



Notices 30th October 2024

Dear All,



See, the Lord God comes with might and his arm rules for him and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd: he will gather the lambs in his arms and carry them in his bosom and gently lead the mother sheep.

Isaiah 40 v 10-11

It was lovely to welcome Rev. Philip Evans back to Whitefriars last Sunday. He spoke about David the shepherd king and compared David to Jesus our shepherd king. David was a shepherd king, a sincere king, a spirit filled King, a superior King (compared to Saul) and a surprising King (Samuel expected a tall, mature, older brother to be king). God looks at the heart not the outer appearance. Jesus was all and more of the attributes shown in David. Rev. Philip asked how should we respond? We should acknowledge Jesus as king. Come humbly to him and be loyal. We should not run away from our shepherd. Finally, we should be surprised at where he is leading us. He finished with a prayer quoting from Psalm 23. That we would rest in green pastures and walk by still waters.

If you feel that God spoke to you during the service about our church and our future, please do speak to the wardens. We would love to add words and prophecies to our prayer book.

Thank you to everyone who served before, during and after the service. So much hard work went into every part of our time together.

Next Sunday - 4th Sunday before Advent

We will be continuing with our theme of Jesus in the Old Testament with Daniel. Our readings will be Daniel 7 v 13-14 and Luke 21 v 25-28. Jeremy Smith will be bringing God's word to us. Please pray for Jeremy as he prepares his talk.

Christine and Nisha will be serving on prayer ministry at the end of the service.

Notices

A message from Celia – Retired's Group

The Retired's Group will be held on Friday November 1st, in The Bridge at 1.30pm & the speakers will be the members sharing about their childhood and first schools. Please come along, even if you don't want to share, and listen to others sharing their story.

Hot Water for Coffee – Parents please read this

Having looked at how we serve coffee it has become clear that it is not always easy for some of us to access the flasks. We would like to try something a little different next Sunday but we are very mindful of all our little people in the church. The hot water flasks are not always easy to push the water out

due to the flask lids being stiff and also the height of the serving hatch. We would like to put a small table under the hatch where only one flask will be placed. This should make it easier for some of us to serve the hot water. The other two flasks will stay on the hatch. Parents please be mindful of this and watch your children as we do not want to have any accidents. If this is helpful to those of us who have struggled to use the flasks, please let us have feedback. If it is not helpful we will revert back to just using the hatch as the safety of everyone is important. Thankyou.

Songs of Praise

Did you watch Songs of Praise? Last Sunday Songs of Praise featured Christian saxophonist Yolanda Brown. She was wonderful. It made me think how blessed we are as a church to have Colin Bugby our very own saxophonist lead us in worship. This week's songs were How great thou art, Here I am to worship, Total praise, I surrender all, Sing unto the Lord and Blessed assurance. If you did not have a chance to see the programme, please look on the BBC iPlayer it was very good.

Save the Date

Our next time of prayer together will be on Thursday 28th November from 4pm-9pm in the Bridge. I know that a few home groups meet on a Thursday evening so perhaps you might consider changing locations for the evening? Full details of the programme will follow. Please put this date in your diaries so we can join together and seek God's will for our church.

Save the Dates

Last year a group of us had a very enjoyable evening carol singing. We would like to do this again this year and there are two dates to come and sing in the community. The dates are Saturday 14th December and Thursday 19th December. Details to follow.

A Message from Andrew Presland

Please see the invitation below about the men's conference. For more information, please click on the link below.

Thank you Andrew



<https://www.mgpnorthampton.org.uk/event-details-registration/mens-conference-2024>

A Message from Matt Croxon

The Rushden and Higham Council of Churches are organising an event with Christian Vision for Men (CVM) called Unschooled Ordinary Men. CVM has a vision to reach 1 million men with the good news of Jesus and have organised the Unschooled Ordinary Men events as a rally for Christian men to help this mission. Why is it called Unschooled ordinary men?

"When they saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they marvelled and took note that these men had been with Jesus." Acts 4:13

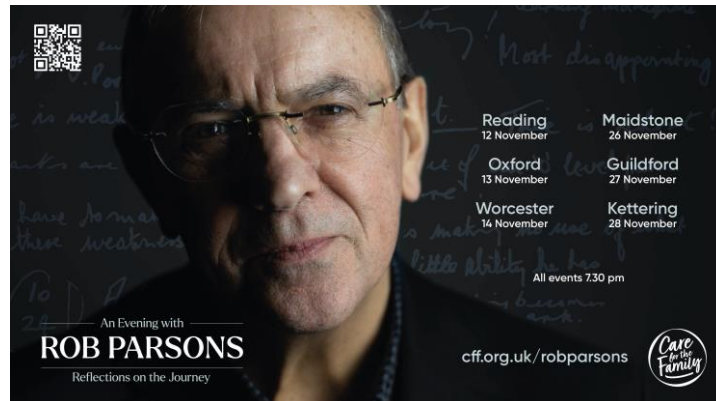
Details; Park Road Baptist Church, Saturday 23rd November @ 7,30pm. Tickets £5

More information and tickets on the link below

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/christianvisionformen/1321152>

Care for the Family – Autumn tour

Care for the Family is one of our mission charities this year. An Evening with Rob Parsons, "Reflections on the Journey" is coming to Kettering on 28th November at Christ the King, Kettering, NN15 7AA. If you would like tickets - Early Bird tickets are £6 until 29th October. Group Tickets £8 each and standard tickets £11.



Prayers and Fasting 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. Some members of the congregation are intentionally praying and fasting for the church and 'inter-regnum' once a week. Please feel free to do the same if you think you are being called to.



Nisha spoke about biblical fasting. She interviewed Pete Squires and Matt Bundock. Pete pointed out that Jesus said "when you Fast" not "if you fast" Matt 6 v 17. It is a discipline to fast but our relationship with God grows deeper. It is about sacrifice and it is between you and God. Pete made the distinction that it is only about food and nothing else. If people say they are fasting from using their phones or tv then it is idolatry because we value, the object we are giving up. When we give up food it is about God because he feeds us.

Nisha said about fasting: -

- It is good, whole and proper as it carries God's blessing. Biblical fasting is refraining from eating with prayer.
- How should it be done? Discreetly unlike the Pharisees in Matt 6 v 16-18. It is a private thing between you and God but Jesus spoke about it to the disciples so that we would know about it today.
- Daniel fasted from rich food only and ate vegetables to honour God. Daniel 1 v 8-14
- Fasting could be public/corporate/community – at a time of great trouble or for a specific reason. Esther 4 v 16 or Jonah 3 v 5. We could fast and pray for our new vicar.
- The spiritual disciplines are Prayer, fasting, meditation and study
- Nisha quoted from Richard Foster's book "Fasting is Feasting". "We are not so much abstaining from food as we are feasting on the Word of God."

Nisha asked Matt Bundock as a doctor about fasting. Matt said that you need to think carefully about fasting if you have mental health issues relating to food and other health conditions. Fasting is not about making ourselves ill.

If you would like to know more about biblical fasting please speak to Nisha Slater, Pete Squires and Matt Bundock

"Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters,
who brings forth chariot and horse, army and warrior, they lie down, they cannot rise, they are
extinguished, quenched like a wick; Forget the former things! do not dwell on the past.
See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."
Isaiah 43 v 16-19

Ask not what your church and God can do for you, but what you can do for your church and God. Here are some opportunities for you to serve God and His church

Refreshment and SUPA Rota

We really do need one more person to offer to help with refreshments on a Sunday morning and one more person to join the SUPA team as we now do not have enough people on these rotas. Both jobs would only be once a month plus one fifth Sunday a year. Could you offer to fill one of these two jobs please?

If you would like more details about the different rotas and what each job entails, please chat to me on Sunday or email office@whitefriarschurch.org.uk.

I hope you have an enjoyable week and I look forward to seeing you on Sunday.

With blessings,

Sara Owst
Ministry Resources Manager