

Please pray for our church family	
Mon	Jean Dean
Tue	Peter Dibbo
Wed	Marilyn Du Plooy
Thurs	Pauline Eagle & Phil
Fri	Pat Edge & John
Sat	Robert & Annabel Elrick
Sun	John Evans

**Please Pray**

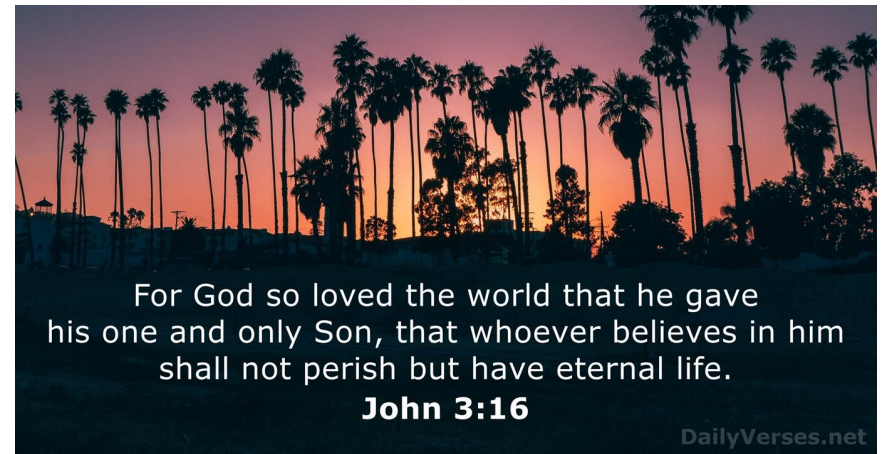
**Heather Vandamme** is leading our overall children's work. The work among primary school children is, sadly, smaller post-Covid than pre-Covid, though we still have a lot of teenagers attending church.

**Pray** that the gospel will reach young people of all ages.


**Dorothy** is finally out of hospital. **Marilyn** is soon to be home. She lives on the third floor which is going to be a problem.



**Sunday  
March 5  
2023**



**Electoral Roll 2023**



**It is that time of the year again.** Sharon is working on the revision of the Electoral Roll, our list of church members. We do this on an annual basis and the revision will take place between the **12 March and 26 April**.

**We warmly welcome those who are new to the church,** and would love to see you as members of St John's and the electoral roll.

**Please see Sharon for an application form.**

**“If I only had one more sermon to preach, it would be on this text.” Revd. John Stott**

Services for Next Sunday			
March 12th Lent 3	9am	Holy Communion 1662	Raymond Adams
	11am	<b>Holy Communion / All Age</b> <b>** Raymond's final service at St John's! **</b>	

Time	Service	Sermon	Readings
9.00 am	Holy Communion	Raymond Adams	Psalm 121 John 3: 1-17
11.00 am	Morning Praise		

## Prayer Circles

Sharon has been looking after the Prayer Circles. Ali will be taking that on from now on. You can contact her on her mobile or by email to request prayer

**07403 216682**

**alison@fiscalservices.co.uk**

## Latest News From Christ the Servant.

**As we announced last week**, the current plan is to sell the church building to another congregation. Two or three different fellowships are considering what step to take.

**On Saturday April 1** there will be a service of thanksgiving. That will take place at 3pm and members of local churches are invited to attend.



## The Vital Importance of Saying "Yes"

**At Spring Harvest some years ago**, speakers often told us that we needed to learn to say "No". Church activities must not consume our lives.

**These days, we need** to learn to say "Yes".

**Heather spoke last week about our children's work** and the need for people to serve in it. Whatever gift we have, we must use. If there is a need, and we can do something about it, God calls us to say "Yes". That word leads to the flourishing, active church we all want.

**The man who buried his talent in the ground undoubtedly** had a less stressful time. But Christ did not call you or me to that way of life and we must not live it.



## Her Legs and Life Restored

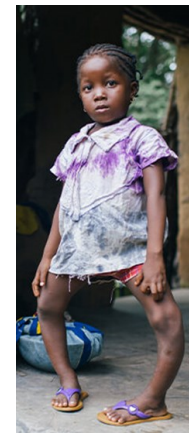
**Bill Hunt spent three months on the hospital ship, *Africa Mercy***. He got us involved as a church and the stories just keep coming. Here is one.

**When Aicha was just 3 months old**, her mother died and her grandmother, Mymoona, took her in. Without her mother's milk, as Aicha grew, her legs began to bow outwards. She was basically malnourished.

**"That was a very dark time for us,"** Mymoona said. "My son was grieving the loss of his wife, and we had to try and take care of Aicha." Mymoona and Aicha's father prayed daily for a solution. But where could it come from?

**For Aicha, it came in the unexpected form** of a traveller to their village. "When he saw Aicha, he told us about a ship taking patients just like her and he urged us to go there," Mymoona said. That ship was the *Africa Mercy*.

**It was a glimmer of hope, but** Aicha's father took his precious little girl to the screening site to meet the volunteer nurses from the *Africa Mercy*. After her screening, Aicha was selected for the surgery the family had longed for. They were overjoyed.



**Time has passed.** Here is the child in bed on the hospital ship following the operation. Her hope and joy are obvious. Grandma says: "If Aicha's mother could see her right now, she would be so very happy because, despite Aicha's [many sorrows], she has received the help she needed. Thank you!"

***Mercy Ships* are one of the four international mission partners** that your PCC has chosen to support. Just look at these two photos. This is the difference your gifts have made. Could money be better spent?

**Please return your pledge card to James, or respond online so we can continue to support *Mercy Ships* and their fantastic work.**