

Diary dates

7th January 9am Morning parish prayers at St John's
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.
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, who has had an operation on her eyes and is recovering well.

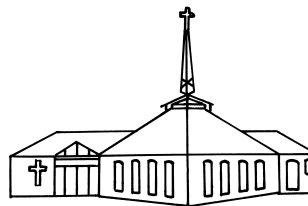
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**For recordings of talks, copies of notices etc go to
www.ipsley.org/st-johns**



St. John The Evangelist

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News from St John's

Sunday 3rd January 2016

On Christmas morning Rosie spoke about the missing person from our Christmas crib sets. Joseph, often overlooked in the story, and after the presentation in the temple, no longer mentioned except in passing reference. However, we can learn a few important lessons from Joseph as we stand at the beginning of a new year. The thing we remember about Joseph is that he heard the angel's words and acted in obedience. Let's look at the background to this.

When he learned of Mary's pregnancy he wanted to do the right thing. Right thing? What was the right thing. Exposing her "shame," so she could be stoned to death, or divorcing her in a society where a divorced woman was the subject of ridicule and shame and dishonour. Either way Joseph would do the right thing, but Mary would pay the price of her obedience to God.

Joseph needed to hear God for himself, and must respond in humility and obedience. It wasn't about him, but Jesus. In his dilemma he did not pay attention to this special child. It was only the angel coming and pointing this out. The flight to Egypt was also about preserving the child.

In this New Year, with the plans we have, let us seek God's will, for ourselves, for our families and for the Church. IT may not always be what others would call the "right way". But it will be God's way, and in this way lies God's blessing.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year! Garth

New Year Party this Saturday

Everyone is invited to the St John's New Year Party this 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, there is a sign up sheet for food in the foyer.

Pilgrim is a new course from the Church of England designed to help people find out more about the Christian faith.

Pilgrim is comprised of two stages firstly 'Follow' and secondly 'Grow': both stages cover the same topics but with a different depth:

Each stage contains four short six-session courses:

- What do Christians believe?
- How do Christians know and worship God?
- How do Christians behave?
- What is the Christian vision for the world?

Maybe you have been on an Alpha course and want to find out more about the Christian faith, or you want to go further in your faith, then this course will help you on your journey.

The Pilgrim course will start this Wednesday January 6th 7.30pm at St Peter's, have a think about going along, perhaps take a look at the map on the board in the foyer and see if anyone near you would like to go too or why not invite someone you know who doesn't go to church at the moment.

Collect of the day

Almighty God,
in the birth of your Son
you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate Word,
and shown us the fullness of your love:
help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love
that we may know the fullness of his joy;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Sunday – Epiphany

10.30am Worship For Everyone with Rob Quarton, 'travelling hopefully'.
Readings Isaiah 60:1-6 and Matthew 2:1-12.

6.30pm Holy Communion and healing prayer with Revd.Garth Nathaniel.

Next Sunday – Baptism of Christ

10.30am Morning Worship with Revd.Garth Nathaniel 'Called by name'
'Isaiah 43:1-7 and Luke 3:15-17, 21-22.

Children's groups and Sunday Jump.

6.30pm Evening Worship with David Hargreaves,
David will be speaking on 'Faith'
Readings: Hebrews 11 1-7 and Matthew 21 18-22.

Change of email address

Please note a change of email for Sharon to Forrest_s@btinternet.com

History of the debate between science and religion

Tuesday 19 January 8pm

Lindisfarne House, 4 Barbourne Terrace, Worcester, WR1 3JS

Talk by the President of the Science and Religion Forum, Prof. John Henry Brooke.

Scientists have not always been atheistic. Many were once very prominent in various religious movements. There are some similarities between the scientific search for truth and the religious equivalent. John Henry Brooke is a truly outstanding figure in our attempt to understand how we came to the present mutual antipathy between the two approaches to understanding the world. He will give us a glimpse into the issues and lead a brief discussion. The talk is open to all, free, with coffee and free parking - a voluntary offering may be made.

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