

Advance



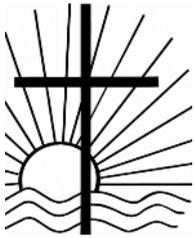
2018

St John's United Reformed Church

1 Cowper Street, Ipswich IP4 5JD

Web Address: www.stjohnsurcipswich.org.uk

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM ST JOHN'S URC



Minister: Vacancy

Church Office: Tel.: 01473 724961

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Calendar for May

- | | | | |
|------------|----|----------|---|
| Tues | 1 | 10.30 am | It's Tuesday |
| | | 7.00 pm | Improvisations |
| | | 8.00 pm | Folk Dance Club |
| Wed | 2 | 7.30 pm | Local AA Group |
| Thurs | 3 | 7.00 am | POLLING STATION |
| | | 7.30 pm | Elders Meeting |
| Fri | 4 | 9.15 am | Parents & Tots Group |
| Sat | 5 | 3.00 pm | Candidate preaching at Castle Hill URC |
| Sun | 6 | 10.45 am | Worship for all including Communion led by Rev. M Child |
| | | 4.00 pm | Candidate preaching at Felixstowe URC |
| Mon | | | May Day – No Pre-School |
| Tues | 8 | 10.30 am | It's Tuesday |
| Wed | 9 | 10.30 am | Pastoral Visitors Meeting |
| | | 7.30 pm | Local AA Group |
| Thurs | 10 | 9.00 am | Pre-School Coffee and Chat |
| Fri | 11 | 9.15 am | Parents & Tots Group |
| Sat | 12 | 2.30 pm | Christian Aid Cream Teas |
| Sun | 13 | 10.45 am | Worship for all led by Maggie Woods |
| | | | Meeting following service for decision on whether to call |
| Tues | 15 | 10.30 am | It's Tuesday |
| | | 6.30 pm | Bring & Share Meal and Bible Study |
| | | 8.00 pm | Folk Dance Club |
| Wed | 16 | 12.30 pm | Lunch Club |
| | | 7.30 pm | Local AA Group |
| Thurs | 17 | 9.00 am | Pre-School Coffee and Chat |
| Fri | 18 | 9.15 am | Parents & Tots Group |
| Sun | 20 | 10.45 am | Worship for All led by Mr Peter Dawson |
| Tues | 22 | 10.30 am | It's Tuesday |

Wed 23 7.30 pm Local AA Group
 Thurs 24 9.00 am Pre-School Coffee & Chat
 10.00 am Ipswich & East Suffolk Advisory Group
 Fri 25 9.15 am Parents & Tots Group
 Sun 27 10.45 am Worship for All led by Mr Adrian Cubitt
 Mon 28 PRE-SCHOOL HALF TERM
 Tues 29 10..30 am It's Tuesday
 Wed 30 7..30 pm Local AA Group

JUNE

Sun 3 10.45 am Worship for All including Communion led by Rev Bryn Rickards

FLOWER ROTA

6th May Sue Pulham
 13th May Adrian Cubitt
 20th May Mary & Peter Dawson
 27th May Rita Scopes
 3rd June Volunteer needed

COFFEE ROTA

6th May Jackie & Margaret
 13th May Elders
 20th May Penny
 27th May Hazel T and Jean L
 3rd June June T and Jenny

DOOR STEWARDS

6th May Andrew & Jackie Walker
 13th May Richard & Mollie Hammond
 20th May Tony & Mary Wilson
 27th May Michael & Pauline Girling
 3rd June Peter & Jenny Cook

Secretary's Report

Springtime at last! I thought it would never come, but sure as our God's love for us, the seasons change.

An exciting month for all in Ipswich and East Suffolk as we have a candidate to preach with a view. Listen carefully and pray that you may discern the will of God in this part of his Kingdom. The candidate is preaching at 3pm on Saturday 5th May at Castle Hill URC and again at 4pm on Sunday 6th May at Felixstowe URC. Following each service will be a meeting to talk to the candidate, and after the candidate leaves there will be a chance to exchange views. It is important as many from St John's come to hear the candidate preach as possible, so if you need a lift, consult the lists or speak to me or any Elder.

The lists of people attending and offering lifts to the two services are in the foyer. Please make every effort to attend one of these services (both if you can) as the meeting to decide whether to call is on Sunday 13th May immediately following the service. Our Interim Moderator, the Rev. Bryn Rickards, will lead this meeting. The candidate will be introduced to you at the two services, but it is important that the name is only made public if the candidate accepts a call. The decision on this will hopefully be announced on the 20th May.

Leading worship this month we have Rev M Child on 6th May and we welcome back Maggie Woods on the 13th. On the 20th Peter Dawson leads worship and on 27th May worship is led by Adrian Cubitt and this service will include Brian and Angie Savage who are home from Africa. It's always good to have local talent in our pulpit! Instead of our usual Community Coffee morning, you can all enjoy Cream Teas on 12th May together with a plant sale. The Bowls drive is on the same day. Try to support both events if you can as they are to raise funds for Christian Aid week which runs from 13-19th May.

The lunch club is on Wednesday 16th May.

As ever, St John's is buzzing with activity.

Andrew

The Meeting of Hearts!

I recently heard an account of a Refugee who had had to escape a war-ravaged country with his wife and older children, and, eventually found refuge in Huddersfield West Yorkshire (*close to where I was brought up*). He recalled that he had an influential job as a lecturer in a prominent

University in Syria, but also spoke of his great passion as a bee-keeper. He smiled warmly as he recalled the 500 plus hives, and the number of people he was able to employ.

He spoke of the pain of having to leave everything behind, his home, members of his family, his job, his hobby as not only had his livelihood been threatened, but his life and that of his family also. He fled not knowing where they would go, or where they would find welcome. Eventually they found themselves in England, where they received a generous welcome and hospitality, and the means to put down roots.

His expressions fluctuated from one of pain and sadness to a serene smile, but by far his best facial expression was reserved when he recalled being invited to become a member of the local Bee-Keeping Society. It took two years – but the wait was clearly worth it! It signified that he and his family had been accepted within their community, and no longer considered ‘cumer-in-ers’ (*it’s a Yorkshire expression but equivalent saying about that refers to a person that has come in from somewhere else*).

was expressed through loving deeds especially to the poor, the disadvantaged and the ‘outsider’. He encourages all those who would follow in His Way to do likewise that the Kingdom of Heaven may be revealed on earth as it is in Heaven. May we endeavour to follow in these footsteps so that hearts might meet and flourish.

God Bless.

Chris

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

TREASURERS REPORT

You are thanked for the following :-

Offerings in March totalling £1953.79.

The audited accounts for the year ending 31st Dec 2017 were presented and adopted by Church Meeting on 19th April.

Full copies of the accounts are available from Richard if friends peruse.

Just a few comments on the financial situation at year end -



Income from direct giving was broadly similar to previous year,
Rental income from sundry lettings up but income from the Pre-School considerably down as we needed to assist with their financial problems last year that have now been resolved,
General maintenance costs and gas costs higher, (hopefully gas bills will now be much lower with new boilers !)
Ministerial costs down but pulpit supply costs up.
As all "Gift Day" monies were directed to the Boiler Fund, this obviously had an effect on the monies available within our General Fund which deals with the day-to-day running costs of the Church.
Overall, at the year end, excluding monies relating to Boiler Fund, loans and transfers from Deposit and Fabric funds, the accounts show a deficit on the General Fund of £5813.
Looking at this years accounts so far - we need to voice a Treasurers concern regarding our Offertory income which was expressed at the Church meeting. At the end of the first quarter of this year our income from this major source was £5759 compared to £6596 at same time last year - a reduction of £837.
We remain however very grateful for all your continued support.

Mary Aldous and Richard Wallace



Christian Aid 2018 13th – 20th May

Donations can be made via **Christian Aid envelopes** that will be available on **Sundays 6th and 13th May**. We no longer collect house-to-house so please take this opportunity to support **Christian Aid**.

Brian and Lesley Chapman are kindly holding a **Cream Tea on Saturday afternoon 12th May from 2.30 – 4.00 pm in Room 1**. Also available will be **books, cakes and plants**.

The **Bowls Club** is holding a Bowls Drive on the same day so our best wishes to them for fine weather and a good afternoon of bowls.

With many thanks in anticipation of your support.

Val Vertigans

Communion Offering

Thank you once again for your generous donations. A list is set out below of the charities you may wish to support during the next six months.

May	Christian Aid
June	St John's URC – Gift Day
July	Mission Aviation Fellowship
August	Mission Aviation Fellowship
September	St John's Ambulance
October	Water Aid

Val Vertigans

PASTORAL NEWS MAY 2018

BARBARA NORTON is making good progress from her hip problem and is now able to walk a short way with her frame. We thank you Lord for your healing touch upon her, and for the wonderful strength, and comfort that Sylvia has been able to give through these anxious days

JOAN ELSEY, who is in Shaftesbury House, is not very well at the moment, so is not able to come to church. We miss her. Joan has quite a few ailments, gather her to you Lord, and may your peace that passeth all understanding surround her now and always



as part of our contribution to
Christian Aid Week

We invite you to a

CREAM TEA

at

St John's URC
Cowper Street

on

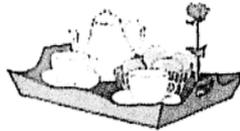
Saturday 12th May

between **2:30** and **4:00**

Scone, jam and cream with cup of tea or coffee

£2:50

all proceeds to Christian Aid



Advance

Please have your items in by 20th May 2018. If you use a word processor and e-mail, please send the item to me at 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. Please write your name on the article – I may need to get in touch. – 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