

ST. JOHNS CHURCH DONISTHORPE

# GRAPEVINE

JUNE 2021



**WE MUST CONFESS OUR WRONGDOING, IN ORDER TO BE FORGIVEN.**

Dear All,

I want to begin by asking a question 'What makes your blood boil? What annoys you or makes you disgruntled?'

Apart from the big issues of the world like the state of the planet and the pandemic, I suppose my next statement pales into insignificance. I recently received exceptionally poor service from two companies who usually offer excellent service. I was disappointed, but more than that I was confused, because the service and care was usually so very good. I wrote a short email to both companies explaining what had happened in the hope that the problems could be rectified. Both companies' customer service teams responded quite quickly and the problems were resolved. I was pleased and I am sure I'll carry on using both companies as I did before.

The difference between the companies was that one company began the correspondence with a simple but important sentence, 'We are so sorry about this.' The apology was short and sweet, but it immediately took the sting out of the situation and I believed that they regretted the mistake and would now act.

The other company began their response with a non-apology apology. It tried to sound like an apology, whilst shifting the blame here, there, and everywhere! Non-apology apologies, sometimes called backhanded apologies, *seem* to be increasingly popular in all walks of life. We are all used to hearing them from politicians and celebrities caught in a public scandal, but now I seem to be coming across them from people in all walks of life.

Forgiveness is central to the Christian faith, and so is confession. We must confess, or admit, our wrongdoing, in order to be forgiven. This applies to admitting our wrongdoing before God, but also before each other. How much quicker would difficult situations be improved if we were only brave enough to say (and mean), 'I'm sorry'?

I suspect there are many reasons why we might choose to give a non-apology apology rather than a genuine apology. Sometimes there are complex reasons why accepting culpability or responsibility might have serious ramifications. Sometimes no wrong has been perpetrated, but a carefully chosen set of words might appease an otherwise upset and agitated person. Sometimes there is the lamentable, but natural instinct, to hide weakness and not admit failure. Whatever the reasons are, it seems that these non-apologies rarely help the situation.

If you are tempted to offer a non-apology apology, I encourage you to consider what it might take for you to give a genuine apology, and whether that might be more appropriate. I have spent a lot of time learning how to forgive well, but now I am challenged to spend some time learning how to apologise well. Perhaps you are too?

Rick Tett

**EVERYDAY FAITH: June 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**

Continuing on from last month, Everyday Faith will continue with more of a Bible study looking at the early chapters of the book of Revelation – that last book of the Bible that has flummoxed more people than any other part of the bible. The meeting will be on Zoom so contact Vivien Elphick



on [vivien.elphick@btinternet.com](mailto:vivien.elphick@btinternet.com) for the link. 20 of us came together in May so don't be afraid to join in.

## FOREST CHURCH - is meeting again!



Come along on **Sunday June 6<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. Venue: behind Measham Church, High Street, Measham DE12 7HZ.** We'll be exploring the senses and learning more about so many things. Do bring your own food and drink and something to sit on, as Covid guidance still means we can't offer this to you. Keep an eye on the church website for more details or contact Revd Rick Tett on 01530 610235.

A good time for all ages to enjoy God's beautiful world.

## WHAT WILL CHURCH BE LIKE AFTER JUNE 21<sup>st</sup>?

There is great excitement as Lockdown restrictions ease. June 21<sup>st</sup> is hailed as the date when all restrictions end. However what we don't know yet is what regimes will still have to be adhered to e.g. sanitizing, wearing masks, social distancing, not singing and so forth. That is because we haven't yet had the guidance through so we have to ask you to watch this space and the church website. We're really sorry not to be definite (we would like to know ourselves) but we can't be right now.

### JUNE SERVICES ACROSS THE WOODFIELD TEAM.

**All services begin at 10am**

**June 6<sup>th</sup>:** Appleby (MP); **Donisthorpe**, Packington and Snarestone (all HC)

**June 13<sup>th</sup>:** Normanton-le-Heath (MP); Measham, Norton juxta Twycross and Swepstone (all HC)  
+ (5pm Zoom service)

**June 20<sup>th</sup>:** Swepstone, Appleby and Packington (all HC)

**June 27<sup>th</sup>:** **Donisthorpe** (MP); Normanton-le-Heath and Appleby (HC); Measham (Baptism)  
+ (5pm Zoom service)

## FAREWELL SERVICE TO REVD JOANNE DYER

About 50 of us crammed on to a Zoom screen to bid our farewells to Joanne. She actually left us 7 months ago when seconded to the Whitwick set of parishes but that all happened quickly and not chance to say goodbyes. It was a good time of encouragement to all. Thanks to all who gave for Joanne's leaving presents: she has been given a bench for her new garden, pottery from Moira Furnace Pottery and a picture of all 8 Team churches (with a cheque added to that as well).

By the time you read this, Joanne will have been licensed to her new post in the parishes around Austrey. Although close to us, she is in a completely different diocese. So she moves on from her training post with us to be the incumbent in her own right of another set of churches. We wish her well and she goes with our prayers.

## OAKTHORPE CHARITY

The Oakthorpe Charity meets periodically to look at applications. The trustees administer this fund which was established to promote the education and training of children and young people up to 25 years of age. Applicants must live in Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe, Stretton-en-le-Field and be in financial

need. The trust has helped with school uniform, books for college students, school trips and more. Contact the Trust's secretary, Mrs. Linda Townsend, on 01530 274932, if you wish to apply for a grant.

## GOOD NEWS



**Royal Mail**

Hope you have noticed that we have been able to host the mobile Post Office at St John's. The church has been home for it now since April 14th after Ramscliff Avenue could no longer host it. The Post Office will be open on Wednesdays from 2.10pm to 4.10pm

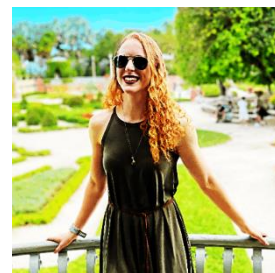
## RELECTION 'Dear God, I'm Sorry'

Carrying on Rick's theme from front page, I found this.

*Dear God,*

***I'm sorry.***

I'm sorry for the times I ignored you. It's been awhile, hasn't it? I'm sorry for only talking to you when I need help. I am sorry I am not more grateful for your gifts. It seems all I can see is what I am lacking. I am sorry for not giving you thanks every day. Sure, some days are hard. Some days I feel like there is no light. But I have a roof over my head, a family that loves me, and food on my table. I'm so blessed, and I am sorry for not realizing that enough.



I'm sorry for the times I took matters into my own hands. I can be impatient at times. People always say that you have a plan, and I believe this. But sometimes I get impatient waiting for you to make the moves. I am sorry for having an expectation of you. I am starting to learn that you may not meet my expectations because you already plan to exceed them. I am sorry I get frustrated with you. It can be difficult for me to see you moving in my life. I am sorry for not trusting your timing more. I am sorry for chasing things that aren't meant for me. I believe that you put things in our lives and take things out of our lives for a reason. I will try to trust your plan more.

God, I'm sorry for letting fear take up space in my mind. You tell me to have faith, and God, I am really trying. But sometimes it can get so hard. The world can be a sad place. I am sorry for letting anxiety keep me from serving you. I am sorry for doubting your existence at times. I am sorry for letting my fear of failure keep me from my purpose. People always talk about "their calling" and I feel like I've missed mine. Is it possible for someone to miss their calling? Have I missed mine? I am sorry if I have.

I am sorry for not being more kind. To myself and to others. I am sorry for judging people and holding grudges. They say you are merciful and forgiving, but what if I can't forgive myself? What if I can't move forward and love myself unconditionally like you do? Teach me. Teach me to see the world through a lens of love and a lens of compassion. Teach me to default to kindness rather than judgement. Plant a seed of empathy in my heart and let it grow to envelope everyone around me.

God, I am sorry for following people before you. I am sorry for comparing my path to that path of others. Social media can make it so hard to follow you first. Sure, the apostles were loyal to Jesus, but they didn't have to follow him while Instagram was pummeling them with the highlight reels of other people's lives. I am sorry I compare myself to others so much. I am sorry I let others rather than you determine my worth. You have given me an abundance of grace, and instead of letting it wash all over my life in cleansing, I have cast it aside and used other people as my measuring stick. I am sorry I have used your people for anything other than support and love.

Most of all God, I am sorry I ever doubted that I was loved. I am sorry that I doubted my purpose here. I am sorry that I failed to see that you have made me in your image. I promise I will do better. I will love



your creation, which includes me. I will default to faith, rather than fear. I will pray more. I will open myself up to your will.

I will likely stumble many times as I try to do better. And I am sorry in advance for the amount of times you will have to help me up again. But I will try.

Love,  
A human who is trying.  
- By **Jennifer Kurack**  
Updated October 22, 2019

### A FAMILIAR FACE WE HAVE NOT SEEN FOR A WHILE

The easing of the restrictions on visiting folk in care homes allowed me the opportunity of being able to catch up with an old friend to many of us, Joan Wallis, a couple of weeks ago.

I brought her up to date with news about St. Johns transformation and how we were 'doing church' during the pandemic. Told her that I made sure people on her 'church magazine round' were still getting their copies

We chatted for nearly an hour. I took her copies of last month's Grapevine and Prayer Diary which she was grateful to receive, especially the prayer diary that she would use every day.

In general she is comfortable and settled but has some difficulties with mobility and balance.



She was especially grateful for our prayers and the telephone calls she gets from some of you. She sends her love and asked to be remembered to all the folk at St. Johns.



**For: WEDDINGS BAPTISMS or FUNERALS**

***Please contact Revd. Vivien Elphick in the first instance***