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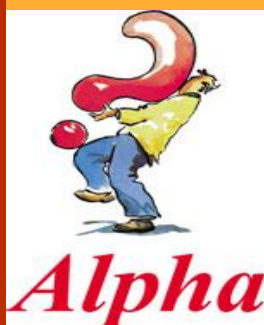
Walton Breck News

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2009

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Back to Church Sunday
- Alpha
- How healthy are we?
- Holiday Club
- Shirley's story
- Men and Motors



Back to Church Sunday 27th September 2009

Churchgoers across the Church of England are set personally to invite up to half a million people to services on Back to Church Sunday, 27 September 2009, making the event one of the largest co-ordinated evangelism events shared across the Church in recent history.

Every one of the Church's 44 dioceses are taking part in the initiative this year, by encouraging churchgoers to invite someone they know who used to attend church to come back on a particular Sunday. Churches will focus on extending an even warmer welcome than usual on the day. The following is a quote from last year's event:

"Several people turned up without knowing quite why, and were very glad they did. Many of the visitors had a fresh view of what church could be and, we hope, a clearer idea of why we believe in God."



For us at Christ Church and also at Holy Trinity this will also be our Harvest Sunday. (This year we will be supporting **Tearfund** see inside for details).

So why not do someone an incredible favour and invite them to come to church! It's not as hard as you may think. 1000s all over the country came back to church through someone being brave enough to offer an invitation..

Last year, the Diocese of Lichfield was the largest participant in Back to Church Sunday and research suggests that 6,000 people came back to church in the Diocese, six months later between 700 and 900 (12-15 per cent) had become regular members.

So.... go on be an angel and give someone an invitation.

Alpha is Back!

Alpha is an informal course which has helped millions of people throughout the world to find out what it means to be a follower of Jesus today.

The course is over 12 weeks and will be based in the ABCC centre situated under Holy Trinity, Breck Rd. The first session is on Thursday 17th September at 7.30pm.

You do not need to know the bible. At each session there is presentation and then there is a discussion.

You can join in this or simply listen to what other people are saying and asking.

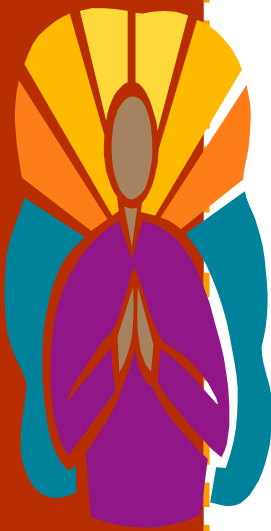
The sessions cover subjects like, 'Who is Jesus?' and 'Does God heal today?' There is also a day away, where we look in depth into the work of the Holy Spirit.

Details of the weekend will be made available later.

To help us get into the mood, each evening, there will be tea or coffee and a 'mouth watering' pudding.

If as an adult you are considering being confirmed will need to sign up for Alpha.

See Tim or Kelvin for more information.



A day of Spiritual renewal

One of the aims for the coming year decided by the PCC of Christ Church was to organise, days away for spiritual refreshment.

For our own well being we need to spend quality time with Our Father, to look at ourselves, to check out our relationship with Him and to see how and in what ways this is affecting our lives.

For our first day we have booked Sandimount, a Roman Catholic retreat house in Blundell Sands for a day of spiritual refreshment on Tuesday 20th October 2009. Liverpool]. The theme will be '**A Faith To Live By.**' Kelvin will lead the day

The day will begin at 10am and finish at 4pm. There will be worship, reflections

by Kelvin, space to think about our faith, and if necessary opportunity to talk about issues that arise.

Cost for the day will be £19.50 which will include lunch. **The day is open to anyone from either church.** If you would like to go but the cost is putting you off please have a word with either Kelvin or Tim, help is available and confidential.

Holiday at Home

Starting Monday October 19th until Friday 23rd October Holy Trinity Church will be running a week of activity's for older



people called "Holiday at

Home".

This will include films on Monday and Thursday, quizzes, and music, a trip out to Blackpool illuminations on the Wednesday and loads of other activities on each day apart



from Wednesday as we will be on our trip. A meal will also be provided each day apart from when we go to Blackpool. So please join us, and tell your older neighbours and friends about these events.

If you would like any more information please ring Tim on 263 1538

Holiday Club Memory Verse

Do not be discouraged for I, the Lord, am with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1: 9



Holiday Club this year took on a tropical theme. We were flown to our tropical island each morning with the help of Capt Eric Asquith and crew member Penny Haynes on arrival we where greeted by the Banana Boys, Ripe & Rotten (Thomas Cowan & Craig Cooper) whose

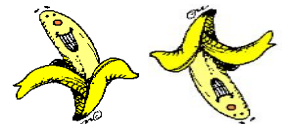
enthusiasm and fun rubbed off on all concerned from the youngest to the oldest.

There was also time travel as we were visited via the 'Timeshed' by various bible characters who had 'Gone Bananas for God'. Our visitors included Adam and Eve, David and Goliath and

a rather strange Samson.

We had on average 50 children each day with quite a few of them new to Holiday Club. We invited the children and their parents to join us for the BBQ the following Sunday and were pleased to see some of them there.

Going Bananas!



How Healthy Are We?



How Healthy Are We?

For Christ Church and Holy Trinity

To help us think through what it means to be the church today and to be able to look at how we are doing, starting in October and for the following two months, at our morning services, we will be undertaking a series of sermons based on the seven characteristics of a healthy church.

Oct 4th **Energised by Faith**

Oct 11th **Outward looking** [BB 90th Celebration]

Oct 18th **Seeks to find out what God wants.**

Nov 1st **Faces the cost of change & growth**

Nov 15th **Operates as a community**

Nov 29th **Makes room for all.**

Dec 6th **Does a few things and does them well**

You might ask how these characteristic came to be chosen.

A few years ago a survey was done amongst growing churches, not all of them big congregations but those attracting new members. All these churches had these seven common features. Looking at the whole picture given by these attributes, Rev Robert Warren [former mission advisor for the Church of England] said these findings should not be a surprise because they are a reflection of the person of Our Lord Jesus.

For these various characteristics are more to do with attitude than what we actually do. They summarise our values and our outlook.

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Make Life Flow

This year for our Harvest donations we will be supporting Tearfund's 'Make Life Flow' campaign.

Clean water is a fundamental human need. So why do we tolerate a world where almost 900 million people live without it? A world where unclean water is the second-biggest child-killer? Where more than 2.5 billion people don't

have a safe place to go to the toilet?

Reducing the suffering caused by lack of water is not just about building wells. It's as much about promoting hygiene and good sanitation, making sure that communities have full ownership of new water sources and understand the importance of protecting them. It's also about challenging governments to deliver these services.

Tearfund's way of working in water and sanitation is to bring people together: churches, other charities, governments and businesses. As a network extending across continents, we can share good ideas, technical expertise and resources.

Please give what you can to ensure this basic right is available to as many people as possible.



'We treasure the water. It's very important and precious.

It is a gift from God and we value it.'

Stidia, Uganda

So what do you think?

This is our first trial run of Walton Breck News. We are not sure yet how often it will be published. The aim is to keep people informed about what is going on in the life of both churches and for what we discover of items in our community. Let Tim, Kelvin or any of the Church Wardens know your views

SCAFFOLD AGAIN!!!!

Scaffold once again surrounds Holy Trinity, Breck Rd. The work funded by English Heritage is to repair the roof and to re-point parts of the external walls. The work will be completed in October.

Sadly this will not be the end, a fresh application for funding will be made this year for more work on the roof to be undertaken in 2010. This means of course that we will have a sound building from which we can continue to join in with God's mission. 'Our work is never done until we see Jesus once again'

'Men and Motors'

Men, how would you like a night out looking at cars?

Mark Mitchell Group Managing Director of Mitchell Group [situated near Cheshire Oaks] has invited us over. This is on Tuesday September 29th We have to be there for 6pm. This will enable some of us to drive some of his cars and look around his fabulous workshops.



Mark is then going to treat us to a 'Chinese Meal' and we will have the opportunity to listen to his faith story and hear how a Christian man can successfully own and operate with integrity in the car business, especially in sales.

Mark was willing to give up previous car franchises because they insisted that he opened on a Sunday. Sunday for Mark is special; day, its a time for staff to be with their families, at worship if they are Christians.

So why not join us? It will prove to be an interesting, enjoyable and illuminating evening. Lists will be going up in Christ Church and Holy Trinity [numbers are limited] to sign up. If you want any more information or need a lift contact Kelvin [263-2518]

Shirley's Journey into the Unknown

My journey into the unknown began with a week long camp at Croxteth Park in 2005, at Merseyfest. During the week we had a really difficult and dirty task to move rubbish that people had dumped more or less on their own doorstep but throughout the week God spoke.



Now when I say God spoke it would have been quite nice, if not scary, for this to be in the form of a burning bush or perhaps an angel, but it wasn't. Instead it was through dreams, visions, constant nagging sometimes rather random

thoughts and through other people that I heard God speak.

All this took some unravelling but the message that was coming through strong and clear is that God wanted more. How much more though I didn't know.

You can choose to ignore the voice of God in your life but He is patient and from what I've realised, persistent but at the same time not pushy. This was a really unsettled time in that what seemed important faded into the background and issues I'd not been too concerned about became overwhelming.

One such issue was that (whatever the church had to offer in the shape of events and activities) for some people the step of coming to church is too great. It was only through spending time with God in prayer and quietness, by talking to my family and other people and then by actually exploring my calling for ordained ministry did any sense begin to emerge. It was at this time when I also experienced peace – something that had been absent for a while. To anyone who may say, "God doesn't speak to me", I would

encourage you to spend time with God, listen carefully and widely, be open to suggestions no matter how 'out the box' they may be and remember what God calls you to do He'll equip you for – I'm relying on that one!

In effect I've handed in my three year 'notice' at Christ Church and how that time will fly. The thought of leaving is at present unthinkable but the call of God has to be greater than the desire to stay in what's a comfortable place. The journey is unknown but thankfully the Travel Guide isn't and all He asks is that we love and trust Him.

Editors note 'Shirley will be stepping down as Church Warden as she focuses her time on her ordination training. As part of her training Shirley will occasionally preach and lead worship at both Christ Church & Holy Trinity