

Greetings from all at St John's Church, Rowlands Castle!

A scripture to ponder:

'Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God's place in your hearts'

(1 John 5 v 21, NLT)

This weekend is an extra-ordinary one, as we are holding the Annual Parish Council Meeting, so the regular services are being replaced.

SUNDAY March 17th 2024

8.30 am Coffee and Croissant breakfast

9.30 am Short Holy Communion

10.30 Vestry Meeting to elect Churchwardens and 4 new PCC members followed immediately by the APCM.

MONDAY 18th

9 am LITTLE FISHES – Toddler Group for pre-schoolers, carers (mostly Mums, but also a few Dads, Grandparents, and childminders). This meets in the Church Centre for a couple of hours, to play, chat, drink tea, snack, have a story, do a craft and finish with singing. It is a good supportive environment to meet other families and make new friends. (Suggested donations of £2 but no one is excluded if unable to contribute).



Saint John's

7.15 pm LENT COURSE FINAL WEEK

Starting with refreshments, this will be the concluding week of our 5 week Lent Course, made available by Open Doors, and attended by 30-40 folk, a few (eg from Scotland and France) on zoom. You are very welcome to join us – free – even if you have not made the earlier weeks.

TUESDAY 19th

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP 2-4 pm in the Church Centre.

WEDNESDAY 20th

7.30 pm Zoom Prayer meeting. Next week it will revert back to Mondays, as the Lent Course will no longer be taking place on Monday evenings.

OUR THANKS!

Thank you to Bob and Donna Woolston, who have stepped into the breach left by The Raley's imminent departure. Bob and Donna will be taking over from Cynthia in organising the church cleaning, which is done by volunteers, in pairs, each week. If you

would like to help – please see Bob or Donna, who attend the 10 am, or contact Gill in the church office.

Also of course, our thanks to Cynthia who has faithfully served in this role for more years than I can remember...

Cynthia and husband Bob – who has been a lay minister amongst other things, of this church, for many years too – will be saying farewell at the Palm Sunday 10 o'clock service.

PRAYERS

Please continue to uphold Alan and Lyn in your prayers. Also others who are unwell – there are others amongst the church family and our friends and families. Let us know if you would like your name added here.

Give thanks for the interesting material we have had during the Lent Course; pray for both the Persecuted Church and Open Doors, who seek to serve amongst the persecuted. We were reminded on Monday that Nigeria has more persecutions of Christians than all the rest of the world combined, despite being almost 50% Christian.

Please pray for the PCC and Ministers of the Church, local and further afield, and the School.

Also for the families who attend Little Fishes – there are some very new babies and several more expected.

OTHER NEWS

A group from Emsworth and Warblington churches have kindly agreed to help in our school by taking some assembly services. Discussions

are underway to arrange this – probably to start sometime after Easter.

Bill Wilson, Chairman of Governors at the School has also shared the exciting news that there is a proposal well advanced for opening a new Pre School in the school premises, replacing the former Jigsaw nursery which closed last year.

Please pray for this too.

MEALS FOR NEW MUMS

As announced last week, we are just starting to offer a little support to some of the young families attending our Monday morning community Toddler group (Little Fishes). It was tentatively offered last week and welcomed warmly by the Mums.

We have a small list of people who have offered to make an occasional meal and take it to a family with a new addition. Currently we are aiming to give support when the Dads go back to work. If you could help with this, please do talk to Daphne or leave a message via the office or Pastoral Care team (pastoralcare@saintjohns.org.uk)

It was really touching to witness the enthusiasm and appreciation expressed by these tired young ladies with toddlers and new babies for the idea.

NEXT PCC Date!

'A reminder for PCC members and advance notice for any prospective new members that the first meeting of the 'new' PCC will be at 7.00pm on Tuesday 19th March"

OUTSIDE THE PARISH

BCI churches are inviting the elderly to an EASTER MESSY VINTAGE at Blendworth Church Centre

When? Friday March 22nd 2 – 3.30

Where? Blendworth Church Centre

What? Come and hear the Easter Story, sing Easter Hymns and join in the Arts and Crafts with tea, cake and friends.

Who? With the BCI Anna Chaplaincy team meeting the spiritual needs of the elderly.

Come earlier 12 – 2pm for **soup lunches** too!

HAVANT PASSION PLAY

EASTER is not far away, and this year Havant will hold its very first re-telling of the Easter Story in West Street Havant, over Easter Weekend. Previous plays have been in the Park in August.

Performances are expected to last approximately half an hour, and the stage will be just in front of St Faith's Church. There are a couple of professional actors in lead roles, but also plenty of home-grown talent

including the amazing Rev Jonathon Jeffries and his talented wife and children, as well as a handful of seasoned veterans from St John's.

DATES:-

Saturday March 30th at 11 am; 12.30 and 2 pm.

Easter Sunday March 31st at 3.30pm.

Free to watch. There is also a short service planned in St Faith's church after the last performance. Come and worship with 'Jesus, his mother and his disciples, Blind Bartimeus and a few other historical representatives!

Also at St Faith's, Havant:-

GOT BIG QUESTIONS ABOUT LIFE AND DEATH?

What is the reason for a funeral?

What life experience have you valued most?

How would you help a grieving friend?

How would you explain death to a 5-year-old?

If you'd like to chat about these, and other 'life and death' questions, then come along to our café style 'Gravetalk'. There's no need to sign-up, just come as you are.

Wednesday 24th April OR Saturday 27th April
from 10am to noon

@ St Faith's Church, Havant.

For further Q's or info, email:

Sandra Haggan (07452 982787) or,
Karina Green (07598 828480)



Please send news items to daphneyoungs@gmail.com by Wednesday. Or phone 023 9241 2964 Thank you!. **The Church Office is 023 9241 0111 Friday 9-1pm.**