

# UPDATE

THE MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR THE  
LIVING STONES OF ST PETER'S, ST JAMES'  
AND ST BARNABAS' CHURCHES

## MAY 2010

### A Change in Monthly Worship Pattern

From the start of May there is a small (but significant) change to our overall service pattern between our churches. Up to now it has been "normal" each month for the two 10.30 congregations and the 6.30 congregation to celebrate Communion on the 3rd Sunday of the month. This makes sense if you only attend one service a Sunday, but many of our members do come to two or even three services - and can then once a month end up at three communions on the same day, and then wait another month until the next celebration.

So as from 1st of May, a small change. The 6.30 service of Communion will now be the 2nd Sunday of the month; the St Peter's 10.30am will *continue* to be on the 3rd Sunday; and St James' 10.30am will move its communion to the 4th Sunday. **And don't forget, the weekly services at 8am and 9am, of course, continue to be Holy Communion.**

### Pentecost - 23rd May - United Worship

The central themes of the evening are, of course, to join together with other churches to praise God, and to hear His word, but we also want to give some particular attention to the ongoing mission work of ACTS2.

With 30+ volunteers drawn from 10 churches across the city, serving regularly in 9 schools, this is a fantastic example of Christians working together to reach our school-children. And with lively and imaginative Christ-centred teaching and worship this really is mission! **So do please come to join us, and do please pray for the teams as they go into schools.**

### Spring Harvest 2010 - Different Eyes

Fifteen of us enjoyed this year's Spring Harvest in Minehead, writes Peter Massey. The week was inspiring and uplifting: Jeff Lucas' Bible study was brilliant, lively worship and inspirational speakers in the 'big top' along with 6500 other enthusiasts, challenging and informative sessions and great fellowship with time to relax.

#### Quotes from some of the folks attending this year:

'Spring Harvest allows space to immerse oneself in God's presence. A place to learn, explore, discuss, praise and grow. A top-up for the spiritual batteries allowing one to return to Hereford renewed and reinvigorated for the difficult path of a Christian in today's mainly secular society.'

- Diana Thomas

Great fellowship, great worship, great teaching, great God!

- David & Marianne Anderson

For me the quote of the week was: Job description for those working in the Kingdom: The Holy Spirit convicts, God judges, **our job is to Love!**

- Angela Massey

**Booking for next year is on June 9th—see ad. over page!**

### An Evening to Savour

An evening of music, poetry,  
wine, bread, cheese and *raté*.

**Saturday 15th May**  
Great Hall, Bishop's Palace  
7.30pm

£10 per head including food

For tickets contact Diana Thomas  
dianathomas@btinternet.com or 01432 277670

**In aid of F.L.I.C.**

**Please remember to collect a  
PRAYER FOCUS for MAY 2010  
from the back of church.**



### Monthly Parish Prayer Meeting

**Next Meeting:**

Check the Church Notice Sheet or the Website.  
St. Peter's Church House

**PLEASE COME—ALL WELCOME**

### Evening Services in May

(all at 6.30pm)

2nd May: St Barnabas

9th May: St James (Holy Communion)

16th May: St Peter's

**23rd May: Special Evening Service**

**Christian Life Centre - see opposite**

30th May: St James

### Preachers and Themes for May 2010

These are now available for the 9am and two 10.30am services at the back of church or from the website.

## CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS

### PARISH OFFICE

**Helen Durant: Parish Administrator**

24, St James Road

Hereford

HR1 2QS

**Tel: 01432 276320**

**email: office@spsj.org.uk**

The deadline for items for our weekly Sunday Notice Sheet is Thursday 10.30am.

### UPDATE Coordinator Diana Thomas

dianathomas@btinternet.com

The deadline for items for UPDATE to Diana by the 20th of each month please

**For all of this and more  
look on our website**

**www.spsj.org.uk**

Website items to Peter Massey  
pwmasssey@btinternet.com

## Paul's Ponderings May 2010

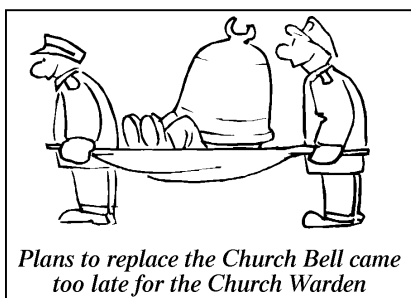
As April draws to a close there are three events in my diary that all continue our April theme of new life. And in all three there will be an interesting sense of both continuity with the past, and something new and exciting taking place - which I believe we find in all the post-resurrection accounts in the Gospels. The disciples were the same mixed bunch of people, with their mixed joys and fears, and abilities and limitations. And Jesus was the same - and yet different! I wonder in what ways the three events I am talking about will show these two themes - continuity and change.

First - and you will find the details elsewhere - we will have appointed churchwardens and elected new PCC members. From the paperwork I have seen in advance there will be several "old" faces, and some new ones, in the completed team - which is perhaps how things must be in an organisation such as the church - continuity through the on-going service of "old" friends, and change through inviting "new" members onto the team. Let's pray that we get the best out of both!

Second - and we will announce the outcome as soon as we can - we will have appointed the new headteacher for St James' School, to start in September. And clearly here again there will be continuity, with the eight classroom teachers going on with their tasks. But there will inevitably be change as well, as the new headteacher brings new skills and new insights to help the school develop. In theory this should be a winning combination!

The third may not, in calendar terms, actually happen after the other two, as the date is clearly in God's hands - the arrival of our first grandchild (due April 23rd). And here too there will be continuity - in genetics and therefore possibly in character - and change (a good thing too I hear some cry!). No doubt you will hear more about this change as the weeks go on!

Continuity and change; old and new; I love the words of Jesus in Matthew 13:52, where he tells us that the treasures of the Kingdom are both old and new. May that be our joyful experience as we continue to celebrate the resurrection together.



Plans to replace the Church Bell came too late for the Church Warden

## Sharon's Clergy Corner

I read recently of a young African girl who watched anxiously as the collection plate drew nearer and nearer to her, writes Sharon Elson. She had no money, she had nothing to give. She searched her pockets and found only a single button. She was fearful, what would the pastor say, what would the people around her think?

Then the plate arrived, she took it with trembling hands. She bowed her head and felt that God had given her an idea. She placed the collection plate on the floor and stepped very carefully onto it and whispered, "Lord I give myself".

Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 8:5 that the Macedonian Church did very much the same thing. Having nothing they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to the visiting evangelists, Paul and Co.

That first dedication to God led the Church to receive over flowing joy enabling them to give in rich generosity. It's noted that they gave far above their means and even pleaded for the chance even the privilege of giving to the work of God seeing it as a service to the saints.

Matthew 26:39 states that Jesus gave himself, or rather surrendered himself whole heartedly, to do the will of his father. And in Hebrews we have that he did this for the joy set before him - becoming poor so that we may 'through his poverty' become rich - 2 Corinthians 8:9.

Whenever I struggle to let go of my wants or my time I remember that I am not my own I have been brought at a price the precious blood of Christ was spilled out for me on Good Friday. **He gave himself for me so the very least I can do is give myself to him.**

**SPRING HARVEST 2011**  
BIBLICAL DIRECTION FOR THE  
ROAD WE TRAVEL ...

**Week: 14th-19th April**  
Brochures at the back of Church  
Contact Angela Massey to book:  
01432 270248 (booking date 9 June)

## YOUTH ZONE

**ST JAMES' SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
During the 10.30 service, we welcome youngsters old and new between the **ages of 3 - 11** to join our groups.

## ACCESS

for school years 10-13  
For more info call **Andy Clark on 07590 617738**

**d2b (Dare to Believe)**  
School years 7 to 9  
**St. James' Church 10.30am.**  
A church based youth group, we meet every Sunday morning during term times.

**ST. PETER'S EXPLORERS**  
on Sunday mornings during the 10:30 service for ages 7-11+.