

OUR LADY & ST. JOHN R.C. CHURCH



News from the Parish of Our Lady & St. John



When the Bishop asked me to come to Heswall, I was very pleased. Everybody I spoke to said it was a good place to live and the parishioners would be very welcoming and supportive. They were right. Thank you for the kindness and the understanding you have shown me since my arrival.

Since the early summer I have been worried about my youngest sister Christina, who was diagnosed with cancer. It was a very anxious time. She was frightened as we all were. Faith does help in these situations but you still experience the normal emotions and reactions. Thanks to the skill of the surgeon and his team and all the prayers offered here by you and by all who know her and God's blessing, the operation she had was completely successful and she does not require further treatment. This will help her in her physical and emotional recovery. We have felt the lifting of a dark cloud.

The process of moving is never easy and the older you get the more it takes out of you. I have always been happy wherever I am. Leaving as Parish Priest of my home parish in Altrincham to go to the cathedral was hard and I have left a lot of wonderful parishioners in Shrewsbury now but thank you for your help as I try to settle down and get used to being a 'normal' Parish Priest again.

The Bishop has given me pastoral care of Our Lady & St John and Holy Family. The challenge for us all is to come together and work for the good of both parishes and the wider community. We make Christ loved and known alongside our fellow Christians in Heswall and Pensby using the limited resources of personnel we have to best effect.

A very warm welcome to Father Stephen Coonan, from all the Parishioners at Our Lady and St John.
We hope that you will enjoy your time with us.

Parish Steering Group Update

Our parish steering group, under the guidance of Father Stephen, continues to coordinate the many on-going activities in our parish and in the local community, while also ensuring that our church building and its grounds remain in good order.

Presently we are looking into updating the church sound system, which is in need of replacement after many years' service.

If you have a suggestion or thought that might enrich our parish as a community, please do contact any member of the steering group, or place your suggestion in the blue box in the porch.

Parish Steering Group

Father Stephen, Bernard Larkin, Anne Rowlands, Nick Belderbos, Bernie Hailwood, Victoria Hanlon, Dennis Hannon, Joan Larkin, Roger Wastnedge, Christine McAlister, Pat Miserotti, John Quinn, Sheila Smears

Parish Diary Dates October/November/ December 2014

- Friday 24th October - Irish Night with music from Cream of the Barley, 8pm
- Tues. 28th October - Over 55's Afternoon Tea
- Tues. 28th October - Father Paul Shaw Talk, after 7pm Mass
- Tues. 18th November - Father Stephen Coonan's Induction Mass at 7pm
- Tues. 25th November - Over 55's Afternoon Tea
- Sat. 29th November - St Peter's Singers Advent Concert
- Tues. 2nd December - Ladymount Parents Get-Together
- Tues. 9th December - Seafarers Gift Wrapping Evening
- Sun. 14th December - Advent Service, 5pm

Over 55's Afternoon Tea



This friendly group goes from strength to strength, meeting on the last Tuesday afternoon of each month for traditional afternoon tea with homemade cakes and scones.

Meetings are at 2.00pm in the meeting room.

Do come and join us.

Upcoming Dates:

October 2014: **Tuesday 28th Oct.**

November 2014: **Tuesday 25th Nov.**

December 2014: **No Afternoon Tea**



Thursday Coffee Mornings

Our meeting room offers a friendly environment where you can just drop in any Thursday between 9.30 and 11.30am. Come along with a friend, or call in and meet up with other parishioners to enjoy tea or coffee with biscuits.



Sally Clarke's Fundraising Evening



Message from Sally Clarke.....

Thank you so much to everyone from the parish who came to the fundraising supper and quiz in June to support my Kilimanjaro challenge. I think everyone seemed to have a good time and, with some additional donations, the total sum raised was an amazing £950, which was a huge help to me in meeting my target of £2,500 for the charity CLEFT. This charity helps children born with cleft palate by funding research into improving operating techniques and sending support teams to the developing world to help support and improve surgery and facilities.

A special thank you for the donations of raffle prizes, puddings, wine and to all those who helped on the night, particularly Norah Baker and husband Peter who organised the quiz for us.

I fly to Africa on 19 September so am busy with the intensive fitness regime and getting together all the kit I will need.....so wish me luck!



Cenacolo News *by Margaret Stanley*

Martin, a young man from Scotland entered the Cenacolo Community in Kendal in 2006. He had been a heroin addict for some years. After 18 months in Kendal, he was transferred to the mother house in Saluzzo which is in the foothills of the Italian Alps. Here his musical talents were put to good use and he became lead guitarist in the orchestra and soloist in the choir. His sister Michelle, amazed at the change in the life of her brother and although not an addict, wanted something of the joy and contentment she now saw in her brother, also entered the community. Martin, after some years, was one of a group of twelve young people sent to open a Cenacolo house in Liberia. This house is mainly for the care of abandoned or orphaned children (usually a result of H.I.V./Aids).



Just before leaving for Africa, he was requested by a priest friend of the community, to be part of a music group leading the music at a retreat house in Certosa in the Alps. Here he met an Italian girl, Gloria, and though realizing that this was the girl for him, he kept to his remit and left for Liberia, where he spent two years (and also contracted Malaria). Returning to Italy in 2013, he left the community and in 2014 married Gloria in Italy. A second “wedding” celebration Mass followed in Glasgow in August at which I had the pleasure of being a guest. The church was packed with his large Scottish family, many of whom hadn’t been able to go to the Italian wedding. It was wonderful to see the miracle of a life once given to drugs, changed into a responsible young man, now with a beautiful wife and please God, with many happy years to come. His sister Michelle remains in the Cenacolo Community, loving the life of work and prayer. She is also a soloist in the choir.

There is an open day in Kendal on Saturday 29th November 2014 when the lads in the house welcome everyone for lunch and to see the “Living Nativity” which they perform. Everyone is welcome.



Wirral Food Bank

Wirral Food Bank is part of the Trussell Trust's Foodbank network in the UK. The Trussell Trust is a Christian charity committed to community action against poverty and marginalisation. There are currently 420 local Foodbanks in the UK. Having a local Foodbank enables help and support to be directed where it is really needed in our community.

13 million people live below the poverty line in the UK. Today, here in Wirral there are families struggling to put food on the table. For people on low income a sudden crisis can mean going hungry. People are going hungry for reasons ranging from redundancy; benefit delay or receiving an unexpected bill, to sickness and domestic violence.

In 2013-14 Foodbanks across the UK fed 913,138 people nationwide. Of those helped, 330,205 were children. Every day parents skimp on their own food to try and protect their children.

How the Wirral Food Bank works...

- Food and toiletries are donated by the public
- Volunteers sort and pack the food into type and date
- Frontline agencies assess/advise and support people in crisis and issue a Food Bank voucher
- The voucher is exchanged at the Food Bank for 3 days emergency food
- Food Bank volunteers take time to listen to clients and where possible signpost them to further help or advice

Here in Our Lady & St. John we have been supporting the Wirral Food Bank since March 2014. Parish collection and delivery to the Foodbank is managed by our SVP group. To date you have donated over 600kg of food and toiletries – WELL DONE!

What kind of things do they need from us? It's not about the luxuries of life, it's about the day to day things that most of us would take for granted. Basically, any non-perishable foods that are still in date, as well as everyday toiletries. For example:



Tinned:	Fish; Meat; Veg; Soup; Fruit; Tomatoes; Puddings; Spaghetti
Jars:	Jam; Pasta Sauces;
Dry:	Sugar; Biscuits; Instant Mash; Instant Coffee; Tea; Rice & Pasta
Drinks:	UHT Milk; Squash
Toiletries:	Soap; Toothpaste; Shampoo; Feminine Hygiene; Toilet Rolls
Infants:	Baby Food; Nappies

So why not make a habit of putting one or two extra items in your basket when you do your weekly shop and dropping them into the Food Bank collection box at the back of church..... **it's as easy as that!**

To find out more, speak to any member of the SVP here at Our Lady & St John or visit the Wirral Food bank website: www.wirral.foodbank.org.uk

Parish Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals

Weddings



There have been no weddings in the Parish during September, October and November

Baptisms



Monty John Sturgeon	5 th October
Sophia Marisa Seresini	12 th October
Ciaran Benjamin Charles	19 th October
Luca Beau McCann	2 nd November
Lucia Lauren Mitchell	2 nd November



Funerals

Michael Jones	26 th September
John Parsons	3 rd October
Marjorie Elliott	27 th October
Geraldine Chitty	3 rd November
Nicholas St John	6 th November



Have you made your Will yet? Or are you putting it off to a more suitable time? Did you know that about 60% of the adult population have yet to make their Will?

Why is this important?

- 1) Firstly, because you can look after your dependants; your wife, children and grandchildren.
- 2) Secondly, because you decide who benefits from your estate after you die, not the state.
Decide now who would look after your children if something happened to both of you.

If you are not married your partner will not automatically inherit anything from your estate when you die. Plan your estate to minimise or reduce any inheritance tax and protect your legacy for future generations. Finally achieve peace of mind knowing that you have put into place all of these arrangements. Do you wish to stay one of the 60%? Now is a suitable time to make your Will, or review an existing one. Don't leave it till it's too late.

Contact Border Wills, your local Will Writer for a professional, friendly and bespoke service.

Phone 0151 559 0695, email roger@borderwills.co.uk or visit www.borderwills.co.uk

Stitchcraft Group

- ❖ Father Terry received a patchwork quilt made by the group as a surprise retirement gift, all the members contributed to the quilt and we hope it will remind him of the parish during the cold winter months.



- ❖ The group has once again been happily involved in the Heswall Festival this autumn and as a result welcomes a number of new members.
- ❖ We continue to be busy with a wide range of projects that we hope to photograph and share with the parish soon.

The group meets each **Tuesday 10am - 12.30pm** in the parish meeting room.

THANK YOU

A big THANK YOU to the lovely ladies who ensure that our Church is spick and span, week in week out. You all do a fantastic job and it is much appreciated by all the parishioners.



Farewell



September saw lots of changes with the parishes of Heswall. Not only did our own Parish Priest, Father Boylan, retire, but Gwynfor Evans from the URC and Johnathan Gibbs from St Peter's also had changes in posts, meaning they too would be moving on. We wish them all well with their new beginnings.

Liverpool Seafarers Centre

Liverpool Seafarers Centre would very much like to thank Father Terry and all the parishioners of Our Lady and St John for their hospitality, generosity and enthusiasm, all of which contributed to making the Sea Sunday Service a success.

The Ecumenical Service was attended by Mrs. Pam Brown, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Mrs. Abi Pointing, the High Sheriff of Merseyside and the Mayor of Wirral.



The service was followed by refreshments giving everyone the opportunity to meet and find out a little more about the work of the Centre.

For more information about the Liverpool Seafarers Centre, please visit the website www.liverpoolseafarerscentre.org



CAN YOU HELP?

NEW PEOPLE NEEDED TO RUN CAFOD IN OUR PARISH

CAFOD was introduced to our parish 30 years ago. Our main fundraising at that time was Lent Lunches (which we now share with Churches Together) and coffee mornings. The Wirral Walk done by Fr Terry is now the largest income. We are now asking for new people to run the group (we are getting too old). CAFOD helps desperate people in 3rd World countries. Anyone interested, please phone me, Bernie Burchell on 342-6808.

Thank you, Bernie & Charlie Burchell.

Men's Group

The Men's Parish Group has resumed activities after the summer break with an "almost spontaneous" Bowling game!



Despite the inability to advertise the event on the weekly newsletter, a small group gathered at the Heswall Bowling Green at the beginning of September (battling with clouds of mosquitoes who also wanted their share!). We hope this event was just an ice-breaker for forthcoming activities which will be broadly advertised.

Little Actors Theatre Company



**Drama, dance &
singing classes
0151 336 4302**



Members of the parish run or participate in this charity's activities, nurturing the talents of children.

Success for Little Actors at Leverhulme Drama Festival

For the first time in 2014 Little Actors Theatre entered a group of young actors in the under 14s category of the Leverhulme Drama Festival. Director/writer Mike Lockley created a new play called 'Shakespeare's Dream' for the cast aged from 5-13 years. Mike, along with Natasha Symms (choreography/director) and Samantha Giblin (producer/director), led the children through the 8 month project to a great achievement. Little Actors did not know what to expect so the team was delighted when we were awarded the Adjudicator's Trophy for Originality and Endeavour. Plus three of the young cast received nominations for the Best Actor Award. We are very proud of the nominees Jessie Jenkinson and Joshua Stevens both aged 10 and Jonathan Stevens aged 13.

The adjudicator, Bev Clark of the Guild of Drama Adjudicators, was pleased that Little Actors Theatre tackled Shakespearean material with such young children. The five page written adjudication was complimentary and gave fair critique in equal measure. The staff, parents and Neston community are delighted with the children's achievement. LATC would like to thank the funders for their support - The John Thaw Foundation, Cheshire Community Foundation, Adactus Housing Association and CWaC Councillors Louise Gittins and Andy Williams. The funding made it possible to participate in the project for as many children as wanted to.

In August we held our hugely successful summer performing arts course. Funding enabled LATC to offer free places for low income families.



For the autumn term we begin work on the Christmas presentation which will be a version of 'Alice in Wonderland'

Little Actors Theatre is a Registered Charity that offers access to the arts for all children regardless of economic background or experience. All classes are run by professional actors. Details on all the activities from 0151 336 4302 or www.littleactorstheatre.com



Samantha also runs InterACT Youth Theatre which has again been selected to participate in the National Theatre's Connections programme of new writing for young people. The new play they choose to produce will be on locally in March and will then transfer to The Lowry in May 2015.

About Your Termly Newsletter

Our newsletter is published once a term and is filled with articles and advertisements that we believe are appropriate to our Parishioners.

However, this is your newsletter!

If you would like to see something in this newsletter, then don't hesitate to get in contact with us at our email address contact@ourladyandstjohn.org.uk

Or you can leave an article in the blue box at the back of Church.

Also if you have a special birthday, anniversary or announcement, we'd love to hear from you.

Meeting Room Timetable

Monday	9:40-10:30am 5pm - 6pm 7:15pm - 8:45pm	Mother's Prayers Group 7 th Heswall Rainbows Yoga for All
Tuesday	10am - 12.30pm 2pm - 4pm	Stitch Craft Group Afternoon Tea - last Tuesday of the month
Wednesday	8pm - 9pm	SVP
Thursday	10am - 12pm 7pm-9:30pm	Coffee Morning Heswall Soroptimists (2 nd & 4 th Thurs/mth)
Friday	10.30am - 1pm	Songbirds

If you are interested in joining any of the groups/activities or you would like to start a new group, please drop us a line at contact@ourladyandstjohn.org.uk or phone 07563 378727 for more details.



Also, if you would like to hire out the meeting room for a meeting or social event, please either email contact@ourladyandstjohn.org.uk or phone 07563 378727 for availability and prices.

Church Timetable

Monday	8.45 am	Morning Prayers
	9.00 am	Mass
	9.20 am	Rosary
	9.20 am	<i>Confessions - see Fr Stephen</i>
Tuesday	7.00 pm	Mass
Wednesday	8.45 am	Morning Prayers
	9.00 am	Mass
	9.20 am	Rosary
	9.20 am	<i>Confessions - see Fr Stephen</i>
	9.30am - 8.30pm	Perpetual Adoration
	8.00 - 9.00 pm	S.V.P
Thursday	8.45 am	Morning Prayers
	9.00 am	Mass
	9.20 am	Rosary
	9.20 am	<i>Confessions - see Fr Stephen</i>
Friday	8.45 am	Morning Prayers
	9.00 am	Mass
	9.20 am	Rosary
	9.20 am	<i>Confessions - see Fr Stephen</i>
Saturday	10.00 am	Mass
	11.30 am - 12 noon	Confessions
	6.00 pm - 7.00 pm	First Holy Communion preparation
	7.00 pm	First Mass of Sunday
Sunday	8.30 am	Mass
	11.15 am	Mass with Choir and Children's Liturgy

Please observe the parking restrictions in Boundary Lane. Even if you are permitted to park there, please **do not** park opposite our neighbours' driveways.

1 Boundary Lane, Heswall, Wirral, CH60 5RP

0151 342 6581

Email: contact@ourladyandstjohn.org.uk