

Diary dates

Monday – 1.30pm Bowls
-1-3pm Card making at Lynda's
Tuesday –10-11.30am Parent and toddlers
-5pm Shrove Tuesday at Jane and Karl Smith's
Wednesday – 7.30pm Ash Wednesday at St Peter's
Thursday– 9.30am Holy Communion at St John's followed by coffee morning.
10-11.30am Parent and toddlers
Friday - Women's World Day of Prayer 2pm Oasis and 7.30pm St Peter's
7th March – Parish Lent Course – 12.30pm and 7.30pm St Peter's
Children's leaders meeting 8.00pm at Jane Smith's
27th March – Card making at Lynda's 1pm
4th April – AGM at St Johns 7.30pm
27th April – Parish AGM 7.30pm Venue TBA
14-20th May – Christian Aid Week.

Please pray for:

- ❖ Garth and Jenny, Richard and Wendy, Ian and Judy.
- ❖ Our Licensed Lay Ministers Maureen, Rosie and Vicki.
- ❖ Ann Ball and family.
- ❖ Parent and toddler group
- ❖ Women's World Day of Prayer in Redditch
- ❖ Compassion and other charities forced to close in India
- ❖ Those suffering with ill health.
- ❖ The Kigezi Water and Sanitation project we are supporting.
- ❖ Open the Book, as they continue to be welcomed in schools.
- ❖ 4 U Club, for children signing up to this Bible group in school
- ❖ Charities reaching out to the lost, lonely and hungry including the monthly outreach in the Ecumenical Centre.

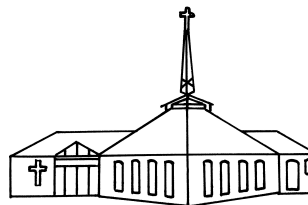
Keep praying for

Ann Ball. Nancy Borthwick Jane Smith
Sylvia Czink Peggy Snellgrove

Contacts

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Sunday 26th February 2017

Dear All,

This week sees the start of the season of lent. Lent gives us an opportunity to give special attention to our spiritual discipline. Can I commend to you the spiritual disciplines of prayer and fasting? As a person who loves his food, I find that the discipline of fasting helps to focus the mind on why I am doing it, which is to spend time in prayer and allow the Holy Spirit to help me in searching my heart so I can grow spiritually. Fasting is a biblical discipline where people were beset with the same physical challenges as we are today.

In Joel 2:12, we are urged "Even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning." (NIV) This then leads to the promise "And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days." Joel 2:28,29

Seeking the Lord with you this Lent,

Canon Garth Nathaniel

Parish Lent Course - will begin on Tuesday 7th march at 12:30pm with soup & sandwiches at the start. There will be an identical course running on Wednesday evenings starting on 8th March at 7:30pm, both in the Huband Room at St Peter's.. This year's theme is *Growing Faith, Growing Witness*.

Ash Wednesday service – this week

Please join us for Ash Wednesday – the first day of Lent at St Peter's 7.30pm. Want to go but can't get there? please speak with Sharon.

AGM and Church Electoral Roll Revision:

Our AGM is coming up on Tuesday 4th April 7.30-8.30pm please do come along. If you have been attending St John's for 6 months or more live in Greenlands, Woodrow or Wire Hill, are Baptised and would like to be included on the Electoral Roll (church membership roll) please speak to Dawn Wilson asap and before 5th March.

Elections

Following last year's AGM, it was agreed from this year, all DCC representative rolls are up for election to the council. Ann Donovan as Warden, last week informed the church she will not be standing for re-election. Please spend some time praying about the right people to fill these roles and see Dawn for a nomination form.

Toddlers – can you help?

The Tuesday and Thursday toddler group are seeing unprecedented numbers of parents and toddlers, if you can help in any way please see Eileen, the groups run from 10am-11.30am.

Card Making

Do you enjoy craft, or would like to give it a try? join Lynda Adams at home for card making 1pm-3pm tomorrow and 27th March, cost £3 to cover refreshments and materials, please let Lynda know you will be going.

Women's World Day of Prayer 2017

The afternoon service is at Oasis Church at 2.00pm and the evening service is at St Peter's Church at 7.30pm. Through the World Day of Prayer, women are encouraged to become aware of other countries and cultures and no longer live in isolation. They are further encouraged to become aware of their talents and use them in the service of society. The World Day of Prayer aims to demonstrate that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence in the world.

There will be 2 services held in Redditch this coming Friday March 3rd. All welcome.

Today– Transfiguration Sunday

10.30am Holy Communion and Healing Prayer `Exodus 24:12-18
Matthew 17:1-9' with Revd Garth Nathaniel
'Fully human, fully divine'

6.30pm Evening Worship with Rosemary Humphrey

Ash Wednesday service at St Peter's 7.30pm

Thursday – Service of Holy Communion 9.30am at St John's

Friday- Women's World Day of Prayer 2pm and 7.30pm

Next Sunday– Lent 1

10.30am Worship For Everyone with Vicki Quarton
Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7 and Matthew 4:1-11
'Who do you think I am'

6.30pm Holy Communion and Healing Prayer with Richard Harding.

Special prayer for Church Action on Poverty Sunday

A reminder there will be pancakes at Jane and Karl Smith's 5pm on Tuesday, for parents and children. Cost £1 per child.

You call us, God
You call us out of a harsh land and into freedom
You call us out of despair and apathy
You call us into a vision of another way of living
You call us, Jesus
You call us into hope and friendship
You call us to build your kingdom
You call us to break bread with you and with the hungry
You call us to transformation
You call us to shine into the darkness
You call us into the world to change it
Give us the strength to follow where you call
Amen