

The Newsletter of St.Giles', Newcastle, with St.Thomas', Butterson.
Price 50p. or a voluntary donation

January 2023

Parish News

**Happy
New Year!**

**What's On
& Gone**

**Enquirers
Course**

**New Year
Preparation**

**Epiphany
Gifts**

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Our Rector writes.....

The Year of Evangelism Happy New Year!



A few months ago, the PCC met for an Away Day led by Revd Steve Haskett from Blackburn Diocese. Steve said that many churches are struggling, because volunteers who have been helping keep the church running are getting older and don't have the energy to keep it up. The sad thing is that there's no one else to take their place. (Does this ring any bells for people at St Giles and St Thomas?). How did this happen? It used to be the case that people naturally came to church. Then it became the case that though people didn't naturally come to church, they knew the basics of what Christianity is all about. But now, people don't even know those basics. This means that we need to rethink how to go about things.

Steve said that there are four stages needed for someone to get to the point where they are in roles of authority in the church: a) enquirer, b) disciple, c) deacon, and d) apostle. Enquirers are those people who are interested in Christianity. Disciples are those who are learning more about what Christianity is all about. Deacons are those who have started to volunteer their time to help out (like being a sidesperson, welcomer, choir member, reading the Bible in church, or on the tea and coffee rota). Apostles are those who take positions of authority in church life, such as being wardens, treasurers, or PCC members. To grow and to make sure people are handing on their roles to others willing to take their place, churches need to be responsive to each of these stages. And at St Giles with St Thomas, we're really good at three out of the four stages. We have lots of events to welcome people to, such as the Friday Coffee Shop, the Wednesday Fellowship, quizzes and other fun events. This is great for enquirers. We're always trying to get new people on board to be deacons, serving the church. And so far, we've always had people stepping up to become wardens, treasurers, or PCC members.

However, there was one key stage which Steve noted was lacking at St Giles with St Thomas: stage c), disciples. Now, if this were a 'production line', this

would be problematic. We are unable to get people from stage a) (enquirers), to stage c) (deacons). This means that after a while, the 'supply chain' is going to dry up. It won't be long until we won't have people stepping up to do even small deacon-roles, let alone the stage d) apostle-roles.

In response to this, the PCC have agreed to start an 'enquirers course'. This is a course which introduces those people who would like to 'enquire' a little more into what Christianity is about in a non-threatening, open, and friendly way. The material we'll be using is called 'Hope Explored.' It lasts just three weeks. It gives people an entrance way into learning more about Christianity (there's a longer follow-up course called 'Christianity Explored'). People will learn the basic tenants to the Christian faith, giving them an entrance into church-life. Steve recommends doing a course like this three times a year.

This is the point at which you may be thinking, 'Oh that's nice. I'm sure the Rector will do a good job!' To which Steve says, 'No. This can't be something which the Rector does. This has to be something that the church does.' In short, we need teams of people to do this. If this isn't owned by the congregation, it won't work. If it's just the Rector doing this, it won't work. And if it doesn't work, good luck trying to hand on your voluntary church role to someone else in five years' time... The point is that because it's owned and led by the congregation this is the kind of course that can still continue even if the Rector gets sick, gets run over by a bus, or wins £160 million on the euro lottery and flies off to Barbados.

This is the year that St Giles with St Thomas will begin to put a bigger emphasis on evangelism – that is, inviting people to meet with Jesus, to trust him, and to become part of his family the church, thereby taking people from being stage a) enquirers to stage c) deacons. And to do that, I need your help. We need a group of people who are willing to spend time looking at how we can evangelise (remember this is not about welcoming people, but teaching them about the basics of the faith). We need other people who are willing to lead the Hope Explored course (believe me, it's not difficult – as long as you know how to press a 'play' button to a video and then ask, 'So what do people think of that', then you'll be fine!). But above all, we need people to come to these courses. Not so much

Continued....

Our Rector continues...

you church members who've learnt this stuff all your life. No, I want you to invite people to it! Friends of yours who've always been interested in learning about Christianity but don't want to make a firm commitment just yet. Friends who are 'spiritual but not religious'. Family members who wonder why you go to church and would like to understand it a bit more.

We have three dates in the diary for the first third of the year: Thursday 2nd, 8th, and 16th February at 6pm in the church. Jesus commanded us to go out into all the world and make disciples of all nations. This is an opportunity to start a bit closer to home. Please prayerfully think how you can be a part of this.

Bits & Pieces

◆ **NEW HOURS** - Important information from our Parish Administrator, Penny Richards -

After discussions with Rev Josh, my admin work days are changing effective from January. I'm still doing 10 hours but they will be done as follows:

Monday 9am to 1pm
Tuesday 9am to 12pm
Wednesday 1pm to 4pm

◆ **THANKS** - A big 'Thank You' to everyone who helped to make the Christingles - Wendy Burke.

◆ **BOXES** - Children's Society Boxes
Please could all boxholders return them to me for opening at your convenience? Thank you for your continuing support. - Nona Wildman

The New Year Comes

He comes he goes, his times are set
The New Year now has shown his face
For time is here and will not wait
For dwellers all in time and space.

We sojourn here on this fair earth,
Just for a time so quickly gone
Our lives just like a vapour spent
As we await another dawn.

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From the Editor....

Welcome to our first issue of 2023. *Parish News* relies on contributions and readers and I wish to sincerely thank everyone who has contributed articles and pictures for publication over the past year and to remind readers that contributions are always very welcome. Readership appears to be growing and on behalf of the parish I thank you all for your continued support.

This issue includes a look back at some of our recent celebration events and forward as 2023 opens up before us. I wish you all a very Happy New Year!

Michael Pitstow

A thought for the New Year

Time is nothing to God. - Oswald Chambers

What's On: 2023

A New Year - A new name...

The Friday Community Project will now be known as Friday Coffee Shop. It will run from 9am to 3pm every week but there will continue to be different teams for the morning coffee shop and the lunchtime coffee shop.

Gill Elks and Chris Taylor would like to hear from you if you feel able or if you know someone who is looking to volunteer their time and might be willing to help with the lunchtime activity please. The more helpers we have the better it will be for everyone.



JANUARY NO MEETING

FEBRUARY 1ST ANDREW BRAMMER

MARCH 1ST MELVYN RYDER

APRIL 5TH MR DOWLER

THE LOYAL ORDER OF BURGESSES
OF NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME

MAY 3RD

PRE-CORONATION AFTERNOON
TEA PARTY RED WHITE AND BLUE
THEMED. PLUS ENTERTAINMENT

JUNE 7TH MICHAEL PITSTOW
DESERT ISLAND DISCS

JULY 5TH JULIE BEEDON

AUGUST NO MEETING

SEPTEMBER 6TH JOSH LATHAM

OCTOBER 4TH REVD JOSH PENDUCK

NOVEMBER 1ST BEETLE DRIVE
WITH ENID KING

DECEMBER 6TH
ADVENT CAROL PARTY

All are welcome to join us at the
Fellowship Group. We look forward
to meeting new friends.

Children's Activities

St.Giles' Monthly Pattern

First Sunday: SHINE

Second: All-Age

Third: SHINE

Fourth: LIGHTHOUSE

**URGENT: If YOU can help,
please contact Jean Buckley or
the Rector.**



St Thomas' Church, Butterson

QUIZ with PIE supper

Thursday 2nd February 2023

7.00pm

At St Giles' Church

£10

Tea /coffee provided, bring own drinks

Admission by ticket only available

from Sue Taylor (07980150281).

Teams of 6 maximum

Numbers limited so please purchase early.

St.Thomas' Butterson

17th March 50/50 auction in St Giles
(More information later)

What's Gone: Wreath Making



CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

A Christmas wreath-making event was organised to raise funds for St Thomas' church Butterton, on Saturday 3rd December 2022 and was hosted at St Giles church hall, Newcastle. Val Edwards local florist (NDSF) instructed the workshops supported by Faye Leech and together they organised a successful event making a profit of £301:94.

Everyone attending the morning and afternoon workshops demonstrated creative skills and produced a fabulously unique wreath to take home. The workshops featured locally sourced materials and an abundance of fresh foliage picked by the organisers for the twenty-two attendees. Christmas carols and refreshments including mulled wine and hot mince pies set the scene and promoted a sociable festive spirit.

The day was a joyous start to the season and the feedback was very positive with everyone expressing their appreciation for the community event; we would like to extend our thanks to all who supported this initiative.

In response to the success of this event, future floristry workshops are planned with all proceedings going to St Thomas' Church in the Wood, Butterton.



What's Gone: St.Thomas'

The outdoor carol service at St.Thomas took place at 4.00pm on Sunday, December 4th.

Despite the cold and damp weather it was a very enjoyable event with 38 adults and 5 children attending. Rev Josh led told the Christmas story through the singing of carols interspersed with Bible readings from various people as we walked along the church lane by torch light. Then we grouped round a very welcoming bonfire as the "shepherds appeared" and then retreated into our own stable, namely the church, to complete the service. This was followed by mulled wine and mince pies to warm us all up.

It was good to see adults, children and dogs feeling at home in the church and I must particularly thank the dog walkers from the westlands/Clayton who supported the event as they do at so many of the coffee mornings.

The collection from the service has been sent in support of the work of the Children's Society.

S.T.

An on-line reviewer wrote...

"With three impeccably behaved dogs, singing carols walking down the lane, followed by more carols in the church and mulled wine and home made mince pies. A wonderful way to spend a Sunday afternoon."



Christmas Craft's Market at St.Thomas' December 10th.

Saturday's Fair and coffee morning. A packed church and a financial success! A huge 'Thank you' to everyone who contributed items and to those who supported it.



The Editor wishes to thank those who have sent in photo's and text of the recent events at both St.Thomas' and St.Giles churches.

What's Gone: Advent Party



On December 7th, the St.Giles Fellowship Advent Carol Party was back once again and it was a “wonderful!” afternoon. We didn't know how many people would be able to attend as invitations had been sent to other Mothers Union groups and churches. We needn't have worried as many ‘old friends’ came through the door, a total of 54 attended. It was an emotional Service as we hadn't seen some people since 2019, (our last Carol Party).

As always, people were very generous with their ‘Bring & Share’ food contributions. I put out 3 large tables in the nave of the Church, but we had to add another to accommodate all the donations. Even after everyone had enjoyed a ‘good feed’, many still took bags of food home.

'Thank You' to everyone for supporting us, 'Thank You' to the readers and candle lighters. 'Thank you' also to Rev Ann Taylor who gave an interesting short talk, as Rev Josh was unable to attend due to sickness.

You don't have to ask for volunteers to tidy up - it's second nature to St.Giles people. Everyone worked as a team and very soon everywhere was clean and tidy.

'THANK YOU' to everyone - It seems a very insignificant word - but we couldn't do without you.

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL.

(A very special 'Thank You' to Wendy and Rev. Ann for all their hard work organising the Fellowship group meetings - Ed)



NO MEETING IN JANUARY

The 2023 Fellowship group programme can be found on the 'What's On' page.

Wendy Burke

What's Gone: *Magic Mommments*



Top Left:- Dec.3rd - Daleian Singers concert.
Top Right:- Christingle Man, (Dennis Brammer).
Bottom:- Nativity cast of 2022. **

Others: Dec.11th - Nativity & Christingle service.
Middle Right - Ready to distribute the Christingles.

**** Our very grateful thanks to all those involved. ****

How To Prepare For A Most Fruitful And Successful New Year

by Ngozi Nwoke

Do you desire a better new year? Every New Year comes with new things attached to it, both challenges and success. But if you desire to see more of success then you need to earnestly prepare for it. A wise man said, "Failing to prepare is preparing to fail". This article talks about an important aspect of preparing for a fruitful and successful New Year.

'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.' - Jeremiah 33:3 (NKJV)

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him - 1 John 5:14-15 (NKJV)

How you start this year will, to a great extent, determine how you will end it, and what you do with the first month of the year will determine what you will get by the end of the year. It's all about foundation. If the foundation is faulty what can the righteous do? - Psalm 11:3

Every product is best fixed by the manufacturer, so also a new year is best fixed by the creator. Therefore to have a most fruitful and successful year, you need to consult the Almighty God through prayer and fasting. Leaving the year to chance is an invitation to the enemy to do with you as he likes.

God says you should commit your ways to Him, trust also in Him and He will bring it to pass - Psalm 37:5. It is great wisdom to commit the year into the hands of God in prayer so that He will bring it to pass. God, being the Alpha and the Omega, knows the end from the very beginning and so is in the best position to guide and direct you throughout the year, but not without your permission.

It is through prayer that you give God the permission to guide and direct you. And because it is for the whole year, it is very important that you set out some time to seek God's face concerning the year. And it's best when you couple your prayers with fasting. Fasting certainly doesn't change God but it does prepare you to hear and receive more clearly and accurately all that God

has for you. Allow the Holy Spirit to direct you on how long you should fast.

When you prepare spiritually, you conquer physically. Taking charge of the year spiritually at the beginning gives you rest throughout the rest of the year. In prayer, you fortify yourself, family, business, career, finances, health, and relationships against any assaults of the devil. The scriptures didn't say the enemy won't gather against you but that all that gather against you shall fall for your sake (Isaiah 54:15), and this is fulfilled when you are well guarded spiritually.

In prayer, you receive what to do to enjoy a fruitful and successful year, and also the steps to take in order to achieve it. God is a God of details and if you will wait on Him in prayer and fasting, He will deliver the nitty-gritty of the year to you. Don't be in hurry; wait to conquer the year on your knees.

Call on God and He will show you great and mighty things you don't know about the year - Jeremiah 33:3. Furthermore, when you pray according to the will of God, He hears you and if you know he hears you, then whatever you ask you know that you have the petitions that you asked of Him - 1 John 5:14-15

When you are sure of what to expect for the year and you see the otherwise, you will not accept it. You would stand your ground and demand for what is yours as God had shown you. But if you are not sure you will accept it as your lot when it is only the devil trying to steal from you. Spiritual preparation is not something that you should overlook because the physical realm is totally controlled by the spiritual realm. When you win in the spiritual realm, you have won in the physical realm.

Christ and the apostles all needed to pray and fast; waiting on God before fully commencing their assignments. They did great exploits, the kind of success that is still speaking till today.

Christ fasted for forty days and forty nights before beginning His Galilean ministry. The devil tempted him from all angles: lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and pride of life, but He defeated him in all areas (Matthew 4:1-11). Afterwards the bible recorded in Luke 4:14-15, that Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out throughout the entire region and He was glorified by all.

Also, after Christ's ascension, the apostles and the other disciples all continued with one accord in prayer

Prepare for the New Year ... continued...

and supplication in the upper room (Acts 1:12-14) till the day of Pentecost. They were filled with the Holy Ghost and Peter who denied Christ before a little maid, preached to multitude and three thousand people gave their lives to Jesus. And afterwards the apostles did many more exploits for Christ - Acts 2:1-47.

You need to be empowered by the Holy Spirit for you to experience a most fruitful and successful year. Regular prayer will help to secure it for you.

What do you desire for this New Year? You can have it even beyond your expectation (Ephesians 3:20). Your future this year is in your hands, choose well and you will celebrate this year.

Into the New Year

*The leaves are thick upon the ground,
The air is still, little sound.
The sky is grey, the sun's not out,
It's winter time there is no doubt.
But once the leaves have cleared away,
And the sky is not so grey,
Then shoots of plants will appear,
A sign that spring is near.
The earth will wake from its sleep,
Fragile snowdrops from the ground will peep.
Days will get warmer, skies turn blue,
Then blossoms and flowers of every hue.
The birds will nest and sing their song,
Happy after the winter long.*

Pamela Smith

Why Worry?

There are only two things to worry about,
Either you are well, or you are sick.
If you are well, then there's nothing to worry about.
If you are sick, there are still only two things to worry about.
Either you get well or you die,
If you get well, there's nothing to worry about.
If you die, there's only two things to worry about.
Either you go to Heaven or you go to Hell.
If you go to Heaven, there's nothing to worry about.
But if you go to Hell, you'll be so very busy meeting all
your old friends, you won't have time to worry!

(Submitted by Pat Lovatt)



January 6th. Epiphany Special gifts for the baby Jesus

Epiphany is also known as 'Twelfth Night', or the last night of the Christmas festival. According to the song, it is also the day when that over-enthusiastic 'true love' of yours dumps no less than 78 presents on your doorstep, among them a dozen leaping lords of the realm and a final partridge – to go with the 11 you have already been given.

In many parts of the world, 6th January is celebrated as Christmas Day. As we Western Christians are packing away our tree, the Greek Orthodox world and Catholic Spain are giving presents and celebrating the wise men, or magi. For what better time to give presents to each other, than on the day the wise men presented gold, frankincense and myrrh to the infant Jesus?

What do we make of these presents? Gold is for kingship, proclaiming a royal child. Frankincense carries a feeling of worship about it: It was used in the temple worship and indicated access to the presence of God. Frankincense is thus for worship and incarnation.

The third gift, myrrh, finds its place at Calvary. After the crucifixion, Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea prepared Jesus' body for burial, using myrrh as an embalming fluid. Thus, when the wise men visit the baby Jesus, the shadow of the cross already falls across the crib. But myrrh is also symbolic of love, so you could say that the third gift is about adoration as well as death. And Christ's death on the cross is for love of the Church, His bride.

As for the magi, they were not Jewish grandees, but foreign Gentiles. And so it was clear, from as early as the manger in Bethlehem, that Jesus was not just the Messiah for the Jews, but the Saviour of the whole world.

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 91764

www.stgilesstgeorgesacademy.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs C Pointon BSc PGCE (Oxon)

The weeks of Advent and Christmas are such a lovely time of year at school, the children are excited and are working hard preparing nativities and Carol Services. The children also take time out to think of those less fortunate than themselves through acts of Advent witness.



Reception applications for September 2023

Is your child aged 4 by 31/08/2023 and you would like a place in our Reception, please complete the online application at <https://ems.staffordshire.gov.uk/CitizenPortal/en?fbclid=IwAR3-J9LOOKNAVbWkiHZeKFJR4D1iaCRNVso1Sabvw3CEBILzLQP3Y2DDlpY>

If you would like to view our school, please contact the office on 01782 917640.

Closing date for applications is 15th January 2023.



Some thoughts for the New Year....

◆We Christians are miserable indeed if we grow old in making no improvement. - John Calvin

◆A glimpse of the next three feet of road is more important than a view of the horizon. – C S Lewis

◆The search for happiness is one of the chief sources of unhappiness. - Eric Hoffer

Take-a-Break

The Coming of the Magi Wordsearch

'Where is the One who has been born King of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.' So Matthew tells of the coming of the Magi, or Wise Men, to the baby Jesus. Today we remember it on Epiphany, on 6th January. Did they come from Arabia Felix – nowadays southern Arabia? How many came? No one knows, but by the 6th century they were named Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. Why gold, frankincense and myrrh? Gold stands for kingship: Jesus was King of the Jews. Frankincense stands for divinity; Jesus was to be worshipped. Myrrh stands for death and burial; Jesus would become a sacrifice and die for His people. The Wise Men were the very first gentiles ever to worship Jesus. Isaiah foresaw this response to Jesus: 'Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.' The Magi wanted to worship Jesus; Herod wanted to kill Him. But the Jewish leaders who knew about the prophecy of a Messiah born in Bethlehem did not even bother to visit to Bethlehem. And it is only six miles from Jerusalem!

I	G	A	M	J	G	I	P	I	H	S	R	O	W
Y	E	E	E	C	A	R	M	S	F	R	R	X	I
I	N	W	L	I	O	S	E	E	U	K	R	R	S
R	S	A	C	P	E	B	L	N	R	S	M	Y	E
A	E	A	H	B	N	I	A	A	P	P	E	E	M
I	I	E	I	P	X	T	S	I	P	R	H	J	H
D	C	R	O	A	I	A	U	B	I	I	E	A	E
Y	C	A	R	O	H	P	R	A	H	E	L	E	R
S	S	P	N	T	K	L	E	R	S	S	H	A	O
I	A	S	L	I	O	O	J	A	G	T	T	S	D
F	R	A	N	K	I	N	C	E	N	S	E	T	B
E	B	G	Y	T	I	N	I	V	I	D	B	A	R
I	D	E	A	T	H	H	T	L	K	W	B	M	B
G	O	L	D	A	P	S	M	H	U	Y	L	E	N

King	epiphany	divinity
jews	arabia	death
star	felix	isaiah
east	gaspar	nations
worship	Melchior	herod
magi	Balthasar	prophecy
wise	Gold	Bethlehem
men	Frankincense	Jerusalem
baby	myrrh	Priests
jesus	kingship	scribes

Smile-A-While



"Are you sure that you know how to repair faulty boilers vicar?"

Medium Sudoku

Solution on page 16

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

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Smile Lines

When church bulletins don't get it quite right:

- ◆ During the absence of our minister, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when J.F. Stubbs supplied our pulpit.
- ◆ Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community.
- ◆ Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.
- ◆ Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.



- † All those who are fearful of the New Year.
- † All those who are unable to leave their homes.

- † All those who are worried about paying for food and fuel.
- † All those working in hospitals, Food Banks and Care Homes.
- † All those suffering from war and unrest in their country.
- † All those who have recently lost loved ones, especially young ones.
- † All those waiting for medical treatment and operations.
- † All those who feel un-loved and lonely.



Newcastle News

Castle House tel: 01782 717717

www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/news

Suggested plans for borough's 850th anniversary celebrations unveiled in December.



The new 850 logo recreating the borough crest.

The Council and its partners are pulling out all the stops to organise a year-long events programme to help everyone celebrate a momentous milestone in Newcastle-under-Lyme's proud history.

This includes the creation of a new logo recreating

the borough crest, (see above), which will be used in all promotion, as well as a dedicated section of the Council's website which is now live.

Preparations are well underway to deliver an action-packed calendar of cultural and heritage activities throughout 2023 in honour of our loyal and ancient borough's 850th anniversary, with a view to involving community members in a series of exciting civic events which deliver a lasting legacy for the borough. Newcastle-under-Lyme was granted its first royal charter of incorporation in 1173 by King Henry II after a population grew around a "new castle" built by the Normans.

An engaging and inclusive anniversary programme is being developed by an "850 working group" in conjunction with partners, local businesses, councillors and sponsors. To date the Council has secured several sponsors for the campaign including Keele University, Aspire Housing, the Community Foundation, Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce, Options Management and local MP Aaron Bell.

They currently involve –

A celebration of famous and influential residents – past and present – at Brampton Museum involving exhibitions, film showings, talks, online content, displays in the Spotlight Gallery and a range of family-friendly activities. There will be a different theme each month –

January – Fascinating Folk

February – Newcastle People in the World

March – Business and Industry

April – Literature

May – Military

June – Big Celebration

July – Sports

August – Heroes of the Borough

September – Rights and Protests

October – Arts

November – Science and Engineering

December – Living Legends

A themed experience at Brampton Museum designed specifically for schoolchildren in addition to a medieval extravaganza at Brampton Park. A "Celebrate Newcastle" event at Brampton Park, in association with popular arts and cultural organisation Appetite, on 3 June followed by a medieval battle re-enactment of Blore Heath in September. Window displays and bunting in Newcastle town centre. A programme of educational activities for schools. In addition to one-off events, there are plans to deliver a lasting legacy through –

Proposals for a Lyme Forest containing 850 new lime trees on the former Keele golf course. A new printed book of the History of the Borough. A special subway mural at Queen's Gardens. Aspiration Keele – aspiring local students to study at Keele University. The creation of an annual Local Heroes Award ceremony to continue to focus on rising stars from the borough. A heritage blue plaque nomination scheme to acknowledge residents' contribution to society. The launch of an annual history lecture. A new statue of the late Queen Elizabeth II. Council Leader Simon Tagg said: "The 850 anniversary of Newcastle-under-Lyme in 2023 is a once in a generation opportunity to bring our communities together in appreciation of the fantastic history of our town while giving the local economy a real boost.

"The first royal charter, awarded in 1173, gave special rights and freedoms to residents that went on to help shape the borough as we know it. Perhaps most notably this included the right to hold an outdoor market, a long-held tradition that's still an important aspect of the town's vitality and success.

Continued on the next page....

More Newcastle News

"Newcastle-under-Lyme is steeped in history and culture. We want to showcase all that's great about the borough, celebrating it with pride and passion, by providing a series of enjoyable events. There was a real buzz when the late Queen Elizabeth II visited the area during the octocentenary in 1973; we want to recreate that special atmosphere for an extended period of time while providing a real, lasting legacy."

There are various opportunities to be involved through volunteering, support in kind or by providing sponsorship. A total of £25,000 has been earmarked from the Council's Borough Growth Fund – money set aside to promote the town – and confirmed external funding currently amounts to £35,000.

◆**TREE PLANTING** - Hundreds of lime trees will be planted on land at the former Keele golf course in spring 2023 to celebrate the forthcoming 850th anniversary of Newcastle-under-Lyme.

It will be the latest phase of a long-term strategy to turn local green spaces into carbon capture woodlands for future generations.

On the agenda is an update on the Council's Urban Tree Planting Strategy, an ongoing project to boost the number of trees on urban sites across the borough which will contribute towards ambitious net carbon zero goals as part of its Sustainable Environment Strategy.

As well as plans for a commemorative Lyme Forest at Keele containing 850 lime trees – a nod to the ancient forests that gave Newcastle part of its name – in addition to other associated planting early next year to mark the borough's royal charter of incorporation in 1173, the initial part of phase four involves planting proposals for Clough Hall Park in Kidsgrove; Kennet Close, Westbury Park; Moreton Parade, May Bank and St. Edmund's Avenue in Wolstanton which are scheduled to be completed this winter following consultation with residents. Additional sites are set to be planted up with a range of native trees in early 2023.

Over the past two years, 265 trees have been

planted on eight sites, including Sandy Lane, Newcastle; Repton Drive, Westlands and Newchapel Recreation Ground. All sites will form part of an essential mosaic of local green spaces that will be protected for the benefit of nature recovery and carbon capture for the future. In time, further carbon reduction opportunities on these sites, with community involvement, will be considered.

Council Leader Simon Tagg said: "Trees not only enhance popular and much-loved green spaces; they're vital to our very existence as they're the ultimate carbon capture. The Urban Tree Planting Strategy is focusing on carrying out tree planting in the borough's urban wards as this is where carbon capture is most needed to mitigate the carbon footprint generated in built-up areas, both now and into the future. Ultimately, planting lots of new trees will help the Council on its journey to net carbon zero, in terms of removing carbon emissions from the atmosphere, as part of its Sustainable Environment Strategy which prioritises a sustainable future for the borough."

"We're also keen to involve local residents in the process of safeguarding urban green space and enhancing the local environment across the borough."

A community donation scheme is being set up via the Council's website which will allow residents and businesses to contribute towards future tree planting projects across Newcastle-under-Lyme.

◆**VILLAGE AWARD** - Belong Newcastle-under-Lyme care village has been recognised with a national award win commending the positive impact on participants' wellbeing, as well as the strategic creative approach to caring for those living with dementia. We Belong Together (WBT) was devised through Belong's partnership with Liverpool's contemporary arts centre, the Bluecoat to support customers residing at Belong care villages when government intervention placed them in lockdown, limiting social interaction. Critically acclaimed artists ran weekly virtual sessions with tenants, using a range of art forms, including ceramics, sound and storytelling.

Including items from the Newcastle Borough web-site.

◆WHY WE NEED OUR OWN AIR AMBULANCE

Stoke on Trent and the surrounding areas have never had their own dedicated Air Ambulance, we have always had to rely completely on helicopters which also serve 6 million people in Birmingham and 3 million people in Manchester and which are all based a long way away at Cosford (Telford), Tatenhill (Burton on Trent) or Barton at City Airport (West Manchester)

Continued on the next page....

With such a massive area to cover it is understandable why they are often busy saving lives elsewhere when we need them in this area.

Experience has shown that the faster we can get a doctor & paramedic on the scene who can administer life saving techniques with the help of medication and equipment to a patient who may be dying with life threatening injuries or in a critical condition will help to save lives. Time is critical in these cases so having

our own helicopter based and dedicated to this area with a critical care trained doctor & paramedic on board will undoubtedly save many additional local lives which could include your friends, neighbours or your family. When in operation, our Stoke based helicopter would have an estimated response time of just 7-8 mins.

For more information and how to donate,
please go to: stokeairambulance.org

St.Giles Church, Church Street, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs. ST5 1QS

Regular Activities (in St.Giles' unless otherwise specified)

All our regular activities are open to newcomers - either telephone the leaders or just turn up on the day and make yourself known.

Please could people be mindful of these activities and plan any work in taking care of our church and it's grounds so as not to clash with them. All activities are subject to the current Covid regulations. Please contact Penny Richards (07592 035386) for further booking details.

Day	Time	Event / Meeting	Termtime only	Information / Contact
Sunday	St.Giles/St.Thomas's Services are listed on the back page of this issue			
Sunday	10.30am	Junior activities - Shine/Lighthouse		Jean Buckley 0799 9542229
Monday	6.00pm - 9.00pm	Rainbows & Guides	✓	Trudy Reale (01782) 631904
Monday	Bi-Monthly 7.30pm	Church Council		Church hall Rev Josh (01782) 620322
Tuesday	10.00am	Bible Study in Church		1st & 3rd weeks - Check Memo - Open to All
Tuesday	9.15am -11.30am	SSLA meeting		(4th week only)
Tuesday	12.30pm - 1.45pm	Staffs Comm. Daytime Choir		Tracy Mellor 0754 4511312
Tuesday	6.00pm - 7.45pm	Brownies	✓	Trudy Reale (01782) 631904
Wednesday	9.00am - 11.00am	Rainbow Mother & Toddler group	✓	Penny Richards (01782) 711631.
Wednesday	1.10pm - 1.45pm	Oasis Communion Service		Rev. Ann Taylor (01782) 660174
Wednesday	2.00pm. First Wednesday of each month	St.Giles Fellowship Group Everyone welcome		Wendy Burke (01782) 621430
Wednesday	7.30pm	Church Choir		Rev. Peter Nisbeck (01782) 662379
Thursday	10.00am - 12pm	Keep Fit Class		Elaine Millward (01782) 749984
Thursday	1.30pm - 4.00pm	St.Thomas' Church open		Please check: (01782) 614847
Friday	9.00am - 3.00pm	Open Church		Rev Josh Penduck (01782) 617498
Friday	Mini-Market Fortnightly only	St.Giles Coffee Shop		Gillian Elkes 07591 055287 / Chris Taylor
Friday		Mini Market		Pat Lovatt
Friday	7.15pm - 8.30pm	Staffs Community Choir		Tracy Mellor 0754 4511312
Saturday	10.00am - 12 Noon	St.Thomas' refreshments		2nd & 4th Saturdays only
Friday Sunday	8.00pm & 10.30am	Bell-Ringing St.Giles/St.Margaret's Wolstanton		John Maddison (01782) 853169 David Powell (01782) 714060
Any Saturday/Extra events and services are listed on the back page of this issue.				

December update

Some small changes have occurred since our December issue was printed.

16th Friday 9.00am Coffee Morning & Mini Market
 Note: Last Community project lunch for 2022
New date for visit of Aaron Bell MP

18th FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8.00 am Holy Communion
 10.30am Holy Communion
NOTE TIME: 7.00 pm Civic Carol Service

20th Tuesday 2.15 pm Hempstalls Hall

21st Wednesday 1.10 pm Oasis Holy Communion

23rd Friday 9.00am Coffee Bar IS OPEN.

2.15 pm Rowan Court

24th Saturday 4.00 pm One More Sleep
 11.30 pm Midnight Mass

25th CHRISTMAS DAY

8.00 am Holy Communion for the Dawn of Christmas Day
 10.30 am Family Communion
 28th Wednesday NO Oasis Communion
 30th Friday NO Coffee Morning/Mini Market/Lunches

January Calendars

1st SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

10.30 am Holy Communion

4th Wednesday 1.10 pm Oasis Holy Communion
 No Fellowship group meeting.

6th Friday Epiphany

9am - 3pm Coffee Shop & Mini Market
 11.00 am Service at Mill Rise

8th BAPTISM OF CHRIST

8.00 am Holy Communion
 10.30 am All Age Worship
 10th Tuesday 2.15 pm Service at Hempstalls Hall
 11th Wednesday 1.10 pm Oasis Holy Communion
 13th Friday 9am - 3.00pm Coffee Shop

Continued...

St.Thomas' Butterson



1st SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

No Service

8th BAPTISM OF CHRIST

10.30 am Holy Communion

St.Giles - January 2023 continued....

15th SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

10.30 am Holy Communion

16th Monday

7.30 pm Deanery Synod at St Thomas Kidsgrove

17th Tuesday CLOSING date for *Parish News* items.

18th Wednesday 1.10 pm Oasis Holy Communion

20th Friday 9am - 3pm Coffee Shop & Mini Market

22nd THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

8.00 am Holy Communion
 10.30 am Holy Communion
 6.30 pm Unity Service at the Congregational Church
 25th Wednesday Conversion of St Paul
 1.10 pm Oasis Holy Communion
 27th Friday 9.00am - 3.00pm Coffee shop

29th FOURTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

10.30 am Holy Communion

Take-a-Break Answers

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

February Issue Closing Date:-

Tuesday, January, 17th.

All items to:- pitstowm@aol.com