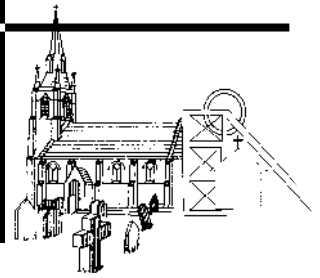


OUR COMMUNITY

www.st-thomas-keresley.org.uk



NEW VICAR APPOINTED

FEBRUARY
2012

50P

"It is with great pleasure and excitement that (subject to the completion of the normal formalities) we can announce that the next Vicar of Keresley will be the Reverend Mark Norris.



*The future
belongs to
those who
belong to
God.
This is hope.
W T Purkiser*

Mark, Cathy his wife and their children will be moving into the Vicarage in March and Mark will be Licensed here on 25th April. We ask you to pray for the Norris family as they prepare both for their move from Leamington Spa and also their new ministry amongst us "

*Claire McArthur, Pete Hudson, Nerys
Watton, Parish Representatives*



At Keresley
Village
Community Church



JESUS SAID
"I AM THE GOOD
SHEPHERD"



Sunday 26th February
2-4pm



New magazine layout

In this issue you will notice some regular items have moved. The Calendars for both churches have now been amalgamated and can be found on page 2. Children's activities are listed together on page 7.

Page 3 will have news and events for both ends of the parish. The Keresley Past and Parish Register have moved to page 6, leaving pages 4 and 5 available for other news and articles of interest.

Your feedback would be welcomed. Please contact me with your ideas.

Heather Hudson

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THE MONTH AHEAD AT ST THOMAS' AND KVCC

February

Friday 3rd

5-6pm KVCC

Friday Church. All age worship and fellowship

Sunday 5th

9am St Thomas'

Holy Communion and hymns, Rev Buff Forbes-Stone

10.30am St Thomas'

Family Service. Pete Hudson

10.30am KVCC

Holy Communion. Steve Medley

Sunday 12th

9am St Thomas'

Holy Communion. Rev Buff Forbes-Stone

10.30am St Thomas'

Family Communion and baptism. No Sunday School (Half term week). Rev Martin Kirkbridge

10.30am KVCC

Family Service. Steve Medley

Sunday 19th

9am St Thomas'

Holy Communion. Rev Buff Forbes-Stone

10.30am St Thomas'

Family Worship. Claire McArthur

10.30am KVCC

Holy Communion. Steve Medley with Rev Alan Hawker

Wednesday 22nd

7.30pm St Thomas'

Ash Wednesday service. Claire McArthur

Sunday 26th

9am St Thomas

Holy Communion. Rev Buff Forbes-Stone

10.30am St Thomas'

Family Communion. Rev David Tilley

10.30am KVCC

Family Service. Steve Medley

2-4pm KVCC

Messy Church

LEN



Sunday Morning Activities at St. Thomas' Church at 10.30am for Children and Young People (during term time)

1st Sunday

Family Service in Church

2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays

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

This pattern may change occasionally for special services.

March

Friday 3rd

5-6pm KVCC

Friday Church. All age worship and fellowship

Sunday 5th

9am St Thomas'

Holy Communion and hymns. Rev Buff Forbes-Stone

10.30am St Thomas'

Family Service. Pete Hudson

10.30am KVCC

No service. Circuit service at the Central Hall

Other Diary dates

Saturday 11th to Sunday 19th February

Schools half term

Lent groups

St Thomas' will be hosting Lent study groups - these will be both evening and daytime. If you are interested in joining a groups please let Claire McArthur know.

Looking ahead . . .

Sunday 18th March is Mother's Day

Fellowship groups

Would you like the opportunity to meet with others during the week? There are three groups meeting regularly in the parish for fellowship, study and prayer and new members are welcome.

Two evening groups meet in homes on Monday and Wednesday, and the Refreshment group meets on Tuesday afternoon in the Galilee Room.

To find out more about the evening groups contact Claire McArthur.

Refreshment for all

Tuesday afternoons, 1.30-2.30pm in the Galilee Room. Fortnightly. Meetings this month:

Tuesday February 7th and 21st



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.

Collection box in church

There is a box in church where contributions to the Coventry Foodbank can be placed.



Buy a little extra with your weekly shop, or take advantage of some of the buy one get one free offers to bring something each Sunday.

Help needed in March

Steve and Jo Medley are away for the week beginning 11th March. Extra help is needed to cover some of the young people's activities while they are away. See Steve and Jo to find out more.

Advance Notice

On Good Friday (6th April) we are planning to run a Messy Church for Easter - a family event rather than the normal morning activities just for children. It would include the normal Messy Church elements such as food!



This would be a joint event run in St Thomas' Church Hall, 10am to 12 noon. We need lots of help to do this. If you would like to be involved we're having a planning meeting on Friday 24th February at 7.30pm in the Galilee Room.

For more details contact Steve and Jo Medley



"It's either an appeal to youth culture or the heating's playing up again"

Visiting the Land of the Holy One

Rev David Tilley writes:

I spent six months last year working at St George's College in Jerusalem. The college runs short courses in the Holy Land and the Middle East. I accompanied them to the holy and historical sites.

I learned so much. It also gave me the opportunity to make contact again with friends from my three months in Bethlehem last year.

We have a diocesan link with the Syriac Orthodox Church and it was a privilege to meet with Archbishop Mar Severios, share their services, and renew friendships. Bishop John came out for a review of the diocesan links with Bishop Josiah from Nigeria and Mar Severios.

There were excitements – visiting the Golan Heights and looking into Syria at the sad deserted town of Quneitra, eating pork chops in Ashkelon (it's the influence of Russian immigrants), being shaken down by Israeli military before a night in a Bedouin camp in the desert, to say nothing of the rich kaleidoscope of services and worship available in Holy Week and Easter. Seeing the "Arab Spring" in the Middle East and enjoying talking to the Palestinian (and Muslim) staff of the college was fascinating.

Am I going back? Conversations are taking place. Now, where's my passport ... should I start packing?

If this interests you contact me about a pilgrimage I am leading 3 – 13 September for people in the Diocese. Cost £1600 per person.

Contact the Parish Office and your interest will be passed on to David, or speak to him in person when he is due to be with us for 10.30am communion on 26th February.



Hope for 2012

'For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.' (Isaiah 9:6)

As the start of this New Year we are all aware of the uncertainties which we face, especially in terms of our finances, jobs and economic prospects. We have to face the big questions of life: *what shall I do?; who can help me?; who cares for me? and what do I say?*

Rev Paul Hardingham, Rector of Bolton

The familiar words of the prophet Isaiah were also given by God in a time of political and economic uncertainty. The Assyrians had just conquered the northern kingdom of Israel, fulfilling Isaiah's warnings to the people, who had turned their back on God and his ways. However, Isaiah also brings a word of hope, *'The people walking in darkness have seen a great light'* (2). For Isaiah, it felt as if the future had already arrived! However, after 700 years the promised child was fulfilled in the birth of Jesus. For us, facing a New Year, he continues to be an answer to both our needs and questions:

Wonderful Counsellor: he will give us the wisdom we need, when we have difficult decisions to make at work or home, or in dealing with our finances or future direction.

Mighty God: he will provide the help and strength to face the difficult diagnosis, the family crisis or relationships breakdown, as we trust his plan and purpose for our lives.

Everlasting Father: he cares for us as a father cares for his children, so we can come to him when we feel alone or we are really struggling, knowing that he hears and will answer our prayers.

Prince of Peace: he has secured peace by his cross and resurrection, and so we can find in him true acceptance, forgiveness and peace for our lives, relationships and future.

Therefore at the start of 2012, may *'our joy be increased'* (3) as for the people in Isaiah's day. For only Jesus can truly turn our sorrow into joy and save us from the vicious spiral of sin and death. Whatever the mess and mistakes we have made over the past year, he can deal with them. With him both our present and future are secure. This is no pipe-dream, for *'the zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.'*

Fairtrade Fortnight (27 Feb - 11 March)

SHOPPING LIGHT

Shopping is now a universal obsession. Yet while millions consume their lives away, millions more die daily of poverty and debt. How can we afford this global inequality?

So let's rewrite our weekly shopping list for the wellbeing of the world:

Let's start shopping lighter by:

*shopping light of excess,
shopping light of instant demand,
shopping light of commercialisation,
shopping light of environmental waste,
shopping light of non-seasonable produce,
shopping light of bargains at
other people's expense.*

Let's start reducing our greed by:

*reducing poverty,
reducing malnutrition,
reducing unfit housing,
reducing unclean water,
reducing unfair trade rules,
reducing employment exploitation.*

Between the producer and the consumer hold the hands of wealth and the heart of greed.

Between governments and nations hold the hands of economics and business profits.

Yet together we can redistribute our resources and bring together the hands of justice and the heart of life.

And that will be money well spent.

Fleur Dorrell – Mothers' Union.



IT CAN BE A SIMPLE STEP

Like swapping your tea to Fairtrade, or a bigger step, like asking everyone in your office to do it too.

www.fairtrade.org.uk/step for more information and ideas,

Prayer about the global financial crisis
God of all the world, give us wisdom in troubled times.

As we realise how fragile our systems of security are, remind us how much more fragile they are for those who have nothing.

As we talk of financial crisis, remind us of the true financial crisis for those who go to bed hungry.

As we face challenges over our own resources, remind us that you teach us to share what we have.

Inspire us to live in a Christ-like way, and to bring your peace to a world in turmoil.

Christian Aid



What's the Big Idea? - an Introduction to the New Testament book of 1 Peter

This letter begins: *'Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia.'* (1:1) The author clearly identifies himself as Peter the apostle and leader of the early church. The places mentioned are all Roman provinces located in the northeast part of Asia Minor (present-day Turkey). Peter is writing to churches that had been established by Paul. The letter's recipients are also described as *'strangers' or 'exiles'*, by which Peter is referring to the Christian community scattered throughout the empire, those *'who have been chosen ... for obedience to Jesus Christ'* (1:2).

Peter is writing from the church in *'Babylon'* (5:13), which probably refers to Rome, in the same way that it is used in Revelation 17-18.

In terms of date, the letter was probably written towards the end of Peter's life in 63-64 AD. Peter speaks into a situation where the Christians were experiencing persecution, which suggests the persecution that took place in 64 AD when Nero blamed Christians for the Fire of Rome. Roman historian Tacitus tells us that Christians were persecuted by Nero with public approval for *'hatred of the human race'* (Tacitus, Annals, xv.44).

Although it is a short letter, only five chapters long, it is an important one for us to study. It contains a number of important themes that

Christian disciples should understand if they are to serve Jesus faithfully today. Some of the main themes include:

- ⊕ Appreciating our salvation in Christ, rather than taking it for granted
- ⊕ Learning obedience and submission even through tough times
- ⊕ Practising holiness while being engaged with those around us
- ⊕ Living in the world without being overwhelmed by it
- ⊕ Following Christ's sacrificial lifestyle so it becomes our own
- ⊕ Growing through our sufferings rather than being defeated by them
- ⊕ Being faithful in our relationships with family, employers, and employees
- ⊕ Grasping our true identity as God's people
- ⊕ Preparing for judgment without being driven by fear
- ⊕ Developing the character of leaders who reflect the leadership of Christ

Peter concludes by saying *'I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it.'* (5:12). This sums-up Peter's intention throughout the letter of pointing his readers to God and his grace, while helping them to see practical ways in which they can grow in the likeness of Christ.

St Thomas' Keresley and Coundon

A report on the School's Christmas term from the January 1937 issue of the magazine, 75 years ago.

The School

The Christmas Term commenced with many children absent through an epidemic of mumps and whooping cough, and throughout the last three months attendances have been rather low due to coughs and colds caused by the bad weather. These absences naturally affect the work of the School, but, in spite of this, most of the children have made a good start to their year's work.

During November the usual collection of goods was made for the "Pound Day" organised for the Coventry Hospital. This month we shall be appealing on behalf of the St Dunstan's Fund, and we shall be very grateful for contributions towards this worthy cause. Two thousand men are still under its care, and for several years friends in Keresley and district have given generously.

On the afternoon of Wednesday 23rd December the Breaking-up Celebrations were held. The whole school first sang carols and then prizes for good conduct, work and attendance were distributed by

the Vicar who congratulated the winners and gave words of encouragement to each one. He was supported by Mrs Bastin, Mrs Bastin sen, Mrs and Mrs B R Masser, Miss H Rotherham, Mr H P Loasby and Mrs Sleath all of whom we were very pleased to have with us, shewing by their presence their interest in our work. The prizes were given by Mrs Southall, of Hillside Farm, Brownhill Green, whose generosity we much appreciate, and by the staff.

Later in the afternoon Father Christmas arrived amid great enthusiasm and each one received a present from a giant Christmas tree which looked very gay decorated with electric lights. Hearty cheers were given for Father Christmas, who had paid us a visit at a very busy time. Each boy and girl also had a bag of sweets and an apple before leaving for home.

We are very grateful to those who so kindly sent us donations and gifts which enabled these celebrations to be held—Mr and Mrs B R Masser, Mr and Mrs J Morris, Mr H P Loasby, and the parents of almost every child in school. DKD

PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISM

12th December:
Miles Martin Faulkner

CREMATION

2nd December
Edmund William David Pearman, aged 86 of
Ashleigh House, Westminster Road

13th December
Margaret Nancy Phillips, aged 89 of Brackenhurst
Road

13th December
Thomas Edward Hughes, aged 64 of Newland
Lane

15th December
Frederick Manning, aged 82 of Keresley Road

BURIAL AT ST. PAUL'S

23rd November
Amena Khatoon Scott, aged 45 of Keresley Green
Road

BURIAL

14th December
Betty Doreen Harris, aged 83 of Middlemarch
Road

3rd January
Albert Chapman and Ina Chapman, both aged 86
of Bennetts Raod South

9th January
Margaret Beck, aged 85 of Richmond Lodge,
Hospital Lane

10th January
Anne Johnson, aged 86 of Belvedere Road

ASHES INTERRED

2nd December
Graham Peter Carpenter, aged 61 of Addison
Road

9th January
Eunice Mary Blea, aged 89 of The Scotchill

13th January
Glyn Wilcox, aged 85 of Old Winnings Road

Forgiveness

A Sunday School teacher had just concluded her lesson and wanted to make sure she had made her point.

She said, "Can anyone tell me what you must do before you can obtain forgiveness of sin?"

There was a short pause and then, from the back of the room, a small boy spoke up.

"Sin," he said.



You can start again!

'You will give me added years of life, as rich and full as those of many generations, all packed into one.' Psalm 61.6

A man out walking in the early Spring saw a bird's nest lying on the ground. It had been destroyed by a storm. He thought sadly of the time and work it must have taken to build it, but suddenly his thoughts were interrupted by a bird singing. When he looked up into the tree, he saw a wonderful sight: the little bird was busy building another nest!

You can't go back. You can't rewrite the past! But you don't have to wallow in regret or remorse. Your experiences have made you the person you are today and, if you're still breathing, then you can start your life over again, beginning right now! David blew it – his mistakes were bigger than most people's, but he decided not to be a prisoner of his past. He prayed: 'You will give me added years of life as rich and as full of those of many generations, all packed into one.' Psalm 61.6. Get your eyes off the rear view mirror! All of us have things we wish we had done differently – or hadn't done at all. What is past is past. Put it under the forgiveness of a merciful God and move on. Your best days are ahead if you can accept this promise and move on it.

Word for Today

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



FIRST STEPS

... WITH JESUS

For babies and pre-school children with their parents and carers, weekly in term time

Mondays 1.30-2.30pm Meets in the Galilee Room,

Tuesdays 1.30-2.45pm. Meets at Keresley Village Community Church



TRAILBLAZERS CHILDREN'S CLUB

Mondays 5-6pm at Keresley Village Community Church

THURSDAY AT ST T'S

Thursdays From 6pm to 7pm
For 5-11 years Meets in the Galilee Room



DROP IN CENTRE FOR TEENAGERS

Wednesdays 7.30pm to 9pm at Keresley Village Community Church



YOUTH ESSENCE

Thursdays 7.30pm to 9pm in the 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)

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 above for details.