

ST. JOHNS CHURCH DONISTHORPE

GRAPEVINE



OCTOBER 2019

BEING DIFFERENT DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN'T HAVE FUN.

Dear All,

When I was first ordained, one of the things that we talked about was 'smelling like sheep' -meaning we should make sure that we are close to the everyday life of people we live with and serve alongside.

I think that is a good message for all of us, but then we are also challenged to be different. That's confusing.

Jesus said we are to be 'Salt and Light' to the world.

Now the world is a big place and it's always easier to start at home, on our doorstep with our neighbours.

October, more specifically Halloween seems to me a time that we can be both part of what is going on yet at the same time different.

Often I have wanted to hide behind excuses:

- *it's just an American import – yes it is;*
- *ghosts, ghouls, and skeletons walking the streets – not my favourite fancy dress;*
- *trick or treating – well I am all for treats, but not so keen on the trick side.*
- *It might be best to sit in the back of the house, turn all the lights off and pretend you are not in.*

I have been there, and perhaps at best that's what's expected of us.

But we don't have to be like that.

We are called to be light, sharing love and generosity in a dark and disturbed world.

We can in good conscience engage with what's going on, if we want to, but still being different.

The message through schools encourages children (usually with their adult in tow) to only knock on doors where there is a lit pumpkin, so no lit pumpkin - no disturbance, to protect those of us who are anxious or vulnerable.

But we could join in the fun, and spread some light and love.

Carve our own pumpkin, maybe with a heart, or a cross, put a light in it, have some treats to hand, have fun and be light in the darkness.

Being different doesn't mean we can't have fun.

Joanne



Just a reminder that you can leave items for the Foodbank in the basket at the back of St John's Church. These then go to the Ashby Foodbank for distribution to those in need across the area.

IT'S HARVEST FESTIVAL TIME at ST JOHN'S CHURCH, DONISTHORPE

HARVEST FOR DONISTHORPE SCHOOL - Monday 7th October at 9.30am.
in church as the children sing, and share their thoughts with us.

HARVEST SUPPER AND QUIZ - Saturday October 12th at 7pm

in church There will be food to eat and a quiz to challenge the little grey cells.
Tickets £8 from Vivien on 01530 270354 or email vivien.elphick@btinternet.com

Should be good fun.

We will serve teas and coffees but if you want something stronger, do bring it with you

SUNDAY 13th OCTOBER at 11am: HARVEST FESTIVAL

Come along and join in giving thanks for all the good things we receive in life, but in particular, our food, homes and the basics of life. Sing some good hymns and pray some prayers of thanks and praise.

We will also be thinking about how we can care better for this planet on which We live – if you've got thoughts to share, then come along.

We do welcome gifts of tinned and packet food which will go to the Marlene Reid Centre in Coalville to help families in need locally.



READY STEADY STICK IN HALF TERM.

Linking in with harvest time, our theme will be creation, returning to thoughts of how we care for our world as well as how wonderful creation is. Crafts, Bible story, fun and friends.

£1 per child. Under 5s, need to bring a grown up with them

Tuesday 15th October 2-4pm at Measham Church Hall, High Street, Measham; or

Thursday 17th October 2-4pm at Holy Rood Church, Packington

For more details, contact Ceriann Kelly (children's worker) on 07946 376 500



FAMILY SERVICE - Sunday October 20th at 11 am: at St John's Church. There will be refreshments (from 10.45am), a few songs, something to make, some fun and prayer. All within about 45 minutes.

Give it a go.

COFFEEANDCHAT@CHURCH. Tuesday 1st October 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 15th October 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 25th October 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.

TEAM VICAR RECRUITMENT

Donisthorpe parish (which includes Oakthorpe, Acresford, Stretton and much of Moira) is part of the Woodfield Team of 8 churches. The 'empire' stretches from Moira to Swepstone and from Normanton-le-Heath to Norton-juxta-Twycross. Vivien Elphick is the Team Rector with overall responsibility and the Team Vicar is responsible alongside her for the whole Team.

That's why this is an important post and much thought has gone into preparing details of what and who we are seeking. The post is now out to advertisement with a short listing date at the beginning of November. Please join with us in praying for the right people to notice the advert and to apply to come and join us.

AN INVITATION FROM ST LAURENCE CHURCH, MEASHAM

Measham Church is finishing a big stonework restoration project aided by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The building looks better than it has for ages so we're having a celebration on **Sunday 6th October at 4pm.** Do join us. We have Bishop Martyn, Bishop of Leicester coming along to preach and to pray a fresh dedication in the building. And there will be some nibbles afterwards.

TIMES OF REMEMBRANCE

October and November put thoughts of remembering into our minds and hearts. At this time of year in the church we think particularly of those whom we have loved who have died so:



TREE OF REMEMBRANCE

A Tree of Remembrance will be part of our Lights of Love service again this year. It proved very popular last year. It will be in St John's Church at the front of church. The church is open during the day-time and please do feel free to come in. There will be tags to hang on the tree, where, if you wish, you can write the name of your loved one. The tree will be there from 20th October. Even if you can't come to the service, then do use the tree.

LIGHTS OF LOVE - SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE: Saturday 2nd November at 2pm at St John's Church,

This is a simple service of hymns, prayers and readings, during which we can remember those whom we've lost and to whom we still want to say 'We love you'. There's a chance to light a candle and say a prayer for your loved one. Feel free to come along if this would be helpful to you.

If you can't make the service at St. Johns, do come to Measham or Appleby on Saturday 26th October at 2pm at Measham Church or Sunday 27th October at 4pm at Appleby Church respectively.



PEBBLE POOL PRAYERS.

At the front of church throughout the year, there is a prayer corner and we have a pebble pool there – drop a pebble into the pool for those people you care for or have concerned for, say a prayer and then we in turn pray for all those concerns at our Sunday services.

ST. JOHNS CHURCH	WORSHIP/FELLOWSHIP	OCTOBER 2019
Tuesday 1 st	9.30 – 11.00am	Coffee & Chat (in Church)
Sunday 6 th	11.00am	Holy Communion & Healing Prayer
Monday 7 th	9.30am.	Harvest Festival for Donisthorpe School
Tuesday 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd	10.00am	Tuesday Prayer Group (in church)
Wednesday 9 th	10.00am	Holy Communion
Saturday 12 th	7.00pm	Harvest Supper and Quiz
Sunday 13 th	11.00am	Harvest Festival
Sunday 20 th	10.45am	Family Service
Sunday 27 th	11.00am	Holy Communion

EVERYDAY FAITH: SPIRITUAL FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY.



Next meeting will be: Tuesday 1st October at 7.30pm in Measham Church Hall, High Street, Measham. Cost is £1.50 for the session.

These meetings are for anyone at any stage of their Christian journey and we'll be looking at areas of life in today's world.

The September debut meeting went well and we're feeling our way forward. Come along for this month's ponderings.

REVD. STELLA POLASHEK

As many of you will know, Stella has been struggling with health issues for some time now. After much thought and prayer, she has come to the decision that she needs to hang up her dog collar and retire. Stella has done so much in her 30 years in the Appleby Group and wider Woodfield Team and will be much missed – though you will still see her around, just not in action. Such an occasion has to be marked so we will be holding a retirement party for her on the evening of 8th November in Appleby Church Hall. If you would like to give towards a present, then please give your donation to a churchwarden Vivien

