

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 November

2nd November:

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

9th November:

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

16th November:

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

23rd November:

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

30th November:

10.30am Holy Communion (CW)

A short service of **Morning Prayer** is held in church **every Wednesday morning at 9.00am**

BCP - Book of Common Prayer
CW - Common Worship (Modern Language)

Contacts

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Contact Us

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Thank You

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the food collection for our Harvest Festival. Everything has been safely delivered to the West Cheshire Food Bank. This year's collection seemed to be bigger than every and required several car loads to transport the produce to its final destination.

View from the Vicarage

Every Remembrance Sunday reminds us that this world is not all we'd like it to be. A world where suffering and death are sadly all too common, not least on the battlefields of two world wars. The devastation inflicted upon people and property by armed conflict is truly awful, as seen most recently in Ukraine and Gaza. In the Old Testament a man called Job experiences a series of devastating events that destroy his livelihood, his health, and his family. He had every excuse to despair, and yet he didn't. Despite everything, he had hope. Job's hope wasn't sustained by positive thinking or the support of his friends - but by his faith in the Lord. His hope was fed by his confidence in God's ultimate ability to overcome evil and defeat death.

Handel's Messiah is one of the most famous pieces of classical music. Since it was composed in 1741 it has been performed around the world. As a Christian, Handel recognised the resurrection of Jesus as the ground and fulfilment of Job's great hope. In our war-torn world we can share Job's confidence of a better world to come because of Christ's resurrection on the first Easter day. The Lord Jesus' defeat of death is the prototype of what all his people can confidently expect. In the lyrics of Handel: "I know that my Redeemer lives, and that he shall stand upon the earth. And though worms destroy my body, yet in my flesh I shall see God. For now is Christ risen from the dead, the first fruits of those that sleep."

God bless
Phil Weston



News

Bach to the Future — Friday, 17th October was a night to remember. Thanks to David Bird and his friends, we heard a miscellany of music spanning nearly 400 years — from Baroque to Jazz. The evening was enjoyed by all who came and raised over £600 for church funds.

Christmas Craft Fair — Saturday 22nd November, 11am to 3pm — A Christmas Fair for all the family is coming to St John's. Lots of stalls with a range of crafts, gifts and bakes, including a raffle and refreshments, plus gingerbread decorating for children. Be sure to join us to make some early Christmas purchases!

Call for Goods — If you have any items, still in their original packaging, which you would be willing to donate to the Regifting Stall at the Christmas Fair please take them to the Community Shop where they can be handed in anytime up to and including Friday, 21st November.

Similarly, if anyone would like to donate home made items for the fair (jams, preserves, pickles etc) they can be left at the church or taken to Hilary Clegg at 'Orchard Croft', Duck Lane, Ashton Hayes.

Toy Service — This year's service will be held on 7th December. As ever, we will be collecting gifts for *Save the Family*. Watch out for gift labels in the church or at the Community Shop.

"Christmas is a cumin in" — There will another concert in church with Ashton Folk on Saturday, 6th December. The evening will be a mix of some of their favourite songs with some Christmas music thrown in for good measure. Tickets will be £10 each — available from the Community Shop or Yvonne Downen (01829 751174) and all proceeds will be donated to the church.



Pause for Thought

by Alan Downen



When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'

John 8:12

As autumn deepens and the clocks turn back, we're reminded how quickly darkness can dominate our days. Those long evenings can feel heavy, even oppressive, and the feeling often extends beyond the physical because darkness creeps into our minds and hearts too.

Yet Jesus offers something radical: he doesn't promise to remove the darkness from our world, but to be light within it. He is a light that walks with us through the shadowy places rather than simply waiting at the end of them.

Following his light means we don't have to navigate life's uncertainties alone. When anxiety clouds our judgment, when grief obscures our path forward, or when the world's troubles feel overwhelming, there is an invitation for us to stay close to the source of his illumination. But that light is also meant to be shared. As we receive it, we become light for others — offering hope in despair, clarity in confusion, and warmth in isolation.

Think about how a single candle works in a dark room. It doesn't eliminate every shadow, but it transforms the space entirely. It provides enough light to see the next step, to recognise a friendly face, and to find our way forward. That's what following Jesus offers — not a blinding spotlight that removes all mystery, but a steady flame that makes our journeys possible.

As the nights grow longer this autumn, perhaps that invitation is the one we need: to stay close to the light, to let it guide us through darkness and uncertainty, and to shine, however we can, for those still searching in the shadows.



Our next Messy Church will be held in church on **Sunday, 9th November at 4pm**. At that event, there will be food, singing, Bible stories, and other fun activities.



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St John's Café



Join us on **Thursday, 20th November**, 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.

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

Tel: 07842 890141

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