



Sunday 2nd February 2014

A very warm welcome to St John's!

Collect of the day

Almighty and ever-living God,
 clothed in majesty,
 whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple,
 in substance of our flesh:
 grant that we may be presented to you
 with pure and clean hearts,
 by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
 who is alive and reigns with you,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever. Amen

Walk Through the Bible

Often we look at small passages in the Bible and apply them to our daily lives, but how often do we lose our way? Walk Through the Bible Ministries bring the Bible to life and offer a most enjoyable way to learn about the Old and New Testaments. On Saturday 22nd February we will be 'walking through the Old Testament' at Christ Church from 9.30 – 4.00pm and the cost is £14 per person (please see Gary if payment causes a problem), which includes the event workbook but please bring lunch; drinks will be provided. Children between 11 and 16 years attend free when accompanied by an adult but won't receive a workbook. It is not considered helpful for under 11s. If you are interested in attending this event and haven't yet booked you will need to do so this week.

Diary

Tue 11 th Feb 7.45pm	Standing committee in the Vicarage.
11 th Feb 7pm	Town Prayers at St Stephen's
Tue 13 th Feb 8.45am	Gary etc at Kingsley College.
Sat 22nd Feb	Walk through the Bible
Tue 25 th Feb 7.45pm	DCC meeting in church.
Wed 5 th Mar	JOINT ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE AT ST JOHNS
Thu 6 th Mar	WARM Day at Holland House
Sat 29th Mar	Messy Easter.
Sat 17th May	Messy Church.
Sun 29 th Jun	Ordination of Pastor Gary Noyes.
Sat 19th July	Messy Church.
Sat 27th Sep	Messy Church.
Thu 16 th Oct	WARM Day at Holland House
Sat 29th Nov	Messy Christmas 2014.
Sat 5th Apr	Diocese Children's Training - Worcester.

Prayer

Don't forget that we meet to pray for the life of St John's every Saturday morning at 9am for half an hour or so. Join us if you can!

Lent Course

There will not be a joint Lent Course with St Peter's this year, but we wanted to give St John's the opportunity to have one if enough people were interested. It would be held over the course of 4/5 Thursday evenings during Lent at the home of Peter and Eileen Bishop. We are inviting those interested to suggest topics/material for the evenings, as well as subjects that Gary might choose. There will be a sign-up sheet in the foyer for the next two weeks, for those who wish to join.

Pastors Piece

We could say that the Beatitudes that Jesus taught us in Matthew 5:1-12 means that he wants us to build St John's as a community of God's people that is a blessing to everyone who comes and worships with us. They are also a way that we can live our lives for Jesus every day of the week, so that we can be a blessing wherever we go. We can ask ourselves the question: 'Does my life reflect the heart of God's love in my attitudes and actions?' These 'be-attitudes' become part of our life, our inner compass, if you like, and they even have the power to change our lifestyle! When the world tells us to get all we can while we can, we say 'Blessed are the poor in spirit'. When the world tells us to get tough, we say 'Blessed are the merciful.' When the world tells us to hunger for more material things, we can say 'I would prefer to hunger for goodness and truth.' It's just a matter of seeing the world and other people through Jesus' eyes.

Every blessing,

Gary

Diocesan Pilgrimage

Bishop John last week led a group of 65 people including Richard and Wendy Harding to the Holy Land.

The pilgrims will visit the key sites of Jesus' Ministry including Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth and the Sea of Galilee. Please pray for all those who are part of the pilgrimage as they hear the stories of Jesus' ministry in the locations where they happened as well as learning about what it's like to live in the Holy Land Today.

If you'd like to follow the Pilgrims' trip, there will be reflections posted each evening (hopefully!) on the Diocesan website www.cofe-worcester.org.uk

Prayer for our Town

You may be aware of the new monthly meetings at St Stephens for members of churches across Redditch to Pray for our Town, in this 50th anniversary year. Revd Paul Lawlor invites us to the next meeting 'We meet in the forum so it is warm. We plan to take a flexible and informal approach to our time together with a short time of actively coming into God's presence and then praying together in small groups and taking time to listen to what God has to say to us. If this sort of thing is new to you come and see.' The next opportunity to pray together in this way will be at:

St Stephen's in the Town Centre

11th February at 7pm.

We aim to open with a short time of sung worship and then pray together for an hour and there is tea and coffee. All welcome.

St John's is now linked to the Kigezi Water & Sanitation Project

St John's has pledged £1000 per annum to the Kigezi Diocese Water & Sanitation project in Uganda. The money will be sent via Tearfund's Connected Church programme, so we are joining other UK churches in this project which will help people living in rural areas of Kigezi Diocese obtain clean safe water for drinking, improve sanitation, HIV education and practical support to the communities affected. Please support this project in your prayers, giving and interest. More details can be found on the display board in church, on Tearfund's website or talk to Andy Bevington.

Today – Candlemass

10.30am Worship For Everyone morning service with Dot Bevington.

6.30pm Holy Communion and prayer for healing with Pastor Gary Noyes.

Next Sunday – 4th Sunday before Lent

10.30am Morning worship with Vicki Quarton, Pastor Gary Noyes will be speaking on 'Essential Presence' Matthew 5: 13-20 and 1 Corinthians 2: 1-16.

6.30pm Evening worship with Pastor Gary Noyes. Ephesians 4: 17-end and Mark 1: 29-39

Next week

Monday	1.30pm	Bowls.
Tuesday	10.00am	Parents and toddlers.
Wednesday	7.30pm	Life Worth Living course at Matchborough.
	7.45pm	Jump in the hall
	7.30pm	PCC at Christchurch.
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.
- ❖ Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land.