

Diary dates

Thursday– 9.30am Holy Communion at St John's followed by coffee morning.
Saturday 22ND April 10-12noon – Messy Church – Woodrow Community rooms.
27th April – Parish AGM 7.30pm St John's.
16th May – 4pm Fladbury Close gardening
14-20th May – Christian Aid Week.
17th June – Fun Day at St John's

Please pray for:

- ❖ Garth and Jenny, Richard and Wendy, Ian and Judy.
- ❖ Our Licensed Lay Ministers Maureen, Rosie and Vicki.
- ❖ New DCC - Julie Thompson, Annette Humphrey, David Jones, Caroline Westwood and Dawn Wilson. Lay Readers Rosie, Maureen and Vicki and Church Wardens Barry Humphrey and Sharon Forrest
- ❖ Ann Ball and family.
- ❖ Upcoming Parish AGM.
- ❖ Those studying for exams
- ❖ Parent and toddler groups at St John's, as they take a break.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Parish Prayers: Croft, Winyates; Cheswick Close, Winyates Green; Bartestree Close, Matchborough; Studley Road, Greenlands; Langley Close, Matchborough;

Keep praying for

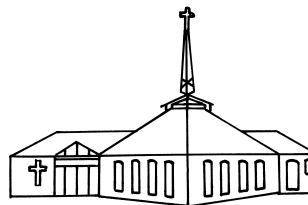
Ann Ball. Nancy Borthwick Jane Smith
Sylvia Czink Peggy Snellgrove

Contacts

Ipsley Rector: Canon Garth Nathaniel g.nathaniel@btinternet.com
Telephone 01527 522847

Churchwardens:

Barry 01527 526153 bassoonman77@gmail.com
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 16th April 2017

Dear All,

Happy Easter to you!!

See what a morning gloriously, with the dawning of hope the angels announce, "Christ is Risen!!" He who endured death for us, now stands among us, and his words gently spoken "Shalom Alkehm" "Peace be with you."

Brothers and Sisters, may the peace of the risen Christ be with you. He has over-come death, paid the penalty for our sin, and is risen the conquering hero over death. Today when He says the words "Peace be with you" he offers to us within that gift of peace, all the benefits of His passion, death and resurrection. And because He has dealt with sin and death, and brought healing to us, we can have peace, as there is no need to struggle with these. We can rest in His peace.

Celebrate the joy of Easter with the deep abiding peace of God in your hearts and lives.

On behalf of Jennifer and myself, wishing you a very Happy, Joyful and blessed Easter.

In Christ alone,
Canon Garth Nathaniel

Easter message from Bishop John

From the beginning, what happens in the garden, early in the morning on the first Easter day, has been associated with joy.

St Luke only records two resurrection appearances and joy is characteristic of both. At the end of his gospel we read that 'they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy'.

The joy of the disciples recorded in St Luke's gospel went on to become the hallmark of the Christian life when the Holy Spirit fell on the disciples. Joy is a fruit of the spirit listed by Paul, and unlike the other ones - love, peace, forbearance etc which require an effort of will, even if it is spirit-filled, joy is different. You can't work at being joyful, it's a gift, it's sheer grace. How can we possibly be filled with joy in the face of some of the terrible things that life throws at us? Joy certainly can't be the only thing we experience as Christians. It's no accident that the joy of the disciples came after the desolation of the passion. That teaches us that death and resurrection are the pattern of things as we understand them as Christians. Joy and sorrow are bound to be mingled in our life.

As William Blake wrote memorably:

"Man was made for joy and woe
Then when this we rightly know
Through the world we safely go.
Joy and woe are woven fine
A clothing for the soul divine.
Under every grief & pine
Runs a joy with silken twine."

Joy and woe have been much on my mind since my wife Denise died on Easter day, three years ago, leaving me and my two daughters, then aged 8 and 14, bereft. Since her death, sorrow has often prevailed, but joy has crept up on me unawares, as it can do, even in times of desperate sadness.

It did so especially when my 17 year old daughter gave birth to her daughter last year. It wasn't what she'd planned or I'd expected. But Lily, now aged one, has brought untold joy and laughter in the midst of sadness. It is indeed true that 'under every grief and pine runs a joy with silken twine'.

Flashes of joy are intimations of the profound truth, that though joy and woe are woven fine in this world, it will not be so in God's future. The Christian hope, the resurrection hope, tells us that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus, our Lord. Love will prevail. God will prevail, joy will prevail.

Happy Easter!

Easter Day

10.30am Worship For Everyone Communion with Revd. Garth Nathaniel

6.30pm Easter Praise with Revd Richard Harding Romans 3:21-31.

Next Sunday - Easter 2

10.30am Morning Worship, Holy Communion and Healing Prayer with Revd. Garth Nathaniel and Vicki Quarton. Acts 2: 14a-22-32 and John 11:1-45. 'trust the story'

6.30pm Evening Worship with Mike Palfreyman.

Worcester Cathedral

An exhibition by Sara Hayward RCA is on display from 4 to 27 April 2017 in the Dean's Chapel of the Cathedral.

Worcester based artist Sara Hayward has created a dramatic exhibition this Easter time depicting Christ's final hours before his death which is open daily from 9am to 4.30pm until 27 April. The exhibition of fifteen colourful oil paintings, and boxes containing contemporary artefacts to aid reflection for visitors, create a poignant sequence about Good Friday.

Help wanted

Are you welcoming and would like to help the Sunday services run smoothly. Can you help on a 1st or 3rd Sunday or stand in when others take holidays?

Can you arrive earlier on a Sunday, in time to fill the urn, put cups out and/or load the dishwasher for us to enjoy refreshments after the morning service?

If you are interested in any either of these roles, which are open to younger members of the congregation too, please speak with Sharon.

A big thank you to Dawn who has offered to collate the notices from next week.

Fladbury Close, Woodrow 16th May 4pm

Please put the date in the diary, we will be working with the Scouts to help the residents with odd jobs as well as putting on refreshments. If you're not up to painting or gardening, do come and sit and chat with the residents.