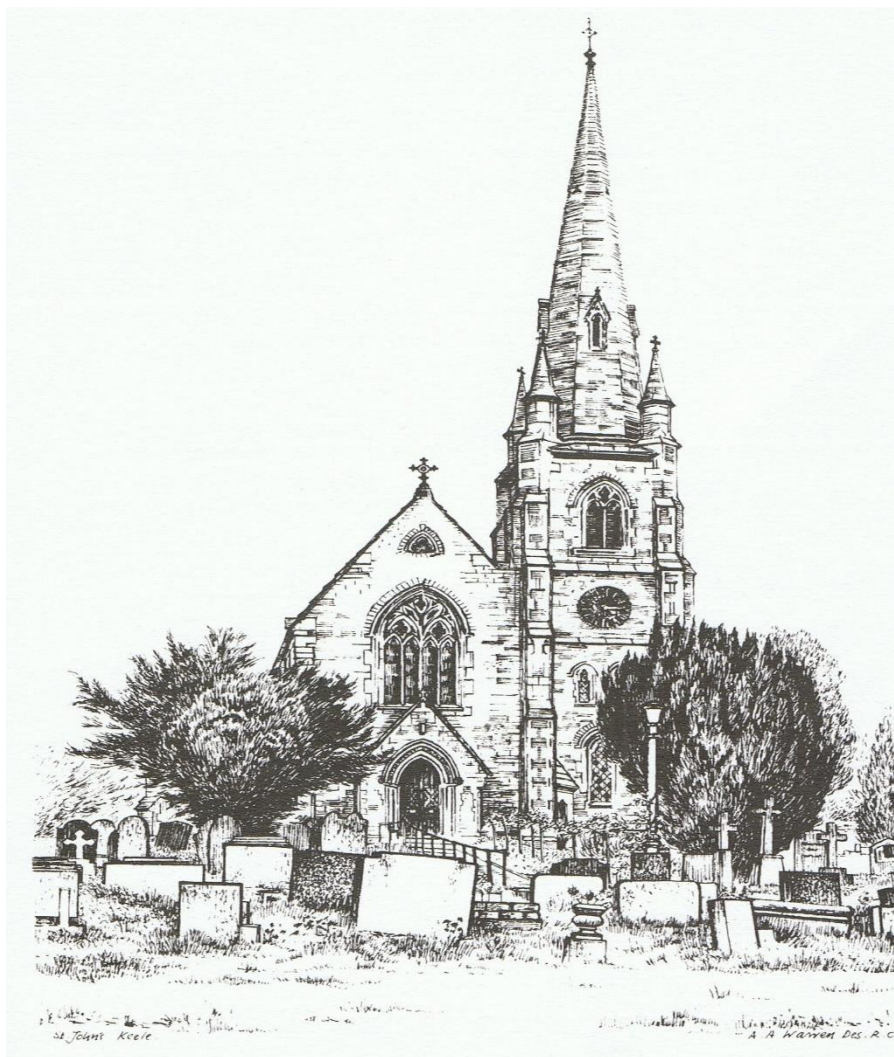


# PARISH MAGAZINE



## St. John the Baptist Church Keele

August 2019

50p

# **Worship at St John's August - September**

## **August**

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Seventh Sunday after Trinity	11.15am Sung Eucharist
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Eighth Sunday after Trinity	8.00am Said Eucharist 11.15am Sung Eucharist
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Ninth Sunday after Trinity	11.15am Sung Eucharist
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Tenth Sunday after Trinity	11.15 am Sung Eucharist

## **September**

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Eleventh Sunday after Trinity	11.15am Sung Eucharist
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Twelfth Sunday after Trinity	8.00am Said Eucharist 11.15am Sung Eucharist
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity	11.15am Sung Eucharist
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity	11.15am Sung Eucharist
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Michael and All Angels	11.15am Sung Eucharist

**The Eucharist is celebrated at St Luke's Church, Silverdale  
Sundays at 9.45am and Wednesdays at 4pm**

# From the Vicar's Desk

## *The Vicar writes ...*

Time, philosophers and physicists tell us, is something of an artificial construct – our magazine editor is very patient, but my contribution to this magazine is *late*, whatever philosophers and physicists will say. Time is also important for our Leavers at St John's School. As I write, the Leavers' Service to be held at the Parish Church is very much in prospect, and our school has been working very hard at perfecting what will be offered there. So, in a couple of days, Year 6 pupils will give their last and glittering best before the end of their primary phase of education. In September, their life of learning will be continued elsewhere. Each School year has its own collective and individual characters and characteristics: spend long enough with a School, and you quickly come to be fascinated as you watch them 'become themselves' – and deeply thankful for the privilege. Any sort of association with youngsters will bring home to adults just how fleeting life is, and how terribly important it is to know the time ... even philosophers and physicists mustn't be late!

The rhythms of life are a constant reminder of the urgency of seizing the moment and making the best of it. There's no need to be joyless and anxious about this, neither is there any call for packing as much into our day as (im)possible. Making the most of the time, taking hold of life, will include experiences of rest, leisure, pleasure; of doing nothing, and must even allow space to accommodate that modern fear: boredom. But what we mustn't do is to allow life to slip past us; and we can do that as much by cramming our lives full of activities as we can by idleness. Our making the most of time seems to come to our making the most of life; and our making the most of life is a delicate balance. An important part of maintaining balance will be gratitude, and gratitude begins with the sense that what we have we're given. Gratitude will be the antidote to our tending to take things for granted.

Fr Peter Jones

# The Bishop's Pastoral Letter

## Open and active

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### *Bishop Geoff challenges us: are we fit for purpose?*

In my last Pastoral Letter in April, I expressed the hope that Brexit would have gone smoothly and everything would be wonderful!

Things have not gone as many hoped and frankly you do not need me to tell you what a mess our Nation seems to be grappling with. Please continue to pray for all our MPs and especially whoever happens to be Prime Minister by the time you read this. Pray too for the healing of divisions within our (far from) United Kingdom, between young and old and between friends and within families (including the Family of the Church). Prayer works where so much else fails.

Someone once wrote that ‘Society at its worst needs the Church at its best’ and while so much attention is necessarily focused on our relationship with Europe and post Brexit trade, there is a real need for us as the Church to keep reminding those who are elected to govern this country that there are also many pressing domestic issues that need their attention – housing; education; health and well-being; effects of climate change; challenges facing our agricultural sector and rural communities etc etc – I am sure you can add to the list!

I firmly believe that we have to offer a voice to the voice-less and through our daily living out of our faith come alongside those who are struggling in the cities, towns and villages of our Diocese of Lichfield.

Our ‘mandate’ comes not from the electorate but from Jesus Christ – his own example and his command that we should care for one another expressed so directly in Matthew 25:31ff. We have to ask ourselves if we are a ‘sheep’ or a ‘goat’ – we know what we should be doing and we have enough Saints to remind us that through the Grace of God and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit our Lord’s will can be done. But we also have to ask ourselves the hard question: ‘Are *we* fit for purpose?’

The Prayer of Intercession in the Book of Common Prayer Communion Service urges us to ‘pray for the whole state of Christ’s Church militant here in earth’. The ‘militant’ Church is the visible earthly Church as opposed to the Church ‘triumphant’ that is invisible in Heaven. On earth the Church is militant in that it daily battles with the powers of darkness – in Heaven it is triumphant because it has overcome those powers of darkness.

**We** are the Christian Church on earth and we must be prepared to make our concern for all people visible by our militancy. There is no point ‘talking the talk’ unless we are prepared to ‘walk the walk’!

There are so many good examples within our Diocese where this is already happening and through its social concern the Church is militant. But there is so much more that we could be doing to serve our local Communities. I have always thought that the House of Bread in Stafford offers an amazing template for what more of us could be doing. The doors are open to all and the welcome is truly inclusive and hospitable. Refreshments are readily available but more importantly people are there to listen and to talk with one another in a friendly and non-judgemental manner. Prayer and Bible study are offered in an unfussy way alongside practical help with people’s immediate needs (usually about finding somewhere to sleep) and there is a willingness to come alongside people and help them in their dealings with the various authorities.

It is no wonder that The House of Bread has been honoured with The Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service but itself is honouring God through the ministry that it is offering. If your Church is at present closed for most of the week how about asking what you might be able to do to make it more militant in your own community – and bring your Church and your own faith alive!

Every blessing,

*+Geoff*

# From the Church Wardens

Dear Friends,

I didn't experience any rain on St Swithuns day and I am wondering if the resultant heat wave is a result of that! It therefore seems strange to be talking about the effect of rain on the day when the UK is set to experience its hottest day on record, but we have experienced the full range of weather over the last few weeks! Unfortunately when certain weather conditions prevail, strong winds and heavy rain, water is getting into the roof of the church near the Lady Chapel, very close to where we had the fall of plaster some two years ago. We are wondering if when there are strong winds and rain that it is getting under the leading edge of the tiles, however it is getting in we are going to have to get someone in to investigate and see if they can identify the problem and fix it. Even the small amount that is actually getting in cannot be left untreated and that would simply be allowing it to cause damage to the ceiling and create further problems in a few years' time. As always we will let you know how we get on.

We, more so the Vicar and Mr Robin Studd in this case, have been working hard to get a faculty approval to have the "Templar Window" removed and repaired. This will be a significant undertaking but it is vital to preserve the window and ensure its continued survival.

Once the summer breaks are over we look forward to seeing you all in church and at the Autumn Fair at the end of September

"Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory" Psalm 115, King James Version

Kindest Regards

Diane & Nigel

# The Belfry Bat

I made significant progress with my rehabilitation on June 19<sup>th</sup>, when I rang a quarter peal in the garage with the Wednesday ringers. They had come to attempt a peal, but didn't manage to get to the end, leaving plenty of time for a shorter performance. My feet ached at the end, but my hips were fine, and I decided to push even further by going to the practice at St John's in the evening. I managed the staircase surprisingly well, and although I didn't ring very much I made a difference and we had a good practice.

On the following day we re-started ringing lessons for the two eight-year-olds, and it was pleasing that in spite of a five-week gap they were able to pick up where they had left off with no loss of continuity. On Saturday Ro discovered a newt in a roll of turf, which became the first vertebrate to inhabit our pond. It was still there two days later.

I went ringing at St John's for the patronal festival. Steve and Pauline were back, making seven, and we were pleased with the ringing. On Wednesday there were nine at the practice, including three regular visitors.

Friday June 27<sup>th</sup> was a landmark day – I drove the car for the first time in over seven weeks. There were several absentees on Sunday June 30<sup>th</sup> but we rang five quite well. This was the first time in almost two months that I had driven to ringing. It was rags to riches on Wednesday July 3<sup>rd</sup>, with thirteen at the practice, including our friend Matthew Higby, a professional bellhanger from Somerset who stays with us when he has work in this area. Earlier in the day I had rung my first full peal in eight weeks. Not on big bells, but still a satisfying achievement, which left me tired but otherwise undamaged. The success of the peal had depended on Matthew spending the previous evening doing the basic maintenance I had been unable to manage for the last three months. There were a lot of loose and missing nuts, and we almost certainly wouldn't have got to the end of the peal without his help. The reason for his visit was that he had supplied three bells to be used in the *Bells for Peace* component of the Manchester Festival.

There was another first on Friday – my first visit to the Checkley practice for a long time. It was good to ring with them again, and to be able to thank them for the get-well gift I received soon after coming out of hospital – a pair of braces, which I wore, and a bottle of scotch. On Saturday we went to Angela and Robin’s garden party, and were relieved not to win the dog. It’s a very impressive garden, and makes me realise that ours is still very much work in progress, although I sometimes think we could open it as a wild garden. Pauline and Amy were away on Sunday, which left seven regulars - strength in depth!

The same seven regulars were at the practice on July 10<sup>th</sup>, plus one regular visitor and another from Shropshire who has rung with us once before when family visiting. We had a very good practice. A slightly different seven were present on Sunday, and we again rang pretty well. The rest of the day was taken up with exciting sport on television – at one point I didn’t know which channel to watch.

Phil Gay







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## How did your churchyard grow?

Since the 1940s over 97% of flower-rich grassland, that was once widespread in the countryside, has vanished. The beautiful ancient grassland found in a churchyard is a relic of that once common meadow and the community of meadow plants, fungi and creatures is very special.

By August any areas of grass that were left to flower in the summer should have been cut and raked off. Since the flowers we are looking to encourage are perennials, we do not need to wait until they all set seed and the grassland should be cut whilst still green and vigorous. If left uncut for too long the grass dies back which looks unsightly and also allows nutrients to go into the roots, increasing fertility and encouraging lush grass growth next year (at the expense of more delicate flowers and finer grasses). Wildflowers thrive in low fertility soil so removing nutrient-rich cuttings is vital.

A good trick to reduce grass growth is to introduce the wildflower Yellow Rattle which is partly parasitic, drawing nutrients from grasses. This is the time of year to purchase seed which needs to be sown before the winter. Please have a look at 'News and Blog' on our website for more information about Yellow Rattle. This wildflower will assist you in managing for wildflowers, looks pretty and may also save you cutting costs!

All the best

Harriet Carty,

*Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor, [harriet@cpga.org.uk](mailto:harriet@cpga.org.uk)*

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# W.I. Report

Such was the content of the presentation by Kath Reynolds on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July that an onlooker might have marvelled at the colour changes in the complexion of our group of sixteen. With no exaggeration these altered from puce to ashen to green over the evening....and this talk was a reminiscence of ‘the happiest days of our lives’! The focus was mainly on primary education in the late thirties, forties and early fifties and the transition to secondary school. Schools were often sparsely furnished with unpolished floorboards and green walls. Coats and pump bags were hung on numbered hooks with a narrow bench where outdoor shoes were stored and many of us could smell that damp musty odour and feel their chill. Most of us wore a school uniform but even the few of us who were spared this nearly all wore a pinafore over a blouse or jumper, and under this on those cold wintry days, was the liberty bodice with its rubber buttons and unyielding texture. Navy knickers with elastic to keep them above the knee and a pocket for your dinner money or perhaps a hankie completed the outfit. We recalled being sent out to play at break time, whatever the weather, then lining up behind your form captain in size order to parade, “no running”, back into class. The morning break of course was preceded by MILK; a third of a pint, freezing cold in winter, often frozen at the top so that the silver top had been forced off, and drunk through a straw just half an inch longer than the bottle! The thought of this to several was of nausea, hence the green complexion, as you could not go out to play until your bottle was empty and the milk monitors then put the crate outside the back door. Possibly the most sickening thought was of the tepid milk in summer, having been delivered at 4am and left in the sun and already beginning to taste ‘off’.

Although most of us remembered being told off, usually for talking, we reminisced about the types of punishment meted out, such as a tap on the knuckles with a ruler [surprisingly painful] or being sent to sit at the front, or red faces for those who recalled being sent to sit outside the head teacher’s office for throwing paper pellets when the class teacher was writing on the chalkboard. Boys were often more severely punished and someone remembered a teacher who had a large hook on the door and would occasionally suspend a culprit by his jacket collar.

Once the skill of 'joined-up' writing was attained the you could use a dip pen and ink and one of the best tasks was to be Ink Monitor, which meant you mixed water with the powdered ink.....the unforgettable smell filled the hall as we thought about it..... and filled up the ink wells. Although the ink was quite pale on the paper, fingers remained blue for days! The best monitor task was the pencil monitor and being responsible for sharpening all those splintery, broken leaded pencils by turning the handle of the little gadget screwed to the teacher's desk.

We covered many other aspects of school, such as rest hour, reading schemes, reciting tables, lumpy mashed potatoes and slimy tapioca but overall we had many happy memories and certainly the village hall was full of laughter for much of the evening.

Please feel free to join us at our next meeting on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August when we shall hear about the founding and current work of the Alice Charity here in Newcastle.

Angela Studd



# The Garden Guild

Phil Colclough's superb photos of Beautiful Britain accompanied by entirely appropriate music- here was a feast for the eyes and ears, very relaxing, very enjoyable'

"In a summer garden" featured Melbourne Hall gardens and Stoneyford Cottage, nr Northwich- a kaleidoscope of colour: roses, heleniums, sweet william, foxglove, and rarities like meadow rue, plume thistle and brunnera, and another rarity these days, a butterfly, a comma butterfly.

Music: Debussy's Claire de Lune and Watermark by Enya.

"Springtime Floral Miscellany" Most notable was the Japanese garden and the sculptures at Mount Pleasant gardens, Kelsall. Was the theme Easter or Ben Hur? Dark angels, dogs, chariot and horses, a nailed wooden hand. the music Loving Touch by Deuter.

"Village, Dale, Lake and Vale" How many times did you say, "I've been there!" Plockton and Loch Carron, Arundel, West Sussex, Warmington, Warwickshire, Bosham, West Sussex, the Black Mountains, the Lincolnshire Wolds, Windermere and the Langdales, the cathedral and Vicar's Close, Wells (memories!), Cavendish, Suffolk, Nunney, Somerset, Buckland, Cotswolds, Long Mynd, Cannock Chase, Roaches, Ullswater, Loch Ken, Dumfries, , Boots Folly, Askrigg, Castle Bolton, Durham cathedral (memories!), Coniston, Ilam church and Bunster Hill (we ran down it!), Pooley Bridge (flooded), Tissington, the Winking Man (saw him in a cloudburst yesterday!), Peveril Castle, Heague windmill, , Loch Coyne, the Nevis range, Hartshill church (it's coming home!), Glutton bridge, Stanage edge. Music: Walking in heaven- Pablo Arrentello.

"Autumn Splendour". Noting can rival the colours of autumn and for this we had the saddest of all music, Barber's Adagio. A wizened fallen fragment of a tree against a background of vivid colour. Mortality - so all things come to an end.

Then we cheered up with "Funny Peculiar" Some photos Phil had taken over the years which made him smile! the stocks in Oakham, for five legs?, pub signs: The Who'd a Thoat It, The Bucket of Blood, a house obscured by a huge hedge- room without a view?, the vampire hare and The Knockin shop, the smallest village name in the land-Ae, is his name Maurice Dance? (picture of a Morris dancer), A couple sitting apart on a shingly beach - Stoney Silence? A church clock inscribed thus: time flies, mind your business, platform 9 3/4 at

King's Cross - gone to Hogwarts? the pied piper of Wells - love the shoes! telephone kiosk full of fish - I've a fish on the line!, Some odd place names - Crackpot, Nasty, Wasp's Nest. Two men inside a 1500 tree - Yew and us. More funny signposts - Ham 1, Sandwich 3. and finally a nesting box- Bra Cottages, Tits Only.

Our next meeting is on August 12<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm, Speaker - Kevin Reynolds  
Subject - Love and War

Peter Hough



## Dates for your Diary

**Open Church** The Church continues to be open to visitors on every Wednesday and Saturday afternoon from 2pm to 5pm until mid-September.

## Advance Notices

**Autumn Fayre** - Saturday September 14<sup>th</sup> 2pm to 4pm in Keele Village Hall  
**Harvest Supper** – Friday October 4<sup>th</sup> 6.30 for 7pm in Keele Village Hall  
**Keele PCC meets** – Tuesday October 8<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm in St John's School

# Church Officers

Clergy	Rev. Peter Jones The Vicarage, 21 Pepper Street, Silverdale ST5 6QJ Email tadjones@btinternet.com	01782 624455 (Day off Friday)
Church Wardens	Nigel Bostock Email nbbmjb@hotmail.com Diane Vogler	01782 663035 07702 361646
Asst Church Wardens	Watson Fuller Angela Studd Email astudd@btinternet.com Janet Thornhill	01782 627220 01782 626372 01782 618290
Organist& Choirmaster	Freddie Clitheroe	01782 750387
PCC Treasurer	Steve Mellor	
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Gift Aid Secretary	Kevin Chawner	01782 644283
Deanery Synod Reps	Angela Studd Diane Vogler	01782 626372 01782 632977
Magazine Editor	Diane Vogler Email dianevogler@yahoo.co.uk	01782 632977 07702 361646

**NB Articles for the magazine should be sent to the editor by the 12th of the preceding month.**

