

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

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

Church Services in May

4th May:

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

11th May:

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

18th May:

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

25th May:

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

Hazel Rowland was a member of St John's congregation for many years and a longterm resident of Ashton Hayes — she lived in Brookside and then Peel Hall Lane before, latterly, having to move to a nursing home. Her funeral was held at St John's and Vale Royal Crematorium on 15th April. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Chris, Tony, Nigel, Kirsty and their families.

News

Don't forget — The church building is now open during Saturdays and Sundays from roughly 9am until 5pm for any parishioners who would like to access the

View from the Vicarage

We'll be building a hotel in St. John's churchyard this month! Not a hotel for humans, of course, but a wooden "bug hotel" which has been skilfully prepared by John Eldridge and will be completed by children attending our Messy Church at 4pm on Sunday 11th May. Bug hotels provide a comfortable home for insects like ladybirds, bees, spiders and woodlice - enhancing biodiversity and promoting pollination of wildflowers and other plants.



Surprising as it may seem, a whole host of insects appear within the pages of Scripture. Biblical bugs include caterpillars, locusts, grasshoppers, ants, bees, and hornets. Some insects are associated with acts of divine judgement (like the plagues of gnats and flies in Exodus) but others play a more positive role.

For example, bee's honey is mentioned over sixty times in Scripture, associated with abundance, sweetness and the generosity of God. Another example is found in the Old Testament book of Proverbs, which praises the ant for its diligence and foresight: "Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!" (Proverbs 6:6-8). This tiny creature becomes a model of hard work and wisdom, a reminder that even the smallest of bugs can teach us big lessons!

God bless
Phil Weston

building to have a look around or for private prayer, or simply a few minutes of peace and quiet. You are also invited to sign our visitors book to record your visit and enter any prayer requests you may have for yourselves or family members and friends.

11-17 May 2025

Christian Aid Week

7 days to **make a difference**

For 80 years, Christian Aid has been fighting poverty and injustice and with your support, they've been able to offer hope to communities who need it most. The organisation continues with this focal aim and continues to help people around the world to:

- claim their rights and access services such as healthcare and education
- ensure they are not discriminated against for any reason
- become more resilient to shocks and disasters such as drought, climate change and hurricanes
- make the most of opportunities, such as being able to sell their produce for a fair price.

There will not be a distribution of envelopes this year but if you would like to make a donation to help the work of Christian Aid there will be collection

Easter Egg Appeal



A major thank you to everyone who made a donation towards our Easter Egg appeal. Diane and John Eldridge took them all over to *Save the Family* after our morning service on the 13th April where they given a very grateful and emotional reception.

buckets in the church and in the Community Shop from Sunday 11th May.

Thy Kingdom Come — is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray each day between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus. What started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer. This year's resources and further information can be found at:

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/new-2025>

Pause for Thought

by Alan Downen

"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter – when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?"

Isaiah 58:6,7



Pope Francis died this morning less than 24 hours after he had been seen blessing the crowds in St Peter's Square. As you will be well aware, the Church of England officially separated from the Catholic Church in 1534, primarily, but not solely, due to King Henry VIII's desire to divorce Catherine of Aragon and marry Anne Boleyn. Sadly, since then, there have been many atrocities committed between our two denominations. But I don't want to dwell on differences, I would rather think about the things that we have in common, and how we can help each other, and Francis was a man whom I found to be inspirational and whom I admired.

Francis didn't just teach his faith, he lived it. He stood for peace, justice and compassion. He could have lived in luxury but he chose not to; he chose to spend much of his time with the poor; he washed the feet of prisoners and invited asylum seekers to the Vatican. He also kept the spotlight focussed on two of the great issues of our time – the environment and the impact of mass migration – when other world leaders have been avoiding or dismissing them altogether. He was a pope who put love and mercy in first place: rules and regulations came further down the list. Meanwhile, in this topsy turvy world of ours, we find ourselves spending more money on defence whilst reducing our assistance for the poorer countries. I am saddened that ... instead of turning "swords into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks", we have chosen to convert foreign aid into aeroplanes and bombs.

Francis wasn't just a leader for the Catholic Church, he was an example for the whole world – if we could have only been gracious enough to watch and listen. He will be missed by everyone and his example will be a difficult to live up to. So for now, we pray for his soul and that the work that he has started may not be undone.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory!



Our next Messy Church will be held in church on **Sunday, 11th May at 4pm**. At that event, in addition to the usual food, songs and Bible stories, the Bug Hotel in the churchyard will be completed.



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St John's Café



Join us on Thursday, 22nd May, 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 meet up, with and have a chat (or play!) with friends.

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

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