

St. John the Evangelist, Warley

Monthly Newsletter

**St. John's Mission Statement is
*'To know Christ better and make Christ better known'***



March 2017



Services this month

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1st March
7.30pm | <i>Ash Wednesday</i>
Holy Communion
<i>Joint service at St. John's</i> |
| 5th March
8.30am
11.00am | <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i>
Holy Communion BCP
Holy Communion |
| 12th March
8.30am
11.00am | <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i>
Holy Communion BCP
Worship Service |
| 19th March
8.30am
11.00am | <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i>
Holy Communion BCP
Holy Communion |
| 26th March
8.30am
11.00am | <i>Mothering Sunday</i>
Holy Communion BCP
Holy Communion |

Letter from the Vicar



Last month I wrote about the importance of finding the special role that God has for each one of us, or - if you already know what it is, to seek (in Christ) to be better at it. This is not just a matter of growth and life, but also of holiness.

"Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.' (1 Peter 1:13 -16)

To be holy is not just for the 'holy people', but is a command for all Christians. I suppose we are *all* the 'holy people'! But why? Put simply heaven is holy, and if we are to live there one day then we have to be holy - or heaven wouldn't be holy anymore. If you put a drop of canal water in a glass of pure water then it isn't pure anymore. Put a lot of drops in and pretty soon you wouldn't want to drink it.

But what *is* holiness? It's a question we will be exploring in more detail in the Lent Course (to which all are welcome) but in short it is to be God like, or Christ like if you prefer. No pressure.... We are *all* made in the image of God though and retain that likeness, although in some people it is more obvious than others. It went wrong in the Garden of Eden and that rebellion nearly got us wiped out in the Flood. The story of the bible and the church after that is about the long road back. We all have an instinctive concept of a perfect place, and deep down long to get back to where we really belong, that's why injustice hurts. The likeness of God bit kicks against suffering and unfairness while our rebellious nature accepts and even propagates it. To love God is to want to be with Him, and to be with Him we need to be like Him, holy.

But no matter how hard we try, we fail. Canal water cannot purify itself and neither can we. Jesus excepted - there has never been a perfectly holy person. But God loves us and wants us to be with

him in heaven so Jesus died on the cross to give us the chance to be redeemed, to be purified, by Him. If we accept that purification then our rebellious nature is washed into the background and our 'God image' begins to dominate, we are 'born again'. We desire to be more and more Christ like, and Christ was someone who loved his creation. Love demands action and so we are driven to try to live in heaven, here on earth for now because that is where we are! If you want to be an international football player you start by playing football in the back yard, because you love playing and because that is where you are now. Conversely, if someone claims to want to be a football star but spends their time playing cricket and watching tv then at some point the world will question their creditability. The book of James hammers home this point, faith without works is dead, live faith brings about action.

So how do we act? In a thousand different ways! There are many jobs to be done in church and out. The harvest is still plentiful and workers few, opportunities always come with the desire to act!

(As an aside, with the Annual Church Meeting coming up we are looking for new people to become involved as part of the PCC, no experience necessary, just a desire to serve God!)

Whatever we do, our actions must – as far as we can – be driven by a desire to be like Christ, 'holy, just as God is holy'. We must put to one side – as far as we can – our former 'lusts', the things that we made our priority in our old life before we desired most of all to be fit for heaven. We need to be obedient to God and the commands he has given us rather than what the worlds demands. "If you love me, you will obey my commandments" (John 14:15), and to know what they are we must study the bible. We will be discouraged at times but we are to fix our hope on God's grace, for it is sufficient for us (2 Corinthians 12:9), and we are to persevere. And we are to "prepare our minds for action". To become holy not just in thought but also in deed.

Lord, increase in us our desire to be holy, to be like you in Christ. Make our churches shine in holiness that others may know that you live. Amen.

Rev'd Neal

Food and Support Drop In February 2017

For your prayers

On the 11th February we gave out 98 parcels which included 10 for new people, plus another 9 parcels for families who attended family gathering with 18 children. We had 40 volunteers.

We are extremely grateful to all our volunteers, not just those who help on Saturdays but also those who go shopping for us each week and those who help split the stock such as sugar, teabags, shampoo, coffee, rice, pasta, cereals etc etc every Thursday to ensure everyone gets an equal share of basics every week. New volunteers are always needed, please pray for new volunteers and for our current ones!
Regular groups at the Gathering Place includes

We now have two Saturday Gathering Groups who meet for prayer, praise, worship and teaching at 7pm every Saturday. One at the Gathering Place and one at St Hilda's on Gibraltar Road. We also have a regular Thursday Gathering at the Gathering Place starting at 11.30am
The Winter Shelter, providing an evening meal, bed and breakfast for the homeless is continuing until the end of March. The Banqueting Table continues to provide cooked meals 3 days a week
Our Second Chances Team are helping those who need it most days during the week.

Please pray that we are following God's Plan to help the people of Calderdale.

Donations of Goods

Please note that all our goods must be within date otherwise we can't put them into food parcels. We are currently short of Pasta Sauce, Curry Sauce, Tinned Rice Pudding, Coffee, Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Meals, UHT Milk, Washing up liquid and Washing Powder.

Although we get many donations of food and toiletries regularly, we still have to buy Toilet Rolls, Shampoo, Shower Gel and roll on Deodorants most weeks.

Regarding clothing and bedding, we are very short of men's gloves and warm socks only. **Nothing else at the moment thank you.**

The FSDI also tries to provide substantial refreshments on Saturday mornings so we need; Margarine, Mayonnaise, Cheese, Cooked sliced meats and other Sandwich Fillings as well as Savoury and Sweet bakery. In addition, The Banqueting Table, Winter Shelter and Saturday Gatherings have to buy fresh items, such as meat, fresh and frozen vegetables, sandwich fillings and pudding ingredients to make meals each week.

Opening times for deliveries

The Food and Support Drop In is open for deliveries on Thursday and Saturday Mornings between 8.30am and 12 noon. These are also the times when volunteers are needed.

There is usually some in at the Gathering Place between 10am and 2pm each weekday if Thursdays or Saturdays are inconvenient, but please ring ahead to check if possible. Tel 01422 647390.

Donations of Money

May I remind everybody who donates money via cheques to make it payable to:

“CHRISTIANS TOGETHER CALDERDALE”

If you are happy to support any of the Christians Together Projects please leave the cheque blank on the back. If you wish your donation to be only for the Drop In, please write “Drop In” on the back. Or the name of your preferred project.

Our bank details can be found by contacting the Treasurer via The Gathering Place (Please leave your details for them if they are not in) GIFT AID forms are also available. The forms are also available on our Christians Together Calderdale website.

Thank you to everyone for your support. We are very grateful.

Kind regards
Christine

On behalf of The Halifax Food and Support Drop In
Mobile Number 07522 485730
A project of Christians Together Calderdale
% The Gathering Place, 1 St James Road, Halifax, HX1 1YS
Telephone 01422 647390
www.christianstogether.org.uk

Crazy Socks



My name is Rose Anne, I'm 20 years old and I am currently a student at The University of York and also a member of St. John's song group.

From the 27th February to 5th March 2017, I will be wearing my crazy, stripy, knee-length socks (for 23 hours a day) to raise money for **Beat**. This is a particular challenge for me, as I HATE wearing socks in general. However, having personally battled with Anorexia Nervosa, I want to raise awareness and reduce the stigma of eating disorders, as well as help sufferers and their families to see that recovery is possible. **Beat** is an amazing charity whose online forms and helplines have helped both me and many other people during difficult times.

Please donate generously, because **Beat** gave me the hope and encouragement to keep fighting and, with your support, it will be able to reach out to so many more people like me.



Onwards and upwards!!!

<https://www.b-eat.co.uk>

There will be a box in church for donations for BEAT on Sunday 5th March and if anyone would like to support Rose Anne by wearing crazy stripy socks on that day please do.



Buy the 2017 Real Easter Egg Here



Special Edition (RRP £8.50)

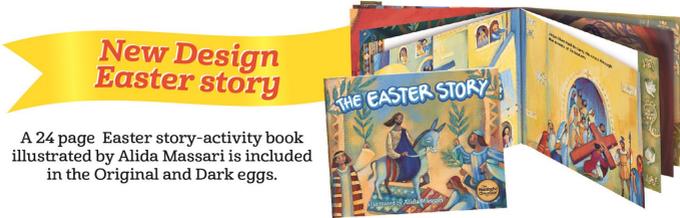
Contains a high quality milk chocolate egg (200g), an Easter traditions booklet and orange milk chocolate bar (80g).

Original (RRP £3.99)

The must have best seller! A fresh new redesign. Includes a 24 page Easter story-activity book illustrated by award winning artist Alida Massari, a high quality milk chocolate egg (125g) & Yummy Bar (25g).

Dark (RRP £5.50)

An egg made from premium dark Fairtrade chocolate (155g) with dark Yummy Bar (25g) and a 24 page Easter story activity book.



New Design Easter story

A 24 page Easter story-activity book illustrated by Alida Massari is included in the Original and Dark eggs.

Out of the 80 million chocolate Easter Eggs sold each year, The Real Easter Egg is the only Fairtrade one with the Easter story in the box.

www.realeasteregg.co.uk

Anita is NO LONGER collecting plastic bottle tops The Wheelchair has been bought, but at the moment there are no plans to have another.
Thank you to everyone for your support.

A Joint Benefice Lent course

The course will take the place of the House groups until Easter. There will be two sessions, both the same content, one starting at 2pm & the other at 7.30pm, and I'd like as many people as possible from our churches (guests welcome too) to attend. It will be a good opportunity for both congregations to mix and to visit each others churches.

The Course will focus on
"Holiness, and seeking God's face".

6th March, St John's.

13th March, St Hilda's.

20th March, St John's.

27th March, St Hilda's.

3rd April, St John's.

Refreshments will be served
before each session.



Many thanks, Rev Neal



All are invited to our joint Ash Wednesday service at St John's at 7.30pm (due to St Hilda's holding a special Scout event that evening). The 'Imposition of Ashes' is a quiet, very moving service which reminds us of our mortality and is a good way to prepare for Lent and Easter.

St. John's Prayer Breakfast

Saturday 11th March at **8.30am**
in the Church Hall.

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks
in all circumstances; for this is God's will for
you in Christ Jesus

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18(NIVUK)





**Quiz Night
and Irish Supper
at
St. Hilda's Church**

**On Friday 17th March
Starting at 7.00pm**

**Tickets £5 per person
ALL are very welcome**

**Soft drinks available but bring your
own alcohol
(we have glasses)**

Tickets available from David Lodge



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families



*Chat with friends
over coffee*

**Meet Up Monthly
at
Harveys
Restaurant**

*Share Mothers'
Union news*

**Drop in any time from 2.30 4.00pm
First Monday of the month
Next Meet Up Monday 6th March**

Warley Coffee Club

**27th March 2017
10.30am**

**Mrs Jackie Deprelle
'Discover Your Family History'**

Morning Prayer

Saying the Office

8.30am every Tuesday at St. John's



Bread of Life

Bread and other items will be on sale at the
11.00am service on
Sunday 19th March

Our first afternoon meeting of 2017 was February 2nd at 2.15p.m. at 129, Paddock Lane, when Pauline Edwards told us about 'Two men named Enoch' in the Bible.

Monthly Midday prayers were held on Monday February 6th at Halifax Minster, and the next one will be March 6th. Prayers will be led this time by our Warley Branch so please join us if you can.

February 15th was our evening meeting at 7.30p.m. in the Church Hall, when we heard all about the 'Rainbows' organisation, which is a counselling service especially for children. Andrea and Helen do an amazing work.

March is a very busy month starting with the Women's World Day of Prayer service at 2p.m. on March 3rd at Halifax Minster. The service this year has been written by the women of the Philippines.

We are invited to the Ladies Rally on March 14th at 2.30p.m. at Pellon Baptist Church, when the speaker will be Rev. Clare Davison.

In the evening of the same day, at 7.30p.m. we will have our monthly meeting in the Church Hall, when we will be making a new Church Banner for Easter.

March 25th is Lady Day, and this year there will be a Diocesan Service at Bradford Cathedral at 3p.m. All are invited.

Mothering Sunday is March 26th and this will be remembered at our 11a.m. service in Church.

Do book these dates in your diaries and we look forward to seeing you at any of these events. Visitors are always made very welcome.

SUSAN



March Diary

Wednesday	1st	9.00am 2.00pm	Morning Prayer, The Office, at St. Hilda's Coffee and Company from 2.00pm at St. Hilda's
Thursday	2nd	6.45pm	Song Group practise
Monday	6th	2.00pm	& 7.30pm Lent Course at St. John's
Tuesday	7th	8.30am 7.30pm	Morning Prayer, The Office, at St. John's PCC meeting
Wednesday	8th	9.00am 2.00pm	Morning Prayer, The Office, at St. Hilda's Coffee and Company from 2.00pm at St. Hilda's
Thursday	9th	6.45pm	Song Group practise
Saturday	11th	8.30am	Prayer Breakfast
Monday	13th	2.00pm	& 7.30pm Lent Course at St. Hilda's
Tuesday	14th	8.30am 7.30pm	Morning Prayer, The Office, at St. John's Mothers' Union in the Church hall
Wednesday	15th	9.00am 2.00pm	Morning Prayer, The Office, at St. Hilda's Coffee and Company from 2.00pm at St. Hilda's
Thursday	16th	6.45pm	Song Group practise
Monday	20th	2.00pm	& 7.30pm Lent Course at St. John's
Tuesday	21st	8.30am	Morning Prayer, The Office, at St. John's
Wednesday	22nd	9.00am 2.00pm	Morning Prayer, The Office, at St. Hilda's Coffee and Company from 2.00pm at St. Hilda's
Thursday	23rd	6.45pm	Song Group practise
Monday	27th	10.30am 2.00pm	Warley Coffee Club & 7.30pm Lent Course at St. John's
Tuesday	28th	9.00am	Morning Prayer, The Office, at St. John's
Wednesday	29th	9.00am 2.00pm	Morning Prayer, The Office, at St. Hilda's Coffee and Company from 2.00pm at St. Hilda's
Thursday	30th	6.45pm	Song Group practise

April

Sunday	2nd	11.00am	Church Service and APC meeting
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Uniform Organisations

Meet weekly through term time.

Rainbows	Tuesday evening
Beavers	Wednesday evening
Brownies	Tuesday evening
Guides	Tuesday evening
Cubs	Friday evening
Scouts	Friday evening
Explorer Scouts	Friday evening



Please consider the environment – do you really need to print this news letter?



Find us at:- <http://www.achurchnearyou.com/warley-st-john-the-evangelist/>
Short URL: acny.co.uk/17996/



The deadline for contributions to the April Newsletter is **Monday 21st March** to:
David 330693 courtlodge8@btinternet.com