

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

Every year we have a harvest festival in schools and churches (in Uplands school on September 27th, in St Matthews school October 4th, in St Matthews church October 3rd and at The Old Church on October 10th). It is a celebration of the food grown on our land.

Thanksgiving ceremonies and celebrations for a successful harvest are both worldwide and ancient. In the medieval church it used to be celebrated at the beginning of the harvest on 1st August and was called "Lammas" which means Loaf Mass – farmers made loaves of bread from the new wheat crop and gave them to the local church (where they were used for communion). The end of the harvest was celebrated with a big meal eaten on Michaelmass day (September 29th) – it included a goose stuffed with apples!

The tradition (as we know it in churches) began in 1843 when the Rev'd Robert Hawker invited all to his church at Morwenstow in Cornwall to give thanksgiving for the harvest (and the hymns "We plough the fields and scatter," "Come ye thankful people" and "All things bright and beautiful" were composed). Harvest festival reminds us of all the good things God gives and how we should share with any who

are not so fortunate. What will it mean to you and I this year then (as we offer food for Age Concern and Brushstrokes' work with the poorer and the asylum seekers and refugees) – shall we be renewed as Christian disciples by this year's harvest festival?



PIETER BRUEGEL THE ELDER -
THE CORN HARVEST

PAST MONTH'S NEWS

During September fellowship was shared between The Old Church and St Matthew's congregations. A Pimm's party was held in the Vicarage garden and was followed by Evening Prayer in church. Later in the month on St Matthew's day, The Old Church congregation was invited to the patronal festival lunch at St Matthews. The Discoverers enjoyed a step back in time during a trip to Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter where they visited the jewellery museum. This museum is the original factory of jewellery makers Messrs Pepper & Smith. The factory has remained untouched since it closed

about thirty years ago. The Discoverers strongly recommend a visit to the museum where admission is free. On Sunday 12th September Evening Prayer was replaced by a service of nine lessons and hymns to celebrate Holy Cross Day.

The September gathering of Thrifties was based on the familiar television programme "Come Dine with Me". All ladies prepared and shared culinary delights including starter, main and dessert dishes accompanied by fine wine and cocktails. The evening was a great success and was enjoyed by all.

QI.... Baptism

- The sacramental rite (=water) that admits a candidate into the Christian church (= the Body of Christ)
- “Plunging”, “drowning” leading to repentance and faith (“new life”)
- Acts chapter 8, Romans chapter 6 and 1 Corinthians chapter 6
- Same as “christening” although that has more to do with the white “blanket” wrapped round Jesus in His manger at Christmas and the shroud His body was wrapped in when taken down from the cross on Good Friday.
- Matthew 28 verse 19 “in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit”
- Immersion into water, or pouring water over the head
- “Godparents” act for those who are too young to make their own decision (they may confirm their baptism later on !)

October **DIARY DATES**

- 2nd Singing Workshop in Church 2.00pm - 4.00pm
- 3rd Harvest Festival in St Matthews 10.00 am
(with produce for Age Concern please)
- 6th AGM of the Dorothy Parkes Company 7.30 pm
All Welcome
- 7th Discoverers outing to Winterbourne Gardens
(see Christine Tanner for details).
- 9th Harvest Supper in the Dorothy Parkes Centre
6.30 pm with Talent Show and Fish & Chips.
- 10th Harvest Festival in The Old Church 10.15am
(with ‘dry’ produce for the work of
‘Brushstrokes’ please)
- 10th Baptism of Oscar Tobi Obasi during 10.15am
Harvest Eucharist (pray for Oscar, his parents
Millie & Emmanuel and the godparents)
- 10th Traidcraft – Cards, Craft + Food on sale in the
Dorothy Parkes Centre after 10.15a.m service
- 12th 10th Anniversary of opening of the Dorothy
Parkes Centre - Open Day with refreshments
- 17th Taize evening of prayer and praise 6.00pm
(see Charlotte Frith for details)
- 19th Birmingham Progressive Synagogue: 7.45pm
Anthony Grenville speaking on 'The Arrival of
the Jewish Refugees from Hitler and their
Settlement in Britain'. (see Ann Conway-Jones
for further details).
- 28th Prayer Group in Church 2.15pm
- 31st Baptism of Poppy Anne Irene Cleaver 10.15am
(pray for Poppy, her parents Kyle and Laura and
the godparents)

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.

DID YOU KNOW?

Traidcraft was established in 1979 as a Christian response to poverty, and is the UK's leading fair trade organisation. Traidcraft pay fair prices that cover the full cost of production and enable a living wage and other fair rewards to be earned by producers. They run development programmes in some of the poorest countries in the world, and campaign to bring about trade justice. There are around 5,000 Traders selling food, craft, jewellery and stationery in churches, schools, colleges and workplaces. Traidcraft foods are sold in the Dorothy Parkes Centre on the second Sunday of each month following the morning service. Gifts and jewellery etc. can be ordered from the catalogues at any time.

SPOTLIGHT ON 'OPEN CHURCH'...

The Old Church is open for visitors on Tuesday afternoons from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Visitors are welcome to enjoy the serenity of this beautiful building or join in with craft activities if they wish.