

Advance



2019

St John's United Reformed Church

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Web Address: www.stjohnsurcipswich.org.uk

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM ST JOHN'S URC

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June Diary

Day	Date	Time	Event
Sat	1	10.30 am	Community Coffee Morning
Sun	2	10.45 am	Worship for All including Communion led by Rev David Rees
Tues	4	10.30 am	It's Tuesday
		8.00 pm	Folk Dance Club
Wed	5	7.30 pm	Local AA Group
Sat	8	11.00 am	Pre-School Summer Fair
Sun	9	10.45 am	Worship for All led by Rev Canon David Atkins
Tues	11	10.30 am	It's Tuesday
Wed	12	7.30 pm	Local AA Group
Thurs	13	7.30 pm	Elders Meeting
Sun	16	10.45 am	Worship for All led by Rev David Rees
Tues	18	10.30 am	It's Tuesday
		8.00 pm	Folk Dance Club
Wed	19	12.30 pm	Lunch Club
		7.30 pm	Local AA Group
Thurs	20	7.30 pm	Church Meeting
Sun	23	10.45 am	Worship for All led by Nichola Glasse
Tues	25	10.30 am	It's Tuesday
Wed	26	7.30 pm	Local AA Group
Sun	30	10.45 am	Worship for All led by Nigel Crisp
		12..30 pm	Church Lunch

Weekly Rotas

	Doors	Coffee	Flowers
2 nd June	Richard & Mollie Hammond	Margret N & Jackie	Volunteer Needed
9 th June	Tony & Mary Wilson	Mary A & Pauline	Jill L & Beryl
16 th June	Michael & Pauline Girling	Bowls Club	Gwen Gee
23 rd June	Peter & Jenny Cook	June T and Jenny	Sara P
30 th June	Andrew & Jackie Walker	Music Group	Mary A

Church Secretary's Notes

Adrian has asked me to write the Church Secretary's notes for June. June the month in which many people turn their thoughts to Summer holidays. Holiday, derived from the words "holy-day" meaning a day of religious observance.

As you know, I take more than my fair share of holidays. My most recent one was in Dorset. It was not only a time to relax and "chill-out" but it was also a time I used to put the finishing touches to my service I delivered on May 19th and also to think, meditate, pray and observe my faith. So a holiday but also "holy-days"
If you are about to go on holiday I hope you have a great time, that you manage to relax but you also find time to think about your own Christian faith.

The main events /services in June are as follows:-

June 2nd and 16th our Minister, Rev David Rees is taking our services; On June 9th we welcome David Atkins. On June 23rd we welcome Nicola Glasse and on June 30th Nigel Crisp.

Of course, other important dates for you are: June 19th Lunch Club and June 20th - Church Meeting (7.30 pm)

Unfortunately, I won't be around for the second half of June because (you've guessed!) I am on holiday!!!

Keep smiling. God bless. Peter

Advance

Please have your items in by 23rd May. 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**

Minister's Letter

What do we think of with the words Community, Fellowship, or Relationships?

Fellowship is a strange word, perhaps in our society it is becoming stranger. And isn't this the story of our communities? We are more and more strangers to each other. Often ignoring as many people as we meet. This has been called the "elevator mentality", where we find we are crammed close with people we've not met, trying really hard not to touch each other, where nobody speaks or makes eye contact. We don't want to create the social faux pas of being friendly unless we have been introduced.

In the average street or shopping centre so many go about their own business, not getting involved with others, and even the most basic of human interaction is often problematic. Many of us work in large impersonal institutions. Even where people have something in common, like at a rock concert or football game, people who've never met will sing and cheer and even hug each other like the best of friends, and then part without even knowing each others' names, let alone touching each others' lives in significant ways.

Could the church become like this? Or even our own families? Have they already?

The early Christians depended on their relationships with each other. They gave each other courage to make a reality out of the vision of the church. They grew together, encouraged, challenged each other, supported one another, helped each other to see what God was doing in their lives. They were the family of God.

For many people now, church is family, their only community. Yet we know that church can be a place people come on Sundays and leave to live out their week without connections to supportive, encouraging others. They especially need the church to be a home, a place of fellowship, where members get to know each other, care about what's happening to them and encourage them in their walk with God.

The church is far from perfect, but God has given us such potential to be a nurturing household, where people of all ages are valued and supported. We need to be intentional about fellowship, by whatever name we call it. We need to make sure we are not relating in the church the way many do in our society—behind protective masks and fear of being known, often called individualism, or behind isolation and pride that pushes away help, often called privacy or independence.

God blesses us in fellowship, in community, as his body and we are to be a blessing to others. Consider our church fellowship this month. What quality of relationships are there? Over a cup of tea is the talk just the usual? How intentionally are you building community for yourselves, for others, and even the stranger? Something is missing in the heart of our society. Don't let it be missing in the church as well!

David



Church Cleaning Contract

We hope you have noticed we have a church which is cleaner, brighter and more pleasant smelling after just over a month with our new cleaners. If you are ever in the church on weekdays between 6 and 8 in the morning, say hello to Branca our cleaner from GreenAce. I don't think that too many of you will somehow, but it works well for the Pre-school and for Branca who then heads off to a school contract. The cleaning of the church is the second biggest expenditure for the church after ministry, though power and boiler costs are not too far off. The elders decided we needed to ensure we were getting the best results for our expenditure.

The process of exploration for new providers was by a subset of four people from the building group (Michael Girling, John Bothams, Colin Aldous and Blake Reynolds) who met to explore alternatives. A short list of 3 potential contractors was agreed on including GreenAce who have been cleaning St John's Sanctuary Home for a long time and who have a good reputation in schools and offices. A task list for cleaning was prepared and was

used as a basis for discussion with all the contractors. On Thursday and Friday of the same week, three of us met with the contractors and we toured all the premises with the cooperation of St John's Pre-school. All quotations were discussed by the sub-group. One of the contractors had an 'Imop' which can: mop, dry and polish the whole of the upstairs hall in 15 minutes! Sadly, we never had a chance to see it in action. In the end, it was easily agreed that GreenAce were the best for us and this was formally agreed at the next Elders meeting. We think from your feedback and the noticeable improvements it has been the right choice.

As a result of a change of cleaners GreenAce have introduced a change to the way we use mops and buckets. To prevent cross-infection between Kitchen / Toilets / Other Areas a three Mop and Bucket system has been introduced.

- **Red Mop & Bucket — Toilet Areas ONLY**
- **Blue Mop & Bucket — Kitchen Areas ONLY**
- **Yellow mop & Bucket — All Other Areas**

The idea is to stop transferring germs from one area to another, thereby helping us to keep cross-infection to a minimum.

Now, you don't have to memorise any of the colours – there are a few notices in the cleaner's cupboard (off the side corridor on the ground floor) to remind you!

**John B & Blake R
For Building Group**

THE OUTREACH BUS IPSWICH

Who will Benefit?

The primary use of the Ipswich Outreach Bus is to work with the homeless and needy within the town. We shall be working alongside the Ipswich Soup Kitchen to help in the distribution of food and items of clothing /bedding.

Working with other agencies, we shall provide a safe environment, offering support and advice for those living on the streets of our town.

In addition, we hope to provide a weekend service for the towns late night economy. This will assist the emergency services and Town Pastors in their work bringing a positive influence to the streets, providing help and support to vulnerable people.

Needed are the following items Blankets, Tea, Coffee, Tuna, Soup- cans and packets, personal hygiene items

Contact via Ipswich Outreach website.

Registered Charity: 1164938



Irish Retriever Rescue Event



TREASURERS REPORT

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You are thanked for the following :

Offerings in April totalling **£2114.42**

Communion Fund donations in May for Christian Aid of **£65.40**

Many thanks for your continued financial support

Mary Aldous and Richard Wallace

PASTORAL NEWS

STEPHEN & MARY G. Congratulations as you celebrate your 40th wedding anniversary on Sunday, 26th May. We give thanks for all of those years that the Lord has walked with you and blessed you with a loving family. Lord put your loving arms around them and be their guide during the years to come.

COLIN & MARY A. Congratulations as you celebrate your Golden Wedding on the 31st May with your dear family sharing it with you. Enjoy every moment of your times together and we give thanks to the Lord for all his goodness and love over all those years. Be with them Lord as they travel onward together.

RAYMOND & RITA S. Congratulations as you celebrate 47 wonderful years of a very happy marriage on May 27th surrounded by a very close knit family. Have a very special time together. We give thanks to the Lord for his promise that he will never leave us nor forsake us. His love, joy and peace will surround you always.

PLEASE NOTE THE COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING TO BE HELD ON 8TH JUNE HAS BEEN CANCELLED.



PRE-SCHOOL SUMMER FAIR

Saturday, 8th June 11 am – 2 pm

Friends and family invited for a fun event. Lots of games and prizes to be won including family tickets for local attractions in our raffle, vouchers and the 'star price' – a gymnastics party worth £140. There is even a 'water or wine' game for grownups.



There will be a BBQ, cake stall, face painting, just to name a few of the attractions.

Entry is free and all proceeds will go towards new play equipment for the Pre-School.

Regular Church Activities

Sunday

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

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

Saturday

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

St John's Playtime Pre-School

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