

'Keep In Touch'



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AUTUMN 2017

***CHURCH & VILLAGE
BIRSTALL & WANLIP***

THE PARISH OF BIRSTALL AND WANLIP

Rector	Revd Vince Jupp, 251 Birstall Road LE4 4DJ email: vincejupp@btinternet.com Mob: 07840 855030	2674517
Hon Asst. Priests	Revd Sheila Skidmore, 15 School Lane Revd Kerry Emmett, 1 Chamberlains Field Canon Anne Horton, 8b Copeland Road Revd Robin Martin, 22 Sycamore Road Revd Michael Webb, 31 Bramley Road	2673318 3194736 2677942 2671651 07813 144645
Churchwardens	Mr Tony Bloxam, 17 Sandgate Avenue Mr Andy Proud, 97A Wanlip Lane Mr John Ward, 28 Walker Road Mrs Debbie Shephard, 41 Roman Road	2675381 07889 807087 2677600 2672630
Licensed Readers	Mr Peter Chester, 12 Oakfield Avenue Mrs Lesley Walton, 16 The Crossways Mrs Tricia Emmett, 1 Chamberlains Field	2120236 2674995 3194736
Pastoral Assistants	Mrs Doreen Wilson, 13 Poplar Avenue Miss Sandra Robinson, 7 Lambourne Road Mrs Gill Pope, 26 Blenheim Road	2674680 2677238 2675086
Church Office & PCC Secretary	Mrs Sally Dewsbury, Church Office, Church Hill email: stjames.birstall@btconnect.com	2671797
Treasurer	Mrs Nicki Wills, Church Office, Church Hill email: stjames.birstall@btconnect.com	2671797
Tower Captain	Mr Clive Mobbs, 30 Wanlip Avenue Practice night—Thursday at 7.30pm	2677156
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St Michael's link with healing was further strengthened in 590. After a time of plague in Rome, Pope Gregory the Great claimed to have seen a vision of Michael above the Mausoleum of Hadrian, sheathing his sword. It was then that Gregory changed the name of the mausoleum to Castel Sant'Angelo or Castle of the Holy Angel, in honour of St. Michael.

The other main role that St Michael is perceived to have is to assist the dying and accompany their souls on their journey. He weighs the soul according to the person's good and bad actions during their life. For this reason many cemetery chapels are dedicated to St Michael.

So that is my Patron Saint. Who is yours?

Michael Webb

EDITOR'S END PIECE

Just a thought! About keeping in touch, and the image on the front cover, which pictures various ways in which we keep in touch with each other: PC, iPad, land phone, smartphone, emails, texting, and written letters that actually go through the post. Every one of them do-able on one's own, and from the solitude of one's home. Saves time, yes, but does it warm hearts?

Recently, Melanie Reid, *The Times* Saturday colour supplement columnist, who is perhaps more house and wheel-chair bound than most people, reflected: *When was the last time anyone lingered, in this frenetic, noisy world of ours? Those snatches of empty time, if they exist now, are devoted to smartphone scrolling, head down, brain immersed in life online, catching up on things we've convinced ourselves need catching up on.*

Which powerful image reminded me of the Lent challenge my great-niece set her mother this Spring. She should, said her 7 year-old daughter, cut down on the time she spent on her smartphone. Did it work, that challenge? I'm not sure, but it did make her mum stop and think, and cut down at least a bit ... during Lent.

Many of us live busy lives, and all those iconic images picture handy ways to keep in touch. Nothing, however, warms hearts like talking face-to-face. So maybe it's time for more 'face to face' communication than 'face to screen'?

Just a thought! Or maybe just a sermon to myself?

Anne



MY PATRON SAINT St Michael, Archangel

Feast Day, 29th September

The concept of a patron was initially a relationship of obligation between a 'patronus' and a 'cliens'. The patron was someone of greater power, wealth or social standing who could help their client in a variety of ways. In return, the client would serve their patron. Christianity adopted this concept in the form of *patron saints*, who were named as heavenly advocates for an area, building (e.g. a church), profession or person. In return, the patron saint would be revered and remembered.

St James the Great is patron of Spain, pilgrims, labourers and furriers, and St Nicholas is patron of Russia, children, pawnbrokers and sailors. Saints were adopted as patrons to their birthplace or to a place where they had special connections. Churches or cathedrals who gained possession of a saint's relic often claimed their patronage. Powerful people might claim the patronage of a saint who exhibited personal traits they admired. Edward III, for example, admiring the courage and strength of St George, named him Patron Saint of England in 1348 when he founded the Order of the Garter. Professions claimed the patronage of saints who had some connection with their profession. More recently saintly connections with professions have become more spurious: St. Clare was named patron saint of television because she is said to have trans-located, appearing to be in two places at once!

So who is my Patron Saint? Well that is based on the name I was given by my parents. So my Patron Saint is the Archangel, St Michael.

In the Bible, Michael is seen as the leader of God's spiritual army. In Daniel, the archangel Gabriel talks of being helped against the prince of Persia by his fellow archangel Michael. In Revelation, Michael leads God's forces against the Dragon, who he kills. In the book of Numbers, Michael is often identified with the angel who blocked the way of Balaam and his ass.

Michael's role as leader of God's army led to him being called upon by military leaders like Constantine who built the *Michaelion*, a church at Chalcedon, on the site of a pagan temple associated with healing.



FARE THEE WELL

Goodbye is too good a word ... so I'll just say 'fare thee well'. (Bob Dylan)

Thank you for a fabulous three years serving you as your curate. The time has passed incredibly quickly and I have learnt a lot. Vince has been a fantastic training incumbent, the ministry team have accepted my wacky ways, encouraging me to experiment, and the Churchwardens have answered my apparently daft questions. Together you have helped me to develop my existing ministerial skills and have patiently enabled new skills to be discovered. Thank you to you all.

It has been a delight to get to know the people of Birstall and Wanlip and to experience your passion for reaching out into the community: a passion that you had as you extended the church building and when you built the millennium screen, both designed to help the building to become a more accessible community space. With the same passion you prayerfully attuned to the nudging of the Holy Spirit as you sold the old curate's house to fund mission in all its manifestations, including its out-working which we have come to know as **NEARER**. It has been a privilege both to hear your stories and also to be a part of your journey.

Among the many highlights of my ministry among you have been the baptism and confirmation courses. Journeying with individuals as they have begun their faith journey has been a fantastic privilege. My new parish has already identified the need to develop courses to nurture the faith of new and existing Christians, so I am looking forward to continuing these sorts of courses in Luton.

It has been another delight to develop the *God, Me and Art* group where creative people have come together to talk about their growing and changing relationship with God through themed topics, and where, individually, we have allowed ourselves to engage with God through our varied, creative gifts. I pray that this will continue for as long as it is a helpful part of the life of the parish.



It has been wonderful to see how the ministries of all have been celebrated and nurtured, with all gifts and talents welcomed, valued and used. This is something I will be taking to and developing in Luton, which is a parish that, while being very different from Birstall and Wanlip, has many similarities.

Colin and I will miss you all. A huge thank you for being the people God has called you to be. For the love you have for one another, for those who walk through the doors of these churches and for the love you have shown to Colin and me. God has exciting times ahead for us all, whether here in Birstall and Wanlip or in far-flung Luton. I pray for God's blessing on all that you are, on all that you do and on all that you will become.

Fare thee well

Revd Anne

JOURNEYING

Starting on a journey
Is a new beginning;
A new life starts here.
Everyday is Never-Land,
Destiny is destination.

Setting off to the unknown
Is the next adventure;
Like children's Christmas.
Our luggage: all our past;
Our tickets: printed in
memory.

L.A.H.

*From 'God, Art and Me'
Cedar Mews Summer Fete*



Turn dough onto a lightly floured board and knead for 10 mins or leave in mixer on low speed for 4 mins until stretchy and elastic. Return to bowl, cover with a damp cloth and leave in a warm place until doubled in size - about 1 hour.

Punch down the risen dough, cut into 8 portions and shape, flatten using a rolling pin approximately 10cmx2cm. Arrange on greased baking sheet and cover again to rise double in size about 45mins. Uncover, lightly brush with milk. Bake for 20 mins until golden brown, cool on a wire rack. Enjoy.

Teacakes using a bread maker

- 1 cup water
- 1/4 cup melted margarine
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 beaten egg
- 1 tsp salt 3 3/4 cups strong white bread flour
- 2 tsp fast-action yeast
- 1 cup mixed fruit
- Setting on bread maker Dough 1 1/2 hours

Put ingredients into bread maker in the order written. Place pan in maker, set and wait. Divide dough into 8 pieces, shape, flatten with a rolling pin placing on a greased baking tray. Cover and rise for approximately 30 mins. Bake in oven 190c, gas 5, 10-15 mins golden. Cool on wire rack. Enjoy.

I use both recipes.

Julie Ward

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Blackpool
2. Minehead
3. Burnemouth
4. Sheringham
5. Beer
6. Paligton
7. Swanage
8. Mevagsissey
9. Wells-next-the-Sea
10. Broadstairs
11. Goodrington
12. Barmouth
13. Newquay
14. Great Yarmouth
15. Portsmouth
16. Prestatyn
17. Sandown
18. Folkestone
19. Weston-Super-Mare
20. Gorleston-on-Sea

OLD NICK'S COFFEE SHOP

The concept behind the coffee shop was to create a friendly, safe environment where people, particularly those living alone, or finding it difficult to get out of their homes because of 'caring commitments,' could meet together for a chat. It was started three years ago by three of us from Wanlip Parish Church (hence the name, which refers to one of our patron saints - St Nicholas) and meets every month on the third Tuesday morning from 10.00 - 12.30; with home-made cakes, tea and coffee (with free refills!) available for a modest charge.



From the very start, the Coffee Shop was intended to be non-profit making. We do seem, however, to end up with a profit at the end of each year which has enabled us to donate to the Church and Community Centre (to cover the cost of the use of the Hall), to the *Children's Society*, and to help with the provision of new pew cushions in the Church. We continue to be amazed at the popularity of the Coffee Shop - it must be meeting a need! If you've not visited us yet we'd love to see you.

One of our popular items are Tea Cakes. If you fancy a go at making them yourself, these are the recipes I use:

Yorkshire Teacakes

450g strong white bread flour
1 teaspoon salt
1x7g easy blend yeast
2 tablespoons caster sugar
50g butter/margarine
100g mixed fruit
250g lukewarm milk



Heat oven to 200c/400f/gas6.

Combine flour with salt, yeast and sugar in a bowl or food mixer. Add butter, rub in, mix in fruit, add milk, mix with hand or mixer to make soft but not sticky dough. If too dry, add more milk a little at a time.

LIFE IS MISSION

A few weeks ago I came across the following words:

You go nowhere by accident.
Wherever you go, God is sending you.
Wherever you are, God has put you there.
God has a purpose in your being there.
Christ lives in you and has something
He wants to do through you where you are.
Believe this and go in the grace and love
and power of Jesus Christ.

Rev. Richard Halverson (Chaplain to the US Senate)

In some ways this text is hard to classify.

It is not quite a prayer, although I find it leads me to prayerfulness.
It is not quite a benediction, although I have found it to be a blessing.
Perhaps it is best described as a prophetic statement, a reminder of the core truth of our lives.

When we decide to follow Jesus, we embrace a calling of discipleship, no longer living for ourselves, but for God. This is both a duty and an honour and opens up the possibility that our short, little lives might have significance for eternity.

As we go on mission with God, we go out the door each morning as 'detectives of divinity', looking to see where God is at work in the lives and situations around us and going and getting involved with that divine activity when and wherever God reveals it to us.

We prepare ourselves for this missional living through daily engagement with God's word, by which we attune our hearts to God's goals and values, and through prayer, as we open our spirits to God's Spirit, that He might nudge and guide us throughout the day. As we live our lives in such a manner, the Rev. Halverson's prophetic statement becomes a liveable reality.

In **NEARER** we have chosen to link these words with the following verse: 'Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.' (*Luke 12:32*) We have done this because being on mission with God can sometimes seem like too great a burden and challenge. This verse from St Luke's Gospel reminds us that God is our Shepherd, Father and King, and that we live and move in His watchful care and under His authority.

We have God's promise that He has been pleased to give us the Kingdom and that His Kingdom has come, is coming, and will finally come in all its fullness. Nothing can prevent this happening, but we are invited to choose to play our part in its coming; something that will give our lives significance for eternity.

As we cooperate with God in His mission for the redemption of the universe, no act is worthless or insignificant. Jesus Himself says (*Matthew 25:31-46*) that simple acts of kindness - feeding the hungry, giving water to the thirsty, welcoming the stranger, clothing the naked, caring for the sick, visiting prisoners - will count for eternity, because Jesus will consider them as having been done to Him. They are all concrete examples of the Kingdom of God coming upon the earth.

I encourage you to use Halverson's wise words, read them to yourself each morning, read them aloud to your brothers and sisters in Christ as you meet, carry the text in your pocket, and use it as a reminder that, as Christians, our whole life is mission.

This being the case, no day is ordinary, no activity is meaningless, and nothing is insignificant, unless we make it so by our inattention to God and our unwillingness to be involved in His activity.

God bless you.

Stephen March

THE LORD'S SWANS

It all happened one Sunday afternoon in 2007 whilst trying to find a Swan.

I was drawn by the church bells ringing at Wanlip. (Church bell ringers you're excellent - I just love to hear church bells ring.)



I went to ask the bell ringers for direction for how to get to the Swan. They were just so nice and welcoming. I knew I'd been led there for a reason. It followed a strong wish to come into Church and work with the Swans under the Lord's guidance. I felt I needed a place in which to pray and to light candles for them.

You do not have to belong to our churches or any other church, to have prayers said for you. All information given to us is kept in confidence and is only shared with those on the Prayer Chain, no-one else. You don't need to give your full name, a first name is sufficient if that is what you prefer, as God will know for whom our prayers are asked. How much detail you give is entirely up to you.

Prayer is an essential part of church life and should be central to our own lives, and it is important we include in our prayers all those who need help. Knowing that we are being prayed for is uplifting and comforting and it gives us the power and strength to carry on. We believe it is one way that God works through us to help each other by showing love and support.

If you feel you would like to join the Prayer Chain, or simply know more about it, just speak to Gill Pope or me, or phone one of us. It can easily be arranged. (*Doreen 2674680; Gill 2675086*)

Doreen Wilson

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BIRSTALL *Sharing Jesus with people you know*

If you are a Christian you will want to share your faith with other people. However, the thought of speaking to others may fill you with fear. How do I go about it? What would I say? They might ask questions I can't answer. I'm not theologically educated.

I'm sure that was in the minds of the 50 people who met for a fish and chip supper in June at the Methodist Church - members of all 4 churches in *Churches Together*. The meal was followed by a 90 minute session on "Sharing Jesus" - a video led by the Archbishop of Canterbury with breaks for discussion of important questions. The Archbishop was joined by three other Christian leaders and the presentation was down to earth, practical and laced with humour. It was excellent and those present thought that we should do it again to give us a chance to take in more of the material a second time around. They also wanted to give the opportunity to those who were unable to be present first time around, so as to not to miss out.

Churches Together agreed to this, so the course will be repeated this autumn. Watch out for details. DON'T miss out on this wonderful opportunity.

Kerry Emmett





PRAYING FOR HEALING

The Prayer Ministry Team

St James' Church has a team of people who are passionate about prayer for healing. In one sense, we all need healing because none of us is totally perfect. We all need something to make us better- be it physical, mental or spiritual healing, forgiveness or whatever. God offers such healing, not us. We are his channels. He works through us. We can come to God for healing for ourselves or for others, on their behalf.

We don't understand how healing works, but we know it does. We pray, and God answers our prayers in his perfect way. He may say 'Yes'. He may say 'No'. He may say 'Not yet'. Those who get a 'negative' answer may well find greater peace in their situation and are better able to cope.

Most Sundays there are two people on duty during the administration of Holy Communion to pray with you. On the 1st Sunday of the month we are available after the service. On alternate months, there is a Healing Eucharist at the 10.00 am service. There is an emphasis on healing throughout, and prayer stations around the church where people can receive the laying on of hands and anointing for healing. The next two Healing Eucharists are on 17th September and 19th November. We are also willing to pray with you in the privacy of your homes. Healing is a complex subject. Please speak to me or one of the team if you want to know more.

Kerry Emmett (3194736)

THE PRAYER CHAIN

Is it similar to the rosary?

No. The Prayer Chain is a group of people who pray for anyone who needs prayer, whether for themselves or for someone they know. Anyone can ask for prayer for whatever reason, usually illness but also for any other worries they may have or difficult situations they are in. Simply not knowing which way to turn can be very frightening and confusing, and God's guidance and loving support is vital at these times in our lives, as we accept - often not very readily - that we cannot manage on our own. After all, at the end of Matthew's Gospel, Christ says *'Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'*

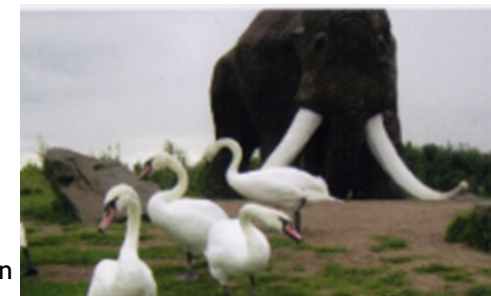
I've had a fantastic time following families of Swans for years and watching them grow up. You may have read my story of Kizzy and Guzzle her son on my blog. <https://julie-watermead-swans.blogspot.com>

Not only did my dream come true of seeing Guzzle grow up to be a White Swan but I watched his young hatch! I sat at the side of his nest! Amazing.

One of my favourite and bizarre memories was going to the top of Mammoth Hill with all the Swans following!

It's very specialist work.

Swans are important and so are their partners, their young and their territories. The Lord even sent a Swan to work with me. Amazing! Her picture sat on the window at Wanlip.



There were a couple of times when I had a large number of Swans die,

and you were just excellent. I had a couple of really nice Swan Services at Wanlip where I took Swan Photos in and a Rose and Tea-Light for every Swan I'd lost. I remember, the Roses went from the path outside right up the Aisle of the Church and all round the Altar. You even picked really nice hymns. I was given the strength to carry on. Bless you. That was so nice of you.

I've met fantastic people and landowners who care, but I've also had some very difficult times with no support and with people who just didn't care. On lots of occasions, I was stretched beyond my limit. I had to stand up for the Swans against all sorts of wrong 'Law and Info' being quoted. I was out there saving lots from dying. It was like going into a 'battlefield' to rescue them. It got really bad, but the Lord was there!

I lost count of how many times I came into church to ask for courage and strength to carry on. That was granted on so many occasions. The kind words of the Church people helped me so much. Thank you.

Through all my struggles, someone above was really there with me. I never realized that they were watching over it all and taking note of everything that was going on.

Then came the most amazing thing...
But that's another story!

Julie

THE BELLS OF ST. JAMES' CHURCH

In an inventory taken in 1552 there were 'three belles and a saunctes (sanctus) bell'. By the middle of the 19th century there was no mention of the sanctus bell, one bell was cracked and the frame and fittings were so decayed that it was impossible to ring the bells.

At the Easter Vestry Meeting in 1881 it was resolved that the vicar be authorised to obtain a faculty to restore them. The proposal was to recast them and add two more bells to make a ring of five. It was also proposed to retain the ancient inscriptions and for one of the new bells to have the name of Thomas While, in whose memory it was given, inscribed on it. The work was entrusted to Taylor's of Loughborough who in 1882 recast all three bells, added two new ones and hung them all in a new wooden frame. The total cost of the work was £284-5-9d. The Assistant Bishop of Peterborough, Bishop Mitchinson, dedicated the bells on 12th October 1882. The inscriptions on them were as follows: No. 1: '*God Save His Church 1656-1882*'. No. 2: '*IHS Nazarenus Rex Judeorum Fili Dei Miserere Me (Jesus of Nazareth King of the Jews Son of God Have Mercy on Me) 1625-1882*'. No. 3: '*INRI Non Clamor Sed Amor Cantat In Aure Dei*' (Not shouting but love sings in the ear of God). No. 4: '*Sit Nomen Domini Benedictum*' (Blessed be the name of the Lord) 1882. '*In loving memory of Thomas While Chapel Warden of Birstall for 31 years*' (the 3 is cast upside down) '*Born Sept 26th 1826 Died Sept 11th 1879*'. No. 5: '*S Jacobus Boanerges 1882 Laudate Deum Cymbalis Sonoris*' (St. James Son of Thunder 1882 Praise the Lord on the loud cymbals).

In 1947, as part of the War Memorial, it was decided to add three smaller bells, the old bells becoming Nos. 4 to 8 of the new ring, and to hang them in a new cast iron frame, the work again being carried out by Taylor's. The inscriptions on the new bells are as follows: No. 1: '*Thanksgiving for the return from the war 1939-1945 of Frederick J. Billson*' (the bell was given by his father). No. 3: '*The gift of the Ladies Working Party 1947 Laborare est Orare*' (To work is to pray). The new No. 2 bell was given by the Churchwardens out of a bequest of a Miss Elizabeth Taylor. It should have been inscribed '*In memory of Elizabeth Taylor died 26th May 1945*', but for some unknown reason there is no inscription on the bell and there is nothing in Taylor's records to show why it was missed off. In addition to the bells, a chiming apparatus was given by the Young Men's Sunday Afternoon Class. The work was carried out in 1948 and the bells, together with a Book of Remembrance and Roll of Honour, were dedicated on Tuesday October 5th by the Bishop of Leicester, Rt. Revd. Guy Vernon Smith.

Clive Mobbs



The Men's Group is a discussion group attended mainly by men from Birstall and Wanlip Churches. We meet bi-monthly, on the evening of the first Sunday of the month, in the lounge bar of the Royal British Legion Club,

We have been going for nearly fifteen years. Over this period we have welcomed speakers on all sorts of subjects: an ex-prison governor, a former army chaplain who had served in Afghanistan, the consultant who was in charge of the genito-urinary clinic at the LRI and Carl Gunns, former boxing manager, who now runs the boxing Gym in Birstall. Our own members also contribute, often in the form of presentations of material from their hobbies. Peter Watson, for example, has provided some brilliantly produced illustrated travelogues as well as organising a musical quiz night. Perhaps our largest attendance was when the Secretary of the Midland and Great Northern Railway society gave us an illustrated talk on the history of the line between the 1900s and the 1950s!

We have a significant number of presentations on Christian themes. Perhaps the most dramatic was given by Paul Gaske, head of the *Christian Vision for Men* organisation in the East Midlands. Paul, who had been a detective in the Leicestershire Serious Crimes squad, described his quite spectacular conversion to Christianity when his life was in a mess, as well as talking about the aims and objectives of *Christian Vision for Men*. A former head of a Roman Catholic secondary school focussed on faith schools, still a controversial topic. A local solicitor spoke about his call, training and subsequent ordination as a married deacon in the Roman Catholic Church. Peter Briggs gave a moving presentation on the work of *Mercy Ships*. These are ships with modern operating theatres, staffed by Christian doctors, nurses and ancillary staff, who give their time free, carrying out surgical procedures that are beyond the financial means of people in the poorer countries of Africa, and which make so much difference to the future happiness and lives of many people, especially children.

Perhaps, however, the most important function of the Men's Group is the opportunity it gives for men in the Church to socialise in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

Bert Tegg

REGULAR EVENTS AND GROUPS

Weekly		
Thursday	7.30-9.00pm	Bell ringing practice (St James) <i>Contact Clive Mobbs 0116 2677156</i>
Saturday	10-12 noon	St James Church open + Tea and coffee
Monthly		
2nd Monday	7.30pm	Monday Group (Day Centre) <i>Contact Jane Scott 0116 2673761</i>
4th Monday	10.15am	Mothers' Union (St James) <i>Contact Helen Tarry 0116 2677493</i>
1st Wed.	10.30am	Contemplative Prayer 76 Sibson Road <i>Contact Noreen Talbot 0116 2672756</i>
3rd Tuesday	10 am- 12.30	Old Nick's Coffee Shop <i>Wanlip Church and Community Centre</i>
2 Fridays per month	7.30pm	Gospel Choir (St James) <i>Contact Sharon March 0116 2103591</i>
Monday Morning	monthly	St James Wanderers approx. 4 miles <i>Contact Lesley Walton 0116 2674995</i>
Bi-monthly		
1st Sunday	7.45pm	Men's Group (Royal British Legion) <i>Contact Bert Tegg 0116 2673817</i>
		St James Striders (approx. 8 miles) <i>Contact Gill Pope 0116 2675086</i>

Group agrees dates!

REGULAR SERVICES IN OUR CHURCHES

St James, Birstall, Sunday	Our Lady & St Nicholas, Wanlip
8 am Holy Communion (<i>said</i>)	Sundays, 6 pm
10 am All Together (<i>1st Sunday</i>)	1st Sunday
10 am Parish Communion (<i>other Sundays</i>)	Holy Communion
10 am Sunday School	2nd, 3rd, 4th Sundays
	Prayer Book Evensong
Weekday	5th Sunday
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,	Alternative Service of the Word
Friday 9 am Morning Prayer	
Thursday 9.30 am Holy Communion	

SPECIAL SERVICES

1st October: Harvest All Together Service - St James 10 am
 1st October: Harvest Evensong - Wanlip 6 pm
 15th October: Thanksgiving Sunday, all services
 29th October: 5th Sunday Special - Wanlip 6 pm
 5th November: All Souls' Service - St James 3 pm
 12th November: Remembrance Service - St James 10:30 am
 3rd December: All Age Christingle - St James 10 am
 3rd December: Advent Carols - Wanlip 6 pm
 6th December: Patronal Evening Prayer - Wanlip 7 pm

PARISH SOCIAL DIARY 2017

OCTOBER

Friday 13th, 7 pm Film Night at St James Church

'THEIR FINEST'

A wonderfully entertaining WWII comedy drama
 starring Gemma Arterton, Sam Claflin, and Bill Nighy

NO CHARGE, INTERVAL REFRESHMENTS



NOVEMBER

Sunday 12th, 2.30 pm Quiz Afternoon and Cream Tea
 Birstall Village Hall

DECEMBER

Saturday 2nd, 7.30 pm The Cantamiccì Choir at St James

Further information from Sandra Robinson 0116 2677238

KEEP JOURNEYING ON

As we age, journeying can become more exhausting, less frequent, less comfortable and more anxious. That should not hinder us in journeying, whether mentally, psychologically or spiritually.

I was challenged this year to spend a month travelling to, round and back in China. Fellow churchgoers said I would not be able to climb onto the Great Wall of China. Well, I did!

It was a tremendous effort. There were long climbs up slopes and steps, between dropping off, walking through a village, riding a shuttle bus and a cable car, and finally 6 or 8 very steep steps onto the Wall. I needed help up those steps as I could scarcely lift my knees high enough.



I was murmuring 'I'm 86, and I shouldn't be doing this.'

But oh, what wonderful memories to carry into my remaining years. I might not be able to do it next year. A fortnight with half my family in Shanghai, the greenest city I've seen; a beautiful estate of houses and gardens; exploring the largest active Buddhist temple, alive with pilgrims and worshippers, all praying in 5 or 6 different ways. My 7 year old granddaughter, enquiring what they were doing, decided on different ways of prayer for herself. Her mother asked what she was doing, and was told 'Shush mother, I'm praying.'

From the vast red and gold temple with its dozen prayer halls and courtyards, we went on to explore a 400 year-old garden arranged like a labyrinth with temples, piazzas, pools of carp and turtles, artificial hills, gold and green tiled roofs and walls, with gilded dragons draped along the walls and over gateways, flowers, pruned shrubs, flowering and coniferous trees. We sailed on the Yangtze and met so many people, some in traditional ethnic costumes, sight-seeing on the Bund.

Ahead of each visit, the content of each topic is reviewed, necessary photocopying is organised, artefacts collated, teaching notes updated and distributed, and helpers organised and briefed. We contact the schools with final instructions, the children arrive and their spiritual growth continues. It is exhausting and rewarding work in equal measure. Next year's plan and dates are now being arranged. We are working on what we have learnt from this year and are adapting our offering in light of the new Agreed syllabus.

To do this work well we often call for volunteers to help us on the day, fielding 4 or 5 church personnel for a number of the visits. If you should feel called to support our work, please do make contact.

The **CAP money course** is another aspect of work in schools, but that is organised by another group of people.

Josephine Burgess ajbsums@tesco.net

FROM THE REGISTERS

May - July 2017

Baptisms

30th July Ethan Burton-Browne St James

Marriages

27th May Samuel Preston & Alex Ward Our Lady & St Nicholas

24th June Kevin Carter & Samantha Guthrie St James

29th July Michael Freer & Victoria Kilby St James

Funerals

14th June Peter Allen St James

15th June William James (Jim) Mills St James

16th June Graham Dawson St James

30th June June Wain St James

10th July Christine Timmis St James

13th July Adrian Stanley St James

9th Aug Hilda White St James

St James the Great, Birstall

WORKING WITH OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS

So much of our work with the local schools in our parish goes on unseen. Most of the work is in the preparation, and it is in good preparation that there is great success. So don't be surprised if you don't see or hear about lots of things being done until you see on the news-sheet the words 'Riverside, Highcliffe or Cedars Academy visit'.

Each year during the Summer Term, a review meeting is held with the RE coordinators of all of the schools. We look at what has gone well, what could be improved and what should be removed from our plan. This year our meeting was particularly important due to the introduction of the new Leicestershire Agreed Syllabus, published last year, which continues in place until 2021. We have worked hard at fostering good working relationships with all the schools in Birstall and Wanlip.

None of schools we work with is Church-Aided, which means we can only do that which we are invited to do. We are, though, very happy to support them in their work of bringing RE to the children, and because of this we are invited to do more each year. During this year, we have worked with the following schools:

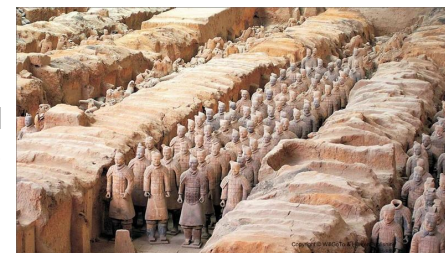
TERM	YEAR GROUP	THEME	DATE - HIGHCLIFFE	DATES - RIVERSIDE
Autumn 2016	3	Leadership, Signs and Symbols	Tues 15 Nov. a.m. Wed 16 Nov. a.m.	Tues. 15 Nov. p.m. Wed. 16 Nov. p.m.
Autumn 2016			Wed 23 Nov. Hosted Herrick Primary School for a visit around a Christian place of worship.	
Autumn 2016	5 and 6	Carol Service	Joint Carol service held on Tues. 13 Dec. with morning rehearsal and service in the afternoon.	
Spring 2017	4	Weddings and Christenings	Tues. 7 March a.m. Wed. 8 March a.m.	Tues. 7 March p.m. Wed. 8 March p.m.
	CEDARS	Visit to church	Wed. 15 March p.m. Thurs. 23 March p.m.	Fri. 17 March a.m.
	5	Events of Holy Week	Wed. 29 March a.m. Thurs. 30 March a.m.	Mon. 27 March a.m. Tues. 28 March a.m.
Summer 2017	6	Pentecost	Tues. 13 June a.m. Wed. 14 June a.m.	Tues. 13 June p.m. Wed. 14 June p.m.

This year our work has become more ecumenical with the arrival of James Blackhall, the Messy Church, Schools and Community Worker for the Methodist Church. He has joined us in presenting some of the topics to the pupils at St James; he has also taken some assemblies at Highcliffe and worked with the RE department of Cedars.

Joined by the other half of my family, we left the most polluted city in the world travelling by train to Beijing. (For two weeks I had not seen sky or sun, just a grey pall hanging over that vast city). The train took eight hours, giving us a cross-section of China, followed by a week of traditional tourism. We explored the 'Forbidden City', Tiananmen Square, the night illuminations, and the Summer Palace with its lake-covered walkways, red and gold buildings and landscaped hills.



A flight to Xi'an, the old walled capital, gave us glimpses of traditions, architecture, double moats and gardens and a drive out to see the two excavated pits of the Terracotta Warriors.



Each visit was a reminder of how vast China is; each site was reached by long walks from the car parks to the actual attraction, via beautiful gardens. From there we drove to Brickyard Village, brick dust and construction everywhere, where we stayed in a luxurious Chinese villa. Next morning we drove to the car park for the Great Wall and began our morning walk up to the Wall and its extensive views.

Such landscape, warm hospitality and wonderful meals. Yunnan, Tibetan, Beijing, Korean, Mongolian, North China, Shanghai soup dumplings (very messy to eat!) and all sorts of fusion versions – German, Irish and Australian, and traditional tea houses.

So many surprises, so many opportunities, so many challenges wherever we journey but they open us to changes in our own lives, our learning, our growth. It's never too late. Keep journeying on, whether it's physical, mental, social, emotional or spiritual. Go well!

Noreen Talbot

PARISH HOLIDAY 2017

Warner Leisure Hotel, Holme Lacy House, Hereford.

A coach party of 43 people left Birstall at 9.30 am on Monday 26th June. The weather was fine and sunny. We stopped for lunch on the way, at Valley Garden Centre/Shopping Outlet near Evesham. We arrived at Holme Lacy House mid-afternoon. After checking in, we settled into our rooms, where we found information about all the activities available to us. For our evening meal in the dining room, there was a varied daily menu to suit all tastes and was enjoyed by everyone. Breakfasts were served from a buffet style servery in the same dining rooms, also enjoyed by all. The food was excellent, and always plenty of it.

On Tuesday, we enjoyed a visit to Leominster sight-seeing and then travelled to Westonbury Mill Water Gardens. The interesting and tranquil gardens were a peaceful place for us to have our lunch. We returned to the hotel via the 'Black and White' trail, a variety of Tudor properties, with a short stay at Weobley, a quaint village, where many took the opportunity to visit the large church. On Wednesday, the coach left the hotel for Hereford. We visited the market and the magnificent Cathedral, which now houses a splendid memorial to the S.A.S.



Thursday was a free day, so we had time to enjoy the facilities of the hotel, e.g. archery, rifle shooting, outdoor bowls, tennis, croquet, fishing, yoga, Tai Chi, a pampering in the beauty salon or a dip in the leisure centre pool. All these activities were available every day; or visitors could stay in the hotel and enjoy the bingo, trumpet player or pianist.

There was entertainment each evening in the Pavilion, (a large concert room), with live bands/groups, singers, visiting comics, quizzes, games or a chance to strap on your sparkly shoes and dance the night away.

Prayer underpins everything that we do at Mothers' Union. This prayer is taken from the Mothers' Union prayer book *'The Prayers We Breathe'*.

God, you go with us on all our travels and all our holidays;
you are the stranger on the Emmaus Road,
and yet at home you wait eagerly for us,
your arms open in welcome and delight.
Help us to meet you wherever we go. Amen

Birstall & Wanlip Mothers' Union

Registered Charity no. 250038

MARY SUMNER Founder of the Mothers' Union

Mary Elizabeth Sumner (née Heywood) was born in 1828 at Swinton, Lancs. In 1848, she married a young curate, George Henry Sumner, nephew of Archbishop Sumner, who became Bishop of Guildford in 1888.

A mother of three children, Mary called a meeting in 1876 at which the Mothers' Union was founded, providing a forum in which to unite mothers of all classes in the aim of bringing up children in the Christian faith. Baptism and parental example were its two basic principles. At first a parochial organisation, it grew steadily into an international concern, encouraging the ideal of a Christian home. Mary died on 9th August 1921.



From 'Exciting Holiness: Collects and Readings for the Festivals and Lesser Festivals of the Church of England'

Prayer written in 1876 by Mary Sumner.

All this day, O Lord,
let me touch as many lives as possible for thee;
and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken,
whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe,
or the life I live. Amen.

Have you been away on holiday this year? Or had a few days out somewhere relaxing or interesting? Are you going back to work or school and telling your friends where you have been and what you have been doing over the summer? It's great to get away for a while and go somewhere different. The anticipation of going away, and the memories we come back with, all add to the holiday experience.

Some families have no hope of a holiday and are facing very difficult situations. The Mothers' Union 'Away From It All' project provides a holiday for local families in desperate need of a break, whether through bereavement, trauma, family crisis or low income, who have not had a holiday for at least 3 - 4 years. Families are taken by coach from Leicester to a seaside Holiday Park for 5 days in July, where they are supplied with food and given swimsuits and suitcases if needed. (One family was going to cancel the holiday they had been looking forward to, because they didn't have a suitcase and were too embarrassed to turn up for the coach with their clothes in bin bags.) Most of the Holiday Park activities, the pools and entertainment are free. Two Mothers' Union members go with the families, to make sure that everything proceeds smoothly and that any problems are sorted out.

Each year we hear of the positive effect the holiday has on families under pressure. Some of the children have never seen the sea before. Can you imagine their excitement! One child said 'I hadn't seen my mum smile like this for a long time'. A nervous, single father looked a different person organising children's games on the beach. A mum said 'I can't believe complete strangers have paid for me and my family to have a holiday.' It is a time of refreshment, fun and of building good memories.

The Mothers' Union theme this year is 'Faith in Action' and here in Birstall and Wanlip our Mothers' Union members try to give help wherever possible. Every year part of our fundraising goes towards 'Away From It All' holidays for families in Leicestershire. **If you would like to help, please support our Coffee Morning on Saturday 30 September at the Methodist Coffee Shop in Birstall.** Or come to our monthly meetings held at St James in Birstall. We will be happy to see you. We meet on 4th Mondays, at 10.15 am.

We travelled home on the Friday, calling in at Evesham for lunch. Some took advantage of a river walk or a boat trip there, and there were still some going to the shops! We arrived back at Birstall in the late afternoon, a coach of very tired, exhausted people after a week of fun, friendship and a feeling of what a fantastic week we had had, together with members of the Roman Catholic and Methodist Churches and other friends.

Raymond Folland

CHURCH YARD WANDERINGS

One day, as I wandered through the churchyard, I stopped to look at the gravestones. Have you ever paused to look at them? You might look at the inscriptions, particularly on the old stones that tell the story of Birstall's history and characters, but have you ever looked at the life that makes its home on them? Do stop and look when you have time. Apart from the shiny granite ones, many grave stones are home to lichens; small and easily overlooked but fascinating. Lichens are not plants. They consist of a fungus and an alga, a very simple plant. Both benefit from the relationship, and can't exist separately. The fungus provides the structure and the alga exists within it. There are many kinds, but the ones in the churchyard all grow outwards in flat rosettes of different colours.



Lichens grow in every kind of climate and are some of the oldest forms of life on earth. They live on almost any hard surface. Most of them grow very slowly, perhaps only 1 mm per annum. Some of our gravestones in Birstall and Wanlip are over 300 years old and the lichens on them may well be nearly the same age.

Lichens have surprising uses. They are an indicator of air quality. Very few will grow in polluted places, so the number of lichens tell you how good our air quality is. They are also useful. Before chemical dyes were invented, lichens were used for dyeing cloth; different ones mixed together produce different colours. Crafts-people still use them today. Some have antibiotic properties. They produce litmus dye, used in the litmus test to detect alkali/acids. And the Egyptians packed their mummies with them!



Lesley Walton

SUMMER QUIZ - HOLIDAY RESORTS

Enjoy!

Answers on page 25

1. Dark water
2. Coalpit boss
3. MORE UNTO HUB (Anag)
4. Teddy is a footballer
5. Alcoholic drink
6. Instruct the decorator to continue?
7. Era of the royal bird
8. GIVES MY SEA (Anag)
9. Water holes adjacent to the briny
10. Wide steps
11. Perfect circle to one hundred
12. Exclude this facial feature
13. Unused harbour
14. OUTRAGE MY HART (Anag)
15. Wines entrance
16. Pushed the can?
17. Fine grains possess
18. People point to the rock
19. Point supported by excellent equine
20. TORE LONG SEASON (Anag)



Devised by Jenny Burton

SUMMER TIME - AND THE LIVING AIN'T EASY

'Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer - those days of soda and pretzels and beer'

So goes the song, all upbeat and cheery, from our youth (well, mine anyway).

These days, I just like the soda with my Campari, I find pretzels too salty and the beer too fizzy. Hey ho! For the days of youth.

Now I am, as my uncle called it, in my late youth, summer has come to mean very different things, but all, nonetheless, still very enjoyable, although I do substitute something like 'Pimms' or chilled white wine for the beer! And, perhaps, delicate canapés for the pretzels? It seems suspiciously like I have matured, doesn't it? Like a good oak-cask malt, or a soft, flavoursome red ...

But now, with the summer, come the tasks - perhaps started in the Spring with the hope sown with the seeds for flowers and vegetables. Such anticipation as they are sown, warmed, watered and nourished, and then the enjoyment when the first green shoots appear (against all odds, in my case!) With the summer comes their maturity and then the harvest, perhaps lovely flowers to cheer us, or tasty vegetables to sustain us.

Then comes Autumn when we discard the plants that once gave us such pleasure, and look back on that season, as we look back at the summer of our lives, with smiles and fond memories and, perhaps, a few regrets.

With seeds, we can plan and re-seed for the next season and they will grow and re-grow. With our lives, we can plan and grow in love, compassion and understanding, and then in our Autumn there will be a harvest.



Leigh Reid