



St Brelade's Church

Newsletter and What's On

31st March 2025



View from the Rectory

Marking moments in life has always been important to people. Think of Stone Henge, the pyramids... Hougue Bie! In the Bible, there's the moment where the Israelites crossed into the promised land under Joshua's leadership, and set up a cairn as a reminder: 'The men who had carried the twelve rocks from the Jordan brought them to Joshua, and they made them into a monument. Then Joshua told the people: 'Years from now your children will ask you why these rocks are here. Tell them,

"The Lord our God dried up the Jordan River so we could walk across. He did the same thing here for us that he did for our people at the Red Sea, because he wants everyone on earth to know how powerful he is. And he wants us to worship only him (Joshua 4:20 - 24)"

Celebrating the great things God has done is a theme of the coming month. Firstly we will celebrate the new chapter at St Aubin on the Hill, along with Bill Matthews' ministry as he steps down from leading services and enjoys time in the pew. Do join us on 6th April at St Aubin on the Hill, where Mike the Dean will preach and preside and we'll round off celebrations with a reception after the service.

Marking Holy week and Easter is the highlight of the Christian year and I'm so looking forward to doing that here with you at the Hill and the Bay. Our lay readers are taking services on Good Friday and will give us creative and beautiful ways to reflect on the crucifixion. And on Easter Day there'll be bacon rolls after the 6am Bonfire and celebrations will continue at our services - details in What's On in the coming pages .

It's also this month that our wedding season begins in earnest! Cliff and I have been very much enjoying meeting couples at wedding prep mornings and are both excited about the joyful celebrations we'll be involved in. Wonderful markers of all that God has done in bringing couples together and all He will do through them in their marriages .

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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:

Lent Course

We're very much enjoying our evenings and afternoon sessions, chewing over the fundamentals of our faith and hearing from each other about how we've experienced God at work. Please feel free to dip in to any of the sessions, each one stands alone, so do pop in if you're interested.

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.

Updates Continued:

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.

We have decided in consultation with those who worship mainly at the 8am service, to keep with booklets rather than screens at 8am, to be more in keeping with the reflective nature of the service.

Tea and Chat

We've decided to put this on hold for now. It's brilliant to offer a place for people to come and be together mid-week and we'd love to do that, and we'll review how that looks over coming months. In the meantime there is still an opportunity to get together monthly at the:

Healing Service

Brian continues to lead this each month on the 3rd Wednesday at 10am - a short, reflective service followed by refreshments. Do come and invite people along - this month it's on April 16th, in the lady chapel then church hall.

Staff team

I'm so thankful to Wendy and Ruth who continue to introduce me to how things work and bear with me in the meantime! As you know Wendy will be retiring from her role as verger (but not from her role as part of the St Brelade church family!), at the end of April. She has kindly offered some flexibility in her finishing date. Along with the wardens and parish, we're looking at the verger's job description in conjunction with the other admin needs we have, and we will be getting out a Job description and advert as soon as we're able. Please do pray that God would be raising up the right people to support the church's ministry and mission.

Volunteer teams

We're so blessed to have some paid help in running the church - but churches only work because of every member using their gifts, whether that's in prayer or financial giving or offering a listening ear or coffee making or doing the accounts... you name it, the church is richer for the gift you bring. Offering our gifts is a joy not a drain (most of the time!). If it's more drain than joy we might need to review what we're offering.

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Volunteer Teams /contd

At interview and in the parish profile there were comments about the dwindling number of volunteers. But that's not really what I've found - so many of you offer to help with the energy and resources you have, and it's wonderful! It will be good to continue to encourage each other to share our gifts to enable the church to be a blessing - I'll keep returning to this theme.

In the meantime if there are things you'd like to offer and no one's asked you yet - please could you let me know?

Rectory works

If you're around mid week, you'll know that the Rectory is a hive of activity! Good progress has been made on re-roofing and re-plumbing and other interior work is well underway. We're told that things remain on target for completion around June so we'd love to think we might be able to move in in July when carpets etc are sorted...

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 April



Date	Event	Time and Venue
Saturday 5th April	Men's Breakfast	8.30am at St Peter's Garden Centre
Wednesday	Tea, Cake and Chat: No meeting in April	
Wednesday 16th April	Service for Healing	10am in the Lady Chapel followed by refreshments in the Church Hall.
Every Friday	Art Group	2pm in the Church Hall
Weds evenings or Thursday pm	Lent Course	Lady Chapel, Parish Church
Fridays until and including Good Friday	Lent Lunches: see posters for more information.	Parish Hall, 12noon till 2pm

April and Easter Services at the Parish Church:

Sunday 6th April 5th Sunday before Lent	8am Book of Common Prayer 10.30am United Service at St Aubin on the Hill
Sunday 13th April Palm Sunday	8am Book of Common Prayer 10.30am Communion Service for Palm Sunday
Maundy Thursday 17th April 7pm	7pm Maundy Thursday Informal Communion Service
Good Friday 18th April 2pm	2pm A reflective Hour at the Cross
Easter Sunday 20th April	6am First Light Bonfire Service in the Church Field, with the First Eucharist of Easter in the Fishermen's Chapel. Followed by bacon rolls in the Church Hall. 8am Book of Common Prayer 10.30am Easter Communion Service for All Ages
Sunday 27th April Easter 2	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 Course continuing on :
Thursdays at 3pm in the Lady Chapel;
or Wednesdays at 7pm in the Lady.
All Welcome!



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



Men's Breakfast, Saturday 5th April, at 8.30am at St Peter's Garden Centre.
All men welcome for either a full English or just a coffee and a chat! Just turn up



Service for Healing

On Wednesday 16th April

At 10am in Church, followed by refreshments in the



Sunday 6th April 2025:

The 10.30am Service will be a united service **at St Aubin on the Hill;** with the Dean. To give thanks for the new roof and for the ministry of Rev Bill Matthews.

There will be no 10.30am service at the Parish church.

A reminder that there is no 'Tea and Chat' group in April