

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

Words themselves may be too easy! Think of the cuckoo. We all know that it is a bird that goes "cuckoo." But life's not that simple – Life loves complexity. There are more than 100 different sorts of cuckoo across the world, including the little long-billed cuckoo, the fugitive hawk cuckoo and the Asian emerald cuckoo!

(I am a member of the RSPB and got such information from its latest magazine and an article by Simon Barnes, a writer on the environment. He urged us to think of bio-diversity – not as something to "do" with politics or economics or even Europe! But as the fundamental structure of life – "Life works by making lots and lots and lots of different things! Biodiversity is wonderful")

For example butterflies and moths (there are over 100,000); beetles (over 350,000 different species – maybe 5 million more to discover). Bio-diversity is more than a word then. How many living things are there in this world? How many noughts will we have to conjure up to answer that one!

Well then – We Are the Church. Not just a word - just pause and think how many people are "the Church," here, then in the city, in the West Midlands. How many women, men and children

join together *as church* across Britain, in Europe, around the world on Sundays, indeed today! Even now!

Someone – somewhere - is praying, reading the Bible, singing God's praises, being fed and strengthened.

Life loves complexity by its very bio-diversity. That is wonderful. And yet, equally wonderful, each different and unique one of us share as Christians one message – one Lord, one Faith. The word "church" means something to all!



PAST MONTH'S NEWS

Friday 6th August the Transfiguration of Our Lord Feastday saw us sharing communion and fellowship in the Vicarage garden. Despite the threat of rain the service took place outside with over 70 communicants plus children from Old Church, Holy Trinity and St Matthews. Celebrations were the order of the day again on Saturday 14th August when Lucy and John were married at Old Church. We pray with them as they begin their married life together, wishing them joy and happiness for the future. The congregations of Old Church and St Matthews held joint Eucharist services on 15th and 22nd August.

Both services were well attended and received positive feedback from those in attendance. The Old Church Thrifties group hosted an agape picnic at Warley Woods on the evening of Monday 23rd August. This was a splendid event where everyone shared the food they had brought; games were played by the more energetic, whilst others enjoyed the chance to sit and have a chat. During the Bank Holiday weekend (27th to 31st August) Big Fish youth group are taking part in the Greenbelt Art Festival. We pray with all the young people taking part and also for the leaders.

QI... Church

- “The church exists for the sake of those outside it” said William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury during the 2nd World War!
- English word that comes from the Greek: “belonging to the Lord.”
- in Latin it is used for “an assembly”
- “*ecclesia*” said by Jesus to Peter (Matthew chapter 16 verse 18 “upon this rock, I will build my Church” and Matthew chapter 18 verse 17 concerning when a brother will not heed private remonstrance, the matter is to be told “to the Church”
- St Paul in Book of Acts = the whole Christian community (see 1 Corinthians chapter 12 verse 28)
- denominations of the Church: *examples* = Roman Catholic, Anglican (of which the Church of England is part), Methodist, Baptist, United Reform, Coptic, Orthodox, Lutheran, Society of Friends (the Quakers) and “Free.” Also, “New Testament churches.”

ADVANCE NOTICE

Sunday October 3rd Harvest Festival in St Matthews’ with food contributions to Age UK.
Saturday October 9th Harvest Supper and Talent Show in the Dorothy Parkes’ Centre 6.30pm and Sunday October 10th Harvest Festival in The Old Church with food offerings donated to “Brushstrokes”.

September

DIARY DATES

- 4th Institution of new Dean of Birmingham Cathedral - Canon Catherine Ogle.
- 5th Pimm’s Party in Vicarage Garden 3-5pm drinks and fun and games and “chat” All Welcome
- 9th Discovers Trip to Jewellery Quarter
- 11th Jumble Sale in Dorothy Parkes’ Centre 2pm
- 12th **Holy Cross Day** : Service of Nine Lessons and Hymns in Church 5pm
- 15th PCC meet in the Vicarage 7.30pm
- 18th Wedding in Church - pray for Vikki and Keith
- 19th Blessing of Marriage - pray for Des and Lynne
- 19th **St Matthew’s Day**: Celebrations at lunch in St Matthews, Windmill Lane
- 21st Institution of new Vicar of Christchurch, Oldbury - Rev’d Nicholas Pelling
- 23rd Prayer Group in Church 2pm - see Rosemary Guest for details.
- 24th Thrifties - Come Dine With Me

DID YOU KNOW?

Thrifties is a ladies social group that began in 2009 with a curry evening and meet together one evening every month. Events have included jewellery making, pamper evening, pub quiz and meal, BBQ, salsa and in August they hosted a picnic in Warley Woods for the church family. The September gathering will be Come Dine With Me – when everyone will bring along a dish of their choice to share with the group. Thrifties is open to all ladies whether they attend Old Church or just know someone who does and, whilst they understand that it may not be possible to attend every meeting, all ladies who wish to join in will receive a warm welcome. For further information speak to Rosie Eynon or Wendy Fullerton.

SPOTLIGHT ON FLOWERS...



A very successful Flower Festival, depicting Bible scenes, was held in 2009 and earlier this year the flower arrangements, in rainbow colours, decorated the church for the visit of the Italian Choir. At present there are 6 ladies who regularly arrange the Church Flowers: Sheila, Jean, Joan, Yvonne, Maggie and Irene. However anyone interested in helping with the flowers, no experience necessary, would be most welcome.