

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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MAY 2016



VICAR'S VOICE

On April 17th we held our Annual Church Meeting. At this meeting, I acknowledged the financial challenges we had faced twelve months earlier. I think it's fair to say that, this time last year, the picture looked bleak.

But with the help of our Treasurer, David Flint, we faced this challenge with honesty and courage. People generously responded to the concerns expressed on Stewardship Sunday.

For many years Old Church has had a small, but committed, group who have taken overall responsibility for fundraising. They continued their work, until the end of the last year, when they retired after many years' service. Their work, which included the Summer Fete and Christmas Fayre, a Craft Fayre, table-top sales and a number of raffles raised £3,700.

Further to this, we also set up a fundraising sub-committee of the PCC. Their work began by gathering creative thinkers together to identify, and explore, a variety of ideas. The sub-committee then went about bringing some of these to life. So far they have held a New Year's Eve party and a Shop2drop event which raised a further £1,800.

Another two small groups, also developed out of the ideas stage of this process. One has

been planning a 'Summer Extravaganza' and the other the June Festival Week.

We have achieved more than we could have hoped for, or imagined, and turned our financial position around. In doing so, we have developed a plan that will hopefully keep us on track.

But the thing that has given me the greatest joy, during this period, is the way people have given of themselves; the way energy and creativity has been shared, skills and gifts exercised, support and presence offered. This has demonstrated a strong sense of community and a willingness to get involved in all that church life means - even if we are drawn out of our comfort zone. And it is all of these things that we will celebrate at our Festival.

So, as we approach it, let us give thanks for the people of Old Church, in all our wonderful diversity and richness. And let us give thanks for shared gifts and for the presence and support offered by so many.

Sometimes it is easy to lose sight of these things and to focus only on the challenges we face - but let's not.

PAST MONTH'S NEWS

£233.60 was raised for Christian Aid from the Lent Soup Lunches held after the Tuesday morning Holy Communion services. £186.25 was raised from the Fairtrade breakfast held during Fairtrade Fortnight in March and will be donated to the Fairtrade charity.

The end of March saw us commemorate the dramatic events of Palm Sunday and Holy Week. The Easter celebrations began on Easter eve with the Service of Light and continued on Easter Day with a service of Holy Communion with baptism.

The evening of Saturday 17th April was a great night for the ladies who supported our 'shop2drop' event. Over 100 ladies came along and enjoyed the fashion show and the bargain prices. The church is now better off by nearly £900!

The church's annual parochial and general meetings were held when Rosie and Matthew were elected churchwardens for the coming year and Charlotte, Joyce, Christine and Reza were elected to serve on the Parochial Church Council for the next three years.

FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

The church will be open from 11am – 5pm daily. Unless there is a specific event taking place, visitors can see the beautiful flower displays and enjoy a homemade cream tea.

Timetabled activities are as follows:

(all of these activities will take place in Old Church, unless otherwise stated)

Saturday June 4th

7pm - Gospel Choir Concert.

Tickets: Adults £5 Under 16's £2.50.

Ticket price includes interval refreshments.

Sunday June 5th

10.15am Festival service of Holy Communion led by Bishop Anne Hollingsworth followed by a One World Cafe lunch.

2.00pm The Flower Festival opens

Tuesday June 7th

1.00pm - a recital by the Taiwanese flute player Sheng. Free entry.

Wednesday June 8th

7pm Poetry Open Mic evening. Free entry. Refreshments available.

Thursday June 9th

11am – 12noon - Uplands School performance.
1.30pm – 2.30pm Uplands School performance.

Friday June 10th

7.30pm An evening of poetry with Nicola Slee and Rosie Miles, two Birmingham based poets.
Tickets: Adults £5 Under 16's £2.50.

Ticket price includes interval soft drinks, wine and nibbles.

Saturday June 11th

2.00pm A talk by Mary Bodfish, from the Smethwick History Society entitled 'Glimpses from the Graveyard'. Free entry.

Refreshments available.

7.00pm - End of Festival Barn Dance at the Dorothy Parkes Centre.

Tickets: Adults £5 Under 16's £2.50.

Ticket price includes tea, coffee and nibbles. There will also be a bar available.

Buying Tickets

Tickets can be purchased at Old Church after Sunday services or on Tuesdays between 2pm and 4pm. For more information, and to buy tickets at other times, please ring Deb on 0121 558 1763



MAY

- 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th 7.00 pm at Old Church - **The Pilgrim Course**
- 5th 7.00pm at Old Church - **Ascension day service of Holy Communion**
- 8th 5.00pm at Old Church - **Pictures of God**: a service reflecting on the images of God we carry.
- 10th 7.30pm at the DPC - **PCC Meeting**
- 15th **Christian Aid Week** begins.
- 17th 7.00pm at St Ann's, Moseley - **The Archdeacon's Visitation**
- 18th 7.00pm at the Vicarage - **Faith Matters: Exploring Christianity** (a course exploring the basics of Christianity)
- 19th **Discoverers' Trip to Stratford-upon-Avon** (see Christine Tanner for details)
- 22nd 2.00pm - 4.00pm **Walk and Talk** (more information to follow)
- 25th 6.00pm - 8.00pm **Soul Space**
- 26th 2.30pm meet for **Prayers** in The Old Church (see Rosemary for details)

Christian Aid Week 2016

This is the week we love every neighbour



'Jesus calls us to love our neighbour as ourselves, and not just the ones next door or at the end of the street. Christian Aid Week unites over 20,000 churches to put this love in to action. Together we'll hold church collections, host Big Brekkie fundraising breakfasts and collect house-to-house. Join us'.
www.christianaid.org.uk

Saint Albans Pilgrimage

The Saint Albans Pilgrimage will take place on Saturday 18th June. Anyone interested in going please speak to Joyce Jones before 18th May. The cost will be £20.00 for adults and £12.00 for children. The coach will be leaving Holy Trinity at 8.00am and arriving back at approximately 8.30pm.