

# St. Giles Church Exhall Parish Magazine



June-July 2022 50p

**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**

**Please see the worship pattern for June and July  
on pages 10 and 11.**

**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](mailto:Bedworth@community.grocery.org.uk)

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

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

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

The next magazine will be the August edition and the copy deadline date is **Sunday 10th July.**

## Welcome to your June/July Magazine!

If you are reading this before 5th June, I hope you're able to join our Jubilee Tea Party in the park! If you're reading it at a later date, I hope you joined us and had a lovely time!

It's certainly a time for celebration - not only our Queen's Jubilee, but also the ordination as Priest of our lovely Curate, Jo. Her ordination service will be held at Coventry Cathedral on Sunday 3rd July and will be live streamed into St Giles Church at 10.30 am. So although we won't all be able to attend in person, we can still be there in spirit, supporting Jo on what is such an important occasion in her life. On the following Sunday, 10th July at the 10.30 am joint service, she will officiate at her first Holy Communion. This will be followed by a great St Giles celebration lunch in the main hall. See you there!

***Best wishes to you all***

***Tina Watkins***

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

# With love from the Curate

## It's Jubilee Time!

What a gift to start June with an extra-long weekend and Jubilee celebrations. If you are reading this before Sunday 5th June, then do join us for our Queen's Jubilee Party, in the recreation ground next to the church hall, between 3 and 5pm.



The term 'jubilee' is most closely associated with the royal family. In particular the ceremony and spectacle celebrating significant periods in a monarch's reign and in the national life of the country. No British monarch has ever achieved a reign of 70 years before. Therefore, the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II is very special indeed.

The concept of a jubilee began in biblical times when God instructed Moses that every 50th year was to be a time of celebration, rejoicing and rest – rest for the land and rest for the people. The word 'jubilee' literally means 'ram's horn' in Hebrew, which was blown on the tenth day of the seventh month to start a year dedicated to rest, to restoration of property and to freeing people from slavery and debts.

God wants us to have periods of restoration. Time away from our everyday lives to rest, worship and reflect. The ancient Biblical pattern was to take a weekly Sabbath day and also to treat the seventh year as a Sabbath year and the fiftieth year as a jubilee (Leviticus 25). Our society is not structured this way, but the principle is good. Think about what do you do to rest? Are you good at keeping a Sabbath or do you find it difficult to slow down and stop? God wants us to make time for worship, rest and reflection – perhaps this is something you might consider building into your routine.

I remember having a special badge for my Brownie uniform for the Queen's Silver Jubilee. I wonder if you still have any memorabilia from previous royal jubilees – coins, mugs etc? What do you have that helps you remember Jesus and all that he has done for you? Jesus is the King of Kings, how do we take time to celebrate Jesus, each day, week, year?

Jesus came to proclaim every year a Jubilee, 'the acceptable year of the Lord' (Luke 4:19). Here are some practical ideas to extend the spirit of jubilee beyond June 2022:

- ★ Donate to the Harbour Centre.
- ★ Give to charities working with refugees and those facing famine.
- ★ Do something to address the Climate Emergency.

***Happy Jubilee!***

***With love, Jo***

## **ST GILES PCC MEMBERSHIP**

The members of the PCC are elected members of the laity and they each hold office for a period of three years from the Annual Parochial Church Meeting at which they were elected.

**Following the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 8th May,  
our elected PCC members are as follows:**

### **2022 – 2025**

Helen Anderson  
Roy Edwards  
Neil Harris  
Sam Jones  
Eddie Lanteri

### **2021 to 2024**

James Harden  
Kathryn Unsworth  
Tina Watkins  
Steve Watkins

### **2020 to 2023**

Joyanne Grayson  
Rob Grayson  
Mandy Williams

**Other members of the PCC are as follows:**

Reverend Gail Phillip and Reverend Joanne Parker  
Neva Khan and Andy Clarke, our Parish Churchwardens  
Viv Hopkins and Gwyneth Carter, our Deanery Synod Representatives  
(elected every three years)  
John Owen representing our Licensed Readers and Ministry Team  
Both the PCC Treasurer (Stephen Carter) and PCC Secretary (Carol Gough) are  
Honorary posts and neither position attracts voting rights at meetings.

# Thought for the Month

## A New Day

It is another morning, this time far from the hustle and bustle of the city. Uncertain of what the future held, we had gravitated back to the comfortable familiarity of Galilee. Once here, not knowing what else to do, it had not been long before we were back in our boats.

We spent the whole of last night trawling the lake, and came up with nothing to show for it. And then, just as we were drawing in the nets and preparing to come in, he called out from the shore and told us to try the other side of the boat. Now, the bulging net lies on the ground beside the boat, and we have just finished a hearty breakfast of fish and bread. A breakfast cooked and served to us by him.



Having got up to begin cleaning away the remains of breakfast, I find myself alone with him, a few yards away from the others. This is the third time I've seen him since he rose, but the first time we've been face to face. Although I am close enough that I could reach out my hand and touch him, something holds me back – there is a distance between us that cannot be bridged by mere touch. There is no doubt in my mind that this Jesus who stands before me now is the very same man I saw die a criminal's death; God has raised him to new life, just as he said would happen. Which means I cannot escape the conclusion that everything he said about himself is true, that he really is the Messiah, the chosen one, the Son of Man who is Son of God. This – though it defies all logic and human experience – this I can accept, for there are no alternatives that remotely explain the facts.

But there is something I cannot accept, something I cannot bring myself to



consider. Whatever this risen king has in store, whatever the next chapter in this strange story might be, I cannot see how I could possibly deserve a place in it. I am glad he is alive, I am glad to know he is the chosen one of God, but I know I have surely disqualified myself from any

further role in his plans. He may have triumphed over the grave, but I am left undone by my pride, my cowardice and my sin, forever condemned to look on from the sidelines. What further use could he have for me, now that I've shown him and everyone else that all my gallant words were nothing but empty rhetoric?

He looks over at the others, then back at me. "Simon", he says, and his use of the name my father gave me somehow cuts through my pretence, "Simon, do you love me more than these?" I shuffle my feet, wanting to look away, but his eyes will not release me. I try to sound as earnest as I can: "Yes, Master, you know I love you". "Feed my lambs", comes the reply.

I stand there awkwardly, trying to make some sense of this last comment, when he again looks me in the eye and asks, "Simon, do you love me?" A sudden stab of anger and pain rises up inside me: the anger of his not believing me and the pain of knowing that I am a liar, that I denied him when he needed me most; how can I expect him to believe me now? Yet, still wanting to play the part and save face, I repeat my answer: "Yes, Master, you know I love you". This time, he tells me to feed his sheep.

By now I am teetering on the edge of a precipice, my emotions threatening to wrest control from me. I am desperately trying to mask my inner turmoil, concentrating on hiding the trembling in my hands. But he has seen it, and he reaches out and gently takes my hand in his. As he once more looks me in the eyes, everything else fades and the whole world is reduced to this moment, this place, the two of us. "Simon", he asks again, his voice tender, and it is as though his eyes reach deep into my soul, "Simon, do you love me?"

Before I can answer, the wall I have built around my emotions begins to crack, and I feel the hot sting of tears on my cheek. "Master", I reply, and this time my eyes are pleading with his, I am begging him to believe me, "Master, you know everything there is to know. You have to know that I love you".

Without warning, it all comes flooding back, everything I did that fateful night, and with it my anger, my fear and my wretchedness. I remember my hurt and my offence when he told me I would deny him, and I feel the burning shame of my failure. Then suddenly, with bell-like clarity, I hear again the words he spoke to me at the table earlier that same evening: "I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail. So when you've repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers."

"Feed my sheep", he says again, gently squeezing my hand. And in that moment, something passes between us and I know that he foresaw even this, that he knew all along that I, his strongest supporter and staunchest ally, would fail him utterly. It dawns on me that, just as I denied him three times, I have

***Continued overleaf***

now told him three times that I love him; it is as though he was determined to prove to me that the final word about me was not spoken on that dreadful night.

We remain there a few moments longer, and as we talk, I realise that the chasm between us has gone and I have nothing to hide. He does not have to tell me I am forgiven; I simply know that my guilt has been washed away, buried with him in that cold tomb and left there when he rose again. And I understand for the first time this freedom of which he has so often spoken: the freedom of knowing that none of this depends on me, that it has all been done and taken care of in spite of me, and that I no longer have to run from him, from God, from others, or from myself.

I breathe in the cool, fresh morning air as we walk back to the others. A new day has begun.

*Rob Grayson*

## **Party In the Park Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June**

**Donations of cakes would be appreciated on the day, preferably small cakes as these are easier to serve. Further information from Viv Hopkins on 02476 645161**

**Any assistance with setting up and clearing away on the day would also be greatly appreciated!**

**Contact Tina Watkins 07905 297713 if you can help.**



## **Looking after the Churchyard**



The Green Genies and Meadow Group meet on the second Saturday of each month to tidy and maintain the churchyard and Meadow. Anyone is welcome to join in and we start at 9.30 am and usually finish around 12 noon. On Saturday June 11th we hope to plant out Begonias along the borders so if you can spare some time, bring a trowel and kneeler and join the team! Coffee and tea are provided.

*Kathryn Unsworth*



At our April meeting we welcomed The Lord Mayor of Coventry, Councillor John McNicholas and his wife. He talked to us about his year as Lord Mayor and how the pandemic had curtailed many of the things he would have liked to do. Thankfully with many of the restrictions lifted, he will be able to enjoy more events in his last few weeks in office. We also celebrated Cynthia's 80th birthday!



Her Majesty the Queen is Patron of the Mothers Union, **on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June our meeting will be an Afternoon Tea to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.** We are being joined on this occasion by the Bereavement Group at 3.00pm in the Small Hall. Wear your hats and bring a cake - let's make this a celebration!



The Queen did not choose the life she has. She was born into it, but through diligence and devotion has embraced it to the full. She serves as a longstanding reminder that we should live up to our own values, practice our faith if we have one, and live each day as a celebration of all that is.

***Next meeting 21<sup>st</sup> July at 7.30pm in the Small Hall.***

**If you would like to know more about the Mothers' Union  
please don't hesitate to get in touch with:**

**Viv Hopkins 02476645161**

**Yvonne Knowles 02476749511**

**Mandy Williams 02476337188**

## ST GILES WORSHIP PATTERN FOR JUNE

1st Sunday June 5th	2nd Sunday June 12th	3rd Sunday June 19th	4th Sunday June 26th
No early morning service	8.00 am Holy Communion	No early morning service	8.00 am Holy Communion
9.30 am Joint Jubilee Communion Service	9.30 am Holy Communion (with Choir)	9.30 am Holy Communion (with Choir)	9.30 am Holy Communion (with Choir)
3.00 pm Jubilee Tea Party in the Park	11.30 am Sunday Celebration! All Age worship (In church with Band)	11.30 am Sunday Celebration! All Age worship (In church with Band)	11.30 am Sunday Celebration! All Age worship (In church with Band)
5.00 pm No Evening Service	No Evening Service Deanery invitation to Evensong at the Cathedral 4.00 pm	5.00 pm Evening Prayer (with Choir)	No Evening Service

## ST GILES WORSHIP PATTERN FOR JULY

1st Sunday July 3rd	2nd Sunday July 10th	3rd Sunday July 17th	4th Sunday July 24th	5th Sunday July 31st
No early morning service	No early morning service	No early morning service	8.00 am Holy Communion	8.00 am Holy Communion (Order Two)
<b>10.30 am JOINT SERVICE</b>  <b>Rev Jo will be ordained Priest</b>	<b>10.30 am JOINT SERVICE</b>  <b>Rev Jo to preside at her First Communion</b>	9.30 am Holy Communion (with Choir)	9.30 am Holy Communion (with Choir)	9.30 am Holy Communion (with Choir)
<b>LIVESTREAM ORDINATION SERVICE FROM CATHEDRAL TO ST GILES</b>	<b>Followed by Shared Parish Lunch in Main Hall</b>	11.30 am Sunday Celebration! All Age worship (In church with Band)	11.30 am Sunday Celebration! All Age worship (In church with Band)	11.30 am Sunday Celebration! All Age worship with Communion (In church with Band)
5.00 pm Sung Holy Communion (with Choir)	No Evening Service	5.00 pm Evening Prayer (with Choir)	No Evening Service	No Evening Service

**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



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## 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](mailto: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

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and Exhall Old School Community Centre.**

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**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.*

It's a busy time in my wildlife garden at the moment. Four of the bird boxes are occupied but I haven't seen the young ones yet, and on 17th May I saw the first swallows over the garden. Calling most of the day are blackcaps, chiff chaffs, chaffinches, goldfinches and the wrens. The wrens have rebuilt their nest in the power box for the greenhouse, glad to say the power is not on at the moment. The 720 begonia plants for the churchyard don't need heat now that they are growing well.

Sad to say that a young tawny owl was found dead on the lawn some 50 metres from the owl box. I thought it may have fallen out of the box and been carried along by something. My brother, John took the spade and gave it a decent burial at the back of the compost heap.

A few years ago I planted a small root of wood anemones under the beech tree. Now, four years later, I have flowers. So pleased about that. The bluebells are under the Indian bean tree and are also doing well this year.



I bought "ultimate" fat balls this year, and the greater spotted woodpeckers have been coming four times every half hour filling their beaks then flying off to feed their young. It must be thirsty work as when taking a drink they dipped their beaks 18 times into the water. The flock of pheasants have split up now and gone off nesting - only the cock pheasant and one female left. While I was in the house getting the bird food ready I turned round and the female pheasant had followed me into the house.



Now animal news. The dog fox and the vixen have produced three lovely cubs, I have been watching them playing among the cow parsley at the top of the garden. Extra food needed now. While walking through the cow parsley I disturbed a muntjac who ran off followed the a young one - nice to see them, even though they eat my flowers.



***Stella Bunting.***

## All in the month of JUNE

### **It was:**

250 years ago, on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1772 that the Court of King's Bench ruled that slavery was illegal in England and Wales. But it remained legal in British Overseas Territories and colonies until 1833.

**100 years ago, from 28<sup>th</sup> June 1922 to 24<sup>th</sup> May 1923, that the Irish Civil War took place. Led to Pro-Treaty leading to confirmation of the Irish Free State.**

80 years ago, from 4<sup>th</sup>– 7<sup>th</sup> June 1942 that the Battle of Midway took place. The USA defeated Japan in the most important naval battle of the Pacific Campaign.

**75 years ago, on 5<sup>th</sup> June 1947 that the Marshall Plan was proposed. US Secretary of State George C Marshall offered a self-help programme to Europe that would enable countries to rebuild democratic societies and resist communism after WWII.**

65 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1957 that the first premium bond prize draw took place in Britain.

**40 years ago, on 14<sup>th</sup> June 1982 that the Falklands War ended. Argentine forces surrendered to the British in Port Stanley and a ceasefire was agreed.**

**Argentine president Leopold Galtieri resigned on 17<sup>th</sup> June.**

25 years ago, on 26<sup>th</sup> June 1997, J K Rowling's first Harry Potter novel, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* was published in the UK.

**15 years ago, on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2007, Apple released the first iPhone.**

10 years ago, on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2012, that Lonesome George, the male Pinta Island tortoise died. The last-known member of his species, Lonesome George serves as an important symbol for conservation efforts around the world, and particularly in the Galapagos Islands.

# JUBILEE WORD SEARCH



MAJESTY

QUEEN

FIRST

BRITISH

MONARCH

PLATINUM

JUBILEE

SEVENTY

YEARS

SERVICE

UNITED

KINGDOM

REALMS

COMMONWEALTH

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAY

TROOPING

COLOUR

SOLDIERS

HORSES

BUCKINGHAM

PALACE

BALCONY

BEACONS

## Brass Cleaning - can you help?

The team that keeps our brasses in church clean and shiny could really do with a few more members! It isn't a huge commitment - if we get sufficient people on the rota it would probably mean you would need to be available only once or twice a year.

If you're interested in joining the team, please contact **Yvonne Knowles, telephone 02476 749511** for further information.

Thank you.



Bedworth Community Grocery (the Harbour Centre) has asked for specific items from each church and organisation in the area to ensure they have a good stock of essential supplies for those in need.

They have asked if we at St Giles can provide packets of tea and jars of coffee. Small packets and jars are best as this makes it easier for them to distribute to as many families as possible.

**If you are able to help, please place your donations in the box in church. Thank you!**



*Heather looked radiant in white, the details picked out subtly in gold...*



THANK  
you

I just want to thank everyone who contributed to the wonderful service and wake for my lovely wife Jan, from Vicar Gail, Church Wardens, Henry and choristers, Viv who rang a bell for us and everyone who attended, or sent good wishes. It was a great celebration of her life, people wore cheerful clothes which she would have liked.

Jan was a baptised member of the Baptist church as a girl but equally loved St Giles! She was always cheerful and tried to help anyone in the nursing home. Thanks once again to all at St Giles!

*Brian Leivers (Jan's tribute can be found on page 24)*

### A Message from Sheila

In April, Rev. Gail, Mandy Williams, Yvonne Knowles, Sue Barnes, Flo Rhodes and Neva Khan joined Sheila, her family and friends to celebrate Sheila's birthday. Great fun was had by all ... but, it was an occasion of mixed emotions, as Sheila also used the occasion to say farewell.

In mid May, Sheila moved from Exhall to Nuneaton. Before leaving, Sheila has requested the following

message to be shared,

"Thank you for your kindness, love and friendship! I will miss you and hope that you will keep in touch with me. You will always be in my heart"

*Neva Khan, on behalf of Sheila Middleton-Reid*



### Rosemary Little - thank you for keeping in touch

In April, Yvonne Knowles, Flo Rhodes and I were delighted to finally catching up in-person with Rosemary Little and what a joyous get together it was for us all! Rosemary had not been allowed visitors since moving into her new Home in Coventry, due to COVID-19, so it had been a particularly



difficult time for her. Words can't express the joy and gratitude Rosemary shared. Our time with Rosemary was one of constant chatter and laughter. It was truly priceless and yet another reminder of how valuable meeting each other in-person is ... it certainly was for Rosemary and us!

*Neva Khan, Churchwarden*

## Thanks once again to Morrison's!

A huge "THANK YOU" to all the staff of Morrison's (Binley) for their continued support to St Giles Church. We would like to especially thank Kayleigh (pictured below with Flo Rhodes) for organising Morrison's in-kind donation of 50 creme eggs that were shared at our 6.00 am and 10.30am Easter services.

*Neva  
Khan,*



# Life by the River

I live on the no. 27 bus route. Most days as it travels towards Honeybourne and back, it passes me as I walk Poppy. The lady driver always waves with a smile and we feel we both know each other. On Good Friday morning it stopped outside where I live and we exchanged a hello and our names - her name is Dawn. I said "bring the bus in to Welford Chase and we can have a coffee." The only other lady passenger on the bus had a smile on her face; it made my day.

Well, we have had an exciting month of new beginnings! On Easter Tuesday two friends who live here got married and we were invited to the evening reception. It was lovely to meet up with our neighbours, we enjoyed good food, a drink or two and the music was live. It was lovely to be able to share in their new married life.

What happened a week later wasn't so pleasant when nine of us went down with the dreaded Covid from which I am still recovering; luckily the Bride and Groom never got it.

The other new life on the River is in abundance. The ducks swim round with

six tiny ducklings, the Canada geese have three fluffy goslings, some new geese have come to live on this stretch of river and the two swans are swimming by but as yet no cygnets or a nest in sight. Jemima Puddle Goose is still sitting on the nest



opposite for hours each day but I think it's a phantom pregnancy. The lily pads have floated to the surface and the moorhens and chicks go from one to another pecking for food, it's all so fascinating. I often wonder what am I going to write and then just look at the River and the words start flowing.

At the moment we are planning a day of celebration for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Sunday 5th June. It will be a day packed with festivities with an 11am brunch, 3pm afternoon tea and then drinks going on until the evening. We are decorating the Chase with bunting and are sharing preparations for the food, all on our new Communal area, so watch this space for reports in August. Also St Peters are having an afternoon tea for those who live on their own, so as you can say it's all happening in Welford.

The conservation area opposite delights with different flora each day - self planting forget me knots, bluebells, beautiful buttercups and tiny flowers of different colours. The lambs that were once tiny are now growing well and as the farmer comes each morning the cacophony of sound is just amazing as they wait for a top up feed.

As we journey through the summer months may you experience a childlike joy, an ability to laugh at the simplest things of life and enjoy every moment as a gift of grace, and discover treasures in thankfulness and a happy heart.

*Every Blessing  
Jane and Poppy x*

## 5th June - Pentecost



We used to call it Whitsun – ‘White Sunday’ because long ago children marched to church in white on that day. No processions nowadays, and we’ve even changed its name. It’s now ‘Pentecost’, which is more accurate but needs explaining.

Pentecost marks a vital event in Christian history. It is celebrated 50 days after Easter. The year Jesus was crucified (which took place at the Passover), the remnant of His followers, just 120 of them, were together in an upper room in Jerusalem. They were afraid to show their faces in case the authorities arrested them. But on the day of Passover they had an amazing collective experience.

They described it in terms of wind and fire, a great surge of spiritual energy and confidence. Afraid no longer, they burst out on to the streets where crowds were gathering for the festival, led by Peter they began to tell them about Jesus and His resurrection. As they did so, although many of the people in the crowd were foreigners who spoke other languages, everyone heard them in their own tongue. Peter told them that what they were seeing was the fulfilment of an old prophecy when God would pour out His Spirit on the human race, men and women, young and old.

As a result of His words and the extraordinary spectacle, 3000 people believed and were baptised in the name of Jesus. They were the nucleus of what in 100 years would be a Church that would turn history upside down. For Christians Pentecost is in effect the birthday of the Church.

Many people find the whole idea of the Holy Spirit mysterious and elusive. It wasn’t helped by the earlier title ‘Holy Ghost’. The spirit is not spiritually a ‘ghost’ but a precious gift.

*Canon David Winter via Parish Pump*

# A Holiday of Contrasts

My daughter, Alison, her husband Steve and their two children Joshua, then 5, and Lucy, then 3, emigrated to Australia in 2005: their younger son, Oliver, was born out there in 2007. They had always been a family with 'itchy feet' but they settled in Torquay, Victoria, a seaside town at the start of The Great Ocean Road. After several house moves, they built their dream house, including a 'Granny Annexe'.

Like all of us, Lockdown gave them the opportunity to re-evaluate their life. Josh and Lucy had finished school, Ollie was about to start his 'Transition' year, and their feet began to itch!

In 2017 they had bought a second buy-to-let older house in Tewantin, a suburb of Noosa, Queensland, north of Brisbane. Noosa had for many years been their 'go to happy place' for holidays, and the intention was to retire to Noosa one day and build another Dream House. The end of the tenant's lease on the house also coincided with Lockdown.

So, a life-changing plan was realized: the house in Torquay was sold and the money stashed away: Steve would work from home in Noosa for just two days a week: Alison initially would teach for three days a week (This has turned into five because of Teacher shortages in Queensland): Ollie would go to a new School; Lucy would find casual work as her plans to travel had been temporarily thwarted, and Josh opted to stay in Torquay and live independently! The actual move itself was not without its own problems with state borders randomly opening and then closing!

My visit this year to Australia was totally different, including all the travel regulations. The single-storey house in Tewantin is much smaller than the Torquay house. The weather is tropical, with high humidity, the surroundings are 'bush'-tropical rain forests, the wildlife completely different (and also dangerous!).

Noosa itself stands at the mouth of the River Noosa, on the ocean. It has long, beautiful beaches and the iconic "shopaholics" paradise of Hastings Street runs parallel with the beach. Noosaville has developed along the Riverside on the South shore. The River is far larger than any of our rivers, and is the busiest place ever – paddlers, kayakers, fishing boats, house boats, jet-skiers, and the Ferry which runs from Noosa to the Marina every hour. People walk, run, cycle along the promenade, or sit and picnic at the many picnic benches along the river.

My daily walk with the dog used to be along the beach but now it's through the bush. Your senses are bombarded: trees higher than you can imagine forming a canopy to walk under; huge butterflies, moths, dragon flies and lizards cross your path; the kookaburras laugh, the cockatoos and parrots screech at each other and the noise from the swaying trees adds a very eerie feeling to your walk; the humidity gives off its own smell which battles with the smell of decay from the swampy areas. However, you never feel afraid to walk through this tropical landscape!

My stay in Australia had always included a 'holiday' and I have been very fortunate to visit most of the 'touristy' cities and landmarks over the years. However, this year it was renovation year and much of the stay has involved knocking down walls, felling trees, tiptoeing through newly tiled areas as the family completely restructure and modernize this property. One thing remained the same – my responsibility for the laundry room and the sewing jobs!

I was fortunate enough to visit Maryborough, the nearest town with bells, just 1 hour 45 minutes away! I had hoped to ring at Brisbane Cathedral – two hours away – but was thwarted by the family succumbing to Covid! However, I did find a wonderful Anglican Church at Tewantin. It was very modern, almost circular in shape, with a music group to lead the choruses and hymns. And there wasn't a dog-collar or cassock



to be seen! Very Australian laid-back but a very welcoming Church and well attended.



Having been to Australia virtually every year since the family moved there, I found the three-year lockdown separation quite difficult, so it was wonderful just to be part of the family again – even if the grandchildren now out-top me by many inches and look after me as I

looked after them. Certainly, a visit of many contrasts!

***Joy Pluckrose (Joy has in recent months joined our bell ringers and the 9.30 congregation at St Giles).***

# JUBILEE TEA PARTY

On St Giles Recreation Ground  
behind the large Church Hall



Games, tea & cake, bouncy castle,  
BBQ & music!  
Sunday 5th June  
from 3.00 pm until 5.00 pm  
Free event - all welcome!

## 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

## **Baptisms**

*You have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life.*

**Lilah Foster on 15th May**

## **Weddings**

*Marriage is never to be undertaken carelessly, lightly or selfishly.*

**Lisa Breakwell & Steve Mann on 21st May**

## **Funerals**

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

**Jamie Dean Montgomery, who died on 25th April aged 48 years**



### **A tribute to Jan Leivers by her daughter, Sian**

Mum was born in Swansea on 14<sup>th</sup> March 1936. Her parents were Bill and Doris. Mum's grandparents lived next door, and one of her uncles lived two doors away, so although she was an only child, she had lots of family, including several cousins living close by. Their house overlooked the bay and Swansea docks where her grandfather worked. Her father, Bill, worked for the post office but he was away for several years during the war. Mum was evacuated, along with her grandmother and cousins, to Bishopston on the Gower Peninsula. They lived in a wooden bungalow and every morning Mum, and her cousin Alan would have to carry buckets of water from the standpipe to the bungalow. Mum and Alan attended the same school and Alan used to stand guard while Mum used the unisex toilets. They became great friends. Mum had relatives living in Barnstable and would spend the summer holidays there. Her cousin Pam, Alans's sister, remembers going to fetch her on the paddle steamer, a great treat. Mum was bright and passed her 11 plus. She went to Llwyn y Bryn Grammar School, then to the Bristol College of Advanced technology to study Pharmacy. That was where she met my dad.

It was an inauspicious start. It followed a Freshers event where my dad had consumed a little too much alcohol and was somewhat the worse for wear. Mum knew where he and his roommate lived so saw them home safely. The following day Dad went to thank her. That was the start of their relationship. She took him in hand and had been doing it ever since.

Having both successfully completed their studies and qualified as pharmacists, they were married shortly afterwards in 1959. They took a while to settle down, living in various places including Barnes, Derby and Birmingham. In 1961 they settled here in Exhall when Dad got a job managing Goodalls chemists' shop in Holbrooks. Mark arrived in 1960 and was followed closely by Kay, Sian and Carolyn. Four children all under the age of four which was quite a handful. Mum did some locum work and for a while she worked with Dad on a part time basis at George Eliot hospital. I remember we would be dropped off at the cinema on a Saturday morning while Mum worked. Work was always fitted round the family while we were young.

I have fond memories of family holidays, mostly under canvas, to international rallies and trips out and about. Mum often had to take a practical approach to childcare. On one occasion when faced with four bored children cooped up in a soggy tent during a rain shower Mum put us all in our swimming costumes and sent us out to play in the rain. I think it must have been warm rain.

Mum liked to listen to the radio. As a child she had been confined to bed for long periods of time due to illness and so the radio was her companion. She introduced me to Round the Horne and the Goon Show. She also liked to listen to the opera and we would go to live screenings at the cinema. She enjoyed doing cryptic crosswords and I was fascinated by how she came up with the answers. She was good at Scrabble but struggled to find willing opponents. The closest I ever got to beating her, I came within five points, but that was only because she had helped me to use my last few tiles. I don't remember her being competitive at all.

She had a mischievous sense of humour. She would often give a subdued smile and then go into ripples of laughter, her shoulders shaking with joy. She has passed that on to many of her children and grandchildren.

Following Mum's fall and subsequent paralysis her last years were spent at Richmond Lodge. I never heard her complain about her condition and she just got on with things the best she could. She took on a pastoral role, looking after the other residents and alerting the carers if one of the other residents needed them. I suspect she educated the carers on many things, although it probably went both ways. She was well cared for there.

## Ministry & Admin

Vicar	Gail Phillip	024 7664 5030 07869 395980
Assistant Curate	Jo Parker	07511 611809
Wardens	Neva Khan Andy Clarke	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 99686
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

