

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

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

Church Services in November

6th November:

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

13th November:

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

20th November:

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

27th November:

9.00am Matins (BCP)
10.30am Holy Communion (CW)
4.00pm Light up a Life

BCP - Book of Common Prayer

CW - Common Worship (Modern Language)

Contacts

Vicar:

Phil Weston 01829 752272
vicar@ashtonhayes.church

Readers:

Alan Downen 01829 751174
alan@ashtonhayes.church
Philip Goodall 01829 752130
philip@ashtonhayes.church

Pastoral Worker:

Margaret Papworth 01829 759086
margaret@ashtonhayes.church

Churchwardens:

Hilary Clegg 01829 458453
Alan Goodall 01829 752658

Church Bookings:

Linda Morley 01829 759029
bookings@ashtonhayes.church

Safeguarding Issues:

Phil Weston 01829 752272
Margaret Papworth 01829 759086
safeguarding@ashtonhayes.church

A View from the Vicarage

"Remember, remember, the fifth of November - gunpowder, treason and plot!" As a child growing up in a small Surrey village, Guy Fawkes Night always included a big bonfire, tasty toffee apples and bright sparklers. But the firework display was always the highlight of the night. 'Oohs' and 'Aahs' would be heard around the village green as a variety of rockets, mortars and Catherine wheels lit up the Autumn sky. They would produce a spectacular display of colour on a dark night and prompt feelings of awe and wonder amongst all of us watching below.

Last month I had the pleasure of taking a children's assembly at our village primary school on the subject of 'awe and wonder.' But even as adults, we should try to hold onto our sense of wonder at the world. Whether it is the immensity of the night sky, the face of a newborn baby or the golden colours of the Autumn landscape, we should continue to be moved by things of great beauty, scale or intricacy. We should not suppress our instinctive sense of awe when confronted by natural wonders that are beyond our own power to create, control or replicate.

For the Christian believer, all the great works of God are a source of awe and amazement, whether it is the creation of the cosmos, the gift of life or the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave. Indeed, one of the sure signs of Jesus' divine identity was his capacity to perform miracles that caused amazement amongst those who witnessed them. The New Testament biographies of Jesus (the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) record for us nearly forty separate miracles that he performed, including calming a storm, healing the sick, walking on water and feeding the five thousand.

Like a firework on Bonfire Night, each of Jesus' great miracles aroused feelings of awe and wonder among the watching crowds. These feelings led to faith for many, as they came to recognise Jesus as the true 'Light of the World' and to trust in him their Saviour, Lord and King. May he provoke the same feelings - and faith - in each of us today.

God bless,
Phil Weston

Congratulations ...

... to Matilda Abell of Peel Crescent, who was christened at St. John's on Sunday 9th October. It was a pleasure to welcome you into God's family and we extend our best wishes to all of your family.

Notices

Gift Day — Our annual appeal raised a magnificent £5200 and this will greatly help us to cover our running costs in the coming year. However, if you didn't have chance to make a donation on the day but would still like to, please contact our treasurer, Keith Morley by emailing treasurer@ashtonhayes.church

The Big Quiz — Our 'Tearfund Quiz Night' was enjoyed by all and raised £350 towards their humanitarian relief and development work around the world.

Lego Club — Just a reminder that our weekly Lego Club begins on 2nd November at 3.15pm and it will be running for 6 weeks before Christmas

Christmas is coming! — By the time this edition of *NftP* is ready for circulation it is hoped that we shall have the names and ages of the children who are currently being cared for, along with their families, by our local charity 'Save the Family'. Keep an eye open for *Giving Trees* and details of how you can help in the church and in our Community Shop. All of the toys donated will be taken along to Cotton Hall after our Toy Service which will take place on 4th December at 10.30am.



St John's 0-90's Café



Our new all age café will be open to greet you on Thursday 3rd and Thursday 17th November, from 2.30 'til 4pm. It's proving to be very popular so whether you are aged from "nought to nineties", all are welcome to join us for drinks, chat, play and cake!

Pause for Thought by Alan Downen



While Jesus was living in the Galilean hills, John, called "the Baptist," was preaching in the desert country of Judea. His message was simple and austere, like his desert surroundings: "Change your life. God's kingdom is here." Matthew 3:1-2

It would appear that the wheels have come off and our government and they are in a bit of a mess. There have been factions and infighting in various political parties and decisions seem to be being taken which benefit the rich at the expense of the poor and many members of the public, who would once have described themselves as living comfortably, are now finding themselves on the breadline. The reasons for this are varied and complex — a pandemic, the war in the Ukraine ... incompetence (is that unfair?) But, underlying all of these issues is one of priority. Politicians seem to be placing their own wants, needs and their political futures over those of their respective parties or, indeed, the people whom they were elected to serve.

John the Baptist, was a prophet: it was his job to tell the people the truth, not only to highlight their present predicament and misdemeanours but also to warn them of the consequences of their actions. No matter how unpalatable his words may have been, his message was clear, "God's judgement is coming so stop pleasing yourselves and put God at the top of your priority list."

Today, it's easy to point an accusing finger at a remote government but, closer to home, what about us? Do we care enough about our family members and friends? Do we care about our planet ... or about injustice? So, as Advent approaches, is this a good time to reassess our own priorities and perhaps move serving God and loving our neighbours further up our own lists?

Remembrance Sunday

Sunday, 13th November

at 10.45am

During our Sunday morning service we shall be remembering all who have suffered due to war and praying for peace in our world. This will be followed by a short ceremony at the War Memorial when wreaths will be laid in memory of those with connections to this parish who have lost their lives in conflict.



Toy Service

Sunday, 4th December

at 10.30am

We shall be supporting the children who, along with their families, are currently being cared for by **Save the Family** this Christmas.

Please buy a gift for a child, **Giving Trees** are in the Church and the Community Shop, and bring it along to our annual Toy Service.



There is more information on page 1 of this newsletter.

At the Heart of Christmas



100 Club

The winning numbers in September's draw were
42 8 12 6



Sunday, 27th November

at 4.00pm

Remember ... Honour ... Celebrate

You are invited to join us at our special service at which we shall commemorate loved ones who have died and light candles in their memory.

*Beautiful Memories
silently kept
of those that we loved
and will never forget.*



A traditional country pub offering home cooked food, CAMRA accredited real ales, quality wines, a warm welcome and fantastic service.

We can cater for all kinds of special occasions, be it birthdays, christenings, celebrations of life or weddings, with flexibility to accommodate parties of all sizes, be it cosy and intimate dinners in a private room, or larger parties with buffets, privates spaces on our terrace or the entire venue if required.

Celebrate with us and get in touch today to see how we can make your day, event or occasion extra special.

Station Road, Mouldsworth, CH3 8AJ
01928 740900

www.thegoshawkpub.co.uk
goshawk@jwlees.co.uk

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