



St Elizabeth's, Ashley

Newsletter, 27th January 2022

GISELLE'S SERMON FROM THE COMMUNITY SERVICE, 3RD JANUARY 2022

My most memorable Epiphany was when I attended a service at St Ann's and Manchester Cathedral some years back. It was a wonderful witness to process from St Ann's Church behind the Magi and choir towards Manchester cathedral, past all those shopping in the Christmas sales. All who participated, including the congregation, contributed to the event with their own God given gifts.

When the Magi visited Jesus they brought gifts of frankincense, gold, and myrrh. Gold is the symbol of Jesus' kingship here on earth. Frankincense is a symbol of Jesus' deity. And myrrh is an embalming oil, prophetically pointing to his death and resurrection and our salvation; it was also used by the Jews to anoint their priests. Just as Jesus was given gifts, the wise men were gifted with wisdom, and you too are given gifts.

In Jeremiah we read "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you". And in Psalm 139 it says "I praise the Lord because I am fearfully and wonderfully made, your work is wonderful. I know full well – your eyes saw my unformed body and all the days of my life." Each and everyone of you at St Elizabeth's uses these God given gifts in your everyday lives at home with your families and friends, in the workplace, volunteer roles, and socially.

During 2021, despite the challenges of Covid, you have managed to continue to use those God given gifts in many varied and diverse ways, creatively connecting with God in Jesus Christ, enabling the living Holy Spirit. As a loving community, love being the greatest fruit of the Spirit, you have faithfully lived out your lives in outreach, in a myriad of ways. I particularly liked the opportunity to meet to discuss the Harvest Rose Queen in the Grey Hound, especially the chips.

Your gifts have enabled St Elizabeth's to grow and sustain itself in the face of adversity. There were many things that you did, for example, Jim the dog set up the community café Food4thought, he even cleans the loos! You celebrated all the major services with meaning and worth, helping to relive the narrative of Christ's life.

In September you came together as a community, led by Catherine Jones, using many of your gifts to create one of the most memorable and enjoyable days of the year. It provided such fond memories.

Continued overleaf

GET IN TOUCH

Vicar: Rev'd Kaz Stanton

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Curate: Rev'd Giselle Rusted

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Children's and Youth Minister:

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MORE INFORMATION AT www.stelizabethsashley.org.uk

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SERVICES

Sunday 30th January

11am **Minister** Giselle Rusted
Reader Catherine Jones

Readings: 1 Corinthians 13.1-13;
Luke 2.22-40

Intercessions Mike Rusted

Sermon Giselle Rusted

Music Mike Rusted

Sunday 6th February

11am **Service Leader** Community
Reader Jim Clark

Readings: 1 Corinthians 15.1-11;
Luke 5. 1-11

Intercessions Tim Bedell

Sermon TBA

Music TBA

Sunday 13th February

11am **Minister** John Moss/
Giselle Rusted

Reader Peter Hardern

Readings: 1 Corinthians 15.12-20;
Luke 6. 17-26

Intercessions Giselle

Sermon John Moss

Music TBA

Sunday 20th February

3pm Pet Blessing Service

Sunday 27th February: HC

11am **Minister**
Kaz Stanton

Reader Ronnie Ballantyne

Readings: 2 Corinthians 3.12-4.2;
Luke 9.28-36

Intercessions

TBA

Sermon Karen Stanton

Music TBA

PRAYERS

Unwell:
Kevin Gregory

Deceased:
Ann Horwood

Even the leftover pots of sweets had a mission and purpose of their own when I took them into the workplace to a mental health hub. Here they boosted the morale of burnt out NHS staff.

Throughout the year you have collaboratively supported services, especially Ali Bongo, Richard Batty, Alessandra, Alice, Keith Munday, Shirley Munday, Dot, Mike Whiting, John Moss, John Erlam, John Sherratt, Dom Jones, Freddie, and Eva.

St Elizabeth's biggest strength is that you do not look inward as a church, you look outward into the community welcoming everyone, connecting, and engaging.

So I pray that you continue to build on these strengths, continuing to collaboratively support each other. Examine further your gifts and how you might continue to serve Christ at St Elizabeth's, no matter how small a contribution might be, because this will also enable us to share the effort more evenly.

What is it that you might do that can contribute to the life of St Elizabeth's? Whether it is from offering to read the bible reading once a month or reading the set prayers we have for each week to Church warden or licensed reader. What gifts has God given you and how might he be calling you to serve in 2022.

I look forward to another fun and innovative way of meeting God in Christ in everything we do. I am sure that the Holy Spirit will lead us there in faith. **Rev'd Giselle Rusted**

Prayer for St Elizabeth's 2022

Loving and gracious Lord, we seek to know your presence here at St Elizabeth's in our every day lives.

We thank you that you have come to meet us here, loving us unconditionally. You meet us through the hands, hearts, eyes, and souls of all those who come to glorify and worship you.

We are your people, here to serve as disciples in Christ. Speak to us and help us to listen as you guide us, sustaining us, feeding us and enabling us in 2022.

We place all of this into your hands, trusting in you, in the name of our creator God, Jesus Christ and the living Holy Spirit. **Amen**