

NORTHSTEAD NEWS

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Message from the Minister

Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life. John 4: 13 - 14

As I write this, we are at the beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. By the time you read it, that week will be over for another year. But the unity of Christians is surely not a topic for just eight days a year. Christians celebrate one faith in God the Father, the Creator of all things, one Lord and Saviour in Jesus Christ, and one Holy Spirit alive and at work in this world today, and in the church. No matter where we live, or how we worship, those matters are fundamental to our Christian faith. And yet, during the 2000 or so years of the church, our core beliefs have often been overwhelmed and our unity fragmented by petty divisions and irrational mistrust.

The theme for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is "The Well is deep", and it draws on the story of Jesus' meeting with the woman at the well in Samaria. This event in the life of Jesus is full of interesting possibilities that can be explored. Christian leaders are being encouraged, in this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, to consider the angle that Jesus chose to enter a land that was alien and even hostile, in order to connect with this particular woman, and in order for his message to reach a new group of people.

Samaritans and Jews were hostile to each other because they worshipped God in different ways, although their faith had the same roots. Their mistrust meant that they never associated with each other, and actively avoided each other. Jesus, in his ministry, was not afraid to cross boundaries of any kind, in order to fulfil God's purposes. His disciples were more than a little anxious when he chose to travel through Samaria, and even

more horrified to find him in conversation with a woman, especially one of dubious reputation. But Jesus knew that this woman was seeking after the truth, and that he had something to give her which would change her life.

We, Christ's church here and now, also have something life-changing to offer to the world, and we too need to be willing to cross boundaries and step into potentially hostile regions in order to fulfil God's purposes. That's what mission is all about - stepping into new places, and building relationships with those who have questions, for which we, in our faith, have answers. The living water that Jesus offered still flows today!

The world is full of alien and hostile places - there are plenty of opportunities for sharing love and faith with those that have never known it in their lives. Yet the church seems often to even mistrust those who share our faith, but who worship in different places and in different ways. We need to learn from Jesus that God is there ahead of us in all places, and that nowhere and no one is beyond his love. His church, in its many branches, needs also to set aside its mistrust, its hostility, its fears of things that are different, in order to work together for God's Kingdom here and now. And maybe we too will hear others say to us: "Give me this water."

Praise the Lord of all good things
For whom the flowing water brings
Wealth of life, from dry ground brings
A brand new start where hope springs.
@ C. Stainsby 1990

Clare

Events on the Way!

On Saturday, February 7th, we are holding a **Bacon Butty lunch**. Delicious Butties will be served from 11.30 a.m. and everyone is welcome.

There will be a **Hymn Sing** and **Spud and Pud supper** on Saturday, February 21st. Join us to sing your favourite hymns and songs, and enjoy a jacket potato with chilli, beans or coleslaw and a selection of puddings. There is a box at the back of the church for your choice of hymns. It's £ 1 to choose a hymn, and £ 3 for supper. All proceeds will go to the circuit charities.

The Brownies will be holding a **Table Top Sale** and **Coffee Morning** on Saturday 28th March from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Proceeds will be for church funds.

Praise Midweek this month will be at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, February 18th, and **Messy Church** at 3.15 p.m. on Thursday, February 26th.

Sunday worship

Sun. Feb. 1st, 10.30 a.m. All-age worship, Rev. C. Stainsby.

Sun. Feb. 8th, 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion, Rev. M. Jackman.

Sun. Feb. 15th, 10.30 a.m. Morning worship, Mr. M. Mellodew.

Sun. Feb. 22nd, 10.30 a.m. Morning worship, Rev. P. Cross.

Coffee at Scalby

Our friends at Scalby Chapel will be holding their monthly Coffee Morning at 10 a.m. on Saturday, February 7th. There will be stalls selling cakes, books and Fairtrade items, and all are welcome.

Badminton Group Quiz

Most people at some time in their lives will be affected by cancer, be it a family member or at first hand. One of our Badminton Club members is currently undergoing an intensive course of chemotherapy, so we have compiled a quiz sheet to raise funds for this very worthwhile cause. The proceeds will be split between Yorkshire Cancer Research and St Catherine's Hospice.

Circuit Charities

Many, many thanks for the fantastic efforts so far. The Christian Aid Project in Kenya has now reached its limit. We have raised £5,000, match funded by the EU, £3 for every £1, which means £20,000 worth of difference.

Any money now raised for Christian Aid will go to a Project in Burkina Faso, improving nutrition and helping agricultural development, match funded by the EU, £5 for every £1 raised.

This fund-raising for Christian Aid and St Catherine's is a Circuit project. Unless otherwise specified, all money received will be shared equally between St. Catherine's Hospice and the Christian Aid project in Africa.

Ministry of the Flowers

We all appreciate the lovely flowers that greet us as we come into church each Sunday and our thanks are due to those who provide flowers, arrange them, and deliver them afterwards to friends who are ill, or in need of our loving support.

Wednesday Fellowship

The Fellowship is open to both ladies and gentlemen, and meets on Wednesday afternoons at 2.30 p.m. for a short time of worship, a speaker or entertainment, a cup of tea and a chat. The next meetings are as follows:-

Jan 28th – Brian Swiers, The Azores

Feb 4th – “Name that Tune”

Feb 11th – Sandra and Maurice, an afternoon of song

Feb 18th - NO MEETING

Ladies' Circle

Our Ladies' Circle meets at 7.30 p.m. on alternate Tuesday evenings.

On February 3rd, their speaker will be Councillor Bill Chatt, on “Local News”, and on 17th, they have a “Piano Evening” with Rev. Peter Cross. The speaker on March 3rd will be Diane Robinson.

Mission throughout the Circuit

Sunday 1st February, 2.30 p.m. at Burniston Methodist Church

An opportunity:

- to hear good news stories of God's mission in the North Yorkshire Coast Circuit
- to be encouraged to think about how we might be involved in mission
- to be challenged about God's mission
- to share in conversation with others
- to seek God's vision together
- to worship together at 4 p.m.

Snooker Marathon

The Annual Christian Aid Snooker Marathon will take place from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on January 30th and 31st at Westborough Methodist Church. Sponsor forms are now available and Northstead will be represented.

There will be a coffee morning at Westborough on Saturday 31st from 10 a.m. and Maggie will be pleased to receive any offers of cake etc.

Proceeds will go to the Christian Aid Christmas Appeal for Kenya, match funded by the British Government.

Sensations of a Wound

“Sensations of a Wound” tells the story of a Yorkshire soldier in the First World War. Robert Riby Boyes’ experience took him a long way from home. He travelled from Scarborough to the Western Front in France; from the Battle of Passchendaele in Belgium to southern France; from the mountains of Italy to the Front in Northern France and beyond.

Jim Boyes, Robert’s grandson, remembers how his grandfather, known as ‘Croppie’ in the family, never talked about his wartime experiences. It was only when Jim began writing songs and researching First World War history that a fuller picture of his grandfather’s past emerged and he found out about the long journey of Private Boyes of the 23rd Middlesex regiment.

Bringing together ‘Croppie’ Boyes’ first-hand accounts, Jim Boyes’ original songs and Belinda O’Hooley’s piano accompaniments, “Sensations of a Wound”, at Westborough Methodist Church on Saturday, February 21st, tells the story of a young soldier who travelled far from home.

Thursday's Child in Concert

"Songs that reach right into your soul", "an engaging musical experience", "their passion for music and life is infectious" are all comments made by audience members about Thursday's Child and their music.

Stephen Brown and Carol Anne Parker are both ministers working in Scotland: Stephen in the United Reformed Church and Carol Anne in the Church of Scotland. Together they comprise Thursday's Child.

The songs they write and perform together are intended for those unafraid to ask searching questions of life and for those who feel they have "far to go" in terms of finding faith or perhaps even personal peace. Tragedy and triumph, loss and longing, fear and faith - all these and more find a place in their music as they try to articulate the joys and sorrows of being human.

With a range of instruments and harmony singing, and with a backdrop of evocative projected images on which to reflect, Thursday's Child concerts offer non-threatening space to sit and mull over to music matters of the heart and soul.

Thursday's Child will be "In Concert" at St. Andrew's Church on Saturday, February 21st at 7.30 p.m.