

The Newsletter of St.Giles', Newcastle, with St.Thomas', Butterton.
50p. or a voluntary donation. WWW.stgilesnewcastle.org.uk

April 2020

Parish News

**On-Line
Easter
edition**



**Smile
A
While
Extra**

**The First
Easter**

**Academy
Activities**

He is Risen

Hebrews 13:5

"God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'"

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Revd Jean Walker

Wardens: St.Giles'

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St.Thomas'

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The Rector, Rev'd Josh writes -



Dear friends and family of
St Giles with St Thomas,
Butterton,

As the Archbishops of York and Canterbury have officially advised that public worship is suspended until further notice, there will be no services or events at St Giles or St Thomas until we are instructed otherwise. This includes all Sunday worship and other activities including -

- 1) Sunday services at St Thomas, Butterton
- 2) The Sunday 8am Book of Common Prayer service
- 3) Midweek services, including the 1.10pm Wednesday Oasis service, and the Friday Morning Prayer
- 4) The Friday Coffee Morning and Mini Market
- 5) All groups which use the church (uniformed organisations, Community Choir, The Keep Fit Group, and the Mothers' Union)
- 6) All children's services and groups, including Little Fishes and Rainbow
- 7) The Wednesday evening choir rehearsal
- 8) The Thursday evening 7.30pm Lent groups
- 9) The 'One Small Step' art exhibition, including all school visits has been postponed.

If you would like to be linked in with our pastoral network, where members of the congregation keep in touch with you, please call, Revd Joshua Penduck, on 07795 594612

● In the midst of all the worries and fears, our hope is secure in Jesus Christ. May these verses from the Bible be of comfort to you now.

Nahum 1:7 "The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him."

Deuteronomy 31:6 "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

Philippians 4:6-7 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

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From the Editor

Welcome to a unique edition of Parish News -
The first on-line edition.

Just a few months ago I wrote in this column the virtues of the printed magazine against an on-line version. Little did I know that a few months later I would actually be producing one. This is due to restrictions placed upon us due to the virus outbreak which requires that the St.Giles building is closed and so we are unable to print it, also once printed, no-one would be able to purchase a copy!

Due to a lack of events and Services, this is a slightly slimmed down edition, but I do hope that this edition will help you to celebrate Easter in your own home instead of in your Church.

Due to a lack of 'news', it has been agreed that the 'Butterton Bulletin' column will from now on, be 'occasional' instead of monthly. I'm very grateful to everyone at Butterton for their contributions and especially to Ruth Downs for co-ordinating it month by month.

The good news is that we have included a page from our Academy which we hoped would become a regular feature, but the virus regulations may interfere with that idea.

I do hope that you enjoy this issue first 'on-line' issue - comments are always welcome. God is great, and we hope that with His help, our lives will return to normal as soon as possible.

Michael Pitstow



Our Church Wardens write -



Coming to the end of a very interesting and enjoyable seven years

As churchwardens we are not often required to write a leading letter for the *Parish News* since members of the ministry team normally take on this task. We have prepared two previously during an interregnum in 2014 and at the end of our last one as Rev Josh began as our Rector a few months ago. We have been privileged to be your wardens since April 2013 and have been re-elected at each subsequent Annual Parish Church Meeting (always unopposed, too!). Chris was the first female warden appointed at St Giles in its history, too. Another 'first' is that this is being written for inclusion in the only 'online' PN so far!

Normally wardens may serve for six years but a further year was added as last April we were in the middle of the second interregnum and we ourselves and the PCC felt it would be better to maintain some continuity. This is because wardens' responsibilities increase significantly during an interregnum when we lack a rector. We have observed on previous occasions that our work was made much easier because of the support we have received from a dedicated and highly experienced ministry team, and at the end of our tenure of office we would wish to reiterate our heartfelt appreciation for their immense contribution.

In our last *Parish News* letter we referred to the importance of various kinds of teamwork in our church and parish. This is just one form of that we are very blessed to enjoy and benefit from. As Mother Teresa once said "We can't all do great things, but we can do small things with great love". Jesus, in St. John's Gospel says "Love one another. As I have loved you so you must love one another. "Love is the very essence of our faith - in all we say and do. We are sure that when we took on the responsibilities of Wardens at St. Giles, we have been guided by these words.

Due to the coronavirus situation we may have to stay on as wardens until up to next January as there can be no elections for replacing us. This is because we cannot hold the usual Annual Parish Church Meeting at the end of April when this is done as the church remains closed. It is suggested by higher Church of England authority that this may occur in late October, but we must wait and see. However, enough of this as it is hardly the most pressing issue in these difficult days. As it is we may

maintain the responsibilities of wardens, but our duties are considerably lessened at present.

So from an inactive period currently, at least from the perspective of our church buildings' use here at St Giles' and at St Thomas', much has happened in these past seven years (and during an often turbulent and uncertain time in our country and in the world, too). In the middle of our tenure we were able to have our church heating system replaced with a similar configuration of overhead modern gas heaters. From a church estate standpoint, too, the biggest development has been, of course, the redevelopment of our churchyard which was enabled largely by a Heritage Lottery grant awarded to us. This meant much work for many members and associates of St Giles in planning the churchyard scheme and submitting a detailed proposal (or bid for funding) to the fund.

The end results have been very much appreciated in first of all transforming the churchyard making it that much more beautiful and accessible to all. Secondly, in giving a more open and welcoming approach to the church this has stimulated much more use throughout the week by various groups – younger and older – joining together in the Hall. Our 'Green Team' has continued to enhance the beauty of the churchyard further these past few years by tending plots and borders planted with a wide variety of colourful plants and shrubs. The appointment of a Children and Families' Worker in mid 2016 has stimulated an increase in activities for many more children both on a weekly basis, for monthly family services, and on special occasions. The recent appointment of a Parish Administrator at the beginning of the year is a welcome addition to our resources dedicated to advancing the churches' mission locally.

As wardens we are not suggesting these were our initiatives, but pleasingly they did happen on 'our watch' and we trust they always received our full support and encouragement. These are yet more examples of effective team working and commitment for which we give God our utmost thanks, and we were delighted and privileged to be part of it. We now are looking forward to another (slightly delayed) successful period under the guidance of two new very capable and committed wardens!

Chris Bailey & David Wildman

Why not visit the St.Giles YouTube channel?

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcNBNFc6A6wRfISnFpl2aDA>

Annual Church Meetings

St.Giles' - April 27th at 7.30pm.

St.Thomas - May 4th. at 7.00pm.



By Wendy Burke



***FOODBANK** - Newcastle Foodbank needs support in so many ways during this crisis. Please pray for them and telephone: 07519 159061 or Email: info@newcastlestaffs.foodbank.org.uk if you can help.

***A BIG**, big thank you to you all for the cards, phone calls, flowers, good wishes and most of all your prayers, following my recent back operation.

The Consultant was very pleased with the result of the operation and I am progressing well. I feel so well blessed being surrounded by so much love and support. A special thank you to Enid for the loan of her "grabber thingy" which has proved so useful in so many ways !

Love and God Bless - Chris Bailey

***NONA Wildman** says, "This year, (2019/2020), our Children`s Society Boxes raised £1,260.08.

I would like to thank everyone for their continued loyal support and the new box holders who have joined us in raising funds for the Children`s Society. Your generosity is amazing. New box holders are always welcome. If you want a home for your small change ring (01782)614982 or see me in church for details".

***PARISH News** wishes to thank all those who support it through financial donations or the provision of articles.

***THANKS** - We thank Ian Taylor for replacing the hot water heater in the Sambrook vestry and moving the Chancel speaker.

We had a good attendance at our March meeting when Margaret Sutton led us in prayer.

When I arrived at the church hall, I was met with a riot of colour as our Speaker was Nicky Griffiths, (daughter of Kath Pollock), who specialises in quilting. She had arrived early and hung lots of brightly coloured quilts around the hall.

Many years ago she went to a quilting class in Hassell Street school. The colours used were very traditional, but Nicky wanted bright pink. The teacher was unsure, but when completed it had worked. In 2006, Nicky made a quilt depicting how plants grow from seed to flower. It was exquisite, and still looks very fresh and new some 14 years later. Lots of people showed interested in it and so Nicky started "Bite Size" classes at Kidsgrove, making greeting cards with patchwork designs. As the numbers grew, they moved to Clayton Hall school. They started with a 9 patch which has 9 square panels of intricate designs, which were put onto plain material. Everyone was thrilled to have a completed quilt.

In 2011, Nicky gained a Teaching Diploma and taught at Newcastle College. They started with 'Taster' classes as they didn't know how many students they would attract. It turned out to be very successful. They also did 'applique' work, making bags that looked like gift parcels.

The traditional quilt is made up of squares, but they can be cut into triangles of various sizes and then put back together - just like a jig-saw puzzle. A popular one is double (interlocking) wedding rings. There was also a geometrical design which Nicky had printed on to pottery mugs to sell.

The Stoke Chamber of Commerce wanted to improve the use of the old Spode works in Stoke. It was decided that if could be used by local artists as an outlet for their work. Nicky needed one with a lot of light - so needed lots of windows.

We saw a picture of a wonderful sewing machine that runs on tracks. When making large quilts, you can move it side to side without stopping, a bit like a knitting machine.

Quilts are heirlooms and need to be treasured. Hours and hours of work goes into each one. You need lots of time and patience to create them. The hall was a spectrum of colour, just like being in a garden.

●**Sadly** our Mothers Day Service had to be cancelled to the virus situation.

MEETINGS

We are very sorry to inform you that due the virus, future meetings have been postponed until further notice.

Academy Activities



St Giles' and St George's C of E Academy

As God's children we aspire, believe and achieve to be the very best we can be

Tel 01782 917640 www.stgilesstgeorgesacademy.co.uk Headteacher: Mrs C Pointon BSc PGCE (Oxon)

During the first half of our Spring term the children have been focusing on how to be 'Learned and Wise'. The children are encouraged to be learned, taking all opportunities offered in a curriculum which is varied and rooted in Gospel values. They are also asked to be wise in the ways in which they use their learning for the common good.

Year 1 Chinese New Year



Whole School Reading Heroes



Year 2 Tudor Houses



Year 5 Dementia Champions working with Rowan Court Care Home



Nursery Hedgehog visit



He died and rose again!

The First Easter

Easter is the most significant moment in history for Christians. It was when Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was executed in Jerusalem by being nailed to a cross. His crucifixion, in around 30AD, was brutal and bloody. He was beaten and lashed before he was crucified. But he was innocent of any crime. He had been betrayed by one of his followers, Judas, and convicted on trumped up charges. Yet as he was dying, Jesus publicly forgave his killers. Then, three days after his dead body was taken down and laid in a tomb, he rose from the dead. Over the following six weeks he appeared to hundreds of people. Christians believe the death and resurrection of Jesus enables people to be forgiven for all the bad things they have said and done – because God's punishment for evil was taken by Jesus on the cross that day 2,000 years ago.

The word 'Easter' has no Christian connection. One theory links it to a pre-Christian pagan goddess who was commemorated in Spring. It is known that Jesus was crucified at that time of the year.

Jesus knew he was going to die

Jesus spent three years on the road with his closest followers, who are known as his disciples. He taught people and he miraculously healed people of illnesses. But he knew his mission was to lay down his life. On three occasions he told his disciples that he was going to be killed. He also said he would be resurrected.

The Bible book, Mark, quotes him saying 'the Son of Man [a name for Jesus] is going to be betrayed into the hands of me. They will kill him and after three days he will rise'.

The part of the Bible before Jesus – the Old Testament – has many ancient Hebrew writings about a Messiah who would come to rescue his people. They laid the groundwork for the idea that the Messiah would suffer, writing of an innocent victim who suffers because of his faithfulness to God. (See, for example, Isaiah 53.) Christians believe that the crucifixion of Jesus is the fullest realisation of that prophecy.

Christians believe the death and resurrection of Jesus enables people to be forgiven for all the bad things they have said and done.

The first Easter week

The events of Easter took place over a week. Some Christians refer to it as Passion Week.



It began on **Palm Sunday**. After all his teaching and healing, Jesus had built a following. On the Sunday before he was to die, Jesus and his followers arrived at Jerusalem. The city was crowded. Jewish people were arriving to celebrate Passover. This commemorates how they had escaped from slavery in Egypt nearly 1,500 year earlier. (Jewish people all over the world still commemorate Passover.)

Jesus rode into the city on a young donkey. He was greeted like a conquering hero. Cheering crowds waved palm branches in tribute. He was hailed as the Messiah who had come to overthrow the Roman occupiers and re-establish a Jewish kingdom.

The next day they returned to Jerusalem. Jesus went to the temple, the epicentre of the Jewish faith, and confronted money-changers and merchants who were ripping off the poor. He overturned their tables and accused them of being thieves. The religious authorities were alarmed and feared how he was stirring up the crowds. On the Tuesday, they challenged Jesus, questioning his authority. He answered by challenging and condemning their hypocrisy. Later that day Jesus spoke to his disciples about future times. He warned them about fake religious leaders; the coming destruction of Jerusalem; wars, earthquakes and famines; and how his followers would face persecution.

The timeline of Passion Week is not always clear. But it is evident that by midweek the Jewish religious leaders and elders were so angry with Jesus that they began plotting to arrest and kill him.

One of Jesus' disciples, Judas, went to the chief priests and agreed to betray him to them. Jesus and the 12 disciples gathered on the Thursday evening to celebrate the Passover meal. This is known as the Last Supper. During the evening, Jesus initiated a ritual still marked by Christians – Holy Communion – which commemorates his

Continued on the next page...

death. Jesus broke bread and shared it and a cup of wine with his disciples. Judas then left to meet the other plotters. Jesus continued to teach the others and then went outside into an olive grove to pray. He even prayed for all future believers. He agonised over what was to come but chose the way of obedience. The Bible book, Luke, records him praying, 'Father if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done'. Minutes later Judas arrived with soldiers and the chief priests and Jesus was arrested.

The trial of Jesus

In the following hours, Jesus had six separate hearings before the Jewish and Roman authorities. First, he went before the ruling and honorary Jewish high priests. Both hearings took place in secret at night, which was illegal under Jewish law. After daybreak on Friday, Jesus was taken before the 70-member council, the Sanhedrin. Witnesses lied to back up the bogus charges. The Jewish authorities accused Jesus of blasphemy and demanded the death penalty. But this could not be carried out without permission of the Roman authorities and so Jesus was taken before the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate. The Jews claimed Jesus was leading a rebellion, but Pilate saw he was innocent. Next he went before Herod Agrippa, the Roman governor of Jesus' home province, Galilee, who was in Jerusalem. Herod sent him back. There was a custom that a prisoner could be released to mark Passover. Pilate wanted to free Jesus. But the Jewish leaders whipped up the crowd to demand Jesus was crucified and another man was freed. Pilate caved in and handed Jesus over to be executed.

Jesus is crucified

Jesus was severely beaten and mocked for his claim to be king of the Jews. The soldiers made a crown of thorns and pressed it on his head. They stripped him and cast lots for his clothes. They made him carry his cross through the streets of Jerusalem, until a man called Simon was forced to carry it instead. Jesus was nailed to the cross, the nails driven through his hands and feet. The cross was set up on a hill just outside Jerusalem. Two criminals were crucified beside him. Onlookers, including the chief priests, mocked Jesus. The

Bible book, Luke, tells how one of the criminals realised Jesus was innocent and said to him, 'Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom'. Jesus replied, 'I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.'

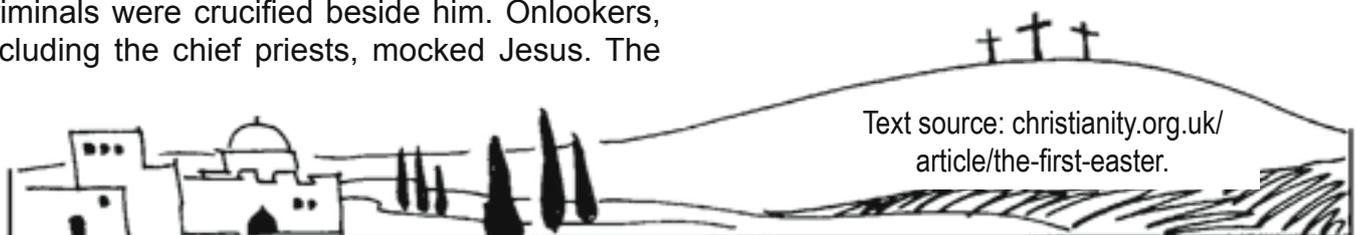


The crucifixion of Jesus took place on the Friday – remembered in the Christian calendar as **Good Friday**. It began at 9am. At midday, the Bible says it became dark and stayed dark for three hours. The Bible books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John tell us Jesus' final words... 'my God, my God why have you forsaken me?'; 'It is finished...' and 'Father into your hands I commit my spirit...'. At 3pm Jesus died. The earth shook, rocks split apart and the curtain which separated the most holy place inside the temple from the rest of the building was ripped from top to bottom. A Roman soldier pierced his side to confirm Jesus was dead and informed Pilate. Jesus body was taken down and placed in a tomb which was sealed with a huge boulder. Soldiers guarded the tomb to stop anyone stealing the body and claiming Jesus had risen.



'It is finished...'
Jesus rises from the dead

It is fundamental to the Christian faith that Jesus not only died but rose again. On the Sunday, two women followers, Mary and Mary Magdalene, went to anoint Jesus' body as was the Jewish custom with the dead. They discovered the stone had been rolled away and the body was missing. There are slight differences in the Bible accounts of what happened next: Matthew reports an angel appearing to the women; Luke writes of two men whose clothes gleamed like lightning speaking to them. But the message about the missing Jesus was the same... 'why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, he has risen!' In the weeks that followed, Jesus appeared on several occasions, including to a crowd of 500 people, before he ascended back to heaven.



Dr Richard Talbot MBE writes an incredible true account of parish life in Newcastle.

The Rector of St.Giles' to take Easter services at the tin church in the Iron Market! Rector imprisons Archdeacon in Rectory – Chief Constable called.

All sounds mystifying, but what you are about to read defies belief but not in the year 2020 but over 140 years ago at Easter time 1873. The key players in this account is the Rector Rev. Henry Veale, the Venerable Archdeacon Matthias and no less than the Bishop of Lichfield who did not clothe himself with respect over the whole affair.

The old parish church of St Giles' was built in 1721, having been erected it was recorded that it was built in great haste with insufficient funds and its foundations only four feet deep. Its best description was a hideous brick monstrosity. By 1851 the population of Newcastle had doubled since 1721 and the church became far too small to accommodate all those who wished to attend. In fact, it was only those who paid a 'pew rent' were secured a place to sit.

In 1853, Rev Veale became Rector at a time when the church was struggling to maintain the building. For years the church had become a burden upon the congregation and townsfolk, so something had to be done. By 1872 it became obvious that a decision had to be made and the consensus was for demolition of the old church, but the tower was to be retained. The Church of England renowned even today for its slowness in making decisions but then it only went backwards. The Rector and churchwardens, in consultation with the parishioners decided to appoint the well-known church architect, Sir George Gilbert Scott, who, having visited the church concluded that only the tower should be saved, and the site otherwise be cleared. At a

vestry meeting held in November 1872 to the amazement of all the Rector announced that it had been decided to defer for the moment the plans to rebuild the church. As a result, protests came from all quarters of the parish including the town council. So much so, the decision was reversed and the following month, December, it was agreed to apply for the necessary faculties. At last the church finally put into action the plan of demolition and the re-building of a much larger St. Giles' far more appropriate for a growing town of Newcastle and an expanding population.

However, the facts were that the old church could no longer be deemed as safe and it was after years of rambling and indecisiveness the Church Council and congregation finally agreed to proceed and rebuild to the plans of Sir George Gilbert Scott as a cost of £12,000.

With both the final plans accepted and the faculty obtained which included restructuring the extensive churchyard the final service held in the old 1721 church on Sunday 31st March 1873.

A good deal of interest was attached to the services and unusually a large congregation assembled where the Rector Rev H Veale preached both at morning and evening services. The following Monday, Mr Samuel Edwards offered for sale the old oak seats and panelling from the gallery, and body of the church, together with the pulpit reading desk and communion rails. There were various purchasers and the sale realised about £86. And as a consequence two weeks later on the 13th April 1873 Easter



St. Giles' 1721 - 1784

Sunday divine worship was held in a tin church, with a capacity of around 200 (Tin churches, were made from corrugated steel and quite common for small mission churches or any temporary building because of their cheapness.)

However, all was not well at St. Giles' and while the old church was demolished and new foundations laid the Rector who from early in 1874 had become ill and as a result of his indisposition, deemed it advisable to retire from ministerial labour for time and reside away from Newcastle. So, to maintain services the Venerable Archdeacon Matthias was engaged. Archdeacon Matthias had formerly ministered in Colombo but has since then held various temporary appointments in England was now to officiate as locum priest. Although his title of archdeacon was used, he was not the archdeacon of Stoke-upon-Trent.

The terms of the agreement with the Archdeacon was that he should hold a charge for 12 months and should reside at the Rectory. The Archdeacon entered upon his duties with zeal; but there was a sudden difficulty raised after he had been officiating for a short period. Completely out of the blue in December the following year 1874 the Bishop of Lichfield refused to license the Archdeacon, alleging, as a reason, that it was not on account of any moral or ecclesiastical objection but because he considered the Archdeacon's state of health was such that he

Continued on the next page...

Dr Talbot MBE writes... continued...

could not satisfactorily discharge the duties connected with having the sole charge of so large a parish. The Archdeacon next received notice from the Rector giving him one month's notice to vacate his position and Rectory. The Archdeacon refused to recognise the notice as it was contrary to the agreement. Many considered that the Rector was the mover behind the Bishop's decision.

To be continued in next month's Parish News when we read how the Archdeacon was imprisoned by the Rector and the tin church locked.



Philippians 4:6 *Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done.*

- *All those who are suffering from the Covid-19 virus.
- *All those who feel very alone.
- *All the hospital workers.
- *All those working in the Emergency Services.
- *All the G.P.s and their staff.
- *All those working in food shops.
- *All those who have found themselves un-employed.
- *All those who have worries about money.
- *All the volunteers who are helping in so many different ways.

Parish Pictures



Above:- 'Beetle Master' Rev. Peter checks for a winning "Beetle" at our Shrove Tuesday Beetle Drive and pancake evening.

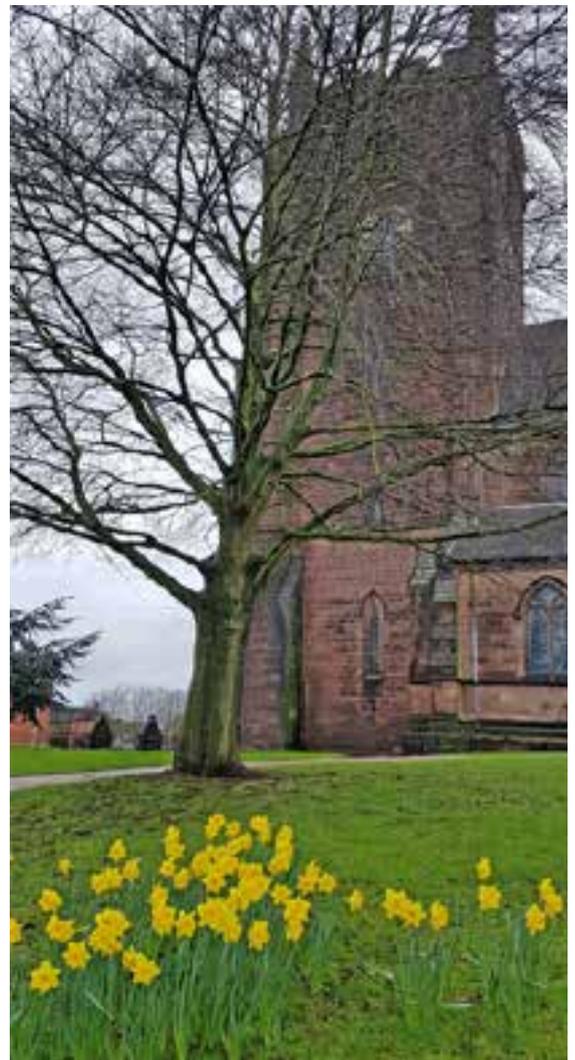
Right:-

Our blooming 'Greener Churchyard'.

Due to the virus outbreak, the judging of this year's Green Flag award has been postponed.

Below:-

An historic occasion. As normal Church services are cancelled, The magic of Aidan Goldstraw enabled Penny and members of the clergy to produce a Service which was screened on our YouTube channel on March 22nd. (details on p3). Sadly, further restrictions and illness has made future broadcasts much more difficult.



Take-a-Break

Giant Easter Wordsearch - Why not print this out?





Mouse Makes

LABROAD
OCROSSE
RHAPPYB
DONKEYS
FSCIASC
EAHNCAO
ANEGETA
SNSPLOT
TAPALMS

HUGDAWN
RTOMBMG
EOOTPOE
ECDEFRL
DRNMRNK
AOEPAII
YWWLINS
SDSESGS
EASTERB
GUARDEU
SAVIOUR
PRAISEY
IDCUTKT
RIDJOYE
ICOINSL
TETREEL

DONKEY • COLT • SAT • COATS
ROAD • CROWD • CUT • PALMS
BRANCHES • KING • HOSANNA
DISCIPLES • ROOM • PASSOVER
FEAST • EAT • DRINK • BREAD
WINE • SON • MAN • BLOOD • CUP
MEAL • JEWS • PLOT • KILL • COINS
GETHEMANE • PRAY • WILL
BETRAY • KISS • ARREST • MESSIAH
CHRIST • CRUCIFY • JESUS • CROWN
THORNS • ROBE • TREE • NAILS
CROSS • SPIRIT • DARKNESS
TEMPLE • DEATH • LOTS • DICE
TOMB • STONE • LINEN • BODY
BURY • GUARD • THREE DAYS
DAWN • MORNING • ANGEL • TELL
HEAVEN • GOOD NEWS • LORD
GOD • RAISED • JOY • PEACE
PRAISE • SAVIOUR • EASTER

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In this series, we are re-printing recipes which have been donated to St.Giles' by members of its congregation over the years. Three sources are being used. The 1908 'Parish Church Book of Recipes', The 'St.Giles' 1926 Jubilee Bazaar Souvenir Recipe Book', and items donated to Marilyn Brammer in 2018.

From the 1926 Recipe Book - FISH FOR BREAKFAST

Cut any old cold fish into slices, steep in a mixture of lemon juice, oil, pepper and salt for an hour or two. Dip in a batter made of half-a-pint of milk, 3 tablespoons of flour and an egg, and fry a rich brown in deep boiling fat.

Mrs Skerrett - Liverpool Road.

Smile-A-While



Nobody would admit to mis-placing the hand-gel bottle.

Medium Sudoku (Answer on page 12)

		1	4					
7								
	9		3	1	2			
8			9	1			3	
	2	5			7	1		
4		2	7				8	
	3	6	8		9			
								2
		5	6					

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Donated in 2018 -

HOT STILTON & PEARS

Arrange watercress on 2 individual grill-proof dishes. Place pear slices on top. Cover with Stilton slices.

Place under a hot grill until the cheese melts and browns.

Anon.

Why did He have to die?

As Jesus hung on the cross
dying,
the Disciples and many
knelt at his feet crying.

Why did He have to go?
Why couldn't he stay?
Why did He have to die
in this terrible way?

We think of the cross,
the agony and pain,
All Christians pray
He will come again.

He died for our sins
to set us free.
To save us all, you and me.
We pray for peace
across the land,
When we stand together
And take each others hand.

We celebrate Easter
With joy and fun,
but we remember the suffering
of the worlds only dear son.

Pamela Smith.

Newcastle News

Castle House tel: 01782 717717

www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/news

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic we are asking residents to visit the Customer Service centre at Castle House, Newcastle, only if really necessary.

Guildhall Agreement

An historic landmark in Newcastle town centre which dates back to 1713 is busy, full of life and providing a useful range of services to the local community.

That is the conclusion of a 12-month arrangement with Support Staffordshire who have agreed to continue managing the Guildhall while its long-term future is decided.

The county-wide voluntary sector support organisation took over the running of the iconic building, opening a community and

voluntary sector hub, in January 2019 following the relocation of Council staff to Castle House.

It's aiming to build on a successful year which saw the meeting room, office and desk space rented by a variety of non-profit organisations, the reception area used for a series of community events and more than 4,000 customer enquiries answered by volunteer receptionists from the Friends of the Guildhall between 10am and 4pm during the week.

There has been a steady increase in the number of people using the Guildhall, with newer bookings including a regular presence by the Midlands Foundation NHS Trust for its Wellbeing Service and a five-day coaching course run by the Institute of Swimming. Support Staffordshire also started a new volunteering service, funded by the European Social Fund.

Existing tenants alongside Support Staffordshire include Newcastle-under-Lyme Business Improvement District – who occupy the first floor – Staffordshire Adults Autistic Society, the Shaw Trust, Moneyline and Rethink. Events have included a mock Mayor making, food fest and heritage day, crafts, screen print demonstration and a Macmillan Coffee Morning.

Most of the running costs are expected to be covered by income generated by building use with the Council continuing to look after the fabric of the Grade II listed building, as well as the statutory inspections and related maintenance costs.

The Friends of the Guildhall continue to have volunteers manning the main reception and are developing a business plan with the intention of eventually taking on a management role at the Guildhall.

●ROEBUCK UPDATE - The Roebuck centre in Newcastle is going ahead to turn a number of its units into a Food Hall. Building work will change the former Argos and other units into an area with stalls and booths given over to caterers and purveyors of locally produced food products. The plan also includes communal seating and new toilet facilities.

●M.P.'s ADVICE - The Conservative M.P. for Newcastle, Aaron Bell, is opening a shop/advice centre in Queens Parade, opposite the Queens Gardens. It will be staffed by caseworkers and open from 10am-2pm each weekday.

●NEW NEW VIC - The New Victoria Theatre are a big step nearer to achieving their major £757,000 refurbishment scheme, thanks to a £235,000 donation from the Denise Coates Foundation. The scheme will include improvements to the stage, toilets and disabled access to the auditorium. If the scheme goes ahead, the auditorium will close in June 2020 and reopen in September.

●MUSEUM CLOSURE - The Newcastle museum at Brampton park will close for up to 6 months whilst extensions are built. A temporary 'outpost' information centre will open in Lancaster Buildings in May or June whilst the work is done. Plans include a new exhibitions gallery, improved learning space and a research and volunteer room as well as a café. The local Civic Society have donated £100,000 towards the plans and in recognition of this, the new gallery will be named after Jim Wain who was a founder member of the society and a frequent and generous member of the St.Giles congregation. His shop and living accommodation was adjacent to the main churchyard entrance.

● Dougie Mac and Donna Louise are to amalgamate for business reasons although both names will be retained.

Smile-A-While Extra

During these difficult times,
some lines to give us a smile.



*The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

*Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Nelson's sermons.

*The Rev. Merriwether spoke briefly, much to the delight of the audience.

*Next Sunday Mrs. Vinson will be the soloist for the morning service. The pastor will then speak on "It's a Terrible Experience."

*It was Palm Sunday, but five-year-old Jamie stayed at home with mum because of a bad cold. When his father and sisters returned, they were carrying several palm fronds. His sister explained: "People held them over Jesus' head as He walked by."

"That's not fair!" Jamie protested. "The one Sunday I don't go, and He shows up!"

*A Sunday school teacher said to her children, "We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But there is a higher power. Can anybody tell me what it is?" One child blurted out, "Aces!"

*A Sunday school teacher decided to have her young class memorise one of the most quoted passages in the Bible, Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the Psalm, but little Charles did not find it easy to memorise much of anything.

On the day that the children were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Charles stepped up to the microphone and began proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd...." He knew that much, but the rest of the Psalm suddenly deserted him. So he concluded bravely: "... and that's all I need to know."

*There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.

The lady paused for a moment. "Only the Ten Commandments," she said politely.

Take-a-Break Answers

3	5	2	1	6	4	8	7	9
7	8	1	9	5	2	4	3	6
6	4	9	7	8	3	1	2	5
8	6	7	4	9	1	2	5	3
9	2	5	6	3	8	7	1	4
4	1	3	2	7	5	6	9	8
5	3	6	8	2	7	9	4	1
1	7	8	3	4	9	5	6	2
2	9	4	5	1	6	3	8	7

REMEMBER - 2 mtrs Apart!

Stay inside
No group bigger than two people
Only go out if REALLY Necessary



MAY'S PARISH NEWS

Please email all items to the Editor -
pitstowm@aol.com

Closing date

Tuesday, April 14th.