

Three Churches Newsletter

January 2019

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



Happy New year to you all. Every blessing for 2019.

There is something special about the turn of a year that prompts us to reflect on our lives and embrace new beginnings. Hence new year resolutions. We make them every year but with a wry perspective as we know how difficult they are to keep. Many of them are concerned with drinking or eating or smoking less, or more positively signing up to a diet class, joining a gym or buying a dog which means you have to go for walks.

Some of them are concerned with putting our spiritual house in order – we might decide to read the Bible every day or spend more time in prayer, to volunteer time or commit to a regular act of kindness to a neighbour. These may be good and more holy intentions but they will be just as hard to keep as the other resolutions.

The point is that these decisions are our own and depend purely on us and we are accountable only to ourselves. But for us, as Christians, if we truly desire to change something about our lives or our lifestyles then we will have to learn to rely more and more upon God and trust ourselves to his loving care and the work of the Holy Spirit active within us.

The place to start is in prayer and with honesty - taking a hard look at what we think needs changing about our patterns of life and bringing more in line with God's will for us and what God wants for us. God's spirit will prompt you as you pray. You will know your short-comings even if you would prefer that they would be buried.

Secondly, confess these places where you fall short and desire to see change – perhaps in a relationship or in a lifestyle choice. Confess them to the Lord and seek his help to truly bring about change.

Or reflect on how you are used by God to build his kingdom. Is a lot of your energy and time directed elsewhere? Ask yourself - what are your priorities? Is there a lot of fallow ground left in your life? Open yourself up to God and pray that God will bring new opportunities and a new sense of direction for how he desires to use you. Believe me – God answers such prayers. Here is a prayer to get your started:

"Dear God, I want the new year to be different for me." Now spell out in prayer some of the changes you'd like to see. And close this way: "Lord Jesus, I know that I'm going to need a lot of help for this. So right now, I place myself in your hands. Help me to receive Your strength. Amen." Good. Now you've got a much better chance of a Happy New Year.

A new vision for a new season. The Parish in 2019.

I have spoken recently about how the PCC have been seeking God for a new direction for the ministry of this parish. We have been seeking clarity about where to put our energy and resources. What does God desire to see happen here, in this little corner of the world, through these churches?

As we work on this vision over the next few weeks, we will also want to bring it back to the members of the congregations for your responses. This will be an important step in discerning the way ahead. This has been prompted through the review of my ministry here after ten years and also by the recognition that the parish is changing. A large number of new houses are being built in the area and many young families are moving in. The demographic in an area like this is weighted towards younger adults and families with children. How are we engaging them and embracing them? These are some of the questions we have been discussing.

Meanwhile we will also be reflecting on what it means to be church – not just to come to church – but to be the body of Christ – church as people not as a building. We will be preaching a short sermon series on **'Being Church' on January 20th, 27th and February 10th**. Please come along if possible. We are exploring new year resolutions for the parish not just for ourselves. Please pray as we set out on the next stage of the journey for the churches here.

CLERGY CONTACT DETAILS

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Diary for January 2019

- Tues. 1st Jan.
6:00 pm Evening Prayer at St. John's
- Weds. 2nd Jan. 2:00 pm
Ellistown Afternoon Social Group Christmas Party at St. Christopher's
- Thurs. 3rd Jan.
9:30 am Holy Communion at St. Christopher's
- Sunday 6th Jan. – The Epiphany**
8:00am Holy Communion, St. John's
9:30 am Family Service, St. John's
3:00 pm Messy Church, St. Christopher's
- Mon. 7th Jan.
9:15 am Coffee & Chat, St. Christopher's
- Tues. 8th Jan.
2:00 pm Mothers' Union in the Broughton Lounge
6:00 pm Evening Prayer, St. John's
- Weds. 9th Jan.
10:30 am Holy Communion, St. John's
- Thurs. 13th Dec.
3:00 pm After School Clubs, St. Christopher's
- Sunday 13th Jan. – The Baptism of Christ**
8:30 am Holy Communion, St. Mary's
9:30 am Parish Communion, St. John's
11:15 am Parish Communion, St. Christopher's
- Mon. 14th Jan.
9:15 am Coffee & Chat, St. Christopher's
- Tues. 15th Jan.
6:00 pm Evening Prayer at St. John's
7:30 pm P.C.C. Meeting at Hugglescote Community Centre
- Weds. 16th Jan.
7:30 pm Messy Church Meeting at St. Christopher's
- Thurs. 17th Jan.
9:30 am Holy Communion & Coffee Morning, St. Christopher's
3:00 pm After School Clubs, St. Christopher's
- Sat. 19th Jan.
3:00 pm Ellistown Community Cinema at St. Christopher's
- Sunday 20th Jan. – 3rd Sunday of Epiphany**
8:00 am Holy Communion, St. John's
9:30 am Parish Communion, St. John's
11:15 am Parish Communion, St. Christopher's
4:00 pm Churches Together Celebration Service
One World Week at Hugglescote Community Centre
6:30 pm Jacob's Ladder at Hugglescote Social Club

- Mon. 21st Jan.
9:15 am Coffee & Chat at St. Christopher's
7:00 pm Clergy Chapter meal at the Rectory
- Tues. 22nd Jan.
6:00 pm Evening Prayer at St. John's
- Thurs. 24th Jan.
3:00 pm After School Clubs at St. Christopher's
- Sat. 26th Jan.
7:30 pm 60's, 70's Music & Fun Night at Hugglescote Community Centre tickets £6 from Janet Hemsley or Jean Underwood
- Sunday 27th Jan. – 4th Sunday of Epiphany**
8:00 am Holy Communion, St. John's
9:30 am Parish Communion, St. John's
11:15 am Parish Communion, St. Christopher's
2:00 pm Holy Baptism at St. John's
3:00 pm Holy Baptism at St. John's
- Mon. 28th Jan.
9:15 am Coffee & Chat at St. Christopher's
- Tues. 29th Jan.
6:00 pm Evening Prayer at St. John's
- Weds. 30th Jan.
2:00 pm Ellistown Afternoon Social Group Meeting at St. Christopher's

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

At St. John's

25th Nov. Monae Vellum aged 4 months

FUNERALS

At St. John's & Bretby Crematorium

29th Nov. Lucy Rawlings aged 15 years

At St. John's & Hugglescote Cemetery

6th Dec. Gillian Coleman aged 74 years

12th Dec. Cyril Ball aged 84 years

27th Dec Peter Clarke aged 82 years