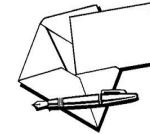


*Hibiscus*

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

**May 2018 Newsletter**

## Message from the Manse



Dear Friends,

First of all this month, I'd like to say "Thank You" for all the support - financial and otherwise! for running in the Whitchurch 10K last month. With help from Mike Nimmo, who organised the sponsorship, we've raised about £250 which has been split between Church and Macmillan.

Currently my Facebook Profile Picture is the one taken of me by Briony as I ran past the church, clowning around slightly - then again, it was not that far into the race! I was wearing one of my older Clerical Shirts over my running top, complete with Clerical Collar; and it's amazing to reflect on the number of people I saw on the way round the town, and who saw me. I heard more than one cry of "Keep going Vicar", and even shouted back on occasion something along the lines of "Isn't it terrible when you're late for church!" In a small way, I was offering some Christian presence and witness at the event - one which brought hundreds onto the streets to take part, dozens to volunteer, and many more just to cheer on friends, relatives and neighbours.

I'm writing this just after returning from Erddig, where I was volunteering at the regular parkrun - a weekly 5km (3 mile) timed run. I didn't do that in my collar, but again - there were over 200 people there, and I've chatted to a few of them, and not hidden my faith while I was doing it. And many people in this church - and other churches - are also very generous with their time, not just inside church but outside it too.

It's important that we are involved, for a number of reasons. I know not everyone can be, but it's a good way of getting out into the community, in places where sometimes there are a lot of people who have little or nothing to do with church; and being open and honest (not pushy!) about our faith can lead to some interesting conversations. But we should also remember that those conversations are not one way. Do we see God at work in some of the things we do as vol-

-unteers outside the church? And what messages do we bring back to the church from those that we meet, or the things that we do? What needs does the community have that we can respond to, guided by the Holy Spirit? And that sort of thinking, as much as any other, is about mission: showing our world God's love, and inviting others to come and share in it.

God Bless

*Rob*

### **MUSICIANS WANTED!**

Music group are looking for more people to join the team. If anyone is skilled in playing a musical instrument and would like to join the music group on a Sunday morning, enhancing the worship experience for us all, please do get in touch with Lucy who will give you more information.



Matthew 5 v 16 tells us to "let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven." Don't be afraid to let others see what you are capable of. If God's gifted you to play a musical instrument, use it for Him!

### **TEA & COFFEE ROTA for May**

6th	Hazel & Mike Nimmo
13th	United Christian Aid Service @ The Beacon (Civic Centre)
20th	Brenda Aumeer & Helen Trigg
27th	Eileen Grunner & Lynn Fowler



## **CIRCUIT MEETING.**

I attended the Circuit Meeting (with Maurice and Peter as visitors) on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at Ettiley Heath, near Sandbach. The agenda was very long. We also split up into Mission Areas for discussions.

As well as the usual business of staffing, finance & property, I have just picked out a few items that you may find relevant.

Barbridge & Chorlton Chapels sought permission to close.

Poole Chapel with the garden, received permission to be managed by the Circuit.

Sue Brownbill has retired as Circuit Administrator and has been replaced by Judith Bell.

Pat Maidment has again taken on the role of Circuit Steward.

Mrs Priaulx is to be a Connexional Champion and will endeavour to draw our churches' attention to the various Methodist Charities.

All donations to Methodist Charities are to be continued to be sent in via the Circuit.

Winterley loan of £20,700 to pay their V.A.T. on the improvements has been exchanged into a gift.

Deacon Jill Taylor has joined the Circuit Staff team on a part time basis and will serve the Wrenbury Mission area.

The discussion in Mission Areas was on two questions:-

What are your aspirations for your Church and Mission Area?

What resources do you need to make this happen?

The questions would have been useful to discuss with all of you. If Maurice & Peter had not attended the meeting as visitors and Rob Weir had chosen to go with the Cheshire Hills Mission Area, I would have been having the discussion on my own, as none of the appointed Reps were able to attend. I was present as a member of Synod and not as a representative of St. John's.

*Brian Faulkner*

## Steward's Letter

Dear All,



On Sunday May 6<sup>th</sup> at our chapel AGM I expect my election to the position of Senior Steward to be confirmed. I am being elected unopposed and still have not been informed about the salary I will receive.

The idea of being Chief Steward fills me with both excitement and much terrification, in equal measure. I consider it to be a great honour and with your support I will do my best to do a good job. If I get it wrong please do not be afraid to let me have your opinion. You can send me an e-mail or better still pick up the phone – landline or mobile and we can discuss any issues. I do not use FaceBook because they know more about me than I do and the same applies to you.

For some time I have been asking ‘where is the wind going?’ When the church door opens as the congregation arrive for morning services, the heavy curtains blow into the horizontal position. One day, Peter and I were preparing to fit a new LED light over the central arch. Peter went up the ladder, and my job was to make sure the ladder did not fall. As we did the job I was wondering if our insurance policy covered us for doing ‘in house’, ‘do-it-ourselves’ repairs. I think it is easier to do it than to hold events to raise the funds to pay somebody else to do it.

Returning to the job we were doing – on reaching the parapet, Peter could see through a ½” gap in to the car park! The gap ran from the tower wall all the way to the

archway over the music group area. It must have been like that since the chapel was built, and in all that time not one of the many electricians who have been up there have told any of the chapel members about the gap under the roof. The money that has been wasted on heating the church over the years does not bear thinking about! A gap of that magnitude is like leaving your windows open on your home on a frosty winter's night. We have made a temporary fix, and can make a permanent repair when we have a new roof fitted in Phase 3 of our refurbishment plans.

Anyway, going back to the LED light being fitted – this is replacing the old corroded unit which has been using 400 watts of electricity. The new unit uses only 30 watts with no loss of light at a cost of £24.99 each. If everybody is happy with them, the saving in power is huge, approximately a 90% reduction in power requirement.

Phase 1 of our building project is making good progress, albeit much slower than I would like, but we will get there! On April 21<sup>st</sup> there was some good news – Methodist Insurance Fund has granted us £15,000 to help us top up our Refurbishment Fund. We are still working on some of the finer details of the plan. As it is at the moment we will lose some car park spaces. I would also be in favour of inner and outer glass doors to the Long Room, with an imprint of the original blacksmith-made hinges of the current door etched on to the glass, so retaining some of the old door's appearance.

Spring is here, but no swallows – maybe they know something about the weather we don't.

The starlings have gone back to Russia, and the rain is cleaning up the mess they made in parts of the town. Milk production will return to normal. In Tilstock we have 27 resident starlings. Is there a connection between the word 'starling' and the Russian tyrant Stalin?

And finally, a funny thing happened while I was 'cobwebbing' in the Long Room. Imagine my surprise when a table-tennis ball fell from the rafters! Does that mean the cobweb brush has not been up there since, or is it our new design of brush that gets in the places the old brush won't reach? Brian Faulkner said it is 40 years since table-tennis was played in the Long Room!

Can we measure the success of 'Sunday morning coffee' by the amount of milk we use – 4 pints!

God bless

*Maurice*

PS Did you watch the Queen's birthday party at the Albert Hall – she had her 61 year-old handbag – and why did Cliff Richard not appear?

**Spick and Spanners for May 2018**

3rd        Joan & Gordon Davidson &  
              Eileen Grunner



17th       Jane Cliffe, Ros Rawson & Sue Davies

## **John Bell Visiting Stoke**

The Rev. Dr. John L. Bell – a member of the Iona Community, hymn writer, Church of Scotland Minister, Broadcaster, worldwide lecturer, but primarily concerned with renewal of congregational worship at grassroots level, is visiting Stoke on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm (doors open and refreshments from 7pm) at Tunstall Methodist Church, Queens Avenue, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 6EE. Please RSVP to the Circuit Office – 01782 826026 or [stokenorthcircuit@btinternet.com](mailto:stokenorthcircuit@btinternet.com)

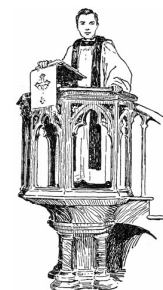
## ***MAY SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S***

6th Rev. Rob Weir (followed by AGM)

13th Churches Together at Civic Centre  
(Christian Aid Week Service)

20th Rev. Rob Weir (Communion)

27th Rev. Rob Hilton (Superintendent)



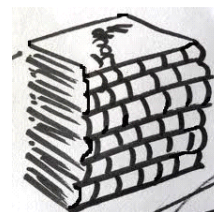
## ***Book Stewards for May***

6th Mary Scott

13th Sue Davies

20th Nancy Millington

27th Beryl Posniak





# May Lunchtime Concerts



**12noon at St. John's**

**No entry fee, but contributions towards  
ploughman's lunches provided are welcomed**

**Wednesday 2nd May:** Claire Clowes (singer), Christine (singer) and Jackie Dawson (pianist)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Wednesday 9th May:** Trixi Field (Singer & Pianist)

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**Wednesday 16th May:** Elaine Gollins (cor anglais) with her Orchestral Ensemble, who are Christopher Jones (piano), John Gunton (violin) and Catherine Redfern (flute)

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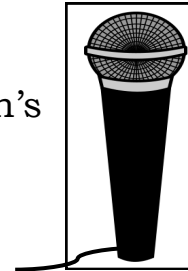
**Wednesday 23rd May:** Rachel Dimelow, Helen & Vic Trigg (singers & guitarist), plus Wendy Proffitt, Sheila Walwyn and Bob Charlesworth (our resident St John Poets)

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**Wednesday 30th May:** Maurice Posniak (Baritone, Pianist & Organist), Lucy Chidlow (Mezzo Soprano) and Olivia Field-Williams

## ***Sound System Operators for May***

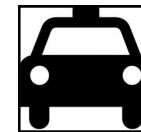
6th	Jim Walwyn
13th	No Service at St. John's
20th	Wendy Proffitt
27th	Gordon Davidson



## ***Taxi!***

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

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



\* United Christian Aid Service at The Civic Centre

## **Traidcraft**

**'Every time you spend money you are casting a vote for the kind of world you want.'**

Thank you to everyone who came to the 'Big Brew' at St Alkmund's in fair-trade fortnight. £149.15 was donated for Traidcraft Exchange, the arm of Traidcraft that works to involve new producers. £115.09 was taken in sales of food & cards.

*Helen Trigg*

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Thank God for the many ways He continues to bless and encourage us at St John's.



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 on the various committees/ Church Council and pray that they will seek God's will for St John's and make wise decisions on our behalf.

Pray for our Church AGM on May 6<sup>th</sup> – that it will be well attended and that people will be encouraged by the reports and discussions.

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, Junior Church, Network, the Music Group, the Tuesday Fellowship Group, the prayer meeting, cafe church.

Pray that the mid-week May concerts will be well supported and that they will bring pleasure and encouragement to all.

Give thanks for all those involved with the work of Christian Aid and pray that people will give generously during Christian Aid week.

### **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 justice for the 'Windrush Generation'.

Pray against the rising tide of anti-semitism in our nation.

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 for wisdom for world leaders as they try to deal with the ongoing situation in Syria.

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.

Give thanks for the improving situation between North Korea and the USA, as Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un begin to talk with each other.

## **Reports for Church AGM 2018 (12 noon 6th May)**

**Stewards Report  
Property & Finance  
Refurbishment Report  
Worship Committee  
Family Committee Report  
Parents & Toddlers Group Report  
Events Report  
Network Report  
Churches Together in Whitchurch Report  
Pastoral Report  
Safeguarding Report  
Christian Aid  
Traidcraft  
Junior Church**

### **1. Stewards Report—Mike Nimmo**

The stewards have continued to support Rob in his ministry & met with him on a number of occasions. We recognised that Rob's ministry was to 3 Churches and not St John's alone. We therefore held one joint stewards meeting with all 3 groups of stewards. This was particularly successful in a number of ways not least recognising that Rob would be under pressure during the major festivals and we might not always have him taking , for example, our Easter Sunday service.

One particular action was the flyer to new homes which is working well. We might even consider expanding our coverage. Rob Hewson has had health problems throughout the year and had a "sabbatical" for a period but the remaining 4 stewards coped well. I have now finished my stint as Senior Steward and have been ably supported by the team. I have been succeeded by Maurice. We are seeking an addition to the team and would welcome anyone to volunteer.

## **2. Property & Finance Report—Peter Shingler**

The committee met 3 times during past year. We have spent £6487.27p on maintaining, decorating & repairing faults with the building & equipment. Electrical & gas safety test have been carried out. Thanks to Lynne Fowler for her work testing all our portable appliances. The Guild room has been completely redecorated, thanks to the working party who spent around 300 worker-hours on the project.

We have received a good Quinquennial building inspection report, stating that the building is in better condition than 5 years ago. Once again thanks to all those who have made this possible. There is still work to do but nothing that is urgent.

## **3. Refurbishment Report—Jim Walwyn**

We have received a donation of £70, 000 from the Circuit, and have made several applications for more funds from various organisations. We should have enough money to proceed very shortly.

Our plans have been approved by Shropshire Council and the work is being put out to tender. It is hoped that building will start at the end of July.

As well as the ramp, the plans include changes to the entrance to the church and a doorway joining the church to the back rooms to improve access.

## **4. Worship Committee—Lucy Chidlow**

Members: Rob Weir; Derek M; Avril B; Brian F; Helen T; Janet L; Ruth M; Michael M; Elizabeth J Lucy C - Secretary

special services 2017/2018

- Harvest – led by Den Harding
- Remembrance service – those who attended thought it went well very thoughtful and a good time to reflect.
- Advent - lighting of candle & readings led by worship leaders
- Toddler's Nativity - went well

- Carol Service at 6.30pm - well attended, though few stopped for refreshments afterwards
- Service on Christmas Day started earlier at 9.45am
- Covenant service 14th Jan, led by Rob Weir
- Themed preaching – end of Jan to Feb 18
- Mothering Sunday - 11th March - invited preacher Jenny Smith
- Lent/Easter – the use of word and prayer throughout, cross decorated with flowers on Easter Sunday
- Good Friday service at 10.30am, followed by walk of witness
- Church Anniversary – 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Peter Williams
- Christian Aid - 13th May - united service - at The Beacon

#### Other items discussed

- Thursdays - regular evening activities, 7.30pm at St. John's:-
- 1st & 3rd - Prayer group
- 2nd - Night of Worship (every other month)
- 4th - 'Cafe style' discussion group
- Singing the Lord's Prayer occasionally
- Local arrangement services - led by members of congregation (average one per quarter)

Rob Hilton - couldn't make Dec appointment, due to weather

140th Church Anniversary - 2019

#### To consider:

#### HOW IS WORSHIP GOING?

- Will people be challenged? Traditional - has a sense of "same as usual".
- What do we do well?
- What separates us?
- Who are we targeting?
- Is preaching effective in engaging people?
- Should we become more radical? i.e. "Dream bigger, expect more. Dream less, expect less"
- Possible elements of Night of Worship could be brought into morning worship – or used as part of the LA services?

## **5. Family Committee Report—Dorothy Faulkner**

The Family Committee was set up over 30 years ago in the 1980s, to try and ensure that at times during the year the Church Family meets together, not only in worship but socially.

The Church and the Family Committee has evolved over the years and the Committee were much more active then than we are now!

The Committee comprises of the original members of Sue Davies, Jane Cliffe (who is our Treasurer) and Dorothy Faulkner (Secretary). Various other people have served on the Committee but the present members are Nancy Millington and Sheila Latham. Joan Davidson recently resigned and we thank her for all her work.

We organise the 4 events that take place in the Church calendar:

Easter Breakfast - 26 people sat down for breakfast this year. This was the highest number that we have had for years, as the Easter Breakfast has been the least popular of our meals.

Chapel Anniversary Sunday Lunch – held only two weeks ago. Numbers were down this year with only 29 people staying for lunch. People who usually come had various other commitments.

Harvest Supper – 2017. Numbers for this were down, too, at 33 people coming to the supper. The previous year we had an amazing 49 people!

Christmas Party - 2017. For the first time that the ‘old – timers’ can remember, we had to cancel the Christmas Party due to the heavy snow. So instead we had a New Year’s Party on the 7<sup>th</sup> January. Despite the fact that we had missed Father Christmas calling on us, 42 people enjoyed the party. The Committee’s thanks, as always, go to Vic Trigg for his contribution.



The Committee members give a lot of items of food, with the more expensive food items paid out of funds. Father Christmas's presents for our church family, are also generously given by Committee members. We have been able to give £200 to Church funds out of the proceeds.

## **6. Parent and Toddler Group—Janet Lees**

In the five years or so that I have been involved with Toddler Group, there have been changes in the composition of the group. Many of our Mums have to return to full or part-time work after their maternity leave, which means that we have no sooner got to know them, when they are leaving us! It also means that we have as many babies as toddlers in the group, and that our numbers are always changing. We currently have 19 parents/grandparents and 23 children.

The Toddler Group facebook page is managed by Katie Johnson and is proving to be very popular with our parents.

The autumn term is always our busiest time of year. We had our Harvest Festival in October, led by Rob, who does very well with so many young children to keep engaged and interested! Our Harvest donation amounted to £60.00 which we sent to Hope House Hospice.

In November we donated two 'shoe boxes' to operation Christmas Child, as well as running the Toddler Group tombola stall at St John's Christmas fair. Both of which were very well supported by our mums and grandmas.

December saw our Toddler Group Nativity – we had to co-opt some older brothers and sisters to help us, as quite a few of our families were away visiting their extended families in the run-up to Christmas. The Christmas party was enjoyed by all the children.

Dot Charlesworth visited Toddler Group in autumn and again in the spring, when she was accompanied by Sheila Walwyn, to do craft activities with the children – they loved making autumn leaf collages and pictures of Elmer the Elephant!

We are currently planning our annual trip to Chester Zoo.

## **7. Events Report—Chris Crowther**

Members: Ruth Mulliner, Dorothy Faulkner, Brenda Aumeer, Lynn Fowler, Dorothy Charlesworth, Elizabeth Shingler, Chris Crowther.

Since the last AGM we have held several events:

- Midday Concerts,
- Ride & Stride Saturday,
- Harvest Coffee Morning, a Quiz with a Fish & Chip supper – thanks to Lynn Fowler and Vic Trigg for organising the excellent Quiz,
- a Christmas Coffee morning and Church opening to visitors on the Saturday before the Carol Service

The Christmas Fair was held as usual on the last Saturday in November – the last to be held on ‘Lights Switch On’ Saturday (Next year it will be on the first Saturday in December).

A Friday Coffee Morning at the Civic was not held this year as we were too late to book a suitable day.

Any money we raise is for the maintenance of the Church fabric unless otherwise stated.

Our next event will be the first Midday Concert on 2nd May, and four more will follow. See the posters and newsletter for details.

## **8. Network Report—Chris Crowther**

Network (MWiB) continued to meet monthly up to Christmas 2017. Via the wonders of technology, we have been able to ‘visit’ Boston, Peru and the Brazilian rainforest. We have enjoyed our usual visit to Wyndhurst last July, re-watching the ‘Songs of Praise’ DVD, a trip to Bellis’s Garden Centre as well as a social afternoon sharing favourite books/music/poem or artwork and our Christmas party in December. We had a two month break and resumed meetings on March 27<sup>th</sup> with Rev Rob Weir as speaker. Attendance remains in the low ‘teens but we will be able to contribute to Church funds and MWiB this year.

We would like a few more people to join our group which meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month, March to November and the first Tuesday in December. Anyone is welcome!

## **9. Churches Together in Whitchurch—Mike Nimmo**

Four meetings were held at which reps from the four churches planned and discussed joint events, actions and information. Examples of this are the Lent Lunches and Courses, Walk of Witness on Good Friday, Party in the Park, Christian Aid Week and Christmas Cards to the community. Responsibility for particular services and events continue to be rotated round the four churches. The reps have taken back actions to their respective Church for implementation by the appropriate committee or person such as the Worship Committee, the Newsletter editor and so on. The meeting has continued to keep informed on the work of FOODBANK, Christian Aid and Fair Trade.

Hazel and I are standing down as St John's reps to Churches Together and 2 new reps are therefore required.

## **10. Pastoral Committee Report—Hazel Nimmo**

Numbers on the Pastoral List as at April 2018:

Members = 83

Adherents = 32

Babies and Children = 14

Sadly two of our members, Ruth Bennion and Ray Twiss died in February and March respectively.

We were also sad to say farewell to Betty Barnes who moved to Shrewsbury and to Bill and Sine Grant who moved to Oswestry, but delighted to welcome the safe arrival of Jenny Marston's baby Catherine.

We have also had a welcome addition to the team of Pastoral Visitors, namely Brian Faulkner.

## **11. Safeguarding Report—Hazel Nimmo**

As in other Churches and organisations, Safeguarding has become quite a big issue and we are required to carry out Risk Assessments for events taking place in the church, or off-site, which involve children and also vulnerable adults.

Anyone who holds a significant role in the church needs to attend a

Basic Foundation Course, or if they undertook that course 5 years ago they need to attend an update course and this will be a requirement every four years. This includes all Stewards, Pastoral Visitors, and Junior Church leaders. Remaining dates arranged for these courses are as follows:

**May:**

- Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>: 2.00–4.30pm - Basic Foundation: Venue – Broad Lane
- Monday 21<sup>st</sup>: 7.15 – 9.45pm - Update: Venue - Hankelow

**June:**

- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>: 7.15–9.45pm - Update: Wesley Place (Hall) Alsager
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup>: 2.00-4.30pm—Update: Malpas

If you need to attend one of these courses, please let Rob know and he will arrange it.

**12. Christian Aid Report—Helen Trigg**

**Christian Aid Week 2017 in May**

We had 49 people collecting house to house in Whitchurch.

St John's collected: £935.60

Bookshrop: £86.85

House to House Total: £2733.62

United Service: £435.96

**CAW Total: £3169.58 (2016: £3380.82)**

It was agreed that although the total was down on last year it was not enough to cause concern as several collectors had been away on holiday.

£1112.50 of the money given in C.A. Week had been gift-aided.

**Christmas cards coffee morning in November**

This had been very successful. Lots of gifts and cards had been sold as well as others ordered. The final total was £234.

**Christmas Pew Collection in December**

Total collected this year was £252.50 of which £165 was gift aided. St John's contributed £69.

**Total raised in 2017: £5002.08**

**2018 so far:**

**Quiz at Doddington Lodge in March**

This was very successful and enjoyed by all who took part. Total raised: £207.

**Lent Lunches in February and March**

The total raised: £550.51 (£641 last year). The cheese was again donated by Belton Farm and was very popular.

St John's week raised £87.50 and the Joint lunch week at St John's raised £131.58

**The Big Church Switch**

Helen has used the CA website information to put together a report encouraging churches to switch their Energy Provider to one producing electricity from renewable sources, in order to combat climate change. She has presented it to St John's property committee and will offer it to the other churches in the town.

**Events planned for the rest of the year:**

**Christian Aid Week 13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> May**

The United service will be at the Beacon Church (Civic Centre) on Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> and Dave King the Area Coordinator for Shropshire will be speaking. The house to house collection will be taking place in Whitchurch during the week with around 60 people delivering and collecting envelopes.

**Christmas Cards coffee morning in November**

**Christmas Pew collection in December**

**13. Fairtrade/Traidcraft Report - Helen Trigg**

The monthly Traidcraft stall at coffee time at St John's on the first Sunday in the month, and in other churches on other Sundays, has continued alongside the chance to order more unusual food/gifts. Sales are generally a little down on last year.

Judy Bellingham continues to run the Friday Traidcraft stall in the indoor market with occasional help from the rest of the group. We are building up a group of faithful customers. We feel it is extremely important to continue to sell Traidcraft goods as Traidcraft is one of the few companies taking on small farmers and producers (the poorest) who the supermarkets are not interested in.

Also the 10% that we as a group make on each item is given away to Christian Aid in the form of a gift each year. This year £500 was donated. If you could commit to buying even just one item from either the weekly Friday market or our stall each month, we and the poor of the world would be very grateful, and you will get to enjoy some of our delicious and beautiful goods.

#### **14. Junior Church Annual Report—Helen Trigg**

##### **Children**

There are three children who come out to Junior Church most weeks and three who come around once a month. We invite the 2 year-olds to occasionally take part in a suitable activity in the children's corner.

##### **Leaders and helpers**

We now have 3 leaders – Brenda Aumeer, Briony Myles-Hook and Helen Trigg; and 3 helpers – Wendy Proffitt, Chris Crowther and Janet Lees.

##### **DBR checks and safeguarding training update**

All leaders and helpers have up to date DBS certificates. Four have been on the refresher safeguarding training.

##### **Involving the children more in the morning service**

They again helped receive goods for the Foodbank at the Harvest service.

The children were involved with distributing the mother's day posies and the palm crosses.

A display board was created in the North West transept

(Musicians area) to provide room and a link with church, for church calendar themes covered in Junior Church.

### **Fund Raising activities**

After the Action for Children service we took a collecting box for Junior church and this is put out each week for children and leaders to contribute to.

### **Displays**

Throughout the year we have used the display board in the Long room to put up displays to do with thematic sessions and the display board in church mainly to display church calendar sessions. We plan to put photos of the displays on to the website.

### **Session Themes 2017 - 2018**

*January – April: The ‘I am’ sayings of Jesus*

*April – July: People Jesus met*

*September – January: Old Testament characters and Christmas*

*January – April: ‘The Parables of Jesus’ plus sessions on Lent and Easter.*

*April – July: ‘The Parables of Jesus’ plus sessions on Whit Sunday, Father’s day, Jonah, The Wesleys, Mary Jones and The Cadburys.*

### **Mother’s Day**

JC leaders and helpers held a coffee morning on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March at church to make posies for Mother’s day that weekend. Several people came to help and it was a very enjoyable morning.

### **Messy Church**

On Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July JC leaders and helpers ran a Messy Church session at church. The Toddlers Group and their older brothers and sisters, plus families of children who had recently been baptised at St John’s, were invited. We used ‘The Wise

and Foolish Builders' as our theme. We had lots of good feedback from families and everyone felt it had been successful. The second session of Messy Church took place on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April in the Easter holiday. The theme was 'The Good Samaritan'. The third session will be at the beginning of the summer holiday.

Photos of the Messy Church sessions are on the church website.

### **Flower Rota for May 2018**

6<sup>th</sup>: Joan Morgan  
13<sup>th</sup>: United Service at Civic Centre  
20<sup>th</sup>: Sarah Lunt  
27<sup>th</sup>: Sheila Walwyn  
(3<sup>rd</sup> June: Ruth Dawson)



*"Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May."*

- William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

*I thought that spring must last forevermore;  
For I was young and loved, and it was May."*

From 'May Morning (1916)' by Vera Brittain (1893-1970)  
English journalist, writer, feminist and pacifist.





## CHRISTIAN AID

Last year we raised £5002.89 in Whitchurch for Christian Aid. Our 2018 fundraising has begun well. Thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas pew collection, the Lent lunches and the Dodington Lodge quiz. These events raised £1,010.01 altogether.

### HAITI 2010



Vilia Odino lost her home in the earthquake that hit Haiti in 2010, but Christian Aid's partner KORAL built her a new disaster-resistant home.

On that terrifying night when Hurricane Matthew hit, Vilia's neighbours quickly realised that her house was the only one in the area sturdy enough to cope with the hurricane. One by one, they fled to her house and she welcomed them in. As the storm raged on, she shared food and a safe shelter for several days.



Marcelin Abellard and his daughters Ketia, Linda and Keshna still haven't recovered from Hurricane Matthew. It's over a year since Marcelin and his daughters lost their home, but they're still living in a 2x2m windowless concrete block. Marcelin doesn't expect them to survive if another hurricane hits.

**This Christian Aid Week, you can be in their corner. You can help them build a home that will weather the next storm, so they won't need to fight to survive anymore.**

### **Christian Aid Week 13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> May**

Christian Aid Week begins on the 13<sup>th</sup> with a United Service (no morning service at St John's on that day) at 10.30 am in the Civic Centre. Dave King, the Christian Aid Area Coordinator for Shropshire, will be speaking about Christian Aid projects.

Envelopes for the House to House collection will be at the back of the church on the 29<sup>th</sup> April and 6<sup>th</sup> May for deliverers and collectors to take away. We have some roads in Whitchurch without collectors. If you are able to help by delivering or collecting more roads or helping for the first time, please ring Helen Trigg on 664210.

### **Christian Aid Exhibition**

There will be an exhibition of photographs of Christian Aid projects in St Alkmund's during Christian Aid week and the week after. Do go along and have a look.

*"Now the bright morning-star, Day's harbinger,  
Comes dancing from the East, and leads with her  
The flowery May, who from her green lap throws  
The yellow cowslip and the pale primrose.  
Hail, bounteous May, that dost inspire  
Mirth, and youth, and warm desire!  
Woods and groves are of thy dressing;  
Hill and dale doth boast thy blessing.  
Thus we salute thee with our early song,  
And welcome thee, and wish thee long."*

- John Milton, 'Song on a May Morning', (1660)

*"Since thy return, through days and weeks  
Of hope that grew by stealth,  
How many wan and faded cheeks  
Have kindled into health!  
The Old, by thee revived, have said,  
'Another year is ours;'  
And wayworn Wanderers, poorly fed,  
Have smiled upon thy flowers."*

- William Wordsworth, 'To May', (1830)

*"The world's favourite season is the spring.  
All things seem possible in May."*

- Edwin Way Teale (1899-1980) American naturalist, photographer  
and writer

*Ask of Her, the mighty Mother.  
Her reply puts this other  
Question: What is Spring?-  
Growth in every thing*

*Flesh and fleece, fur and feather,  
Grass and green world all together,  
Star-eyed strawberry breasted  
Throstle above Her nested*

*Cluster of bugle blue eggs thin  
Forms and warms the life within,  
And bird and blossom swell  
In sod or sheath or shell."*

From 'The May Magnificat' (1888)  
by Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-99)  
English poet and Jesuit priest



*Sweet Peas*

### **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 Wednesday of the month - 2pm: Bible Study at St. John's

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

### **MAY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Every Wednesday 2nd-30th 12 noon Midday Concerts

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>: Church Annual General Meeting

Sun. 13<sup>th</sup>: United Christian Aid Service @ Civic Centre

Wednesday 16th: Midweek Bible Study 2pm

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>: 2pm Pastoral Committee

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>: 2pm Network

Thursday 24th: 7:30pm Cafe Church

### **June 2018 Newsletter**

Please let Chris Crowther have all your submissions for the next Newsletter by 27th May.

*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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"The trees are coming into leaf  
Like something almost being said;  
The recent buds relax and spread,  
Their greenness is a kind of grief.

Is it that they are born again  
And we grow old? No, they die too,  
Their yearly trick of looking new  
Is written down in rings of grain.

Yet still the unresting castles thresh  
In fullgrown thickness every May.  
Last year is dead, they seem to say,  
Begin afresh, afresh, afresh."

*The Trees* - Philip Larkin (1922-85) English poet, novelist,  
librarian and jazz critic.

## **BARLOWS**

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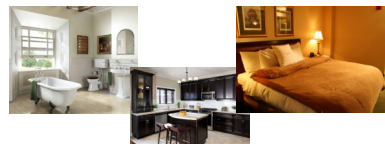
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