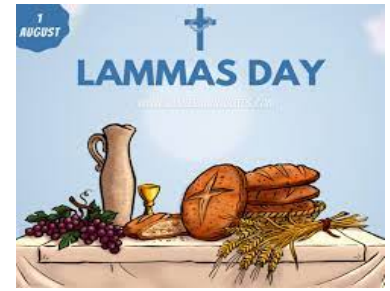




26th July 2026.
We extend a warm welcome to
John Flowers, and to all our
members, friends and visitors.



For meditation: *Grant us the grace, O God, to surrender the grievance that separates and the forgiveness that is withheld. Assure us that no sin is so great that it cannot be confessed, no wound so deep it cannot be healed, and no sinner so lost that grace cannot bring them home. William Booth (1829 – 1912)*

NEWS AND VIEWS

Next Saturday brings a new month and an old church festival that is generally now forgotten – Lammas Day. It was once an important quarter day in the Celtic year and was called Lughnasad Day after their god Lugh. Harvest festivals relating to Lughnasad were very common in Scotland. The name Lammas probably comes from a corruption of ‘loaf mass’, due to the breads made at this time made with the first cut corn of the harvest and blessed by the priest. Some people also think the name could be derived from ‘lamb mass’ as lambs were once dedicated at church on this day. Large sheep fairs were traditionally held in many parts of the country and these were occasions of general festivity. Semi-common grazing lands were also opened for public use, lasting until Candlemas.

A PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Loving God, we recognise you as a God who is full of Love, Truth, Grace, Justice and Mercy. You demonstrate Strength, Patience, Integrity, you are full of Blessing. We worship and adore you. Come, one and all to sing God’s praises. Exalt our Eternal God and Proclaim his never-ending goodness. Rejoice, and worship him in all his majesty. Amen

We are remembering the congregation at Peasedown St John in our prayers this week.

LECTIONARY READINGS – 2nd August

Genesis 32: 22 - 31

Psalms 17: 1 -7, 16

Romans 9: 1 -5

Matthew 14: 13 -21

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches.” Matthew 13: 31, 32

“Which is more important,” said big Panda, the journey or the destination?” “The company” replied Tiny Dragon.

DIARY

Sunday 26th July

Circuit Farewell service 4.00pm
for Rev Simon and Jane will be held at
Southdown Methodist – followed by
refreshments

Thursday 30th July

Café 9.30 –12 noon
All welcome.

Sunday 2nd August

There will be NO service at the church

Sunday 9th August

Morning worship 11.00
led by Rev John Carne – the service
will include Holy Communion

Let joy break out, eternal God!
Take the self-imposed blindfold from our eyes,
Rob us of the crutches we so dearly love.
Unshackle mind and heart,
And grant the freedom you have ever planned.
Let joy break out!
Throw open wide the gate of life
And help us find ourselves.

Let joy break out!
And flood our lives;
Creation spilling out its brilliant gifts,
Love finding itself lost in love,
Silence deepened, and all sound enhanced.
Let joy break out! And break again!
As your fatherly love enfold us
As Jesus speaks the intimate Word
And the Spirit enlivens our half-deadened
Lives.
Let joy break out! And joy again!

Donald Hilton

If, with God’s loving grace, we learn to ‘unshackle our minds and hearts’ in this way we shall know what it is truly to feel free for whatever life has in store for us and all our petty preoccupation with busyness and pressure and restrictions will be seen in the light of the loving freedom which God longs for us to delight in. Ann Bird

