

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

**October 2019 Newsletter**

## From the Manse

Dear Friends,

I was about to reflect on all that's going on in our world, but to be honest, it's far too depressing at the moment. Instead, let me tell you a story that happened to me a few years ago.

Once upon a time, I went for a walk. It was a lovely place; a reservoir up on Saddleworth Moor, surrounded by hills, and you could even - if you were lucky - hear the sound of the nesting Peregrine Falcons. It was a reasonably nice day, and I was enjoying the walk. Then, I saw that others had also been enjoying the area. About half way round the reservoir, they had stopped for a Picnic and Barbecue.

However, with no bins anywhere, they had decided - especially after a few drinks - that there was no point in carrying all the detritus back with them. So they put most of it in bags, and left it. And two or three days later (I could tell by when it had rained) - it was still there.

I was angry. I walked past, wondering what sort of person could come and spoil all this for everyone else. A few yards on, it occurred to me that dozens - if not hundreds - of people had done exactly the same as me: walked past, no doubt muttering under their breath about people today. And I realised that I could do something....

So back to the pile of rubbish I went, and while I couldn't take it all, I did take some of it. Not because I'm such a great guy, or because others would praise me; just because my own conscience had been pricked about how easy it is to complain and then do nothing. And in at least a little way, it helped make the world a bit better.

I could talk of how God clears up after the rubbish we create, make some great point about redemption, but that's not what went through my head. Instead, remember this: sometimes the only hands God can work through are ours. And if every Christian puts their hands at God's disposal - maybe we can make this world more like how it should be, rather than the mess it currently is.

God Bless

*Rob*

### **Steward's Letter**

The last few weeks have been very busy in and around chapel. Brian Faulkner has calculated that we have organised 38 events over the last 12 months, many being in the last couple of months. We have also had to attend a good many meetings.

The first of these meetings was a normal Stewards Meeting held at Peter Shingler's home. We welcomed Revd. Rob Weir's to his first meeting following his Sabbatical.

On 11th September we held a Safeguarding Meeting entitled "Creating Safer Space". It was a long session. To encourage people to go home after the meeting, I began turning the lights off.. I eventually locked the door at 10 50 pm!

On Tuesday 17th September an extraordinary Church Council was held. The meeting was called to discuss a 12 page document compiled by Brian Faulkner and Linda, our Treasurer. This meeting was set up to discuss our current financial situation with regard to the Circuit. We are having trouble balancing our books at the moment, so we have asked the Circuit to help us out. We were hoping for a formal meeting but the two Revds. and David Priaux preferred a discussion which was presided over by Revd, Jeremy Tresise. Everybody arrived early, with most of the talking being done by the Circuit. We were told that the Circuit system is the way it is and would not change regardless of individual chapel's circumstances and financial ability to pay their own Assessments. Our own cash flow issue has been caused by our own inability to raise sufficient funds to pay our Assessment, despite all our efforts.

Changing the subject. What a day I have had today-everything in my favour has been against me. Last night was perfect - not too hot, not too cold in the garden. What a good job it goes dark every day. At least it means that I have to stop working a bit sooner!!

At the Circuit meeting in Sandbach the other night, we were waiting for the meeting to start and there was a kerfuffle going on behind us. Had a mouse come out of someone's handbag? No! It was a large spider making a rapid escape from a bag!

And finally, Vic & his family have been away last weekend. It's at times

like these that we realise what a debt of gratitude we owe to Vic for all the work he does behind the scenes preparing for our weekly services. A big thank you Vic for all your good work. However, we are still looking for people who could help. If you think you could help, please speak to Vic or myself.

God Bless you all

Maurice.

### **Dropping a line**

Like many older readers I can remember being taught how to write a letter. Address, date, recipient, signature, and then we had to address the envelope, buy a stamp (two pence at that time!) and post it.

The first change to that routine came exactly 60 years ago this month, with the introduction in the UK of the postcode – a combination of seven or eight letters or numbers which precisely located our address. It took 14 years to enlist the entire country, but eventually virtually the whole world took on the ingenious postcode. We were now part of a world network of communication.

It was the first big change to our postal system in a century, but we happily took it on board. More recent changes have been more revolutionary: fax, e-mail, texting and their many refinements. Letter-writing or 'snail mail' as it is referred to now, is rapidly dying out. I would guess many under thirties have never written a personal letter or received one. Paper, envelopes, stamps are too complicated.

I think that it is sad, but probably unavoidable. I don't think many people will be preserving their love-texts for posterity. Products of a moment can be forgotten in a moment.

David Winter Parish Pump

## Observations From the Editor

- It was good to see the Minister back from his Sabbatical
- We have had two Baptisms, both very different, However, why do we continue to sing hymns which no one knows when we have visitors?
- I think that visitors sometimes feel a little awkward and ill at ease when they come to St John's, despite us trying to make them feel very welcome. Anybody got any ideas as to how we can solve this problem?
- Last week at my Ukulele class we were playing Christmas carols. Silent night in the middle of September doesn't seem quite right! Mind you, as I write this on 25th September, there are only 91 days until Christmas Day!
- It's good to see more people using our taxi service It's there to be used!
- Did anyone manage to find the hidden message in last week's Pew News? If you've still got a copy, see if you can find the it.
- We have now paid all the bills following the Access Project. However, we still owe quite a lot of money to the Circuit, and this debt will be with us for some time yet unfortunately.
- Did you notice that the scaffolding is back up at St Alknunds? They are having quite a big refurbishment done. Have they been fund raising? No. Fortunately the Church was left a very generous legacy to pay for it. Food for thought?
- I hope you will come and join in our Harvest Celebrations. It's a wonderful time as we come together in fellowship, food and song at the Harvest Supper.
- Please try and come to the Newport Male Voice Choir Concert on

Friday 18th October at 7.30pm. Entrance is free - but donations will be gladly accepted! Pleased to say that we will be running a raffle.

- We have only had two funerals at St John's since Christmas.
- Network last week was particularly interesting. An amazing lady, Mrs Joyce Chidlow, showed us some of the wonderful craft articles she had made. Thanks to all those who attended!
- Have you seen how beautiful our church looks at night now all the bollards are working?
- And what of the future? What has happened to Phase II? What do we want to happen to it? Do we just accept that it is a step too far to renovate the interior of our church because we don't have the money to do it? Or do we accept the challenge, buckle down and battle on? I will leave you to ponder over that question!
- ♦ A sad fact: Most of the work at our church is done by a very small minority of people. They are the people who organise all the events (and then attend the events themselves!). They are the people on the rotas, attend the meetings and generally make things "tick". Would you consider joining this group of people? If we had more volunteers, it would be easier for the "few". If this group of about 15—20 people suddenly left the church, St John's would close. I am so grateful to the people who run our church!

PS These are just one or two of my observations. Now, then, what about you? What do **you** think?

#### **FUTURE EVENTS AT ST JOHN'S**

There is an orange flyer at the back of the Church showing future events at St John's over the Autumn. Please take one for your friends and neighbours and encourage them to come along. Please note that the Auction of Promises has been postponed until the spring.

### **Parents and Toddlers Group**

We started back, after the summer break, with twenty four adults (mums and grandmas) and twenty seven children, ranging in age from a few weeks old to nearly four years old. Many of these mums are new members and a few are 'old-timers', who are returning to us after having had a second baby.

We shall be having our 'Toddler Group Harvest' on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October at about 10am. Rob will be leading the service, as usual, and members of St John's are very welcome to come and join us.

We shall very soon be making our annual donation of £250 to St John's, as a contribution towards the cost of heating and lighting. We shall be running the Toddler Group Tombola stall, as usual, at the Christmas Fair and have agreed to fund one of the Christmas trees at the Christmas Tree Festival.

After the difficulties of putting on a Toddler Group Nativity on a Sunday morning, we have decided, in consultation with the worship committee, to have the Nativity during a normal toddler session on a Monday morning in December. This is likely to be Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December at about 10am. It would be lovely if members of St John's could come along and support this event.

At the recent Pray, Think, Act group we discussed a more intentional integration of Toddler group with St John's. As a starting point, Rob has agreed to join us once a month so that the children and adults can get to know him. It would be really good if other members of St John's could see their way to becoming more involved with Toddler Group – perhaps helping with craft activities? Joining us for our harvest and nativity would be a good starting point. Please remember Toddler Group in your prayers – that it may indeed be a means of outreach into our local community.

*Janet Lees*

## The Last Rose of Summer.



Step outside into your garden and sigh as the last semblance of summer fades. Sad petals falling all around, but a few strong ones striving to continue blooming till the very last. Sad, yes maybe, but every season has a purpose,; like humans we flourish and then die , but are renewed again when the time is right.

The lovely green shades of summer now glistening with golden tints and russet reds and copper, such rich shades, the world becoming like an opulent middle Eastern carpet with vibrant and glowing colours!

I remember many summers past, seeing the bales of hay in the golden sunshine, lovely long lazy days with picnics and fun with the family.

I remember watching my father fish in the early Autumn days, the leaves swirling and dancing on the water like golden barges being carried along with the current,

The lovely early morning mists and the spiders spinning their gossamer webs all around. My father on our silver wedding anniversary said, 'Look the spiders have spun their silver webs just for you on this day' I will never forget that – he saw beauty in every season of nature – a good way to live!

Nature starts to slow up now as it proudly lays before us it's abundant harvest of ripe fruits and grain – a marvel to us each year. Hot pot suppers, gathering leaves, collecting wood for the bonfire still to come and the anticipation of fabulous fireworks!, Store cupboards heaving with fruits and jams , the promise of pies and winter stocks of food.



Planting dull looking bulbs into pots with the hopes of glorious flowers in the spring, and marvelling as they grow into such beauty!

Darker evenings and mornings, outside eating now a distant memory but the joys of winter hobbies and pursuits and a blazing fire await us!

I think that I am an Autumn person really, having been born in late September, I feel somehow contented as nature puts itself to rest for a while. It is a quiet peaceful reflective time, a warm ripe feeling to the earth.

Toddlers nervously going to school for the very first time, and teenagers leaving the nest and beginning a new life on their own,

This cycle of life continuing year after year, No,, not a dying time but a waiting time- as the dark earth of winter holds its secret stores.  
A pause in life to make us appreciate the wonders of things to come.

Autumn is glorious - embrace it!!!

Sheila Walwyn.



## **HARVEST WEEKEND**



**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October** 10am – 4pm.  
View the church displays.  
Stay for Coffee and a chat.

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October** 10.30am  
Harvest Festival Service  
Speaker: Mrs Sharon Mayer,  
(Rural Chaplain in Cheshire)

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October** Toddler Harvest  
All welcome to come and join in.  
6.30pm Harvest Supper

## **Flowers Rota for October**



6th HARVEST  
13th Audrey Holland  
20th Jean Craddock  
27th Sarah Lunt  
  
(Nov 3rd Sheila Walwyn)

**ONCE AGAIN, BY POPULAR REQUEST!**

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

**Proudly present  
The Newport Male Voice Choir**



**ON**

**FRIDAY 18th OCTOBER 2019 at 7.30pm**

**JUMBLE & NEARLY NEW SALE –**  
**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October 10am-12**

Following the success of our jumble sale in July which raised £480, we are holding another one on **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October at 10am**. Please clear out your wardrobes and cupboards and bring your Jumble and Nearly New items of clothing, bric a brac etc to the church on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October between 9am and 11am. Everything and anything is welcome including shoes, bags, toys, books and small electrical items in working order. Please let us know if you have any clothes rails or spare hangers we could borrow. If you need anything to be collected, or if you can help to set up or assist on the day please speak to Briony or Lyn.

**REMINDER: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

People from our Church Family are needed to fulfil the following roles:

- **Safeguarding Officer This is vital** (see Hazel Nimmo)
- A volunteer for the **Hospital Chaplaincy** team (see Avril Bradfield)
- Volunteers to help at **Parents & Toddlers** (see Janet Lees)

A new team to review the next stage of the refurbishment work and consider how to use the new spaces we have created inside and outside the church.

Please consider if you may be able to help in any way.

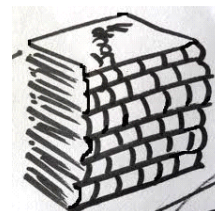
**Spick & Spanners for October**

3rd October	Chris Crowther, Dot Charlesworth & Lynn Fowler
17th October	Helen Trigg, Brenda Aumeer & Rachel Dimelow

NATURE'S CYCLE	
	circle
Memories of summer	What joy those flowers will bring,
Bless the harvest days,	We may feel a little sad-
A red poppy in the wheat- field	ness
Within my memory stays.	As warm days come to an end.
A church spire against the skyline	
Beneath September skies,	Yet optimism leads us forward
The thankful prayes of worshippers	To what the Autumn days will send.
Towards the heavens rise.	The hidden joys of Win- ter evenings
Although the days are shortening now,	With the blessings of a book.
With a chill upon the air,	Warming stews with dumplings
Preparations for the win- ter months	Pleasures everywhere we look
Are around us every- where.	Always, as the seasons turn,
Pickling and preserving	We know unfailingly
In the kitchens now holds sway,	Will come a snowdrop with its promise
Plums, blackberries and apples	Of a Springtime yet to be.
Being gathered every day.	
Already too, the gardener	
Is planting bulbs for Spring,	Written by L. M. Wad- low, submitted by a church member
As the seasons come full	

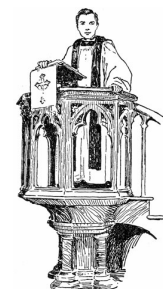
### ***Book Stewards for October***

6th Mary Scott  
13th Nancy Millington  
20th Sheila Walwyn  
27th Sarah Lunt



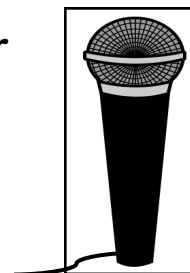
### ***OCTOBER SERVICES AT ST. JOHN'S***

**6th** Mrs Sharon Mayer (Harvest)  
**13th** Revd. Rob Weir (Baptism)  
**20th** Mrs Sue Tyson  
**27th** Revd. Rob Weir (Communion)



### ***Sound System Operators for October***

**6th** David Whiteley  
**13th** Gordon Davidson  
**20th** Mike Nimmo  
**27th** Andrew Fawcett



### **Stewards - October**

6th October	Avril Bradfield
13th October	Maurice Latham
20th October	Peter Shingler
27th October	Brian Faulkner

### **Worship Leaders - October**

6th October	Rachel Dimelow
13th October	Rachel Dimelow
20th October	Lucy Chidlow
27th October	Rachel Dimelow

### **TEA & COFFEE ROTA for October**

6th	Linda Jenkins & Sarah Lunt
13th	Sheila Latham & Dot Charlesworth
20th	Sue Davies & Dorothy Faulkner
27th	Eileen Grunner & Lyn Fowler



### **Prayer Chain – Now Active!**

You may remember some months ago a box being placed at the back of church looking for people willing to be part of a prayer chain. This is a great opportunity to collectively pray for specific needs and circumstances within our church family.

Nine people have signed up to the prayer chain and have given permission for their phone number to be shared in the newsletter, so that you can contact any person on the chain who you would feel most comfortable approaching.

We have chosen to use phone numbers, rather than email, as prayer chains can often be very effective in urgent situations where speed is of the essence, as well as prayer for general everyday issues. I would stress that all prayer requests are entirely confidential and would not be shared beyond the names listed below.

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Telephone Number</b>
1	Chris Crowther	
2	Elizabeth Jennings	
3	Avril Bradfield	
4	Janet Lees	
5	Lucy Chidlow	
6	Jenny Marston	
7	Briony Myles-Hook	
8	Lynn Fowler	
9	Dot Charlesworth	

Please contact any person above if there is a specific circumstance which needs prayer. In a short space of time, there would be nine people praying with you on any issue or need which is concerning you. I'm reminded of the words from the popular song "What a friend we have in Jesus" – and what a privilege to carry, everything to God in prayer.



# **JUMBLE SALE**

## **And NEARLY NEW items**

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**Saturday 12th October**  
**10am-12 noon**

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### **Clothes**

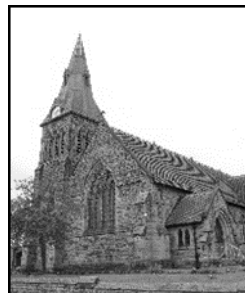
Coats Jackets knit ware Suits  
Tops Trousers Skirts Dresses  
Dressing Gowns

### **Accessories**

Bags Shoes Boots Belts  
Jewellery Scarves

### **Home**

Books Toys Curtains  
Lamps Vases China Gifts Plants



**St John's Methodist Church Whitchurch**

**Entry £1 which includes tea or coffee**

**In aid of our Access For All Project**

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING – 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

The next Church Council meeting is on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm. All are welcome to attend but only Church Council Members will be able to vote if a decision is required.

Following the meeting with the Acting Superintendent Rev Jeremy Tresise and David Priaulx on 17<sup>th</sup> September, a small group from our church will meet with a team from the circuit to look at ways of managing our finances over the coming year so that we can meet our obligations to the circuit while continuing to pay our regular bills and property maintenance expenses.

Congratulations to Lucy Chidlow who has passed from being a preacher on note to a preacher on trial. We look forward to her taking services at St John's in the future.

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Thank God for the many ways He continues to bless and encourage us at St John's. Give thanks that we can bring our prayers to Him, knowing that He will hear our prayers and answer them according to His great love and mercy. Pray for those known to us personally who are in any kind of need: particularly members of St John's who are ill, housebound, in care, lonely or bereaved.



### **St John's**

Give thanks for all those serving St John's on the various committees/Church Council and pray that, as they meet during the near future (the Church Council meets on Wednesday, October 9th) they will seek to be guided by the Holy Spirit

Give thanks for all those who serve St John's in quiet, unassuming ways 'behind the scenes'. May they know how much we value their contribution and help

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, Junior Church, Cafe Church

Thank God for the formation of the prayer chain and the prayer triplets and ask that the prayers offered on behalf of St John's will be guided by the Holy Spirit

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 is mission-minded rather than maintenance-minded

### **Our nation**

At this time of confusion and turmoil, let us bring our nation before God in prayer:

As the chaos surrounding Brexit grows, pray that the Lord's will may be done and that those who seek to provoke and encourage conflict will have their plans thwarted.

Pray that cathedrals and churches will be discerning as to what events they allow to take place in their buildings.

Pray that Christians would be vocal and effective in protecting children from the harmful aspects of the new Relationships and Sex Education legislation to be rolled out in all schools in Sept 2020, but already being piloted in some areas now.

Pray that Christians would be bolder in thinking through their beliefs and discussing them effectively with others

Pray that our government will continue to lead the fight against slavery, human trafficking and all forms of sexual exploitation of children.

### **Our World**

In the aftermath of Storm Dorian, pray for the people of the Bahamas – that they may receive all the help they need to rebuild their shattered communities. Pray that the Church may be effective in the help that it offers – materially and spiritually.

### **A prayer from [www.sacredspace.ie](http://www.sacredspace.ie).daily prayer**

*If God were trying to tell me something, would I know? If God were reassuring me or challenging me, would I notice? I ask for the grace to be free of my own preoccupations and open to what God may be saying to me.*

*Amen*

### **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.

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

### **OCTOBER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Saturday October 5th Harvest Weekend. Church is open 10am- 4pm. View the church displays. Stay for coffee and a chat.

Sunday October 6th. Harvest Festival Service at 10.30 am. Speaker: Mrs Sharon Mayer, Rural Chaplain in Cheshire.

Monday October 7th. Toddler Harvest. All welcome—come and join in.

Monday 7th October. Harvest Supper at 6.30pm. (Please see Dorothy Faulkner if you like to come)

Wednesday 9th October Church Council

Saturday 12th October Jumble Sale at Church

Friday October 18th Newport Male Voice Choir

Tuesday 22nd October Network Call my Bluff

### **November 2019 Newsletter**

Please let Mike Nimmo have all your submissions for the next Newsletter by 27th October

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***Taxi!***

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

<b>6th</b>	Hazel Nimmo
<b>13th</b>	Brian Faulkner
<b>20th</b>	Sheila Latham
<b>27th</b>	Jim Walwyn



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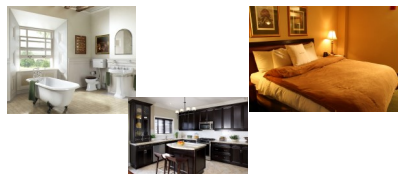
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## WALKERS

