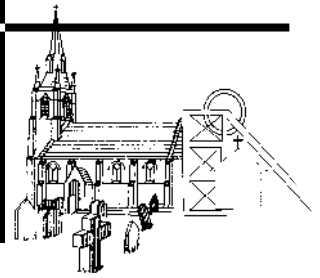


OUR COMMUNITY

www.st-thomas-keresley.org.uk



Making the Most of those Two Minutes

November 14th is Remembrance Sunday. Our Family Service that day starts at 10.15am, 15 minutes earlier than normal, to enable us to move out to the memorial for the 2 minutes silence at 11am.

This is an article by Canon David Winter, a former Head of Religious Broadcasting at the BBC, about using those two minutes. You may also find the moving letter on page 5 from the Vicar to the parish in 1915 a source of inspiration.

“Just before Remembrance Day last year someone remarked to me that they could never work out what to think about during the two minutes’ silence. They were much too young to remember the Second World War, and had no relatives or friends who had been on active military service, then or since. So - what to ‘think’ about?

It’s not a problem people of my generation have. Two minutes aren’t really long enough to remember my dad, a stretcher bearer in the Flanders battlefields of the First World War, invalided out after being gassed at Mons. Or my

older brother, who drove a lorry up the Normandy beaches under enemy fire. Or my parents, who survived the London blitz while my younger brother and I enjoyed the peace and quiet of rural Wales. Add to that a fervent prayer for peace in our time (Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia and so on) and two minutes are soon gone.

But what for those who don’t have those memories? This year, with its anniversary in September of the Battle of Britain, may help us. ‘Never in the field of human conflict has so much been owed by so many to so few’ -

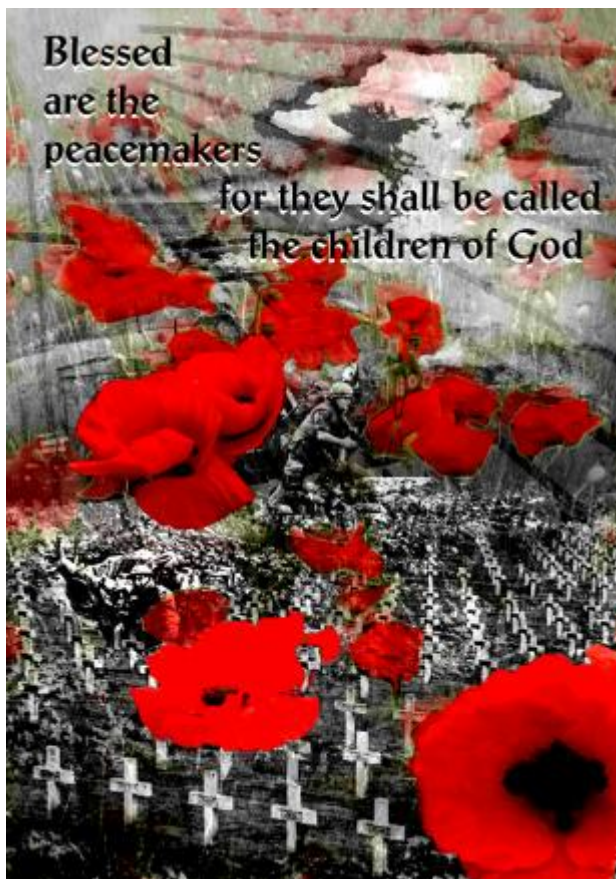
the memorable words of Winston Churchill. Had it not been for that ‘few’ -1800 or so young men in their Spitfires and Hurricanes - we might have been conquered by the evil forces of Fascism.

So, a few seconds to give thanks for them. And a few more to remember those 300 and more young airmen - not much more than boys at the time - who lost their lives in the cause of freedom (for that’s what it was). Then a prayer for the equally young men and women of many nations struggling to create a peaceful, stable Afghanistan. And another for those diplomats and negotiators who in a world of conflict, injustice and suffering are genuinely working for justice and peace for all.

I think at that point you will find the two minutes are up. ”

NOVEMBER
2010
50P

*Peace is not
the absence
of trouble
- peace is
the presence
of God.*



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ST. THOMAS' CHURCH CALENDAR

November

Sunday 7th

We welcome **Rev Steve Burch** to take our services today. He is vicar of Fletchamstead and Area Dean of Coventry South

- 9am Holy Communion.
 10.30am Family Communion. Please note the change in service.. Sunday school will meet this week.
 3pm Memorial Service to remember loved ones, and light a candle

Sunday 14th

We welcome Rev Pam Smith to take our services today.

- 9am Holy Communion
 10.15am Remembrance Family Service. NOTE EARLIER START TIME

Saturday 20th

- 12-2pm Christmas Fayre. Church Hall

Sunday 21st

- 9am Holy Communion
 10.30am Family Worship and Thanksgiving. Pete Hudson and the Ministry Team

Sunday 28th—Advent Sunday

We welcome Rev Clive Hogger. To take our services today

- 9am Holy Communion
 10.30am Family Communion

December

Sunday 5th

- 9am Holy Communion and hymns
 10.30am Christingle Family Service. Pete Hudson and Ministry Team

Looking ahead . . .

Sunday 12th

- 2-4pm Messy Church. An informal service for everyone. At Keresley Village Community Church.

Refreshment for all

Tuesday afternoons, 1.30-2.30pm in the Galilee Room. Fortnightly



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

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

Thursday at St T's

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



Youth Essence new flavour

Thursdays
7.30pm to 9pm,
Galilee Room,
School year 9 upwards

Uniformed Groups

Meet in the Church Hall :

- 9th Rainbows, Mondays, 6-7pm
- 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)

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.



Christmas Fayre

Saturday 20th November

12-2pm

In the Church Hall, Wickham Close

Time for thanksgiving

Hazel Bailey, magazine distribution co-ordinator, writes:
In June we said a sad farewell to Peter, Ruth, Joanna and Joshua and we were daunted by the thought of keeping the church going. But God works in amazing ways. We prayed to Him that we could keep moving forward.

We thank God for all members of our PCC and church members who have taken on new roles and put in so many extra hours to see progress at St Thomas;

We thank God for our new church hall kitchen, refurbished vestry with its new roof, our new-look Galilee Room;

We thank God for the recovery of Doreen from her stroke—the prayers of many answered; so lets look forward to a renewed time of thanksgiving as we prepare for Christmas.

Do come along and join us; there's always a warm welcome. If you need a lift please let me know—ring the Parish Office (76332717) and we will do our best to arranged for you to be picked up.

We are hoping that all people who receive the magazine will come along and bring your family and friends. It would be great to see you Come and enjoy the worship band, the organ, the tea and coffee, the friendship and thank God for all those blessings we so often take for granted. You may be surprised one you've been; you may feel you want to join us more often.

Our next objective is to raise money to improve the interior of the church, so please come along and support our next fundraising event—the Christmas Fayre on 20th November. Any donations toward the stalls, bric-a-brac, books, unwanted gifts, tombola, cakes, etc would be much appreciated.

The next two months are the busiest of the year at St Thomas; as we look forward to Advent and Christmas. Details of the many events and services are in the Calendar on page 2, with more details on page 3. Full details of the Christmas services will be in next month's issue.

Hazel Bailey

Clothes exchange for HOPE HIV

Ladies, come along with your unwanted clothing items: clothes, shoes, belts, jewellery, scarves and bags for a Ladies Swap Evening.

Roz Hosiene and Juliet Cramp are organising this as a fundraising event for the charity Hope HIV.

Come along and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a slice of cake.



Friday 12 November at 7.30pm in the Church Hall.
£3 entry. For more information contact Roz or Juliet.

Please bring clothes on hangers.



The next Messy Church is on 12th December at KVCC from 2pm to 4pm.

There is a meeting on Saturday 13th November at KVCC for those who are able to come and help prepare for this service. See Steve Medley for more details.

Christmas Choir

Would you like to sing in the choir for the Carols by Candlelight this year? We are aiming for four practices meeting on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings.

The dates planned are:

Friday November 26th 7pm

Saturday December 4th 10am

Friday December 10th at 7pm

or Saturday December 11th at 10am

Friday December 17th 7pm, with band

Singers of all ages and abilities are welcome; if you would like to take part this year please give your name to Heather Hudson or Jo Medley. Could you also let us know whether there are any of these practice times you would not be able to make.



ALL IN THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

It was....

350 years ago: - on 12th November 1660 that English writer and preacher John Bunyan was arrested and imprisoned for preaching without a licence. He remained in prison for almost 12 years, as he refused to abstain from preaching. While there, he wrote Pilgrim's Progress.

Also 350 years ago: - on 28 November 1660 that The Royal Society was founded in London. It is the world's oldest national scientific society.

200 years ago: - on 3rd November 1810 that the Italian composer Gioachino Rossini's comic opera 'La cambiale di matrimonio' was performed for the first time, in Venice.

150 years ago: - on 6th November 1860 that Abraham Lincoln was elected 16th President of the United States.

125 years ago: - on 10th November 1885 that Paul Daimler, eldest son of German engineer Gottlieb Daimler, became the world's first motorcyclist when he rode his father's new invention to the next town and back.

100 years ago: - on 7th November 1910 that the first air shipment took place when a Wright Brothers plane flew a shipment of silk from Dayton, Ohio to Columbus, Ohio, for a department store owner.

90 years ago: - on 15th November 1920 that The League of Nations held its first assembly, in Geneva, Switzerland.

Also 90 years ago: - on 21st November 1920 that the Irish War of Independence's 'Bloody Sunday' took place. 31 people were killed in a day of violence that began when the IRA shot dead 14 British soldiers in Dublin. The British then opened fire on a Gaelic football crowd, killing 14 people. Three Irish prisoners held in Dublin Castle were also killed.

75 years ago: - on 14th November 1935 that King Hussein of Jordan was born.

70 years ago: - WORLD WAR II 1940

- on 11th November that the Battle of Taranto, Italy took place - The British Royal Navy launched the first all-aircraft naval attack in history from an aircraft carrier in the Mediterranean.
- on 14th November that German Luftwaffe bombers virtually destroyed the city of Coventry, including the medieval cathedral
- on 15th November that the British RAF bombed Hamburg for two consecutive nights.
- on 16th November that the Nazis sealed off the Warsaw Ghetto from the outside world. About 400,000 Jews lived within its four square kilometres.

60 years ago: - on 2nd November 1950 that George Bernard Shaw died. The Irish playwright and literary critic, had won the 1925 Nobel Prize for Literature.

50 years ago: - on 2nd November 1960 that a British jury cleared Penguin Books of obscenity for publishing D H Lawrence's novel 'Lady Chatterley's Lover'.

Also 50 years ago: - on 8th November 1960 that John F Kennedy was elected 35th President of the United States.

40 years ago: - on 10th November 1970 that The Great Wall of China was opened to tourists.

Also 40 years ago: - on 12th November 1970 that the Bhola cyclone, a tropical cyclone and tsunami struck East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). 500,000 people died in what was regarded as the worst natural disaster of the 20th century.

30 years ago: - on 4th November 1980 that Ronald Reagan was elected 40th President of the United States.

Also 30 years ago: on 12th November 1980 that NASA's Voyager I space probe made its closest approach to Saturn and sent back the first images of its rings.

Also 30 years ago: - on 21st November 1980 that an estimated 83 million Americans watched the TV show 'Dallas' to find out 'Who shot JR' as the answer was finally revealed after eight months.

25 years ago: - on 20th November 1985 that Microsoft Windows 1.0 was released.

20 years ago: - on 12th November 1990 that British computer scientist Tim Berners-Lee published a formal proposal for the World Wide Web.

Also 20 years ago: - on 28th November 1990 that British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher formally resigned.

15 years ago: - on 20th November 1995 that in a frank interview for the BBC, Princess Diana admitted that she had committed adultery, and spoke openly about her separation from the Prince of Wales.

10 years ago: - on 7th November 2000 that George W Bush was elected 43rd President of the United States, although the final outcome would not be known for over a month because of the disputed votes (over hanging chads) in Florida.

Also 10 years ago: - on 27th November 2000 that Nigerian schoolboy Damilola Taylor, aged 10, died after being stabbed in the leg by a gang of hooded attackers near his home in south London.

As November closes, Advent begins. By the sixth century, the Christian Church

ADVENT 

was in the habit of spending several weeks leading up to Christmas in prayerful, expectant preparation. The fourth Sunday before Christmas Day became Advent Sunday. 'Advent', of course, means 'coming', or 'coming in', and traditionally special candles have been lit, and more recently, advent calendars used, as the Church prepares itself for the coming of the Holy Child, the long-awaited Messiah.

St Thomas' Keresley and Coundon

As we come to Remembrance Day once more, here is an extract from the November 1915 magazine. It is a letter to the parish from the Vicar, Rev Walsingham Kerr, on active duty.

B. E. F.

My Dear Friends,

The Rev. G. W. Barnard has by now come into residence, and will take over the entire care of the parish from the first of this month. Mr. Barnard is not unknown to some of the older residents in the district, and I am sure that you will all extend to him a very hearty welcome. Please notice that all the services are now held at the customary hours. I am glad to know that so many of you overcome the difficulties of attending at hours that were probably not convenient.

You will join with me in thanking the Archdeacon, Canon Fortescue, and Mr. Upton for their great kindness in undertaking the duty during the last three months. When you know more of the extent of our work here, and the wonderful opportunities it offers, you will better understand my debt of gratitude to these clergy, who have enabled me to share it.

The censor has recently discovered the existence of Parish Magazines, and uttered a growl of warning. So you will understand I write under the restraining fears of awful penalties. My special charge consists of three camps and a hospital. About the camp life I will write another time—the hospital claims most of my day. Here we have a big building, admirably adapted for the purpose, with temporary huts close by. There are 650 beds, but in a time of pressure over 800 patients have been taken in. Many of these may be men who have only slight injuries, and they will move on quickly, two or three hundred thus pass through in twenty-four hours. Going through the wards one can pick out these men who have "notice to quit." You catch a smile that tells of supreme content; or, if the bandages disguise that, an eye that sparkles. "Got my leave at last. I'm booked for blighty." We want to spend nine months in the trenches to know what *home* means. But there are others; they won't see home for a long time, and then it will be the old kind of life. There are many ways in which we can help these poor fellows. The first thought is for the anxious ones at home, so we take down a few messages, usually sending a brief daily report till the patient can manage to scribble a line. Censoring and writing letters indeed occupy a good deal of time; the mail is often heavy. Some letters are difficult to write when they supplement the sad news already received by a War Office telegram. I wrote last week to a poor mother in Birmingham about the death of her husband. She had lost one son, and another severely wounded. There was a delightful boy here for several weeks. He came through a severe illness, but was greatly disfigured. I had sent full particulars to the girl he was engaged to marry and his distress and anxiety while waiting for her answer was pitiable. What would she do? When that answer did come it was simply charming. I cannot tell you the pleasure it

gave me to rush across and read it to him; every sentence told of a love that nothing could alter. I should like to meet that girl some day.

I only wish time and space would allow me to tell of some of the interesting cases we meet every day. I marvel more at the courage and cheerfulness of these men—how patiently they bear their pain, and always the same story. How kind the sisters are, how good it is to be in a clean bed, getting every care and attention.

Here side by side you find one of the regulars, who tells you—as he tackles a good dinner—that he knows when he's well off; and next to him a university undergraduate; then a Canadian landowner, and a boy of seventeen, telling impossible yarns to a Sergeant Major. And almost at once they talk about religion, in one way or another, through their experiences, they have *felt* the presence of God. Nine men in one ward at the same time were prepared for Confirmation. On Sunday morning at 7 a.m. there is a celebration of the Holy Communion in the Matron's Office. The nurses here arrange an altar, with the Cross, flowers and candles, and from there I go round the wards giving Communion to the men.

Later we have services in the big wards, consisting of our well known hymns and some simple prayers—especially for loved ones at home—and then a few words that one speaks straight from the heart to these dear fellows lying around. Quickly the hours rush by and daylight fades. Nurses with lights are going on their evening rounds. We must hurry on, there are many still to see. The ambulances are coming to-night, and to-morrow brings its own tasks.

And the last thing at night we go once more through the wards; just a short evening prayer, kneeling by the bedsides in the semi-darkness. We get back to billet and bed very weary perhaps, but so thankful to be allowed to help in some small way.

And it strengthens us to know that your prayers go up daily for the sick and wounded.

My thoughts are much with you to-day, for this is the tenth anniversary of my induction.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

WALSINGHAM KERR.

In Memoriam.

It is with great regret that we have to record the death of Bomb. Charles J. Hopkins, who in the recent fighting in Northern France gave his life for his country. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to the bereaved parents, as well as to his widow, who, however, have the satisfaction of knowing that he responded nobly to his country's call.

KERESLEY VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH SERVICES

November

Sunday 7th - 3rd Sunday before Advent

10.30am Family Service. Jane Smith

Sunday 14th 2nd Sunday before Advent

10.30am Holy Communion Lead & Preach: Methodist John Miles

Sunday 21st Christ the King Sunday

10.30am Morning Service Rev James Jasper

Sunday 28th Advent Sunday

10.30am Holy Communion Lead & Preach: Methodist Rev Rachel Burgess

December

Sunday 5th 2nd Sunday of Advent

10.30am Family Service. Mr Nik Stevenson

Regular Meetings

Mondays 5-6pm

Trailblazers Children's Club

Tuesday afternoons 1.30-2.45pm

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

Fridays 5-6.30pm monthly.

Friday Church, usually meets on the first Friday of the month.

What's the Big Idea? -

An Introduction to the Books of the New Testament: 1 and 2 Corinthians

'When people become Christians, they don't at the same moment become nice. This always comes as something of a surprise' (Eugene Peterson). Paul founded the church in Corinth in AD 52, having preached the gospel and saw people come to faith in Christ. He spent a year and a half with them, showing them how to live out this new life as a community of believers. However, sometime later he received reports that in his absence factions had developed, morals were in disrepair and worship had degenerated into a selfish grabbing for the supernatural. Paul's letter, written around AD 55 in Ephesus, was a pastoral response to these problems.

Corinth was one of the main commercial centres of the Mediterranean world, as well as the chief city of Greece. It was a crossroads for travellers and traders across the Empire. Its people were interested in Greek philosophy and placed a high premium on wisdom. Corinth was also renowned for its immorality - eg the temple of Aphrodite (the goddess of love) was served by more than 1,000 prostitutes. In fact, the verb 'to corinthianize' meant 'to practice sexual immorality.' Little wonder that the church in Corinth was plagued with so many problems!

It is clear that, although the church was gifted (1:4-7), it was immature and unspiritual (3:1-4). Paul's purpose for writing was to:

- instruct and restore the church in its areas of weakness, correcting erroneous practices such as divisions (1:10-4:21), immorality (ch. 5; 6:12-20), litigation in pagan courts (6:1-8) and the abuse of the Lord's Supper (11:17-34).
- correct false teaching concerning the resurrection (ch. 15).
- answer questions concerning marriage, food sacrificed to idols and spiritual gifts etc.

This letter is very relevant for us today, as we are also powerfully influenced by our cultural environment. Many of the questions and problems that confronted the church at Corinth are still with us, eg immaturity, instability, divisions, jealousy and envy, lawsuits, marital difficulties, sexual immorality and the misuse of spiritual gifts. Yet despite the problems, Paul's letter contains some of the most familiar and loved chapters in the entire Bible eg chapter 15 on the theme of Jesus' resurrection and chapter 13 on Christian love: 'And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.' (13:13).

2 Corinthians

'For anyone operating under the naive presumption that joining a Christian church is a good way to meet all the best people and cultivate smooth social relations, a reading of Paul's Corinthian correspondence is the prescribed cure' (Eugene Peterson).

The apostle Paul is undoubtedly the author of 2 Corinthians. It is the fourth letter that he sent to the church in Corinth, together with the house churches in Achaia (modern day Greece). The four letters are (1) a previous letter mentioned in 1 Cor.5:9; (2) 1 Corinthians; (3) a 'severe' letter mentioned in 2 Cor. 2:3-4; and (4) 2 Corinthians. Paul wrote the letter from Macedonia around AD. 55, a year or so after 1 Corinthians.

Paul had a number of reasons for writing the letter:

- To express the comfort and joy he felt because the Corinthians had responded favourably to his painful letter (1:3-4; 7:8-9,12-13).
- To let them know about the trouble he went through in the province of Asia (1:8-11) and explain why he changed his travel plans (1:12-2:4).

PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

24th October
Mille Rose Thacker

BURIALS

Burial at St. Paul's:
6th October
Susan Jane Hardwick aged 55 of The Scotchill
Burial at Canley:
13th October
Thomas Peter Hall aged 5 hours of Brackenhurst Rd
Burial in Churchyard:
28th October
John Adrian Shephard aged 45 of St. Nicholas St

CREMATIONS

3rd November
Patricia Joyce Laybourn aged 77 of Shaftesbury Ave

ASHES INTERRED

24th September
Margaret Abbott aged 81 of Manor Estate Wolston
13th October
Derek Burgess aged 85 of Copthorne Rd
30th October
Margaret Agnes Mary Orton aged 87 of Northampton
10th November
Olive Deayton aged 85 of Barn Close, Nuneaton

(Continued from page 6)

- To ask them to forgive those who offended him (2:5-11).
- To warn them not to be "yoked together with unbelievers" (6:14-7:1).
- To explain the true nature and calling of Christian ministry (2:14-7:4).
- To teach them about the grace of giving and to ensure that they completed the collection for the Christians at Jerusalem (chs. 8-9).
- To deal with the opposition in the church (chs. 10-13) and prepare for his coming visit (12:14; 13:1-3,10).

It is the most personal of all Paul's letters, as he defends his leadership against his opponents. They accused him of inconsistencies, questioned his motives and challenged his credentials. A major theme of the letter concerns the relationship between suffering and the power of the Spirit in Paul's life and ministry. His opponents argued that Paul suffered too much to be a Spirit-filled apostle of Christ. He replies by showing that his weakness is the means by which believers are comforted and Christ is made known in the world. His sufferings embody the death of Christ, while his endurance demonstrates resurrection power and is a means by which God reveals his glory, 'But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.' (2 Cor 12:9).



- • • • •
- **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. •
- • • • •