

Whitton Times Summer 2024



Church in Community

“Welcome to Whitton Times, a blend of Church and Community, a magazine from us to you”. We hope you’ll find it helpful .



I sit down to write this the day after the election results, and we have a new Prime Minister. It is interesting how things come together sometimes, also on my list of things to do today is to finish the preparations for tomorrow All Together Church Service and we are looking at the story of David – the shepherd King. David was the second King of Israel about 1000 years BC and probably its most notable and successful one. David grew up as a poor shepherd but with gifts and skills learnt and honed as a shepherd boy that made him a brilliant leader.

Tomorrow at the Service we will look at those skills, ones that any leader would do well to hone, through some symbols of his life. The shepherd’s crook used to lead sheep on the right path. The sheep pen creating a place of safety and shelter. The shepherd laying across the entrance way of the pen at night protects the sheep. He fends off attackers with his sling and stones. He feeds the sheep leading them to new pastures. He heals the sheep with ointment. David the writer of many of the psalms was a poet and musician soothing the sheep, singing to God and inspiring his people. David was strong, just and fair.

Sir Keir Starmer is our first openly declared atheist prime minister choosing to make a ‘solemn affirmation’ not take an oath of allegiance to the King. He is quoted as saying he ‘does not believe in God but believes in the power of faith to bring people together.’ when he would do well to look at the attributes of King David and the example of Jesus who is our great shepherd. Both model a leadership of love being a servant to those they lead, leading with humility and grace and most of all love. As Charlie Chaplin said – You only need power when you want to do something harmful, otherwise love is enough to get everything done.

God is love and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them. Let us pray that just as God is Love and just as Jesus came to serve not to be served so too the new leadership will champion love over all things and lead with humility and love. Let us pray too that as people of faith we will indeed live out our calling to love and bring people together.

Reverend Mary

We give a very warm welcome to Revd John Irwin—Curate.

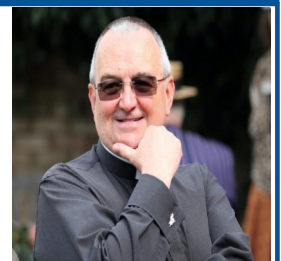
I used to get nervous when asked to share my testimony because I didn’t have a ‘road to Damascus’ conversion. I now realise that that applies to most people. Nor did I grow up in a church going family; for us, Sunday mornings were all about rugby as it was junior training and match day. But I always believed in God; I always had faith.

My early adventures in Christianity were not easy. Firstly, as I grew up in a time where the Book of Common Prayer was the norm, I always found myself on the wrong page, standing when I should be sitting, and kneeling when I should be standing. It was a very confusing place. I tried a number of different churches, including the local Methodist Church but never felt as though it was where I belonged.

Then, as a young adult, I was always aware that as I was not confirmed, I was unable to participate fully in the service and this was very off-putting and as a very self-conscious young person, it was enough to mean that I didn’t go back.

Suffice to say I did persevere and was confirmed and started to serve at the altar in the wonderful setting of Salisbury Cathedral. It was around this time that I started thinking that God was calling me but because he doesn’t shout there is no sudden flash of lightning or dove descending, it took me a while to respond. About 25 years in fact. I did think that when I went off to Geneva to work at the World Council of Churches that this was in fact what I was being called to do, but although that was a fantastic experience, it soon dawned on me that I hadn’t listened properly.

It certainly took a while to get here but those early experiences are still fresh in my mind, and I hope that I remain aware of them as I continue my ministry.



News from Castle Hill Infant and Junior School



Ofsted

Castle Hill Junior School has recently been inspected by Ofsted and are now proudly GOOD, matching that of the Infant school. The schools have been working more closely together since 2017 and the inspectors described the transition between the two schools as 'seamless'.

It's our birthday!

On 7th September 2024, the schools will be celebrating 70 years since Castle Hill Infant school opened its doors in 1954. We would love to hear from anyone who has attended the school in the past and would like to speak to the children about their experiences as well as receiving a full guided tour of the school with our prefects. Please contact our office at office@castlehillprimary.org.uk or telephone 01473 741758

Reading Volunteers

We are always looking for volunteers to support hearing children read! The minimum commitment we ask for is either a morning or afternoon each week that stays the same (we appreciate that you may also have holidays). Full training will be given with techniques to support asking questions to help their understanding. We will need to do a DBS check for you to begin - please contact our office for more information office@castlehillprimary.org.uk

Outdoor Play and Learning

Our lunchtime play provision at Castle Hill has had a revamp! The children now have a wealth of opportunities to explore all types of play, including a mud kitchen, dressing up, music, construction and den building, as well as a variety of sports daily. Play is a VERY important part of the day!

Changes in our churchyard.

We will soon be saying goodbye to a friend turned foe in the churchyard! A Cupressus tree a few metres away from the vestry has, over many years, grown into a massive specimen. The roots have now invaded the church drainage system and affected the stability of the vestry structure. We have taken professional advice but the conclusion is that the tree must be felled. The work will take place towards the end of July along with other minor trimming work to other trees in the churchyard. This will also have the benefit of opening the north aspect of the church revealing the building's true beauty when viewed from the car park. We will of course, plant another tree somewhere well away from the church in the autumn.



Whitton Parish Church
are supporting this years
Samaritan's Purse Operation
Christmas Child's Shoebox Appeal
By Celebrating Shoe Box Sunday on
17th November at our 9.30am service.



**Will you help bring a smile
to the face of a child?**

Can you help by filling a shoe box to bring a child happiness this Christmas?

Could your child's class fill one - could be fun, as well as teaching to help others.

Bring it along to our service at 9.30am
Or phone Bridget on 01473 286663 for more information and find out how to pick up a Shoe Box leaflet.

Thank you



Whikidz!

Joseph and the Amazing Technicoloured Dreamcoat!

Was an amazing production by the group of 11 children attending the club. I was so proud of what they managed to achieve in such a short amount of time. I also want to thank my assistant Sophie who has been an immense help especially as I was heavily pregnant for the production. Here are some photos of the group including one from our end of term party.

After having time off in the summer term due to having my baby Whikidz will be returning on **Monday 9th September 2024 at the Ascension Hall on Larchcroft Road 3.30pm-4.30pm.**

We will be working towards a Christmas production and after that a summer production of 'The Wizard of Oz'. We would love to see new members so if you are 7 years + (or you know children who are) then come along and find out what we are all about. **The best bit is it's FREE!** For more information give **Becky** a call or Text on 07878289197 or by emailing whikidz1@gmail.com



Who We Are

Family First is a Christian charity which enables families to develop their capacity to support themselves and find solutions to challenges that impact their lives.

We work with all families regardless of race, religion or belief, age, sexual orientation or gender and marital status.

What we do

Our aim is to empower families to help themselves by giving them the tools, self-confidence and support they need. This leads to improvements in overall wellbeing and mental health.

Our Volunteers visit weekly to listen and support. These volunteers encourage the family to make small, achievable changes each week. Progress is regularly reviewed with both the family and the volunteer.

Our Volunteers have reported that they enjoy their role, have gained new skills and feel that they are making a difference. One volunteer said she felt she was: *"helping people through a difficult time in their life and hopefully demonstrating the love of Jesus to them"*

What our families say about us

"Just having a listening ear and support has helped us make dramatic changes with our son"

"I am so grateful to Family First as our family would not be where we are today if it wasn't for the amazing support that we had"

Want to know more?

Find us on Facebook @Family First Ipswich or visit our website

www.familyfirst-uk.org

or email: Sarah.Stapleton@familyfirst-uk.org



Ipswich St Raphael Club

26 Highfield Rd Ipswich

We are a friendly club for adults with disabilities. We are open on alternate Thursdays from 10am to 2.15pm. Members can take part in a range of activities and have a cooked 2 course lunch.

We are looking for volunteers and new members

Please contact Carol on 07396825966 or email ipswichstaphaelclub@outlook.com



WHITTON YOUTH PARTNERSHIP

Covering Whitton, Whitehouse and Castle Hill we currently provide Junior and Senior Youth Clubs, Single gender groups, detached youth work, one to one support, school holiday Craft and play and Youth drop in sessions. All our activities are provided free of charge and free food is available at all activities based within Whitton Parish Hall where we are based.

Coming up this summer

Craft and Play days on the following Tuesdays 30th July, 6th 13th 20th 27th August. Booking essential as spaces go within hours of appearing on our Facebook page. See our Facebook page for details at <https://www.facebook.com/whittonyouthpartnership/>

Youth drop in days on 1st 8th 15th 22nd and 29th August. See the above Facebook page for details.



Marlow Road • Ipswich • IP1 5JN

Year 6 Open Evening

Thursday 3 October 2024
18:00 - 20:00

You are warmly invited to see the exciting future being forged at Westbourne. Meet our friendly staff and amazing students and sample the best of life at Westbourne.

www.westbourne.atrust.org.uk ☎ 01473 742315

✉ WES-office@atrust.org.uk

www.facebook.com/westbourneacademy www.instagram.com/westbourne_academy



The Top Up Shop is **open to everyone**. There are **no questions asked** (apart from contact number and post code in case of product recall). There are no criteria to fulfil. If you need food or just need to top up your food supplies, please come and see us. The cost is £2 for a recyclable bag.

Each week we have a good choice of goods and always fresh fruit and vegetables. **We are open from 11.30am to 12.30pm every Wednesday in the Church Hall, Whitton Church Lane. Coffee and cake are available in the church from 10.00am.**

You can be assured of a warm welcome. We look forward to seeing you.



Parish of Whitton Page.



Many have found us on 'Facebook Live' for Sunday services and for 9pm Compline each evening. If you would like to know more or simply make contact, please either use the 'messenger' facility or email: marysokanovic@outlook.com

Dates for your Diaries!

Saturday 12th October 7pm — Quiz Night !

Saturday 30th November 10– 12noon—Christmas Fair

Further details from:- bev.frost@ntlworld.com

Mums and Tots every Wednesday in

**Term time at 1.15 until 3pm @
Whitton Church Hall,
Whitton Church Lane.**



**Next term begins
Wed 11th September
Do come along.**

**Any enquiries please phone Bridget
01473 286663**

I have been going to Mums and Tots for 6 years, first with my daughter and then with my son.

Both of my Children have so much fun at Mums and Tots and look forward to going each week.

The team that run the group are friendly & welcoming. It's a lovely environment for both the children & the parents/Grandparents to chat and make new friends.

From Catherine



Are you planning a wedding?

Did you know:

There are lots of ways you may qualify to be married in a Church.

That you do not have to attend church to do so.

That it is usually costs less to do so than at other venues.

You can have a range of music not necessarily religious, Each wedding is unique to the couple and can have many special moments and elements.

We have a stunningly beautiful church to be married in so why not have a chat an look round?

Contact Mrs Angela Marjoram 07950086135 for a visit and friendly chat.



**If you are
interested in
Baptism please
contact
Eileen Ardern on
01473 252251**



All Together Church

A Service where we can ALL celebrate God's

Love together,

A place for everyone. A place to belong, believe, praise
and experience God's love

First Sunday of every month at 10am for 45
minutes



We would love you to join us at this service where a warm welcome awaits.

We find hope, joy, peace and support in our faith and the friendship we enjoy and long to share that with you.

Along with the warm welcome, songs and stories, you will find friendly chats over refreshments.



St Mary and St Botolph Church
Whitton Church Lane IP1 6LT



Coffee morning—every Wednesday

9.30—11.30.



Why not pop along to the church and enjoy a cuppa and a piece of cake .

You will find a friendly, warm welcome and a chance for a good natter!

Usual services at St Mary & St Botolph & the Ascension Churches

Sundays -

1st in month 10 am—All Together Church
Not livestreamed

2nd - 4th in month—9.30am—Eucharist
All at St Mary & St Botolph,

Whitton Church Lane. These are livestreamed
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/>

Wednesday 10am—Eucharist at the
Ascension, Larchcroft Road

Every night at 9pm—
Short service of Compline at
“Parish of Whitton” Facebook page.



Look out for Mary & Maureen around the parish!

Email: marysokanovic@outlook.com

Tel: 07824 323073

