

Worship@6

An opportunity to meet together, sing and pray for all that we do as we try to reach out to our community and make Jesus known.

Combined Services

To avoid confusion over service times the PCC has decided to hold combined services at 10:45 rather than 10:30. This is for a trial period of three months and we would welcome any feedback during this time. This will begin with our Mothering Sunday service on Sunday 26th March.

Rainbow Centre Count Your Blessings Challenge

The Rainbow Centre is running their Lent Challenge again this year. The challenge will commence on Wednesday 1st March and continue to the end of March. This is an excellent exercise in counting your blessings whilst raising funds for the Rainbow Centre. If you are interested in taking part please take a leaflet from the table at the back of church or see me. At the end of the month you can place your money or cheque in an envelope with 'Lent Challenge' on the outside and give it to me and I will take it to the Rainbow Centre. Phoebe Moffatt

The Women's World Day of Prayer

Our theme this year is "Am I being unfair to you?" from the Philippines. Services on 3rd March at Our Lady, Help of Christians at 10.30 for coffee and 11am service; 2.30 at All Souls, Cheriton, and 8:00pm at Sandgate Road Methodist Church. All Welcome. Frances Morgan

Active Kids Vouchers

If you shop at Sainsbury's please accept the school tokens as we are collecting them again for the Primary Academy and Mundella schools. There will be collection boxes at each service venue. Thank you.

PCC Elections

If you would like to stand for election to the Parochial Church Council and/or Deanery Synod please speak to the Vicar or one of the Church Wardens. The elections will take place at the Annual Church Meeting on Saturday 1st April. To stand for election you must be on the Electoral Roll of St John's Parish.

If you have not already received a copy of the green Get Connected Extra about the APCM and the revision of the Electoral Roll please pick up a copy from the table at each service venue. Application forms to go on the Roll are also available on the tables.

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Sunday 26th February 2017
Sunday next before Lent

Get Connected

Welcome to St John's!

We warmly welcome you if you are visiting us today. Please make yourselves known to us and 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 10:45am 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.

Refreshments are available in the Church Hall after the All Stars and 10:45am services. Do join us for coffee and a chat.

Ash Wednesday

On Wednesday evening we are holding a service to mark the beginning of Lent. During this service, I will use ashes from last year's palm crosses mixed with olive oil to mark a cross on each person's forehead as a sign of repentance.

Ash Wednesday is marked 46 days before Easter Sunday, which is on 16 April this year, to imitate the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert. Although Lent lasts for six weeks, Sundays are not included as they are considered a day for worship and rest.

It marks the first day of fasting, repentance, prayer and self-control. Luxury or rich foods are often avoided by those observing Lent. Abstention from personal "bad habits" such as using Facebook or eating too much sugar is also commonly practised. Have you thought about what you might give up?

I pray that Lent 2017 will be a time of growth for all of us as disciples of Jesus.

God bless, Steve

What's on this week.....

Monday 27th February	Tuesday 28th February
8:30am Morning Prayer, Church Hall	
Wednesday 1st March	Thursday 2nd March
8:30am Morning Prayer	9:15am Open the Book
9:00am Staff Meeting, Church Hall	1:15pm Twiglets (Toddler Group), Church Hall
10:00am Taylor Toddlers, Grace Taylor Hall	7:00pm On Fizz (Youth Group), Grace Taylor Hall
2:00pm Primetime	7:45pm Choir & Musicians Practice
3:30pm Shooting Stars, Church Hall	
Friday 3rd March	Saturday 4th March
1:00pm All Stars Team Meeting	Church Walk from Deal
5:30pm Brownies	
7:15 Rangers	
Sunday 5th March - Morning	Sunday 5th March - Evening
9:15am Morning Worship, Grace Taylor Hall	6:00pm Songs of Praise, in Church
9:15 All Stars - Worship for All Ages, Church Hall	7:15pm Sunday Nighters, Church Hall
10:45am Morning Worship in Church	

Winter shelter guests and volunteers meet with Shepway MP

Shepway MP Damian Collins came to St John's on Friday night to meet the Winter Shelter guests, staff and some of our volunteers.

They spent about an hour and a half discussing the difficulties our guests have in accessing help from council and government services and the stark hardship facing them when this year's three-month shelter ends next week.

Among the issues raised was the number of empty publicly-owned or rented buildings in Folkestone that might perhaps be used as a hostel.



Mr Collins suggested bringing key Rainbow Centre staff, the councils (and anyone else who might need to attend) to a meeting in a week's time to work up a plan to improve the situation locally.

He also said he would follow up what had happened to this winter's grant to Shepway, issued in December to the council, specifically to address the issues facing homeless people in this area.

Getting to Grips with the Bible - Wednesday 8th March - 5th April

Don't forget to sign up on the sheet at each service if you would like to be included on this course exploring the 27 books of the New Testament. The sessions will begin at 7:30pm and conclude promptly at 9:30pm. The venue will be St John's Church. Alternatively, email Steve at stevejbradford@btinternet.com or phone him on 01303 211037. The 5 sessions are as follows: Week 1 - The Four Gospels
Week 2 - Acts of the Apostles Week 3 - The Letters of Paul
Week 4 - Letters by other authors Week 5 - Revelation



"Songs of Praise" Sunday 5th March 6:00pm at St John's

- Favourite hymns & worship songs
- Music for quiet reflection
- Readings from the Psalms
- Testimonies

Walk on Saturday 4th March from Deal

For information about the next walk please contact Corinne Hyde. Email and telephone details in Church Directory. Friends and relations welcome.