**Sunday 9th February 2020**

**3rd Sunday before Lent**

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY**

You may be interested to read the statement posted on the Team Ministry’s website [www.brateamministry.org](http://www.brateamministry.org) from the Ministry Team in response to the recent House of Bishops’ statement about the recent introduction of Civil Partnerships between men and women:

*The Church of England churches in Rugeley, Brereton and Armitage with Handsacre are committed to radical, faithful inclusion. It was therefore with sadness that we read the recently published statement from the House of Bishops following the introduction of Civil Partnerships for heterosexual couples. Whilst we recognise the church’s teaching we also want to support and encourage people who are entering loving, faithful and stable relationships of all kinds and joyfully celebrate their love for one another.  We will continue to offer a generous response to all those from our communities who ask for the opportunity to come to church around the time of their Civil Partnership or Marriage, whilst keeping within the bishops’ guidelines. We wish it to be known that we believe that we are all loved by God regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, ability or sexuality and our churches will continue to remain as a beacon of light and hope for all who feel excluded by the church.*

*Fr David & The Ministry Team*

**THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN’S**

Sunday

9.00 am Morning Prayer (1st 3rd)

Holy Communion (2nd 4th 5th)

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**Coffee Morning at St. John’s**. First Wednesday of each month at 10.30 am. £2.50 including tea/coffee, biscuits and home-made cakes. Come along for a chat. You will be very welcome.

We are having a debrief meeting following the **Stable Trail,** on Wednesday 12th February at 7pm at St. A's.

**Rummage Sale** at Church of the Good Shepherd 11am-2pm Sunday 16th February. Refreshments available. If you’d like a table contact Michael McGraw (Prime) - £3, set up from 10am. All welcome.

**World Day of Prayer – Churches Together.** Friday 6th March 2pm at the Church of the Holy Spirit. Please see Kathy (01889 583509) if you would like to participate. A planning meeting and rehearsal will be advertised soon.

**Ladies Day Retreat** - Friday 6th March. Enjoy a relaxing day listening to "Ben" (Cynthia Huddlestone) who is a well-known Christian speaker from Somerset. It's being held at Church House, Abbots Bromley. Tickets are £7 and includes lunch. Please see Rev Jo ASAP to get a one of the 8 tickets available.

**Churches Together Litter Pick** 10.30am Saturday 21st March. starting at St. Paul’s Methodist Church. Join in on the day to make our town cleaner and tidier. This coincides with the Great British Spring Clean which runs from March 20th – April 13th. www.keepbritaintidy.org

Saturday 21st March - **Open House at the Curate's** - drop in anytime between 2pm to 5pm. Enjoy some Lenten friendship and fellowship at Jo, Andy & Grace's at The Vicarage, 14 Peakes Road. Invitations to follow for each church shortly.

**Parish Easter Trail**, Saturday 28th March, St. Michael's Church, more details to follow!

**ACROSS THE PARISH**

**News from the PCC meeting held last week:** The reports received by the PCC are pinned to the notice boards at the back of our churches. Ask your elected PCC reps for further information.

**St Michael’s Church flood lighting.** For a £25 donation you can sponsor the lighting up of the church in memory of a loved one. Contact Revd George for details.

**HAVE YOU BOOKED YOUR PLACE ON THE PARISH WEEKEND AWAY 26th-28th JUNE 2020? ? THE DEADLINE FOR BOOKING YOUR PLACE IS THE END OF FEBRUARY.** Find a brochure and booking form at the back of church today! This is for everyone. We do not want cost to be a barrier to people coming, so if that is a factor for you, talk in confidence to Revds Brian, Margaret, Jo, George or David. Folks who went to the last weekend away loved it, so do sign up!

**The Changing Room Counselling service.** Call **075 9125 7737.**

*The Changing Room is now available three days per week – Tuesday, Wednesday and Fridays!*

**The Foodbank** is short of long-life milk, sandwich meat (ham etc.), jam/marmalade, long life orange/fruit juice, squash, rice, canned rice pudding, canned fruit, custard, instant mash, coffee, toiletries, loo rolls, nappies (4-6+ months especially)