

St John's High Legh Parish Magazine



APRIL/MAY 2026

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midst of us and we are
called by Your name***

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A group of volunteers known as the Friends of Abbeyfield arrange an informal **Coffee Morning on the first Tuesday of the months 10.30 am onwards.** Interested persons and new volunteers are welcome to attend.

Member Society of Abbeyfield England, a national organisation providing housing, care and support for older people across the UK www.abbeyfieldengland.com or google Abbeyfield Knutsford or find us on Facebook.

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Room available to rent

St Johns church room is available to rent for regular meetings, workshops, training, or small functions £12.50 per hour. Includes the use of a kitchen & free car parking.

Contact the church warden on
Nick 07554 343133

Easter reflection

“More people would come to church if there was less talk about blood and the death on the cross” was a comment made to me by someone at a previous church. The church had a large crucifix (a cross with Jesus on) at the front of church, so the Crucifixion was very visible every week. I expect this lady is not the only one who has had that thought and many may feel uncomfortable remembering the events of Good Friday.

The crucifixion was horrendous but church without the death of Jesus on the Cross? That would not be church – there would be no offer of forgiveness, no becoming a child of God, no access to the Father to pray, no Holy Spirit available to all believers the list could go on.

We adore you O Christ, and we bless you
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

This is how each reflection of the Stations of the Cross starts. Both services on Good Friday are services of adoration of Jesus. We recognise his overwhelming love for us as he took on our, and the world's sin, and opened the way for us to be forgiven.

When someone you love is suffering, you want to be with them, to sit with them, to show you care. We accompany Jesus in these services, starting with the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday when he instituted Holy Communion and washed his disciples' feet. The Watch of Prayer that follows it remembers Jesus in Gethsemane and his arrest and trial, a time of silent prayer. On Good Friday we continue the story in real time and leave the church in silence. There is also the opportunity to join with other Christians in Lymm for Prayers around the Cross at 12 noon.

These days starting with the evening of Maundy Thursday and going through to the Holy Communion on Easter day are called the Triduum, and the services form one continuous service, only ending with a blessing on Easter Sunday.

On Easter Sunday we celebrate with joy Jesus' resurrection, his victory over death and sin. There are flowers, the alleluias return to our liturgy and we sing the Glori, again, there may even be chocolate! During both services on Easter Sunday, we have an opportunity to

renew our baptism vows recommitting ourselves to our risen Lord and to his service.

Just as leaving out the crucifixion removes the act of love at the heart of our faith, so only coming to church on Easter Sunday risks not fully appreciating Jesus' sacrifice on the cross unless you have had your own devotions on Good Friday.

The quiet prayer and adoration on Maundy Thursday evening and Good Friday leads to the exuberant joy of Easter Sunday.

I look forward to seeing you this Holy Week and Easter and wish you a joyful Easter,

Liz

LITTLE ACORNS



Little Acorns baby and toddler group meets every Monday in the Church room at St Johns church from 9.30-12 noon.



We are a small friendly group. We chat & make friends, do crafts, sing songs and have unlimited tea, coffee & toast all for a suggested donation of £3.

Enquiries to Liz on 07905 741969

CONTACTS

Vicar	Revd. Clare Leal	01925 407996 Mob: 07342 840194 Email: revclare@stjohnshighlegh.org
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**Website: www.stjohnshighlegh.org
Facebook @stjohnshighlegh**

**Copy deadline date for the next magazine is
Wednesday 13th May 2026
Please send to Stjohnshlparishmag@gmail.com**

Late submissions may not be published

Magazine editor needed!

We are very grateful to Angela Franks for all the work she has done over the years putting our magazine together and printing it. Angela is retiring and the October/November issue will be her last one.

PCC will be thinking about the magazine and how we keep everyone connected and aware of what is going on. If the magazine is going to continue we will need a new editor.

If you have thoughts about what you would like or can offer to help please contact me or a member of the PCC. Rev Clare

Tom Drury, Churchwarden

We said goodbye to Tom on 22nd February as he left us to join Karen at her curacy church in Bowdon.

We are thankful for all Tom has contributed over the years. As well as being churchwarden with all that entails Tom has led our music - choosing our hymns each week and setting up the Hymnal Plus as well as coaching the choir and putting together the Carol service. He has also been producing the church statistics that we have to submit each year and administering the electoral roll and the rota.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) Sunday 10th May after the service

Everyone on the electoral roll is eligible to come to the APCM. We will hear reports from the various church activities, the external work needed on the church and elect another church warden and PCC members. There will be the opportunity to ask questions.

Please prayerfully consider if you can offer to serve on PCC. Please talk to me or Nick Whimpany if you want to find out more.
Rev Clare

Holy Week and Easter at St John's

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday in Holy Week

5.30pm Evening prayer a short, 30 minutes, said service.

Maundy Thursday, 2nd April

Our service of **Holy Communion** at 7.30pm remembers Jesus' institution of Holy Communion at the Last Supper and includes optional foot washing as we remember Jesus washing his disciples' feet.

Watch of Prayer

After the service we strip the altar and are invited to the Watch of Prayer (about 8.45pm). This is a time of silent prayer as we remember the events of the night – Jesus at Gethsemane and his arrest and trial. It concludes with Compline at 10pm.

Good Friday, 3rd April

12 noon **Prayers at the Cross in Lymm**, a Churches Together service.

1.15pm **Stations of the Cross**, in the church room. A service of prayer and reflection using pictures representing the stages of Jesus journey to the cross (about 30 minutes).



2.00pm The **Good Friday Liturgy**, in church. A service with Bible readings, prayers and reflection expressing our adoration of Christ with a focus on his death on the cross.

Easter Sunday, 20th April 6.00am Easter Dawn Service, Holy Communion

We start outside church with a fire, from which we light the Paschal Candle. We take the Paschal Candle into church where our candles are lit from it. The readings take us through the story of our salvation to Jesus' Resurrection. During the service we will renew our baptism vows. There is an opportunity to stay for breakfast after the service.



10.00am All-Age Holy Communion for Easter

A celebration of Jesus' resurrection suitable for all ages. During the service we will renew our baptism vows.

Afternoon Tea and Talk



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A BROWNIE GROWS UP?

At 7 years old Jo Tillotson joined her local Brownie Unit. Cute brown dress, yellow tie, bobble hat—it was the 80's! But that single decision changed the whole trajectory of her life. Come and find out what happens when a Brownie grows up.

St John's Church Room

Saturday 9th May : 14.00 – 16.00

TICKETS £18 FROM ELAINE JONES 07976 721523

PROCEEDS TO ST JOHN'S CHURCH

SERVICES AND ROTAS FOR April and May 2026

Date	03/04/2026	05/04/2026	05/04/2026	12/04/2026	19/04/2026	26/04/2026
	Good Friday	Dawn Easter Day	Easter Day	2nd Sunday of Easter	3rd Sunday of Easter	4th Sunday of Easter
Service	1300 Stations of the Cross 1400 Good Friday Liturgy	6am Dawn Service	1000 Holy Communion	1000 All Age Communion	1000 Holy Communion (healing)	1000 Café Church 1130 Holy Communion
Led by	Chris Stanisstreet Rev Clare Leal	Rev Clare Leal	Rev Clare Leal	Rev Clare Leal	Rev Clare Leal	Liz and Nick Whimpany Rev Clare Leal
Preacher	n/a	Rev Clare Leal	Rev Clare Leal	Rev Clare Leal	Rev Clare Leal	Chris Stanisstreet
Deacon/Chalice	n/a		Rev Trish Cope	Chris Stanisstreet	Need a chalice assistant	Liz Whimpany
Bible Readings	Isaiah 52.13 - 53.12 Psalm 22 Hebrews 10.16-25 or Hebrews 4.14-16; 5.7-9 John 18.1 - 19.42	Multiple readings	Acts 10.34-43 Psalm 118.1-2,14-24 Colossians 3.1-4 or Acts 10.34-43 John 20.1-18 or Matthew 28.1-10	Exodus 14.10-31; 15.20,21 Psalm 16 Acts 2.14a,22-32 John 20.19-31	Zephaniah 3.14-20 Psalm 116.1-3,10-17 or 116.1-7 Acts 2.14a,36-41 Luke 24.13-35	Genesis 7 Psalm 23 Acts 2.42-47 John 10.1-10
Reader	n/a	Multiple readers	Dave Leal	Stewart Jackson	Brian Green	n/a
Intercessor	n/a	Dave Leal	Stewart Jackson	Liz Whimpany	Joanne Royle	n/a
Sides-person	n/a		Leslie Walton (10am)	Elaine Jones	Brian Green	Marilyn Ridler

Date	03/05/2026	10/05/2026	14/05/2026	17/05/2026	24/05/2026	31/05/2026
	5th Sunday of Easter	6th Sunday of Easter	Ascension Day	7th Sunday of Easter	Pentecost	Trinity Sunday
Service	1000 Holy Communion	1000 All Age Communion	1900 Holy Communion	1000 Holy Communion (healing)	1000 Café Church 1130 Holy Communion	1000 Holy Communion
Led by	Rev Clare Leal	Rev Clare Leal	Rev Clare Leal	Rev Trish Cope	Dave Leal & Joanne Royle Rev Clare Leal	Rev Clare Leal
Preacher	Liz Whimpany	Rev Clare Leal	Rev Clare Leal	Rev Trish Cope	Rev Clare Leal	Chris Stanisstreet
Deacon/Chalice				Liz Whimpany		Chris Stanisstreet
Bible Readings	Genesis 8.1-19 Psalm 31.1-5,15-16 [or 31.1-5] Acts 7.55-60 John 14.1-14	Genesis 8.20 - 9.17 Psalm 66.7-18 Acts 17.22-31 John 14.15-21	Acts 1.1-11 or Daniel 7.9-14 Psalm 47 or Psalm 93 Ephesians 1.15-23 or Acts 1.1-11 Luke 24.44-53	Ezekiel 36.24-28 Psalm 68.1-10,32-35 [or 68.1-10] Acts 1.6-14 John 17.1-11	Acts 2.1-21 or Numbers 11.24-30 Psalm 104.26-36,37b or 104.26-37 1 Corinthians 12.3b-13 13 or Acts 2.1-21 John 20.19-23 or John 7.37-39	Isalah 40.12-17,27-31 Psalm 8 2 Corinthians 13.11-13 Matthew 28.16-20
Reader	Chris Stanisstreet	Marilyn Ridler	Elaine Jones	Stewart Jackson	n/a Chris Stanisstreet	Dave Leal
Intercessor	Stewart Jackson	Dave Leal	Chris Stanisstreet	Liz Whimpany	n/a Stewart Jackson	Joanne Royle
Sides-person	Leslie Walton	Elaine Jones	Brian Green	Marilyn Ridler	Leslie Walton	Elaine Jones

WEEKLY TELEPHONE SERVICE

This is a short Compline service for anyone who wishes to join us.

7.00pm on THURSDAY evenings
(dial in any time after 6.45pm)

Please check with your landline or mobile phone provider that calls to 03 numbers are free - they usually are. If you would like to join:

- 1 **DIAL THIS NUMBER:** 0333 0164 757
- 2 You will be asked to enter the **CONFERENCE ROOM NUMBER** followed by the **HASH KEY #358 104 39 #**
- 3 You will then be asked to enter the **PIN NUMBER** followed by the hash key # *Please contact Chris or Stewart for the PIN number*

We can then speak to each other.

Please say the **words in bold** and try to ensure that there is **no background noise**.

Please contact Chris Stanisstreet on **01925 755559** or Stewart Jackson on **07835 249835** for further details, a service booklet and a hymn book.

Cleaning Rota	
April	Trish & Mary(S)
May	Elaine & Pauline

High Legh Diary for April and May 2026

All meetings in the Church Room (unless otherwise stated)

Every Monday	9.30 am – 12 noon	Little Acorns
Every Monday	2.00 pm – 4.00 pm	We're Hooked
Every Wednesday	9.00 am - 10.00 am	Prayers
Tuesday 7th April	2.00 pm	Mothers Union—Bingo
Thursday 9th April	7.30 pm	High Legh Community Observatory
Tuesday 14th April	2.00 pm	Coffee, Create & Chat
Wednesday 15th April	12.30 pm	Community Lunch (Please book with Elaine Jones)
Tuesday 5th May	5.00 pm	Mothers Union Evening Meal at the Barn Owl
Saturday 9th May	2.00— 4.00 pm	Afternoon Tea and talk
Tuesday 12th May	2.00 pm	Coffee, Create & Chat
Thursday 14th May	7.30 pm	High Legh Community Observatory
Wednesday 20th May	12.30 pm	Community Lunch (Please book with Elaine Jones)
Tuesday 26th May	2.00 pm	Mothers Union Afternoon Tea at the garden centre

Regular happenings in the Church Room

WE'RE HOOKED

We have been busy making knee rugs for those who sometimes feel chilly in church in the winter. We hope that you will find them nice and warm and snuggly. Our daffodils that we made last Easter will have been decorating the Church again this year and we hope you will all enjoy them. They certainly brighten the Church especially if its a dull day. We meet every Monday, except for Bank Holidays, at 2pm in the Church Room and enjoy an afternoon of good company, with lots of laughter and chat, with tea, coffee and cake to enjoy too. Anyone is welcome whether you are an experienced crocheter or just want to learn. There's always someone to help.

COMMUNITY LUNCH

Every 3rd Wednesday of the month

We now say goodbye to the Soup lunches [hooray no more mush-rooms for six months!] and hello to delicious ham salads. Lets hope the weather is kind to us and it feels more like summer so we won't crave warm soup! We continue to have our lunches on the third Wednesday of the month and it's always lovely to see the usual faces, but we would welcome any newcomers who would like to join us. In addition to ham we have new potatoes and salad, followed by delicious cakes, and copious amounts of tea and coffee. There is lots of chatter and laughter, so if you have never been do come and give it a try. Please book with Arthur on 752481, Elaine 75311, or sign up in the Church Room. We look forward to seeing you



At the March meeting having sufficient funds we decided to send £100 each to “ Make a Mother’s Day”, Prisons Ministry and the Holiday Fund.

On Tuesday 7th April at 2pm we will be having a game of Bingo which will be open to anyone to join us.

Tuesday 5th May at 5.00 pm we’ll be having an Evening Meal at the Barn Owl to celebrate 150 years of Mothers Union, which was started by Mary Sumner on 9th August 1876. It is a World-wide organisation with 4 million members in 84 counties, providing support for families.

The June meeting has been brought forward to Tuesday 26th May at 2pm for afternoon tea at the Garden Centre.

C. Gibbon

Coffee, Chat and Create

We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 2pm in the Church Room. A small group of people with lots of varied skills, so there is always someone who can help sort out any problems you might be having. Bring whatever you are creating, be it knitting ,sewing, crocheting, or anything else you are creating, and come and join us for a pleasant afternoon with like minded people. We would be pleased to see you.

Children welcome!



Children are welcome every Sunday at St John's.

Most months there is an All-Age service (2nd Sunday of the month) and Café Church (4th Sunday of the month). The other Sundays have a Sunday School for primary aged children.

The Sunday School takes place in the Church Room, running alongside the service in church. We have an enthusiastic team of volunteers who have been safely recruited.

For pre-school children and toddlers there is an area at the back of church with toys, books and colouring.



<http://www.highlegh-communityobservatory.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/highleghlco/>

Our Meetings are held at 7.30 on the second Thursday of every month at [St John's Church Room, The Avenue, High Legh, WA16 6ND](#)

Please note that the observatory is open on Friday nights every week if the sky is clear.

We start at 8 pm or dusk whichever is later.

All are welcome and admission is free, but donations are appreciated!

High Legh Prayers

Every Wednesday morning
9-10am in the Church Room

Open to all of faith or no faith

If you have a prayer need feel free to come along or contact the Churchwardens who will ensure you are prayed for.



On the first Saturday each month we have a church gardening morning from 10.00 until 12.00. Any help would be appreciated. Tea, coffee and biscuits supplied!



Home Communion

We rely on people letting us know when church members or neighbours are unwell, in hospital or experiencing other difficulties. The ministry team are happy to visit and/or take communion to individuals.

Please contact:

Rev Clare on 01925 407996 or 07342 840194

Chris on 01925 755559

Stewart on 07835 249835

Rev Trish on 01925 754787 or 07703 470101



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