

# St. Giles Church Exhall Parish Magazine

*Then sings my soul...*

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“HOW  
GREAT  
THOU ART”

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September 2021

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

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

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

The Parish Office is open 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 October edition and the copy deadline date is **19th September.**

## Welcome to your September Magazine ...

We are gradually easing back into social activities as restrictions have been lifted, and we at St Giles are delighted to be able to confirm that our Coffee Morning (or day to be precise) is going ahead on 18th September in the Small Hall. Full details are on page 12. Of course, prior to that date we have our Party in the Park on 4th September. Let's hope the weather is kind to us but I'm sure that, whatever the weather, we'll have a great time!

Local organisations are also beginning to meet again, one of which is our own Mothers' Union, who are recommencing their activities in the Small Hall on 16th September. More information can be found on page 17.

Donations towards Harvest flowers, along with fresh produce to decorate the church, would be much appreciated and details of how you can help are included on page 5.

In July we welcomed Jo Parker as our Assistant Curate and she shares her thoughts with us on page 4. Welcome to the magazine Jo!

*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 Curate . . .

Hello everyone. It's now nearly two months since I moved to Exhall. I've settled into my new home really well and have been made extremely welcome by everyone I've met. I'm looking forward to meeting more of you face to face as we continue to emerge from isolation. I'm aware that I've not yet seen St Giles Church and community as they 'normally' are. Several people have told me how things used to be, but none of us know what the future holds.



I've spent quite a lot of time recently in and around the church and meadow. The tranquillity of the meadow, so close to the motorway, is beautiful. Home to many birds, flowers and trees the meadow provides both a peaceful resting place and a spiritual space, in which to walk and pray.

As autumn approaches, I've noticed blackberries ripening in the hedgerows, which reminded me of the poem, 'Blackberry-picking', by Seamus Heaney.

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/seamus-heaney>.

The poet remembers how as a young boy he and his friends gathered blackberries and tried to store them in a barn. Of course, once picked the berries soon rotted and what had seemed like a sumptuous feast, ended up as a stinking, rotting mess. Nowadays, we might choose to freeze blackberries to preserve them, but they are never quite as delicious as when freshly picked.

The blackberries reminded me that God's presence and bounty has to be found fresh day by day. We can't pop a moment of epiphany into the deep-freezer! Those occasions when God feels especially close and our hearts are warmed, are a gift from God. Like the children in the poem, who tried to hoard the blackberries, we might try to hold onto our spiritual experiences. However, over time, they fade and we can begin to feel that God is distance and our prayer life begins to go off. We may fear that God has abandoned us.

Jesus said, 'I am the bread of life'. Bread is another food that is best eaten fresh. Jesus gives us this spiritual food to sustain us into eternal life, fresh every day. Don't worry if you feel your experience of God has faded. Simply ask for new sustenance and our God, who is faithful and loves you, will provide everything you need for the day ahead.

Many of you have been asking when things at church will be back to normal. For September, we will continue to be reunited around one service of Holy Communion at 10.30 and we'll keep you posted for October. You are always very welcome to join us on Sundays, but if you can't, for whatever reason, you can still experience the gift of God's heavenly food in your heart, fresh every day. Just ask!

With love, Jo

## St Giles Harvest Festival

This year the Harvest Festival will be held on 3rd October and after a year with no decorations in church, we would love to be able to remedy this for Harvest 2021!

The fund is pretty much completely depleted at the moment so we would be most grateful for monetary donations to purchase flowers, and for produce to add to the display.

Please place cash contributions in an envelope clearly marked "Harvest Flowers" and place in the collection plate in church, or hand to Rev Gail or Irene Prideaux.

Produce can be brought to the church on the evening of Friday 1st October between 7.00 pm and 8.00 pm or on Saturday 2nd October between 9.00 am and 10.00 am.

***Many thanks!***



**A notice outside a cathedral advertising  
lunchtime concerts read:**

**"Sandwiches may be eaten."**

**Someone had scrawled underneath:**

***"So if you are a sandwich don't come."***

# Thought for the Month

The bible begins with the words  
**“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”**

John in his Gospel tells us,  
**“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word  
was with God and the Word was God.”**

Jesus, through His life, crucifixion and resurrection, brought about a new beginning and each day ever since has brought about a new beginning for His followers through their confession and forgiveness.

As we emerge from the Covid 19 pandemic we are also entering a new beginning. It is co-incidental that this should happen in this month of September, a month normally associated with new beginnings. It is the month when children start to go to school for the first time. A month when they change schools, infants to junior and junior to secondary. It is also a month when those going on to university get down to their preparation, sorting out fees, loans, clothes and accommodation.

This September though, will be one unlike any other we have experienced. The last eighteen months or so have brought about tremendous changes and things will never be quite the same. We have lost time together and many friends and loved ones are no longer with us.

So how do we start to rebuild our lives together as a Church family and as members of our community. It will not be easy as anxiety will hang over us for some time, but Jesus says,

**“Do not be afraid for I have redeemed you”**

In this changed and changing world we have to hold on to the one thing that is unchanging. God is the same today, tomorrow and for all time, and God is love and God is a living God.

We must remember at all times that we are “The Body of Christ.” We all have a part to play in rebuilding our lives here at St Giles. We must pray for each other, respect our differences and most of all remain united in our love for one another and our community. I think our role is to follow the Five Marks of Mission

- ✠ To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- ✠ To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- ✠ To respond to human need by loving service
- ✠ To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
- ✠ To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

## Exhall Educational Foundation

The Trustees of the Exhall Educational Foundation were unable to meet in March 2021 due to Covid19 restrictions and so the meeting in October will be their first meeting of this year.

Exhall Educational Foundation has existed as an educational charity since 1904. The history of the foundation can be traced back to the original benefactor Job Potter in 1686; and later with William Bentley in 1808 who built the small church hall at St Giles church originally for use as a school and then later as a Sunday school.

The foundation today is managed by five trustees who are all local professional or retired people. The Chair of the foundation has been historically and is currently the Vicar of St Giles church. This in no way implies any religious emphasis or sympathies within the foundation's decision making.

**The foundation is open to everyone who fulfils the application criteria:**

- **Do you live in the "Ancient parish of Exhall"? The "ancient parish" now covers roads within Exhall Parish and Keresley End? (all roads within the boundary are shown on the Exhall Educational Foundation website).**
- **Are you under the age of 25?**
- **Are you currently attending ,or applying to do, a specific course of activity or study?**
- **Do you need materials or travel costs for such a course?**
- **Applications can also be made by local schools within the area.**

If you meet all the eligibility criteria you can apply by completing the application form which can be downloaded from the community page of the church website at [www.stgileschurhexhall.info](http://www.stgileschurhexhall.info). Only one individual application per year can be considered by the trustees.

**The closing date for applications is Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021.**

These are high ideals, but if we keep them at the heart of all that we do then this will be a truly new beginning towards us becoming the Church God wants us to be.

*God Bless,  
John*

# Ansley Church 57th Flower Festival



This year's festival will have the theme 'Remember'. We will be looking back on our past festivals and will be able to thank key workers who have done so much for us over these past months. We will remember those who have been lost or suffered. It will be different, but it will be in church.

It is not as usual as actual preparation time has been so limited. There is still great uncertainty as to how many of our regular visitors will be able, or prepared, to come.

The wearing of masks will be worn by those who wish to and hand sanitiser will be at the entrance for those who wish to use it. If you are uncertain on the day you want to come, please look at our website [www.ansleychurch.org](http://www.ansleychurch.org).

This year the church will be open during August Bank Holiday Weekend as follows:

<b>Saturday 28th August</b>	<b>11.00 am—5.00 pm</b>
<b>Sunday 29th August</b>	<b>12.00 noon—6.00 pm</b>
<b>Monday 30th August</b>	<b>11.00 am—5.00 pm</b>

Ansley Morris will be dancing in the churchyard (weather permitting, otherwise in church) on Monday afternoon. Refreshments will be available, there will be the usual produce stall and a raffle for the cake.

We will be making donations amounting to 10% of the income to the Acorn Children's Hospice and Nuneaton League of Friends. The remainder will be for church funds.

Over the previous 56 years God has guided us and we have raised almost £72,000 with over £22,000 donated to charities. We pray God will be with us again this year as we are moving forward in faith and that we can welcome many visitors to our church again.

# **ASH GREEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (AGRA)**



## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**YOUR VOICE, YOUR COMMUNITY**

WILL BE HELD ON

**Tuesday 14th September 2021 in the Large Church Hall,  
St Giles Road, CV7 9GZ**

**Doors open 7.00 pm for a 7.15 pm start**

**PLEASE COME AND JOIN US**

**There will be updates on:**

**The Association  
The Borough Plan  
Issues of Concern**

**Tel: Secretary 07443 527884 Chair 02476 361670**

## IT Carpentry & Joinery

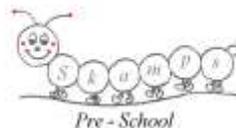
- Internal & external projects
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**Skamps Pre-school Day Nursery** offers full day care for babies from 6 weeks to school age at St Andrews House, Smorrall Lane, Bedworth CV12 0JP

- **FREE 30 and 15 hour** funding available
- Restricted opening hours due to Coronavirus **8 am to 4 pm** but earlier or later times are available subject to demand
- **Emergency cover** and **School Holiday cover** available
- **Covid-19 safe premises**—see **Facebook** and **Website**



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



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24 hour care with dignity.  
Linked to social service guidelines.  
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We are a positive, friendly, recreational dance school with a relaxed approach to classes. It is our promise to treat every child how we would want our own children to be

treated, nurturing them, building their confidence and helping them to make friends in a social, fun environment while celebrating their success and achievements.

**We currently have vacancies at St Giles Church Hall and Exhall Old School Community Centre.**

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.



# 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*

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024 76 313326  
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**



# SUPPORT ST GILES CHURCH COFFEE MORNING

**Saturday 18th September 2021**

**Tickets £5:** 3 sessions of 1hr 30 mins each to meet with friends, safely maintaining social distancing.

**Session 1:** 10am - 11.30am (20 tickets)

**Session 2:** 12 noon - 1.30pm (20 tickets)  
Bring your own lunch for this session!

**Session 3:** 2pm - 3.30pm (20 tickets)

**St Giles Church (Exhall) Small Hall**  
St Giles Road, Ash Green, Coventry, CV7 9GZ

Tickets available from  
**Neva Khan (Churchwarden)**  
Tel. 07496 858 598  
or at Sunday 10.30am Service

**Coffee/Cakes/Raffle**



## 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 £2.50**

**Further info: Patricia Munro 024 7664 4507**

### **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**

**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 @ £15/hr

Small hall seats 60 @ £10/ hr.

Info and photos: **www.stgileschurchexhall.info**  
**and click on church halls tab**  
**or speak to Tina Watkins on 07905 297713**



# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
1 Kings 1: 5-53

King David was now very old, but he had still not said which son would be king. Adonijah decided to make himself king.

Adonijah had a big party at Rogel Spring for all his friends, including Joab and Abiathar, to tell them he was the king. His brother Solomon and Nathan and Zadok were not invited.

Nathan told Solomon's mother

You must tell King David. If Adonijah is king, he will kill you and your son.



You promised our son Solomon would be king, but Adonijah says he is now king.



Nathan told David



I will keep my promise! Solomon will be the next king. Zadok and Nathan, take him to Gihon Spring, anoint him and tell everyone!



So they went to Gihon with Solomon riding King David's own mule.



He was anointed king and a trumpet was blown.



At Adonijah's party they heard the noise.



David has just announced that your brother Solomon is now king.



Solomon was anointed and everyone is cheering.



Everyone ran away. Adonijah was so scared he ran to the sacred tent for sanctuary.



King Solomon sent for Adonijah.

If you don't cause me any trouble, I will not hurt you.



## Word Search—Son Trouble

d	a	v	i	d	g	i	h	o	n	t	h	e
n	m	m	p	r	o	m	i	s	e	a	s	i
d	m	s	n	o	i	s	e	p	j	m	a	e
p	o	n	o	l	d	n	m	i	m	b	n	v
x	t	a	n	n	o	u	n	c	e	d	c	e
s	h	i	e	m	r	o	d	h	e	n	t	r
t	e	i	o	t	d	e	s	t	t	a	u	y
c	r	l	e	a	t	h	n	y	r	t	a	o
f	o	k	d	i	t	i	t	b	o	h	r	n
s	l	i	v	a	o	r	e	q	u	a	y	e
x	g	n	b	n	a	l	r	d	b	n	r	f
c	i	g	n	p	e	e	m	u	l	e	t	i
n	h	a	s	c	a	r	e	d	e	m	a	w

party

trumpet

everyone

Adonijah

king

friends

invited

Nathan

promise

sanctuary

Bathsheba

trouble

mule

mother

scared

announced

David

Gihon

son

noise

annointed

Solomon

celebrate

old

# This month ...

**1st September:**

## **St Giles of Provence — our Patron Saint**

St Giles was an immensely popular saint in the Middle Ages, and no wonder: he was the patron saint of cripples. In those days, there were many people who, once injured, were never really whole again. Even today, a serious injury – either physical or mental or emotional, can leave us damaged for months, years or even longer. At such times, we, too, find inspiration in others who, though also damaged by life, have not been overwhelmed.



St Giles was probably born in Provence, southern France early in the 7<sup>th</sup> century. The 10th century *Legenda Aurea* (Golden Legend) tells us he lived as a holy hermit deep in the forest of Nimes, near the mouth of the Rhone. A hind, or Red Deer, was his only companion. Then one day, while out hunting, King Wamba spotted the deer, and pursued it. The hind fled back to St Giles for protection. King Wamba shot an arrow which missed the deer but pierced the saint who was protecting it. Thus the king encountered the saint. The saint's acceptance of his injury, and his holiness greatly impressed the king, who conceived a great admiration for St Giles.

In the end, much good came out of the original harm of the encounter, for the king then built St Giles a monastery in his valley, Saint-Gilles-du-Gard. The little monastery was put under the Benedictine rule and became a source of blessing for the area round about. In later years, St Giles' shrine would become an important pilgrimage centre on the route for both Compostela and the Holy Land, as well as in its own right.

There is a further story connected with St Giles. Another legend tells how an emperor sought forgiveness from him for a sin so terrible he dared not even confess it. While St Giles said Mass, he saw written for him by an angel the nature of the sin in question. But his prayers for the emperor were so efficacious that the letters naming the sin faded away. As Christians, we know that the Bible urges us to pray for others, no matter how hopelessly bad they seem, because Christ's mercy and forgiveness are extended to everyone who truly turns to Him and repents.

No wonder then, that St Giles, the crippled saint who helped others find wholeness with God, became patron saint of cripples, lepers and nursing mothers. In the UK 162 ancient churches are dedicated to him, as well as at least 24 hospitals. The most famous of these are St Giles in Edinburgh and St Giles in Cripplegate, London. In art, St Giles is represented as either a simple abbot with staff, or protecting the hind, or saying the Mass, and thus interceding for the emperor.

***Parish Pump***



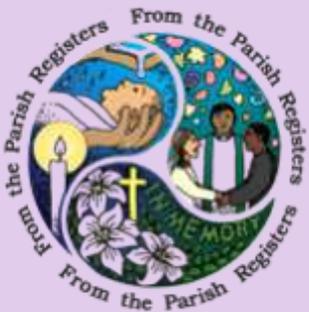
Well we finally had our first meeting in August, and how lovely it was to see Members and friends again after such a long time.

We now look forward to our next meeting on **Thursday 16th September** in the **Small Hall at 7.30pm**. We are really pleased our new Curate Jo has agreed to come and talk to us and share a little of her journey with God and towards serving him more. This will be a good opportunity for you to meet Jo if you haven't managed to see her in Church.

**This is an open invitation to anyone  
who would like to join us for the evening.**

With love and prayers from the Committee

**Cynthia & Roy 7636 7406      Yvonne 76749511**  
**Viv                                      7664 5161                      Mandy 7633 7188**



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

**Victor John Cotton, who died on 31st July  
aged 79 years**

**Janette Malin, who died on 6th August  
aged 81 years (tribute overleaf)**

## **Baptisms**

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

**7th August      Memphis & Tennessee Porter**  
**8th August      Simon Louis Harris-Edwards**  
**Eric Sherriff**  
**14th August      Erin Edwards**

## **Tribute to Janette Malin**

Janette was the youngest of two children born to Nora Janette and Cecil John Wakelin. With her older brother, John, she grew up in the family home in Bedworth and would go along together to Sunday School at St Giles. Janette was rather shy as a child and was always very close to her mum in particular. The family were a constant, loving support and both children grew up being very family orientated. Janette attended Ash Green School and in her free time enjoyed walking from Goodyers End Lane to Corley rocks to spend the day there with a bottle of pop and bag of crisps in hand for a treat.

Amanda was Janette's beloved daughter from her first marriage to Keith. Janette showed tremendous courage and skill in managing life as a single parent, always keeping her head held high. She worked hard to provide everything the family needed, working first for the Coal Board and then James' Paper Sacks. She was skilled in a variety of clerical and accounting roles and her last employment was at Exhall Plating, working there until moving into well-earned retirement in her fifties.

It was on 18<sup>th</sup> October 1980 that Janette married her second husband, Donald Malin. Janette was forty when she remarried and, for her, the phrase 'life begins at forty' could never have been truer. This was a wonderful new beginning and a real and joyful turn around in her life circumstances. A further joy was that Janette's family expanded to include her four step-children Zena, John, Alan and Michelle.

Don and Janette loved to travel and had many holidays abroad, making regular use of their time-share. They both held a passion for Switzerland and Austria in particular. During these years, Janette and Don's family grew further, welcoming with both pride and delight new generations of grandchildren – Matthew, Joseph and Nathanael and great grandchildren – Emelia and Esme.

When, sadly, Don's health began to deteriorate with the onset of Alzheimer's, Janette cared tirelessly for him for as long as possible in their home environment and was a constant support when he eventually moved into residential care. Janette also showed tremendous care for others who were in similar circumstances, regularly visiting Bede Village with the church to sing and share time with residents there, playing cards or dominos.

Janette lived her 81 years to the full before eventually succumbing to pneumonia in George Eliot Hospital where she received exemplary care, particularly from the Adam Bede Ward. It is very fitting then that donations in her memory have been directed to that ward, along with the Alzheimer's Society.

## Ministry & Admin

Vicar	Gail Phillip	024 7664 5030 07869 395980
Assistant Curate	Jo Parker	024 76310291
Wardens	Neva Khan Denise Crampsie	07496 859598 07952 267685
Readers	John Owen Chris Wilson	7636 6111 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 Kathryn Unsworth	7664 5533 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 Brass Band	Chris Marlow	07940 581737
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	Patricia Munro	7664 4507
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!**