

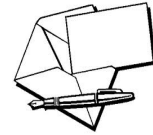


Papaver Orientale
- Oriental Poppy

**St. John's Methodist Church
Whitchurch**

June 2017 Newsletter

Message from the Manse



Dear Friends,

Sometimes events overtake us. I had planned to write about events in our church, but then I woke up this morning to the horrific news of a Terrorist Attack in Manchester - somewhere that is still close to my heart after spending five years there before moving to Whitchurch - and suddenly a lot of things seem less important than they did before.

The full horror of the attack is still emerging as I write, but even so, one of the most horrific elements to it is that it has not targeted authorities, the military, or even politicians; it has targeted in the main young people, who had been attending a Pop Concert. This already evil crime is made even more heinous as we hear that the victims have included a child as young as 8 as well as many in their teens.

The temptation is to lash out, to get angry, to find someone or some group of people to blame; that is in many ways understandable. And yet it is also wrong. "Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone." (Romans 12:17, NIV). "Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing." (1 Peter 3:9, NIV).

It isn't easy to do - believe me, writing as a father of two children of a similar age to some of the victims, and knowing Manchester, part of me wants to hate and blame. But to fall into hate, into demonising one group of people and spreading division, would lead merely to more evil. Instead, we are called to seek something higher: the way of Christ who refused to meet evil with evil and instead through his death and resurrection overcame sin and death for all our sakes. We seek justice, we seek truth, we rail against evil - let us refuse to allow anger to rule us.

God Bless

Rob

SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S

June 2017

4th June Rev. Rob Weir

11th June Sue Tyson

18th June Brian Faulkner

25th June Rev. Rob Weir (Communion)



Flower Rota for June 2017



4th. Beryl Posniak

11th. Hazel Burlton

18th. Sheila Jones

25th. Lynn Fowler

Spick and Spanners for June 2017



1st Chris Crowther, Dot Pearson & Lynn Fowler

15th Helen Trigg, Brenda Aumeer & Wendy Proffitt

**Notice outside a church: YOU ARE NOT TOO BAD TO
COME IN - YOU ARE NOT TOO GOOD TO STAY OUT**

Steward's Letter

Dear Friends,



I am writing this letter after the United Service for Christian Aid. It was a great joy to see the church so full and to know that all those present were working for God's purpose to be fulfilled in Whitchurch and beyond. Many of those people I have come to know through volunteering at the Food Bank and at Time Together. Both organisations are serving people in very different ways and meeting different needs. Please do continue to bring in items for the Food Bank, they are very much appreciated. All these activities (and many others) stem from our relationship with Jesus and our wish to live as followers of Him. In our busyness, in our desire to do for him, let's not forget the need to strengthen our relationship with him and the spiritual side of church life.

Many years ago, in the days before gyms and jogging became ubiquitous, I heard an interview with a tennis player. The interviewer said something on the lines of, 'and of course you do a lot of work in the gym. You must need to do a lot of work on your right arm to help you to get more power in your shots.' 'Well actually' she said, 'we do almost as much work on our left side otherwise we get unbalanced.' Obvious once someone points it out!

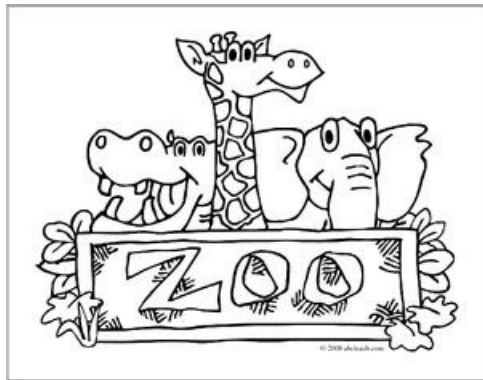
It is wonderful news that the disabled access actually seems to be in sight. Thank you so much to all those who have worked so hard in the past and those who are doing so at the moment to bring it about. Let's make sure that when those first people come in up that ramp they find a church with a real hunger for the word of God and a deep prayer life so they know St. John's is special only because God is at the heart of all we do.

God bless,

Avril

Toddler Group

Monday 15th May was our annual Toddler Group outing to Chester Zoo. Our party comprised 17 adults and 16 children. The weather was quite kind to us – it stopped raining when we arrived and only started to rain again on the way home!



For some of our children it was the first time they had been to a zoo and it was lovely to see the expressions of wonder on their faces as they gazed at animals as varied as giraffes, elephants, penguins, butterflies and bats!

Please take the time to look at the Toddler Group notice board – there will be photos of our visit and follow-up craft activities.

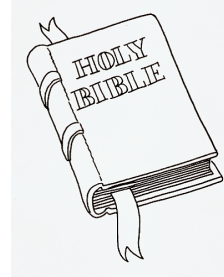
Cafe Church will be taking place on Thursday 22nd June at 7:30pm - Coffee, Cake and Chat, this month on a theme from the book of James.

PRAYER DAY

St. Johns Prayer Day, 7th June: a day to pray for St. John's, our mission, and the wider community. Church will be open from 9:30am to 3:00pm; there will also be Prayer Cards available the Sunday before if you can't be there during the day. As prayer is us listening as well as speaking to God, I'd like to encourage everyone to not only take part, but also share any promptings about Mission with us ready for a discussion at Church Council later in June.

Reading James

During June, the Methodist Church is looking at the book of James. As well as being part of our worship each Sunday, there are going to be Bible Studies on a Tuesday at both St. John's and Tallarn Green, with people welcome to go to either. Tallarn Green will have one at 1pm on Tuesday 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th June; St Johns at 7:30pm except for 20th June, when we have Church Council.



If anyone wants to read the book of James at home in the 'Good News' translation that we use at St. John's, please borrow one of the Bibles from a pew or from the schoolroom.

On Thursday 8th June, a group of **Pilgrims** led by Rev. Richard Sharples, Superintendent of the Wrexham Circuit, will be arriving at St. John's sometime in the late afternoon having walked (over two days!) from Englesea Brook. We have been invited to have them join us for prayer, fellowship and light refreshments before they leave for Wrexham by bus at about 6pm. This is the latest in a series of Pilgrimage Walks Richard has led, and they return to Whitchurch the following morning to continue their journey! All welcome at St. Johns, and anyone who would like more detail (or to offer to help with refreshments) please contact Rev. Rob.

"People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

(Maya Angelou - poet, historian, author, actress, playwright & civil-rights activist)

PRAYER REQUESTS



Thank God for the many ways He continues to bless and encourage us at St John's. Give thanks that we can bring our prayers to Him, knowing that He will hear our prayers and answer them according to His great love and mercy. Pray for those known to us personally who are in any kind of need: particularly members of St John's who are ill, housebound, in care, lonely or bereaved.

St John's

Give thanks for all those serving St John's on the various committees/Church Council and pray that more people will respond to God's call to service at St John's, bearing in mind that service can take many different forms

Pray for the Church Council meeting in June, that decisions will be made that are in line with God's will and purpose for St John's

It is some time since we reviewed our mission statement and our vision statement. Pray about how these may need changing or adapting.

Ask God to bless the various groups that meet at St John's – Parents and Toddlers, Network, the Music Group.

Pray for a fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit to help us become a praying church, a church that seeks God's will and purpose – and pray especially for the Day of Prayer on 7th June

Our nation

By the time this newsletter is printed and distributed, the General Election will be only a matter of days away. Our nation needs our continuing prayers and, as Christians, we need to lay aside party politics and self-interest in order to wait on God and discern His will for our nation.

Give thanks for God's mercy and provision in sustaining our nation

Give thanks for our democratic freedom to vote

Give thanks for the many individuals, small groups and churches who are earnestly praying for our nation

Pray for reconciliation across the whole of the UK, as people come to terms with an election outcome that may not be what they hoped for

Pray for wisdom for national leaders as they make any necessary decisions following the election

Pray for Christians to continue to commit our nation to God for its security, its prosperity and ultimately its return to Jesus Christ

Pray for those injured, bereaved or traumatised by the Manchester bombing

Our world

Pray for those parts of our world where there is conflict

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 etc

Raising Funds for our Church Refurbishment

Those of you who attended our Church Anniversary Lunch will know that we have launched our Appeal to raise funds for the first phase of our Church Refurbishment. This Phase has the slogan "**Access for All**" and will enable everyone to enter our church more easily.

We need £109,000 for this phase of the project and although we hope to receive money from the Circuit and from Grants from outside organizations supporting access for the disabled, we need to raise **£20,000** ourselves as soon as possible so that the building work can be completed next year.

This is a huge amount but as our minister Rob Weir has said "**For God everything is possible**" (Matthew ch 19 v 26)

The Church Council and the Refurbishment Group will be looking at ways to raise the money for this project and you will be able to see the progress towards the total by looking at our thermometer outside the Church.

Our first fundraising challenge is inspired by the Parable of the Talents (or the Parable of the 3 servants in our Good News Version of the Bible)

Fundraising Challenge: Starter for 10 The Parable of the Talents

The Parable of the Three Servants (Matthew 25:14-30 (GNT))

¹⁴ "... Once there was a man who was about to leave home on a trip; he called his servants and put them in charge of his property. ¹⁵ He gave to each one according to his abil-

ity: to one he gave five thousand gold coins..... Then he left on his trip. ¹⁶The servant who had received five thousand coins went at once and invested his money and earned another five thousand....

¹⁹"After a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. ²⁰The servant who had received five thousand coins came in and handed over the other five thousand. 'You gave me five thousand coins, sir,' he said. 'Look! Here are another five thousand that I have earned.'²¹ 'Well done, you good and faithful servant!' said his master. 'You have been faithful in managing small amounts, so I will put you in charge of large amounts. Come on in and share my happiness.....!' . ²⁹For to every person who has something, even more will be given, and he will have more than enough....

We can't give you each 5000 gold coins but we will give you £10 from the Refurbishment Fund to look after for 6 months. We hope that you will use it to raise more money so that at the end of 6 months you will have at least doubled the money.

We would like as many people as possible to take up the challenge and raise money so that everyone can access our Church. If 50 of us each raise £10 then we will have an extra £500 towards our target.

(If you can raise a lot more then that would be even better!)

How to get involved

If you would like to take part in this fundraising challenge, you will receive £10 from our Church Refurbishment Fund. You can use this money to raise more. Suggestions for how you might do this include:

- * *Buy ingredients for a meal, invite friends and ask for a donation*
- * *Buy coffee and biscuits and hold a coffee morning*
- * *Buy a prize and hold a raffle or competition e.g. Guess the name of the teddy or the number of sweets in the jar*
- * *Buy seeds, plant them and sell the flowers or produce*
- * *Buy materials for a hobby you have and make items to sell*
- * *Offer your services as a gardener, odd job person, taxi driver, dog-sitter in return for donations*

When you receive your £10 you will sign a certificate promising to return the £10 by Sunday 3rd September 2017 together with any money you have raised. We will number and date each certificate as issued to ensure that each £10 is accounted for. We have already given out 22 envelopes and we hope as many people as possible will rise to this challenge so that we are all contributing to this essential project to provide **Access for All**. *Briony Myles-Hook*

Taxi!



The following drivers are available during June to transport you to the services. Please 'phone before 9:30am.

June	4th	Sheila Latham
	11th	Brian Faulkner
	18th	Jim Walwyn
	25th	Hazel Nimmo



Tallarn Green's Annual Golf Day is taking place at Hill Valley on the morning of 12th July - teams of 4 cost £100, with tea and coffee on arrival and a Buffet Meal when you finish. Look for posters in Church, or contact David Paton or Alan Evans

TEA & COFFEE ROTA for June



4th	Sue Davies & Jane Cliffe
11th	Ruth Dawson & Einwen Kelly
18th	Eileen Grunner & Dorothy Faulkner
25th	Margaret & Rob Hewson

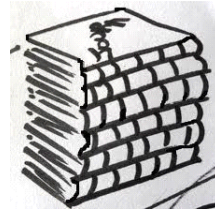
Book Stewards for June

4th Mary Scott

11th Sue Davies

18th Brenda Aumeer

25th Nancy Millington



Sound System Operators

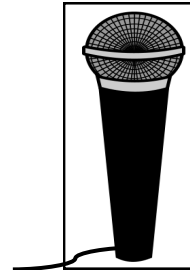
June 2017

4th Andrew Fawcett

11th Wendy Proffitt

18th Mike Nimmo

25th Jim Walwyn



We will be opening envelopes and counting the Christian Aid Week House-to-House Collection on Wednesday 7th June at 2pm and 7.00pm at St. John's. No experience is needed, so please come along if you can help.

Helen Trigg



Regular Church Activities

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

Thursdays 7pm: Music Group Practice

1st/3rd Tuesdays at 7.30pm: Bible Study at 7 Queen's Road

1st/3rd Thursdays at 7:30pm - Prayer Meeting at St. John's

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tues 30th May: Churches Together AGM 7pm at
St. John's

Wednesday 31st May: Churches Together Prayer Trail

Tuesday 6/13/20/27 June: Talks on letter of James
@ Tallarn Green & St. John's at 1pm & 7.30pm

Wednesday 7th June: Prayer Day 9.30-3pm @ St. John's
Christian Aid Counting Day

Tuesday 20th June 7.30pm Church Council

Tuesday 27th June 2pm Network

July/August 2017 Newsletter

Please let Vic Trigg have all your submissions for the next Newsletter by 25th June.

This magazine costs 25p to produce. Contributions towards this expense would be gratefully received. The proceeds from advertising in this magazine will be used solely for 'Access for All' improvements to our church. Inclusion of an advertisement in this magazine does not imply an endorsement of the products or services of the advertiser by St. John's.

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Whitchurch**

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Galaxy Computer Services

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Computer sales, support
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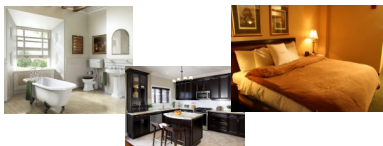
Top of the High Street
Whitchurch

SPLISH SPLASH

“Olde Worlde Charm”

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Bathrooms Bedrooms &
Kitchens Business based at 46a
High Street Whitchurch

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project! Or re-vamp your existing
kitchen, bathroom or bedroom



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WALKERS

