

holy trinity church

parish magazine

September 2015

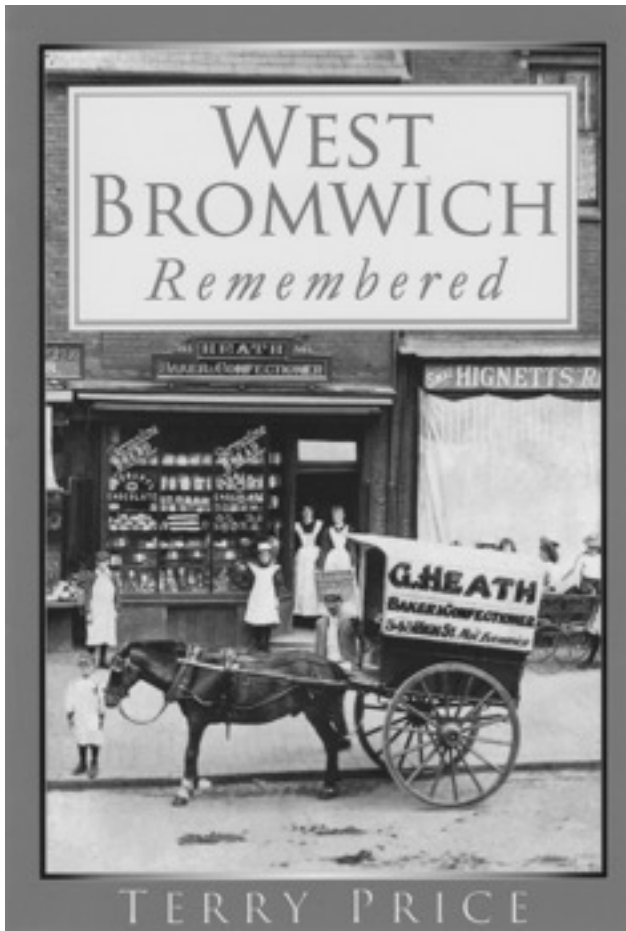


30p



**JESUS SAID
MY HOUSE
SHALL BE CALLED
A HOUSE OF PRAYER
FOR ALL NATIONS**

Terry Price's new book



Terry Price's latest book on sale at Wesley Methodist Church, High Street, West Bromwich on Saturday 26 September between 9.30am and 4.00pm. West Midlands historian Carl Chinn will also attend and will sign books between 10.00am and 1.00pm.

The hardback book will cost £9.99 (normally £16.99) and contains over 300 photographs.

There are 6 chapters in the book covering not only the town centre but virtually every district within West Bromwich and will include the very popular "schooldays" section with 24 different schools represented.

Chapter One

The Town Centre
Lyng
Spon Lane

Chapter Two

Great Bridge
Greets Green
Swan Village

Chapter Three

Black Lake
Hall End
Harvills Hawthorn
Hill Top

Chapter Four

Charlemont
Church Vale
Lyndon
Tantany

Chapter Five

Great Barr
Friar Park
Yew Tree

Chapter Three

Black Lake
Hall End
Harvills Hawthorn
Hill Top

Schools include: All Saints, Black Lake, Bratt Street, Charlemont, Churchfields, Christchurch, Cronehills, Fir Tree (YTE), Fisher Street, George Salter, Grammat/ WB Municipal, Greets Green, Grove Vale, Guns Village, Hall Green, Hamstead, Harvills Hawthorns, Hateley Heath, Hill Top, Holy Trinity, Joseph E Cox, Lyng, Spon Lane, Yew Tree.

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September Prayer *Daphne Kitching*

Loving Father,

Please help us with all the new things September brings: a new school year, new stages of life, with children moving on or out, new challenges for many as summer gives way to autumn. Help us in this season of change to know the constant reality of Jesus. Thank you for the new life He freely offers to all who turn to Him.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

From the Vicarage



Teach me, LORD, the way of your decrees, that I may follow it to the end. Psalm 119:33

This little verse occurs in the longest chapter in the bible, Psalm 119 (which has 176 verses). It has been on my mind all summer as the Lord brings it back to me again and again.

I've found that there are many levels at which this one line works in our lives. First, it establishes God as teacher, we are the pupils. Christian believers acknowledge this.

Second, it establishes God as our authority. God gives us his decrees, principles, laws and commands, and expects us to learn them so we can follow them. This is very hard for us to do, because it is completely counter cultural in our secular society where everything we do is self-justified. In our culture we often say, "I did this because..." and we make up our own reason as seems best to us. But Christian believers are those who make God the teacher who has authority. We are to put into practice what he teaches us to do.

Third, God expects us to learn about living for him. We are to learn his ways, follow his paths, keep his commands, obey his law and be guided by his decrees. Christian believers are to learn from God the teacher about what pleases him, and by living to please him, we learn to find God's blessings (Deuteronomy 28:1-6).

Fourth, we never stop learning. "I will follow it to the end." In other words, our learning begins at birth and ends at death. The psalm writer is writing as an adult, keen to learn and apply the wisdom of God.

Five, and last, the verse gives us a new perspective on what life is for. What if our life is for learning God's decrees? What if every situation we face as individual Christians and as a local church which is part of a denomination, which in turn is connected to the worldwide church, is given to us by God for us to learn God's decrees? What if the knowledge we gain of living to please God starts now and is carried on into eternity, through faith in Christ as Saviour?

This completely changes the way we view our life and situations. Difficult situations are no longer problems to be solved but experiences to learn through. Of course, we need to be clear about two types of learning. First, there is theological knowledge, the stuff we learn from the bible, books, courses and college. We are to learn God's decrees from his word, this is good theology. If we ignore God's decrees, we develop bad theology.

Second, we learn to apply God's decrees in our lives through the situations that we face. Whether our situations are joyful or sad, easy or difficult, painless or deeply wounding, they are all ways in which the God who loves us gives us ways to learn his decrees by following them to the end. If we don't learn God's decrees we can't apply them.

This verse has helped me in lots of ways. I am helped to keep learning God's decrees, not as religious habit or duty but for the joy of learning from God. I am helped to face situations as a way of learning and growing by applying or following God's decrees. And I am helped to see that what has happened in the past, happy or sad, has all been from the Lord's hand as his way of teaching me his decrees. I pray that this may also be of help to you.

With love, Neil

The reality of Jesus

Overwhelmed by the reality of Jesus
life changes,
begins afresh
in an altogether different dimension.

Overwhelmed by the reality of Jesus
there is purpose
and energy and a calling
to leave the comfortable known-space
to go in joy and brave obedience
wherever He sends.

Overwhelmed by the risen
and real and living Lord Jesus,
everything is possible in our "Yes!"

by Daphne Kitching

Prayer Focus - New School Year



'Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future.'

PROVERBS 19:20 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)



Heavenly Father, may today be significant as local churches commission and pray for children, young people and staff at the start of a new school year. Please help them each realise that You will be with them each day as they return to school. Amen. (www.prayforschools.org)

Please remember everyone who will be starting at a new nursery, school, college or other place of learning this term. Pray they will find good friends, settle into their employment, studies and other activities, and receive the advice and wisdom they need.

Pray for head teachers and other staff seeking to maintain high standards of behaviour among pupils. Ask God to help them be wise, patient and understanding, especially towards young people with special needs or other difficulties that may cause them to be disruptive.

Lord, we lift to You Angela Constance MSP, Huw Lewis AM, Nicky Morgan MP and John O'Dowd MLA as they carry out their responsibilities for education in Scotland, Wales, England, and Northern Ireland. Amen.

Remember the head teachers and governors or board members responsible for each school's finances, as they take difficult budgetary decisions which may result in losing staff, postponing building projects and making cuts in other areas.

Pray about the discussions around schools' responsibility 'to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development'. Ask God to grant Christian teachers and in other roles in education clarity and wisdom as they contribute to the debate.

THANKSGIVING: for every opportunity for Christians to contribute to the life of local schools: leading assemblies and lessons, mentoring and counselling, practical support, serving as governors, praying and facilitating Christian groups and special events.

Over 1.3 million people work in state-funded schools in England, the equivalent to 922,000 full-time staff members. This includes heads and others in school leadership roles, classroom teachers, teaching assistants and non-classroom based school support staff.

We continue our column that looks at memorable dates in the month (this time, September) down the years. Here is a range from which to pick and choose, as your space allows.

Memorable dates down the years - September

300 years ago:- on 1st Sept 1715 that the Jacobite Uprisings began. The Earl of Mar proclaimed James III the rightful sovereign, leading to a Jacobite uprising throughout Scotland and in parts of England.

125 years ago:- on 15th Sept 1890 that Dame Agatha Christie was born. This award-winning crime/mystery writer became the best-selling novelist of all time. She created popular characters including Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple.

100 years ago:- on 16th Sept 1915 that the first Woman's Institute in Britain was established, in Anglesey.

80 years ago:- on 15th Sept 1935 that the Nuremberg Laws were passed in Germany. German Jews were stripped of their citizenship and the swastika became the official symbol of Nazi Germany.

75 years ago:- on 7 Sept 1940 (to 21 May 1941) that Germany waged The Blitz on London and other British cities in an attempt to destroy its war production capabilities.

70 years ago:- on 2nd Sept 1945 that World War II officially ended when representatives from Japan signed the formal surrender document on board the US battleship USS Missouri in Tokoyo Bay.

60 years ago:- on 22nd Sept 1955 that Britain's first independent television channel ITV was launched, ending the BBC's monopoly and broadcasting Britain's first TV advertisements.

Also 30 years ago:- on 9 – 11 Sept 1985 that the Handsworth riots in Birmingham took place. Unemployment and racial tensions were the cause. 45 shops were looted and burnt, at least two people died.

20 years ago:- on 28th Sept 1995 that the Israeli Government agreed to give Palestinians control of much of the West Bank, which Israel had occupied for 28 years.

15 years ago:- on 29th Sept 2000 that the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland closed. The high security prison was used to house paramilitary prisoners during the Troubles.

The world's most astonished atheist

premier christianity Aug 2015

When the United States bombed Hiroshima and Nagasaki seventy years ago this month, Joy Davidman—best known today as the wife of C.S. Lewis—was in a vulnerable way.



Nearly six months pregnant with her second son, she lived in Ossining, N.Y., with her toddler and her then husband, the troubled novelist William (Bill) Lindsay Gresham. Jewish-born and Bronx-raised, Joy had been an atheist since childhood and became a card-carrying member of the Communist Party in her early 20s. But motherhood and a move to the suburbs had isolated her from comrades, setting her adrift from the Party and abruptly ending what had been a successful career in New York City as an award winning poet, editor and film critic for the Communist magazine, *New Masses*.

When the atomic bombs fell in August of 1945, forcing the fact of mortality, Joy suddenly realised that civilization could be instantly obliterated. She was bringing a second child into a world where, she wrote in one poem, 'ashes that were babies / blew among the bamboo trees.' Science might not be society's salvation, as she had long believed; instead, it might be the world's damnation.

With the destruction in Japan, wrote *Time* magazine days later, echoing her shaken worldview, '[Humankind] had won the most Promethean of its conquests over nature, and had put into the hands of common man the fire and force of the sun itself. In an instant, without warning, the present had become the unthinkable future. Was there hope in that future, and if so, where did hope lie?' Horror, anxiety, and existential despair clamped onto Joy's psyche.

During the months that followed, atomic dread, postpartum depression, and an unstable husband left Joy physically and mentally exhausted. One weekday in the spring of 1946, the phone rang. It was Bill, calling from his Manhattan office in a panic. 'I'm having a nervous breakdown,' he told her. His mind was going. He felt paralyzed. He couldn't stay where he was and he couldn't bring himself to come home. Then he hung up.

Joy clutched the phone. Bill had a history of suicide attempts. She immediately tried calling him back; he did not answer. After many more phone calls, she contemplated racing into Manhattan and searching on foot. But even if she could get someone to watch the children, where would she go once she reached Grand Central Station? And what if Bill called again while she wasn't home? What if the father of her children never returned? 'By nightfall there was nothing left to do but wait and see if he turned up, alive or dead. I put the babies to sleep and waited.'

Joy's philosophy had always been 'rigid and admitted no thought of God, of religion, of anything outside of dialectic materialism.' A self-assured woman who believed she had all the answers, she was now forced to admit helplessness. 'I was not, after all, "the master of my fate" and "the captain of my soul."' Joy had never in her life allowed for defeat. 'There is only one final beauty, to be on your feet, and only one ultimate ugliness, to fall to your knees,' she once wrote. But alone in her room that night, all that changed. 'All my defences — the walls of arrogance and cocksureness and self-love behind which I had hid from God — went down momentarily. And God came in.'

Joy later described that experience: 'There was a Person with me in the room... a Person so real that all my previous life was by comparison mere shadow play... My perception of God lasted perhaps half a minute... When it was over I found myself on my knees, praying. I think I must have been the world's most astonished atheist.' It was a moment of grace.

Bill did return, although those missing hours remain a mystery. Normal life resumed. Yet Joy felt blindsided by her experience. All her life she had taken atheism for granted; then the bomb exploded her worldview. 'It's always the unforeseen that happens,' she commented, 'as it happened with a bang at Hiroshima.'

Joy now felt shockingly certain that there was a God. Still, she wanted to understand; she didn't want to repeat with religion the mistake she'd made with atheism. 'I had learned my lesson, and this time I looked before I leaped; I studied religions.' Joy commenced a quest that would consume her for the next three years, what Bill called 'an unsystematic but intense course of study and debate — history, philosophy, formal logic, the scriptures of half a dozen nations, the Bible itself and its modern interpretation.'

This study led her, inevitably, to C. S. Lewis—first as his reader, then as his valued 'pen-friend,' and finally, in what would become one of the twentieth century's greatest literary love stories, as his most unlikely wife.



In His Arms



Crystal was wondering if Billy wasn't probably right. "Mum hasn't recognized me for nearly a year now, but it's her birthday. It's the right thing to do."

"I don't understand why I have to go. She's your mum," said Billy.

"Not another word. You're going and that's final," Crystal replied with tears. "Alright, chill out, Mum," as he stomped away.

The thirty minute trip to the nursing facility didn't seem as long after making the same run five days a week for the past two years, but tiring, nonetheless.

"We're here! Help your Dad get the cake and presents from the trunk," she said. Billy responded. "Great, now we can listen to Mama quote scripture and wear her cake."

"Get the cake and put a zipper on it," the Dad said with a right now glare. Mum was sitting by the window just staring and rocking her chair with her bible laying on her lap. A familiar sight. She always said that spending time with the Lord was like looking out of a window. Something new to see every time.

Crystal, upbeat as usual, started the celebration with singing Happy Birthday as some of the staff nearby chimed in.

"Happy Birthday, Mum," she said.

"My darlings, you shouldn't have," Mama answered.

Billy forgetting Dad had drawn the line on his mouth for the day, responded. "What was that gibberish?"

"Is that little Billy? My, how you've grown," she responded.

Sometimes Mum just continued staring out of the window my entire visit and other times she would mumble most of the time. I suppose it does sound like gibberish, but I like to think she is still in there somewhere.

No sooner had the celebration began, when an aide stepped in and asked us to leave for a few minutes so they could clean Mum up. Seems like they wait until you get there every time.

Crystal got her mom's attention and said, "We'll be back in a few minutes." "Jesus, I can't stand this part. It's so embarrassing," whispered Mama.

"Sweet child, come here and let me hold you in my arms. Have I told you how much I love you lately?" asked the Lord.

She giggled and said, "Don't be silly. You tell me that all the time."

"Child, I going to take you home with me today, but before we leave I want you to tell your family bye for now and that I love them."

When we came back into the room. Mum was sitting in her rocker actually reading her bible with a glow on her face like she always carried before she got sick.

I was about ready to speak when Mum said very clearly, "It was so nice of you kids to come and spend my birthday with me."

"Mom!" I started.

"Listen! I'm not going to be with you much longer, but Jesus said to tell you that He loves you." as she sat down in her rocker. "I hate to bring this day to an end, but I'm getting very tired." as she glanced out of the window.

I wanted to stay and just catch up. It had been so long since I've been able to have a conversation with mum. We use to shop and talk till we dropped. But, it had been a long day, as I leaned over and kissed her cheek and told her I loved her.

We were just about to leave the room when Mum said, "Billy, you're going to make a fine preacher someday. The Lord said you'd understand what I'm saying.

We were all pretty quiet on the trip home. In a little disbelief that Mum had come around long enough to celebrate her birthday with us. I thought, "God is good." when suddenly the car phone rang. The nurse on the other end said Mum was in her rocker, her bible opened and peacefully went to sleep shortly after we'd left. I thought, "Be it like the Lord to give us this memory of mom's last birthday."

Alzheimer's is a terrible disease to watch a love one or friend go through. It affects the lives of everyone associated with the victim. Most often, it is diagnosed in people over 65 years of age, although the less-prevalent early-onset Alzheimer's can occur much earlier. In 2006, there were 26.6 million sufferers worldwide. This disease is predicted to affect 1 in 85 people globally by 2050.

In conclusion, I believe just as the Lord held Mama in His arms when she was afraid. He'll be right there no matter what you're going through to whisper in your ear. "I love you and will never leave you or forsake you."

The End

Michael Cochran *The Parish Window*

Raj, our ministry Trainee, is now helping with the magazine production and has suggested this article from 'The Old Time Gospel Ministry' website; a short biography of preacher **Robert Murray M'Cheyne (1813-1843)**

A man of Fervent Prayer



It is not how long you live, but how you live that counts." Robert Murray M'Cheyne was a living example of this often neglected truth. At twenty-three years old he was ordained and inducted into the church of St. Peters at Dundee. At thirty years old he finished his course, dying in the spring of 1843.

Like John the Baptist and the Saviour Himself, M'Cheyne ushered in Christ's kingdom in just a few short years. It was during his brief public ministry that Scotland experienced one of its greatest revivals. From 1839-1842 much of Scotland was turned upside down through the Spirit-filled labours of W. C. Burns and Robert Murray M'Cheyne.

For every time M'Cheyne directed men to look at their sins he pointed them ten times to look on Jesus. This was the key to his tender and passionate preaching. To him Christ was not just one of many theological concepts in a message, Christ Jesus was the message! M'Cheyne's power in the pulpit was the result of his intimate knowledge of Jesus. He could boldly say, *"I am better acquainted with Jesus Christ than I am with any man in the world."*

Often as he preached the entire congregation was brought to tears. M'Cheyne's diary and letters describe for us some of these precious meetings. He wrote, *"It was like a pent-up flood breaking forth; tears were streaming from the eyes of many, and some fell on the ground groaning and weeping and crying for mercy."* At other times men and women were so overcome with grief and conviction that they literally had to be carried out of the church - "In some areas whole congregations were frequently moved as one man, and the voice of the minister was drowned out by the cries of anxious souls."

M'Cheyne's voice, eyes and gestures spoke of the tenderness of Christ. It was not Robert Murray M'Cheyne the people saw, it was Jesus. M'Cheyne declared, *"A man cannot be a faithful minister, until he preaches Christ for Christ's sake - until he gives up striving to attract people to himself and seeks only to attract them to Christ."*

Perhaps more powerful than M'Cheyne's preaching was his praying. To him the prayer closet was a refuge of fellowship, holiness and intercession. M'Cheyne's diary and letters are replete with examples of his prayerful life. He wrote, *"I rose early to seek God, and found Him whom my soul loveth. Who would not rise early to meet such company?" "King Jesus is a Good Master. I have had some sweet seasons of communion with the unseen God which I would not give up for thousands worth of gold and silver."*

Only a few months before his death M'Cheyne drew up some considerations concerning "Reformation in Secret Prayer". *"I ought"*, said M'Cheyne, *"to spend the best hours of the day in communion with God. It is my noblest and most fruitful employment."* It is said that Robert Murray M'Cheyne had a special place in his church where he would pour over the names on the church role and weep with groans of intercession. Though only a young man, M'Cheyne possessed that rarest of jewels; a TRUE shepherd's heart. M'Cheyne fervently laboured among the people of Dundee, as if he somehow knew he would soon die.

He was a man motivated by eternity. He wrote, *"As I was walking in the fields, the thought came over me with almost overwhelming power, that every one of my flock must soon be in heaven or hell. Oh how I wished that I had a tongue like thunder, that I might make all hear; or that I had a frame like iron, that I might visit every one and say, 'Escape for thy life! Ah sinner! You little know how I fear that you will lay the blame of your damnation at my door.'"*

To love Jesus is to love holiness. Many professing Christians shrink from the message of purity and thus draw back from the Saviour they claim to love. Robert Murray M'Cheyne understood the necessity of a holy life. He wrote, *"Study holiness of life. Your whole usefulness depends on this, for your sermons last but an hour or two; your life preaches all the week. If Satan can only make a covetous minister, a lover of praise, and pleasure, he has ruined your ministry."*

A holy minister is an awful weapon in the hand of God. A word spoken by you when your conscience is clear, and your heart is full of God's Spirit is worth ten thousand words spoken in unbelief and sin."

Lying upon his deathbed with a raging fever, M'Cheyne lifted his hands in prayer, he exclaimed, *"This parish Lord, this people, this whole place."* Robert Murray M'Cheyne ended his life like he lived it, full of fervent prayer.

Holy Trinity Bell Mystery solved



It started with an email from rural dean Mike Claridge regarding his friend Stuart Hutchieson which led to a discovery about our church bell that no one in our present church congregation was aware of. At the same time it solved a mystery that Stuart had been trying to solve for a while.

Stuart Hutchieson is a campanologist (bell ringer to you and me) who has served on the committee of the Lichfield & Walsall Archdeaconries Society of Change Ringers for over 20 years in various capacities. He learned to ring at Abbots Bromley in 1977 prompted by the restoration of the bells there.

The ringers had raised £2000 to purchase the redundant ring of eight bells from St Martin's, Bradley near Bilston which had closed and was scheduled for demolition. Stuart has rung at Abbots Bromley ever since.

In his email Mike asked if Stuart could visit HT to see our church bell because of his interest in the history and origins of church bells. Stuart was actually trying to find the location of a bell which was made in 1841 for an unknown church in West Bromwich. Stuart was emailed the details that Barry Page had produced which gave no clue to the date or manufacturer of the bell or when it was installed.

Barry knowing more about the bell and the difficult access to it than anyone else, kindly agreed to meet Stuart and take him to see the bell. Barry also explained the modifications he and Joe Evans had made to a part of the bell mechanism some years ago.

Stuart clambered over the bell looking for any inscriptions or writing and amazingly found an inscription at the back of the bell which wouldn't have been seen unless someone had actually done what Stuart had done - clambered over the bell - not a straightforward or easy task.

The inscription Stuart found was:- **1841, Thomas Mears of Whitechapel.**

The Whitechapel Bellfoundry is still very much in business and is one of only 2 bell founding - i.e. casting - firms in the UK, the other being John Taylor of Loughborough. There is a note in the Whitechapel Day Book relating to the sale of the bell:

West Bromwich: Whitechapel daybook June 1841 – Thomas Hood, West Bromwich. Bell 9-0-15, clapper, stock and wheel.

Stuart believes that the Thomas Hood mentioned in the Day Book would be the purchaser at West Bromwich - usually the Vicar or church warden in those days, or possibly the architect. The numbers refer to the weight of the bell in imperial units i.e. 9 hundredweight, 0 quarters and 15 pounds. In new money that's about 465kg.

Following what Stuart said about the purchaser I looked up the vicar and wardens at that time and they were vicar H.S. Berresford (1842-1845) and wardens George Silvester and Thomas Wood (1842-1845).

It's difficult to believe that the Thomas Hood in the Day Book and Thomas Wood the warden are not the same person. The names appear too close to be a coincidence and either the bell inscription is wrong or I have typed the wrong name in the church history book. Strongly suspect it's me!!

Whichever it is, it's really good to know the age and manufacturer of our bell and also to know that the bell must have been installed when the church was being built. At the same time it solved Stuart's unknown church query. Time well spent I think so many thanks to Barry for giving up so much of his time and for Stuart adding to the history of our church.

Ed.

Whitechapel Bell Foundry Where Big Ben Started



Stuart Weir looks forward to the major tournament... and meets some Christian players.

Get ready for the Rugby World Cup



The eighth Rugby Union World Cup takes place in England (and Wales) this September and October. The tournament starts with England taking on Fiji at Twickenham on Friday 18th September and concludes with the final, also at Twickenham, on Saturday 31st October.

Twenty teams from around the world including England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, will play in four pools of five teams with the top two progressing to the quarter finals and potentially the semi-finals and final. Only in 2003 when Johnny Wilkinson's drop-goal gave England victory, has a British team been World Cup winners.

One man who knows what the feeling of winning the World Cup is South Africa and Ulster scrum half, Ruan Pienaar: "That is the thing every player dreams off, to play for your country and then to win the World Cup. It was just an amazing, amazing experience. It was a great honour and privilege to be part of a great squad that managed to lift the trophy."



Pienaar has a strong Christian faith, which, he feels, gives him perspective: "It gives me a real sense of freedom to know that Jesus died on the cross for me and to know that I am free. Sometimes you get so caught up in the worldly things and what people think about you but at the end of the day, it is not what people think about you but what God thinks about you that matters".

Another Christian to look out for is Billy Vunipola, who was born in Australia of Tongan parents but is now very much part of the England Rugby set-up. The Saracens' back-row player has lived in the UK since he was six.

He says: "Knowing that Jesus is with me makes me a stronger person, a more confident person. Not arrogant, but just knowing that whatever I do try or attempting to do even if it doesn't come off, I'll always have God to lean back on, and I know if it didn't go my way there must be a reason."

The quotations from Billy Vunipola are from an interview with David Stretton-Downes on behalf of Engage 2015, a cross-denominational campaign set up to help UK churches engage in mission during and after Rugby World Cup 2015. Follow @Engage2015 or visit www.engagemediahub.com to watch the full interview.



**18 SEPTEMBER
to
31 OCTOBER**



The Wit of Churchill

the next few months JP is presenting a series on the Wit of Sir Winston Churchill.



At the age of 87, Churchill broke his left thigh in a fall in Monte Carlo.

On his return to London, as he was being carried over the threshold by an ambulance attendant, Churchill said to him,

'Please, not feet first !'

St James the Least of All

On hymns – ancient and more ancient

From The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

So your church does not bother with hymnbooks, but uses one of those hideous screens which are invariably strategically placed to obscure the altar. I suppose I am bothered, as wherever you placed it in your converted cinema, it could never spoil its architectural aesthetics.



In my fortunately limited experience of such devices, they provide the projectionist with endless opportunities for showing the wrong hymn, or the right hymn but wrong verse, or the right hymn and right verse, but all upside down. In any case, the turnover from one verse to the next always takes place some milliseconds after that verse has started. This means that the congregation, having been silenced for lack of words, is then faced with the challenge of singing two lines at double time.

When we decided to move from 'Hymns More Ancient' to 'Hymns Slightly Less Ancient' some years ago, our Sunday attempts to 'make a joyful noise unto the Lord' threatened to get lost in the noise of battle.

Colonel Wainwright was happy so long as we continued fighting good fights and urging Christian soldiers onwards. Very keen on smiting is the Colonel; under his command, the Midianites wouldn't have stood a chance. The men wanted the hymns they remembered from school, the ladies wanted those they had sung at their weddings, and no one would consider anything that dropped 'thine's or 'wouldst's. Then a vicious rumour started that the new hymnbook might even offer hymns written in the last 50 years. At this, timetables were consulted for bus services to the next village (and church).

Eventually we reached the perfect solution: we did nothing.

Instead, Miss Simpson was charged with buying yards of sticky backed plastic and repairing the current books. But there was still a crisis to come: her young (and radical) niece decided to add a note in the front of every copy. It suggested that if the page for the hymn you wanted was missing, then you could share with the person sitting next to you. Of course, no one has done that yet; it would be an experience almost as traumatic as being invited to pass the peace.

And so we struggle on with our 'Hymns More Ancient', whenever we can find the words. Harmony reigns once again.

Your loving uncle. Eustace

And the congregation replied...

Down in the southern United States, there are many churches known as 'answer back' churches. When the preacher says something, the congregation naturally replies.

One Sunday, a preacher was speaking on what it would take for the church to become better. He said: "If this church is to become better, it must take up its bed, and walk." The congregation intoned: "Let it walk, Preacher, let it walk."

Encouraged by their response, he went further. "If this church is going to become better, it will have to throw aside its hindrances and run!" The congregation chanted: "Let it run, preacher, let it run!"

Now really into his message, he declared: "If this church really wants to become great, it will have to take up its wings and fly!" "Let it fly, Preacher, let it fly!" the congregation shouted.

The Preacher then bellowed: "If this church is going to fly, it will cost money!"

Whereupon the congregation murmured softly: "Let it walk, Preacher, let it walk."



"Finally, we're still waiting for someone from last week's Parent & Toddler Group to come and claim this lost property..."

Ideas for your spare lego *courtesy Pinterest*



Mocha - Sarah Pin It



Intsa - Nicky Pin It

Fridge Idea *Pinterest*



Lesley Smith Pin It

Remember this? *Pinterest*



People and News

Birthday Celebrations - September 2015

6th Ruth

Happy Birthday to you

14th Amanda

Happy Birthday to you

May God Bless you and keep you

14th Kelly Hardcastle

Happy Birthday to you.



Happy Birthday to you

To Jesus be true

May the Lord bless you richly

In all that you do

Remembrance - September 2015

6th Stanley - John Stanley - Beloved Husband of Mildred. Abide with me.

13th Larkin - James Larkin beloved husband of Evelyn. Sadly missed.

20th Stanfield - In Remembrance of Alfred Stanfield and Florence Mary Stanfield. Sadly missed by Daughters Margaret and Mary and family.

27th Stockle - In Memory of Gordon Stockle. Dearly loved. Sadly missed by wife June and family.

Grant unto them eternal rest, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them . May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER TIME

Every Sunday morning at 10.00am before the morning service there is a time for quiet prayer. All welcome. Please join us if you are able.



Meet our new Administration assistant Teri Sekeso.



Teri will be responsible to Neil and in addition to helping Neil will support Helen (Family and Community worker) and Christine (Lay Reader) and the Ministry team. Teri will begin her duties in September. Please pray for and encourage Teri in her admin duties for the church.

It was great to see Simon Skidmore a Ministry Trainee three years ago back at Holy Trinity to lead our Sunday morning communion service. Simon is now a curate in a church in Wednesday and came to help out during Neil's annual vacation. Simon's sermon was based on Timothy 3:1-4:8 which teaches us to persevere even with our problems and doubts and continue to depend on the word of God. Really encouraging sermon from curate Simon.



Another Ministry Trainee - now **Father Tommy Merry** - was back at Holy Trinity. This time sadly to assist Lay Reader Christine Pegler at the funeral of Tony Holden. Tony and his wife Cynthia were regular members of the evening service and the Wednesday Lunch Club and will be sadly missed. Our prayers go out to Cynthia and family in this sad time.

MIDWEEK MORNING PRAYER TIME

Every Monday and Wednesday mornings at 8.00am there is a time for quiet prayer. All welcome. Please join us if you are able.



League of Friends Sandwell Hospital

WELCOME THE DONATIONS of BOOKS and MAGAZINES

PLEASE KEEP THEM COMING

If you need any further information please see Madeline Page.
Thank you all very much for your generous donations.



“Urban Catechism”

begins in church on
Thursday 3rd September
at 7.30pm and Sunday 6th
September at 4.30pm.

Please see Neil or sign up
on the list at back of
church.

Catechism:- a summary of the principles of Christian religion in the form of questions and answers, used for religious instruction.

Urban:- in, relating to, or characteristic of a town or city.

West Bromwich Food Bank

The Food Bank collect and stores food ready to freely distribute to individuals or families in crisis (who cannot afford to feed themselves).

* Milk (UHT or powdered) *
Sugar (500g) * Fruit juice (carton)
Soup * Pasta sauces * Sponge
pudding (tinned) * Tomatoes
(tinned) *Cereals * Rice pudding
(tinned) * Tea Bags/instant
coffee * Instant mash potato *
Rice/pasta * Tinned meat/fish *
Tinned fruit * Jam *Biscuits or
snack bars * Or cash donation



Choir Vestry Refurbishment

Helen and group have now
completed the refurbishment of
the choir vestry.



The old carpet has been removed and the walls painted a nice pazel yellow on two walls and a brighter yellow on the other walls. Helen is now looking for a carpet which can be used for creche purposes.

Good job done!

Forthcoming Events

*** MORE TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE ***



Saturday 5th September Bethel Convention Centre

Bishop Jonathan said in his retirement message on St Chad's Day: *"I invite people to represent every single parish at the Celebration of the Goodness of God to us and to celebrate our life as a Diocese."*

The Goodness of God Celebration

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**



***Coffee Morning
In support of Macmillan
Cancer Support
Holy Trinity Church Hall
Saturday 26th September***

**** ALSO ON SATURDAY MORNING 26TH *
SEPTEMBER***

Safeguarding and Welcome Training Course



**Find Holy Trinity
on Facebook**

[www.facebook.com/
pages](http://www.facebook.com/pages)

Vicar: The Revd. Neil Robbie

**holy trinity
church**

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west bromwich**

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