



**ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST**  
Greenlands Avenue, Redditch B98 7PZ  
Parish of Ipsley  
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**Sunday, 24 September 2017**

### The Gift of Life

Have you ever had a moment when something from the Bible you know to be true, takes on a much deeper meaning, or impacts you at a deeper level?

This happened to me when I was privileged to attend a service in St Stephen's, Redditch celebrating the lives of transplant recipients, organ donors and their families. 'Gifts Beyond Price' was the brainchild of Elaine Whitfield, a relatively new member of the church, and she planned the most beautiful and moving event, attended, to her surprise, by people from all over the country. Elaine's father, Arthur, died in 2016. For the last twenty five years of his life, his blood was pumped around his body by a donor heart – he had benefited from a transplant which had saved his life, and given him many more years than anticipated. It was this that Elaine wanted to express her thankfulness for, both to donor families, and to God. The Lead Retrieval Surgeon and Transplant Specialist from the QE hospital articulated some of the challenging dilemmas involved for his team, and both the joys, sorrows and weighty responsibility he experiences in making time sensitive decisions about life and death amidst tragedy. As a Muslim, he spoke powerfully about our shared humanity. The Reverend Paul Lawlor picked this up in his address too.

Never have Jesus' words in John 15 had such resonance: "There is no greater love than this, that someone should lay down their life for their friends." Jesus, in a sense, donated his life, that we might live life in all its fullness forever. Talking with many after the service who had received the gift of new life through the gift of a friend, or the death of a stranger, the love of God for each person he has made impacted me afresh. God so loved the world, that he gave his Son ....

I resolved that day to live my life more fully, more gratefully, more aware of what it cost. I also spoke to my family making clear that should they ever be put in that awful place of decision, my bodily organs should, if possible, be used to bring life to others, as my life with God will continue into eternity, because Jesus laid down his life and lives in me.

Archdeacon Nikki Groarke

## **Refreshments and Harvest Lunch**

Refreshments will be served in the hall after this mornings service. Please do join us for the Harvest lunch if you are able, it would be lovely to see you. If you would like to make a donation that will go to charities supporting people in countries, who are hungry, please use the collection plate provided or place your donation in an envelope and pop it into the collection box marked 'Harvest donation' (add your name if you would like to gift aid). Annette will send the donation in a couple of weeks, so there is time if you would like to, but aren't able to today.

## **Tonight**

This evening we will be having a time of reflection on the evenings readings. Do please join us if you can. This is an enjoyable time starting at 6.30pm -7.30pm. We read quietly and think on how the verses might be encouraging us individually and as a church. We then come together for optional feedback and have a time of prayer. If you cannot make this evening but would like to join us the verses are below, do let Sharon, Ann or one of the Readers; Rosie, Maureen and Vicki know if you would like to provide us with some feedback.

Psalm 119.153-176    Isaiah 45.9-22    Revelation 14.1-5

## **Parish Banner**

Do you enjoy embroidery, and are available Monday afternoons 2-4pm & would you like to join others in producing banners for the St John's, St Peter's & Christ Church? If so please see Sharon, Barry or Garth.

## **Card Making**

Lynda's card making restarts tomorrow 1 - 3pm, at Lynda's house (33 Atherstone Close). Cost £3 to cover refreshments & materials. Please see Lynda if you would like to go, thank you.

## **Network Giftings course**

If you haven't received your invitation to the Giftings course please pick it up today. We really hope you can join us as we use the materials drawn up by The Willow Creek Association. To help as many people as possible to attend, there are 3 times to choose from, we will meet on a Monday and Thursday evening and Tuesday morning. The format will be a talk and then turning to our books we will answer questions (there are no wrong answers ) that will guide us to a greater understanding about ourselves, what interests us and what might help us to do more of what we enjoy. When you know which session you will be joining, please let us know and we can let you have the book; the course including refreshments is free, if you would like to make a donation towards the cost of the book, you are more than welcome to do so.

## Services

### **Harvest & Authorisation**

- 10:30am Holy Communion with Garth Nathaniel & Mike Palfreyman  
*Jonah 3:10 - 4:11 and Matthew 20:1-16*  
'Are you right to be angry?'
- 6:30pm Evening Worship with Sharon Forrest & Ann Donovan (see inside notices)

### **Next Sunday - Proper 21**

- 10:30am Worship for Everyone Service  
*1 Corinthians 12:12-30*  
'The church as the body of Christ - we are in this together'
- 6:30pm Evening Worship with Richard Harding

## Lectionary Readings

Week beginning 25th Sept - 1st Oct

Mon Zech 8.1-8; Ps 102.12-22; Lk 9.46-50

Tues Zech 8.20-end; Ps 87; Lk 9.51-56

Wed Neh 2.1-8; Ps 137.1-6; Lk 9.57-end

Thurs Neh 8.1-12; Ps 19.7-11; Lk 10.1-12

Fri Bar 1.15-end or Deut 31.7-13; Ps 79.1-9; Lk 10.13-16

Sat Bar 4.5-12, 27-29 or Josh 22.1-6; Ps 69.33-37; Lk 10.17-24

## Collect for the week:

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, that they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Also remember members of St Johns prayer Healing Ministry team are available most Sunday mornings and a prayer chain is available everyday, to pray in confidence for you or someone you know. Call Ann Donovan (for prayer chain) in the first instance on 01527 527789.**

You are warmly invited to a special one-off Church service at St. Stephen's C of E Church (Town Centre) Redditch B97 4DY on Friday 13th October 2017 from 7.30pm -9pm. You will hear two renowned evangelists share their experience about the gospel in the most challenging parts of the world.

More information on the noticeboard.

### **Diary dates**

**Thurs 9:30am** Holy Communion - St. John's, followed by coffee morning.

**Today 10:30am** Harvest Service followed by Harvest Lunch

**Monday 25th Sept 1 - 3pm** Card making at Lynda's house.

**Friday 13th Oct 7:30 - 9:00pm** Special Church service - St. Stephen's

**Sat 28th Oct 10 - 12pm** Messy Church - Woodrow Community Centre

**Sunday 19th Nov 10:30am** Joint Parish service with lunch - Christ Church

### **Please pray for:**

- ❖ Garth and Jenny, Richard and Wendy, Ian and Judy.
- ❖ *Licensed Lay Ministers* – Maureen, Rosie and Vicki.
- ❖ *Wardens* – Barry Humphrey and Sharon Forrest.
- ❖ Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Trust as they put plans for re - organisation in place.
- ❖ Garth and Jenny as they wait on news for Garth's operation.
- ❖ The Kigezi Water and Sanitation project we are supporting.
- ❖ The appointment of a Community Missioner for Christ Church.
- ❖ Those suffering with ill health.
- ❖ Parish Prayers: : Doverdale Close, Woodrow; Clifton Close, Matchborough; Tillington Close, Winyates; Granhill Close, Greenlands; Kingham Close, Winyates Green;

### **Please keep praying for:**

Ann Ball & family	Nancy Borthwick
Sylvia Czink	Peggy Snellgrove

### **Contacts**

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