all in our own Christian lives. I'm certainly looking forward to praising God with everyone else on the Sunday morning.

So please join us for as much of the weekend as you can. (SEE INSIDE.) Mark.

Sunday 18th May 2025

Easter 5

Theme: Now tears... future rescue - *Micah Ch.4 vs.6-13*
(Church Bibles - St. John's pg. 933; St. Mark's pg. 932)

9.00 am	Morning Prayer in St John's Church (Preacher: Mark M) Prayer after Church
10.30 am	Morning Worship in St Mark's Church (Preacher: Mark M) Thanksgiving for the Gunn family.
11.00 am	Online Service on YouTube (Preacher: Mark M)
4.00 pm	Lego Church in St. John's Church

Activities this week

Mon 19 th	8.30 am	Monday Morning Prayers – St John's
	10 – 11.30 am	Little Fishes in St John's Church
	2.00 pm	Service at Havenvale (MM & CS)
Weds 21 st	8.00 am	Morning Prayers on WhatsApp
	11.00 am	Wednesday Worshippers Holy Communion - in St Mark's (Preacher: Mark M)
	7.00 pm	Ignite youth group at St. Paul's
	7.30 pm	PCC Meeting in the Church Hall
Thurs 22 nd	9.30 am	Persecuted Church Prayers in SJC
	10.30 for 11.00 am	Together – in St. John's Church (Preacher: Sheila)
	5.30 pm	Wedding Rehearsal in St John's
	7.30 pm	Thursday Night Group – in St. Mark's (Course: <i>Tales of the Unexpected</i>)
Fri 23 rd	8.30 am	Morning Prayers in St John's Church
	11.00 am	Pastoral Care Group Meeting in the Vicarage
	5.00 pm	Prayers for our Mission Links in SJC
Sat 24 th	2.00 pm	Wedding of Cory and Georgia in St. John's Church (MM)

Sunday 25th May 2025

Easter 6

Theme: Out of you will come a Ruler

Micah Ch. 5 vs. 1 - 6

(Church Bibles - St. John's pg.933, St. Mark's pg.933)

9.00 am	Morning Prayer in St. John's Church (<i>Preacher: Sheila</i>)
10.30 am	Morning Worship in St Mark's Church (<i>Preacher: Andy</i>) <i>Prayer after Church</i>
11.00 am (Premiere)	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 26 th		BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY
	2.30 – 5.30 pm	Cream Tea and Cake in the Vicarage Garden (<i>see invite</i>)
		NO Bethany
Tues 27 th	11.45 am	Stewsdays in St. Mark's Church
Weds 28 th		NO WhatsApp prayers
		NO Wednesday Worshippers
	4.00 pm	Craft Group in St. Mark's
		NO Ignite youth group
Thurs 29 th		NO Community Cuppa or Together as it's the 5 th week of the month
		NO Thursday Night Group
Fri 30 th		NO Morning Prayers
Sat 31 st	9.30am – 11.30 am	Coffee Morning in St. John's Church Hall
		Safeguarding Training <i>please contact the office for details</i>

**Schools are on Half Term Holiday this week.
Some of our regular activities are having a break,
including our morning prayer times.**

Sunday 1st June 2025

Easter 7

Theme:— He will deliver us - Micah Ch. 5 vs.5-15
(Church Bibles - St. John's pg.933; St. Mark's pg.933)

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

Prayer after Church

We pray for anyone who asks - we can pray for all sorts of things.
St. John's: 1st & 3rd Sundays. St. Mark's: 2nd & 4th Sundays.

Collection for Betel

*During the month of **MAY** we will be doing our
annual collection of toiletries for Betel.*

Men and women enter Betel to seek help from their addictions. Many enter with very few personal belongings and our gifts of toiletries are always very much appreciated and gratefully received! If you feel you would like to help in this practical way there will be a collection box at the back of both churches. Ideal items would be –

Shower Gel (for men and women)

Deodorants (for men and women)

Toothpaste & toothbrushes

Disposable razors (twin or more blades)

Shaving foam

Soaps (block or liquid)

Any unwanted gift sets

*Please do not put any opened bottles in, as they have to travel
all the way to Birmingham!*

Many thanks in anticipation.

Stephanie on behalf of the Mission Committee

A big thank you to everyone who took part in or supported the **Sponsored Walk to St Osyth Priory** and back, last Bank Holiday. Everyone had a wonderful time (despite a brief shower of rain) and it was wonderful that so many people could join in for different parts. A special thank you goes to Helen Brown who arranged our visit to the priory, which was really interesting.

Sponsorship money is still coming in – **thank you** to everyone who has been so generous. Look out for the total in the next Newsletter.

Clive and Christine's wedding is coming up soon...

Saturday 21st June at 3pm in St John's Church

*followed by an **Afternoon Tea** in the church*

All from the church family are invited

PLEASE USE THE SIGN-UP SHEETS IF YOU CAN COME

Another date for your Diary!

Alan and Marian Hills are holding an **Open Garden Afternoon** on **Sunday 22nd June.**

Times and parking instructions will follow in the next Newsletter.



Cream Tea and Cake in the Vicarage Garden



tea, coffee, cool drinks, scones with jams and cream & homemade cakes



Bank Holiday Monday

26th May ~ 2.30-5.30pm

donations in support of the stonework repairs at St John's



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Cream Tea & Cake in the Vicarage Garden

Raising further funds for our Stonework Repairs

Bank Holiday Monday – 26th May, 2.30-5.30pm

Stewsdays

(LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH)

Tuesday 27th May at St Mark's Church

Please choose: Lasagne/Veggie Lasagne

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 28th May - 4pm at St Mark's

This month we will be Marbling

The cost will be £4 and will include lots of time for a cuppa and chat.

Coffee Morning

(LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH)

Next one: Saturday 31st May, 9.30-11.30am

in the Church Hall at St John's

Weekend Away at Home

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

Friday 13th – Sunday 15th June

FRIDAY EVENING

Quiz Night & Puddings – at St John's, 7.00 pm

SATURDAY

Day Away at Birch Hall (near Kirby) [COST: £15, children free]

Morning Meetings with worship, news & guest speaker (*John Parker*)

BBQ Lunch and a range of **Afternoon Activities**

SUNDAY MORNING

Joint Service – at St. Paul's, 11am (*followed by refreshments*)

PLEASE SIGN UP FOR SOME OR ALL OF THE EVENTS

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. *If you would like more information, please join us for prayers on a **Thursday morning at 9.30am in St. John's.***

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

Please pray for our local schools – pupils and staff – especially in this term with exams and tests. Pray for Hannah as she continues to take classes and assemblies, and organises visits to church.

Please pray for those people who have visited our services over Lent and Easter – pray that they will return again soon.

Please continue to pray for the Church of England. We should pray with real sorrow for past failings, and also pray for godly leadership. And let's pray for revival in churches and communities across the country – as Bishop Rob often reminds us, this will be the best solution to our national church's problems.

Pray for the Stonework Repairs at St John's, which are still ongoing and going well.

Pray that the work would proceed smoothly.

Pray for the safety of those working on the building.

Pray that the work won't disrupt our church events too much.

Pray that the remaining funds would come in to cover the costs.

Pray that this work might be a witness to the local community.

And thank God -

that so much of the money needed has now been raised
and that the parts of the repairs now completed look so good!

Afternoon Services in St. John's at 4pm

Sunday 18th May

Lego Church

Sunday 25th May

Evening Communion

(a smaller, more reflective service)

Sunday 1st June

Tea Time Church

Sunday 8th June

Praise and Prayer *(praying for a Great Awakening)*

Sunday 15th June

Lego Church

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

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