

**Parish Church of  
St. John the Evangelist  
Washington Street, Workington**

**DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS  
OUTBREAK WE CANNOT  
PUBLISH A PARISH MAGAZINE.**

**THESE ARE THE ARTICLES THAT  
WOULD HAVE BEEN IN THE  
MAGAZINE.**

**STAY SAFE AND GOD BLESS**

**April 2020**

# PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

## Priest in Charge

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## The Church Wardens

Mr. D. J. Pearson Tel: 01900 605907 / 07849254190

## Officers of the Parochial Church Council

**Chairman: Priest in Charge Vice-Chairman: Mrs. P. Evans**

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. U. Mitchell – Tel: 01900 871522

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## CHURCH SERVICES

~~Sundays: Eucharist 8.00am~~

~~Sung Eucharist 10.00am~~

~~Junior Church 10.00am~~

~~Holy Baptism 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 12.00 noon~~

~~Weekdays: Wednesday: Eucharist 11.00am~~

~~Notice of Banns and Marriage to be given to the Priest in Charge.  
The Blessed Sacrament is reserved in Church and the Clergy are able to  
take the Eucharist to the sick.~~

Dear friends across the communities of St Michael's and St John's Churches

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy.  
Sustain and support the anxious,  
be with those who care for the sick,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may find comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This April magazine sees us all facing into extremely worrying times as Covid-19, the Coronavirus, takes hold and our lives are turned upside down. Many of us will be self-isolating, cut off from contact with family, friends and neighbours. All of us will be anxious about loved ones, particularly those who are vulnerable. For the first time for centuries our Churches are closed for services – so the support and comfort of worship and fellowship is no longer available to us, although the possibility of live-streaming is hopefully going to work from St Michael's and St John's alternatively each week. (Please consult the churches' websites and FaceBook pages for further details). What are we to do, as we contemplate the weeks, possibly months ahead?

I commend three things. Firstly, that we remain as cheerful as we can. Esther Rantzen has reminded us that Shakespeare wrote some of his finest plays whilst in lock down. A friend of mine is setting up 'Corona Art' – encouraging folk to be creative – to write, to embroider, to paint, to garden. If we are well enough, there are opportunities to spend the hours as productively as possible. Reading a good novel can take us into another world and help us to forget the present troubles for a while. The second thing we can do is to be as courteous to each other as we can be. When we're anxious it can be easy to snap at someone else, or to be judgemental, or forget the normal manners that keep us human. When someone else is rude or angry to us, let's be forgiving and understanding - we don't know what worries they might be coping with. And third, let's stay connected. Use social media – set up a WhatsApp group of friends, or lift the phone to someone who comes into your mind. Write a letter. Use FaceBook to stay connected. There is a group across the parishes that is mindful of the those who need our prayers – do let Peter or me know if you are worried about someone and we'll ensure that someone contacts them.

Another way we can stay connected is by prayer. Throughout this time Peter and I will be stopping at 12 noon every day to say the Litany together – that ancient

set of prayers that take us through the whole range of troubles and difficulties. You can read it elsewhere in this magazine, replacing the social calendar of events which, for obvious reasons, count as non-essential and therefore are cancelled or postponed. Do join Peter and me as we pray the Litany. Light a candle and remember loved ones, commending the whole world to God's mercy. Don't forget our wonderful Radio Cumbria either, who saw us through the Foot and Mouth and the Floods, with virtual worship broadcast into our homes. Then let's keep hope alive for the time when this whole pandemic is over. In the last few weeks of March an orchard of 20 apple and damson trees was planted around St Michael's Church. By the autumn they will have their first crop of apples – God willing. By that time, we can reasonably hope, we will have resumed normality.

The German reformer Martin Luther once said, "If I knew the world would end tomorrow, I would still plant my apple tree." That impulse is a good and true one: that even in the face of loss, disaster and tragedy, we can still do things as if there is a tomorrow, trusting, hopeful in God's love. Planting an apple tree (or better, an orchard) offers a hosting environment for myriad other creatures to exist – it also helps us to know that the natural order around us heals us and helps us. Do get exercise – go for a walk – come and visit the orchard.

Those who were at the Dessert Island Discs on Shrove Tuesday heard me say that one of my favourite pieces of music is the Easter carol Jesus Christ the Apple Tree. As we journey in our own ways towards Easter, through the dark night of the soul that is Good Friday, we keep our hope alive that there is a love that is stronger than death. Love regenerates; hope is never in vain. So here are the words – and the music is easy to find on the internet. Why not think of your own favourite hymn or carol and hum it to yourself when you feel down? Easter is still real, even if we can't meet to worship. Jesus Christ is risen from the dead – in the world and in our hearts. Of this we can be sure – more sure than of anything else.

The tree of life my soul hath seen,  
Laden with fruit, and always green:  
The trees of nature fruitless be  
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:  
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell  
The glory which I now can see  
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil,  
Here I will sit and rest awhile:  
Under the shadow I will be  
of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,  
It keeps my dying faith alive;  
Which makes my soul in haste to be  
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

(Words from 'Divine Hymns or Spiritual Songs', 1784)

Your friend in Jesus Christ – with all prayers and blessings for this extraordinary Holy Week and Easter  
Frankie

## **THANK YOU**

Thank you for all the cards, flowers and messages of sympathy we have received on the death of John and for all the kindness shown to us throughout his illness.  
Janet Cook and family.

Thank you for all the cards and well wishes received during my illness  
Ronnie Hadfield.

## **FABRIC FUND**

In memory of Reverend John Cook from Jean Taylor; In loving birthday memories of Alan Armstrong from Pauline, Paul & family; In loving memory of Frank Pearson from Kathleen, Alan & Jonathan;

## **ST JOHN'S 50-50 CLUB**

The first 50-50 club draw of 2020 was held on Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, after the 10am service. The prize-winners were:

1 <sup>st</sup> :	Holly Stainton	No 78
2 <sup>nd</sup> :	Hazel Askew	No 27
3 <sup>rd</sup> :	Marjorie Ghazala	No 5

Many thanks to all those people who have joined for this new year of club membership. There are now 98 members and the Restoration Fund will receive £588 each year – 50% of the members' subscriptions.

## THE LITANY

### I

Let us pray.

God the Father,

**All have mercy upon us.**

God the Son,

**All have mercy upon us.**

God the Holy Spirit,

**All have mercy upon us.**

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity,

**All have mercy upon us.**

### II

From all evil and mischief;

from pride, vanity and hypocrisy;

from envy, hatred and malice;

and from all evil intent,

**All good Lord, deliver us.**

From sloth, worldliness and love of money;

from hardness of heart

and contempt for your word and your laws,

**All good Lord, deliver us.**

From sins of body and mind;

from the deceits of the world, the flesh and the devil,

**All good Lord, deliver us.**

From famine and disaster;

from violence, murder and dying unprepared,

**All good Lord, deliver us.**

In all times of sorrow;

in all times of joy;

in the hour of death,

and at the day of judgement,

**All good Lord, deliver us.**

### III

By the mystery of your holy incarnation;

by your birth, childhood and obedience;

by your baptism, fasting and temptation,

**All good Lord, deliver us.**

By your ministry in word and work;  
by your mighty acts of power;  
and by your preaching of the kingdom,  
**All good Lord, deliver us.**

By your agony and trial;  
by your cross and passion;  
and by your precious death and burial,  
**All good Lord, deliver us.**

By your mighty resurrection;  
by your glorious ascension;  
and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,  
**All good Lord, deliver us.**

#### **IV**

Hear our prayers, O Lord our God.

**All Hear us, good Lord.**

Govern and direct your holy Church;  
fill it with love and truth;  
and grant it that unity which is your will.

**All Hear us, good Lord.**

Give us boldness to preach the gospel in all the world,  
and to make disciples of all the nations.

**All Hear us, good Lord.**

Enlighten James and Emma our Bishops and all who minister  
with knowledge and understanding,  
that by their teaching and their lives they may proclaim your word.

**All Hear us, good Lord.**

Give your people grace to hear and receive your word,  
and to bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

**All Hear us, good Lord.**

Bring into the way of truth all who have erred  
and are deceived.

**All Hear us, good Lord.**

Strengthen those who stand;  
comfort and help the faint-hearted;  
raise up the fallen;  
and finally beat down Satan under our feet.

**All Hear us, good Lord.**

#### **V**

Guide the leaders of the nations  
into the ways of peace and justice.

**All Hear us, good Lord.**

Guard and strengthen your servant *Elizabeth our Queen*,  
that she may put her trust in you,  
and seek your honour and glory.

**All Hear us, good Lord.**

Endue the High Court of Parliament  
and all the Ministers of the Crown  
with wisdom and understanding.

**All Hear us, good Lord.**

Bless those who administer the law,  
that they may uphold justice, honesty and truth.

**All Hear us, good Lord.**

Give us the will to use the resources of the earth to your glory,  
and for the good of all creation.

**All Hear us, good Lord.**

Bless and keep all your people.

**All Hear us, good Lord.**

Bring your joy into all families;  
strengthen and deliver those in childbirth,  
watch over children and guide the young,  
bring reconciliation to those in discord  
and peace to those in stress.

**All Hear us, good Lord.**

**VI**

Help and comfort the lonely, the bereaved and the oppressed.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

Keep in safety those who travel, and all who are in danger.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

Heal the sick in body and mind,  
and provide for the homeless, the hungry and the destitute.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

Show your pity on prisoners and refugees,  
and all who are in trouble.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

Forgive our enemies, persecutors and slanderers,  
and turn their hearts.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

Hear us as we remember those who have died in the peace of Christ,  
both those who have confessed the faith  
and those whose faith is known to you alone,  
and grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

## VII

Give us true repentance;  
forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance  
and our deliberate sins;  
and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit  
to amend our lives according to your holy word.

**All Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

### REVEREND JOHN COOK

We are sorry to report the death of Rev. John Cook, aged 72.

John Cook served St John's Church for 27 years and is remembered as a down to Earth man who was a "faithful priest", loved by his congregation.

Archdeacon of west Cumbria, Richard Pratt said: "John was a wonderful and faithful priest. He was prayerful and a very good preacher. A really fine and faithful priest. A very humble man as well".

Our feelings go out to Jan, his wife and the family."

John was born in Beckenham, Kent and trained as a teacher after first leaving

school. He taught PE, RE and history but always wanted to be vicar. He came to St John's Church in 1987 and stepped down as vicar in 2014. When he retired at age 66 John said that he was marrying people who he had baptised.

He will be remembered by the football community in Workington as he served as chaplain for Workington Reds and coach of JJ's, a Sunday league football club. He was also a devoted follower of Crystal Palace Football Club and the England cricket team.

John worked as a guide at Wordsworth House in retirement. Janet said: "He just liked talking to people and it did him a lot of good."



**“MAY HE REST IN PEACE AND RISE IN GLORY”**

## Report from the PCC meeting held on January 8<sup>th</sup> 2020

The Archdeacon outlined the arrangements for the Licensing Service on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and Pat Evans read out the notes from Frankie, which were AGREED.

**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING** were signed as a correct record. There was one matter arising, Valerie Hallard reported that Workington Nature Partnership had identified areas for possible bulb planting in the churchyard, possibly planting a hedge, use bee bombs etc.. Allerdale is supportive but Ruth Carr has stated that Allerdale are no longer caring for the flower beds at the front of the church. The Archdeacon said that it is all closed churchyard. Valerie Hallard will speak to the Parks and Open Spaces department.

**The TREASURER** has produced an estimated budget including December expenses, utility costs, an organ service, December income from the Scouts and money from the Diocese to cover the costs of Marion Barter's report. Margaret Rose reminded everyone to submit expense claims. Her projection is a current account surplus of £1,200. Parish Offer payments are in arrears by £1500. It was AGREED that this should be paid.

MR reported that the current account balance at 31/12/19 was £8,655 and the Restoration Fund balance was £27,840 following the receipt of legacies to the value of £20,000. RP thanked MR for all her work.

**FABRIC COMMITTEE** Richard Lindsay provided minutes of the last meeting held on 6/1/20. A further quotation was requested before proceeding with repair/replacement of the lightning conductor.

Repairs have been carried out on the tower windows and MR confirmed that she had not yet received an invoice.

It was AGREED to allow David Pearson to decide on repair or replacement of the hot water boiler in the kitchen.

RL will seek clarification about gaining access through the locked gates to the side of the Community Hall.

The Archdeacon agreed to become formally involved in the dispute with Allerdale B.C. concerning repairs to the drive.

RL will organise a group of volunteers to scrape off flaking paint in the church.

The Archdeacon agreed to write a letter refuting Andrew Johnston's incorrect assertion that the PCC had instructed him not to issue the Final Certificate for the Roof Repair Project.

RP thanked the Fabric Committee for all their hard work.

**'SHARING GOD'S BLESSINGS' project at Abbeytown.** Revd Malcolm Stilwell gave an interesting talk about his work with the congregation and parishioners and believes that it offers a positive and inclusive way forward. The PCC felt that it may link in with Frankie's plans and MS agreed to discuss it with her.

**LETTINGS SECRETARY** reported that Barnardo's have lost their funding so their regular booking has ended. A birthday party booking on February 7<sup>th</sup>; Rotary has booked the hall for a recruitment day on 27<sup>th</sup> February and there is a booking in May for the election of the Police Commissioner.

**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WORKINGTON** 'Yoga for Prayer' will hold 6 meetings in February at St Michael's on Mondays at 4pm. 'Christmas in Company' operated successfully again this year and the General Election hustings was well attended.

**CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES** VH brought the 'Big Story Sack' and everyone agreed that it will be an excellent resource. An additional £20 has been raised and RL proposed that this should be given to Christian Aid. BL seconded and it was AGREED. The next Fun afternoon will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

**A.O.B.**

(ii) Jan Witty has to carry out an audit of everyone who currently holds a DBS check

A full version of the minutes is available to be read, by anyone who is on the Electoral Roll.

Rickie Mitchell

## **GENERAL SYNOD REPORT FEBRUARY SESSIONS (LONDON) 2020**

General Synod addresses three types of Business:

### **Legislation**

Approval granted for Episcopal oversight to transfer from Winchester to Salisbury Diocese

Cathedrals Measure about Governance of Cathedrals and relationship with Dioceses was approved

Diocesan Boards of Education: Governance report back from the ‘revision stage’  
Church Representation Rules are simplified and more flexible, of particular local interest:

- Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCMs) can now be held until the end of May
- Benefices connected to more than one parish can now form a joint PCC or share some duties of the PCC
- PCCs can agree to transact some business by email without meeting in person, including notification of meetings
- Electoral Rolls can be held electronically and need only be revised once annually
- No fixed minimum number of PCC meetings annually, but business must be handled properly (PCCs remain accountable!)

Further details: [www.churchofengland.org/church-representation-rules](http://www.churchofengland.org/church-representation-rules)

### **Ordering of the Life of the Church**

“Living in Love and Faith” The human sexuality project group is due to provide a book and resources in July to enable Dioceses, Deaneries and local churches to engage in an informed way with the issues.

Safeguarding: The Archbishop’s Council response to the IICSA report recommendations was approved.

Children and Youth Ministry was debated and good practice presented in Fringe meetings. Only a small proportion of our churches nationally have more than 25 children and young people in their regular attendance figures. Fresh Expressions such as Messy Church and schools work are the main form of engagement with this age group.

## **The Church and the World**

A Climate Emergency motion was debated and amended so that the church estate as a whole (including local churches) should aim for year-on-year reductions in carbon emissions and to become carbon neutral by 2030. This is recognised as a very stretching target and means for example that churches where the boiler may need to be replaced within the next ten years should have in place a plan for use of alternative energy sources ready to be picked up off the shelf on the occasion of breakdown. In the meantime we should be looking to minimise fuel bills and switching to renewable energy suppliers, and maximising the benefits of our churchyards for the environment through more sustainable practise, tree planting etc.

Engagement with Disadvantaged Communities and a fringe meeting on the development of resources and good practice examples to launched in the Church of England's online "Pioneer Hive".

Windrush Generation and their mistreatment in Britain with particular reference to the attitudes of some churches. This debate coincided with the deportation flight which was very poignant. We considered the loss to the churches of the largely vibrant Christian community of the Afro-Caribbean Christians and included recognition of the need for training in making us aware of the unconscious bias that we all carry that can spill over into racist attitudes, speech and behaviour if it's not brought to light.

An End to 'Pauper Funerals' was debated and some heart-rending stories were shared. Funeral Poverty is something that Solway Deanery Synod has covered as a major agenda item and the role that the church can play in delivering pastoral care to the bereaved as well as helping with advice and guidance to the family at an early stage. This included a referral to the Government for its attention.

Another motion calling on the Government for action was in the matter of Legal Aid. Funding has been much reduced and restricted to the criminal law, with the threshold is very low so that even low-income households may not be able to apply if they feel they have a case needing justice.

Valerie Hallard, 13 Feb 2020

## **ASHFIELD SCHOOLS' LINK WITH ST JOHN'S**

It is very unlikely that "Experience Easter" will happen this year, but we have offered to arrange something to support the schools during the summer term if they are operating.

## **NORTH LAKES FOODBANK**

Thank you for the 92 items donated during February. A shopping list can be picked up in church, sadly the need for help with providing food for individuals and

families is growing. Foodbank will be providing holiday packs over the Easter holidays for families who normally receive free school meals, the government will be supplying term-time vouchers for those families. More info: [www.thefoodbank.org.uk](http://www.thefoodbank.org.uk)

### **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10<sup>TH</sup> TO 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

This will be very different this year but it's as important as ever to support our neighbours overseas at this difficult time, both in relation to the impact of COVID-19 and the climate crisis which hits them even harder than us. Christian Aid are working hard to identify how we can still raise the funds that our partners rely on at this time, but I would welcome ideas about how our local response might work.

Thank you, Valerie Hallard

### **NEIGHBOURLINESS DURING THE COVID-19 ISOLATION MEASURES**

As a church, we'll be reviewing our support for the more vulnerable members of our congregation, but there will be needs local to our homes (and maybe ourselves). A generous-spirited neighbour of mine has already put a note around homes near her offering shopping services to anyone who needs them! I'm sure we will all be thinking how we can help vulnerable people local to us. If you have a smartphone you can download an app called "Nextdoor" which enables you to link with local people and offer or ask for help. We need to think about personal security but as Christians we can also be part of much-needed building up of trust in British society today.

**St Michael's and St John's Churches, Workington**  
**Arrangements during the time of National Crisis caused by the Coronavirus**  
**Covid-19**

<http://stjohnsworkington.org.uk/>

<http://www.stmichaelsworkington.org/>

**Public Worship Suspended; Prayer Continues ...**

In the light of national guidance from the Church of England, St Michael's and St John's Churches have suspended all public worship until further notice. For up to date information see

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>

The Daily Office will be said by the clergy and others in both Churches on a regular basis.

The Litany will be said at 12 noon every day by Frankie and Peter, and folk are encouraged to join in. It can be found, with other helpful prayer resources, at <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/daily-prayer/prayers>

Following the advice on the Church of England website we plan to live-stream a service on Sunday 22 March at 9.30 am from St Michael's Church. This will not be open to attend by the public. It can be followed on line using the link:

<https://youtu.be/naoljrpzTzY>

Do tune into BBC Radio Cumbria on Sunday mornings at 8 am for the service of worship which is broadcast across the County.

**Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals**

It is commended that Baptisms and Weddings are postponed wherever possible. Both churches follow the guidance which directs that not more than five people are present at Weddings; just parents and godparents at Baptisms, and at funerals, immediate family only.

**The Eucharist**

The Eucharist is, sadly, no longer a public act of worship. The Eucharist will be said on a regular basis at both Churches by only the priest and possibly one or two others by invitation. Such services of Eucharist are offered for the whole people of God and for the whole parish, and for the wider community, in the appreciation that not receiving holy communion is a serious loss. There is information on the Church of England website about what is called '**spiritual communion**', which encourages people that even though they cannot receive Christ in the sacraments in the way they are used to, they can be the presence of Christ in their homes and their communities, and a praying presence wherever they are and whatever their circumstances.

## **Being a people of love**

It is a remarkable strength of the church that we ensure the life of communities flourish particularly with the most vulnerable and marginalised. Now more than ever we need to be alongside people in safe and appropriate ways. Please let Peter 07952 372435 or Frankie 07791 165774 know if you are aware of anyone who is in need of support, with their phone number. If any wishes to participate on a rota or telephone tree, please let Peter or Frankie know. We plan to deliver flowers in pots (kindly donated by Bennetts Nursery, Distington (suitably sanitized) to those who are socially isolated, leaving it on the doorstep with a card posted through the door. Please let us know anyone who would be cheered by this.

Do light a candle in your window on Sunday evening at 7pm as a visible symbol of the light of Jesus Christ.

This come with every blessing from the clergy and PCCs of St Michael's and St John's Churches.

Yours in Christ, Frankie and Peter

21 March

## **THE GIFT RELATIONSHIP**

As I write I am quietly celebrating the fortieth birthday of my daughter Saskia, and giving thanks that she is still with us today.

In 2012 after a difficult pregnancy Saskia gave birth to twins. Barely had the placentas come away than she began to haemorrhage heavily. Despite attempts to staunch the flow of blood Saskia lost six pints of blood. The human body contains in all eight pints.

Saskia's' blood type is O Rh Negative and because of a national shortage of blood donations, which had been flagged up in the media earlier that year, the hospital she was in only had two pints of her blood type available for a blood transfusion. People with O Rh Negative are known as Universal Donors as their blood type can be given to anyone, but they themselves can only receive O Rh Negative. Desperate measures were called for and her medical team decided on packing her womb to staunch the flow of blood. Had this not worked she faced a total hysterectomy in a final effort to prevent any further bleeding. Thankfully packing her womb worked and she survived, although she was very weak for some time. Professor Richard Titmuss of the London School of Economics, who founded the discipline of Social Administration, in 1970 published a seminal work entitled *The Gift Relationship*, in which he referred to the donation of blood as THE ultimate gift because of its lifesaving properties.

We are sharply reminded of this in a different context as we prepare to celebrate Easter.

At The Last Supper when Jesus broke bread, he said, "This is my body, broken for you", and when he took the cup of redemption (traditionally the third of four glasses of wine drunk during the Passover meal) he said, "This is my blood, poured out for many". One can only imagine the consternation of his disciples, who, despite his teaching, failed to comprehend what was to come and how his actions foretold this.

Jesus' death, by which we are redeemed, is the ultimate free gift. He gave his life, as a ransom for many, of his own free will. And it cost him everything, for, as alluded to when he quoted Psalm 22 on the Cross ("My God, My God, why has thou forsaken Me?") he was cut off entirely from the presence of his Father. Yet Jesus concludes this time of travail with a victory cry, saying "It is finished! Into Thy hands I commit My spirit. "

We commemorate this on Good Friday (how many of us, I wonder, have speculated about why it is known as Good Friday and not Bad Friday, as I was wont to wonder when young). Three days later Jesus rose from the dead. He had conquered death, and by so doing set those of us who put our faith in him free also. (Penelope Elias)