



WELCOME to ST. PETER'S CHURCH WESTHAMPNETT
Stane Street PO18 0NT (towards A285 for Petworth)

NEWSLETTER
for
JANUARY 2016

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For more information about St Peter's please go to
stpeterswesthampnett.org

SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2016

Sunday 3rd January <i>Epiphany Sunday</i>	8.00am 9.45am	Holy Communion. Family Service
Sunday 10th January <i>Baptism of Christ</i>	9.45am	Parish Eucharist Sunday School in the Vestry
Sunday 17th January <i>2nd Sunday of Epiphany</i>	8.00am 9.45am	Holy Communion Parish Eucharist Sunday Club in the Vestry
Sunday 24th January <i>3rd Sunday of Epiphany</i>	9.45am	Parish Eucharist Sunday School in the Vestry
Sunday 31st January <i>4th Sunday of Epiphany</i>	9.45am	Parish Eucharist

Morning Prayer takes place every Wednesday from 9 - 9.30 am. All very welcome.

Pastoral Care : If you would like to speak to a priest, for any reason, please contact the Rev'd Canon Simon Holland or the Rev'd Karen Young whose details are on the front of this Newsletter.

Produce stall : 10th January. There is a plea for more contributions this month as Lesley is without a kitchen at the moment and therefore can't bake!
lesley@davisaylingmedia.co.uk

Foodbank : next collection is on 10th January. This month they would like us to provide non-food items eg. Toiletries, nappies and ladies' sanitary items, cleaning products etc. Thank you for your support. Tracey Flitcroft. traceyflitcroft@sky.com

The PCC will meet on Tuesday 12th January. If you have anything that you would like to raise please let Annie or John know.

Mothers and Others : Thursday 28th January at 7.30pm - Burns Night celebration. Please sign the list on the notice board if you would like to come. It has suggestions as to what you might contribute to the supper. sandrafowlerbennett@yahoo.co.uk

From the Rev'd Simon

Dear Friends,

How many New Year's resolutions did you make recently? And how many have you already broken? The road to hell, as we all know, is paved with good intentions, and few of us manage to put our resolutions into practice with lasting effect. The pressures of life take over and we soon find ourselves back where we started.

But making – and breaking – resolutions is all part of life, and it's good to want to set ourselves new goals. As January gets under way, most of us feel an instinctive desire to rid ourselves of the excesses of Christmas and regain some self-control. If we fail to do so, we'll soon have another chance when Lent comes round again at the beginning of February!

What's important is that our resolutions are based on self-love rather than self-hatred. We live in an intensely competitive culture, in which we are constantly invited to compare ourselves with others. One consequence of this is that many of us feel a deep and destructive sense of inadequacy. We become locked in an endless battle with ourselves, which makes us exhausted and depressed. If we fail to keep our resolutions we end up feeling even worse.

The apostle St Paul knew this well from his own experience. In his letter to the Romans, he said, 'For I can will the good, but I can't perform it. For I don't do the good thing I want to do, but I end up doing the evil thing that I don't want to do.' Does that sound familiar?

What transformed St Paul's life completely was his encounter with the risen Christ and his growing appreciation of the grace of God that is available to us through faith. He came to understand that life is not about trying to climb up a greasy pole by our own efforts, which is how it often feels, but about feeling secure in God's love and trusting in his power.

In other words, faith – real, active faith in Christ – is able to rescue us from the hell of failed intentions and give us a profound sense of confidence and peace. Faith is not a sign of religious mania; it's the ingredient that we all need if we are to be free forever from fear and inadequacy. It directs us away from ourselves towards God's endless grace and mercy. It is the doorway to a new life.

The best resolution we can make this year is to turn to Christ in faith and put him at the centre of our lives. And also, to try to love ourselves a little bit more...

With my prayers and best wishes,

Simon Holland

ADVANCE NOTICE - A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

Friday 26th February at 7.30 pm, Boxgrove Village Hall. An entertaining evening in aid of the Flush Fund. Lisa McNaught (Soprano – who has sung with the St Peter's Singers for special occasions), accompanied by Richard Barnes, will be giving a concert entitled *Showtime* – looking at songs from the shows from the first days of light opera (eg Gilbert & Sullivan, Offenbach, Johann Strauss) through to the musicals of today. An evening not to be missed! Tickets will be available later in January.

WELCOME IN 2016

Hail year two thousand and sixteen!
We welcome you onto Earth's scene
Praying that nothing unforeseen
Brought here by you will intervene
To shock our democratic state
As we gingerly match your gait.

Predecessors at fate's behest
Brought boom then cheers, or bust then tears,
And faith's division Christians detest.
Some provided wonderful years
Leaving memories to treasure
In shared joys beyond measure.

What do we desire most of you
Grand clock born to create suspense,
Time's clone so deceptively new
That can wield powers so immense?
We ask for an end to world strife
And an uncomplicated life!

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**With our best wishes for a very
Happy New Year
from all at
St Peter's**