



St John's, Tupton

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Weekly Newssheet

10th January 2021

'Ronarag 41'

Dear Church Family,

It has been yet another difficult week, just as we think that it can't get much worse. As we enter this 3rd lockdown I appreciate that this is going to feel harder than the previous 2. Though we do have the hope of the vaccine being rolled out further this week. You are all very much in my prayers as I appreciate that this may feel even more difficult than the previous times. If you are struggling in any way, practically or even emotionally, please do get in touch with me. I would be delighted to chat and pray with you and if we can help with shopping etc, there are plenty of us around to do this. Please do shout!

I was reflecting on Psalm 91 this week – one of the Psalms that is regularly used in Night Prayer (or Compline):

*"Those who live in the shelter of the Most High
will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.*

² This I declare about the Lord:

*He alone is my refuge, my place of safety;
he is my God, and I trust him.*

⁴ He will cover you with his feathers.

He will shelter you with his wings.

His faithful promises are your armour and protection."

I am reassured that God always offers us a place of refuge where we can seek shelter and protection during the storm. God is the one who provides sanctuary for us when we feel overwhelmed and in need of rest. He is our place of stronghold – the fortress which we can enter and retreat into, knowing that He is strong enough to shield us from the worst of the tempest. He is our place of safety, because He loves and cares for us. He is the one who will carry us when we are exhausted, who will give us strength in our weakness and helps us endure and persevere. I pray that

this week you will take these verses and reflect on God's protection and care for us during this difficult days.

With my continuing prayers for you all,
Lynn

Sunday Services

Services at St Mary's, St John's and St Bart's are currently suspended. Do please continue to check out our Facebook page and also our entry in A church near you (website).

Our service will continue to be found on Youtube – please check your emails for the link to this

Notices

Coffee after church -11am for everyone

We will continue to meet for coffee after church on Sunday mornings. Whatever church you attend you are extremely welcome to join us – we'd love to see you! We will only run one event at 11am so that we can gather a good number of people together and hopefully get to know each other from our different congregations. If you haven't been for a while, we run things a little differently now which I hope makes it easier to take part in. We would love to see you back again!

The Bible Series

We are starting a new Homegroup series on Monday 18th Jan. This is another Bible Society Course looking at the whole Bible! The course lasts 7 weeks and will be supplemented by a preaching series on the same topics. Each session will take place on Monday Evenings for about an hour starting at 7pm and last around an hour. There will be videos to watch, small group discussions and opportunity to pray. You will need to be able to access Zoom on a computer, tablet or smartphone to join the full course. Details will be given next week on how to join. However you can still watch the videos and join an email discussion if you don't wish to join on zoom. Please contact Maggie Limb if you would prefer to join the non-zoom group.

Quiz Night – Monday 11th Jan

Building on the success of the Quiz Night that we had before Christmas, I propose that we run a similar get together next Monday, 11th Jan at 7.30pm for about an hour. Hope you can make it! See zoom link below.

St Bartholomew's - Rev'd Amanda Marshall

We're delighted to welcome Amanda among us and it was good to have the opportunity to say hello to her on zoom last week at coffee after church. She is going to be working predominantly at St Bartholomew's and I know that she has already been in touch with many of you there. If you would like to chat to Amanda she would be delighted for you to contact her.

Prayer Ministry Training – Saturday 30th January 10-4pm

If prayer ministry is something that you are passionate about and would like to get involved in within our churches, can I encourage you to consider taking part in a prayer ministry training day. This will be run by the Harnhill Centre for Christian Healing of which I am a part. It will be run on-line **via zoom** and costs £20. Please speak to **Lynn** for further information or to book (by 20th Jan at the latest).

Vaccination Scam

Please be aware that there is a scam currently doing the rounds. No payment is ever required for a Covid vaccine.

Readings for week beginning 11th January:

Mon: Psalm 2;	Amos 1;	1 Corinthians 1.1–17
Tues: Psalm 8;	Amos 2;	1 Corinthians 1.18–end
Wed: Psalm 19;	Amos 3;	1 Corinthians 2
Thurs: Psalm 21;	Amos 4;	1 Corinthians 3
Fri: Psalm 67;	Amos 5.1–17;	1 Corinthians 4

Prayers

Heavenly Father, this is such a very difficult time for everyone in our country and also for the rest of our world. Thank you Lord that we are safe and warm in our comfortable homes and have enough food. We pray for all those around us and further afield who are in desperate need in so many ways; people who slip through the net of society and have no support or money coming into their households; those living on the streets; those living with mental health problems, living in abusive relationships, living in despair and without hope; those grieving and those ill with the virus. We pray especially for Care Workers and all working for the NHS who are exhausted, many feeling overwhelmed, and ask that you would bless them with extra strength. We pray in faith knowing that there is nothing that you cannot do and your love fills the earth.

At Christmas you came as the Light of the world; please shine in all our lives so that we can touch others with hope and perseverance. You have said that you are close to the broken hearted and blessed are the poor in spirit and so we pray that you would meet each one of us in the area of our need Lord where we feel most broken.

You are the God of Hope and Restoration, make us strong to support others and to know that our strength comes from you.

It is so easy to look at all the problems that surround us, countries ruled by evil and incompetent dictators, help us to look upwards and hold on to you, to look for your blessings each day. Help us to be your influence in society, through acts of love and kindness. As we, both young and old reach out to one another , so we become shining examples of your love Jesus.

As the schools are closed once again, please equip parents with your wisdom and ability and help them not to feel inadequate in what they are called to do. We would pray for the vaccine to be distributed, efficiently, wisely and speedily and that this pandemic will soon be eradicated especially from the very poor countries around the world where people are so vulnerable.

So may we cast all our cares on you Lord, to seek the common good, for peace to reign throughout the world. We bring to you the USA and ask Holy Spirit that you would touch every person's heart so that not one of them would be swayed by violence or be encouraged to turn against his fellow American. May they be united for the good of their country and for the love of you Lord. Loving Lord, bring to our minds all those we can reach out to this week.

Father God bless all our clergy, inspiring them and giving them all the energy, strength, wisdom and gifts that they need at this difficult time

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our Saviour Jesus Christ Amen.

Collect for The First Sunday of Epiphany

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

