

Diary dates

Monday 1.30pm Bowls

Tuesday 10-12noon Parent and toddler group

Thursday 10-12 noon Parent and toddler group
9am Morning Prayers at St John's

16th February – DCC meet in church 8pm

20th February – Children's social- bowling 4pm

15th March – DCC meet in church 8pm

19th April - St John's AGM

28th April – Parish AGM at Christ Church.

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

Please pray for:

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

Those who are mourning.

Those living in fear.

Open the Book

JUMP youth work.

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

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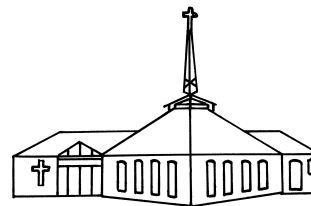
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**For recordings of talks, copies of notices etc go to
www.ipsley.org/st-johns**



St. John The Evangelist

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News from St John's

Sunday 31st January 2016

When Mary and Joseph took their son Jesus to the temple on that first Candlemas, they met two very intriguing persons. Anna and Simeon, virtually spent all their time in the worship of God frequently visiting the temple. Both of them saw Jesus and recognised in this tiny baby the fulfilment of God's promise. Here was the Messiah.

Anna and Simeon were devout God-fearing people. They were not just those for whom relationship with God was limited to the annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem or the weekly (or occasional) attendance at synagogue. Their faith was alive. They lived and indeed immersed themselves in their relationship with God. For them their faith was not a leisure activity, like a hobby or a club membership. But it was alive and active. Their whole lives were given to learning it and living it. They were actively looking for God in their lives. That is why they saw the glory of the incarnate Christ. That is why they were able to receive favour and grace.

What about you the reader? Are you immersed in your relationship with God? Would you consider your faith living and active? Are you seeking God's will for your life? How can we do this? The lent course this year, held at St Peter's will look at the whole area of discipleship.

With every blessing,

Garth

Lent Course

The Diocese of Worcester Lent Course for 2016 is entitled Living as Disciples. Jonathan Kimber Director of Ministry and Discipleship wrote and drew together the materials saying:

I hope that this course will among other things:
Help you grow in your understanding of discipleship
Increase your desire to live as a disciple of Christ
Connect with your real day-to-day life
Help you reflect on some practices and disciplines

The course will take place at St Peter's. More details to follow.

St John's and Parish AGM's

Please note St John's AGM will be 8pm on 19th April in church, the Parish AGM will be 8pm on 28th April at Christ Church. Please put the dates in the diary and come along. Please note this year the St John's reports will be drawn together and included in a booklet and will be needed earlier than usual thank you.

Cloverley

Do you have your personal invitation to Cloverley? if you haven't received yours check on the table in the foyer or speak with Rosie, Ann or Sharon. The booking form along with a cheque for £20 is needed in by the end of February please, if you have any questions at all speak with Rosie, Vicki, Ann, Barry or Sharon. It is a great weekend get away, in lovely surroundings, 2 nights accommodation, breakfast, lunch and dinner are included in the cost. A recent testimony on the website:
Thank you very very much for a comfortable room in lovely surroundings. Food was marvelous! Staff friendly and helpful. Wishing you every success and remembering to pray for you. Take a look at <http://cloverleyhall.org>

Christian Mindfulness Day workshop

Deeply rooted in the ancient Christian tradition of contemplative prayer, encouraging us to be calm and be present in the moment. More information is in the poster on the notice board or online at www.christianmindfulness.co.uk/alvechurch.html. Venue The St Laurence Parish Church Alvechurch Saturday 14th May 9.30am-4pm. Number of places limited, cost £30 booking needed. Tel 0131 463 2588

Today – Candlemas

10.30am Morning worship with Chris Tilley.
'Understanding Gods word'
Jeremiah 1:4-10 and Luke 4:21-30.

Children's groups.

6.30pm Candlemas evening service with Rosemary Humphrey.

Next Sunday

10.30am Worship for Everyone with Vicky and Ron Skelton.

6.30pm Evening Praise.

Half Term drop-in family fun at the Cathedral

17 & 18 February, 10.30am - 12.30pm and 2-4pm
Discover much-loved Bible stories and characters through Messy craft, stories, songs, fun, prayer and food!

St Leonard's Beoley Snowdrop Weekend 13-14 February

'Come and join us for our annual Snowdrop Weekend, with activities for everyone, refreshments served and a chance to see our church, as well as our famous snowdrops!'

A Month of Prayer for Vocations

Throughout February there will be a focus on vocations on social media with a different prayer topic each day. The Church of England, through [@c_of_e](https://twitter.com/c_of_e), will tweet a daily graphic with the prayer prompt and a selection of blogs posted throughout the month with stories about vocation/calling. The hashtag to use during the month is [#CofECalling](https://twitter.com/hashtag/CofECalling)

There is a national prayer plan, in which the Diocese of Worcester's day is Tuesday 16 February and a Worcestershire prayer plan, in which the Deanery of Bromsgrove that we come under is on 3rd February. If you would like a copy of the local prayer plan there are print outs on the table in the foyer headed up 'Asking the Lord' Diocese of Worcester.