



St Brelade's Church

Newsletter and What's On

26th February 2025

View from the Rectory

This month we've combined our usual 'What's On' with some news and thoughts from me. We hope you find this format helpful, and as ever What's On will be available by hard copy too, as well as on the website.

Spring is my favourite season - I'm loving the lengthening days and increase in temperature, and am delighted to see where spring bulbs are popping up around the church and Rectory - even popping out from behind the scaffolding! This brave

daffodil caught my eye as a sign of hope and persistence - a treasure in the darkness of a building site! In the Bible, Isaiah 45:3 says, 'I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who calls you by your name.'

There's plenty of darkness in the world at the moment, but there are treasures to be found - moments that remind us of God our creator, who loves us, knows each one of us and has a plan for us. That's what this little daffodil reminded me of - I hope that you, too, may find treasures to encourage you, especially as and when times are tough.

Wendy's news

Of course the daffodils also remind us that we're moving into a new season. Wendy's announcement on Sunday that she will be leaving the role of vergger at the end of April will bring change, and I'm so delighted that she is planning to remain part of the church family at St Brelade's. Here is what she says:

'I am naturally sad that certain health issues prevent me from continuing to be your Vergger. What a rich store of fond memories I have of the varied experiences that is a Vergger's life. It is wonderful that Sarah and I have planned that I will continue to be a part of this church not only as a congregational member but to also to help from time to time with weddings and funerals. /continued on page 2.

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Verger news/ continued from page 1 Going forward, I'm hoping the Dibley crossovers are a thing of the past! I have many memories that cause me to chuckle, especially inadvertently playing the Beatles through the Bell Tower at my first wedding which started my 'Walice' nickname with our Wardens. I will have a break once I have handed over to your new Verger and will then rejoin you as a member of the St Brelade church family.' We have lots to thank Wendy for and we'll do that as a church family - it will also be great to celebrate a new season with her in due course!

The job of verger will be advertised as soon as we can with some tweaks to the role description worked out in conjunction with the parish.

Lent and Easter It was great to meet as a ministry team recently, and to plan services together. The big news is - of course there'll be an Easter bonfire on Easter Day this year! But before then - Lent. It starts next week, with Ash Wednesday on March 5th: there'll be a service of communion with ashing at 6pm at the Bay. Cliff and I are looking forward to hosting a Lent course; 5 sessions with an afternoon or evening option - feel free to dip in when you're able. We'll be taking the chance to look at the basics of our faith and enjoy discussion together and learning from each other. Please don't think you need to have it all worked out - come and let's wrestle together! Details below.



Lent Course 2025

St Brelade and St Aubin

Five sessions, afternoon or evening: short film and discussion (or just come and listen) in the Lady Chapel at the Bay :

1. Who is Jesus
2. Why did He die
3. Why pray
4. Why read the Bible
5. The Holy Spirit

Hosted by Cliff and Sarah.

*Thursday Afternoon
Sessions, 3pm - 4.30pm*

March 6th, 20th, 27th and April
3rd and 10th

*Wednesday Evening
Sessions, 7pm - 8.30pm*

March 19th, 26th and April 2nd,
9th and 16th

Refreshments available

Email: rector@stbreladeschurch.com to give us an idea of numbers if poss, or just turn up when you can - no need to get to all sessions.

Updates

Address book and Rotas

You will be aware that we are updating our data base - thank you for your help with this. We have recently switched to a church management software system called ChurchSuite which helps us to do a number of things, including store our data, use it to do mail shots, and rotas. This means that our rota format has changed and I appreciate that the new format doesn't, at first glance, feel as user friendly as the rota that Ruth does. However - it will email you in advance of a duty and in time you will be able to update the rota with swaps you've made, times when you're unavailable etc. We can also use it for hall hire, service planning, and calendar. It will definitely help us to keep things running smoothly - please bear with us in the short term.

Safeguarding

We're updating our processes at the moment and there'll be more news soon.

AV

The key to updating our AV provision is updating the IT network that makes it function, and Julian is working on this - huge thanks, Julian! Further changes will follow in time, with a return to the easy worship software rather than powerpoint for 10.30, meaning words can be projected over the image of the service leaders. We are also looking at screen placement and speakers, and as you will know, the organ needs work too. We are progressing with research and quotes.

Preachers and Service leaders Cliff has permission to officiate in Jersey through from Salisbury at last and it was a big moment from him when he preached at 8am and 6.30pm last Sunday! He's looking forward to playing his part in services alongside our ministry team. Going forwards, I will take the service at St Aubins on the 1st Sunday of the month, with Cliff taking the service at the Bay, and he'll be at St Aubins on the 3rd Sunday of the month. That means that Bill Matthews, who has served so faithfully, will be able to take a bit more of a rest, though he still hopes to join the congregation at the Hill. There will be a service to celebrate the work at The Hill, and to give thanks for Bill's ministry, on Sunday 6th April, lead by the Dean. This Sunday March 2nd, Christine Price will be covering the 10.30 service at the Bay as we didn't know if Cliff would have permission to officiate in time!

Thank you!

Thank you for continuing to bear with me as I learn the ropes! Do make a note of all of our diary dates coming up in the following pages - thanks as ever to Ruth for compiling.

With love in Christ

Sarah

Sarah McClelland, Rector, Parish Church of St Brelade with St Aubin on the Hill

Day off: Friday

Parish Church of St Brelade

Church Events and Church Services



What's on in March 2025



Date	Event	Time and Venue
Saturday 1st March	Men's Breakfast	8.30am at St Peter's Garden Centre
Wednesday 5th March	Tea, Cake and Chat: A chance to catch up over tea and cake!	3pm in the Church Hall
Wednesday 19th March	Service for Healing in Church followed by refreshments in the hall	10am in Church
Every Friday	Art Group	2pm in the Church Hall
Wednesday evenings or Thursday afternoons	Lent Course: see overleaf for dates and more details	Lady Chapel, Parish Church
Fridays from 7th March until 18th April	Lent Lunches: see posters for more information.	Parish Hall, 12noon till 2pm

March Services at the Parish Church:	
Sunday 2nd March Sunday before Lent	8am Book of Common Prayer 10.30am Communion Service
Wednesday 5th March Ash Wednesday	6pm Ashing Service at the Parish Church.
Sunday 9th March 1st Sunday in Lent	8am Book of Common Prayer 10.30am Communion Service
Monday 10th March	11.30am: Memorial Service for the late Mrs Susan Osborne-Smith
Sunday 16th March 2nd Sunday in Lent	8am Book of Common Prayer 10.30am Communion Service
Sunday 23rd March 3rd Sunday in Lent	8am Book of Common Prayer 10.30am Family Service 6.30pm Communion Service
Sunday 30th March 4th Sunday in Lent/ Mothering Sunday	8am Book of Common Prayer 10.30am Communion Service

Parish Church of St Brelade

Diary Dates

Church Contacts Database: we're updating our records, please pick up a form from the back of church to update your details and your preferences about email contact. Thank you.

Easter Choir: Rehearsal dates for this are being arranged. If you would like to sing in the Easter Choir please speak to Kevin.



Lent starts on 5th March 2025

6pm Ash Wednesday Service
with Ashing at the Parish Church,

Lent Course: This year's 5 week Lent Course is being held on a choice of two dates:

Thursdays at 3pm in the Lady Chapel: from Thursday 6th March, until Thursday 10th April. (except for 13th March).

or

Wednesdays at 7pm in the Lady Chapel: From 19th March until Wednesday 6th April.

All Welcome, Please let us know if you'd like to attend so we have enough refreshments!

Lent lunches at the Parish Hall during Lent: They require helpers, please contact the Parish Hall if you would like to help.

Sunday Readings for March:

Sunday 2nd March Sunday Before Lent	Exodus 34: 29-end Luke 9: 28-43a
Sunday 9th March First Sunday in Lent	Deuteronomy 26: 1-11 Luke: 4:1-13
Sunday 16th March Second Sunday in Lent	Genesis 15: 1-12; 17-18 Luke 13: 31-end
Sunday 22nd March Third Sunday in Lent	Isaiah 55; 1-9 Luke 13: 1-9
Sunday 30th March 4th Sunday in Lent/Mothering Sunday	Exodus 2:1-10 Luke 2: 33-35