



The Beacon

Newsletter of St John's Church, Worksop

January 2025

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*Jess Rudman, one of our
churchwardens, writes....*

This new year has seemed to bring in little hope, yet as Christians we believe there is always hope.

Here at St John's we have seen persistent, trusting prayer transform things: helping individuals cope with dark and difficult situations with God's love and strength, and even seeing good come out of them.

I have been privileged to hear the stories of many of the team from the Green Pastures Training Centre at Mattersey. They bring a hot meal to our Thursday Drop-In for the homeless and those living on the margins.

The team, who have all experienced the desperation and devastation of addiction, have found hope and freedom in God's love and power. They are now working towards equipping themselves to being useful in the community, restoring broken relationships and helping those in need.

In our Bible verse for the year God promises that to those who trust in Him he gives a future and a hope.

For I know the
Plans
I have for you,
declares the *Lord*
Plans to *Prosper* you
and not to harm you
Plans to give you
Hope and a Future
-Jeremiah 29:11

*The Drop-in are always glad of
donations of hats, scarves,
gloves and warm socks .*

*The rough-sleepers can always
make use of rugs, quilts, sleep-
ing bags and waterproof covers
if anyone has any to spare.*

Thank you.

It's a New Year

By the time you read this Christmas will seem a long time ago and even some New Year Resolutions may have already been broken. However, it's not too late to decide to build good habits into our daily lives that will benefit ourselves, other people and our communities.

Many of our church members volunteer both in serving the church on Sundays and during the week. Why not add your name to one of our many rotas? ! Giving of time, skills and talents is a tangible way to bless our church family. Ask any of our leaders and they will direct you to something you will enjoy doing.

Looking outside of church life, Worksop has many charitable organisations who will value your time given to improve our communities as you put your faith into action.

I can guarantee you will be blessed yourself as Scripture promises 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'.

Also, we can ALL decide to make a difference to our planet—see article below.



WORLD WILDLIFE FUND– Interesting Facts

A few weeks ago I needed to get a book, any book, from the local Library. I was trying to stop my library card from expiring due to reading inactivity. I ended up with "12 Small Acts to Save Our World" a book supporting WWF published by Penguin.

As I started to read some interesting fact & figures came to light. "We could put some of those in the next issue of Beacon" came a voice from across the room. So, here are a few:

Less than 3% of the planet's water is fresh water, and only 1% of that is available (unfrozen) for people to use. 70% of all water we use goes to agriculture.

The UK uses 3.4 billion (circa 2018) wet wipes per year, and these contain plastics that damage the ocean.

Henderson Island, in the Pacific Ocean, is one of the most remote places on Earth. It is uninhabited by people, but is still **the most plastic polluted place on Earth**. A recorded 38 million pieces of plastic waste.

Furthermore, an estimated **8 million Tonnes of plastic end up in the ocean every year**, expecting to have doubled by 2025.

And finally, for now, **most of single use plastic (bags & bottles) is not being recycled**. Only about a third, the rest going to landfill or left on beaches etc.

We all know who is responsible, under God, for the welfare of planet Earth.

Chris L



I was baptised at St John's Church and "grew up" there, going to Sunday school (where I was taught by Carole Moorhouse) followed by Pathfinders and Young Peoples' Groups. After leaving Valley School I attended "Bath Spa College" and then worked in Peterborough.

My severe stroke at 47 years of age was life-changing. Following it I needed intense therapy and returned to Worksop to live with my parents.



Sadly, both my parents died in 2015 and, supported by Jess Rudman, I attended church at St John's.

I was welcomed at the door by the Vicar, Tim, who made me feel very much at home. My church family continued to embrace and pray for me.

I was still living in my parents' home but this was not suitable for my needs. In 2017 I found a lovely bungalow – what a 'miracle'! The second 'miracle' was finding Sarah Stanford to help me with my needs.

St John's is "very special" to me. My friends support me in many different ways, including going out for Sunday lunch!

Jane Baker

"SHINE YOUR LIGHT"

In the last edition of Beacon we showed pics of Worksop's first involvement in the national Christmas Carol Singing events in town centres. We recently received an after-event report from the organisers.

They were aiming for 1,000 churches/towns to register officially—actually at least 1,500 were involved, representing over 1,000,000 singers! Our event included people from at least seven churches and involved about 60 people.

King Charles endorsed the initiative in the Sunday Express and also sent a letter of encouragement to the organisers thanking them for taking the Christian message into local communities. It was featured on BBC national and local radio stations. In all it is thought over 29 million people heard about it in some way. Something to build on for 2025.



Smile a While



Church Bulletin Board

This Morning's Sermon:
 'Jesus Walks on the Water'
 This Evening's Sermon:
 'Searching for Jesus'

Solve the old 'chicken-and-egg'
 debate by ordering both online to
 see which comes first



... and that is WHY the chicken crossed the road.

FUNNY BIBLE VERSES



How about this for a chat-up line?

"Your teeth are whiter than freshly washed sheep. Not one of them is missing!"

(Song of Songs ch 4 verse 2 CEV)

"A gold ring in a pig's nose is a gorgeous woman with no sense."

(Proverbs 11:22)



Contact Point

Church Office:

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Email: office.worksopstjohn@gmail.com

Church Website:

www.stjohn'schurchworksop.co.uk

Heritage Website: <https://worksopspire.org>

SUNDAY SERVICES

10.30 am Morning Worship
 + Kids, Church
 6.30 pm Sunday @ 6.00
 Informal service in the Lounge



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