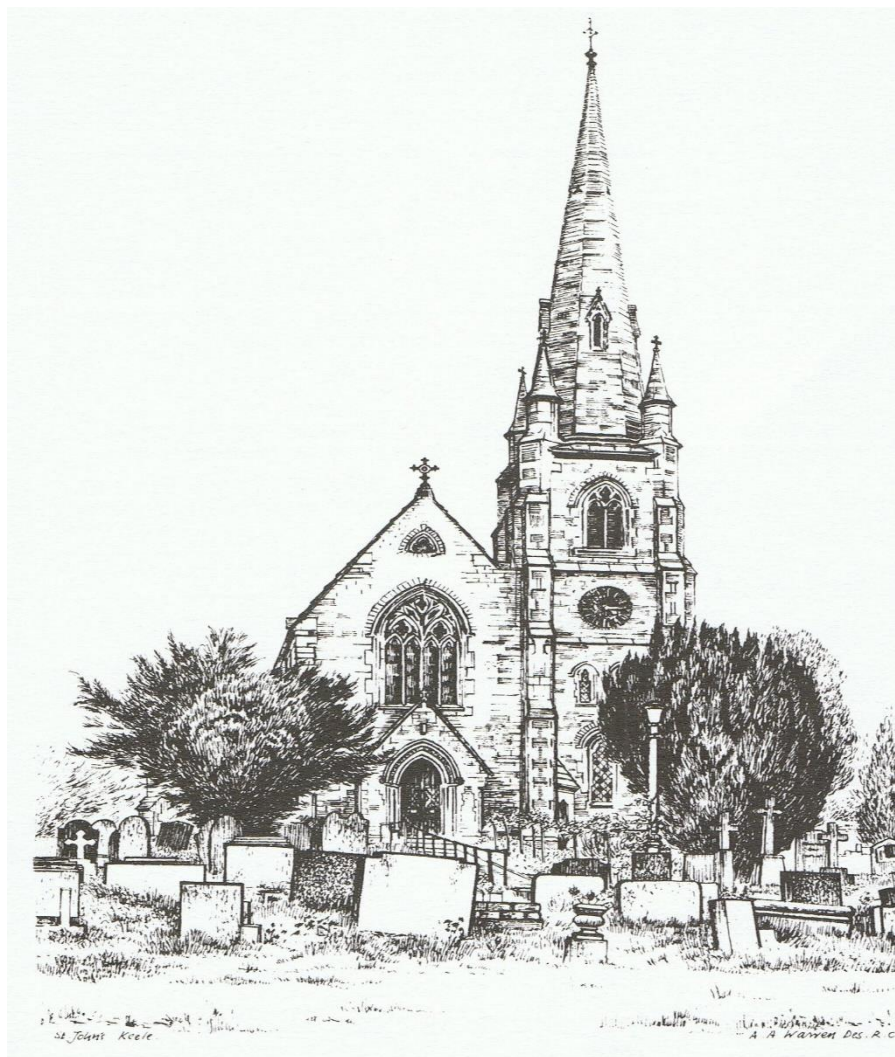


PARISH MAGAZINE



**St. John the Baptist Church
Keele**

September 2020

50p

Worship at St John's

An important note on the resumption of public worship

St John's is now open for public worship on alternate Sundays only and with certain restrictions as listed below.

- The church can only accommodate 28 people at any service. People who share a household/social bubble may sit together but otherwise a distance of two metres between seats must be adhered to.
- Hand sanitizer will be available near the entry for your use or you may bring your own.
- Please bring your own pen/pencil in order to leave your contact details as required by NHS England in case of a local outbreak occurring.
- You will be required to wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth at all times with the exception of when receiving Holy Communion.
- Holy Communion will be administered in one kind only (Host). Instead of kneeling/standing at the sanctuary rail, please queue one behind the other, observing social distancing. When in front of the priest, offer your outstretched hand (palm up) to receive the sacrament. Move to one side, lift your mask and place the host in your mouth. Replace your mask and return to your seat, again observing social distancing.
- Unfortunately, singing will not be permitted so hymn books will not be available. You will be given a service sheet. Please take these home with you at the end of the service. Also, no physical sharing of the peace.

Continued

- The collection plates will not be brought round but please leave your donations of money on the plate provided at the entrance.
- We are unable to offer refreshments for the time being and neither can we provide toilet facilities.
- Please remember the need for social distancing at the end of worship and as you leave the church.

Our Fortnightly Services Continue as Follows

September

Sunday 6 th	Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity	11.00am Eucharist
Sunday 20 th	Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity	11.00am Eucharist

October

Sunday 4 th	Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity	11.00am Eucharist
Sunday 18 th	St John's Church closed today	
Sunday 25 th	Twentieth Sunday after Trinity	11.00am Eucharist

Act of Thanksgiving for the Departed 4.00pm

(Clocks go back one hour)

We look forward to the time when we will all be able to worship together as before. Meanwhile, we hold you in our prayers always.

Stay safe



The Bishop's Pastoral Letter

A Journey Through

Bishop Sarah's pastoral letter for September 2020

I recently watched a film called 'Patriots Day', a dramatic retelling of the events surrounding the Boston Marathon bombing of April 15th, 2013. I felt a deep connection with the events depicted in the film and over the next few days I began to process what was going on in my own mind and emotions. I come from Manchester and on December 3rd, 1992, two bombs were detonated in Manchester city centre, one of them very close to the Cathedral where, later that month, Peter and I were married. On June 15th, 1996, whilst I was involved in an event at the church where I served my curacy, the IRA detonated a lorry bomb in Manchester city centre, only 2.5 miles away. All of us at the church fete heard and felt the huge explosion and saw the dust cloud rise over the city. These traumatic events were a public and a private tragedy for our city and for individuals and families.

The watching of this film had brought to the surface again some of the emotions I had felt when these events had occurred. It took some time to recognise this and to begin to think and pray through. I was greatly helped by articles produced by the 'Tragedy and Congregations' Project. The purpose of this project is to resource Christians to respond with integrity, courage and compassion to the impact of tragedies, local and

global. At this time, as we journey through the COVID-19 pandemic, when we are all dealing with and processing the effects of a world-wide tragedy, their resources speak directly to our situation and the challenges we face and I commend them to you.

‘So what of this Covid 19 situation? In a sense it’s the trauma that keeps giving. Or like an earthquake with aftershocks. We do not know yet what may happen further down the line. The problem is that there are no maps available to us to help us navigate through this crisis...

‘In response to the initial phase of the pandemic, we have certainly seen heroic and inspiring responses; amazing self-giving in those who have volunteered to help neighbours and communities, healthcare and frontline workers, clergy and congregations serving those who are in need and ministers learning to record and live stream services and finding many creative ways to engage with congregations and local communities. Many are now tired, emotional, increasingly frustrated with the loss of liberties, with the denial of the usual comforts of contact with families and friends, of going out and just being normal. Losses are mounting up and realities are hitting home. ...Some just want to get back to normal and others are fearful of coming out of lockdown too quickly.

‘And it is at this point, when energy levels are depleted, that we as communities and churches are

being asked to be creative all over again in finding ways to develop a

‘new normal’, which may only be temporary, to cope with requirements of social distancing, and won’t feel ‘normal’ at all. Perhaps this is a transitional phase in which we try to function as best we can with the uncertainty of not knowing if we will be on a gradual trajectory out of this crisis or find ourselves back in lockdown again.

‘This is where we are at the edge of our known world so far. ... It will be important for us to chart our journeying and to be kind and forgiving to ourselves and one another, for there is much to learn and endure as we travel, and we will need time and space to reflect on and integrate our learning. Wiser living is not a final destination, but it is the fruit of hope, trust and love shared amongst companions on the Way.’

‘Mapping the journey communities are taking through COVID’,

Hilary Ison, June 2nd, 2020.

May you know God’s presence, peace and blessing as we continue to journey through this time together.

*+Sarah
Bishop of Shrewsbury*

Belfry Bat

Sunday July 12th dawned bright and clear and we did our Sunday ringing as usual before going to Betley to visit Paul and Jean Chase, two friends we have got to know through -playing croquet – they run the Betley Croquet Club. They are always interesting to visit, as Paul has three classic motorbikes, including one he owned as a teenager before selling it and recently buying it back. They also have a most impressive garden, their own plus an adjacent plot. In the afternoon we were visited by one of Ro's book group friends, and spent a very enjoyable couple of hours having tea in the garden. On Monday morning I cut the grass in the orchard, which is growing quite fast at the moment.

On Thursday morning I had my first haircut since December, my usual summer number eight, which should last until the end of the year. In the afternoon we had our usual visit from Howard, who helped with clearing the willow cuttings before playing Scrabble with Ro. Before we did our Sunday ringing we made a start on the overdue job of tidying the ringing chamber in the garage, with the result that when we rang we wore facemasks, not for the virus but because of the dust.

On Monday afternoon we were visited by Jane and Bernard Besley, and we spent a very pleasant couple of hours in the garden. On Tuesday morning we went for coffee with Ruth Eagle. I always enjoy visiting her garden as it is a miniature sculpture park. Our fortnightly visit to Sainsburys' on Wednesday July 22nd was made easier because on Sunday we had an Ocado delivery, which reduced the amount of bulky items. On Thursday Howard paid us what has become his regular visit, and this time he was accompanied by his grandfather George Lovatt, who for many years was the head gardener at the Dorothy Clive Garden. Although it was raining slightly, he and Ro spent half an hour walking round our orchard and garden, and he was a fund of useful advice. Over tea in the greenhouse he delighted us with anecdotes relating to his career. On Friday we began to take some of his advice by attacking the overgrown holly hedge at the back of the house, which will enhance the view.

Our Sunday ringing on July 26th was at the correct time. In the afternoon we spent a very pleasant couple of hours in the garden with Cathie and Freddie Clitheroe. On Monday we had a visit from our friend David Stott, and because of the rain we spent a pleasant couple of hours in the greenhouse. I have invested in a webcam for my PC, and in the evening it was tested in a zoom meeting with my daughter Sally on her birthday. The

webcam was tested again on Wednesday morning for the regular zoom meeting of our ringing group, after which we did some more hedge cutting. On Thursday Howard helped clear up the hedge cuttings, after which we had a surprise visit from Ann and Ray Ballard, the friends who are in the process of moving from Kidsgrove to Cambridgeshire.

We did our usual ringing on Sunday August 2nd, with more ringing later when we were visited by Simon Linford, the organiser of the group which is aiming to build a mobile belfry. He was interested in our bells as an example of a light ring. I had a phone conversation with the organiser of the Newcastle hedgehog rescue centre, as we have volunteered our orchard as a release site. But first I must make two hedgehog houses - another job!

We had more visitors on Monday when my son Simon and his family, who were on holiday in the Lake District, came for lunch. On Wednesday I met Angela in Sainsburys, and she told me that there will be a service at St John's on Sunday morning. We will try to ring for it. On Wednesday evening I had a phone call from the Isle of Man, where ringing is still taking place normally, enquiring whether I could supply a replacement stay. On Thursday I discovered that I could, and sent not one but two pieces of ash by Parcel Force. The postage cost more than the timber, but it was still cost-effective for them. Until twenty-five years ago there was no ringing on the island, but then the unringable bells at Peel were restored, followed by the installation of a new ring of twelve at Douglas, making the island an attractive destination for visiting ringers. Over the years I have supplied quite a lot of stays, sometimes delivered by visiting ringers and sometimes posted.

On Friday the reading group that Ro belongs to held their meeting in our garden. There were five of them, and they had no difficulty distancing themselves. In the morning I had cut the grass.

We did our usual Sunday ringing on August 10th, but not in the usual place. It was good to be ringing at St John's again, albeit on only three bells. The number of cars in the car park reflected the reduced number of bells rung!

Phil Gay





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The Meadow Maker

There's a brilliant plant that can really help you to manage your wildflower meadows; it's called Yellow Rattle and September is a good time to sow it. Yellow Rattle, or Hay Rattle is a British wildflower, also known as the Meadow Maker due to its ability to suppress grass, encouraging wildflowers to thrive.

Yellow Rattle is partially parasitic on grass, tapping into the roots of grass plants and extracting extra nutrition (as well as photosynthesising like most plants). This weakens the grass to such an extent that an area of grassland containing Yellow Rattle has a visibly shorter sward than the neighbouring patch without. So, less chance of flowers being overtopped and squeezed out, less grass to cut and fewer heavy grass cuttings to rake up and remove. It is an annual plant so doesn't over-winter but it sets seed in June or early July so seed will have scattered by the time you cut your meadow, once established it ... itself. Listen for the 'rattle' of the ripe seeds in their pods.

Yellow Rattle can be tricky though, it needs a little care to get it established but is well worth it:

- 1) Cut the area where you will be sowing really short, giving it a firm raking to pull out any dead grass that may be lodged there. Get down to the soil!
- 2) Sow Yellow Rattle seed from now until the end of November, making sure the seed reaches bare soil by scraping away the turf in small patches. Sprinkle a few seeds onto the soil and press down with your foot.
- 4) Give the area another short mow in the spring so the germinating plants have some sunlight. March or April are good times to cut.

All the best

Harriet Carty,

Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor,

harriet@cfga.org.uk

www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk - individuals and groups in the diocese receive 20% members discount on all CfGA materials. Use the discount code Lich19



How have you coped during lockdown?

Recently, I mentioned to a few people that I would be interested to know how some of you were coping during these very unusual times and what they've been doing to take their minds off it.

Dorothy Clifford wrote -

As you know I love my garden but sadly I can no longer tend to it myself, but fortunately I have a very good gardener and I have taken on the role of supervisor. I tell him what to do and he carries out my instructions under supervision. It is not ideal but it is the best I can do.

You may also be aware that I love jigsaws so I have enjoyed re-doing some of my many puzzles. Luckily I have just had a birthday and now have two new puzzles to do, so if the weather turns autumnal I shall have plenty to keep me busy. I have done a lot of reading too as I have a very good neighbour who seems to have an unending supply of novels. They are easy reading as I cannot be bothered with anything educational at my advanced age.

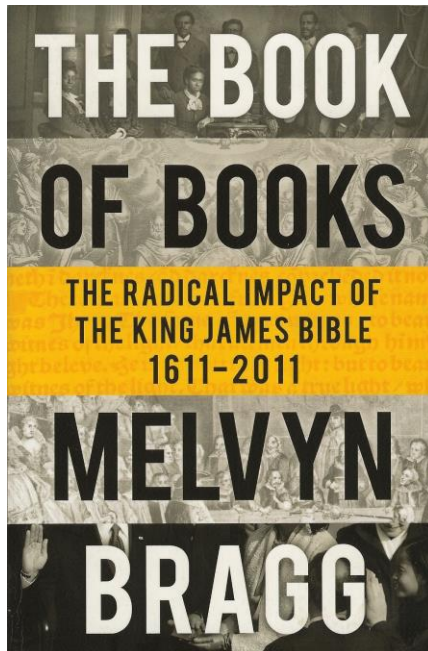
I also like doing crosswords, so time has not weighed too heavily on me, and of course there are still all the usual chores to be done and it takes much longer to do them nowadays. My biggest regret is that time is passing and it really is not on my side but hey ho we need to get rid of this virus so I keep smiling and carry on. Thank goodness I have a telephone and can video call the family.

One very good thing that has happened is the arrival of my first great grandson. he is three weeks old and is called Jacob and he is gorgeous, but I would say that wouldn't I!

..... and **Rick** shared this with us –

The Book of Books: The radical impact of the King James Bible 1611-2011 by Melvyn Bragg.

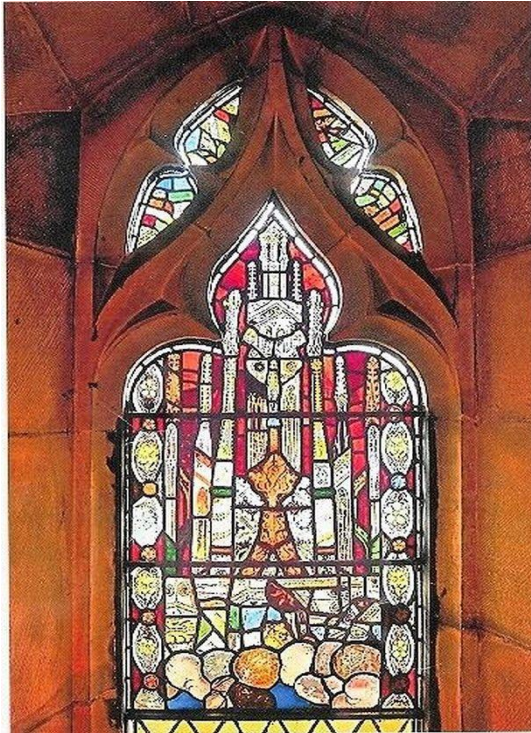
This book was written to mark the 400th anniversary of publication of the King James Bible. It has three parts. First, how the translation came about and its influence on the Civil War and the Pilgrim Fathers. Second, its impact on culture, and thirdly its impact on society at large. You are bound to find that topics that are of particular interest to you are covered. Being a novelist, Bragg has an easy style of writing. His hope is to persuade his readers to consider that since its publication, the King James Bible has driven the making of the world often in the most unanticipated ways. Although originally published in 2011 it is still easily available.



Good News!

The Templar window is now ready to be reinstalled in all its refurbished glory.

The work will be fully completed by September 18th in time for worship the following Sunday.



A Simple Prayer for Autumn

As summer into autumn slips,

O give me grace today

*To rise and turn
as summer's leaves*

*Draw life and strength
from heavenly rays.*



Church Officers

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

