



St Peter's Parish Church Notices, Mon 22nd May 2023.

Thy Kingdom Come Pilgrimage.

Rev Canon Steve Benoy, Bishop's Chaplain and Cathedral Canon Missioner is undertaking a prayer centred walk through all our deaneries in the period between Ascension and Pentecost as part of the global Thy Kingdom Come Prayer movement. He will be arriving at **St Peter's Irthlingborough on Tuesday 23rd May** and everyone in our deanery is invited to a gather for a time of prayer at **7pm** (there will be prayer stations around the church) followed by a simple **fish & chip supper** around 7.45pm. Let our Rector know if you/your family wish to attend so we can advise numbers for catering.

Pentecost service next Sunday:

On **Sunday 28th May**, during the morning service, we will be planting a rose tree in the church grounds, to commemorate the Coronation of our new King and Queen.

It is a climbing rose tree, aptly named "Coronation" and will be planted on the south side of the church.

Additional services

Mondays 8pm Night Prayer in the side chapel. (30 min service)

Wednesdays 9am Morning Prayer (30 min service over Zoom). Ask Rachel or Ruth for details.

Sunday 28th May is Pentecost and there will be a joint **evening service at Park Road Baptist Church, 6pm** (for an hour). There will be a guest speaker from Open Doors charity. This service is being hosted by the Rushden and Higham Council of Churches and is open to everyone.

From our Treasurer & Licensed Lay Minister, Ken Woodhall:

Dear Church Family, through the marvellous generosity of you, our Church family, last year:

- We raised **£2,013** for Shelterbox through our Tent for Lent appeal.
- The Jubilee party was a huge success with over 200 people from our local community attending.
- We hosted the Through Faith Missions team in July
- We raised **£1,404** for the Tearfund Pakistan Floods appeal at Harvest.
- The St Peter's Giving Day raised **£3,788** and was a huge factor in reducing our deficit last year.
- We gave **£1,742** to the Church Mission Society (CMS) as our commitment to outreach and to give a percentage of our total income to our mission partners.
- This year there has been a further increase in giving through the Parish Giving Scheme and we are thankful to those that have reviewed their giving and to those that have now joined the scheme.

At our APCM in April we announced that we needed make up the shortfall in giving in 2022 by taking **£19,000** from our deposit account, in the previous two years we needed to take **£25,000** from our reserves, so we have made a big step in the right direction.

Our budget forecast for this year is that our shortfall will be in the region of **£17,000**, so another step in the right direction; however this is still a significant amount.

In order to maintain an appropriate ministry in this parish, we need to make the books balance before our reserves are exhausted. The PCC is continuing to reduce our expenditure wherever possible, such as holding Sunday services in the Hall during the colder months, and seeking volunteer to clean the Hall after lettings.

How can you help?

- When we are faced with any difficulty we should turn to the Lord in **prayer** above all else; we ask that you hold our current financial situation in your prayers.
- We have wonderful facilities in our **Hall**, we invested a significant amount in refurbishing the kitchen while the Hall was out of action during the pandemic. If you are a member of, or know any clubs or associations that might be looking for a venue, then please put them in touch with our lettings coordinator:
Terri bookingsstpeterschurchrushden@gmail.com
- If you are not currently giving through the **Parish Giving Scheme**, please prayerfully consider this method of giving - You decide the amount and when it is given - You can change things as circumstances change – further information is available from our Treasurer.
- If you do regularly give to St Peter's then please do prayerfully **review** the amount you give, are you setting aside your "first fruits", that first 10% of what the Lord has given you?
- There are many opportunities available to help in the upkeep and running of St Peter's, please consider how you might be able to offer your unique **talents and time** in service, do speak to one of our Churchwardens if you would like to know more.

For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have.

2 Corinthians 8:12

We have faith that God wants St Peter's to continue as a viable, welcoming and nurturing presence within our community; where anyone can come to feel they **belong** as part of our church family, come to **believe** in the promise of the gospel, come to **grow** and strengthen their faith and **reach out** as disciples of our Lord and Saviour.

BELONG

BELIEVE

GROW

REACH OUT

ILLUMINATE

Local Churches across Rushden, Higham, Irthlingborough, Raunds and Sharnbrook are working together to host a BIG youth event called **Illuminate** next year. This will involve the Christian band LZ7 as they go into local schools and put on a big concert at the end of the tour. (Check out LZ7 online, they are on social media, etc.)

There are lots of ways you can help. If you would like to know more and to meet some of the band members and hear about their work, anyone is welcome to come to a **meeting on Sun 11th June, 2.30pm at Park Road Baptist Church**. There will also be a **mini concert for church youth groups across our area at 7.30pm** on the same day.

More information will follow, but in the meantime, you are invited to find out more. See poster at the back of church for more information.

Our church will be hosting a **prayer meeting on Sunday 16th July, 7-8pm** so all churches can gather to pray for this big event. Do come along!

Other notices:

Council of Churches

Our church currently has 2 representatives on the **Rushden and Higham Council of Churches** (our Rector and Mark McAuley). We could do with another representative to attend 1 to 2 meetings per year to hear all about events that are being planned, etc. to keep our church informed and involved. If this is something you might be interested in, please speak to our rector for more details.

Growth Groups (the new Home Groups!)

We shall soon be launching two new small groups, providing an opportunity to meet informally outside of Sundays to grow deeper in faith. If you haven't yet signed up, there is a list at the back of church. Add your name or speak to our rector to find out more.

Star Wars exhibition at Peterborough Cathedral:

Unofficial Galaxies, one of the largest Star Wars fan private collections in the world, will be on show at Peterborough Cathedral this summer. If you are a Licenced Lay Minister or member of Clergy and would like to serve as a Day Chaplain during the exhibition please contact Steve Benoy or ask our Rector for more details.

For your prayers:

The Panter family, following the baptism of Ellie-Rose.

For all who are trying to care and support loved ones with significant care needs.

Let's join with our diocese of Peterborough in praying for the appointment of a new Bishop:

Heavenly Father, thank you that nothing happens without your knowledge and as we prepare to receive our new bishop, we pray for our diocesan family. We are thankful for all those who have been instrumental in the selection process, for the many prayers that have been offered and for your direction and care.

We pray that your presence will continue with us and your spirit will brood over us. We pray that our new bishop will be a person with a heart for your people, who keeps you at the centre of everything they do and who represents you with humility and grace. May they lead with a gentle spirit and always be reliant on the Holy Spirit for guidance.

With grateful hearts, Lord, we thank you. Amen

A Prayer from Rushden Park Nursing Home in our parish:

Dear Heavenly Father

We give thanks for the joy of Spring, new life and sunnier days.

Father we give thanks for a roof over our head and food to eat.

Lord, we pray for all the Residents and Staff at Rushden Park and ask for your blessing on us all, in the name of Jesus Christ

Amen.