

THE OLD CHURCH NEWS

O P E N T O A L L - O P E N T O G O D

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 5

NOVEMBER 2016



VICAR'S VOICE

In the life of our church, November is a month that provides opportunities for remembering. We will have memorial services where we will remember those we have loved and lost, and we will hold our Remembrance service, where we will remember the victims of war, past and present.

Although, these are familiar annual services, they are not the only opportunities for remembering at this time of year. We will also gather for a 'service of prayer for justice and peace' and there will be an opportunity to knit baby blankets during Advent. These two opportunities are perhaps less familiar ways to exercise, what we might refer to as, the discipline of remembering. This is primarily because we associate remembering with the recollection of past events.

But remembering is not that straight forward; it cannot be confined exclusively to the past. The past and the future are somehow inextricably linked. Mysteriously, and often against all odds, we carry within us the light of hope. However small and insignificant this light is, when we reflect on the difficult aspects of the past such as war and loss, hope somehow has the capacity to call us into the future.

When we reflect on the atrocities of the past and the damage they have caused to individuals, communities and nations, and

when we recall the injustice and oppressions that has been prevalent at home and abroad, it is the light of hope that calls us to a better future.

When we remember a loved one who has died, either recently or a long time ago, and when we journey alongside someone who carries within them the dull, lingering ache of grief, it is the light of hope that calls into a future where new possibilities lie.

We can not change what has happened in the past, nothing can. But we can remember for the future; we can remember in ways that enable the past to inspire us and encourage us to reshape the world and our lives within it.

That's why we are having a service of prayer for justice and peace on Remembrance Sunday, in which we will have the opportunity to envision the future through the eyes of the past. And that's why we will be prayerfully knitting baby blankets for Advent; that's why, as we focus on the coming of the Christ Child at Christmas, we will be remembering those for whom expecting a child is a time of great anxiety and those for whom birth brings with it a sense of despair and deep concern. We will be knitting in the hope that our blankets will make just a little bit of difference for the future of those who receive them.

LAST MONTH'S NEWS

On Sunday 2nd October Rev'd Michael Goss celebrated 50 years as an ordained priest. The service of Holy Communion was attended by many of his family and friends and was followed by a buffet lunch at the Dorothy Parkes' Centre.

A good number including friends from Holy Trinity enjoyed the Harvest Supper on 8th

October. A "Ploughman's Lunch" was followed by a variety of pies and cakes. The "in house" entertainment, compèred by Jean introduced a variety of acts that revealed the talents of many.

The Harvest service followed on Sunday morning during which an offertory of food was presented in support of the Food Bank. *Contd* →

DISCOVER TRAIDCRAFT TRADING AT OLD CHURCH



Our Traidcraft Shop at Old Church is a continuing part of the international network for helping people from many poor backgrounds to sell their goods throughout the world.

Old Church's own Traidcraft Trader is Rosemary Guest. She is seeking a volunteer to work with her in this vital and fulfilling role.

The Traidcraft Shop is open after church on the 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month. If you wish to know more contact Rosemary.



Christmas and Craft Fayre

On: November 26th 2016

From: 11.00 am - 4.00 pm

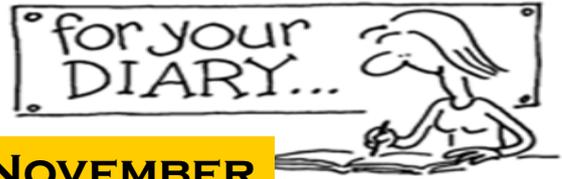
At: The Dorothy Parkes' Centre

Handmade crafts...Choir...Victorian Tea Room...Homemade produce...Christmas Games & Tombola...Decorations...Raffle... and much more!

LAST MONTH'S NEWS

Later that day the evening service was a "Meditation for Harvest and the Wonders of God's Created Universe". Whilst giving thanks for the earth's bounty, we reflected on humankind's over exploitation of the Earth's resources and the impact that this has on the world's poorest people.

October saw the start of the restoration work on the church's plasterwork which was severely damaged by incoming rain water following the theft of lead from the roof. Apart from funerals, midweek services and meetings in church have been cancelled to enable the restoration work to proceed smoothly.



NOVEMBER

- 6th 3.00 pm **A service of remembering** at Old Church for the loss of a baby, before or after birth.
- 7th 7.30 pm **PCC meeting** at the Vicarage
- 8th 7.30 pm **Deanery Synod** meeting at St John's Langley
- 13th **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**
10.15 am Service of **Holy Communion**
5.00 pm a Service of **Prayer for Justice and Peace**
- 24th 11.00 am A service at **Penmakers' Court**
- 26th **CHRISTMAS FAYRE** from 11.00 am – 4.00 pm at the Dorothy Parkes' Centre
- 27th 5.00 pm A candle lit service to mark **the start of Advent** at Old Church



Knitting for Advent

As we explore what it means to expect the birth of the Christ child this year, you are invited to knit baby blankets which will be placed at the altar each week and then, when Christmas arrives, will be sent to a number of charities at home and abroad.

If you know how to knit, there are some patterns available. If you would like to learn, there will be opportunities for that too.

More information to follow.