

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

St John's – Focused on Christ, united in faith, serving our community
and a place of worship where all are welcome

Church Services in September

7th September:

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

14th September:

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

21st September:

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

28th September:

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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A Prayer for Our Community

Lord, bless our neighbours near and far — those we greet each morning and those we've yet to meet. May kindness flow freely between doorsteps, and may we always remember that behind every window lives a story worthy of compassion. Comfort those among us who struggle — whether with illness, loss, loneliness, or hardship. Help us to be your hands and feet, offering practical help, listening ears, and the simple gift of presence to those who need it most.

View from the Vicarage

September is the month when many of us go back to school, college or work after our Summer holidays. In Ashton Hayes many of us have also gone back to the Golden Lion, following the recent re-opening of our village pub!

But have you thought about coming back to Church? If so, you are not alone - recent research by the Bible Society has uncovered a 'Quiet Revival' in Christianity in

England and Wales since 2018. One of the key findings is a 50% rise in regular church attendance, especially amongst younger adults. Belief in God and Bible reading are both on the up, and churches are increasingly diverse too - with more men and ethnic minorities joining congregations.

The Quiet Revival survey also discovered that churchgoers experience higher rates of wellbeing and life satisfaction than the general population, and feel more connected to their local community. So whatever your age or stage of life, and regardless of when you last came to church, we would love to welcome you 'Back to Church' at St John's this September. Full details of what's on and when can be found in this edition of News from the Pews as well as on our website and Facebook page - please do join us!

God bless
Phil Weston



News

Morning Prayer

A new, short service of Morning Prayer will take place in church every Wednesday morning at 9am, starting on 10th September. The doors will be open for everyone who would like to attend.

Wednesday
Morning Prayer.
A chance to start
your day with
God.

Harvest Festival — Our Harvest Service will take place on Sunday 5th October at 10.30am. We will be welcoming donations of non-perishable food which will be passed on to the West Cheshire Foodbank.



The service will be followed by a 'Bring and Share' lunch in church. Besides being a fun social gathering it will provide an ideal opportunity to meet and chat with other church members in a relaxed environment.

Light up a Life

Sunday, 19th October at 4pm

Remember ... Honour ... Celebrate

You are invited to join us for a special service at which we will commemorate our loved ones who have died as we light candles in their memory.

*Beautiful memories silently kept
of those whom we've loved
and will never forget.*

Back to the Future

An evening of music from across the centuries with David Bird and friends.

St John's Church
Friday, 17th October
at 7.30pm

Tickets £10 (available soon)
All proceeds to the church

Pause for Thought

by Alan Downen



"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'

Jeremiah 29:11

After twelve years of darkness, the Golden Lion has thrown its doors open once more, breathing life back into the centre of Ashton Hayes.

The beloved pub welcomed its first customers in early August to scenes of jubilation that felt almost biblical in their significance. It was like watching something rise from the dead! — a metaphor which surely resonates deeply in a community that has witnessed what can only be described as an act of resurrection.

The pub's restoration, thanks to the efforts of so many willing volunteers, mirrors the themes of redemption and renewal found throughout Christian theology. Just as parables speak of lost coins being found and prodigal sons being welcomed home, the Golden Lion represents something precious to us which has now been restored to its rightful place. The pub had been the village's central gathering place for decades, serving as both a sanctuary and a safe space for friends and neighbours to share their joys and sorrows — and now it has been restored.

The reopening draws parallels with themes of hope triumphing over despair and of community bonds proving stronger than economic hardship. And, as villagers filled every seat on its opening night, sharing stories and laughter, it became clear that this resurrection was a story of human determination and collective faith rather than divine intervention.

There are so many smiles and village non feels whole again with church and pub working in parallel to bring comfort and joy.



Our next Messy Church will be held in church on **Sunday, 21st September at 4pm**. At that event, there will be



food, singing, Bible stories, and other fun activities.



Open to children of all ages accompanied by an adult.

Why not come along and join in?



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St John's Café



Join us on **Thursday, 18th September**, between 2.30 and 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.

Tel: 07842 890141

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