

# 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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## TO AUTUMN

The temperatures are falling and Autumn has certainly arrived. John Keats saw Autumn as the season of '*mists and mellow fruitfulness*'. Sadly, in our city lives, the fruits we see are packaged in the supermarket and the mists often replaced by the cold damp of early morning rain. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, in one of the wealthiest countries in the world, many in our community will be wondering whether they can afford to turn on the heating or whether to trade a meal for another hour of gas or electricity. One thing is certain and that is that the demands on *Foodbank* will increase over the winter months and that its only source of food is through the kindness and generosity of church families and individuals who support the work at Holy Trinity. As for energy prices and the increasing poverty in a wealthy world, then perhaps we all can find ways of influencing our government of millionaires to be aware of the needs of those who don't have the advantages of wealth and power. Take time to write to your Council and to your MP about what is happening.

On the first Sunday in November we mark All Souls Day and then, a week later, it is Remembrance Sunday. Old Church will

again be holding its services of Thanksgiving and Remembrance, one at 3.00 pm and then again at 5.00 pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> November. We come to The Old Church, that place of prayer and thanksgiving, to remember those who have died, to give thanks for their lives, and to be sorrowful at their departing. A week later, we think of those men and women who have died, fighting in the wars of this and the last century as well as that much larger number who died as a consequence of the fighting, through persecution and all manner of brutalities. We will bring our own personal memories of those we miss to these services.

It is a part of our faith and hope as Christians that we all are summoned by God, that He finds us, and that God's boundless love for His creation offers us all the prospect of eternal life in heaven. However hard it can be for us on occasions, as our faith falters and our personal problems as well as the disasters of the world become just overwhelming, it is our prayer that with Job, we can confidently claim that 'my Redeemer lives'.

I wish you all a restful and thoughtful season of mists.

*Paul Martin*

## FAREWELL FROM BARBARA

As you will know, it is now more than two years since I was part of the ministry team at Old Church. Since then I have exercised a peripatetic ministry and I have been most fortunate in the invitations I've received to officiate elsewhere. Although I've enjoyed it, I have found it to be an isolated and lonely ministry and I've missed the fellowship and support that come with being part of a ministry team.

That being so, I have, after much prayer, thought and discussion with those who have a responsibility for my spiritual well-

being, accepted the offer of a new ministry where I will have a particular responsibility for the pastoral care of older people.

As I say farewell to you all, I would like to say how grateful I have been for the welcome I was given as a newly ordained deacon and for the love and support I've received over the last 17 years. Please pray for me in my new role as I continue to pray for all of you, especially as you look forward to the arrival of a new vicar in what I hope will be the not too distant future.

*Barbara.*

## THE FINAL FLIGHT

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free,  
I'm following the path God laid for me  
I took his hand when I heard him call  
I turned my back and left it all

I could not stay another day  
To laugh, to love, to work or play  
Tasks left undone must stay that way  
I found my peace... at close of day

And if my parting left a void  
Then fill it with remembered joy  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss  
Ah yes, these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened... with times of sorrow  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow  
My life's been full I've savoured much  
Good friends, good times, a loved one's  
touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief  
Lift up your hearts and share with me,  
God wanted me now... He has set me free.

## PAST MONTH'S NEWS

Towards the end of September a Jumble Sale was held in the Dorothy Parkes Centre raising £160 for church funds.

An adult Baptism was celebrated during late September when Lee was joined and supported by close family members at a 12.15pm service.

Harvest festivities began with a Bring and Share Supper at the Dorothy Parkes Centre with entertainment provided by the energetic dance group Jem 'n' Us. The proceeds of the raffle were donated to the young dancers in appreciation of and to support the further development of their talents.

The Harvest festivities continued in church the following morning with a service that included some favourite seasonal hymns. Members of the congregation donated produce which was presented at the altar and later taken to the Foodbank at Holy Trinity church.



## NOVEMBER

- 3rd **Commemoration of All Souls**  
Services at 3.00 pm & 5.00 pm to remember departed loved ones
- 7th **Thrifties Night Out** at The George, Warley - see Wendy for details
- 10th 10.15 am **Remembrance Day** Holy Communion & Act of Remembrance
- 24th 12.15 pm **Baptisms** of Jack, Tommy-Lee and Kimberley
- 24th 3.00pm **Concert & Choral Evensong** given by The Oakville Singers
- 28th **Discoverers' Christmas Lunch** at The Toby Carvery, Hagley Road
- 28th 2.30 pm meet for **Prayers** in The Old Church (see Rose Guest for details)
- 28th 7.00 pm **Compline** in The Old Church (see Wendy Fullerton for details)
- 30th 2.00 pm **Christmas Fayre** in the Dorothy Parkes Centre

## ITEMS and HELP NEEDED for the CHRISTMAS FAYRE on 30<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2013!!

It's that time of the year again when folk at The Old Church are preparing for the Christmas Fayre. This is a major fund raising event to provide income to meet the running costs of the church and your help would be very much appreciated.

Items urgently required include Christmas Decorations and unwanted gifts, together with prizes for the Treasure Island and Bottle Tombola. Suitable items for the Fancy Goods and Home Produce stalls would also be welcome.

Assistance on the day in setting-up (from 9:30am), serving on the stalls and clearing up afterwards is essential in ensuring the success of the event.

Christine Tanner would be pleased to receive your donations and offers of help.