

holy trinity church parish magazine

April 2017



30p

HOLY WEEK - April 9th - 15th April

JESUS
LIVES

Easter Day - 16th April

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!



Sunday - April 9th - Palm Sunday

10.30am - Morning Service

6.30pm - Evening Service



Thursday - April 13th - Maundy Thursday

7.30pm - Evening Service



Friday - April 14th - Good Friday

10.30am - Walk of Witness

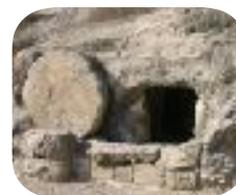
1.30pm - Church open for Prayer



Sunday - April 16th - Easter Day

10.30am - Morning Service

6.30pm - Evening Service



Have a Blessed Easter

Church Principal Officers

Position	Name	Phone
Vicar	Neil Robbie	525 3595
Churchwarden	Gary Davies	01384 233234
Churchwarden	Ian Goodson	07910 235473
Assistant wardens	Kevin Greally	07496 763042
Secretary	Mark Banks	01384 378847
Treasurer	Gill Davies	01384 233234
Lay Reader	Christine Pegler	525 3171

PCC Members

Name	Responsibility
Neil Robbie	Vicar/Chair
Gary Davies	Buildings/Grounds/Synod Rep/Churches Together rep.
Mark Banks	Secretary
Gill Davies	Treasurer
Christine Pegler	Lay Reader/Hall Bookings/Social Outreach (Team Leader) Child Protection
Sonia Honeyghan	Buildings/Grounds
David Turner	Building/Grounds/H & S and Synod representative
Ian Goodson	Synod Lay Chair
Kevin Greally	Walter Stanley Trust rep.

Co-opted PCC Members

Helen Morrow	Family and Community worker
John Massey	Asian Calvary Church

Non PCC

Liz Farley	Churches Together rep.
Barry Page	Buildings and services
Colin Lucock	Magazine editor - 07951768083 - colin.lucock@btopenworld.com
Teri Sekeso	Parish Administrator

Sunday Services

10.30am	All-Age Service	1st Sunday of month
	Holy Communion	2nd and 4th Sundays
	Service of the Word	3rd Sunday of month and 5th of 5 week months
6.30pm	Holy Communion	1st and 3rd Sundays
	Evening Prayer	2nd and 4th Sundays and 5th of 5 week months
1.00pm	Asian Calvary Church - Every Sunday	
4.30pm	Followers	Sunday afternoon Bible study

Regular Events

Mums & Toddlers	Tuesday afternoon @ 1.15 pm
Tuesday Morning Prayer Time & Bible Study	Every Tuesday @ 9.30am
Tuesday Evening Prayer Time	Every Tuesday @ 7.30pm

Youth Groups

TNG	Wednesday @ 7.40 pm
Kids Club	Wednesday @ 6.30 pm
Messy Church	One Wednesday of month @ 7.30 pm

Social

Ladies Cake & Chat	Every Thursday @ 9.15 am. Homemade cake, toast and chat.
Social Afternoon	3rd Wednesday @ 2.00pm with gentle exercises. Cost £1.00/head .
Coffee Morning	Last Saturday of month with prayer opportunity @ 9.0 am and Toast & Chat @ 10.00 am.
Lunch Club	First Wednesday of the month @ 12.30pm

APRIL - DIARY				Morning	Afternoon/Evening
Sunday Lent 5	2nd	10.30	All -Age Worship	1.00 6.30	Asian Calvary Church Holy Communion
Tuesday	4th	9.30	Bible study/Prayer	1.15	Trinity Tots
Wednesday	5th	9.30 11.45 12.30	School Easter Serv. Holy Comm. Soup Lunch	6.30	Messy Church
Thursday	6th	9.30	Cake & Chat	1.30 7.30	Lent Course Lent Course
Sunday Lent 6 Palm Sunday	9th	10.30	Service of the Word	1.00 6.30	Asian Calvary Church Evening Prayer
Tuesday	11th	NO	Bible study/Prayer	NO	Trinity Tots
Wednesday	12th			NO NO	Kids Club TNG
Maundy Thursday	13th	10.30- 1.00	Holiday Lunch Club Munch & Move	7.30	Maundy Thursday Service
Good Friday	14th	10.30	Walk of Witness	1.30	Church open for Prayer
Sunday Easter Day	16th	10.30	Easter Communion	1.00 6.30	Asian Calvary Church Holy Communion for Easter
Tuesday	18th	NO	Bible study/Prayer	NO	Trinity Tots
Wednesday	19th			2.00 NO NO	Social Afternoon + Extend Kid's Club TNG
Thursday	20th	10.30- 1.00	Holiday Lunch Club Munch & Move		
Sunday Easter 2	23rd	10.30	Holy Communion	1.00 6.30	Asian Calvary Church Evening Prayer
Tuesday	25th	NO	Bible study/Prayer	1.15	Trinity Tots
Wednesday	26th			6.30 7.40	Kids Club TNG
Thursday	27th	9.15	Cake and Chat		
Saturday	29th	10.00	Coffee Morning		
Sunday Easter 3	30th	10.30	Service of the Word APCM+Lunch	1.00 6.30	Asian Calvary Church Holy Communion
Tuesday	2nd	9.30	Bible study/Prayer	1.15	Trinity Tots
Wednesday	3rd	11.45 12.30	Holy Communion Soup Lunch	6.30 7.40	Kids Club TNG
Thursday	4th	9.15	Local Election in Church Hall		Local Election in Church Hall
Sunday Easter 4	7th May	10.30	All -Age Worship	1.00 6.30	Asian Calvary Church Holy Communion

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From the Vicarage

Words and phrases are powerful. We all discover the power of words from our earliest years. What do the words “I love you” or “I am proud of you” do to your sense of belonging or achievement? When our kids are struggling to cope with name calling, parents will say “sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me.” Yet, as a child, I knew how deeply words cut and wounded me and how my words could cause deep damage to other children. Bullies don't need to use sticks and stones when words will leave long-lasting, invisible scars.



Words can also subtly manipulate and control individuals. “Do you really love me?” “If you loved me then you would...” and world History is littered with phrases and mottos which hold sway over whole communities. Rev Ian Paisley captured the hearts and minds of the loyalist community of Ulster with his slogan “No surrender”; Hitler manipulated German citizens with his motto, “Ein Volk, ein Reich, ein Führer” – “One People, One Empire, One Leader”. Phrases have the power to manipulate and control nations.

Dear brothers and sisters,

I am worried about two phrases which are being repeated in Church of England circles at this time. The phrases are “Good disagreement” and “Radical inclusion”.

Why am I worried? First, I am worried because I don't know what these phrases mean. I am really confused. Both phrases are simplistic and blunt, lacking nuance and definition in our complex world. I want to say “Amen” if they mean one thing and “No, never Lord” if they mean another.

Secondly, I am worried because the phrases have the power to manipulate and coerce a whole community, of which we are a part. The phrases are unclear but they have already gained a subconscious meaning and power which psychologists call “groupthink”. Groupthink leads to irrational or dysfunctional decisions and unconscious bias, based on the desire for harmony and conformity in that group.

Good disagreement has quickly come to mean that two Christians can completely disagree on something as long as they are nice to each other. Good disagreement is only a different way of saying we should tolerate and respect one another's beliefs because there is no such thing as truth, only what we believe to be true. Good disagreement is the only way of creating an uneasy peace in a post-truth culture.

And what does radical inclusion mean? Again, from the context, it is rapidly gaining support to mean that everyone is welcome in church regardless of some kinds of immoral behaviour.

And so there is real danger for bible believing Christians. If I say "I disagree with you and I believe the way you think is wrong" I break the rules of "Good Disagreement". Who is the bad guy here? Not the person who has faulty beliefs but the person who claims to know what is right and true. Or what if I say, "Jesus said, "repent and believe, for the kingdom of God is at hand."" I am then breaking the rules of radical inclusion. Who is the bad guy here? Not the person who behaves in a way which is unacceptable to God, but me, for breaking the rules of "radical inclusion".

Dear brothers and sisters at Holy Trinity, don't let yourself be swayed by sub-Christian or unbiblical mottos or phrases, even when you feel their power and "groupthink" is against you.

My memory verse this week has been Psalm 86:11, which has been a great help as I have struggled with the growing feeling of manipulation and coercion in the Church of England.

Teach me your way, O Lord,
that I may walk in your truth;
unite my heart to fear your name.

Psalm 86:11

Believing Christians are moved turn to God to be taught his way and to walk in his truth. This is a dangerous prayer for us all. Praying "teach me your way, O Lord" means studying and knowing his word but it means more. This prayer invites God to teach us in the school of life. There is much truth which God reveals to us but which can only be learned as it is put into practice. I am so reluctant to put what I know is true into practice that God will teach me through times of discipline and hardship. There are some lessons which I need to learn which will only come through suffering and rejection as God does his work in me. And so I need not fear "groupthink" but rather fear the name of the Lord.

And so I believe we must reject the mottos “good disagreement” and “radical inclusion”. We need more sophisticated ways of setting expectations for the times we disagree and how to welcome folk to church. We need to echo the theology of Paul’s letter to the divided church at Ephesus. “We have received every spiritual blessing in Christ and are united as one people under Christ as our head who has broken down the dividing walls of hostility; we must walk in a manner of our calling and so maintain the bond of peace and the spirit of unity whilst we attain to the full knowledge of Christ through the apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers and evangelists as we put on the full armour of God.”

Will you pray with me for protection against manipulation in the church and for the rejection of any phrase which can be used against one another? Will you pray for true unity and acceptance in Christ as we grow up into him who is head?

With love, Neil

Prayer Focus



The Lord’s Prayer

This was originally printed in 2011 from a Tear Fund article seen by Jackie and Mark. It is still relevant today 6 years later and we felt it worth repeating for this month and easter prayers.

Jesus himself gave us this prayer in the words in Matthew Chapter 6 verses 9-13 and so let us pray as he has taught us to:

- **‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name’**

It is sometimes hard for us to see our Father as Lord over all, especially in the light of world problems and conflicts. Pray for our troubled world that we may see things from God’s perspective as He loves the world so much.

- **‘Your kingdom come’**

Lives all over the world would be transformed if God’s kingdom came. Pray that God will show us how to be part of bringing His kingdom to earth.

- **'Your will be done, on earth as in heaven'**

This precious earth and everything in it belongs to God and He has entrusted it to us to look after. We don't often do this as He would want us to. Pray for guidance on looking after the world and its resources and how we can bring heaven to earth through our actions.

- **'Give us today our daily bread'**

There are many people living in poverty across the world and many parts of the world are faced with food shortages. Pray for the many who are suffering because of this and pray for the aid agencies like Tearfund and their partners who are working to provide essential food to these regions.

- **'Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us'**

At Easter time we remember the sacrifice Jesus made to save us from our sins. Thank Him and pray for forgiveness for those things we have done wrong. Pray also that we are able to forgive others as Jesus has taught us to.

- **'Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil'**

Pray that the Lord protect us when we are weak and face temptation in our daily lives. Ask that He will keep evil from us.

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours.
Now and for ever. Amen.**

Jackie and Mark

Prayer for Today's World

O God

You love justice and establish peace on earth.

We bring before you the disunity of today's world:

The absurd violence, and the many wars, which

are breaking the courage of the people of the world:

militarism and armaments race, which are threatening life on the planet:

human greed and injustice, which breed hatred and strife.

Send Your Spirit and renew the face of the earth:

Teach us to be compassionate towards the whole human family:

Strengthen the will of all those who fight for justice and for peace;

lead all nations into the path of peace,

and give us that peace which the world cannot give. **Amen**

~ from *Prayers for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2008*, posted on the **World Council of Churches** website. <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/home.html>

April Prayer Reflection - George Stack

Prayer for the Day - Volume 1

One of my favourite religious pictures is *Christ of St John of the Cross*, painted by Salvador Dali in 1951.

It's a very unusual picture of the crucifixion of Jesus. When it was bought by the Kelvinstone Gallery in Glasgow, it caused admiration, criticism and controversy. Over the years it has become the object of great devotion.



Dali was inspired by a pen and ink drawing by the famous sixteenth-century Spanish mystic, St John of the Cross. The cross seems suspended between heaven and earth. The picture is composed of an inverted triangle from arms down to legs, with the circle of the head in its centre. Some people see a reference to the Holy Trinity in this arrangement. There are no nails, no blood, no crown of thorns - another reason why the picture was the subject of much debate. The figure of Christ is seen from above, rather than looking up at the scene from below. The bowed head, the outstretched arms, the tapering legs are like an arrow from heaven to earth. They point to the foot of the cross, which is plunged into the depth of creation. Dali said the picture was the product of a cosmic dream.



The enduring image is of the crucified Christ, bearing the suffering of the whole world on his shoulders. It reminds us that the cross lies at the crossroads of human suffering, pain and death. Where is God when people suffer?

'Here,' says Jesus, with arms outstretched on the cross.

Lord Jesus, open wide your arms to embrace our broken world. Amen.

Canon David Winter considers Good Friday...

THE WAY I SEE IT: The Easter Paradox

This month - rather later than usual - we remember the events of Good Friday and celebrate the glory of Easter. The injustice and cruelty of the former and the hope and assurance of the latter may help us to make sense of the conflicting and often disturbing events taking place in our world.

On Good Friday the most honest, generous and open person who ever lived was cruelly executed. Around the cross stood His mother, and a few close friends and family. Beyond them, a crowd jeered. The soldiers went about their grim task. Even the sky was dark.

Yet in the gloom there was hope. Jesus forgave those who were killing him: 'they don't know what they're doing'. He asked His best friend to look after his mother. A criminal who was being executed alongside Jesus had a change of heart and asked Him to 'remember me when you come into your kingdom' - and received the most wonderful promise of paradise *today*. Even the Roman centurion, who had stood watching the condemned man die, testified that 'surely this man was a son of God'.

In other words, at the darkest time there was light, a Light which blazed out on Easter morning. Isn't that paradox - the truth that even in the worst moment there are signs of hope - the deep message of Easter? We are made in God's image. We are precious to God. But we are fallen, flawed, lost. Those two truths are right there in the story of Good Friday and Easter. And which one wins? No prizes for guessing.



The real message of Easter

‘When you die, that’s it. Nothing. Out like a light.’ That’s what the man in the pub said, and his mates all nodded, though the one whose mother had died the week before wasn’t really quite so certain.

Still, it seemed to make sense. After all, we know what ‘dead’ means: dead leaves, dead batteries, dead fish, dead pets . . . and dead people, to be honest. While we recognise that it’s all too easy to go from alive to dead, we’ve got serious doubts about the possibility of any return journeys.

Which is why Christians have an uphill task at Easter. Jesus was a great man, and people want to remember how He died. Fair enough. But it starts getting complicated when Christians insist that Jesus died but *didn’t stay dead* - in fact, that He’s alive now. That ‘return journey’ has happened, they say.

That’s the problem about Easter. Christians persisting in what sounds like a ridiculous belief. If they just dropped the resurrection bit, and concentrated on the wonderful teaching of Jesus and His example of generosity, compassion and love then everybody would find Christianity much more believable. Wouldn’t that make sense? And wouldn’t that fill the churches again?

Well it might (or, more likely, it might not). But in any case, the trouble is that it wouldn’t be Christianity at all. The faith of Christians actually depends on the resurrection of Jesus, and always has done, right from the earliest days. After the crucifixion the body of Jesus was taken down from the cross by some of His friends and put in a rock tomb with a heavy stone. But after His death, His followers claimed that they had met Him, seen Him, talked with Him.

So certain was their belief that nothing could make them recant it. Not ridicule, not torture, not even death itself. They couldn’t do it because they were absolutely convinced that it had happened. Plenty of clever and powerful people at the time had a vested interest in proving them wrong. It shouldn’t have been difficult to prove that a dead man had stayed dead, especially when you have at your disposal the resources of the greatest empire in history. Yet they didn’t do it, because it couldn’t be done.

Still today millions of people all over the world believe that Jesus did in fact rise from the dead. They include brilliant scientists and philosophers as well as plenty of 'ordinary' men and women of all ages. They believe it because they respect the witness of those first Christians, and because in many cases their own lives have been transformed by a relationship with Jesus - a relationship that wouldn't make sense if He were dead!

Christians don't put their faith in a dead hero from the past, but in Someone who is alive and active in their own lives and in the world. That, in a nutshell, is the real message of Easter.

Prayer for Resurrection Power

Thank you Father that, because of what Jesus achieved on the cross, we can be resurrection-powered people; empowered to live each day confidently, whatever life's challenges may be, knowing that our security is in you alone.

In Jesus you have overcome the world and its troubles and have defeated death. When the world seems overwhelming Lord, help us to keep Jesus as our compass and to come safely to the one who has the words of eternal life. Help us to hear those words and respond in trust and anticipation.

Thank you Father for giving us your Son and your Spirit. Thank you for your life-giving Easter work. In Jesus name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Maundy Thursday – time to wash feet

Maundy Thursday is famous for two things. The first is one of the final acts that Jesus did before his death: the washing of his own disciples' feet. (see John 13) Jesus washed his disciples' feet for a purpose: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another.



In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is 'mandatum novum do vobis'. The word 'mundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command). The ceremony of the 'washing of the feet' of members of the congregation came to be an important part of the liturgy (regular worship) of the medieval church, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ.

But Thursday was also important because it was on that night that Jesus first introduced the Lord's Supper, or what we nowadays call Holy Communion.

Jesus and his close friends had met in a secret upper room to share the Passover meal together - for the last time. And there Jesus transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, saying, 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood' as he, the Lamb of God, prepared to die for the sins of the whole world. John's gospel makes it clear that the Last Supper took place the evening BEFORE the regular Passover meal, and that later Jesus died at the same time that the Passover lambs were killed.



David Turner's Desert Island Discs.

How would I cope with being a solitary castaway on a desert island?



I would probably struggle like most people. It would depend how old I was when I was shipwrecked. If I was in my early twenties I would attempt a lot of DIY (assuming I could make some tools) & create a comfortable life style. However if I was shipwrecked late in life I would create a shelter, eat fish & fruit (I would miss meat because I would not be able to kill any animals) stay fit as possible & sleep a lot! Hoping one day somebody would wake me up....preferably another human being!!



My eight songs

Take good care of my baby – Bobby Vee (1961)

This is the first song that made an impression on me at the tender age of ten! (although I had heard lots of songs growing up) My uncle was a Teddy Boy at the time & his older brother had a gramophone which he wasn't supposed to touch...his brother must have been out! So he put the record on & straight away I was hooked on the rhythm, beat & words that there where song with such feeling.

Keep on running - Spencer Davis Group (1966)

Now I was really getting into pop music. This record was most appropriate as I was a Mod when this record was released & still at school. In those days the No 1 record was announced at 1 o'clock on BBC radio (I think it was called the Light Programme?). All the lads at school had been talking about the record & wondering if it would be No 1. So I finished (wagged) school early & ran full speed down Charlemont hill, burst into our house just in time to hear the presenter announce that the new No 1 this week is...The Spencer Davis Group – Keep on running. Happy days.

Revolution – The Beatles (1968)

I was attending my uncle Ray's wedding & on the night all the family went to a local pub in West Bromwich for the reception. My brother (who is 3 years younger than me) & I noticed a jukebox in the corner of the room. We made our way over to it & saw that The Beatles song Hey Jude which was No 1 at the time was on the playlist. However it was the B side Revolution that we must have played at least 5 times before the other guests told us to stop. It was totally different to the mainstream music that The Beatles produced at the time, but revolutionary in its way & only a B side!

Blockbuster – The Sweet (1973)

This may not be everybody's taste (especially my wife Sue) but I loved it. The Glam Rock the kitsch & more importantly the driving beat & harmonies. We got married that year & I remember wearing the platform shoes at our wedding, however I hasten to add not the make up!!

The Greatest love of all – George Benson (1977)

This was the year our first child was born – Leigh. You only have to read the first line of the lyrics to realise how meaningful this song is to me and my family. A beautiful song sung with real feeling.

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross – Isaac Watts

I absolutely love this hymn (the traditional version). I must have heard it sung at church numerous times over the years, then one Sunday morning it was sung & my whole body started to feel a warmth that I had never experienced before & my eyes filled with tears & I knew then that Jesus had died on that cross to save a sinner like me. The last two lines of the first verse that finishes with 'My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride' are the most meaningful words I have ever heard or sung in a hymn and then to finish with 'Love so amazing, so divine demands my soul, my life, my all. As Charles Wesley said 'he would give up all his other hymns to have written this one' and he sure knew a good hymn when he saw one.

What luxury item would I choose?

It would to be a wind up radio so I could find out what was happening in the outside world & also listen out for the Albion result!

Apart from the bible & the complete works of Shakespeare I would take the entire works of Charles Dickens. My one disc would be **When I survey the Wondrous Cross.**

God bless - David T

Chris Pegler will be next up in May magazine, followed by volunteers who have not yet volunteered!! in June. That leaves 7 more months and 7 more volunteers please.

Desert Island Discs: 22 great guests

By Martin Chilton, Telegraph culture editor - 20 MAY 2016

The instantly recognisable tune of *By the Sleepy Lagoon* (composed in 1930 by Eric Coates and with added seagulls) sounded for the 3,000th time in 2014 as the BBC radio programme *Desert Island Discs* reached a magnificent milestone. Royal Navy test pilot Eric Winkle Brown was the landmark guest in a show devised by Roy Plomley that first aired on January 29, 1942. Think of all the wonderful musical choices, all the controversies (Oliver Reed shocking the gentlemanly Plomley with his request for a blow-up doll as his luxury item), the memorable tales (who would have thought that Vidal Sassoon spent his youth in street fights against fascist gangs in the East End of London?) and the way guests sometimes inadvertently revealed their own flaws, as when Norman Wisdom chose five of his own songs, including the appropriately titled *Narcissus*. Most of the archive of wonderful past episodes is online. Not all are there (it would be interesting to hear Bob Hope and George Formby for example) but many treasures are available including Louis Armstrong, added in 2015. Forget the dull and self-serving politicians and economists, here are 20 of the best *Desert Island Discs* you can enjoy, for free, on the BBC website, or via iTunes. Access the BBC website to hear the 22 choices.

With so much discussion and debate on Brexit we thought this month we would give the views of two Christians with totally opposite views.

The democratic imperative: a Christian case for Brexit.

Dr Adrian Hilton is a conservative academic, theologian, author and educationalist, currently based at Oxford University. Here he writes about why he believes the UK should leave the EU.

I'm a Christian and I want to remain IN.

Sarah Dickson, Director of the Liberal Democrat Christian Forum, writes why she wants the UK to remain in the EU and how her faith has guided her.

The democratic imperative: a Christian case for Brexit.

Dr Adrian Hilton is a conservative academic, theologian, author and educationalist, currently based at Oxford University. Here he writes about why he believes the UK should leave the EU.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is fixed in Europe – by tectonic-geographic reality and socio-cultural history. These constitute our inescapable frameworks of identity. No rational Christian Brexit-er (or #BeLeaver) is talking about the UK “leaving Europe”: it is a lazy figure of speech, which plays to the seismic apocalypse of those who seek to induce terror into the debate. Nor is any Christian advocating that we cease working with our neighbours, or that we want the UK to become “detached and self-regarding”, as Lord Deben ungraciously persists in caricaturing the Leave position.

Europe is made of up around 50 independent states; the European Union of 28. Is every European state that's not a member of the EU “detached and self-regarding”? Are they unwilling to work through diplomatic channels with other European states for peace, justice and the pursuit of the common good? Are they incapable of doing so? No, of course not. We're all for loving our neighbour: we just have a problem when that neighbour presumes to tell us how much fish we can eat; how many hours we can spend gardening; how much tax we must pay on electricity, and what colour we ought to paint the front door.

European civilisation is imbued with notions of Christian morality and the values of the Enlightenment. It is diverse, organic, syncretic and all-encompassing. After centuries of internecine warfare, the continent finally came to recognise that this religio-cultural homogeneity offered a foundation for peace and prosperity, and so expressions of Christian democracy began to develop which drew together the fractious and heterogeneous strands of national allegiance to forge a new progressive identity for the modern era.

But that identity has been hijacked by an aggressive, coercive, supra-national secularism of categorical imperatives which gnaw at the threads of Europe's carefully-woven patchwork of civilisations. Or perhaps that's the way it was designed and planned.

The European Union is not a benign fraternal association based on cooperation and collaboration: it is an anti-democratic, bureaucratic, political union which is incrementally imposing an entire corpus of diktats and directives that are antithetical to centuries of the British democratic tradition and common law. It may have begun with the noblest of Christian motives – that is, peace and reconciliation – but you only have to look at what uniform “economic governance” has done to the people of Greece to understand that the EU is fast becoming a threat to peace and social stability.

When people feel detached from their governments, and those in power ride roughshod over the rights and freedoms of the people, history teaches us that those people will rise up. Unity and peace are best maintained when governance is as near to the people as possible, and when that governance is transparent and accountable. Human sympathy spreads outwards from individuals to families, then to extended families and friends, and onwards to form communities, regions and countries, as people discover common ties of kinship, language and culture.

God made the nations with diverse qualities, and these variations of national characteristics and cultures display a wonder of creation. If the story of the Tower of Babel teaches us anything, it is that segregation occurs along these lines, and that attempts to re-build a unified tower are doomed to failure.

There was never meant to be a bland uniformity: totalitarian governments which have attempted to impose socio-political conformity have presided over nationalistic discontent and precipitated civil wars. Free states extend the hand of peace and friendship to their neighbours in an appreciation of other cultures and nations. The love of one's own country permits an understanding of the love others have for theirs. No amount of patriotic feeling, nationalistic zeal or blindness to national diversity can lead to war: war is the manifestation of the lust for power and domination in pursuit of religious ideals or political utopianism.

These have been the great scourge of Europe, and one of the principal barriers to their advance has been the patriotic resistance of nations determined to defend their own rights, liberties and heritage.

There are many voices screeching to be heard in the cacophony of the EU Referendum. The question of leaving or remaining can't be reduced to any single issue. But, for this Christian at least, it is about liberty, democracy, transparency, accountability, and the right to sack those rule over me.

I'm a Christian and I want to remain IN

Sarah Dickson, Director of the Liberal Democrat Christian Forum, writes why she wants the UK to remain in the EU and how her faith has guided her.

During Fairtrade Fortnight last week, I was reminded of one of Martin Luther King Jnr's thought-provoking sound bites; the sort that stop you in your tracks to make you think a moment.

"Before you finish eating breakfast in the morning, you've depended on more than half the world"

Seeing it on a poster on our office kitchen cupboard door every time I made a cuppa, it made me realise the reality of our world in its increasingly interconnected state. As we become more interconnected, we face more international crises from climate change to refugee crises. Our actions impact the lives of those across the world and people in other nations' actions impact our lives more and more.

This compels us to cooperate with our neighbours across national borders. It is by working together that we can build and maintain peace; that we can stand up and inspire action against global inequalities; and that we can form strong inclusive communities. This is why I want to stay IN.

People within the Church community have been living out this outward looking vision for decades and the EU referendum on the 23rd June gives Britain an opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to doing so too.

Formed after 1945, the European Union was set up with the aim of building unity and peace between European countries. For the past 70 years, the EU has successfully made European war impossible because leaders have come together to negotiate and cooperate. I have grown up taking peace for granted and Europe is largely to thank!

Through this cooperation we are able to tackle the climate change that is destroying some of the poorest people's livelihoods and dirtying our air. We are able to stand up for people's rights – protecting maternity and paternity leave, tackling human trafficking and expanding our aid reach to some of the most vulnerable.

For me, Jesus' inclusive, borderless love can be best lived out by shifting our focus globally. Remaining part of Europe gives us a space in which we, in Britain, can expand compassion, social justice and reconciliation to a far further end than the British Isles. There is no doubt that the EU needs reforms but it is not by walking away from the table that change happens. On the inside, we can be influencers.

Britain is a leader in Europe. We can use our leadership to reignite a vision for Europe that goes beyond the economy to one of a vibrant, peaceful and compassionate community. The need for which, as our world is confronted with more and deepening international pressures, is overwhelming. So, when you're eating your breakfast, mull over the Martin Luther King reminder that the world's structure is one of interrelatedness and it is by working together that we can truly love our neighbours.

Wilbur & Orville Wright – the first men to control flight

Wilbur Wright, the American aviation pioneer, was born 150 years ago this month, on 16th April 1867. Together with his brother Orville, he achieved the first powered, sustained and controlled plane flight on 14 December 1903.

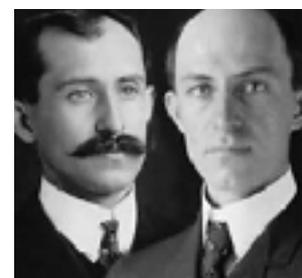
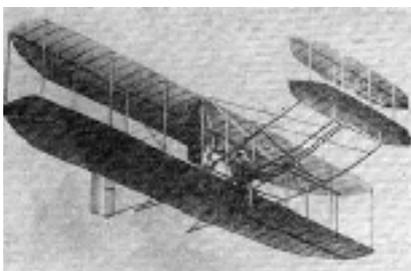


They could have made the flight the previous day, when conditions were good, but declined because it was a Sunday. Their interest in flying had originally been sparked when their father, a bishop in the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, brought home a toy ‘helicopter’, based on a French invention, for his two younger sons. They played with it until it broke, and then built their own.

Wilbur, who was perhaps the driving force of the two, never married because “he did not have time for a wife and an airplane”. He died early, in 1912, worn out by business exertions, mainly surrounding patent controversies.

The Wright brothers, who started out as bicycle builders, were among several people in different countries trying to invent aeroplanes. Their first flight took place near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

Their fundamental breakthrough was the invention of a unique method of control which enabled the pilot to steer the aircraft effectively and to maintain its balance. This method remains standard on fixed-wing aircraft of all kinds and justifies the Wright brothers’ claim to have made powered flight possible.



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

All in the month of APRIL

1400 years ago:- on 17th April 617, that St Donnan of Eigg, a Gaelic priest, was murdered alongside at least 50 of his monks, who became known as the Eigg Martyrs. They were attempting to introduce Christianity to the Picts of north-western Scotland, when they were attacked by Norse robbers after conducting an Easter Sunday mass.

400 years ago:- on 4th April 1617 that John Napier, the Scottish mathematician and theologian died. He invented logarithms.

150 years ago:- on 16th April 1867 that Wilbur Wright, American aviation pioneer was born. The Wright brothers achieved the first powered, sustained and controlled plane flight.

125 years ago:- on 15th April 1892 that Corrie ten Boom, Dutch Christian writer and speaker was born. Best known for helping many Jews escape the Holocaust during WWII. She also established a rehabilitation shelter for concentration camp survivors.

100 years ago:- on 6th April 1917 that the USA declared war on Germany and entered the 1st World War.

75 years ago:- on 18th April 1942 that the USA bombed mainland Japan for the first time, hitting Tokyo, Yokohama and other cities.

70 years ago:- on 1st April 1947 that the school leaving age in the UK was raised to 15.

65 years ago:- on 30th April 1952 that the diary of Anne Frank, a Jewish girl who died during the Holocaust, was published in English as 'The Diary of a Young Girl'.

40 years ago:- on 2nd April 1977 that the British race horse Red Rum won the Grand National for a historic third time. The record still stands today.

25 years ago:- on 5th April 1992 to Feb 1996 that the Bosnian War's Siege of Sarajevo took place.

Also 25 years ago:- on 27th April 1992 that Betty Boothroyd became the first female Speaker of the House of Commons.

20 years ago:- on 5th April 1997 that Britain's Grand National steeplechase was disrupted after the IRA sent coded bomb warnings. 60,000 people were evacuated from the Aintree course and the race was postponed.

People and News

Birthday Celebrations - April 2017

2nd Mike Hardcastle



13th Kath

15th Lucille

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

16th Margaret Snr.



23rd Wendell

27th Paul Wright

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

Remembrance - April 2017

2nd Hughes - Mr & Mrs J. Hughes thank God for all his love and many blessings during 40 years of happily married life.

9th Bird - In loving memory of John T. Bird aged 86 years. Passed away August 29th 1961. *"At rest in the Lord"*

In loving memory of Frederick Jones, aged 80 years, of 134, Glover St West Bromwich. Passed away May 28th 1963. *"Peace Perfect Peace"*

In loving memory of our dear Mother Emma Susannah Bird, (widow of the above John Thomas). January 8th 1879 - January 2nd 1972.

16th Lofthouse - In loving memory of a devoted mother, Annie Jane Lofthouse, also grandparents, John and Selina Arkinstall.

Ruby Edith Lofthouse - In loving memory of a life-long worshipper and devoted servant of this church. October 9th 1967.

23rd Cureton - In loving memory of Elizabeth Cureton, our loving mother of Lilian, Frederick & Hilda Cureton, who died April 17th 1962. *At rest.*

30th Lee - In loving memory of Margaret Jane Lee, devoted wife of Charles Lee, and mother of Marjorie, Raymond, Geoffrey and Ronald Lee, who died March 9th 1962. *"At rest in the Lord."*

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.

Prayer for those in church who are ill or who can no longer join us in worship

Father ,

We pray for those who are hurting in our church family today. Lord, some have minor health problems while others have some very serious ones. We pray that You will be with them and heal them, Father. You are the Great Healer and we believe in Your power to heal! Lord, please give peace to those who are in the midst of serious health issues. Father, we pray that they turn to You and know that You are right there beside them in their time of crisis. May Your will be done in their lives this day. Amen

Our Regular Prayer Times and Bible Studies

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

Tuesday Morning Prayer - Prayer and Bible Study run by Chris Pegler at 9.30am.

Tuesday and Thursday Evening Prayer - A time for open intercession or quiet prayer run by Ian and Kevin at different venues @ 7.30pm.

Midweek Morning Prayer - Every Monday and Wednesday mornings at 8.00am in church for a time of quiet prayer.

Please also pray for Holy Trinity Ministries

TNG - youth work/Messy Church/Kids Club/Trinity Tots/Soup & Roll Lunch Club/Social Afternoon/Coffee Morning/Cake and Chat/Bible study groups

Please pray for our Church Leaders

Vicar Neil and his family, Wardens Gary & Ian , PCC members, Lay Reader Chris Pegler, and all who serve in any way in our church.

Prayer for the Church for 2017 1 Timothy 2:1-2

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people — for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

Regular Donations

Books and Magazines - for the League of Friends at Sandwell Hospital. Please see Madeline Page if you would like to donate or need further information.

West Bromwich Food Bank - now facing an ever increasing demand. If you would like to donate any of the items below please leave them at the back of church and we will deliver them.

* 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

MUSIC MINISTRY



David Partridge with help from Lauren, Amanda and Helen are endeavouring to start a music group to lead our morning services. If you are interested in joining such a group and can play an instrument or enjoy singing please talk to David, Lauren, Amanda or Helen. It would be great to see a regular music group again in church.

Collection for Homelessness

The collection from Coffee Morning, Donations, Calendars and other sources has now reached over £1000. This is an incredible amount for our small church so a big thank you to everyone who donated or involved in the organisation of the various events. The PCC will be discussing the best way to use this money. Great job HT.

Foodbank

Regular food and money donations to Foodbank centre in Victoria Street continues thanks to the loving, generous albeit small congregation we have. This month our church donated £ 30.00 to Foodbank.

800,000 shoeboxes for children in need of Christmas love

Operation Christmas Child last winter collected over 880,000 shoeboxes to send to children in need around the world, thanks to the support of individuals, organisations and churches across the UK.

Operating for 24 years, the project sees volunteers pack a shoebox with gifts. Ranging from school supplies and hygiene items, through to a unique WOW item, they are given to children in need regardless of race, religion, gender or any other characteristic.

Holy Trinity Church Spires

Those lovely spires that you see on old Holy Trinity church pictures were constructed with a central iron rod and a brick surround. They were removed in the early 1950's during the time of Rev. Sutton because of corrosion and safety fears. The next incumbent Rev. Holbrooke-Jones wanted to restore them so they could be seen from the M5 motorway but private money was required which sadly was not forthcoming.

Notice of Holy Trinity APCM Sunday 30th April

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting, will take place on Sunday 30th April in the church hall after the 10.30am service. This is a chance to come to hear a review and reports of what has taken place during the last year, together with plans for the future and an opportunity to ask questions. At the meeting elections to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) take place. Nominations for PCC members will be displayed at the back of church for at least the 3 Sundays prior to the meeting. Candidates must be proposed and seconded by a person who is on the Electoral Roll of the parish and they should also be asked if they are willing to stand!

Coffee Morning
Saturday 29th April
10.00am - 12.00am



Come and join us for tea/coffee toast and fellowship. Bric-a-brac and book stalls. All donations and money collected donated to monthly just cause.

Forthcoming Events



Friends of Dartmouth Park Spring Fair

Dartmouth Park Main Entrance

Saturday May 6th - 11.00 am - 3.00pm

The Friends of Dartmouth Park are holding a Spring Fair in the park on Saturday 6th May between 11am and 3pm. We have stalls with plants, books, bric-a-brac, home made products, tombola. Also featuring a Jenson car, original circular bus and live music. Pavilion exhibition featuring local historian Mike Fenton, Sandwell Archives, Local History Society and Holy Trinity Church. All welcome to this Free event.

Annual Parish Church Meeting

The Church APCM will take place on Sunday 30th March after the 10.30am Service followed by lunch in the church hall.

Church Sunday Lunches

It is proposed to hold a Sunday lunch following the 10.30 am service once a month led by Kevin Greally. Help is required to prepare the food and clear up afterwards. If you are able to help please contact Kevin on 07496 763042 or talk to him at church.

www.facebook.com/pages

Rev. Neil Robbie 0121 525 3595

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