



St. Lawrence Church & St. Marys Church

Newsletter 12th March 2017

Website www.gnosallparish.org.uk & Facebook www.facebook.com/GnosallParish

Welcome to Church on the Second Sunday of Lent

Sunday 12th March	7:45am	Holy Communion	Kathryn
	10:30am	Morning Worship	Lay led
	6:30pm	Evening Worship	Geoff Smith
Tuesday 14th March	8:45am	Tea & Toast	
	9:30am	Morning Prayer - Alternating weekly between Gnosall and Knightley Churches	
Thursday 16th March	2:15pm	Play & Praise	
	6:40pm	Choir Practice	
Sunday 19th March	7:45am	Communion by Extension	Hayley Preece
	10:30am	United Benefice Service at Norbury	Bishop of Lichfield
	6:30pm	Evening worship	Lay led



CHURCH SERVICES AT MORETON

Sunday 19th March	Benefice Service at 10.30am at Norbury with the Bishop of Lichfield (No service at Moreton)		
Sunday 26th March	Holy Communion at 9am with Rev Kathryn & Rev Stephen		
Sunday 2nd April	Holy Communion at 9am with Rev Fowell		

BENEFICE SERVICE AT NORBURY – SUNDAY 19TH MARCH



Bishop Michael, the Bishop of Lichfield, will be attending at our Benefice Service at Norbury.

It is hoped that as many of our church members will be there to welcome him.

If you require transport please contact one of the churchwardens—

Bob 822507 or Eric 823881

Please note there will be no 10:30am service at St Lawrence

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday April 20th at 7pm in church. We are hoping to start with cheese and wine before we look back over the past year of the church and then bring our hopes for the future. I do hope you will be able to attend. Rev Kathryn

CHILDREN'S GOOD FRIDAY WORKSHOP.

Good Friday Workshop for Children on Friday 14th April from 10.00 am to 12 noon at St Lawrence Church

Help needed to staff 12 Craft Stalls, book Children in and provide light refreshments.

The Crafts are Planned, and all materials will be provided.

If you can help please contact - Adie Harris, Gwen Flavell, Bob Winfield or Margaret Winfield

LENT GROUPS

We will be running Lent Groups again this year and there will be a choice of three venues in the Village - so you can choose morning, afternoon or evening. I do hope you will try and come along to one of the groups. There is a list at the back of church showing where the groups will be held and if you could sign to say which one you can attend that would be very helpful.

AGAPE SUPPER

On Maundy Thursday, April 13th we will be having a meal here in church at 7pm. At the end of the meal we will share the bread and the wine around the table as we remember the night when Jesus did this with his disciples.

It is a lovely evening and I would warmly welcome you to come along. Even if you don't feel able to share in the bread and wine you are very welcome to come and share the meal and the fellowship.

There is a list at the back of church - please sign up if you can come along.

ELECTORAL ROLL

The Electoral Roll is a list of all our church members, in effect our church family.

Being on the Electoral Roll means that you can vote at the Annual Meeting and are available to hold a post in the church but, more than that, it shows that you wish to be part of our church here at St Lawrence's. To qualify to be on the Electoral Roll you need to be 16 or over and live in the parish or, if you don't live in the parish, to be a regular attender at any of our services - at least once a month.

There are application forms at the back of church or if you have any questions please speak to me or to one of the church wardens or to Jim McGregor who is our Electoral Roll Officer.

If you're not already, we would love to welcome you onto the roll.

Rev Kathryn

LENT CHALLENGE

I would like to give you a challenge during the days of Lent to read through the Book of Acts. At the back of church you will find some leaflets. For each day during Lent there is a suggested reading which will take you through the whole of the book by Easter. The readings are not long so I hope you will read through them more than once and, before you read, just ask God to speak to you through the readings.

I hope you will take up my challenge and find it helpful and I will be checking up at Easter to see who has managed it!

Brownie points will be awarded!!! Rev Kathryn

MOTHERING SUNDAY POSIES We will be preparing the posies for Mothering Sunday on Saturday March 25th at 10am in church. If you are able to come along and help please have a word with Helen Air (822347) or just come along.

SOCIAL AND FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

We would like to form a small group to come up with ideas for social events which we can hold in the church to help us to get to know each other better - and if they raise funds for the church as well that will be a bonus. Is this something that you might like to take part in? If so, or if you want to know more, please have a chat with me.

Rev Kathryn 284050 rev.kathrynh@gmail.com

CONFIRMATION

We will be running classes in the late spring for anyone interested in learning more about the Christian faith. These classes will be informal with lots of opportunity for discussion and questions and are available to all ages. They will lead towards confirmation for those who are thinking about being confirmed but are open to everyone, whether you wish to be confirmed or not.

If you would like to know more about them please contact Rev Kathryn on 01785 284050 or at rev.kathrynh@gmail.com Bishop Geoff, the Bishop of Stafford, will be coming to take our Confirmation Service in June.

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

We will be organizing a trip to the Maundy Thursday Service at Lichfield Cathedral, if you are interested in attending, please speak to Revd. Kathryn or Adie Harris 284027.

There is a list to sign at the back of church if people are interested in going.

Year's Mind

James Patrick Meadon
Edna Chesters
John Williams
Peter Herbert Forrester

Rector Rev Kathryn Hammond - 284050 rev.kathrynh@gmail.com
Churchwardens: Bob Winfield - 822507 bobwinfield@btinternet.com
Eric Henderson - 823881 eric.henderson2@btinternet.com

Collect

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Romans 4.1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as "righteousness."
⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. ¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. ¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (John 3.1-17)

Glory to you O Lord

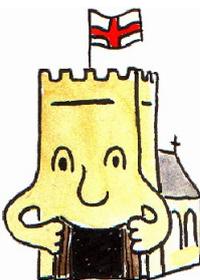
Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' ³Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' ⁴Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' ⁵Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' ⁹Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' ¹⁰Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ



CHURCH FLOWER ROTA
 The new Rota for this year is now available at the back of Church. Please put your name down if you would like to do a particular date.
A NEW IDEA.....Could you do the flowers for 2 weekends and look after them in between? Often flowers last for 2 weeks and only need tidying for the second weekend. Don't worry if this is not possible. Many thanks, Helen Air.



OPEN CHURCH ROTA
 At the PCC meeting of the 20th February it was decided to open the church from Mondays to Fridays during the hours of 9am to 5pm starting in April. We hope to be able to do this until September or October. We are hoping to establish a rota of six to eight people who for one week at a time would unlock the church in the morning and lock it again in at 5pm. If you are able to join this rota of want more information please contact the churchwardens.

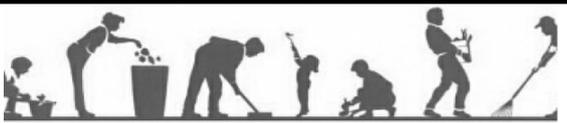


CHRISTIAN AID SPONSORED WALK
 Freda & Gerry Dale are taking part in the Christian Aid Sponsored Walk on Saturday 8th April. If you would like to sponsor them, please fill in the form at the back of church. Thanks



CHURCH NEWSLETTER
 If you wish to have anything included in the Church Newsletter please let Jim McGregor have it by the Wednesday of the previous week.
 Tel 01785 822156 or email jimf.mcgregor@tiscali.co.uk

If you know of anyone in the community who would appreciate a visit, please let Rev Kathryn know. Many thanks



SPRING CLEAN
SATURDAY 1ST APRIL
9:30am to 12:30pm & 2:00pm to 5:00pm
 The church is in need of a good spring clean. The walls are very dusty and cobwebs abound. At floor level there is dust and mortar under the heating pipes and in the nooks and crannies
 We intend to vacuum the walls the highest level possible, then follow with hovering, dusting and polishing at the lower levels. The Lady Chapel will be done first, followed by the Chancel and the Nave.
 This is likely to take some time; hence we have planned for morning and afternoon sessions.
 If you can help, please sign up on the list at the back of church. Eric & Bob



NORBURY SOUP LUNCHES
Wednesdays 1st March - 5th April (inclusive)
12.30pm - 1.30pm Norbury Village Hall
 Homemade soup, bread & butter, fresh fruit and a hot drink.
 £3.00 (no need to book).
 Supporting the Bishop's Lent Appeal
 Anyone from any of the Churches who is able to help out with providing soup and or serving, please contact -
 Jane 01785 284463.