



**“While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” Luke 24: 36**

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### Services this Week

#### 9.30am & 11am: Morning Worship

Join us in church, watch on our website, on Facebook, on YouTube or by phone

Leader: Noel Harrison, Speaker: Andrew Corke

Theme: **The King: The King of Peace:** Luke 24: 36-49

**Scramblers, Adventurers and Core at 11am** meets in the church for the first part of the service and then go to the Hall, Conservatory or outside for their activities. There will be a DIY Crèche in the Small Lounge

#### 6.30pm: Evening Worship

Join us in church, watch on our website, on Facebook, on YouTube or by phone

Leader: Mat Lee, Speaker: Alan Fryer

Theme: **The Book of Ruth: Taking a Risk** Ruth 2: 1-23

*Noel is a member of the St John's service leadership team and works in the Wycliffe Global Bible Translation Alliance, Andrew is a retired Vicar, Matt is our Curate, Alan is a Licenced Lay Minister and member of St John's*

#### To phone in to listen to our services:

Call 02034815240 and enter the meeting id 4202842255# and then # again. The password is 111#

The **YouTube Channel link** is: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCh0inpaYvhZyfgSm935gY3Q/>

### Letter from Peter...

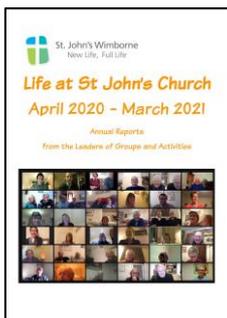
#### Dear Friends

*“Very truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me.” John 12:24-26*



It is time once again for the Annual Church Reports. Even in a time of lockdown, it is great to see new things happening at St John's, the church at the 'Cross Roads', like family church on Sunday mornings! The Lord is constantly presenting us with fresh opportunities! Our spirits are being tried and tested in these difficult times as we serve God! Of course, there are those times when doing new things means changes for us or ending long standing approaches, but let's face it, change doesn't always come effortlessly. John's gospel talks about new life, but it comes through death, the cross before the resurrection. We must keep

in mind, that John sees God as the one who is growing his Kingdom. You and I are called to be his servants. It is exciting to see the new things that the Lord is doing in the life of the church family. Let us not forget the events of the past that brought us to where we currently are. Yet, God reminds us even in the pandemic that we should always be eagerly looking to Him for the future – the future that God is planning for us!



Next week 'hot off the press' you will receive the latest Church Report for 2020-21. This report of St John's Church gives us a taste of the ministry and mission over the last seven months since our last APCM. The pages in the booklet provide a brief review of our mission and ministry during this time. These reports tell only a small part of the picture that has developed over this time. While much of this booklet concentrates on the past, I am hoping that you will read it with an eye to the future. It is evident that God has been at work in the past year and we should anticipate God's actions among us in the year ahead. As we enter 2021-22, we must continue to discern the answer to this question – ***"Who is God calling us to be at this unique time?"***

It is also good to reflect as I will be doing during my sabbatical. How is God calling you to be involved in the mission and ministry of the Church Family over the coming year? We need to be a people of vision – seeking God's will and putting it into action. Each one of us must generously contribute our efforts as a church family if we are to be useful in serving Christ. Our shared ministry and mission as God's people is on display to the world. Do they see us worshipping Jesus Christ and wanting to follow Him? I hope you will read and very much enjoy the reports in this year's booklet.

I also hope to see you at our APCM in church on Wednesday 21 April at 8pm or watch it online via our website. If you have any questions then please email them in advance to the Church Office email.

Yours sincerely in Christ

**Peter**

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### Testimony Time - Debbie Tudor-Thomas shares

In last Sunday's evening service Debbie Tudor-Thomas was interviewed by Peter. She shared with us about her husband William and her experience 9 years ago when he died.

If you missed the service and would like to see the clip, [click here](#).



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### Global Action Updates

#### Partner Focus for 18 April: Update from Streetlight



Over the last year, StreetLight has closed its doors for almost 9 months because of the Covid-19 pandemic, but this does not mean we have been silent. Very early on into the first lockdown, we reviewed our ministry and how this could impact on our community. We have managed to stay in touch with a large number of our regular skate park riders and skate/scooter team members through social media and Zoom. This was often just to have a conversation, to see how people were and to check if we could do anything to help them. We were also in touch with a number of parents who come to the Centre. We have seen young people and

adults really opening their hearts to God and allowing prayer into their lives. So many young people and families are waiting patiently for Streetlight to open again!

During these Covid-19 times, we have been able to provide support to families who required help over the lockdowns. This might have been doing food shops for them, picking up essential items, dropping off a tub

of homemade cookies to brighten up their day, having socially distanced conversations or meeting up with families outside for food (when the rules allowed). We hope to open up fully in May when the Government restrictions are lifted.

Please pray for:

- Andy and Keith and their families who are still on furlough
- The young people who are missing their friends and the support that Streetlight offers them
- The parents and grandparents with whom deeper friendships are being developed
- Streetlight to open up in May and be able to attract the young people and their families back after a long closure

Please thank God that He has sustained the Streetlight team and finances over the lockdowns so that it will be able to function fully again when it reopens.

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### Easter Gifts for Lunch Club by Sue Stein

We wanted to do something special for our Lunch Club members this Easter as we haven't met for over a year now. So we approached the lovely Steph Roberts, Community Matters Officer at Waitrose, to ask whether they might donate a few Easter eggs for our members.

After a long chat to Steph, telling her all about the Lunch Club and her being amazed that our eldest member will be 101 at the end of this month, she said that she'd be delighted to help. Waitrose is mostly encouraged to support larger organisations, so she was thrilled to be able to help a small, local club.

On Maundy Thursday I received a call to collect some eggs from the store. I turned up in my little car and was totally amazed to be presented with this entire trolley of goodies. What was even more fun was fitting all the crates into the car!



There were 48 bags (compostable), one for each member, containing a boxed Easter Egg, a pack of Hot Cross Buns, a liquid soap dispenser and a tube of hand cream. Also four mugs with a little Lindt bunny and some Lindor mini eggs in for the delivery drivers: Jane Rynne, Margaret Hunt, Jo Day and myself.

We had also asked St John's First School whether we could form a link with them and if some of their children could make Easter cards for us to distribute with the gifts. 60, beautiful cards were made, all hand-written with little poems or comments in. Some just a simple, "Remember someone is thinking of you this Easter," others with a religious message in. One of my favourites was, "Jesus is Risen, chocolate is yummy, have a Happy Easter."



Priceless!

Inside each card we put a page of Easter jokes and an invitation to our Easter services and then set off on our deliveries. Everyone was amazed with the gifts we gave them and to see those smiles was worth everything!

A big thank you to Waitrose and St John's First School for making this a special Easter for our members.



### St John's Eco-Tip

To help us think about how we can fulfil our mandate to care for God's creation...

**This week's tip is:** If your toilet cistern holds more than 6 litres of water (likely if it was

installed before 2001) put a Hippo Water Saving device (or a brick) in it to save water each time you flush (e.g. <http://www.hippo-the-watersaver.co.uk/>)

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## Eco-Event



## Wimborne Spring Green Festival

17–24 April

Wimborne's first-ever Green Festival was successfully launched in October 2019 and (if you can remember that far back!), you may recall that St John's folk, along with a number of churches and community groups, were involved in helping to plan and run some of the events.

That involvement has continued and, although October 2020's Festival had to be cancelled due to the pandemic, an imaginative online green-themed programme has been put together for a special Spring Green Festival, and it's coming to a screen (very) near you from 17–24 April. Events include presentations about local nature and wildlife, green gardening, children's craft sessions and lots more – all designed to encourage and equip us to live more sustainably.

More details can be found on [facebook.com/WimborneGreenFestival/](https://facebook.com/WimborneGreenFestival/) and there are booking details on [museumofeastdorset.co.uk/events/](https://museumofeastdorset.co.uk/events/)

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## Reflections and Encouragements

*Peace Be with You* shared by Gillian Mannouch

*from Seeds of the Kingdom, Daily Devotional from Ellel Ministries* written by Julie Smith

When the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" John 20:19

Reading John Chapter 20, the story of Jesus, risen from death, appearing to the disciples, I was thinking about how frightened those men were for their lives, to the point that they were hiding behind locked doors. It struck me that in the midst of the corona virus that's brought so much uncertainty, loneliness, anxiety and grief, there are many people in the world today, troubled and afraid and hidden behind closed doors. So much so, that governments are concerned about the huge spike in mental health issues and looking for answers to try and help.

But we're told that right into the midst of the disciples' anxious fear, 'Jesus came and stood among them.' How comforting that He didn't wait for them to get their act together, to try and somehow muster up faith and overcome fear themselves. Their fear wasn't a blockage to Jesus any more than the locked doors! Right into the midst of their anxiety, as their friend not their judge, 'Jesus came and stood among them.'

And He came with exactly what they needed more than anything else at that moment. He said, 'Peace be with you.' He gave them the gift of His peace. Not a fluffy peace. Not false peace. Not something we can somehow drum up ourselves. The peace Jesus gives, was won for us when He died on the cross, 'He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed' (Isaiah 53:5).

Jesus offers the precious gift of His peace, not just to the disciples, but to us all, but like any gift, it has to be received. And really, it's about receiving Jesus Himself, for 'Christ is our peace' (Ephesians 2:14). We can receive Jesus into our lives, with the forgiveness, cleansing and healing He won at such cost for us at Calvary ... or reject Him. And we can receive Him into the fears, worries and anxiety we may be hiding (and perhaps even nurturing) behind closed doors ... or reject Him.

Maybe we have financial worries, fears of the unknown, of the future, of getting sick or dying, or other worries and anxiety about things that perhaps no-one else knows about. Sometimes, as Christians, we can feel ashamed to admit to fear or anxiety, and the door we've closed is a door of shame. But, just as the



locked doors were no barrier to Jesus coming to the disciples, neither is a door of shame or any other kind of door. Jesus doesn't keep His distance. He doesn't tut and disapprove. He sees, He knows and He understands, and He can reach us where no-one else can, and He comes lovingly with His comfort right into the midst of where we're at, to help us, 'Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you' (Isaiah 41:10).

Perhaps this time of enforced isolation - when the busyness of life is suddenly halted, the familiarity of daily routine thrown out, the security of financial well-being threatened and there's perhaps a feeling of it all spiralling out of control - is a time for us to allow Jesus to show us if we have closed doors on worries, fears and anxieties, and to invite Him in. He has the answers to our deepest concerns, He knows them all and wants to come with exactly what He knows we need, to reassure us that He is in control and we can trust Him. As the old hymn says, to 'calm the troubled breast' with the relief and comfort of His blessed peace.

**A Prayer:** Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for the encouragement that Your Word is to me. Thank You that You understood the disciples' fear and came to them with exactly what they needed. And that's Your heart for me too. I am sorry that I have closed areas of my life to You: worries and concerns, fears and anxieties. Please show me any doors I have closed and help me to let You in. I want to receive the comfort of Your presence and the heart knowledge that my life and all my concerns are truly safe in Your hands. In Your precious name, Amen.

**Watch:** Here Be Lions - Peace Over You

<https://youtu.be/Sas-SG4khRM>

### *Man be Aware (What of the Future) by Pat Raison*

God's creation you destroy  
With your modern-day toy  
The air is filled with pollution  
Rivers and streams are frothy and thick  
Otters and fish sadly are sick  
Butterflies and birds, their food has gone  
Because of sprays put upon  
Glaciers, start and white  
May one day not be so bright  
Gradually they melt away  
Into a future day  
Condors great to wrens so small  
Who fly the skies may soon become no more  
Our poisons go to ozone high  
Out of mind, out of sight  
We care no more...  
What is the score?  
Man's success  
To nature's nil!

Jungles are felled for greedy man  
Poor trees hurting, for our plans  
Coral reefs, they are dying  
Can't you hear tiny creatures crying?  
Into our oceans, tankers spill their groaning loads  
Gluing birds' wings so they will not unfold

Join together - people of the earth  
Start sharing and caring for all you're worth  
Or the verdict will be plain to see  
Man will be the tragedy.

No fish to swim the seven seas  
No Morning bird-  
sung melodies  
Sparse ground  
where forest  
proudly stood  
To put them back,  
if we only could.

Time's one thing  
we cannot reverse  
But it's time to  
save our planet earth  
Togetherness is what we need  
And in our children plant the seed  
To help our planet earth back on an even keel  
Or our nation's resources will be nil!





## Prayer Diary

**Sunday:** Pray for all who are involved in our services today; especially Noel, Andrew, Matt and Alan. Pray for the whole church family as we join in the services either in church or from our homes.

**Monday:** Pray for schools returning for the new term this week. Ask God to give renewed strength and enthusiasm to teachers and school staff. Ask God to bless the children and young people and keep them all safe in these uncertain times.

**Tuesday: Pray for the Persecuted Church:** Recognise the Armenian Genocide: Barnabas Fund are activating a petition to hand to the UK Government. Please contact Jeremy Hett if you would be willing to sign this, and he will ensure that you get the opportunity! The closing date is 30 June. Below is a piece from Barnabas, with regard to a letter that Patrick Sookhdeo has sent to President Biden. Barnabas Fund's International Director, Dr Patrick Sookhdeo, has written to American President Joe Biden urging him to recognise formally as genocide the murderous anti-Christian violence in the Ottoman Empire a century ago in which 3.75 million Christians died. Often called the "Armenian Genocide", this period of organised killings and fatal "death marches", which peaked in 1915, targeted not only Armenians (1.5 million dead) but also the Assyrian, Syriac and Greek minorities. Recognising this past genocide of Christians will help to prevent future genocides of Christians, especially Armenians, who are currently under threat.

**Wednesday:** Pray for God to guide us through the Annual Parochial Church Meeting this evening. Pray for those standing for the PCC. Pray for Peter as he delivers his annual report.

**Thursday:** Remember before God a few people you know who are part of the church family, praying for any particular needs you know they have.

**Friday: Pray for our Global Action Partners of the Week:** Streetlight: please [see above](#) for the latest update.

**Saturday:** Pray for Peter as he prepares for his sabbatical beginning at the end of April. Ask God to enable this time apart to refresh and renew him for his future ministry.

## St John's Events Coming Up



**Saturday Prayers** - join the Prayer Group which meets each week at 7.45am via Zoom: ID: 815 892 8513, Password: Yebwa



### Annual Parochial Church Meeting - Wednesday 21 April 8pm

The meeting will take place in the Church or will be available to watch online, via our website. Copies of the Annual Report will be available at the meeting or by request from the Church Office. An electronic version will be available on the church website.

## FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE



### Barriers on the Church Concourse

For those who like to pull onto the church concourse to park, this will no longer be possible, except on Sundays and when events are taking place. The barriers will be put up during the week to prevent parking and in order to make the concourse a safer place for Pre-School parents and children and others who pass through this much used thoroughfare.

### Peter on Sabbatical

Peter starts his sabbatical at the end of April for a period of 3 months. More details next week.

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