

THE OLD CHURCH NEWS

O P E N T O A L L - O P E N T O G O D

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VICAR'S VOICE

In the church's year the month of November is associated with the act of remembering. This year, on November 1st we will be holding our All Souls' memorial services at which people, who have lost someone close to them and for whom we have carried out funerals, are invited back to church to remember their loved ones.

The following week, on November 8th, we will be holding our annual Remembrance Service. At this service we will remember those who have lost their lives, have been injured or who carry emotional scars because of their involvement in war. The traditional symbol for this act of remembrance is the red poppy. This fragile, vibrant flower was chosen, over all other flowers, because it grows wild in many of the fields in northern France and Belgium, which is where some of the deadliest battles of World War 1 took place.

But remembering those who had been lost, or injured, at war can only ever be part of the story of our Remembrance Sunday event, and of all the similar events that will be attended by many thousands of people, irrespective of their faith, or lack of it. Remembering the

horror of past and present conflicts, and honoring those who have lost their lives or who continue to carry the scars of war, although hugely important, should always point to a better way; a better future in which we pursue peace at all costs. In other words, our remembering should be for the future.

In 1933 the Women's Co-operative guild, whose motto is "War is a crime against humanity", introduced the white poppy to symbolise a lasting commitment to peace. Many people wear both a red and a white poppy, to show that they are remembering the horrors of war for a peace-filled future. And this year we will have both red and white poppies available in church.

For the Christian, to 'remember for the future' is the life-blood of the Eucharist; we remember the past of Jesus and we allow it to construct our future. It is in this light that we live and move, it is with Christ that we live and it is through Christ that we can take the broken parts of our lives, and the life of our world, and discern a God shaped pattern for the future.

LAST MONTH'S NEWS

Paul led a stroll around Rotton Park reservoir on Sunday 4th, a serene, sunny afternoon. With the water level lower than normal it was possible to walk on the reservoir bed in places. Skyline views were had towards the city with the "new" library being prominent amongst the buildings. Afterwards Jean and Paul kindly provided tea and cakes at their home for the walkers before returning to church for Evening Prayer.

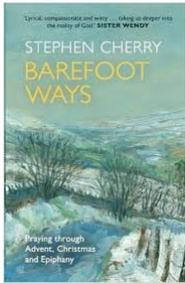
A good number from our church, Holy Trinity and St Matthew's enjoyed the Harvest Supper on 10th October. A fine spread of food was contributed by those attending. Quizzes were completed and the evening was compèred by

Jean who introduced the "in house" entertainment, a variety of acts that revealed the talents of many. Thanks to all who contributed to the enjoyment of this event.

The Harvest service followed on Sunday morning during which an offering of food was brought forward together with a scroll that members of the church had signed to symbolise the offering of themselves. The offering was in support of the Food Bank.

Later that day a peaceful service, led by Michael Conway-Jones, was held using the office of Sung Compline. This service was part of the programme to extend the range of Sunday evening worship.

ADVENT READING



Barefoot Ways:

Praying through Advent,
Christmas and Epiphany.
By Stephen Cherry

I think we'd all agree that December is a busy month. The business associated with the build up to Christmas often sits in direct tension with the Churches invitation to engage in a quiet, and reflective, Advent season.

Stephen Cherry's new book, 'Barefoot Ways', works most effectively within this tension. He offers a short poem, prayer or reflection for every day throughout Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. Each of these provides an opportunity for deep reflection without placing a huge demand on the reader's time. It is a practical and rich resource that has the capacity to draw us more deeply into the heart of God in our everyday lives.

Stephen Cherry is Dean of Kings College, Cambridge.



One World Cafe Event

On October 25th, following the morning service, we gathered in the Dorothy Parkes Centre to mark One World Week. We consumed a range of scrumptious food from around the world; enjoyed music performed by Cash and Mohsen; got to see some interesting cultural artifacts and had the opportunity to buy fairly traded products and items made by a project in Nepal. But, most of all, we celebrated the rich cultural diversity of Old Church and realised, once more, what an amazing gift this is.

Sian & Gill



NOVEMBER

- 1st 3.00pm & 5.00pm **All Souls' Memorial Service** at Old Church
- 4th 11.00am **Remembrance Service** at Penmaker's Court
- 4th 7.00pm - 9.30pm **Safeguarding Training** at Old Church
- 8th 5.00pm **Service of Prayer for Justice and Peace** at Old Church
- 14th 9.30 am - 3.30pm **Safe Families for Children Training Day** at Raglan Road Christian Church 70 Raglan Rd B66 3ND
- 23rd 7.30pm **PCC Meeting** at Old Church
- 25th 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm **Soul Space**
- 26th 2.30 pm meet for **Prayers** in Old Church (see Rosemary for details)
- 28th 2.00pm **Christmas Fayre** at the Dorothy Parkes Centre
- 29th 5.00pm **Advent Worship**



New Year's Eve Party

On: December 31st 2015
At: Dorothy Parkes Centre
From: 8pm - late

Join us for a fun evening for people of all ages.
Tickets are on sale now!

£7.50 for adults & £3.50 for children (under 4's free)
There will be music, a buffet and a bar.

