

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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TREASURE IN THE CHURCHYARD

On a recent litter pick in the churchyard hundreds of empty beer cans were bagged, along with empty bottles, plastic bags and other rubbish. I suppose we could reflect on the downside of drinking beer in the churchyard and concealing full cans for the next occasion. Squirrels are often seen concealing food in the same area, so 'God's acre' is a place of refuge in diverse ways! There are not many open spaces in the immediate area and it does also provide a habitat for nesting birds and other creatures. Finding free space is not easy in our built-up area. There is the need to be alone in every living creature.

We are fortunate in having the Dorothy Parkes Centre for a wide range of community activities and the church with its various endeavours is supportive of many friendships. During Lent we think of Jesus being alone in a wilderness and then in Holy Week as a leader of a large crowd going into Jerusalem for the events leading up to his death and resurrection. The rhythms of life are different and varies for many people. We all need time to be alone and also the company and encouragement of others. In our fellowship in

the middle of 'God's acre' we need constantly to find ways of reaching out to those who are yet to become our friends while nurturing the friendships we have.

Michael Goss

Let's have a few more smiles.....

According to a new survey, the average Briton smiles just seven times a day.....

A smile costs nothing but gives much. It enriches those who receive without making poorer those who give. It takes but a moment but the memory of it sometimes lasts forever. None is so rich or mighty that he cannot get along without it and none is so poor that he cannot be made rich by it. Yet a smile cannot be bought, begged, borrowed or stolen, for it is something that is of no value to anyone until it is given away. Some people are too tired to give you a smile. Give them one of yours, as none needs a smile so much as he who has no more to give.

Life is like a mirror, we get the best results when we smile at it.

Everyone smiles in the same language.

Wear a smile and have friends; wear a frown and have wrinkles.

A smile can brighten the darkest day.

PAST MONTH'S NEWS

Towards the end of February, the Discoverers visited the Leather Museum in Walsall. They explored leather making throughout the ages and had the opportunity to create their own leather key fobs. Afterwards they enjoyed a superb lunch in the Blackcountry Man's Arms.

On the Women's World Day of Prayer, the first day of March, a thoughtful service with the theme 'I was a stranger and you welcomed me' prepared by the women of France was hosted at Holy Trinity Church.

The period of Lent continued through March with well attended holy communion services on Tuesdays at 12 noon in The Old Church. Rev'd Michael Goss shared a variety of different images of the cross together with some interesting stories, gathered throughout journeys he has made. Following the services warming and tasty homemade soup was shared in the vestry with donations collected for Christian Aid. The ecumenical Lent groups on Thursday evenings at Holy Trinity gave further opportunity for reflection and debate.

APRIL FOOL'S DAY

- First day of April
- Celebrated in United States, Great Britain, France, Sweden, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Germany, and Norway
- **Aphrilophobia** is the fear of April Fool's Day. Many of the phobias associated with this day are termed social phobias because they pertain to being embarrassed in public or worse.
- **Katagelophobia**—fear of ridicule or embarrassment.
- **Neophobia**—fear of something new
- **Scopophobia**—fear of being stared at
- **Ereuthophobia**—fear of blushing
- **Mythophobia**—fear of making a false statement
- **Traumatophobia**—fear of being emotionally wounded or injured

FRIENDS

Friends are the chocolate topping in the milk shake of life.

Friendship is like cheese; it gets better as it grows older.

A faithful friend is the milk of life.

Friends are chocolate drops that never melt

Friends are the cheese cubes in the salad bowl of life.

Don't go for looks; they can deceive.

Don't go for wealth; even that fades away.

Go for someone who makes you smile,

Because it takes only a smile

To make a dark day seem bright.

Find the one that makes your heart smile.

For this new morning and its light,

For rest and shelter of the night,

For health and food, for love and friends,

For every gift His goodness sends

We thank you, gracious Lord.

Amen

Give thanks to the Father,

who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.

Colossians 1:12



APRIL

- 17th 7.30 pm **PCC meeting** in the Dorothy Parkes Centre
- 18th **Discoverers** Outing to Cheadle
- 21st **Annual Church Meeting** - after the morning service in the Dorothy Parkes Centre
- 27th 2.30 pm meet for **Prayers** in The Old church (see Rosemary Guest for further details)
- 27th 7.00 pm **Compline** in The Old Church (see Wendy Fullerton for further details)

“More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of”.

Alfred Lord Tennyson.

God

**is the best listener,
you don't have to shout
nor cry out loud
because He hears even
the silent prayer of
a sincere heart**

E X T E N D

Extend is a programme of light exercise led by a lady called Saba. It is held at the Dorothy Parkes Centre every Thursday from 1.00 pm until 2.00 pm. Most of the exercises are accompanied by music and many can be done from a seated position.

The aim is to promote health, increase mobility and independence, improve strength, co-ordination and balance and is a great way to meet people and make new friends, thereby enhancing the quality of life.

After each session refreshments are available with time for a chat.

There is a weekly class fee of £1.20. New members, both men and women will be sure of a warm welcome. Further details from Judy Eynon