



St. John's Church
FAITH • COMMUNITY • ACTION

Sunday 6th January 2013



Letter from Bishop David

It doesn't seem like it, but the days are getting longer.

At this time of year we gain less than an extra minute a day, and what are traditionally the coldest months of the winter still lie ahead of us, but the solstice is past and each night is that little bit shorter than the one before. The light is advancing, the darkness is forced to retreat before it.

I'm not one for New Year's resolutions. Often overambitious they collapse within days if not hours. Resolutions give the false impression that life is made up of grand decisions which lead directly to great moments of change. Such things do happen, indeed for some of us there is a particular life-changing moment of conversion, when Jesus Christ bursts into our lives and nothing is ever the same again. But human life is less a series of such critical instants and more a case of small increments imperceptible in themselves but leading to an irreversible and significant change. Indeed even moments of conversion, such as that of St Paul which we commemorate this month, are less the product of an instant than the culmination and consequence of many smaller events over time. God has been readying Paul for this moment at least since the day when he stood and watched Stephen's martyrdom.

So try to make this first half of 2013, between now and midsummer's day, a time of small but steady and irreversible change. You could get up a minute earlier each week and add that to your prayer time, by the end you would be praying for almost half an hour more each day, and you wouldn't notice the difference week by week. Or every week add another five pence to what you put in your collection envelope at church. Or add a minute a week to how long you spend reading the bible.

And as you hold to this steady but gentle discipline let the increasing length of the daylight be a reminder of your intent. And the God who rules over sun and moon, day and night, will be your strength and shield.

Church as family

A new 6 week course starting on 17th January 7.45pm at Peter and Eileen Bishop's. See or call Peter for more information 01527 857209.

Training days

Harnhill Centre for Christian Healing are offering some interesting training days in Pastoral Care and Counselling throughout 2013... see Gary for details if you are interested.

New Year celebrations with Dot and Andy

A big thank you to Dot and Andy who organized a great evening to celebrate the New Year last night. Thank you also to Lynda and others who helped with setting up and clearing away.

Happy New Year to everyone in St John's!

We do indeed wish you all a good and blessed 2013, and may it be a year when we all grow just that bit closer to the God who loves us and cares for us. We give thanks for his sustaining power during the past year, and as we step out in faith together into this new year, we can know that he will continue to be with us at every level of our life together. There will be exciting things ahead in the road...some known, and some unknown. There will also be challenges, but these will always be part of our spiritual growth, if we are determined to keep close to Jesus. With our Heavenly Father, if we keep our hand firmly in his, there is no room for fear or darkness. Here is a verse that has helped us in the past, and we share it with you now:

'The Lord is my light and my salvation...whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life...of whom shall I be afraid?' (Psalm 27) May that promise be yours, too, this coming year!

Every blessing,
Gary and April

Pastor Gary Noyes. The Vicarage 29 Sheldon Road, Greenlands, Redditch,
Worcestershire. B98 7QS.

Telephone 01527 501092 Day off Friday

Bowls this week

Please note community bowls in the hall will be returning this Monday 7th January, see Sue Husband for further information.

New Church Warden.

Please be praying for a new church warden for St John's, to replace Chris Tennant. Chris will be standing down next April after his 3 year's service, and we need to be praying between now and then for the right person, male or female, to be appointed. If you would like to find out more speak with Gary.

CASH (Community Advice Support Help)

Worcester CASH are a Christian charity committed to providing a service to persons living in Worcestershire who are having difficulty with money-related matters. They offer free, impartial, independent and confidential advice regarding:

- ❖ Debt & Credit Problems
- ❖ Negotiating with Creditors
- ❖ Household Budgeting

Advisors are all trained to nationally recognized standards. Address: Worcester CASH, PO Box 581, Worcester, WR5 2XW Telephone: 01905 27001

St John's Diary

Thu 17 th Jan	7.45pm	Church as Family at Peter and Eileen's
Tue 15 th Jan		Standing Committee at the Vicarage
Sat 19 th Jan		Messy Church at Woodrow Community Hall
Wed 23 rd Jan	7.45pm	DCC at St John's
Sat 23 rd Feb		DCC away at Inkberrow
Sat 23 rd Mar		Messy Church at Woodrow Community Hall
Sat 18 th May		Messy Church at Woodrow Community Hall
Sat 20 th Jul		Messy Church at Woodrow Community Hall
W/E 4 th -6 th Oct		Church weekend away - Cloverley Hall

Today - Epiphany Sunday

10.30am All age worship with Rob Quarton.

6.30pm Evening worship and Holy Communion with Revd Garth Nathaniel.

This week

Monday 1.30pm Bowls in the Church Hall.
7.30pm Bishops Certificate.

Tuesday 10.00am Parents & Toddlers in the Church Hall.

Wednesday 8.00pm Jump leaders meeting.
7.45pm Children's leaders meeting.

Thursday 10.00am Parents & Toddlers in the Church Hall.
7.45pm All age worship forum at St Peter's.

Next Sunday

10.30am Morning worship with Rosemary Humphrey, Pastor Gary Noyes will be speaking.

6.30pm Evening worship with Pastor Gary Noyes.

Collect of the day

O God,
who by the leading of a star
manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:
mercifully grant that we,
who know you now by faith,
may at last behold your glory face to face;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

PRAYER Please pray for:-

- ❖ Gary and April, Garth and Jenny, Richard and Sally, Richard and Wendy.
- ❖ Those who are mourning
- ❖ Those known to us who are suffering ill health.
- ❖ Those without enough to eat.
- ❖ Those trying to find work.
- ❖ Messy church