

## **Diary dates**

Monday – 1.30pm Bowls

Tuesday –10-11.30am Parent and toddlers  
-12.30pm – Lent course at St Peters  
- 7.30pm St John's DCC in church.

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

Saturday – Messy Church 10-12noon

27<sup>th</sup> March – Card making at Lynda's 1pm

4<sup>th</sup> April – AGM at St Johns 7.30pm

13<sup>th</sup> April – Maundy Thursday meal

27<sup>th</sup> April – Parish AGM 7.30pm Venue TBA

14-20<sup>th</sup> 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.
- ❖ Planning for Easter Services
- ❖ DCC meeting this Tuesday
- ❖ Amanda Heeks who we have lost touch with
- ❖ Parent and toddler group at St John's
- ❖ Chris and Claire and other new parents
- ❖ 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**

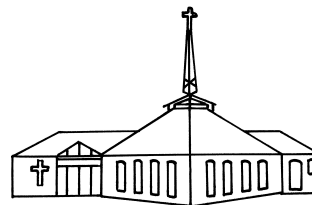
Ann Ball. Nancy Borthwick Jane Smith  
Sylvia Czink Peggy Snellgrove Amanda Heeks

## **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

Greenlands Avenue, Redditch B98 7PZ

Parish of Ipsley

Tel: 01527 501092

stjohnschurchredditch@gmail.com

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Dear all,

The other day I was thinking about the verse where Jesus speaks about faith "Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed..." (Matthew 17:20) In chapter 13:31 He has already said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and

planted in his field. <sup>32</sup> Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree."

Though our faith (our trust in God) might seem insignificant, it has the potential to become mighty and strong and great. For faith to grow it must be planted and nurtured and nourished. To nourish our faith, we must spend time in prayer and Bible study. As we feed our faith it begins to grow. Paul tells us, "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Rom 10:17 (NKJV)

Blessings,

Canon Garth Nathaniel

## **Agape Maundy Thursday meal –13<sup>th</sup> April**

The bring and share Maundy Thursday meal will be at St Peter's. More information and a sign up sheet will be available shortly.

**EAST AFRICA** – We are starting today, an appeal to send money to **Tearfund** in aid of the East Africa humanitarian disaster. If you are able to donate towards this appeal, please use an envelope for money mark the envelope 'Tearfund' and put in the collection box in the foyer. If you are a tax payer and would like to gift aid your donation, which adds 25%, please write 'gift aid' and your name on the envelope too.

Food shortages have now become critical in East Africa – 16 million people are in urgent need of food and safe water.

### **Third Lent reflection from the Church Urban Fund**

"Jesus Christ is the ultimate "game changer" - in his presence, nothing stays the same, old evils are confronted, new possibilities arise."

**Reflect:** Jesus changes everything

Our actions can have huge impact; when we do God's work we have behind us the whole force of the creator of heaven and earth. There are lots of opportunities for us to take actions (however small) that can have real impact; the Lent Course reflects on how an action as small as a cup of tea and a chat can be that chance for change.

There may be unseen suffering in the lives around us but we can make a difference and bring change. 1 Corinthians 15 tells us that, if we want to take action to offer help to those that are suffering, our actions won't be in vain: "Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.

**Pray:** for those who have pain in their lives right now and that we may make a difference to them.

Heavenly Father,  
We know that you draw near to those that are suffering,  
We know that you can use us as a way of drawing near to them,  
Give us eyes to see where we are needed,  
Give us ears to listen to their pain,  
Give us the heart to show your love to them,  
Whether it is ourselves or others that are struggling,  
May your peace reign in their lives and ours,  
In the name of your all loving son, Jesus Christ, our saviour,  
Amen  
[www.cuf.org.uk/lent-course](http://www.cuf.org.uk/lent-course)

### **Today - Lent 3**

10.30am Morning worship with Rosemary Humphrey.  
'Thirsty work' Exodus 17:1-7 and John 4:5-42

6.30pm Evening Praise with Revd Richard Harding.  
Daniel 9:4-19 – 'Prayer'

### **Next Sunday- Mothering Sunday**

10.30am Morning worship and Holy Communion with Healing  
Prayer with Revd Garth Nathaniel.  
'Seeing the light' 1 Samuel 16.1-13 and John 9.1-41

6.30pm Evening Praise with Maureen Hughes.

### **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 are Baptised or live in Greenlands, Woodrow or Wire Hill and would like to be included on the Electoral Roll please see Dawn today.

### **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, has 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, Ann or Sharon for a nomination form.

There are 3 layers to Church Governance, local (DCC) Parish (PCC) and wider area Deanery Synod, DCC meets monthly, PCC and Synod quarterly (approximately), if you are interested in seeking election to one or other of these bodies please speak with Garth, Ann or Sharon in the first instance.