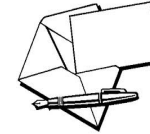


February 2020 Newsletter



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

Message from the Manse



Dear Friends,

As I write these words, we are fast approaching “Brexit Day” - the day when the UK will officially leave the European Union. Some may see it as triumphant, some as tragic – I’m just relieved that St. Johns doesn’t have any bells, meaning that there can’t be an argument about whether to ring them or not!

It does highlight for me though that there is still such bitterness and division in our society. When some are talking of refusing to accept the commemorative 50p coin in their change, and others are preparing to openly celebrate the occasion, you realise that the wounds run deep and will take a long time to heal.

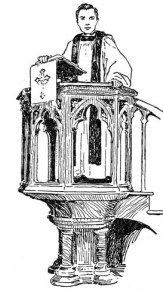
We in the church should know that this is the case – because in a lot of ways, you can argue that our own wounds and divisions still have an effect on our life today. Whether it’s the split between the Eastern and Western churches in the early centuries, Protestant and Catholic at the Reformation, or more recent splits and divisions – they still have an effect. It may not matter quite as much just across the Welsh border whether you are “Church or Chapel”, but it isn’t forgotten.

So how am I going to mark Brexit? The answer is “in prayer” - praying that, despite all the divisions that have and continue to show themselves, that in Christ, whose wounds offer salvation to all, healing and reconciliation will flow across our nation. And it will continue to be my prayer in the months and years that lie ahead.

God Bless
Rob

SERVICES AT ST. JOHN'S FEBRUARY 2020

2nd	Brian Faulkner
9th	Rev. Rob Weir
16th	J.T. Smith
23rd	I. Perry



Stewards and Worship Leaders for February 2020

2nd.	Avril Bradfield	Lucy
9th.	Maurice Latham	Rachel
16th.	Brian Faulkner	Lucy
23rd.	Pete Shingler	Rachel

TEA & COFFEE ROTA for February 2020

2nd:	Sue Davies & Dorothy Faulkner
9th	Elizabeth & Pete Shingler
16th	Brenda Aumeer & Helen Trigg
23rd	Rachel Dimelow & Linda Weston



STEWARDS' LETTER

As you begin to read this Newsletter, Christmas will appear to be long past. However, as one of your Church Stewards, it is the first opportunity I have to record and thank all of you who contributed to the many events that took place during that period. I didn't manage to attend all the events.

The events brought many people into our building for the first time. They also provided opportunity for Mission. Conversations I had, provided thoughts for prayer and great optimism for the work of this church in the year ahead.

Maurice and Pete put in many, many hours to produce our first Christmas Tree Festival and we sincerely thank them. A Christmas Tree Festival was a first for Whitchurch too!

While I am thanking people, on behalf of the church, I want to place in print our thanks to Ros Rawson for ensuring that we have had flowers on the altar each week and that these were distributed with greetings from St. John's. This she has done for the last 12 years. In thanking Ros, it reminds me that many tasks are done in a quiet, behind the scenes way. If that is you, Thank You.

In 2020, **MISSION** needs to be at the forefront of our minds.
What would Jesus be doing?
What would Jesus be saying?

I liked the hymn in the old Methodist Hymn Book 1933,
Another year is dawning:
Dear Master let it be,
On earth or else in heaven,
Another year for thee. (MHB 954)

God bless you all in 2020.

Brian.

1st March May Arthan

2nd: Brenda Aumeer & Helen Trigg
9th: Briony Myles-Hook & Katie Johnson

1st March:Helen Trigg & Chris Crowther

6th Chris Crowther, Dot Charlesworth & Lynn Fowler

20th Helen Trigg, Brenda Aumeer & Rachel Dimelow

Flowers Rota for February

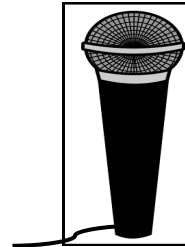
2020

2nd.	<i>Hazel Burlton</i>
9th.	<i>Sheila Jones</i>
16th.	<i>Gwen Reeves</i>
23rd.	<i>Brenda Aimed</i>



Sound System Operators for February 2020

2nd	Jim Walwyn
9th	Rev Rob Weir
16th	J.T. Smith
23rd	I. Perry



Action For Children

We will be holding a coffee morning at St John's church in aid of "Action for Children", on

Saturday, 22nd February 2019 from 10am to 12 noon.

Please come and support this worthy cause - Everyone is welcome

I am now emptying the collection boxes, and if I have not yet received your box, please pass it to me as soon as possible.

David Whiteley



Reg is 100!

Reg celebrated his 100th birthday on 23rd January. He has been a member of St Johns since 1980 when he moved to Whitchurch from nearby Fauls., with his wife Joan who died in 2012. Reg was born on a smallholding at Whixall, the youngest of 5 children, and attended Welsh End chapel there. In 1933 the family moved to a larger holding at Lower Heath, and he recalls walking the cows the 7 mile journey setting off after milking at 5.30am. He worked on farms throughout his teens, living on his sisters farm at Rodington for 2 years, before moving to live at Lostford, farming with the Robinson family, later the Shropshires.

He attended Darliston chapel in the Market Drayton circuit, there he met Joan who lived at Fauls, was married there in 1947, farmed at Moat Farm, and he was organist at Darliston for many years.

He has always been a very keen gardener, still grows lots of tomatoes and bedding plants in his greenhouse. Reg has 2 daughters, Rosemary and Susan, and is blessed with 3 grandsons and 6 great grandchildren. He still enjoys reading, keeping up to date with the farming press, and recently went back to visit a neighbour at Fauls to see the cows being milked through a robotic milking machine - far removed from his childhood memories of hand milking and helping his mother make butter for sale at the Friday market in Whitchurch.

Christian Aid

Thank you to everyone who has supported Christian Aid in Whitchurch throughout 2019. Our last fund raising event was in December - the Pew Collection and Screen Card donations. £190 was raised at St John's – Thank you

Lent Lunches

Our first event in 2020 will be the Christian Aid Lent Lunches. This year we are trying something new by keeping the venue the same each week – at St John's, apart from the final one. Come along for a tasty bowl of homemade soup, bread, cheese and fruit for a suggested donation of at least £4. A time to eat, meet friends and raise funds for the poorest in our world.

Thursday March 5th 12.00 – 2.00
Lent Lunch at St John's hosted by St John's

Thursday March 12th 12.00- 2.00
Lent Lunch at St John's hosted by Beacon

Thursday March 19th 12.00- 2.00
Lent Lunch at St John's hosted by St Alkmund's

Thursday March 26th 12.00- 2.00
Lent Lunch at St John's hosted by St George's

Thursday April 2nd 12.00- 2.00
Lent Lunch at The Civic Centre hosted by the Committee

REV. DAVID J. HUDSON

Rev. David Hudson arrived in Whitchurch, ready to take on the Superintendency of the Whitchurch Circuit, in September 1980, accompanied by his wife Jean and their two young sons, John & Alan. They lived in what we now refer to as The Bungalow. This manse had been designed by the previous Super and at this point hadn't the additional accommodation of the upstairs.

David & Jean were both in their late 30's, with new ideas. David implemented the newer procedures of the Methodist Church moving from Trustees and Leaders Meetings to a Church Council. These were supplemented by sub meetings, Pastoral, Finance, Family, Property and Worship (I was asked to form the latter). These brought many people to have a small part in the life of St. John's.

David was an enthusiastic Minister. He was able to draw people in, spreading himself across the many activities of the church, as well of having pastoral responsibility for 8 other churches and Superintendency of a further 11 (20 in all).

David would have said that life in Whitchurch was not all plain sailing. The removal of the pews at the back of the church (approved by Church Council) caused much heartache. A radical move but this was prior to St. John's being a Listed Building.

David, having been a Minister in Ghana, was keen on reaching out and we are fairly sure he was instrumental in setting up the Christian Aid Committee, that is still going over 30 years later. This also brought in closer working relationships with the other churches in Whitchurch, with joint services at least 3 times per year.

Cont.,

As a Church, we became famous locally for hosting a televised recording of 'Songs of Praise' in February 1989.

As a Circuit, we raised money to 'Send a Cow' to Africa, which turned out to be not just one but two cows!

For those of us about during his 9 years in Whitchurch, we have many happy memories and much to be thankful for.

David's passing in December at the age of 76, leaves a big gap in Jean's life. We continue to pray for Jean, John and Alan, Lucy and Gill. We thank God for David, his life and his ministry.

Brian & Dorothy Faulkner.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING—5th February 2020

The next Church Council Meeting is on Wednesday 5th February at 7pm. All are welcome to attend but only Church Council Members will be able to vote if a decision is required.

Climate Emergency!

“Our house is on fire”! Said Greta Thunberg! Certainly Australia was, and still is. The images on the news have been shocking and horrifying. As many of you may know Climate Emergency is a subject close to my heart and, “Now is the time to act”, as David Attenborough tells us.

Bob and I watched a documentary on coral early in the new year at my stepdaughters new house. It wasn't my choice but it was very informative. I remember when we first had colour tv and some of the highlights for me were the wildlife programmes, especially the underwater programmes of the Great Barrier Reef. The colours were fabulous and delightful in those early days of colour tv and it was like a new world opening up to us, the world under the sea.

How different were the images in this documentary with coral dying or dead in many, and increasingly more, parts of the world. All this is the result of pollution. Now I was near the bottom of the class in geography and I didn't see the connection at all! The documentary explained that as all the pollution goes up into the atmosphere, all the rubbish from factory chimneys, exhaust fumes and all so called 'fossil fuels', doesn't go away, IT DOESN'T GO AWAY as I thought!!, it stays in the atmosphere because of the greenhouse effect, but also a lot of it (a large percentage that I can't remember, poor in geography remember!) goes into the sea and pollutes the sea and the sea bed. The results of this cause the planet to heat up as I understand (?) and this is what we saw in the documentary and it was heart breaking.

I try my best to avoid buying plastic, recycling what I have, and I try not to buy as many clothes because I really don't need them.

I think most of us now have more clothes than we can ever wear!
Do you remember the days when we could fit all our clothes into a small wardrobe and chest of drawers?
I have changed to having milk and orange juice from the milkman in bottles, buying soap with no wrapping and buying plastic free toilet rolls online in bulk, because,

“No one is too small to make difference.”

The sun is shining as I’m writing this and we will soon be on the cusp of another spring, one of God’s most visible miracles. I am always amazed at how the world transforms in the spring despite my 70 years on the planet, the vibrant greens of new growth, the pretty pastel shades of the blossoms and the fresh colours of the spring flowers. We are so very lucky to live in this wonderful world. Let’s all try to look after it a little better.
In my National Trust magazine in January it gives these 5 easy ways to make a difference,

1. Waste less, less food, less energy, less water
2. Turn heating down and layer up.
3. Use an online carbon calculator to find out your carbon footprint and think about how you can reduce it.
4. Can you walk, bike, use public transport or carshare?
5. Get involved in Leap for Nature and make a promise for nature this year.

Nationaltrust.org.uk/leap-for-nature

I’m going to try these will you join me?

Dot Charlesworth

***Cast all your care upon him for he careth for you.
(1 peter 5:7)***

I had an issue, a worry, a burden that was not getting resolved, it would not go away. I went to bed and could not sleep , it was not a health issue, but it was an issue that was troubling me a great deal. My wife said I thought you said you would give that problem to God.

In theory I had, in practice I hadn't.

Then the scripture came to mind ,
(Cast all your care upon him for he careth for you.)

By faith I exercised that promise and in return God gave me his complete peace. The situation has not gone but the burden has .

Jesus says take my yoke upon you for my yoke is easy and my burden is light.
(matthew 11:29.)

Rob Spinks:

"People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Maya Angelou - poet, historian, author, actress, playwright & civil-rights activist

Random Acts of Kindness

On Friday 24th of January I joined Rob Spinks in giving out flowers in the town with blessings from St. John's Church. I really enjoyed engaging with people in this way and it was lovely to see the smiles of surprise on peoples' faces. It made me feel good too and I will certainly join Rob again. If anyone wishes to join us please speak to Rob.Spinks.

Dot Charlesworth

Churches Together Lent Course

This year our Lent Course is going to be akin to a Book Group. Each person will be asked to read a couple of chapters before each meeting and then there will be some led discussion. The book is Andrew Smith's "Vibrant Christianity in Multifaith Britain". Andrew is Director of Interfaith Relations for the Bishop of Birmingham and we hope that he will come to speak and answer questions at a joint session towards the end of Lent. He led the initiative to create the Ethical Guidelines for Witness, produced by the National Christian Muslim Forum 2006-2011. The book is accessible & thought-provoking and encourages us to think seriously about how we live as Christians in an increasingly multifaith society. Whether we meet people of different faiths day to day or mainly hear about them in the media, this book will give us confidence to express our faith in a religiously diverse world. Drawing on Scripture and years of experience, the author both challenges preconceptions and offers practical advice.

The groups are likely to meet four times weeks beginning 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd. Specific times are yet to be arranged. Do come and join with fellow Christians to discuss this interesting book.

Summer Sun

Great is the sun, and wide he goes
Throughout the heavens without repose;
And in the blue and glowing days
More thick than rain he showers his rays.

Though closer still the blinds we pull
To keep the shady parlour cool,
Yet he will find a chink or two
To slip his golden fingers through.

The dusty attic, spider-clad,
He, through the keyhole, maketh glad;
And through the broken edge of tiles
Into the laddered hay-loft smiles.

Meantime his golden face around
He bares to all the garden ground,
And sheds a warm and glittering look
Among the ivy's inmost nook.

Above the hills, along the blue,
Round the bright air with footing true,
To please the child, to paint the rose,
The gardener of the world he goes.

Robert Louis Stevenson

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 5th February: Church Council Meeting (7pm)

Friday 7th February: Coffee Morning at the Civic (9.30 am to 12 Noon)

Tuesday 11th February: Worship Committee (7.30. pm)

Wednesday 12th February: Ladies Coffee Morning at Caru Coffee (10.30.am)

Saturday 22nd February: The Two Saints Way (see leaflet on noticeboard)

Tuesday 25th February: Property & Finance Committee

24th February—8th March: Fairtrade Fortnight

Thursday 12th March: Circuit Meeting at St. John's.

March 2020 Newsletter

Please let Vic Trigg have all your submissions for the next Newsletter by 23rd February.

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Taxi!

The following drivers are available during February 2020 to transport you to the services. Please 'phone before 9:30am.

2nd	Sheila Latham
9th	Brian Faulkner
16th	Jim Walwyn
23rd	Hazel Nimmo



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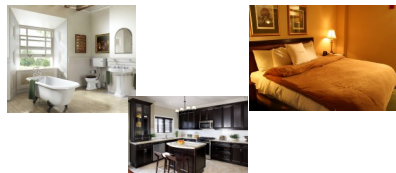
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