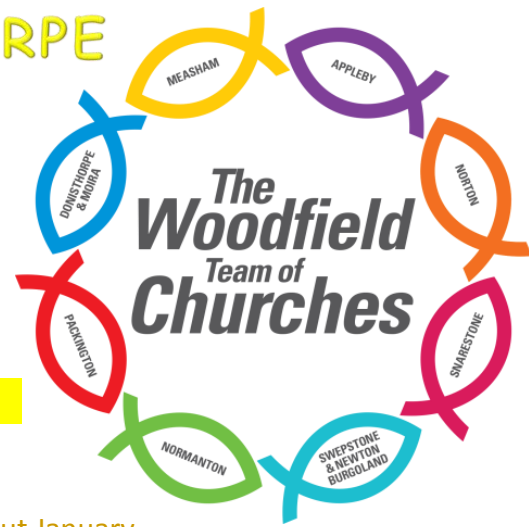


ST. JOHNS CHURCH DONISTHORPE

GRAPEVINE

JANUARY 2018



LET JESUS WARM YOUR HEART AND UNLOCK NEW LIFE

Dear All,

I came across this little poem recently which sort of echoes my feelings about January. It's called *January Morn* by Nelda Hartmann.

*"Bare branches of each tree
on this chilly January morn
look so cold so forlorn.
Grey skies dip ever so low
left from yesterday's dusting of snow."*

I wonder if that reflects your mood?

Yet in January we still celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World. Indeed we go on celebrating Jesus' birth right up to 2nd

February because it is so important that Jesus came to bring light to our darkness. He came to live with us, in all that human life means.

There is so much darkness: the darkness of loneliness, of unemployment, of grief; the darkness of so much war and hatred in our world. If invited in, Jesus the light still comes in our darkness. He is standing waiting at the door of our hearts, patiently waiting for us to turn to Him.

'I am the light of the world; I am the way, the truth and the life,' he declared. 'No one comes to the Father except through me.' But his call was not burdensome. He invited people to come to him for rest, to allow his light to dispel their darkness and to go through their lives with him as a companion – not only in life but throughout eternity.

The poem with which I started ends like this:

*"Yet in the heart of each tree
waiting for each who wait to see
new life as warm sun and breeze will blow,
like magic, unlock springs sap to flow,
buds, new leaves, then blooms will grow."*

For me, that expresses how Jesus warms our hearts and unlocks new life.

May you know the light of Jesus in your life through this 2018

Vivien



EVENTS and OPPORTUNITIES at ST JOHNS and across THE WOODFIELD TEAM
this MONTH and BEYOND



NEW ARCHDEACON OF LOUGHBOROUGH

The new Archdeacon of Loughborough, Revd. Claire Wood, will be visiting North West Leicestershire on January 11th. She's been in post now for a little over 2 months and is working hard to get to know her 'patch'. She'll be meeting churchwardens, lay readers, pastoral assistants and evangelists from across the area, including those of us who operate in the Woodfield Team. So we've got the chance to get to know her as well as her getting to know us.

MONTHLY FRIENDSHIP/ FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

COFFEEANDCHAT@CHURCH. Tuesday 2nd January 9-30am -11 a.m.

A chance to chat and to meet others socially over a cup of coffee (or tea) and a bite to eat.



3T'S - TABLE, TALK AND TEA

A much appreciated informal, friendly get together. Anyone is welcome to come along, we meet in church on the third Tuesday of every month, 2.30pm - 3.45pm. Stay for the whole of the time or just drop in arrive when you can and leave as you wish. If you enjoy stimulating conversation, good company over a cup of tea or coffee and cake, then 3Ts is for you! Join in with the discussion as you wish or just enjoy a cuppa amongst friends. We round our conversations off with a song and a prayer. If you would like to join us, our meeting this month will take place on **Tuesday 16th January at 2.30pm in the Church.**

LUNCH LIGHT

If you are feeling the pain of bereavement and would like some company, a chat and a bite to eat, why not drop in to St. Johns on **Friday 26th January between 12.30pm – 2.30pm.** There is a charge of £2. Telephone Janet 01283 215000, if you would like to come along, or if you wish to help out.

LENT GROUPS

Lent is early this year so dates for your diary for this year's Lent groups. We're not sure what the topic will be yet but we want you to be free to come!

Tuesday evenings 7.15 for 7.30pm on February 20th and 27th, March 6th and 13th

Thursday mornings 9.45 for 10 am. on February 22nd, March 1st, 8th and 15th

UPDATE ON THE PROJECT TO RE-ORDER THE INTERIOR OF ST JOHN'S

At this time of year, it can look as if nature is dead – nothing happening. However under the surface of the earth, a great deal is happening –nature readying itself for spring.

It's a bit like that with our project to re-order the interior of St John's to make it a building fit for both worship of God and all that goes with that, as well as for community use in widest possible sense. A lot of detailed work is going on, looking at plans trying to decide the best possible way forward for both church and community.

It's not just about layout and what stays and what goes, but how to heat and light the building efficiently and effectively, how to furnish the new space appropriately so that it is functional, attractive and fit for purpose.

We will be holding an open meeting in the near future for people to come and see what's proposed.

Watch out for the date. We start this month with an in-house church meeting to gauge reactions and opinions

Age 11-17 Games
Food The Bible
Youth

2nd and 4th Sunday

6-7:30pm

Measham Church hall

For more information:

Ceriann Kelly: 07946376500

woodfieldchildrenswork@gmail.com

Facebook: Woodfield childrens work

Twitter: @Woodfieldteam

THANK YOU TO.....

- all who brought so many toys for the Toy Service at the beginning of December. A car load of toys were delivered to the Marlene Reid Centre at Coalville.
- the leaders and young people who put on such a good and varied show and got us going in the Christmas mood at our uniformed organizations Christmas extravaganza. It's great to see all the packs – boys and girls – together.
- all who helped at and/or came along to the various services over Christmas as we have celebrated together the birth of Jesus Christ.
- to all who hosted Mary and Joseph on their travels



READY, STEADY, STICK! The Christmas Party

A very special story!

Ceriann writes: "On 9th of December we had 25 children and their families come down to our Christmas Ready Stick, a fabulously festive time was had by all.

It was wonderful to see the children and adults alike joining in with singing and making crafts, we even had the children join in the telling of the nativity story.

As it was our festive celebration we also had a yummy party tea including hotdogs and veg sticks (the children actually went quiet for a bit while eating!) We just had time for a couple of games before it was time say goodbye, and hope to see you all again."

Go to website to see some pictures of what went on:

WHAT DO CHRISTIANS BELIEVE? WOULD YOU LIKE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN FAITH?

Have you become a parent and wondering about having your child christened, and wonder what it's really about?

Would you like to be baptized or confirmed yourself?

Do you need a refresher because your Sunday school days were long ago? Then we have something just for you. Starting in January/February, we'll be taking a journey through what Christians believe about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit and the church over 6 sessions. It's a chance to hear about all this but also to ask your questions. Each session will last about 2 hours. We fix a time that's best for those who want to join in.

If interested do have a word with Vivien Elphick (270354) or Sue Bradley (271327)

WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES		JANUARY 2018
Tuesday 2 nd , 9 th , 16 th , 23 rd , 30 th	9.30am	Tuesday Prayer Group (in Church)
Tuesday 2 nd	9.30 – 11.00am	Coffee & Chat (in Church)
Sunday 7 th	11.00am	Morning Prayer
Wednesday 10 th	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 14 th	11.00am	Holy Communion & Healing
Tuesday 16 th	2.30pm	3T's Table - - - - Talk - - - - Tea
Sunday 21 st	11.00am	Family Service
Friday 26 th	12.30 – 2.30pm	Lunch Light
Sunday 28 th	11.00am	Holy Communion

ARE YOU A TEENAGER AND WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN FAITH?

We will be running a module for teenagers who want to know more about the Christian faith, and are thinking that they would like to be confirmed into the Church of England. If you're interested, then ring Vivien Elphick on 01530 270354 or e-mail on vivien.elphick@btinternet.com. Sessions will be on Thursdays in the New Year as things look right now.

REFLECTION



BC:AD

This was the moment when Before
turned into After, and the future's
uninvented timekeepers presented arms.

This was the moment when nothing
happened. Only dull peace
sprawled boringly over the earth.

This was the moment when even energetic Romans
could find nothing better to do
than counting heads in remote provinces.

And this was the moment
when a few farm workers and three
members of an obscure Persian sect
walked haphazard by starlight straight
into the kingdom of heaven.

Ursula Askham Fanthorpe 1929 – 2009

As we head into a New Year we may well have plans and expectations, hopes and dreams, as well as a few resolutions we will try and adhere to. The poet above speaks of shepherds and magi walking haphazardly by starlight straight into the kingdom of heaven. Perhaps we should travel with fewer plans and greater expectation of what God might surprise us with in the coming year. To be alert to the stars, listen to the angels, be willing to journey to new places, then we may discover the kingdom coming unexpectedly ... but certainly.

HAPPY NEW YEAR