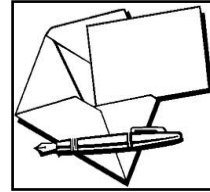


St. John's Methodist Church
Whitchurch

February 2018
Newsletter

Message from the Manse



Dear Friends

Hartlepool United are not a big club, but even by their standards things are looking grim at present; it could well be that they go out of business before the end of the season, and have to re-form at a level similar to the one Whitchurch Alport are at! At a recent match at Chester, I found myself talking to our most famous fan - Sky Sports presenter Jeff Stelling, who was sitting with the rest of us, and looking - like most of us - thoroughly miserable at the prospect of his team - "our" team - going bust.

Some fans are acting like it's the end of the world. I haven't; maybe because I went to the match knowing that come Friday, I'd be leading the funeral of a 35 year old man who died in a tree-felling accident, and would have his eight year old daughter looking up at me as I spoke about the Dad she'd never see again. In that light, the troubles of a football club don't seem very important.

It reminded me of how we sometimes get caught up in the things of this world. At times, the world seems to conspire against us - the missing car keys, the tractor on the road when you're already late. But at the same time across the world people are suffering, dying, fleeing their homes, facing up to a future filled with foreboding. Into all of this comes God, in Christ Jesus, and the amazing thing is that Jesus is interested in all of it - from making sure there's enough wine to celebrate a wedding, to restoring to life a dead child or brother - God cares, and acts. There's nothing too big for God, and nothing too small - I pray you will see God in all your lives this month.

Every blessing

Rob

Churches Together - Arrangements for Lent 2018:

The Churches Together committee have agreed that, rather than have a Lent lecture this year, the DVD series "Broken" would be shown. This tackles a variety of issues which we could all find in our churches. There are 6 episodes which are quite "gritty". Each episode tackles a different topic and, therefore, stands on its own so if you miss one episode you could still come along to others. Each episode lasts almost an hour and refreshments will be served afterwards with an opportunity to discuss the particular issue raised that evening. **All the meetings will be held at Bargates on Thursdays starting at 7.30pm**, with the different churches organising – ie taking the lead and arranging refreshments.

Date Church leading and organising refreshments

5th/22nd Feb:	St. Alkmund's
1st March:	St. George's
8th March:	Beacon
15th March:	St. John's
22nd March:	To be agreed

Lent Lunches

During Lent people from the churches in Whitchurch meet each week to eat together on a Thursday lunch time between 12.30 and 2.00. It is a simple meal of bread, soup, cheese and apples and a space in our busy lives when we can spend time together and get to know each other a bit better. The atmosphere is always very welcoming, happy and relaxed. The money we would have spent on lunch is given to Christian Aid. Please do come along if you have not been before and if you have, please do come again.

Date	Church responsible	Venue
22 nd Feb	St Alkmund's	Bargates hall
1 st Mar	St George's	Bargates hall
8 th Mar	Beacon	Bargates hall
15 th Mar	St John's	St John's guild room
22 nd Mar	The Committee	St John's guild room

Helen T.

Preachers for February

4th	Rev Rob Weir (<i>themed preaching</i>)
11th	Brian Faulkner (<i>themed preaching</i>)
18th	Mike Shingler
25th	Rev Jenny Arthurs

Stewards Rota for February

4th	Maurice Latham
11th	Avril Bradfield
18th	Mike Nimmo
25th	Peter Shingler

Worship leaders for February

4th	Lucy Chidlow
11th	Rachel Dimelow
18th	Lucy Chidlow
25th	Rachel Dimelow (if available)

Junior Church Rota

Date		Leader	Assistant
Feb	4 th	Brenda Aumeer	Wendy Proffitt
	11 th	Helen Trigg	Chris Crowther
	18 th	Half term holiday	No JC
	25 th	Briony Myles-Hook	Helen Trigg

Themed Preaching

Over the next three Sundays we will continue with our themed preaching from the Book of Nehemiah. Please can you take time to read the 13 chapters (some parts with lots of names you could skip!)

From Cheshire South Circuit

Safeguarding Training for January-June

Places on these sessions are limited to 25. It is therefore essential that you book a place. Contact Rob on 01270627774 or email chester.stoke@btconnect.com

People who went through the basic course 4-5 years ago are required to attend an Update course if still in post. Book in at one most convenient.

January 2018

Mon 29th	2 –4.30pm	Basic Foundation	Nantwich
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February 2018

Mon 19th	2-4.30pm	Update	Wells Green
Tues. 27th	2- 4.30pm	Update	Henshall Room, Sandbach

March 2018

Mon. 12th	7.15-9.45pm	Update	St. John's Whitchurch
Tues. 20th	7.15-9.45pm	Update	Henshall Room Sandbach

April 2018

Tues. 17th	7.15-9.45pm	Update	Nantwich MC
Thurs. 26th	2-4.30pm	Update	Wesley Place (Hall) <i>NB Please park opp. Church in Civic car park)</i>

May 2018

Tues. 15th	2-4.30pm	Basic Foundation	Broad Lane
Mon. 21st	7.15-9.45pm	Update	Hankelow

June 2018

Thurs. 7th	7.15-9.45pm	Update	Wesley Place (Hall)
Mon. 18th	2-4.30pm	Update	Malpas

How does Moses make tea? Hebrews it

Action For Children

The collection on Christmas morning which was for Action For Children amounted to a magnificent £116.70 On behalf of the organisation we offer everyone who contributed to this amount a heartfelt "THANK YOU".

We will be holding a coffee morning at St John's church in aid of "Action for Children", on

Saturday, 24th February 2018 from 10am to 12 noon.

Please come and support this worthy cause - Everyone is welcome.

I am now emptying the collection boxes, and if I have not yet received your box, please pass it to me as soon as possible.

David Whiteley

Midday Concerts in May-be or May-be-not?

Do you want the Midday Concerts in May to continue? We need your help and support. This can be in many ways :-

Creating posters and advertising

shopping for the lunches,

serving and clearing up,

welcoming in the church,

giving the vote of thanks.

Many hands make light work as the saying goes so please speak to Ruth Mulliner or Chris Crowther if you can help with any of the above. The concerts will hopefully take place on each Wednesday in May.

From the Methodist Recorder 19th Jan - article on humour

A Sunday school teacher was teaching The 10 Commandments to her 5-6 year olds. After explaining the commandment "to honour thy father & mother", she asked: "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" One little boy shouted, "Thou shalt not kill."

Steward's Letter

Dear Friends,

As 2018 begins we are looking forward to a year of change at St. John's. Disabled access will become a reality and thereby avoiding any more accidents the like of which happened on Sunday 14th January. Nancy Green fell on our steps and damaged her face, but happily, she is making a full recovery. We are fortunate it was not worse than it turned out to be. On January 31st, we have a meeting with Sally Graham, who is doing our grant applications to make up the shortfall in our funding. We can look for quotations from three companies to get the best value for money, not necessarily the cheapest. I see the White Lion in Ash has received a grant for £100,000. I am sure we must have more 'customers' than they do!



Just before Christmas (22nd December) we attended the funeral of my mother's sister, Phyllis, also sister of Jean Langley. She studied at Whitchurch High School followed by Manchester University in 1945. She graduated in 1950 and became a highly regarded paediatrician at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, where she was instrumental in pioneering the use of incubators for premature babies. Many people owe their very existence to her work.

Did you follow David Attenborough's series, "Blue Planet"? What a thought provoking series of programmes he has produced. All the underwater photography was wonderful. The most disturbing part was to see the damage being done to sea life and the environment by our rubbish. Quoting from a letter to the Star, Mr N. Jones says: Our politicians, bankers and large companies, never the most responsible group, whose values are so often detrimental to our environment, constantly focus on growth (profit) which is a bit like Nero playing the fiddle while Rome burnt. We are, collectively, committing mass destruction and do not understand the

amount of damage we are doing to the earth and our environment. Mrs May, you must shape yourself—25 years is far too long. We need to be doing more today, tomorrow never comes.

On January 3rd we were visited by Storm Eleanor. While she was with us she removed 8-10 roof tiles from the long room porch. Peter and I set about replacing them. Two hours later -job done!

May I thank everyone who spent much time and energy decorating the chapel in readiness for our Christmas services. What a good job you all did. It was much appreciated by all of those who attended our Carol and Christmas services. This year, all the churches/chapels seemed to hold their Carol services on the same night! Perhaps next year we could plan to hold ours on a different night. We might get more visitors!

Peter and I are continuing to work on the heating system. Hopefully we have got a plumber on board who wants to modify and improve the efficiency of the 18 month old boilers. Most of the plumbers Peter emailed didn't even respond.

And finally, two of our stewards, including our senior steward, are retiring in April this year. So we are looking for anybody who is interested in taking on this role or any other role to help with the smooth running of the Church work. Please speak to a steward if you think you are being called to help in any way.

God bless you all,

Maurice Latham

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.

St John's

Give thanks for all those serving on the the various committees/Church Council and pray that, as they meet in the coming weeks, they will seek God's will for St John's and make wise decisions on our behalf

Ask that the Pray, Think, Act Group will be instrumental in moving us forward spiritually, according to God's will and purpose, and not according to our 'good ideas'

Ask God to bless the various groups that meet at St John's – Parents and Toddlers, Network, the Music Group, the Tuesday Fellowship Group, the prayer meeting, cafe church

Pray that 'Night of Worship' will be well supported and will be the means of enriching worship at St John's

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 work of the Food Bank.

Our nation

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

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

Pray for the protection of family life in our nation and that each individual child becomes fully, without interference, what he or she is intended by the Lord to be what.

Pray for wisdom for our national leaders as they make decisions on our behalf, particularly in regard to Brexit.

Our World

Pray for those parts of our world where there is conflict – pray especially for those places being oppressed by Islamic State

Pray for wisdom for those seeking to resolve the conflicts peacefully

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

Pray for refugees – that they may find safe havens to live, with shelter, food, water, education and healthcare for their children

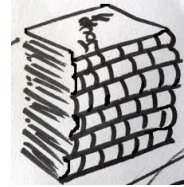
God the Father, eternally mysterious, we worship you
God the Son, eternally responding, we bless you.
God the Holy Spirit, eternally witnessing, we adore you.
Holy and glorious Trinity, three persons and one God,
we magnify you, now and forever. Amen

(Nestorian Liturgy, 5th century)

Rotas for February

Book Stewards

4th	Gwen Reeves
11th	Sheila Walwyn
18th	Mary Scott
25th	Nancy Millington



Tea & Coffee Rota

4th	Sue Davies & Jane Cliffe
11th	Brenda Aumeer & Helen Trigg
18th	Nancy Millington & Chris Crowther
25th	Eileen Grunner & Lynn Fowler



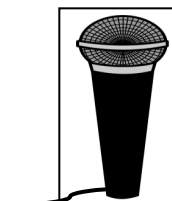
Flower Rota

4th	Hazel Burlton
11th	Sheila Jones
18th	Gwen Reeves
25th	Brenda Aumeer
March 4th	Nancy Millington



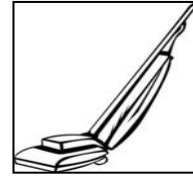
Sound System Operators

4th	Mike Nimmo
11th	Jim Walwyn
18th	Andrew Fawcett
25th	Wendy Proffitt
March 4th	Gordon Davidson



Spick and Spanners

1st Chris Crowther, Dot Charlesworth &
Lynn Fowler



15th Helen Trigg, Wendy Proffitt & Brenda
Aumeer

Christian Aid 'Count Your Blessings'

Welcome! As we follow Jesus' journey this Lent, let's confront the wildernesses in our own world. Let's walk with our neighbours – like Dimma, Ibrahim and Sori – who have been forced to flee their homes. You'll reflect on the blessings in your life, and you'll see how your support gives people hope. We're so pleased you're with us.

How to count your blessings:

1. Read the daily reflection in the Lent calendar.
2. Count the blessings and jot your total in the space.*
3. Pray and act with us to share your blessings.
4. After Easter, add up your contributions and send your total gift to Christian Aid. It's really easy – just use the form provided or donate online at caid.org.uk/lent

**Please give what you can afford. Daily giving amounts are only suggestions. Remember, every pound you give will transform lives.*

Order your copies before they run out... visit: caid.org.uk/lent
l: orders@christian-aid.org phone: 0870 078 7788 or talk with Helen Trigg, if you are interested.

From Chester & Stoke-on-Trent District

Jill Baker, Vice-president of the Methodist Conference, is visiting our district from **February 8th –11th**. The following events are taking place during those few days.

Sat. 10th: Winter walking pilgrimage (7 miles) in the Biddulph area, commencing at 10am (limited to 20 places, booking required).

Sat. 10th: “Horizons” early evening event from **5—8pm**, including hot-pot supper and talk, at Biddulph (ST8 6BJ) - open to all (an indication of attendance would be helpful for planning and catering).

Sun 11th: Jill will be preaching at Wesley Chester (CH1 1DA) at **10.30am**

Sun 11th: World Church afternoon event, “To Russia with Love”, from **3 - 6pm** at Trinity Halton, Runcorn (WA7 2AT) including tea. (Indication of attendance needed).

For further enquiries or to book places, contact **Rob** at District office. Tel: 01270627774 or email chester.stoke@btconnect.com

Taxi!

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

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

Regular Church Activities

Mondays 9:30-11:30am: Parents & Toddlers (*Term time*)
1st & 3rd Tues. 7.30pm: Fellowship at 7 Queen's Rd.
1st & 3rd Thurs. 7.30pm: Prayer Group at Church
Thursdays 7.00pm: Music Group Practice

Dates For Your February Diary

Monday 5th: 3pm Events Committee
Weds. 7th: 7.30pm Church Council
Thurs. 22nd 12.30 - 2pm Lent lunch St. Alkmund's,
Thurs. 22nd: 7.30pm Café Church
Sat. 24th: 10am - 12 noon Action for Children Coffee
morning
Tuesday 27th 7.30pm Pray, Think, Act meeting (*Manse*)

Other days to note

Tues. 20th: World Day of Social Justice (UN)
Mon. 26th: Start of Fairtrade Fortnight

Future events

Thurs. 1st/8th/15th/22nd Mar. 12.30 - 2pm: Lent lunches
Thurs. 1st/8th/15th/22nd Mar. 7.30pm: Lent meetings
Mon. 12th March 7.15 - 9.45pm: Safeguarding refresher
at St. John's (*see article*)
Thurs. 29th Mar. 7.30pm: Service at St. Alkmund's
Fri. 30th Mar.: Walk of Witness (meet at Tesco 11.30am)

March Newsletter

Please let **Vic Trigg** have all your submissions for the March 2018 Newsletter by 21st February.

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

WALKERS



BARLOWS

**Your local electrical
store**

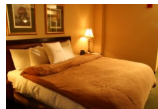


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