

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

**'THE MESSENGER'
PARISH MAGAZINE**

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2023

50p

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**MEMORIES OF CHURCH IN KENYA
AND ZAMBIA**



REMEMBRANCE DAY



From the Editor

Hi, I am Eileen Lawrence, Editor of the Parish Magazine.

Welcome to the October/November edition of the parish magazine. Some of the articles we have this month are; October's Saint of the Month—St Francis of Assisi, a Featured Interview of our Church Warden, articles about Black History Month, a reflection on the trees removed from outside church, a Remembrance Day Quiz, and a canal boat holiday to Llangollen.

Recently I was talking to three women after church and they said their home countries were Uganda, Congo, and Kenya. This got me thinking. How many different cultures do we have at St Andrew's? It would be great to celebrate cultural diversity. This month we have two reflections about church life in Kenya and Zambia. If you have a memory or a story to tell, I would love to hear from you.

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. Our next issue will be at Christmas. So please write some exciting stories about Christmas.

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

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Church Warden: Carl Hart: 07967 410155.

Lay Readers

Carole Sami: 07447 889657
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Weekday activities

Thursday from 10 to 12noon: Coffee Morning

St Andrew's WhatsApp Group: if you wish to join, please contact

Carl Hart: 07967 410155.

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

Director of Music—Vacancy

Church Halls Administration – John Emmins

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Twitter @StAndrewCE_HW

LETTER FROM THE VICAR

Live simple, live happy!

In October, the Franciscan Community worldwide celebrates the feast of St Francis of Assisi. He was born into a wealthy family in Assisi, Italy. Francis is the founder of the Order of the Franciscan Minor (OFM). Francis' spirituality and simple lifestyle inspire millions of people – old and young alike in every age. Francis so identified himself with the character and works of Jesus that he has been called a Second Christ; literally, in the Latin phrase, alter Christus—or another Christ. Francis' life of simplicity has greatly impacted my personal life.

We celebrated the harvest festival in our church. On this day, we thank God for the blessings he has given to his children. We are grateful to Mother Earth, which produces all kinds of fruits and vegetables to sustain us. People - men, women, and children with their animals work tirelessly in the field to produce harvest. Transporters who deliver food from one city (country) to another so that we have food on our table. Thank God we have an abundance of food to eat.

But the food that is wasted is also shocking and unbelievable. According to one survey, 1.3 billion tonnes of food is thrown away - wasted. If the same amount of food is provided to people. The world would give ten meals per day, each day per person. No one should go hungry. So save food, save lives, save planet! Thank you so much to the church members who brought their gifts generously. This food will go to our local food bank. St Francis challenges us to live a simple life. So, we can share our resources with people with low incomes and those in need. Mahatma Gandhi beautifully says, "Live simply so that others may simply live."

Unfortunately, we will not be able to repair the heating system in the church. We will have our Sunday services in the Good Shepherd Hall during winter from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. We negotiated with the group that uses the Good Shepherd Hall for the worship.

We had a lovely quiet day at St Mary's. The topic: *"Let us go over to the other side."* I think this quiet day has helped the participants to explore and discover the other side – the unfamiliar, unknown of their lives. A quiet day gives you an opportunity and space to explore your spiritual life and deepen your relationship with God in silence, reflection and prayer.

The next quiet day will take place at St James' Church on Saturday, 16 November, from 10.30 am to 3.30 pm. The topic: **"Pondering with Mary"**, for Christmas preparation.

The Bible Study is going well. I think people are enjoying it and, in the meantime, learning a lot about the bible. Join us and *'Taste and see that the LORD is good.'* (Psalm 8.34).

Happy Feast of St Francis!

Fr Paskal
(Vicar)

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

Our Sunday Services are as follows:-

Sunday - 10.00 am service with Holy Communion.

These Services include

FAMILY MASS EVERY: SECOND SUNDAY 10.00AM



HEALING SERVICE EVERY: THIRD SUNDAY 10.00AM



Thursday Service 10.00 am in Church with Holy Communion

Future Services

All Saints Day, Sunday 29th October at 10.00 am

All Souls Day Service, Sunday 29th October at 3.00 pm

PATRONAL FEAST—FEAST OF ST ANDREW'S

SUNDAY 26TH NOVEMBER AT 10.00 am

SAINT OF THE MONTH—St. Francis of Assisi – celebrated on October 4th

As I sit at my desk to write this, on the wall in front of me is one of my favourite prayers.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hated, let me sow love.

Where there is injury, pardon.

Where there is doubt, faith.

Where there is despair, hope.

Where there is darkness, light.

Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.



This prayer is attributed to St. Francis and used in a popular hymn often sung at St Andrews. But who was St. Francis? Born in Assisi in Italy in 1182 named Giovanni Francesco De Bernadone. He grew up learning the trade of his father, a well off cloth merchant who mostly traded in France.

In Francis' early 20's he set off to join the Papal Army who were at war with Perugia. On his way he had a dream, where a voice told him "Follow the master, not the man". He interpreted this as a call from Christ and he returned to Assisi and began to care for the poor, and sick, especially the lepers. A further call came to him when Francis heard a voice which seemed to come from a byzantine style crucifix in the small semi derelict church of San Damiano in Assisi. The call "Go and repair my house, which you see is falling down" led him to him renouncing his inheritance and handing over his fine clothes. For the next 2 years dressed only in a workman's smock he lived as a hermit and vowed to complete poverty and dedication to God.

Soon, Francis' life attracted a group of disciples. They lived in a primitive cottage and Francis devised a rule of life for them. They were to own nothing personally or communally. Eventually they were given papal approval and they travelled about Italy attracting huge numbers of penitents and recruited many to their order. Francis then turned his mind to missionary work outside Europe. The missionary activity of the friars spread and reached as far as Mongolia and China, where a Christian community flourished for over a century. Later he returned to Italy to a place in the mountains called La Verna to pray and fast.

Francis went to city of Gubbio where he tamed a wolf that was terrorizing the locals. He would preach to the birds in the trees. This is why he is often depicted in paintings and statues along with animals. If you look at the statues around our high altar at St Andrews, you will see St. Francis with the birds. It was also at this time at La Verna that he received the five marks of the wounds of Christ, known as the stigmata. Wounds on his hands, feet, and side. They hurt, they bled and despite his attempts to hide them they were clearly visible.

During the last two years of his life, he became ill. Although many attempts were made to treat him, they all failed, and he became blind and then died at just age 45. Saint Francis was canonized in 1228. Francis led and preached a simple life and a message that is still relevant today, there are still many Franciscan monks around the world. As the prayer shows, we should try to think less about our own needs, but of the needs of others, in doing so we will receive greater rewards. **Carole Sami**

St Michael's Food Bank

St Michael's PCC set up the food bank at the start of lockdown in 2020. We were concerned that there would be increased food poverty because of issues surrounding Covid-19. Since April 2020, the food bank has been held every Tuesday morning, now with eleven committed regular volunteers. Referrals are not needed; ours is a drop-in service. We started by serving the homeless, jobless, rough sleepers, those waiting for universal credit, prison leavers and asylum seekers/refugees. We are now starting to see people, some in work, who are struggling because of cost of living increases, particularly fuel costs. The food bank now caters for up to 140 service users each week.



Food is sourced from FareShare, the national charity which distributes surplus food to organisations such as ours, from Bethany Community food bank and Incredible Surplus (was the Real Junk Food Project). Weekly donations come from a local building contracting firm, the Nishkam Centre and the Sikh Soup Kitchen. We also receive individual food donations.

What we provide:

Each person receives a bag of staples. They are then able to choose items from the fruit, vegetables, cakes, pastries and chilled food that we have been able to source.

Good quality second hand, and some new, clothes and household goods are also available.

We provide hot drinks and snacks as people wait to be served. It is almost unbelievable how things have changed; we started by handing out food from the boot of my car!

Finance:

We have regular expenses, such as bags for the food, disposable cups and the items needed for hot drinks, top-up food each week, and our membership of FareShare. Monies come from donations from service users and from our congregation. Two corporate donations and several individual donations have also been given.

To raise funds, we apply to appropriate charitable trusts, and we have received grants from WA Cadbury Charitable Trust, the Handsworth Charity, the National Lottery Community Fund and Birmingham City Council.

Current position:

Numbers are increasing. There is less surplus food available. Prices of food items have increased. We are not intending to close, and work hard to obtain grants/support wherever we can.

I want to thank St Andrew's congregation for supporting us through Harvest donations.

Gill Rose

Food Bank Manager



A Big Thank You!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

I write to thank you all for the wonderful comments, gifts and wishes at my final service with you after twelve years on August 27th.

To say I was overwhelmed is an understatement. St Andrew's will always hold a special place in my heart and I will be sure to visit when time allows and take a seat in the congregation.

I wish you all the very best for what God has in store as you grow as a Christian body together.

God Bless you,

Stuart and Lorraine



SAYINGS AND QUOTES

In the last magazine I invited people to send in their quotes and sayings. Margaret Wiswczaryk has sent me quite a few quotes. I will print a few each month.

Make hay while the sun shines.

It's like looking for a needle in a haystack.

You can't teach an old dog new tricks.

No smoke without fire.

You don't look a gift horse in the mouth

Always cut your coat according to your cloth.

Margaret Wiswczaryk

Canal Boat Holiday

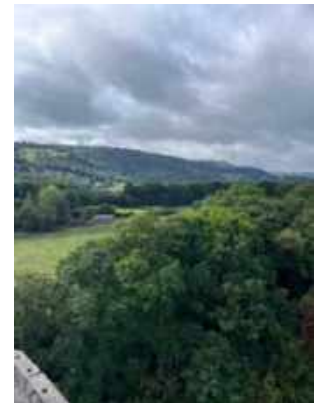
A few weeks ago Les and myself went on a very different sort of holiday to the ones we usually go on, we decided to go on holiday on a canal boat something we had not done for over 40 years. On arriving at the marina we were taken to our boat and given some training for steering and maintaining the boat and mooring the boat. We were taken out of the marina and after Les had been steering for a short way down the canal the young man who was with us got off the boat and our holiday on the Llangollen Canal had begun. After about an hour and a half we moored up for the first night.

Day 2 dawned and we set off on our journey ready to tackle the locks we were to go through that day, something I was not looking forward to if I'm honest because there seemed a lot to remember about what I would have to do. I need not have worried as I started to turn the mechanism a man who had just gone through the lock stopped to help me and he did most of the work needed to get us through the lock. Thanks were given and off we set for lock 2. On arriving at lock 2 once again people came to help this time two ladies did most of the work and as we got through the lock we got a bit stuck and people again came to help once again many thanks were given.

Day 3 and we went over the Pontcysllte Aqueduct the longest and highest Aqueduct in the UK at 1007 ft long and 127ft high and is considered one of Thomas Telford's greatest engineering achievements. The views all around as we crossed the aqueduct were absolutely amazing we were so lucky it was a beautiful sunny day. After crossing the aqueduct we decided to turn the boat around and begin a relaxing journey back. Our return journey took longer as we moored at Chirk for a few days where we took time to go to Llangollen on a local bus and to visit Chirk itself, a lovely little town, and as on our outward journey people helped us through the locks.

Life on a canal boat is so different, a much slower pace than normal daily life. Phone and iPad signals are hit and miss and the TV was very temperamental but none of this mattered as we travelled through such beautiful countryside and met so many friendly and helpful people. We certainly met many angels on our holiday who came from nowhere to help us and without them our holiday would have been a lot more strenuous.

Chris Baker



BLACK HISTORY MONTH - OCTOBER

What Is Black History Month?

Black History Month originated in America where they celebrate it in February; in the UK it is celebrated in October. Black History Month is intended to be a celebration of the achievements of those with African or Caribbean heritage. It is also designed to acknowledge racism and how to challenge it. *'We are all wonderfully and fearfully created in the image of God (Psalm 139:14 and Genesis 1:27). 'Wherever racial sin flourishes systematically, either in society or in our church, we must challenge it together. We must repent of racial sin, turn away from racism and be reconciled, so that we may all experience the love of God'.* (Taken from The Church of England Anti-Racism Taskforce in the Lament to Action Report, 2021).

FEELING WELCOME

Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God'. (Romans 15.7. ESV).

I have been reflecting on Black History Month and the importance of feeling welcome. I have had experiences where people have said or done things which have been discriminatory and offensive and made me feel unwelcome—I remember the way it made me feel. First impressions are important, significant, and long-lasting. I found myself reflecting on this experience after church one Sunday, when I heard someone talking to a woman as she was leaving church. *"Hello, your face is new, is this your first time at St Andrew's?"* Purposefully contacting new people. Welcoming them. Offering them tea and coffee and looking forward to seeing them again. I love the welcome we have at St Andrew's.

'Let brotherly love continue'. (Hebrews 13.1. ESV).

Eileen Lawrence (Editor)



**"People will forget
what you said,
people will forget
what you did,
but people will
never forget how
you made them feel."
-Maya Angelou**

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

St Andrew's is a diverse community with members from the United Kingdom, Caribbean, Africa, Pakistan, India and probably many more. Let's celebrate the diversity in St Andrew's! We are starting a new section where you are invited to write about your experience of churches abroad.

My life in Kenya

I was born and brought up in an Army barracks. I attended Sunday School in a CPK (Church Province of Kenya) church which later became an Anglican church. I enjoyed Sunday School. It was always full and lively because most of the children attended. We sang a lot in the Sunday school and memorised Bible verses. I still remember the memory verses and the Bible stories. At the age of 12, we relocated to the village where I attended AIC church, (African Inland Church), which my grandparents attended. So I had to attend it.

In the village, church life was very exciting, I was a teenager. I attended Catechism. I had to learn to read the Bible in my mother tongue.. quite an exciting experience. I was baptised in a river, a beautiful blessed day it was. After baptism, I was inspired to become a Sunday school teacher. This was an awesome journey. I really enjoyed this journey. Those years we had a main church at the village town, meaning there was no church building in the village. Sunday School was held in primary school premises in all the villages surrounding the market and adults would attend the Main church at the market area. I really enjoyed this time of my life.

The Sunday School teachers would be given a rota of teaching in the different villages around the main church. I remember I would wake up very early to walk a distance of 3 to 4 kilometres to reach before 7:30 am at the other scheduled premises. My usual base was at our village which was 500 metres from our home, here I would teach most Sundays. We had school holiday activities as schools closed 3 times a year. A term had 3 months, so the 4th month was a holiday, hence April, August and December. These months were exciting as a Sunday School teacher. In the April holidays we would prepare for Easter. We met every afternoon for theatre plays and singing. Each Sunday School in the village would prepare themselves for acting and or singing competitions. The village children were all kept busy after a morning of farm work. We all looked forward to the afternoons.

On Easter Sunday we would all meet at the main church and compete. I really cannot remember what we were given after winning but I cannot forget the joy of the kids and the excitement of even being able to go to the main church. We all had goodies after the service. In the month of August we would prepare for Harvest festival. We sang and acted, competed on the 3rd Sunday of August, enjoyed auction of foods.

In December we prepared for the birth of Christ. This was always awesome. The Sunday before Christmas we would all gather at the main church to compete and enjoy goodies. These were my teenage years. I miss these years working with children.

After I finished school, I went back to the Army barracks to live with my dad, and I met again my former friends. Now aged 17, I joined the church as a Sunday School and Youth Teacher. These were vibrant days. During the Holidays we would go to youth camps or have activities in church, especially acting, cleaning the church, trimming the bushes, junior choir. The youth got very involved with the weekly services. The Sunday school would meet at 8:00 to 9:00am and go home. Then the adults would attend the Main service with the youth. During the week, we would meet for fellowship and choir practice. We invited other youths from other churches for fellowship and seminars. These we did during the school holidays. The youth made the church exciting by their music, acting etc. What wonderful memories! I miss the weather and the vibrancy of the church.

I would like to see the youth of our church get involved in Sunday services by singing, acting, sharing memory verses. I would also like to see them do the gardening around the church.

Susan Musyoka

Experience in the Church of Zambia

I lived in Zambia in the late nineteen sixties, teaching in a church boarding school for boys. The school was on a mission station established in about 1906 by missionaries who arrived by ox cart and stopped at this spot by chance because they were exhausted by their travels. There was a young man with them who had been at college with my great uncle, who returned to live there with us in his eighties.

Our church, built by those first missionaries, was dedicated to St Bartholomew, and like most buildings that were not thatched was roofed with corrugated iron. If there was a tropical rain-storm, and these were not uncommon between October and March, the noise of the downpour on the tin roof was deafening. The only way the service could continue was to sing it instead of saying it. The sound of singing carried better than the spoken word.

Some sisters had taken up residence on the station running a hospital, a girls' primary school, and a homecraft centre to teach household skills. They used the church for their services and said evensong there every day – quite early, because it gets dark at six o'clock. On one occasion their service was disrupted when they caught sight of a snake slithering about in the church. One sister who had a broad Derbyshire accent called out a warning, "There's a snake!" or rather "There's a snare-uck". This became like a family story passed on among us.

I mentioned the other day in a WhatsApp discussion that another animal to wander by accident into the church building, of which the door was always open, was a monitor lizard the size of a medium dog. It had to be ushered out, although there was no service going on at the time.

In the churches in the local villages, men and women sat on opposite sides of the church, but this was not the custom at St Bartholomew's. The singing was wonderful, often led by a cantor with the congregation responding with a refrain. The hymn we sing, "We are Marching", is a bit like this. They made the harmonies up by ear, and the result was magnificent.

If you google St Bartholomew's Mapanza Zambia you can find some You Tube footage of Anglican Intercessors singing and dancing in the church. Not only is it the oldest church in the country I imagine it must be the oldest building of any kind.

Alison Thorne

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Acceptance

*One race, one man
His grace, his plan
Not colour, not skin
Just love from within
Not black, not white
We will, not might
Make change, not pain
Don't let history repeat again
What's wrong with being black?
That makes others want to attack
Voices strong! Voices loud!
Heard in demonstrations of a crowd
Fighting for rights just to be heard
Ignored everywhere, imprisoned in words
Put aside prejudice, put aside war
Don't let this become about evening scores
Our creator is greater than the hate that exist
Let our future generations join up what we missed
Being black is not history we've always been here
It is about acceptance not barriers
About continuous divisions and not living in fear*



Valerie Powell . Poetry Emotions

Great Celebration!

We have lovely occasions to come together as a community to enjoy and celebrate life. We had a BBQ in the Vicarage, and Fish & Chip and Quiz Night at GSH. But above all, we celebrated the life of children who were baptised at St Andrew's. We had eight baptisms within the last few months. Great and wonderful news! Keep praying for these children that they grow in God's love and know more of Jesus in their daily life.

Tulloch family & Chitiki family - their children were baptised. We are a blessed church with God's so many gifts and blessings. It is always exciting to see new faces regularly joining us for worship. Welcome them in such a way that they feel this is the church for them and they are part of this church family. **Fr Paskal**

Tulloch Family

Omari, Shiloh & Ria



Chitiki Family

Abigail, Haelee, Tia with their mum

On behalf of his family Watson writes a thanksgiving note

"When everything is said and done. What else is there to do and say. Our Lord Saviour Jesus Christ was surprised at how much people are ungrateful and was particularly disappointed and disgusted that only one leper out of the ten cleansed came back to express his gratitude for the cleansing. On that same note I too thank you very kindly for your support you have put up a wonderful show. Thank you very much and thank you very sincerely for your patience and

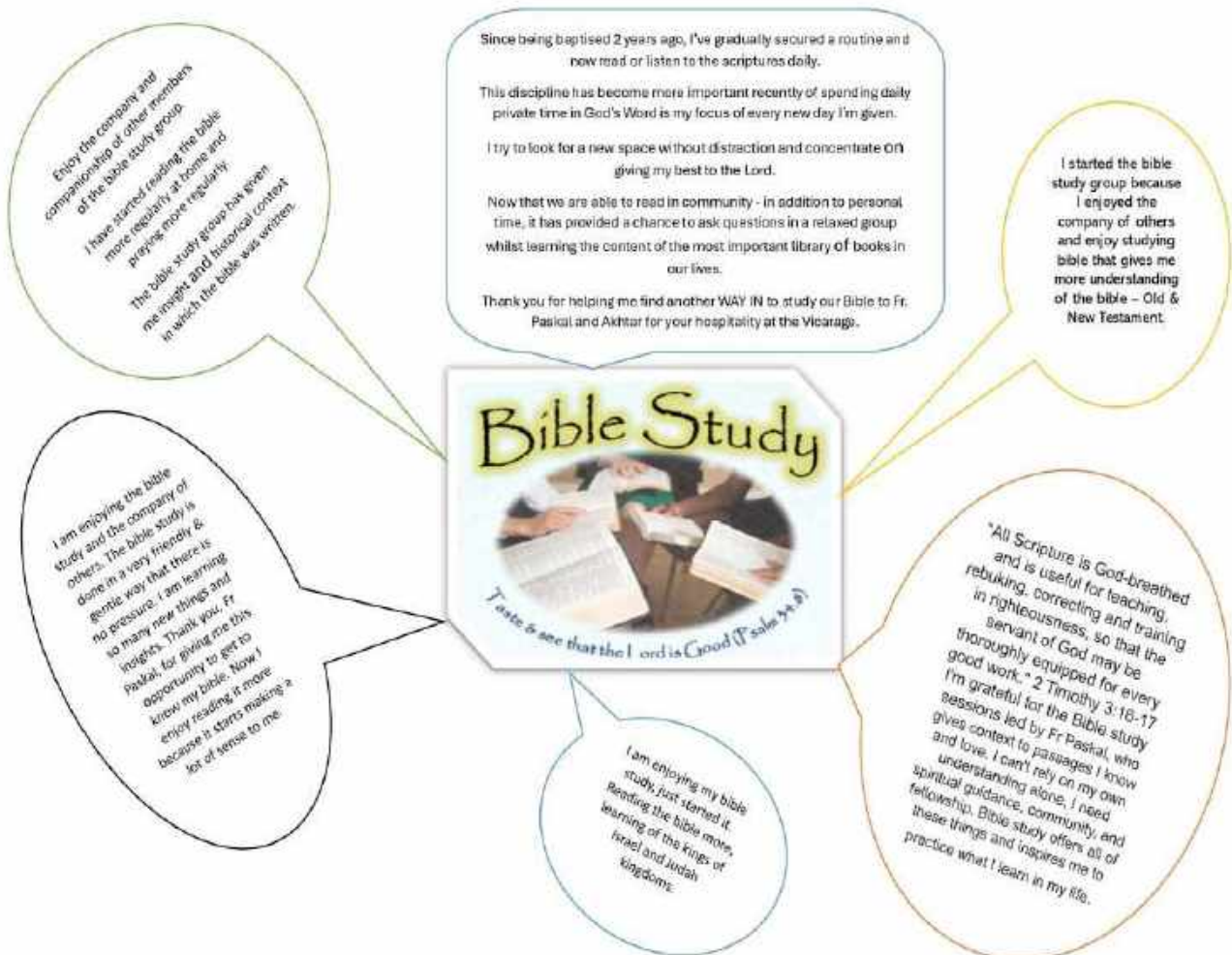


tolerance. Thank you for supporting me and my girls (& wife) through beginning of their journey and faith in following Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. You made this day very memorable and special. I thank you profoundly."

Watson



The Bible Study group shares their exciting experiences!



Some bible quotations we enjoy reading and listening....

"A heart at peace gives life to the body." (Proverbs 14.30)

"A cheerful heart is good medicine." (Proverbs 17.22)

"Your word is a lamp for my feet,
A light on my path." (Psalm 119.105)

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.

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

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

Wednesday 17:30 - 20:30 & Saturday 14:00 - 15:00 - Temple Martial Arts

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

Saturday 09:00 - 13:00 - Little Kickers

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

The Holly Tree

On the 18th of September, 2023, the holly tree which had stood sentinel opposite the main entrance of the Church for decades, was felled. Its presence was probably often taken for granted, both by church goers and passers-by, but its absence now is painful.

Standing tall and strong near the entrance, the tree had provided with its glossy leaves a familiar shining welcome for worshippers, whatever the season, whatever the weather, through the years. Our holly tree, rich in Christian symbolism, had offered a reassuring sign of everlasting life for mourners in countless funeral processions which had paused near it before entering the Church. It was *ever green*, like Jesus, and our departed loved ones. For weddings it provided a good backdrop for photographs as the bride and groom exited the Church, and on some of these occasions an excellent support for displaying celebratory ribbons. The tree was particularly beautiful in June when the rambling rose 'Albertine', donated and planted by former (voluntary) gardener Ken Gilbert, bloomed throughout its branches with a wonderful scent.

The following poem by Maya Angelou seems to give thanks for our great Holly Tree with its Rambling Rose and all it meant to us and the Environment.

When Great Trees Fall

by Maya Angelou

When great trees fall,
rocks on distant hills shudder,
lions hunker down
in tall grasses,
and even elephants
lumber after safety.

When great trees fall
in forests,
small things recoil into silence,
their senses
eroded beyond fear.
When great souls die,
the air around us becomes
light, rare, sterile.

We breathe, briefly.
Our eyes, briefly,
see with a hurtful clarity.
Our memory, suddenly sharpened,
examines,
gnaws on kind words unsaid,
promised walks never taken.

Great souls die and
our reality, bound to
them, takes leave of us.
Our souls,
dependent upon their nurture,
now shrink, wizened.
Our minds, formed
and informed by their
radiance, fall away.
We are not so much maddened
as reduced to the unutterable ignorance
Of dark, cold caves.

And when great souls die,
after a period peace blooms,
slowly and always
irregularly. Spaces fill
with a kind of
soothing electric vibration.
Our senses, restored, never
to be the same, whisper to us.
They existed. They existed.
We can be. Be and be
better. For they existed.
— **Maya Angelou**

(Photographs on the following page are as follows)

Photograph 1

The Albertine made an excellent cut flower and it was a joy to include it in our arrangements

Photograph 2

The late Fr. Henley James, pictured by the holly tree, blessed our garden.

Photograph 3

The Albertine rose with its lobster/salmon pink flowers seemed in beautiful harmony with the brickwork of the Church.

Photograph 4

The mock orange bushes and the rose looked well together.

Photograph 5

Both holly and rose felled together.

Photograph 6

The Holly Blue butterfly is a familiar sight in the church garden early in the summer. Its caterpillars feed on holly leaves. The caterpillars of various moths including the yellow barred brindle, the double striped pug and the holly tortrix also feed on the leaves/flowers. Butterflies and moths are important pollinators and their caterpillars are sought by birds for food.

Photograph 7

Maya Angelou

Photograph 8

'The holly bears a blossom
As white as lily flow'r
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To be our dear Saviour'

Holly flowers are pollinated by bees. Our holly tree certainly played its part in supporting bees, vital for our food supply. The felled holly tree was laden with berries, as were the smaller yellow/green variegated holly bushes which were also victims of the ecological onslaught. Birds will not only miss the protection offered by holly leaves and branches but also the glowing red berries for winter food.

'The holly bears a berry
As red as any blood
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To do poor sinners good.'

Joan Wild



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6



Photo 7



Photo 8

JOAN WILD

ADVENT COURSE

There will be an Advent Course on the following dates.

Monday 27 November at 7.00 pm for four weeks.

Other dates are 4th, 11th, 18th December.

Venue—Zoom & face to face.

Fr Paskal



FEATURED INTERVIEW: CARL HART

CHURCHWARDEN

Where were you born? I was born on Saturday at 0705 on the 12th March back when England won the World Cup (Football) in 1966

What has been your life journey so far regarding work and family life? My work life started when I was just 15rs old and had my very first paper round, earning £1.75 a week. I was active in scouting and St John Ambulance Brigade (SJAB) and absolutely loved helping people, it comes as a natural talent of mine – SJAB was a fantastic hobby and I attained officer status within SJAB. It led to my wanting to join the Ambulance Service and eventually became a Paramedic – it happens to be 38yrs in front-line healthcare this year.

What are your hobbies or special interests? Apart from church, I am an active Freemason (don't judge me please) and would love to put on a talk about it to some church members. Anyway, other hobbies include playing chess, reading, avid lover of Classic FM and the whole classical music genre, I love to visit family and friends, baking.

What is your favourite food? Good old roast dinner, followed by Italian.

How long have you been a member of St Andrew's Church? Not as long as Mrs B o – lol, but this is probably like my 35th year here at church.

Do you have any special memories of St Andrew's Church? It is a special place, filled with God's beauty, His Love and His earthly family. It is and has always been my spiritual home (since finding it all those years ago when I was finding my way with my faith journey) to my strong faith.

Do you have a favourite hymn, Bible reading or poem? If I were to say what is my favourite, there isn't enough room to list all of the hymns and tunes to praise God with. My favourite Bible reading is the Resurrection narrative from John 11., but there are loads more too.

Do you have any favourite Saints that have inspired you? All the Saints have influenced me, but in particular St Andrew, Peter, Francis and Blessed Mary

What developments, if any, would you like to see at St Andrew's? I would love to raise enough funds to have the heating, electrical work and new roof done and then have some left over for anything else that needs doing.

Do you have a favourite place? Apart from church, the masons lodge room and my home.

What do you enjoy doing most? Helping people, I feel I am doing the work that God has called me to do.

Anything else you would like us to know about you. I think that's it for now, but hey come and chat with me, there may be other things I can talk about.

Carl Hart

OCTOBER WORDSEARCH - St Luke

To St Luke, whose feast-day is 18th October, we owe a beautifully written gospel as well as the Book of Acts. He was a Greek physician and faithful travelling companion to St Paul. Under house arrest near the end of his life Paul noted, 'only Luke is with me'. Luke's gospel focuses on the compassion of Christ, and offers us moving parables, such as the Good Samaritan and Prodigal Son. Women figure more prominently in Luke's gospel than in any other: look out for the extended story of the Virgin Birth, and stories of Mary, Elizabeth, and the woman who was a sinner. His gospel also features more poor people, more lepers, more 'sinners', who are all shown to be 'inside' the love of Christ. In Acts, Luke skilfully links sacred and profane history, as subsequent archaeology has shown. He tells of how the early Christians moved away from Jerusalem into the pagan world, and especially on to Rome.

| | | |
|------------|-----------|----------|
| Luke | physician | Prodigal |
| Companion | house | Son |
| Arrest | Paul | women |
| Compassion | parables | Virgin |
| Good | lepers | sacred |
| Poor | Samaritan | Birth |
| Profane | pagan | early |
| Christians | Jerusalem | Rome |



The poppies of Remembrance

In late 1914, WW1 erupted across Northern France and Flanders. Great swathes of previously green fields and forests were blasted and bombed, leaving them bleak and barren, with seemingly every living thing destroyed.

But then in the Spring of 1915, something beautiful began to come out of all the destruction. Tens of thousands of bright red Flanders poppies began to put out tentative shoots across the endless vistas of mud. These resilient little flowers had actually flourished in the middle of so much chaos and destruction, because their seeds grow when exposed to sunlight, through disturbances to soil.

We all know that these endless fields of cheerful poppies, growing in the midst of such misery and destruction, were what inspired the Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, to write the now famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'.

And it was McCrae's poem which inspired an American academic named Moina Michael to adopt the poppy in memory of those who had fallen in the war. She got it adopted as an official symbol of Remembrance across the United States, and worked with others who were trying to do the same in Canada, Australia, and the UK.

A French woman, Anna Guérin who was in the UK in 1921, caught the same vision, and planned to sell the poppies in London. There she met Earl Haig, the founder of the Royal British Legion, who was persuaded to adopt the poppy as its emblem in the UK.

The Royal British Legion, which had been formed in 1921, ordered nine million poppies and sold them on 11 November that year. Ever since then, the red poppy has been a symbol of Remembrance, of support for the Armed Forces community, and also of hope for a peaceful future. **c/o Parish Pump**

A new kind of Remembrance poppy

For the first time in 28 years, there is a new kind of poppy for Remembrance Sunday this year: it is plastic free.

Director of the Poppy Appeal, Andy Taylor-Whyte explains: "We are very proud to introduce the plastic-free poppy. It will not only enable people to support our Armed Forces community but also continues the RBL's commitment to sustainability."

The new poppy has been three years in the development and making. The aim was to reduce the use of single-use plastic and to "be economical, sustainable, and less impactful to the environment."

The new poppy design has a 40% smaller carbon footprint, and is made from "bespoke red and green paper." The paper comes from a blend of renewable fibres, 50 per cent of which has been recovered from the waste used in the production of coffee cups.

The plastic-free poppy will be available alongside remaining stocks of the current poppy, to reduce any waste of poppies already produced. Poppies containing single-use plastic can be returned to Sainsbury's stores for recycling.

c/o Parish Pump

Remembrance Day Quiz

1. Remembrance Day is the 11th November, by which name was it originally know by and why?
2. Britain's biggest Remembrance service is held at The Cenotaph in London; what does cenotaph mean?
3. Complete this poem (sentence) by Rupert Brooke, "If I should die, think only this of me: That there's some corner of a foreign field...."
4. Which servicemen wear Red uniform?
5. How many soldiers died during World War One?
a) 200,000, b) over 3 million, c) 4 and a half million, d) over 8 million
6. The Menin Gate bears the names of 56,000 men from Britain and it's Empire killed in WW1. Why are these men named on the arch?
7. A red poppy is worn as a symbol of remembrance for those that were killed during active service; what does a purple poppy signify?
8. When an unknown soldier was buried in Westminster Abbey in 1920 which weapon was placed the top of his coffin?
9. When did WW11 begin?
10. In World War 11 which three countries were referred to as "The Allies"?
11. And which 3 countries were referred to as "The Axis Powers"?
12. What was the assault called that the German planes launched sustained attacks on key British cities during WW11?

Carl Hart



Always Remember

Each one a hero who went off that day
Never to be forgotten this remembrance day
A Father, a brother, an uncle, a son
A war with a reason as to why it begun
Many died where they stood to honour this land
No loved one to comfort or hold their poor hand
Let us remember their sacrifice made
Remember their memories that will never fade
We all stand united for peace and not war
And we will remember them for ever more.

Valerie Powell



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Quiet Day for Churches Together

Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart



Pondering with Mary

Led by Father Paskal Clement

Saturday 16th November 2023, from 10.30 am - 3.30pm

Venue: St James' Church
St James Road, Handsworth
B21 0HN

Programme

| | |
|---------|--------------------------|
| 10.30am | Arrival / Welcome |
| 11.00am | First session |
| 11.30am | Tea break/personal space |
| 12.30pm | Midday prayer |
| 1.00pm | Lunch |
| 1.45pm | Second session |
| 2.30pm | Tea break/personal space |
| 3.00pm | Thanksgiving worship |
| 3.30pm | Departure |

Please bring your packed lunch. Tea, coffee & biscuits will be provided.

For more details and booking please contact:

Fr Paskal Clement: 07727286905, Email: revpaskal@gmail.com

Preparation for
Christmas

“Be still, and know that I am God.” (Psalm 46.10)

Time spent in stillness and silence helps us to be away from our day to day routine. Be in the presence of God—to be renewed and refreshed in body, mind and spirit.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGE

Can you find this?

In the last magazine you were asked to find this photo in church.



It is actually the centre of this cross



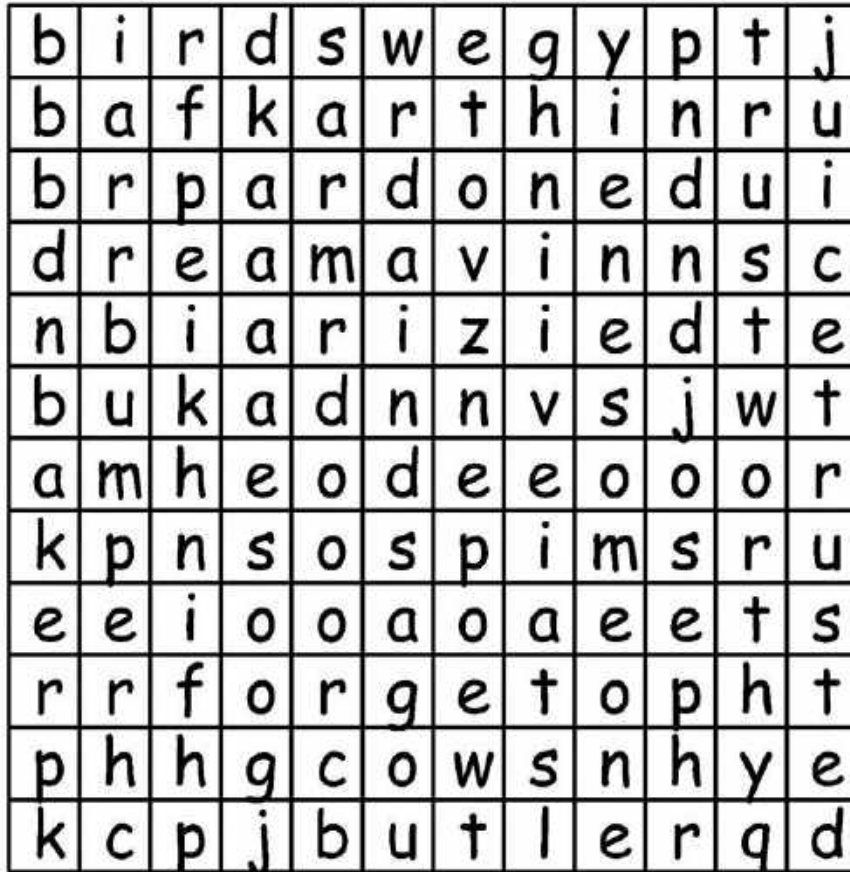
which is on the altar in the remembrance chapel. There are four silver discs on the four points of the cross representing the four Gospels.

This month's picture is. Can you find it in church?



CHILDREN'S WORDSEARCH

THE STORY OF JOSEPH



Egypt

grapes

butler

pardoned

advisors

someone

forget

trusted

baker

famine

prison

trustworthy

food

birds

cows

Joseph

thin

seven

juice

Pharaoh

dream

bread

bumper

choose

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**



Answers to Remembrance Day Quiz.

1. Armistice Day; The Armistice, an agreement to end the fighting of the First World War as a prelude to peace negotiations, began 11 am on 11th November 1918. Armistice is Latin for stand (still) arms.
2. Cenotaph – from the Greek word for empty tomb;
3. “That is forever England”
4. The Chelsea Pensioners;
5. D
6. Their bodies were never found or identified and have no known graves;
7. The animals that were killed in active service;
8. A 16th century Crusader’s sword was taken from the Tower of London;
9. 3rd September 1939;
10. Britain, France and America;
11. Germany, Italy and Japan;
12. The Blitz

Carl Hart

Wordsearch Clues and Answers for November 2023

This month, on 30th November, Scotland remembers one of the very first disciples of Jesus. St Andrew is honoured, not for any mighty deeds of his own, but for his love of introducing people to Jesus. He went straight off and introduced his brother Peter to the Saviour, and followed that up by bringing Nathanael/Bartholomew to Jesus. 'Better Together' seems to have been his slogan, too! 'We have found the Messiah!', he told them, unable to keep the good news to himself. Andrew's connection with Scotland dates back to the claimed translation of his remains from Patras in Achaia to Scotland in the eighth century. The church in Fife where these remains were buried became a place of pilgrimage during the tenth century. All of this may be no more than pious legend, but that St Andrew was highly regarded in Scotland and became its patron saint is beyond doubt.



Scotland
disciples

Jesus

Andrew

honoured

Peter

Nathanael

Bartholomew

Messiah

Saviour

Patras

Archaia

eighth

remains

translation

Fife

pilgrimage

tenth

pious

patron

saint

love

introducing

place

 **St. Andrew's Church**
Handsworth

"Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!"

Main service Sunday 10:00 am

Please see website www.standrews-handsworth.org.uk for other services and notices.
email: vicar@standrews-handsworth.org.uk

