

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

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

Church Services in November

5th November:

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

12th November:

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.45am Service of Remembrance (CW)

19th November:

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

26th November:

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

BCP - Book of Common Prayer

CW - Common Worship (Modern Language)

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Contact Us

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In Memory

As a church and community we said farewell to Jean Hamilton (of Church Road) at her funeral service on 17th October. Jean was a faithful member of St. John's congregation and choir for over four decades and will be hugely missed by us all. Our condolences to her children Ann, Richard and Katie.

View from the Vicarage

How good is your memory? How much information can you hold in your mind at any one time? Many of us know our mental limits, and rely on diaries, Post-It notes, To Do lists and alerts on our electronic devices to remind us what we're supposed to be doing - and when!

Many of the things we need to remember are relatively trivial, like putting out the bins or paying a bill. But at 11am on 11th November each year the whole nation stops to remember a far more important fact, namely the sacrifice of those brave men and women in our Armed Forces who laid down their lives in two World Wars - and in other conflicts both before and since. Whether we observe a minute's silence, wear a poppy or lay a wreath, we have symbolic actions designed to jog our memory and help us recall those who gave their lives to preserve our nation's liberty.

Christians, of course, also have the Lord's Supper (aka Holy Communion) as an 'aide memoire' for the most significant event in human history. Jesus told his followers to share bread and wine as a way of recalling his crucifixion for the sins of the world. Holy Communion is a tangible, multi-sensory reminder of Jesus' body and blood laid down for our forgiveness - a visual aid to keep Christ's supreme sacrifice at the forefront of our minds.

So, this November, let us honour both of these great sacrifices by remembering them with grateful thanks.

God bless,
Phil Weston



Notices

- **Study Groups** — Our study groups are continuing on Mondays and Wednesday through the Autumn term. For more details contact Phil Weston or Alan Downen.
- **Harvest Thanksgiving** — Thank you for your response to our Harvest appeal. Following the service approximately 200kg of food (2 large car loads) were taken to the West Cheshire Foodbank.
- **Christmas is Coming!** — As ever, we will be collecting Christmas presents and selection boxes for the children and young people who are currently in the care of *Save the Family*. Look out for our Giving Trees, in the Church and in the Community Shop.

If you are willing to take part, take a label from one of the trees and by an age-appropriate gift for the child you have chosen. Wrap it, attach the label and then return your gift to the village shop or bring it along to our annual Toy Service on 3rd December at 10.30am.

Save the Family are our local charity who provide accommodation for families in crisis, mentoring and support for all family members during their time of need.

- **Remembrance** — Our Service of Remembrance will take place in church on Sunday, 12th November starting at 10.45am followed by the laying of the wreaths at the War Memorial at approximately 11.45am.

St. John the Evangelist, Ashton Hayes

Christmas Craft Fair

Saturday 25th November

11am to 3pm

FREE ENTRY

- Handmade Christmas decorations & cards
 - Teacup candles & jewellery
 - Quilts, cushions & woven scarves
- Cakes, honey, apple juice & damson gin
- Children's clothes, a teddy tombola & pre-loved toys

Plus refreshments and a raffle

Pause for Thought

by Alan Downen



“Rose fairly early this morning; have good health and feel wonderfully refreshed. Another blessed day before me, with may opportunities for doing service for God.”

Those words were written by Harry Wisbey on 19th August 1914, not in some comfortable country parish, but in France as a member of the British Expeditionary Force. Harry was an ‘Army Scripture Reader’ with the remit of speaking to the soldiers about God and encouraging them with the Gospel message, even in the midst of their darkest hour. Within a week of writing that diary entry, Harry himself was serving on the frontline in Mons, but his sense of purpose never left him, not even in the thick of battle.

Almost 110 years later, our world appears to be descending into ever increasing turmoil — wars are becoming common place and 2023 has seen the world’s average temperature rise by more than 1.5°C accompanied by widespread wildfires and floods — whilst at home we are experiencing a cost of living crisis which is affecting families across the land: foodbanks have never been under so much pressure. However, as a Lay Reader in the 21st Century, I would say that there is still reason to have hope — hope based on faith in God, with love at its centre.

God is still with us, he hasn’t left the building, and his Gospel message remains the same, ‘mankind can be saved from the penalty of their own sin through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ!’ The more we can come together in the belief of that message, the more we will find that love will help us to quell the fires and calm the conflicts. There is still reason for hope and it isn’t too late for mankind to change its destructive attitudes.



An Autumn Night to Remember

The Vale Royal Singers performed to a packed audience at St John’s on 13th October. The varied programme — from the 16th century composer Thomas Morley, to the 20th century Eric Whitacre — was enjoyed by all and the evening raised an astonishing £700 towards church funds to help us keep the lights on and the boiler running during the coming winter months. Our thanks to to all who took part and those who supported this event.



In addition to the other facilities the church has to offer as a meeting venue, we are happy to announce that we are now connected to the internet with download speeds greater than 100Mb/s. If this would help you or your organisation please feel free to contact us for more details — contact@ashtonhayes.church

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Lego Club



Our ever-popular lego club will be recommencing during November for a six week period. Contact Margaret Papworth (01829 759086) for more information.

St John’s Café

Join us on Thursday, 23rd November, between 2.30-4.30pm for our **All-Age Café**. Everyone is welcome to join us for a free cup of tea, coffee or glass of squash and a slice of cake whilst you have a chance to have a chat with friends (or play!)



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

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

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