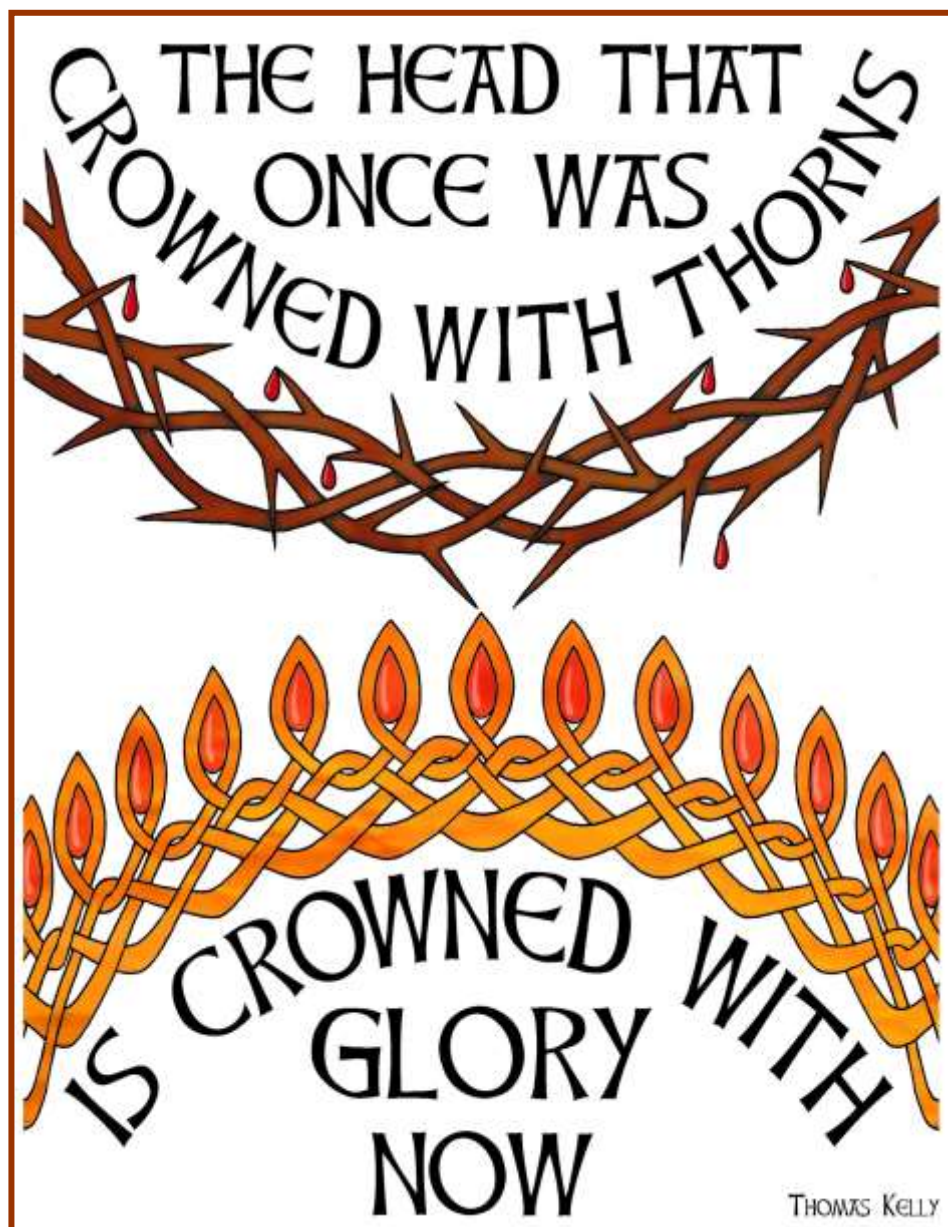


St. Giles Church Exhall Parish Magazine



April 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, 10.00 am - 2.00 pm.

Sunday Worship

**Please see the worship pattern for
April on page 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

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.

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 May edition and the copy deadline date is **Sunday 16th April.**

Welcome to your April Magazine!

By the time you read this, let's hope that Spring is definitely here and that the cold, wet weather is well and truly behind us!

Of course, this month we are looking forward to Holy Week and Easter. On the back page you will find all the services for the Easter period and the usual service pattern for the whole month is on page 11. Following some feedback, I have also re-introduced the "At a Glance" page which gives more details of what's going on each month at St Giles. I hope you find this useful.

Another major event to look forward to is the King's Coronation on 6th May. We are planning a day of celebration on Sunday 7th May, with special services and an afternoon tea! Details can be found on page 9 and we hope you will join us on what promises to be a very special day.

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 Curate

Happy Easter!



You are most welcome to join us at our Easter celebrations, details of which you will find on the back page.

I'd like to draw your attention to a couple of outside worship opportunities. On 2nd April our annual Palm Sunday procession will start at 10.30 am, (arrive at 10.15) in the car park at the Bull and Anchor. Do join us for all or part of our walk, children, pushchairs and dogs included! We will stop to worship in Deansway and the park, before joining those waiting for us in church.

Then on Easter Day, Sunday 9th April, we will be starting very early with a sunrise service in the Meadow car park, at 6.00 am. This is a particularly moving event, held around a fire pit. As the sun rises we will light candles from the fire and proclaim Christ is Risen!

This year Easter Day will also mark the launch of Daily Prayers for the Coronation of King Charles III. As you will be aware the Coronation of King Charles III will take place on Saturday 6th May at Westminster Abbey, in a service steeped in centuries of tradition and rich in Christian symbols and values.

As the King and Queen Consort prepare to solemnise the promises and commitments they will make to the nations and people they represent, the Church will begin 28 days of prayer and spiritual preparation alongside the King – praying with and for the King from Easter Sunday to the Coronation (Sunday 9th April – Saturday 6th May).

To mark this important moment in our nation's life, the Church of England has compiled a small and attractive booklet containing these Daily Prayers. We will be offering everyone who attends a service on Easter Day a free copy. However you celebrate Easter this year, may you know the joy and hope of the risen Christ in your heart.



Every blessing, Jo

Easter Flowers

We will, as usual, have a wonderful display of flowers in church as we celebrate Easter. Decorating will take place on Saturday 8th April from 9.30 am and help is always welcome.

If you would like to make a contribution towards the cost of the flowers, please hand your donation to Rev Jo, one of the Church Wardens or Irene Prideaux. Many thanks.



Palm Sunday Procession with Passion



On Sunday 2nd April we will be meeting in the Bull & Anchor car park at 10.15 am for a 10.30 start, then walking from there to the green at The Shortlands (Deansway), and onward to the recreation ground behind the church hall, before heading to the church.

At each stop we will hear a part of the Passion story, sing and respond.

Refreshments will be available after the service.



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.

My bird feeders are visited most days by blue tits, great tits, coal tits, long tailed tits, dunnocks, house sparrows, robins, male and female greater spotted woodpeckers and a male blackcap. The five feeders are refilled every day.

The present tawny owl box has been high up in the old willow tree for more than 20 years, but this year it is showing signs of a large crack on one corner. My son, Alan, did a quick emergency repair from the top of the ladder.

It is known that tawny owls lay their eggs around the third week in March, then incubate the them for around 33 days, so we are just in time for the breeding season.

The gang of six female pheasants are still with me. They come early in the morning to the back door for their breakfast, and as the mornings get lighter, they come before I am ready. While waiting they set about my yellow crocus and eat all the juicy petals, I have had to get old metal hanging baskets to cover what's left. You can't win!

One morning last week the muntjac was spotted walking round the greenhouse. He must be able to see himself in the glass and thinks he can see his mate inside. As in other years he has eaten all the nice green leaves on the bed of perennial geraniums. Muntjacs were first introduced into this country from China to Woburn Abbey in 1838, and have now spread all over the country. Their life span is between 10 and 13 years, they are vegetarian and eat from shrubs and plant material. They are protected in this country by the Deer Act 1991. They are nocturnal and sleep under hedges and in dry ditches. I like to see them roaming freely around the garden.



Stella Bunting



Table Top Sale Saturday 27th May

12.00 noon till 2.00 pm in the Main Hall
Bric-a-brac, cakes, clothes, bags, refreshments
and lots more!

£8 per table - contact Sue Sullivan on 07553 324974 to book

**All proceeds from the hire of tables and sale of
refreshments go to the Harbour Centre**

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

Faith in Action

Building bridges for prisoners and their families

45% of prisoners in the UK lose contact with their families while they are in prison. Research has shown that prisoners who maintain relationships with their families are less likely to re-offend. MU members' work with prisoners helps relationships be maintained and rebuilt, both during prison sentences and after release.

Each prison has different needs and MU members look to see what is needed and how they can meet that need. From working with dads to providing resources for mums and babies in prison units, they do their utmost to offer help where it is required.

Pray for: wisdom and compassion for all those working in prison environments, as they seek to transform lives.

Though I sit in darkness, the Lord will be my light. Micah 7.8



Next Meeting: Thursday 20th April 2023 at 7.30pm in the Small Hall

Speaker: Rev John Horton – a talk about his recently published book

Behind The Wire: A Prisoner of War in Nazi Germany

(All Welcome – open meeting £1.50 entrance fee with refreshments)



On Sunday 7th May St Giles Church invites you to join us for some special celebrations

10.30 am A service of Holy Communion with a celebratory theme

2.00-4.00 pm An opportunity for the community to get together and mark this momentous occasion in the large church hall. We'll provide the tea and cakes!

5.00 pm A celebratory Evensong

ALL WELCOME, PLEASE COME AND JOIN US!



HOSPICE COFFEE MORNINGS

Thanks for all your support of the recently re-launched coffee mornings in aid of the Mary Ann Evans Hospice.

Dates for the rest of 2023 are Saturdays:



20th May
15th July
16th September
18th November



In the Small Hall
10.00 am - 12.00 noon

Tea, Coffee, Cakes, Raffle and Sales Table



If you are visiting a grave ...

... could you please bring a bag to take any dead flowers or rubbish home? This would be a tremendous help to our volunteers.

Thank you!

SERVICES IN APRIL 2023

Sunday 2nd April	<u>Palm Sunday Procession</u> <u>10.30 am</u> Bull & Anchor car park		
Wednesday 5th April	<u>10.30 am</u> Holy Communion		
Thursday 6th April Maundy Thursday			<u>7.00 pm</u> Communion
Friday 7th April Good Friday		<u>12.00 - 3.00 pm</u> 3-hour devotion	
Sunday 9th April Easter Sunday	<u>6.00 am</u> Dawn Service Meadow Car Park	<u>8.00 am</u> Said Communion	<u>10.30 am</u> All Age Sung Communion
Sunday 16th April	<u>9.30 am</u> Communion	<u>11.30 am</u> All Age Worship	<u>5.00 pm</u> Songs of Praise
Sunday 23rd April	<u>8.00 am</u> Communion	<u>9.30 am</u> Communion	<u>11.30 am</u> All Age Worship
Sunday 30th April		<u>10.30 am</u> Joint Service of Holy Communion	

Thought for the Month



When I survey the wondrous cross

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

As we journey through Lent to Good Friday this very well-known and popular hymn often comes to mind. Written in 1707 by Isaac Watts, it has certainly stood the test of time. Charles Wesley, another great hymn writer wished he had

written it himself. Why does it mean so much to so many? The hymn vividly paints a picture of Jesus' death on the cross and this picture goes hand in hand with the whole hearted response of the believer to commit his whole life to God.

Although written three hundred years ago, this hymn shows us that the truth it contains is just as real today. It points to the unconditional love of Jesus that is the same, "Yesterday, today and forever." It is said to be the first hymn that was ever written in the first person, using the pronoun "I" to indicate a personal experience of faith rather than just stating doctrine.

Isaac Watts had always been frail but even as a child he developed the skill of writing poetry. He complained that the hymns of his day were monotonous and boring and his Father challenged him to write something better, which He did. He dedicated his life to the church from the age of 15 and he actually wrote over 600 hymns.

He certainly proved to be intellectually brilliant but he was also a deeply emotional person who longed for an intimate relationship with a loving God. With great poignancy he reflected on the finished work of Christ and what He had achieved. For him a few words could say so much, like the last two lines of the hymn, "Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all." These words promise total commitment in response to God's amazing love. As we read or sing this hymn again may we also re-consecrate our lives to Christ and renew our total commitment to God?

***May the crucified and risen Lord Jesus bless you and
keep you this Eastertime and always, Chris.***



Happy Easter from Wilma

Many of you will know Wilma Finlay, who is now a resident of Chamberlaine Court in Bedworth. Yvonne and Gwyneth paid her a visit during March and Wilma asked them to pass on her Easter greetings to all her church friends.

Life by the River

Hello everyone and welcome to Spring. I love this time of year, the days are finally getting longer and Poppy's walks less squelchy under foot. On our early morning walks up the yellow brick road the daffodils seems to be growing quickly and soon the tight buds will be fully open. It always amazes me that the most unusual steep bank is full of lovely snowdrops, self planted probably by the birds of the air. The sheep in the field have been housed up at the farm ever since the cold spell in December; I am hoping they will soon be back with the full of energy spring born lambs, I have missed them.

Well, that thought came into reality. I had only been taking Poppy short walks as not feeling 100%, but on Saturday 6th March I decided to walk away from the village to the next village, Binton. Imagine my surprise when in the field there were sheep with their tiny little spring lamb! The only trouble was they came bouncing up to the gate thinking I was the farmer with their feed. Walking further on there were clumps of primroses nestling in the grass, and then a whole meadow of snowdrops - all this with the stream running alongside the field - it brought a joy to my heart.

Going into Stratford to Specsavers one Friday to have my eyes tested, I bumped into a couple with their daughter, it was Linda, Roman and Eva who live in Deansway. It was lovely to stop and chat, apparently they come to Stratford quite regularly to have a mooch round, finishing off with fish and chips for lunch. It made my day to see them, Linda reassured me to not stop writing as a lot of people enjoy reading Life by the River.

Well, Flower Guild didn't go as planned last month. It was called Surprise, Surprise, a members' afternoon making an Easter wreath. You had leaves that were secured with a pin to a round raffia wreath but the leaves kept springing off. To finish off you stick with a glue gun little chicks, feathers and coloured eggs. I am sorry to disappoint you but no pictures are available, I will try harder next time. I am glad to say that at our March meeting we have a Demonstrator.

Our meeting for Mothers' Union for March is a celebratory 40th anniversary of opening the branch at St Andrews when we are having a Corporate Communion. It was really lovely to read the minutes from the first meeting written by a true Mothers' Union member, Audrey Edwards, she is a wonderful lady who has taken me under her wing as she asked me to go the new committee they were forming. My role is the tea lady, the rest is history. I know that many of you at Exhall know Audrey well. I am volunteering to help at the Mother and Baby morning and you can guess my role will be making the tea and coffee, as a friend reminded me I am Mothers Union trained!!!

Last month my talk to Mothers' Union was my reflection on my life in Poland and the Holocaust. Usually we have 12 people but there were 20 and they were touched at the personal reflections. Last year Audrey thought that Life by the River would be a good article for the Searchlight, but the editor said that no one knows who you are. Well a year on after my talk people were asking who is Jane Smith so she requested a photo which has now appeared in the Shottery Monthly Searchlight magazine with the promise of an article written next year around the Holocaust Memorial Day.



Where have the last two years gone since I moved to Welford on Avon? Yes there have been challenges but just like when we as a family ventured to Poland in the 1970s it was a chance to find new adventures, meet new people and live surrounded by God's creation and yes we still have the two swans and Jemima the goose, as well as numerous families of moorhens.

On Thursday 9th March the snow came down and it turned colder. I was totally amazed on drawing the curtains back on Friday morning to see that the River had risen by 12 inches. We are on a warning but a not on alert. We must have had some rain during the night, luckily I never heard it along with the melting snow. Let's hope for rain free weather over the next few days to let it go down again.

Update - on Sunday we are on alert with rain forecast until Tuesday; the only thing we can do is place it into the hands of the Lord. In the suffering and death of Jesus you are showing us great love. Open our eyes that through darkness and despair, we can see your rainbow your promise of hope



**Every Blessing for a wonderful
glory filled Easter.
Jane and Poppy**

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

skampspreschool@hotmail.co.uk, www.skampspreschooldaynursery.com

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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**

Have you thought of using one of our Church Halls for your party, meeting or event? Or as a venue for a regular activity?

Main hall seats 120 @ £15/hr and the Small hall seats 60 @ £10/ hr.

Info and photos:

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



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Longford Bridge, Coventry, CV6 6BH

024 76 313326
024 76 367149



**Parent & Toddler Group
is taking a break for the time being.
Watch this space for more news.**



Welcome, Steve!

Rev Steve Medley is joining the team at St Giles for a couple of years to provide support both here and to the benefices of Arley & Ansley and Corley & Fillongley, collectively known as "The Leys". Steve has kindly provided a few words by way of introduction.



"Originally from Lancashire, I arrived in Keresley village in 2006 with my wife Jo and three teenagers. Time does its thing, and my teenagers are now adults and I now include two grandchildren (and two Border Collies) in my family description.

My role as a young people and families worker with Keresley St Thomas and Keresley village church meant I was heavily involved with Keresley Newland School, the majority of whose students transitioned to Ash Green. So I have the romantic idea that I will have been involved in the early lives of some of the 'great and good' who have attended from Ash Green.

In 2011 I was appointed as Pioneer Lay Minister in the parish. In the job description, there was a line that stated, 'There is an expectation for the candidate to explore ordained ministry.' After many years rejecting any suggestion that 'I'd be a good vicar', there it was in my contract. Perhaps God sometimes needs to spell things out for us before we take our fingers out of our ears and listen.

The 'exploring' led to my ordination in 2015 and serving my curacy at All Saints, Chilvers Coton. So I went from a neighbouring parish to St Giles to being in the same deanery, albeit a little further away. Either way, I have always been aware of the ministry and fellowship here in Exhall. In fact, when Keresley village church closed, I encouraged some of its members to come and join you.

After a traditional curacy, I was appointed to another Pioneer role in the Coventry city centre. Urban Hope was a church that met on a Sunday morning in the Coffee Tot café in the City Arcade. It came into being over twelve years ago as a response to two distinct mission opportunities. Many of the young people who gathered in the city engaged with the Cathedral youth project at Bardsley House, and some of them were exploring faith. Coffee Tot's is a project to support underprivileged young families. Some of those who attended were exploring faith. Very few of these explorers were comfortable in a traditional church, thus Urban Hope was born. My appointment was as the second ordained leader after the founders had moved on.

Although I've loved my time at Urban Hope, I've really missed the opportunities that parish ministry offers and working in a team. So when the opportunity came to join Rev Gail and Rev Jo here in Exhall and the Leys group of churches, how could I resist? The more I talked to everyone here, the more convinced I was that this was more than a good idea, it was a God idea.

I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone and helping shape what God has planned for us. I only pray that I can keep my fingers out of my ears as we listen to God. "

Simple Simon - Panto 2023

Thanks to everyone for your support of our pantomime in February. It was great to be able to stage a full-blown show after the limitations enforced on us by Covid over the last couple of years. Here are some pictures of the motley crew in action! (More on page 22)



Wordsearch

Even as Jesus ate that last Passover meal with His disciples, He warned them He was about to be betrayed. He took the bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to them; He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them to drink. The Old Covenant, based on Law, was ticking away its final hours; the New Covenant, based on Christ's body and His blood, was about to be ushered in. Jesus prayed in Gethsemane that this fearful cup of suffering might be removed from Him, but even more, that God's will might be done. And it was. Because of Easter we can approach God through his Son, Jesus Christ. He has opened the gates to heaven for us!



JESUS	DISCIPLES	LAST	PASSOVER	MEAL	BLOOD	WILL
ATE	WARNED	NEW	BREAD	BLESSED	APPROACH	CUP
WINE	THANKS	DRINK	COVENANT	LAW	GOD	
OLD	BETRAYED	BODY	GETHSEMANE	EASTER	REMOVED	

At a Glance - April 2023

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

SUNDAY 2nd	10.30 am 5.00 pm	Palm Sunday Procession Holy Communion
Tuesday 4th	10.30 am 1 pm 7 pm	Service at Bede Village Over 50s Club - Main Hall (weekly) Compline followed by <i>Growing Good</i> Lent Course in church
Wednesday 5th	10.30am 10.30 am 2.00 pm	Holy Communion Coffee, Craft & Conversation - Small Hall (weekly) Service at Platinum Nursing Home
Thursday 6th	11.00 am 2.00 pm 7.00 pm	Service at Richmond Lodge Service at Fairfield Home Maundy Thursday Holy Communion
Friday 7th	12.00 noon	Three-hour Good Friday Service
Saturday 8th	9.30 am	Decorating the church for Easter
SUNDAY 9th EASTER DAY	6.00 am 8.00 am 10.30 am	Dawn Service in Meadow Car Park Said Holy Communion in Church All Age Worship with Sung Communion in Church
Thursday 13th	2.30 pm	Bereavement Drop-in - Small Hall (fortnightly)
SUNDAY 16th	9.30 am 11.30 am 5.00 pm	Holy Communion All Age Celebration Easter Songs of Praise
SUNDAY 23rd	8.00 am 9.30 am 11.30 am	Holy Communion Holy Communion All Age Celebration
SUNDAY 30th	10.30 am	Holy Communion Joint Service

Funerals

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



William Charles Dimbleby, who died on 12th February aged 93

Patricia Inott, who died on 19th February aged 73

Ann 'Nancy' Watkins, who died on 23rd February aged 90

June Plumb, who died on 7th March aged 94

A few more panto photos!



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	7664 5533
	Kathryn Unsworth	7667 3325
11.30 Worship Band	Roy Edwards	7664 4916
Flowers in Church	Irene Prideaux	7636 1321
Prayer Chain	Chris Wilson	07717 523512
Verger	Mandy Williams	7633 7188

Young People, Nurture & Discipleship

Home Groups	Gail Phillip	024 7664 5030 07869 395980
Thursday Toddler Group	TBC	

Other Groups & 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 & Jackie West	7636 2168



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES ALL WELCOME!

2nd April—PALM SUNDAY

10.30 am	Palm Sunday Procession and Worship Stations - Meet at Bull & Anchor Pub Car Park (Wheelwright Lane, Ash Green); concluding at St Giles Church.
5.00 pm	Holy Communion in Church

6th April—MAUNDY THURSDAY

7.00 pm	Holy Communion in Church
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7th April—GOOD FRIDAY

12.00 - 3.00 pm	The Three Hour Devotion in Church. Please come and stay for as long or short a time as you are able.
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9th April—EASTER SUNDAY

06.00 am	Service at Dawn in the Meadow Car Park followed by breakfast
08.00 am	Said Holy Communion in Church
10.30 am	All Age Worship with Sung Communion in Church

16th April

5.00 pm	Easter Songs of Praise
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