

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, SHIPHAY

'A caring fellowship seeking to share the life and love of God'

Sunday 4 October 2026

A very warm welcome to everyone as we gather together on this first Sunday in October. As the seasons change and we enjoy the beauty of autumn, we also look forward with joy to celebrating **Harvest** next Sunday.

Harvest is a wonderful opportunity to give thanks for all that we have and to share our blessings with others in our local community. We invite you, if you are able, to bring along a gift for our local food bank. Non-perishable items such as tea, coffee, tinned foods, cereals and other cupboard essentials would be very much appreciated.

Every donation, however small, can make a real difference to someone in need.

Thank you for your kindness, generosity and support.

Please do join us for Fairtrade coffee and refreshments after the service this morning.

Music

Fight the good fight	169
All heav'n declares	17
All I once held dear	18
Lord, You are more precious than silver	

Offertory

Cornerstone

Communion

Here is love, vast as the ocean

My peace I give unto you

O Lord, your tenderness

We shall stand

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Ann White

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Ann White.

Ann was a much-loved and respected member of our church family, whose kindness, warmth and faithful presence touched the lives of many.

Ann was a dedicated housegroup leader and her family kindly donated our beautiful stained glass window and the interior double doors in memory of her late Father Len Howard.

We extend our deepest condolences to Ann's family and friends at this difficult time, and we hold them in our prayers.

The funeral service will take place on Monday 12th October, 12.30 p.m at Torbay Crematorium.

All members of the St John's Church family who knew Ann are warmly invited to attend.

May Ann rest in peace and rise in glory.

The First Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14

⁴ If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in ^[a] Christ – the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ – yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Reading

Matt. 21.33-end The parable of the tenants

³³ 'Listen to another parable: there was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall round it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. ³⁴ When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit.

³⁵ 'The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. ³⁶ Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Last of all, he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son," he said.

³⁸ 'But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance." ³⁹ So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

⁴⁰ 'Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?'

⁴¹ 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end,' they replied, 'and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time.'

⁴² Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the Scriptures:

"The stone the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone;

the Lord has done this,

and it is marvellous in our eyes" [H]?

⁴³ 'Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. ⁴⁴ Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.' [I]

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus' parables, they knew he was talking about them. ⁴⁶ They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet.

WHAT'S ON AT ST JOHN'S

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Mon 5 Oct	08.00	MONDAY MARKET
Mon 5 Oct	19.00	Monday Night House Group
Wed 7 Oct	19.30	Sing for Joy Choir
Thur 8 Oct	09.30	Holy Communion/Prayers
Thur 8 Oct	19.00	PCC
Fri 9 Oct	10.00	St Matthew's Church Shop
Sun 11 Oct	10.00	HARVEST CELEBRATION

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Contact details:-

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Church Office opening times: 9.00-11.30 a.m daily except Wednesday

Sat—Sun closed

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