ST CHAD'S CHURCH, BAGNALL —NEWSLETTER 21.01.24

Changes to Church flowers

In common with many other churches, it has been decided that we will no longer place floral arrangements in church during Lent. So, this year from **Ash Wednesday (14th Feb)** to **Easter Sunday (31st March)**, no flowers will be required.

However we hope that on Easter Sunday, we can celebrate this special day with a bumper, bright collection of flowers and Easter decorations!



If you take a moment to look at the splendid carvings of Alpha and Omega symbols, behind the altar, the usual vases of flowers obscure them and can detract from the beautiful brass cross. So, routinely, flowers will no longer be placed there but will be elsewhere in church. Not a hard and fast rule, and special occasions, weddings etc will be catered for.

I would be interested to know your thoughts!

Also please sign up for the remaining weeks on the flower rota in the church porch. We still need your help!

Many thanks Barbara

National Hug Day, also known as National Hugging Day, is a heart-warming holiday that encourages people to express their affection and care for one another through the simple act of giving hugs. Hugs are a universal form of physical affection that can convey love, comfort, and support. This day reminds us of the positive impact of a warm embrace and the importance of human connection.

What is National Hug Day 2024?

National Hug Day 2024 is a day dedicated to celebrating the power of hugs and their ability to bring joy and comfort to both the giver and the receiver. It's a reminder that even a brief hug can create a meaningful and positive connection between individuals.

When is National Hug Day 2024?

National Hug Day is celebrated annually on January 21st.

How to Celebrate National Hug Day 2024?

Celebrating National Hug Day is simple and heart-warming. Here are some ways to participate in this special day:

- **Hug Loved Ones:** Embrace family members, friends, and loved ones with warm, heartfelt hugs. Share the love and affection you feel for them.
- **Offer Comfort:** If someone you know is going through a difficult time, offer them a comforting hug to show your support and empathy.
- **Spread Positivity:** Share positive and encouraging messages about the power of hugs on social media. Use the hashtag #NationalHugDay to join the conversation.
- **Volunteer or Donate:** Consider volunteering at a local charity or donating to organizations that provide support to those in need of comfort and care.

Send Virtual Hugs: In today's digital age, you can send virtual hugs to friends and loved ones through text messages, emojis, or virtual greeting cards.

History of National Hug Day

National Hug Day was created by Kevin Zaborney in 1986 in the United States. Zaborney believed that the month of January, with its post-holiday blues, was the perfect time to spread warmth and happiness through the act of hugging. His goal was to encourage people to express their feelings more openly, and the idea of a National Hug Day was born.

Well, fancy that:

This week in history.....

15th January 1759

Established by an act of Parliament in 1753, the British Museum, opened its doors to the public on this day in

1759. Dedicated to human history, art and culture, the museum has a permanent collection of 8 million works, making it the largest in the world.



16th January 1932

Dian Fossey, the American zoologist, known for her research and conservation work in Africa with the

Mountain Gorillas, was born in San Francisco.



17th January 1929

The cartoon character Popeye, well known for his love

of spinach, made his debut, appearing in the newspaper comic strip "Thimble Theatre".



18th January 1882

English author A.A. Milnefamous for the immensely popular stories

of Christopher Robin and his toy bear, Winnie-the-

Pooh—was born in Hampstead. Milne was father to real-life Christopher Robin Milne, on whom the character Christopher Robin is based.

19th January 1825

Ezra Daggett and Thomas Kensett obtained the first US patent for a preservation process, using tin cans to store food. By the turn of nineteenth century, scientists dis-

covered that the preserving process used in canning killed microorganisms which caused food to decay.



20th January 2009

On this day in 2009, Barack Obama was sworn in as the 44th president of the United States, becoming

the first African American to hold the office.





21st January 1976

Generating a sonic boom as it travelled through the atmosphere at supersonic speed, Concorde, a commercial aircraft built with funding from both the British and French governments, made its first commercial flight on this day in 1976, marking the beginning of a regular "supersonic" service.

Prayer Corner

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from 18-25 January.

This year the theme is "You shall love the Lord your God.....and your neighbour as yourself"

(Luke 10.27) and the parable of the Good Samaritan. And so we pray-

• Lord Jesus Christ, may our eyes not look away, but be wide open to the world around us.

• As we travel through life, may we stop and reach out, bind up the wounded and in doing so experience your presence in them.

Give us a renewed commitment to journey with you towards unity.

Amen.

Prayer from the Diocese of Salford.

Muriel

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What about this cold weather! We had things planned for this week, such as trip to the supermarket (we usually shop on line) and spending our Christmas present voucher for a meal at Jacksons (treats for us—we lead a very exciting life!!!) And then on Tuesday we woke up to snow and freezing temperatures and we haven't moved from the house since. It's now Thursday and the car's still frozen and the drive is icy and I'm in hibernation mode until at least Saturday.

However, it does have its upside, I've had a very crafty week. I've made Pat a load of baptism anniversary cards, I've started my Christmas cards for this year and I've got knitting and cross stitch on the go. I've even started my Christmas present of crochet baubles for the tree - this is the biggest challenge as I'm having to learn what to do as I go, increasing, decreasing, double crochet?????

I've just watched the bin men emptying, or should I say trying, to empty our brown bin. After prising open the lid. It took about 4 attempts at tipping it to get it to relinquish it's load. Not as bad as the people opposite who had to have a steel pole rammed into their bin to unclog the frost! When I complain about being stuck in a warm cosy room doing things I love, let me remember those poor bin men!

Smiles:

In church one Sunday morning, a mother was kneeling with her small son during prayers and the boy was laughing very loudly. The mother said "Johnny, stop making that noise." The little boy replied, "it's all right, Mummy. I have just told God a joke and we are both laughing."

A Bishop was astonished to hear little Mary say that a person must be brave these days to go to church. "Well," she said, "I heard my uncle tell my aunt last Sunday that there was a canon in the pulpit, that the choir murdered the anthem and that the organist drowned the choir."

The small boy on his way to the church for the first time was being briefed by his elder sister. "They won't allow you to talk," she warned him. "Who won't" asked the boy. "The Hushers."

Johnny had a teddy bear with a squint. A lady asked him the teddy's name and he said "Gladly" "Why do you call him Gladly?" "He is named after the hymn: Gladly my cross-eyed bear."

A bishop was visiting a vicarage in his area. Whilst the Vicar was out of the room, the small daughter of the house asked the Bishop, "Can you tell me something my Daddy can't understand?" The Bishop replied, "Well, I will certainly try, dear." The child continued, "My Daddy is constantly saying to Mummy that he can't understand how you became a Bishop."

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