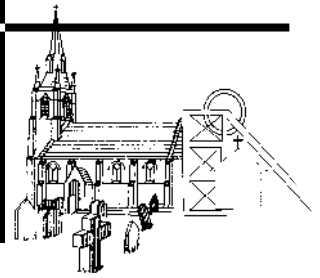


OUR COMMUNITY

www.st-thomas-keresley.org.uk



Pioneer Minister for Keresley Village

At the beginning of September Steve Medley was appointed to the position of Pioneer Minister for Keresley Village. Here he describes the transition from his previous role as Children and Families worker and how his new role will develop.



“What being a Pioneer Minister actually means day to day is something the Diocese, PCC, JCC and I are working out together. But to give you some indication and loosely using the main activities of my job description, it looks roughly like this.

- ⊕ Reaching and serving the people of Keresley Village.
- ⊕ Working towards growing a self-sustaining church by recruiting, leading and discipling people from all backgrounds who are committed to the vision and values of the church.
- ⊕ Creating a way of life in the church that looks to be open to all, open to change and open to taking risks.

There is also an expectation that I will explore Ordination in either the Anglican or Methodist Church.

Although my role will be centred at KVCC I believe this is a parish appointment and will have implications to both churches. As the work develops in the village I will need to step back from some of the activities I am currently **involved in at St. Thomas'.** This will give other members of the church opportunity to get involved, bring different ideas and grow in the work and themselves. Things have already started—for example, the Sunday School leaders have re-organised themselves to ensure the different groups can continue, Claire is taking on the Baptism Preparation and organisation, but both would welcome help.

I will still be involved in the schools outreach work. It has taken too many years of effort and prayer by Steve Swann, Ruth Walker and myself to create the excellent working relationships we have with the primary schools in the parish for me to walk away from that hoping the new incumbent will carry it on.

As different opportunities develop in Keresley village I expect that there will be openings for members of St.

Thomas's to get involved, helping those we meet grow in commitment in faith and to their community, whether that is in Sunday worship, mid-week activities or in the wider community. I believe we have to earn the right to **speak to people of God's love by** showing it practically, and we will have **to be both creative and seeking God's** leading for ways to do this.

Thank you for all your prayers and support for the past five years in my role as Young People and Family Worker. I know **WE** are going to need more as this exciting new opportunity grows.

Steve Medley

Steve's Commissioning Service is on Sunday 7th November at 4pm at Keresley Village Community Church.

*NOVEMBER
2011
50P*

*Goodness is
uneventful.
It does not
flash,
it glows.*

David Grayson

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ST. THOMAS' CHURCH CALENDAR

November

10.30am Services in November differ from the normal pattern.

Sunday 6th

- 9am Holy Communion and hymns. Rev Buff Forbes-Stone
- 10.30am Family Communion, Sunday School and Pathfinders. Rev David Tilley
- 4pm Commissioning Service for Steve Medley at KVCC

Sunday 13th

- 9am Holy Communion. Rev Buff Forbes-Stone

10.15am Remembrance Sunday Parade service

Sunday 20th

- 9am Holy Communion. Rev Buff Forbes-Stone
- 10.30am **No Service at St Thomas'. Joint Family** Worship service at Keresley Village Community Church.
- 3pm Memorial Service for those who have recently died. Rev Carol Newbon

Sunday 27th

- 9am Holy communion. Rev Elizabeth Kerr
- 10.30am Family Communion and Baptism.. Rev Alan Davies

December

Sunday 4th

- 9am Holy Communion and hymns. Rev Buff Forbes-Stone
- 10.30am Christingle Family Service. Claire McArthur

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.

A once-in-a-century Remembrance Day – 11-11-11-11

At 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month of 2011, the nation will pause to remember those who have given their lives in fighting for this country.

This year is doubly special: 2011 is The Royal British Legion's 90th anniversary, and also this is a once-in-a-century Remembrance Day.

At 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month in 2011 -11-11-11-11 - we will be remembering those who were willing to lay down their lives for their country.

The British Legion is inviting people to be a special part of this unique occasion, by leaving a message to go on a poppy to be planted at Wooten Bassett. That is the town where thousands of people have paid their respects during repatriations in recent years - you may have seen this on TV.

The British Legion explains: "Many people associate Remembrance Day with heroes of D-Day or the Battle of Britain's Spitfire pilots. Some people think of the deeds of the SAS during the Falklands conflict or, of course, Flanders Fields from World War I, carpeted in poppies growing where so many men lost their lives. But in the last few years it's also been about the nation showing its support for the soldiers returning injured and traumatised from **current conflicts.**" So if you would like to put your name to a poppy, please visit:

<https://donations.britishlegion.org.uk/RBLDonation/>

Real Easter Egg company reveals choccy Christmas tree campaign

A campaign to make the UK's 20 million Christmas trees a bit more meaningful this December has been launched by the company behind The Real Easter Egg.

The use of evergreen trees to celebrate the winter season began before the birth of Christ. However, in Britain the custom of decorating trees to mark Christmas did not begin until Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's husband, brought the tradition from Germany to Windsor Castle in the 1840's.

161 years later it's hard to believe that most of the UK's 20 million Christmas trees have nothing religious hanging on them. Indeed 49% of adults believe that the birth of Jesus is irrelevant to their Christmas.

The Meaningful Chocolate Tree Decorations are an opportunity for parents, grandparents and Godparents to buy an interactive gift that allows the telling of the Christmas story at home.

Each box of Meaningful Chocolate Tree Decorations contains a limited edition Christmas card, a sticker set and six hand wrapped, high quality, Fairtrade chocolate tree decorations.



CHRISTMAS FAYRE

SATURDAY 3RD DECEMBER ,

12 – 2 PM

ST THOMAS CHURCH HALL

Stalls
Refreshments

Donations for raffle prizes, tombola items, toys, books, toiletries, bric a brac and cakes are welcomed. There is a box for your donation in the Galilee Room.
Thank you.

Looking ahead . . .

If you would like to be involved in the Carol Service this Christmas by singing in the choir please let me know. Rehearsals will start on Friday 25th November and the service itself will be on Sunday 18th December at 6pm.



See me in church or contact me on 76338775.

Heather Hudson



The Christmas story, which can be found on the card, enables adults or children to read the Christmas story while placing character stickers on the decorations. Once completed, the decorations can be hung on the tree as a reminder of the real meaning of Christmas and as a meaningful treat for all.

The Meaningful Christmas Tree Decorations cost £3.95. Orders can be made through www.MeaningfulChristmas.co.uk or exclusively from Traidcraft. Orders should be made by mid November 2011 as supplies are limited.

The Way I See It – remembering the War

David Winter, writer and broadcaster, and a former Head of Religious Broadcasting at the BBC.

Those of us who can remember the Second World War are now a shrinking minority. Anyone who actually fought in it would now have to be in their mid-eighties. Of course, that makes 'remembrance' on a public scale difficult. The youth organisations line up at the war memorial each year, but with the best will in the world the exhortation 'we will remember them' is asking a lot of boys and girls whose grandparents were probably not born until years after the war ended.

So perhaps those of us who can remember, however distantly, what that war was like have some kind of duty to share those memories. In my case, the most vivid is leaving London on a bright morning in early September 1939 in a red double-decker bus and heading for an unknown address in rural England. In the case of my brother and me it was a village in Essex, right in the path of an invading army from the Continent. By Christmas that year my parents had decided that there were safer places for us to be, and we spent the rest of the war - **blissfully, I'm** ashamed to say - in the mid-Wales hills with my Welsh grandparents. We played in the fields, learnt to speak Welsh, made lifelong friendships - and were almost entirely sheltered from the reality of war-time life in London and the other great cities of our land.

Mind you, the nightly news broadcast on the wet battery wireless was a reminder that our parents were much less fortunate. Like millions of others, they endured the blackout, the shortages of food,

the terrors of the blitz with nightly air raids and the **anxiety of my older brother eventually being 'called up' and landing on the Normandy beaches under enemy gunfire.** The bombs missed the family home - on one occasion only just - but the trauma inevitably took its toll.

At the end of the war there were the usual speeches promising that the sacrifices made should not be in vain - we would ensure that nothing like this would ever happen again. But it did, and has - over and over again. Korea, Vietnam, the Falklands, Iraq, Afghanistan - the roll-call seems endless; evidence, if we needed it, of the strange addiction of human beings to violence, conflict and war. It is one thing to remember - and a duty, in view of the sacrifices of so many. But it is no good remembering and then forgetting.

War, says the New Testament, flows from ordinary human sins - greed, envy, bad choices (see James 4:1-4). To expunge from our race the hideous horrors of war and armed conflict would mean eliminating each of these manifestations of our fallen nature. Difficult? Impossible, it seems, without help from beyond ourselves. Prayer, commitment, repentance, example - even a private peaceful life-style - are steps towards that goal: small things, some would think, but history has been changed by less.

Life change . . . when we spend beyond our means

“We in the overindulgent, overspent West are living beyond our means” writes Matthew Parris in the Times. **“We in the West cannot continue like this”**

We all secretly know that change must happen. The way we live now is unsustainable on every level. While one section of our society might want to downsize on our lifestyle, our expenditure, our excess, and not have it imposed upon us by fiscal crisis and economic disaster, another section would like some of the action, some of the cream, a lot of the perks, a lot of the good life, the big screen TV's, the expensive trainers.

Those are the lessons of the recent riots. Our nation is looking for solutions to such a multiplicity of problems: wasted youth, inner city riots, unemployment, crime, billions of debt, banks and countries bailed out, plummeting stock markets, breakdown of the family. Things look grim.

But how do we achieve change? Politicians and governments can change policy. Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't. But in the end, with political change, it's only people dealing with other

people. We are dealing with human beings, whether on a macro or a micro level. In order to change people, where do we look?

Many Christian leaders believe that, if in any society, there is less than five percent of Christians, that country will gradually crumble. It cannot thrive without the preservative salt of Christian lives effectively lived in every sector of the nation. There will be no transformative power of God to bring about societal, spiritual revolution and change. Think Wesley, think Wilberforce, think Whitfield, think Tyndale, Ridley and Latimer.

We cannot change ourselves. Jesus said to Nicodemus, **“You must be born again.”** We cannot 'born' ourselves. We cannot change ourselves, however hard we try. Our spirits are changed by his Spirit as we encounter him as Saviour and Lord. We live and change from the inside out as we learn to reflect him.

Think of the disciples; how they changed. “As swallows who have found a summer, as frozen buds

(Continued on page 7)

Olave Snelling, UK chair of African Enterprise

St Thomas' Keresley and Coundon

With Remembrance in mind here is a letter from Rev Wallsingham Kerr on duty as an army chaplain in the First World War. It was published in the November 1915 edition, along with the following obituary.

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

Sunday 6th

10.30am Holy Communion. Rev Andrew De Ville
4pm Commissioning Service for Steve Medley

Sunday 13th

10.30am Holy Communion. Steve Medley

Sunday 20th

10.30am Family 'Worship. St Thomas' congregation join us for this service.

Sunday 27th

10.30am Morning Worship. Rosemary Clemo

December

Sunday 4th

10.30am Holy Communion. Steve Medley

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 Old Testament book of Isaiah, and New Testament book of Titus

Isaiah is often regarded as the greatest of all the prophets. His name means 'The Lord saves.', and he began his ministry in 740 BC, the year King Uzziah died (6:1). Isaiah's ministry lasted over 50 years, during the reigns of Azariah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah. He had a royal background, his father being the cousin of King Uzziah. Many scholars today challenge the claim that Isaiah wrote the entire book, however there are striking verbal parallels between chapters 1-39 and 40-66.

Isaiah spoke during the stormy period marking the expansion of the Assyrian empire and the decline of Israel. The relationship with the Assyrians was turbulent, as Israel and Judah used them for protection whilst also revolting against them. The Assyrians eventually destroyed the northern kingdom in 721. Judah was left with the major question: would they make new alliances with other kingdoms or rely on God to protect them? Isaiah warns Judah that her sin would bring captivity into Babylon, and eventually this took place in 586.

The book is like a diary of prophetic words, including prose and poetry, which makes it hard to read. A significant theme is that of a messiah coming from the line of David. Isaiah speaks of a new temple being established (ch2); a child being born with a new kingdom (ch9), judging differently to other kings (ch11) and the nature of his suffering (ch53). The 'suffering servant' (chapters 42-53) also applies to Israel as a nation, who are called to be a 'light for the Gentiles' (42:6). Not surprisingly Jesus applies Isaiah's words to his own life and ministry. eg Is 61:1 quoted in Luke 4:18. Isaiah also speaks about God's bias for the poor (1:17, 3:15, 11:4). Throughout his book Isaiah presents the full dimensions of God's judgment and salvation as 'the Holy One of Israel' (6:1), as well as the 'Sovereign Lord' far above all nations (40:15-24).

The book of Revelation also recalls Isaiah's prophecy, as it describes the fulfilment of the promise of the new

city of Zion (chs 60-66). God's kingdom on earth is the goal towards which the book steadily moves. Restored earth and people will then offer praise to the Holy One of Israel. 'Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.' (65:17).

Hebrews

'Too much religion can be a bad thing!' This saying is very relevant when we look at the Letter to the Hebrews, where the recipients' devotion to God was getting in the way of what he has done for them. The writer addresses Jewish converts, familiar with the Old Testament (OT), who were slipping back into the rituals of Judaism in order to escape mounting persecution. The letter describes itself as a 'word of exhortation' (13:22), in which the readers are encouraged to continue in the grace of Jesus Christ and not to 'ignore such a great salvation' (2:3).

There is no indication as to who wrote Hebrews; suggestions include Apollos, Barnabas, or Aquila and Priscilla. The absence of any evidence describing the end of the OT sacrificial system with Jerusalem's destruction in AD 70 suggests that the letter was written around AD 65.

The dominant theme of Hebrews is the absolute supremacy and sufficiency of Christ as revealer and mediator of God's grace. Jesus is presented as God's final revelation of himself (1:1-4), fulfilling the prophecies and promises of the OT. Christ is superior to the prophets, angels and Moses (the mediator of the former covenant), along with the levitical priesthood and sacrificial system. Where the Old Covenant required continual sacrifices and a once-a-year atonement for sin offered by a priest, the New Covenant provides a once-for-all sacrifice through Christ (10:10) and direct access to the throne of God. God's people must now look only to him, whose atoning death, resurrection and ascension have

(Continued on page 7)

PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISM

9th October:
Isaac Matthew Woodrow

WEDDING

22nd October
Nicola Jayne Williams and
Shaun Owen Harkin

BURIAL

28th October
Pauline Elizabeth Thomas aged 87 of Rosslyn
Avenue

A creative way of remembering loved ones at Christmas

“Hi, my name is Lesley Capehorn and I work at Astill Memorials in Leamington Spa . We Also have a shop in Coventry called A.Davies Memorials

From the 1st November till 23rd December we are placing a Christmas tree in both our shops and inviting people to place a tag to their loved ones for a charge of £1. We are also selling Help for Heroes wrist bands for £2 and a personalised porcelain Christmas Bauble for £20 which can have a name and short message placed on it. The money we raise will be going to Myton Hospice and Help for Heroes.

For any further information please call me on 01926 335167 . Astill Memorials, Leamington; A.Davies Memorials,114 Cannon Hill Road,Canley, O2476 692737”

(Continued from page 6) What's the big idea?

opened the way into the true, heavenly sanctuary of God's presence.

The writer of Hebrews also gives five solemn warnings to his readers. There is the danger of neglect (2:1-4), unbelief (3:7-4:13), spiritual immaturity (5:11-6:20), failing to endure (10:26-39), and the inherent danger of refusing God (12:25-29). If we are to maintain our faith, we need to keep our focus on the person of Christ: *‘Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God’* (12:2).

(Continued from page 4) Life Change . . .

the spring, their starved humanity bursts into a fuller life,” writes Henry Drummond, famous 19th Century divine. “They do not know how it is, but they are different men. To themselves it is unaccountable. They cannot do otherwise. But the people who watch them know well how to account for it. “They have been,” they whisper, “with Jesus.” Already the mark and seal of his character is upon them--”They have been with Jesus.” “Unparalleled phenomenon,” Drummond continues, “that these poor fishermen should remind other men of Christ! Stupendous victory and mystery of regeneration that mortal men should suggest to the world, God!”

Let the ‘Imitation of Christ’, as ‘Thomas a Kempis’ describes it be for us, and, God willing, for far more than five percent of this nation, the living, breathing, vibrant and revolutionary reality of his Presence. Then we shall see change! And he calls us towards it.

A meditation on the story of Jesus healing Jairus’ daughter (Mark 5)

When Darkness Comes

*When darkness comes upon our lives
And death’s black shadow clouds our eyes –
Our Lord helps us, when news is grim,
To fear not, and believe in Him.*

*Yet sometimes, though we try to pray
It seems He tarries on the way,
Though faith grows weak, and vision dim,
Still fear not, and believe in Him.*

*For He, like us, wept tears of woe:
He cried ‘My God, where are you now?’
We only tread where He has been -
So fear not, and believe in Him*

*In grief, in tears, or in despair
Recall that Jesus is still there.
O strive not to find faith within,
But fear not, and believe in Him.*

*He’s Lord of Lords and King of Kings
He is the Ruler of all things –
He’s triumphed over death and sin,
We’ll fear not, and believe in Him!*

- 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. •