

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



Father, Son and Holy Spirit

**THE MESSENGER
PARISH MAGAZINE
JUNE 2023
50p**



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Hello. My name is Eileen Lawrence and I am the Editor of the Parish Magazine.

We have some great articles this month; thank you everyone for your contributions. Joan Wild has written about the Church Garden and this will become a regular feature in the magazine. Fr Paskal has written about Saint Paschal Baylon and this will be another new feature called 'Saint Of The Month' which will be written by the Lay Readers. However if you have a favourite Saint you wish to write about please feel welcome to write an article. In August we will be starting a new section called 'Featured Interview'. Church members will be invited to write about themselves based on a set of questions. It would be great to find out more about the members of St Andrew's Church. Let me know if you wish to have a Featured Interview done. We don't need to visit you - you can complete the questions in your own time. Carl Hart has agreed to be our first Featured Interview and this will be in the next edition of the magazine.

Please feel free to contribute articles for the magazine to parishmagazine949@gmail.com
If you are not able to use email or the internet please let me know and I will try to assist.

Thank you

Eileen

Please note that the magazine is also online on St Andrew's website and is accessible to the general public.

St Andrew's Clergy

Vicar – Fr Paskal Clement – 0121 218 1988

Email - vicar@standrews-handsworth.org.uk

Asst Priest – Father John Austen - 0121 554 8882

Church Warden – Carl Hart – 07967 410155

Lay Readers

Carole Sami – 07447 889657

Alison Thorne

Valerie Powell

Stuart Jeffs

Services

Sunday 10.00 – Parish Eucharist including...

Family Service every second Sunday. Healing Service every 3rd Sunday. Sunday Services are live streamed via YouTube.

Wednesday 7.00p.m. Evening Prayer and 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 Stuart Jeffs and Alison Thorne.

Thursday 10.00a.m. Holy Communion Service

Director of Music—Stuart Jeffs

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

Rebecca Gaskin– PCC Secretary

Richard Paton-Devine – Treasurer

Mary Bairstow

John Emmins

Jan Flemming

Shebina Gill

Sonia Hyman

Alison Thorne

Church Halls Administration – John Emmins

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Letter From The Vicarage

Waiting. . . !

My wife (Akhtar) frequently asks me this question, "When is summer going to start? We are in the middle of May and June is coming soon." Do I have any answer? I would say no. If anyone of you has an answer, please let her know. But I keep on giving her hope that summer will start soon.

The nation awaited the Coronation Ceremony for Charles the King, which eventually arrived. What an amazing Ceremony we have witnessed – very reflective and prayerful. God bless our King! It was great to celebrate this occasion in our church on a Sunday.

We had a wonderful Ascension Service at St Mary's. It was well attended by all churches. A nice way to witness the gospel and support one another. Jesus revealed himself to his disciples for 40 days before ascending to heaven. The Ascension is a time of preparation, purification, and transition. While appearing to them on different occasions, he prepared them for the future ministry they must take. He appeared to Mary in the Garden. On the road to Emmaus, two disciples spoke about their experience, "*were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?*" (Luke 24.13-35). The Risen Lord stayed with them and broke the bread for them. Then they recognized him. He even cooked breakfast for his disciples at the Sea of Galilee. St Paul writes, "*Jesus also appeared to more than five hundred of his followers at the same time.*" (1 Corinthians 15.6).

Before Jesus ascended to heaven, he opened his arms and blessed them. He asked them to stay in the city and wait for the Holy Spirit. After waiting, the Holy Spirit came, and they began to speak in tongues, understood by all gathered in Jerusalem from all over the world for the Passover Celebration. This was the birth of a Church. A new beginning, a new era. From now on, the disciples would go out to preach the gospel till the end of the world.

We are also going to celebrate the Feast of the Pentecost, highlighting the importance of diversity and the giftedness of each member in our church, coming from different backgrounds and cultures. Music, intercessions, and readings from different languages will be reflected in the Sunday liturgy.

The church faces a few issues. The central heating is completely broken down. Luckily, the weather is improving. I await a reply from the Diocese on how to move forward. We have two men sleeping in front of the church's main door. As a church, we should seriously consider whether we can afford to create a safe haven for drug addicts on the church premises. What message are we giving to other faith communities around us? Ninety children with the staff came from William Murdoch Primary School to visit the church. Thank you to Chris, Jean and Shebina who came to support me. I think they enjoyed the company of the children. When the children saw two beds and rubbish in front of the church, in the bushes, they asked questions. None of us had any answer. I think this issue has to be resolved as soon as possible. We cannot afford to carry on like this. We have a funeral in June, with more than two hundred people attending. I wonder what example we are setting.

We will soon have a parish away day to reflect on and discuss the parish's vision and mission statement. The writer of Proverbs writes, "*Where there is no vision, the people perish.*" (29.18KJV). Vision gives people direction, inspiration, and aspiration. Jesus had a clear vision: The Kingdom of God.

An Away Day will give us an opportunity to reflect and notice what God is already doing among us and where he is leading us. Specially to discuss and plan how to connect with young people and reach out to young families and invite them to join us. What opportunities can we create that will attract young families?

I met Eileen Lawrence regarding the parish magazine. We had a very productive chat, thinking about what more we could add to the parish magazine. Eileen is doing an excellent job. There will be a page on a life of a saint. I am starting with the life of Saint Paschal Baylon. If any saint has touched your heart, deepened your spirituality, and inspired you, do write about them. It will make a significant contribution to the life of the church.

There will be another page for an interview with a church member. If you are willing to be interviewed, contact Eileen. Your life experience and spirituality can inspire others.

Happy Pentecost Feast to all of you!

Fr Paskal clement

(Vicar)



31st May - Day of Pentecost: Whit Sunday

Pentecost took place on the well-established Jewish festival of Firstfruits, which was observed at the beginning of the wheat harvest. It was seven weeks after Easter, or 50 days including Easter.

A feast day to celebrate the country's wheat harvest does not sound exactly world-changing, but that year, it became one of the most important days in world history. For Pentecost was the day that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit - the day the Church was born.

Jesus had told His disciples that something big was going to happen, and that they were to wait for it in Jerusalem, instead of returning to Galilee. Jesus had plans for His disciples, but He knew they could not do the work themselves. They would need His help.

And so, they waited in Jerusalem, praying together with His other followers, for many days. And then on that fateful morning there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues, to the astonishment of those who heard them. The curse of Babel (Genesis 11: 1 - 9) was dramatically reversed that morning.

That morning the Holy Spirit came to indwell the disciples and followers of Jesus. The Church was born. The Christians were suddenly full of life and power, utterly different from their former fearful selves. The change in them was permanent.

Peter gave the first ever sermon of the Christian Church that morning, proclaiming Jesus was the Messiah. His boldness in the face of possible death was in marked contrast to the man who had denied Jesus 50 days before. And 3,000 people responded, were converted, and were baptised. How's that for fast church growth!

Of course, Pentecost was not the first time the Holy Spirit had acted in this world. All through the Old Testament there are accounts of how God's Spirit guided people and strengthened them. But now, because of Christ's death and resurrection, He could IN-DWELL them. From now on, every Christian could have the confidence that Jesus was with them constantly, through the indwelling of His Holy Spirit.

c/o Parish Pump



**JOIN IN WITH OUR SERVICES AT
ST ANDREW'S**

Our Sunday Services are as follows:-

Sunday - 10.00 service with Holy Communion. These Services include

FAMILY MASS EVERY SECOND SUNDAY 10.00



HEALING SERVICE EVERY THIRD SUNDAY 10.00



Thursday 10.00 Service in Church with Holy Communion

Future Services

Corpus Christi Service on 8 June, 7.30 at St Andrew's.

AT THE AGM ON 23 APRIL THE FOLLOWING WERE ELECTED AS PCC MEMBERS

MARY BAIRSTOW

JOHN EMMINS

JAN FLEMMING

REBECCA GASKIN

SHEBINA GILL

CARL HART

SONIA HYMAN

RICHARD PATON-DEVINE

ALISON THORNE

Stuart Jeffs has resigned. The Church would like to thank Stuart for his contribution to the PCC.

AWAY DAY

SATURDAY 17 JUNE 2023

11 AM – 1 PM

AT ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

The Away Day is open to all members of St Andrew's Church. We will be looking at our parish vision and mission statement. Tea and coffee will be available.



A Trip Down Memory Lane

Way, way back in the late 1980s St Andrew's Church used to have Variety Shows. Les Baker came across a script that was used in one of the shows and asked to share it with the magazine as a trip down memory lane. I was in the choir at the time and remember the orange tabards – I thought they were great! It was the first time the choir wore robes. Not many parishioners will remember some of the names, so may not get the jokes. Les and his friend David Binding were Church Wardens, and they took an active role in the Variety Shows.

The Meeting

LES: Hello David.

DAVID: Hello Les.

LES: Where is she then? 7.15 she said, the meeting starts at 7.30.

DAVID: She'll be here bang on 7.20 and then put her foot down all the way to the hall. I've never known anyone be late on time, she's always 5 minutes late.

EILEEN: Hi David, Les. Sorry I'm late. I've had one of those days again.

(Have 3 chairs ready to sit down, as though driving in a car).

LES: Are we discussing anything exciting tonight?

DAVID: I don't know. What time do you think we'll finish?

LES: Well, David Collyer's charring the meeting, so we'll have finished before you have time to blink

DAVID: Will that Treasurer be there?

LES: Who, Pauline Finney?

DAVID: Yes, that's the one – with the cheeky grin.

EILEEN: We've got a new man joining us tonight, a new priest. I've forgotten his name. Something to do with a car. Was it Morris?

LES: Morris? As in Morris Minor? Or do you mean Rob Morris from St. James?

EILEEN: No, no. It was something to do with a Metro?

DAVID: Austin Metro?

EILEEN: Aha. John Austen, that's it. I hear he's very good with music. Do you think he'll sort the choir out?

DAVID: Well, if he can't sort out the singing, I hope he does something about those belisha beacon tabards they wear.

EILEEN: I hear Santer's coming next week.

LES: Santa? What's she talking about? Christmas is over.

EILEEN: No. Mark Santer, the new Bishop. Oh look we're here now. We've got 2 minutes to spare – plenty of time. Oh look, there's Christine Baker. That means there'll be tea and biscuits.

DAVID: Great. Let's go. I want to get back and watch that Soap Opera

LES: Is that Columbo?

EILEEN: Columbo? Where? I thought he was over at St. Michael's?

LES: Oh, she's off again. Just concentrate on taking the Minutes Eileen. I think we'll walk next time David.

Submitted by Les Baker



The advertisement features a blue background with white and light blue text. At the top left, there is a circular inset image of an elderly woman smiling. To the right of this is the text 'Domiciliary Care' in a large, white, sans-serif font, followed by the QLC logo (a square with diagonal lines) and the website 'www.qualitylivingcare.co.uk'. Below this, a list of services is provided in white text. On the right side, there is a circular inset image of a woman in a white lab coat attending to an elderly man. Below this image, contact information is listed in white text. At the bottom center, there is another circular inset image of a woman in a blue uniform assisting an elderly man in a wheelchair.

Domiciliary Care QLC
www.qualitylivingcare.co.uk

List of Services

- Personal hygiene
- Grooming
- Toileting
- Friendly company
- Shopping
- Walk in the park
- Support them towards personal independence
- Safety
- Comfort

Contacts us

+07737273115

+07852252480

+01215512072

email:
info@qualitylivingcare.co.uk

St Andrew's Sports & Community Centre



St Andrew's Sports & Community Centre is located on the corner of College Road. It is owned and managed by St Andrew's Church and is used for public activities and other church groups. The Centre is probably best known for the outdoor service that takes place on Good Friday every year.

If you wish to hire a room in the Centre for a private function, please contact **John Emmins, Church Halls Administration. Tel number - 07486 377719** or

Email - enquiriesstandrewsacc@gmail.com

These are the public activities that currently take place at the Centre.

Thursday - Move for life 11:30 - 12:30 Exercise Class
Tuesday - Saheli Hub - 10:00 - 13:00 Women's Group
Wednesday 17:30 - 20:30 & Saturday 14:00 - 15:00 - Temple Martial Arts
Saturday 09:00 - 13:00 - Little Kickers
Tuesday 10:00 - 12:00 Home Start Family Support Group

Please note that none of these groups are run by the church / centre.

**Activities information c/o John Emmins
Halls Management Team**

St Andrew's Church Choir



St Andrew's has always had strong musical tradition. The Choir began in 1914 and consisted only of 'Boys and Men'. Well, times have changed and we now have a mixed, all-age robed choir that leads the music worship on Sundays, and major weekday festivals.

For me, though I have been in choir back home since my teenager and I still feel engaged, spiritually uplifting, a way of praising God, bring out my voice and reflect on it and that keeps me entertained and doing more. – Glory Omenma

The choir, to me, is an act of worship while having fun. We sing the hymns and anthems, and we laugh when it goes wrong, and we rejoice when it all goes right. I love the friendship and feeling of family and helping Stuart whenever I can. - Jan

Our main Choral Mass setting is 'Thorne in D', although our Patronal Festival can be celebrated with something more ambitious. Hymns are taken from 'Anglican Hymns Old and New'.

Weekly anthems range from well-known hymns, and classical and modern pieces from known composers and works specially written or arranged for St Andrew's church.

The choir meet each Friday at 6.30pm for an hour of singing where new pieces are learnt and old pieces are refreshed.

Singing in a choir is good for you! It's good for your mental health! Working in harmony with others, being part of a team, listening, learning, making music.... I joined St Andrew's choir when my children sang in it, so I reckon that must be nearly thirty years ago. It's changed a lot, but it's something I wouldn't be without. – Alison Thome

It's a wonderful experience that quickly becomes the highlight of your weekly schedule. I enjoy the rehearsals. Stuart works very hard, and we appreciate his commitment to us. - Leonora

It is a very relaxed session and often there is much laughter and fellowship. In many ways, a choir rehearsal is another strand to our worship and ministry and always closes in prayer.

You don't have to be able to read music to join in, although we can help with this should you wish to learn the basics of music.

I love been in the choir I love learning new songs the anthem is like been part of a family and we blend together and work with each other and Stuart is a very good teacher he let you feel welcome and at ease - Sonia.

Choir has a lovely, warm atmosphere and I always look forward to practise. It's always fun to practise new pieces each week. - Steven

It's a pity that am not in the choir for a while because of my work schedule but I love choir and all the choir members we are just like a family whenever we see each other, and Stuart is a great leader, teacher, brother, uncle, and father to me – Margaret

Why not give it a try, come along any Friday at 6.30pm

**Stuart Jeffs
Director of Music**

ST ANDREW'S COFFEE MORNING



Coffee Morning is 10am till 12pm every Thursday in The Good Shepherd Hall. We offer tea and coffee for 60p a mug and toast 20p a slice. We have biscuits each week and sometimes cakes if people bring them in for their birthday. Carole Sami has a table selling her cards and Val Ryder has her table selling various items. It is a friendly occasion where people enjoy having a chat over a cup of tea / coffee.

Chris Baker

All are welcome. You don't have to be a regular church member. St Andrew's Coffee Morning is open to the whole community.



St Andrew's Thursday Coffee Morning Coronation Party

The Good Shepherd Hall was decorated with colourful bunting. The tables dressed with flags, and crowns set the scene for our coronation party. The centre table was laden with goodies of all sorts for us all to share; from quiche to fairy cakes it was a feast fit for royalty.

Most of us had never been to a coronation party before, but some of the group, although they had been young children, did remember the street parties for Queen Elizabeth II Coronation all those years ago. It was wonderful that the different generations and ages were able to enjoy our party together. The chat was lively, and the laughter was a joy to hear. Fr. Paskal led us to toast King Charles III and Queen Camilla as we raised our glasses of wine and shouted our Hip Hip Hoorays! I am glad we were able to share this wonderful historic celebration and that it has given us memories that we too may be able to share with others one day.

Thank you to all that joined us and made the day so special.

The coffee morning is a friendly and informal group that meet weekly in the Good Shepherd Hall at the rear of St Andrews Church on a Thursday between 10.00 a.m. and 12.00 noon. New members to the group are always welcome and your first-time mug of tea/coffee is free.

You will find it a friendly place to be, so why not give it a try!

Carole Sami



Buckingham Palace Garden Party

Prior to the coronation, the then Queen Consort, together with the Royal Voluntary Service, launched the Coronation Champion Awards. These were to celebrate volunteers who go the extra mile to improve the lives of others.

I didn't know it, but a friend nominated me for the work I do with the food bank, plus all the sewing that I did for the NHS during lockdown. The email arrived telling me that I had won one of the awards, and for once I was completely speechless.

Part of the award was receiving two tickets to the Buckingham Palace Garden Party held on the Wednesday before the coronation. My husband wasn't interested in going, and I couldn't choose one food bank volunteer over the others, so I took my daughter Alison.

We started the day with a 1st class train journey and took taxis to and from the palace. We weren't going to get our finery crushed on the tube!

We went to wait at the main palace gates and spent time taking photos of each other. There were some lovely people to talk to; we took photos of them, and they all did the same for us. And then the gates opened, and we were inside the palace grounds. I had been advised to have tea first as there might not be any left later. There were so many choices of sandwiches and cakes that Alison and I agreed to take different things so we could share, and thus taste most of them. Delicious!

The two brass bands on the lawn played the National Anthem when the Royal Party came on to the terrace. When you see the "meet and greet" on TV, you see the royals walking between two lines of people. I'm not sure how it was managed, but seven lanes were organised, one for each member of the royal family in attendance. That afternoon we saw the King, the Queen Consort, the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester and the Duke of Kent. The King came down our lane. He didn't speak to us, but we were quite close as he walked by.

The Royal Party then went for tea with various VIPs. Alison and I walked round the grounds, which were much smaller than I had thought. A lot of areas had been left wild, no doubt by order of the King.

The brass bands were still playing, and we found more people to talk to. Everyone was so friendly. The playing of the National Anthem indicated that the Royal Party were going back to the palace. The event was officially over, but no-one was chasing us all out.

All in all, it was a lovely occasion. The weather was perfect; a little breezy at times so we had to hold on to our hats. I am so grateful to have been chosen out of over five thousand nominations, and I was happy to accept the award on behalf of my team of committed volunteers. I am sure that being a Coronation Champion will be of help when publicising the food bank.

Gill Rose

Some photos from Gill's Day at Buckingham Palace Garden Party with her daughter Alison. Gill is Church Warden at St Michael's Church, Handsworth.



UK foodbanks busier than ever

More food parcels were given out in the UK this past year than ever before. During December 2022, an emergency food parcel was handed out the equivalent of every eight seconds.

These are the most recent figures from the Trussell Trust, which supports more than 1300 foodbanks in the UK.

In all, the charity says it gave out nearly three million food parcels between April 2022 and April 2023. More than one million of these were for children.

These three million parcels from the charity's foodbanks represent a 37-per-cent increase in England on 2021. And more than 760,000 people used a foodbank for the first time, which is up more than one third in 2021-22.

Soaring inflation and energy costs have driven the increase in demand. The charity reports an unprecedented rise in the number of employed people using their foodbanks, because they are "no longer able to balance a low income against rising living costs."

The problem now, says the trust, is that food donation levels are not keeping up with the need. "This is putting us under a lot of strain."

c/o Parish Pump



for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,

‘ Matthew 25:35

Saturday Gardening

The idea to meet regularly in the church garden came to us in Midsummer, 2021 when the pandemic was still of major concern. Not only had the garden suffered some neglect during the lockdowns but so had church 'get togethers'. Ever since then, a group of us has met on Saturdays from 11.00am until 1.00pm. The original goal was to improve the gated Good Shepherd Garden on the 'north' side of the church which was in particular need of attention but by popular demand work was carried out also in the gated garden by the vestry ('south' side) and also the large front garden 'west' of the church.

Work was started with hard work by Alison Thorne, Shebina and Jag Gill, Mary, Aaron and Thomas Bairstow, Elaine Powell, Rebecca and Nicola Poyner, and Eileen and Leo Lawrence. Many people have also made valuable contributions and have come to the garden when circumstances allowed. Rose Blair has donated seeds and planted spring bulbs, Jean Wildman has helped with watering and young Kane Ferreira (age 6) worked well with stones and contributed young ideas.

Moral support and encouragement have been given by Church Warden Carl Hart, Readers Carole Sami and Stuart Jeffs and former Vicar Fr Douglas Machiridza.

Many generous donations have been received.

Gill Ludford donated the rose 'Lichfield Angel' in Memory of Penny Fleming. Beverley Beaumont and Susan Cross donated (and planted) the Passion flower in Memory of their parents Herbert and Joan Hawkes.

Jan Fleming donated the rose 'Gertrude Jekyll' in Memory of her husband Nigel Fleming and also the rose 'Precious Amber' in Memory of her parents Mary and Edgar Stratford.

Gloria James donated the rose 'Thomas a Becket' in Memory of her husband Fr Henley.

The rose 'Tottering by Gently', is in Memory of Rene Allison.

The climbing rose 'Galway Bay' is in Memory of Janice Bissell. It is hoped that this rose will intertwine with a trellis in the manner of William Morris's famous wallpaper design 'The Trellis'.

Summer bulbs with planter were donated by Rose Bair.

A compost bin was donated by Nicola Poyner.

A water barrel was donated by Fr John.

Various items have been added to the garden by Alison, Shebina and Joan over the months.

As well as recently donating two trellises and a bird bath Shebina has created a natural style water feature to symbolise 'a well of living water'.

We have been pleased to welcome visitors to the garden and thank everyone who has come. We hope to install a Visitors Book!

The garden seems to be evolving gradually and 'naturally'.

A daffodil walk was planted in Memory of Shebina's mother, Janet Azam, on the gated 'south' side of the Church. Flower beds in this area are tended by Alison and are becoming more and more colourful. The front garden of the church was beautifully improved by an anonymous donation of twenty new lavender plants which stretch the length of the wall. In this area Alison has worked particularly hard due to an ongoing battle with horsetail weeds.

The main theme of the 'Good Shepherd Garden' is of course the Good Shepherd. In developing this theme, which is carried through a series of small 'garden rooms', we have attempted to take into account our concern for wildlife, particularly insects and birds, and also the Arts and Crafts architecture of St. Andrew's Church. Our beautiful light filled church was designed by William Henry Bidlake. He was one of the leading architects of the Arts and Crafts Movement whose members shaped our City in such a host of wonderful ways over a hundred years ago. Despite being so well known and influential in his day, both throughout the UK and internationally, he now rests modestly in an unmarked grave in Handsworth Cemetery. Although his monument there could be the Cemetery itself which he designed together with the beautiful chapel at its heart, the lovely lodge at its gate and the grand steps leading from the Chapel, it might be fitting to plant a rose for him in the garden of St Andrew's as this church has meant so much to so many of us over the years. It is unlikely that our garden will ever be as fine as the Arts and Crafts gardens of his time which complemented the buildings of his era, but it is good to have such principles to try to follow as they seem just as relevant today as they were a hundred years ago.

We hope the Good Shepherd Garden will help us to 'see Jesus' and that the garden as a whole will continue to evolve to bring pleasure and interest to visitors and those who tend it, especially now with the participation of Fr Paskal and Akhtar.

The gated gardens are open every Saturday 11.00 am until 1.00 pm. All welcome.

Joan Wild



Eileen and Leo, Mary, Thomas and Aaron

June 2021.

Shebina and Jag Gill in the rain



Elaine with Shebina September 2021.



Alison, Ellie and Joe. January 2022



Gloria July 2021



Beverley, Susan , Simon planting the Passion Flower, May 2022



Rose planting daffodils



Sheila June 2022



Shebina in the Heart Garden



Margaret



Rebecca with Lucergia and Kane & Larissa



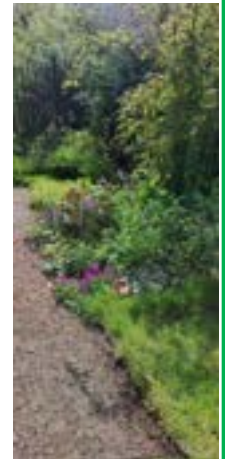
Kane laying stones for the Sea of Galilee with



Larissa investigating pansy petals.



Edwards Crown for the Platinum Jubilee and the Coronation.



The final photograph = Looking towards the Sea of Galilee Garden with grass fish Tristramella sacra.

Photographs c/o Joan Wild. Joan works hard in the Church Garden and has taken many photographs. She plans to do a regular Church Garden feature in the magazine.

The Climate Emergency

I recently attended a rally in Westminster, organised by Extinction Rebellion (XR) and several other organisations. I was particularly keen to go as I had been invited to attend as part of a group of medics involved with a ‘Greener practice initiative’ . Many of us have steered clear of XR events – not least because, for many registered professionals such as GPs and optometrists a criminal offence puts our registration and therefore our ability to practice at risk . We were assured that this would be a different event with the emphasis on collaborating with other groups to make an impact.

I was really glad to be there and particularly to see so many health professionals making a statement. However there were a few nagging concerns. As I looked around the crowds, there didn’t seem to be much diversity – most people looked a little bit ‘alternative’ and I certainly didn’t feel there was a good representation of people from ethnic minorities. In short, where were the people who looked like a ‘usual’ St Andrews congregation? I think this is really important. If we are to help Government and powerful businesses to put the Climate Emergency at the top of their agendas. To do this, I think its important that concern about the environment has to be ‘mainstreamed’. One way to do this is to consider the different core values important to different strands of society. You might sway a family-loving grandmother by talking about the future her grandchildren deserve or a well-off online influencer by addressing the financial impact of climate change or the risk to the supply of key products .

As a Christian, there are several hugely motivating factors – there is, of course, the feeling that

we have a huge role in the stewardship of God’s planet. However, the one thing that makes me frustrated and if I am honest, angry, climate change will have the most impact on people from less developed, poorer and resource-limited countries. So what part can we play ? Well, we have heard quite a bit in Church recently about putting love into action. I wrote last year about the seven actions required to address climate change . One of these was to think about who you bank with. Triodos and the Co-op bank are two banks committed to addressing the impact that they have on climate change. So next time you get out your credit card or fill in your details online, perhaps take a few minutes to jot down a few of your own core values. Then, if you are able, spend a few minutes researching what respected organisations such as Christian Aid, Green Christians or the Quakers say about the values of the Bank you use. If you decide to change your Bank, think about how powerful a message you’ll send, not as an ‘alternative’ looking XR supporter, but as a ‘mainstream’ Anglican trying to put love into action.

c/o Mary Bairstow

Thank You Letter

A group of children from William Murdoch School recently visited St Andrew's Church. The following letter was received after their visit.

Hello Fr Paskal,

I just want to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you for accommodating us on Monday afternoon. The children have thoroughly enjoyed it and can't stop talking about how beautiful the church was. They really weren't expecting the church to be like that. They particularly enjoyed the quiz and exploring the church. So thank you once again.

Thank you too for complementing us on how well our children behaved and how they polite they were. Our Headteacher was very pleased to hear this.

I have yet to go through the photos, but I will send you some over the next few days over the children listening whilst in church (obviously no faces).

Kind regards,

Roberto Panichi
William Murdoch School



The Garden

Never the sky so blue
Never the trees so green
Never a sight so
beautiful, seen,
As bright dazzling
flowers of every hue
set out to captivate
me and you.

This is my garden.

by Margaret Wiswczaryk
May 2023

The Life of Saint Paschal Baylon



Early Life

Paschal Baylón was born in a Roman Catholic family on May 16th 1540, in Spain at Torrehermosa, in the Kingdom of Aragon, on the feast of the Pentecost to the poor but pious peasants Martin and Elizabeth Jubera Baylón. He was named Paschal in honour of Pascua de Pentecosta, for local custom required that a child be called after the saint or feast day on which it was born. He had a brother and two sisters. He served as a shepherd alongside his father in his childhood and adolescence. To help support the family, Paschal was hired out by his father to tend the flocks of others. Some of his companions were much inclined to cursing, quarrelling, and fighting. But learnt to hold their tongue in his presence. Because they respected his pious nature and his virtue. He was extremely honest, even offering to compensate owners of crops for any damage that his sheep caused. Not having any other means to relieve the poor, he always gave them a part of his own dinner which was sent him into the fields. He had a great desire to read and write. Someone had given him a book of the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary for reading.

His vocation

When he shared his deepest desire to join a religious life, some recommended several richly endowed monasteries. But he answered, 'I was born poor and am resolved to die in poverty and penance.' He was initially denied the chance to join the Order of Friars Minor - Franciscans because of his age. He returned to his duties as a shepherd. But later, at age twenty-four, in 1564, he joined the Franciscans as a religious brother and commenced his period of novitiate on February 2nd before making his profession on February 2nd, 1565, in Orito at the Saint Joseph convent. He was urged to become an ordained priest, but he felt that was not the path for him.

Life of simplicity

He never had more than one habit, which was always threadbare; he walked without sandals in the snow. He accommodated himself to all places and seasons. His jobs included serving as a cook and gardener as well as the official beggar who went around asking for alms. Paschal would never waste food and often shared the better part of his dinner with the poor. He spent most of his religious life as a porter, causing his fellow friars to caution him from giving too generously to the poor. As a porter, his duties entailed tending to the poor who came to the friars' door. Paschal was renowned for his remarkable humility, unflinching courtesy, and generosity. He lived this life in contemplation and silent meditation, often as he worked. He was contemplative and had frequent ecstatic visions. He would silently spend the night before the altar in preparation for the holy communion. But he also shrugged off those notions of him gaining a reputation coming from that pious nature. On one occasion, during a journey through France, he defended the dogma of the Real Presence against a Calvinist preacher. Consequently, he narrowly escaped death at the hands of a Huguenot mob.

His spirituality

Paschal Baylon was best known for his strong and deep devotion to the Eucharist. Typically, he spent as many hours a day as he could worshipping before the Tabernacle. Because of his faithful devotion, he was called the 'Saint of the Blessed Sacrament'. And the Church has named him Patron of Eucharistic congresses and conferences.

His death and canonization

Paschal Baylón died on May 17th, 1592, at the age of fifty-two, on the same feast on which he was born – the Feast of Pentecost. An unusual number of miracles took place at his tomb. As a result of these miracles and because of his exceptional dedication to the Holy Eucharist. The process for his canonization opened, and in 1618 he was beatified; Pope Alexander VIII canonized him a saint on October 16th, 1690. His feast day is May 17th, and he is the patron saint of cooks, shepherds, and Eucharistic Congresses. His tomb is in Villarreal in Spain.

Fr Paskal Clement

(Vicar)



FATHER'S DAY SUNDAY 18 JUNE 2023

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

Walsingham

Walsingham is known as England's Nazareth as it is the place Mary appeared to the Lady Richeldis and told her to build a shrine to honour the Incarnation with one of the chapels a replica of the Holy House of Nazareth. Mary pilgrims visit the Shrine of Mary every year some on a daily pilgrimage others stay at the shrine for a few days.

It is a place of peace and tranquillity where pilgrims choose for themselves which of the many services that are available, they want to attend and what they want to do while they are there. You can walk to the catholic shrine Our Lady, or maybe catch the local bus into Wells-Next-Sea or Sheringham or just explore the local area.

I have been on pilgrimages to Walsingham with our church and I think one of my favourite services is the one held on Saturday Night where all who are able process round the church and then round the grounds carrying candles and singing hymns of praise to Our Lady. St. Andrew's Church are once again making our yearly pilgrimage to Walsingham in September (one or two places are still available so please see me if you are interested in joining us). I know I will enjoy my time there as much as I did the first time I went, as each visit makes its own special memories.

Chris Baker



Dear Editor,

I would like to say how much I enjoyed the Easter Services this year. Some were slightly different but it's good to try new things. I especially enjoyed the Good Friday service on the afternoon to be able to follow the Stations of the Cross as Jesus did and to listen to the reading at each station explaining each one and then to receive communion on Good Friday made it a very special service. Receiving communion on Good Friday bought back many happy memories of the early 1980's. I remembered the first time I received communion on a Good Friday when Fr John Herve celebrated Mass on Good Friday.

Thank you Fr Paskal and all who helped to organise the Easter Services.

Chris Baker.

CHILDREN'S WORDSEARCH

THE STORY OF JACOB. GENESIS CHAPTER 25



sheep
Leah
years
run
flock
agreed

God
work
sister
Rachel
black
father

angels
jealous
away
marry
Jacob
wages

seven
brother
home
Laban
cousin
moved

CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLE'S QUIZ

This month we have a question about St Andrew's Church. Have a look around the church and find the photograph below. Let Fr Paskal know when you find it.





Mouse Makes

The Lord said to Moses,
 "Your brother Aaron shall tell Pharaoh
 to let the people of Israel go out of his land...
 The Egyptians shall know that I AM the Lord
 when I stretch out my hand against Egypt..."
 As Pharaoh's heart was hardened against the
 Israelites, God sent ten plagues upon him...



1
Water turns to Blood
 Which water turned
 to blood?
Read - Exodus 7:19

2
A Swarm of Frogs
 In which
 places were the
 frogs found?
Read - Exodus 8:3-4

3
A Plague of Gnats
 When Aaron struck his
 staff on the ground
 what became Gnats?
Read - Exodus 8:16-17

4
Swarms of Flies
 In which land were the
 flies not be found?
Read - Exodus 8:22

5
Death of Animals
 Which animals that belonged
 to the Egyptians died?
Read - Exodus 9:2



D F G B O I L S L
 L S O O T O P I B
 A W D P E O P L E
 N A N I M A L S A
 D R S N G N A T S
 U M I D N I G H T
 S S T A F F U U O
 T A A R O N E N O
 D E B K D F S D G
 T M A N W A T E R
 M O S E S R W R O
 C R F S N I L E U
 F I R S T B O R N
 I V O K N L C F D
 R E G H W O U I E
 E R S A K O S S A
 H W I N D T H T
 I L F L I E S E H

GOD • PLAGUES • MOSES • AARON
 WATER • BLOOD • STAFF • RIVER • NILE • FISH
 FROGS • SWARM • GNATS • DUST • FLIES
 GROUND • DEATH • ANIMALS • SOOT
 BOILS • PEOPLE • HAIL • THUNDER • FIRE
 MAN • BEAST • LOCUSTS • WIND • LAND
 DARKNESS • FIRSTBORN • MIDNIGHT

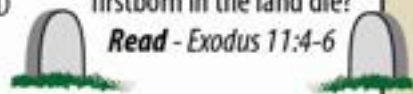
6
A Break out of Boils
 What did Moses throw into
 the air before boils appeared
 on people and animals?
Read - Exodus 9:10

7
A Rain of Hail
 What also rained
 down with the hail?
 Where did it not hail?
Read - Exodus 9:24-26

8
A Swarm of Locusts
 Where did the wind
 come from that brought
 the locusts to the land?
Read - Exodus 10:13

9
Darkness over the Land
 How many days did
 it remain dark?
Read - Exodus 10:21-22

10
Death of the Firstborn
 At what time would the
 firstborn in the land die?
Read - Exodus 11:4-6



Reflecting faith – the Lectern

Have you ever considered the furniture that we have in our churches?

Close your eyes and think what your own sitting room looks like and the furniture you have chosen to go in there. Most of us will have chairs, a sofa, one or more tables of different sizes, a fireplace and a television. Which way are the chairs facing? What's the focal point?

Churches are no different in that they have most fixtures and fittings in common, and in set places.

In an Anglican church the focal item is the altar at the centre, with the lectern – from where the Bible is read out loud during services - on the right side as you look at it, and a pulpit on the left-hand side.

In a Methodist church the pulpit is often behind, but built higher than the altar, and probably with a mobile lectern to be placed as chosen.

This demonstrates a key difference between the two denominations. The former holds the bread and wine in greater importance whilst the latter gives that status to the preaching and the Word of God.

Such variations reveal the way in which we 'reflect our faith' through our buildings.

The word 'lectern' derives from 'to collect, gather', and again, 'to speak', so together it means 'to gather words, to pick out words.'

The words in church which we read from the lectern have been certainly carefully chosen and then written down. There have been centuries, indeed millennia, of time, thought, prayer and energy going into preparing the Bibles that we read today!

It is a privilege to be asked to read from the Bible during a service, as that will form the basis for the sermon, the hymns and indeed the whole theme for that day or even that week.

This month: Have a look at the lectern in your place of worship or the place where the Bible readings are read from. What material is it made from? What shape is it? Does it have any distinctive features? Then consider how that passage or those passages are continued and expanded through the different elements of the service.

c/o Revd Dr Jo White, Parish Pump

Wordsearch clues for June

Each June, the Church of England holds its Petertide ordinations, to coincide with the feast day of the great apostle Peter, who led the Church at Pentecost. Simon had been a fisherman from Bethsaida, near the Sea of Galilee, when his brother Andrew introduced him to Jesus. When Simon made his famous confession of faith, that Jesus was the Christ, Jesus gave him a new name – Cephas, or Peter, which means rock. The ‘gates of hell’ would never prevail against Jesus’ Church, and He gave Peter the power of ‘binding and loosing’, and also the ‘the keys of the kingdom of heaven’. Peter witnessed the Transfiguration, the raising of the daughter of Jairus, and Jesus praying in Gethsemane. Peter betrayed Jesus but after the Resurrection, Jesus entrusted him to feed both the lambs and the sheep of Christ’s flock. Peter was the first apostle to work a miracle.



Simon	Daughter	Sheep	Lambs
Peter	Garden	Keys	Raising
Fisherman	Gethsemane	Kingdom	
Bethsaida	Betrayed	Gates	
Galilee	Cock	Hell	
Andrew	Crowed	Binding	
Jesus	Feed	Loosing	
Rock	My	Transfiguration	

**ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
HANDSWORTH**

