

Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed!

After the sad news of the death of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, we want to register our condolences, and prayers for the HRH The Queen and her whole family. I am very grateful to Stu Aitkin for tolling the Tenor Bell 99 times to mark his death. There is no book of condolence, but the Parish Council Website has one online for us all.



Photo by Alice Murphy

Tribute to Kay Houlin — by Alice Murphy

Monday 1st March 2021

As an anxious crying 2 and a half year old I felt safe when I held the nice ladies hand, on my first day at nursery.

Well here I am an anxious crying grown up honoured to be able to call her my friend. I don't need to tell you what a wonderful woman Kay was. Her gentle loving nature shone through all that she did. A nurturing generous spirit that built up and supported those around her.

I feel I cannot speak of Kay without mentioning 'Bellringers Panic' (it was my first thought when I was asked to do this). Ringer Panic is a common affliction of ringers around the world. It refers to the split second you dared to believe not only did you know what you were doing but that you were actually doing it! It is at that moment everything you ever knew falls out of your mind – Up? Down? - all distant memories. Your heart starts pounding, all colour drains from your face, then the cold sweat starts. At this point your poor striking or face pulling has given you away and a kindly soul tries to direct you, and throw you a life belt so to speak.

As I said, that was my first instinct about writing this, so if I go pale and start gurning, please someone toss me a rubber ring!

The understanding of this phenomenon bound us together as enthusiastic if not particularly ambitious ringers. This reassuring nature was just as I had experienced as a small child. That hundreds of Grayshott children have benefitted from over the years.

The same generous spirit declared (with mock offence) on Mothering Sunday that she didn't expect to find her son in the arms of another woman when he had come to meet her (I just happened to come down her front steps first).

Kay provided my children with an extra grandparent and me with a parent. She was Easter bunny, secret Santa and Birthday fairy, teaching the children, the importance of simple yet thoughtful acts of kindness. They loved her very much. Cole cherished his time with her on the allotment, in the garden, just busy doing. Of course, my garden doesn't measure up, nor do my Rice Krispy cakes! She has supported and reassured me that I was doing ok as a parent and a grown up. She has shown me what 'Love in action', 'Love with its work clothes on' looks like. To walk with eyes wide open to the simple joys of making rainbows with the hosepipe, the first bee of the season.

Kay was a blessing to everyone who's path she crossed. She had time for people, she MADE time for people; be that conversations in the CO-OP or round a perma-warm teapot. Her uncomplicated hospitality is unparalleled in my world. I aspire to make people feel that welcome in my life and home. My Dad was keen I gave credit to Kay for her recruitment skills. She asked him to be Father Christmas 40 years ago, a job he did up until COVID. Probably the longest he has stuck to anything! I know some managers that would like that kind of staff-retention.

Finally I am under pressure from my family to share a story that was the source of cringing and embarrassment for us and therefore great amusement to them. It involves a conversation Kay and I had with our then relatively new vicar and his wife. It was the hottest day of the year, a Saturday afternoon after a wedding. A question was asked about what he wore under his cassock in hot weather. Well an innocent enquiry about could you wear shorts descended into the realms of a Carry-on film very quickly, and Kay and I scurried off wishing either the ground would swallow us up, or there was a delete button on things you have said because there are some conversations that you just don't have.

This proves to me that you are never too old to feel like a naughty child! Also that friendship blooms in unexpected places. I am deeply honoured to be able to call Kay my friend & am very much improved for the experience.

This humble, quiet, generous, nurturing woman has touched the lives of so many people, she was loved so much and will live on in our hearts forever. Kay its okay, I didn't mention where the cross is on the preachers pants!

The Week Ahead

Zoom and other Links are in Website Calendar

12th Monday - 16th Friday

09.00 Weekday Morning Zoom Meditation

13th Tuesday (Second Tuesday)

20.00 St Luke's Monthly Prayer Meeting

14th Wednesday

15.00 Tea and Chat

18th Sunday

08.00 Children's Celebration Video

10.30 Service in Church (Live Streamed)

11.45 Sunday Zoom Chat Fellowship

18.00 Traditional BCP in Church (Chris G)

No BCP Zoom Online.

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****DON'T FORGET****

****Track & Trace Bookings****

NB Please phone or email Sheila Austin

to pre-book spaces, on: 01428 713338

Sheila.ag48@btinternet.com

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Dates for the Diary:

19.30 April 30th 'Zoom APCM'

St Luke's Church, (Church of England)

Headley Road, Grayshott, GU26 6LF

01428 606703

Charity number: 1129168

office@stlukes-grayshott.org

www.stlukes-grayshott.org



Photo by Anna Finey

Vacancies – Voluntary

PCC Members The PCC meets at 7.30pm for 2 hours 6 times per year currently on the 3rd Monday of alternate months, January, March... etc., The usual Term of Service is 3 years for a maximum of 2 terms.

The PCC is the main decision making body for the Church and has a responsibility to promote the mission of God in it's Parish. The PCC is the financial approving and budget setting body, as guided by our brilliant Treasurer, Viv Ward

The areas that will need new champions are: Prayer: Contemporary Worship: Traditional Worship. If you are passionate about any of these areas, please pray and ask God if it is the time for you to serve on the PCC. If you would like more information on being a champion, please contact Anna on 01428 608077, and Sheila Austin, for an application form or copy of the minutes.

Church Warden - The role of the churchwarden is extremely varied but generally involves management, maintenance and mission. Church wardens are the foremost in representing the laity and in co-operating with the Vicar, they have a duty to maintain order and decency in the church and churchyard. In cooperation with the incumbent, churchwardens are generally responsible for the day-to-day functioning of the parish.

The above roles will be voted on at the APCM on 30th April at 7.30pm

Stewardship Recorder - This role is one that would suit someone whose life is fairly routine, and someone with book-keeping, financial or accountancy experience. Many donations come via standing orders towards the running of the church, (the 'tithes and offerings'), and most people register for Gift Aid. This needs to be monitored regularly and this role has been split in the past between Shelagh Edwards who did the weekly role of logging donations, and one other person who did the Annual reporting, donors letters of thanks, and application for the Gift Aid Tax relief. Shelagh wants to pass this on, and for the right person, this would amalgamate into one role. All giving is kept anonymous, so that the vicar is not aware of personal giving,

Contributions

Please send any contributions regarding good news, gardening tips, photos, humorous items, favourite Bible verse, poems, etc, for inclusion in future Newsletters before Wednesday, to Madi's email office@stlukes-grayshott.org

Prayer's for the week

- For the Queen and Royal Family as they prepare for the funeral of Prince Philip next Saturday 17th
- Head Teacher recruitment at Grayshott School
- Vaccination Programme
- APCM: 30th April
- For our local businesses, and the reopening of non essentials shops, and outdoor hospitality venues.
- Those we know are sick.

The BCP Collect for Today

ALMIGHTY Father, who hast given thine only Son to die for our sins, and to rise again for our justification: Grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness, that we may always serve thee in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The power of the Cross: [Acts 4:32-36 & John 20:19-31]

This week in this Easter season, we are starting a new preaching series, looking at aspects of the Cross of Christ. We all know that the Cross is the Central event of our faith, and on face value it is quite simple, Jesus died for me, so that my sins might be forgiven, and therefore I can have eternal life. John 3:16 "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." It is possible to limit the cross to being the means of forgiveness. The Cross speaks of so much more, but we want to explore the power of the Cross in a number of different ways. St Paul preached in many places, and his letters speak of the breadth of his pastoral concern for the churches in his care, but in 1 Corinthians 2:2 he says: "For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified..." I hope to explore that over the next few weeks. We can live like a revolving door between our own sin and God's forgiveness, if so, we can fail to live in the benefits that were bought for us at the cross. I trust that we will all grow in faith in this season, so that through growing in our grasp of the Cross, our hearts expand in our worship of Jesus.

We are so grateful to you all for your support and encouragement in the work of the Gospel.

Our Love to you all, Jeremy & Claire