

# *Advance*



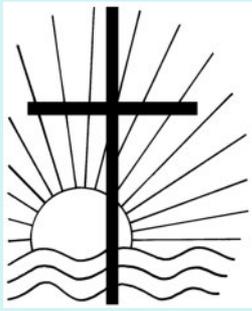
**2019**

## **St John's United Reformed Church**

I Cowper Street, Ipswich IP4 5JD

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

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM ST JOHN'S URC



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## April Diary

Day	Date	Time	Event
Tues	2	10.30 am	It's Tuesday
		8.00 pm	Folk Dance Club
Wed	3	7.30 pm	Local AA Group
Fri	5		Pre-School Break for Easter Holidays
Sun	7	10.45 am	Worship for All including Communion led by Rev David Rees
		12.30 pm	Church Lunch
Tues	9	10.30 am	It's Tuesday
Wed	10	10.30 am	Visitors Meeting
		7.30 pm	Local AA Group
Thurs	11	7.30 pm	Elders Meeting
Sat	13	10.30 am	Community Coffee Morning
Sun	14	10.45 am	Worship for All led by Rev Canon David Atkins – Palm Sunday
Tues	16	10.30 am	It's Tuesday
		8.00 pm	Folk Dance Club
Wed	17	12.30 pm	Lunch Club
		7.30 pm	Local AA Group
Fri	19	10.30 am	Good Friday Service at St John
Sat	20		Bowls Open Day
Sun	21	8.30 am	Easter Communion
		9.00 am	Easter Breakfast
		10.45 am	Easter Worship for All led by Peter Dawson
Mon	23	9.00 am	Pre-School Returns
Tues	24	10.30 am	It's Tuesday
Wed	25	7.30 pm	Local AA Group
Sun	28	10.45 am	Worship for All led by William Glasse

## Weekly Rotas

	Doors	Coffee	Flowers
7th April	Michael & Pauline Girling	Jackie & Margaret	Sara
14th April	Peter & Jenny Cook	Music Group	Mary Martin
21st April	Andrew & Jackie Walker	Maureen & Jenny	<b>Easter</b>
28th April	Richard & Mollie Hammond	Gwen & Jill	Eileen Cole
5th May	Tony & Mary Wilson	Lesley & Brian	Sue Pulham

## Advance

Please have your items in by 21st April. 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. Please write your name on the article – I may need to get in touch. – Greta

## Minister's Letter

### Staying with the Moment.

In all the various services in Holy Week, the period from Palm Sunday through to Easter Sunday, I am constantly in a dilemma. The problem for me is this:- How do I encapsulate the rollercoaster of events and emotions of this momentous final week of Jesus life and make clear the importance of these happenings for today.

At first this sounds just like the kind of job that a preacher should at least try to accomplish every Sunday. But the problem is more acute because unlike almost any other time in church life, perhaps apart from Christmas, there is a definite timeline of episodes. It doesn't really matter when one looks at a certain parable or old testament story, but in Holy Week all the gospels have a plot that progresses the story. And the tendency is to rush to the 'conclusion' rather than stay with the incident and see what they have to say to us.

From the triumph of entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday; through the clearing of the temple on Monday (in some gospels) and teaching in the temple on the Tuesday and Wednesday; to the Last Supper and Betrayal on Thursday; to the Friday of Trial, Scourging, Conviction and Crucifixion; and finally to the wonder of the Resurrection on Sunday; there is so much there that whatever event or snapshot is being looked at, there is a tendency to be overwhelmed.

I guess this really happens the most on Good Friday. It is really hard to stay with the crucifixion, with the pain, the loss, the rejection, and not to find we are already hurrying on to celebrating Easter Sunday two days early. It's uncomfortable to go out of a Maundy Thursday or a Good Friday service and dwell on those events for days. To linger with hurt, death and doubt.

So much of life we spend in 'limbo' or worse. Great and happy events take place but there are also times when the darkness closes in. The experience of this last week of Jesus life mirrors what we experience in our daily lives. We have doubts (like Gethsemane), we suffer, and I wish we could hurry to the resurrection.

Holy week isn't always an easy time. But I guess, neither is life. And when you are in the middle of the hurt, it's only through faith that we know that, eventually, there will be a resurrection. And the joyful celebration will be even the more profound. **David**

### Church Secretary's Notes

March was quite a month, what with prospective minister, Synod, Lent studies & Review group, so I think we need to treat April as a recovery month. We need to promote that St Johns family we all know, emphasising what we have in common rather than our differences. We can 'take-in' a Sunday Lunch, an Easter breakfast and the Bowls Club open day on the way. The Good Friday service this year is at St Johns C of E at 10.30am and our Easter Sunday communion service will be led by Peter Dawson. Don't forget the 8.30am communion which will be followed by the breakfast at 9 am. Please sign the list in the lobby if you want to stay for breakfast. Our Church AGM is at 2.30pm on Thursday 25th and it would be great to see a good attendance. If you need a lift to the meeting, let me know.

Other chances to relax are the Sunday Lunch after the service on the 7th, the coffee morning on the 13th and the Lunch Club on the 17th. There will also be a sale of cards by Improvisations on the 7th.

Don't tell me you intend to find room for Easter Egg **Adrian**

## **A Statement on behalf of the Vacancy/Advisory Group for Ipswich & East (which was circulated to members and friends of St John's on 17.3.19.)**

We wanted to share with you a few comments in relation to last Sunday's vote on whether to call Naomi Young-Rodas to be the second minister for the Ipswich and East pastorate:

As most of you will be aware, the vote resulted in the decision not to issue a call to Naomi. This was because neither the threshold of each church having at least 70% in favour was reached nor the threshold of having an aggregate of at least 80% in favour across the four churches. The aggregate was in fact only 60%.

There was a good level of support for Naomi. And whilst those levels varied significantly across the four churches, it is important to stress that one church did not affect the overall result.

For many this was a surprising result as there had been such positive comments after her preaching with a view. The vacancy/advisory group has met to consider the feedback from the four church meetings in order to assess what the negatives were and how we might learn from those and move forward.

Despite the disappointment that this result will have caused for many, we trust that we can unite together in accepting this to be our corporate discerning of God's will and continue our search for a second minister in faith and love.

### **TREASURERS REPORT**

You are thanked for the following :

Offerings in January totalling £1955.35

Communion Fund donations in February for Mission Aviation Fellowship of £33.

As agreed at the last Church Meeting, we have paid the sum of £800 to Brian & Angie Savage in Tanzania to help with the training costs and support of their medical students.



Many thanks for all your financial support

**Mary Aldous & Richard Wallace**



## **Christian Aid 2019 12th - 18th May**

Have you got the week recorded in your diary?

Are you a gardener? If so, Sara Pells would be pleased to receive cuttings for the Plant Sale which will be part of the CREAM TEA taking place in Room 1 on Saturday afternoon, 18th May. There will also be an opportunity to buy cakes and books. Look out for more details in May Advance.

For now – please save the date for a good afternoon.

Val Vertigans



## IMPROVISATIONS

Our next stall will follow the morning service on

**SUNDAY 14th April.**

On sale will be:-

- Delicious cakes and savouries
  - Greetings cards
  - Books

All proceeds from the stall go to Church funds.

**Val Vertigans**

ALL AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS WANTED!!!!

HARVEST - SEPTEMBER 2019.

I am leading the service celebrating Harvest. I would like to try and provide at least 10 large photographs mounted of God's Creation in our world. So all you keen photographers and picture takers please revisit your items and select any that you think might serve this criteria . If you could send them to me by the end of May via pdf file to sarapells@yahoo.co.uk I would appreciate it. Please try and think outside the box.

**Many thanks and blessings Sara.**

## THURSDAY FORUM

At Christ Church Tacket Street

### THURSDAY LUNCHTIMES

Refreshments at low cost 12 noon – 1.00 pm

A short talk 1.10 – 1.50pm

You are welcome to either or both

Season 2018/2019

Apr 4th Lent Reflection

Revd David Rees

Apr 11th Life as a Travelling Player in Full Tudor Costume and with Period Instruments

Emma Mondue

Forum then takes a break of two weeks for Easter

May 2nd Beginning the Build – Reconstruction of the Sutton Hoo Anglo Saxon Ship

Paul Constantine

[www.christchurch-ipswich.org.uk](http://www.christchurch-ipswich.org.uk)

can now be followed on twitter at @Thursday Forum

## PASTORAL NEWS



**LESLEY & BRIAN C** are rejoicing in the wonderful news of a precious Grandson born on the 12th March in Singapore to Anthony and Angharad, also a little brother to his sister. Lord we thank you for the safe arrival and that all is well. Be with them through all the stages of his growing up. 'watch over them and put your loving arms around them as they go through life.

**JOAN E.** It was on March 19th that Joan was laid to rest. She has now been reunited with Fred and with her Lord whom she loved. We pray for her son and daughter Peter and Jane as they go back home to Singapore and America. Hold them close as they adjust to life without their mother.

# Regular Church Activities

## Sunday

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

## Tuesday

- 10.30am It's Tuesday Friendship and English language skills
- 6.15pm 23<sup>rd</sup> Ipswich Brownies (during term time)
- 6.30 pm Bring & Share Meal & Bible Study (3<sup>rd</sup> Tues. each month)
- 7.00pm Improvisations Craft Group (1<sup>st</sup> Tues except Jan)
- 8.00pm Ipswich Folk Dance Club (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 40<sup>th</sup> Ipswich Brownies (during term Time)
- 7.30pm Elder Meeting (monthly except August)
- 7.30pm Church Meeting (5 meetings/year)

## Saturday

- 10.30am Community Coffee for All (2<sup>nd</sup> 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