

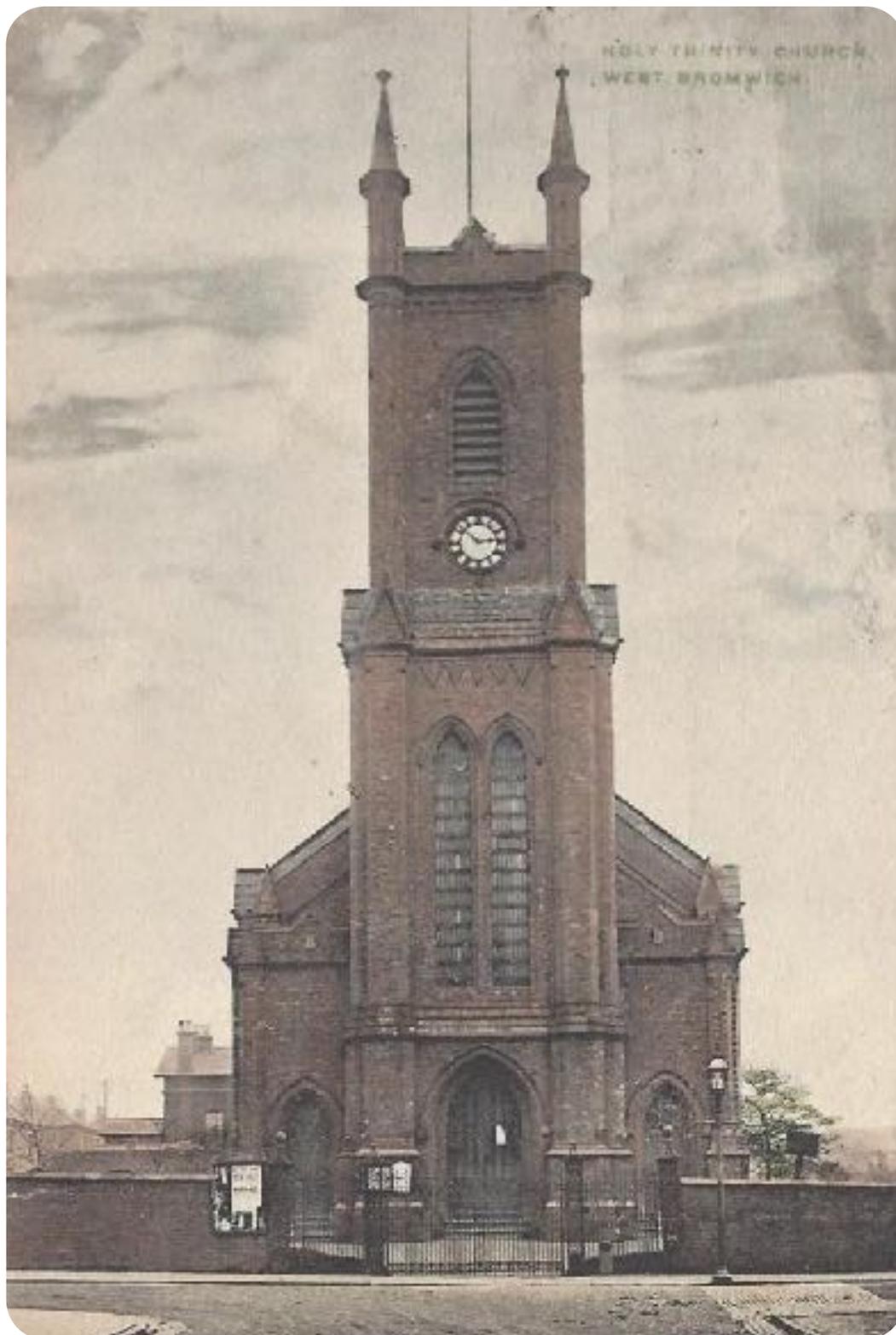
holy trinity church

parish magazine

August 2016



30p



Holy Trinity 1906. Courtesy Barry Page.

Faithful God (Jn6:68)

Faithful God,
Present in the crisis,
Reminding,
Re-assuring,
Real now, as then,
In sunshine,
In storm,
In beauty and in pain.

God, who created and called,
Who gave and gave and gave
Is the God of giving still.
Is the God of giving more...
More love,
More presence,
More hope,
More peace,
More life moments
With him in the middle.

To whom shall we go?

By Daphne Kitching

Prayer to our Always-Good Father

Father,
Thank you that you *are* our Father and that you love us,
whoever we are, wherever we go, whatever we've done,
however we feel.

No matter what life brings, you never change. You are always
good and always there for us, if we just turn and talk to you.

Thank you for Jesus who died to make that possible. We pray
in his name.

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Inside This Month

- 4/5 From the Vicarage - *Chris Pegler*
- 6 Prayer Focus - Teachers
- 7 HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL - *Chris Pegler*
- 8/9 Celebrating 150 years of Reader Ministry - after the two World Wars - *parishpump*
- 9 A Prayer for Positivity - *Rupert Kaye*
- 10/11 Praying Hands - *author unknown*
- 12/13 The Stranger
- 13 The Sally Army - *parishpump*
- 14/15 Remembering Muhammed Ali - *parishpump*
- 16 Thoughts from JP - John Pegler - *parishpump*
- 17 From the Vicar series - Lets finish the Race - *parishpump*
- 18 The Way I See It - WHO ARE WE? - *parishpump*
- 19 Olympics 2016
- 20/21 People, Remembrance and News and HELP!
- 22 All in the month of August - *parishpump*
- 23 HELP! - editor
- 24 Events for your diary

From the Vicarage



In the absence of Neil Chris Pegler writes this month's From the Vicarage

In our Tuesday morning group, since Easter, we've been reading the book of Esther. My study bible describes it as "drama, power, romance, intrigue – the stuff from which best-selling novels are made", and it certainly is; modern novelists would be pleased to have conjured up the story and people would be reading it everywhere. However, it's a true story, of events in the Persian Empire, when Xerxes 1 was emperor, set in the capital city of Susa and in the royal palace.

It's told in the Bible, you'll find it between Nehemiah and Job, but some, over the years, have questioned its presence in the Bible because God is never named throughout the story! So, why is it important and why am I encouraging you to have a look at it?

Well, even though he's not named, God's presence and work shine out through every aspect of the story. Jeff Lucas, who writes the daily bible notes I use, referred to God recently as "the great choreographer" and that is exactly what he's doing in the book of Esther.

God's people are in danger. Haman, a high official of the king, hates the Jews. The hatred goes back into his ancestry. He's arrogant, selfish, prideful, full of his own power and prestige. Mordecai, a Jewish government official won't bow down to Haman when he passes by and so Haman hatches a vengeful plot to destroy every Jewish person in the empire. God loves and cares for his people, his sovereignty is complete and he has already placed Mordecai and his beautiful cousin Esther, who has become Queen, in positions where they can act if they are obedient. Their decision to act takes immense courage, obedience and trust. Mordecai says to Esther when she is fearful of what she is being asked to do "who knows, if perhaps you were made Queen for just such a time as this?" ch4, v14.

They trust God's provision and sovereignty, they trust him to act, but they don't just leave it at that. They make a plan, then call on all the Jews to pray and fast. After twists and turns in the story, royal banquets, a sleepless night for the Emperor, the violent death of Haman, Esther and Mordecai are both in positions of influence in the land and able to get the Emperor to guarantee protection for the Jews throughout the land.

There is so, so much in this story for us to reflect on and take to heart. God's sovereignty, he's always in control and he cares for his people, he always has a plan and he puts people in place to accomplish his will.

Esther and Mordecai lived in a culture which didn't emphasise doing what is right. They lived in the centre of that culture amidst great wealth and power, but they chose integrity in the face of huge threat. They show us a description of godly character, choosing the right path, seeking God's will and then planning to follow it in complete trust. Finally, Mordecai gives us a lesson in remembering God's goodness to build trust for the future and in future generations. He instituted the Jewish festival of Purim to commemorate this time when God saved and freed his people. Remembering and celebrating is an important part of our faith journey, as we've seen recently in our own anniversary time of remembering and celebrating.

So, if you have time, have a look at the book of Esther. Look at the characters and see how God is working in their lives, then perhaps reflect on where God has put you and how he's working in your life.

God Bless, Chris.

Prayer Focus



Thinking of Chris Pegler's HT school report on page 7, and as the school breaks up for the summer holidays, we pray this month for school teachers and staff.

A Prayer for Teachers

Lord, we pray for all those Christian teachers who are struggling with their work; who feel called to serve You in education and want to honour this calling but who now cry out for Your help.

Lord, we lift to You those teachers who struggle daily with pupil indiscipline; who feel close to breaking point; who cannot cope any longer with the verbal threats and physical abuse they face.

We pray for all those teachers who dread the prospect of facing this class on a Monday morning or that pupil on a Friday afternoon; for whom each day is a waking nightmare ... followed, each night, by worry and insomnia in a seemingly unending cycle of fear ... and stress ... and guilt.

Lord, we lift to You those teachers who are burdened by bureaucracy and worn down by excessive workload; who admit to feeling browbeaten and demotivated; who are unable to keep up with ever increasing mountains of paperwork.

We pray for all those teachers for whom there never seem to be enough hours in the day; who spend most evenings marking and record keeping and much of each weekend planning and preparing for the week ahead; for whom mental exhaustion and spiritual dryness is a term-time way of life, and physical and mental breakdown is an ever present threat.

*Lord, we pray that ALL teachers might be given the support they require: from colleagues at school;
from governors and parents;
from union and local authority officials; from their church;
from You, Almighty and Everlasting God.*

Lord, by Your Holy Spirit, we ask You to empower and energise each and every Christian teacher in their calling to serve You. Strengthen and protect them; bless and enable them so they might be "salt" and "light" to the communities they serve.

Amen

This prayer by Rupert Kaye was first published in the Summer 2003 edition of ACT Now, the membership magazine of the Association of Christian Teachers (ACT). © 2003 ACT. All rights reserved.

HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL.

Please give your love and support to everyone at Holy Trinity School and remember the school in your prayers.

Holy Trinity School had an Ofsted Inspection back in early May. The report is just out and paints the school in a bad light; to those of us who know the school well, it is almost unrecognisable as our school. If you have children in the school you will have seen it.

Ofsted seem to make their judgements nowadays purely on the outcomes for pupils, which means the results of the statutory tests at the end of Key Stage 1 (YR2) and at the end of Key Stage 2 (YR6). These results need to be at or above the national averages for the school to get a Good grading. Everything else in the school, eg quality of work on display and in pupil's books, behaviour, care, before and after-school provision, can be good, even outstanding, but if the results are not there the school will be rated as Requiring Improvement or Inadequate.

Holy Trinity has made great strides in closing the gap between their results and the national results since our Federation with Grove Vale School in 2012, but unfortunately despite everyone's hard work, there is still a gap, so the school is deemed as not doing its job well and not capable of closing the gap. Everyone in the school longs to see the pupils attaining national level results, no-one is complacent, but all of us who live and work in the community and know the school well, realise there are barriers which the school has to work very hard to overcome.

The staff team at the school are committed, caring, hard-working and go the extra mile every day. There are teachers working there who have been rated as outstanding when working in other schools, but are now carrying an inadequate label. Everyone - senior leaders, governors, teaching staff, support staff, kitchen staff, cleaners, site manager - all contribute to develop the pupils in all the gifts God has given them and will continue to work tirelessly for the good of the pupils and community even though the Report is bound to be de-moralising for them.

So, please, if you are questioned about the school maybe you can support the work they are doing, if you see the staff about, please support and thank them. If you can offer any time to the school, to hear reading etc, speak to Lynn Whitehouse who volunteers in Early Years on a weekly basis or speak to Parvinder, Amanda or me and we can point you in the right direction. Above all, please pray for the school as this Ofsted grading does trigger a demand for forced academisation and there will be much to be considered and decided upon. Pray particularly for the Senior Leaders, Andy, Jo and Jayne and for the Governors.

God Bless, Chris.

This month we conclude the address given by The Rt Rev Robert Paterson, Bishop of Sodor and Man, who has been Chair of the Central Readers' Council since April 2009. The following is taken from an article which he wrote for the current issue of the Reader magazine. If your church has a Reader, you can easily 'make this local' but putting to them the challenge that the Bishop lays down: how do they see THEIR future ministry developing?

Celebrating 150 years of Reader Ministry – after the two World Wars

It was probably the two World Wars that changed the initial direction of Reader ministry from being, as has often been said, a means to extend the effectiveness of the traditional parochial system to new pioneering work on the boundaries between church and world, into something more churchy.

During and following those wars (which followed one another fairly rapidly) large numbers of clergy became chaplains to the forces and many lost their lives. Readers naturally stepped into their places, at least as far as non-sacramental ministry was concerned. The arrival of the blue scarf a couple of generations ago completed the outfit, with the result that very few Readers have not been thanked for a 'Nice service, Vicar'!

The time has come to retreat from being 'clones of the clergy', and to rejoice in a confident and no-way second rate lay ministry, but one which will not be the same.

Lay ministry in the future will be much more diverse. Yes, we'll still need well-trained, articulate lay theologians, but we'll also need people equipped, authorised and accountable in evangelistic, pastoral, formational and liturgical ministry whose focus will be on the Kingdom of God.

They'll include evangelists, chaplains, teachers of the faith, lay congregation leaders, pastoral assistants, youth and children's workers, community workers, worship leaders and people like Readers who can bring God into the conversation. I have no doubt that some of the trappings will need to be shed en route.

Let us see what some others have pointed to about this gospel ministry. Bringing God into the conversation is about introducing people to the Lord Jesus Christ, just as you would introduce two people to one another because they are your friends.

That means you have to know Jesus and you have to know lots of people who are not-yet Christians. Our friends won't respond well to being introduced to Christ unless they see in my life and yours that knowing Jesus has made us more spiritually beautiful, that it is changing us from glory into glory. Every Christian disciple is called to 'make Christ visible'.

So the future is yours. I have asked the Archbishops to allow me stand down from being Chair of CRC after **Follow#2016**, because the movement needs someone younger with fresh vision after my seven years or so in the job. It has been great fun and I've had the privilege of boring Readers in most of the dioceses of England and Wales during that period. I remain totally committed to the discipleship of every Christian and to commissioned lay ministry until my last breath.

A Prayer for Positivity

Holy Spirit

Banish our spirit of criticism;

Replace it with a spirit of affirmation.

Help us to see the glass that is half full;

The essay that is half written;

The answer that is halfway correct.

Help us to see the many students with their hands up ... Not just the few who are shouting out!

Banish our spirit of self-resignation; Replace it with a spirit of determination. Help us to be bold and tenacious;

To believe in ourselves;

To believe in our colleagues;

To believe in our God;

To believe that all things are possible.

Banish our spirit of procrastination;

Replace it with a spirit of energy and action.

Help us to get ourselves organised,

So we can do the things we said we would do.

Give us a sense of purpose and direction;

Help us to praise students and co-workers who keep going ... Even when the going gets tough!

Amen

Praying Hands

The Story Behind the Picture



Back in the fifteenth century, in a tiny village near Nuremberg, lived a family with eighteen children. Eighteen! In order merely to keep food on the table for this mob, the father and head of the household, a goldsmith by profession, worked almost eighteen hours a day at his trade and any other paying chore he could find in the neighbourhood.

Despite their seemingly hopeless condition, two of Albrecht Durer the Elder's children had a dream. They both wanted to pursue their talent for art, but they knew full well that their father would never be financially able to send either of them to Nuremberg to study at the Academy.

After many long discussions at night in their crowded bed, the two boys finally worked out a pact. They would toss a coin. The loser would go down into the nearby mines and, with his earnings, support his brother while he attended the academy. Then, when that brother who won the toss completed his studies, in four years, he would support the other brother at the academy, either with sales of his artwork or, if necessary, also by labouring in the mines.

They tossed a coin on a Sunday morning after church. Albrecht Durer won the toss and went off to Nuremberg. Albert went down into the dangerous mines and, for the next four years, financed his brother, whose work at the academy was almost an immediate sensation. Albrecht's etchings, his woodcuts, and his oils were far better than those of most of his professors, and by the time he graduated, he was beginning to earn considerable fees for his commissioned works.

When the young artist returned to his village, the Durer family held a festive dinner on their lawn to celebrate Albrecht's triumphant homecoming. After a long and memorable meal, punctuated with music and laughter, Albrecht rose from his honoured position at the head of the table to drink a toast to his beloved brother for the years of sacrifice that had enabled Albrecht to fulfill his ambition. His closing words were, "And now, Albert, blessed brother of mine, now it is your turn. Now you can go to Nuremberg to pursue your dream, and I will take care of you."

All heads turned in eager expectation to the far end of the table where Albert sat, tears streaming down his pale face, shaking his lowered head from side to side while he sobbed and repeated, over and over, "No ...no ...no ...no."

Finally, Albert rose and wiped the tears from his cheeks. He glanced down the long table at the faces he loved, and then, holding his hands close to his right cheek, he said softly, "No, brother. I cannot go to Nuremberg. It is too late for me. Look ... look what four years in the mines have done to my hands! The bones in every finger have been smashed at least once, and lately I have been suffering from arthritis so badly in my right hand that I cannot even hold a glass to return your toast, much less make delicate lines on parchment or canvas with a pen or a brush. No, brother ... for me it is too late."

More than 450 years have passed. By now, Albrecht Durer's hundreds of masterful portraits, pen and silver-point sketches, watercolors, charcoals, woodcuts, and copper engravings hang in every great museum in the world, but the odds are great that you, like most people, are familiar with only one of Albrecht Durer's works. More than merely being familiar with it, you very well may have a reproduction hanging in your home or office.

One day, to pay homage to Albert for all that he had sacrificed, Albrecht Durer painstakingly drew his brother's abused hands with palms together and thin fingers stretched skyward. He called his powerful drawing simply "Hands," but the entire world almost immediately opened their hearts to his great masterpiece and renamed his tribute of love "The Praying Hands."

The next time you see a copy of that touching creation, take a second look. Let it be your reminder, if you still need one, that no one - no one - - ever makes it alone!

Author Unknown

The Stranger

A few years after I was born, my Dad met a stranger who was new to our small town. From the beginning, Dad was fascinated with this enchanting newcomer and soon invited him to live with our family. The stranger was quickly accepted and was around from then on. As I grew up, I never questioned his place in my family. In my young mind, he had a special niche.

My parents were complementary instructors: Mum taught me good from evil, and Dad taught me to obey. But the stranger... he was our storyteller. He would keep us spellbound for hours on end with adventures, mysteries and comedies. If I wanted to know anything about politics, history or science, he always knew the answers about the past, understood the present and even seemed able to predict the future! He took my family to our first FA Cup final.

He made me laugh, and he made me cry. The stranger never stopped talking, but Dad didn't seem to mind. Sometimes, Mum would get up quietly while the rest of us were shushing each other to listen to what he had to say, and she would go to the kitchen for peace and quiet. (I wonder now if she ever prayed for the stranger to leave.) Dad ruled our household with certain moral convictions, but the stranger never felt obligated to honour them. Profanity, for example, was not allowed in our home - not from us, our friends or any visitors. Our long time visitor, however, got away with four-letter words that burned my ears and made my dad squirm and my mother blush.

My Dad didn't permit the liberal use of alcohol but the stranger encouraged us to try it on a regular basis. He made cigarettes look cool, cigars manly, and pipes distinguished. He talked freely (much too freely!) about sex. His comments were sometimes blatant, sometimes suggestive, and generally embarrassing.

I now know that my early concepts about relationships were influenced strongly by the stranger. Time after time, he opposed the values of my parents, yet he was seldom rebuked ... And NEVER asked to leave.

More than fifty years have passed since the stranger moved in with our family. He has blended right in and is not nearly as fascinating as he was at first. Still, if you could walk into my parents' lounge today, you would still find him sitting over in his corner, waiting for someone to listen to him talk and watch him draw his pictures.

His name?.... We just call him 'TV.'

He has a wife now....we call her 'Computer.'

Their first child was "Mobile Phone".

And not forgetting a Grandchild born last year "IPAD".

The Sally Army – marching on prayer and a smile

On 20th August the Church of England marks the lives of two formidable Christian pioneers of the Victorian era, William and Catherine Booth. Faced with the poverty and deprivation of the growing cities of the industrial revolution, they founded a new and revolutionary Christian mission.

Eventually named the 'Salvation Army', it met with ridicule and abuse at first, but when people saw how lives were changed and families rescued from squalor and despair, attitudes altered. By the Great War years the Salvation Army – 'the Sally Army' as it was affectionately dubbed – was every soldier's favourite charity. They were always there, just behind the front line, with a cup of tea, a smiling face and a prayer.

As the recent TV series 'The Sally Army and Me' presented by Paul O'Grady demonstrated, although our cities are very different now, they still hide a multitude of desperate human needs. The Booths' unusual 'army' is still there, still smiling and still praying.

Millions felt sad at the news of the death of Muhammed Ali this summer. This article tells of the time that Muhammed Ali went to visit Billy Graham... Richard Bewes.

Remembering Muhammed Ali

Well.... MY letter reached him – back in April 2005. For years I had watched Muhammad Ali's fights on TV, and now – aware of the Parkinsons that was taking its severe toll on his health - I felt constrained to write him a letter. I wrote as tactfully as I could – as a minister of the Gospel.

The link between us was that we had both had the experience of visiting the home, in North Carolina, of another 'First' in his own field; that of a preacher who has spoken, face to face, to more people than any orator - secular or religious – in all history.... the preacher Billy Graham. My hope was that the world-renowned boxer might take the opportunity of a return visit to a man who had earned his admiration and friendship.... and see him once again – for the last time. What might come out of such a visit?

Much had come out the first time – when Muhammad Ali had evidently developed a high regard for the world evangelist, and asked to meet him. What secrets might lie behind one man's ability to touch the many millions of people who had walked forward in the world's biggest football stadiums, publicly to declare their faith in Christ? Over the years, the American evangelist had been invited to no less than 148 countries to declare the Christian message. Millions more were to be reached by films and satellite TV.

The three-time world heavyweight boxing champion duly expressed his hope for a meeting, and arrangements were made for him to fly to Asheville Airport, where he would be picked up and taken to the Graham's home in Montreat NC.

On landing, his first surprise was that – instead of being driven to Montreat in a chauffeured limousine – Billy Graham turned up in person, and drove his guest himself – in a ten year-old Oldsmobile. "I thought he'd live on a thousand acre farm," Ali told the press afterwards. "We drove up to his house made of logs. No mansion with crystal chandeliers and gold carpets, but the kind of house a man of God would live in. The Book says Christ will come as a thief in the night. I'm sure God wouldn't come bragging 'I'm God' – and neither did Mr Graham. He's a humble man."

Ruth - Billy Graham's wife - prepared and served a meal. At the end of their five-hour session, Ali told the press that he had not wanted to talk about boxing, but "about spiritual things." He confided, "I had a lot of questions I've been wanting to ask about Christianity. I asked them today. He gave me answers. I cannot go into them beyond that. If I was a Christian, I'd want to be a Christian like him."

It was only years later that I felt impelled to write to the then ailing Muhammad Ali - reminding him of his earlier visit to the Grahams. I wrote: "I would really love you to take the opportunity to visit him again, before the Lord calls him homewards... I so much long that you could share in the beliefs that Billy has, and be assured eventually of a safe haven in the immediate presence of Jesus Christ himself. I could not bear to think of you - who have given so much pleasure to millions in your own time - missing a last chance of talking with Billy, while he yet has time left. You know he would welcome a visit from you. You are BOTH 'Firsts' in your own respective fields!"

I was moved to receive a reply from 'The Greatest of All Time, Inc' (G.O.A.T.) at Berrien Springs MI. I was thanked for "your kind and generous letter to Muhammad Ali. He sincerely appreciated hearing from you. Mr Ali and the Rev Billy Graham share a venerable friendship based on mutual respect and understanding. Mr Ali has been prayerful about his friend's health, and he thinks of Rev Graham often. Mr Ali thanks you for your concern and care, obviously offered with sincere, honourable intentions...."

And that was it. Who knows what seeds can be sown through a one-off visit to a home where God is honoured - whether half way up a mountain in Montreat or in an urban setting in Nairobi, Glasgow or Tokyo?



Thoughts from JP

Over the years, your editor and I have had numerous amicable discussions about the power of prayer versus God's Will. Colin subscribes more to the former whilst I tend towards the latter.

We agreed in the end that there are no two Christians in this country whose beliefs are exactly the same, and left it at that.

You may not see the connection between the above and what I am about to say, but please bear with me.

Several years ago I bought a new electric lawn mower which has given sterling service until recently.

It has two bars either of which when squeezed against the handle will make it go. I liked this design, as I usually hold the one bar down with one hand and use the other to hold the cable.

This was fine until the end of one of the bars broke, rendering it useless. I dismantled the switch mechanism, intending to replace the broken handle.

I am not going to fill pages with the trouble I had trying to get a spare. Suffice it to say that they don't do spares any longer for this model.....I'm sure you've heard it umpteen times before !

I serviced the mower yesterday and felt that it may do another season, even though I find it difficult to use.

I discussed it with Christine & Simon, who suggested we wait until August bank holiday to buy another, as there may be sales on so I thought no more about it.

This morning I noticed that the broken mower left out for the binmen by a family across the road had not been collected and was still there. When I walked across the road with some food for the birds, I noticed a handle separate from the main body of the mower.

I picked it up and wondered.....it looks the same and isn't broken, but is the correct hand ?

Only one way to find out !

We now have a mower usable with both hands and which runs well.

God's Will ?

If it isn't, I'd love to know what it is !

John Pegler.

Parish Pump launched a new feature last month – a ‘Vicar’s Letter’ for you to consider when your minister is either absent or just overwhelmed with work in any particular month. It is adapted from one of our regular devotional items, and aims to provide a short ‘thought for the month’ to which you could add your own greeting and other local details. We would love to have some feedback from you about this – how can we improve this so as to help you most?

From the Vicar series

This month sees the start of the Rio de Janeiro Olympics, as the eyes of the world focus on the games. A number of New Testament letters make reference to Olympic sport including Hebrews: *‘Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith’* (Hebrews 12:1-2).

During the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, the British athlete Derek Redmond was running in the semi-finals of the 400 metres. About 250 metres from the finish his hamstring tore. He fell to the ground in pain and stretcher-bearers came over to him. However, Redmond wanted to finish the race and so he started hopping toward the finishing line.

Suddenly Jim Redmond, Derek's father, ran out of the stands towards him. *‘You don't have to do this,’* he told his son. *‘Yes, I do,’* said Derek, to which his father said, *‘We're going to finish this together.’* They completed the lap with Derek leaning on his father's shoulder. As they crossed the finish line, the spectators rose to give Derek a standing ovation. Although he didn't win an Olympic medal, Derek Redmond finished the race with his father at his side.

In our Christian race we have a great crowd of witnesses to cheer us on. We also have a heavenly Father who loves us and a Saviour who has run the race before us. Let's keep our eyes fixed on Him, to ensure we finish the race!

After the Referendum, David Winter muses on the whole question of identity.

The Way I See It : WHO ARE WE?

All this talk about Europe and the post-referendum arguments about identity have left me, and probably many people, wondering just who I am. After all, this island is home to people of probably the most mixed provenance in human history.

Way back, we were Celts, until our ancestors were driven back into the mountains of Scotland and Wales. Then came the Romans, the Vikings, Angles and Saxons, some to do a bit of pillaging and others to make themselves at home. Then came 1066 and the French invasion, which changed our language for ever.

Over the ensuing centuries we had various refugees from religious persecution, Irish people in huge numbers when harvests failed, and then more recently people from the Commonwealth, starting with the recruitment of workers from the Caribbean in the nineteen-fifties and then those driven from their homes by Idi Amin in East Africa. And so it has gone on.

Yet here we are, quite clearly a nation, even if we don't all look or sound alike. We may feel at times that it would be nice if everyone was just like we are, but deep down we know how boring that would be. It's a nice quiet afternoon exercise to map out our own answers to the question 'Who am I?' What are the things that really make me who I am? I've done my list. I am, I suppose, first and foremost Christian. Then I'm British (English/Welsh), European (geography/culture), and a member of the wonderful, multi-coloured, argumentative, richly endowed but endlessly flawed human race.

In the words of the old Church of England catechism, which older readers may remember, the answer to the question 'Who are you?' is 'a child of God, and an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven'. Put it all together, and I'd settle for that.

Olympics 2016

The 2016 Rio Olympics open on **Friday 5th August at the Maracana stadium and close on Saturday 21st August**. Rio is 4 hours behind the UK so the ceremony opening time for UK viewers will be 00.00 (BST). There will be 206 countries competing and 42 sports contested. Two new additions: golf returns after 112 years and rugby after 92 years.



Archery	Football	Shooting
Athletics	Golf	Swimming
Badminton	Gymnastics	Synchronised Swimming
Basketball	Handball	Table Tennis
Boxing	Hockey	Taekwondo
Canoeing	Judo	Tennis
Cycling	Modern Pentathlon	Triathlon
Diving	Rowing	Volleyball
Equestrian	Rugby Sevens	Water Polo
Fencing	Sailing	Weightlifting
		Wrestling

Event planner

Sport	Start date
Athletics	Friday 12 August
Boxing	Saturday 6 August
Cycling (Track)	Thursday 11 August
Diving	Sunday 7 August
Gymnastics	Saturday 6 August
Swimming	Saturday 6 August



People and News

Birthday Celebrations - August 2016

1st Isha



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

2nd Barry

2nd Dor Dor

10th Thomas



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

16th Jackie

19th Sonia

Remembrance - July 2016

7th Mrs Lancaster - In loving memory of my dear husband Leonard who died December 10th 1957.

Also Ivy Lancaster who died 23rd February 1997. A Loving and Caring Mom. Always in our thoughts, David, Wendy and Family.

14th Mr & Mrs Lloyd - Memories of a dear son Edward.

21st Mrs Maull (Snr.) - In ever loving memory of my dear daughter Margery who died September 30th 1940. Also my dear husband Solomon Maull who died July 26th 1955.

28th Mr & Mrs Maull (Jnr.) - Treasured memories of our baby son Michael who entered God's Kingdom May 5th 1944.

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.

We also remember in our prayers this month Malcolm Anthony Kershaw Holden better known as "Tony" who died on August 1st 2015. Loved and greatly missed by Cynthia his wife and all family and church members.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you promised through your son Jesus Christ, to hear us when we pray in faith. Help us to pray simply and sincerely, unselfishly and gratefully, remembering the needs of others as well as our own, and giving thanks always for all things in the name of Christ our Lord. Grant that all who come in to our church may be enabled to renew their relationship with you and may find your peace, your strength, your grace and above all your presence.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer

Regular Prayer Times

Sunday Morning Prayer - Every morning at 10.00 am. prior to the morning service for quiet prayer.

Tuesday Morning Prayer - Prayer and Bible Study at 9.30am.

Tuesday Evening Prayer - A time time for open intercession or quiet prayer run by Kevin at 8.00pm

Midweek Morning Prayer - Every Monday and Wednesday mornings at 8.00am there is a time for quiet prayer.

Please pray for Holy Trinity Ministries

TNG - youth work
Messy Church
Kids Club
Trinity Tots
Soup & Roll Lunch Club
Social Afternoon
Coffee Morning

Please pray for our Church Leaders

Vicar Neil and his family
Wardens
PCC
Lay Reader
Readers and all who help in any way in our church
Helpers and supporters

Regular Donations

Books and Magazines - for the League of Friends at Sandwell Hospital.

West Bromwich Food Bank - * 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

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

All in the month of AUGUST

80 years ago: on 1st August 1936 that the 11th Olympic Games opened in Berlin. It was the last Olympics for 12 years due to WWII.

75 years ago: on 15th August 1941 that Saint Maximilian Kolbe, Polish Franciscan friar and martyr who sheltered 2,000 Jewish refugees from the Nazis, died. He had taken the place of a condemned man at Auschwitz concentration camp.

60 years ago: on 27th August 1956 that Britain's first nuclear power station, Calder Hall in Cumbria, began operating. It was the first nuclear power station in the world to generate power on an industrial scale.

50 years ago: on 1st August 1966 that the Cultural Revolution began in China. It was intended to preserve China's Maoist/Communist ideology by banishing capitalist and traditional elements from society. Millions of people were persecuted.

40 years ago: on 1st August 1976 that Austrian racing driver Niki Lauda suffered life-threatening burns and permanent disfigurement when he crashed in the German Grand Prix. As a result, the Nurburgring circuit was made less dangerous.

30 years ago: on 9th August 1986 that British rock band Queen performed their final live concert before the death of Freddie Mercury. It took place at Knebworth Park, Stevenage.

25 years ago: on 8th August 1991 that British journalist John McCarthy was released by Islamic Jihad in Lebanon after being held hostage for more than five years.

20 years ago, on 23rd August 1996 that Osama bin Laden issued a fatwa entitled *A Declaration of War Against the Americans Occupying the Land of the Two Holy Places*. At that time few people knew who he was and so it received little attention.

15 years ago: on 6th August 2001 that U.S. President George W. Bush received a daily briefing warning that Osama bin Laden was determined to strike in the USA. (Six weeks later came the 9/11 terrorist attack.)

10 years ago: on 9th August 2006 that British police arrested 24 terrorists who were plotting to blow up at least 10 aircraft travelling from the UK to the USA using liquid explosives.

HELP PLEASE!

As editor I get articles and news stories from various sources. Sometimes its easy and the articles and stories just flow, but sometimes its difficult and I struggle to produce a magazine thats a good read.

So, I'm asking if any of our readers have stories that they would like to share, from your holidays, work, family, whatever, to please send them to me by email, text, WhatsApp or handwritten and I will type. It doesn't have to be overly long, just a short anecdote will do. Or if you have any ideas that might be useful for a series as JP did please also let me know. You don't have to do all the work, I will do research if needed.

There is also a list at the back of church for people to sign up for the monthly Prayer Focus but there's not a lot of people on it. It would be great if you could sign up for **one** month per year either as a group or singly so that we can pray for topical events and our church and church family. One time a year is all you need to do.

And finally, if anyone is interested in helping to run the magazine, possibly with a view to taking over - I'm not getting any younger - then please let me know. We can work together initially if required and it would be great to have younger people with different ideas getting involved.

My email address is colin.lucock@btopenworld.com, my mobile is 07951768083 and my home number is 0121 358 6203.

Please have a think and contact me if you think you would like to help in anyway.

Thank you. Ed.

Mugs or framed pictures



If anyone would like an anniversary mug as shown in the picture or framed pictures of the church please contact Madeline or Jacqui Banks. The mugs are £2.00 and the framed pictures are £3.00



Events for your diary



Summer Fun at New Square

The beach will be coming back to **West Bromwich** this summer with the arrival of New Square's Summer of Fun! **From 23 July to 15 August 11am to 5pm daily.** The centre will be transformed to give people the full seaside experience including a beach, deckchairs and traditional fairground rides. There will even be visits from family favourites Punch and Judy, so you can enjoy a stay-cation right here in West Bromwich!



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

Find Holy Trinity on Facebook

www.facebook.com/pages

www.holytrinitywb.org

holy trinity church
1 burlington road
west bromwich
B70 6LF

Rev. Neil Robbie
0121 525 3595

