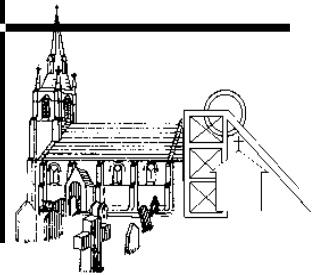


OUR COMMUNITY

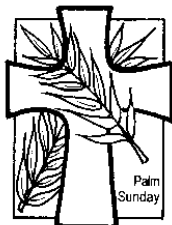
www.st-thomas-keresley.org.uk



PREPARING FOR EASTER

The period of Lent is drawing to a close and the first full week of April is Holy Week.

During Holy Week there are a variety of services and activities leading up to Easter Sunday, beginning with a march



of witness on Palm Sunday, 5th April. This starts at 10.30am outside the Church Hall and, weather permitting, takes us down to the Shepherd island and back up to church.

We pause at various points as we consider the journey Jesus made into Jerusalem.

On Monday evening the Youth Essence group invite you to come and reflect on the story of Jesus visiting his friends Martha, Mary and Lazarus. There will be food!



The Refreshment group invite you to join them on Tuesday afternoon at 2pm as they continue exploring themes for Holy Week.

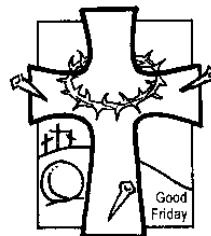
There will be a service in St Thomas' at 7.30pm on Wednesday.



On Thursday we move to Keresley Village Community church for a special service at 7.30pm with a Passover meal and the washing of

feet. The service is conducted with everyone sitting at tables; a meal of lamb, unleavened bread, 'bitter herbs' (celery and parsley) and green vegetables (salad), followed by a dessert is eaten and the significance of each part is remembered. As a symbol only one foot is required for washing! The service concludes with communion.

On Good Friday at both churches there will be a morning craft activity session for all ages at Keresley Village at 10am and a Children's' Activity Morning at St Thomas' from 10am to noon.



Preparations conclude with a Quiet Service "The Last Hour" at St Thomas' church at 2pm.

New Banner in Church

A small group has been working on a series of banners for the church. The first one has now been completed and is hanging in church.

Thank you to Hazel Bailey, Margaret Potter and Jan Wilkins for their beautiful work and the stunning image which adds to the welcome and witness of the church.

APRIL 2009

50P

When you raise yourself above a servant, you have just ranked yourself above the Saviour.

Anon

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ST. THOMAS' CHURCH CALENDAR

April

Sunday 5th - Palm Sunday

9am Holy Communion and hymns. Ruth Walker
 10.30am Palm Sunday procession and Family Service.
 Peter Walker

Monday 6th

7.30pm Mediation led by Youth Essence.

Tuesday 7th

2pm Led by the Refreshment Group

Wednesday 8th

7.30pm Meditation

Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Passover Meal and Foot washing at Keresley Village Community Church

Good Friday

10-noon Children's Activity Morning
 2pm Devotional Service 'The Last Hour'

Easter Day

9am Holy Communion. Ruth Walker
 10.30am Family Communion. Peter Walker

Tuesday to Sunday,

members of the church will be attending **Spring Harvest** in both Minehead and Skegness

Sunday 19th

10am Family Communion. Rev Bob Earnshaw
 NOTE there is only one service today.

Sunday 26th

9am Holy Communion. Ruth Walker
 10.30am Holy Communion. Peter Walker

May

Sunday 3rd

9am Holy Communion & Hymns. Peter Walker
 10.30am Parade Service. Peter Walker

Refreshment for all

Tuesday afternoons, 1.30-2.30pm in the Galilee Room



Meeting weekly during Lent

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.

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

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.

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 Room
 On Thursdays
 From 6pm to 7pm



Uniformed Groups

Meet in the Church Hall:
 13th Brownies, Mondays, 6.00 - 7.30pm
 9th Brownies, Wednesdays, 6.00 - 7.30pm
 9th Guides, Thursdays, 6.30 - 8.30pm
 Meet in the Scout Hut:
 41st Cubs, Mondays, 6.45 - 8.30pm
 41st Scouts, Tuesdays, 7.00 - 9.00pm
 41st Beavers, Fridays, 6.00 - 7.30pm
 (for 6-8 year olds)

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

Keep hope alive

Be the lifeblood to poor communities: become a collector today



Christian Aid Week

10–16 May 2009

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, a course with Christian Aid partner Humanité Nouvelle has taught Nadia tailoring skills and given her the means to earn a small income.

Nadia is passionate about fashion and hopes one day to open her own business. Meanwhile she is teaching other girls to sew.

We have a number of streets allocated to us at St Thomas'; we do not have collectors for all of them. Please pray and consider whether this is something you might be able to do. It doesn't have to be scary and there are ideas to help you in the pack supplied to each collector. You have to be over 18.

Contact Heather Hudson if you would like to collect for the first time this year. Heather will see all regular collectors to confirm that they are available and willing to collect this year.

Sign up today:

become a Christian Aid Week collector, and you could give people like Nadia the chance of a life lived to the full.

Maundy Thursday Service at the Cathedral

The Annual 'Blessing of Oils and Reaffirmation of Ministerial Vows' will take place on Maundy Thursday, 9th April at 10.30am at Coventry Cathedral.

Bishop Christopher has written to invite all clergy, licensed ministers and lay people from the diocese to share in this service. He writes:

"This will be my first opportunity to celebrate with you on this occasion and I, together with Bishop John, very much look forward to this gathering of the dioceses at this critical point in the Church's year. It will be wonderful to prepare together for the momentous commemoration of Christ's passion and resurrection which will occupy us from then on in our parishes and communities.

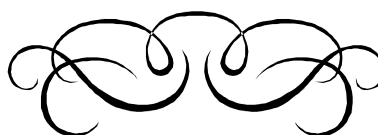
"As previously, the celebration will enable bishops, priests, deacons, readers and other lay ministers and lay members to participate fully in the service. There will be a clear acknowledgement that the ministerial priesthood is part of the royal priesthood of the church and that it is from the ministry of Christ our great High Priest that all our ministry is derived."

In memory of Gloria Overton

There is now a bookcase donated by Gloria at the back of the church which contains a selection of books which can be taken and read by anyone interested in learning more about the Christian faith.

When you have read a book please return it to the bookcase so that some else can read it too.

Margaret Bosworth



Around the Diocese and beyond . . .

Carriers of Hope

Those of you familiar with Carriers of Hope will know it as a Christmas appeal. Items continued to come in and the challenge is how to turn this project into an all year round service. Carriers of Hope is aimed at supporting asylum seekers, especially those who are destitute.

We need two things - firstly gifts of money and then gifts of items such as those listed below. The challenge is to raise £2,000. As soon as we have this amount the service can start. This is to pay for storage facilities at the two outlets, plus a small amount for running costs. The aim is to start straight after Easter. The target is to find 200 people who are willing to give £10 each. If you are able to help, please send a cheque made payable to "Carriers of

Hope" to: Sue Sampson, 55, Garth Crescent, Binley, Coventry CV3 2PP. Email Sue if you have any questions on smsampson@hotmail.com.

'We would love you to continue supporting carriers of hope and below are a list of the items that are vitally needed: Pants and socks, Soap, Washing up liquid, Kitchen Roll, Flannel, Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Toilet rolls, Shampoo, Deodorant, Nappies, Cleaning products for the home and any other toiletries or sanitary products. Small folding umbrellas, baby and children's clothes, Toys and books, Baby equipment, Household linen - towels, tea towels, table cloths, curtains, bedding. Kitchen equipment - mc. kitchen tools, cutlery, pots and pans etc and supermarket gift cards that could be converted into any of the above.'

From the Coventry Diocesan 'Social Responsibility Bulletin'

Supporting Coventry Peace House

Since October 2004 at the Peace House we have provided a night shelter for people who fled to Britain in search of sanctuary and were refused. About 70% of those seeking asylum here are unable to get enough evidence of what happened to them to overcome the authorities' culture of disbelief which is very strong.

Most of those rejected are too frightened to return. Single people and couples then have to live a life of destitution as they are evicted from the housing and financial support they were given while their asylum claim was being processed.

Banned from working legally and unable to claim any benefits they depend mainly on the support of friends and little bits of work they may find. Those little bits of work are increasingly difficult to come by and we are seeing more and more people in need of our shelter. We frequently have to turn people away despite the fact that the train and bus stations now shut at night.

Unfortunately the increase in need has been met by a decrease in support in terms of food. Until recently the Sikh temple in Harnall Lane very kindly gave us hot curry and chapattis every weekday evening but they cannot do this any more. We also get some food from Fareshare which collects and redistributes food with a short shelf life to homeless charities. Their costs have risen and they now need to charge us. We do not have enough money for daily living needs so will have to stop taking that food too.

Can your church help us by either cooking a vegetarian evening meal for 20 people once a month or donating £25 to pay for a meal once a month?

If you can help please contact me, Penny Walker, on 02476 664616 or email info@covpeacehouse.org.uk or write to me at The Peace House, 311 Stoney Stanton Road, Coventry CV6 5DS. If you want to send a donation please make the cheque payable to The Night Shelter. If you would like to set up a standing order I will send you the bank details. THANK YOU



I hope these eggs sell soon; the christmas decorations and crackers are arriving next week!

The need for God in the world of work

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, has stressed the "desperate need" to reconnect faith in God with the workplace. "There should not be a separation from what goes on in Church and in our prayers with what goes on in the boardroom, office or shop floor."

Dr Sentamu went on: "All of life is religious and there is a desperate need to reconnect the sacred and the secular. There is no more urgent time than now to break down the compartmentalised thinking that separates trust in God from the world of work."

St Thomas' Keresley and Coundon

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

In April 1914 people were invited to prepare a doll for a doll-dressing competition

This instructive and interesting competition will be held in connection with the Parochial Stall. We hope everyone in the Parish, capable of dressing a doll, will compete. The dolls will be displayed and judged during the earl part of November, definite date to be announced later. The rules are as appended.

The doll must be dressed by the competitor. Competitors should state for which class they wish to enter.

A card with the name of competitor clearly written thereon, should be stitched where it cannot be seen.

Each competitor is asked to send an entrance fee of sixpence.

The doll should be sent, with the price at which it may be sold clearly marked upon it, to Miss Kerr, Keresley Vicarage on or before October 31st 1914.

The prizes will be awarded as follows: the two dolls that obtain most votes; the two best baby dolls; the two best "picture" dolls – to include dolls representative of pictures, nationalities, history and fiction, past present or future, etc; the two best dressed dolls by competitors under 15 years; the two best dressed dolls by competitors over 15 years.

No mention is made of the winners in the report on the Sale of Work in the following December, though I suspect priorities had changed over the intervening months, and the proceeds of the Sale were shared between the Soldiers' and Sailors' Fund and the Belgian Refugees.

Knowing and loving the Bible

Here's a provocative question: do Christians really need to read the Bible?

Yes, we can choose to follow Jesus without personally owning a copy or reading it regularly; that was the experience of most believers until the invention of printing made books widely available. It's still the case for Christians around the world who cannot afford a Bible - or who simply cannot read.

Getting to know the Bible is part of growing into mature faith, though. The Bible gives us the 'big picture' for what we believe: from the story of creation right through to Jesus' death and resurrection, and the promise of his return.

More than that, the Bible not only tells us about God, but through the working of the Holy Spirit, it can become God's word for us here and now. This means that as we read it, we have to work out prayerfully how to apply its teaching and values in our lives today.

A starting point is acquiring a translation that we find readable - and if we have been reading the same translation for a while, switching to a different one can bring new insights into familiar verses. Most Christian bookshops stock a range of Bible translations, and also various Bible reference books, such as atlases and handbooks. Study Bibles, where the background information and comment are included on the same page as the passage, are a particularly helpful resource. Daily reading notes and commentaries also offer different levels of help in understanding the Bible.

These days, there is a wide choice of books and related resources to help young people engage with the Bible. One recent publication from BRF, Girls for God, is written especially for girls aged fifteen and upwards – and written by somebody who is a teenager herself! Studying the Bible in a group can also be very helpful for people of all ages, as it gives those taking part the chance to learn from the insights and questions of others.

No, we don't have to read the Bible every day to be Christians – but if we don't, we are missing out on so much, not least the chance to hear God speaking to us through words written generations before, telling us that he loves us and that he watches over our path.

Naomi Starkey is BRF's Commissioning Editor for the adult list, and editor of and contributor to New Daylight Bible reading notes and Quiet Spaces prayer and spirituality journal.



I REALLY LIKE YOUR BIBLE, DAD... HOW DO YOU TURN IT ON?

KERESLEY VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH SERVICES

April

Sunday 5th—Palm Sunday

10.30am Family Service. Tony Ranger

Holy Week

Monday 6th

7.30pm Meditation. Led by Youth Essence. At St Thomas'

Tuesday 7th

2pm Meditation led by Refreshment Group. At St Thomas'

Wednesday 8th

7.30pm Devotional Service at St Thomas'

Thursday 9th—Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Passover Meal and Foot washing

Good Friday

10am All Age Craft and Worship

Easter Day

10.30am Holy Communion. Ruth Walker

Sunday 19th

10.30am Morning Worship. Elizabeth Crouch

6pm Methodist Holy Communion. David Hunter

Sunday 26th

10.30am Holy Communion. Ruth Walker

May

Sunday 3rd

10.30am Family Service Anglican: 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



Training v Trying

Most of us would like to be more aware of Jesus' presence in our lives on a daily basis. However, we can often find ourselves saying, 'if this is going to happen, I will have to try harder – to pray, listen to God, read the Bible etc'. However, if God really wants us to know this life, he wouldn't have suggested it if it wasn't possible.

Paul makes the important distinction between training and trying in the Christian life:

'Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever'. (1 Corinthians 9:24,25)

Notice what he says: runners must go into strict training if they are to win the race. As we know, it would be foolish to enter a marathon without training. We wouldn't complete the course despite trying hard! However, with training we could attempt a marathon if we really wanted to. We would have to eat differently and exercise, but with the right coaching we could complete the race. The same principles apply to the Christian life: God wants us to train spiritually if we are to live the life he wants for us.

Training is an indispensable ingredient for pursuing spiritual transformation. As Dallas Willard has pointed out, *'to train means to arrange my life around activities I can do that will enable me, over time, to do what I cannot do by direct effort alone'*. Generally, we overestimate what we can do by trying

and underestimate what we can do by training. As Paul writes to Timothy, *'train yourself to be godly'* (1 Timothy 4:7).

How does this work out in practice? It means engaging in spiritual practices in order to use them to train us to be more like Jesus. For example, as we learn to listen more to people, we will listen to God more effectively. Set the task of training yourself to listen to others, resisting the urge to jump in and speak before they have finished what they want to say. Perhaps using the phrase 'tell me more' can help you. Expect to see the changes in you as a result!



...well if he's going to be an Olympic swimming champion he needs to start training as soon as possible...

PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

1st March
Isobel May Brown

THANKSGIVING

22nd March
Alfie Keith Kenneth Green

CREMATIONS

March 6th
Elsie Liddle of Somers Road, aged 87

BURIALS

March 13th
Lucy May Barrell of Radford Road, aged 86, interred at St Pauls

24th March
Marjorie Jeffery of Park Road aged 69.

ASHES BURIAL

March 31st
Kathleen Frances Jones of Hampton Magna, aged 90

WHEN THE SPIRIT CAME

*I denied him,
Watched him die,
Despaired, then dared to hope
When Mary told of the tomb.
Oh, yes he died,
And oh, he rose again –
My Jesus,
Just as he said.*

*I saw him,
Ate with him
Early in the morning
That day on the shore.
He spoke of following and feeding,
He spoke of the Spirit,
Of waiting and witnessing.*

*And we did wait
When he left us.
We waited, in obedience this time,
In Jerusalem,*

*And the Spirit came.
In wind and in words,
In power and in praise,
In heavenly tongues of fire,
And then we witnessed,
Oh we witnessed to the world
Of our Lord Jesus –
When the Spirit came.*

Daphne Kitching

A Prophet for our Time

Isaiah 11 & 12

As we have already seen, defective leaders were a serious problem for God’s people in Isaiah’s time. However, in these chapters the prophet looks beyond the disappointments of his own age to the coming of Jesus. He will establish God’s kingdom on earth and we can learn about its character from these verses.

A New Ruler (11:1-5)

From the stump of Jesse (David’s father) a new shoot or ruler will grow, who will not disappoint like the David’s dynasty. Jesus will have humble origins and will be fit to rule because he is filled with the Spirit, giving him true wisdom which is grounded in the fear of the Lord. His rule will also be characterized by righteousness and justice for the poor and needy. God promises to do a new thing in contrast with our experience of human rulers, past and present.

* In what ways should our lives reflect the king we follow?

A New Reign (11:6-9)

The coming kingdom or rule of God is described in terms of universal peace. It is described in ideal terms (where natural enemies are reconciled) recalling the paradise of Eden. The entire earth will be the Lord’s holy mountain, for his rule will be experienced everywhere.

* How should this vision of God’s kingdom challenge us today?

A New Response (12:1-6)

Praise is the response to this message of the promised Messiah. We are to trust him and not fear whatever our circumstance. Our gratitude will result in joy, as we find our satisfaction and delight in Jesus. This will also enable us to worship him and make his name known to others, for thankfulness and praise flow, as they always must, into evangelism.

* What are the obstacles to such response in our lives?

-
- **Regular Activities in the Church** •
- **Hall** •
- NB the Church Hall is not usually •
- available for late night Discos •
- Pre-school Playgroup: •
- Mondays to Fridays, 9am - 11.30am and •
- 12.30pm – 3pm •
- Brownies, Guides, Cubs and Scouts meet on •
- weekday evenings. See page 2 for details. •
-