

ST. JOHNS CHURCH DONISTHORPE

GRAPEVINE JULY 2019



“DOES YOUR DISCIPLESHIP ACTUALLY SHOW?”

Dear All,

Someone once referred to the season of the church's year we are now in as the 'boring bit'. Well, they said, just how many Sundays are there after Trinity?

It seems to go on forever and nothing much happens.

I personally take a different view. We do seem to spend so much of our time each year preparing for, and indeed enjoying, the major festivals in the Church's year. All this busyness, however, doesn't leave us with a lot of time for just learning to be Disciples (followers of Jesus Christ) learning to live the Christian life.

It is during these precious summer months, with no major festivals to prepare for, that we can take stock of our Christian life. The Bible readings set for this period do reflect the life, ministry and teachings of Jesus and help us to consider this more closely. So the 'boring bit' becomes a wonderful opportunity to learn what it means to be a Disciple without all the added distractions.

We might ask ourselves the question, "What difference does being a Christian make to our life and what difference should it make? Are we simply going through the motions or does our discipleship actually show?"

Does it show in our love for one another and are we good witnesses, making known the gospel to all through our actions as well as by what we say? Does it show in the care and concern we show for others? As Christians we speak often of joy, but how far do our lives reinforce our words?

The kingdom of God is not out there, somewhere distant or beyond this life. It is a vision of a world transformed by the love of God – nothing less than the kingdom on earth. God can use us all – each with our shortcomings, frailty and brokenness as well as our gifts and abilities- to make a difference for good in our daily lives.

Our faith is not a 'private matter' and is worthless unless it does show and make a difference in our lives, both for ourselves and for those amongst whom we live and work.

Stella

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY THIS MONTH AND BEYOND

OPPORTUNITIES FOR TIME TO CHAT AT ST JOHN'S:

- **Coffeeandchat@church** meets on Tuesday 2nd July and 6th August from 9.30 a.m. in church. Drop in for a cuppa
- **3 Ts (Table Talk and Tea)** meets on Tuesday July 16th and August 20th 2.30 – 4pm in St John's Church. We chat, discuss Christian topics and values over tea and a piece of cake.
- **Lunch Light** will be taking a trip this month on Friday 26th at 12.30- 2pm, we are yet to decide where. If you would like to join them contact Janet on 01283 215000. Lunch Light is there to support the bereaved, who find it difficult to go forward after a loss. There are many who have found this lunch beneficial in enabling them to get out into the world again and make new friends with people who are in a similar situation.

WELCOME TO WILMA COLLEY.

Wilma will have been ordained on June 30th, so will be Revd Wilma Colley. It's great to have her with us. It is important to give her a good welcome. **So there will be a welcome party on July 12th in the church hall at Measham.** It will be a bring and share event – so do bring something with you or we'll starve. Listen out for more details nearer the time.

CREAM TEA AT MEASHAM VICARAGE: AUGUST 8th 2.30pm – 4pm

All are welcome to come along to Measham Vicarage (next door to Measham Church DE12 7HZ) on the afternoon of August 8th for a cream tea/ cake and tea. £4 a head which will go towards Measham Church funds.



Woodfield Forest Church

Join us on as we explore Gods wonderful creation to make our very own

Wild Art.

Maybe you will paint a masterpiece using colours you have made from foraging, or maybe create a sculpture, or just admire God's Handiwork!

Sunday 28th July, 3pm Meeting at the rear of St Laurence Church, Measham

We will be outside whatever the weather so come dressed appropriately

@woodfieldforestchurch Contact Joanne 0780 3295282 jdyer269@btinternet.com



Bible Story, Songs, Crafts, Games

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

£1.00 per child

Saturday 10th August 2019

@ St Laurence Church, Measham

2-4pm



For more details, or to book:

Ceriann (Childrens worker) 07946376500

EXHIBITION AND CREAM TEA: AUGUST 10th.

St John's is hosting an exhibition by Donisthorpe Youth Club. They have been successful in being awarded a lottery heritage grant for their project called 'Discovering Donisthorpe'. As part of the project, there will be a photo exhibition of old and new photos of Donisthorpe in church.

Alongside that, the church will be holding a cream tea, so come along and enjoy the exhibition and some refreshment.

SONGS OF PRAISE AT STRETTON-EN-LE-FIELD: AUGUST 18th at 4pm

A Songs of Praise service is to be held at this lovely old church on Sunday August 18th at 4pm. Stretton is a redundant church cared for by the Churches Conservation Church, but we try to bring it to life just occasionally.

RIDE AND STRIDE DAY: SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 7th

The annual Ride and Stride day is fast approaching! Can you help? Can you ride your bike or walk between churches and again get sponsorship. It's all in aid of the Leicester Historic Churches Trust. Half of the money raised goes to the Trust for the upkeep of Leicestershire's historic churches (and that includes us!) and half comes back to our local church. Please contact Joan Smith on 01530 515068 if you can help.

TEAM VICAR RECRUITMENT

Things are moving along although it may not look like it from the outside. We have got our draft profile together which describes the Woodfield Team, its churches and communities; it looks at our vision and what we are looking for in the new Team Vicar. That document will be taken to church councils for approval and then we can advertise!!

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION – ‘PARISH PIXELS’ – SHOW US WHAT MAKES YOUR CHURCH SPECIAL

Every church, its congregation and community is unique: from the volunteer who holds everything together to the children's groups. From beautiful flower gardens to exceptional architecture. No two churches are the same. So each church is encouraged to send in a single photo, showing what makes their church special, whether taken by a professional or a member of the congregation on their Smartphone. How would you show how unique and special your church is in one photo?

A competition run by Ecclesiastical Insurers with the possibility of a £5000 prize for the winning church!

The competition opens early June and you will find more information about the competition, as well as details on how to enter on www.ecclesiastical.com/parishpixels when the competition opens.

DOUBLE PRIVILEGE.

It is amazing to have the privilege of two curates serving in the Woodfield Team at one time. Each is at a different stage of their training. So Joanne Dyer (who is full time and paid) has been with us now 2 years, and is beginning to look towards the end of her training and where she will go from here. She has already done a lot of learning but there's still much more to pack in. Wilma Colley is just starting out. She is self supporting and will be working just 2 days a week plus 3 Sundays a month – so what she is able to do in the time will be very different from Joanne. But she will be working towards the same goal at the end of the day.

Each of them are very different people (as are we all), each bring their own gifts and personalities – so let's rejoice with them and for them, and for ourselves. At the same time, please don't compare the one with the other and let's support them well, help them in the learning and pray for them both.

REFLECTION ‘ PRESENCE EVANGELISM’ – John 14: 1 -9

The Bible reading speaks about Jesus' patience with his disciples.

In answer to Philip's request 'Lord show us the Father', Jesus says 'Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.' (John 14:8-9).

Jesus has called me to be his hands and his feet (as shown clearly in the writings of St Teresa of Avila). My prayer is that people will come to know Christ through seeing him in my life, my words and my actions; for we also read in John's gospel, 'I am in my Father and you are in me, and I am in you.' (John 14:20).

When others see Christ in our life through our actions and words, we are being true witnesses in a most natural way.

This scripture is apt when considering what presence evangelism is all about. It is easy to make ourselves available to God for Him to use us through our ordinary, unexciting everyday experiences. What is important is that we are prepared to serve and ready to share our faith when the moment is right.

Whether we agree or not that Christian presence can rightfully be termed evangelism, Christians are present in the world and this will have a direct bearing on how they are perceived by non Christians.

The way we live our everyday lives should lead us to ask the question, 'Are we Good News to society?' When we give testimony of our life transformed by Christ we share in the mission of the Church that was inaugurated by Christ himself.

In my ministry as an Evangelist, I have seen those who previously lived for themselves start to live with others' needs in mind. I have seen people who are materialistic, change and share their resources with others.

Transforming lives reflect Christ and are inspirational.

St Paul teaches us in Romans 12:18 that we should live at peace with everyone. That peace is born out of love. The heart of presence evangelism is the ability for one to love unconditionally those that God places on our path. That ability to love comes about through prayer.

For me, prayer is an essential tool to succeed in the mission God has placed before me. We need to challenge ourselves to be different and love those who come into our life; we need to be good to them, by at least praying for them.

I have had the privilege of meeting people who are hurting. I have prayed for each of them.

I often contemplate that if Jesus had not prayed for forgiveness for those who crucified Him, then all of us would not have the opportunity to experience the joy of salvation. Just be aware that broken people can unwittingly upset us as they reach out for help; it is easy to reject them because of their actions. In those moments, pray that they will experience calmness and be open to the gospel and come to Christ.

When someone sees or experiences our genuine love for them they may well say, 'I wish I could believe like you'. Sincere actions will draw them to Christ.

Taken from the Fullness of Life – Seven Studies in Evangelism – Edited by Paul Fitzpatrick

WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. JOHNS CHURCH - JULY 2019		
Tuesday 2nd	9.30am – 11.30am	Coffee & Chat (in Church)
Sunday 7th	11.00am	Morning Prayer
Tuesday 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th	10.00am	Tuesday Prayer Group (in Church)
Wednesday 10th	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 14th	11.00am	Holy Communion & Healing
Tuesday 16th	2.00pm – 4.00pm	3T's
Sunday 21st	11.00am	Baptism/Family Service
Friday 26th	12.30 – 2.00pm	Lunch Light
Sunday 28th	11.00am	Holy Communion

THE WOODFIELD TEAM BBQ

Saturday 27th July 6.30pm Packington Vicarage

£5 per person

Join us for a relaxed evening of fellowship and fun in the vicarage garden.

Sign up in church so we know you are coming. Bring your own drinks, salad and dessert along with your own glasses, crockery and cutlery



Ready Steady Summer

A family event with crafts, face painting, and activities hosted by the Woodfield Team of Churches Childrens work

Alpaca Park Farm, Snarestone July 31st 10am – 2pm



