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

1st November:
9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am All-Age Service (CW)
6.30pm Evensong (BCP)
8th November: Remembrance
9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.45am Morning Worship (CW)
15th November:
9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am Morning Worship (CW)
22nd November:
9.00am Matins (BCP)
10.30am Holy Communion (CW)
29th November:
10.30am Holy Communion (CW)

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

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Join us on Thursday, 19th November from 2.30pm for refreshment and a chance to meet up with friends.

View from the Vicarage



November is the month when the clocks have gone back and the days become shorter and darker. We find ourselves reaching for the light switch earlier in the afternoon, wrapping up warmly against the cold, and beginning to look forward to next Spring! Darkness is a familiar part of life in other ways, too. We see it in the conflicts that continue to trouble our world, in the suffering of those caught up in poverty and injustice, and in the personal struggles that many people face with ill-health, bereavement or loneliness.

Yet Christians look to a light that darkness cannot overcome. For Jesus declared, "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12). His light brings revelation, helping us to see God for who he truly is. His light brings salvation, offering forgiveness and eternal life to all who put their trust in him. And his light brings guidance, showing us how to love God and our neighbours, and to experience life in all its fullness. So whenever we enter a darker season, draw closer to Christ - for he can be our light, our hope and our guide.

God bless,
Phil Weston

In Memory

The funeral of Jill Randles (formerly of the Meadows) was held on 2nd October in St John's. Our condolences go to Lucy and Amy, all of their family and Jill's friends.

News

Remembrance Sunday — our annual Service of Remembrance will be held on Sunday, 8th November at **10.45am**.

Christmas Trees that support St. John's — For every tree bought at *Grange Christmas Trees* by someone from St John's, £5 will be donated to our church funds — **just say "St John's Ashton Hayes" when you buy**. Fresh Nordmann and Fraser Firs from 5ft, plus stands and wreaths. Choose yours at the farm or have it delivered locally. Opening Saturday 28th November at Iddenshall Grange, Clotton, CW6 0EQ. Tel: 07985 235884.

Crafting and Concert —During October we made fabric pumpkins in church with Natalie Meara and Rachel Moss arranged "A Night at the Musicals" all in aid of our church funds. Both evenings were enjoyed by all..

Boiler Fund — A massive **"THANK YOU"** to Ashton Hayes Community Energy Co. who have made a £1000 donation in response to our boiler replacement appeal.



Christmas Chaos?

Ashton Folk will be holding another of their festive concerts in church on **Tuesday, 29th December at 7.30pm**. Tickets will be £10 each and will be available from the Church or from the Community Shop in mid-November.

Bring your own drinks and nibbles!

Pause for Thought

by Alan Dowen



The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:5

At the end of October the clocks went back and, almost overnight, the evenings closed in. For many of us, the days suddenly feel much shorter. By mid-November we will be switching on lights before tea, with the sun setting shortly after four.

The above verse from John's Gospel, doesn't pretend that the dark isn't there, it simply says that darkness cannot put the light out, no matter how small that light may be. John's words were written for people who knew real hardship, and they have comforted readers ever since. Our calendar somehow seems to know this and the rest of the year is punctuated with small lights which gradually get brighter.

On the 1st November we remember the saints, and many of us light a candle for people we have loved and lost. On the 5th, bonfires and fireworks will push back the night. On the 8th, at our Service of Remembrance, we will stand in silence and recall those who gave their lives. Then, on the 29th, the four weeks of Advent begin. These lead up to Christmas, and with them we have the old custom of lighting one more candle each week. Christmas itself comes just after the shortest day, 21st December, when the light slowly starts to return. Winter is long, but not endless; from late December each week will bring more daylight.

So the long nights need not be something to endure. They are a chance to notice light more clearly. Put a lamp in the window, light a candle at the table, or take a torch and a flask out for a walk after dark. Notice how far even a small flame can reach, and think about who is with us to help us find our way.

Harvest

Thank you to everyone who donated so generously to our Harvest appeal. Approximately 400kg of food was passed to West Cheshire foodbank.















