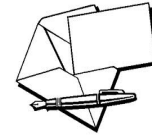




**St. John's Methodist Church
Whitchurch**

November 2017 Newsletter

Message from the Manse



Dear Friends,

There is a tent in my lounge. Not for any spiritual purpose - it's not my attempt to compete with our Superintendent's self-built Shepherding Hut as a prayer space. No, it's there because it's Half Term, and Sam has decreed that we should do a sort of indoor camping trip.

I should mention at this point that "we" consists of me and him, and if we can persuade him into the tent, the dog. Fiona and Abigail have gone off to an hotel for a couple of nights for some Mother and Daughter time; the boys meanwhile get to set up a tent in the lounge, light a wood fire in the barbecue (the idea was to cook on it, but it didn't last long enough for more than marshmallows), and then retire to our sleeping bags in at least relative comfort. Something tells me I didn't get the best of this deal....

So far, I smell of woodsmoke, have got wet walking the dog - who gave me a despairing "they've all gone mad" look as we tried to coax him into the tent, and had Sam decide that actually he'd prefer to sleep in his bed rather than on the floor - but I can use his Sleeping Bag if I want. Thanks son!

Regardless of all of this, I wouldn't change a moment of today (though should this have been written after a night on the floor I might have changed my mind). Over the last 24 hours I have spent some quality time with some of the people that mean most to me in this world. I may not be God the Father, but I have been "Daddy" - something that keeps my feet firmly on the ground. So no great spiritual point this month - just a reminder of how all relationships benefit from time invested in them.

God Bless

Rob

Flower Rota for November 2017

5th Joan Morgan

12th Beryl Posniak

19th Lynn Fowler

26th Jean Cook



(3rd December Ruth Dawson)

Bring & Share Lunch

There will be a Bring & Share Lunch on Sunday 19th November after the morning service.

A list will be placed at the back of church for you to put your name down and anything you would like to bring along. Please don't feel you have to contribute – there is likely to be more than enough food for everyone!

It would be lovely if you could join us for lunch on 19th, so please put the date in your diary.

Jenny Marston

Pray, Think, Act Meeting – 30th November

Pray, Think, Act Meeting

The next (third) meeting of the Pray, Think, Act Group will take place on Thursday 30th November at 7.30pm at St. John's.

The purpose of the group is to focus on prayer, spirituality and mission – seeking God's will and purpose for the future of St. John's.

At the meeting we will consider the design of a survey with the congregation, after a shortened Sunday morning service, to seek the views of the whole church family. We will also consider the content of a flyer to publicise the church to the wider community.

The meeting is open to everyone and we would encourage as many of you as possible to join us. If you aren't able to attend the meeting, I would ask that you pray for the group and the meeting – which is perhaps the most important thing any of us can do. As we were reminded at a recent Sunday morning service, prayer is “work” just as much as practical action. With God leading and guiding our path we can achieve infinitely more than we would ever achieve in our own strength and abilities.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting if you are able to join us. Please feel free to speak to me or Rev. Rob Weir if you have any thoughts or inputs to the group.

Jenny Marston

Christian Aid Christmas Cards and Traidcraft gifts

Please come along for your morning coffee or tea, to Bargates Hall on **Saturday November 4th** between 10am and 12 noon. Along with Christian Aid Christmas cards and Traidcraft gifts, there will be the usual delicious homemade cakes.

You will be able to see all of the 2017 cards - including many depicting traditional Christmas story scenes. Most can be bought on the day, though orders can be taken then or before. Please let me know if you want to put in an order before the 4th. Fair trade gifts, wrapping paper etc, will also be on sale on the day.

Helen Trigg

A Quiz Evening and Fish & Chip Supper...

...is being held at our Church at 7.00pm on Friday 3rd November. There will be a break for supper – choice of mini fish, chicken nuggets or burger (vegetarian option available) – half way through the Quiz. Cost of the evening is £7 per person. Teams of four but don't worry if you don't have a team. Book your place and come along on the night and we will sort teams out then. A small prize will be awarded to the winning team.

Please sign the sheet at the back of Church and tick your choice of 'supper'. If you wish to book at the last minute phone Chris on 01948 667282.

FOR CHURCH TIDIER UPPERS!

If you've been kindly tidying things,
Or moving things about,
Some of it could be someone's,
So please don't chuck it out.

What may seem unimportant
To those who do not know,
Could to others mean a lot,
So do not let them go.

And if things are moved somewhere,
Please put them on a list
So folk who need to get them back
Could find what they have missed.

Wendy Proffitt

We (Briony and Helen) are aiming to sort out the Youth Club resources, in order that we can use them for Messy Church in the future, sometime in November. We will make a list of anything unusual that we find amongst them and put it up on the church notice board in the Long room!!

Steward's Letter



Dear Friends

Hazel and I celebrated our Golden Wedding at the beginning of September by having a week away in Venice. Last weekend it was the turn of the family to join us for a half-term break back in Crosby on Merseyside. It was quite amusing that the flower girl at our wedding—Hazel's cousin— who was with us is now retired and is herself a grandmother!

While there we visited nearby Formby where we spent almost nine years from 1976 to 1985 and where our two daughters grew up. We passed our old church and it made me think how important our worshipping in all the places we've lived in was to us – after all it was in church that we met over 50 years ago.

All this made me realise that the warm welcome we give to visitors is a significant part of our individual ministry. We can be a bright light even in the dark days of winter.

Spick and Spanners for November 2017

2nd Einwen Kelly, Ruth Dawson & Sheila
Latham



16th Nancy Millington, Beryl Posniak & Brenda Dudley

Art Exhibition

There will be an Art Exhibition at St. John's on Friday 17th and Saturday 18th November in aid of Disabled access at the church. The exhibition will be open from 10 am to 4pm on both days and will feature over 10 local artists. Entry will be free and refreshments will be available. On the Friday afternoon there will be a table lamp making workshop from 1pm and on the Saturday afternoon there will be a children's craft workshop from 1pm.

The exhibition will also see the launch of St. John's Poetry Book!

Please make a note of the dates in your diary and do come along!

If you can help in anyway please contact me.
Thank you.

Dot Charlesworth
01948 662291

NOVEMBER SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S

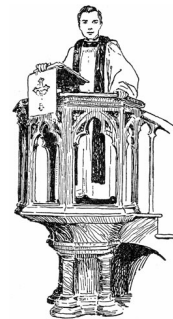
5th Graham Dimelow

12th Rev Rob Weir

Rev Rob Weir (6.30pm)
- Remembering Service)

19th Brian Faulkner

26th J Needham



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 they will seek to be guided by the Holy Spirit as they make decisions on our behalf

Pray for Rob Weir, that God will bless and encourage him, and give him the wisdom he needs to minister at St John's and in the wider circuit

Continue to pray for the Pray-Think-Act group, that they will seek to discern where God is already at work in our church, so that we can pray and work alongside Him, instead of pursuing our own 'good ideas'

Continue to pray for our children and young people, that they will be helped to fulfil their God-given potential.

Ask God to bless the various groups that meet at St John's – Parents and Toddlers, Junior Church, Network, the Music Group, the Tuesday Fellowship Group, the prayer meeting – that they may continue to enrich our church family.

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, a church that becomes increasingly more mission minded

Our nation

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

Pray for wisdom for Theresa May and those charged with overseeing the Brexit negotiations

Continue to pray for those affected by this year's terrorist attacks and by the Grenfell Tower fire – that the God of all comfort will comfort them and give them hope and a future

Our world

Pray for those parts of our world where there is conflict, that the Holy Spirit will enable world leaders to 'hear' each other and come together in a spirit of openness. Pray that truth and righteousness will prevail

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

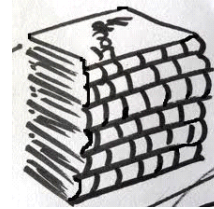
Give thanks for the work of Aid Agencies and churches as they seek to help those suffering from the effects of natural disasters and continue to pray for the people of Sierra Leone, Mexico, the Caribbean, Bangladesh, who are no longer the focus of media attention but who are still suffering greatly. May they know that they are not forgotten

Pray for wisdom for world leaders as they try to deal with the ongoing situation in North Korea

Pray for revelation, restraint and wise action for Donald Trump. Ask God to grant him the humility to listen to wise advice.

Book Stewards for November

5th May Arthan
12th Sue Davies
19th Beryl Posniak
26th Gwen Reeves



From Churches Together

On **Thursday 2nd November from 5-6 pm** Shropshire Friends of Palestine are holding a **silent candlelit vigil** in the Square in Shrewsbury to mark the centenary of the Balfour Declaration i.e. the letter written by foreign secretary Arthur Balfour to Lord Walter Rothschild in 1917.

In it he declares his hope for a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine ..."it being clearly understood that nothing should be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine...." Unfortunately for the Palestinian people, this has not been the case. These people include the ever smaller remnant of Palestinian Christians in the West Bank and Gaza, as well as Arab Christians experiencing discrimination in Israel.

Many individuals and organisations, both secular and religious, are making their voices heard.

St John's Parent and Toddler Group



Since my last article about Toddler Group, one childminder (with 4 children) has stopped coming, but the good news is that we have had 6 new mums, with their babies, join us (via our facebook page and recommendation) so that we now comprise 19 adults and 23 children.

We had a lovely harvest festival – Rob did a great job coping with so many young children and babies! Have a look at the photos on our notice board. We collected £44.50, which Toddler Group funds rounded up to £60. This money has been sent to Hope House Hospice.

We have also made a donation of £250 to St John's, as our contribution towards the cost of heating/lighting etc.

Dorothy Charlesworth has very kindly agreed to do a craft activity with the older children – we are looking forward to her coming and are excited about what we will be making! It would be lovely if we could have a monthly craft activity at Toddler Group, led by members of St John's. Given the age of our children, it need only be a very simple activity, such as decorating biscuits with smiley faces etc. If you are at all talented in this area, please consider offering that talent to Toddler Group. It would be very much appreciated!

As well as the pleasure of the craft activity, it would be a super way for our mums/grandmas to get to know some members of St John's and to know that the church is interested in them. Positive responses by St John's members to posts on the Toddler Group facebook page could naturally follow on, building another bridge between Toddler Group and St John's.

Janet Lees

Something to Think About

I recently read the autobiography of Canon Andrew White, known as the Vicar of Baghdad. The book is called 'My Journey So Far' and I borrowed it from Whitchurch Library. It is a very thought-provoking as well as inspiring read.

In the epilogue, Andrew described a visit he made to the US, travelling to various places and meeting church leaders who support his work in Iraq and the Middle East. As Andrew was being shown round a Christian school, a little boy called Sean went up to him and gave him \$1 for the 'children in Iraq'. Andrew was very moved by this act, which reminded him of the story of the widow's mite.

At the next school he visited, Andrew told the story of Sean's dollar and said that he saw it as a sign of God's goodness and provision and that God could use anyone – even a little boy – to meet people's needs. As Andrew told the story, students began to get up and go to him, each one offering \$1 or more.

For the remainder of the visit, wherever Andrew went he told this story and the response was always the same. By the end of the visit, Sean's dollar had become \$25,000!

This story of Sean's dollar reminded me of the story of the feeding of the five thousand, where a small boy gave what he had to Jesus, and Jesus was able to use it to do immeasurably more than anyone could ask or imagine!

Whatever we offer to God in faith – be it money, prayer, time, talent, our testimony – we need never be ashamed or embarrassed by its 'smallness'. God can take our small offering and use it to fulfil his great purposes!

Janet Lees



**Saturday 11th November
in St. Giles' Fellowship Room
Shrewsbury**

Lukano Omunsen from the Wolverhampton Refugee and Migrant Centre, will be sharing first hand information about life in South Sudan and experiences in a refugee camp in Uganda.

10.30am coffee
10.50am prayers of remembrance
11am - 12.00 Lukano's talk
Followed by a bring and share lunch

Information from Debbie 246639

Please come along, everyone is welcome

CHURCHES TOGETHER - CHRISTMAS CARDS TO THE COMMUNITY

The task of bundling the Christmas Cards which we deliver to houses in Whitchurch takes quite a bit of time involving putting the right number of cards into bundles according to the number of houses in the appropriate street and road.

This year this task will be undertaken on Thursday 23rd November at the Beacon Office in St John's Street. There will be two sessions – one in the afternoon starting at 2pm and another in the evening commencing at 7pm.

The more volunteers we get, the quicker it is done! Please let either myself or Mike know if you are able to help at either session – your help would really be appreciated.

Hazel Nimmo

Starter for Ten

For my Starter For Ten (I had to ask for an extension!), I am doing a TABLE LAMP MAKING WORKSHOP Friday 17th November at 1pm.

Table lamp bases and shades are supplied and you take these home– All for 10 pounds!

What you will get to do in the Workshop is to paint or decorate your lamp base and materials are provided.

Places are limited to 9, so it's first come, first served.

Make sure that you pre book your place with me.

Dorothy Faulkner.

Olivier Memorial Peace Lecture

Terry Waite

‘Survival in Solitude’

Terry Waite was captured in Beirut in 1987, while arranging prisoner relief and kept in darkness and solitary confinement for five years. This talk will encompass the events that shaped his life, and will develop into a discussion about peace, both inner peace and also peace in the world.

Wednesday 8th November at 7.30pm

Ludlow Assembly Rooms.

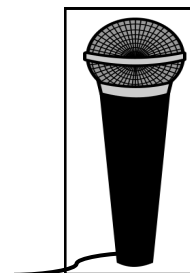
Tickets from the Assembly Rooms Box Office :
price £12, concessions £10, students £2.

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins (including questions and discussion).

Organised by Ludlow Quaker (Society of Friends) Meeting.

Sound System Operators for November

5th David Whiteley
12th Mike Nimmo
19th Jim Walwyn
26th Andrew Fawcett



TAXI



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

November 5th Sheila Latham
12th Hazel Nimmo
19th Brian Faulkner
26th Jim Walwyn

TEA & COFFEE ROTA

November 5th Hazel & Mike Nimmo



12th Brenda Aumeer & Helen Trigg

19th Sue Davies & Jane Cliffe

26th Eileen Grunner & Lynn Fowler

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

NOVEMBER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 8th November 2pm - Midweek Bible Study at Church - all welcome

Sunday 12th November 6:30pm - Remembering Service

Thursday 23rd November 7:30pm - Cafe Church

Bible Study - as of this month, the Midweek Afternoon Bible Study will take place on the Second Wednesday of the Month at 2pm - all welcome to join us on Wednesday 8th November

November 2017 Newsletter

Please let Jim Walwyn have all your submissions for the next Newsletter by 23rd November.

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

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Whitchurch**

Call in and talk to one of
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Galaxy Computer Services

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experts**

Computer sales, support
and repair



Call Will or Matt 01948 665855

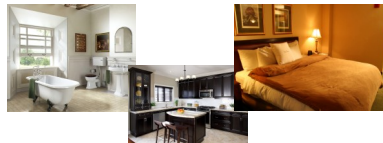
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