

## Diary

Tues 20 <sup>th</sup> May	SPICE meeting - thanksgiving families.
Tue 10 <sup>th</sup> June 7.30pm	Parish Prayer meeting St Peter's.
Tues 17 <sup>th</sup> June 6.30pm	SPICE - Fladbury Close work in.
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2.30pm	Licensing of Rosie Humphrey at the Cathedral.
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> June pm	Car treasure hunt.
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Ordination of Pastor Gary Noyes at the Cathedral.
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup> Jul pm	Children's sponsored walk for Tearfund Water Project.
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Messy Church.
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> August	Croquet and chat at Peter and Eileen's
Tue 16 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Parish Prayer meeting 7.30pm at Christ Church.
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> August	Canal Walk and Meal.
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> August	'At home' & board games at Dot and Andy Bevington's
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sept 7.30pm	SPICE meeting in church.
Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> Sep 10-12noon	Messy Church.
Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> September 6pm	Harvest Supper and barn dance in the church hall.
Thu 16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	WARM Day at Holland House.
Sat 29 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Messy Christmas 2014.
Tue 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec 7.30pm	Parish Prayer meeting at St John's.
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Cinderella at the Palace Theatre,(booking September)
Sat 5 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Diocese Children's Training - Worcester.

Please pray for:-

- Gary and April, Garth and Jenny, Richard and Sally, Richard and Wendy.
- Gary as he commences training.
- Those who are mourning.
- Those known to us who are suffering ill health.
- John Beasley as he recovers from his operation.
- 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, Maureen and Rosie undertaking ministry training.
- Those taking exams.
- Messy church next week.
- Children's groups, Bowls, Jump and Parent and Toddlers.

Contact

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**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

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

## Welcome

The Scottish biblical scholar Sir George Adam Smith (1856-1942) was once traveling the Holy Land with a guide when he came upon an Arab shepherd with his flock. As they began to talk, the man showed him the fold where the sheep were kept at night. It was an enclosure open to the sky with four walls and one way in. "When the sheep are in here," said the shepherd, "they are perfectly safe." Sir George was surprised: "But there is no door," he said. "I am the door," replied the shepherd. "When the light is gone, and the sheep are inside, I lie in that open space. No sheep can ever go out without crossing my body, and if a wolf tries to come in, my body blocks his path; I am the door." Sir George's surprise turned to amazement: this Arab peasant was not a Christian, yet in describing his shepherd-role, he echoed the words Jesus spoke in declaring himself to be the good shepherd.

Jesus used the image of the shepherd and his sheep. Jesus states he is the good shepherd, but his conversation also asks us a question: Are we good sheep? Jesus promises that when we follow him, we will not become penned in, but set free, known by name and safe in his care.

Blessings

*Garth.*

## **Bishop John offered the following words on BBC Hereford and Worcester's Sunday**

### **Breakfast Show on 4 May:**

*Many of you listening to this program will already know that my wife Denise died on Easter Day from cancer. The first thing I want to do is to offer thanks to all the myriad people who have been praying for her during her year long illness. We have been surrounded by the most fantastic loving, caring, prayerful support and for that I am profoundly grateful, as I am for the myriad messages, cards and letters I have received since she died. I have been reminded what a wonderful thing it is to belong to the Christian community.*

*Some people, though, are feeling sad, perplexed and angry that, despite all the fervent prayer offered for Denise by thousands of people over the past year for her healing, she died. What I would ask them to remember is that for Christians, death is the ultimate healing, for it is a heavenly birthday. The prayer offered was effective, too, in making this last year a tremendous blessing to us and to many others as a result of the strength of faith Denise was given. She died a good and godly death, having received communion and been anointed by the Dean of Worcester, surrounded by her family, and singing God's praises until only an hour before she died at 3pm.*

*Don't get me wrong: I am not in denial. I am in excruciating pain, as are our two daughters, aged 9 and 15. Being parted from my beloved Denise sometimes seems unbearable. I grieve. But I grieve with hope because, with St Paul, 'I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.'*

*That makes the suffering bearable. Let Denise herself have the last word. She wrote to a friend just before she died: 'If my story is part of a larger story of redemption then even if I can't see how it all fits together, I can believe that nothing is wasted. No suffering is useless, no end tragic, no pain pointless and no effort futile.' Amen to that, I say. Bishop John*

" When you do it for the least of one of mine, you did it for me!" Matthew 25.

Christian Aid Week is the biggest single act of Christian witness in the UK. It sees churches across the country stand in solidarity with the world's poorest people. 30,000 churches will take part. Collectors will walk a distance 14 times the distance from London to Sydney. 8 million houses will receive an envelope.

It should raise £13 million. Please play your part in it as it really does make a difference. If you have never done it before but would nervously consider giving it a go, then have a chat with Rob or Vicki and we will pair you up. It's so much more fun together.

Let's not let Christ go hungry, naked, cold and homeless!

– if you would like to collect for Christian Aid and haven't been allocated a road please see Rob Quarton today.

## **Today – Easter 4**

10.30am Morning worship with Vicki Quarton, Rev Garth Nathaniel will be speaking on John 10:1-10 'I am the gate'.

6.30pm Evening worship with Rev Garth Nathaniel. Readings Ezra 3:1-13 and Ephesians 2: 11-end.

## **Next Sunday – Easter 5**

10.30am Morning Worship with Pastor Gary Noyes, Maureen Hughes will be speaking on Acts 7: 55-end 1 Peter 2: 2-10 ' The Way the Truth and the Life'

6.30pm Evening worship with Rosemary Humphrey. Zechariah 4: 1-10 and Revelation 21:1-14

### **This week**

Monday	1.30pm	Bowls.
	7.45pm	DCC meeting.
Tuesday		Parent and toddlers.
Wednesday	7.45pm	Jump youth group in the hall.
Thursday	9am	Parish Prayers at St John's.
	7.45pm	Homegroup at Peter and Eileen Bishop's.
	10am-12noon	Parent and toddlers.
Saturday	10am-12noon	Messy church.

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## **Cathedral Singing at Reader Licensing Service - Saturday 21st June**

Those undergoing licensing in June are invited to bring with them members from their church to form a scratch choir. It is not envisaged that the music will be very complicated - at the most there will be one item with parts. A rehearsal will take place at 1:00pm on the day, and the song list will be known in advance. If you would like the opportunity to sing in a choir in the cathedral please can you let me know, as I will need to submit numbers.

## **Messy Church**

It is Messy Church at Woodrow Community Hall this Saturday 10-12noon please spread the word to anyone you think may be interested, children of all ages are welcome along with their parents. There is lots of fun and food and it is free.