



ST JOHN'S NEWS AND VIEWS

Number 25
March 2022

Worship



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

Our preachers in church at 10.30 a.m. for the next few weeks will be as follows:

- 6th March Pam Martin from A Rocha
- 13th March Revd. Tim Broughton
Holy Communion
- 20th March Revd. David Goodall
Circuit Service
- 27th March Wendy Holt
- 3rd April Revd. Tim Broughton

Ash Wednesday (2nd March)

There will be a service for Ash Wednesday, with Holy Communion, at 7.30 p.m. on 2nd March.

Lent

In our Sunday morning services we will be thinking about Jesus and 'The Way of the Cross':

- March 13th The Word made flesh
 - March 27th The Light of the World
 - April 3rd The Good Shepherd
 - April 10th King of kings
 - April 17th The Resurrection and the Life
- A Lent course, organised by Churches Together in Settle and District, will be held at St. John's at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. Entitled 'The Long Road to Heaven,' this is based on the film 'The Way,' which will be shown on 9th March. The final session will be on 6th April.

A daytime course by Revd. Dr. David Wilkinson, 'Who are we praying to,' will be held in the residents' lounge at Limestone View at 2.30 p.m. on

Wednesdays 16th, 23rd and 30th March and 13th April.

World Day of Prayer (4th March)

World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical organisation which enables women all over the world to share the ideas and concerns of their country when responsible for writing that year's service. The 'home nations' of England, Wales and Northern Ireland have prepared a service for 2022, based on the Bible text "I know the plans I have for you" from the prophet Jeremiah. They reflect on some of the issues facing us today: poverty, domestic abuse and disability, finding hope in difficult situations and encouragement in the help we can give to each other. Our local service will be held at St John's at 2.0 p.m. on Friday 4th March.

Charity Coffee Pots



Coffee Pot is open every Wednesday (10.30am -12.0 noon). Please join us for tea/coffee, cakes and chat - and bring your friends!

On the 1st Wednesday of each month, the proceeds are donated to charity.

In February, this raised £243.77 for Dementia Awareness.

On 2nd March, Coffee Pot will be in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind.

If you would like to take responsibility for one Charity Coffee Pot and donate the proceeds to a charity of your choice, please sign the list in the Coffee Lounge.

We are also grateful for any offers of help with our regular Coffee Pots.

Hymns you have probably never sung: No. 7. Last in the series

With one exception, the hymns in this series have been chosen for their curiosity value. We wouldn't want to sing them, even if we had the chance. I wanted to include an example which contains the immortal lines:

I am Methodist born and Methodist bred
And when I am dead there'll be a Methodist dead.

Fortunately, I've mislaid the book!

The following beautiful words from the Cambridge Hymnal would not be out of place in any Act of Worship. They are based on Song of Songs, chapter 2, verse 3.


The tree of life, my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green;
The tree of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ: the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel;
In faith I know, but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ: the apple tree.

Jane Mansergh

Thank you, Jane, for all your contributions over the past few months.



Give yourselves a **BIG** clap.  We now have the Silver ECO Church Award.... So well done to each and every one of you for doing your bit. We are now going for **GOLD** so watch this space to see how **YOU** can help. Interesting fact: Did you know the **Silver** award plaque is made out of old church pews?



March Eco Tips...

Do you have any unwanted Jewellery? (any condition, including broken, cosmetic and plastic jewellery), foreign coins or bank notes? Alzheimer's Society will turn your unwanted jewellery into cash for ongoing research into Dementia. Angela from Church has participated in this and brought it to the attention of our Eco Group. Look out for this box at church to deposit your unwanted items.



Lent 2022 commitments: Here are some ideas you may consider during Lent 2022 while contributing towards St Johns Eco-Commitment project. Write whatever you have done on a slip of paper and pop it into the bell jar at Church.

So why not

- Turn off the lights when you leave a room.
- Calling all Petrol Heads: Keep to the speed limit and spend less time with your foot on the accelerator. Slow down and see how different you feel while reducing polluting the atmosphere.
- Love chocolate: Try Fair Trade chocolate; you will be surprised how yummy it is.
- Donate an item to a charity each day during Lent: e.g. cans of food or items of clothing or household items.
- Be thrifty: Become a second-hand buyer. N.B. If you buy an electrical item from Booths, they will replace it free when it is worn out.
- Become a citizen scientist: From bird watching to counting stars.

Share this with family, friends and neighbours. Living sustainably is one of the most impactful things you can do.

*Dear God,
I know that you are fond of
parables and so I thought you might
enjoy this one: The Parable of the
Lost Cat. It was a very dark, stormy
night. The weather forecast warned
everyone to stay indoors. The man
and woman sat happily snuggled
up in the living room of their new
house, watching the trees bending
low as hailstones battered their
window. Suddenly the woman
realised that one of their cats was
missing. They checked everywhere,
but couldn't find it: their smallest
cat was out there, all alone in the
heart of the storm! Immediately the
woman put on her coat and grabbed
her mobile phone and torch. "I'll
ring when I find her," she called as
she headed out to seek the cat. Fear
gripped her as she searched: the
area was new to them all, so the cat
would have no idea where to find a
safe resting place. The wind hurled
hailstones into her face, icy wind
tugged at her coat, threatening to
blow her over. What chance would
a small cat have in this ferocious
storm? Even when the hail turned
to snow, she continued to search.
Finally, totally exhausted, she
reluctantly gave up her quest. Feet
slipping and sliding on the snow
and ice she headed home. Tears
froze on her face as she thought of
her poor cat. When her husband
opened the door she sobbed, "There's
no sign of her!" At which point the
cat emerged from behind her
husband.*

*"She's here!" the woman gasped.
"She turned up not long after you
left," he explained.
"But, why didn't you ring me?"
"Because I knew you'd eventually
come home..."*

*So, what is the message in this
parable? Is it that when you love
someone, you will do all you can to
keep them safe? Is it that the man
trusted his wife more than she
trusted her cat to know how to get
home? Is it that cats can always be
relied upon to know what they are
doing? Or maybe it's simply that
men don't realise that phones can
be used to make calls as well as to
receive them.*

*Yours, in contemplation
Old Lil Nongle
PS No cats were harmed in the
making of this parable – all 3 are
safe and well and enjoying their
new home!*

The Pilot's Psalm

The Lord is my pilot, I shall not drift.
He lighteth me across the dark waters;
He steereth me in the deep channels.
He keepeth my log.
He guideth me by the star of holiness for
his name's sake.
Yea, though I sail mid the thunders and
tempests of life, I will dread no danger,
for thou art near me.
Thy love and care, they shelter me.
Thou preparest a harbour before me in the
homeland of eternity.
Thou anointest the waves with oil, my ship
rideth calmly.
Surely sunlight and starlight shall favour
me on the voyage I take,
And I will rest in the port of my God
forever.
attributed to Captain J.H. Roberts (1874)

The Dieter's Psalm

The Lord is my Shepherd.
He maketh me to lie down and do press-ups, and giveth me sodium free bread.
He restoreth my waistline, and leadeth me past the fridge and the biscuit tin for my own sake.
He maketh me partake of green beans, cabbage and cauliflower, instead of Pot Noodles and pies.
He leadeth me past the chip shop and doughnut stall.
Yea! Though I pass through the toffee shop, I shall not be tempted, for thou art with me.
Thou preparedst a diet in the face of my enemies;
thou anointest my salad with low calorie dressing, and my cup shall not overflow.
Surely wholemeal bread and fat-free spread shall follow me all my life;
I shall not eat crisps, chocolate, biscuits or anything fattening, and I shall endure the pains of hunger for ever and ever. Amen.
Anon.

Ferns



Wall Rue; Hart's-tongue Fern; Maidenhair Spleenwort (pictured left to right)

Have you noticed the tiny ferns growing on the red brick garden-wall next to the telegraph pole on Church Street at the entrance to St John's?

Ferns do not have flowers; they are an ancient lineage of plants, much older than flowering plants. The leaves, called fronds, are divided into pinnae (leaflets). If you look at

the back of mature fronds you will see brown blobs where the spores are produced.

Our ferns here are rather wind scorched - but they are a good introduction to the ferns that grow on cliffs and down grikes in limestone pavement.

Maidenhair Spleenwort has a black stem and opposite round leaflets - called pinnae.

Wall rue has very irregularly lobed leaflets and is the tiniest of the three.

Harts tongue fern has a frond that is not divided into pinnae - it is a simple strap shape. Our specimen is very stunted - most fronds are only a few cm. whereas in woods and shady gardens they can grow to 30 cm long.

Have you got any ferns in your garden or on your walls?

Craven Conservation Group uses our church for its talks on the third Thursday of the month. This month - 17th March 2022 at 7.30pm - the group is pleased to have THE PRESIDENT of the British Pteridological Society giving a talk on ferns. (Dr Alison Evans is also a member of Craven Conservation group and lives near Earby). All members of St John's - indeed everyone from Settle area - are welcome to these talks. We hope we will also learn more about some of the rare species which grow in our area.

Judith Allinson

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.

A Suggestion:

It has been suggested that we might include the occasional recipe, possibly with a 'green' twist. Any offers?



A Prayer for Lent:

Remember, O Lord, what you have wrought in us, and not what we deserve; and as you have called us to your service, make us worthy of our calling, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
(Methodist Worship Book)