

SERVICES

Sunday 3rd August

9.15am St John's Holy Communion
9.45am Holy Trinity Family Communion
11.00am St Mary's Holy Communion
11.15am St Leonard's Family Communion
5.00pm Holy Trinity Evensong

Sunday 10th August

9.15am St John's Holy Communion
9.45am Holy Trinity Holy Communion
11.00am St Mary's Holy Communion
11.15am St Leonard's Holy Communion

Sunday 17th August

9.15am St John's Holy Communion
9.45am Holy Trinity Holy Communion
11.00am St Mary's Holy Communion
11.15am St Leonard's Holy Communion
5.00pm Holy Trinity Compline

Sunday 24th August

9.15am St John's Holy Communion
9.45am Holy Trinity Holy Communion
11.00am St Mary's Holy Communion
11.15am St Leonard's Holy Communion

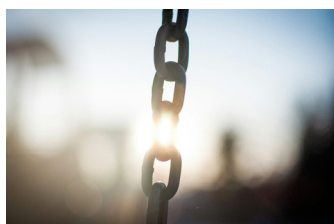
Sunday 31st August

10.30am United Parish Service at St Leonard's.

Our Reader, Chris Prescott writes.....

"What does it mean to be free?"

There are many films that I can watch over again. The film *The Shawshank Redemption* being one of them. It is set in an American prison, and deals with themes of redemption and hope and what it means to be free. At one point in it, the character Red describes what it means to be institutionalised: "These walls are funny. First you hate them, then you get used to them, and then you depend on them; that's institutionalised." When Red is finally released, he finds, as he feared, that freedom is unnerving and cruel. His mind is so shaped by the years of imprisonment that it is difficult for him to act as a free man.



He even considers reoffending in order to get back to

the relative security of institutional life. Red finds that even when his body is free, his mind is telling him that he is still in prison.

Freedom, redemption and hope are also at the heart of Christ's message, and it is no less tricky for us to understand what it is to be free than it was for Red. There are many things that oppress and imprison us, but perhaps the thing that represents our captivity most completely is our need for food and drink. Even if we are not held behind bars, or made to work as slaves, we can never be free from the fact that before we do anything else, we need to make sure that we and our families have enough to eat. So when Jesus announces himself to be the bread of life, he strikes right at the heart of that which holds us captive as human beings. He declares that the bottom line of our existence is not our need for food and drink, but our need for Christ.

This was a daring statement to make, and not surprisingly, it was followed by cries of protest: who on earth was this local boy, after all, to say such outrageous things? In John's Gospel he crafts his writing to help his readers to see who Jesus is, and to put their trust in him: but it was never going to be an easy decision. Through faith in Christ, we have unimaginable gifts, but they are not always easy gifts to receive. For starters, even the most committed believers still have to feed themselves. We are still captive to our human needs; they still shape how we think and act. So, what kind of freedom is it that we have to go through Christ? Is it a spiritual freedom that exists despite our physical and mental constraints? Or is it a freedom that comes into effect only when we are free of our earthly bodies after we die? It is both these things, and yet more. A freedom that exists in a spiritual realm does not have the completeness of the kind of freedom Christ meant to bring. When Jesus declares himself to be the bread of life, he is effectively saying that his freedom operates at the heart of what it means to be human. It is a freedom that changes how we live in the here and now, and not just one that exists on a spiritual level, or in the hereafter.

The trick is not to live differently, but to think differently. And for Christians, the means to achieve this is to feed on the bread of life.

All Friends Together

Wednesday 27th August

2.00pm at Holy Trinity Church

Talk on "Japan" by Mel Grindrod

All are welcome!

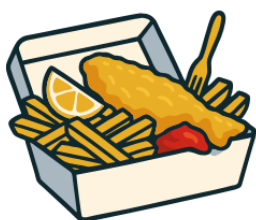
Fundraiser for CAP Debt Help



Fish & Chip Supper with Prize Bingo

at St Mary's Ketley

Friday 15th August - Eyes Down 7:00pm



Supper £9
(Bingo games extra + raffle)
Includes tea/coffee or
bring your own drinks

PLEASE BOOK FOOD with Mary on
01952 613653/ richmjs@icloud.com
by Wednesday 13th August

"Nigel's Silver Sounds"

Songs from the 50s, 60s and 70s

Saturday 6th September

7.00—9.30pm

At All Saints Parish Centre
Lychgate Walk, Wellington, TF1 3HA

Tickets £12, finger buffet provided
For tickets, contact
anntreher@capuk.org 07445 185671

August 2025

Sat 9th: 10.00am St Mary's DCC meeting

Fri 15th: Fish and Chip Supper with Prize Bingo at
St Mary's church, 7.00pm

Tues 26th: 7.00pm PCC meeting

Wed 27th: 2.00pm All Friends Together at Holy
Trinity Church

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

Our churches welcome people from across our parish to share with them in the joys and sorrows of their lives. It is a privilege to offer these special services to those in our communities. As part of our ongoing pastoral care, it would be good if we could pray for all those who have had services each month, and so in this and future newsletters, we will include the names of all those who have had services so that we can remember them in our prayers.

Baptisms in July: "May they shine as a light in the world to the glory of God"

Leon Leda; Wren Hall; Hollie, James and Gracie Price; Sharon and Steven Bowers;

Weddings in July: "Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts and a crown upon their heads"

Tracey and Darren McCue (Blessing); Jess Walker and Sean Kearney; Adam Zaniewski and Sona Litnerova

Funerals/burial of ashes in July: "May they rest in peace and rise in glory"

Terrence Vaughan; Doreen Roberts; Roland Cureton; Kevin Smith

Prayer requests/Visits/Home Communion

Both Revd Scott and Revd Jo are very happy to visit anyone who would appreciate a conversation with us, or for us to pray with you, or bring you Holy Communion at home if you are unable to get to church for a few weeks. Please do get in touch with us - our contact details are at the bottom of this newsletter - and we will arrange a visit. Also, if you would like our prayers for yourself, or a person or situation that you are concerned about, do let us know.



Weekly Activities in the Parish

All are welcome!

Holy Trinity

Trinity Tots are on holiday in August

St Leonard's

Mondays: 11.00 - 12.00 Drop in food bank - for people struggling financially or who want to reduce food waste

Wednesdays: 10.00 - 10.45am Exercise to Music class. Cost = £3 For more information, contact Jo on 01952 416370

Contact: Revd Prebendary Jo Farnworth (Team Rector)
tel: 01952 416370 / 07562 739683
email: jo@telfordchurch.co.uk
Revd Scott Edwards (Team Vicar)
tel: 01952 504917
Email: scott@telfordchurch.co.uk

A Safe Church

The parish of Central Telford is committed to Safeguarding and has adopted the National and Diocesan Safeguarding Policies. Our Safeguarding Coordinator is Hannah Yapp who can be contacted on 07752 192175. More information can be found at www.lichfield.anglican.org/safeguarding