

## Prayer Diary – 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019

**The Collect for today** - Eleventh Sunday after Trinity:

*Lord God, you show your Almighty power most of all in showing mercy and pity: grant us such a measure of your grace that in carrying out your commandments we may obtain your promises and share in your heavenly treasure, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Please pray for...**

*the sick and the bereaved:*

*our mission partners:* Jonny & Erica Greaves (The Oakes, Sheffield) and Cornerstone Church, Crewe.

*those marrying this month:*

*our local schools:*

- St Nicholas Catholic High School & St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary 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 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019

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

**8am No service**

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

**10am All Age Service** - Luke 5:27-32

**12.15pm Church BBQ** at the Church Centre

**6.30pm Holy Communion** - Psalm 12

### 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 10<sup>th</sup> September 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. For more information, please contact the Church Office.

### Crossover Sleepover (for 2018/19 cohort)

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September there will be a Crossover Sleepover for those who have attended during the academic year 2018/19. An email has been sent to all parents; please return completed consent forms in person or by email to Ruth Port, Matt Hobson or Lisa Hobson.

### Crossover - Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September

The first meeting of the 2019/20 cohort of Crossover is on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September with a variety of 'getting to know you' activities and an introduction to what we hope to do and be as a group. All those in the age group of school years 10-13 are welcome to attend Crossover, which runs from 8pm to 9.30pm just about every Sunday evening of term-time. We will be meeting in the Church Centre, with study and discussion time in the newly redecorated Henry Room. For those in years 11-13 who have not attended previously, this is a great time to join! *Ruth Port.*

### Jigsaw

... will recommence for the autumn term on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September, meeting from 10am in the Cranmer Room. Jigsaw is a group for ladies of all ages that meets each Tuesday morning in term-time for fellowship, Bible study, prayer and, of course, coffee. For the first half of this term, we will be completing a DVD based discussion series called 'Chat around the Bible'. Our first meeting will be a social and we look forward to welcoming back old friends and would also love to welcome any new people along to the group. A crèche is provided for small children. *Fiona Hughes.*

### Letter from the McClean family

One of our mission partners, the McClean family in Thailand, have sent a letter to thank us for our financial support over the past year. You can read it at the back of church.

### Northern Women's Convention

On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, the Northern Women's Convention will take place at Kings House Conference Centre, Manchester. The speaker this year is Karen Soole and the title is 'Secure' - looking into Ephesians to rediscover our identity in Christ. There are also a number of seminar options to choose from. Tickets are £18 (concessions £12) and leaflets with more details can be found in the Welcome Area. If you would like to go, please get in touch with Jackie Barton and let her have your seminar choices, **by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September**, so we can make a group booking.

### Help needed for Grand Wedding on 14<sup>th</sup> September

We would really appreciate some extra help for our next Grand Wedding, on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September, please. We need people to help with setting up tables & chairs and laying tables, starting at 10am. We would also like people to come at around 6.30pm, to help put furniture away

and sweep up in the Wardle Hall, after the reception. In each case, you would only be needed for about an hour. If you can help, please get in touch with the Church Office. Thank you.

### **The next Bishop of Chester**

All of us are invited to have our say in the appointment of the new Bishop of Chester. I would encourage you to do at least one of the following:

- attend a public consultation event (being held in St John's: Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September, 7.15-8.45pm)
- write your own letter to either the Archbishops' or Prime Minister's appointments secretaries by 30<sup>th</sup> September

More details about the process and addresses for the appointment secretaries can be found on the Chester Diocese website (or from the Church Office). You may also find it helpful to read a letter (available at the back of church), written by a group of local ministers, about what they are looking for in a new bishop. *Mike.*

### **The Fisherman's Tale**

We are delighted to confirm that we will be hosting Peter and Julie Fraser, from Bible Encounter Trust, in June 2020, for their new story trail, 'The Fisherman's Tale'. As with their previous story trails, this will be a fully immersive experience for our local schools, telling the story of Peter the Disciple. We will, of course, need a considerable volunteer work force for this event to run smoothly, so we would like to give you some dates for your diary now. Set-up will be on 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> June. Schools and other groups will be visiting in the daytime and evenings from Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> until Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June. We will also be open to the public on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June. Take-down will be on the afternoon and evening of Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June, and during the day on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June. Please pray for Teresa as she sends out invitations to the schools in September and keep a look out in the notices for more information about how you can help nearer the time. Thank you.

### **Lift for Andrew & Chris Rodwell**

Once Food with Friends restarts in September, would anyone be able to pick up Andrew & Chris Rodwell (from CW8 1HX) on a Thursday and bring them to the Church Centre by around 9.10am? Andrew spends his morning doing valuable work digitising old sermons from cassette tapes before having lunch and going back home. If you could help, please call Chris.

### **The Christian Institute - job opportunities**

The Christian Institute is seeking to employ a Communications Officer, a Finance Administrator, an Education Administrator and a Multimedia Designer to work at their headquarters in Newcastle upon Tyne. The closing date for applications is Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October. For more information, please see the poster in the porch or contact Judi Coulson (0191 281 5664).

### **Mike's sabbatical**

I will be on holiday and then sabbatical leave from 5 August to 17 November. During this period, Dimitri will be the senior minister in the parish and Alec will oversee the ministry at St John's: please contact them or the office for all church or pastoral matters. George Agar and Michael Walters have also offered additional help during this period, for which I am very grateful. I intend to use the time for reading, writing and visiting other churches while prayerfully reflecting on 18 years in Hartford and seeking the Lord's will for our next season together at St John's. *Mike Smith.*

### **Church Diary – 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019**

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September** *Readings: 1 Samuel 26, 1 Corinthians 7, Ezekiel 5, Psalms 42-43*

Mike on sabbatical until 17<sup>th</sup> November

Teresa away today

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

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September** *Readings: 1 Samuel 27, 1 Corinthians 8, Ezekiel 6, Psalm 44*

8pm Music practice in St John's

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September** *Readings: 1 Samuel 28, 1 Corinthians 9, Ezekiel 7, Psalm 45*

10am Tots & Tinies in the Church Centre

2pm Ladies' Fellowship in the Church Centre - Rev George Agar

8pm Housegroups meet for 1 Thessalonians Study 1

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September** *Readings: 1 Samuel 29-30, 1 Corinthians 10, Ezekiel 8, Psalms 46-47*

Teresa's day off

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

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

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September** *Readings: 1 Samuel 31, 1 Corinthians 11, Ezekiel 9, Psalm 48*

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

7.30pm Friday Night Live in the Church Centre

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September** *Readings: 2 Samuel 1, 1 Corinthians 12, Ezekiel 10, Psalm 49*

Alec's day off

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September** *Readings: 2 Samuel 2, 1 Corinthians 13, Ezekiel 11, Psalm 50*

8am Morning Prayer in St John's

9.30am Prayer meeting in the Eddowes Room

10am Morning Prayer in St John's (John 17:6-19)

6.30pm Evening Prayer in St John's (Micah 6-7)

8pm Crossover in the Church Centre

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

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