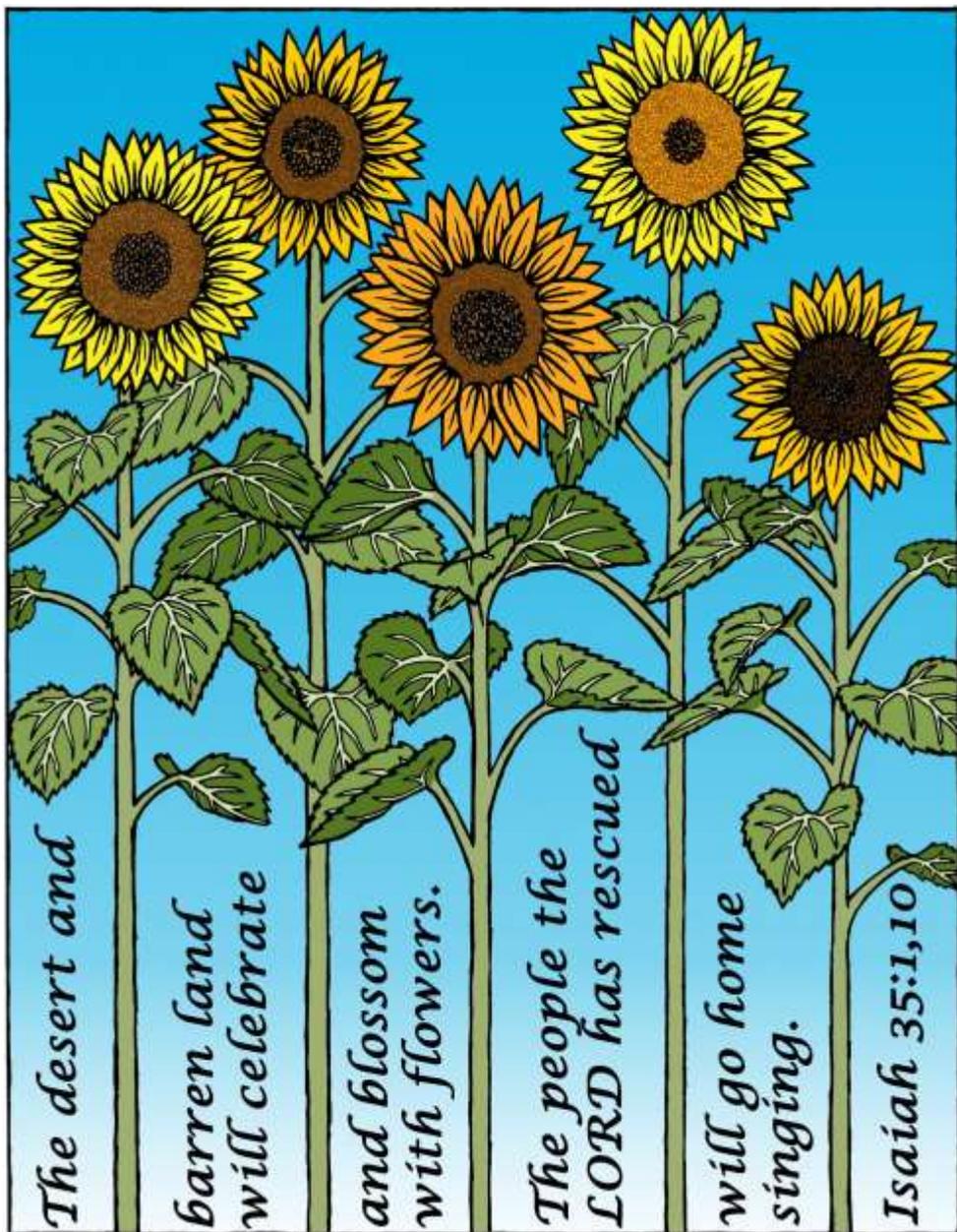


# St. Giles Church Exhall Parish Magazine



**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 Tuesday to Thursday, 9.30 am to 1.30 pm.

**Sunday Worship**

**We are currently offering one service at 10.30 am.**

**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.

**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. Burials are performed in St Giles' Meadow. Enquiries should be made to the office (024) 76 368008.

The Bereavement Drop-In is open on alternate Thursdays in the Main 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.

**When circumstances permit, 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: Party in the Park Poster

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 the September edition and the copy deadline date is **Wednesday 18th August.**

## Welcome to your Summer Magazine ...

And I hope you've been coping with the extremely hot weather we're having as I'm putting together this magazine! Luckily the weather did behave itself on 11th July when Rev Jo Parker preached her first sermon at St Giles as our new Assistant Curate. We were able to gather outside the church following the service and, despite Covid restrictions, give her a right royal St Giles welcome! Pictures can be found on pages 14 and 15.

There's also some sadness in the air as we bid a fond farewell to Jen Watson as she sets out on a new career path as an early years primary school teacher! All is not lost though, as Jen and her family will still be around as they plan to continue to worship at St Giles. There'll be a chance to say goodbye in person at our service on 15th August, when we hope once again to enjoy some refreshments together.

We had to postpone our Party in the Park planned for 17th July but have rearranged it for 4th September—see the back page for details and it would be great to see you there!

*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 . . .

As I write, 'Freedom Day' as it's sometimes been called, is just a day away. Yet, for many, July 19<sup>th</sup> feels far from a day of celebration, but rather a day to call for caution - with cases of infection still rising and hospitals verging on the brink of overload. We cherish our freedoms, many of which we may have come to realise are gift rather than entitlement during these now 16 months of pandemic life, but we often face complex choices about how the exercise of those freedoms is likely to affect others.



In one of his letters to an emerging church in Corinth, Paul writes that 'Everything is permissible for me, but not everything is beneficial.' (1 Cor. 6:12). Whilst he rejoiced that the coming of Jesus meant that many of the old requirements of religious law could now be laid aside (having found the fulfilment of their purpose in Christ) Paul recognised that the diversity of the newly formed church community meant that people would be moving at different speeds and from different understandings in their approaches to these changes. For him, exercising true freedom in Jesus involved giving higher priority to the concerns and needs of others, over and above individual choice and preference. It meant sometimes doing more than we might consider strictly necessary in order to truly love our neighbour and to love each other well.

At St Giles, we're still finding our way as we move beyond July 19<sup>th</sup>. For the sake of the those who feel most vulnerable, for the sake of those who still feel nervous about stepping into social settings again, we're continuing with a cautious approach. Though it won't be a legal requirement, we're still encouraging people where possible to wear masks during services for the time being. We'll still have the sanitiser very much on hand and the doors wide open for ventilation. We'll continue distributing Communion in one kind only and we'll be maintaining some measure of social distancing. There will no longer be a need to book for the 10.30 am Service and we're really looking forward to being able to sing together again! We hope this gradual approach will be of help to those who may only just be at the point of thinking they might tentatively try a return to worship in the building. We'll maintain our livestreaming and Zooming of services for those who may still not feel quite ready. We continue to be St Giles Reuniting, slowly but surely, bit by bit and step by step for as long as it takes!

As we had the joy of welcoming Jo, our Curate, in July, we're now preparing in August to say a sad yet very fond farewell to Jen, our Children's and Families' Development Worker as she moves into a long standing sense of call to go into teaching and early years education. We'll be using the 10.30 am Service on Sunday August 15<sup>th</sup>, hopefully with a get together for refreshments afterwards, to celebrate Jen's wonderful ministry amongst us – do book the date! We're delighted that Jen and family will very much remain part of the church family here at St Giles and we look forward to seeing her continue to flourish in a new role within our community. We'll continue to build on the great network of relationships and the firm foundations Jen has established to take our Children's and Families' work forward at St Giles – we can all be a part of that!

Finally, I wish you all a really relaxing and refreshing summer, however you're spending it. Do take the opportunity for rest and recuperation as we continue to navigate our way through the latest changes and developments, waiting to see what the autumn will bring!

With every blessing

*Gail*

## Amazing success for fundraisers!

On 26th June Kim Vallance (centre) aided and abetted by her friends Nina Bawden (right) and Paula Osborne held a fundraising event on her drive at Lychgate Cottage next to the church. The event was in aid of Myton Hospice and Cancer Research. Over 50 raffle prizes were on offer, along with

refreshment sales and stalls manned by local folk.

Lots of people bought raffle tickets in advance, and plenty more turned up on the day, with the result that the magnificent sum of £5000 was raised for these two worthy causes. What a great achievement and well worth all the hard work! Well done ladies and thanks to all who supported the event!



# Jen's Page



It is with great sadness that I write our Children's and Families' section for our August magazine, as this will be my last one in my role at St Giles. Many of you will know that I have been at St Giles since June 2017, when I had the pleasure of coming to join this wonderful church family. At the beginning of September I will be going into Early Years Primary Teacher Training and as I'm sure you'll understand, this has not been an easy decision for me to make to move on. I have felt called into teaching for a few years now and during the past year I have really felt nudged that this is the time for me to start making a move. So, I am trusting God that this is the right time and decision. I will still be around until the end of August and would really appreciate your prayers as I start this new journey. I am so grateful for the continued prayers, support and encouragement that I have received from you across the years, thank you for helping to make this such a wonderful place to be a part of. I am really thrilled to let you know that myself, Lee, Isla, Noah and Judah will still be around at St Giles as part of the congregation!

I am excited that we are able to squeeze a few fun things in at church before I leave especially as restrictions are lifting!

By the time you read this, we will have already enjoyed our July **Happy Hearts and Minds** service looking at the theme 'Hello, Goodbye' which feels very apt for the season we are in as a country with restrictions coming to an end, the school year coming to an end, my time with St Giles finishing whilst also saying an enormous hello to Reverend Jo! This will hopefully be our last Happy Hearts and Minds with our booking system in place so I am excited to see how it develops in the coming months.

**Playgroup** has officially finished for the summer and we have had great fun meeting up in the meadow by the memorial stone every other week for some outdoor fun. At our last session we enjoyed lots of bubbles and watery play! We are unsure what will happen in the future with playgroup at the moment, however if you would like to keep up to date with the latest news and you are on Facebook, please make sure you like the St Giles Church Facebook page and also the St Giles Church Exhall Playgroup group!

On **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July** there is a special 'All Age' Church Service and there will also be a 'Goodbye service' on **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> August**, where we are hoping to have a bit of a celebration and some nibbles afterward! It would be fantastic if you are able to join us.



# Thought for the Month

## All Shall Be Well

*“All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.”*

These words, penned by fourteenth century English mystic Julian of Norwich in what would come to be known as her Showings, have become a source of encouragement to many in times of uncertainty and turbulence. Amid the volatility and turmoil of our present moment, such words as these offer much-needed comfort to those who are understandably anxious in the present and fearful about the future.



However, a note of caution is required as to how we ought to understand these famous words.

It's tempting to see Lady Julian's words as an assurance that nothing bad will happen to us: that, whatever might befall us, there will always be some kind of providential safety net to protect us from the worst. But that cannot be so, for two reasons. First, Julian is thought to have written these words while mortally ill; thus, whatever it was that moved her to write them, it was not a firm conviction that she would recover and live to a ripe old age. (In fact, she did recover and live for another thirty-three years, but that's another story.) And second, we manifestly live in a world in which dreadful and deadly things can and do happen even to the most godly and selfless people.

That being the case, to attempt to use these words as a shield against the vagaries of life is to twist them into a cheap platitude that denies the reality both of the circumstances in which they were written and of the world as we know it.

How, then, are we to understand and take encouragement from Lady Julian's affirmation? I think there are two ways we can do so.

First, Julian's words remind us that, no matter how great the storm that encircles us, it is possible for us to be truly at peace with ourselves and the world – not easy, but possible. To achieve this kind of inner peace takes great self-awareness and a determined pursuit of inner silence and solitude – things Lady Julian herself pursued to what most would consider an extreme degree. In

this way, it is possible for us to sincerely assert that “all is well” even in the midst of the storm, just as nineteenth century hymn-writer Horatio Spafford was able to write the famous words “It is well with my soul” even in the wake of his financial ruin and the tragic deaths of all five of his children.

And second, as those who believe that death has been swallowed up in the victory of resurrection, we can genuinely hold fast to the truth that even if the very worst should happen, it will not be the end of the story. This, surely, is how Lady Julian was able to remain resolutely hopeful even in the face of what she probably assumed was her imminent death.

So, in these uncertain times, let us be encouraged, and let us encourage one another, but not with trite and hollow promises about an earthly future none of us can predict. Rather, let us seek the kind of peace that is offered by the Prince of Peace, and let us hold firmly to the hope that even death, should it unexpectedly come knocking, is not the end, but merely a doorway to another part of the journey.

***Rob Grayson***

**I asked for strength that I might achieve;  
He made me weak that I might obey.**

**I asked for health that I might do greater things;  
I was given grace that I might do better things.**

**I asked for riches that I might be happy;  
I was given poverty that I might be wise.**

**I asked for power that I might have the praise of men;  
I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God.**

**I asked for all things that I might enjoy life;  
I was given life that I might enjoy all things.**

**I received nothing that I asked for, all that I hoped for:  
My prayer was answered, I was most blessed.**

***Author unknown.***

# St Giles X Stitch Group

## *Au Revoir, Adieu, Goodbye.*

**It is with sadness that St Giles X Stitch Group will cease  
from 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

I believe St. Giles Cross Stitch Group began in July 1996. Mark Powell who was the vicar at that time thought the Church kneelers needed re-vamping and Anita Dudley started a group on a Tuesday evening to begin this task. The cost of the materials for recovering the kneelers was raised by individuals who would request a kneeler to be re-covered in memory of a loved one or to commemorate a Wedding Anniversary or such like and pay £15 for the costs. I phoned Anita to request a kneeler in memory of my mother-in-law and Anita said "Come along and why don't you join us and re-cover the kneeler yourself ". Which I did! Not too long after I took over from Anita and St. Giles X Stitch Group celebrates its 25 years Anniversary this year.



I have kept records since then and it is fascinating to look through and see the names of members who have attended over the years. Some have moved away, moved on or sadly died. Precious memories!

Wonderful memories of so many fund-raising activities we have enjoyed, guest speakers we have welcomed, demonstrations, meals out and outings. We would fill a 53 seater coach and three memorable occasions were visits to Blenheim Palace, Chatsworth House and Waddesdon Manor.

We have raised thousands of pounds which we have donated to many charities and of course we have re-covered all of the Church kneelers too. One unforgettable speaker was an auctioneer from Bonhams who invited everyone to bring in two items which he would value. This was an open meeting with cheese and wine. We had in excess of 90 people attend and raised quite a substantial amount for our chosen charities that year.

In the early years for the last meeting before Christmas we would all go to my parents' house and my father would play Christmas Carols on their piano and we would all sing around a log fire whilst eating mince pies. Lovely memories! My Mum died six years ago and my father in August 2020, having reached 100 years of age. Ernie and I decided to move to Chipping Campden in The Cotswolds to be near to our daughters Emma and Charlotte and our four grandchildren.

COVID-19 and subsequent lockdowns curtailed our X stitch meetings and our Group will be coming to an end- unless a younger generation would like to take on the mantle.

Oh dear!!! As I start to look through 23 years of records, I can feel tears beginning to flow. Where have all the years gone? A visit to The Almshouses in Bedworth, a guided tour of the new Ricoh Stadium. A donation of £100 to The American Firefighters Appeal after The Twin Towers tragedy in New York 2001. A donation of £200 for The Tsunami disaster in December 2004. Then I thought about the thousands of tapestry stitches that were worked into every kneeler of which I think there are about 120. The comfort those kneelers have given to so many pairs of knees that have knelt on them over the years during Church services, Weddings and Funerals.

In 2002 we started work on The Communion Rail Kneeler at a cost of £750 for the materials and we informed the PCC that we would fund the project. I noted that during 2013 we knitted 20 dignity blankets for UHCW and made a number of dresses out of pillowcases for a particular African country. There has been no end to our talents indeed!

The overriding feeling I have is one of immense gratitude to have had the opportunity through this Group to have met so many people and formed a bond with each other. We hope to keep in touch and meet up for lunch on a regular basis. We have our final meeting on Tuesday 7th September in The Small Hall. Thank you to all past and present members for allowing me the enormous privilege of leading St. Giles X Stitch Group over the last 23 years.

***Ann Crutchlow***

The Green Genies would like to thank all those who came on 12th June to help plant the borders (18 in all) with the wonderful begonias grown and supplied once again by Stella.

We had a lovely friendly (Covid safe) morning and it was nice to meet up after months of lockdown.

Please help us to keep them looking good by watering whenever you can.

Thank you

***Stella, Jackie and Robert***



# Life by the River



We are now into the middle of July but where did June go? We had some exciting happenings going on in Welford! On the weekend of June 5th we awoke to a clear blue sky. Suddenly right above us was a 'whoosh' and 80 or so hot air balloons were right overhead, all wonderful colours and shapes. Two landed in the field next to us—the owner received a bottle of wine. There was also a display by the Red Arrows. It

was all connected with the Midland Air show at Ragley Hall. They were due to come back in the evening and we waited in anticipation but there was too much cloud, so that was our show for this year.

**Update on the swans** She sat on her nest on the bank by the bridge for 6-8 weeks, then came a buzz of excitement as Mum and Dad came swanning round in front of us with four lovely cygnets in the middle of them. They come two to three times each day to see what we can give them— posh swan food or porridge and frozen garden peas (one of their five a day). They are very protective of their little family and peck the ducks out of the way if they get too close; they definitely take priority on the river.



After June 16th my neighbour started fishing right outside his home. He catches plenty and a moorhen keeps him company waiting for a few dropped maggots. Then last Saturday, something he has waited three years for, he caught a 5lb bream. He was overjoyed and called me to take a photo to record the catch.

I have been to St Peter's Church in the village for Family Communion. I was made very welcome but booking and masks are still in place; when, oh when will we be able to be fully open again.

As I sit on the balcony on this lovely sunny day there is always a sight to see, the narrow boats, motor boats, paddle boarders, canoeists and then the odd swimmer who happens to be my daughter Mel....



Roses in the Village

As we look forward to better weather in the next few weeks, I can take in the lovely Warwickshire countryside as I walk Poppy, which seems to change each week as an abundance of wild flowers come into bloom to decorate the beauty of the hedgerows.

As one day ends and another begins may you be aware of God's promises, may a sunset and a dawn help you to remember that He moves in seasons and rhythms. And be thankful with a grateful heart.

### ***Blessings***

***From Jane Smith and Poppy***

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### **More memories from Jen! (see page 7)**



# Thank you for a fantastic welcome!

What an amazing couple of weeks I've had! I was ordained deacon by Bishop John on Sunday 4th July and got the keys to my new home, in Exhall, the next day. Having spent a week moving in and meeting new people, I was given the most wonderful welcome at my first Sunday service as Rev. Jo. Thank you everyone! Thank you for your kind words, cards, flowers, encouragement and cake!



You have made me feel so at home and I'm really looking forward to getting to know you all better over the coming months.

Every blessing,

**Rev Jo**





Jo, it's our great pleasure and privilege to extend a warm welcome to you as you join us as Assistant Curate. As you can see from the happy faces in the photos, we are all delighted that you have chosen St Giles as your training parish and very much look forward to working with you, and indeed, getting to know **you**, over the months and years to come!

## Transfiguration Wordsearch



Transfiguration  
Beloved  
Mankind  
Mount  
Elijah

Mountain  
Son  
New  
Sinai  
prophets

Peter  
Well  
covenant  
Sealing  
Radiant

James  
Pleased  
Face  
Moses

John  
Dwelling  
Exodus  
Law

# The Big Bash!



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A RICH MAN WHO DECIDED TO HAVE A PARTY

HE SENT OUT LOTS OF INVITATIONS

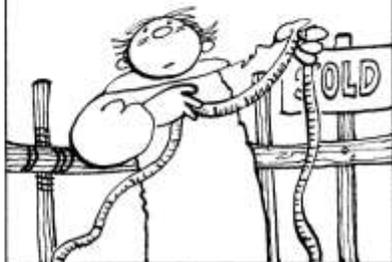


OH! NO!!

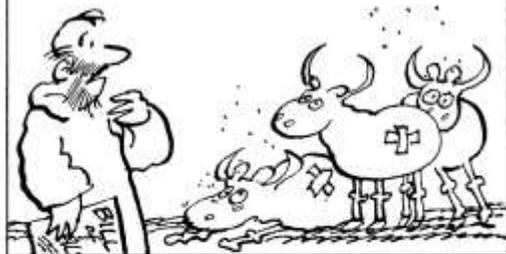


BUT PEOPLE STARTED MAKING EXCUSES

ONE MAN SAID HE HAD BOUGHT A FIELD, BUT NEEDED TO MEASURE IT



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE NEEDED TO TEST DRIVE THE OXEN HE HAS JUST PAID FOR



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE HAD JUST GOT MARRIED - AND HIS WIFE WOULDN'T LET HIM OUT!

SO THE RICH MAN INVITED ALL THE POOR AND NEEDY INSTEAD.



YES - I CAN COME TO YOUR PARTY

THE PARABLE MEANS WE SHOULDN'T MAKE EXCUSES FOR NOT FOLLOWING JESUS.

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Please contact Gaynor 07714 326706 e-mail: [g.powell7@ntlworld.com](mailto:g.powell7@ntlworld.com)  
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For further information please contact [www.leiversdance.co.uk](http://www.leiversdance.co.uk), contact us on 07929371749 or find us on Facebook by searching for Leivers Dance School.



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 Longford Bridge, Coventry, CV6 6BH      024 76 367149

## 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**

# 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.*

We planted the begonias on 12th June. So good to see all the regular Green Genies and five new faces joining, making 18 in all. Many thanks. The churchyard and meadow are looking good now and a pleasure for folk to come and sit for a while and enjoy. I got the trays of plants out of the greenhouse to harden off before planting. Mistake - two muntjac appeared in the evening. Being vegetarian I thought they might eat them but they had a drink from the bird bath and wandered off into the tall cow parsley.

**News from the Nook.** Bee orchids have been found in flower on the site of the old Newdigate tip. They like disturbed ground such as quarries or old mining spoil heaps. We did find orchids here some 20 years ago; glad to know they are still surviving. There are orchid bees too. They are solitary bees, they have no colony and no queen to defend but they will sting if threatened. In other Nook news a flock of nearly 100 (yes, that's right 100) jackdaws can be seen settling to roost in their favourite ash tree at night. What a noise as they call to each other.

July usually starts harvest early now - the enormous combined harvester cuts 30ft wide through the grain in air conditioned cabs. They are capable of harvesting 80 acres in a day, untouched by hand. In years gone by the grain was cut by the binder round and round the field until all the rabbits made a dash for the hedge or they might become dinner for some family. The farm neighbours all came to stook the sheaves and after a few days' sun the sheaves were loaded on to the wagon and taken to the rick yard and expertly stacked in the Dutch barn before threshing later. Much manpower and lady power was needed in those days.

August is a quiet time for birds. After the hectic nesting period most of the birds begin to moult, and until their new feathers grow they are vulnerable to predators, and try to keep well hidden. This year's three young foxes are nearly as big as their parents and now they total five. They soon get to know when it's feeding time!



*Stella Bunting*

## 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**

### 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 [tinawatkins@btinternet.com](mailto:tinawatkins@btinternet.com)

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**and click on church halls tab**

**or speak to Tina Watkins on 07905 297713**





## **WELCOME BACK TO MOTHERS' UNION**

### **ON THURSDAY 19TH AUGUST 2.30 – 4.30 pm**

Please join us for our meeting in the LARGE HALL. We hope to have a large Bring and Buy Table, so now is the time to sort out all the books you have read and all the jigsaws you have done, and all those unwanted gifts you have received during the last 18 months. All proceeds will go to AFIA (Away from it all Holidays) Please bring a plate of food to share and drinks will be provided. **If you want a lift please phone Mandy and it will be arranged.**

*With love and prayers from Mary and Chrissie—and:*  
Cynthia & Roy 7636 7406      Yvonne 76749511  
Viv 7664 5161      Mandy 7633 7188

### **Prayer Diary for August 2021**

One of the main priorities of Jesus was to spend time with his Father, so let us too create space and find time to be with our Heavenly Father, to listen to Him and to offer ourselves and our prayers to enable Him to use us.

**1<sup>st</sup>—5<sup>th</sup> 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.

**6<sup>th</sup> 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.

**7<sup>th</sup>—8<sup>th</sup> August** We thank you Father for Mary Sumner and her obedience to your calling to her. We pray for the future of Mothers' Union that members will respond to your calling to them to be bold and take up positions of responsibility within the world wide Mothers' Union for your vision to go from strength to strength.

**9<sup>th</sup> August MARY SUMNER DAY** (Mary Sumner's Prayer) 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.

**10<sup>th</sup>—12<sup>th</sup> August** Over these days, just be still and spend some time in the presence of your Heavenly Father, letting Him minister to you in the quiet.

**13<sup>th</sup>—14<sup>th</sup> August** We pray for our young people, who have suffered so much through this pandemic, and we pray for our Churches that they would reach out and come alongside all who are struggling to comfort and encourage them.

**15<sup>th</sup> August** We remember the Blessed Virgin Mary, we give thanks for Mary the mother of Jesus, who was obedient to her calling, who suffered heartbreak as she looked on as her precious Son Jesus was so cruelly treated and murdered, knowing in her heart HE was the saviour of the world, whom she had carried in her womb.

**16<sup>th</sup>—23<sup>rd</sup> August** We pray for families who are struggling at this time, worried about their futures and the threat of job losses, please Lord may they have hope for the future.

**24<sup>th</sup>—30<sup>th</sup> August** We pray for the economy of our country, that there will be shoots of new growth in all areas of work and businesses as we come out of this pandemic.

**31<sup>st</sup> August** Father God we thank you with all our hearts, that despite all the uncertainty and the unknown in our lives at the moment, YOU ARE THE CONSTANT, you are our rock, our shelter, our peace and our hope.

Thank you. Amen.

## This month ...

### The Transfiguration

On 6 August the Church remembers the Transfiguration of Jesus. The story is told in Matthew 17, Mark 9 and Luke 9. The mountain may well have been one of the three high spurs of Mount Hermon, which rises to 9,000 feet. Jesus was suddenly transfigured before Peter, James and John. His face began to shine as the sun, his garments became white and dazzling. Then Elijah and Moses appeared, but why? These two men represent the Law and the Prophets of the Old Covenant, or Old Testament. But both the Law and the Prophets found their true and final fulfilment in Jesus, the Messiah. Elijah and Moses were handing on the baton, if you like. Now God's dwelling with mankind would depend on the New Covenant based on Jesus' death on the cross.

*Parish Pump*



## St Giles Meadow

*Can we be  
Friends?*

### **Would you like to support us in looking after St Giles Meadow?**

Our meadow is looked after by a small group of volunteers from St Giles Church. We're keen to keep our local community informed about how the meadow is cared for—and would also welcome help with caring for this lovely resource.

To help us in this important task we plan to form a *Friends of St Giles Meadow* to involve as many people as possible in maintaining and protecting this beautiful space.

As a *Friend* you will:

- Receive a twice-yearly newsletter full of information about how we care for the burial space respectfully and maintain the area in a way that allows nature to thrive.
- Have the opportunity to join in with organised working parties.
- Be able to share your ideas and concerns with our meadow group.

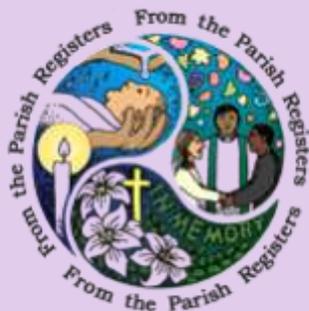
To become a *Friend* please complete the information below and return it to the parish office or the vicarage, 36 St Giles Road. There is no subscription charge but donations towards the costs of keeping in touch with members of the *Friends* group would be welcome at any time. Thank you.

Name:

Address:

Email:

Telephone:



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

**Kathleen Farrer, who died on 31st May  
aged 93 years**

**Frank Leslie Manger, who died on 19th June  
aged 74 years**

## **Weddings**

**Tony Fanning and Laura Hillary on 19th June**

## **Tribute to Arthur Tew, whose funeral was held on 2nd June.**

Arthur was born on 27<sup>th</sup> November 1933 to Edward and Clara Tew in School Lane, Exhall. Arthur's childhood was one of work and play in the family smallholding in School Lane (now Bruce Road) and highlights included cycle rides to Corley Rocks.

Arthur attended Ash Green School where he discovered a interest for music and sport. He joined the school choir, and also the church choir here at St. Giles, and started a lifetime support for Coventry City football club. After leaving school he qualified as a draughtsman. In doing so he was awarded Freedom of the City of Coventry in 1955. He worked for various city firms, eventually ending up at Rolls Royce at Parkside, then later at Ansty.

His interest in sport led to him joining Coventry Godiva Harriers Athletics Team where he excelled in the discipline of Race Walking. This interest would lead to him competing in many races over the next 10+ years, most notably the gruelling Manchester to Blackpool race, winning many medals and trophies. Although he never made it to national standards, he considered his two greatest accomplishments to be that, in a sport ripe for disqualifications, he himself was never disqualified, and he never dropped out. And these really were the rules he lived by throughout his life – he never cheated anyone, he always persevered and kept to his word.

At this time Arthur was a member of the Co-eds Concert Party. This group would tour local village halls to put on shows of music and comedy and appeared in St Giles church hall one night in the 1950s. Unfortunately the night they chose was the same one as ITV was launched and the BBC killed off Grace

Archer so their entire audience consisted of Arthur's mother and two of her friends! But the show went on! Arthur was paired with a young singer Joyce Adams for the duet *In the twi-twilight*. A romance quickly blossomed and they were married at St Nicolas Church Radford in August 1956. Their first home was in Wyken, and it was here that David and Chris were born in the 1960s.

Chris remembers that, despite World Cup frenzy leading up to the final when England played West Germany on 31st July 1966, he and his dad were having a spoonful of sugar with Julie Andrews because, despite being a football mad supporter, a while before knowing that England would be in the final, he had made a promise to his 4 year year-old son, that he would take him to the cinema, to see the opening of *Mary Poppins*. And, remembering that he always kept his promises, he gave up his own pleasure for the sake of making him happy. But then, that's the sort of person he was!

In 1968 Arthur and Joyce moved to School Lane, Exhall where David and Chris spent the rest of their childhood and teenage years, and have fond memories of Sunday School and Church led by the Rev Norman Howes.

At this time too, Arthur returned to his first love of acting. He joined the Bedworth Players who put on plays at Nicholas Chamberlaine School. This group later evolved into the Bedworth Amateur Theatre Group and then Bedworth Theatre Company, by now putting on shows at the newly opened Civic Hall. During this time he developed an interest in writing, and wrote the play *Albert's Prime*. This play got its world premier at the Civic Hall in 1977! He also wrote poems, producing two books, and during the 1980s and 90s would give recitals to local groups.

In 1987 Arthur and Joyce moved to the quieter spot of Salcombe Close, Nuneaton and Arthur took up a new part time post as Technician for Warwickshire County Council's Northern Support Service at Keresley and also set up his own print business, *AT Print*, working from the office set up in his home.

After retirement, as Joyce's health deteriorated, he became her full time carer. It's hard to know just what the physical toll this must have had on Arthur, now well into his 70s and early 80s. However, he would have it no other way.

After Joyce's death in 2017, Arthur moved Bede Village, and threw himself into all the activities on offer there. It was also the chance to move back into Exhall. Chris recalls his excited phone call on his first Sunday back when he told him that he had been to St Giles Church and was welcomed back so warmly.

Chris and David are thankful to the carers at Bede Village for their support during the very difficult lockdown periods and Louise and her team at the Haven Nursing Home where he spent his final days—even enjoying a glass of beer in the garden shortly after arriving!

Fond memories indeed, and a race very well run.

## Ministry & Admin

Vicar	Gail Phillip	024 7664 5030 07869 395980
Assistant Curate	Jo Parker	024 76310291
Wardens	Neva Khan	07496 859598
	Denise Crampsie	07952 267685
Readers	John Owen	7636 6111
	Chris Wilson	07717 523512
Administrator/Rotas	Penny Pallett	7636 8008
Bereavement Drop-In	Sue Barnes	07946 051122
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	7664 5533
	Kathryn Unsworth	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	Gail Phillip	024 7664 5030 07869 395980
Thursday Toddler Group	TBC	

## 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



St Giles Church invites you  
to join us for a



# PARTY IN THE PARK



St Giles Recreation Ground  
(behind the large Church Hall)

**Saturday 4th September**  
**From 12.00 noon until 3.00 pm**

Fun rounders match  
Field a team of six or just join in on the day!



Please bring  
your own picnic  
and something  
to sit on!



**FREE EVENT—ALL WELCOME!**