

## This Week

- Today** **Goodbye to Julie Keene** 3-5pm tea and cake at St Wulstan's. All welcome!
- Tues 3 Mar** **Prayer Gathering** 10.00-11.30 in St Wulstan's  
**PCC Meeting** 7.45pm at St Wulstan's
- Wed 4 Mar** **Prayer Gathering** 8.00-9.30pm in St Wulstan's – with coffee, tea and cakes 7.30-7.55pm.
- Fri 6 – Sun 8 Mar** **Rooted weekend away** This year's church student weekend away in Quinta, Shropshire. A great weekend of talks, discussion, food and fun for £50! **All** students welcome, please talk to Andy Martin.
- Fri 6 Mar** **Women's World Day of Prayer** 10.30am United Reform Church, Weoley Hill, presented by the women of The Bahamas.
- Sat 7 Mar** **Ecclesiastes in a Morning!** Come and find out what this enigmatic book is all about and how to teach it to others. Flyers on the Information Table.

## Looking Ahead

- 13 - 22 Mar** **Know God?** week. Please be thinking about who you can invite and help yourself to flyers on the Information Table.
- Fri 13 Mar** **An Evening with Henry Olunga** 7.30 for 8.00pm. Come and hear Henry's extraordinary story and his acclaimed tenor voice. Not just for sports fans!
- Sun 15 Mar** **Mothering Sunday** 10am all-age service with flowers for every woman!

**Tickets are now on sale** for Butcher and Beer (Mon 16<sup>th</sup>) and Spring Craft (Fri 20<sup>th</sup>), see Gina Davies and be aware that sales are only on a first come, first serve basis! Cash or cheque accepted.

## News, Notices and Requests

**Building for the Future** From the Chancellor to the Diocese: "I grant the petition and authorise the faculty in respect of the proposed works for Phase 2 and wish the Parish well in their significant undertaking." Give grateful thanks to our Lord!

**Electoral Roll revision** This is the closest thing we have to church membership, and being on the electoral role enables you to vote at the APCM. If you would like to join, please fill in a form from the back of church and return it to the Parish Office or see Jem Huggins for more info.

**Prayer Meetings for Sarah Underwood** Today from 4.30-5.30pm. After that it's 8-9 pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> March and 1.30- 2.30 on 10<sup>th</sup> March.

**Women's Book Group** Tue 24<sup>th</sup> March 8.00-9.30pm. discussing "A Loving Life" by Paul Miller. All women welcome! Speak to Linnet Harvey or Chris Stonehouse.

**Senior Minister (Vicar)** Chris Hobbs **Assistant Minister** Andy Martin  
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ST STEPHENS AND ST WULSTANS SELLY PARK



taking Jesus seriously, taking the Bible seriously

## Welcome

1<sup>st</sup> March 2015

*If you are new, you are especially welcome. Please help yourself to a Welcome booklet and, if you have time, introduce yourself and ask any questions you may have.*

## 10.00am Morning Service

'The battle is won' (1 Peter 3:13-22) – Chris Hobbs

**Children and young people** will go to their activities part way through the service:

**0-3s** Crèche is in the back room, please collect your child during the final song.

**3-11s** Are taken to the Medical Centre across the road and brought back during the last hymn.

**11-14s** will meet at the back and be taken to 9 Serpentine Road, they will be brought back at the end of the service.

**Toilets** are in the foyer, baby-changing facilities are in the disabled toilet.

**Coffee, tea and biscuits** are served after the service.

## 6.00pm Evening Service with Holy Communion

'The God who forgives' (Psalm 32) – Mark Checketts

**Coffee, tea and cakes** are served after the service.

## The reality of evil

The Archbishop of Canterbury was in town last weekend, and on Sunday afternoon he addressed the clergy of the diocese. When it came to time for questions, he was asked to comment on Russia's aggression in Ukraine. It would have been a tough question to ask a politician, let alone a church leader. Nevertheless, following a quip that he wasn't going to give a lecture on geopolitics, the Archbishop's first response was to say that we must take seriously the reality of evil – in this case, the quest for power. It was a refreshingly spiritual response.

We would do well to learn from him. That response could be used for any number of news stories this past week: the use of Swiss bank accounts to evade paying tax; the latest revelations concerning Jimmy Savile; the horrors being perpetrated by Islamic State. Sadly, our failure to take evil seriously leads us to be insufficiently prepared for it, sometimes with tragic consequences.

Jesus would not have made that mistake. One of his most shocking remarks was a comment made in passing: "If you, then, *though you are evil*, know how to give good gifts to your children..." (Matthew 7:11, NIV, my italics). He took seriously the reality of evil in the human heart, even in the hearts of ordinary men and women – and we would do well to learn from him.

Chris Hobbs, Senior Minister (Vicar)

## Sermon notes

How to face opposition for being a Christian...

### 1. What to do (v13-17)

- Remember you are blessed (v14a, 17)

- Revere Christ as Lord (v14b-15a)

- Be ready to give an answer ... gently (v15b-16a)

### 2. What to believe (v18-22)

- Christ's victory is sure (v18b-20a, 22)

- Our salvation is sure (v18a, 20b-21)

**Missed a sermon recently?** Please visit [www.sssw.org.uk](http://www.sssw.org.uk) to hear or download an audio version.

## The battle is won

*1 Peter 3:13-22*

## Morning Service

OPENING PRAYER *led by Chris Porter*

HYMN Name of all majesty

CONFESSION and ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

**Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

COLLECT

SONG Come gather everyone and listen

NOTICES and CAP Debt Centre Presentation  
*after which, children and young people go to their activities*

SONG By faith we see the hand of God

THE APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS ending with THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

SONG He wraps Himself in light

BIBLE READINGS Isaiah 8:11-22 (page 693), 1 Peter 3:13-22 (page 1219)  
(This is the word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God**)

SERMON The battle is won

HYMN Stand up, stand up for Jesus  
*Please collect your child from crèche during the final song*

CLOSING PRAYER

*COLLECTION Gifts may be placed in the Gifts box at the back*

PRAYER OF PREPARATION *led by Chris Hobbs*

**Almighty God to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SONGS Before the throne of God above  
Your glorious cause O God

PRESENTATION: CAP Debt Centre

BIBLE READINGS Psalm 32 (page 560); Romans 4:1-12 (page 1131)  
(This is the word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God**)

SERMON The God who forgives

INSIGHTS AND QUESTIONS

SONG Early morning break of dawn

THE NICENE CREED

PRAYERS

HYMN How sweet the name of Jesus sounds

CONFESSION and ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.**

COMMUNION (*see insert*)

NOTICES

SONG O to see the dawn

CLOSING PRAYER

*COLLECTION* Gifts may be placed in the Gifts box on the Information Table