

Children's Sunday Groups at St John's

These are the groups we run for children and young people during the 9.30am service each Sunday:

Rising Stars - Ages 0-5 in the Pauling Room

The Big God Space - Ages 5-10 in the Jubilee Hall

Streetwise - Age 11+ in the Lodge

We'd love to see you, come and join in the fun!

Attention families!

For services where there are no Sunday Clubs, or if you come to church without your child, please use the 'sign in' book at the back of church so that you are registered as attending. Thank you.

Contacts at St John's Church

Vicar: Revd Giles Carpenter
01323 739679
email: vicar@stjm.org.uk

Assistant Minister & Pastoral Care Co-ordinator: Revd Jill Preece
01323 638020
email: jill@stjm.org.uk

Children & Families Minister: Tristram Peattie
01323 738671
email: tris@stjm.org.uk

Church Administrator: Joanne Naunton
01323 738671
email: office@stjm.org.uk

Church Wardens: Margaret Kowszun & Tony Mottram
contact via the office on:
01323 738671
email: office@stjm.org.uk

Office opening hours
Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 12.30pm

29 January 2017

The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

8.00am Heritage Communion
Presiding & Preaching: Revd David Maddock
Assisting: Nick & Rosemary Bland

Readings: Romans 13: 1 - 7
Matthew 8: 23 - 24
Genesis 1: 28

10.00am Combined Communion & Baptisms
Presiding: Revd Jill Preece & Revd Giles Carpenter
Preaching: Catherine Butcher
Assisting: Phyllis Hall, Carolyn Lacy, D Guthrie, Jorj & Margaret Kowszun

4.00pm Connexions
Tea & cake at the Vicarage (*invitation only*)

Next Sunday 5 February 2017

8.00am Heritage Communion
Presiding: Revd Jill Preece
Preaching: Revd Giles Carpenter

9.30am Contemporary Service
Leading: Revd Jill Preece
Preaching: Revd Giles Carpenter

11.15am Classic Communion
Presiding: Revd Jill Preece
Preaching: Revd Giles Carpenter
Assisting: Patricia Kelly, Pam Lade, Trevor Salmon, Diana Guthrie

T LOOP:

Please turn your Hearing Aid to T.



EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Monday 30 January**
9.00am Morning Prayer (back of church)
- Tuesday 31 January**
9.30am Open the Book Training Day (Church)
10.30am Movement to Music (Jubilee Hall)
- Wednesday 1 February**
9.30am Quiet Prayer (chapel)
6.00pm Scouts Group (Jubilee Hall)
7.00pm Dilloways' Home Group
7.30pm Springfield Home Group
7.30pm Adams' Home Group
- Thursday 2 February**
10.00am Parent & Toddler Group (Jubilee Hall)
11.00am Holy Communion (chapel)
Presiding : Revd Jill Preece
Preaching: Sarah Hassell
2.30pm Thanksgiving Service for Eileen Cosham
7.15pm Rustington Court Home Group
- Friday 3 February**
10.00am Paperback Library & Coffee Pot Computing (Parish Hall)
10.00am Interment of Ashes - Peter Wilson

Sermons Online

You can now find the Sunday Sermons online on our website, on Facebook or on YouTube. A great way to keep up to date with the current messages.



The Children's Society

If you have a Children's Society collection box, please can you bring it to church or alternatively contact me on: 01323 726020 and I can arrange to collect it from you. Thank you very much,
Zoe Evans

Home Groups

Have you thought about joining a Home Group? Over half of St John's finds their group a great source of friendship, fellowship and fun. Meetings are usually once a fortnight and there are groups in the morning, afternoon or evening most days of the week. Never been in a group? - why not give it a try? If you would like to know more please ring Peter Pickett on 731709 or Nick Pendry on 737593, or speak to one of them in church.



Open the Book

Children love stories - especially Bible stories when they're interactive, engaging and fun! That's what Open The Book is all about, bringing the Bible to life for every child in every primary school. Teams of between four and eight storytellers tell Bible stories in primary schools, using drama, props and costumes - to bring the stories to life. We want to start Open The Book at St John's Meads School, in the New Year with folk from St John's as the storytellers.

Open the Book update

Thanks to everyone for their brilliant response so far! But are there any more men who would like to become part of this? If you are interested in learning more, and perhaps becoming involved - either as a storyteller, or behind the scenes with props and costumes, please let Sarah Hassell know: 07904302887 or 01323 301695, email: sarah.c.hassell@gmail.com



Date for your diary....

Tuesday 31 January 2017
9.30am - 3.30pm Open the Book Training Day (church)
Please bring a packed lunch.

Men's Breakfast - Saturday 25 February, 8am

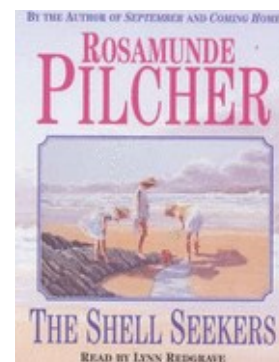


The next Men's Breakfast is coming up. We will not meet at our usual venue, we will meet in the Jubilee Hall where we will have some delicious bacon rolls. Nick Pendry will be sharing his thought for the day.

Please add your name to the list on the noticeboard in the Cloister.

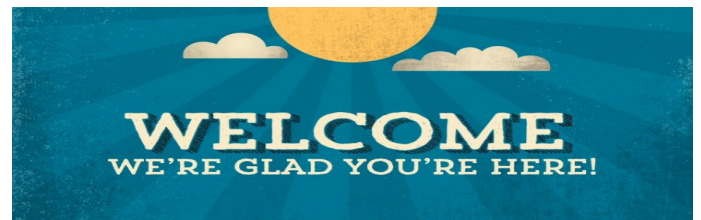
CAMEO

Ladies of St John's on Monday 20 February at 2pm we will be having a film afternoon viewing "The Shell Seekers" by Rosamunde Pilcher. Refreshments in the interval. All ladies welcome!



Points for Prayer this week

- The current application to reorder our worship space as it goes before the Diocesan Advisory Committee.
- God's blessing on those who are being baptised today.
- For the Open the Book Training Day on Tuesday 31st January, that all our Story Tellers will gain the maximum from this day, for the first rehearsals as they take place in the near future.
- All 'Befrienders' under the Linking Lives Eastbourne scheme and for God's blessing on each visit they undertake.
- For the homeless and the refugees particularly during this freezing weather.



CONNEXIONS

New to St John's? - Connexions

A very warm welcome from us all if you are new or visiting St John's for the first time. We hope you enjoy being part of our church family. If you are looking for a church and would like to find out more about us, Giles our vicar, and his wife Rachel, regularly host an informal afternoon with tea and cake at the vicarage. This is a great chance to find out more about the vision of St John's church and our mission to make disciples and to serve the community of Meads. For more details please complete one of the Connexions/Welcome cards (usually available in the pews) and return it to one of our welcome team. Another way in which we like to reach people is through our 'Keeping In Touch' email list. To be included in the mailing list please sign one of the forms on the Welcome Desk. You'll then receive regular updates and news.

Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 3 March 2017

This service has been written by the women of the Philippines and is entitled 'Am I Being Unfair To You?'

All welcome - not just women!



Scouts Open Night



What? Open evening activities for girls & boys to try out Scouting for free, and information for parents/guardians/supporters.
When? Wednesday 1st February 6pm - 7pm
Where? Jubilee Hall

Sadly, there are currently no supporters that have come forward from the St John's Church family. In order to make the Scout Group possible, we need your help, whether you've got an hour a month or a couple of hours a week. We urgently require for the Open Night somebody to boil water and make hot drinks for visitors.

Bible by the Beach, 28 April - 1 May 2017



This year's theme is entitled 'Firm Foundations - Reformation for Today' which marks 500 years since Martin Luther launched the Reformation. Not simply celebrating the past or even giving ourselves a history lesson but focusing on our foundations, the Bible, Jesus and his death for us. Great speakers will be joining us over the weekend and Mark Ashworth and his team will be running a youth programme for the under 18s.

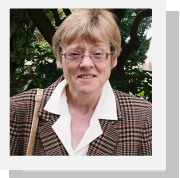
To show your interest in volunteering for the group, in a range of flexible vacancies, please contact Olly: call/text 07983 414190 email ollymargry@gmail.com Thank you.

Deirdre Seaton

It is with great sadness that we have to announce the sudden death of Deirdre Seaton who passed away last week. Deirdre was a faithful member of St John's for many years. Her funeral will take place at Eastbourne Crematorium on Monday 6 February, for family only.

Funeral

The Funeral/Thanksgiving service for Eileen Cosham will take place here at St John's on Thursday 2 February at 2.30pm and refreshments will be served afterwards in the Jubilee Hall.



Letter from the Vicar

Plans for our Jubilee Year!

If you were here on Sunday 8 January or have caught up with our sermons on line you will have heard me give an overview of some of the exciting things that the PCC believe God is leading us into in 2017; 60 years since the re-consecration of St John's church in 1957.

Some of these things are completely new initiatives for us as a church, others are a revival of a lost part of our heritage and still others are part of an ongoing program of maintenance and the development of our church as a centre for worship and a base for mission.

Each thing is also an opportunity for each of us to participate in the mission of God, or as Paul puts it to be partners in the gospel. I will explain what I mean by this but first let me just recap on what we have in store:

- In 1967 Scouting closed its doors at St John's. Exactly 50 years on, under the leadership of Olly Margry, we will be reviving our sponsorship of Scouting as a deliberate part of our plan to bridge the generational gap at St John's and make stronger connections with young people and their families in Meads.
- Having laid the foundations for Linking Lives in 2016 and with Bishop Richard now in place as our patron, we are poised at the start of 2017 for Byron, our coordinator, to send out the first wave of befrienders to respond to the needs of the lonely and isolated in our community.
- In this year of the Bible, and under the leadership of one of our Lay Ministers, Sarah Hassell, we now have 20 volunteers ready and trained to take dramatised Bible stories into our school. Again this is a specific and very practical outworking of our verse of the year which reminds us of the importance of helping those of an older generation to pass on the faith that has enriched and sustained their lives.

Psalm 71:18 Even when I am old and grey, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come.

- Lastly, there are our plans to carry out maintenance and improvements to our worship space by erecting a cross as the focal point of our worship, improving the sound and visual capabilities and creating more flexible seating to vary the ways in which the sanctuary can be used and crucially improving access for fire exits and for those with physical disabilities.

These plans to reorder our worship space have been under discussion for nearly two years and they formed part of our Vision Day presentation back in April last year. Since then our consulting architects have been working with the PCC to arrive at the current application (the plans for which are on display in church and presented at a meeting on 7th Jan '17). These will go before the Diocesan Advisory Committee later this month for their informal advice.

So, how can we play our part? Well, crucially we can do what is open to all of us and that is to pray. Pray that in each of these things we would see God's kingdom come and His will be done as we seek to introduce others to Jesus.

Pray in faith about the resources needed for each new thing. Jesus taught us to pray, give us today our daily bread. That means we may not have all we need before we need it but by the grace of God and in faith we can be confident that he will supply what is needed.

Lastly pray that God would make clear how He wants you and me to express our partnership with Him this year. There are opportunities in each of these things whether that be using your gifts in pastoral care, prayer, leadership and management, HR, finance and fundraising, youth and children's work, administration and so much more. Wherever your gifts lie, God has given them in order to build up the household of faith.

Yours in gospel partnership.

Giles

Congratulations!



Today four members of our St John's Church Family are being baptised. Join us after the service for Bucks Fizz and cake to celebrate with them.

Please uphold them in your prayers over the coming weeks and months.
