

*St Edmund King & Martyr, Dudley
Church Magazine*



A Member of the Church of England

April 2017

Price 50p



*Welcome to the Church of
St Edmund,
King & Martyr, Dudley*



Mass Times

Wednesday 12.15pm

Sundays 11.00am

**The church is open on Thursday Mornings from
10.30am to 12 noon**

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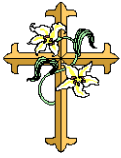
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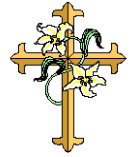
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IN REMEMBRANCE APRIL



2 nd	Emma Nix
6 th	Agnes Rebecca Wood Hilda Mills
7 th	Ray Bratt
9 th	Herbert Arthur Cracknell
10 th	Arthur Boon
12 th	Nettie Mary Cox
15 th	William Edward Evans David Allcock
16 th	Hazel Stephenson
17 th	Beatrice May Baker
18 th	Lucy Eleanor Smith James Forth Charles Cox
20 th	Cecil Wall
21 st	Gwendoline Cartwright Peter Atkins
22 nd	Samuel Millard
23 rd	Maurice Tilley
24 th	Edgar Smith Ethel Brazenhall Jack Reynolds
27 th	Selina Lydia Evans
29 th	Joseph Foulkes
30 th	Dennis Cotterill

Rest eternal grant to them O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.
May they rest in peace and rise in glory

Would you like to remember a loved one on their anniversary
by sponsoring a floral display in church?
If so, please have a word with Mrs Dodd.

A letter from the Archdeacon of Worcester Robert Jones



I recently attended one of the so-called Way Stations of the Reformation. This is a roving exhibition commemorating the Reformation, surprisingly on a bus, which is being sent from Germany around over sixty different significant cities in Europe, returning there for the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther in October later this year. The theme of the Way Station was **Reformation: Then and Now.**

The question being asked was what needed reforming back then in the sixteenth century, and was that, in a sense, ‘job done’ for ever. If not, what needs reforming today if the Church is to be *semper reformanda*, always reforming. In other words, did enough change already happen back then, or is it something we live with constantly. Thinking back to the recent General Synod it is clear that this debate is still alive and well.

Martin Luther was a German monk. When he decided to challenge what he saw as shortcomings, even betrayals, of the gospel in the church, he never intended to create a new church. He wanted to heal it and take it back to its roots. With the sale of indulgences he saw the danger of clergy become merchants of grace, grace itself becoming some sort of commodity which could be acquired. So his conclusion was that it’s all about grace, God’s free gift, because that is what God is like.

He soon discovered all sorts of unintended consequences in his Reformation. It is easier to set off events, rather than stop or control them. His Reformation reminded the church of the primacy of God’s grace revealed in Scripture, but it marked years of division and even war, and the raising of destructive human passions where Christians could not even see each other as belonging to the same Church.

It is easy to divide, but it is harder to reconcile. So we may, like Luther, get the basic message right, but we need to return constantly to what that message means as it works out in practice. You could say that it has taken the churches 500 years to get back to the position of recognising that they belong in the same church. This is why the archbishop of Canterbury keeps going on about learning the art of good disagreement – church history contains too many examples of the bad.

We are firmly placed in this world but are fired by a vision of another world. We live on earth, but seek the kingdom of heaven. This other-worldliness must not lead us astray into ways of behaviour which actually deny the nature of Christ we are called to imitate. In that sense we are always in need of reform, *semper reformanda*, the good news being that our God is always the same: He loves us anyway.

APRIL

READERS

2 nd	Mr R. Baxter Mrs M. McGraghan
9 th	Mr M. Clews Mr A. Baillie
16 th	Mr M. Simpson Mrs J. Fraser
23 rd	Mrs A. Mullaney Mr M. Wisbey
30 th	Mrs D. Dodd Mrs J. Lambert
May 7 th	Mr J. Harcourt Mr R. Baxter

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2 nd	Mrs J. Lambert
9 th	Mrs M. McGraghan
16 th	Mr M. Clews
23 rd	Mr J. Harcourt
30 th	Mrs J. Lambert
May 7 th	Mrs M. McGraghan

Please volunteer to join the reading and prayer rotas!

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in spring-time.

Martin Luther

IN A WILL.



I think I must be getting sad(der), because the other night I start reading about 4 early vicars of Dudley. When I say early, I mean in the 16th century. As interesting as the subjects and their lives in Dudley were, the best bit was the language used, especially in the written word. I don't suppose many of us remember the Reverend Thomas Wall? If you do then you will be over 460 years old, because he became vicar in 1529 and died in 1551. Just think of how many bus passes you will have got through in that time, and how many church coffee mornings you would have supported!

Back to his will, dated 1550, and the word that stood out for me and started my little brain turning was 'coote'. Now being Black Country born and bred I knew instantly that it was a coat. Other phrases were 'fyre shoovle' (fire shovel); 'cappe and boke' (cap and book); 'twyllyes' (towels?); 'payles' (pails as in buckets).

Reverend Wall was not a wealthy man, and an inventory following his death listed 25 creditors, and the final amount to his widow was 6s 5d. I know that values have changed over the centuries, but even then that would have hardly kept his wife Margaret in the lap of luxury.

During my schooling, we were told that the Black Country dialect was a continuation of the spoken word as used in Chaucer's time (14th century). Remember Geoffrey Chaucer of the famous "Canterbury Tales"? Of course you do – but do you remember his other work – "Parlement of Foules"? Neither do I, so over to google (not a Black Country word) and I found out that it was a sort of love poem of 699 lines in a format giving the first known indication of Valentine's Day.

If you have time to spare, just glance at the poem and identify the likeness to some of our modern day language. Black Country is easily spoken by us born here, but not so easy to read. Have you read some of the bible stories in Black Country dialect? Easier to listen to than to read! So, Reverend Wall, did yo spake as we do? Cud yo an a good lof when yo was in the pulpit? Cud yo crack a smile on yer farce? And so on...and so on... Probably thousands of similar words.

But back to my word 'coote' (coat) and extend that to 'cootin' (courting).

And Reverend Wall, how about reading the Black Country Gospel telling of the visit by the Angel Gabriel to the Blessed Virgin Mary: “Gabriel sed “dow be frit Mary. God ay ‘arf blest yo’. Yo’m gunna ‘ave a babby ‘an ‘is nairm’s gunner be Jesus. ‘E wo’ ‘arf be a grait mon an’ ‘ell be called the Son of God.” So now we know – Mary had a babby.

This is from a book by Kate Fletcher in 1989.

Oh and by the way, there is a bottle of wine to anyone who can recite all 699 lines of Chaucer’s Parlement of Foules to me in the original ‘spake’. Ay ar generous.

JH.



Mrs Jennifer Rumney will be the speaker at our meeting in April. This will be on **Monday 24th April at 7pm** (please note the change of time for the light evenings.) The usual venue. She will be talking n her work as a magistrate.

The Mothers’ Union has given £50,000 to the South Sudan Emergency Relief Project to help clothe, feed and provide post-conflict trauma support to the hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing from the civil war in South Sudan to neighbouring Uganda and surrounding countries. In total, more than 1.5 million have fled from that country. 60% are children who regularly arrive at the camps suffering from acute malnutrition.

The first phase of the MU project is focussed around Madi & West Nile Diocese, and involves working with local churches to provide practical help and training. Sexual violence, child abuse and post conflict trauma are common occurrences. MU teams will work as part of the relief effort and will focus on spiritual, psychosocial and PT recovery support.

Through our grassroot members, the MU is working towards rebuilding communities by providing care and support for some 150,000 people who urgently need to recover from the traumas and nightmares they have been through. Non governmental officers come and go dependent on the crisis of the day but the church will always be there, providing sanctity against rebel attacks and a foundation from where people can start to rebuild their lives. There are over 210,000 local MU members in Uganda actively engaged in responding to the needs of their communities.

The Ugandan born Archbishop of York , Dr John Sentamu, said: “ For over three years, a civil war has raged in South Sudan, the world’s newest country, As Christians we must come together to pray for peace and to act practically, by financially supporting programmes such as the MU relief project to help the thousands of South Sudanese that have been forced to flee and start on the long road to recovery.”

New Faith at Work in Worcestershire Chaplaincy

Have you thought about becoming a volunteer chaplain for Faith at Work in Worcestershire?

Workplace Chaplaincy has been a feature of the ministry of our churches for quite a while. This world-facing engagement seeks to understand the issues of the contemporary workplace and economy and to draw alongside those at work, offering care and concern in the name of Jesus. It is about being Kingdom People, building trust and relationships.

Faith at Work in Worcestershire (FWW) works with parishes and churches of all denominations to recruit, train and support volunteer Associate Chaplains – lay and ordained. There are now 30 such chaplains, mostly organised in local teams in Redditch, Kidderminster, Stourport and Worcester.

All Associate Chaplains are commissioned by their sending congregation and, where possible, their local Churches Together as this ministry is always undertaken ecumenically. In this way, not only is the Chaplain supported and encouraged, but the wider congregation is drawn into being part of the ministry, particularly through prayer for the Chaplains, and for those at work they visit.

A short training course is planned for the early summer, starting on May 3rd, for anyone interested in finding out more. See www.faithatwork.org.uk for details.

Sam Setchell

Communications Officer



“Drama is life

Alfred Hitchcock once said that “drama is life with the boring bits taken out”. Jesus, in John 10 says that he has come to give ‘life in all’s it fullness.” It occurs to me that life in its fullness might be life with a sufficiently good mixture of drama and non-drama mixed together. There is Chinese curse which translates to something like “may you live in interesting times”, the meaning that interesting (or dramatic) times are rather difficult to live in. I’ve been experiencing moderate drama this week when the heating pipe in my kitchen ceiling has decided to do its best impression of an ornamental fountain. The resultant drama involving a lot of calls to plumbers, and a very large bucket. And, resultantly, I can confirm that too much drama or interest can indeed be challenging to live through. But after the drama has subsided a little, the water stopped, and the mop and bucket has been finally put away, I have to admit that the whole incident at least makes something interesting to talk about at the end of the day. Occasionally, drama and excitement do add some

interest to otherwise rather dull and forgettable days. As a church, we break up our swathes of (decidedly undramatic) ordinary time with excursions into the high a dramatic points of the Christian year: Advent, Lent, Holy Week, Pentecost, Christ the King, and others besides. Without which, we would fail to mark the dramatic, often joyful, sometimes difficult, events which form our faith. And personally, just sometimes, dramatic moments can help spur us to grow and become better people. A life in which we are never challenged to grow is likely to be a rather unfulfilled one, and adversity is sometimes the best trigger for our own development. We are called to Christians in challenging and difficult times, and called to be church together in the same circumstances. As we progress towards the drama of Holy Week, let us use lent this year to consider how we may find our own growth, and how we may best grow as churches in difficult times. And let us pray that that through facing a challenging and difficult world, we may have the life to the full that Jesus promises in John’s gospel. TA



Members are invited to St Francis Mother Union "Deanery Festival" on 17th May 2017 at 2 o'clock . To be held at St Francis Church, Poplar Crescent, Dudley DY1 4AF.

Please let Lynda Downer know how many members will be attending, if you are bringing banners and if you have any long serving members.

Sunday 2nd April Passion Sunday.

St James the Great 9.30 am Morning Prayer

The Preacher at our service will be **John Bell**, of the Iona Community. An ordained minister in the Church of Scotland, he is an occasional broadcaster, lectures in theological colleges in Britain and U.S., but is primarily concerned with the renewal of congregational worship at grass roots level.

All Welcome.

Churchwardens' Admission Service June 2017

This year's admission service will take place on

Tuesday 6th June at St Thomas,

Market Street, Stourbridge DY8 1AQ, commencing at 7.30 pm.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- St Augustine's:** Mondays during Lent - Bible Studies at 10.00am
12th April: Spy Wednesday team service 10:00 at St Francis
13th April: Maundy Thursday Agape Meal 7.30pm at St Francis
14th April: Easter Garden at St Barnabas 9.30am.

Do remember to send through news of events for sharing with other parishes.

Copy for the April Edition to Tom by 10th April - please use 'DCN' in the subject box of emails.

Good Friday April 14th

11.00a.m Churches Together in Dudley, Good Friday witness in Churchill Precinct.

12.30 – 3.00pm Good Friday Pilgrimage

12.30 At Top Church

1.30 At St Augustine's

2.30 At St. Francis, ending with tea and hot x buns.

All Welcome.

'STATIONS OF THE CROSS.'

A service will be held at St Johns Church, Kate's Hill, on Good Friday at 9.30am followed with light refreshments.'

A light hearted evening with Will Shakespeare

Friday 28th April

at 7.30 pm in the crypt

with a traditionally English meal and games and entertainment.

Raffle

£8 per head

Contact Janice (01384 231832) to book your place

[Evening worship at St James's reverts to 6.30 pm from (and including) 2nd April.]



" Give up stress for Lent "

Every Monday in Lent, 2 - 3pm at St. Francis Church, an hour of quiet and reflection - using breath work, music, Scripture and creative activities. Seeking the peace of Christ for ourselves and for the world.

Wear comfortable, loose clothing. "

Contact information

More information is available on the website: www.cofedudley.org.uk

Revd Joanna Anderson 01384-838695 revjoannacam@gmail.com

Revd Dr Tom Atfield 01384-836480 tomatfield@virginmedia.com

Rota for	St Augustine	St Barnabas	St Francis	St James	St Thomas	St Edmund	St John's	
Apr 2017	11:00	09:30	11:00	09:30	11:00	11:00	10:00	
	APCM	Holy Communion	Service of Word	APCM	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	
02 Apr	Rev'd Dr T. Atfield	Rev'd Dr T. Atfield	External Cover Needed	Rev J Anderson	D Chaplin	Canon G Lyall	Fr M Brain	
5th Sunday of Lent				Evening Worship at 6:30pm				
	Service of Word	Service of Word	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	
09 Apr			Rev J Anderson	Rev J Anderson	Rev J Anderson	Fr M Brierley	Fr M Brain	
Palm Sunday				Evening Worship at 6:30pm				
	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion or Service of Word	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	
16 Apr	Rev'd Dr T. Atfield	Rev'd Dr T. Atfield	Rev J Anderson	Rev J Anderson		Fr A Mottram	Fr M Brain	
Easter Day				Evening Worship at 6:30pm				
	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion & APCM	Holy Communion	Holy Communion or Service of Word	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	
23 Apr	Rev'd Dr T. Atfield	Rev'd Dr T. Atfield	Rev J Anderson	Rev J Anderson	External Cover Needed	Fr J Oakes	Fr M Brain	
2nd Sunday of Easter				Evening Worship at 6:30pm				
30 Apr	9.30am TEAM SERVICE at St Barnabas						Holy Communion	Holy Communion
	Rev'd Dr T. Atfield						Fr M Brierley	Fr M Brain
3rd Sunday of Easter				Evening Worship at 6:30pm				

NB Rota is subject to change—latest info is at www.cofedudley.org.uk

Midweek Eucharist on Wednesdays: St Francis 10.00 and St Edmund's 12.15 pm.

HOLY WEEK and EASTER at ST EDMUNDS:

Sunday 2 nd		Passion Sunday 11am
Sunday 9 th		Palm Sunday 11am
Good Friday	10am	Stations of the Cross
Good Friday	7pm	Good Friday - The Passion of Christ
Holy Saturday	7pm	Easter Liturgy
Easter Day	11am	Sung Mass and Procession

CHRISM MASS:

Bishop of Ebbsfleet at Lichfield Cathedral 11.30am

Bishop of Worcester at Worcester Cathedral

Peru

The Diocese of Peru is linked with the Diocese of Worcester. There have been several visits there from Worcester. As recently as February this year, Bishop John was there to meet the new Bishop of Peru, Jorge Aguilar.

Following recent severe weather which has killed 12 people and destroyed many homes, Bishop Jorge asks for our prayers. The rains came late, after severe drought and rivers have been overwhelmed and there is widespread flooding, landslides, mudslides and loss of live stock, buildings and vehicles. Parts of the country are in a state of emergency.



Bishop John with Bishop Jorge and colleagues outside Lima Cathedral

Lent is often experienced as a time in which to wait. We put away distractions, slow down and focus on what is to come in Holy Week. Our gospel readings for Lent however, show a quite different idea: In them, Jesus pursues an increasingly frantic itinerary of travel and preaching as he approaches Holy Week. The disciples are often perplexed by this, as might we be given that Lent is often thought of as a time of passivity or reflection. But there may well be a lesson that can be learned from thinking of Lent as a time of action rather than reflection; namely, not to procrastinate.

In general we all put important things off. From the everyday things, washing the dog, redecorating the front room, changing our gas and electricity supplier, to the harder and more challenging, our growth as people, our forgiveness of others, our coming closer to God, we leave until tomorrow things that we should probably do today. Jesus' urgency in our readings in lent is because he knows that his time is short, but his disciples do not. For most of our lives we are like the disciples, assuming that tomorrow will be very much like today, and that for the most part, we have all the time in the world. The truth is, though, is that we don't. Our lives are short, with no guarantees for tomorrow. Were we to take that to heart, we too would not put off until tomorrow what we might do today.

One follower of Christ who lived out this message was the astonishingly named St Turibius of Lima. As a young priest, Turibius was given a vision by God of the day and hour of his death. He gave up his highly comfortable role in the Spanish court and became a missionary bishop to Lima, building the first seminary in the western hemisphere, championing the rights of natives, and baptising over half a million people. His favourite saying was "Time is not our own, and we must give a strict account of it." He died at the very hour he predicted of a sudden and unpredictable illness while traveling across the 170 thousand square miles of his diocese.

We don't need to do what St Turibius did to take his message to heart. Our time is not our own, and we are challenged by Jesus to give an account of what we have been given. As we prepare for Holy Week, let's not put off the things that we might be able to do today as followers of Christ. And that may be confronting in our lives the things which we most fear dealing with, our hurt, our unforgiveness, our failure to say that we are sorry for the things we have done wrong, our fear of reaching out to others. Were we to address these things in our lives, not putting them off or hiding from them, we would be better equipped to respond to Christ today. So this Lent, let us take Jesus' example of activity as our own and ask what we have been putting off doing, and ask God for the strength and courage to act so that we may better do his will today and in the days to come.

I thank Thee...

I thank thee God that I have lived
In this great world and known its many joys:
The song of birds, the strong sweet scent of hay,
And cooling breezes in the heat of dusk;
The flaming sunsets at the close of day,
Hills, and the lovely, heather covered moors.

Music at night, and moonlight on the sea,
The beat of waves upon the rocky shore
And wild white spray, flung high in ecstasy;
The faithful eyes of dogs, and treasured books,
The love of kin and fellowship of friends
And all that makes life dear and beautiful.

Because of these, and blessings poured
Unasked upon my wondering head,
Because I know that there is yet to come
An even richer and more glorious life,
And most of all, because thine only son
Once sacrificed life's loveliness for me,
I thank thee God, that I have lived.

*This poem was read at the funeral of
Leslie Thomas Whitehouse-Bird
A friend of Mrs Valerie Boyles*

Services for April 2017

Sunday 2nd:	Canon Graham Lyall
Wednesday 5th:	Fr Tom Atfield
Sunday 9th:	Fr Michael Brierley
Wednesday 12th:	Fr Andrew Mottram
Sunday 16th:	Fr Andrew Mottram
Wednesday 19th:	TBC
Sunday 23rd:	Fr John Oakes
Wednesday 26th:	Fr Andrew Mottram
Sunday 30th:	Fr Michael Brierley

Holy Days in April 2017

14th	Good Friday
16th	Easter Sunday
23rd	St George
25th	St Mark
29th	St Catherine of Siena

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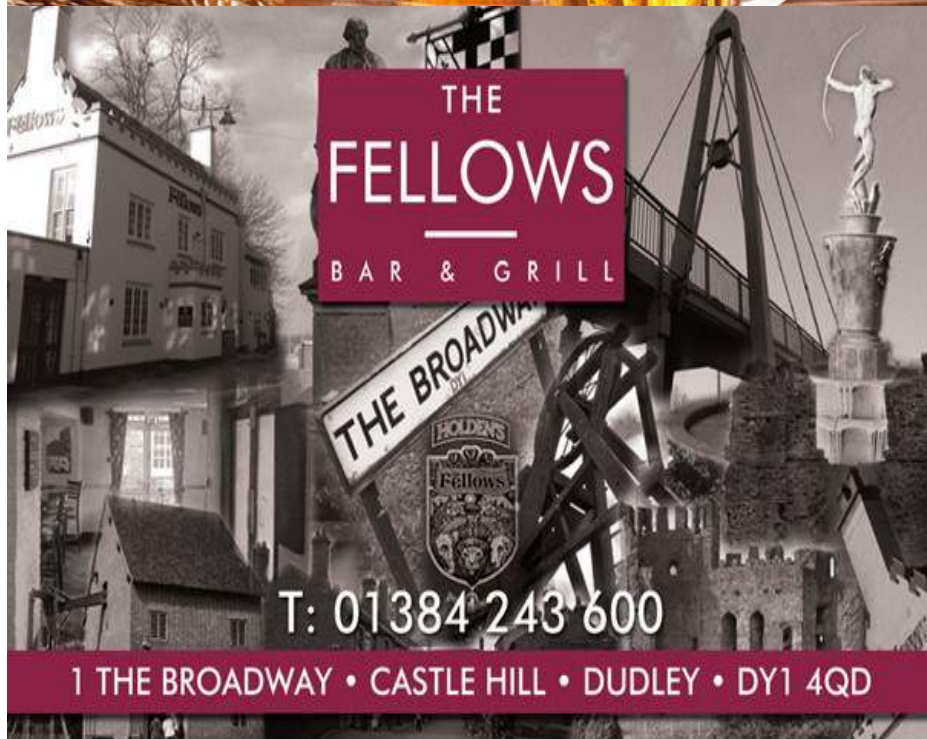
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