

GRAPEVINE

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Build Your kingdom here

Build Your kingdom here
Let the darkness fear
Show Your mighty hand
Heal our streets and land
Set Your church on fire
Win this nation back
Change the atmosphere
Build Your kingdom here
We pray
Rend Collective Experiment
© 2009 Thankyou Music

Dear Friends,
This song by Rend Collective (one of my favourite memories from the last Soul Survivor festival) calls upon God to build His Kingdom, to heal our streets – to heal our land and to set the church on fire.

At St John's we have weathered the Covid Storm relatively well – I have been amazed at how good people have been at staying in

touch and caring for each other. And now week by week we are seeing more and more people back in church. We have had 3 amazing Social Sundays – the last one being in celebration of Gordon being ordained Priest 2 weeks ago. Do look out for those who are still unable to return because they are shielding. We are beginning to get back to some semblance of normality (if there ever was one) but we do so with sadness because we are missing some of our faithful friends. We are also missing a lot of volunteers!

If we are to fulfil the mission that we believe God is calling us to we need to step up and take up some of the roles that have fallen vacant. We are now in a position to offer drinks after the morning service – we need a team. The lovely new Crèche area needs someone to look after the team – and we need a team! Bible readers and pray-ers, sound desk operators and technical support, slide-show operators, people willing to go on a rota for lifts to church, people to help with the Life Service.

We have a new team running our admin now. Natasha remains our Administrator, but has dropped her hours, and Cathy Claridge has joined us as Admin Assistant and is in the office Monday- Wednesday early afternoons and Thursday and Friday mornings until 11, so do phone or email office@stjohnswelling.org.uk for Natasha or admin@stjohnswelling.org.uk for Cathy if you want to volunteer. We are exploring how we might use the church more during the daytime and evenings now we have the kitchen, prayer room and toilets.

God's blessings,

Adam

Rev Adam Foot
Vicar St. John's Welling and
Priest in Charge St. John's Erith

St John's News

Looking back, it was a second strange summer with many of us holidaying at home, hoping for summer weather which rarely materialised! But, there were highlights for the St John's family and maybe you agree with me, that the sermon series on the armour of God stands out as both relevant, and challenging.

The two Social Sundays when Church family enjoyed BBQ food and ice cream, with lots of time to chat and re-engage were excellent. Thank you Billy-Jo, for turning your vision into reality (the latter with wonderful help from others!)

Linzi and team had three great days and nights camping in the Vicarage garden with members of 3Dub, having action filled days and learning more about God.

Another holiday opportunity was the Canal Cruise headed by Margaret Gompers, which two of our youngsters were able to attend and thoroughly enjoyed.

More recently, September so far, has seen a whirlwind of activity at St John's including the emerging ramp to the Church Hall.

A number of us were able to support Linzi Golding who was (finally...covid delayed) licensed as a Youth Worker at Rochester Cathedral on Sept 5th. The following day we said goodbye to Steve and Laura Webster as they relocate to worshipping in Hextable, and Shannon Causbysmith who has completed a gap year with us and CRiBS, and is now starting a more normal gap year at a church in Norfolk.

Happily it wasn't all goodbyes as we welcomed Simone Wendel beginning her gap year with us and CRiBS. Simone has already got involved with every aspect of our Youth and Children's work and is learning names and recognising faces at an awesome rate!

As if all that were not enough for one Sunday, 10 candidates were Baptised and another reaffirmed his Baptism promises at the evening Transform Service.

It's not easy being a Christian in 2021 and we need to pray for Simon, Katie, Eliza, George, Lucy, Penelope, Liam, Spike, Matilda, Rosie and Rene (from St Peter's B'heath), that they will never be ashamed to live and be known as Christians.

Roger Finney's beautiful memorial celebration was a wonderful tribute to a life

well lived with purpose, and under God's direction, that impacted many people in many places for good. Thank you Kate, Peter and Andrew for sharing that day with us. We are all the richer for having known Roger.

In the last few weeks we have had to bid farewell this side of Heaven to Pat Lind and Bryan Kingham; more lovely role models of lives well lived. We pray for their families, especially Dave and Mark Lind and Maggie Kingham.

So we look to the future and it's looking good!:

- Gordon's priesting is only days away as I write.
 - Following from the Baptism service we are starting online Autumn Alpha [St Johns Welling | Alpha Online](#) For many people, Alpha is the place where they get to know Jesus.
 - Week by week we are welcoming more people back into church.
 - At 4pm The Life Service is continuing to develop its unique style.
 - Harvest is on the horizon.
 - God is at work!
- Until...December,

Estelle Woodcock

Crèche

It's been a busy few months! The idea of redesigning the crèche came about while Alex (Barlow) and I were discussing ways to make it look more inviting for our little ones at St John's. A few messages later and I was drafting a proposal for our PCC, designing the layout, and researching furniture.

It all moved very quickly thanks to our PCC, Sue Read who applied for the funding, Alex Barlow for making the beautiful "crèche" sign as well as helping

me clear out the toys, and a wonderful team who helped clean the carpet and assemble all the furniture (André's drill was really the star of the show, who knew flat pack furniture had so many screws!?).

The Crèche is almost finished and we have received so much positive feedback. The children especially seem to be enjoying the addition of the drawing area and col-



oured storage boxes. The final things to be added are the cushions for the benches, which I'm sure our bottoms will be grateful for!

I can't wait to see the space being used over the coming months and I pray that it will bless all the families who use it.

Christina McGill

IJM

IJM information taken from:

<https://www.ijmuk.org/modern-slavery-and-trafficking>

Through the media we are made aware of the fact that over 40 million people globally are trapped in 'modern slavery' being trafficked and exploited into awful forced labour of all kinds.

Maybe like me you feel horrified that now in 2021 there are millions of people who are slaves after all I was taught at school that slavery has been outlawed in nearly every country years ago. I firmly believe that everyone has the right be free and that -

"Everyone trapped in modern slavery is a person with a name, a story and a dream."

I was shocked to find out some of the statistics and ways that we in the UK are ignorant of our often negligent participation in fuelling the often violent 'modern slavery'.

"90% of forced labour takes place in the private economy—homes, businesses, and global supply chains.

77% of UK businesses believe there is a likelihood of slavery at some stage in their supply chain, which includes some of our most-used items like coffee, electronics, and clothing." (Check websites to see if the high street or online retailer/supplier is ethical.)

This definitely didn't sit well with me as a human being and as a Christian, so I sought to find out what I could do to help stop slavery by praying to God for his guidance and wisdom.

Isaiah 1:17

Learn to do good: seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.

I was directed to an amazing organisation and signed up to receive free information and regular updates via email.

"IJM is the largest international anti-slavery organisation in the world."

It was founded in 1997 as a faith-based non-profit by American lawyer Gary Haugen of the United States. Watch his Ted Talk – "The hidden reason for poverty the world needs to address now".

"We work with local law enforcement to find and free people in slavery".

"We will not stop until all are free". "We've seen slavery reduced by 86% in the communities that we've worked in."

IJM do incredible and dangerous work to achieve these feats and regularly report on the website the encouraging news of success stories which make me cry tears of joy for those who have been freed, supported and often then show selfless bravery to help others still enslaved.

How can we help?

Please check on the noticeboard. This song prompted me to help and maybe it will prompt you also: Song - "Be One" by Natalie Grant

Terry Golding

Rukungiri

'Life in Uganda has not been easy for the past 22 months. Schools are still closed despite some of the children going back for a short while. Food ran out, there was no vaccine available and no oxygen in the hospitals (some of which had been stolen and sold on the black market). During that time, the trustees were mindful that without the teachers being paid, there is no

support for them and almost all are supporting extended families who are orphans. The school building needs to be maintained, children and families still need to be fed and there was some emergency work that needed to be carried out to the playground. The situation became quite serious and has not really improved very much. However we have managed to get some food parcels out to the children and their families.

Sadly, we have not been able to visit this year.

Some of the restrictions have been lifted but school is still not open. There is a curfew for all citizens including children from 7pm. The current thinking is that schools will remain closed until health workers, security

personnel, teachers and those over 45 are vaccinated. There was speculation that they would wait until there was sufficient vaccination of children aged 12 - 18, some of which are in primary school. If that happens, they could be closed for a very long time. We will continue to provide them with food parcels in the meantime.

Please continue to pray for them. And please pray for sponsors to come forward to replace those who unfortunately

have had to give up for various reasons. There are currently 127 children awaiting sponsorship and sadly this will increase when they do go back due to unemployment etc.

On a positive note, when they did manage to get to school for a while, the P7 children did very well in their leavers exams with 62 students in Division 1 and 9 students in Division 2, an absolutely excellent performance despite their circumstances. They remain positive and still praise God for everything!

Sue Read



The Life Service

Since its launch on May 9th this year, The Life Service has been a huge privilege to be a part of.

On returning to the church a year ago, Adam and Kate shared their vision with my husband Charles and I, of St. John's starting a 4pm service. Our brief was to build a team and create a new modern style service where those who had become disconnected, could reconnect and for it to be at 4pm.

The leadership team includes: Myself, Sue & Steve Read (lead, pray and speak), Charles (refreshments & lead), Linzi (kids resources), Natasha (Welcome) Rich & Christina McGill (worship). We also have a great team who make the service possible!

The Life Service is Sunday 4-5pm, except the first Sunday of each month.

The service is aimed at adults, however it is accessible for those that have children due to our Kidzone. This includes fun activity and colouring sheets, books and stickers. The



children take these to their seats. The church is set up with cafe style seating. This is groups of chairs sat

around small tables.

We also have a prayer space which includes a different interactive prayer station each week. Last but not least, are our delicious refreshments! All of these are open before, during and after the service.

Our first teaching series focussed on building a healthy church family such as praying for one another. Our second looked at important issues such as mental health. This Sunday we start our third series which focuses on purpose.

We would really appreciate your prayers for more people to join every area of the team so that we can create a rota system and for the congregation to keep growing.

Our aim is to build a community that becomes family, by "loving Jesus, loving each other and growing together".

Everyone is welcome and we would love the opportunity to welcome you!

Alex Barlow

Golden Ownership

I have to pinch myself to believe I have owned my 1959 Volvo 122S (Amazon) for 50 years! Since riding in one whilst on holiday when I was about 14, I thought I would love to own one. As an 18 year old apprentice on a meagre income, I was delighted to see one advertised for £50 in Maida Vale. A visit with a fellow apprentice revealed a pleasing Volvo but I was taken to a ramshackle yard where the car of my dreams languished – a



mere shell with much rust, its seats and various parts not located in the car. However, I was hooked, struck a deal for £40 'sold as scrap' and on 22 July 1971, my friend towed it back home with me.



It was worse than I thought! For the next 2 months, with my Dad's help, I became an expert in repairing sills and using body filler but I enjoyed 8 years of fun motoring including a tour of Scotland with friends before deciding to take it off the road for full restoration in 1979.

It was a bigger task than I expected. Buying a house in 1981 which needed renovation, marrying Viv followed by the arrival of our 3 children meant the project was on hold.

In 1994 I decided progress was needed but it still took years of work before it was finally completed and MOTd in October 2001. Since then we have attended shows, where it has collected a win and two second places.

The fitting way to celebrate 50 years of ownership was a 222 mile roadtrip to visit my apprentice friend now living near Newbury. Much reminiscing and laughter! I can't imagine life without my trusty Volvo Amazon especially as it's the oldest one on the road in the UK.

Keith & Viv McGill

Kim & Jeff

We asked time!) Kim and Jeff

Golding (Jim & Terry's son, Linzi's brother)

to fill us in on how the last 3 years have gone for them training for ordained ministry at Ridley Hall in Cambridge. Before that, Jeff and Kim were our youth leaders for 3dub, and worshipped at Bishop Ridley Church after they left St John's.

"Going to train at College has been a bit of a rollercoaster as I'm sure we've all felt in some way or another with Covid. For us it changed everything mid way through our 3 years in Cambridge! For the first half we really enjoyed being part of a community at Ridley. Jeff enjoyed studying and I loved coming in for family day each week with Phoebe. We ate far too much cake and realised that ordinands (soon to be vicars) are just everyday normal people!

I ran Ridley's 24/7 prayer room and we ended up worshipping and praying together in such a tangible way to end the week. It turns out, that was the last time I ever got to set foot inside Ridley Hall. (Thank you Jesus for your wonderful timing, and enabling this to happen just in

The second half has been more challenging having all of Jeff's teaching on Zoom and giving birth to baby Jesse at the start of lockdown. It definitely had its blessings as we got a lot more time as a family to-



gether! We also got to experience forest church as our placement church started it up in response to the Covid rules, and it was quite refreshing to be church in this way. Jeff had always felt like

the study side of things would be the hardest challenge and that although he felt called to be a Vicar, he didn't feel he would do well on the academic side. Well, fast forward three years and it turns out he really did enjoy the studies and did quite well, the tutors helped him and essay by essay he found his own way of writing and researching that worked well. I think it's

important to add this part because I believe this may be the way lots of people feel when called to train in ministry.

Since then we have decided to follow God's call on our lives all the way up to Derby, to a church called 'St Werburghs' where the Bonds have just planted from.

We looked forward to moving into Shelton Lock (on the 18th August) and really getting plugged into what God's doing there. Jeff recently got asked "What is it that you would like to bring to this church?" And he said "Feasting and fasting", and I feel like that really does express what we feel are important at this stage, fasting and taking



God's word, call and presence seriously and gathering together around food as they did in the NT!

Although we are excited about the next stage it does not come without sacrifice, and for us that is moving away from our friends and family at a time when the children are so little. We have learnt just how important it is to have community that acts as family and so we pray that we find this in Derby. Of course it helps to already have a little bit of home in Derby with the Bonds."

Kim Golding