

ST MARGARET'S VOICES

St Margaret of Antioch Church ~ Crick

Thought for the Week

When we think of the Gideons, bibles in hotel rooms and hospitals come to mind. But in South Africa, their aim is so much higher. In the last year, they have distributed some 800,000 bibles! And their target for next year is 2.5 million! In a country with the same population as the UK.

A school visit could see 800 given out, and the children are so keen for them. In some rural places, they are effectively the only English 'textbooks'. And then there are the hospitals, prisons, and even police stations. The challenge is the wide geography and the limited number of volunteers.

What hunger, what faith!

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH WEEKLY SERVICES

Every Wednesday ~ Holy Communion **10.30am**

Dec 1st - Morning Praise **9.45am**

Dec 2nd & 9th ~. Little Saints - **2.15-3.30pm**

Dec 8th ~ Holy Communion- **9.45am**

COME AND JOIN US. OUR DOOR IS ALWAYS OPEN AND OUR WELCOME ASSURED!



WELCOME

Sunday 24th November was the last Sunday before Advent when we celebrated Christ the King. This Sunday is also known as Stir-Up Sunday being the day when families traditionally gathered to make their Christmas pudding; perhaps you still do? The term comes from the collect for the day in the Book of Common Prayer: "Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen". That's a great prayer for any occasion. Stir us up, Lord!

2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2, 6:14-7:1 There are some clear things about being an ambassador. They are important people. They are very trusted people. They are people who have a huge representational role, and this is, or at least should be, their primary focus. There is something else about ambassadors; they live in a country that is not their own. They may live in comfort, but they are not at home. So, if you are a Christian, do we see how important, how trusted, how focused on Jesus' interests we are? Sometimes we can forget our true identity, forget our primary focus, and consequently feel too at home here. All Christians are ambassadors for Jesus. Let's keep our focus. We are amazingly important.

Contributors: Rev. Graeme, Wendy Barzetovic, Mary Fleeson, Lyn Johnson, Ian Mackintosh, Dave Milne, Sue Milne, John Rogers, Steve Westwood

Prayer for the Week

(Prayers for Autumn by Mary Fleeson Lindisfarne)

This is a time to remember
And as the earth holds warmth within
Let good thoughts be held in my heart

This is a time to thank
And as the earth gives food
Let gratitude be held in my heart

This is the time to prepare,
And as the earth lies fallow a while
Let divine peace be held in my heart.

Amen



A LIGHT FOR A LOVED ONE

FOSM have run this event since 2007.

Although instituted as a fundraiser, it has become so much more. By sponsoring a light, anyone can mark the memory of a departed loved one or, indeed, someone from whom they will be parted through other circumstances. It

costs £10 to sponsor a light in the yew tree. Lights will be switched on on Sunday, December 8th and every night until January 5th. Loved ones' names are displayed inside the church on a Christmas tree in the Baptistry area. Application forms in the church or at the Post Office.

Birthdays. We are celebrating some special birthdays in our church family, the ones that end with '0'! These milestones herald a new decade and phase in life and, like a well used car, visits to the 'doctor mechanic' are more frequent as the miles of life increase. However, our church family also has the blessing of Jesus to sustain their earthly journey and soon we will be celebrating His birthday. Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice so we could enjoy our earthly life and live again, without the aches and pains, in the next. Birthdays bring gifts and Jesus gave us the biggest and best of all.

Matthew 5: 1-16 This passage from Matthew's gospel has four distinct sections. Firstly, there are comforting blessings for categories of 'good' people - the thirsters after righteousness, the merciful, the peacemakers etc. Secondly, Jesus addresses his followers, encouraging them to rejoice when they encounter opposition and ridicule. Thirdly, He gives a warning to them via an illustration as to what is done with salt if it is no longer salty - throw it out! Finally, he assures them that they shine in a dark world - their light should be clearly visible, not hidden. Is it not for all of us to take note and act accordingly?

FACT FILE- Yew Trees One of the oldest wooden artefacts ever discovered was a spearhead made from yew, dated at around 450,000 years old. In Celtic culture yew symbolised death and resurrection as drooping branches can root in the ground and re-grow, so maybe, Christian churches were sited by yews, not the reverse.

The Celts will also have known that the needles, in particular, are toxic and they certainly did Macbeth no good! In recent times, however, scientists have discovered yew extracts to have anti-cancer properties. Death and resurrection? Apt that we light a churchyard yew tree at Christmas.

RED LEAVES

Three pm shadow
cast long
anticipating winters coming
ablaze burning off autumn
calling a halt on time
Red leaves
in glory
this is their moment
to shine