

'Keep In Touch'



Hover Fly on Crocus
Peter Watson

SPRING 2023

CHURCH & VILLAGE
BIRSTALL & WANLIP

THE PARISH OF BIRSTALL AND WANLIP

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

WHY AN EGG AT EASTER?

Easter eggs are a bit like the Advent Calendar, traditional signs of a Christian season, but they are not exclusively so. In fact, as ancient symbols of new life, eggs are most likely linked to pagan traditions celebrating Spring. From the Christian perspective, however, Easter eggs are said to represent Jesus' emergence from the tomb and His resurrection.

Decorating eggs for Easter is a tradition that probably dates back to at least the 13th century. One explanation for this custom is that eggs used to be a forbidden food during the Lenten season, and people would paint and decorate them to mark the end of the Lenten period of penance and fasting, and eat them on Easter Day as a celebration.

Easter egg hunts and egg rolling are two popular egg-related traditions. In one of my previous parishes, small Easter eggs were 'hidden' in the churchyard every Easter morning, and, after the service, the children in the congregation were set the task of finding them. They were only allowed to keep one each! In the USA, the White House Easter Egg Roll is an annual event held on the Monday after Easter. Children push decorated, hard-boiled eggs across the White House lawn. The event has no religious significance, although some people consider egg rolling as symbolic of the stone blocking Jesus' tomb being rolled away, leading to his resurrection.

Just thought you might like to know!!

Canon Anne

RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS

Death and Taxes!



Both very certain! But I'm only going to talk about death here – and please read at least a bit further before doing the very British thing and refusing to discuss the matter!

I have the awesome (in the original meaning of the word – filling me with awe) privilege of visiting families at their darkest hour. And they open their homes and their lives to me by telling me stories of their loved ones. How they met and fell in love; or how the person who has died was as a parent, sibling, friend, and perhaps most heart-breaking of all, a child. I love to hear the stories and be with them in their grief – after all, it's biblical to laugh with those who laugh and mourn with those who mourn.

Some funerals have been meticulously planned by the loved one in advance – Bible reading(s), music, hymns, place. Sometimes they've even written their own eulogy. Others have got nothing at all for me to go on. I once took a funeral where the family had nothing to say about the person who had died. Maybe they just couldn't deal with it.

Various poems are often requested at funerals. One suggests that 'death is nothing at all'. But of course it is something. Death is massive and heart-breaking and life changing for those who lose a loved one. And when we ourselves are facing death, it's also huge. We don't know how it will be, though the medical world has made it a lot easier than it was in the past. I want to remind us, always, as Christians, as at this time of year we are heading towards Easter, we remember that with death we are facing eternal life with God. A new birth. But birth is rarely an easy process.

We have glimpses of God throughout life, if we look, and sometimes we have real epiphany moments that we can look back on and remember why we believe what we do (though we all have times of doubt too). As Christians, imagine those epiphany moments multiplied several times over.

The picture on the back page is called 'First Day in Heaven' by Kerolos Safwat. It speaks to me because I love a hug! But Jesus knows you, and if you don't like hugs, I'm sure you'll get a handshake or something else appropriate. Eternal life is something to be really excited about! We will become fully who we were knit together in our mother's womb to be. How exciting. And this is the message we have to share with our friends, and families, and colleagues and whomever else we come across in our day to day.

I'd love you to take some time to reflect on this and to leave some suggestions for your funeral for your family. But also, think about your end of life. How do you want it to be? Where do you want to be, if possible? We have a birthing plan when we are pregnant, but how about a birthing plan as we prepare to be in that place where we are fully loved, fully known, fully who we are made to be? Footnote: At some point I will be running a session called *Gravetalk*, to help us discuss and reflect on some of these themes. It would be great to have a lot of people there. Please also consider recommending people have their whole funeral, including committal, in church. I am getting increasingly concerned that the time allowed in the crematoria is shorter than it was, and that funerals are being rushed. Not only that, but doing the whole service in church would save around £600 and the journey to and from the crematorium.

And finally a special thank you from us all to Doreen and Sylvia for packing and dispatching the shoe boxes each year.

Amanda

GROWING

From
a seed,
an acorn,
dropped by a jay,
warmed by spring sunshine,
grew a tall strong sapling,
spreading its leafy branches
year after year, ever further,
ever higher. Stately as a church,
this giant oak, defying storm and cold,
twenty metres high, two hundred winters old.

KEEPING GOING

I'm no good at sewing,
gave my machine away years ago.

I'm no good at cooking,
my flapjacks always turn out brittle.

I'm no good at painting,
I tried a tree but its leaves fell.

I'm no good at gardening,
plants quail beneath my not-so-green fingers.

I'm no good at collage,
I'm definitely not a material girl.

So I'm going to keep having a go at writing.
Oh, and by the way, I can knit!

June Crebbin

FESTIVE CONCERT OF LIGHT MUSIC

Cynthia Coltman and Friends

A goodly number of people enjoyed some wonderful 'light music' on January 14th in St James' Church, Birstall.

Cynthia Coltman gathered many of her musical friends together to entertain and give joy to those of us who sat in the pews and just enjoyed the music.

Among the many songs which we enjoyed and hummed along with were 'The Hills are Alive with the Sound of Music', 'Do-Re-Mi', 'My Favourite Things' and 'Climb Every Mountain.'

The money raised from the concert benefitted the church, and we all enjoyed sharing refreshments afterwards.



Thank you, Cynthia, for a lovely morning.

Canon Anne

MOTORWAYS

There is a lot of criticism about motorways. Much of it may be justified. People deplore the fact that their countryside is being destroyed, but have you noticed how quickly the disturbed land re-generates? In just one season new flowers appear, new saplings sprout and the disturbed soil returns to nature, taking on a fresh look - often much as it was before!

Isn't that just like life? Misfortune strikes, and we think we will never recover from the blow. But, given time, things do improve. If not the same as before, at least there's some semblance of order and meaning.

'Found' and submitted by **Chris Greaves**



There once was a choir at Wanlip

Men, women and children too,
And the bells in the belfry were rung
by an enthusiastic crew.
But, music from organ and voices continues.
Still raising the roof with traditional music.

Chris Greaves

BE-LONGING

PRAYING FOR UNITY AMIDST INJUSTICE

As ‘Churches Together in Birstall and Wanlip,’ we met during the annual ‘Week of Prayer for Christian Unity’ and were joined by Vic Allsop, Leicestershire’s Ecumenical Development Officer. Vic spoke to us about this year’s theme for *Churches Together*: **‘Be-Longing: Praying for Unity amidst Injustice.’** He reminded us that our aim as *Churches Together in Leicestershire* is to seek and promote Christian unity and to encourage and support ecumenical activity. The members of *Churches Together* in *Leicestershire* include the church leaders, including our own Bishop, and their representatives from the mainstream denominations. *Churches Together* also works closely with an increasing number of independent churches who are now frequently members of local *Churches Together* groups.

The Week of Prayer reminds us of who we are as Christians, whatever our denominations and whatever our race. It’s important, said Vic, that we should recognise and celebrate our differences and not ignore them, and that we should never stop praying for the physical unity of the Church. As we join with other Christians around the world in praying for unity, we also pray that our hearts will be open to see and hear the many ways in which racism continues to destroy lives and so discern the steps we can take as individuals and communities to heal those hurts, and to build a better future for everyone.

Canon Anne

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BIRSTALL AND WANLIP

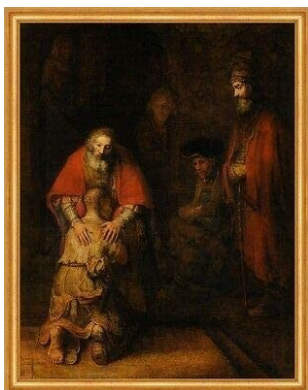
At the annual meeting of *Churches Together* on 30th January we all reported encouraging numbers of worshippers over Christmas. Our pre-Christmas carol singing went well. It was suggested that the carol singing in 2023 might be during the daytime in Birstall village. We might take the opportunity to hand out leaflets advertising the our Christmas services. During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity a frugal lunch at St Theresa's Church was much appreciated. £150 was raised for Christian Aid. The Murder Mystery Night hosted by St Theresa's was a wonderfully entertaining evening, enjoyed by all. The Whetstone Players presented a challenging 'murder' drama. Very few people guessed who did it! The evening raised £365.21, to be donated to The Smile Train charity.

The World Day of Prayer Service, prepared this year by the Christian women of Taiwan, will take place at the Methodist Church on 3 March at 2 pm. It will be preceded by a simple lunch at 12 noon.

At the end of the meeting, our appreciative thanks were extended to Debbie Shephard, who has chaired our meetings for the past few years. Andrzej Iwanowski has kindly agreed to chair our future meetings.

Canon Anne

LENT, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2023



All our churches are offering the same Lent Course this year, as well as planning other special events. The course is based on Henri Nouwen's book **'The Return of the Prodigal Son'**. The Methodist Church will be offering it as a Circuit Zoom course. All courses start in the week beginning 26th February. St Theresa's Church on Tuesdays at 2 pm, St James' Church on Wednesdays at 7.30 pm and the Methodist Church on Sundays at 6 pm on Zoom.

St Theresa's Church will also host a Seder meal during Holy Week on 29th March at 6.30 pm, but they do need to know numbers in advance. Please sign up on the list in St Theresa's Church or notify Daphne Stephenson if you would like to take part. There will also be our usual ecumenical walk of witness through Birstall on Good Friday, ending at St Theresa's Church with Hot Cross Buns.

Canon Anne

HOME GROUP HAPPINESS



This is our Home Group enjoying warmth and fellowship at the end of our Christmas meal. Jenny missed this occasion due to being in hospital. Our group meets every Tuesday from 10 am to 12 noon to enjoy faith, fellowship and fun. As part of our faith we give money to local charities. At present we are studying Acts, and how the early church spread. If you would like to join us then speak to anyone in the group: Gillian, Carol, Rita, Brenda, Freda, Pat, Chris and Joan.

Home Groups in Birstall have been meeting since 1986. Initially they were ecumenical. Today there are two that meet regularly and are linked to St James'. One meets fortnightly in the evenings and the other weekly during the mornings. As these groups meet in a home, numbers are limited, but all are welcomed for faith, fellowship and fun. Everything discussed in the groups is confidential, so people can, though prayer, be supported and grow together in trust and love.

Our Home Group meets once a week in one of four of our members' homes. We begin with tea, coffee, and a chat. After prayer we follow with our chosen Bible passage (at present Acts). Using a study guide we discuss the readings. Prayers, in particular ones for people we know who are ill or in need, follow. A donation of up to £1 is given on attending. Once £50 is reached it is donated to a local charity chosen by the group. At Christmas, with the Mothers' Union, we provide small presents for those on the church list who are sick or being cared for in homes.

Christine Suffolk

CHICK KNITS



Brenda and Joan are sitting behind the chicks laying their chocolate cream eggs!! These are being sold for Easter, and proceeds from the sales are being donated for the Howard Room in St James' Church. To date, our fundraising for different charities has raised over £2500 by knitting and selling goods given to us. This included 39 chairs, now on their way as packing case fillers on a container overseas. Wow! We've now gone international!! We would like to thank everyone who has supported us. It would not have been possible without you. Very much appreciated.

Brenda Todd and Joan Folland

'SO IN LOVE'

This photo was taken on one of our visits to see Kerry and Tricia Emmett. We always enjoy these visits, it keeps us 'in touch' with Tricia. We chat about Church, families, food and many other subjects.



Brenda Todd, Raymond and Joan Folland

A WARM SPACE AT ST. JAMES' CHURCH

A **'Warm Space'** opened at St James at the end of November and will continue until Easter. It operates from 12.30 until 18.30 on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. It is free of charge, and all are welcome. This is in collaboration with the Methodist church and the Football club and provides a warm safe location in the village throughout the daytime. Posters are displayed around the village advertising the times and locations, which are also posted on our Facebook page and other local social media.

The project started as a result of the community stakeholders meeting convened in Autumn 2022 after a pause during COVID. This group is made up from representatives from the local churches, school liaison officers, Parish council and voluntary groups such as BAGS. In response to the cost-of-living crisis we identified the need in the village for a warm space throughout the day. This would be in addition to and support the Helping Our Community project set up by Rosie Rollings during COVID.

At St James we provide a welcoming warm room at the back of the church where visitors can get a drink, soup, biscuits and cake; use the internet; read; do their craftwork; or join in conversation with others. A larger space in the new church could also be made available if people want to use it as a quiet warm space to work from home or do their homework. Funding for heating the church and the light refreshments has been helped by a grant from Leicestershire County Council.

People have dropped in most days, several with their dogs on their daily walk. Some have lived in the village for years and never been in St James' Church before and are surprised how nice it is! Other visitors have enjoyed sharing the history of the church and have been interested in the stained-glass windows. One visitor came to see the window designated to a family member; indeed, many of our visitors have shared their memories of being in the church as children or for family events.

Early on we realised there was a difficulty, as the location of the church means it is not on the beaten track. Also there is no recent history of the church being open as a social space during the week, but only on Saturday mornings.

On any shift there are always a minimum of two people from the congregation, community organisations and their friends; and more volunteers are always welcome. One person in each shift will have completed the diocese safeguarding training and volunteers are on a rota doing shifts from one to four hours.

In conclusion, it has provided a welcoming, safe warm space to meet new members of our local community, and the volunteers also enjoy the opportunity to share time together. To conclude the project, we plan to celebrate with a social at Easter with chocolate.

Finally, thanks to our rector Rev'd Amanda Digman, church wardens and PCC for making this possible, and especially to all our lovely volunteers.

Janet Waters and the Volunteers

A BLACK WOMAN DID THAT

*I'm reading a book of stories about black women. I thought this story might inspire our magazine readers as it alludes to Hadiyah-Nicole Green's faith. **Amanda***

When Hadiyah-Nicole Green's aunt, Ora Lee Smith, was diagnosed with cancer, she said she would rather die than experience the side-effects of the treatment her doctor offered. At first Hadiyah didn't understand. Her aunt passed away. Three months later, her uncle General Lee Smith was diagnosed with cancer, and he chose to receive treatment. Taking care of her uncle, Hadiyah witnessed what she described as 'the horrors of cancer and the horrors of cancer treatment'. When his doctors thought he would live for only a few more months, Hadiyah nursed her uncle back to health and helped him live for ten more years. 'I watched him and took care of him as he went through chemotherapy and radiation,' she said. 'I watched him lose 150 pounds, all of his hair, his eyelashes, his eyebrows. I watched his finger nails turn black. And I saw how his skin went from being a beautiful chocolate to looking like it had been burnt in an oven.' She finally understood her aunt's decision. ... When interviewed about the cancer treatment chemotherapy, Hadiyah said that she believed there had to be a better way to battle the disease. After her university education, Hadiyah used her knowledge in science to explore the question 'If we can have a satellite in outer space to communicate with just one cell phone ... why can't we have that kind of precision when we're treating cancer in a person?' She thought laser technology might be a tool to do just that.

As a multi-disciplinary physicist, Hadiyah specializes in using lasers, nanoparticles, and antibodies (types of proteins in the body that fight things like bacteria or viruses that can harm a person) to target malignant tumours, create images of them and treat them. Her approach, she explains, is a 'targeted local therapy that treats just the tumour and not the rest of the body. My treatment can come in and zoom in just on the one house on fire, without getting water on the rest of the neighbours.' In 2015 she received a one million dollar grant to support her research. She founded a research organization whose mission is to change the way cancer is treated for the better. 'If I can be that one little voice to shine light on this ... and give accuracy and targeting with the precision of a laser pointer to treating cancer,' she said, 'we can just eliminate the tumour without having those side effects throughout the whole body.'

The work has not been easy. Hadiyah says that many of her days were twenty hours long. 'Most of the time I worked seven days a week. And when I wasn't in the laboratory, I was either at church or at the gym,' she shared. Sometimes she got discouraged. But a family member asked a question that kept her going: 'What if you were the only person on the planet who could do this and you didn't do it?' Now Hadiyah is working to raise the funds she needs to move her treatment from the lab into human clinical trials. She hopes one day it can be used to provide low-cost, effective treatment to patients who need it.

Dr. Hadiyah-Nicole Green is an American medical physicist known for the development of a method using laser-activated nanoparticles as a potential cancer treatment.

JOINING THE THIRD ORDER

This year, 2023, is the 22nd year I have been a professed member of the Society of St Francis (C of E) in the Third Order. The three orders were founded by St Francis in the 13th century: first, the men who were wandering preachers; Second an enclosed order of women led by St Clare; third, tertiaries, lay or ordained, male or female, married or single people living normal lives but with a Rule of Life.

Francis, offered hospitality by poor peasants on a pig farm, was surprised one morning, after a simple breakfast, to find the farmer, his family and his animals all packed up and ready to follow him to live as Franciscans. But Francis had no settled home so he persuaded them all to stay and to exemplify Franciscan life at home, to become a 'third order'.

And so I live a normal life as such a Tertiary. After a short time as a postulant, to test whether my vocation would last, I became a novice for two years, led by a Novice Guardian who visited me and a neighbouring novice from my village church on a regular basis. We had a basic rule, and studied twelve work pamphlets, exploring their ideas, answering their challenging questions and reading some recommended books. We were invited to the local group meetings about six times a year, and three area meetings in Bedford, Buckingham and Hertford-shires. Then the Area Minister interviewed us, received reports from our Novice Guardian and I was approved and interviewed for Profession, together with a Bedfordshire novice. As she was not able to prostrate herself easily, we both knelt while

our Guardians presented us to the Area Minister, who questioned us as to our intentions. We then committed ourselves and presented our personal 'rules of life' to be placed on the altar. Profession crosses were hung round our necks; we shook hands and received a blessing. All this took place after the gospel reading and then the Eucharist continued. An exciting follow-up included hugs, and welcoming hand-shakes. There was a shared lunch ending in ... Cake. The novices group provides the cake!

When, nine years later, I moved to Birstall, I became Novice Guardian for Derby, Leicester and Nottingham shires, and had the very good fortune to make Sister Teresa's Ordination, Installation and First Communion cakes. She was delighted to make her first 'Profession cakes' each time a Leicester Novice was professed. And she made us real Franciscan cakes! They were decorated in green and brown icing, complete with our Tau Cross.

Then the Obedience began: daily prayer, Bible reading and penitence; regular Communion; living simply; an annual retreat, study—both religious and secular, service for others and obedience to the Order.

Although sometimes it is an effort, it becomes a way of living humbly, lovingly and joyfully.

Noreen Talbot



DOWN MEMORY LANE & AFTERNOON TEAS

AT BIRSTALL METHODIST CHURCH
COFFEE SHOP, 2.30 TO 4 PM

After a long break we are starting *Down Memory Lane* again, and our first date is Saturday 18th March from 2.30 pm to 4 pm when we shall be entertained by a ukelele band. It's a time to get together for a cup of tea and a cake and a good chat. Bring a friend if you would like to. You will be most welcome.

For more details please ring Janet on 0116 2671471

MEMORIES OF JOHN KILBY

Born into a Methodist family, John automatically became part of Birstall Methodist Church congregation. Moving up through the various classes in the Sunday School he became a teacher and eventually the Superintendent. So many of us have happy memories of those days with John organising Sunday School outings to Wickstead Park (three double deckers and one single) and also Christmas parties which always ended with the most hilarious game *Mr Jones has lost his hat, Some say this and some say that*. In those days Sunday School anniversaries were held three times on Sundays with John at the helm, involving at least 150 children. It was always a race to get a seat at the top of the platform! John's love of singing involved him in the church choir, and his bass voice earned him many a solo

in *Cantatas*, *The Messiah* and various anthems. Carol singing around the village with John conducting was a great favourite with people of all ages, raising funds for the *National Children's Home*, now *Action for Children*.

John's favourite command was 'next stop – two lamp-posts along'. The *Men's Pantomime* also provided an outlet for John's singing. A leading light for many years, John loved driving and generously gave of his time to assist with transport for the Bright Hour, the Special Needs Playgroup and the Lunch Club.

Over the years John held many positions in the Methodist Church. He was originally on the board of trustees, later the Church Council. He chaired the Finance Committee, and the Property Committee. And every year when it came to the 'maintenance fortnight' John was there in his overalls pulling his weight.

John and Rosalie were the last couple to be married in the old chapel. When it was eventually knocked down and rebuilt as the Coffee Shop, John, along with John H. & John F. (known as the three Johns) headed up the fund – raising, such as the Garden Trail, Mini-Markets and Banger'n'Mash Suppers.

John was a regular worshipper in church on Sundays, swelling the singing, reading lessons and socialising over a cup of coffee after the service. He also visited the Coffee Shop on weekdays & was a regular member of our Lunch Club. He was a much loved, respected and generous man and will be missed by us all.

Mary Downs, on behalf of Birstall Methodist Church

THANK GOD!

Thank God for the hours and the years that we've spent
At Christmas and Easter, in Advent and Lent;
The highs and the lows, the liturgical round
That praise of our Saviour may richly abound.

Thank God for the talks and the sermons we've preached
To the faithful, the seeking we trust we have reached.
Words cast on the waters, some light, some profound,
Like the seeds in the story cast wide on the ground.

Thank God for the people whose lives we could share
In joy and excitement, in grief and despair,
In baptising babies, commending the dead,
Uniting the lovers we've been honoured to wed.

Thank God for communities, village or town,
Those thought to be ord'nry, and those of renown
The faithful and faithless, the lapsed and devout
All precious to God, of whose love there's no doubt.

And now we thank God for what still is to come.
It's hopeful for many, but anxious for some,
Still listening in faith for the call of our Lord
For the new kinds of service we're moving toward.

Andrew Body



JULIE'S RECIPE FOR DATE SLICES

INGREDIENTS

4 oz rolled oats
2 oz plain or self-raising white flour
2 oz brown flour
4 oz margarine
2 oz brown sugar
8 oz dates
2 tblsp lemon juice
3 tblsp hot water
1/2 tsp ground cinnamon

METHOD

Heat oven gas 4
Line 7" square cake tin

Chop dates
Place in saucepan with lemon and water,

Simmer 5-10 mins until soft
Spread on a plate (size of tin) to cool

Rub margarine into flours, mix in sugar and oats

Spread half into tin, press down firmly
Spread cooled dates over
Spread rest of oat mixture over and press down

Bake 35 - 40 mins
Cool in tin

Once nearly cooled, cut into 16 squares. Lift out of tin with the greaseproof paper to cool completely

Eat, share, enjoy.

Julie Ward

THE HOLT, BIRSTALL

A chance encounter with Canon Anne at St. Leonard's Church Crib Festival in Swithland, led to a discussion about certain large houses in Birstall and their history. My parents, Jean and Kenneth Hilton, had moved from Belgrave to Birstall in 1970, taking my brother and myself with them. They lived at Curzon Lodge, 40 Curzon Avenue, until 1982, and then at Park House Close, off Curzon Avenue, until 1995 when they moved to Winchester.

Curzon Lodge, built in the early 1950s, was set back from Curzon Avenue down a long drive and had a generously wide rear garden. The south side backed on to the Holt Road properties, while the north-east corner backed on to Holly Hayes, 216 Birstall Road, a large house with beautiful rhododendron gardens, open to the public on special days.

Most of the eastern boundary backed on to 'The Holt', an impressive large house designed by the renowned architect Joseph Goddard and built in 1872 as a private house for a local manufacturer, WH Walker. Featuring Tudor and Gothic design elements, it was listed in 2004. The Holt was acquired by Social Services in the 1960s and became a children's home for many years, later being designated as a Reception Home, where children were observed and assessed in order to determine the best longer-term arrangements for their care. New buildings were erected in the grounds quite close to our boundary, leading to my parents planting a row of cypress trees to maintain some privacy.

Cats choose their owners, and the Holt's cat, Sandy, who

didn't seem to be the responsibility of anyone in particular, became a frequent visitor to our garden, then to our house, and finally adopted my parents as his new owners! He was a lovely cat, sandy, like his name, and spent many happy years with us.

The Holt is back in private ownership, and currently forms the centrepiece of the Acorn Close development. It still looks impressive, and is sub-divided into six apartments. As for Curzon Lodge, it was acquired by developers, demolished and replaced by five new houses which comprise the gated Pine View development.

Clive Hilton

GOD, ME AND ART

Do you spin, weave, felt, plait or crochet? Do you sew, embroider, quilt: do collage, patchwork, cross-stich? Do you draw, sketch, etch; use pastels, charcoal, acrylics, oils, gouache, water-colour? Do you write verse, prose, short sketches (drama)? Do you sing, compose, play an instrument? Do you arrange flowers? Do you assemble interesting or beautiful found objects on a theme?

Why not bring your creations to share with us? We are not professional, critical, competing. Prayerfully we share our feelings and insights on what we see, and look for where God is in each creation. DO COME, TASTE AND SEE. No need to bring anything first time. We meet at 76 Sibson Road in Birstall, at 2 pm on the following dates: 21/3 Theme 'Prayer'; 16/5 Theme 'Healing'; 18/7 Theme 'Discipline'; 19/9 and 21/11 Themes to be arranged. It's fun. Do come.

Noreen Talbot

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES

Now that the Birstall Local History Society has closed down, ex members may be interested to know that the neighbouring local history societies in Thurcaston & Cropston and in Rothley still flourish!

I list below the 2023 programme for Thurcaston and Cropston. See <http://www.thurcastoncropstonhistory.org.uk/>

17 Jan 2023	How to Build a Castle: Peter Liddle
21 Feb 2023	Excavating the Rutland Roman Villa: Peter Smith
21 Mar 2023	Conscientious Objectors and the Peace Campaign in Leicestershire: Jess Jenkins
16 May 2023	History of Melton Mowbray: Mick Rawle
20 Jun 2023	Visit to Wigston Framework Knitters Museum
18 Jul 2023	Tour of Abbey Park: Steve Bruce
19 Sep 2023	The History of Syston: Felicity Austin
17 Oct 2023	The WWI Prisoner of War Camp at Donington Park: Robin Jenkins
21 Nov 2023	Brief AGM followed by Memories of a Pub Landlord: Tony Marshall

As a member of this society, I am happy to offer a lift to anyone who would like to go. There is a small fee for visitors of £4.50

The ROTHLEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY meets on the third Wednesday of the month in the Rothley Centre, Mountsorrel Lane, Rothley, from September to June starting at 7.30pm. Visitors are most welcome.

Canon Anne

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Hi. I hope you are all keeping well. I am in the church office on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 9am and 1pm. If you have a notice you would like putting in our weekly Information Sheet please email it to stjames.birstall@btconnect.com, or sheryljupp@hotmail.co.uk. (I would prefer to receive it twice than not at all!)

If you don't have access to the internet, please could you leave your notice on my desk or post it through the church letterbox which is at the bottom of the glass doors. If you are unable to get to church please contact Amanda or one of the Churchwardens.

If you would like to receive this magazine or our weekly information sheets digitally, please let me know. Thanks. *Love Sheryl*

WEDDING

25 February 2023 Bernard Love and Hilary Coltman Wanlip

FUNERALS

Died	Funeral		Venue
22.11.22	12.12.22	John Forryan	Gilroes Crem
21.11.22	12.12.22	Charles Paul Mayoh	Wanlip/L'boro Crem
12.12.22	22.12.22	Phillip Hardy	L'boro Crem
10.12.22	20.01.23	Catherine Parrott	L'boro Crem
16.12.22	01.02.23	Barbara Rhodes	St James/Birstall Cem
07.01.23	13.01.23	Gwen Johnson	St James/Birstall Cem
28.01.23	07.03.23	Eileen Lewis	St James/Gilroes
11.02.23	02.03.23	Velma Marriott	Wanlip

**Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.
And let light perpetual shine upon them. Amen**



'First Day in Heaven' (Kerolos Safwat)

'KEEP IN TOUCH', Summer 2023
Copy by, but, if possible, before 1st May 2023



Daffodils in the Breeze

Peter Watson

KEEPING YOU 'IN TOUCH' IS

Name

Address

Tel. No.

YOU ARE WELCOME TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THEM