

Prayer Diary – 30th December 2018

The Collect for today – Sunday after Christmas:

Almighty God, who gave us your only Son to take our nature upon him and to be born of a pure virgin, grant that we, who are born again in him and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please pray for...

the sick and the bereaved:

our mission partners: The Gideons and Peter & Julie Fraser (Bible Encounter Trust).

our local schools:

- Cloughwood Academy & Greenbank School, and other schools which members of the church are involved in.
- Hartford Church of England High School.
- For Christian teachers to show the love of Jesus in their lessons and in their presence around school.

Notice Sheet for Sunday 30th December 2018

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

8am Holy Communion

9.30am Prayer Meeting in the Eddowes Room

10am All Age Service - Matthew 1:18-25; *"You are to give him the name Jesus"*

6.30pm Evening Prayer - Ephesians 3:14-21; *Alec's New Year Message*

8.15pm After 8s meet at Rob & Kathryn Payne's home

Church Office opening times

Jackie is off from 20th December until 2nd January but the Church Office will be open on Friday 21st December (10.30am-3pm) and Friday 28th December (9.30am-2pm), when Jacqueline will be there.

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 one starts on Tuesday 15th January 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.

Walk Through the Bible - information meeting

As many of you know, Michael Field has been leading WTTB sessions in many of our local primary schools. Due to increasing demand from schools, coupled with Michael cutting back on his commitments following his recent illness, we are keen to find some new volunteers who might be interested in training to become WTTB presenters. We will be holding a meeting on Tuesday 15th January, at 1.30pm, in the Church Centre (upstairs Conference Room), for anyone who might like to find out more. You will not be committing to anything just by coming along! If you know you would like to come, please speak to Michael or Teresa.

Read the Bible in 2019

Have you always wanted to read through the whole Bible but never got round to it? Or are you resolved to find time to study a Bible passage and spend time praying every day? Please do check the 'Reading the Bible' section of our website. We have compiled a list of links to many resources, including free audio daily Bible readings apps for iPhones and iPads, Android smartphones and tablets along with other devices; including the Daily Audio Bible podcast and Bible in One Year (from HTB) which both take you through the whole Bible in a year. The notice sheet also has daily readings alongside each day on the diary page to enable you to do the same. The readings are linked to a daily Bible Reading Plan that is available in various formats from the 'Reading the Bible' page. Finally, if you don't own a Bible to read, please ask a member of staff and we will make sure you get one.

'Harambee' Uganda Mission 2019

On Thursday 24th January, at 8pm in the Church Centre, there will be an Information Evening where we will provide further background, insight and encouragement for those who may be interested or who have already expressed an interest in visiting Uganda next year. The aim of the 2019 visit will be to further develop our links with, and support for, the schools and churches over there, as a fundamental part of our 'Harambee' partnership growth. There will be more information early in the New Year, ahead of the meeting, but in the interim please treat this as a 'Save the Date'. If you would like to know more, please speak to Martin or Helen Barber.

North West Partnership Conference

On Friday 25th and Saturday 26th January, NWP is holding its annual conference at St Andrew's, Leyland. The speakers are Tim Lane and Mark Pickles. Tim will talk on 'Words that Matter: saying things that really help'. His talks will have a focus on how the Gospel is sufficient for this issue. Each day costs £18: please see www.northwestpartnership.com/events for more details.

George & Hilary Agar

As many of you know, George and Hilary Agar have been settled for some time now near Emyr, Kate and the family in Wales. They had hoped also to find a house in Hartford which would have enabled them to divide their time between the two places, and allowed George to continue his ministry at St John's as previously. This is why we have had no farewell – technically, they haven't left! However, it now seems right that they devote themselves more fully for now to family and church in Wales. This would mean that George will no longer be on our staff team or formally our Assistant Minister for Pastoral Care. Happily, though, they are still not leaving! They intend to visit periodically, including on Sundays, and for George to take occasional services and do a little visiting. As such, he will retain his bishop's licence as an NSM at least until its annual review in May. It is our hope to give thanks to God for George's formal ministry at a special bring and share church lunch to be arranged in the new year. *Mike Smith.*

Counselling services

Dee Rollinson (who used to be our in-house therapeutic counsellor) acts as a counselling advisor for St John's. If you would like to discuss or explore counselling options, please contact Dee (dee@stjohnshartford.org). We also have direct access to Chester Diocese's Counselling Service; contact Jane Knight (01270 652034 or 07918 732806).

Church Diary – 30th December 2018

Monday 31st December *Readings: 2 Chronicles 36, Revelation 22, Malachi 4, John 21*

Church Office and Church Centre closed

Jackie away until Wednesday 2nd January

Nathan away Monday to Wednesday

Alec, Richard and Teresa away until Monday 7th January

Tuesday 1st January *Readings: Genesis 1, Matthew 1, Ezra 1, Acts 1*

Church Office and Church Centre closed

Wednesday 2nd January *Readings: Genesis 2, Matthew 2, Ezra 2, Acts 2*

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

8pm Prayer Fellowship meets in the Church Centre (*Ministry Team*)

Thursday 3rd January *Readings: Genesis 3, Matthew 3, Ezra 3, Acts 3*

Mike's and Nathan's day off

Friday 4th January *Readings: Genesis 4, Matthew 4, Ezra 4, Acts 4*

Mike's day off

6.30am Time to Pray in the Eddowes Room

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

Saturday 5th January *Readings: Genesis 5, Matthew 5, Ezra 5, Acts 5*

5pm Crossfinders & Crossover Social in the Church Centre

Sunday 6th January *Readings: Genesis 6, Matthew 6, Ezra 6, Acts 6*

8am Holy Communion in St John's

9.30am Time to Pray in the Eddowes Room

10am Morning Prayer in St John's

6.30pm Holy Communion in St John's (Matthew 5:33-37, 6:1-4)

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