THE MINISTRY TEAM

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We are delighted to announce that The Parishes of Woodhouse and Woodhouse Eaves have now launched their newly designed magazine entitled ‘The Message’.

Distribution will continue as before and cost of 10 copies of ‘The Message’ for 2018 will be £6.00 (hand delivered or in electronic format) and £12.00 if you prefer to receive by post.

Any queries, please contact Pat at 01509 891461 or randon243@hotmail.com

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Dear friends,

It's a new year, a new beginning and with that comes the promise of new challenges for each of us.

In a few days’ time we will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. You may remember the story of the three mysterious visitors from the East, the three wise men, the Magi from Persia who - guided by a star - came to Jerusalem looking for the child whose star they observed “at its rising.” After meeting with King Herod, the Magi followed the same star to Bethlehem. Then upon seeing the baby Jesus, the Christ-child, and his mother Mary, the Magi knelt down and worshipped Him, offering their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

For them, it was a real Epiphany in discovering that Christ was the Saviour not only for the Jewish people but for the whole of humanity. And that includes you and me, my friends. Those wise men were changed, and they returned home to Persia by another route to avoid the scheming of king Herod.

If we think about it, all of us will travel through life by many different routes.

We will have different attitudes, different values and different goals. Most of the time we are quite happy and content to live in our ‘comfort zone’ because it is a place where we feel safe and protected. But new beginnings require us to step outside of that comfort zone and to navigate uncharted territory, which may seem uncomfortable and challenging.

During the Christmas break you may have had a revelation, an Epiphany, a light bulb moment. A moment where you recognise that you might need to have a new goal, to work on something, or, to even forgive someone instead of holding onto old grudges.

This is when you'll step out of your comfort zone: whether that means doing something new, being pushed that much harder for your own growth, or working with new people, all of which will challenge you. But it is an opportunity to embrace what is possible for you to become or achieve.
Life is ever-evolving and it rarely stays the same for any length of time. Things can happen along the way that will impact our lives in ways we do not expect or even understand. Yet to accept inevitable change can go a long way towards helping us with our new beginnings.

The Magi had to accept that in having met the Christ-child their whole lives had to change. They had to think and act differently and it would not have been easy for them, going back to all they knew, and sharing with others what they had found. But they did.

And so can you, in the new route that might be ahead of you; because God in Jesus Christ will be with you to accompany you on your journey and so will I as your parish priest.

With every blessing,

Rev. Lisa
February Services at St. Mary’s Church

Sunday 4th
11:15 a.m.
Holy Eucharist (BCP)
Revd. Lisa & Claire Zanker

Sunday 11th
11:15 a.m.
Holy Eucharist (BCP)
Revd. Lisa

Wednesday 14th
11:15 a.m.
Ash Wednesday with Imposition of Ashes
Revd. Lisa

Sunday 18th
11:15 a.m.
Holy Eucharist (BCP)
Revd. Lisa

Sunday 25th
10:00 p.m.
Morning Prayer (BCP)
Claire Zanker

Every Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. Said Morning Prayer using The Book of Common Prayer.
February Services at St. Paul’s Church

Sunday 4th
9:45 a.m.
All Age Service
David Clarke

Sunday 11th
9:45 a.m.
Sung Eucharist
Revd. Lisa

Wednesday 14th
7:00 p.m.
Ash Wednesday with Imposition of Ashes
Revd. Lisa & Dawn Daly

Sunday 18th
9:45 a.m.
Sung Eucharist & Little Fishes
Revd. Lisa & Claire Zanker

Sunday 25th
Come and See Service
Revd. Lisa & Dawn Daly

Every Thursday at 12:00 noon there is
Midweek Eucharist

Every first Thursday there is a
Holy Rosary Prayer group at 11:15 a.m.

From the Registers:

Wednesday 13th December, 2017
Funeral Service followed by Interment in the Churchyard.
1. The origin of the term ‘Lent’ is:
   a) Old English ‘lencten’ meaning ‘lengthening’
   b) Latin ‘lentus’ meaning long-lasting
   c) German ‘Lenz’ meaning ‘springtime’

2. The day which starts the season of Lent every year is:
   a) St. Valentine’s Day
   b) Ash Wednesday
   c) Good Friday

3. The day which ends the season of Lent every year is:
   a) Good Friday
   b) Holy Saturday
   c) Easter Sunday

4. Lent lasts 40 days, which commemorates:
   a) The number of days it rained on Noah’s Ark
   b) The 40 days between Jesus’ resurrection and ascension (Acts 1:3)
   c) Christ’s fasting and temptation in the desert, before He began His public ministry

5. The period between the start and end of Lent is 46 days but Lent only lasts 40 days. This is because:
   a) Sundays are not included, as the sabbath is a day of rest and a day of celebration of what Jesus did for us
   b) No-one could fast for 40 days so six days off were included
   c) Our calendar is different now to the time when Lent originated

6. The purpose of Lent is to:
   a) Provide a time for Christians to reflect, repent and pray as a way of preparing their hearts for Easter
   b) A chance to focus on Jesus during the run-up to Easter
   c) A chance to get closer to God
   d) All of the above
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THE ST. MARY’S POST-CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Following the very successful St. Mary’s post-Christmas lunch at Beaumanor Hall organised by Sue Yaxley last year, it was decided to return to Beaumanor for lunch again this year. The feeling amongst the St. Mary’s congregation was that a lunch after Christmas rather than before was preferable, as it avoided the problems of a crowded pre-Christmas diary and gave everyone something to look forward to in the dark, dismal days of January.

A total of 32 attendees, made up of members of both the St. Mary’s and St. Paul’s church families plus guests, attended the lunch on 14th January, which was up to its excellent standard again. A very merry time was had by all!

Reverend Lisa started the meal by saying grace, which highlighted how blessed we all were to share such fellowship and food, but gave us a timely reminder that not everyone would be eating that day, or even have a place to call home. The event was organised this year by Pastoral Assistant Marion Porter, and we are all so grateful to her for her efficient organisation and for giving us such a lovely outing together.

Reverend Lisa and the ministry team are hopeful that more such events involving both church families will be equally well-attended. We really are just one big family in Christ!

Dawn Daly
St. Paul’s Church 2017 Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

I am delighted to let you know that we more than doubled the number of shoe boxes donated this year and so a huge thank you to all for supporting our 2017 Mission Outreach.

Grateful thanks to Jeff who took the time and trouble to deliver TWENTY SHOE BOXES from St. Paul’s Church to the ‘Y’ Centre in Leicester.

This was a truly amazing and generous response, but please don’t forget to save any empty shoe boxes from now on ready for next year.

Let's aim to help even more people in 2018 via our Shoe Box Appeal.

With many thanks,

Rev’d Lisa
News from Woodhouse Eaves

St Paul’s Chancel Repair Project: Progress Update

It is the end of December, the Christmas celebrations are moving on to New Year and we have had a lot to celebrate at St Paul's in terms of the Chancel Repair project.

Many of you will have noticed that the scaffolding, fencing and site offices disappeared from around the church chancel in mid December, reflecting the spectacular progress made by the contractors with the chancel and vestry repairs.

Internally we have lost the protective “tent” between the chancel and the body of the church. The luxuriant growth of mould on the walls of the chancel and vestry, following copious water leakage as the drill went through the walls for the internal metal rod supports, has been dried out and scraped off. The rusted lintel above the window in the vestry has been replaced. The cracks in the walls have had metal wires laid across them to add support when they were remortored and an expert plasterer used lime plaster, like that originally used, to disguise the multiple sites where the walls have been repaired.

We have been very grateful that the Heritage Lottery Fund approved our request to install a new oak- and glass-clad ramp to enable access for all to the chancel, which has required its extension further into the nave of the church. The two original steps have been brought forward with additional Portland limestone sections, hand carved to match them, in order to accommodate the increased width of the chancel frontage.
The tiling of this enlarged area of chancel floor has been a challenge: our Whetstone tiles cannot be obtained as replicas, although one tile has a similar Minton replica which we will use. Luckily, tiles from the original church were found when the carpet was lifted, and the contractors lifted and cleaned over 1,500 tiles to re-lay on the new chancel floor! This process will be completed when the replica Minton tiles arrive from Ironbridge.

Externally, the pointing has been completed, as has the securing of the stone and brick structures. Three new bits of Staffordshire sandstone have been hand-carved to replace defective stone and to fill gaps in the stonework left by the subsidence around the window frame surrounding the Hope stained glass window, which was removed several years ago for its protection and replaced with plastic.

A really dramatic transformation was seen when the decorating team swept in to the church and decorated the chancel and vestry, with the result that it is now hard to see that anything structural has happened in the chancel and vestry at all!

You will have to come and see for yourself how many tell-tale signs still exist to show that the chancel was once slowly and dramatically subsiding away from the body of the church. The next couple of months should see the chancel repairs and ramp fully completed, with the ability to last, we hope, for many generations to come.

The next phase of the project is the Heritage Exhibition, which will run from June for 3 months. This exhibition needs to be planned in detail, which is the first challenge of the new year. The displays, posters, banners and items for the exhibition need to be prepared using the well-researched and fascinating material produced for us by our heritage volunteers. I will need to learn a whole host of new editing and presentation skills as we work to produce the materials in a format for the public to enjoy, and to introduce everyone to the wonders of the history of our amazing church building and this fantastic village!
Do come and see the changes for yourself and sample our hospitality (tea, coffee and cakes) when we have our next open afternoons. You will be warmly welcomed!

Sue Young
HLF Chancel Repair and Heritage Project Lead
The Message Magazine

If you would like to receive ‘The Message’ magazine by e-mail please contact the Pat Randon at 01509 891461 or 

randon243@hotmail.com

and a copy can be emailed to you as a .PDF document.

The deadline for articles to be included in the March 2018 edition of ‘The Message’ is 6:00 p.m. Wednesday 7th February 2018.

We reserve the right to amend or omit any articles submitted, the final decision rests with the Editor at all times. Copyright of any articles published is negotiable, but normally rests with ‘The Message’.

Please email all articles to the Editor at:

editor@woodhouseschurches.org
Of all the many services and events which made the recent St. Paul’s advent season so successful, for me personally there are two which stand out as real highlights. The first was the carol service, which featured readings by community figures and a captivating rendition of ‘Away in a Manger’ by the St. Paul’s School choir standing on the newly-extended chancel steps. The second was the Children’s Christmas Workshop on 16th December.

Thus the idea of a Children’s Christmas Workshop was born.

The workshop offered the chance to make four different seasonal items, namely gift bags (led by Claire Ayres); cakes (led by Claudia Balderson); reindeer food (led by Jenny Bakewell); and snowmen (led by Claire Zanker). Delicious seasonal goodies were offered by the catering team led by Pat Randon. HLF Project Co-ordinator Sue Young gave invaluable logistical assistance, and Reverend Lisa was on hand to welcome everyone and to finish up any leftover chocolate goodies!

Numbers exceeded expectations, so much so that more such events are being planned for the future. Numbers exceeded expectations, so much so that more such events are being planned for the future.
The youngest person involved in the craft-making was two-year-old Mark Garland, and the eldest.... well, let's just say that although no longer a child, she is ever-youthful and still young at heart! St. Paul’s is very grateful to all those who made this event such a great success. If you weren’t able to come this time, there may be another opportunity – watch this space!!!

Dawn Daly
St. Paul’s Heritage
Photography Competition

MY VIEW OF ST PAUL’S
5 age groups: pre-school to adults
Free entry - Valuable prizes
Entries close 30th April, 2018
For details, rules and entry forms:
www.stpaulsheritage.org
or collect them from St. Paul’s

St. Paul’s Heritage
Woodhouse Eaves

Find us on Facebook
St. Paul’s 100 Club

Winners for the December **BONUS** draw

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<th>Winner</th>
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<td>Eric Allsop</td>
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<tr>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Diana Barker</td>
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<td>£20.00</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>John McNab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£10.00</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>Stuart Arnold</td>
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Winners for the January 2018 draw

New members are always most welcome!!

Each month, numbers are drawn by a different person not involved with the 100 Club scheme.

If you would like to join the St. Paul’s 100 club please contact Pat Randon on 01509 891461 or e-mail Pat at randon243@btinternet.com

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<tr>
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<td>£10.00</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>Carol McDermott</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Luke Garland was entered into the Golden Book at St. Paul’s School in November. Apart from trying his best at school, he was also cited for playing with children who do not have anyone else to play with.

Golden Book is a recognition of a child’s achievements, 2 children from each class are nominated every month, so it’s not guaranteed that everyone will get it. They get the comments read out in front of the school and presented with the certificate to keep.

Olivia Hemmings was nominated in November for “being such an asset to Year 5! You are an amazing and creative writer, a thorough mathematician and all your ideas are interesting and thoughtful. Mr Bacon is especially proud that you are such a helpful, thoughtful and kind member of our class- you listen carefully to others and are always willing to help anyone in our school. Thank you for all your hard work so far this year.”
Little Fishes at St. Paul's

G O D I S L O V E
St. Paul’s Church

Do you have a favourite recipe?
Bring your recipe and samples to our
BAKE, TASTE & SWAP
or just come and taste!
Saturday, 3rd February, 2 - 4 p.m.

TAPESTRY & EMBROIDERY EVENT
Saturday, 3rd March, 2 – 4 p.m.

St. Paul’s Heritage

Find us on Facebook
QUICK LENT QUIZ: ANSWERS

1. a) We look forward to seeing you at services in Lent, starting on Wednesday, 14th February
2. b) with the Ash Wednesday Service plus
3. b) Imposition of Ashes
4. c) at St. Paul’s at 7:00 p.m. with Reverend Lisa
5. a)
6. d)
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It’s about time

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We’re now into February, a short month but one full of things to write about! We have The Presentation of Christ in the Temple, or Candlemas; Shrove Tuesday; Ash Wednesday; St Valentine’s Day; and Lent.

So what song do I choose?

After a great deal of pondering, I have chosen a fairly modern worship song, ‘Purify My Heart’ by Brian Doerksen. It is a very special song to me as I was singing this song with Emmanuel Church music group when I felt God’s calling to be a Reader (i.e. a licensed lay minister).

When I researched into why Doerksen had written this song, I found out that he had had a ‘God moment’ too. He was on his way home after visiting his wife and their new baby; he was stuck in traffic when the words of the song came to him just as if God was putting them in his head. Instead of going home, he went straight to the office at church and frantically started to write the words and music down.

I think the words of this song speak to us all at this time of year, because with Lent coming upon us we are entering a time of reflection, prayer and fasting. We all want to be ready for God on the day of resurrection and glorious Eastertide. If you have ever heard or sung this song, the tune is so beautiful you just get carried away on heavenly clouds with the singing of it. It is one of those songs that hangs in the air and stays with you for a long time afterwards.

Happy, Holy February,

with love from,

Claire
O!
Be my Valentine