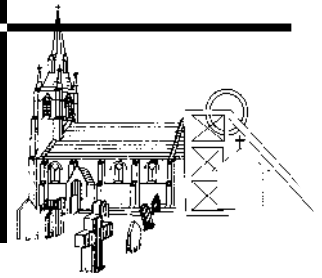


OUR COMMUNITY

www.st-thomas-keresley.org.uk



PENTECOST!

On that long ago first morning of Pentecost, Jerusalem was crowded with thousands of visitors, for it was one of the most popular feast-days in the Jewish calendar – the Feast of Firstfruits, looking forward to the wheat harvest.

In one small room of that great city, a small group of people who had followed Jesus were praying. There was nothing else for them to do: Jesus had died, he had risen, and he had ascended, promising to send them 'a Comforter'. They were left alone, to wait at Jerusalem. And so they waited – on him, and for him. They were not disappointed: for that morning the Holy Spirit fell upon that small room, and transformed those believers into the Church, Christ's body here on earth. Pentecost was not the first time that the Holy Spirit came to the world – throughout the Old Testament there are stories telling of how God had guided people and given them strength. But now his Spirit would use a new instrument: not just isolated prophets, but the Church, his body on earth.

Acts opens with the preaching of the gospel in Jerusalem, the centre of the Jewish nation. Within 30 years the gospel had spread throughout the northern Mediterranean: Syria, Turkey, Greece, Malta... to the very heart of the Roman Empire: Rome. The

Church was on the move – God was on the move! He was calling people from every nation to repent, turn to Jesus for forgiveness of their sins, and to follow him.

This year we celebrate Pentecost on Sunday 12th June with a Family Service at 10.30am at St Thomas'.



Community Church, Rathbone Close

Come and join the fun! All welcome!
Messy Church on Sunday June 26th from 2pm to 4pm at Keresley Village

JUNE 2011

50P

The fruit of the Spirit is not excitement or orthodoxy: it is character.
- G B Duncan

Inside this issue:

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ST. THOMAS' CHURCH CALENDAR

June

Sunday 5th

- 9am Holy Communion and hymns. Rev Elizabeth Kerr
 10.30am Family Communion. Rev Elizabeth Kerr.
 Sunday school restarts after the half term holiday

Thursday 9th

- 7.30pm Section 12 meeting. At Keresley Village Community church. This is for members of the PCC and JCC regarding the future ministry leadership in the parish.

Sunday 12th

- 9am Holy Communion. Rev Buff Forbes' Stone
 10.30am Family Service for Pentecost, led by the Ministry Team

Monday 13th

- 7.30pm Spring Harvest teaching. In Church

Sunday 19th

- 9am Holy Communion. Rev Elizabeth Kerr
 10.30am Family Worship. Led by the Ministry Team

Monday 20th

- 7.30pm Spring Harvest teaching. In Church

Sunday 26th

- 9am Holy Communion. Rev Alison Evans

- 10.30am Family Communion. Ven Morris Rodham
 2pm Messy Church. At Keresley Village Community Church. Finishes around 4pm

July

Sunday 3rd

- 9am Holy Communion and hymns. Rev Buff Forbes' Stone
 10.30am Family Service
 After the service there will be a Parish Barbecue in the vicarage gardens. All welcome. Bring something to cook and something to sit on.

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.



Spring Harvest Bible teaching

There will be two more sessions on David Steell's inspiring teaching on the book of Malachi from this year's Spring Harvest.

7.30pm on Monday June 13th and Monday June 20th

In St Thomas' Church

Everyone welcome



Spring Harvest 2012

“At Spring Harvest 2012 we'll be looking at the Church. We'll explore what it is in theology, in history and in reality. We're focusing on 'Church Actually' because we love the Church and because we believe it's God's hope for the world.

We'll answer some of the big questions that get asked about the Church by exploring four of the pictures used in the New Testament to describe it – the People of God, the Community of the Spirit, the Body of Christ and the Bride of Christ. We'll look at the mission of the Church in our culture and our calling as God's people.”



We are planning to make a party booking in week 3, Tuesday 10th to Sunday 15th April, at Minehead or Skegness. Booking opens on 15th June

and brochures are available in church with more details. See Steve or Jo Medley or sign up on the sheet in the Galilee Room by **Sunday 12th June** if you would like to go.

Two Sisters and a Funeral

CMM choir are performing this piece, based on the story of Lazarus, on Sunday 12th June, 6pm at Woodside Methodist church just off the A45. Entry is free and there will be a short service afterwards. If you would like to go and need a lift see Margaret Potter.

WANTED - Cleaning Teams Co-ordinator

A volunteer is needed to co-ordinate the teams of cleaners for the church and ensure the church is clean and welcoming.



Please see Margaret Potter or Margaret Bosworth for more details about what this will involve.

Christian Aid Collection

Many thanks to all those who collected for Christian Aid this year. I am pleased to say that we collected £469.77, up from last year's total of £454.07.

Heather Hudson



Coming soon . . .

St Thomas' Parish Holiday Club

1st to 5th August

10am to 12 noon

St Thomas' Church Hall

More details next month



Parish Barbecue

Sunday 3rd July

In the Vicarage garden after the 10.30am services.

Bring something to cook, something to sit on and something to eat with!

2011 - UN Year of Tree Biodiversity and Forests

Each year the United Nations chooses a theme for the year. In 2010 they highlighted the horrendous number of bird, animal, plant and insect species on the brink of extinction. For 2011 they have selected the world's forests because of their value to people, to biodiversity, to climate and therefore the future of life on Earth.

The UN website lists several reasons why we should care about forests:

- Forests cover 31% of total land area.
- Primary forests account for 36% of forest area.
- Forests are home to 80% of our terrestrial biodiversity.
- Forests are home to 300 million people around the world.
- The livelihoods of 1.6 billion people depend on forests.
- 30% of forests are used for production of wood and non-wood products.
- Trade in forest products was estimated at \$327 billion dollars in 2004.

As soon as people fashioned the first stone axe they began cutting down trees. The biblical Cedars of Lebanon were not alone in being felled and transported for a prestigious building. Even with primitive tools we managed to denude the forests of

the countries bordering the Mediterranean . In recent decades the power saw has achieved in seconds what once took hours, and the devastation of our forests has increased dramatically.



As the list from the United Nations shows, trees are immensely useful. Over 60% of forests are secondary growth or plantations. Much of those plantations are single species for a specific use such as palm oil - and not great for biodiversity! When huge areas are cleared, such as continues in the Amazon rainforests today, not only the trees are lost, but also the wildlife, the indigenous people who lived off the forest sustainably, and regional weather patterns are disturbed. If current practices continue even the Amazon rainforest will dry up before the end of this century.

We can help by:

- only buying wood products with the FSC mark (Forest Stewardship Council) which certifies sustainable forestry products
- buying paper products made from recycled paper
- planting trees ourselves
- protecting our 'public' or 'amenity' trees.

Record demand for 'Jesus Egg' shows people were not afraid to talk about faith at Easter

In the weeks leading up to Easter, supermarkets and independent retailers across the UK were inundated with calls from customers searching for the first release of The Real Easter Egg. It is the first and only Fairtrade egg to mention Jesus and the events of Holy Week on the box.



David Marshall, speaking for Manchester based Meaningful Chocolate Company, which developed the egg, said; "Response was overwhelming and we went to four production runs to meet demand."

For more detail , visit: www.realeasteregg.co.uk

Morrison's, Waitrose, Co-op and Booths stocked a limited 'trial listing' of the Real Easter Egg and Traidcraft's network of 6,500 retailers, a number of independent shops and a selection of cathedrals also stocked The Real Easter Egg. Schools ordered a further 30,000 eggs.

Dame Judi Dench, Sir Ben Kingsley and a host of Coronation Street stars have backed the egg and Ecclesiastical funded a national competition for schools and churches. With their help, with the support of Archbishops, bishops and hundreds of schools and churches, The Real Easter Egg became the biggest mail order egg in the UK before going into stores.

Wordsearch solution from page 8



St Thomas' Keresley and Coundon

As early as 1914 there were plans to have some sort of Mission Church based in Keresley Village. This is from the June 1914 issue. Sadly I fear the war was probably responsible for de-railing this; it was another 11 years before the plans came to fruition and the sinkers hut was given and dedicated in 1925. During the 80s the church was renamed The Church of the Ascension, as its anniversary fell around this time of year—Ascension time.

If there is any other information about the history of the church which could be published please contact the Editor. Unfortunately we do not have magazines from 1925 to follow this story.

KERESLEY MISSION CHURCH.

Mission Church.

We give a sketch of the proposed Mission Church, which has been selected by the Sub-Committee.

It will be in every way a most useful, as well as a picturesque, building.

There will be a moveable screen across the Chancel, and the main hall can be used for clubs, classes, Sunday school, etc.

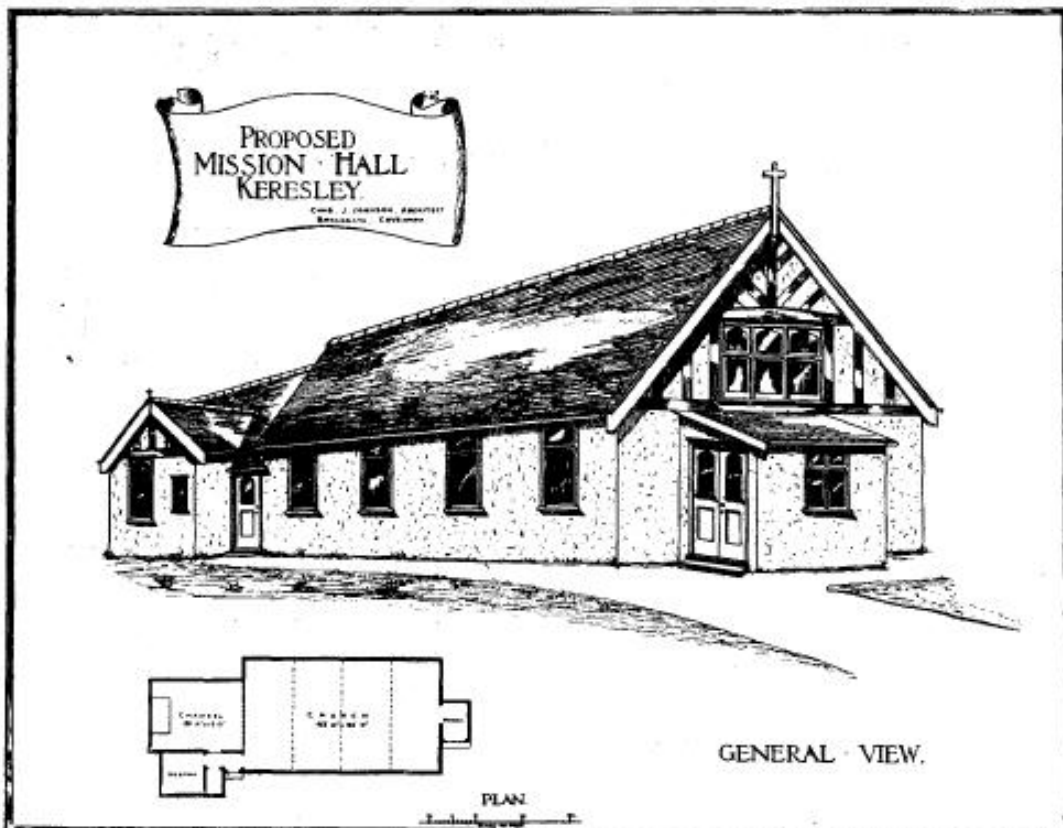
The materials used will all be of the best obtainable for this type of building—the walls outside roughcast, and the roof, red asbestos tiles.

This will make a sound, permanent building.

The tender for the work has not yet been accepted. Meanwhile, the committee will be very glad to receive any suggestions.

Mission Church Fund.

	£	s.	d.
By Bazaar Balance	194	17	5
Mrs. G. F. Twist	100	0	0
Church Extension Society:—			
Grant for Site	50	0	0
Stipend for Lay Reader	35	0	0
	85	0	0
Mr. Hugh Rotherham	15	15	0
Lady Craven	10	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. Adcock	10	10	0
Mr. Manville	10	10	0
Mr. Hubert Waters	10	10	0
Anonymous	5	5	0
Mrs. Miller, Croquet Tournament	4	10	0
Churchwardens	3	11	5
Mr. R. Green	2	0	2
Mrs. Sleath	15	4	
	£453	4	4



KERESLEY VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH SERVICES

June

Sunday 5th

10.30am Family Service, Mary Coles

Sunday 12th

10.30am Methodist Holy Communion Rev Andrew de Ville

Sunday 19th

10.30am Morning Worship. John Horsler

Sunday 26th

10.30am Anglican Holy Communion

2-4pm Messy Church

July

Sunday 3rd

10.30am Family Service. All invited to the Parish
Barbecue in the vicarage garden after the
service.

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 Testament: **Job and 2 Thessalonians**

'Why does God allow suffering?' This is the most frequently question asked of the Christian faith, because we believe in a God who is both good and powerful. It is the book of Job which explores this issue.

Job is part of the wisdom literature, along with Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon. We are given no clue as to identity of the author or when the book was written. The picture of life described in Job fits well with the patriarchal period (around 1600 BC). However, being part of the wisdom tradition, means the book would probably have been written between the time of Solomon and the Exile.

Job was both wealthy and righteous, yet he experienced catastrophic suffering, losing all his wealth, children and health. This is portrayed as a resulting from Satan's challenge to God, to test whether Job's devotion to God was dependent on his circumstances or not.

The main body of the book (3:1-42:6) consists of dialogues between Job, his friends (Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar) and God. Job and his friends are working with the assumptions that God is almighty and perfectly just, and no human being is wholly innocent. In the three cycles of speeches they wrestle with the reasons for Job's suffering, remembering his morally upright character. Finally all are silenced by God, as he speaks himself (chs 38-42). He points out that Job knows very little about the universe when he reflects on God's power. Job confesses his lack of understanding and weakness, but goes on to confess his confidence and trust in God. The issues of his suffering melt away in the power of God's presence. Job is not condemned and the book ends with the restoration of his family and possessions.

The importance of this book is that it realistically addresses the painful questions of life. Like Job we

can be surrounded by unhelpful friends who want to explain the pain and end up offering simplistic answer to life's most painful questions. The book of Job is not so much about why God allows suffering, as it is about how we should respond to suffering. Job's trust in God is evident throughout the book: 'Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised.' (1:21)

2 Thessalonians

In his second letter to the Thessalonians, Paul continues to address the importance of the second coming of Jesus to the Christian faith. Because of its similarity to 1 Thessalonians, it is generally believed to have been written not long after the first letter (approx. 6 months). Paul wrote from Corinth, after Silas and Timothy had returned from delivering 1 Thessalonians, in AD 51/52.

Paul's purpose in writing was largely the same as in the first letter, as the situation in the church remained largely unchanged. He writes to encourage new believers facing persecution (1:4-10), to correct a misunderstanding concerning the Lord's return (2:1-12) and to deal with the problems caused by some of the church refusing to earn their own living (2:13-3:15).

The theme of the second coming of Jesus dominates 2 Thessalonians as with the first letter. Paul teaches that Jesus' coming will be preceded by an 'apostasy' (or 'rebellion'), in which the 'man of lawlessness' (or 'antichrist') will be revealed (2 Thess. 2:3). When Jesus comes, he will defeat this rebellious world ruler (2:8) and bring justice to oppressed Christians and judge their persecutors and unbelievers (1:5-10; 2:9-15).

(Continued on page 7)

PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISM

22nd May
Christopher Alan Evans-Jones

WEDDING

21st May
Emma Louise Norris and
Dominic Richard Mark Moules

Rebecca James and
Matthew Thomas Wheatley

29th May
Lisa Marie Heames and
Neil Christopher Lissaman

4th June
Emma Rachael Haley and
Michael David Malone

BURIALS

19th May
Frances Enid Goalby (82), Fivefield Road

31st May
Beatrice Joseph (91), Birchfield Road
Edward Lumsden Grant (88), Allesley Hall Nursing Home

ASHES INTERRED

21st May
Earnest George Downs (86), Thistley Fields East

(Continued from page 6) 1 Thessalonians

Paul was challenging the false belief that 'the day of the Lord has come', which left them feeling shaken and frightened (2:1-2). How could they have thought this? Remembering that the Christians were undergoing intense persecution, perhaps they believed that the tribulation of the day of the Lord had already begun. Consequently they thought that the second coming was imminent. Furthermore, the community had a problem with those believers who refused to work. They may have decided to stop working and await and preach the second coming. However, it may have simply been a case of lazy Christians exploiting wealthier Christians' generosity in order to avoid work.

Paul's prayer for the Thessalonians is one that we can truly share in our own circumstances, as we too live in an uncertain world:

'With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfil every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.'

(2 Thessalonians 1:11&12)

Bible Sketchbook

Promises of Blessing!

About 450 years before Jesus there was a terrible invasion of locusts. Devastation, drought, famine and economic ruin followed. Everyone, including the priests was starving. God



used the prophet Joel to call people to fast, pray, repent of sin, turn to Him and experience His forgiveness. Amazingly, things changed; God was



merciful and He promised that one day He would pour out His Spirit on everyone. He promised that these principles would be key to experiencing the blessings of Pentecost. It's for you too! Read more in Joel 1 and 2 and Acts 2.



... and all who call on Him will be saved!

- **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.