

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

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

Church Services in June

4th June: Trinity Sunday

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

11th June:

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

18th June:

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

25th June:

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

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

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A View from the Vicarage

Charles, William and George. At the conclusion of last month's Coronation celebrations, an official photograph was published showing the newly crowned King and his two heirs. Three men from different generations representing the line of succession to the British throne. A father, son and grandson holding the hereditary right and responsibility of maintaining our nation's constitutional monarchy. No doubt future historians will judge whether their role was a position of privilege or a 'poison chalice'!



The biblical book of Genesis introduces us with three more men who had enormous privilege and responsibility placed upon their shoulders. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were the first three 'patriarchs' of the nation of Israel. Each were fallible, imperfect people, just like each of us. But they were a father, son and grandson whose family had been chosen by God to (quite literally) give birth to a new nation. A new nation whose worship, laws and values would show the world what God is like. A new nation called to be 'a light to the nations', showing how human life is meant to be lived. A nation of Israel from whom Jesus, the Saviour of the world, would ultimately be born.

During June and July we'll be following the lives of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in our Sunday sermons at St. John's. We'll be seeing how God kept his promises to these three patriarchs of Israel. We'll be discovering that God can work through imperfect men and women to accomplish his good purposes. And we'll be reminded that through faith in Jesus any one of us can become a 'descendant of Abraham' and join God's royal family forever. So do join us!

God bless,
Phil Weston

In Memory

Sadly, St. John's hosted six funerals during May, including those of the late Vicky Bowker of Brookside, Naomi Deynem of Church Road, David Sandlin of Guilden Sutton, Tony Lavis-Jones of Peel Crescent, John Walker of Duck Lane, and Jonathan Cornes of Peel Crescent: the ashes of Shirley Brookes and Pippa Miln were also buried during May. Our sympathies go to all their family members and friends.

Notices

100 Club — Sadly, March was the last draw for the St John's 100 Club. The reduced number of members has resulted in the club no longer being viable and after more than twelve years of monthly draws it is time for a change. Membership contributions have been used to pay half of the subscription out to winners and the other half to support the ongoing life of the church and we have greatly appreciated the injection of funds in what are still trying times. Thank you to all members, past and present. for your loyalty we do hope that you will continue to support other church fundraising events in the future.

Bible study — For the first time we are offering, not only a choice of venue, but also a choice of topic for our studies during June and July. The Wednesday group, who meet in the vicarage, will be looking at the Book of Psalms beginning at 8pm on 7th June. The Monday group, who meet via Zoom will be beginning an exploration of St Luke's Gospel - their first meeting will be at 8pm on 19th June. These studies help us deepen our understanding of God and his involvement in our lives and you are all invited to take part. For more information, contact Phil Weston or Alan Downen.

St John's 0-90's Café



On Monday 19th June we shall be having a special edition of our all age Cafe at St. John's, since **we will be joined by the children's choir from Ashton Hayes**

Primary School. The Café will be open from 2.30-4.30pm serving free refreshments, with the choir performing from around 3.30pm. All are welcome!

Pause for Thought by Yvonne Dowen



Why Sing in Church?

**I will sing to the LORD all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.'**
Psalm 104:33

Why do we sing Hymns in church? Well firstly, it's enjoyable. Even the most non-musical person can usually recall hymns from their school days, a family wedding, a funeral or even a football match. The footballer's favourite, 'Abide with me,' or 'Bread of Heaven', sung by the Welsh rugby supporters are good examples. But why do we sing hymns at all?

Originally, church services were in Latin with priests or monks chanting parts of psalms or scripture, the public were not allowed to join in. However, in the 16th century, Martin Luther encouraged singing together in congregations. The word hymn derives from the Greek word Hymnos, which means 'A Song of Praise' (Could this be a good title for a TV programme?)

Former Archbishop Rowan Williams says Christian song exists to give a map to the landscape of faith. Why? Well we soon forget what we hear or say, but remember what we have sung. It lodges deep within our consciousness, using both parts of our brain. It can educate, and it connects us emotionally. A well chosen hymn can give a service 'wings', setting the tone, making us happy, pensive, or prayerful. It can take worship to another level and is one of the most effective ways of teaching Christian doctrine.

Singing is good for you — it improves the health of your lungs, it boosts the immune system, and can even reduce the risk of heart attack — so keep singing!

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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