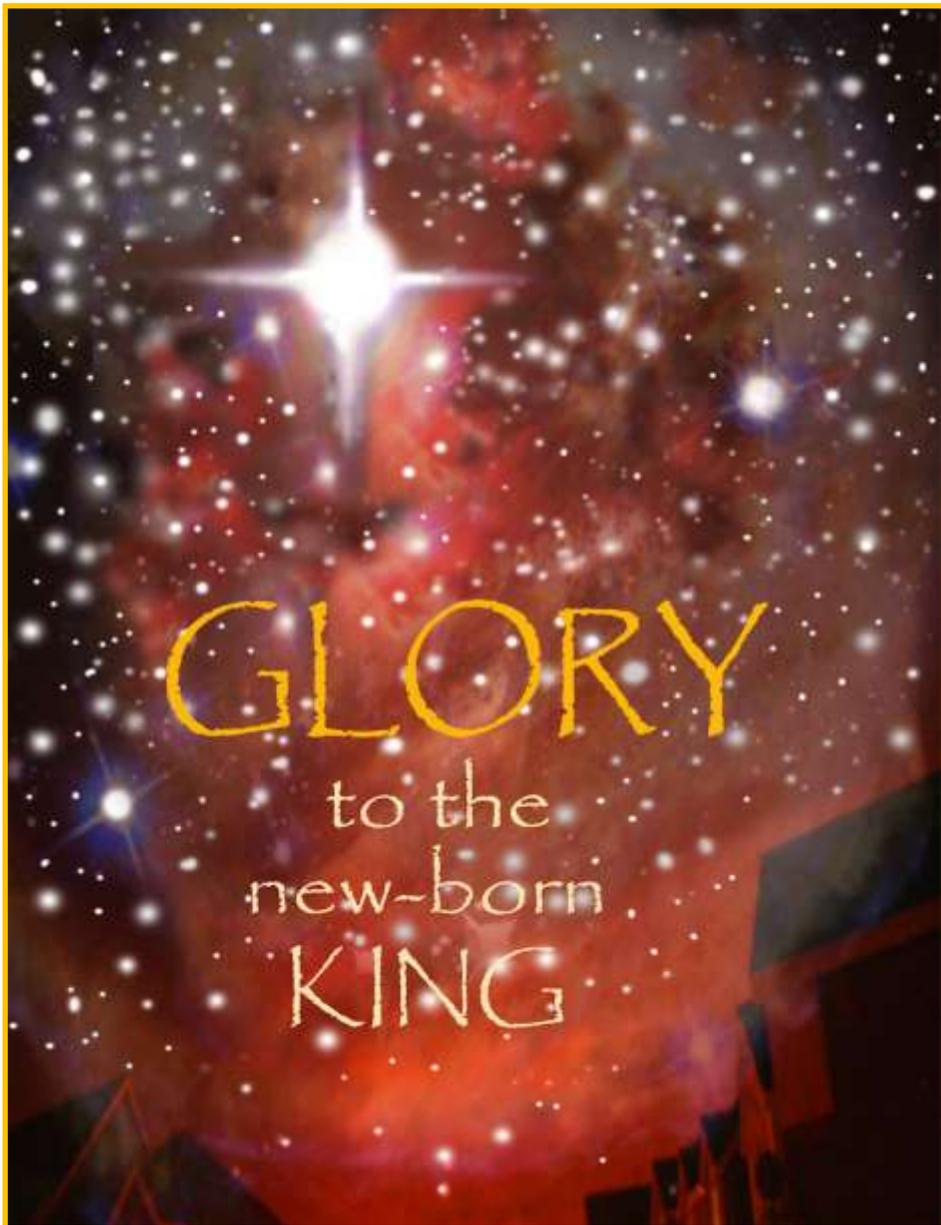


St. Giles Church Exhall Parish Magazine



December 2022/January 2023 50p

St Giles' Parish Church, Exhall - 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

The Parish Office is open Tuesday to Thursday, 9.30 am to 1.30 pm.

Worship Pattern

**Please see pages 10 and 11 for services
during December and January**

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 Small Hall. Please contact Sue Barnes on 07946 051122.

Foodbank

Help is now available through the Bedworth Community Grocery,
The Harbour Centre,
12 Congreve Walk, Bedworth CV12 8LY
Tel: 02477 331511 Bedworth@community.grocery.org.uk

New members of any age are always welcome at the following:

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

Any news, reflections, stories, pictures, jokes or brainteasers to share within these pages? I'd love to have them! Please email them to tinawatk1ns@btinternet.com or drop them into the parish office or "W" pigeonhole in church.

The next magazine will be the February edition and the copy deadline date is **Sunday 15th January.**

Welcome to your December/January Magazine!

Don't forget to come along to our Christmas Tree Festival in the churchyard on 10th December! Full details are on the back page.

If you would like to add a decoration to the Church Wardens' Memory Tree (nearest the church door), please do so between 4th and 9th December so it's ready for the start of the Festival on the 10th. If you wish to keep your decorations, please collect them by 7th January.

Wishing everybody a very Happy Christmas and a joyful, peaceful New Year.



*Best wishes to you all
Tina Watkins*

Where to find ...

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St Giles' Magazine was first published in April 1898 and is now in its 124th year.

With love from the Vicar

I wonder who your favourite Christmas character is? Nativity plays and scenes are often packed with all the main players in one go. Mary and Joseph, usually already with the baby Jesus safely in the manger, are surrounded by animals, angels, shepherds and wise men simultaneously. Whilst this is helpful in terms of representing the whole story, it sometimes means we lose the sense and significance of just the right people, arriving at just the right time, to be the support network this new and very special family need.



One of my favourite Christmas characters doesn't feature in nativity scenes. Nevertheless, she offers vital support at a crucial point in the story. Her name is Elizabeth and, as I write, I can't help but remember that we have lost a very significant Elizabeth from our national life this year. Like the biblical Elizabeth, our former Queen's legacy will long be remembered and outlive her.

In Hebrew, the name 'Elizabeth' means 'God is an oath' or 'God of plenty'. For many years, that name would have held such a hollow irony for Elizabeth herself. She was from a priestly family and later married Zechariah, a priest. Yet, as the years went on, it was a struggle for her to see the promise and plenty she had hoped for. The longed-for children never came, leading in those times to a sense of shame, of failure, of missing out on the things that seemed to come so easily to so many others. Many still bear that kind of grief today. It's one of the reasons we hold a Quiet Christmas Remembering each year, recognising that this can be such a bittersweet season. A variety of life circumstances might make it hard for us to enter into the joy and celebration so often associated with Christmas.

Elizabeth's time comes when she has given up all hope, when she least expects it. She is well into middle or old age, but she is never beyond God's loving reach and purpose. She still has a part to play, she can still be involved. The prayers long prayed have not been in vain. Elizabeth finds herself pregnant with a child who will become the herald of God's new beginning, of the greatest good news of all time. Not only that, she comes alongside her younger cousin Mary at a crucial point, offering reassurance, affirming that miracles are indeed possible, encouraging and enabling Mary to persevere in this fragile yet world-changing calling. Elizabeth is there for Mary when she is at her most vulnerable, when she feels least confident, when most people seem to see her as either mad, bad or both. I'm so glad Mary had an Elizabeth. I'm so glad they

could share both the laughter and the tears of such similar rollercoaster experiences together. I wonder who have been, and continue to be, our 'Elizabeths' – the folk who are there for us just at the right time, who walk with us through thick and thin, who affirm and encourage us no matter what. And I wonder, this Christmas and beyond, who we can be an Elizabeth to?

*Every blessing
Gail*

Remembrance Sunday

On Sunday 13th November a large crowd of people gathered at the memorial in St Giles Road to pay their respects and remember those who lost their lives in order that we can continue to live in freedom and safety.

It was great to see the 13th Coventry Scout Band along with representatives from local uniformed organisations and the British Legion as they marched down the road to gather for the service.

Wreaths were laid around the memorial, including several from local schools - Exhall Juniors, Ash Green and Exhall Cedars.

A wreath was also laid by Rev Gail on behalf of the staff and residents of Bede Village.



It's good to know that the younger generations are being made aware of past sacrifices that will never be forgotten.

*Top right: A wreath is laid on behalf of AGRA
Bottom right: 13th Coventry Scout Band
Left: Assistant Head and students of
Exhall Junior School*

Thought for the Month

“Do not be afraid...”

This can be a very dark time of year; not only a time of long, cold dark nights but also a time of darkness in our hearts and minds. Many people suffer from “the winter blues” and these can be compounded by our worries and concerns. We are living in very bleak days of predicted hardships and coldness. We all carry cares and concerns; they may be health issues, concerns about our future, financial worries or questions about what is happening in the world.

What do we do when we find ourselves sinking in the valley of despondency? If we hug our worries to ourselves the likelihood is that they will turn into anxiety and end up dominating our lives. There is much mileage in the saying, “A problem shared is a problem halved” and our friends can be a great support to us, particularly in times of crisis. And of course we know that the best friend to have is Jesus. 1 Peter 5 verse 7 says, “Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares for you.” This message is at the heart of the Gospel. God didn’t have to enter into relationship with us but He chose to do so. Because he loves us so much He sent His one and only son who died out of love for us, to open the door to the light of a restored relationship with Him.

We celebrate this fact at Christmas when we remember that, although the world has rejected His way, God came and brought His light and love into the lives of all who will accept Him as their Lord and Saviour. Love came to earth that long ago night in Bethlehem. The tenacious, everlasting love of God came wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger to save us and to reveal the light of God that is with us always.

Unfortunately the materialistic, secular society that we live in can mean that Christmas becomes yet another dark worry on the horizon. How sad that this time when we should remember how Jesus came in perfect love can fill us with fear; the fear of not being able to afford enough presents or put lavish food on the table. It is at His coming that the power of fear has been destroyed and He offers us the most perfect gift; the love of God. The love that forgives, cherishes, protects and holds us close.

Let us pray that fears and worries will lose their grip on our hearts and that our minds may delight in God’s grace; that we may trust His love and no longer give way to anxiety. May we be made perfect in love and rest in the one whose perfect love casts out fear.

And now, and particularly as we go into the New Year may we place God at the centre of our lives so that even amidst the challenges and darkness of life we can make good decisions; to bless others and give glory to God. May we recognise that our ultimate security lies in the light and love of God.

We might like God to be “a bridge over troubled water” but it may be that we have to wade through those troubled waters, knowing our security lies in the fact that as we face threats and challenges God is with us. He says, “When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown.” Isaiah 43v2. We might prefer it if God gave us a detour so that we avoided the deep waters but His promise is that he will be with us when we face them because He is our security for time and eternity. I used the following poem at the end of a recent sermon and as a few people appreciated it, I will share it with you too.

Are you burdened or weary
Or weighed down with care?
Do you feel those around you
Don't know you are there?

Do those war ravaged countries
Invoke great distress
As world leaders and statesmen
Don't seem to care less?

And are your eyes filled with tears
For someone whose died,
Do you miss them very much,
They're not at your side?

Do the great needs of the world
Just fill you with dread
As you wonder how millions
Of hungry are fed?

Are you so deeply concerned
So many are ill,
And worry your nurture
Their needs won't fulfil?

Just make Jesus your Saviour
And trust in His hand
To touch, heal and give comfort
All over the land.



May He bless you and keep you
And give you His peace
May you know deep in your heart
His promises won't cease.



It seemed appropriate to close with this often quoted poem:

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
“Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.”
And he replied: “Go out into the darkness and put your hand
into the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.”
So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

May the hand of God lead you closer to Him, now and always, Chris.

COFFEE AFTERNOON

**Saturday 10th December,
2.00 pm until 4.30 pm at St Giles Small Hall
Entrance £5.00**

Join St Giles Church in supporting the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence campaign. Raise funds for the work of Women's Aid (partners of Mothers' Union) to end domestic abuse.

**COFFEE, CAKES, RAFFLE AND QUIZ
BRING A CAKE TO SHARE**

Throughout the campaign, join with others locally, nationally and globally to raise awareness of, and call for an end to, gender-based violence in all forms; in the home and at work places in all societies; and this year, a special call for an end to femicide.

HOSPICE COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 21st January 2023

10.00 am - 12.00 noon

In the small hall



COME AND JOIN US FOR TEA, COFFEE AND CAKES

Raffle and Sales Table

All proceeds to Mary Ann Evans Hospice

If you would like to help please contact

Viv Hopkins on 02476 645161 or

Jackie West on 02476 362168



For our October meeting we welcomed our **Diocesan President – Karen Morris** and her husband Paul. In the past year Karen has been able to visit and speak to many of the MU groups in the Coventry Diocese. Karen brought the group up-to-date with many of the MU projects which cover the Coventry area.

Again this year the MU will be supporting **Prisoners Week** and the MU members who go into the prisons to take presents for the prisoners to give to their children at Christmas. Exhall

MU will donate presents, money donations (for presents) and Christmas cards which will be signed by our Exhall MU members. They will be passed on to the Coventry Diocese who will then distribute these gifts to the prisoners.

Blankets - Nuneaton Deanery have initiated a project to provide free blankets to the elderly, infirm, vulnerable people in the Nuneaton Deanery area. Nuneaton Deanery are aiming to achieve at least 100 blankets before Christmas and plan to have it as an ongoing project to tie in with the Warm Space offering. The plan is for people to knit or crochet blankets for this project or donate any clean blankets. If you have any of these to donate could you please bring and leave these in church or **Contact Yvonne Knowles 02476 749511** – Thank you.

Watch out for our MU tree in the **St Giles Church Christmas Tree Festival** which starts on Sunday 10th December!

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a
Peaceful Christmas and a very Happy New Year !

Thank you again for supporting the MU Exhall Group in many ways !

Next meeting: 19th January at 7.30 pm for a New Year Social.
Bring a plate of food to share. All Welcome!



Follow The Star
THE GREAT
INVITATION

Advent Tuesday Time Outs 7 pm at Church

A time to pray, prepare & reflect ready for Christmas

Nov 29th, Dec 6th, 13th & 20th

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| Sunday 4th Dec A Way in the Wilderness | 9.30 am 11.30 am 5.00 pm | Service of Holy Communion <i>Also on Livestream via St Giles Facebook</i> Sunday Celebration! All Age worship Evening Communion Service |
| Saturday 10th Dec | From 2.00 pm | Outdoor Christmas Tree Festival Available in churchyard until early Jan |
| Sunday 11th Dec Blossoming in the Wilderness | 8.00 am 9.30 am 11.30 am | Quiet Communion Service of Holy Communion Livestream Sunday Celebration! All Age worship |
| Sunday 18th Dec Signs in the Wilderness | 9.30 am <u>5.00 pm</u> | Service of Holy Communion CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE <i>Arrive early. Could be crowded</i> |
| Thurs 22nd Dec | 2.00 pm | Quiet Christmas Remembering <i>A quiet time to remember those we love but see no longer</i> |
| Sat 24th Dec Christmas Eve | 3.00 pm 5.00pm 11.00 pm | All Age Christingle All Age Christingle Midnight Communion |
| Sun 25th Dec Christmas Day | 8.00 am <u>10.30 am</u> | Quiet Communion Take up the Great Invitation! All Age worship with Communion |
| Sun 1st Jan New Year's Day | <u>10.30 am</u> 5.00 pm | Service of Holy Communion Service of Evening Prayer for the New Year |

SERVICES IN JANUARY 2023

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| Sunday 1st January | <u>10.30 am</u> Holy Communion | <u>5.00 pm</u> New Year's Evensong | |
| Wednesday Worship this month will be on 11th January at <u>10.30 am</u> (rather than 4th January) | | | |
| Sunday 8th January | <u>8.00 am</u> Communion | <u>9.30 am</u> Communion | <u>11.30 am</u> All Age Worship |
| Sunday 15th January | <u>9.30 am</u> Communion | <u>11.30 am</u> All Age Worship | <u>5.00 pm</u> Communion |
| Sunday 22nd January | <u>8.00 am</u> Communion | <u>9.30 am</u> Communion | <u>11.30 am</u> All Age Communion |
| Sunday 29th January | <u>10.30 am</u> Joint Communion Service | | |

Christmas Flowers



Contributions to the cost of the floral decorations in church over Christmas would be gratefully received. If you would like to make a donation, please contact Irene Prideaux on 024 7636 1321 or see her at the 9.30 am or 5.00 pm service.

Christmas

May the joy, peace
and hope of Christmas be yours
throughout this season and into
the New Year.
With much love,
Rev Gail. xxx



Wishing all our friends
at St Giles Church a
very Happy Christmas
and Good Health in the
New Year.
From Roy and Cynthia

Seas
Greet
all a
health
peace
Year
Ash
Resid
Assoc

Wishing everyone at
St Giles a happy
Christmas and a
peaceful New Year.
John and Beryl



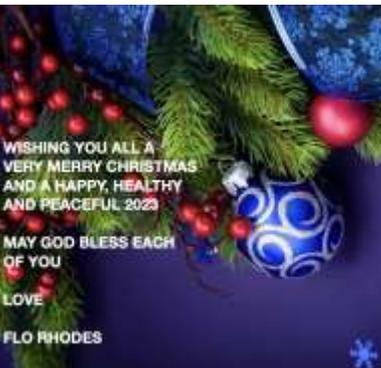
Ho! Ho! Ho! Merry Christmas!
Wishing you & all whom you love a fabulous Christmas & a
New Year full of love, hope, peace, joy & good health
Countless blessings one & all
Neve Khan



"Peace on Earth"
Happy Christmas
to you all.
Yvonne
Knowles xx



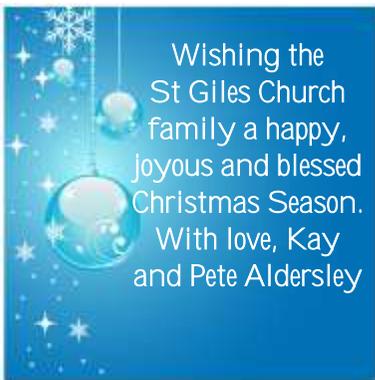
Wishing all my Church family a
Happy Christmas and a healthy
and prosperous 2023.
Sue Barnes



Jackie an
everyone
and a

Greetings

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Life by the River

It may feel that autumn has left us with the clocks going back and the evenings drawing in, but what a wonderful end to October and the start of November. I have managed to still sit on my balcony in 20 degrees sipping a latte and starting my day while listening to Pray as You Go. You can get it on a App on your Ipad along with the music and the Bible reading. A wonderful start to your day, I encourage you to try it.

We have major road works in Welford right in the middle of the village between 9.00 and 3.30. As I walked Poppy this afternoon it felt the village was deserted as the roads are closed; sheer bliss until you realise you have to go through Bidford to get to the other end of Welford! They are due to last for three weeks.

Last week I was invited to afternoon tea for people who live on their own at St Peters in Welford. I felt truly blessed as I am gluten free and they had made me a plate of gluten free goodies. We had a lovely time enjoying fellowship and chatter. One lady asked me to go and visit her and I will look forward to hearing her tapestry of life. The Deacon assured me that, although I worship at St Andrews at Shottery, I will always be welcome at St Peters which was heart warming to hear.

With all the rain we have had the river is slowly rising but with the lack of rain through the summer it is about at its normal level, but I am assured by my neighbour Tim that he has all of us on Station 21 on our WhatsApp and that we will be informed as he keeps in touch with the environmental agency for update on any possible flooding.

We still have two swans, one Jemima puddle goose, a family of moorhens and some ducks. The swans look quite comical as suddenly they dive with their long necks and the tail goes up, trying to see what is beneath the water. My morning walks up the Yellow Path is still interesting. On speaking to the farmer, he told me that the latest of the sheep are all new and as I walk alongside the path they are very interested in what is going on, giving Poppy and me a good old stare. A bit more on the sheep - on waking each morning, as I pull up my blinds I can see the sheep over in the field opposite and by the time I take Poppy a walk, three of them have their heads poking through the five bar gate with the others in a straight line behind them. One morning as I



walked up the hill two had missed the roll call and came bounding by, running as fast as their little legs could take them, but calamity this morning - some had jumped the fence and were in the outer field. The farmer checked and has a bit of a repair job to do today.

I am busy writing a talk for Mothers Union at Shottery on memories. I start with the fact that I have to look at my pill box each morning so I know what day it is ... I mention about Bedworth being one of the only towns that support the service on the 11th day of the 11th hour of the 11th month, the day the guns fell silent. All of the members have been encouraged to bring something we can share to be a memory. My memories are in the photograph album of my life through the years that I put together on leaving Flude Road. It's the book I would rescue if my house was under threat .

On Saturday November 5th, all of the family came over to celebrate seven birthdays including Mike's. Colin the Caterpillar was a guest of honour on the table but I am afraid he will be eaten. You won't be surprised to hear we were eating sausages, mash and beans, yummy yum! A farmer opposite did a wonderful firework display as an end to a lovely evening.

When you are reading this it will be the start of Advent and the journey towards Christmas and Jesus' birth. May the joy announced by the angels on the night Christ was born be your reality. May faith in Christ be God's gift to you.

Christmas Blessings to you all

From Jane and Poppy x

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 £3.00

Further info: Patricia Munro 024 7664 4507

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
www.skampspreschooldaynursery.com or find us on Facebook



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024 7631 9092 www.collyhurst.info

ADVERTISING IN ST GILES PARISH MAGAZINE

We publish 10 editions of the magazine each year.

A full page advert is £40 per month or £400 per year

A half page advert is £20 per month or £200 per year

A quarter page advert is £10 per month or £100 per year

For further details please contact Tina Watkins on 02476 645278, 07905 297713
or by email at tinawatk1ns@btinternet.com

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, 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
 is taking a break for the time being.
 Watch this space for more news.**



Nature Notes

These nature notes are dedicated to the memory of the late Mr Norman Edmonds, Local Historian, Naturalist and well respected Ash Green School Master. Mr Edmonds wrote a page in the Church Magazine for 30 years, and I humbly try to follow in his footsteps.

The mild autumn weather has bought an abundance of different fungi and plenty of ink caps but on the house lawn close to the kitchen door I have three genuine mushrooms as big as tea plates. The badger hasn't been seen all the summer but he is back now and digging holes all over the pathways in search of worms.



The little gang of pheasants come at least twice a day and hover under the feeders hanging on the rowan tree in the middle of the patio. When the little birds feed bits drop on the floor and the pheasants just rush for the falling nuts. Fights are breaking out among the cock pheasants as one of them seeks to be the boss for the coming breeding season. The one who is now the boss I have called Henry. He has just been to the kitchen door, and I have given him a handful of nuts.

In the orchard most of the apples have now fallen off the trees, and have become food for animals and birds. Our orchard was planted in 1946 just after World War II by my Uncle, Fred Gibson. Twenty-four apple trees were planted, but now only 14 remain. I am trying to take cuttings from some of the rare trees including names like John Grieve, Newton Wonder, Howgate Wonder, Beauty of Bath, Lord Lambourne and Lord Derby. Since looking after the orchard I have now planted damsons, Victoria plums, and greengages.

It's important not to lose these old varieties of trees. In years gone by the fallen apples were soon eaten by my uncle's pigs. If you kept pigs it was the custom to keep a bucket by your back door, and the neighbours would come round and bring their vegetable peelings to help feed the pigs. The reward was you gave the neighbour a piece of pork to roast for Christmas dinner. If you go quietly through the orchard now you will see fieldfares and redwings pecking away at the apples. Nothing is wasted.

***Happy Christmas.
Stella Bunting.***

Morrisons and Tesco Extra Support Super Sunday School All Hallows' Eve Party

A huge “THANK YOU” to all the staff of Morrisons (Binley), Tesco Extra (CBS Arena) and Morrisons (Holbrooks) for supporting the Super Sunday School Project All Hallows’ Eve Party at St Giles Church on Sunday 30th October.



We would like to especially thank Kayleigh English for organising the Morrisons (Binley) in-kind donation of pumpkins that were used as hall decorations and for a much enjoyed game of three cone pumpkin bowling (an adaptation of ten pin bowling), Michelle Walsh for the Tesco Extra (CBS Arena) in-kind donation of ketchup & tubs/packets of chocolates and sweets for prizes and goody bag fillers and Karen Phillips for the Morrisons (Holbrook) in-kind donation of finger rolls for hot dogs.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Nicholas Chamberlaine Trust for their support to the Super Sunday School Project, which is a collaborative initiative that brings together the Parishes of Bedworth, Bulkington & Exhall through Christian-based events for children and their families. For the All Hallows’ Eve Party, your support included sausages for the hot dogs and bread rolls for people with special food requirements

(vegetarian/gluten-free foodstuff). Thank you.



With your collective support, we were able to create a safe warm space, that brought together over 150 people from the three parishes to enjoy games, crafts, food, and have lots of fun!



Top left:

Tracy Crawford and Michael Culligan, Morrisons Binley

Bottom left:

Karen Phillips and Elizabeth Hawkins, Morrisons Holbrooks

Bottom right:

Michelle Walsh, Tesco Extra, CBS Arena

THOUGHTS FOR ADVENT GOD FOR US? GOD WITH US?

During this time of Advent we are drawn back into Old Testament times, the time John was promising the coming of someone who would make a huge difference in the world. And before him, the time of the Israelites, and the tribes as they fought and quarrelled among themselves. And their rallying cry was often “God is for us, God is on our side. God will crush our enemies”. We too are familiar with the phrase “If God is for us who can be against us”.

But this seems to imply that we have enemies and God will defeat them. Which is of course how the tribes of Israel lived their lives. And how many of us have secretly in our hearts and against our better knowledge wanted God to destroy Putin and enable Ukraine to win their war. It has caused so much pain for all the world as we watch with horror what has been inflicted on a people.

The message of God with us is there from the very beginning. Even in Genesis God says “I am with you and will be with you wherever you go”. (Gen. 28:15) And we have those wonderful promises in Isaiah 41:10 “So do not fear for I am with you.” and Isaiah 43:2 “When you walk through the waters I will be with you.”

But the tribes of the Old Testament saw those promises as a promise of defeat against their enemies and victory in all of their battles. They failed to fully understand what God was doing in their world. So with the coming of Jesus we have a different message. God is *with* his people. And that is a huge and significant difference. A God who is in the heart of the messes we humans sometimes make of our lives. Not there for us to defeat others who would harm us but with us in our struggles and suffering, enabling us to more truly become as He is, as He would have us be.

God says, “Behold I am with you till the end of time.” With us from the instant of conception until the end of our lives and beyond.

The whole Christmas message is that God came to his people in a way we could know and understand who he is and what he is like.

A baby born as we are, living and dying in the ordinary messy way of humanity. Not winning our battles for us or defeating our enemies but sustaining us, supporting us, loving us no matter what, nurturing us, comforting us, giving us peace beyond all understanding, enabling us to look with compassion and more understanding on the frailties of our nature, our own and those of our fellow human beings.

Emmanuel – God with us. The message is there for us this Christmas.

I wish you all a blessed and joyous Christmas.

With love, Hilary

WORDSEARCH



Christmas is nearly here! Two thousand years ago the Jews were longing for the coming of their Messiah. The Old Testament had promised that when He came, He would preach good news to the poor, bind up the broken hearted, proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, comfort all who mourn and to bestow on his people a crown of beauty instead of ashes. Jesus did all those things. He was and is the Son of God, and whoever has seen Him has seen the Father.

| | | | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Messiah | Broken | Heart | Whoever | Father | God | Crown |
| Freedom | Darkness | Favour | Longing | Jesus | Beauty | Bestow |
| Prisoners | Comfort | Mourn | Thousand | Seen | Son | Ashes |

Funerals

*In the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil, for you are with me.*

Ivor George Harwood, who died on 7th October,
aged 96 years

John Murray Garner, who died on 10th October, aged 78 years



Ansley Church Christmas Tree Festival 2022

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Saturday 3rd December | 11.00 am - 5.00 pm |
| Sunday 4th December | 12.00 noon - 5.00 pm |
| Saturday 10th December | 11.00 am - 5.00 pm |
| Sunday 11th December | 12.00 noon - 5.00 pm |
| Saturday 17th December | 11.00 am - 5.00 pm |
| Sunday 18th December | 12.00 noon - 6.00 pm |

Admission £2. All accompanied children free.
60 Christmas Trees decorated by the community

Light refreshments available

In aid of Church funds and a donation to Mary Ann Evans Hospice.

Carol Singing!

Don't forget we will be meeting
at the chip shop on Trelawny
Road at 7 pm on 19th December

and at Ash Green Post Office at 7 pm on 21st December. All are welcome to
join us as we walk around the parish singing carols and collecting in aid of the
Children's Society. We look forward to seeing you! (There are refreshments
afterwards on both nights!)



Ministry & Admin

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Vicar | Gail Phillip | 024 7664 5030 07869 395980 |
| Assistant Curate | Jo Parker | 07511 611809 |
| Wardens | Neva Khan Andy Clark | 07496 859598 07584 372704 |
| 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 07905 297713 |
| Parish Magazine | Tina Watkins | 7664 5278 07905 297713 |
| 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 | Steve Watkins | 7664 5278 07926 989686 |
| 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

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Drama Club | Tina Watkins | 7664 5278 07905 297713 |
| Food Bank | Alan Marshall | 07809 203178 |
| Hospice Coffee Morning | Chrissie Hughes | 7631 5468 |
| Mothers' Union | Mandy Williams | 7633 7188 |
| Over 50s Club | Patricia Munro | 7664 4507 |
| Green Genies | Robert & Jackie West | 7636 2168 |

St Giles Church, Exhall Christmas Tree Festival

Re-use and recycle!

The festival will open on

**Saturday 10th December at 2.00 pm,
and will be open until 8th January.**

Come and explore the grounds around

St Giles Church and see the
environmentally-friendly Christmas trees that
have all been decorated by local schools, groups,
businesses and organisations!

This is a free festival but donations are welcome.

We look forward to seeing you!

