



Vicar's Letter - September 2008

2008 Vision statement:

Stronger in Love Deeper in Faith Wider in Witness

Dear friends

For those of you just back from your summer break, 'welcome back'. For those about to go, 'Happy Holidays' and thank you for keeping the ministry of Holy Trinity going through August whilst many of us were away. It has been particularly wonderful to hear about the success of the 'Holiday at Home' initiative and all who were involved under Lorna's leadership to make it happen.

Preaching series

As we start a new season of Church life and ministry there is plenty to look forward to. Our teaching series for the next two months will focus on the life of David; shepherd, poet, giant-killer, king, ancestor of Jesus, in short one of the greatest men of the Old Testament. But alongside that list of attributes stands another: betrayer, liar, adulterer, and murderer. The Bible makes no effort to hide David's failures. Yet he is remembered and respected for his godliness and for being a man after God's heart.

The broad themes to which we shall return again and again during this series are:

- ✦ The formation of godly character. We have lessons to learn about God's call, the way He shapes a person and the kind of character God looks to build into each one of us.
- ✦ Christian leadership. David is in many ways a model leader and yet towards the end of his life we learn as much from his mistakes, about what not to do, as we do from his achievements.
- ✦ Life under the anointing of God

The growth of God's Kingdom. The development of the Kingdom of Israel foreshadows the coming of God's Kingdom in Jesus. Through these narratives we see God's determination to have his Kingdom established and to see his just rule and authority spread.

As we study together the life of David and apply the teaching in our cells, my prayer is that we will be inspired by David to live out our 2008 vision statement more effectively.

Other Events

Sunday 5th October Baroness Cox will be preaching at our 10.00 am service. Appointed a life peer in 1982 and a former deputy speaker of the House of Lords, she is a tireless advocate for international human rights. She visits the forgotten people in the world, often in highly dangerous conditions, to carry their stories of abuse and persecution back to the west. She has been under fire many times while taking aid to war victims in Armenia, Sudan and Indonesia. As former president of 'Christian Solidarity Worldwide' she wrote to the *Independent* claiming to have redeemed 2,281 slaves on 8 visits to Sudan. In 1995 she was awarded the 'William Wilberforce Award' for her humanitarian work. We are very much looking forward to her visit and to the message the Lord will bring to us through her.

Updates

Following the Gift Day last July, we made an offer on 10 Oldbury Road (the house opposite the church), which has since been rejected. The PCC meet on Monday 8th September to pray and discuss how we should proceed. Please do join us in praying for the speedy acquisition of these premises so that with the youth and children's work about to resume we may continue to grow.

We recognise that our Halls are in dire need of a makeover and so the work to replace the windows, ceiling (room 4) flooring and redecoration is planned for this autumn. We hope that our Sunday activities will not be affected.

And finally...

We are looking for signs of God's coming Kingdom in the life of our church and through us into the life of our community. Paul wrote to the church in Corinth:

'My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom but on God's power'. (1Cor 1:4)

May it be so.

Stephen

What's On in SEPTEMBER 2008

WEEKLY @ Holy Trinity

Mondays	9.00 am	Prayer for the Church ~	Vestry
	9.15 am	Sanctuary ~	Room 2
	6.00 pm	BASE ~ (Girls 11+) ~	Room 2
Wednesdays	9.00 am	Prayer for the Church ~	
Crèche			
	10.00 am	Coffee Morning ~	Room 4
	10.30 am	Holy Communion ~	Room 2
	7.30 pm	Cell Group meet ~	local areas
Thursday	9.00 am	Prayer for the Church ~	Crèche
	10.15 am	Smarties ~	Church Hall
	7.30 pm	Cell Group meet ~	local areas
Saturdays	10.30 am	Trinity Tigers play Home & Away	
		During the football season.	
		See Andrew Woodward for venues	

OTHER EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

Tuesday	2nd	2.15 pm	Women's Fellowship
Wednesday	3rd	10.30 am	Mid Week Communion
Thursday	4th	10.15 am	Smarties returns today
Sunday	7th	8.15 am	Holy Communion BCP
		10.00 am	Worship Together ~ Step up Sunday
		4.00 pm	Songs of Praise
		7.00 pm	Celebration Service
Monday	8th	9.15 am	Sanctuary starts up again
		6.30 pm	BASE starts again

What's On in September 2008

Wednesday	10th	7.30 pm	Youth Cell (Abbots Road)
Thursday	11th	7.30 pm	Church Prayer Gathering
Sunday	14th	8.15 am	Holy Communion BCP
		10.00 am	Morning Worship
Tuesday	16th	2.15 pm	Women's Fellowship
Wednesday	17th	7.30 pm	Youth Cell (at the Church)
		12.30 pm	@ Methodist Church ~ Christian Aid Event 'Cut the Carbon' ~ 'Fairtrade' stand
Thursday	18th	8.00 pm	Newcomers Evening @ the Vicarage
Sunday	21st	8.15 am	Holy Communion BCP
		10.00 am	Morning Worship
Monday	22nd	2.00 pm	Prayer for Outlook Lunch @ Janet Bevans
Tuesday	23rd	1.00 pm	Outlook Lunch ~ Speaker Rev. Sarah Miller, Twynning
Wednesday	24th	10.30 am	Mid Week Communion
		7.30 pm	Youth Cell (Abbots Road)
Thursday	25th	7.30 pm	Alpha Launch Lunch
Friday	26th	9.15 am	School Event only Chance Street School Harvest Festival Service
Sunday	28th	8.15 am	Holy Communion BCP
		10.00 am	Holy Communion
		4.00 pm	Cell Leaders & Pastors Training

Thursday 2nd October ~ ALPHA COURSES STARTING AT HOLY TRINITY TEWKESBURY

Friday 3rd October ~ HARVEST BARN DANCE (SOCIAL)

Sunday 5 October ~ BARONESS COX