



New Parent & Toddler Group

Our new Parent and Toddler Group got off to a quiet start on Friday, but at least Theresa was not on her own. Eliza found a new friend in Imogen along with her mom, Laura. They had a lovely time, especially with the special little cakes baked by Eliza's auntie Lauren. The group meets every Friday during term time from

1pm to 2:30pm.

COME ALONG AND ENJOY THE COMPANY.

THE BLESSED HOPE

'Looking for the blessed hope...' Titus 2:13

The blessed hope of the resurrection isn't like a lottery where only one person out of millions will hit the jackpot. And it's not a wishful sentiment offered at gravesides to comfort the grieving. It's a hope built on certainty. Jesus said, '...Because I live, you will live also' (John 14:19). Paul puts it this way: '...There is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when He comes back!' (1 Corinthians 15:23). Paul was writing to Corinthian Christians who'd been schooled in the Greek philosophy of a shadowy afterlife. Someone was trying to convince them that

corpses couldn't be raised, neither theirs nor Christ's. And the apostle couldn't bear such a thought. So with the brilliance of a great attorney in his closing argument, he reviews the facts: '...[Jesus] was raised from death on the third day...He presented himself alive to Peter...



himself alive to Peter... his closest followers... more than five hundred... James... the rest of those He commissioned...and...finally...to me' (vv. 4-8). How many witnesses were there? A handful? No, hundreds! And they didn't just see a phantom or experience a sentiment. Graveside eulogies often include phrases like 'She'll live on forever in our hearts.' This isn't what Jesus' followers were saying. They saw Him 'in the flesh'. And if you've trusted Christ as your Saviour, one day you, too, will see Him in the flesh. At death, your spirit will go to be with Him, and at His return, your resurrected body will rise to meet Him in the air. 'So we shall be with the Lord, forever!' (1 Thessalonians 4:17). Awesome, absolutely awesome!



COLIN'S MAGNIFICENT MEGA READ

It took Colin 8 hours to read through his 90 chapters of Genesis, Mark and Luke in a sponsored Read-a-thon in commemoration of his ninetieth birthday. What a magnificent effort. Colin was grateful for all the support. *So far the total raised is £869 Well done, Colin!*

A CROOKED CROOK AFTER THE BISHOP'S CROOKED CROOK

Last Sunday Bishop Paul apprehended this villain who was trying to steal his crook, and to think that Matthew already has a crook of his own which was presented to him from the maker of Bishop Paul's crook. So, hands off Matthew, use your own!



ST JOHN'S CHURCH, TOTTINGTON

It's getting there! Lights, radiators and the balcony has been moved. Bishop Paul even climbed the ladder to the upper room to take the pictures.



COFFEE & CHAT

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

Come and enjoy the chat and a specialised coffee or the best Bishop's Brew in Bentley! Toast is always available with jam or marmalade or just butter.

It has been a little quieter since Easter, so come along and join us.

This is a **free** community project compliments of St Andrew's Church. You will, as always, be made very welcome. Thank you to all those who have supported us over the last year.

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

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DEACONS

Revd Paul Reynolds and Revd Colin Hunter

CHURCH WARDENS

The Revd Colin Hunter & Mrs Deanne Yarnall

T: 01902 601656

T: 01902 609879

FAMILY PRAISE LEADER

Mr Nigel Dutton

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 Bentley West Ladies Group
- 10am to 1pm Bishop in Denom. Office
- 7:00pm Bible Study - Church House
- **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 CLASSES

Confirmation Classes will start soon. If you are interested, please speak to Bishop Paul as soon as possible.

SUNDAY LESSONS LOG - 2015

19th April - Psalm 4; Acts 3:12-19

1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

am L-Colin, P-Mark; pm L-Mark, P-Paul (Bsp in Willesborough)

26th April - Psalm 23; Acts 4:5-12

1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

am Bishop; pm Mark

3rd May - Psalm 22:25-31; Acts 8:26-40

1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

TBA

WEEKLY PRAYER UPDATE

- Lord, we pray for **Pamela, Chrissie**, and great grandson **Finley**.
- Lord, we put the following friends and congregation members into your hands: **Jean, Doris, Carole, Pam, Hilary** and **Elizabeth**.
- Remember Winnie's husband, **Ray** and give thanks **Winnie** is a little better too.
- Lord, thank you that **Arline** is keeping much better, but **Ernie** has been rather tired of late. Please include him in your prayers.
- Please pray for **Iris** and **Alan** with **Alan's** deteriorating health. Please pray for the 24 hour care **Alan** needs from **Iris** and other family members. Lord give them the strength they need to cope.
- Lord, we pray for Dan's Nan, **Dot** and for his Great Nan, **Irene**. Pray for **Dan**. He has to complete some GCSE exams soon.
- Pray for **Audrey** who battles on with her mobility difficulties and the problems with the cost of transport to and from her home in the Delves.
- Continue to pray for **Arthur Bagg** as he fights off chest infections. It was lovely to see his son, Geoff from Australia at our Luncheon Club last Wednesday.
- Thank you, Lord, for the worship team **Nigel, and the Revds Paul, Mark and Colin** who assist Bishop Paul in the smooth running of St Andrew's. Bishop Paul could not function without their support.
- Continue to pray for **Doreen and Jimmy**. Give thanks that Doreen manages to get across to our Monday Coffee and Chat.
- Continue to pray for **Steph**, she has now started back with Lucy.
- We pray for **John** who is improving slowly.
- Pray for **Thelma** and **Brian**. Thelma has an operation this week.
- Continue to pray for **Lewis Robinson**, who is the grandson of June's sister, **Janet**, and **Frank**, Janet's husband.
- Pray for Peter's wife, **Belle**. Pray for Peter, as he copes with looking after his wife and daughter.
- Pray for **Dean's** sister, **Molly**, who continues to be very poorly and **Dean's** brother-in-law who is in hospital at the moment.
- Pray for **Revd Colin Hunter** as he waits a further scan on his chest. Give thanks that he managed to complete his 90 chapter **Read-a-thon** and raised over £800 for our **Helping Hands** fund.
- Pray for **Deanne** as she is to have a hip operation soon.
- Give thanks that **Alison's** mom's leg is beginning to be much better following a recent fall.
- Pray for **Judy** as she faces further treatment following an operation.
- Pray for the family of **Kenneth John Ford** who was 86 years old. His funeral took place at Sandwell Valley Crematorium last Tuesday.
- Please pray for **Alex and Grace Salter** from China. It was lovely to see them both at St Andrew's last weekend. Please pray that obstacles are removed from them beginning a new school in Qidong.
- Give thanks **Janet** is a little better, after having a problem with her knee. She awaits some physio.
- Pray for the family of **John Clement Tonkinson** who was 83 years old. His funeral takes place at Bushbury Crem on Thursday 30th April at 11:15am.
- Bishop Paul is at **Christ Church Willesborough** today for a confirmation service. He then travels to Heathrow for a meeting with **Bishop Roy Grote** of the REC and **Archbishop Foley Beach** of the ACNA (Anglican Church in North America)

BE A PRAYER WARRIOR!

We could never have too many Prayer Warriors. If you would like to be one too, please mention this to Bishop Paul. Thank you to all who have faithfully prayed daily for the needy souls on our Prayer Sheet. You may not be surprised that so many prayers have been answered because of you. Thank you and thank the Lord for hearing the cries of His people.



ALEX & GRACE

Last weekend we were blessed to have Alex and Grace Salter with us all the way from China. Bishop Paul took them to experience a real Black Country meal at the Pie Factory in Tipton. Grace couldn't resist the 'Mick's Grill' served on a shovel and Alex had a Desperate Dan Pie, including pastry cow horns. Bishop Paul, had a salad, but it was still huge. Alex and

Grace hope to begin a new school in the **Region of Qidong City in Jiangsu Province, China**. Bishop Paul licensed Alex as a Reader in the Free Church of England. Please pray for them. **Alex writes:**

Dear Bishop Paul, Grace and I have arrived safely back in Qidong City, after a marathon set of aeroplane journeys. However we are now both generally recovered from the jet lag and ready to go. Thank you so much for hosting us so splendidly whilst we were with you. Thank you also for licensing me. We have just viewed the school premises and they have now laid the carpet and there are only a few snags for them to correct. We do however need your prayer for the school, as the local education officials in Qidong are not issuing licenses for new training centres. We may have the opportunity to gain a license from Nantong City, which is a tier above Qidong, but that is dependant upon connections. However we have spoken to other government officials in Qidong and they have told us not to worry and just open as soon as we want with our current licenses. It would also help if you are able to pray for the logistics for the school to be able to open quickly and attract students, as we have limited funds (enough to operate for about 3 or 4 months without any fees coming in). As soon as we can attract the correct number of students we will be stable and able to support ourselves and take part in furthering our mission for the FCE, without the worry of finding believers but with nowhere to host them. Grace and I are so thankful and indebted to your kindness to us, and the honour that I now have as a Reader in the FCE. You can trust that we will always be obedient to you as our bishop. Every blessing, Alex Salter.... That's a great start! Please pray for them.



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH BENTLEY

WEEKLY NEWS & PRAYER SHEET

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

19 APRIL 2015

ISSUE 406

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This leaflet cost 15p to produce. However, if you cannot afford a donation, then please take one, with our compliments.