

ST. JOHNS CHURCH DONISTHORPE

GRAPEVINE

FEBRUARY 2019



GOD GIVES THE STRENGTH TO TAKE THE STRAIN.

Dear All

I am sitting writing this letter on a bitterly cold, grey January day. Its not a good time of the year for me, in fact, I have often been heard to say that there is only one thing worse than January and that is February! Of course I realise that Spring time will arrive with all its newness and beauty but it still leaves me feeling uncertain as it seems a bit distant and obviously completely out of my control. It is our creator God who orders the seasons and will ensure that in the due process of time all will be well.

But I write at a time of change and uncertainty in our country (the Brexit vote has yet to take place but hopefully by the time you read this some sort of way forward will have been found).

Living through change is often a time of uncertainty about the future, the effects of the change on each of us. As the Woodfield Team of churches we have recently been sad to say our goodbyes to our Team Vicar Revd Susan Bradley. Another change for us all and uncertainty about her replacement as we consider carefully the needs of the Team going forward in our desire to share the good news of Jesus Christ in our communities. I am also sure that many of you will also have changes of a personal nature that you are living through at this time.

So how shall we cope? What will help us?

Well I was quite taken with something the Archbishop of Canterbury said in his New Year message.... *'that we live in fellowship with one another and that we need to be there for one another.*

We don't live in splendid isolation, we have a God who sent his Son into this world so that we could experience his Love, a love which we are called to reflect in our lives in our care for one another.'

In the same way as I can trust God for Springtime, the Christian hope means that I can look to a future however uncertain and remember the advice given to me by an elderly clergyman many years ago 'that God gives the strength to take the strain.'

God Bless

Revd Stella Polashek

LENT GROUPS 2019

Lent is a great time to do a little extra in our following and understanding of Jesus as we approach the great festival of Easter. We mark the start of Lent with a special Ash Wednesday communion service at 7.30pm on March 6th at St Laurence Church Measham

Dates for the 2019 study groups are:

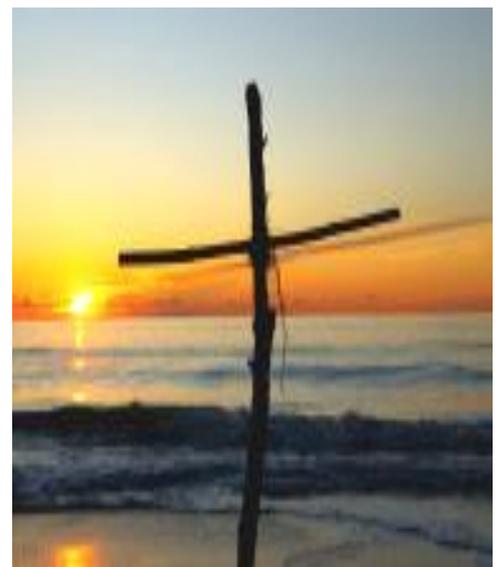
Tuesdays at 7.15 for 7.30pm at Measham Church Hall:

March 12th, 19th, 26th and April 2nd

Thursdays at 9.45 for 10am at Measham Church hall:

March 14th, 21st, 28th and April 11th

The cost is £1.50 per session. More details of course content to follow



There will be sign up lists at the back of church so we can get an idea of numbers. Do come along. It's a wonderful chance to grow in our Christian faith and to share together with others more than is possible on Sundays. It's also a chance to meet others from across the churches of the Woodfield Team

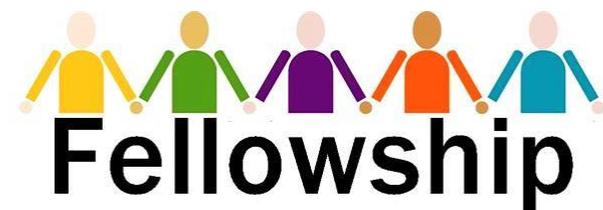


WOODFIELD FOREST CHURCH: Sunday February 3rd at 3pm Meeting at the rear of St Laurence Church, Measham (DE12 7HZ). Join as we search for signs of new life and light. Warm clothes, wellies and waterproofs are the order of the day. There will be hot drinks but much to do!

FAMILY SERVICE: Sunday 17th February. Come along – 11am start but we serve refreshments from 10.45am. A relaxed time with some singing, a Bible story and thought for the day, together with craft activities. It's good fun for all ages.

COFFEEANDCHAT@CHURCH. Tuesday 5th February 9 -11 a.m.

A chance to chat and to meet others socially over a cup of coffee (or tea) and a bite to eat.



3T'S - TABLE, TALK AND TEA

A much appreciated informal, friendly get together. Anyone is welcome to come along, we meet in church on the third Tuesday of every month, 2.30pm - 3.45pm. Stay for the whole of the time or just drop in arrive when you can and leave as you wish. If you enjoy stimulating conversation,

good company over a cup of tea or coffee and cake, then 3Ts is for you! Join in with the discussion as you wish or just enjoy a cuppa amongst friends.

We round our conversations off with a song and a prayer. If you would like to join us, our meeting this month will take place on **Tuesday 19th February at 2.30pm in the Church.**

LUNCH LIGHT

If you are feeling the pain of bereavement and would like some company, a chat and a bite to eat, why not drop in to St. Johns on **Friday 22nd February between 12.30pm – 2.30pm.** There is a charge of £2. Telephone Janet 01283 215000, if you would like to come along, or if you wish to help out.

FRIDAY 1st MARCH is the WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (formerly Women's World Day of Prayer). It will be held this year at St Charles Catholic Church in Bosworth Road, Measham, listen out for more details.

THE TRANSFORMATION OF ST JOHN'S.

We do now have some idea of the cost of installing heating into the revamped church. It has made us go 'ouch' as these things do. Yet we want to be sure to do the best we can as we set the church building on its future course. Now we know the direction we're headed in with heating (a mixture of underfloor and convection heating), our architect can finalise the plans for the layout of the church, and start to design the detail such as the new font



Ready
Steady
Stick
2-4pm

Games
Story
Crafts
Songs

19th February 2019

@ St Laurence Church Measham

21st February 2019

@ Holy Rood Church Packington

£1.00 per child

For all children under 11 (under 5's must have an adult stay)

For more details: Ceriann (Childrens worker) 07946376500

Facebook: Woodfield Churches Childrens Work



and the glass doors.

We hope to see these plans at the end of January but not in time for this Grapevine. We make haste albeit slowly. And we can hardly wait to see the church when it is in its new form – an asset to the church and very importantly, the community as a whole.

A DEANERY EVENING - "SHAPED EVERY DAY" –

Wednesday 27th February 2019 at 7 p.m. at St David's Church, Greenhill Road, Broom Leys LE67 4RL



There is to be a special evening being hosted by Bishop Martyn, Bishop Guli and North-West Leicester deanery. This is part of a series of ten such evenings taking place around the whole diocese in the first quarter of 2019.

As we begin to look forward to 2026, when we will celebrate our Centenary as a diocese, we are beginning to ask how we will be *Shaped by God* in the coming years. There are many different aspects to this question, but these deanery evenings are intended as the next step in exploring our every day faith as Christians and how we deepen our walk with Jesus in our every-day life.

The evening will be relatively informal: there will be displays showing something of the life of the churches of the deanery as a whole and what we're all doing; there will

be worship, presentations by the two Bishops and others, discussion time, and an opportunity to share learning and resources.

The bishops are really keen to meet us all at this evening and to re-enthuse us in our walk as Christians. In fact it's what Bishops are there to help us with. We

do need to know numbers so please let Vivien know as soon as possible if you would like to be there. Do phone on 01530 270354 or e-mail on vivien.elphick@btinternet.com



REFLECTION ON MATTHEW 10.40-42

"Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward."



This gospel reading is about a small yet not insignificant thing. Jesus is sending out his disciples with a set of guidelines and rules, hints and commands, which he concludes with the words, "if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward."

A drink of water, how basic and how small and how cheap. But notice that he says COLD water. Cold water would have to be lifted from a well in the early morning which may have been a long walk away. No fridges, freezers, or tap to let run cold. To give a cup of cold water was not cheap, but costly, and was a generous

almost sacrificial gift.

The small things mattered to Jesus, because the small things matter. Not just a drink of water, but a drink of cold water. It is nothing for us to give someone a drink of water if they ask, so it is hardly an act of generosity, although if you are the one in need then it certainly can feel generous. But to get up early, walk a distance, lift up water from the bottom of the well, carry it the distance home for the family on a clay pot on your head,

and give some of that away to a stranger. That is generosity. That is noticing the small things. That is the difference between a drink of water and a drink of cold water. That is the difference between giving and sacrificial giving.

2019 - RENEWAL OF ELECTORAL ROLL of ST. JOHN'S CHURCH



Renewal of the electoral roll takes place every 6 years and is due again this year.

In a year of renewal no names are carried over from the old roll and everyone must make a new application to be included on the new roll.

The process will commence later this month and be completed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in April.

The Roll is the list of those qualified to attend and to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting where the elections take place for (a). the Parochial Church Council and (b). the parish's representatives on the Deanery Synod.

By enrolling you become a voting member of the Church of England and so help to ensure that all the synodical councils of the Church - the Parochial Church Council, the Deanery Synod, the Diocesan Synod, and the General Synod - are fully representative of its members.

Synodical government gives an opportunity for partnership between bishops, clergy and laity in the life of the Church:

The system is intended to enable church people at every level to feel that they are in touch with the Church as a whole and can play their part in decision - making.

Though many of you are already on the Electoral Roll your membership will expire this year, even the most longstanding members will need to join again.

If you wish your name to be entered onto the new Roll you will need to complete and submit an Application for Enrolment Form which will be made available in church or will be sent to you when the renewal process period commences.

Derek Tomlin, our Electoral Roll Officer, will be pleased to help you with the details and any queries you might have.

WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES		FEBRUARY 2019
Sunday 3 rd	11.00am	Morning Prayer
Tuesday 5 th , 12 th , 19 th , 26 th	10.00am	Tuesday Prayer Group at 12 Ivy Close
Tuesday 5 th	9.30 – 11.00am	Coffee & Chat (in Church)
Sunday 10 th	11.00am	Holy Communion & Healing
Wednesday 13 th	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 17 th	11.00am	Family Service
Tuesday 19 th	2.30pm	3T's Table - - - - Talk - - - - Tea
Sunday 24 th	11.00am	Holy Communion
Friday 25 th	12.30 – 2.30pm	Lunch Light



For **WEDDINGS** **BAPTISMS** or **FUNERALS**

Please contact Revd. Vivien Elphick (01530 270354) in the first instance