

Three Churches Newsletter

August 2019

St John Baptist, Hugglescote
St Christopher's, Ellistown
St Mary's, Snibston



I love August. August is the quiet time in the rhythm of the parish year. The schools are shut. There are fewer meetings. We have fewer targets to meet and agendas to fulfil. Many people will be on holiday. August is our sabbath. A very necessary time of rest and relaxation in the midst of our busy lives. Church people often live especially busy lives because the commitment that we make to Christian service, both inside and outside the church, takes a lot of time and energy – sometimes too much. So, thank God for August. A time to slow down and hang out.

In June I went on a short theology summer school and one of the themes that we explored was how God delights in the ordinariness of our everyday lives.

Often when a person experiences the grace of God in their life, they want to make a whole hearted response and offer their life in service to God. That's a great response but it's very easy to think that that offering, that desire to serve God, has to be exceptional in some way. We hear of people doing 'great things for God.' How often do we hear of people living ordinary lives for God?

In 'The Message', the contemporary language version of the New Testament, translated by Eugene Peterson, Romans chapter 12 verse 1 reads like this:

'So, here's what I want you to do, God helping you: take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going to work, and walking-around life- and place it before God as an offering.'

The argument made by the teacher at the summer school was that all life is worship, all life is spiritual, when it is offered to God. Whether that be work, bearing children, cleaning the gutters, enjoying hobbies, making friends or spending some time relaxing in the deck chair on an August afternoon.

God made us – human beings, we are his creatures. And just as he made the earth, and all the animals, birds and sea creatures – he looked upon his creation and 'He saw that it was good'. Our humanity and all that it means to be human is good in God's eyes. Our value comes from being in this relationship with him. God as creator- us as his creatures.

Of course, God knew the limitations of Adam and Eve and he knows our limitations too. However, *'Adam and Eve are not required to be superhuman, super virtuous or super powerful. Their only requirement is their ordinary existence offered to their creator with gratitude and dependence. This is their daily worship.'* *Theology of the Ordinary- Julie Canlis.*

When we recognise God as our creator and acknowledge our dependence on him as his creatures and thank him for the gift of life then our everyday lives become lives of service and worship. In the relationships we have with our family, in our love of our neighbour, in attending our ordinary weekly worship, in the bread and wine we receive and in August by taking time out to be rested and more fully ourselves. In all this ordinariness we are serving God and being blessed by God.

This August let's enjoy this time of Sabbath and appreciate with thankfulness our everyday lives.

(We will think about Jesus in his humanity and what that means for blessing our everyday lives next time.)

A great weekend in July

We had a wonderful weekend in July – when it rained on the summer fair and we all piled inside St John's and there was a great atmosphere – and then the beautiful service on Sunday morning when Bishop Guli came and led a family communion and confirmed Barbara and Stuart Voce. And this was followed by a really successful messy church in the afternoon at St Christopher's centred on the story of Daniel in the lion's den. Eighteen children and their parents came along and made all kinds of lions, and shared worship and a tea together.

This was the richness and variety of parish life at its best. Good worship and good fun, being the family of God together and reaching out to others. It was all a blessing and we give thanks to God for each other and all that it means to be Christ's people in this place.

See the photos over page

One busy weekend in July:

The Summer Fair

Bishop Guli at Family Service

Messy Church worship

Give thanks to God!



Diary for August 2019

Thurs. 1st August
9:30 am Holy Communion, St. Christopher's
7:30 pm P.C.C. Meeting, Hugglescote Community Centre

Fri. 2nd August
7.00pm Hobby Heaven Hugglescote Community Centre
8:00 pm Bellringing Practice, St. John's

Sat. 3rd August
12 noon Wedding – James Allured-Rowley & Jodie Dawson, St. John's

Sunday 4th August – 7th after Trinity

8:00 am Holy Communion, St. John's
9:30 am Family Service, St. John's
12 noon Holy Baptism, St. John's
3:00 pm Messy Church, St. Christopher's

Mon. 5th August
9:15 am Coffee & Chat, St. Christopher's

Tues. 6th August
6:00 pm Evening Prayer at St. John's

Thurs. 8th August
6:00 pm Wedding Rehearsal, St. John's

Fri. 9th August
8:00 pm Bellringing Practice, St. John's

Sat. 10th August
11:30 am Wedding – Daniel Stroud & Heather Worman, St. John's.

Sunday 11th August – 8th after Trinity

8:30 am Holy Communion, St. Mary's
9:30 am Parish Communion, St. John's
11:15 am Parish Communion, St. Christopher's
2:00 pm Holy Baptism, St. John's

Mon. 12th August
9:15 am Coffee & Chat at St. Christopher's
7:30 pm Messy Church Planning Meeting

Tues. 13th August
2:00 pm Mothers' Union Strawberry Tea at St. John's
6:00 pm Evening Prayer at St. John's
7:30 pm Prayer & Chat re: new housing at Hugglescote Community Centre

Weds. 14th August
10:30 am Holy Communion, St. John's

Thurs. 15th August
9:30 am Holy Communion & Coffee Morning, St. Christopher's

Fri. 16th August
8:00 pm Bellringing Practice, St. John's

Sat. 17th August
4:00 pm Renewal of Wedding Vows, St. John's

Sunday 18th August – 9th after Trinity

8:00 am Holy Communion, St. John's
9:30 am Parish Communion, St. John's
11:15 am Parish Communion, St. Christopher's
6:30 pm Jacob's Ladder, Hugglescote Social Club

Mon. 19th August
9:15 am Coffee & Chat at St. Christopher's

Tues. 20th August
6:00 pm Evening Prayer at St. John's

Fri. 23rd August
8:00 pm Bellringing Practice, St. John's

Sunday 25th August – 10th after Trinity

8:00 am Holy Communion, St. John's
9:30 am Parish Communion, St. John's
11:15 am Parish Communion, St. Christopher's
3:00 pm Holy Baptism, St. John's

Tues. 27th August
6.00pm Evening Prayer, St. John's

Weds. 28th August
10:30 am Holy Communion, St. John's
2:00 pm Ellistown Afternoon Social Group Meeting at St. Christopher's

Fri. 30th August
8:00 pm Bellringing Practice, St. John's

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

At St. John's

30th June Chad Edward Wass aged 8 months

WEDDINGS at St. John's

13th July Dwight Valentine Sinclair & Rachel Louise Freeman

FUNERALS

At St. John's & Broomleys Cemetery

4th July Paul Musson aged 63 years

At St. John's & Hugglescote Cemetery

5th July Alfred William Chandler aged 90 years

At St. John's & Bretby Crematorium

10th July Michelle Denise Price aged 53 years