

Life News @ St Mary's

SEPTEMBER 2023

Exciting Youth Update

Our news this month is all about our New Day experience and plans for this term.

On Monday 31st July 80 young people and Youth Leaders left St Neots for the Norfolk Show Ground to attend a 6 day Christian Youth Festival called New Day. We had very mixed weather from pouring rain to howling winds with a bit of sunshine thrown in, but this



didn't dampen the excited atmosphere or the fun we all had together. We had youngsters from all over St Neots in our group, churched and unchurched, and everyone looked after each other and bonded. The seminars, talks and worship were very inspirational, so much so that three of our unchurched youth whom we took along from the Youth Cafe made a commitment! Since our return we have been meeting with them at the Art and Soul Cafe in St Neots to teach them how to use their new bibles, which were generously donated to them by members of the congregation, and to learn about Jesus. Whilst at the cafe we also drink Bubble Tea, a new craze of drink, chat and play games. The new school term starts on Monday 4th Sept so things will be resuming such as The Youth Cafe, where we hope to see our regulars returning and tell them about the Youth Alpha Course we will be starting on Sunday 17th September during our Reactors sessions on Sunday mornings. Brunch will be served followed by some study and questions. We hope to set up a rota of volunteers to come over to the Jubilee Hall after church to help clear up and wash up after the brunch, so if you are able to help please speak to Julia Chapman or Heather Arnold. Finally, please come to church on Sunday 10th September when the youth will be hosting the service and telling us all about their experiences at New Day. They will also be serving the refreshments and selling more of their delicious cakes! Thank you all for your continued prayer and encouragement. God is moving amongst the youth in St Neots and doing miraculous things.

Praise be to God!

A Word from the Vicar

How good are you at receiving practical advice? Our Sunday morning series on James has been reminding us how we're called to live as Christians, especially in relation to the use of our tongues. As my wife who preached on the tongue elsewhere, using the words of both Apostles Paul and James said,

So let me ask you a question: how is your speech? Do these verses challenge you about the way you use words? We all know that the playground chant of 'sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me' is the most complete and utter rubbish. But have you realised that your speech affects the Holy Spirit? As Paul says, we should be careful with speech because lying, angry words, and unwholesome talk grieves the Holy Spirit. We do not just hurt others with our careless use of words, we grieve the Holy Spirit...So, is your speech truthful? Does your speech build others up? Does your speech reflect kindness, compassion and forgiveness? Is your conversation, as Paul says 'always full of grace, seasoned with salt?'

World Mission Update

We do hope that you found the visit by Jennifer Musson (ACTIOS) in July interesting and informative. Mano Emmanuel, our mission partner from Sri Lanka, spent a day with us on the 27th August, updating us on her mission work and the political situation in the country.

The whole team would like to express their gratitude to you all for the fantastic response on the 23rd July regarding Triumph Heart and the new computer they urgently needed. A grand total of £455 was raised which we then 'topped up' to £500. This will provide not only the computer itself but the necessary software to meet the needs of the charity.

We are also planning to repeat our Harvest Appeal for Food.gives (Barnabas Trust). Last year we sent 14 boxes of dry goods to the charity! These boxes are greatly appreciated by our Christian brethren throughout Asia and Africa who suffer from basic food shortages. There will be updates regarding which items are needed soon.

There are several updates from all our mission partners on our notice board. Please read them.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Unfortunately we have had to postpone the Global Care Tea Party originally planned for 17th September - when a new date has been agreed we will let you know.

SUNDAY SCHOOL / CRECHE HELP NEEDED:

We are looking for 1 more person to help at Sunday School during the 10.30am service on a rota basis.



Requirements:

- Prepare and teach material (material provided)
- Work with a Sunday School helper.
- Once a month, term time only (an average of 10 times per year)
- DBS check and training (provided by church)

We also need 5 more people to help in Creche during the 10.30am service on a rota basis.

Requirements:

- Alongside another helper, prepare small crafts / stories for creche (material provided)
- Setup creche toys in the hall
- Work with another Creche helper.
- Manage children who are old enough to be left in the hall
- Engage with parents who stay in the hall with their younger children
- Once a month, term time only (an average of 10 times per year)
- DBS check and safeguarding training (provided by church)

To volunteer or for more information please speak to Liz Faulkner on cfcw@eatonsocon.org

Verse for 2023 2 Corinthians 13:11

“Finally, beloved friends, be cheerful! Repair whatever is broken among you, as your hearts are being knit together in perfect unity. Live continually in peace, and God, the source of love and peace, will mingle with you.”

Bible Reading Notes

Brenda Notley currently purchases bible reading notes for several people from Peterborough Christian Bookshop. If you would like her to do this for you too please let her know. You can contact her on notters55@gmail.com or speak to her after the 9am service.

CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER

MONDAY

Café on the Green - 10am - Re-starts 11th
4th - Creation Care working party - 9.30am
M (Maintenance) Team - Not meeting in September
Youth Café (For Years 7-11) - 3.30pm - Re-starts 11th



TUESDAY

Morning Prayer - 9am
Craft Group - 10am

WEDNESDAY

Holy Communion - 9am
Little Stars - 10am
Wednesday Welcome - 3pm
Bell Ringing Practice - 7.30pm



THURSDAY

28th - Thursday Lunch Club - 12noon



FRIDAY

Food bank 10am - 12noon
Fusion 7.30pm

SUNDAY

10th - Youth cake sale after the service
17th - HIVE - 2pm
24th - Harvest Lunch - 12noon - free, donations welcome
24th - Sharing Life Through Learning - 6pm



The Sunday services on 17th and 24th will celebrate the Season of Creation as well as Harvest. We will be exploring what it means to be at peace with creation and how true love for others means seeking justice for all.