



Getting in touch with us:

The **Church office** is not staffed regularly apart from on Mondays. If you have a claim for expenses or a bill that the Church should pay, please make sure it is left in the church office, hand it to the Treasurer or send via email to finance@stjohnschurchcarterton.org.uk
Publicity. If you would like to publicise an event or a celebration in the monthly newsletter, please leave details in the Church office or email the office **before 15th** of the previous month. Please put "newsletter" in the title line.

Baptism enquiries: Rossie Swell 01993 843418 "rossie.sewell@gmail.com"
Wedding or Banns enquiries: Please email office@stjohnschurchcarterton.org.uk
Church Office: Phone Number: 01993 212661 (answerphone only)
Email: office@stjohnschurchcarterton.org.uk
Associate Priest: Rev Barry Hanson "associatepriest@stjohnschurchcarterton.org.uk" 07949 654988 (Day off Friday)
Lay Minister & Spiritual Director: Lyndsay Baker
 "layminister@stjohnschurchcarterton.org.uk" 07783 650793
Children & Families Ministry: Wend Smith "acfm@stjohnschurchcarterton.org.uk" 07492 925602
Churchwardens: Allister Holt 01993 209227 & Alison Brown 07966 405687
 "wardens@stjohnschurchcarterton.org.uk"
PCC Secretary: Linda Wooloff "office@stjohnschurchcarterton.org.uk" 01993 840133
Website: www.stjohnschurchcarterton.org.uk
If you need to swap a rota duty or have arranged this yourself, please can you let Linda Wooloff know

ROTAS	5 January Communion	12 January Informal	19 January Communion	26 January Morning Worship	2 February Communion
Welcoming, Bell Ringer & Sidespersons	Zena Pearson Volunteer please	Allister & Karen Holt	Greta Hartley Miriam Knight	Volunteers please	Zeana Pearson Jacky Thomas
Readings	Carol Hadgraft Mike Watts	CFM	Ian Harley Margo Brewer	Sharon Harley Alison Brown	Steve Bostock Mike Watts
Leading Prayers	Allister Holt	CFM	Steve Bostock	Lyndsay Baker	Clergy
Chalice	Ian Baker Mike Cox		Alison Brown Wend Smith		Ian Baker Mike Cox
Refreshments	Stephen Hester Karen Holt	Alison Brown Sharon Harley	Carol Fothergill Volunteer please	Ian Harley Volunteer please	Stephen Hester Volunteer

St John's supports the work of Christians Against Poverty (CAP) through the local Centre in Witney. If you need help with debt please phone the main switchboard (0800 328 0006) to make an appointment.



The Church of St John the Evangelist,

Carterton

www.stjohnschurchcarterton.org.uk

January 2025

Welcome to worship!



Broadcasting Sunday services online : see our website for details

5 January— Christmas 2

10.30am: Holy Communion*

*Isaiah 60:1-6. The light has come.
Matthew 2:1-12. The visit of the Magi.*

4.00pm: No Messy Church



12 January

10.30am: Informal Worship

*Isaiah 43:1-7. Restoration and protection promised
Luke 3:15-17; 21 22. The Baptism of Jesus*

19 January—Epiphany 2

10.30am: Holy Communion*

*Isaiah 62:1-5. The vindication and salvation of Zion.
John 2:1-11. The wedding at Cana*

26 January—Epiphany 3

10.30am: Morning Worship

*Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5 6, 8-10. The book of the law.
Luke 4:14-21. The beginning of Jesus' ministry and rejection*

* For Intincture, stand to the right at the altar; for Common Cup stand to the left

Mid-week Holy Communion services every Thursday morning @ 10.30am

You can now donate towards the work of St John's via the above QR code

Let's Pray



We are a church that believes in the power of prayer. We have a regular prayer letter that is available at the church and on the website. Also, any of the ministry team would be delighted to pray for you at any time. If you would like to be added to the prayer list please contact Lyndsay Baker 07783 650793/
layminister@stjohnschurchcarterton.org.uk

Monthly Prayer Meeting Third Thursday of each month at 9.45am @ St John's. A time to offer prayers for the Benefice and our Community.

Eco Tip for January

Make 'enjoying nature' your priority. From bird watching to writing about or drawing something that inspires you in nature, growing your own fruit or vegetables, or exploring an area of outstanding natural beauty in the UK, be sure to fall in love with nature in a new way this coming year and allow it to lead your thoughts towards God our Creator. Further ideas can be found at arocha.org.uk/ideas-to-enjoy-nature/



Let's celebrate some January birthdays:

Liz Wood (6th); Francesca Ford (25th); Pauline Evans (31st)



Our vision is to be a growing church, rooted in Christ,
that reaches out with love and service to the whole community.

This month's thoughts are from Lyndsay

A Fresh Start.

***"Forget about what's happened; don't keep going over old history. Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new. It's bursting out! Don't you see it? There it is! I'm making a road through the desert, rivers in the badlands."* (Isaiah 43:18-19)**

The stories in scripture show time and time again that God offers people a *new beginning*, another chance for great things. God frees the oppressed, Jesus heals and restores, and the Holy Spirit imbues new life.

When we're in a new situation, at the beginning of a new year, or in a new state of mind it's natural to make resolutions. But in those resolutions are we staying true to ourselves or trying to be someone different? When Jesus offers someone a new beginning, he's simply calling them to be themselves, their best selves.

Sometimes new beginnings are chances to take a look at the things we're holding onto. Saint Ignatius speaks of so-called "disordered attachments", things we're attached to that are not helpful to growing closer to God and our True Self. We need to get rid of those things.

It's also important to consider our friendship with God who meets us wherever we are. When we look back on a past year, we may nostalgically long to return to that place. The memories of the past can come with us. And God, most importantly, is never left behind. God moves with us from the present moment into the future, into new and hopeful beginnings.

Let us start our new beginning with a prayer attributed to St Teresa of Avila and St Thérèse of Lisieux:

May today there be peace within.

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.

May you be confident knowing you are a child of God.

Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love. It is there for each and every one of us.

Happy New Year, Lyndsay

Fellowship Together is a vital part of the Christian life

Home Groups meet regularly throughout the month. If you would like to join one, contact the office who will put you in touch with a group leader.

Fellowship Breakfasts: Bi-monthly Saturday events starting @ 8.30am. Book by emailing office@stjohnschurchcarterton.org.uk or sign up on the board.



What else is happening in January

1st & 3rd Wednesdays: Warm Space (10.30am-12.30pm) -

There is no Messy Church service in January

8th & 22nd: INSPIRE (2.00pm-4.00pm)

18th: Men's Breakfast (8.00am for 8.30am)

25th: Burn's Night Supper and Evening of Entertainment (6.30pm for 7pm)

27th: PCC Meeting @ 7.45pm

Looking Ahead

Contact Linda Wooloff to make or amend any bookings in the church calendar
c/o office@stjohnschurchcarterton.org.uk

6th: No Thursday morning Communion Service

12th & 26th: INSPIRE (2.00pm-4.00pm)

15th: Church Family Breakfast (8.30am)

23rd: Sing & Praise (4.00pm)



'WORLD DAY OF PRAYER' Friday, 7 March, 7pm at St John's Church. The service for 2025 has been put together by the Christian women in the Cook Islands, the theme is "I made you wonderful". Based on the words of Psalm 139 and woven within the stories of three Christian women we are called to worship God together in recognition that each one of us is special and unique, wonderfully made in God's image. Refreshments will be served after the service. For more information see Linda Cox

What's Happening Around the Benefice?

For events taking place at **St Britius** and **St Mary's** go to our new Benefice website www.bncbb.org.uk

Regular Events for Children & Families in term time only (*)

Monday After School Club* 3.15pm-4.15pm, **Tuesday & Wednesday Kids Club*** 4.00-5.00pm (ages 5-10) & **Tuesdays** 5.15-6.15pm (ages 10-14). Please contact Wend if you would like your child to attend. Re-starting 2nd week in January

DROP-IN* for pre-school infants & parents Fridays (9.00—10.30am)

Messy Church: 4.00pm— 5.00pm First Sunday of the month (**Not January, April, August or December**)

