



ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
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Sunday, 29 October 2017

We welcome Toyona today, mom Donna and their family for Toyona's Baptism, it is lovely to have you all with us, we hope you enjoy the morning service and celebration.

“Death is but the next great adventure”. So says Professor Dumbledore to Harry Potter. ... and last week my own father started on that adventure. While he didn't want to leave us, he also couldn't wait to get started. He was looking forward to meeting Jesus, and had been for many years, once telling a dying Christian friend that he was jealous he would get to meet Jesus first. Three days before he died we shared a very special time, with him seeing things we couldn't and saying

“Hallelujah”. He insisted that we join hands and say together “Thank you Jesus. We love you”. It was very beautiful and reassuring.

But many do not die with experiences like this. Dumbledore also says “It is the unknown we fear when we look upon death and darkness, nothing more”. We all have people we love who have not seen death as the start of a new, exciting adventure with God..... people whose faith was uncertain.....and even for those of us who do believe, death still leads to the unknown which can be very frightening.

As we approach our service of hope and remembrance on Wednesday, I believe we can do no better than to look at all this through the lens of Christ, who always welcomed everyone, however uncertain or frightened or lost they might be. The life beyond death is unknown, but we can trust God with it, for us and our loved ones. As the psalmist says, there is nowhere we can go to escape his love.

If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there....
even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast. (Psalm 139)

And the God who is the ‘resurrection and the life’ calls us all to join him on that next, great adventure. I will miss Daddy so much, and I'm sure the missing will get worse as it starts to become more real, but I know that he is having a wonderful time, adventuring with his Jesus at last!

Thank you everyone for your prayers during this time.

Vicki Quarton

Repairs to the hall

Hirers and users of the hall are being advised it will be unavailable for use from Monday 30th October for up to 2 weeks, during which time the floor is having essential repairs. Some of the groups who usually use the hall have taken up the offer of using the church, so in order to accommodate them, you may see slight changes to the table and chair layout in the church. The Sunday morning service on 12th November will include the older children; a crèche will be put on for scramblers.

Garth

Garth went back into hospital on Wednesday and had another operation on Friday. Please continue in your prayer support for Garth, Jenny and the family during this difficult time.

Parish Service and lunch

There will be a service 10.30am at Christ Church on 19th November for all 3 churches in the Parish and afterwards a lunch will be provided. The lunch, which is open to all and free will incorporate baked potatoes with choice of topping and salad along with a delicious pudding. In order for us to cater for those attending, there is a sign up sheet available in the foyer, please let us know if you will be staying after the service. Please do think about coming along, we have been very blessed at past services by worshipping together. Children's groups will run on the day, with our own leaders involved too. If you would like a lift or have space in your car please speak with Sharon or if you know someone needs a lift speak with them directly to arrange.

Christmas Fayre

It's that time again for us to think about donating items for the chocolate and bottle tombola's for the Christmas Fayre, which takes place on Saturday 2nd December. All proceeds taken on the day are used for the local community, so please give generously. Also do put the date in the diary and come and join in.

Isabel Stephens

Dear all

You may have already heard that Isabel Stephens died on Monday. We will let you know arrangements regarding the funeral when they are known. I understand that the funeral will be at St Stephen's, where Isobel had worshipped for many years, although the church on Greenlands was close to her heart and she did pop in from time to time. She also attended Bowls.

Regards, Rosie

Operation Christmas Child

Please collect a wrapped shoe box from the foyer and fill with warm gloves, hat etc and children's toys. The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to show God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Since 1990, more than 146 million children in over 150 countries have experienced God's love through the power of simple shoebox gifts from Operation Christmas Child. People can also pick and pack a box online if that is easier.

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/> Any queries please see Eileen.

Services

Proper 25

- 10:30am Morning Worship with Ian Evans & Maureen Hughes
Matthew 13:44-45 'The Church as a worshipping community - keep your eyes fixed on Jesus', with Baptism of Toyona Wendy Whyte
- 6:30pm Evening Worship with Ann Donovan & Sharon Forrest *Matthew 22:34 - 36*

Wednesday 1st Nov

- 7:30pm Service of Remembrance, Thanksgiving & Hope with Ian Evans, Rosie Humphrey & Maureen Hughes

Next Sunday - Proper 26

- 10:30am Worship for Everyone with Vicki Quarton
Micah 3:5-12 & Matthew 23:1-12
'What lies beneath'
- 6:30pm Holy Communion with Ian Evans

Bible Sunday

Today is Bible Sunday, Bishop John has recorded a podcast available on the Church of England Worcester website, if you would like to listen to it, alternatively there is a print out of the sermon available on the table in the foyer, please take a copy if you wish.

Lectionary Readings

Week beginning 30th Oct - 5th Nov

- Mon Rom 11.29–end; Ps 69.31–37; Lk 14.12–14
Tues Rom 12.5–16; Ps 131; Lk 14.15–24
Wed Rom 13.8–10; Ps 112; Lk 14.25–33
Thurs Rom 14.7–12; Ps 27.14–end; Lk 15.1–10
Fri Rom 15.14–21; Ps 98; Lk 16.1–8
Sat Rom 16.3–9, 16, 22–end; Ps 145.1–7; Lk 16.9–15

Collect for the week:

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast to the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. 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.

Diary dates

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

Thurs (repeated following Monday) 7:30pm Giftings course - St. John's

Thurs 2nd Nov - The Power of Love Thurs 9th Nov - The Influence of Passion

Thurs 16th Nov - The Promise of Ministry Thurs 23rd Nov - What should I do?

Sat 4th Nov 10am Diocesan festival of health & healing - Worcester Cathedral

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

Sat 25th Nov 10 - 12pm Messy Church - Woodrow Community Centre

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.
- ❖ Garth and Jenny as Garth recovers from his operation.
- ❖ The Kigezi Water and Sanitation project we are supporting.
- ❖ Graeme and Jackie Russell as he fulfils the role of Community Missioner in Christ Church.
- ❖ Parish Prayers: : Bushley Close, Woodrow; Jackfield Close, Matchborough; Shawbury Close, Winyates; Harport Road, Greenlands; Brickyard Lane, Wirehill;

Please keep praying for:

Nancy Borthwick

Sylvia Czink

Peggy Snellgrove

Vicki and Rob Quarton & family on the passing of Vicki's father.

Service of Thanksgiving, Remembrance & Hope

Our annual Service of Remembrance, Thanksgiving and Hope is at 7:30pm on Wed 1st November, and we will be remembering those who are no longer with us.

If you would like a name read out at the service in addition to those whose funerals have been taken this year, then please add it to the list in church.

If you haven't yet filled in a form for a loved one to be included in the Book of Remembrance, then we would encourage you to do so, and it will be entered for next year.

Please bring a bunch of flowers, or a single flower, in memory of a loved one, and a card too if you would like to. These will remain in church during the next week.

People do not have to have died in the last year to be included.

We would encourage everyone to come along and support those who have lost loved ones.

Contacts

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