



# February Newsletter

## **Message from Matt**



*Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains.*

James 5:7

I spent some time with my spiritual director this week and it has been healthy to be reminded of the Lord's hand at work. The Spirit has given me this verse before and I'd like to share it with you, because there is so much that can appear to be done, but it is the Lord who sends the rains. Early rains for planting and establishing, late rains for growth and flourishing before harvesting. The point about rains is that God sends them, they are his work and can signify his blessing upon his people. The temptation, that we can have (if you are anything like me and planning for the year) is to become impatient or try to force the pace. Not so, writes James, there's a big picture, concluding with the return of Jesus, of which we are blessed to be a part of for this season. Though the farmer had done much ground work, he can wait patiently because he has learned to see God at work. He knows God is reliable and that he does send rain.

Thinking of harvest, I hope you are finding the morning and House-group teaching challenging and helpful in equipping you as workers in the field. This first section is about what the disciples needed to know, but the whole theme is something I had in mind before I came here, so I'm enjoying something I believe we should all focus on, including myself. We are all followers of Jesus Christ and can learn a lot through his teaching those he first called. I hope this takes us deeper into our love of God and for each other. All feedback is helpful!

It would be great to go through Lent together, so I've asked Home Groups to come on Wednesday evenings during Lent but, of course, those who are not in Home Groups are also welcomed. I explored the Diocese Lent course and but found I was struggling to put something for the whole church together from it. Though it is useful to reflect sometimes on how painters tell powerful stories of redemption, however, it isn't always accessible for all. So, I'm writing a series of short talks and reflections on the life of Joseph (the Old Testament one) for Lent so that the whole church can come to together and reflect and pray together. More in Grapevine over the next couple of weeks, including a link to the Diocese course.

Finally, a big step for us that I believe we should take. At PCC we approved a proposal to create a post for a Family and Youth Minister. We believe, while everyone should be encouraged to share their faith; building up youngsters and families will need a particular focus above and beyond St John's current capacity. We have increasing opportunities, that both Susanna and Jonas are pursuing, and for these we will need more input. So, we are putting together a package which is attractive and within our means while at the same time applying for Diocese Mission Funding to support the initial costs. We see this as a long-term position and as a church family, something we should prepare for so that we can continue to support this role well into the future.

**Sunday 11th February**  
**6.30pm**  
**Evening Service with**  
**with Youth led Worship**



There will be one service on  
Ash Wednesday, 14th February at  
10.00am  
In the Lounge

## Events for 2018

<b>Half term</b>	Monday, 12th February - 16th February
<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	14th February
<b>Women World Day of Prayer</b>	Friday, 2nd March
<b>Mothering Sunday</b>	11th March
<b>Games Evening with Fish and Chips</b>	24th March
<b>Love Southbourne Easter Egg Hunt around the Village</b>	Starting week 24th March
<b>Palm Sunday</b>	25th March
<b>Love Southbourne - Distributing Hot Cross Buns</b>	30th March
<b>Easter Sunday</b>	1st April
<b>APCM</b>	Thursday, 19th April
<b>Solent Choir for St. Wilfrid</b>	Saturday, 28th April
<b>Confirmation</b>	Thursday, 3rd May
<b>Royal Wedding BBQ FA Cup Final</b>	Saturday, 19th May
<b>Craft Charity Day</b>	Saturday, 26th May
<b>Half Term</b>	Monday, 28th - Friday, 1st June
<b>Sussex Day Fete</b>	Saturday, 16th June
<b>World Cup with BBQ</b>	Monday 18th June
<b>Mid Summer Concert</b>	Saturday, 14th July
<b>Deanery Evensong</b>	Sunday, 22nd July
<b>Church BBQ</b>	Sunday 29th July
<b>Love Southbourne Children Tea Party</b>	Wednesday 22nd August

# Chichester Harbour Filling Station

Ian McDowall from the Tough Talk ministry will be the guest speaker this month.

Ian has an amazing testimony; he has seen his life transformed from obsessive body-building, night club doorman to born again Christian speaker and mentor.



Come to relax, refresh and refuel with contemporary worship, prayer, teaching, healing and fellowship.

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February  
7pm for 7.30pm

Bosham Village Hall, Walton Lane, PO18 8QF  
Refreshments will be served

01243 375576

[thefillingstation.org.uk](http://thefillingstation.org.uk)

  @ChiHarbourFS

**THE  
FILLING  
STATION**