

# St David's Messenger

JULY & AUGUST 2011

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## 'AN INVITATION FOR YOU'

Over the Easter weekend our church premises were well used by two congregations other than our own. On Good Friday the church hall was used by St. Thomas' Indian Orthodox Church at the same time as the congregation at St. David's was holding its Good Friday service in the church.

The Indian Orthodox Church traces its origins back to the Apostle Thomas who, tradition has it, travelled to India with the gospel message in the first century AD. It is, then, one of the oldest Christian churches in the world. The church continued their use of our premises on Easter Eve, when they celebrated their Easter Vigil. The following day, Easter Day, saw the congregation of a Pentecostal church, which already regularly meets at St. David's, holding their Easter service in the church hall.

The simultaneous acts of worship by churches of different traditions in the same building over the most important of Christian festivals gave me a feeling of pleasure and pride: pleasure that we could provide congregations, which have to travel some distances to worship – some people came from Manchester – and pride in belonging to an organisation of people from different cultures and backgrounds, but all 'united' in professing a personal and common faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

I place the word united in inverted commas as the sad fact is that the Christian Church isn't

completely united, as there are differences in the way that the churches worship and differences in emphasis on points of Christian teaching. In fact, this is one of the main criticisms labelled about Christians – they can't agree, and we can't ignore that.

My experience of life, however, informs me that people will always disagree. What is important is that disagreement is not allowed to impair personal relationships between people. Certainly my own experience over the Easter weekend with meeting people I met from other churches, and my meeting with them since, leads me to believe that personal contact and what we learn from one another and do for each other overrides disagreement. It's very difficult not to get on with people and not to like them once you look into their faces and see them smile. In such circumstances barriers and assumptions of the pre-conceived mind come tumbling down, whether this is in the Church or in our private lives.

The Church has just completed its observance of Easter with the Day of Pentecost, what we used to call in England 'Whit Sunday'. At this festival we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit into the lives and hearts of the disciples of Jesus, waiting, as Jesus had told them to, for this to occur.

This event signalled the movement outwards of the small fellowship of Jewish

people, who were the followers of Jesus, from its base in Jerusalem and into the ancient world. This was the springboard from which the Christian mission was to spread into other cultures and nations, with the good news of Jesus rooting and grounding itself in the hearts, minds and lives of countless individuals.

In speaking of the Church, then, we should not forget that it is made up *of* individuals.

The Acts of the Apostles, the book in the New Testament that records the successes of these first disciples is an inspirational book to read. We read of men and women leading changed lives by the power of the Holy Spirit and their lives altered and turned round by their knowledge of Jesus and his story.

The invitation to know Jesus in our lives is a personal invitation, given by him to each one of us. Jesus says in the gospels,

**'Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest.... I am gentle and humble in spirit; and you will find rest.'**

It may be that in reading these words of Jesus you may feel moved to respond to them by making your own prayer and by asking him to be a part in your life, and that his Spirit will inspire you in the same way as it did those first disciples on the Day of Pentecost, that you too, like them, may be encouraged to grow in trust and faith and the knowledge of God.

Best wishes,  
Robert Williams.

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**H**i! Welcome to your corner for a chat, a prayer and a puzzle. If it's your birthday this month—"A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!"(Little Jim—"Don't forget a big breath when you blow out your candles!")

If you are feeling poorly—a big "GET WELL SOON!" If you are a new "MESSENGER" reader—"WELCOME!" from St David's.

(Little Jim—"Hi Brian! Hi, everyone! Brian, my dad says you are telling us about rabbits. Are you an expert?")

No I'm not an expert, in fact I only know one rabbit, called "PEPPER". Let me tell you how rabbits come into this month's chat.

Many, many, many years ago, when I was very young and went to Sunday School, we used to sing a song about our hearts being like fields of corn and our sins being like naughty little rabbits. This is how it went.

Get them out, get them gone,  
All the little bunnies in the field of corn.

Envy, jealousy, malice, pride,  
They must never in your hearts abide.

(Repeat as many times as you wish.)

It is nearly time for the school summer holidays and I hope that you all have a nice time and you keep those naughty little rabbits and their brothers and sisters—BAD THOUGHTS, BAD ACTIONS and BAD FEELINGS out of your hearts. Also please say NO!!! to strangers, no matter what they offer you. Seek help if they bother you.

To all of you and your families, have a pleasant holiday and I hope that the weather is kind to you wherever you go.

#### PRAYER

Lord,  
Teach me how to love you,  
Teach me how to pray.  
Teach me how to serve you,  
Better day by day.  
Amen.

#### PUZZLE

Find 2 nursery rhymes in each sentence.

1. This vehicle full of chattering mums also carries an animal with 3 full bags.
2. These two children climbed up to a well while some soldiers were marching up and down the same place.
3. This small lady lost some animals who had gone to see someone climbing up and falling down a pipe.

Can you find 16 words or more from the word HEART. Each word has to be 3 letters or more and there is one word of 5 letters.

Can you find 10 words or more of 3 letters or more from the word HOLIDAY.

You may travel on these means of transport during your holidays.

Find them in the letter square—back to front, upside down, diagonal or correct way around:

SCOOTER, BICYCLE, SKATES, CANOE, HORSE, PLANE, LORRY, YACHT, BUS, CAR.

R	H	Y	C	H	Y	E	C	C	Z
Z	T	R	I	A	L	S	R	X	X
Y	N	D	X	C	R	R	P	Q	Q
N	Z	G	Y	R	R	O	L	K	R
Y	A	C	H	T	M	H	U	E	P
J	I	E	A	S	K	A	T	E	S
B	O	R	N	N	L	O	S	V	Q
J	J	P	F	A	O	T	V	V	B
O	O	S	W	C	L	E	B	B	Y
T	W	W	S	U	B	P	C	C	U

#### JOKE

(Little Jim—"What do you call a penguin in the SAHARA DESERT? - LOST!!")

#### DID YOU KNOW?

(Little Jim—"The ancient Egyptians slept on pillows made from stone.")Thank you, Little Jim.

Well, that's all for this now! See you soon! Take care! Brian.

#### *Baptisms*

Joseph Michael Stopforth  
(17 April 2011)

Ruby Brooke Weights  
(24 April 2011)

Tegan Melia Thomas  
Samuel Martin Langton  
Leighton John Mitchel  
(29 May 2011)

#### *Weddings*

Michael Thomas Pugh  
& Rachel Stokes  
(7 May 2011)

Richard Anthony Brady  
& Zara Mostaghel  
(4 June 2011)

David Raymond Johnson  
& Helen Elizabeth Rogers

### *WHAT'S ON IN THE GLADSTONE HALL*

(entrance in church car park,  
Rocky Lane)

#### AGE CONCERN LUNCH CLUB

*Mondays* at 12noon. Phone 228  
6881 to enquire. Everyone over 60  
welcome!

#### HELEN O'GRADY DRAMA ACADEMY

*Mondays* 4.00 pm. For age 5+. For  
further details phone 482 0443.

#### GLADSTONE BABE AND TODDLERS PLAYGROUP

*Tuesdays* between 13.30 and 15.00  
hours during school term time.

Children, bring your carer for a  
cuppa, while you play with our toys.

#### PARISH OFFICE

*Open Tuesdays* 6.00-7.00 pm in  
Gladstone Hall. A member of  
clergy will be available.