

OUR COMMUNITY

www.st-thomas-keresley.org.uk



Holiday Club 2011



SEPTEMBER
2011
50P

We had a brilliant time during this year's holiday club, with around 40 young people enjoying exciting games, fun crafts and energetic worship. Each day we explored different parts of God's story from Creation to taking our part in His plan.

A huge thank you to everyone who came and made it an excellent week. An extra 'thank you' to those volunteers who worked so hard beforehand preparing crafts and activities. *Steve Medley*



Differences do not in themselves create wars – it is ignorance leading to fear and eventually to hostility that prevents peace.



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ST. THOMAS' CHURCH CALENDAR

September

Sunday 4th

9am Holy Communion and hymns
 10.30am Family Service with Thanksgiving. Steve Medley and Ministry Team

Monday 5th

7.30pm PCC. Galilee Room

Tuesday 6th

School term starts today

Sunday 11th

9am Holy Communion. Rev Elizabeth Kerr
 10.30am Family Communion. Sunday school and Pathfinders restart after the summer holidays

Sunday 18th

9am Holy Communion
 10.30am Family Worship. Ministry Team

Tuesday 20th

1.30pm Refreshment Group, Galilee Room

Sunday 25th

9am Holy Communion
 10.30am Family Communion

Friday 30th

10am Flower arranging. See page 3

October

Sunday 2nd

9am Holy Communion and hymns
 10.30am Harvest Family Service

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.

Flower arranging day

Our Harvest Festival is on Sunday 2nd October.



On Friday 30th September from 10am the flower arrangers will be working on the arrangements for the Harvest Festival weekend.

If you would like to watch or perhaps would like to consider joining the team in the future then come along; all are very welcome. Lunch is provided.

Jean would also welcome donations towards the flowers, or sponsoring of an arrangement for the weekend.

See Jean Elliot for further details.



Health and Safety

Due to criminal damage in the churchyard some headstones have been laid down as they are insecure.

Please advise people to leave them laid down until they can be repaired, so they do not fall on anyone.

If you witness anyone causing damage please inform the police immediately as they need to catch the culprits red-handed.

Swanns settle in Cornwall

Many of us remember Steve and Julie Swann (who can forget the pantos!) who were here from 2002 to 2005 when Steve was our Children and Families Worker.

For the past 2 years Steve has been training for ordination in the Methodist church, and he is now taking up his first post in Mullion in Cornwall. Julie also has a new job as Children and Families Worker for the Lizard and Mounds Bay Methodist Circuit.



Not Just for Harvest

Harvest is fast approaching and this year we would like to support the **Coventry Central Foodbank**. Their vision is that “No one in Coventry goes hungry”. This a massive task – but God is connecting churches together across the city to make it happen. Here at St Thomas we would like to support this project not only just for harvest but as a continuing project.

Launching at our Harvest Festival service we will learn more about the project and how individually we can contribute to it.

If you can't make this service there will be a basket at the back of the church where each week we can add the following foods:

tinned fruit, vegetables, meat and fish as well as pasta, cereal, UHT milk, sauces, tea, coffee and long-life juice.

So when we see the offer “buy one get one free”, why not donate the extra one?

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

What are foodbanks?

- **Foodbanks give three days of emergency food** to people in crisis
- **Foodbanks work with front line care professionals** to identify those in need. Vouchers are issued, which can be exchanged for food.
- **All food is nutritionally balanced**
- **Foodbanks signpost clients to organisations** able to help combat longer term problems
- **Coventry Central foodbank is a partnership** between 6 churches: Mosaic, Holy Trinity, Queens Road Baptist, the Cathedral, Jesus Centre and Vineyard



Remembering 9/11

The tenth anniversary of the terrorist atrocities in the US will fall on **11 September 2011**, which this year is a Sunday. It is an opportunity for remembrance, reconciliation and better relationships with those of other faiths as we recall the Christian values of love, forgiveness and respect. As believers, we are called to love our neighbours as ourselves, whatever our neighbours' religious faith or worldview.



Holiday Club
2011 in
pictures



St Thomas' Keresley and Coundon

With our 'glorious' weather this summer, here is a report on the choir trip in August 1906.

CHOIR OUTING.—At 3-45 on the morning of the 13th, we were roused from the midst of our slumbers to set out for "breezy" Blackpool. We felt very exalted, as we gazed from the top of our brake at the deserted town, and drawn blinds; how could sensible folk sleep out the best part of the day? A luxurious saloon was reserved for our party, which added much to the enjoyment of the journey.

Blackpool at 9-15 a.m. had a depressing appearance, a steady drizzle, and sea fog, somewhat damped our spirits—and best clothes.

After an excellent breakfast, we sought "diversion" under cover, and made tracks for the "Tower," others did likewise, and the place was doing a roaring trade. The performance was good, but it seemed a long journey—to a variety Entertainment, and when the first ray of sunshine soon peeped in, it had the same effect as the "knock off" hooter in Coventry;—we left.

The sun quickly changed everything—it was a glorious day. The printer would be worried if we told all we did.

Sailing (one trip only, "it was so *un-even*"), Punch and Judy, Bishop of Manchester, Donkey Rides, etc., etc. Dinner 2-30. Refreshments (frequently.) So the day went all too quickly. In the last look we saw the tide covering all the sands, and the great multitude thronging the promenade, (so that one might walk for miles on human heads); the rays of the setting sun on the great stretch of blue water, the white-winged yachts, and gay-coloured throng, lent a strange beauty to the picture—from which we turned reluctantly—to the station.

Coventry, 3 a.m.—blinds still down—we shall not be sorry. But it will be a long time before we forget our really delightful day at Blackpool.

The truth will out....

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have not fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light..." (Eph 5: 8-12)

Scurrilous deeds at the News of the World and other newspapers over phone hacking and corrupt practices at News Corporation were exposed this past summer. Day after day brought new revelations, until we all wondered what was going to happen next, so fast were events unfolding. The News of the World has gone. Top executives in journalism have been arrested. Top policemen have resigned. Judge-led inquiries are being made into the whole sorry episode, and a Commission-led inquiry is being made into the relationship of the Media and the Police. Which high grade scalp is going to be claimed next?

For a long time a number of Christians in the media have been crying out to the Lord for the Media in this country. They have been praying that where evil actions are being done, and where evil words are being said, that this would be confronted and exposed. They have prayed that 'truth' would out.

Well, many of these Christians now believe that their prayers may be being answered. These things have been brought into the glare of publicity this summer, and into God's light.

Now let us ALL pray for the innocent people whose lives have been sorely tried through the phone-hacking scandal, for those who have committed appalling acts of intrusion into people's private lives, for those who have bribed the police and for those who have accepted the bribes. Let us all pray that forgiveness from the Lord will be sought and granted and restitution made where restitution is possible.

A well-known pastor says, "We react to problems in typical ways. Sometimes we deny the evidence. We try to avoid the truth thinking that the problem will go away by itself. But it never does." The truth will out!

*Prayer for an end to boasting and arrogance
Lord of peace, be with those who guide the destinies of the world so that an end may come to boasting and vainglory, and the reign of arrogance dwindle in our time. Give them the courage to speak the truth and the humility to listen.*

Help us all to put the good of our neighbours above our own ambitions, and the truth which does not profit us above the lie which does.

So may we stand upright, freed from the burden of fear and the weight of suspicion, learning to trust each other, for your mercy's sake.

KERESLEY VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH SERVICES

September

4th September

10.30am Family Service. Neil Bolus

11th September

10.30am Holy Communion

18th September

10.30am Morning Worship. Steve Medley

25th September

10.30am Holy Communion. Rev Andrew de Ville

October

2nd October

10.30am Harvest Festival, Family Service. 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 Books of the Old and New Testament: **Proverbs, 2 Timothy**

The Book of Proverbs is an anthology of sayings, mostly short and pithy, expressing truths about a wide range of human activity. They are described as '*mishle*', which in Hebrew can be also translated as oracles or parables.

The opening verses of the book help us to understand its purpose. '*The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel.*' (1:1): Solomon was a man of outstanding wisdom, who uttered 3000 proverbs (1 Kings 4:32); many of these are recorded here, along with proverbs uttered by other wise men. Its purpose is '*for attaining wisdom and discipline...*' (1:2). Solomon is concerned that people, especially the young, would understand '*the sayings and riddles of the wise.*' (1:3-6). His guiding principle is '*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.*' (1:7).

To give a taste of the recurring themes in the book, here are a few sample verses:

Knowing God: '*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding*' (9:10). **Guarding Our Speech:** '*A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver*' (25:11). **Marital faithfulness:** '*May your fountain be blessed and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth*' (5:15-20). **Our Work:** '*Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!*' (Prov 6:6-11). **Dangers of Strong Drink:** '*Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise*' (20:1). **Justice and Honesty:** '*The LORD abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are his delight*' (11:1).

Underlying these sayings is a conviction about God's omniscience, '*For a man's ways are in full view of the LORD, and he examines all his paths*' (5:21); providence, '*Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails*' (19:21) and goodness, '*The LORD is far from the wicked but he hears the prayer of the righteous*' (15:29).

Many people think that what's written in the Bible has mostly to do with getting right with God and securing a

place in heaven! However, Proverbs reminds us that it **is equally concerned with living well now.** Jesus' prayer is '*on earth as it is in heaven*'. Wisdom is the biblical term for this '*on-earth-as-it-is-in-heaven everyday living. Wisdom is the art of living skilfully in whatever actual conditions we find ourselves*' (Eugene Peterson).

2 Timothy

Paul's first letter to Timothy was sent during his missionary journey after his release from prison in Rome in AD 62. It was when he was imprisoned again under Emperor Nero c. 66-67 that he wrote 2 Timothy. In contrast to his first imprisonment, when **he lived in a 'rented house' (Ac 28:30), Paul now languished in jail chained like a common criminal** (1:16; 2:9). He wrote knowing that his work was done and that his life was nearly at an end (4:6-8). Paul was inviting Timothy to join him, as he was alone, except for Luke (4:9-11).

Paul was concerned about the welfare of the churches during this time of persecution under Nero, and he urges Timothy to guard the gospel (1:14), to persevere in it (3:14), to keep on preaching it (4:2) and, if necessary, to suffer for it (1:8; 2:3).

The tone of the letter is more personal than 1 Timothy; it is a final testament from Paul to the younger Timothy (4:1-8). Paul is not just a prisoner (1:8, 16; 2:9) in Rome (1:17), but he has been largely deserted by his friends (1:15-18). Despite his situation, Paul confidently looks to God, not to human beings, for deliverance (4:3-8, 18). For Paul the resurrection of Jesus lies at the heart of the gospel for which Paul has been ready to lay down his life (2:8-9). He recognises that his preaching of the gospel is the reason for his imprisonment and offers Timothy, as a motive for steadfastness, his own example of firmness in faith despite adverse circumstances (1:6-14). He also encourages Timothy to prepare others to replace himself as Paul has prepared Timothy to replace him (2:1-2).

(Continued on page 7)

PARISH REGISTER

THANKSGIVINGS

3rd July
Freya Tina Leonard and Cory James Howe
21st August
Isaac Matthew Woodrow

BAPTISMS

10th July
Kyle Harvey Liggins
14th August
Darcey Rose Lee and Cory James Howe

WEDDINGS

29th July
Lisa Joanne Furlong and David Colin John Lord
1st August
Kelly Anne Davies and Paul Garry Powers
20th August
Amy Jane Phillips and Adrian Gary Brock

BURIALS

15th August
Harriet Adams aged 97 of Malvern (formerly of Duncroft Ave)

CREMATIONS

14th July
Edna May Harris aged 91 of Keresley Wood
23rd August
Audrey Davis aged 86 of Thompsons Road

ASHES INTERRED

5th August
Lyndsay Yemm aged 76 of Brook Street, Warwick

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

This letter, like the preceding one, urges Timothy to protect the Ephesian church from the impact of false teaching (2:14-3:9), without fear of the personal attacks that might arise (3:10-13). Paul encourages Timothy to rely on the power of the scriptures, on proclaiming the word, and on holding to sound doctrine (3:14-4:2). For us, like Timothy, if we are stand firm need to have confidence in the Scriptures that God has given us. They are the primary means that God has given us to grow in spiritual life. **'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.'** (3:16).

The Way I See It - why we worry so much

If someone asked you whether you thought more children were murdered last year than twenty years ago, what would you answer? Or if the question was, are more people killed on the roads now than fifty years ago? Or, are people over seventy more likely to be mugged, robbed or attacked than people in their middle age?

In each case the answer is 'No', though apparently if you read the Daily Mail, the Sun, the Mirror or the Telegraph you are more likely to answer 'Yes'.

Believe it or not, children are safer now, roads are less dangerous than in the nineteen-thirties, and older people are less likely to be attacked than any other age group in society. Despite that, we go on worrying!

It's as though human beings are hard-wired to worry. No matter that we live in the longest lived, healthiest, most secure and, in general terms, most prosperous society that the world has ever known; it **doesn't feel like it. The doctors' surgeries are full of people they dub the 'worried well' - those who've read a magazine article or seen something on the internet and are sure that they're ill. I'm as guilty of it as everyone else.** Anxiety seems to be part of the human condition.

Which may be why Jesus constantly told his followers not to worry - **'fear not', 'don't be anxious', 'peace be with you'.** In the Sermon on the Mount he listed some of the things his audience would be worried about: food, clothes, health, appearance or what might happen **'tomorrow'.** The list sounds familiar, doesn't it?

Don't be anxious about them, he advised. 'After all', he said, 'you can't add a single hour to your span of life by worrying about it'. He might have added that you could, of course, take a few hours off it that way. He didn't say that we had no need of food or clothes or health - 'your heavenly Father knows you need them' - but that the happy life is the one that has its priorities right. 'Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well'.

The answer to fear is faith - we all know that, in theory. But the faith needed is not the assenting to this or that proposition - **ticking boxes on the Creed. It's trust in the 'heavenly Father' Jesus spoke of. It's the inner conviction** that the One who made us loves us, and is with us on our life-long journey through this rather scary existence. **'Fear not', he says. 'I am with you.'**

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