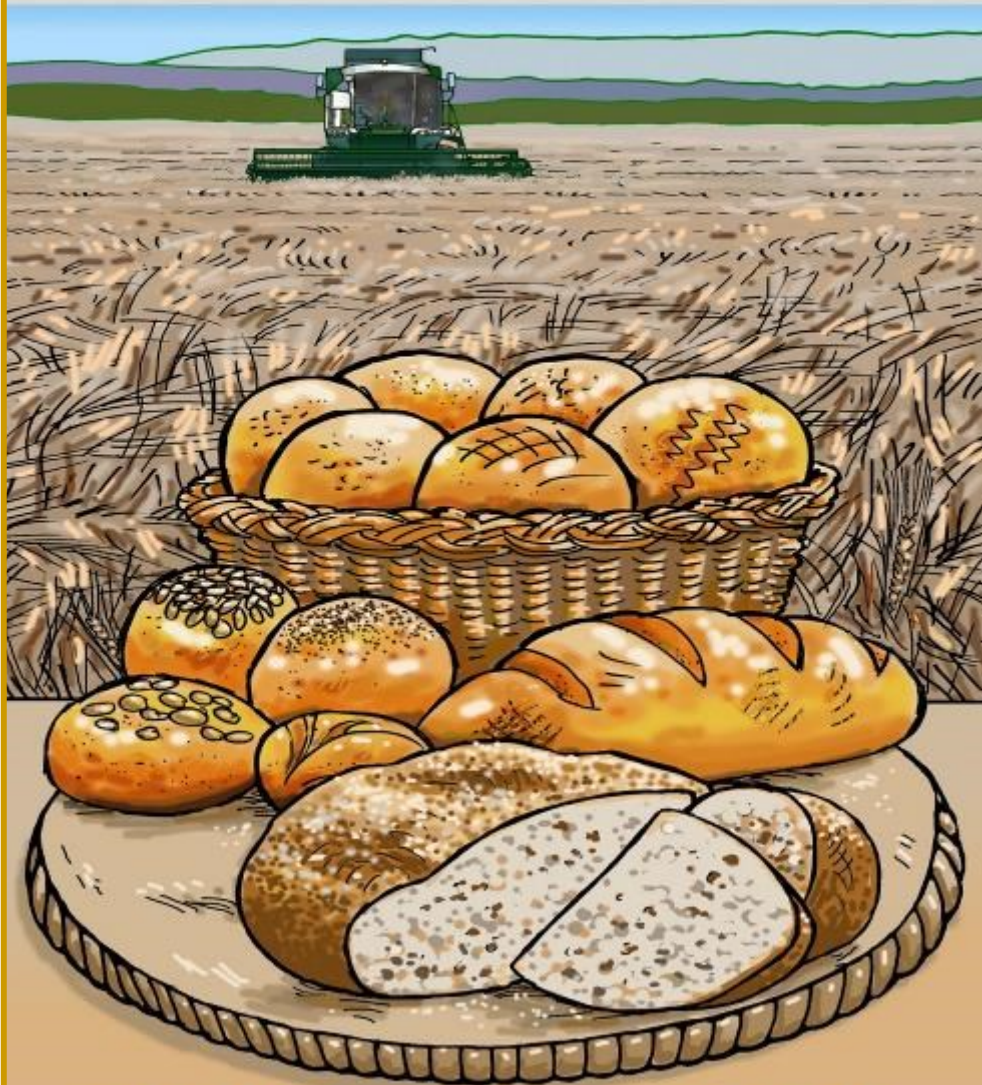


# St. Giles Church Exhall Parish Magazine



**JESUS - The Bread of Life**

Summer 2020—Lockdown Edition, free of charge

**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:

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

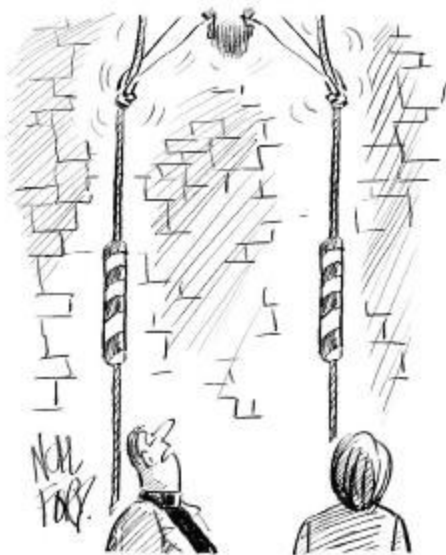
Front Cover : Parish Pump

Back Cover : Churchyard flowers and Holiday Club

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 September and the copy deadline date is **Sunday 23rd August**.

## Welcome to your Summer Magazine



Eric took social distancing while bell ringing very seriously.

Many thanks to everyone for the messages, phone calls and cards on the death of my mum, Coral French, on 15th June. They were all much appreciated and it was lovely to know that so many people were thinking of us at what was a strange and difficult time.

I'm sure we are all very pleased that things are relaxing somewhat, albeit with the necessity for continued vigilance. Another step along the way back to 'normality' will be to hear the bells ringing again. Nothing definite has been put in place as yet as there's lots to think about with regard to social distancing and safety. I thought you might enjoy this cartoon, which sort of sums up the situation!

**Tina Watkins**

## Where to find ...

Gail's message	4-5	Poems	12-13
Paul & Chris Duffin	5	Mothers' Union	16
Jen's Pages	6-7	From the Registers	18-22
Thought for the Month	8-9	Mothers' Union Prayer Diary	22
Green Genies & Meadow Group	11	Who's who	23

St Giles' Magazine was first published in April 1898 and is now in its 122nd year.

## With love from the Vicar . . .

This week I managed to catch up on the latest Tom Hanks film *Greyhound*. The film is based on the 1955 novel *The Good Shepherd* by C.S. Forester and depicts experiences from the Battle of the Atlantic in early 1942. Tom Hanks plays a US Navy Commander on his first assignment crossing the Atlantic as part of a multi-national escort group defending a merchant ship convoy carrying vital supplies. The task is to get the 37 Allied ships safely across the Atlantic to Liverpool, but the convoy comes under severe attack from a 'wolfpack' of German submarines. Over the course of three days, just when the *Greyhound's* crew think they've overcome one onslaught, another begins. The running thread of humour through the film is that every time the kitchen bring food for the Captain to eat, he's thrown into a new crisis. He does indeed though prove to be a 'Good Shepherd' and, though there are sad losses along the way, he does an astounding job of assuring, not only his own crew's safety, but that of the convoy as a whole.

In what had felt a somewhat 'full on' week for me, the film helped to bring things into perspective. It reminded me of a verse from the Bible, *We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair* (2 Corinthians 4: 8). Someone was describing the constant adaptations Coronavirus is requiring of us as being not just the equivalent of a marathon, but more like a triathlon or an Iron Man! I spoke to one funeral director who told me they had done the equivalent of 10 months' work in 3. Some of us may also be feeling like that. Others may be struggling more with the enforced inactivity the crisis has imposed on us. Whatever our experience, I do hope this summer period, with the easing of many of the restrictions we have lived with over the last 3 months, will provide some opportunity for you to have a break, a holiday (even if it's at home) and long awaited reunions with family and friends!

The summer brings a special highlight for us at St Giles in that we are opening our doors again for public worship in our building! We are starting small and starting safe, with a 10.30 am service each Sunday. To maintain safe social distancing, we will be limited to 20 places in the church so we have decided to operate a Booking System. Please phone or email me if you would like to book a place. A Guidance Letter with more detailed information has been sent out in the post and you can also find it on our website. We do look forward to seeing you whenever you feel ready to join us again!



## Congratulations on your Golden Wedding Paul and Chris!

Paul Thomas Duffin married Christine Frost at St James' church, Shirley on 27th June 1970 - Chris's 21st birthday! The plan was to celebrate on a cruise but unfortunately this was cancelled due to Covid19, so their daughter Julia decided to make them an afternoon tea instead.

Paul and Chris are regulars at our 9.30 am communion service.

**Love and best wishes to you both  
from all of the St Giles  
church family!**



We hope to livestream our service via Facebook and will maintain our Zoom services so that as many people as possible can worship through as many means as possible! We want to hold on to all the good things we've learnt about being the church without walls!

*With love, Gail*

## Jen's Page



Welcome back to the Children's and Families' section! To all you parents, school staff and care givers out there, you did it! We've made it to the summer! For all those who have continued to work whilst juggling children at home, those who have homeschooled, those who have just had strange new routines, we really hope you have some time to rest this summer and recuperate. We are praying for some good weather and some happy memories to be made so that we are ready for whatever new arrangements await us in September. Please know that we are praying for the children and families across the parish, we are behind you and if there's anything you ever feel you need help with we are here.

So the past few weeks have brought some more huge changes for our children. We were sad to miss what would've been our last **Playgroup** of the academic year, as with that we are losing some wonderful children to school and nurseries in September. We would like to take this opportunity to say how much we have loved having our older ones in Playgroup, some of whom we have known since they were babies. We will miss you so much and we wish you all the happiness in the world as you move on. We are very much looking forward to having everyone else back as soon as it is safe to do so! If you haven't spotted it yet, we have created a **Facebook Group** called 'St Giles' Church Exhall Playgroup!'. I will popping onto the group throughout the summer to do some singing sessions and reading some books too. We would love to see you on there. We will update you with new information on that group page too.

We are very sad to have missed going into school to see **Year 6s** before they move up to Secondary School, however thanks to the handiwork and generosity of this amazing parish, we were able to bless the Year 6s with a handmade heart, some sweets, a cute pencil and a card from us all! Thank you so much to all those who contributed to **Take Heart**, the packs were really well received and staff were so touched. We even had some left over to give some out to



staff and to Year 2s at Cedars as they are moving up too! Please continue to pray for all of these children as they take big steps in September in a very strange time. We hope they keep the hearts with them to remind them to have courage.

Each Sunday we are releasing a **'Family Church at Home'** sheet on our Facebook page and on the website. It is a simple service for you to go through as a family with a message and suggested worship and prayer activities. These will be continuing across the summer! We would love any feedback if you do use any of the activities.

During Lockdown we have been continuing to run our Wednesday afternoon **Kids Club on Zoom!** We have had some great fun playing games, quizzes, making marshmallow towers and just generally having a giggle for a little while on a Wednesday. We have really enjoyed spending some time with people that we wouldn't normally get to see, as well as some of our regular St Giles children. If you think you know someone that might like to join in please drop me a message. The group will not be running on July 29<sup>th</sup> or August 5<sup>th</sup> as I am away but we will be back on the 12<sup>th</sup>!

We also have something very exciting starting on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July . **A FREE Online Holiday Club!** A few churches from Coventry and the surrounding areas have pooled resources and put together a Club called **Adventuring at Home with God.** I was really blessed to be really involved in putting together this resource, it's been really lovely getting to know people from other churches and in different roles across the Diocese! Myself and Nicola Ugochukwu (the Growing Faith in Families worker from All Saints Church, Bedworth) will be running the club together every **Friday at 10am for 5 weeks from 31<sup>st</sup> July to 28<sup>th</sup> August.** It is aimed at **children aged between 4 – 11**, however it should be great fun for all the family! It will be hosted in a private Facebook Group and will involve a Bible story, crafts, songs and other various activities! So whilst we might not be going away as we normally would, we can go on some mini at home adventures with God instead. All the videos and resources will remain on the group page, so if you're not able to take part at 10am on a Friday, you can pick it up at any point. Please get in contact with myself or Nicola if you would like to join in (see the flyer on the back page for details!).

Please join us in continuing to pray for the health and wellbeing of the families across our Parish.

Thanks for dropping by and see you next time,

Jen

## Thought for the Month

When writing for the April magazine I asked the question, "Where has your journey through Lent taken you?" and I made the comment, "...our journey has taken a very different turn with the current events and social isolation that have been thrust upon us. Our journey continues but in a very different direction. It is a journey of contrasts; highs and lows, conflicting emotions, anxieties and questions."

And as we continue our journeys we certainly have experienced many high and lows and conflicting emotions. On the one hand we have almost drowned in a tsunami of grief, desolation and helplessness and on the other we have seen positives never dreamed of; a cleaner environment that has been beneficial to wildlife and flora, families having quality time together, an overwhelming gratitude for the blessings we have and time and space to nurture our personal faith, among the few.

This month I thought I'd share some snippets of our experiences during lockdown. Like many we have counted our blessings for the garden and the sunshine. We even had a visitor!

And what a lot we can learn from God's creation. I'd like to share with you a post that Andrew, my son put on Facebook. A modern day parable if you like.



*"God, animals are so dumb right? I mean they aren't intelligent like humans are they? I mean why don't all the bigger stronger birds bully the smaller birds and take all the food for themselves so the smaller birds starve to death even*



*though there is plenty for everyone? I mean why don't the yellow birds attack the mouse because he is different? Why are they just sharing? It's almost like they are celebrating the extra struggle he has had to face to receive the same rewards as them ... I mean how crazy is that? I'll tell you why— because being a bully makes you the lowest of the low ... and racism, well there's a special place*

*in Hell for those that judge based on colour or race... They say humans are the most intelligent species on the planet ... yes we are technologically more advanced but I really don't think that makes us the smartest creatures on the planet. Celebrate your differences and enjoy the beauty this world has to offer."*

Even as members of the church we have many differences to celebrate and each of us has, I'm sure, thought about the best way to personally be true to our faith and ourselves during this lockdown. We may be physically apart but as a community we have still been able to prayerfully support one another as we journey through this together. We may be isolated but we are not alone. In this space we have been given we still have the opportunity to worship and adore our Saviour, remembering, "Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever," and He says "Do not be afraid," "I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

I pray that you have been able to find a Jesus centred space where love resides; a kind, gentle and compassionate place where you feel at home and at peace. A place where you hear the words, "Be still and know that I am God." Last week I heard this song on the television and it touched my heart, so I will close with these words for you to ponder upon too.

When Love came down to earth  
And made His home with us,  
The hopeless found a hope,  
The sinner found a friend.  
Not to the powerful  
But to the poor He came,  
And humble, hungry hearts  
Were satisfied again.

Come lay your heavy load  
Down at the Master's feet;  
Your shame will be removed,  
Your joy will be complete.  
Come crucify your pride,  
And enter as a child;  
For those who bow down low  
He'll lift up to His side.

What joy, what peace has come to us!

What hope, what help, what love! May God bless you and keep you safe and hold you in the palm of His hand until we meet again.

**Chris**

## Thank you from the Green Genies

A huge thank you to all who turned up on Saturday 6th June to help plant out the wonderful begonias, once again grown and supplied by Stella, and also to tidy up the pathways of the year. It was made more difficult this year with social distancing, but we made it! Well done everyone.

**Stella, Jackie and Robert**

## Beatitudes for a global pandemic

Blessed are those who stay indoors for they have protected others.

Blessed are the unemployed and the self-employed, for their need of God is great.

Blessed are the corner shopkeepers, for they are the purveyors of scarce things.

Blessed are the delivery drivers and the postal workers, for they are the bringers of essential things.

Blessed are the hospital workers; the ambulance crews, the doctors, the nurses, the care assistants, and the cleaners, for they stand between us and the grave, and the Kingdom of Heaven is surely theirs.

Blessed are the checkout workers, for they have patience and fortitude in the face of overwork and frustration.

Blessed are the refuse collectors, for they will see God despite the mountains of waste.

Blessed are the teachers, for they remain steadfast and constant in disturbing times.

Blessed are the church workers; the deacons, priests and bishops, for they are a comforting presence in a hurting world as they continue to signpost towards God.

Blessed are the single parents, for they are coping alone with their responsibilities and there is no respite.

Blessed are those who are alone, for they are children of God and with Him they will never be lonely.

Blessed are the bereaved, for whom the worst has already happened.  
They shall be comforted.

Blessed are those who are isolated with their abusers, for one day—we pray—they will know safety.

Blessed are all during this time who have pure hearts; all who still hunger and thirst for justice; all who work for peace and who model mercy.

May you know comfort. May you know calm. And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all.  
Amen.

**By Jayne Manfredi@TheWomanFreda**

## An update from the Green Genies and Meadow Group

As many of you will know the Green Genies group has coordinated the maintenance work in our church yard for many years. The group meets several times a year to carry out essential tasks such as planting out the Begonias along the church path. In between those working party events the group undertakes regular tidying and management jobs like watering, weeding and dead-heading.

More recently the PCC set up a small group to look at the management of St Giles Meadow. Under the direction of Rev Gail this group has already taken steps to improve the information provided to families whose loved ones are buried in the Meadow and has ordered noticeboards that will give clear information about the ways in which we hope to maintain it as a haven for nature.

These two groups have now come together to compile an annual calendar that will set out the jobs that need to be done in both the churchyard and the meadow as each month goes by. Over the years it has been wonderful to have so many people volunteer to help look after our beautiful surroundings. We have recently received many positive comments about how lovely the churchyard is looking and how attractive the wild flowers are in the meadow. Even in these times of social distancing we managed to plant out the Begonias and we can all now enjoy the result of our work!

**The group would encourage anyone interested in helping in this work to get in touch. Working party events will be publicised but if you feel that you can do some tidying independently, please contact the group first so that they are aware of your intentions and can tell you what jobs are a priority. Like a lot of the work that goes on behind the scenes in our church family, much has always been done in our outside environment quietly and without recognition. Thank you to all who have helped in this way.**

### Key contacts:

**Rob and Jackie West – 02476 362168**

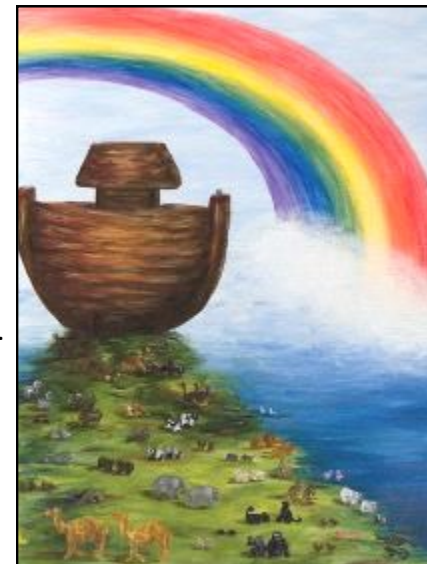
**Stella Bunting – 02476 361173**



## Noah's Ark

Everything I need to know about life, I learned from Noah's Ark.

- One:** Don't miss the boat.
- Two:** Remember that we are all in the same boat.
- Three:** Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
- Four:** Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big!
- Five:** Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
- Six:** Build your future on high ground.
- Seven:** For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
- Eight:** Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
- Nine:** When you're stressed, float a while.
- Ten:** Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
- Eleven:** No matter the storm, when you are with God, there is always a rainbow waiting.



*Author unknown; submitted by Kathryn Unsworth*

St Peter stood and waited  
As up the dusty road  
Came an old lady and her cat  
Carrying a heavy load.

Will we be made well again?  
Sleep and run and play?  
Just like we did in days gone by  
Because that is what they say.

Their legs were weak and painful  
And brought tears to their eyes,  
But they were very thankful  
That at last they had arrived.

Because our heavenly father  
Will welcome us and heal and  
All our troubles will be gone  
And only peace we feel.

*June Plumb*

## The Dash

I read of a man who stood to speak at a funeral of a friend.  
He referred to the dates on the tombstone from the beginning to the end.  
He noted that first came the date of birth and spoke of the following date with tears,  
But said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years.  
For that dash represents all the time they spent alive on earth  
And now only those who loved them know what that little line is worth.  
For it matters not, how much we own, the cars, the house, the cash.  
What matters is how we lived and loved and how we spend our dash.  
So think about this long and hard; are there things you'd like to change?  
For you never know how much time is left that still can be rearranged.  
To be less quick to anger and show appreciation more  
And love the people in our lives like we've never loved before.  
If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile ...  
Remembering that this special dash might only last a little while.  
So when your eulogy is being read, with your life's actions to rehash,  
Would you be proud of the things they say about how you lived your dash?

## Loneliness

Loneliness lets you down, it lives your life,  
You're as lonely as a desert, loneliness feels  
like a room full of people but no one is  
looking at you,  
It stabs you in the back, you're as lonely as a  
stray dog waiting for someone to help it,  
loneliness lets you have no friends,  
Loneliness lets you be miserable, loneliness  
lets you fade away,  
Loneliness takes your friends away (like a selfish person)  
Solitude, seclusion all around me.



*Grace Finch, aged 9*

*Grace attends St Giles with her mum Lisa and brother Finlay. Her poem was entered into Nuneaton Festival of Arts, winning a Certificate of Achievement. Well done Grace!*

## Advertising in St Giles' Parish Magazine is not expensive!

A small advert costs only £100 (¼ page),  
£200 (1/2 page) or £400 (full page)  
per calendar year (10 issues), or just £10, £20  
or £40 per month. We print and sell 300  
copies of each issue.

More info:

Tina Watkins on 76645278/07905 297713 or  
[tinawatk1ns@btinternet.com](mailto:tinawatk1ns@btinternet.com)

Have you thought of using one of our Church Halls  
for your party, meeting or event?  
Or as a venue for a regular activity?

Main hall seats 120 @ £12/hr;

Small hall seats 60 @ £8/ hr.

Info and photos:

[www.stgileschurchexhall.info](http://www.stgileschurchexhall.info)  
or speak to Tina Watkins  
on 02476 645278



## Parent & Toddler Group



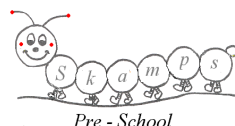
Calling all babies and toddlers! And their parents, grandparents and carers! Come and play for a hour and a half in lots of space, with our varied range of toys and activities, singing, snack time and just a place to hang out, relax and talk for a while.



**Every Wednesday and 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
- Open **7 am to 6 pm**—51 weeks per year
- **Emergency cover** available
- **Holiday cover** for school holidays



Please contact Gaynor 07714 326706

e-mail: [g.powell7@ntlworld.com](mailto:g.powell7@ntlworld.com)

[www.skampspreschooldaynursery.com](http://www.skampspreschooldaynursery.com) or find us on Facebook



**Kieran Northall**  
Plumbing & Heating Limited



**Mob: 07902 132453 email: [kierangas@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kierangas@yahoo.co.uk)**

## Collyhurst Private Residential Care Home

Have vacancies  
24 hour care with dignity.  
Linked to social service guidelines.  
Long term stays from £400 / Day care from £30  
024 7631 9092 [www.collyhurst.info](http://www.collyhurst.info)

**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families  
Diocese of Coventry



Gail, Cynthia, Yvonne and myself have had our first video meeting to discuss how we can keep in touch with all our members at Exhall during Lockdown, especially as we have integrated our two groups into one. We wanted to ensure that all our members receive news of MU Activities, Local, National and Worldwide. We have now managed to distribute information by e-mail and hand delivery to all our members.

MU members are busy throughout the world playing their part in the fight against COVID 19. **Please see page 22 for August's prayer diary.**

### LOCALLY AND NATIONALLY

Members have been using their skills to make masks, scrubs, scrub bags and ear savers.

### WORLDWIDE

This is just an example of the work MU Members are carrying out. Tanzanians are having a difficult time at present due to ongoing challenges presented by COVID-19. People are suffering from the disease in multiple dimensions - financially, physically, mentally, and spiritually.

The Mothers' Union team on the ground in Tanzania analysed that there was a significant knowledge gap. People in general do not have enough information and are not aware of the dangers posed by the disease. This is especially the case in villages and among people who fall into vulnerable categories. This includes impoverished people, the elderly, orphans, and street children. After delivering training to established communities, they are looking forward to taking action to reach vulnerable people in a specific village. This place is known as Sukamahela village in the Diocese of Rift Valley where people with leprosy are living. The plan is to raise awareness and provide soap, buckets, masks, sanitizers, food, information posters and brochures.

### THY KINGDOM COME

The planned event to be held at Coventry Cathedral on 22<sup>nd</sup> May was cancelled due to COVID 19. However, this was replaced by a virtual service on the same day at the same time. Those who were able to watch this were delighted that Margaret Siggers, one of our Trustees read a passage from the Bible during the Service. It was wonderful to watch live and to see comments being posted from hundreds of members around the world.

*Viv Hopkins*



# J E Hackett and Sons

Independent family run funeral home  
established in 1922 by their  
Grandfather John Edward Hackett

*Let our Family Care for Yours*

## Benefits of a Pre Paid Funeral Plan



- Peace of mind for you and those you care about
- Each plan is tailored to your own personal requirements
- Your loved ones are spared much of the stress and worry
- Allows you to put funds aside to cover the cost of a funeral at today's prices

93 Leicester Rd, Bedworth, CV12 8AH      024 76 313326  
 Longford Bridge, Coventry, CV6 6BH      024 76 367149

## Exhall Over 50s Club

We're a place to meet together, make friends and  
generally have a good time...



We run a monthly buffet, a monthly pub  
lunch, occasional coach and theatre trips,  
and weekly table games, discussions, music  
and sing-alongs, bingo, a raffle, talks, demos,  
films and of course refreshments...



We are a warm, friendly group  
always happy to welcome new members!

**Every Tuesday in St Giles Main Hall, 1-3pm.**

**Membership £12/year, sessions £2.**

**Further info: Marion Biddle 024 7673 8883**

**or Joyce Downes 024 7631 7609**

# 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)*

### **Sylvia Williamson**

**Passed away on 14 June, aged 86 years**

Sylvia was the only child of William and Mary Sanderson. She was born on a farm in the Lake District but, very sadly, her father died just a month before she was born, meaning the family soon had to move to live with her Gran and three cousins in Annon, a town in the Scottish Borders. At 18 months old, Sylvia and her mum moved again to Ecclefechan, just off the M74. Her mum, Margaret remarried and Sylvia enjoyed attending the local village school. It was here that she developed a love of writing, something she continued right up to the end of her life, becoming a prolific letter writer – just one of the many things she will always be remembered for.

Sylvia's first job was as a pastry chef for Mr & Mrs Currie in Lockerbie. Sylvia proved to be an extremely talented chef. She was a passionate cake maker – famous for her cream horns and lemon drizzle to name but two. Sylvia loved making cakes for both birthdays and weddings and would always offer these as 'a present from the Williamson family'. She was skilled at sugarcraft with her icing becoming a work of art. Sylvia was so generous in her willingness to bake that it was not difficult for John to arrange a playful radio prank specially for her. With the help of a DJ, they managed to get her all too readily to sign up to make a 7 tier wedding cake for a friend, with every tier to be a different colour of the rainbow. Having such a generous heart and an excellent sense of humour herself, Sylvia was willing to go along with it and very much enjoyed the joke.

In her younger years, Sylvia loved dancing and enjoyed getting dolled up in her glad rags to attend the local dances. It was here that she met the one true love of her life, Fred. They married when Sylvia was 21 and enjoyed over 40 years of happily married life. In 1958, Fred and Sylvia had their first son Roy. In 1961 they moved to Coventry where Fred set up his own business as a builder. It was in 1963 that they moved to what would become their lifelong home on the new caravan site on Broad Lane in Ash Green and just two years later the family grew with John's arrival.

Sylvia was an accomplished home maker, keeping the caravan and the garden in tip top condition. She liked things so spic and span that she would even climb on top of the caravan roof to clean it! To earn a little pocket money, Sylvia worked as a cleaner at both the Ash Green Club and the Royal Oak. She was a very active member of the Methodist Church on Wheelwright Lane and would always be baking for charity events and coffee mornings. Saturday would usually be Sylvia's baking day, but everything had to be finished and packed away by 4 pm to make way for her other great enthusiasm – the wrestling!

Sylvia leaves behind her a very lasting and rich legacy of love for her family and all who knew her. With such a big heart, she would be the first to help anybody and was a friend for life. Her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren and the extended

family that came through them were her pride and joy. Her friends Sylvia, Barbara and Diane became lifelong friends and she liked nothing better than a cup of tea and a chat with them. With her kind, caring and selfless nature, Sylvia gave her all to everything she did with so much love and that legacy is sure to live on in everyone's hearts well beyond the years of her life with us here.

### **Coral French**

**Passed away on 15 June, aged 91 years**

*The family share some memories of Mum, Nanna and Great-Nanna ...*

Coral's daughters Tina, Gillian and Louise remember their mum making clothes and dance costumes for them as they were growing up, even making Louise a bikini out of terry towelling—with tassels—that wasn't quite so good when wet! On holidays, mum would always be there ready with towel on hand to warm the girls up as they emerged from the chilly North Sea – she even made a special changing towel. French cricket (excuse the pun) on the beach was a favourite family game.

Coral brought the girls a cup of tea and a biscuit in bed every school day morning – imagine that! They suspect it offered her a few moments' peace before they all descended. She proved that house cleaning could be entertaining. She would sit the children on a sheet and drag them up and down the hall to polish the floor—great fun!

No-one can beat your mum's Sunday roast and Coral's Sunday dinners were no exception. They tasted even better once you had left home and Coral whistled and tap danced in the kitchen to the radio as she cooked. She was a good dancer and Louise still remembers Coral dancing the jive with Dad at her wedding as well as at other parties she attended.

Coral performed in the St Giles panto a couple of times. Her most notable performance was the wicked witch in Sleeping Beauty. She played the part so convincingly that on her first entrance a small child ran screaming from the hall – something which the family never let her live down! She also appeared in Townswomen's Guild plays which were entered into the Guild's regional competitions.

Coral was not always technically minded. When Gillian's car broke down, everyone was scratching their heads and peering at the engine. Coral suggested that the car might perhaps work better if the bonnet were down.

Coral was very particular about her appearance. She liked to be smartly turned out, ensuring outfits matched well. This continued throughout her life, even when she moved into Richmond Lodge. On her 90th birthday, she asked for a new lipstick and always enjoyed having her hair and nails done. Coral's family are deeply thankful to all the staff at Richmond Lodge who cared for her so attentively throughout her time there and particularly over the last few months when family members were sadly unable to visit. Prior to moving into residential care, Coral had really good neighbours in Sandra and Dave. She will be fondly remembered by so many friends and neighbours in Deansway and Canon Drive, as well as members of the Townswomen's Guild which was still active until the end of last year. Special mention must also be given to Coral's very close friend Margaret who, though unable to see Coral prior to lockdown due to her own ill health, enjoyed many years of longstanding friendship with Coral.

Coral coped extremely well when her husband, Roy, was working abroad, even when she contracted chicken pox during his absence. She was quite poorly with it and then shared it with all her children! Coral was able to join Roy for one of his trips to Singapore and, though initially anxious about going, enjoyed a month long stay there, although disappointed to miss Louise's 18th birthday (as was Louise).

In later years, when Coral needed a bit more help, the girls used to take her shopping. She always enjoyed going to the pub for dinner on the way back. Getting Coral's favourite tippie at pubs was always something of a challenge. She liked a gin and pep, but sadly no pub in the UK ever kept a stock of peppermint cordial. Her other favourite, Pernod and lemonade, was also hard to come by. Not to be defeated, the family did find a suitable alternative though. Coral may have been the only lady in her 80s drinking Sambuca in the bar, but it was certainly something that made all the family laugh.

Coral was thrilled to bits when her family extended to 6 grandchildren—Rachel, Helen, Andrew, Matthew, Connor and Nathan, and three great grandchildren.

Coral was never too convinced about Nathan's steering skills when he pushed her around the care home in her wheelchair. She panicked if Nathan went within 10 metres of the fish pond, thinking she would end up going for a swim! She did, however, enjoy watching her great-grandchildren feed rice crispies to the fish.

Connor loved the opportunity to have lunch at Nanna's. Coral liked nothing better than to feed people up and if you said no to something she offered, she would simply keep going through a vast list of options until you had to give in and have something.

All Coral's grandchildren remember her always being there for a hug, the full biscuit barrel and dish of sweets — all they needed to do was ask which they certainly did! Andrew and Matthew remember Nanna getting toys for them out of the dining room or shed and playing Jumping Frogs. Rachel remembers sleeping over on a Friday, then on Saturday morning a cooked breakfast, with pancakes made by granddad and a jig and singalong to the radio. Helen remembers all the cuddles, kisses, the chats (as well as the tellings-off), sharing mints and generally being spoiled by her lovely Nanna.

These memories, and so many more I'm sure, are testimony to the rich legacy of love Coral leaves behind her for every generation of her family and others who knew her. To sum it up, the family would like to say. "Thanks for the memories – mum, nanna and great-nanna. We'll all miss you loads but know that you're at peace with no more anxiety or pain. Night night, love you."

### **Brenda Gibbs**

**Passed away on 18 June, aged 80 years**

### **Vince Taylor**

**Passed away on 29th June, aged 77 years**

Vince was born at Stratford upon Avon, a fact that he was very proud of. He would joke that there was a brass plaque outside where he was born, failing to mention that the plaque actually read "Council Offices".

He attended the newly opened Woodlands School in Coventry, later becoming an apprentice at Morris Engines in Courthouse Green. It was this work that gave him a life

long interest in and love of cars. He was actually sorry when modern complexities meant he could no longer service his own car and until his later years could turn his hand to almost any practical task.

Joyce and Vince met through a mutual interest in photography and their first date was at a rugby club dance to give a member emigrating to Australia a good send off. In true rugby club fashion the guest of honour had his trousers removed and thrown out of a window. This did not endear Vince to Joyce's father when he heard about it but Vince was determined and he married Joyce on 25th March 1966 in St. Giles Church. They never moved far from the area, living first in Sapcote and then Cheylesmore, before returning to Ash Green, where they lived in the house they renovated together.

In his twenties Vince took his engineering skills to Rolls Royce Aerospace. He became a world renowned expert in borescope technology, which he helped develop in order to solve problems with jet engines, including those of Concord. This led to him travelling to many parts of the world, including Canada, U.S.A., Germany and Japan. He also worked on a warship in the North Sea.

In his retirement Vince was able to participate more in another of his interests, local history. He was a committee member of the Bedworth Society and worked for 20 years as a Steward at the Heritage Centre in Bedworth, helping visitors and answering questions about the exhibitions. He was also a Governor of All Saints School, Bedworth for many years. He helped set up North Warwickshire Tourism and was their Publicity Officer, speaking on the radio many times, an activity which he thoroughly enjoyed. He continued this voluntary work until his health deteriorated a couple of years ago.

Vince and a small group of other local people were responsible for the erection of a memorial to the miners who lost their lives in the Exhall Pit Disaster (and how fitting that his own final resting place should be so close to that memorial). He did a lot of research and was able to give relations of the miners information about their loved ones. Until his death Vince was Deputy Chairman of the Almshouses in Bedworth. In February this year Vince helped to arrange the visit of Prince Charles. This was a great honour to him and gave him a much needed boost at the point when his various illnesses had begun to seriously impact his daily life. Even then he was still finding plenty to laugh about. He told how he was introduced to Prince Charles about four times during the visit, shaking his hand each time. Prince Charles found this equally amusing and they shared a smile about it together.

Vince was a incredibly friendly person who was genuinely interested in others. He would talk with anyone and even total strangers felt comfortable chatting with him. That was probably what made him a natural at TV and radio appearances, although he constantly underestimated his own abilities. For many years he helped to promote Northern Warwickshire, an area which he loved deeply and of which he was very proud. He was equally passionate about all his voluntary work. When Vince took something on he was totally committed and always did his best, even when things were challenging.

Although he could be quite irreverent - many people variously enjoyed or endured his sense of humour - Vince was actually very insightful and thoughtful, especially when it

came to helping those in need. In 2010 his daughter Samantha lost her partner of 25 years to heart disease. She was also left with many practical problems to sort out, which took almost six years. By 2012 Vince felt that Sam needed something to help her start smiling again and distract her from all the bad things he couldn't fix - although he would if he could have. So, when he discovered that a friend had a litter of Labrador puppies and one was available, he asked Sam if he could give her a puppy. Sam thought about this for approximately 10 seconds and said "yes please!". The puppy, who she named Ivan, which means Gracious Gift, brought much needed joy back into Sam's life. This instinct for what could help someone in pain was typical of Vince.

Vince was great-hearted, funny and compassionate. A true gentleman, he lived for others and would do anything to help. He was an utterly devoted husband and father and the gap his absence leaves can never be filled.

### Mothers' Union Prayer Diary for August 2020

**1st—5th August** We pray for our government that they will listen to you Lord and raise up Committed Christians in parliament who will have the courage to speak and will be listened to. We pray our government will act with integrity, honesty and openness for the good of all. AMEN.

**6th August** We remember the Transfiguration of Jesus when in front of His chosen disciples He was changed into glory. We are disciples of Jesus when we choose to follow Him, may we see His glory and be assured of His promises for our lives. He is our hope. AMEN.

**7th—8th August** We thank you Father for the beauty of your creation, for bird song, the myriad colours of nature we see thank you for the reminder that whilst we are in lock down nature has flourished. AMEN.

*"Mary Sumner's Prayer"*

**9th August— MARY SUMNER DAY** *All this day O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee and every life I touch, do though by thy spirit quicken whether through the words I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. AMEN*

**10th—14th August** Over these days let us just be, just be still and spend time being with our Heavenly Father in quiet, no need for words AMEN.

**15th August** The Blessed Virgin Mary, we give thanks and remember Mary the mother of Jesus who was obedient to her calling, who suffered heartbreak as she looked on as her beloved Son Jesus was so cruelly treated and murdered, knowing He was the saviour of the world, who she had carried in her womb. AMEN

**16th—23rd August** We pray for the economy of our country that there will be shoots of new growth in business as life changes as we come out of lockdown. AMEN.

**24th—31st August** Father God, only you can bring about transformation and restoration. We pray that you will raise up people in power to act on your guidance and bring about change and hope. AMEN.

## Ministry & Admin

Vicar	Gail Phillip	024 7664 5030 07869 395980
Wardens	Neva Khan Denise Crampsie	07496 859598 07952 267685
Readers	John Owen Hilary Cryer Chris Wilson	7636 6111 7673 8900 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

## Church & Worship

Bell Ringing	Viv Hopkins	7664 5161
Brasses, Care Home Services	Chrissie Hughes	7631 5468
Choir/Organists	Henry Wagstaff	7633 2660
	Kathryn Unsworth	7667 3325
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 07869 395980
Thursday Toddler Group	Sue Sullivan	7673 8897

## Other Groups & Activities

11.30 Worship Band	Roy Edwards	7664 4916
Church Band	Eric Gray	
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



# Adventuring WITH GOD at home

## Virtual Holiday Club!

**Every Friday** from  
31st July to 28th August  
Starting at 10am via a special  
Facebook group

Email [nicola@bedworthparish.org](mailto:nicola@bedworthparish.org) or  
[jenwatson.stgiles@gmail.com](mailto:jenwatson.stgiles@gmail.com) for more  
information and to get involved!

**FREE**

Great for kids aged 4-11 and the whole family!

Hosted by All Saints Church, Bedworth and St Giles' Church, Exhall



