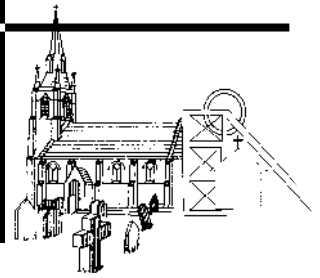


OUR COMMUNITY

www.st-thomas-keresley.org.uk



PREPARING FOR LENT

FEBRUARY
2011

50P

Although this is the February issue, and Lent doesn't begin until March, it is worth taking the time now to think about what we are going to do this Lent before it suddenly seems to come upon us.



Shrove Tuesday is 8th March and on Sunday 6th March Messy Church will be looking forward to Lent. This will be at the new regular time of 2-4pm at Keresley Village Community Church and is for everyone young at heart. There will be pancakes!



On Ash Wednesday, 9th March there will be a service at St Thomas' church introducing our theme for Lent.

If you would like to be part of a Lent group please contact Claire or Margaret so we can begin to organize dates and venues in good time.

If you are not able to make a regular group time but would like to follow the same material come along on Ash Wednesday where individual study and internet based ideas will be introduced.

*We may not
know what
the future
holds,
but we do
know who
holds the
future*

Martin Luther

New Beginnings

This Spring thousands of people face possible redundancy, as the Government cuts kick in. The huge uncertainty looms large. The loss of income, place, and belonging leaves them shaken. An entrepreneur who lost his business and home said that the most difficult aspect was not knowing where 'rock bottom' would be - how much more was there still to lose? Transitioning is never easy, particularly when it is not due to our own choice, but something that is decided for us. We would love all that is good to last...

And yet, we know that to everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven. It includes a time to pluck up what is planted and a time to lose (Ecclesiastes 3).

The author of this book does not only sketch a seasonal perspective, but also paints the bigger picture that overarches every season. "God has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men. Yet, they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end."

And that's it. We don't always understand. We cannot always see the end. At times we can't even see the new beginning. But like winter is followed by spring, a new season will come. The rhythm of life will continue. In the bleaker winter of life, we remember that the seeds are already lying dormant, waiting to sprout in spring.

In the moment of crisis, directions may become unclear and may even be contradictory. It is quite an art to live wisely and recognise new beginnings. For what is new won't usually be announced by the appearance of angels and bright stars in the sky. Life is more subtle than that.

"There are journeys we have begun that have brought us greater riches and refinement; but we had to travel through dark valleys of difficulty and suffering," writes John O'Donohue in Benedictus. "Beginnings are new horizons that want to be seen; they are not regressions or repetitions."

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ST. THOMAS' CHURCH CALENDAR

February

Sunday 6th

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

Sunday 13th

9am Holy Communion
10.30am Family Communion with Thanksgiving

Sunday 20th

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

Sunday 27th

9am Holy Communion.
10.30am Family Communion and Baptism
Half Term this week so there will be a break for children's activities

March

Sunday 6th

9am Holy Communion. Rev Alison Evans
10.30am Family Service and Thanksgiving. Ministry Team
2-4pm **Messy Church.** Preparing for Lent. At Keresley Village Community Church, Rathbone Close

Wednesday 8th

Ash Wednesday event at St Thomas. Details to be confirmed.

Looking ahead . . .

Spring Harvesters

If you are going to Spring Harvest this Easter holiday there will be soup lunch after the 10.30am service on **Sunday 13th March.**

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held after the 10.30am service on **Sunday 27th March.** It will be followed by a Bring and Share lunch.

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.

Making the most of marriage

Marriage Week UK this year runs from 7th to 14th February, with the aim of celebrating marriage as the basis for family life in the UK.

For Marriage Week 2011 the challenge to couples is to Eat, Talk and Play together!



In our busy lives today, all too often we don't make time for the most basic of social functions – eating together! So this Marriage

Week, why not make the time to sit down together and share a meal for two?? If you can make the time, why not share the preparation – and the clearing up! If you haven't got time to cook, how about a take-away, or a romantic meal at a local restaurant. Take time to savour the sights, smells and flavours of a great meal together.



What does your daily communication as a couple consist of? Organising the family and home, questions about the

kids, what needs to go on the shopping list? Or perhaps some of the big decisions of life – whether to move house, what new car to buy, your health or ailments? When was the last time you sat down and just talked about “you” – the challenges of life, what's motivating you, what's dragging you down, how it feels to be you – or perhaps your hopes and dreams for your future together? Make some time this week to sit down together just to “talk”!



When we first fall in love life always seems to be full of fun – but as the years go by, sometimes we forget to play together!

This week, why not make some time to do something together you both enjoy. It could be as simple as going for a walk, watching a movie together, or spending an evening in your local pub. Or of course you could do something adventurous – go para-gliding or bungee jumping! Or perhaps, you could just curl up together in front of a fire, and read stories to each other. Whatever it is, try and find something you can both take part in, and which will remind you of the fun times in your relationship!



Today's hymns are based on last week's trend in petrol prices...

The Pancake Principle

Will you be chomping into a pile of pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, 8th March? The idea behind Pancake day is to use up the perishables in your larder before fasting for Lent so that nothing goes to waste or sits at the back of your larder going blue. Applying this "Pancake Principle" to other things can help us look after God's wonderful, but limited, creation. Use things up! Don't buy new things until you need to! The TV advert for mobile phones that encourages us to buy a new one simply as a fashion statement encourages the irresponsible consumer behaviour of buying things that we just don't need.

How about applying the pancake principle to our lifestyles this Lent?

(Continued from page 1)

This year, 2011, will include thresholds of change we had not anticipated, opportune times within life's chronology. It requires minds that are open to new frontiers and courage to shape new landscapes. It needs the perceptive to recognise the new things that God is doing. And it presumes time to watch, listen and learn (Isaiah 43:19, 50:4).

"In times of change, learners inherit the earth, while the learned find themselves beautifully equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists." (Eric Hoffer)

May we be sensitive in the year ahead to the earth's new shoots and heaven's whispers. As Martin Luther King said, we may not know what the future holds, but we do know who holds the future. May our God who has made everything beautiful in its time and who set eternity in our hearts, give us courage and an inquisitive mind for the new year. Shalom.

By Marijke Hoek - Coordinator Forum for Change



Her Majesty The Queen inaugurated the Ninth General Synod of the Church of England in Church House, Westminster on Tuesday 23 November.

This Synod reflected some significant changes amongst its membership: 35% of the elected members of the General Synod were starting their first ever five-year term; the proportion of elected clergy who are female has increased from 21% to 28%; and women now make up 46% of the elected laity membership (up from 40%). Both newly elected and returning Synod members had attended an induction seminar in Church House on the Monday.

In her address, Her Majesty described the opening of a new Synod as a moment both for giving thanks for the witness of those who had gone before, and for praying for wisdom in seeking to balance change and continuity in the decisions lying ahead.

The Queen emphasised the importance of two forthcoming anniversaries: four hundred years since the publication of the Authorised Version of the Bible commissioned by King James, and two hundred years since the foundation of the National Society for Promoting Religious Education, both of which had had a lasting impact on the life of the Church and the nation.

In his first Presidential Address to the new Synod, the Archbishop of Canterbury reflected on issues coming to the Synod, including the Anglican Communion Covenant and the Big Society, and for the need for a process of listening, engagement and theological debate.

The Big Society The Big Society is a major theme of the new Government and is of considerable relevance to the role of religious bodies, including the Church of England. In June of last year, the Bishop of Leicester sponsored a debate in the House of Lords on the concept of the Big Society. The Mission and Public Affairs Division has been in discussion with Government ministers to consider ways the Church might work in partnership with the Government to promote greater social cohesion.

The debate in Synod was intended to enable the Church to understand the issues concerned more deeply and prepare dioceses and parishes to feel better equipped to respond at local level.

Anglican Communion Covenant The idea of an Anglican Communion Covenant was first proposed in the Windsor report of 2004, following developments in relation to same-sex partnerships in North America. It was envisaged that the Anglican Covenant would “make explicit and forceful the loyalty and bonds of affection” which govern the relationships between the Churches of the Anglican Communion. A text of the Covenant was sent last December to all the Churches of the Anglican Communion for their approval.

The House of Bishops agreed in May to commend the Covenant to the Synod for adoption. Synod formally considered the Covenant before referring it to dioceses for consideration by the diocesan synods. The draft Act of Synod will return to the Synod in due course for Final Approval, possibly in 2012.

Other Legislative Business The Church of England Marriage (Amendment) Measure was introduced at the November group of sessions to give effect to the resolution passed by the Synod in July, calling for the introduction of legislation to enable a diocesan bishop to give directions allowing those who have a ‘qualifying connection’ with a particular parish to marry in any church within the benefice of which that parish forms a part.

Two other pieces of legislation came to the Synod for approval as the remaining steps in the process of preparing for the introduction of ‘Common Tenure’ early in 2011.

More details at: www.cofe.anglican.org/about/gensynod/agendas/nov2010/index.html.

The King James Version: 400 years on

Which of these means more to you:

‘Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires; God will satisfy them fully!’ -

or

‘Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled?’

Both are translations of Matthew 5:6, but the first is from the Good News Bible from the 1960s, while the second is the King James Version, or Authorised Version, of 1611 (KJV for short). For many people, the older version goes deeper, is more stirring and tells us more about God.



In 2011 we mark its 400th anniversary. There are a range of celebratory events—from talks by celebrities to readings in tiny churches. As we’ll be hearing often, the KJV has shaped the hearts and minds of English-speaking people throughout the world in these four centuries. It first coined many words and expressions that have become part of

the language—so much so that most people wouldn’t necessarily think of them as biblical, and usually think that they’re from Shakespeare (especially as he was writing at about the same time). So we have:

St Thomas' Keresley and Coundon

For once we are only going back 13 years, to 1997 when the church celebrated its 150th Anniversary. We were just about to enter a long period of interregnum when Rev Keith Mobberley moved on and, although light-hearted, the call to be a place of relevance for future generations holds value today.

St Thomas' 200th Anniversary?

With the celebrations of the 150th anniversary coming to a close, here is a light hearted preview of the vicar's opening remarks in 50 years time:

"Good morning and welcome to this celebration of the founding of our church some two hundred years ago. We are especially honoured to have the Bishop of Coventry, Bishop Kylie, with us. She will be blessing a gift from our sister church in the People's Republic of Scotland later in the service.

"I would like to extend a special greeting to all those joining us via the internet, the members of St Thomas' Cyberchurch. I know that one of those people is Reverend Keith Mobberley, now in his 91st year, who was one of the last permanent vicars at this church. He joins us from the Bob Dylan Retirement Home in Los Angeles.

"For any of you who have never been to this wonderful old building, let me describe its setting. We are situated on the north side of Coventry near the Jaguar Industrial Museum and the Coundon Wedge Technology Park, some few miles from the open countryside. We are blessed by being right next to the Coundon Hall Car Park, with spaces for some two thousand cars and with a direct tram link to the city centre.

"We begin our service with that popular old hymn from the last century, 'Shine Jesus shine'."

Whether this glimpse of the future appeals or appals, the fate of our church lies in our hands. St Thomas' was built as an enduring place of worship. We must ensure that it is a place where the Good News of Jesus is made relevant and alive for this and future generations. PH

'lovingkindness' (Psalm 17 and elsewhere), 'the signs of the times' (Matthew 16), 'the powers that be' (Romans 13), and many more.

But the old-fashioned words aren't just part of our heritage, like an ancient monument; their poetry can speak directly to our needs today. They can give a stronger and more immediate sense of God's tender love and glorious majesty, from

'I water my couch with my tears' (Psalm 6:6) to 'Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels ...' (1 Corinthians 13:1).

It's easy to be put off by the dark type and odd words: 'thee' and 'thou', '-eth' endings, 'abide' and 'sojourn'. Some parts, especially the Epistles, can be dense and tortuous. We can't turn the clock back: the KJV can never be the only version for us now. But if we use both old and new translations together, we gain so much more.

In its heightened language, the KJV gives us a richer appreciation of wonder. So, just as we wouldn't want to knock down old churches, we shouldn't leave the KJV unread. It's not just a cultural landmark, but it's something that can shape our life right now.

Rachel Boulding is a Deputy Editor of the Church Times, and the author of *Celebrating the King James Version: Devotional readings from the classic translation* (BRF, £9.99 hardback). To see a digitised version of the KJV of 1611 visit www.kingjamesbibletrust.org.

**Lord Mayor's
Spring Concert**
Saturday 5th March 2011
7.30 - 10pm
Coventry Central Hall
In aid of Coventry Myton Hospice

Featuring the City of Coventry Male Voice Choir
and Silver Lining Ladies Barbershop Chorus

Tickets £8
£10 on the door
includes tea or coffee during interval

For further information please telephone
01926 838815
or visit www.mytonhospice.org





 myton hospice

KERESLEY VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH SERVICES

February

Sunday 6th

10.30am Family Service, Mr Nik Stevenson

Sunday 13th

10.30am Holy Communion Rev Elizabeth Kerr or Rev Robin Trew from Allelsey

Sunday 20th

10.30am Morning Service Mr R D Gillett

Sunday 27th

10.30am Holy Communion Rev Andrew de Ville

March

Sunday 6th

10.30am Family Service Methodist

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 Old and New Testaments: 1 & 2 Chronicles, and Philipians

There is always more than one way to tell a story! The story of Israel's kings is told in the books of Samuel and Kings. Chronicles offers a re-telling of the story from a different perspective. It's generally agreed that the book was written at a time of exile (possibly by Ezra). Chronicles was first divided into two books by the Septuagint translators. At the end it records Cyrus' proclamation permitting the Jews to return home, and this forms the opening to the Book of Ezra. God's people were at a low point in their history and in danger of losing their identity. Therefore, Chronicles sets out to restore Israel's confidence as God's people.

The contents of the two books fall into four main sections. 1 Chronicles 1-9 contain a list of genealogies beginning with Adam. The book goes on to describe David's reign. 2 Chronicles 1-9 describes the reign of Solomon, leaving the rest of the book to describe Judah's history until the Babylonian Exile.

'Is God still interested in us'? This is the key question addressed by Chronicles, at a time when people were asking whether God's promises to David still had any meaning for them. The genealogies answer this question: 'He has always been!' This list of names draws our attention to God's grace and love for the individual.

This question is answered through the emphasis on the Temple ie the place of worship (Jerusalem Temple), the ministers of worship (priests and Levites), its services and King David, who maintained faithfulness and integrity in worship. At a time when they were seeking to restore the Temple, it gives continuity to Israel's past for a generation that had no country or king. Therefore, the accounts of David and Solomon are largely devoted to the preparation for and building of the temple.

While the faithful Davidic kings foreshadow the coming Messiah himself, they also promote the centrality of the law and prophets. Jehoshaphat's word to Israel expresses the Chronicler's view succinctly: 'Have faith in the Lord your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful' (2 Ch 20:20).

'Christians have characteristically read and prayed themselves into Chronicles in order to stay alert to the irreducibly personal in all matters of faith and practice, and to maintain a critical awareness that the worship of God is the indispensable foundation for living whole an redeemed lives.' (E Peterson).



Philipians

For a short letter of only four chapters and 104 verses, Paul's Letter to the Philipians is amazingly profound. At one level it is a poignant epistle from a jailed apostle to a beloved supporting church. At another level it contains one of the greatest passages about Jesus in the whole New Testament.

The letter was written to Christians in the Macedonian city of Philippi. It had the status of a Roman Colony, which means it was governed by

(Continued on page 7)

PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISM

12th December:
Harry Peter Jacob Viner
Alexander Blue Alfie Viner

THANKSGIVING

16th January
Drew Lilly Beasley

BURIALS

29th December
Victor John Ensor aged 89 of Bennetts Road South

(Continued from page 6)

Roman law and its people were Roman citizens. The church in Philippi was planted by Paul, on his second missionary journey, with three very different people: Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth; a slave girl delivered from an evil spirit; and a jailer with his whole household.

Philippians was written when Paul was in prison, probably in Rome (60-62 AD). His primary purpose in writing was to thank them for the gift they had sent him upon learning of his imprisonment. However, he also uses the letter as an opportunity to report on his situation; to encourage the Philippians to stand firm in the face of persecution and rejoice regardless of circumstances; to exhort the church to live in humility, fellowship, and unity; to commend Epaphroditus and Timothy to them; and to warn them about false teaching. This included Judaizers who were persuading the Philippians to submit to circumcision.

The central message of Philippians focuses on Christian joy (the word occurs some 16 times!). For Paul, joy isn't simply an emotion response to favorable circumstances. True joy is to be found through a relationship with the resurrected and glorified Christ. Death ceases to be an enemy, because through it we can more fully enjoy the presence of Jesus. This joy is also rooted in an expectation of the return of Jesus, which gives urgency to the task of sharing the gospel. So, Paul begins his letter by thanking the Philippians for their partnership together in the work of the gospel through the offerings they have sent. Therefore, Christian joy forms a vital part of the body of Christ.

Paul also powerfully appeals to the Philippians to be of 'one mind' in pursuing humility and unity. He gives the example of Jesus himself 'who made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant' (2:7) to the point of dying the death of a common criminal. 'Therefore', say Paul, 'God exalted him to the highest place' (2:9). This is the Christ whose attitude all believers must share.

4th January
Brenda Jones aged 74 of Thompsons Road
21st January
Kathleen Lilian Atkins aged 91 of Victoria Park,
Brays Lane

ASHES INTERRED

10th December
Gladys Mary Walton aged 95 of Westminster Road
Earlsdon

20th December
Edna Sharples aged 89 of Lowe Road

14th January:
Neville Mackey Piercy aged 84 of Flude Road

21st January
Elwyn Rogers aged 64 of Parkfield Road

It is not enough to love – you need to be loved

Sometimes we can be inclined to give and give and give to others – without asking anything in return. We may think that this is a sign of generosity – of great strength. But it can also be one of pride – we want to be seen as the one who does not need help. Or it can be a sign of very low self-esteem – we do not think we are worth receiving anything from others.

Whatever the reason, when we keep giving, without also receiving, we put ourselves in danger – we will burn out quickly. It is as important to know when we need to TAKE attention and care, as when we need to give it to others. If you do not pay careful attention to your own needs – whether physical, emotional, mental or spiritual – you will not last the distance. If you want to remain a joyful giver for years to come, you need also to be a joyful taker – and accept God's love - given to you through other people.



- • • • •
- **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. •
- • • • •