

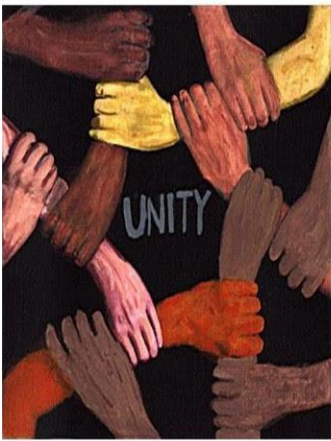
Notices – 28th February 2024

Dear All

Didn't Nisha open our service beautifully with two pieces of scripture about unity? Something this world needs at the moment and something we should all strive for.



**How good and
pleasant it is when
God's people live
together in unity!
Psalm 133:1**



**Be completely
humble and gentle;
be patient, bearing
with one another in
love. Make every
effort to keep the
unity of the Spirit
through the bond of
peace.
Ephesians 4:2-3**

Revd George Rogers spoke about the faith of Abraham and left us with two challenges. 1. Are we walking with the same faith of Abraham to believe God even though we don't see it? And 2. To be Christian people, to take up our cross to serve Jesus, to be seen as different. Always be ready to give an account of our lives to others?

Thank you to everyone who served before, during and after the service.

Over the last couple of weeks, we have been praying for the most dangerous countries to be a Christian in. Here are the final 10 countries from Open Doors, World Watch list 2024 showing the top 50 countries who do not share the luxury of freedom of faith with us. As you read their names please do pray for the Christians who live in fear and for their oppressors.

41. DCR (Democratic Republic of Congo)
42. Indonesia
43. Cameroon
44. Brunei
45. Comoros
46. Tajikistan
47. Kazakhstan
48. Jordan
49. Malaysia
50. Turkey

Next Sunday is the third Sunday in Lent. The readings will be 1 Corinthians 1 v 18-25 and John 2 v 13-22. Jeremy Smith will bring God's word to us. Please pray for Jeremy as he prepares his talk. Josh Clarke will be leading the worship. Please pray for our youth group as they take a leading role in our service.

Notices

An important message regarding our use of the school from Val in her capacity as School Governor

Speaking with several people after the service it was noted that some children had been left to play in the reception area, jumping around on bean bags and furniture. I don't wish to seem a kill joy but as a governor of Whitefriars I think we need to be respectful to the school, and also for the safety of the children. May I request that parents/guardians make sure their children are in the hall during the service or sit with them in the reception. There is also a safeguarding issue with the front door being open at all times, the children can't be seen from the hall.

Many thanks
Val

A Message from Celia – Retired's Group

The next meeting of the Retired's Group will be on Friday March 1st at 1.30pm in The Bridge. We shall be having an Easter quiz & Sara is organising our Easter craft.

It would be really helpful if one or two people would be willing to be on standby for the first Friday of every month, in case there are members who need transport to be able to come or any new people who would like to join us but are without transport.

Please phone or text me if you are able to help on 07929567368.

Blessings
Celia

Prayers for the New Vicar

We are still praying each Sunday at 9.45am for our new vicar. Please join us in the library before the service.

LZ7 Illuminate Tour

Amazing news! We needed 36 Street Stewards to cover the route between Duck Street and Rectory Road car parks (in pairs) and we currently have 34. The churches across Rushden, Raunds, Sharnbrook and Irthlingborough have really responded amazingly.

Thank you everyone at Whitefriars!

<https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/202541202018/false#/invitation>

Please hold up the Illuminate week in your prayers and also pray for the AAA youth groups that are following in Rushden, Raunds and Sharnbrook.

Also please pray that the **tickets** will be sold. We're using Eventbrite as some of the schools are cashless sites. That means it's up to the young people themselves to remember and to get their parents to pay on the app

Cake for the Parent Zone

The Parent Zone is an opportunity for parents to relax, hear a live link to the concert and chat to the team and other parents. If anyone could bless this by making a cake or tray bake, that would be great!

Message from Rachel Murphy: Women Who Pray

Are you a woman? Do you like to pray? Do you enjoy cake? I would love to set up a prayer group for women, to run once a month on the weekend over coffee and cake. This would be spirit led and we can pray for whatever is on people's hearts, whether that be a person, the church, the country or the world. There will be no fixed agenda. It will be a completely safe space where women can learn from each other about prayer, scripture, prophecy, words of knowledge and pictures. Each woman brings their own faith, gifts and knowledge. I am happy to host in my home in Higham Ferrers. If you'd like to come along or just receive further details (no commitment) please do get in touch with Rachel rachimurphy@yahoo.co.uk and I'll share details of dates, times and address once everything is set.

A couple of messages from Andrew Presland

One of the 4th Rushden (Whitefriars) Scout Group leaders who came to the church litter pick last Saturday is an active collector of **aluminium cans**, which she crushes and passes on to the **Helipads for Hospitals** charity. She is keen to pick up, each Sunday morning from the school, any that we have collected as a church (if it turns out that we are big enough can users to make this worthwhile). Although she isn't due to start coming on Sunday mornings yet, please can you hang on to any cans that you have - or that you collect - until she does start fetching them please? Thanks - Andrew Presland.

You are invited to hear Chad talk about Wild Church and Eco church at St Mary the Virgin Church, Finedon at 7.30pm on Tuesday 5th March. This will be the first part of the Higham Deanery Synod meeting and is open to all.

Can you help please?

Lent Lunches

This is now getting urgent!

We now have the dates for the Lent lunches. They are on Wednesday 21st, 28th February and 6th, 13th and 20th March. 11.30am to 1.00pm. **Whitefriars has been asked to make and serve soup on the 13th March.** We now have four offers for making soup. Thank you soup makers. **We still do need offers for help with serving and washing up.** So far one kind person has offered to help Emma and myself with this. Are you available on the 13th to serve and wash up afterwards?

Refreshments setting up rota

One very kind person has volunteered to join the refreshments setting up rota. We really do need two more people to join that rota. Is this something you could do?

Cleaning Rota

We now only have three people on the cleaning rota. Could you share the load? If five more people could offer to clean you would only be asked to clean the Bridge once every two months!!! Could you give a couple of hours once every two months? Thank you.

If you would like more details about the different rotas and what each job entails, please chat to me on Sunday.

With blessings,

Sara Owst
Ministry Resources Manager