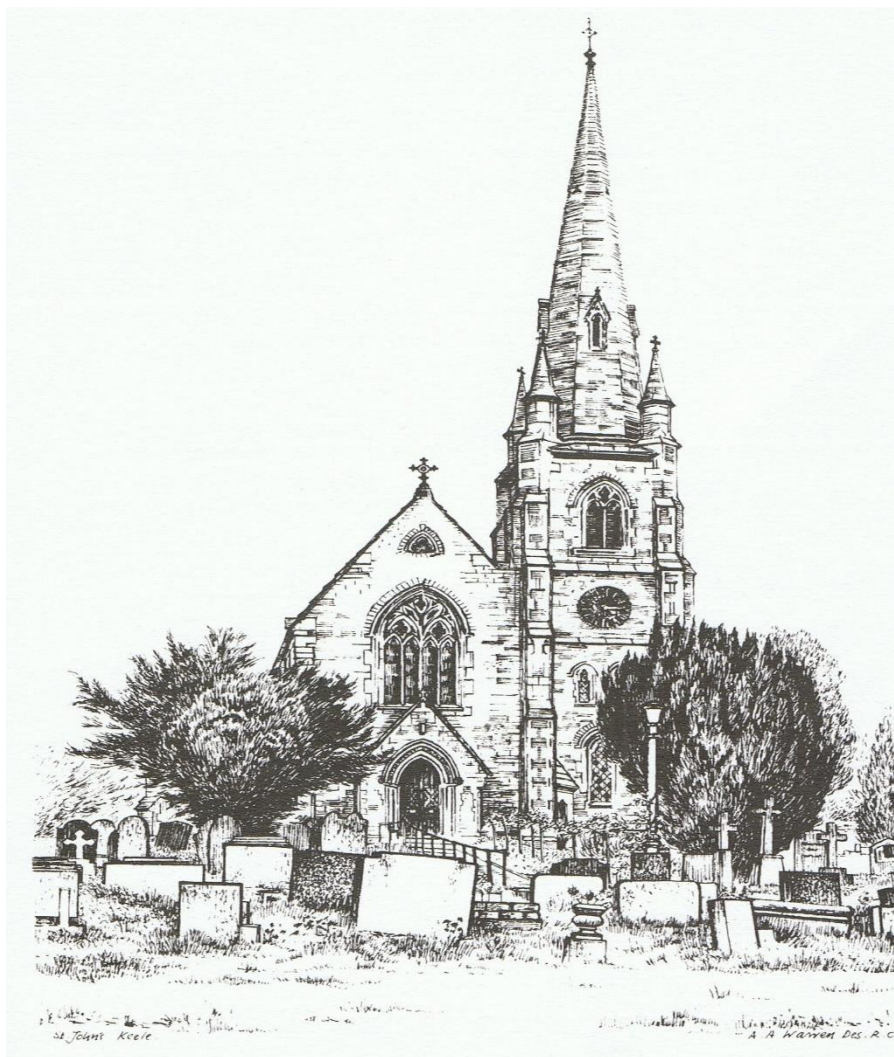


PARISH MAGAZINE



**St. John the Baptist Church
Keele**

September 2019

50p

Worship at St John's September - October

September

Sunday 1 st	Eleventh Sunday after Trinity	11.15am Sung Eucharist
Sunday 8 th	Twelfth Sunday after Trinity	8.00am Said Eucharist 11.15am Sung Eucharist
Sunday 15 th	Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity	11.15am Sung Eucharist
Sunday 22 nd	Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity	11.15am Sung Eucharist
Sunday 29 th	Harvest Thanksgiving Service	11.15am Sung Eucharist

October

Sunday 6 th	Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity	11.15am Sung Eucharist
Sunday 13 th	Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Said Eucharist 11.15am Sung Eucharist
Sunday 20 th	St Luke's Patronal Festival Joint service for both churches at Silverdale	10.00am Sung Eucharist
Sunday 27 th	Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity Act of Thanksgiving for the Departed (Clocks go back one hour)	11.15am Sung Eucharist 4.00pm at St John's

**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 ...

‘Carpe diem’ – The Chancellor of the institution at which I once worked used to expand upon this well-known Latin tag at each and every Graduation Congregation. Two or three times each day for just under a fortnight, boiling under the heat of spot-lights and encased in *sub fusc* and colourful shot-silks, we would listen (or not listen) to him spin out 25 mins of improving reflections for our graduands. ‘Carpe diem’ was the bit of Latin he’d muse upon before throwing in something wise from Piaget and (of all people!) Gladstone.

‘Carpe diem’, he’d tell us/them, is Latin for ‘seize the day’, and what we must do (he’d urge us, in Vicar-fashion – not that he was!) is make good use of every opportunity that comes our Away. Etc. For some reason, he’d end this little party-piece on ‘Carpe diem’ with a bit of a joke (at which no-one was ever known to laugh): You might think that, now you’re ‘BA’ you know it all; but there are other letters after ‘A’ and ‘B’. (half-way through one very hot and gruelling graduation season, I very bravely, or foolishly, told him that this must be one of his better ones.)

‘Carpe diem’ – but it doesn’t quite mean that: it doesn’t quite mean ‘seize the day’, as generations of school kids have been taught. ‘Carpe diem’. The phrase is to found in the *Odes* of the poet known to us English-speakers as Horace. The word (‘carpe’) comes to us from the (Latin) world of farming – more specifically, horticulture – and is rather a common-or-garden word meaning ‘pluck’, as in ‘pluck a flower’. Horace wants the readers of his poetry to take life’s opportunities by the throat and squeeze out of them whatever we can – ‘carpe’ carries with it that kind of exploitative tone – so maybe ‘seize’ is a forgivable rendering.

Whether we have or are about to move into a new phase of education or employment, or whether we’re no longer in either, there is no need for us to feel exempt from Horace’s homely advice: opportunities are scattered all around us; ours for the plucking. All we need do is ... just notice them.

Fr Peter Jones

The Bishop's Pastoral Letter

Eco -residents

Three words to put our house in order

Where were you at 21.17 (British Summer Time) on 20th July 1969? Like almost everybody my age or even older, I was glued to a television set, watching very blurry images of Apollo 11's lunar module touch down on the moon – followed a few hours later by the first human moon walk. And where was I at 21.17 on 20th July this year? I was in Lichfield Cathedral, for a celebration of the Eucharist beginning exactly 50 years to the day, hour and minute after that momentous event. We used Eucharistic Prayer C from the American Book of Common Prayer: At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home. Those words, written ten years after the moon landing, express powerfully both the vastly enlarged horizons which space exploration has opened to us, and at the same time the focus it shines on our own small planet, 'our island home'. Viewed from beyond, our earth looks both very beautiful and very vulnerable.

The recognition that together we need to care for this home of ours is an ancient one, as can see from three related 'eco' words, all of them from the Greek *oikos*, 'a house'. First is *eco-nomics*, literally the way in which a household is to be ordered. In Christian tradition, the 'Divine Economy' means in the first place the Incarnation, the coming among us of God as the man Jesus of Nazareth to recast and renew our relations with one another. In everyday terms, that momentous event of economy means that we have to look for right dealings, fairness and justice among us, and a sustainable use of our resources.

Then there is the word *ecu-menical*. In its deepest sense, this is not just about relations between different denominations of the church; it refers to all who dwell within our own home – that is, all the citizens of earth. The future of our planet belongs to us all, and it can only be saved by all of us together: as members of a worldwide communion, we Christians should of all people know that being part of a wider belonging is the only way to bring change in our divided world.

And third, of course, there is eco-logy. We have come to see, as never before, how fragile our world is, how precarious its survival, how great the responsibility laid on us to care for this, the home God has given into our stewardship. On 20th September this month, led by young people around the world, there will be a great day of mobilisation of Christians, people of other faiths, and all of good will to raise awareness of the challenges facing us, and the urgency of collective action to change our collective behaviour. Bishop Clive writes elsewhere in this Spotlight about some of the practical ways in which we can join together on 20th September, and as we do that we need to hold to the big picture. Ecological mobilisation, ecumenical partnership and economic justice go together as we commit to the future of 'this fragile earth, our island home', which God loved so much that he gave his only Son for its life.

+Michael



From the Church Wardens

Dear Friends,

I am starting to think that this is a weather report rather than a warden's report as I am always having to refer to the weather! We have had a contractor come out to look at the roof of the church, most especially the southern facing part. They, from an initial inspection, think the roof is sound but have noticed the discolouring to and the way that the water is running down the flashing from the down pipes. Needless to say it was raining when we went up there, so much for the myth of St Swithuns Day!

As there was nothing immediately noticeable to be the cause of the leak they are intending to return to make a more detailed inspection. If like me, that is until I became warden, you have no idea what a "Flashing" is, it is the lead (or other impervious material) that seals a joint, in this case a roof, where water runs off, is concentrated.

We are very grateful to Andy Topham for cutting back the tree branches that were causing concern near the top of the churchyard. We are also going to look at cutting back the Yew to the left hand side of the Lychgate as you walk up to church, as that is now encroaching on to the Lychgate. At the same time we will trim the Holly bush immediately in front of the gate.

Both of us look forward to see you at one of the events that the church has planned for the autumn.

"Then Abram moved his tent and came and dwelt by the oaks of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and there he built an altar to the LORD." Genesis 13:18

Kindest Regards

Diane & Nigel

The Belfry Bat

At the beginning of May, knowing that I was about to have a prolonged period of leisure, I decided to read all of the Peter Robinson DCI Banks books in the right order. I had read them all before, but not in order. But there is quite a lot of cross-referencing and referral back, so the right order makes a difference. Then when my sister visited in June, she lent us a complete set of Morse novels, which I am now reading, again in the right order. All very appropriate for a ringer, as the right order is equally important when ringing.

A couple of years ago I made a list of all of the jobs I needed to do, many of which are still undone. But we are making progress, and I have just restarted another one, which is the assembly of a garden seat. Several years ago I bought on Newcastle Tuesday market a pair of Victorian cast-iron seat ends, and quickly made a start on using them. Oak slats were purchased and planed to size, but then I did no more until now. The renewed interest is based partly on having somewhere to put the seat, as we have recently made a platform in the orchard overlooking the pond.

We had a good practice on July 17th. There were seven of our own band and two regular visitors, and we were able to ring something near their frontier for everyone. This being the final week of the school term, Amy Robson was with us for the last time for several weeks. Keele student Tom Boulton learned to ring at Stoke but now comes to our practice regularly, and I hope he may soon ring with us on Sundays. Earlier in the day our car suffered a clutch failure on the way back (fortunately) from my hospital appointment at Stafford, and we were towed from Sandon to the Haynes garage at Silverdale by a very helpful AA patrolman. It's a while since I steered a car while being towed, and it was quite exciting – he said he would go steadily, but most of the time we were doing over forty.

On July 21st Tom Boulton did his first Sunday ringing with us, and we are looking forward to his ringing with us for at least another couple of years. He made nine at morning ringing, all from our own band. On the following day I finished the garden seat, and it was used that evening when we hosted a garden meditation for members of the Chapel.

There were eight at the practice on July 24th, including visitor Milica Reardon, who was ringing for the first time since injuring her shoulder eleven months ago. Ringing was restricted by the behaviour of the tenor, the clapper of which is affected by hot weather and wasn't working properly. On Friday we rectified the problem with help from Graham of Butters Engineers, and on Saturday the wedding ringing was the best we have done for some time, appropriately by a band consisting of three married couples. Seven of our band delivered some good ringing on Sunday morning, and when we got home we discovered that our pond overfloweth.

The final few days of July were pretty busy. On Tuesday and Thursday we were visited by a touring peal band to attempt peals in the garage. They had originally planned to base the week at Keele, using university accommodation, but in the end they decided to stay at the Stone House Hotel which could offer double rooms. Tuesday's peal attempt was unsuccessful, but the visitors acquitted themselves well on unfamiliar bells. One of the visitors had the same surname as my maternal grandmother, and I asked her if she had done any family research. It turned out that we both have an ancestor who was sent to Australia in the nineteenth century, but whether it was the same person is not yet clear.

We didn't have enough for our usual Wednesday peal attempt, but we did ring. A regular member of our band, Michael Wilshaw, had serious heart surgery a couple of months ago and has not been ringing since. But he has now been signed off by the surgeon, so we were able to do some gentle ringing, in fact a quarter peal, to get him back on board. He was entirely comfortable and declared himself fit for a full peal next week. On Wednesday evening there were seven of our own band and two visitors, and we had a good practice.

Thursday's visitors also failed to ring a peal – one ringer had a handling mishap and lost control of his bell. On Friday evening I went to the end-of-week gathering of the visiting peal band. It was held at The Borehole, the pub belonging to the Limestone Brewery in Stone, which is on the site of the old Bent's brewery, a reminder of Stone's illustrious brewing past, both now revived, although in the case of Joules, not in Stone.

On Friday, while netting the pond to remove algae, Ro accidentally caught a baby newt - very pleasing! On the first Sunday in August there were eight of our band in the belfry, and we rang quite nicely. Our Parish Magazine arrived in the afternoon, and we were very interested by the article on wild flowers in churchyards, as it contained much information relevant to our attempt to establish a wild flower meadow in our orchard.

On Monday morning I finished the last of the Morse novels. But I am not without reading matter. On several occasions I have bought a book as a result of hearing bits of it read as the Radio Four book of the week, and a couple of weeks ago I bought *The Fens*, an account by archaeologist Francis Pryor of the history of the fens over the last 6000 years, much of it based on his own investigations.

We had our busiest practice for a long time on August 7th. It being the first week of the month, Denzil from Betley was with us, and by arrangement in advance four of the Butterton band, most of whom I hadn't seen since I helped teach them in May last year. With our regulars, even though some were missing, we had thirteen in total, which is a large number to organise. But we managed to do something for everyone – a good practice.

Phil Gay





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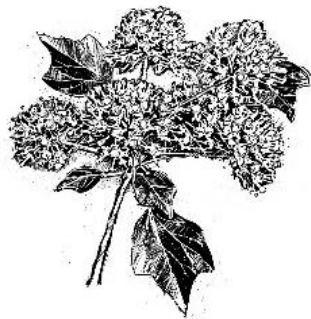
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Ivy, friend or foe?

Ivy comes into flower in early autumn and will be literally buzzing with bees. This late supply of nectar is a boon for species preparing for winter, while ivy berries provide a welcome winter food source. Dense ivy provides a great place for birds, mammals and invertebrates such as spiders and insects to shelter in bad weather. The Holly Blue butterfly has two caterpillar food plants, holly in spring and ivy at this time of year. No wonder this is the iconic churchyard butterfly! Ivy protects stonework, reducing erosion by weather and air pollution, whilst an ivy-covered wall may be being held up by it. So, think twice before waging war on ivy.

BUT...ivy can smother the slow-growing yew, constricting trunk and branches and competing for light. Lichens need sunny conditions and die beneath dense ivy. It pushes apart stones in complex monuments like chest tombs or crosses and within walls. So, ivy can be destructive as well as an asset.

I've concluded that there's a place for ivy but also places where it should be controlled or even removed. Always strip ivy from yews but leave it on other trees. If ivy is covering monuments, leave it unless you are recording or restoration them, but try and stop it growing over other stonework. Leave ivy on walls but try and clip it in late winter to stop it spreading further.

If in doubt, please contact Caring for God's Acre for advice.

All the best
Harriet Carty,

Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor, harriet@cfga.org.uk
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W.I. Report

The Alice Charity

It perhaps underlines the generally fortunate situation of W.I. members in Keele that before August this year, the majority of us had no idea of the existence or indeed the work of the Alice Charity in Newcastle.

With the arrival of Steph Talbot to speak to us at our most recent meeting, all this ignorance was swept away. True, at the request of our Programme organiser, Angela Studd, we had been invited to bring donations of items for use by new mothers and their babies, plus a selection of foods – which we did, so our speaker was able to take away with her a generous supply.

Stephanie Talbot began by briefly outlining her own “privileged” childhood and education in Newcastle-under-Lyme. But when her own family faced the difficulties of attracting appropriate care for a child, they realised just how much support and guidance was missing, even in our own relatively caring society. It was time for change.

So in 2011, Steph Talbot and her daughter Emily Petts co-founded the Alice Charity, supporting local children and families in times of crisis, their work began with the need to consider the needs of disadvantaged families, whatever form their problem takes. So we followed the list of the kinds of hardships faced by families, from lack of finance, loss of home, breakup of family, with all that ensues, such as depression, lack of confidence, domestic violence, alcoholism etc.

The particular gift of this organisation is the commitment to friendly contact. Those who call at the office at 27 Bridge Street, 11-1 p.m. Mondays to Fridays (01782 627017), are assured of guidance and support. This provides a centre for fellowship and the chance for children - and mothers – to relax, even play – in comfortable surroundings, with non-judgemental understanding.

“Supporting local children & families in times of crisis” is their slogan, and we are invited to help to transform our community. Interested? All kinds of help are welcome, great and small. Have a look at their most informative website: - www.alicecharity.com to find out more!

Peggy Chaplin

Our next meeting is on Monday 2nd September at 7.15pm in Keele Village Hall
when Pat Mood talks about **Picking Olives in Palestine**

All welcome

The Garden Guild

Kevin Reynolds "Love and War - how we created our garden birds"

"Four and twenty blackbirds baked in a pie". Our nursery rhymes are based on fact, not fiction.

Kevin showed how our attitude to birds has changed over the past 150 years. Take the house sparrow, originally a source of food - ceramic pots were put on roofs to provide sparrows to eat. It was normal to mistreat animals and birds. Bears, badgers and bulls were baited; cocks put to fighting, until an Irish MP, Richard Martin brought in a Bill to protect animals and birds. Though much maligned and lampooned his Bill was passed and in 1824 the RSPCA was founded. The Band of Mercy and the Dicky Bird society were set up to change children's attitudes, and 300,000 agreed to treat birds kindly by providing food, not collecting eggs or shooting birds.

The RSPB had originally only women members; along with Fin Fur and Feather Folk (founded by Eliza Phillips and Etta Lemon(!) they campaigned against the trade in feathers for women's hats (£20m a year). One such sale included 16000 parrots, 1500 great crested grebes, 7000 starlings, jays and magpies. The trade ceased in 1820. The first nesting box was made out of a hollowed out log by Charles Waterton ("as mad as a box of frogs") who also built a tower to protect starlings and a nine foot wall around his estate - this was the first nature reserve.

During the first world war it was illegal to feed wild birds and clubs were set up to collect sparrows' heads and rats' tails. Only after the second world war did attitudes really change, with the arrival of the suburban garden and the publication of Garden Birds by Phyllis Barclay Smith in 1945. Many other books followed in the Ladybird and Observer series, also I Spy and cigarette cards. Providing the right food has brought many species back to the garden and this is now a £200M per year industry.

We tend to moralize about "our birds" and expect them to behave well. So there are good birds and bad birds. The sparrow hawk, the wood pigeon and the magpie are hated - but we need to let nature take its course.

The sparrow population crashed by 90% in the 1990s - but it still remains top of the list in the annual bird watch. We take great delight in our twenty house sparrows, chattering away every morning, noon and evening, flying from bird table to feeding station, falling silent when one of the young ones dies.

Kevin ended by saying that gardening for wildlife is so important, and urged us not to be obsessed with neatness, leaving some areas wild, preferring lawns to decking, patios and concrete.

Our next meeting is on September 9 at 7.30pm in Keele Village Hall.

The speaker is Michael Swales on Climate Change.

All are welcome at our meetings.

Peter Hough

St John's Christmas Card 2019

We are very grateful to John Dennison for giving us another delightful watercolour which will be used for this year's Christmas Card. It shows the centre of the village just as the snow is beginning to fall, with a blue grey sky and a few light clouds.

The cost of the card will remain at £6 for a packet of ten cards and 65p for an individual card. The watercolour itself, unframed but with a thick card border, will be auctioned in May next year.

Cards will be on sale in church from Sunday 8th September, at our Autumn Fayre and also the Christmas Market, both held in the Village Hall.

If you would like to purchase cards with a Biblical text, please contact Angela as soon as possible

Abseiling Event

A charity abseiling event is being held at **St Giles' Church, Newcastle** from 9am to 6pm on **September 21st**. The Church Wardens will be taking part in this with the intention of raising much needed funds for the maintenance and fabric of St John's church. We are asking for your support and our sponsorship forms can be found at the back of the church or you can just contact Nigel or Diane directly.

From the Registers

Wedding

Saturday 27th July – Philip Adams and Laurie McFarlane

Friday 16th August – Shaun Rathbone and Naomi Wilshaw



Funeral and Burial in the Church Yard

Monday 5th August – John Kolbert



Dates for your Diary

Autumn Fayre - Saturday September 14th 2pm to 4pm in Keele Village Hall

Harvest Supper – Friday October 4th 6.30 for 7pm in Keele Village Hall

Keele PCC meets – Tuesday October 8th 6.30pm in St John's School

Potteries Theological Society – Wednesday October 9th at 7pm in the Moser building, Rm CM 0.012 with Geoff Babb – Imagining God: Poetry and Faith.

The November meeting will be on Wednesday 20th November. Further details will be in the Autumn Newsletter and also the October magazine.

Advance Notice

May 2020 marks the 150th anniversary of the consecration of St John's church. Ideas are already being discussed regarding how best we can mark this momentous occasion. This is to be a whole village affair and we look forward to welcoming as many of you as can make it to our celebratory Eucharist on May 3rd at 11.15am. Further details to follow.

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	
PCC Secretary	Rick Marshall	01782 627733
Captain of the Belfry	Phil Gay	01782 750038
Sacristan	Janet Thornhill	01782 618290
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.

