

### A message from Si, our vicar:

We have arrived in Lent and the early signs of spring are around us. As we reflect on the events that took Jesus to the cross, we also hold the promise of His victory in our hearts and the knowledge of His resurrection. I wonder if you are using this season to grow closer to Jesus in some way? The Bible says, 'draw near to God and He will draw near to you' (James 4:8). The purpose of fasting is to redirect us to Jesus. It weans us from the world in some measure and shows us what we really need and who we depend upon. You may be fasting some meals, an ingredient within your diet (possibly chocolate!) or some other pleasure such as social media or TV. Or, you may have decided to draw close to Jesus in other ways. I was unfortunately not able to make the Mission Community Ash Wednesday service, as I was leading Christianity Explored. However, I heard from others that it was a very encouraging time. Praise God for our brothers and sisters in the Mission Community.

### This Week's Bible Reading:

Acts 5:1-11 and Exodus 20:1-17 NRSV

Command 8 - Do not Steal

### The Collect:

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you hate nothing that you have made  
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:  
Create and make in us new and contrite hearts  
that we, worthily lamenting our sins  
and acknowledging our wretchedness,  
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,  
perfect remission and forgiveness;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### What's On This Week:

**Sunday 9th 9.00am: Holy Communion Service** (& refreshments in the lounge afterwards)

**Sunday 9th 11.00am: Morning Service with the Lords Supper** (& 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 9th 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

Monday 10th March 10am: Ladies bible study

Monday 10th March 6.30pm: CYFA

Tuesday 11th March 6.15pm: Explorers

Tuesday 11th March 7.30pm: Pathfinders  
Wednesday 12th 12pm: Mums bible study

### 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:

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

### Message from our treasurer:

Many thanks to those who have responded to Stewardship Sunday and reviewed their giving. The response so far: of 79 routine givers, 17 have increased their giving, 4 have updated gift aid declarations and we have an additional 9 new donors. If you are still to review your giving, please could I ask that you do so by the end of March. That way I can assess the status of our church finances as we progress through the appointment process for our Associate Vicar. We haven't yet raised the full amount we need. Many thanks, Tim (treasurer)

### News:

- Applications for the electoral roll are only open until 16th March. If you need help in applying to join the roll, please contact Sue on 07563473620 or via [office@stjohnshensingham.org.uk](mailto:office@stjohnshensingham.org.uk).
- We are still looking for a PCC secretary. If you feel able to volunteer for this essential work, please contact Phil Sisson via [Phil@stjohnshensingham.org.uk](mailto:Phil@stjohnshensingham.org.uk).
- We are still looking for volunteers to help run the football school between 27th and 30th May. Please contact Sarah Clark, Rob Mayhew or Jake & Jo Little if you can give any time to help.

### Please pray for:

- We have received a prayer update from the Albanian Mission. You can read it [here](#)
- Philip Holland Joyce Hewer, Emily Lane, Les Fox and Joe Moore.
- The recruitment process for our new associate vicar.

### Praise God for:

- A great mission community service.
- For all the participants at Christianity Explored seeming to have grown in confidence about who Jesus is and what he came to do.
- For the number of new people who are reaching out to St Johns to explore Christian faith.

Si Walker

Vicar

01946-63797

[simon@stjohnshensingham.org.uk](mailto:simon@stjohnshensingham.org.uk)