

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 August

2nd August:

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

9th August:

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

16th August:

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

23rd August:

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

30th August:

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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In Memory

The funeral of the late Susan Coleshill of Brookside took place at St. John's church on 15th July. Our thoughts and condolences go to all her family and friends.

Messy Church — We are taking a break during the holiday period so our next Messy Church will be held on Sunday 13th September at 4 pm.

View from the Vicarage

Political leaders come and go. History is full of politicians who have promised much, only for their time in office to quickly pass and another take their place. As Harold Wilson famously remarked, "A week is a long time in politics". This past month has certainly been a memorable time in British politics. Andy Burnham has just become our seventh Prime Minister in ten years. Sharing the front pages with him has been the equally remarkable rise of 'Count Binface', who has emerged as an unexpected contender in the forthcoming Clacton by-election. While instantly recognisable for the bin he wears on his head, his manifesto has included such quirky proposals as replacing the House of Lords with a House of Llamas! British politics never ceases to surprise!

For Christians, however, such political instability stands in contrast to a greater and more enduring reality. Governments change, elections come and go, but Jesus Christ remains on the throne. The risen Lord is the same yesterday, today and for ever. His divine rule is not determined by opinion polls or election results, and his promises never fail. That does not mean we stop caring about our nation or praying faithfully for those who govern us. The Bible encourages us to do exactly that. Yet Christians' ultimate confidence rests not in Westminster, nor in any political party or leader, but in Christ alone. He is the unchanging source of wisdom, leadership and hope for all who trust in him. We look forward to the day when Jesus will return to establish his everlasting kingdom. A kingdom where justice, peace and joy will never end.

God bless,
Phil Weston



News

Kelsborrow Choir — the choir are performing 'Songs from Stage and Screen' at St. John's on Saturday 22nd August at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £12 and are available from the Church or Community Shop, or by calling John Evans on 07939 645688. *The choir are generously donating proceeds to our church – please do come along!*

Thank you — ... to everyone who purchased plants from our stall at the recent Village Fair, and to all those who attended a highly enjoyable Afternoon Tea on Sunday 12th July. A total of £1000 was raised towards church funds across both events, for which we are very grateful.

Our thanks also to Natalie Meara for organising another engaging and successful craft session. It was a delightful way to spend a summer evening.



All-Age Café — Our All-Age Café will next be open on Thursday 17th September from 2.30pm to 4pm and everyone is welcome to join us for a cuppa, a piece of cake and a chat with neighbours and friends.



Pause for Thought

by Alan Downen



"As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?'" Acts 9:3-4

I used to shoo pigeons out of the garden. They frightened off the blackbirds and robins and cleared the feeder in minutes, leaving nothing for the other birds, the ones I actually wanted to see. But then ... Mrs P moved in.

She's been sitting on her nest in our hedge for ten days now, tucked in above the bins, close enough that when I go out to dispose of something, she looks at me and I look at her. She barely moves; she just shuffles every now and then to make herself more comfortable. And somewhere along the way, my whole attitude has been completely changed. She, and whatever she's raising in her nest, are welcome now. I've even moved the recycling bin further away so as not to disturb her.

This wasn't a gradual softening, it was a sudden shift on my part, similar in some ways to Paul's dramatic conversion on the road to Damascus. Previously, he'd spent all his time and energy hunting down and imprisoning "Followers of the Way", convinced he was doing right. But then ... a bright light stopped him in his tracks and a voice asked him plainly why he was doing what he was doing. He didn't choose a new way of living, he was simply confronted by the person he had been persecuting and, from that point in time onwards, everything changed.

My pigeon moment was obviously a much smaller event, but its shape is similar. Something I had written off as a nuisance turned out, when I looked more closely, to be worth protecting. Sometimes it takes proximity, not persuasion, to change what we think we already know or feel about others.

Recent Events



Photographs of the church's plant stall being prepared at the recent Village Fun Day and the Strawberry Cream Tea held in Hilary Clegg's garden on the following day. Both events contributed to help the church's finances and your ongoing support is very much appreciated.



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