

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

**'THE MESSENGER'
PARISH MAGAZINE**

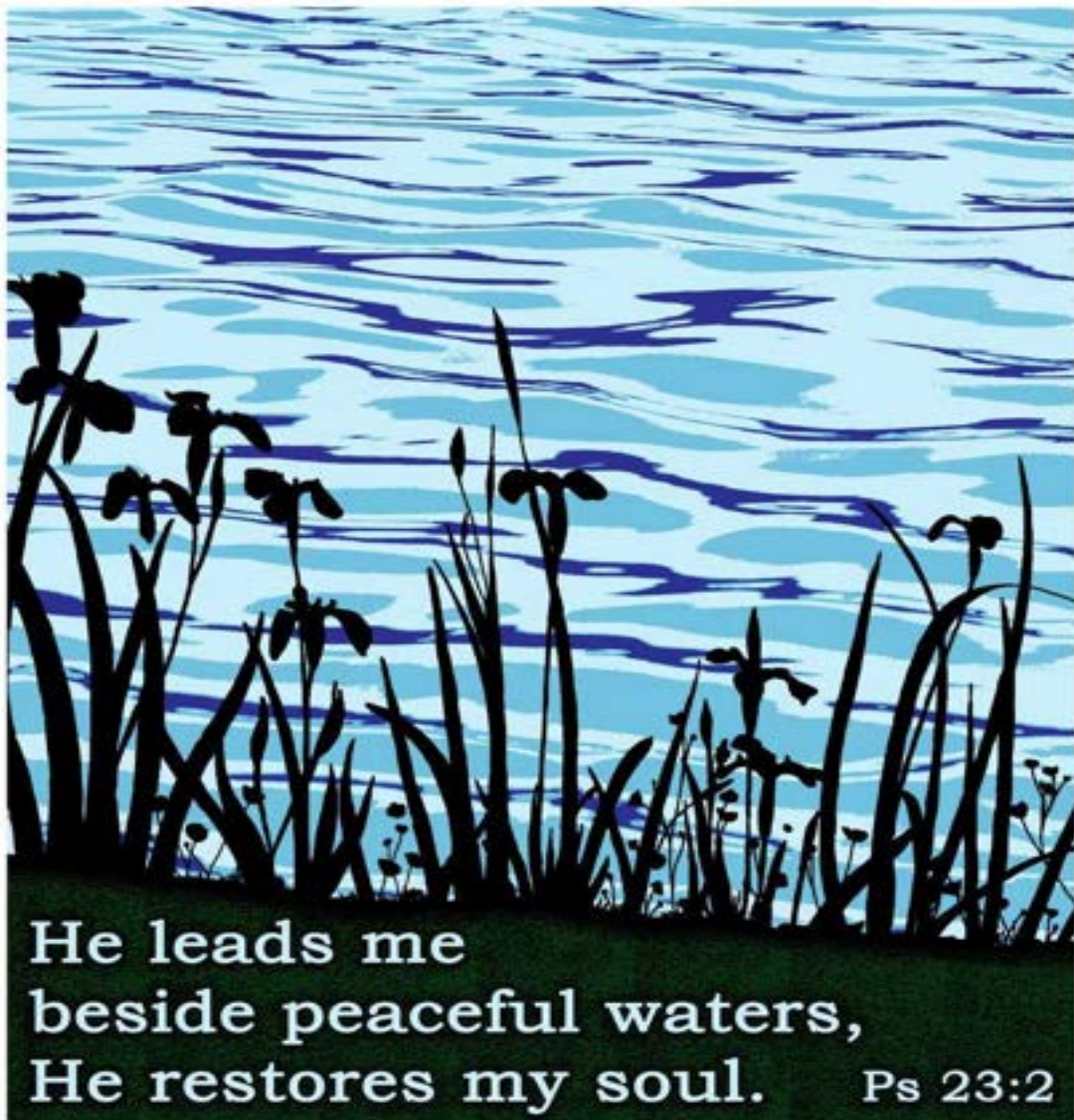
AUGUST 2023

50p

FEATURED INTERVIEW!

SAINT OF THE MONTH

**CHILDREN'S SECTION AND
GOODBYE FROM STUART JEFFS**





NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Hi!

Welcome to the August edition of the magazine. This month we have started some new sections in the magazine; a 'Featured Interview' and 'Saint of the Month'. Fr Paskal has started a Short Story section and Joan Wild has continued writing about the church garden. We have our regular Children's Section and a Goodbye Letter from Stuart Jeffs, Director of Music who will be sadly leaving us this month.

To make our magazine rich in diversity and more reflective, we would like to start a new section on family sayings or proverbs from your culture. For example, '*Never hang your hat higher than you can reach it.*' Meaning don't over stretch yourself financially. Please send your contributions to the magazine and we will include them. Perhaps you have a story to tell behind a particular saying or proverb.

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 for all your contributions.

Thanks.
Eileen

(Editor of the Parish Magazine)

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: Mobile: 07727286905, Phone: 0121 218 1988

Email: revpaskal@gmail.com

Asst Priest: Father John Austen: 0121 554 8882

Church Warden: Carl Hart: 07967 410155.

Lay Readers

Carole Sami – 07447 889657

Alison Thorne

Stuart Jeffs

Services

Sunday 10.00 – Parish Eucharist.

Every Second Sunday: Family Service.

Every Third Sunday: Healing Service

Sunday Services are sometimes live streamed via YouTube.

Weekday activities

Wednesday 7.00p.m. Evening Prayer on zoom

every second Wednesday at 7.00pm: Book of Common Prayer on zoom

led by Lay Readers: Stuart Jeffs and Alison Thorne.

Thursday 10.00a.m. Holy Communion Service

Thursday from 10 to 12noon: Coffee Morning

St Andrew's WhatsApp Group: if you wish to join, please contact Carl Hart 07967 410155 or Stuart Jeffs 07910 484505

St Andrew's PCC

Church Warden: Carl Hart

PCC Secretary: Rebecca Gaskin

Treasurer: Richard Paton-Devine

PCC members:

Mary Bairstow, John Emmins, Jan Flemming, Shebina Gill, Sonia Hyman, Alison Thorne

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/StAndrews.Handsworth>

Twitter @StAndrewCE_HW

Letter From The Vicarage

Summer Time!

It's summertime, break time! Some schools have broken up, and others will resume their holidays soon. I can't imagine. We are already in the middle of the year. When we come back after the break, life can become busier. But don't think about that now.

Some of you had already planned to go away on holiday locally or abroad. Wherever you go, keep safe, and enjoy quality time with your family. Put your gadgets and devices away on holiday, take a break from them and give full rest to your body, mind, and spirit. Renew your energy.

God instituted the Day of Rest. When the work of creation was completed, God rested on the Sabbath Day from his work. So, God included in creation fulfilment, contentment, and rest.

From the position of rest comes only stability in a relationship. Prosperity and peace flow from rest. Thomas Merton, A Trappist monk–writer and mystic, writes, '*human was created as a contemplative*'. But we have become a human doing. Take some time out and reflect on how you can own your original self – peaceful, loveable & restful.

Have an amazing summer. Time for rest and refreshment and focus on the Lord, the source of peace for your inner being.

It is also a sad time to say goodbye to our Music Director Stuart Jeffs who has served St Andrew's Church for more than a decade. But because of his personal and family circumstances, Stuart has resigned from his post. I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Stuart for his giftedness, spirituality, gentle approach and passion for music which he has shared with us. I wish him all the best for the future.

"Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him." (Psalm 34:8).

Fr Paskal Clement
(Vicar)

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

**Our Sunday Services are as follows:-
Sunday - 10.00 service with Holy Communion.**

Every Second Sunday: Family Service with Holy Communion



Every Third Sunday: Healing Service with Holy Communion



Every Thursday 10.00: Holy Communion Service in Church

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.

SHORT STORY

The Bible

Dr. Blenton, a psychiatrist, said, to a patient's surprise, that he actually studied the Bible every day. "It is the greatest textbook on human behaviour ever put together. If enough people studied it, absorbed it, and began to live by it, most psychiatrists would be unemployed."

As an example, he spoke about the parable of the Prodigal Son, and he said that if people really believed the core of that story, namely, that God's loving forgiveness is infinitely greater than any mistake we can make, all of his patients, paralysed with guilt feelings, would walk away free and healed.

This parable should be called "The Parable of the Forgiving Father."

Jesus invites us to come home, where a big hug awaits – even if our faces are covered with pig's food!

(Story is taken from 150 More Stories for Preachers & Teachers by Jack McArdle)

c/o Fr Paskal

Saint of the Month

Augustine – August 28th



St Augustine is one of many great Africans of Christian history. He was born in 384 in an area which is now Algeria. Then it was part of the Roman Empire which had been Christian for about two generations by that time. Augustine's mother Monica (who features in our East window) was a Christian, and he was probably enrolled in the church as a child, without actually being baptized. His parents were cultured but not wealthy and scraped together the money to pay for a first class education for their eldest son. He became a teacher of rhetoric, the mainstay of classical education of young adults, the art of persuasive speaking. This took him at length to Milan, then capital of the Roman Empire, where under the influence of St Ambrose, bishop of that city, he was baptized in 387.

A career as a teacher of rhetoric, if he could cultivate the right contacts, might have led to a governorship in a minor province of the Empire. In fact, Augustine returned to North Africa, intending to set up a cultured group of like-minded men, almost like a monastery, devoting themselves to a life of leisured reading and study. But the church in North Africa was hungry for talented leaders, and he found himself pressed into service as a minor priest; and a mere five years later a bishop in the port of Hippo, the modern Annaba in Algeria, near the Tunisian border. As a bishop he was immersed in administration, spending much time and energy in judicial activities. Not so different from the secular minor governorship he had earlier expected.

His skills in rhetoric served him well as a preacher, but it was above all with the written word that he rose to prominence. He wrote a prodigious amount, of which fortunately the greater part survives. His most famous works are *The Confessions*, a kind of autobiography showing how God guided every twist and turn of his early life, and *The City of God*, an account of human history from a Christian point of view.

He is remembered often today - St Augustine's Edgbaston is dedicated to him – and many people love the observation to which Father Paskal referred recently in a sermon. Augustine writes,

“You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.”

One popular story about St Augustine relates how he found a child digging a hole on the sea shore. Augustine asked him what he was doing. The child replies that he was draining the ocean into the hole he was digging. Augustine told the child that the ocean was so vast he would never be able to do it however much he dug. "Nor will you be able to explain the vast mystery of the Trinity, however much you write about it!" exclaimed the child, who then vanished.

In his own time, Augustine was best known for the work he did against a number of heresies which threatened the church. He helped to strengthen and define orthodoxy against Manicheism, Donatism, and above all Pelagianism. If all this seems rather obscure today, we should remember that it is only because of the withering of such heresies that Christianity emerged as we know it today.

August 28th is the date of Augustine's death in 430. He had lived through restless times. As a young man, the culture of the Roman Empire would have seemed entirely secure. By the time of his death, groups of barbarians from Germany and Scandinavia were threatening the Empire. Hippo itself was besieged by Vandals, and would fall to them shortly after his death.

Alison Thorne



SOCIAL EVENTS AT ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

St Andrew's Church has started to hold regular social events. These are some photographs taken at these events.

24 June 2023

CREAM TEAS IN THE CHURCH GARDEN



8 July 2023

GARDEN PARTY AT THE VICARAGE TO CELEBRATE FR PASKAL'S 36 YEARS OF MINISTRY. Gift given to Fr Paskal from St Andrew's



FUTURE EVENTS AT ST ANDREW'S

Bible Study

Bible Study starting Monday 7th August 2023 at 7.00 p.m. at the Vicarage, 55 Laurel Road, B21 9PB. The Bible is God's Word, and studying it is a way to know God better and deepen your relationship with God and his Word.

Fr Paskal

Christian Meditation—learning the art!

Learning the art of Christian meditation, especially for beginners. What is meditation? Why is meditation difficult? How to overcome the obstacles? And the benefits of meditation for your well-being—body, mind and spirit. It will take place on Monday morning at 11.00 a.m. in the Community Centre, date to be confirmed. Please let me know if you are interested.

Fr Paskal

Farewell Service

On Sunday 27th August at 10.00 a.m. there will be a thanksgiving service for Stuart Jeffs, who has resigned from his post as Director of Music due to his personal circumstances. It will be a nice opportunity to say thank you to Stuart for his giftedness, spirituality, and passion for music, which he has shared with St Andrew's Community for over a decade. I hope you can all attend this special service. I have asked Stuart to preach and choose his favourite hymns for the Holy Communion Service.

Fr Paskal



YOU WILL BE MISSED STUART. GOOD LUCK IN YOUR NEW VENTURE. WITH LOVE FROM ST ANDREW'S CHURCH.



Vicarage Garden Party



Saturday 26th August

From 1 – 4pm

**Come,
Relax
& enjoy**



For more details contact:

Val Powell & Sheila Mpofu

Quiet Day

Topic: "Let us go over to the other side."

Led by Father Paskal Clement



From 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Saturday, 23rd September 23

St Mary's Church Handsworth
Hamstead Road, Birmingham B20 2RW



For more details contact:

Fr Paskal Clement

Email: revpaskal@yahoo.com, Mobile: phone: 07727286905

Please bring a packed lunch. Drinks will be available.

We will close the day with the Holy Communion Service.

FEATURED INTERVIEW—DIVNA YOUNG

Question: Where were you born?

I was born in Aston Birmingham.

Question: What has been your life journey so far regarding work and family life?

I went to Canterbury Cross Junior and Infant school, Great Barr Comprehensive Secondary School, Matthew Boulton College, Salford University. I was a Pharmacy Manager within the NHS for 36 years. Within this time, I worked at Good Hope Hospital, Highcroft Hospital, HMP Birmingham and Sandwell & West Birmingham NHS Trust.

I have up until last July volunteered at a Children's Contact Centre for 4 years.

I invigilate at a Secondary School during the exam periods. I have 2 children and 3 grandchildren who keep me quite busy with school runs, nursery pickups and support when needed.

Question: What are your hobbies or special interests? What is your favourite

food? My hobbies are reading, I love Danielle Steel books. I enjoy cooking, but enjoy eating out more especially Italian food, listening to music. Since lock down, I've been growing some veg and paying more attention to the garden. I like travelling and as I am now retired (early retirement), I have been travelling a bit more, nearly time for a new passport as it's well stamped. Family time is very important and special also meeting up with friends.

Question: How long have you been a member of St Andrew's Church? Do you have any special memories of St Andrew's Church?

I have been a member of St Andrews church since 2017 and had my confirmation on 4th June 2018. This was a very special day for me. It was something I wanted to do and it felt right when I started to attend St Andrews.

Question: Do you have a favourite hymn, Bible reading or poem?

One of my favourite hymns is Bind Us Together with cords that cannot be broken. A favourite reading is Ecclesiastes 3.

Question: What developments, if any, would you like to see at St Andrew's?

I would like to see the heating fixed as you cannot relax and enjoy the service when its cold. Also if the music could be uplifting to get you feeling more spiritual. I think the future of St Andrews church depends on our new leader, Also we need new members, young members, more listening to members, not to make changes for the sake of it, being environmentally friendly, we waste too much paper each week.

Question: What do you enjoy doing most?

What I enjoy about St Andrews is the multicultural congregation and how friendly every one is.

This is me in a small nutshell.

God bless. Divna.

Divna is a regular member of the Welcome Team and participates in the Readings.

Farewell to St Andrew's

Well, after twelve years, I shall finally be saying 'Farewell' to St Andrew's Church. It all began with a telephone call in February 2011 to ask if I was available to play the piano for the 'Family Mass' service.

All the usual musicians were busy, and I was the last resort. I'd never been to St Andrew's before but with my usual enthusiasm, I turned up at around half past nine and the rest, as they say is history. This would be the beginning of a journey that would change my life.

A chance meeting on that day, after the service had finished, would shape the rest of my time at St Andrew's when I was approached by Jan Fleming who said, "Who are you?" I explained why I had come, and she continued to tell me that she didn't usually attend the 'Family Mass' and was only here because she was going to South Africa for a few weeks. "I wish you could look after the Choir while I'm away," she said and for some reason, without hesitation, I replied "I can do that," and well, I'm still here.

It has been a pure joy to have led the music ministry at St Andrew's for the last few years and it's fair to say that I shall miss the Choir and everyone who has been involved enormously. They have put up with a lot, I have written many anthems and songs over the years, and they have patiently performed them and encouraged me to keep writing. Perhaps, with your permission, I could come back sometime in the future, and we can 'Make a Joyful Noise' and praise God together once more.

It is often said that God moves in mysterious ways, and this is indeed true. Within eighteen months of being at St Andrew's, I was Confirmed into the Church of England, then, when I wasn't looking, God decided that he wanted more from me, I became a Lay Reader and have been blessed with a ministry firmly rooted in the Gospels. It has been a privilege to serve at St Andrew's and in the wider Handsworth and Central Deanery.

I shall be continuing as a Lay Reader somewhere within the Coleshill and Polesworth Deanery, most likely with St Mary and St Margaret's Church, Castle Bromwich, which is much closer to home and will allow Lorraine and I to spend more time together and with our family.

I have been so blessed to work alongside and learn from so many wonderful people, believe me, it's an exceptionally lengthy list of names and I have made so many friends.

I will miss St Andrew's Church and all my Brothers and Sisters in Christ very much. You have supported me, inspired me, encouraged me, and have all played your part in my Christian life. I have memories that will be cherished, and I hope that we can keep in touch.

I have recently written a new choir anthem based on 'An Irish Blessing' and my decision to move on was difficult but prayerful and somehow these words seem so appropriate.

*"May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be always at your back.
May the sunshine warm upon your face, The rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of his hand."*

May God bless you all.
Yours in Christ,
Stuart

Seniors day trip to Baddesley Clinton in Warwickshire

In July as part of the St. Andrews Social Committees planned activities for this year, a small group of us visited Baddesley Clinton, a National Trust Property in Warwickshire. Only 45 minutes away from Birmingham we were transported to another time and era.

It is a small manor house, complete with its own moat surrounding it, set in beautiful grounds. It has a history including medieval, Tudor and 20th century. The Ferrers family owned and lived there for more than 500 years before it was handed over to the National Trust.

The National Trust staff were welcoming, knowledgeable and entertaining. As we moved from room to room, we were given information about the rooms, the family, and stories, including one of the murder of a flirtatious vicar in the library, whose blood stain is said still to be on the floor by the fireplace !

The Ferrers were a catholic family at the time in history when it was a dangerous thing to be. There is a lovely small chapel upstairs where catholic mass was illegally held by visiting priests. Along the corridor was a small narrow shaft hidden in the walls called a priest hole. It ran the whole length of the building to an underground hideout where priests would hide during raids on the manor house to avoid charges of treason which held the penalty of death. Which must have been a very unpleasant experience for them. It seems the manor was not a good place for members of the clergy to be!

After a break in the café to enjoy delicious sandwiches, cakes and scones, the group decided to take advantage of the rare day of sunshine and take a walk around the walled gardens, and some walked up to the local parish church. There was a National Trust shop selling all sorts of goodies and a stall selling plants, some of which could be found in the gardens, for people to buy as mementos of their day out.

It was a lovely and interesting day full of beautiful things, good company and fellowship. Hopefully we will have other days out like this in the future and maybe you might like to join us.

Carole Sami



Thank You Letter

Trip to Baddesley Clinton on 26th July 2023

I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude and thanks to two wonderful ladies; Carole and Jan. They both helped me to have a thoroughly enjoyable day, despite me being unable to walk without assistance.

God Bless you always; Carole and Jan.

Margaret

Margaret Wiswczaryk

*Thank
You*



LOCAL MOBILE RECYCLING VISITS

OPEN 7AM – 12PM.

(ADVISED TO ARRIVE NOT LATER THAN 11.30)

7 August 2023—Herbert Road, B21 9AG

8 August 2023—Romilly Avenue, B20 2AT

15 August 2023—College Road, B20 2JH

5 September 2023—Hall Road, B20 2BB

13 September 2023—Acfold Road, B20 1HD

27 September 2023—Coopers Road, B20 2JU

(Information c/o Jacqui Miller).

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 Thorne

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

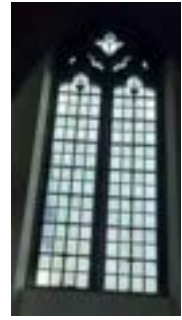
Director of Music

Gardening and Our Arts and Crafts Church.

According to 'Wikipedia',

'The core characteristics of the Arts and Crafts movement are a belief in craftsmanship which stresses the inherent beauty of the material, the importance of nature as inspiration, and the value of simplicity, utility, and beauty.'

Church gardening certainly heightens awareness of the natural beauty of many features inside our church. The carved wood of the Choir stalls and that of the reredos is certainly beautiful in itself but also inspired by nature in design. So many features serve to bring the natural world indoors. The huge windows flood the church with natural light. Being inside the church can be almost like being in a garden.



Spending time in the garden also provides the opportunity to become familiar with the many external features, which can become sources of inspiration for the garden or just 'enlightenment'. The craftsmanship in the gates at the front of the church is one example. The fleur de lys ('flower of the lily') shapes in the gates seem very significant as the lily is a symbol of purity. Entering through the gates one can be reminded that one is approaching the House of God and that the garden is an area deserving respect. Also the gates themselves can hold a special significance: **John 10:9.** Therefore Jesus said again, *"Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."*



Looking at the gates has encouraged me to plant some lily bulbs! It seems fitting that iron was the original choice for the church boundary, rather than fencing or walls with wooden gates. Light can pass through railings so passers-by are not cut off spiritually from the church even when the church is closed. A beautiful 'presence' in the Good Shepherd Garden is the Bell Tower. One of the first ideas for the garden was to try to make a 'Campanile Garden', so white and blue campanulas were planted. They have both done very well this year.



It must have been very unsettling for the parishioners when all the metal railings (apart from the gates) were removed to help the War effort in the 1940s. A special 'Thank you' to the person (Church Warden?) who held on to the gates for us!

On the 3rd of June we were delighted to have a visit from 'Handsworth Wood in Bloom' whose organiser took photographs to be displayed at Handsworth Old Town Hall and who presented us with a Certificate congratulating us on our lovely garden.

Following this it was great to welcome Gloria from Cheshire to the Garden (who likes to keep an eye on the Thomas a Becket rose planted for Fr Henley), and then later that month more visitors who came during the Cream Tea event at the front of Church. It was good to see people of all ages taking part in a hoopla game on the areas of grass to win prizes and it was great to see the children just enjoying being in the garden. It was also wonderful that Mrs Poyner was able to come to the garden despite being wheelchair bound. Her pleasure at being in the garden was really something to remember. With regard to plants, there has been a lovely succession of flowers including roses of many colours, alliums, foxgloves and carnations is blooming well now as is the Passion flower which has had many blooms over a long period. It is regrettable that the Good Shepherd Hall is not available to us as it used to be. With that facility there might have been more opportunities for people to use the Good Shepherd Garden or to have a quick look to see what was blooming every week. Gardens change so quickly as the flowers come and go. *'Full many a flower is born to blush unseen, And waste its sweetness on the desert air.'* Thomas Gray.



Nevertheless the birds and the bees and the butterflies seem to be appreciating the plants, many of which have been sown especially for them e.g. Echium, poppy, buckwheat, corn-cockle, flax and nasturtium. It is hoped to give continued attention to the other gated garden adjacent to the Vestry, particularly the hedge and the prickly white stemmed bramble plants. With regard to the front garden, the lavender is blooming well and Alison is keeping the horsetail weeds under control which is no mean feat. Alison has also added to the planting in the corner bed of the front garden. The rambling rose 'Albertine' gave a lovely show, rambling through the big holly tree.

The professional garden designers who landscaped and planted (at great expense) the 'open' area of the garden about 16 years ago seemed to have had wildlife concerns at the forefront of their minds. The rosemary, Verbena bonariensis, and hyssop planted then do not seem to have survived, but holly, ivy, hazel, philadelphus (mock orange) and dogwood are thriving. They provide good shelter for birds and all are good at combating atmospheric pollution and like all plants taking up CO2. The dogwood with its brightly coloured stems is particularly attractive in winter and the hazels have beautiful catkins and are now developing nuts. The mock orange has beautifully scented flowers. Keeping hedges well pruned is very important but because they support wildlife - particularly birds, pruning of them is best done in a way that danger to habitat is kept at a minimum and best left until there is no danger of upsetting nesting birds. Really more help from more volunteer gardeners is needed to tackle pruning, but this is the area in closest contact with some of the problems of our day which are impacting the church grounds.

The climate crisis, the cost of living crisis, homelessness, loss of natural habitat for wildlife, the insect apocalypse, drug and alcohol addiction, violent crime, and poverty are just some of the problems that surround us now and all need our prayers and considered action where possible. Special Prayers for Fr Paskal and those in positions of responsibility in the Diocese and St Andrew's to deal with these ubiquitous challenges are needed. In conclusion, on a positive note, another aim of the Arts and Crafts Movement was to ensure that things of beauty are available to all. May St. Andrew's Church continue to be a beautiful 'oasis of calm' for all and bring more and more people to Jesus through its garden gates.

Joan Wild





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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

PHOTO QUIZ.



In the last magazine the following photograph was shown with the question – can you find this object in church? The answer is – the cover of the Baptismal Font! If you would like any further information I am sure a member of the Clergy will help you.



This month's photograph is -
Church and see if you can find it.

Have a look around the

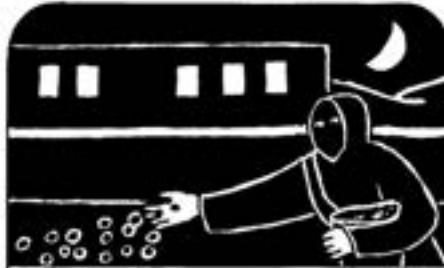
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Matthew chapter 13: 24-30, 36-43

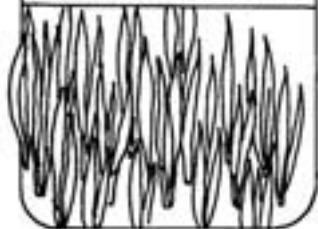
Jesus told this story to help explain what his Kingdom, the Kingdom of Heaven, is like...

A farmer's workers sowed good wheat seed in his field.

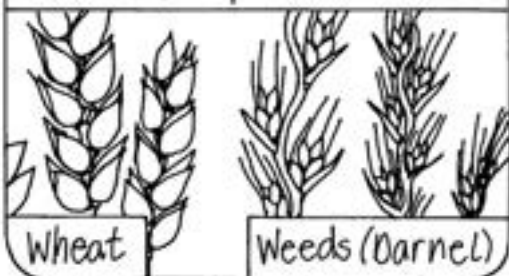


At night an enemy came and scattered weed seeds

When the seeds sprouted they looked the same



When the plants grew bigger the workers spotted the weeds



Wheat

Weeds (Darnel)

They asked the farmer



How did this happen?

An enemy did this



We'll pull up the weeds!

No, you might pull up some wheat with them. Wait until harvest time



You will be able to sort them out, and put the wheat in the barn... and burn the weeds



People asked



What does this story mean?

The field is the world and the good seeds are the good people



The weed seeds are the evil people. At the end of time they will be separated.

The angels will bring the good people to me in heaven.



CHILDREN'S WORD SEARCH



worker

heaven

evil

pull

spotted

weeds

world

angels

good

happen

sort

wheat

same

field

seeds

harvest

scattered

farmer

enemy

plants

people

darnel

night

sprouted

WAY OF DISCIPLESHIP COURSE

I started the Way of Discipleship Course in 2021. (The old 3D Course). It has taken me two years to complete all the modules but I finally managed it. The meetings were on a Monday evening via Zoom and I enjoyed listening to the journeys of other Christians and learning more about my faith and the Bible. I also discovered the Lectio 365 App which I find makes a good start to the day, you can either read or listen to the Bible reading and commentary and it takes about 5 minutes.

On Sunday 2 July 2023 I attended Birmingham Cathedral to collect my Certificate. We were welcomed by Canon Dr Josephine Houghton, Canon Precentor. The Service was led by Rev Guy Donegan-Cross who has been leading the Course with a Sermon by Rev Anne Hollinghurst, Bishop of Aston and Acting Bishop of Birmingham. It was a really uplifting service and it was great to meet people face to face after speaking to everyone via Zoom.

Eileen Lawrence

Guy Donegan-Cross has provided the following information for anyone who may be interested.

A promotional poster for the 'Way of Discipleship' course. It features a red background with a white logo of a cross inside a circle. The text is arranged in several sections: a yellow box with the course title, an orange box with a list of topics, a white box with dates and times, and a blue speech bubble with a testimonial. The background image shows a person standing on a beach at sunset.

 Way of Discipleship

**September 2023:
Way of
Discipleship
online.
"Being with God"**

**Being with God is a seven week
course on Zoom covering:**

What is a disciple? How do disciples grow? Who is God?
How can I know God? How do I pray? Worship? Read
Scripture? Live a balanced life?

Dates:
Monday evenings, 7-9.15pm
11th and 18th September
2nd, 9th, 23rd and 30th October
6th November

Booking form:
<https://www.cognitofirms.com/Cofebirmingham/CopyOfWayOfDiscipleshipBookingForm202223>
Or contact guydc@cofebirmingham.com

"This is undoubtedly one of the highlights of my week at the moment. I find the format very helpful as it includes listening, talking to others and personal reflection."

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

Church Halls Administration: John Emmins

Phone:01215542437, **Mobile:** 07486 377719

Email: enquiriesstandrewsacc@gmail.com

Public activities that currently take place at the Centre.

Tuesday: 10:00 - 13:00 - Saheli Hub Women's Group

Tuesday: 10:00 - 12:00 - Home Start Family Support Group

Wednesday 17:30 - 20:30 - Temple Martial Arts

Thursday: 11:30 - 12:30 - Move for life Exercise Class

Saturday 09:00 - 13:00 - Little Kickers

Saturday 14:00 - 15:00 - Temple Martial Arts

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

Activities information c/o John Emmins

Halls Management Team

Wordsearch - The Transfiguration – August 2023

In August the church calendar commemorates the Transfiguration. The story is told in Matthew (17:1-9), Mark (9:1-9) and Luke (9:28-36). Jesus took Peter, James and John, his closest disciples, up a high mountain. It may have been Mount Tabor, or else one of the three spurs of Mount Hermon.

Suddenly, Jesus is transfigured. His face shone, his garments became white and dazzling. Elijah and Moses appeared, and a bright cloud overshadowed the disciples. A voice spoke out of the cloud, saying that Jesus was His beloved son, whom the disciple should 'hear'.

Then, just as suddenly, it is all over. What did it mean? Moses represented the Law, and Elijah the Prophets of the Old Covenant. But now the Law and the Prophets have found their fulfilment in Jesus, the Messiah. The written Word and the spoken Word have handed over to the Living Word. **c/o Parish Pump**



Transfiguration
Jesus
Mountain
Tabor
Hermon
High

Face
Cloud
Elijah
John
Law
Glory

Written
Transformed
James
Fear
Mankind
Prophets

Living
White
Dazzling
Moses
Dwelling
Peter

Shine

