



The Beacon

Newsletter of St John's Church, Workson

October 2025

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A Word from the New Vicar

Friends,

What a pleasure it is to write this for the October *Beacon*. As you'll know, it's still a few weeks before I'm able to join you all at St John's, but I'm so looking forward to arriving, getting to know you, exploring the area, and discovering what God is doing in Workson.

I imagine the first few months will be a whirlwind of Advent and Christmas, as well as lots of new names and faces – you may need to be patient with me and remind me of your name more than once!

It was around the end of May that my wife, April, and I began to wonder whether the time was right to seek a new post, though we weren't actively searching. I came across St John's advert almost by accident, yet we both felt immediately pulled to explore it more.

After a few Zoom conversations with the Archdeacon and your brilliant churchwardens, we drove over while the boys were in school. We have two children, Samuel (10) and Jonathan (8).



That day we had a quick prayer walk around the town, a lovely lunch at the MeltAway café, and a stroll through the Canch as well as exploring around the church. We even had the chance to meet with the Bishop and hear what life is like for clergy in the Southwell & Nottingham Diocese.

Since then, our excitement and sense of God's call has only grown. We've been amazed to see Him removing obstacles

and opening a clear road forward for us to walk. April is a counsellor and teaches counselling skills, but she also loves to be involved in church life, and we're excited to see how God will use all our gifts in the years ahead.

St John's is clearly a special community who love Jesus and love one another, and the Lord is doing something among you! How fitting, then, that my licensing service falls on **Monday 1st December**, the day after Advent Sunday – a season of new beginnings, hope, and expectation. It feels like just the right time to celebrate the start of a new chapter together. I'd love to see you there if you're able to make it!

With every blessing,

Gareth

The Banton Family



Gareth, April, Samuel and Jonathan



London Rally

I only got to 10 minutes of the service on 7th September as I went off to London to join the 2nd rally organised by the Campaign against anti-semitism. There were about 70,000 people there and what a contrast to the Palestine Action Rally the day before. The rally was almost silent with mainly Jewish people politely holding up placards to passers-by, saying things such as 'Act before Hate, before it's too Late' and 'Zero Tolerance for Anti-Semites'.

We did stop outside the BBC to protest against what we perceive to be their anti-Israel bias. BBC journalists were banned from attending the march – why? In Parliament Square we were addressed by the Chief Rabbi and

speakers from the opposition parties but not by anyone from the government despite being invited some weeks ago – shameful.

Christian supporters were thanked and I met a few who I know including Dr. James Patrick, Chairman of 'Love Never Fails' – a coalition of ministries working amongst the Jewish community – who held up the following placard and apparently had some good responses.

JESUS is Jewish
We owe Israel EVERYTHING
(Romans 15 verse 27)

Chris M

From the Bible

*God said.
"I will bless those who bless you"
(i.e. Abraham and his descendants—Israel)*



At a recent Sunday morning Service at St Johns, the leader stated that today is the 9th Sunday after Pentecost. Do you ever wonder if the early church that was born a few weeks/months after that first Pentecost, when God poured out His Holy Spirit and fire, ever continued with signs, wonders, miracles, healings etc? Down the annals of history we see glimpses of God doing amazing things, and even today, in certain parts of the world, God is still very much in evidence. I just want to highlight one example where signs and wonders are still the norm

Christ For All Nations (CFAN)

CFAN came into being about 50 years ago when German Evangelist Reinhard Bonke and his wife Anni, had a God given passion for Africa. They started tent crusades in parts of Africa, where a few people would come along, hear the good news of Jesus, and some responded (see CFAN website for more detailed history).



Fast forward to 2025, and now CFAN boasts a total of over 100 million recorded decisions for Christ.

I close this article with an extract from a report of CFANs recent campaign in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.....

From Kipushi - the town that was known for its darkness - Evangelist Lukas Repert reported that:

"We invited the people to lift their hands and open their hearts as we prayed, 'Holy Spirit, come. Pour out Your gifts. Fill every empty vessel. Baptise with fire!' And then, like a rushing wind, heaven came down. The Holy Spirit fell on the field in Kipushi. All around us, people began to shake, weep, shout, and fall to their knees. Some spoke in new tongues for the first time, others lifted their voices in praise as waves of glory rolled over the crowd."



Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8)

Chris L

'Love Worksop' Event on Castle Hill, Sunday 21st September



Despite **COLD AIR** from the North being forecast, about 140 people from churches in the town gathered in the **HOT SUN** to pray for Worksop.

We began with worship songs followed by several people leading prayers for various aspects of our town. Tobias (right) began by giving thanks for the many good things he enjoys about Worksop, Other reps prayed for the Police, NHS, Town Council, Schools, Youth, Social Care, Community networking and more, ending with prayer for all church leaders and a sung Blessing.



From the Bible

God's Word to His people says "As long as the earth endures, seed-time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease" (Genesis 8:22)

An Autumn Prayer Poem

Abba, Father, the trees are ablaze with Your glory.
The seasons change, but You never do.
You are always beautiful, in the green and freshness of Spring
as in the golds and reds and chills of Autumn.
Make me like You. Let my life reflect Your beauty, season after
season, as the calendar of my life turns and turns and turns.

The trees are letting go of this year's foliage.
Help me let go of both blessings and burdens,
and surrender them both to Your loving care.

Fallen leaves pattern the ground with variety.
So design my own fallings and failings
into whatever design will please You most.

In Jesus' Name I pray, AMEN



HARVEST Thanksgiving Service

Sunday 12th October

10.30 a.m.

with
Redlands School Choirs

ALL WELCOME



Smile a While



What's an 'Ig'? An Eskimo home without a toilet.

What do you call a fish with no eyes? Fsh.

What do you call a deer with no eyes? No idea.

What has 20 legs and flies? 10 pairs of trousers.

Why did the hedgehog cross the road? To see his flatmate.

Contact Point

Church Office:

Overend Road, Worksop S81 1QG

[usually open Friday a.m. from 9.30—12 noon]

Tel: 01909 472595

Email: office.worksopstjohn@gmail.com

Church Website:

www.stjohnschurchworksop.co.uk

Heritage Website: <https://worksopspire.org>

Sunday Services

10.30 am Morning Worship
+ Kids, Church

6.00 pm Sunday @ 6.00
Informal service in the
Church Hall Lounge

See our Sunday notice sheet for
regular weekly events
or check out our Website

www.stjohnschurchworksop.co.uk
to find out more about us