

## **Winter shelter**

Dear friends,  
Plans for this year's Winter Shelter are now well underway and we have again been greatly encouraged by the support we have received from across the community. You will remember that this year we are operating a Day Shelter which will be open from 10.00am -6.00pm from Monday 23rd December - Thursday 2nd January inclusive at the Ecumenical Centre.

We have a number of requests for you to pass onto your fellowships as we move into the final preparation stages:

1. Prayer: Please encourage your fellowships to be praying now that information about the shelter will reach those who most need the support and welcome it will offer. Pray too for the final planning, for Ben the Shelter manager and for all the volunteers who will be helping out.

2. Think! Is there anyone known to you or your fellowship who will be lonely and isolated this Christmas time who might value a place of warmth and friendship? If so, please put them in touch with the Shelter via Sharon McCall at Nightstop ( tel: 01527 66036 or e-mail [SMcCall@RedditchNightStop.co.uk](mailto:SMcCall@RedditchNightStop.co.uk))

3. Activities: in our original appeal we forgot to ask if there are any people out there gifted in arts and crafts who might like to come and lead some activity sessions for our guests? If so, again, please contact Sharon.

4. Chaplaincy: If any of the clergy or church leaders would like to visit the Shelter on any of the days it is open, please contact me and I will pass on the mobile number of Ben Rafiqi the Shelter manager with whom you can liaise re days and times.

## **Still some squares left**

If you haven't bought a square of carpet towards the cost of the carpet in the back room of the hall, please see Ann, if you can gift aid please do as 4 people gift aiding buys a square.

## **New Year Party**

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January is the date for St John's New Year Celebrations, please put the date in the diary more information will be available soon.



**St. John's Church**  
FAITH • COMMUNITY • ACTION  
Pastor Gary Noyes, The Vicarage, 29 Sheldon Road, Greenlands, Redditch, Worcestershire, B98 7QS. 01527 501092. Email: pastor\_gnoyes@btinternet.com



**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

**A very warm welcome to St John's!**

## **Thank you**

*Gary and April, with their family, want to thank everyone who prayed, and through your love supported us during our recent bereavement. The funeral was a day of many blessings, and we give thanks to God for being part of the loving community of St John's at such a testing time.*

## **New Bishop of Dudley**

Downing Street has announced that the Revd Canon Graham Usher will become the next Bishop of Dudley. Graham, 43, was ordained in 1996 and is currently Rector and Lecturer of Hexham Abbey in the Diocese of Newcastle. Prior to this he worked in inner city Teesside and has also spent time living and working in Ghana, Africa. Graham will be ordained bishop at St Paul's Cathedral on 25 March and he will begin his public ministry in the Diocese of Worcester after Easter. See the notice board in the foyer for a biography.

## **Pastors Piece**

*A very warm welcome to our services today! We are well into the season of Advent now, and looking forward to Christmas, when we celebrate afresh the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. We have our Holy Communion Service this morning, and our Carols by Candlelight this evening, both of which are a great way to prepare for Christmas.*

*Let's really remember today that, as we watch and wait and pray, God himself may indeed kindle in us the fire of his Spirit, so that we may look forward to the return of Jesus, and shine as lights before him. We can pray with Mary, when she praised God in Luke 1:46: 'My soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.'*

Every blessing,

Gary

Pastor Gary Noyes. The Vicarage 29 Sheldon Road, Greenlands, Redditch, Worcestershire. B98 7QS. Telephone: 01527 501092.

At the home group on Tuesday we sang carols and read from the Carol book and thought the words below were such a great way of summing up the Christmas story, that we thought we would get them printed here, you may wish to pass them on.

### **John**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Through him all things were made. The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

### **Colossians**

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the first born over all creation. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

### **Hebrews**

In the past God spoke to our forefathers throughout the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, who is the radiance of his glory and the exact representation of his being.

### **2 Corinthians**

God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

### **Philippians**

Christ Jesus, being in the very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

### **John**

He came to that which was his own but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become the children of God.

---

### **Today – Third Sunday of Advent**

10.30am Morning service and Holy Communion 'Streams in the Desert' with Vicki Quarton and Pastor Gary Noyes.  
Readings: Isaiah 35: 1-10 and Luke 1: 46-55

Children's Groups.

6.30pm Carols by Candlelight Pastor Gary Noyes will be leading and Rosemary Humphrey will be speaking.

### **Next Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent.**

10.30am Children Nativity led by the children of our church.

6.30pm Christmas praise with Pastor Gary Noyes

### **This week**

Monday	1.30pm	Bowls.
Tuesday	10.00am	Parents and toddlers.
Thursday	10.00am	Parents and toddlers.
Saturday	9.00am	Prayer in church.

---

### **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.
- ❖ Gary, April and family.
- ❖ Kathleen Powell and family.
- ❖ Jo, Grace, Sophie and Lydia Adams.
- ❖ Lynda and Geoff Adams
- ❖ Eileen and Rob Truman
- ❖ Peggy Snellgrove.
- ❖ Sylvia Czink and family.
- ❖ June Young and family.
- ❖ Allison, Rosie and Maureen undertaking ministry training.
- ❖ Children's groups, Bowls, Jump and Parent and Toddlers.
- ❖ Kingsley College prayer space.