



Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor

# Pews News

January 2026

<https://stjb.hubb.church/>

## From Catherine, our Vicar



Here are some lovely memories of our time together over Advent and Christmas. Looking forward to our onward journey this year, as we continue to discover more of God's love and good purposes for us and seek to bring the light of Christ into our homes and communities.



Love, Catherine

*Photo taken by Peter Rivers at the Nursery Nativity Service.  
Great photo. Great shirt!*

### Little Angels' Nativity Service



Christingle Messy Church:



## For unto us, a Son is Given

Congratulations to **Philippa & Robin Emmanuel** (our Wycliffe Student) on the birth of **Joseph**. Joseph was born on Friday 12 December, weighing in at 6lb 8oz. Everyone is doing well.



# St John the Baptist Church – January 2026

Sun	4 Jan	9.00	Holy Communion	Speaker – Geoff Maughan
		10.30	Morning Worship	Speaker – Geoff Maughan
Sun	11 Jan	9.00	Holy Communion	Speaker – Catherine
		10.30	All Age Service	Speaker – Catherine
Sun	18 Jan	9.00	Holy Communion	Speaker – Pat
		10.30	Morning Worship	Speaker – Pat
		10.30	Children’s Church	
Sun	25 Jan	9.00	Holy Communion	Speaker – Catherine
		10.30	Family Communion	Speaker – Catherine
		10.30	Children’s Church	

Note: there is no Children’s Church on 4 Jan.

## Regular Events

Wednesdays	20.00	<b>Wednesday Fellowship Group</b> – resuming on 7 Jan
Thursdays	9.00	<b>KBS Café</b> at the Village Hall – resuming on 8 Jan
Fridays	10.30	Fizzy Coffee – resuming on 9 Jan

## Special Events

Wed	21 Jan	14.30	<b>Hymns We Love</b> – see below
Fri	23 Jan	19.00	<b>Film Club</b>

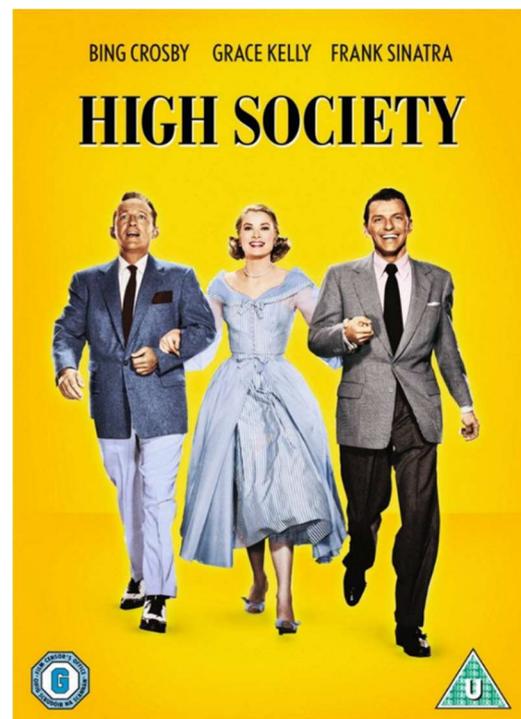
## Film and Music Night

Our first Film Night of 2026 will be on **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January** ([note the change of date](#) from the one advertised in KBS News) in the **Church Room** when we will be showing, **High Society**, starring Bing Crosby, Grace Kelly and Frank Sinatra.

Jazz artist C.K. Dexter Haven (Bing Crosby) is still in love with his ex-wife and neighbour, socialite Tracy Samantha Lord (Grace Kelly), however Tracy is engaged to another man (John Lund). Matters are complicated even further when a magazine reporter (Frank Sinatra), in town to cover Tracy's wedding, also falls for the beautiful bride-to-be. As Tracy tries to decide on the ideal husband, each suitor works hard to convince her that he is the best choice. So, who wins? Come and find out! There are memorable songs, such as, ‘Who wants to be a Millionaire?’, ‘True Love’ and ‘Well, did you Evah?’

This is a free evening organised by members of St John the Baptist Church and tea, coffee, chocolates and popcorn will be provided from 7pm with the film beginning at 7.15pm. We have limited capacity in the room, so we do ask you to **let either Peter Beer or Margo Evans know if you will be joining us**. We would hate to have to turn anyone away on the night.

Many thanks, Peter 01865 820805 and Margo 01865 820900 [margoevans@mac.com](mailto:margoevans@mac.com)



# Hymns We Love



*Maria writes:*

You are warmly invited to join us for a new series of daytime meetings, celebrating some of our most-loved hymns. Each session will focus on a different well-loved hymn, and we will spend some time exploring the story behind the hymn's author and the meaning of the words. We will meet in the Vicarage, every other Wednesday between 2.30pm and 4pm, **starting on 21<sup>st</sup> January** and going up to Easter. There will be refreshments, chat and you won't have to sing (unless you want to)! If you are not already in a mid-week fellowship group, this could be a great way to start 2026. Please take an invitation from the back of the church or speak to Maria Haywood or Pat Clamp.

## Anniversary Redecoration



From Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January until Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January, the **Church Room** will be out of action, as we are having it redecorated. It has been 25 years since the Church Room was built, so the PCC decided to celebrate this anniversary by giving it a well-deserved spruce up. You may notice significant disruption in the Church on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January, but the plan is to have everything back to normal by Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January.



We are calling on anyone who is available and able to help, to stay behind after the 10.30 service on 4<sup>th</sup> January to tidy up and move loose items from the Room into the Church.



*Thank you  
The Churchwardens*

## Thanks

*Hazel writes:*

Thank you to everyone who donated to and/or bought raffle tickets for the **Christmas Hampers Raffle**. We raised £150 for church funds.

### **Carol Singing – Wednesday 17 December**

Thanks and well done to Michael Jarvis, our guitarist, and choristers: Corrinna Thompson, Ian Blelloch, Maria Haywood, Simon Dando, Stephen Haywood & Steve Schneider.

Our singing was really appreciated by the friends at **Petypher House**. Isobel Stuart-Gordon provided some wonderful mulled wine and a feast of finger-food – thanks Isobel. Afterwards we went to **“The Wagon and Horses”** where we received a warm welcome with plenty of enthusiastic singing.



And didn't the Church look lovely over Christmas? Thanks to all our **Flower Arrangers** and Decorators



# What I love about Winter

Mel:

- The cold! Although I was a Summer baby, I adore the Autumn/Winter season.
- I love seeing the frost covering the garden, tidying up the garden (but not too much, as the wildlife needs shelter).
- Looking forward to the new shoots of Spring in the garden. Especially seeing snowdrops appearing through the frozen ground. Did you know that snowdrops have a built in antifreeze? This enables them to survive the cold. Isn't nature and creation wonderful?

Ian:

- It is a time to pause and reflect. Sunny days are a bonus and the promise Spring is in the air.

Susan:

- Christmas. Cold sunny days, when the sky is blue. The first signs of re-growth in the garden.

Jenny C:

- Winter is ... jigsaw season!

Stephen:

- Skiing. Also raclette, fondue and mulled wine.

Celeste:

- The build up to Christmas and Advent. I like the excuse to eat hot food and stay in keeping warm.

Hazel:

- Snow & frosty mornings – the beauty of a pure white landscape.
- Walking in fresh snow. I'm a big kid where snow is concerned; I love it, but not ice and slush.
- The peace – I can tell if it's been snowing by the sounds I hear when I first wake up, everything feels peaceful.
- God's amazing creation of individual snowflakes.

# My New Year's resolutions:

Here are some of the responses received:

- I don't tend to make resolutions as I don't stick to them!
- Exercise more, and get fitter.
- Strengthen my faith!
- Avoid distractions while participating in Morning Prayer.
- To do what I do .... but better
- Start the year off with a bang, planning activities.

And here are some suggestions. Why not:

- Read a Christian book.
- Participate in "Hymns we Love" – see above.
- Join Fizzy Coffee – see below.
- Join Morning Prayer – see below.

# Why I am part of Fizzy Coffee



Fizzy Coffee was started by Felecity Gunn (aka "Fizz") in 2020. The name was chosen as a tribute to Fizz and as a homage to the Morecambe & Wise film in which Eric runs a "Frothy Coffee" bar.

*Fizz writes:*

When Covid came, we were all in Lockdown. This was very hard for people living alone or with their nearest and dearest, unable to be in their bubble. We needed a forum for conversation which wouldn't only be about whether or not we had had Covid! We started a little discussion group on Zoom, which began as a Coffee Morning with a theme. I was surprised and delighted by the number of people who could use a computer for this purpose, and who came every week, brimming with wonderful contributions. For us all, it has been a happy way of cheering each other along with some novel themes, wonderful stories, amusing anecdotes and getting to know each other better. There has been a lot of coffee enjoyed and much laughter.

I met Geoff just five years ago after the First Lockdown and we married in March 2021. Subsequently, I moved to live in Geoff's home in Derbyshire. I was immensely grateful when Stephen took on the Coffee Morning and honoured that it should take my nickname! I know some members have been willing to host the Coffee morning in their homes with delicious cakes too. How lovely to be able to meet face to face.

I am still on the weekly mailing and I join when I can. I hope your meetings will continue to be punctuated with interesting and amusing conversations that bless friendships in the Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Community.

*Other members write:*

Betty:

Hi Good People. For anyone who fancies an hour of good conversation and a bit of fun, not forgetting sharing your knowledge of various topics, why don't you tune into Fizzy Coffee every Friday. I do and I really enjoy it.

Sylvia:

Fizzy Coffee is waiting for each person to tell their own story of life, whatever the subject. When you chat to someone, the stories relate to life today, even though they are of yesterday.

Elaine:

I have enjoyed my Friday morning talking about different topics with some very interesting people who come along.

Stephen:

I love meeting with friends each week and learning about their lives when they were younger ... sometimes the stories are quite outrageous: travelling with a plane-load of pigs; arrested at Check-point Charlie; crushes on Mick Jagger. We learn a lot; we laugh a lot.

We meet on **Zoom every Friday morning at 10.30am** to share thoughts on a given topic ... loosely interpreted and with plenty of chat off-topic. Examples of topics include: A book I have just read, Flowers, Smell, My Favourite Singer etc etc!

If you would like to join us, speak to Stephen.

## Why I participate in Morning Prayer

Five of us meet **every weekday morning at 8am on Zoom**. Sometimes Catherine is able to join us. We use the **Church of England liturgy for Morning Prayer**, sharing out the reading of the different parts of the service.

Why not make it a New Year's resolution to start your day with MP? New participants welcome to join in or simply listen.



Stephen:

It's a great way to start the day with God and Christian friends. Sometimes I feel grumpy when we begin; after our time together, my heart is lifted and frustrations I might have harboured have melted away. ... And if I didn't have to get up for 8am, I might well lie in bed much longer, frittering away the morning!

Hazel:

It is a good way to start the day and I appreciate the support when I'm not looking forward to the things happening that day or what I've got to do.

I like to say "Good morning, Lord " rather than "Good Lord, it's morning."

Susan:

I love to start the day with God and my friends. It reminds me that I am part of God's family even though I live alone. As well as enjoying the liturgy, I am happy that we pray for all the church members and for the whole village every week.

Corrinna:

I like having this in my morning routine. Gets me up for the day. Great to see Christian friends and thank God for his blessings. Good to pray for others and the world.

Sue:

I often feel quite low in the morning, and it reorientates me to look in the right direction. It also reminds me that I'm not alone, but one of God's family.

## What Church is about for me

*Mel writes:*

I had an amazing experience in Sorrento back in October. There are lots of churches in Sorrento, but the particular church that had caught my eye was right in the centre of town. On the last Sunday of our holiday, I noticed lots of people gathering around the church, so I enquired as to what was happening. Someone said it was the Sunday Mass but that I could go in and sit at the back and listen to the service. It was all in Italian, but as I listened, I could pick out the odd word here and there, so I was sort of able to follow what was going on. What struck me (apart from the sheer size and beauty of the church) was that nobody minded about the fact that people were wandering in and out or that a total stranger was sitting at the back listening to the service. Surely this is what church is all about, no matter where you come from. I was very moved by the music and the fact that everyone joined in, young and old, and I felt my soul and spirit lighten as I left the church.



*Statue of St Francis of Assisi, outside the church named after him in Sorrento*

# Flower Power

*Hazel writes:*

We need more **flower arrangers** for church.

Volunteers will be on a rota to do two vases of flowers for two weeks running. This will probably be 3 or 4 times a year.

In addition, the whole team comes together to decorate the church for festivals, such as Easter and Christmas. Expenses can be claimed for the flowers. Vases are available.

Please contact me if you would be willing to help.

# Churchyard Lights

You may have noticed, on these dark afternoons & evenings, that the lights on the pathway through the churchyard are not working. We are doing everything we can to chase up the electricians who are having difficulty sourcing a key component. In the meantime, can we please ask everyone to take special care and bring a torch with them when coming to the church late in the day. Our apologies for this inconvenience.

*The Churchwardens*

# PCC Secretary

Your church is lacking a PCC Secretary! If you think you could help, please talk to the Vicar or the Wardens

Role of a PCC Secretary:

The primary responsibilities of a PCC Secretary are to support the PCC Chair in the preparation and organisation of meetings and to handle all correspondence on behalf of the PCC. They are appointed by the PCC.

Duties of a PCC secretary:

1. Keeping record for the PCC.
2. Organising PCC meetings.
3. Preparing the agenda for PCC meetings.
4. Keeping the minutes.
5. Organising and minuting the APCM.
6. Acting as the communication hub for the PCC.
7. Acting as the compliance officer for the PCC.
8. Handling correspondence.
9. Supporting the Incumbent.

# Our Website

Do you look at our website <https://stjb.hubb.church/>?

On the Home page, you will find

- News in the red top banner
- Upcoming Events at the bottom
- Photos of recent events under the *Activities* tab

If you find information which is wrong or out of date, let Stephen know.

# Write an Article for Pews News

The Editor (Stephen) would welcome articles from the congregation which relate to our Church Family or our Christian Faith. If you have something which you think would be suitable, please speak to me ([StephenJHaywood@outlook.com](mailto:StephenJHaywood@outlook.com)).

Copy date for February edition is **Saturday 18 January** (Editor is away in last week of January).