

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

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

Church Services in July

2nd July:

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

9th July:

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

16th July:

- 9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 10.30am Morning Worship (CW)

23th July:

- 9.00am Matins (BCP)
- 10.30am Holy Communion (CW)

30th July:

- 9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 10.30am Morning Worship (CW)

BCP - Book of Common Prayer
 CW - Common Worship (Modern Language)

Contacts

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St John's 0-90's Café

Our all-age café will be open to welcome you on Monday 10th July from 2.30-4.30pm. All are welcome to join us for a free drink, a slice of cake, a hearty chat and time to play!

A View from the Vicarage

Anyone walking past St. John's during the past month will have noticed that our church's front door has been repaired and restored. Until recently it looked old and worn, with warped panels and peeling paint – a rather uninspiring entrance. But thanks to the painstaking work of John and Diane Eldridge, it now looks so much more attractive, warm and welcoming!

If you have not passed through our doors recently, we would love to invite you into St. John's on Sundays. Our front door restoration is just the latest stage of a programme of renovations that have combined to make our church building so much more accessible and comfortable for Christian worship and fellowship. A place where we can come to know and love the Lord Jesus, as well as each other. The only thing missing is...you!

In fact, the Bible describes Jesus as knocking on the door of every human heart: "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me" (Rev 3:20). This means that the Lord wants to enter into a relationship with each one of us. A relationship in which we will enjoy his friendship forever. A friendship in which he will repair, restore and renew our hearts, much like our own church door. A friendship that begins the moment we put our faith in Christ - so why not open the door to him?



God bless,
 Phil Weston

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Notices

Ashton Hayes Primary School Summer Fair

— Join us at school from 12pm on Saturday 8th July. It promises to be a great afternoon of entertainment, performances, food and drink. All money raised will be going straight to the school.

Bible Study — Our study groups will be taking a break over the summer period but they will be back in September. Please keep an eye open for further information.

Summertime — The school holidays are fast approaching and many will be going away but don't forget those who are staying at home, particularly if we have another spell of very high temperatures. Look out for your neighbours and friends who may be finding those high temperatures difficult or threatening.

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Pause for Thought by Alan Downen

"I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home." *Matthew 25:35*

As I write we are in the midst of Refugee Week - a week set aside to celebrate compassion in action. Following the pandemic, the world has been responding to a number of new crises - earthquakes, floods, wars and famine - with various degrees of success. The following poem was written by Brian Bilston, I have edited it but please take the time read it right to the bottom.

**The world can be looked at another way
Do not be so stupid to think that
A place should only belong to those born there
These are people just like us
It is not okay to say
Build a wall to keep them out
Instead let us
Share our countries
Share our homes
Share our food
They cannot
Go back to where they came from
We should make them
Welcome here
They are not
Cut-throats and thieves
With bombs up their sleeves
Layabouts and loungers
Chancers and scroungers
We need to see them for who they really are
If life had dealt a different hand
These haggard faces could belong to you or me
So do not tell me
They have no need of our help**

Before you decide to agree or disagree with the text, read it again, but this time, from the bottom to the top, and then ask, "Would Christ have been a top-down or a bottom-up person?" In the UK, it would appear that dangerous anti-migration government rhetoric continues, along with inhumane conditions for asylum seekers. Refugee Week's vision is for refugees and asylum seekers to be able to live safely within inclusive and resilient communities, where they can make a valuable contributions. So, can we bring ourselves to be more Christ-like and reach out with real compassion, not condemnation?

Music for a Summer's Evening



**21st July 2023 at 7.30 pm
in St John's Church**

Tickets £10

Available from choir members, the Community Shop or call 01829 751174.

Our annual Summer Concert is a perennial favourite with music lovers in our community. The choir (St John Singers), accompanied by David Bird, will be joined by friends to provide a mixture of music to suit all tastes. Join us for a fun packed evening. Light refreshments are included in the ticket price.

All profits will be donated to church funds.

Food for Thought



HELPING PEOPLE IN CRISIS

Almost 3 Million emergency food parcels were distributed by foodbanks in 2022 — up by 37% on the previous year! Food price inflation is still running in double figures, forcing more people into food poverty.

If you are able and willing to help them by making donations, there are drop-off points in the church and in the Community Shop.

Contact Us

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e-mail: contact@ashtonhayes.church



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