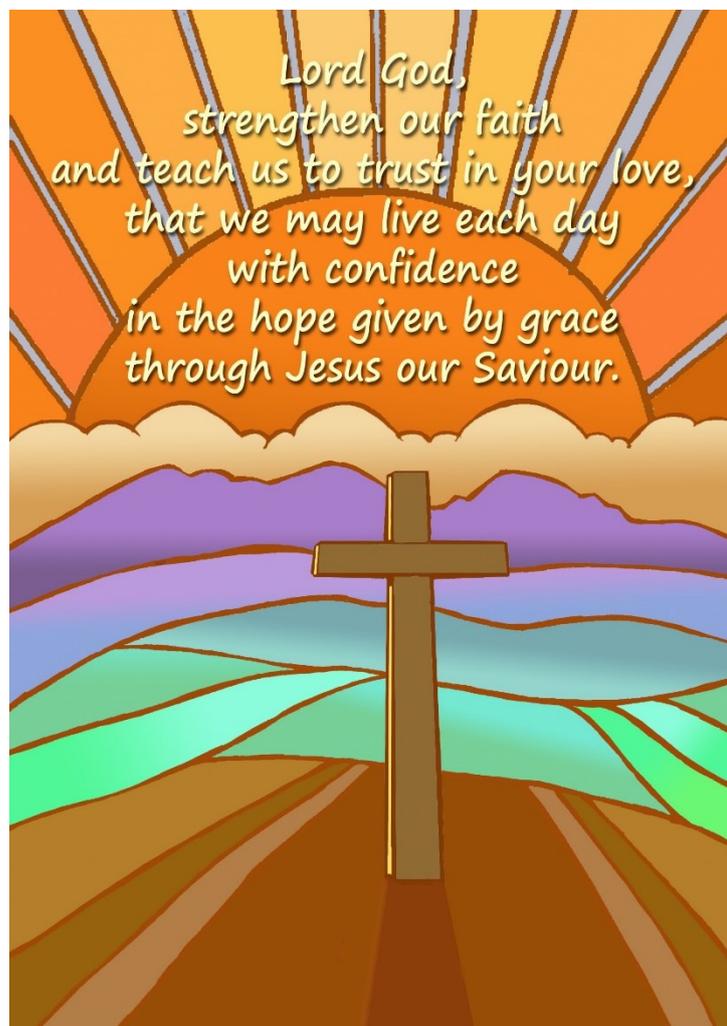


**ST ANDREW'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND
HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM**



**THE MESSENGER
PARISH MAGAZINE
August/September 2022
50p**

St Andrew's Clergy

The Church is currently in Interregnum

Enquiries – 0121 551 2097 or email vicar@standrews-handsworth.org.uk

Asst Priest – Father John Austen

Church Wardens – Carl Hart – 07967 410155 plus Vacancy

Lay Readers

Carole Sami – 07447 889657

Alison Thorne

Valerie Powell (Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult Representative)

Stuart Jeffs (Director of Music)

Services

Sunday 10.00 – Parish Eucharist. This service is also live streamed via YouTube

Wednesday 7.00p.m. Evening Prayer

Every second Wednesday of the month at 7.00pm Book of Common Prayer

Wednesday Services take place via Zoom and are led by Lay Readers Valerie Powell, Stuart Jeffs and Alison Thorne.

Church Website <https://www.standrews-handsworth.org.uk> Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/StAndrews.Handsworth> Twitter @StAndrewCE_HW

St Andrew's WhatsApp Group – if you wish to join, please contact Carl Hart 07967 410155, Valerie Powell 07540 890068 or Stuart Jeffs 07910 484505

St Andrew's PCC

Carl Hart- Church Warden

Vacancy – Church Warden

Vacancy – PCC Secretary

Richard Paton-Devine – Treasurer

Mary Bairstow

John Emmins

Rachael Emmins

Stuart Jeffs

Glory Omenma

Val Powell

Carole Sami

Alison Thorne

Margaret Zacheus

Church Halls Administration – John Emmins

Tel number - 07486 377719 Email - enquiriesstandrewsacc@gmail.com

Letter From The Clergy

Are you a lark or an owl? Is it morning or night when you have most energy?

Some people like to have a time of prayer first thing in the morning – a “quiet time”. Before the day gets busy. Other people like a time of prayer last thing at night – to look back at the day.

Looking back through the day can be really helpful. If we’ve had a bad day, we can tell God about it – and also remind ourselves of something that *has* been good. If we’ve had a good day, we can remember enjoyable moments – but also perhaps one or two others.

Here’s a way of praying that you might like to try:

Imagine yourself in a place you know well and in a comfortable chair. Alongside is another chair. Imagine the room/space so that you are comfortable there.

There is a knock at the door and, opening it, you find Jesus there carrying a book. You invite him to sit down. (How does it feel to have him there?) He opens the book, and you realise it is a photograph album of the day. There are pictures there from the time you got up right through the day.

You and Jesus look through the photographs, talking about what they show. If one in particular catches your eye, for which you are grateful – spend some time with that and talk to Jesus about it...

Is there a particular picture Jesus wants you to look at? What do you feel about his choice? What will you say to him?

(Maybe there’s a picture you wish wasn’t there. Talk to Jesus about that too.)

When you are ready, you close the album, which in fact represents your day, and give it to Jesus. Is there anything else you would like to say to him?

When you have finished talking with Jesus as a friend then either:

He gives you an empty album. Inside, you find he has written your name, followed by the words: “With love and grace for tomorrow, Jesus”.

How do you feel? What do you say?

OR

Another way to pray at the end of the day is simply by asking yourself a few questions. Look at them, and you’ll see that they are really parts of the same question.

For what moment today am I most grateful?

For what moment today am I least grateful?

When did I give and receive the most love today?

When did I give and receive the least love today?

When did I feel most alive today?

When did I most feel life draining out of me?

When today did I have the greatest sense of belonging to myself, others, God and the universe?

When did I have the least sense of belonging?

Perhaps you’d like to try one of those ways of praying. Maybe tonight! And I’d really like to hear which one helps you most.

There are lots of helpful ideas for joining in prayer online at

<https://pray-as-you-go.org/> - including ways of “Reviewing the Day”, and quick morning prayers.

Fr John

DATES FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

15 August. Festival of The Blessed Virgin Mary

19 – 22 August. Visit to Walsingham Pilgrimage

24 August. Festival of Bartholomew the Apostle

14 September. Festival of Holy Cross Day

21 September. Festival of Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

29 September. Festival of St Michael and All Angels

29 September. Macmillan Coffee Morning. 10 – 12. Good Shepherd Hall

Return to St Andrew's Church

I had begun to think a return to church would never come after the long months of lockdown but at last the announcement came, WE COULD RETURN TO CHURCH. That first Sunday couldn't come quickly enough and I set off bright and early, but my goodness church was nothing like the church I was used to. Everyone had to wear facemasks and gel their hands and sign in so there was a record of names and addresses in case anyone developed covid. We had to social distance, only certain seats could be used, there was no sharing of the Peace in the usual way, but we all had to stay in our seats and wave to each other. At communion we went individually to the altar steps to receive a blessing or communion in one form. Numbers were very low, and we couldn't sing any hymns at all.

Slowly but surely over many months things have returned to some form of normality. We were allowed to sing in our facemasks first of all but then without them. Our names and addresses are no longer taken. The seating restrictions have been lifted. We are allowed to kneel at the altar to receive communion and we now receive the bread dipped in the wine. We still wave to each other to share the Peace and more people are attending each week. On Easter Sunday we had the most wonderful service attended by 102 people all singing and praising God in the most spectacular way.

As time goes on, I'm sure we will be enjoying Mass as we used to, sharing the Peace with a hug or shake of a hand and receiving Communion in the way it should be; the sacrament of the body and the blood.

Chris Baker.

Prayer for August

Dear Heavenly Father,

In this month of August, thank you for your presence. Whether we're at home or on holiday, in one place or travelling, working or resting, happy or sad, young, middle-aged or elderly, you are with us.

As we journey through the different stages of this life on earth, help us to know that wonderful assurance of your presence, by putting our trust in Jesus now.

No matter what ups and downs come our way, we will never be alone. You are with us, sharing it all day by day - and leading us home.

Thank you, Lord of all our journeys, In Jesus' name.

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching
c/o Parish Pump

From humble beginnings to My New Journey

"I was given a bookmark as a special gift from a dear friend and on that bookmark were these words "God is in control" how true a statement is that!? It then went on to say the following and I quote

"Knowing God has a plan for our lives is very important. Putting our faith in God allows us to trust that the events in our lives are meant to be. It helps us make choices that must be made and realize things are not really out of control - they are under his control. There is a peace that can be found knowing that His plan is playing out in our lives. God is in control. Trust Him. He loves you".

Rick Norman

Next to that I have a small stone crucifix another gift, and on that is written

"All things are possible"

And below that is a beautiful, framed picture which reads "God is within her she will not fail" (Psalm 46 vs 5).

"Wow what powerful statements about God! All of these words and prayers have formed and shaped me throughout my studies when I was doing my readership, and served me so well, my go to words whenever I felt weak, not good enough or unsure of this journey. Well, they now play the next stage of my journey in Christ, and what a journey that is!!

Having made it through readership and developed my role, style and pathway of which has filled me with such strength and joy to be able to serve God. God has certainly been ploughing away in straightening my path continually in all areas of my life. The Gospel Artist Tasha Cobbs sings my all-time favourite gospel song that supported me so much especially when I felt lost in where or what God had in store for me. The lyrics "Oh how he walks with me and oh how he talks with me" gave me constant reassurance, hope and comfort that my journey was not over in fact it has only just begun!

God has the most amazing heart and love, trust and patience, kindness, caring, compassionate and determination that when he calls you, you will go, and you will listen. I am so humble and grateful for all he has done in my life and now the next stage begins! My next call in my spiritual journey which I would like to share is that I have been selected to go forward for ordination to become A Priest! Yes me! How amazing is our God?? And while I know this will not be an easy journey, I walk it with grace and mercy, thanksgiving, and belief because when I look back on my life Christ has walked this rocky path with me through thick and thin, believed and trusted in me and loved me unconditionally.

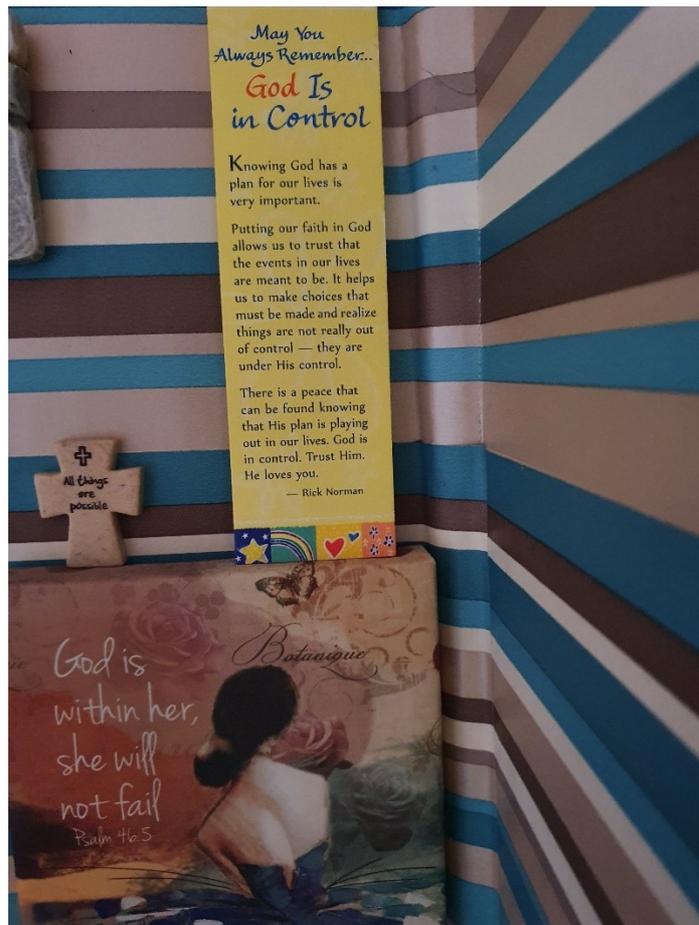
Now I set off on this new journey in September 2022 to begin another new transformation and to hopefully come out the other end a messenger of God sharing and caring, baptising and growing new Disciples of Christ. Please my fellow brothers and sisters keep me in your prayers and journey with me. Remember we serve an awesome God who likes to surprise us when we least expect or think we have nothing to give, or we are not special in any way.

Thank you, Lord.

Val Powell

(Soon to be Reverend Val, God willing).

Amen



(Note from Editor – this is truly exciting news Val, and it has been a privilege to watch you grow in confidence. Wherever your journey takes you - the love and prayers of St Andrew's will be with you).

Reflected Faith Series: The Awesomeness of God

Church buildings come in all shapes and sizes, and yet they can all be traced back to one of three basic designs.

They all have a Sanctuary which is the main altar or table area, and a Nave where the people stand or today, more usually sit. (We thought about the nave last month.)

The simplest plan will have just these two areas.

The next would have a Chancel which is an area between the nave and the sanctuary, often marked by a step or a wooden screen and most often where the choir sits.

The third basic plan is the shape of a cross – cruciform. These churches often have a tower where the four arms meet, rather than it being at one end.

Church plans grew and changed when new worship styles were introduced, e.g. if you want to do processions you will need some space for them, and so aisles were brought about.

Every part of the building reflects something of the faith and thinking about God and the practicalities of worshipping Him.

This month

If you can, have a look around the inside of a church building near you. What shape is it?

In particular go up close to the sanctuary. In a Church of England building this area is likely to be grander, more highly decorated and even carpeted! The only people 'allowed' into this area are those directly involved in 'celebrating' the Communion or Eucharist.

This remembrance or celebration of Christ's body and blood taking place here makes it the most 'holy part' of the church: hence the area is separated from the chancel by a step or an altar rail to alert everyone that this is 'holy ground'.

Many years ago, when I was part of a church visit to India, I had the privilege of preaching – translated by the Bishop! – and was invited to act as his deacon in the sanctuary. As such we were the only two people in the building who removed our shoes on entering the building.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, St Andrew's held a Jubilee Coffee Morning on 2 June 2022. The Saturday Gardeners also prepared a lovely garden with a new bench.



Photos c/o Carole Sami and Joan Wild

Memorial Service for Fr Henley and Beverley James

On Saturday 16th July, St Andrew's had a Memorial Service for Fr Henley and Beverley James. If you were unable to attend, the service is on Youtube https://youtu.be/MfKAq8GH_Fc The service has been described as 'beautiful', 'a peaceful atmosphere', 'a lovely service with some lovely old hymns', 'a lovely day, lovely people and food.' Fr Henley and Beverley are sadly missed and remembered with love.

Eileen Lawrence

All in the month of AUGUST

It was:

200 years ago, on 25th August 1822 that William Herschel, German-born British astronomer died. He discovered the planet Uranus and infrared radiation, conducted the first deep sky surveys, and was the first president of the Royal Astronomical Society.

125 years ago, on 11th August 1897 that Enid Blyton was born. This enormously popular British children's writer created Noddy, the Famous Five, and the Secret Seven. She is among the world's bestselling writers, selling more than 600 million copies of her books. She sometimes wrote 50 books a year.

100 years ago, on 2nd August 1922 that Alexander Graham Bell died. This Scottish-born American audiologist and inventor is credited with developing the first practical telephone. Also 100 years ago, on 6th August 1922 that Sir Freddie Laker, British entrepreneur, was born. He pioneered budget airlines. Best known as the founder of Laker Airways. (Died 2006)

Also 100 years ago, on 9th August 1922 that Philip Larkin, one of Britain's most famous post-war poets, was born. One of his most famous poems is 'MCMXIV'. Larkin was often called 'England's other Poet Laureate'. (Died 1985)

Also 100 years ago, from 28th- 29th August 1922 that the first Walker Cup golf match was held in Southampton, New York. The match is held every two years between the USA and UK and Ireland.

90 years ago, on 31st August 1932 that Roy Castle, TV presenter, singer, dancer, comedian, actor and musician was born. Best known for presenting the children's TV series *Record Breakers*, he broke nine world records himself while presenting it. (Died 1994.)

80 years ago, on 8th August 1942 that the world premiere of Walt Disney's animated film *Bambi* was held in London. Also 80 years ago, from 23rd August 1942 to 2nd February 1943 that the Battle of Stalingrad took place. Soviet victory, and the turning point of the war in Europe. Regarded as the largest and bloodiest battle in the history of warfare.

75 years ago, on 14th and 15th August 1947 that first Pakistan and then India gained their independence from the UK.

Also 75 years ago, from 22nd August to 11th September 1947 that the first Edinburgh Festival was held in Scotland.

60 years ago, on 4th August 1962 that Alexander Litvinenko, Russian security agent, writer and journalist, was born. He was killed (probably assassinated) by radioactive polonium in London in November 2006.

50 years ago, on 1st August 1972 that the Washington Post newspaper published the first article that exposed US President Richard Nixon's involvement in the Watergate scandal.

30 years ago, on 30th August 1992 that the German racing driver Michael Schumacher won the Belgian Grand Prix – the first of his record 91 Formula One wins.

25 years ago, on 31st August 1997 that Diana, Princess of Wales, her companion Dodi Fayed and their driver, died in a car crash in the Place de l'Alma underpass in Paris.

10 years ago, on 25th August 2012 that Neil Armstrong, American astronaut (Apollo 11) died. He was the first person to walk on the Moon.

c/o Parish Pump

Becky was recently Confirmed and has kindly written an article about herself.

When I first came to St. Andrew's I felt the absence of Christian Fellowship within my life, yet I found it hard to settle into the community. This was a well-known behavioural pattern - self-will, shame, pride, and fear often kept me from forming "real connections". I had attended many churches during my life but not with any consistency. I was "*the seed falling on rocky ground...who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time*" (Matthew 13:20-21). I had belief but not faith. I had many personal failings which hurt God, others, and myself - I was lost. Then, in His mercy God humbled me, creating a void only He could fill - and oh how abundantly He fills!

I entered my "Dark Night of the Soul" after many "falls" and struggles - illness, unhealthy relationships, divorce, career loss, alcoholism, and addiction.

I learned the power of surrender and prayer. I studied the Gospels and found songs of praise upon my lips.

"He reached down from on high and took hold of me; He drew me out of deep waters. He rescued me from my powerful enemy, from my foes, who were too strong for me" (Psalm 18 16-19).

My foes and enemies had been within me! "Pits of my own devising", unhealed wounds, festering resentments; but God rescued me, made me lie down and tended me. He told me not to be afraid because He Himself had found me (Ezekiel 34). May I ever Praise Him!

Now sober, healthy, and healing; I have meaningful relationships with God, people, and self. Having volunteered and undertaken training, I'm looking forward to a new career, based not on self-aggrandisement but in service of others.

There are still dark days, and I am still in programmes of recovery; but this time my roots are well-planted in the love, grace, and mercy of the Father; they are nourished by the Living Water of Christ; and sustained by the Holy Spirit of life.

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5).

I was Confirmed in June with gratitude, joy, and excitement because I LOVE God and He has changed my heart and life in profound ways.

I am deeply grateful and I long to follow my Shepherd wherever He may lead. In His strength I pray that I may love much, for I've been forgiven much (Luke 7).

Thank you to everyone for helping me on this journey of faith.

Love and every blessing,

Rebecca "Becky" Gaskin (nee Poyner).



Thank you for sharing your journey with us Becky. Your story reminded me of the song 'Love Came Down by Ben Cantelon <https://youtu.beSEpSOcyLB14> (Eileen).

Christian Basics No 9: Why Belong to the Church?

Many people are struggling to connect with church today following the pandemic. However, we should *'not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing'* (Hebrews 10:25). The church is not simply a building or services, but a shared friendship with Jesus, as the NT makes clear.

1. The Family of God

The church is a community united by their love for God and readiness to sharing this love with others: *'a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light'* 1) Peter 2:9). It is in the life of the church that people can connect with God's love.

2. The Body of Christ

The church is also Christ's body on earth, *'The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ'* 1) Cor 12:12). We all have a unique contribution to make, using our different gifts, experience and passion. However, beware of those attitudes that stop us representing Christ: *inferiority* (*'I have nothing to offer'* (or *superiority* (*'I don't need you'*).

3. A Holy Temple

In the OT the temple, was God's home on earth; now the church has become His home: *'In Him the whole building is joined together ... in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.'* Ephesians 1: 21,22). Church is a place where people can be loved, accepted and welcomed home. Is this our experience of church and what changes would make it more as God intends?

Don't forget: *'The local church is the hope of the world'* (Bill Hybels).

Canon Paul Hardingham

c/o Parish Pump



BIBLE STUDY AND THE WAY OF DISCIPLESHIP

During the Pandemic I wanted to do a Bible Study Course online. Fr John put me in touch with a Course called 'Knowing The Bible' which was led by Guy Donegan-Cross. That course led on to The Way Of The Discipleship Course. I completed two of the modules on this course and hope to complete the remaining two modules this year. I enjoyed the course, and it was particularly helpful to me that the course was on Zoom. The course was previously known as the 3D Course.

In July this year I was invited to a Service at Birmingham Cathedral to collect a Certificate for the two Modules I completed. Chris Baker came with me, and it was one of those lovely hot days in the heatwave. It was a lovely surprise to see Margaret Wiwczaryk there. She had completed the 3D Course pre-covid and was collecting her Certificate, supported by Alison Thorne. It was a lovely service at the Cathedral; it's been quite a while since I was there. It's such a lovely building. I think everyone takes something different from the course. For me, I discovered a new love of the Bible and its words.....so many stories written so long ago but still relevant today. The Way Of Discipleship course encouraged me to explore my faith at a deeper level.

The following article written by Guy Donegan-Cross provides more information about The Way Of Discipleship Modules. It usually runs on a Monday or a Thursday for two hours in the evening. **Eileen Lawrence**

The Way Of Discipleship

Having piloted (The Way Of Discipleship Modules), the whole resource is now on a website at <https://wayofdiscipleship.org/>

It is hopefully a bit more streamlined than earlier versions. It offers four courses but is meant to be more than that – it attempts to be a comprehensive resource for individuals and groups which can be used in flexible, adaptable ways across a diverse area. So, it contains discipleship questions, booklets, infographic tools, facilitators' material, extended material options, and suggestions for adapting resources to your context. It's a resource to put into the hands of those who want to be and make disciples.

On the front page of the website there is a short video giving an overview.

What is on the website?

It is not just a course, but an adaptable resource with three parts:

Over 250 browsable discipleship questions.

The style of the material is like a "discipleship catechesis". Individuals can easily browse and read thoughts on a wide range of questions.

The style aims to be accessible but in-depth and harder questions are explored such as, "Does thinking I need to be forgiven lead to low self-esteem?" or "Did Jesus die to protect us from an angry father?"

Where there are a range of opinions the 'Way of Discipleship' seeks to explore these faithfully and to draw from the riches of Christian experience.

Four courses aimed at forming Christians in our lived experience.

The courses are written to shape discipleship in daily life.

They are framed around the flow of the Christian life – from being with God, to becoming like Christ, to joining in with the Spirit in God's mission, to having confidence in knowing and living the story of Scripture. (You can see a summary of the content below).

Everything you need to use the courses is on the site – the materials are written to be easily adapted according to context. They are not “entry level” but offer a robust yet accessible approach of formation. The method aims for transformation - in offering teaching, but also some lived experience of discipleship through 24 videos of local Christians sharing their stories. It is very focused on discipleship in everyday life – empowering Christians for service in the church and the world. The teaching element aims for two things - to grow our understanding, but then to shape our lives around the rhythms or practices which embed that understanding in real lives. So, each session seeks to apply the learning, and to enable accountability which nurtures growth. Further resources are also signposted for those who wish to explore more.

Over 50 tools.

Many of the discipleship materials are summarized in infographics which can be used by individuals, in mentoring or in groups.

How can I experience the course(s)?

The modules are run online throughout the year on a Monday or Thursday evening. You can do as many or few as you wish. You can book via this page: <https://www.cofebirmingham.com/everyday-faith/being-a-christian/way-of-discipleship/>

How can I use the resource in my own context?

If you would like to explore more or have support/training in running one or more of the courses, I am running a monthly online session called “Making the most of Way of Discipleship”.

The sessions are one hour, but with the possibility of ongoing mentoring/training according to your needs. They are on Tuesdays at 3pm or 7pm. The link for the 3pm session is <https://zoom.us/j/98156700270> and for 7pm: <https://zoom.us/j/97637938761>

Dates for sessions in 2022 are Tuesdays: 21st June, 26th July, 23rd August, 13th September, 25th October, 22nd November or 13th December.

Or if you would like to have a chat with me at some point please let me know.

Content of the four areas:

The ‘Way of Discipleship’ helps develop us in four ways which reflect the fact that being a disciple is like being an apprentice – someone who is learning as they follow.

An apprentice first needs to be in relationship with the one they are following. So, the first part forms us in “Being with God” – looking at the ways we know God, how this shapes our identity, and how in our daily lives we can live in ways that put God at the centre of our attention – through worship, prayer, Scripture and a balanced life.

As we are with someone, we become more like them. The second part forms us in “Becoming like Christ”. We look at Jesus – His life, death and resurrection, the meanings of the cross, His Lordship, and what this means for our priorities in life. We also look at how God can change us to become more like Him – increasingly doing things in the manner in which Christ did them.

Finally, an apprentice grows into joining in with the work of the one s/he is following. The third part is called “Joining in with the Spirit”. We look at our mission and callings in the context of God’s mission, how we are empowered by the Holy Spirit, and what this means for our daily work, sharing faith, being church and struggling for a better world.

The last module you can use is called “Knowing the Story and Bible Confidence”. Six sessions aim to equip and inspire us in loving the Bible – seeing our story in the context of God’s big story, dealing with some tricky questions, and being given lots of handy ways into being confident with listening to God through Scripture.

c/o Guy Donegan-Cross

All in the month of SEPTEMBER

It was:

1900 years ago, from 13th September 122 to 128 that Hadrian's Wall was built in northern England. It ran for 80 miles from coast to coast and marked the northern limit of the Roman Empire. The Roman Emperor, Hadrian, wanted to separate the Romans from 'the barbarians.'

200 years ago, on 11th September 1822 that the Catholic Church admitted that the 16th century astronomer Galileo Galilei might have been right about the Earth orbiting the Sun. The College of Cardinals reversed the Church's condemnation of his ideas. Galileo had spent the last nine years of his life under house arrest for publishing his work on the subject. He died in 1642.

100 years ago, on 13th September 1922 that the highest temperature ever recorded in the world was reported to be 57.7 Centigrade (136 Fahrenheit) in Al'Aziziyah in Libya. (Unofficial record)

90 years ago, on 23rd September 1932 that Saudi Arabia was founded when the Kingdoms of Hejaz and Najd were unified.

80 years ago, on 10th September 1942 that the British Royal Air Force launched a massive air raid over Dusseldorf Germany.

70 years ago, on 6th September 1952 that the Farnborough Air Show crash took place in Hampshire. A de Havilland fighter jet broke apart and fell into the crowd, killing 31 people. Stringent safety measures were introduced to ensure it could never happen again.

65 years ago, on 2nd September 1957 that the Everly Brothers best-known song 'Wake up Little Susie' was released.

50 years ago, on 5th September 1972 that Palestinian terrorists invaded the Olympic Village in Munich, West Germany during the 1972 Olympic Games and took 11 members of the Israeli team hostage. All the hostages were killed, as well as five of the eight terrorists and a German police officer, when a rescue attempt failed.

40 years ago, on 14th September 1982 that Princess Grace of Monaco, formerly the American film and TV actress Grace Kelly, died in a car crash, aged 52.

30 years ago, on 7th September 1992 that the radio station Classic FM began broadcasting in the UK.

Also 30 years ago, on 16th September 1992 that the Black Wednesday sterling crisis took place. The UK crashed out of the European Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM), raised interest rates from 10% to 15% and spent billions of pounds buying up sterling that was being frantically disposed of on international markets.

25 years ago, on 5th September 1997 that Mother Teresa, Macedonian-born/Albanian India nun and humanitarian died. She founded the Missionaries of Charity and was winner of the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize. She was beatified in October 2003.

Also 25 years ago, on 9th September 1997 that Sinn Fein formally renounced violence and committed itself to resolving the troubles of Northern Ireland through peaceful means. This eventually led to the Good Friday Agreement in April 1998.

Also 25 years ago, on 11th September 1997 that the people of Scotland voted in a referendum to establish their own parliament. (Opened 1st July 1999.)

Also 25 years ago, on 18th September 1997 that the people of Wales voted in a referendum to create the National Assembly for Wales, with devolved powers from Westminster. (Opened May 1999.)

Also 25 years ago, on 29th September 1997 that British scientists announced that they had established a link between BSE (mad cow disease) and the human brain disease vCJD.

c/o Parish Pump

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Please join us on **Thursday 29 September 2022** in the Good Shepherd Hall (behind St Andrew's Church) at 10.00 – 12.00 for a Macmillan Coffee Morning.

We look forward to seeing you.



Chris Baker

Church Commissioners' research identifies historic links to transatlantic chattel slavery

The Church Commissioners for England has learned from research it commissioned that Queen Anne's Bounty, a predecessor fund of the Church Commissioners' £10.1 billion endowment, had links with transatlantic chattel slavery.

The Church Commissioners has said it is "deeply sorry for its predecessor fund's links with transatlantic chattel slavery".

In the 18th century, Queen Anne's Bounty invested significant amounts of its funds in the South Sea Company, a company that traded in enslaved people. It also received numerous benefactions, many of which are likely to have come from individuals linked to, or who profited from, transatlantic chattel slavery or the plantation economy.

The Church Commissioners in 2019 decided to conduct research into the source of its endowment fund to gain an improved understanding of its history. It worked with forensic accountants to review early ledgers and other original source documents from Queen Anne's Bounty. That research is now complete, and a final report of the findings will be published later this year.

The Church Commissioners is forming a group to consider the research and how to respond to these findings. Further information will be shared in due course.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Justin Welby, who is also Chair of the Church Commissioners, said:

"I am deeply sorry for the links with transatlantic chattel slavery that the Church Commissioners has identified. This abominable trade took men, women and children created in God's image and stripped them of their dignity and freedom. The fact that some within the Church actively supported and profited from it is a source of shame. This is a moment for lament, repentance and restorative action. I pray for those affected by this news and hope that we may work together to discern a new way forward."

c/o Parish Pump

Conflict in the Church “inevitable”

There will always be fights within the Church. It is inevitable.

So says the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby. “The Church is full of people, people are full of conflict, and so the Church is full of conflict”.

But Justin Welby says he has learned that the Church need not shy away from this. Rather, Christians should aim to “stick with each other, listen to each other, try and find out about each other.” This knowledge, he said, is the only key to reconciliation.

“The Church at its best is full of people who quite often wouldn’t be seen dead together, but who are very pleased to be seen in the life of Christ together, because of the transformation that Jesus brings through the cross, which is the ultimate reconciliation.”

Archbishop Welby was speaking about conflict because it is the subject of his new book, *The Power of Reconciliation*. He calls it “an attempt to set out the principles I’ve been developing and working with over the previous 20 years.”

He says that people in the Church need to ask: “How can we see a way forward in which we can perhaps go on disagreeing vehemently, but can do so and remain united in love for one another?’ Loving one another isn’t always about agreeing. In fact, reconciliation isn’t about common agreement: it is about learning to love one’s neighbour as oneself. It’s deeply based in the gospel.”

c/o Parish Pump

Be kind to hedgehogs

The latest State of Britain’s Hedgehogs report warns that between 30 per cent and 75 per cent of the UK’s population of hedgehogs has been lost in rural areas in the last two decades. The largest falls are in the eastern half of England.

However, there is some evidence that in our towns and cities, a more stable population may be establishing itself, thanks to the constant help from considerate gardeners and animal-lovers. If you have a garden, and would like to help hedgehogs this coming winter, please visit: <https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/wildlife/animals/hedgehogs/garden>

Synod votes to condemn Russian invasion

Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine was recently condemned by the General Synod in a debate where members heard of the suffering and terror experienced by ordinary Ukrainians because of the conflict.

Members backed a call for prayer for an end to the war in Ukraine and for parishes and dioceses to work towards providing long term refuge and hospitality for people fleeing the war.

The Bishop of Leeds, Nick Baines, said: "Russia's invasion of Ukraine constitutes an act of evil that cannot go unchallenged. Ukraine has a legitimate right to self-defence and a right to seek assistance from others in doing so.

"The Government and the wider international community must stand with Ukraine and provide financial, humanitarian, military, and diplomatic support as part of its broader efforts to uphold international law.

"Yet, as the MOD suggested, such support cannot realistically be unlimited, and this war cannot be waged without restraint. The focus of our efforts must be bringing this conflict to an end in a way that respects Ukraine's independent sovereign status."

c/o Parish Pump

Archbishop meets head of the Orthodox Church in Ukraine

The Archbishop of Canterbury recently welcomed the head of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, Metropolitan Epifaniy, to Lambeth Palace.

"We heard the most heart-breaking stories of atrocities against civilians and against Orthodox clergy in occupied territory, yet amidst it all the Patriarch spoke of love for all, especially enemies," he said.

"Of course, like all Ukrainians, he feels passionately about the terrors and horrors visited on his country, the lies told and the remorseless fear and attack, but the passion is not showing itself in hatred, nor is it showing itself in weakness, but in faith and determination and a plea for support for the church in its humanitarian work and for Ukraine. Let us give that support as a church as best we can."

So far, the appeal organised by USPG and the Diocese in Europe has raised more than £300,000 for humanitarian work in Ukraine and amongst Ukrainian refugees.

c/o Parish Pump

General Synod welcomes £3.6bn investment in mission and ministry

The Church of England's General Synod recently welcomed the Church Commissioners' and Archbishops' Council's long-term spending plans. The Archbishop of York said that the plans, which cover £3.6bn over the next nine years, amounted to the Church "putting our money where our missional mouth is."

The spending would "underpin transformation towards being a 'Simpler, Humbler and Bolder' Church." Money will be invested in local ministry as part of diocesan strategies.

Priorities for the spending include £190m to help the Church of England transition to net zero, £20m on work to promote Racial Justice and £400m over the next three years towards achieving the outcomes and priorities that flow from the Church's Vision and Strategy for the 2020s.

The Archbishop of York said: "We will be simpler, more responsive to dioceses and more accountable about how we distribute money across the whole eco-system of the Church - rural and urban, all church traditions, with the single purpose of making Christ known and building God's kingdom in the world." **c/o Parish Pump**

Seven people in seven ways – what do WE need to do to tackle the Climate Emergency?

I recently heard Professor Hugh Montgomery speak at a conference organised by Eco Medics. He is an Intensive Care specialist and has had to face personal challenges recently. Look up some of his videos on You Tube or search for his Eco Medics podcast online.

To say his presentation was challenging would be an understatement. I would guess that the vast majority of attendees were already well committed to acting on the climate emergency.

However, it made me think of Mark 10:17–31. Just like the young man who felt he had obeyed all the commandments I was aware I had to confront matters and seriously ask myself, "What else do I need to do?"

And like the young man, the answer hit hard. Professor Montgomery stressed the importance of influencing other people. Apparently, we all have seven people in our lives that love us or know us well enough to listen to us carefully on important matters.

He also gave us 7 key areas for action.

- 1) Energy should be 100% renewable.
- 2) Travel (Don't; pedal or pedestrian)
- 3) Food: Purchase local, seasonal, and vegetable products.
- 4) Bank—Hugh mentioned Triodos and the Co-op as many of the larger banks invest in fossil fuels.
- 5) Buy (Don't or choose carefully where)
- 6) Vote (and message NOW)
- 7) Bring solutions rather than problems.

I do reasonably well in some of these areas because I am fortunate to be able-bodied and can cycle to work. I have been vegan for 25+ years. At home, we use Ecotricity as our energy supplier, and we bank with the Co-op. But what about the challenge of consumerism? As a family with two young men making demands, I have to ask myself, can we consume less? Most of our clothes and toys have come from charity shops for a number of years. If I need something for a special occasion, I usually visit Oxfam online. But I am guilty of having several clothes in my wardrobe that don't get worn. According to one survey, nearly half of the clothes in an average UK wardrobe are unworn because they don't fit or have gone out of style. In Sweden, on average, a T-shirt is worn 22 times but a dress just 10 times. So perhaps the challenge for me is to work out how I can get over 7 x 7 (49) uses from the gorgeous (but definitely not every day) blue dress I have bought (from Oxfam) for my sister's wedding at the end of August. Look out for a 50+ cyclist hitching up her blue dress to play ball in the park or go blackberry picking in Sandwell Valley.... Plus, look out for much more on these seven action points. We will attempt to address some of these issues with the assistance of the Church Ecogroup. I am also hoping to write a regular article bringing you some easy solutions

Mary Bairstow

Synod endorses plan to reach net zero carbon by 2030

The Church of England's General Synod has endorsed detailed plans designed to help the Church to reach net zero carbon by 2030.

The Routemap to Net Zero Carbon by 2030, published this Summer, encourages cathedrals, churches, schools and theological education institutions to make changes to their daily activities to reduce carbon emissions.

The Bishop of Norwich, Graham Usher, the Church of England's lead Bishop for the Environment, said: "The 2030 target is hugely ambitious, but the process is as important as the target. I see it as a key part of our obedience to God's call to be stewards of creation."

The Routemap, he said, "has been refined in consultation. It's a pragmatic, step-by-step approach." It focuses first on "simple steps that every church community can take": such as changing to LED lighting on a renewable energy tariff, reducing draughts, good maintenance, and heating people, rather than the angels carved on church roof bosses.

The Routemap is not legislative and does not obligate any part of the Church but is the basis of the road to net zero carbon by 2030.

c/o Parish Pump

Prayer for September

Father,

September - a month of new starts for many. We pray for all starting school, university or college, or moving into a new class or job.

We pray for the new Prime Minister to prove to be a person of integrity, dedicated to working for the good of all.

We especially ask you to help those struggling with the rising cost of living who don't know how they are going to make ends meet.

Have mercy on this nation, Lord and bring us back to Your ways.

Thank You for Jesus and that through trusting in Him we can know You, as Father and God of truth, mercy and compassion.

Thank You that You never give up on us. You will help us if we turn to You,

In Jesus name,

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

c/o Parish Pump

Poem

I ask why must we suffer?
Can you explain?
I ask why must we die, with all the pain?
I waited.....
And the answer came!
Jesus is the answer
Let it be. Let it be.

Margaret Wiwczaryk

The late Dame Deborah James

A Tribute

Sleep on beloved girl
Now that your pain has departed
Sleep on beautiful girl
Even though we are left broken hearted

Sleep on lovely girl
And until we meet again
In the land of no more pain
God bless always

Time flies on the wings
Of the wind

Margaret Wiwczaryk

Wordsearch.

Can you find the names of fifteen characters from the Old Testament hidden in this puzzle. Names may be found horizontally, perpendicularly, diagonally, forwards or backwards. Be careful! There are one or two traps.....

Alison Thorne

B	O	A	Z	S	I	M	E	O	P
D	A	V	I	D	D	U	R	P	Q
R	U	T	S	J	E	H	U	L	O
R	A	C	H	E	L	U	T	S	N
S	R	J	A	S	M	A	H	A	O
I	Z	A	O	U	H	S	U	O	M
M	E	C	N	S	H	E	L	L	O
E	L	O	J	E	Z	E	B	E	L
O	Y	B	B	O	B	A	H	A	O
N	A	H	U	M	O	M	E	H	S

Wordsearch for August 2022

John the Baptist

This month, on the 29th August, we remember John the Baptist. By all accounts, he had a rough life. He grew up in obscurity, lived in the desert on a diet of bugs. He wore itchy camel hair. He worked in the heat of the sun, constantly challenging people, and wading in and out of muddy Jordan waters to baptise many. Then he was arrested and kept in a reeking, infested dungeon until one day they cut his head off. Not much comfort in that life. Yet the Bible tells us that of all the people in history, no one has even been born who was as great as him. Why? Because of the unique calling God gave him, which was to prepare the way for the coming ministry of his Son, Jesus. Jesus did not have an easy life, either.

c/o Parish Pump

John

Baptist

Rough

Obscurity

Desert

Bugs

Camel

Heat

Sun

Challenge

Muddy

Jordan

Arrested

Dungeon

Head

Cut

History

Great

Unique

prepare



Wordsearch – September

The Parable of the Weeds (Matthew 13.24-30)

Ever wonder why there is both good and evil allowed in this world? Jesus told a parable that touched on this subject – it is called the Parable of the Weeds. It runs like this: Consider the world as if it were a field where a Farmer has sown good seed. But then an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat. So, when the wheat came up, so did the weeds. What to do? Instead of destroying the weeds, and thereby risking the wheat, the Farmer tells his reapers to wait and let both wheat and weeds grow together until the harvest. At the harvest he will instruct the reapers to gather up the wheat, but to discard the weeds. So do not despair when evil seems to thrive in this world – there is a reckoning still to come, and justice will be done.

c/o Parish Pump

Kingdom
Heaven
Good
Seed
Field

Sleeping
Grain
Weeds
Enemy
Servants

Master
Sow
Gather
Reap
Root

Let
Grow
Together
Harvest
Bundles

Barn
Burned



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you for your contributions to the parish magazine. New articles, ideas and suggestions are always welcome. It was great to see Birmingham celebrating the Commonwealth Games with our very own Aaron Bairstow performing in the Opening Ceremony. I hope to have more information about Aaron's experience in the next magazine. The Church Garden is looking lovely and has progressed well these last few months. Thank you to the Saturday Gardening Team. I look forward to hearing more about the garden as it develops.

Good luck to students returning to school or starting college in September. Welcome to new University students living in our community. The church is gradually returning to some normality following the Pandemic. We look forward to the growth of St Andrews and pray for the arrival of a new Priest.

Eileen Lawrence



Please note the magazine is also available on St Andrew's Website and is accessible to the general public.

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH HANDSWORTH

