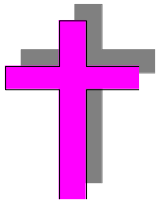


# St. John the Divine, Coppull February 2020



Vicar: Rev Matthew Hornby 01257 791218 Pastoral Assistant Mrs Joyce Heaton 793501  
Churchwardens: Mr Geoffrey Magrath 794176 Mrs Joyce Heaton 793501

## From the Vicarage: A Vision for the Church

The PCCs of St John's Coppull and of Coppull Parish Church have decided that we should have one Vision Action Plan (or Vision for short) for our two churches together.

### What is a Vision?

A Vision is high level, big picture. It should be short and memorable. A Vision is about who we want to be and where we want to go as a church. It's not about the details of what we do to achieve this – that comes later as a Mission Action Plan, but having a good Mission will be made easier by having a unified Vision.

### Why have a Vision?

- As the saying goes, if you aim at nothing, you'll definitely achieve it!
- A Vision provides encouragement and motivation in what we're doing, as it tells us why we're doing it and what we hope to achieve as a result.
- A Vision helps us prioritise. There are many good things a church could be doing. A Vision helps us decide how best to use the limited resources we have.
- A Vision provides focus. Without a Vision, many Mission Action Plans (and indeed, many churches) end up being a long list of things to do, with little sense of why these things were chosen or how they fit together.
- A Vision leads to action. A Vision Action Plan will naturally lead to a Mission Action Plan. If we have a strong, clear, unified sense of who we want to be and where we want to go as a church, we can then decide what to do to help bring this about.

### How to get a Vision? Start with Prayer!

How do we go about formulating a Vision? We must begin with prayer! We don't want our Vision to be simply *our* Vision for the church. We want it to be *God's* Vision for the church. We must begin by asking God to give us vision, and to be at work in us and amongst us in our Vision Action Planning. As Psalm 127:1 says: "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain." There's no point us being at work unless God is at work. So let's start by asking God!

### Vision Prayer Meeting Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 6.30pm in Coppull Parish Church

We will be meeting to pray for Vision on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 6.30pm. Coppull Parish Church will be open from 6.00pm for personal quiet prayer. From 6.30pm, we will use written prayers and Bible readings to ask God to give us his vision. If anyone wants to pray out loud in their own words, they may, but nobody will be expected to do this. We will finish by 7.00pm. We're using Coppull Parish Church because they normally have a service of Evening Prayer at that time, and the heating is a bit better! Please make it a priority to come and pray with us if it is at all possible.

### Diocesan Vision Prayer

*Heavenly Father, we embrace Your call for us to make disciples, to be witnesses and to grow leaders. Give us eyes to see Your vision, ears to hear the prompting of Your Spirit and courage to follow in the footsteps of your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen*

When this Diocesan Vision Prayer was written in 2016, people across the Diocese were encouraged to pray this every Friday at 12 noon. I intend to make this prayer part of my daily prayer, but why not start by praying it every Friday, as close to 12 noon as you can manage?

### How to get a Vision? Continue with Bible study!

If the first step is prayer, the second, and closely linked, step is Bible study. We've already said that we want our Vision to be in line with God's Vision. So let's bring our Vision into line with God's Vision by studying his Word.

Read the Bible for yourself, a little bit every day, as Archdeacon Mark encouraged us to do when he visited. Come to church to hear God's Word read, and maybe even listen to the sermon! Come to Home group or Ignite to read and discuss with others.

### The Diocesan Vision

You may know that the Diocese of Blackburn has a Vision for 2026. Our Vision for Coppull need not be identical to the Diocesan Vision, but it should be in line with these principles and priorities:

*Vision 2026: Healthy Churches Transforming Communities*

- *Making disciples of Jesus Christ*
- *Being witnesses to Jesus Christ*
- *Growing Leaders for Jesus Christ*
- *Prioritising work among children, young people and schools to raise up a new generation for Christ*

# The Friends of St. John's

## Friends Prayer

Heavenly Father,  
In our Membership of  
The Friends of St. John's  
Guide & strength us by your  
Holy Spirit  
As we endeavour to promote true  
Christian Fellowship and sound  
Family values  
And in all things may we show  
True Christian Love  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord  
**Amen**

Meeting weather permitting,  
19<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30 p.m.

## Annual General Meeting

18<sup>th</sup> of March will be the **21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary**  
of the Friends of St. John, so a gentle  
reminder to all Members that our  
subscriptions will be due on that date. So  
will all Members please try to attend the  
Annual General Meeting

## SERVICES DURING FEBRUARY

## SIDESPERSONS

### Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> 6.00 p.m. Confirmation Service

Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month</b> 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion 9.30 a.m. Parish Communion	Mrs T Unsworth & Mrs N Danify
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	10.15 a.m. Holy Communion	
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Month</b> 9.30 a.m. Parish Communion	Mrs L Crow & G Crow
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.15 a.m. Holy Communion	
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month</b> 9.30 a.m. Parish Communion	J. Harrison & A. Leigh
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup>	10.15 a.m. Holy Communion	
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Month</b> 9.30 a.m. Morning Worship & Baptisms	Mrs D Appleton & Mrs M Magrath
<b>Ash</b> <b>Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00 a.m. St. Johns School Eucharist</b> <b>7.00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Eucharist</b>	All welcome at both Services
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup>	10.15 a.m. Holy Communion	



"Looks like they've introduced contactless payments for their collections."

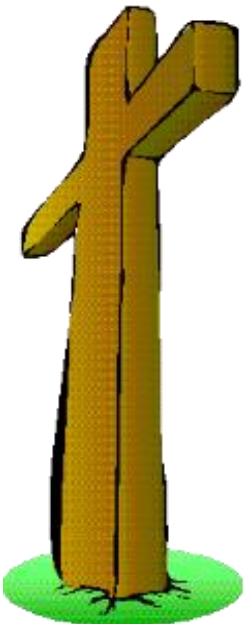
TREASURER'S REPORT	
	<b>Envelopes</b>
01-Dec	408.00
08-Dec	175.00
15-Dec	216.00
Christmas Collections	270.00
Standing Orders	172.00
	1,241.00
Plate Collection	550.00
Fees	-
In Memory	150.00
Misc. Income	1,393.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£ 3,334.00</b>
Income	3,334.00
Expenditure	3,818.00
Deficit for Month	<b>-£ 484.00</b>

## Social News

<i>Day</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Function</i>
Friday	27 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter Bingo
Saturday	20 <sup>th</sup> June	Summer Fair
	On going	Summer Draw
Saturday	21 <sup>st</sup> November	Christmas Fair
Sunday	6 <sup>th</sup> December	Christingle and Grand Christmas Draw

### Grand Christmas Draw 2019

Dorothy & Susan would like to thank everyone who either donated, sold or bought tickets for the Christmas Draw to raise much needed funds for St. John's. Every prize has been claimed and delivered to the winners.



### **LENT A TIME TO THINK, REFLECT AND TO TAKE STOCK**

Once again a basket has been placed at the back of Church and during Lent if you have any non-perishable foods, which we can donate to the Living Waters Church, Food Bank in Chorley then please just drop the items in the basket.  
Would you kindly check the use by dates as we would not want to donate food that is out of date. Thank You,,

**THINK, REFLECT AND TAKE STOCK**

This month sees the start of Lent, the season of penitence, self-examination and fasting running up to Easter. Fasting can be a neglected discipline, but it plays an important part in the Christian life. Jesus began His earthly ministry by fasting in the wilderness for 40 days and He taught His disciples to fast (i.e. not *if* but *'when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen.'* (Matthew 6:17,18).

#### *Why Fast?*

Firstly, giving up something in my life underlines my desire to put God first in my life. Secondly, fasting shows me how much I depend on things other than God in my life, so I can surrender my idols to Him. Thirdly, fasting encourages me to have a deeper hunger and dependency for God in my life. Therefore, fasting gives me space to humbly focus on God for His strength, provision, and wisdom and results in a more intimate relationship with Christ. It also enables the Holy Spirit to reveal my true spiritual condition, leading to brokenness, repentance, and a transformed life, with a heart more attentive to God.

#### *How can I fast?*

Usually fasting involves missing one or two meals during the day, although some can't abstain from food for medical reasons. It might also include abstaining or limiting the time I give to television, alcohol or social media. However, Lent can also be a time to embrace new spiritual disciplines e.g. joining a study group, 'random acts of kindness', or giving more time to prayer and Bible study. Whatever you do, make Lent count this year!

#### **What are angels like?**

*Try asking school children that question, and you'll get some imaginative replies! Like these....*

Angels have a lot to do and they keep very busy. If you lose a tooth, an angel comes in through your window and leaves money under your pillow. Then when it gets cold, angels go south for the winter. – *Sara, aged 6*

Angels live in cloud houses made by God and His Son, who's a very good carpenter. – *Jared, aged 8*

All angels are girls because they have to wear dresses and boys didn't go for it. – *Anthony, aged 9*

My angel is my grandma who died last year. She got a big head start on helping me while she was still down here on earth. – *Kate, aged 9*

Some of the angels are in charge of helping heal sick animals and pets. And if they don't make the animals get better, they help the kid get over it. – *Vicky, aged 8*

What I don't get about angels is why, when someone is in love, they shoot arrows at them. – *Sarah, aged 7*

#### **2 February – The Presentation of Christ in the Temple/ Candlemas**

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2 February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child – to 'present Him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day – hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.

## 25 February – Shrove Tuesday: Who’s for pancakes?

Why do we have pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, or Pancake Day, as we call it today? And what is Shrove Tuesday? And why do thousands of people feel it rewarding to race along a street somewhere tossing pancakes from their frying pans as they go?

Well, the answer to the first question is that it is the day before Lent begins and for well over a thousand years that has meant it was the last chance to enjoy meat, fat and other tasty dishes until Easter Day. The ‘Lent Fast’ was widely and strictly observed. The food in the larder wouldn’t keep for six weeks so it had to be eaten. With all these rich foods no wonder the French call it ‘Fatty Tuesday’ – Mardi Gras.

So, what have pancake races got to do with all this solemnity? ‘Shrove’ is an old word for ‘forgiven’ and in those days to prepare for the rigours of Lent people would want to confess and seek forgiveness – not quite what you want at a party. The answer is quite simply enjoying yourself while you can! So, on Shrove Tuesday this year let’s have some fun and make it last as long as possible.

The most convincing (and amusing) of the explanations of pancake races is of outwitting the Sexton who rang the curfew bell that marked the start of Lent. He was reluctant to do it while the race was unfinished. So, the revelry caused by dropped pancakes, postponed the inevitable.

Since the Reformation it has not been so rigorously observed in Britain, but still people will resolve to ‘give up something for Lent’. Six weeks is about right as a duration and Sunday has always been exempt but make the most of those pancakes. They may well not reappear until April 12<sup>th</sup>!

### **St. John’s C. of E. Primary School, Coppull**

Thinking about volunteering?

Are you interested in children’s education?

Would you like to become a school governor?

St John’s C of E Primary School is looking for enthusiastic, committed people to serve on its governing body.

There is currently a vacancy for a foundation governor

We are looking for people who have the skills and qualities to work as part of a team in challenging and supporting the school’s leaders to ensure that our children get the best education possible and drive school improvement. As a foundation governor your role also includes ensuring the Christian ethos of the school is preserved and developed, links with the St. John’s Church & Parish and the wider community.

You don’t need an education background to be an effective school governor, but you do need time (approximately 10-12 hours per school term), commitment, and a willingness to scrutinise information and ask challenging questions. You will also need to be able to visit the school occasionally during school time. Training is available and offered both during the day and in the evenings.

Becoming a school governor is a great way to contribute to your local community and improve the lives of local children. Further information is available on the school website under the governors’ section.

For further information please speak to Rev. Hornby or visit St. Johns School and speak with the Headteacher Mrs Samantha Abram.

# The parable of the Shrewd Manager



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE JESUS TOLD A STORY ABOUT A RICH MAN...

...AND HIS SERVANT, WHO MANAGED THE RICH MAN'S PROPERTY.

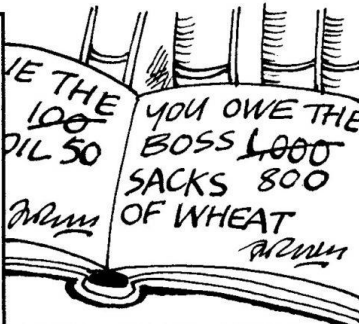


THE RICH MAN HAD HEARD THAT THE MANAGER HAS BEEN WASTING MONEY.

SO HE CALLED THE MANGER TO ACCOUNT FOR HIMSELF!



OH NO! I AM GOING TO GET THE SACK!!

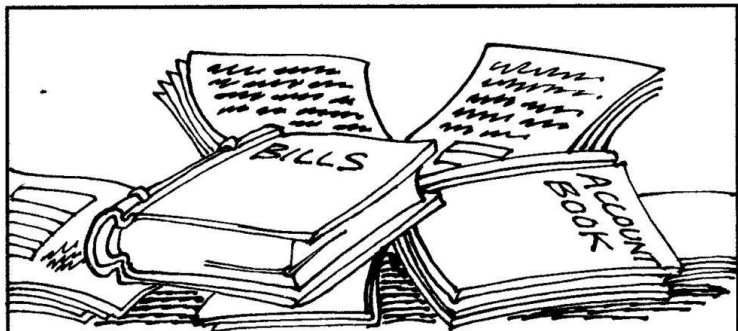
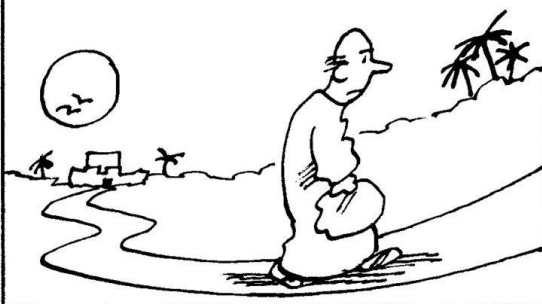


THE MANAGER AGREED TO LET THE RICH MAN'S TRADERS FIDDLE THEIR BOOKS!



SO THEY ALTERED THEIR DEBTS - AND STAYED FRIENDS WITH THE MANAGER.

JESUS EXPLAINED THAT THE MANAGER HAD BEEN WISE IN MANAGING HIS FUTURE... EVEN THOUGH HE WAS BEING DISHONEST.



JESUS WAS TRYING TO ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE TO THINK ABOUT THEIR OWN FUTURES TOO. BUT IT'S A HARD PARABLE TO UNDERSTAND!

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
1 Samuel 2:11-17, 22-25, 3:1-21

As soon as he was old enough to leave his parents, Samuel went to live at God's temple in Shiloh, with the priest, Eli..

Eli's sons were also priests, but they helped themselves to what people had brought to give to God.



Eli talked to them about it. They ignored him.



But Samuel did all the work he was given well.

One night, after everyone had gone to bed, Samuel heard someone calling him.



He thought it was Eli, so he ran to him.



No, I didn't call you

It happened again.



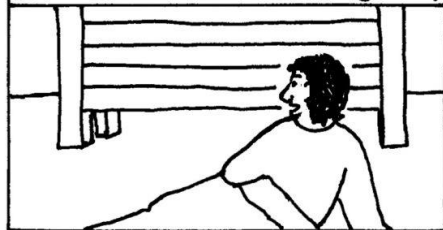
I didn't call. Go back to bed.

The third time, Eli knew it must be God calling Samuel.



You must say, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'

God called Samuel again,



and Samuel answered as he had been told.

I told Eli his sons had done bad things, but he has not stopped them. Now, even being sorry will not make up for what has happened.



The next morning, Eli demanded to be told what God had said.



Samuel was afraid, but he told him.

He is God. He will deal with us as is right.



God continued to talk to Samuel. He became known throughout Israel.



## **200 Club Winners: December £10 Winners**

No 40 M. Riley

No. 57 P. Smith

No. 143 M. Rigby

No. 196 G Pennington

### **£100.00 Winner – No 9 S. Fowler**

The 200 Club is drawn on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month, in the Church Hall during Coffee after the 9.30 a. m. Service, if you would like a number in the draw, only £1.00 per month, then please see Dot Appleton. Thank You.

### ***Donations given to Church Funds***

Christmas Memories of Ian from Mum, Dad, Gary, James, Eric & Yvonne

In Loving Memory of All Loved Ones from Mr & Mrs C Goodman

In Loving Memory of Dear Ronnie Love from Madge Rogerson

Special Family Memories of Mary Marsh, Elsie Ball & Ivy Marsh. Always in our thoughts from Marjorie, Kathleen, Linda & Families

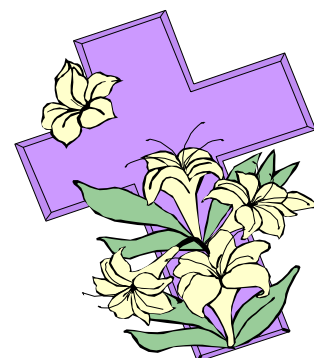
In Loving Memory of Ethel & Bert O'Nions from Carol, Joan & Kathy

In Loving Memory of All Loved Ones from Ken & Barbara Fisher

Loving Memories of All Loved Ones from Margaret

In Loving Memory of John Holden from Lily

In Memory of All Loved Ones from Olive & Family



### ***Donations of Flowers & Money give to the Flower Fund:***

In Loving Memory of Margaret Taylor from Gerald

In Loving Memory of Ethel & Bert O'Nions from Carol, Joan & Kathy

In loving memory of loved ones from Janice David Louise and families.

Christmas pulpit Flowers in Loving Memory of a Very dear Mum, Norah Skinner from Susan and Family

In memory of Elaine Ian and Sherry from Marjorie Tom.

Anniversary Memories 3rd Feb. of a very dear Mum, Edith Pennington from Graham.

