

St. Giles Church Exhall Parish Magazine



Church in the community Matt 5:14-16, Acts 2:44-47, Phil 2:3-5

May 2025—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 10 am-2 pm, Wednesday 12 noon-4 pm,
Thursday 10 am-4 pm

Sunday Worship

**Please see the worship pattern
for May on page 9**

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: VE Day Coffee Morning poster

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

The next magazine will cover both **June and July** and the copy deadline date is **Sunday 18th May**.

Welcome to your May magazine ...

I hope everyone has had a good Easter; there was certainly lots going on at St Giles, with Palm Sunday starting off Holy Week, quiet times of reflection in church enhanced by the lovely watercolours kindly donated by Brian Wood, services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, and finishing off with a lively, somewhat noisy time on Easter Sunday!

Now we are looking forward to May and particularly our Coffee Morning on the 7th to commemorate VE Day 80 years ago and of course we mustn't forget our Mary Ann Evans Coffee Morning on the 17th.

SAVE THE DATE

**On 14th June we are planning a Party in the Park on the recreation ground behind the main church hall. There will be a bouncy castle, refreshments, games and lots more!
Further details will be included in the next magazine.**

Tina Watkins

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St Giles' Magazine was first published in April 1898 and is now in its 127th year.

With love from the Vicar

Five years ago in May, I stood alone in my garden on a beautiful sunny day, livestreaming a special service to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of VE day. Sadly, newly into our first Covid 19 lockdown, communities were not able to gather in person to remember the first Victory in Europe Day on 8 May 1945, marking the ending of the Second World War which claimed a devastating total of between 70 – 85 million lives, a large proportion of which were civilian casualties. ‘Never give up. Never despair’ was one of the main messages to emerge from VE Day and events leading up to it. It’s very clear too that, in our own times, there is need for tenacity, resilience and perseverance in our efforts to secure peace, in so many places and in a number of varied and complex sets of circumstances. This VE Day prayer seems particularly apt:



God of peace, who raised Christ Jesus
to victory over death,
keep us ever mindful of the cost of making peace,
of the call to be peacemakers,
and of the carefulness needed to keep the peace,
in our lives, in our land and in our world.

Amen

For the 80th Anniversary this year, thankfully we do have an opportunity to hold more public commemorations, gathering our communities in thankfulness and respect. On Weds 7th May at 10.30 am at St Giles there will be a special commemorative service followed by a get together in the Main Hall organised by our Chatty Crafters. Please do come along if you can and encourage others to join us.

With love
Gail

Our Palm Sunday Celebration

We rang the changes this year. Instead of processing through Ash Green as we have for a number of years, we gathered on the lawn in front of Fairfield Care Home and held a service which included songs, prayers, shouts from the crowd and a presentation by the Drama Club.

Our reporter, Jane Sadducee, was in touch with her colleagues Brad and Mary Magnitude, who interviewed Donus Keyus, owner of the colt that Jesus rode on, his daughter Amelia, then Asfar Aslcaneee, temple expert in the law and Simon the Zealot, a member of the Jerusalem crowd. So we heard views on Jesus and his entry into Jerusalem from a whole range of community members of the time!



It was a new, fun and interesting way of depicting the familiar story and as an added bonus, several residents of Fairfield along with their friends and families, were able to join us for the service.

Happy birthday Brian!

Brian Stamper celebrated his 90th birthday in April and enjoyed a lovely party organised by his friends in the Bereavement Drop-in group.

He had a wonderful time and wanted to thank everyone for their love and birthday wishes.

A belated happy birthday Brian from your St Giles Church family!





Treorchy Male Choir will be performing live at the Saunders Hall, Bedworth, on 20th September. Doors open at 6.00 pm. Tickets are £15 in advance or £20 on the door while tickets remain and can be ordered from Ramsey Tetlow, a member of St Giles Choir, on 07771 736386.



...and the theme of this morning's service is... 'Preaching a Gospel of Simplicity'...

Thank You!

Thanks to everybody who donated towards the cost of the Easter flowers in church, which meant we were able to provide a lovely display for Easter Sunday.

Irene Prideaux

A new look for the Meadow



Since the Meadow burial ground was established in September 2014, a mound of earth has been steadily building up as more graves are dug, to the point that it was quite unsightly, covered with weeds and unfortunately had become a dumping ground for rubbish.

The mound has now been neatened up, thanks to our friendly neighbourhood farmer, and the plan is to plant it with wild flower seeds and native plants. This will hopefully encourage bees, butterflies and other insects to the area and create something that is both beautiful to look at and of great benefit to the environment.

Bedworth Churches Together

All Saints Square was teeming with people on Good Friday as lots of people from local churches got together for an outdoor service to mark Good Friday, including a good number of our St Giles Church family. Thanks to Neva for the pictures!





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Review from G.K. (Granddaughter of Resident) caroline@rva.co.uk



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SERVICES IN MAY 2025

Morning Prayer 8.00 am Monday—Thursday

Sunday 4th May Easter 3	<u>10.00 am</u> Communion	<u>11.45 am</u> Sunday Celebration	<u>5.00 pm</u> Evening Prayer
Wednesday 7th May	<u>10.30 am</u> Communion—Service for VE Day Commemoration followed by Coffee Morning in the Main Hall		
Sunday 11th May Easter 4	<u>8.00 am</u> Communion	<u>10.30 am</u> Joint Service and APCM MAIN HALL	
Sunday 18th May Easter 5	<u>10.00 am</u> Communion	<u>11.45 am</u> Sunday Celebration	<u>5.00 pm</u> Evening Prayer
Sunday 25th May Easter 6	<u>8.00 am</u> Communion	<u>10.30 am</u> Joint Communion Celebration	
Thursday 29th May Ascension Day	<u>7.00 pm</u> Communion Followed by Curry Night		

Life by the River

What glorious weather we had since I wrote last month, beautiful warm sunshine which enabled some quality time to sit on my balcony admiring the changes in the River. It's started to come alive, more boats of different shapes and sizes, people kayaking, paddle boarders and much more but as I am writing this it's raining— but we need a little bit of rain.

Even my feathered friends have changed the landscape; as I look out of my window two swans have built a nest. They take it in turns to sit on the nest day and night, when Mum goes for a swim Dad takes over, it's quite a show of family life, very protective. The other birds are missing out as I have had to stop feeding Jemima and her friends as Daddy swan attacks her alongside the Canada goose but they are only protecting the eggs. One evening last week Jemima stood on the bank and as I closed the curtains she saw me and swam over looking as if to say I am here why aren't you feeding me? Her time will come back as once the cygnets are born they go to another part of the River.

In March I celebrated my birthday which consisted of many lunches out, delicious food sampled at a restaurant in Stratford, Sunday lunch at the Four Alls opposite where I live. I even came to Coventry to the Belgrade to see a performance by Ego Creative Academy, "You Know My Mum", which began development two years ago. It was a cheeky comedy about life and death, all of the cast have a learning difficulty, they write the scripts and it has since gone on to a national tour. There were tears and also much laughter. Afterwards with my two daughters we went for a cuppa to the Coventry Evening Telegraph hotel which is worth a visit to see some of the old workings of the paper, part of the history of Coventry.

On Maundy Thursday at St Peter's in Welford we had an afternoon tea for people who live on their own in the village, the team from the Church prepare it all and it is very well planned. It is held in the Church as the numbers have increased, it's lovely to sit over a cup of tea, goodies and cake, always cake, and chat away with others in the same situation as you.

What a glorious Easter we had at St Andrews, I only managed to get to two of the services, the one on Good Friday, a meditative reflection of what Jesus endured, with songs from the choir to put us in mind of Holy quiet Saturday to a wonderful Easter Sunday where the stone had been rolled back and Jesus appeared.

The other thing is the closure of the A46 for three weeks, the traffic is nearly always busy on the A46 and for that traffic to be dispersed into the

surrounding roads seems a nightmare for me so I will stay put here in Stratford monitoring the swans.

Speaking of closure our Church car park at St Andrews is closed for nearly two weeks but at the end of it we will have the best car park in Stratford!!!

I was going to miss next Sunday 27th as it's the Shakespeare marathon and the roads around here and through Welford are closed due to the runners. It coincides with Shakespeare's birthday and a lot of celebrations are in the town for the weekend.

May seems to be becoming a busy month so will have a lot to share with you, and you never know it may include the birth of the cygnets.

We are Easter people so let us go out with joy in our hearts and smiles on our faces as we celebrate the Risen Christ

Every Blessing

Jane Smith x

QUIZ NIGHT WINNERS!

Thank you to everyone who was able to come to Quiz Night 2025 in April.

The evening was a great success with everyone enjoying themselves and helping to raise £371.50 which will go towards the cost of running our beautiful St Giles church.

Also, a big thank you to everyone who helped to run the event.

Once again the winners were members of the Bereavement Drop-in group (pictured above and right), who are now the proud holders of the coveted solid plastic, silver-effect trophy!

Andy Clark



HOSPICE COFFEE MORNING

Please join us on

17th May

in the Small Hall

10.00 am - 12.00 noon



All proceeds to Mary Ann Evans Hospice

Tea, Coffee,
Cakes, Raffle
and Sales Table



Exhall Over 50s Club

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

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



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

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

Membership £12/year, sessions £3.00

Further info: Patricia Munro 024 7664 4507

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

- **30 and 15 hour** funding available
- Opening hours **8 am to 4 pm** but earlier or later times are available subject to demand
- **Emergency cover** and **School Holiday cover** available
- **See Facebook and Website for more information**



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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**

Better Days Spoken Word

This word could change your life, just take a minute and if you're able to, just close your eyes and think of someone you want to help, keep thinking of that person as you say this short, meaningful prayer and God will bless them.

Dear God, give me the power of blessing over all the people reading this prayer and cure the pain of them and the people they are thinking of. Amen.

When you feel depressed
You can't help but feel stressed
So be my guest
And take some rest.
Don't feel guilty
Don't feel ashamed
Turn the thunder storms into light rain.

A teacher once asked what makes me happy
I said Christianity
As it helped me keep my sanity
Through my darkest days
The light had stayed.



I asked Jesus one time in my prayers
"Jesus, why did you help me and not those in need?"
And I thought
He's only showing me what he was taught.

As I close off this mindful word
Let me think of one or two more to say
Go outdoors and say thank you for giving me the privilege of life
And listen to the birds sing
And see trees swing
Don't stay stealth
Stay strong in your mental health.

Although it can make you feel sad, angry, anxious, worried
Take this word into consideration.
Don't stay stealth because your mental health matters.

Amen

Ollie Edwards (aged 13)

WORDSEARCH

THE NICENE CREED

This year is the 1700 anniversary of the Nicene Creed. The name behind the Athanasian Creed. Athanasius (296-373) was born in Alexandria in Egypt, studied in the Christian school there and entered the ministry. At 29 years old he accompanied Alexander, the bishop of Alexandria, to the Church's first ecumenical Council, at Nicaea in 325. Athanasius saw that some bishops wanted to impose the teaching of Arius on the Church. Arius taught that Christ was not eternal but was a 'Saviour' created by the Father. Athanasius worked with his bishop, Alexander, in framing what became known as the Nicene Creed. Our Lord's full divinity was safeguarded in the words, 'eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father.'



ATHANASIOUS	NICENE	CREED	THEOLOGIAN	EGYPT	COUNCIL
ALEXANDRIA	DEBATE	CHRIST	PERSON	WORSHIP	DIVINE
ETERNAL	BEGOTTEN	GOD	FROM	LIGHT	TRUE
DEVOTION	SUBSTANCE	ONE	SCHOLARSHIP	CHURCH	STATE
EXILED	FLIGHT	HIDING	TRIUMPH	CHRISTOLOGY	BISHOP



JOIN US, JOIN IN

Mothers' Union theme for 2025-2027

In Mothers' Union we act as God's hands, feet and heart in God's world, reaching out to support those who need it most, let us not lose hope that every action, however small, taken in God's name will make a difference.

As we prepare for our 150th Anniversary next year let us have faith and reach out in confidence to invite others to 'join us and join in'. The path ahead remains uncertain – people have many calls on their time and we know that here in Britain and Ireland membership is steadily decreasing.

The issues that drove Mary Sumner to take action 150 years ago remain as real as ever. Many parents still struggle to provide for and bring up their children, domestic abuse and gender injustice remain. We know that the fellowship offered through MU, the power of shared worship and practical actions to address local and world-wide issues are needed as much as ever.

We know that when we get out and share more about who we are and what we do, people care and want to engage whether as members, supporters or volunteers. **You are warmly invited to JOIN US AND JOIN IN.** *This information is taken from an article by Bev Julienne in our MU magazine 'Connect'.*

Local News

At our March meeting we welcomed Leoni who is living locally with her husband. They are natives of Burundi and Leoni talked to us about her life and the impact of Mothers' Union in her country.

Mothers' Union has been active in Burundi for 70 years and has more than 18,000 members who actively promote stable family life and support those in need. Mothers' Union Burundi takes a holistic approach that focuses on faith, family and community, their biggest programme being the Literacy and Financial Education which has been in operation since 2000 and has enabled over 50,000 people to become literate with over 70,000 setting up savings groups and income generating projects.

Our next meeting is on 15th May, 7.30 in the Small Hall, when we will be welcoming John Elton, a Representative for the Mercy Ships Charity. Everyone is welcome.

If you would like any further information about Mothers' Union, do not hesitate to contact Viv Hopkins or Yvonne Knowles.

At a Glance - May 2025

MORNING PRAYER MONDAY TO THURSDAY at 8am in Church

Thursday 1st	2.00 pm 4.00 pm	Pat Richardson's funeral—Church Youth Club—Main Hall (weekly term time)
Tuesday 6th	1.00 pm 7.00 pm	Over 50s—main hall (weekly) Compline (weekly)
Weds 7th	11.30	VE Day Coffee Morning—Main Hall
Thursday 8th	2.30 pm	Bereavement Drop-in—Small Hall (fortnightly)
Sunday 11th	10.30 am	APCM—Main Hall
Weds 14th	10.30 am	Chatty Crafters—Small Hall (weekly apart from 1st Wednesday)
Thursday 15th	2.00 pm 7.30 pm	Service at Fairfield Care Home Mothers' Union—Small Hall
Friday 16th	11.00 am	Jean Hollis' Funeral—Church
Saturday 17th	10.00 am	Hospice Coffee Morning—Small Hall
Monday 19th	7.30 pm	PCC—Small Hall
Tuesday 20th	10.30 am	Service at Bede Village/Richmond Lodge
Sunday 25th	2.30 pm	Sunday Service at Bede Village

Funerals

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



Our journey through Holy Week and Easter this year was all the more poignant with the sadness of losing a number of much-loved church and community members, including Rosemary Little, Jon Phillips, Pat Richardson and Jean Hollis. Our prayers continue to be very much with their families and friends at this particularly difficult time.

May they indeed rest in peace and rise in glory, sadly missed and yet so fondly remembered, and may God's comfort and peace abound to all who grieve their loss.

**The Funeral of Pat Richardson will take place at St Giles on
Thursday 1st May at 2.00 pm. Donations to Pancreatic Cancer UK.**

**The Funeral of Jean Hollis will take place at St Giles on
Friday 16th May at 11.00 am. Donations to Mary Ann Evans Hospice.**



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Ministry and Admin

Vicar	Gail Phillip	024 7664 5030 07869 395980
Wardens	Neil Harris Vacant	07432 414798
Readers	John Owen Chris Wilson	0247636 6111 07717 523512
Administrator/Rotas	Penny Pallett	0247636 8008
Bereavement Drop-In	Sue Barnes	07946 051122
Electoral Roll	Beryl Owen	0247636 6111
Halls Bookings	Tina Watkins	0247664 5278 07905 297713
Parish Magazine	Tina Watkins	0247664 5278 07905 297713
Pastoral Care	Gail Phillip	024 7664 5030 07869 395980
PCC Secretary	Carol Gough	027631 8219
PCC Treasurer and Gift Aid	Stephen Carter	0247631 2831
Safeguarding	Muriel Ganley	07988 477659
Website	Penny Pallett Neil Harris	024 76 368008 07432 414798

Church and Worship

Bell Ringing	Steve Watkins	0247664 5278 07926 989686
Brass cleaning	Chrissie Hughes	0247631 5468
Choir/Organist	Kathryn Unsworth	0247667 3325
11.45 Worship Band	Roy Edwards	0247664 4916
Flowers in Church	Irene Prideaux	0247636 1321
Prayer Chain	Chris Wilson	07717 523512
Verger	Mandy Williams	02476 337188

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	0247664 5278 07905 297713
Hospice Coffee Morning	Viv Hopkins	0247664 5161
Mothers' Union	Mandy Williams	0247633 7188
Over 50s Club	Patricia Munro	0247664 4507



St Giles Chatty Crafters group invites you to a special
VE Day 80th Anniversary Coffee Morning

Wednesday May 7th
11.30am – 1.30pm

Coffee morning to mark the 80th Anniversary of VE Day
Stunning refreshments, live music, raffle, memory table
and much more

10.30am Holy Communion*
with special prayers of remembrance and peace
11.30am Coffee Morning

**We'd love to see you at church, of course, but you can
just come for the coffee and cake in the main hall!*

There's no entrance fee but we welcome donations to
veteran's charity *Combat Stress*



ST GILES CHURCH
KINDNESS COMPASSION COMMUNITY
IN CHRIST'S LOVE

