

Advance



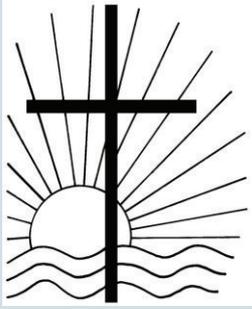
2019

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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February Diary

Day	Date	Time	Activity
Sun	3	10:45	Worship for All including Communion and Elders Induction led by Rev.David Rees
Tues	5	10:30	It's Tuesday
		20:00	Folk Dance Club
Wed	6	19:30	Local AA Group
Sat	9	10:30	Coffee Morning
Wed	6	19:30	Local AA Group
Sat	9	10:30	Coffee Morning
Sun	10	10:45	Worship for All led by Peter Dawson
Tues	12	10:30	It's Tuesday
Wed	13	19:30	Local AA Group
Thur	14	19:30	Elders Meeting
Sun	17	10:45	Worship for All led by Rev. Canon David Atkins
Mon	18		Half Term
Tues	19	20:00	Folk Dance Club
Wed	20	12:30	Church Lunch
Thur	21	14:00	Church Meeting
Sun	24	10:45	Worship for All led by Rev Peter Ball
Mon	25	9:00	Pre-School Returns
Tues	26	10:30	It's Tuesday
Wed	27	10:30	Visitor Meeting
		19:30	Local AA Group
March			
Sun	3	10:45	Worship for All and Communion led by Rev Michael Child

Minister's Letter

Imitators

Role models are important. Psychologists acknowledge the value of observational learning and the influence of strong role models in shaping our characteristic behaviour. The influence of a negative role model may result in bizarre and socially unacceptable behaviour, whereas the power of a positive role model will inspire and motivate one to mature in socially acceptable ways.

Children and also adults imitate the behaviour of people they admire. Young girls wearing skimpy clothes in imitation of the latest girl band, boys cutting their hair following latest hairstyle of their football hero.

Imitating the behaviour, clothing and lifestyle of those we admire is indeed human. Some public figures actively encourage imitation in their followers, encouraging them to imitate both their behaviour and clothing as they follow each of their idol's moments on social media.

A minister once boasted 'I don't take a day off, 'cos neither does the devil'. A friend quietly commented that he thought the minister should get a better role model.

The New Testament calls us to be 'imitators of God'. Other ways of saying this is to be 'Christ-like' or to 'have the mind of Christ'. Just as the need to have a strong role model is essential to our development, so is the need to follow Christ's example is essential for our spiritual growth.

As Christ's followers we are encouraged not only to be identified with Christ, but to become Christ-like. In fact, Paul encourages us to be 'clothed in Christ' (Gal 3:27) as children of God. To be clothed in Christ means more than mere outward appearance. It does not simply refer to mindlessly copying a style or wearing the 'garb', but taking on everything that is Christ.

Christ-likeness does not mean some sort of moral perfection, but being a person of compassion and forgiveness. A person who is willing to get his or her hands dirty by making difficult choices and running the possibility of being misunderstood or even offending. And thereby making a difference in a society that is often self-centred and self-absorbed.

So how does this work? Being clothed in Christ demonstrates to others that we have been transformed by our association with him. Being Christ-like allows us to represent Christ to those who don't know him. As we are transformed, we show Christ.

Who are you imitating?

David

The following was David's message for those churches publishing a separate January magazine. I thought it worthy of inclusion in February.

Jobs to be done.

As we start a new year in the life of our church, we all need to re-evaluate our involvement. There are always tasks and roles that need to be undertaken, that allow a church to fulfil its mission. Not everyone can do every job, but sometimes many feel 'unworthy' to do the job, thinking there is someone better placed. There often isn't and the Church and its community misses out. So, where could you be involved?

Isn't it good that we have the fine example of the disciples as a minimum standard for us. Men that were obviously a cut above the average. I came across a memorandum a short time ago about Jesus choosing them

David.....

Memorandum

To: Jesus, son of Joseph, Woodcrafter, Carpenters shop, Nazareth

From: Jordan Management Consultants, Jerusalem

Dear Sir,

Thank you for submitting the resumes of the twelve men you have picked for management positions in your new organisation. All of them have now taken our battery of tests; we have not only run the results through our computer, but also arranged personal interviews for each of them with our psychologist and vocational aptitude consultant.

It is the staff opinion that most of your nominees are lacking in background, education and vocational aptitude for the type of enterprise you are undertaking. They do not have the team concept. We would recommend that you continue your search for persons of experience in ability and proven capability.

Simon Peter is emotionally unstable and given to fits of temper.

Andrew has absolutely no qualities of leadership.

The two brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, place personal interest above company loyalty.

Thomas demonstrates a questioning attitude that would tend to undermine morale.

We feel it is our duty to tell you that Matthew has been blacklisted by the Greater Jerusalem Better Business Bureau.

James, son of Alphaeus, and Thaddeus, definitely have radical leanings, and they both registered a high score on the manic-depressive scale.

One of the candidates, however, shows great potential. He is a man of ability and resourcefulness, meets people well, has a keen business mind and has contacts in high places. He is highly motivated, ambitious and responsible. We recommend Judas Iscariot as your controller and right-hand man.

All of the other profiles are self-explanatory.

We wish you success in your new venture.

Yours etc.

Church Secretary's Notes

First I would like to say thank-you to Andrew for his time as Church Secretary and doing a very good job. Well done. I've agreed to take over again but this time with help from Peter Dawson and Sara Pells. We have agreed to do the job for a year each and swap round each year – I am the designated secretary this year. Strictly speaking I have even more help since Val Vertigans does the minutes of meetings! Should be an enjoyable year.

This month we have a Sunday lunch after the service on 10th Feb – please sign the list in the lobby if you would like to attend. There will be a talk about the Rohingya refugee crisis after the church meeting on 21st Feb. Don't forget this meeting starts at 2pm – hope to see you all there. Finally we welcome our friend Rev Peter Ball taking our morning service on the 24th.

At the moment I'm reading Michelle Obama's auto biography. She talks about how her parents taught her to see the value of their family's story in the larger story of their country: 'your story is what you have, what you will always have. It is something to own' The story of our family at St Johns reads like an adventure story – it is indeed something we should be proud to own. Our best times come when we all feel part of that story. When we all feel it is something to own!

Adrian

2018 Christmas at St Johns and Sunday Lunch

It was lovely to welcome 19 friends and visitors to our 2018 Christmas Day at St Johns.

We enjoyed each other's company catching up with friends, eating our lunch and doing some quizzes. Thank you to our helpers and to all of you who joined our Sunday lunches last year which helped to fund the day. We received many gifts of produce and donations and I thank you very much, this has ensured that we have covered all our costs well.

Jackie, Sara and myself have organised some dates for this year so if you would like to join us please jot them in your diaries. (Cost £4.50 each).

February	10 th	If you would like to help with
April	7 th	serving on any of the dates-
June	30 th	please let me know.

Penny Cubitt.

October	13 th
November	10 th

Christmas

My thanks to those who made Christmas Day at St. Johns extra special.

To Sara and the elders for the morning service.

To members of the Brass Band who sound even better with each passing year.

Thank you Penny for all your hard work, preparing and cooking an excellent lunch – inspite of the illusive sprouts.

Finally a special thanks to Adrian, transporter supreme, who went far and beyond the call.

Happy New Year one and all.

Sylvia Johnson

TREASURERS REPORT

You are thanked for the following:

Offerings for November of £2115.71

Offerings in December of £2217.13

Communion Fund donations in December of £71.06 and in January of £38.09 for the Ipswich Night Shelter
The Accounts for the year ending 31st December will show an overall deficit of £2015.58 of expenditure over income on our General Fund, subject to our Annual audit.

Our income from Direct Giving was slightly down on the previous year, but we were able to include all the Gift Day receipts of £2727.50.

The net profit on our Christmas Fayre was £900



At the year end, we had an outstanding liability in respect of loan repayments outstanding of £9700, which related to our boiler renewal programme.

Full details will be available at our AGM in April.

We are happy to record the generous nature of St Johns in our support of various charities -

Monthly Communion Fund donations totalling £413.45

Church Xmas Card donations of £247.74 for St Elizabeth Hospice

Donations totalling £634.60 for the work of Brian and Angie Savage in Tanzania.

Support for their student in the amount of £800.

To the URC Charity - Commitment for Life - which currently is supporting a project in Zimbabwe - of £398.25

To the Council for World Mission the sum of £65.72

Many thanks for all your support throughout the year

Mary Aldous and Richard Wallace

Communion Offerings February – July 2019

I set out below the Charities you may like to support during the next few months. Information on the organisations is available in the magazine racks situated in the entrance lobby.

February	Mission Aviation Fellowship
March	Mission Aviation Fellowship
April	Starlight (Brightening the lives of seriously ill children)
May	Christian Aid
June	Sponsorship of Brian & Angie Savage's medical student
July	Sponsorship of Brian & Angie Savage's medical student



Thank you in anticipation of any financial assistance you can offer the above organisations.

Val Vertigans

Christian Aid 2019

This year Christian Aid week is Sunday 12th – 19th May.

Last year we distributed envelopes in Church the week before and we will repeat the exercise this year.



Already members of the Bowls Club have arranged to hold a Bowls Drive on Saturday 11th May, and Brian and Lesley Chapman have kindly volunteered to hold a Cream Tea on Saturday afternoon 18th May.

So what can we do to help others who are in great need? Have you any ideas? Can you host a coffee and cake morning and invite your friends? It doesn't have to be a big affair as every penny counts.

Please let me know if you would like to help in any way.

In the meantime, please diary the Cream Tea on the 18th as Brian and Lesley always put on a grand event.

Val Vertigans

Do you love singing?

Local Community Choir welcomes all singers whatever your ability. Tuesday evenings 7-9 pm at Burlington Baptist Church. Sessions cost £7.00 per week pay as you go. Come and join in Ipswich's BIG Sing!

CHURCH MEETING 21ST FEBRUARY 2.00PM

As part of our next church meeting we are having a short talk by Barbara Boynes on the continuing Rohingya Refugee Crisis. Barbara has a keen interest in supporting refugees and I am sure her talk will be interesting and informative. There will be tea and coffee available.

PARENTS & TOTS GROUP

We are sad to have to report that we have had to close, at least for the time being, our Parents & Tots Group. Numbers attending were very low and we were unable to provide anyone to continue with the Leadership.

We are grateful to Christina Jordan for her time and efforts in trying to keep the Group going.

We have written to all the parents of the children attending the Pre-School to see if there is anyone wishing to consider taking on this role.

Richard

Lunch Club Dates

20.3.19 17.4.19 15.5.19 19.6.19

Please note Christmas Lunch has moved to 11.12.19

PASTORAL NEWS



JUSTIN & KATIE (E) Congratulations on the birth of Brooke Honor a second daughter born on the 4th January. A lovely sister for Piper and another very welcome grandchild for Marian. Lord we thank you for this wonderful gift given to this loving family, and we pray that you will surround them with your love as they go through the years of her growing up.

JEAN & GEOFF (L). Geoff is now in Thornbank Nursing Home, as Jean was advised by her Doctor that he needed professional care. Lord we know you were with Jean and her family when they had to make this difficult decision. Be very close to them Lord as they have to learn and accept this very different way of life. Put your loving arms around them and guide them through the days ahead.

DAWN (H) It is with such sadness that we have to say 'Goodbye' to Dawn. She was married to John our organist, whom we loved and appreciated his musicianship. Now they have been reunited, they will be remembered for their open garden days in aid of Christian Aid for many years. Lord we thank you for Dawn and all the stories she told of her various experiences she had in her life. Walk with all her family and loved ones, comfort and support them as they go through life without her.

JOAN (E) Joan is in and out of hospital at the moment and very poorly. Lord be with Joan and her family at this very difficult time.



Season 2018/2019

- Feb 7th** Twixt Potteries & California – The History of the Clifford Road Catchment Area
Mike Smith
- Feb 14th** Christians Against Poverty & Debt Centres
Rick Taylor – Manager Felixstowe Debt Centre
- Feb 21st** The Silburys – A lively selection of popular acoustic music
Dave on guitar & mandolin, Scott on flute & guitar, Diz on bass, Martin on percussion
- Feb 28th** It Shouldn't Happen to a Vicar – A Humorous Talk
David & Wendy Atkins

Advance

Please have your items in by 24th February. If you use a word processor and e-mail, please send the item to me at advance@stjohnsurcipswich. 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

Weekly Rotas			
Date	Flowers	Coffee	Door
3 rd February	Audrey Wood	Lesley and Brian	Peter and Jenny Cook
10th February	Sara Pells	Gwen and Jill	Andrew and Jackie Walker
17 th February	Bowls Club	Maureen and Jenny	Richard and Mollie Hammond
24 th February	June Timpson	Elders	Tony and Mary Wilson
3 rd March	L Chapman Jeanette Wade	Penny	Michael and Pauline Girling

Regular Church Activities

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 Tues. 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)

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