

# NEWS FROM THE PEWS

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

## Church Services in November

### 3rd November:

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

### 10th November:

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

### 17th November:

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

### 24th November:

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

**Website:** [www.ashtonhayes.church](http://www.ashtonhayes.church)

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## Congratulations

Oliver Joseph Price of Brines Brow Lane was christened at St John's on 29th September. Our congratulations go to Oliver and his parents Sarah and Allan.

## In Memory

The funeral of the late Alan McMillan of Smithy Lane took place on 1st October. We would like to express our condolences to his wife Maureen.

## View from the Vicarage

November is a time for looking back and looking forward. At our Remembrance Service on Sunday 10th November we'll look back to the wars and conflicts of the past, remembering with gratitude all those servicemen and women who gave their lives in the service of our nation - men and women who defended the precious liberties we still enjoy to this day. That same afternoon our first Messy Church will also include crafts and activities for children on the theme of remembering.



But November is a time when we look forward as well. Christmas is just around the corner and many of us eagerly anticipate the joys of the festive season. (Our Christmas Fair on Saturday 30th November and our family-friendly 'Toy Service' the following morning will kick off the celebrations here at St. John's!)

Christians are encouraged in the Bible to have a dual-focus approach to life, especially during the season of Advent (which starts on 1st December). We are to look back to the historical realities upon which our faith is based, especially the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. But we are also to look forward in hope, serving Christ and our neighbours in joyful anticipation of God's coming kingdom – when war, conflict and every evil will be no more. Christian believers are to live and work for the day when sin and suffering shall end. All of this is just one reason why our own church's new vision statement is: 'Focused on Christ, united in faith, serving our community.'

So do join us at St. John's this November, as we look back in remembrance and forward with hope.

God Bless,  
Phil Weston

## News



October also saw us celebrating our annual Harvest Festival which included visits from the Nursery and the School. It was a delight to see all of the children but even more so to see the "mountain" of food donations which required several car trips to transfer everything we had received to the West Cheshire Foodbank.



**Remembrance  
Sunday  
10th November**

**Morning service  
starts at  
10.45am**



## Pause for Thought

by Alan Downen



"Since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles."

Hebrews 12:1a

We have just been celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the church here in Ashton Hayes and, during the research into the building's history, it became clear that, over the years, approximately 1500 people have been buried in our church yard. Some of these you will have known as friends or close family members, but there are many whom we shall never know, even so, they are an inseparable part of the history of our community. One example being the Johnson family members who are buried in a vault outside, just beneath the east window. They were responsible for many of the fixtures and fittings which are still visible in our church today.

On All Saints' Day (1st November) the church has historically acknowledged all of the saints and martyrs who have not been recognised elsewhere in the Christian calendar — those who comprise the 'great cloud of witnesses' around us including the nameless and forgotten. We are recipients of a legacy of faith: a long tradition, shaped by countless people we don't even know.

Although it's important to acknowledge the ancestors of our faith, our modern-day commemorations of All Saints' Day tend to focus more on those who have lived during our lifetime and have personally impacted our lives. For many people, it's a time for remembering, and giving thanks for, the recently deceased and recognising the impact they have had on us as mentors, teachers and examples of faith in action.

Looking back at my own faith journey, starting with its tentative steps when I was just five years old, I have come to realise that each time there has been a twist or turn in the road, there was always someone there to act as my guide and point me in the right direction. My parents, my teachers, my spouse and my friends ... even the occasional vicar!

It saddens me to think that the youth of today will not have the same opportunities to explore and express their own, in-built, spirituality ... unless we share ours with them in a matter of fact sort of way which makes sense in our modern world.

St. John the Evangelist, Ashton Hayes

## Christmas Craft Fair

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November  
11am to 3pm  
**FREE ENTRY**

- Handmade Christmas decorations & cards
- Bracelets, fused glass pendants & other jewellery
- Children's tombola & re-gifted stall
- Homemade cakes & local honey
- Beeswax candles

*Plus refreshments, a raffle and more!*

**Messy Church**

Join us at 4pm on Sunday 10th November when we'll be holding our first "Messy Church" at St. John's. Designed for children and their parents, Messy Church will include craft activities, a short talk, some songs – plus food. It promises to be plenty of fun, so do come along!

Another "Messy Church" is also planned for 8th December — don't miss out on the fun!

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## St John's Café

Join us on Thursday, 14th 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!)

Opening Hours  
Monday - Saturday  
10am - 5pm  
Late night Thursday  
until 8pm.

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