

Amazing Grace - Saturday 23rd April 7:30 - 10:00pm

You can now purchase tickets for this production (£7.50) online via the St John's website or from Janice Bradford who has a limited number available. It promises to be a very special musical depicting John Newton's life-changing testimony of how God turned a slave dealer into a loving Christian man.

Janice's mobile 07765 661648

Counting your Blessings - a Lent Challenge

For the second year the Rainbow Centre is running a Lent Challenge. This does not involve giving up Curry Nights Out or Cream Teas at The Grand. It's a challenge to count your blessings and at the same time raise funds for the Rainbow Centre. The challenge commences on the 1st March and continues through the month. For those interested in taking part you will find a leaflet on the table at the back. If you need any further explanation please see me. Phoebe Moffatt

Important Dates for your Diary

Ladies' Afternoon Tea at The Grand, Saturday 5 March, 3:30pm.

Tea £5 or Cake and Coffee £4. Please see or contact Jenny Hubbard (phone 07875 166284) or Claire Coleman (phone 07530 719517).

Our Easter Family Fun Day, Saturday 26 March, 2 - 4.30pm Volunteers needed. See David Donald or Alison Pemberton

Women's World Day of Prayer - 4th March

The theme this year is, "Receive Children, Receive Me" with a focus on Cuba. There are three services being held locally, 11:00am Folkestone Baptist Church (coffee from 10:30am), 2:30pm St Andrew's Cheriton and 8:00pm Sandgate Road, Methodist.

Alpha Course - Wednesday 13th April to Wednesday 13th July

If you have never heard of, or experienced, The Alpha Course then you may wish to consider being part of ours this year! It is an 11 week course where people can explore and find out all they want to know about the Christian faith in a safe, comfortable environment. Starting with a meal, we then have a teaching session and after that break into smaller groups for discussion and questions (no question is too small, large, easy or difficult). People at different stages of faith can attend, from atheists or people who are searching, to people who have attended church and been a Christian for years. If you feel you would like to be a part of this then please call or email Steve or Janice. [Tel:211037](tel:211037) Email: stevejbradford@btinternet.com

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www.stjohnsfolkestone.org

[facebook.com/StJohn's Church Folkestone](https://www.facebook.com/StJohn's Church Folkestone)

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Get Connected

Welcome to St John's!

Whether you're a regular or it's your first time here, we're very pleased to see you. If you'd like to find out more about St John's and what we get up to do pick up a Welcome Pack from the back and please stay for coffee and a chat at the end of the service.

In our services this morning:

09:15 All Stars in the Hall
The Challenge of Love

09:15 Morning Worship at GTH
and

10:45 Morning Worship in Church
Jesus provides a miraculous catch of fish

This evening:

18:00 Pause for Prayer in the Hall

"Be still and know that I am God."

Psalm 46:1 NIV



What's on this week.....

Monday 29th February	Tuesday 1st March
8:30am Morning Prayer Church Hall	2:00pm Craft Club Grace Taylor Hall
Wednesday 2nd March	Thursday 3rd March
8:30am Staff Meeting Church Hall	8:30am Morning Prayer Church Hall
10:00am Taylor Toddlers Grace Taylor Hall	9:15am Open the Book Rehearsal
2:00pm Primetime Church Hall	1:15pm Twiglets (Toddler Group) Church Hall
4:00pm Shooting Stars Church Hall	7:45pm Choir & Musicians Practice
Friday 4th March	Saturday 5th March
11am Service for Ursula Loat	3:30pm Ladies' Afternoon Tea The Grand
1:00pm All Stars Team Meeting	
5:30pm Brownies Church Hall	
Sunday 6th March - Morning Mothering Sunday	Sunday 6th March - Evening
9:15am Morning Worship Grace Taylor Hall	6:00pm No Pause for Prayer (Powerhouse Monday 7th)
10:30am All Age Mothering Sunday Service in Church	7:00pm 20s & 30s Group Church Hall

What is Lent all about?

Have you ever wondered why we, as Christians, remember important events or times in the life of Christ on certain days or for specific periods of the year? Many churches mark these times by the use of different colours of cloth on the communion table or altar - e.g. purple for Lent.

Whilst we may think we should remember these times in Jesus' life every day, rather than occasionally, it can be helpful to our growth as disciples, to focus on particular events from Jesus' life when we are encouraged to spend more time appreciating and meditating on Jesus.

The Church year begins four weeks before Christmas with the season of Advent and progresses as follows: Christmas; Epiphany (12 days after Christmas); Lent, which includes Holy Week; Easter; The Ascension (40 days after Easter Sunday); Pentecost (10 days after ascension).

Traditionally Lent is 40 days of fasting and penitence that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter Sunday. In biblical times, fasting was about abstaining from food but today Christians often replace fasting from food with something else that they would find it hard to live without, such as coffee, or alcohol.

Other people find it more beneficial to do something that draws them closer to God, rather than giving something up during Lent. For example by spending more time quietly reading the Bible or praying. Recently there has been a growing trend to do something for someone else each day, for the forty days thereby spreading God's love.

During this quiet and reflective season of Lent, as we recall Jesus suffering it is natural to experience feelings of sadness but our overwhelming feeling should be one of gratitude for how much Jesus loves us and what he has done for us.

May God bless you during this season of Lent and may you be a blessing to others.

Steve (The vicar)