

A message from Si, our vicar:

I've been reading Exodus in my quiet times. Exodus 12:40-42 tells us that the Israelites spent 430 years in Egypt, much of which was spent in painful slavery to Pharaoh. Many a day they must have wondered whether God had forgotten them, or if He even cared. But God hadn't forgotten His people. He heard their groaning (Ex 3:7) and would eventually watch over their escape. Maybe we sometimes feel like God has forgotten us. But 'the Lord is not slow in keeping His promises' (2 Peter 3:9). Hold on and keep trusting Him.

This Week's Bible Reading:

Matthew 7:7-12 and Ex 20:1-17 CEV - Command 5 'Honour your Father and Mother'

The Collect:

O God,
you declare your almighty power
most chiefly in showing mercy and pity:
Mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace,
that we, running the way of your commandments,
may receive your gracious promises,
and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

What's On This Week:

Saturday 15th 11am: Chinese Bible Study

Sunday 16th 9.00am: Holy Communion Service (& refreshments in the lounge afterwards)

Sunday 16th 11.00am: All age Service (& refreshments in the hall afterwards) Children are welcome to stay in the service and there is also a relay in the lounge for parents to take their child to if desired.

Sunday 16th 8.30pm Zoom Prayer Meeting for half an hour. Everyone is welcome to join us for this; there is no pressure to pray out loud. The zoom meeting link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85963653180>

Midweek Home Bible Study Groups - See Karl Turner for details

Wednesday 19th 12pm: Mums bible study

Wednesday 19th 7.30pm - Christianity Explored

Catch Up:

If you miss the Sunday sermon, you can watch a video of it on the [St Johns YouTube Channel](#). It's usually uploaded on a Monday.

Dates for your Diary:

27th February 7.30pm: Albanian Evangelical Mission Prayer Meeting

5th March 6pm: Ash Wednesday service at St Andrews

7th April 7.30pm: Annual Parochial Church Meeting

17th April 6pm: Maundy Thursday service at St Johns
20th April - full immersion baptisms at St Johns
27th-30th May Football School
29th May 6pm: Ascension Day service at St Bridgets
8th June 6pm: Pentecost service at Church on the Moor

News:

Electoral Roll

The current electoral roll is ending and we have to start a new one in 2025. We began collecting entries last week and would like to say thank you to everyone who has applied so far. If you haven't applied yet, we will have paper forms available at the back of church on Sunday and we also hope to have a digital application process up and running in the next week. You can find more information on the electoral roll process [here](#)

AED:

We are delighted to share that there is now a defibrillator on the wall outside the church hall. Thank you to Caitlin Holburt and Megan Stephenson, from St Johns ambulance, for making it happen. Caitlin will be organising some training in the coming weeks.

Donation Envelopes:

If you use envelopes to make donations to church, the new envelopes from 2nd March are available now at the back of church

Football school

Football school will be going ahead again this year from the 27th-30th May. The team will need a large number of volunteers to help. There are multiple roles needed, from helping on the pitch to chatting to parents and serving refreshments. Please contact Sarah Clark, Rob Mayhew or Jo and Jake Little to volunteer your help.

PCC Secretary

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) requires a secretary to take minutes and publish agendas and notices of meetings and help us fulfil our duty as a PCC. For those who don't know, this is the council that oversees the running of St John's. This requires someone with a good eye for detail, who is an effective administrator. The role averages 7/8 hrs a month and is a voluntary position. It is not necessary to be a PCC member, although someone wishing to stand for PCC could also fulfil the task of secretary. Good governance is really important to our church and helps us honour God in how we conduct ourselves. Please prayerfully consider whether you could fulfill this role. If you would like to apply, please contact Phil Sisson using email phil@stjohnshensingham.org.uk or telephone 07940575638

Church App

Did you know that we have a church app? On it, you can easily access your rotas and see at a glance what's on in the coming month. In the not too distant future, you'll be able to access the weekly news from it too. You can download it by going to stjohnshensingham.org.uk/hubb on your phone and pressing install app. If you aren't currently a member of the church management system, you will need to apply for a login name and password - you can do that by contacting Sue Lane in the office.

Getting Involved

Would you like to get more involved in St Johns life? It takes an enormous team of wonderful volunteers to run St Johns. If you would like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you. Please get in touch with Sue Lane in the office or you can speak directly to the teams if you prefer. Some of the roles may be currently full, but we'd still love to hear from you and discuss how you can get involved.

Adventurers - Diane Jackson
Baptism Befrienders - Si Walker
Baptism Vergers - Si Walker
Bellringers - Gordon Gray
Bible Readers - Sue Lane
Bible Study Groups - Karl Turner
CAP Befrienders - Mel Turner
Care Home Communion - Si Walker
Care Home Singing - Glynn Jones
CYFA - Jake Little
Explorers - Emma Cooper
Flower Arrangers - Ann Walkingshaw
Gardeners - George Casson
Good News Team - Phil Sisson
Hall Cleaning - Sue Lane
Handbells - Soo Gray
Musicians - Debra Swinburn
Pathfinders - Sue Lane
Parochial Church Council - Si Walker
Prayers - Sue Lane
Sidespersons - Phil Sisson
Springboard - Neil Baxter
Sound - David Holburt
Tea & Coffee - Kelvin Cheung
Visiting Team - Susan Baxter
Visuals - Stephen Jackson
Welcomers - Pat Smith

Please pray for:

[Ben & Liz Griffin](#) as they work to share the gospel through mobile technology.

Joyce Hewer, Emily Lane, Les Fox and Joe Moore.

The Mexico build team. The build looks like it is going very well and fantastic progress is being made. We pray for continued success and safe travels home for the team.

Some Final Thoughts:

We thank and praise God for the enormity of His love for us. We love, because He first loved us.

Rev'd Simon Walker, Vicar, St John's Church, Hensingham, simon@stjohnshensingham.org.uk