



ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
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Sunday, 3 December 2017

A few of St Johns folk went to see Sister Act at the Palace Theatre recently, a lovely story it tells of a troubled woman and group of convent nuns who experience transforming love, when they spend time together through their love of singing.

The coming of Jesus into the world, which we celebrate at Christmas heralds a dramatic change in human history and the possibility of a new relationship between people and God which brings about change.

There is a challenge here about our faith does it change us?

In Romans 12 v2 Paul writes “Don’t be like the people of this world, but let God change the way you think. Then you will know how to do everything that is good and pleasing to him”.

Our thinking is so often formed by our past, the media and the people we meet, here we are told to let God change the way we think. This is by no means easy, it needs us to pray, reflect on God’s word and share what we know by spending time together.

Blessings

Sharon

Today

Christingle is the first of our Christmas services this afternoon at 4pm, please do join us and the local community to celebrate as we look forward to the anniversary of the birth of Jesus.

Christmas Fayre

Thank you if you donated bottles or chocolate, baked cakes or helped in any way at the Christmas Fayre yesterday and thank you to Eileen for organising this enjoyable event. A good time was had by all whilst raising funds for use in the community. The fayre raised £1238.

Messy Church

Christmas Messy Church in Woodrow saw new faces as children from schools the Open the Book team go into, attended with their parents. It was lovely to hear the children answer questions about, who, what, where and why around the birth of Jesus. Thank you to all who helped in any way or attended. The next Messy Church is Saturday 13th January 10-12noon at Woodrow Community Rooms. Please be praying about this wonderful outreach.

Town Centre Carols

The annual Town Centre Carols will take place on Saturday 16th December at 11am on the mezzanine level above Primark & The Works.

Stephen Ward's birthday

Stephen and friends including folk from St Johns will be celebrating Stephens birthday with a meal at the Foxlydiat Arms, Birchfield Road, Webheath on Tuesday 5th December 6.30pm. If you would like to come along please let Stephen know.

Touchstones Lantern Walk

If you would like to join in with this annual walk at the beautiful Morton Stanley Park which includes a time of reflection for those we have loved and lost, please see Vicki and Rob for details or the poster in the foyer.

Come on and Celebrate!

St John's will be playing host to two local schools during Advent. On Tuesday 12th December at 7pm we will be welcoming Tudor Grange Academy for their Carol Service. On Thursday 14th December we will be welcoming Woodrow First school for their Christmas celebration at around 1pm. Time to be confirmed. We would encourage members of the congregation to come along and support both these events.

Woodrow Carols

Come and join the merry throng on Friday 8th December outside the library at 4pm for Woodrow Carols, which will be a mixture of carols and seasonal songs! Woodrow Guides will be serving refreshments in the library, for a modest price - proceeds towards their trip to Eurodisney. Come dressed in your best Christmas blingy.

Services

Advent 1

10:30am Morning Worship with Rob Quarton - 'Being who you are called to be' *Isaiah 64:1-9 & Mark 13:24-37*

4:00pm Christingle Service with Ian Evans & Vicki Quarton

Next Sunday - Advent 2

10:30am Worship for Everyone with Maureen Hughes and Vicki Quarton - 'End of exile' *Isaiah 40:1-11 & Mark 1:1-8*

6:30pm Carols by Candlelight with Ian Evans & Rosemary Humphrey

Lectionary Readings

Week - Advent 1

Mon Yr A: Is 4.2–end; Yr B&C: Is 2.1–5; Ps 122; Mt 8.5–11

Tues Is 11.1–10; Ps 72.1–4, 18–19; Lk 10.21–24

Wed Is 25.6–10a; Ps 23; Mt 15.29–37

Thurs Is 26.1–6; Ps 118.18–27a; Mt 7.21, 24–27

Fri Is 29.17–end; Ps 27.1–4, 16–17; Mt 9.27–31

Sat Is 30.19–21, 23–26; Ps 146.4–9; Mt 9.35–10.1, 6–8

Collect for the week:

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

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

This afternoon 4pm Christingle Service - St. John's

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

Fri 8th Dec 4pm Carol Singing outside Woodrow Library

Tues 12th Dec 7pm Tudor Grange Academy Carol Service - St. John's

Thurs 14th Dec around 1pm Woodrow First School Christmas celebration
- St. John's

Sat 16th Dec 11am Carols in the town centre, mezzanine level above
Primark & The Works

Saturday 13th January 10-12noon Messy Church at Woodrow
Community Rooms.

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: : Astley Close, Woodrow; Elvington Close, Matchborough; Granby Close, Winyates; Highland way, Greenlands; John's Close, Wirehill;

Please keep praying for:

Nancy Borthwick

Sylvia Czink

Peggy Snellgrove

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

The family of Isabel Stephens

The family of Sylvia Laight

Linda Beasley

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