

Professor Peter Farndon was awarded the CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list last summer. Peter and Judith and their children, went last month to Buckingham Palace for the investiture, which was conducted by Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales - not for contributions to music in our church as organist and MD of SMASH, (as far as we know), but for a different MD role! It was in recognition of - "services to medicine and healthcare" - the care of patients, research, teaching, service and policy development in clinical genetics, at local to international levels.

Peter says –
"It has been a privilege to have been able to use exciting scientific developments in genetics to help patients and families."
Also at the ceremony were young servicemen who received the Military Cross for services in Afghanistan. Peter joins the illustrious group of our own Church members who have in the past also received honours from the Queen.
We all join in sending him our sincerest congratulations.

The Queen honours Peter



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Linking our Community to Christ

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Jetty Payne



Jetty had been associated with our church for many years, but it is a long time since she was well enough to worship with us.

She was born and brought up in Birmingham with her two sisters, Ivy and Phyllis. Her working life was spent at Lewis's in the millinery department and also at Cadbury's.

She and her husband Kenneth had two sons and she eventually became a proud grandmother and great grandmother.

Jetty was an hospitable lady, full of life, friendly and caring. She was happy to welcome friends to her immaculate flat in St. Alphege Close, where she also received Communion in the years following her fall. She looked forward to visits from her friends Joan and Betty, Sue Ashton and Roy and Stella Clemas, and she was greatly supported by her daughter-in-law, Sandra, particularly since Kenneth's death sixteen years ago.,

Jetty made a wide circle of friends at the ladies' Tuesday Circle by whom she will be remembered with affection.

Thank you

We would like you to know how greatly we have appreciated all the kind messages, enquiries, and loving thoughts we have received during Joan's illness.

Thank you.

Joan and George Burr and family.

We all send our love and best wishes to George and Joan who in February celebrated 70 years of marriage!!

Congratulations to Sam Faulkner who proposed and became engaged to his Kay on Christmas morning.



Our very best wishes &
Happy 90th Birthday to
Freda Brown



The happy Polson family at Phil and Helen's wedding in January.

Congratulations to Chris and Ann Pickles on being grandparents again. Their Sally and her John had a son Noah James on Jan 9th and he weighed in at 6lbs 15ozs.

Congratulations also to John and Roz Hopkins who became grandparents on the 4th February . Grace Frances weighing 9lbs was born to daughter Jenna and her husband Dave



Mike's Message

Is there life beyond Lent? However we might try to dress it up, Lent is a time for soul searching, identifying and admitting to our frequent faults and sins. Why does Christianity persist with this morbid introspection?

I think there are two very good reasons. God wants the best for us – the best in relationships, the best of emotional well being, and the best of the many joys that come to us without price. Sin spoils that which was intended for good and leaves its darkened spot on both the heart and the personality. Repenting – being sorry and changing one's mind about where we are and how we are doing, gives us the opportunity to stop. Stopping is always hard, when habits have become entrenched and gulfs of alienation have opened up. But if we don't stop we carry on, and if you are on the wrong bus, staying on board is not going to help much.

If stopping is the first part, recovering and moving on towards growth is the second. If stopping is hard, it's often tougher to change direction and start growing. Last week we watched a neighbour pruning a large tree in his yard. Branches that were getting out of hand were cut back very severely. The tree is going to struggle to recover, we know that, but in the end it will be to the good of the tree and for all who live around it!

There is life after Lent, and the better and wiser the pruning; the more wonderful will be the new life that proceeds from it.

Much happens in our Church over this period and I invite you to check the calendar and take part where you can.

Book Thursday 5th April at 8:15 pm to join us at Church for our Tenebrae Service. This is a service remembering in a very beautiful way the events leading to the crucifixion, followed by a silent communion service.

Then come walking with us on Good Friday. We meet in our car park where we will leave on foot together to be at St Alphege's by 11.00 am. Here we will join all the Central congregations and take a short but meaningful walk through Mell Square. After this walk of witness we will feast on hot cross buns and enjoy some lively fellowship. Our own Church will be open from 12 – 4 pm on that day for those who might find a time of silence helpful.

Easter Day Communion will be ablaze with life and colour at 10:30 am as we celebrate both the comfort and the opportunities resurrected life offers to us. Yes we can start again!

With all our love and best wishes,

**Mike & Jo,
Chris & Derek,
Paul & Wendy,
Catherine & Chris,
Joan & Fred.**

Minister



Mike Crockett

Available Saturday to Thursday

Pastoral Coordinator



Chris Giles

Youth Worker



Catherine Ralph

Available Wed to Mon

Community Development



Paul Jones

Tel:

Mob:

Church Office

0121 705 7367

Lettings

Summary of Church Council Meeting, 23d January 2012

1. Roy Gibson has been appointed as health and safety officer.
2. The Willersley Castle holiday centre is being booked for a church weekend in 2013. An organising group is sought – please speak to Mike Crockett.
3. The church project is being well supported. This year admission to events is being charged at cost and friends ask to make a gift as they feel able.
4. Mike feels that the church is ready to grow significantly in every way this year.
5. The church development plan is being implemented steadily and is making a difference to our capacity to link the community to Christ.
6. The new Birmingham Circuit is benefiting from its size and opportunities to share more widely in witness and service.
7. Our pushchair clubs and messy church are enabling us to share in the lives of more than 70 families.
8. Paul is now beginning to make a number of valuable community contacts which offer potential to extend our work and witness.
9. Our income and expenditure are on course to fulfil our budget plans.
10. There have been many minor improvements to our premises this year, helping to make us more effective in serving our community.
11. Unauthorised car parking remains a problem.
12. We have adopted a new safeguarding policy.
13. A 'walk to church' Sunday is in process of being planned and folk are responding well to the collections of spectacles, printer cartridges etc.
14. Next meeting 2nd July 2012.

GREEN REPORT AND TIP FOR MARCH



It may sound strange but one of England's greatest blessings is its rain. Its regularity, reliability and gentleness means that the countryside remains green in most places most years and our rivers flow continuously to the sea adding beauty and opportunity for all kinds of recreation.

In the 12 months to the end of January this year rainfall across the Midlands was, actually, only 70% of the long term average. Though the large Severn Trent reservoirs in the Elan and Derwent Valleys were full at the end of January that was not true of any of the smaller reservoirs. Draycote, for example, was only half full. Though there is no immediate

cause for concern, it would seem timely to mention that any water we can save means that more will be left in the reservoirs (just in case), and more available to keep our rivers in good condition. Most of us know of the obvious ways to do this: don't run taps when cleaning teeth or washing up; try to put washing machines and dishwaters on only when full; and wash the car with a bucket or two of water not a hose. Some showers, especially power showers, are causing concern. Some use as much as a bath. Showering for 4 or 5 minutes with a flow of 4 or 5 litres/minute (use a measuring jug to check) should be more than enough.

As usual, the Greener Church group would love to hear of any good idea you have seen somewhere else.

Do look out and let us know, and thank you for your continued support.

Richard Balmer

SEUSSICAL

Still a few tickets remaining.
Booking form enclosed with
this Messenger.

Traidcraft

The new Traidcraft catalogue arrived at the same time as the snow, but by the time you read this, Spring will have arrived and we can celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight (27 February – 11 March).

The growth of the fair trade movement in the UK is a success story for which the churches can claim much of the credit. The spread of fair trade into the mainstream – which Traidcraft helped to pioneer – is giving hope and opportunity to millions of small-scale growers and their families.

However, supermarkets deal in large volumes so they can only work with producer organisations that have already achieved Fairtrade certification and with the capacity to supply the quantities they need. That offers no opportunity to those commodity producers who are not yet at the Fairtrade Mark level – but would like to be – or to the millions struggling to support themselves and their families making crafts, textiles, jewellery, ceramics or paper and card products for which no Fairtrade Mark yet exists.

As a Christian response to poverty, Traidcraft directs much of its efforts towards these poor and marginalised producers, working with them to help improve their products, refine their techniques and develop their small businesses in ways which will allow them to gain their share of the global fair trade market.

So please come to the Traidcraft stall, look in the catalogue at the different goods now available from Traidcraft and demonstrate our response to the scriptural call to seek justice for the poor.

And the Real Easter Eggs are also here (the only Fairtrade Easter egg to mention Jesus and the events of Holy Week on the box). Come and see!

Linda Innes



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Dates for your Diary

75th Celebrations

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Saturday 9 th June | Irish Ceilidh 7.30pm |
| Sunday 17 th June | Tea & Reminiscences PM Songs of Praise 6.30pm |
| Monday 18 th June | Pushchair Club Celebrations. |
| Thursday 21 st June | Reg's Celebration Ramble 9.30am Messy Church Celebration 4.00pm |
| Saturday 23 rd June | Church Outing – Earlswood 2.00pm |
| Sunday 24 th June | Church Anniversary Service 10.30am |

What's on this month? MARCH

| | | | |
|-----------|------|-------------|--|
| Friday | 2nd | 10.30 am | Womens World Day of Prayer: Solihull Methodist Church |
| | | 7.30 pm | GUILD: Live at the Manse - Chris and Derek Giles |
| Sunday | 4th | 9.00am | Holy Communion: Rev Mike Crockett |
| | | 10.30 am | Morning Worship: Rev Mark Fisher (2nd Sunday of Lent) |
| | | 6.30 pm | Prayer Fellowship |
| Tuesday | 6th | 09.30 AM | Tuesday Holy Communion |
| Wednesday | 7th | 8.00 pm | CONTACT: Women as Special Agents, Resistance Fighers and FANYS |
| Friday | 9th | 7,30 pm | GUILD: Alfred Bird and Tudor Grange - Stan Field |
| Sunday | 11th | 10.30am | Morning Worship : Rev Mike Crockett (3rd Sunday of Lent) |
| | | 6.30pm | Evening Service: Rev Mike Crockett |
| Tuesday | 13th | 9.30am | Tuesday Holy Communion |
| | | 7.30 pm | Circuit Executive |
| Friday | 16th | 7.30pm | GUILD: Let's Talk about Hymn Tunes - Barry Davis |
| Sunday | 18th | 10.30am | Morning Worship and Baptism : Rev Mike Crockett (4th Sunday of Lent) |
| | | 6.30pm | Evening Worship: Rev Mike Crockett and Professor Marius Feldman |
| Tuesday | 20th | 9.30am | Tuesday Holy Communion |
| Wed | 21st | 8.00pm | CONTACT: Spring Luncheon - Sue Balmer |
| Friday | 23rd | 7.30 pm | GUILD: Mark Arstall and friends |
| Saturday | 24th | 1000 - 1400 | Circuit Assembly at Carrs Lane |
| Sunday | 25th | 10.30 am | Morning Worship: Rev Mike Crockett (5th Sunday of Lent) |
| | | 6.30 pm | Taize Communion Service |

Church Office

The Messenger Team

Sue Balmer, Mike Crockett, Bryan Fitter,
Jeff Horton, Bill Penny and
Lawrie Rumens.

Material for publication to

Please try to keep articles to 250 words.

We reserve the right to edit articles if
necessary.

Please send photographs separately as
jpeg files.

**NB. Last date for April Messenger items
is
8th March**



William H. Painter

Funeral Directors

Stephen C. Painter, Philip L. Painter, John F. Painter

| | |
|--|--|
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UNIFORM NEWS



Battle of Britain Remembered

On Wednesday 18th January, 11th Solihull Beavers were working on their Air Activities badge when a very special visitor arrived. It was World War 2 Spitfire pilot, Flying Officer Ken Wilkinson. He flew in the Battle of Britain with 616 Squadron. Flying Officer Ken Wilkinson (92) came to tell the Beavers about his time in the RAF and showed them photos and memorabilia. Our photo shows Michael wearing Mr Wilkinson's flying jacket and Dan holding his flying boots. Thanks go to Megan, our young leader, for arranging such an interesting visitor who was greeted with great enthusiasm.

Sainsbury's Vouchers for the Brownies

You all did so well last year. Let's see if we can do even better this year! Sainsbury's vouchers are soon to be issued, so look out for them and collect as many as you can

Chief Scout Silver Award for Cubs

At the parade service on 5 February, Iain Waddell announced the latest winners of the highest award for cubs – the Chief Scout Silver Award. He explained that for this award a cub had to achieve 6 very varied and demanding challenges -- Promise, Community, Fitness, Creative, Global, and Outdoor.

Amazingly, we had seven cubs who had achieved this, and the applause was much deserved.

So, salute Jack Adams-Taylor, Annabel Banford, Arun Barnard, Katie Brixton, Jonathan Hague, Mitchell Reeve, and Arran Sidu.

And of course a huge *well done!* to their leaders.

We remember our Brownie pack celebrating their 50th anniversary this week, and pray for all those involved with Brownies and other uniformed organisations linked to our church family.



Simon Hague writes-

The 11th Solihull Scouts, your scout group, is flourishing. It shows off a great scout troop, cub pack and beaver colony that provides programme material and activities for 6 to 14 year old children. The programme is delivered by a great team of leaders and supporters who work hard to bring amazing opportunities to the youngsters. However, a large proportion of their time is taken up in administration of the activities, something that I am trying to alleviate so that they can focus on delivering to their strengths.

To this end, I am looking to form a group of volunteers that can help. I am not talking about being uniformed, or providing a significant amount of time. I am seeking assistance in record keeping, general group administration and equipment management. We already have help from some parents and supporters, however, the link between the church and the group is really important to us and could add a new different dimension to the way that we do things.

If you can help, please telephone (), or email to ()

Thank you



The First Messy Church of 2012

It was a full house for the first Messy Church of the New Year with 15 children and 12 adults cramming into room 5. The theme for the month was the story of Abraham and Sarah and a whole range of activities were experienced - printing, making promise boxes, colouring, singing and decorating sheep biscuits. What are sheep biscuits? Biscuits shaped like sheep of course! - whatever the shape they were delicious and not many reached home! As usual all tastes were catered for in the menu of sausages and a vegetarian alternative, fairy cakes, fruit salad all washed down with orange squash.

Easter Week

Saturday 31 March at 20.12h

The Passion 2012

A newly written Passion Play will be performed in the run up to Easter at Lyndon.

This is a re-telling of the week leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection re-imagined for today.

It is being performed by members and young people from the church and also involves a special choir.

Palm Sunday 1st April 10.30am

Our Palm Sunday celebration with our uniformed organisations on Parade

Maundy Thursday 8.15 pm

Evening Communion/Tenebrae Service –

Be there as the lights go out in such a moving and thought provoking service

Good Friday 11.00am

Walk of Witness beginning at St Alphege.

Meet in our car park by 10.30 to walk up together

Good Friday Noon – 4.00pm

Church open for personal prayer and reflection

Easter Sunday 10.30am

Come and Join the celebration.

This is our biggest day of the year!

Bring a flower to enable the Christmas Tree cross to come back to life and enjoy family communion together

