THE SPIRE

Welcome to our new online magazine

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What's Happening at St. John's

COFFEE

MORNING

ST JOHN'S CHURCH

ST. JOHN'S ROAD, HEDGE END

Saturday, 2nd April

10 AM TO 1 PM

Homemade Cakes / crafts / raffle

Raising funds for
St. John's Church

www.stjohns-hedgeend.org.uk

Charity Reg. No. 1147617

COFFEE MORNING

21ST May

PLANTS /

HOMEMADE CAKES

For everything there is a season

New beginnings

Spring brings many new opportunities and new energy. It is a season of change.

But have you noticed how we try now to iron out the seasons? Take for instance the current debate about the impact of our individual 'carbon footprint' in relation to 'food miles.' A quick check around your local supermarket will reveal so much food, coming in some cases halfway around the world to satisfy consumer demand to eat fresh food out of what only a few ago would have been considered 'out of season.' Incidentally – please don't read anything into the picture that accompanies this article – it's just a nice reminder of spring!!

The implication of that short paragraph is hotly debated today as we struggle to reconcile supporting farmers in the developing world but understanding the need to cut carbon emissions that are harming the planet.

Whilst experiencing seasonal change in some areas of our life and ignoring others, we are I would suggest in danger of losing priorities, losing rest, losing trust, losing a sense of waiting and anticipation leading to loss of the whole picture.

The Christian Year

In the Book of Proverbs (which incidentally gives a lot of common-sense observations and advice) the writer says this, *'Do not move an ancient boundary stone set up by your forefathers.'*

Dependant on the Christian tradition, church festivals and fast days are loosely or strictly observed. But however individual churches view them they still retain important landmarks as pointers in a spiritual landscape that has served them well as they plot their course and focus their prayerful attention.

A reflection on seasons

I recently came across this piece written as part of a preface to a book about the Christian seasons. I reproduce it in full, because it seems to me to capture the essence of living our lives according to a certain rhythm which have the effect of militating against those things that we are in danger of losing.

'Human life, like the dawning of each new day, is rhythmic. Our bodies have their own cycles and rhythms, oscillating between activity and sleep, in concert with the alternation between light and darkness of the world about us. In relation to these changes, we construct patterns of our personal and corporate existence, our days and our weeks, our terms and vacations, our times of work and our times of relaxation.

Much contemporary living, however, has tended to obscure the fundamental patterns of our existence. The high standards of living we take for granted are paid for at a price – and not simply in the potential exploitation of the poorer nations to supply and maintain our affluence.

In the shadow of our material security, we are in danger of becoming desensitized to the changes and rhythms of the environment that sustains us. And in the wake of our insatiable need for material security we can find that we are out of touch with ourselves, driven by psychological forces that, if unchecked, do violence to our bodies and their legitimate needs.

In short, we become ill, both as people and as nations. We talk constantly about the 'absence of God' in our lives, but God is God, and therefore, by definition, always present. It is we who are not sufficiently at home in our bodies to receive him.'

Wise words

Together with the wise words from the Book of Proverbs, Atwell's observations about modern life will no doubt make sense to a lot of people. The real benefit to us is if we do something with them.

Which brings me finally to Easter that great Christian focal point of the year. Easter signifies and celebrates new life. It brings many new opportunities and a new energy. It is a season of change, and you don't have to travel far to experience it. Jesus Christ's Resurrection speaks powerfully into lives here and now when we recognise Him.

Kelvin Taylor
Vicar

February Quiz Night

A good evening with fish and chips plus an interesting quiz, everyone seem to enjoy themselves, 62 people attended, including Kelvin and Jane, also 2 teams from the Table Tennis Club.

The evening raised £293.20 for St. John's Church.

PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Care Kathy Moore

My role under this heading is at times is very happy.

It is a great delight to send cards or flowers for memorable occasions, such as milestone birthdays or notable wedding anniversaries, and the recipients are always extremely touched by the gesture from the church.

The other side of the coin, is perhaps not so joyful, sending cards or making a phone call when one of our church family is in hospital, ill or suffering a bereavement.

The role is made easier, by people keeping me informed about events etc, which is always very helpful.

Also other people in the congregation make phones call and generally keep in touch with people, which is wonderful. So please keep it up However it has been suggested that it would be helpful if possible that once these approaches have been made that it is advised to me. This would ensure that everything is coordinated , and that everyone is kept in touch.

We have a wonderful church family and at this particular time in our church life it is important to keep in touch and to 'be there for each other'.

Forget-me-not

At St John's Church there are people who have received training in
bereavement and also in listening.

This group are offering their time to anyone who would like some support.

Talking to someone who understands may help.

Please contact us at the
Church Parish Office 01489 790048

TABLE TENNIS FOR OVER 60'S

On Tuesday mornings between 30/40 people enjoy an active morning and a cup of coffee. The group runs every week throughout the year, and has been running for many years. There are 4 tables playing mostly doubles.

Mothers' Union

The morning of Saturday March 26th was a busy one for members of St John's Hedge End Mothers' Union branch. While one group was busy making up daffodil posies for Mothering Sunday, another was busy setting up the Underhill Centre for the annual fundraising 'I do like to be beside the seaside' event for the Away From it All (AFIA) family holiday scheme. AFIA provides a much-needed week's holiday for families undergoing stress, illness or trauma in their lives. The week away includes a day at the seaside hence the theme. The Underhill Centre was festooned with bunting; table centrepieces included seashells, a bucket and spade to hold cutlery and a stick of pink seaside rock. A beach scene was created in one corner and a playlist allowed for the sound of waves and seagulls as well as seaside songs to be played. Guests enjoyed a traditional seaside meal of fish and chips, bread and butter and a pot of tea, with ice cream sundaes for dessert. The event was very enjoyable and together with a raffle and donations, £484 was raised.

The Mothers' Union meets the **second Wednesday of the month at 7.30** in the Underhill Centre. We usually have a speaker and time for a chat at the end of the meeting over a cup of tea. We hold various fundraising events and activities during the year as well as having a carol service in December. These support many causes such as the Away from it All family holiday scheme, the Summer of Hope Appeal to help fund Mothers' Union projects overseas, the Society of St James, and projects in Bukedi, Uganda, to name but a few.

The Mothers' Union is an international Christian campaigning charity that seeks to support families worldwide and is also actively involved in social policy. Some of its projects include literacy and development, parenting, micro-finance and campaigning against violence against women and human trafficking. The Mothers' Union is part of Make Poverty History and the Jubilee Debt Coalition. In the UK it has successfully lobbied governments to introduce the right to request flexible working for all parents.

Despite its title, Mothers' Union members are not all mothers or even all women, as anyone can be a member! If anyone would like to come to one of our meetings, they'd be more than welcome!

Sally Lloyds

INFORMATION PAGE

ENQUIRES

PARISH OFFICE, Underhill Centre, St. John's Church

St. John's Road, Hedge End, SO30 4AF ` tel: 01489 790048

Website: www.stjohns-hedgeend.org.uk email: office@stjohns-hedgeend.org.uk

Office Hours: Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday 9.00am - 12.00 noon

Baptism, Weddings etc. - Please contact The Parish Office

CHURCHWARDENS email: churchwardens@stjohns-hedgeend.org.uk

Lyn Colman

PASTORAL CARE CO-ORDINATOR

Parish Office, Underhill Centre, St. John's Church tel: 01489 790048

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER AT ST. JOHN'S

Catherine Lynch email: safeguarding@stjohns-hedgeend.org.uk

Tel. Parish Office 01489 790048 or out of hours 024980 404333 mobile 07835094527

Please leave a message if there is no reply and I will get back to you asap.

MOTHERS' UNION

(2nd Wednesday 7.30pm)

THE SPIRE' CHURCH MAGAZINE email:spire.editor@stjohns-hedgeend.org.uk

Sunday Service

9.30am Eucharist

CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

The children's area, at the back of St. John's Church, has had a revamp.

After everything was washed and stored away during the pandemic, it seemed the ideal time to re-evaluate the area. So, with input from some families with young children, we have introduced a small table and some child sized chairs. A library storage unit was purchased, and some new books. A few of the existing toys have been put back, but not all of them.

Please do let us know what your child/ren think of the area, and if there is something we haven't thought if.

The new equipment was enabled by a legacy left to St. John's Church by the late Muriel Pardoe.

200 Club

Results of Draw for March 2022.

First Prize	100.00	No	043	Name Kathy Moore
Second Prize	35.00	No	251	Name Keith Field
Third Prize	15.00	No	337	Name Kathy Moore

Grand total to the Fabric appeal fund £31,759.00

TREES IN SPRING

Walking through the woods in early spring and looking at the fauna and flora slowly emerging from their winter slumber lifts one's spirit. The bare branches of the stately trees high above feels as though one is walking through an outdoor cathedral, and trees accurately tell their age by the annual rings, so embodied in the trunk is a vast amount of history, dry years by narrow rings, moist years by broad rings, trees are probably the oldest of God's creation, the giant Sequoia is thought to be 4/5000 years old!

God has many mysteries in His creation, the most fascinating to me is the leaves, they appear to be the only living things that can make their own food! Trees seem to have their own chemical laboratory as when the sun shines on the leaves, the green colouring (chlorophyll) causes a chemical change, the leaf takes in carbon dioxide and sunshine, unites it with the water received courtesy of the roots and manufactures sugar. When the leaves begin to form, the gentle breeze rustles the new leaves, it feels as though they are talking and saying "get busy, start planting, it's spring!

THIRD SUNDAY TEAM

Hello from the Third Sunday Team! We are a small group of volunteers who run the All-age worship service on the third Sunday of each month at St John's. While we are without a permanent vicar, we are supported by the visiting vicar Kelvin Taylor, who is currently helping to lead the services at St John's. We believe that it's important that the congregation of St John's should come together to worship together as one big family, to learn from one another and to grow in our Christian faith together. This means that we aim to put together a service that is accessible for the youngest members of the congregation but that contains depth to help the adults think too.

Over advent Em lead us in putting together a wonderful 'advent window trail', where a different Christmas-themed scene was unveiled each day to tell the Christmas story. It certainly was a talking point among members of the wider community on the Hedge End and Botley Facebook page.

In January we explored Jesus' first miracle at a Wedding in Cana via a brilliant Lego animation which told the story of how Jesus had turned water into wine to ensure the wedding celebrations could continue. We thought about how God's love and Jesus' example can transform us, just as the water was transformed into the richest, most delicious wine the guests had ever tasted.

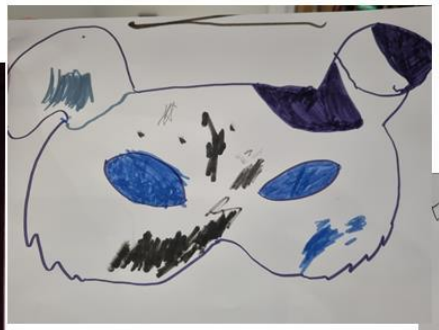
In February we looked at God's abundant and over-flowing love for us, as displayed in all of the blessings of creation. We thought about how that should give us confidence in God's care for us when we face difficulties in our own lives. The children were asked to make an animal mask showing either their favourite animal, or to make up their own – we had some lovely creations shared via the St John's email list.

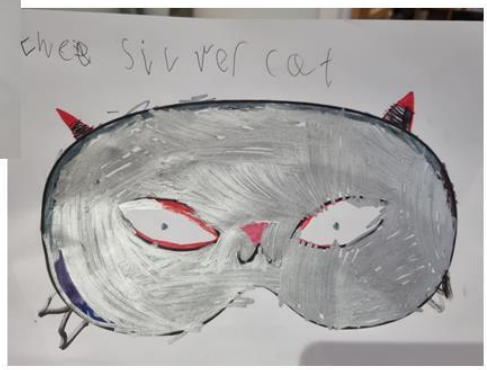
In March we focussed on lent and using this time of reflection to think about how we can better live our lives according to God's ways. During the service we asked the congregation to spend some time thinking about your own Lenten journey and how you have grown in your faith over this time and to write a short prayer to reflect this. Paper hearts have been left in the back of the church for you to write your prayer on. During the service on Easter Sunday you will be given the opportunity to come forward and tie your prayer to the resurrection cross, to symbolise offering your prayer to God.

We are very much looking forward to being back in church on Easter Sunday for the next Third Sunday Service – we will be exploring the life-changing news of Easter together, with activities for the children - including an Easter egg hunt at the end of the service.

Our services often include drama, Lego animations or other activities (like playing frisbee, archery or painting, to name a few) to bring the Bible lesson to life and draw out the meaning for an all-age audience. If you haven't joined us for a Third Sunday Service, we really hope you will come and worship with us soon. You are warmly invited and very much welcome!

The Third Sunday Team.





COMMUNITY NEWS

HEDGE END WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

On 22nd March Sarah Delves discussed the historical journey of the handbag. Our treasurer collected our subscriptions for the year. On Saturday 5th March there was a Craft Fair at Wildern School.

At our monthly meeting on the 26th April Andrew Negus will talk about Portsmouth and this is called 'Harlots, Dung and Glory'

Dates to remember:-

There will be a plant sale in May

On the 1st June there will be a Platinum Jubilee Picnic at the Rodway Centre

On the 28th September there will be 'Family Skittles' at the Follands Social Club in Hamble.

On Monday 3rd October we will have our very popular 'Make and Take Day' at the Underhill Centre.

There will be a Craft Fair on Saturday 5th November at the 2000 Centre.

Finally, on Monday 12th December we will have our Christmas lunch at the Reading Rooms in Curdridge

Our monthly meetings are on the 4th Tuesday of the month and starts at 7.30pm but the doors open at 6.45pm. We have a large and friendly group with a lot of different activities. Visitors are always very welcome.

For further information please contact our president: Jill Burrows 01489 782121