

Notices

17th January 2024

I hope you enjoyed going to Stepping Out last Sunday. A few brave souls ventured outdoors in the cold to join Andrew on the countryside walk and Pete at Fit n Ready. Most people enjoyed the warmth of the Bridge for Silver Service, the Salvation Army cafe for Coffee N Encounters and the Coffee Barne for Books n More.

If you would like to prepare for next Sunday's service the readings will be 1 Cor 7 v 29-31 and Mark 1 v 14-20. We will be welcoming David Bracken from the Mission Church as it is our annual town pulpit swap. Pete Squires will be taking God's word to the Wes. Please pray for Pete and David as they prepare their talks.

Notices

LZ7 Illuminate Tour

AAA taster/training session- Saturday 20th January, 10-12pm at Park Road Baptist

We need a team of people to be leaders at the AAA youth group starting Friday 15th March for 12 weeks. Roles could be upfront on stage, leading a small discussion group or leading group games etc , Previous youth work experience is not essential, just a strong personal Christen faith and an interest in helping young people on their faith journey. **Come along on Saturday at 10am** to find out more. More information available from Matt Croxon matt.croxon@gmail.com or Simon King king.simon@live.co.uk

Illuminate Street Safety team on March 8th and March 9th

Great news teams are filling up for the Illuminate concerts but we particularly need people to join the Street Safety teams. The Street safety team will be along to route from public carparks signposting the way and preventing excited teenagers tripping into the flow of traffic. The team are needed from 6.30-7.45pm and again 9pm-10pm on both concert nights (8th and 9th March). St Mary's are going to open up their church hall for stewards HQ, with a hang out space, tea, coffee and cake or you can go and come back again. See, Matt, Simon or Luke for details - please also "Sign Up" on the following link [Sign up](#).

Thank you!

Matt Croxon

Ash Wednesday

Easter is quite early this year. Ash Wednesday is on the 14th February and Rev. Rachel from St. Peters church is hosting the annual Ash Wednesday service. She has asked if someone from Whitefriars could lead the prayers. Is this something you would like to do? If so, please let me know and I can confirm this with Rev Rachel.

Also during Lent St. Marys will be hosting the Lent lunches. Would you be willing to help serve or make some soup? I don't yet know the date that we will be asked to serve but knowing we have a team ready would be very helpful.

Refreshments

For the last few weeks we have been trialling refreshments before the service each Sunday. I'm sure you would agree with me that this has been a huge success. Thank you to Simon and his team for doing this.

Now that we are starting a new year with renewed energy and enthusiasm for all God wants to bring to us, it would be nice if we could share the load. We already have teams to oversee the refreshments at the end of the service, but it would be unfair to ask them to do more. Would you consider joining a team to set up the refreshments at the beginning of the service and the "after the service team" would put it all away? We definitely need a minimum of three people but more would be good. If you would like to know more please speak to me and I can explain where everything is kept and what needs to be done.

We have also really enjoyed the cakes and donuts. If you would like to bring cakes for everyone to share that would be lovely. If these items contain nuts etc., please make sure they are labelled to avoid people becoming ill.

Also we would really like everyone to bring their own cups. We do not have a washing up team at the moment, which is very sad for a church this size, which is why we ask you to bring your own cups. We do have paper cups, which are meant for visitors, but that creates waste that we could avoid. Global warming is never far from our minds and we could do one small thing to help by bringing our own cups. This is the view from Ken and my kitchen window last week. Our house was fine but our next door neighbour did not fare quite so well as his house was on the level of the river. If we can create less waste we are all helping to save our world.



A message from Richard our Church Warden

PCC highlights:

After Lizzie and Mikey leave in February, the Ignite Sunday evening youth group will continue and be led by Rosie & Josh Benn, as well as Matt & Eve Bundock, until new arrangements can be agreed with a new vicar.

Finances. The end of year situation was ok, but in 2024 our financial reserves could be depleted. Ken would brief the church on this in a few weeks' time.

Recruitment process for a new vicar. Adverts went out a couple of weeks ago with a closing date of 4th Feb. Please pray that the right person applies. Interviews are scheduled for the end of Feb and the 2 Whitefriars parish reps are Ali Gibson and Richard Holley.

Some concern had been expressed by liberals in the church about some of the wording in the parish profile, that had been endorsed by the PCC in November 2023. It was explained that there is a formal CofE process that we have to abide by and that the only way to make changes would be to withdraw the adverts and start the whole process from the start again. There is a time limit for us to do this. Starting again carries with it the risk that the recruitment could be completely taken out of our hands and a new vicar imposed on us without consultation. The PCC chose to continue the recruitment.

The CofE LLF prayers for gay couples would not be used during the interregnum and discussed with the new vicar.

The Whitefriars annual meeting (APCM) will be on 22nd April, where 2 churchwardens and 3 PCC members can be elected.

Richard

And finally some good news

As so many good things happened during Advent I thought it might be nice to have a memory page on the website. If you would like to see the photos then here are the links www.whitefriarschurch.org.uk then click on What's On and scroll down to "What we did last Christmas". All the photos are on the pdfs for each activity. If you have any photos of Christmas day that you would like to share of the children dressed as nativity characters, then please let me have them (provided you have permission from the parents).

I hope you enjoy the rest of the week and I look forward to seeing you on Sunday. Don't forget your coffee cup.

With blessings,

Sara Owst
Ministry Resources Manager