

Today

This week in Sunday Club we are looking at the big question; Why did God save Moses? And the answer is to rescue his people. Why not ask the children about what they've been learning.

This Week

Tues 21 Jan **PCC Meeting**, 7.45pm in the Dain Room. On the agenda this month is: a review, a report from Tom Bryant and a Building for the Future update.

Thu 23 Jan **The World We All Want.** Over 7 sessions we will look at the big story of the Bible. Each session involves a short Bible Study, a time for discussion and a chance to ask any questions. Is there someone you could bring along with you?

Fri 24 Jan **Winter Night Shelter begins**

Looking Ahead

Wed 29 Jan **A Passion for Life planning and prayer**, 7.45-9.30pm, Dain Room, St Stephen's. A time to think ahead to our mission week in March and to ask God to be at work through us for his glory.

Thurs 30 Jan **What is our Mission?** Midlands Gospel Partnership day conference, with Paul Mallard and Kevin DeYoung speaking. Brochures on the Information Table.

News, Notices and Requests

Building for the Future News: By the time you read this our tender documents should be with the four contractors that we have asked to tender for the work required to build the Parish Centre to replace the Dain Room, and to build the new foyer.

WANTED: Ministry Trainee. For Sept 2014 - Aug 2015. You will be trained in gospel ministry, learn to give Bible teaching, and help with practical tasks. A great way to find out if gospel ministry could be for you long-term. Details from Chris Hobbs.

Have you got any old gardening magazines? I'm looking for pictures of flowers we can cut and stick (for Explorers). Thanks, Helen Buckley.

Junk needed. We will soon be doing some junk modelling in Explorers on Thursday. Please would you start saving your egg boxes, tubes and anything else you think we could use?

Sponsored sleep out. Birmingham City Mission (BCM) are organising another sleepout, details are at the back of church.

Birmingham University Mission Week - 3rd to 7th Feb. The Christian Union need cooks to help them cater for an evening event at Selly Oak Elim on Thursday 6th Feb. Please speak to Richard Leadbeater if you are able to help.

Vicar: Chris Hobbs **Assistant Minister:** Richard Leadbeater
Parish Office St Stephen's Church, Serpentine Road, Selly Park, Birmingham B29 7HU
0121 472 8253 office@sssw.org.uk **www.sssw.org.uk**

ST STEPHENS AND ST WULSTANS SELLY PARK



Welcome

19th January 2014

If you are new, please say 'hello' and pick up a Welcome booklet at the back of Church.

10.00am at St Stephen's

Holy Communion: 'Why share the gospel?' (Romans 1:1-17) – Richard Leadbeater
Children and young people up to the age of 14 leave for their activities part way through the service. Club 114 (ages 11-14) meet outside the church and go to 9 Serpentine Road. Scramblers and Climbers will return to church at the end of the service.

Toilets are in the foyer of the Dain Room, next door to the Church.

Coffee, tea and biscuits are served after the service in the Dain Room.

11.30am at St Wulstan's

Morning Prayer: 'Why share the gospel?' (Romans 1:1-17) – Richard Leadbeater

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

6.00pm at St Wulstan's

Evening Praise: 'Why share the gospel?' (Romans 1:1-17) – Richard Leadbeater

Coffee, tea and cakes are served after the service.

Listen up!

I was reading a booklet recently called '*Listen up! A practical guide to listening to sermons*'. You may think that a better booklet for me to read would be called '*Speak clearly! A practical guide on preaching sermons*'. Well, as hard as it may be to believe, I have read lots of books on preaching sermons. I have read very little on listening to sermons. However, I am both a listener and a preacher and the booklet reminded me of how important listening is.

In Luke 8:18, after Jesus had told a parable to a large crowd, he said 'consider carefully how you listen'. In Mark 8:18, Jesus implies that it is possible to 'have ears and yet fail to hear'. In Mark 4:12 we read of people who were 'ever hearing but never understanding'. So we need godly preachers but we also need to be godly listeners. The booklet has '7 ingredients for healthy sermon listening' followed by practical steps to take in order to help us listen well. I won't tell you all seven, but here are two that got me thinking.

1. Expect God to speak. As God's word is faithfully and prayerfully taught, God's voice is clearly heard. So when we come together on Sundays, we are gathering to do something very significant. We are listening to the God of the universe, our Heavenly Father, address us through His Word and by His Spirit. So, listen expectantly and prayerfully. **2. Do what God says.** 'Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says' (James 1:22). The purpose of sermons is to change us into Christlike people. So we gather on Sundays, not to be entertained but to be transformed - transformed through God's Word by God's Spirit for God's glory. So listen attentively and obediently. If you would like to know the other 5 ingredients for healthy sermon listening, you will need to visit 10ofthose.com and part with £1.50!

Richard Leadbeater, Assistant Minister

Why share the gospel?
Romans 1:1-17

OPENING PRAYER *led by Tom Bryant*

SONGS Jesus is Lord, the cry that echoes
The Authority of Christ

CONFESSION

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.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

PRAYERS (Lord in your mercy; **Hear our prayer**)

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.

NOTICES

SONGS Oh the mercy of God
No other name

APOSTLES' CREED

BIBLE READINGS Acts 17:16-33 (page 1113), Romans 1:1-17 (page 1128)
(This is the word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God**)

SERMON Why share the gospel?

INSIGHTS AND QUESTIONS

SONGS Go forth and tell
Your glorious cause

CLOSING PRAYER

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

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