

THE OLD CHURCH NEWS

O P E N T O A L L - O P E N T O G O D
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FROM THE ASSISTANT PRIEST

My neighbour has asked me to fix her wardrobe door. I hesitate as the last time I attempted this it was not successful and the door fell off! Chipboard is not easy to repair. I promise to try again, but my motivation is not strong. The “can do factor” is lacking!

Recently in Ghana I visited a church project which cares for about twenty-five orphaned babies whose mothers died in childbirth because of a lack of maternity care. I'm overwhelmed by a scrum of infants and toddlers who demand to be picked up and played with. They are full of joyful life and unaware of their real situation. The plan is to return them at the age of four to other family members. I'm no practical use, unlike their loving foster carers.

Later I visit another project with the same purpose. This time the infants are being cared for by their grandmothers but there is a sense of gloom and sadness; the grandmothers look tired and in need of care themselves. In both situations it would be easy to weep at the plight of these children but that is of no practical use. Motivation can ebb and flow when it needs to be constant.

Seeing something through and finishing the task is essential however hard that may be.

The church gives all of us the chance to be decisive in small as in big things. Unfortunately we can all fall into the trap of too much procrastination which leads to inaction. Dare I cite the example of the committee given the task of choosing the next archbishop of Canterbury. Three days and no white smoke! I thought the Roman system of choosing a pope was bad enough but this is even worse. Perhaps by the time you read this a decision will have been made. *Michael Goss*

Sometimes it doesn't matter on which side of the fence you get off.

What matters most is getting off the fence. You cannot make progress without making decisions.

Jim Rohn

I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot
Would that you were either cold or hot!

Behold, I stand at the door and knock.

If anyone hears my voice and opens the door,
I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

Revelation 3

LAST MONTH'S NEWS

Harvest supper was enjoyed during an evening of fellowship at the Dorothy Parkes Centre. Many came together from the three parishes to enjoy fish and chips and puzzle over baffling quiz questions! A team from Holy Trinity were the winners and received a tin of Roses to reward their success. The evening was rounded off with a raffle and a rousing sing - a - long with many of the old familiar songs. The generous sum of £170 was raised and it was agreed to hand this amount to Holy Trinity for the Foodbank.

Harvest Festival celebrations continued the following morning during Sunday worship

where generosity was again displayed by the bounteous food gifts donated by members of the congregation. The produce was later shared between Brushstrokes and Foodbank.

An exciting and challenging conference ‘The Big Splash!’ was held in the Birmingham Diocese to help churches make the most of the opportunities arising before, during and after baptisms. The baptism team from The Old Church attended and benefited from the chance to look creatively at this important part of the life of the church. They came away feeling refreshed and full of ideas to share with the PCC and church family.

Q.I “DEVOTIONS TO THE SAINTS”

- The practice of venerating and invoking the saints has long been a regular element in Catholic devotion
- Its justification rests on the beliefs that the saints are both close to God because of their holiness and accessible to us
- and because intercessory prayer is effective
- A Jewish anticipation is found in 2 Maccabees where Judas Maccabaeus sees Onias and Jeremiah in a dream with outstretched hands invoking blessings on the whole of the Jews
- in the New Testament the gift of special privileges by certain persons in the next world is held to be indicated in Christ's promises to the apostles (Matthew chapter 19 verse 28)
- support for the idea that the dead may intercede on behalf of the living may be found in the parable of Dives and Lazarus (Luke 16: 19-31)
- “a cloud of witnesses” (Hebrews 12.11) to whom Christians are “called to imitate” (Hebrews 13.7); the “martyrs before the throne of God” (Revelation 6.9); “we are fellow citizens with the saints and of the household of God” says St Paul to the Ephesians (chapter 2 verse 19)

OPEN CHURCH

Every Tuesday afternoon from 2.00 pm until 4.00 pm the church building is open to all. Anyone can come into our beautiful church to look around, sit and pray or just be still, have a cup of tea and a biscuit or join in the craft making. “Open Church”, as these afternoons are called, has been happening for almost three years and has provided an opportunity for many visitors to come into church.

In addition, many crafts have been created during this time and later sold at various fetes thus raising considerable funds. Those who regularly enjoy fellowship at “Open Church” on Tuesday afternoons would dearly love to see the church open more often.

If anyone is available and willing to facilitate a couple of hours on a different day please speak to Nigel or have a word with Christine Tanner, Joyce or Irene.



NOVEMBER

- 4th **ALL SAINTS' Sunday Services**
10.00 am St Matthews
10.15 am The Old Church
- 4th 3.00 pm & 5.00 pm **ALL SOULS' Services** in The Old Church to pray and remember our loved ones with candles being lit
- 11th **REMEMBRANCE DAY Services**
10.00 am St Matthews
10.15 am The Old Church
- 24th 2.00 pm **CHRISTMAS FAYRE** in the Dorothy Parkes Centre
- 29th 2.30 pm meet for **Prayers** in The Old Church (see Rosemary Guest for further details)
- 29th 7.00 pm **Compline** in The Old Church (see Wendy Fullerton for further details)

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THE OLD CHURCH?

Six years ago my daughter Felicity decided to get married in The Old Church. Paul and I attended one morning service to hear the Banns of Marriage read. The congregation was welcoming, warm and most importantly non-judgemental. Joyce organised and Barbara conducted the ceremony; that family and friends agreed was the best wedding ever. There was fabulous music, beautiful flowers and an incredible venue. We were hooked!

We did not disappear, with the champagne bubbles; we returned to The Old Church after the wedding. Nigel arrived as the new vicar and the rest, as the saying goes is history. It was almost as if The Old Church had enveloped us. Nigel, Barbara, Michael and the whole congregation received us with love and grace.

We were encouraged to join in all aspects of church life:- helping with jumble sales, junior church, attending the 3D course and becoming members of the Pastoral Care Team. Paul became a Church Warden and is now training to be a Reader. Nigel and the church family facilitated our return to worship after forty years on the outside. The Old Church is a place of warmth and a place where people are accepted no matter where they are on their spiritual journey.

Why is Old Church special to you? Do you love the windows, the friendship, the jokes some people tell, the great mix of cultures and talents? Is our vicar the best thing since sliced bread? We would love to hear of your experiences and impressions since joining the church.