

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

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

Church Services in February

4th February:

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

11th February:

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

14th February: Ash Wednesday

7.30pm Holy Communion (CW)

18th February:

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

25th February:

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

BCP - Book of Common Prayer

CW - Common Worship (Modern Language)

Contacts

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Contact Us

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Ash Wednesday
14th February
Marks the start of Lent

View from the Vicarage

Snow fell here in Ashton Hayes and Mouldsworth last month, and there may yet be more to come before Winter's over. You may have heard that the Inuit language has over 50 words for 'snow'. Hardly surprising perhaps, when snow and ice are an ever-present reality for people living in an Arctic climate. In this country we only have one word in English for snow, and we're not particularly good at coping when it does fall. It only seems to take a few flakes of snow for our roads to be blocked, our trains to stop running and our economy to come grinding to a halt!



Snow is not something that features prominently in the Bible, which again is hardly surprising given the warm Middle Eastern climate in which it was written. Indeed, the word 'snow' only appears about twenty times in English translations of the Bible, compared to nearly two hundred references to the Sun! Yet one of the few biblical references to snow is particularly significant. It appears in Psalm 51, a psalm traditionally read on Ash Wednesday (which falls on 14th February this year). Psalm 51 is a prayer of confession to God, written by King David when he was seeking the Lord's forgiveness for his sins. And in verse 7 it says: "Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow."

There is a purity and cleanliness about freshly fallen snow. And this perfect cleansing is exactly what God promises in this psalm to any repentant person, to every truly sorry sinner. Whatever our past (and King David's included murder and adultery!), we can be given a fresh start if we confess our wrongdoing to our Creator and seek his forgiveness for Christ's sake. Jesus Christ's perfect purity can be credited to us if we only ask. Wonderfully we can be as white as snow in our Lord's eyes. It's a truth to warm our hearts on these cold winter days!

God bless,
Phil Weston

Notices

- **Lego Club** — Lego Club will soon be restarting. The parent sign up option is now live via the Primary School's 'parent pay' system. The club is always popular so please sign up soon to reserve your child's place.
- **Kintsugi Hope** — Margaret Papworth will be running another Kintsugi Hope Wellbeing course in the Spring - contact her to express an interest or for further details.
- **Ash Wednesday** — There will be a communion service to mark the start of the season of Lent, in church on 14th February at 7:30pm.

To make a donation to help the work of our church here in the parish of Ashton Hayes and Mouldsworth please scan this QR Code and follow the link.



- **Transport** — If you would like to come along to a church service or one of our events, the café for example, but can't get there because you don't have transport, please ring any of the people in the Contacts list on this page and we will do our very best to arrange transport for you and ensure that you get back home safely.

West Cheshire Foodbank

The Foodbank write:

"We don't think anyone in our community should have to face going hungry. That's why we provide three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to us in crisis."

However, the Foodbank relies on our goodwill and support even more in these troubling times

At the moment they are in the most urgent need of **UHT Milk, UHT Juice, Instant Coffee (small jars), Instant Mash, Instant Pasta, Instant Noodles, Tinned Meats and Tinned Puddings.**

Pause for Thought

by Alan Downen



"Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness and was tempted by the devil.

Matthew 4:1

I've come to the conclusion that there are two types of people in this world: those who, when they receive a box of chocolates (or in this case a bag), can take just one and put the rest away for tomorrow and the day after ... and those who, can't resist the temptation and will solemnly sit and eat the whole bag in one go. Okay, that may be a bit of a binary exaggeration but you know what I mean.

All of us face temptations almost every day of our lives. Those temptations may be relatively small like 'permanently' borrowing a few sheets of paper from the office through to things which are much bigger. I wonder, for example, how many people have accidentally damaged someone else's car in a car park and then quickly driven off because no-one else was looking. On each and every occasion it's as though there is someone sitting on your shoulder whispering, "Go on, do it, it doesn't really matter and no-one else will know it was you!" ... but you know ... and God knows too.

Right at the start of his earthly ministry, Jesus spent time in the wilderness, probably to spend time in prayer with his Father, but as time went on it must have been harder and harder to resist the temptations which came his way.

- You're hungry. Create some food for yourself!
- Test God to see if he really exists!
- Worship other Gods and have an easier life

But Jesus wouldn't succumb, he was faithful and true to his Father and to his calling. Even though his life was tough he refused to take the easy (sinners) way out and there is a lesson there for us all.

St John's Café

Join us on Thursday, 15th February, 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!)



Light Up A Life

Remember ... Honour ... Celebrate

Sunday 24th March at 4:00pm

You are invited to join us for a special service at which we shall commemorate the memory of those whom we have loved but are no longer with us as we light candles in their names.

*Beautiful Memories, silently kept,
of those we have loved
and will never forget*



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You are invited to a

Wine Tasting Evening

... hosted by

Chester Beer & Wine

7.30pm
Saturday 16th March
at St John's Church
Ashton Hayes

Tickets £20 per person
available from Phil Weston

E-mail: vicar@ashtonhayes.church
or phone: 01829 752272

All proceeds will go towards church funds



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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