

# Project 2019

'... to give you hope and a future.'

St John's Church  
Ravenhead

Newsletter #1 - February 2016

Welcome to our first Project 2019 newsletter, which we'll publish occasionally to keep you up to date with the latest news from Project 2019 and give you the information you need to get involved. Please keep the contents of this newsletter as a prayer focus and consider how you can help us achieve our Project 2019 aims.

## Aims, by 27/12/2019...

- guarantee the provision of Christian worship in Ravenhead by securing the future of St John's Church for future generations of worshippers
- increase regular worshippers as measured by our electoral roll to at least 150 - one for every year the church has been open
- achieve 'Child Friendly Church Award' status
- form an effective and outward looking children and youth ministry
- encourage a fellowship with a love of Bible study and prayer
- resume our full contribution to Parish Share, with no, or substantially reduced arrears
- maximise the uptake of Gift Aid donations
- take a decision regarding the future of Emmanuel
- encourage a new generation of volunteers in our fellowship
- develop a coherent and standardised recruitment policy and a management and support structure for staff and volunteers
- reclaim the church's position as a community body
- develop a consolidated communications strategy
- enjoy a series of events to celebrate, and commission an installation marking our 150th anniversary

## Proverbs 29:18

**'Where there is no vision,  
the people perish...'**

## Update...

The PCC have met twice since we launched Project 2019 on 27 December 2015 and there's already lots of work underway towards our Project 2019 aims. One of the ideas around Project 2019 was that many of the aims would feed into each other, so by working on one aim, we're also contributing towards others - and we're already seeing the fruit of some of that. The PCC have decided to make the following Project 2019 aims 'active', so you'll be hearing more about these in the coming weeks. Please do take any opportunity to get involved or contribute ideas, Project 2019 will have the best chance of success with as many people as possible involved.

### Our Children & Youth Work...

The PCC have decided to set to work on achieving the 'Child Friendly Church' Award and, alongside this, to ask our children and youth leaders to start to think about how we can form an effective and outward looking ministry to children, young people and families. Those who lead our ministry in these areas are looking at the award booklet and will report back to the PCC with their ideas and details of the resources and support they think they will need.

### Increasing attendance...

We're developing a 'Year of Invitation' - giving you lots of chances to invite your friends and family along to church for different events and services. Our 'Valentine's Day' service last week is one such example, but there are even more opportunities coming up and more being planned. Our current list of special events and services are overleaf.

### Parish Share/Emmanuel...

The PCC have agreed a 'Parish Share Payment Plan' with the Diocese of Liverpool. This document enables us to advertise for a new vicar and start to address the financial arrears in Parish Share we currently have. Part of this procedure, sadly, involves exploring the sale of Emmanuel, but also putting in place structures to avoid being back in this position again.

Thanks for any help you can give to Project 2019. We'll keep you as up to date as possible as things move on.

## Events Coming Up...

It's important for the fellowship to meet together for worship, prayer, study, teaching - and fun! As mentioned overleaf, we're hoping to put together 'A Year of Invitation', giving you opportunities to invite your friends and family to various events and services. The first was our Valentine's Day service on 14 February, here are some more events coming up (alongside our regular services)...

### **Sunday 6th March (10:45am) - Mother's Day Service**

A service to give thanks for mums and family life with Rev. Roger Preece, Archdeacon of St Helens & Warrington.

### **Sunday 27 March (10:45am) - Easter Day Service**

Celebrate the resurrection - with an Easter Egg hunt for the children.

### **Saturday 16 April (7pm) - Noel & Tricia Richards Concert**

Acoustic music, worship and c4, now on sale.

### **Saturday 23 April - Spring Fair**

Various stalls with profits to the church - more information soon.

### **Saturday 10 September - Heritage Open Days**

Church will be open for visitors as part of the national Heritage Open Days weekend, with no charge for admission. Various activities throughout the day, more information to follow.

### **Autumn (Date TBC): Harvest Festival**

### **Autumn (Date TBC): Back To Church Sunday**

A service with special resources designed as an opportunity to invite people 'back to church'.

### **Sunday 13 November (10:45am) - Remembrance Sunday**

Perhaps you know someone who marks Remembrance Sunday in private who may appreciate the chance to do so as part of the community?

### **November 2016 - January 2017 - Advent & Christmas Services**

Church is a great place to spend Christmas with the family as we sing carols with the organ, the crib awaits the Christ Child and the Advent Candle counts through the Sundays before the big day.



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Thanks to anyone who took the opportunity to invite friends and family to our Valentine's Day service - 'The Greatest Love of All' - whether they came or not.

We appreciate not all events are for everyone, and that people are often in very different situations in their own journey, so services like this can be difficult for some people. That's why as we present and plan these services, it's important to acknowledge and be sensitive to the variety of circumstances people may find themselves in, but also to let them know that God will walk with them in the midst of their experiences.

We hope everybody enjoyed the Valentine's Day service. Of course, all our services are open to everyone, but please look towards Mother's Day and Easter Sunday for more 'opportunities to invite'.

An Evening with  
**Noel & Tricia Richards**  
7:00pm, Saturday 16 April 2016

Tickets £4 each  
St John's Church, Crossley Road, St Helens, WA10 3ND  
07481 239135 (leave a voicemail if no answer)  
[www.stjohnsravenhead.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsravenhead.org.uk)

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