

Three Churches News: Harvest 2017

United Benefice of Crick, Lilbourne and Yelvertoft

Dear Reader,

Welcome to this Harvest edition of our newsletter. This edition includes articles from Ian Macintosh, Michala Mason, Jane Dunkley, a poem, an art reflection, bookstall news, tea at three, FOSM and dates for your diary. I would welcome any articles of inspiration; reflections, which you think, may be of use to others in their faith journey or any testimonies. Items for the Advent edition (Theme: New Beginnings) should be emailed to Patrick.mulcahy123@btinternet.com by 1st November 2017.

Any views expressed are those of the author and are not necessarily those of the editor.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter.

This year leading up to Harvest one of our lectionary readings was about sowing and reaping.

Michala's article reminds us of the importance of the welcome we give or do not give to visitors and the effect it can have.

Ian's article reminds us of the grace of God and what our response should be.

Sister Wendy reminds us of love, loyalty, and long-term commitment.

Me, I have been considering the consequences of words and actions and whether we individually and as a community take responsibility for those actions, accept God's grace, and ask for our fellow's forgiveness. Has the world changed since Wesley wrote those wonderful words below? Is it any less judgmental, racist, homophobic, and kinder? Is there less abuse of children and women, more tolerance, less war or rumour of war? (In fact, has humankind changed since evolution?)

Wesley wrote in his hymn

'Oh for a thousand tongues to sing' (full text is worth looking up):

*He breaks the power of cancelled sin,
He sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean,
His blood availed for me.*

In the letter of James we find the following:-

'The tongue also is like a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. (James 3 v 6)

My conclusion is that each individual in each generation needs to grasp God's grace and follow the way of our Saviour with all that that entails.

See Ian's reflection or sign up for Alpha to explore this further.



Upcoming Events

United Benefice Services. :

St. Margaret of Antioch Crick

29th October 2017

11.15 followed by lunch.

Visit of Bishop John

Alpha Course: Lilbourne

Thursday at 19:30

Village Hall

28th September to 30th
November

Historic Churches ride

9th September 10am to 4pm

'MADE ALIVE IN CHRIST'

The Apostle Paul wrote

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by **grace you have been saved**.

And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. **For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.**

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians ch.2: vs 1-10 [NIV]

Comment:

In this letter of Paul to the Ephesian church he was very much at pains to point out that no one who has become a disciple of Christ did so by their own efforts – the relevant sections have been italicised and made bold for emphasis.

First, he reminded the Ephesians (and for Ephesians we can read ourselves!) that they had all once followed the ways of the world, and were therefore by nature objects of wrath. Naturally he included himself.

Then God, because of his great love for us, made us alive in and through Jesus Christ whom he sent for that express purpose. When we become aware of the mess we are making in our lives and genuinely seek to know and follow Christ, then by his infinite grace and mercy he saves us, restoring a family relationship, giving us eternal life.

In this new situation, boasting is entirely excluded because all that we have and will inherit is from God. He has not only made us, but has redeemed us through the obedience of Jesus, who took on the burden of our wrongdoing and did away with it by his death.

Finally, it is God's purpose for us, in Christ, to carry out good works (giving to the poor and needy, helping those in trouble, comforting the sick etc). We do this in gratitude and to imitate the love of God – not to 'earn' a place in heaven, something that is impossible!

Ian Mackintosh

Prayer.

My copy of The Pilgrims Progress has a picture of Christian as he places his knapsack of troubles at the foot of the Cross.

My thanks to Jane Dunkley for a timely reminder of why we should hand our troubles over completely.

"Good Morning. I am God.

Today I will be handling all of your problems. Please remember that I do not need your help. If the devil happens to deliver a situation to you that you cannot handle DO NOT attempt to resolve it. Kindly put it in the SFJTD (something for Jesus to do) box. It will be addressed in MY time, not yours.

Once the matter is placed into the box, do not hold onto it or attempt to remove it. Holding on or removal will delay the resolution of your problem.

If it is a situation that you think you are capable of handling, please consult me in prayer to be sure that it is the proper resolution. Because I do not sleep nor do I slumber, there is no need for you to lose any sleep. Rest my child; if you need to contact me, I am only a prayer away. "

.....

Prayer Pebbles

We meet on the last Wednesday in each month to offer to God all those prayers which have been placed symbolically in the pool and left for God's action.

Upcoming Events: Harvest

Harvest Thanksgiving Services

{Followed by harvest supper or lunch}

17th September, 6pm Crick

24th September, 6pm Lilbourne

24th September 11.15am Yelvertoft

Upcoming Events: FOSM

Saturday, September 9

Northants Historic Churches

Annual Ride and Stride

Friday, October 20:

Curry & Casserole Night

First of the season.

Upcoming Events: Remembrance

Sunday 12th November

10.50am Lilbourne on the Green

10.50 am Yelvertoft at War Memorial

then at All Saints

3.00pm Crick in Church

then at Memorial



BUSY TIMES!

On May 13, we were once again treated to a first class performance by Bilton Silver Band. Thanks to Margaret Dorman-Frost's generous sponsorship, the event raised £600.

4 days later, on a very wet night, a few intrepid ladies went to the church and were rewarded by a highly entertaining demonstration of flower arranging and button hole making by Sue Tull. We raised another £60. Thank you. Sue.

June 5 saw our AGM. As with all AGMs, it was sparsely attended but we did the business. Jean Garner has decided to stand down after 11 years and we thank her for all her hard work. We have, however, gained one committee member and are pleased to welcome Michala Mason.

Scarecrow Weekend was, of course, extremely busy but we were delighted to raise a total of **£1,441.77**, made up from teas & cakes, stalls in the church, the BBQ and our half share of raffle ticket sales.

HUNDRED CLUB

The lucky winners for March were: 1st J. Clark , 2nd Vicki Mynott,

April: 1st J & L Winn , 2nd Fred Norton

May: 1st Jill Jamieson, 2nd Hazel Gault

June: 1st Arthur & Ros Yardy 2nd Ali Reid

July: 1st Jean & Jeff Day 2nd Anne Bramwell

The Hundred Club runs from August 1 and costs £20 per year. Renewals are due from that date. The Club is now being run by Ann Ward (822314) and Sue Mulcahy (822393), to whom any queries can be addressed.

Sue Milne (01788) 824670

The Song of the Reapers (James Kirkup)

We know a field
A sheltered, fertile ground,
Well favoured by the sun.
There the first yield
Of corn is reaped and bound
Before the harvest is begun.

It is a sheaf
Of whitest gold, the green
Half-fainted from the stem.
Upon the leaf
Spring's last veins are seen
Each ear is a Jerusalem

Now from this first
Pure sheaf the bread is baked
And offered, fragrant, fresh,
To God-who thirst
And hunger shall be slaked
By holy wine, fed by his flesh.

For when we eat
This bread that is new- made
We take into our blood
His grace, our meat.
By faith, the earth is fed
And by His love we have our bread



Upcoming Events: Lilbourne

Jumble sale
7th October
Village hall
Christmas fair
8th December
6pm
Village hall

Upcoming Events: FOSM

Crick Feast {TBA}

Upcoming Events: Yelvertoft

None planned

Upcoming Events: Crick

PCC Meetings
20th September
1st November
4th December



Summer (Ruth and Boaz) Nicholas Poussin (1594-1665)

In Matthew we read the genealogy of Jesus and among the descendents listed are Ruth and her son Obed. The full story of Ruth's loyalty and love can be found in The Book of Ruth.

Sister Wendy writes: -

Poussin produced four canvasses to illustrate the four seasons, using an appropriate episode from the Bible. For summer he took the story of Ruth and Boaz. Since they come to know each other during the harvest season a field of ripe corn is an apt setting. Its fertility stretches out to the distant mountains, golden and inviting. It is of course a symbol of the fertility that this young widow will bring to her new husband. Poussin shows their first encounter: Ruth the poor relation kneeling before him begging for help; Boaz, quite unaware of future possibilities, generously orders his servants to give every assistance to his impoverished cousin in law, as she goes gleaning. Later, Naomi counsels her to sleep in the field at her benefactor's feet. The language here is modest and we need to know that 'uncovering feet' and 'spreading a skirt over' someone are euphemisms for a physical encounter. Her act and his act make Ruth his wife. She will bare a son Obed and Naomi will be his Nurse.

My Mum and Dad moved to Crick from Coventry in 2014 to be closer to us. Neil, Blake and I lived in Rugby at the time, and had never been to Crick. We soon fell in love with the village and realised we had to move here too. We've now lived in the village for 2.5 years, and have had a new edition to our family during this time – Zac who is now 10 months old.

Our previous experiences of attending churches have been mixed. There was a church on-site at my school; I was sacristan of the choir and loved being involved in all that entailed. There wasn't a Vicar posted regularly at the church, it was mainly led by the school teachers, except for special occasions. When I left school, I really missed being in a church choir, but couldn't commit to joining one as I was studying Paediatric Nursing at University, and was working a variety of shift patterns and studying in-between.

Neil and I got married in 2007. We got married in my local church in Coventry. When we approached the vicar, he wasn't welcoming at all. He actually tried to put us off as we hadn't attended his church regularly. Despite this, Neil and I were married in the church, but we didn't return afterwards. We never felt like we belonged, and the regulars weren't very friendly.

We were living in Rugby when we had Blake baptised at 4 months of age. We received a similar reception at local churches when we enquired about a Christening. We decided to have Blake baptised at my old school (which is now a hotel, but has a ministerial team attached to the church). The place itself meant a lot to me, but we didn't know the vicar, and looking back on the service it was quite impersonal. Our families are quite widespread, so even before Zac was born, we knew we needed to organise his baptism in advance so that all our family members could attend. I felt quite apprehensive of contacting David because of our previous experiences, but I was pleasantly surprised. In fact, I came off the phone and told Neil "he was really nice! He was friendly and approachable, and would like to meet us at the children's service on Sunday" We attended that service, and we couldn't believe how friendly everyone was. David was wonderful and really made us feel welcome. We soon got to know everyone, and have made some life-long friends. I've even joined the choir!

Zac's baptism service was perfect. Everyone was invited up to the font to watch, children were even involved when David asked them to help fill the font. Zac received a beautiful card and bible candle storybook from his church family, which was so unexpected and a wonderful keepsake. We especially love the Little Saints on Sunday services – they are just the right length for little ones to sit down listen, and Blake loves making lots of noise with the musical instruments during the hymns, and finding out what's going to be in the Story box. It is easy to see the children are enjoying themselves and having fun, and great that they can play together afterwards, or join in with Vicky's crafts whilst the parents relax with a coffee and catch up with friends. We feel we belong to a wonderful church family (and that is exactly what it is) and why we'll continue to keep attending, bringing our two boys up in our faith in this warm, friendly community.

TEA AT THREE

A woman and a group of her friends, all non churchgoers, were cycling past St Margaret's Church in Crick one Sunday afternoon. They saw a notice outside the Church which said:-

TEA AT THREE – all welcome.

After a short conversation that went a bit like this:-

-A cup of tea would be nice

-We can't go in we haven't been invited

-Yes we can it says all are welcome

-But they'll just preach at us

-No they won't. I've been before and they are very nice.

So it was decided with some misgivings that a cup of tea was just what they needed. They enjoyed tea and cake, a very welcome rest and a look around the Church.

As they left they were heard planning to visit again and the lady said:-

"They welcome you, give you a nice cup of tea and serve you a slice of cake with lots of love"

Why don't you give TEA AT THREE a try?

FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH
at 3pm until 4.30pm

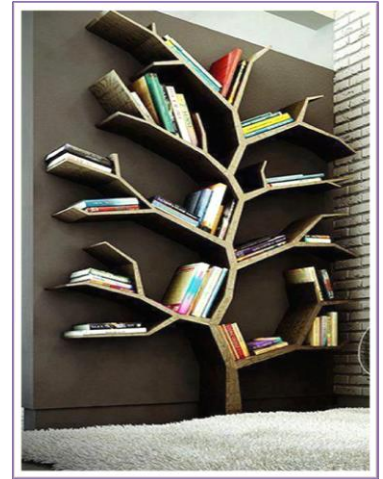


For a bit of light relief

The keeper of lost things

By Ruth Hogan.

A lovely story of things lost, found and the story behind the item. It is a story of love, bereavement, and hope. It even has a happy conclusion.



In the Community

Rector :Rev. David Lake: 822147

Church Wardens

St. Margaret of Antioch:

NN6 7 TT

Dave Milne 824670

Patrick Mulcahy 822393

All Saints' Church: NN6 LF

M. Larder 824237

Neil Robertson 822794

All Saints' Church: CV23 0SX

Jan Alexander 860742

L.Collins :86045

Bookstall news:

Some recent additions include:

'If you meet George Herbert on the road kill him'. A book written to help priests cope in the 21st century. The lessons could be applicable to any one in a high-pressure job.

'The Inclusive God' by Steven Shakespeare and Hugh Rayment –Pickard

Books by :

Jonathan Sacks

Gerard Hughes

Books on coping with suffering and bereavement.

David's Wednesday sermons.

Reference books for the ALPHA course.