

Church Essentials

What's on this week



Weds 24th April 10.30am **Wednesday Midweek Community**
Easter Encounters: Paul, the untimely disciple
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Celebrant: Revd. Rob Latham
Doors open at 10am and the service will begin at 10:30.

Thurs 25th Apr. **Zoom Bible Study**
Bible study on Zoom takes place on Thursdays at 9am. Join via the link to the church You Tube channel below. If you are not able to join the group live, you can catch up with the recordings. www.youtube.com/c/StJohnsChurchKenilworth or via stjohn316.co.uk/watch-again.

Sun 21st Apr. 8am **Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)**
Acts 8:26-end; John 15:1-8
Celebrant: Revd. Mary Rai

10am **Shared Life & Mission**
Annual Parochial Church Meeting followed by Communion
Celebrant & Speaker: Revd. Andrew Attwood

6pm **Extended Teaching**
What it means to be saved
Leader & Speaker: Revd. Andrew Attwood

Weds 17th April 10.30am **Wednesday Midweek Community**
Easter Encounters: Paul, the untimely disciple
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Celebrant: Revd. Rob Latham
Doors open at 10am and the service will begin at 10:30.

APCM – 28th April 10am

Dear all,

You are all invited to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), which will be happening as part of the **10am** service on **Sunday 28th April**.

It will involve the election of any new PCC members or any wardens, and will review the previous 12 months of church life. There will be space for questions and comments.

Do make a point of attending, as this meeting is a key indicator of who we are and where we are heading.

APCM showcase – at the APCM there will be temporary display along the wall at the front showcasing the many different activities which take place at St John's. This will be left up for 2-3 weeks. Please take the time to have a look.

Revised Electoral Roll

The revised electoral roll is now displayed at the back of the church by the sound desk and will be available until the APCM on **Sunday 28th April**. Any amendments to the list, please let Sue Dawson in the church office know: admin@stjohn316.co.uk

Prayer and discernment regarding a possible building project

Dear church, could you carefully and prayerfully read this message from Phil Swards. Along with Co-leaders and PCC we are very keen to hear your thoughts on this important idea.

Thank you in advance for playing your part in discerning what we think God is saying at this time. Do give feedback to Sue Dawson or speak directly with Phil or a Co-leader.

Ax.

Prayer and discernment on the potential for mission to the new housing development (Thickthorn) using the church site

Overview

A significant number of new houses will be built in Kenilworth in the next 5 years. This includes c. 1,400 in the 'Thickthorn' (Kenilworth Gate) development site. It is currently the intention that c. 40% of these houses will be 'Affordable Housing' or designated for 'First-Time Buyers'. Thus, it is likely that there will be a significant number of young(er) families on this estate.

There is clearly a significant challenge/opportunity for us as a church: a new harvest field will be appearing on our doorstep...

We have communicated with elected representatives (Town/District Council) and had a meeting with staff from the Planning Department (District Council) to discuss what role St John's Church might play in a couple of aspects:

- enabling the new (Thickthorn) estate to become integrated into the rest of the town;
- providing community facilities to meet the needs of the population.

It is unclear at the moment what community facilities (if any) will be available on the new estate. It is likely in any case that such facilities will be the last phase of the building to be carried out (i.e. 2029). We have agreed to keep in touch with the Planning Department, who are interested in working with us, though the situation at the moment is vague.

The nearest public building(s) to the new estate will be the current St John's Church buildings (cavern, Large Hall, Small Hall). These buildings are starting to cost us money in maintenance, badly need refurbishment and are not energy efficient. In short: they are not fit for purpose. A building project would probably involve demolishing these premises and building a suite of units that are multi-purpose, energy efficient and easy to maintain.

A topic for prayer and discernment

What might we do to advance the kingdom of God in this situation? Providing much needed community facilities would attract a lot of people into the 'church orbit'.

Is now the right time to embark upon a major building project? Or would it be a distraction? If a major building project isn't the solution, then what should we do to meet this challenge and realise this opportunity to advance God's kingdom?

Where is God in this? Is this a 'nations will come to your light' moment or are we called to go out and travel light?

We need to spend some weeks praying about this and seeking discernment from the LORD.

FareShare

Do you know anyone who may benefit from extra food? It may be that one of your friends or neighbours could do with a little help. FareShare food is made available at church several times a week for those in need. If anyone would like to give you their names for food we will happily contact them every time food becomes available. The same conditions apply that they just have to turn up to collect the food from the benches after they have been contacted.
Gill & Terry Heath

Flowers in Church

The small team of flower arrangers all love doing the flowers, but we would always welcome anyone else who would like to join us. We usually do them on a Friday morning during Drop In, but any time on Friday or Saturday is possible. You do not need to be an expert, a vase of flowers is absolutely OK!

If you would like to contribute towards the cost of flowers, in particular in memory of someone, or to celebrate a special event, do get in touch too.

Felicity Hawke

Mothers' Union Notices

At our AGM on 21st March, we said thank you to Beryl Dayus who retired as branch leader, and committee members Mary Bailey, Hazel Jackson and Pam Young who also retired. All have served for 6 years, and far longer in many roles. Felicity Hawke was elected branch leader, and the new committee is Nessa Kerby, Rosie Lee, Margaret Mercer, Mavis Tingay and Pauline Wardill. Thank you for being prepared to take on the running of the branch.



The new programme is now available. If you are a member but haven't received yours yet, or would just like to know more about what we do, there will be some copies on the display stand at the back of church, or ask Felicity.

Weds 1st May 7.30pm - Zoe's Place Baby Hospice

All welcome to the Large Hall to hear about Zoe's Place. Zoe's Place Baby Hospice is a very special place, providing respite, palliative and end of life care to babies and children 0-5yrs of age and much needed support to their families from across Coventry, Warwickshire and surrounding areas. Come and find out more. There will be a recipe book on sale, and cash donations welcomed.

Friday 10th May 2.00pm - Thy Kingdom Come prayer meeting "Light Up the World"

at Janet Jackson's house. We will gather for a cuppa and using Thy Kingdom Come resources pray that more people might come to know the Love of God - those we meet, in our families, in our local communities and for MU's links locally and worldwide.

For more details or to arrange a lift, contact Felicity Hawke

Forthcoming Events:

Christians Against Poverty Training Morning 10am-12noon 4th May

... in our church building.

A partnership with Kenilworth Community Church.

Speaker: Darren Mitchell

If you are interested in finding out more, just turn up!



Our Mission Partners the Robinsons are visiting us Sunday 5th May 10am



John and Gillian Robinson set up the 'Place of Grace' in 2011 in the middle of Bangkok's materially poor communities.

Teas in the garden in aid of CHIT on Sunday 5th May 2pm-6pm

Homemade scones and cakes at 16 Thickthorn Close, CV8 2AF. Either just turn up or book a place with Jennifer Matthews. Suggested donation of £5 or whatever you can give. In the event of bad weather, teas will be served indoors.



Talking Jesus Roadshow Monday 20th May 7:30pm

The Talking Jesus roadshow is coming to St John's on 20th May. In advance of this event, it's worth reading the 2022 report on what people think about Jesus, Christianity, etc. which is available at <https://talkingjesus.org/>

Ax

Archdeacon Barry Dugmore and Gareth Fitzpatrick will host this local event; visiting churches across the Diocese to explore how we can share the good news of Jesus more effectively.



Vicarage Refresh

Andrew and Lindsey have been with us for 14 years, so we decided it was about time we gave the vicarage a bit of a refresh. Therefore, we have arranged for the redecoration and re-carpeting of the hall, stairs, landing and Andrew's office. The total cost is about £3,500. If you would like to make a donation to this, you can use the Sum-up tablet on the table as you come into church or you can scan the QR Code below which will take you to the giving page. Alternatively, put your donation in an envelope and give it to Sue Dawson in the office, or to Peter Jackson or to me.

Thanks,

Phil Swards

Churchwarden

Andrew's Sabbatical Plans – Update

Dear members of St John the Evangelist,

Here is an update to give a little more detail regarding my Sabbatical, as we get closer to the start.



The Dates of my Sabbatical will begin on Saturday 25th May, and I'll be back on Sunday 8th September.

I have already planned Sunday rotas with leaders to cover the whole of this period; I'm very confident that the church will be well served by many capable volunteers and leaders. Likewise Wednesday Community will have sufficient input during my absence.

There will be people to refer to for any arising pastoral needs (Mary and Kal Rai, plus others) and you can talk to Phil Swards or Roger Homes about any other PCC matters or queries.

Formal oversight falls to Phil Swards as Warden (so do go to him for any CofE or procedural matter). Alongside him, the Co-Leaders (see below) will be on hand week by week to help the church with the continuing vision; to become like Jesus, making disciples. The usual groups of leaders will oversee their congregations, missional communities and ministries. Several people are kindly stepping into roles that I have carried previously. Thank you everyone!

In many respects I am hoping that the church has a quiet and straightforward few months during the summer, enjoying the fruit of good ministry and resting when necessary. I really hope and pray for God to bless the church during the summer. It may feel different with me not being around, but sometimes different is good!

In terms of our own Sabbatical plans, Lindsey and I will be both home and away, so you may well see us around. If you do, feel free to say Hi! The only thing to avoid is talking about church. Talk about yourself, chat about things God is doing, but avoid chatting about church – so I don't have to think about that during my time off. Ask us how we are! Thank you in advance!

We will be away at times: Rothbury in Northumberland, near the Lakes for bible study and retreat, Cornwall for painting, and possibly a warm holiday at some point. Do pray that we both enjoy a restoring and refreshing season with God.

Thank you again for being an amazing church! I will look forward to catching up in September!

Ax

List of Co-Leaders (in Andrew and Lindsey's absence): **Roger Homes, Karen Mills, Michelle Harris, Kal Rai, Mary Rai, Kim Matthews.**

CHIT – message of thanks

Thank you very much to everyone who kindly donated money and gifts to CHIT for the recent Trustees visit. The children were very happy to receive them and we used the money to provide a treat of a chicken supper for everyone on Easter Sunday.

Jenny, Kim, Mary and Kal

Just a reminder that the next CHIT curry night will be on **Saturday 15th June 2024 at 7pm** in the church building. Please make a note in your diary. Bookings will be taken nearer the time.

Eco Tip of the Week: No Mow May starts again next week

Is there an area of your lawn that you could leave to grow wild during May? However, when you do start mowing again, watch out for wildlife like hedgehogs or frogs that may be hidden in the long grass!

We are still looking for a family or individuals who have a passion for creation, to take on the role of Ecochurch coordinators at St John's church.

Felicity and I will be happy to meet up to explain what we do.

Contact Gill Palmer



Dates for the diary

Wednesday 24th April	An evening with Andy Robinson of 'Living Out'
Sunday 28th April	Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Saturday 4th May	Christians against Poverty training morning
Monday 20th May	Talking Jesus roadshow
Saturday 15th June	CHIT curry night
Saturday 19th October	Church Ceilidh

If you are new to church or want to find out more, please go to our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/StJohntheEvangelist or our website: www.stjohn316.co.uk

Community News

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 12 - 18 MAY 2024

We appeal to the community of Kenilworth and District to give generously to support the work of Christian Aid, as you have done in previous years.

The theme of this year's Christian Aid Week is fighting back against poverty.

Through small business training funded by Christian Aid, Aline in Burundi has been able to overcome food scarcity, disease and lack of running water and has set up as a grocery wholesaler to provide an income for herself and her children.

Your donations during this week can help others in Burundi to obtain skills and training to achieve their ambitions, as well as supporting other vital work around the world.

To make a donation, please go to <https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2024/Kenilworth> or scan the QR Code.



Thank you for your continued invaluable support.

Churches Together Kenilworth & District and Christian Aid

Please note there will be a collection box for anyone who wants to donate cash.

Eco Fayre – Saturday 18th May 10am – 1pm at Kenilworth Methodist Church

Free entry

Local eco groups, plastic-free living, reusables, wildlife, active travel, home energy advice, local producers, plant swap, creative crafts, biodiversity, recycling, local growers, repairing, refurbishing, activities for kids, art & craft



Inspiration for all! Ideas to spark imaginations, enthusiasm to motivate, advice to support change, fun activities for all ages, Fairtrade and homemade refreshments to share.

Please come on foot, bike or bus and park any cars at the station.

Email ecofayre@lovekenilworth.org.uk for more information or view the Kenilworth Eco Fayre Facebook page.

Also see flyer at the end of this newsletter.

Friends of the Holy Land are recruiting

Friends of the Holy Land are looking for an energetic, dedicated individual to join our fast-moving, growing charity making a difference to Christians in the Holy Land. The successful candidate must have office experience, excellent oral and written communication skills and be a 'people person'; social media experience is also desirable. Full details are available at <https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/jobs>

Closing date for applications is **29th April**. Please send your CV and covering letter to Jen Hill at office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk

Job opportunity at Flourish

One of St John's sponsored charities, Leamington-based charity Flourish is currently looking for an Office and Finance Officer. The position is for 21 hours per week, term time only. Salary £25k pro rata. For further details and a job description, please contact the church office.

Deadline for applications is **26th April** and interviews will be on **8th & 9th May**.

News from the Diocese

Situation Vacant: Mothers' Union Finance Administrator

Mothers' Union Coventry is recruiting a part-time Finance Administrator to be based at the Diocesan Office. Details can be found via <https://coventry.anglican.org/current-vacancies.php>

The Finance Administrator will be responsible to the Board of Trustees for the efficient running of Mothers' Union in Coventry Diocese, ensuring that the work of the Charity is carried out in line with the aim, purpose and objectives, and, as directed by the Trustees. The role requires the ability to work independently, attention to detail, problem solve and have good interpersonal skills. It is mostly office based over six hours per week but there will be flexibility to work from home at times.

Diocese of Coventry eBulletin – In order to receive the weekly bulletin, register at www.equiphub.org.uk/register/

Deadline for Church Essentials topics

Church Essentials goes out every week on a Tuesday. If you have any items you would like to be included in the following week's edition, please email them to the Church Administrator at admin@stjohn316.co.uk by 12 noon on the previous Friday.

If you have any questions, concerns or comments about church matters, please do contact a member of the PCC or, failing that, the Church Administrator, the Churchwarden or the PCC Secretary on the contact details below:

Co-leaders: Rev. Andrew Attwood, Lindsey Attwood, Michelle Harris, Roger Homes, Karen Mills, Mary Rai, Simone Royle

Contact Details

For any contact details not listed in this newsletter, please ask Sue at the church office, admin@stjohn316.co.uk.

St John's Church Office
205 Warwick Road
Kenilworth
Warwickshire
CV8 1HY
01926 853203

admin@stjohn316.co.uk
www.stjohn316.co.uk

Office Hours:

Tuesday: 09.00 – 12.30
Wednesday: 11.00 – 13.00
Friday: 11.00 – 13.00

We will try to reply to your email as soon as possible within working hours.

If your query is urgent, please consider contacting another member of the Church Staff team, if this is appropriate (please see next column).

Vicar:

Revd. Andrew Attwood
vicar@stjohn316.co.uk
His Day Off is Monday!

Churchwarden:

Phil Swards
warden@stjohn316.co.uk

PCC Secretary:

Roger Homes
pcc@stjohn316.co.uk

Standing Committee:

The Vicar, the Churchwarden and the PCC Secretary

Youth:

youth@stjohn316.co.uk

Safeguarding Officer:

Charlie Palmer
safeguarding@stjohn316.co.uk

Domestic Abuse Awareness

The PCC has committed that we shall, as a church, pray for the victims of domestic abuse in the UK and worldwide, in support of the Mothers Union 'RISE UP' campaign. Please join us in praying regularly.

Respond
Inform Unite
Support Pray
Empower



For more details on the Mothers Union campaign, go to the relevant page in the MU section on the Coventry Diocese Website

[RISE UP Against Domestic Abuse | Mothers' Union \(www.mothersunion.org/riseup\)](http://www.mothersunion.org/riseup).

Please consider the environment before printing. As a Church, we have signed up to 'Eco Church' and would like to preserve the environment as much as possible.