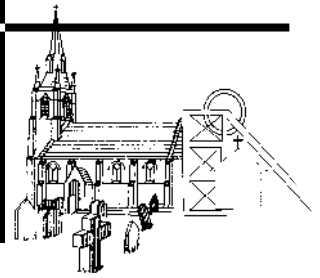


OUR COMMUNITY

www.st-thomas-keresley.org.uk



WE'RE HAVING A STREET PARTY!

APRIL 2011

To celebrate the Royal Wedding on 29th April, Keresley parish is holding a street party in the Church Hall car park from 3 to 5pm.

50P

There will be entertainment, we hope to have music from a brass band and a barbershop quartet. Invitations will go out to church members, uniformed organisations, playgroup, First Steps families, and neighbours in Wickham Close and homes behind the church hall. Bring a plate and share the fun.



*I find the
great thing in
this world is
not so much
where we stand,
as in
what direction
we are moving.*

O W Holmes

The ROYAL WEDDING WILLIAM & KATE



Probably not since the marriage of Prince Charles and Lady Diana in 1981 will so many people be watching a Christian wedding ceremony as will doubtless be on April 29th. The future heir to the throne, Prince William, will marry Kate Middleton in Westminster Abbey.

The solemn and moving words of the service will echo around the world: 'to have and to hold, from this day forward; for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part'. As one groom - a lawyer, needless to say - remarked, 'Not many escape clauses there!'

The exchanging of rings is equally uncompromising: 'all that I am I give to you, and all that I have I share with you'. All that I am? All that I have? My car, my laptop, my precious handbag . . . and my aching heart? All? It's such a comprehensive word; it leaves nothing outside its limits.

Marriage is, on these terms, the total giving of one person to another, for life. It's both wonderful and awesome. No matter how many weddings you attend, those vows still move you. This is what love, as God understands it, is all about. It's not 'I love you and I want you and I'm going to have you' (which is how modern culture sometimes portrays it) but about the total giving of one human being to another. It mirrors the self-giving love of God as we see it in the life of Jesus - which may be why St Paul compares the love of a husband for his wife to Christ's love for his people (Ephesians 5:25).

You may notice, as the service proceeds, just how often the word 'love' occurs in it. Indeed, the opening words sum it all up: 'God is love, and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them.' This is the great sacrament of love. On April 29th we can - wherever we are - share in its joy.

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ST. THOMAS' CHURCH CALENDAR

April

Sunday 3rd—Mothering Sunday

9am Holy Communion and hymns. Bishop John Stroyan
10.30am Family Service. Ministry Team, led by Steve Medley with Bishop John

Friday 8th

Schools break up for Easter

Saturday 9th to Thursday 14th April

A party from the church will be attending Spring Harvest at Skegness.

Sunday 10th

9am Holy Communion
10.30am Family Communion and Baptism

Saturday 16th

9.30am **Spring Clean Day**

Sunday 17th—Palm Sunday

9am Holy Communion
10.30am Palm Sunday procession and family service

Holy Week

Monday 18th

7.30pm at St Thomas Church

Tuesday 19th

1.30pm at St Thomas church

Wednesday 20th

7.30pm at St Thomas church

Thursday 21st—Maundy Thursday

7.30pm service at KVCC

Friday 22nd—Good Friday

10-12 Good Friday morning activity

3pm Last hour service at St Thomas church

Sunday 24th— EASTER DAY

9AM Holy Communion.

10.30am Joint Easter Service at St Thomas Church. No service at KVCC

Tuesday 26th

Official start of summer term, though some schools have a teachers' day today

Friday 29th

3-5pm Street Party in the Church Hall Car Park for church members and members of the parish

May

Sunday 1st

9am Holy Communion and hymns
10.30am Family Service. Ministry Team

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.

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.

Spring Cleaning

Saturday

16th April

from 9.30 a.m

church spring clean, maintenance and churchyard tidy day



All help will be much appreciated, as there are a number of semi-skilled maintenance jobs that need doing, including

- ★ converting the ladies toilet area into an office,
- ★ reputting the glass in the main doors and reproofing with Sadolin;
- ★ reproofing the vestry door;
- ★ cleaning the windows behind the protective covering;

and many more tasks identified in the Quinquennial Report and health and safety inspections.



... er ... the good news is the youth group have made a great start by pressure-washing the west window ...

Parish Natters

At the PCC Meeting held in March the Council confirmed agreement for revised Parish Fees that had been proposed and discussed in the January meeting and for revised Church Hall Hire Fees for casual use.

Confirmation was given that the organist is now only playing hymns on the first Sunday of each month at the 9 o'clock service, with agreement from regular attendees.

The Children's Worker, Steve Medley reported that work is going well within the schools in the parish.

The Deanery Synod had a difficult meeting discussing the role of women as Bishops and much of the time was spent in prayer for those parishes struggling. New Deanery Synod members will need to be elected at the Annual Parish Meeting to serve for three years. Jo will be standing down, although Claire would like to continue. The Cathedral Liaison Officer reported on events due to take place in the Cathedral, including a Festival for the Anniversary of the Consecration of the Cathedral and plans to revamp the ruins and place plaques in memory of citizens killed in the war. The Coventry Refugee Centre is in need of baby clothes and equipment, particularly prams. All donations need to be taken to the Centre in Bishop Street, on the corner with Lamb Street. Health and safety checks will be taking place shortly, however, a recent inspection of the church hall identified a few things that need attention.

Agreement was given to go ahead and get the roof repaired over the organ as a matter of urgency, move the office into the ladies toilet area, and look at the specification and recommendations regarding the electrics and redecoration in the nave of the church and get quotations. Due to our current financial situation, payment of the Parish Share has been deferred until we receive an input into the current account from our reserves. The PCC will be looking at ways to raise funds for projects and reduce costs and spending in order to balance the budget in the future. Any help in this area would be appreciated.

Little progress has been made in recent weeks in the appointment of a new vicar. The issue of deciding the best way forward for Keresley Village Church needs to be resolved first between the Diocese and the Methodist Circuit.

A Royal Wedding Party will take place on the Church Hall Car Park on Friday 29th April from 3 to 5 p.m.

A church spring clean, maintenance and churchyard tidy day will take place on Saturday April 16th starting at 9.30 a.m.

Margaret Bosworth
PCC Secretary.

Easter Reflection: 'There was a Garden'

We were standing looking at the snowdrops in the churchyard. It's been a bitter, frozen kind of Winter hasn't it? But now the sun was shining, the temperature had climbed above freezing, and those little bulbs buried in the soil had responded to it. A few weeks ago, all looked dead. But now, all around us, were the signs of Spring.

'Makes you think,' said my companion. 'Death and resurrection - it's simply part of the way things are.' I agreed, and pointed out that in a few days time we'd be celebrating, in the church in the middle of that graveyard, a man who rose from the dead and said, 'Because I live, you will live also'.

This idea, of life blossoming in the place of death is right there in the Gospels, too. 'In the place where Jesus was crucified,' St John tells us, 'there was a garden'. And in that garden was a new tomb, in which, after his crucifixion, he was buried. But within three days the tomb was once again empty. Like the Easter flowers blooming in the graveyard, life had conquered death.

If you visit Jerusalem, you will find the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, built on the probable site of the tomb of Jesus, which you can just about find underneath all the pious artefacts. Less than a mile away is the Garden Tomb, which General Gordon thought was the tomb of Jesus, located beside a craggy hill and set in a garden. It was, in fact, inside the city wall in the time of Christ, which means it can't be the actual place of his crucifixion and burial, but there is no doubt that if you want to feel and see what it would have been like, and even peer into a genuine first century tomb, this will probably quicken your pulse more than the Holy Sepulchre.

As Jesus himself said, the seed has to die before it can produce fruit. 'In the place where he was crucified there was a garden'. The seeds and bulbs are buried, and at the right time they burst into life. As my friend said, it's the way things are, and it is the heart of the Easter message.

Editor: David Winter is a former Head of BBC Religious Broadcasting who has contributed to Radio 4's 'Thought for the Day' for the past 22 years.

Real Easter Egg on its way to become a UK top seller

A church backed campaign has succeeded in convincing retailers to stock The Real Easter Egg, the UK's first and only Fairtrade charity egg to mention Jesus on the box.

Morrison's, Waitrose, Co-op and Booths are to stock a limited 'trial listing' of the Real Easter Egg and sell it in their biggest stores. A number of independent shops and a selection of cathedrals are also stocking The Real Easter Egg. And hundreds of Traidcraft supporters have ordered thousands of eggs on behalf of their communities.

UK's biggest direct mail order egg

Despite selling over 80 million Easter eggs a year, supermarkets initially turned down The Real Easter Egg, unsure if there was a place for a charity-faith egg in their Easter range.

In September 2010 a campaign to prove demand for The Real Easter Egg was launched by the Church of England's Bishop of Manchester. It received national and international attention and was backed by the Archbishop of York and other church leaders.



Campaign organisers asked church schools, churches and individuals to place a direct mail order for The Real Easter Egg from October 2010 onwards. Over 70,000

eggs were ordered in the first few weeks overwhelming the manufacturer who had to increase production in an attempt to meet demand. Manchester based Meaningful Chocolate Company, who developed the egg and ran the campaign, believe it is the UK's biggest selling direct mail order Easter egg

David Marshall, speaking for the Meaningful Chocolate Company, said; "We are delighted that our customers have made The Real Easter Egg such a success. I think we have proven that people are not afraid to buy The Real Easter Egg and we hope we have changed the face of Easter forever."

The Rt Revd, Nigel McCulloch, Bishop of Manchester, said; "It is great news that for the first time people will have the chance of buying an Easter egg from a shop that explains the significance of the festival on the box. Through the charitable donation and its Fairtrade chocolate the egg brings to light the Easter themes of hope and new life. I believe there will be widespread support for the product from the faith community with many others likely to be interested."

Making a big chunk of difference

The retail price of The Real Easter Egg is £3.99. It is made from high quality Fairtrade chocolate. Two charities benefit from the sale of the egg: Traidcraft Exchange receives 30 pence from every egg sold and Baby Lifeline will receive 10% from Real Easter Egg net profits.V

Stocks for this year are almost exhausted. Check www.realeasteregg.co.uk to see where there may still be some available.

Based on the success of this year's campaign it is clear that there is a demand and these eggs will be available again for Easter 2012.

St Thomas' Keresley and Coundon

Two themes this month. Firstly from April 1906 comes an exhortation to communicate at Easter, and secondly from June 1937 a brief note on the celebrations around the coronation of George VI. Sadly we have no magazines from 1981, 1953, or 1923 to see how they celebrated around previous royal weddings!

W^E would earnestly urge all upon "who are religiously and devoutly disposed" to join in Holy Communion this Easter, wherever they may worship on that great Christian Festival. We would fulfil our Lord's dying request—"D this in remembrance of Me," shewing our loyalty to our Master and Head, and the sincerity of our attachment to His principles and His teaching. The Church of England expects all her sons and daughters to kneel at the Lord's Table every Easter; it is noting less than the positive duty of all to Communicate. Easter is a test of our real spiritual state, if we cannot and will not join in Holy Communion with Christ and our fellow Christians, there must be a cause. Is that cause one that could be uttered in the Divine Presence? May the Spirit of Christ draw to Holy Communion all those "who love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity."

THE CORONATION OF THEIR MAJESTIES KING GEORGE AND QUEEN ELIZABETH.

Despite the inclement weather a good congregation representative of the various activities of Keresley and Coundon was present for the Service of Sunday Morning, May 9th, at the Parish Church. A similar Service was held in the Mission Church in the evening.

On the Coronation Day after the Broadcast Service was over, the School Children had tea and sports. The prizes were presented by Mrs West. The adult Sports followed, and the firework display which should have taken place at night was held on Whit Monday evening.

Thus our local celebrations demonstrated our loyalty to the King and Queen and our happiness in their Coronation. We wish them "Long to reign over us" and may God spare them and us to serve our day and generation faithfully and well.



**Christian Aid
Week
15th to 21st
May**

Would you be prepared to collect house to house for Christian Aid this May?

The ripple effect of collecting at Christian Aid Week is immense; by taking part you are working to help some of the poorest people in the world. You'll be given Christian Aid Week red envelopes to deliver, and then go back a day or two later to collect them. It's hard work but hugely satisfying when you know that every penny you collect will help the work of Christian Aid. Through this you will keep hope alive for many people living in poverty by raising valuable funds to support projects overseas.

Speak to Heather Hudson before 15th May and she can allocate you a street from those allocated to St Thomas' Church. You will be given all the materials you will need and you simply return them to Heather at the end of the week.. You don't have to open them and count the money.

A Prayer

*God, who is more than we can ever imagine,
give us a bigger picture of the world;
give us a broader view of justice;
give us dreams of love*

*that are not defined by boundaries of geography or
race or religion,
or by the limitations of worldly structures and
systems.*

*Enlarge our imaginations and inspire our courage
this Christian Aid Week*

to put ourselves in that bigger picture.

Keep us struggling,

keep us faithful,

keep us strong,

*so that we never give up on the promise of your
kingdom,*

where the world is transformed,

and all can enjoy life in all its fullness.

KERESLEY VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH SERVICES

April

Sunday 3rd

10.30am Family Service

Sunday 10th

10.30am

Sunday 17th

10.30am

Holy Week

Monday 18th

7.30pm at St Thomas Church

Tuesday 19th

1.30pm at St Thomas church

Wednesday 20th

7.30pm at St Thomas church

Thursday 21st

7.30pm Maunday Thursday service at KVCC

Friday 22nd

10-12 Good Friday morning activity

3pm Last hour service at St Thomas church

Sunday 24th

10.30am Joint Easter Service at St Thomas Church. No service at KVCC

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.

What's the Big Idea? -

An Introduction to the Books of the New Testament: Philemon

Philemon

The letter to Philemon is the shortest and most personal of Paul's letters. It was written at the same time as Colossians around AD 60. Both letters were written during Paul's imprisonment, probably in Rome, and were delivered at the same time by Tychicus and Onesimus.

Philemon was a wealthy believer in Colosse who hosted a church in his house and converted under Paul (Philemon 19). One of his slaves, Onesimus, after damaging or stealing his master's property (Philemon 11,18), had made his way to Rome. Here he was converted under Paul's ministry himself (Philemon 10). On returning to his master, Paul wrote a personal appeal to Philemon, asking him to receive Onesimus, not as a slave, but as a 'beloved brother' (Philemon 16).

Philemon consists of one chapter of 25 verses. A greeting, addressed to Philemon and the church which meets in his house (verses 1-3), is followed by four verses in praise of Philemon's love and faith (verses 4-7). Paul comes to his point in verses 8-16, where he tells of his affection for Onesimus and entreats Philemon to receive him back as a 'beloved brother' (v. 16). Paul offers to pay any expenses Philemon has incurred and asks him to prepare the guest room for a forthcoming visit (verses 17-22). Final greetings conclude the letter (verses 23-25).

This letter is a wonderful example of 'speaking the truth in love' (Eph. 4:15) in Christian relationships. Although it was Philemon's legal right to punish or even kill a runaway slave, Paul expected that Philemon would receive Onesimus back as a brother not as a slave (v. 16). He addresses Philemon as a trusted friend rather than as an adversary (v. 22); he appeals to the best in his character (verses 4-7, 13-14,17,21).

However, Paul is careful not to force Philemon to do what is right; he helps him choose it for himself (verses 8-9,14).

Although Paul never called for an end to slavery, this letter challenges the ways in which we can treat individuals as property instead of people. In Christ, Onesimus (lit: useful) has become a brother and useful to Philemon: 'I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me' (10,11).

Rev Paul Hardingham, Rector of Bolton



YouTube Psalm reading: Bishop and pupils join King James Bible Trust record attempt

Next time you go on YouTube, you can see the Bishop of Oxford and pupils from a Church of England primary school recording the first all-age Bible reading for a worldwide project. It aims to capture the whole of the King James Bible on YouTube. See them at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=btHPRm4znwA>

The reading marked a double celebration as the National Society was founded 200 years ago to provide education for all through Church schools and the King James Bible was first published 400 years ago.



