

**Sunday 13th May** *Readings: Numbers 22, Psalms 62-63, Isaiah 11-12, James 5*

8am	Holy Communion in St John's
9.30am	Time to Pray in the Eddowes Room
10am	Holy Communion in St John's (John 1:19-34)
6.30pm	Evening Prayer in St John's (1 Corinthians 12:1-11)
8pm	Crossover meet at Nathan & Jo Phillingham's home
8.15pm	After 8s meet at Rob & Kathryn Payne's home

### **Prayer Diary – 6th May 2018**

**The Collect for today** – Fifth Sunday after Easter:

*O Lord, from whom all good things come, grant to us your servants that by your holy inspiration we may think good thoughts and by your merciful guidance put them into practice through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

### **Please pray for...**

*the sick and the bereaved:*

*our mission partners:* St John's, Over & Joseph Mayan (Barnabas Ministries in Uganda).

*our local schools:*

Sir Leslie Martin & Old School House Nurseries, and other schools which members of the church are involved in.

Hartford Church of England High School.

For Parliament to reject proposals for new legislation that will make many elements of sex education compulsory for all pupils. A large number of the topics to be covered are contrary to the Word of God.

**Church Office** phone number 01606 872255

## **Notice Sheet for Sunday 6th May 2018**

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

### **8am Holy Communion**

**9.30am Prayer Meeting** in the Eddowes Room

**10am Morning Prayer** – John 1:1-18; *The Word became flesh*

**6.30pm Holy Communion** – 1 Corinthians 11:17–34; *The Lord's Supper*

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

### **Preachers elsewhere today:**

Phil at St John's, Over (9am & 10.30am)

### **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. A new course started last week but it's not too late to join; Tuesdays 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. For more information, please contact the Church Office.

### **Alec's Ordination**

Alec and Peter Chamberlin will be ordained on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, at 7pm, in St John's. Bishop Rod Thomas will be taking the service. Please put the date in your diaries now, so you can come and support Alec.

### **Congo Appeal**

The Diocesan Bishops have started an appeal to support Aru and Boga, our link dioceses in northeast DR Congo, who saw some of the bloodiest fighting in the Congolese War from 1999-2003, but recently there has been a resurgence of hostilities after more than a decade of peace. Many are fleeing the fighting; there are more than 100,000 displaced people, including 42,000 refugees in neighbouring Uganda. The local Church is doing a magnificent job, putting people up in their homes and opening up their schools to shelter the displaced. When asked about the greatest need in the current unrest, the bishops' unanimous answer is prayer. They also ask for advocacy. Finally, those displaced by the conflict require emergency aid in the form of clothes, food, healthcare and trauma healing. If you would like to make a donation by cheque, you can send it direct to the Congo Church Association. Please make it payable to 'Congo Church Association', write the reference 'DioChester' on the reverse of the cheque and send to; The Hon. Treasurer, Paul Dickens, Hockliffe Grange, Hockliffe, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire LU7 9NL.

### **Ladies' Meal at The Indian**

The next ladies' meal will be on Thursday 17th May, 7.30pm, at The Indian in Castle. This is a great way to meet together informally and bring some friends along. Please contact Sarah Farmer by Monday 14th May to book a place.

### **Cups for church coffee**

A number of concerns have been raised lately regarding the use of plastic cups for coffee after the services. St John's Committee will be considering the alternatives but, in the meantime, please do feel free to bring your own reusable cup from home, if you would like to.

### **Big Church Day Out**

On Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd June, at Capesthorpe Hall, the Big Church Day Out will be taking place. This is a Christian festival-style event which was attended by around 10,000 people last year. It's for all musical tastes, with activities and fun for all ages. Camping on site is also available.

There are flyers on the Welcome Desk with more information, and Chester Diocese can offer a big discount on ticket prices if you join their group booking; please see their website for more details.

### **Connected – Confident Parenting in a Digital Age**

This an event organised by Care for the Family on Tuesday 12th June, 7.30-10pm, at IAudacious Church, Chester. How do we embrace the positive aspects of digital life as a family whilst helping our children navigate through the associated dangers such as bullying, pornography and the pressure for likes? This event is for parents or anyone who wants to help children navigate wisely and confidently the online world. Tickets are around £5 and there are Early Bird (£4) and bulk discounts before 1st May. We will arrange transport nearer the time. For more details, please see their website and contact Nathan as soon as possible with monies for discounted tickets.

### **REBOOT**

... is a day conference of Apologetics, run by Ravi Zacharias International Ministries, for current school years 8-13, on Saturday 22nd September, 10am-5pm, at Westminster Central Hall, London. REBOOT meets in major cities across the globe to explore questions such as 'How can we know God exists?', 'Why does God allow suffering?' and 'Hasn't science disproved God?' It provides a place for young people, with or without any faith or church background, to raise their objections and investigate different perspectives on life. Their team of world-class apologists want you to have confidence in what you believe, and the chance to be honest about your doubts. We hope to leave by minibus at 6am and return by about 9pm the same day. Tickets are £12 plus transport, and you will need to provide lunch and money for dinner. We need to book tickets as soon as possible and places will be limited, so please contact Nathan to let him know you would like to go.

### **Hartford Picnic in the Park**

As a church we will be taking part in the Hartford Picnic in the Park, on the afternoon of Sunday 8th July. This is a great way for us to serve our local community, to meet them where they are and to join in the fun of this big village event. More details will be available in due course, but please put the date in your diary. If you would be interested in helping on the day, please contact Teresa.

### **Keswick Convention**

For those who are new to our church or who are wondering what to do for their summer holiday this year, please can we encourage you to consider going to the Keswick Convention; a Christian conference, set in the beautiful Lake District. Keswick Ministries have three fundamental convictions which shape what they do: hearing God's Word, becoming like God's Son and serving God's mission. The convention is on for three weeks at the end of July/beginning of August and, as you find your own accommodation, can suit all budgets and all ages. Find out more from their website or speak to one of the ministry team, who can put you in touch with church members who have been before or who are going this year.

### **Sunday morning coffee at St John's**

Would anyone else like to join the rota to provide refreshments after the morning services at St John's? If we had a few more volunteers, everyone would only have to serve about six times a year. If you would like to help, please contact Mary Shorter.

### **Church Diary – 6th May 2018**

**Monday 7th May** *Readings: Numbers 15, Psalm 51, Isaiah 5, Hebrews 12*

**Church Office & Church Centre closed today**

**Tuesday 8th May** *Readings: Numbers 16, Psalms 52-54, Isaiah 6, Hebrews 13*

Teresa leading a story & craft session at Kids Count Nursery (9.30am)

Teresa taking a KS2 assembly at St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School (11.10am)

Michael Field leading a 'Walk Through the Bible' session at Whitegate CE Primary School (1.30pm)

Nathan taking assemblies at Hartford CE High School (Tuesday-Thursday, 2.45pm)

9.30am-5pm Church Office open in the Church Centre (Tuesday-Thursday)

10am Jigsaw meet in the Church Centre

1.30pm Mock wedding service for pupils of Hartford Manor Primary (*Mike and Teresa*)

8pm Christianity Explored course in the Church Centre

8pm Discipleship & Pastoral Care Committee meet at The Vicarage

**Wednesday 9th May** *Readings: Numbers 17-18, Psalm 55, Isaiah 7, James 1*

Phil at Hartford Church of England High School Christian Union (1-1.45pm)

Teresa taking a KS1 assembly at St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School (2.30pm)

10am Tots and Tinies meet in the Church Centre

2pm Ladies' Fellowship meet in the Church Centre – Roberta Bonner

8pm Housegroups meet for Acts study 5

**Thursday 10th May** *Readings: Numbers 19, Psalms 56-57, Isaiah 8:1-9:7, James 2*

Alec attending Curacy Training at Church House (all day)

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

11.45am Thursday Café in the Church Centre

7.30pm Growing in Christ course in the Church Centre

9.30pm Time to Pray in the Eddowes Room

**Friday 11th May** *Readings: Numbers 20, Psalms 58-59, Isaiah 9:8-10:4, James 3*

Mike's day off

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

6.30am Time to Pray in the Eddowes Room

10.30am-3pm Church Office open in the Church Centre

7.30pm Pathfinders meet in the Church Centre

**Saturday 12th May** *Readings: Numbers 21, Psalms 60-61, Isaiah 10:5-34, James 4*

Mike attending Church Society AGM at Oak Hill College (all day)

10am-4.45pm Northern Men's Convention at Holy Trinity, Platt

11am Koinonia trip to Anderton Boat Lift - meet in their café

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