

# *Advance*



**May**



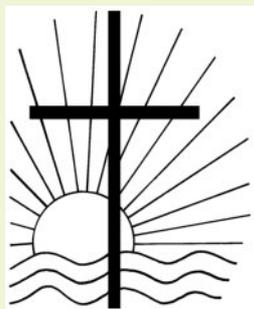
**2019**

**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



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## May Diary

Day	Date	Time	Event
Thurs	2	6.30 am	Polling Station
Sun	5	10.45 am	Worship for All including Communion led by Rev Martin Camroux
Tues	7	10.30 am	It's Tuesday
		8.00 pm	Folk Dance Club
Wed	8	7.30 pm	Local AA Group
Thurs	9	7.30 pm	Elders Meeting
Fri	10	10.30 am	Advisory Group Meeting
Sat	11	10.30 am	Community Coffee Morning
Sun	12	10.45 am	Worship for All led by Rev Birgit Ewald
Tues	14	10.30 am	It's Tuesday
Wed	15	12.30 pm	Lunch Club
		7.30 pm	Local AA Group
Sat	18	2.30 pm	Christian Aid Cream Tea etc.
Sun	19	10.45 am	Worship for All led by Peter Dawson
Tues	21	10.30 am	It's Tuesday
		8.00 pm	Folk Dance Club
Wed	22	10.30 am	Visitors meeting
		7.30 pm	Local AA Group
Sun	26	10.45 am	Worship for All led by Liz Fox
Mon	27		Pre-School Half Term
Tues	28	10.30 am	It's Tuesday
Wed	29	7.30pm	Local AA Group
JUN			
Sun	2	10.45 am	Worship for All including Communion led by Rev David Rees

## Weekly Rotas

	Doors	Coffee	Flowers
5th May	Tony & Mary Wilson	Lesley & Brian	Sue Pulham
12th May	Michael & Pauline Girling	Elders	Adrian Cubitt
19th May	Peter & Jenny Cook	Penny	Mary & Peter Dawson
26th May	Andrew & Jackie Walker	Hazel T and Greta	Rita Scopes
2nd June	Richard & Mollie Hammond	June T and Jenny	Mrs June Talbot

### Church Secretary's Notes

May is election time. There will be local government elections at church on May 2<sup>nd</sup> so room 1 will be in use all day and I suppose there's still the possibility of European elections later in the month!

The other main event for us is Christian Aid week 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> may. The Bowls club has a Bowls Drive on 11<sup>th</sup> and Brian & Lesley Chapman will be providing cream teas on 18<sup>th</sup> both to raise money Christian Aid. The opportunity to fit in a scone before the FA cup final. I am sure most of you know that the Church has a Bowls & Tennis Club in Westbury road. You are therefore all welcome to join, come and support or just visit – it's a very good facility. Have chat to Richard Hammond or myself if you are interested. We welcome David's wife, Birgit, taking our service on May 12<sup>th</sup> and thank Peter Dawson for leading worship on 19<sup>th</sup>.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Improvisations for all the money they have raised for church funds through their sales of cakes & cards. Well made.

**Adrian**

## Advance

Please have your items in by 26th May. 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

## The Divine Human

Over Easter this year, I was privileged to be a part in various church services in the pastorate. I was reminded of the wonder of our great God who also, somehow, died and came to life again. Through the centuries, Christianity has walked a tightrope of belief, affirming both the full divinity (being God) and full humanity of Jesus Christ.

At one level, that affirmation of divinity and humanity is a logical impossibility, it is one of the reasons the “man on the street” finds Christianity implausible. Yet every time the balance tips one way or the other, the result is devastating. Read some church history, if you're not convinced. It has often been the case that Jesus was so divine – so “Godlike” – that there was little real relationship to human life.

In contemporary society, however, the debate seems weighted firmly on the side of Jesus' humanity – sure, he was a great man, a profound teacher, an enlightened individual, but the Son of God?

But, if we are honest, the church still tends to go along with the traditional presentation of Jesus, erring on the side of Jesus' divinity.

Let's take a little test. Did the baby Jesus ever throw up on Mary as she burped him? For that matter, did Jesus **ever** burp—as baby or adult? Did Jesus go to the toilet? Was he ever sexually attracted to a woman? Now, if you feel as strange reading those questions as I did writing them, there's our problem! Was Jesus fully human or not? Because only someone who has really experienced human life as I experience it, is qualified to understand me, save me, be a support to me.

I can quote Hebrews 4:15 where it says : *“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin”*. But, for many years, that only made the problem worse for me. How can a great High Priest – someone who intercedes between humanity and God – who is like us, **except** in relation to sin, know what it's like to sin. How can he know the sting of failure, despite good intention and sincere effort? The guilt. The shame. To look at it this way, such an affirmation merely demonstrates how removed Jesus is from my experience. But then I found 2 Corinthians 5:21: *“For he made him who had no sin to be sin for us”*. Wow! The one for whom sin was totally alien (not even second nature), actually became sin. And with it, experienced every sense of guilt, shame, inadequacy and fear.

Jesus the Christ knows what it's like! He really can sympathise with our weaknesses! And more than sympathise, he can support, encourage and give confidence in spite of the stupid things we have done or the good things that we have failed to do.

It is why we have the Gospel – the good news. Let your mind ponder again that totally mind-blowing paradox – Jesus, fully human, fully divine, who has truly **been there** (with us), **done that** (for us)!

**David**

### 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.**

## POETS CORNER

A belated poem for St. George.

### England's Rose

The pride of English Gardens,  
The emblem of our race,  
This wondrous flower endowed by God  
With Majesty and Grace.  
To give its noble message  
For English hearts of worth  
Upheld, Defend – and Honour,  
This land that gave thee birth.

And may this stately symbol  
Forever be the stay  
Which shores the cause of freedom,  
Of justice and fair play.  
Bringing hope to thousands and  
Comfort to all those  
Who see God's love and splendour  
Reflected in a Rose.

So will you stand for England

Be ready at the call,  
And be prepared to give your best,  
Needs be your very all?  
Then pledge your firm allegiance  
Heed not what others say,  
And wear with pride an English Rose  
Upon Saint George's Day.



# **Thursday**

# **Forum**

*at Christ Church*  
*Tacket Street* (next to Cox Lane car park)

## **Thursday Lunchtimes**

Refreshments at low cost 12 noon - 1.00 pm  
A short talk 1.10 - 1.50 pm

*You are welcome to either or both*



### **Season 2018/2019**

- May 2<sup>nd</sup>**    **Beginning the Build – Reconstruction of the  
Sutton Hoo Anglo Saxon Ship**  
*Paul Constantine*
- May 9<sup>th</sup>**    **Gusford Primary School Choir**  
*Sarah Ingram*
- May 16<sup>th</sup>**   **Costa Rica – Meeting the People**  
*Ann Fox & Margaret Fish*
- May 23<sup>rd</sup>**   **Kesgrave Community Choir**  
*Emma Hagger – Musical Director*

***Forum then takes a Summer Break until Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019***

[www.christchurch-ipswich.org.uk](http://www.christchurch-ipswich.org.uk)  
Thursday Forum can now be followed on Twitter at @ThursdayForum



## Christian Aid 2019 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> May

Donations can be made via **Christian Aid envelopes** that will be available on **Sundays 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> May 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

### TREASURERS REPORT

You are thanked for the following ;

- Offerings in February totalling £1937.40
- Offerings in March totalling £2208.90
- Communion Fund donations in March for Mission Aviation Fellowship of £47.
- Communion Fund donations in April for Starlight ( brightening lives of seriously ill children) of £18.70.
- The collection taken during the "preaching with a view " service amounted to £200.75 and this is to be donated to Christian Aid Week.



Many thanks for all your continued financial support

**Mary Aldous & Richard Wallace**

### PASTORAL NEWS

PETER C. Congratulations on your 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Lord we ask you to walk very close with Peter and his family as he steps into another phase of his life and doing different things of interest. We know Lord you will be with him every step of the way because you have said so.

RICHARD H. Congratulations to Richard as he celebrates his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday with all his family and friends. Lord put your loving arms around Richard and all those whom he holds dear, and may they rejoice with him as he enters into another chapter of his life.

# 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