

Diary dates

Monday – 1.30pm Bowls

Tuesday –10-11.30am Parent and toddlers

-12.30pm – Lent course at St Peters

- Children's leaders meeting 8.00pm at Jane Smith's

Wednesday – Lent Course at St Peters 7.30pm

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

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.
- ❖ Ian and Judy Evans at the loss of Ian's mother
- ❖ Richard Harding as he recovers from a chest infection
- ❖ Peggy Snellgrove out of hospital and recovering from pneumonia
- ❖ Ann Ball and family.
- ❖ Amanda Heeks who we have lost touch with
- ❖ Parent and toddler group at St John's
- ❖ The work of Christian charities trying to bring about change
- ❖ 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 we 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 and Church Urban Fund.

Keep praying for

Ann Ball. Nancy Borthwick Jane Smith
Sylvia Czink Peggy Snellgrove Amanda Heeks

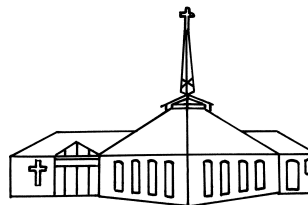
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Sunday 5th March 2017

The Church Urban Fund was established by the Church of England as a practical response to unmet need and has been active in local communities for over 30 years.

If you are unable to attend either of the 2 Lent Courses in our Parish starting next week, you may wish to view the Lent Course from the Church Urban Fund website www.cuf.org.uk/lent-course Space allowing, the reflect and pray sections will be included in the notices each week during Lent.

"In the season of Lent we seek to recover some degree of what was lost in "the fall". We voluntarily place a limit on our eating and drinking, and make time to be close to God."

Reflect: Week One speaks of creating space to draw nearer to God.

The Bible is full of reminders that God is close to each of us and calls for us to draw nearer to him. Psalm 34 tells us that The Lord is near to the broken hearted. Acts 17 tell us that He is never far from each of us. This news has brought relief to all of us at one time or another; now it can be an encouragement to draw closer to Him as we prepare for the Good News of Easter.

Pray: with us for God's closeness and presence to be felt in our lives and the lives of those who are experiencing difficulty in their lives.

Father,

Your closeness in our lives is a wonderful gift,

It has restored us at times of despair,

Thank you for the strength and hope you give us,

For those who are in pain or are struggling this Lent,

Make your closeness felt in their lives as you have in ours,

In the name of Jesus Christ, Our Lord,

Amen

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



Toddlers – can you help?

Next Sunday during the morning service, there will be a Baptism of a baby girl Rosalee, who along with her mother goes to toddler group. 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.

Redditch Older People's Services Day –Thursday

A drop in event for older people, their families, friends and carers is taking place at Redditch Town Hall from 10am-12noon on Thursday. Find out what services are available locally, take bills along for a free energy price comparison or book a free home safety check. Also available on the day is a free electric blanket safety check, to book a slot call 01527 584653. There are free refreshments too!



FAIRTRADE Fairtrade Fortnight 27 February -12 March 2017

The future for Fairtrade producers who sell to customers in the UK is uncertain because of potential changes in international trade rules because of Brexit. If you want to support Fairtrade producers now and in the future, go to www.traidcraft.co.uk/mpbriefing to find out more and how you can write to your MP to ask them to make sure that the UK's new trade approach works for the world's poorest people.

Baptism preparation

There will be a Baptism preparation morning on Saturday 8th April at St Peter's for people of all ages who are considering being Baptised. Please contact Linda Nicholas on l.nicholas@blueyonder.co.uk or leave a message at St Peter's office for Linda to contact you 01527 522847.

Today - 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 Revd Garth Nathaniel 'Centrality of the Cross'.

Next Sunday– Lent 2

10.30am Morning worship and Baptism of Rosalee with Revd Garth Nathaniel.
'How can this be' Genesis 12.1-4a and John 3.1-17

6.30pm Evening Praise with Mike Palfreyman.

Messy church dates:

For Carers/Parents/Grandparents with children, please put these dates in the diary, these free events at Woodrow Community Rooms starting at 10am involve craft, music and food - 25th March, 22nd April, 27th May, 24th June , 22nd July, 23rd September, 28th October and 25th November.

Christian charities helping make change happen

A report written By Christians Against Poverty 'the poor pay more' has been received by some of the major utilities companies, who are now considering making changes to protect their most vulnerable clients. Consumers using prepayment meters pay more for their utilities because they cannot access direct debit discounts. Visit capuk.org for more information

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.