



A Report from the Diocesan Lay Conference by Catherine Gallagher

I've just come back from a lovely weekend away in Derbyshire at the Diocesan Lay Conference at the Hayes Conference Centre. It's a relaxing out of the way place which felt peaceful as soon as I arrived which is what I needed after a busy few days at work. It only takes 1 1/2 hours to get there and out of rush hour the drive is quite pleasant. Why did I go? Firstly I needed a spiritual top up. I've read some helpful books over the past few weeks, but I just needed a different perspective and refresher to challenge my faith and help make sure I'm not stuck in a spiritual rut. Secondly I wanted to do something on my own to see if I could. The rest of the family goes off and does their own thing - could I?

There were a series of talks based around Discipleship given by Alison Morgan and Martin Cavender from ReSource (www.resource-arm.net). They were funny and thought provoking and informative. Their organisation runs a Discipleship course in Africa that has been adapted for use in the UK!

The topics looked at how had we become Christians, where we are now, and where were we going, how can we move forwards? Neil Hudson also came from the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity (LICC) and his talk reminded us that wherever we are during our week we are having an impact as Christians on those around us, either for good or bad.

There were two workshop sessions with a wide variety of themes to choose from. There were various services we could attend first thing in the morning or last thing at night in the chapel. The weekend finished with a Communion Service together led by Bp Peter. Actually it finished with a cup of tea and a large chunk of cake.

Did I get what I was hoping for? Yes. I have come away with plenty to think about, and read, and hopefully to continue to grow and be a better Apprentice. Did I enjoy being away from the family? Yes, though I did text to find out if all was ok.

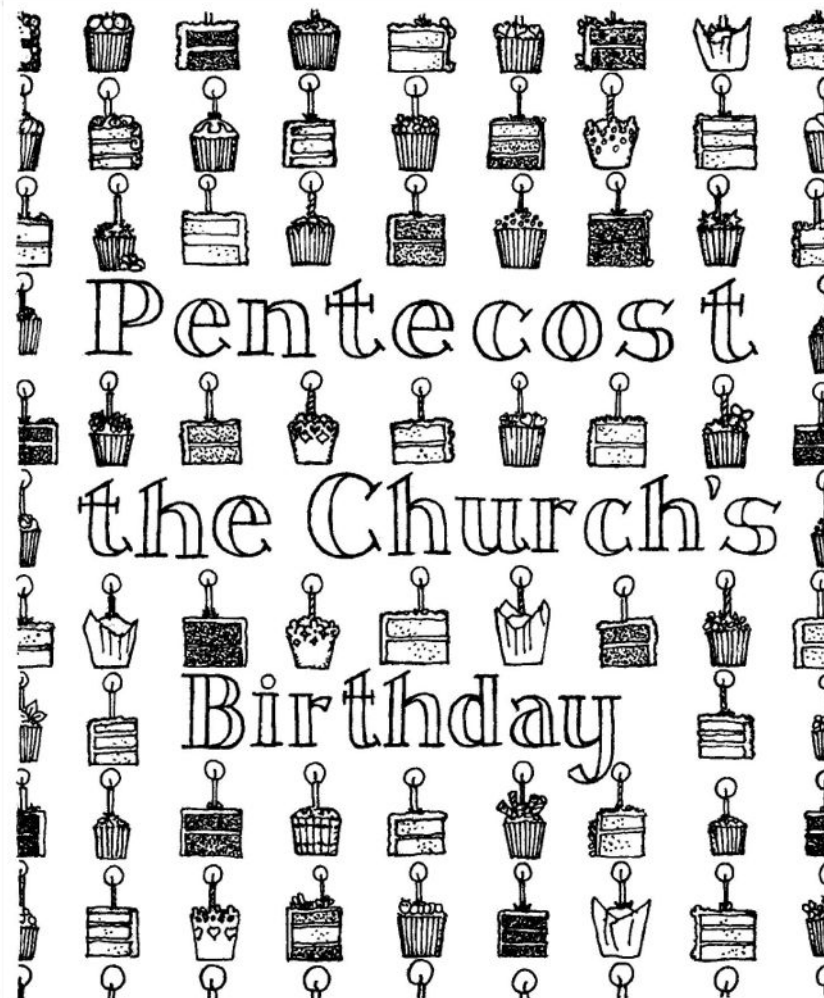
Finally - Discipleship. What is it? Well as far as I have gathered we are called by Jesus to:-

- Repent - change direction
- Be Apprentices - learn on the hoof as the first Disciples did - by watching and learning from Jesus - reading the Bible and praying and DOING
- Grow in Community - be part of a Church Fellowship (not the building)
- Embrace pain - we can't grow without it
- Depend on the Holy Spirit for direction - prayer

Jesus' early Disciples met in Communities with a Purpose guided by the Holy Spirit. As His Apprentices we should be doing the same.

Christian Life

The parish magazine of St Mary's & St Luke's
Serving the communities of Rope, Willaston & Wistaston.



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 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester

Church Office: office@stmaryswistaston.org.uk - Tel: 567119 Secretary: Sue Squirrell (each weekday from 9.30 until 12.30) For initial enquiries about baptisms, church records and general enquiries. Also for bookings of the Church Hall, St. Luke's and the Church Vestry.			
Clergy			
Rector	Revd Mike Turnbull	The Rectory, 44 Church Lane	665742
	Email: mfturnt		ll
Associate Priest	Revd Ken Sambrook	6	
Assistant Clergy	Rev Preb Frank Powell	3	
	Revd Malcolm Shaw	8	
Church Officers			
Reader	David Illing	4	
Pastoral Worker	Ann Stubbs	1	
Parish Evangelist	Lin Parker	5	
Church Wardens	Mike Carter	4	
	Simon Bartholomew	1	
Marriage Enrichment	Sheena Sambrook	6	
PCC Secretary	Joy Chaplow	3	
PCC Treasurer	Howard Barker	2	
Planned Giving	Andrea Bartholomew	1	
Electoral Roll Officers	Sue & Bob Squirrell	3	
Magazine Editor	Revd Mike Turnbull	T	
Magazine Distribution	Jennifer Jones	4	
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Sundays at our Churches		
1st Sunday of the month	9.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer at St. Luke's
	10.40 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. Mary's
	6.00 p.m.	BCP Evening Prayer at St Mary's
2nd Sunday of the month	9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. Luke's
	10.40 a.m.	All Age Worship at St. Mary's
3rd Sunday of the month	9.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer at St. Luke's
	10.40 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. Mary's
	6.30 p.m.	Life Issues at St Luke's
4th Sunday of the month	9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. Luke's
	10.40 a.m.	All Age Worship with Baptisms at St. Mary's
5th Sunday of the month	10.40 a.m.	All Age Communion at St. Mary's
	12.30 p.m.	Baptisms at St. Mary's
Notes: The 9.00 a.m. service at St. Luke's is a quieter service. Holy Communion will alternate fortnightly with St. Mary's. The 10.40 a.m. service at St. Mary's is a service for all ages. On the 4th Sunday it may include baptism. Holy Communion will alternate fortnightly with SL Luke's. The Fifth Sunday Service is a united service for the whole parish enabling everyone from both our churches to worship and meet together.		
Morning Prayer (10 mins) - 9.00 a.m. Mon, Tues and Thurs at St. Mary's		
The following events take place most weeks if in doubt the leader's telephone number will be found inside the front cover of this magazine. Sunday (1st & 3rd) 10.40 a.m. Junior Church* (from Creche through to the end of High School)		
Monday	7.45 p.m.	Bell Ringing (Tower)
Tuesday	5.45-7 p.m.	Brownies (Church Hall/Howe Rm)
	7-9 p.m.	Guides (Church Hall)
Wednesday	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
Thursday	5.30 - 6.30 p.m.	Rainbows (Church Hall)
*During term time only. Young people start in church and move down to the Church Hall during the 1 st hymn.		

A Farewell to Gail

After many years of her Signing the 1st Sunday Holy Communion Service we said farewell to Gail Robinson. Due to reallocation of resources within the Diocese Gail's position was no longer available and sadly she was made redundant. On the 6th April, which was her final service with us, the Rector presented her with a card and flowers and thanked her for all that she had done for St Mary's.

Gail responded by email a few weeks later to say: *"Thank you very much indeed for the beautiful bouquet of flowers with which I was very kindly presented. They have been amazing, I took them to Spring Harvest in the vase in the car and brought them home a week ago and the chrysanthemums are still in the kitchen bringing me great pleasure. It was a lovely surprise and I have always felt very welcome at St Mary's."*

We wish Gail all the best for the future.



Picnic, Games and Treasure Hunt in the Rectory Garden

29 June 2014 straight after the morning
service at St Mary's

Please bring with you what you would need for a picnic including plates,
cutlery and glasses etc...

More details on the Weekly Notice Sheet nearer the time.

For all the latest information...

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Do you have something for this magazine?

Your contributions to Christian Life are always welcome. Please pass your items for the next edition direct to the editor on revd.mike@stmaryswistaston.org.uk or via the Church Office by:- 15 July 2014



Malcolm writes...

June 2014



This is the month of June and I am happy to report that this month we celebrate a birthday, the birth of the church.

It is a significant day, the day on which the first believers came alive in their faith, the day when the Rock upon which Christ planted his church began to support and uphold an incredible new life, a life that has existed since the world began, but which was poured out in a special fashion and took on flesh in you and me much as it took life in the early disciples.

Pentecost is an event that the world has long been promised and which the people of God have long awaited.

Pentecost is the reversal of what occurred at the Tower of Babel when, because of our sinfulness, we became unable to understand one another.

It is the gifting of God to make us one and to make us one in the way he is one with Christ.

Pentecost gives us the eyes to see and the ears to hear.

The eyes to see that God is in the details, that God is in the flesh as well as in the Spirit, and the ears to hear him speaking in our hearts and upon the lips of others in the

rush of the wind. The eyes to see and the ears to hear as one and as unique persons, valued and treasured so much by God, that God comes to us as we are.

The followers of Jesus are given the ability to speak the languages of all those who are assembled in the city and beyond. God grants that we might understand one another and that we might understand the good news in just the way we need to hear it.

Pentecost turned this rag tag group of disciples who were cowered in a corner into a force to be reckoned with, they now had a new mission, a new drive, a fresh impetus to take the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ to the whole world. They now had the courage and strength for the mission, and were no longer afraid to be known as followers of Christ.

Pentecost is the birth of the Church.

The Spirit has been and is being poured out upon us, let's pray that we at St Mary's and St Luke's will be transformed by the Holy Spirit.

Malcolm

A Celebration of Ceri Palmer's (nee Howells) Life



Ceri's celebration and thanksgiving service will take place at 6.00 pm on Saturday 7th of June 2014. The service will be held in the chapel at Nantwich Elim church which is based at the old Regent College campus where Robert studied and Ceri spent many of her early years. All are welcome. The address is The Chapel, Regents Park, London Road, Nantwich, Cheshire, CW5 6LW. More details can be found at www.ceriabigail.org.uk/church.html

Stepping Stones at St Mary's Wistaston Church Hall

A morning of activities for pre-school children and their mothers or carers. These include: play time, music time, story time and activity time and of course refreshments! Usually the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, during school time, from 9.30 – 11.45am. Do come along and share in the fun. On July 9th, we are planning to have a picnic at the Rectory garden (if wet, we will be in the Hall as usual). Pictured is leader Antje with her 2 boys. Contact the office on 567119 if you would like a Programme of dates for this term.



Prayer for Pentecost – June 8th

Let the Spirit come
like the winds that blow:
take away my doubts,
help my faith to grow.

Let the Spirit come
like a flame of gold:
warm my soul within,
make me strong and bold.
(from families first magazine)



From the Parish Registers

Entries up to 23 May 2014

BAPTISMS: Welcome to our church family

23 March	Grace McKercher FISHER
	Archie James McCANN
	Elizabeth Grace BUCHANAN
30 March	Henry John BENNETT
27 April	Sienna Sophie OLLERHEAD
	Ethan John DAVIES
4 May	Tom BALDWIN
	Imogen Louise Sherill DULLEK



WEDDINGS:

May God bless these couples who were recently married:
There were no weddings during this period



FUNERALS: May they rest in peace and joy

(at church, or taken by minister of this parish at the crematorium)

4 April	Geoffrey ARMITAGE	87
1 April	Lyndon McWALTER	
11 April	Katherine Julie DODD	69
17 April	Madge SADLER	88
22 April	Michael Alan COLE	66
7 May	Phyllis SCHOFIELD	72
8 May	James SIMPSON	88
8 May	May GREEN	87
16 May	Marion Ann HOLE	66
20 May	Frederic STOCKTON	67
23 May	Dorothea Mary Howell	92



Dates for your Diary



*Please note that our diary is in two parts.
The regular services are detailed on page 11. Other items
and variations are shown below.*

15 June	Confirmation Service with Bp Peter - 6pm at St Mary's
21 June	Wistaston Village Fete
28 June	Willaston Worm Charming
29 June	Picnic, games & Treasure Hunt in the Rectory Garden after the morning service - more details to follow on the Weekly Notice Sheet

Ladies Evening Group



22 members enjoyed an excellent meal at Dane Bank in April. This year the Lent Lunches made £220 which will be used for something needed at St Mary's. Many thanks to Sheena and all the helpers. Our Speaker for May will be a return visit of Mrs Barbara Smith of St John Ambulance and in June a talk by Mr Ray Cowdall called 'A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Theatre'. On Monday July 28th we have our Summer Outing to New Brighton leaving at 9.30am and stopping along the way for coffee. Look out for further details as there may be some seats on the coach for visitors at a cost of £6 pp. Please bring along anyone who would like to come as a visitor. They would be very welcome. We meet on the 4th Wednesday at 7.30pm in the Church Hall.

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

A total of £253 was raised at the recent Afternoon Tea fundraising event in May. This was held at St Luke's and everyone enjoyed themselves with tea, cakes and chat! Thanks to everyone who contributed to make the afternoon a success. This money will be sent to Mothers' Union at Chester for the various projects supported (egs: Parenting classes, Holidays Away for families in need, Overseas: Literacy Fund, Worldwide Fund to name a few). In June (9th) we look forward to meeting with our Prayer Partners once again at Christ Church, Wheelock and then they return the visit to us for a Social Lunch in the Church Hall on June 18th. This will be a bring & share lunch and a time to catch up and socialise. On Wednesday, 30th July we will be having our Summer Outing which this year is a local trip to a pub in Alsager for lunch, followed by a visit to Rode Hall for a tour around the Hall and gardens. This will then be followed by an afternoon tea. We will share cars and more details will have been made available at the May meeting.



Willaston WI

The fascinating story of the Sadler family's "Snugbury's Ice Cream" and the famous straw constructions in the field was told by Hannah Sadler at our popular April meeting. We all enjoyed the "yummy" samples too!! In May Willie Sarson enthralled us with his cheery, happy and fun demonstration using Crystal Dowsing. We have been busy playing scrabble; darts and playing bowls. We have won the bridge competition; visited the theatre and learned how to sing in a choir and make silver jewellery at Denman College. Next month Piper the "hearing" dog will be our guest of honour. Would you like to visit or join? Phone Judy Jones tel; 01270 567015

Christian Aid



Thanks to all our collectors, counters and to the communities of Wistaston and Willaston for their generous giving once again this year.

The total for this year at the time of writing is:

£1500.00

For more information about the work of Christian Aid please visit:
www.christianaid.org.uk

Easter Flowers at St Mary's



Thank you to our flower arrangers at both churches who made both St Mary's & St Luke's look beautiful for Easter. You can see more pics here: goo.gl/IdETKe

A Story For Everyone

The Bible pages tell us truths,
Some truths God only knows!
Of wayward kings and wayward youths,
Of faithful friends and foes!
With love the wondrous central theme
Across the centuries,
As God works out His perfect dream,
His Kingdom borne of peace...

God talks to each heart on this Earth,
Through stars that shine above
And blessings that we don't deserve,
Except that God is love...
That's why the sun and rain exist,
That's why each rose can bloom,
That's why we smile when we've been
kissed
And then hope to resume...

The flowers reach up to the sky
From where all blessings fall,
While Man looks up and questions,
Why?
Until he hears God's call...
And only then can Man find hope,
Enough to read God's Word,
Such that he finds the faith to cope,
When strength alone's absurd...

For what can strength do when death
nears?
Delay a little while?
But after that, Man fights his fears,
Not always with a smile...
No wonder, then, that Christ was sad
The day He faced His death
And yet He gave God all He had,
Until His final breath...

The Bible tells us what it cost
To spare us all from Hell,
God's Son once died to save the lost,
With love that's hard to tell...
Some weep when they explain such
things!
Some tremble mightily!
How come God let the King of Kings
Die there... on Calvary?

To suffer so, to bleed and bleed,
As if His life in vain...
How then could Jesus Christ succeed
To rise from death again?
Yet God had promised Jesus so,
That's why Lord Jesus died,
Despite the fact that He must go
And there be crucified...

Of all the stories to unfold,
The Bible grants us faith,
The greatest story ever told
God shares, our souls to save!
If we've believed and were baptised!
If we've been born again!
Then we join hands with Jesus Christ
And likewise preach to men...

We tell the stories to ourselves
And to our children read,
By taking Bibles from our shelves,
Our hearts and minds to feed...
And maybe one day we'll support
God's Christian Ministry
And spare some money and some
thought
For the Bible Society!

*Submitted by Howard Barker of the Bible
Society*

YOUTH matters



Youth Events & News

The end of a fantastic year for our Rose Queen

Our Rose Queen, Naomi, held her last fundraising event as she challenged her family and friends to cycle from St Mary's to Chester Cathedral on Sunday 4 May. A good time was had by all and a big thank you to all those who gave to this event and during the year. The total to date raised by Naomi for Alder Hey Hospital is £2300.00

And a message from our new Rose Queen...

Hello my name is Lucy Rowland I'd like to introduce myself as I will be taking over from Naomi Barker and representing St Mary's young peoples church as Rose Queen for the next year. I am 12 years old and attend St Thomas More High School. I'd also like to introduce my attendant Charlotte Shaw who attends Wistaston Church Lane Primary School. I am looking forward to working with Charlotte to raise as much money as possible

for my chosen charities- Cancer Research and 35th Wistaston Scout Group. I will be arranging some fundraising events and hope you will be able to support Charlotte and me with these over the next year. I would also like to congratulate Naomi for all her hard work over the past year raising funds for Alder Hey Children's Hospital and hope that I will be able to do as good a job as she has. I look forward to seeing you at the Wistaston Fete on 21st June where I will be holding a stall to start raising money for my charities.



"Well, no, I'm not dressing like this to create common ground with today's youth culture - I've always worn a hoody."