

OUR COMMUNITY



Archbishop: Protect the Poorest From the Effects of Economic Downturn

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, has called on the government to do more to protect the poorest and most vulnerable from the likely consequences of an economic downturn.

Speaking in the House of Lords the Archbishop highlighted the fact that government targets on alleviating poverty, particularly child poverty, risked not being met. Dr Williams warned that in a period of economic decline the poorest in society, who carry a higher proportion of personal debt, were most at risk.

In the debate, called by the Archbishop, he suggested ways in which government might help low income families avoid entering into cycles of unsustainable debt. This could be done by improving financial education in schools, enforcing tighter controls on doorstep credit agencies and by helping to foster responsible alternatives to doorstep lending, such as those offered by Credit Unions.

The Church of England launched its 'A Matter of Life and Debt' campaign in January 2008 with the aim of providing guidance and support for those seeking to balance household budgets and get help with debt problems. It can be accessed online at: www.cofe.anglican.org/debt/

In the UK:

- We have twice as many credit cards as people.
- We have two-thirds of Europe's credit card debt.
- Our personal debt is increasing by £1 million every four minutes.
- Money problems are the number one cause of marriage breakdown.
- More than three million people are struggling just to pay energy bills.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF KERESLEY VILLAGE NEED YOUR HELP!

Every Wednesday evening for the last 8 years a group of people have opened the doors of the Village Church to the young people of Keresley. The 'Drop-In' centre offers an informal meeting place for a many. It's not a Christian Youth Club, but definitely a club run by Christians and the only link with Christianity most of the young people have. Due to different reasons three of the five volunteers are no longer able to help, therefore for the 'Drop-In' to continue, we need help!

If you can spare a Wednesday evening on a regular basis between 7.15pm and 9.00pm, if only once a month, please let me know.

Steve Medley

JUNE 2008

30P

*What we
desire our
children to be,
we must
endeavour to be
before them.
Andrew Combe*

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ST. THOMAS' CHURCH CALENDAR

June

Sunday 1st

9am Holy Communion and Hymns. Peter Walker
10.30am Family Service. Peter Walker

Sunday 8th

9.00am Holy Communion - Peter Walker
10.30am Family Communion - Peter Walker
Barbecue at the Vicarage after the service

Sunday 15th

9.00am Holy Communion & Hymns - Peter Walker
10.30am Family Worship - Peter Walker

Tuesday 17th

8-8.45pm Prayers for St Thomas'. Galilee Room

Sunday 22nd

9.00am Holy Communion - Peter Walker
10.30am Holy Communion & Baptism - Peter Walker ;
preacher: Pete Hudson

Sunday 29th

9.00am Holy Communion - Peter Walker
10.30am Holy Communion - Peter Walker

July

Sunday 6th

9.00am Holy Communion & hymns - Peter Walker
10.30am Family Service - Peter Walker

Daily Prayer

8.30am Monday, Wednesday and Friday at St Thomas' Church, Tuesday at Keresley Village Community Church.

Refreshment for all

Tuesday afternoons, 1.30-2.30pm in the Galilee Room



If you need transport or would like to request prayers, please contact Margaret Bosworth on 7633 7932 leaving a message if necessary with your name and telephone number and she will ring you back.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Sunday Morning Activities at St. Thomas'

10.30am (during term time)
1st Sunday Family Service in Church
2nd Sunday 3-11s, Sunday School in Galilee Room,
11+, Pathfinders in the Church Hall.
All join the service around 11.25am
3rd Sunday All ages start in Church
4th & 5th 3-11s, Sunday School in Galilee Room,
11+, Pathfinders in the Church Hall
All join the service around 11.25am
This pattern may change occasionally for special services.

First Steps . . . with Jesus

For babies and pre-school children
with their parents and carers
Meets in the Galilee Room, weekly
in term time
Mondays 1.30-2.30pm

Youth Essence

Monday evenings, 7.30pm, Galilee Room
(School Year 9 and above. Contact Steve
Medley for more details)

Thursday at St T's

For 5-11 years
Meets in the Galilee
On Thursdays
From 6pm to 7pm





Banners

Some of the ladies from St Thomas' have been inspired to make some Church wall hangings. They need fabric of all colours and sizes. See Hazel Bailey, Margaret Potter, Jo Medley or Jan Wilkins if you would like to be involved.

Beetle Drive

To raise money towards purchasing material for new church banners

Saturday June 14th, 6-9pm

Church Hall, Wickham Close

All ages welcome, family and friends.

£2 adults, £1 child; to include hot dog.

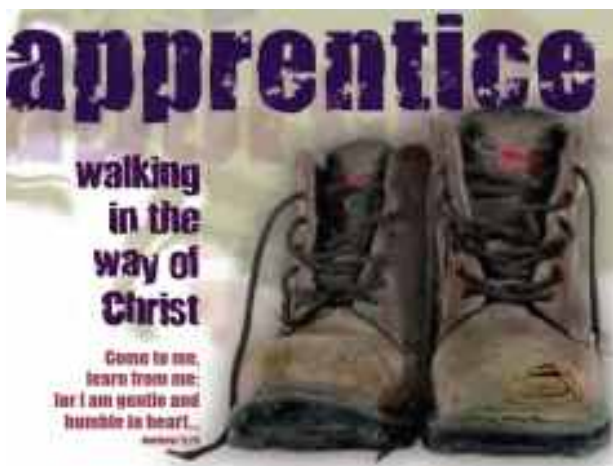
To aid catering please can tickets be purchased in advance from Jo Medley, Margaret Potter or Hazel Bailey.



Holiday Club 2008

This Year's Holiday club is called "Kim's Quest", and will run from the Monday 4th - Friday 8th August. More information will follow next month. If you are interested in helping please contact Steven Medley (76331910)

Spring Harvest 2009



14th-19th April 2009

If you would like to go to Spring Harvest next year and be booked with the Church group you need to give in your booking form by Sunday 8th June.

We have decided we will try for Minehead first, if we can't get the units we require we will try for Skegness when booking for that opens a week later. For more details and a booking form see Steve Medley or Peter Walker.

Deanery Synod Report – 14th May 2008

Meeting held at St. Nicholas Church, Radford.

Speaker – Revd. John Hall spoke of work of the Church Urban Fund. They have given out over £6 million to more than 900 projects in deprived areas. They work with people on the fringe of society and turn lives around in small ways making a big difference. They work especially with drug addicts, alcoholics, prostitutes, etc. – people with real need. In fact St. Nicholas Church received the first donation of £30,000 for its community centre. A leaflet was handed out "Stories of our time" which includes a section on the work done in Keresley Village. Revd. Hall is planning to relaunch the Church Urban Fund and CUF Sunday is 1st June.

The second speaker was Graham Caldicott who told us about the Open Hands Project. He is a reformed alcoholic whose work began in October 2006 with a house, a "mustard seed" grant of £4,000 and five men who had thrown everything away due to alcohol. There is one rule in the house that must not be broken and that is they must remain dry. They are tested and evicted if they have drunk alcohol. The tough uncompromising love of Jesus is their only tool.

Of the original five, four have moved into supported accommodation and are still dry. One was unable to cope and has died, taking his own life. This has spurred them on and a further grant was received of £21,000. They are now helping eleven men in the home. They are witnesses to God's healing power. They have seen changes in personality turning them into considerate respectable, valuable members of society. They have been supported almost totally by donations from Catholic and Anglican churches.

*Margaret Bosworth
Ex-Deanery Synod Representative*

*New Deanery Synod Representatives:
Claire McArthur and Jo Medley*



Barbecue

Sunday 8th June

at the Vicarage after
the 10.30am service

This is partly celebrating Ruth's 50th birthday. Please note that instead of presents Ruth has asked for gifts towards the Church Urban Fund. There will be a CUF collecting box available on the day.

As usual please bring:

Something to sit on, cutlery, meat for the barbecue, and something to share (sweet or savoury). We will provide: fire!, drinks, bread, sauces, plates, cups and the garden.

Motherhood – A Roller Coaster Ride 2008

Is being a mum still the **thrill of** a lifetime? Or are you saying, "Stop the ride! I want to get off"?



Dianne Parsons is your host for a frank, fun, chat-show exploration of motherhood. You may be a new mum who's excited at what's ahead; or maybe you're wondering if you'll ever have a good night's sleep again.

Or perhaps you suspect your teenager's underpants are lurking under the bed until they're ready to walk to the laundry basket themselves!

You might even be dreading the day your child leaves the nest.

Wherever you are in the roller coaster ride of motherhood, you'll find Dianne's warmth and wisdom encouraging and life affirming. Special guests are joining Dianne to chat about the ups and downs of life as a mum.

At the end of the evening:

- You'll have laughed a lot
- You'll feel affirmed as a mum
- You'll know that even when your kids are driving you crazy, most of it is normal!
- You'll leave the motherhood guilt thing behind



Wed 18 June 2008, 7.30 to 10.00pm

The Centennial Centre, 100 Icknield Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham

To book:

Tickets: £6.00 each. Call 29 2081 0800, visit www.careforthefamily.org.uk/mum, or speak to Ruth Walker to see whether there are others interested that you could go with.

Volunteers needed for the Royal Show, Stoneleigh Park, 3-6 July

Christian Aid will be playing a major part in Britain's premier agricultural show this year and we are looking for local volunteers to help us.

Christian Aid will provide the main feature for the Horticulture, Gardening and Flower show. Our garden will focus on our climate change adaptation work with farmers in Burkina Faso and features a model of a typical farm from there. The show will take place Thursday 3 to Sunday 6 July at Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire.

Could you help us? We need volunteers to:

- help with our garden feature, showing people round and explaining a bit about Christian Aid's work.
- staff our 'plant crèche'. The plant crèche is a chance for Christian Aid to raise funds. Plants are left with us for a small fee, enabling visitors to look round more easily without carrying their purchases with them.

Volunteers can do either a half day session or a full day. Expenses will be reimbursed and of course the entrance fee for the show will be covered by Christian Aid.

So join us at the Royal Show this summer! If you are able to volunteer, please contact us on 0121 2002283 or email birmingham@christian-aid.org.

Abi Bryan, on behalf of the Christian Aid West Midlands Office

Stephen Timbrell

Stephen Timbrell, headteacher at Coventry Blue Coat School, died on 12th May after a short illness.

Many of the young people at St Thomas' are pupils there and they and their parents will very much miss his clear Christian commitment to the development of the young people in his care.

Rev'd. Tim Pullen writes: *"In the five years I have been Chair of Governors at Blue Coat I have counted it a real privilege to work with Stephen. His unflagging commitment to see that each individual student was presented with the best possible opportunities to learn, develop new skills and achieve success has helped give thousands of students the greatest possible platform to build on for the future. Staff have benefited from his wisdom, guidance and encouragement. The resources and facilities at Blue Coat have been enhanced in very significant ways. Underpinning all that Stephen has achieved has been the working out of his faith in Jesus Christ, no-one could have been left in any doubt about that! Stephen's legacy to Blue Coat is immense. We will all miss him greatly."*

Diocesan Church School headteacher colleagues have reflected on the warm welcome he offered to them at meetings where his clear and direct Christian conviction immediately shone out. They went on to say: *"He made it clear that Christian commitment and care are at the heart of the school, and that the school is going forward only, and wholly, because Jesus is at its centre."*

The appointment to the headship at Blue Coat came in 1998. The Rt. Rev'd. Mark Bryant, Bishop of Jarrow who, when in the Diocese of Coventry was, for

St Thomas' Keresley and Coundon

What were the local events and cares of the parish many decades ago?

1908 and the Day School was doing well

Eight children from the school entered for the Diocesan Examination and carried off seven prizes. Out of several hundred candidates, mostly from large schools, two girls obtained third and twelfth place in Scripture and first and sixth in needlework.

To June 1918, and there were still casualties from the First World War. The Minister, A C Collin, wrote of two:

Of those whose names are inscribed on the War Shrine, among the very few that I have met were David Osbourne and Alfred Mascord. I feel, therefore, that I can join with their many friends in offering to their parents and relatives the tribute of sincere sympathy in their bereavement.

There were also extracts from a letter received from the Major of David Osborne's Battery.

Dear Mrs Osborne, I had a working party moving some ammunition and a gun, when a miserable little shell fell among us killing your fine son . . . There is no one in the Battery we would have felt the loss of more, he had been with us so long and had always done his duty to the fullest extent . . . He will be buried in the cemetery at Beuvry.

Gunner Osborne died in April 1918 and Lieutenant Mascord in May aged 26.

In 1928 the Church was responding to the Bishop's Appeal for the Coventry New Churches Fund. Rev Perry wrote:

The Response to the Bishop's Appeal was extraordinarily good throughout the Diocese, and I am very glad to think that our Parish did its share so well. The total amount given or promised from this parish was £300. There were two large gifts of £100 each, but there were also a great many who gave quite small sums. We very much appreciate the generosity of those members of the Free Churches who contributed to this Fund. One result of the Appeal will be that it will be possible almost at once to begin to tackle the enormous problem which confronts the Church in Coventry itself; but another result, perhaps equally important, is that it has strengthened the whole diocese in a sense of unity.

In June 1938 the churchyard extension was consecrated on the eve of Whitsunday.

Mr Edgar Turrall's generous gift of the Extension will pass to its completion when the Lord Bishop of the Diocese consecrates the ground on Saturday, June 4th at 3.30pm.

The Vicar, Rev Edward Bastin, wrote:

My dear People

I hope that many of you will be present for the Consecration of the Churchyard Extension on June 4th. The last Extension was in 1866 when Mr John Rotherham bore the cost. Thus it is over fifty years since a Service of this kind was held in this Parish.

(Continued from page 4)

many years, Chair of Governors at Blue Coat writes: "When we interviewed Stephen he was clear that he wanted to be the head of a Christian school. At Blue Coat he has created a school where it is normal and natural to pray and to speak about what it means to be a Christian; a school where nobody is in any doubt about the centrality of Christian faith. This has made a very attractive school to many including those of non-Christian faiths who rejoice in finding a school which so plainly takes faith seriously. This has gone alongside raising standards and seeking to ensure the best provision for every individual young person whatever their skills, abilities and needs."

In November 2007 Stephen was installed as Honorary Lay Canon of Coventry Cathedral in acknowledgement of his immense contribution to the education and lives of thousands of young people in his care. The Rt. Rev'd. Colin Bennetts, recently retired Bishop of Coventry writes: "I am convinced that none of those who have recently given faith schools a hard time can have known Stephen Timbrell. Among his many gifts was the rare ability to

be clear and uncompromising about his Christian faith, whilst at the same time leading an excellent school renowned for its warm inclusivity and serious engagement with the community. When, last year, I invited Stephen to become an Honorary Lay Canon of Coventry Cathedral, I was wanting to honour his outstanding contribution to the educational life of Coventry City and the diocese. He will now receive an infinitely higher honour from the One who alone can say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

At the time, displaying his predictable humility and shyness, Stephen reflected that he saw the award as recognition of the impact of education and particularly Christian education on the work of the church.

A memorial service will be held at Coventry Cathedral on 13th June 2008 at 7.30pm.

Taken from the obituary on the Coventry Diocesan website: www.covdioc.ork.uk/stephentimbrell.htm where there are also many moving tributes to him.

KERESLEY VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH SERVICES

June

Sunday 1st

10.30am Family Service. Gail Di Chiara

Sunday 8th

10.30am Holy Communion - Ruth Walker

Sunday 15th

10.30am Morning Worship - Ruth Walker & Mary Coles

6.00pm Holy Communion - Ruth Walker

Sunday 22nd

10.30am Holy Communion - Ruth Walker

Sunday 29th

10.30am Morning Worship - Ruth Walker

July

Sunday 6th

10.30am Family Service - Ruth Walker

Regular Meetings

"Children's Club" Mondays Trailblazers 5-6pm

Tuesday mornings 9.30-10.30am First Steps for babies and pre-school children with their parents and carers, during term time

Wednesday 7.30-9pm – 'Drop-in' Centre for teenagers

Mondays and Thursdays

9.30-11.30am Coffee

mornings The Church is open for anyone to drop in for a drink and a chat.



Christian Basics: What Does the Holy Spirit Do?

This month we continue to answer the question: what does the Holy Spirit do in our lives? We've already seen how the Holy Spirit helps us in developing our relationship with God. We now look at how he develops the likeness of Christ in us.

Usually children bear their family likeness, resembling their parents either physically or in some particular area of life. The Holy Spirit is committed to producing family characteristics in those who follow Christ. This likeness is the character and life of Jesus, enabling us to live as Jesus would in our place ie job, family, time, interests etc. Paul describes it in terms of the fruit that the Spirit produces in our lives: *'the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.'* (Galatians 5:22,23).

It's worth noting that Paul talks about fruit not fruits! We can't pick and choose which quality we would prefer, as they come as a total package! Also, they are not produced overnight; it takes a life-long project. We must remember that the Holy Spirit will not impose change on our lives, but he only works in co-operation with our hearts and wills.

He is committed to producing new desires and motivation for God, as living the Christian life is not simply based upon our own efforts. He gives us a new love for God, a longing to read the Bible and pray, the ability to forgive others, a desire to meet with other Christians and a readiness to share our faith. He will also challenge wrong habits, attitudes, words or lifestyle which we are displaying in our lives.

In assuring us of our future inheritance, the Spirit makes the life of the future real in our present experience. Eternal life (the life of heaven) begins

today, the moment we commit our lives to Christ. Paul uses 2 important words that help us to grasp this:

'Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.' (Ephesians 1:13,14). The seal is a mark of ownership, rather like a tattoo, assuring us that we belong to God for now and eternity. The Holy Spirit is also described as the deposit or down-payment which guarantees our future inheritance.

When your kindness goes un-thanked

Have you been kind to someone recently? Gone out of your way to help them – to make life easier for them? Only to find that they seem to take your efforts for granted, and hardly thank you! Such a response can really hurt, and even leave you angry and bitter.

If someone has hurt you this way, here is a marvellous promise *'Your prayers and charities have not gone unnoticed by God'* (Acts 10:4).

God noticed what you did, and he appreciated it.

So here's an idea: next time you decide to do some good to someone, do it as if you are doing it for God. Jesus said: *'Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it to me.'* (Matthew 25:40) So – instead of just giving good TO that person, try giving THROUGH that person TO the Lord. After all, he sees, and he will bless you!

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

THANKSGIVING

11th May
Ruby Louise Dickson

BAPTISM

18th May
Lilly Elizabeth Hall

BURIAL

at London Road:

1st May
Joan Armstrong aged 88 of Compton Manor

13th May
Kenneth George Middleton aged 82 of The Scotchill

at Canley:

8th May
Eunice Edith Vincent aged 75 of Kelmscote

at St. Paul's:

Sheila Vera Faulkner aged 76 of Addison Road

Father God

*In times of devastation and massive loss of life,
we question why this fragile earth takes away
the lives of mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers
so violently.*

*We struggle to comprehend the acts of nature
that can bring one country glorious sunshine
and another a fatal cyclone,
that can demolish schools and homes within
seconds and leave millions asking 'why me?'*

*We pray for the people of Burma and China:
for those who have died,
for those who are injured,
for those who survived,
and for those helping those in need.*

*We ask for your comforting presence to be with
those who mourn;
we ask for your healing presence for those who are
ill;*

*we ask for your resilient presence to be with those
who are assisting and for those who are faced with
starting again.*

*We ask for your peace to be with all people in
Burma and China.*

*In the name of your son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour
and Lord,*

Amen.

'People Like Us' in the Book of Acts - Barnabas

It's interesting how nicknames stick; this was true of Joseph, a wealthy Levite from Cyprus in the Jerusalem church. He was nicknamed Barnabas – Mr. Encouragement himself!! He remains a great example to us of how we encourage one another within the church – a much needed ministry today.

A Generous Giver

We are first introduced to Barnabas when he sold a plot of land and gave the money to the apostles (Acts 4:36-7). This act of generous giving was in stark contrast to the deceit of Ananias and Sapphira, who withheld money from the fellowship. Sharing our possessions to meet the practical needs of others is a special ministry of encouragement within the Christian community.

To what extent am I characterised more by unselfishness than selfishness?

A Joyful Observer

When Barnabas arrived in Antioch, 'he saw the evidence of the grace of God' (Acts 11:23) and encouraged the believers. This was the first church to be composed of predominantly Gentile Christians. He also recognised the need for the new Christians to be taught and so brought Paul out of obscurity to do this (26). Today we need people to encourage us to engage in mission and outreach in new and creative ways.

What evidence do we see of God's grace around us?

A Team Player

Barnabas and Paul were partners together, although in Acts 13 a subtle change takes place in their relationship. Up until this point they are always described as Barnabas and Paul (2), but then it becomes Paul and Barnabas (43). A team player not always seeking the limelight will encourage the ministry of the body of Christ.

In what ways do we support the ministry of others?

Barnabas remains a good example of any encourager: 'He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith' (Acts 11:24).

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- **Regular Activities in the Church Hall** •
- NB the Church Hall is not usually available for late night Discos •
- Preschool Playgroup Mondays to Fridays, 9am - 11.30am •
- and 12.30pm - 3pm •
- 13th Brownies Mondays, 6.00 - 7.30pm •
- 41st Cubs Mondays, 6.45 - 8.30pm (in Scout Hut) •
- 41st Scouts Tuesdays, 7.00 - 9.00pm (in Scout Hut) •
- 9th Brownies Wednesdays, 6.00 - 7.30pm •
- 9th Guides Thursdays, 6.30 - 8.30pm •
- 41st Beavers Fridays, 6.00 - 7.30pm (for 6-8 year olds, •
- in Scout Hut) •
- • • • •