

P'Seeking to be the People of Christ at the Heart of the Community'.

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**St. Mark's Parish Centre
53 Thornhill Road
Longwood HD3 4UL**



The Herald

March 2019

As we move towards Lent, I start to go over the story of Jesus' Journey to the cross. It often makes me think, particularly about the times Jesus stopped to take time out, to rest and connect with his father in prayer. In the church calendar, our busiest times, Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter are filled with services and activities. The aim has been that these activities and worship will bring spiritual nourishment – though we often end up spending time being busy, doing and preparing for these activities to take place, using up all the energy we have rather than reenergising, reflecting and deepening our relationship with Jesus.

A few weeks ago I was on a retreat for 48 hours, a gift from the District for those of us who are still young in years in our ministry. In previous years the retreat has been packed with interesting session – though we normally came away saying it was too full. Although we were always told you didn't have to go to every session, you still felt as though you needed to. This year was very different, with a couple of reflective sessions that lasted 15-20 minutes. Right at the beginning the rules were laid down... if the best use of your time was to sleep – go sleep, if you needed some activity – go out for a walk, if you just wanted to catch up with friends, sit and chat – most of us did a lot of that. The

emphasis of doing what You needed during the retreat to rest and revitalise you was the gift most of us needed. You didn't feel guilty if you missed a session.

The retreat leader Ruth Parry, after going through the rules, to help us take them seriously she read a story to us 'Jesus' Day Off' by Nicholas Allan. Each day Jesus worked hard making everything beautiful, but one day woke up exhausted. His Doctor told him to take the day off, so, he went for a walk, did cartwheels across the desert, had a picnic, went for a swim and lots of other fun and relaxing activities. But at the end of the day he felt sad because he hadn't helped anyone – a bit like us on retreat thinking we should be in circuit doing something or seeing someone. We can all feel like that at times.

This Lent I want to encourage you to take some time out to deepen your relationship with Jesus. If that means not doing some church related activity, I would rather you do that than exhausting yourself. There are always things that need to be done, and they will still be there the next day. Give yourself permission to take time out so that you can be revitalised to continue sharing the beauty that God created you to be.

Blessings

Rev Jo Brown

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MARCH BIRTHDAYS

8th Ailsa Ritchie
13th Vanessa Ivey
29th Phil McSweeney
31st Andrea Hirst

OBITUARY

It is with great sadness I have to report the death of Freda Lloyd (Harris) on 2nd February 2019 in Leeds G. I. after a long illness patiently and courageously borne. Further details will be given when known.

News from Parkwood at the Drop By Centre Kirklees Grant and Volunteers wanted

We had another successful 'Coffee & Butties' morning at the Drop By centre and we're looking forward to our next one on **Saturday 2nd March**.

We hopefully have some good news. Kirklees have invited us to submit an application for a 'Do something Now Grant' to support us in our work at the Drop By centre. This could help us to buy our own professional Italian speciality Coffee Maker instead of borrowing. It will also help us to plan to move the monthly 'Coffee & Butties' morning to a weekly event later in the year – and perhaps invite other organisations to join us.

It's getting to the time when we are going to look for some more volunteers to help us at the Drop By Centre – so if you fancy having a go at coffee making let John know.

We'll keep you in touch with how we get on with the grant.

Remember the date – Saturday 2nd March – 'Wake up and smell the coffee.'

The 5th Sunday of the month has traditionally been "Faith Lunch Sunday". Do you want to keep to this tradition or would you prefer to:

1. Stop doing it
2. Make it more often, say, 2nd Sunday of every Month
3. Carry on as is.

It's up to you. Let any steward know your views.



WAKE UP AND SMELL THE COFFEE!

COFFEE & BUTTIES

THE DROP BY CENTRE
SYCAMORE AVENUE

SATURDAY 2ND MARCH

9.30 AM – 11.45 AM

LATTE + CAPPUCCINO

ESPRESSO + AMERICANO

QUALITY ITALIAN COFFEES

WITH BACON OR SAUSAGE BUTTIES

DONATIONS WELCOME

FIRST SATURDAY EVERY MONTH

PARKWOOD METHODIST CHURCH AT THE DROP BY CENTRE

Diary for March 2019 All Parkwood Services and functions are now at St. Marks Parish Centre

Saturday 2nd Parkwood Breakfast at the DROP BY Centre, Sycamore Avenue. All Welcome
Saturday 2nd L V G Coffee Morning @ Longwood Mechanics 10.00 am to Noon
Sunday 3rd 10.45 Family Service with Messy Church
Sunday 10th 10.45 am Communion Service led by Rev Jo Brown
Sunday 17th 10.45 am Service led by Mr Mike Richardson
Sunday 24th 10.45 am Service led by Mr David Joyce
Sunday 31st 10.45 Family Service with Messy Church

APRIL

Sorry! NO MESSY CHURCH IN APRIL

Saturday 6th Parkwood Breakfast at the DROP BY Centre, Sycamore Avenue. All Welcome
Saturday 6th L V G Coffee Morning @ Longwood Mechanics 10.00 am to Noon
Sunday 7th 10.45 am Service led by TBA
Sunday 14th 10.45 am Service led by TBA
Sunday 21st 09.30 am Communion Service: 11.00am Joint Service with St. Mark's
Sunday 28th 10.45 am Service led by TBA