

## **Diary dates**

Monday 1.30pm Bowls.  
Tuesday 10-12noon Parent and toddlers.  
Wednesday -1.45pm-2.45pm Adult colouring in church.  
Thursday - 9.30am Holy Communion at St John's.  
-10-12noon Coffee and cake. All welcome.  
-10-12noon Parent and Toddlers.  
-8pm PCC Meeting at St John's.  
Saturday - 10-12noon Messy Church  
Sunday - 6.30pm Evening youth service.  
15<sup>th</sup> March - DCC meeting in church 8pm  
17<sup>th</sup> March - Parish Prayers 7.30-8.30pm  
25<sup>th</sup> March- 9.45am Good Friday Walk of Witness starts Baptist Church  
19<sup>th</sup> April - 8pm St John's AGM  
28<sup>th</sup> April - 8pm Parish AGM and PCC meeting at Christ Church.  
16<sup>th</sup> June - Parish Prayers 7.30-8.30pm  
21<sup>st</sup> July - PCC meeting at St Peter's  
15<sup>th</sup> September - Parish Prayers 7.30-8.30pm  
7<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> October - Cloverley Church weekend away.  
20<sup>th</sup> October - PCC meeting at St Johns  
1<sup>st</sup> December - Parish Prayers 7.30-8.30pm

## **Please pray for:**

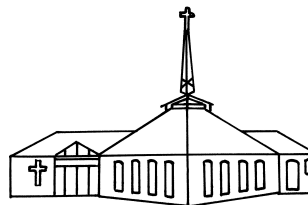
Garth and Jenny, Richard and Wendy, Ian and Judy  
Those who are mourning.  
Those awaiting hospital treatment.  
Messy Church this Saturday.  
JUMP youth service.  
The Kigezi Water and Sanitation project we are supporting  
SPICE activities.  
Cloverley planning.  
The Alexandra Hospital and Worcestershire 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**

Ipsley Rector: Canon Garth Nathaniel g.nathaniel@btinternet.com  
Telephone 01527 522847  
Churchwardens: Ann 01527 527789 anndonovan49@yahoo.co.uk  
Sharon 01527 541492 forrest\_s@btinternet.com



# St. John The Evangelist

Parish of Ipsley  
01527 501092  
stjohnschurchredditch@gmail.com

News from St John's

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2016

Dear all,

I have heard people speak of Lent in a way that is a little more than a joke. "What are you giving up for Lent?" gets met with comments such as, "homework", or "sermons" this last with an accompanying smirk. Lent was one of those peculiar practices demanded by the "traditional" family of Churches. And it never occurs to the majority of us that we may actually benefit from observing the season of Lent.

I have grown to value Lent as an opportunity to grow in my relationship with God. The disciplines of Lent - Prayer, Bible Study and fasting is rooted in the Bible and the church calls us to make these practices ours. What a wonderful opportunity to have not one day but a whole season that helps us in our walk with God.

In the ancient church, Lent was a time for new converts to be instructed for baptism and for believers caught in sin to focus on repentance. In time, all Christians came to see Lent as a season to be reminded of their need for penitence and to prepare spiritually for the celebration of Easter.

Lent is not about doing good works to earn God's favour. That is God's gift to us. But I invite you, instead, to see Lent as a time to grow more deeply in God's grace.

Blessings,  
Garth.

### **Weekly communion – new**

From this Thursday until Easter, Holy Communion will be available 9.30am at St John's. Refreshments will also be available – donations to cover costs invited.

### **Colouring for adults – new**

Have you caught onto this past time? It can be very relaxing and a lovely way to pass an hour or so. Starting this Wednesday 1.45pm-2.45pm in church. Sign up on the sheet in the foyer, all materials provided.

**Lent Course** - If you didn't manage to attend last week's Lent Course but would like to go along this week, it starts 7 for 7.30pm Wednesday. For those unable to make the Wednesday meeting, the course will also run 10am Tuesday, both at the Huband Room, St Peter's Church.

### **Bishops Lent Message**

This year's Lent Message launches Bishop John's Lent appeal to raise money to help the famine relief in our partner Diocese of Morogoro. If you would like to contribute to this, please send any donation to the Diocesan Office, marked 'Bishop's Lent Appeal'. A Gift Aid declaration form can be downloaded at <http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/news>.

### **Youth service**

The evening service next Sunday will be led and ran by the JUMP leaders and young people. 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. All welcome.

### **Cloverley**

To help us plan for the weekend, if you haven't already done so, can you let Barry, Vicki or Ann know asap that you will be attending. Your booking form and deposit (£20) can be placed in the box in the foyer or handed to Barry.

### **Good Friday**

We would encourage you to join in with the walk of witness on Good Friday starting at the Baptist Church on Easemore Road 10.30am then around the Town into the Kingfisher Centre, ending at St Stephens around 11.40am. For those able to get there earlier there will be a service at the Baptist Church starting at 9.45am. Please note there will also be a service here at St John's at 10.30am.

### **Today –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.

### **Next Sunday Lent 3**

10.30am Morning Worship and Holy Communion with Prayer for Healing, led by Rosemary Humphrey, Revd Garth Nathaniel will be speaking on 'When the time comes' Isaiah 55:1-9 and Luke 13:1-9.

6.30pm Youth service. Readings :Psalm 139 v14, Jeremiah 29 v11 and 1 Samuel 16 v 7.

### **Night out**

Rob and Vicki are thinking of booking tickets for a Rend Collective (Build your Kingdom here, amongst others) gig in Birmingham on 12th May. Would anyone else like to come too? Tickets are £19.80 each. It's at the 02 Institute in Digbeth.

### **Ipsley Parish Church Council meeting dates**

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

**St John's and Parish AGM's** Please note St John's AGM will be 8pm on 19<sup>th</sup> April in church, the Parish AGM (including PCC meeting) will be 8pm on 28<sup>th</sup> 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, any questions see Barry or Ann.

**Phone needed** If anyone has a phone that has an answer phone attached, they no longer need, please see Barry about taking it off your hands for Church use.