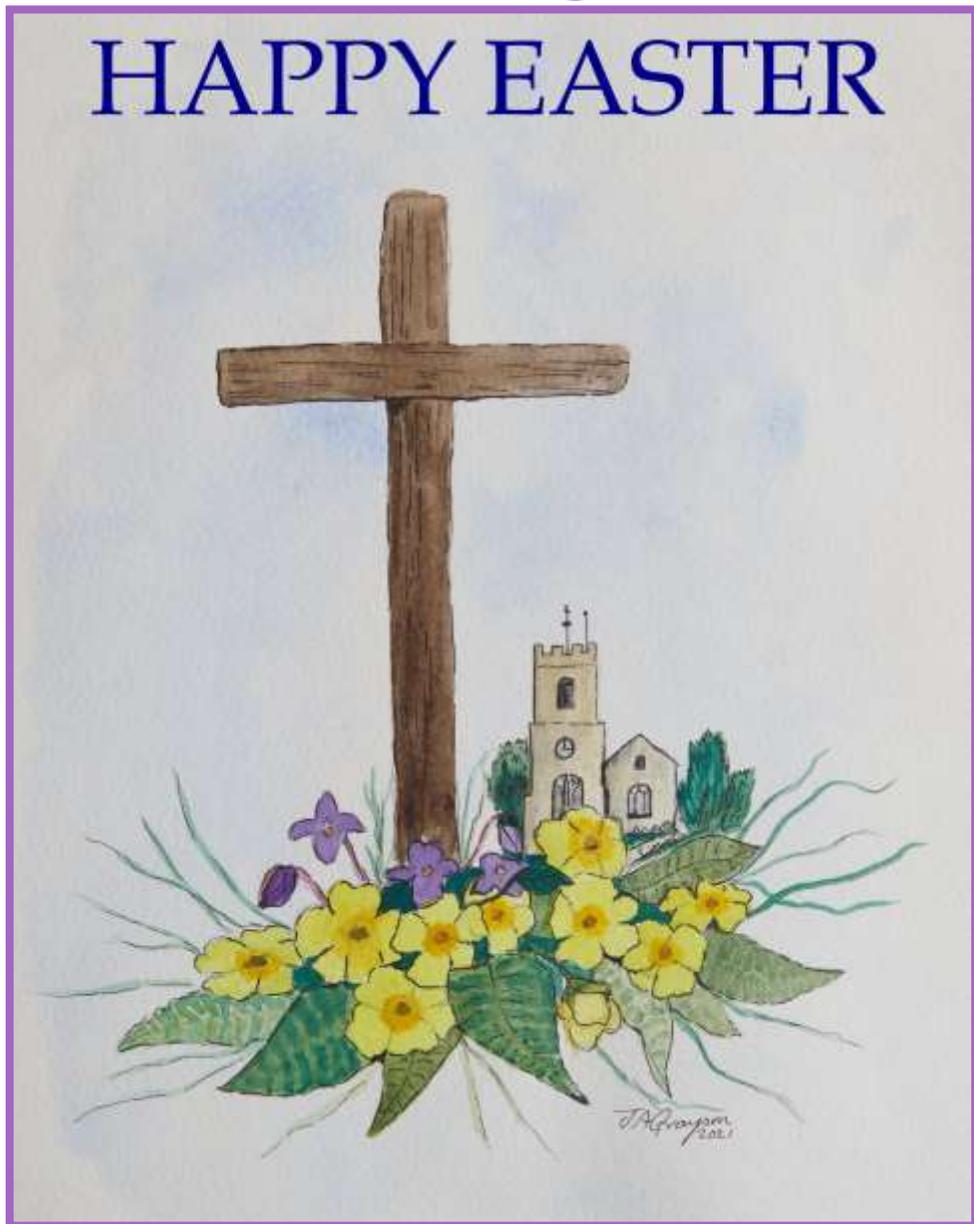


# St. Giles Church Exhall Parish Magazine

## HAPPY EASTER



April 2021

**St Giles' Parish Church, Exhall - [www.stgileschurchexhall.info](http://www.stgileschurchexhall.info)**

The Parish Office at St Giles' Church Hall, St Giles' Road, Ash Green, CV7 9GZ  
Telephone/answerphone: 024 7636 8008

**Office email:** [office@stgileschurchexhall.info](mailto:office@stgileschurchexhall.info)

The Parish Office is open Monday to Wednesday, 10.00 am to 12.00 noon.

### **Sunday Worship**

8am Holy Communion  
9.30am Holy Communion (sung)  
11.30am All Age Service (Baptisms usually on 3rd Sunday)  
5.30pm Evening Prayer (Sung Eucharist on 1st Sunday)

### **Weekday Services**

8am Morning Prayer (daily except Friday)  
10am Holy Communion (Wednesdays)

### **Other Useful Information**

#### **Ministry to the sick and housebound**

We are always pleased to visit, at home or in hospital. But we need to know who would welcome a visit. Contact the office on (024) 76 368008.

#### **Sunday School**

This is now incorporated into the 11.30am service, which is always family friendly. Every 2nd Sunday, the service includes 'Busy Little Fingers', a programme of exciting mixed activities for children.

#### **Christenings and Weddings**

Enquiries should be made to the office (024) 76 368008.

#### **Bereavement and funerals**

We will always take funerals for anyone in the parish, either at church or at the crematorium. Our new burial ground, St Giles' Meadow is now in use as well. Enquiries should be made to the office (024) 76 368008.

The Bereavement Drop-In is open on alternate Thursdays in the Small Hall. Please contact Sue Barnes on 07946 051122.

**Foodbank** Do you know someone in need of a helping hand? St Giles' is part of the local (Bedworth) Foodbank. It's quick, simple and anonymous. Contact the office for a voucher on (024) 76 368008.

#### **New members of any age are always welcome at the following:**

**Bell ringing** Practices on Thursdays 7.30-9pm (except 3rd Thursday)  
**Choir** Practices on Fridays at 7pm.  
**Worship Band** Practices on Wednesdays at 7.30pm.

Front Cover : Joyanne Grayson

Back Cover: Parish Pump

Any news, reflections, stories, pictures, jokes or brainteasers to share within these pages? I'd love to have them! Please email them to [tinawatk1ns@btinternet.com](mailto:tinawatk1ns@btinternet.com) or drop them into the parish office.

The next magazine will be for May and the copy deadline date is **Sunday 18th April**.

## Welcome to your April Magazine ...

... and Happy Easter! This month we read about another recipe that Isla has tried and given her stamp of approval. This was originally sent to me by Jackie West and I must admit I gave it a go with the help of our grandson, Zachary. We both agreed these cookies were delicious. Zach kindly left a couple with us when he went home so that Grandad could sample his baking!

We're on our travels again, as Sian Coleman shares her memories of a trip to Barcelona a couple of years ago. Part 2 of her piece will be in the next edition.

I hope you have a joyous and peaceful Eastertide—Jen has planned some exciting activities around the churchyard starting on Saturday 27th March. See pages 6-8 for more details!



*Tina Watkins*

## Where to find ...

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St Giles' Magazine was first published in April 1898 and is now in its 123rd year.

## With love from the Vicar . . .



I hope our April Magazine catches you in time to say Happy Easter! Of course, the Easter season goes on well beyond Easter Sunday itself and indeed the Christian faith encourages us to be 'Easter people' all year round, always grasping hold of the hope Jesus' resurrection from the dead inspires! This year, I'm drawn back to two characters who are less well-known in the Easter story, but who nevertheless play a vital part in it. Their actions were, in part, what encouraged me to step out into becoming a Vicar!

Their names are Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. Ring any bells? They were part of the religious establishment which had so often given Jesus a hard time and colluded to bring about Jesus' death on the cross. Nicodemus had once visited Jesus at night because he was curious to know more about the new kind of life Jesus was offering – the opportunity to start afresh, to be reborn. It's astonishing then that, just at the point where everything about Jesus' story seems dead, hopeless and lost, when his broken, battered and now lifeless body is still pinned to the cross, and most of Jesus' friends have deserted him, these two men make their allegiance to Jesus publicly known. They care for and love him in his death, risking their own reputations and even their lives to request that his body be properly embalmed and laid to rest in a tomb, originally set apart for Joseph himself. This would not have happened as a matter of course. Without their intervention, Jesus' body, like that of many other victims of crucifixion, would quite literally have been thrown on a rubbish dump.

But Joseph sticks his neck out, goes to Pontius Pilate and asks for Jesus' body to be released to him. A request which is granted. Nicodemus spends a small fortune, providing a large quantity of spices to give Jesus the equivalent of a royal preparation for burial. Why do this for what then appeared to be such a failed cause?

There is, of course, something inherently important and beautiful about caring well for those who have died. One of the most heartrending things during this pandemic has been the pain of bereaved families who have not been able to mourn loved ones in the way they would have wished to, not being able to have the number of people in support of them at funerals to pay respects and offer comfort. Some of the heroes and heroines of this pandemic have been the funeral director staff who have tirelessly shown such compassion in caring for families, even as they steer them through such challenging restrictions.

But I think perhaps Joseph's and Nicodemus' actions go even deeper – making room for hope even when it seems to have been entirely snuffed out. I recently heard about a form of Japanese art called 'Kintsugi'. This is an ancient practice of restoring broken objects by filling the cracks with pure gold. Broken vessels are not just discarded or consigned to the rubbish bin. Neither are they repaired using transparent super glue in an attempt to hide the cracks entirely. Rather, the cracks, the flaws are enhanced, highlighted even, to create an object of new and surprising beauty. We could say the object is resurrected with its brokenness being transformed into part of its beauty, value and worth. Carl Jung, the famous Swiss psychologist, spoke of our shadow side as human beings, the part we least want others to see, as having the potential to be '90% gold'. There's a thought!



***Modern Kintsugi style  
repair on hand painted  
pottery bowl by Artist  
Ruthann Hurwitz***

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permission.*

**Joseph and Nicodemus took instrumental action in the 'in-between' time between Jesus' death and his resurrection. As we remain in this 'in-between' time between life under ongoing Covid restrictions and the long-awaited lifting of those restrictions, what positive action might we take to show our compassion and care in ways which bring beauty out of brokenness?**

*With love in the risen Jesus!*

*Gail*

# Jen's Page



Welcome back to the Children's and Families' portion of the magazine, thank you for coming along to catch up on what we've been up to. So our schools have finally reopened and that might have brought mixed emotions for you, it certainly did in our house. We hope it's been a positive experience for you! If you were involved in looking after young people during this last lockdown then we salute you. And if you didn't have that task, we still salute you, because we have all faced huge challenges during this past year and we really hope that things are starting to brighten for you now.

The daffodils are blooming and the bees are returning! Reverend Gail and I recorded a virtual Easter assembly for our schools at the end of March and I wanted to share the message from it with you;

'During the past year, we have had to let go or say goodbye to many things. Some of the things we would have enjoyed have not happened; parts of our 'old lives' have changed greatly. Some of us may have had to say goodbye to people we loved. Easter is a reminder that, just as the daffodil bursts into new life, we can look forward to new life ahead of us too, with new things beginning and things opening up once again.'

How fantastically poignant for us all this year.

So with hope in our hearts, let me talk you through what's going on with the Children's and Families' at St Giles.



Have you been to visit our Easter Egg Hunt in the Churchyard? You can pop along to our churchyard any time between Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March and Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April. There will be lots of small eggs for you to spot along with five big special eggs! On our Facebook Page you will find a competition - who can count the correct amount of eggs hidden in the churchyard? Answers will need to be added as a comment on our special competition Facebook post and the winner will get a rather delicious prize! During Holy Week, our five big eggs will hatch and reveal different parts of the Easter Story, along with ways that you can explore the story at home! I wonder when they'll hatch?

**Whether you're 5 or 105, come for a wander and a wonder  
as we look at the Easter Story together.**

We have been busily working away at creating our NHS Blessing in a Bag project. Did you get chance to make one? Don't worry, there may still be time! Here is everything you need to know, please get in touch if you need more information.

## A Blessing in a Bag



Please use a clear plastic bag  
(like a sandwich bag)  
and inside we would love you to add:



- ✝ A card of encouragement or thanks
- ✝ A tea bag
- ✝ A wrapped chocolate bar
- ✝ One luxury pamper treat, preferably a small unscented hand cream



To try and stay as Covid secure as possible, we are asking that individuals or families create their own bag, prepared with thoroughly cleaned hands, so that the risk is at an absolute minimum to our recipients. We would LOVE to bless as many people as we possibly can, so if you are in a position to join in, please do! You can drop your 'Blessing in a bag' to the **Main Hall on Good Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April between 10am – 12pm**. Or please get in touch with Jen or Gail if you need someone to collect for you, we would be more than happy to arrange that.

Before Easter we were thrilled to be able to work alongside St James Church in Bulkington and Bedworth Parish Churches in our Super Sunday School Project in another little project. We received funding from a brilliant local charity The Restore Collective, to create some 'Baking Boxes' filled with all sorts of baking goodies and recipes for some of our local families. We are really hoping that these boxes bless the families that they have gone to and that families can enjoy creating some yummy treats together over the Easter Holidays. If you fancy having a go at baking, you can find Isla's Baking Page further on in the magazine where she has a recipe for some delicious Nutella Easter Cookies! We would like to say an enormous thank you to The Restore Collective as this past year has been such a struggle for so many families, it has been wonderful to be able to provide some families with a fun activity when other events are still so restricted.

On Easter Sunday we are really hoping to be able to host an in person Happy Hearts and Minds Service in our Main Hall at 2pm! We are really excited to be able to welcome a maximum of eight families back in to church for a fun and interactive family service. If you would like to book a place, please get in touch with Jen on [jenwatson.stgiles@gmail.com](mailto:jenwatson.stgiles@gmail.com), or if you aren't able to attend, don't worry! It will all be streamed on Facebook Live, we would love for you to join us on there.

**Please continue to pray for our schools, the students, staff and families, that all are kept safe and a very well-earned Easter break is enjoyed by all.**

**Thank you for popping by and I will see you very soon!**

*Jen*

## **A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW CURATE!**

I'm excited to be joining you at St. Giles. My name is Joanne, but most people call me Jo. I'm currently finishing my training at Queen's Ecumenical Foundation in Birmingham. I will be ordained deacon at Coventry cathedral, on 4<sup>th</sup> July.

I live in Rugby, originally from Birmingham, and before training for ministry I was Head of Maths at

Lawrence Sheriff School, Rugby. I have three adult children, Henry, Ellie and Tom, and was married to Colin for 32 years, before he died unexpectedly last October. Colin and I first visited St. Giles towards the end of September and I'm really grateful that Gail, and a few others, had that opportunity to meet him.

I relax by knitting, reading or watching boxsets. I enjoy sharing a meal and a glass of wine with friends and family and, when it's allowed again, spending time on the Pembrokeshire coast.

I will be starting officially on 4<sup>th</sup> July, but in the meantime you might see me at a Zoom meeting or at an occasional Sunday service.



# Isla's Kitchen

Hi, I'm back this month with another recipe, this time for some delicious Easter cookies. Thank you so much to Jackie West for sending in this recipe for us to try out—we think they are amazing and we love the super simple recipe!

## Nutella Easter Cookies!



### Ingredients

150g Self Raising Flour  
250g Nutella or any chocolate spread  
2 large egg whites  
As many mini eggs as you want

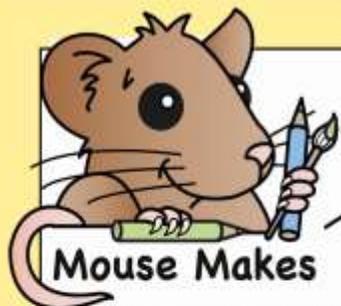
### Instructions

- \* Preheat your oven to 160 degrees in a fan assisted oven and line a baking tray with baking paper.
- \* Whisk together the two egg whites with a fork or balloon whisk until they're light and fluffy.
- \* Gently add in the Nutella and flour. Mix in with a spatula or your hands if that's easier.
- \* Once the ingredients are mixed well, split the mixture into 12 blobs and place them on your baking tray. Push a couple of mini eggs into the top of each blob (but not too firmly) and then put your baking tray into the oven for about 12 minutes.
- \* Take the cookies out of the oven and let them cool for about 10 minutes. Once cool, gently peel the baking paper from underneath.
- \* Enjoy with a nice glass of milk or a cuppa!



See you next time! Isla





## Mouse Makes

Can you find these names of **Jesus** in the word search?

### SON OF GOD

Matthew 3:16-17



### KING OF KINGS

Revelation 17:14

### PROPHET

Luke 24:19



### PRIEST

1 Timothy 2:5

### ROCK

1 Corinthians 10: 4

### LORD

1 Corinthians 1:9

### AMEN

Revelation 3:14

### LIFE

John 11:25-27

### MESSIAH

John 1:41

### SHEPHERD

John 10:11

### LIGHT

John 8:12



### WORD

John 1:1-50



### BREAD

John 6:35

### CREATOR

1 John 1:3



### CHRIST

Matthew 16:16

### SAVIOUR

John 3:16-17

### HOLY ONE

Mark 1:24

### VINE

John 15:5



### DOOR

John 10:9



### WAY

John 14:6

### LAMB

John 1:29

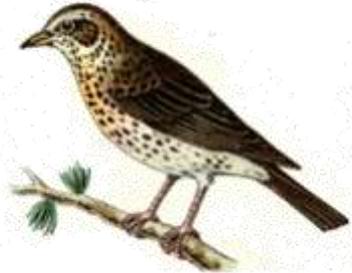


V L I F E W D  
 D I A L A R O C K  
 C M H M O M S R E H C  
 H E O B R E A D O O R  
 R S L W D N V I N E E  
 I S Y A P R I E S T A  
 S I O Y P R O P H E T  
 T A N J E S U S T D O  
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# Nature Notes

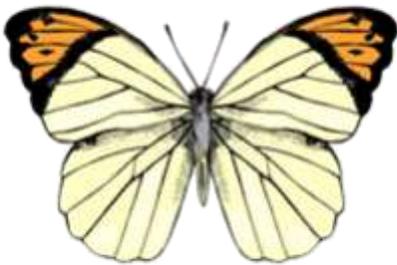
*These nature notes are dedicated to the memory of the late Mr Norman Edmonds, Local Historian, Naturalist and well respected Ash Green School Master. Mr Edmonds wrote a page in the Church Magazine for 30 years, and I humbly try to follow in his footsteps.*

At last, lighter nights and warmer weather—it will do us all good. Look out for the first swallows, last year first seen on 10<sup>th</sup> April. The chiff chaff and the black caps have arrived and started singing. The local song thrush (right) starts singing with the dawn chorus at about 5.00 am and again late evening.



On a walk round the field I was passing under the weeping willow tree where the owl box is half way up the tree. The male tawny owl called from the nearby conifers where he roost during the day – and there was a reply coming from the female Tawny owl in the box. I have now moved the wildlife camera near to the box—ever hopeful. I also caught sight of something running under the summerhouse—most likely a weasel. There’s an old tale saying that “weasels are weasily recognised, but stoats are stoatily different”. I’m still not sure what it was!

Round about St. Marks Day, 24<sup>th</sup> April, look out for the orange tip (left), common blue and yellow brimstone butterflies, but it needs to be warm day.



During March the Green Genies met to tidy the churchyard and the St Giles Meadow. We also managed the plant wild foxgloves in the hedgerows

around the Meadow. We hope they grow and seed down and also that nobody picks them.



***Stella Bunting***

# Memories of Barcelona

***Following on from our two Italian tales last month, Sian Coleman shares her experience of a land trip to Barcelona a couple of years ago. Feel free to send me stories of your memorable trips, both in the UK and abroad — we can still enjoy them virtually even if we can't be there in person!***

In 2018, as it was our tenth wedding anniversary, Dave and I visited Barcelona. As Dave will not fly, I finally agreed to travel by train. I cannot recall exactly how long the journey took but it was a long journey. The advantage of course is that you can see the scenery which changes quite dramatically as you head further south. The highlight was the salt marshes around Perpignan. They are covered by flocks of flamingos. As we passed the sun was going down and there was a heat haze which created a kind of rainbow effect. This really was magical. The other highlight was when we passed through the tunnel under the Pyrenees and emerged into Spain. At least now we were in the right country and the scenery was spectacular. It was around 9 or 10 pm when we finally reached our hotel, so it was a relief to have arrived.



While we enjoyed the sightseeing, the autumn sunshine and the tapas, there were two highlights of the trip.

The first was a visit to the Sagrada Família which we had pre booked. This church (left), built by the architect Gaudi, is probably a must for things to see in Barcelona. I was not impressed by the exterior of the church. It is probably a case of love it or loathe it. During the construction various embellishments have been added in different styles. This has created quite a vulgar appearance. There are carvings of people who look like Darth Vader and a Cypress tree which appeared to me as if last year's Christmas

tree had been left on a ledge and forgotten about. There is a lot of symbolism in the design. The four towers represent the four apostles and the three facades (with three entrances) represent the Nativity, the Passion and the Glory of the Resurrection. The airport style security which you had to pass through to enter the church did not help you to appreciate that you are entering a sacred space.



Once inside the building I was pleasantly surprised. The interior is a complete contrast with the exterior. It is quite plain and relies on several large stained-glass windows which flood the church with light. There are several columns which support the roof and along with details on the ceiling they create the feeling of being in a forest with dappled light and shade. The ceiling looks like upturned bird's

wings and these reminded me of the dove of peace. I am sure that once the church is completed sometime after 2026 it will be a wonderful place to worship. There is room on the balcony for a choir of 800 which would produce a marvellous sound.

The church is currently more of a tourist attraction than a place of worship. At that time there were only 15 masses each year. It would be interesting to return once the construction is finished to see if the church can finally be what it was created to be. Eventually it should be a place to celebrate the glory of God rather than an architectural curiosity which is what it felt like back then.

***To be continued***

### **Easter Morning** (*John 20:1-18*)

Who is it you are looking for?

Who?

Mary,  
Looking for her Lord,  
Early in the morning,  
While it was still dark,  
Looking for Jesus,  
Expecting His death-wrapped body,  
Finding, instead, the stone of  
surprises and loss.

The men come and go,  
But Mary stays and weeps  
For the love of her Lord.  
Looking, looking into the darkness,  
She weeps.

Angels in white turn her to the light,  
And the possibility of grace.

And in the speaking of her name, the  
world changes.

Mary.  
Looking, looking no longer,  
The Lord lives, gloriously,  
For Mary.

He lives for all who look.  
Who is it you are looking for?  
Who?

*By Daphne Kitching  
Via Parish Pump*

# Hello from Jane

***Jane Smith, a long standing member of St Giles, has recently relocated to a new home in Welford. She has sent the following update on her move.***

The move to Welford went ahead on March 8th, it was hectic with so many boxes to unpack, but by the following Monday all 20 boxes and numerous bags were unpacked with a sense of relief.

The Tree House has lived up to my expectations, with daily visits from mallard ducks and a pair of swans coming to say hi. Poppy (Jane's dog) was unsettled at first but has now settled into life at Welford. We are exploring daily walks past Mr and Mrs Scarecrow protecting the crops, the tiny lambs in the field just nod as we pass by and the trees on the island opposite where I live are coming into blossom almost overnight.

The residents have a WhatsApp group that we can use for any concerns. Poppy needed a mobile dog groomer, and Jim came up trumps passing on the telephone number of Gaby Paws and Claws - I'll let you know the result. Mel and Rishard (Jane's daughter and grandson) have been staying with me waiting for completion on their house in Rugby. It has been lovely watching Mel swim in the river right outside the Tree House, except one morning when a swan was hissing at her, but as she said this is his territory.

So what have I experienced by moving to Welford? Making more cards, spiritually just being able to sit and wait on God and spending an hour or so colouring, glancing across the River Avon, is all very calming.

So as the weather turns from Spring to Summer I thank God for every little sign, the tiny lambs, the 1,000 daffodils planted in the spinney, the blossom bursting to life.

So my Easter message is filled with the hope of new life for all in God's love and shown by Jesus in His life, death and resurrection.

My address is :

The Tree House  
20 Welford Chace  
Welford upon Avon  
Warwickshire  
CV 37 8GG

Every Blessing  
***Jane and Poppy***





## Exhall Branch

Some of you will remember that in 2019 we were entertained by Siobhan Fitzpatrick who was preparing with Team GB Basketball for the Paralympic games in 2020. We all know that due to Covid 19 these games were postponed, and hopefully will take place later this year.

Siobhan's training has continued as and when regulations have allowed, and she is now preparing for the Olympics in Japan later this year. With the Commonwealth Games being in Birmingham next year she was invited to be an Ambassador. This has involved radio and television interviews, appearances in adverts, on billboards, buses, and television.

When you are watching television, look out for the Birmingham Promotion advert, look carefully and you will see Siobhan. You can see the same advert on the Birmingham Commonwealth Games Website [www.birmingham2022.com](http://www.birmingham2022.com)

## Worldwide

This year we are celebrating 145 years of Mothers' Union. The Mothers' Union movement began in 1876. Mary Sumner, the wife of a rector in Hampshire, set up a group to support mothers of all kinds in bringing up their children. After delivering a speech in 1885 to churchgoing women at the Portsmouth Church Congress, she inspired many of them to go back to their parishes and set up similar groups.

The movement today is made up of hundreds of individual Mothers' Union charities spread across 84 countries. Mothers' Union is unique in that members work together to solve challenges in their local communities. By helping to restore and strengthen relationships in families and communities, the movement gives a sense of belonging and acceptance to the stigmatised and vulnerable. **Globally, Mothers' Union focuses its efforts on:**

Creating a **peaceful and safe** environment for all,  
Fighting for **gender justice**, and  
Building individuals' **self-reliance**.

There has been a Mothers' Union Branch in Exhall for 125 years. If you would like to know more about our activities locally please contact Viv Hopkins 02476 645161, Cynthia Cogley, Yvonne Knowles or Mandy Williams. or look on our local website [mothersunioncoventry.org](http://mothersunioncoventry.org).

# Thought for the Month

## A Good Friday Meditation

As a child, at Easter time I often used to wonder, why is Good Friday called “good”? How can a day that’s remembered for an act of injustice ending in bloody, violent death be known as “good”?



Many have answered that Good Friday is good because it was necessary to our salvation: without Good Friday, there’s no Easter Sunday. While that’s a fine and true answer, I’d like to offer a different one. But first I need to ask a different question: what is God like? This question has occupied minds through the ages, and we mainly try to answer it in two ways: from our understanding and from our experience.

As children, our understanding is shaped by imagination. We might picture God as a benevolent old man with a white beard seated among the clouds, doling out sweets to those he favours. As our critical thinking skills develop, our conception of God may be shaped by philosophical or theological considerations: perhaps we see God as an impersonal force who is really no more than a philosophical construct; or maybe we see Him primarily as a mechanism for ensuring that the scales of justice are ultimately balanced, that there is finally always an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, if not in this life then in the next.

As we grow older, understanding intersects with life lived, and our view of God is increasingly shaped by our experience. This can be a double-edged sword. If we’ve been blessed to have loving parents and a relatively trouble-free life, we may have no problem seeing God as a loving father who’s pleased to give good gifts to His children, even when they err. But if we’ve suffered abuse or rejection at the hands of those we trusted... well, perhaps then we may find it hard not to see God as capricious at best, if not downright abusive.

In addition to our understanding and experience, there’s also the Bible, to which anyone earnestly seeking to know what God is like must surely turn. But even when we turn to scripture, if we’re not careful we may come away with a confused picture. In the New Testament, the divine nature is summed up in the beautiful simplicity of three words: “God is love”. Yet flipping back through the pages and the centuries, we also appear to find a God who visits destruction on

his enemies, favours some and condemns others for reasons that seem hazy to us. Throw these depictions of God into the mix alongside our own understanding and experience, and we might easily give up on the possibility of ever arriving at a clear, consistent and tenable answer to the question “What is God like?”.

Thankfully, there’s another way to answer the question of what God is like. Jesus said, “He who has seen me has seen the Father”. And the writer to the Hebrews tells us that Jesus is “the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being”. In other words, **if you want to know what God is like, look at Jesus**. Watch him have compassion on those who are lost, hear him teach about a kingdom that is radically different from our very best efforts to build a free and fair society, and see him heal the sick and raise the dead.

But if you *really* want to know what God is like, you must observe Jesus as he fulfils the very purpose of what he came to do. Watch him on that Friday two thousand years ago, as he stands silent while his accusers charge him with blasphemy; see the flesh torn from his back by the cruel lash; witness him mocked, spat upon and forced to wear a crown of thorns; see him stagger and fall under the crushing weight of a Roman cross; hear him cry out in pain as the crucifixioner’s hammer falls; behold him hanging there, “King of the Jews”, bloodied, beaten, despised and rejected. Some king.

But listen, too, listen carefully and you might hear a prayer fall from his cracked and broken lips even as his executioners go busily about their ghastly work: “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” Later, suspended there between earth and heaven, his body wracked with pain at every ragged breath, hear him promise paradise to a worthless thief. And as the sky darkens and his life ebbs away, hear him whisper “It is finished”.

This Jesus is the one who finally answers the question, “What is God like?”. Who shows that “God is love” is not merely abstract philosophy or sentimentality. Who demonstrates that God is a God who willingly lays down His own life, a God who is prepared to literally go to hell and back to save His wayward and rebellious children. A God who not only weeps with those who weep and mourns with those who mourn, but who dies with those held in the clutches of sin and death. And He does all this not to satisfy His divine sense of justice or to get His creation project back on track; He does it because, quite simply, He is Love. That is what God is like.

And so, finally, we return to the question we started with: Why is Good Friday called “good”? And I offer my answer: Good Friday is good because it settled, once and for all and beyond any shadow of doubt, the question, “What is God like?” And the answer is better than we ever imagined.

**Rob Grayson**

## Parent & Toddler Group



Calling all babies and toddlers! And their parents, grandparents and carers! Come and play for a hour and a half in lots of space, with our varied range of toys and activities, singing, snack time and just a place to hang out, relax and talk for a while.



Every Thursday during term time in  
St Giles' main Church Hall, 9.30-11am.

**Skamps Pre-school Day Nursery** offers full day care for babies from 6 weeks to school age at St Andrews House, Smorrall Lane, Bedworth CV12 0JP

- **FREE 30 and 15 hour** funding available
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# This month ...

## **Maundy Thursday, time to wash feet**

Maundy Thursday is famous for two things. The first is one of the final acts that Jesus did before His death: the washing of His own disciples' feet (see John 13). Jesus washed His disciples' feet for a purpose: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is '*mandatum novum do vobis*'. The word 'mundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command). Thursday was also important because it was on that night that Jesus first introduced the Lord's Supper, or what we call Holy Communion. Jesus and His close friends had met in a secret upper room to share their last Passover meal together. Jesus transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, saying, 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood' as He, the Lamb of God, prepared to die for the sins of the whole world.

## **Good Friday, the day the Son of God died for you**

Good Friday is the day on which Jesus died on the cross. He was crucified at 9 am and died six hours later, at 3pm. It is the most solemn day in the Christian year, and is widely marked by the removal of all decorations from churches. In Lutheran churches, the day was marked by the reading of the passion narrative in a gospel. Both the St Matthew Passion and the St John Passion have their origins in this observance of Good Friday.

The custom of observing a period of three hours' devotion from 12 midday to 3 pm on Good Friday goes back to the 18th century. The 'Three Hours of the Cross' often take the form of an extended meditation on the 'Seven Last Words from the Cross', with periods of silence, prayer, or hymn-singing.

## **EASTER, the most joyful day of the year**

Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in His joy! Hallelujah!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will still be 'growing' in their Christian walk with God.

Why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.

*Adapted from Parish Pump*

# From the Registers

**Funerals**     *In the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear  
no evil, for you are with me. (Psalm 23 verse 4)*

**Dorothy Hackett, who died on 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb aged 86 yrs**

**Harold Atherley, who died on 20<sup>th</sup> Feb aged 75 yrs**

**Kenneth Case ,who died on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb aged 87 yrs**

## Tribute to Kenneth Case

Ken was the youngest of two sons born to James and Mary Case, born in Bedworth on 21st January 1934. Ken grew up in the family home in West Avenue and attend the Central School in Bedworth. His Uncle Ernie ran the White Swan pub in Bedworth and Ken had frequent visits there together with his Mum who used to help out in the pub.

Ken left school at 15 and his first job was at Jaguar cars where he started in 1949. This was followed by National Service which took Ken as far afield as Austria where he served with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, something he was always extremely proud of.

On completing his National Service, Ken took up work in car assembly at Rootes Motors. He met Betty Pinfold on 22 June 1955 and after four years of courtship, they were married at Bedworth Church in July 1959.

As a newly married couple, Ken and Betty moved in to live with Betty's brother Maurice and her mother Hilda. In 1961, they purchased the Newsagents shop in Ash Green Lane, which also became their family home. The family grew with the birth of Paul in 1963 and Marie in 1966.

Ken and Betty kept the shop running faithfully for 18 years. This of course meant it was very difficult to take family holidays, but they did make the most of Sundays to take the family on day trips out to the Cotswolds and sometimes the Malverns. Half day closing in the week afforded opportunities to motor over to Leamington where they would enjoy a meal at a favourite restaurant.

In 1979, Betty took well-earned retirement and the family settled into a new home at 55 Vicarage Lane. Ken also took a much needed break after dedicating so many years to the shop. After 18 months though, he set up his own haulage business in 1981 and drove his own truck, often transporting goods for Michael Stubbs Plywood. Ken continued his career in driving for a further 20 years before eventually retiring in 2004.

Betty very sadly died in 1996, just a month before Ken had originally planned to stop working. They had enjoyed 37 years of happily married life together. Finishing work at the shop allowed them to rekindle their love of holidays as a newly married couple when they had travelled to Scotland and Cornwall. In 1983, they decided to go a bit further afield and joined a coach trip to Germany. They were blessed on this trip to meet Cliff and Margaret and the four soon became best of friends and frequent holiday companions, enjoying many trips to Europe and various parts of the UK.

This close friendship continued after Betty's death and in 1998, Ken took the brave step of taking his first cruise with Cliff and Margaret, taking in Australia, Japan and Hong Kong. Ken developed a love of cruising and, following that initial trip, travelled the seas to many places in Europe and America.

Ken enjoyed dancing and socializing and had regular outings with Cliff and Margaret, particularly on Thursdays and Saturdays when they would often go out for meals. Ken took a keen interest in history and particularly loved trips on steam locomotives, an interest probably inherited from his dad who was a locomotive driver at Newdigate pit.

Ken also kept an allotment in Vicarage Lane for 20 years and, for other relaxation, watched Bond films and his favourite comedies, like Dad's Army. He keenly followed tennis matches as well, taking him back to younger days when he used to play tennis in Bedworth, sometimes with his cousin Doreen. Ken would always have the radio on, singing along to the music and following the various antics of Coventry City FC though he never actually attended a match.

No tribute to Ken would be complete without a mention of his passion for motoring, particularly his love for motorbikes. Of the many bikes he owned, his favourite was his Scott Squirrel. He purchased a Triumph car in 1971 which is still in his ownership and it was through his membership of the Triumph fan club that his old army friendship with Vic Jinks was rekindled after a chance meeting with Vic's son Mark at a Triumph event in Hinckley. Although they had lost touch for over 20 years, Ken was delighted find great friendship again with Vic and his wife Ann. Other companions were Ken's two dogs Carlo and Tosca.

Over the years, Ken's family extended to include two further generations and he had the great joy of becoming a grandpa to Helena and Joseph and Matt, Terri and Robyne. This was followed by the thrill of achieving the status of great grandpa to Amelia, Felicity and Ivy as well as being a much cherished family member to Sylv and Maurice.

Ken leaves behind him though such a lasting legacy of love and friendship for his family and all who had the privilege of knowing him. So may he now rest in peace, even as he lives on so vibrantly in the hearts of all those he loved so dearly and so well.

## Ministry & Admin

|                               |                              |                               |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Vicar                         | Gail Phillip                 | 024 7664 5030<br>07869 395980 |
| Wardens                       | Neva Khan<br>Denise Crampsie | 07496 859598<br>07952 267685  |
| Readers                       | John Owen<br>Chris Wilson    | 7636 6111<br>07717 523512     |
| Administrator/Rotas           | Penny Pallett                | 7636 8008                     |
| Bereavement Drop-In           | Sue Barnes                   | 07946 051122                  |
| Children's & Families' Worker | Jen Watson                   | 07866 615873                  |
| Electoral Roll                | Beryl Owen                   | 7636 6111                     |
| Halls Bookings                | Tina Watkins                 | 7664 5278                     |
| Parish Magazine               | Tina Watkins                 | 7664 5278                     |
| Pastoral Care                 | Viv Hopkins                  | 7664 5161                     |
| PCC Secretary                 | Carol Gough                  | 7631 8219                     |
| PCC Treasurer & Gift Aid      | Stephen Carter               | 7631 2831                     |
| Safeguarding                  | Muriel Ganley                | 07988 477659                  |
| Website                       | Gail Phillip                 | 024 7664 5030<br>07869 395980 |

## Church & Worship

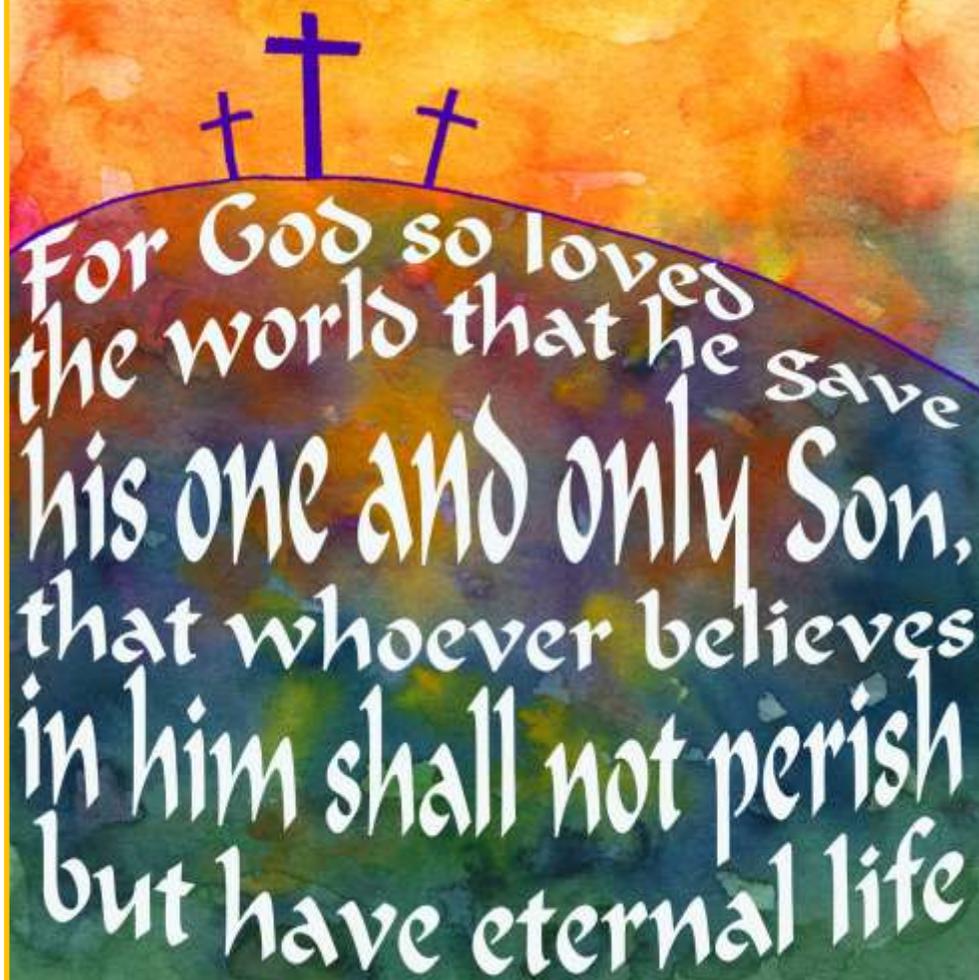
|                             |                                    |                        |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Bell Ringing                | Viv Hopkins                        | 7664 5161              |
| Brasses, Care Home Services | Chrissie Hughes                    | 7631 5468              |
| Choir/Organists             | Henry Wagstaff<br>Kathryn Unsworth | 7633 2660<br>7667 3325 |
| 11.30 Worship Band          | Roy Edwards                        | 7664 4916              |
| Flowers in Church           | Irene Prideaux                     | 7636 1321              |
| Prayer Chain                | Chris Wilson                       | 07717 523512           |
| Verger                      | Mandy Williams                     | 7633 7188              |

## Young People, Nurture & Discipleship

|                        |              |                               |
|------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| Home Groups & Emmaus   | Gail Phillip | 024 7664 5030<br>07869 395980 |
| Thursday Toddler Group | Jen Watson   | 07866 615873                  |

## Other Groups & Activities

|                        |                      |              |
|------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Church Band            | Chris Marlow         | 07940 581737 |
| Cross Stitch           | Ann Crutchlow        | 7631 3845    |
| Drama Club             | Tina Watkins         | 7664 5278    |
| Food Bank              | Alan Marshall        | 07809 203178 |
| Hospice Coffee Morning | Chrissie Hughes      | 7631 5468    |
| Mothers' Union         | Mandy Williams       | 7633 7188    |
| Over 50's Club         | Marion Biddle        | 7673 8883    |
| Green Genies           | Robert & Jackie West | 7636 2168    |



For God so loved  
the world that he <sup>save</sup>  
his one and only Son,  
that whoever believes  
in him shall not perish  
but have eternal life