



ST JOHN'S NEWS AND VIEWS

Number 36
February 2023

Worship



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

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

- 5th February 10.30 am Revd. Stephen Caddy
12th February 10.30 am Revd. Tim Broughton
Holy Communion
19th February 10.30 am Susan Wilson
22nd February 7.30 pm Ash Wednesday
Service led by Revd. Tim Broughton
26th February 10.30 am Liz Whitfield

Bible Book Club

Our next meeting will be held at 12.0 noon on Wednesday 8th February, when we will be looking at the prophecy of Hosea. Notes on this can be found at the back of the church.

Talking Jesus

7.30 pm on Wednesdays, starting on 1st March

Conversations with Christians are one of the most important influences in bringing people to faith. This course will inspire you to share your faith and will give you practical suggestions to help you to be natural and relevant as you talk about Jesus with the people you meet.

There are six encouraging, video-based sessions with short films, inspirational testimonies and real-life examples from people who are talking about Jesus in their daily lives.

Coffee Pot



Keep warm at Coffee Pot on Wednesdays from 10.30 am – 12.0 noon – and bring your friends.

If you would like to take responsibility for one of our Charity Coffee Pots on the 1st Wednesday of any month and donate the profits to a charity of your choice, please sign the list in the Coffee Lounge. On 1st February

this will be in aid of the Bethany Project (see below). On 1st March we will be marking Fairtrade Fortnight.

Help at our regular Coffee Pots is always welcome. Cakes don't have to be homemade! Any costs incurred can be taken out of the donations received. Please sign the list in the Coffee Lounge if you are able to help.

The Bethany Project

Our February Charity Coffee Pot is in aid of the Bethany Project.

This is a well-established charity that was set up and run by small team of Christians (mainly from East Lancs., near Accrington) who work together to help the most vulnerable children and people in a rural area of Tanzania in East Africa.

The charity runs a children's home and a school in Mwanza next to Lake Victoria, caring for more than 150 children in their children's home, and over 350 children in their school.

From their previous time in East Lancs., Pam and Tim have had links to this project for over 20 years and they were a great help when Tim was setting up the Isaiah Trust, a similar project working with Street Children in Kenya.

Ingleton Methodist Church have also been involved with and have supported this charity for many years and a couple of the stewards from Ingleton lived and worked out there a few years ago. A few of the members at IMC have already been out to Tanzania to help with the work there and another visit is in the planning stage at the moment; anyone interested would be hugely welcome to join!

Our Charity Coffee Pot will raise funds to put towards work that will be done on this next visit.

Church Social Events: A Fellsman's Diary

Bob Swallow will give an illustrated talk at 7.30 pm on Saturday 11th March. Book the date now so that you can come along yourself and invite your family, friends and neighbours!

CARBONFAST FOR CREATION LENT 2023

It seems that we have only just tidied up since Christmas, but Lent is only a few weeks away and the Eco Team want to share their ideas for Lenten Fasting.

How often do we begin Lent with determination and spirit-filled ideas to make this a meaningful period of self-sacrifice and then give up?

We would like to give the 6 weeks some structure and split it into 6 clearly defined stages to help you start afresh each week. These are the 6 stages:

Week 1 – Week of Preparation

Week 2 – Waste week

Week 3 – Food week

Week 4 – Energy week

Week 5 – Waste week

Week 6 – Nature week

We will be preparing a daily chart of activities that you might consider doing, related to each of the 6 stages. We will give you each a chart on the Sundays before Lent so that you might stick it on the fridge door or kitchen notice board. There is no requirement to do everything on the chart – do as much as you can and feel you ought to do. Many things you will already be doing as committed green Christians.

The Eco Team have committed to Carbonfasting this year and we hope you will want to join with us.

There are 2 dates that you may be interested in.

February 12th - Tim is planned to preach on this Sunday and he will be preaching on the subject of FairTrade. Apparently chocolate may be involved!!

March 1st – as part of FairTrade Fortnight, the charity Coffee Pot will be in aid of FairTrade and FairTrade products will be on sale. We hope you will be able to support this.

Tuesday 7th Feb. 12.00 noon
at SS Mary and Michael Catholic Church (and 1st Tuesday of each month)

You are invited to come along to pray:

- To support our planned activities
- To pray about new opportunities
- To pray for our local community

More information from Dan and Ruth Bavington (01729 822902)

Excerpt from 'Class Leaders' Assistant' 1865

The C.L.A. was a Wesleyan publication by John Bate, published in London by Hamilton, Adams and Co.

As you take great care in preserving the eyes of your body, so exercise great care in preserving faith (the eyes) of your soul. Light is pleasant, and it is a good thing to behold the sun when the eyes are healthy; so, with a vigorous faith, how delightful it is to look upon the things of God!

Jane Mansergh

World Day of Prayer: 'I have heard about your faith'

A united service for the World Day of Prayer will be held at SS Mary and Michael Catholic Church at 7.00 pm on Friday 3rd March.

Our sisters in Taiwan have prepared this year's service. Taiwan is an island rich in natural resources and culturally diverse. The women of Taiwan share the issues faced geographically, politically and socially and also their hopes for the future. Let us join with them as we give thanks for the beautiful island and people of Taiwan and encourage one another in our faith, just as the apostle Paul did in his letters.

World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world --- through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later.

Dear God,

Today has been one of those horrible dreich days when it was too cold to venture far from the sofa, which is why this evening I was still sitting there with a mug of coffee, snuggled up, watching "Winterwatch" on the BBC with my cat. Suddenly a section came on which was simply 90 seconds of bird activity and song in a wintery garden. My cat sprang into life and edged as close as he could to the TV set, fascinated by the sound and the activity. His ears twitched, his eyes followed every movement and when the ninety seconds was over he returned to my side, sighed, curled up next to me and fell contentedly asleep. All day he'd been prowling around the house, mewing piteously and complaining because it was too cold and wet to go out and now he was soothed and at peace.

It got me thinking about how often I behave like he had behaved all day, how I grumble and complain when things don't immediately work out the way I want and, because I can't see the bigger picture and I don't get immediate gratification, I feel that I have been abandoned. My cat had wanted to go out and chase birds but couldn't, but when presented with a substitute that allowed him to stay warm and watch things from a safe, comfortable distance, he had the sense to enjoy the moment and then retire gracefully. I'm not entirely sure that I would do the same and act as sensibly; I suspect I would still mutter and grumble – but then, maybe I'm not quite as mature as my cat!

Yours

Old Lil Nongle



For your Prayers

As we approach Fairtrade Fortnight (27th February -12th March), please pray for justice for all.

Please continue to pray for peace in Ukraine, and for the people of the Yemen, Afghanistan and the Middle East.

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 (preferably a few days before this!).