

WHO'S WHO? - An apology!

Ups! Sorry, Alison I left your picture off rouges gallery, last Sunday. Someone said it was because she isn't a rouge! But, what do you think? Alison does a wonderful job keeping the Minutes of all the Church Council meetings and not long returned back to Youth Club as she had been banned for bad behaviour! I think that says it all! *(She's gonna kill me!)*



SYNOD

We had visitors to St Andrew's from all over the Diocese yesterday for Synod. St Andrew's Wardens and Delegates were present. The representatives were well fed. For lunch they had a choice of Cream of Vegetable or Carrot & Coriander Soup, followed by Jacket Potatoes with all the usual yummy fillings, followed by either Apple or Plum Tart with extra thick cream. I did suggest that we should all find a corner and have a nap. But, there wasn't time to sleep, there was too much work to be done. The Revd Ron Talbot led the opening devotions. Mark read the lesson from Ephesians 4:1-8 and 11-16. The Revd Dr Mark Gretason played our church organ. Mind you, he played it very well, even if everyone's ear wax was removed! Bishop Paul presented his Bishop's report and all the Officers who will serve the Diocese for the next twelve months were elected. Each church was also asked to tell the House about the latest work being carried out at their churches. This was



very enlightening. Mark told Synod about the work of St Andrew's. And just in case the members were feeling a little peckish, they then had a selection of cupcakes to sustain them for the long journey home. Bishop Paul lives such a long distance, he had to have two cakes just in case he felt faint!

Bishop Paul thanks all the helpers that made yesterday, such a success. For the servers and organisers and Youth Club for tidying the garden.



BAPTISMS

The first two baptisms of the year were adult baptisms. Here is Tanya Brown & Kate Elizabeth Lambert being baptised by Bishop Paul last Sunday. Both candidates did very well. Please pray for the two families that



are coming to church today for infant baptisms. The first is at 1pm where Grace Isabella Hollins will be baptised and the second at 2pm where Cody, Harley and Destiny Stroud will be baptised. Pray that we will continue to see the families after the baptisms.

CHURCH CHAT!

Question: "What is the church?"

Answer: Many people today understand the church as a building. This is not a biblical understanding of the church. The word "church" comes from the Greek word *ekklesia* which is defined as "an assembly" or "called-out ones." The root meaning of "church" is not that of a building, but of people. It is ironic that when you ask people what church they attend, they usually identify a building. Romans 16:5 says "... greet the church that is in their house." Paul refers to the church in their house—not a church building, but a body of believers.

The church is the body of Christ, of which He is the head. Ephesians 1:22-23 says, "And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way." The body of Christ is made up of all believers in Jesus Christ from the day of Pentecost (Acts chapter 2) until Christ's return.

In summary, the church is not a building or a denomination. According to the Bible, the church is the body of Christ—all those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ for salvation (John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 12:13). Local churches are gatherings of members of the universal church (called in our creed 'the Holy Catholic Church'). The local church is where the members of the universal church can fully apply the "body" principles of 1 Corinthians chapter 12: encouraging, teaching, and building one another up in the knowledge and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

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LAY READERS

Paul Reynolds, Colin Hunter and Mark Spiers

SUNDAY SERVICES

10am ~ Morning Service

11:30am ~ Family Praise

6pm ~ Evening Prayer

Holy Communion 1st am & 3rd pm Services

Mid-week activities:

- **MONDAYS** 10am to 1pm Coffee & Chat
- **TUESDAYS** 9:30am BWS Ladies Group
- 10am to 1pm Bishop in Denom. Office
- 7:00pm Bible Study
- **WEDNESDAYS** 7:30am Prayer Group
- 12:30pm Luncheon Club
- 2:00pm Friendship Club
- 7:00pm Youth Club
- **THURSDAYS** 11:00am Holy Communion
- 10am to 1pm Bishop in Denom. Office
- **SATURDAYS** 10:00am Saturday Workshop

CONFIRMATION SERVICE

TONIGHT at 6pm.

NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

This will be held on Monday 17th March at 7pm.

LESSONS LOG

16th March—Psalm 121; Genesis 12:1-4a
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9
am L-Paul, P-Mark; pm P-Bishop CONFIRMATION

23rd March—Psalm 95; Exodus 17:1-7
Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42
am Bishop; pm Bishop

HOME MISSION PROJECT 2014

**PLEASE CONTINUE TO GIVE GENEROUSLY
HELP US REACH EVEN MORE PEOPLE IN NEED.
THIS PROJECT WILL CONTINUE THROUGHOUT 2014.**

WEEKLY PRAYER UPDATE

- Lord, we pray for **Pamela, Chrissie**, and great grandson **Finley**.
- Lord, we put the following friends and congregation into your hands: **Mary, Julie, Jean, Hilary, Pam, Elizabeth** and **Lil**.
- We bring **Betty & Colin** before you, Lord.
- Lord, thank you **Arline** is getting better. Lord, may she continue to gain strength in you.
- Give thanks **Deanne** is out and about doing her normal things now. Thank you, Lord.
- Please pray for **Iris** and **Alan**. Pray the family will cope with Alan's deteriorating health.
- Give thanks **Alison's** is much better. Thank you, Lord, her **mom** is much better too.
- Pray for **Pat** with the loss of her friend **Dot** recently.
- Thank you, Lord, **Dan's Nan, Dot**, is much better. May it continue.
- Pray for **Audrey** who finds her mobility an increasing problem.
- Lord, we pray for **Carole** who has had a brain operation. She seems much better. She came to church & Lunch on Wednesday.
- Continue to put **Mike** in your prayers. Pray his diverticulitis is better controlled.
- Lord, we pray for **Sylvia**. Thank you, Lord she has been offered a ground floor room at Winehala Court. Pray all goes well.
- Pray for **Doris** who continues to suffer with sciatica. But thank you, Lord, it is much better than it was.
- Remember too **Doris** (who sits with Sheila) who has been suffering with vertigo problems recently. It was great to see her in church last Sunday.
- We pray for **Mrs Ball** who is poorly at the moment and unable to walk very well.
- Thank you, Lord, for **Nigel** and my Readers **Colin, Paul and Mark** who look after all the services, while I visit other churches. Pray for them as they begin to work on their Deacons papers.
- Pray for **Zoe's Nan** who is suffering with cancer.
- Pray for **Jean's** husband, **Al** who is home awaiting treatment at Birmingham's City Hospital. Lord, help Jean to cope as we are all missing her at church.
- Pray for **Doreen** who has had a bad back recently and a few days in hospital. But pray especially for **Jimmy's family** in the Ukraine with the present difficulties that this country is facing. Pray his family is kept safe. Jimmy tells me all is fine at the moment.
- Pray for **Steph, Lucy's** carer, as she begins her long period of Chemotherapy.
- Lord, we pray for **Margaret Phipps** who is very poorly.
- Please pray for the six **candidates** who will (God-willing) be Confirmed this evening - **Paula, Katie, Vicki, Chris, Matthew & Holly**.
- Give thanks for **Thelma's** news that the cancer had been completely removed and that she does not need any further treatment. Lord, praise your holy name. Please continue to pray for Thelma and also **Brian** too.
- Please pray for the friends and family of **Winnie** from the Bentley West Ladies Group as she passed away suddenly last week.
- Pray for the family of **Mary Rose Jenkins** who was 91 years old. Her funeral took place in a packed church a week last Friday. Remember Mary's son, **David**, Penny and grandson **Alex**.
- Please pray for **Paul Elliott** a minister in Leicester who wishes to begin a new Free Church of England work there. Paul was able to come to Synod yesterday and share with us his thoughts for the future FCE church in Leicester.
- Pray for the family of **Joseph Allen**. Joe lived next to the home in Wolverhampton Road West. Pray for his son, **Robert**, and all the family. The funeral takes place at Bushbury West Chapel this coming Friday.
- Give thanks for the **Southern Diocese Synod** held at St Andrew's Church yesterday. Pray everyone got home safely.
- Give thanks that **Colin** has been a clean bill of health following a scan on his lungs. They don't want to see him again till September.



Operating in Your God-Given Strength

'There are diversities of gifts...' 1 Corinthians 12:4

Paul writes, 'There are diversities of gifts, but the same spirit.' Successful people invest their time, energy and resources into their core strengths. Why? Because that is where they get their highest return!

And when they occasionally depart from that approach, as Colin Salmon did when he took time out from his successful acting career to take part in BBC's Strictly Come Dancing. Colin, a statuesque, confident actor proved to be less competent in the dancing arena, leaving the show after just five weeks, never receiving higher than 27 points from the panel of judges. He may have enjoyed the experience, but exiting the show so early is probably not what he'd like to be remembered for. God gave you gifts that make you unique, gifts that hold great possibilities. But you have to discover them and develop them. A sign on a DIY shop says it all: 'We've got it, if you can find it.' Nobody was ever born without talent, including you, but you've got to find it. What keeps us from doing that?

- 1) The company we keep. The old saying goes, 'If you run around with turkeys, you'll never fly with eagles.' The Scripture says, 'He who walks with wise men, will be wise...' (Proverbs 13:20).
- 2) Failing to spend time in prayer and in God's Word. God is not only the giver of your gift; he supplies the strength to function successfully in it. Aristotle said, 'We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then is not an act, but a habit.' So if you want to succeed, consult God, and operate in your God-given strength. It should our prayer for the Confirmation candidates, that, as they mature with the Lord, they find what talents he wishes them to use for Him!



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH BENTLEY

WEEKLY NEWS & PRAYER SHEET

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

COFFEE & CHAT

The Coffee & Chat Shop will be open for business as usual tomorrow and every Monday.

Remember to come and enjoy a chat, a specialised coffee, soup, toast and marmalade or just the regular popular Bishop's Brew. It's free and a great way to get to know each other better and make new friends.

Come on your own or bring a friend or two. You will, as always, be made very welcome. Your hosts: Colin, Janet and Sue.



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