

Diary Dates

March

- 16 - Prayer, 9am - 9pm, Church
- 17 - Lego Club, 3.15pm, Church
- 19 - PCC, 7.30pm, Church
- 21 - HOTS, 10am, Market Square
- 24 - Film Night, 7pm for 7.30pm start, Church
- 28 - Seniors, 7pm, Church Hall

April

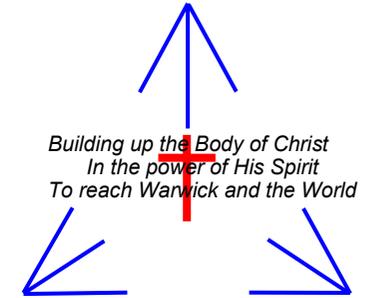
- 2 - Leadership, 2.30pm
- 4 - HOTS, 10am, Market Square
- 4 - CTW Prayer Breakfast, 7.30am, New Life Church
- 6 - TANGO, 10.30am, Hall
- 6 - Finance, 7.30pm
- 17 - Make Lunch, 12noon, Church and Hall
- 18 - HOTS, 10am, Market Square
- 20 - Monthly Prayer, 7.30pm, Church
- 23 - Worship Team, 7.30pm
- 25 - Seniors, 7pm, Church and Hall
- 26 - APCM and PCC, 10am, Church and Hall

May

- 2 - HOTS, 10am Market Square
- 2 - CTW Prayer Breakfast, 7.30am, St Michael's
- 7 - Leadership, 2.30pm
- 11 - TANGO, 10.30am, Church Hall
- 11 - Finance, 7.30pm

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15th March 2020
Lent 3

Rev Jonathan Hearn

Today's 10am Service - Holy Communion

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.

Communicant members of any Christian Church are welcome to take communion with us. If you do not wish to receive communion but would like to receive God's blessing, simply hold a book when you come to the altar rail.

This week - 15th March	Next Week - 22nd March
10am Holy Communion 7.30pm In His Presence	10am Whole Life Worship 6pm Evensong 7.30pm In His Presence

Readings	
15th March	22nd March
Exodus 17: 1-7 John 4: 5-42	

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

Praying for the Persecuted Church

Four Nigerian church elders held a Sunday service in their burnt out church building on February 23rd, two days after Boko Haram militants abducted some of the church's female members and set fire to the building. The terrorists' rampage destroyed churches, homes, schools and businesses in the Christian village of Garkida on February 21st. Heavily-armed militants stormed into the church during a women's fellowship meeting and kidnapped some of the Christian women and left the building a burnt out shell. A local Christian leader said, in spite of their anguish and shock, the pastors decided to continue to meet together to show "church isn't the building razed down, but the Christians living – the Christian body is the church".

On the day of the attack, the jihadists approached the village in Adamawa State "in about nine trucks, and more than 50 motorcycles carrying at least two persons on each", a local eyewitness told Barnabas Fund. The attack lasted about six hours, during which two other churches were also set alight, a local market looted, a health centre burnt down and two ambulances destroyed.

Former Nigerian Head of State, General Yakubu Gowon, took part in a prayer rally for peace on Sunday February 23rd. He prayed: "Lord, as your people, we bring confession of the needless bloodshed, killings, and attacks by the dreadful Boko Haram insurgents, banditry and the spate of kidnappings and all kinds of evil in various parts of the country.

"Lord, we plead for your forgiveness, mercy and cleansing of the land."

Nigeria is 12th on the Open Doors World Watch list of the most dangerous places in the world in which to be a Christian. There are 93.8million Christians in the country, making up 46.7 per cent of the population. In the south, Nigerians are free to follow Jesus but northern Nigeria and the middle belt sees extreme Christian persecution.

The number of attacks by Islamist militant groups has sharply increased, since April 2019. Christians are on high alert, calling for urgent prayer against the onslaught of Boko Haram attacks on them.

Islamic extremists carry out horrific persecution in northern Nigeria. Twelve of the northern states are under Sharia (Islamic law), and persecution has increased since the 2015 election of President Muhammadu Buhari.

Buhari's APC party is openly Islamist, and he has appointed Muslims to key positions – including the judiciary. There is little accountability for attacks by Islamic extremists, which include Fulani militants and ISWAP (an affiliate of so-called Islamic State) as well as Boko Haram.

Lord, please protect our Nigerian brothers and sisters as they face extreme persecution. Grant dignity and peace to Christian women who have been mistreated, that they will be seen, valued and empowered to reach their God-given potential.

Source, Barnabas Fund and Open Doors UK.

Bible Society plea for donations

The Bible Society is asking for donations for Bibles for persecuted Christians.

In a statement it said: "Hardship and horror have driven Iraqi Christians again into the arms of God – and they are finding comfort, hope and strength in his embrace.

"For these refugees, the Bibles we provide are a lifeline. Over the past few years [the Bible Society] has seen the impact the Bible is having

on refugees in the Middle East, and how God's word is strengthening their faith in extreme adversity.

"[For one refugee] as she read the Bible, her faith came alive."

This experience is repeated over and over.

A gift of just £5 gives a Bible to a refugee. Can you help us see how many Bibles we can give to our brothers and sisters for whom God's Word is a real saving grace?

Seniors

Don't forget our next Seniors group meets on Saturday March 28th at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

If you've not been before why not give it a try? It is aimed at anyone aged 55 and over.

Each month there are a range of different activities to try out and enjoy. This month it is 2020 Year of the nurse and midwife. Other events later in the year include Folk Songs for Summer and Mental Health Awareness Week.

See Pat and Edward for details or if you need to arrange a lift.

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 between 1pm and 3pm each Friday at Saltisford Church in Albert Street, Warwick.



Lego club!

Our next Lego club is on Tuesday, March 17.

As usual we start at 3.15pm.

During the session there is a light snack before a Bible reading and then lots of Lego fun!

Hope to see you there. All welcome.



Watching out for scams

Organisers at the Memory Café Plus will host an information afternoon about scams.

Between 2pm and 4pm tomorrow, there will be information, advice, help and support on the issue of postal scams, telephone fraud and how to protect yourself from conmen and doorstep criminals.

There will also be advice about what to do if you feel you have been a victim of scamming.

The event takes place at All Saints

Church in Warwick and is part of the regular sessions held there for those who suffer memory loss or who have a relative or friend who does. All are welcome at what will be an important session.

All meetings take place on the first and third Monday of every month in the Coffee Room at the Church.

Each session is free to attend and runs from 2pm to 4pm.

Call 01926 492073 for information on this or future sessions.

CTW March events

On Tuesday 17th, Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th March at 7.30pm Churches Together in Warwick will host Deeper at Castle Hill Baptist Church, Warwick.

Dr John Andrews is the speaker. The author of 13 books, he is based at New Life Church, Scunthorpe and serves on the Apostolic Team of One Church Gloucester.

The theme will be Freedom Through Forgiving, Studies in Philemon.

Forgiveness is one of the greatest challenges in any culture. It also lives as one of the most powerful ideas in the Kingdom of God, positioned at the very heart of God's global message. As Paul's letter to Philemon teaches, given a chance,

forgiveness will change us as individuals and the world we inhabit.

The event is free but donations are welcome.



Church Centre Assistant job

St Michael's Church Centre is seeking a church centre assistant. The successful candidate will be responsible for supporting the operational manager and upholding its Christian values in the delivery of a welcoming, effective and efficient service to all the Centre users. Assisting in admin processes such as dealing with enquiries and bookings will also be required.

Email the parish office janice.cairns@stmichaels-budbrooke.org.uk or call 01926 407020 for more details, job description and application form. For an informal conversation about the post email Mary Lodge chantry-cot@aol.com or 01926 492164.

The salary is 12 hours a week at £10 per hour.

Closing date for applications is Monday March 30th and interviews will be held on Friday, April 3rd.

Thought for the Week - empty the shelves

Empty shelves may have been your experience on recent shopping trips as you discover others are panic buying and just thinking about themselves.

There can be no doubt we are in uncharted waters and there are different opinions of what should be done, which can lead to uncertainty and a heightened sense of anxiety for many people.

Jesus told his followers not to worry because essentially it achieves nothing and steals our peace. He also told them they should think of others – not just themselves.

That's not to say we shouldn't heed advice, but there is no point worrying. Instead we can take our concerns to our heavenly Father who knows much more than our politicians and scientists – though He is the one who can give them wisdom and knowledge.

It's perhaps coincidental, even God-incidental we had decided to make Monday a day of prayer – when the

church will be open between 9am and 9pm for people to drop in to pray.

Even if you cannot make it to church you might like to take time to be still and to pray where you are. Bring any of your fears and anxieties, or those you see in others around you, to our Father in heaven who hears our prayers. Ask for His Peace for yourself, for this nation and the world at this time.

Pray He might give wisdom to those in authority to know how to handle this current crisis, and knowledge to those who are seeking to respond to the many different and challenging needs it's created. Listen to words that are repeated throughout the scriptures: "Do not be afraid!"

Let them take root in you so you can allow God's Peace to flow from you out to any that might need it at this time.

Let's look for glimpses of God at work in all that is happening.

Daffodil workshop

Are there any volunteers who would be able to help put together bunches of daffodils ready for Mothering Sunday on March 22nd?

A workshop will be held on Saturday 21st at 10am. All help would be very much appreciated.

Thank you, Pat



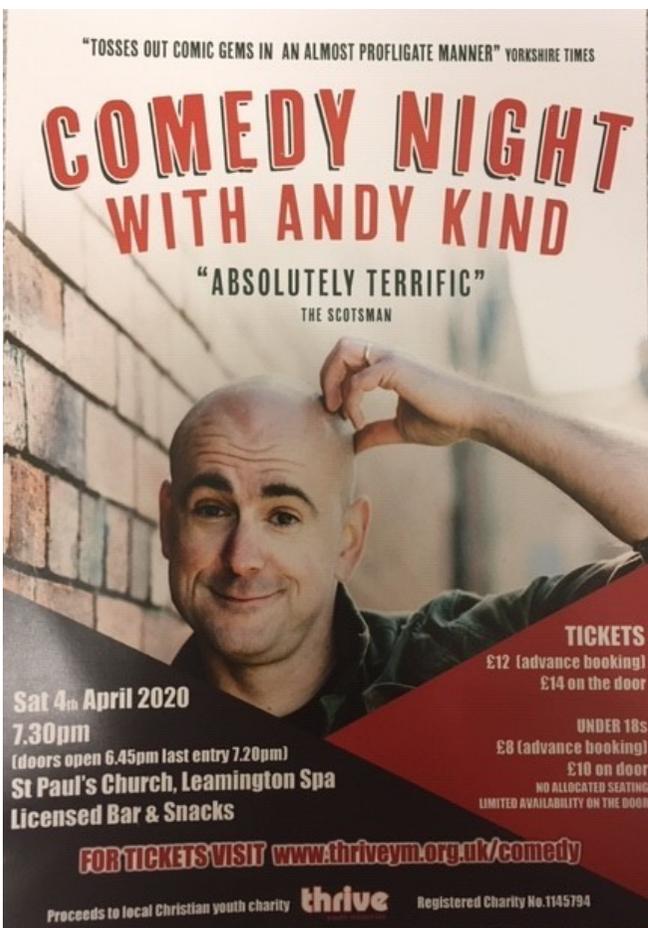
Our Bible verse for the year

"Never doubt God's mighty power to work in you and accomplish all this. He will achieve infinitely more than your greatest request, our most unbelievable dream, and exceed your wildest imagination! He will outdo them all, for his miraculous power constantly energises you."
Ephesians 3: v20

This year's APCM 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 26th. 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 23rd 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 tomorrow, **16th March** at the latest.



Station Mass

As part of Lent this year, station masses are being held at churches across the Churches Together in Warwick group. They are: Friday March 20th at the chapel in Warwick Hospital, at 6.30pm; and Friday, March 27th at the Chapel in Warwick Castle, at 6.30pm.

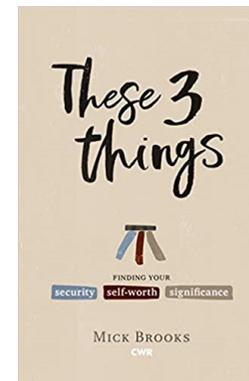
TANGO

The date for April's TANGO has been brought forward to Monday April 6 and not on Monday 20th as was originally planned. Please do join us! Donations welcome and can be left in the office.

Lent study course - these three things

We had a good start to the Lent course on Tuesday – if you weren't able to make it you're still welcome to come along. Even if you can't make the evening please do join in with working your way through the book – there are a few more copies available. It looks to be a thought provoking and challenging course that will help us grow in faith and understanding. There are a few clashes with dates

but the group will meet on these Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm: March 17, March 31, April 14 and April 21. Thank you, Jonathan.



Church open for prayer

Tomorrow, Monday, March 16th the church will be open between 9am and 9pm to enable anyone to come in for prayer or just a quiet moment with God.

There will be an opportunity to light a candle and other prayer resources will be available to help you if you need them.

If during your quiet time God gives you a word or picture please feel free to share it by writing it down and leaving it in the prayer area.

This may be something personal which you may not feel able to share but if it is something for the wider church community then we would love to hear it.

Thank you letters

We have a book with thank you letters from all the charities we gave to via our charitable giving this last year. It is on the coffee table for people to read. Sheila.

Film Night

Our next film night will feature a screening of Laurel and Hardy. As usual the evening will be free to attend and bags of popcorn will be available.

Doors open at 7pm and the film will begin at 7.30pm. Please spread the word!

Church of England 40-day challenge

The Church of England (CofE) has produced a 40-day challenge to "help broaden our view of Christ's redeeming mission – a mission Christians are called to share." The adult copies are available at a cost of £1.70 if you are able to make a donation.

The CofE has also produced a free app - <http://churchofengland.org/livelent> to help you find all the ways you can take part in the #LiveLent Challenge.