

Diary Dates

March

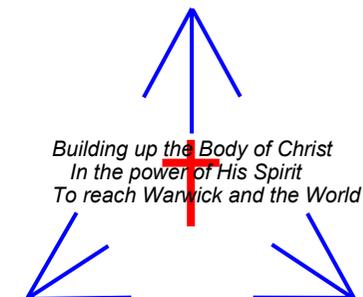
- 11 - TANGO, 10am, Church
- 11 - Finance, 7.30pm
- 16 - HOTS, 10am Market Square
- 18 - Monthly Prayer, 7.30pm, Church
- 21 - PCC, 7pm, Church
- 30 - HOTS, 10am Market Square
- 30 - Seniors, 7pm, Hall

April

- 4 - Leadership, 2.30pm
- 6 - Prayer Breakfast, 7.30am, Chase Meadow
- 8 - Finance, 7.30pm
- 11 - Worship, 7.30pm, 19 Horsepool Hollow
- 13 - HOTS, 10am Market Square
- 15 - Monthly Prayer, 7.30pm, Church
- 15 - TANGO, 10.30am, Church
- 19 - Good Friday Procession of Witness and service, 12noon, Market Place
- 26 - Make Lunch, 12noon, Church and Hall
- 27 - HOTS, 10am Market Square
- 27 - Seniors, 7pm, Hall
- 28 - APCM, 12noon, Church

**St Paul's Church,
By The Racecourse,
Friars Street,
Warwick,
CV34 6HA**

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10th March 2019 1st Sunday of Lent

Rev Jonathan Hearn

Today's 10am Service - Café Church

Welcome to Café Church. Please take a seat. Refreshments are available in the hall. There will not be an offertory collection during the service but please leave your weekly offering on the plate by the welcome table.

If you are a newcomer to our Church, or a visitor to the area, please introduce yourself to one of the welcomers, or to the clergy. There will be a Sunday Club for children during this service.

This week - 10th March

10am Café Church
6pm Holy Communion
7.30pm In His Presence

Next Week - 17th March

10am Holy Communion
7.30pm In His Presence

Readings

10th March

Romans 10: 8b-10
Luke 4: 1-13

17th March

Genesis 15: 1-18
Luke 13: 31-end

In His Presence

In His Presence is a time of quiet reflection, of seeking God and entering into His presence - sometimes through scripture, sometimes through prayer, sometimes through worship - a time just to be with Him.

St Paul's Church, Warwick

Remembering the Persecuted Church - Eritrea

Eritrea sits seventh in the Open Doors' list of most dangerous countries for Christians. It has also been described as "the North Korea of Africa" because of the brutal regime of President Afwerki. After gaining independence from Ethiopia in 1993, the People's Front for Democracy and Justice, a communist party, took power and began ruling the Eritrean people with an iron fist.

A constitution ratified in 1997 is supposed to give individuals the right to believe and practice any religion of their choosing. However it has never been viewed as a binding document, and thus has been consistently ignored by the Isais Afwerki regime.

In 2002, Eritrea declared it would recognise four religious organisations only: The Evangelical Church of Eritrea, the Roman Catholic Church, the Coptic Orthodox Church, and Sunni Islam. Those with different religious backgrounds from these four recognised groups have no legal basis to practice their faith. This exclusion leads to persecution on many fronts for non-traditional believers and arrests and forced disappearances are common.

Converts from a Muslim background and cross-denominational converts from an Orthodox background encounter harsh mistreatment from their families and communities and in Muslim areas in particular, becoming a Christian is seen as betraying your family and the Islamic faith.

During the 2019 World Watch List reporting period, government security forces conducted many house-to-house raids and imprisoned hundreds of Christians in inhumane conditions, including small shipping containers in scorching heat. This happened despite the reported release of some 30 Christians in July 2018. Protestants, in particular, also face serious problems in accessing community resources, especially social services provided by the State.

Yet despite the dangers, Christians risk their lives to disciple new believers, as one Christian leader has said: "They're not afraid of suffering. They are very tough in their Christianity".

Pray God would soften the hearts of the President and government with dreams and visions of Christ. Pray He would protect and strengthen the faith of those who face arrest and mistreatment at the hands of the government and local community.

Source Open Doors and The Voice of the Persecuted Church.



Prayer Time - Monday, 18th March

In recent years we have held a day or half day of prayer on a Saturday in the Spring.

When the Leadership Team was planning dates for this year we thought we would try something different.

Instead of having a separate time we would extend the monthly prayer night and encourage others to join us.

So the prayer time on Monday 18th, which begins at 7.30pm, will now go on until 10pm.

Depending on numbers it may extend into a half night of prayer

taking us up to midnight.

As with the days or half days of prayer you can come for part or all of it.

Part of the time will be spent listening to God with opportunities to praise / listen to praise music and to share.

Please think, even pray about coming for the evening, and even if you don't do evenings or perhaps you might find time to pray at home – please do share anything you believe God shows you.

Jonathan.

TANGO

A reminder, our community shop TANGO will be throwing open its doors once again tomorrow, Monday 11th March.

All items are 50p and there will be refreshments available.

If you have donations please bring them to the office.

A Bible verse for the year

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.

"See I am doing a new thing!

"Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

"I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

Isaiah 43:18-19.

Getting to know the Holy Spirit with Derek Burnside

Keeping in step with the Holy Spirit is the subject of Deeper, an event hosted by Derek Burnside. The person and work of the Holy Spirit is simultaneously one of the most crucial and one of the most potentially divisive doctrines of the Christian faith.

Derek, principal of Capernwray Hall Bible School since 2017, will introduce some of the scripture's core teaching on the third person in the Trinity.

He will also explore his "baptism", his "filling" and his "fruit".

The event takes place at 7.30pm on 19th, 20th and 21st March at Castle Hill Baptist Church.

All welcome.

Regular activities at St Paul's Church

Activitea

A group for the over 50s which includes lunch, craft and exercises. They meet every Thursday in the hall between 11am and 2pm.



Cafe Church

An informal service around tables on the second Sunday of each month at 10am. Refreshments are served.

Open Church

Come and enjoy tea, coffee, biscuits and chat from 10am every Thursday in Church.

Seniors

This group for those over 50 meets on the last Saturday each month at 7.30pm in the hall.



TANGO

Our community shop runs between 10.30am and 12noon in Church every month - usually the second Monday. All items sold are 50p.

Play Together

This pre-school group run by the Children's Centre meets in the hall every Friday at 10am.

For further details about any of the above contact the Church office on 01926 499533

Reminder: APCM report and electoral roll

As you know every April we are bound to produce our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) report. It details the work of the Church in the past year. This year the APCM takes place after the morning service on Sunday, April 28th. For those who are helping compile the booklet, please can you send

your report to Kate via email at stpauls.warwick@outlook.com by Monday March 25th at the latest. To vote at the APCM you must be on the electoral roll. If you are not already on it and would like to be, please complete the form - which is on the welcome table - and return it to the office by **18th March** at the latest.

Hymns for today's 6pm Holy Communion service

- 316 - Just and I am Without One Plea
- 493 - Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God
- 32 - At The Name of Jesus

A Thought for the Week - Celebrate Your Progress

Celebrate Your Progress was the theme for one of the days this week in UCB's Word for Today. "Lasting change doesn't come through human effort. It comes from having your mind renewed daily by the Word of God. "If you're a consistent Bible reader, you'll grow spiritually. As you agree with God and believe what He says in His Word you gradually begin to change. It just happens. You start to think, talk and act differently. "But you must be patient because it's a process that develops in stages. "And you must learn to enjoy life while you're going through the transformation process. Enjoy where you are on your way to where you're going." There are still copies of the latest Word for Today on the table by the font if you'd like to take one.

Foodbank

We have a collection box by the office for items to go towards our local Foodbank.

Please put any toiletries and/or dry, non-perishable food in the box.

If you need a voucher please collect one from the office between 9am and 12noon on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. Warwick's Foodbank is open each Friday between 1pm and 3pm at Saltisford Church in Albert Street.



Suicide Bereavement Support Service Warwick

The Kaleidoscope Plus Group are facilitating a Suicide Bereavement Support Service, across the whole county of Warwickshire.

The service has been funded by Warwickshire County Council through the Public Health and Strategic Commissioning team.

The service provides a safe space for people who have been bereaved by suicide to come together and talk openly about their experiences.

Groups are facilitated by trained professionals who bring with them skills and knowledge around coping with grief, loss and bereavement.

If you have been bereaved by suicide, and would like to access the groups, please contact us on the number provided prior to attending

Held...

Mondays

First Monday of the Month

10am-12midday

Where...

Quakers Meeting House
39 High Street
Warwick
CV34 4AX

For more information

Call Gillian Reeves on 0121 565 5605

E: Gillian.Reeves@Kaleidoscopeplus.org.uk



Lent study group - From Now On

A reminder our Lent study group starts here on Tuesday 12th March at 7.30pm.

The course is based around the film The Greatest Showman. Although we will be watching clips from the film each evening, it recommends if you haven't seen the film yet, it would be good if you

did as it will help put each week in context.

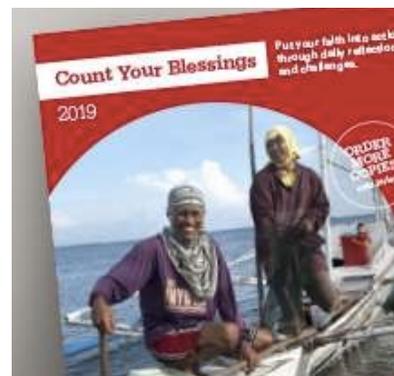
If you haven't already signed up please do so as we will need to order some more books – though they may not arrive in time for this Tuesday. There are enough books for those who had signed up by Ash Wednesday.

Count your blessings

Last week we gave out copies of Christian Aid's booklet, Count Your Blessings – putting your faith into action through daily reflections and challenges.

If you didn't pick up a copy last Sunday please do so. Rather than giving something up it invites you to think about your blessings and in gratitude to give something back to help those who have so little.

All money raised will be collected at the end of Lent and sent to Christian Aid.



Lent study book

Pilgrim Journeys (40 days of reflections on the Beatitudes). This year we are inviting you to take a journey through Lent using this booklet produced by the Church of England.

If you didn't pick up a copy last Sunday please do so today - there should be a copy for each family.

We are giving them free but if anyone wants to contribute to the cost of £2.50 you are welcome to do so but there is no expectation that you have to.

There is a box on the table for any donations you do want to make.

Prayer Breakfast

Churches Together Warwick is hosting a Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, 6th April. Starting at 7.30am, it takes place at Chase Meadow. All welcome.