

Church of the Good Shepherd,

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Notices June 2024



Living by the reign of His Peace!

As the disciples huddled together behind a closed or even locked door on the evening of the first day of the resurrection, we are told that rather than peace reigning in their hearts, in its place, was fear; **'fear of the Jewish leaders'** (John 20: 19). Though they had very strong reasons to believe the impossible had happened, that their adored Leader had risen from the dead, (with huge implications for the world then and now), nonetheless, thoughts of His murder lingered in their minds. Surely they would be next?

Despite or perhaps even because of all our mod cons and improved standard of living, peace, the most basic of necessities, is in short supply in our modern world. Whether that be from the many outward concerns of our world or whether it be from our own internal angst. An angst which is also a serious epidemic in the young people of today.

And yet..... On that first day of the resurrection Jesus' words, that were directed at the disciples' fear and discomfort, were, **'Peace be with you'** (V19). These words were not like the tokenism of our 'have a good day' or our polite 'hope you are well'. No, as these words were heard and registered in the disciples' minds and hearts they were stunned by the gift and power of Jesus' reigning peace. A peace that can stand against anything this world will throw at us. So many souls in our world today need this overcoming power.

May we then trust for and receive His reigning peace even as we resist our hearts being **'troubled'** or **'afraid'** (John 14: 27). Surely then we will have the witness of His Peace in our hearts and may that Peace be sealed in our hearts as we don't keep it just for our own consumption, but as we take every opportunity to share this reigning peace of Jesus with a needy world and all those whom the Lord brings us into contact with.

Rev Taiwo

June News



Notice Board (Things that happen regularly)

- ♥ **Sunday Services** continue at 11am every Sunday. In our new service pattern, Holy Communion will be celebrated on June 2nd and 16th.
- ♥ **The monthly Healing and Charismatic Service** is next on 9th June. This parish-wide service is open to anyone who would like anointing and prayer for healing and will continue at St James on the second Sunday every month, 5 - 6pm.
- ♥ **Waking the Dawn** prayer takes place every Saturday, 8am - 9am. All are welcome.
- ♥ **Over 50s** continues every fortnight. The dates in June are 10th and 24th. There are a variety of activities enjoyed and a warm reception is guaranteed for all, please do get in touch if you want more information or would like to come along.
- ♥ **Life Groups** are continuing to look at the gospel of John. If you are interested in meeting with others to dig deeper into the word of God, please contact Taiwo (through the parish office).
- ♥ **Bushbury Youth Group** is open to those in Secondary School, aged 11 - 14. It is on Friday evenings in St Mary's church hall at 7.15pm, except the last Friday of the month when it is at St James. Contact the parish office for further details and confirmation of meeting dates.
- ♥ **Coffee Morning** is every Friday 10-12pm during term time. All are welcome to come and enjoy Toastie Pat's finest fare.
- ♥ **Monthly Clean-Up** is usually the last Saturday of the month from 10.30am. As the weather improves there is work to be done both inside and outside the building. Huge thanks to those who have been able to come, but it would be lovely to have more help.
- ♥ The next **City Wide Prayer** event is at International Life Centre on June 20th.
- ♥ **Men's Breakfast** is on Saturday 8th June, 10am in St Mary's church hall.

Special Events in June



Mission - Prepare for an impactful mission week from Saturday, June 29th to Sunday, July 7th. This is a special time when we will be hosting TFM as we did last year (here is the website showing the bigger picture <https://throughfaithmissions.org>). We believe it is a powerful initiative to spread the Gospel's good news to our community. Your active participation is welcomed and crucial in making this event a resounding success. Further details will be announced in church and on WhatsApp.



Confirmation: This year, confirmation will be held at St James's church 6pm on July 10th. **Preparation** classes will be held during June. Please see Rev Taiwo for further details.

BBQ: We are planning to have a BBQ on the afternoon of 13th July (**PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY NOW!**). More information will emerge as the weeks go by. Pat, Adrian and Karen will need help!

Other News



Sunday Services; The Service leaders will process to the front at 11am. If you are already in church, please try and be seated ready for the start. If you are running a bit late you may be asked to wait at the entrance briefly.

Thank you everyone for being considerate of latecomers and newcomers.

Bunting. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this activity and especially to Pat for the inspiration and hard work in making it happen. It was spectacular. We plan to take it down after the half-term week (hopefully it will have dried out by then) so that people don't get 'bunting-blind'! But it will make another appearance. The bunting around the Shepherds Pasture really complements the mix of wild flowers that appear almost daily - do stop and appreciate this small but beautiful place.

The Well Foodbank; We have received a nice thank you letter from the Well (pinned on the noticeboard at the back of church) and also a notification of their current needs. We leave a box in church every week for the donations. Cash can be donated too - it is easiest to do this online through their website [The Well \(thewellwolverhampton.co.uk\)](http://thewellwolverhampton.co.uk).

Christmas gifts appeal (nope! It's not too early) - For many years now we have supported Simon Rooksby (<https://www.computersforcharities.org>) as he loads up the charity's van to take much-needed toiletries and small gifts to a variety of destinations; some in the UK, many in far-flung, often desperate situations in eastern Europe, including Ukraine. Check out the website for the full story of the charity's history and impact. We collect toiletries throughout the year - there is a more specific list displayed on the church noticeboard.



Contact

If you need to contact Rev Taiwo Olumuyiwa, please in the first instance speak to the **Parish Office:** 01902 782226 (although please note **Taiwo is taking some Annual Leave during June.** We can also be found on: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com> (enter The Good Shepherd, Low Hill). Or <https://www.facebook.com/CHURCH.COGS/>

June Focus: Measuring Mountains and Molehills.

Call it what you will, it's actually quite difficult to get a meaningful conversation going about safeguarding and I'm pretty certain that the more common responses would be; Borrrring! Rolled eyes! It's church for goodness sake! What is the world coming to? Well, it's got to be done, so let's bite the bullet - deep sigh! All responses that I confess have been mine over recent times. Despite it being a crucial consideration of our life together, it somehow seems a bit too wordly, risky or 'unchurchy' and definitely something that somebody more important should be doing. QUITE RIGHT and also QUITE WRONG!



Safeguarding means protecting children and vulnerable adults from emotional and physical harm. In the UK, this includes measures to protect health, well-being, and human rights, ensuring individuals live free from abuse, harm, and neglect. Everyone in contact with children and families plays a part in this.

As a Church, and particularly as The Church OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, we recognise that we have found our refuge, our shelter, our safe place in the Lord Jesus; once we were 'no people' but now we are God's people - the sheep of his pasture. This is our history and 'His-Story' as we seek to live out what it means for us as individuals and church together. Surely then a core part of our identity should include a willingness to create a 'safely guarded' environment that is more than just a tick-box exercise.

Safeguarding isn't just about reacting to issues; it's about preventing them. Regular training, clear policies, and open communication are essential. Educating our church community fosters a culture of awareness and accountability, ensuring we can address issues early.

From an organisational point of view, Churches are charities - accountable to the Charity Commission which requires us to have a written safeguarding policy in place and the church trustees (vicar, wardens and PCC members) are ultimately responsible for maintaining it. The Charity Commission recommends that a lead



trustee be designated to take responsibility for safeguarding arrangements; in Bushbury parish this is Linda Forrester, with the help of a small team; Jacquie Mullett (St James), Mike Hotchkiss (St Mary's), Karen Adcock (Good Shepherd). You can find more context and information by googling 'Promoting

A Safer Church', 'thirtyoneeight.org' and 'Gov.co.uk'.

