
THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

News from Whittle & Clayton Brook

PARISH GAZETTE

Please accept this
FREE copy
donations welcome
**MARCH
2025**

Speak out, Reach out, Gather in for Christ

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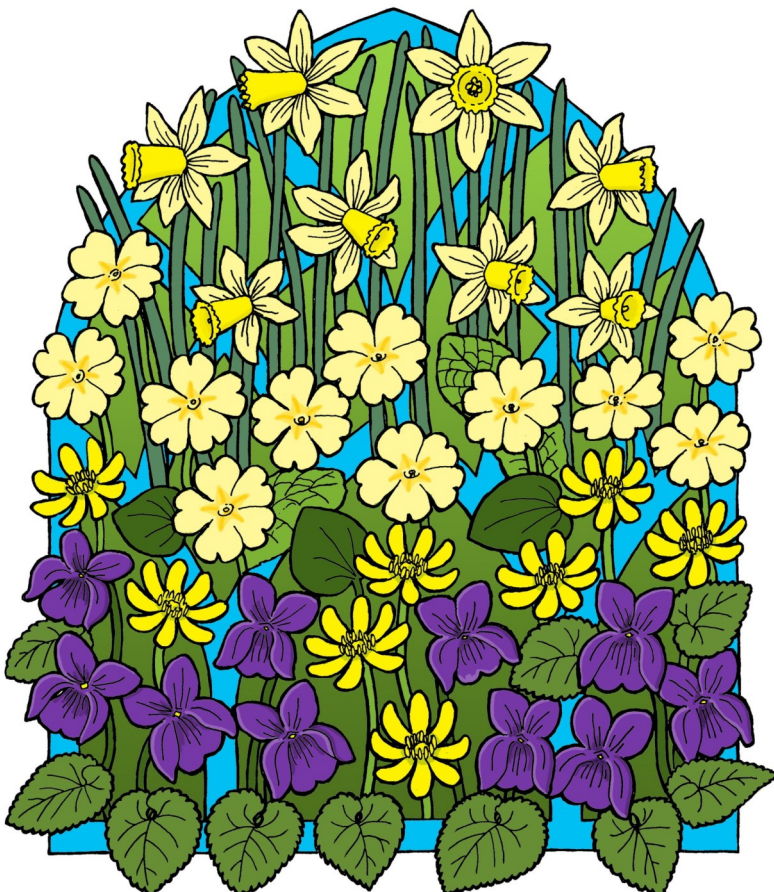
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The flowers are blooming, the time of birdsong has come.
Song of Songs 2:12



Dear Friends

One could get quite depressed! We have an American president who, in less than a month, has upended the whole world order. We had a glimmer of hope of a deal that would bring peace to Ukraine, but for now that has blown up. We have the nations of Europe not knowing quite what to do. And we imagine a Russian president rubbing his hands in glee. Meanwhile, there is terrible fighting and huge numbers of deaths in Congo, Sudan, Ethiopia and other places, conflicts not even registering in our news outlets. And, much smaller in scale of course, we have our own local difficulties, not knowing quite how to address some of our church issues around St John's building and our finances.

In addition, many (most? all?) of you will have personal struggles and imponderables. Meeting people skiing last week I was struck again by the fact that you only have to scratch a little below the surface to discover that so many people, including those who are clever, successful and well-off, have struggles and tragedies. I met quite a number in just that short time.

This is why one of my favourite prayers is that of King Jehoshaphat in 2 Chronicles chapter 20. An army of overwhelming superiority is about to invade. Judah doesn't stand a chance. And this is his prayer:

'O our God, we do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.'

It's a wonderful prayer, and one I pray often. I encourage you to pray likewise. Time and time again the reality is that we don't know what to do. We have limited knowledge and limited options. Which is the right course to take? We don't know. So keep praying, O our God, we do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.

God's response to this prayer is equally wonderful (and it's worth reading the whole chapter): *Then the spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel son of Zechariah, who said, 'Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the Lord to you: "Do not fear or be dismayed at this great multitude; for the battle is not yours but God's. This battle is not for you to fight; take your position, stand still, and see the victory of the Lord on your behalf." Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, and the Lord will be with you.'* (from 2 Chronicles chapter 20)

We can't simply map their experience on to ours, but there is plenty from the rest of Scripture, OT and NT, for us to say, for ourselves, 'Do not fear; the battle is the Lord's; the Lord will be with us.'

And now I need truly to believe what I have written! Let's all lift our eyes to the Lord, and pray that he will fight our battles, that we will not fear, that he will be with us.

Your fellow-soldier in the battle

- Philip

2025 – time for a new Church Electoral Roll

This is the year when EVERYONE gets taken off the Electoral Roll – and needs to make a definite decision to come back on again.

It happens in the Church of England every six years. Whereas for five years, the Electoral Roll is revised annually by our Electoral Roll Officer, in this sixth year, the roll is dissolved, and we must all re-apply and re-commit ourselves.

That's the quick way of explaining it. If you want a detailed and clear legal break down of how exactly it works, you can find it at

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/legal-resources/church-representation-rules>

If you manage to wade through all the details of the process, and understand them, it will leave you with admiration for the person in your church who has been brave enough to become the Electoral Roll Officer!

Alison Wynne is our new Electoral Roll Officer. You can fill in your form either on line or on paper. - See Alison.

Warm Welcome at Clayton Brook

For refreshments:

Tea, Coffee, Soup (sometimes baked potatoes) and Cake

Every Monday 11 - 1pm

(sadly we're not open on Bank Holidays)

Donations welcome

Everyone is welcome, children and babies too.

Contact Gill Wright

Hundreds of churches are part of networks offering 'warm spaces' to people

This past winter the Church of England has provided warm spaces for people struggling to pay energy bills. The C of E has been offering not just a refuge from the cold, but in many cases, food, activities and a chance to make friends and be part of a community.

A total of 485 Church of England churches so far have signed up to a [Warm Welcome Spaces](#) campaign – a UK wide network of more than 5,000 venues across the country including libraries and churches – offering a warm place for anybody in the community.

Nearly 400 Church of England churches are also part of the [Places of Welcome](#) network, coordinated by Church Urban Fund, which encourages community groups to provide their neighbourhoods with venues to meet every week all year round.

As one volunteer in the scheme explained: "The cold is less of an issue for many of the people who attend – they are more concerned about isolation and the need for company and conversation. We also have some limited emergency funding to buy food parcels for people who are in need."

Clayton Brook Church holds a Warm Welcome on Mondays. Everyone welcome.

(see page 13)

The Suffering Church - From David Barlow

Where Following Jesus Costs the Most Open Doors World Watch List 2025

Please get a copy of the recently published Open Doors World Watch List (available from www.opendoorsuk.org) and learn more about the challenges so many Christians face on a daily basis. The ten countries where being a Christian is most dangerous, challenging and difficult, indeed life threatening, remain the same as in 2024, although their order of suffering has changed a little, with Yemen and Sudan moving up, not a promotion they would have wanted.

Sadly North Korea remains the most dangerous place on earth in which to be a Christian. If your Christian faith is discovered by the authorities you face execution or enslavement in a horrendous labour camp, where many die. And this is a country where children are encouraged to denounce their parents! In last months gazette we read about Joo Min who risks her life every day, showing this love of Jesus on a daily basis but having to keep her faith secret, and gaining support from Christian radio ministry. **Joo Min asks for our prayers, for protection and continuing courage, so that she can be salt and light in a land overshadowed by darkness.**

Remarkable, under the most difficult of circumstances the Church of Christ continues to grow in there. **Please pray for protection fort he estimated 400,000 secret Christians in North Korea and ask God to continually refresh and protect His people in the country.**

Similarly in Somalia following Jesus is a matter of life and death. Al Shabaab, a violent Islamic militant group, remains at war with the government and controls large areas of the country. They are committed to eradicating Christianity from the country. if someone is discovered to be a Christian, particularly for those who have converted from Islam, they face a real risk of murder, not just from Islamic militants but also from within their communities and even their families. Here is a prayer written by Somali believers. ***“Lord Jesus, thank you for revealing the truth of the gospel to new believers and may they hold fast to Your promises even when life is very difficult. Protect all who courageously choose to follow You. Break down the walls of opposition so that Somalia becomes a place where Your name can be proclaimed without fear, for with You nothing is impossible. Amen.”***

Yemen has moved upto third in the list And continues to be torn apart by civil war, sponsored by surrounding Arab nations. Life is therefore very hard for the majority of people but harder still for Christians. The country is now ruled by three different powers, none sympathetic to Jesus’ followers. The church in Yemen is living in very harsh conditions but is still growing nevertheless. Hallelujah. A prayer for our sisters and brothers in Yemen. ***“Lord God, thank you for our sisters and brothers in Yemen, guide them by Your Holy Spirit so that they will have opportunities and courage to share the Gospel. Strengthen them to spread the church’s message of hope and light across the country and use Your church to provide vital practical support as well as spiritual care. Amen”***

Libya continues to be a country with little or no political stability with much of the country existing in a state of perpetual anarchy. Yet a small number of Libyans have encountered Jesus and chosen to follow Him, even though it could cost them everything, including their lives. Christianity can seem to be impossible in Libya, but God is their and our God of the impossible. ***“Lord God, lift up our sisters and brothers in Libya. Thank You for encountering them, loving them despite all the obstacles. Please bring peace and stability to the nation and enable more Libyans to encounter You Son and choose to follow Him. Amen.”***

Sudan was on a path to religious and political freedom but a coup and devastating war has dashed these hopes. Again, the past year has seen violence against Christians worsen, and more believers put at risk. Yet Christians in Sudan remain committed to continue serving and reaching all those who don’t know Jesus and taking the Good News to their Muslim neighbours. ***“Lord Jesus, You are the Prince of Peace, and we ask You to bring peace to this conflict torn country. May the nation be led with justice and equality. Thank You for the selfless devotion of our Sudanese brothers and sisters shown in their service and love for their neighbours. Please make them effective witnesses to Your love and bring many new believers to Your throne. Amen.”***

Eritrea remains an incredibly dangerous place to follow Jesus, with 2024 seeing another mass arrest of Christians. Only three recognised denominations, Catholic, Orthodox and Lutheran are recognised by the government and converting from Islam or belonging to an Evangelical church is extremely dangerous. With constant surveillance, no wonder Eritrea is called the North Korea of Africa. ***“Father God, thank you that no authoritarian regime can stand in the way of Your love. Please comfort all Your people and particularly strengthen and encourage all those held in prison for loving Your Son. Equip the local church as they support persecuted Christians today. Amen.”***

Again in 2024, more Christians were murdered in Nigeria for their faith in Jesus than anywhere else in the world. Violence against Christians is escalating, now being recognised by governments in Europe and the USA, although little has yet been done. Many believers have been forced from their homes and have to live in Internal Displacement camps for protection. Sadly, the government seems incapable of protecting their own people. But many pastors in Nigeria remain strong in their faith in Jesus and continue to minister to their flock. ***“Loving God, help me to pray for members of our churches to be strengthened in their faith so that the work of Christ can continue here on earth and not to be afraid. Father strengthen the faith of Your shepherds, protect them and their families and encourage us to continually hold on to Your promises today. Amen.”***

Christians in Pakistan feel increasingly trapped between Islamic militants and a government that appeases them. Not surprisingly Christians are very vulnerable, especially women and girls, who are at risk from kidnapping and forced marriage to Muslim men, a threat that continues to grow. In addition, the country’s notorious anti-blasphemy laws continue to be abused and used to target Christians, often for unrelated disputes. ***“Heavenly Father please watch over the 600,000 or so Christian women in Pakistan, who have to work in poor conditions to keep their families alive. Keep their eyes fixed on You and show them Your loving Kindness. Protect and encourage all Your children in Pakistan. Amen.”***

As we read in the media **Iran continues to be ruled** by an increasingly intolerant Islamic regime, which restricts the rights of its own citizens, and is particularly harsh with Christians. Christians who gather in house churches are especially at risk of being monitored, harassed, arrested and prosecuted for “crimes against national security”. And yet again, thankfully, many remain committed to witness for Jesus and remarkably His church continues to grow. ***“Heavenly Father please bring more workers to the field as many are thirsty for the truth of Your Gospel. Please continue protecting all our sisters and brothers who are serving inside and outside the church as they face rejection and persecution. May they continue fearlessly to serve You Lord. Amen.”***

It perhaps illustrates just how difficult things are in the nine countries above when **Afghanistan is at** number 10 in the list. Afghan Christians, the majority from Muslim backgrounds, remain in grave danger and there are instances when converts have been killed by their family. Many have fled or been forced underground, following the takeover by the Taliban. So being a Christian in Afghanistan remains very, very risky, which means many have to practice their faith in absolute secrecy. ***“Heavenly Father, thank You for the courageous faith of many believers who remain in Afghanistan despite the danger Please continue to make Your name known to Afghans even in the face of persecution and continue to inspire new believers by Your presence. Amen.”***

4th March – Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Day

Ever wonder why we eat pancakes just before Lent? The tradition dates back to Anglo-Saxon times, when Christians spent Lent in repentance and severe fasting.

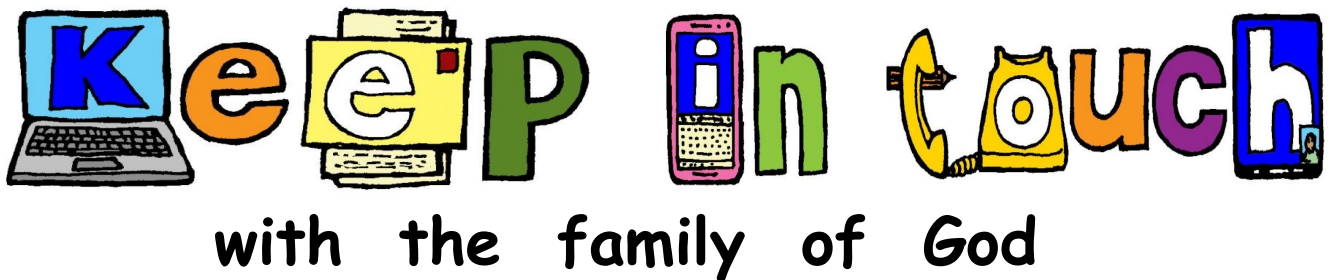
So on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the church bell would summon them to confession, where they would be 'shriven', or absolved from their sins, which gives us *Shrove* Tuesday. At home, they would then eat up their last eggs and fat, and making a pancake was the easiest way to do this. For the next 47 days, they pretty well starved themselves.



Pancakes feature in cookery books as far back as 1439, and today's pancake races are in remembrance of a panicked woman back in 1445 in Olney, Buckinghamshire. She was making pancakes when she heard the shiving bell calling her to confession. Afraid she'd be late, she ran to the church in a panic, still in her apron, and still holding the pan.

Flipping pancakes is also centuries old. A poem from Pasquil's Palin in 1619 runs: "And every man and maide doe take their turne, And tosse their Pancakes up for feare they burne."

Shrove Tuesday is always 47 days before Easter Sunday and falls between 3rd February and 9th March.



5th March – Ash Wednesday, a good time to admit you are sorry

Have you done something which haunts you? Which makes you feel restless and defensive, every time you think of it? Why not deal with it this month, and put it behind you? Whatever your mistake has been, consider what the Bible has to say to you:

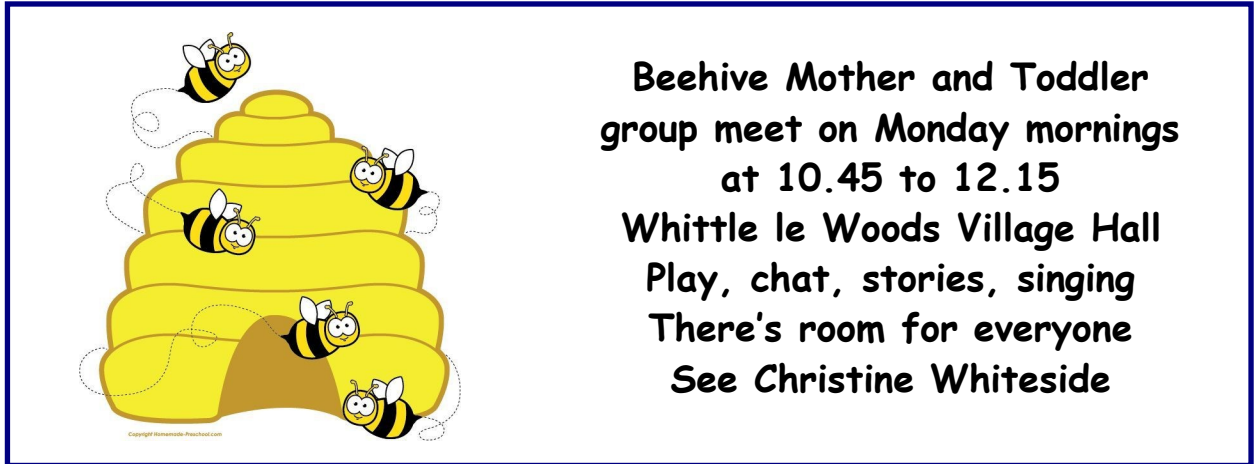
'I have not come to call the virtuous but sinners to repentance' (said Jesus). (Luke 5.32)

'Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55.7)

'Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.' (Joel 2:12-13)

God is inviting you to come to Him this Ash Wednesday. What a wonderful offer! Make the most of it and remember how the prodigal son was welcomed back by his compassionate father.





**Beehive Mother and Toddler
group meet on Monday mornings
at 10.45 to 12.15
Whittle le Woods Village Hall
Play, chat, stories, singing
There's room for everyone
See Christine Whiteside**

Bearing fruit takes time

The nine fruits of the Spirit are Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control. We don't strive for the fruits of the Spirit, rather we plant ourselves in good soil, allow ourselves to be fed by the Holy Spirit, keep taking in nourishment, turn to face the light of Christ and these fruits will develop and grow in our lives.

Can you tell whether a tree is an apple tree or a pear tree? Not easily when they are in blossom, but very easily when they bear fruit. Bearing fruit takes time and a lot of planting, preparation, nurture and growth. March is the time of year when gardeners begin to plant seeds ready for summer, but patience is needed – the seeds will take a while to germinate, and the gardener needs to write the names of seeds on labels and not forget which are fruit, flowers and vegetables. The seeds need to be in the dark, or the light, or the warmth or the cool, depending at what stage of life they are at.

So too, is God with us. God writes our names on His heart; God knows what fruit we can bring forth. God nurtures us and gives us light to grow. But first, we need to be planted and that can be scary. Maybe you are feeling in a cold dark place this March, maybe it feels as if you've been buried, maybe you've got a weight above you and you can't see the way out. Just think that maybe you've been buried because you've been planted.

With patience there will be warmth and light, be like a seed, trust God, and begin to grow out of the darkness towards God's marvellous light. We won't see fruit immediately; we have to be nourished and mature and ripen. Patience will be given to us, fruit of the seed of the Holy Spirit.



Firstly, John and Andrew were simply getting on with daily life when their teacher, John the Baptist, introduced them to Jesus. They hadn't been out looking for Him - but when they met Him, they were deeply affected. Andrew excitedly reported: "We have found the Messiah" (John 1:41).

His statement is true, but the more you read of the story, the more you'll realize that it was Jesus who found them. He is after YOU, too! If you encounter God, it is no accident that your paths have crossed.

- Revd Dr Roger Roberts,

Bill Yates has sent in this account of St John's church long ago.....

Extracts from: **The story and history of St John's Church Whittle le Woods**

By J N Banister, printed in Chorley Guardian in December 1960

Whittle le Woods has no doubt a long and absorbing history. Its stone quarries, which are a familiar aspect of the place, are stated to have been worked by the Romans. About the middle of last century a great hoard of Roman coins was discovered beneath some rock above the canal bank.

The present church stands on the site of an older fabric, which was built in 1830, partly at the cost of the church commissioners. The parish contributed £500. There is an inscription on the foundation stone of the first church which reads: "On the 3rd day of March in the year of our Lord 1829, in the 10th year of the reign of George IV, was laid the foundation stone of the Chapel of St John the Evangelist in Whittle le Woods in the Parish of Leyland.

The foundation of the present church was laid in 1880 and opened for public worship on Whit Tuesday 1882. The church was consecrated by the Bishop of Manchester on May 30th 1882. The cost of erection, exclusive of the cost of the site, endowment, organ etc was £7500. It had seating for just over 600. There is a brass which reads: This corner stone was laid by Colonel Crosse of Shaw Hill, July 31st 1880.

In 1883 a handsome pulpit was presented to the church. This is in Yorkshire stone. It is octagonal in form and the upper portion is richly carved. The subjects chosen for the centre is the cross and the crown of thorns. The remaining panels are treated alternately with the passionflower, vine, etc. The pulpit is approached from the chancel by three steps.

In 1885 a beautiful stained glass window was unveiled which was the gift of Colonel Crosse of Shaw Hill and his brother Mr. T.R. Crosse. The subject represents the Good Shepherd and Christ blessing the little children.

In 1892 Colonel Crosse expressed a wish to fill in with stained glass, the centre window at the east end of the church. They represent the Crucifixion and Resurrection. In the chancel there are three stained glass windows. One to the memory of Edith Cunliffe who died on October 7th 1885. The other is to the Rev James T, Flower, who was vicar of the parish from 1869-82. There is also a brass tablet on the south wall of the chancel to his memory, placed there in 1893.

In this year it was decided to erect the tower. The total amounted to £1,600.

The dedication service was held in the ringing chamber, and at 3 o'clock the choir ascended the tower. Then the choir and clergy went to the top and sang the hymn: "We love the place O God" An estimate for a large bell was received, the amount being £55/17/0. In 1895 Mr & Mrs Jacques presented the clock in the tower.

The brass eagle lectern is dedicated to the glory of God and is in remembrance of Thomas Richard Crosse of Shaw Hill. This remarkably handsome work by Messrs Jones & Willis was a gift from his brothers and sisters.

The west window was unveiled and dedicated on January 21st 1899 in memory of Colonel Crosse. The subject is The Lord in Glory as described in Isaiah VI and Revelation IV. The central figure is the Lord Jesus, seated and crowned with his right hand uplifted in blessing. The inscription on the window: In memory of Thomas Richard Crosse of Shaw Hill, placed here by his wife and daughters, Mary Crosse, Kathleen Mary Crosse and Ella Beatrice Thursby.

To be continued next month

30th March – Mothering Sunday, 4th Sunday in Lent

There is an old Jewish saying: *God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.*

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods – our human mothers – all of them have been part of the celebration of ‘Mothering Sunday’ – as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16th century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as ‘live-in’ servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families, which is how ‘Mothering Sunday’ got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed, and in many ways now resembles the American Mother’s Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day.



What the Bible and other people say about mothers.....

She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. Proverbs 31:26

Every mother is a working mother. - Anon

No man is poor who has had a godly mother. - Abraham Lincoln

And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all the living. - Genesis 3:20

God could not be everywhere and therefore He made mothers. - Jewish Proverb

God pays a good mother. Mothers, get your names on God's payroll. - Billy Sunday

A suburban mother's role is to deliver children obstetrically once, and by car forever after - Peter de Vries

Motherhood: All love begins and ends there.- Robert Browning

A mother's arms are made of tenderness, and children sleep soundly in them. - Victor Hugo

Children are the anchors that hold a mother to life. - Sophocles

Luke 2:51: "And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart."

"I remember my mother's prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life." —Abraham Lincoln

"When you are a mother, you are never really alone in your thoughts. A mother always has to think twice, once for herself and once for her child." —Sophia Loren

*As a mother comforts her child,
so will I comfort you; Isaiah 66v13*



In Junior Church the children have been learning about the Ark of the Covenant where Moses put the 10 commandments God gave him on Mount Sinai. To round off the lesson Louis, Henry, Joseph, Thea, Matthew, James, Sullivan, Matthew Isla & Lucas made salt dough models.

- Susan Parkinson

**Don't forget to fill in your Electoral Roll form
as soon as possible BEFORE the 9th March.**

See Alison Wynne with any questions

Please remember the LOVE FUND

The Love Fund consists of donations of money from members of both our churches. This can be used for anyone in our church or parish who is in need of help. If you are in financial need for whatever purpose:

shopping, bills, essentials etc then get in touch with Philip and he will be happy to help you. tel: 01257 515141

email: info@stjohnsandclaytonbrook.uk

Something to make you think and smile (hopefully)

Walks

"I like long walks, particularly when taken by people who annoy me" **Noel Coward**

Weddings

"God is a great matchmaker" **Jewish proverb**

We may not have it all together, but together we have it all.

Weakness

God doesn't have job interviews, He doesn't hire and fire like all bosses, because He is more Dad than boss. He doesn't look at financial gain or loss. He isn't prejudiced or partial, not judging, grudging, not deaf to our cry, not blind to our need. He is not bothered about our strengths or weaknesses and as much as we try all God's gifts are free.

Weather in Britain

An American tourist arrives in Britain for the first time, and it's raining. It also rains the next day and the day after that, and the day after that. He goes out for lunch (in the rain) and, in despair, asks a young boy "Hey kid, does it ever stop raining around here?"

The boy replies "How do I know, I'm only six"

What do you call two straight days of rain in Lancashire? A weekend.

It only rains twice in Britain: August to April and May to July.

And elsewhere some real answers to exam questions on weather.

Dew is formed on leaves when the sun shines and makes them perspire.

Clouds are high flying fogs.

Rain is saved up in cloud banks.

And other weather remarks.

The wind is like air, only pushier.

Don't knock the weather; nine out of ten people couldn't start a conversation if the weather didn't change so often!

Was the most accurate weather forecast ever when God told Noah there was 100% chance of precipitation?

Wisdom

There's always a lot to be thankful for if you take the time to look for it. For example I'm sitting here thinking how nice it is that wrinkles don't hurt.

How long a minute is depends on which side of the bathroom door you are on.

Happiness sometimes comes through doors you didn't even know that you left open

Women

What might a woman want in a man?

Opens doors and lets me in first.

Remembers my important dates.

Listens more than talks.

Doesn't tell the same joke too many times.

Wears a shirt that covers his stomach.

Doesn't fall asleep when I'm talking.

Worms

A minister decided to do a visual demonstration to add emphasis to his Sunday sermon.

Four worms were placed on four separate containers. The first was put in a container of alcohol, the second in a container of cigarette smoke, the third in a container of chocolate syrup and the fourth in one containing good clean soil.

At the conclusion to his sermon the minister looked at the worms and reported to the congregation. First worm in alcohol – dead. Second worm in cigarette smoke – dead. Third worm in chocolate syrup – dead.

So the minister asked his congregation “What can you learn from this demonstration”.

A lady at the back quickly raised her hand and said, “As long as you drink, smoke and eat chocolate you won’t have worms!”

Work

“The hardest thing about milking” observed a farmer “is that they never stay milked!”

Worry

Never let yesterday use up too much of today.

“Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrows; it empties today of its strength.” **Corrie Ten Boom**

Worship

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth, on the sea and all that is within them saying “To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb, be praise and honour and glory and power, for ever and ever”. **Revelation 5: 13**

“A drop of praise is an unsuitable acknowledgement for an ocean of mercy” **William Secker**

“Christian worship is the most urgent, the most glorious action that takes place in human life” **Karl Barth**

“It is in the process of being worshipped that God communicates His presence to His children”

C.S.Lewis.

Everyone worships something. It is in our DNA. We were designed to worship, created to be temples. Some people worship money, some people worship power. Some people worship possessions, some themselves. And some worship the true Living God. **Buddy Owens.**

Worship is our response to the overtures of love from the heart of the Father. **Richard Foster.**

- From David Barlow With thanks to J. John and Mark Stibbe Monarch Press



Not available in super-markets. Only from Meaningful Chocolate and other charities (they sell out quickly)

WARM WELCOME



We were pleased to welcome Tate Williams back again to volunteer at Warm Welcome. Tate is working towards the Arch Bishop's award and spent time with us on Monday afternoon during his half term holiday. He is a great help, he worked hard setting up the tables, taking orders, serving food and clearing tables. Our regulars enjoyed seeing him again. He is an example to us all being willing to give up his time during school holidays to serve others. We look forward to seeing him again.



At Warm Welcome we are looking for volunteers to join our team. We especially need people to give lifts for some of our regulars who would otherwise not be able to join us on Monday afternoon. We offer lifts to some of our regulars who live in Clayton Brook and have mobility issues or who have recently been in hospital and are now finding walking difficult. At the moment we are struggling to provide this service. Our volunteers work on a rota basis so it would only have to be once a month, picking up or taking home. We are open from 11 am to 2pm on Monday afternoon.

If you feel you are interested and would like more information or would like to discuss this more fully please contact me on sue.lil30@viginmedia.com

- Sue Lillie



A Prayer for Humility

God I pray You'll grant me
A fair share of humility,
Let me live my life to be
With diffidence and modesty.

Be gracious Lord and teach to me
The meaning of servility,
Open my eyes and let me see
The world does not revolve
round me.

Let me serve You in all I do
My faith and love of You renew
Let me recall what is so true
That I am nothing, without You
- Colin Hammacott

GROWTH GROUPS IN ST JOHN'S AND CLAYTON BROOK

Bible prayer & fellowship are the focus of our growth groups which meet within our parish in different venues and at different times of the week. They cater for different age groups and for newcomers and people more familiar with the bible and their faith. We would love everyone to be a member of a growth group in order for each of us to build our relationships with each other and, most importantly, with Christ. Have a look at our current groups to see if one suits you and your needs, if not feel free to ask and we will try to find a way to help.

Here is a little bit about each group, in their own words:

CLAYTON BROOK GROUP—CONTACT KATHY BIGIO

Meets in Clayton Brook Church every Tuesday (term time) 1 to 2pm. We sing, pray & share study books looking at aspects in the bible and liturgy & importantly share friendships.

For more information contact Kathy.

CLAYTON BROOK MEN'S GROUP—CONTACT STUART CROSS

Meeting every Monday evening, a group for men who may be new to the area, or new to the Christian faith, or just wanting to know more about Jesus and the Bible. An occasional film night, and social/ games evenings help us get to know and support each other.

TUESDAY EVENING ZOOM GROUP—CONTACT DAVID BARLOW

What a perfect way to grow your faith and understanding of the Bible than joining a growth group. Our group comprises individuals, all different, but all looking for the same things, with hope and faith, and through God's love and guidance, recognising a better world where our God in Jesus rules. Our growth group meets on a Tuesday evening at 7.30pm for 1 hour, via zoom, and whilst we take God's word seriously there is also a lot of laughter. So if you want fun, fellowship and to learn more about Jesus we look forward to seeing you.

TUESDAY MORNING ZOOM GROUP—CONTACT SUSAN PARKINSON

Susan - meets every Tuesday morning at 10:30 for roughly an hour on Zoom so suitable for those who may struggle to get to a particular venue. A friendly relaxed space where we work through study books about different aspects of the Bible and end with prayer.

New members welcome - please contact Susan.

TUESDAY EVENING IN-PERSON GROUP—CONTACT JAMIE DIXON

A mixed group of men and women from St John's meeting at 397 Preston Road on Tuesdays (term time) at 7:30-9:00pm. We have a relaxed style where we start with a brew and biscuits, followed by bible study using study guides and close with prayer. For more information contact Jamie.

TUESDAY EVENING VICARAGE GROUP—CONTACT PHILIP VENABLES

We are a small group and would love to welcome in more members. We meet on Tuesdays at 7.30 and always finish by 9 at the latest. We look at the Bible together with a reasonably light touch (people are tired in the evening!) and share news and views and always pray for one another.

Contact Philip.





Please continue to pray for the re-ordering of St John's church. Ask God to give each member of the re-ordering team wisdom and discernment, ask Him to sustain them and uplift them in perseverance to overcome the challenges ahead.

May the Lord minister to our Church family and the families in our community who will benefit from this re-ordering.

Stir up the faith in our congregation Lord, so that "we walk by faith and not by sight." 2 Corinthians 5v7 ESV
Increase in our prayer, desire and longing for this re-ordering to be completed soon. And may there be joy in the House of the Lord.
"Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labour in vain."
Psalm 127v1

Proverbs 22:9 The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.

Living Waters food bank is low on everything at the moment. There is a food collection box in Clayton Brook church and in St John's. If you are in Chorley you can drop off donations at Living Waters church in Bolton Street, Tues and Fridays 10-12noon.
Or give a money donation on their website:
www.facebook.com/LWStorehouse,
And most supermarkets have food bank trolleys.



Words the Lord Jesus Himself said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive" Acts 20v35

EMERGENCY PRAYER CHAIN

The prayer chain has now moved to WhatsApp.

It is always available for anyone who would like urgent, emergency prayer for themselves or their family or friends.

If you know someone who is a member of the prayer chain, please ask them to put in your prayer request.

Or telephone Gill Wright or Cath Orr

Our prayer chain takes many calls. Do not be anxious, concerned or troubled.....

'The Lord is near to all who call on Him' (Psalm 145v18)'

Cast all your anxiety onto Him, because He cares for you' (1Peter 5v7)




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Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this month's Gazette. Please send in your articles & comments for the APRIL edition before the end of March To: the Editor

The editor would welcome comments on any article in this gazette

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If you wish to contact anyone in this gazette, please use the contact page on this website.



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