

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

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

A View from the Vicarage

Church Services in June

5th June:

1.00pm Outdoor Jubilee Service
on the Recreation Field

12th June:

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

19th June:

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

26th June:

9.00am Matins (BCP)
10.30am Morning Worship (CW)

BCP - Book of Common Prayer

CW - Common Worship (Modern Language)

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This month the UK and Commonwealth formally celebrates the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. By the time you read this edition of News from the Pews, we will have held an exciting weekend of jubilee-themed events in Ashton Hayes and right across the nation.

The word "jubilee" literally means "ram's horn" in the Hebrew language, and it first appears in the Old Testament book of Leviticus. Every fiftieth year was to be a time of celebration and rejoicing for the people of Israel, and a ram's horn was blown to officially start each jubilee.

The jubilee involved a year of release from financial debt and from all types of slavery. Debts were forgiven, captives were set free, and all property was returned to its original owners. It was a radical redistribution of wealth and opportunity, in favour of the most needy in society. In addition, all work was to cease for the whole year - the jubilee ensured that both the land and its people were able to get some serious rest and relaxation!

As well as being the inspiration for our year-long celebration of the Queen's reign, the Old Testament jubilee is also a beautiful illustration of the good news of Christianity. Because in the New Testament we are introduced to Jesus as the jubilee personified! He is the heaven-sent redeemer who came to set free those who are slaves to sin and prisoners of guilt. The moral debt we all owe to God was paid by Jesus on our behalf when he died on the cross, and by faith in him we can all experience moral 'debt forgiveness' and everlasting spiritual 'rest'. Anyone can experience a personal jubilee when they place their hope and trust in him - have you?

God bless,
Phil Weston

Notices

Sunday Services — 5th June — We shall be celebrating the Queen's Jubilee along with the rest of our community. Our Sunday service will be held on the Queen Elizabeth II Field at 1.00pm and **there will be no other services in church on that day.** Do please come and join us for our service of thanksgiving for 70 years of dedicated service by our Queen.

Bible Study at St John's — Following a short break for the Jubilee, our study of the Book of Acts, will resume on Monday 13th June. We get together via Zoom so you don't even have to leave your home to take part. Each session begins with a short film and usually continues with a lively discussion which leads us to consider what these ancient texts mean in a modern context. For more information contact alan@ashtonhayes.church.



Due to inflation, combined with the dramatic increases in the price of food and energy, more and more people are being forced into poverty and are being faced with the stark choice of "Eat" or "Heat". Foodbanks around the country are facing increasing demands but at the same time donations have been reducing. If you are able to help, please make a donation of tinned or packaged food with long shelf lives. There are drop off points in the Church and at the Community Shop. Thank you.

FUNDRAISING CAR WASH!

Saturday 2nd and 16th July, 9am 'til noon



Pause for Thought



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*

On the Day of Pentecost, the Christian Church celebrates the gift of God's Holy Spirit given to God's holy people. Pentecost is also the Greek name for the Jewish Feast of Weeks, celebrated 50 days after Passover.

In the Acts of the Apostles, Luke describes the promised outpouring of the Spirit and the beginning of the Church's mission as occurring in Jerusalem during this feast. The accounts in both Acts (Acts 2:1-4) and the Gospel of John (John 20:22) depict the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples whilst they were assembled together.

Two key words referring to the coming of the Holy Spirit are promise and power. The promise of Jesus to send the Helper to the disciples was fulfilled, and the power of the Helper was bestowed, in the upper room at Pentecost. Fire and wind are signs of the Spirit's power. Fire and wind signify God's power throughout the Old Testament. God goes before the people as a pillar of fire in the exodus; God sends a wind to part the Red Sea before them.

The preaching of Peter on Pentecost responds to the question raised by his helpers, "What shall we do?" The apostle replies, "Each one of you must turn away from his sins and be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins will be forgiven; and you will receive God's gift, the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38) This is still the Christian message – repentance, baptism, so that you may receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Music for a Summer's Evening



After a 2 year absence our annual Summer Concert is returning!

**Friday 22nd July
7.30pm**

An evening of varied music and entertainment with the **St John Singers and Friends** accompanied by **David Bird**

Tickets £8 (under 16s: £4)
Available from choir members or on the door.

Proceeds will be donated towards the repair of the church organ.

Kintsugi Hope



Following the Taster session in April, the Kintsugi Hope Wellbeing group sessions will resume on **Monday 13th June at 4:15pm**. We meet in the Café area of the Church if you would like to learn more about looking after your own mental and emotional health and how to support others come and join this safe and friendly group and discover the treasures in our scars. To find out more visit:

www.kintsugihope.com

Please contact Margaret Papworth if you would like to join the group.

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Being a Christian

I unashamedly follow a Jesus who constantly crossed borders to be where people actually stood. And he never seduced anyone to go with him. Rather, he told them that if they walked with him, edgily, things might get rough and they might lose everything. But, he also made clear that "loving my neighbour as myself" means living on the edge of my comfort in order to love those whose own edge is too sharp.

Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds.



100 Club

The winning numbers in April's draw were
24 27 8 38

Ashton Grange

The garden will be open for visitors as part of the
The National Garden Scheme

on **Sunday 3rd July**

from 12 – 4:30 pm

Entry £6; children free

Teas and plant stall

Covid Guidance

Mask wearing is no longer mandatory however, members of our congregation are still welcome to wear them for their own comfort and the safety of others.

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St John's Website

www.ashtonhayes.church

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