

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

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

Church Services in October

1st October:

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am Harvest/Creation (CW)
6.30pm Evensong (BCP)

8th October:

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

15th October:

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

22nd October:

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

29th October:

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

BCP - Book of Common Prayer

CW - Common Worship (Modern Language)

Contacts

Vicar:

Phil Weston 01829 752272
vicar@ashtonhayes.church

Reader:

Alan Downen 01829 751174
alan@ashtonhayes.church

Reader Emeritus:

Philip Goodall 01829 752130
philip@ashtonhayes.church

Pastoral Worker:

Margaret Papworth 01829 759086
margaret@ashtonhayes.church

Churchwardens:

Hilary Clegg 01829 458453
Diane Eldridge 01829 751282

Church Bookings:

Linda Morley 01829 759029
bookings@ashtonhayes.church

Safeguarding Issues:

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

Contact Us

Website: www.ashtonhayes.church

Fbook: facebook.com/stjohnashton

Email: contact@ashtonhayes.church

Congratulations

Our congratulations to Elis Mitchell (of Waste lane, Kelsall) on his baptism at St John's on 17th September, supported by his parents Janet and Joe.

View from the Vicarage

The Season of Creation (1st September to 4th October) may not be as well-known as the seasons of Advent, Christmas, or Easter, but it's that time of the year when Christians around the world unite to thank God for the beauty and fruitfulness of his creation. It is also the season when Christians and churches of all denominations pledge to take better care of our common home - Planet Earth.

A mighty river is the symbol chosen for the Season of Creation 2023, and is inspired by the Old Testament prophet Amos's cry: "Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" (Amos 5: 24).

These words challenge us to live lives of greater environmental responsibility, to care more for God's Creation, and to help those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Industrialisation and our unsustainable consumption of the earth's resources have put enormous pressure on our planet's fragile ecosystems. The futures of our young people are threatened by the loss of biodiversity and a changing climate. Biodiversity is being lost at a rate not seen since the last mass extinction, and the hope of keeping average temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius is fading. So as each year passes, the urgency grows and, whatever our faith, we must all play our part in protecting our precious world.

At a global level, nations with power and wealth have a duty to reduce their carbon footprint and help poorer countries that suffer most from climate change and ecological crises. But as individuals and households we can all play our small part by living more simply and sustainably, reducing our energy consumption and reusing/recycling as much as we can. Ashton Hayes hit the headlines some years ago for its ambition to become England's first carbon neutral village – what more can we all do to achieve this noble aim?

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. Whilst our discussions contain an element of exploration of biblical texts, the groups also act as a 'safe space' for those questions which you have always wanted answering but have been too afraid to ask. Why not join us for a taster session and find out for yourselves
- **Gift Day** — Thanks to your generosity, our Gift Day appeal has so far raised just over £5,000 but donations are still trickling in.
- **Harvest Thanksgiving** — After the morning service on 1st October, your donations of non-perishable food items will be sent to the West Cheshire Foodbank, but please remember that the foodbank will accept donations throughout the year. There are drop-off points in the church and in the community shop.

The Colours of Autumn

A concert by
The Vale Royal Singers
at **St John the Evangelist**
Ashton Hayes
on **Friday 13th October**
at **7.30pm**

Tickets £10 - available from
Alan Downen (01829 751174),
the Community Shop or pay on the door

Light refreshments will be served after the performance
All proceeds will be donated to church funds

Pause for Thought

by Alan Downen



**What is this life if, full of care,
we have no time to stand and stare.**

Just two lines taken from the well known poem, 'Leisure', by William Henry Davies. I suppose it's a question which has been posed for all of us, but how often do we stop to stare and take in the beauty and grandeur of the world around us?

I have recently returned from a late summer holiday with my wife and we were based in Mortehoe, North Devon. It's a place with a rugged coastline which is both awesome and dangerous in almost equal measure. It's a place which invites the traveller to stand (or sit) and stare and it rewards patience.

Here, as elsewhere, the sheer power of the sea has shaped the landscape: there are beaches, cliffs and jagged inlets at almost every turn. But whilst the sea has the ability to take life (there have been numerous shipwrecks along this coast) it also has an incredible ability to support life too ... including ours!

As we sat, watching and listening to the sights and sounds of nature — sheep bleated behind us, birds circled around us, butterflies fluttered, and seals popped their heads out of the water whilst fishermen recovered their pots of crabs and lobsters just a little further off-shore — the waves were crashing over the rocks. We were in awe of the diversity nature and couldn't help but wonder how all of this came into being. We were grateful and we thanked its creator.

Davies' poem ends,

*"A poor life this if, full of care,
we have no time to stand and stare."*

and, from my own experience, I can only echo how true that is!



Craft Fair SAVE THE DATE

Saturday 25th November 11am – 3pm.

A Christmas Craft Fair for all the family is coming to St John's Church Ashton Hayes.

There will be over 12 stalls with a range of crafts, gifts, bakes and a children's tombola. Refreshments will also be available so be sure to join us to find some early Christmas purchases.

More information contact
Margaret on 07803242783
or Hilary on 01829 458453.

St John's as a Venue?

The church set out for the recent Gardening Club Annual Show.



Please remember that the church is available to be booked for various community events and meetings. The space can be arranged flexibly, there are facilities for preparing refreshments, we can project images onto our large screen and we are now connected to the internet. bookings@ashtonhayes.church

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Reader Retires

After 27 years of faithful service as a lay Reader at St John's (officiating and preaching at services), Philip Goodall is retiring from active ministry this month. He will be made an honorary Reader Emeritus by the Bishop of Chester at a special service at the Cathedral on Saturday 7th October.



Thank you Phil!

St John's Café



Join us on Thursday, 19th October, 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.

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.

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