

At the beginning of a new year, doesn't this prospect sound good? With all its complications and competing demands, can we determine to make space? One hour per month? That's one hour out of 744 that each month contains! From experience, I can tell you (and others will agree) that a single hour spent in this way can deliver amazingly disproportionate results.

A number of folk are commencing their Confirmation preparation just now with Pat Dunn and I can just imagine some of the dazzling truths they will discover together. Can you still remember your confirmation preparation and how much it opened your eyes? They can be opened some more! To describe the typical journey into God's presence, I've often used the metaphor of looking through a small hole in a fence. You know how it is; from a distance you get a glimpse through a hole – you can make out passing figures through the temporary changes in light and colour, but the closer you draw your eye to that hole, the more the view opens up. Nothing has changed beyond the fence but your ability to see has changed considerably.

My advice this year is to get yourself as close as you can to that fence and take a look! Help on how best to use the hour and things to try can be suggested by the ministry team – Ed Smith and Janet Pazio can be a great help in this respect as they are trained to help. Make use of them – let 2019 be for you a year of personal, spiritual growth.

Blessings *Terry*



Christian Aid

The annual CA sponsored walk around Tittesworth Reservoir will be held on Saturday, 24th March this year. It would be good for us to

engage enthusiastically with this once more as we've lost considerable momentum. As the concept of door-to-door collecting becomes increasingly less attractive, this sponsored walk is an ideal way of swelling CA's coffers. We know what good they do! More details and sponsorship forms will be available from the beginning of March.

Church Administrator

From next week, Julie Atkins, our newly-appointed Parish Administrator will commence her role. As our weekly sheets and monthly Lion will be produced henceforth by Julie and not me, everyone needs to send information to her for inclusion in either or both documents.



The best way to advise Julie is by email on...

jouls1506@gmail.com

or, if necessary, by telephone on...

01782 632213

Julie will also be taking over the management of the church hall for party bookings etc. We wish her well in this new role. Please be patient if we experience some difficulties in the hand-over, there is much to become familiar with!

Worship Services during February

1 st	Friday	1.45pm	Funeral
3 rd	Candlemas	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30am	'First Sunday' with HC
6 th	Wednesday	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
10 th	Fourth < Lent	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30am	Holy Communion
13 th	Wednesday	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
17 th	Third < Lent	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30am	Family Worship with Baptism
20 th	Wednesday	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
24 th	Second < Lent	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30am	Holy Communion
27 th	Wednesday	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)

Diary Dates for February

4 th	Monday	7.30pm	Men's Mass at Tunstall
6 th	Wednesday	7.30pm	Reading Circle
7 th	Thursday	12.30pm	Clergy Chapter Lunch – Festival Park
12 th	Tuesday	7.30pm	PCC – 'Everybody Welcome' Mtg
17 th	Sunday		Bishop Geoff at both services
20 th	Wednesday	7.30pm	Baptism Preparation Evening (TBC)
21 st	Thursday	7.30pm	Contemplative Prayer/Meditation

Early March Dates

2 nd	Saturday	12.00pm	Table-Top Sale (Hall)
		7.30pm	Pancake Party (Hall)
6 th	Ash Wednesday		Lent Begins The evening service of HC with ashing in the Lady Chapel will displace the Reading Circle. The later will be rescheduled!
7 th	Thursday	7.30pm	Deanery Standing Committee
12 th	Tuesday	7.00pm	PCC Meeting

Bishop Geoff

Bishop Geoff (of Stafford) will be with us for both the 8.00am and 9.30am services on Sunday, 17th February.

Table-Top Sale

Tables for our first TT Sale of 2019 can be booked through Diane Downward. As ever we will have a church table for our fund-raising endeavours so please bring in suitable items that we might use.

LENT Course

We will be running a Lent Course this year. Janet Pazio will source and facilitate its delivery probably on Tuesday evenings at Patrick's vicarage so as to open it up to folk from Wolstanton. Details will be confirmed a little closer to Ash Wednesday.

Confirmation

Confirmation preparation has commenced but it's not too late to join the group. See Pat Dunn for more details.

New Musical Setting

During our 'FIRST SUNDAY' Holy Communion services, we have used a variety of musical settings but our regular Sunday Eucharists have remained unaltered for many year (decades?) However, the choir will lead us in a new setting from Ash Wednesday. Stick with it – it will become second nature!