



Pray For Schools Fortnight

This begins today 8th May and lasts until Sunday 22nd May. It is a great opportunity to pray for the schools in our local area, the teachers, staff, children and families associated with them. This year's theme is Freedom. Worship@6 on 22nd May will be an hour devoted to realising our freedom in Jesus and praying interactively for the schools in our community. It is great that we have freedom to pray to God our Father with confidence!

Walkies!

We got lost so that you don't have to..... our first walk of the season is on Saturday 28th May. It starts at Bekesbourne and is about 6½ miles long. Friends and relations most welcome. Please contact Corinne Hyde (see Directory) for details, transport needs, etc. The following walk on Saturday 25th June will be shorter and family friendly.

Pentecost Service

There won't be a Worship@6 next Sunday, 15th May as there is a Churches Together united service at St George's Church in Audley Road (just by Folkestone West station) at 6:00pm to celebrate Pentecost.

Listen again!

If you missed a service, or would like to listen again, sermons can be downloaded from our website (see below). Go to the downloads page and select audio.

Christian Aid Week is 15--21st May.

Money collected this year will go to flood victims in Bangladesh. Envelopes will be in the pews from the 15th May and a box will be at the back of the Church on the 22nd for collection. Frances

Songs of Praise

As part of our new Sunday evening worship (Worship@6) we are hoping to have a 'Songs of Praise' style service once every two months. This will be from 6-7pm in Church. Our first one was last month and was a really uplifting time of celebration as we sang God's praises and listened to testimonies.

If you have a favourite song/hymn that you would like included in our worship or if there is a particular worship song or hymn that has helped you on your journey of faith and you would like to share this in a service please let Sue Wise know. She will include it when the time is appropriate and is convenient for you. Sue has put some forms on the table at the back of church which you can use to let her know.

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Get Connected

Welcome to St John's!

We warmly welcome you if you are visiting us today. If you would like to know more about the life of St John's do collect a welcome pack, available at all our services.

At our 10:45 service you can go to our Welcome Desk near the door where someone will be able to give you a welcome pack and answer any questions you may have.

Coffee is available in the Church Hall after All Stars and the 10:45 service. Do come and join us.

Nine Days of Prayer

On Thursday 5th May the Church celebrated Ascension Day which marks Jesus' ascension to heaven and his last appearance to his disciples. This takes place 40 days after his resurrection on Easter Sunday and begins a period of nine days which lead up to Pentecost on Sunday 15th May. During these nine days the disciples waited in Jerusalem for the coming of the Holy Spirit to empower them for the mission they had been given by Jesus - to make disciples of all nations.

This year we have been invited by Bishop Trevor to join Christians across Canterbury Diocese in using the daily prayers in the booklet 'Conversations at the Crossroads'. This is an excellent resource and I would urge everyone to take this opportunity to put time aside to wait on God and hear what he has to say to us during this time (6th to 14th May). Jesus' ascension will be the theme of our service today and is recorded in Luke 24:44-53 and Acts 1:1-11. My prayer is that each one of us will be richly blessed by God during this time.

Steve Bradford

What's on this week.....

Monday 9th May Home Group week	Tuesday 10th May
8:30am Morning Prayer in Church Hall today	
Wednesday 11th May	Thursday 12th May
8:30am Staff Meeting Church Hall	8:30am Morning Prayer Church Hall
10:00am Taylor Toddlers Grace Taylor Hall	9:15am No Open the Book this week
2:00pm Primetime Church Hall	1:15pm Twiglets (Toddler Group) Church Hall
4:00pm Shooting Stars Church Hall	7:45pm Choir & Musicians Practice
6:45pm Alpha Course Church Hall	
Friday 13th May	Saturday 14th May
5:30pm Brownies Church Hall	
1:00pm All Stars Team Meeting	
Sunday 15th May - Morning	Sunday 15th May - Evening
9:15am Holy Communion Grace Taylor Hall	6:00pm Churches Together Pentecost Service at St George's Church
9:15 All Stars All Age Service Church Hall	7:15pm No Sunday Nighters today
10:45am Morning Worship in Church	

Spotlight on... our Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Successes of 2015 and priorities for the future

More than 50 of us met in the Church Hall on Saturday 30 April to look back over the events in our church life in 2015 – and at how we will build on them in the next year or so.

Our financial position is healthy and our clubs are well supported. The



Easter Family Fun Day brought us lots of visitors from around and beyond the parish, which was expanded by 12,000

people during the year when boundaries were re-drawn. Looking ahead, we agreed our priorities are:

- Growing as disciples and making new ones
- Children and young people
- Looking after each other.

Primetime – the future

Last week it was announced that the church has been thinking about how best to continue supporting Primetime after my contract ends at the end of August, since the PCC have decided to no longer have a paid Primetime worker. The Primetime members have been consulted and we will continue to consult them.

Primetime is a strong and stable part of our church family after all the hard work put in by Robert and Frances over the years and, hopefully, continued by me in the last two. We want this to continue and so it is proposed that Primetime would carry on, led by volunteers.

We would be looking at encouraging small groups of about three members of the congregation to take it in turns to come along in term time and put on Primetime's weekly activity and make the tea and coffee. Is this something you could commit to once a month? What a great way to be involved with the older folk of our community and see Primetime continue to be a strong and vibrant part of us. Claire Coleman