



Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor

Pews News

March 2026

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

From Catherine, our Vicar

At our reflective Ash Wednesday service, I talked about some Lenten disciplines we could pursue, like giving things up (eg donating money to those in greater need than us, or abstaining from a favourite food or drink) or taking things up, like praying the Lord's Prayer daily with our hearts as well as our heads, or spending time reading the Bible. Giving things up reminds us that we don't need these things to be God's loved Creation, and when we struggle to give them up, it also reminds us of our fragility and humanity and how much we need God. These experiences turn us afresh towards God and make us more open to his love, which is really what the season of Lent is for, in preparation for the glory and wonder of Easter.

This poem suggests something else we could also take up:

Wild Geese by Mary Oliver

You do not have to be good.
You do not have to walk on your knees
for a hundred miles through the desert, repenting.
You only have to let the soft animal of your body
love what it loves.
Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.
Meanwhile the world goes on.
Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain
are moving across the landscapes,
over the prairies and the deep trees,
the mountains and the rivers.
Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,
are heading home again.
Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,
the world offers itself to your imagination,
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting—
over and over announcing your place
in the family of things.



This is a different kind of discipline – of seeking God in the beauty of Creation and gaining fresh perspective through seeing ourselves as part of his precious Creation within the transience of life, with celebration and thanksgiving. That too can be quite a challenge at times.

However we choose to mark this Lent let's commit ourselves to pray:

Lord God, you have created us for yourself. You have called us into being and offered us your love. We give ourselves, our souls and bodies, and all that we do, to you in love, through our Saviour Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

St John the Baptist Church – March 2026

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		10.30	Morning Worship	Speaker – Catherine
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[1] **Messy Church** – in the Village Hall. Activities for young & old. Palm Crosses. Coffee, biscuits & Hot Cross buns.

For your Diaries

Sat 27 Jun **Village Fete**



Snowdrops in the Churchyard

Photos from Maria:



Thanks

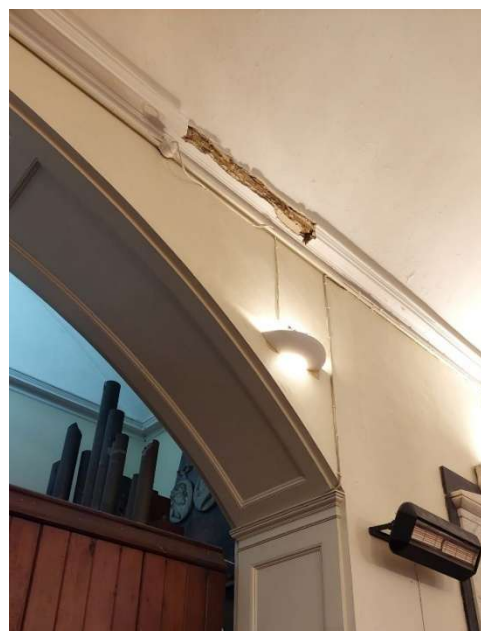
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to **Susan Green** who, amongst lots of other jobs, has acted as the **PCC Secretary** for the last year. We desperately need someone to step up and help in this critical role ... see below.



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Stephen Haywood writes:

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There will be a table with some crafts for sale ... if you would like to contribute articles for this, please let me know.



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Refreshments provided. Free Event. Retiring Collection.

For Catering, please let us know if you plan to come:

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Amid great festivity, the pearl fishers of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) prepare to choose a chief. Just as Zurga is chosen to lead them, his old friend, Nadir arrives after a long absence. Together, the two reminisce about the night they encountered a mysterious woman of extraordinary beauty at the gates of Kandy. Both immediately fell in love with her, but renounced their intense rivalry for her in order to save their friendship. Join us to see if all goes to plan!



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

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Catherine writes:

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The other 5th Sunday, 30th August, will remain as a **Cafe Church**, probably with a guest speaker – suggestions welcome. Please let us know your thoughts on this change for 2026, by contacting me or a member of the PCC.

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What I am Reading

Stephen Haywood writes:

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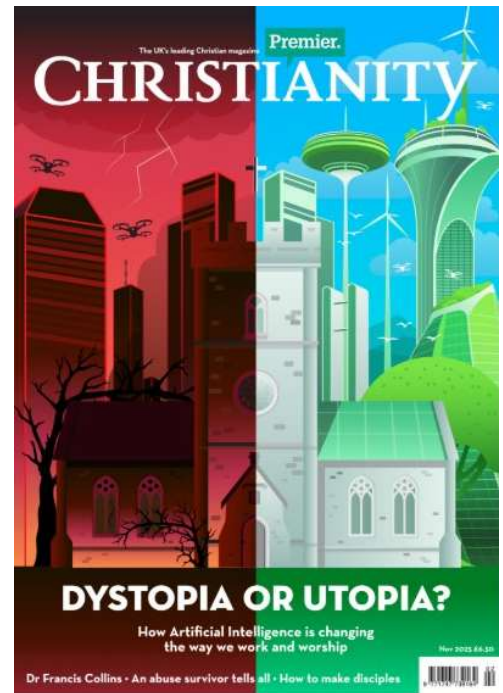
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The magazine is published monthly (£6.50) and it usually takes a couple of weeks for me to get through, reading one or two articles first thing in the morning. If you would like to see whether you might enjoy reading *Christianity Magazine*, I can lend you some old copies.

I am currently a couple of months behind in my reading. As an illustration, here are some of the articles from the November edition:

- News:
 - What can we expect from the new Archbishop of Canterbury?
 - Claims of genocide in Nigeria.
 - A Christian MP defects to Reform.
- Conversation: A Finnish MP facing jail for standing up for her faith.
- Women: How young women are also part of the "Quiet Revival" in the UK.
- Culture: Are Podcasts squeezing out God?
- Thank God it's Monday: Interview with a Christian in the secular workplace.
- Real Life: The struggles faced by a disabled man.
- Interview: Dr Francis Collins, the scientist who sequenced the human genome.
- Discussion: The role of Artificial Intelligence in the Church.
- Personal Story:
 - A woman shares how she was abused in the church.
 - Another woman discusses how she moved from drug addiction to faith.
- Encouragement: Building disciples.
- Theology: Waiting on God.

What Christian books, magazine, websites are you reading? If you would be willing to write about this for Pews News, please contact the Editor.



KBS Café

Caroline Ashby writes:

Several people have had to stop making cakes for the Cafe due to health problems etc. We desperately need more people to **help bake cakes**.
If you would be willing to help out, please contact me on 01865 820936.



Key Audit

Many people have keys to the Church buildings (Church, Church Room, Shed etc). For good housekeeping and insurance reasons, our Churchwarden, Maria, would like to do an audit of all the church keys that everyone has. If you do have keys, please can you catch Maria sometime and show them to her so that she can mark them up on the audit. And if you would like to return any, please do so. You can contact Maria at cw4.sjbchurch@gmail.com.



Children's Work

Catherine writes:

Children's Church is going really well, and much appreciated by children and parents, and we would love to welcome one or two more volunteers to help out on an occasional basis.

If you enjoy spending time with children and families, as well as adults, **Messy Church** (which happens around 4 times a year) is a wonderful event to be involved in.

Detailed descriptions of these roles can be found at the end of this newsletter. Please speak to Catherine for more details about either of these roles.

PCC Secretary

We had no response to this appeal, so we will keep asking until someone volunteers! Don't hold back 😊

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.

School Governors

It is great for members of the church to be involved in the local community, helping to bring Christian values into situations which involve all of us. Pews News has been contacted by the local schools trust asking people to consider being School Governors, in particular at **John Blandy School**. If you would be interested, please the **Cambrian Learning Trust** (see below).



Become a school Governor Make a difference to a local school!



We currently have a number of vacancies for governors in our schools.

Volunteering as a school governor has so many benefits. In volunteering your time, you are making a positive contribution to the success of the school you serve, creating real impact on the lives of its pupils, staff and the local community.

If you are interested in becoming a Governor in one of the Cambrian schools, please scan the QR code that takes you to all the information on the next steps.



**If you are interested, please contact:
queries@cambrianlt.org**

Ho Ho

With a high-quality production like the StJtB Pews News, the Editorial Team works very hard to avoid typos and errors. Alas an American parish magazine was less successful:

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.

The rosebud on the altar this morning is to announce the birth of David Allen Belzer, the son of Reverend and Mrs. Julius Belzer.

From "The Ultimate Christmas Cracker" by John Julius Norwich.

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).

Copy date for April edition is **Sunday 22 March**.

Sunday School – Children’s Church

Leaders and helpers

At St John the Baptist, KBS, everyone is welcome - including children and young people of all ages. We are further developing (and hoping to increase) activities for children which will make them feel safe and loved and will complement and enhance the faith development which takes place at home. We are a church seeking to know Jesus more and more and to become more Christlike, sharing our faith through fun and friendship, and that is also our aim for Children's church.

We are committed to protecting children, young people and vulnerable adults and follow the Church of England Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance.

Responsibility

Reverend Catherine Schneider has responsibility for appointing the leaders and helpers.

Role Description

The Children’s Church Leader will organise and oversee the session. It will be held three times a month at present, though it may run more often depending on volunteers. It is held during the Sunday Service in the Church Room. Leaders are encouraged to use online resources, for example those from Diddy Disciples which is very helpful in providing ideas and a good time saver. [Diddy Disciples | Sharon Moughtin-Mumby](#) Traditionally the group has been for primary school aged children, but younger children can come with a parent. This has been a popular addition.

The Sunday School Helper will assist the leader which could include bringing a craft or game to the session.

Volunteers may also help with other events such as Messy Church or Christmas events if they are willing.

Leaders and helpers will be aware of and follow the Parish Safeguarding Policy. They will complete the required safeguarding training and hold the appropriate level of DBS. They will follow the code for safer working practice which can be found in the volunteers’ pack.

Once a volunteer has been appointed to a role, training will be provided and there will be a preliminary review after 3-6 months (depending on the role) and then annual reviews. Volunteers are invited to share ideas about how we might develop areas of ministry.

Person Specifications

The volunteer will have good interpersonal skills, be friendly and approachable and be able to safely manage the children’s activities. They will have completed Basic and Foundation Safeguarding training and be available Sunday mornings at least alternate months (helpers). They will have some previous experience with children and if possible, experience of children’s work. They will have a Christian faith.

Leaders will be available monthly or more often if possible.

Parish Role: Messy Church Helper

The Church takes the safety of everyone within the church very seriously and expects that everyone will work within the Church safeguarding policy. In particular, the Church expects anyone who becomes aware of a safeguarding risk or of actual abuse, to immediately raise this with your Parish Safeguarding Officer or the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) or Assistant DSA.

Those who work with children, young people and/or adults who are vulnerable should have a commitment to:

- Treat individuals with respect
- Recognise and respect their abilities and potential for development
- Working in ways that meet and develop the personal, spiritual, social and pastoral needs
- Promote their rights to make their own decisions and choices, unless it is unsafe
- Ensure their welfare and safety
- The promotion of social justice, social responsibility and respect for others
- Confidentiality, never passing on personal information, except to the person you are responsible to, unless there are safeguarding issues of concern which **must always** be reported to the person named above or to the Police or Social Services in an emergency.

Role	Messy Church Helper
Responsible to	Rev Catherine Schneider
Key Responsibilities of the Role (tasks to be undertaken)	
As a volunteer: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be timely• Set up craft materials• Set up food and drink• Create space for children and adults to talk, both formally and informally• Be aware of any health and safety matters that may affect the group and take appropriate action• Be responsible for one activity/group• Help clear away at the end of the session• Attend quarterly team planning meetings• Work under the leadership and supervision of the activity co-ordinator• Read the parish's safeguarding policy and know how to respond to, report and record any concerns you may have about a child• Read and implement any other PCC policies or guidelines relevant to your work with children• Undertake diocesan safeguarding training every three years	
Any arrangements for induction, training & support	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safeguarding training every three years• Attend a session of training with Messy Church Leader• Meet with other Messy Church helpers to plan sessions together• Attend one-to-one meeting with Messy Church Leader for review	

Any practical arrangements relevant to the role (e.g. process for paying expenses, times role should be carried out, provision of equipment)

- Receipts for resources to be submitted to Treasurer via Messy Church Leader for reimbursement
- Messy Church may be in the Village Hall at 10.30am (on 5th Sundays) or on the Millennium Green in the summer.

Role to be reviewed

Initially after 3-6 months and then annually

The role is eligible for a criminal record (DBS) check which is renewable every three years

Yes

Safeguarding Training Level

Basic and Foundation

Level of criminal record (DBS) check which is required for this role

Enhanced – child workforce



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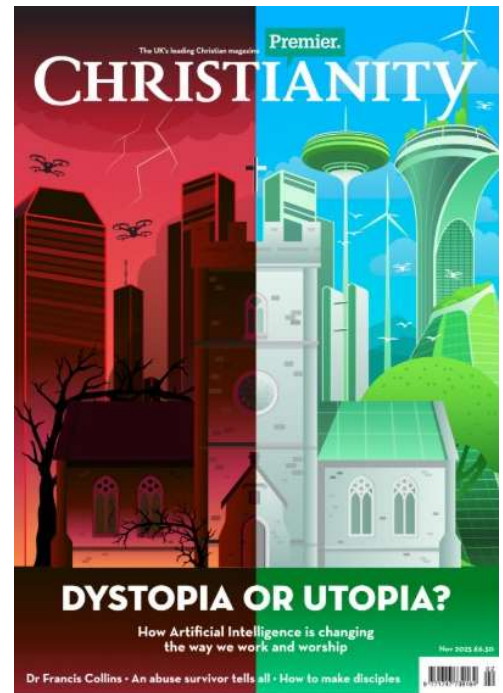
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- Encouragement: Building disciples.
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Caroline Ashby writes:

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Become a school Governor Make a difference to a local school!



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Volunteering as a school governor has so many benefits. In volunteering your time, you are making a positive contribution to the success of the school you serve, creating real impact on the lives of its pupils, staff and the local community.

If you are interested in becoming a Governor in one of the Cambrian schools, please scan the QR code that takes you to all the information on the next steps.



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Copy date for April edition is **Sunday 22 March**.

Sunday School – Children’s Church

Leaders and helpers

At St John the Baptist, KBS, everyone is welcome - including children and young people of all ages. We are further developing (and hoping to increase) activities for children which will make them feel safe and loved and will complement and enhance the faith development which takes place at home. We are a church seeking to know Jesus more and more and to become more Christlike, sharing our faith through fun and friendship, and that is also our aim for Children's church.

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The Sunday School Helper will assist the leader which could include bringing a craft or game to the session.

Volunteers may also help with other events such as Messy Church or Christmas events if they are willing.

Leaders and helpers will be aware of and follow the Parish Safeguarding Policy. They will complete the required safeguarding training and hold the appropriate level of DBS. They will follow the code for safer working practice which can be found in the volunteers’ pack.

Once a volunteer has been appointed to a role, training will be provided and there will be a preliminary review after 3-6 months (depending on the role) and then annual reviews. Volunteers are invited to share ideas about how we might develop areas of ministry.

Person Specifications

The volunteer will have good interpersonal skills, be friendly and approachable and be able to safely manage the children’s activities. They will have completed Basic and Foundation Safeguarding training and be available Sunday mornings at least alternate months (helpers). They will have some previous experience with children and if possible, experience of children’s work. They will have a Christian faith.

Leaders will be available monthly or more often if possible.

Parish Role: Messy Church Helper

The Church takes the safety of everyone within the church very seriously and expects that everyone will work within the Church safeguarding policy. In particular, the Church expects anyone who becomes aware of a safeguarding risk or of actual abuse, to immediately raise this with your Parish Safeguarding Officer or the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) or Assistant DSA.

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- Treat individuals with respect
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- Ensure their welfare and safety
- The promotion of social justice, social responsibility and respect for others
- Confidentiality, never passing on personal information, except to the person you are responsible to, unless there are safeguarding issues of concern which **must always** be reported to the person named above or to the Police or Social Services in an emergency.

Role	Messy Church Helper
Responsible to	Rev Catherine Schneider
Key Responsibilities of the Role (tasks to be undertaken)	
<p>As a volunteer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be timely • Set up craft materials • Set up food and drink • Create space for children and adults to talk, both formally and informally • Be aware of any health and safety matters that may affect the group and take appropriate action • Be responsible for one activity/group • Help clear away at the end of the session • Attend quarterly team planning meetings • Work under the leadership and supervision of the activity co-ordinator • Read the parish's safeguarding policy and know how to respond to, report and record any concerns you may have about a child • Read and implement any other PCC policies or guidelines relevant to your work with children • Undertake diocesan safeguarding training every three years 	
Any arrangements for induction, training & support	
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Any practical arrangements relevant to the role (e.g. process for paying expenses, times role should be carried out, provision of equipment)

- Receipts for resources to be submitted to Treasurer via Messy Church Leader for reimbursement
- Messy Church may be in the Village Hall at 10.30am (on 5th Sundays) or on the Millennium Green in the summer.

Role to be reviewed

Initially after 3-6 months and then annually

The role is eligible for a criminal record (DBS) check which is renewable every three years

Yes

Safeguarding Training Level

Basic and Foundation

Level of criminal record (DBS) check which is required for this role

Enhanced – child workforce



Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor

Pews News

March 2026

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

From Catherine, our Vicar

At our reflective Ash Wednesday service, I talked about some Lenten disciplines we could pursue, like giving things up (eg donating money to those in greater need than us, or abstaining from a favourite food or drink) or taking things up, like praying the Lord's Prayer daily with our hearts as well as our heads, or spending time reading the Bible. Giving things up reminds us that we don't need these things to be God's loved Creation, and when we struggle to give them up, it also reminds us of our fragility and humanity and how much we need God. These experiences turn us afresh towards God and make us more open to his love, which is really what the season of Lent is for, in preparation for the glory and wonder of Easter.

This poem suggests something else we could also take up:

Wild Geese by Mary Oliver

You do not have to be good.
You do not have to walk on your knees
for a hundred miles through the desert, repenting.
You only have to let the soft animal of your body
love what it loves.
Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.
Meanwhile the world goes on.
Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain
are moving across the landscapes,
over the prairies and the deep trees,
the mountains and the rivers.
Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,
are heading home again.
Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,
the world offers itself to your imagination,
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting—
over and over announcing your place
in the family of things.



This is a different kind of discipline – of seeking God in the beauty of Creation and gaining fresh perspective through seeing ourselves as part of his precious Creation within the transience of life, with celebration and thanksgiving. That too can be quite a challenge at times.

However we choose to mark this Lent let's commit ourselves to pray:

Lord God, you have created us for yourself. You have called us into being and offered us your love. We give ourselves, our souls and bodies, and all that we do, to you in love, though our Saviour Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

St John the Baptist Church – March 2026

Sun	1 Mar	9.00	Holy Communion	Speaker – Catherine
		10.30	Morning Worship	Speaker – Catherine
		10.30	Children’s Church	
Sun	8 Mar	9.00	Holy Communion	Speaker – Stephen Coe
		10.30	All Age Service	Speaker – Phil Sutton
Sun	15 Mar	9.00	Holy Communion	Speaker – Catherine
		10.30	Morning Worship	Speaker – Catherine
		10.30	Children’s Church	
Sun	22 Mar	9.00	Holy Communion	Speaker – Geoff Maughan
		10.30	Family Communion	Speaker – Geoff Maughan
		10.30	Children’s Church	
Sun	29 Mar	9.00	Holy Communion	Speaker – Phil Sutton
		10.30	Messy Church [1]	Speaker – Catherine

Regular Events

Wednesdays	20.00	Wednesday Fellowship Group
Thursdays	9.00	KBS Café at the Village Hall
Fridays	10.30	Fizzy Coffee

Special Events

Mon	2 Mar	12.30	Village Lunch – you need to have booked beforehand
Wed	4 Mar	14.30	Hymns We Love
Fri	13 Mar	19.00	Film Club – see below
Wed	18 Mar	14.30	Hymns We Love
Sat	21 Mar	19.30	Music for Malawi – see below

[1] **Messy Church** – in the Village Hall. Activities for young & old. Palm Crosses. Coffee, biscuits & Hot Cross buns.

For your Diaries

Sat 27 Jun **Village Fete**



Snowdrops in the Churchyard

Photos from Maria:



Thanks

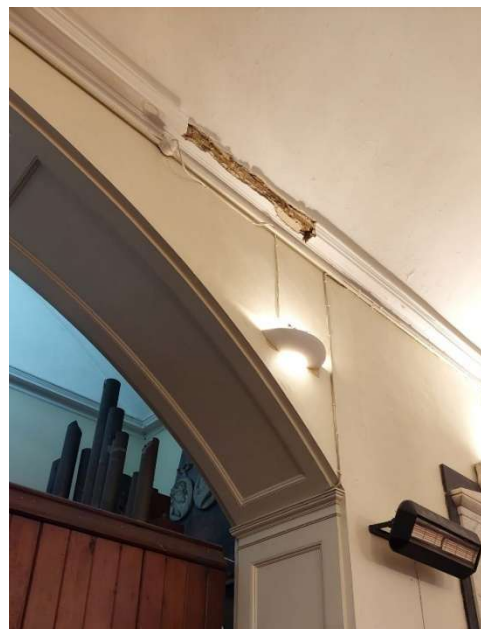
Thanks to **Maria Haywood and Simon Dando** for overseeing the installation of the new **Heaters** in Church.



Their next task is to understand what is going on with the **plaster coving in the ceiling**. As you are probably aware, at the start of February some of the coving near the Vestry fell. An inspection of the roof has taken place and there is no sign of water ingress. An assessment will be made of all of the plasterwork in the Church and then repairs will be carried out.

THANK YOU

to **Susan Green** who, amongst lots of other jobs, has acted as the **PCC Secretary** for the last year. We desperately need someone to step up and help in this critical role ... see below.



Music for Malawi

Stephen Haywood writes:

Historically we have raised a great deal of money for the work of MACS (Malawian Association for Christian Support) in Malawi. Our next fundraiser will be a concert given by our dear friends from the JAM band. Do come and support this and bring along neighbours, friends ... in fact, anyone you meet on the streets. The band will be playing favourite songs from the 1960s to the present day. Having attended their concerts in the past, I know it will be a super evening. Please let me know if you hope to join us for a fab event.

There will be a table with some crafts for sale ... if you would like to contribute articles for this, please let me know.



Music for Malawi

Songs from

the 60's to
the Present Day

Supporting Hospitals in Malawi

7.30pm on Saturday 21st March

St John the Baptist Church
Kingston Baguize

Music from the JAM Band & Dave Burfitt on the Euphonium

Refreshments provided. Free Event. Retiring Collection.

For Catering, please let us know if you plan to come:

StephenJHaywood@outlook.com 01865 821132

Film and Music Night

Our next Film Night will be on **Friday 13th March** in the Church Room when we will be showing, Georges Bizet's, **Les Pecheurs De Perles** with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and Chorus.

Amid great festivity, the pearl fishers of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) prepare to choose a chief. Just as Zurga is chosen to lead them, his old friend, Nadir arrives after a long absence. Together, the two reminisce about the night they encountered a mysterious woman of extraordinary beauty at the gates of Kandy. Both immediately fell in love with her, but renounced their intense rivalry for her in order to save their friendship. Join us to see if all goes to plan!



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

Children's Ministry

Catherine writes:

As you know, one of our priorities for the church is to attract more families to worship with us. We now have a successful Children's Church programme at the 10.30am service and more volunteers (though a few more would be even better – please see the advert and consider whether God might be calling you to serve in this way). Regular **Children's Church** and our **All-age services** means that there are opportunities for families with children to worship every week. However, we would like to welcome more families.

The PCC has discussed what we do on 5th Sundays and we would like, over the course of this year, to use 3 of our 5th Sundays (29th March, 31st May and 29th November) as seasonal **Messy Church** services, exploring Holy Week and Easter, Pentecost and Advent and Christmas, with craft activities, teaching, worship and snacks. These will continue to be held in the Village Hall and will be suitable for all ages – both children and adults. These services are valuable events, and judging by the numbers at our Messy Christingle, appreciated by the village. They also give us the chance to share what we do on other Sundays and to encourage interested families to join us more regularly.



The other 5th Sunday, 30th August, will remain as a **Cafe Church**, probably with a guest speaker – suggestions welcome. Please let us know your thoughts on this change for 2026, by contacting me or a member of the PCC.

Good Neighbour

Lovely to hear **Margo Evans** on the radio talking about her **Radio Oxford Make a Difference Award** which she received last year. Margo was encouraging people to help their neighbours, as well as nominating people for the 2026 award ceremony. Well done Margo.



Grow your Faith

Would you like to have the opportunity to grow in your faith by following some **online courses** provided by the Diocese? If so, visit <https://learn.oxford.anglican.org/>

 Understanding Baptism	 Called to Wonder	 Discovering the Beatitudes	 The Creed
Earth, Water, Fire: Understanding Baptism	Called to Wonder	Come and See: The Beatitudes	Come and See: The Creed
 The Way of Love	 Hope among the Rubble	 Funeral Ministry	 Five Marks of Mission
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 The Story of Scripture	 Everyday Discipleship	 Pastoral Care	 Jesus and Salvation
Story of Scripture	Everyday-Discipleship 24/25	Introduction to Pastoral Care 2024/25	Jesus and Salvation 2025/26
 Mission and Evangelism	 Opening up the Bible	 Planning and Leading Worship	 Preparing to Preach
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What I am Reading

Stephen Haywood writes:

I am not great at reading Christian books because my concentration span is short and as a Scientist, I like writing which is very concise, ideally with bullet points, diagrams and formulae. What I do enjoy reading is *Premier Christianity Magazine*. I would characterize the magazine as broadly evangelical, ecumenical and contemporary. It's primary focus is what is happening in the church in the UK. There are articles coming from and about all denominations in the UK, including comment on what is happening in the Church of England.

I find the articles insightful, informative and broadly in line with my own theology; there is something for everyone. The news items help me keep up with what is going on in Christian circles. The articles explaining aspects of theology are helpful for those of us who want to understand God's Word better, without having a degree in the subject. There are plenty of stories about exceptional Christians as well as ordinary believers like ourselves, and lots of encouragement on living Godly lives and sharing our faith.

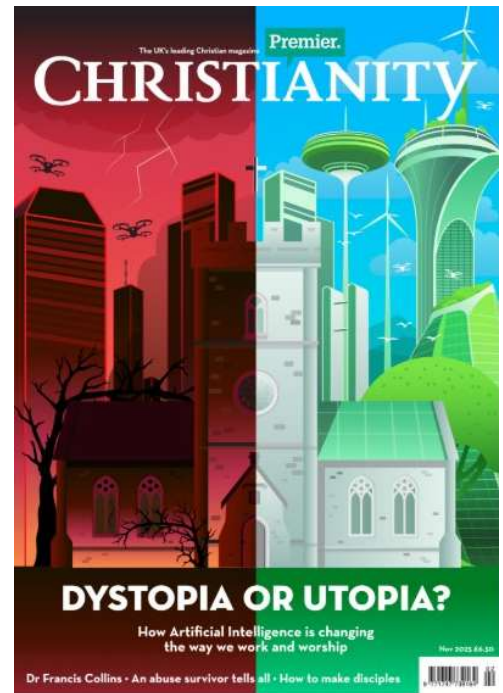
Christianity Magazine provides a thoughtful start to my day (in the Bathroom ... I'll leave it at that), before I hurtle downstairs to join Morning Prayer. With some magazines, one is quite selective only reading a few of the articles ... I read everything in *Christianity Magazine* – I find every page has something to encourage, inspire or strengthen me for the days ahead.

The magazine is published monthly (£6.50) and it usually takes a couple of weeks for me to get through, reading one or two articles first thing in the morning. If you would like to see whether you might enjoy reading *Christianity Magazine*, I can lend you some old copies.

I am currently a couple of months behind in my reading. As an illustration, here are some of the articles from the November edition:

- News:
 - What can we expect from the new Archbishop of Canterbury?
 - Claims of genocide in Nigeria.
 - A Christian MP defects to Reform.
- Conversation: A Finnish MP facing jail for standing up for her faith.
- Women: How young women are also part of the "Quiet Revival" in the UK.
- Culture: Are Podcasts squeezing out God?
- Thank God it's Monday: Interview with a Christian in the secular workplace.
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Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,
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Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,
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However we choose to mark this Lent let's commit ourselves to pray:

Lord God, you have created us for yourself. You have called us into being and offered us your love. We give ourselves, our souls and bodies, and all that we do, to you in love, though our Saviour Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

St John the Baptist Church – March 2026

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		10.30	Morning Worship	Speaker – Catherine
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For your Diaries

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Snowdrops in the Churchyard

Photos from Maria:



Thanks

Thanks to **Maria Haywood** and **Simon Dando** for overseeing the installation of the new **Heaters** in Church.



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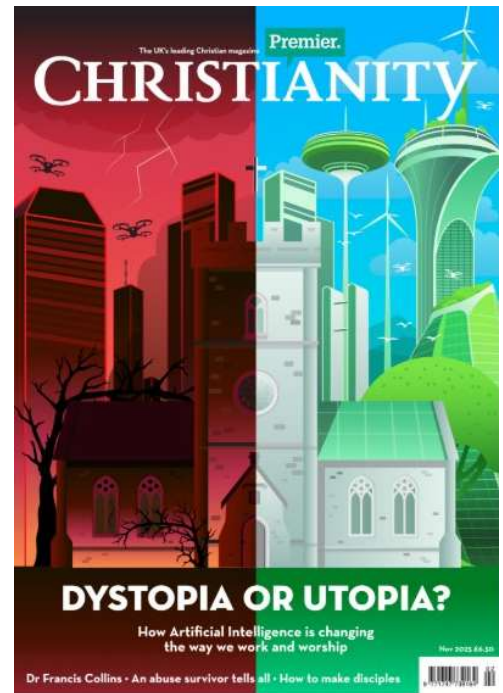
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KBS Café

Caroline Ashby writes:

Several people have had to stop making cakes for the Cafe due to health problems etc. We desperately need more people to **help bake cakes**.
If you would be willing to help out, please contact me on 01865 820936.



Key Audit

Many people have keys to the Church buildings (Church, Church Room, Shed etc). For good housekeeping and insurance reasons, our Churchwarden, Maria, would like to do an audit of all the church keys that everyone has. If you do have keys, please can you catch Maria sometime and show them to her so that she can mark them up on the audit. And if you would like to return any, please do so. You can contact Maria at cw4.sjbchurch@gmail.com.



Children's Work

Catherine writes:

Children's Church is going really well, and much appreciated by children and parents, and we would love to welcome one or two more volunteers to help out on an occasional basis.

If you enjoy spending time with children and families, as well as adults, **Messy Church** (which happens around 4 times a year) is a wonderful event to be involved in.

Detailed descriptions of these roles can be found at the end of this newsletter. Please speak to Catherine for more details about either of these roles.

PCC Secretary

We had no response to this appeal, so we will keep asking until someone volunteers! Don't hold back 😊

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.

School Governors

It is great for members of the church to be involved in the local community, helping to bring Christian values into situations which involve all of us. Pews News has been contacted by the local schools trust asking people to consider being School Governors, in particular at **John Blandy School**. If you would be interested, please the **Cambrian Learning Trust** (see below).



Become a school Governor Make a difference to a local school!



We currently have a number of vacancies for governors in our schools.

Volunteering as a school governor has so many benefits. In volunteering your time, you are making a positive contribution to the success of the school you serve, creating real impact on the lives of its pupils, staff and the local community.

If you are interested in becoming a Governor in one of the Cambrian schools, please scan the QR code that takes you to all the information on the next steps.



**If you are interested, please contact:
queries@cambrianlt.org**

Ho Ho

With a high-quality production like the StJtB Pews News, the Editorial Team works very hard to avoid typos and errors. Alas an American parish magazine was less successful:

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.

The rosebud on the altar this morning is to announce the birth of David Allen Belzer, the son of Reverend and Mrs. Julius Belzer.

From "The Ultimate Christmas Cracker" by John Julius Norwich.

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).

Copy date for April edition is **Sunday 22 March**.

Sunday School – Children’s Church

Leaders and helpers

At St John the Baptist, KBS, everyone is welcome - including children and young people of all ages. We are further developing (and hoping to increase) activities for children which will make them feel safe and loved and will complement and enhance the faith development which takes place at home. We are a church seeking to know Jesus more and more and to become more Christlike, sharing our faith through fun and friendship, and that is also our aim for Children's church.

We are committed to protecting children, young people and vulnerable adults and follow the Church of England Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance.

Responsibility

Reverend Catherine Schneider has responsibility for appointing the leaders and helpers.

Role Description

The Children’s Church Leader will organise and oversee the session. It will be held three times a month at present, though it may run more often depending on volunteers. It is held during the Sunday Service in the Church Room. Leaders are encouraged to use online resources, for example those from Diddy Disciples which is very helpful in providing ideas and a good time saver. [Diddy Disciples | Sharon Moughtin-Mumby](#) Traditionally the group has been for primary school aged children, but younger children can come with a parent. This has been a popular addition.

The Sunday School Helper will assist the leader which could include bringing a craft or game to the session.

Volunteers may also help with other events such as Messy Church or Christmas events if they are willing.

Leaders and helpers will be aware of and follow the Parish Safeguarding Policy. They will complete the required safeguarding training and hold the appropriate level of DBS. They will follow the code for safer working practice which can be found in the volunteers’ pack.

Once a volunteer has been appointed to a role, training will be provided and there will be a preliminary review after 3-6 months (depending on the role) and then annual reviews. Volunteers are invited to share ideas about how we might develop areas of ministry.

Person Specifications

The volunteer will have good interpersonal skills, be friendly and approachable and be able to safely manage the children’s activities. They will have completed Basic and Foundation Safeguarding training and be available Sunday mornings at least alternate months (helpers). They will have some previous experience with children and if possible, experience of children’s work. They will have a Christian faith.

Leaders will be available monthly or more often if possible.

Parish Role: Messy Church Helper

The Church takes the safety of everyone within the church very seriously and expects that everyone will work within the Church safeguarding policy. In particular, the Church expects anyone who becomes aware of a safeguarding risk or of actual abuse, to immediately raise this with your Parish Safeguarding Officer or the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) or Assistant DSA.

Those who work with children, young people and/or adults who are vulnerable should have a commitment to:

- Treat individuals with respect
- Recognise and respect their abilities and potential for development
- Working in ways that meet and develop the personal, spiritual, social and pastoral needs
- Promote their rights to make their own decisions and choices, unless it is unsafe
- Ensure their welfare and safety
- The promotion of social justice, social responsibility and respect for others
- Confidentiality, never passing on personal information, except to the person you are responsible to, unless there are safeguarding issues of concern which **must always** be reported to the person named above or to the Police or Social Services in an emergency.

Role	Messy Church Helper
Responsible to	Rev Catherine Schneider
Key Responsibilities of the Role (tasks to be undertaken)	
<p>As a volunteer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be timely • Set up craft materials • Set up food and drink • Create space for children and adults to talk, both formally and informally • Be aware of any health and safety matters that may affect the group and take appropriate action • Be responsible for one activity/group • Help clear away at the end of the session • Attend quarterly team planning meetings • Work under the leadership and supervision of the activity co-ordinator • Read the parish's safeguarding policy and know how to respond to, report and record any concerns you may have about a child • Read and implement any other PCC policies or guidelines relevant to your work with children • Undertake diocesan safeguarding training every three years 	
Any arrangements for induction, training & support	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding training every three years • Attend a session of training with Messy Church Leader • Meet with other Messy Church helpers to plan sessions together • Attend one-to-one meeting with Messy Church Leader for review 	

Any practical arrangements relevant to the role (e.g. process for paying expenses, times role should be carried out, provision of equipment)

- Receipts for resources to be submitted to Treasurer via Messy Church Leader for reimbursement
- Messy Church may be in the Village Hall at 10.30am (on 5th Sundays) or on the Millennium Green in the summer.

Role to be reviewed

Initially after 3-6 months and then annually

The role is eligible for a criminal record (DBS) check which is renewable every three years

Yes

Safeguarding Training Level

Basic and Foundation

Level of criminal record (DBS) check which is required for this role

Enhanced – child workforce



Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor

Pews News

March 2026

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

From Catherine, our Vicar

At our reflective Ash Wednesday service, I talked about some Lenten disciplines we could pursue, like giving things up (eg donating money to those in greater need than us, or abstaining from a favourite food or drink) or taking things up, like praying the Lord's Prayer daily with our hearts as well as our heads, or spending time reading the Bible. Giving things up reminds us that we don't need these things to be God's loved Creation, and when we struggle to give them up, it also reminds us of our fragility and humanity and how much we need God. These experiences turn us afresh towards God and make us more open to his love, which is really what the season of Lent is for, in preparation for the glory and wonder of Easter.

This poem suggests something else we could also take up:

Wild Geese by Mary Oliver

You do not have to be good.
You do not have to walk on your knees
for a hundred miles through the desert, repenting.
You only have to let the soft animal of your body
love what it loves.
Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.
Meanwhile the world goes on.
Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain
are moving across the landscapes,
over the prairies and the deep trees,
the mountains and the rivers.
Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,
are heading home again.
Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,
the world offers itself to your imagination,
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting—
over and over announcing your place
in the family of things.



This is a different kind of discipline – of seeking God in the beauty of Creation and gaining fresh perspective through seeing ourselves as part of his precious Creation within the transience of life, with celebration and thanksgiving. That too can be quite a challenge at times.

However we choose to mark this Lent let's commit ourselves to pray:

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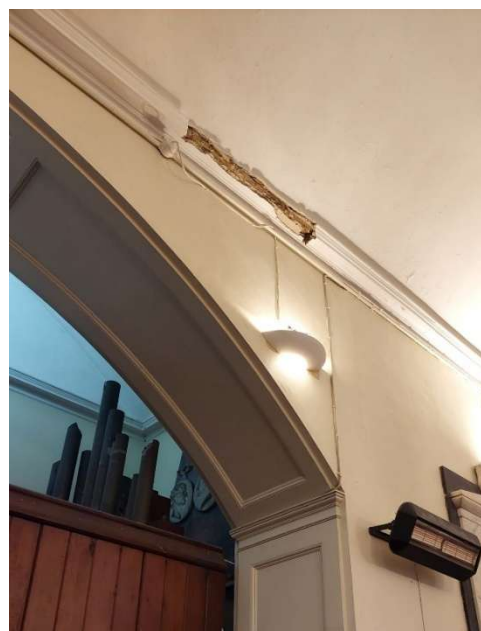
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Beetles

George Ezra

Monkees

Eagles

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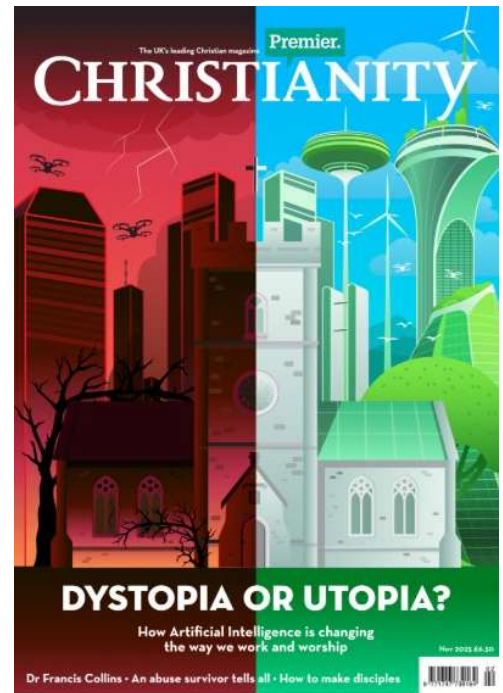
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Many people have keys to the Church buildings (Church, Church Room, Shed etc). For good housekeeping and insurance reasons, our Churchwarden, Maria, would like to do an audit of all the church keys that everyone has. If you do have keys, please can you catch Maria sometime and show them to her so that she can mark them up on the audit. And if you would like to return any, please do so. You can contact Maria at cw4.sjbchurch@gmail.com.



Children's Work

Catherine writes:

Children's Church is going really well, and much appreciated by children and parents, and we would love to welcome one or two more volunteers to help out on an occasional basis.

If you enjoy spending time with children and families, as well as adults, **Messy Church** (which happens around 4 times a year) is a wonderful event to be involved in.

Detailed descriptions of these roles can be found at the end of this newsletter. Please speak to Catherine for more details about either of these roles.

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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.

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Become a school Governor Make a difference to a local school!



We currently have a number of vacancies for governors in our schools.

Volunteering as a school governor has so many benefits. In volunteering your time, you are making a positive contribution to the success of the school you serve, creating real impact on the lives of its pupils, staff and the local community.

If you are interested in becoming a Governor in one of the Cambrian schools, please scan the QR code that takes you to all the information on the next steps.



**If you are interested, please contact:
queries@cambrianlt.org**

Ho Ho

With a high-quality production like the StJtB Pews News, the Editorial Team works very hard to avoid typos and errors. Alas an American parish magazine was less successful:

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.

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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).

Copy date for April edition is **Sunday 22 March**.

Sunday School – Children’s Church

Leaders and helpers

At St John the Baptist, KBS, everyone is welcome - including children and young people of all ages. We are further developing (and hoping to increase) activities for children which will make them feel safe and loved and will complement and enhance the faith development which takes place at home. We are a church seeking to know Jesus more and more and to become more Christlike, sharing our faith through fun and friendship, and that is also our aim for Children's church.

We are committed to protecting children, young people and vulnerable adults and follow the Church of England Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance.

Responsibility

Reverend Catherine Schneider has responsibility for appointing the leaders and helpers.

Role Description

The Children’s Church Leader will organise and oversee the session. It will be held three times a month at present, though it may run more often depending on volunteers. It is held during the Sunday Service in the Church Room. Leaders are encouraged to use online resources, for example those from Diddy Disciples which is very helpful in providing ideas and a good time saver. [Diddy Disciples | Sharon Moughtin-Mumby](#) Traditionally the group has been for primary school aged children, but younger children can come with a parent. This has been a popular addition.

The Sunday School Helper will assist the leader which could include bringing a craft or game to the session.

Volunteers may also help with other events such as Messy Church or Christmas events if they are willing.

Leaders and helpers will be aware of and follow the Parish Safeguarding Policy. They will complete the required safeguarding training and hold the appropriate level of DBS. They will follow the code for safer working practice which can be found in the volunteers’ pack.

Once a volunteer has been appointed to a role, training will be provided and there will be a preliminary review after 3-6 months (depending on the role) and then annual reviews. Volunteers are invited to share ideas about how we might develop areas of ministry.

Person Specifications

The volunteer will have good interpersonal skills, be friendly and approachable and be able to safely manage the children’s activities. They will have completed Basic and Foundation Safeguarding training and be available Sunday mornings at least alternate months (helpers). They will have some previous experience with children and if possible, experience of children’s work. They will have a Christian faith.

Leaders will be available monthly or more often if possible.

Parish Role: Messy Church Helper

The Church takes the safety of everyone within the church very seriously and expects that everyone will work within the Church safeguarding policy. In particular, the Church expects anyone who becomes aware of a safeguarding risk or of actual abuse, to immediately raise this with your Parish Safeguarding Officer or the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) or Assistant DSA.

Those who work with children, young people and/or adults who are vulnerable should have a commitment to:

- Treat individuals with respect
- Recognise and respect their abilities and potential for development
- Working in ways that meet and develop the personal, spiritual, social and pastoral needs
- Promote their rights to make their own decisions and choices, unless it is unsafe
- Ensure their welfare and safety
- The promotion of social justice, social responsibility and respect for others
- Confidentiality, never passing on personal information, except to the person you are responsible to, unless there are safeguarding issues of concern which **must always** be reported to the person named above or to the Police or Social Services in an emergency.

Role	Messy Church Helper
Responsible to	Rev Catherine Schneider
Key Responsibilities of the Role (tasks to be undertaken)	
<p>As a volunteer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be timely • Set up craft materials • Set up food and drink • Create space for children and adults to talk, both formally and informally • Be aware of any health and safety matters that may affect the group and take appropriate action • Be responsible for one activity/group • Help clear away at the end of the session • Attend quarterly team planning meetings • Work under the leadership and supervision of the activity co-ordinator • Read the parish's safeguarding policy and know how to respond to, report and record any concerns you may have about a child • Read and implement any other PCC policies or guidelines relevant to your work with children • Undertake diocesan safeguarding training every three years 	
Any arrangements for induction, training & support	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding training every three years • Attend a session of training with Messy Church Leader • Meet with other Messy Church helpers to plan sessions together • Attend one-to-one meeting with Messy Church Leader for review 	

Any practical arrangements relevant to the role (e.g. process for paying expenses, times role should be carried out, provision of equipment)

- Receipts for resources to be submitted to Treasurer via Messy Church Leader for reimbursement
- Messy Church may be in the Village Hall at 10.30am (on 5th Sundays) or on the Millennium Green in the summer.

Role to be reviewed

Initially after 3-6 months and then annually

The role is eligible for a criminal record (DBS) check which is renewable every three years

Yes

Safeguarding Training Level

Basic and Foundation

Level of criminal record (DBS) check which is required for this role

Enhanced – child workforce



Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor

Pews News

March 2026

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

From Catherine, our Vicar

At our reflective Ash Wednesday service, I talked about some Lenten disciplines we could pursue, like giving things up (eg donating money to those in greater need than us, or abstaining from a favourite food or drink) or taking things up, like praying the Lord's Prayer daily with our hearts as well as our heads, or spending time reading the Bible. Giving things up reminds us that we don't need these things to be God's loved Creation, and when we struggle to give them up, it also reminds us of our fragility and humanity and how much we need God. These experiences turn us afresh towards God and make us more open to his love, which is really what the season of Lent is for, in preparation for the glory and wonder of Easter.

This poem suggests something else we could also take up:

Wild Geese by Mary Oliver

You do not have to be good.
You do not have to walk on your knees
for a hundred miles through the desert, repenting.
You only have to let the soft animal of your body
love what it loves.
Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.
Meanwhile the world goes on.
Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain
are moving across the landscapes,
over the prairies and the deep trees,
the mountains and the rivers.
Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,
are heading home again.
Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,
the world offers itself to your imagination,
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting—
over and over announcing your place
in the family of things.



This is a different kind of discipline – of seeking God in the beauty of Creation and gaining fresh perspective through seeing ourselves as part of his precious Creation within the transience of life, with celebration and thanksgiving. That too can be quite a challenge at times.

However we choose to mark this Lent let's commit ourselves to pray:

Lord God, you have created us for yourself. You have called us into being and offered us your love. We give ourselves, our souls and bodies, and all that we do, to you in love, through our Saviour Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

St John the Baptist Church – March 2026

Sun	1 Mar	9.00	Holy Communion	Speaker – Catherine
		10.30	Morning Worship	Speaker – Catherine
		10.30	Children’s Church	
Sun	8 Mar	9.00	Holy Communion	Speaker – Stephen Coe
		10.30	All Age Service	Speaker – Phil Sutton
Sun	15 Mar	9.00	Holy Communion	Speaker – Catherine
		10.30	Morning Worship	Speaker – Catherine
		10.30	Children’s Church	
Sun	22 Mar	9.00	Holy Communion	Speaker – Geoff Maughan
		10.30	Family Communion	Speaker – Geoff Maughan
		10.30	Children’s Church	
Sun	29 Mar	9.00	Holy Communion	Speaker – Phil Sutton
		10.30	Messy Church [1]	Speaker – Catherine

Regular Events

Wednesdays	20.00	Wednesday Fellowship Group
Thursdays	9.00	KBS Café at the Village Hall
Fridays	10.30	Fizzy Coffee

Special Events

Mon	2 Mar	12.30	Village Lunch – you need to have booked beforehand
Wed	4 Mar	14.30	Hymns We Love
Fri	13 Mar	19.00	Film Club – see below
Wed	18 Mar	14.30	Hymns We Love
Sat	21 Mar	19.30	Music for Malawi – see below

[1] **Messy Church** – in the Village Hall. Activities for young & old. Palm Crosses. Coffee, biscuits & Hot Cross buns.

For your Diaries

Sat 27 Jun **Village Fete**



Snowdrops in the Churchyard

Photos from Maria:



Thanks

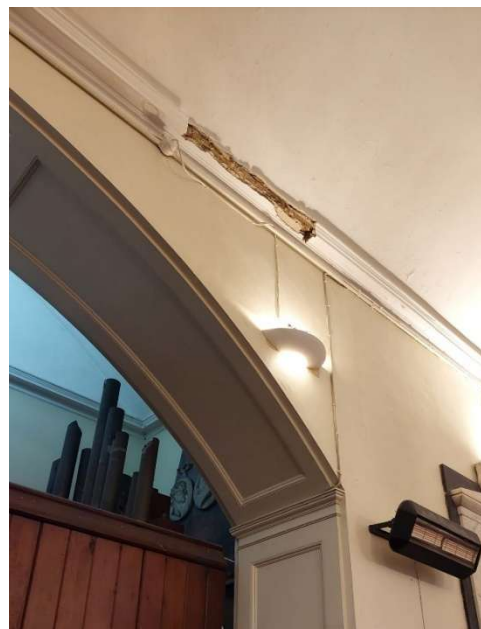
Thanks to **Maria Haywood and Simon Dando** for overseeing the installation of the new **Heaters** in Church.



Their next task is to understand what is going on with the **plaster coving in the ceiling**. As you are probably aware, at the start of February some of the coving near the Vestry fell. An inspection of the roof has taken place and there is no sign of water ingress. An assessment will be made of all of the plasterwork in the Church and then repairs will be carried out.

THANK YOU

to **Susan Green** who, amongst lots of other jobs, has acted as the **PCC Secretary** for the last year. We desperately need someone to step up and help in this critical role ... see below.



Music for Malawi

Stephen Haywood writes:

Historically we have raised a great deal of money for the work of MACS (Malawian Association for Christian Support) in Malawi. Our next fundraiser will be a concert given by our dear friends from the JAM band. Do come and support this and bring along neighbours, friends ... in fact, anyone you meet on the streets. The band will be playing favourite songs from the 1960s to the present day. Having attended their concerts in the past, I know it will be a super evening. Please let me know if you hope to join us for a fab event.

There will be a table with some crafts for sale ... if you would like to contribute articles for this, please let me know.



Music for Malawi

Songs from

the 60's to
the Present Day

Supporting Hospitals in Malawi

7.30pm on Saturday 21st March

St John the Baptist Church
Kingston Baguize

Music from the JAM Band & Dave Burfitt on the Euphonium

Refreshments provided. Free Event. Retiring Collection.

For Catering, please let us know if you plan to come:

StephenJHaywood@outlook.com 01865 821132

Film and Music Night

Our next Film Night will be on **Friday 13th March** in the Church Room when we will be showing, Georges Bizet's, **Les Pecheurs De Perles** with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and Chorus.

Amid great festivity, the pearl fishers of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) prepare to choose a chief. Just as Zurga is chosen to lead them, his old friend, Nadir arrives after a long absence. Together, the two reminisce about the night they encountered a mysterious woman of extraordinary beauty at the gates of Kandy. Both immediately fell in love with her, but renounced their intense rivalry for her in order to save their friendship. Join us to see if all goes to plan!



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

Children's Ministry

Catherine writes:

As you know, one of our priorities for the church is to attract more families to worship with us. We now have a successful Children's Church programme at the 10.30am service and more volunteers (though a few more would be even better – please see the advert and consider whether God might be calling you to serve in this way). Regular **Children's Church** and our **All-age services** means that there are opportunities for families with children to worship every week. However, we would like to welcome more families.

The PCC has discussed what we do on 5th Sundays and we would like, over the course of this year, to use 3 of our 5th Sundays (29th March, 31st May and 29th November) as seasonal **Messy Church** services, exploring Holy Week and Easter, Pentecost and Advent and Christmas, with craft activities, teaching, worship and snacks. These will continue to be held in the Village Hall and will be suitable for all ages – both children and adults. These services are valuable events, and judging by the numbers at our Messy Christingle, appreciated by the village. They also give us the chance to share what we do on other Sundays and to encourage interested families to join us more regularly.



The other 5th Sunday, 30th August, will remain as a **Cafe Church**, probably with a guest speaker – suggestions welcome. Please let us know your thoughts on this change for 2026, by contacting me or a member of the PCC.

Good Neighbour

Lovely to hear **Margo Evans** on the radio talking about her **Radio Oxford Make a Difference Award** which she received last year. Margo was encouraging people to help their neighbours, as well as nominating people for the 2026 award ceremony. Well done Margo.



Grow your Faith

Would you like to have the opportunity to grow in your faith by following some **online courses** provided by the Diocese? If so, visit <https://learn.oxford.anglican.org/>

 Understanding Baptism Earth, Water, Fire: Understanding Baptism	 Called to Wonder Called to Wonder	 Discovering the Beatitudes Come and See: The Beatitudes	 The Creed Come and See: The Creed
 The Way of Love Come and See: The Way of Love	 Hope among the Rubble Hope among the Rubble	 Funeral Ministry Lay Funeral Ministry	 Five Marks of Mission Five Marks of Mission
 The Story of Scripture Story of Scripture	 Everyday Discipleship Everyday-Discipleship 24/25	 Pastoral Care Introduction to Pastoral Care 2024/25	 Jesus and Salvation Jesus and Salvation 2025/26
 Mission and Evangelism Mission and Evangelism 2025/26	 Opening up the Bible Opening up the Bible 2025/26	 Planning and Leading Worship Planning and Leading Worship 2025/26	 Preparing to Preach Preparing to Preach 2025/26

What I am Reading

Stephen Haywood writes:

I am not great at reading Christian books because my concentration span is short and as a Scientist, I like writing which is very concise, ideally with bullet points, diagrams and formulae. What I do enjoy reading is *Premier Christianity Magazine*. I would characterize the magazine as broadly evangelical, ecumenical and contemporary. It's primary focus is what is happening in the church in the UK. There are articles coming from and about all denominations in the UK, including comment on what is happening in the Church of England.

I find the articles insightful, informative and broadly in line with my own theology; there is something for everyone. The news items help me keep up with what is going on in Christian circles. The articles explaining aspects of theology are helpful for those of us who want to understand God's Word better, without having a degree in the subject. There are plenty of stories about exceptional Christians as well as ordinary believers like ourselves, and lots of encouragement on living Godly lives and sharing our faith.

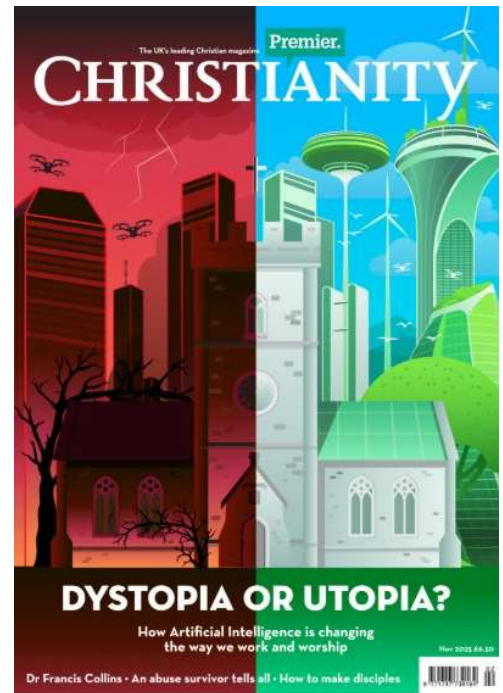
Christianity Magazine provides a thoughtful start to my day (in the Bathroom ... I'll leave it at that), before I hurtle downstairs to join Morning Prayer. With some magazines, one is quite selective only reading a few of the articles ... I read everything in *Christianity Magazine* – I find every page has something to encourage, inspire or strengthen me for the days ahead.

The magazine is published monthly (£6.50) and it usually takes a couple of weeks for me to get through, reading one or two articles first thing in the morning. If you would like to see whether you might enjoy reading *Christianity Magazine*, I can lend you some old copies.

I am currently a couple of months behind in my reading. As an illustration, here are some of the articles from the November edition:

- News:
 - What can we expect from the new Archbishop of Canterbury?
 - Claims of genocide in Nigeria.
 - A Christian MP defects to Reform.
- Conversation: A Finnish MP facing jail for standing up for her faith.
- Women: How young women are also part of the "Quiet Revival" in the UK.
- Culture: Are Podcasts squeezing out God?
- Thank God it's Monday: Interview with a Christian in the secular workplace.
- Real Life: The struggles faced by a disabled man.
- Interview: Dr Francis Collins, the scientist who sequenced the human genome.
- Discussion: The role of Artificial Intelligence in the Church.
- Personal Story:
 - A woman shares how she was abused in the church.
 - Another woman discusses how she moved from drug addiction to faith.
- Encouragement: Building disciples.
- Theology: Waiting on God.

What Christian books, magazine, websites are you reading? If you would be willing to write about this for Pews News, please contact the Editor.



KBS Café

Caroline Ashby writes:

Several people have had to stop making cakes for the Cafe due to health problems etc. We desperately need more people to **help bake cakes**.
If you would be willing to help out, please contact me on 01865 820936.



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Responsible to	Rev Catherine Schneider
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