

# The Old Church News

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

## VICAR'S VOICE

August is upon us! Midsummer has passed and we are in the Green season. "What on earth does that mean?" It is open season really: summer, new growth comes to mind (with harvest at its end). The Church's year, like the ordinary calendar, is split not into months but into seasons: it begins on Advent Sunday (usually at the end of November), the four week season of Advent (dressed in purple) sees us preparing for the Christmas season (from December 24th to January 6th: when the Epiphany season occurs: the coming of the wise men to the manger to see the new-born King bearing their three gifts – all in white or gold!). The season of Lent (another purple season) takes us through six weeks to Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem and His death upon the cross (we call that week from Palm Sunday, Holy Week) and then comes Easter-tide, white or gold colours (Easter Sunday Jesus rose from the grave and is alive and was seen by his disciples and others—until he ascended to the Father: Ascension Day). He left them with a promise that God's Holy Spirit would come upon them: one week later it did ("in tongues of flame and with the sound of a roaring wind") and we celebrate that day as Pentecost: the birthday of the Christian Church.

Then from Trinity Sunday ("Father, Son and Holy Spirit") we are green (until November's kingdom season of three weeks and its commemoration days of All Saints' and All Souls—when we are invited to light candles for those who have died). One Christian year.



## PAST MONTH'S NEWS

The Vicar has been Licensed as Priest-in-Charge of St Matthews with St Chad's in Windmill Lane. Nigel says that the Licensing was grand with good support from the church family here and some from Holy Trinity in our Group, as well as members of the small church family of St Matthews. The occasion was also supported by Key Stage 2 children from the C of E school of St Matthews (9-11 year olds) who certainly helped the singing along! Nigel says that being in two places at the same time will involve a certain flexibility, understanding and support from

all—but as we profess a faith of "One Church, One Lord, One Faith" such challenges shall be overcome (won't they). Nigel does wish to point out that we shall be holding two joint Eucharist (communion) services this summer: on Sunday August 15th here at The Old Church whilst on Sunday August 22nd at St Matthews (so there shall be no communion service here on that day). He hopes the change of venue shall not be difficult for anyone (if you require a lift have a word with a car driver or Nigel himself).

## QI.... Deacon

- Douglas was Ordained Deacon in Birmingham Cathedral
- Greek word meaning "servant, minister"
- see Book of Acts chapter 6 "seven men of honest repute" included Stephen and Philip and hands were laid upon them in prayer for service with the poor and the distribution of alms (charity)
- now seen as one year before ordination to priesthood (although can be called to permanent diaconate) for men and women.
- duties in church: read the Gospel, set out the altar and proclaim the Dismissal—"Let us go in love to serve the Lord."
- cannot consecrate (bread and wine at "Eucharist" - see July letter),
- cannot absolve/pardon sins, marry or give blessing but can baptise and take funerals.

## PLEASE NOTE

If you have any contributions that you wish to be considered for inclusion on a future newsletter please submit them to Chris, Charlotte, Wendy or Audrey.

## DIARY DATES

### July

28th Light Reading Group

29th Prayer Group

**August** The Transfiguration of Our Lord Feastday to recall Jesus on the mountain with three of his disciples who saw him "transfigured" in brilliant glory. We (weather permitting) come and share communion and fellowship at 6.30pm, followed by a barbecue in the Vicarage garden (bring your friends!)

14th Wedding of Lucy and John in church (at midday)

23rd Thrifties Picnic in the park

25th Prayer Group

27th - Big Fish attend Greenbelt - Christian  
30th Arts Festival (We pray with them)

## DID YOU KNOW?

The bellringers aim to ring for the Sunday morning service and for other special occasions as requested. They meet to practise on Thursday evenings at 7:45pm, to teach beginners and improve their own standards. There are 10 regular ringers who cover an age range of 50+ years. They support and receive support from ringers at other churches and often attend other local practices. There is a programme of events organised by individual towers and the local associations. These include additional practices, ringing outings, training days, and social occasions such as dinners and a recent barn dance.

If you wish to find out more about this fascinating activity, please speak to one of the ringers on Sunday, or come along to one of the practices on Thursday evening.

## SPOTLIGHT ON...BIG FISH

Old Church's young people meet on the 3rd and 4th Sunday of each month during the Sunday Service. This time is usually spent working on a local allotment growing fruit and vegetables and learning gardening skills. Produce is harvested and shared with members of the congregation with donations received contributing to "Big Fish's" annual residential. August 2010 sees "Big Fish" taking part in Greenbelt Art Festival at Cheltenham Racecourse during the Bank Holiday weekend. The group has been greatly blessed and are grateful for additional funding from West Midlands Police and also from The Lions Club. Pictured at the allotment with our young people are PCSO Julie Wright and PCSO Harb Kelsi.→

