

# OUR COMMUNITY

www.st-thomas-keresley.org.uk



## Fill a shoebox full of smiles

This year we are again supporting **Link Romania Family Shoeboxes Appeal**.

It involves filling a shoebox with a selection of gifts - suggestions on page 3 - wrapping the box and bringing it to church for collection by Wednesday 2nd November. Full instructions below, and on the form.

You will need a form for each box you make up. Forms are available in the Galilee Room or through Steve or Jo Medley.

### Step 1

You pack the Shoebox with gifts. Stuck for ideas? See the list of suggestions on page 3.

### Step 2

Seal and gift-wrap your shoebox, attaching the completed form to the outside. It is really important to remember to tape £2 (or two £1 coins) to the outside of the form. This helps pay for transportation costs of the shoeboxes to Eastern Europe.

### Step 3

Deliver your Shoebox to the Galilee Room by 2nd November. They are all then taken to a local collection point.

### Step 4

The Shoeboxes are collected and then packed into large cartons and take it to Eastern Europe.

### Step 5

Your Shoeboxes are given directly to families who really need them.

Background to Link Romania  
Link Romania was established in 1991 in response to the devastating television pictures that came out of Romania of the appalling conditions in the orphanages in Romania. Volunteers from Worthing hired a truck, loaded it with aid and drove to Romania. They ended up in a town called Iasi in the NE of Romania and there the work began. **Nicolae Ceauşescu's brutal regime left the country impoverished and reeling from the effects of the totalitarian police state.** Link Romania was established to help rebuild lives and communities. And that is what we have been doing for the past 20 years.

Our annual Family Shoebox Appeal has been running since 1992 and has delivered smiles to thousands of people in Eastern Europe over the years. In fact, we have sent over of 450,000 shoeboxes to over 80 different locations!

It's a really simple idea, anyone can get involved, and we are always keen to have more people join our national network of supporters.

The Family Shoeboxes of gifts are given to families who often have to make a choice between buying food or fuel at Christmas time – buying presents is just not a priority. Many of these families do not have running water, heating or electricity. Some live in appalling conditions, often living in just one or two rooms, and life for them is a **real struggle to survive.**"

OCTOBER  
2011  
50P

*The gospel makes  
some people sad,  
some mad, and  
some glad.  
It is better that  
people should go  
out of church mad  
than merely go  
out, neither sad,  
mad, nor glad.  
✓ Havner*

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# ST. THOMAS' CHURCH CALENDAR

## Sunday 2nd

9am Holy Communion and hymns. Rev Tim Pullen  
 10.30am Harvest Family Service . Keresley Village Community Church join us. Led by Steve Medley and Claire McArthur

## Sunday 9th

9am Holy Communion. Rev Buff Forbes-Stone  
 10.30am Family Communion and Baptism.  
 2-4pm Messy Church. At KVCC

## Sunday 16th

9am Holy Communion. Rev Buff Forbes Stone  
 10.30am Family Worship. Led by Pete Hudson

## Sunday 23rd

9am Holy Communion. Rev Buff Forbes Stone  
 10.30am Family Communion. Rev Carol Newbon  
 Schools half term this week

## Sunday 30th

9am Holy Communion  
 10.30am Family Communion. Rev Alan Davies

## November

10.30am Services in November differ from the normal pattern.

6th Family Communion  
 13th at **10.15am** Remembrance Sunday Parade service  
 20th **No Service at St Thomas' at 10.30am. Joint Family Worship service at Keresley Village Community Church.**

Also there will be a Memorial Service for those who have recently died at 3pm on 20th at St Thomas'

## 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.

## Ideas for filling your Family Shoeboxes

Because our boxes are for families we ask that you fill them with gifts appropriate for all age groups. Need some ideas? Then read on!

### Personal grooming items

- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Shampoo/shower gel (max 250ml)
- Deodorant
- Safety razors
- Bar of soap and flannel
- Nail clippers/scissors
- Brush/comb

### Fun stuff

- Crayons and felt tips
- Colouring books
- Travel-sized games, such as dominoes, draughts and playing cars
- **Small toys, such as yoyo's, skipping ropes,** bouncy balls, puzzles, balloons
- Teddies/dolls/soft toys including handmade knitted toys

### Treats

- Sweets
- Chocolate
- Hair accessories
- School items
- Solar powered calculators
- Pens and pencils
- Pencil rubbers and sharpeners

### Family essentials

- Plasters
- Small sewing kits
- Screwdriver/tape measure
- New socks/tights
- Gloves/hats/scarves

### Customs regulations

Customs regulations mean there are certain items which cannot be included in your Family Shoeboxes. So please take care not to include any of these things as Link Romania could be fined or your boxes impounded:

- ⊗ NO medicines or medical products
- ⊗ NO money
- ⊗ NO tinned food
- ⊗ NO perfume
- ⊗ NO coffee, tea or alcohol
- ⊗ NO out of date items
- ⊗ NO books or literature



Sunday 9th October

2-4pm

At Keresley Village Community Church

... Crafts ... Food ... Fun for all the family ...  
Come and join us!

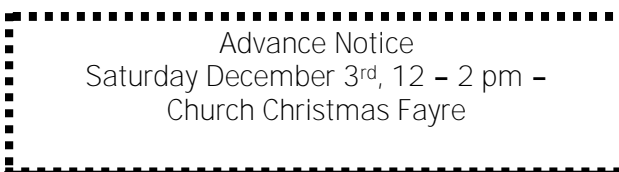
## Interviews for new Clergy

You may or may not be aware that we recently held interviews for the new vicar for Keresley Parish.

Unfortunately after a day and half of interviews we found ourselves with no suitable candidates. This is very disappointing, but the parish representatives felt that we need to continue to search for the right candidate to lead Keresley.

The position will be re-advertised and the ministry leadership team will continue to cover services. Please continue to pray for the right candidate to come forward.

If you have any further questions please contact Claire McArthur - Churchwarden.



## Not Just for Harvest

*For I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in...*  
Matthew 25 v 3

### Parish Harvest Family Service

Sunday 2nd  
October

at St Thomas'  
Church 10.30am

Supporting  
Coventry  
Foodbank



## Policing our lawless society

By Don Axcell, Executive Director, Christian Police Association.

The scenes of violence and mindless criminality seen on the streets of our major cities this past summer is perhaps only to be expected. For a number of decades we have experienced a decline in moral standards and an absence of discipline that has resulted in breakdown within our society.

Two or three generations have grown up in a blame **culture where every problem has to be anyone else's** fault - except their own. Accepting personal responsibility for our actions has become the exception rather than the rule. Many young people have grown up with no respect for their parents, no respect for school teachers and no respect for any figure of authority. The result of this is that they demand respect as a right rather than as something to be earned.

When people have come to a mind-set that says **'what's yours is mine and what's mine is my own'** there is a real breakdown in social norms. Whatever area is targeted by this mass criminality, it is normally those who come from socially deprived areas and who are under-educated who are responsible.

I do not want to pinpoint particular reasons for this breakdown as there are others more qualified than I who will do so. Rather, I want to look at that group in society who are expected to sort out the grievances of all and sundry to the satisfaction of everyone. An impossible task? Yes! Who are they? The men and women of the Police Service.

It is the police who have to be berated and not shout back. It is the police who have to stand between the good and the bad and take insult and accusation from both sides, knowing that there will always be one party who will go away dissatisfied. It is the police who will have to face the rocks, rubble and petrol bombs thrown at them with the knowledge

that some of them are going to be injured as a result.

Since Robert Peel set out his principles for policing in the early 19th century, it has been accepted that in the UK policing is by the consent of the public. As a result, there have always been efforts to work with the public to maintain the peace and protect life and property. In recent years the Police Service have tried to achieve this through the introduction of Safer Neighbourhood Teams – small groups of police officers and community support officers tasked with getting to know their local community better and responding to their needs. This has had varying degrees of success.

The Christian Police Association (founded in 1883) has recognised that community relations is important and so have adopted the strap line **'Reaching out... building bridges'**. Members of the CPA across the country have been encouraging the Christian community to work with the Police Service to improve community relations and develop safer, stronger communities. Much of this work now falls under their Coact Project ([www.coact.org.uk](http://www.coact.org.uk)).

So we recognise that as we have seen the breakdown of society in certain areas, it is the Christian community who can, and are already making strides towards building it up again.

In the meantime, it is the officers who go out on the streets whom we need to remember in prayer and give our support to. They do not know from one minute to the next what dangers they will face or when they will be able to return home. Waiting anxiously for them will be families and loved ones waiting for a phone call or the dreaded knock on the door to inform them that someone will not be coming home any time soon.

My prayer is that each person reading this will pledge themselves to do all in their power to restore a godly society to this beloved land of ours.

## A Prayer for Peace in Our Communities

The Church of England has published a prayer for peace, following the riots across the UK this summer. It reads:

Gracious God,  
 We pray for peace in our communities this day.  
 We commit to you all who work for peace and an end to tensions,  
 And those who work to uphold law and justice.  
 We pray for an end to fear,  
 For comfort and support to those who suffer.  
 For calm in our streets and cities,  
 That people may go about their lives in safety and peace.  
 In your mercy, hear our prayers,  
 now and always. Amen

## St Thomas' Keresley and Coundon

Autumn term has begun - 4 and 5 year olds are starting school for the first time; year 6 are now at secondary school, new students are going up to university . . . and zumba classes are on again! Here are a couple of snippets from the October 1914 magazine.

### Keresley Evening School.

May we draw attention to the importance of this work. The subjects for this Session include Arithmetic, History, English and Hygiene. The fee is one shilling, free to scholars who have left the Day School within the last 12 months.

A little more determination on the part of parents, in getting the young people to take advantage of this opportunity, will mean an enormous advantage in the future life of their children.

Only last week, a girl in this district lost an excellent post, which she was otherwise well qualified to fill, because her education in these subjects had been neglected.

### K.E.P.C.C.

The classes for the members of the Keresley Ladies' Physical Culture Club, will re-open for the winter at 7.45 p.m. on Saturday, October 10th.

These classes are held on Saturdays, from October to May. Mrs. Noble kindly instructs us in the art of marching, Indian clubs, dumb-bells, etc.; whilst Miss Rotherham presides at the piano. New members will be cordially welcomed on the 10th.

Medals will be presented at the end of the session by Mrs. Noble and the Vicar, for all-round proficiency and general progress. Prizes will also be awarded for regular attendance.

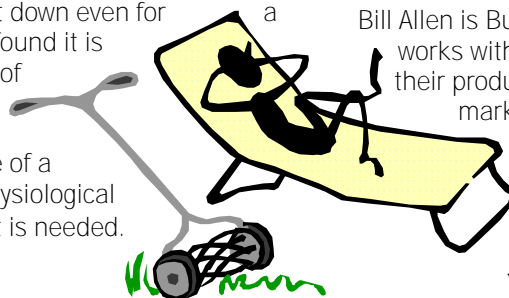
We earnestly hope that all members will endeavour to attend as regularly and punctually as possible during this season. One Shilling is charged each member for the Session.

## Six Days You Shall Work and on the Seventh you shall rest - **which doesn't** mean do DIY

Our God put an order into everything from the movement of the stars and the planets to the consistency of time. As CS Lewis said "The future is something which everyone reaches at the rate of 60 minutes an hour, whatever he does, whoever he is". Time is the great leveller, but some people seem to make better use of the time at their disposal.

The day is evenly balanced with eight hours to sleep, eight to work, and eight hours of personal time (although many would find that hard to believe as work seems to dominate the week). We were created to keep this schedule for six days a week. However, on the seventh day we are supposed to rest and make the day holy for the Lord.

Athletes know they need rest days, yet some feel guilty and over-train, which can actually weaken the body. We feel the same when we are leading a very busy life; it is hard to shut down even for a day. In sports they have found it is not just the physical side of the body that needs repairing, but also the physiological. In the case of a Christian it is physical, physiological and spiritual renewal that is needed.



Most of us have two days off nowadays, so we should plan our time off to do all the chores, shopping, and DIY on one of the days, and then to keep the second day for what is was designed for, reconstitution. The week is 168 hours so giving the 16 waking hours to the Lord is giving a tithe of 10% of your time.

If you want to ensure that you can make best use of your waking hours, then you must also give yourself the luxury of sleep, as without proper sleep your **body's energy battery won't be charged for the day** ahead, so you may find that your ability to think clearly may be impaired, and that jobs take longer to fulfil.

When we keep the day in the even thirds of eight hours and give our body a day of rest then everything in life seems to stay in balance.

Bill Allen is Business Improvement Specialist who works with companies of all sizes to help improve their productivity, leadership, sales and marketing. As a Trustee of his Church he also speaks at events and churches on "Finding Time for God" - time management for Christian's. He can be contacted at

[www.improvementspecialist.co.uk](http://www.improvementspecialist.co.uk)

## KERESLEY VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH SERVICES

October

*Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>*

10.30am **Joint service at St Thomas' Church—Harvest**  
Festival Family Service. Steve Medley

*Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>*

10.30am

2-4pm Messy Church

*Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>*

10.30am

*Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>*

10.30am

*Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>*

10.30am

November

*Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>*

10.30am

**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

### What's the Big Idea? - an Introduction to the Old Testament books of Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs, and New Testament book of Titus

**'Meaningless! Meaningless!' This is how the book of Ecclesiastes begins (1:2), as its author examines the futility of human experience 'under the sun'. He is described as 'The Teacher' (1:1, Hebrew qoheleth) and is traditionally identified with King Solomon. The book is part of the Wisdom Literature and reflects on life within the limitations of the physical world. However, as it remains God's world, he finishes with the words, 'Fear God and keep his commandments' (12:13).**

This book recognises the limitation of human wisdom, which cannot find out God's purposes or the meaning of human existence on its own. Nevertheless, people still pursue lots of ways of trying to make sense of life and finding lasting happiness. What does Ecclesiastes tell us about wisdom?

**Our human strivings 'under the sun' will not achieve** anything of enduring significance, as they only lead to disillusionment (1:5-11). Therefore, we need to accept our situation as given by God and enjoy the life we have been given as fully as we can.

**Wisdom is God's gift to those who please him (2:26).** However, such wisdom cannot solve all problems (1:16-18) or secure enduring reward (2:12-17). We cannot know or control what lies in the immediate future; therefore all our efforts are characterised by uncertainty (6:12). Experience confronts us with some difficult questions about life, including the fact of death (9:1-3). In response, we need to understand the limitations of our capabilities.

God has ordered all things in their time; things we cannot change or fully understand or anticipate: **'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven' (3:1-15).** However, the world is not fundamentally chaotic or irrational. It is ordered by God, and it is for us to accept God's ordering of our lives. **'He 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.' (3:11).** We should remember our Creator when

we are young before we get too old and the infirmities of advanced age stop us from enjoying the good things of life (12: 1-8).

In summary, Ecclesiastes shows us how to live meaningfully and joyfully by placing God at the centre of our life, work and activities, and trusting in and obeying our Creator.

Song of Songs

**'The best of all songs!' The title of this book, Solomon's Song of Song (1:1), can be interpreted as the best of Solomon's 1005 songs or the greatest of all songs.** Although it claims to be written by Solomon, his name is mentioned seven times and several verses speak of the 'king', indicating that the book may be more about Solomon rather than written by him. However, it is reasonable to assume that Song of Songs was written in the tenth century BC, during Solomon's reign (971-931 BC).

**The focus of the Song is God's choicest gifts of love** and the voice of this love belongs to a woman, the beloved. It is her experience of love, both as the one who loves and as the one who is loved, that is most clearly expressed. The Song begins with her wish for **her lover's kiss and ends with an invitation for intimate love.** It describes the intimacies of married love as God intends it to be. She speaks profoundly of love; of its beauty and delight; its exclusiveness (2:16); its spontaneity (2:7) and its overwhelming power, which is both unquenchable and precious:

**'Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame. Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot wash it away. If one were to give all the wealth of his house for love, it would be utterly scorned.'** (8:6,7)

God created man and woman, and established marriage as his purpose for society (Genesis 1:27;

*(Continued on page 7)*

# PARISH REGISTER

## THANKSGIVINGS

September 4<sup>th</sup>  
 Scarlet Imogen Maude,  
 Miles Martin Faulkner,  
 Ava Victoria Clarke

## BAPTISM

September 11<sup>th</sup>  
 Freya Tina Leonard

## WEDDINGS

September 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Sharon Louise Gray and Ricky Paul Robins  
 September 9<sup>th</sup>  
 Stacy Emma Sloan and Philip Antony Clewlow  
 September 24<sup>th</sup>  
 Nicola Baldwin and David James Boyes

## BURIALS

23<sup>rd</sup> August  
 Janet Grace Bartoszewicz aged 83 of Evedale  
 Nursing Home, Stoke

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

2:20-24). This Song is part of the wisdom literature and shows us how to receive and live the gift of **God's love with thanksgiving and celebration**. Therefore, many have drawn strength from this book, as it recognises the intimacy that is possible between a married couple. The fact that this book is included in the Bible is a real affirmation of marital love. What a contrast with the self-destructive life styles and philosophy regarding sex which we see in our wider society today.

The Song also speaks of the experience of intimacy **which is to found in our relationship with Christ: 'My lover is mine and I am his...and his banner over me is love.'** (2:16,4).

Titus  
 Paul wrote to Titus, who he described as his **'partner and fellow worker'** (2 Cor. 8:23).

Although Titus is not mentioned in Acts, Paul's letters reveal that he played a crucial part in Paul's **life. He was one of Paul's converts and an uncircumcised Gentile**. He accompanied Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem to demonstrate how Gentiles **don't need to be circumcised on becoming Christians** (Gal. 2:3-5). When Paul was dealing with the difficulties in the Corinthian church, Titus was a **messenger for a number of Paul's letters, including 2 Corinthians** (2 Cor. 7:6-9).

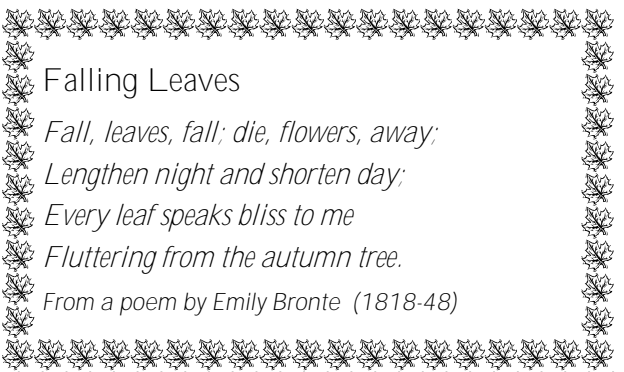
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Paul brought the Christian Faith to Crete, after which he gave Titus the challenging task of overseeing and strengthening the churches on the island. The island was notorious for immorality, quarrelling, and laziness. This letter gives Titus personal authorisation and guidance in meeting opposition, instructions about faith and conduct, and warnings about false teachers. Paul was also concerned that the church leaders were effective and honouring Christ in their lives, and Titus was to appoint elders in every city. The letter was probably written in Macedonia, after he was released from his first Roman imprisonment (cf Acts 28) in AD 64.

The letter to Titus emphasises sound doctrine (1:9; 2:8,10) and challenges believers to good works (1:16; 2:14; 3:14). Following Jesus faithfully leads to godly **behaviour, so Paul urges 'that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good' (3:8). The letter also teaches that leaders should be examples in lifestyle and sound doctrine**. The basic qualification for effective leadership is character ie being blameless, self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined (1:5-9). Paul also urges Titus to avoid quarrels and division within the churches and discipline those who stir up trouble. This letter remains essential reading for us because ill-directed and badly formed leadership still causes a lot of damage in the church today.

**'For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope-the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. (2:11-14)**



- 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.