

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
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Children & Families Minister: Tristram Peattie
01323 738671
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Church Administrator: Joanne Naunton
01323 738671
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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

5 February 2017

The Fourth Sunday Before Lent

8.00am Heritage Communion
Presiding: Revd Jill Preece
Preaching: Revd Giles Carpenter
Epistle: Genesis 12: 1 - 3
Gospel: Galatians 3: 7 - 9 & 26 - 29

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
Hymns: 534, 310, 642, 19
Readings: Genesis 12: 1 - 3
Galatians 3: 7 - 9 & 26 - 29

Next Sunday 12 February 2017

8.00am Heritage Communion
Presiding & Preaching: Revd David Maddock
Assisting: Chris Sneath & Richard Wells

9.30am Contemporary Communion
Presiding: Revd Giles Carpenter
Preaching: Revd Jill Preece
Assisting: David & Jenny Barker,
Robert & Peggy Millett,
Clive & Kate Dilloway

11.15am Choral Matins
Leading: Revd Giles Carpenter
Preaching: Revd Jill Preece

5.30pm Prayer & Praise
Lead by Catherine Butcher (Jubilee Hall)

T LOOP:

Please turn your Hearing Aid to T.



EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Monday 6 February**
 9.00am Morning Prayer (back of church)
 10.30am Nick Pendry's Home Group
 12.00pm Lunch Club (Parish Hall)
 2.15pm Funeral - Deirdre Seaton (Crematorium)
 5.30pm Scouts meeting (Jubilee Hall)
- Tuesday 7 February**
 10.30am Movement to Music (Jubilee Hall)
 7.00pm Kemps' Home Group
 7.30pm Blands' Home Group
- Wednesday 8 February**
 9.30am Quiet Prayer (chapel)
 10.30pm Open the Book meeting (Jubilee Hall)
 2.30pm Diana Guthrie's Home Group
 6.00pm Scouts meeting (Jubilee Hall)
- Thursday 9 February**
 10.00am Parent & Toddler Group (Jubilee Hall)
 11.00am Holy Communion (chapel)
Presiding & Preaching: Revd Giles Carpenter
 2.00pm Festival meeting (Pauling Room)
 2.30pm Maddocks' Home Group
 3.00pm Sunnymead Home Group
 7.30pm Peatties' Home Group
 7.45pm Choir practice
- Friday 10 February**
 10.00am Paperback Library & Coffee Pot Computing
 (Parish Hall)



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.

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

The Training Day last Tuesday was brilliant, and such fun! I think everyone gained confidence. Especially as at the end, in small groups, we got to dress up and act out some of the Bible stories ourselves!

We are still looking for a few more men to join Open the Book as Story Tellers.

If you are interested in learning more – men and women - please let Sarah Hassell know.
 01323-301695 or 07904-302887,
 Email: sarah.c.hassell@gmail.com

Grateful thanks to everyone who has provided curtains and costumes. PLEASE NOTE, we have enough for the present time!



Streetwise - Film Night, this evening

Calling all Streetwise kids - come and join us in The Lodge at 7pm this evening for a Film Night. We'll have sweets and popcorn to munch!

Men's Breakfast - Saturday 25 February, 8am

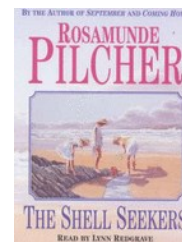


The next Men's Breakfast is coming up. We will not meet at our usual venue, we will meet in the Jubilee Hall where we will have some delicious bacon rolls. Nick Pendry will be sharing his thought for the day.

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!

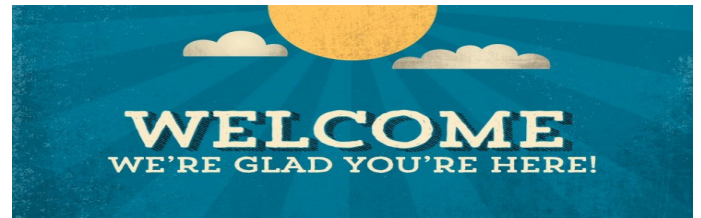


Deirdre Seaton

A Thanksgiving Service for Deirdre will take place here at St John's on Monday 20 February at 11.30am with refreshments served afterwards at the back of church.

Points for Prayer this week

- God's rich blessing on those who were baptised last Sunday
- The current application to reorder our worship space as it goes before the Diocesan Advisory Committee
- Open the Book story tellers, as they move towards rehearsals and the first performances at St John's School



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.

Toddler Group Needs Your Help!



Thursdays during term time, 10am

We urgently need volunteers who are keen to show love and care to parents, carers and grandparents as they navigate the difficult early years of parenting. We have volunteer vacancies for the following roles - Set Up Team, Café Team and Set Down Team. If you can volunteer for one or two mornings a month please email Hannah Peattie: hannah@stjm.org.uk

Our vision is that everyone who attends will find real connection and community and would encounter the love of Jesus.

Flower Team

Do we have any ladies (or gentlemen) interested in joining our flower team? You don't need to be a qualified flower arranger, you just need to have an eye for detail and love flowers. Our flower team create wonderful displays and our Flower Festivals are always so popular. Sadly, due to dropping numbers, the team is becoming smaller and smaller - to the point that we may not be able to have a Flower Festival this year.

For more information, or if you'd like to sign up, please contact Jean Tucker on: 01323 370760.



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!



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.



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
