

# ST JOHN'S WEEKLY NEWS

**SUNDAY  
17TH APRIL  
EASTER DAY**

## **EASTER MESSAGE FROM MATT**

Australian Evangelical Graeme Goldsworthy summarised the Bible in his short account, According to Plan. In it, he describes the Creation, The Fall and Restoration that God brings through Jesus Christ in terms we can easily share.

The climactic act, however, is Jesus' earthly ministry which Goldsworthy describes as..

'Grieving and angered, the king undertakes an unusual campaign of reconquest: he infiltrates the rebel lands and announces he is reestablishing his reign. Wherever he travels, he defeats the rebel forces with provocative demonstrations of love and justice. He restores harmony and wholeness. He triumphs in the decisive battle, not by an overwhelming show of force but by offering reconciliation to the rebel forces through a surprising demonstration of humility and self-sacrifice.'

It is this ministry, with its powerful impact that Jesus is brought to trial for. In response to Pilate's questions, Jesus answered,



# EASTER MESSAGE CONT'D

**“My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.”**

John 18:36

And that for me is the centre of it. The Kingdom is not ‘of this world.’ Whatever ethical and political beliefs we have, worthy though they might be, they are not close to the love and justice of God’s kingdom. The kingdom doesn’t assert itself over those who need saving. These phrases from Goldsworthy put it well. In ‘An unusual campaign of reconquest.... He triumphs.....not by an overwhelming show of force.....demonstration of humility and self-sacrifice’. These are all things we respond to. We know we are proud, rebellious and selfish and are grateful for Christ’s grace in coming to save us from those sins, and others and the penalty he bore on the cross.

However, it doesn’t stop there. Jesus’ self-sacrifice matters because it is how he expects all on the side of truth to respond. Listen to John 18:37. ‘Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.’ What could that mean? Could it mean anything other than the change Jesus expects in us?

Self-sacrifice is the key. We have all had to adhere to so many things, regulations, guidance, lockdowns and so on. But it’s the self sacrifices that stand out. As we move from lockdown, where so many NHS staff have died helping others, to war, where those willing to give up their lives for others have come from across the world to help Ukraine, it is the quality we often most admire, yet so often shy away from.

I hope you have been enjoying the series we have embarked on in John’s gospel. It is certainly challenging to prepare and preach, but I hope it has been challenging to hear and reflect on too. Several of the preaching team and I have used Don Carson’s commentary. Widely acknowledged as the best commentary on John. From 1991, Carson was research professor of New Testament at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Chicago. While he was there a student came looking for him early in the day. Perhaps for help, perhaps to deliver an overdue paper, perhaps to excuse an incomplete paper. But Carson was nowhere to be found. Not in the staff room, or his study or the canteen. The story goes that the student found Carson cleaning the toilets. The cleaner was off sick and it wasn’t below Carson to help out in such a menial task. I wonder what we might have done, even in that simple situation. What does it take to step into a situation that isn’t ideal, but into which God has placed you to do something..... I’ll keep saying it, he became like us so we could become like him, isn’t just about eternal, heavenly life, but so that we could know God in the difficult and messy life which needs his love too. How might Easter change you this year?

Love Matt

# GOOD FRIDAY REFLECTIONS

Thank you to Rosemary Pearson and Sarah Adams for all their hard work in putting the Good Friday Reflections in the Church.



# 4 O'clock Church

## ACCESSIBLE

We use pictures alongside words in our liturgy and worship to help everyone feel included. There is plenty of activity at this service so if you need to move around that's ok.

## TODDLER ZONE

There is a dedicated zone for pre-schoolers with colourful, easy to clean and fun but quiet toys so parents can relax and engage with the service. We're glad you're here, don't worry about noise.

## WORSHIP

You can expect contemporary worship, working towards some free space to experience and enjoy God's presence.

## COMMUNION

We aim to have communion every week except for the first in the month. You can choose bread only, or intincted (dipped in wine), or simply come forward for a blessing. We're working towards admitting children to communion before confirmation. We will keep you posted.

## CREATIVE BIBLE READING

We often use tactile objects to explore a bible story or topic. We aim to make the story come to life for the listener! Congregation participation!

## ACTIVITIES

Children are provided with engaging activities for use during the sermon to give parents a chance to go deeper into God's word.

## PRAYERS

We use creative ways to engage with God in prayer, sometimes moving around the room or using objects to guide us.

## CHURCH NEWS / YOUR NEWS

## GET INVOLVED





## **CHRISTIAN AID**

**Christian Aid Deliver only envelopes 16th-22nd May**

If you would like to volunteer to post 'deliver only envelopes' to the parish this year, please contact Julie Fair as soon as possible before Sunday 17th April, so she can order the resources in time.

**Please sign up through Churchsuite for:-**

## **BIG BREAKFAST SUNDAY**

**Christian Aid Big Breakfast Sunday 8th May 9am**  
(before Sunday 1st May)



## **QUIZ NIGHT**

**Christian Aid Quiz Bring your own drinks and Nibbles Friday 13th May** (before Friday 6th May)



## **HUNGER LUNCH**

**Christian Aid Video and Talk followed by the Hunger Lunch Sunday 15th May after church**  
(before Sunday 8th May)



## **GARDEN PARTY**

**Christian Aid Garden Party Sunday 22nd May 11.15-2pm.** Volunteers needed to help set up and help on stalls-cakes, books, plants and toys. All donations welcome.



**CONTACT JULIE FAIR 01243 372070 or 07899077035 or [julie58fair@btinternet.com](mailto:julie58fair@btinternet.com)**

# ST JOHN'S ECO NEWS

If you have come into church from the car park recently you might have noticed that the compost area has been given a makeover. The old wooden bins have been shut down and we are now using enclosed plastic ones instead. The wooden bins will be removed once everything in them has composted. In future we will only compost materials which break down easily with everything else going to the tip.

We realise that going from wood to plastic may not seem very 'eco' but there are several benefits. The wooden 'just throw everything in' bins took a long time to compost and had become an eyesore. When they did eventually produce compost it was very good compost but far more than the church garden needed. We are trying to reduce the amount of kitchen and paper waste going into landfill in plastic bin liners - enclosed bins mean we can compost vegetable waste without attracting vermin and shredded paper/paper towels without it blowing around the carpark.

So, if you are working in the church garden, please put grass cuttings and weeds into the plastic bin marked as being in use. Once that one is full move over to an empty one but please swap the labels over. If you are able, please take twigs, leaves, hedge trimmings and any other woody bits to the tip, otherwise put them in the sack. There are spare sacks in the black bin with no lid.

Any questions/problems please contact Geoff or Janice Collett.





## **STREET PRAYERS CLICK HERE**

Our prayers this week will be focused on: -

Kelsey Avenue and Barnfield Close, Eastfield Close, Overton Road & Glenwood Road.

We will also be remembering the NHS, Doctors Surgery, Ambulance Service, Chemist & Nursing Homes in the parish.



## **THANK YOU FROM MATT**

Who ever found Matt's water bottle, could they let him know as he would like to thank you!!



# St Johns is going to

# UNITED

We're all going  
week A



**A** 23 JULY -  
28 JULY  
2022

**B** 29 JULY -  
3 AUGUST  
2022

at the EAST OF ENGLAND SHOWGROUND,  
PETERBOROUGH

**BOOK FOR  
SUMMER 2022**

[CLICK HERE](#)

[new-wine.org/United](https://new-wine.org/United)

NewWine



Rev Matt Luff  
Vicar  
minister@  
stjohnssouthbourne.com



Susie Bartlett  
Church Administrator  
admin@  
stjohnssouthbourne.com



Jon Robinson  
Church Warden  
wardens@  
stjohnssouthbourne.com



Sue McNeill  
Church Warden  
wardens@  
stjohnssouthbourne.com



Alan McNeill  
Church Treasurer  
treasurer@  
stjohnssouthbourne.com



Sarah MacLennan  
PCC Secretary  
admin@  
stjohnssouthbourne.com



Richard Carter  
Families and Youth  
families@  
stjohnssouthbourne.com



Kim Carter  
Families and Youth  
families@  
stjohnssouthbourne.com



Christine Liddle  
Safeguarding Officer  
safeguarding@  
stjohnssouthbourne.com