



Three Churches Newsletter October 2018

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

Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. Acts 2:46-47

Last week Chris and I were invited into Hugglescote School to answer questions from year 5 – about faith and belief. They were challenging questions and went much deeper than they first appeared.



How often do you pray?
Do you believe the Bible?
Do you respect God?
Does your family go to church?
What do you believe?
Why have people stopped believing in God?

We found ourselves talking about the different ways of prayer, formal prayer, quick prayer, ongoing prayer, how prayer isn't just about asking, its about being with God.

We had to explain the Bible was scripture. It wasn't written as a history book or a science book – so it wasn't to be approached in that way. Also that the Bible was written by many different people using different ways of writing, stories, poetry, law, accounts, letters, - all to make known God and in the NT writings, Jesus.

We explained that we respected God through worshipping d God, that God was Holy, good in God's very being, all knowing, all caring, and therefore to be respected.

We talked about our families and the how we held our Christian faith within our families, how children are taught, how we can be a Christian family. How churches are like big families and how going to church is about belonging to a family over many years.

We tried to package our beliefs into a few essential points! A potted description of the Trinity; God as Father and creator, Jesus as the one who was God come to live with us and who died that we might be in relationship with God, the Holy Spirit of God active within us turning our lives and hearts to God.

And we spoke about the loss of the Christian story in our culture, the loss of the pattern of going to church or Sunday school and teaching the faith, the loss of Bible Knowledge and explained how in other places in the world, in Africa and the far east the Christian story is spreading fast and many people are coming to believe.

These were just a few questions from the many we were asked. Their questions drew from us the depths of who we are as Christians – they wanted to know what that label ‘faith’ looked like within our lives. I was personally challenged about how I live as a Christian, as well as a priest.

One of the ways in which we grow faith within us and embed faith within our lives is through learning and adopting Holy Habits, following a structure and rhythm of Christian observance. This sounds pious and outdated – but it is the demise of these habits- church going, Bible reading, that is associated with diminishing belief.

What are the Holy Habits? According to Andrew Roberts’ book of that name, which we studied for Lent 2017, they are: Biblical teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, prayer, giving, service, eating together, gladness and generosity, worship and making more disciples.

Those of us who are Christians – and that is a ‘stand out’ decision in today’s world, not an automatic label – need to practice our faith, which becomes more real and more meaningful, the more we engage in these holy habits. They cause our faith to grow and our discipleship to deepen.

Come to worship, meet together, become that family of God through eating together. Serve the world. Study the Bible, learn to pray, speak to others of Jesus, invite them to church, give generously within the church and outside, be hospitable and generous with what you have.

Our new Bible Study Course is open for all. We are going to study some psalms and seek to understand what the psalms are, where they come from and how they can build our faith.

The Psalms have been at the centre of Hebrew and Christian prayer and worship for thousands of years. It is said that within them is held the whole gamut of human emotion from its depths to its heights – and so through them we can express the deepest parts of ourselves to God as we pray.

The studies are for anyone and everyone. They will be held at St Christopher’s beginning on Monday 15th October at 7.30pm for several weeks. Please sign up for a booklet. Here is a chance both to study the Bible and deepen prayer life.

Let us encourage faith in one another.

May the Lord bless you – *Olwen*

Diary for October 2018

- Mon. 1st Oct.
9:30 am Hugglescote School Harvest Rehearsal at St. John's
7:30 pm Messy Church Meeting at St. Christopher's
- Tues. 2nd Oct.
6:00 pm Evening Prayer at St. John's
7:00 pm Hugglescote Remembers Meeting in the Broughton Lounge
- Weds. 3rd Oct.
9:30 am Hugglescote School Harvest Festival at St. John's
- Thurs. 4th Oct.
9:30 am Holy Communion at St. Christopher's
3:00 pm After School Clubs at St. Christopher's
- Sat. 6th Oct.
10:30am – 4:00 pm Bread Festival at St. John's
- Sunday 7th Oct. – Harvest Festival**
8:00 am Holy Communion at St. John's
9:30 am Harvest Festival at St. John's
3:00 pm Harvest Messy Church at St. Christopher's
- Mon. 8th Oct.
9:30 am Sort out and deliver Harvest Gifts from St. John's
7:00 pm Harvest Supper & Table Quiz at St. Christopher's
- Tues. 9th Oct.
2:00 pm Mothers' Union in the Broughton Lounge
6:00 pm Evening Prayer at St. John's
7:00 pm 'Hugglescote Remembers' meeting in the Broughton Lounge
- Weds. 10th Oct.
10:30 am Holy Communion, St. John's
7:30 pm Wedding Rehearsal at St. John's
- Thurs. 11th Oct.
3:00 pm After School Clubs at St. Christopher's
7:30 pm P.C.C. Meeting at Hugglescote Community Centre
- Sat. 13th Oct.
1:00 pm Wedding of Josh Penlington & Cheryl Hitchcock at St. John's
- Sunday 14th Oct.**
8:30 am Holy Communion at St. Mary's
9:30 am Parish Communion at St. John's

11:15 am Parish Communion at St. Christopher's

Mon. 15th Oct.
7:30 pm Explore Group Meeting at St. Christopher's

Tues. 16th Oct.
6:00 pm Evening Prayer at St. John's

Weds. 17th Oct.
7-9:30 pm Community Theatre Rehearsal at St. John's

Thurs. 18th Oct.
9:30 am Holy Communion & Coffee Morning at St. Christopher's

Sunday 21st Oct. – 21st after Trinity

8:00 am Holy Communion at St. John's

9:30 am Parish Communion at St. John's

11:15 am Parish Communion at St. Christopher's

6:30 pm Jacob's Ladder at Hugglescote Social Club

Mon. 22nd Oct.
7:30 pm Explore Group Meeting at St. Christopher's

Tues. 23rd Oct.
6:00 pm Evening Prayer at St. John's

Weds. 24th Oct.
10:30 am Holy Communion, St. John's
2:00 pm Ministry Team Meeting at The Rectory

Thurs. 25th Oct.
3:00 pm After School Club at St. Christopher's
7:30 pm St. Christopher's Project Meeting at St. Christopher's

Sunday 28th October – Bible Sunday

8:00 am Holy Communion at St. John's

9:30 am Parish Communion at St. John's

11:15 am Parish Communion at St. Christopher's

1:00 pm First 50 Service at St. John's

6:30 pm All Souls Service at St. John's

Mon. 29th Oct.
7:30 pm Explore Group Meeting at St. Christopher's

Tues. 30th Oct.
6:00 pm Evening Prayer at St. John's

Weds. 31st Oct.
2:00 pm Ellistown Afternoon Social Group at St. Christopher's

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS at St. John's

26th Aug. Darcey Rose Susan Yeates
9th Sept. Harper Grace Brooks aged 5 months
9th Sept. Oscar Carl Ronnie Matchett aged 9th months
16th Sept. Harrison Ezra Price aged 9 months

WEDDINGS AT ST. JOHN'S

15th Sept. Jake Gavin Allen & Hannah Elizabeth Elton

FUNERALS

Interment of Ashes at St. Mary's

23rd Aug. Rita Ann Smith aged 83

At Loughborough Crematorium

13th Sept. Cynthis Williamson aged 89