

*May*  
**2022**

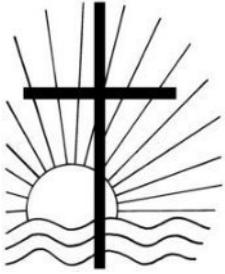
**St John's United Reformed Church**

1 Cowper Street, Ipswich IP4 5JD

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

## NEWSLETTER FROM ST JOHN'S URC

Ministers: Rev David Rees & Filled Vacancy July 2022



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### 30 years to prepare

Most of the Gospel readings in church this year are taken from Luke's gospel. Early in that gospel, there is a short verse that has puzzled and fascinated me in equal parts. It simply says, 'When Jesus began his ministry, he was about thirty years of age.' (Luke 3:23)

Tradition has it that Joseph died fairly young, and that Jesus had to take upon himself the support of his mother Mary and of his younger brothers and sisters. It was not until they were old enough to take the family business on their own shoulders, that he felt free to leave Nazareth and go into the wider world and start his second career.

Whether that is true or not, we don't really know, these thirty years gave him the opportunity to prepare for the three years of ministry by living out his own teaching in normal daily life. Had he always been a homeless, wandering teacher with no human ties or obligations, it might have been said to him, "What right have you to talk about human duties and human relationships, you, who never fulfilled them?" But Jesus was able to say, not just, "Do as I say," but, "Do as I have done."

William Barclay tells the story that the Russian writer Leo Tolstoy was a man who talked about living the way of love; but his wife who bore 13 children wrote poignantly of him, "There is so little genuine warmth about him; his kindness does not come from the heart, but merely from his principles. His biographies will tell of how he helped the labourers to carry buckets of water, but no one will ever know that he never

gave his wife a rest and never -- in all these thirty-two years -- gave his child a drink of water or spent five minutes by his bedside to give me a chance to rest a little from all my labours." Hmmm.

No one could ever speak like that of Jesus. He lived at home what he preached in his ministry. Though Jesus was God in human form, he had to live as we live. And because he spent these thirty years in Nazareth, he knew the problems of making a living, the haunting insecurity of the life of the worker, the ill-natured customer, the person who would not pay his debts, the wonderful 'salt of the earth' neighbours and the neighbour who was a bigot.

It is central to the incarnation - that God became truly human - that we face no problem of life and living which Jesus did not also experience, and his teachings are based on that grounded experience.

So, give thanks for those 30 years. And perhaps ask God to let you know what your next stage of life and ministry is, however long your time of preparation has been.

*David*

### Church Secretary's Notes

Quite a lot of dates to be aware of, so I will run through those first.

- May 5th local elections,
- **May 14th coffee morning 1030am 'til 12 noon,**
- **May 18th afternoon tea at Felixstowe URC,**

- **May 26th our church AGM 7pm,**
- **May 29th Sunday lunch for Tony and Mary,**
- July 16th Synod Big Day Out at Trinity park and
- **July 24th Induction of our new minister, Adam Earle.**

For the trip to Felixstowe transport can be provided. If you are going and have space in your car please let Val or myself know so that lifts can be arranged. There will be a chance to walk on the prom or be given a lift to the View Point or just go straight to the Tea. Please keep an 'eye out' for various lists in the entrance lobby!

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee service is on June 3rd. Elders are considering whether to show the service on the 'big screen' at church, have a few refreshments and make a celebration for our locality. If you like this idea please let an elder know so that we can gauge its viability.

Good to have Juliette and the organ back in action at communion services. This is a first step as we gradually consider how we would like our services to be when we can eventually put this Covid period behind us. A while yet!

Finally, the induction service will be for all our five churches and so we will need stewards at the service, car park attendants and helpers with setting up. The service will be live streamed from St John's. If you can help in any way please let me know. Not long to go!

*Adrian*

### TREASURERS REPORT

You are thanked for Offerings in March totalling £2,024.40 and for donations to the April Communion Fund of £34.65 for Tools with a Mission.

Following further donations to the Ukrainian Appeal, we have sent an additional sum of **£76.30** to the Link to Hope Charity, making the total amount sent via St John's to **£956.30**.

As always, many thanks for all your generous financial support.

**Mary A and Richard W**



### **Christian Aid 2022 15th - 21st May**

Donations can be made via Christian Aid envelopes which will be available on Sundays 1st, 8th and 15th May. We no longer collect house-to-house so please take this opportunity to support Christian Aid.

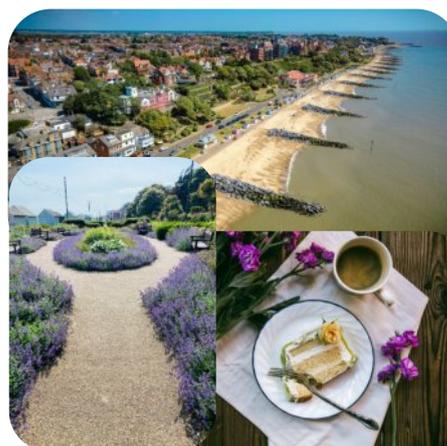
Brian and Lesley Chapman's Community Coffee morning on Saturday 14th May will be in Room 1 from 10.30 am. There will be books, cakes and plants available and all proceeds will go to Christian Aid. If you're buying cake(s), please remember to bring along a container to take it home as this will save us using unnecessary plastic bags.

With thanks in anticipation of your support.

**Val V**

### **Felixstowe URC - Tea and cake**

As a social event, we are arranging a visit to **Felixstowe on Wednesday afternoon, 18th May.**



With enough volunteer drivers we intend taking members and friends to Felixstowe where, depending on the weather

and mobility of passengers, we hope to have a walk along the prom (or visit the Landguard viewing area). After this we'll all meet together at Felixstowe URC for a chat over a cup of tea and cake.

There is a board in the Church entrance for you to sign up your interest. Please indicate whether you are a driver or passenger so that we have an indication of numbers for refreshments.

Let's hope the weather on the 18th May is similar to the sunshine streaming through the window as I write this article.

**Val V**

### May Bible Study

Our monthly morning Pastorate Bible Study will be on Tuesday May 10th at 10.30. We shall be looking at the lectionary Gospel reading for the following Sunday which is John 13:31-35, where Jesus, knowing of his impending death, gives his disciples his new commandment to love one another. In addition as Ascension Day is celebrated at the end of the month, we also plan to look at the recording of this event in Luke 24:44-53. There is much to think about in these passages and it will be good to have time to share our thoughts and listen to each other considering how we can relate these readings to the outworking of our faith today.

Do join us by Zoom or telephone, for this time of Christian fellowship. You will be most welcome to listen or contribute.

When logging on the meeting ID is 889 953 6542. If you have no internet you can use your phone by dialling 02034815240 or 01304601196 and when prompted enter the number 889 953 6542.

**Elaine T**

I am sure you are aware all food banks are struggling to get items. Help FIND if you can **Editor**.



**Needed:** Long grain rice, Long-life whole milk, Toiletries for men, women and children, Tinned vegetables, Fruit/desserts, Coffee, Sugar, Jam, Soup, Pet food (dog, cat, fish, rabbit/guinea pig)

### Key Urgent Items this week:

**Long-grain rice, Tinned peaches, Sugar, Small jars of coffee**

They are also looking for volunteers 2-3 hours regularly each week.

Volunteers help to sort donated food and other items, collect orders from local shops and make up the food parcels. They also rely on volunteer drivers (Monday to Friday, every afternoon) to make their deliveries. If you are interested please call Maureen on 01473 833351



### News of Brian and Angie.

They are making progress on their property renovation in Great Yarmouth sufficiently to say: "We have added our names to the long list of

British people willing to accommodate refugees." They hope the above picture of Great Yarmouth taken by Brian will encourage them to come despite the paperwork barriers.

Thanks to **Peter C** for passing on their email.

**Prayers** are needed for those refugees now in Moldova, that they are not subjected to further Russian aggression having left Ukraine to avoid it.

Please let me have any stories of your involvement with helping those refugees now in Ipswich so we can see if we can help. **Ed**.

Many thanks to **Peter C** for all he has done on PowerPoint presentations over the years. You could always see the effort he made to add slides that supported the service and notices. Personally, thanks for all the help when handing on the Website to me. His ability to spot mis-alignment, telling me about the considered decision that had been made of Gil Sans MT for use by St John's in 'Headers' has kept things smart and standards high. Many thanks Peter. **Editor**.

## Thought for the Day

“Teach us what freedom is.  
May we all learn the lesson  
that it is not the right  
to do as we please,  
but the opportunity  
to be pleased to do what is right”

Prayer before the U.S. Senate on 25 April 1947 by  
the Reverend Peter Marshall, Chaplain of U.S.  
Senate.

**“Caring for God’s Earth”**  
Join us for an  
**Open Air Service**  
at  
**Foxearth Meadows  
Nature Reserve**  
**Sunday, 8 May 2022 at 3.00 pm**

We are delighted to welcome as our speaker  
**ANDY ATKINS (CEO of A Rocha UK)**.  
Andy worked for Tearfund in campaigning and as  
CEO of Friends of the Earth before taking on his role  
at A Rocha UK.



For comfort, please bring a chair or rug. We will be serving  
light refreshments and invite people to come early to enjoy  
the reserve or stay afterwards for a guided walk.  
All are welcome.

**FOXEARH MEADOWS NATURE RESERVE**  
The reserve is about a mile north of Foxearth village, between the River Stour  
and the lane north-west of Constable’s Farm and Constable’s Barn  
(private dwellings with postcode CO10 7H2).  
From Long Melford traveling west towards Clare (A1092), turn first left after CGB Cocoa  
(formerly Philips Avert), signposted ‘Pentlow Road’. Then take the next left (signposted ‘Liston’)  
and the reserve is about 200 metres on the left.  
Car sharing would be helpful. On site: ✓ Car park ✓ Composting toilet

Follow ‘what3words’,  
charm.dragonfly.townhouse  
Grid Ref. TL 8331 4598

For further information, contact Andy Jowitt  
07584 751093 / andy.jowitt@arocha.org  
arocha.org/events




**Eastern Synod  
Big Day Out  
Saturday 16th July  
Trinity Park, Ipswich**

**50** The United Reformed Church

This is the day that the Lord has made let us rejoice and be glad  
Psalm 118

# Thursday Forum

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

## Thursday Lunchtimes

Lunches £5.50 for two courses 12 noon – 1 pm  
A short talk 1.10 - 1.50 pm

You are welcome to either or both



### Season 2021/2022

- May 5<sup>th</sup> Inspire Suffolk: enabling a positive future for local young people  
*Terry Baxter, CEO*
  - May 12<sup>th</sup> Shelterbox: there with concrete help in disasters across the globe
  - May 19<sup>th</sup> Climate Change – What it means to us  
*Ian Hawker*
  - May 26<sup>th</sup> Sermons in Stone – a ‘tour’ of local church buildings  
*Elizabeth Serpell, Blue Badge Guide*
- Forum then takes a break, and we meet again on 6<sup>th</sup> October

www.christchurch-ipswich.org.uk  
Thursday Forum can now be followed on Twitter at @ThursdayForum

## After Service Coffee Rota

Date	Name
01/05/22	Gwen and Jill L
08/05/22	Margaret N and Pauline
15/05/22	Maureen and Jenny
22/05/22	Penny
29/05/22	Dorothy and Colin
05/06/22	Mary A and Pauline

## Services

Date	St John’s
01/05/22	Rev John Cook Communion
08/05/22	William Glasse
15/05/22	Peter Dawson
22/05/22	Rev David Rees
29/05/22	Birgit Ewald
05/06/22	Sue Liddell Pentecost & Communion

Free Telephone sound only versions of Services  
01473 938542 Option 1

To get in touch and send contributions to Advance  
please use the email:

[advance@stjohnsurcipswich.org.uk](mailto:advance@stjohnsurcipswich.org.uk)

Please note the deadline for the June Advance is  
25<sup>th</sup> May