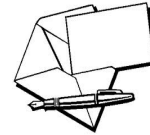




**St. John's Methodist Church
Whitchurch**

July/August 2017 Newsletter

Message from the Manse



Dear Friends,

One of the things that came out of our recent Prayer Day - and subsequent discussions - was a concern for the Spiritual Life of St. Johns, and how we continue to develop and encourage one another in our faith. Another, linked, concern was that we need to make sure that prayer is at the heart of what we do as a church, and that we need to find opportunities for prayer - both as individuals, and together.

Something mentioned several times was the "Forward Together" group that we had, but that hasn't met for a while, and we discussed at Church Council, too, the need to have something that, while not quite the same, takes on the mantle of that group and provides an opportunity to meet, discuss, and do new things - or revive old ones. Mission and Outreach formed a large part of our Church Council discussions this time - and the idea is that this group is to take an active role in the life of our church.

To this end, we're going to have an initial meeting to which anyone can come on Tuesday 18th July at 7:30pm. We'll talk, pray, and seek to come up with some definite actions - including how we encourage everyone to be part of the life of St. John's. For the moment I'm going to call this group "Think, Pray, Act" - if you can't come that evening but would like to be involved, let me know.

God Bless

Rob

Flower Rota for July/August 2017

July	2nd. Sheila Walwyn
	9th. Dorothy Faulkner
	16th. Brenda Dudley
	23rd. Brenda Aumeer
	30th. Sue Davies
August	6th. Jean Fisher
	13th. Gwen Reeves
	20th. Jean Craddock
	27th. Hazel Nimmo



Great Expectations - *The Doctor's Waiting Room, May 5th 2017*

On entering the waiting room I found 10 people waiting to see the doctor. In the centre of the room a deaf old lady said in a loud voice, "What time is it?"

"Ten minutes to four o'clock," said the white-haired gentleman with white shoes and green trousers.

The old lady said, "Go and see if I am booked in, as the machine may not be working."

Returning from the desk, the man said, "You are booked in."

“What time is it?” the lady asked.

“Five minutes to four,” he replied.

“This is terrible” she said, “the doctors we used to go to were much better than these people. What time is it?”

“Four o’clock,” he said.

“How much longer are we going to have to wait?” she said “I’ve got tea in the oven.” Shortly afterwards the doctor called her in. After a while she returned from the surgery.

“How did you get on?” the old gentleman enquired.

“That was a waste of time. The doctor has given me another inhaler for night and morning. What do I need another one for? They are useless.”

Everybody in the waiting room turned and smiled at each other after their exit. Maybe a round of applause would have been more appropriate!

MHL

A message from Joan Davidson

I would like to thank my friends at St. John’s for the prayers, cards and phone calls after my operation, and as I go through chemotherapy and radiotherapy it is good to know that you are all thinking of me. So, once again, thank-you very much.



God bless,

Joan

CHURCH COUNCIL

I have been asked a few times recently, how do you become a member of Church Council?

The Council is made up of:

The Minister

The Church Stewards *

The Treasurer

The Secretary

The Pastoral Secretary

Representatives of the General Church Meeting *

The Council then asks for representatives from the church groups/committees. At present, these are Property, Junior Church, Worship, Refurbishment and Social Responsibility.

*These are elected by the General Church Meeting.
At present this accounts for 11 people out of 20.

Brian Faulkner.

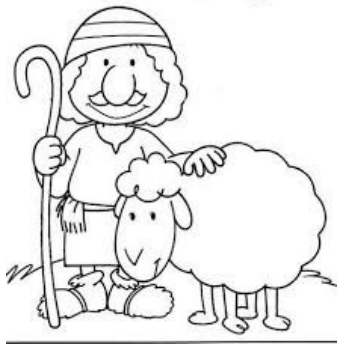
*"The English winter, ending in July
To recommence in August."*

- Lord Byron Scottish poet 1788-1825

As the various political parties tackle the issue of an ageing society, can anyone explain why the NHS regards cancer as an illness but Alzheimer's as some sort of optional retirement activity? If you get the Big C the treatment you need won't cost you a penny. Get the Big A and your worldly goods will be plundered by the state to pay for every bed bath and wet wipe. The first sign of dementia is thinking this makes sense. (*I must think this one through - Ed*)

- Spotted in the Shropshire Star by Maurice Latham

BIBLE TABLEAUX



Six Churches in the Wrenbury area (including 3 from our Circuit) will be displaying wonderful knitted tableaux telling Bible stories.

Saturday 8th July – Monday 10th July.

Further details are on the Notice board in the Long Room.

*"What dreadful hot weather we have!
It keeps me in a continual state of inelegance."*

- Jane Austen: English Novelist 1775-1817

Steward's Letter



Dear Friends,

It's raining!! At long last – is it not wonderful? After so many weeks of dry, hot weather the Good Lord has blessed us. We are very lucky in this country; we normally have enough rain, and we must remember that the whole of life depends on water. Many other parts of the world have both very little at times, and then get too much.

In April of this spring, Peter Shingler, Elizabeth and I were trying to persuade some grass seed, which we had sowed on the church lawns after the removal of the trees, to grow – with limited success because of the lack of rain. So the dry weather goes back as far as March and here we are in July.

At the end of June we received good news from Mr. Ian Lucas, our architect, to say that we have been granted planning permission and can go ahead with Phase 1 of our development plan. At our last meeting with Ian Lucas I raised four points that I had issue with on the plans. I came away from that meeting thinking he was listening to us, but only one point has been addressed. So we have more work to do. I believe it is easier to get it correct at the first attempt and in Spring 2018 we expect to begin work.

We have been put through a surprise General Election; we find ourselves with a hung parliament; and, as Stan Laurel used to say “that's another fine mess you have got us in”. I am sure Boris is waiting in the wings champing at the bit in anticipation.

Just before the election was called, many thousands of people voted on-line calling for those over 70 years of age to retake our driving

test. I have been driving for 56 years, starting on agricultural tractors from the age of 10, then to a mini van and up to Heavy Goods Vehicles. I seem to have spent a big part of my life driving around our lovely countryside. The question is: 'How many of us over-70s would be able to pass our driving test again today?' I think we will have to employ our very own driving instructor. How about Vic?
(Now there's a thought! Ed)

The £10 challenge has got off to a good start. We have nearly 40 people taking part. If you have an idea and would like to join, please ask Jim or Briony.

God bless,

Maurice Latham

Spick and Spanners for July/August 2017

July



6th Einwen Kelly, Ruth Dawson & Sheila Latham

20th Nancy Millington, Beryl Posniak & Brenda Dudley

August

3rd Elizabeth Shingler, Briony Myles-Hook, & Debbie
Nichols

17th Mike Nimmo, Vic Trigg & Dorothy Faulkner

A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken.

~ *James Dent* (1953-) American author and sportswriter

*To see the Summer Sky
Is Poetry, though never in a Book it lie -
True Poems flee -*

~Emily Dickinson, American Poet (1830-86)

It will not always be summer; build barns.

(*Hesiod* - 8th century B.C, Greek didactic poet. From 'Works and Days')

"*Summer's lease hath all too short a date.*"

- William Shakespeare – English dramatist (1564-1616)

"What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness."

— *John Steinbeck* (1902-68) American author - From 'Travels with Charley'

*"Spring passes and one remembers one's innocence.
Summer passes and one remembers one's exuberance.
Autumn passes and one remembers one's reverence.
Winter passes and one remembers one's perseverance."*

Yoko Ono (1933-) Japanese multimedia artist, singer, songwriter, and peace activist

"A thin grey fog hung over the city, and the streets were very cold; for summer was in England."

— *Rudyard Kipling*, (1865-1936) English journalist, short-story writer, poet, and novelist. From 'The Light That Failed'

The Summer Sun Shone Round Me

THE summer sun shone round me,
The folded valley lay
In a stream of sun and odour,
That sultry summer day.

The tall trees stood in the sunlight
As still as still could be,
But the deep grass sighed and rustled
And bowed and beckoned me.

The deep grass moved and whispered
And bowed and brushed my face.
It whispered in the sunshine:
"The winter comes apace."

by *Robert Louis Stevenson* (1850-94) Scottish novelist, poet, essayist, and travel writer

"Summer is the time when one sheds one's tensions with one's clothes, and the right kind of day is jewelled balm for the battered spirit. A few of those days and you can become drunk with the belief that all's right with the world."

Ada Louise Huxtable-
American architecture critic and writer (1921-2013)

Prayers – different types and uses.

Have you ever considered that there are different types of prayer? For many years I have been aware that many different types of prayers exist, but it wasn't until recently that as part of the Worship Leaders and Local Preachers training course I became aware that different types of prayers have different uses within a service.

It has been through reading a chapter of a book by Raymond Abba, that I have identified that there were more types of prayer than I had previously been aware of. Abba (1957) describes prayer as “the vital breath and native air of Christian worship” and goes on to establish that when a congregation connects together in prayer this becomes a corporate act of worship. The types of prayers Abba identifies are:

Prayers of Adoration, where we recognise that God is God, we aren't asking for anything for ourselves - just simply worshipping.

Prayers of Invocation, where we are calling on God to assist us in our worship, that we can meet with God through the service and that the worship we offer is assisted by God.

These first two types, are prayers of approach - both have a place at the beginning of a service.

Prayers of Confession – should be part of the prayers of approach and following the opening hymn, placing this style of prayer at the beginning of the service. Allowing us to come before God with a clear heart and mind as the service progresses and enabling us to hear clearly what God is wanting to say through the sermon.

Prayers of Thanksgiving – this is our response to God, a statement of God's grace, of the Gospel, of what God has done. The focal points of the Prayers of Thanksgiving are the declaration of what God has done for us and our response to the Gospel.

Prayers of Supplication – our requests to God for our needs, these follow the prayers of adoration and confession.

Prayers of Intercession – asking God to intervene on behalf of

other people, intercessions are about standing in the gap, being a bridge between other people and God, between Earth and Heaven.

One thing that I hadn't realised, was that as part of the prayers of intercession, there are prayers for the commemoration of the departed. These are meant to be at the end of the Prayers of Intercession, where we can remember the loved ones that have gone ahead of us. This made me think of Hebrews 12, where it says that 'we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses', the people that have gone before us are cheering us on.

Prayers of Illumination - where we invite the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and mind to hear God's word, asking for wisdom to see what God is saying and how to respond to this, so therefore this would be best placed prior to the sermon.

Prayers of Oblations – this is a type of prayer that I have never heard of before, it is generally used at the end of the consecration prayer as part of Communion, but can also be used as an offertory prayer when there is no communion, it's a corporate prayer.

One item that I noted missing from Raymond Abba's writings is that there is no mention of the Lord's prayer.

There is so much more that can be said about prayer, the types of prayer mentioned above are not an exhaustive list, but just some of the types. I am aware that corporate prayer is part of corporate worship, that this, too, is important, in what we do and how we engage in corporate worship together as the body of Christ.

Next time you have a look at the Worship book, perhaps try and spot the types of prayer being included within the service, and explore further your conversation with God.

Fiona Weir



CIRCUIT EVENT

Afternoon of Celebration for the
Ministry of Reverend Malcolm Lorimer

Saturday Afternoon 22nd July 2017

At Broomhall & Sound Chapel and Grounds

There will be something for ALL Ages. Bring your
family & friends to join in the celebrations!

Please BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR

BBQ

Refreshments

Games

Cakes

Activities: 2pm – 3.30pm

Time of Worship: 3.45 – 4.30

Activities continue 4.45 – 6pm

Storytelling
Storytelling

Plenty of parking. Stay as long as you want

Broomhall & Sound Chapel & Grounds, Newtown Road, Sound
CW5 8BG

*For more information please email info@cheshiresouth.org.uk OR
07745235253*

Church Council Report

Church Council met on 20th June, with Safeguarding and Mission high on the Agenda. With new District and Circuit Safeguarding Officers, we're trying to play catch-up in the Circuit somewhat, and so as well as reviewing and approving our own Safeguarding Policy we may find more training and checks will be needed in the months ahead. We also talked about Mission and Outreach, how we need to consider what it means to be not just a church that welcomes people, but a church that actively invites people in, the idea of a successor to the "Forward Together" Group, and the need to look at a variety of times for activities.

There was a discussion about the date for Harvest Festival, and whether it was right for us to change the date this year to fit in with the Blackberry Fair; and we offered particular thanks to Chris Crowther as she steps down as Secretary of the Property and Finance Committee - although we did then co-opt her back onto Church Council straight away!

The next Church Council is to be on Wednesday 4th October.

From the Shropshire Star - submitted by Maurice Latham

'Some pundits say that President Erdogan's success in the referendum in Turkey will give him enough power to rule as a 21st Century sultan.

This is bad news for his wife Emine who will, of course, become a sultana. But maybe, as his nation's currant leader, this is Erdogan's raisin d'être. That's enough dried-fruit nonsense.'

(Definitely enough - *Ed*)

Disabled Access Project

Current Progress: we have had a very busy Summer so far. We have been in contact with our architects, with several changes and tweakings taking place. The good news is that we now have a final set of drawings which will be used to do the work. Incidentally, if you would like a copy of the drawings, please let me know.



The other good news is that Shropshire County Council have finally accepted our plans and there are no objections to our scheme. It's a nice feeling, knowing that we have now produced a scheme which is going to be used to provide Disabled Access for St John's. It will be great when anyone who wants to will be able to gain access to our church.

In August we plan to decorate the back room. We have received a donation of £250 from Whitchurch Town Council towards new carpets. Want to come and get involved? Please do! We should have a lot of fun and camaraderie!

People often accuse me of only being interested in money, and that churches shouldn't be involved with such things. However, the reality is that we have got to raise a lot of money to realise our plans. We had a wonderful surprise when someone gave us a donation of £5000, which has given our Talents campaign a great start. People have been very inventive with their Talents Projects. I am aware of plants being sold, quizzes being held (a very hard one, Mike Nimmo!), cakes being sold, eggs being laid, Teddies being named to name but only a few. A lovely Afternoon Tea was enjoyed, and please don't miss the trip to Wyndhurst on Tuesday 25th July with Network. See Chris Crowther for details. Incidentally, we still have one or two more £10 packs if you would like one. Come on and join the fun!

Finally there are two concerts planned for September to raise funds for Disabled Access. The first one is on Saturday 9th September when Newport Male Voice Choir will be entertaining us. Secondly, Whitchurch Town Band will perform for us on Saturday 23rd September. In each case, we are asking for donations – not charging people to come it.

JRW

SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S

July 2017

2nd Robert Williams

9th Rev. William Morrey - former President of Conference
(Action for Children)

16th Rev. Rob Weir (Communion)

23rd Elizabeth Jennings

30th Rev. Malcolm Lorimer

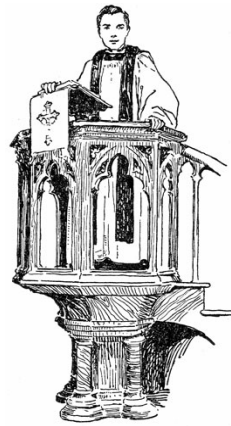
August 2017

6th Raymond Griffiths

13th Local Arrangement

20th Dr. Malcolm Crook

27th Rev. Rob Weir



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, house-bound, in care, lonely or bereaved.

Our nation

Our nation desperately needs our prayers. Praying for a nation can seem very difficult – but we have help at hand. The Old Testament contains many prayers made by people (especially the prophets) on behalf of the nation of Israel. We can take these prayers and adapt them for our purposes.

In this prayer, based on Daniel 9:4-19, Daniel starts by confessing the sins of the nation and then pleads for God's mercy and forgiveness. We could pray this prayer for our national church as well as for our nation:

O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with all who love him and obey his commands, we have sinned and done wrong. We have turned away from your commands and laws. We have not listened to your word.

Lord, you are righteous, but this day we are covered with shame because of our unfaithfulness to you. The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him; we have not obeyed the Lord our God or kept the laws he gave us.

Disaster has come upon us yet we have not sought the favour of the Lord our God by turning from our sins and giving attention to your truth. O Lord, in keeping with all your righteous acts, hear the prayers and petitions of your servants, and look with favour upon us.

We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy. O Lord listen! O Lord forgive! O Lord, hear and act!

Pray for:

Those injured and bereaved in the recent terrorist attacks and in the Grenfell fire in London. Ask the God of all comfort to bring his comfort, love and peace into these tragic situations.

Give thanks for the kindness and compassion of the many people who offered their help and support.

..if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14

Coffee and Cake at the Manse

On Saturday 19th August - Coffee and Cake will be served at the Manse, 2pm-4pm. This is a 'Starter for Ten' Production - come and join us for a chat, tea or coffee, and cake in return for a donation towards the Refurbishment Project.

Rob & Fiona

TEA & COFFEE ROTA

July

- 2nd Hazel & Mike Nimmo
9th Nancy Millington & Chris Crowther
16th Wendy Proffitt & Beryl Posniak
23rd Elizabeth & Pete Shingler
30th Mary Scott, Gwen Reeves & Dorothy Faulkner



August

- 6th Sue Davies & Jane Cliffe
13th Sheila Latham & Dot Pearson
20th Brenda Aumeer & Helen Trigg
27th Eileen Grunner & Lynn Fowler



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.

"People take pictures of the Summer, just in case someone thought they had missed it, and to proved that it really existed."

- Ray Davies – Rock musician (1944 -)

Taxi!



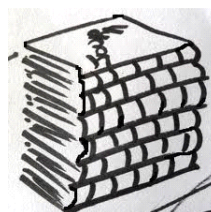
The following drivers are available during July and August to transport you to the services. Please 'phone before 9:30am.

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

August	6th	Sheila Latham
	13th	Brian Faulkner
	20th	Hazel Nimmo
	27th	Jim Walwyn

Book Stewards

July	2nd	Gwen Reeves
	9th	Nancy Millington
	16th	Beryl Posniak
	23rd	Sue Davies
	30th	May Arthan
August	6th	Mary Scott
	13h	Sue Davies
	20th	Beryl Posniak
	27th	Nancy Millington



On May 30th we enjoyed the last concert in our 2017 series of **Midday Concerts**. Fittingly, it was St. John's day – all artists were “home grown” and it was a wonderful way to finish the series.



I wanted to thank everyone who helped in so many different ways to make “Wednesdays in May” such happy and successful occasions. My thanks go to those who prepared lunches, did the flowers, moved the piano around, greeted and socialised with the audience (some of whom come year after year and obviously enjoy coming!). And a special word of thanks must go to those who gave their talents and time to entertain us in such a magnificent way.

Ruth Mulliner

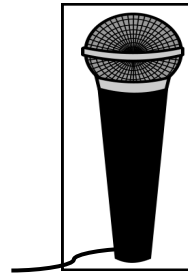
Sound System Operators

July 2017

2nd	Andrew Fawcett
9th	David Whiteley
16th	Wendy Proffitt
23rd	Mike Nimmo
30th	Jim Walwyn

August 2017

6th	Jim Walwyn
13th	Wendy Proffitt
20th	David Whiteley
27th	Andrew Fawcett



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

Wednesday 5th July 7.30pm: Refurbishment Committee

Monday 10th July 7.30pm: Worship Committee

Tuesday 11th July 7.30pm Property & Finance Committee

Wednesday 12th July: Tallarn Green Golf Day

Thursday 13th July: 7:30pm Night of Worship

Tuesday 18th July: 7:30pm 'Think, Pray, Act' (St. John's)

Saturday 22nd July: 2-6pm Malcolm Lorimer's Retirement Event at Sound Methodist Church

Tuesday 25th July 2pm: Network Trip

Thursday 27th July 7:30pm: Cafe Church @ St. John's

Saturday August 19th 2-4pm: Coffee & Cake @ Manse

Thursday 24th August 7:30pm: Cafe Church @ St. John's

September 2017 Newsletter

Please let Jim Walwyn have all your submissions for the next Newsletter by 18th August.

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.

BARLOWS

**Your local electrical
store**



**High Street
Whitchurch**

Call in and talk to one of
the team.

Galaxy Computer Services

**Your local computer
experts**

Computer sales, support
and repair



Call Will or Matt 01948 665855

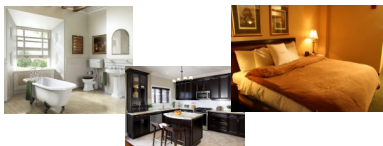
Top of the High Street
Whitchurch

SPLISH SPLASH

“Olde Worlde Charm”

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

Speak to Vincent about your new
project! Or re-vamp your existing
kitchen, bathroom or bedroom



**The Most Famous
Bread & Cake Makers
in Whitchurch!**

WALKERS

