

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

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

Church Services in November

While Coronavirus measures are still in place, we must continue to observe social distancing within the building. This means that the size of the congregation at each service will be limited to approximately 30 people.

Chairs will be set out to enable social distancing although family groups will obviously be allowed to sit together. We further request that all attendees sanitise their hands on entry using the gel provided and wear face coverings whilst in the building. In addition a register will be kept of those who attend for the purposes of "Track and Trace" should the need arise. Please help us to keep you safe.

Our 10.30am services will continue to be streamed live on Facebook.

1st November:

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am All-Age Service (CW)

8th November:

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.50am Act of Remembrance

15th November:

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am Morning Worship (CW)

22nd November:

9.00am Matins (BCP)

10.30am Holy Communion (CW)

29th November:

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am Morning Worship (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

Pastoral Worker:

Margaret Papworth 01829 759086

Churchwardens:

Hilary Clegg 01829 458453

Alan Goodall 01829 752130

Thank you!

Chris Dytor and Alan Goodall would like to thank everyone who sent cards and best wishes following the announcement of their engagement in September. They were overwhelmed by your kindness.

A View from the Vicarage

2020 hasn't been a good year for freedom, has it? During the course of this year our personal liberties have been curtailed in various ways to try and contain the coronavirus. A year ago who would have envisaged things like compulsory face masks, travel restrictions and confinement to our homes for weeks on end?

Whatever our opinion of these measures, whether we consider them a proportionate response to the pandemic or not, these limitations on our liberty should certainly prompt pause for thought. Freedom is a precious commodity, something never to be taken for granted, something we'll all have a new appreciation for when life returns to normal.

This month we remember those brave men and women who defended our nation's liberty in two world wars. Soldiers, sailors and aircrew who, at huge personal cost, fought to protect and preserve our country's freedom. As we wear our poppies, lay wreaths and stand in silence, we will give thanks to God for the great sacrifices those servicemen and women made on our behalf.

The Bible speaks of another sacrifice made for the sake of freedom. By his death and resurrection, "Christ has set us free" it says (Gal 5:1). Jesus offers us freedom from guilt, liberation from any idea that we need to earn God's love, and release from the fear of death. Be in no doubt that the freedom Jesus offers is the most precious of all - a liberty that can never be locked down, a freedom we can all receive through faith in him.

God bless,
Phil Weston

News

- **Harvest Thanksgiving** — A huge thank you to everyone who donated so generously to the harvest collection for the West Cheshire Foodbank. 145 kilos of food were given - an amazing effort! It is important to point out that users of the Foodbank have all been referred by care professionals such as health visitors, schools or social workers so are recognised as being in extreme need. Use of the Foodbank has increased by about 60% since the start of the Covid crisis and it is expected to go up again as the furlough scheme comes to an end or is reduced, so please continue with your donations of non-perishable foods or basic toiletries. There are collection points in church, behind the counter in the shop and in the porch of Brook House, Gongar Lane
- **Gift Day** — Following the appeal which went out with last month's *News from the Pews* our Annual Gift Day raised a magnificent £7000. This money will go towards the expense of running our church in the coming year. However, if you are willing to continue to help us further in these strange times we have a Donations Page set up with "Give a Little" which can be accessed from our website, our Facebook page or directly by using the link <https://bit.ly/Donate2StJohns> Thank you!
- **Bible Study** — Our next study will start on 2nd November at 8pm via Zoom. If you would like more information, or to register your interest, please drop an e-mail to alan@ashtonhayes.church.

This study will last for 7 consecutive weeks in the run up to Christmas. During the first six weeks we shall be considering the question, "Who is Jesus?" through the eye of St Mark with topics such as 'Portraits of Jesus', 'The Kingdom Parables', 'Fear and Faith', 'Violating Tradition' and 'Who do you say I am?'

In our final (seventh) week we shall have a look at the Christmas message itself.



Pause for Thought by Philip Goodall



PERSEVERE WITH PRAYER

The 19th century Scottish essayist and historian Thomas Carlyle is quoted as having said: 'Permanence, perseverance and persistence, in spite of all obstacles, discouragements and impossibilities is what, in all things, distinguishes the strong soul from the weak'.

Jesus begins a parable in St Luke's Gospel by telling his disciples, and us, to always pray and never give up. It can be so easy to lose heart in our praying. Perhaps we fear that God is powerless to answer or, worse still, he simply doesn't care. Unanswered prayer comes hard. But we CAN TRUST that God always hears us, that he does care and that he is powerful enough to answer ... though not always when or in the way we might want or expect.

As an experienced cricket umpire I encourage bowlers to be persistent in their appeals telling them, 'If you don't ask, you don't get!' Yes, I expect them to appeal in the right way but I WILL answer both loud and quiet appeals, even though too much silly appealing can harden my decision against them!

Of course, we should also persevere in asking God for our daily bread. He knows that we need it, but we need to remind ourselves that we cannot expect even basic nourishment except by the mercy and grace of God. That said, I suggest you also ask for the occasional 'slice of cake'! You may not always get it but, for sure, God doesn't mind you asking. The main thing is to build up that relationship of trusting dependence on God which follows on naturally from persistent prayer. May you always pray confidently.

Nativity Trail

Having been inspired by the resounding success of the community 'Scarecrow Trail' in the Summer, St John's Church is planning a 'Nativity Trail' around the



village this Christmas, We are inviting residents to be creative and display biblical Nativity figures or scenes outside their homes over the school Christmas holidays (which begin on Friday 18th Dec).

This is a great project for families and friends to be involved in. It doesn't need to be a professional scene - just be creative and have fun! We hope that lots of residents will take part and we have extended the invitation to the school. Further information will be publicised on St John's facebook page and website and Ashton Hayes Primary School facebook page.

Please help us to celebrate the birth of Jesus in these strange and unusual times

If you are interested I would love to hear from you so that I can include you on the trail guide. Call or text me on 07803242783 or contact me by email: margaretpapworth@icloud.com.

In Memory

The funeral of Patricia Williams was held on the 22nd October. She is survived by her 3 adult children: David, Mark and Helen. Also, following a short service at the graveside, the burial of Maxwell Harrison took place on 23rd October.

We would like to express our sincere sympathies to both families.



100 Club

The winning numbers in September's draw were
63 14 17 74

Remembrance 2020

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions which are still in force, this years Act of Remembrance will be rather different to previous years.

This short service will take place on the church carpark and will start at the later time of 10.50am. If you attend please take care to remain socially distanced from all other attendees apart from those in your own family or bubble. Sadly we have to reserve the right to refuse entry to the car park if its capacity is reached.

Obviously, the carpark will not be available for cars so please park at the Village Hall or in the lay-bys along the road

Please come suitably dressed for the weather with an umbrella if required.

We will remember them



Janis Donnachie

Janis Anderson's School of Dance has been part of the village of Ashton Hayes for longer than most people (like myself [Ed]) care to remember. So it is with great sadness that we report that Janis succumbed to her illness and passed away on 18th October.



Her funeral was held in church on 29th October after which she was laid to rest in our church yard. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband, Tom, her children, Jamie and Jennifer, their families and by the many who are affected by Janis' passing.

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 Please contact Matt on:

07749 451526 or 01829 752017

