



Benedict and Bede

NEWS and VIEWS

September 2017



Shelter Boxes and our Harvest Appeal

Each year just before Christmas my household contents insurance policy comes up for renewal.

Most years I simply pay the appropriate premium. Sometimes though I stop and think the unthinkable, What if disaster struck and I lost everything? How much would it cost to replace?

I am very lucky, I live a reasonably comfortable life and over the years I have acquired a fair number of possessions, many hundreds of books is just one example. Then, earlier in the year a charity appeal dropped through my letter box. I get lots, some I am able to support, others I am afraid go in the recycling. This one called "Shelter box" grabbed my attention, it was an appeal which aimed to help those affected by the disasters when families have lost, not just one or two possession, but everything. I think that the appeal hit home because it itemised the cost of each of the boxes contents... treated mosquito nets £7.00 right through to a family tent at £230.00.

The "Shelter Box" provides emergency help for people who have been made homeless by natural disaster or conflict. The green box reminds me a little of the recycling boxes that were provided by the local authority before the green wheelie bins. Each one is customised depending on the needs of the people who have lost everything. Typically the box contains a tent, a water purification unit, kitchen utensils and a variety of essential tools. Each item, and there are others, intending to meet an immediate and urgent need and to transform despair into hope for the future as lives are rebuilt.

In the last few weeks we have all heard reports of mudslides in Sierra Leone flooding in Houston and storm damage in the Caribbean. Each one a reminder of how important this type of aid is. This year our Church will be supporting the "Shelter Box" appeal as part of our **Harvest Celebrations on the 8th of October**. All the cash donations and the proceeds from our Harvest Lunch will be sent to the appeal.

As well as enjoying the traditional fruit pie (my favourite is apple) I hope you will join me in making a special donation to those whose lives have been torn apart by a disaster.

Paul Brown

Children's activities that are taking place in September and October.

Little Fish



restarts on Monday 11th September 10-11 am held weekly during term time in St Benedict's Church. The group is for babies and toddlers along with their carers. We have great fun playing with toys, craft activities, singing and listening to a Bible story.

Attending Little Fish is a great way of introducing young children to the church family.

Sunday club is held every week in the Wombourne Institute (next to St Benedict's church) we meet at 10.15. This is aimed at Primary school age children (younger children are welcome to attend with an adult). We have great fun playing games, doing crafts, learning about the Bible and joining in with the end of the church service.



Our next Messy Sunday is on Sunday 1st October 3.30-5pm. Fun for all the family. We do craft activities, worship and have tea together. Held at the Venerable Bede.

For more details please contact Sarah on 07702376169 or email sarah@stbenedictbiscop.org.uk

Bede Lunch

Thursday 7th September at 11.00am following Holy communion.
Please telephone 01902 895075 to book a place.

Welcome

On Friday 15th September there will be a special service in church at 9.30am to welcome all the children and staff who are new to our Church School. As part of the service the children will be given a special copy of the Lord's Prayer. A reminder of the importance of the great family prayer that is common to all Christians.



Confirmation and First Communion

On Sunday 17th of September

Bishop Clive will be leading our service of confirmation and First Communion at our 10.30am Service. Five young people from our congregation (and 1 from St Bart's) have been preparing for this special day for many months.

I hope you will support them with your prayers as they make important promises that are their next step on the journey of faith

It would be really great to see the church full to support the candidates.

Try Alpha this September

What is Alpha?

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith.

Who is Alpha for?

Alpha is for anyone who's curious or anyone who wants to refresh their faith. The talks are designed to encourage conversation and explore the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. No question is out of bounds and you are free to discuss as much or as little as you wish.

How does it work?

Alpha is ten sessions. Each session includes food,(we promise a delicious desert and refreshments!) a short talk and a discussion at the end where you can share your thoughts.

At any point, if you think Alpha isn't for you, that's not a problem. There's no pressure, no follow up and no charge.

On the Alpha Website (which is well worth a look) Richard says "The hardest part for me was just showing up the first night."

Interested?

Be brave call Charmaine on 01384 298627, our course starts On Wednesday 27th September at 7.30m.

Daily Prayer at St Benedict's

Each morning at 9.00am as our church opens for the day a small group meet to lead Morning

Prayer in the Lady Chapel. It is very important that our churches life is underpinned by prayer and I am very grateful to those who both lead and support these prayers. The book that guides our prayers is very appropriately called "Daily Prayer" and for each day of the week there is a different set of suggested prayers that include psalms, bible readings, praise and times for both reflection and intercessory prayer.

The suggested outline not only varies with the day of the week but also changes with the season of the churches year. In the next few months there are special prayers for All Saintstide, for Advent and Christmas. Variety that I think helps prevent us become stale and simply reciting off words by rote .

Each Wednesday our prayers focus on those who have particular needs and who have asked for our prayers. Those include all who are housebound or who are in residential care, those who are in hospital or recovering at home and those with long-term health conditions. Our list is quite extensive and its always helpful to be updated about their progress.

"Daily Prayer" suggests a different focus for other days .

On Monday for example it is suggested that we pray for the world of work and on Friday for the Queen and all those who are involved in government both here and abroad.

Each day two people give their time to this very important part of our churches life. The service takes around 20 minutes. We need additional volunteers to cover holidays and those times when members of our regular group aren't available. Everyone is welcome to join us, even if it is just occasionally. If you could help by supporting the leader on an occasional basis , to cover holiday etc.

Please let the Rector know. He would be delighted to hear from you.



The Wombourne Music Festival

The Festival Starts in 4 weeks' time (23rd September) and tickets are already being purchased..... get yours from Taylor's Greengrocer, Hilary Moore, Pat Roberts, Pam Purves or Brian Glover.

The programme is as published and a flyer giving you full information is being circulated ...see *back of church and on the Church Website*: www.stbenedictbiscop.org.uk/musicfestival

During the week we are pleased to feature an internationally known Choir from South Wales (Kenfig Hill & District MVC) as well as the return of The Jackfield Brass Band for the "Last Night of the Proms" concert.

For the first time, tutors from the "Wombourne School of Music" will be appearing on the Monday afternoon at the "Tea & Cake" concert and another "first timer" joins us for the School's concert on Thursday afternoon, we welcome the Highfields High School band.

Josh and his friends will be appearing on the Friday evening and come and join in the "Festival Songs of Praise" on the opening Sunday.

This year promises to be one of the best, so buy your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

(Why not buy a "Festival Pass" which allows admittance to ALL concerts and works out at about half price!)

WOMBOURNE MUSIC FESTIVAL 2017
23rd—30th September.

Saturday 23rd September

Festival wine reception (6.30) and opening concert (7.30) featuring—Kenfig Hill & District Male Voice Choir.
Tickets £10.00.

Sunday 24th September—6.30pm

Festival Songs of Praise at St. Benedict Biscop Church.

Monday 25th September—2.00pm

Afternoon tea and cakes with The Wombourne School of Music
Tickets £6.00.

Tuesday 26th Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th —1.30pm

School Choir Concerts
Belle Vue, St James, St Benedict Biscop, Westfield, Corbett & Blakeley Primary Schools.
Tickets £3.00.

Friday 29th September —7.30pm

Josh and Friends in Concert.
Tickets £10.00.

Saturday 30th September —7.30pm

Jackfield Brass Band.
Festival Finale & Last Night of the Proms
Tickets £10.00.

Festival Pass £25 for entry to all events.

BENEDICT and BEDE NEWS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

Items for inclusion in the **November 2017** bulletin must reach us by 24th October

Please contact: **Sylvia Cowling - 01902 892691** or **Joyce Hodgetts: 01902 894758**

We welcome items by email but please send only Publisher, Word or plain text.

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