



Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor

# Pews News

April 2026

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

## From Catherine, our Vicar

Dear friends,

As you know, I've recently come back from an international Christian women's conference in Turkey, with representatives from 21 central Asian countries, organised by Arise ([Our conferences - Arise](#)). Including women like me on the leadership and ministry teams, we had 300 women from 43 different countries. Some of these women had very traumatic backstories. Some came from countries where women are still seen as possessions belonging to their male relatives. Some came from countries where it is dangerous to be a Christian. Many came from countries in the midst of war and conflict. Almost all came with wounds of one kind or another. That's the reality for all of us humans living in a broken world.

But over the course of the conference, as women grieved and lamented together over pain and loss, prayed and were prayed for, visited counsellors and health professionals and spent time thanking, rejoicing and learning more about the God who loves us and is with us whatever we're going through and giving us what we need, they changed. Women who had arrived exhausted and burdened smiled and laughed. Russian and Ukrainian women were able to pray for each other and each other's countries, to dance together and find friendship. Women weighed down by shame found forgiveness.

It sounds improbable, but at its heart are the even more improbable events of Easter: a man who was God – wrongly killed and come back to life to give us the possibility of that same resurrection life experienced by the woman at the Arise conference – Jesus Christ. Easter is about new life through death, but it doesn't start after we die – it can start now. As I wrote in KBS News, just as the earth seems to die over winter and then surprises and delights us every year with its capacity for growth and new life, we too can experience that new life in Christ, as with the help of the Holy Spirit we allow God to put to death our mess and pain and sin and to breathe new life and healing and hope into us. It's not a one-off procedure, but a lifetime process of daily discipleship and surrender to Jesus Christ, who gave up everything for us.

God bless you with new life this Easter season.  
With love and thanks that we are travelling this Emmaus road together,  
Catherine

*Catherine adds:*

1) I have been on a **5-week training course** which I was invited to attend by the Diocese, as we have very few **young people** in our congregation. The course was very good at giving the participants the confidence to work out in what ways we could support the young people in our communities. More news to follow!

2) **PCC Away Day** on 25th April – an opportunity for the new PCC to explore our vision and goals and get to know one another better.

3) **Dorchester Festival** has an exciting and varied programme of events over May, raising money for the Abbey and young carers across Oxfordshire. Details are found here [Home - Dorchester Festival](#) or in the programmes at the back of church – please help yourself. I will be going to several events, so if you're interested perhaps we could lift-share!

# St John the Baptist Church – April 2026

Thu	2 Apr	19.30	Maundy Thursday – Tenebrae [1]	Speaker – Catherine
Fri	3 Apr	15.00	Good Friday – Reflective Service	Speaker – Catherine
Sun	5 Apr	9.00	Easter Sunday – Holy Communion	Speaker – Catherine
		10.30	Easter Sunday – Family Communion [2]	Speaker – Catherine
Sun	12 Apr	9.00	Holy Communion	Speaker – Stephen Coe
		10.30	All Age Service	Speaker – Leon Bisset
Sun	19 Apr	9.00	Holy Communion	Speaker – Stephen Haywood
		10.30	Morning Worship	Speaker – Stephen Haywood
		10.30	Children’s Church	
Sun	26 Apr	9.00	Holy Communion	Speaker – Catherine
		10.30	Family Communion	Speaker – Catherine
		10.30	Children’s Church	

## Regular Events

Wednesdays	20.00	<b>Wednesday Fellowship Group</b>	
Wednesdays *	11.00	<b>Petypher House Bible Study Group</b>	* 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday in month
Thursdays	9.00	<b>KBS Café</b> at the Village Hall	
Fridays	10.30	<b>Fizzy Coffee</b>	

## Special Events

Wed	1 Apr	14.30	<b>Hymns We Love</b>
Wed	15 Apr	14.30	<b>Hymns We Love</b>
Fri	17 Apr	19.00	<b>Film Club</b> – see below
Sat	25Par		<b>PCC Away Day</b>

[1] **Tenebrae** – means “shadows”. This is a quiet communion service at which we remember the events leading up to Jesus’ Crucifixion.

[2] The 10.30 Easter Day service will be followed by an **Easter Egg Hunt** for the children.

## For your Diaries

Sat 27 Jun **Village Fete**



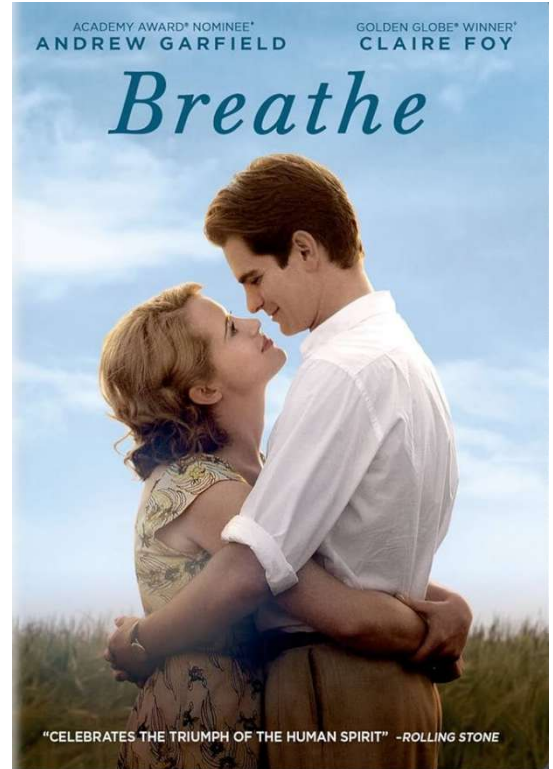
# Film and Music Night

Our next Film Night will be on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April** in the Church Room when we will be showing, **Breathe**, which is based on a true story.

After contracting polio at the age of 28, Robin Cavendish (Andrew Garfield) is confined to a bed and given only months to live. With help from his wife, Diana (Claire Foy) he comes home from hospital against all medical advice. Together and with help from Diana's hilarious twin brothers, both played by Tom Hollander and the groundbreaking ideas of their friend and inventor Teddy Hall (Hugh Bonneville) they find a way to live a full and passionate life. One review said it was, "very funny... I honestly can't remember the last time I laughed and cried so much at the same movie." I wonder if you will have the same reaction? Join us to find out!

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)



## Thanks



Thanks to **Maria Haywood and Simon Dando** for overseeing the repair to the **path lights** and the on-going investigations into the plaster work in the **Church Ceiling**.

Thanks to **Hazel Brennan, Elaine Brooker, Betty Green, Susan Green, Maria & Stephen Haywood, Sylvia Kilby, Peter & Jane Rivers** who helped with the display for the **Mothers Day** event in the Village Hall on Saturday 14 March.





Thanks to **Susan Green** and her Team. They have tried to clean the **Church Room chairs**. Alas, the chairs have various determined stains and embedded gunk, but hopefully they will now look a bit brighter ... when they have dried!



While some of us were messing around with Messy Church (see below), the 9 O'clock congregation constructed a beautiful **Easter Garden**.

## Holy Week Messy Church



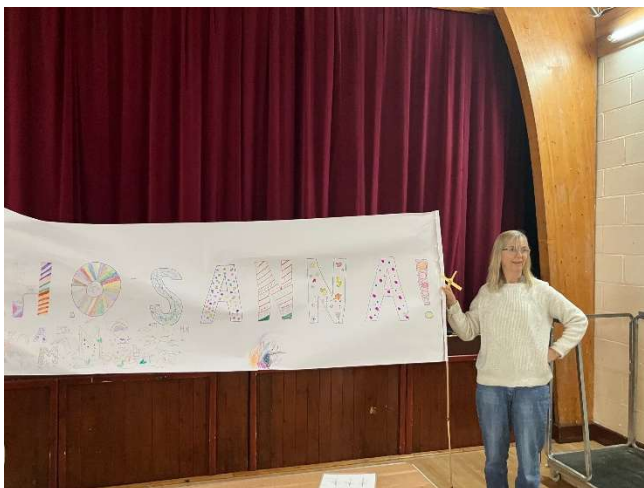
Getting Ready



Edible Palm Trees



East Gate to Jerusalem



The Hosanna Banner



Holy Week Kim's Game



Edible Palm Trees

# Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The 2026 APCM was held on Tuesday 24 March.

21 members of the Church attended. Andre King reported there are now 61 people on the Electoral Roll.

Catherine thanked **Hazel Brennan** and **Stephen Haywood** who step off the **PCC**, having completed their terms. **Margo Evans**, **Vicky Saywell** and **Sue Wales** were elected on to the PCC. The complete list of members is:

- Mr Charles Adar-Donkor
- Mrs Emily Bisset
- Mr Ian Blelloch –Churchwarden
- Mr Lawrence Brabin –Treasurer, ex officio
- Mrs Margo Evans
- Mrs Maria Haywood – Churchwarden & Deanery Synod Rep
- Mrs Hazel Brennan – PCC Secretary
- Mrs Jenny Carter
- Ms Celeste Loots
- Mrs Vicky Saywell
- Rev Catherine Schneider – Vicar
- Mrs Corrinna Thomson
- Mrs Sue Wales – Deanery Synod Rep

## Music for Malawi

*Stephen Haywood writes:*

Thanks to everyone who supported this lovely evening. There were lots of positive comments. **JAM** and **David Burfitt** were fantastic and we also made a small amount of money from the sale of crafts and cards (thanks to **Sue Porter** and **Sue Melling**). So far, it looks like we raised over **£1200** ... and there may be a bit more from a few more donations and if we can recover Gift Aid. A fantastic result. Thanks to everyone for their support and generosity, and thanks to **Maria**, **Celeste**, **Ian**, **Hazel** & **Margo** for their help on the night.



# Fellowship Groups

*Stephen Haywood writes:*

For several of us, being in a Fellowship Group is an essential component of our Christian Life ... a valuable complement to meeting on Sunday morning. It provides an opportunity to study God's Word, delving into the details with the support of friends. There is a chance to explore ideas and ask questions in a safe environment, and as a result, grow in our faith. We take time to talk with each other; to share our good news and the bad; to encourage one another and to pray for each other, the church and the world. I have been in fellowship groups for the last 45 years. For me, the weekly meetings are an essential and unmissable part of my life.

It has been exciting to watch how members of the **Wednesday Fellowship Group** have supported and loved one another over the last years, and how each has grown closer to the Lord. Ian Blelloch has a very busy life, and yet he appreciates meeting as part of the group so much that he is always reminding us how blessed he feels coming on a Wednesday evening. Consequently he makes a huge effort in his busy schedule to be with us each week, even on those evenings when he feels tired and could happily put his feet up. So often on those evenings one feels afterwards "I'm really glad I did make the effort." And most importantly, Ian always brings chocolate biscuits ... thanks Ian!



*Ian writes:*

There was a time when I would have run a mile at the suggestion of joining a fellowship group. I would have much rather gone to the pub with my friends. But aren't both a form of community that supports you during tough times and celebrates with you in good times? However, drinking alone can't be much fun and I have long since stopped drinking, which is a good thing, as I was drinking rather a lot.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

What on earth is that all about? Our group discussed this at some length a few weeks ago. Finding a way to apply this to our daily lives produced many different approaches. And yet the "Word" had relevance to each one of us. Talking about life with people you trust and like (and who like you) is like a time-out from life; a means of refreshment (with no hangover the following morning); and a means of taking a look at things from another angle.

If life is great then good on you. If you would like a time-out then why not get in touch?

Currently there are three groups meeting:

- Wednesday Fellowship Group – meeting every Wednesday evening
- "Hymns we love" – this course has been running since January, and is evolving into a fellowship group meeting fortnightly on Wednesday afternoons.
- Petypher House Bible Study Group – meeting in the morning of the first Wednesday of the month.

If you would like to understand more about these groups and whether you would like to join one, please speak to Ian, Maria, Stephen or Catherine.

# Church Bins

The Church Bin Officer (CBO) is getting increasingly frustrated with people placing the wrong items in the wheelie bins. When this is detected, it is necessary to dive into the bins (see picture), retrieve the offending items and place them in the correct bin ... not a pleasant task. Of course, we realise the offenders may not be church members, but may well be groups using the Church Room or those visiting the Churchyard.

Please please do make the effort to place things correctly:

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Brown bin | Garden (compostable) waste, eg dead graveside flowers.                    |
| Green bin | Recyclable items, such as plastic bottles, glass jars, aluminium cans     |
| Black bin | All other items of waste, including soiled paper towels, plastic film etc |

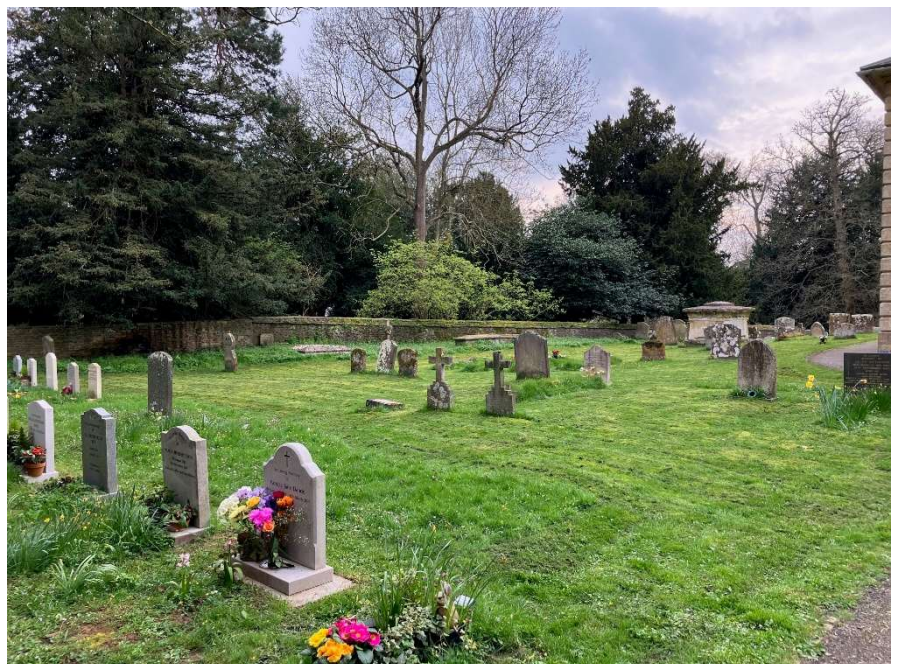


To ensure compliance, on the first Wednesday of April, we are installing hidden cameras to monitor the bins. These will be equipped with AI software to analyse what people are throwing into the bins; facial-recognition software will be able to identify who is disposing of rubbish. Any incorrect deposits will sound a loud alarm, there will be flashing lights and an automatic text message to be sent to the CBO, who will immediately contact the offender. Punishments will then ensue, such as month of mowing duty. You have been warned.

# Grass Cutting

The grass-cutting season has started. Our Churchyard is kept looking nice by a wonderful team of volunteers. It is quite hard work, but very satisfying.

If you feel you could give 1.5 hours every two months to help with the mowing in the summer months, please contact Hazel.



# Ho Ho

If God had intended man to fly, he would have made it much easier to get to Airports.

*George Winters*

Tuesday at 4pm, there will be an ice-cream social. All ladies giving milk will please come early.

Wednesday, the Ladies' Liturgy Society will meet. Mrs Jones will sing "Put me in my little bed" accompanied by the pastor.

*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](mailto:StephenJHaywood@outlook.com)).

Copy date for May edition is **Sunday 19 April**.

## 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.

# Sunday School – Children’s Church

*We’d love more Children’s Church Helpers:*

## **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

*We'd love more Messy Church Helpers:*

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.

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

**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 5<sup>th</sup> 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