

Consider

Christ Church Aughton Parish Newsletter

No 527 ~ October 2017



YEARS

Vicar's Viewpoint ...

'Changed by the Holy Spirit'

"I used to have a motto: If anyone ever beats me, I have to kill them. Life was all about your name"

Shane Taylor

WHEN Shane Taylor was eventually arrested, there were 12 armed officers and 60 regulars. He was sentenced to 12-and-a-half years for what was then the largest ever known importation of cannabis to the UK.

By no means a model prisoner. In fact, he had a further four years added to his sentence for violence against prison officers and was designated a Category A prisoner.

Taylor spent most of his days in segregation. For months at a time, his food would be delivered through a secure hatch in his door, and he would be escorted to the showers by officers in full riot gear.

The Home Office came to know him as one of the six most dangerous prisoners in the country.

One day an officer said he had to go to an educational class. It was a mistake and so he was directed to the chapel instead. As it happens he arrived during an Alpha course.

Taylor decided to stay for the free coffee and biscuits rather than the opportunity to learn about the Christian faith.

It was the message of God's

forgiveness grabbed him. "I had always thought there were good and bad people," he says. "I thought I was bad, so I was going to hell no matter what I did."

So this hardened criminal prayed: "God, if you're real, come into my life, because I hate the way I am."

God did ~ and Taylor became a changed man, changed by the Holy Spirit.

For as he had thrown himself into violent crime, he now became all-out for Jesus. "People would mock me and I wouldn't care." In fact, he started to help run the Alpha courses in prison.

All this took place ten years ago. And Taylor is still helping run Alpha but now not just in prisons. In fact, he is coming to Christ Church to speak at the launch of our 50th Alpha course.

This takes place on **Thursday, 5 October at 8.00pm** in our Ministry Centre. Wine and canapés are being served.

If God can change someone like Shane Taylor, he can change anyone. As the apostle Paul rejoices: "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Ros Moughtin



Visiting preachers this month

AS we celebrate 150 years of Christ Church we welcome back two of our previous curates who will be speaking at the 10.45 service of Holy Communion for October and November.

Rev Jeremy Thomas, curate at Christ Church 2006-2010 and now vicar of St Thomas, Ashton-in-Makerfield, will be speaking on **Sunday, 1 October** while **Rev Michael Follin**, curate 2002-2006, who was only recently instituted as vicar of Vicar of Werrington and Wetley Rocks in the Diocese of Lichfield, will be speaking on **Sunday, 5 November**.

Confirmation Service

WE are delighted to welcome back to Christ Church the Bishop of Liverpool for this confirmation service on **Sunday, 15 October at 4.00pm**. Candidates from several churches including Christ Church will be presented at this service.

Apple theme for our Harvest Thanksgiving

WE welcome children bringing their harvest gifts at the school service on **Friday 6 October at 9.15am** and during our **Parade Service on Sunday, 8 October**.

We especially appreciate gifts of house plants and non-perishables. These are taken to the local Women's refuge, the Ormskirk Foodbank as well as to those in our community who are sick or who are elderly or housebound.

The Sunday Harvest Parade service is followed by a ploughman's lunch with apple pie in the Ministry Centre at 12.15 pm. Everyone is invited. This will be alongside some apple-themed activities.

Then at 2.00pm we go over to the Gorse Hill nature reserve for apple picking. There will be a special tour of the orchard, an opportunity to see over 100 apple trees and a demonstration of apple pressing where we can taste the freshly produced juice!

October

Sunday, 1 October

8.15am: Holy Communion

10.45am: Holy Communion

Rev. Jeremy Thomas is speaking

6.30pm: Evening Worship

Wednesday, 4 October

2.00pm: Holy Communion in the
Ministry Centre

Friday, 6 October

9.15am: School Harvest Service

Harvest Thanksgiving, Sunday 8 October

8.15am: Holy Communion

*Breakfast is served in the Ministry
Centre between services*

10.45am: Parade Service with
presentation of Harvest gifts

Harvest lunch in the Ministry Centre

6.30pm: Evening Worship

Sunday, 15 October

8.15am: Holy Communion

10.45am: Family Service with Baptism

4.00pm: Confirmation service with
Bishop Paul

Sunday, 22 October

8.15am: Holy Communion

10.45am: Family Service

6.30pm: Holy Communion

Sunday, 29 October

8.15am: Holy Communion

10.45am: Informal Service in the
Ministry Centre

6.30pm: Evening Worship

Wednesday, 1 November

2.00pm: Holy Communion in the
Ministry Centre

Sunday, 5 November

8.15am: Holy Communion

10.45am: Holy Communion

Rev. Michael Follin is speaking

6.30pm: Evening Worship

Child Friendly Church award

OUR church has been assessed by a Child Friendly Church Award Advisor from the Diocese ~ which means essentially that Christ Church takes ministry for children and

families seriously.

The award will be presented during our Harvest Parade service by Sue Mitchell from the Diocesan team.

The great adventure ~ our Alpha launch

SHANE Taylor was once classed as one of the most dangerous prisoners in Britain. Imprisoned for drug running, kidnap and attempted murder, his out-of-control behaviour quickly saw him transferred to a high security prison.

Even then he needed further locking up and was placed within a close supervision system. Shane says, 'They felt I was a danger to everybody. They had to feed me through a hatch in the door, because they couldn't have physical contact with me.'

Shane tried Alpha and his life was transformed.

You can hear how God transformed this hardened criminal at our Alpha launch on **Thursday, 5 October at 8.00pm** in the Ministry Centre. Wine and canapés will be served.

How we found Alpha

KAREN and Greg were two of the people who did our Alpha course last year. They share their experiences:

Karen: "I started on my Alpha journey about ten years ago, unfortunately I became ill and couldn't finish the course.

"I restarted my journey last year and have learnt a great deal. During the process, I have made some good friends and questioned a lot about myself and my life. I feel like I am only just beginning on a new chapter.

"The course has been refreshing, interesting, questioning and informative. The concept of having a meal together, watching DVD's, then debating differing viewpoints for a couple of hours a week is excellent. I have a long way to go, but I hope this is only just the start for me."

Greg writes: "I have never been a believer, perhaps more of an atheist, living life how I want and happy to take what ever my fate shall

be. Being ex-military, I had been in a couple of dangerous situations and at the time thought it was game over for me, but I always managed to survive.

"During my years I have had a couple of God moments when I have thought, was that divine intervention or just coincidence. Coincidence I put it down to, nothing more, but in the back of my mind, I had always wondered.

"Then one day a friend invited me to Alpha and mentioned a free meal. Well, you have got me, I was never one to pass a free meal.

"I have now completed Alpha and moved on to several other courses and now see those who took the course as friends.

"I'm knocking on God's door but not quite ready to step inside. It's not an easy journey; you will look and question yourself. Take some things on board and the ones you can't put on a shelf until you can re-visit them.

"My journey will continue for now, but I would ask anyone thinking of joining Alpha to at least try it."

Got questions? Try Alpha

OUR Alpha course itself begins on **Thursday, 12 October**, in the Ministry Centre at 7.30pm, each meeting beginning with a meal. We then watch a video before breaking into small groups for discussion.

Those who come find it welcoming and affirming. There is no pressure on anyone to participate. You can, if you wish, simply sit there and listen.

Gala Night with Pearl of Africa Children's Choir

EACH year we are delighted to host this choir from Uganda

They will be performing at the Ormskirk Civic on **Thursday 19 October at 7.00pm**.

There will be tables of 10 people if you would like to book as a group. Tickets £12 each and include a hotpot supper and are available from **Pete & Liz Chalk (577 454)** or **Jim Briscoe (07851 168155)**.

'Girlie Night In'

LADIES, you are very welcome to join us in the Ministry Centre on **Friday 20 October 7:45-10.00pm** for our Girlie Night In. If you are looking to buy early Christmas presents for your girlfriends then look no further.

We will be joined by a representative from Eden jewellery.

Eden work in some of the red light districts of Asia where they aim to reach those who have been trafficked into prostitution providing safe houses, programmes to help them recover their self worth and employment.

All the jewellery is made by the girls who have been rescued and the money raised pays them a wage and allows the work to grow. Jewellery will be available to purchase on the night. No need to book simply come along and bring your friends

News from the Scouts

DURING the summer holidays a group of Scouts and Explorer Scouts undertook an overnight expedition to complete the Expedition Challenge, one of the nine challenge badges needed in order to achieve the highest award in the Scout section, the Chief Scout's Gold Award.

The group hiked from Aughton to Billinge and camped overnight at Bispham Hall Scout Camp before hiking back the next day. They had to carry all their equipment and cook their meals on a hike stove. They all successfully completed the hike although there were quite a few blisters and sore legs and shoulders by the end!

During the August bank holiday weekend the **Scout Group** held its annual family camp at Tawd Vale, a camp for all Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and their families.

Fourteen families camped under canvas, together with Leaders and Young Leaders, and enjoyed canoeing, climbing, raft building and campfire singing. Sunday afternoon's team activities ended in a massive water fight with children firing water pistols at any adults they could find, at least

the weather was superb and there was always plenty of tea, coffee and cake!

The **Explorers** had a great time at the annual Mersey Moot Camp in September. This camp, for Explorer Scouts (14-18 years) and the Guide Senior Section, is a weekend packed with activities such as clay pigeon shooting, caving simulation, canoeing and abseiling as well as crafts and team competitions.

The Explorers enjoyed the Saturday night barn dance, followed by a disco and after a late night on the Saturday they still managed to compete in Sunday's Super Mooter, a huge obstacle course involving lots of mud!

Knit & Knatter

THE change of day for Knit & Knatter will now not happen ~ it remains on a Monday morning, 10.00 until noon.

Café Vista in the Ministry Centre welcomes all people, not just church members. It is open Tuesday to Friday 10.30am-3.30pm with cooked breakfasts being served on Saturdays from 10.00 am to 12 noon. Everyone welcome, not just church members

From the registers

FUNERALS

12 September: ALAN VIVIAN

ROTHWELL, of Holborn Hill

12 September: ARTHUR MUIR, of

Noelgate

22 September: LEONARD THEODORE

ELLIS, of Aughton Park residential home

Church Office

THIS is open Monday to Friday 9.00am-1.00pm in the Ministry Centre

For any information, including requests for baptism and thanksgiving services, weddings, funerals and room bookings, call in or phone **424 530**, or e: **ChristChurchAughton@gmail.com**.