

Website - The October Living Faith Lecture with Professor George Tadros 'Health and the Holy Spirit' is available on the parish website <http://www.ipsley.org/media/> for downloading.

Facebook - For those who do, find us at StJohnsRedditch for information to share with those you know.

Diary

Sat 15 th Nov	7am-1pm	Prayer day at St Johns.
Thu 20 th Nov	7.30pm	Living Faith Lecture - Gavin Calver.
Sun 23 rd Nov		Senior Citizens Tea in the hall.
Sun 23 rd Nov		Parish 'Christ the King' service at Christ Church
Sat 22 nd Nov	9-1pm	Church work in.
Sat 29 th Nov		Messy Christmas 2014.
Sun 30 th Nov	6pm	Gary's ordination by the Bishop of Dudley.
Tue 2 nd Dec	7.30pm	Parish Prayer meeting at St John's.
Sat 5 th Dec		Christmas Fayre in the hall
Mon 29 th Dec		Cinderella at the Palace Theatre.

Please pray for:-

- Gary and April, Garth and Jenny, Richard and Sally, Richard and Wendy - our Parish clergy and wives.
- Reverend Richard Bubbers as he commences his new role.
- Those who are mourning.
- Kathleen Powell and family.
- Jo, Grace, Sophie and Lydia Adams.
- Lynda and Geoff Adams.
- Eileen and Rob Truman.
- Sylvia Czink and family.
- June Young and family.
- Bishop John and family.
- Our visiting speaker Gavin Calver.
- Signs of the Kingdom day at St John's.
- Peggy Snellgrove.
- Claire and Paul Burnham.
- Those without enough to eat.
- Our countries response to Iraq and Syrian conflicts.
- Persecuted Christians around the world.
- Those without clean water to drink.
- Allison and Maureen undertaking ministry training.

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Sunday 2nd November 2014

Thought for the week

I woke in the middle of the night. In my mind was Phil4v11....*I have learned how to be content (satisfied and to the point where I am not disturbed or disquieted) in whatever state I am in.* We were on holiday in Scotland; the weather was cold and wet; and Eileen had a cold and chest infection. We had been really looking forward to the break, lots of walking and for time with friends. Paul goes on....*I have learned in any and all circumstances the secret of facing every situation.* In 1Tim6v6 Paul goes still further....*godliness accompanied with contentment (that contentment which is a sense of inward sufficiency) is great and abundant gain.*

We live - particularly in the West - in a discontented culture. There seems to be an underlying belief and pressure for 'better'. We are driven by targets, rights, and an insatiable appetite for more, seemingly grounded in the belief that 'more' is inexhaustible.

Clearly, there is a right and godly discontent of abuse, injustice etc, but Paul is dealing with godly contentment which is **independent of circumstances**. We can so easily slip into complaining, grumbling, and criticising. True godly contentment comes from within. Paul's contentment came from drawing on Christ's power for strength.....*for I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength (Phil4v13).* Eileen and I are currently walking and praying alongside four close friends going through very difficult and traumatic circumstances - three with aggressive cancers and the other recently bereaved. They are all living testimony of this truth that contentment, strength, peace and joy are 'gain' through Christ Jesus. Godly contentment is truly a fruit of the Holy Spirit - the gift of a God who cares and loves unconditionally.

Paul also stresses that he has **learnt** godly contentment through the circumstances of life and reliance on the Lord. The way we see and react to our circumstances is key. In our Home Group (PFT) we are studying James together. In Ch1v2-4, James says...*when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete and needing nothing.* At our last meeting we were sharing how much the care and encouragement of our brothers and sisters in Christ means to us, particularly in time of need. Christian fellowship is one of God's great gifts and provision for us.

But back to Scotland! We thank God for a most valuable time of refreshment and fellowship. We were surrounded and engulfed in God's most amazing autumn colour drenched scenery.

Peter

Signs of the Kingdom Day – next Saturday 9.30-1pm

We hope you are looking forward to next Saturday's Signs of the Kingdom morning hosted by Reverend Christine Worsley, any queries please speak with Ann. Thank you.

Prayer Day

There will be a Prayer Day here at St John's from 7am - 1pm - stay for 10 minutes or 6 hours - all welcome! Breakfast will be available. Open to all so do invite anyone who may be interested. See separate leaflet for further info.

November Living Faith lecture

Please come along on Thursday 20th November 7.30pm when we will be welcoming Gavin Calver, National Director for Youth For Christ, Gavin has a national reputation as an excellent speaker and will be speaking on being a Christian in the secular world. This isn't just for young people but for all ages to hear how his faith has helped Gavin and others he has come into contact with and how we might answer questions about our faith in Jesus. Please let people know about this event, you can signpost people to the St John's facebook page or website www.ipsley.org/st-johns.

SPICE MEETING

This Tuesday November 4th at 7.30 at St John's - spice update meeting for anyone who wants to be involved with praying for and inviting thanksgiving families to Christmas events and praying about and putting into practice the ideas we had at the last meeting. People with evenings and weekends to give at your convenience are needed, not just during the day activities. Come along to pray and find out more, even if you are too busy to offer time. It may be that what we need is not what you can give, but you can still pray. All welcome. Dot (hot drinks and biscuits to keep us on track!)

Parish Service 23rd November

There will be a Parish 'Christ the King' morning service at Christ Church Matchborough Sunday 23rd November. The evening service at St John's will be as usual on the evening..

Samaritans Shoebox Campaign

It's Shoebox time again, there are leaflets available in the foyer or details can be found on the Samaritan's Purse website. Eileen and others have kindly wrapped the boxes, so all we need to do is take one, decide on whether we are buying for a boy or girl and their age and then fill the box with appropriate toys, gloves, hats, toothbrush, toothpaste and other items you can think of (no food). If this is new to you, please see Eileen or pick up a leaflet. Please return the boxes by 10th November. Thank you.

Today – 4th before Advent

10.30am Worship For Everyone with the Skelton family 'Practice what you preach'. 1 Thess 2:9-13 and Matt 23:1-12.

6.30pm Evening worship and Holy Communion with Reverend Gary Noyes. Readings Daniel 7: 1-18 and Luke 6:17-31.

Next Sunday –3rd before Advent

10.30am Morning worship with Vicki Quarton, Reverend Gary Noyes will be speaking on 'Kingdom Waiting'
1 Thess 4:12 -18 and Matthew 25:1-13.

6.30pm Evening worship. Judges 7: 2 -22 and John 15: 9 -17.

This week

Tue 4th Nov 10-12noon Parents and toddlers
7.30pm SPICE meeting in church.

Wed 5th Nov 7.45pm JUMP in the hall.

Thur 6th Nov 10-12noon Parents and toddlers.

Fri 6th Nov 6.30-8pm Children's social - Fish and Film night

Sat 8th Nov 9.30-1pm Signs of the Kingdom Day.

Gary's ordination.

Sunday 30th November is the date set for Gary's ordination as priest by the Bishop of Dudley; it will be an evening service 6pm at St John's, where Bishop Graham will also preach.

Church work in Saturday 22nd November

There will be breakfast before a work in to improve the grounds and inside of the church all welcome, please leave a note if you have preferred jobs you like to do. Come for as little or as long as you can, from 9am-1pm.

Christmas Fayre

The Christmas Fayre will be on Saturday 6th December; your donations of bottles or chocolates for the tombola's would be appreciated. Please leave them in the church foyer in a box that will be labeled up, Christmas Fayre.

Afternoon Tea

There will be a repeat of the afternoon senior citizens tea for the local community on 23rd November. If you know of anyone you would like to see invited to this enjoyable afternoon, please speak with Eileen.