

Diary dates

This week.

Monday 1.30pm – Bowls

Tuesday 10-12noon - Parent and toddlers in the hall

7.30pm- Parish Prayer meeting

7.45pm - Children's leaders meeting

Thursday 9am - Parish Prayers at St John's

10-12noon - Parent and toddlers in the hall.

7.45pm- PFT at Peter and Eileen Bishop's

Saturday – Decorating the church for Christmas

2-4pm- Christmas Fayre

10th December 11.30am – Woodrow First School

21st December – 6.30pm Carols in the car park –Greenlands.

7th –9th October 2016- Cloverley Church weekend away.

Please pray for:

Garth and Jenny, Richard and Wendy - our Parish clergy and wives.

Those who are mourning.

Those living in fear.

Y3 lessons and a key stage 2 4U after school club on Tuesdays until Christmas. (All at Woodrow first school).

Christmas events and services

Open the Book

The Kigezi Water and Sanitation project we are supporting.

For refugees looking for a place to settle.

Persecuted Christians around the world.

The Alexandra Hospital and Worcestershire Acute Trust.

Those concerned about changes to public services.

For charities reaching out to the lost, lonely and hungry.

Keep praying for

Roy Bush.

Claire and Paul Burnham.

Stephen Ward.

Peggy Snellgrove.

Contacts

Ipsley Rector: Canon Garth Nathaniel g.nathaniel@btinternet.com

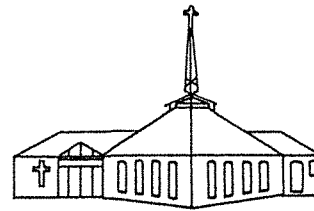
Telephone 01527 522847

Churchwardens: Ann Donovan 01527 527789

anndonovan49@yahoo.co.uk

Sharon Forrest 01527 541492 forrest-s@sky.com

**For recordings of talks, copies of notices etc go to
www.ipsley.org/st-johns**



St. John The Evangelist

Parish of Ipsley

01527 501092

stjohnschurchredditch@gmail.com

News from St John's

Sunday 29th November 2015

Dear St John's

Are you ready?

“Ready for what?” I hear you ask. Ready for Jesus' return.

Today we begin the season of Advent. This is the season that opens the Church Year, with a period of preparation. Many people have the false idea that Advent is all about preparing for Christmas. If that is what you think, then you could not be more wrong.

Advent is all about preparing ourselves for when Jesus returns again. It is connected to Christmas which is the story of Jesus' first coming among us. But it is by no means the reason for these four weeks.

With its close proximity to Christmas we use the opportunity to read the New Testament story that leads to the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, and we read the promises and prophecies of the Old Testament which explain why Jesus came. In reading these stories we will attempt to understand God's reason to send Jesus and how we can prepare for His return.

The Message of Advent is clear, we are saved from our sins, and we prepare ourselves by removing all hindrances from our lives. We “Make straight a highway for our God.”

May God give us grace as we make preparations to welcome Him amongst us.

In Christ,

Garth

Parish Prayer Meeting

We hold Parish Prayer meetings every 3 months, rotating venues around the parish.

The next one is this Tuesday 1st December at St Peter's in the upstairs conference room starting at 7.30pm and it lasts an hour.

We will be praying in small groups for our parish and our outreach activities with a focus on Christmas services. Everyone is welcome to come along and pray with our friends from around the parish. If you cannot make the evening please pick up a 'December Prayer Matters' sheet from the foyer for your personal prayer.

Christmas invitations

Invitation cards are now available in the Church foyer for dropping around to local residents in Greenlands, Woodrow and Wirehill, please use the sign up sheet to let us know which roads you are going to. The first event advertised is this Saturday 5th December.

Sale today

In the foyer after the service you will find hand made items by Audrey Lockyer for sale, all the proceeds go to Sadu church in Romania.

Ann Donovan will be selling a small selection of Traidcraft gifts fair trade dried fruit, sugar, biscuits, chocolate, cereals, coffee and tea, as well as Christmas cards, paper, and craft items. Buying from Traidcraft improves the lives of those who spend their time creating the gifts. All the money collected goes to Traidcraft.

Cloverley

Bookings for our church weekend at Cloverley Hall Christian Conference Centre in North Shropshire 7th-9th October are now being taken. This time away has been a regular event at St John's for many year's, if you haven't been before you might find it useful to speak to someone who has, there is also a website you can take a look at www.cloverleyhall.org . All meals and accommodation are included, there will be children's groups during the teaching sessions and a time for relaxation and fun. In the words of one of our senior members of St John's, Mary 'people kept asking me to go and I finally did and it was just terrific'. Look out for more information in the coming weeks and do join us on this lovely retreat.

Today – First Sunday in Advent

10.30am Morning Worship with Rosemary Humphrey, Vicki Quarton will be speaking on 'Keeping hope alive' Jeremiah 33:14-16 and Luke 21:25-36.

6.30pm Evening Praise with Maureen Hughes, Peter McLaren will be speaking.

Next Sunday –Second Sunday in Advent

10.30am Worship For Everyone with Dot Bevington ' A call for change' Malachi 3:1-4 and Luke 3:1-6.

4.30pm Christingle led by Revd.Garth Nathaniel, Vicki Quarton will be speaking.

Samaritans shoe box appeal

Thank you to Eileen Truman, family and friends for organising again this year, the response to the Samaritans appeal, to help some of the poorest children in our world.160 boxes left St John's Church Hall on Tuesday for Kazakhstan, thank you if you managed to donate.

Pantomime

A group booking for the matinee performance of Jack and the Beanstalk at the Palace Theatre on Wednesday 30th December is being made, please see Sharon if you would like to go, tickets are £17 concessions £19 adults.

As you can see from the service and event listing below we continue to have lots going on, in this our 25th celebratory year, if you can help out with refreshments on any of these occasions please speak with Ann.or Sharon. Thank you.

Events and services during Advent at St John's

Christmas Fayre	2-4pm	Saturday 5 th December
Christingle	4.30pm	Sunday 6 th December
Carols by Candlelight	6.30pm	Sunday 13 th December
Carols in Woodrow Centre	4.15pm	Thursday 17 th December
Children's Nativity	10.30am	Sunday 20 th December
Christmas Praise	6.30pm	Sunday 20 th December
Carols on the car park	6.30pm	Monday 21 st December
Midnight Communion	11.15pm	Christmas Eve
Christmas Day Praise	10.30am	