

ST JAMES' & ST JOHN'S MONTHLY HERALD



ISSUE NO.42 May 2018

Minister's Note

In May, we celebrate Jesus' Ascension, and the birth of the Church at Pentecost. It's easy to forget that there were only about 120 believers (see Acts 1:15) at that time – possibly as many as 500 (see 1 Corinthians 15:6). As these people were filled with the Holy Spirit, and were driven out from Jerusalem by waves of persecution, so more and more people joined them. This tiny group had grown to number 33 million by 350 AD. A non-Christian Professor of Social Sciences called Rodney Stark has researched the growth of the early church, and he believes that the key to this growth was that, "Christians were so audaciously counter-cultural and utterly unashamed of their distinctiveness that pagans were drawn to the new faith." Christians cared for the sick and dying in epidemics; Christians rejected many common practices which left women vulnerable to poverty, abuse, neglect or death – practices such as killing baby girls, abortion, divorce, incest, marital infidelity and polygamy – so women flocked to join the church; Christians showed great courage when thrown to the lions, and saved other people by their deaths; Christians refused to worship Caesar (<https://www.julesgomes.com/single-post/Why-Christians-must-rub-salt-in-societys-wounds>), As we seek the Lord's answer to our prayers for the growth of our churches, it's worth bearing all this in mind, and asking ourselves: how distinctive is my own life? If I didn't go to church on a Sunday, would my life make it clear that I am a Christian? How distinctive is the life of my church? Could it be described as "audaciously counter-cultural"? What should I/we be doing about it?

For Prayer

- The Revd Mary Stallard as she is installed as Archdeacon of Bangor on Sunday 6 May, for the Lord's wisdom and guidance in her new role.
- Sarah taking assemblies (one for infants, one for juniors) at Borrass Park School on Wednesday 16 May, and at Barkers Lane School on Friday 25 May.
- Please make sure you have a copy of the 'Leading Your Church into Growth' prayer bookmark, and use the prayer for growth in your prayers as often as possible
- A Prayer for our witness to non-believing family and friends

O Lord God, we are called to be your witnesses: help us to make our Saviour Jesus known to others – through our words and lives, through our prayers and our gifts; for his sake. Amen (from The Lion Prayer Collection, p 246)

REGULAR SERVICES

ST JAMES'

Every Sunday at 11am

6th May– All Age Worship

13th May– Holy Communion

20th May – All Age Communion

27th May– Morning Prayer

ST JOHN'S

Every Sunday at 9.30am

6th May – Holy Communion

13th May – Holy Communion

20th May – Matins

27th May – Holy Communion

In addition at St John's:

Each Sunday at 4pm - Service Station – Food for Body & Soul

Each Wednesday at 10am - Communion Service

CONTACT DETAILS

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Websites / Media:

www.wrexhamparish.org.uk

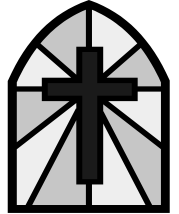
<http://stjohns.plwyfwrecsam.org.uk>

<http://stjames.plwyfwrecsam.org.uk>

www.facebook.com/StJohnsWrexham

www.facebook.com/StJamesWrexham

Church Events



At St James':

Tuesday 1 May, **Midweek Holy Communion**, 10.30 am in Church

Wednesday 23 May, **Church Council Meeting**, 7.30 pm

At St John's:

Wednesday 2 May, **TCC Strategy Meeting**, 7.30 pm in the Church Hall

Saturday 12 May, **Mothers' Union Afternoon Tea**, 3.00 – 5.00 pm in the Church Hall

Tuesday 15 May, **Church Council Meeting**, 7.15 pm

Saturday 19 May, **Prayer Breakfast**, 9.00 – 10.30 am in Church

Elsewhere:

Saturday 5 May, **Mission Area Youth Group Meeting**, 7.00 pm at the Tin Can Youth Centre, Rhosnesni Lane

Thursday 10 May, **Holy Communion for Ascension Day**, 7.00 am on the top of St Giles' tower, followed by breakfast

Sunday 13 May, **Archdeacon's Visitation Service**, 4.00 pm at St Giles'

Sunday 13 May, **United Service for Christian Aid Week**, 6.00 pm at Capel-y-Groes. The service led by the Revd Brian Matthews; speaker: Anna Jane Evans, Regional Coordinator for Christian Aid in North Wales

Monday 14 May, **Christian Aid Hunger Lunch**, 12 noon – 1.30 pm, Trinity Church, King Street

Forthcoming Events:

Tuesday 12 June, **Connected - Confident Parenting in a Digital Age**, a Care for the Family event hosted by !Audacious Church, Chester, 7.30 – 10.00 pm. More information and tickets:

<https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/events/parenting-events/connected>

Saturday 16 June, **Prayer Breakfast**, 9.00 – 10.30 am in Church at St John's

Saturday 30 June, **Ordination of Rebecca Sparey-Taylor to the Priesthood**, 10.00 am, St Asaph Cathedral

Church Activities

- **SUNDAY CLUB:** During term time, for children during the 11am service at St James' (Except on family service's)
- **WHIST DRIVE:** Every other Friday, 7 pm at St. James'. £2 entry including refreshments
- **EVENING MOTHERS' UNION:** Second Wednesday, 7.30–9.00 pm in St John's Hall
- **BANANA CLUB:** Thursdays, in term time, 3.15–5 pm in St John's Hall, primary yrs. 1-6

