

ST. JOHNS CHURCH DONISTHORPE

GRAPEVINE

MAY 2018



SPENDING TIME WITH GOD

Dear All,

Have you tried praying? If so, you're in good company. 20 million adults in the UK pray; 13 million pray at least once a month and 9 million every day. One in three believes God will answer their prayer. Why do you pray?

Amongst those who prayed, but have no religious affiliation, the top reasons for praying were, times of personal crisis or tragedy, on the off chance that something would change as a last resort; or to gain comfort and feel less lonely. There does seem to be a human instinct for prayer.

For me (I can be seen as the one whose 'job' it is to pray), prayer is speaking with God, listening to Him and asking blessing for those on my heart both locally and throughout the world.

Prayer is asking for the strength and wisdom I need every minute of every day.

Prayer is asking Him to be close and to guide me.

As a member of the clergy, I do follow a formal pattern of prayer at 9 a.m. in Measham Church on weekdays, as well as in Sunday services. I find the structure helps me.

My private prayer is in the quiet of my home at the beginning of the day and again at the end, as well as when I'm walking my dog. I walk and give my thoughts to God.

Very often I find those who so appreciate having a prayer said for them personally (even if they are a little embarrassed!) say they have felt a new peace afterwards.

Prayer is for the privacy of one's own heart, unique and personal to each individual because everyone's relationship to God is different.

Yet it is also for those times when people come together to pray – in small groups, in church, on retreats.

As well as Sunday services when there is most certainly a time for prayer, St John's Church in Donisthorpe is open daily (10am – 4pm), for prayer, a chance to come into a quiet space and let the silence of God enfold us. We have a special prayer space area near the organ – you can leave a request for us to pray for, put a pebble in the pebble pool, light a candle or simply be quiet.

This month we are taking part in the global prayer movement 'Thy Kingdom Come'. Between 10th May and 20th May, we hope to have extra prayer resources in church and some extra prayer events, but they aren't definite at the time of going to print – so check out our website www.stjohnschurchdonisthorpe.org.uk. Also there will be articles on prayer on the website – have a look. It will be the focus of our services in that period so come along and have a go.

Let us all be praying for the coming of God's Kingdom in our troubles world. What better calling could we have?

Yours

Vivien

PRAYING 'THY KINGDOM COME'?

Across the world, churches are joining in the Archbishop's Thy Kingdom Come Pentecost season of prayer – from **10th to 20th May**. The focus is on more people coming to know Jesus. Thy Kingdom Come is a global initiative, in which Christians are called to pray for the nine days between Ascension and Pentecost. We are invited to pray for God's Spirit to move within the church, equipping us to share God's love with others and to pay attention to how God is speaking to us today.

A LOOK BACK TO EASTER.

Holy Week and Easter are always a memorable time in the life of Christians the world over. That was certainly true for those of us in Donisthorpe church locally. We followed that last week of Jesus' life from Palm Sunday, through Maundy Thursday and Good Friday to the joy of resurrection on Easter Sunday. Here's a picture that perhaps captures something of all that it meant:



TRANSFORMATION OF ST JOHN'S CHURCH, DONISTHORPE

Thanks to all who came to the public meetings recently when we presented our plans for the transformation of St John's. It was great to have the reassurance of so much enthusiasm for what we plan to achieve. With that encouraging us onward, we are moving into detailed planning for heating systems, lightings systems, floor covering and much, much more. Watch this space!



CERIANN KELLY: CHILDREN'S WORKER FOR WOODFIELD TEAM OF CHURCHES.

Ceriann has been in post in the Team since September and she's been very busy. She writes:

I have now been in post as children's worker for the Woodfield team for just over 7 months! In that time, I have experienced great joy in getting to know the children through schools' groups and assemblies, and also their wider families through Tea-time Fun and Friendship (TFF), Ready Steady Stick and toddler groups. With the addition of a wider reaching youth group it has been a wonderful journey so far, and we are beginning to see more children and young people more regularly. It a real privilege to be walking alongside the children and young people as they learn more about God and what he can and does mean to them.

EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS THIS MONTH

SPECIAL SERVICES IN MAY:

ASCENSION DAY: Thursday 10th May at 7.30 p.m. This day is often overlooked but marks the time when Jesus ascended back to his Father in heaven and it is an important part of the overall story of what Jesus has done for us. It marks this year the start of 'Thy kingdom come'. There will be a service of Holy Communion at Packington Church at 7.30p.m

PENTECOST: May 20th at 11am (with refreshments served from 10.45 a.m.). This is the day when we remember the birth of the church and the coming of God's Holy Spirit amongst his people. A wonderful celebration for our family service.

TRINITY SUNDAY: May 27th at 11am. The Sunday when we bring it all together and explore what it means for us that God is one in three and three in one: Father Son and Holy Spirit.

THE ARCHDEACON'S VISITATION: MAY 17TH

Every year at this time, there is a special service when our churchwardens are sworn in for their coming year in office. This year it is being held locally at St Laurence Measham at 7.15 for 7.30pm. Do come along and support them. Parking for all except the disabled will be in the public car park off Bosworth Road



BRING OUT YOUR SHED

On **12th May** the Orchard Allotment Society and St John's are holding a garden jumble sale at the church. We will accept any garden stuff: terracotta pots, planters, plants, old garden tools, garden machinery, wooden boxes, seats anything garden EXCEPT plastic plant pots. We can collect if necessary or bring to the church on the morning of the 12th. A chance for a good clear out, and to find what you need for your garden at reasonable prices.

DEANERY CONFIRMATION SERVICE Sunday 6th May at 6pm:

An exciting time as we have a number of teenagers from the Woodfield Team due to be confirmed at this service. Bishop Martyn, Bishop of Leicester, will be doing the confirmations. It will be at St David's Church, Broom Leys. Come along and celebrate and support these youngsters taking such an important step in their lives.

READY STEADY STICK EASTER:

Here's a taster of what we get up to at Ready Steady Stick children's event.

On 24th March we met together in Measham St Laurence church hall for our Easter Ready Steady Stick.

We had a very special time looking at the real Easter story, talking to 'one of the disciples' and working out where chocolate and bunnies fit into it all.

The children (and adults!) sang with much enthusiasm and listened intently to the story as it was being acted out. We had a range of crafts that helped us explore the Easter story and some of us got quite sticky making Easter Garden Biscuits!! There was a lovely atmosphere as the children crafted, sang and played together making it a truly special event.

Why not come along to the next meeting in May half term? It's great fun.

St Laurence Church Measham 29th May

Holy Rood Packington 31st May

2-4pm



For all children under 11 (under 5's must have an adult stay)

£1.00 per child

Booking preferred:

Cerlann Kelly (Childrens worker) 07946376500

woodfieldchildrenswork@gmail.com

Facebook: Woodfield childrens work



COME AND FIND THE QUIET CENTRE

Come and find the quiet centre
 In this crowded life we lead;
 Find the room for hope to enter,
 Find the place where we are freed.
 Clear the chaos and the clutter,
 Clear the eyes that we may see
 all the things that really matter,
 be at peace and simply be.

In the spirit let us travel,
 Open to each other's pain
 Let our hopes and dreams unravel,
 Celebrate the space we've gained.
 There's a time for deepest dreaming,
 There's a time for heart to care,
 In the Spirit' lively scheming
 there is always room to spare.

Silence is a friend who claims us,
 Cools the heat and slows the pace;
 God it is who speaks and names us,
 Knows our being, touches base.
 Making space within our thinking,
 Lifting shades to show the sun;
 Raising courage when we're shrinking,
 Finding scope for faith begun.

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 In this crowded life we lead;
 Find the room for hope to enter,
 Find the place where we are freed.
 Clear the chaos and the clutter,
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 All the things that really matter,
 Be at peace and simply be.

WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. JOHNS CHURCH - MAY 2018

Tuesday 1 st	9.30am – 11.30am	Coffee & Chat (in Church)
Tuesday 8 th 15 th 22 nd 29 th	10.00am	Tuesday Prayer Group (in Church)
Sunday 6 th	11.00am	Morning Prayer
Wednesday 9 th	10.00am	Holy Communion
Thursday 10 th ASCENSION DAY	7.30pm	Holy Communion at Packington
Sunday 13 th	11.00am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 15 th	2.00pm – 4.00pm	3T's
Sunday 20 th PENTECOST	10.45am	Family Service
Friday 25 th	12.30 – 2.00pm	Lunch Light
Sunday 27 th TRINITY SUNDAY	11.00am	Holy Communion

COFFEEANDCHAT@CHURCH. Tuesday 1st May 9.30am -11-30 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 15th May 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 25th May 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.