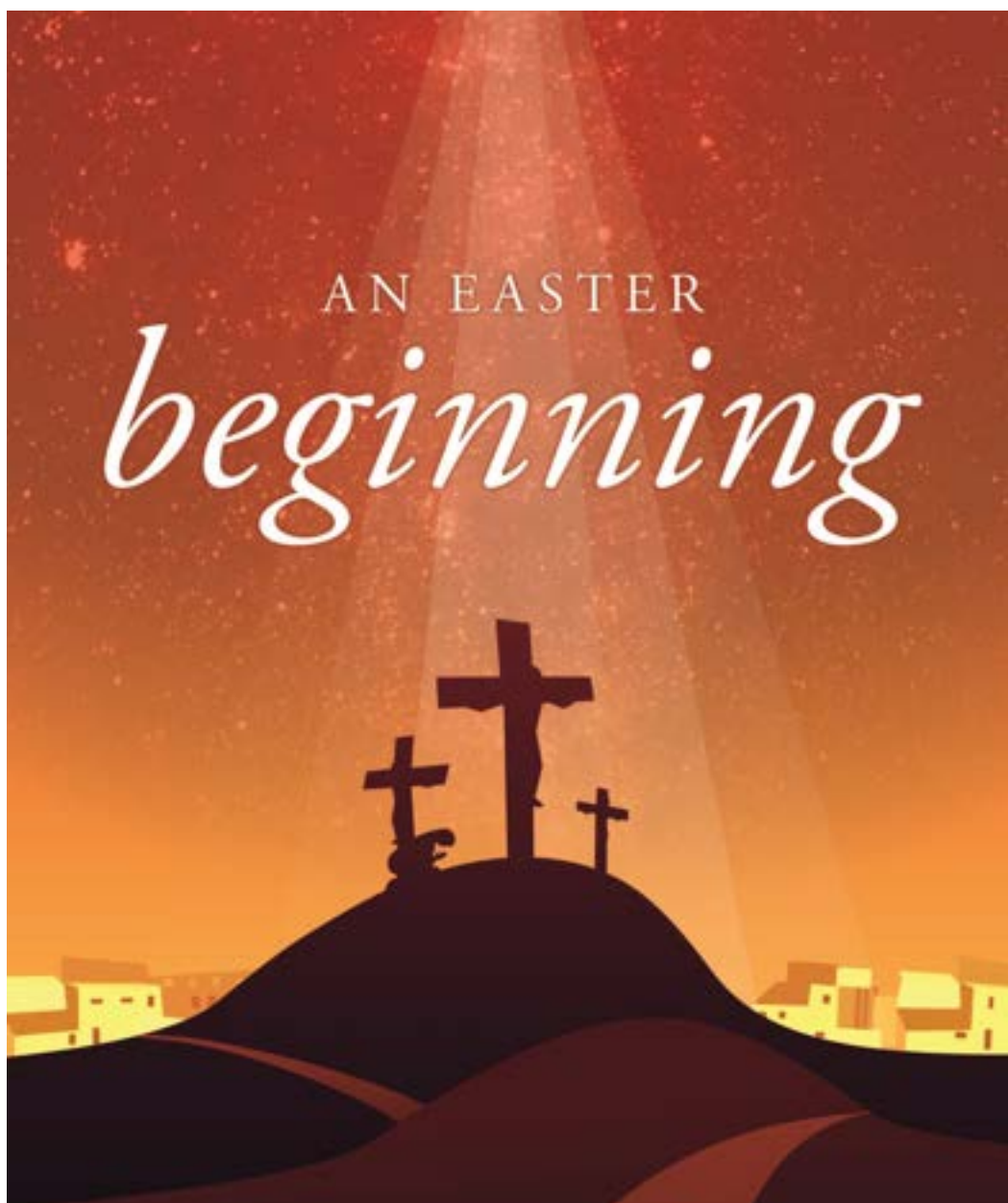


ST ANDREW'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND
HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM

FEATURED INTERVIEW!

SAINT OF THE MONTH—ST CHAD



'THE MESSENGER'

Parish Magazine

EASTER 2024

50p



From the Editor

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

Welcome to the Easter edition of the magazine. This month we have exciting news from our very own Valerie Powell. There is a Featured Interview from Rupinder Kanda, and Saint of the Month, St Chad, by Alison Thorne. We have started a new section; Favourite Hymns and Bible Verses and will be starting Book Reviews in the next edition of the magazine. This month we remember Gill Ludford who sadly died in February, Joan Wild has written a contribution about Gill. We also have Easter Reflections from Rupinder and an article from Shebina Gill in memory of her mother. Articles are always welcomed, please email parishmagazine949@gmail.com or feel free to speak to me in Church.

I hope you have a peaceful Easter.

Eileen.



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

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Weekday activities

Thursday:

Holy Communion: 10.00 am: at Good Shepherd Hall

Coffee Morning: 10 to 12noon: at Good Shepherd Hall

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

Carl Hart: 07967 410155.

St Andrew's PCC

Chair: Father Paskal Clement

Church Warden: Carl Hart

PCC Secretary: Vacancy

Treasurer: Richard Paton-Devine

PCC members:

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Letter from the Vicar



Jesus' story

When we look at the current reality. It is painful, heartbreaking, and unimaginable. Innocent people die in conflicts and war. It is so upsetting and stressful. This bitter situation in our world sometimes makes nights sleepless. Prayer becomes difficult. A question that comes to mind is, where are you God in the midst of all this? The current reality is no different than what happened two thousand years back.

An innocent man – Jesus came proclaiming the good news, promoting justice, empowering women, feeding thousands, and restoring God's image in those neglected by society. He healed many from their diseases and raised their dead. He paid the price for what he did for humanity. Ultimately, his very own life was taken away from him.

Jesus' story, although painful, is very liberating. This is the journey Jesus took to fulfil God's, his Father's greater plan. He was rejected and mocked. He experienced loneliness and abandonment even by his own. He felt the burden of the heavy cross on his shoulders. He was nailed to the cross. Even his side was pierced. He faced cruelty.

Romans and religious leaders thought that Jesus' death was the end of his life and mission. But his death was not a defeat. In his death, he conquered everything. As Saint Paul writes, 'O, death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory?' (1 Cor 15.55-58).

On Easter day, this is what we celebrate—victory over fear of death. After his resurrection, Jesus Christ never abandoned his own but continued to accompany his followers, having breakfast with them and breathing his Spirit into them. He promised his followers, 'And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.' His presence is with us now and forever.

Happy Easter to all of you!

Fr Paskal
(Vicar)

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

Our Sunday Services are as follows:-

Sunday - 9.30 am service with Holy Communion.

These Services include

FAMILY MASS EVERY: SECOND SUNDAY 10.00AM



HEALING SERVICE EVERY: THIRD SUNDAY 9.30AM



Thursday Service 9.30 am in Church with Holy Communion

Holy Week & Easter Services 2024

St Andrew's Church Handsworth

Oxhill Road, Birmingham B21 9RE

(All services take place at the Good Shepherd Hall, access from the car park).



Sunday 24th March

Palm Sunday

9.00 am: Procession & Sung Mass

Join in our procession, which starts from the Sports & Community Centre.

We remember Jesus' Triumphal entry into Jerusalem.



Holy Week Services

Monday 25th March

7.00 pm: Holy Mass led by Fr Wayne

Tuesday 26th March

7.00 pm: Holy Mass led by Fr John

Wednesday 27th March

7.00 pm: Holy Mass led by Rev Barbara

Maundy Thursday, 28th March

7.00 pm: Sung Mass led by Fr Paskal

Followed by the Watch

A special mass where we remember Jesus sharing the Last Supper with his disciples and washing their feet. It will be followed by a time of silent prayer & reflection.



Friday 29th March Good Friday



11.00 am: Witness of Walk

This begins from St Augustine's Church, Avenue Road, and we Walk with the Cross to St Andrew's Sports & Community Centre.

11.30 am: Open Air Service

A dramatic presentation of the Good Friday story outside St Andrew's Sports & Community Centre.

12.30 – 1.00 pm: Simple lunch (supporting Christian Aid)

1.00 – 1.30 pm: Quiet time at St Andrew's Church
1.45 - 3.00 pm: Stations of the Cross & giving of the Holy Communion



Saturday 30th March

8.00 pm: Service of the Light

— blessing of the Paschal Candle starts outside St Andrew's Church. We walk from the dark church, lit only by candles, and go to Good Shepherd Hall. We relive the night Jesus rose from the dead to be the Light of the world.

Sunday 31st March Easter Day

9.30 am: Sung Mass



For more information, contact Fr Paskal Clement
Mobile: 07727286905, Email: revpaskal@gmail.com
www.standrews-handsworth.org.uk

I have made it!



“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.”

Ephesians 2:10

For me this scripture represents what Christ had planned for me all along. Yes! I have finally made it to Ordination which now beckons with a date (Watch this space) the end has finally been reached and a new pathway of my life now lays ahead of me. What a mighty God we serve. Two years! I cannot believe it. I survived the tears, the sleepless nights, the stress, the highs and yes, the lows but now Gods masterpiece is complete!

It still feels unreal to know I will now be known as Reverend Valerie Powell let alone wearing the symbol which identifies me as a server of Christ Jesus, proud and humble does not even begin to describe it, but none of this would have been possible without God’s grace and mercy and all the love and support I have been shown by my amazing family, church family and friends.

In my eyes I will always be the local St Andrews girl done good in the eyes of all, and for that I am grateful, for my family and friends who I know will always see me this way, thank you. Queens Theological College has shaped me, I pray for my new journey and my new curacy placement. Christ may your grace and mercy continue to shine upon me. It has truly been an era but now my true journey begins with Christ holding my hand, the holy spirit leading and guiding and my Father in heaven forever watching over me. So yes! Bring on the Ordination celebrations! Reverend Val is ready.

Thank you everyone.

Amen

Val

SAINT OF THE MONTH—Saint Chad

Saint Chad's day falls on March 2nd, St Chad is pictured in our East window at St Andrew's which we no longer see so regularly but which we hope soon to enjoy again. He is on the bottom row on the left, called Ceadda, the Anglo-Saxon spelling of his name. He wears his bishop's mitre and has his crozier – like a shepherd's crook – in his right hand, and in his left an animal of some sort – perhaps a lion? I don't know the significance of that. Does anyone else? At his feet we can see a miniature Lichfield cathedral with its distinctive three spires, In the seventh century Chad was Bishop of Lichfield where he worked for the conversion of the Saxons of that area to Christianity.



What does he have to do with St Andrew's? If you look at the foundation stone of the Good Shepherd Chapel on the corner of College Road and Somerset Road (the Chapel is now part of the Sports and Community Centre but was originally the church in this area the forerunner of St Andrew's church). You will see that the stone was laid by the Honourable Mrs Legge, wife of the Bishop of Lichfield. This was in 1893. The boundaries were different in those days, and Handsworth was part of the diocese of Lichfield. There was no diocese of Birmingham. That was to begin in 1905. Incidentally, Handsworth was not part of Birmingham either, but was in Staffordshire, only to be incorporated into the city in 1911. Bishop Legge had once been a curate at St Mary's Handsworth, so perhaps he and his wife had fond memories of the area.

Be that as it may, St Chad was the founding bishop of Lichfield and so appears in our window. There were seven Anglo-Saxon kingdoms which made up England, and the one in which we would have found ourselves was Mercia, a name still commemorated in our policing area - West Mercia. Chad converted the king of Mercia, Wulfhere, to Christianity, a hugely influential step to the conversion of the whole kingdom. The story goes that Chad took the king's cloak and threw it up into the air. "*See how powerful my God is!*" he said and the cloak hung suspended in the air. Wulfhere tried to do the same and called on his gods to catch the cloak in the same way. The cloak fell limply to the ground. "Your God is the true and powerful one. Baptise me that I may become a Christian like you!"

Chad is the patron saint of some springs and wells. For ancient people there was no more precious sight than that of water gushing out of the earth. Before they knew God, they often worshipped the spirits they thought gave the waters magic powers of healing, and such places became the centres of pilgrimage. In Christian times these beliefs became associated with Christian saints, and places with wells became centres of Christian healing. Who knows but Chad may have known of and even visited our own well beside the priory in Sandwell.

The Roman Catholic Cathedral in Birmingham,
dedicated to St Chad.



Alison Thorne

Wordsearch for March 2024

Love and serve one another

On Maundy Thursday we recall the final command that Jesus gave to His disciples before His death. After the Last Supper, He rose and washed His disciples' feet. This was astonishing for a 'teacher' to do, but He had a firm purpose in mind: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another.

In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is 'mandatum novum do vobis'. The word 'mundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command). The 'washing of the feet' ceremony was an important part of the medieval church's liturgy, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ. **c/o Parish Pump**

Maundy

Thursday

Final

Command

Jesus

Disciples

Death

Last

Supper

Washed

Feet

Astonishing

Purpose

Teacher

As

Loved

you

Must

One

Another

Service

Domination

Latin

Ceremony

Medieval

Humility

Obedience



The Via Dolorosa

In October 2022, I was fortunate to join a group of 25 people on a pilgrimage tour to the holy land. It was my first ever trip to the land of Jesus's birth and for the next seven days, we travelled across the cities and countryside of modern Israel and Palestine, visiting the biblical and historical sites.

From the minute we entered the walls of Jerusalem, we experienced the hustle and bustle of the marketplace. The streets were full of tourists/pilgrims and local people, going about their daily lives. One of the main highlights of the trip during our pilgrimage was to retrace the steps of Jesus to Calvary.

The stations of the cross, which is also known as the Via Dolorosa (latin for way of suffering) comprises of 14 stations, each representing a specific moment in the passion of Christ. The journey begins at the point where Jesus was condemned to death and progresses through the various scenes including the carrying of the cross, falling under its weight and Jesus meeting his grieving mother Mary.

As we took our solemn walk singing the words to the hymn Jesus remember me, we were able to reflect on the profound love, suffering and sacrifice Jesus made during his journey to Calvary. A range of emotions carry you through this special journey from sorrow and tears at the start to joy at seeing the empty tomb. One of my favourite stations was station 5. It was here where the Roman soldiers ordered Simon the Cyrene to help Jesus carry the cross. A small church marks the location and an old square stone to the right of the church is said to bear the handprint of Jesus and I can't begin to express my feelings at being able to touch this stone and retrace the footsteps on this journey.

I just hope and pray for peace in Israel and Gaza, for all the people whose lives have been torn apart by conflict and especially for who have died or lost a loved one and those now without food and shelter. My experience of the visit to the Holy land has changed me, it has been amazing to see and feel the various places that we often read about in the Bible, it is a journey like no other- a life changing experience that I will never forget.

Rekha Daniel



FEATURED INTERVIEW—RUPINDER KANDA

Where were you born?

I was born in Nottingham.

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

Although I was born in Nottingham, I was raised for a few years in Amritsar, Punjab(India) but unfortunately I don't remember much of it just that my younger brother and I returned to Northampton to go to lower school. I eventually moved to Bristol for university and work and my daughter was born in 2001. As a single parent I wasn't able to work but when my daughter started Reception Class, I started studying with the Open University and ended up with BA (Hons) Literature and Religious Studies. I felt inspired to teach and did my teacher training in Oxford, moved to Birmingham and then taught English as Second Language. For practical reasons I eventually moved to work with the NHS, knowing full well that God will and does use my skills for His glory. Since 2020 I have been working in Health & Safety and am training to become a Health & Safety Officer (praying for funding and training course). My daughter recently graduated and is now living near London, looking for a graduate job (praying for a good graduate job).



What are your hobbies or special interests?

I love reading (currently exploring Indian literature), learning new things including studying the bible. I love cooking and am always looking for new vegetarian / vegan recipes. I love learning language and watch foreign TV including, Hindi and Punjabi, Spanish and Italian. During lockdown I started learning Spanish via Duolingo and practice speaking in Punjabi to keep in contact with an elderly member of my previous church.

What is your favourite food?

I have lots of favourites - *gobi paranthas* which are a Punjabi breakfast consisting of chappatis stuffed with grated spicy cauliflower; Middle eastern *mezze* consisting of hummus, olives, baba ghanoush, falafel and flatbreads.

How long have you been a member of St Andrew's Church?

I came for the first time last year (2022) after my mum had passed away and just needed to be alone and have peace. I visited again during Holy week in 2023, but have been coming more regularly since August/September.

Do you have any special memories of St Andrew's Church?

Yes, Holy week last year. Firstly this date coincides with my mum's *barsi* (anniversary of her death) so I was feeling out of sorts and I knew I needed Easter to be about Jesus. I was impressed that this was the only church that had services during Holy Week (trust me – I looked)!. And during this week, I saw how worship service could be holy and reverent. I don't understand all the liturgical traditions at a C of E church but coming from a Sikh background, I recognise this element of respect had been missing in the churches I had attended since coming to Christ in 2015.

This profoundly changed my perspective on what it means to worship God. And I kept coming back and as I said above, the peace I get when I am in service is profound.

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

*“Thou hast made us for Thyself,
O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in Thee.”
St Augustine of Hippo.*

Do you have any favourite Saints that have inspired you?

I don't really know a lot about the saints but in the belief that we are all priesthood of all believers (1 Peter 2:5-9), then I would say I am inspired and thankful to two wonderful women who opened their hearts and doors, showed me what a person who follows Christ looks like. Since then they have prayed over me, and with me, and have been with me in tears and joys.

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

I would love to hear more modern Christian songs eg the ones we heard during the celebration of St Francis Assisi. Some more multicultural words/hymns etc to reflect the diverse congregation. A woman's ministry to encourage and connect with women.

Do you have a favourite place?

Anywhere near the sea is good.

What do you enjoy doing most?

Spending time with people I love and care about and especially the ones I pray over. It is amazing to see God's work in them even if they themselves don't always recognise it.

Anything else you would like us to know about you. I have heart for women to encourage and equip them and help them understand the bible.

Rupinder Kanda

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.

Gill Ludford Remembered

I first entered St Andrew's Church early in 2006 following the funerals of my parents a month apart.

Gill and Janet Howe were the two people I remember most clearly from that time in my 'wilderness'. Both seemed to know I was in need of a friend.



At Easter that year Gill asked if I would help with the flowers. There seemed a huge army of flower ladies at work, but Gill's task was to construct two identical arrangements for the two pillars at the front of church. She was to do one and I was to do the other following her step by step. She was a patient and interesting teacher. She then asked if I would like to do an arrangement in Memory of my Mother. I remember assembling daffodils of the variety 'Cheerfulness'. It must have been then that I realised the healing power of working with flowers.

Gill grew up in Birmingham, first in Kings Heath and later in Handsworth where her father was the librarian in Handsworth Library. The family worshipped at St Michael's and Gill and her four sisters (two younger and two older) attended King Edward's Grammar School.

As a school girl in the War Gill was evacuated to various locations which included Lichfield. Gill and friends lodged with the Verger in the Cathedral Close and attended art classes in the Bishop's Palace!

She moved to Sale, Manchester on marrying Jeff who was a gifted engineer working on Blue Streak ballistic missiles for Lucas Aerospace. He really didn't want Gill to go to work, as they were bringing up three children - Vicki, Tim and Matt - but she needed to make use of her gifts and skills and so became an occupational therapist.

Gill was always grateful that Jeff lived to see their daughter Vicki marry Peter (who is a priest) but it is a tragedy that Jeff died suddenly of a heart attack while Matt was still a teenager.

After this Gill moved 'home' to Birmingham and did a degree in Ceramics in which she attained a 2:1.

All her creative gifts in pottery, needlework, painting, gardening, singing and writing found an outlet in her worship in St Andrew's and in encouraging others in their creativity.

She loved children and collaborated with the Sunday School and others to make the lovely and interesting wall collage in the Memorial Chapel capturing so much social history.

She also collaborated with Jean Wildman in the making of the two wonderful candle pillar hangings. Gill's skills lay in design and embroidery while Jean provided her expertise as a professional seamstress, able to sew yards of fabric to high standard.

Jean loved working with Gill and they collaborated again to make the beautiful 'Fishers of People' Banner, with Gill designing and doing fine hand embroidery and Jean making it all into a sound structure in a professional manner.

Using her skills in ceramics Gill had made an interesting porcelain advent wreath candle holder with figures representing each Sunday of Advent.

Gill loved working with clay and as part of an Advent activity brought clay to church so we could all try our hand!

But of all Gill's work it seems to be the Stations of the Cross that Gill is most associated with. It seems she made these while still grieving deeply and making them took its toll. Each station (except the last) is full of grief, and meditating on them while following the *Via Dolorosa* can be deeply affecting.

But the last Station is the Resurrection! Bishop John Sentamu was so complimentary to Gill and liked this Station so much she made him a duplicate.

I feel so fortunate that Gill befriended me. She was full of interesting stories such as those behind the donations of the Memorial Window of Christ the Good Shepherd and the Rood Screen. Gill's sister Patti was married to John Lister who was the grandson of William and Caroline Lister remembered by the beautiful window, and he was the nephew of Matthew Lister who was killed in action in the First World War and is remembered by the Rood Screen. Matthew Lister and his brother Bernard (John's father) had had two smart houses built - Numbers 64 and 66 Somerset Road to live next door to each other after the Great War but it was not to be as Matthew was killed.

Gill usually hosted the Church Book club and was definitely the hostess with the mostest, as she was with her very successful Craft Club and Craft Club Christmas parties.

She was a very kind and generous person.

In conclusion, an excerpt from one of her letters to me after moving to Norwich in about 2015 to be near her younger son:

'June 2019

Dear Joan,

Thank you for your letter and for the delightful photographs. Mary and her lovely boys - they have changed a lot in the four years since I left Birmingham. Aaron must be about 15 years old now and looks very good - as does Thomas. Nice also to have a picture of Penny and her Dynasty - lovely children and Charlotte - she does not change. And dear Father John - it is good that he is still in your midst - he brings so much to St Andrew's. I miss you all and it is good to keep in touch.'

We miss you too Gill.

Joan Wild

Some of Gill's work in the church.



The last Station of the Cross being used to celebrate the Resurrection on Easter Day.



Gill designed these white hangings and did the embroidery. She made them with the help of Jean Wildman who is so capable in managing to sew yards of fabric.



Gill made the porcelain candleholder for the Advent wreath with figures which illustrated the significance of each Sunday in Advent.



Gill renovated and re-painted the



Gill made the banner to celebrate St Andrew's



Stations Of The Cross

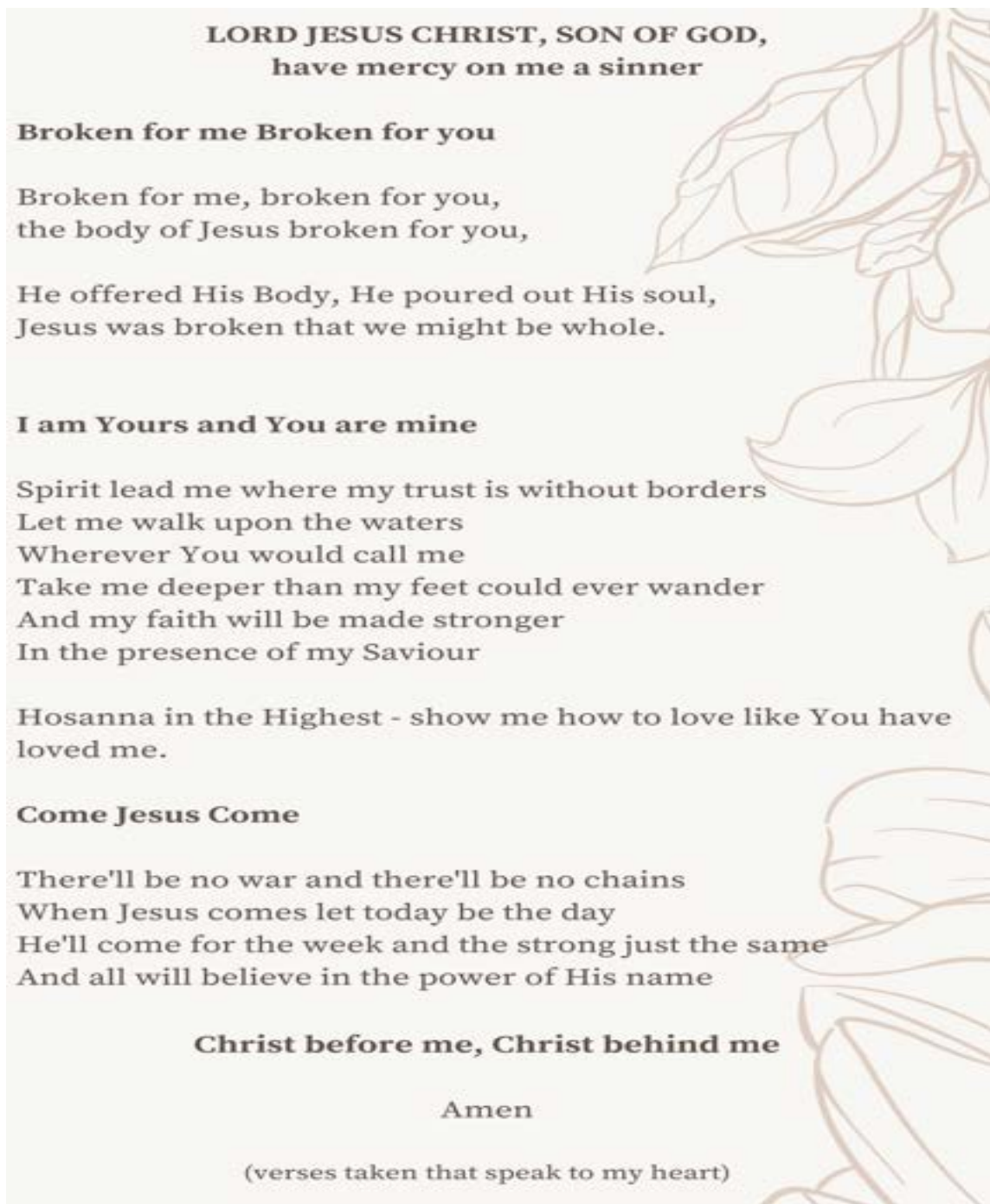
WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE HYMN?

What A Friend We Have In Jesus

What a friend we have in Jesus. Mom would play right hand on the piano and I would play the left hand. Every time I was down, upset or angry she would sing this hymn and tell me Jesus was my friend.

*What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry Everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit, Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer!*

Angela Cross



**LORD JESUS CHRIST, SON OF GOD,
have mercy on me a sinner**

Broken for me Broken for you

Broken for me, broken for you,
the body of Jesus broken for you,

He offered His Body, He poured out His soul,
Jesus was broken that we might be whole.

I am Yours and You are mine

Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders
Let me walk upon the waters
Wherever You would call me
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander
And my faith will be made stronger
In the presence of my Saviour

Hosanna in the Highest - show me how to love like You have
loved me.

Come Jesus Come

There'll be no war and there'll be no chains
When Jesus comes let today be the day
He'll come for the week and the strong just the same
And all will believe in the power of His name

Christ before me, Christ behind me

Amen

(verses taken that speak to my heart)

Shebina Gill

A MOTHER'S FAITH – In Memory of my Mother – Janet Beatrice Peters Azam

**2020 - Easter Sunday Morning,
There You are LORD JESUS.**

LORD JESUS You are closer to us than the breath we breathe.

You reached out your hand and gently lifted our Mother to a place you had prepared. *The HOLY SPIRIT guided me every step* of the way during that troubled time for humanity. *Trusting in You LORD JESUS, Prince of Peace, for reassurance* that they would take care of her shell and they would have love in their hearts and respect whilst preparing her final journey.

There You are LORD JESUS.

The month of May - the streets hushed by rules - a quiet beautiful warm sunny afternoon, an orange tip butterfly returned and rested on flowers reading Mom as the Welsh choir was played Abide with me. Just how Mom wanted it to be-Just 6 of us present -Prayers and readings of love - our final farewell, our ***treasured Priest nurtured the way of celebrating your life.*** Resting now in Handsworth high on a hill, 8 Doves released into the blue sky - 7 went one way and one its own way. The breath of wind in my ear of words **you used to say - I love you but JESUS loves you more.**

There You are LORD JESUS.

The rain came down, barefoot in the grass - Your peace entered my heart and you let go of your painful past.

LORD JESUS You spoke to my heart and led me to pray, quiet for too long, not sure what to say. **Baptised and made new, a time to grow with you.** This time is like no other, I need to support my sisters and brothers – I hear ‘lift up your hearts to the Lord’, I pray we return and do not look back, that we reach out to our LORD JESUS as He reaches out to us.

There you are LORD JESUS.

Now I see Valleys below, sat high in the eagles' wing of protection, peace in the eagles' eye of what's ahead. You raised me up as a child from a dark cave onto a safe light cliff edge so many times, I have heard you calling me by name and here I am LORD JESUS. I will go Lord if you lead me.

God Loves us.

Take His blessings wherever you are. Everyone who's reading, I pray that GOD visit your home with healing, blessings and miracles, hope you live a healthy and joyful life.

Shebina Gill

Easter – Pancakes and Eggs and everything in between

Easter has meant different things to me over the years. As a child growing up in a Sikh family, I knew that there was someone called Jesus who had died on the cross – I had seen Jesus of Nazareth back in the days when they used to show such programmes on national TV. Sometimes we had pancakes and sometimes we had chocolate eggs. But what Easter meant to me personally? ...truthfully, nothing until I came to faith.



Good Friday Walk of Witness (WOW)

For some reason, the annual WOW event can be divisive. As far as the local community (predominantly Sikhs) is concerned it is an event where they can provide free provisions (food, drink) to those taking part; they see it as *sewa* (service) to earn good karma, or reward in heaven. For the local churches who organise it, it is an outreach opportunity to show the local community that we are united under Christ and testify to what He has done for us. For some Christians, it's too loud and jovial and they argue this event takes away the sombreness of the day. For me, it is a procession to show that I am a part of a community of believers of the One True God who accepts everyone regardless of age, ethnicity, language, or gender. It is an opportunity to dispel the lie, which many Asians believe (as I did for many years), that Jesus is a White God for White people. It has been a deeply spiritual event for me as this was where I had felt prompted by the Holy Spirit that I shouldn't have a double life and that my family should know I believed in Jesus. It was here that I chose Jesus over my family regardless of the consequences... the ostracising, the hateful messages, the loneliness. Yet it is also through this event that God has shown where my biological family had rejected me, God had provided me with a spiritual family and the freedom to worship Him how I wanted without any restrictions.

Holy Week

Last year was a very special Easter for me. It coincided with my mother's first *barsi* (anniversary of her death). I remember thinking that this was the holiest week of the Christian year, pinnacle of our faith and yet being confounded that there was nothing going on in any of the local independent churches... not even a Communion Service on Maundy Thursday. This was the official start of my journey in a CofE church.



Palm Sunday Service, Durham Cathedral – this procession around Palace Green was sombre and a time of reflection as we echoed Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. The service was strange for me, with all the standing and sitting, the elaborate clergy attire, the precise order – the 'bells and smells' as my friend says. Yet for the very first time I felt a sense of unity with all the believers across the world, past, present and future, as we all recited the same words; a sense of connectedness that I hadn't felt since coming to faith almost 10 years ago.

Holy Week, St Andrews - The small intimate services with biblical readings grounded me anew to Christ, reminding me how He should be a part of our rhythm of life, not just Sunday services. And not just something we do in our own time, but also as a part of corporate worship. My experience so far had been only recognition of his birth and death, at Christmas Day and Resurrection Sunday. If we fasted for Lent, it was something we did privately. There was no Ash Wednesday Service either nor reflections at the Station of the Crosses where we reflect on Jesus' journey to being crucified, nor Service of Light celebrating His resurrection.

These have been all new experiences for me but through them I have been able to recognise that through these services there is a quiet sense of being in God's holy presence. And feeling this sense of reverence during a service changed my heart profoundly, because until that moment, I hadn't realised that I had been missing this aspect of worship. That may not make sense to some people, but the only way I can describe is that back when I was a Sikh, we had a reverence for being in the Gurdwara: we took our shoes off and covered our heads (men and women both, old or young), we bowed down to the Guru Granth Sahib, and we wouldn't be smoking or drinking on the Gurdwara premises. Some of these things may well be cultural but through these practices we showed our respect and honour to God.

Rupinder Kanda



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07852252480 / 01215512072

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 10:00 - 13:00 Saheli Hub Crafts

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.

Self-care & Wellness

Developing creative and Positive Thinking

(Undo with your negative, polluted, and wasteful thoughts. Re-educate your mind with igniter & Elevated thoughts)

Thought process, the power of thoughts on one self, community, and environment.
'What we think we are.'

Saturday 13th April from 10.00 -12.30 pm

**at St Andrew's Sports & Community Centre,
Handsworth B20 2HX**

By Father Paskal Clement

For more details, please contact:

Father Paskal Clement

Mobile: 447727286905

Email: revpaskal@gmail.com

Book your place please.



Sunday Club

St Andrew's Church, Handsworth, B21 9RE
(In the Good Shepherd Hall, access from the car park)



Sunday Club Leaders hold DBS certificate.

For more information contact
Mary Baintova 07506352500, Susan Muyoleta 07732604241

Sunday Club takes place during the 9.30 Service and joins with the main church service at the end.



Way of Discipleship

**May 2024:
Way of
Discipleship
online.
"Knowing the Story and
Bible Confidence"**

**Knowing the Story and Bible Confidence
is a six week course on Zoom covering:**

What is the Bible? How do I study it and meditate on it? What is its big story? How do I interpret it well and apply it? What about all the difficult parts?

Dates:
Monday evenings, 7-9.15pm
6th, 13th, 20th, 27th May and 3rd, 10th
June.

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."

