

TOGETHER for the Kingdom

Telford Christians Together Newsletter

March 2018

Dear Friends,

It was my privilege recently to return to Hoddesdon in Hertfordshire, where I was a Baptist Minister, to conduct the funeral of a lovely Christian lady, Olive Harrison. As with all such occasions it was a wonderful opportunity to catch up with old friends, but also a chance to reflect on a “long life well lived” as Olive was just short of her 101st birthday when she died.

As part of the service people were invited to share their memories of Olive, and for me, what followed was remarkable. It reminded me of the power and significance of ordinary, quiet, faithful people; these are the ones that the church and the Kingdom of God flourish through. There must have been a dozen people who spoke very simply about the impact of Olives’ faith on them. In her own quiet way Olive evangelised some, helped others in their Bible reading and prayer and simply encouraged others. You could have missed her presence in a large gathering, she was quiet, but her impact was far reaching. Indeed one person recounted that because of Olive’s witness she had come to faith, now her children and grandchildren were all followers of Jesus.

The other aspect about Olive was her prayer life. Her quiet influence on many people was rooted in her prayers. It also reminded me that we seem to be losing a generation of faithful praying people. Olive was organised and systematic (she worked from lists of people and situations), she was regular in her prayers (up at 6am every morning!), and she persisted with God until He answered in one way or another. It was a call to me to take up the baton and press on in my personal prayers.

I’m sure Olive would have been astounded at what was said at her Thanksgiving Service. Likewise we have no idea of the impact that our lives can have, only eternity will reveal their true value and worth. But be encouraged, it is often the small acts, the quiet conversations and the ongoing prayer that yields the greatest fruit. Many of Jesus parables remind us of this, small things make a huge difference, a tiny mustard seed, a little yeast spread in a batch of dough and so on. As the Apostle Paul writes to the Galatians: “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up”.

Warmest Greetings,



Thank you to all who took part in the Telford Faith Action Audit. We had an outstanding response by faith groups in Telford which will give us a comprehensive picture of faith group activities that provide support for their local community.

We look forward to bringing you the Report in due course.



**Easter Open Door at St James' Church
Stirchley Village on Sunday 8th April**

2pm-4pm - Enjoy the tranquillity of the oldest building in Stirchley.

Spot the Easter chicks as you explore the church

See photographs of Stirchley's bygone age



At 4pm join Rev Janet Holmes for the Easter Songs of Praise

Light refreshments will be served throughout the afternoon

St James Church is located on an unnamed road off Stirchley Road Post Code **TF3 1DY**.

For further information contact Revd Janet Holmes Community Minister for Stirchley and Brookside e-mail janet@telfordchurch.co.uk or telephone **07980521064**



IONA WORSHIP

An evening of meditation marking

Palm Sunday

Using words and music from the Iona Community

Sunday 25th March at 5pm

Wellington Methodist Church

New St Wellington TF1 1LU

All welcome

Refreshments to follow

www.wellingtonmethodist.org.uk

**COME AND SING
JOHN STAINER'S THE CRUCIFIXION
ON
GOOD FRIDAY – 30TH MARCH**



Musical Director: Sam Deakin

Tenor Soloist: Mike Rawlings

Organist: John Howells

Bass Soloist: Keith Downing

This popular Passiontide Meditation will be held on Good Friday at **Holy Trinity Church, Wrockwardine Wood** at **6.30pm**.

Optional rehearsals will be held on Monday 19th March and 26th March at 7.30pm at Holy Trinity, Wrockwardine Wood. The final rehearsal will be held on the Friday afternoon at 3pm, after which tea and biscuits will be provided.

Singers are requested to provide their own music copies if at all possible as there will only be approximately 30 spare copies available to borrow on the day.

In order to establish an approximate number of singers taking part could you please indicate your intention to attend as soon as possible or at least by 4th March, please provide the information listed below to Mrs. M Howells, either by telephone on 01952 252844 or email to teamores@hotmail.co.uk. Please include your contact details in case we need to inform you of any changes. Of course if you decide at the last minute that you would like to sing you will be very welcome at the Friday afternoon rehearsal.

Everybody is welcome to come and sing with us, whether as a member of a choir or as an individual. If you prefer to just come along and listen then you will be equally welcome.



TYF (Telford Youth Fellowship) is open to any secondary school young person.

It meets every other Monday at Meeting Point House 7:30pm-9pm.

Evenings consist of games, worship, teaching and small groups. Drinks and Snacks can be purchased

Outings consist of Climbing centres, Outdoor Laser, Canoeing, Ice Skating and more.

The youth worship group meets to work on songs 6-7pm and plays at a variety of churches as well as TYF.

Leadership is provided by DBS checked members of River Community Church.

Registration must be with an adult on the first visit.

SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	SESSION
19th March	Rock Climbing (must book)	Shrewsbury
16th April	Kleer	
30th April	Soul Survivor	Prayer
145h May	Games Night	Taster Yr. 6

For more details email gilliantaylor@staytelford.co.uk

Beanstalk www.beanstalkcharity.org.uk are looking for volunteers to help children in Telfords schools to read more confidently. For more information contact loisbreen@beanstalkcharity.org.uk



MEET UP

On Saturday 17th March 2018

10.00am – 12noon with drinks and breakfast pastries served from 9.30am

At St Andrews Church, Church Street, Shifnal, TF11 9AB

A time to meet with other Messy Church teams to share stories, ideas, good news and problems. There will be crafts and activities to try as well as time to reflect on our Messy ministry and be equipped and energized.

The Messy Meet Up is free to attend and everyone is welcome but places must be booked in advance please.

For more information or to confirm your place, please contact Cerys Hughes, Salop Messy Church Enabler

*Email: cerys.hughes@lichfield.anglican.org
Tel: 07950 648549*

A Rhythm of Prayer for Telford

Over the next few months at **Telford Prayer Central** we will be seeking to bring a rhythm of prayer over Telford by praying for specific geographical areas and the people who live there. The themes for the next 2 months are:

25/3/18 Fracturing/Hurts (The damage of lack of worth in people). Prayers for the Activity of Holy Week.

29/4/18 The Healing of the Cross (Claiming that healing over the areas of Telford and its people.

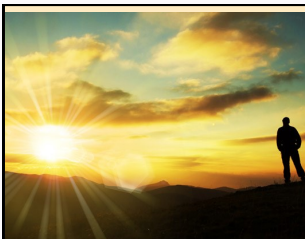
Meeting Point House at 6.30pm



Volunteers needed for the Care for the Family 'It Takes Two' event

Care for the Family are looking for some stewards to help them on the evening of **March 20th** when they will be presenting the 'It Takes Two' event at the Park Inn Hotel. They need 4 to 6 people who would be willing to hand out delegate bags, help people to their seats, collect tickets and help on the resource stand. These people will not miss any of the event and seats will be reserved for them. Stewards also get a free book at the end of the evening as a thank them for their help. If you would be interested in helping and are able to come to the venue for 6:30 for a briefing please contact Abi Williams, Care for the Family Events Team

Email: Abi.Williams@cff.org.uk



Sunrise Service at The
Top of The Wrekin 6am
7am Easter Morning
Service at Hartshill Park
Oakengates

8am to 9.15am Easter Breakfast Full English
Cooked Breakfast Served at Oakengates
Salvation Army for a small charge

10am to 11.30am Easter Sunday All Age Worship

April 15th 10am and 5pm Farewell to Major's Julie
and Julian Rowley at Oakengates Salvation Army.

5pm Café Church Style

Around The World in 80 Minutes

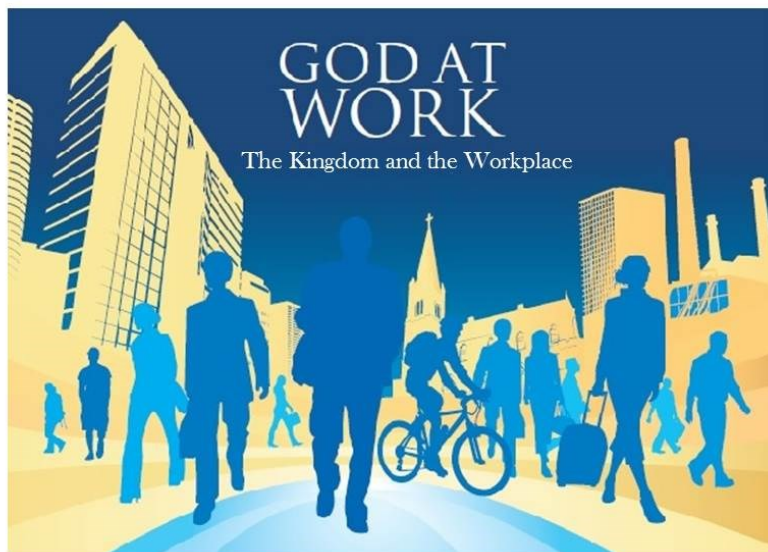
a feast of music from across the globe.

May 12th at 7pm Salvation Army Hall

Presented by Oakengates Songsters
supporting British Heart Foundation

Tickets £6

Concessions £5 now
available from the
Salvation Army Hall
Office.



Saturday 14th April 2018, 09.30—12.00

hosted at: Barnabas Church Centre, Shrewsbury, SY3 7DN

Organised by: ChristCentral Churches in Shropshire for the Christians of Shropshire.

- *Want to start your own business?*
- *Want to see your career develop?*
- *Want to change the culture in your workplace?*
- *Want to grow in Kingdom influence at work?*

Case studies and teaching from:

- **Social Enterprises**
- **Business Start-ups**
- **Influencers in the work-place**
- **Theological Foundations**
- **Tools for Kingdom effectiveness**
- **Q+A, Networking and Encouragement**