

Prayer Diary – 3rd September 2017

The Collect for today – Twelfth Sunday after Trinity:

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray and you constantly give more than we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy by forgiving us those things of which our consciences are afraid and by giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Please pray for...

the sick and the bereaved:

our mission partners: Helen Eccles (St Catherine's, Over) and Robert Matati (Anglican minister in Butere, Kenya).

those serving in the Armed Forces:

our local schools:

Hartford Primary School and Kids Count Nursery, and other schools which members of the church are involved in.

Hartford Church of England High School: give thanks for a lively weekly Christian Union.

Notice Sheet for Sunday 3rd September 2017

All services are in **St John's Church** unless stated otherwise.

8am Holy Communion

9.30am Prayer Meeting in the Eddowes Room

10am Holiday Club All Age Service – Matthew 13:45-46; *True Value*

6.30pm Holy Communion – Romans 14; *Article 34: Of the Traditions of the Church*

8pm Crossover meet at Nathan & Jo Phillingham's home

8pm After 8s meet at Will & Fiona Hughes' home

Preachers elsewhere today:

Phil at Latimer Congregational Church in Beverley, Yorkshire (am)

Christianity Explored

Christianity Explored is an informal 7-week course for anyone who would like to investigate Christianity, see what the Bible really says or ask any questions that they have. Our next course starts on Tuesday 3rd October at 8pm in St John's Church Centre. Looking at Mark's gospel, the course explores who Jesus is, why he came, and what it means to follow him. Booking is not essential but is appreciated (don't be put off if you forget to book). For more information, please contact the Church Office or email ce@stjohnshartford.org.

Notice sheet for 17th September

Due to holidays, the notice sheet for 17th September will be produced this week, though you won't receive it until the appropriate date. If you have anything you would like to appear in this edition, please let Jackie (jackie@stjohnshartford.org) know by **Wednesday 6th September**.

Thursday Café

The Thursday Café will reopen, following its summer break, on 14th September at 11.45am.

St John's Golf Society

The next golf day in the 2017 St John's Golf Season will be on Saturday 9th September at Upton by Chester Golf Club. Tea/coffee and bacon butties will be served from 9am, with the first tee at 9.54am. The cost for the day is £23 and the society welcomes both male and female golfers of all abilities to join them. Please contact Ray Bridgewater for more information or to book your place.

Northern Women's Convention

On Saturday 14th October the Northern Women's Convention will take place at the Life Centre in Bradford. The speaker this year is Agnes Brough and the title is 'Worth it?' Life is full of struggles and seeking to live out our faith in an unbelieving world is very difficult. We all have times when we ask ourselves if following Jesus is really worth it. If you would like to go, please get in touch with Jackie Barton (jackie@stjohnshartford.org) as soon as possible, so we can make a group booking. For more details, please see the NWC website or flyers on the Welcome Desk.

Thank you from Olivia Rigby

Thank you so much for your immense kindness in supporting me and for your willingness to serve God in student ministry. The church's enthusiasm for this ministry is such an encouragement to me; it's wonderful to see local churches sending their students and supporting those doing the ministry. I so love coming back to St John's, and I'm phenomenally grateful for my church family here, and how supported I have been over the past few years. Thank you so much! *Olivia*.

Church Weekend 2018

We have booked Friday 7th September to Sunday 9th September 2018 for our next church weekend away, at Quinta Hall in Oswestry. Please put the date in your diary now.

An invitation from Rob & Kathryn Payne

Matthew Payne is being baptised during the morning service on Sunday 1st October. Rob and Kathryn would like to invite all the church family to come to his baptism and afterwards to join them for a 'bring and share' lunch, at 12.15pm, in the Church Centre. If you would like to come, please let Rob and Kathryn know **by Sunday 17th September**.

Christ Church Greenbank 15th Anniversary

On the evening of Saturday 7th and during the day of Sunday 8th October, we will be celebrating the 15th anniversary of Christ Church. More details will follow, but we would love to invite our brothers and sisters at St John's to join us, so please do put the date in your diaries. *Dimitri*

Car booster seat available

When Matt and Heidi Duncan returned to Australia, they left behind a booster seat. If you are interested in it, please contact the Church Office.

Gluten free communion wafers

We now have gluten free wafers available at communion services, for those that need them. They will be kept on a separate plate, so please indicate to the person serving you when you come up to communion if this is something you require.

Church Photo Directory

If you didn't pick up a copy of the new Photo Directory when they were in church, they are now available from the Church Office during the week. The suggested donation to cover costs is £2.50 for a copy with a plastic cover, or £2 without. Please shred any old versions you have or pass them to the Church Office to do it for you.

Can you help the Thursday Café?

The Thursday Cafe is in urgent need of more helpers, particularly to work in the kitchen, but also for setting up, working in the cafe and giving lifts to customers that wouldn't otherwise be able to attend. If you can help at all, please contact Sarah Farmer.

Help with reading in schools

We would love more church members to become involved in supporting our local schools, by joining our Pray Bake Read scheme. We currently have small teams of volunteers praying for four of our schools, going in to listen to children read and/or baking cakes for the children. The schools are very grateful for what we are already doing but there is a real need for more help. If you think this is something you would like to know more about, please speak to Teresa.

Church Diary – 3rd September 2017

Monday 4th September *Readings: 1 Samuel 28, 1 Corinthians 9, Ezekiel 7, Psalm 45*

Nathan's day off

Mike attending a Diocesan Finance & Scrutiny Committee meeting at Church House (1pm)

9.30am-5pm Church Office open in the Church Centre (Monday to Friday)

Tuesday 5th September *Readings: 1 Samuel 29-30, 1 Corinthians 10, Ezekiel 8, Psalms 46-47*

7pm Music practice in St John's

7.30pm Jigsaw BBQ

8pm CAP prayer meeting at Christ Church

Wednesday 6th September *Readings: 1 Samuel 31, 1 Corinthians 11, Ezekiel 9, Psalm 48*

10am Tota and Tinies meet in the Church Centre

2pm Ladies' Fellowship meet in the Church Centre – Sing for Joy

8pm Housegroups meet to study Psalm 73

Thursday 7th September *Readings: 1 Corinthians 12, Ezekiel 10, Psalm 49*

10am Men's Walk – contact David King for meeting point

7.30pm Men's Curry Night at The Indian in Castle

Friday 8th September *Readings: 2 Samuel 2, 1 Corinthians 13, Ezekiel 11, Psalm 50*

Mike's day off

Michael Field taking part in 'Walk Through the Bible' Annual Conference (Friday - Sunday)

Ministry team taking Hartford Church of England High School Chapel Services (2.55pm)

11.30am Funeral at Vale Royal Crematorium (*Alec*)

7.30pm Pathfinders meet in the Church Centre

Saturday 9th September *Readings: 2 Samuel 3, 1 Corinthians 14, Ezekiel 12, Psalm 51*

Nathan's and Alec's day off

9am St John's Golf Society play at Upton by Chester Golf Club

3pm Koinonia - new programme & chat in the Church Centre

Sunday 10th September *Readings: 2 Samuel 4-5, 1 Corinthians 15, Ezekiel 13, Psalms 52-54*

8am Holy Communion in St John's

10am Morning Prayer in St John's (Deuteronomy 6:1-9)

6.30pm Evening Prayer in St John's (1 Corinthians 1:1-9)

8pm Crossover meet at Nathan & Jo Phillingham's home

For more details about the daily Bible reading plan, including online readings, please visit our website