

Connect

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st John's

OWLERTON

22nd MARCH 2020

All change at St John's

As you will all be aware, we cannot meet in church at the moment due to the risks of infection from Coronavirus (COVID-19).

While we are unable to meet together physically, it has never been more important to support each other and our community. Please check in with family, friends and neighbours to offer help and support where you can do so safely. That might be helping to get some shopping, pick up prescriptions, or just a chat on the phone or from the recommended 2 metre distance.

Social distancing does not come naturally to most of us, but at this time it is absolutely essential. Stay at home as much as possible, only take necessary journeys and do not gather together.

Equally, being mindful of our own bodies and taking any symptoms we experience seriously is really important. If you, or anyone in your household has a fever and/or a new persistent cough then everyone in the household MUST self-isolate for 14 days.

Please stay safe and look after one another through this time of uncertainty and worry. Kindness, faith and hope will be the tools to get through this together.



Church Services and events are suspended until further notice

Join Joy at 10am!

Joy will be live streaming her message live on Facebook this morning.

Please login to Facebook and search for St John's Owlerton.

Praise the Lord for the gift of technology!!



Being the Light of Christ

The Bishop of Sheffield is encouraging us to put a candle in our windows on Sunday at 7pm to shine the light of Christ into our neighbourhoods.

(Please remember to blow it out again!)



Foodbank at Winn Gardens



The foodbank service at the Winn Gardens pavilion had to be temporarily suspended due to staff and volunteers in self-isolation. However, it is hoped this vital service will be up and running again this Thursday 9am - 11am.

If you are able to volunteer at the foodbank, please contact Suzanne on 07852 632504 or email suzanne@stjb.org.uk.

If you are able to bring additional supplies to replenish the food bank, they will be gratefully received. Again, please contact Suzanne for information on the most needed items.



Help when self-isolating

The St John's team are here to help while you are self-isolating at home.

Please contact:

Claire on 07496 935379 or claire@stjb.org.uk

Joy on 07496 531257 or joy@stjb.org.uk

Claire and Joy will contact others in your area that can to help get shopping, pick up prescriptions, and offer support.

Please don't hesitate to call if you need help!



Regular Giving

Although we are not meeting together, the work of the church is ongoing. While we are aware that, for many of us, finances are uncertain, we want to encourage you to keep giving what you can, when you can.

The regular standing orders underpin the church's finances. If you usually give through our giving envelopes or the collection plate, please consider doing one of the following:

If you use online banking, you could set up one-off or regular bank transfer to:

Owlerton PCC
Sort Code 05-08-48
Account number 20012285



You can also give by cheque made payable to **'Owlerton PCC'** and posted to Claire Keppas, Owlerton Vicarage Office, Forbes Road, Sheffield S6 2NW.

StJB Small Groups

Our church small groups have always been a source of fellowship and support to many of our church family.

This has never been more important than now! We are blessed to live in an age where staying in touch has never been easier.

Social media platforms such as Facebook, Messenger and WhatsApp are a great way to stay in touch, as well as FaceTime and video-conferencing software such as Zoom that allow people to see as well as hear each other!

Use these great tools to stay in touch at a safe distance!!

A is for able: you're not able to do what you love

N is for naughty: you're scared to stick up for yourself

X (S) is for socialisation: it ruins who you want to talk to; when you get it you can go from bubbly to shy

I is ... icy: when you are anxious there's icy paths that are hard to cross

E is for (not) elated: you're scared of what people would think so you don't get elated

T is for trapped: you would like to escape, but you can be trapped here forever

Y is for yourself: you're not yourself when you have anxiety; I used to be sociable, now I'm scared what people would think of me

By Grace Green Y6, Xstream Sunday School

I think that Grace has been very brave to share this with us, and I think that this poem could help other anxiety sufferers to know that they are not alone.

God's timing is perfect: Grace shared this with me before the current situation, but this is the first chance that I have had to share it with you.

I want to remind Grace, and everyone who is feeling anxious. That you are a very precious child of God! Philippians 4:8 is helping me and Grace at the moment. Don't forget that God puts this verse in the Bible because HE KNOWS that lots of us are going to be anxious about just about everything, and He always gives us an alternative to anxiety: pray instead!

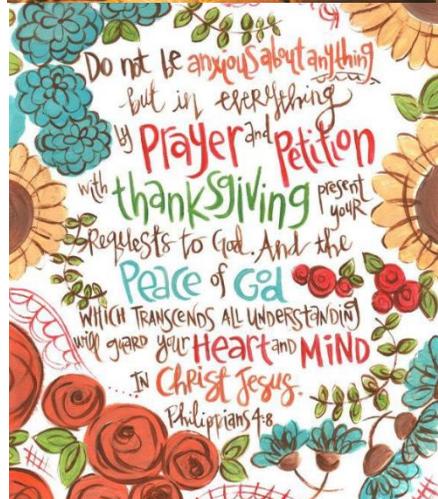
So whenever you feel anxious, PRAY (and talk to someone you trust; ask them to pray with you; write your anxieties down and then give them to God.

Amanda – St John's Children's Ministry Leader

We are *troubled on EVERY SIDE*, yet not *distressed*; we are **PERPLEXED**, but not in **DESPAIR**; *PERSECUTED* but *not forsaken* **CAST DOWN** but not **DESTROYED**
 2 CORINTHIANS 4:8-9

The light shines
 in the darkness,
 and the darkness
 has not overcome it.

–John 1:5



Vision Sunday



Vision Sunday postponed

As we are currently unable to meet, our Annual Church meeting will now take place later in the year.

The current PCC Trustees will remain in post, including those who were due to step down in April, and we will elect new trustees when we are able to hold the AGM.

If you are interested in standing for PCC, please email Claire at claire@stjb.org.uk.



Eggstravaganza

This wonderful event for children has had to be cancelled for 2020 – apologies to all that had been hoping to attend. See you next Easter!



Farewell Service for Nick & Penny Dawson

Sadly, because of the current restrictions, we will be postponing the Farewell Service for Nick & Penny to later in the year.

We are in touch with

Hog n' Roast

who were due to provide the catering in the hope that we can re-arrange!

We have already received lots of donations towards the farewell gift for Nick and Penny, thank you for your generosity. If you would still like to contribute, gifts can now be given via bank transfer to:

Owlerton PCC
Sort code 05-08-48
Account number 20012285
Reference: Nick & Penny gift

If you are unable to give online, cheques can be made payable to **Owlerton PCC** and posted to:

Claire Keppas
Owlerton Vicarage Office
Forbes Road
Sheffield
S6 2NW

Thank you!