



**ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST**  
Greenlands Avenue, Redditch B98 7PZ  
Parish of Ipsley  
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## **Sunday 31st December 2017**

New Year brings an opportunity for a new beginning: hence the tradition of New Year's resolutions.

The thought of new beginnings is particularly on my mind this New Year since, less than two weeks into it, on 12th January

, I shall be married.

A marriage is, as much as anything, a new beginning: the beginning of a new life for two people joining together. It's also, of course, a new start in love when two people pledge their love for one another. HJ and I shall do this before God in a Church.

We shall also do so in the light of the greatest love story ever told; that between God and humanity. We have just marked Christmas when we celebrated the coming of God into our world to show the depths of His love for us.

Love is a beautiful thing but unrequited love is a terrible tragedy. If we haven't experienced that tragedy for ourselves at some point in our lives, we shall almost certainly know someone who has, and the misery that it brings.

God pledged his love to us when he came to live among us and, in so doing issued us with an invitation: Will we return His love so that the outcome of the greatest love story ever told can be glorious and not tragic?

This New Year I shall be pledging my love anew to God as well as to HJ. What will your response to God's invitation in Jesus be?

Happy New Year.

## **Messy Church**

This will take place in the Woodrow Community Centre at 10am on Saturday 13th January 2018 - and thereafter the 2nd Saturday of every month. Please attend with a child if you can or pray for this outreach.

## **Tudor Grange**

We will be welcoming Tudor Grange, who will be holding their rearranged Carol service on Wednesday 6th January. Refreshments will be served from 6:30pm, with the Carols from 7-8pm. If you are free we would encourage you to come along and worship with the staff and students from Tudor Grange, on this their first visit to St. John's.

## **Christmas Charity Donation**

As in previous year's St Johns will be making a monetary donation to the The Children's Society. If you haven't already and would like to please please put any donation in an envelope marked 'Children's Society' in the box in the foyer or hand to Annette.

The Children's Society was founded in 1881 by Sunday School teacher Edward Rudolf and the Church of England. While working in some of England's poorest neighbourhoods, Rudolf was inspired by the practice of Jesus Christ, who taught that children and the poor are at the heart of the Kingdom of God. The charity fights child poverty and neglect and helps all children they are in touch with have a better chance in life. Over 13,000 children and young people were helped last year they also helped to bring about 27 national and regional policy changes.

## **David Ryan**

On Sunday January 14th we will be welcoming the Hospital Chaplain and Diocesan Ecumenical Officer, Revd. David Ryan to preach at our service at 10:30am. The Alexandra Hospital falls within the pastoral area covered by the parish, in particular, St. John's Church. We thought it would be really good to invite David to come and speak about his ministry within the hospital.

## **Recycling Christmas Cards**

We all receive many beautiful Christmas Cards, but what do we do with them afterwards? A friend of a friend makes beautiful houses & flowers from old cards, which are sold to raise funds for the Primrose Hospice. Any she cannot use herself are passed on to other people to use.

If you already have a way of reusing your cards, please feel free to carry on with that, but if you have unwanted cards Christmas or otherwise, that need a good home, Rosie will be happy to pass them on.

## Services

### **Sunday 31st Dec**

10:30am End of Year Celebrations with Rosemary Humphrey

6:30pm No service

### **Next Sunday - Baptism of the Lord**

10:30am Worship for Everyone with Vicki Quarton & Amanda Worley  
'A community of the baptised' *Genesis 1:1-5 & Mark 1:4-11*

6:30pm Holy Communion with Richard Harding

Here's the good news: you don't have to know when, where, or how Jesus was born, you just need to know why. 'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life' (John 3:16 KJV). Only four things matter: 1) If Christ had not come, God would be unknown to us. 2) If Christ had not come, our sins would be unforgiven. The name Jesus means 'Jehovah saves!' John the Baptist called Him 'the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world'. 3) If Christ had not come, our prayers would be unanswered. In Bible days you needed a priest to petition God on your behalf. And Jesus is our High Priest who 'understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most' (Hebrews 4:15-16 NLT). 4) If Christ had not come the first time, we would have no assurance that He will come the second time and catch us away to heaven to be with Himself.

UCB Word For Today, available daily on <http://www.ipsley.org/>

### **Lectionary Readings**

2nd Jan 1 Jn 2.22-28; Ps 98.1-4; Jn 1.19-28

3rd Jan 1 Jn 2.29-3.6; Ps 98.2-7; Jn 1.29-34

4th Jan 1 Jn 3.7-10; Ps 98.1, 8-end; Jn 1.35-42

5th Jan 1 Jn 3.11-21; Ps 100; Jn 1.43-end

### **Collect for 31st December**

God in Trinity, eternal of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ. 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.

**Wed 3rd Jan 6:30pm** Tudor Grange Academy Carol Service - St. John's.

Refreshments from 6:30 with Carols from 7-8pm

**Tues 9th Jan 7:30pm** DCC Meeting - St. John's

**Sat 13th Jan 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.
- ❖ Alexandra Hospital–Staff, patients & chaplaincy team serving the community.
- ❖ Graeme and Jackie Russell as he fulfils the role of Community Missioner in Christ Church.
- ❖ Paramedic and Ambulance staff over Christmas, in particular for the people they go and visit in the community, and the response they receive which often isn't welcoming.
- ❖ Outreach in the Town Centre over Christmas
- ❖ Parish Prayers: : Goosehall Close, Matchborough; Hollyberry Close, Winyates Green; Harpswell Avenue, Woodrow; Runcorn Close, Greenlands; Middleton Close, Winyates;

## **Please keep praying for:**

Nancy Borthwick                      Sylvia Czink              Peggy Snellgrove              Linda Beasley  
The family of Isabel Stephens                      The family of Sylvia Laight  
Vicki and Rob Quarton & family on the passing of Vicki's father.

## **Contacts**

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