

Consider

Christ Church Aughton Parish Newsletter

No 478 ~ April 2013

Vicar's Viewpoint . . .

No transient phenomenon

“Death to the Christian is the funeral of all his sorrows and evils, and the resurrection, of all his joys.”

James H. Aughey

THE resurrection of Jesus makes all the difference. Above all it takes us into the very heart of God, who he is and what he has in store for his creation.

This world, with its sadness and sorrows is not the last word. Neither are its beauty or its joys simply a transient phenomenon. The very fact that God has raised Jesus from the dead demands that we see life in a very different way.

James Aughey, like so many other Christians, knew suffering for following Christ. As a Christian minister in the American South during the Civil War, his opposition to the injustice of slavery caused him to be abused and insulted. He was to be hanged - before escaping to freedom.

Nevertheless as a Christian he was prepared to suffer for the sake of justice, knowing that he was simply following the steps of his Lord. But to follow not into death but into resurrection victory.



This radical understanding will make all the difference to how we view life, not to be daunted by difficulties or intimidated by death. For the

Christian is someone who has decided to enter into the resurrection victory of Jesus, to live on the basis of trusting his promises and so to face suffering with a totally new regard.

So the apostle Paul can write with confidence: “I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.” (Romans 8:18). This is a disciple who faced suffering for Christ on a regular basis. But he knew that the resurrection of Jesus shows the glorious future God has purposed for this creation – and for us as we place our trust in the risen Christ.

For the resurrection shows that Jesus is Lord of all.

So Aughey concludes:

“On the head of Christ are many crowns. He wears the crown of victory; he wears the crown of sovereignty; he wears the crown of creation; he wears the crown of providence; he wears the crown of grace; he wears the crown of glory - for every one of his glorified people owes his honour, happiness and blessedness to him.”

A joyful
Easter!

Ross Moughtin

Searchlight presents: 'Chariots of Fire'

THIS production by the Searchlight Theatre company is being performed at the Ministry Centre on Friday, 26 April. The play tells the story of how Eric Liddell held true to his Christian principles for the 1924 Paris Olympics.

This production has just returned from a tour of Canada. One reviewer commented: "Actor David Robinson stands out with his depiction of the straight-talking Yorkshire

coach, adding humour to the piece and counter balancing the more serious Liddell." His conclusion: "A solid adaptation that can be enjoyed by fans of the film, of Eric Liddell, and anyone else who enjoys a great story."

The play starts at 7.30pm. Tickets are £6 (concessions at £3) from the church office in the Ministry Centre.

Annual Parish General Meeting

THE Annual Parish General Meeting will follow the evening service on Sunday, 28 April, in church, when new wardens and new members of the church council (the PCC) will be elected and the annual accounts presented.

Standing down this year following her six years of service as deputy warden and warden is **Milly Casey**, of Burscough Road. Ross writes: "We have every reason to thank God for Milly, her service as warden during a key time in the life of Christ Church, not least with the building, opening and then running of the Ministry Centre. Thoughtful and totally conscientious, Milly has been a great person to work with and I will certainly miss her insights and support."

Also standing down this year from the PCC after his three years of service is **David Sharples**, of Tennyson Drive. Again, David served during a time of substantial change as the Ministry Centre became operational. We thank God for his input and his faithfulness.

During the AGM the PCC publishes an annual report, with contributions from all the church organisations. This will be available from the back of church.

In electing new members, you may make any nominations at the back of church or on the notice board in the church porch. If you are on the electoral roll, you have the right and the responsibility to vote.

This is an important meeting and we would be glad if every church family was represented.

The full results from this meeting will be published in next month's CONSIDER.

APRIL 2013

Each Sunday

8.15am: Holy Communion

10.30am: Re:vive in the Ministry Centre (not 14 April)

Wednesday, 3 April

2.00pm: Holy Communion in the Ministry Centre

Sunday, 7 April

8.15am: Holy Communion

10.30am: Re:vive meets in the Ministry Centre

10.45am: Family Service with Baptism

6.30pm: Evening Worship

Sunday, 14 April

8.15am: Holy Communion

10.45am: Family Service - *No Parade Service this month*

6.30pm: Evening Worship

Sunday, 21 April

10.45am: Family Service with Baptism

6.30pm: Evening Worship

Sunday, 28 April

10.45am: Family Service

6.30pm: Holy Communion

This is followed by the Annual Parish General Meeting

Wednesday, 1 May

2.00pm: Holy Communion in the Ministry Centre

Sunday, 5 May

10.45am: Holy Communion

This service is being signed for the hearing impaired

Café Vista . . .

. . . in the Ministry Centre is closed for two weeks until Tuesday 16 April. It is then open Tuesday to Friday, 10.30am-3.30pm. Everyone, not just church members, is welcome

Inclusive Church

"But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be." 1 Corinthians 12:18.

The Inclusive Church project aims to support churches in ensuring people with learning disabilities and mental health difficulties have equal access to church life. We also aim to promote the spiritual needs of service users.

Who are we?

We are a group of Christians who work for mental health / learning disability services. We all attend local churches and are passionate about improving accessibility and promoting inclusion.

What is the project about?

We are aware that some churches in Southport already consider the needs of individuals with Learning Disabilities and Mental Health difficulties. We would like to make sure these experiences are shared amongst all churches. We would like to support all churches to keep improving accessibility and promote the invaluable support they provide.

What are we doing?

We have liaised with representatives from some of the churches in Southport and they have requested the following:

- Creation of information packs in order to enable all church members to be aware of groups around Learning Disabilities and Mental Health that are running in our local area
- Training around different Learning Disabilities and Mental Health difficulties in order to skill members of the congregation to provide support and signposting to services if needed

- Creation of a regular newsletter to up-date people on the project

We have already held an initial training event looking at "What is a learning disability?" and "What is a mental health difficulty?" This event was well attended and received good feedback.

How can you help?

Initially, we would like church members to pray for the project – in order for this to be a success it is dependant on your prayer

If you have any ideas for future directions of the project, please email us on clare.edmunds@merseycare.nhs.uk

Finally, we will be holding another training event looking at

"AUTISM AND YOUR CHURCH"

Date: Wednesday 17 April at 6.30pm

Where: Shoreline Church, Southport.

We would be very grateful if you could advertise this and consider attending. The event is free and refreshments will be provided.

Street Pastors, CCTV and Christ

Phil Weston, our curate, writes:

On two cold Friday nights in January and February I had the privilege of going 'on the beat' with Ormskirk Street Pastors. While most of us are sound asleep, these volunteers from local churches are on patrol in our town centre, offering help, care and advice to those out on the streets. A highly valuable and much-needed ministry.

During the nights I observed their work, I witnessed the Street Pastors prevent accidents by clearing up broken glass and discarded bottles; preserve health by giving out water and blankets; and ensure safety by arranging taxis home for people left alone outside pubs and clubs. Last but by no means least, I saw Street Pastors share their faith with people who asked them what motivates their ministry.

Since they started two years ago Ormskirk's Street Pastors have formed a close relationship with the managers of local pubs, the emergency services and our local council.

One manifestation of this partnership is the Street Pastors' participation in the town's CCTV network. As well as police officers and club doormen, each Street Pastor team is in constant contact with Ormskirk's CCTV operator - a person whose cameras enable him to direct the Street Pastors to incidents, alert them to those in need and summon support when necessary. It is a two-way communication, since the Street Pastors are equipped with a microphone as well as an earpiece.

For Street Pastors on the beat, the CCTV operator is an unseen yet benevolent authority. An invisible presence able to guide, direct, help and support. It struck me that this relationship has similarities to the relationship with Jesus Christ we are offered in the Bible.

For if we put our trust in Jesus he will put his Holy Spirit within us - an unseen yet very real presence always able to guide, sanctify and strengthen us. And like the Street Pastors' communication with the CCTV operators, a Christian's relationship with Christ goes both ways. We hear him speak in Scripture and in our hearts, and we reply not through a microphone but by prayer. Will you open a channel of communication with Christ?

West Lancashire Debt Advice OFFICIAL OPENING

THIS new church-led debt advice service is already up and running. This is a free service run by volunteers from local churches.

However, it will be officially opened on Saturday, 27 April 10.00am-12 noon, at the Boiler room 37 Burscough Street. Refreshments will be served.

The service can be accessed by email debtadvice@wlda.org.uk, telephone - 01695 573348 (answer phone) or drop in sessions on Thursdays 2.00-4.00pm at The Boiler Room.

The Kenyan Project

ON Monday, April 22 between 11.00am and 1.00pm around 10 visitors from the Carnforth group involved with the Kenyan Project will join the 'Knit and Natter' group in the Ministry Centre Café for lunch, and to bring new ideas for knitting and sewing for this very worthwhile project making clothes for abandoned babies in Kenya. Items that we have made will be taken back to Carnforth for onward distribution. Anybody interested in joining us to find out more is very welcome.

News from our School

JUST prior to Easter holidays we took part in the Comic Relief Fundraising Day, raising over £2000 by selling red noses, dressing up as super heroes, selling cakes. The children took part in a mini obstacle course. We would like to congratulate all our children and families for their generosity and support.

Monday 15 April

School reopens after Easter break

Tuesday 16 April

Reception class visiting Midstream Garden Centre as part of their project on growing and new life.

Thursday 18 April

Tennis coaching for Years 3 and 4

Friday 19 April

Aughton Schools Music Festival, rescheduled from March due to bad weather. This will take place as planned in Ministry Centre.

Friday 26 April

Reception class will be working with an artist from Chapel Gallery.



FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

**17 March: Corbin Critchley, son of
Stuart and Emma**

FUNERALS

1 March: Winifred Bolt of Liverpool Road

8 March: Alma Elsie McVicker
of Colinmander Gardens

25 March: Valerie Anne Windmill
of Redgate