

Today

Book of the Term: *Prayer* by Timothy Keller. Please sign up if you would like a copy for £10.

This Week

- Thur 2 Apr Church Family Meal** 6.45 for 7pm. Today is the LAST DAY to sign up on the Information Table. We still need a few casseroles please! We also need volunteers to help set up from 6pm and clear away afterwards. Can you help?
- Fri 3 Apr Good Friday** **10am All-Age service** 'See, He dies'
11.30am Reflection 'The road to Calvary'
- Tea and hot cross buns**, 4.00pm at the Vicarage. Everyone welcome. Extra hot cross buns also welcome!
- Sat 4 Apr Gifts of daffodils and foliage** would be very welcome as close to 10am as possible, in order to decorate the church for Easter Sunday.
- Sun 5 Apr Easter Sunday** 10am All-Age and Communion. NO 6pm service.

Looking Ahead

- Tues 14 Apr CAP Debt Centre Volunteers meeting**, 7.30pm Christ Church Selly Park; to find out how the new Debt Centre is going or to volunteer.
- Tues 28 Apr MMTC Lite starts**, 7.30-9.30pm at St Wulstan's. This year covering: Romans, Holy Spirit, Bible Overview and Jonah over six evenings. Flyers at the back.
- Wed 29 Apr Annual Meeting (APCM)**, 8.00pm in St Wulstan's, coffee from 7.30pm. We will be electing 2 churchwardens, 4 PCC members (3 for 3 years, 1 for 1 year). Please be thinking and praying about who (you?) should fill these important roles in our church's leadership. It is also a good time to share stories of what you have seen the Lord do this past year – please speak to Chris Hobbs if you would like to do that.

News, Notices and Requests

Building for the Future We now have a detailed programme for all the work at St Stephen's. The completion date is likely to be around the end of August.

Rota Availability Please let the office know your availability for the Summer term by emailing the office with FAO: Jem Huggins in the subject title. Deadline for availability is Sunday 12th April.

Electoral Roll deadline for filling out a purple form is 12th April.

Annual Maintenance Morning has been changed from 6th to 13th June.

Christian Institute See the 'Protecting Gospel Freedom' leaflets on the Information Table. The next Birmingham meeting is at Selly Elim Church on Thursday 16th April.

Local Church Global Mission conference, "The Cost and the Crown – The Sacrifice of the Church in the Mission of God", Sat 30 May, Oak Hill College, London. Flyers at the back.

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ST STEPHENS AND ST WULSTANS SELLY PARK

taking Jesus seriously, taking the Bible seriously



Welcome

29th 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

'Let God take care of things' (1 Peter 5:1-14) – John McNeill

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 hymn.

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

11-14s no Club 114 today, it's an 'in-service' day.

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

'Longing for heaven' (Genesis 23-25) – Chris Hobbs

Coffee, tea and cakes are served after the service.

Re-burying a dead king

I can't help smiling at all the fuss being made this week over the re-burial of the possible remains – and there is still some doubt whether they really are his – of King Richard III in Leicester Cathedral. It is especially ironic that it should be happening now, little more than a week before Easter Sunday, when Christians all over the world will be celebrating the fact that their king is very much alive, and that he lives for ever more, never to die again. He is a very long way indeed from needing any kind of reburial.

I say 'fact' because that is what it is, and the way the New Testament presents it. The resurrection is not just something that happened to Jesus' spirit, still less merely in the minds of the disciples. It is something that happened to the body of Jesus; he was dead, and now he is alive. This is so important, so fundamental to any Christian faith, that Paul can say: "if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile ... If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men" (1 Corinthians 15:17, 19, NIV).

But if he has been raised – and he has – then he really is "both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36), the one by whom God will judge the world (Acts 17:31), who has conquered death (1 Corinthians 15:54-55), and who guarantees life even to our mortal bodies (Romans 8:11); every word he has spoken can be trusted and is to be obeyed. Here is a King truly worthy of the most serious attention: a living King to be worshipped.

Chris Hobbs, Senior Minister (Vicar)

OPENING PRAYER *led by Chris Hobbs*

HYMN Ride on, ride on in majesty

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.

SONG He's the King of kings

NOTICES

after which children and young people leave for their activities

SONG By faith we see the hand of God

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 God of grace, amazing wonder

THE APOSTLES' CREED

BIBLE READINGS Psalm 23 (page 555), 1 Peter 5:1-14 (page 1220)
(This is the word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God**)

SERMON Let God take care of things

HYMN All creatures of our God and King

Please collect your child from crèche during the final song

CLOSING PRAYER

To the God of all grace, who called us to his eternal glory in Christ, be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

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

Hebrews 11:13-16 shows us how to understand these stories...

Living by faith means:

1. Not (yet) receiving the things promised (v13a)

2. Admitting we are aliens and strangers on earth (v13b)

3. Longing for a better country – a heavenly one (v14-16a)

Missed a sermon recently? Please visit www.sssw.org.uk to hear or download an audio version.

OPENING PRAYER *led by Chris Hobbs*

SONGS Rejoice the Lord is King
Light of the world

BIBLE READINGS Genesis 23:1-24:9 (page 23), Genesis 25:1-11 (page 26)
(This is the word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God**)

SERMON Longing for heaven

INSIGHTS AND QUESTIONS

SONG Have you heard of a God of love?

THE NICENE 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.

HYMN O the deep, deep love of Jesus

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 I will glory in my Redeemer

CLOSING PRAYER

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