

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

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

Services in June

Following Government advice, all public acts of worship in the Church of England have been suspended until further notice. We will therefore not be holding our normal services on Sundays. However, we are continuing to stream a short service each Sunday at 10.30am on our Facebook page at:

www.facebook.com/stjohnashton/

If in the meantime you need pastoral support for any reason, please do not hesitate to contact us on one of the telephone numbers listed below and we will do our very best to assist.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

(Phil 4:6-7)

Contacts

Vicar:

Phil Weston 01829 752272

Readers:

Alan Downen 01829 751174

Philip Goodall 01829 752130

Pastoral Worker:

Margaret Papworth 01829 759086

Churchwardens:

Hilary Clegg 01829 458453

Alan Goodall 01829 752130

St John's 100 Club Draw

Just a reminder that our 100 club has been suspended until the Sunday Morning Worship services can be resumed. Apologies to those who look forward to the monthly draw but they will start again as soon as the restrictions are lifted.

A DIOCESE IN
PRAYER

8pm, every Sunday.



A View from the Vicarage

One of the greatest consequences of the coronavirus lockdown will be its economic impact. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has already warned the nation that we face an unprecedented recession, redundancies are on the rise and in April alone the government borrowed a staggering £62 billion. Unemployment, debt and austerity seem to be just over the horizon, if not already here.

But these things are nothing new. Even in biblical times, people were well acquainted with economic hardship. Debt, taxes and low income were as much a part of their life as ours. Thankfully, God had provided guidance for his people that would sustain them through tough times. God's word in the Bible sets out principles to instruct and sustain us in the midst of recession and scarcity.

For example, Scripture says that the needs of the most vulnerable should always be at the forefront of our minds. As the book of Proverbs says: "Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honours God". Our church has been a regular supporter of West Cheshire foodbank, and I hope our generosity will grow as we enter this recession.

Secondly, the Bible reminds us of God's own great generosity – he gives us so much for free, whatever the economic climate. Our lives, our world, our family and friends are all free gifts of God. They are given to us without a price tag, without any qualification. As Jesus put it; "Our Father in Heaven causes the sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous" (Matt 5:45).

Above all, Christians believe that forgiveness and life forever are free gifts of God. Gifts given to anyone who puts their faith in Christ – regardless of our bank balance!

God bless,
Phil Weston

News

- **Food Bank** — Food banks in general are struggling to keep up with demand but Margaret Garman is still taking food up to the Food Bank collection centre. If you would like to donate items there is a box in the village shop you may prefer to take items directly to Margaret — please text or phone her (07792 678144) to say you are leaving them outside her front door.
- **The Building Project** — Construction work in the church has restarted although there may still be a few delays whilst sourcing materials and contacting any of our subcontractors who are still furloughed. We are also very pleased to announce that we have received £20,000 from the trustees of The Garfield Weston Foundation towards the project.
- **Philippians Sermon Series** — During June our online services will be following a sermon series in Philippians, a New Testament letter that challenges our expectations. Paul, the author, was writing during a period of imprisonment. We might expect him to be despondent, and the tone of the letter to be defeatist. Instead, we find him very much delighting in Jesus! Philippians is the ideal letter to study during lockdown — a letter to give us joy in the Lord even when many of us are confined to our homes. *These talks will be broadcast on our Facebook page each Sunday at 10.30am and also available on the sermons page of our website.*
- **In Memory** — The burial of Lillian Barrow (who died peacefully on 20th May, aged 108) took place on 29th May. She now lies at rest alongside her late husband Robert in St John's churchyard. Formerly a resident of Mouldsworth, but most recently in a care home in Greater Manchester, Lillian lived a rich and full life, spending time living in such places as Barbados, Trinidad and Borneo - as well as Greater Manchester, Mouldsworth and Delamere! She is survived by her daughter Peggy and her grandchildren Jill, James, Ann, Debbie and Sarah to whom we offer our sincere condolences.





Brian Perkes

‘Life is not hurrying on to a receding future, nor hankering after an imagined past. It is the turning aside like Moses to the miracle of the lit bush, to a brightness that seemed as transitory as your youth once, but is the eternity that awaits you.’

From ‘The Bright Field’ by R S Thomas.

Brian began his career as a mathematician working for ICI but he later trained for ordination and, having served his curacy at St Helen’s, Northwich, he became vicar of Ashton Hayes where he stayed for the next 13 years. Initially his role was combined with that of Bishop’s Chaplain but it soon changed and he became the full time priest for the parishes of Ashton Hayes and St Philip’s, Delamere.

Brian had a great sense of humour and a funny story for every occasion; he was good company and always encouraged social gatherings in and around the vicarage. He loved music, particularly Elgar, and he had a deep affection for poetry with R S Thomas being among his favourites. He was a family man who also loved his pet cats and he never batted an eyelid even when Maisie jumped onto the front of the pulpit and swished her tail under his nose whilst he was trying his best to deliver a sermon.

Upon his retirement he and his wife Annette moved to a new home in Anderton but shortly afterwards he began to develop the symptoms of Alzheimer’s, a condition which seemed to progress relatively rapidly and recently, he contracted Coronavirus. After 12 days in hospital he sadly died and his funeral will be held on 3rd June at the Vale Royal Crematorium. Our thoughts and prayers are with Annette, Christopher, Becky and their families and we also pray that Brian will rest in peace and rise in glory. God bless.

A New Bishop for Chester



The Rt Revd Mark Tanner has been named by Downing Street as the next Bishop of Chester, succeeding the

Rt Revd Dr Peter Forster who retired in September 2019. Bishop Mark is currently the Bishop of Berwick in the Diocese of Newcastle, a position he has occupied since 2016. We hope that Mark and his wife, Lindsay, will be joining us in Chester Diocese in the Autumn and they are both excited to be returning to Chester where he was ordained, and both of their children were born.

For more information go to:
www.chester.anglican.org



ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST
ASHTON HAYES

Bridging the Gap

We’re here to help residents of Ashton Hayes and Mouldsworth during the coronavirus outbreak.

Do you need someone to talk to, or someone to pray for you?

Please call one of the following numbers during daytime hours and we’ll put you in touch with someone who can offer support.

01829 759086

or

01928 740014

You can also contact us via email:
contact@ashtonhayes.church

You do not have to be alone.

Sale of Kneelers



One of our millennium projects (*has it really been 20 years?*) was to replace all of the old vinyl kneelers in the church with new ones created from hand stitched tapestry. Initially, the range of designs was limited but as time went on they became more varied. Kneelers were made and donated by organisations, by companies and in memory loved of ones. Sadly, the removal of the pews means that we no longer have space to store or display our kneeler collection. Some have been chosen to remain in the church, the remainder have been offered back to the families or individuals who made them but there will be a number of them which will be available for sale to members of the community. These cannot be collected during this period of social isolation but if you would like to register your interest please contact Barbara Craven (01829 751388).

A Prayer

O God,
help me to trust you,
help me to know that you are with me,
help me to believe that nothing can
separate me from your love
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Future Editions of News from the Pews

The Coronavirus precautions mean that we are unable to make our normal door to door *NftP* deliveries but it can be delivered electronically so please share the news and contact us at nftp@ashtonhayes.church to be added to our mailing list.

Ashton Driving School
Andy Waring Driving Instructor
Ford Fiesta Diesel
Dual Controlled Vehicle
Block Booking Discount
Patient & Friendly Instructor
Text or Call Andy: 07970080686
www.facebook.com/ashtondrivingschool

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