

WHAT'S ON AT ST. JOHN'S

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Mon 9 Mar	19.00	Monday Night House Group
Wed 11 Mar	19.30	Sing for Joy Choir
Thurs 12 Mar	09.30	Holy Communion/prayers
Thurs 12 Mar	12.00	Lenten Soup Lunch
Sun 15 Mar	10.00	Mothers Day

Suggestions for your prayers/praise

For International Women's Day we give thanks for the women who bless our lives and communities. We pray for women around the world suffering because of prejudice, abuse, and hate. Where there is despair, we pray for hope. We give thanks for young people who are providing care for family members. In the moments when they feel weary, isolated or face struggles, we pray you would give them strength and fill them with peace. We pray that you would surround them with people who can support them.

As snowdrops rise through the cold earth, remind us that hope can bloom in quiet places.

At winter's fading edge,
plant in us the courage of new beginnings
and the patience to trust in renewal.

May these small white flowers
whisper that light is returning and life is stirring again.

Uphold our recent PCC Meeting and the decisions made so that St. John's church may continue to grow and serve our community, always praising and honouring Your holy name.

Holy Spirit, cultivate Your fruit within me. Cut away what blocks growth. Make my life reflect Your goodness. **Amen.**

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WELCOME TO ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH,

SHIPHAY

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

Sunday 8 March 2026

Good morning and welcome to our morning worship on this Third Sunday of Lent.

In this season of turning back to God, may our worship today strengthen our faith and open our hearts to His transforming love.

We're glad you have chosen to come along to this service especially if this is your first visit to St. John's.

We really hope you will stay and join us for Fairtrade coffee and refreshments after the service this morning.

Let us begin this time of worship in gratitude and trust.

Music

I heard the voice of Jesus say **310**

Let Your living water

When I feel the touch **734**

Thank You for saving me

As the deer pants for the water **45**

Offertory

Communion

Break thou the bread of life

All who are thirsty

Draw me close to You

He is the Lord (show Your power)



The First Reading

Romans 5:1-11 Peace and hope

⁵ Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we^[a] 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^[b] boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we^[c] 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.

⁶ You 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.

⁹ Since 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.



Gospel Reading John 4:5-42

⁵ So 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.

⁷ When 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.)

⁹ The 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.^[a])

¹⁰ Jesus 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?'

¹³ Jesus 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.'

¹⁵ The 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.'

¹⁶ He 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.'

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

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

The disciples rejoice

²⁷ Just 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?'

²⁸ Then, 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.

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

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

³³ Then 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

³⁹ Many 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.

⁴² They 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.'

Easter flowers—If you wish to have an Easter Floral remembrance for your loved one/s, Janet Thomson will be pleased to receive your donations. Thank you. Tel. 01803 431495.

