

## This Week

- Today** **Community Newsletter** Please take a bundle (or two?) from the table at the back – to deliver by Sunday 1st March. And why not 'adopt' a road by signing up on the sheet?
- Thur 26 Feb** **Monthly Music Team Rehearsal** 8.15-9.45pm at St Wulstan's. For all regular musicians and anyone interested in joining the team.
- Fri 27th Feb** **Men's Curry Night** will be at 7.45pm at Dilshad, 618-620 Bristol Rd. If you haven't booked and still wish to come, just speak to Rob Davies.
- Sun 1st Mar** **Goodbye to Julie Keene** 3-5pm tea and cake at St Wulstan's. All welcome!

## Looking Ahead

- Tues 3 Mar** **Prayer Gathering** 10.00-11.30 in 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 if you're interested.
- Fri 6 Mar** **Women's World Day of Prayer** 10.30am United Reform Church, Weoley Hill. Jesus said to the disciples "Do you know what I have done to you?" 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.
- Sat 14 Mar** **No Shame?** A day conference on how the gospel of grace gives us hope in the experience of shame. Flyers on the Information Table.

## News, Notices and Requests

**Building for the Future** We hope that by the time you read this, we shall have heard from the Chancellor about a Faculty to start Phase 2 of the building project. Keep praying!

**Prayer Meetings for Sarah Underwood** The next meeting is on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> Feb (1.30-2.30pm). Please feel welcome but not obliged to join. If you would like to be on my email list please email me.

**Midlands Gospel Partnership Training 2015** Details of upcoming MGP training events, including MMTC Lite. Pick up a brochure from the Information Table.

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ST STEPHENS AND ST WULSTANS SELLY PARK



taking Jesus seriously, taking the Bible seriously

## Welcome

22<sup>nd</sup> February 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

'Be different: at home and in church' (1 Peter 3:1-12) – 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

'The God who comforts' (Psalm 31) – Nick Devas

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

## Who wants to live for ever?

The average life span of a mouse is 2.3 years. Mouse UT2598, which lives at the University of Texas Health Science Center, has already lived 3 years and is still going strong. Its secret is a compound called Rapamycin, which appears to slow the ageing process. If – and it is quite a big 'if' – the same compound could be used with equivalent results in human beings, then we could expect to live to the age of 142.

The desire to live longer is surely a good one. After all, life itself is a gift from God, our good Creator; and long life is a blessing from his hand. At the same time, we cannot live for ever in this world because we have rebelled against our maker: "sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned ... For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 5:12, 6:23, NIV). Death will only be overcome when sin is paid for – which it has been through the death of Jesus Christ. Even so, the new (eternal) life which God gives to those who believe in Jesus will ultimately be in a renewed, liberated creation rather than in this old, decaying one.

So, we can embrace and enjoy life, and all that it has to offer – and as much of it as we can have – because it is the good gift of a good God. At the same time, there's more to real life than this life. We've been made for life with God, eternal life, in a brand new world where death is not even a possibility. We can live for ever, but we'll have to move.

Chris Hobbs, Senior Minister (Vicar)

## Sermon notes

## Be different: at home and in church

*1 Peter 3:1-12*

Christians, as God's people, are called to be different (from how they used to be and from the world around them) by living for God, for others and for the future (rather than for themselves and the present).

At home:

### 1. Wives, be submissive (v1-6)

### 2. Husbands, be considerate (v7)

In church (and beyond)

### 3. Everyone, be a blessing (v8-12)

## Morning Service

OPENING PRAYER *led by David Twiss*

SONG I stand amazed in the presence

BAPTISM OF LOIS ROBERTS

SONG For God so loved the world

NOTICES

*after which, children and young people go to their activities*

SONG Bless the Lord, O my soul

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 May the mind of Christ, my Saviour

BIBLE READINGS Psalm 34 (page 561), 1 Peter 3:1-12 (page 1219)  
(This is the word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God**)

SERMON Be different: at home and in church

SONG O great God

*Please collect your child from crèche during the final song*

CLOSING PRAYER

**May the love of the Lord Jesus draw us to himself,  
the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen us in his service,  
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill our hearts;  
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among us and remain with us always.  
Amen.**

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

**Lord, be my Rock and Refuge**

**1. David's anguished situation**

**2. David's response: what is it based upon?**

**3. Our response to dangers, disasters and opposition**

OPENING PRAYER *led by Chris Hobbs*

HYMN How firm a foundation

CONFESSION and ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

**Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin. Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SONGS God's saints of old

When I was lost

Thank you for saving me

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.**

NOTICES

SONG Speak, O Lord

BIBLE READINGS Psalm 31 (page 559); Luke 23:44-49 (page 1060)

(This is the word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God**)

SERMON The God who comforts

INSIGHTS AND QUESTIONS

HYMN Rock of ages

CLOSING PRAYER

**O Lord, we trust in you. You are our God; our times are in your hands. Deliver us from all that would harm us and from any who would hurt us; let your face shine upon us, and save us in your unfailing love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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