

Diary dates

9th January 2016 - St John's New Year Party.

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

Please pray for:

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

Lynne, John and Daniel Davies after the passing of Bob.

Those who are mourning.

Those living in fear.

Christmas events and services across the Parish and the Town.

Open the Book

The Kigezi Water and Sanitation project we are supporting and the families coming together for Christmas.

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, who has had an operation on her eyes and is recovering well.

Contacts

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

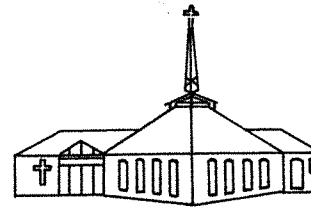
Telephone 01527 522847

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 20th December 2015

"Are you ready?" is the greeting on everyone's lips, and I just smile, think of all the tasks left that are yet to be completed and reply, "Not quite!" It is not as if I haven't made any effort - it is just that the list of jobs to be done seems unending!

On Wednesday evening we were singing carols in the Scout Hut grounds, and there was a good mix of scouts & their families, local residents and members of St John's. Afterwards we enjoyed refreshments provided by the scouts.

On Thursday we were down in Woodrow Centre, for Community Carols led by the local schools/playgroup/Brownies, singing a lively mixture of carols and other Christmassy songs. One of the opening numbers was "When Santa Got Stuck up the Chimney" I wonder if Santa got stuck up the chimney because he hadn't prepared sufficiently for his role on Christmas Eve?

Our preparation for Christmas is about more than shopping, wrapping, cooking or dieting - we need to spend some time thinking about the creator of the world, coming to earth as a tiny baby, bringing hope to everyone.

It has been really good to take part in our outreach events this year, and enable those who might not have visited a church, to pause in all their busyness, to sing carols and reflect on the real meaning of Christmas. Our final Community Carol event takes place on Monday evening at 6:30pm, on the church car park. Do join us as part of your preparation for celebrating the first Christmas.

In all the rush and busyness may you draw close to Christ this Christmas.
Rosie

Bishop John's Christmas message 2015

This Christmas Tim Peake will be looking down on earth from space. It's an arresting view which has filled everyone who has seen it with awe. The first photograph from space of that floating ball we call earth, of our island home, has impressed itself upon the consciousness of us all but actually to see it must be breath-taking.

More breath-taking still is the great good news of Christmas, that God who created all that immensity of the vast universe in which we are placed chose to come and share it with us as a human being to show us the depth of his love for us.

At the beginning of St Matthew's gospel an angel quotes the prophet Isaiah to Joseph in a dream: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel' which means 'God is with us.' Jesus's last words at the end of the gospel are 'Remember, I am with you always.'

God is not just on our side, is not just working for us, he is *with* us, to assure us that we are never alone, never without an all-powerful friend and advocate, never without God.

May you feel God's presence and love this Christmas and always.
+John

Greetings to St John's from Kigezi

We have been sent Christmas greetings from our Tearfund Connected Church partners in Uganda: the Kigezi Diocese Water and Sanitation Project. They have sent us a Christmas news update which is on the notice-board. Christmas is an important time in Uganda when most people return to the home village to celebrate with their family. People try to save for months enough money to buy some new clothes and shoes for their loved ones and enjoy a festive meal together. Many cannot afford to eat meat very often so neighbours usually join together to share part of a cow! Churches will be packed with Ugandans meeting together to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Today – Fourth Sunday in Advent

10.30am Children's Nativity, with Vicky Skelton and Vicki Quarton.

6.30pm Christmas Praise.

Christmas



Midnight Communion 11.15pm Christmas Eve - Revd Richard Harding.

Christmas Day Praise 10.30am Rosemary Humphrey and Vicki Quarton
Luke 2:1-14 'Homely and Heavenly'.

Next Sunday – Christmas 1

10.30am Worship For Everyone with David Hargreaves
'Luke 2:41-52 'Tensions and Transitions'.

No evening service at St John's.

Bob Davies – St Peter's

Bob Davies, husband to Lynne and father to Daniel and John, passed away last week after a period of illness. Bob's funeral will be on January 5th at 12noon, for more information contact St Peter's office on 01527 516351.

New Year Party

Everyone is invited to the St John's New Year Party on Saturday 9th January. It will be suitable for all ages and will be a great time of fun and friendship. It will be held in the church hall starting at 6.30pm and finish at 9pm and include bring and share food. So keep the evening free in your 2016 calendars.