

holy trinity church

parish magazine

May 2017



30p



Ascension Day

May 25th

North wall church window depicting the Ascension given by the then vicar, the Reverend Frederick Sutton, in gratitude to God for 25 years of happy ministry in Holy Trinity parish and also in loving memory of their cousins Joseph Dainty Teague and Lucy Jane Teague.

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	VMT/Walter Stanley Trust Rep/Assistant Warden

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	
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

MAY - DIARY

Morning

Afternoon/Evening

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	9.30	Cake & Chat in Church LOCAL ELECTIONS ALL DAY IN HALL		
Saturday	6th		FRIENDS OF DARTMOUTH PARK SPRING FAIR+HOLY TRINITY DARTMOUTH PARK - 11.00AM - 3.00PM		
Sunday Easter 4	7th	10.30	All-Age Worship	1.00 2.30 6.30	Asian Calvary Church Priory Well prayers for Sandwell Holy Communion
Monday	8th			7.30	PCC Weekend away planning
Tuesday	9th	9.30	Bible study/Prayer	1.15	Trinity Tots
Wednesday	10th			6.30 7.40	Kids Club TNG
Thursday	11th	9.30	Cake & Chat		
Sunday Easter 5	14th	10.30	Holy Communion	1.00 6.30	Asian Calvary Church Evening Prayer
Tuesday	16th	9.30	Bible study/Prayer	1.15	Trinity Tots
Wednesday	17th			2.00 6.30 7.40	Social Afternoon + Extend Messy Church TNG
Thursday	18th	9.30	Cake & Chat	7.30	Archdeacon's Visitation Service St. James - Hill Top
Saturday	20th		ASIAN CALVARY PRAYER DAY		
Sunday Easter 6	21st	10.30	Service of the Word	1.00 6.30	Asian Calvary Church Holy Communion
Tuesday	23rd	9.30	Bible study/Prayer	1.15	Trinity Tots
Wednesday	24th			6.30 7.40	Kids Club TNG
Thursday Ascension Day	25th	9.15	Cake and Chat		
Saturday	27th	10.00	Coffee Morning		
Sunday Easter 7	28th	10.30	Holy Communion	1.00 6.30	Asian Calvary Church Evening Prayer
Tuesday	30th	NO	Bible study/Prayer	NO	Trinity Tots
Wednesday	31st			NO	Kids Club Messy Church
Sunday Pentecost Whit Sunday	4th June	10.30	All -Age Worship	1.00 6.30	Asian Calvary Church Holy Communion

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From the Vicarage

I am writing this on the day when Theresa May announced a shock general election. Already I am feeling, “No! Not another election!!” We've had the Scottish referendum, a general election, Brexit and the American Presidential election. It seems we are now constantly voting for someone or something but are never satisfied with the results.



I am also wondering whether there will be accusations of foreign government cyber hacks and fake news at this general election? Will there be troubling news about powerful outsiders influencing the result of the British general election? Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton both believed that Russian and British intelligence services interfered in their campaigns. They believe it, but where is the evidence?

We have recently heard lots about fake news and political interference, but these things are not new. There is nothing new under the sun. There was fake news and political interference when Jesus rose from the dead, that first Easter morning.

Matthew reports in his gospel:

While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, telling them, ‘You are to say, “His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.” If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.’ (Matthew 28:11-14)

The guards reported the truth to the chief priests, Jesus had risen from the dead. But the chief priests and elders devised a plan, to say that the disciples stole the body. If Matthew is right, this was a clear case of fake news.

The chief priests and elders paid off the guards with “a large sum of money” and told the guards not to worry, because the chief priests would make sure that the Roman governor agreed that this fake news story was better than telling the truth. The powerful used their wealth and their influence to shape the news to maintain their power and influence.

And so we should not be surprised when worldly forces influence the result of an election, or not. But we should be saddened if there is falsehood. In many countries around the world elections are won and lost through corruption, fake news and wheeler-dealing. In those countries, the majority of people just shrug their shoulders and say “What can we do? We cannot change anything” But Matthew's gospel ends with a challenge for every reader. Matthew challenges us all to ask, “who is telling the truth?” Is it Matthew, the friend of Jesus and eyewitness of what happened? Or, is it the chief priests, elders and guards? Is Matthew really the liar?

The challenge is for us all to seek the truth, to find the evidence. The death and resurrection of Jesus has conditioned generations of thinkers to ask; “What is truth?” What is the truth?” If Jesus rose from the dead, if it is true, then so is judgement and so I need to make sure I do not bear false witness.

No one needs to shrug their shoulders at an election and say “What can we do?” Christians should point all unbelievers to the evidence of the resurrection of Jesus in the gospels and ask “What is the truth?” The Holy Spirit will bring conviction, belief and the power to speak the truth.

With love, Neil



Mrs May
“announcing election
intention”



Tim Farron
“fantastic opportunity”



Jeremy Corbyn
“welcomes opportunity”

Prayer Focus

6 Prayers to Pray the Week After Easter

- Lysa TerKeurst - April 21, 2014



“The angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.” Matthew 28:5-7 (NIV)

I don't think Easter is quite done with me yet.

I know what glorious things this Holy Day says to the world at large.

But what does Jesus want me to know, to think about, to wrestle through at this time of year? This season of new beginnings.

So, I'm lingering here a bit longer.

I feel like the girl who wears the same outfit to school two days in a row. Easter is done now. Time to put it back in the closet. Only for me it isn't. I want to wear it again today, tomorrow and many more tomorrows.

After all, Easter is no longer a ritual to me. It's a revelation. A time where Jesus splits my soul along the fault line of a scar deep within: I was an unwanted child to my birth dad.

Unwanted.

But to Jesus ... I was wanted so much that He gave His life for me. It feels so personal. Even though I know God so loved the world, He gave His son, it becomes very individual if we let it.

Be personal.

With Jesus.

Yes.

So, in the midst of a world putting Easter away, might we let it sit with us for just a bit more?

I keep my Bible open to the place where the angel spoke to the women at the tomb. And I tangle my thoughts around His words from Matthew 28 as six prayers emerge ...

- *“Do not be afraid,”* – God, I hand over to You those things that make me so afraid. Resurrect the parts of my faith squelched by fear.
- *“I know that you are looking for Jesus,”* – God, when my soul is searching, help me know the answer to every longing can be found in You.
- *“He has risen,”* – God, the fact that Jesus is risen should lift my head, my heart and my attitude. Help me to live today as if I really believe this with every part of my life.
- *“just as he said,”* – Jesus, You keep Your promises. Help me live as though I believe that with every part of me. Help me trust You more, obey You more and resemble You more.
- *“Come and see,”* – Jesus, You had the angels invite the women in to see for themselves that You had risen. You invite me into these personal revelations every day. Forgive me for sometimes rushing about and forgetting to come and see for myself ... You, Your Word, Your insights.
- *“Then go quickly and tell his disciples,”* – Jesus, I don’t want to be a secret keeper with my faith. I want to be a bold and gracious truth proclaimer. For You. With You. Because of You. Me, the unwanted girl whom You loved, redeemed and wanted.

In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Yes, let this miraculous Easter be personal. And prayerful. And linger a bit longer.

Dear Lord, I want to let Your Truth sink deep down into my heart and soul today. Help me stay focused on You. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

<http://lysaterkeurst.com>



Carl Frederick Buechner is an American writer and theologian. He is an ordained Presbyterian minister and the author of more than thirty published books. His work encompasses different genres, including fiction, autobiography, essays and sermons, and his career has spanned six decades.



Here is Buechner's article "Easter" which was originally published in *Whistling in the Dark*:

Christmas has a large and colourful cast of characters including not only the three principals themselves, but the Angel Gabriel, the Innkeeper, the Shepherds, the Heavenly Host, the Three Wise Men, Herod, the Star of Bethlehem, and even the animals kneeling in the straw. In one form or another we have seen them represented so often that we would recognize them anywhere. We know about the birth in all its detail as well as we know about the births of ourselves or our children, maybe more so. The manger is as familiar as home. We have made a major production of it, and as minor attractions we have added the carols, the tree, the presents, the cards, Santa Claus, Ebenezer Scrooge, and so on. With Easter it is entirely different.

The Gospels are far from clear as to just what happened. It began in the dark. The stone had been rolled aside. Matthew alone speaks of an earthquake. In the tomb there were two white-clad figures or possibly just one. Mary Magdalen seems to have gotten there before anybody else. There was a man she thought at first was the gardener. Perhaps Mary the mother of James was with her and another woman named Joanna. One account says Peter came too with one of the other disciples. Elsewhere the suggestion is that there were only the women and that the disciples, who were somewhere else, didn't believe the women's story when they heard it.

There was the sound of people running, of voices. Matthew speaks of "fear and great joy." Confusion was everywhere. There is no agreement even as to the role of Jesus himself. Did he appear at the tomb or only later? Where? To whom did he appear? What did he say? What did he do?

It is not a major production at all, and the minor attractions we have created around it—the bunnies and baskets and bonnets, the dyed eggs—have so little to do with what it's all about that they neither add much nor subtract much. It's not really even much of a story when you come right down to it, and that is of course the power of it.

It doesn't have the ring of great drama. It has the ring of truth. If the Gospel writers had wanted to tell it in a way to convince the world that Jesus indeed rose from the dead, they would presumably have done it with all the skill and fanfare they could muster. Here there is no skill, no fanfare. They seem to be telling it simply the way it was. The narrative is as fragmented, shadowy, incomplete as life itself. When it comes to just what happened, there can be no certainty. That something unimaginable happened, there can be no doubt.

The symbol of Easter is the empty tomb. You can't depict or domesticate emptiness. You can't make it into pageants and string it with lights. It doesn't move people to give presents to each other or sing old songs. It ebbs and flows all around us, the Eastertide. Even the great choruses of Handel's *Messiah* sound a little like a handful of crickets chirping under the moon.

He rose. A few saw him briefly and talked to him. If it is true, there is nothing left to say. If it is not true, there is nothing left to say. For believers and unbelievers both, life has never been the same again. For some, neither has death. What is left now is the emptiness. There are those who, like Magdalen, will never stop searching it till they find his face.

Buechner quotes

"Listen to your life. See it for the fathomless mystery that it is. In the boredom and pain of it no less than in the excitement and gladness: touch, taste, smell your way to the holy and hidden heart of it because in the last analysis all moments are key moments, and life itself is grace." — Frederick Buechner

"The grace of God means something like: Here is your life. You might never have been, but you are because the party wouldn't have been complete without you." — Frederick Buechner

May Prayer Reflection - David Chillingworth

Prayer for the Day - Volume 1

I talked to somebody whose work is in what is euphemistically called 'corporate recovery'. It's the business of managing failed and failing companies. It's the moment when all uncertainty comes to an end, the creditors call 'time' and hopes, dreams and hard work lie shattered.

And what I heard was the human side of it all - what it's like to live constantly with insecurity. One of the letters in the agony column in my Sunday paper recently was from a man who found that the insecurity he and his wife were experiencing was so great that they couldn't communicate any more - paralysed by fear about his job and how they would cope with mortgage, children and the endless costs of modern life.

In a society where so much of identity and status is shaped by what we do, the loss of work is particularly difficult. Unemployment often brings not just loss of income but loss of status and identity as well. It can be as if we cease to exist.

The challenge, I suppose, is to work out how to invest more in what we are than in what we do. It's another of those balances that we struggle with - the spectrum where we measure being against doing. It's how we value our lives and the lives of others. People of faith work hard at these balances. Time-hallowed patterns of living stress the importance of integrity and the way in which our lives are shaped; tell us that we are more than what we do; remind us that in God's eyes we are worth more than the value other people put on us.

Father

When the future is uncertain

And fear grips us

Teach us the strength of being

And the power of love.

Amen.

Orders for the Preacher.

In 1613 a gentleman named Walter Stanley left an extremely valuable legacy to support priests in the churches of West Bromwich Deanery. Today this is known as The Walter Stanley Trust which supports our churches in building maintenance which is an absolute blessing. In his gift Walter Stanley included a stipulation that appointed Priests should follow the following orders. I think the world has changed a bit since 1613.

1. He shall be and continue obedient and conformable to the Ecclesiastical laws of the realm.
2. He shall be a Peacemaker, or do his best endeavour from time to time in that behalf.
3. He shall himself be and continue of a quiet, patient and meek behaviour towards all poor and rich, old and young.
4. He shall not marry nor take upon him any other Cure or Benefice, during his abode.
5. He shall not at all meddle with serving the Cure of West Bromwich, which belongs to the farmer or proprietor of the parsonage, unless it be upon very urgent necessity, and that very seldom.
6. He shall visit the sick and needy, from time to time, if it be not of the plague.
7. He shall be no gamester, nor frequent the tavern, alehouse or any evil company, or any house or place of suspicion, or evil report.
8. He shall keep no common school nor practice phisick (medicine), nor chirurgery (surgery), for money or other reward.
9. He shall not meddle with making of bonds, bills, acquittances, conveyances or other writing of like nature, (wills, testaments and inventories only excepted.)
10. He shall keep the house and all other things therein, (or thereto belonging, or therewith occupied, in sufficient reparations and in good order.)
11. He shall perform all other thing on his part to be performed, mentioned in a certain feofament (transfer of property), indented, made by the said Walter Stanley, dated the 12th day of March, 1613.
12. And to avoid all suspicion, the said Walter Stanley earnestly desireth, that no such Preacher, shall keep in his house, any woman (except his mother or sister).

Canon David Winter considers the appeal of this unlikely drama series...

THE WAY I SEE IT : Why ‘Call the Midwife’?

For months – indeed for years, apart from the ‘Bake off’ phenomenon - Britain’s most popular television programme by some distance has been the Sunday night ‘Call the Midwife’. The competition for top spot encompasses the whole range of human obsessions: comedy, drama, murder, rape, quizzes, food, fashion and sport – something for every taste. Yet a homely drama about some midwives working with an Anglican order of nuns in London’s East End 60 years ago beats them all. The BBC clearly recognises its value – several more series have been commissioned. I think it’s worth wondering why.

The first two series of ‘Call the Midwife’ closely followed the best-selling books by Jennifer Worth about her experiences as a young midwife in precisely those circumstances. Someone recommended the first book to me and I found it compelling reading, and said so in print. To my surprise, I got a letter from the author, answering a question I had posed. She told me that the example of the sisters in the Order and their unquenchable faith amidst the squalor and poverty of the area in those post-War years eventually led to her embracing the Christian faith herself.

Sadly, Jennifer Worth died just as the first series was being aired, and I feared the story line might lose its authenticity. But it hasn’t. These are stories of some nuns and midwives struggling to help people in need. Without ever being preachy, it faithfully depicts a very mixed group of people putting faith into practice. I think the nine million viewers, most of whom are probably not regular church-goers, appreciate seeing prayer, faith, hope and love at work, even if not every practitioner is saintly, not every sick baby saved, nor every human problem solved.



Tim Lenton, our community reporter, considers the composer of the ever-popular 'G & S' comic operas.

Remembering Arthur Sullivan of the Savoy Operas...and Onward Christian Soldiers

Sir Arthur Sullivan, best known for the brilliant comic operas he wrote with W S Gilbert, was born 175 years ago this month, on 13th May 1842.



Ironically, he never wanted to be remembered for the operas, such as *The Mikado* and *The Pirates of Penzance*. Instead, he wrote: “My sacred music is that on which I base my reputation as a composer.” But although he wrote striking oratorios such as *The Prodigal Son* and *The Light of the World*, by far his most popular sacred music remains the tune for *Onward, Christian Soldiers*.

The young Arthur Seymour Sullivan – his father an Irish musician and his mother of Italian descent – was a Child (choirboy) of the Chapel Royal and the first winner of the Mendelssohn Scholarship, which enabled him to study at the Royal Academy of Music and the Leipzig Conservatory. He became organist of St. Michael’s, London, in 1861, and the following year a performance in London of his incidental music to Shakespeare’s *The Tempest* made him an overnight celebrity.

He then became a professional musician, teaching, playing the organ, editing and conducting, as well as composing various classical works, including a ballet, a cello concerto, a symphony, choral works, several overtures and a series of chamber pieces and hymns. His first successful comic opera (without Gilbert) was *Box and Cox*, but Richard D’Oyly Carte brought the two men together for the immensely popular *Trial by Jury*.

The rest is history. The G&S collaborations are now known as the Savoy Operas, after the theatre where they were performed from 1882.

Sir Arthur’s relationship with Gilbert – portrayed in the brilliant Mike Leigh film *Topsy-Turvy* – was not always calm, but Gilbert’s satire and verbal ingenuity were matched beautifully by Sullivan’s technically brilliant tunefulness.

Sir Arthur died in London in 1900.

Chris Pegler's Desert Island Discs.

How would I cope as a solitary castaway?

I really don't know – sit and cry for a bit, remember Jesus, pray and pull myself together! My family would laugh at the thought of me and DIY – I have a very competent husband so why would I need to know anything about that! However, I'm OK on my own, I would find somewhere safe to sleep, forage for fruit and nuts, swim if there were no sharks, saltwater crocs or box jellyfish and struggle to remember what Joanna Lumley did when she was a castaway for a TV programme a few years ago.



My Eight Songs

I really don't know where to start, nearly 7 decades of music, but to start I'm going right back to my Primary School days in the 50's. We had no TV so listened to the radio and I seem to remember a programme called Children's Favourites with Uncle Mac. One of my favourite songs was **"I'm a Pink Toothbrush, you're a Blue Toothbrush"** by Max Bygraves released in Dec 1953.

In my early teens, along with most of my friends, I was a Cliff Richard fan. You had to be either Cliff or Elvis, you couldn't like both! The standout song from this time was **"The Young Ones"** and we used to dance around to it at my friend Sue's house. They were better off than us and she had a Dansette record player!

In my later teens, it was Beatles or Rolling Stones and I was a Rolling Stones fan. I suppose the standout song is **"Satisfaction"** though I liked most of their songs at that time.

At College, in Reading, away from rural Herefordshire, I got more into heavier rock – Cream with Eric Clapton and The Doors were favourite groups but also The Four Seasons music brings back wonderful college dance memories. However, this was the time of "protest" songs and I was into protesting – anti-bomb, anti-war, my sentiments haven't changed but the placards have long gone. So, Joan Baez, **"We shall Overcome"** would bring back a lot of memories for me on the desert island.

John, my husband, was and still is, a massive Simon and Garfunkel fan and I became one too. We both still love almost anything they have done, together and separately. On a trip to New York we had to find Bleeker Street and the 59th Street Bridge. My favourite among so many is still **“The Sound of Silence”**.

Like many people I suppose, mid-life didn't give us much time for music. Children, work, the loss of significant family members made the 80's a bit barren for music but very significant in my Christian journey. However, in August 1993, we embarked on a trip to drive Route 66 from Chicago to L.A. so Chuck Berry's **Route 66** is a must. John played it at the start of every day's travel, much to the disgust of our teenage sons. We also love all things Greek, so I would have to have **“Zorba the Greek”** by Mikis Theodorakis to remind me of other lovely times.

Again, I don't know where to start on the Christian music I would want to take – The Hallelujah Chorus, favourite modern worship songs but one definite hymn would be **“The Day Thou Gavest”** in some sort of traditional version. We had it at my mother's funeral and it made me sad for a while but now I love it and, on a desert island, I would play it every evening to remind me that while I slept, other Christians across the world were awake and praising with God watching over it all.

That makes eight and it's not enough! Who made the rules? Why can't we take more?!!

Luxury Item - Family photos; second choice – shampoo.

As well as having the Bible (fantastic) and Shakespeare, I want something by the Christian speaker and writer Jeff Lucas. He spoke and led seminars at many of the Spring Harvests we went to and I have his daily Bible Notes. He's totally grounded in Jesus and often very thought-provoking, but he also sees the funny side of life, so his books would keep me thinking and also laughing. Any would do, but probably some quite old ones,” Lucas on Life” and “Lucas on Life 2”.

If I can only take one disc, I just can't choose, so it would have to be “pot luck”.

God Bless, Chris.

Madeline Page will be next up in June magazine, followed by Dor Dor in July and other volunteers who have not yet volunteered!! That leaves 5 more months and 5 more volunteers please.

John & Charles Wesley: Let's Sing a Hymn

by Canon David Winter

Later this month the Church calendar celebrates the lives of John and Charles Wesley. John's great gift to the Christian cause was the little matter of founding the world-wide movement known as Methodism. His brother Charles had an equally profound impact through his hymns. He actually wrote over 500, most of which aren't sung nowadays, but among the ones we do still sing are all-time favourites – 'Love divine, all loves excelling', 'O for a thousand tongues to sing'. 'Jesu lover of my soul', 'Hark the herald angels sing' – and scores more.

40 years ago almost everybody knew quite a lot of hymns, but sadly that's no longer true. Traditional hymns aren't usually sung at school assemblies, not even in church schools, and while the audience for 'Songs of Praise' on BBC TV is substantial, most of those watching are over 50. With only about ten per cent of the population even irregular church-goers there is inevitably a lack of familiarity with hymns of any kind. Christmas carols are an exception, as is 'Jerusalem' and 'Amazing Grace', because they are frequently heard outside church.

Singing hymns is a wonderful experience at its best – just ask a Welsh rugby crowd singing 'Bread of heaven'! It seems a pity to lose it.

It's not a bad idea to take ten minutes and think what is your favourite hymn, and why – ancient or modern doesn't matter. Then try singing it in the bath or under the shower – a very purifying experience.

Joan of Arc – saving France from the English

How far would you go to respond to God's call on your life? When as the daughter of a peasant family in Champagne in 1426, 14 year old Joan heard heavenly voices calling her to 'save France' from the English, she decided to obey the call, no matter what the consequences.

Teenage girls who want to rescue their country from foreign troops were considered every bit as crazy back then as now. But Joan eventually came to the notice of the Dauphin (Later Charles VII) who decided to make use of her obvious ability to inspire people – in this case, the French, to fight.

And so Joan, dressed in white armour, rode at the front of the French army when they relieved Orleans in April 1429. Her presence and belief in her divine calling to get rid of the English, did wonders for the morale of the troops, who loved her even more when she sustained a wound in the breast, and made little of it.

A campaign in the Loire followed, and then in July the Dauphin was crowned at Rheims with Joan at his side, carrying her standard. More battles followed that winter, until Joan was captured and sold to the English. They attributed her success to witchcraft and spells, and imprisoned her at Rouen. She was brought before judges, where her spirited and shrewd defence were outstanding.

But the judges declared her false and diabolical, and she was condemned to die as a heretic. She was burnt at the stake in the market-place at Rouen on 30 May 1431. Joan died as she had lived; with total faith in God and certainty that she was obeying his will for her life. She died with fortitude, looking at a cross and calling on the name of Jesus. Her ashes were thrown into the Seine.

Joan's integrity and courage are what shine down the centuries. Here is a patron saint for you if you feel that God is calling you to do something extraordinary: something that is way, way beyond your comfort zone; but something that could right wrongs and make a difference in the world. Are you up for it?

The Ven John Barton considers the amazing, joyful hope of the disciples...

A Strange Farewell

One of the most extraordinary passages in the Bible tells the story of Christ's goodbye, which we call the Ascension:

“While He was blessing them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they, after worshipping Him, returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising God.”

It was the last time the apostles would see Jesus. They had experienced the utter catastrophe of His death, followed within days by the triumph of His resurrection. Later, He left them. Instead of the sadness we might expect after His final farewell, they were exuberant and went back to Jerusalem. What an extraordinary reaction. Jesus had gone, Jerusalem was fraught with danger, yet they seemed brimful with confidence.

Ringling in their ears was His repeated teaching about the Kingdom of God and the commission to preach forgiveness of sins throughout the world, beginning at Jerusalem. They were to wait there until they were “clothed with power from on high.” Far from feeling abandoned, they were full of hope and eager to be equipped for their vocation. They and the Christian community would represent Christ on earth, as He represented them in heaven, “seated at the right hand of the Father”, in the words of the Creed.

All this is temporary. God has not planned the world to remain in its present state in perpetuity. Our particular era may seem to be particularly grim, but it is but one strand in human history and we are no more distinctive than any other generation. Although the world as it is seems to be lasting a long time, we are living in what the writer of the Letter to the Hebrews calls ‘the final age’.

We are to anticipate a finale, when Christ's rule will be apparent to all. There's an Old Testament proverb which is particularly apt: "Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails." Isn't that exactly what we hope for every time we pray for God's will to be done on earth, as in heaven?

The Archbishop of Canterbury and others are prompting us to join in a global 'wave of prayer' between Ascension and Pentecost (25 May to 4 June), concentrating on "Your Kingdom Come". That will make us usurpers, praying for God's Kingdom to displace all others! It will also make us one with Christ.

Join the global wave of prayer 25th May - 4th June



The Archbishops of Canterbury and York are calling Christians of every denomination to join in with *Thy Kingdom Come*, a prayer initiative between Ascension and Pentecost (25th May to 4th June), to pray for the nation to know Jesus Christ. It is a time to seek the empowering of the Holy Spirit, that we may be effective witnesses to Jesus Christ.



Siobhan O'Reilly Calthrop of LICC (London Institute for Contemporary Christianity) considers the phenomenon of Fake News.

Fake news

'Fake news' has received much media attention lately. The spread of disinformation, propaganda, and fabrication of fact is hardly new: humans have been spreading mistruths through trusted sources for years. What has taken it to a new level, however, is the way it is now spread: social media.

Fake news items can pop up on our social media stream at any time and, being one of myriad other pieces of information passing before our eyes, they are easily read without care for checking the source. Add to this the fact that they are usually sensational in content, can be shared or liked in just one click, and you have the ingredients for gossip and lies on a global scale.

Some media organisations are taking measures to fight back by hiring companies to check facts, or design algorithms to stop the spread of fake stories. Yet even the best software is never 100% successful. Human wisdom, or just basic common sense, will always need to be applied.

In this age of information overload and 'like' buttons, it can be so easy to accept things without proper thought, to forward or 'like' things that may be inaccurate or heavily biased.

Even beyond social media, though, news has become increasingly concise, presented in bite-sized portions for us to easily digest as we rush from one task to another. Nuances and truths get lost in the sound-bites of news headlines and our personal updates.

So how are we to respond to this as Christians seeking to engage with contemporary culture? How do we maintain integrity, authenticity and honesty in our speech and relationships both online and offline? And what 'false news' might we be presenting about our own lives?

We're called to be salt and light, to be wise as serpents but innocent as doves. When reading the news, whatever form that takes, how often do we check the source, find out what other news sites are saying, and critically weigh up agendas?

Siobhan is a tutor in St. Albans. Her blog at www.everyoneelseisnormal.com

Fascinating Facts about our Fantastic World

Wonderfulinfo.com



Earth travels through space at 66,700 miles per hour.



Asia Continent covers 30% of the total earth land area, but represents 60% of the world's population.



Only 3% water of the earth is fresh, rest 97% salted. Of that 3%, over 2% is frozen in ice sheets and glaciers. Means less than 1% fresh water is found in lakes, rivers and underground.



The deepest hole ever made by humans is Kola superdeep borehole. It is located in Kola Peninsula in Russia, was completed in 1989, creating a hole 12,262 meters (7.6 miles) deep. The Kola Superdeep Borehole is the result of a scientific drilling project of the Soviet Union in the Pechengsky District, on the Kola Peninsula.



Planet's rotation – All the planets in our solar system rotate anticlockwise, except Venus. It is the only planet that rotates clockwise.

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

All in the month of MAY

125 years ago: on 11th May 1892 that Dame Margaret Rutherford, award-winning British stage and film actress, was born. She was loved for her roles as an English eccentric.

100 years ago: on 21st May 1917 that the Commonwealth War Graves Commission was founded. It records and maintains the graves and places of commemoration of Commonwealth military service members who died in WW1 and WW2.

80 years ago: on 12th May 1937 that the coronation of King George VI took place. This was also the BBC's first official outdoor television broadcast.

75 years ago: on 4th May 1942 that Germany bombed Exeter, destroying the city centre. Several weeks later, on 30th-31st May, more than 1,000 British Royal Air Force bombers carried out a 90-minute air raid on Cologne.

50 years ago: on 28th May 1967 that the British sailor and aviator, Sir Francis Chichester, became the first person to complete a true solo circumnavigation of the world from west to east, via the clipper route and great capes.

30 years ago: on 11th May 1987 that Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie ('the butcher of Lyon') went on trial in Lyon. He was sentenced to life imprisonment for crimes against humanity.

20 years ago: on 1st May 1997 that the Labour Party won the British General Election in a landslide victory, ending 18 years of Conservative rule. Tony Blair, aged 43, became Britain's youngest Prime Minister since 1812.

15 years ago: on 30th May 2002 that a solemn ceremony was held to mark the end of the clean-up operation at Ground Zero in New York City, after the 9/11 attacks.

10 years ago: on 3rd May 2007 that the Scottish Parliament General Election saw the Scottish National Party (SNP) win by a single seat, and form a minority government. Alex Salmond took office as First Minister on 16th May.

People and News

Birthday Celebrations - May 2017

8th Delphy



27th Madeline



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

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

Remembrance - May 2017

7th Smallman - In loving remembrance of my dear husband Thomas Smallman who died January 21st 1962.
“In our hearts he will always be remembered every day”
He was late Vicar’s warden, Treasurer and life long member of the choir,

14th Bates - In loving memory of Thomas Edward Bates who died May 23rd 1960 and also his dear wife Emma Annie Bates who died June 5th 1960.
Held in highest esteem by members of Trinity Church for their loyalty and support.

21st Evans - In loving remembrance of Laura Evans a life long member of Trinity, who did much good work for the church. Died November 9th 1962.

“Enter thou in the joy of thy Lord.”

28th Scholey - In loving memory of Lavinia Scholey. Born - October 26th 1864. Called Home - November 11th 1946. Aged 82.

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 pray especially this month for our sister Eileen Hems, a life long member and servant of Holy Trinity Church, who sadly passed away in the early hours of Friday 7th April. Eileen had been suffering with various problems for some time and actually remarked to a church member that she was ready to be with her Father. Rest in Peace Eileen.

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.

Coffee Morning
Saturday 27th May
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.

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 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.



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.

Books and Magazines donations - for the volunteers of League of Friends at Sandwell Hospital. Your donations are sold in the hospital and help support the parking costs of the volunteers. 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

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.



Saturday 20th May Prayer for Sandwell "Prepare the Way of the Lord"

www.facebook.com/pages

Rev. Neil Robbie 0121 525 3595

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