St John's High Legh Parish Magazine







DECEMBER 2022

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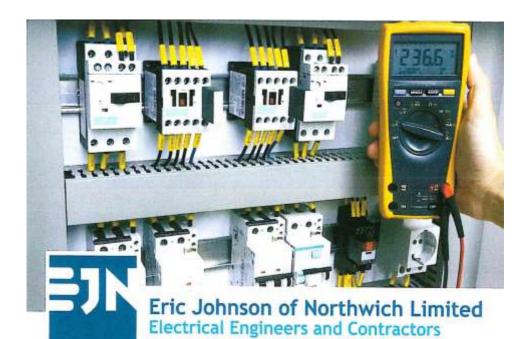
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Email: janet@abbeyleys.co.uk Social distancing to comply with COVID-19 compliance in place.

Janet Harrison 07707 028061

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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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Licensing Service for our New Vicar Monday 5th December, 7pm at St. John's

We are delighted to announce that the Reverend Clare Leal will be licensed as Priest-in-Charge of St. John's by Bishop Mark at a service on **Monday 5th December at 7pm at St. John's.**

You are very welcome to join us for the service. If it is your intention to attend, please let the Church Wardens know by emailing

highleghstjohns@gmail.com

Clare is moving to High Legh from Oxford, where her husband, Dave, will still be working. She will be part-time, working 2.5 days a week, as well as on Sundays.

We hope and pray that Clare and Dave will be very happy here and are sure that you all join us in wishing them a very warm welcome.

BLESSING OF THE CHRISTMAS BANNERS

Since June this year there have been a group of us meeting to sew banners based on the story of Christmas. The banners have been produced following the illustrations on a Christmas card that I received some years ago.

There has been a massive amount of work and love put into these banners by all that have been involved. We hope that you will join us for a

service blessing on December 7th at St John's at 7.00 pm. The service will be led by the Archdeacon Ian Bishop. Hopefully everyone will come along and join in this celebration, this special blessing service. Liz Whimpanny



ADVENT—Are we nearly there yet?

A phrase we all associate with a journey! Whether as adults driving a long way with children of all ages from tiny tots to grumpy teenagers, or when we were those ages ourselves, the phrase 'Are we nearly there yet?' reverberates around the car at least once – usually about five minutes into the journey!

I think our attitude to Advent can be similar. We so look forward to all that Christmas entails that about five minutes into the Advent journey we tend to ask the equivalent of 'Are we nearly there yet?', so eager are we for Christmas to arrive with all its trappings – decorations, trees, mince pies, carol services, presents, etc.

Don't get me wrong, I am one of the biggest celebrators of Christmas. I love all of it, although I am always very conscious that not everyone feels the same and for some Christmas can be a very challenging time in all sorts of ways; perhaps even more so this year for many in our society and in our world. Perhaps this is also a reason why observing the time of Advent is important.

In calendar terms, Christmas comes at the very end of the year – it is the year's last flourish! In the Christian church, Advent marks the beginning of the year. Advent has been observed as far back as the fourth century. It is a season of



expectation, reflection and allows us to prepare spiritually for the coming of Christ at Christmas. In fact, Advent helps us to prepare for two very different comings – the first is Jesus's birth at Bethlehem two thousand years ago and the second is his final coming at the end of time.

Advent takes us on a journey. This is echoed in the Advent wreath. The candles are lit. one for each Sunday in Advent, and the candles mark our journey towards Christmas. In the Church of England the candles demonstrate God's overarching plan for our redemption and remind us of those who prepared for the coming of Christ: 'The Patriarchs' such as Abraham and David, the ancestor in whose city (Bethlehem) that Jesus would be born: 'The Prophets'. giving us an opportunity to reflect on the foretelling or Jesus's birth; John the Baptist who was sent into the world to proclaim Jesus as Saviour; Mary, his mother who carried him and bore him

also had to go on a journey with Joseph. She travelled all the way to Bethlehem on the back of donkey - a challenging journey, made even more so by her being in the advanced stages of pregnancy. There she gave birth in difficult circumstances in a stable and had to lay her baby in a manger. In the Christmas story everyone journeys to meet Jesus; the shepherds hear the angels and leave their sheep to journey to Bethlehem. The wise men from far away, see the sign of the star and journey a long way to meet Jesus

Before Mary could meet Jesus, she also had to go on a journey with Joseph. She travelled all the way to Bethlehem on the back of donkey – a challenging journey, made even more so by her being in the advanced stages of pregnancy.

And so it is for us. Each step on the Advent journey brings us closer to meeting Jesus and prepares us to worship him as our Lord and Saviour until the day that we celebrate Christ's birth on Christmas Day and until the day when he will come again.

We are all on a journey. My prayer this Advent is that, amid all the challenges that face us personally, and in our society and our world today, by journeying through Advent we will all meet Jesus afresh and greet him this Christmas for who he is – our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Some verses from Isaiah 9:

2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

6 For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Karen Drury Reader at St. John's

Advent Reflections

We will be producing some very short reflections for each week of Advent. These will be available on our website at https://www.stjohnshighlegh.org/advent-reflections.html and will also be sent by email each Advent Sunday.

CONTACTS

Vicar

Reader Chris Stanisstreet Mob: 07918 981723

01925 755559

Email: stanbess2003@yahoo.co.uk

Pastoral Worker Stewart Jackson 07835 249835

Wardens Nick Whimpanny 07554 343133

Tom Drury 07985 600122

Verger Elaine Jones 01925 753111

PCC Treasurer Nick Whimpanny 07554 343133

PCC Secretary/

Safeguarding Officer Liz Whimpanny 07905 741969

Magazine Editor Angela Franks

Email: Stjohnshlparishmag@gmail.com

Gift Aid Secretary: Trish Sharrock 07771 373819

Website: www.stjohnshighlegh.org Facebook @stjohnshighlegh

Copy deadline date for the next magazine is **Wednesday 11th January 2023** Please send to Stjohnshlparishmag@gmail.com

Late submissions may not be published



Christmas Tree Festival

🔁 Brilliantly decorated trees!



Fri 2nd & Sat3rd December, 11am – 5pm Sunday 4th December, 12pm – 4pm with Advent Carols at 4.00 pm

We're delighted that our Christmas Tree Festival will return after an absence of 3 years! Come and see the wonderful trees created and decorated by the many different organisations of our community.

Refreshments available including tea, coffee and cake and a soup lunch on the Friday and Saturday.

Free entry—donations welcome

High Legh Prayers

Every Wednesday morning 9-10am in the Church Room Open to all of faith or no faith

come along

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

COMMUNITY LUNCH

Warm, tasty soup, lovely cakes and copious amounts of tea and coffee. Together with lots of friends what more could you wish for?

Our Christmas Lunch will be a week early, on Wednesday 14th December, as we know the week before Christmas can be a bit chaotic!! Come and join us, and help us to celebrate this special time of the year.

In January we will meet on Wednesday 18th January, the usual 3rd Wednesday in the month.

Please book with Elaine 01925 75311 or Arthur 01925 752481.

We wish you all a Peaceful and Joyous Christmas and New Year.

Please feel free to join us at the following services: **St John's this Advent & Christmas**



10am	First Sunday of Advent, Holy Communion
10am	Second Sunday of Advent, Holy Communion
4pm	Advent Carols to end the Christmas Tree Festival
7pm	Dedication of the newly sewn Christmas Banners by the Archdeacon, Ian Bishop
10am	Third Sunday of Advent, Holy Communion
10am	Fourth Sunday of Advent, Holy Communion
4pm	Christingle & Crib Service
6.30pm	Nine Lessons & Carols
10am	Holy Communion
	10am 4pm 7pm 10am 10am 4pm 6.30pm

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

There will be no meeting on the 13th December, due to various Christmas activities.

We will be back as usual on the 10th January, the usual 2nd Tuesday in the month, and look forward to seeing you all. Come and join us for a friendly, chatty afternoon bringing whatever you are making, or adding a few pieces to the Church jigsaw which we hope will be in place by then.

WE'RE HOOKED

We hope you enjoy our Christmas creations at the Christmas Tree Festival. The tree has been made possible by the creation of the frame made by Brian, and we thank him very much for all his hard work. There has been a great deal of fun and laughter making the squares and decorations, and covering the tree. The porch has also stretched our imagination and talents! Hopefully it will provide a warm welcome to the Tree Festival, Who knows what our new creations will be.

Come and join us. We meet very Monday afternoon at 2pm in the Church room.

For more information contact Liz on 07905 741969



Mothers' N

The coffee morning on 15th October was a great success, with thanks to all who supported us and all who contributed and helped. We made a total of £346.20.and have donated £30 each to the Hope Centre and Refuge in Macclesfield who need men's toiletries and £150 each to M.U Overseas and Relief Fund.

The Diocesan project at the present is the "Door of Hope" a charity sending "Bags of Education "to poor and marginalised children in Eastern Europe. The donations from the Baby Changing Marquee at the Cheshire Show have enabled Rhian to fill 10 bags of Educational Materials with specific requirements and members from the branch will be filling further bags.

At the last meeting we looked though Elaine's lovely photo albums of her holidays and were transported abroad in an afternoon!!

We're having a cake stall at the Christmas Farmers Market on Sunday 18th December 10 till 2pm to raise funds.

Tuesday 6th December at 2.30 pm will be our Festive Meeting with Sherry and Mince pies provided by Enid and Rhian.

No meeting in January then we'll start the New Year on Tuesday 7th February at 2.30pm.

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 CONFERENCE ROOM NUMBER followed by the HASH KEY # 358 104 39 #
- You will then be asked to enter the PIN NUMBER 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 background noise.

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

Cleaning Rota

December Ian & Angela
January 2023 Elaine & Pauline
February 2023 Trish & Mary (S)

SERVICES AND ROTAS FOR DECEMBER 2022 and JANUARY 2023

Date	04/12/2022	11/12/2022	18/12/2022	25/12/2022
	2nd Sunday of	3rd Sunday of	4th Sunday of	Christmas Day
	Advent	Advent	Advent	
Service	Holy Communion	Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion	Holy Communion	
Led by	Rev Trish Cope	Rev Clare Leal	Rev Clare Leal	Rev Clare Leal
Bible Readings	Bible Readings Psalm 72 w 1-7, Psalm 146 w 4-	Psalm 146 vv 4-	Psalm 80 vv 1-8,	Psalm 98
	18-19	10	18-20	Hebrews 1 vv 1-4
	Romans 15 w 4-	Romans 15 w 4- James 5 w 7-10 Romans 1 w 1-7 John 1 w 1-14	Romans 1 vv 1-7	John 1 w 1-14
	13	Matthew 11 vv 2- Matthew 1 vv 18-	Matthew 1 vv 18-	
	Matthew 3 vv 1-	11	end	
	12			
Reader				
	Karen Drury	Liz Whimpanny	Mary Cockayne	Tom Drury
Intercessions	Intercessions Mary Cockayne	Stewart Jackson	Liz Whimpanny	Karen Drury
Sides-person Marilyn Ridler	Marilyn Ridler	Leslie Walton	Arthur Wardell	Marilyn Ridler

Date	01/01/2023	08/01/2023	15/01/2023	22/01/2023	29/01/2023
	Naming and	Epiphany	2nd Sunday of	3rd Sunday of	4th Sunday of
	circumcision of		Epiphany	Epiphany	Epiphany
	Jesus				
Service	Holy Communion	Holy Communion All Age Communio Holy Communion 0830 Holy	Holy Communion	0830 Holy	Holy Communion
Led by	Rev Clare Leal	Rev Clare Leal	Rev Clare Leal	Rev Clare Leal	Rev Clare Leal
				Liz & Nick	
				Whimpanny	
Bible Readings Psal	Psalm 8	Psalm 72 w 10-	Psalm 40 vv 1-12 Psalm 27 vv 1, 4-		Psalm 36 vv 5-10
	Galatians 4 w 4-7 15	15	1 Corinthians 1 vv 12	12	1 Corinthians 1 vv
	Luke 2 w 15-21	Ephesians 3 vv 1-		1 Corinthians 1 w 18-end	18-end
		12	John 1 w 29-42	10-18	John 2 vv 1-11
		Matthes 2 vv 1-		Matthew 4 vv 12-	
		12		23	
Reader				n/a	
	Liz Whimpanny	Stewart Jackson	Elaine Jones		Brian Green
Intercessions	Stewart Jackson	Liz Whimpanny	Chris Stanisstreet n/a	n/a	Karen Drury
Sides-person	Leslie Walton	Arthur Wardell	Brian Green	n/a	Arthur Wardell

Karen Licensed as Reader to St. John's

On Saturday 8th October Karen Drury was licensed as Reader to St. John's by Bishop Mark at a service in Chester Cathedral. It was the culmination of several years training which had mostly been undertaken under the restrictions of the pandemic. All training sessions were attended on Zoom, with face to face teaching only taking place twice over the entire course.

A full minibus of congregation members travelled to Chester to support Karen at the service, for which she was very grateful. Especially as the trip was not without challenges! It was the weekend that the M56 was shut westbound, meaning that the

usual 45 minute trip took much longer and, on arrival the group discovered that the cathedral refectory wasn't serving lunch that day! Fortunately, this did nothing to dampen spirits and it was a super service.

Karen would also like to thank Reverend Jane Parry who presented her with her blue Reader scarf during the service. Jane also presided over the service at St. John's the following day when Karen delivered her first sermon as a licensed Reader.

Karen joins Chris Stanistreet, also a Reader and Stewart Jackson, Pastoral Worker, as part of the ministry team at St. John's.



Karen being licensed



Karen & Jane Parry

Licensees with Bishops

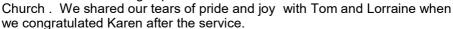


Licencing Service (a view from a Church member)

On Saturday, 8th October sixteen of us from St John's Church attended the Licensing service at Chester Cathedral . We went by mini-bus to support the Licensing of Mrs Karen Drury to become a Reader .

Karen gave her first sermon in St John's Church at the Communion Service on Sunday the 9th October.

The worshippers at St John's share their love, support and congratulations for Karen and wish God's love and blessings upon her future work for the



Thanks be to God for our wonderful day.



Friday, January 27th Ginuary at 7.00 pm Gin tasting evening

Tickets £15.00 including light supper available from



Elaine on 01925 753111 or Nick on 07554 343133



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

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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!

High Legh Diary for December/January 2023 All meetings in the Church Room (unless otherwise stated) **Every Monday** 2.00 pm -We're Hooked 4.00 pm **Every Tuesday** 9.30 am -Little Acorns 12 noon **Every Wednesday** 9.00 am **Prayers** 2nd—4th Christmas Tree Festival See Page December 23 for info. Tuesday 2.30 pm Mother's Union Festive 6th December meeting with sherry & mince pies Wednesday 7.00 pm Blessing of the 7th December Christmas Banners Saturday 2.00 pm-Christmas Sewing afternoon 10th December 4.00 pm Wednesday Community CHRISTMAS Lunch 12.30 pm (Please book with Elaine Jones) 14th December 2.00 pm Tuesday Coffee, Create & Chat 10th January 2023 Thursday 7.30 pm High Legh Community 12th January 2023 Observatory Community Lunch (Please book Wednesday 12.30 pm with Elaine Jones) 18th January 2023 Friday 7.00 pm **Gin Tasting Event** 27th January 2023 **Mothers Union** Tuesday 2.30 pm

7th February 2023

Café Church

September - Do you worry?

Stewart Jackson, our Pastoral Worker led our September Café Church. One simple question, 'Do you worry?', provoked lots of discussion! It seems that many of us are worriers at heart!

Stewart led us in discussions of what kind of worries we could have and what we can try to help us manage those worries better. We also looked at different Bible verses and talked about how our faith and trust in God can help us to feel comforted, even if we have worries.

Here are a few verses that might help you when you feel worried or anxious:

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

Matthew 11:28-30



Be strong, be courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

October – What makes a good leader?

And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all."

Mark 9:35

This month was led by Karen and Tom. Everyone joined in with a discussion thinking about what makes a good leader; what qualities do we look for in a leader and who might we be prepared to follow. As Christians we follow Jesus.

We looked at Bible passages that help us to understand what kind of leader Jesus was and why we follow him

We thought about Jesus as a servant-leader and what that means for us and how we are called to follow his example of serving and helping others. As Café Church fell on the eve of a new leader for our government being appointed, we

prayed using prayers available on the Christians in Parliament website for those who serve in Parliament and in government.

Café Church is usually held on 3rd Sunday of the month in the Church Room. Bacon sandwiches or pastries are served with tea and coffee in a time of fellowship

before we have a general discussion on different topics, usually alongside a couple hymns and a time of prayer. It is very informal and anyone is welcome to come and join us.

The next Café Church will be Sunday 22nd January at 10am in the Church Room.

Services at St. John's - January 2023

Sunday 1 st January	10am	Holy Communion Rev Clare Leal
Sunday 8 th January	10am	All Age Communion Rev Clare Leal
Sunday 15 th January	10am	Holy Communion Rev Clare Leal
Sunday 22 nd January	8.30am	Holy Communion Rev Clare Leal
	10am	Café Church Café Church team
Sunday 29 th January	10am	Holy Communion Rev Clare Leal

St John's Eco Church Project 2022 Our Vision

To care for creation as an integral part of loving our neighbours and following God faithfully.



On August 8th, 2022, St John's Church was awarded the **Bronze Eco Church Certificate** in recognition of its efforts to care for God's earth in the following areas:

Worship and teaching Management of Buildings and Land Community and Global Engagement Lifestyle



Eco Church is an A Rocha UK Project in which numerous churches across denominations have participated. We are delighted with this award and are now actively considering and adopting ways in which we might be more ecofriendly, as we progress towards the silver award.

Ideas we have include creating some wildflower areas in the church car park, creating some bug hotels by drilling holes into thick logs, improving our recycling facilities, reducing the number of single use plastics and promoting book sharing.

We are also promoting the donation of good quality, clean clothes suitable for ages one to sixteen years, for the Wood Street Mission. If anyone can help with the clothes donations, please let us know or bring your donations to church.

Our community involvement has extended to our representation on the village **Climate** and **Environment Working Group**, and we have been invited to be one of the five **Plastic Free Allies** in our village.

We have so much for which we can thank our creator God. You may wish to use this prayer in your personal worship.

Prayer for Creation

Creator God we give thanks for the wonderful gift of creation and your presence in every part of it. As we seek to widen our circle of love, help us to rediscover the value unity and sacredness of all that exists. We seek forgiveness for the ways in which our actions and choices have damaged the earth, affecting the climate, destroying diversity, and impacting on the lives of the poorest of our sisters and brothers. In your love, lead us into solidarity and companionship, inspire our leaders to courageous decisions and grant each of us the wisdom and commitment to act. May we individually and as a church treasure the earth's resources, work to reduce our impact on the climate and be open to a conversion of heart and mind. **Amen**

St John's charitable donations



Our Harvest charity this year was the **Hope Centre Food Bank** in **Partington**. As the cost of living increases many more people will be reliant on support from food banks. We are continuing with our weekly donations of food, toiletries, and cleaning materials.

Additionally, for our Harvest donations we donated seven of the most needed ten items making a total of **seventy donations**, one for each year of our late Queen's reign. We also raised £70 for the Centre, to be used to pay for food vouchers for the people using the food bank. The ongoing support from our congregation has been wonderful.

Jesus came into the world, "not to be served but to serve" (Matthew 20:28) and this is how we too are asked to live out our Christian lives, as lights in the world.

In the lead up to Christmas we are continuing to support the Hope Centre by making donations towards the cost of a family's Christmas dinner hamper, books and toys for children and shopping vouchers. This will be our Christmas gift to the neediest families in Partington. If you would like to donate as an organization or as an individual, please contact a member of the church.

Chris Stanisstreet (Reader)

WI and friends High Legh /Lymm Area

This year's 4 day holiday, organised by Marilyn Riddler, was to Torbay in Devon ,where we stayed at the lovely 4* Headland Hotel. Situated on the headland above Meadfoot Beach and Daddyhole Plain, a cliff path walk into Torquay; the secluded cliff top hotel, with panoramic views, good food and facilities was special.

The daily excursions, especially the Dart River trip and evening Variety Show in Babbacombe, were highlights of our excellent holiday.

Our thanks and appreciation to Marilyn and Pat for their excellent organising skills and contribution to people in the Lymm area.



The High Legh and Lymm WI, their family, friends and anyone interested in the annual trip is eligible. It is hoped that anyone who needs an escorted, fully organised holiday can take advantage of this worthwhile service. Marilyn successfully fulfils this responsibility for our community.







Stuart on 07835 249835



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