

# Consider

Christ Church Aughton Parish Newsletter

No 484 ~ November 2013

Vicar's Viewpoint . . .

## Aughton's unknown soldier

**Q: How much are we worth?**

**A: Much more than you could ever realise**

WE know the name of Aughton's unknown soldier (or combatant): Thomas Ullivero.

Each year at our Remembrance Day service the names of those men from our parish who gave their lives during the Second World War are read out before we mark our two minute silence. But there is one of the fallen about whom we know nothing.

The name 'Thomas Ullivero' does not appear on the excellent Commonwealth War Graves Commission website. Neither does it appear in any parish records nor with the Ormskirk Registrar. Furthermore none of older members of our community have any recollection of a Ullivero family.

But there he is on our war memorial dedicated by the Archdeacon of Liverpool on 30 June, 1946, when all the names would be only too familiar.

And yet, whoever he may have been, Thomas Ullivero would have left a particular



gap, an aching hole somewhere in our community. Clearly someone was intent on his sacrifice being remembered but today all we know

is his name, nothing else.

But one thing we can be sure of – that Thomas Ullivero is known by God. Even when a sparrow falls to the ground, explained Jesus, they are not outside our Father's care ~ and we are worth more than many sparrows. (Matthew 10:29)

For the wonder is that the God who made this mind-numbingly large universe knows our name, knows who we are. In fact, he knows all about us, even such totally insignificant details such as the number of the hairs on our head.

In fact, each individual human being is of immense value to God. Why? In the words of the apostle Paul, they are one for whom Christ died. It is his cruel death at the hands of soldiers hands which shows our true value, what God is prepared to pay ~ even the life blood of his Son. Awesome.

To ask God the question, "Is the death of Jesus worth it?" is to invite the answer Yes! Each of us are of unparalleled value. For that reason we need to surrender our lives to the one who was prepared to pay the full price for our liberty.

*Ross Moughtin*

## Welcome back Eric

WE are delighted to welcome the previous vicar of Christ Church, Eric Bramhall, who will be preaching at the 10.45 Family Service on Sunday, 3 November.

On moving from Aughton in 1992 Eric became vicar of All Saints Church in Childwall, from which he retired nine years ago to Ruthin in North Wales. He

### November 2013

#### Every Sunday

8.15am: Holy Communion

10.30am: Re:vive in the Ministry  
Centre (not 10 November)

#### Sunday, 3 November

10.45am: Holy Communion

*We welcome back Eric Bramhall as our  
preacher*

6.30pm: Evening Worship

#### Remembrance Sunday, 10 November

10.45am: Parade Service with  
Act of Remembrance

6.30pm: Evening Worship

#### Sunday, 17 November

10.45am: Family Service with  
Baptism

6.30pm: Evening Worship

#### Sunday, 24 November

10.45am: Family Service

6.30pm: Holy Communion

#### Advent Sunday, 1 December

10.45am: Holy Communion

4.00pm: Christingle Service

*This is followed by a children's tea  
party in the Ministry Centre*

#### Wednesday, 6 November

2.00pm: Holy Communion

has just finished his Ph D. in church history at Liverpool University while Rhoda keeps up with her walking and singing. She was in the national eisteddfod choir that sang 'Messiah' in Welsh last August and has just completed the walk around Anglesey.

Eric writes: "We have celebrated our Golden Wedding anniversary this year with a great family get-together. We remember celebrating our Silver anniversary with a super Christ Church picnic!

We now have five grandchildren who keep us busy. We baby sit in Worcester once a month.

Christ Church remains in our hearts and in our prayers."

## Saturday Breakfast . . .

EACH Saturday morning from 10.00 to 12 noon everyone is welcome for a choice of cooked breakfasts at Cafe Vista in the Ministry Centre. This is not just for church members but anyone who enjoys such a Saturday morning treat.

## Re:ality Youth Club

RE:ALITY is the youth club that we have been running at Christ Church for 13 years, originally in the Old School Building, and is part of our Youth Ministry. It has constantly been changing and developing with new equipment and features, and is a very popular venue for young people to attend.

It now takes place in the Christ Church Ministry Centre every other Thursday from 7.30 - 9.30 pm, and is for

young people in secondary school.

Since we moved into the Ministry Centre the numbers attending have gradually been increasing, with our numbers now reaching almost 100! Within Re:ality we have several different areas for the young people to spend time in. Virtual Re:ality is our games area, with games consoles, including Xbox Kinect and Playstations, with a variety of games to play.

The Re:ality Dance Floor is where the young people can dance, do karaoke, and visit our non-alcoholic cocktail bar for drinks and sweets. Re:ality Bites, is an area with settees for the young people to relax, play games like Connect 4 and Jenga, and have drinks from the Re:ality Bites bar, such as hot chocolate, cappuccinos, lattes, plus doughnuts, and cookies.

We have a room called Re:ality Check where the young people can chat together and ask questions about the Christian faith, and ask for prayer for situations they may be facing. We also have Air Hockey tables, Pool Tables and Table Football.

We have special theme nights every so often, such as 'Hawaiian Night', 'Re:ality's Got Talent Night', 'Bad Hair Night', 'Musical's Night' and Christmas Specials.

As well as Thursday evenings we occasionally have a Friday morning Re:ality for pupils from a local special needs school, who come and spend a morning with us as a reward for receiving merits in school.

During the 13 years of Re:ality we have given opportunities for the young

people once they have moved into year 11 and 6th form to be involved in the running of Re:ality. We have trained them to run the bars and other activities, and had them using their creativity to invent new cocktails! This has helped the young people in preparing for university, with their personal statements of how they have helped and served their community.

If you would like more information about Re:ality please contact **Jonathan Edwards**.

## **News from the bell ringers**

THE tower open day last month kept us quite busy ~ and this was immediately followed by the Wigan Branch six bell striking competition at Halsall.

The tower open day was really busy with all kinds of people wandering up the tower for the great views, many of whom who had a go at chiming a bell, with the bell in the safe down position. One ex-Christ church school boy is now joining us on a Sunday morning to learn the craft of bell ringing.

Last year we won the branch six bell striking competition but this year we struggled to put a team together and in the end we had to borrow two ringers from Rainford. As a result we did not get to practice and simply turned up on the day and 'went for it' with plain bob doubles. We came third out of four teams.

### ***Ringling times this month:***

Practice First Monday in month 7.30-9.00 pm. Every Sunday morning 10.00 to 10.45am. Second Sunday in month 5.30-6.30pm.

## News from the Scouts

WELCOME back to a new Scouting Year.

The Beavers are currently working on their First Aid badge and hope to have a visit to be shown how defibrillators work.

Wednesday Cubs entered three teams in the District Orienteering Competition at Bispham Hall in October and had an exciting morning looking for the electronic controls.

Thursday Cubs are working on their Global Challenge badge and have been investigating issues such as recycling.

The Cub Football season is also underway and the team have been training on Saturday mornings. Many thanks to the two dads who are currently managing the Cub Football team and a very big thank you to Barry Jones who has trained the team for many years but has had to step down due to other commitments.

The Scouts entered six teams in the District Orienteering Competition with one team coming second.

The Scouts have also taken part in a new District event in October called 'Operation Overlander.' This involved hiking from Bispham Hall to Tawd Vale (a route of approx 10 miles) and completing four challenges along the way at various checkpoints. Once at Tawd Vale, an assault course had to be completed before pitching hike tents and cooking a meal on hike stoves. On the Sunday morning, the teams had to cook a three course meal backwoods style (no pans or utensils) on a wood fire. Despite the mud, much fun was had by all!

The Explorers attended the annual Mersey Moot camp at Tawd Vale in September and had a great weekend taking part in obstacle courses, clay pigeon shooting, canoeing, climbing, circus skills and many more activities. They have also been to visit Blackpool Lights on a very wet and windy evening!

## Our Christingle Service

... takes place on Sunday, 4 December beginning at 4.00p.m. This lively service is very much directed towards the very young and it is followed by a children's tea party in the Ministry Centre.

Christingle means 'Christ's Light' and it is a symbol of the Christian faith. Lots of churches hold Christingle services around Christmas time. The custom of giving out lighted candles in these

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**Christ Church is now on twitter -  
follow us at @ChristChurchAug**

services originates from the Moravian Church in Germany in 1747.

Bishop Johannes de Watteville thought about how he could explain the love of Jesus and what Christmas really means to the children in the church. He decided to make a simple symbol to express the message of Christmas in a fresh and lively way. He gave each child a lighted candle wrapped in a red ribbon, with a prayer that said "Lord Jesus, kindle a flame in these dear children's hearts".

However, the Christingle service was not introduced to the Church of England until 1968 by the Children's Society. It has since become one of the most popular events for families and communities in the church calendar.

Loved by children and adults alike, this candlelit service celebrates the key message of the Christian faith, while helping to raise vital funds to help vulnerable children across the country. Last year, over 5000 celebrations were held across the country raising a total of £1.2 million.

Each child is given a Christingle as they arrive in church. What does this mean?

Christingles are made up of different parts, each one there to remind us of who Jesus is and why he is so special.

The orange represents the world which God has made while the candle is to show us that Jesus is the light of the world. The red ribbon goes all round the 'world' and reminds us that Jesus died for us, such is his love for us. The four cocktail sticks remind us of the four seasons, the gifts of God's creations.

Not only are Christingle celebrations enjoyable and enlightening events but they are a great way to raise valuable funds for The Children's Society to help support children facing life's harshest challenges.

## **Our Christmas Fair**

... takes place in the Ministry Centre on Saturday, 8 December, at 2.00pm.

## **Remembrance Day**

WE mark this on Sunday, 10 November with a special Parade service during which the warden reads out names of those men of Aughton who gave their lives during the Second World War.

One of these men is Edward Baker was the son of John and Kathleen Baker, who moved from Fazakerley to Liverpool Road in 1937. By then Edward was a well-established Marconi radio officer with the Silver Line, whose offices were then in Chapel Street.

A married man with two sons at the outbreak of the war he was offered a shore job on account of his age, being nearly 40.

However, Edward volunteered to stay on as a first radio officer with Merchant Navy. Tragically, on 15 October, 1941 his ship, MV Silvercedar, was torpedoed on route from New York to Liverpool in Convoy SC-48. She sank in seven minutes on an even keel. The aster, 18 crew members, two gunners and one passenger were lost.

When the ship was overdue, his family kept going to Chapel Street for news. Eventually they were finally told that he was missing presumed drowned but no death certificate was

ever issued, causing real problems of entitlement for his family. His wife, Doris, went grey overnight; she died in 1990. At the time of his death his sons were his sons were 17 and 7.

The elder son entered submarine service against the protests of his mother. Thankfully he survived the war even though he was torpedoed twice, in Atlantic and in Russian waters. The younger son, Ted used to live in Whalley Drive.

If you have more information about Edward Baker, please contact the church office.

***Those we remember are:***

Daniel B Ashcroft, Edward Baker, George M Blundell, Thomas Burke, Leonard J F Collins, Ronald J Corf, Henry C Davies, James Duncalf, Thomas Duncalf, James R Harrison, Arthur Hyder, John D R Jones, Frank G Smith, George B Smith, Benjamin H Stockley, Henry F Thomas, Thomas Ullivero, John N Wheldon and George Wright.

## **News from Argentina**

ANDREW Leake, our mission partner, writes that his town, Salta has spent days under a cover of thick smoke, with visibility at times reduced to a mile. The smoke is from forest fires, some intentional and others accidentally ignited when sugar cane crops are burnt (to get rid of the leaves) before harvest.

One fire started in fields and extended to the forests on the hills in the background. It burnt for days,

destroyed the forest and knocked out the electricity supply to towns in the north of Salta province. Some towns lost their water supply as they depend on electric pumps.

Due care and attention by famers would solve the problem, but few, if any, seem to be the least bit bothered. The same attitude extends to the Chaco's forests, and we often wonder what it will take to get local people to change their attitude and behaviour towards God's creation. That is the challenge we face.

Land for Life continues to be one of the few organizations engaged in challenging deforestation in Salta. We are the only organization engaged in registering and documenting applications for deforestation permits.

Since 2004 we have documented approximately 2.5 million acres of forest that has been authorized for destruction.

Andrew recently made a presentation at a public hearing for a proposal to clear a further 15,000 acres of Chaco forest for agriculture. He was the only person in the room challenging the proposal, the audience being made up almost entirely by land-owners and farmers (most of whom were pretty hostile!).

## **Food for thought . . .**

### ***November's Men's Breakfast***

OUR next men's breakfast is Saturday 2 November. As well as an excellent fry-up, we shall be hearing from **Brian Elfick**. Brian is the new Rector of St. Philemon's Church in Toxteth, and

previously served as student minister at a large church in Cambridge. He is an interesting and challenging speaker, so do join us from 8:30-10.00 am for food for body and mind!

## **News from School**

WE would like to say a really big thank you to everyone who attended our school harvest thanksgiving and also for attending our Macmillan coffee morning. We are really very grateful for your support.

### **Monday 4 November**

Dodge Ball after school club starts

### **Saturday 9 November**

PHA Ball at Briars Hall

### **Thursday 14 November**

Community Cinemas visiting school to show 'Planes'

### **Tuesday 19 November**

Governors Meeting

### **Thursday 21 November**

Year 6 re-enacting World War II evacuation to a school in Whitechapel north of Preston

**Café Vista** . . . is open for lunches as well as light refreshments Tuesday to Friday, 11.00am–3.30pm.

## **The Church's call**

### **– to pray and work for justice**

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has called on churches to 'cry out and claim and struggle' for justice, in order to bring 'testimony and witness to words and prayers'.

"Justice faints and hope fades when the church looks in on itself. The

Kingdom of God is proclaimed by a church that is caught up in the glory of God and the reality of the world around."

And so the Archbishop calls for a renewal of prayer so we may be 'caught up' with the 'God of justice' who calls people into action. He urges that the church must look beyond self-interest and side with those crying for justice.

'Any serious view of the nature of human beings,' he said, 'tells us that without the action of God their can be no true justice, and that the church is there to cry out and claim and struggle. That must involve action, which may be slight or grand.'

"The great purposes of God are delivered by a church with a vision of heaven and feet that walk the dusty roads."

He observes that every Diocese in England churches take part in food banks, in a society which has no need for such imbalances of wealth. "On the richest continent on earth we cannot devise an economic system that provides for the poor and yet forces the wealthy and the powerful to share equally the burdens of debt, and the heritage of materialism gone mad."

"When we lose sight of prayer and the reading of the scriptures, both as individuals and Christian communities, we lose the road we are to travel. Prayer for justice seems vain when compared to action. But Jesus is speaking out of the tradition of the psalms, where the psalmist calls to God to wake up. Prayer for justice, and a church that prays for justice, should be blunt and clear."



## Facebook

YOU can follow Christ Church on Facebook, as open group. Photos of church events as well as invites to special services are regularly posted. You can also access the vicar's weekly blog. Simply search for Christ Church, Aughton.

## Ready for Bishop of Liverpool?

IT is the responsibility of the Rt Revd Richard Blackburn, Bishop of Warrington, to care for the Diocese, until the new Bishop of Liverpool is appointed, probably in 12 months.

The Bishop clearly stated to the Diocesan Synod "This is not going to be a year when we take the foot off the pedal. This is not going to be a year when we shy from the challenging decisions and deliberations."

The Bishop did emphasise the scale and urgency of the challenges our diocese faces. He talked about the need for "mission shaped buildings that enable us to witness and worship in a way that is relevant to today's culture and respectful of our rich inheritance".

Bishop Richard strongly argues the need to develop leaders. He commended the LifeCall initiative and the push for local missional leaders stating that we it is only by having strong leaders will we be able to grow in the future.

The Bishop acknowledged that we also need to grow in our discipleship. Talking about this he announced that he will be challenging every church, school and parish to bring the Bible Alive in 2014 saying "It is scripture that calls us to serve and love one another.

It is the consistent message of God's love and concern for all His creation that drives us to call for social justice. That shows us outpouring our love through the support we give to Foodbanks, to Credit Unions, to debt advice and to the myriad of good works that happen day in day out in every parish across our diocese. And long may that continue."

The Bishop acknowledged these are challenging times but stated that we should despair concluding "We have shown in our diocese that we have a creative vein and beating heart. We have a unity of purpose and a desire to love and serve. We are a learning diocese. I was asked to share the Liverpool story with the college of Bishops and the story I told was one in which I not only highlighted what we had done, but also what we would have done if we had our time again. I believe this is important. To learn from reflection, to learn from each other, to learn from the past as we reach for the future, and above all - to live joyously, hopefully and faithfully in our present".

## FROM THE REGISTERS

### BAPTISMS

20 October: Charles John NIXON, son of Stuart and Jessica

20 October: Jake Elliott GIDMAN, son of Leigh and Debra

### WEDDINGS

28 September: Brian DAVIES and Elizabeth RITCHIE

### FUNERALS

10 October: Cornelius Christopher COUGHLIN, of New Cut Lane

11 October: Norman MARSHALL, of Noelgate