

'KEEP IN TOUCH', Spring 2020

Copy by, but, if possible, before 1st February 2020

All contributions welcome. Maximum preferred length: 500 words!

(If longer, the editor reserves the right to edit!!)



'Keep In Touch'



*Our Lady and St Nicholas, Wanlip
Flower Festival 2019*

KEEPING YOU 'IN TOUCH' IS

Name

Address

Tel. No.

YOU ARE WELCOME TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THEM

WINTER 2019

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

THE PARISH OF BIRSTALL AND WANLIP

Rector	While our parish is in interregnum, please ring 07570 198810 to contact a churchwarden.	
Hon Asst. Priests	Revd Sheila Skidmore, 15 School Lane	2673318
	Revd Kerry Emmett, 1 Chamberlains Field	3194736
	Canon Anne Horton, 8b Copeland Road	2677942
	Revd Robin Martin, 22 Sycamore Road	07971632268
	Revd Michael Webb, 31 Bramley Road	07813144645
Churchwardens	Mr Tony Bloxam, 17 Sandgate Avenue	2675381
	Mr John Borrajo, 8 Hallam Avenue	2209289
	Mr John Ward, 28 Walker Road	2677600
	Mrs Debbie Shephard, 41 Roman Road	2672630
Licensed Readers PTO	Mr Peter Chester, 12 Oakfield Avenue	2120236
	Mrs Lesley Walton, 16 The Crossways	2674995
Pastoral Assistants	Mrs Doreen Wilson, 13 Poplar Avenue	2674680
	Mrs Gill Pope, 26 Blenheim Road	2675086
Safeguarding Coordinator	Mrs Annette Marshall	annette.marshall8@gmail.com
Sunday School	Mrs Rose Parrott	rose.parrott@btinternet.com 07811662235
Church Office	Mrs Sheryl Jupp, Church Office, Church Hill	2671797
	<i>email: stjames.birstall@btconnect.com</i>	
Treasurer	Mrs Nicki Wills, Church Office, Church Hill	2671797
	<i>email: stjames.birstall@btconnect.com</i>	
Tower Captain	Mr Clive Mobbs, 30 Wanlip Avenue	2677156
	<i>Practice night—Thursday at 7.30pm</i>	
Wanlip Church Hall Bookings	Mr John Ward, 28 Walker Road	2677600
Nearer Group	Peter and Gill Chester	2120236
	pete.chester@ntlworld.com	
Editor of Keep in Touch	Canon Anne Horton, 8b Copeland Road	2677942
Editorial Team	Mrs Lesley Walton	lp.walton@ntlworld.com

The views and opinions of the authors who have submitted articles to 'Keep in Touch' belong to them alone and do not necessarily reflect the official views of the wider church.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

Afternoon Teas

at Birstall Methodist Coffee Shop, bi-monthly 2.30-4pm
7 December 2019; 2020: 1 Feb, 4 Apr, 6 Jun, 1 Aug, 3 Oct, 5 Dec

If you or someone close to you is experiencing some loss of memory, or if you are feeling isolated or lonely, then come and join us. 'Down Memory Lane' is very informal. It begins at 2.30 - no worries if you are a bit early or late. You will be welcomed by one of our helpers who will invite you to sit down at one of the tables and when we think everyone has arrived, we have entertainment which always involves music and singing together. After about 15 minutes tea and home-made cakes are served. After tea, after more entertainment and more time to chat, it's time to go home at 4 pm. So, if you think you would like to join us, we would love to see you!

To find out more, contact [Janet Bradford 0116 267 1471](tel:01162671471).

FROM THE REGISTERS

July — December 2019

Baptism

22/9	Ruby Varnum	St James
24/11	Frank and Teddy Hornbuckle	Wanlip

Funerals

6/8	Gillian Ward	L'boro Crem.
20/9	Stanley Walter Heath	St James
8/10	Joan Smith	L'boro Crem.
10/10	Ken Harris	St James

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 (Village Hall) <i>Contact Jane Scott 0116 2673761</i>
4th Monday	10.15am	Mothers' Union (St James') <i>Contact Helen Tarry 0116 2677493</i>
3rd Tuesday	10am -12.30	Old Nick's Coffee Shop <i>Wanlip Church and Community Centre</i>

Other Groups

<i>Group agrees dates!</i>	St James' Striders	<i>approx. 8 miles</i> <i>Contact Gill Pope 0116 2675086</i>
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St James' Wanderers are currently not wandering

Contact Lesley Walton for further information

REGULAR SERVICES IN OUR CHURCHES

St James, Birstall Sundays

8 am Holy Communion (*said*)
10 am All Together (*1st Sunday*)
10 am Parish Communion (*other Suns*)
10 am Sunday School

Weekdays

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,
Friday 9 am Morning Prayer
Thurs. 9.30 am Holy Communion

Our Lady & St Nicholas, Wanlip Sundays, 6 pm

1st Sunday

Holy Communion

2nd, 3rd, 4th Sundays

Prayer Book Evensong

5th Sunday

Alternative Service of the Word

SO THE RECTOR'S LEAVING AN INTERREGNUM LOOMS

When an Incumbent leaves a Parish, the intervening period before the appointment and licensing of a replacement is called an Interregnum. The Churchwardens are responsible for ensuring the smooth running of the Parish during an Interregnum. They work with the Area Dean and the Archdeacon as necessary to ensure that all services, both Sunday and weekday worship, are covered, as well as occasional services (funerals, weddings etc.). Here in Birstall and Wanlip, we shall rely heavily on the good will of the retired clergy living in the parish and our Lay Readers. For those services where a Clerk in Holy Orders is required, and it is impossible to provide cover from our 'usual sources' we shall need to look further afield for support.

Vince has already planned the service cover from when he leaves on Advent Sunday to the end of December and cover for the first quarter of 2020 is also being planned. The Churchwardens have met with the Archdeacon and Area Dean and will continue to meet with them regularly. One of our first tasks will be to formalize the channels of communication for requests for funerals etc. and to put in place robust systems for essential record keeping. In this task we will be well supported by Sheryl who will continue in her role as Parish Administrator.

If we are to have a successful Interregnum we need:

To maintain good communications.

Everyone to support the work of the church and to be prepared to take on additional roles/responsibilities.

Remember why we are here!

A Prayer for our Parish

Almighty Father, who by your redeeming love has drawn us together as members of your Church in this parish, we ask that during this interregnum you will deepen our love for you, and strengthen our fellowship one with another. Grant that, by the witness of our corporate life, others within this place may be brought to the knowledge of you, and that your kingdom may be enlarged; for the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Your Churchwardens

RECTOR'S RAMBLINGS

'TIME FOR TRANSITION'



Reading Ecclesiastes, we see that there is a time for... well [everything] to which we could add 'change'. But it would have to read that 'time is change' or 'change is time'. After all it is a truism - albeit probably clichéd - to say that the only constant is change! Our lives are change; we are transitioning all the time. Unconsciously, our cellular being is changing with each breath we take. Consciously, every encounter, every conversation, every experience changes us in some way; new neural networks are created, new insights are gained, and wisdom accrued. We are the dominant species, in part because of our awareness and ability to consciously adapt, develop and grow. There is also, however, a part of us that hates change. Change is scary, disruptive, uncomfortable, threatening and anxiety-provoking!

There is then a need at times for someone to assist in the change process, to be alongside those feeling the pain, helping to provide an anchor as identities are re-discovered and new visions explored. Enter, stage left, the Diocesan Transition Enabler. Not the catchiest of job titles, but it does what it says on the tin: this is someone who *Enables Transition* in the Diocese. The role is about coming alongside those who find themselves in the process of change and need extra support and encouragement, with a nudge or two in the right direction. It's about equipping, edifying and enabling a Benefice, Parish or Church move forward in their journey of faith, witnessing to the community in a way that brings joy, hope and growth of God's kingdom.

It is to this role that I feel called for the next part of my own journey of faith. I am to be posted to different places around the Diocese for short periods of time - measured in months rather than years - and interestingly into a way of being that will expose me to repeated changes in context, people and challenges; perhaps underpinning the truism that for this role the only constant will indeed be change.

A NEW YEAR PRAYER

May Christ be born afresh into our hearts.
May doors be flung open to welcome, bless and inspire.
May new gifts be discovered cherished and expressed.
May love be nurtured, gently given and received.
May courage continue in dark nights.
May joy flash at dawn.
May bread and wine be always a sign of grace,
forgiveness and redemption.
And may each prayer, each day, of this New Year
draw us closer together as we rejoice in our diversity
and seek to serve the world in all its need.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

18th to 25th January

PULPIT SWAPPING IN BIRSTALL

On Sunday 19th January, for the first time in WPCU, we shall be pulpit swapping across the three churches. To highlight our unity in Christ, Father Ted will be preaching at St James' Church, the Revd Paula Hunt will preach at St Theresa's Church and Canon Anne Horton will preach at Birstall Methodist Church. We shall all come together on Saturday 25th at the end of the week for a shared lunch with Prayers and Readings at St. Theresa's. Look out for more details closer to the time.

Lord Jesus Christ,
who prayed for your disciples that they might be one,
even as you are one with the Father;
draw us to yourself, that in common love and obedience to you
we may be united with one another,
in the fellowship of the one Spirit,
that the world may believe that you are Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen

Archbishop William Temple

CHRISTMAS and EPIPHANY



THREE SLOW VISITORS

When Christmas is over
and New Year is past,
we three slow visitors arrive at last.

Too late for the angels
we wonder and long
for the piercing white beauty of feathery song.

We wandered the wastes
where the wind and the sand
whispered and shifted and re-made the land.

And now, by the Maker
of all things we stand,
mysterious gifts in our trembling hands.

The gold and the incense
are all fine and good
and the myrrh has its meaning too – all understood.

But here – at our mercy
lies God – and we shiver
just what is the gift here? And who is the giver?

from Jan Dean, 'Wallpapering the Cat'

So, it is exciting but also anxiety provoking. I hope you will pray for Sheryl and me as we prepare for the move and take up the post, as we shall pray for you all for your ongoing journey.

My time at Birstall and Wanlip has been enriching and I am grateful for the time I have spent with you all. Over the last nine years I have been blessed to see individuals discover faith, leaders emerge, new ministries start – many of which are sustained today - and have often rejoiced to see our parish healthily expressing its faith in word and deed in the community in different ways. You have been generous, loving and supportive, not only to me and to Sheryl, but also to each other and to the centre through your continued commitment to the Parish Gift.

I would like to think that a thread running through my ministry with you has been my desire to see greater lay leadership across the church. I have enjoyed encouraging this at every turn and been blessed to watch individuals and groups flourish. I do hope and pray that much of what you do and are today goes on tomorrow, unaffected by my departure. That would be such a blessing to me. I remember a comment from my engineering mentor forty years ago when I was an apprentice. He said, 'If I do myself out of a job then it'll be worth it!' I have always liked that about him, and the idea of helping others grow into new opportunities and flourish as human beings and disciples of Christ. The Gospel for me often speaks of enabling, encouraging, edifying, equipping and energising people to be all that they can be. Following Christ is wonderful; the way of the cross the only way, the only truth and the only life.

Costly at times, anxiety-provoking at times, but totally worth it. As St. Paul would say, 'I count all as nothing compared to the surpassing knowledge of Jesus Christ my Lord.'

Here's to your future in Christ. Be blessed my brothers and sisters, continue to bless others as we have felt blessed by you, and may you always know the peace of God that passes all understanding.

With love
Vince and Sheryl

ONWARD CHRISTIAN BROTHER

Running down the rectory stairs, paint brush in hand, and paint on his nose, our new rector, Vince, starts work in the parish, and he has continued to paint, painting the parish with love for the last nine years; what a blessing he, and Sheryl have been to us all.

What an outstanding ministry he has been, such a gifted spiritual leader, eager to teach and share our Christian journey.

Pastorally alert and responsive, always having time for home and hospital visits. So adept at encouraging and enabling lay participation - no arm twisting necessary!

Engages with everyone, great company and a good friend.

Well organised, decisive, reliable, instantly responds to problems and difficulties – is this man a saint? Probably not. Like all of us he has faults and weaknesses, but they seem to be hidden under his many talents.

One of the responsibilities given to the Churchwardens is to care for the wellbeing of the Rector and his family. This has been interesting with Vince, especially trying to persuade him to take his days off. Since a second 'dog collar' wearer has taken up residence in the Rectory, we have found that the wellbeing of the Rector and his family includes a dog. We are not sure who takes up most of our time – Vince or Rosie!

We will miss them both, and Sheryl, who, bless her, is staying with us as our Parish Administrator.

Onward Christian Brother, with our every blessing,

**Debbie Shephard,
John Ward,
John Borrajo,
Tony Bloxam.**

ADVENT

The word Advent is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning 'coming', which is a translation of the Greek word *parousia*. Scholars believe that during the 4th and 5th centuries in Spain and Gaul, Advent was a season of preparation for the baptism of new Christians at the January feast of Epiphany, the celebration of God's incarnation represented by the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus, his baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist, and his first miracle at Cana in Galilee. During this season of preparation, Christians would spend forty days in penance, prayer and fasting in preparation for celebrating Epiphany. At that time, there was little connection between Advent and Christmas. By the 6th century, however, Roman Christians had tied Advent to the coming of Christ. But the 'coming' they had in mind was not Christ's first coming in the manger in Bethlehem, but his second coming in the clouds as the judge of the world. It was not until the Middle Ages that the Advent season was explicitly linked to Christ's first coming at Christmas. The Eastern church still celebrates Christ's birth at Epiphany. We Westerners celebrate it on Dec. 25th.

WE WANT TO BE AT BETHLEHEM BUT ...

A Prayer for Forgiveness

Forgive us Lord when we only want you to come on our terms.

We want to be at Bethlehem,

but we don't want the bother of the journey.

We want the word made flesh,

but we don't want the pains of labour.

We want reconciliation,

but we don't want change.

We want resurrection

but we don't want the tomb.

We do want you to come, Lord, but perhaps not just yet.

Forgive us, Lord, when we limit your coming and fix our terms.

Forgive us and bless us and come soon. Amen

BAKING FOR ADVENT

Advent is a time of waiting, and a time of preparation and penitence.

Many people begin their Christmas preparations by making edible gifts and goodies. Selections of decorated biscuits, cakes, truffles, puddings and sweets adorn kitchens. The smell, especially Christmas cakes and puddings, is heavenly, and, with the warmth in a kitchen on a cold day, it is sublime (with maybe a little tittle to help things along!) You may like to bake some **Speculaus Biscuits**. Here's the recipe.

You need half a cup of butter, a cup of caster sugar, two and a half cups of cake flour, half a teaspoon of baking powder, one egg, half a lemon rind - grated-, a teaspoon of cinnamon and half a teaspoon of salt.

Cream the butter and sugar, add the egg and continue beating. Add grated rind, the flour sifted with baking powder, cinnamon and salt.

Let the dough rest overnight in a cool place. Roll out as thinly as possible - about the thickness of the back of a knife blade. Cut into desired shapes and bake at gas 3, 350 degrees, for 15 to 20 minutes. Cool on a cooling rack. When cold, decorate the biscuits with icing. I used half the dough, putting the rest in the freezer for another day!



A PERIOD OF PENITENCE, BUT FULL OF CELEBRATIONS!

A celebration close to our hearts is the feast of St Nicholas, who is not only the patron saint of children, but one of the patron saints of Wanlip Church.

Why not come and celebrate St. Nicholas' Day with us on Friday 6th December at 7.30 pm in Wanlip Church. Then there's St Nicholas' Christmas Fair, Sat 7th Dec. 2-4 pm in Wanlip Church and the Church Hall

Julie Ward

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

One of the three strands of Leicester's diocesan vision is '**Depth of Discipleship**'. How do we achieve this you might ask? Well there are the time-honoured methods of discipleship classes, ongoing study through home-groups and personal study. Sometimes, however, we need help in the discernment process. For those of us who want to go deeper in our journey with Christ and to know the joy of living according to his teaching - it's helpful to have someone alongside us for a while.

Recently Canon Anne discovered a useful form/tool on the Oxford Diocesan website which might help us to encourage individuals in our church or community to discover their calling afresh and to deepen their understanding of their walk with Christ. It's called a **Personal Development Plan**. It's a very simple form that starts by asking you to score what you enjoy doing, and what you do not, assigning values against each question, and then moves you on to think about how this might point to a calling within the Christian community and how you might pursue your calling step by step. As part of the process of filling in the form you can ask for a 'mentor' to talk through the questions with you, and so hopefully hear for the first time - or have affirmed - a calling to Christian ministry in some way, enriching both the church and yourself.

What is God calling you to? Don't know?

Then fill in a form and find out.

Know what your skills are but don't know how this equates to a calling? Then fill in a form and have a discussion with a mentor. (We can provide one! Ask any member of the ministry team.)

Curious? Looking for purpose? Then why not fill in a form and see where it takes you.

The forms are available at the back of the churches. Just take one away and make a start. Have a word with one of the ministry team and let us help you discern the next part of your journey.

Blessings

Vince

GATHERING FOR PRAYER GIFTED WITH NEW WAYS TO PRAY

Through May and June, September and October, a small group of church members met with Noreen Talbot to explore some of the many ways into prayer. We all pray differently, and one of the great joys of these sessions was discovering so many ways into prayer that we hadn't even heard of!

Group Members' Reflections

I really valued these sessions which broadened my approach to prayer. They stimulated me to pray, more often, and in many different ways. The 'using your body' session made me realise that some of the prayer positions are those of yoga, which I practice, and so an extra opportunity for praying in a different way.

I linked the two sessions on 'beads' and 'colour your prayer' to make my own '**kompoloi**' (**string of beads**), where each bead is a different colour, and each colour represents a different theme. So:

Green: prayer for the environment

Blue: prayer for peace

Red: the anger, war and strife in the world

Yellow: for good times, caring people, friends

Purple: for sick and dying, sad and lonely people



I so much enjoyed being in a small group, with a mixture of views and opinions, and all of us given the opportunity to voice our feelings and thoughts in a non-threatening situation.

Elaine White

Singing Bowls

In one session, Noreen played to us the sound of a singing bowl, explaining that for centuries Buddhist monks have been playing singing bowls, making them one of the most ancient of meditation tools. The goal of singing bowl meditation is for the sounds to lead us into a deeper meditative state. Our brain waves synchronise with the sound frequencies produced by the bowl. Concentrating on these pulses of sound helps to bring our minds into focus.

THE PASSER BY

(the trees of Durham, Pelaw Woods as seen by the River Wear)

I just keep going, going;
flowing on I know not where.
From my course I see them standing, standing,
see their majesty and splendour there.
Shall these ranks stay so for ever?
No - I have seen them slowly die -
Life-giving nectar falling,
greens, browns, yellows, russets.
Have seen the end to their crowning glory -
swansong flaming - burst to last sad serenade.
Bow their heads, stark veins showing,
Then down they dropped their vesture - dying.



Then a carpet laying - rustle-foot,
and crisp, clipt, crunching,
stirred by the foot of man.
I passed by onward, onward,
stronger now in strength and care;
surging, sighing, rising higher,
through wet season dark and bare,
there they stood, ranks stark and
barren.

Then a trinket lacing - bauble glisten, and sharp snap frosting,
all 'a passing Jack the Cold.
Still I flowed forward, forward;
softer now in a new time.

Then I watched them regain colour,
slowly did I see them all revive.
Life returning. Oh! What wonder
burst upon their form again!
Whites, pinks, yellows, blossom,
I have seen them live again!

Robin Martin

BIBLE FUN IF YOU BELIEVE THIS ... !!

Who was the fastest runner in the Bible?

Adam. He was first in the human race

What kind of car did the disciples drive?

Honda. The Bible says they were all in one Accord

Who was know as a mathematician in the Bible?

Moses. He wrote the book of Numbers

Why didn't they play cards in the Ark?

Because Noah was standing on the deck

How long did Cain hate his brother?

As long as he was Abel

What was Boaz like before he got married?

Ruth-less

What did Adam say on December 24th?

It's Christmas, Eve

Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?

Noah. He was floating his stock while everyone was in liquidation

When is the first tennis match mentioned in the Bible?

When Joseph served in Pharaoh's court.

Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?

Samson. He brought the house down.

How did Noah see inside the Ark?

He used floodlights

Why was everyone so poor in Bible times?

Because there was only one Job.

Submitted by Jane Scott

We listened to Malcolm Guite's poem **SINGING BOWL**

*Begin the song exactly where you are,
Remain within the world of which you're made.
Call nothing common in the earth or air,*

*Accept it all and let it be for good.
Start with the very breath you breathe in now,
This moment's pulse, this rhythm in your blood*

*And listen to it, ringing soft and low.
Stay with the music, words will come in time.
Slow down your breathing. Keep it deep and slow.*

*Become an open singing-bowl, whose chime
Is richness rising out of emptiness,
And timelessness resounding into time.*

*And when the heart is full of quietness
Begin the song exactly where you are.*

At the last session, Noreen gave us this prayer-poem to take home.



ALONE

*Mystery that lies deep in our hearts,
a presence within.*

*Yet we feel only an emptiness.
Where we look for the well of life
springing up.*

*Perhaps Christ is there,
Living Water flowing!
Perhaps it is I*

*who am not at home -
I am rushing about.*

*Let us begin again, sit quietly,
hands outstretched and open.*

*Just I, as I am,
and God, just as He is,
in the space within.*

HAPPY 8th BIRTHDAY SUNDAY SCHOOL

IN
OUR
OWN
WORDS



'I thank our blessings for Sunday School. It is a place where my children can grow and learn in the love of God. From being born, Sunday School has been their family, their brothers and sisters in Christ. Always welcome and seeing the smiles on the children's faces is the biggest blessing of all. Thank you.'

'I like Sunday school because I like seeing my friends and hearing stories about Jesus.'

'I like being in church and being around all the people. I love hearing the church bells. I like playing with my friends and listening to the stories.'

'Sunday School is a good place to learn about Jesus and God and Mary. It's really nice to find out lots of new things about the Bible stories.'

'I like Sunday School because we make things and I enjoy learning about Jesus.'

'Sunday School helps us to learn about God and to learn new things.'

'I like Sunday School and listening to our teachers telling stories from the Bible. I love hearing the church bells ring every Sunday morning when I come. I enjoy reading and saying prayers as part of the Communion Service.'

Members encourage each other in Bible study by sharing thoughts, questions and experiences in a friendly way. We support each other in prayer and have a feeling of belonging to the family of God. We have a meal together in the summer and usually 'Sing Christmas' at The White Horse. We are a welcoming group, so if you like laughter, fellowship and praising God, give us a try!

Members reflected on what it means to be a part of the group. Here are our thoughts. 'As well as keeping God's family together, it teaches and draws us closer to God.' 'I am free to say what I am thinking. Even if I am wrong, I feel comfortable to speak.' 'Study, prayer and fellowship go together. We can all participate without being judged or feeling silly. We are a support to one another.' 'Although I attend a church in Leicester City Centre, I really like coming to a local group as I live in Birstall. It is good to encourage each other in our faith in God. I have also had practical and emotional support from several people in the group who have become friends. The group has been a great blessing.' 'Fellowship and fun! I'm able to talk in confidence and ask questions about the Bible without feeling stupid. We pray for each other and care about each other. I enjoy studying the Bible and finding out more.' 'Family; Fellowship; Walking with Christ as I go out.' 'I have been a member of this group since its beginning. It has been an important part of my personal Christian journey and has enabled me to grow in faith and understanding as new people are welcomed to enrich our discussion. This is a group of people I know I can trust and I know I can turn to when I need prayer, help and support and someone will have the answer to my questions!'

The Church's other three Home Groups

These will feature in the Spring 2020 issue of *Keep In Touch*.



BIRSTALL AND WANLIP HOME GROUPS

Do you belong to a Home Group? What do you think that they get up to? Would you like to know more- perhaps even join one? We've been finding out about our six groups.

Wednesday Morning Group

This group meets at 10 am in members' homes. The contact person is Rita Richards 0116 267 4536. We are friendly and have lots of fun and laughter. We start with tea/coffee and cake, followed by a Bible passage and discussion. No question is silly and all contributions are valued and respected. No-one is pressured to do anything they would be uncomfortable doing. Members can give a small voluntary donation which we give to local charities and organisations. Every few months we go out to lunch as a group. Please ring Rita to find out where the group is meeting on any particular occasion. New members are welcome.

'Rectory' Wednesday Evening Bible Study Group

The group meets monthly to study the Gospel reading for the coming Sunday. Meetings are on Wednesdays from 7.30-9.00 pm. The group is fluid. People are free to drop in and out at will. Current membership is 7-8 people. After December 1st the group will continue to meet but under new or shared leadership though not at the Rectory. (See *weekly news sheet for venue*.) The next date is booked at the end of each session. There is always coffee, cake and the opportunity for members to share where they are at. The gospel reading is read, both out loud and then quietly by members. Someone will have prepared notes on the reading and will chair the discussion. Everyone has the opportunity to offer their insights, stories or whatever comes up. Sessions ends with a prayer based on our reflections during our time together.

Thursday Evening Group

This group is led by Kerry & Tricia Emmett and is hosted by Paul and Helen Tarry at 29 Denegate Avenue, 0116 2677493. It meets fortnightly.

OUR WORK WITH SCHOOLS

Our work with schools in the parish continues with the help of an increasing number of volunteers whose support is vital and is much appreciated.

Over the years a basic plan has been developed which is based on the Leicestershire Agreed Syllabus and the requirements of the various schools. The annual plan of dates is put in place each June for the following academic year. At this meeting a review of the year's work takes place and any suggestions for change for the following year are discussed so there is time for planning.

Our Rector has been key to this work and for that we are very grateful. I certainly will be hoping for someone to be appointed to continue to lead this work. The role of the volunteers is increasing. We have increasing numbers of requests from the schools and even receive requests from schools out of the parish.

Over the last couple of years, we have been asked to provide a 'New Beginnings' session for the start of the school year, when nearly all of Riverside and Highcliffe Primary School students fill St James' Church to overflowing. We also host one of Riverside's and Highcliffe's Christmas events. These usually fill the church, so over the year we are kept quite busy!

Our contact with The Cedars Academy has increased. Not only do they bring the pupils to the church, but last year Vince and I went to the schools to take part in one of their RE lessons. We hope that this visit will still take place with different contributors.

Through the Messy Church and Schools Co-ordinator, James Blackhall, the Methodist Church is involved both in supplying a venue for some of the schools' work with James's leadership and also his contribution to the events in St James'. We hope very much that one day a representative from St Theresa's Roman Catholic Church will join our team of volunteers.

Josephine Burgess

WANLIP CHURCH BELLS

There are six bells in Wanlip Church Tower, three old, three new. The two oldest bells date back to the 13th/14th centuries, and the third to the 15th century. In the 15th C there was also a *sanctus* bell.

The pre-Reformation bells (recast by Taylors in 1952) are inscribed as follows:

Geret Nomen Magdalene Campana (*this bell 'bears the name Magdalene'*)

Sancte Nicolane Ora Pro Nobis (*Saint Nicholas pray for us*)

Geve Thanks to God

The three new bells, cast by John Taylor & Co. in 1952, are inscribed

THE GOSCOTE

A GIFT OF FRIENDSHIP FOR WANLIP

1952

HERBERT F SHEPPARD

AGNES SHEPPARD

SERVICE

GIVEN BY

WANLIP CHURCH LADIES WORKING PARTY

FERVENT IN SPIRIT, SERVING THE LORD

1952

FRIENDSHIP

GIVEN BY

FRANCIS W PRATT, RECTOR

EE. SHUTTLEWOOD PRESENT

CE HURD CHURCHWARDENS

AND

ERNEST WRIGHT PAST CHURCHWARDEN,

ORGANIST AND

CHOIRMASTER

1952

A peal of 5040 Kent Treble Bob Minor was rung Feb 20th 1955, to welcome Rector A A Lander; by Arthur Yates (treble) Richard Bowles (2) David H Baker (3) Ernest Morris (4) Owen T Northwood (5), Peter R Johnson (tenor).

SMILE

Be blessed be a blessing, give someone a smile
It may be the first one they've had in a while.
Be blessed be a blessing, it shows that you care.
A smile like the sunshine sheds warmth everywhere.

Someone smiled at me today. It made my heart leap
And I wanted to say 'Thank you for smiling at me today.'
The day brightened up and I wanted to show
Just how much love a smile could bestow.

Be blessed, be a blessing, give someone a smile,
It may be the first one they've had in a while.

I know when someone smiles at me,
My spirits lift and it brightens the day.
It sheds a warmth I'd otherwise miss,
So, thanks for the smile, I'd like to say.

Someone smiled at me today
And I felt a blessing come my way.
My spirits lifted and I wanted to say,
'Thank you for smiling at me today.'
Be blessed, be a blessing.

Patricia Emmett. 21.10.2019

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

(A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)

Put 6th March 2020 in your Diary



RISE! TAKE YOUR MAT AND WALK

He asked Philemon to take back into his charge his runaway slave, Onesimus, who Paul had befriended. Under Roman law, Onesimus faced execution for running away. But more than asking Philemon to take Onesimus back, he asked that he should do so, not as in the master – slave relationship, but as a brother in Christ.

Despite St Paul's teaching, however, and the legal abolition of the slave trade in this country, slavery continues to this very day. Most weeks there is a news item relating to slavery in this country in its modern guise - people trafficking, forced labour, domestic servitude, inhuman working conditions. If we are to put into practice the teaching of our Lord to love our neighbours as ourselves, we need to take action.

When you came into church today, you may have been given a small card produced by the Mothers' Union. It contains a section 'Indicators of Modern Slavery'. It is **our** responsibility to be vigilant in looking for those indicators in the work activities around us, whether it be at the car wash, in gardens, in comings and goings from houses at all hours. If we see anything suspicious, we should report our concerns. (The card gives details of who to contact.)

But our responsibility does not stop there – what about overseas sweat shops, child labour producing cheap goods for the UK market, sexual exploitation etc. We need to boycott such products, and be vociferous in lobbying our politicians to act in support of the United Nations against countries condoning such practices. If we don't act to eradicate slavery in all its guises, I fear our 'green and pleasant land' will continue to be blighted by those 'dark satanic mills'. We owe it to the legacy of the 19th century abolitionists who fought against the accepted norms of society, just as did St Paul when he wrote to Philemon.

And we owe it to those who, like Rasselas, was freed from slavery, to continue the fight, until the evil of slavery is finally destroyed and all God's children can echo the psalmist's words: 'O do well unto thy servant that I may live and keep thy word...' Amen.

John Ward

A GUIDE TO NON-RINGERS!!

When 'Go' is called we don't depart
At 'Stand' it's time to sit
Our 'Hunt' does not involve a fox
By 'Blows' no one is hit.

'Royal' for us includes no 'Kings'
Though 'Queens' there may be found
No one is tempted to revolve
When comes the call 'Go Round'.

When 'Striking' we are hard at work
Our 'Covers' don't conceal
'Five courses' do not make a feast
But just a 'Quarter peal'.

A 'Single' ringer may be 'Spliced'
A 'Spliced' one still unwed
And when we shout to someone 'Bob'
It may be Jane or Fred.

When 'Leading wrong' we may be right
When 'In' we are not at home
'Delight' may bring us all to grief
'Surprise' may be well known.

So if you watch us at our task
And hear the words we call
There's only one you'll know and love
The merciful 'THATS ALL'.

Betty Morley

RINGING THROUGH THE YEAR

Give praise to Him, our God on high
Ring out, let notes on breezes fly.
By our labours through the year
We seek to draw his faithful near.

Our harvest's golden gifts now blest,
Hail Autumn's languid span of rest,
November comes with sombre sounds
And echoes, muffled all around.

On Christmas Eve in midnight air
O'er frosty grass and branches bare,
Sing out the songs of joyous praise
And heavenward hearts of all men raise.

In morning light of early Spring
In praise of Jesus Christ our King,
Let these tuneful voices swell
With homage from each herald bell.

When Lent is o'er, with Easter mirth
We celebrate our world's rebirth.
Then Whitsuntide's ascending sound
Through streams of warming air abound.

As Summer's halcyon days roll on,
We honour God in sound and song;
Come morning mists and evening dew
Our lives we dedicate anew.

Jean Curd
(1940 - 2013)

*Jean was a Swithland ringer.
This was written for their annual Ringers' service.
The hymn was published in 'Seasonal Worship
from the Countryside' SPCK 2003*

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND GUILD OF VERGERS

CANTERBURY PROVINCE FESTIVAL

19th September 2019



John, Clive and I belong to the Leicester & Peterborough with Derby branch of the Guild of Vergers. Members meet once a month for fellowship and support. There are fourteen branches in the Guild. Every year the Guild holds one Festival in the York Province in May and one in the Canterbury Province in September, usually in a Cathedral where any Verger throughout the country can attend. This year we were the hosts at Leicester Cathedral. It was the first time the Festival had been held here.

Fifty-eight members came from all around the country, including most of the Guild Officers; from London to Edinburgh, Hereford to Cambridge and all places in between; from Merseyside, Surrey, Yorkshire, Wiltshire, Bedford, Shropshire, Suffolk, Worcester, Sheffield, St. Albans, Manchester and Bolton.

We began on Wednesday 18th evening with Compline at St. Nicholas' Church, Leicester, followed by supper at 'The Globe'. On Thursday 19th we started the day with registration at 9am. It has become the custom at a Festival to receive a 'goody bag' on arrival so, along with other 'goodies' to represent each part of our branch, we included a packet of Walkers crisps from Leicester, a bottle of Buxton water from Derby and a Cathedral pen from Peterborough. Eucharist in the Cathedral followed at 11am, then Lunch in the Grand Hall, St. Martin's Centre. Tours were arranged for the afternoon, including one to the Richard III centre. We finished the day with Festal Choral Evensong at 5.30pm in the Cathedral where all the Vergers robed and processed into the Cathedral. It was a wonderful sight, being led in by our Area Leader with the Guild banner, and the Cathedral Choir following. I led in the members with the Guild's Millennium verge, a member of the Peterborough branch led in the officers of the Guild with the Cathedral verge and the Head Verger from Leicester Cathedral led in the Clergy with the Dean's verge.

DARK SATANIC MILLS

From a sermon preached at Wanlip, August 2019

In the first decade of the 19th century, William Blake described our country as 'a green and pleasant land'. But, in his poem, Blake went on to speak of 'dark satanic mills'. He saw those mills as the symbol of oppression and misery for the poor, down-trodden common working people of his day. Is it possible that what he wrote about those 'dark satanic mills' then is still true today?

As you approached the church this evening the observant amongst you may have noticed a wreath laid on Rasselas Morgan's grave. The wreath marks the 170th anniversary, on the 25th August, of his death at the age of 19. Rasselas was brought to this country from his native Abyssinia as a slave, and served as a member of the household in Wanlip Hall. His gravestone records that he was 'freed from slavery'; either because of the enlightened views of the Palmer family who were acquainted with William Wilberforce, or on the coming into force of the Abolition of Slavery Bill in 1834 which effectively abolished slavery from August 1838. But despite the legal abolition of slavery, it continues as a practice, throughout the world, legal or not, even in our 'green and pleasant land.'



In our Old Testament reading we heard some of the Israelite rules concerning the treatment of slaves – unlike some of their neighbours their treatment of slaves was, for the times, quite enlightened. To all intents and purposes slaves were part of the family. By the time of Christ, the Israelites' approach to slavery had been replaced by that of their Roman overlords. Under Roman rules, slaves could be treated by their owners as worse than animals. It is against the background of that treatment of slaves that Paul wrote to Philemon.

WE SEE YOU

HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT IN OUR COMMUNITIES

The Mothers' Union, in partnership with the Clewer Initiative, is raising awareness of issues surrounding modern-day slavery. (*The Clewer Initiative funds Church of England dioceses and wider church networks in developing strategies for detecting modern slavery in their communities, and helps provide victim support and care.*) At our Mothers' Union Council Meeting in July, Margaret Rouse informed us that there are at least 136,000 slaves in England & Wales. They are ordinary men, women and children, who have been tricked, sold or coerced into working, travelling, stealing or begging for the benefit of criminals who claim 'ownership of them'. In the UK as a whole, the two largest groups are from Rumania and Poland. In Leicestershire the second largest numbers are British. Some of them are slaves because they were promised money, accommodation, a better life or drugs. A report this year shows that 47% of victims answered job adverts. Others were approached near job centres, hostels, local authority care homes and places of worship. A worrying number of children, some as young as 12, are being recruited to carry drugs.

What can we do? Both Mothers' Union and the *Clewer Initiative* believe that the tools to end modern day slavery already exist within our local communities. We envision that the Church, which is present and at the heart of communities, has a primary responsibility in leading this effort. At St James' Sunday service on 11th August, dedicated to the Mothers' Union, Revd. Vince Jupp spoke to the congregation to raise awareness of modern-day slavery. Also 'We See You' cards were given out at all three services at St James and Wanlip church. These are credit card sized cards to help us all to identify and respond safely to potential cases of modern slavery. Usually, if you notice something doesn't feel right, it isn't right. To ask for advice, call the Modern Slavery Help-line: 08000 121700. Report non-emergency suspicious activity to local police on 101. Leics. has a dedicated officer and is very active in this area. For 'We See You' cards to give to your Group, Club, or Society, please contact Helen Tarry, 2677493, helentarry@hotmail.co.uk

Helen Tarry

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

During the service the National Chaplain, Canon Maureen Palmer from Hereford admitted our new Branch Chaplain Revd. Arthur Deegan who is the former Vicar of St. Crispin's Braunstone. After the service we all processed outside for the group photograph. We then said our farewells to all our Verger friends from around the country as some had a long journey home; by car, train, and even by aeroplane back to Scotland!

It had taken eighteen months to organise, but all the hard work by the Festival committee had been worth it in making it such a successful day, even the weather was kind to us. We have had some very positive feedback from members, one saying "I must have been to more than twenty Festivals over the years and I cannot remember a better one." We look forward to meeting our Verger friends again at the next Festival.

*Kathryn Mobbs, DipGVHons. (Diploma of the Guild of Vergers)
Hon. Sec. Leicester & Peterborough with Derby Branch.
Verger at St. James the Great, Birstall.*



WANLIP FLOWER FESTIVAL 2019

After much planning, the Flower Festival successfully took place and helped to raise funds for our parish. It was a while since our last Flower Festival, so it was with a little trepidation that the flower arrangers set about the task. We invited various groups and individuals, who participate in a variety of ways in regular worship in both of our parish churches, to contribute to the arrangements. There was a generous response and we were able to fill the church, inside and out, with our combined efforts.



Our talented team of flower arrangers included Marjorie Bonshor, Sheila Harrison, Elaine Moyer, Rita Richards, Jane Scott, Debbie Shephard, Charlotte Stephenson, the Sunday School and Julie Ward. We did not have a particular theme, but endeavoured to depict the varied services and activities the church has to offer, including marriages, baptisms and Sunday School.

There was a steady stream of visitors over the two days, who not only had their visual senses awakened, but were also able to enjoy cups of tea accompanied by delicious choice cakes.



A big thank you to all those who conceived the idea, contributed arrangements, made donations for purchasing flowers, provided props (such as Julie's wedding dress), made cakes, stewarded, washed up, cleared up and supported the arrangers whilst they worked their magic, using their God-given gifts, to achieve such stunning results.

Rita Richards



Visitors to our Flower Festival, may have wondered where the wedding dress came from. (Yes, Vince it was a wedding dress, not an apparition of the Wanlip ghost!) The dress was worn by Julie when we got married on March 22nd 1975. To be honest it was only at the flower festival that I really looked at the dress. At our wedding service it was overshadowed by her radiant face. Of course, the unanswered question is 'Does it still fit?'

John Ward