

# 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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## VICAR'S VOICE

More than a hundred incidents of racial abuse and hate crimes have been reported since the UK voted to leave the European Union. Many of the alleged perpetrators cited the decision to leave the EU explicitly'. (*Independent July 26<sup>th</sup> 2016*)

'France reels from its third large-scale terrorist attack within 18 months,' (*BBC News July 16<sup>th</sup> 2016*)

'Turkey's military have attempted a coup. Military jets and helicopters flew low over the capital, Ankara, where gunfire was heard'. (*I News July 15<sup>th</sup> 2016*)

'Three officers were ambushed and killed while responding to reports of gunfire on Sunday morning in Baton Rouge. (*Sky News July 18<sup>th</sup> 2016*)

These are just some of the stories that have hit the headlines during the past month or so. In fact, it's been difficult to keep up with the news. No sooner has one major issue hit the headlines than another story, involving acts of violence, has taken the front page spot.

At home, when we were just beginning to think about the potential political and economic consequences of the EU referendum, our news headline began to fill with accounts of racist hate crimes, seemingly triggered by the vote to leave the EU. At the very same time, tragic news from around the world competed for the front page spot, as reports from Baghdad, Orlando, Dallas, Nice,

Turkey and Baton Rouge tumbled in on an almost daily basis

These are turbulent times and this kind of bad news can disturb us to the core. The future can look much less certain than it once did and we can feel powerless to do anything to change the situation; and in some ways I guess this is true.

But, in amongst all we are faced with right now, another story recently appeared in our local news. The story of a very simple campaign called 'Love Your Neighbour'. This campaign was launched in Sandwell and Birmingham in direct response to the violence that had surfaced in our neighbourhoods since the Brexit vote.

I can't recall a campaign, like this, gathering momentum at quite such a pace before. It demonstrates what can happen when people of goodwill choose to take simple, practical, positive action; action that is motivated by love and held within a strong sense of hope that the world can be a more peaceful and loving place. This doesn't deal with the huge international issues our world faces and the insecurity that many feel, but it's a place from which we can all start to make a difference and to shake off, at least in part, our sense of powerlessness.

For more information on the campaign go to: [www.loveyourneighbour.org](http://www.loveyourneighbour.org)

## 3 D C O U R S E

The 3D Course is the Birmingham Diocesan course for developing Disciples. It is a 10 month Bible based course designed to enable people to learn more about the Christian faith. It could be just right for you if you are:

- Confirmed in the Church of England
- Wanting to understand the Christian faith more deeply.
- Open to explore how to live out your faith more confidently.
- Open to working in a group with other Christians from various parishes.

If you would like to attend the course, or want more information, speak to Deb or pick up one of the leaflets at the back of church.

## LAST MONTH'S NEWS

July began with the Summer Extravaganza which saw stalls and events both in the Dorothy Parkes' Centre and in and around the church itself. It was good to notice that many of those visiting the church based attractions were moved to enter the church and contemplate not just its beauty as a building but its purpose and meaning for the people of Smethwick.

The AGM of the Smethwick Chapelry Trustees was held and we, as a congregation, have to thank them for all they do to maintain our beautiful church building.

Members of our congregation spent some quality time together at a Quiet Day that was held at Blackwell. They appreciated the space to contemplate by discussing, meditating and praying about spiritual matters as well as having time to relax and get to know each other better.

The Discoverers had a fine day out to Stourport - on- Severn which included a walk to explore the historic canal basin that connects the Staffordshire and Worcestershire canal with the River Severn.

Old Church had 27 candidates, some of them being baptised, and then joining those already baptised for confirmation at the Deanery service held at St Matthew's church.



Greenbelt is an arts, faith and justice festival with a long and rich history. This year's festival is packed with speakers, including Archbishop Justin, musicians, comedy and drama performances and much more. For more information about the event, go to: [greenbelt.org.uk](http://greenbelt.org.uk)

The Old Church website can be found at [www.smethwickoldchurch.org.uk](http://www.smethwickoldchurch.org.uk)



## AUGUST

- 6th 2.30 pm **Marriage** of Ryan and Jenny
- 14th 5.00 pm **Service of Holy Communion** with hymns and poetry to celebrate the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- 24th From 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm **Soul Space**
- 25th 2.30 pm meet for **Prayers** in Old Church (see Rosemary for details)
- 27th 4.00 pm **Marriage** of David and Donna
- 31st 7.00 pm **Children and Families Work** meeting at the Vicarage

*How our actions and attitudes effect our children:-*

### Children Learn What They Live

- If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.
- If children live with hostility, they learn to fight.
- If children live with fear, they learn to be apprehensive.
- If children live with pity, they learn to feel sorry for themselves.
- If children live with ridicule, they learn to feel shy.
- If children live with jealousy, they learn to feel envy.
- If children live with shame, they learn to feel guilty.
- If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence.
- If children live with tolerance, they learn patience.
- If children live with praise, they learn appreciation.
- If children live with acceptance, they learn to love.
- If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves.
- If children live with recognition, they learn it is good to have a goal.
- If children live with sharing, they learn generosity.
- If children live with honesty, they learn truthfulness.
- If children live with fairness, they learn justice.
- If children live with kindness and consideration, they learn respect.
- If children live with security, they learn to have faith in themselves and in those about them.
- If children live with friendliness, they learn the world is a nice place in which to live.