

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 Supreme Governor of the Church of England is a title held by the British monarch which signifies their titular leadership over the C. of E., although the monarch's authority is not strong. Even so the position is still very relevant to the church and is mostly observed in a symbolic capacity. The Supreme Governor formally appoints archbishops and bishops on the advice of the Prime Minister of the united Kingdom who in turn s advised by church leaders.

In 1536 Henry VIII broke with Rome, seized the church's assets and declared the Church of England as the established church with himself as its head. The Oath of Supremacy under his daughter (Elizabeth I) gave the monarch's title as Supreme Governor of the church (so avoiding the charge that the monarchy was claiming divinity or usurping Jesus Christ whom the Bible identifies as head of the church) and also the title "Defender of the Faith." Both titles are in the Preface to the Thirty Nine Articles of 1562, to which every priest and deacon must still affirm. Parish priests must also take an oath of allegiance to the Queen, whilst at his or her Coronation the Sovereign, who currently has to be a fully confirmed member of the Church of England, promises to maintain the Church.

The Queen has a proven record of such a promise over these last sixty years and the

Established Church with her as its Supreme Governor and Defender of the Faith celebrates her Jubilee with joy and with prayers, as this written on the commemoration of her accession to the throne: *"God of time and eternity, whose Son reigns as servant, not master; we give you thanks and praise that you have blessed this Nation, the Realms and Territories with ELIZABETH, our beloved and glorious Queen. In this year of Jubilee, grant her your gifts of love and joy and peace as she continues in faithful obedience to you, her Lord and God and in devoted service to her lands and peoples, and those of the Commonwealth, now and all the days of her life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."*

A Psalm for giving thanks.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!
Serve the LORD with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!
Know that the LORD, he is God!
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts
with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name!
For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures
forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm 100

LAST MONTH'S NEWS

Palm Sunday heralded the start of April with processions at both St Matthews and Old Church to echo Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Services continued throughout Holy Week with many gathering together to share in the sorrows and joy of the Easter story.

The Social Events Group met together to organise forthcoming events including the successful Jumble Sale which raised £119 for church funds. Unfortunately the Quiz night planned for 11th May has been cancelled due to numbers at the planning meeting dropping significantly. For events to continue more help is needed - please speak to Nigel to offer support in

any way you can.

Last month also celebrated the baptism of Sophia Taylor and weddings of Keven and Kim, Stephen and Karen and Stephen and Melissa. We remember all of them in our prayers.

The Discoverers braved the British weather enjoying an outing to Wolverley where they shared lunch together at the Queens Head. To join them at Chasewater Railway see Christine or David.

Thrifties met for an evening of fun, food and chat at the Wernley Pub. They invite any females who would like to take part in a Murder Mystery Night to see Wendy.



APRIL

29th 5.00 pm Invitation to the Salvation Army Citadel to bid **farewell** with prayers for Major Amaro Pereira going to Burma for Christian Ministry

MAY

6th **Baptisms of Harrison Steele-Bird and Dollie Branigan**; please pray for them and for their parents and godparents

9th **Admission of Churchwardens** (Hector, Bob, Yvonne and Paul) at St Luke's Colmore Road by Archdeacon Hayward (please pray for him and them in their responsibilities)

11th **Quiz Night** at the Dorothy Parkes Centre

16th 7.30 pm The Old Church **PCC meeting**

17th **ASCENSION OF OUR LORD**: Holy Communion at **7.00 am** in The Old Church (with bells) followed by breakfast at the Vicarage

21st- **Week of Prayers together** as Christians

26th locally: **Monday** 7.30 am at The Old Church (breakfast in the Vicarage at 8am), **Tuesday** 2.00 pm at the Baptist church Regent street; **Wednesday** 10.00 am Holy Communion at Holy Trinity; **Thursday** 10.00 am Songs of Praise at St Matthews; **Friday** 7.00 pm in the United Reformed Church Langley; **Saturday** at 10.30 am with West Smethwick Methodists

JUNE

2.00 pm **Wedding** in The Old Church of Matthew and Sarah (Please pray for them at the beginning of their marriage)

3rd **Trinity Sunday** Shared Lunch at Holy Trinity for The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

5th Afternoon **Garden Party** at the Vicarage for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

ADVANCE NOTICE

Summer Fayre in the Vicarage Garden
Saturday 14th July at 2.00 pm

Q.I... "JUBILEE"

- a special anniversary; a time of rejoicing
- "Jubilate" - "O be joyful!" the first words of Psalm 100
- which is an alternative to the Benedictus at Morning prayer in the Book of Common prayer every day
- Jubilate Sunday is the third after Easter Day because the first words in the Latin mass then are taken from Psalm 66 verse 1 ("Jubilate Deo, annis terra")
- "Year of Jubilee," according to Jewish law (as in the Book of Leviticus chapter 25) is a year occurring every fifty years when Jewish slaves regained their freedom
- "Book of Jubilees" is an apocryphal Jewish work (also called "the Little Book of Genesis") purporting to have been given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai and probably written about 140 - 100 B.C.—the Law, with its prescriptions about feasts, the Sabbath, offerings and abstinence, all dated from the patriarchs such as Abraham.
- Jubilant—showing joy, rejoicing
- The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, sixty years since her accession to the throne of Great Britain. "God save the Queen"

ON THE WINGS OF PRAYER

**Just close your eyes and open your heart,
And feel your worries and cares depart.
Just yield yourself to the Father above,
And let Him hold you secure in His love.**

**For life on earth grows more involved,
With endless problems that can't be solved,
But God only asks us to do our best,
Then he will "Take Over" and finish the rest...**

**So when you are tired, discouraged and blue,
There is always one door that is open to you,
And that is the door to "The House of Prayer",
And you'll find God waiting to meet you there.
And "The House of Prayer" is no further away,
than the quiet spot where you kneel and pray.**

**For the heart is a temple when God is there
As we place ourselves in His loving care.
And He hears every prayer and answers each one
When we pray in His name - "Thy will be done".
And the burdens that seemed too heavy to bear
Are lifted away on "The Wings of Prayer".**

by: Helen Steiner Rice