St John's High Legh Parish Magazine



April / May 2024

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For more details please contact Janet Harrison 07707 028061

Email: janet@abbeyleys.co.uk Social distancing to comply with COVID-19 compliance in place.

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A group of volunteers known as the Friends of Abbeyfield arrange an informal Coffee Morning on the first Tuesday of the month 10.30am onwards. Interested persons and new volunteers are welcome to attend.

Member Society of The Abbeyfield Society, a national organisation providing housing, care and support for older people across the UK www.abbeyfield.com

The Abbeyfield Knutsford Society, 23c Bexton Road WA16 0EE Registered Charity 247343





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Golden Charte

We are an Easter people, and alleluia is our song!



Easter Sunday was our first celebration of Jesus' resurrection but we will continue to think about Jesus' resurrection appearances in the coming weeks, mirroring the experience of Jesus disciples as they waited for the promised Holy Spirit. We will hear the accounts of Jesus' appearances to many people, and readings from Acts will show us how Peter and the other disciples understand what has happened. We call this period of waiting for the Holy Spirit, *Easter season* and it lasts for 50 days until Pentecost (19 May).

But what about after Pentecost? St Augustine of Hippo's phrase, '*We are an Easter people and alleluia is our* *Song*" suggests that there is more to Easter than Easter Sunday, or even than the Easter season. What might it mean for us to be an Easter people?

As we celebrate the resurrection, let us dig deeper beyond a doctrine to respond to Jesus' invitation to live in his risen life. We can contemplate the self-giving love of God and enter into resurrection each day, with a 'top up' to help us on our way at Holy Communion each Sunday, our weekly celebration of the resurrection.

Living in the resurrection means allowing ourselves to be transformed into the person God made us to be, and drawing closer to him in prayer. We see glimpses of how our humanity can be healed and transformed by grace. This resurrection country is one we start to explore now but which we will not fully know this side of death. Living in the resurrection assures us that death is not the end, if we trust in Jesus, his death and resurrection have opened the way to heaven.

The resurrection brings us joy and thankfulness which lead to praise. Joy is less fleeting than happiness and rises up within us as a fruit of the Holy Spirit working in us, whatever our everyday life is throwing at us. Alleluia means 'praise the Lord' so is a fitting expression of our praise, and there will be plenty of alleluias in our Easter season hymns! I wonder what would it look like for us, for you, for me, to be an Easter people working out how to live in the resurrection? How can we cultivate the joy of the resurrection so it becomes a distinctive feature of our life in Christ, shining out to the world and praising God with alleluias?



High Legh Prayers Every Wednesday morning 9-10am in the Church Room

Open to all of faith or no faith



If you have a prayer need feel free to come along or contact the Churchwardens who will ensure you are prayed for.

CONTACTS

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Copy deadline date for the next magazine is Wednesday 8th May 2024 Please send to Stjohnshlparishmag@gmail.com

Late submissions may not be published

Hold the date Thursday 6 June! The 80th anniversary of DDay is on 6th June and

The 80th anniversary of DDay is on 6th June and there will be a village event in the church car park with the beacon lit at 9.15pm.

CANDLE RECYCLING

As St Johns continues to help with the environment, we have now set up a recycling box for candles. This is any candle any colour, including night lights. We are working with The Recycled Candle Company to reduce waste in landfill sites.



Room available to rent

St Johns church room is available to rent for regular meetings, workshops, training, or small functions £12.50 per hour. Includes the use of a kitchen & free car parking. **Contact the church wardens on Nick 07554343133 or Tom 07985600122**

GraveTalk

It's not easy to think about your own funeral. Talking about death, dying and funerals raises big questions that we need to face at some point, but it's hard to talk to family and friends.

The Church of England has been helping people think about these questions for centuries. GraveTalk is a café style meeting organised by St John's, where people can talk about these big questions. The conversation is helped along by GraveTalk conversation cards – 52 questions covering five key areas.

GraveTalk will be held in the church room – so there is a warm welcome & as always tea and cake available.

What happens at a GraveTalk event?

People arriving will be welcomed by Liz, Christine & Stewart who will be running the event— and everyone will be invited to sit at tables with three or four others. The GraveTalk cards will be on the tables, and each group picks a question and uses it to start a conversation. It doesn't matter if you only use one question, or work through all of them! The purpose is to talk and listen.

Light refreshments will be offered throughout the event, which lasts about an hour, or longer if needed.

Dates for the event starts on May 1st, 8th and the 15th at 19.00. Places to be booked with Liz on 07905741969 or sign up in the church room. Thanks Liz, Christine & Stewart.

Who is a funeral for?

Grave Talk is taking place in May (see separate article) and is an opportunity to think about death, dying and funerals. I thought it might be useful to reflect on what I have noticed about the two funerals and memorial service I have taken so far this year.

All three services had music with two having hymns. All had one or more eulogies, a Bible reading, a short sermon and prayers including commending the person to God. But there were differences too.

The first funeral was at a crematorium, with necessarily a short service as there were only 45 minutes to get everyone in the chapel, have the service and leave. The mourners chose to leave the curtain open and walked away from their loved one.

The second funeral was in church and the timing could be more relaxed. The lady who died had left a letter giving the music and hymns she wanted at her funeral. The family honoured her wishes and the hymns were sung and the music listened to. The committal was at the crematorium, and the family chose to have the curtain close during the committal. Their loved one left them. The third was different. The person who had died had prepaid for a direct cremation, despite his family wanting a funeral. They honoured his wishes, but then asked me for a service that would give them space to mourn and celebrate his life.

This is the fourth direct cremation or arrangement for a direct cremation that I am aware of and in three of them there has been distress about the absence of a funeral. One lady said that it is selfish of her mother to want a direct cremation and deprive the family of a funeral. There is a lot of advertising for direct cremations at the moment but none I have seen mention the need for the family to say goodbye or to mourn. If you are considering direct cremation please talk to your family and close friends before committing to it.

Grave Talk will provide a place to talk about such things, but whether or not you come to the sessions, you may like to think about what you want for your funeral and talk about it with your family.

Revd Clare Leal

SERVICES AND ROTAS FOR April and May 2024

Date	07/04/2024	14/04/2024	21/04/2024	28/04/2024
	2nd Sunday of Easter	3rd Sunday of Easter	4th Sunday of Easter	5th Sunday of Easter
Service	Holy Communion	All Age Communion	Holy Communion	0830 Holy Communion
				1000 Café Church
Led by	Rev Trish Cope	Rev Clare Leal	Rev Clare Leal	Rev Clare Leal
				Liz & Nick Whimpanny
Preacher	Liz Whimpanny	Chris Stanisstreet	tbc	Rev Clare Leal (0830 Communion)
Deacon/ chalice	Liz Whimpanny	tbc	tbc	tbc
Bible Readings	Exodus 14 vv 10-end, 15 vv	Zephaniah 3 w 14 - end	Genesis 7 w 1-5, 11-18, 2 w Genesis 22 w 1-18	Genesis 22 w 1-18
	20-21	Psalm 4	6-18, 9 w 8-13	Psalm 22 w 25-end
	Psalm 133	Acts 3 w 12-19	Psalm 23	Acts 8 vv 26-end
	Acts 4 vv 32-35	1 John 3 w 1-7	Acts 4 w 5-12	1 John 4 w 7-end
	1 John 1 v 1 - 2 v 2	Luke 24 vv 36b-48	1 John 3 vv 16-end	John 15 vv 1-8
	John 20 w 19-end		John 10 w 11-18	
Reader	Marilyn Ridler	Stewart Jackson	Chris Stanisstreet	Tom Drury (0830 Communion)
Intercessions	Stewart Jackson	Joanne Royle	Dave Leal	Karen Drury (0830 Communion)
Sides-person	Arthur Wardell	Marilyn Ridler	Leslie Walton	n/a

Date	05/05/2024	09/05/2024	12/05/2024	19/05/2024	26/05/2024
	6th Sunday of Easter	Ascension Day	7th Sunday of Easter	Pentecost	Trinity Sunday
Service	Holy Communion	1900 Holy Communion All Age Communion		Holy Communion	0830 Holy Communion 1000 Café Church
Led by	Rev Clare Leal	Rev Trish Cope	Rev Clare Leal	Rev Clare Leal	Rev Clare Leal
					Stewart Jackson & Chris Stanisstreet
Preacher	Karen Drury	Rev Trish Cope	Rev Clare Leal	Rev Clare Leal	Karen Drury (0830 Communion)
Deacon/ chalice	Karen Drury	tbc	tbc	Chris Stanisstreet	Karen Drury (0830 Communion)
Bible Readings					Isaiah 6 w 1-8
	Isaiah 55 w 1-11	Daniel 7 w 9-14	Ezekiel 36 w 24-28	Ezekiel 37 w 1-14	Psalm 29
	Psalm 98	Psalm 47	Psalm 1	Psalm 104 w 26-36, 37b	Romans 8 w 12-17
	Acts 10 w 44-end	Acts 1 w 1-11	Acts 1 w 15-17, 21-end	Acts 2 w 1-21	John 3 w 1-17
	1 John 5 w 1-6	Ephesians 1 w 15-end	1 John 5 w 9-13	Romans 8 w 22-27	
	John 15 w 9-17	Luke 24 w 44-end	John 17 w 6-19	John 15 w 26-27, 16 w 4b-15	
Reader	Liz Whimpanny	Brian Green	Karen Drury	Tom Drury	Elaine Jones (0830 Communion)
Intercessions	Joanne Royle	Stewart Jackson	Chris Stanisstreet	Liz Whimpanny	Stewart Jackson (0830 Communion)
Sides-person	Brian Green	tbc	Arthur Wardell	Marilyn Ridler	n/a



Afternoon Tea is in the Church Room on Saturday, 13th April, from 2pm until 4pm. The speaker is from the RLNI who are celebrating their

200 year anniversary. Tickets are in very short supply so book early. Contact Elaine on 753111.

WEEKLY TELEPHONE SERVICE

This is a short Compline service for anyone who wishes to join us.

7.00pm on THURSDAY evenings (dial in any time after 6.45pm)

Please check with your landline or mobile phone provider that calls to 03 numbers are free - they usually are. If you would like to join:

- 1 DIAL THIS NUMBER: 0333 0164 757
- 2 You will be asked to enter the <u>CONFERENCE ROOM</u> <u>NUMBER</u> followed by the <u>HASH KEY #</u> <u>358 104 39 #</u>
- 3 You will then be asked to enter the <u>PIN NUMBER</u> followed by the hash key # *Please contact Chris or Stewart for the PIN number*

We can then speak to each other.

Please say the **words in bold** and try to ensure that there is **no back-ground noise**.

Please contact Chris Stanisstreet on **01925 755559** or Stewart Jackson on **07835 249835** for further details, a service booklet and a hymn book.

High Legh Diary for April/May 2024 All meetings in the Church Room (unless otherwise stated)

Stateu)		
Every Monday	2.00 pm – 4.00 pm	We're Hooked
Every Tuesday	9.30 am – 12 noon	Little Acorns
Every Wednesday	9.00 am	Prayers
Tuesday 2nd April	2.30pm	Mother's Union Easter Afternoon Tea
Tuesday 9th April	2.00 pm	Coffee, Create & Chat
Thursday 11th April	7.30 pm	High Legh Community Observatory
Saturday 13th April	2.00 - 4.00 pm	Afternoon Tea at the Church Room with a talk from the RLNI
Wednesday 17th April	12.30 pm	Community Lunch (Please book with Elaine Jones)
Tuesday 7th May	2.30 pm	Mother's Union Caravan Drive
Thursday 9th May	7.30 pm	High Legh Community Observatory
Tuesday 14th May	2.00 pm	Coffee, Create & Chat
Wednesday 15th May	12.30 pm	Community Lunch (Please book with Elaine Jones)

On the first Saturday each month we have a church gardening morning from 10.00 until 12.00. Any help would be appreciated. Tea, coffee and biscuits supplied!

Regular happenings in the Church Room



Little Acorns

Aimed at babies and toddlers we meet every Tuesday morning 9.30-12 noon.

Come and join in the arts and crafts, play and singing activities. We are joined by little ones with their mums, dads, grandparents, great grandparents and carers. We welcome new families to our group.

Plus lots of tea and toast. £2.50 per meeting Contact Liz to ask for more details 07905741969

Coffee, Chat and Create

We are still only a small group, and would love other people to come and join us. We have crocheters, knitters, sewers and those who just come for the chat and add a few pieces to the ongoing jigsaw. It is just a very pleasant afternoon on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, at 2pm in the Church Room

WE'RE HOOKED

We meet every Monday, except Bank Holidays, at 2pm in the Church room, so come and give it a try.

By now you will have seen what we have created for Easter, and hopefully received your little gift on Easter morning. We have welcomed Sylvia to our group, and hopefully other people will join us. It's a fun afternoon each Monday at 2pm, with coffee, tea and cake to enjoy, and only costs £3.00. You don't have to be an expert at crochet, and beginners are always welcome so come and join us.

COMMUNITY LUNCH Every 3rd Wednesday of the month

Hurray! No more mushroom soup to make for six months!! Yes , we are officially declaring that Summer is here, and we are back onto Arthur's delicious ham, accompanied by new potatoes and salad, as well as the usual cakes. Let's hope the weather agrees with us, and decides to declare Summer too! We will be delighted to see you all as usual The more the merrier! It is on the 3rd Wednesday each month, unless otherwise stated. Book in with Arthur on 752481 or Elaine on 753111, or sign up in the Church Room.



On 5th March we enjoyed a game of Bingo which raised £28 for funds.

Our 10 bags of Hope left for Ukraine on 1st of February and we have now filled the last 10 which will be sent off shortly.

The Easter Afternoon Tea is on Tuesday 2nd April at 2.30pm.

Looking forward we'll be having a Caravan Drive on Tuesday 7th May at 2.30pm. Open to anyone to join us £2 tea and biscuits—again fund raising.

On Tuesday 4th June we're hoping to go out for Afternoon Tea.

C. Gibbon





http://www.highlegh-communityobservatory.com/ https://www.facebook.com/groups/highleghlco/

Our Meetings are held at 7.30 on the second Thursday of every month at

St John's Church Room, The Avenue, High Legh, WA16 6ND

Please note that the observatory is open on Friday nights every week if the sky is clear.

- We start at 8 pm or dusk whichever is later.
- All are welcome and admission is free, but donations are appreciated!





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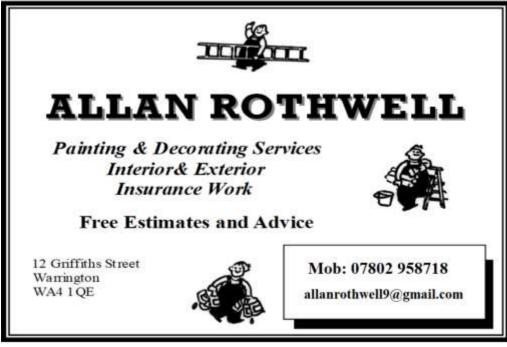
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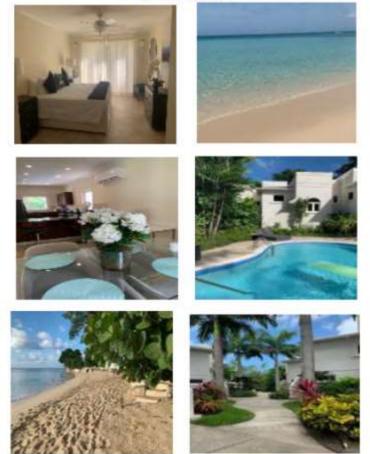
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