

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

St John's: A place of worship where all are welcome

Services in November

4th November:

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am First Sunday All-Age Service
6.30pm Evensong (BCP)

11th November:

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.45am Service of Remembrance

18th November:

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30pm Morning Worship (CW)
4.00pm Village Praise

25th November:

9.00am Matins (BCP)
10.30am Holy Communion (CW)

BCP - Book of Common Prayer
CW - Common Worship (Modern Language)

Contacts

Vicar:

Phil Weston 01829 752272

Readers:

Alan Downen 01829 751174
Philip Goodall 01829 752130

Churchwardens:

Lesley Groves 01928 740014
Alan Goodall 01829 752130

A View from the Vicarage

I recently had the pleasure of attending the Wine Tasting evening kindly organised by our Community shop and hosted in our Village Hall. With seven wines to sample, plus some delicious cheeses to try, there was something for every taste. It was also a great social occasion, and another valuable opportunity for me personally to meet a few more members of our community.

Although it wisely warns against drunkenness, it's noticeable that the Bible often speaks well of wine. Psalm 104, for instance, describes wine as a gift from God that "gladdens the heart". The fruit of the vine is a blessing for our taste buds sent from above! Jesus, of course, also famously turned water into wine and it was an essential ingredient of the Last Supper he shared with his friends.

Above all, Bible authors write of wine when they try to paint a portrait of Heaven. Great prophets like Isaiah and Amos compare the coming Kingdom of God to a joyful party, a wedding reception or a royal banquet. Occasions where wine flows and people are enjoying each other's company. Jesus used similar imagery in his own teaching on the subject – clearly such occasions are one of the closest comparisons to Heaven we experience here on Earth.

So next time you enjoy a glass of wine in the company of friends, remember that it is a foretaste of the world to come. A world that Christ claimed is on offer to all who choose to follow him.

Cheers!
Phil Weston



Poppy Crafting Event

Thank you to the Crafters who willingly shared their skills, the helpers and caterers who supported the event and very importantly to everyone who came and enthusiastically created many poppies to be shared across the community for our commemoration of the end of WW1. Look out for the posters and buy your tickets for the Community Afternoon Tea on 11:11:18.

If you have an item to share or memorabilia to display on that afternoon Margaret Papworth will be delighted to hear from you. Mobile: 07803242783 or email: margaretpapworth@icloud.com

P.S. We are making increasing use of Facebook and Twitter to advertise church and community events. For the latest news please do "like" our page on Facebook (www.facebook.com/stjohnashton) or follow us on Twitter @StJohnAshton



Christmas is coming ...

As in previous years we will be trying to ensure that the children and parents of families who are currently in the care of our local charity "*Save the Family*" have a happy Christmas. "*Giving Trees*" will be in church and in the Village Shop throughout November.

If you would like to help by buying a gift for a child (or an additional something for a child's parent) please take a label and buy a gift for the child whose name is on it. Then, wrap your gift, fix the label to it and take it to the village shop by **Friday, 30th November** or bring it along to the **Toy Service** which will be held in church at **10.30 am on Sunday, 2nd December**.

There are no rules about how much or how little you need to spend — our aim is simply to make a needy child's Christmas just that bit brighter. Children also love chocolate so if you could also provide a selection box (or several!) that would also be appreciated. Thank you.



100 Club

The winning numbers in September's draw were
6 29 63 67 74

Pause for Thought by Alan Downen

He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. *Isaiah 2:4*

It's difficult to imagine the depth of the depravity of WW1 and yet, that war to end all wars was followed just 21 years later by WW2. Since then there have been numerous conflicts across the globe and, in latter years, acts of terrorism have even reached our own shores. But all of this is due to human failing and not by the hand of God.

The Book of Genesis tells us that when God created the world and everything in it "he saw all that he had made, and it was very good." It was only later that we humans tried to have our own way and in doing so corrupted it.

Our God is a god of love and peace and in theory, all we have to do to achieve that peace is stop fighting ... but we all know it is more complicated than that. To achieve peace we need to start considering each other instead of putting ourselves first. We need to dwell on our similarities rather than stressing our differences. We need to be willing to share what we have and stop wanting what they have, and we need to show God's love for the world by the way that we live — in our homes, in our community and in the world at large — only then will we achieve Isaiah's vision of a just world and God's peace for the benefit of all.

Prayers in Partnership

The next meetings of the prayer group, starting at 10.45am, will be held on —

**Tuesday 6th November at
23 The Meadows, Ashton Hayes.**

and

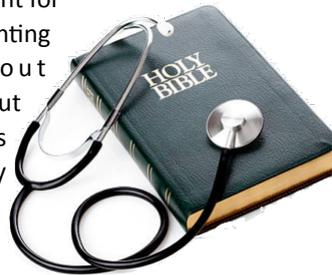
**Wednesday 19th December at
Main Street Community Church, Frodsham.**

If you require further information or transport to get to either of these events please contact Philip Goodall (01829 752130)

Trust me, I'm a doctor!

From late November into early next year our Sunday morning Bible teaching at St. John's will be based on the Gospel of Luke. Luke was a doctor and a thorough historian. His Gospel is the longest description of the life of Jesus in the Bible, full of eyewitness accounts of how Jesus lived, died and rose again.

Luke's Gospel is written for people of every nation (even the British!) and presents Jesus as nothing less than the Saviour of the World. Whether you are a committed Christian or a sceptical enquirer, Dr Luke's Gospel is a trustworthy starting point for anyone wanting to find out more about who Jesus is and why he came. Join us as we learn from Luke together.



We will remember them



2018 is a particularly poignant year as we come together to commemorate the armistice which brought the First World War to an end: this was a particularly horrific war which, thanks to new technology,

cost millions of lives.

We shall be meeting together in church at **10.45am on Sunday, 11th November** to remember those who lost their lives as a result of war, especially those from our parish, and to pray for peace in our World. The service will be followed by a gathering around the War Memorial at which wreaths will be laid.

Your Community Needs You

Come and join us for 'Afternoon Tea' to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War One on Sunday 11th November from 2pm – 5pm in Ashton and Mouldsworth Village Hall.

There will be a range of entertainment and memorabilia to commemorate this important day — £5 for adults, children under 11 free. Tickets are available from the Community Shop or the Church. Please tell us if there are children in your party when you book.



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07749 451526 or 01829 752017