

THE PAPER

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THE GENERATIONS ISSUE

Welcome to the first edition of The Paper! We hope you find moments of inspiration in these stories, interviews and articles and find the resources and information useful and timely. In this issue we explore the always relevant and challenging theme of 'Generations'.

Church gatherings are one of the few places in society where various generations interact and support one

another. A bustling room of young people, Millennials, Gen Xers, Boomers and those born in the early 20th century is a powerful counter-cultural statement of unity. Of course, the church is not immune to miscommunication, ageism and intergenerational discontent. We invite you to use these pages to kickstart conversations in your community and find hallowed, common ground.

CELEBRATING CHURCH AND COMMUNITY:

Better Together

Churches and communities thrive when engaged with each other. Results from a survey* show that our local parish churches are out in front in making community engagement an integral part of vision, mission and worship.

The report detailed the results of a survey that measured community-focussed activity across the Church of England. Although we are one of the smallest and poorest dioceses, Birmingham shows above average statistics in terms of our involvement with such activities, illustrating the many ways our churches of all sizes and means are working alongside local communities to tackle issues of poverty and injustice.

91% of our churches are engaged in community activity



Many churches across the diocese are partnering with their local communities to tackle issues of poverty and disadvantage. 91% of churches that responded to the survey said they were engaged with disadvantaged groups in their communities in one or more ways, and 65% of reported that they were working alongside other local groups to run at least one community activity.

The survey showed that across our city region; our parish churches big and small, and whatever their means, are playing their part in helping their neighbourhoods to flourish, working with communities on over 600 community activities. While some of these churches run projects themselves (275 in total), other churches opened their doors to host another 93 projects and a further 95 were carried out in partnerships with other organisations. What's more, an additional 148 initiatives were supported by churches in other ways, for example through donations, resources and volunteers.

Birmingham churches are involved with **600** community activities



across the city region, from foodbanks to job clubs to night shelters...



Foodbanks

are the most commonly supported type of community activity by Birmingham churches

72% of churches of our churches said they supported food banks in some way, often with volunteers and/or donations, as well as in partnerships with other organisations. Churches also reported to be engaging with different groups in their local communities through a wide range of other types of community projects, including parent/carer and toddler groups, lunch clubs, job clubs, night shelters for the homeless, community cafés, youth work, holiday/breakfast clubs, money/debt advice - as well as through other pastoral provision.

PRAYERS, BLESSINGS AND MANTRAS

Sharda Lavingia's spiritual journey started in Jinja, Uganda, where she was born into a migrant Indian family. Her mother and father were both very spiritual and brought her up as a Hindu. Sharda first encountered Christianity through listening to Christmas carols with her parents. "My mother was very open to all kinds of spirituality", Sharda explains.

Her father, a talented goldsmith, saw the rise of Uganda's military dictator Idi Amin and decided to flee with the family to England. They settled in Sparkhill, Birmingham.

As a young girl Sharda felt a strange pull towards the church buildings and towards Jesus. In fact, she remembers praying "I love you" to Jesus, despite knowing little about him. "The love was there, but the education was not".

In 1982 her parents arranged her marriage to Viren, a former cricket player from Tanzania. Hearing that Sharda's family were very spiritual people, guru Sri Sri Ravi Shankar was keen to meet them and soon Shankar and Sharda were friends. Shankar encouraged Sharda to chant the words "I Am". For decades Sharda spoke this mantra as part of her daily practice without realizing these words would later connect her again to Christianity.

In 2011 Sharda's husband collapsed and became very ill. He was put on the waiting list for a new kidney. One day Sharda arrived at the gym praying, "God, what do I do? Show me the way". She bumped into a Punjabi Christian woman, who called on Jesus to bless Sharda and her husband. "I could feel the light of Jesus within me after this."

Two days later the hospital called. They were ready to prep Viren for kidney transplant surgery. After the operation, Sharda spotted a nun in a hospital corridor and asked her to bless Viren. The nun asked, "Can I pray for you in the name of Jesus?" "Yes," responded Sharda, "we believe in Jesus".

The next Sunday, Sharda visited her local church, St Christopher's in Sparkhill for the



Share your story
Do you have a story of faith worth sharing?
Send it to comms@cofebirmingham.com

first time. She came back week after week, sobbing and praying thanks to God for keeping her husband alive. St Christopher's became her home church.

Soon after that a neighbour explained to Sharda that she was becoming a Christian and asked Sharda to be at her baptism. During the baptism, Sharda thought, "this is holy water. Indians dip their hands in the river Ganges, put it over their heads and purify themselves. So, I took some water and sprinkled myself with it".

Sharda continues to be deeply involved with church and set up an organisation alongside her vicar Tom Thomas which helped raise funds for local community projects. In a Bible study group she was amazed to discover that Jesus had a whole series of 'I Am' saying.

"Some of my Asian friends don't understand my faith. They say 9 years of going to church is enough, but I say I love Jesus. The Holy Spirit is living in me and I'm free."



BISHOP ANNE'S reflections on: GENERATIONS

The 2019 Good Childhood Report from the Children's Society reveals that in the UK, almost a quarter of a million children are unhappy with their lives. Factors include anxiety around appearance, (for boys too), friendships and school. There is rising mental ill-health among children and increasing poverty. Meanwhile, whilst new Government money for social care initiatives is to be welcomed, it's unclear how much will resource children's services, where years of cuts have left councils struggling to deliver vital preventative help.

How well do we understand the world our children and young people now grow up in? The pressures of social media and early sexualisation, fear of everyday knife crime, urgent concerns around climate change and destabilising political turmoil were not part of the childhood many of us experienced.

I had the privilege recently of hearing Erica Whyman, Deputy Artistic Director of the RSC, reflecting on her recent production

of Romeo and Juliet. She cited the play's prologue, which makes clear that the tragedy which befalls the young people is a result of the world that their parents' generation and generations before them have created. It provoked me to ask afresh what kind of world we want our children and young people today to grow up in, and our part as Christians in working with God to transform it into the kind of world that we long to see.

I say "our" children and young people deliberately, because whether we have children of our own or not, I believe that we are all called to share in their care within the Body of Christ. The church is a wonderful intergenerational family able to make a real difference to the lives of each member, whether young or old, and together to re-shape the world in which we live. As a former youth worker myself, I noted again and again not only how much older people have to contribute to "cheering, praying, doing" youth and children's work, (to quote from our own approach in the Church of England,

Birmingham), but how much older people received themselves from sharing in the lives and encouragement of the younger members of the church family.

In Paul's second letter to Timothy we hear that Timothy's grandmother, Lois, played an influential part in passing on to him the faith, in the same way that my own grandmother's faith played an important role for me. Parents as well as children have many pressures on them today, and those of grandparent age can have a special relationship and role to play.

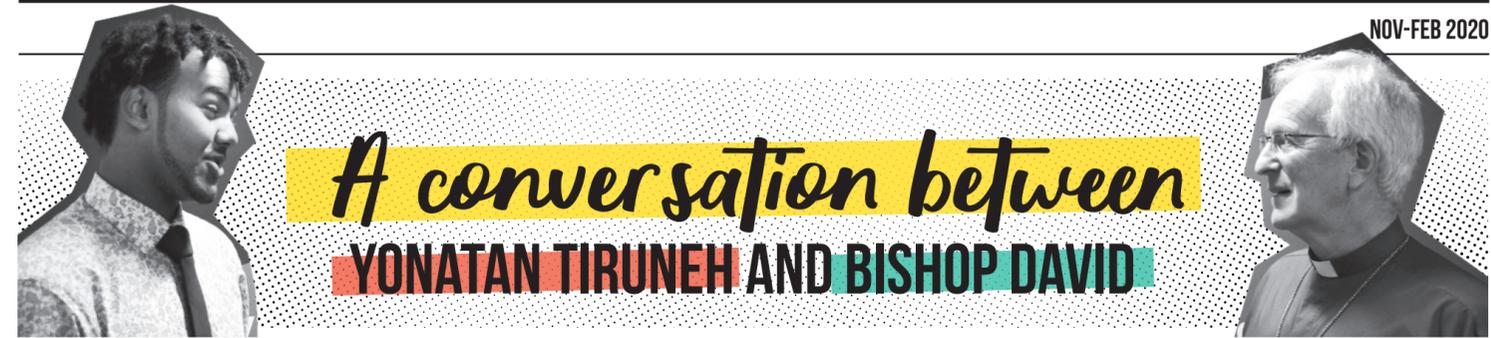
Whilst we are recovering the importance of how Christian faith is caught as well as taught in the home, the wider Christian community continues to be key in shaping the values, self-worth and hope of our young people, alongside working towards a world that we actually want to pass on to the next generation. There is a call to us all, whatever our age, to become true Mothers and Fathers in God.

BIRCHFIELD JOB CLUB:

The gift of hope



“ Church is not just a place where you come every Sunday. It's a chance for you to go out of the doors and use some of those skills in this community where you live. ”



A conversation between YONATAN TIRUNEH AND BISHOP DAVID

Yonatan: Young people need something to do outside of school. Something that's not just educational or academic. Youth under 18 just hang out together and once you turn 18 there's the pressure to go out clubbing. People I know are into film and digital arts, but we have nowhere to go.

Bishop David: From your perspective, what's going to most help your age group live a full life?

Yonatan: Ultimately, we need a say in our own future. And we need spaces for creativity and community. I've been doing bartending for 2 years now, and pubs are community for older people. Young people need that community, apart from the alcohol, a social club kind of thing, a space for activities, talks by local authors and filmmakers, people that have been through what we've been through.

Bishop David: At the moment in the UK we seem to be trashing our constitutional and political processes. We're at such a crisis point. So, how do you have a say?

Yonatan: That's a hard question. Because of the political system as it is, it's easy to have a pessimistic view. There are things out of my control but there's things I can influence that will impact those around me.

Bishop David: We have all been lazy about politics. We've let the enthusiasts within party politics run the system and then we get what we get. Another approach is to use social media and demonstrations, even civil disobedience in the case of Extinction Rebellion. So, if local government support for youth provision, for which we've put in appeals for years, isn't forthcoming because there's no will or legal requirement, shouldn't we take action?

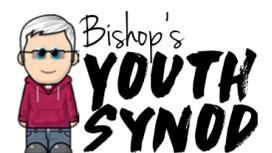
Yonatan: Absolutely.

Bishop David: I'm thinking about the Impact Hub in Digbeth, set up by Immy Kaur, where young entrepreneurs and people who want to think and talk and change society, can gather. This is an example of people taking positive action; not waiting for politics or government to do it for us. Your analysis is so vivid and you've got such a lot of experience, Yonatan, of particular schools and communities. How do we help young people come together around issues?

Yonatan: The issue of climate change hit a nerve. I follow a lot of graphic artists on Instagram coming up with pictures imagining future disasters and visualizing statistics in striking ways. Photographers are showing what beaches look like right now, with all

the plastic. Young people get the magnitude of what's happening. They're doing climate strikes. On national television an interviewer tried to make the issue of knife crime all about race but Akala (activist/rapper) steered the conversation back to the real issues in an engaging way. Artists definitely have a part to play.

Bishop David: Getting those who are aware of the problems facing young people but are not in that culture or age range, to give time to listen, without having all the answers, is vital. They can possibly mentor. They may have resources to make things happen. This is a sacrificial thing for older people with busy lives, but if you get the word out on social media and these people understand they can make a difference, this could work, community by community.



Would you like be a new voice for young people across Church of England Birmingham? Or are you a youth worker who's keen to see young people grow their faith and leadership qualities? To be part of Bishop David's Youth Synod contact Emma Sargeant: emmas@cofebirmingham.com

These are the words of Revd Canon Eve Pitts, Vicar of Holy Trinity Church, Birchfield, a multicultural congregation in diverse area of north Birmingham. Every Thursday morning they open up the church hall for Job Club, a small but friendly team of volunteers ready to welcome local jobseekers.

Revd Eve was looking for ways in which Holy Trinity could respond to the needs of the local community. She observed the high rate of unemployment, many people without jobs due to lack of the necessary skills and confidence. What's more, she witnessed the impact long-term unemployment had on people; the shame, indignity, insecurity, and sense of hopelessness that often went unseen.

Sandra Golding, a Community Development Coordinator with Mother's Union, believes the Job Club's success is 'because this is a need that's been clearly identified within the community.' She's seen many neighbourhood initiatives fail over the years where organisers attempted to get the community to fit with their vision instead of listening to its needs. 'Finding out what is going on in the area' is key in realising that you can't translate one project on to another.

The ethos of Job Club is to equip jobseekers with the skills to write their own CV, covering letters and application forms, and to teach those with no IT skills how to use a computer. 'If they've got writing skills and they've got the

time to stay with us, they can build their CV there,' explains Veronica Flowers, Mothers' Union Branch Leader.

'When you go to job centres, you're behind a screen. Tick box, tick box, bye. Job clubs are more personable,' says Veronica. 'By empowering them with the skills necessary to find employment, volunteers help restore a jobseeker's dignity and hope.'

'No matter how downtrodden the person looks, you respect them,' states Revd Eve. 'And let them know that you respect them.'

For the full article, visit: tinyurl.com/birchfieldjobclub

GENERATIONS DIVIDED

It feels like our country plunges further into confusion and division with every passing week. Chuka Umunna, who's been caught up in the turbulence in parliament, states, "we seem to be viewing people of other generations not as partners but as a hindrance to solving the challenges we face."

This rings true within politics and wider culture but how about within our churches? Are there generational fault lines within the Body of Christ? Are we dismissive of others because of their age?

Often we simply haven't taken the time to learn each other's culture and vocabulary. Youth leaders can be 'bi-lingual' bridges between youth people and older church members, but that should just be the starting point. Are we willing to abandon our jargon and embrace common phrases and ideas?

Revd Daniel Ramble, vicar at St James Church, Mere Green in Sutton acknowledges the potential for fear, negativity and misunderstanding between generations but points out that "Christian hope, offered with grace and in love, will always lead to healthy culture change. This culture change will be based on inclusion and diversity."

Ramble believes that deep intergenerational connections between traditional mature members and new younger members is the key for church growth globally.

Thankfully, God is way more inclusive than we can be. In Joel chapter 2 He promises to pour out his grace-full, multi-lingual Spirit on men and women of all ages. In fact at Pentecost the astonished crowd ask, "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?"

With God's Spirit guiding us, we can repair divisions and become communities of reconciliation, hope and intergenerational unity.

by Joel Wilson

IS YOUR SMARTPHONE A BLESSING OR A CURSE?

We asked Steve Jones, Assistant Priest at St. Stephen the Martyr in Rednal, his daughters and grandson about the pros and cons of the Smartphone Era.



Though it enables me to keep in touch with family, to keep up-to-date with current events and manage my work, I also worry if I don't look at it or switch it on then I will miss something important, so it actually becomes quite stressful. Would I be without it? Absolutely not. Would I like to have the confidence to turn it off occasionally? Certainly.

Steve

I use my phone for searching, playing games, watching YouTube Kids and messaging family.



Toby

Toby's generation literally won't be able to function without a phone. So much of everyday life is online. In school they do teach online safety, but nobody really knows what's next. We're the first generation bringing up kids who've never known life without Smart Phones, so it's something we have to figure out.



Amanda

It's a mixed bag. As parents we have to help our kids figure out how to deal with cyberbullying etc. but I'm teaching myself to think less negatively about my phone. There's so much judgement of parents being on their phones, when they can really be a life saver at times.



Kate

We run the teenager's group at church and when you can tell from someone's feed that they're having a hard time, that's when you message them: 'R U Ok? Let's meet up for a chat.' There's no substitute for real face-to-face time.



Amanda

WE ASKED GAMERS OF VARIOUS AGES:

What's Your Favourite Video Game Ever?

I loved **Alex Kidd (1987)**. Although somewhat one dimensional, I enjoyed punching bricks and defeating the baddies to get to the next level.

Zara Sykes

Breakout (1976), basically cyber tennis, had a nifty twizzle controller that enabled me to keep up with the ever-increasing pace of the game (and kick my smug younger brother's butt without consequence).

Ola Brown

I like **Minecraft (2009)** because I can be creative, do whatever I want and build using many different blocks. Also: the animals are cute.

Evie Wilson

Mario Kart (1992), all versions, has been my go-to 'happy game place' since my SNES in the 90s and my WiiU and Switch versions now. It's competitive, innocent fun for the whole family. It never gets old!

Mandy Burton

Our first year of marriage was spent hugging every corner of **Mario Kart Double Dash (2003)**. It's time we will never get back and nor would we want to.

Steve Squires

Life is Strange (2015) takes high-school drama and a touch of time-rewinding Butterfly Effect and wraps it up in an emo girl walking sim that is smart and utterly compelling.

Luke Morris

“ IN 10 YEARS TIME, WILL BIRMINGHAM BE A BETTER OR A WORSE PLACE TO LIVE? ”



“Better place. I think Birmingham is one of the least divisive cities that there is. What I find is that people are very tolerant of each other different and diverse background, whether its race, class, whatever's divided people.” - Gillian



“A better place to live because there will be more robots and you won't really have more jobs and people can just lie down if they're ill.” - Jaydon (right)

“I'm not sure if I can imagine anything much different. Hopefully better but it all depends on how far as a city it advances.” - Ajani (left)



“If the crime was less then it would be a better place. People will be more close - if the crime stops then people will start being friendly to each other.” - Abdul



“Better place to live because it's nice. I'll be playing and learning.” - Jessie

The Deanery of

A S T O N



Sutton Park

IS THE
7TH LARGEST
URBAN PARK IN EUROPE

2,400 ACRES OF WOODLAND, TRAILS, SEVEN LAKES,
RESTAURANTS AND A DONKEY SANCTUARY

HEAVY METAL BAND

BLACK SABBATH

FORMED IN 1968,
IN ASTON

QUEEN VICTORIA
OPENED
Aston Hall
IN 1858

Villa Park

HAS HOSTED MORE
FA CUP SEMI-FINALS
THAN ANY OTHER
CLUB GROUND (55)

Started in
1st May
2019

Population
197,563

Area Dean is
Revd Ann Richardson

18
Parishes

37
Services
every Sunday

24
Churches

42mi²

Spaghetti Junction

HAS ITS **OWN WEATHER STATION**
TO MONITOR CONDITIONS

HENRY VIII NAMED
Sutton Coldfield
A ROYAL TOWN IN 1528

St Chad's, Wishaw

IS A POPULAR CHOICE FOR WEDDINGS,
ESPECIALLY AT '**BLUEBELL TIME**' WHEN
THE CHURCHYARD IS CARPETED IN BLUE

★ THE DRUM ARTS CENTRE, NEWTOWN HAS REOPENED AS

The Legacy Centre of Excellence

THE BUILDING HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED BY
BIRMINGHAM SOCIAL ENTERPRISE, 7E YOUTH
ACADEMY INTO A **BUSINESS AND ARTS CENTRE**

AFTER A DEVASTATING FIRE IN 2007

St Barnabas, Erdington

WAS REBUILT
AFTER A **FIVE YEAR**
RESTORATION PROJECT

Emmanuel, Wylde Green

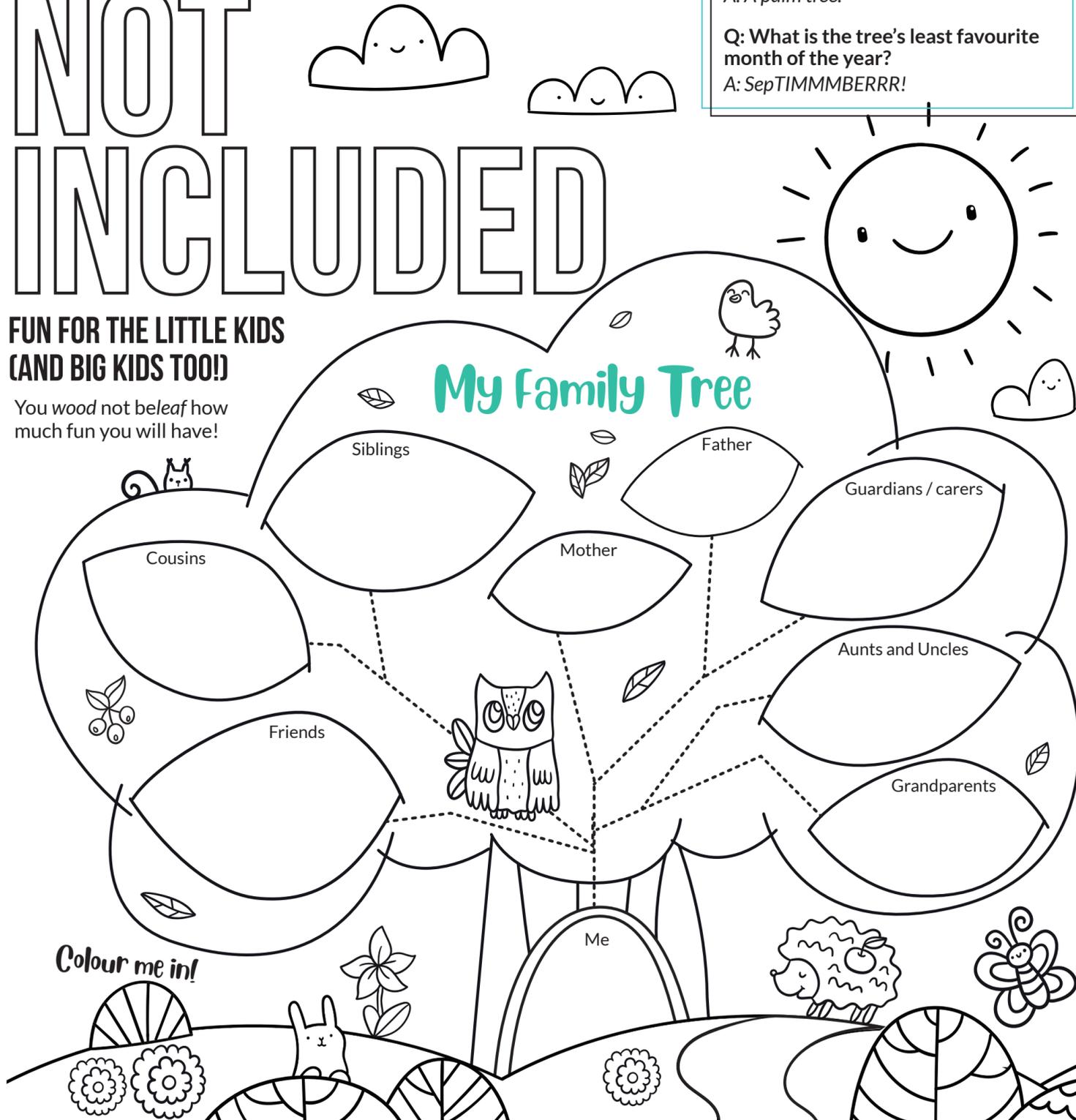
HAVE **TWO CHOIRS** THAT
ARE OF INTERNATIONAL
RENOWN AND FAME

S U T T O N C O L D F I E L D

BATTERIES NOT INCLUDED

FUN FOR THE LITTLE KIDS (AND BIG KIDS TOO!)

You wood not beleaf how much fun you will have!



Just Joking!

Q: What is brown and sticky?

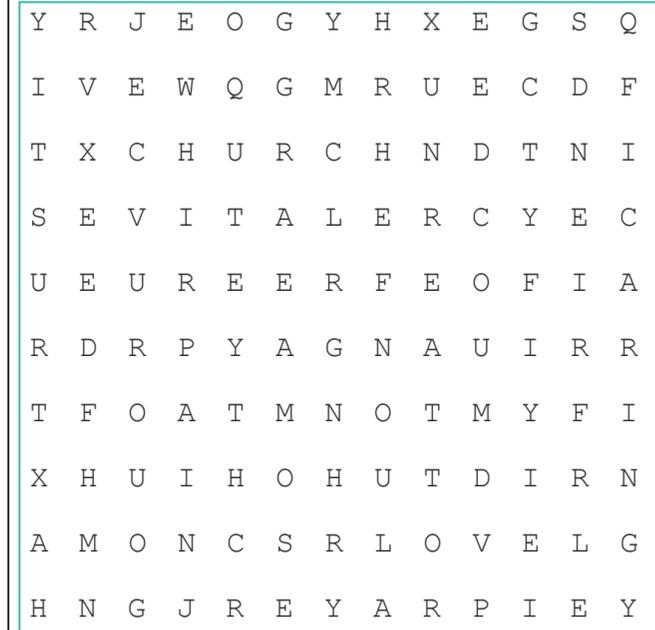
A: A stick.

Q: What type of tree fits in your hand?

A: A palm tree.

Q: What is the tree's least favourite month of the year?

A: SepTIMMMBERRR!



Can you find these words in our wordsearch?

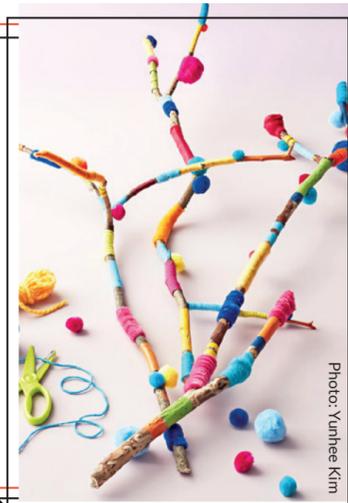
- | | | |
|---------|------------|-----------|
| CARING | FUN | PRAYER |
| CHURCH | FUTURE | RELATIVES |
| CONNECT | GENERATION | SHARE |
| FAMILY | HOPE | TOGETHER |
| FRIENDS | LOVE | TRUST |

Branching Out

Wrap brightly coloured yarn, pipe cleaners or ribbon around sticks.

Glue pom poms or paint between the gaps.
Leaf to dry.

Tie together to create a hanging mobile.



TRY THIS AT HOME

OR WITH A FRIEND... OR AT CHURCH... OR IN A TREE TOP HOUSE!

A fun (and tasty) way to pray!

Starmix Prayers

You will need: A small pack of Haribo Starmix for each child. Find the specific sweet and use it to help you pray.

- A heart is a symbol of love.** Think of those who love us and those that we love. Thank God for them and pray for them.
- A cracked egg is messy.** Sometimes we mess up with the things we say or do. Think of something for which you want to say sorry to God. Ask him to help you mess up less.
- A ring is a precious thing.** Think of the special things God has given you and thank him for them.
- Fizzy drinks are a treat.** Think of those who don't even have clean water or food to eat. Pray that God will give them what they need. Ask God to help you to help them too.
- Teddy bears bring us comfort.** Think of and pray for someone you know who needs God's comfort. They might be unwell, sad or lonely.

Encourage each other

Write the name of each person in the group at the top of a piece of paper. Then pass it around the group.

Below each name, the children write something they like about that person or something they're really good at. Then fold the paper over and pass it to the next person.

At the end, the papers are given back to the person whose name is at the top, for them to keep as an encouragement.

You are amazing!



STEPPING STONES *and* SPRINGBOARDS

Suzanne Cherry believes in her daughter Sarah, even if other people don't. Sarah, 35, lives with Down's syndrome.

"It's 2019 and we still haven't very many choices for young people or middle-aged people living with learning disabilities to have meaningful day experiences in this city."

As we chat in Sarah's home in Wylde Green with family and friends, it's abundantly clear that Suzanne is determined to not just see her daughter's needs met but also her skills and passions engaged.

In 2005, Suzanne and her friend Joy Parnham, set up a café called Stepping Stones. The upfront team are people with learning disabilities and Sarah was the first recruit. Stepping Stones manager Stephanie Brown explains, *"We've got 10 students on a Thursday all learning to cook, serve the public and wait tables. We cook everything from scratch and Sarah absolutely loves it."*

Now Stepping Stones actually runs two cafés and facilitates Keep Fit and Arts & Crafts sessions as well. Suzanne says, *"It's enabled Sarah to have a deeper quality of life."*

Early in our conversation, Sarah quietly leaves to hang out in her bedroom. A few days later when I meet Sarah at a luncheon club at St Michael's Church in Boldmere, I get to see her conversational side as she serves people lunch.

Suzanne is keen to dispel the myths surrounding people living with learning disabilities: *"We're all the same. We all want to feel wanted. Sarah would love to be asked around to someone's house or asked to help with the cooking. I think people are afraid because they don't know what she can and can't do. I feel quite angry. But then I have to remind myself, that's a shame for them."*

Suzanne concludes our conversation with a twinkle in her eyes, *"If our story just encourages one person to think outside the box and do something new so that others can be more included - fantastic!"*



..... “
*We're all the same.
 We all want to feel wanted.*
 ”



For the full article, visit: tinyurl.com/sarahandsuzanne

3 Ways TO COMMUNICATE MORE EFFECTIVELY

CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN MATERIALS

Every year, the Church of England's Digital Team launch a massive national Christmas campaign, which all parish churches can get involved with. This means that you can share campaign resources and encourage people into your churches at Christmas using resources already created, without having to start your own campaign from scratch. They also produce resources for churches to buy.

In 2018, their #FollowTheStar campaign reached 7.94 million people through social media; 120,000 copies of the #FollowTheStar booklet were sold and 23% of churches who added Christmas events and services to their A Church Near You profiles saw more people attend these events.

Go to www.churchofengland.org/christmas to find out more about 2019's Christmas resources.



A CHURCH NEAR YOU (ACNY)

The Digital Team have revamped the A Church Near You website, meaning that parish churches are more discoverable by new visitors, and churches can use their ACNY profiles as websites. www.achurchnearyou.com receives over 100 million visits a year, 82% of which are from new visitors, who often then enquire with a local parish church that they find about weddings and christenings. Now that churches can host their websites through ACNY too it means there is a free, user-friendly and simple solution for churches who wish to have a website, without having to pay for expensive web hosting companies or developers. There's also a Resource Hub for ACNY editors, giving churches access to logos, videos and stock photography to be used across their communication platforms. www.achurchnearyou.com



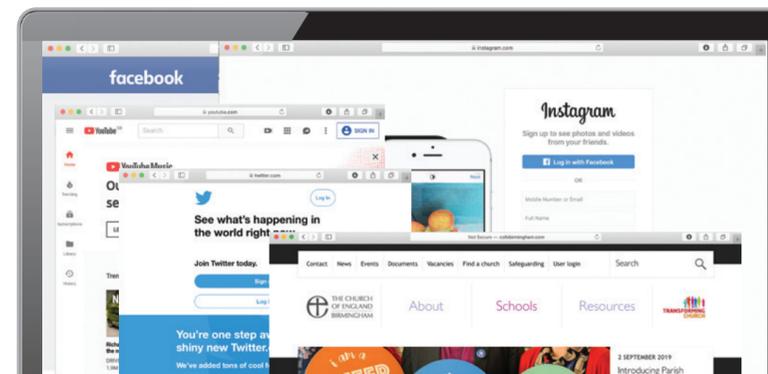
WEBSITE / SOCIAL MEDIA TRAINING

In 2018, the Digital Team trained 1,000 parish churches in all things website and social media for free. This training is specially tailored to parish churches and hosted by dioceses. In Birmingham we hosted a training session with the Digital Team back in January earlier in 2019, which was attended by 18 churches who learned about Facebook, ACNY, Instagram, dealing with trolls, connecting with communities online and more. We hope to roll out

more training from the Digital Team in 2020, including a Labs Learning Roadshow; a day long digital conference to inspire and equip churches to share Good News, grow people's faith and bring more people to faith by harnessing digital and social media. More details to follow...

The Digital Team regularly post great tips, advice and suggestions for parish churches in their Labs Learning Blog; which is really worth following:

www.churchofengland.org/labs-learning-blog



Coming soon...



NOV
24

CHRISTMAS MARKET

11am - 4pm, Aston Hall
Discover something unique and made with love



FEB
8

BIRMINGHAM WINTER WARMER

10am, Sutton Coldfield
A 5k and 10k run that supports the charity Shelter



FEB
20-23

VERVE POETRY FESTIVAL

Old Rep Theatre
A four day festival of all the very best contemporary poetry
all in one building

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND BIRMINGHAM

Growing with God 2020

For all involved in Youth, Children's and Families' mission and ministry

Saturday 7th March 2020
St John's and St Peter's Church,
Ladywood, B16 8TF

Register at
www.cofe.io/GWG2020

LIVES NOT KNIVES

'Lives Not Knives' is a church response to serious youth violence and knife crime in Birmingham

WATCH

the video on our YouTube channel - search for: **The Church of England Birmingham**

RESOURCE

Download the NEW church pack and service outline: tinyurl.com/livesnotknives

At the heart of the resource is this prayer:

*Loving God, we choose to believe in hope.
Protect our city from violence.*

*Lead us to be good neighbours who
work to turn hostility into solidarity, fear
into peace, hatred into hope division into
unity, and suffering into safety.*

Amen

PLAYLIST
Our Top 20 Homegrown Tunes
We love Birmingham's rich musical heritage. We're inspired by new songs emerging from various...
Created by Brum Comms • 20 songs, 1 hr 14 min

PLAY

Filter

THE PAPER Playlist

We love Birmingham's rich musical heritage. We're inspired by new songs emerging from various generations of Birmingham-based artists. Here's our Communications Team Spotify playlist of fresh, homegrown tunes: tinyurl.com/paperplaylist

BRUMMIE GEMS

Furry Friends



HERO



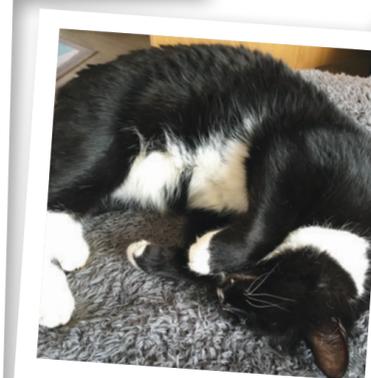
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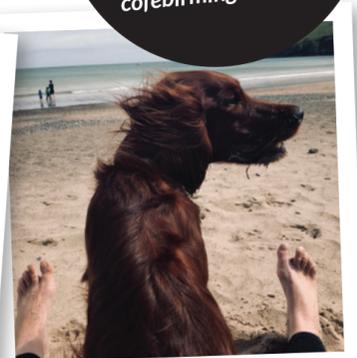
JERRY



COOPER



TITAN



POPPY

See your pet in The Paper

Send your photos to
comms@cofebirmingham.com

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Join **THE BULLETIN MAILING LIST** Keep up to date with our monthly e-newsletter of all CofE Birmingham news. Enter your details at tinyurl.com/bulletinjoin

We need you!

THIS IS YOUR PAPER

If you or your overly humble friend/family member have a great story, essay, poem, piece of art or photo that you'd like to share with the rest of the diocese, **DO send it via email or post.**

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