

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

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

In Memory

Peter Saville, brother of Pauline Tilley and Ann Lowry, sadly recently died at the age of just 68: his funeral was held on 24th May followed by burial in the churchyard. We would like to express our love and our sympathy to all of Peter's family and friends.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Harry Thomas Weir and to his parents Emma and Christopher. Harry was baptised on 5th May and we wish him well in his new life journey as a member of God's family.

Services in May

2nd June:

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

9th June:

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am Morning Worship (CW)
& Sunday Club

16th June:

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am Morning Worship (CW)
& Sunday Club

23rd June:

9.00am Matins (BCP)
10.30am Holy Communion (CW)
& Sunday Club

30th June:

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am Morning Worship (CW)
& Film Club

BCP - Book of Common Prayer

CW - Common Worship (Modern Language)

Contacts

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Readers:

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Churchwardens:

Hilary Clegg 01829 458453

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A View from the Vicarage

As I write this article a tearful Theresa May has just announced her resignation as Prime Minister. After three years in the role, she will be making way for a new occupant in Number 10 Downing Street.

Like many Prime Ministers, Theresa May's time at the nation's helm has been eventful and controversial. She has had her supporters and detractors. Her supporters would commend her determination to deliver Brexit and her moral resolve to end Modern Slavery. Her opponents, meanwhile, might say she was too inflexible, aloof and unwilling to compromise.

Though an equally controversial figure, it is striking how Jesus Christ embodied all of the strengths - yet none of the weaknesses - that have been attributed to Mrs May.

For example, Jesus too exhibited remarkable resolve and determination, setting his face to Jerusalem and the inevitable conflict he would face there with the religious and political authorities of his day. And though they may be 'politically incorrect' today, Jesus had no hesitation in affirming God-given moral laws on matters of life and death, right and wrong, good and evil.

Yet Jesus' determination and moral certainty was not accompanied by any arrogance or lack of empathy. He interrupted his final journey to Jerusalem to heal the sick, raise the dead and forgive the sinful. And he arrived in his capital city not on a chariot or in a motorcade, but humbly on the back of a donkey. Above all, Christ's servant-heartedness was shown by his willingness to die on a cross for the sins of the world.

Like all of us, Theresa May had her strengths and weaknesses, her successes and failures. But Christians thank God for Jesus, their sinless 'Servant King', in whom no fault can be found.

God bless,
Phil Weston

Roy Willis

Besides being a local farmer, Roy was churchwarden and a mainstay at St John's for over 20 years. On 2nd May, he finally succumbed to a long standing illness at the age of 82. His funeral, attended by many from around Cheshire and beyond, was held in church on Tuesday, 28th May and he was laid to rest with his late wife, Hazel, in the churchyard. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all his family and friends but especially to his children, Peter, Jane and Helen.



News

- **Thy Kingdom Come** — During the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come, the period between Ascension and Pentecost (30th May - 9th June), we would like to invite you to join us as we try to
 - Deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ
 - Pray for God's spirit to work in the lives of those we know
 - Come to realise that every aspect of our lives is the stuff of prayer

To that end we shall be holding a short service of Morning Prayer in church every morning between the 3rd-7th June at 9.00am and everyone is welcome. Why not call in after you have dropped your children off at school?

- **Rose Queen** — St John's Rose Queen at Picnic in the Park will be held on Saturday 13th July at the Ashton Hayes Sports and Recreation Ground. The crowning will be at 1.00pm and our Rose Queen this year is Emily Meara supported by Rose Bud, Harriet Walker. Look out for the tickets for our Annual Grand Raffle which will be circulated soon.
- **Gift Day** — Please support us on 9th June by making a donation to the work of the church in our community. Please read the attached letter from the churchwardens.



100 Club

The winning numbers in

April's draw were

5 14 24 48

Pause for Thought by Alan Downen



When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. Acts 2:1-2

Jesus had been crucified and placed in a tomb but somehow ... he had risen from the dead — they had seen him, they had spoken to him, and some had even touched him, but now he was gone again, lifted up into the heavens.

Once more they were alone, very alone, and they were afraid. They had all gathered in one room to discuss what they were going to do next but the future felt very bleak. All of the windows and doors were shut, they had made sure of that for their own protection, but suddenly ... the whole room was filled with a violent wind — how? why? where had it come from? And then ... what seemed to be tongues of flame started darting around the room, before separating and settling on each one of them. They had been afraid before but now, they were absolutely terrified and then, these simple, hardly educated men from Galilee, started to speak in foreign languages using words they had never heard before never mind spoken! What was going on?

Then, someone remembered what Jesus had said, "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another helper, who will stay with you for ever. He is the Spirit who reveals the truth about God."

God entered their very souls then, and he remains with us now. When he makes a promise, he keeps it, right through until the end of time itself and, because of what happened on that day, we know that we can trust him to remain with us always.

Ashton Grange Garden



The garden will be open to visitors on

**Sunday
30th June
2.00 – 5.00 pm**

**Entry: £6
to NGS charities
(children free)**

Teas will be served in aid of St John's Church

The gardens at Ashton Grange include extensive lawns, borders, island beds, shrubberies, a large pond, an orchard and a kitchen garden all of which are set against mature woodlands. There is also a small paddock and a new wildflower meadow. The whole property extends to approximately 9 acres. Since 2015, the owners have been undertaking a restoration project which is still ongoing.

**OPEN
MEETING**

in church
on Tuesday, June 4th
at 7.30pm

We are holding a meeting to update members of the community on the progress made and future plans for our church project. It is 6 years since the project started and naturally people who have supported us want to know when we will be able to start work on the changes. Come along and find out.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Wine, soft drinks and nibbles will be provided for your enjoyment.

**Midsummer Music at
St John's**

Live music by the St John Singers and friends to suit all tastes.

**Friday, 19th July
at 7.30 pm**

Tickets (including a glass of wine or soft drink) : £8

Tickets are available from the Community Shop or ring 751174



Teso Development Trust
partnership in relief, development and mission

At the 10.30 Morning Service on June 23rd, the Reverend Robert de Berry will be visiting to speak about development in the Teso District of Uganda. Earlier this year, he visited Teso to run a course to train 67 students to lead churches in this rural area. He represents a small organisation which sends money to support requests from villages, schools and church hospitals and to provide relief for communities when there is drought or flooding, problems which are linked with Climate change.

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