

Make Lunch Boxes of Hope food parcels

Following our very successful Make Lunch Boxes of Hope food parcels during lockdown, we recognise a need to continue to support the families in some way and in particular we are looking towards Christmas. On Friday December 18, we plan to delivery a parcel to 20 of our families. Each one will contain food with a Christmas theme, things like mince pies, Christmas pudding, chocolates, stuffing, sausage rolls and more, along with our usual meat and veg. We also want to include gifts for all ages from two years old through to adulthood, family treats, toiletries, games, books and this is where YOU can get involved. We are looking for donations, rather like we used to do for shoeboxes, of either food with a Christmas theme or gifts. The gifts could be small or large (often several small things can be better than one large item). Maybe you have an unwanted item in your cupboard, maybe you would like

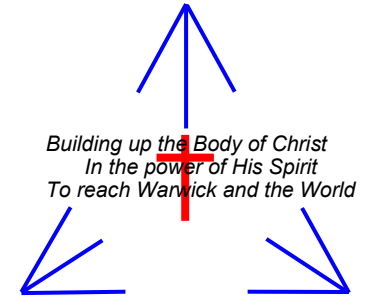
a trip to the shops and select an item or two. There'll be a box by the welcome table, in which you can put your donations. Guidelines of how to stay safe will also be included, just put your donation in, don't rummage around! Should you not want to go shopping, Sheila or Audrey will receive financial contributions - anything you would like to give. For example, what about a Penny or Pound jar? Find a jar or other type of container (we may be able to provide some) and save those odd pennies, 10p's, 50p's or even £1 coins, then donate them to our Christmas Boxes of Hope project. Just like with shoeboxes, it always amazed us how everything just came together. This has been a challenging year for us all, let's join together to bring hope and a smile to those less fortunate than ourselves. Many thanks, Audrey.

CTW AGM and Prayer Breakfast

Churches Together Warwick is holding its AGM on Wednesday, October 21 at 8pm. It will be on Zoom so please email Claire Harris at claire@philipandclaireharris.uk for

the ID and password. You can also tell her how you would vote and she will vote as your proxy. The next CTW Prayer Breakfast is on Saturday November 5 at 10.30am. Please email Claire for the Zoom ID and password.

St Paul's Church,
By The Racecourse,
Friars Street,
Warwick, CV34 6HA
Web: www.stpaulswarwick.co.uk
Email: stpauls.warwick@outlook.com
Twitter: @StPaulsWarwick
Tel: 01926 499533



October 18, 2020
Trinity 19

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 no Sunday club today.

This week - October 18	Next Week - October 25
10am Short service and APCM	10am Informal Worship

Readings	
October 18	October 25
Exodus 33: 12-end	Exodus 17: 1-7 Matthew 21: 23-32

St Paul's Church, Warwick

Praying for the Persecuted Church

Six people have been murdered in the latest attack in Plateau State, Nigeria. The incident took place on October 5 by armed Fulani militants in a Christian village, Wereng, according to Barnabas Fund contacts. As well as the six who were killed, three others were seriously injured.

According to eye witnesses, the heavily armed attackers were wearing police uniforms, and sporadically fired their guns as they stormed the small community at about 9pm, causing a number of villagers to flee their homes.

One witness said: "They [the Fulani militants] kept shooting and picking their expended bullet shells as they moved."

Those killed included three members of the same family. Eyewitnesses said the militants specifically identified and pursued the acting village head, Chungyang Mwadkon, shooting him dead as he fled from them.

Three people injured in the raid remain in a critical condition in hospital and it is "not known if they will survive", according to local reports.

The village in Riyom Local Government Area has been repeatedly attacked by Fulani militia since 2010 and has seen at least 30 of its inhabitants murdered to date. Not a single arrest has been made by police.

This latest attack raises to 235 the grim death toll from Fulani militant attacks on Middle Belt Christian communities since the beginning of July this year alone.

In August, Nigerian Christian leaders around the globe called on the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the Hague to act now against the "pernicious genocide" in northern Nigeria.

Nigeria is number 12 on the Open Doors' World Watch List. There are 93.8 million Christians in Nigeria, making up 46.7 per cent of the population. In the south of the country, Nigerians are free to follow Jesus – but northern Nigeria and the 'middle belt' sees extreme Christian persecution.

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.

**Source, Barnabas Fund and Open Doors UK.*



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.



Thought for the Week - filters

One of the my tasks this week was to see if there was any reason why the church vacuum cleaner wasn't working properly before perhaps agreeing we needed to replace it.

An initial look revealed the filter was filthy and it looked as if it had been too dirty to do it's job properly. As a result other parts of the hoover were getting clogged up.

So on Tuesday I ended up giving it a thorough clean and as I was doing so I felt God saying this was an illustration of what can happen with a Christian life. Filters – in all sorts of equipment – do an amazing job but if we neglect to look after them over time they clog up and become less effective which in turn results in other parts not being able to function as designed.

I sensed God was saying our minds are like those filters – and if we don't consciously take note of what is going through them on a regular basis they will become filled with all the unhelpful and detrimental stuff we absorb on a daily basis – the things we see and

hear, read and watch. These can all affect our thoughts which in turn can influence our actions and reactions. Paul tells us a "mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace" (Romans 8:6) and encourages us to "be transformed by the renewing of you mind" (Romans 12:2).

Take time this week to reflect on the state of your minds – what they are absorbing, and how this might be affecting your thoughts and actions. Make time to be still and allow God, through the reading of the Bible, through prayer, through nature or even your daily tasks, to speak to you and come and cleanse you through His Holy Spirit.

You may find the words from the familiar prayer we sometimes use on Sundays helpful: "cleanse the thoughts of our hearts (and minds) by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify you name; through Christ our Lord."

Jonathan

Church drive update

Thank you all for your prayers in helping to get the agreement of the planning department for the church drive/path.

I was hoping it might be possible to have it done this week. However the contractors have explained they would not do what we want over the winter months – more precisely if they can't start next week we'll have to wait until the spring.

For this to happen we need permission

of the Diocesan Chancellor. Time is tight as the public notice period ended on Friday and the paperwork must be processed through the chancellors office – it may not be unheard of for to be granted within a week but it might be pushing it.

Could I ask again for your prayers we get the permission we need so work could start next week.

Thank you.

Jonathan

