



St John's News

St John's Methodist Church, Baker Street, Potters Bar EN6 2DZ
www: stjohnspb.org.uk email: sjnews@stjohnspb.org.uk

Registered Charity No 1130633

FAMILY NEWS

Several of our church family have been unwell. Please pray especially for Chris, Pat, Valerie, Brenda, Iris, Malcolm, Jill together with others known to us who are unwell or waiting for tests/surgery.

Long standing church members may well remember Ron and Jackie Roberts. After being ill for the past couple of years, Ron passed away in hospital aged 90 on 30th December with his family at his bedside. Before moving to Cambridgeshire, Ron was an active church member at St Johns having been a Church Steward, Senior Church Steward and a Pastoral Visitor. After moving to live in St Neots in 1994 to be closer to their daughter Joy and family, Ron and Jackie transferred their membership to Berkley St Methodist Church in Eynesbury, St Neots, where Ron became a Circuit Steward for their local circuit. Ron's funeral was held at Berkley St Methodist Church on Wednesday 20th January. If you would like to send a condolence card to Jackie and family or wish to donate to the Just giving page set up in Ron's memory with proceeds for the British Heart Foundation, please contact David Bowler at david_bowler@talktalk.net, or on 01707 643672 for the relevant details.

We think of Guy, Dawn, Nathaniel and Beth as they give thanks for the life of Carol, Guy's sister who has died after a short illness. Please pray for her parents Charles and Christiane, children Joe, Jack and Jesse and grandson Isaac at this difficult time.

Doris Lavigne died peacefully at home on 8th January aged 99 years. She regularly attended the Church services and the Sunday lunch club until her health declined. Her funeral will be held at St Pancras Cemetery in February.

If you would like to include anyone else who needs to be supported or mentioned please contact Helen Barlow on 01707 662254 or foodtech16@hotmail.co.uk

February 2021

Lockdown and Lent reflections



You may feel that lockdown has already forced you into a long period of reflection and self-examination! Lent – a season in which the church encourages reflection and self-examination - this year begins on 17th February (Ash Wednesday). Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday, and it is traditionally a day of preparation for Lent. The name 'shrove' is derived from the word 'shrive', meaning to hear someone's acknowledgement of their sins, to assure him or her of God's forgiveness, and to give appropriate spiritual advice. Shrove Tuesday has mainly lost its religious focus and in contemporary society the day is more commonly known as Pancake Day or Mardi Gras, a French term meaning 'Fat Tuesday' – the idea being that all the fats that have been kept for cooking are used up because they will not be used during Lent - and pancakes are a standard way of using up fat.

In contrast, many churches have retained the religious significance of Ash Wednesday, a day which reminds us of our

inherent human-ness. During the service, as a sign of a cross is made with ashes on the forehead of each participant, the following words are used: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return". This is a reminder that we are created out of the dust of the ground and we will return to dust. Yet the sign of the cross reminds us that through Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection we are offered forgiveness and eternal life in Christ, if we turn away from our sins and are faithful to Christ. I would recommend that you try to listen and participate in the Ash Wednesday circuit service, which this year is going to be led by Sue Stilwell, who works on the De Havilland project with Deacon Linda Kinchenton. It is a good way to start the season of Lent because it looks forward and reminds us of what comes at the end - Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Rev Ali Facey - 01707 652978
minister@stjohnspb.org.uk

How to stay in touch with St John's



After considering the current situation with high COVID-19 infection rates, the Leadership Team have reluctantly decided not to hold services at St John's so as to help minimise the risk of transmission. There are services available...

- Online service from either St John's or another Methodist Church within our local Circuit
- Children's activities are available weekly on our St John's website
- Free phone lines for prayers and news from the Methodist Church. Listen to a...
Prayer: 0808 281 2514 or News: 0808 281 2478
- St John's Zoom chat on Sunday mornings at midday and details can be found in the weekly update emails.

More details on our website stjohnspb.org.uk

Copy deadline for March SJNews is Sunday 21st February

Stamp Collecting - Thank you...

to St John's for collecting used postage stamps which raise funds for 'Embrace' a Middle East Organisation which supports the Helen Keller School in East Jerusalem for the visually impaired. Our stamps contributed to a total of over £8,500 being raised.
Kathryn Krause

World Day of Prayer - Fri 5th March

This year's theme is 'Build on a strong foundation', prepared by the Christian women of Vanuatu. The service was planned to be at Our Lady and St Vincent, however, current restrictions suggest it will not take place. If anyone would like a copy of the order of service, please call Heather Crichton 01707 652426

Christmas Charity 2020 thank yous

Over Christmas St John's collected over £2,500 for Kidney Care UK. This is a fantastic response, particularly in the difficult circumstances. The money will help them to support kidney patients to ensure no one faces kidney disease alone. Thank you from St John's leadership team, and we also have two other thank yous:

Holly Finch, who wrote about her and her mother's (Sue) experience with Kidney disease in the December St John's News, has written:

Dear members of St John's, From the bottom of my heart, a HUGE thank you to you all for your generosity for the money you donated as part of the Christmas collection.

Thanks to you, Kidney Care received over £2500. With no government funding, donations like this are fundamental in them being able to continue with their amazing work in supporting those with kidney diseases and improving the health and care



services of patients.

*You will all be in my mind when I complete the marathon in October. Your kindness will push me when I need it! Thank you once again,
Holly and Sue Finch*

Laura Toop, Community Fundraising Manager at Kidney Care UK, has written:

Happy New Year to you and all at St John's Methodist Church. We are absolutely delighted your recent Christmas Collection was so successful. It is a fantastic start to the year especially in a week that has been challenging in many ways. Please do pass on our sincere thanks to all those who supported for their kindness and generosity.

We are so grateful to everyone. Your support will make a huge difference and will enable us to help support kidney patients, like Holly and her mother, to ensure no-one faces kidney disease alone. Thank you.

Scout Quiz Winners

Very many thanks to everyone who bought or sold the Scout Group's quiz sheets or who made generous donations. As a result, we have raised over £1,250 for the Scout Group funds for which we are very pleased and most grateful at a time when our jumble sales and other fund-raising events are not possible.

We received 96 entries and, as usual, we had to reach into the hat for the winners who were:

- 1st Mr Pirouet of Stevenage
- 2nd Ms Fraser of Potters Bar
- 3rd Mr Lynch of Potters Bar

Thank you to all who were kind enough to encourage us to continue this sort of quiz. We are already considering a suitable subject for our fundraising quiz next Christmas!

Again, congratulations to our winners and heartfelt thanks again to everybody who took part.

If you would like a copy of the answers please get in touch with Derek Smith on 01707 652981.



Thinking Evening

A Revolution in Nuclear Energy - Hope in the Climate Crisis

with Simon Johnson, a former reactor physicist, followed by questions.

Tuesday 2nd February at 7:30pm

via Zoom but please contact jamesrowley@outlook.com to let him know you are coming



Join us for Prayer

**Saturday 6th February 2021
8.30am - 9.30am**

with Churches Together in Potters Bar

Led by Our Lady & St Vincent,
Roman Catholic Church

Please join us via Zoom and contact ctipbsecretary@gmail.com for the joining information.

'Show the Love' Prayer 2021

O God who is love

Let love empower our compassion

Let love embrace each and everyone

Let love unite humans and non-human

In restorative co-existence.

O Jesus, love come down to earth

May we honour the earth

May we honour all that dwells in the earth

May we be reconciled with the earth

Become what we are, of the earth.

O Spirit of love

Grant us a spirit of humility

Grant us a spirit of carefulness

Grant us a spirit of friendship

For the earth & all that dwells with us here.

Toni Bennett



'Show the Love' Blessing 2021

May our loving God, who created the world and all that is in it, Inspire us to delight in our beautiful home, And to live in wonder, peace and joy. May our living God keep our hearts turned to loving our neighbour and to respecting the creation we share. May our merciful God help us to live this week in goodness and hope, And fill us with God's peace. Amen

Ash Vale Chapel Poetry Group
Green Christian's contribution to The Climate Coalition's 2021 Show the Love Campaign to use in worship on Sunday 14th February.