

ST. JOHNS CHURCH DONISTHORPE

GRAPEVINE

SEPTEMBER 2015



IONA

Dear Friends

When I told some non- church going friends that I was going to Iona for a week, they knew exactly where I was heading.



Which was surprising, because I always felt Iona was one of those Christian pilgrimage places which was only known to other Christians. Since I have been back it has been surprising the number of people who have said they have also visited the island.

Iona is where Christianity was cradled and it was from Iona that monks spread the good news of Jesus through the North. It was Columba with a small band of monks who took Christianity to Iona from Ireland and they established what was to become an important centre of European Christianity.

When the Benedictine Abbey was built Iona continued to attract pilgrims from across Europe, many going to visit Columba's tomb. The island became the final resting place of many Scottish kings and other leaders. After the Abbey and the nearby Nunnery were destroyed they were left in ruins for the next few hundred years. It was in 1938 that minister George Macleod took unemployed craftsmen and trainee clergy to the island to work together to rebuild both the abbey and the monastic quarters

Many thousands visit Iona today, either to stay in the Abbey or at one of the hotels, holiday cottages or campsite. There are those who go to take part in the weekly pilgrimage which takes in important places in the history of the island and those who go to the abbey for the worship.

Working together for peace, social justice and the re-building of community along with the renewal of worship are today's aims of the Iona Community which is spread throughout the world.

Iona is called a "thin" place where heaven and earth are near. It is a special place. But its values are of those which we can encourage in our own area.

As we pray for peace in the world, for the food banks, for those who are being abused and humiliated, for our own communities we are touching on the Iona ethos.

Blessings

Edwina

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS: SEPTEMBER 10-13th



The 8 churches of the Woodfield Team are open as part of the National Heritage Open Days. Details of when each of the churches is open can be found at www.stjohnschurchdonisthorpe.org.uk

Donisthorpe Church will be open on each day from 10am-4pm – take this opportunity to visit your local church, which is a landmark in the village.

Learn something of its history, which goes back a long way.

Also catch a glimpse of what takes place in the 21st century.

There is a book of walks that would take you all round the 8 churches of the Team and much more.

Come and look.



CHURCH AT 4 P.M.' – (BUT NOT CHURCH AS YOU KNOW IT)

A NEW COMPLETELY DIFFERENT WORSHIP SERVICE

At 4 p.m. on September 13th, we are pleased to announce the launch of a new venture. A chance for families, and any others who want a more relaxed approach to worship, to come together for just under an hour, to make friends, do crafts and listen to a Bible story in an informal manner. Meet in St John's Church. We'll end with refreshments. Come along and give it a go. It'll be a really fun time.

(There will be no all-age service now on the first Sunday of the month – that will be Morning Worship)

NEW



ST. JOHNS CHURCH - COMES ON LINE

We are now online. You can get up to date and timely information about your church on the internet with the launch of our new website last month. We are still developing it, adding more information all the time. It is still a work in progress but do visit it to see more details of what is going on.

www.stjohnschurchdonisthorpe.org.uk

LITTLE FISHES- (Previously known as Mums and Babes)

This is a new group for any parent or carer with a baby or preschool child.

To be held on the 1st Friday of every month in Measham Church Hall from 10am

(Next one Friday 4th September).

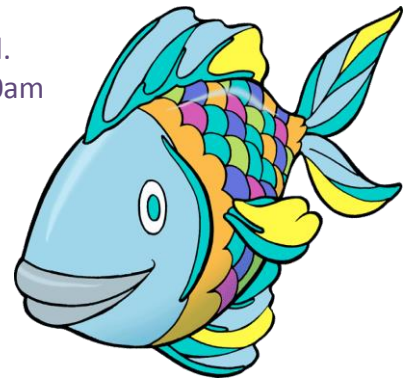
Toys for the children, craft activity for older pre-schoolers and space to run.

A chance to meet and chat with others caring for babies and small children.

Refreshments served.

£1 per family.

Further details from Vivien Elphick 01530 270354



RIDE AND STRIDE DAY: SEPTEMBER 12th

Ride and Stride day is nearly upon us! This day is a way of raising much-needed funds for the up keep of Leicestershire's historic churches, through the Leicester Historic Churches Trust. The sponsorship money benefits the Trust but half of what we raise comes back to the local church.

Can you be part of this event? We need people to act as stewards in church on the day. There are sign up lists in church. Can you ride your bike or walk between churches and be sponsored? Details from Joan Smith.



HARVEST FESTIVAL: OCTOBER 11th at 11am

Harvest Festival will be a little later this year – full details in October Grapevine.

We will be receiving tinned and packet food for the Marlene Reid Centre.



“JOURNEY IN FAITH”.

Journey in Faith (JiF) is a one year course open to anyone who would like to grow in confidence in their Christian faith and discipleship and provides an opportunity for you to:

- explore the teachings and practices of the Christian faith
- think and learn about how your own Christian practices and faith have developed and might continue to develop
- learn together about God as part of a group – learning from each other's experience

We plan to run a North West Leicestershire group for the next JiF course which will start on **Monday 5th October 2015 and will meet on Monday evenings, 7.30pm - 9.30pm at The Cottage, The Churchyard, St Helen's Close, Ashby de la Zouch, LE65 1AA.** (Numbers permitting – a minimum of 8 people is required).

The course consists of ten sessions per term:

Term 1 Exploring Faith - Sessions include an opportunity to consider our own faith journeys and an introduction to Theological Reflection.

Term 2 God's Call and Our Response - Sessions include an introduction to the Old Testament

Term 3 Development of the Church - Sessions include an introduction to the New Testament and Church Doctrine - what we say we believe.

Running through all 3 terms will be evenings entitled Ministry, Mission and Vocation when we will consider how we discern our gifts, hear God's call and make our response to God. Folders of study material are provided and the total cost of the course is £120.

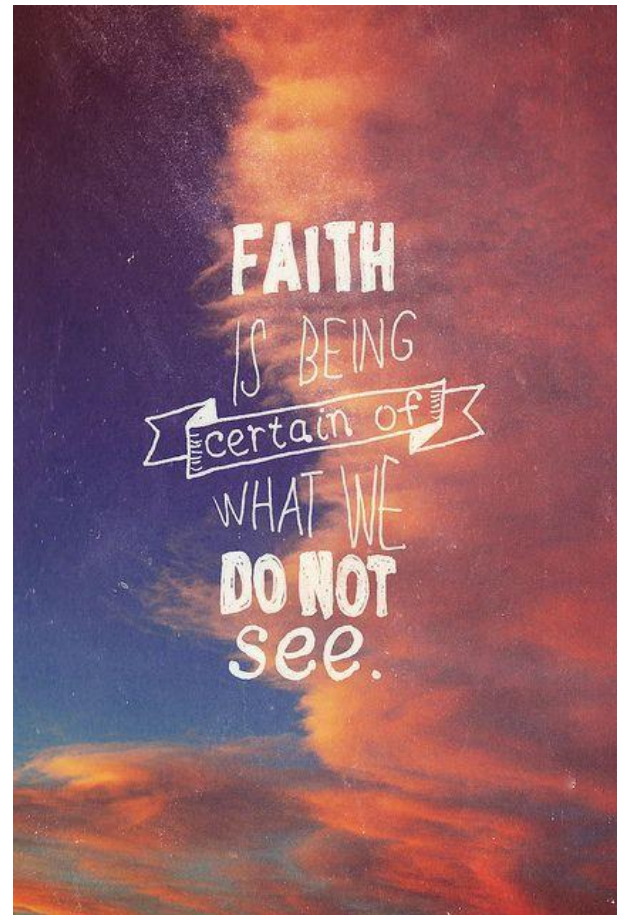
If you are interested then why not discuss it initially with your incumbent and / or Andy Smith (a Reader based at St. Helen's Ashby de la Zouch). Andy is convening the NW Leicestershire group and can be contacted on 01530 563352, 07896519807 or @ andhelbexz@talktalk.net.

Yours in Christ
Andy Smith
Reader

REFLECTION on Hebrews: Chapter 11.

“Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen,” writes the author of Hebrews. A few verses later faith is similarly defined as knowing that God exists and that God rewards those who earnestly seek Him. Perhaps the best word we can use to translate the Greek word “pistis” (usually translated faith) is the word “trust” or “trustworthy.” Suppose you tell a friend that you have faith in him. What does that mean? It means two things. First, you are sure the person you are talking to actually exists. And second, you are convinced he is trustworthy; you can believe what he says and trust in his character. It is in this way that the writer of Hebrews talks about faith in God. Faith is knowing that God is real and that you can trust in God’s promises. You cannot trust someone who isn’t there, nor can you rely on someone whose promises are not reliable. This is why faith is talked about as the substance of things hoped for and as the evidence of things not seen. Both words carry with them a sense of reality. Our hope is not wishful thinking. Faith does not make God real. On the contrary, faith is the response to a real God who wants to be known to us. The Christian gospel invites you to delve into reality. It commands you to be honest in your commitment to know that which is true.

Is Jesus real? Who did he claim to be? Is he really alive today? Faith comes in response to knowing the answers to these questions, even as Christ is calling you near. But don’t stop after the initial introductions! Just as you are able to put more trust in someone as you grow to know him, so faith increases as you grow in your relationship with Christ. There is a God who is real and true; there is a God who is near and longing to gather you nearer. The great joy of the Christian faith is found in the person who invites us to trust and believe.



WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES at ST. JOHNS		SEPTEMBER 2015
Tuesday 1 st	9.00 – 11.00am	Coffee & Chat (in Church)
Friday 4 th	10am	 LITTLE FISHES - (Measham Church Hall)
Sunday 6 th	11.00am	Morning Worship
Wednesday 9 th	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 13 th	11.00am 4.00pm	Holy Communion & Healing  Church at 4pm
Sunday 20 th	11.00am	Baptism
Tuesday 22 nd	2.00pm – 4.00pm	3T's (in Church)
Saturday 26 th	12.30pm – 2.00pm	Lunch Light Fellowship Group (in Church)
Sunday 27 th	11.00am	Holy Communion