



**ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST**  
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**Sunday, 22 October 2017**

I have just read the following from St Peter's notice sheet, the writer has just read 'Just like Jesus' by Max Lucado 'the book began with this quote: ' God loves you just as you are, but He refuses to leave you that way. He wants you to be just like Jesus.' What if for 24 hours Jesus was to become you, do all the things you would normally do but with one big difference your heart gets the day off and your life is led by the heart of Christ. What would you be like? Would people notice a change? This new heart is forgiving, compassionate, focused, honest, pure, a heart which rejoices and worships, is enduring and full of hope. In this world of sorrow Max Lucado points out that how we look at life determines how we live our lives. Before, during and after Jesus' death was one of the darkest scenes in history marked by one crisis after another. But Jesus refused to leave it like that and he made it possible for good to come from the bad. This is what God wants for each of us – from the pain in our lives He wants to establish hope – seeing the world through the eyes of Jesus.

Last Saturday a few folk from St Johns went to an Open Doors conference, we heard awful stories of hate, terror and physical pain that had been inflicted on people in 51 countries because they didn't believe, think or live in the way the majority in their country did, they were mostly Christians. It was hard to hear, but what really inspired us was the passion for Jesus, hope and purpose the speakers had to help those who were being persecuted.

Wouldn't you love to have this hope filled-heart? Wouldn't you love to see the world as Jesus sees it and do something to help? as our Gifting Course continues we are starting to understand the Gifts we have been given as Christians and how we can use them for Gods purpose. When we understand better the Gifts we have we can be encouraged to use them more and live more purposely rather than more busily.

Sharon

### **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**

The doctors are keeping Garth in following surgery to give him the best chance of full recovery and he hopes to be out soon.

Thank you for all the prayers he has been immensely conscious of and the practical help provided by the church family.

### **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 will be a sign up sheet available shortly. 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.

### **Messy Church**

Our next Messy Church on 28th October has the theme Jesus, the light of the world. One craft activity involves decorating glass jam jars but we would like the short jars often used for condiments which will fit into the shoe boxes!. If you have any empty mint sauce jars or similar please bring them in and leave on the desk in the foyer before 27th October.

### **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 24**

10:30am Holy Communion with Richard Harding

*Isaiah 45:1-7 & Matthew 22:15-22*

‘The things that are God’s’

6:30pm Evening Worship with Mike Palfreyman

### **Next Sunday - 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

## Lectionary Readings

Week beginning 23rd Oct - 29th Oct

Mon Rom 8.12–17; Ps 68.1–6, 19; Lk 13.10–17

Tues Rom 8.18–25; Ps 126; Lk 13.18–21

Wed Rom 8.26–30; Ps 13; Lk 13.22–30

Thurs Rom 8.31–end; Ps 109.20–26, 29–30; Lk 13.31–end

Fri Rom 9.1–5; Ps 147.13–end; Lk 14.1–6

Sat Rom 11.1–2, 11–12, 25–29; Ps 94.14–19; Lk 14.1, 7–11

## Collect for the week:

O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; 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.**

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

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

**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.
- ❖ 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: : Pedmore Close, Woodrow; Breaches Lane, Matchborough; Woodcote Close, Winyates; Runcorn Close, Greenlands; Green 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

On Wednesday 1st November we shall be having our annual service of Thanksgiving, Remembrance and Hope - a time when we come and give thanks for those who were part of our lives, and are sadly no longer with us. During the year many of us will have lost people who were an important part of our lives. Around 90% of funerals at Redditch Crematorium are secular funerals, with no mention of the resurrection hope that Jesus gave to all who believe in him. This service offers us an opportunity to redress that imbalance. To remember people who were important to us, and to give thanks for all they did for us, regardless of when they died. If you would like the name of a person read out, please add it to the sheet on the table in the Foyer. The Book of Remembrance will also be available for viewing. If you would like a name added, please fill in one of the slips on the table and hand it to Sharon or Ann, who will make sure it gets to the right place. Please bring a card and flower/small bunch of flowers as your tribute to those you are remembering. Light refreshments will be served afterwards. We would encourage everyone to come along and support this service. If you have any questions please ask Maureen or Sharon.                      Rosie

## Contacts

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