

ST. JOHN'S

(A free newsletter of St John's Church & Community Centre, Rosmead Street)

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The real meaning of Easter

What is the first thing you think of when it's Easter? Easter Eggs perhaps, bank holidays, end of term, and big dinners with the family? How many of us think, Jesus Christ is Risen, Hallelujah? How many of us realize the huge importance of Easter, and that it is Easter and not Christmas that is the most important Festival of the Christian faith. Easter, Christ's Resurrection, is the whole premise of our Christian faith. Easter seems to have taken a back seat, Holy week which is where we think of Christ's passion his road to the cross, almost forgotten.

Two of the days in Holy week are **Maundy Thursday**, where we think of the last Supper and Christ's promise of eternal life, and the betrayal of Jesus by Judas, and **Good Friday** which is so much more than a Bank Holiday. Why is it Good Friday when it is the day that Jesus was crucified and died? Well it is good because we now know that Jesus died for us, for our sins, and that 3 days later Jesus rose from the dead, giving all those who believe in him the knowledge, that they can live in the sure and certain hope of eternal life. Jesus has

conquered sin, and death is no more as we will live forever in him. Then **Easter Day** itself, Christ is Risen. Jesus' promise fulfilled. So this Easter, as we open our Easter Eggs, let us not forget the real meaning of Easter, that Christ's Resurrection is the backbone of our faith. Let them instead be a reminder of a new life in Christ. That Jesus died for us, so we could have a new and Risen Life, an Eternal life with him. HALLELUJAH indeed. Amen.

Virginia Hall

Services at St Johns

All Sundays except 2 nd	10.30 am	Morning Worship
2 nd Sunday	9.30 am	Holy Communion
2 nd Sunday	11.00 am	Café Church

NB See Church notice board for Easter services

End of an era

St. John's over the past few years since Chris joined us has undergone an amazing transformation, as I'm sure most of you are aware, before Chris became our present vicar the church was going through one of its worse periods in history that I could remember. Church membership was down to about 12 members and financially we were struggling. We were in the middle of an interregnum and all of us were wondering if God had decided to call time on St. John's. We remained strong in our faith that it wasn't time to close and that a

new vicar would be found. Our faith and prayers were answered and after the interview process and consultation with the Bishop, the post of team vicar was offered to Chris. Chris accepted the post and as you all know St. John's has undergone an amazing transformation, the rest as they say is history. After this recent period of St. John's history I now feel as though a new phase of its life and journey is upon us. Over the past 30 years of being Church Warden I feel as though St. John's is now stronger than it has ever been and is starting a new phase of its life and the beginning of a new journey. I have shared the last 11 years of my role as warden with Sharon Finn who will have her own story to tell. I mentioned earlier that I believed St. John's has now started a new journey, and we both believe that as part of that journey it is now

time for both of us to stand down and make way for fresh blood. This will also make an impact on the St. John's Community Project as I will also

relinquish my role as director and treasurer and Sharon as director. This has not been an easy decision for us to make, but we believe it is the right decision. I have always said that I regard it an honour and privilege to serve God in the role of Church Warden. Both Sharon and I wish every success to our successors and that they may receive the blessings we both have during our time. **Steve Coupland**

T Time. T is for a cuppa Tea, for someone to Talk to and for Try something different (e.g. carpet bowls, dominoes, chess) at St Johns Wednesday afternoons 1.30-3.30 from April 22nd. All welcome.

Joining St John's

We joined St John's as members in January 2008, and at this time there weren't very many regular members and the first few services seemed quite poorly attended to what we had been used to, but this soon started to change over the course of the year as more and more people came from all over, and the church really started growing before our eyes. An Alpha course took place later and as a result even more people were baptised and have become regular members, and close friends. Over a year on and we are so glad and grateful to God that we made the decision to come to St John's – it really has changed our lives and we have met so many truly wonderful people who are to us like a second family. We love coming to church on a Sunday morning as do our two young daughters. Bethany is 3 years old and now has so many church friends who look after her during the services and who she loves to be with. Aimee, who is just 4 months old (a bonfire baby) and was the first baby to be born into the church for many years, was baptised there on the 1st March which was an amazing day, and it has been equally amazing to share the joy of Aimee's arrival with all our church family who all love her so much and have all been so involved in her first months right from birth. Everyone who comes to St John's has expressed how amazed they have been by the warmth and friendliness of everyone there and how welcome they have been made. No-one ever wants to leave after the services! We

would encourage anyone who considers church to be boring, irrelevant or unfriendly to come to St John's and meet our church family and experience how wonderful church really can be! **Antoine & Jo Robinson**

Short courses

Hull College are putting on two 'taster' courses at St John's, both starting the first week in May, and running for 6 weeks. They are **Digital Photography** and **Family History**. If you're interested, do give me (Chris) a call on 214236 or 781090, and I can give you more info. Limited numbers.

Café Church

Café church is a really new and exciting venture for St John's. I first attended a meeting with Chris to find out more about how and what café church is. Before I went to this meeting, I had no idea what it was all about in fact, I thought the meeting was about the church café being open during the day! Therefore I had no clue as to what I was letting myself in for! Anyhow, as I said above, it is a new venture for St John's church. So what is it all about? Well, café church is a different 'expression' of church in the sense that it takes place in the café area of St John's. It is a place where people can come, relax and enjoy a good cup of coffee (or tea) and taste our homemade cakes whilst taking part in all different types of activities. So what do we do? Firstly, café church takes place on the second Sunday of each month at 11 a.m. It is run by me and a very dedicated team of people and we get together and plan all sorts of activities for children and adults. These activities include games, drama, crafts, quizzes and discussion

around Christian themes. Café Church is especially good for families, but all welcome to relax, learn, chill and have fun! **Alisha Wilkinson** [NB. Next *Café Church* is on May 10th]

LIFE at St John's Church

Did you know that once a month, on a Sunday afternoon, St John's is full of kids enjoying activities, cooking, having their nails painted, creating jewellery, playing on a PS2, eating sweets and making friends?? This is LIFE – the new youth project at St John's. The group came out of a project undertaken by Faith in Education (which works to build bridges between schools and churches in Hull) in David Lister School, and works with a group of 20 students from years 7 and 8, all of whom have been in some kind of trouble at school. The project finished with a Fun Day at St John's just before Christmas, and then we were amazed as over 40

St John's Café Bar is opening on Tuesdays & Thursdays after Easter 10.30-1.30 pm for soups, sandwiches, omelettes, jacket potatoes and light snacks. Do give us a try.

young people and their families came to a special carol service that we did for them. LIFE was started to keep the contact going with these kids. It's once a month for an hour (3-4pm) and we have all kinds of fun activities planned for the next few months including table tennis competitions, rapping, puppetry and talent shows! Already the club has made a big impact on the kids in the area – we are excited to see how God will use fun, friendship and laughter to show them His love. Come and be part of it! **Tessa Oram**