

JESUS
Grace
SAVIOR
spirit REJOICE pray
LOVE Hope PRAISE
faith God Sacred JOY
GRACE LORD
pray
FAITH
JOY
SAVIOR
peace
PRAY
SALVATION

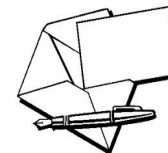
St. John's Methodist Church

Whitchurch

April 2017

Newsletter

Message from the Manse



Dear Friends,

Some months my Pastoral Letter almost writes itself; sometimes it's harder. This month is one of those harder months - so there's a few random thoughts this time rather than one longer piece.

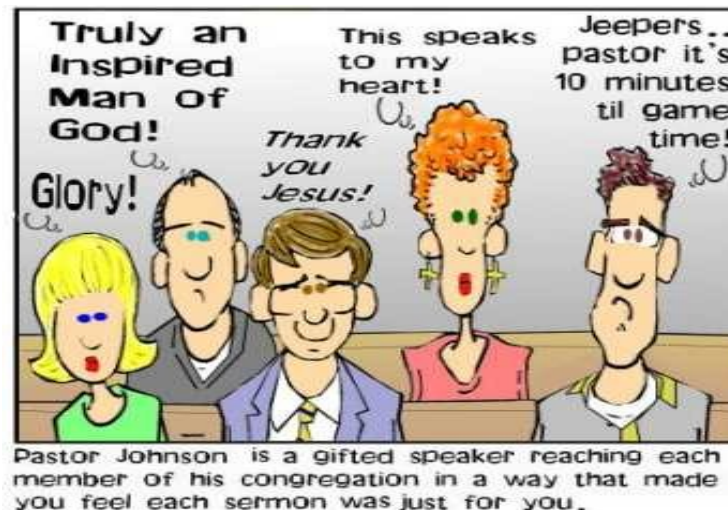
First of all, the similarities between Lord Kitchener and our Superintendent. No, he's not been growing a verdant moustache, or as far as I know taken to wearing a peaked cap; but in a lot of ways he's been echoing Kitchener's sentiments - "Your Circuit needs YOU!" There are a number of opportunities to serve the circuit at the moment, including Circuit Steward, Mission Area Advocate, or helping with the many other jobs that help keep things running and working for God in this area. If you'd like to know more, just ask!

In some ways running contrary to that was a course I went on last week about Time Management, with a subtitle of "Learning how to say no!" Part of that was about better organisation - but part of it was also about priorities. It's making me think about what my priorities are - and what they maybe should be. Whether this will include doing my Pastoral Letter earlier we'll have to see, but it does make me think - if we were each to pick one or two things that we think God wants to be our priorities, what would they be - and are we being true to them?

Finally, with Holy Week fast approaching, I always find that Maundy Thursday and Good Friday some of the most challenging but also most rewarding parts of the Christian story. It's hard to hear the accounts of Christ's betrayal, and Christ's passion; they take us out of our comfort zone, and challenge us to confront things about ourselves that we'd sometimes rather not think about. At the same time, I increasingly understand how vital they are in the Easter Story - with them, the power and the glory of Christ are magnified even further when we realise that Christ's victory over death and sin is all the more complete because it includes our betrayals, our sins, our death. I know not everyone can make the services in Holy Week - but do please at least read the accounts in the Gospel if you can. I find it makes Easter Sunday all the more joyful!

God Bless

Rob



Stewards Letter

Dear Friends

As you will have noticed the conifers have finally gone, in preparation for the construction of the access ramps. We are currently in the process of preparing the ground for the sowing of grass seed. When the building work is completed we can then decide what type of garden we want to front our Church.

A big thank you to all the people who worked hard to make the Civic Coffee morning a great success.

This is a good start towards the considerable sum we need to raise. I pray that we can continue in this way, so as we can make St John's accessible to everyone.

Easter will soon be with us when we remember the suffering and resurrection of our Lord. Let us offer up prayers for all people of the world who are suffering from illness, war, famine and are less fortunate than ourselves.

God Bless you all

Pete

Worship Services for April



	<u>Preacher</u>	<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Steward</u>
April 2nd	Rev. Rob Weir		Maurice Latham
April 9th	P. Williams	Lucy Chidlow	Mike Nimmo
April 16th	Rev. Rob Weir	Communion	Avril Bradfield
April 23rd	M Valentine		Rob Hewson
April 30th	Rev. H J Stubbs	Rachel Dimelow	Peter Shingler

What if we began to treat our Bibles the way we treat our cell phones?

What if we...

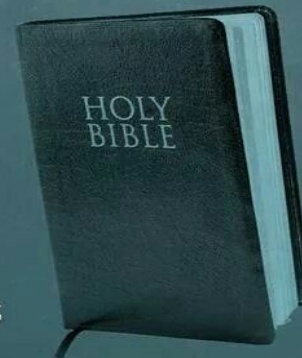
...carried it with us
everywhere?

...turned back to get it if
we forgot it?

...checked it for messages
throughout the day?

...used it in case of an
emergency?

...spent an hour or more using
it each day?



Taxi!



The following drivers are available during May to transport you to the Sunday morning service. Please 'phone before 9:30am.

April	2nd	Sheila Latham
	9th	Hazel Nimmo
	16th	Brian Faulkner
	23rd	Brian Faulkner
	30th	Jim Walwyn

Spick and Spanners for April

April	6th	Elizabeth Shingler, Briony Myles-Hook & Debbie Nichols
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	20th	Mike Nimmo, Vic Trigg & Dorothy Faulkner
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Weight Watchers will meet at 7:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

Next Sunday Mrs. Vinson will be soloist for the morning service. The pastor will then speak on "It's a Terrible Experience."

DEATH
(An Old Man Looks Forward)

I dreamt DEATH came the other night
And Heaven's gate stood wide
With kindly grace an angel came
And ushered me inside

And there, to my astonishment
Stood folks I'd known on Earth
Some I had thought were quite unfit
Or of but little worth

Indignant words sprang to my lips
But never were set free
For every face showed stunned surprise
No-one expected ME!

*A poem written by Derek Bone and contributed
to the newsletter by Betty Barnes.*

Cafe Church—27th April 7.30pm

**Coffee, Cake, and Chat about a faith
topic**

Christian Aid Week:

14th-20th May 2017

House to house volunteers
needed for distributing and/or
collecting envelopes

Please contact Helen Trigg if
you can help



Action for Children.

I wish to record our grateful thanks to Margaret and Rob Hewson in organising the meal at the Anchor in January last in aid of the Action for Children charity. A total of £335.00 was raised. Thank you.

This effort, coupled with the annual emptying of the collecting boxes which resulted in a further £278.81 together with the collection from Christmas Day of £40.00 has resulted in our church to raise and contribute the wonderful sum of **£653.81** being sent to London for this charity.

A sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed in any way to enable this support to grow.

If anyone would like to take up saving via a collecting box, please let me know and I will be pleased to provide you with one. Just remember £0.50 per week results in £26.00 being collected over the year. – Less than the price of one newspaper per week.

Thank you all again
Yours in faith

David Whiteley

EASTER BREAKFAST

The Church Family Committee will be serving breakfast between the two services on Easter Sunday morning (approx. 9.15 a.m.)

Please add your name to the list at the back of the church if you would like to share in this.

The Salt Of Your Life

Matthew 5-13

"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. "

If we are to be brothers and sisters in Christ with good spirits, we all need to have a little "salt" in our lives to provide us with the savour we need for being his instruments on earth. There are many little things that add a sudden burst of pleasure to your day. These are the "salt" of your life. Here are ten, but I bet you can think of a lot more.

1. Finding a coin—even a penny—on the sidewalk.
2. Receiving a compliment on your outfit
3. Receiving a smile from a child.
4. Seeing an old friend unexpectedly
5. Finding just what you planned to buy at a lower price than you expected.
6. Receiving a picture hand drawn by a youngster.
7. Meeting an old person who still has a zest for life
8. Overhearing some long-married person speak of their spouse with love and respect.
9. Realizing a dream after a long, long wait.
10. Realizing once again that God does love you and has NOT forgotten you.

Seeking Personal Peace

Frustration to the point of agony;
Mind yearning to be free—
That's what constant problems
Have come to mean to me.

The peace of satisfaction
Must be prayed for day by day,
So all of this frustration
Can be safely held at bay.

Life's not an easy journey;
The effort causes pain.
That's why each day you'll find me
Praying for sweet peace again;

And though life's journey starts anew
Each day when I awake,
My prayer life can assure me
It won't be more than I can take.

Edwina Williams

PRAYER REQUESTS



Please pray for:

Those known to us personally who are in any kind of need – particularly members of St John's who are ill, housebound or bereaved

St John's

Pray that the various committees/Church Council will seek God's will for St John's and make wise decisions on our behalf, in line with our church vision

Pray that the NOW (Night of Worship) sessions will continue to enrich the worship at St John's

Give thanks for the children in our congregation at St John's and ask God to help us fully integrate them into the life of the church, especially giving thanks for Parents and Toddlers and pray that we make the parents and children feel welcome.

Our Town

Pray that we become a mission-minded church and seek God for those things we can do which will make a difference

Give thanks for the Food Bank and pray that it will be able to assist those in need

Our Nation

Pray for wisdom for our government, that wise decisions will be made on our behalf – decisions that are righteous, rather than merely politically correct.

Pray for courage and boldness for Christian MPs as they seek to serve God and our nation in what can be difficult circumstances, especially in light of Brexit.

Our World

Pray for the refugee crisis and for people in parts of our world where there is conflict or bombings – pray especially for those involved in Syria.

Pray for wisdom for those seeking to resolve these conflicts

Ask God to encourage and strengthen Christians who are being persecuted for their faith in Jesus Christ

Give thanks for the work of Aid Agencies as they seek to help those suffering from the effects of drought, famine, earthquake, and war.

He came as a servant for many,
to humble the proud and the rich;
that they may find lasting treasure;
an overflow of His precious grace.

My redeemer has saved me
from the woes of this world
and has anchored me under His wings,
where the peace of His love
and the joy of His grace
is what covers my deepest need.

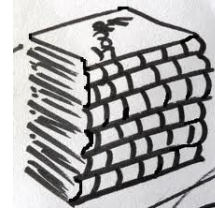
"Prayer does not change God, but changes him who prays."

Soren Kierkegaard (Danish philosopher and theologian)

Book Stewards

April

2nd	Gwen Reeves
9th	Brenda Aumeer
16th	Chris Crowther
23rd	Mary Scott
30th	Sue Davies



TEA & COFFEE ROTA



April	2nd	Ruth Dawson & Einwen Kelly
	9th	Sue Davies & Jane Cliffe
	16th	Mary Scott, Gwen Reeves & Dorothy Faulkner
	23rd	Nancy Millington & Chris Crowther
	30th	Wendy Proffitt & Beryl Posniak

Keep up the good work!
May the Lord continue to
bless you.

Sound System Operators

April

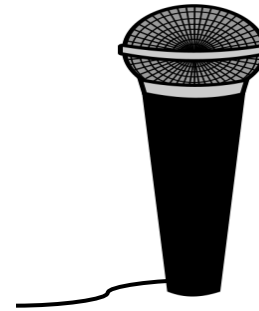
2nd—Wendy Proffitt

9th—Mike Nimmo

16th—Jim Walwyn

23rd—Gordon Davidson

30th—Andrew Fawcett



Flowers Rota

April

2nd—Audrey Holland

9th—Joan Davidson

16th—EASTER

23rd—Nancy Millington

30th—Ros Rawson



Forthcoming Events

Sunday 7th May

12noon

Sunday Lunch

Regular Church Activities

Mondays 9:30-11:30am Parents & Toddlers (Term time)

1st Tuesday in the month: Fellowship @ 7 Queen's Road

Thursdays 7pm: Music Group Practice

1st & 3rd Thursdays at 7.30pm—Prayer Group

APRIL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 2nd April General Church Meeting

Monday 3rd April 7.30pm Refurbishment Committee

Wednesday 5th April Worship Committee

Sunday 16th April Easter Breakfast

Tuesday 25th April 7.30pm Property & Finance
Committee

May Newsletter

Please let Jim Walwyn have your material for the May 2017
Newsletter by **20th April 2017**.