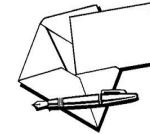




**St. John's Methodist Church
Whitchurch**

March 2018 Newsletter

Message from the Manse



Dear Friends,

One of the things we did at Church Council was to approve a new Mission Statement. 'Pray Think Act' had been working on this, and it received a warm welcome: we now say that:

Our Church is here to worship God and through His grace

- Encourage us all to grow in our Christian Faith
- Develop our spiritual life through teaching and prayer
- Share God's Love
- Through our prayers and actions, care for the local community and the wider world.

It's a good statement, but as always, the challenge is for it to be more than a piece of paper: we now need to live it! That's always the challenge with a Mission Statement - in part it's reflective of who we are and what we do, but it's also aspirational - what we want St. John's to be. The worst thing that could happen now is for the Mission Statement to be pinned down to the Notice Board and only be referred to when we're asked about it; it needs to be about our church family, how we try to live, work and worship to the glory of God. It needs to be something that people can look at, and then realise that it's not just words, but something that describes our church in a real and living way.

In a lot of ways, there are things we already do well on that front, and we're looking to develop those further; and if you have ideas on that then do speak up - whether by coming to the 'Pray Think Act' meeting on Tuesday 27th February at the Manse, or by speaking to us about your ideas. We know what we want St. John's to be - now, let's see how we can, guided by the Holy Spirit, make it even better!

God Bless

Rob

Flower Rota for March 2018

March 4th. Nancy Millington
11th. Jane Cliffe
18th. Hazel Nimmo
25th. Beryl Posniak
April 1st. EASTER



Churches Together in Whitchurch

Hazel and I are standing down as St. John's reps to Churches Together and 2 new reps are, therefore, required. There are usually four meetings each year at which reps from the four churches plan and discuss joint events, actions and information. Examples of this are the Lent Courses, Walk of Witness on Good Friday, Party in the Park, Christian Aid Week and Christmas Cards to the community. The reps then take back any actions to their respective Church for implementation by the appropriate committee or person such as the Worship Committee, the Newsletter editor and so on. I have always enjoyed this wee job as I am a firm believer that God's work is better served if the Christian Community are seen to be as one.

Mike Nimmo

TEA & COFFEE ROTA for March

4th Mary Scott, Gwen Reeves & Dorothy F.
11th Elizabeth & Pete Shingler
18th Fiona Weir & Dorothy Faulkner
25th Ruth Dawson & Einwen Kelly



Poetry Please

(a piece deferred through lack of space in last month's newsletter)

After all the excitements of the Christmas season and the business of it all, we have to now settle down to a new year with all the challenges it will bring to us.

Unfortunately as I am writing this both Jim and I have succumbed to the 'dreaded lurgy' and are currently spending a lot of our time either in bed or shuffling around in dressing gowns! Hopefully as you read this it will all be now over and in the past.

I could not calm myself down at all, then after trying various techniques I decided to think back to the poetry of my childhood. Just simple well-known verse like William Wordsworth's 'Daffodils' as I recall walking in this Springtime golden glory! Or the beautiful poem 'The kingfisher' by W. H Davies who extols the beauty and magnificence of this proud bird, - and also teaches us a lot about life too.

The lovely poem 'Upon Westminster Bridge' also by Wordsworth encapsulates the magnificence of this great city as it sleeps and 'Home thoughts from abroad' by Robert Browning has a poignancy all of its own

Together with 'Requiem' by Robert Lewis Stevenson and the wonderful 'Sea Fever' by John Masfield - one can almost hear the lapping of the great ocean when reading this.

I know that music soothes the soul for many people - my husband included, who is 'music mad'- any kind of music, he loves and plays it all the time. Myself though, I find that words are wonderfully healing. When you are feeling down at heart try to remember the poems of childhood - it will direct the brain along other paths.

A lot of our hymns began as poetry of course, think of Christina Rossetti and her wonderful poem 'In the Bleak Mid Winter' which was made into such a lovely Christmas hymn. The psalms, too, are pure poetry which is why I so often turn to them for comfort and help.

So the next time you need some quiet comfort try memorising some

poetry from the past - modern poets are great, too, they can inspire you to do great things!

I wish you all a very happy and healthy new year full of beautiful words to soothe your soul!

'And then my heart with pleasure fills – and dances with the daffodils'
Hopefully Springtime will soon be on its way!

Sheila Walwyn

Fairtrade Fortnight

The Big Brew

Fairtrade Fortnight is from the 26th February to the 11th March and the theme is 'Come on in'. Once again we will be holding a Big Brew in St Alkmund's church where you can sample homemade cakes made with Fairtrade ingredients and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with friends. There will be the usual Traidcraft stall but with an extra lovely selection of cards and also Easter eggs, which can be bought or ordered. All proceeds from the Big Brew go to Traidcraft Exchange which enables more small farmers to start selling their goods via Traidcraft and so begin receiving a fair and dependable income. If you are able to make a cake, please let me know.

Do come along on Saturday!

Civic Centre

Also during Fairtrade Fortnight there will be a display of Fairtrade goods in the glass cabinet in the foyer of the Civic Centre.

Helen Trigg

Steward's Letter

Dear Friends,

I am writing this newsletter on behalf of our steward Rob Hewson, who has not been well of late. I am sure you will join me in wishing him a speedy recovery.



On January 31st Sally Graham joined us at our Refurbishment Committee Meeting at which we discussed the progress of our grant applications. Sally said that she expects to get most of the money she has applied for. This will top-up our funds pot and means that we will have enough money to complete all the work in Phase 1 (this will include VAT at 20% which will be approximately £22,000 depending on the final invoice for the work). We will be able to reclaim the VAT after the work has been completed. This money can then go into the Phase 2 Fund pot.

On 1st February we had a visit from Mr. Adrian Male to do his 5-yearly inspection of the church. The first thing he said was “It looks younger than the last time I visited”. Inside our chapel he spotted some cobwebs, which he said is a good sign of very little damp. I am not sure that I agree with that. Vic, Peter, Brian and myself explained to Adrian about the plans for the ramp into the Long Room, and why we are not much in favour of the Architect’s plans. In Adrian’s opinion we should raise the car park to the level of the Long Room floor, remove both of our existing doors, and replace them with glass doors of an appropriate design. This would make our Long Room entrance so much more inviting. I am sure you all agree this would be a massive improvement. This part of Phase 1 must not be allowed to delay the work on the front door ramps. We must push ahead and not let the Long Room ramp hold the project up.

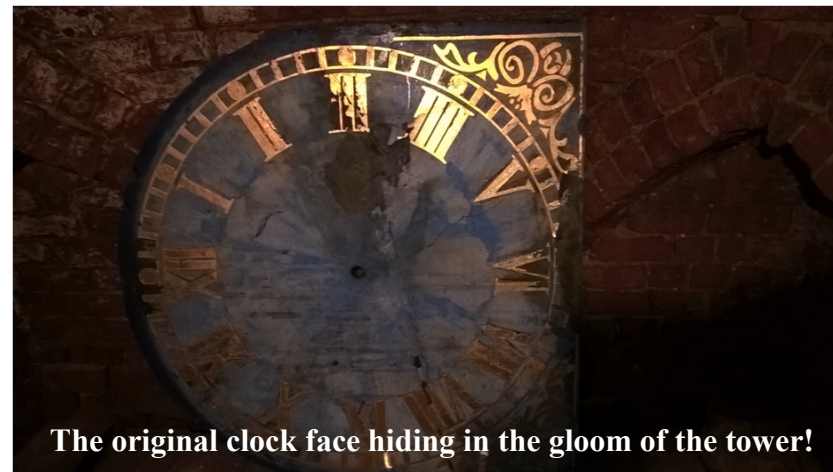
The day after Adrian’s visit, 2 tiles from the roof of the chapel over the altar crashed into the rear car park. They must have been waiting for him to go! It was a good job the earthquake was not worse on Saturday 17th February – we might have had many more tiles

removed. We await Adrian's Quinquennial Report with much anticipation.

On 7th February we received Barlows Electrical's report on the condition of our chapel's system. It does not make good reading. There are 5 or 6 jobs that need to be done ASAP, plus 14 which are historical and were on our "to do" list 5 years ago, and maybe 5 years before that. On reflection, I believe we have to bite the bullet or take the bitter pill and find the funds to get the work done. The cost is in the region of £1,650 + VAT (of course).

On Sunday 11th February, as I am sure you are all aware, the organ refused to operate. On the Monday Peter and I checked all the trips and switches and were unable to find a fault so had no option but to call in Barlows. The electrician soon concluded that the motor on the organ blower was burned out. He removed it and took it to Shropshire Rewinds who said it will cost £198 +VAT to fix.

While the electrician was working on the organ, Peter and I decided that we should climb the tower to find out what the problem was with the clock. After a very tight squeeze through the trapdoor at the top of the first ladder, followed by 2 more long ladders which are not in bad order apart from 1 or 2 suspect rungs, we reached the old clock mechanism on the second floor. The original clock face is a large 1" thick piece of slate leaning against the tower wall.



The original clock face hiding in the gloom of the tower!

The clock looks in good order for an 1879 installation (although the mechanism is a more recent electric replacement), but the grinding and squeaking sounds emanating from it led us to switch it off. The question is - is there a link between the clock and organ faults? Barlow's man thinks the problem could be under St. John's Street, and, as we have seen, the road has recently been dug up by the Electricity people. That being the case, we need to look for compensation. If we don't succeed with our claim we could get the Whitchurch Herald on our case – after all a mole trap made the headlines in the first week of February!

To change the subject, do you watch the BBC News? I just cannot watch their reports on the NHS and our PM. Why do they continually run down the NHS? They do this to such an extreme that all NHS doctors, nurses and all the other people involved in the running of our hospitals must be very disillusioned by all the negative attitudes to the good service they provide. We are so fortunate to have such a wonderful Health Service in this country I am sure you will all agree.

As for Laura Klinsman asking our PM questions about Brexit while doing business in China which is totally irrelevant to the situation she was in, and BBC male presenters being paid more than the ladies – words fail! As far as I am concerned they are all grossly overpaid, even the ladies.

And finally, please make a note on your calendars that May 2nd is the first Midday Concert. If we can each bring one or two extra people we will more than double our audience. Please pass the word around. Oh, also I have not been overwhelmed with applicants for the steward's job at St. John's(!)

Question: Will North Korea's Kim Jong-un be in charge of the fireworks at the closing ceremony for the Winter Olympic Games?

God bless you all,

Maurice

Winterley Methodist Church
& Community Centre

Crewe Road CW11 4RP

OPEN DAY



*You are cordially invited to view the new
facilities on*

Sunday 4 March
10.00 am – 4.00 pm

Tea / Coffee served during
the day

6.30 pm – Songs of Praise

Worship and praise!

I apologise for going on about this subject again before I start!

As you know I love the worship songs we sing in our church; to me they are so very meaningful and blend so well into our modern world.

I often come to church feeling so downbeat and fed up with the world, as I am sure many people do. Some of these songs have the ability to lift my soul and talk of modern day problems and feelings so well.

I often shed a silent tear when I am singing them and have to hold my emotions in check - quite a lot!

One such song that has been going around and around in my head for the past few weeks is 'Faithful One'. It continues 'You are my rock of peace, You are my help in times of trouble you lift me up when I fall down, all through the storm your love is the anchor – my hope is in you alone'.

What wonderful words and a promise to hold on to when all the world seems dark! The line ('you lift me up when I fall down' has helped me particularly in the last few weeks)

This song is one of so many that gives me a sense of hope and peace. Another one that has such a strong message is 'Have you heard God's voice?' - one of the verses says 'will you watch the news with the eyes of faith and believe it could be different. Will you share your views using words of grace will you leave a thoughtful imprint?'.

This certainly makes us sit up and realise what is happening to our world!

Finally, one of my favourites is 'Jesus be the centre be the fire in my heart be the wind in these sails BE THE REASON THAT I LIVE Jesus, Jesus!'

Can there be anything written down that is more powerfully written than that line?

I know that a lot of you love the old hymns and, of course, that is fine, and some of them are so lovely, but nothing speaks to me in the same way as the modern songs of worship, I believe it is the way forward and that our future rests on these words.

I am no singer at all, but I so enjoy listening to these songs. We are so very lucky to have Lucy and the worship group to lead us in these songs - such talented folks - they need to be encouraged!

We all crave contentment and inner peace in today's world - in the words of a very old and lovely hymn:

"It is well, it is well with my soul!"

Sheila Walwyn

EASTER BREAKFAST

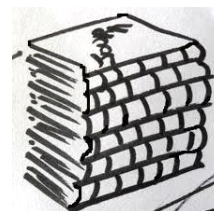
The Church Family Committee will be serving breakfast between the two services on Easter Sunday morning (at approximately 9.15 am). There will be a list at the back of the church a little nearer the time, please add your name if you would like to share in this.

Many thanks

Jane

Book Stewards for March

4th Beryl Posniak
11th Gwen Reeves
18th Nancy Millington
25th Mary Scott
April 1st May Arthan



Spick and Spanners for March 2018

March 1st

Einwen Kelly, Ruth Dawson & Sheila Latham



March 15th

Nancy Millington, Beryl Posniak & Brenda Dudley

Christian Aid

Thank you to everyone who came along and bought or ordered cards and gifts at the coffee morning in November where £234 was raised for Christian Aid. Also thank you to those who gave to the pew collection in December. £69 was raised by St. John's. The total raised in Whitchurch for Christian Aid in 2017 was £5030.83.

Helen Trigg

Themed Preaching

What an excellent and inspiring season of themed preaching we had! I thoroughly enjoyed hearing the four-part sermon series on the book of Nehemiah, given to us by Janet, Geoff, Rob and Brian.

Why did I like it so much? Perhaps because it gave us the opportunity to explore a book in the bible that we don't often hear that much about. We often read the gospels and other new testament books, but I think it was very insightful to delve deeper into an old testament book and see how very relevant it can be for us today. Breaking down a book of the bible over a period of a few weeks made it more manageable to read and provided great continuity for the themes that followed each week. When we read through a whole book (well, most of it) we can put the text into its context.

I know I don't read the bible as much as I should in my own private time, but this series of themed preaching really made me feel as though I was reading the bible as it should be read – in its context. It has also given me the motivation to read more of the Old Testament. Having had this series, I hope that there will be many more opportunities to do other books of the bible and a huge thank-you must be said to all preachers who worked together to make it such a success. Thank you again!

God bless,

Lucy

Messy Church

Messy Church is planned for the 9th April from 9.30 – 11.30am at St John's. Bring your children and stay for free holiday fun and food. Children from 0 – 11 years welcome.

FOODBANK UPDATE:

During 2017 approximately 10.2 tonnes of food was donated to the Foodbank. The churches in the area collected over 2 tonnes and weekly collections at Tesco and Sainsbury amounted to 4.7 tonnes.

In December, the Foodbank distributed a special gift of seasonal goodies to 23 of our clients and, thanks to financial support from the Jane Higginson Trust, was able to provide 14 families with items of fresh food for their Christmas dinner.

Harvest time reflected the generosity of the churches, school and other organisations in Whitchurch, Wem, Malpas and surrounding areas. Over 1.3 tonnes of food was brought to the Foodbank during this period.

A few of the volunteers at the Foodbank have had to stand down over the last year due to health issues or family commitments and it is intended to run a training programme in the next few months for new volunteers. If anyone is interested, please have a word with me.

As a “spin-off” from the Foodbank, some free basic cookery courses were run last year entitled ‘Eat Well Spend Less’. The course includes budgeting, menu planning and shopping psychology and how to get the best for the family. It is intended to run more courses this year out of the Children’s Centre and we have obtained funding from Shropshire Council to do so.

www.whitchurch.foodbank.org.uk (the Foodbank’s website) is well used. However, the current webmaster is

unable to continue in the role, so the Foodbank is on the lookout for a replacement and would love to hear from anyone who has the skills to manage this role. If anyone would like more information in this regard please let me know and I will put you in touch with the appropriate person.

Hazel Nimmo

*Cafe Church is on Thursday 22nd March at 7.30pm
- Coffee, Cake or Biscuits and a informal chat
about a faith - based topic.*

Quiz at the Dodington Lodge

There is to be a quiz at the Dodington Lodge hotel on Friday 23rd March with all proceeds going to Christian Aid. It was greatly enjoyed by all who took part last year, with delicious chip butties half-way through the evening! If you would like to be part of a team please speak to Brenda, Briony or Helen or just come along on the night.

Helen Trigg

Please note the following amendments to the March – May Preaching Plan

1 st April	8.30am	Rev. Rob Weir	Easter Day Communion
	10.30am	Pat Maidment	
6 th May	10.30am	Rev. Rob Weir:	AGM (No Communion)
13 th May	@ The Beacon:	Christian Aid	Sunday
20 th May	10.30am	Rev. Rob Weir:	Pentecost Communion

The Garden of Daily Living

First plant three rows of peas:

-peas of mind, peas of heart, peas of soul.

Then four rows of squash:

- squash gossip, squash indifference, squash grumbling, squash selfishness.

Next plant four rows of lettuce:

- lettuce be faithful, lettuce be kind, lettuce be patient, lettuce really love each other.

Don't forget turnips:

- turnip for meetings, turnip for services, turnip to help one another.

To conclude our garden we must have thyme:

- thyme for each other, thyme for family, thyme for friends.

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love. There could be much fruit in your garden, because you reap what you sow. Of course, this list is just a bit of fun, but behind the silly puns there is a serious message. To make sure we grow as people we must first plant the seeds of love, tolerance and understanding, among many other virtues - not just in ourselves but in our children. You may not be green-fingered in real life, but as the "garden of your daily living" exists in your mind, anyone can become a great head gardener.

Submitted by Mary Scott

"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade."

- From Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

Coffee & posies for Mothers' Day



We are holding a coffee morning on Friday 9th March from 10am-12noon so that we can make posies to be given out on Mothers' Day to women in the congregation as well as those who are no longer able to attend Church services. If you can spare your time or any spring flowers and sprigs of foliage from your gardens, please come along and join us. Many thanks.

Helen Trigg, Briony Myles-Hook & Junior Church Team.

MARCH SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S

4th Rev. Rob Weir (Communion)

11th Jenny Smith (Mothering Sunday)

18th Brian Faulkner

25th Rev. Rob Weir

1st April Rev. Rob Weir (8:30am Communion)
Pat Maidment (!0:30am)



Sunday 8th April

Due to the Fun Run, everyone coming to church by car should arrive by 10am before the roads are closed. And don't forget that Rob Weir is taking part in the run - so be ready to cheer before the 10:30am service!

Disabled Access News

This month there is Good News and Bad News.
Which would you like first?



Here is the Good News. The refurbishment Committee met on 31st January, and we were delighted to welcome Sally Graham from the Circuit. She is the person who is handling accessing grants on our behalf, and she brought us excellent news. She has applied for grants totalling £55,000, which would enable us to make a start on the Disabled Access work immediately. This is tremendous news!

However, a note of caution. We cannot actually physically start work until **ALL** the money is in place. Decisions on the grants will be made between the period mid April – mid May – so watch this space! You will appreciate that is just the tip of the iceberg. There are other huge issues waiting to be addressed such as the heating, the gutters and the roof – and that's apart from Phase 2!

We have already instructed our architects to start to make preparations for Disabled Access – we have issued them with a formal letter instructing them to prepare final designs, get tenders and quotations and so forth. So we are offwell nearly.

As I hinted at the start, there is some Bad News (there has to be, doesn't there?). We have a problem with the design of the disabled access to the Long Room. The existing design was most unsatisfactory, so we have asked the planners to look at it again. Unfortunately, this is going to delay us, as the new plans will have to be re-submitted to the authorities in Manchester. This could cause us a delay of about 3 – 6 months.

So, take heart. Nil desperandum! Forward in Faith.

JRW

PS Another problem has arisen since I wrote my article. We now have issues with our electrics. I have really missed the organ!

Being a 28-year-old at church

Interviewer: What's it like, Lucy, being a 28-year-old at St. John's?

Lucy: I've grown up with St. John's since I was about 5 years old. I am used to its customs and traditions. I had an excellent supporting system when I was young with Junior Church and, later into my teens, I had the J Team – both of which I am very grateful for. However, what is church like for me today? I'm noticing that I seem to be becoming more and more comfortable with the way things have always been, rather than getting out of my comfort zone and being challenged. While I think the words used, songs we sing, and sermons preached (to name a few) could most definitely be made more accessible to each generation, I'm so used to the format of church life at St. John's that I am comfortable but not challenged. St. John's needs to be more relevant to the people of this generation and the next. I worry about its future. I worry that it might not be around in the next 20-30 years if it doesn't move forward or does so only at a snail's pace all the time. We are already 18 years into the new millennium and I'm still singing songs I sang when I was 5 years old that most would still call "contemporary"!

Interviewer: What about other people of similar age to you, who don't come from a church background, if they came to St. John's for the first time, how would they find it?

Lucy: I think all would find St. John's very welcoming, and may very well form great friendships, but most may find that the worship service bores them or is not relevant. I think they will be pleasantly surprised to see that St. John's has a screen and a music group. I don't think they will understand many of the traditional words – both in hymns and liturgical type services, such as Holy Communion. Most will not know the words of the Lord's Prayer. They will not understand why we sit and stand at certain points, or why an offering of money is given.

Interviewer: What do you think St. John's can do about attracting

more people of your own age, or any other age group?

Lucy: I do think that, if we as the church are going to attract a greater number of people of any age, we will have to make church more relevant and inclusive of everyone, or even step out of our walls and go to them, rather than letting them come to us. Sunday morning church competes with the television, the sports game, or a general family day for a lot of families. Church doesn't seem to be a necessary part of people's lives like it once was. Not only do our worship services need to be relevant and inclusive of all ages, so that we get built up spiritually, but the church must leave its walls and relate to the world outside, if it is to grow. The church is also likely to attract people of any age if everyone is friendly, welcoming and looking like they want to be there! (I'm guilty for not doing these things). A joyful church is attractive. We want to send out a message that church is the place to be – that it is relevant, inclusive, that you can have an enjoyable time and (hopefully) be challenged. No one likes a doctor's waiting room, do they? Let's smile like we've been given the best prescription ever – and, let's be honest, if you've got Jesus, you already have!

Taxi!

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

4th	Sheila Latham
11th	Hazel Nimmo
18th	Jim Walwyn
25th	Brian Faulkner
April 1st	Hazel Nimmo



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 St John's on the various committees/Church Council and pray that, as they meet they will seek to be guided by the Holy Spirit

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'

Pray for our children and young people as they continue with their studies, 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, Network, the Music Group, the Tuesday Fellowship Group, the prayer meeting, Night of Worship & the midweek bible study – 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 Town

Pray that we will become a force for good in Whitchurch. 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 earnestly pray for our nation.

Pray for the protection of family life in our country, so that every child can become what he or she is intended by God to be.

Pray for wisdom for our leaders as they make decisions on our behalf, particularly in the Brexit negotiations.

Our world

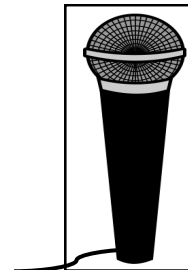
Pray for those parts of our world where there is conflict, that the Holy Spirit will enable world leaders to 'hear' each other and come together in a spirit of openness in places such as Syria.

Give thanks for the work of Aid Agencies and churches as they seek to help those suffering from the effects of natural disasters, and pray that the Oxfam scandal will not impede the good work that is still being done.

Pray for wisdom for the government of the USA as they deal with the continuing gun crime in their country.

Sound System Operators for March

4th	Gordon Davidson
11th	David Whiteley
18th	Andrew Fawcett
25nd	Mike Nimmo
April 1st	Jim Walwyn



REPORT OF CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING – 7th February 2018

A copy of the minutes from this meeting can be seen on the board in the vestry but the main points of interest are as follows. If you would like to look at the documents referred to, please ask!

1 Official Matters!

The Church Accounts for last year were approved
The Reserves Policy Report was approved
The Church Return Report was approved
The Church Safeguarding Policy was approved
Brian Faulkner was approved as a new Pastoral Visitor

2 Outreach and Mission

The wording of an updated Mission Statement was approved (see board in the Long Room) and we discussed how we can make it something that we live by.

Flyers telling people about our church have been printed and distributed to new houses in Whitchurch

500 copies of the leaflet about our church produced by 'Pray Think Act' will be printed and copies left in the Civic, Heritage Centre etc for visitors and newcomers to Whitchurch.

200 copies of a newsletter including articles and timings of services and events will be printed quarterly and distributed to a different set of targeted local streets each time to encourage existing residents to come along.

A box for prayer requests from the local community will be placed outside the church.

3 Parents and Toddlers

We read the report by Janet Lees and discussed ways in which the church could further support this valuable outreach.

4 Junior Church

Helen Trigg submitted a report and encouraged everyone to talk to children after the service about what they have been doing.

5 Appointments and Circuit News

Ron Page is no longer employed as a lay worker within the circuit. Deacon Jill Taylor has been appointed to work part time in the Wrenbury mission area.

6 Volunteers

Chris Crowther and Mike and Hazel Nimmo were thanked for their service within the Church. People are needed to fulfil the following roles:

- Secretary for the Events Committee
- Christmas Fayre Organiser
- Churches Together in Whitchurch Reps
- Church Steward

7 Refurbishment Update

Funding is in place for us to proceed with the first phase of refurbishment and the architect will now prepare final drawings and put the work out to tender. Updates will appear on the noticeboard at the back of church and in the newsletter. Grants have been applied for to the value of £55K and we will know by May how successful we have been.

8 Heating System

Plans are underway to move the heat exchanger to the cellar to increase the efficiency of the boilers.

9 Town Council Grants (PS)

Following the successful application last year for funding for a carpet in the Guild Room, we are applying for a Town Council Grant to revamp a toilet for disabled access including a raised basin, handrail etc.

10 Charity Donations

Church Council Approved the following charity donations for the year from Church funds.

World Mission Fund	£130.00
Mission in Britain	£130.00
Presbyters & Deacons	£65.00
Property Development Fund	£130.00
Homes for the Aged	£65.00

Date of next Church Council: Monday 11th June 2018 at 7pm. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Rob Weir asked that we prayerfully consider all our discussions and the meeting closed with the Grace.

At Church Council, Chris Crowther told us that she wished to step back from her role organising the Christmas Fayre and Coffee Mornings at the Civic Centre. Chris has done a great job for us over the years, and we expressed our appreciation for the work she has done that has helped support St. John's in this way.

This does, however, mean that we need to make sure these events still happen! So we're looking for volunteers to join the Events Committee - including someone to act as Secretary. These events are not just about raising money - they also provide opportunities for fellowship, and outreach into our community. If you'd like to get involved, speak to any of the Events Committee, Rob, or one of the Stewards.

Rob Weir

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

2nd Wednesdays of the month - 2pm: Bible Study at St. John's

4th Thursdays of the month - 7:30pm: Cafe Church

MARCH DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 1st: Knit & Natter (10:30am)

Lent Lunch (12:30-2pm), & Lent Meeting (7:30pm)

Thursday 8th: Lent Lunch 12:30-2pm

7:30pm - Night of Worship

7:30pm Lent Meeting

Thursday 15th: Lent Lunch and Lent Meeting

Saturday 17th 10am-12 noon: Gift Day

Thursday 22nd: Lent Lunch, Lent Meeting, Cafe Church (7:30pm)

Tuesday 27th 2pm: Network (Speaker Rev. Rob Weir)

April 2018 Newsletter

Please let Mike Nimmo have all your submissions for the next Newsletter by 25th March. Send material to:
2 Heritage Walk, Wrexham Road, Whitchurch
SY131J / 01948667857 / mike@heritagewalk.co.uk

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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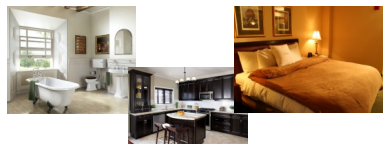
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