

Diary dates

Monday 1.30pm Bowls
Tuesday 8.00pm DCC meeting in church.
Thursday - 9am Morning Prayers at St John's
Saturday - Children's social- bowling 4pm
25th February -PCC Meeting at St John's.
27th February - Messy Church
28th February - Evening youth service.
15th March - DCC meeting in church 8pm
17th March - Parish Prayers 7.30-8.30pm
19th April - 8pm St John's AGM
28th April - 8pm Parish AGM and PCC meeting at Christ Church.
16th June - Parish Prayers 7.30-8.30pm
21st July - PCC meeting at St Peter's
15th September - Parish Prayers 7.30-8.30pm
7th -9th October - Cloverley Church weekend away.
20th October - PCC meeting at St Johns
1st December - Parish Prayers 7.30-8.30pm

Please pray for:

Garth and Jenny, Richard and Wendy, Ian and Judy
Those who are mourning.
Those awaiting hospital treatment.
Open the Book
JUMP youth service.
The Kigezi Water and Sanitation project we are supporting
SPICE activities.
Cloverley planning.
The Alexandra Hospital and Worcestershire Acute Trust.
For charities reaching out to the lost, lonely and hungry.

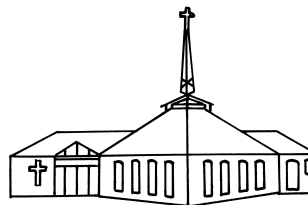
Keep praying for

Roy Bush.
Claire and Paul Burnham.
Stephen Ward.
Peggy Snellgrove.

Contacts

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St. John The Evangelist

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News from St John's
Sunday 14th February 2016

Dear Friends,

Today is a day of contrasts. The first Sunday in Lent, with its solemnness and message of self-control and self-denial and discipline. And it coincides this year with Valentine's Day. A day that speaks of joy and exuberant love, of celebration. Today combines both the frugality of devotion and the wining and dining of love. Are these two mutually exclusive to exclusion of one another?

I think not. Within the Christian life, as within Marriage, there needs to be the bedrock of commitment and devotion. A life, a relationship, built on firm foundations, where self-giving and holding one another is balanced out with the joy and exuberance of love. Nobody can celebrate love in its deepest sense than the Christian. The discipline of being a Christian means a life disciplined by God's Spirit, and a life renewed by God's love. And this flows out into our relationship with our world and creation.

God is the supreme example of Lenten and Valentine love relationships. In His love God gave us Jesus. In His love, Jesus gave Himself, even laying down His life. This same self-giving, self-sacrificing God, rejoices over us in the abundance of His love. He rejoices over us singing of His love.

This Lent I invite you to grow in your relationship with God. This Lent I invite you to celebrate God's intimate love for you. Shout it out and tell others, that God loves you.

In Him,
Garth

Lent Course

The Lent Course begins this Wednesday 17th in the Huband Room at St Peter's. Coffee etc. at 7pm, the course starts at 7:30pm. The Course is titled "Living As Disciples". Each session has its own title as follows, (a hard copy will be provided on the night or you can download from www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/resources):

- ❖ 17th February: Disciples as learners
- ❖ 24th February: Disciples as followers
- ❖ 2nd March: Disciples as friends
- ❖ 9th March: Disciples as those who serve
- ❖ 16th March: Gathering together in the light of the resurrection.

The course will also run on Tuesday mornings for those who cannot attend Wednesday evenings.

Youth service

The evening service on 28th February will be led and ran by the JUMP leaders and young people, the scriptures will be Psalm 139 v14, Jeremiah 29 v11 and 1 Samuel 16 v 7.

We will hear from visiting speaker Peter Cook about Hope Home, an orphanage in Thailand, for disabled babies and children. You will be able to make donations on the evening or buy items to support the charity.

St John's and Parish AGM's

Please note St John's AGM will be 8pm on 19th April in church, the Parish AGM (including PCC meeting) will be 8pm on 28th April at Christ Church. Please put the dates in the diary and come along. Also note this year the St John's reports will be drawn together and included in a booklet.

Cloverley

If you haven't already done so, please hand in your Cloverley booking form and deposit before the end of February, thank you. If you have any questions please see Ann, Sharon Barry or Annette our treasurer.

Today – Sunday before Lent

10.30am Morning Worship with Ian Evans 'Revealing identity' Deuteronomy 26:1-11 and Luke 4:1-13.

6.30pm Evening Praise with Mike Palfreyman.

This week

Monday – 1.30pm Bowls.

Tuesday – 8pm DCC meeting in church.

Wednesday – 7.45pm Parish Lent Course at St Peter's.

Thursday – 9am Parish Morning Prayers at St John's.

Saturday – 4pm – Children's social- bowling, meet in church car park.

Next Sunday Lent 2

10.30am Morning Worship with Rosemary Humphrey 'Darkness and destiny' Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 and Luke 13:31-35.

6.30pm Evening Praise with Ian Evans.

Ipsley Parish Church Council meeting dates

Ipsley PCC Meeting dates are as agreed at the last PCC meeting:

Thursday 25th February at St John's; Thursday 28th April at Christ Church (APCM); Thursday 21st July at St Peter's and Thursday 20th October at St John's.

Parish Prayer Meeting Dates

Parish Prayer Meetings will be held quarterly. Thursday 17th March, 16th June, 15th September, 1st December. 7.30-8.30pm; venues TBC.

Collect of the day

Almighty God,

whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness,

and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:

give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit;

and, as you know our weakness,

so may we know your power to save;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. Amen