



Dear Friends

What does it mean to be a church community?

Recently I have found that old episodes of “Secret Army” have been airing on television. Some will remember the series from the 1970s. It told of an escape line for RAF pilots getting them back from Belgium to London. It was on this series that the later Comedy show “Allo, Allo” was based. It is a little odd when memories of the spoof show are so strong but the original drama was deadly serious. It dealt with the peril that both the air-crew and the escape line met on every occasion, often within a whisker of capture. I loved the series when it originally came out. Watching it now is interesting; it has dated a bit, but not as much as it might have.

In one episode a couple of airmen turn up at a church asking for help. The priest is scared and concerned they may have been responsible for the murder of an SS officer, he turns them away. Later and hungry they break into a bakery. The baker catches them stealing bread but takes them under his wing. One of them says,

“When we go to a church we are told to push off, when we try and steal his bread we find a friend”

It was a sentence that cut me to the quick, exposing as it did the gulf between the expectation of the church as a place of welcome and sanctuary and the reality that these people found in that place. To be a church community must mean being a place of welcome to those on the margins, a place where those who need to know God’s grace can find it, a place where people can find acceptance without prejudice.

As we continue to interact with others, in our community fun day, in our work with children and young people, in our worship, let us all always remember the importance of welcome. That in our welcome of others people will find a reflection and an inkling of God’s love and know that they are not rejected or tuned away.

One definition of mission is “One beggar telling another where to find bread”. May we be a community, sharing God’s bread widely and sharing grace.

**Priscilla**

## Aspects of life at St Faith and St Laurence

**Morning prayer** – is normally said Monday to Thursday and Saturday at 8.15 am in the Lady Chapel. We use Common Worship Daily Prayer, all are welcome to come and join in.

**Reflections** A chance to meet together over a cuppa and reflect on the Gospel reading for the previous Sunday. A group meets on Mondays from 1.45-3pm Venues are listed in the Programme of the month.

**Task Groups** – The church has a number of task groups enabling areas of church life. These are listed in the magazine with the contact details of the chairs. If you would like to be a part of a groups please contact the relevant chair or Priscilla. All are welcome to join.

**Stay and Play** meets on Thursday between 9.30 and 11am in the Hall to give a chance for people with young children to meet and the children to play. All are welcome. Cost £1.50 per family.

**Sunday Club** meets on the first and third Sundays of each month except during the holidays. We hold an extra Sunday Club on days when there is a baptism. All are welcome to join in hearing and experiencing a Bible Story and learning together about what it means for our daily lives.

**Messy Church** takes place on the first Saturday of each month, most months. A chance for children and parents/ carers to have an informal time of worship, and discovering about a Bible story through song, craft, listening, cooking and so much more. Dates are published in advance and all are welcome to come along.

**Planned Giving** helps people make giving regular. You decide how much you can afford to give. You can join the envelope scheme weekly or monthly or pay by Standing Order or annually by cheque. Income tax payers are asked to Gift Aid their giving, so the Church can reclaim the tax on their donations at no extra cost to the donors. For details, contact Jackie Taylor or Brenda Stott

**Call in for Coffee** time together over a cuppa on a Wednesday morning from 10.30 -12.00. if needed we can arrange for someone to collect you and then take you home. Please ring Pauline Sitford (427 7005). If you are passing, do call in, or bring a friend, all are welcome.

We support **Recycling**. We have boxes at the back of the church where you can leave batteries and printer ink cartridges to be recycled. We have a special collection on the first Sunday of every month when we collect ALUMINIUM cans and foil which can be sold and the money raised is donated to our Mission Partners in Chile (through USPG) We also have envelopes for recycling mobile phones again supporting USPG. Pauline Sitford (427 7005).

## A Welcome Notice in Coventry Cathedral



### Welcome to Worship

**We extend a special welcome** to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, gay, confused, filthy rich, comfortable or dirt poor.

**We extend a special welcome** to wailing babies and excited toddlers.

**We welcome you** whether you can sing like Pavarotti, or just growl quietly to yourself. You're welcome here if you are just browsing, just woken up, or just got out of prison.

We don't care if you're more Christian than the Archbishop of Canterbury, or haven't been to church since Christmas ten years ago.

**We extend a special welcome** to those who are over 60 and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep-fit mums, football dads, starving artists, tree huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians and junk-food eaters.

We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems, down in the dumps, or don't like organised religion. (We're not keen on it either!)

**We offer a welcome** to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or are here because granny is visiting and wanted to come to the Cathedral.

**We welcome those** who are inked, pierced, both or neither.

**We offer a special welcome** to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throat as kids, or got lost in the city centre and wound up here by mistake.

**We welcome** pilgrims, tourists, seekers, doubters...and **YOU!**

## Former chorister Ken Dodd sings the praises of The Book of Common Prayer



The Book of Common Prayer is a guide to life according to 89-year-old comedian Ken Dodd.

'While the Old Testament has rather a lot of smoting and begatting, the Prayer Book is, in many ways, very up-to-date,' he says. 'It's a wonderful piece of literature, beautifully-written and based on fact.'

Prayer Book enthusiast Sir Ken – whose modesty prompts him to dismiss the need for any reference to the knighthood he was awarded earlier this year – has been a life-long devotee of the Prayer Book with which he became familiar at an early age as a chorister at the Church of St John the Evangelist in Knotty Ash.

He still worships there periodically but the pull of choral evensong means that he also attends Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral now and then. He enjoys the music and the words of the Prayer Book service he sang in his youth.

'I sometimes struggle with the Psalms,' confesses Ken, 'but if you tried to update them they would become plastic.'

He has a solution: 'I would like someone to create a hybrid which retains the beauty of the old Prayer Book language married to a new form of communication so that it means more to those struggling to cope with some of life's most basic problems, like keeping up with payments on the mortgage or the car, or coping with the care of sick children.'

Ken admits that is quite a challenge for anyone but no doubt he would be tickled if they managed to achieve it.

Rediscovery and use of the majesty and spiritual depth of The Book of Common Prayer at the heart of the Church of England's worship is encouraged by The Prayer Book Society to whom Ken Dodd's comments were made.

The Society was founded in 1972 amidst liturgical reform in the Church of England. It was feared that the 1662 Book of Common Prayer – despite its continued status as the Church of England's official standard of teaching – would fall into disuse, being replaced by contemporary forms of worship.

**Home Communion** We have a team of lay people trained and able to bring Home Communion usually on a monthly basis. This is for those who are unable to come to church long term. If the situation is more temporary for example after an operation you can also receive communion, usually from Priscilla. In either case please contact Priscilla.

### **Traidcraft**

Traidcraft sells a range of fairly traded food, cards, clothes and accessories. We use Traidcraft tea and coffee and everything we buy helps fight poverty and supports our church. You can order seasonal gifts through the church at Christmas time when catalogues will be available. Any questions, please ask Ruth Jeavons or Bronwen Jones.

### **'easyfundraising'**

Next time you shop online, think of St Faith and St Laurence and raise free donations with 3,000+ retailers:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stfaithandstlaurence>

**Women's Fellowship** meets on the first Monday of the month from March to December. Meetings are held in the Committee Room 7.30 for 8pm. We have talks on a variety of subjects. See Programme of the Month for details.

### **Prayer Ministry Team**

Prayer ministry is offered during the 10am Communion on Sundays. People can receive prayer for themselves or for any situation that is important to them. It takes place in the Lady Chapel during the distribution of communion.

### **Service with no name**

This takes place on the first Thursday in the month in church at 7.30pm.

### **Foodbank**

We collect food for the Quinton and Oldbury Foodbank. There is a box in church and food can be placed there at any time. The list of things that are needed is in church and in the hall. Food is distributed from St Boniface Church on Wednesdays and Paul and Barney's place on Fridays. Vouchers are required to receive food.

### **Choir and Music.**

Choir Practice takes place weekly, normally on Thursdays 6-7pm. Anyone interested in singing in the choir should contact Simon Palmer, Organist & Choirmaster. (Contact details on page cover) We also like to encourage instrumentalists to perform in church, either in services or in concerts.

## Faith and Learning

The Faith and Learning Session for June will take place on 27<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm in the Lady Chapel. The theme will be Wisdom in the Bible. It will be a chance to look together at the genre of Wisdom which covers among other things the books of Proverbs, Job and Ecclesiastes.

## Parish Giving Scheme

You may remember an article about this in a previous magazine. The PCC decided to go ahead with this, and at the APCM Priscilla gave a presentation about the scheme. Letters will be going to all on the electoral roll to introduce the scheme and invite people to enrol. Please do think, pray, and consider involvement. Our church finances have kept relatively stable and we are grateful for the giving of many.

## Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June



On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June at 10am Bishop Anne (Bishop of Aston) will be with us to share in Morning Praise, to preach and to dedicate the Peace Rose in the Garden as part of our Anniversary celebrations.

Please do come along if you can. It is always great to welcome a Bishop to the Church. I hope you will offer her a very warm welcome.

## FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

are holding a

## FUN QUIZ AND SUPPER EVENING

on Saturday, 1st July at 7.30pm  
in St. Faith & St. Laurence Church Hall

Tickets at £10 are available from: Helen Hayward 422 5724,  
Len Myers 682 2830 or Pat Jones 426 3647

Please come if you can and help make it a fun evening and enjoy a summer salad and dessert.

Please bring your own drinks.

All proceeds will go to West Midlands Air Ambulance.



## ST FAITH AND ST LAURENCE HAVE THEIR OWN 'EGGHEADS'

St Faith and St Laurence Church were well represented, with three teams, at our fundraising quiz, for St Mary's Hospice, on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May at St Mary's Parish Hall.

'Scrambled Eggheads' won first prize. Members of the team included Priscilla, Bronwen and Christine.

It was a very close contest for second prize, with Vicky and Gill Hubble's team winning it on a tiebreaker!

The Bennett family team was not far behind.

The evening was great fun and raised much needed money for the hospice.

Thanks to all who supported the evening and may be, the 'Scrambled Eggheads' team should take on the TV's real 'Eggheads'?

**Julia Reid** ( on behalf of Harborne fundraising group for St Mary's Hospice )



**St Faith and St Laurence**



**80th Anniversary**

**FAMILY FUN DAY & BARBEQUE  
SATURDAY JUNE 10th  
11am-4pm**

**BOUNCY CASTLE      OBSTACLE COURSE**

**GAMES**

**STALLS      TOMBOLA      RAFFLE**

**BARBEQUE      REFRESHMENTS      STRAWBERRIES  
& CREAM**

**DISPLAYS      LIVE MUSIC      TREASURE HUNT**

**COME AND HAVE A FAMILY FUNDAY WITH US  
AND ENJOY YOURSELVES**

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU**

## **Task Groups**

In this church we seek to devolve the possibility of vision and action as widely as possible. Therefore, under the PCC, we have a set of Task Groups which look after various areas of Church life. These are as follows,

### **Finance and General Purposes- Chair, Priscilla**

Oversees the needs of the building, plans renovations, carries out required health and safety procedures etc..

Plans church working parties

Supports the treasurer in overseeing the finances of the church and financial planning.

Looks at creative ways of encouraging giving and fundraising

### **Mission.      Chair, Pauline Sitford**

Supports our Mission links overseas

Thinks creatively about Mission and outreach in the parish.

Christian Aid

### **Socials      Chair, David Glanvill**

Plan various events for the church.

### **CYP      Chair, Sally Griffiths**

Look at our work with Children and Young People and how it can be developed. Sunday Club, Messy Church, Stay and Play.

### **Worship      Chair, Chris Terry**

matters to do with worship.

Increasingly to work in the area of planning of specific services as well as policy

### **Education      Chair, Vicky Miller**

Plans courses, lectures and quiet days. oversees Faith and Learning

### **Giving      Chair, Priscilla**

Will allocate the amount set by the PCC for charitable giving each year.

Meets once a year for this task.

Other Task Groups are set up for a limited period eg Anniversary Task Group

Other on-going groups exist, the Morning Praise Planning Group and the Garden group among them.

Members of the congregation are very welcome to get involved in a Task Group. Please contact the relevant Chair.

## Prayer of the month

This year Pentecost, the celebrating of the coming of the Holy Spirit, falls on the 4<sup>th</sup> June.

The prayer for the month is the collect for Pentecost

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,  
ignite in us your holy fire;  
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,  
revive your Church with the breath of love,  
and renew the face of the earth,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

As we move through June celebrating our anniversary in the Community Fun Day, and listening out for God's call and gifting on each of us, this is an excellent prayer to remind us of God's renewing and empowering Spirit.

**Priscilla**

## Why pray?

When life lets you down and people prove unreliable, and everyday anxieties dominate and tensions are high – don't worry yourself into depression. **Pray.**

When money becomes a problem, the lack of it or the love of it, and work is arduous or unavailable, and the bills keep coming and prices keep rising – don't despair of a solution. **Pray.**

When disaster and crisis are all around and peace between nations, or neighbours, seems unachievable and flood or famine, earthquake or explosives cause devastation – don't give up hope. **Pray.**

When health is fragile – your own or others' – and the burden of care is heavy and the possibility of a cure is only a dream, or someone dies and leaves an empty void and the predominance of sorrow and suffering overwhelms – don't believe that all is lost. **Pray.**

Pray because God is listening. Pray because God understands. Pray because God cares. Pray because God is great enough to carry us through all we have to endure. God is waiting to hear you.

**Marjorie Dobson**



Dear Edgborne churches.

I am the organiser for Christian Aid Week for St George's Church, Westbourne Grove, Edgbaston.

We at St George's would like to invite your members to our annual **Quiz in aid of Christian Aid.**

It starts at **7 p.m. on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June.**

Everyone brings their own drink [alcoholic or non-alcoholic] and nibbles to share for the tables.

We make up tables of approximately 6 to 10 in advance, or mix in on the night: all welcome.

Inter-church rivalry is rife!

St George's people will bring puddings which we will share.

There will be an individual raffle prize of an M & S voucher and chocolates for the winning table.

Tickets [for sale on the night] will be £3 for adults and £1.50 for under 18's, to which we can add Gift Aid by signing a form on the night if it is applicable.

I am sending out advance warning as I know everyone's parish calendars get very booked. I will send a reminder nearer the time and I hope some of you will be able to come along.

It will obviously be useful if you can let me know numbers nearer the date.

I hope many of you will revisit this fun event.

With best wishes, **Jane Darnton**

## Ending poverty

Christian Aid helps people in poverty out of poverty. More than that, it helps people help themselves out of poverty.

In for the long haul – there before the disaster, during it, and long after the cameras have left. Christian Aid support comes in long-term relationships.

Through the eyes of the poorest, Christian Aid has sight of one the greatest possible changes – that poverty can be ended.

Human history is defined by those who went out on a limb for others. Claimed the improbable, believed the impossible, achieved the inconceivable.

How? By harnessing the miracle of community. One individual can do a lot.

A committed community can do anything.

## Bishop David's Comment: The General Election

Brenda from Bristol gave viewers fifteen seconds of amusement with her "Not another one!" on the announcement of the General Election, but her dismay was depressing.

'Going to the country' for a fresh mandate to form a government gives us a wonderful opportunity to operate our hard-won democratic freedoms. Just over a hundred years ago campaigners such as Emily Davison suffered imprisonment, force-feeding and even death to win the vote.

In Brenda's favour, she at least had an opinion: "Why does she [the Prime Minister] need to do it?" The answers are political - and by now academic as we wait eagerly for the substance of the politicians' bids to be entrusted with power over our lives and livelihoods.

In the West Midlands there are not one but two Elections: on Thursday 4 May for a Metro-Mayor covering twelve local authorities and four million people and on Thursday 8 June for our MPs in a General Election.

How should Christians and people of faith respond at election time?

Two of the basic principles, as citizens, are to register as an elector and to exercise the vote. Two other basic principles, as Christians, are to pray for politicians and for their pursuit of the common good.

Support for a particular party or individual is a free choice. As a Church leader I seek to focus on broad policies and their outcomes rather than endorsing one party or another.

Take time to read and discuss the various manifestos as they emerge. Look out for themes to consider as various Christian bodies, the Evangelical Alliance, the Roman Catholic Bishops and the Bishops of the Church of England, publish material this month.

For those who are interested, as I am, in developing a more participatory democracy there are numerous recent examples of effective action in our city-region. Love Your Neighbour, Places of Welcome, Near Neighbours, Hope not Hate, Citizens UK, for example, together with thousands of business, community, sporting and cultural initiatives that make up our human flourishing.

One of the mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century pioneers of effective faith in action was William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury, whose wartime *Christianity and Social Order* (Penguin 1942) emphasized the family as the primary social unit, the sanctity of personality and fellowship.

Today I commend the writing of Miroslav Wolf and especially his *Public Faith in Action* (Brazos Press, USA 2016) with its profound centring in Christ and His Kingdom and helpful analysis of flourishing, followed by chapters on Convictions, ranging widely from Family to Policing and Character, including Humility and Courage.

I pray that we will each exercise our votes with hope and commitment and will be blessed with the very best representatives and leaders with whom we can serve in building a peaceful and just society for all.



### FROM THE REGISTERS

#### Holy Baptism

7 <sup>th</sup> May	Arthur Bradley
14 <sup>th</sup> May	Edward Bone

### FACTS AND FIGURES

Week Beginning	Communicants	Loose Plate £	Planned Giving £	Gift Aid £
April 23	63	28.42	589.87	25.00
April 30	76	81.68	218.38	362.00
May 7	84	78.18	432.90	5.00
May 14	41	71.42	505.40	16.00
<b>Standing Orders</b>			<b>3462.00</b>	<b>42.84</b>

### This is my kind of church....

where God's presence and power are evident...  
 where Jesus is at the centre of all we do...  
 where the Holy Spirit leads and we follow...  
 where it is fun to be serving God with excellence...  
 where we love God's word and love to study it...  
 where worship is exuberant, inspiring and genuine...  
 where deep and lasting relationships are formed...  
 where family and family values are promoted...  
 where leaders lead boldly and people serve willingly...  
 where love is a tangible part of the atmosphere...  
 where prayers are answered in the name of Jesus...  
 where healings and miracles are normal...  
 where all generations are on fire for Jesus...  
 where everyone's gifts and callings grow ...  
 where we give generously because we love Jesus...

Chris Price

## The revolution that changed the world

In 1517, an Augustinian Friar from Germany set off a series of events that would transform the Christian church in the west and would become known as the Reformation. Five hundred years later, we recognise that all our churches and denominations grew out of those events, even the Roman Catholic Church which experienced its own reformation in response to the challenge from the Protestants. Martin Luther, that Augustinian Friar, is a towering figure in European history, often talked of, not always understood, loved by some, hated by others.

Reaction from church leaders and scholars, at first on a small scale, gathered momentum with lives changed radically in German states and in many countries across Europe. Two years later, King Henry VIII of England started to write his Defence of the Seven Sacraments while he was reading Martin Luther's attack on indulgences. Luther himself composed a reply to King Henry, answered in turn by Thomas More. Although Luther's writings were banned in England, a small group started to meet in Cambridge to study them, along with other material emerging from the new movement on the Continent. Many of them would become key figures in the English Reformation.

The 500th anniversary of Luther's action provides a significant opportunity for our churches to

- strengthen relationships with one another
- deepen reconciliation between us, for the sake of our witness to the gospel
- promote reflection on what reformation means for us today

So, what made Martin Luther King adopt the name of a 16th-century monk who transformed the Western church?

There is a story of a bishop going into a well-known bookshop and asking if they had the new book about Martin Luther. The young assistant said, "You mean Martin Luther King?" "No, said the bishop, I mean Martin Luther." The assistant checked on the store computer and found the book the bishop was looking for.

Also, there is a story about how Martin Luther King got his name. In 1934, his father had gone to Germany, and apparently was so impressed by what he learnt about the great reformer Martin Luther, that he returned to the States and changed both his name and that of his five year old son as well.

I would have loved to have been in that Washington crowd in August 1963, and heard Martin Luther King tell everyone about his dream for the future.

## Columba of Iona (c. 521-97) – June 9th



2013 marked the 1450th anniversary of the arrival of Christianity in the UK. It was brought by St Columba from Ireland to Iona – a tiny island off Mull, in the Western Highlands.

Columba was born in Donegal of the royal Ui Neill clan, and trained as a monk. He founded the monasteries of Derry (546), Durrow (c.556) and probably Kells. But in 565 Columba left Ireland with twelve companions for Iona, an island off southwest Scotland. Iona had been given to him for a monastery by the ruler of the Irish Dalriada.

Why would a monk in his mid-40s go into such voluntary exile? Various explanations include: voluntary exile for Christ, an attempt to help overseas compatriots in their struggle for survival, or even as some sort of punishment for his part in a row over a psalter in Ireland. Whatever the reason, Columba went to Iona and spent the rest of his life in Scotland, returning to Ireland only for occasional visits.

Columba's biographer, Adomnan, portrays him as a tall, striking figure of powerful build and impressive presence, who combined the skills of scholar, poet and ruler with a fearless commitment to God's cause. Able, ardent, and sometimes harsh, Columba seems to have mellowed with age.

As well as building his monastery on Iona, Columba also converted Brude, king of the Picts. Columba had great skill as a scribe, and an example of this can be seen in the Cathach of Columba, a late 6th century psalter in the Irish Academy, which is the oldest surviving example of Irish majuscule writing. In his later years Columba spent much time transcribing books.

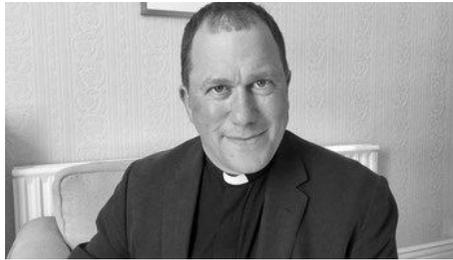
Columba's death was apparently foreseen by his community, and even, it seems, sensed by his favourite horse. He died in the church just before Matins, and it is a tribute to this man that his traditions were upheld by his followers for about a century, not least in the Synod of Whitby and in Irish monasteries on the continent of Europe.

Here is a prayer of St Columba:

Christ With Us  
My dearest Lord,  
Be Thou a bright flame before me,  
Be Thou a guiding star above me,  
Be Thou a smooth path beneath me,  
Be Thou a kindly shepherd behind me,  
Today and evermore.

## A New Dean for Birmingham Cathedral

The Revd Canon Matt Thompson announced as the next Dean.



The Bishop of Birmingham has approved the appointment of The Revd Canon Matt Thompson as the next Dean of Birmingham. His appointment follows the departure of the Very Revd Catherine Ogle earlier this year.

Matt will be installed at Birmingham Cathedral (St Philips) in September. He currently serves as the vicar of Bolton Parish Church, a position held since 2008. Canon Matt, who is married with a 10-year-old daughter, said he was excited to be joining Birmingham Cathedral. He said: "I am very honoured and delighted to be the next Dean of Birmingham and to serve the Cathedral and the communities of the Birmingham Diocese

He added: "I am looking forward to leading a wonderful team at the Cathedral and to joining the Cathedral community. I am very drawn by the desire of everyone at St Philip's to reach out to the parish, city and Diocese they seek to serve. I am very fortunate to be following in the footsteps of my predecessor Dean Catherine Ogle and I hope to build on her excellent work in building partnerships across the city and the Diocese.

"As a minister of the Gospel, I believe that God's deepest desire is to see lives transformed so that all can enjoy the abundant life that Jesus proclaims to us. In that spirit, I am so excited by the Church of England – Birmingham's vision of Transforming Church. I look forward to working with Bishop David in the service of Jesus Christ and in doing all I can to see the Cathedral, the congregations and the communities we serve flourish.

"I have spent 23 very happy years in the Diocese of Manchester and it will be hard to take my leave of friends and colleagues there after so long. However, the opportunity to return to the West Midlands is a very exciting one and my family and I are really looking forward to our move to Birmingham."

Bishop of Birmingham, The Rt Revd David Urquhart welcomed Canon Matt and said: "I am delighted that Matt has been appointed Dean of Birmingham at such an exciting time in the life of both the church and the city. Matt brings with him a wealth of experience and a passion for the Gospel. We are really looking forward to welcoming him and his family to the city and region, and to working together in the service of Jesus Christ."

Although we know that Martin Luther King was not that easy, I think that if we had met him he would have made us wanting to be better people. He would have made us wanting to work harder for justice and equality. But I think Martin Luther is much more difficult. For all his inspiring commitment to challenging powerful elite, he was even for his generation, anti-semitic.

So, would Luther have been an angry 'tweeter' if he had lived now? He was a very angry man in many ways. One of the things he said in his writing is that he had to be angry to write. I think most of us in this technological age, if we write an email in anger, might wait until the next morning before we press 'send'. Luther never did that. This might remind you of someone at the moment who 'tweets' as he watches CNN. There are parallels here, the populist overcoming the establishment.

Martin Luther King became the most powerful icon ever produced in the fight against racism. Today, the country of Dr. King has the second largest Lutheran population in the world behind Germany. So Luther's broader reformation legacy continues.

Martin Luther King said, "I have a dream", Martin Luther said, "Here I stand, I can do no other." No compromise, no surrender. We will never really know what effect it had on the young Martin King to be turned into Martin Luther King. He could have become a hostage to his father's thinking. In church and state, the truth is that the vision of both men is still to be fully realised, but because of them, the dream lives on.

The finale of the 500th anniversary celebrations of the Reformation, will be on 31 October and will centre in England, with a service at Westminster Abbey. Church leaders from many denominations in Britain and guests from other countries will attend. This will be followed by a symposium on the theme "Liberated by Grace," featuring theologians, historians, and a lively debate on contemporary resonances of the Reformation, in the adjoining St Margaret's Church at 3pm.

This 500th anniversary, has provided me with the opportunity to travel through Germany to visit the places associated with Luther. Although I do not know a lot about the events of 500 years ago, it should be a fascinating journey. Luther himself was no fan of pilgrimages – so we can expect no spiritual indulgences when you follow his own journey. But, in the true spirit of pilgrimage, I will make the journey prayerfully and give thanks for all that renewed the church then and renews the church now.

I hope to share with you some experiences of the pilgrimage in our next magazine.

*Peter Stokes*

## PROGRAMME FOR JUNE

Thu	1	9.30 am	Stay and Play	Hall
		6.00 pm	Choir Practice	Church
		7.30 pm	Service with no name 'Thy kingdom come'	Church
Sat	3	10.30 am	Messy Church-Pentecost	Hall
<b>SUN 4</b>	<b>PENTECOST</b>			
		8.00 am	Holy Communion <i>Numbers 11.24-30; Acts 2.1-21; John 20.19-23</i>	
		10.00 am	Family Communion <i>Readings as at 8am</i>	
		6.30 pm	Evensong <i>Psalm 133</i> <i>Joel 2.21-end; Acts 2.14-21</i>	
Mon	5	1.45 pm	Reflections	143, Balden Road
Tue	6	7.30 pm	Team Meeting	Vicarage
Wed	7	10.30 am	Call in for Coffee	Committee Room
		11.00 am	Holy Communion <i>1 Peter 1.18-25; Mark 12.18-27</i>	Lady Chapel
Thu	8	7.00 am	Election	Hall
		6.00 pm	Choir Practice	Church
Sat	10	11.00 am	Community Fun Day	
<b>SUN 11</b>	<b>TRINITY SUNDAY</b>			
		8.00 am	Holy Communion <i>Isaiah 40.12-17, 27-end</i> <i>2 Corinthians 13.11-end; Matthew 28.16-end</i>	
		10.00 am	Morning Praise with Bishop Anne	
		6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist <i>Readings as at 8am</i>	
Mon	12	1.45 pm	Reflections	143, Balden Road
Tue	13	10.30 am	Queen Mother Gardens Service	
		7.15 pm	PCC Meeting	Committee Room
Wed	14	10.30 am	Call in for Coffee	Committee Room
		11.00 am	Holy Communion <i>2 Corinthians 3.4-11; Matthew 5.17-19</i>	Lady Chapel
		7.30 pm	3D Course	Committee Room
Thu	15	9.30 am	Stay and Play	Hall
		6.00 pm	Choir Practice	Church

## SUN 18 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

		8.00 am	Holy Communion <i>Genesis 18.1-15; Romans 5.1-8;</i> <i>Matthew 9.35-10.8</i>	
		10.00 am	Family Communion <i>Readings as at 8am</i>	
		6.30 pm	Evensong <i>Psalm 43</i> <i>1 Samuel 21.1-15; Luke 11.14-28</i>	
Mon	19	1.45 pm	Reflections	143, Balden Road
Wed	21	10.30 am	Call in for Coffee	Committee Room
		11.00 am	Holy Communion <i>2 Corinthians 9.6-11; Matthew 6.1-6, 16-18</i>	Lady Chapel
		6.30 pm	Confirmation Rehearsal	Edgbaston Old Church
		7.30 pm	3D Course	Committee Room
Thu	22	9.30 am	Stay and Play	Hall
		5.30 pm	Wedding Celebration Rehearsal	
		6.00 pm	Choir Practice	Church
Sat	24	2.00 pm	Wedding Celebration for Malcolm and Wendy	
<b>SUN 25</b>	<b>SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>			
		8.00 am	Holy Communion <i>Jeremiah 20.7-13;</i> <i>Romans 6.1b-11; Matthew 10.24-39</i>	
		10.00 am	Family Communion <i>Readings as at 8am</i>	
		6.30 pm	Confirmation Service	Edgbaston Old Church
Mon	26	1.45 pm	Reflections	143, Balden Road
Tue	27	2.00 pm	William Lench Court Service	
		7.30 pm	Faith and Learning Wisdom in the Bible	Committee Room
Wed	28	10.30 am	Call in for Coffee	Committee Room
		11.00 am	Holy Communion <i>Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18; Matthew 7.15-20</i>	Lady Chapel
		7.30 pm	3D Course	Committee Room
Thu	29	9.30 am	Stay and Play	Hall
		6.00 pm	Choir Practice	Church
		7.30 pm	CYP Task Group Meeting	25, Rodman Close
Sat	1	10.30 am	Messy Church	Hall