

In this month's **Six Ways News** ...

From the Minister

When quizzed, Jesus tells people that the most important commandment of all is to do with love. In John 15:17, the new commandment Jesus gives to his disciples is to love one another. Paul, in his great advice to the troubled and troublesome church of Corinth (see 1 Corinthians 13) says that love is the most important thing. This love is not the romantic kind that we seek to give and receive in our most intimate relationships, but the affection, concern and action shared amongst Christian sisters and brothers, summed up in the Greek word, *agape*.

All of the above and all that I experience in life, in church life; all that grieves me when things go wrong and all that I rejoice in when things go right points me to pastoral care being the most important thing about being the body of Christ. It is the love, the *agape*, that we share that counts most. If we had great preaching and teaching, if we had worship bands and choirs galore, if we had 3 million rotas to make us the most efficient church on earth and even if we felt we were really holy and knew the Bible inside out, if we did not love and care for one another we would "gain nothing", be "clashing cymbals" or "resounding gongs" (see 1 Corinthians 13!)

My point is this. I believe that pastoral care is the most important thing about a church. If we do not know each other, if we do not even know each other's names, if we do

not look out for one another, then it is not good! We are good, we do these things, but there is always room to improve!

So, let's remember at all times that we are commanded to love one another.

With agape.

Gerard

Continuing the Big Welcome

On **Holy Saturday, 7th April, 10 till 11.30** we will be out on the High Street (at the Six Ways end).

We will be giving out invitations to our Easter service as well as some goodies for people to eat. We will be taking the opportunity to witness to people and seeking to encourage people to come to church.

If you would like to be involved, even for a short while, please let **Gerard** know.

Also in this month's magazine

- ❖ Information about services in April including special services during Holy Week and Easter.
- ❖ Information about regular meetings and activities in April.
- ❖ Information about special meetings in April – an Open Air Good Friday Service in Erdington High Street, organised by Churches Together in Erdington and a celebration of our 134th Anniversary on 15th April.
- ❖ News about people at Six Ways.
- ❖ News about special events in April. As Birmingham is a multi-faith city, this includes news of non-Christian festivals, so that we understand our neighbours better.
- ❖ Articles about Holy Week, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter Sunday, Passover, All Fools' Day, St George's Day, Mahavir Jayanti and Vaisakhi.
- ❖ News from Girls' Brigade, Six Ways Boys and our Toddler group, Six Ways Mini-Stars.
- ❖ News from Christian workers in Burundi, Guinea and Nepal.
- ❖ News about the progress of the redevelopment of our premises.
- ❖ Financial up-date and letters of thanks from organisations we support.
- ❖ Articles in anticipation of Christian Aid Week in May.
- ❖ Country profile of Sierra Leone.

... and much more.