

## Diary

Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 11am Churches Together Town Carols.  
Tue 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec-2<sup>nd</sup> Jan Redditch Winter Shelter  
Mon 29<sup>th</sup> 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.
- Our countries response to Iraq and Syrian conflicts.
- Those without enough to eat.
- For all who are yet to know the Gospel.
- Those without clean water to drink.
- Persecuted Christians around the world.
- The NHS and other public sector workers.
- For our local, county council decision makers and MP.
- For those who manage people within their places of work.
- For children living in care.
- For refugees.
- For orphans of war.
- For charities reaching out to the lost, lonely and hungry.
- For the children receiving Samaritans Purse shoeboxes.
- The Redditch Winter Day Shelter.
- Those who are mourning.
- Those for whom this time of year is difficult.
- 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.
- Peggy Snellgrove.
- Claire and Paul Burnham.
- Allison and Maureen undertaking ministry training.

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**St. John's Church**  
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**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2014**

### Thought for the week

It really doesn't seem like last April since I stepped back from St John's in order to prepare for ordination; it has gone so quickly, and so much has happened! I've met some truly amazing and inspirational people, and I've done a lot of reading/research/study in beautiful Ripon College.

My ordination as priest on Sunday evening was an incredible experience; almost like reaching the end of one journey, and beginning another, new stage of ministry to God's people.

The Bishop seemed very impressed with St John's, however, including the music group!

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and prayers for April and I over these past few months; much as it was exciting to be away in Oxford, I'm very glad to be home and back with everyone again. There's nothing like hitting the ground running at Christmas, though!

April has been fantastic in keeping things going in my absence, and Ann has been equally great in bearing the 'official' parts of church life.

As you know, I was presented with the most beautiful priest's stole at my ordination, and I want to thank Sue and Audrey for designing and making it especially for me. Many people have also stepped into the breach at times to help out, whether that was speaking or leading services or other things, and the church was prepared wonderfully for Sunday night.

There was, of course, a well-supplied reception afterwards, and many people from near and far stayed to eat and talk. For all this, and more, Thank you! Please keep on praying for us as we continue our ministry amongst you. We love you all, and look forward to 2015, and all that God has in store for us as a church, and the delights and challenges of ministry in this part of the Ipsley Parish.

With our blessing,  
Gary and April

### **Redditch Winter Day Shelter**

Churches Together in Redditch will, for a fourth year, be hosting a shelter for those most vulnerable in our community. The day shelter will operate from Tuesday 23 December until Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January. If you would like to find out more about volunteering see the poster on the board in the foyer. Please also remember the Winter Day Shelter in your prayers.

### **Remembrance Lantern walk at Morton Stanley Park**

Touchstones a charity that helps bereaved children, are holding a Lantern Walk on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December 4.30pm. Please see the notice board or speak with Vicki Quarton if you would like to be involved.

### **Churches Together in Redditch Town Carols**

Please come and join in with the 'Town Carols' taking place at Milward Square in the Kingfisher Centre (between Marks and Spencer and BHS) 11am on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December. See the poster on the notice board in the foyer. Note- there is free car parking at the Town Hall Car Park (access 2) on weekends and after 6pm of an evening.

### **Redditch Foodbank**

Redditch Foodbank, which is now ran from St Stephens Church in the Town Centre, invites us to volunteer for a variety of roles, please see the news sheets on the board in the foyer, or speak with Barry our Church Foodbank Representative.

### **Children's Nativity**

Can parents please help with planning for the Nativity Service on 21<sup>st</sup> December by ensuring their children attend during Sunday morning worship as well as the rehearsal in the church 10am on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December. Please see the children's leaders with any questions. This is a lovely service for children and adults to invite family and friends to.

#### **A PERSONAL PRAYER THIS ADVENT**

Lord, a lot has happened to me this last year, and I haven't always stopped to see your hand in it.

I acknowledge the things that have passed in my life and thank you for your care in difficult times.

I rejoice and thank you for all that has been good, for me and those I love.

I remember the signs of your love and commit my future into your caring hands. Amen

### **Today -Advent 2**

- 10.30am Worship For Everyone Morning Service with Rosemary Humphrey.
- 4.30pm Christingle Service with Rev Gary Noyes, Vicki Quarton will be speaking.

### **Next Sunday -Advent 3**

- 10.30am Morning Worship and Holy Communion with Rev Gary Noyes.
- 6.30pm Carols by candlelight with Rev Gary Noyes, Rosemary Humphrey will be speaking.

### **This week**

- |           |               |                             |
|-----------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Monday    | 1.00pm        | Bowls                       |
| Tuesday   | 10-12noon     | Parent and toddlers         |
|           | 7.30pm-8.30pm | Parish Prayers at St John's |
| Wednesday | 7.45pm        | JUMP in the hall.           |
| Thursday  | 10-12noon     | Parent and toddlers.        |

### **PFT**

The group will next meet on Thursday 15th January.



### ***Christmas at St John's***

Christmas Fayre in the Hall 6<sup>th</sup> December 2-4pm

Christingle 7<sup>th</sup> December 4.30pm

Morning Worship with Holy Communion 14<sup>th</sup> December 10.30am  
Carols by candlelight 6.30pm

Children's nativity service 21<sup>st</sup> December 10.30am  
Christmas praise 6.30pm

Midnight Communion 11.15pm  
Christmas day celebration 10.30am