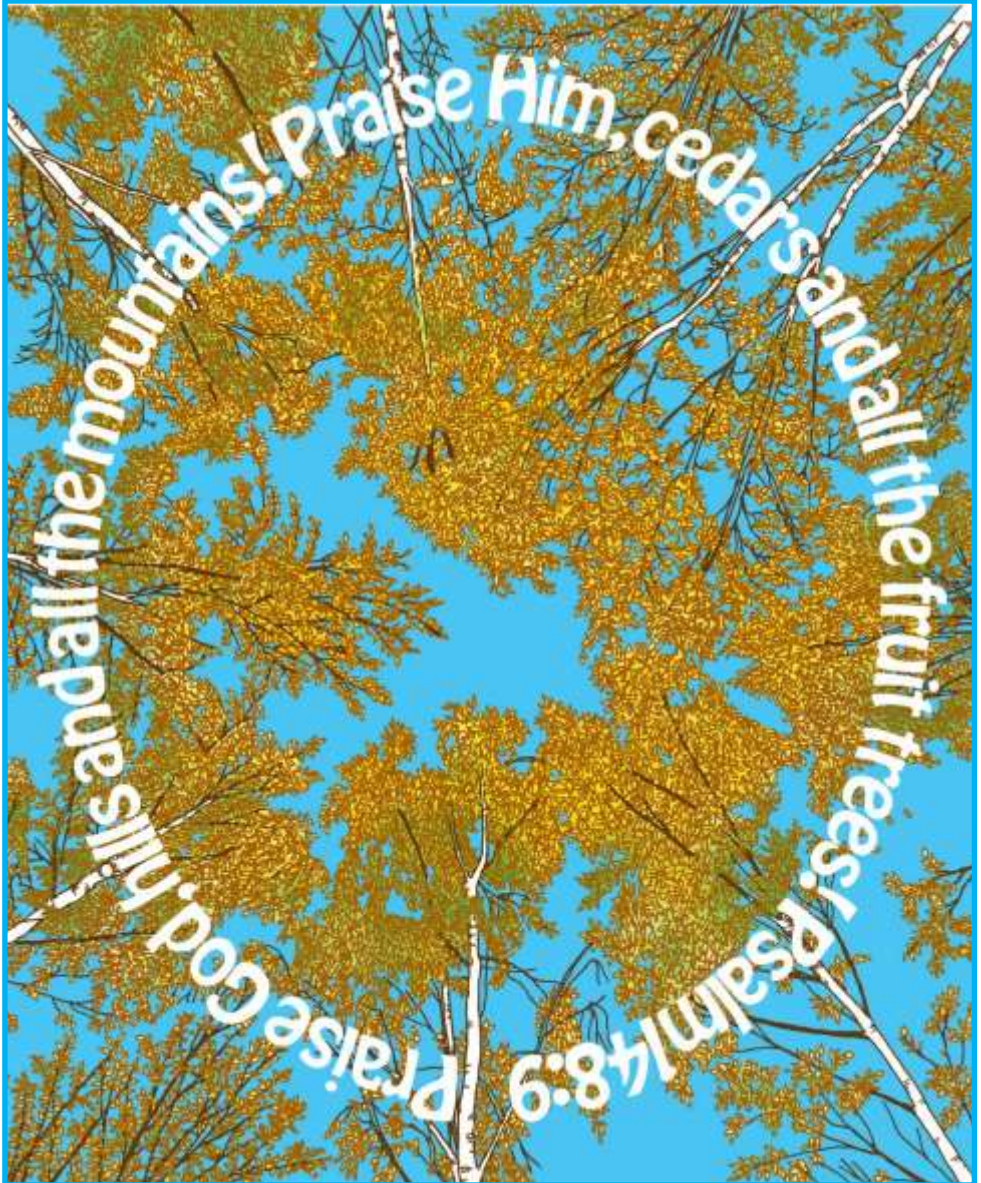


# St. Giles Church Exhall Parish Magazine



October 2020

## **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.

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** or drop them into the parish office.

The next magazine will be for November  
and the copy deadline date is **Friday 23rd October**.

## Welcome to your October Magazine

As our minds remain firmly focused on the changes in our daily lives as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic, it's easy to overlook the issues that continue to cause problems across the whole world. One such event was the disastrous explosion at the port in Lebanon on 4th August.

The Barnabas Fund has thanked its supporters for their generous response to an emergency appeal which meant it was able to send more than £85,000 to help Christians in Beirut with food and the repair of their homes. Tearfund has also moved fast to help people hit by the explosion. Their local partners have been distributing thousands of hot meals, as well as vouchers to enable those most in need to buy food and hygiene items. Its partner churches and faith organisations are also giving emotional support to families and also providing shelter for those who have lost their homes.

Help is still very much needed and donations can still be made through either charity at:

<https://www.tearfund.org> or

<https://barnabasfund.org>



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

## With love from the Vicar . . .

I hope this finds you and your loved ones keeping safe and well as we move into another season still very much affected by Covid 19. Thankfully, Autumn can bring with it its own particular beauty in the varied and changing colours and crops safely gathered in ready for new growth ahead. The experience of lockdown has given many of us opportunities to appreciate the natural world more than we may have done before – to take more note of its sights, smells and sounds and to find reassurance in its rhythms and patterns. I've enjoyed watching the birds in my garden and they've become my breakfast companions each day.



Rather than having just a one-off Harvest Festival, in recent years many churches have taken a longer time through September and October to focus on our relationship with the environment in a season which has become known as Creationtide. It's an opportunity to be thankful for the wonder of the universe we are a tiny yet significant part of, and also to review how we can care for, rather than exploit, our environment.

David Attenborough's hard hitting documentary 'Extinction' showed in no uncertain terms how the destruction of habitats and increasing loss of biodiversity in species of plants and animals is having devastating consequences, some of which we are beginning to feel so acutely now in the spread of viruses human beings have never before been exposed to. The hope is that we have a small window of opportunity now to stem the tide and turn things around before it's too late. The long term social and economic restructuring our post-Covid world will require has the potential to allow us to



address these issues in ways we might have been reluctant to do before. Perhaps in these long winter months we can find our own small ways of turning things around closer to home and becoming part of the solution.

*With love, Gail*

## New Ways to Give!

We're very thankful for all the support we generously receive at St Giles to help us sustain and grow our care and service for the local community for generations to come. Making a donation to St Giles is now very quick, easy and secure through our online giving platforms. You can give through the Donate button on our website [www.stgileschurchexhall.info](http://www.stgileschurchexhall.info) and through the link on our Facebook Page St Giles' Church, Exhall. Any donation you can make, particularly in these more challenging times, would make a vital difference. Thank you.



...I've moved with the times - I've now got  
a solar-powered radio microphone...

## ***The Upper Room* writing competition 2020**

Calling all aspiring Christian writers! The Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF) is offering aspiring writers the opportunity to see their work in print in *The Upper Room*.

Published in 35 languages, *The Upper Room* is unique in that its readers are its writers. After the success of the 2017 competition, this is another chance to write for the publication.

Go to [brfonline.org.uk/urwritingcompetition](http://brfonline.org.uk/urwritingcompetition) for full details on how to enter and tips to get your started. More details from: [eley.mcainsh@brf.org.uk](mailto:eley.mcainsh@brf.org.uk) or [iris.jenkins@brf.org.uk](mailto:iris.jenkins@brf.org.uk)

# Jen's Page



It feels like autumn has well and truly hit us and whilst things are still unsettled and ever changing, I hope that you find it as much of a comfort as I do to see the seasons changing as they always do. It feels like a reminder of how God is such a constant for us through the chaos.

I don't know about you but my family and I have found that our 'new normal' is an odd one! There are some things have almost gone back to normal, some things are still completely missing from our old routine and brand new things have been introduced too! This period of time, much like moving from summer to autumn, is bringing lots of change and while some of it is not quite how we would hope it would be, some of it is rather new and exciting!

Since I last updated you we have been involved in lots of planning. One of the good things about this experience is the opportunity to get creative with our ideas, thinking about the different ways we can reach people. This year we may find that our traditions are not so ... traditional, but we can still make them wonderful even though they may be different.

At the moment we have been sticking with our online **Playgroup** story time and sing song, although we have added in a **Zoom session** every Thursday morning at 10am where we are hoping to see more of our families and childminder friends, have a cuppa together and have a chat. If you are interested in joining in with that or know someone who might, please get in contact with me or find our St Giles Church, Exhall Playgroup Facebook page.

At the moment we will not be restarting Playgroup in person as we feel it is important to keep the risk as low as we possibly can. Hopefully when things start to improve we can look at returning to our hall as we miss everyone terribly!

We have absolutely loved having some children back into church during the past few weeks and we feel confident about being able to provide the children with activities within the 10.30am service, so please do book a space with your children if you feel ready to come back. We would love to see you there.

We are very excited to let you know that we have plans for a new All Age Family Service called '**Happy Hearts and Minds**'! We will be bringing this All Age Family Service to our Main Hall once a month on a Sunday afternoon. There will be a similar booking system to our 10.30am church service each week and we are excited to be able to welcome families into the hall to take part in some worship (although we can't all sing just yet!), maybe some crafts



and some family challenges. Each family will be seated around their own table, safely distanced from everyone else and each table will have its own resources so we hope it's somewhere that you can feel really confident about coming to! Our first Happy Hearts and Minds Service will be on **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm** and we would LOVE to see you there. Please keep your eye on the Facebook Page and Pew Sheet for instructions on how to book!

The coming months are usually a hugely busy time for Children's and Families' work at St Giles' and we are hoping that this year will be as busy as usual only in new and interesting ways! **Harvest** is upon us and this time last year Rev Gail and I visited the local schools to speak to them in assemblies all about Harvest and why we should be thankful. This year as we are currently not able to be in school with the students for assemblies, we decided to take it to a virtual level! We recorded our very own assembly in the church building and have sent it out to the schools, so we should be appearing in most children's classrooms across the parish around the Harvest period. We are so pleased that there are still ways to 'be with' the students and to bring them messages from the church! We are hoping to record more assemblies looking at topics such as Remembrance and Advent.

We will be continuing with our online **Family Church at Home** resources on a Sunday and we do hope you are finding some time to use some or all of the sheets! Our **Messy Church at Home** posts will continue on a Sunday afternoon too, and we will be using some of these activities during our services too.

We can't have our usual **All Hallow's Eve** Party this year which is such a huge shame as it's normally an absolute ball, however we have some different plans that families can take part in, so keep your eyes on the Facebook Page for more information!

I really hope that you are finding some positives in this highly unusual time and as we take time this month to consider Harvest, as well as being hugely thankful for our farmers, I hope that we can spend some time thinking about all that God is still doing around us. I am praying that you are all finding some calm amongst the chaos and that you feel God with you every step on this journey!

See you next time,

*Jen*



# Thought for the Month

One of our grandchildren has just started his A level economics course. At his first group session they were given a scenario with regard to the Covid 19 pandemic. They were given a list of groups and asked to rank them in terms of their economic worth. In other words choose the group who were valuable, the ones who were worth more ahead of those who were worth less. It seems a pretty good example of the way the world works but not the way God works.

This made me think about a sermon. In this story a vicar held up a brand new £20 note which had recently been collected from the bank. Turning to the congregation the vicar said, "Who would like this shiny £20 note?" Everyone in the congregation raised their hands. The vicar smiled and, looking at the congregation, crumpled up the note in her hands and then asked the question. "Who would still like this £20 note?"

Once again everyone raised their hands. The vicar smiled again, then threw the crumpled £20 note on to the floor and very deliberately trod on it and scuffed it into the carpet so that now it was not only horribly creased, it was dirty as well. The vicar picked up the note and again asked the congregation, "Who would like this £20 note?"

And once again the congregation lifted up their hands as one. They knew that no matter how scuffed up and dirty the £20 note got, it still retained its original worth.

We are all like that £20 note in God's eyes. No matter how often we let Him

down in our thoughts, our words and our deeds, His love for us is unchanging. Our worth to Him remains the same. Unlike the world which loves only those that have worth, God loves everyone including those that the world does not value. So next time you are feeling down in these strange times that we are living through take heart. God loves you and that is something which will never change.



***God Bless  
John***







# 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.*

The swallows and swifts have been gone a few weeks now, and the last to fly off are the house martins – hope they make it back next year. I was watching a cloud of gnats flying up and down (like they do) in the late sunshine, when suddenly an Emperor Dragonfly was seen trying to catch them for supper. The gnats soon scattered diving for cover. Just last week a chiffchaff was heard calling. Most of them migrate south, but with warmer winters may be they will decide to stay.



Four more bird stories:

-  I often hear the resident tawny owl. I can now say I have seen him, my night camera caught him on the ground after a mouse.
-  The cock pheasant has been here all the year, but the females go off during the breeding season, returning to the feeders in the autumn. After lunch, I was having a short nap when a tapping noise woke me up, and there was the first female pheasant returning, and pecking on the patio window – it was probably because she could see her reflection in the window. Nevertheless very welcome.
-  On a hot day my son's patio doors were wide open, and at great speed in flew a sparrowhawk chasing a bird. He hit the back wall and fell down the back of the settee followed by great panic in the household. A towel was thrown over him and eventually he was put back outside. He won't forget that for while.
-  I was given a colourful wrought iron kingfisher on a stick as a present. Where shall I put it? I decided to put in the flower border looking into the bird bath but after two weeks I had to move it as not one bird would come to drink at the bird bath – they obviously didn't like the look of this big kingfisher!

Maybe with more time to spare – try bird watching.

***Stella Bunting***

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Son of resident, April 2020 Source: carehome.co.uk



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[carehome.co.uk](https://carehome.co.uk)



**Families and supporting family life have always been at the heart of our work, and we recognise the importance of making time to step away from the stresses of everyday life, reconnect and create memories - enhancing wellbeing is essential to healthy lives and healthy families.**

There has been an outpouring of compassion and care during the current crisis from our hospital workers to our delivery drivers, carers to cleaners and our refuse collectors to bus drivers. However, this has not come without some cost. We are very aware that, because of their personal sacrifices, quality family time has not always been possible.

This is why we are extending our existing Away From it All Programme (AFIA) to say a special “thank you” to key workers in these unprecedented times. We were very excited to secure enough funding to get this project launched. Now we are hoping to raise more funds to provide experiences to as many key workers as possible.

Your donation will help provide a range of activity hampers, experience days or short breaks for families of key workers (to take place in 2021). These experiences will help rebuild connections and togetherness, especially for those who have been kept apart or who are on low incomes—families who would generally be unable to have times like these.

### **£20**

could help a key worker and their family enjoy a fun-packed hamper to reconnect over good food and fun games

### **£120**

could provide a family with a full day experience to improve their well-being and create lasting memories

### **£270**

could fund a short holiday for a key worker with their family to create lasting memories

**If you would like to make a donation to this appeal or nominate a Key Worker, further details can be found on the Mothers' Union Website.  
[www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org)**

# The Carter Summer Cruise



This was to be our main summer outing on our narrowboat, Chyandour. (Chyandour is Cornish for 'house on the water'.) Our aim was to go to Lincoln which involves travelling on several canals and the River Trent. We tried to get there last autumn, but you may remember that the end of September last year was

very, very wet, the Trent flooded and we gave up!

We started at Wyken Basin, Alderman's Green, where we moor our boat, then to Fradley, Shardlow, Fradley (again), Great Haywood, Stourton, Stourbridge, Birmingham, Fazeley, and home. You may notice that this list does not include Lincoln. This is because Storm Dennis caused chaos across the country. We were held up near Burton-on-Trent because of a tree brought down by the wind while workmen cleared a pathway. And the water levels were rising; the Environment Agency closed a flood lock on the Trent which would prevent us travelling through. We decided to turn round and go back as far as Fradley and then go west instead of east!

## Here are some of the highs and lows of our trip.

We travelled sections of many canals: Oxford, Coventry, Trent & Mersey, Staffs & Worcs, Stourbridge, Dudley No.1, Dudley No.2, Birmingham & Fazeley.

We did 162 locks and travelled almost 200 miles. One day we did 24 locks, and on another, 27. We slept well after doing all those! Some of the locks on the Trent & Mersey are broad rather than narrow. Narrow locks are wide enough for one boat at a time, broad locks are wide enough for two. Because broad locks are bigger, they can be very hard work! Fortunately, only 12 of the 162 were broad.





En route we passed through three places where we have lived and worked: Castlecroft near Wolverhampton, Netherton near Dudley and Smethwick.

Entertainment was provided at one lock, where a dog refused to get back on her boat. Her owner moored up

and came back to collect her, but she evaded him for some time before he was able to catch her.

During our cruise, we were able to see several friends who live next to or very close to a canal. We were even able to have coffee with them – socially distanced of course. We belong to Boaters' Christian Fellowship, and we always look out for boats displaying the BCF stickers in their windows. While it may not be possible to stop and talk to everyone, we manage to exchange greetings, or at least, to wave as we pass each other.

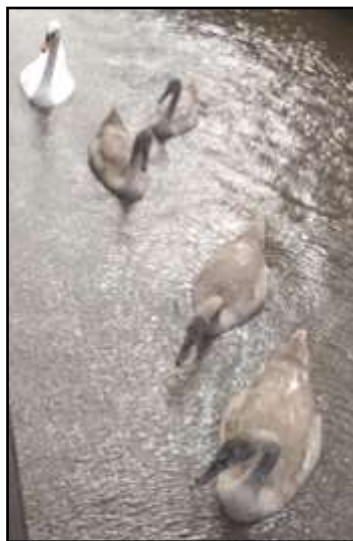
Usually when we are boating, we eat out a couple of times a week (we like to support local businesses!), but this trip, we only had two meals out. One was for our wedding anniversary at The Bridge Inn, Branston, a pub which does excellent Italian food. The other was a cooked breakfast at the Willows Tearoom in Mercia Marina near Derby. We also had two takeaways, an Indian meal from Cellars in Stourbridge and fish and chips in Fazeley, both very good.

We booked a visitor's slot online at Shugborough, so we moored at the closest point (the ancient Essex Bridge). We had coffee and cake in their tea-room and then enjoyed a walk around the grounds. We also acquired some vegetables for a donation to NT funds; their restaurant is not fully open so they've got a surplus of veg. On other days, we found free food – damsons collected on a walk and mushrooms picked on the towpath.

Having had torrential rain and gales, we ended the trip in unseasonably hot sunshine.

It wasn't the cruise we had planned, but it had been a good one.

**Gwyneth and Steve Carter**



## **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  
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More info:

Tina Watkins on **76645278/07905 297713** or  
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Info and photos:

**www.stgileschurchexhall.info**  
**or speak to Tina Watkins**  
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## Parent & Toddler Group



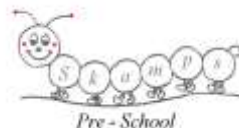
Calling all babies and toddlers! And their parents, grandparents and carers! Come and play for a hour and a half in lots of space, with our varied range of toys and activities, singing, snack time and just a place to hang out, relax and talk for a while.



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

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# Arrangements for Remembrance Sunday 2020

Sadly, due to Covid 19 restrictions, it will not be possible for our local community to gather at the War Memorial this year. However, we have been keen to find an alternative way to mark this special day and to commemorate those from Exhall and Ash Green who gave their lives in war. We have decided to mark the event indoors rather than outdoors this year.



On Sunday November 8<sup>th</sup> our 10.30 am service will focus on Remembrance. This service will incorporate all the elements of remembrance we would usually observe, including the 2-minute silence at 11.00am. Wreaths will also be presented for a blessing. To maintain safe social distancing, places in the church building are limited to 20. Anyone wishing to attend the Remembrance Service in church that morning will need to book a place in line with our current Covid-secure arrangements. This can be done by phone or email by contacting the Parish Office or our Vicar using the information given below.

The occasion will also be live streamed via Facebook Live on the St Giles, Exhall Facebook Page to allow people to join in from home as well. From Sunday Nov 1<sup>st</sup> there will be two wreath rings available in the churchyard so that members of the community can add a poppy if they wish (please maintain safe social distancing on visiting the churchyard). One ring will be on the bench by the church door and the second will be in the Garden of Rest at the bottom of the church drive, near the lychgate. By Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> we hope these wreaths will be full of poppies and a valuable representation of the local community's gratitude to those who gave their lives for our freedom. They will be placed alongside the other wreaths at the war memorial after the service on Nov 8<sup>th</sup>.

So, in summary, there will be NO gathering at the War Memorial and NO procession on Remembrance Sunday. For the safety of the community as a whole, we would value your cooperation in avoiding the temptation to congregate in that area on the day itself. Please note that the usual road closures will not be in place. We look forward to marking the occasion with the honour and dignity it deserves, albeit in a very different way this year and thank you for your support. Do remember to book a place to attend the service or watch on Facebook Live and do come along during the week to add your poppy to the community wreaths.

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

Rev Gail Phillip: [revgailvicar.stgiles@gmail.com](mailto:revgailvicar.stgiles@gmail.com)

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We run a monthly buffet, a monthly pub  
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films and of course refreshments...



We are a warm, friendly group  
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**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

## **Baptism**

*You have received the light of Christ;  
walk in this light all the days of your life.  
(from the Baptism Service)*

**13th September      Albert Tustin**

## **Funerals**

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

**Sharon Neale, a much loved member of our St Giles family, went home to be with Jesus on 14th September. Her funeral took place at the Heart of England Crematorium on Wednesday 30th September.**

## **Remembering Elizabeth Fry, prison reformer**

*Some people make the world a better place for  
hundreds of thousands of others.*

The prison reformer and philanthropist Elizabeth Fry died 175 years ago, on 12<sup>th</sup> October 1845. She was widely admired during her lifetime and after, and was depicted on the British £5 note between 2001 and 2016.

She was born into the family of a wealthy Quaker banker, John Gurney, in Norwich in 1870. She rededicated her life to Christ at the age of 18 and devoted herself to helping the downtrodden. This she continued to do after her marriage to London merchant Joseph Fry, and while bringing up 11 children.

She was a minister of the Society of Friends from 1811 and travelled in England and Europe inspecting prisons and writing reports that were highly influential, transforming gaols from “pits of indecency and brutality” to more orderly places with a new interest in reform. She was admired by both Queen Victoria and Florence Nightingale.

Early on she made frequent visits to Newgate Prison in London, suggesting radical improvements that were adopted both there and in other prisons. She read the Bible to inmates and gave Bibles away, combining social work with proclamation of the Gospel in a way that inspired future generations. Her insights also led to the Prison Reform Act of 1823.

***Tim Lenton, via Parish Pump***

## 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 07869 395980

## Church & Worship

Bell Ringing	Viv Hopkins	7664 5161
Brasses, Care Home Services	Chrissie Hughes	7631 5468
Choir/Organists	Henry Wagstaff Kathryn Unsworth	7633 2660 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	Jen Watson	07866 615873

## 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
Green Genies		7636 2168



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