

Nov 26th, 2017: Christ the King Sunday & JSP12

Saturday's Colburn Coop Community Celebration



Several of our Drop-in members went along yesterday morning to our local Co-op at Colburn, to take part in the celebrations marking the end of the current community projects period. We were really delighted to discover that our share of the money raised was

a wonderful **£1461.29!** We are hugely grateful for all the community support the Drop-in has received in this way. This money will go to support our Drop-in, and particularly to resource the craft group.



Upcoming: Brompton Ladies' Choir Concert:

St John's, Hipswell, Weds 29th Nov, 7.30pm, includes mulled wine & mince pies and raffle. Details **Jenny Foster**: (01748) 832457. Tickets: £4 (£2 concessions).



Christmas Fair St Cuthbert's Church and Hall, 2-5pm

Saturday 2nd December.
Details: **Marie** 07852 156134
Look out for some wonderful Christmas wreaths made by our weekly Drop-in craft group members!

This week:

Mon: 7pm
Worship Group, St Cuthbert's Church

8-8.30pm Churchwarden's ½-hour, meeting room

Tuesday: 10-12pm, Veterans' & Community Art Group
1.30pm St John's, funeral: Thomas Arthur Craggs (93)

Vicar: Revd Andrew Cromarty

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Wednesday: Mid-week 'Drop-in' – 9-11.30am,
St Cuthbert's Community Hall
7.30pm **Brompton Ladies' Choir Concert**, St John's

Prayers: For those who are local, seeking comfort & healing: Phyllis, Angelika, Eve, Isaac, Tracy, Jenny, Maggie, Jack, Emma, Linda, Peter, Matthew, John, Nicola, Liz, Jenny & Lucy, Ann, and Christine.

Those who have died recently & those who mourn, remembering the families of Peter Bovis (56) and Thomas Craggs (93).

Pray: ..for the people of Zimbabwe, following the resignation of President Robert Mugabe, and the swearing in of the new temporary president. Pray for law & order to be maintained & for a peaceful transition towards full democracy.

Next Week: Advent Sunday (JSP 13)

St John's: 9.30am Holy Communion & 1pm Baptism
St Cuthbert's: 11am Service of the Word & KFC

JSP Week 12 Introduction:

Last week we focussed on the Lord's Prayer and we discovered how Jesus teaches us to be balanced in the way we pray with both a focus on our relationship with God, & on the needs of ourselves and the world. Today we conclude our fourth JSP priority on 'Prayer' with a look at the 'Power of prayer'.

It is clear from his ministry that for Jesus prayer was not only a means of discovering God's path, but also a channel of God's power.

In our Gospel story this week about the healing of the boy possessed by an evil spirit, Jesus indicates that only prayer can achieve this kind of healing. (Mark 9.29). Jesus told the disciples that they are to 'ask and they will receive' and that 'the Father will give you whatever you ask for in my name.' (Luke 11.11–13)

In prayer, we come close to God, and he comes close to us, so that we can grow into a fusion of his will with ours. In prayer, the channel of God's love & power can be released for our good, and the good of all whom we pray for. This week we explore how God responds to our prayer and what we can expect through prayer.

The following questions may help us:

What is our experience of God answering our prayers?

What is happening when we pray?

Does prayer 'change God's mind', or does it 'change our hearts' or both?

What can we learn from Jesus about the power of prayer?

How can we develop a more prayerful approach to all that we do?

Collect: Lord Jesus Christ,
beloved of the Father and channel of his transforming
power,
help us to draw near to God in prayer,
so that he may draw near to us,
& release his healing love into our world today. **Amen**

Ephesians Ch 3 vv 14 – 21

¹⁴ When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, ¹⁵ the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. ¹⁶ I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. ¹⁷ Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. ¹⁸ And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. ¹⁹ May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

²⁰ Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. ²¹ Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.

Mark Ch 9 vv 14 – 29

When they returned to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd surrounding them, and some teachers of religious law were arguing with them. When the crowd saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with awe, and they ran to greet him.

"What is all this arguing about?" Jesus asked. One of the men in the crowd spoke up and said, "Teacher, I brought my son so you could heal him. He is possessed by an evil spirit that won't let him talk. And whenever this spirit seizes him, it throws him violently to the ground. Then he foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast out the evil spirit, but they couldn't do it."

Jesus said to them, "You faithless people! How long must I be with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring the boy to me."

So they brought the boy. But when the evil spirit saw Jesus, it threw the child into a violent convulsion, and he fell to the ground, writhing and foaming at the mouth.

"How long has this been happening?" Jesus asked the boy's father.

He replied, "Since he was a little boy. The spirit often throws him into the fire or into water, trying to kill him.

Have mercy on us and help us, if you can."

"What do you mean, 'If I can'?" Jesus asked.

"Anything is possible if a person believes."

The father instantly cried out, "I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!"

When Jesus saw that the crowd of onlookers was growing, he rebuked the evil spirit.

"Listen, you spirit that makes this boy unable to hear and speak," he said. "I command you to come out of this child and never enter him again!"

Then the spirit screamed and threw the boy into another violent convulsion and left him.

The boy appeared to be dead. A murmur ran through the crowd as people said, "He's dead."

But Jesus took him by the hand and helped him to his feet, and he stood up. Afterward, when Jesus was alone in the house with his disciples, they asked him, "Why couldn't we cast out that evil spirit?"

Jesus replied, "This kind can be cast out only by prayer."

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