

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

General Sir Richard Dannatt, former head of the British Army, has published a book called "Leading from the Front." In it, he talks of his own experiences of war as well as arguing for the place of defence (and questioning current reviews) and speaks of his own Christian faith. He quotes his grandfather, a farmer, writing at the outbreak of the First World War: "The main thing is to feel that the wars we are engaged in are in the right, and promote righteousness and justice in the world."

November is a month when we think of war and peace (red and white poppies), when we remember those men and women in our own nation and all who have fallen in wars. A minutes' silence at 11 o'clock on the 11th day of the 11th month (the day the guns fell silent upon the battlefields of Flanders, in 1918) is still respected and observed.

Many of us do not have any experience of war – gratitude therefore for those who have – but some have and are experiencing such; and some have current experiences of loss and anxiety for loved ones who serve in war-torn situations. War and peace studies are important (just as an understanding of why there is

fighting), but so too is conflict-prevention. So where is the Christian Church in all of this? Surely we should pray for peace as an attainable reality not simply as an ideal? And for those who seek to achieve such in our world today (as we Remember!)



PAST MONTH'S NEWS

During October Claire led a singing workshop in Church when a song was rehearsed for the Harvest Festival Service which also saw the Baptism of Oscar Obasi and a presentation of Greenbelt by the Big Fish. After the service everyone in Church was invited to a delightful reception to celebrate with Oscar and his family. Later in the month fellowship was shared at the Harvest supper in the Dorothy Parkes Centre. This was a lively evening with a variety of talent from Old Church that included singing, comedy routines, poetry, stories and was imaginatively compered by Michael Conway-Jones.

The Discoverers were blessed with good weather for their outing to the Winterbourne Gardens in Edgbaston where they enjoyed a light lunch.

One Sunday following Morning Worship a small number of the congregation rambled together on the Clent Hills and found this to be an exhilarating exercise. It is hoped that this will become a regular occurrence.

A service of prayers and songs in the style of Taize was a new experience for Old Church and many who attended found this to be peaceful and uplifting.

QI.... "Christian"

- A follower of Jesus Christ (see Matthew chapter 28 verse 19)
- But Jesus never used the word!
- Originally an insult ("oh you Christians ****!") Used by outsiders see Acts chapter 11 verse 26 about ten years after Jesus' death!
- Occurs only in two other places in the New Testament (Acts 26 verse 28 when King Agrippa spoke to St Paul, and in 1 Peter 4 verse 16 where its use by enemies or persecutors is envisaged.)
- By AD 64 (C.E 64) it was in common use across the Roman Empire and considered to be a quasi-political movement!
- 1 Peter 4 verse 16 "be not ashamed of being called Christian!"
- "brethren" / "believers" / "disciples" words found in the New Testament, but the church gladly took it up to distinguish from other faiths and because it contains the word "Christ = the messiah"

As I live each day

As I live each day may I
do my part
To make one difference,
to touch one heart.
And through each day
may it be my goal
To encourage one mind
and inspire one soul.

Author unknown

DIARY DATES

October

- 24th Thrifties-7.30 pm Pub Quiz at The Dog - see Wendy for further details.
- 31st 10.15 am All Saints' Eucharist
6.00 pm All Souls' service when we pray and light candles for those who have died.

November

- Tuesdays 10.00 am Holy Communion in The Old Church followed by tea/coffee.
- Thursdays 10.00 am Holy Communion in St Matthews' followed by tea/coffee.
- 3rd 2.30 pm Light Reading at the Sisters' house - see Judy Eynon for details.
- 11th Discoverers going for a meal - see Christine Tanner for details.
- 14th 10.15 am Remembrance Day service with 11am Act of Silence.
- 15th 7.00 pm Thrifties - Pampers, Champers & Cocktails. See Jean Martin for details.
- 21st 10.15 am Christ the King Eucharist Please pray for Donte Tyler and Taio Renell who are to be baptised and for their Parents and Godparents.
- 23rd Deanery Synod at Christchurch Oldbury
- 25th 2.15 pm Prayer Group in Church
- 27th Christmas Fair in the Dorothy Parkes Centre
- 28th 10.15 am Advent Sunday Eucharist - The beginning of a new church year.

DID YOU KNOW?

During Sunday morning service on the third and fourth Sunday of each month children between the ages of five and eleven can enjoy exciting activities when they go to Junior Church in the Dorothy Parkes Centre. Children under the age of five are very welcome to join in with a parent or carer. The theme of the activities is usually linked with one of the Bible readings of that day. All leaders are experienced in working with children and have CRB clearance. If you would like to become involved in Junior Church or with our young people in Big Fish (ages 11 upwards) have a word with Nigel.

PLEASE NOTE: October/November Junior Church will be on the last two Sundays of the month,

SPOTLIGHT ON CLEANERS...

Cleanliness is next to Godliness!!
The Old Church is now in pristine condition since it has been redecorated. However, without the dedicated team of cleaners who regularly pick up a duster it would not stay like this. If you want to be part of the team that keeps Old Church looking good have a word with David Ingram.