



ST JOHN'S NEWS AND VIEWS

Number 22
December 2021

Worship



Online services (morning and evening) continue via our Facebook page and on YouTube.

Our services in church for the next few weeks will be as follows:

- 5th Dec. 10.30am Church Anniversary
12th Dec. 10.30am Jane Mansergh
Toy/Gift Service
19th Dec. 10.30am Revd. Stephen Caddy
6.30am Candlelit Carol Service
25th Dec. **10.0 a.m.** Christmas Day
led by Revd. Tim Broughton
26th December NO SERVICE

Church Anniversary

Our Anniversary service on 5th December will be led by Revd. Tim Broughton and accompanied by Giggleswick and Settle Brass Band.

Christmas Celebrations

- Sunday 12th Dec. 10.30 am Toy/Gift Service
Monday 13th Dec. 7.0 pm Soup-a-Carol
Sunday 19th Dec. 6.30 pm Candlelit Carol Service
Tuesday 21st Dec. 8.30 pm Carols at the Talbot Inn
Wednesday 22nd Dec. 6.30 pm Carols at Limestone View
Saturday 25th Dec. 10.0 am Christmas Morning Worship

Longest Night Service

On Monday 20th December, at 7.0 pm, Revd. Tim Broughton will lead a 'Longest Night Service', to remember all those whom we love but see no longer.

Time Together Tuesday (2.0-3.30pm)

A relaxed, friendly group for people living with dementia and their carers, meeting at St. John's every Tuesday, with tea, cake, games, activities and good company. Please contact Dementia Forward to register your interest. Local Helpline 03300 578592

Coffee Pot



Coffee Pot is now open on **Wednesday** mornings, from 10.30 - 12.0 noon.

If you would be willing to help in the kitchen or by serving, please add your name to the rota in the Coffee Lounge. Cakes do not have to be home made!

Knitted Angels



Members of local churches are being asked to join in knitting small angels, to be placed in plastic bags with a message from Churches Together in Settle and District and put in places at random around the town and villages, to be found by children (and adults!). Copies of the pattern can be found in the Coffee Lounge, and finished angels can also be left there.



Community Carol Singing

Tuesdays 14 & 21 Dec:
11am, Market Place (outside NatWest Bank).

Do come and join in, or just listen



HAVE A MERRY AND SUSTAINABLE CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a great time to spread Good News, have fun and practise our 3 R's - Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. Here are a few tips:

PRESENTS - Find out what people need before you buy. Arrange a spending limit with family and friends. Check that the items you buy are green and ethical - workers properly paid, not tested on animals, sustainably sourced, local if possible. Check out our wonderful local charity shops where you can help raise money for the charity, and save money at the same time!

WRAPPING PAPER - In Britain, every Christmas we throw away 226,800 miles of wrapping paper. There's no need! It can be re-used many times. There are sustainable alternatives too. How about using attractive and re-usable cloth material instead of paper? Use ribbon instead of tape for sealing, so that paper can be more easily re-cycled. The ribbon can be re-used as well, as can the bows.

CARDS - Home made cards are a great idea - people like the thought and effort that goes into them. Or why not buy some of Judith's beautiful home made cards where the profits go to save our rainforests. If you receive cards, recycle instead of binning them.

CHRISTMAS TREES - Millions of trees, both real and artificial, are discarded each year. To cut down on plastic dependence and to offset carbon emissions, buy a living tree, and keep it in a pot in the house or garden when not being used. They can be used year after year. Use LED lights, as they use

up to 95% less energy than traditional bulbs.

FOOD AND DRINK - We all like to indulge ourselves a little at this time, but let's not be wasteful. Don't buy excessively, and if you do, look amongst the plentiful supply of recipes for using up all the left-overs.

Have a healthy, holy and wholesome green Christmas.

Hymns you have probably never sung: No. 5

This hymn is number 12 in the 'General Collection of Hymns and Spiritual Songs' published by the Primitive Methodists in 1820. It reflects the fact that the U.K. was almost continuously at war from 1792 to 1815.

Hark! listen to the trumpeters
They sound for volunteers;
On Zion's bright and flow'ry mount,
Behold the officers:
Their horses white, their garments bright,
With crown and bow they stand;
Enlisting soldiers for their King,
To march for Canaan's land.

The armies now are in parade,
How martial they appear!
All dress'd and arm'd in uniform,
They look like men of war.
They follow their brave General,
The great eternal Lamb;
His garments stain'd in his own blood,
King Jesus is his name.

The trumpet sounds, the armies shout,
And drive the host of hell;
How dreadful is our God in arms,
The great Immanuel!
Sinners, enlist with Jesus Christ,
Th' eternal Son of God;
And march with us to Canaan's land,
Beyond the swelling flood.

These are the first 3 of 5 verses.

Jane Mansergh

Christmas thanks

A four-year-old boy was asked to give thanks before Christmas dinner. The family members bowed their heads in expectation. He began his prayer, thanking God for all his friends, naming them one by one. Then he thanked God for Mummy, Daddy, brother, sister, Grandma, Grandpa and aunts and uncles.

Then he began to thank God for the food. He gave thanks for the turkey, the stuffing, the gravy, the cranberry sauce, the mince pies, the Christmas pudding, even the brandy butter.

Then he paused, and everyone waited - and waited. After a long silence, the young boy looked up at his mother and asked "If I thank God for the sprouts, won't he know that I'm lying?"

(From *A Bucket of Surprises*, J. John and Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books)

Dear God

You know I have a real penchant for word play and words in general, so forgive me while I indulge in some meanderings. I particularly enjoy archaic words that have fallen from fashion, such as mollycoddle, flibbertigibbet and gallimaufrey. How for example do you coddle a molly? When does a flibbertigibbet stop being whimsical and simply become an irritating nuisance? Can a gallimaufrey ever just be a complete mess? My dictionary of historic slang terms suggests that perhaps it would be indelicate in a Methodist publication to discuss how to coddle mollies so perhaps I should just move on to another favourite area... I mean, of course the ones without proper opposites. You can be dishevelled - but can you be

shevelled? He was dismayed - but was he previously "mayed"? We hear of feckless people, but who has ever been feckful? You can be ruthless, but what about being "ruthful"? Shakespeare, naturally, is a source of huge enjoyment with disspunge (for when it is raining heavily), bubukles (spots on the face) and kickie-wickie (an affectionate term for the wife) to name but a few. He also knew how to shape a good insult too, variously calling people lubberworts (generally a stupid, lazy person) and a fustilarian (someone who deliberately wastes time on worthless things). It makes you wonder what he would make of some of our modern politicians...

Then there are the ones that change their meanings over time. I remember when "wicked" meant evil and naughty was someone misbehaving but to Shakespeare a "naughty place" was one where lawbreaking might occur and to modern youths "wicked" can mean wonderful. Then there are those words that simply fall out of favour: when did you last greet someone by hailing them, or ask them to hearken to you - yet we hear these regularly in carols. As for the words with more than one meaning... I've found many experiences moving, but the experience of moving was not moving in the least! Perhaps we all should be careful with our words, just in case the day comes when we have to eat them!

With affection, Old Lil Nongle.

Auf Wiedersehen, Pet

I'm rarely lost for words, but sometimes it is so hard to say what I feel. How do I pack into a short space all that is in my heart at present? I'm longing for the next chapter of our life and simultaneously heartbroken to be going. The last 27 years (we were only meant to stay for 7!) have been so amazing and Settle has offered both Eddie and I the chance to do so much - together and apart. The people we have met and the warmth, kindness and friendship we have been shown has been immense and life at St John's has played a huge part in that. We do hope to stay in touch and may even be spotted in December as we are temporarily putting the cats into a cattery when we move and will then need to come back to collect them, so don't think you are seeing things if you see us loitering in the market place! In the longer term we are hoping to bring our caravan to the area so that we have a base for trips back... At present we don't have a landline for our new home, or an email address but our mobile numbers remain the same (Gill: 07803608831 & Eddie 07702121886). Our new address after 26 November will be 14 THORN AVENUE, COYLTON, AYR, KA6 6NL. Gill

We are grateful to Gill and Old Li'l Nongle for all their contributions to both the newsletter and to life at St John's, and wish both Gill and Eddie every happiness in the future. Ed.



Journey to the Cross

Good Friday is still a long way off, but Sally

Waterson would like to know of anyone who would be willing to take part on 15th April, 2022. Covid restrictions meant that this could not take place in 2021, but for many years prior to that it proved to be a powerful witness in Settle. Several members of previous casts are no longer available, so new recruits are needed.

Christmas presents

A stingy man went Christmas shopping, but everything he saw was too expensive except a £50 vase that was on sale for £2, because the handle had been broken off.

He bought it and had the sales assistant mail it so that his friend would think that he had paid £50 for it and that it had been broken in the mail.

A week after Christmas he received a thank you note from his friend. "Thank you for the lovely vase," his letter read. "It was so nice of you to wrap each piece separately"

(From *A Bucket of Surprises*, J. John and Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books)

Newsletter

Thank you to all those who have contributed to this newsletter. Please send any material for inclusion to Philip or Wendy by the 1st of the month.

Church Hall

Some of our regular users are not returning, so the hall is now available on more occasions (including Mondays and Fridays). If you know of any groups which might be interested in hiring the hall (or one of the other rooms), please encourage them to get in touch with Anne Martin (01729 824661).



Prayer for Advent:

Lord, we watch, we wait, we look, we long for you. Dispel the clouds and the darkness and awaken us to your glory, that we may walk in the light, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(David Adam: *Clouds and Glory*)