

St John's High Legh Parish Magazine



February/March 2026

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

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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 wardens on
Nick 07554 343133 or Tom 07985 600122

Turning point

As I write the first snowdrops are opening and the lengthening of the days is only just perceptible. The months covered by this magazine will see these early signs of spring blossom into a time of daffodils and longer days.

The changing of the seasons is also happening in our church life. February 1st is the feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, also called Candlemas. This is the end of the season of Christmas and Epiphany and we turn towards the Cross. One of the responses at the end of the service expresses it like this:

Here we turn from Christ's birth to his passion.
Help us, for whom Lent is near, to enter deeply into the
Easter mystery.

Easter comes at the very beginning of April and our preparation for it begins on Ash Wednesday, 18th February. We mark this day with a *service during* which we follow a tradition that started in the middle ages of being marked in ash, with a cross, as a sign of our penitence. Penitence, the sorrow for our sins or faults leading to repentance, is one of themes of Lent, along with self-examination, self-discipline, study and charitable giving.



In his book, "Bread for the Journey," Catholic priest, author, and theologian Henri Nouwen wrote:

Lent is the most important time of the year to nurture our inner life. It is the time during which we not only prepare ourselves to celebrate the mystery of the death and Resurrection of Jesus, but also the death and resurrection that constantly takes place within us.

Lent is the time in the church year when we are encouraged to make time to reflect and see where God is showing us there is room for change, for becoming more like Jesus and following him more closely. It is not only about increasing our self-discipline by giving up something (including unhealthy habits or attitudes) but may be about feasting on something good or our focus maybe on the environment – see the ideas later in the magazine.

When you live intentionally through the liturgical season of Lent, you are given special time to embrace the fullness of the spiritual growth journey that incorporates the ever-evolving cycle of death into new life. Keeping Lent means you enter Maundy Thursday and Good Friday prepared and ready to walk with Jesus, and then to experience the deep joy of Easter Day.

I wish you a holy Lent in preparation for a joyful Easter,

Clare

Christingle at Candlemas, 4pm Sunday 1st February 2026



Did you know that Christians celebrate Christmas for 6 weeks?! Then we have a special festival called Candlemas. This year we will celebrate Candlemas with a Christingle service.

Christingles bring families and communities together to share the light of Jesus and spread a message of hope in a joyful celebration.

Come and join us at St John's, to light a Christingle candle and learn more about its meaning.

CONTACTS

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Facebook @stjohnshighlegh**

**Copy deadline date for the next magazine is
Wednesday 11th March 2026
Please send to Stjohnshlparishmag@gmail.com**

Late submissions may not be published

Services for February and March 2026

Sunday 1 February Candlemas

10am Holy Communion
4pm Christingle

Sunday 8 February

10am All-age Holy Communion

Sunday 15 February

10am Holy Communion with prayers for healing

Lent, Holy Week and Easter

Ash Wednesday 18 February

7.30pm Holy Communion

Sunday 22 February

10am Café Church
11.30am Holy Communion (traditional language)

Sunday 1 March

10am Holy Communion

Sunday 8 March

10am All-age Holy Communion

Sunday 15 March

10am Holy Communion with prayers for healing

Sunday 22 March

10am Café Church
11.30am Holy Communion (traditional language)

Palm Sunday 29 March

10am Holy Communion

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in Holy Week

5pm Evening Prayer each day

EASTER

Maundy Thursday 2 April

7.30pm Holy Communion
Approx. 8.45pm Watch of
Prayer (silent prayer)

Good Friday 3 April

1pm Stations of the
Cross
2pm Good Friday
Liturgy

Easter Sunday 5 April

6am Dawn Service
10am Holy Communion

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



Carbon Fast

for Lent

This Lent, take part in Climate Steward's Carbon Fast. Lent is a time when Christians traditionally fast and focus on God. The Carbon Fast will help you consider ways to live more simply, give you new ideas to cut your carbon footprint and invite you to focus on God and consider the whole of his creation. Beginning on 18 February, you'll receive a weekly email containing key facts, suggestions for how you could reduce your carbon footprint and a prayer to lead you through this Lenten season. Each week features a different theme designed to help us take climate action in manageable ways that bear witness to a God who has promised to restore all of his creation. Find out more and sign up at

<https://www.climatestewards.org/resources/carbon-fast/>

For eco-tips, sign up to A Rocha UK's Wild Christian email: arochoa.org.uk/wild-christian

Fast and Feast in Lent

Lent can be more than a time of fasting; it can be a season of feasting.

We can use Lent to fast from certain things and to feast on others.

It is a season in which we can:

- Fast from judging others; feast on the Christ dwelling in them.**
- Fast from emphasis on differences; feast on the unity of life.**
- Fast from apparent darkness; feast on the reality of light.**
- Fast from words that pollute; feast on phrases that purify.**
- Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude**
- Fast from anger; feast on patience**
- Fast from pessimism; feast on finding the positive.**
- Fast from worry; feast on appreciation of all that is.**
- Fast from complaining; feast on acknowledging what is good.**
- Fast from bitterness; feast on compassion for others.**
- Fast from self-centeredness; feast on unconditional love.**
- Fast from lethargy; feast on enthusiasm.**
- Fast from personal anxiety; feast on prayerful hope.**
- Fast from discouragements; feast on hope.**
- Fast from idle gossip; feast on words of affirmation.**
- Fast from blame. feast on restful silence.**
- Fast from criticism; feast on praise.**
- Fast from self-pity; feast on joy.**
- Fast from pride; feast on love**
- Fast from selfishness; feast on service.**
- Fast from fear; feast on faith.**

Which of these fasting and feasting suggestions stand out for you?
How might you create a Lenten practice to guide your growth through this fasting and feasting you have called out?

Derived from 'Lenten Litany of Feasting and Fasting' by
William Arthur Ward

SERVICES AND ROTAS FOR February and March 2026

Date	01/02/2026	08/02/2026	15/02/2026	18/02/2026	22/02/2026
	Candlemas	2nd Sunday before Lent	Sunday next before Lent	Ash Wednesday	1st Sunday of Lent
Service	1000 Holy Communion 1600 Christingle	1000 All Age Communion Creation	1000 Holy Communion (healing)	1930 Holy Communion with ashing	1000 Café Church 1130 Holy Communion
Led by	Rev Clare Leal Rev Trish Cope / Rev Clare Leal	Rev Clare Leal	Rev Trish Cope	Rev Trish Cope	Tom Drury & Dave Leal Rev Clare Leal
Preacher	Liz Whimpany	Rev Clare Leal	Chris Stanisstreet	Rev Clare Leal	Liz Whimpany
Deacon/chalice	Liz Whimpany	Chris Stanisstreet	Chris Stanisstreet	Liz Whimpany	Liz Whimpany
Bible Readings	Malachi 3.1-5 Psalm 24, [1-6]-7-10 Hebrews 2.14-18 Luke 2.22-40	Genesis 1.1 - 2.3 Psalm 136 or Psalm 136.1-9,23-26 Romans 8.18-25 Matthew 6.25-34	Exodus 24.12-18 Psalm 2 or Psalm 99 2 Peter 1.16-21 Matthew 17.1-9	Joel 2.1-2,12-17 or Isaiah 58.1-12 Psalm 51.1-18 2 Corinthians 5.20b - 6.10 Matthew 6.1-6,16-21 or John 8.1-11	Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7 Psalm 32 Romans 5.12-19 Matthew 4.1-11
Reader	Dave Leal	Brian Green	Chris Stanisstreet	Elaine Jones	n/a
Intercessions	Stewart Jackson	Chris Stanisstreet	Joanne Royle	Stewart Jackson	Stewart Jackson n/a
Sides-person	Elaine Jones	Brian Green	Leslie Walton	Marilyn Ridler	Chris Stanisstreet n/a Elaine Jones

Date	01/03/2026	08/03/2026	15/03/2026	22/03/2026	29/03/2026
	2nd Sunday of Lent	3rd Sunday of Lent	4th Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday	5th Sunday of Lent	Palm Sunday
Service	1000 Holy Communion	1000 All Age Communion	1000 Holy Communion (healing)	1000 Café Church	1000 Holy Communion
Led by	Rev Clare Leal	Rev Trish Cope	Rev Trish Cope	1130 Holy Communion Chris Stanisstreet and Stewart Jackson	Rev Clare Leal
Preacher	Rev Clare Leal	Chris Stanisstreet	Rev Clare Leal	Rev Trish Cope n/a	tba
Deacon/ chalice	Liz Whimpany	Chris Stanisstreet	tba	Rev Trish Cope n/a	tba
Bible Readings	Genesis 12.1-4a Psalm 121 Romans 4.1-5,13-17 John 3.1-17	Exodus 17.1-7 Psalm 95 Romans 5.1-11 John 4.5-42	Exodus 2.1-10 or 1 Samuel 1.20-28 Psalm 34.11-20 or Psalm 127.1-4 (EV: 1-3) 2 Corinthians 1.3-7 or Colossians 3.12-17 Luke 2.33-35 or John 19.25-27	Rev Clare Leal Ezekiel 37.1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8.6-11 John 11.1-45	Isaiah 50.4-9a Psalm 31.9-16 (or 31.9-18) Philippians 2.5-11 Matthew 26.14 - 27.66 or Matthew 27.11-54
Reader	Liz Whimpany	Marilyn Ridler	Dave Leal	n/a	Multiple Readers
Intercessions	Liz Whimpany	Dave Leal	Joanne Royle	Chris Stanisstreet n/a	Dave Leal
Sides-person	Brian Green	Leslie Walton	Marilyn Ridler	Stewart Jackson n/a	Brian Green
				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.

Tub2Pub

We are collecting clean, empty plastic confectionary and biscuit tubs and will take them to be recycled through the Greene King pubs Tub2Pub scheme. The proceeds from recycling the tubs will be donated to Macmillan Cancer Support.



Please bring you tubs to church or leave them in the porch before 9 February. Thank you!

High Legh Diary for February & March 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 3rd February	2.00 pm	Mothers Union
Tuesday 10th February	2.00 pm	Coffee, Create & Chat
Thursday 12th February	7.30 pm	High Legh Community Observatory
Friday 13th February	7.00 pm	QUIZ NIGHT
Wednesday 18th February	12.30 pm	Community Lunch (Please book with Elaine Jones)
Tuesday 10th March	2.00 pm	Coffee, Create & Chat
Thursday 12th March	7.30 pm	High Legh Community Observatory
Wednesday 18th March	12.30 pm	Community Lunch (Please book with Elaine Jones)

Cleaning Rota	
Feb	Trish & Mary(S)
March	Elaine & Pauline

Regular happenings in the Church Room

WE'RE HOOKED

We still meet every Monday afternoon at 2pm. It is £3.00 including cake, coffee and tea. You will have seen our Christmas tree and wreath in Church over the Christmas period. By Easter our Church will be decorated with all the daffodils we made. Who knows what our next project will be. In the meantime we are carrying on with our own projects. If you are a beginner or experienced we would love to see you

COMMUNITY LUNCH

Every 3rd Wednesday of the month

Our lunches are still thriving. The soup in these cold winter days is very welcoming and being enjoyed by all. There is always lots of laughter, and plenty of "catch up". You would be very welcome to join us. It is on the third Wednesday each month at 12.30 and costs £8.00. That includes delicious cakes, tea and coffee. What is there not to like ! Please sign up in the Church room, or call Arthur on 752481 or Elaine on 753111.

Coffee, Chat and Create

We have only been a very small group over the past few months with colds and flu catching people out and the weather not being conducive. Hopefully now the evenings are drawing out and spring is on the way out numbers will improve. We would love to welcome new people. Do come and join us. It's the second Tuesday each month in the Church room at 2pm. £2.00 including coffee, tea and biscuits.

We all enjoyed the Festive meeting on 2nd December with thanks to Enid and Rhian for providing Sherry and mince pies.

Following the coffee morning in October and sale of knitting we are able to divide £500 into a £100 each for the Holiday fund, Prison's Ministry, Britain and Ireland, Worldwide and Relief funds which was sent off at the beginning of December.

At the Christmas Farmers market on 21st December we provided the tea/coffee, bacon butties or cake and held a bottle raffle and after expenses raised £240.78 which we'll distribute shortly.

Our New Year meeting will be at the new time of 2pm on Tuesday 3rd February 2026

C.Gibbon

QUIZ NIGHT

FRIDAY 13th February

7.00 pm

6 to a team

£12.00 to include supper

Please book with Elaine on 01925 753111
or Nick on 07554 343133

Bring your own drinks and glasses

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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