

The Evangelist

The Magazine of
Newbold Parish Church

June 2017



www.newboldparishchurch.org.uk

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Price 50p
Annual Subscription £5.00

Coffee Morning

The altar serving team
invite you to their

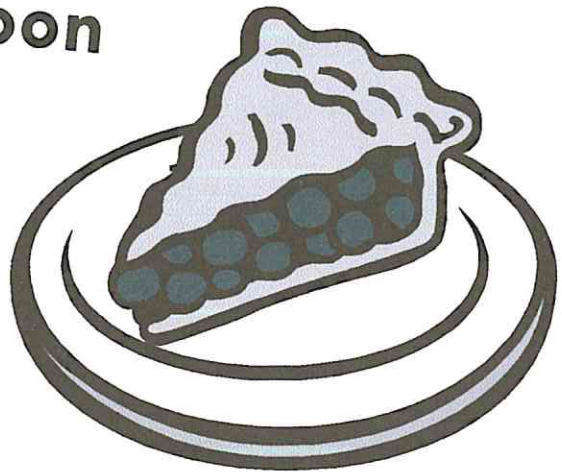
Annual Coffee Morning

All proceeds will go to the
NewBOLD Parish Building Project

Saturday 3 June

Time: 10 till 12 noon

A large variety of
HOMEMADE cakes and
delicacies will be available for
your enjoyment



We hope to see you there.

Come early to avoid
disappointment!!!



Dear all,

I write this in the wake of the terror attack at Manchester Arena. As much as I would like to be able to have answers, to find some way of understanding how something so hideous can happen, I cannot. There are no easy answers at a time like this.

When terror strikes, people react in different ways; some talk about the event with their friends and family, others share their thoughts on social media, others meet up in public places to express their solidarity with one another. As a priest people often look to me to provide answers, to speak words which somehow make sense of what has occurred. However, at times like these, as a Christian and a priest, I can only point to God. There are no words I can give that can make sense of this situation. All of us, especially at times like this, must surely hold up our hands and say: "I cannot do this without help".

However, what we can do is can pray. We can ask for God's Holy Spirit to minister to us, and to those around us.

This month as we celebrate the festival of Pentecost, when we remember the disciples being gifted the Holy Spirit, I am reminded that Jesus knew that they, and we, cannot 'do life' on our own. We need the Holy Spirit, the comforter, to minister to us. When awful things happen we need more than ever to know that God is with us.

As we pray for God to help us, we can be assured that God, by the Holy Spirit, will enable us to face whatever life throws at us. Not necessarily to avoid things, or to go 'around' them, but to be there with us as we go through difficult times.

It is hard to understand what drives people to hideous acts, even harder still to work out what the right response is. However, the best response I can think of is that we seek to oppose these things is by asking God to fill us with good things. To fill us with the Holy Spirit so that there is no room for evil, for sin, for darkness to take hold.

The Bible tells us that 'the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.' (Galatians 5:22/23). These gifts are given to us so that we can stand firm in the face of evil.

Terrorists want us to live in fear, to boil with anger, to grow in hatred. As a follower of Jesus I know that these reactions are not the right ones, and yet I know how easy it is to succumb to them. When faced with evil, with the injustice of torture and pain, Jesus prayed for those who were his enemies. He did not allow their actions to cloud his vision, or to blacken his heart. In the face of evil, he loved.

As we look at the things of this world which are wrong, which are disfigured, which seek to destroy, we know that our human responses are not enough. We need something more powerful. We need the Holy Spirit. Only God can transform us from the inside out. Only God can transform death to life, hatred to love, darkness to light.

Yours in the love of Christ,

Ben

Revd Ben Griffiths - Rector Newbold Parish Church

A prayer for those affected by the events in Manchester

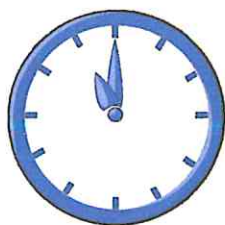
Merciful God,
hear the cries of our grief,
for you know the anguish of our hearts.
It is beyond our understanding
and more than we can bear.
We pray that justice may be done
and that we may treasure the memory of their lives more than the
manner of their death.
For Christ's sake.
Amen

JiGSaW NEWS Our first meeting took place on 30th April. We welcomed Niles who, occasionally comes to the 11 o'clock service. He hopes to join us when he stays over with his grandma and aunty. For our first meeting the members coloured in a jigsaw piece and Niles won the prize for the best. The bible story was the Emmaus Road. We did several activities, which revolved around recognising things including celebrities in disguise and pictures hidden in pictures.

We met again on 7th May. This time welcomed Harvey from our Church School. Harvey also goes to Discovery Zone at School. The best colouring picture was a tie between Harvey and Chloe; both received a prize. The bible story was the Good Shepherd. We did a treasure hunt in a sheepfold for words from a bible verse and the children had to place them in the correct order. We prayed for people in and out of the sheepfold (church). The children made a sheep-gate picture complete with sheep.

We met once more on 21st May. We welcomed Ben from our Church School and our 11.00 o'clock congregation. A 'Showing your love for Jesus' poster was coloured and the winners were Chloe and Ben. Members wrote prayers for use at Walsingham and at our June 11.00 o'clock service. The bible story told us about Jesus speaking to his disciples shortly before he returned to his Father in Heaven explaining how he would send an Advocate – The Holy Spirit. We talked about how we are a bridge between the church and our friends and family and by telling others about God/Church/Jesus, we can be a bridge to bring them here – just as the Holy Spirit is the bridge between God and us. We had a bridge building competition, which Josh won. We concluded with stepping stone prayers, praying for both absent and those we would like to join us.

**JiGSaW meets in June on 18th and 25th
and in July on 2nd and 16th**



The 11 o'clock service

The theme for our **11.00 O'clock service** in MAY was Jesus' Resurrection. Ben and Heather led the worship. We sang Our God is a Great Big God, In Christ Alone and Shine.

Millie, Esme and Hayley read the Gospel.

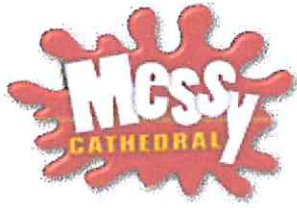
We were delighted that Anne Hartley, Christian Burrows and Evelyn Lowe joined us. Thanks to Christian and Evelyn for their hospitality and serving refreshments.

Afterwards the children made Emmaus puppets and 'walk with Jesus' flip-flops.

Please note this service is not just for children or folks with children. Anyone can come. Please consider joining us. Numbers are growing. We need your help too. Please see Heather or Ben for further details.

June's 11.00 O'clock Service is on Sunday 11th. The theme will be the Trinity. All are welcome.

We send our best wishes to Kevin Groves for a good recovery following his knee operation.



SAT 21ST OCTOBER 2017

DERBY CATHEDRAL 3-5PM

This will be a fun day for everyone. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of church – opposite the Church Wardens pew.

The afternoon will consist of age related activities (young and old) a picnic and worship in the cathedral.

All are welcome; the cost for the Messy Cathedral is £2 per person or £3 per family.

We are hoping to go by coach so there will be a charge for that too.

Money will be required in September but please sign up now as places need to be booked.



Bishop Alastair is opening his garden on Sunday 25th June from 2- 5 pm in Duffield.

Garden games, food, worship and a chance to hear what is on at The Peak Centre and for you to have a say about your church.

Suitable for young people aged 11 – 18 (year 6 upwards) and their leaders.

While Heather has a prior engagement in her diary, she feels it would be good for our young people to go – perhaps this could be arranged.

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We welcome children from 2 years old to 5 years old



Our Pre-school has been based at The Eagle Club on St Johns Road for 50 years.

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- Parent & toddler group every Tuesday 9.00am – 11.00am
- Ofsted inspection overall mark Good in all areas

If you would like more information call in (no appointment needed) telephone us on 01246 451141 or email us at newboldparishchurchpre-school@hotmail.co.uk

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Tel: 01246 206025

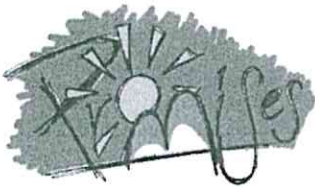
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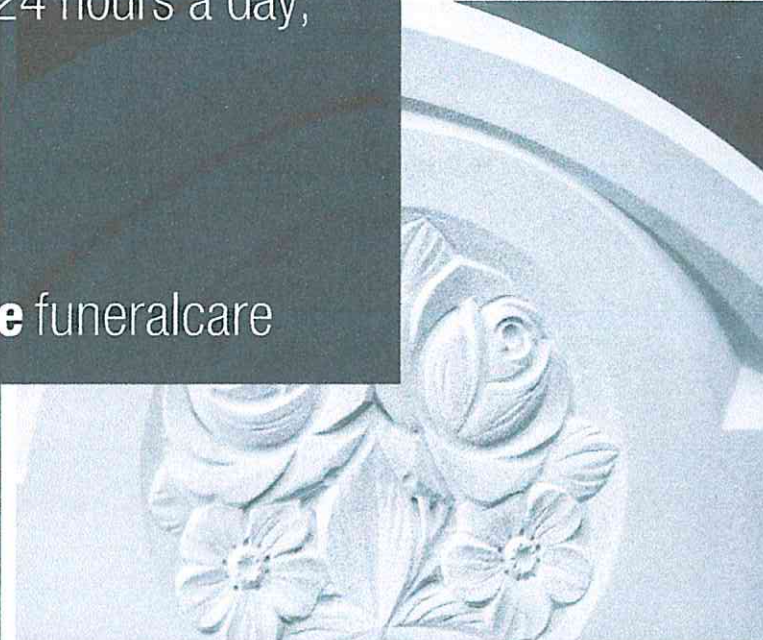


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QUIZ

- 1 Which island's motto is 'Whichever way you throw me I will stand'?
- 2 What would you keep locked in a tantalus?
- 3 From which language does the word 'tattoo' come?
- 4 According to the Book of Genesis, who first bought Joseph as a slave in Egypt?
- 5 Who would wear a shovel hat?
- 6 What item of clothing is used to describe a boring person with a tedious hobby?
- 7 If someone is an octogenarian, what decade of their life are they in?
- 8 What would a Scot do with an ashet?
- 9 Who wrote *Love is All Around*, the theme tune to the film *Four Weddings and a Funeral*?
- 10 What football club's nickname is the *Tykes*?
- 11 What were the names of the children Mary Poppins cared for?
- 12 Whose coat did the jester borrow in the Don McLean song *American Pie*?
- 13 Nike was the Greek goddess of what?
- 14 Which line on the London Underground map is represented in red?
- 15 To the nearest mile, how long is Hadrian's Wall?
- 16 What were the first names of 1950's singing duo the Everly Brothers?

THE WOMEN'S GROUP LEARN ABOUT LIVING IN TOBAGO

We had an extremely interesting talk on Wednesday 3rd May from Stephanie Parkes about the time she and her family lived on the Caribbean island of Tobago. She began by showing us where it actually is situated by drawing a sketch map of the area and followed this by telling us the history of the island too. We learned about the people and their way of life including holding frequent harvest festivals when produce was plentiful and also about the different food and the fact that meals usually finished with cake and ice cream.

She spoke about church life and also about carnivals held on the Monday and Tuesday before the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday when revellers parade through the streets immersed in mud before changing into colourful costumes later in the day (after dipping in the sea to wash off the mud first). Calypso music and drumming are also an important part of the island's musical heritage.

We discovered that Stephanie and her family also had to learn to live with the wildlife around and in their home. She gave several examples of rather hair raising moments involving ants, snakes, bats and, worst of all in her experience, black cockroaches!

Everyone really enjoyed hearing her stories and we hope that she will come to talk to us again, maybe next year, as she still has lots more to tell us about this memorable stage in her life. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 7th June when we are to have a quiz night and we will also finalise arrangements for our visit to Hope House Costume Museum on Wednesday 5th July.

Jean Lee

Walking Group – May 2017

We started our walk from Hathersage railway station in bright sunshine. Hathersage, one of the busier Peak District villages is surrounded by exceptional countryside. We descended to the River Valley past the circular building which is the David Mellor Cutlery Factory.

We walked adjacent to the River Derwent for a short distance before we found the ideal picnic site. We enjoyed a leisurely lunch surrounded by sheep and their newly born lambs happily grazing in the ample pastures.

After lunch we followed the river for some distance, wandering through grassy fields before ascending through some woods. Once on the level we soon came to Padley Chapel, a listed building but also known for its dark association with the arrest of two Catholic priests in 1588 who were later executed.

We had a brief look inside admiring the beautiful stained glass before emerging into bright sunshine. We then ambled downhill to Grindleford Railway station. It was standing room only as many walkers found this the ideal spot for a short break and for refreshments. We enjoyed our ice creams then set off back the way we came. Veering off, we descended through bluebell woods surrounded by Spring flora and fauna, with bird song in the air, particularly that of the chiffchaff, a distinctive call.

We went under a railway tunnel with the Hope valley railway line above and slowly walked down through the fields to the river once again. We retraced our steps back to where we started and right on cue the sun disappeared behind the clouds marking the end of an enjoyable and relaxing walk.

Helen & Eric

Next month we are arranging something different. The walk will be under 2 miles long and will include a treasure hunt in the Queen's Park area. Everyone is welcome. Please turn up outside church at 4pm with your sandwiches and a pen or pencil. Please see the poster elsewhere in this magazine.

RACE NIGHT

Chesterfield Rugby Club

FRIDAY 16th June
7pm

Money raised is to be shared between Sheffield Children's Hospital, MacMillan Cancer Care and the Chesterfield Shoebox Appeal

Tickets £6 include a Pea & Pie Supper
Available from Wilkins Vardy, Chesterfield Office

If you are unable to attend and wish to sponsor the event a horse and jockey will cost £8

200 CLUB

The Club winners for April 2017 were as follows:-

First Prize	£35	Richard Peet	Number 32
Second Prize	£17	Maureen Ashton	Number 1
Third Prize	£6	Annette Priestley	Number 77

New members are always welcome. Please contact either Richard Peet (Tel: 520697) or Stephen Hewitt (Tel: 275225) for more information. The next draw will be held on Sunday 25th June 2017.

A WALK COMBINED WITH A TREASURE HUNT

In the Queen's Park area

SUNDAY 4TH JUNE 2017

Leaving outside St. John's Church at 4pm

There will be less than 2 miles of walking with a list of clues to answer as you stroll along. Suitable for families and for anyone young at heart. There will be a prize for the winner.

Please bring a pencil/pen and a packed tea which will be eaten in the park after the walk

This is a free event, arranged by St. John's Walking Group as an alternative to our monthly 5 mile walk.

An evening Treasure Hunt will be arranged later in June or July as a fundraising event for our Newbold Building Project. Tickets will be on sale soon. For more information contact Evelyn Lowe 0779 1735 204

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TO ADVERTISE in *The Evangelist* from January to December will cost only:

£30 for ¼ page £55 for ½ page £100 for full page

If advertising with us after January, the price will decrease accordingly. Contact Evelyn Lowe (details on the reverse of this magazine)

When using the businesses advertised in this issue, please mention that you saw their advert in *The Evangelist*.

Whilst we are pleased that people wish to advertise their businesses in our magazine, the publishing of an advert should not be taken as our approval of workmanship or professional ability.

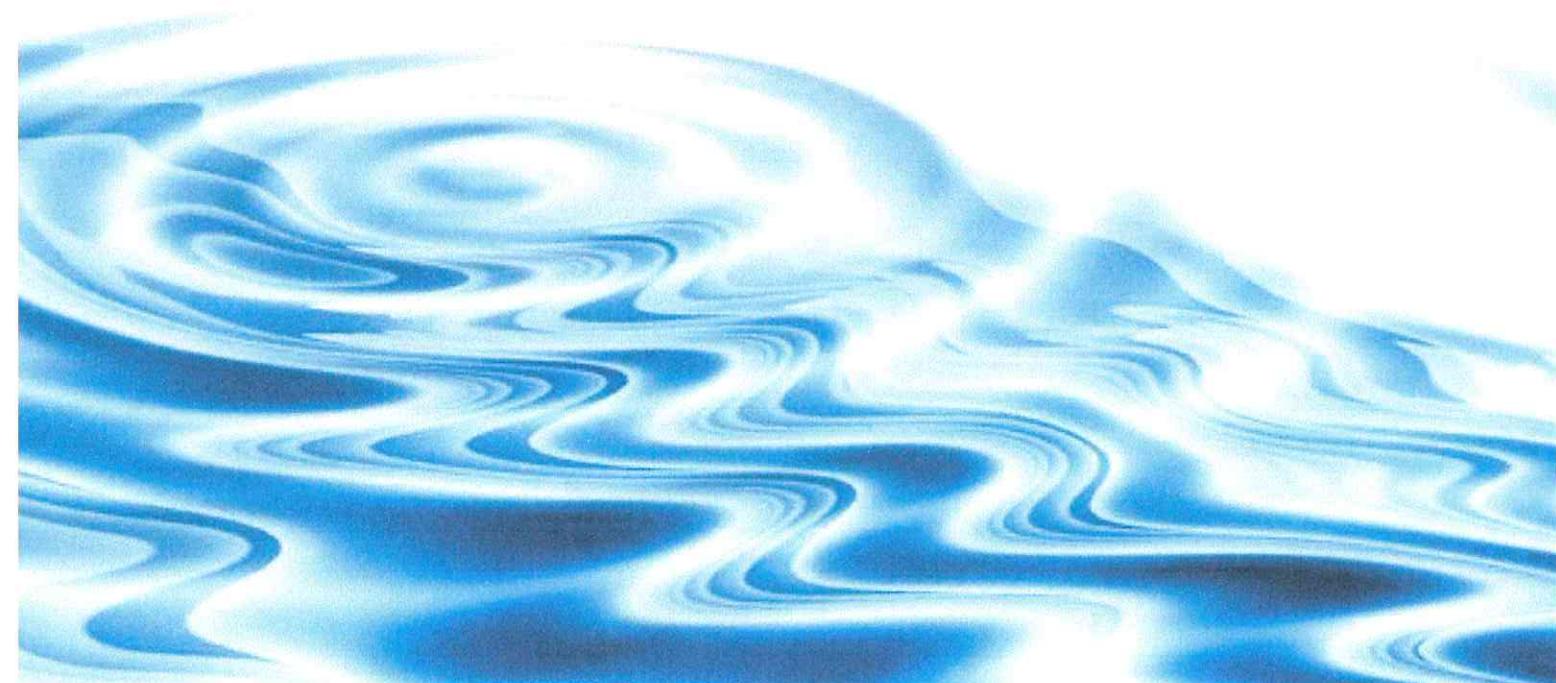
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*Open Day and
Service of Remembrance*

SUNDAY 25TH JUNE 2017

**OPEN DAY FROM 11.00AM - 1.00PM
SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE - 2.00PM**



From the Registers

Holy Baptism

7 May Isabella Ivy Willis

21 May Chester James Murray

*May all things belonging to the Spirit
live and grow in them*

Holy Matrimony

26 May Andrew William David Paulson
Gemma Shaw

May God bless their married life

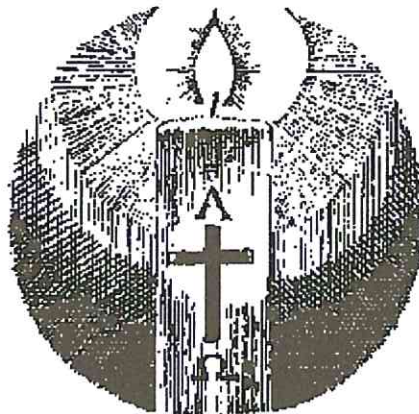
Funerals

3 May Jeffery Fendell aged 84

Churchyard [burial or interment of ashes]

3 May Bernard Adams

May they rest in peace and rise in glory



DIARY FOR JUNE 2017

3	Sa	10.00	Coffee Morning [PR]
4	S		The Day of PENTECOST (S1)
		08.00	Mass
		09.30	Parish Mass
		11.30	Baptism
		16.00	Walking Group & Treasure Hunt
5	M	13.45	Monday Club [PR]
		19.30	P.C.C. Meeting
6	T		First Day of Term
		09.15	Mass [PR]
7	W	19.00	Women's Group [PR]
9	F	09.00	Walsingham Pilgrimage Service
10	Sa		Walsingham Pilgrimage Weekend
		10.15	Church Open (till 11.45)
11	S		Trinity Sunday (S2)
			Walsingham Pilgrimage Weekend
			NO 8:00 Mass
		09.30	Parish Mass
		11.00	11 O'Clock Service
12	M	13.45	Monday Club Outing
13	T	09.15	Mass [PR]
14	W	14.00	Mother's Union [PR]
17	Sa	09.00	Churchyard Group till 12.00
		10.15	Church Open (till 11.45)

18	S		Trinity 1 (S3)
		08.00	Mass
		09.30	Parish Mass & JiGSaW
		11.30	Holy Baptism
		13.00	Wedding
19	M	13.45	Monday Club Outing
20	T	09.15	Mass [PR]
24	Sa	10.00	Coffee & Craft Morning (till 12.00)
		10.15	Church Open (till 11.45)
25	S		Trinity 2 (S4)
		08.00	Mass
		09.30	Parish Mass & JiGSaW
26	M	13.45	Monday Club Outing
27	T	09.15	Mass [PR]

Please check the weekly Pewslip for a more detailed diary.

COFFEE MORNING

This month's Coffee Morning is on Saturday, June 3rd 2017

10.00 till 12.00

in the Parish Room

Please invite folks to come!

Everyone welcome

*Items for the July Magazine
to the editors by Sunday, 18th June 2017, please.*

thomasheald

INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL PLANNING

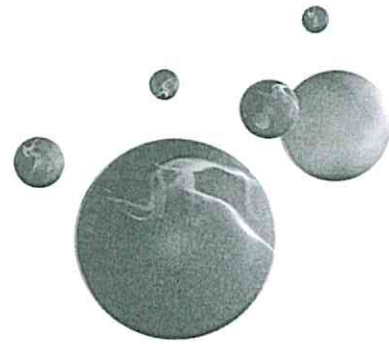
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BIRD WATCHING IN THE CHURCHYARD

So far this year Trish and I have seen 31 species of bird in the churchyard. Our species count is 49 but there are still some summer visitors to see as well as birds that are infrequent visitors to the churchyard. Talking of infrequent visitors one that has been seen quite often this year is the Great Spotted Woodpecker. Over the years we only saw it a handful of times and not at all during the past two or three years. Imagine our delight at seeing it three times already this year and these views have not been just glimpses but we have been able to watch it, using our binoculars, for a good length of time.

The birds are already preparing to breed. On our May visit to the churchyard we were rewarded with views of birds gathering nesting material, a Robin and a pair of Goldcrest. The latter were making journeys between an apple tree in the rectory garden and the top of a conifer. The Goldcrest is our smallest native bird and not surprisingly builds a small nest high up in a conifer tree. It is made of moss held together by woven cobwebs which is usually suspended like a hammock between two twigs. As the chicks grow so the nest expands.

We were also blessed with views of two other birds making provision for their families. We spotted a Mistle Thrush in a tree and then it hopped along the branch and to its nest. What luck! These birds often start their nest building early so the bird may well have been sitting on eggs already. We also spotted a Coal Tit taking food into a hole. The fact that we only saw the one bird could mean two things, its mate was sitting on eggs or the chicks were too young to be left.

A quick look in the nest boxes towards the end of last month revealed that two of them were being used by Great Tits and had nests with eggs in them, two were as yet unused. One of these is an open fronted nest box and has never been used since it was put up.

The other two had been taken over by wood bees. Peter wants to come back fairly soon to re-inspect the empty nests, we'll leave the bees to their own devices and in due course he will be along to ring the chicks when they are large enough.



This is a photo Peter took of one of the nest boxes with eggs in it. As you can see there are eight eggs as there were in the other box. Over the years I have noticed that each species of bird will lay the same number of eggs, less in a bad year and more in a good one. Eight is around the average for a great tit. Also around the top edge and to the bottom left is some fluffy stuff. This is actually yellow and would seem to come from a lost or discarded tennis ball. Resourceful creatures these birds, they could teach us a thing or two about recycling!

Christine Wieloch

SOUTH SUDAN APPEAL

The retiring collection and Lent Lunches have raised £193.55 to send to OXFAM's appeal for the people of South Sudan.

Thank you for your support

MOTHERS UNION

The meeting on 10th May had to be cancelled due to the speaker being in hospital. The weather conditions were not good and only four members would have been able to attend with one leader having to leave early due to another commitment.

Our next meeting will take place in the Parish Room on Wednesday 14th June when a discussion will take place regarding further social events.

Anne Hartley - Leader

.....

CRAFT & COFFEE MORNINGS

These sessions have now been booked for the rest of the year as follows:-

Saturdays	24th June	22nd July	26th August
	23rd September	28th October	

Everyone is invited to come along, 10am until 12 noon. Bring your knitting, embroidery, and any craft work with you and relax with a coffee and biscuit. You can also learn from the others how to do patchwork or crochet if you wish. For more information see Christine Wieloch or Bev Speed.

.....

Tea & Coffee in the Parish Room - Heather Peet

When I did refreshments for the CNC service in April, there were several opened jars of coffee and boxes of tea bags.

As space is limited, please use the tea and coffee in the cupboard, which I will replenish as needed. As Anne Hartley no longer drives, we have agreed that I will bring tea and coffee from the Cash & Carry. These supplies are for everyone to use on Parish Breakfast, Tuesday morning Mass, Monday Club, Coffee Mornings, Church meetings etc.

.....

THE MAGIC BANK ACCOUNT - Author unknown

Imagine that you had won the following 'Prize' in a contest: Each morning your bank would deposit £86,400 in your private account for your use. However this prize has rules:

1. Everything that you didn't spend during each day would be taken away from you.
2. You may not simply transfer money into some other account.
3. You may only spend it.
4. Each morning upon awakening, the bank opens your account with another £86,400 for that day.
5. The bank can end the game without warning; at the same time it can say 'Game Over!' It can close the account and you will not receive a new one.

What would you do?

You would buy anything and everything you wanted right? Not only for yourself, but for all the people you love and care for. Even for people you don't know, because you couldn't possibly spend it all on yourself – right? You would try to spend every penny, and use it all, because you knew it would be replenished in the morning – right?

ACTUALLY, THIS GAME IS REAL! Each of us is already a winner of this 'PRIZE'. We just can't seem to see it. The 'PRIZE' is **TIME**.

1. Each morning we awaken to receive 86,400 seconds as a gift of Life.
2. When we go to sleep at night, any remaining time is not credited to us, what we haven't used up that day is forever lost.
3. Each morning the account is refilled, but the bank can dissolve your account at any time **WITHOUT WARNING....**

So, what will you do with your 86,400 seconds? Those seconds are worth so much more than pounds sterling. Remember to enjoy every second of your life, because time races by so quickly.

Take care of yourself, be happy, love deeply and enjoy life!

Here's wishing you a wonderful and beautiful day. Start spending...



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LET US SMILE

After passing on, George Bush, Barack Obama and Donald Trump are going for a job interview with God.

God asks Bush: "What do you believe in?"

Bush replies: "I believe in a free economy, a strong America, The American nation and so on..."

God is impressed by Bush and tell him: "Great, come sit in the chair on my right."

God goes to Obama and asks: "What do you believe in?"

Obama replies: "I believe in democracy, helping the poor, world peace, etc.."

God is really impressed by Obama and tells him: "Well done, come sit in the chair on my left."

Finally God asks Trump: "What do you believe in?"

Trump replied: "I believe you're sitting in my chair."

.....

St John's Fete – Rectory Gardens and Eagle Club

Saturday 1st July 2017 - gates open at 2.00 p.m.

The 2017 FETE is almost upon us. Let us make Ben's first fete a memorable and record one.



HOW TO HELP

ANNETTE PRIESTLY urgently requires **BOTTLES** of **WINE**

HEATHER PEET is collecting **VOUCHERS, THINGS TO GO IN JARS, GLASS JARS, and CHILDREN'S PRIZES**

CHRISTINE WIELOCH & CAROL SNELL would like your **HOMEMADE CRAFTS**

Bargain Basement items to **BRIAN Speed** (no electrical items)

Children's clothing to **LESLEY HAGUE**

CHILDREN'S BOOKS (good condition) to **TRISH & ENA**

RICHARD PEET urgently requires **BOTTLES OF WINE AND SPIRITS, BEER AND BOTTLES** (anything from champagne to shampoo)

Please bring **PLANTS** and **CAKES** on either **FRIDAY 30th JUNE** between 6 and 7 p.m. to church or **SATURDAY 1st JULY** between noon and 1.00 p.m. to the Rectory Gate.

Folks making jams and preserves please speak with Heather ASAP as we are going for a uniform look with labels and covers

EVELYN LOWE is collecting **TOMBOLA PRIZES** until Sunday 18th June

OLIVIA SPEED urgently requires **CLEAN (CE LABELLED) SOFT TOYS** before Sunday 25th June

Please endeavour to sell as many of your raffle tickets as possible. If you need more, please see Heather or Adrian.

WE STILL NEED THE FOLLOWING RAFFLE PRIZES.

Two Folks to give £20 each

Three folks to give £10 each

£20 Gift Voucher

£10 Gift Voucher

Afternoon Tea Gift Voucher

Please give prizes to **Heather** in good time and definitely by the 25th June.

EVELYN LOWE HAS POSTERS TO BE DISPLAYED

We require folks to deliver **FLYERS** – Please see Evelyn re list

We require packs of **FLYERS** to go into local schools for distribution

Finally but most importantly! Pray for good weather and folks to come along and support. Invite your friends, neighbours and family to come along. Thank you to everyone involved.

CHURCH ON THE BUS

The Orange Bag for your donations will be on the bookcase at the back of church on the last Sunday of each month in 2017.

Thank you to all who have made donations so far.

ITEMS REQUIRED

Clean clothing, new socks, toiletries, scarves, mittens, hats; sleep mats (preferably thermal) vacuum flasks, biscuits, ladies sanitary products and men's trainers.

URGENTLY REQUIRED – Ladies knickers in small sizes

June 2017

Our Diocese

A monthly snapshot of Church of England life around Derbyshire

Bishop Alastair writes...

A vote in our democracy is expressed through making the mark of a cross. This is an important sign. To vote is to exercise an important responsibility. It is not simply a way of pointing to someone else to deal with the issues faced by our society.

More properly it marks an identification with that person – offering a sign of being connected with the candidate in a desire to pursue certain policies and values.

For a Christian the cross reminds us of a call to offer our very selves, whatever the cost, for the coming of the Kingdom – that is for the flourishing of others and the upholding of the values of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Voting, marking ourselves to be part of this political moment, through the sign of the cross, requires our prayerful consideration of how best to seek to be a responsible citizen, making a worthy witness towards the crafting of policies and priorities in our time. To vote is a privilege, an opportunity, a Christian responsibility and a witness.

Any who abstain need to ask themselves how they might recognize this calling in other ways.

In the 1740's while walking in his garden with his Chaplain, the then Bishop of Bristol, Joseph Butler famously remarked, in language characteristic of those times, "might not whole communities be seized with fits of insanity, as well as individuals"

Recent remarks by Prince William and Prince Harry have reminded us of the importance of

taking seriously the challenges of what we call "mental health" - owning and facing the pressures and confusions that life can bring.

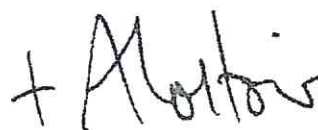
At a time of election, we need to remember that communities need mental wellbeing, as well as individuals, if flourishing is to be attained. Much of the rhetoric of electioneering is so sloganized and personalized that the mental health of our society is not properly addressed.

I hope that in our prayers, our conversations and our participation in the privilege of living in a democracy, each of us can consider the challenge of how best to contribute to the wellbeing of our society through the values, perspectives and attitudes we examine and endorse.

Jesus chose to summarise His whole Gospel, especially in the Lord's Prayer, with the word "Kingdom": a deeply and provocatively political image. Kingdoms need citizens to fulfill their proper proposes.

Christians have an important opportunity in our General Election to contribute towards the coming of such blessings "on earth as it is in heaven"

The key is the sign of the cross.



The Rt Revd Dr Alastair Redfren,
Bishop of Derby

General Election 2017: Archbishops highlight the place of faith in British life

Faith has a central role to play in politics and this general election, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York say today.

In a pastoral letter to the parishes and chaplaincies of the Church of England, Archbishops Justin Welby and John Sentamu urge people to set aside "apathy and cynicism" and draw new inspiration from the ancient Christian virtues of "love, trust and hope".

The three-page letter, intended to be shared in churches from this Sunday onward, encourages voters to remember Britain's Christian history and heritage as well as a concern for future generations and God's creation as they make their decisions.

Following divisions of recent years, it calls for reconciliation drawing on shared British values based on cohesion, courage and stability.

It upholds marriage, family and households as the building blocks of society which should be "nurtured and supported" as a "blessing".

At a time when political differences may be felt more intensely than ever, the Archbishops insist that Christians' "first obligation" during the election and beyond is to pray for those standing for office and recognise the personal costs and burdens carried by those in political life and by their families.

But Christians also have a duty to play an active part in the process, they add.

The letter also calls for space for faith in political debate and says politicians must be free to speak openly about their own beliefs and convictions and treated fairly for doing so.



"This election is being contested against the backdrop of deep and profound questions of identity," they say.

"Opportunities to renew and re-imagine our shared values as a country and a United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland only come around every few generations. We are in such a time.

"Our Christian heritage, our current choices and our obligations to future generations and to God's world will all play a shaping role.

"If our shared British values are to carry the weight of where we now stand and the challenges ahead of us, they must have at their core cohesion, courage and stability."

The Archbishops highlight major concerns over poverty, housing and the dangers of "crushing" debt among other issues.

They call for a generous and hospitable welcome to refugees and migrants but also warn against being "deaf to the legitimate concerns" about the scale of migration into some communities.

They also single out the importance of standing up for those suffering persecution on grounds of faith around the world.

Faith, they argue, has a unique role to play in preventing extremism and religiously motivated violence.

“Contemporary politics needs to re-evaluate the importance of religious belief,” they insist.

“The assumptions of secularism are not a reliable guide to the way the world works, nor will they enable us to understand the place of faith in other people’s lives.

“Parishes and Chaplaincies of the Church of England serve people of all faiths and none.

“Their contribution and that of other denominations and faiths to the well-being of the nation is immense – schools, food banks, social support, child care among

many others - and is freely offered. But the role of faith in society is not just measured in terms of service delivery.

“The new Parliament, if it is to take religious freedom seriously, must treat as an essential task the improvement of religious literacy.”

They add: “Political responses to the problems of religiously-motivated violence and extremism, at home and overseas, must also recognise that solutions will not be found simply in further secularisation of the public realm.”



Churches, faith groups and community organisations are being invited to host street parties, picnics and bake-offs in tribute to the late MP Jo Cox.

The Great Get Together, organised by the Jo Cox foundation, will take place between June 16 and June 18 – an opportunity to stage the biggest street party across the country since the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

The three days of events will mark the first anniversary of Jo’s murder on June 16, 2016, while working in her constituency of Batley and Spen. Jo, who spoke of how we have more in common than that which divides us, campaigned tirelessly for a fairer, kinder and more tolerant world. Her murder sparked an outpouring of grief and solidarity in the UK and across the world.

Paul Hackwood, Executive Director of Church Urban Fund, said: “Jo cared deeply for others and her life was a shining example of her vision - that we have more in common than divides us. This message is dear to the heart of the Near Neighbours programme and its work to address un-met need and promote integration and social cohesion in communities. There can be no better way to pay tribute to Jo and to honour her life’s work than to take part in the Great Get Together.”

The Great Get Together was launched by Jamie Oliver and the Duchess of Cornwall in February this year. For more information on how to co-host an event with Near Neighbours see <https://www.cuf.org.uk/ggt-about>

For more information on The Great Get Together see <http://greatgettogether.org/>

Churches a 'significant' part of local communities in the East Midlands, new survey finds

Nearly half (47%) of people in the East Midlands would consider the closure of their nearest church a significant loss to their local community, according to new research released today by specialist insurer Ecclesiastical.

In one of the largest ever surveys of peoples' attitudes towards the role and influence of churches in local communities, more than a third (34%) of adults from the East Midlands surveyed said that they would campaign to keep their nearest church from closing. Meanwhile, 32% of respondents from the region said they would provide financial support if their local church was in financial difficulty.

Ecclesiastical provides insurance for over 15,000 Anglican churches and commissioned the research to highlight the important role churches play in local communities outside of religious services and festivals.

Michael Angell, church operations director at Ecclesiastical, commented: "There have been many surveys conducted in the past founded on questions of church attendance and shifting attitudes to faith and religion. However, what we wanted to focus on was what people today actually think and feel about their local church and its place within their community.

"With the Department for Culture, Media and Sport currently considering the findings of its own survey as part of the English Churches and Cathedrals Sustainability Review, our research provides a timely insight into how relevant churches remain today."

Across the whole of the UK, Ecclesiastical's research revealed 51% of the British public back the role of churches. Meanwhile, 54% of people in the East Midlands feel their local church is part of the history of their community and more than a third (34%) of respondents said it is part of the fabric of their community.

Michael added: "We know from our own engagement with the church community up and down the country that the value and reach of churches' work is on a scale that would be almost impossible to replace. Churches provide a wide range of community services from holiday clubs and parish nursing to foodbanks and mother and toddler groups, provisions many people rely on day-to-day. This work often goes unnoticed but to the people that use these services it is invaluable."

What is the School of Formation?

The School of Formation offers the opportunity for people in Derby Diocese to come together and develop their faith, discipleship and learning in a creative, inspirational way.

Our programme of learning is available on the Diocesan website.

Why not have a look?



www.derby.anglican.org/SchoolofFormation



Newbold Parish Church

SUMMER FETE

Saturday 1st July

2 - 4pm



plus much
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