

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

“The Lamb of God is broken and distributed,
Which being broken yet is not divided,
Being ever eaten never is consumed,
But sanctifies those that partake.”

Those are words from the Liturgy of St John Chryostom written in the fourth century to remind us that when we take the bread and the wine at communion we do so to strengthen us, to renew us and because Jesus told us to. But it also reminds us that we are united as fellow Christians – brothers and sisters across the world who do what we attempt to do: Praise God, Pray and intercede for others, follow in Christ's footsteps and receive (“partake”) in the sacraments of holy communion (as well as others such as baptism into the universal Church).

This month we have another special celebration of communion (we also reminded ourselves of this on Maundy Thursday before Easter Day when we commemorated the Lord's Supper). On Corpus Christi we celebrate being united with Christ and with each other as we “partake” of holy communion – truly, as the word Eucharist means, we give Thanksgiving for it. And pray that each time we receive we are duly prepared and strengthened by it. (If you currently do not take communion have a word with the Vicar about being Confirmed in the faith and so then able to take consecrated bread and wine before the altar).

PAST MONTH'S NEWS

At the beginning of the month Thrifties travelled back in time and to the Manor House in West Bromwich to celebrate in 1940's style. Dressed in their wartime best they enjoyed a 1940's buffet, a speech from 'Winston Churchill' and a jive or two. Much fun was had by all whilst raising funds for the current restoration of the Manor House. Ladies watch out for Thrifties' next exciting event in June!

GREETINGS FROM WAYNE

Hi Brothers and Sisters of The Old Church, just a quick insight as to my presence with you in recent weeks. I am a training Ordinand studying at Queens Ecumenical College, part-time for three years. I am in year one and this is my very first placement that will last 10 weeks.



Whilst on placement, I am to continue my journey of encountering Christ through every opportunity. My time with Revd Nigel, Revd Barbara, Revd Michael and members of the congregation, will help to formulate how I look at the ministry of Christ and how it is in operation at The Old Church in Smethwick.

Thank you for the warm and genuine welcome I have experienced from the first day that I arrived and also thank you in advance to the kind and generous people who have shared or who are going to share their contact details with me and have made or are going to make themselves available, to talk with me about their journey in Christ and their time in the Smethwick community or at Old Church. God Bless you all and thank you.

Later the Discoverers rambled through the beautiful rhododendron gardens at Whitley Court. They explored the remains of the house, viewed the magnificent fountain spouting water one hundred feet up into the air and were amazed by the splendour of Great Whitley Church.

Sarah Slater and baby Archie Brian Adkins were welcomed into the church family during a service of Baptism.

Q.I.... WHIT SUNDAY

- Seven weeks after Easter
- Before Jesus ascended into heaven he told his disciples that he would send the Holy Spirit to them
- It was on the Jewish festival of Pentecost that the disciples were gathered together.
- Pentecost means fiftieth in Greek – so, 50 days after Passover (the Christian's first Easter day)
- "God the holy Spirit came upon them" –see the Book of Acts chapter 2
- This moment marked the beginning of the universal church (we use the word "catholic" in the Creed in our service to mean world-wide!)
- It also marked a change in the lives of those disciples who were there – they were converted, or changed from one sort of life to another (so in baptism we are said to be "born again" and made holy by God's Spirit)
- the word "Whit Sunday" is said to come from the white robes worn by those who were newly baptized on that day.
- the liturgical colour (the vestments worn by the priest and the altar cloth) is red.



JUNE

- 1st 2.30 pm **Light Reading** at the Sisters' house – see Judy Eynon for details.
- 2nd 7.00 am **Ascension Day** Communion
- 5th 5.00 pm Nine Readings and Hymns for **Ascensiontide**
- 8th 7.30 pm **PCC** meeting in the Vicarage
- 16th **Discoverers** visit Barnett's Hill Garden Centre
- 18th 2.00 pm **Summer Fair** in the Vicarage Garden (if dry)
- 18th 10.00 am - 3.30 pm **Words are Living Powers** - (see separate notice)
- 19th 6.00 pm **Taize** evening in Old Church
- 23rd 6.30 pm **Corpus Christi** Communion service in Vicarage garden followed by Barbecue
- 30th 2.30 pm **Praying** together in The Old Church - an invitation for us all (see Rosemary Guest for details and praying requests)

What God Has Promised

God has not promised
skies ever blue,
Flower strewn pathways
all our lives through;
God hath not promised
sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow,
peace without pain.

But God has promised
strength for each day,
Rest after labour,
Light for our way,
Grace for all trials,
Help from above,
Unfailing sympathy,
Undying love.

Poet - Annie Johnson Flint

WORDS ARE LIVING POWERS

As part of the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible, the Birmingham Branch of the Prayer Book Society will be hosting a day of reflection and study in St George's Church, Edgbaston. It is open to all and the suggested donation for the day is £15.

The day will include: David Crystal on the King James Bible, Ewan Fernie on the possibilities for 'Common Prayer' today, 17th century music, Space for informal discussion and a book stall. For more information or to reserve a place speak to David Tanner.

There was a very gracious lady who was posting an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk. "Only the Ten Commandments," answered the lady.