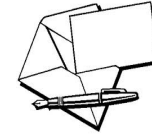




**St. John's Methodist Church
Whitchurch**

March 2019 Newsletter

Message from the Manse



Dear Friends,

During Half Term week, we decided that we needed to have a bit of a sort out. Furniture was moved, books and DVDs sorted through, and various items either put away, or marked to be passed on to places where they may find more use. It may not quite have been the Marie Kondo method of asking "Does this item spark joy", but it did bring home somewhat how much stuff we lug around with us - even in a Manse, where you know you will always be moving on after a few years, it's remarkable how much accumulates!

Lent can in some ways be time for us to look at the baggage that we carry around with us - literally and metaphorically. Fiona did a "40 Bags in 40 days" challenge last year - it's amazing how easy it was to find 40 bags worth of stuff to get rid of! But as well there's the spiritual challenge of looking at our lives, and wondering what we're carrying around that we don't really need. Lingering guilt; habits that we know we should change; good things that we somehow never get round to doing; all that gets between us and God.

Lent can be an opportunity for a Spiritual Spring Clean if you like; an opportunity to make some positive changes in our walk with God. This year, I'm going to make a point of following a particular set of devotions every morning - feel free to ask me if I've done them if you see me! So, what are you thinking of doing in Lent?

God Bless

Rob

FRIENDS

*The path of life for everyone from beginning to the end
Is filled with fondest memories of each and every friend
That all have met along the way throughout the passing years
Sharing joy and happiness - but sometimes grief and tears
New and old, all play a part in chapters of our life
The love they give in many ways in good times and in strife
A friendly hug - a knowing smile - an understanding ear
The feel of being wanted - that makes a friend so dear
Friendships grow as time goes by with every passing day
A priceless earthly pleasure time cannot take away
So when our time on earth is done, no more here to remain
A parting wish may be - some day to meet our friends again.*

David Fisher

TEA & COFFEE ROTA for March

3rd	Sheila Latham & Dot Charlesworth
10th	Hazel & Mike Nimmo
17th	Hotpot & Apple Pie Lunch
24th	Fiona Weir & Rachel Dimelow
31st	Elizabeth & Pete Shingler



“They captured in their ramble all the mysteries and magics of a March evening. Very still and mild it was, wrapped in a great, white, brooding silence -- a silence which was yet threaded through with many little silvery sounds which you could hear if you hearkened as much with your soul as your ears. The girls wandered down a long pineland aisle that seemed to lead right out into the heart of a deep-red, overflowing winter sunset.”

— Lucy Maud Montgomery (1874-1942) Canadian Author

Steward's Letter

Dear Friends,



With spring fast approaching and the signs of new beginnings all around us I have spent some time reflecting on all of the different types of new beginnings happening around us; from the miracle of life when a new baby is born, flowers blooming in the garden to the resurrection of our lord Jesus Christ.

All of these to me are signs of the wonder there is in God's creation - the hope and joy which can be found all around us but sometimes may become overlooked. It is important that we remember that even in our hardest and darkest of times there will always be hope and love and this is our gift from God.

As in John 3:16 we are taught "for God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

The spring and the resurrection give us hope and meaning that we are given the opportunity to start over. For God is forgiving, God is Good and God is Love.

God Bless,

Rob

"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

2019 Lent Course: Growing Bridgebuilders

Come along on Thursday evenings to learn about improving the ways in which we approach and resolve tensions and conflict. There will be four sessions in Lent (in Bargates Hall at 7.30pm on March 14th, 21st & 28th and 4th April) and then four or five sessions either after Easter — probably Thursday evenings in June but yet to be confirmed)

Each session will have a particular focus, although the more sessions you can attend, the more you'll gain and the more you'll be able to give to the group.

Sessions:

Let's talk about conflict
Our theology and attitudes
Communicating better
Getting unstuck
Beyond default mode
Recognizing emotional process
Changing how we do conflict
Becoming Bridgebuilders
Revisiting Bridgebuilders

If you have any queries or want to book a place contact Rev. Judy Hunt. There is an introductory video. Search for 'Growing Bridgebuilders video' or use this link:

<https://www.cpas.org.uk/church-resources/growing-bridgebuilders/#.XHZtWsD7SvE>

HOTPOT AND APPLE PIE LUNCH

The Family Committee are organising a Hotpot and Apple Pie Lunch on Sunday 17th March after the morning service for Cancer Research UK, in memory of Jane.

There is a list at the back of the church for you to put your name down, if you intend to come. Let's do something practical and positive and show that we care. Let's do our bit in the fight against cancer. As this is a fund raising event, the price will be £10 and half price for children. Let's make it successful - in memory of our dear friend Jane.

Thank you very much.

Spick and Spanners for March 2019

7th Einwen Kelly, Ruth Dawson, Sheila Latham
21st Nancy Millington, Beryl Posniak, Brenda Dudley



Christian Aid Christmas Pew Collection

The pew collection at St John's raised £178.50. Thank you for all your support for Christian Aid throughout the year.

Helen Trigg

Fiona Weir's Recognition Service

Fiona's Recognition Service will take place at **Tallarn Green** on **Wednesday 6 March at 7.30** and we hope for a good representation from the Circuit to support Fiona on this special occasion.

This is when we receive Fiona as a Fully Accredited Local Preacher and acknowledge all her hard work.

Please come and support Fiona at this service.

Tallarn Green Quiz

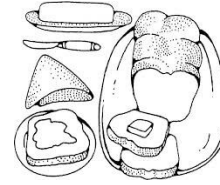
We are invited to send a team/teams to take part in our Annual Quiz at Tallarn Green Village Hall, on Friday.15th March at 7.30p.m. It is for teams of four, £5 per member, including supper. Book with Tallarn Green Chapel Members or with Helen Morgan. They look forward to welcoming us there.

Luncheon Fellowship

Come & join us for a Luncheon Fellowship at 12.30pm on 22nd March at The Dodington Lodge Hotel. There will be a choice of meal & pudding - cost £15.85p.

There will be a list at the back of the Church to put your name & choices on.

Lent Lunches



Please do come along between 12.30 and 2.00 to a Lent lunch of bread, soup, cheese and fruit. The atmosphere is always very welcoming, happy and relaxed. The money we would have spent on lunch is given to Christian Aid. This year St John's is using the Civic Centre because of the continuing building work.

Date	Church responsible	Place
22 nd Feb.	St Alkmund's	(Bargates Hall)
1 st Mar.	St George's	(Bargates Hall)

*"March bustles in on windy feet
And sweeps my doorstep and my street.
She washes and cleans with pounding rains,
Scrubbing the earth of winter stains.
She shakes the grime from carpet green
Till naught but fresh new blades are seen.
Then, house in order, all neat as a pin,
She ushers gentle springtime in."*

- Susan Reiner, 'Spring Cleaning'

"March is a month of considerable frustration - it is so near spring and yet across a great deal of the country the weather is still so violent and changeable that outdoor activity in our yards seems light years away."

Thalassa Cruso (1909-97) English horticulturalist and archaeologist

Network (MWiB) 2019

In March we will start our programme for 2019. As the access work will still be in progress, we won't be able to have our March meeting at Church. I have arranged with Alderford that we can meet for tea/coffee and cake in the conservatory at 3pm on Tuesday 26th March and am suggesting that those that would like to go earlier can, weather permitting, take a walk round the lake or browse the garden centre.

I will put a list for those interested to sign up so that, nearer the time I able to give Alderford a better idea of numbers coming. Also, those needing a lift and those willing to give a lift can indicate this. More details will be in Pew News

For the April meeting I am suggesting that we have an outing so that if the work is still not complete it isn't going to cause us problems at the last minute. If you have any suggestions, please speak to me.

Chris Crowther

Posy making coffee morning

There will be a posy making coffee morning on Friday 29th March in St John's Park lounge from 10am till 12 noon. Please come along for a coffee or tea and a chat and, if you would like to, help us make some posies. The posies will then be given out by the children to all the ladies in church on Mothering Sunday.



Junior Church

*"A light exists in Spring
Not present in the year
at any other period
When March is scarcely here."*

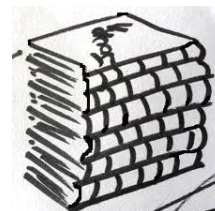
- Emily Dickinson (1830-86) American Poet

*I wonder if the sap is stirring yet,
If wintry birds are dreaming of a mate,
If frozen snowdrops feel as yet the sun
And crocus fires are kindling one by one:
Sing robin, sing:
I still am sore in doubt concerning Spring."*

- Christina Rossetti (1830-94) - English Poet

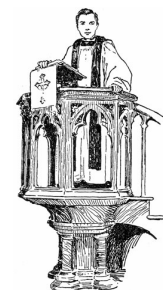
Book Stewards for March

3rd	Sheila Walwyn
10th	Mary Scott
17th	Beryl Posniak
24th	Sue Davies
31st	Nancy Millington



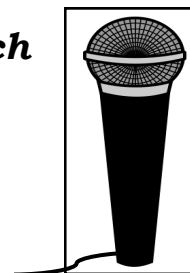
MARCH SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S

3rd	Nick Cutts
10th	Rev. Rob Weir (Communion)
17th	Rev. Jenny Arthurs
24th	Graham Dimelow
31st	Sue Tyson



Sound System Operators for March

3rd	Jim Walwyn
10th	Mike Nimmo
17th	Andrew Fawcett
24th	David Whiteley
31st	Gordon Davidson



They're up!!

I am talking about those beautiful yellow stems that are starting to bloom in our gardens and by the road sides everywhere! Ushering the shy little snow drops aside to make way for their boldness. Truly a golden message from nature for the promise of Spring. Lifting their heads towards the watery sunshine in the still dark and cold winter soil.



So many shades of yellow from palest lemon to deepest gold , with intense orange centres and frilly edges like many petticoats fluttering in the breeze.

Yellow, the colour of the sun, the colour of spring chickens, and egg yolks as we break them into a bowl we are astonished by their glowing colour. Saffron, and many spices are this colour, bananas the ever popular fruit with us all, and who could not feel joy looking at a field of golden ripe corn!

It is said that one should paint a room in this colour as it gives a feeling of sunshine and warmth all around. It is a colour that mixes well with so many other colours too like grey, navy pale blue or black. A versatile and happy colour!

Daffodils do not mix well with other flowers, they prefer to be in a vase on their own and mix with their own kind. Better to let them live this way as they thrive better like this, it is said that they can poison the other flowers when mixed. Maybe like some human beings??

There are other yellow flowers of course in the Spring. The shy little primrose peeping out from the dark earth, and the golden crocus too, but daffodils are the first flower we notice because of their vibrant colour. The promise of Easter, of warmer days, holidays and golden sand.

We thank God and nature for the gift of these flowers of mellow yellow announcing this most glorious season - SPRINGTIME!

Sheila Walwyn

ACCESS NEWS

It's all very exciting. It is, isn't it? Well, I find it very exciting!

We are half way through. Seven weeks gone and another seven weeks to go. Then we will have our church and our garden back to ourselves. As I write this (17/02/2019) we are due to break through the link between the Long Room and the church. I will try to photograph the event and bring it to you. The brickwork has been really complicated, and we have encountered problems along the way. We are for-



fortunate to have a very talented stone mason to sort out many of the issues. For example we have found problems with the boilers, but every problem has a solution, so we are getting there.

So it will be lovely to see all that plastic sheeting disappear from the organ – I have missed hearing the organ. It has also been particularly difficult to keep the inside of the church clean – so thank you everyone who has helped.

We have been fortunate with the weather. Our groundworkers outside have been busy digging channels, putting new drains and manholes in, and they have started to build up the ground levels for the new ramp. Personally, I find all the changes hard to take on board – it is hard to visual-

ise what it is all going to look like when it is finished.

Consequently, we are going to have an Open Afternoon where we will meet with our foreman, Matt Leach. It will give people an opportunity to have a good look around the site and to ask Matt any questions. This will take place on

Wednesday 6th March, between 2.00pm and 3.00pm.

Please come along for a chat and a cup of tea to find out all about the Access Project.

Finally, please can I ask you for your support at **our Celebration Concert on Saturday 18th May, 2019**. This will feature the Farndon Brass Band and the Whitchurch Community Choir. Free entry as usual, including refreshments, with donations being welcomed.

It's all happening!

As I say, exciting times!

JRW

Flowers Rota for March 2019

*March 3rd. Dorothy Faulkner
10th. Nancy Millington
17th. Gwen Reeves
24th. Hazel Nimmo
31st. Beryl Posniak*





Farewell lovely lady.....

As I begin to write this it seems unreal somehow that she has gone. A light has gone out of our congregation a cheery soul who always had a big smile despite what was going on in her life.

We all loved Jane. We had not known her for as long as so many in church had but she became a lovely friend to me, chatting on Sunday mornings and showing photographs of her beloved children and grandchildren and laughing about all their various escapades – she loved them all so much!

At church she would be involved with so many things, the cleaning rota, the family committee, communion steward and latterly the Treasurers job.

She would always be there on social church events helping to cook and serve in the kitchen and always doing it with a smile and a joke for us all!

Her family always rightly came first for her but she still had time to be interested in other people and their problems and giving wise and kind advice too.

An intelligent, attractive, vibrant and warm lady who will be greatly missed by all whose lives she touched. You may not have fulfilled your three score years and ten Jane but you lived a full and happy life, it was a great honour to have known you. May you rest in peace.

Sheila Walwyn

Treasurer

It's been a traumatic couple of months.

Since Jane came to visit us at Bathfields Crescent at the end of November and asked me if I would organise the float and the rest of the money at the Church Christmas Fayre, my feet haven't touched the ground! As I had done the job before, I said I would, of course, help out until Jane got back on her feet. Since that time I have managed the church's financial affairs, paying money in and paying money out. We are still solvent!

It felt strange at first. Jane was always there to help me out when I got stuck, but it soon became evident that she would not be coming back as Treasurer, so she would not be there to help me. The focus became different. We needed a new Treasurer and the Minister and Stewards struggled to find someone to take the job. On a personal note, I wrestled with my conscience as to why I should not take on the job again. However, a lot has changed since I had done the job. I could no longer cope with the technology side of things – I had no idea what BACS was, so I didn't feel up to doing the job again.

I also felt that things had moved beyond my capabilities and that I was no longer able to do the job. I'm in my mid-seventies, forgetting things and generally beginning to "lose it" as they say. I'm certainly not as sharp as I used to be as some of you may well have noticed.

However, every cloud has a silver lining. I'm very pleased that Linda Weston has agreed to become our new Treasurer. She hasn't done the job before so she will need a lot of support. Brian & I will help her to settle in to the job.

For those who don't know Linda she was the face of NatWest in Whitchurch for the last 40 years and she is the niece of Frank & Sheila Weston by marriage.

As Linda settles into her new role, we need a period of stability. We need to concentrate less on builders and contractors and Treasurers and return to the real reason we are here. We need to turn back to God and encourage each other to think more about matters spiritual and less on matters temporal. Do you agree?

Forward in Faith!

JRW

The “Fron” Is Coming!

On March 23rd at 7.30 pm Whitchurch Rotary, who are celebrating their 80th year as a club, are hosting the fantastic Froncysyllte Male Voice Choir (The Fron) in concert at St Alkmund's Church.

Also performing will be Holly Teague back from following her career in France.

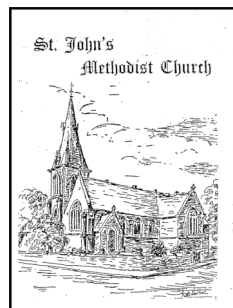
Tickets cost £15 and the flyer in church gives Peter Williams as the source, but I will happily get them for you.

The proceeds from the concert will go to help Rotary's Prostate Cancer Clinic in September.

It will be a great night!

Mike Nimmo

St John's Methodist Church



ACCESS PROJECT

An Afternoon with Matt Leach **From Stone Edge**

What's going on at our church?

**Now is your chance to find out!
Spend from 2pm to 3pm on Wednesday
6th March with Matt, our foreman.**

**Ask him anything ! Come and meet him
over a cup of tea (and possibly cake!)**

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, particularly the family of Jane Cliffe.

St John's

Give thanks for all those serving St John's on the various committees/Church Council and pray that, as they meet during the near future, they will seek to be guided by the Holy Spirit.

Pray for our children and young people in their school and family lives, that the church family at St. John's will help them 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, Cafe Church. Remember the Lent Lunches and Lent meetings in your prayers as members of Whitchurch churches meet together during March and April for fellowship, learning and discussion.

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.

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 and ask God to help them persevere in faith so that their prayers will bear fruit in the life of 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.

Pray for wisdom for our national leaders as they make decisions on our behalf, especially in regard to Brexit. Pray for the Brexit negotiations at this critical stage, especially that peace may be maintained in Ireland once Northern Ireland is no longer in the EU.

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, righteousness and justice 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 as they seek to help those suffering from the effects of natural disasters.

Pray that the meeting between President Trump and Kim Jong Un will lay a foundation for peace and disarmament even though it was not as productive as hoped.

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

2nd/4th Thursdays at 7:30pm - Prayer Meeting at 7 Queen's Rd.

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

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

MARCH DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat. 1st 10am-12noon - The Big Brew @ St. Alkmund's

Wed. 6th 7:30pm Fiona Weir's Recognition Service (Tallarn Green)

Fri. 15th 7:30pm Tallarn Green Quiz

Sun. 17th - Hotpot & Apple Pie Lunch 12 noon

Thu. 14th, 21st, 28th 12:30pm Lent Lunches and 7:30pm

Lent Meetings - all at Bargates Hall

Fri. 22nd 12:30pm Luncheon Fellowship at Dodington Lodge

Fri. 29th 10:30am-12noon Coffee & Mothers' Day Posies
at St. John's Park

Sat. 30th 10:00am-12noon Donation Day at St. John's

Thu. 4th & 11th April 12:30pm Lent Lunches @ Bargates

Thu. 4th April 7:30pm Lent Meeting @ Bargates

April 2019 Newsletter

Please let Mike Nimmo have all your submissions for the next Newsletter by 24th March.

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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Taxi!

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

March 3rd David Whiteley
10th Brian Faulkner
17th David Whiteley
24th Jim Walwyn
31st Hazel Nimmo



BARLOWS

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store**



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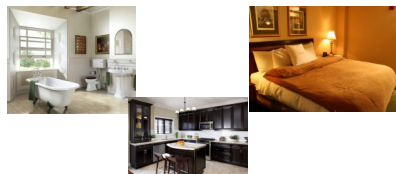
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SPLISH SPLASH

“Olde Worlde Charm”

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Speak to Vincent about your new
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WALKERS

