

# *Advance*



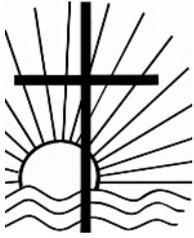
**2018**

**St John's United Reformed Church**

1 Cowper Street, Ipswich IP4 5JD

Web Address: [www.stjohnsurcipswich.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsurcipswich.org.uk)

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM ST JOHN'S URC



**Minister:** Vacancy

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## Calendar for July

Sun	1	10.45 am	Worship for All including Communion led by Rev Bryn Rickards
Tues	3	10.30 am	It's Tuesday
		7.00 pm	Improvisations
		8.00 pm	Folk Dance Club
Wed	4	7.30 pm	Local AA Group
Thurs	5	9.00 am	Pre-School Coffee and Chat
Fri	6	9.15 am	Parent & Tots Group
Sun	8	10.45 am	Worship for All led by Nigel Crisp
Tues	10	10.30 am	It's Tuesday
Wed	11	7.30 pm	Local AA Group
Thurs	12	9.00 am	Pre-School Coffee and Chat
		7.30 pm	Elders Meeting
Fri	13	9.15 am	Parents & Tots Group
Sat	14	10.30 am	Community Coffee Morning
Sun	15	10.45 am	Worship for All led by William Glasse
Tues	17	10.30 am	It's Tuesday
		6.30 pm	Bible Study and meal
		8.00 pm	Folk Dance Club
Wed	18	7.30 pm	Local AA Group
Thurs	19	9.00 am	Pre-School Coffee and Chat
Sun	22	10.45 am	Worship for All led by Sue Liddell
Mon	23		Pre-School Summer Holiday
Wed	25	7.30 pm	Local AA Group
Thurs	26	7.30 pm	Review Group
Sun	29	10.45 am	Worship for All led by Liz Fox
		12.30 pm	Sunday Lunch

## **FLOWER ROTA**

- 1st July Beryl Abram & Janine Havell
- 8th July Jean Boulter
- 15th July Sara Pells
- 22nd July Adrian Cubitt
- 29th July Hazel Holder
- 5th August David Howe & Val Vertigans

## **COFFEE ROTA**

- 1st July Music Group
- 8th July Maureen & Jenny
- 15th July Gwen & Jill
- 22nd July Lesley & Brian
- 29th July Elders
- 5th August Penny

## **DOOR STEWARDS**

- 1st July Michael & Pauline Girling
- 8th July Andrew & Jackie Walker
- 15th July Peter & Jenny Cook
- 22nd July Richard & Mollie Hammond
- 29th July Tony & Mary Wilson
- 5th August Michael & Pauline Girling

## Secretary's Report

Welcome to the July issue of Advance. After a late short Spring we seem to have quickly jumped a Season straight to Summer. I hope we still have good weather to last through July.

We had a lovely warm break in May but hope those of you still waiting to go on holiday are able to enjoy a restful time with friends or family over the Summer. We are now preparing for the Induction of the Rev David Rees which will be happening on Saturday 29th September here at St John's at 3pm. This may seem a long way off but put it in your diary now, as we will be needing help with many things on the day.

Worship is led by Rev Bryn Rickards on 1st July and that service will include Communion. Bryn has been our Interim Moderator through our period of Vacancy and I thank him for all his support. We welcome Nigel Crisp to lead our worship on the 8th July. We welcome back two good friends with William Glasse on 15th July and Sue Liddell leading our worship on 22nd July. Liz Fox leads our service on 30th July and Rev Bryn Rickards is back in our pulpit and celebrating Communion on 5th August. This Service includes the Baptism of Lenny Webb and so we will not celebrate Holy Communion on that date.

Don't forget to put your name for our annual trip to Southwold on August 4th. Many thanks to Peter Dawson for organising this great day out for the Church. If you haven't been before, put your name down. Somehow Peter has influence with the weather and it usually comes out warm and sunny.

Our Community Coffee morning will be on 14th July.

At time of writing, we are hoping to enjoy Sunday lunch after worship on 29th July so watch this space!

There will be an Advance in August, but this will be to cover both August and September, so contributors need to bear that in mind.

Enjoy everything that God gives you through July.

Andrew

## **Setting Prisoners Free!**

I was fascinated to discover recently that Jonathan Aitken, the former Conservative cabinet minister who served a prison sentence for perjury, is to be ordained and plans to work as an unpaid prison chaplain. If ever there is a modern-day example of 'God working in mysterious ways His wonders to perform' this must surely be one.

Jonathan Aitken certainly knew the high life as through his influence within the Conservative Government, he was on familiar terms with Richard Nixon, Margaret Thatcher John Major and Henry Kissinger, not to mention Middle Eastern sheikhs who sought his counsel. His fall from grace was savage, leaving him bankrupt with a loss of his privileged way of life.

He was sentenced to 18 months at the Old Bailey after admitting perjury and perverting the course of justice, following a failed libel claim against the Guardian newspaper. Amazingly, while undertaking his prison sentence, he attended prayer group convened by an Irish burglar, which also included an armed robber, a safe-cracker; a cheque forger; a couple of murderers and a pickpocket!

Through this process of engaging not only with this prayer group but also Biblical reading and reflection, that Jonathan became a Christian, and his life was dramatically turned around, and has had a wonderful impact not only on his own life, but also those to whom he seeks to reach out and support. As he reflected on this dramatic change in fortune, he is quoted as saying: 'I live in a more real world now and am very happy with it'. Indeed he reckons he's now much poorer materially, but richer in the things that are of God.

Naturally, Jonathan has encountered scepticism about his conversion to Christianity, but reckons he no longer gets upset about the 'bucketfuls of cynicism' that have come his way. Indeed he readily admits that, prior to his time in prison he would have been one of these cynics, saying 'If I'd had a parliamentary colleague who'd got into trouble, gone to jail and come out saying, "I've found God", I'd have said, "Oh, how very convenient for him".'

But since his release, he studied theology and wrote a biography of John Newton, the former slave owner who repented and wrote the ever popular hymn: 'Amazing Grace'. Initially he resisted the thought of ordination, believing

that the Church of England wouldn't touch him with a barge pole given his background and reputation, but God's grace is all-sufficient for those who call on His Name, and he was eventually left in no doubt that this is what God was expecting of him. Thus we find him responding to the prompting of God in Christ and soon to be ordained as a deacon in the Anglican Church at St. Paul's cathedral.

Graham Tomlin, Bishop of Kensington, said this about him: 'I have known Jonathan Aitken for several years and this is a calling that has grown within him and been tried and tested by many others. His experience of the prison system, both from the inside and the outside, gives him a unique perspective to offer Christian ministry in this vital area of our life as a society. He has a wide life experience, a knowledge of the wider issues in criminal justice and a pastoral understanding of the needs of prisoners that will help strengthen the church's ministry to all'.

Jesus, in His reading from the Prophet Isaiah at the beginning of His ministry made a statement of what His followers should expect: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me because He has anointed Me; He has sent me to announce Good News to the poor, to proclaim release for prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind; to let the broken victims go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour' (Luke 4: 18 – 19). It was a reassuring promise that the criminal crucified with Jesus received: 'Truly I tell you: today you will be with Me in Paradise.' (Luke 23: 43).

This is a counter-cultural statement, where God's transforming love reaches out to all people, irrespective of creed, colour or background We should therefore never be surprised in whom God calls to Himself through grace, for Jesus insisted: 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners' (Mark 2: 17). The reality of this truth will always be a challenge in every generation, but especially to those cynics who fail to grasp the enormity of God's grace, mercy, forgiveness and transforming power.

God Bless.

*Chris*

*(Rev'd Chris Wood – minister of Stowmarket, villages and Debenham URC's)*

## **URC MUSIC**

The summer edition is now available - hard copy is in the magazine rack or can be viewed on the URC website. **Richard**

## **TREASURERS REPORT**

You are thanked for the following :-

Offerings in May totalling £1872.33

Communion Fund donations in June towards our Gift Day of £23.80.

Members and Friends will be aware from previous reports of our reducing income from our Offertory proceeds and we are looking forward to an excellent result from our Annual Gift Day which will be on the occasion of our Harvest Festival Service on 23rd September.

We are very grateful for all donations received from all the various sources and thank you all for your continued support.

**Mary Aldous and Richard Wallace**

## **NEWS FROM ST JOHNS PLAYTIME PRE-SCHOOL**

We are sorry that Afsana, current Pre-School interim Manager will be leaving at end of this term, and we thank her for all she has done in this role. We are however, very pleased for her and send her the best wishes of the Church for her forthcoming marriage in the summer and her move to Leicester.

We are pleased that Natalie Bennett will be resuming her position as Manager following her maternity leave.

Pre-School will be holding their usual Holiday Club during the summer holidays - 8 sessions over 4 weeks.

## **NEWS FROM PARENTS & TOTS GROUP**

Mary Oakes has now left her leadership of this Group following her appointment as full-time administrator with the Pre-School. We are very grateful for all she has done since we started this Group up, three years ago. We also thank Lucy Wilden for keeping the Group going until end of term. The Group will be re-starting in September under leadership of Christina Jordan, current Chair Person of the Pre-School. However, sessions will be on Friday

afternoons rather than mornings. This is a Church based Group, supported by the Pre-School. We like to have a "Church presence" during these sessions - as part of St Johns Outreach in this area of Ipswich. The sessions last less than two hours in term time only.

If anyone feels they would like to be on the volunteer rota, your assistance would be gratefully accepted.

If you feel you can help - please see Richard.

### **Christian Aid 2018**



Our Fund raising efforts come at a busy time . . . . or is that we are generally busy people? We brought the date forward for the Cream tea as the original date was going to clash, not only

with a Royal Wedding, but with a Football Cup Final.

Once again the brilliantly organised team of Brian and Lesley Chapman put on a wonderful cream tea, raising £111.70, with Sara Pells' Plant sale raising £55.33 and Mary Wilson's Cake stall raising £70.20.

On the same day, the Bowls Club put on a Ploughman's Lunch and Bowls Drive, raising £65 for Christian Aid. Thanks to Richard and Mollie Hammond and Helen and David Howe.

Together the May Communion Offertory and receipts from the Christian Aid Week envelopes generated a further £425.32.

As you will see, St John's has once again responded to a call, raising a total of £727.55 to show our love and support to our brothers and sisters around the world.

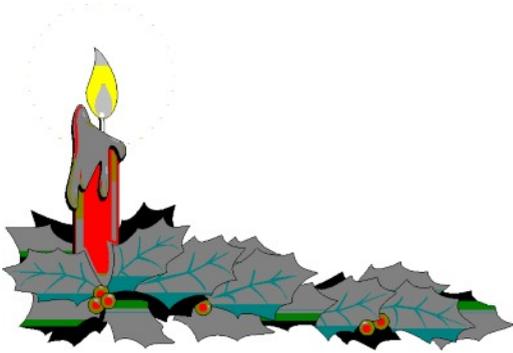
Thanks to David and Jane Cook who look after the Christian Aid finances and THANK YOU to all who cooked cakes, raised plants and helped in any way.

Thanks also to those who supported the events. We cannot do any of this without you, and your generosity.

**Val Vertigans**

## **Sunday Lunch**

The next Sunday Lunch will be held on July 29th. at 12.30 . Please sign the list in the entrance lobby.



## **Christmas Fair**

Improvisations will be running 3 workshops in the autumn – it's an opportunity for you to join us and help in the making of items for the Christmas fair, such as cards, potted bulbs and Christmas wreaths. We shall meet together

on the mornings of Wednesday Sept 12th, Wednesday Oct 10th, and Wednesday Nov 14th, at 10am till 12 noon in Rm 1. We hope these will be fun sessions and a chance for catching up over a cuppa and cake for 11s as well. For more details see Penny.



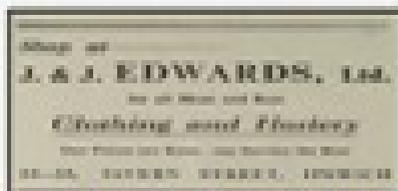
# Monday Memories at the Taste Cafe



...launching on Monday 2nd July 2018,  
and every 1<sup>st</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays from 2-4pm



A Christian welcome awaits all,  
especially those living with dementia, their friends,  
families and carers. We invite you to join us for an  
afternoon of activities and the sharing  
of stories and memories



*Tea, coffee, soft drinks  
and food available to  
buy*

*The Taste Cafe, 426 Woodbridge Road is run by volunteers of six Ipswich churches  
for the benefit of the community.  
For more information contact [cafe@ipso.org.uk](mailto:cafe@ipso.org.uk)*

## **Pastoral News**

DORIS has had an operation last week and whilst her situation is uncertain she keeps very positive thoughts which help both her and her family, who are very caring but are naturally very anxious at this time. Lord, we lift them all up to you and ask that you will surround them all with your love, peace and comfort and always keep your healing arms around them.

BARBARA is gradually recovering her strength and is able to walk short distances with her walker. Sylvia is very attentive and keeps a close watch to see that all is well. Lord, we know that you are with them every moment of every day.

MOLLIE: It is good to see Mollie back with us after being away for a week or two and we hope that the pain is much less. Lord, put your loving arms around Mollie and all her family.

JOYCE: (Marion's mother) has been admitted to hospital following a fall. She has had an operation on her hip. Marion and her family are very caring in attending to all her needs. Lord, hold them close and give them your peace that passes all understanding.

## **Hazel Holder**

### **Advance**

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS NOT A DOUBLE ISSUE. I AM AWAY ON HOLIDAY THE LATTER PART OF AUGUST SO WILL ISSUE A DOUBLE ISSUE AT THE END OF JULY FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER.

**Please can I have items by July 22nd.**

If you use a word processor and e-mail, please send the item to me at [advance@stjohnsurcipswich.org.uk](mailto:advance@stjohnsurcipswich.org.uk)

I am quite happy to type anything out that cannot be sent by e-mail. There is a tray with my name in the church office where you can leave your items before this date.

## **Greta**

**Sunday**

10.45am      Worship for All. Communion on 1st Sunday each month.  
6.30pm      United URC Service 5th Sunday evenings

**Tuesday**

10.30am      It's Tuesday Friendship and English language skills  
6.15pm      23rd Ipswich Brownies (during term time)  
6.30 pm      Bring & Share Meal & Bible Study (3rd Tuesday each month)  
7.00pm      Improvisations Craft Group (1st Tues except Jan)  
8.00pm      Ipswich Folk Dance Club (1st, 3rd Tues)

**Wednesday**

12.30pm      Church Lunch Club, monthly except July and Aug.  
                  Dates vary see Calendar  
7.30pm      Local AA Group

**Thursday**

9.00am      Pre-School Coffee and Chat (during term time)  
5.00pm      Hamilton Rainbows (during term time)  
6.15pm      40th Ipswich Brownies (during term Time)  
7.30pm      Elder Meeting (monthly except August)  
7.30pm      Church Meeting (5 meetings/year)

**Friday**

9.15am      Parents and Tots Group (term time)

**Saturday**

10.30am      Community Coffee for All (2nd Sat. each month)  
1.00pm      Ramble Group (last Sat. each month)

**St John's Playtime Pre-School**

9.00am – 12 noon, 12.30pm-3.30pm  
Monday to Friday inclusive in term time