

The Magazine of St.Giles', Newcastle, with St.Thomas', Birtley.

Price 50p. or a voluntary donation

April 2025

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Parish News

Celebrate
Easter
With Us!



**Academy
Activities**

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

**Free keele
Courses**

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The Rector writes



'What is your only comfort in life and in death?' That is the first question of the great Heidelberg Catechism, written in Zacharias Ursinus in 1563. It is asking the question of what do you have left when everything materially important is taken away. What is the firm ground of your life? What is the rock on which everything else is built? Some may say things like money or a house or a car or a good job. But these are contingent – they come and they go. Others smile at these naively materialistic people and say, 'Of course that shouldn't be your only comfort in life and in death. It's things like making a difference in the world, having a family, loving your spouse, helping other people.' But even if these are better than the material stuff, they are just as contingent. I knew one person who always said this – that family comes first, and then God comes second – and then they lost their spouse and became very bitter with the world, such that their children can't stand them and dread visiting them. If you put 'family first, God second', you're setting yourself up for a fall.

What then is the answer given by the Heidelberg Catechism? 'That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death— to my faithful Saviour, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.'

One could write hundreds of pages commenting on this paragraph alone. But in short it is saying that no matter what happens in life – whether things for good or for ill, whether I have an abundant family and many riches or like Job lose it all in a single day – nothing can separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, everything that happens to me, God uses it for my good – indeed, my ultimate good, namely eternally life. God is making me fit for heaven. And God is faithful – so faithful that he would rather die for me than let go of me. And God cares for me – with such love that the very universe itself cannot comprehend it. God is not some strange being who is

hardly involved in my life. No – God is passionate for me. God longs to have a relationship with me and raise me up into the glorious happiness and bliss of his presence.

We live in an age of idols – that is, we are constantly told that there are many more important things than God. But all those are contingent. They come and go. They are to a certain degree fickle – whether they intend to be or not. No wonder there is so many issues with mental health these days! But in Holy Week and Easter, we can be reliant on this substantial fact: nothing in heaven and earth can change the fact that God became one of us, a human like us, who died for our sins, and rose again in glory from the dead, breaking the stranglehold over us of sin, death, and Satan. And because this can be our only comfort in life in death – because we put God and not other things first – we can enjoy those other things for what they are! Much like one can enjoy a sunrise or a sunset knowing that it comes and goes, we can enjoy our family and friendships, and the good material things in life. After all, nothing ruins love like the pressure of knowing that without you, your loved ones' life will fall apart. Yet when a loved ones or loved thing is loved not as a means of being your only comfort in life and in death, but rather as the independent person or thing that it is, it is released to be itself, to flourish as it wants to! Putting God first, making our only comfort in life and death his death and resurrection for us, enables us to enjoy things more.

This Holy Week and Easter, as we journey with Christ into his death and resurrection, may we know that all this was done for us, to be our only comfort in life and in death.

Easter

***A time of giving,
But a time of sorrow to.
Remembering our dear Lord
Who died for me and you.
We think of His pain,
As He hung and died,
And His beloved mother Mary,
How she must of cried.
He died to save us from all sin,
So we could dwell forever
In Heaven with Him.***

Pamela Smith (St.Giles)

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PITSTOW - The ashes of Dennis Pitstow were interned in the Remembrance garden at St.Thomas's Butterton in February 2004. The ashes of his wife Dorothy will be added at a short service of interment at the church at 2.00pm on Saturday, May 18th. Church family members are invited to attend along with friends and family members.

Michael Pitstow.

From the Editor....

Welcome to our Easter edition. As usual we have a wide range of articles for you to enjoy, including reviews of the various events that have taken place over the past month and also looking forward to our Holy Week Services. These will reflect the many emotions of Holy Week including the sorrow of the crucifixion and ending with the joy of the resurrection on Easter Sunday.

In this digital age we have to be very watchful for scammers etc, and advice will be available at this months Fellowship meeting by the CO-OP bank and also from the various free courses taking place at the Keele Ironmarket centre, (see page 8).

Please accept my apologies for the various date and time errors in our previous edition, hopefully things have improved this month!

We do hope that you enjoy your Easter and hopefully will come along and join us - you'll be given a very warm welcome.

Michael Pitstow

A Prayer for Easter

Living Lord Jesus,

We, your Easter People of today, thank You for the Easter People of the Gospel accounts.

For the women, who loved You so much that they went to the tomb, early in the morning, while it was still dark. Thank you especially for Mary, who wept, then rejoiced, then ran to tell the others, "I have seen the Lord!"

Thank you for Thomas, who doubted, then devoted his life to You, his Lord and his God; for the disciples who ate breakfast on the beach with You; for Peter, who was forgiven and re-commissioned by You.

Thank You for them and Your witnesses through all generations.

Thank you for Your true and living written Word, proclaiming You, our true and living Lord, who lived and died and rose again to offer us forgiveness and life.

Thank you, Lord that because You live, we have hope and assurance, whatever challenges the world might bring.

Christ has died, Christ is risen,

Christ will come again,

Hallelujah!

By Daphne Kitching (Parish Pump)

What's Gone: February 19th



From our Children's and Families worker, Jean Buckley...

I just wanted to say a big "Thank You!" to everyone for all of their efforts preparing for and running Messy Church on Wednesday, and also especially to those parents and children for attending the event.



Everyone I spoke to about it said that they had really enjoyed it and were very complimentary. The choice of menu was inspired and the pastries seemed to be going down a storm where I was sitting.



Thank you to everyone who baked. I couldn't believe the response and the trouble you had taken. The rock cakes which were left over were given to the Friday Coffee Bar so none of Your delicious baking was Wasted.



The numbers were slightly down, but we had 42 children, 25 adults and 14 volunteers, making a total of 81.

My thanks to those who donated items and cash to cover our expenses.

I had many emails awaiting me at home to apologise that their child was unable to attend.

Well done everyone and thank you once again.



*CAN YOU HELP?
Good Friday 10 - 12 Noon
Donations of help, food and
cash donations required.
Contact Jean Buckley*

What's On: February 28th. Friday Fund Raising for:



Our very grateful thanks to all those who supported our St.Giles Community Project afternoon in aid of Dougie Mac.

It consisted of a flower arranging demonstration, Auction, and £5 afternoon tea. A donation was also received from the sale of the counter refreshments. Our special thanks to all those who donated items for the auction and to Chris Taylor and Gillian Elks for their hard work putting it all altogether. The magnificent sum of £600 was raised for the charity.

On March 21st, Mike Pegg from the charity visited our Coffee Shop and was presented with a special cheque. Mike gave a short speech explaining the work of the charity and thanked everyone for all their hard work raising such a wonderful sum for their work.



Photographs - Top to bottom

Flower arranging class - Auction 'lots' -
Afternoon tea - Cheque presentation.



What's Gone: March 4th

Shrove Tuesday Beetle Drive



Once again our Church Hall rang out to the shouts of 'Beetle' on the evening of Shrove Tuesday.

The terms 'Clockwise' and 'Anticlockwise' caused problems for some people as they changed tables after each game, but 'Beetle Master', Rev'd Peter Nisbeck kept all players strictly 'under control' - 'No cheating!' It was so pleasing to see pancakes back on the menu, gratefully enjoyed by all those present.

Our grateful thanks to all those who worked hard in the kitchen providing the pancakes and those who gave food and financial donations to cover the evenings expenses.



GILL POWELL WRITES: A huge thank you to everyone for their generosity at the Pancake Party Raffle. It raised £95 for the 1st Newcastle Girl guides based at St.Giles'.



WHAT'S GONE: MARCH 5TH



Our Ash Wednesday (March 5th) meeting was very well attended.

Our speaker was Ed Jervis, who is the grandson of the footballer, Gordon Banks.

Ed began by telling us that his first job was a music teacher but he then moved into banking. He didn't like either of those professions and so moved to work at U.B.C., (United Christian Broadcasting) which has offices and studios at Hanchurch and Burslem. They have two radio channels and their most popular programme is 'The Word Today'. The station is funded by its listeners.

Ed then told us about his famous Grandfather, Gordon Banks, who was born in Tinsly near Sheffield on 30th December 1937. Gordon's father ran an illicit gambling shop. He had a disabled brother who was attacked one day when taking the money home. Gordon didn't like any form of gambling and told all of his family and grandchildren never to do it. One day, when he was young, a young woman came to the house, she was really upset and crying. It transpires that her husband had taken all his wages and gambled them away. They had no money for the rent or food for the children. She begged Gordon's father to lend her some money.

Gordon left school at 15 to be a coal bagger. He also enjoyed playing football. His school report wasn't very good, but he did do well at sport. He was asked to join a football team. The first week they lost 12-0! The second week it was 4-0, and so they were getting better!

National Service called and he joined the army. They sent him to a town in Germany. This was where he met Ursula. She couldn't speak any English and he couldn't speak any German but they fell in love and were married.

After they returned to England he was signed for Leicester City for which he was paid £40 a week. He was a very special kind of player. His training methods were ahead of their time. His first call to the England Squad was in 1963. Sir Alf Ramsey spotted this good new young player and signed him up. He was known as 'The hero who could fly', due to a famous photograph of Gordon, 'flying' to save a goal. He became very famous after that.

Some time later, Sir Alf thought that Gordon had reached his peak as he wanted the younger Peter Shilton instead, and so decided to sell him to Liverpool. Gordon had a phone call from the then Stoke City manager, Tony Waddington, and asked him to visit him this home at Loggerheads. Tony told him that

if he signed for Stoke he could live in a house owned by him, very close to his. Gordon agreed and signed for Stoke City.

At the time, Gordon had two children, and another followed soon afterwards. During the troubles in Ireland, Police had found a IRA kidnap list and the Banks family were on it. Thankfully nothing ever happened!

The 1970 World Cup in Mexico had Brazil as the favourites. Just before a key match Gordon felt ill but played. They lost the match and had to come home.

In 1972 he was badly injured in a car crash near Butterton. He had 200 stitches in his face and lost the sight in his right eye. He and his family were amazed at the amount of cards and good will messages sent them.

Retirement followed, but he still did some coaching at both Stoke city and Port Vale. He was named as 'Goal Keeper of the year with one eye'.

The U.S.A. was calling and he went to the Fort Lauderdale Strikers for 2 years. He admitted that due to his eye injuries he found it difficult to work out the exact position of a football coming towards him.

Back home he retired again and played a lot of golf. He was very good at it and raised large sums for the Alzheimers Society. One funny incident was as our speaker Ed was having a rehearsal for his wedding, the Vicar asked who were the witness's. Ed told the Vicar that it was his future Mother-in-law and his grandad, Gordon Banks.

The Vicar was shocked and said, "NOT THE GORDON BANKS! And can I please have his autograph". After the wedding, when they were signing the Registers, the Vicar pushed two extra pieces across the table to Gordon for autographs. Gordon signed them and everyone was happy.

Gordon died in 2019. Thousands of tributes were left at the Stoke City stadium, including flowers and scarves, and his family were over whelmed at the number of cards and tributes they received in memory of him.

Every year, his family get together to mark the anniversary of his death, to make sure that he is never forgotten.

This talk was a wonderful tribute to a grandad from his grandson and we could all see just how much he meant to him. Thank you Ed.

NEXT MEETING: See next page 9 for details

Wendy Burke

WHAT'S ON: CELEBRATE EASTER WITH US!



13th PALM SUNDAY

10.30 am All Age Worship with Palm Crosses and Procession

16th Wednesday 1.10 pm Oasis Holy Communion

17th MAUNDY THURSDAY

1.10 pm Oasis Holy Communion for Maundy Thursday

7.30 pm Maundy Thursday Holy Communion

18th GOOD FRIDAY

NO COFFEE BAR or LUNCHES

10.00 am to 12 noon Messy Church

12 noon Ecumenical Service at the Market Cross

2.00 pm The Last Hour. Reflections on the Cross

20th EASTER DAY

Dawn Service at Bunny Hill

8.00 am Holy Communion celebrating Easter Day

10.30 am Easter All Age and Holy Communion



St.Thomas, Butterton: Easter Day

10.30 am Holy Communion

Followed by interment of David Cawthorn's Ashes

Free courses at 'Keele in the Town' (Ironmarket, Newcastle).

Contact them at: keeleintown@keele.ac.uk

<u>Date on</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>
01/04/2025	10am to 12pm	Money Saving top tips
08/04/2025	10am - 3:30pm	NHS App Drop-in
15/04/2025	10am to 12pm	Applying for a Passport Online
22/04/2025	10am to 12pm	Cyber Security in the community
29/04/2025	10am to 12pm	Keeping yourself Safe on Social Media
06/05/2025	10am - 3:30pm	NHS App Drop-in
13/05/2025	10am to 12pm	Cyber Security - Scams
20/05/2025	10am to 12pm	Safe Online Shopping

More What's On



Programme

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

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

7th May - Joy Blank - Learning Sign Language

4th June - Alzheimer's Society 2nd July - Afternoon Tea Party

NO MEETING IN AUGUST

3rd September - Beetle Drive 1st October - TBA

5th November - Enid King - Desert Island Discs

3rd December - Advent Carol Party

Admission £1 Tea/coffee & biscuits. Everyone Welcome!

Craft Fair: April 12th, Saturday 10.30 am - 2.30 pm
Various stalls, refreshments. FREE ADMISSION

SHARING THE COMMON CUP



After a full discussion the Parochial Church Council agreed that we should now revert to the practice of everyone receiving the wine from the chalice and we will no longer be dipping the bread in the wine. **This will commence from the Sunday after Easter Sunday.** We will continue to have two places to receive communion - one at the High Altar and one by the Lady Chapel for those who have difficulty getting up the steps until we are able to get a ramp installed.

The Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, one of the world's leading public health organisations, has reported that there has never been an outbreak of infection related to the communion cup and that the theoretical risk of transmitting infection in this way exists but that it is so small that it is undetectable. Whilst it may seem a contradiction to many, our hands and fingers as opposed to our mouths are in fact one of the major ways of spreading germs and far more likely to be a source of infection than saliva. Given the transmission route of respiratory infections, the risk of transmission from breathing the air exhaled by an infectious person next to you is greater than sharing the cup. Evidence suggests that any very small risk which may exist is greatly reduced by wiping the surface of the cup with a purification cloth between communicants which is our practice.

However, common sense must prevail and in order to minimise risk further, it is advisable to refrain from sharing the cup if you have an active respiratory infection, open sores on lips or stomach upset. If this is the case you can simply receive the bread.

If you wish to discuss this further or feel that you are at particular risk due to existing health problems, please discuss your concerns with a member of the Ministry Team.

Rev. Peter Nisbeck & Jill Griffin



13th April - Palm Sunday & Holy Week, an overview

**The events of Easter took place over a week,
traditionally called Passion Week.**

It began on Palm Sunday. After all His teaching and healing, Jesus had built a following.

On the Sunday before He was to die, Jesus and His followers arrived at Jerusalem. The city was crowded. Jewish people were arriving to celebrate Passover. This commemorates how they had escaped from slavery in Egypt nearly 1,500 year earlier.

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

The next day they returned to Jerusalem. Jesus went to the temple, the epicentre of the Jewish faith, and confronted money-changers and merchants who were ripping off the people. He overturned their tables and accused them of being thieves. The religious authorities were alarmed and feared how He was stirring up the crowds.

On the Tuesday, they challenged Jesus, questioning His authority. He answered by challenging and condemning their hypocrisy. Later that day Jesus spoke to His disciples about future times. He warned them about fake religious leaders; the coming destruction of Jerusalem; wars, earthquakes and famines; and how His followers would face persecution.

By midweek the Jewish religious leaders and elders were so angry with Jesus that they began plotting to arrest and kill Him. One of Jesus' disciples, Judas, went to the chief priests and agreed to betray Him to them. Jesus and the 12 disciples gathered on the Thursday evening to celebrate the Passover meal. This is known as the Last Supper. During the evening, Jesus initiated a ritual still marked by Christians – Holy Communion –

which commemorates His death. Jesus broke bread and shared it and a cup of wine with His disciples.

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

Why Easter will never go away

How do you make sense of the Resurrection? Dead men don't rise, so why believe that this particular dead man did rise?

At the end of St Luke's gospel we read that: "they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement" (Luke 24:4). This is highly significant. The Gospels do not show us a group of disciples who were in a receptive frame of mind. After the crucifixion, they were in hiding, frightened and scattered. Then suddenly, they came out of hiding and were totally different; excited, joyful. By Pentecost they were confident, with one firm message: 'You crucified Jesus, but God raised Him up!'

How did they know this? Because of direct personal experience. Some of them had visited the tomb of Jesus: it was empty. Others claimed to have seen and touched the risen Lord. Were they hallucinating? People can hallucinate in groups – when taking drugs, for example. But of course, each one will see a different hallucination. But the disciples all saw the same thing. Or rather, the same person. Jesus.

Were they lying? Jesus had died a humiliating death as a criminal. Perhaps they wanted to rescue His good name. So, did they pretend they had seen Him?

This theory has a big problem. Their preaching led them into trouble with the authorities. They were beaten and imprisoned and some of them killed. People will die for ideas and causes which they believe in passionately. But not for things they have made up. We might suffer for our convictions, but we will not suffer for our inventions.

What about the 'swoon' theory? That Jesus didn't die on the cross, despite terrible wounds? That He recovered in the tomb, and then escaped? That the

Continued on the next page....

Why Easter continued....

disciples nursed Him back to health? But Roman soldiers knew when a man was dead; and there was the guard on the tomb. Also, the events which followed simply don't fit. If the disciples had been hiding Jesus all along, they would have kept very low-key, and out of the way, so that the authorities did not come after Him again.

Besides, to preach that God had raised Jesus from the dead – which is exactly what they did preach – would have been a lie. Beatings and threat of death would soon have loosened their tongues. Inventions crumble under pressure; convictions hold fast.

Another reason for believing in the Resurrection is this: Jesus' continuing impact. Thousands and soon millions of people in every generation since have shared an inescapable sense of being 'accompanied' through life. Though unseen, they identify this presence as the Risen Lord.

Sometimes this experience of meeting Jesus is gentle and fitful. Sometimes it is dramatic and life changing. This reminds us that the resurrection of Jesus is not just an interesting historical puzzle. It is a vital, present day reality. It brings wonderful comfort, assuring us of the central Christian truths: death is dead; Jesus is alive; God is love.

This central notion was captured, most movingly, by the great Albert Schweitzer: 'He came to those men who knew Him not. He speaks to us the same word: "Follow thou me," and sets us to the tasks which He has to fulfil for our time. He commands. And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal Himself in the toils, the conflicts, the suffering which they shall pass through in His fellowship, and, as ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience who He is.'

Have a joyful – and a challenging – Easter.

Articles from the Parish Pump

Happy Snappers

One day in March, Rev'd Clare and Warden Dennis Brammer arranged to take two students, Kelsi Longmore and Ruby Simpson, from Newcastle College, up the St.Giles tower as part of their photography course.

The tower allowed them to take some pictures from unusual angles and vantage points, (even of their own college). They were pleased to hear that they were the only students visiting the church for the project.

There will be a group of judges to choose the most interesting portfolio. We wish them every success with their project.



Thanks to Dennis Brammer

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 Headteacher: Mrs C Pointon

Our Values this half-term are Curious and Active and our pupils have certainly been outliving these...



We started the season of Lent with our Worship Council leading whole-school worship. They shared the importance of Lent and why it is an important time of year for Christians. As a school, we have our own Lenten promise...each class has been given two dates throughout Lent to bring in food and toiletries for our food bank.



Sporting Successes - Our school teams are doing amazing things recently. From netball, to football and achievements beyond school - we are so proud of them all! One of our pupils, who plays for Crewe, recently took part in an international tournament in Barcelona and did amazing!



Stokes Go) a Sing-Our singing squad performed in front of a large crowd at a local theatre recently. Some real talent was shown!



Academy Activities - 2

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

Active Learning: Reception chicks, Year 6 forest schools, KS1 DT and a visit from Staffordshire's Young Poet Laureate (who is also a past pupil).



Mouse Makes
On the cross Jesus opened wide his arms for us. Jesus put an end to death by dying for us, and showed us the resurrection to come by His raising to new life!

Jesus is risen!
The angel said: "Jesus ...is not here, for He has risen, just as He said." Matthew 28:6

Jesus is here
Jesus said: "Where two or three come together in my name I am there with them." Matthew 18:20

Jesus will come again!
Jesus said: "I will come back and take you to myself so that you will be where I am." John 14:3

READ the story of the resurrection in:
Matthew 28:1-10
Mark 16:1-19
Luke 24:1-49
John 20:1-29 and 21:1-14

JESUS • ALIVE • RISEN
LORD • SAVIOUR • KING
RESURRECTION
PEACE • NEW LIFE • JOY • GOOD NEWS • GO TELL • EASTER

MESSIAH • REDEEMER
CHRIST • SON OF GOD
HOSANNA • PRAISE

apr250 deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

Smile-A-While



"I believe your 'Do it yourself Palm Sunday kit' has just arrived dear."

Medium Sudoku

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

Smile Lines

Easter one-liners

What do you need if your chocolate eggs mysteriously disappear? *An eggsplanation*

What kind of jewellery does the Easter Bunny wear? *14-carrot gold*

What is the Easter Bunny's favourite kind of music? *Hip hop*

What do you call an Easter Bunny wearing a kilt? *Hopscotch*

What do you call a bunny with fleas? *Bugs Bunny*



- ✚ All those trying to find a new job.
- ✚ All those who are homeless.
- ✚ All those rebuilding after war.
- ✚ All those worried about financial matters.
- ✚ All those who are worried about the future.

- ✚ All those who are awaiting operations and treatments.
- ✚ All those who have recently lost loved ones.
- ✚ All those working to bring peace in to the world.



Newcastle News

Castle House tel: 01782 717717

www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/news

✦ **BARRY PANTER** - A Memorial Service for the late mayor will be held in St.Giles on April 3rd at 1.30pm.

✦ **QUARRY DEBTS** - The company that ran Walleys Quarry owed millions of pounds to creditors when it collapsed, a new document shows. Walleys Quarry Ltd (WQL) entered voluntary liquidation late last month, three months after the controversial Silverdale landfill site was issued with a closure notice.

The company's statement of affairs, published on Companies House, has now revealed that it owed non-preferential creditors £3.5 million when it entered liquidation. This included £1.25 million owed to trade and expense creditors, £1.6 million to HMRC and £43,798 to employees.

Individual creditors owed money by WQL include the Environment Agency (£591,993) and Newcastle Borough Council (£132,097). But WQL only had £254,156 of assets left after owed taxes and employee arrears were subtracted, leaving a 'deficiency' of £3.2 million.

Other documents on Companies House show that the liquidators have 'disclaimed' ownership of the landfill site itself, which they can do in the case of 'onerous property'. Two environmental permits relating to the landfill have also been disclaimed, meaning they are no longer in effect.

According to the statement of affairs, the land has a book value of £1.9 million, but it is 'uncertain' how much of this can be realised. Most of the estimated £502,488 the company had in available assets was in the form of cash in the bank.

WQL was required to carry out capping and install gas infrastructure under the terms of its closure notice, and most of this work was completed prior to the company's collapse. But how the restoration and aftercare of the site will be funded is now unclear - local politicians and campaigners have insisted that taxpayers should not be asked to foot the bill.

The Environment Agency has said that it will soon be arranging for specialist contractors to carry out further work at the landfill.

✦ **ASAFER PLACE** - A Public Space Protection Order, launched in January 2023, is one of the tools being used by the council and its partners to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in Newcastle town centre. Community safety campaigns are having a significant impact in Newcastle town centre for the benefit of residents, shoppers, visitors and businesses.

A strong and collaborative approach to delivering targeted initiatives – overseen by Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough

Council via the Newcastle Community Safety Partnership – is continuing to yield positive results, with latest data showing a trend of reducing incidences across all types of crime and anti-social behaviour when compared to 2023/24.

During the past 12 months –

- Reported crime has reduced by 11.1 per cent.
- Anti-social behaviour has fallen for a second time, by an additional 8.2 per cent.
- The number of CCTV cameras in and around the town centre has increased.
- The borough-wide Civic Pride initiative launched with a week of action in the town centre. It's a response to feedback from residents and captures a lot of the work that already goes on under a unified #PrideInNUL badge.
- Community and business engagement has received a boost.
- Partnership working, and co-ordination of intelligence and resources, has improved.

The late night safe space at Lancaster Building, street medics, community wardens, the use of injunction powers and a comprehensive CCTV system – also covering subway routes – are just some of the measures employed by the council, Staffordshire Police and its partners to address safety priorities in the town centre.

In addition to standard patrols, and monthly safety drop-ins at Lancaster Building, further interventions include the safer nights scheme – where police officers carry out various checks with licensed premises and taxis at weekends – and active enforcement of the Public Space Protection Order, launched in January 2023, which prohibits a range of negative and unwanted behaviour. Out of 50 Community Protection Warnings and 21 Community Protection Notices given to troublemakers across the borough – targeting anti-social behaviour – more than half were issued in the centre.

✦ **FOR SALE** - The Poundland company has been put up for sale due to tighter customer budgets and high business rates. Homebase is closed but still up for sale.

✦ **STAYING?** - The Boots chain has been sold to a finance company, which is reviewing the entire company.

✦ **MORE?** - Planning permission is being sort to change part of the Roebuck centre into 4 units of student accommodation.

✦ **NO DOGS** - The Trentham Garden centre is banning all dogs from going inside in the next few months.

SAVE OUR BOROUGH

Newcastle-under-Lyme

Conservative leader writes ...

Labour have launched a controversial plan that could see Newcastle Borough merge with Stoke-on-Trent in a bid to create a new super council. In practice, this likely means a takeover by the City of Stoke-on-Trent without any consultation of local residents.

This is despite continued bankruptcy fears in Stoke, where the Government had to intervene with a £42.2

million bailout package last year to stop Stoke going bankrupt.

A merger would leave Newcastle Borough residents on the hook for future costs and would place the unique history, identity and heritage of our Borough at risk.

**If you wish to support this cause -
The petition is available to sign at**

www.saveourborough.uk

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	Termtime only	Information / Contact
Sunday	St.Giles/St.Thomas's Services are listed on the back page of this issue			
Sunday	10.30am	Shine, Junior activities & Youth Club		Jean Buckley 0799 9542229
Monday	6.00pm - 9.00pm	Rainbows & Guides	✓	Trudy Reale (01782) 442154
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 07979 715166
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 - 1.00pm	Open Church		Rev Josh Penduck (01782) 617498
Friday	Mini-Market Fortnightly only	St.Giles Coffee Shop		Gillian Elks 07591 055287 / Chris Taylor
Friday		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		

Any Saturday/Extra events and services are listed on the back page of this issue.

Life Events at St.Giles Church

Christenings



Whether you want to bring your child to be christened, or would like to be baptised/christened yourself, St Giles' would love to be part of your happy day. Christenings are a special, joyful and exciting part of every family's life. It's a time in which we get to celebrate the arrival of a new life, join with family and friends, and maybe even have a party! They are also deeply spiritual moments, in which a child is named before God, and made a member of God's Church in baptism (the sprinkling of water). It begins a life-long journey of faith, in which we come to know God and his love for us in Jesus more fully day by day. In a christening, we will pray for your child, for you, and your godparents, that you may all know God's presence in your life.

Weddings



St Giles's is a popular destination for weddings in Newcastle. Whether it be the stunning setting, the friendly and welcoming service, the great shots for photographs, or the friendly and helpful staff, we hope to make that special day just a little bit more 'special'. We can offer you:

- A beautiful, heated church, surrounded by picturesque settings outside
- An open and flexible approach to making your dream wedding come true
- Some excellent spots for photographs
- A resident organist of excellent quality
- An inside, disabled friendly toilet (with baby changing facilities)
- Ministers and staff who can walk you through the process step by step

Funerals



At St Giles' we know that funerals are a very important time in people's lives. Making sure they are right is as important for us as it is for you. At St Giles', we will do our utmost to support you in what can be a difficult period, especially in being a guiding hand to help you to make the best decisions for the service. We are flexible and generous in what you want for the funeral, and our services are always marked with the 'personal touch'. It is important for us that your loved ones funeral reflects who your loved one was. Our aim is to be sensitive, professional, and pastoral. You don't have to have been a church-goer to have a church funeral service with the Church of England: all are welcome.



Sorry, the Ministry Team are 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 talk to someone via phone, you can easily call me, Rev Josh Penduck, 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 (**NEW NUMBER: 0784 3567345**). If you would prefer an email, email me at revpenduck@gmail.com or the 'Care and Concern' email at careconcern.stgilesnewcastle@gmail.com.

For Further Help & Information - Please contact

Parish Administrator: Mrs. P. Richards
Email: office.stgilesnewcastle@gmail.com
or phone: 07592 035386

Rector: Rev Joshua Penduck
Phone: 07795 594612
Or 01782 617498

April Calendars

2nd Wednesday 1.10 pm Oasis Holy Communion
2.00 pm Fellowship. Talk by Co-op Bank
Tax Care and Toy Boys

3rd Thursday 1.30pm Barry Panter Memorial Service
7.30 pm Lent Course in the Hall

4th Friday 9.00am-1.00pm Coffee/lunches/Mini Market

6th PASSION SUNDAY 5TH OF LENT

10.30 am Holy Communion
Followed by a meeting for those going to Walsingham

7th Monday 9.30 am Morning Prayer
2.00 pm Hempstalls Hall

9th Wednesday 1.10 pm Oasis Holy Communion
2.00 pm GLOW

10th Thursday 7.30 pm Lent Course in the Hall

11th Friday 9.30 am Morning Prayer
9.00 am - 1.00 pm Coffee and lunches

12th Saturday 10.30 am - 2.30 pm Craft Fair
Stalls, refreshments, free admission.

13th PALM SUNDAY

10.30 am All Age Worship
with Palm Crosses and Procession

15th Tuesday Closing date for Parish News items

16th Wednesday 1.10 pm Oasis Holy Communion

17th MAUNDY THURSDAY

1.10 pm Oasis Holy Communion for Maundy Thursday
7.30 pm Maundy Thursday Holy Communion

18th GOOD FRIDAY

NO COFFEE BAR or LUNCHES
10.00 am to 12 noon Messy Church
12 noon Ecumenical Service at the Market Cross
2.00 pm The Last Hour. Reflections on the Cross

20th EASTER DAY

Dawn Service at Bunny Hill
8.00 am Holy Communion celebrating Easter Day
10.30 am Easter All Age and Holy Communion

23rd Wednesday 1.10 pm Oasis Holy Communion

25th Friday 9.00 am to 1.00 pm
Coffee/Lunches and Mini-Market

27th SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.00 am Holy Communion
10.30 am Holy Communion
3.00 pm St George's Day Parade
and Service

28th Monday 2.00 pm Service at Rowan Court

30th Wednesday
1.10 pm Oasis Holy Communion

Diary Date

May 4th

VE Day Special Service

St. Thomas Butterton

6th FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

10.30 am Holy Communion
Followed by interment of David
Cawthorn's Ashes



20th EASTER DAY

10.30 am Holy Communion

Take-A-Break Answers

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

MAY ISSUE CLOSING DATE:-

TUESDAY 15TH APRIL

ALL ITEMS TO:- PITSTOWM@AOL.COM

Continued...