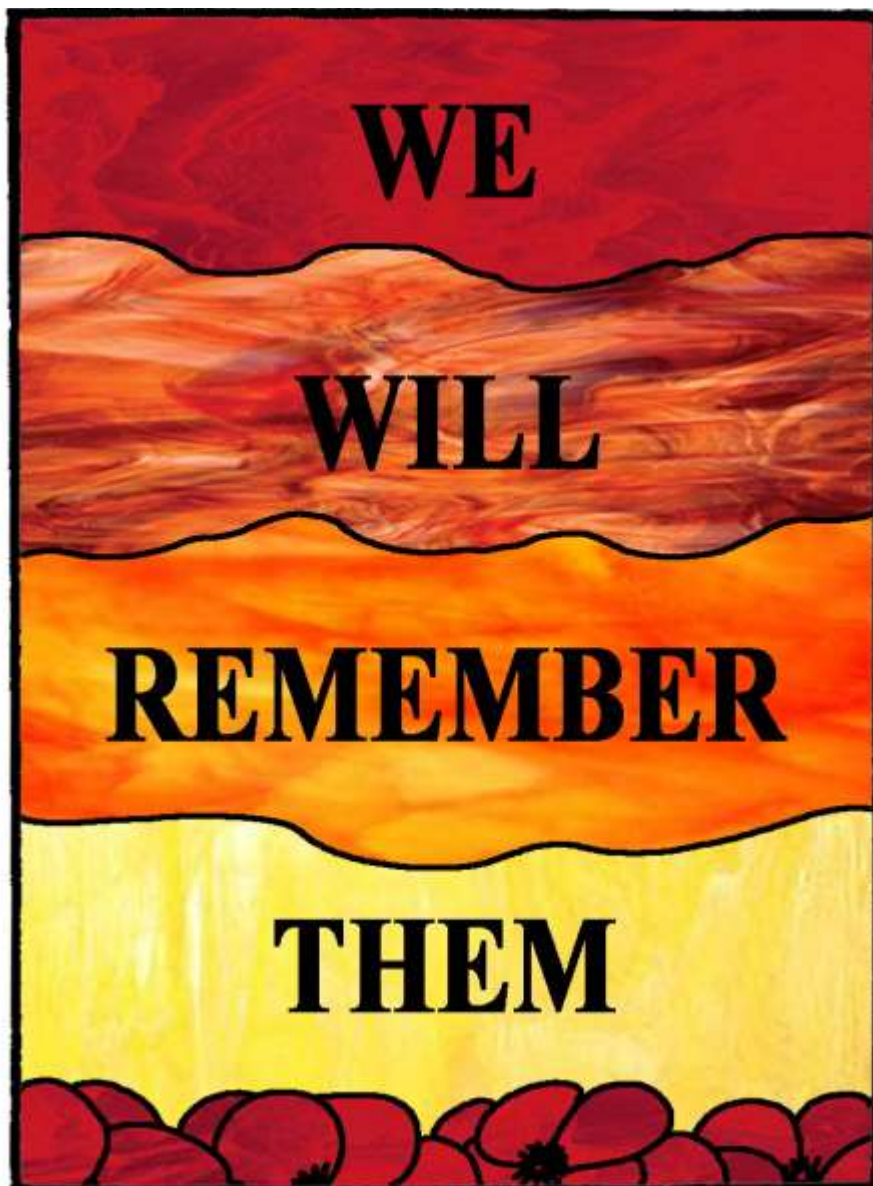


# **St. Giles Church Exhall Parish Magazine**



**November 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.

Front Cover : Parish Pump

Back Cover : Living Advent Calendar 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 for December and the copy deadline date is **22nd November**.

## Welcome to your November Magazine



I hope you have been enjoying reading our magazine over the year, and we just wanted to remind those who **normally pay for their copies in advance**, that your distributors will be calling for the payment early in the New Year. The cost for 10 copies is normally £5. However, we are aware that, because of lockdown and restrictions on people's movements, some of you who have a magazine delivered missed out on four copies during 2020. Therefore, if you wish to deduct £2 from next year's payment, please let your distributor know and they will make the necessary adjustment.

Thank you so much for your understanding and continued support of the magazine. I hope you continue to enjoy reading it. If you know of anyone who you think might like to subscribe and receive a copy each month, please do ask them to get in touch with me!

**Tina Watkins**

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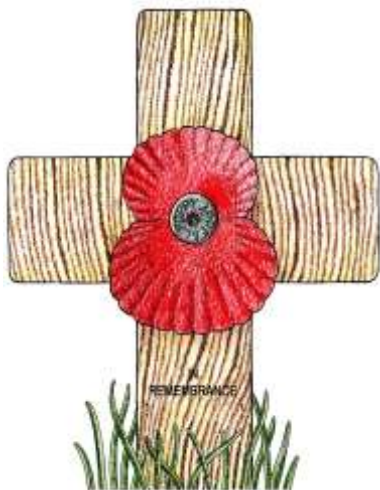
St Giles' Magazine was first published in April 1898 and is now in its 122nd year.

## With love from the Vicar . . .

Autumn is often known as a Season of Remembrance. In the church calendar, Nov 1<sup>st</sup> marks All Saints' Day. This is an opportunity to remember and be thankful for men and women throughout history who have inspired us, whose lives have demonstrated the love and grace of God in many and varied ways. It's a season to focus on our belonging together as a human family, the memories we treasure both collectively and individually, the gift we are to each other.



All Saints' Day is immediately followed by All Souls' Day – a Commemoration of the Faithful Departed. For many of us this may hold particular poignancy this year. Perhaps you have lost a loved one during a year in which Covid 19 has made the pain of bereavement and the process of grieving even more challenging and acute. Perhaps the increased sense of isolation and loneliness the lockdown months have imposed have caused us to miss those we love but see no longer more than ever. This season of remembrance offers us an opportunity to stand together in solidarity with all those who have lost loved ones, to support one another along the way in the journey of grief and, through the memories we share, to find new hope. To help us do this, we'll be opening St Giles on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November from 4 – 6 pm for private prayer to provide some quiet space to remember loved ones. You'll find more details about this later on in this magazine.



Opportunities for collective remembrance are vital to the life of any community. This year our annual Act of Remembrance on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November to commemorate all those who have lost their lives in war will take place in a rather different way. Again, you'll find more detail further on in the magazine. Our ways of remembering may take a different shape with the safety precautions we are all needing to take at present, but the important thing is that we *do* still remember and that we use our remembering to make our world a more positive and peaceful place for all who live in it.

In addition to the opportunities St Giles is offering on Remembrance Sunday, you might like to stand out on your own doorstep at 11.00 am on that morning. You might like to create a poppy display in a window of your home. You might like to take note of one of the names mentioned on our local war memorial and see if you can find out a bit more about that person.

We can remember too that seasons of intense pressure, hardship and loss, such as were experienced through both World Wars and have been in conflicts since, can eventually come to an end through patient resilience. Our remembering can be a catalyst for us to rebuild and reshape our communities in ways which open up new opportunities for a wider range of people.

So, may God draw close to you in all your remembering. Please be in touch



with us if you would particularly value some bereavement support at this time, or if we can help in other ways through these more difficult winter months. Let's work together to ensure that nobody in our community has to feel alone.

We hope that some of the activities we're suggesting in this magazine will help to generate a sense of solidarity and togetherness to lighten up our community throughout these darker days.

*With love, Gail*

## **Giving to St Giles**

We're very grateful for all the support we generously receive at St Giles to help us sustain and grow our service to the local community for generations to come. Like many organisations at the moment, we are facing financial challenges. Any donation you could make will help us to continue to provide things like this magazine which we have wanted to make available free of charge to as many as possible since lockdown started.

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. If you prefer to give by cheque, please make those payable to St Giles Exhall PCC. Thank you for all your support.

# Jen's Page



As I write this it is the Sunday before our first **Happy Hearts and Minds** Service! We are so excited to get some of our families back



together again for some fun and worship time. This is a new interactive All Age service which will be socially distanced and such good fun! Families and household bubbles will be sat around their own table, with their own activities and resources, sadly there is no sharing at the moment! We are so looking forward to grown ups and children worshipping and exploring the bible together. I look forward to updating you all as to how it goes in the next issue! Our next date will be **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm** and we would love for you to join us! If you know any families that might like to join in, please pass the information on. We currently have space for 8 families in each service, so you will need to book by emailing me on [jenwatson.stgiles@gmail.com](mailto:jenwatson.stgiles@gmail.com)!

During October half term we are doing something a little different! As we can't have our usual enormous party, we are going to be carving positive pictures and messages into pumpkins and we are hoping that people across the parish join us! You might want to carve a positive word or a picture of something that makes you happy.



We would like to spread as much joy and happiness as possible at the moment! If you take part we would love to see photos, you can tag them with #positivepumpkinsuk on Facebook or Instagram. We will be having a 'Positive Pumpkin Patch' in the church grounds during half term so please do pop along and see it if you are able to do so safely!

This Christmas we are getting involved with a local shoebox appeal for a Coventry charity called Carriers of Hope who work with refugees, asylum seekers and Eastern European migrants in the local area. They are in need of a whopping 1500 shoeboxes to make Christmas special this year for so many children in and around Coventry. Along with Bedworth and Bulkington Parishes and some of our local schools, we will be creating and gathering some boxes of gifts for the appeal.

We would love it if you're able to join us in helping Carriers of Hope. The charity have asked for shoeboxes to be delivered by December and so we will be having 2 shoebox 'drop off times'. Friday November 20th from 4 - 5.30pm and on Sunday 22nd November from 10am - 12pm at our Small Hall (right next to the church).

We are asking for full boxes to be dropped off please to keep the handling required by our team at an absolute minimum. Why not create one with a group of friends or wider family?

This is all subject to changes with local Covid restrictions so please keep your eye on the Facebook Page for up to date information. If you are unable to get out and need someone to come and collect, please get in touch with Jen on [jenwatson.stgiles@gmail.com](mailto:jenwatson.stgiles@gmail.com) or on 07866615873 and we will arrange that for you! The Carriers of Hope poster is on page 26 with more information and a list of suggested things to put into the boxes. We really hope you will join with us in blessing as many children as possible this Christmas.

We are continuing with our online Playgroup at the moment and have been enjoying a story and singing time every week with lots of our little friends getting involved via Facebook Live and Zoom on a Thursday morning. Don't forget there is a special Facebook Group called 'St Giles Church Exhall Playgroup!', please do pass it on to anyone who may find it useful! We have no plans to restart the Playgroup in person at the moment to keep everyone as safe as possible, so we are really cherishing seeing everyone in the group!

Cedars School had a wonderful scarecrow festival just before half term and we were invited to create a scarecrow! Huge thanks go out to Gail Gibson and Joyanne Grayson who made a wonderful scarecrow which was displayed in the school grounds for a week. She is a prayer scarecrow and had lots of laminated prayers from our congregation pinned to her! See if you can spot her in the church grounds when you come to see our pumpkin patch!

Gail and I are excited to be able to create virtual assemblies for our schools, so even though we aren't able to be in with the children at the moment, we can still bring them messages and have some fun with them! We'd like to say a huge thank you to Roy Cogley for being interviewed on his experience as an evacuee for our Remembrance Day Assembly!

We are continuing as usual with our Family Church at Home resources on a Sunday and with our Messy Church at Home slot. We do hope you're finding them fun! We would love to hear from you if you use them. Don't forget that children are most welcome to come along and be with their parents in our regular 10.30 service too. We will provide a safe area and activities too!

Keep your eye out for news of upcoming Christmas events. It might be different but we are still going to have a lot of fun celebrating Christmas together!

There is still lots going on in the life of St Giles Kids work! Thank you for your continued support. Please continue to pray for our families through this time, that they are safe, happy and healthy.

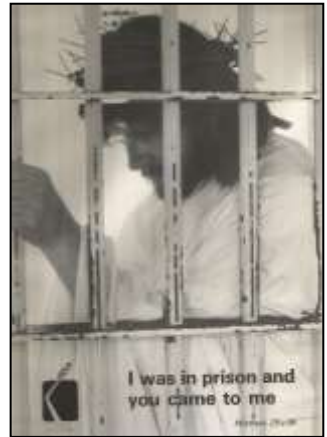
See you soon, *Jen*



# Prisons Week – A Week of Prayer in October

Christians have been encouraged to pray in October for all those in the criminal justice system – prisoners, victims, court staff, police and other law enforcers – so that they will know that they are accompanied in thought and prayer, even through this time of lockdowns.

Crime often creates strong emotions, be it fear, anxiety, regret, or anger to name a few. These emotions can consume the heart, and prayer is an outlet. Prayer offers comfort, even if you are not a believer.



## Angel Tree Gifts

Prison. It's famous for being overcrowded. And yet the sense of isolation and loss can be unbearable.

Prisoners are parents, sons, daughters, sisters and brothers. They are human beings with families. Just like any one of us, they are created in the image and likeness of God. They, like us, have a huge capacity for love.

At some point during their lives, they have taken a wrong turn, gone down the wrong path, and ended up hurting someone, not least themselves. Often, they are struggling with their mental health. They are crying out for hope. By extension, that hurt often impacts on their families, causing devastation and grief among prisoners' children who wind up feeling the loss of losing a family member to months or years behind bars.

Children of prisoners are the hidden victims. They grow up without a parent, worrying about that loss, and with the heartache and shame of having to shoulder the consequences of a crime they are not responsible for.

That's where Angel Tree steps in to help families flourish. Angel Tree ensures that prisoners' children are remembered at Christmas, and do not lose out on the joy of feeling loved by their parent.

The prisoner fills out an application form, making the request for a present, and pens a note for their child. The presents are then bought by Angel Tree volunteers, gift wrapped, the handwritten note enclosed, and delivered to the families at Christmas each year.

Angel Tree means children all over the country do not miss out on the joy of receiving a Christmas present from their father or mother in prison.



# **Annual Memorial Service**

## **Open for private prayer**

### **Sunday November 1<sup>st</sup> 2pm – 4pm**

I'm sure it won't come as a surprise to you that this year's memorial service, which gives us an opportunity to come together to remember our loved ones, will look very different.

Due to Covid 19 restrictions we cannot have a service as such but we will be opening the church for private prayer and reflection between 2pm and 4pm on Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>.

While we can't join together as a whole church family we will be reading out the names of loved ones throughout that time so please do visit the church to fill in a remembrance card or light a candle.

We are not asking you to book a time slot in advance but we do ask you to bear in mind our current restrictions, which limit us to 20 people in the building at any one time. Seating areas in pews are clearly marked to help you keep your distance, hand sanitiser is available at the door and you will need to wear a mask (unless exempt).

Please try to limit your visit to 15-20 minutes to allow as many people as possible a time for private prayer. If you arrive and the church is looking full, please wait until a space becomes available.

We know this isn't ideal but we do feel it's important to offer a time of prayer and reflection within the church for this important event.

**If you would like a loved one adding to the list of names to be read out, please call or email Penny in the parish office: 024 7636 8008 or email [office@stgileschurchexhall.info](mailto:office@stgileschurchexhall.info).**



Just like the Christ-child, they feel loved, and they know that they have not been forgotten.

Angel Tree is a bridge that helps prisoners and families reach out to each other and connect. It introduces the love of God, and enables children of prisoners to experience joy and to know that they are loved.

***Taken from "Prison Fellowship" Autumn 2020 magazine***

# Make Yourself at Home

Inspected and rated

Good



Care Quality  
Commission

## AT RICHMOND BEDE VILLAGE – LUXURY CARE HOME

Our care home at Richmond Bede Village is a warm, comfortable and friendly place where we support residents with nursing and residential care and YPD (care for the young and physically disabled).

Built at the heart of the retirement village, our residents can enjoy the facilities and services to the full. Here you will find a true sense of community with a wealth of activities and events on your door step.

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*"I cannot speak highly enough of the dedicated staff, nothing was too much trouble"*

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



Personal care and medical needs



Round-the-clock YPD, residential and nursing care



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)



Freshly prepared nutritious meals



A choice of luxury en-suite bedrooms



A variety of daily activities tailored to your interests

Please call the Village Advisers to find out more  
02476 992 048 | [richmond-villages.com/bede](https://richmond-villages.com/bede)

Richmond Bede Village, Hospital Lane, Bedworth, Warwickshire CV12 0PB

Find us on

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

# 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.*

Early in November on the 11<sup>th</sup> it's Martinmas, and this is supposed to be on a fine sunny day . Martin was the patron saint of tramps, farmers and reformed drunks - that's interesting.

Time now to be on the lookout for fieldfares and redwings as they arrive for the winter. The orchard floor is full of fallen apples waiting to be feasted upon. The grey squirrels also enjoy a soft apple. I sat on my bench by the greenhouse watching the squirrels burying acorns in the field. What next ? Down came two crows from the high trees who followed the squirrels' diggings and pecked out the acorns after the squirrels spent time burying them - clever birds crows. Regular visitors to the nut feeder recently have been a nuthatch and the greater spotted woodpecker, both on the feeder at the same time.

At the end of October I saw one of the last few Red Admiral Butterflies flying outside the conservatory windows – she could see the bright coloured geraniums inside but couldn't get to them. Wasps are now looking to hibernate. I found two in the log store between the dry logs. Gloves will be needed from now on when collecting logs for the fire.

News from the Nook. A new pair of swans has taken up residence on the water. Hope they will be safe from predators. The black headed gulls are in great numbers and roost well beside the cormorants on the dead tree. The black headed gulls change their head colour to white in the summer when they go off to the coast to breed, and change back to black when they come back to winter here. Around the Nook area there has always been an abundance of jackdaws. They are known for many reasons, one of them is that they drop sticks down chimneys hoping the sticks will lodge and form a platform on which they can start building a nest in the summer. That's OK, but when autumn comes and a fire is lit in the bottom of the chimney the room fills with smoke and won't go up the chimney - what a mess. From the old Newdigate Tip on a sunny day up to a dozen skylarks were rising high in the sky and singing wonderfully, they were accompanied by several meadow pipits with their familiar "pip pip" call. Good bird watching in strange times.

***Stella Bunting***

# Thought for the Month

## Remember, remember

November is traditionally the month for Remembering and there is no doubt that many will at some point be reminiscing with gratitude, particularly on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the month when the focus will be on all those who gave their lives in the service of our country in the conflicts of the World Wars and other wars since. Also at the beginning of November we have been known to hold a church service to remember those we have known and loved who have died over the past year or even many years before. It is good to set a time aside to let our memories flood into our hearts and minds and maybe to light a candle as we remember.

Sadly this year any public recognition of Remembrance Day will be very limited and it will not be like any of the events of the past but that doesn't mean we shouldn't remember and be grateful. The challenge is to find a personal and original way to remember that is meaningful and relevant. This led me to wonder what the Bible has to say about remembering.

In Genesis 9:16 God says, "Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth." During these present times, the

rainbow has become a symbol to remind us to be thankful for and to really appreciate the work of the NHS and keyworkers. They see it as their duty to serve their country with the same courage and fortitude shown by the armed forces when they enter conflicts of war, some also paying the ultimate sacrifice.



**"At the going down of the sun and when we see a rainbow,  
We will remember them."**

On the next page are a number of other verses that I found on remembering that were quite thought provoking and you may like to take a few moments to meditate on each one during the days of November. Or even find some others yourself; there are plenty there and it's a good way to bring some light into a dark month.

You may also like to light a candle and use the prayer at the end of these thoughts.

Exodus 20: 8 "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy."

Psalms 22:27 "All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him."

Psalms 42:4 "These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go to the house of God under the protection of the Mighty One with shouts of joy and praise among the festive throng." Luke 23:42 "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." (The words of the repentant thief). Philippians 1:3 "I thank my God every time I remember you." Luke 22:19 "And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.""

1 Corinthians 11:23-25 "The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

*To light a Candle Prayer*

*Lord, may this candle be a light  
for you to enlighten me in my difficulties and decisions.  
May it be a fire for you to burn out of me all pride, selfishness and impurity.  
May it be a flame for you to bring warmth into my heart  
towards my family, my neighbours and all those I meet.  
I come to remember...  
and thank you for the memories.  
As light comes from this candle,  
may the blessing of Jesus Christ come to me,  
warming my heart and brightening my way.  
And may Christ my Saviour  
bring light into the darkness of this world,  
a light no darkness can quench.  
Amen*



***May the light of Jesus shine  
upon you as you remember,  
God bless you,  
Chris***

# THE BELLS OF ST GILES, EXHALL

As we approach Armistice Day, 11<sup>th</sup> November, were you aware that the date has a special significance for St Giles' this year? Three of the bells were cast and installed a hundred years ago and dedicated in a special service held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November 1920. I learned to ring at Exhall back in 1960 but have been living and ringing in Gloucestershire for over fifty years. However, through family and bell ringing links I have a continuing interest in the bells and bell ringers of Exhall. In recent years, since retirement, I have renewed acquaintance with a number of members of the Coventry Guild of Bell ringers and been made aware of a number of significant anniversaries with bell ringing connections. One of these brought to my attention about a year ago was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication of Exhall bells.

After conversations with my sister and Viv Hopkins, I offered to research the history of the bells, produce something for the church magazine and organise some special ringing to mark the occasion.

## Early Bells

The first reference I found to bells at Exhall was at the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Smith of Edgbaston cast, supplied and installed three bells in 1706. There was clearly an idea to add further bells in the future as these three bells were hung in a frame built for six bells.

## 200 Years Later

There are still only three bells at Exhall but there seems to be a problem. Have they become impossible to ring? Has a bell been cracked? In 1900, the three



bells were recast, i.e. broken up, melted down and three new bells cast by James Barwell of Birmingham. The largest of these weighed around 5½ cwt. The bells were hung in the tower and then dedicated by Edmund Arbuthnott Knox, Suffrogon Bishop of Worcester and Coventry on 21<sup>st</sup> December 1900. It would appear that there is still a desire to increase the number of bells as the old frame was re-used and there was talk of adding

three heavier bells to create a ring of six with a tenor of around 10 cwt.

## The Present Ring of Bells

The end of WW1 provided the stimulus for a project to augment the bells and create a ring of six. The three new bells would be a war memorial to the memory of the thirty-three men from the parish lost in the war. Following a structural survey of the tower, the original idea was modified. The revised plan was to add two smaller bells (trebles) and a larger one (tenor).



The three old bells would be numbers 3, 4 and 5 in the new ring. The whole project was carried out by Mears and Stainbank of the Whitechapel Foundry, London. The new tenor weighed in at 6½ cwt and the old treble bell was tuned to fit in as number 3 in the new ring. The dedication of the new bells took place on Armistice Day, 11<sup>th</sup> November 1920. Huyshe Wolcott Yeatman-Biggs, Lord Bishop of Coventry, officiated.

A contemporary report of the dedication service:

“The service began with the processional hymn, ‘In token that thou shalt not fear’. When the choir and clergy had reached their stalls, the Vicar, Rev C Simmonds, recited prayers. The 130<sup>th</sup> psalm was sung and after the lesson the

*Continued overleaf*

**EXHALL, WARWICKSHIRE  
THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD  
(The All Saints Society, Allesley)**

**On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November 1920 in 2 hours 47 minutes  
At the church of St Giles**

**A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 50040 CHANGES  
Being seven 720s called differently. Tenor 6½ cwt.**

<b>GEORGE GARDNER</b>	<b>Treble</b>	<b>FRED GARDNER</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>HUBERT SUMMERS</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>CHARLES AYLETT</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>JOHN TAYLOR</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>JOSEPH H W WHITE</b>	<b>Tenor</b>

**Conducted by Joseph H W White**

**First peal on the bells, which have been augmented to six by the addition of two trebles and a tenor as a war memorial, and dedicated by the Lord Bishop of Coventry on the above date.**



names of the thirty-three heroes were read by the Vicar, the congregation standing meanwhile. The choir and clergy then proceeded to the belfry, where the Bishop dedicated the new bells. Three buglers then sounded the 'Last Post' and 'Reveille'. The bells were raised in peal by the ringers of All Saints, Allesley, and during the hymn 'O God our Help in Ages Past' the choir and clergy returned to the chancel. The Bishop delivered a short address and at the conclusion of the service 120 Grandsire Doubles was rung by G Gardner (1), H Summers (2), J White (3), F Gardner (4), J Taylor (Conductor – 5) and C Aylett (6). There was more ringing as the congregation left the church."

In the evening, presumably after a good tea, the Allesley ringers returned to the tower to ring a celebratory peal.

## 2020



After discussion with Viv Hopkins, the current Tower Captain, it was thought that a repeat of the 1920 peal would be appropriate to mark the centenary of the bells. First, the Vicar retired and it was considered politic to wait for the appointment of his successor before making further plans. Several members of the Coventry Guild expressed an interest in a peal attempt.

Then just as I was about to speak to Viv again to obtain permission from the Vicar, Covid-19 struck! Churches were closed and all ringing stopped. Although some ringing is now permitted, the current rules would prevent six ringers assembling in the belfry – it is a small enclosed space and the distance between ropes is too small. There will be no repeat of 11<sup>th</sup> November 1920!

Hopefully, someone will be able to ring a single bell on 11.11.2020 to mark the occasion and to remind the people of Exhall why the three additional bells were installed.

*Ian P Unsworth  
Upper Cam  
October 2020*

## ***What is 16 Days of Activism?***



16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence is an international campaign. It takes place each year from **25 November** (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) until **10 December** (International Human Rights Day). Significant dates throughout the campaign include:

- November 25** International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
- November 29** International Women Human Rights Defenders Day
- December 1** World AIDS Day
- December 5** International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development
- December 6** Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre, which is observed as the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women in Canada
- December 10** International Human Rights Day and the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence campaign is an extension of the day-to-day grassroots work of **Mothers' Union**. We work alongside communities to help end gender-based violence and to support those affected by it, every day of the year.

### **Forgive us Lord**

when we hear neither your plea,  
nor the cries of your people.

### **Free us Lord**

from the fears that bind us,  
or from any sense of powerlessness.

### **Fill us Lord**

with your dream of a just world and the tenacity to keep going  
in playing our part, in your name, **Amen**

**NB: Mothers' Union - Advent Service** will be now on YouTube on **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November** pre-recorded by Ann Gibbons, Lynda Howells and others.

## BEDWORTH BELLES WI



The Bedworth Belles WI is making history by becoming the first ever WI to open in Bedworth. Currently they are meeting via Zoom until current government restrictions allow them to meet face to face. Their meeting date is the third Thursday of each month at 7.30pm.

When life returns to normal, they will still meet on the third Thursday of each month at 7.30pm but at the Bedworth Ex-Servicemen's Club.

The Women's Institute (WI) originally started in Canada in 1897 and has been around in England since 1915 when the first ever meeting was held in Wales in the famous Welsh village Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrngogoch (Llanfairpwll for short). The WI was formed to revitalise rural communities and encourage women to become more involved in producing food during the First World War.

Since then our aims have broadened and we are now the largest voluntary women's organisation in the UK. We celebrated our centenary in 2015 and currently have over 200,000 members in approximately 6,000 WIs.

We play a unique role in providing women with educational opportunities and the chance to build new skills, to take part in a wide variety of activities and to campaign on issues that matter to them and their communities. Did you know it was the WI who started the Keep Britain Tidy Campaign back in 1954 and in 1986 blazed a trail by openly talking about HIV and Aids. They helped to debunk myths by producing a NFWI pamphlet.

## **Why not attend one of our Zoom meetings to see what we are all about?**

Please contact either

Liz Hampton, President of Bedworth Belles WI via email  
[elizabeth.m.hampton7@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.m.hampton7@gmail.com) or

Gail Bend the Bedworth Belles Secretary via email [gbend10@gmail.com](mailto:gbend10@gmail.com) to receive your Zoom invitation.

# Reflections on Lindisfarne



*As some of you may know I am downsizing and as I was sorting through papers found this reflection on Holy Island, I don't know what year I wrote it but thought I would like to share it with you to bring back memories of that special Island.*

## Reflections

Oh, the mighty winds did blow  
As we arrived on this Holy Island  
They blew so hard, they brought  
The electric cables down  
And enveloped us in total darkness

For each one of us a different reflection  
For what will we take back with us  
For some the glimpses of a rainbow, the stars, the moon  
For others the love and fellowship among us.

For some the clearing of minds  
That needed to be de-cluttered  
To put life back into perspective  
For some the painting of stones and Celtic crosses

But when we leave to go back home  
Each one of us will leave a tiny piece of our heart  
On this Holy Island  
That is so bare and open for all creation.

Memories of Saints who trod before us  
For Aiden, Cuthbert to name but a few  
Who gave their lives in humility, obedience and service  
To their faithful God, to show us an example  
Of what following Christ means.

**Jane Smith**



## Christmas Tree Festival

As we are unable to hold our usual Christmas Bazaar this year because of Covid-19 restrictions, we wanted to find some alternative way of bringing the community together safely. We would like to invite church and local community groups to take part in an outdoor Christmas Tree Festival with a creation-friendly theme. Each group would provide their own tree and bring it to the churchyard between 10am and 12 noon on Saturday December 12<sup>th</sup>. It can be decorated in any way you wish but preferably with as little plastic as possible – unless it is recycled! The trees will need to be weighed down in position to prevent them being blown over by winter weather.



If your group would like to take part please let us know by November 30<sup>th</sup>. Each tree will be allocated a spot on a one-way trail around the churchyard so that visitors can walk round in a safe socially-distanced way. The festival will be open from 2pm on December 12<sup>th</sup> and the trees will remain in place until after Christmas so people can come along and see them at any time over the Christmas period. We hope this will be a lovely way for the community to mark this special time of year.

**If you wish to take part, please contact Neva Khan on 07496 859598 or Sue Barnes on 07946 051122**

## Good News!

Congratulations to Adam and Hannah Edwards on the safe arrival of baby Simon Louis, who came into the world on Saturday 17th October, weighing 8lb 6oz.

Sending much love to you both and, of course, to the proud grandparents and both families from all of us at St Giles. We can't wait to meet him!





## Children's Society Boxes

Those of you with collecting boxes for the Children's Society will know that we normally empty them in September each year.

Of course 2020 has been anything but normal and because of the current situation we have agreed with the Society that we will postpone opening the boxes until spring 2021. We hope that box holders will continue to put money in their boxes over the winter and we will let everyone know when we are going to collect them in.

*Many thanks for your support.  
Kathryn and Tina*

## Carol Singing 2020 - cancelled



Sadly we will not be able to organise carol singing in the parish this year. I'm sure you will realise that in the light of Covid 19 we would not be able to undertake carol singing safely. Obviously this is very disappointing but worse still it means that the Society will miss out on a considerable amount of money that supports children and young people that are struggling in difficult circumstances. In order to offset this a little I would encourage people to consider making a donation directly to the Society in lieu of the

money that they would normally put in the tins.

**You can donate to the Society at [www.childrenssociety.org.uk](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk).**

*Thank you  
Kathryn Unsworth*

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

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

More info:

Tina Watkins on **76645278/07905 297713** or  
**tinawatk1ns@btinternet.com**

**Have you thought of using one of our Church Halls  
for your party, meeting or event?**

**Or as a venue for a regular activity?**

Main hall seats 120 @ £12/hr;

Small hall seats 60 @ £8/ hr.

Info and photos:

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





## Parent & Toddler Group



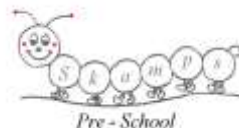
Calling all babies and toddlers! And their parents, grandparents and carers! Come and play for a hour and a half in lots of space, with our varied range of toys and activities, singing, snack time and just a place to hang out, relax and talk for a while.



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

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

- **FREE 30 and 15 hour** funding available
- Open **7 am to 6 pm**—51 weeks per year
- **Emergency cover** available
- **Holiday cover** for school holidays



Please contact Gaynor 07714 326706

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

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



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

# 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)

Tel. 02476368008

Tel. 02476645030



# J E Hackett and Sons

Independent family run funeral home  
established in 1922 by their

Grandfather John Edward Hackett

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## Benefits of a Pre Paid Funeral Plan



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93 Leicester Rd, Bedworth, CV12 8AH

024 76 313326

Longford Bridge, Coventry, CV6 6BH

024 76 367149

## Exhall Over 50s Club

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



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



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

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

**Membership £12/year, sessions £2.**

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

**or Joyce Downes 024 7631 7609**

# From the Registers

## Funerals

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

**Robert Sugrue**

Passed away on 17th September aged 51 years

**Stephen Dicken**

Passed away on 3rd October aged 70 years

## **Carriers of Hope Coventry's Shoebox Appeal**

Help us make Christmas a little brighter for families in Coventry who have very little through our Shoebox Appeal!

- Step 1 Find an empty Shoebox
- Step 2 wrap the box and lid separately
- Step 3 Fill the box with gifts for your chosen age and gender

Fill the box with toys, sweets, stationary, toiletries, games, hats and scarves, a Christmas card, soft toy, doll, fluffy socks, jewellery, crafts, stocking fillers, toothbrush, small handbag / purse / wallet, chocolate, small balls etc etc etc. You choose what you think the child you're packing for would like.

Once you've filled your box, write on the box in permanent marker which group your box is for:

**Boy or Girl age 3-5, 6-8, 9-12, or 13+**

Once all packed, boxes can be dropped to Carriers of Hope, Unit 4b Lythalls Lane Industrial Estate, CV6 6FP on Weekday mornings. Email [Katie@CarriersofHope.org.uk](mailto:Katie@CarriersofHope.org.uk) to arrange collection or any questions



[www.carriersofhope.org.uk](http://www.carriersofhope.org.uk)



**Carriers of Hope**

Registered Charity Number 1180105

## Ministry & Admin

Vicar	Gail Phillip	024 7664 5030 07869 395980
Wardens	Neva Khan	07496 859598
	Denise Crampsie	07952 267685
Readers	John Owen	7636 6111
	Hilary Cryer	7673 8900
	Chris Wilson	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	7633 2660
	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 & Emmaus	Gail Phillip	024 7664 5030 07869 395980
Thursday Toddler Group	Jen Watson	07866 615873

## Other Groups & Activities

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	Robert & Jackie West	7636 2168

## Lightening Up Exhall & Ash Green Living Advent Calendar 2020

Bring some light relief to our community this winter by decorating an Advent calendar style window!

Choose a well-lit window that can easily be seen from the street

Choose a day between 1 and 24 to be the day you will **‘open’ (light up) your window**

Create your design – it could be a favourite Christmas carol or just generally a Christmas theme

**Don’t forget to display the number or the day you’ve chosen**

Light up your window on that date and keep it on display until Christmas day.

Look out for Advent Windows across the community. See if you can find one for each day of Advent!

Post your windows on our Facebook page:  
**St Giles’ Church, Exhall**

