

St. Giles Church Exhall Parish Magazine



Pentecost -Acts 2

May 2024—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, 10.00 am - 2.00 pm.

Sunday Worship

**Please see the worship pattern for
May on page 7**

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

Thursdays 7.30-9pm (except 3rd Thursday)

Choir

Fridays at 7pm.

Worship Band

Wednesdays at 7.30pm.

Front Cover : Parish Pump

Back Cover: Photos by local photographer Stuart Macleod

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 cover June/July and the copy deadline date is **Sunday 19th May.**

Welcome to your May Magazine!

Many thanks to everyone who has sent contributions for this month's edition. I've had so many photographs and articles that there wasn't room for our customary Wordsearch! Sorry if you enjoy solving this puzzle, hopefully it'll appear again next month.

Thank you also to local photographer Stuart Macleod, who has taken some fantastic photographs of the lovely decorations in the churchyard (courtesy of the Coffee, Craft and Conversation Group) and also inside the church itself where a dedicated group of flower arrangers worked hard to make the church look so beautiful for Easter. He has very kindly allowed us to use his photos in the magazine and they can be found on the back page.

Neva took some great shots of the Bedworth Churches Together event on Good Friday, as well as the decorated chancel and the Easter morning dawn service. Thanks again to our photographers!

Tina Watkins

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St Giles' Magazine was first published in April 1898 and is now in its 125th year.

With love from the Curate



As I write, I've just returned from welcoming Year 1 from Goodyers End School into church for a visit. Last week, Rev Gail welcomed Daffodil Class from Exhall Grange School. One of the joys of ministry here at St. Giles is working with children from our local schools.

Connecting with our local schools is a vital witness to the Risen Christ. When children come on a church visit they not only learn about bricks and mortar, but also about the Christian faith and most importantly that the church is alive and welcomes them in. The children especially love meeting church members, so a huge thank you to all of you who've given up your time to help.

We have an increasing number of regular worshipping children and their families at our 11.45 service. Between them, the children attend Ash Green, Cannons, Wheelwright Lane and Goodyers End schools. Unlike in the past, these children are not sent out of the service to Sunday School, but stay with us to participate in the worship. I really appreciated how they led many of you in the actions to 'God is Good' on Easter Day. I hope you enjoyed learning a new song!

St Giles church is committed to Growing Faith through our work with children and their families. We recognise that nurturing children's faith is a partnership between church, school and home. So thank you to all our local schools for engaging with faith, thank you to all parents for growing faith in your homes and to the church community for welcoming children in. To the Drama Group for including young people and those of you who give up time to organise events, such as Movie Mornings during half term holidays and activities like pancake decorating, Easter crafts and the All Hallows Eve party. Thank you!

One of the things we ask the children to do on their visit is to be really quiet and listen – what can you hear? To look, smell and touch.

It is heartwarming to see the pleasure gained from looking around the church building; noticing the beauty of the stained glass windows, spotting the shiny objects and feeling how cold the stone font is to the touch.

'Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children.'" (Matthew 11:25) 'And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.'" (Matthew 18:3)

I wonder if you could try looking at the world through a child's eye – What do you notice? What amazes you? Where is the kingdom of heaven today? **Jo**



Easter in Bedworth & St Giles

Many thanks Neva for these pictures of:
Bedworth Churches Together on Good
Friday (*above*)

St Giles on Easter Sunday (*right*)

Dawn Service in the Meadow car park
(*below*)



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SERVICES IN MAY 2024

Wednesday 1st May	<u>10.30 am</u> Holy Communion		
Sunday 5th May	<u>10.00 am</u> Communion	<u>11.45 am</u> All Age Worship	<u>5.00 pm</u> Evensong
Sunday 12th May	<u>8.00 am</u> Communion	<u>10.00 am</u> Communion	<u>11.45 am</u> All Age Worship
Sunday 19th May Pentecost	<u>10.00 am</u> Communion	<u>11.45 am</u> All Age Worship	<u>5.00 pm</u> Evensong
Sunday 26th May Trinity Sunday	<u>8.00 am</u> Communion	<u>10.00 am</u> Communion	<u>11.45 am</u> All Age Communion

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

Life by the River

“Everything I need to know, I learned from Noah’s Ark”. This was included in the last magazine to help my thoughts during the floods:

- ★ Don’t miss the boat.
- ★ Remember that we are all in the same boat.
- ★ Plan ahead. It wasn’t raining when Noah built the boat.
- ★ Stay fit. When you are 600 years old someone may ask you to do something really big
- ★ Don’t listen to critics. Just get on with the job needing to be done.
- ★ Build your future on high ground.
- ★ For safety’s sake travel in pairs.
- ★ Speed isn’t always advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
- ★ When you are stressed, float a while.
- ★ No matter the storm, you are with God, there’s always a rainbow.



My Collage

After all... we have two swans just started nesting, two Canada geese nesting right now (they had better hurry or they will miss the boat), moorhens, loads of dogs, a few cats and my favourite, Jemima puddle goose. So I am off to B&Q to buy the wood... I included all I learned from Noah’s Ark as it is a lesson to us all

Jemima Puddle cannot fly and since my lovely dog Poppy died I have changed from buying dog food to buying swan and goose food. She comes round most days; at first it was a loud squawk just as I was getting out of the car so I had to give her a telling off. I said if you keep coming up like that then it will be no food for you - well she did take notice of me and it’s now a gentle squeak as if to say: “Hi I am here get the food out”. The Canada geese are very angry at her all of the time and attack her, but this week the lovely swans who have the rule of the river came round and warned the geese off. Sometimes it’s worse than the Eastenders set for all the fighting going on.

There is a lot of activity on the river at the moment, the swans have made a nest on the island just opposite where I live. As I draw my curtains back in the morning I remember the reason I came to live here - where else would you get a swan nesting so close to your home. A few hundred yards away are the Canada geese who are also nesting; I don’t know what is going to happen when the hatching time comes. There have been twelve ducklings born to one little duck family, but nature as it is she has only one left so let’s hope she keeps that little one. Each year we have an abundance of water lilies which disappear after

a few months to the bottom of the river but in the last few days they will cover the water as the seasons come round.

Last week on Sunday I attended St Peter's in Welford, they made me so welcome. The worship was different to St Andrews but after all we all worship the same God and he is right beside us. Next week, April 21st is the Stratford Half Marathon so there are many roads closed to allow it to go ahead.

I had a busy Thursday last week— fish and chip lunch at 1pm in Welford, then after that a trip up to St Peter's Church for 3 pm for an afternoon tea for folks who live on their own. I met a lady also named Jane who for the last two and a half years has housed a family from Ukraine but now they have a house in Stratford and are really looking forward to a new start. A lot of people have come forward to donate all sorts of stuff to make their house into a home.

I went to a collage class at Stratford Library, well what a morning of companionship and crafting. Out of the six ladies there, three were called Jane—I will say no more!!!

Just to end on a snail note, St Peter's Church in Welford has a post box on the wall around the Church. I posted a card there and did wonder if my friend would ever receive it, but on Facebook this morning our postman posted a picture of a letter that had been eaten by snails..... I am pleased to say my friend received the card.....lesson learned, I won't be feeding the snails again.

As we move forward into the summer months let us remember that God is the author of the seasons and guides us by hand in all situations and he is ready to carry you only if you take his hand.

Every Blessing, Jane Smith.

19th May—Pentecost

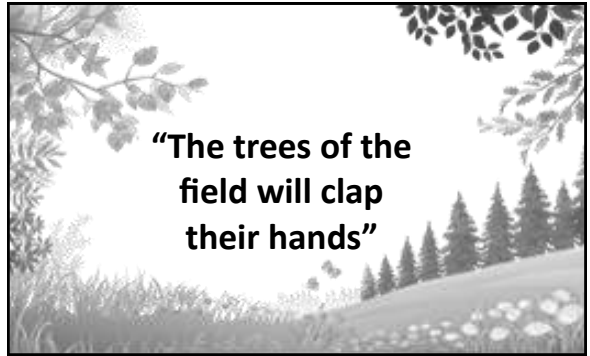
Pentecost marks a vital event in Christian history. It is celebrated 50 days after Easter. The year Jesus was crucified, the remnant of His followers, just 120 of them, were together in an upper room in Jerusalem. They were afraid to show their faces in case the authorities arrested them. But on the 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.

As a result, 3,000 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 the birthday of the Church.

Thought for the Month

This verse from Isaiah 55 always seems appropriate for this time of year when we see the signs of spring all around us. The barren, black branches of the trees are being transformed with fresh, green, tender leaves or white and pink blossom. It is as if nature itself is singing for joy and reminding us that our constant God will once again fill us with hope and new life. Where once life seemed grey, empty and unfulfilled now it offers joy, peace, contentment and fulfilment.



We can learn so much from nature in all its splendour and diversity. Every natural object can teach us something about the divine. How often do we hear about the benefits of getting outdoors for a walk in the fresh air? And we can combine this with our walk with God, who will speak to us through what we see all around us. In order to have a fulfilling faith we must deliberately take time out with God, listening and talking to Him in prayer.

Maybe on some days this month we can take a walk with God outside: in garden, park, by the canal, through the fields or church yard. It doesn't need to be far to be able to "consider the lilies of the field" or the "birds of the air." If this is impossible for you at the moment because you are permanently or temporarily housebound take heart and take a walk through a Bible passage; the Psalms are often a good start. Psalm 104 for instance, takes in the whole of creation!

If you are fortunate enough to be able to travel to seas, rivers, still waters, "mountain range or everglade" take time out to breathe in the glory of God and listen for His voice. A 29 year old man called Folliot Sandford Pierpoint (great name) did that in the spring of 1863. He sat on a hill top outside Bath and admired the country view and winding Avon River. The view inspired him to think about God's gifts in creation and in the church and he consequently wrote: "For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies..."

Here's a prayer to set you on your way, "We bless you, master of the heavens, for the wonderful order which enfolds this world; grant that your whole creation (including me) may find fulfilment in the Son of Man, Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen"

May “the Lord of Sea and sky” come close to you and give you comfort and peace as you praise Him in and for His creation and as you “*go out in joy.*” Every blessing, Chris.

PS. Please share your thoughts, prayers and hymns of praise that have been inspired by creation in this magazine.

Chris

HOSPICE COFFEE MORNING



Please join us on
18th May
in the Small Hall
10.00 am - 12.00 noon



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Tea, Coffee,
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refreshments go to the Mary Ann Evans Hospice



Ring them Bells!! - for our Mothers' Union meeting in March, Viv and Cynthia thought it would be a good idea to air the church hand bells! These bells are over 100 years old and after a dusting down and a good shake there was music to be heard! Most of the members present had a go, even if it was only one note, but when you start to play one note is enough! Some members even felt confident to ring with two bells.



Well what a laugh we all had with everyone ringing their bell at the same time and then at the wrong time, and after a while you could gradually start to hear the music which we were really playing. Everyone enjoyed the evening and hoped that we could air these again soon – maybe a carol for Christmas ?



Reflection: When St Paul's Cathedral was being built in 1675, different craftsmen were once asked what were their tasks. Their answers included laying bricks, carving stone and other specific undertakings. One man, however, replied that he was helping to build St Paul's Cathedral. He had a bigger and better vision of what his work was achieving. As we live out the values of Christ by our example, words and actions, let's ask God for a bigger vision of what we too are achieving. Let's rejoice that our specific offerings are contributing to the wonderful task of building God's Kingdom on earth.



See the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. Matthew 6:33

Holy Island Retreat 2024

We took a break from our annual retreat last year as the house we stay in was between wardens. This year, a small group made the trip north for a week of rest and reflection.

The new wardens have made some changes. The most significant of these was that our group did not have exclusive use of the house, but we shared it with other guests. This meant that at mealtimes we shared our table with others. This felt a little awkward at first, but I think we soon became more comfortable with each other's company. It was a lovely opportunity to connect with new people and I think it enhanced our time away.

We spent time together in prayer and we also enjoyed sharing evening prayers with the Community of Aidan and Hilda who have a presence on the island.

Once again, the retreat gave us a chance to leave the distractions of home behind us. There is no television and I tried to avoid social media, so I listened to music, walked, found time to read and to write some poems. One poem has been on my mind for some time, but it was only in the peace of Holy Island that I could get the words in the right order as they came to me (the poem can be found on page 18). The rest of the time was spent watching the waves as they reached the shore, feeling the wind at my back (and in my face) and watching the wildlife.

Holy Island is described as being a thin place and it is a great place to reconnect with God's creation.

We have been going on this retreat for over twenty years and numbers have fallen so that we have a small but committed group. It would be great to welcome some new faces. I have not yet booked for next year but would probably be looking at some time in February or March. If you think you might be interested, then please get in touch. My email address is sian.coleman@btinternet.com and my phone number is 07841 394862.

Mothers' Union continued

Next meeting/events:

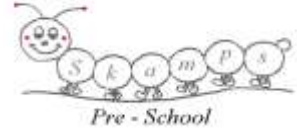
Thursday 16th May, 7.30 pm in the small hall. **Speaker: Felicity Hawke**

Friday 17th May, 7.00 pm St Peter's Mancetter **MU Deanery Service**

Monday 20th May 9.30 for 10 am St John's Kenilworth **MU Members' Day**
(bring your own lunch)

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

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Thank You!

Smile

Subsequent to the highly successful coffee morning run on behalf of Smile, a huge thank you for your further support.

The sale of the selection of Easter cards went really well, raising a further £52.23, which I have now passed on to Mandy.

There will continue to be an assortment of greeting cards for sale, the proceeds from which will also be donated to Smile to support these children.

*Thank you, and God bless you,
June Edwards*

Henry Wagstaff

Henry's family and Kathryn would like to thank everyone at St Giles for their kindness and messages of sympathy following his death. The care and ongoing support of the church family means a lot at this sad time.

Louise, Irene and Kathryn

Easter Flowers



Thank you to everyone who donated to the flower fund this Easter. Your generosity allowed us to provide a lovely display to celebrate this special season. Thanks also to all the flower arrangers who came to the church on Easter Saturday to decorate—your help is greatly appreciated.

Irene Prideaux

Using Your Spare Time to Help Children Read

Regular readers of the Church Magazine will recall that I mentioned in the April edition that I was an avid reader and can often be found with a book, magazine or newspaper in my hands. Reading to me is one of the most enjoyable of pastimes

Reading is a wondrous voyage that transcends time and space. Intriguing characters in stories captivate our hearts. Yet, beyond mere entertainment, reading allows us to develop our own ideas and personalities. As we compare our reactions and beliefs to those of characters, we embark on an introspective journey.

I believe that reading is more than a literary indulgence; it's a tonic for our well-being. When we read, our neural pathways ignite, creating mental simulations of scenes, blending them with our memories and experiences. Reading actively engages us, broadening our knowledge and understanding, even when we seek escapism.

For children and adults alike, reading is a foundational skill. It fuels cognitive growth, enriches language, and fosters communication.

With all this in mind I was so pleased when Kay saw in a local magazine an article about a national organisation called Schoolreaders. Volunteers go into a local school, say once a week, sitting with a child and listening to them read. I applied and after receiving my DBS/CRB was offered a place at a local school. I cannot find words to describe how much I have enjoyed the time I have spent there.

I work with Year 3 and 4 pupils. They bring the current book they are reading and I get them to read a couple of pages. Any words they don't understand we look up in a dictionary. When they have finished reading the two pages I turn the book over and ask them some questions about what they have just read.

Schoolreaders was founded in 2013, when Founder, Jane Whitbread, learned that one in four children were leaving primary school unable to read to the expected standard. There are currently over 2,400 volunteers reading in schools across England and parts of Wales and volunteers are aged between 18 and 103!

If you are interested in learning more about volunteering with Schoolreaders don't hesitate to contact me on 024 7664 3402 or visit their website at www.Schoolreaders.org

Pete Aldersley

Bare Stones

By Sian Coleman

In memory these stones stand here
They bear the names of those who fell
In conflicts fought across the globe
Their names engraved for stones to tell
Of waste and ruin, of pain and fear
We come to pause and remember here
They gave their lives, they had no choice
We can speak out to give them a voice

Yet some stones wait, their surface bare
Still untouched by the mason's hand
More names will come to be engraved
As more wars are fought in foreign lands.
When will it end? When will we learn?
That human blood should not be spilled
For land or wealth or for ideals
Or power which should be unfulfilled

Let's learn from this and say to all
Please don't do this, not in my name
More names carved out upon these stones
Should be to us a mark of shame
Let's live in peace with one and all
Let's put our fears and doubts aside
And build a world where a name engraved
Upon a stone gives a sense of pride
For good works done and a difference made
For a life well lived or a poor life saved.
May these bare stones remain this way
Forever here to testify
That we have found a better way
We'll live in peace until we die.



At a Glance - May 2024

MORNING PRAYER EVERY DAY (MONDAY - THURSDAY) at 8am in Church

Wednesday 1st	10.30 am	Wednesday Worship
SUNDAY 5th	10.00 am 11.45 am 5.00 pm	Holy Communion All Age Celebration Evensong
Tuesday 7th	1.00 pm 7.00 pm	Over 50s - Main Hall (weekly) Compline (weekly)
Weds 8th	10.30 am	Coffee, Craft & Conversation—Small Hall (weekly apart from 1st Wednesday)
Thursday 9th	2.30 pm	Bereavement Drop-in—Small Hall (fortnightly)
SUNDAY 12th	8.00 am 10.00am 11.45 am	Holy Communion Holy Communion All Age Celebration
Tuesday 14th	10.30 am 11.15 am	Service at Bede Village Service at Richmond Lodge
Weds 15th	2.00 pm	Service at Platinum Nursing Home
Thursday 16th	2.00 pm 7.30 pm	Service at Fairfield Home Mothers' Union—Small Hall
Saturday 18th	10.00 am	Hospice Coffee Morning— Small Hall
SUNDAY 19th Pentecost	10.00 am 11.45 am 5.00 pm	Holy Communion All Age Celebration Evensong
SUNDAY 26th	8.00 am 10.00 am 11.45 am 2.30 pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion All Age Celebration with Communion Service at Bede Village

Baptisms

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

Violet Gisbourne

Aria Leight

Phoebe Rollason



Funerals

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

Henry Wagstaff, who died on 15th March aged 87 years

Gertrude Pullin, who died on 23rd March aged 94 years

Audrey Helen Stokes who died on 7th April aged 94 years

Tribute to Henry Wagstaff

Henry was one of four children born to Myra and George Wagstaff. His first family home was on Smorrall Lane, followed by a time at 209 Goodyers End Lane. Henry's dad then bought some land and had a house built at what would become 195 Goodyers End Lane when Henry was still very young. Henry's older sister June sadly died when Henry was just six years old, but the family grew again some time later with the arrival of Irene and then Margaret.

Henry attended what was then Exhall School on School Lane and was in the same junior school class as Chrissie Hughes and John Wakelin. Henry then went on to further his education at King Henry VIII school in Coventry. His musical talents had their beginnings in his learning to play piano with Miss Marlow, a well-known local teacher on Coventry Road. His first forays into playing the organ began with help from his Uncle Clem, who played the organ at St Thomas' church in Longford. He started to rope Henry into organ playing from the age of fourteen and, let's just say, he never looked back.

As a youngster, Henry loved his bike and would travel miles on it sooner than queue to wait for a bus. He even went up Snowdon on his bike and climbed all the major mountain peaks in the UK to catch the sunrise. Tennis and horse-riding were among Henry's other hobbies, until he got kicked in the leg, when being on a horse somewhat lost its charm.

After leaving school, Henry took up an apprenticeship at Dunlop where he worked all his life before retirement. He was involved in the Concord project, working mainly on the brake systems. He had to brush up on his French as he often had to travel there and several other countries in the course of his work.

Henry's whole family regularly attended services at St Giles and he became actively involved from a young age. He joined the choir as a boy and also learnt to be a bellringer. It was in fact through bellringing that Henry met his beloved Margaret who was also part of 'The Gang' as the ringers were called at the time. They both enjoyed the regular 'Village Hops'. During their courtship, Margaret was working in London as a nanny. Henry would regularly travel down to spend Saturdays off with her for 19/9 on the train.

Henry and Margaret were married at St Giles Church on 5th April 1958 and set up their first home on Royal Oak Lane. Their family grew to include their daughters Rachel and Louise and eventually to further generations of three grandchildren – Mickayla, Amber and Sam, and one great-grandchild, Miles.

Rachel and Louise remember holidays sitting on the beach eating foil wrapped batches, regardless of the weather, and Scotland when they climbed Glencoe with their dad. Rachel shared Henry's love of aeroplanes from making Airfix models to acting as his PA many times at the Farnborough Air Show. Later, Mickayla and Amber would come too, and also remembered holidays with Henry and Margaret, when they didn't ever have to sit on a beach in the rain!

Sam enjoyed spending time with his grandparents, who instilled in him that every outing included a stoop off for food, a good life skill that Sam still lives by.

Henry loved his first great-grandchild Miles and was able to share his Christening day in June last year.

He spent time with his sons-in-law, Phill and Alan. Phill considered himself honoured having been allowed to mow Henry's grass a few times—he was very precious about his grass. Rachel was forbidden to mow after ploughing through the incinerator and vegetable garden when she tried!

The last big party celebrated by friends and family was Henry and Margaret's 60th wedding anniversary, when they received a card from the Queen.

Henry began playing the organ at St Giles when he was seventeen, meaning the keys of successive St Giles' organs have known Henry's tender and tuneful touch over more than 60 years. Henry had the gift of being, not only a talented organ player, but also a patient and skilful teacher, having taught Kathryn to play. Henry was also an organist for many years at the Heart of England Crematorium. Henry has faithfully, and playfully, led the choir at St Giles for at least fifty years. He has gathered, grown, cajoled and nurtured singers to become not only a talented choir but also a firm and dedicated group of friends.

As a musical director, Henry had that rare skill of combining a passion for choral commitment and accuracy, with a wonderful sense of humour, creating a lovely atmosphere at weekly practices as times of good learning and also good fun. Not wanting the choir to get 'carried away' as he put it, compliments from

Henry were famously rare. So rare that they were specially recorded in what was affectionately known as 'The Black Book'. Some notable examples were:

'Irene – you're singing it brilliantly! WRONG, but brilliantly!' and

'Is it my hearing aid or did they actually sound all right to me?'

Perhaps his greatest words of tribute were *'I love coming to choir because you all make me smile.'*

Henry encouraged new singing talent by giving people the opportunity to simply have a go, gradually building their confidence. He loved to welcome children and young people into the choir and would give up even more of his time to gather them earlier for practice so that their skills could develop further. Louise was also a member of the choir for several years as she was growing up. Henry saw many generations of many families pass through the choir over the years – a real credit to his ability to unite people around a love of musical worship and to keep them involved. Henry maintained the strong choral tradition at St Giles through the tenure of at least eight vicars – no mean feat in itself. He had a love for traditions such as the singing of psalms at Evensong but, at the same time, was always willing to adapt the choir's ministry to work well with changing seasons in the life of the church.

Together with Mark Powell, a previous Vicar, Henry oversaw the transition from a pipe organ to the present electronic Copeman-Hart organ. Henry spent a good deal of time travelling around to listen to different organs, but Copeman-Hart won the day and Henry worked closely with Ernest Hart around the installation of the electric organ here. Steve Bell, who helped to build the original organ here has more recently been involved with a rebuild, which was completed at the end of last year much to Henry's joy.

Henry and Kathryn made a great team, both as organists and in leading and accompanying the choir. They shared a very close friendship and enjoyed many holidays and trips out together. Henry loved his garden and he did ask for some slightly unusual birthday presents at times – a 'barrow of muck' being one of them. Irene did manage to oblige with the help of a local stable, but carting it all up the path was definitely a labour of love.

Henry will be so deeply missed and fondly remembered by his family, friends and all of us as a church family here. We'll remember his cheerful smile and his mischievous sense of humour, and we'll continue to build on the wonderful legacy of life, love and dedicated service to God and to others he has left us. We'll call to mind all those memories which are precious to us and which can help to sustain us in the sadness of our loss, even as we draw on that assurance of faith Henry shared that he is now at rest and at peace with God and no doubt joining wholeheartedly in the music of heaven.

Ministry and Admin

Vicar	Gail Phillip	024 7664 5030 07869 395980
Assistant Curate	Jo Parker	07511 611809
Wardens	Neil Harris	07432 414798
	Vacant	
Readers	John Owen	7636 6111
	Chris Wilson	07717 523512
Administrator/Rotas	Penny Pallett	7636 8008
Bereavement Drop-In	Sue Barnes	07946 051122
Electoral Roll	Beryl Owen	7636 6111
Halls Bookings	Tina Watkins	7664 5278 07905 297713
Parish Magazine	Tina Watkins	7664 5278 07905 297713
Pastoral Care	Viv Hopkins	7664 5161
PCC Secretary	Carol Gough	7631 8219
PCC Treasurer and Gift Aid	Stephen Carter	7631 2831
Safeguarding	Muriel Ganley	07988 477659
Website	Gail Phillip	024 7664 5030 07869 395980

Church and Worship

Bell Ringing	Steve Watkins	7664 5278 07926 989686
Brasses, Care Home Services	Chrissie Hughes	7631 5468
Choir/Organist	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	07633 7188

Young People, Nurture and Discipleship

Home Groups	Gail Phillip	024 7664 5030 07869 395980
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Other Groups and Activities

Drama Club	Tina Watkins	7664 5278 07905 297713
Hospice Coffee Morning	Viv Hopkins	7664 5161
Mothers' Union	Mandy Williams	7633 7188
Over 50s Club	Patricia Munro	7664 4507
Green Genies	Robert and Jackie West	7636 2168

