

The Magazine of St.Giles', Newcastle, with St.Thomas', Booterton.  
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# Parish News



Feeling  
Low?  
Let us  
Know

*The BIG Clean-up*

What's  
ON  
&  
GONE

## Clergy

Rector: Rev'd Josh Penduck (01782) 617498  
[revpenduck@gmail.com](mailto:revpenduck@gmail.com)

Rev'd Peter Nisbeck      Rev'd Ann Taylor  
Rev'd Pat Smith

Curate: Rev Clare Watson [revclare@hotmail.com](mailto:revclare@hotmail.com)

## St.Giles' & St.Thomas' Wardens

DENNIS BRAMMER (07591 055287) AVAILABLE ON:  
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AVAILABLE ON:  
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Parish Administrator: Mrs. P. Richards (Mon 9am-1pm Tue 9am-12pm Wed 1pm-4pm.)  
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## OUR RECTOR REV JOSH PENDUCK WRITES...



### Feeling Low? Let us know

One of the most overlooked abilities of priests is that we are telepathic. Yes, we can read minds. At least the good priests can. The bad priests lack this ability. Or that is the impression that churches can sometimes give. At my last church, there was someone who told me in the street that she refused to ever come to that church ever again because the Rector hadn't visited her when she was ill. When I spoke to the Rector about it, he said he hadn't heard anything. It turned out that she hadn't told a single soul about it. She was angry because she expected people to simply notice her absence. Despite her conversation with the Rector, she still decided to move to a different church 'which cared about people'.

Now, to be fair to the lady, she grew up in a generation where the Rector would go round visiting everyone in the congregation once a month. She expected the Rector to turn up, and he never did. Yet this is no longer a possibility. Resources are much more limited (remember that St Giles used to have multiple curates); the legal administrative paperwork and meetings have mushroomed; it is no longer the norm for people to come to church, so countless hours more of evangelistic work is needed.

But there is also something of a myopia regarding the old days. Priests weren't spending their time visiting their congregation members. In 1900 *The Times* wrote that the country parson worked 'perhaps three hours a day on weekdays and six on Sundays'. Even in the 1930s, the parish priest worked on average 30 hours a week – and that mainly on weddings and funerals. It was only with the Second World War that working hours began to grow as it was expected that parish priests visit all their members of their congregation to keep morale high for the war effort. Yet this war-time morale boost continued after the war. By the time of the 60s, clergy were workaholics, doing endless pastoral visits, being governors at schools, doing endless weddings, funerals and baptisms, catechising the young, churching women, and being a community leader.

I say this because its worth reminding ourselves that the role of a parish priest changes according to the times.

Which means that – sadly – they are not able any longer to visit parish members at their homes like they used to. It also means that in a time when congregations are not as settled as they used to be (i.e. it's no longer the case that every member of the congregation comes to church every week), it's difficult to keep track of who's here and who's not.

The thing is, us clergy really do care. We do care if you are ill. We care if there's a difficult situation happening in your life. We care if you are unable to make it to church. We care, because Jesus cares. We care because you are precious. If you are ill, let us know – we would love to give you a visit, or even just a phone call if you would prefer. If you are going into hospital to have an operation, or are currently ill in hospital, let us know, as we want to be able to be there for you. If you are now unable to make it to church, let us know, as we would love to bring a bit of church to you by offering a regular home visit. If you notice that someone hasn't been to church in a while, let us know – we can try to reach out to them.

We're not telepathic. With the busyness of church life, we don't always realise that someone who is deeply precious is not here with us. As such, let us know. The Pastoral Care Subcommittee are working on ways to ensure that this can happen easily and without fuss. If you want to call someone via phone, you can easily call me on 07795 594612. If I don't answer, leave a voicemail or text and I'll try and get back to you. Alternatively, you can call St Giles Care and Concern on 07834 567345. If you would prefer an email, email me at [revpenduck@gmail.com](mailto:revpenduck@gmail.com) or the 'Care and Concern' email at [careconcern.stgilesnewcastle@gmail.com](mailto:careconcern.stgilesnewcastle@gmail.com). We'll be soon printing out some leaflets for the back of church; if you're older, take one and give them to a younger loved one, so that they can get in touch with us in case you personally are unable to get in touch with us. It would break my heart to know that someone thinks that we don't care because we haven't visited when they are ill or unable to get to church. Feeling low? Let us know.

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## OUR FRONT COVER

It's time for a BIG CLEAN in St.Giles which takes place on Saturday, 1st February. We want to give the inside of the building a real sparkle and so as we all know that, "*Many Hands Make Light Work*", please come along and help us, starting at 9.30am. Please bring your cleaning tools with you. We look forward to seeing you.

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### 14<sup>th</sup> February - Valentine's Day *Observations on Love...*

Marriage is more than finding the right person; it is being the right person. - *Anon*

'One plus one equals one' may not be an accurate mathematical concept, but it is an accurate description of God's intention for the marriage relationship. - *Wayne Mack*

Our love for God is the root; our love for others is the fruit, expressed through patience, kindness, courtesy, humility, unselfishness, good temper, gentleness and sincerity. - *UCB Word for Today*

Even if it's a little, do something for which there is no pay, but the privilege of doing it. - *Albert Schweitzer*

## FROM THE EDITOR....

Welcome to our February edition in which we recall some of our Christmas events and services and look forward to things of interest taking place over the next few months.

February can be a difficult month for many, the Christmas and New Year celebrations a distant memory and the dark, cold stormy weather deters anyone from going out. If you are feeling lonely or depressed, our Rector's letter gives details of a new 'service' that we are providing to help you through difficult times.

Many say that 'days gone by were better', and a change to the Fellowship programme means that yours truly will be showing a video review of the life of both of our churches taken in 2007. It turned out to be a busy and very varied year, and so to recall those days please come along and join us at 2.00pm on February 5<sup>th</sup>.

In the same vane, Geoffery Walker was our organist for many years, but recently passed away and is remembered in this issue.

Michael Pitstow

## "Septuagesima"

The following is part of a poem entitled "Septuagesima" by John Betjeman. It has been donated by Ian Bentley.

Septuagesima is the ninth Sunday before Easter, the third before Ash Wednesday. The term is sometimes applied to the seventy days starting on Septuagesima Sunday and ending on the Saturday after Easter. This year it is celebrated on Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> February.

"Let's praise the man who goes to light, The church stove on an icy night.

Let's praise that hard-worked he or she, The Treasurer of the PCC.

Let's praise the cleaner of the aisles, The nave, the candlestick, the tiles.

Let's praise the organist who tries. To make the choir increase in size,

Or if that simply cannot be, Just to improve its quality.

Let's praise the ringers in the tower, Who come to ring in cold and shower.

But most of all let's praise the few, Who are seen in their accustomed pew,

Throughout the year, whate'er the weather, That they may worship God together.

These, like the fire of glowing coals, Strike warmth into each other's souls.

# Bits & Pieces

**SORRY** - The item below was supposed to be included in our previous issue but sadly it 'slipped through the net'. My apologies to all concerned but the sentiments stay the same...

Ed.

## A Mini-Market 'Thank You'

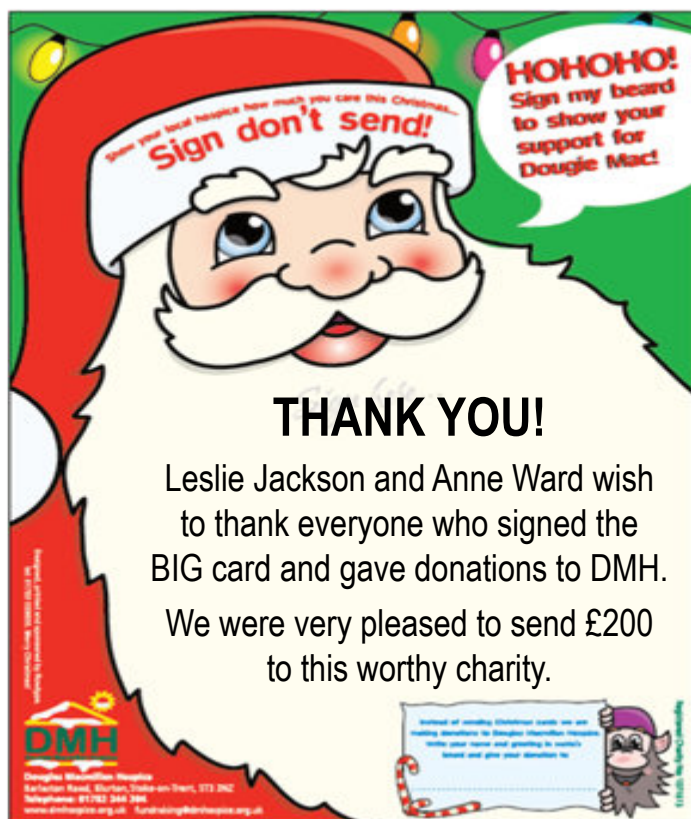
As 2024 has come to a close, we would like to say a BIG thank you to everyone who has helped and supported us throughout this difficult 12 months. From 'putting up' tables to taking them down, to everyone who has helped with sorting out donated items, and tidying up. All credit to 'Big Pat' for maintaining her Haberdashery stall with such a wide range of hand-knitted items etc, whilst undergoing her treatment.

Once again over the 12 months we have managed to raise over £2,000 towards church funds and upkeep of the organ.

We look forward to another successful year and ask for your continued support.

Wishing you all a Happy and a Peaceful New Year.

Pat. Joanne. Margaret H



## Stamps for Oxfam

In fond memory of Margaret Sutton, we are continuing to collect used postage stamps.

They go to support Oxfam who sort them. They bag up collections of ordinary ones to sell in their shops and any rare ones are sold on-line.

### PLEASE SAVE ALL YOU HAVE

leaving a margin of paper around the stamp.

There is a collection box on the table in the hall near to the Church entrance.

Thank you - Enid King.

## REMINDERS.....

### Children's Society

Could Children's Society box holders please let Nona Wildman have them for emptying as soon as possible. Many thanks for your continuing support for the Society's work.

### Churchyard Car Parking Permits

Just a reminder that the car parking permits were due for renewal in January.

They are £50 again and can be paid for by cheque, cash or on the card machine in church.

If you would like to have one please see me with your car registration and a contact number, and I will issue you with a new permit and code for the gate.

Hazel Attwood



**Wednesday, February 19th.**

**10.00 am - 12.00**

**Please book on-line  
as usual**

**Help & donations required**

# WHAT'S ON: FEBRUARY / MARCH

## St Giles' Church needs you!



**On Saturday 1st February 2025 we will be having a **BIG CLEAN** of the church. We will need all the help we can get. Please come along if only for an hour. Bring polish and dusters—you can even bring a hoover. We will start at **9.30am****

**We look forward to seeing you all.**

**Tea and coffee provided**

**Julia & Wendy**

**Shrove Tuesday (March 4th)**

**6.30pm Beetle Drive**



**In St.Giles Hall  
Bring your own light  
refreshments  
for the interval**

**Tea & coffee  
available**

**Financial contributions towards Church  
expenses will be gratefully received  
on the night.**

## Christian Aid Sponsored Walk

The walk will take place at Tittesworth Reservoir on **Saturday 29th March, 2025.**

St Giles have supported this event for many years and last year we raised over £500 .

The total raised by the walk was £33, 987.

Our Curate, Rev Clare will be walking and would value your sponsorship, so please sign her form as soon as possible.

If you would like to be involved, sponsor forms will be available. We also will need help with Registration on the day. For more details contact Janet Iwanicki

01782 630069.

# WHAT'S ON:



## Programme 2025

Welcome to our 2025 programme . All Meetings are open to everyone and are on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month at 2.00 pm in St Giles Hall.

No Meetings in January or August

5<sup>th</sup> February - **2007 Parish Review on video** - Michael Pitstow

As 2007 opened, Rector, Arthur Creber asked Michael to make a year long video record of life at both churches - It was a busy year for both of them, but don't worry, the programme only lasts 1 hour!

5<sup>th</sup> March - Ed Jervis on his grandad Gordon Banks and Charity UCB

2<sup>nd</sup> April - Co-op Bank - Tax, Care and Toy Boys. Estate Planning

7<sup>th</sup> May - Joy Blank - Learning Sign Language

4<sup>th</sup> June - Alzheimer's Society

2<sup>nd</sup> July - Afternoon Tea Party - Can you read a poem or funny story? - Contact Wendy.

August - No Meeting

3<sup>rd</sup> September - Beetle Drive

1<sup>st</sup> October - TBA

5<sup>th</sup> November - Enid King - Desert Island Discs

3<sup>rd</sup> December - Advent Carol Party

## WHAT'S GONE: DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>

# CAROLS AT ST. THOMAS' BUTTERTON



Thankfully, the weather stayed dry for our outdoor Carol Service at St. Thomas'. Around 30 people came along to sing a selection of carols around the fire pit, led by Ed from Madeley on his guitar and Oliver who played two carols on the saxophone.

Finally, we all went in to the church for a couple of carols, (thanks to Oliver on the organ), mince pies and mulled wine. It was a lovely start to a 'Butterton Christmas'. *Reporter: Sue Taylor*

## WHAT'S GONE: DECEMBER 20TH FRIDAY (CHRISTMAS) FLOWERS



At the Friday Morning Coffee Shop before Christmas, Gillian Elks ran two Christmas flower decoration classes. Everyone enjoyed them and took home a beautiful flower arrangement for their Christmas table.



## WHAT'S GONE: DECEMBER 22ND. CAROLS & CANDLES SERVICE

Once again our Choir performed a lovely number of items, old and new, under the watchful eye of our Organist and Choir Master, Rev'd Peter Nisbeck.

Rev'd Josh performed the lighting of the candles which spread a wave of light throughout the darkened church. Everyone was invited to share mince pies and mulled wine after the service which was attended by the Mayor of Newcastle.



# WHAT'S GONE: DECEMBER 24TH

## ONE MORE SLEEP



At 4.00pm On Christmas Eve, a good congregation, enjoyed a lively service with balloons and towards the end, candles.

Various Ministry team members led parts of the Service. Rev Peter performed his 'trick' of getting the children to 'switch on' the Christmas tree lights by cheering for them.





# What's Gone: Ethiopian Orthodox Community Church Celebrate the Angel Gabriel in St'Giles'

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> December 3am to 4.30pm**



Some people find the times of our Services difficult to get to, but many of these worshipers arrived for a 3.30AM start. Even the large spaces of St.Giles' were too small for the number that kept on arriving during the rest of the day, sometimes spilling out onto the car-park, which was completely jammed with a huge number of vehicles.



Every inch of the ground floor was used, with services being held in the choir vestry, (right).

The Clergy Vestry was sealed off as a Holy Shrine. A number of 'stalls' were set-up, one in the porch selling all kinds of 'decorations' and other items for use during the Service. Food stalls were set-up and an estimate of them serving 700 meals was mentioned. At one stage the large amount of incense in the air set our fire alarm off.



# Praying with the Prayers of the Bible

**Due to a lack of space in our January issue,  
we are printing parts 1 and 2 in this issue.**

*It can be hard to pray sometimes, and most of us need all the help we can get! This new series, which will run all year, is by the Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle, formerly of the Nazarene Theological College, Manchester*

In this series we will be looking at 12 prayers found in the Bible, in both the Old and New Testaments. Some are prayers for personal circumstances, while others relate to family or church or nation. In studying all 12 prayers the emphasis will be on what we can learn about prayer and how we can be encouraged to pray more regularly, more fervently and more expectantly.

Praying about the Unknown Future: "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" Genesis 15:2-3.

This is the Bible's first prayer. That doesn't mean that no one before Abraham had prayed, but this is the first time we have a record of someone praying to God.

We learn as early as Genesis 4 that "men began to call on the name of the Lord" (v.26) but it does not explicitly say that they prayed. We can hardly believe that godly men like Enoch and Noah never prayed. Enoch 'walked with God' and in his long pilgrimage of three hundred years of fellowship with God (Gen. 5:22) he must have prayed many times.

Even before Abraham's first prayer is mentioned we are told that God appeared to him, that he built an altar for sacrifice and worship and that he called on the name of the Lord (Gen. 12:7; 13:18). But now he faces a real crisis in his life.

When God first appeared to him, he had been promised that from his family a great nation would emerge (Gen. 12:1-3). Now many years later he still has no children and custom dictates that his chief servant, Eliezer, will inherit everything. Has God forgotten him? Were all those promises of being a father just make believe or self-delusion?

So he cried to God, "What will you give me?" It was a desperate prayer from a desperate heart. What was God doing? Why had He not kept His promises? Had He forgotten? Was He not able to do what He had promised? We have all been where Abraham was when he prayed that prayer. We want to believe but why is nothing happening?

Then God answered! "Your own son shall be your heir" (v.4). This wonderful answer was sealed with a dramatic illustration. God directed Abraham to look up into the night sky. "Number the stars if you can," God said. "So shall your descendants be." Abraham would one day have as many offspring as the stars in the sky! Impossible? Incredible? Far-fetched?

But it happened! The next chapter records the birth of his son Ishmael, and two chapters later we read of the birth of Isaac, the son of promise. And history, both biblical and secular, confirms that the illustration from the stars was no exaggeration!

So, the Bible's first prayer helps us in several ways. First, when our hearts ache because of fear or doubt or uncertainty, take it to God in prayer. Second, God's delays are not denials. Third, with Abraham who 'believed the Lord' (v.6), let us trust quietly in our sovereign and gracious God.

## PART 2

Moses said to the Lord, "...I am not able to carry all this people alone, the burden is too heavy for me..." Numbers 11:10-15.

Moses prayed this prayer in a day of dark depression and discouragement. The opening verses of the chapter relate how divine punishment fell on the people of Israel because they complained about almost everything. Moses prayed and the punishment stopped but not the people's complaints. They wanted meat to eat.

For years they had been sustained by manna from heaven, but now they longed for the fish, cucumbers and melons they had eaten in Egypt (vv.5,6). They forget how the Lord had delivered them from Pharaoh's bondage. Now they preferred Egyptian food, and the slavery that went with it, to the goodness of the Lord and His provision for them.

Moses was beside himself with despair. Would these ungrateful people never stop complaining? Then the Lord's anger threatened the people again (v.10). Moses was caught in the middle. On one side of him the people complained, and on the other side God's wrath was about to fall. Moses couldn't go on.

Continued on the bottom of the next page.....

## Continued.... Praying with the Prayers of the Bible - Part 2

His frustration broke out in petulant questions to the Lord. 'Why are you dealing so severely with me?' 'Why do you lay this burden on me?' 'Did I conceive these people?' 'Why am I a nursing mother to them?' 'Am I responsible for getting them to Egypt?' 'How can I provide meat for so many?' 'Lord, this burden is too great for me.' 'I'd rather die now than go on like this' (see vv.11-15).

Moses was depressed, irritable and resentful. He poured it all out before the Lord. It was a prayer born of frustration and anger. He was angry with his ungrateful congregation, and he was angry with God. Why did the Lord leave it all to him? After all, it was God's plan to bring the Israelites from Egypt to Canaan. Moses had only gone along with it because God commanded him. But now it was all too much. Worn out with listening to

the people's whining and not sure of what God would do next, Moses had had enough. He blamed the Lord for giving him a burden he couldn't carry, and he wanted to die.

But God answered Moses graciously! He understood the frustration, the petulance, the lack of faith and the rebellious spirit that blamed God for it all. He provided Moses with seventy elders who eased the burden of leadership (vv.16, 17). He sent an east wind that brought quails into the camp and provided meat for them (vv.31, 32). In grace and mercy God 'overlooked' the faults of Moses and sent him help and refreshment.

In our deepest disappointments, God understands. In our frustrations, God is merciful. When we lash out at circumstances and even at God Himself, He does not answer in kind. In our deepest discouragement, His love and grace and understanding are with us still.

Parish Pump - Series continues next month.

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## Remembering

### Geoffrey Henry Walker

1<sup>st</sup> August 1948 – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Sometime organist at St Giles and celebrated local musician.

**G**eoffrey was a son of the Potteries. His family came from Oakhill and he attended Oakhill Primary School..

His father had an ambition to move from Trent Valley Road where they lived to the tree lined environs of the Westlands and so it was the family moved to the Plaisance. Sadly Geoffrey Mother died early on and his father brought Geoffrey and his sister up alone. Again sadly, his father died when he was an older teenager and he was still at school. He had the support of his Uncle and family and through his own efforts and great talents he went to St Peter's College Oxford. While still at school he had already obtained his Associateship of the Royal College of Organists

After Oxford he went on to study librarianship at University College London, he became a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and worked for a while in London at the British Council.

He returned to this area to take up the post of Director of Music at Newcastle under Lyme School, a post he held from January 1973 to January 2000. Following that he took up teaching at Denstone College where he



specialised in harmony and counterpoint and was also the chapel organist. He loved Denstone and found real happiness and fulfilment there as well as a spiritual home. He also taught at Wolverhampton Girls School As well as his teaching responsibilities in schools he also had a great number of private pupils and other interests. He was, for over 30 years conductor of the Ceramic City Choir bringing massed choral works and celebrated conductors to the Victoria Hall. He was an Examiner for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music for over twenty five years and he had some amazing tales to tell of his adventure in both China and Malaysia.

He was also an accomplished accompanist to other choirs and the organist at Keele University where thousands of students have graduated to the sound of his playing.

Continued....

## Remembering Geoffrey Walker: Continued.....

He also held organist post in many local churches including St Margaret's in Wolstanton, our St Giles where he not only directed the choir but also did important work of restoration to the organ. He was organist at St George's, Newcastle and most recently at St Andrew's in the Westlands next to his house where he jokingly used to say he could roll out of bed and roll straight in to church.

We can list the things that Geoffrey has done but what about personality, those unique characteristics that made him the person we knew and loved.

Well this is where I would like to refer to St Paul's letter to the Colossians Ch3 v 12 not simply because it mentions singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to God (although Geoffrey certainly did this) but because it has a list of attributes of a truly Christian way of life which Geoffrey embodied - compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience, forgiveness and love.

These gifts that Geoffrey possessed came from his strong personal Christian faith.

He had his quirky side as well, he would never buy new things when he could refresh his wardrobe from the local charity shops. He would enjoy a coffee in many and various locations – a particular favourite being the café at the Maternity Hospital where he was well known to the assistants there. Goodness knows what took him there in the first place.

He was good fun to be with and valued his friends greatly with whom he enjoyed many happy gatherings and parties. He was very erudite and a great raconteur

Geoffrey received many tributes when he was in the final stages of his illness and while it is difficult to sum up his achievements two particular correspondents say everything I would want to say about Geoffrey.

'When I think of him, the first word that comes to mind is gentleness, not just in the sense of a gentleman which he truly was but in his whole disposition of kindness, generosity and goodwill. Geoff was a consummate musician as performer, teacher and conductor. An authority on music who wore his learning lightly.'

Another dear friend and colleague at Denstone who Geoffrey taught and who sent a card wrote,

'For the past seven years our lessons have been the highlight of my week they have been so important to me – 45minutes (often more) of something totally different cutting through the pressure of our frenzied routines and giving me some genuine transcendence.

As a child I particularly remember disliking piano lessons. The difference now is partly due to my maturity but it's mainly your phenomenal, universal knowledge and appreciation of the subject of music and all other subjects which relate to it.

I lost count of the number of analogies and contextual references you were able to craft and to use to great effect from other subjects and areas of life to communicate and to feed my understanding of such an elusive field of human perception and ability.

It has been a privilege to have been able to benefit so much from your teaching and example'

May he rest in peace with his Saviour

Revd Peter Nisbeck

### **Disturb us, Lord**

Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased  
with ourselves,  
When our dreams have come true  
Because we have dreamed too little,  
When we arrived safely  
Because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, Lord, when  
With the abundance of things we possess  
We have lost our thirst  
For the waters of life;  
Having fallen in love with life,  
We have ceased to dream of eternity  
And in our efforts to build a new earth,  
We have allowed our vision  
Of the new Heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,  
To venture on wider seas  
Where storms will show Your mastery;  
Where losing sight of land,  
We shall find the stars.  
We ask You to push back  
The horizons of our hopes;  
And to push into the future  
In strength, courage, hope, and love.

*Attributed to Sir Francis Drake, 16th Century*

# ACADEMY ACTIVITIES - 1

## St Giles' & 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](http://www.stgilesstgeorgesacademy.co.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs C Pointon

### Our Values for this half term are: Learned and Wise

Be learned, taking all opportunities offered in a curriculum which is varied and rooted in Gospel values. To be wise in the ways in which they use their learning for the common good.

### Singing Squad at Victoria Hall

In December, our singing squad performed at Victoria Hall with over 200 other children as part of the Entrust Christmas Festival. They also performed solo songs as a choir.



### Sporting Success

Our Y5/6 football team took part in the Newcastle Primary Football League at Chesterton High School. Every single child put their all into it and made us incredibly proud, winning all their matches.



# ACADEMY ACTIVITIES - 2

## St Giles' & St George's C of E Academy

### MP Adam Jogee - Q&A

Year 5 and 6 pupils took part in a Q&A with our local MP, Adam Jogee. He spoke all about his life and journey to becoming MP and gave the children a great insight into Parliament. The children asked him some super questions and challenged him on issues in their local community. Some of our pupils will be visiting the Houses of Parliament in March.



### Year 5 GLOW at St Giles' Church

Y5NJ visited St Giles' church, along with some of their families, to take part in their GLOW worship all about Christmas. They took part in song and prayer and created Advent prayer wreaths.



**Mouse Makes**

"Love is \_\_\_\_\_  
**love** is \_\_\_\_\_  
 it does not \_\_\_\_\_  
 it does not \_\_\_\_\_  
 it is not \_\_\_\_\_  
 it does not \_\_\_\_\_  
 others, it is not self- \_\_\_\_\_  
 it is not easily \_\_\_\_\_  
 it keeps no record of \_\_\_\_\_  
**Love** delights in \_\_\_\_\_  
 it always \_\_\_\_\_  
 from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

The steadfast **love** of the Lord never \_\_\_\_\_  
 His \_\_\_\_\_ never come to an end; they are new every \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lamentations 3:20-23

*I pray... you will understand... the greatness of Christ's **love**, how \_\_\_\_\_ and how \_\_\_\_\_ and how \_\_\_\_\_ that **love** is.*  
 Ephesians 2:18-19

God is **love**.  
 whoever \_\_\_\_\_ in **love** in God, and God \_\_\_\_\_ in them.  
 1 John 4:16

Give \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord, for He is \_\_\_\_\_ his steadfast **love** endures  
 Psalm 136:1

**HOW DOES GOD LOVE ME?**  
**God sent me a saviour:** He sent His one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him.  
 1 John 4:9  
**God gave me His spirit:** He has given you the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His **love**.  
 Romans 5:5  
**God called me His child:** See what great **love** the Father has for us that He would call us His children.  
 1 John 1:3

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
 Jesus told us to:  
**LOVE** the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul and with all your mind.  
 Matthew 22:37  
**LOVE** your neighbour the same as you love yourself.  
 Matthew 22:39

GOD - **LOVE**  
 PATIENT - KIND  
 GRACIOUS - PEACE  
 JUST - TRUTHFUL  
 TRUSTING - LOYAL  
 HOPEFUL  
 PERSEVERES  
 ENDURES  
 HUMBLE  
 SELFLESS  
 PROTECTS - DEFENDS

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

## SMILE-A-WHILE



"It may be liked by the 'young' people, but I still prefer the old Church notice-board".

## MEDIUM SUDOKU - 1

Last month we acidently printed the solution grid in this column. As an apology, we are printing two grids this month.

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

## MEDIUM SUDOKU - 2

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



- ✝ All those suffering from American fires
- ✝ All those suffering from floods.
- ✝ All those moving to a new home.
- ✝ All those worried about financial matters.
- ✝ All those who have no jobs.

- ✝ All those who are awaiting operations and treatments.
- ✝ All those who have to do things that upset them.
- ✝ All those working to bring peace in to the world.



# NEWCASTLE NEWS

CASTLE HOUSE TEL: 01782 717717

WWW.NEWCASTLE-STAFFS.GOV.UK/NEWS

✦ **FIGHTING PLANS** - Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council has vowed to fight government plans to scrap historic local authority areas, which have consistently shown that they are best placed to deliver local services.

The new Government's proposed local government reorganisation suggests that Borough Councils like Newcastle-under-Lyme would be abolished in favour of much larger unitary authorities, which could see the independence of the Borough end after 852 years.

But at a recent meeting of the authority, members of its Cabinet agreed that the council would:

- stand up for the historic independence of the Borough;
- continue to work through the Staffordshire Leaders Board to develop and deliver devolution as set out in the Board's submission to Government;
- support residents petitioning for the preservation of the Borough;
- call for Newcastle-under-Lyme's Members of Parliament to support the Borough's preservation, and to engage with Government Ministers in stating the case for the Borough;
- have its Leader and Chief Executive contact the Deputy Prime Minister to state the Council's case.

✦ **COUNCIL TAX** - Investing in town centres, continued spending on front-line services and job creation are all part of Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council's spending plans for the coming year. Cabinet is due to recommend its budget, including a maximum 7p-a-week council tax increase for most residents, to Full Council for approval.

With a legal requirement preventing councils from borrowing to run day-to-day services, the council has balanced its budget and remains debt-free while investing in communities, job creation and quality of life. Investment continues in the regeneration of Ryecroft, Astley Place and Midway, which will bring scores of homes, shops and a hotel to the town centre, along with the opening of a clean safe car park for shoppers and visitors.

Waste collection and recycling; hygiene inspections of restaurants, cafes and takeaways; street cleaning; running both the J2 leisure centre and Brampton Museum; and maintaining parks and green spaces are

all delivered by the Borough Council, while it also maintains the resources to fund legal action against the operators of Walleys Quarry.

The proposal is that Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council's council tax will increase by 1.99% and that includes money set aside to support the Civic Pride initiative: a long-term programme intended to make a positive difference across the whole borough by working with others to create a strong sense of belonging to, and pride in, where we live.

✦ **ROUGH SLEEPERS** - Moves to end rough sleeping in Newcastle before 2026 are moving forward.

Authorisation for work to begin converting a building close to the town centre into a 'homeless hub' is ready for approval by Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council.

Work will convert former offices at Stubbs Gate to provide safe, secure emergency accommodation for rough sleepers.

Gill Heesom, Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council's Cabinet member for Community Safety and Wellbeing, said:

"This building will only be used to help people sleeping rough so that they don't experience a second night on the streets. As well as offering them a safe place for the night, and emergency accommodation in severe weather, there will be practical help ranging from showers and a place to wash clothes. We want to help people to have a roof over their heads, so we will use the hub as a place where we can put them in touch with different services, housing associations, the Department for Work and Pensions, financial advice and so on. And then once people have an address it makes it easier for them to receive help from different bodies and organisations, setting them on a path to accessing opportunities."

Planning permission for the adaptation of the building, to be known as Navigation House, was granted for 12 months, with a review of its impact to be carried out after it has operated for a year. If approved, building work will begin in the spring, using money from a successful bid by the council for Shared Prosperity Fund.

Gill Heesom added, "As well as helping vulnerable members of our community in a moment of need, this changes the perception of what's happening in our town centre and makes it less intimidating to some. Targeting rough sleeping is also shown to reduce pressure on police, ambulance and hospital services, while also reducing demand for emergency bed and breakfast accommodation, which in turn saves public money."

Codes change on the next page.....



## GOODBYE TO BARCODES....

Barcodes are set to be replaced by modern square QR codes after more than 50 years of widespread use. GS1, the international non-profit that maintains the global standard for barcodes, is preparing to retire them in favour of a new square version capable of storing much more product information.

Anne Godfrey, chief executive of GS1 UK, revealed that nearly half of British retailers have already updated their tills to accommodate the new codes. "This has been in the works for some time, but Covid had really accelerated it," she said.

"During the pandemic, everyone got used to pointing their phones at QR codes in pubs and restaurants to access the menu."

She added that traditional barcodes can only hold seven pieces of basic information — a product's name, manufacturer, type, size, weight, colour and, most importantly, its price.

They have become so integral to the daily operations of most supermarkets that it is impossible to purchase a product unless it has a barcode on it. When they are scanned at the till, the number on the barcode is matched to a vast database of products to ensure customers are charged correctly.

The new QR codes contain much more information about products, such as their ingredients, any allergens they contain and even recipe suggestions, that can be accessed by consumers via their smartphones.

INCLUDING ITEMS FROM THE NEWCASTLE BOROUGH WEB-SITE.

### 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	TERM TIME ONLY	INFORMATION / CONTACT
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>ST.GILES/ST.THOMAS'S SERVICES ARE LISTED ON THE BACK PAGE OF THIS ISSUE</b>			
<b>SUNDAY</b>	10.30AM	SHINE, JUNIOR ACTIVITIES & YOUTH CLUB		JEAN BUCKLEY 0799 9542229
<b>MONDAY</b>	6.00PM - 9.00PM	RAINBOWS & GUIDES	✓	TRUDY REALE (01782) 442154
<b>MONDAY</b>	Bi-MONTHLY 7.30PM	CHURCH COUNCIL		CHURCH HALL REV JOSH (01782) 620322
<b>TUESDAY</b>	10.00AM	BIBLE STUDY IN CHURCH		1ST & 3RD WEEKS - CHECK MEMO - OPEN TO ALL
<b>TUESDAY</b>	6.00PM - 7.45PM	BROWNIES	✓	TRUDY REALE 07979 715166
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	9.00AM - 11.00AM	RAINBOW MOTHER & TODDLER GROUP	✓	Penny Richards (01782) 711631.
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	1.10PM - 1.45PM	OASIS COMMUNION SERVICE		REV. ANN TAYLOR (01782) 660174
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	2.00PM. FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH	ST.GILES FELLOWSHIP GROUP SEE 'WHAT'S ON' SECTION. EVERYONE WELCOME		WENDY BURKE (01782) 621430
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	7.30PM	CHURCH CHOIR		REV. PETER NISBECK (01782) 662379
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>9.00AM - 1.00PM</b>	OPEN CHURCH		REV JOSH PENDUCK (01782) 617498
<b>FRIDAY</b>	MINI-MARKET	ST.GILES COFFEE SHOP		Gillian Elks 07591 055287 / Chris Taylor
<b>FRIDAY</b>	FORTNIGHTLY ONLY	MINI MARKET		Pat Lovatt
<b>FRIDAY</b>	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		
<b>Any Saturday/Extra events and services are listed on the back page of this issue.</b>				

# FEBRUARY CALENDARS

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday 9.30am **BIG CLEAN** in St.Giles'.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

### CANDLEMAS

10.30 am Holy Communion

12.45 pm Holy Baptism

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday Beginning of Prayer Week

9.30 am Morning Prayer in Church

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday

5.00 pm Evening Prayer at home on Zoom

5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday

9.30 am Morning Prayer in Church

1.10 pm Oasis Holy Communion

2.00 pm Fellowship Group

### **2007 Parish Review - video**

A video film featuring the life and people of both churches in Rector Arthur Creber's time - 2007

Presented by Michael Pitstow. All Welcome  
Admission £1 Tea & biscuits included.

6<sup>th</sup> Thursday

5.00 pm Evening Prayer at home on Zoom

7<sup>th</sup> Friday 9.00 – 1.00pm

Coffee Shop, lunches & Mini-Market

9.30 am Morning Prayer in Church

## 9<sup>th</sup> 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

10.30 am All Age Worship

11<sup>th</sup> Tuesday

2.15 pm Service at Hempstalls Hall

7.00 pm to 9.00 pm Burgesses

Closing date for Parish News items.

12<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 1.10 pm Oasis Holy Communion

14<sup>th</sup> Friday 9.00 am – 1.00 pm

Coffee Shop and Lunches

## 16<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

10.30 am Holy Communion

19<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 10.00 - 12.00 Messy Church

1.10 pm Oasis Holy Communion

21<sup>st</sup> Friday 9.00 am – 1.00 pm

Coffee Shop, lunches & Mini-Market

Continued in next column.....

## 22<sup>nd</sup> 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.30 am Holy Communion

26<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 1.10 pm Oasis Holy Communion

27<sup>th</sup> Thursday 2.15 pm Service at Rowan Court

28<sup>th</sup> Friday 9.00 am – 1.00 pm

Coffee Shop and Lunches

## ST. THOMAS' BUTTERTON



## 2<sup>nd</sup> PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE - CANDLEMAS

10.30 am Holy Communion



## **BORED?**

**Take a look at the events and Services listed on this page and come along and join us!**

## **TAKE-A-BREAK ANSWERS**

1 - MEDIUM SUDOKU - 2

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

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

## **MARCH ISSUE CLOSING DATE:-**

**TUESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**

ALL ITEMS TO:- PITSTOWM@AOL.COM