

Christmas Day

All Age Christmas Day Service in Church at **10:00am** followed by a short Communion Service.

Stamps Wanted

At this time of the year when we get more post, would you please save the stamps for the Leprosy Mission. As they are now self-adhesive and cannot be soaked off they have to be cut (not torn please) from the envelope with a border of 2 - 5 millimetres all the way round. Any gaps in the border or damage to the stamp will mean it cannot be used. Please put the stamps in the box on the table by the font. I will sort them and send them off. The Leprosy Mission raises tens of thousands of pounds from stamps and collectibles from people like you. Thank you. Richard Secker

Twiglets - New Helpers Needed

New volunteers are very much needed in order for Twiglets to continue as a regular outreach and support for young families in our community. If you are interested please contact Jenny Hubbard (see Directory) and she will explain what is required. If there are sufficient volunteers a rota can be made so that not everyone need come each week.

Alpha Course 24th April 2018 - 26th June 2018 at 6:45pm

Do you know anyone who is curious to discover the basics of the Christian faith? Do you want to refresh your understanding of the essentials of your faith?

Alpha is an engaging series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith. Alpha is for anyone who is interested to learn more. The talks are designed to encourage conversation and think about Christianity in a friendly, open and informal environment. No question is out of bounds and you are free to discuss as much or as little as you wish.

Alpha is a free 10 week course. Each evening includes food, a short talk and a small group discussion where you can share your thoughts.

This is an exciting opportunity to pray about. Please invite any friends, family, work colleagues and neighbours who might be interested to discover the Christian faith.

Alpha invitations will be available soon. Please see me for further details (revjop@virginmedia.com). Jo Purle

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Sunday 17th December 2017
3rd Sunday of Advent

Get Connected

Welcome to St John's!

If you are new we hope you enjoy the service. Do collect a welcome pack which contains information about all that goes on at St John's. At the 10:45am service you can go to the welcome desk near the door where someone will be available to answer any questions you may have.

Please also introduce yourself to a member of the team as you leave the church.

Happy Christmas

Firstly Janice and I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy, joyful and peaceful 2018.

This year as Christmas Day falls on a Monday we have made some changes to our usual service pattern over the Christmas weekend.

On Christmas Eve (Sunday 24th) there will be no All Stars service or 10:45am at St John's. There will be a 9:15am Communion Service at Grace Taylor Hall; a 4:00pm Christingle service for all the family at St John's; and Midnight Communion at 11:30pm at St John's.

On Christmas Day (Monday 25th) a Family Service will take place at 10:00am at St John's which will be followed by a short service of Communion at 10:50am for those who wish to stay on. There will be no service at Grace Taylor Hall.

Finally please return your completed Vision Questionnaires by 24th December.

Thank you, Steve

What's on this week.....

Monday 18th December	Tuesday 19th December
8:30am Morning Prayer, Church Hall	
Wednesday 20th December	Thursday 21st December
8:30am <i>No Morning Prayer</i>	9:15am Open the Book (Term Time)
9:00am <i>No Staff Meeting</i> , Church Hall	1:15pm Twiglets (Toddler Group), Church Hall - Christmas break
10:00am Taylor Toddlers, Grace Taylor Hall- Christmas break	7:00pm On Fizz (Youth Group), Grace Taylor Hall - Christmas break
2:00pm Primetime - Christmas break	7:45pm Choir & Musicians' Practice - Christmas break
Friday 22nd December	Saturday 23rd December
5:00pm Brownies - Christmas break	
6:30pm Winter Shelter	
7:15 Guides - Christmas break	
7:15pm Rangers - Christmas break	
Sunday 24th December - Morning	Sunday 24th December - Evening
9:15am Holy Communion, Grace Taylor Hall	11:30pm Midnight Communion, Church
4:00pm Christingle Service, Church	

Youngsters enjoy festive fun at our super party



Twenty children had oodles of fun and games, including a newspaper "snowball" fight, a Christmas dinner race, a treasure hunt, the Nativity story, carol singing and a magnificent buffet tea at our lively Christmas party on Sunday afternoon. It began our celebrations of the greatest gift of all in fine style. Our Christingle is on Christmas Eve at 4pm. Do come!

Synopsis of 27th November PCC Meeting

The full Minutes will be agreed at the meeting due to be held on January, 21st, 2018.

- Budget agreed for 2018
- Parish Share allocation for 2018
- Christmas Collections to be donated to Rainbow Centre and the Diocesan Advent Justice Appeal - supporting work among asylum seekers and refugees. This will apply to the Carol Service, Christingle, Midnight Communion and Christmas Day Service.
- Availability of basic Safeguarding training online
- PCC vacancies - there are currently three. If interested please speak to the vicar.
- Progress with New Vision for St John's
- Importance of collective Leadership from the PCC

The full agreed minutes will be available after the meeting on 21st January, 2018.