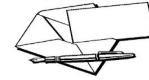




**St. John's Methodist Church
Whitchurch**

November 2019 Newsletter

Message from the Manse



Dear Friends,

November is a month when Remembrance Sunday tends to dominate people's thinking. Last year especially was of course a special occasion, and it was interesting to reflect afterwards on how the churches had played such an important role in the commemoration - many churches, including ours, hosted special events, and up and down the land services on Remembrance Sunday itself saw increased attendances. I have to admit, I will be curious to see how this year compares.

It is a reminder though of how Christianity is still part of our nation. There are still many, whether they know much of Jesus Christ or not, still think of church as a place to go to celebrate, commemorate, and sometimes pour out their hearts. In a way, we've seen that with the number of Baptisms we've had recently - there's nothing to stop people simply having a Naming Ceremony and a Party (and some do!), but for many, church is still a part of the process. The question might be how can we best use these opportunities to share God's message of Grace and Love!

Of course, we also hold our own commemoration at St. Johns, with the Remembering Service on the evening of 10th November - a service open to all, whether your loss is recent or not - and increasingly, to remember as well people that we have "lost" in other ways such as Dementia.

For my family this will be particularly poignant this year as we remember Brian, Fiona's Dad; on behalf of all of our family, I would like to thank all of you for your support over these last few weeks, and for the times to come.

God Bless

Rob

Steward's Letter

Dear Friends,



Once again we have had a wonderful time of Harvest celebrations. The church looked even more spectacular than usual and it was good to have people drawn in by the pictures who would not usually have visited us. Our service on Sunday really connected us to the farming world as it is today as did Rachel's display of local produce. As is traditional we ended with our Harvest Supper on Monday evening. A very big thank you to all those who set up, stewarded, took part in and finally stayed to clear everything up. Without you it would not be possible. Bless you all.

I would like to take a moment to thank Mary Scott for her faithful service to this church over the years. As you step back from your many commitments, thank you from us all Mary.

September and early October are always a very busy time in a Methodist church now we can pause to catch our breath and enter a more reflective time, time to be still, to make the space for God to catch our attention with what he wants for us and for this church. I have found myself wondering what would be my ideal church. Some ideas quickly come to mind – if it isn't friendly then I'm not likely to stay – others, at a deeper level, only reveal themselves much later, they seem to need the clutter of the 'top layer' to be dealt with before they can rise to the surface. I found it quite surprising. Perhaps if we mull over this for a while we might find hints of the direction we are all being called to follow.

God bless,

Avril

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Christmas Tree Festival at St John's

We hope that you will be able to support us in our new venture this Christmas.

Programme of Events

Monday Nov 25 th	Delivery of Christmas Trees
Tuesday Nov 26 th	Setting up
Wednesday Nov 27 th	Tree Decorating by Sponsors
Thursday Nov 28 th	Tree Decorating by Sponsors
Friday Nov 29 th	All tree decorating complete for mid-day Church to open at 2 pm. Opening Ceremony and switch on at 2.30 pm 7.30 pm carol singing amongst the Christmas Trees, followed by tea, coffee & mince pies
Saturday Nov 30 th	Open from 10.30 am until 4 pm. Special visit by a Children's Entertainer. Visit by Father Christmas in the afternoon
Sunday Dec 1 st	Open 2 pm – 6.30 pm.
Monday Dec 2 nd	To be decided

This programme is subject to change, so please look out for final tweaks & changes. We will need extra Stewards before & after the event, as well as during the event itself.

Please have a word with Pete or Maurice for further details.

Changing people's lives in China

Du was one of China's millions of migrants, leaving his rural town for the city - chasing work and a decent income. But urban life was grim; Du ended up working in a factory, despondent and lost.

(We learned when in China that strictly speaking people from outside the cities are not supposed to move into them - they have differing identity passes. So, while a blind eye is turned when they come to the city, they cannot really advance beyond the lowest of jobs. A bit like illegal immigrants.)

One day, on a bed in his dormitory he found a pocket-sized Bible - one printed by Amity Printing Press and subsidised by donations we make to the Bible Society. Someone had left it behind. Du picked it up and started to read. "I realised I had been blinded by atheism to see only the physical world and material things," he said. "My heart was changed and I committed myself to the Lord."

Today, Du lives in the town where he grew up and is training to be a church worker. He added, "I may not possess great wealth, but I know I have no lack in the one true God

(Extracted from World in Action (Winter 2019))

Mike Nimmo

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Church Stewards

Nov 3rd	Maurice Latham
Nov 10th	Brian Faulkner
Nov 17th	Peter Shingler
Nov 24th	Avril Bradfield

Spick and Spanners for Nov 2019

7th	Einwen Kelly, Ruth Dawson & Sheila Latham
21st	Nancy Millington, Brenda Dudley & Gwen Reeves



TEA & COFFEE ROTA

Nov 3rd	Nancy Millington & Chris Crowther
Nov 10th	Fiona Weir & Rachel Dimelow
Nov 17th	Brenda Aumeer & Helen Trigg
Nov 24th	Hazel & Mike Nimmo



Worship Leaders

3rd Nov	- Rachel
10th Nov	- Rachel
17th Nov	- Lucy
24th Nov	- Rachel

Book Stewards for November

3rd	Sue Davies
10th	Brenda Aumeer
17th	Nancy Millington
24th	Sarah Lunt



NOVEMBER SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S

10.30 am	3rd	Jenny Smith
<u>10.45 am</u>	10th	Rob Weir - Remembrance
6.30pm	10th	Rob Weir - Remembering
10.30am	17th	Pat Maidment
10.30am	24th	Michael Mulliner

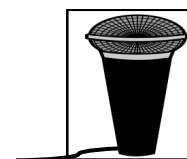


Other Services

7.30pm	28th	Cafe Church
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Sound System Operators for November

3rd	Jim Walwyn
10th	Gordon Davidson
17th	Mike Nimmo
24th	David Whiteley



Quiz and Fish & Chip Supper

Our next Quiz and Fish & Chip Supper is being held on Friday 8th November here at church.

It will start at 7.00pm. The cost is £8 per head and this will include nibbles on the table and supper.

Don't be put off if you don't have a team— just turn up on the night and teams will be created.

Please sign the list on the table at the back of Church and indicate which 'supper' choice you would like. Pay on the night.

The Quiz is being jointly run by Vic Trigg and Lynn Fowler.

Flowers Rota for November 2019

3rd. Sheila Walwyn

10th. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

17th. Beryl Posniak

24th. Rosamond Rawson

December. 1st. Ruth Dawson



A chance to use the little grey cells!

The first ten are cryptic clues on books of the bible. See if you can do them without looking at the contents page of your bible. (Apologies for my some what twisted mind)

1. One, two and five are examples
2. What bills in parliament become
3. It's in oldest heritage
4. Air of Airs
5. They decide the winner
6. Are you hurt about for this one
7. Could be shrews turn into it
8. The first Stewart king of England
9. Woe!, Awful!, I don't believe it !, Boo-Hoo!
10. A stitch in - - - , A dog is a - - - -, and so on!

The next set are anagrams for things related to Christmas. I've given some help by indicating where its more than one word.

1. Airy Flights (2)
2. Listen
3. Ration Codes
4. Tote Miles
5. A Class Aunt (2)
6. Strop Us
7. Light Tennis (2)
8. German
9. Serpents
10. Vented Scandal (2)

I'll publish the answers in the next Newsletter

IN THE NEWS – Reg Hall!

Hazel and I were sitting watching the BBC 6 O’Clock News on Wednesday 24th October when we suddenly sat up and stared at the screen. We had reached the Midlands News and the subject of care in the community was being discussed. There is a drive in Telford and Shrewsbury to get people interested in working in the community. They had switched to a home where the care worker was attending a gentleman including trimming his hair. Both of us immediately said “I know that room!” The camera then revealed Reg Hall looking very relaxed and telling us how good he found the support.

So Reg at the age of 99 you’re a TV personality!

Parents and Toddlers Group

We had a lovely Harvest Festival service on 7th October, very ably led by Rob! One of our little girls is still singing the song that Rob did with us! Our harvest donations amounted to £52.23, which we have rounded up to £75.00 from Toddler Group funds and sent to Severn Hospice, in memory of Jane Cliffe, who was one of our regular grand-mas at Toddlers.

November is going to be a very busy month for us as we prepare for the Christmas Tree Festival – hopefully making as many of the decorations for our tree as is possible! We shall also be collecting items for the Toddler Group tombola stall at St John’s Christmas Fair. If anyone could help me run this stall at the fair, it would be very much appreciated.

I mentioned at the June Church Council meeting that I propose to give up leading Toddler Group in July 2020. Katie will also be giving up as Tom and Harriet will be starting school in September 2020. If anyone is interested in taking the job on, please have a word with me and I can explain exactly what is involved.

Janet Lees

PRAYER REQUESTS



St John's

Give thanks for all those serving St John's on the various committees/Church Council and pray that they will seek to be guided by the Holy Spirit – the Worship Committee meets on Tuesday 26th November

Ask God's blessing on the next Pray, Think, Act meeting on Thursday 21st November – and think about coming along! (7.30pm at Glebe House)

Pray for the Bring and Share lunch (after our Sunday service on 24th November) – that it will be an enjoyable time of friendship and fellowship

Pray for all those people who will attend the Remembering Service at 6.30pm on Sunday 10th November. Ask that the God of all comfort will bring them comfort during their bereavement. Pray for Rob as he leads this service

The Christmas Tree exhibition begins on Friday 29th December and continues until Monday 2nd December. Pray for the success of this event and that those who come to the carol singing on the Friday evening will get a glimpse of the real meaning of Christmas

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, Junior Church

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

Give thanks for all those people who work so hard to keep our building in good working order

Pray that each one of us will make wise use of the time of Advent, preparing ourselves for a fresh encounter with the One whose birth we are celebrating

Our nation

As God works out His purposes in our nation, pray that in His mercy, truth and good sense will prevail so that debates can take place in a spirit of order and calm

Our world

At least 40,000 Syrian Christians are caught up in the escalating conflict, as Turkish troops attack Kurdish-led forces. This number is likely to increase. Pray for a swift resolution and effective intervention by the international community. Pray that the Syrian church will not just survive, but will be a light in these dark times.

New anti-conversion laws in India could mean that praying with somebody will land Indian Christians with prison sentences. Pray for Holy Spirit boldness for Indian Christians as they share their faith with friends and neighbours – and ask God to protect them and their families.

Pray for wisdom for church leaders in Hong Kong as the violence there increases.

Pray for Chinese Christians as persecution reaches unprecedented levels – that God will be very close to them and strengthen them with His loving presence.

Remember that our God is Sovereign Lord over all – and it is His plans and purposes that will prevail.

Thanks be to God!

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 Queens Road

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

NOVEMBER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Fri 8th Quiz & Fish & Chip Supper 7pm

Wed 13th 7pm Property & Finance Committee

Fri 15th Games Night with Mulled Apple Juice

Thurs 21st 7.30pm at Glebe House- Pray, Think, Act meeting everyone very welcome.

Tues 26th 7.30pm Worship Committee

Thurs 28th Cafe Church 7.30pm at St. John's
come along for informal chat, tea, coffee and lots of cake!

Sat 30th Christmas Tree Exhibition

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Taxi!

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

Nov 3rd	Sheila Latham
10th	Hazel Nimmo
17th	David Whiteley
24th	Jim Walwyn



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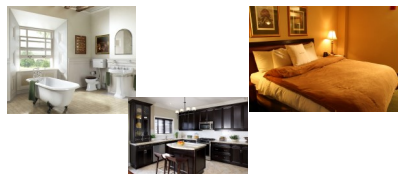
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