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Our church diary is available to view on the website

26th January 2020

Howard's Message about his Study Leave Programme:

I will be on Extended Ministerial Development Leave – Study Leave – from 3rd February to the 3rd of May inclusive, (though actually on leave from the 27th January).

The key theme: Sustaining missional leadership in the second half of life.

Throughout the three months: Quality time for prayer, reading (lots of books to catch-up on) and reflection.

Focus in February: I will be visiting and interviewing 'older' church leaders who have led growing churches.

Focus in March and April: Attending the New Wine Leaders Conference, reflecting on and writing up the findings of the interviews and visiting other churches.

Cover during Howard's Absence: The Wardens (Chris, and Lynn, up until the APCM on Sunday March 29th) will be the go-to people during the three months, along with Matt and the rest of the Ministry Leaders. Please be encouraging and supporting them and be alert to the need we will have for a new warden and new PCC members at this APCM.

I will be away for some of the three months but also in the vicarage at times. If we see each other, we shouldn't ignore each other, but we need to try to respect the Study Leave process and give each other that space from the day to day is-sues of the church and parish.

11.30am Cell Church

Following prayer and discussion with the members of the group, the 11.30am cell church has made the decision to stop meeting at this time.

This gives us space to rethink how we minister to those who had made this congregation their church home and how we might otherwise develop a missional community.

Village Picnic 2021!

We are sadly not going to be holding a Village Picnic this year (2020). Thank you to all those who worked on our efforts exploring this year. We are looking forward to 2021 when we are planning to hold a refreshed Village Picnic. If you'd like to be involved in making the 2021 event happen, then contact Matt in the office.

The Week Ahead

Sunday 26th January Gifted | Gifts of Hard Work Exodus 35:30-36:3 & Matthew 28:16-20 8am - Said Communion

9.30am - All Age Communion Service 7pm - Celebration Service

Monday 27th January

10am - Bumps & Babies in church hall 7pm - Discipleship Explored in upper room

Tuesday 28th January

7am - Early Morning Prayer in chapel 7pm - Community Cupboard Meeting in church hall

Wednesday 29th January 6pm– COGS Youth in the church hall

Thursday 30th January

9.45am - Ladies Small Group in church hall/upper room 12.30pm - Toddler Lunch in the church hall 7.30pm - Mindfulness Course in church hall

Sunday 2nd February Gifted | Gifts of the Spirit 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 & John 16:7-15 8am - Said Communion 9.30am - All Age Communion Service 7pm - Celebration Service

Caring in Prayer

New/Updated

Howard's Study Leave – Pray for a fruitful and restorative time for Howard. Pray for the church leaders and the congregation in his absence, for our growth (in faith and in mission).

Continuing

Alpha – Give thanks to the interest in Alpha. Pray for future plans and courses. Pray for those who came along on Monday and for us to offer the best way to further their journeys of faith.

Malawi – Pray for Ali Beckett's Malawi Evening. Pray that people will be encouraged and made aware of the challenges faced at Starfish so that we can pray and support effectively.

Mindfulness – Pray for those on the mindfulness course. Pray that the course will help to improve people's well-being. Pray for David as he leads the course.

Christmas – Give thanks for the visitors who came to our Christmas events in the last few weeks. Pray for a growth in faith in our community.

Carmen – Has finished her course of chemotherapy and has now begun radiotherapy. Pray the cancer will be killed and pray for Carmen and her family..

Youth – Pray that Lorna and the team will continue to dream big for the young people around us following the encouragement of the Youth Ministry Weekend..

Doreen – The results of Doreen's biopsy showed all traces of the tumour had been removed. Thank the Lord for his healing. She has been told to telephone the hospital if any more appear.

William – William is back to usual. He is on new medication. Pray that it will be successful in controlling his fits. We do not take offerings at our services. Our preferred method of financial giving to continue the excellent work of Church is via Standing Order. Please contact the Church Office or our Treasurer, David Craigen (01420 564152 or <u>davidacraigen@gmail.com</u>) for more

Giving

David Craigen (01420 564152 or <u>davidacraigen@gmail.com</u>) for more details or pick up a Standing Order Mandate at the back of the church. If you wish to make cash or cheque donations, please place in the receptacle. If you wish to donate online, these are our account details:

Acc No: 60003685. Sort Code: 60-01-13. Many thanks for your generosity.





Easter COGS Club will be on Saturday 4th April this year! Please save the date and speak to Lorna if you would like to be on team

The tea and coffee rota is in need of some help. We have gaps in the rota on the 1st Sunday of alternate months beginning in February. If anyone can offer to cover one, some or all of these, please contact Matt in the office.

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Saturday 1st February 2020 from 10:00 – 4:00pm Healing in The Steps of Jesus



is a day conference at **Guildford** Cathedral - open to all wanting to explore the Christian healing ministry. £25 per person booking via website.

With two keynote speakers including Bishop James Newcombe (patron of Acorn Christian Healing Foundation), and Rev Paul Harcourt (National Leader of New Wine), the day will be accompanied by three TED style talks focussing on the church and disability, emotional well-being, and supporting children and young people and their mental health.

A service of healing and prayer led by Bishop Andrew Watson will bring the day to a close. This promises to be an excellent day of **teaching**, **sharing**, worship and healing prayer.

Refreshments provided throughout the day but bring a packed lunch. Plenty of free parking

Small Group Notes – 26th January 2020 Gifted – Gifts of Hard Work

Read Exodus 35:4 - 36:7.

So far in our in our Gifted series we seen:

1. That there is joy in our giving in responding to God's love.

2. That however little we think we have to give; God can multiply it and bless us and others.

3. That as we share our gifts and participate together God builds his Kingdom and His Church.

- Were we to have to list gifts in order of importance, what might we want to highlight? In today's passage we have the first gifts of the Spirit listed and they are not what we typically think of as spiritual things. In God's economy all things are his and are to be holy (See Zechariah 14:20-21).

- What difference does it make to think of cooking, washing-up and all the experiences of our lives (driving, shopping, etc.) to be made holy?

- How can we practice this holiness and celebrate the engagement of God with every area of our lives – nothing is wasted in God's economy.

In today's age it can feel like everyone wants a piece of us. God doesn't want a piece of us, he wants all of us! Read, Philippians 1:21, Galatians 2:20 and Matthew 16:24-26. We are all full-time workers in the Kingdom of God – as children of the King, we are always on duty and called to holiness as exhibited in our living in love, joy, peace, etc.

- How much does our group model our church's take on the Kingdom values of, grace, joy, hope and generosity?

- How can we encourage each other in growing in Christ in these things?

All that we are and have is God's. In our reading the people brought generously what they had, they had for the most part only just gained wealth, but rather than hold onto it, they wanted to respond to God's grace and give it back to him for the building of the tabernacle, their church.

- How do we feel about the needs of our church? (Mentioned on Sunday will be roles [especially PCC and warden] and finance).

- How can we respond in prayer and by encouraging others, and even ourselves?

- How do we learn to give what we can, not what we cannot, without feeling guilty about what we can't?

We are in the disciple making business (Matthew 28:16-20) not building a tent but a glorious Kingdom with room for every tribe and people and we are hugely privileged to see so much is being achieved locally.

- What excites you about the/our church today?

- Pray for more of God's grace that we may see increasingly more of his Kingdom at work among us.

PRAYER and PASTORAL REQUESTS

If you have any prayer requests for the prayer chain, please email or ring the Church Office on 01420 560622, Alan Thain (01420 85185), or Howard Wright on 01420 563344.

If it would be helpful for a member of the pastoral visiting team to call on you, please contact Howard, Debbie Norgate (01420 84534) or Gilly Cobb (01420 544404).



Ministers: All of Us Together

Vicar: Howard Wright (on study leave until 4th May)

Contact our Church Wardens

Dr Chris King-Smith: c.kingsmith@btinternet.com Mrs Lynn Vine: lynn.vine@live.co.uk

Youth & Children's Worker: Lorna Littlewood

Tel: 07914 519998 Email: lorna.cogs@gmail.com

Family Worker: Jane Hughes

Tel: 07711 407831 Email: Jane_COGS@btinternet.com

Church Office: Matt Senior

Tel: 01420 560622 Email: cogsoffice@googlemail.com

Send Sunday Sheet items to the church office <u>before end of day on Wednesday</u>



Everyone is welcome to join us for a chat and tea/coffee **between** morning services or **before** the 7pm service For communion, gluten-free wafers are available and there is a chalice with nonalcoholic wine. Please ask when you come forward if you would like to take these.

MISSION OF THE MONTH - January

Bethany Children's Trust

BCT is a Christian charity for children at risk, in Africa and beyond.



www.bethanychildrenstrust.org.uk