

⁴²They said to the woman, 'We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Saviour of the world.'

This week please pray for:

- The pastoral reorganisation of the Newport churches, and especially those who will form the Ministry Team, including Hannah Barraclough, the curate.
- All who are ill or bereaved, including those suffering from coronavirus.
- People to come forward to be our future church wardens and administrator.
- The Homeless shelter and members of St John's who help three days a week.
- All who live in Cypress Road, Queen's Road and Laburnum Close.
- The funding for the church repairs.

To add a prayer need or join the prayer chain contact Marian, (526632, marianbretthill@yahoo.co.uk).

Prayer for Newport Churches

God of endings and beginnings,
we give you thanks for the life of our churches and
the faithful worshippers and ministers
who have served you and the people of our communities over many years.
Guided by your spirit of wisdom and courage
help us to take this work forward in new and exciting ways
that we might all be encouraged to
Live clearly as your disciples,
Pray that many more people would come to know you and your love
and **Serve** the world around us.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

Birthdays

18th March Ethne Whitlock
If anyone has a birthday which they would like mentioned here please contact the administrator.

Please send any items for the next newsletter to the administrator by 9am on Friday.

Contact details

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Church Wardens – Jane Salter, 01983 526364; Harry Walker, 01983 525446
Administrator - Ethne Whitlock, 01983 522972, admin@stjohnsnewport.org
Bookings - please contact the Administrator.
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St John's News from the Pews

Sharing Christ with others

15th March 2020 – Lent 3

9.30am Morning Prayer & Junior Church (starting in church)

6.30pm Evening Prayer at St Mary's, Carisbrooke

Welcome to St John's Church, Newport and a special welcome to Canon Dr Anthony Rustell who is taking our service. Please sit at any point if you need to. If you would like gluten-free bread at communion please tell us before the service. A collection will be taken in the service. We invite you to join us for refreshments in the hall after the service.

There is a children's area on the right church and bags hanging at the back for use in the pews. Please use these as you need to. All school age children are welcome to join us in Junior Church.

#LiveLent: Care for God's Creation. This week we have been thinking about water. How have you managed to cut down how much you use? Tell someone else and encourage each other to keep caring for the environment.

Harry and Jane are retiring as **church wardens** at the APCM and Ethne is retiring as **administrator** on 31st March. If you are interested or can think of someone who would be suitable please speak to Harry or Jane.

There is a special All Age Service for **Mothering Sunday** next **Sunday, March 22nd**, at **9.30am**.

Easter Fair Saturday March 28th 10am – 2pm. Flora, Rosemary, Julie and Jane are once again appealing for items for an Easter Egg Tombola and a Bottle Stall at the fair. There is a box at the back of church for donations. There is also an Easter Biscuit competition – any recipe, any decoration, five biscuits on a plate.

Annual revision of the Church Electoral Roll. The Electoral Roll is being revised between 29th March and 11th April. If you are not already on the Roll and would like to be added to it, please see Jez Hallam to obtain an application form.

Everyone interested in discussing the **Diocesan priorities for spending** in the next three years are invited to a meeting on **Monday March 30th, 7pm in Newport Minster.**

Coronavirus/Covid 19. We are following national guidance from the government and Church. Communion will be given in one kind only and we will not shake hands or make other physical contact at the Peace. Please follow the guidelines given for individuals; wash your hands regularly, use tissues and, if you are ill, stay at home for 7 days. Services and events will continue unless we are instructed otherwise.

Collect for Lent 3

Eternal God,
give us insight
to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection we are
promised
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion for Lent 3

Merciful Lord,
grant your people grace to withstand
the temptations
of the world, the flesh and the devil,
and with pure hearts and minds to
follow you, the only God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reading 1– Romans 5:1-11

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance;⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope.⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

⁶You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die.⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!¹⁰ For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!¹¹ Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Reading 2 –John 4:5-42

⁵So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph.⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

⁷When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Will you give me a drink?'⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, 'You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?' (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

¹⁰Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.'

¹¹'Sir,' the woman said, 'you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?'¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?'

¹³Jesus answered, 'Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again,¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.'

¹⁵The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.'

¹⁶He told her, 'Go, call your husband and come back.'

¹⁷'I have no husband,' she replied.

Jesus said to her, 'You are right when you say you have no husband.¹⁸ The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.'

¹⁹'Sir,' the woman said, 'I can see that you are a prophet.'²⁰ Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.'

²¹'Woman,' Jesus replied, 'believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews.'²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks.²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.'

²⁵The woman said, 'I know that Messiah' (called Christ) 'is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.'

²⁶Then Jesus declared, 'I, the one speaking to you – I am he.'

²⁷Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, 'What do you want?' or 'Why are you talking with her?'

²⁸Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people,²⁹ 'Come, see a man who told me everything I've ever done. Could this be the Messiah?'³⁰ They came out of the town and made their way towards him.

³¹Meanwhile his disciples urged him, 'Rabbi, eat something.'

³²But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you know nothing about.'

³³Then his disciples said to each other, 'Could someone have brought him food?'

³⁴'My food,' said Jesus, 'is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.'³⁵ Don't you have a saying, "It's still four months until harvest"? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.³⁶ Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together.³⁷ Thus the saying "One sows and another reaps" is true.³⁸ I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labour.'

Many Samaritans believe

³⁹Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I've ever done.'⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days.⁴¹ And because of his words many more became believers.