

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

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

In Memory

Edward Makin lived in Station Cottages, Mouldsworth for 21 years. He died at the age of 75 and his funeral was held in church on 15th January: he is now at rest in the churchyard. Edward was a family man who was loved by all who knew him and our thoughts are with his wife, Beryl, their family and friends and all who miss him.

At 96 years of age, Bill Milner was a well known and loved member of the community and an active member of the Timebank. His funeral took place at Vale Royal Crematorium on 30th January and was followed by a Memorial Service at St John's. Our thought and prayers are with all of Bill's family. We too shall miss him.

Services in February

3rd February:

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

10th February:

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am Morning Worship (CW)

17th February:

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am Morning Worship (CW)
4.00pm Village Praise
(in the Parish Rooms)

24th February:

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

Like many people, I expect, I have been praying for our politicians recently. Praying that God will give them wisdom and good judgement as they seek to find an acceptable solution to the Brexit dilemma. With time running short before our scheduled exit from the EU on 29th March, I pray that Theresa May and our MPs will be given the wisdom and good judgement necessary at this momentous time in our nation's history.

But what is wisdom, really? Often we associate wisdom with other qualities, like age, experience, intellect and knowledge – or being like an owl! But God's definition of wisdom in the Bible is rather different to all of these. In the book of Proverbs, and elsewhere, wisdom is described as a practical quality - something more like 'common sense' and 'life-skill' than an encyclopaedic memory or an academic qualification. Wisdom is something we all need, not just our politicians! For example, the Bible associates wisdom with the following moral qualities:

- Self-control in all circumstances
- Careful choice of our words
- Responsible parenting of our children
- Respect for other people; and
- Generosity to the poor.

The root and heart of wisdom, however, is the "fear of the Lord" (Proverbs 1:7). To "fear" the Lord doesn't mean to be terrified of God, but to know, love, trust and obey him. To give him pride of place in our lives.

So whatever our age or qualifications, we can all become truly wise if we seek to know God and learn to live his way. The best way to begin is to let him speak to us in the Bible, his living word to us, as we read it at home, together in church, or at our children's Sunday Club. For a valuable overview of the Bible, please also join us for our new Lent course called "God's Big Picture" starting on Tuesday 12th March. Further details are below, as well as on our facebook page and website.

God bless,
Phil Weston

Children's Sunday Club

Our children's Sunday Club now takes place every week of the month (apart from our first Sunday Family Service), with age-appropriate Bible teaching, activities and games. This term, the children are following a teaching series called "The King of God's Kingdom" – learning about Jesus and what it means to follow him. Children and their parents join us in church at 10.30am, before heading over to the Village Hall with their leaders. They return to church just before the end of our service. All welcome!



Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday (6th March) marks the start of Lent and the run-up to Easter. We will be having a special service (including Holy Communion) in church that day, starting at 8pm. Do please join us.



100 Club

The winning numbers in December's draw were
5 36 51 70 61

Pause for Thought by Alan Downen



Jesus was baptised by John in the Jordan. Just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove and a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.' At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness. *Mark 1:9-12*

Why go into the desert? What was so special about Jesus being on his own?

Several times in the Gospel stories, Jesus leaves everyone else and goes off on his own so that he can pray and spend precious time with his Father. Here he spends 40 days fasting before his public ministry begins, later he spends time in prayer before beginning his ministry of healing, and right at the end of his earthly life he prays in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Let this cup be taken from me." All of Jesus' new ventures and momentous decisions were grounded in prayer — a learning point for each of us perhaps.

But it was when Jesus was at his weakest, having fasted for a considerable period, that his doubts and temptations began to creep in. Whilst he was alone in the desert, he had to face up to the demons of his own adopted humanity.

Three tests bore down on him: "feed yourself, you don't have to go hungry," "turn away from God and do your own thing" and "put God to the test, you know he won't let you get hurt." But in each case Jesus' responses to these inner temptations were grounded in scripture — words of wisdom gleaned from passages in the Bible.

That sounds so obvious and simple but when we are faced with difficult times the temptation is to look for the easy solution and lose our focus on God.

Electoral Roll Renewal
St John the Evangelist
Ashton Hayes

- Belong**
- Participate**
- Contribute**

2019 is a full renewal year for St. John's electoral roll. Members of the electoral roll are entitled to vote and stand for election at our annual church meeting (scheduled this year for Sunday 28th April, following our 10.30am morning service). To remain on our electoral roll, or join it for the first time, you **must** complete a new electoral roll application form. Forms are available at the back of church, or contact Phil Weston (Vicar) or Avril Lewis (Electoral Roll officer) for a copy. Electoral roll applications should be submitted by the beginning of April. To be eligible to join St. John's electoral roll you must be over 16 years of age and resident in our parish.



Prayers in Partnership

Forthcoming dates:

- Wednesday 16th January**
at 23 The Meadows, Ashton Hayes
 - Wednesday 13th February** at Main Street Community Church, Frodsham
 - Wednesday 13th March**
at 23 The Meadows, Ashton Hayes
- All meetings start at 11am with refreshments. All welcome.*

Lent Course 2019
God's Big Picture

Sixty-six books, forty authors, written over nearly two thousand years, in many different genres. A worldwide best-seller published in countless translations and languages. A book that has been sworn by in court, fought over, and quoted in arguments. Clearly, the Bible is no ordinary book.

So how can we begin to read and understand the Bible as a whole? In this excellent course, Vaughan Roberts describes God's Big Picture, showing how the different parts of the Bible fit together under the theme of the kingdom of God. He offers us tools to read it with confidence, enthusiasm and understanding. Using DVD clips, Bible studies and discussion time, this course points us to the Bible's supreme subject, Jesus Christ, and explains how we all fit into God's Big Picture.



God's Big Picture will be run in the Parish Rooms over six consecutive Tuesday evenings in Lent, starting on Tuesday 12th March at 8pm. Please sign-up at the back of church or email vicar@ashtonhayes.church to book your place.

GOD'S BIG PICTURE

Ashton Driving School
Andy Waring Driving Instructor

Mini Cooper Diesel
Dual Controlled Vehicle
Block Booking Discount
Patient & Friendly Instructor

Text or Call Andy: 07970080686
www.facebook.com/ashtondrivingschool



Customer care is our priority

Tel: 01928 740747
For an appointment

Old Ticket Office, Mouldsworth
Station Road, Mouldsworth CH3 8AJ

L&S Plumbing Ltd..
General Plumbing
and Heating Work

GAS SAFE/CORGI
Registered No. 213295
Tel: Ian 01829 759331
Mobile: 07793 752324

St John's Website
www.ashtonhayes.church

Ashton Hayes Building & Landscaping

For all your building and landscaping work. small or large, carried out by fully qualified tradesmen

Patios, driveways, garden walls, fencing, re-pointing, roofing, plastering, extensions and alterations.
Natural Stone Specialist.
Portfolio available

Please contact Matt on:
07749 451526 or 01829 752017