

The Newsletter of St.Giles', Newcastle, with St.Thomas', Butterton.

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Parish News

August 2023

Out & About

**Malaysia
Remembered**

**What's On
& What's Gone**

**Newcastle
News**

**New Regimental
Standard**

Clergy

Rector: Revd Josh Penduck (01782) 617498
revpenduck@gmail.com

Revd Peter Nisbeck Revd Ann Taylor
Revd Dr. David Beedon

St.Giles' & St.Thomas' Wardens

Dennis Brammer (07591 055287) available on:
Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday.

Gillian Elks (07841 387797) available on:
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday.

Parish Administrator: Mrs. P. Richards

Email: office.stgilesnewcastle@gmail.com or phone: 07592 035386

Our Reader John Maddison writes...



We've recently had a wonderful week's holiday in a cottage in Ayrshire. The original booking was for June 2021 but we were suffering with Covid at the time so had to postpone it to 2022. We assumed we'd be OK then but an unfortunate accident during the Jubilee weekend resulted in our being instructed by the hospital to cancel at the last minute.

We were so pleased to eventually make the journey this year.

On our first full day there we went to the very picturesque Culzean Castle. You might assume that's pronounced 'Cull-zeen' but it's actually pronounced 'Kull-ane' and means 'place of caves'.

There the first man we'd seen wearing a kilt wasn't a Scot as we'd assumed but actually came from Yorkshire!

I suppose we all make assumptions in our daily lives and many of them don't have serious consequences – but I always remember what we were taught many years ago on a management course: to assume can make an ass of u and me.

So what does scripture say about assumptions?

The people of the Promised Land assumed that the Saviour who would come to them would be a mighty warrior. In fact, in the words we hear each Christmas from Isaiah chapter 9:

*"For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end."*

Not a great warrior on the battlefield at all.

In the New Testament, if you think about it, many of the parables which Jesus used and his observations about the people round him are aimed at correcting the assumptions that were common at the time. Indeed, many of those assumptions are present today when people talk about church going Christians.

In chapter 18 of the gospel according to Luke we read "To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector. Assumptions about following rules and 'doing the right thing' as the Pharisee did contrasted with the tax collector's humble attitude in approach to prayer.

In chapter 21 of the same book, we see the response Jesus made when he witnessed the people's offerings in the temple: 'As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.'" How often do we assume the size of a contribution is more significant than its relative value?

And what about the assumption the crowd made at the first Pentecost when they witnessed the disciples speaking in tongues quite early in the morning?

"Amazed and perplexed", some asked one another, "What does this mean?" but others, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine!"

Later on in the Acts of the Apostles we hear about the assumptions the disciples themselves made when Paul came to Jerusalem and tried to join them. They were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus.

So, what are we to do to guard against hasty assumptions? Perhaps it's best summed up in Proverbs – Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track. Don't assume that you know it all. Run to God! Run from evil!

God bless.

John A Maddison

THANK YOU 1 - Marilyn Brammer wishes to sincerely thank everyone who has given her donations for the Cancer Research charity.

THANK YOU 2 - Our thanks to Ian Taylor and our Wardens for all their hard work in maintaining our church and hall in a safe and clean condition.

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From the Editor....

Welcome to an 'Out & About' August issue of *Parish News*. August is a quiet month for Church activities and so with many people taking a well deserved break, *Parish News* has an 'away from the parish' feel about it.

Our regular 'Newcastle News' pages still feature all kinds of news 'snippets' about the area that we live in, but other articles include an experience in Malaysia, a beautiful Little Chapel on the Channel Island of Guernsey, the awarding of a special Regimental Standard at Buckingham Palace and a poem celebrating the Ancient Lanes of England.

Although August is a 'quiet' month, our 'What's On' page features some forthcoming events which would value your support and so please book them in your diary or on your phone.

Our 'What's Gone' pages include the presentation of a 'Green Flag Award' for our Churchyard and it is believed that the 'Britain in Bloom' judges visited us during July and so we hope that they will also grant us an award.

Once again a packed issue that I do hope you enjoy reading.

Michael Pitstow

Teach us to pray

Lord, teach us to pray. Some of us are not skilled in the art of prayer. As we draw near to thee in thought, our spirits long for thy Spirit, and reach out for thee, longing to feel thee near. We know not how to express the deepest emotions that lie hidden in our hearts. ...We know that we are closest to thee when we have left behind the things that have held us captive so long.we pray that thou wilt give unto us only what we really need.give us the vision, the courage, that shall enlarge our horizons and stretch our faith to the adventure of seeking thy loving will for our lives.

By Peter Marshall



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<http://www.stgilesnewcastle.org.uk/>
 for links to -
 Parish News (on-line edition)
 Youtube (Service videos)
 Facebook
 Facebook Families page
 For those with no internet access, a number of printed copies of *Parish News* are available. Please contact our Parish Administrator.

A Thought for the Month

Do you want go somewhere cool during the summer?
 Come inside - our church is prayer-conditioned.

Anon.

Front Cover

The picturesque harbour at St.Peter Port on the Channel Island of Guernsey. One of the islands' main tourist attractions is the 'Little Chapel', which is featured in this issue.

What's On: August - October



August - NO meeting

Next Meeting

2.00pm September 6th.

Josh Latham



St Thomas' Open Mornings

10am -12 noon
on the 2nd & 4th
Saturday
Light refreshments

Children's Activities

St.Giles' Monthly Pattern

First Sunday: SHINE

Second: All-Age

Third: SHINE

Fourth: LIGHTHOUSE

**If YOU can help, contact Jean
Buckley or Rector.**



BUTTERTON DOG SHOW

Saturday 9th September
10 - 12.30 pm

At ST THOMAS's CHURCH

Contact paulaperry33@gmail.com

**Put this date in your diary for this
Fun event. More details to follow.**



Saturday 16th September Heritage Day

St Giles will be open
and in conjunction

with the Unitarian Church, Penkhull Brass Band will
be entertaining us in our car park. Hopefully we can
serve refreshments on this day. If you can help, please
contact Gillian Elks.

Saturday 7th October: Craft Fayre at St Giles, refreshments will be served.

Saturday 7th October: St.Giles Harvest Supper evening - details next month.

Sunday 8th October: 10:30 am All Age Harvest Festival.

What's Gone: June 18th

Mayor's Civic Service & Commemoration of our Borough's 850th Anniversary

The Service held in St.Giles' was attended by The Worshipful The Mayor, Councillor Simon White, members of the Borough Council, together with a many other distinguished guests. It was led by the Rector and The Preacher was Rev Peter Nisbeck who is the Mayor's Chaplain.



What's Gone: July 8th.

The Butterson Bake Off



The return of the Butterson Bake Off

Saturday 8th July saw the return of the Butterson Bake Off at St Thomas's church.

It was amazing to see so many people join us for this, from our regular dog walkers who support our fortnightly coffee morning, to Butterson residents and also so many visitors from outside the village.

We had several very tasty entrants to the Bake Off competition including a delicious gluten free cake and a solitary entry to the Junior Bake Off.

Despite many protests that there was no way visitors would be able to taste so many cakes, there was barely a crumb left by the time the rain came down at the very end of the morning.

The worthy winner with the most votes in the adult group was Allie with her summer fruits and fresh cream combo and Ezra with his Lemon drizzle rabbit cake for the Juniors.

A huge thank you to all those that supported the morning by spreading the word, baking, donating raffle prizes, helping set up, making drinks and selling raffle tickets. In particular to Val, Sue and Chris, Paula and Ezra but I know there were others who also helped massively on the day.

The biggest thank you though goes to all who made the trip to St Thomas's to support the event which raised £242 to go towards the upkeep of our lovely church building. Hope to see you all again soon.

Marnie Butters



Photo's: Sue Taylor



What's Gone: July 9th. Green Flag Awarded

Once again, due to the wonderful efforts of Laurie Bailey and his 'Green Team', the St.Giles churchyard has been awarded a 'Green Flag Award' for 2023/24.



What's Gone:

Malaysia Remembered



Our advertised Speaker was unavailable and so Rev Josh came to our rescue telling us all about his fascinating 2010 trip to Malaysia.

The following is edited from his transcript....

(Josh), had recently become a member of St Philip's in Penn Fields, a thriving Church of England church in Wolverhampton. A minister from the Diocese, Revd Philip Swan, had come to worship there.

Philip was the Lichfield Diocesan Director of World Mission, which was a very grand way of saying that he was the person who was the link to Lichfield Diocese's companion Dioceses across the Anglican Communion. One of Lichfield's sister dioceses was the Diocese of West Malaysia, which would be celebrating its 40th Anniversary in 2010. To celebrate this, it was having a Young Adults Conference, and inviting people from its sister dioceses to celebrate, including those from Burma, Indonesia, and, of course, England. Philip asked me to be part of a team of young people to represent Lichfield. I immediately said 'yes'. What's more, I discovered that the team would consist of four young ladies and myself. Which as any single young man in his 20s would recognise, this was a wonderful opportunity. To raise money for it, each of the team did some creative fund-raising. I would play the piano at my father's church for no less than 24 hours! It managed to raise over a £1000. Finally, when we had the money ready, we were given our itineraries. I discovered that after our arrival in Kuala Lumpur, the capital, we were to be divided into three groups.

Two of the girls would stay in Kuala Lumpur (or KL), two would go to villages in the jungle, and I would be by myself, going to Butterworth to stay with Revd John Kennady. Now as soon as I heard 'Butterworth' and 'Revd John Kennady' I thought that perhaps there had been a mix-up and I was to be sent to the Cotswolds instead. As it happens, Butterworth is a small town just across the Straits from Penang, a large island city in north Malaysia.

So in July 2010, we flew into Kuala Lumpur. This was – and still is – the furthest I've ever been away from Britain – and I've been to quite a few countries. There's



Sam, Clare, Lelde, Ruth, and me. Lelde, Ruth and myself actually went to the same church – St Philip's in Pennfields (which gives you an idea of how thriving it was!).

We were met by Shireen, who was the Diocese of West Malaysia's equivalent to Revd Philip Swan. Shireen told us the itinerary – we would separate the next day into our various groups, and then meet again in Melaka in about a month's time. We shared a meal – a classic Malaysia one on banana leaves – before heading to our bedrooms.

I discovered at that point that I would not be travelling by myself, but with a young teacher from Burma called Joseph Linthu. Indeed, Joseph and I would be sharing a room for the next month. We said hello, and went to our room. We needed to be up early – about 6am – as we had a long journey ahead to Butterworth. That night, I set my alarm for 6am. I sprayed the mosquito spray that my mother had provided for me from good old M&S, and I went to sleep. It seemed almost no time at all before the alarm went off. I got up, had a shower, got changed, and then left the bathroom. Joseph was still asleep and it was still very dark outside. Now, I had been to India, so I knew that by 6.30am, it was more or less light. What time was it? There were no clocks in the room, so I went into the hallway. There a clock said, '2.30am'. It couldn't be. I looked at my phone and it said, '6.30'. I couldn't work it out. Eventually, mildly desperate, I woke Joseph up, and asked him, 'I'm sorry to do this, Joseph, but what time is it?' He looked at his watch: it was 2.30am. At which point I worked out what was wrong: this was back in the day when a mobile phone didn't automatically change to a new time zone – I was still on English time! And in England, it was 6.30 in the

Continued....

Malaysia continued.....

evening. Joseph must have thought I was very strange. I went back to bed.

I eventually woke up at the proper time. Joseph and I got onto a bus, which was driving all the way up from KL to Butterworth. It would be about a six-hour journey.

I was able to explain to Joseph that I wasn't as strange as he may have thought – I had just forgotten to change my clock.

Finally we arrived to a warm welcome in Butterworth, and the Church of St Mark's. I finally met Revd John Kennady, who was not, as I had imagined, an English parson from the Home Counties, but rather Tamil Malaysian.

Malaysia is divided into three ethnic groups: the majority Malays, who are in the main, Muslims; the Chinese, and Indians, mainly Tamils. In Malaysia, Anglicans call their ministers 'Padres' – like in the British army – an example of how colonialism still impacts global Anglicanism. We would also meet three other very important people: Raj, Revd John Kennady's assistant; his wife Grace; and his little girl Priscilla. Over the next month, Joseph and I spent some time learning about Malaysian Christianity. We were staying at St Mark's Church.

This was a majority Tamil Indian church. For me, it summed up how strange global Anglicanism was: it was in many ways a traditional service, with robes and a procession and liturgy – indeed, even though the service was in Tamil, I could follow it as it was so like the services in England. However, musically, it was like a pop concert, with a band and drums. This is quite typical of Malaysia. It can be both very high and low church and often in the same service! Yet though this was a tiny church – about two thirds of the size of our church hall – it had a congregation larger than what we have at St Giles. Indeed, St Mark's, where I spent most of my time, had a congregation of about five hundred. Malaysian Anglicanism is growing rapidly. Although I didn't get chance to take a picture, I remember seeing a Cathedral in KL which had a thermometer picture outside. Whereas in British churches, this is usually a sign of the church trying to raise money, in Malaysia, this is a sign of how many people they want to get to attend on a Sunday. At that Cathedral, they were working towards getting 5000 to attend each Sunday – and they were currently at 2,500!

Part of the success is down to a passion for spreading

Christianity, and the fellowship made through home groups.

Each week, the whole congregation meets in separate home groups, where they eat together, study the Bible, share their needs with one another, pray, and sing. I went to quite a few houses this way. One house was huge – it was truly a mansion. I mentioned this to Revd John Kennady afterwards, who told me that he was the head of Sony in Malaysia. I responded by saying, 'He must be very wealthy.' Revd John Kennady nodded, before saying, 'Worst tither in the church'.

It was an interesting time in St Mark's (Joseph and I actually stayed in the church), and sometimes it was a bit of a struggle. It was supposed to be relaxing but it wasn't. It was agony. It was very hot, and we would have long sleeps in the night, and a siesta in the afternoon. Each night, the rhythm was the same: have dinner, go to the bedroom, read for a bit, have a shower, put on the mosquito spray, get changed, get into bed, put the mosquito nets up around me, and then go to sleep. But I would be having some very strange dreams. On the first night in Butterworth, I had a dream in which I was trapped in a prison and was trying to get out. Suddenly, the light in the bedroom was turned on: I was walking around the bedroom, and Joseph turned on the light to see if I was okay! Bear in mind that just the night before, I had woken him up in the middle of the night – and here I was walking around in the bedroom! 'Joshua! Are you okay?' he asked. 'I'm so sorry' I responded, and then went back to bed. What must he have thought of me! 'Who is this nutcase?' he must have been saying to himself.

Food in Malaysia was a very important part of their culture.

Whereas in England we say, 'How are you?', in Malaysia they say, 'Have you eaten yet?' This meant that even so-called 'snacks' were rather large. This was a 'snack' between lunch and dinner:

Poor Joseph! In Burma, he only had a bowl of rice a day, and was considered a rich person because on a Sunday he would have fish or even meat with his bowl! In Malaysia, he was eating up to five main meals a day! Eventually, I started eating his food for him, as he didn't want to be rude to his hosts. I once joked with him, 'Joseph, God is making you appreciate how little you usually have!' But Malaysians have some interesting foods, such as the Durian fruit – it smells awful, but

Continued....

Malaysia continued.....

I think it is delicious to taste! We also had tasty drinks like Kickapoo Joy Juice! Very tasty. And there were the odd things as well.



Durian fruit

There was a Fish Head Curry Specialist. Who among us doesn't enjoy a good fish head curry? It prided itself on being Penang's 'Favourite Fish Head Curry Restaurant' – which made me realise: there was more than one!

But my sleeping patterns did not change after the first night. I would still have very lucid and strange dreams, sometimes even waking or moving about. I would occasionally call out – even during my afternoon siesta. Joseph must have thought I was nuts! Every night and every afternoon was the same – shower, put on the mosquito spray, get into bed, and weird dreams would follow. One afternoon, Joseph had to stop me kicking the wall, as I was dreaming that someone was attacking my Dad and I in a fight – and I had left a dent in the wall.

They also have a passion for – of all things – Christmas. Although it was just July, there was a 'Merry Christmas' sign above the Rector's door. Whenever we would take journeys, they would put on Christmas songs. I would be sick to death of hearing 'Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells' even on short journeys.

But that was nothing in comparison to my dream state. One night, I did my routine – shower, mosquito spray, get changed, get into bed – and then the most horrid dream I ever have had started. I dreamt I was running away from someone, and ran into a house, where I would be safe. I knew I shouldn't go into the basement of the house, but I did anyway. There in front of me was a big gambling table. Sitting behind it was a pleasant, plump looking girl and an evil-looking dwarf. I knew that if I gambled at this table and lost, I would lose my soul. Yet I gambled. And lost. The dwarf started cackling his head off. The girl was saying, 'I'm so sorry, I didn't expect this', but when I looked into the black of her eyes, I saw pure evil. I woke up with a start. I was sweating like anything. The room seemed to be moving – and I started shouting at Joseph: 'It's you!' I said. 'You're a witch doctor!' Joseph was remarkably tolerant of my semi-conscious racism, and calmed me down. What must he be thinking of me. I was very freaked out by what had happened.

That afternoon, when I came for my siesta, I had my shower and then got into bed and went to sleep. For

the first time in nearly two weeks, I didn't have a single strange dream. That same night, I went to have a shower, and was about to put on my mosquito spray, when I suddenly realised – I hadn't put that on that afternoon. I decided not to put on the M&S mosquito spray that night. Nor the next night. Nor for the rest of the trip. I didn't have a single bad dream after that – the M&S mosquito spray had been sending me delusional in my sleep!

Revd John Kennady needed to go to a meeting in KL, so suggested that Joseph and I came with him. His meeting started at 10am, so we needed to have left Butterworth by 4am.

That meant getting up at 3am. We only had five hours of sleep that night – but we were sure we could sleep it off that night in KL. We get into the car, and what starts playing but 'Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells'. Thankfully, Revd John Kennady wasn't so keen on music so turned it off. We arrived in KL.

Whilst Revd John Kennady had a day full of meetings, Joseph and I were free to explore this fantastic city and some fantastic gardens.

This is a city full of different religions. I visited a Hindu temple, which was beautiful on the outside, but a bit garish and plain on the inside. I also visited a Buddhist temple, a Confucian temple and a mosque (though I wasn't allowed in the mosque).

Malaysia, as a majority Muslim country, can make some very oppressive rules against other faiths. Christians often struggle there. I finally visited one final great temple, M&S, where I complained about their mosquito spray!

Joseph and I got into our rooms at about 11pm, only to be told we needed to set off early the next day – again, a 4am start. So, very tired, we woke up at 3am again. We would be visiting some of the villages in the jungle around Ipoh, to get a flavour of the other side of Malaysia.

These were villages which were functionally in the stone age just forty years ago, and only recently had been exposed to modern technology. There was also a great deal of poverty in this area, though the church and the KL rotary club was very good at providing the children with new clothes.

Nevertheless, the older members of the villages would still walk around with just a loincloth – otherwise,

Continued....

Malaysia continued.....



Josh, Joseph and the leaning tower of Teluk Intan

completely naked. Joseph and I also visited the famous leaning tower – not of Pisa, but Teluk Intan – which is actually older than the leaning tower of Pisa!

At about 6pm, we arrived at Ipoh. I was hoping we would be staying there the night. But no – it was a quick stop for another meeting, until we drove back to Butterworth. Revd John Kennady then reminded us that our time in Butterworth was over – we would

be heading down to Melaka the next day to rejoin with the rest of the team. We would have to set off at 3am, which meant getting up at 2am!

You would have thought that when we arrived back in Butterworth, we would have gone straight to bed. But no – the family decided to go out for a meal! At 10am at night!

Joseph and I crawled into bed at 12pm, knowing we needed to be up in two hours! At least on the long 12 hour journey to Melaka I would be able to have a long, long sleep. And so, I got into the bus, put my head against the wall, and almost immediately dropped to sleep. Unfortunately, I hadn't noticed: I had taken the seat next to the large speaker in the bus.

No sooner had my eyes shut than what started blasting out? 'Jingle bells, jingle bells'.

I endured 12 hours of Christmas music. Whenever people ask me the question, 'How can God exist when there's such suffering in the world?', I know exactly what they're talking about! Little Priscilla (who also hated Christmas music) shared with me all the latest Malaysian pop music on her iPod. 12 hours of journeying, and we arrived in Melaka. This was an important city in Malaysian Christianity: it was where the Jesuit Francis Xavier first brought the gospel in the 16th Century, and where the first Anglican church in Malaysia was built.

Thankfully, I had a room all to myself, where I had a fantastic view of the city.

It is an incredibly colourful city, with amazing fresco artwork on the walls of houses. There are also massive lizards that live in the sewers as well.

But having arrived in Melaka, with only 11 hours sleep over the previous 60 hours, we immediately needed to go to the Diocese of West Malaysia's Young Adult's Conference. I embraced the team – I was so glad to see them again after the month's separation – but desperately wanted sleep. Unfortunately, we remembered that each of the teams were supposed to be doing a presentation on the history of our various dioceses. Thankfully Ruth had prepared the Powerpoint; not-so-thankfully, I had originally agreed to do the presentation. And had completely forgotten about it!

So, sleep deprived, not having a clue what I was going to say, I got up and made a presentation to a few hundred people about Lichfield Diocese – and was afterwards told it was the best presentation of them all!

The next few weeks were lovely: people from around the world were able to meet one another, and share the faith together:

We met with the amazing Bishop Moon Hng – who would go on to become an Anglican Archbishop. I've never encountered a bishop so fun, so relaxed, and so at ease with young people. He had such a passion for God that has inspired me ever since. Even now, every year, he wishes me a Happy Birthday!

During this conference, there was preaching, worship, prayer, teaching, and a lot of fun. I came first in a quiz and won a rubber chicken!



Josh complete with the rubber chicken, which he showed at the meeting.

Our grateful thanks to Rev Josh for 'stepping in' and providing us with such an entertaining afternoon.

NO FELLOWSHIP MEETING IN AUGUST.

Rev Josh, W.B. & M.P.

**PRESENTATION OF
NEW STANDARDS TO THE BLUES AND ROYALS
(THE ROYAL HORSE GUARDS AND 1st DRAGOONS)
BY HIS MAJESTY KING CHARLES III**

AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE

JUNE 15th 2023

BY IAN TAYLOR



Every regiment of the British army has its own distinctive flag and Standard. The flag has the cypher of that regiment, and the monarchs crown to identify the regiment and the monarch they are serving under.

The regimental Standard has the cypher, the monarchs crown and all the battle honours that regiment has earned in years past.

The Blues and Royals is the second senior regiment of the British army, and along with The Life Guards, the senior regiment, together form The Household Cavalry.

The Blues and Royals was formed in 1969 from The Royal Horse Guards and 1st The Royal Dragoons.

I served in The Royal Horse Guards from 1962 to 1968, so I did not serve in the new amalgamated Regiment, The Royal Horse Guards was formed in 1661.

Although I have great respect for my mounted colleagues, I have no particular affinity with horses, so I spent my time serving with the Armoured Cavalry, as a driving instructor on armoured cars and tanks, that's the other side of The Household Cavalry that

is rarely seen.

However, some of the mounted soldiers can be seen wearing medals, that's because they have served on both mounted and armoured duty.

Whenever a monarch passes away, new Standards are issued to all the regiments. Depending on the monarch being a King or Queen will determine what style of crown used.

Our late Majesty Queen Elizabeth had the cypher ER11 topped by a Queen's crown, our new King has CR111 topped by a Kings crown.

Despite having left the service of the monarch for over 50 years, as the saying goes, "Once a soldier, always a soldier", I am Secretary to our local group of former Household Cavalry soldiers, and as such I am still in contact with my former Regiment, my Branch Chairman and I were therefore highly honoured to receive an invitation to Buckingham Palace to join a group of former colleagues, from Major Generals down to me, a mere Corporal, to witness the Presentation of New Standards to the Regiment by His Majesty King Charles III.

Continued....

NEW STANDARDS Continued...

It was midway through a particularly warm week when my colleague and I caught the train from Stoke to Euston. We caught a taxi from Euston to Buckingham Palace, not realizing how horrendous travel is in London these days.

We arrived in time to meet up with some old friends and get seated, only 75 people had been invited, the guest seating was either side of the dais where Charles would give his speech.

There were mounted soldiers, State Trumpeters, and three clergy who held a drumhead service to consecrate the new Standard before it was presented to His Majesty.

His Majesty, who was accompanied by Princess Anne, who is Colonel of The Blues and Royals, gave an acceptance speech, then they both came down to speak to the invited guests, Charles to one side, Anne to the other.

Princess Anne came down my side and we had a short conversation, mainly about our Regimental memorial at The National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas, where I have spent a lot of time working, and I've met her there a couple of times as she is a regular visitor.



ABOVE: Princess Anne and myself in conversation.



ABOVE: The old and new Standards on show in the WO's mess.

When we dispersed, we made our way to the Warrant Officers mess at Knightsbridge Barracks where Princess Anne, having changed into civilian clothes by now, gave us a speech, then proceeded to ceremoniously cut a large cake, depicting the new Regimental cypher, with a sword!

We then partook of a more than ample buffet and free bar!

It was all over far too soon and we took an expensive taxi back to Euston for the ride home, spoiled by the fact that the air conditioning on the train was not working!

I felt highly honoured to have been invited to a once in a lifetime event, it's not the sort of thing that happens very often, and to be part of it was something special.

There is a short film of the event if you have access to Youtube, just search for The Royal Family Channel, Presentation of Standards.

GOD SAVE THE KING.



LEFT: The Household Cavalry cypher of the late Queen.

RIGHT: The Household Cavalry cypher of The King.

The 'Little Chapel' of Guernsey



The Editor at the Little Chapel

The first chapel was built by Brother Déodat in March 1914 (measuring 9 feet long by 4.5 feet wide). After taking criticism from other brothers, Déodat demolished the chapel. He finished a second chapel in July 1914 (measuring 9 feet by 6 feet). However, when the Bishop of Portsmouth visited in 1923, he could not fit through the door, so Déodat again demolished it. The third and this current version of the chapel started soon after the last demolition, and measures 16 feet by 9 feet and has room for around eight people.

Déodat went to France in 1939 and died there, never having seen his chapel finished.

In 1977, a committee was established to restore the chapel, and for a time fell under the care of Blanchelande College. It

is now looked after by the Little Chapel Foundation.

The Chapel suffered from vandalism in 2003 and again in 2010 when five stained glass windows were smashed, causing £3,000 worth of damage. In 2013, there was major work on the overgrowth which was, in places, hiding parts of the chapel.



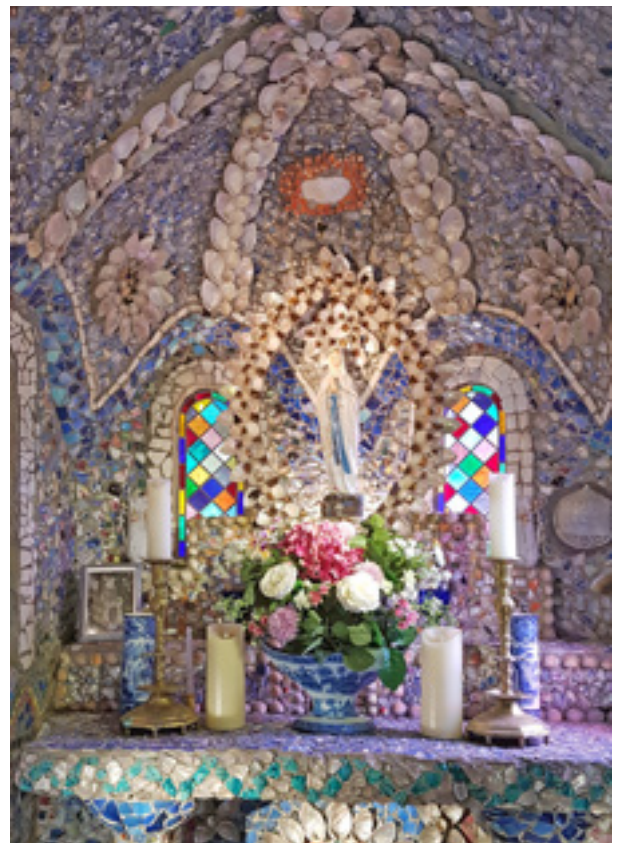
In November 2015 it was closed to allow some major structural work to be undertaken. The works include underpinning the building, stabilising the foundations and weatherproofing the building, and are estimated to cost £500,000.

Fully open again to the public in April 2017, the major works such as stabilising the foundations are complete and security CCTV was installed.

The Little Chapel is decorated with seashells, pebbles, and broken china. From a distance the colours and design make a pleasing whole, close-up it's amazing to see all the different pieces used to create the effect.

The chapel was brought sudden fame following a Daily Mirror article, which led to islanders donating coloured china; the Lieutenant-Governor of the island offered mother of pearl, and other gifts came from around the globe including a large number of pieces from Wedgewood.

The mosaic style is "pique-assiette" or "Picassiette". According to Mosaic Art Source, "Pieces of broken pottery, china, glass, buttons, figurines, and/or jewelry are cemented onto a base to create a new surface."



The Main Altar

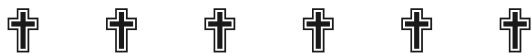
Text courtesy of Wikipedia

Weddings & Funerals

The General Synod has backed a regional trial to offer Church of England weddings free of statutory fees following a debate brought by Blackburn Diocesan Synod. Members voted in favour of requesting that the Archbishops' Council design and implement a time-limited regional trial providing wedding fees free of all statutory fees which can be several hundred pound. It is suggested that donations from the Bridal party may offset any financial loss to churches.

The Council has been asked to report on the impact of the trial on the number of weddings conducted, the pastoral and missional contacts made, and charitable giving in connection with weddings. The report would also detail the projected parochial and diocesan finances as a result of the trial.

Synod members backed the trial – brought in an amendment by the Ven Mark Ireland instead of a wider proposal from the diocese for fees relating to marriage to be set at nil or at a minimal amount across the Church of England.



It has been reported that Hymns are back among the most popular funeral songs, boosted by the queen's funeral, while the Monty Python song Always Look on the Bright Side of Life has slipped out of the top 10, funeral directors have said. All Things Bright and Beautiful and Abide With Me are the first hymns in the top 10 for seven years, in the Co-op Funeralcare chart based on song selections at about 93,000 funerals.

Andrea Bocelli and Sarah Brightman singing Time to Say Goodbye by the Italian composer Francesco Sartori, who wrote much of Bocelli's pop repertoire, climbed to No 1, replacing Gerry and the Pacemakers' You'll Never Walk Alone. Second was My Way sung by Frank Sinatra and at No 3 was Supermarket Flowers, Ed Sheeran's tribute to his grandmother.

"Two hymns that were performed at the late queen's funeral, The Lord's My Shepherd and The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, is Ended, have been requested more frequently over the last year," a Co-op spokesperson said.

Meatloaf's Bat Out of Hell was the most popular rock song picked for final rites, with Queen's Another One Bites the Dust and Who Wants to Live Forever not far behind. Diddy's I'll Be Missing You (sampling The Police's Every Breath You Take) was the most popular R&B selection, while the themes from Only Fools and Horses and Match of the Day were the TV tunes picked most regularly. Robbie Williams' Angels, a previous chart-topper, was last among the most popular songs in 2019.

Why not make the most of these summer days and take a walk down one of the ancient lanes of England.



The Ancient Lanes of England

The ancient lanes of England
May wend their winding way
From who knows where to Goodness knows
To 'where are we today?'
Twixt walls of ancient stonework
O'er hills and valleys steep
The ancient lanes of England
Their grassy way they keep.

The ramblers now of England
May walk each stony street,
And think, as they are rambling
Of all those ancient feet
That trod those lanes of England
On each succeeding day
From where they lived to where they worked
They trod their working way.

Those ancient lanes of England
As vital, in their day
As rail tracks or aircraft routes
Or any motorway!
From farms they brought their produce
Their cereals and grains
Their cattle, milk, and butter too
Along those grassy lanes.

By Nigel Beeton (Parish Pump).

Take-a-Break

A Transfiguration Wordsearch

In August the church calendar commemorates the Transfiguration. The story is told in Matthew (17:1-9), Mark (9:1-9) and Luke (9:28-36). Jesus took Peter, James and John, his closest disciples, up a high mountain. It may have been Mount Tabor, or else one of the three spurs of Mount Hermon.

Suddenly, Jesus is transfigured. His face shone, his garments became white and dazzling. Elijah and Moses appeared, and a bright cloud overshadowed the disciples. A voice spoke out of the cloud, saying that Jesus was His beloved son, whom the disciple should 'hear'.

Then, just as suddenly, it is all over. What did it mean? Moses represented the Law, and Elijah the Prophets of the Old Covenant. But now the Law and the Prophets have found their fulfilment in Jesus, the Messiah. The written Word and the spoken Word have handed over to the Living Word.

Transfiguration	Face	Elijah	James
Jesus	Written	Moses	John
Mountain	Living	Dwelling	Fear
Tabor	Cloud	Mankind	glory
Hermon	Transformed	Law	
high	White	Prophets	
Shine	Dazzling	Peter	

Smile Lines

From a school essay ...

'...and when the marauders landed on the coast, the villagers would run to the top of the hill and set fire to the deacon...'



- † All those who are away on holiday.
- † All those who are awaiting operations.
- † All those who are suffering from war.
- † All those who have lost love ones.
- † All those who are depressed.
- † All those who are lonely.

- † All those who are helping with Food Banks & Charity shops.
- † All those who are worried about paying their bills.
- † All those who are serving in the Armed forces.
- † All those who are working for the Emergency Services.

Smile-A-While



The start of the Football season always meant extra work for the Church cleaners.

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

Medium Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 18

Academy Activities

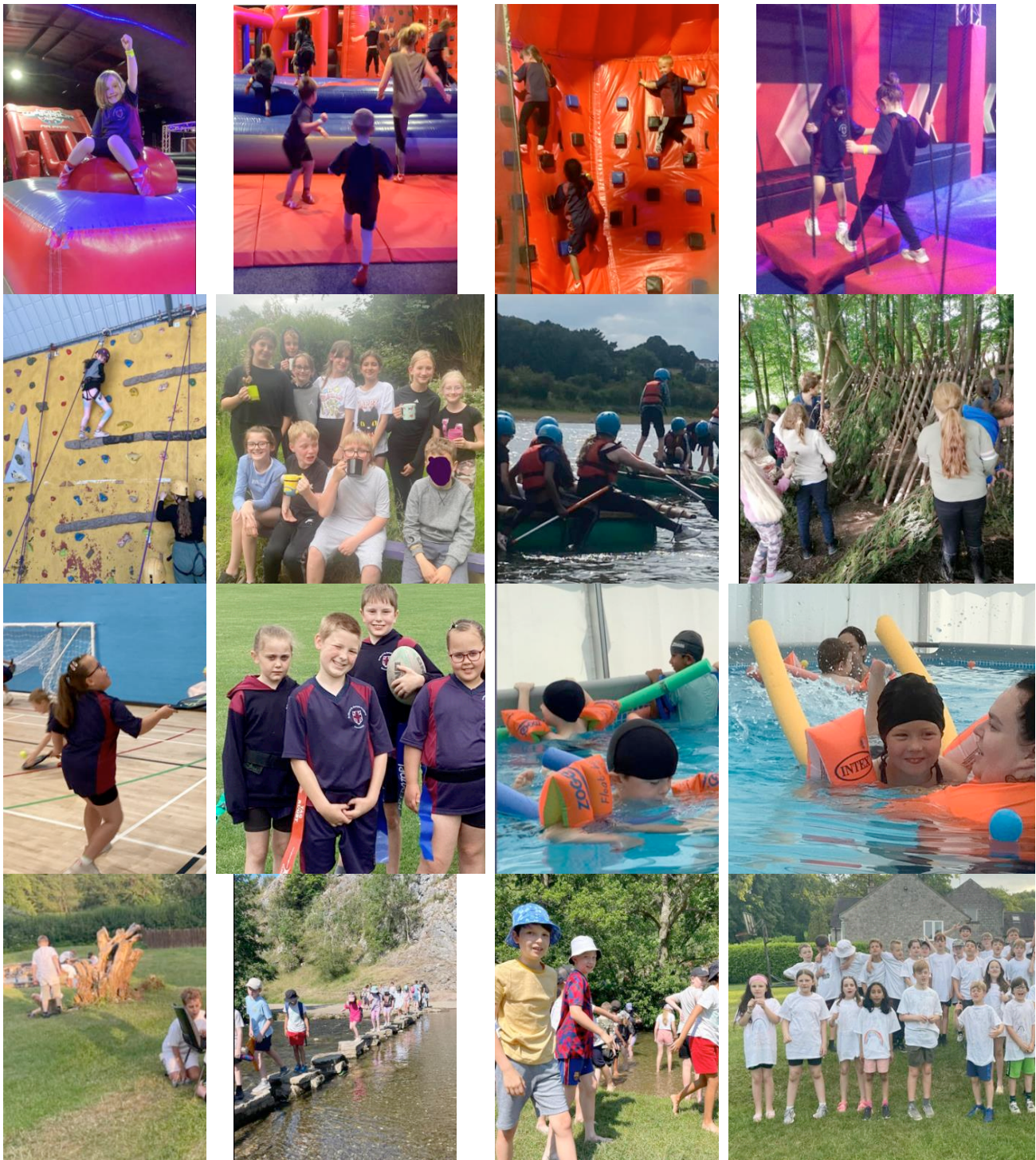
St Giles' and St George's C of E Academy

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)

As we come to the end of the school year, the children have been enjoying lots of fun activities, trips and residential including swimming in the pool we hired, visiting Ninja Warrior, an inclusive sports tournament, an overnight trip to Dovedale and a week-long trip to Stanley Head.





◆**MORE POLICE** - Uniformed police patrols are set to be boosted in three North Staffordshire anti-social behaviour hotspots - in a £1 million blitz on yobs. Staffordshire Police are one of eight forces trialling 'enhanced patrol' of anti-social behaviour hotspots from this week.

The crackdown is targeting the council wards of Hanley and Etruria and Fenton West and Mount Pleasant as well as Newcastle town centre. Stafford town centre and Burton Urban are also included in the blitz.

Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Ben Adams said: "Our focus initially is visible patrolling by police officers and PCSOs over the next few months. We have got £1m this year and if it goes well, next year we will be funded to do the same. The Government is looking to measure the perception of residents and we will be reporting back on the number of hours and visibility of uniformed presence. Anti-social behaviour continues to reduce across Staffordshire but we're not letting up - anti-social behaviour in public places is an issue for residents and businesses."

The police are also promoting ASB case reviews which have replaced the old community trigger system. An ASB case review allows victims to request action if they have reported at least three separate but related incidents to police, a council or housing provider within the last six months but the anti-social behaviour is still going on.

◆**BEAVER BABY** - Three months after some beavers were introduced into an area on the Trentham Estate, it has been announced that a 'kit' has been born marking a very positive step forward for the important conservation project.

◆**ROYAL FLATS** - Newcastle Council has agreed that two-hundred North Staffordshire student flats will now be used to house workers at Royal Stoke University Hospital. The one-bed flats are in the One London Road development, which currently has accommodation for 499 students, but there had been a big reduction in students requiring the accommodation since the Covid pandemic.

◆**ROYAL STATUE** - A new statue of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has been commissioned as part of the Borough's 850th anniversary celebrations. The statue will be one-and-a-quarter times life size, cast in bronze and weigh one ton. It will be positioned looking across the Queen's Gardens towards the statue of Queen Victoria, Queen Elizabeth II's great-great-grandmother, which was unveiled by Grand Duke Michael of Russia in November 1903.

Internationally-famous Staffordshire artist Andy Edwards, whose previous works include the landmark Beatles statue at Liverpool's Pier Head, is basing the sculpture on photographs taken when Her Majesty visited Newcastle-under-Lyme as part of the Borough's 800th anniversary celebrations in 1973.

The work will be funded by the sale at £8,500 apiece of 11 individually numbered maquettes, each 16 inches high and cast in the same bronze as the intended monument. Each maquette is a thing of beauty and will become a collector's item.

◆**NO SALE** - More than 500 shoppers, traders and workers have signed a petition calling for the Hassell Street car park not to be sold off. It is one of seven council car parks which Newcastle Borough plans to sell off and replace with housing.

◆**NEW HOMES** - Richborough Estates control circa 100 acres of land off Whitmore Road, (from Newcastle Golf course up to the M6), which has been identified in the emerging Newcastle-Under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent City Council Joint Local Plan as suitable location for a sustainable urban extension of up to 550 homes.

A spokesperson said, "We are working closely with key stakeholders such as Keele University and the Golf Club to deliver a high-quality neighbourhood which will deliver much-needed quality homes for a full range of house-types: including affordable, first-time buyer and family housing."

◆**SKY EYESORE** - Dozens of investors fear being left millions of pounds out of pocket - after sinking their life savings into a stalled student flat development. The Sky Building, at Nelson Place in Newcastle, has remained an unfinished eyesore since 2017 after its original developer ran out of money.

That was despite selling leases to more than 100 investors for around £50,000 each and promising them a healthy return once the scheme opened. Several owners have come and gone over the last five years, but no further

Newcastle News continued....

progress has been made on the development.

'Built4Learning', the most recent previous owner, went into administration earlier this year after it failed to repay a £2.3 million loan. The current owner - ECX Acacia Ltd - has yet to reveal its plans, leaving leaseholders in the dark as to what will happen to their investments. Despite being a, (large), on-going eyesore in the town, as it is a private development, the council is powerless to help with the difficult situation.

◆**BAPTIST FLATS** - The London Road site of the former Baptist Church will have a block of four two-bedroom and 18 one-bedroom units built on it, while the number of parking spaces will be 15.

◆**TRENTHAM EXTRA** - The Trentham Estate has announced that it's shop units are 100% full and intends to build extra shops and eating units.

◆**EXTRA HOMES** - Plans have been agreed to build a further 200 homes at Baldwins Gate. The estate will also feature a nature trail, a community orchard, a park and allotments. It will also provide 50 affordable homes, an extra classroom at Baldwins Gate Primary School, and finance for extra buses and highways improvements.

◆**FOOD WASTE** - The Council is set to approve the award of a contract that will see it paid for collected kerbside food waste, to power anaerobic digestion plants.

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	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 See 'What's On' section. Everyone welcome		Wendy Burke (01782) 621430
Wednesday	7.30pm	Church Choir		Rev. Peter Nisbeck (01782) 662379
Friday	9.00am - 1.30pm	Open Church		Rev Josh Penduck (01782) 617498
Friday	Mini-Market	St.Giles Coffee Shop		Gillian Elks 07591 055287 / Chris Taylor
Friday	Fortnightly only	Mini Market		Pat Lovatt
Friday	Bell-Ringing 7.45pm - 9.00pm	St.Giles: 1st & 3rd Fridays St.Margaret's Wolstanton: 2nd & 4th Fridays. Contact John Maddison (01782) 853169 or David Powell (01782) 714060		
Saturday	10:00am-12 Noon	St. Thomas' Open Church & Refreshments 2nd & 4th Saturdays only		
Any Saturday/Extra events and services are listed on the back page of this issue.				

August Calendars

PLEASE NOTE: The St.Giles 8.00 am Holy Communion service is now only on the 4th Sunday of the month.

2nd Wednesday 1.10 pm Oasis Holy Communion

NO Fellowship Meeting this month

4th Friday 9:00am - 1.30pm Coffee Shop & Mini Market

3.00 pm Wedding

5th Saturday 3.00 pm Wedding

6th 9th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

10.00 am Holy Communion

8th Tuesday 2.15 pm Service at Hempstalls Hall

9th Wednesday 1.10 pm Oasis Holy Communion

11th Friday 9:00am - 1:30pm Coffee Shop

13th 10th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

10.30 am All Age Worship

15th Tuesday - Closing Date for Parish News items

16th Wednesday 1.10 pm Oasis Holy Communion

18th Friday 9:00am - 1.30pm Coffee Shop & Mini Market

20th 11th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

10.30 am Holy Communion

12.30 pm Holy Baptism

23rd Wednesday 1.10 pm Oasis Holy Communion

24th Thursday 12.00 Wedding Blessing

25th Friday 9:00am - 1:30pm Coffee Shop

2.15 pm Service at Rowan Court

26th Saturday 4.00 pm Wedding

27th 12th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8.00 pm Holy Communion

10.30 pm Holy Communion

30th Wednesday 1.10 pm Oasis Holy Communion

St.Thomas' Butterton



12th Saturday 10 till 12 Coffee Morning

26th Saturday 10 till 12 Coffee Morning

27th 12th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

10.30 am Holy Communion

Why not visit our Friday
Morning Coffee Shop?

9.00am - 1.30pm

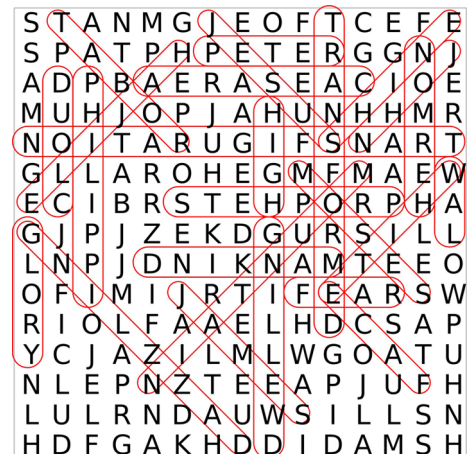
Tea / Coffee / Cakes*

FREE LUNCHES*

(Mini-Market: August 4th & 18th)*

Newspapers / free raffle / Information
& activities* * All subject to availability

How can we improve our Friday Coffee
Shop? Contact Chris Taylor or Gillian Elks.



Take-a-Break Answers

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

**September Issue Closing Date:-
Tuesday, August 15th**

All items to:- pitstowm@aol.com