

holy trinity church

parish magazine

April 2016



30p

Monarch	Reign
Egbert	802-839
Aethelwulf	839-858
Aethelbald	858-860
Aethelbert	860-866
Aethelred	866-871
Alfred the Great	871-899
Edward the Elder	899-925
Athelstan	925-940
Edmund the Magnificent	940-946
Eadred	946-955
Eadwig (Edwy) All-Fair	955-959
Edgar the Peaceable	959-975
Edward the Martyr	975-978
Æthelred II (Ethelred the Unready)	979-1013 and 1014-1016
Edmund II (Ironside)	1016
Svein Forkbeard	1014
Cnut (Canute)	1016-1035
Harold I	1035-1040
Hardicnut	1040-1042
Edward (the Confessor)	1042-1066
Harold II	1066
William I	1066-1087
William II	1087-1100
Henry I	1100-1135
Stephen	1135-1154
Empress Matilda (Queen Maud)	1141
Henry II	1154-1189
Richard I	1189-1199
John	1199-1216
Henry III	1216-1272
Edward I	1272-1307
Edward II	1307-1327
Edward III	1327-1377
Richard II	1377-1399



21st April
2016



Henry IV	1399-1413
Henry V	1413-1422
Henry VI	1422-1461
Edward IV	1461-1483
Edward V	1483
Richard III	1483-1485
Henry VII	1485-1509
Henry VIII	1509-1547
Edward VI	1547-1553
Jane Grey	1553
Mary I	1553-1558
Elizabeth I	1558-1603
James I	1603-1625
Charles I	1625-1649
Oliver Cromwell	1649-1658
Richard Cromwell	1658-1659
Charles II	1660-1685
James II	1685-1688
William III	1689-1702
Mary II	1689-1694
Anne	1702-1714
George I	1714-1727
George II	1727-1760
George III	1760-1820
George IV	1820-1830
William IV	1830-1837
Victoria	1837-1901
Edward VII	1901-1910
George V	1910-1936
Edward VIII	1936-1936
George VI	1936-1952
Elizabeth II	1952 - present

Prayer for every day after Easter

Living, Almighty God,

Thank you that by your Spirit living in me, made possible by the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, you give me all I need.

Like Peter, you forgive and re-commission me. Like Thomas, you meet me in ways tailor-made for me.

Lord, thank you for the daily personal “nudges” that assure me of your reality, your presence in my life, just when I need so much to know you are here.

Thank you that we are Easter People every day, because of Jesus, and in His name we pray.

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Jenny Dennis has been fighting serious illness. Out of the pain of that experience comes this poem...

The Three of us in the Waiting Room

“Jennifer Dennis” my name is called.

I turn to him who waits.

A brief kiss, and then I walk away.

At the door I glance back.

His newspaper and crossword at his side,

he sits, taking comfort that our God waits with him,

as our God moves silently with me to the next scan.

By JDD

Footnote: In the marriage service the minister wraps a stole around the joined right hands of the bridal couple, symbolising that God is the Third person bound up in the new marital relationship. A two-legged stool will wobble and fall over, but a three-legged stool is stable and firm enough to support you!

Inside This Month

- 4/5 From the Vicarage
- 6/7 Prayer Focus - Money Matters - *Jackie Banks*
- 8/9 99th Bishop of Lichfield named - - *parishpump*
- 10 The Queen is “very grateful” for the nation’s prayers
- 11 Hymns based on scripture - Thanksgiving for Peace
- 12/13 From addiction on the streets to tears of joy - *parishpump*
- 14/16 Learning Faith from Doubting - Dr. Ralph F. Wilson
- 16 The benefits of letter writing - *parishpump*
- 17 The Way I see It — those amazing coincidences - *parishpump*
- 18 The top ten Bible stories: Five Smooth Stones - *parishpump*
- 19 Stop the world, I want to get off - *parishpump*
- 20 All in the month of April - *parishpump*
- 21/22 People, Remembrance and News
- 23/24 Events for your Diary

From the Vicarage

I was asked, in March, to teach the year 6 classes at Holy Trinity about the growth of the early church. This request made me think again about how the massive global movement, the church, began. After I had taught the class, I realised that, as Christians, the growth of the church might give us a good reason to stay in the EU.



I taught year 6 that the church is not a building. The church is a local community of people who believe the same things about God and Jesus, from the bible, and relate to each other like a family. The church is also a global movement of people which has grown and grown for 2000 years. There are now 3.3 billion people alive in the world today who have some sort of faith in Jesus. The church has grown across the world as people moved freely, sometimes by choice and sometimes when they were forced as refugees, from country to country.

In Genesis chapters 12 to 17, God promised a man called Abraham that all the nations of the earth would be blessed through his offspring. Abraham adopted a nomadic lifestyle and moved around. It was then Jesus who fulfilled the Old Testament promises of God and when Jesus left his disciples, he told them that they would be his witnesses from Jerusalem, to Judea, to Samaria and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8-9).

The church began on the day of Pentecost, when Peter preached to a crowd about Jesus (Acts 2:8-11 and 40-41). In the crowd that day, there were people from 16 nations and around 3000 of them changed their hearts and lives and trusted in Jesus Christ. The new followers of Jesus were then free to move back to the 16 nations which they had come from and they took the message with them.

The next great movement of people in the early church followed the stoning of Stephen. The persecution of the church (Acts 8:1-3) caused people to run away from trouble and as they were forced to leave as refugees, the gospel spread. " Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went." (Acts 8:4)

The apostles and other new believers were then free to move around the Roman Empire. The gospel spread by the free movement of people under the oppression of the Roman regime. We read in Acts that Paul preached in many major centres of power, commerce and academic thought, such as Athens, Ephesus, Corinth and Rome, and often his preaching was met with hostility and oppression.

If staying in the EU means people are free to move, then perhaps we ought to vote to keep our borders open, for the sake of the gospel and the growth of the church.

This is a simple observation and only one argument amongst many. I've ignored all the questions about housing supply, pressure on public services, the fragmentation of community, the benefits of the single market, the undemocratic nature of the European parliament and so on, which are all important questions which we need to address. The two questions which ought to be on our minds as Christians are; how can we make disciples of all nations and how will the smallest seed of all become the biggest tree in the garden, where the birds of the air make their nests (Matthew 13:32).

With love, Neil



Prayer Focus - Money Matters



“Sandwell is UK's worst region for problem debt”

“One in four people in Sandwell are deeply in debt - making it the worst region in the UK for financial worries, new research has revealed.

Across the UK 16 per cent of the adult population is living with problem debt, but in Sandwell this figure rises to 24.7%, according to a Government-backed body.

The Money Advice Service (MAS) estimates that 8.2 million UK adults suffer with financial worries - with younger adults, larger families and single parents particularly at risk.”

The above report was taken from www.expressandstar.com just last month, showing a frightening statistic affecting our local area.

Money worries bring about many problems, both financially but also emotionally. For some people problems with debt can be so overwhelming that the only way out they can see is to take their own life. Surely then, prayer is needed for this problem.

Please pray for:

- More awareness of the problems caused by debt in order to educate people to be able to manage their own money
- For those caught in a downward spiral, who feel trapped by their money worries; that they may know God's presence, guidance and peace.
- For those facing eviction due to unpaid rent, mortgage and bills.
- For those facing unemployment and the money worries associated with no regular income.
- For those struggling with gambling problems.
- For the homeless.

- For those who work in government, finance and the law, that they may work towards practical solutions for the problems caused by debt.
- For organisations such as CAP (Christians Against Poverty) who provide help in practical ways and support those with financial worries.
- For the Church, that it may be a compassionate community, ready to stand alongside those who suffer the burden of debt.

Father, we pray for the many who are trapped by growing burdens of debt,

*who see no way out, and who despair for their future:
give them courage to tackle the problems they face,
clarity in taking decisions which will turn their situation around,
and faith that, as they cry to you in their trouble,
you will deliver them from their distress;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

*God of power,
you are strong to save
and you never fail those who trust in you.
Keep under your protection all who suffer as a result of debt:
help them through their time of darkness,
give wisdom to all who seek to help,
and bring them to know true freedom
in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord*

Amen.

Jackie

99th Bishop of Lichfield named

The Right Reverend Dr Michael Ipgrave has been named as the new Bishop of Lichfield. He assumes responsibility for one of the Church of England's largest dioceses, leading an episcopal team with the Bishops of Wolverhampton, Stafford and Shrewsbury. Bishop Michael (57), the current Bishop of Woolwich in the Diocese of Southwark, will be the ninety-ninth Bishop of Lichfield, in a line going back to St Chad in the seventh century. He succeeds the Right Reverend Jonathan Gledhill, who retired last year.



About Bishop Michael

The Right Reverend Michael Geoffrey Ipgrave OBE, MA, PhD is currently Bishop of Woolwich in the Diocese of Southwark. He grew up in a small village in Northamptonshire. He studied mathematics at Oriel College, Oxford, and trained for the ministry at Ripon College Cuddesdon, Oxford after a year spent working as a labourer in a factory in Birmingham. He was ordained Deacon in 1982 and Priest in 1983 in the Diocese of Peterborough. After more than twenty years' ministry in Leicestershire and Japan, he became Archdeacon of Southwark in 2004. He was Canon Missioner at Southwark Cathedral from 2010 to 2012, Chair of the Southwark and London Diocesan Housing Association, and Anglican Borough Dean of Southwark. Prior to this he had been Inter Faith Relations Adviser to the Archbishops' Council and Secretary of the Churches' Commission on Inter Faith relations.

He was awarded the OBE in the New Year's Honours List in 2011 for services to inter faith relations in London. Since 2012 he has been Area Bishop of Woolwich in the Diocese of Southwark. He chairs the Council of Christians and Jews, and is co-Chair of the Anglican-Lutheran Society and of the Church of England's Mission Theology Advisory Group.

Bishop Michael has written extensively on inter faith issues, religion and human rights. He has edited six volumes on Christian-Muslim relations, is the author of *Trinity and Inter Faith Dialogue* (Peter Lang, 2003), and has contributed about thirty journal articles and book chapters.

Bishop Michael is married to Dr Julia Ipgrave, a Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Humanities at Roehampton University. They have three grown up sons, one with a German and one with a Russian wife, and are looking forward to the birth of their first grandchild in Germany.

Michael and Julia are enthusiastic about things Japanese. They enjoy walking, and are looking forward to exploring Staffordshire and Shropshire on foot. He is a supporter of Leicester City FC.

THE DIOCESE OF LICHFIELD

Stretching from the Welsh border to the Peak District; and from north Staffordshire to the Black Country; the Diocese of Lichfield is one of the largest in the Church of England serving just over two-million-people in 1,744 square miles.

The Lichfield Diocese is the Church of England in the North West Midlands. It traces its roots back to AD 656 when the Diocese of Mercia was formed. In AD 664, Saint Chad moved the seat of the diocese to Lichfield from Repton. There is a suggestion that the city's name may mean "Field of the Dead", believed to stem from the slaughter of 1,000 Christians in the city at the hands of the Roman emperor Diocletian.

Lichfield has had a troubled past having been ravaged by the Vikings and laid under siege during the English Civil War. Over time the seat of the diocese was transferred to Chester, Coventry and then back to Lichfield in order to provide protection.

In St Chad's time the diocese stretched from the Welsh border to the North Sea; and from Northumberland to the Thames. And, despite having shrunk somewhat over the years as bits and pieces were chopped off to form neighbouring dioceses, Lichfield remains one of the largest in the Church of England, serving a population of just under two-million people in 1,744 square miles. The Diocese has 583 churches and 427 parishes in Staffordshire, the northern half of Shropshire, Wolverhampton, Walsall, half of Sandwell and even three parishes which straddle the Welsh border.



The Queen is ‘very grateful’ for the nation’s prayers

In a strong statement of faith, the Queen has said that she is ‘very grateful’ to the nation for its prayers for her and that she has felt God’s ‘faithfulness’ during 64 years on the throne.

The comments – rare insights into the Queen’s personal thoughts and Christian faith – came in the forward to a new book, *The Servant Queen and the King She Serves*, published by Bible Society, HOPE and LICC.

Her Majesty said, ‘I have been – and remain – very grateful to you for your prayers and to God for His steadfast love. I have indeed seen His faithfulness.’

The book was published to mark the Queen’s 90th birthday. In her comments, the Queen referred to the changes she has seen in her life, which has made her the longest-reigning monarch in British history.

‘The extent and pace of change has been truly remarkable,’ she said. ‘We have witnessed triumphs and tragedies.’ And she alluded to the current problems in the Middle East saying that the world is now experiencing ‘terrible suffering on an unprecedented scale’.

The Queen’s Christian faith is well-known. In recent years, Her Majesty has referred to her beliefs in public statements, including Christmas broadcasts.

The Servant Queen and the King She Serves highlights the Queen’s faith and how it has shaped her personal life and service to the nation. A 12-page schools version has been published by Scripture Union.



Copies of *The Servant Queen and the King She Serves* are available in packs of 10 at £1 a copy (plus p&p). Visit www.hopetogether.org.uk/thequeen to order copies and for ideas on how to hold a street party and Thanksgiving service.

Hymns based on scripture

This article is taken from a book belonging to Helen Morrow's father called GREAT HYMNS by W. J. Limmer Sheppard. The story from 400 years ago seems our so relevant to todays world.

Thanksgiving for Peace

During the Thirty Years' War (1620 to 1648) the little town of Eilenberg, in Saxony, suffered severely. The Austrians sacked it once and the Swedes twice. The overcrowding caused by the influx of refugees from the countryside produced the plague, which ravaged the city four times during the period of war.

Only one minister of the town, Martin Rinkart, survived this scourge and it often fell to his lot to take as many as fifty funerals in a single day! Famine was yet another of the miseries of war which left its mark on Eilenberg, while of its thousand houses nearly eight hundred were laid in ruins.

But at last came the great day when news arrived that the Peace of Westphalia had been signed and the war had come to an end. The Elector of Saxony at once ordered Thanksgiving Services to be held in every church, and also selected a text from which ministers were to preach, Ecclesiasticus 50:22; *"Now bless ye the God of all, Who everywhere doth great things, Who exalteth our days from the womb, and dealeth with us according to His mercy. May He grant us joyful hearts, and may peace be in our days for ever."*

A splendid text for the occasion, and one which so struck Martin Rinkart that, as he pondered over it, its words gradually shaped themselves into the form of a hymn, which was doubtless sung at his own Thanksgiving Service, has been translated into other languages, and is now used everywhere. Its notes of gladness are intensified when we remember the horrors of war which its authored experienced, and the close of which it first commemorated. How well Rinkart enshrined the text in the hymn can be seen from the first verse, as translated by Miss Winkworth:

*Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
In whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.*

From addiction on the streets to tears of joy - Rob's story for JustPray.uk

A former homeless addict has revealed how he would be dead, if it was not for his faith, in an interview to accompany the second teaser film recently released by the Church of England for the justpray.uk website.

The 46-year-old admits he had to harden his heart to survive living rough and addiction before feeling resurrected through his faith and the love he found at the Saturday Gathering Place in Halifax, West Yorkshire. "If a human being can get resurrected after dying, He's done it to me. I haven't died but I feel like I've been resurrected away from a life of crime and trouble to peace, love, understanding, calmness."

Rob's story, 'I am poured out like water', is the second in a series of films based on Psalm 22. All feature men and women who have come to faith through a Homeless and Food Drop In Centre in Halifax. Most have experienced crime, alcohol, drug addiction, homelessness or violence in their lives.

Rob's life spiraled out of control following his brother's death: "When he died I got naughty, I got into drugs, I got into fighting, violence, prison. And when I was in prison I wanted to like, just die."

Following release from prison Rob lived on the streets. "If you don't pretend you're hard, you're going to get like, trod on, spat at, all sorts of things. Nasty things happen to you."

Then five years ago Rob's life changed. It was a Saturday night in Halifax. "I was on the streets at the time, and I was really bad, I was dying. And I met Linda, Dave, a few other people, and they just took me in to their church-run centre. I was just overwhelmed with how people can be like that. I thought: they don't want me for anything, they just want me to better myself, make a much better life for myself."

As part of a church community, Rob soon discovered faith and a new life. He struggled to understand love. “I had a difficult life with my family so love wasn't on the agenda. It was like violence mostly, violence and abuse.” The Revd Arun Arora, Communications Director for the Church of England said: “Rob’s story of a life turned around by faith is testimony to the warmth and welcome of these churches who live out the truth that God’s redeeming love is for all, that no one is too far gone, distant or hardened by life’s experiences.”

Rob’s story is part of the justpray.uk website.

Explore Prayer

At JustPray.uk you will find various aids to help you start praying or to lead you into a deeper, more regular prayer life. Whether it be apps, podcasts, videos or just praying the important thing is to start.

The Lord’s Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer shows us what prayer is all about, it sums up faith, it gives us a definition for prayer which is about a relationship with God and gives us a pattern for our praying.

*Our Father... we come into a relationship with God, we need God.
Hallowed be your name... we give God our thanks and praise
Your kingdom come, your will be done... we seek God’s will
Give us today our daily bread... we ask for all that we need
Forgive us our sins... we ask to be forgiven and be forgiving
Lead us not into temptation... we ask for strength to resist
Amen... so be it*

Listen as well as speak. Give thanks as well as ask for help



Learning Faith from Doubting

by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

Thomas is a late bloomer, I guess. A commercial fisherman, he grew up around the Sea of Galilee. Jesus comes to Capernaum, calls him, and he follows. For three years Thomas follows.



Thomas's Pessimism and Courage

But Thomas is a pessimist. Some people rejoice to see a glass half full, but Thomas sees it half empty. Oh, he's full courage, but also possesses a streak of fatalism. Once, when Jesus and his disciples hear about their friend Lazarus's death near Jerusalem, the centre of Jesus' opposition, Thomas comments darkly, "Yes, let's go there that we might *die* with him." His words are almost prophetic.

Soon, his world falls apart. Thomas sees his Master arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane and he flees for his life. On Good Friday he watches at a distance as they spike his Friend to a cross on the Roman killing grounds of Golgotha. As Jesus' life drains away, so does Thomas's hope.

Shock and Disbelief

On Saturday he is in shock. On Sunday he is so disillusioned that he doesn't gather with his fellow disciples for an evening meal. Thomas is dazed, hurt, bitter — and lashing out. Monday morning, the disciples go looking for Thomas and tell him what has happened in his absence.

"Thomas, we were in that upper room where we'd been meeting. We lock the doors for protection. Yet, all of a sudden, Jesus appears. 'Peace, Shalom,' he says. Then he shows us his hands. There are jagged holes where the nails had been. He pulls back his tunic and shows us where the spear penetrated his chest. But he isn't weak or sick or dying. He is alive, raised from the dead!"

Afraid to Believe

"I don't believe it," barks Thomas. "I don't believe a word of it. You're seeing what you *want* to see. Jesus is dead. I saw him die, and part of me died with him. But he's dead, and the sooner you accept that fact, the better off you'll be. Give it up!"

Peter pleads with him. "Thomas, I saw him *myself*, I tell you, and he was as real as you are!" Thomas is cold, with an edge in his voice that cuts like ice. "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."

But Thomas's anger cools, and by the next Sunday evening he is eating with his fellow disciples in the same locked room. Suddenly, Jesus stands among them once again and speaks — "Shalom, peace be with you."

All the blood drains from Thomas' face. Jesus turns to him and speaks plainly, without any hint of rancour or sarcasm, "Put your finger here, see my hands." Jesus holds out his scarred hands for him to examine. Thomas recoils. Not out of fear, really, but from a mixture of amazement and revulsion. Jesus begins to open his outer garment and says, "Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

My Lord and My God

Thomas is weeping now and then begins to sob out loud. Jesus reaches out and puts a hand on his shoulder. Then Thomas slips to his knees and says in awe, "My Lord and my God!"

Thomas, "Doubting Thomas," as he is sometimes called, is the first disciple to put into words the truth that Jesus is both Lord *and* God. "Doubting Thomas" utters the greatest confession of faith recorded anywhere in the Bible.

Jesus replies, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Preacher in the East

What happens to him? Doubting Thomas does not stay a doubter. When he sees the risen Jesus, all that Jesus has taught over the years now clicks in, and to his death Thomas is an outspoken advocate for his Lord.

Church tradition tells us that he preaches in ancient Babylon, near the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, where Iraq is today. He travels to Persia, present-day Iran, and continues to win disciples to the Christian faith.

Then he sails south to Malabar on the west coast of India in 52 AD. He preaches, establishes churches, and wins to Christ high caste Brahmins, as well as others. When the Portuguese land in India in the early 1600s, they find a group of Christians there — the Mar Thoma Church established through Thomas' preaching a millennium and a half before.

Finally, Thomas travels to the east coast of India, preaching relentlessly. He is killed near Mylapore about 72 AD, near present-day Madras. Tradition tells us that he is thrown into a pit, then pierced through with a spear thrown by a Brahmin.

He who had so fervently proclaimed his unbelief carried the Christian message of love and forgiveness to the ends of the earth in his generation.

The Doubter Speaks Today

Thomas would speak to doubters today, to those of us who have seen our hopes and dreams destroyed. Doubting Thomas would tell his story of how Jesus' life had intercepted his own. He would tell us of his fears and his doubts. And then, with a radiant, joyful face, St. Thomas, Apostle to India, would recount his joy at seeing and knowing the risen Jesus himself. "My Lord and my God!" he would say. "My Lord and my God!"



"Copyright Ralph F. Wilson <pastorjoyfulheart.com>. All rights reserved. Used by permission."

Could the children in our church be encouraged to write a letter once a month? Perhaps to God, or grandparents, or to children abroad?

The benefits of letter writing

About two thirds of children in primary school and more than three quarters of secondary school children *never* write letters. In fact, only one in four (26%) said they wrote a letter once a month outside of school, with girls slightly more likely to do so. Those children who do pen letters on a regular basis are more likely to have writing skills above the average expected for their group.

The National Literacy Trust, who did the survey, points out: "Taking time to sit and write a letter by hand feels much more personal than typing an email. Young letter writers are also more likely to write every day outside school, which improves their literacy, enabling them to do better in class and throughout their lives."

David Winter considers those chance happenings...why not invite your readers to share some of theirs with you?

The Way I see It – those amazing coincidences

The next time you have friends round, why not try this experiment.

Invite each of them to recall the most amazing coincidence they have experienced in the last ten years.

Given a few minutes to recall, it's certain the stories will roll out. The day when they went up to London and in Piccadilly Circus met a very old friend they hadn't seen for years on a one-off visit from Glasgow. Or how they were on a tour of historic sites in Turkey and during a comfort break met a couple from their own road in Chesterfield. Or how on the birthday of a late and much-loved wife her favourite hymn was sung on 'Songs of Praise'. When everyone is finished, tot up the odds against all of these things happening. If there's a mathematician or statistician present they may do it for you.

I heard recently of a bereaved father who had an experience of this kind, involving 'University Challenge' and events connected with his student son. In this case he did some research – including the production team of the programme - and worked out that the odds against this particular occurrence were more than five million to one.

No one seems to have any explanation for this, beyond that, well, strange things happen. But 'coincidence', as we call it, can't surely be so lightly dismissed. The old preachers called it 'providence', and said that 'God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform'. I think I'm with them.

Paul Hardingham continues his look at the Top 10 Bible Stories. This is the eighth in the series.

The top 10 Bible stories:

no. 8: David and Goliath

Five Smooth Stones !

This month's *Must Know Story*, about Goliath's defeat by David (1 Samuel 17), is one of the best known in the Bible. Goliath was nine feet tall, dressed in bronze armour and carrying a sword and spear. However, David was a young shepherd, whose only weapon was a sling and five smooth stones. We won't face somebody like Goliath, but will face other giants in our lives (fear, insecurity, loneliness, failure etc). What five stones can help overcome the giants that we face?

- **Courage:** David was unafraid of Goliath, *'Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.'* (32). We need courage to face the giants in our lives.
- **Confidence:** David's experience as a shepherd gave him confidence in facing Goliath. *'The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.'* (37). We also can be confident in God's help to overcome our problems.
- **Preparation:** *'Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.'* (40). Like David, are we using the gifts and experience that God has given us in the fight?
- **Trust:** David didn't trust in his own abilities, *'You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty'* (45) Will we put our trust in God alone?
- **Victory:** *'for the battle is the Lord's'* (47). When we turn our battles over to God, He will give us victory!

'That little stone took Goliath by surprise; such a thing had never entered his head before!!'

David Winter is feeling a bit dizzy with the effects of change....

THE WAY I SEE IT :

Stop the world, I want to get off

At my age you start marvelling at the pace of change. It only seems yesterday that we started getting money from holes in the wall. Then it was dotcom, and emails, mobile phones and 'going online'. Now it's smart-phones, internet shopping and digital books. As one habitual feature of my adult life disappears after another, I start to wonder what will eventually be left.

So I try to imagine a world without things: without the daily newspaper or printed magazines; without clothes shops or banks; without cricket (baseball has taken over the 'franchise') or football (NFL has won the hearts of the young generation). Evensong is distant history, and so is radio. Even TV is only used by the very old, everyone else 'streams' their programmes online from all over the world. No one reads paper books, though they are stored somewhere in academic libraries. Oh, and what were coins, banknotes and cheques?.

If you think any of those things can't possibly happen, just reflect (if you're old enough) on the world of fifty years ago: black and white television, gramophones, tape recorders, Woolworths, bookshops on every high street, a nightly 'epilogue' on the BBC, and five million readers a day for the *Sun*. It wasn't better (actually, a lot was worse), but it was massively different.

Only God is changeless, the same 'yesterday, today and for ever'. Change is an inescapable element of human life. It's just that it's got so fast! Could someone please slow it down a bit?



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

All in the month of APRIL

400 years ago:- on 23rd April (or 3rd May) 1616 that William Shakespeare died. Regarded as the most important figure in English literature, and considered the greatest dramatist of all time, as well as England's national poet. His plays include Hamlet, King Lear, Othello, Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet.

200 years ago:- on 21st April 1816 that Charlotte Bronte, British novelist, was born. Best known for 'Jane Eyre'.

175 years ago:- on 20th April 1841 that Edgar Allen Poe's short story 'The Murders in the Rue Morgue' was published. It is considered the first modern detective story.

125 years ago:- on 1st April 1891, that the first London-Paris telephone line was opened to the public. It included an undersea section between Dover and Calais.

100 years ago:- 24th to 29th April 1916, that The Easter Uprising, Dublin, took place. This armed Republican uprising against British rule resulted in the death of 466 people. The rebels surrendered unconditionally after the British declared martial law and suppressed the rebellion. Most of the leaders were executed.

90 years ago:- on 21st April 1926 that Queen Elizabeth II was born.

70 years ago:- on 17th April 1946 that Syria gained its independence from France.

Also 65 years ago:- on 17th April 1951 that the Peak District National Park was established. It was Britain's first national park.

40 years ago:- on 5th April 1976 that Apple Computer (now Apple, inc.) was founded in California.

30 years ago:- on 26th April 1986 that the Chernobyl disaster took place in Ukraine. It was the world's worst nuclear power plant accident. 31 people were killed in the explosion and fire, and leaked radiation spread across the western Soviet Union and Europe.

25 years ago:- on 3rd April 1991 that Graham Greene, British novelist, short story writer, playwright and journalist, died.

10 years ago:- on 6th April 2006 that the first case of H5N1 avian flu (bird flu) in the UK was confirmed following blood tests on a dead swan found in Cellardyke, Fife, Scotland.

People and News

Birthday Celebrations - April 2016

2nd Mike Hardcastle



*Happy Birthday to you
Happy Birthday to you
May God Bless you and keep you
Happy Birthday to you.*

13th Kath

15th Lucille

16th Margaret Ebanks Snr.



*Happy Birthday to you
To Jesus be true
May the Lord bless you richly
In all that you do*

23rd Wendell

27th Paul Wright

Remembrance - April 2016

3rd Mr Gravestock - In memory of Caroline Gravestock.

10th Miss L. M. Houghton - In loving memory of Thomas & Sarah Houghton.

17th Mr & Mrs H. Lord - to thank God for a happy married life and the precious gift of good children.

24th Mr & Mrs Matchett - In thankfulness for mercies received.

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.

TUESDAY EVENING PRAYER TIME

Every Tuesday evening at 8.00pm.

A time time for open intercession or quiet prayer run by Kevin. All welcome. Please join us if you are able.



West Bromwich Food Bank - in April in addition to the generously donated food parcels, **£30** in cash, donated by Holy Trinity congregation was also handed over. Many thanks for your very kind and generous gifts.



MIDWEEK MORNING PRAYER TIME

Every Monday and Wednesday mornings at 8.00am there is a time for quiet prayer. All welcome.

**TUESDAY MORNING
PRAYER TIME and
BIBLE STUDY
9.30 AM
All Welcome**



**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



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



“Urban Catechism”

Thursdays at 7.30pm and
Sundays 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.

Support Birmingham City Mission through eBay!

- * 20th century collectables;
- * Good Christian books;
- * Clothing;
- * The odd antique;
- * Plus miscellaneous items!

BCM now have a range of items for sale on eBay, in addition to those in our shops. Follow the instructions below.

1. Go to ebay.co.uk;
2. Scroll down to bottom (left) of page;
3. Click on 'eBay for charity';
4. Click on 'Find a charity to support':
5. Type in 'Birmingham City Mission';
6. Click on 'view';
7. Click on 'See all items';
8. Bookmark the page for future reference!



Events for your Diary

Holy Trinity Church APCM is on Sunday April 24th after the 10.30am service. Please pray for the church members who will serve as PCC members and Wardens. Also think and pray about whether you would like to serve the church in anyway. If you would like to serve but would like more information please talk to Neil, Ian, Gary or Christine.



Christ Church
Fenton

Tommy Merry writes, *I have been appointed as Team Vicar of Christ Church Fenton and St Paul Mount Pleasant. Part of the Stoke Team. Licensing will be [Sunday 5th June](#) at Christ Church Fenton [at 4pm](#).*

Blessings, Fr Tommy



Two important Holy Trinity events for your diary



**175th Holy Trinity Church
Anniversary**
Saturday & Sunday 11th & 12th June

Planning well underway for these two special days of celebration. The celebrations will include an exhibition of photographs and history, parade through the parish followed by refreshments in church, craft and other stalls on **Saturday 11th June** and special services on **Sunday 12th** followed by lunch, games in churchyard and afternoon tea.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to cover the two day events. If you would like to volunteer for any part of the celebrations please sign up on the list at back of church. If you are interested in providing and manning a stall please also fill in the list stating what part you are interested in. If you can please sign up and make this anniversary a very special time.

**Holy Trinity's Big
Weekend Away**



Weekend away at Quinta Christian Centre Shropshire
Friday 30th September - 2nd October

It will cost £50 per person for the weekend away, £18 for the day on Saturday. Our aim is to raise £3500 as a church family for 70 people to come along. If you want to come, please book and give what you can towards coming. If you can't give much, don't worry, it's more important that everyone who wants to come is there. Please fill out the booking form at the back of church to Helen ASAP.

**Find Holy Trinity
on Facebook**
www.facebook.com/

Vicar: The Revd. Neil Robbie

**holy trinity
church**
**1 burlington road
west bromwich**
B70 6LF

