



The Shell



The Magazine of St James the Greater

Summer 2019

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8.30 am Holy Communion 10.30 am Choral Eucharist

6.30 pm Choral Evensong & Sermon

CHILDRENS' SUNDAY CLUB

In the Church Hall in school term time starting off in church at 10.30 am

MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION

10.15 am Thursdays

MORNING PRAYER

9 am Tuesday-Friday

See Calendar for variations and details of services on Saints Days

MINISTRY TEAM

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Associate Non-Stipendiary Priest

Revd Jane Sharp

Honorary Associate Priests

Revd David Clark BA

Very Revd Dr Derek Hole Hon LLD Hon DLitt

Readers

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Mrs Pam Howe

Dr Angela Jagger BA PhD

Pastoral Assistant

Sacristans

Miss Vicky Roe BPhil.Ed MA

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From the Editor's Desk



On July 20, 1969, Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin made history as the first human beings to land on the moon while Michael Collins stayed in orbit. We have marked the fiftieth anniversary of this prodigious feat by featuring their launch vehicle, the Saturn V rocket, on the cover of this issue of *The Shell*.

This photograph, thoughtfully supplied by Andrew, was, I supposed, a cunning superposition of an image of the real rocket - perhaps found on the web - onto one of the part of the night sky so wonderfully portrayed on the eastern apse of our church. It would after all take no more than a few minutes for an expert in the use of Photoshop - a cunning bit of software wizardry - to create this montage. But no! The photograph is one of a scale model of the rocket, kindly loaned by Anselm, which was carefully balanced on the top chancel step and then photographed by Andrew against the backdrop of the apse.

Three months have already passed since the last edition of *The Shell* hit the streets; how time flies! Your kind comments that my first attempt as editor has generated have been greatly appreciated.

You will already have noticed that this issue is bigger than the last; the quantity of material that you, dear readers, have submitted has enabled me to increase the size by four additional pages! It will, of course, have occurred to you though that this means that it costs more to produce - nuff said!

The downside of all this is that it would be a bit embarrassing to have to reduce the number of pages in the Autumn edition. However, I do not despair: I know that you will put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard) and produce another selection of stunning articles to land on my desk by the week beginning 13 August. Since this will be in the middle of the holiday season it might be a good idea if you start writing now. We don't want to be caught short, do we? Each page is worth about 500 words, so an article in the 500-1000 word

range would be ideal. Don't be deterred, though, from letting me have a shorter, or indeed longer, article if you have something to say. My suggestion in the last edition for *Letters to the Editor* has not so far born fruit. This might be no bad thing since it means that I don't have to field any googlies!

You will, no doubt, recall the article in the last issue about *Rogationtide* and *Beating the Bounds*. Hendrix has asked me to say that he has been disappointed not to have met any members of the St James's flock on his walks. He was, though, greeted with great kindness by many of the local inhabitants apparently because some thought that he was my guard dog! Well, I suppose that courtesy costs nothing and besides, you never can tell.

It is a common custom for church people to adopt a particular discipline for Lent. At least one member of the congregation read the whole of the New Testament. This is a total of 260 chapters in 40 days, or about six and a half chapters a day. Not bad going, what!

For myself I thought I would try to get to understand the current concern about climate change so that I could come to a reasoned view as to what my part in the controversy should be. So I read a number of books which between them covered the whole spectrum of the debate.

This is probably not the place to discuss the issues in detail lest I be hailed as a guru or burnt as a heretic on Victoria Park, but my now profound conviction is that for at least a century members of the human race have been quite appalling stewards of God's creation as Andrew discusses on page 2.

Surely there is something that each one of us can and should do by way of remediation and, indeed, by way of contrition.

Graham Jagger

editor@stjamesthegreater.org.uk

The Vicar writes ...

Now the green blade riseth ... love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

This is one of my very favourite Easter hymns, or even maybe favourite hymns altogether. I've just sat through a two hour meeting, one of the perennial perils of church life, but this one was better than most, partly as it took place in the vicarage garden, in glorious spring sunshine, with the song of birds drowning out the London Road traffic on the other side of the house.

This was appropriate, as it was a meeting of the Diocesan Environment Group, which I chair as Environment Officer for the Diocese. The environment is scarcely out of the headlines at the moment (although often vying with certain issues to do with Europe), from plastic in the oceans choking marine life, to car-fumes choking children, to global warming choking the planet. The declaration of a "climate emergency" by many bodies, including our own city council, along with the demonstrations of Extinction Rebellion, have forced many to face the pressing reality of the catastrophic environmental destruction underway.

If we, as Christians, believe that God entrusted his precious Earth to us to safeguard and nurture, and furthermore that our love for our neighbours must include those at the mercy of floods, drought, wildfire and hurricane, our duty as Christians to act is clear. My hope is that this year, particularly come Creation-tide in September we will focus on our response to this climate crisis.

Many people, of all faiths or none, struggle to come to terms with the sense of

grief and loss that the despoiling of nature's beauty produces. What will our Easter faith be worth when the green blade no longer rises, but is withered, blasted, washed away or never germinated?

Similarly, our Easter joy was tempered by news of the terrible massacres, focussed on worshipping Christians, on Easter Day in Sri Lanka. Following so close to the murders at mosques in New Zealand, we might have wondered if there was any hope for humanity, tearing ourselves apart even as we rend the fabric of creation.

Living in Christian hope is not the same as blind optimism, or myopic denial. It recognizes the reality of evil in our hearts, and in the world, but claims that ultimately it cannot triumph. Indeed, in Easter, the triumph already belongs to love, to goodness, and to God. Our challenge as individuals, and as a church, is to find ways of living that make that victory real to ourselves and those around us.

Partly we do that in our worship, and I'm sure you will agree that the worship of Holy Week and Easter was a moving and eloquent expression of our faith in God's triumphant love. Equally the fellowship many of us enjoyed back in March at the Vision Day reminded us how good it is to be together.

Through this year we face many challenges, both within the Church and the World. On this beautiful Spring day I am reminded that Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green. Thank you for your support of our church, for your presence and your prayers.

The Vicar runs ...

Many congratulations to Andrew who, in aid of church funds, ran valiantly in the London Marathon on Sunday 28 April in the remarkable time of 2 hours 34 minutes and 37 seconds. Initial estimates put his sponsorship earnings at about £3000. Well done Andrew! Just to prove that it really was Andrew who did the running, here he is captured on film by our mystery photographer.



Costa Rica here I come

Robin Stapleton writes ...

Thank you to all those who supported my efforts to fund raise for my forthcoming expedition to Costa Rica. The departure date in July is fast approaching and I await details of the social projects that I am to take part in. The trip, organised by Camps International, is for four weeks and will include the opportunity to learn and practise scuba diving, jungle exploration, tree planting and work in local schools.

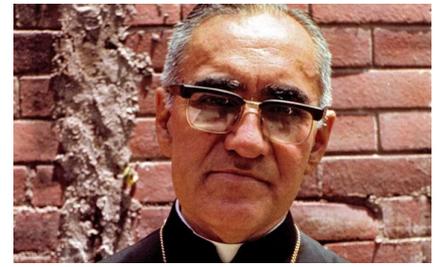
I have raised enough funds to cover the trip (£4200) and any extra will now be used to buy the necessary kit to take with me.

I will supply some pictures for the next issue of *The Shell*!

Ship of Fools ...

There was a preacher who fell into the ocean and he couldn't swim. When a boat came by, the captain yelled, "Do you need help, sir?" The preacher calmly said "No, God will save me." A little later, another boat came by and a fisherman asked, "Hey, do you need help?" The preacher replied again, "No, God will save me." Eventually the preacher drowned and went to heaven. He asked God, "Why didn't you save me?" God replied, "Fool, I sent you two boats!"

Oscar Romero (1917-1980)



We know that every effort to be a better society, especially when injustice and sin are so ingrained, is an effort that God blesses, God wants, God demands, of us.

Oscar Romero was a Catholic priest who spoke up for poor communities in El Salvador during a period of terrible violence. He was ordained in 1942 and made bishop in June 1970. He actively denounced violations of the human rights of the most vulnerable people and defended the principles of protecting lives, promoting human dignity, and opposition to all forms of violence. He was assassinated in a hospital chapel in 1980 whilst celebrating Mass.

There was a huge gulf between the poor and the wealthy throughout the country and, although Romero showed compassion to the poor, he was initially very conservative and was not involved with Liberation Theology. The violence increased in El Salvador by the mid 1970s as the government and army began killing poor people who stood up for their rights. On his appointment as Archbishop of San Salvador in 1977 the ruling class expected Romero to condemn the protests and preach obedience to the authorities.

When the army killed three people in the village of Tres Calles in Romero's diocese, he comforted the families and wrote to the President to protest about the murders. Peaceful protests were all met with a violent put-down. A few weeks after his appointment, his friend Fr Rutilio Grande was shot and killed, along with two companions. The following Sunday, Romero allowed only one Mass in the whole diocese - at the Cathedral - where he spoke out against the murders, spoke the name of victims, and denounced abusers.

He was deeply affected by the murder of his friend and fellow priest and, after a brief spell in the countryside which opened his eyes to the real suffering of the poor and

where he saw personally the violence of the authorities, he developed into an outspoken social activist.

He was a brave leader who wanted Christians to stand up and protest peacefully against injustice and violence but, when that had no effect, he refused to stay beneath the radar and as the violence in El Salvador continued, Romero continued to speak out. Every Sunday his sermon was broadcast by radio. The whole country listened and his life was often threatened - when his radio station was bombed it was rebuilt by an overseas charity organisation.

In his sermon on 23 March 1980, Romero ordered the army to stop killing people: *In the name of God, and in the name of this suffering people whose cries rise to heaven more loudly each day, I beg you, I implore you, I order you, in the name of God, stop the repression!* The next day he was shot and killed as he said Mass

Thousands came to his funeral. The army fired into the crowd, thirty mourners died and hundreds were injured. This accelerated the civil war which continued until 1992.

There were many calls for him to be made a Saint but these were mostly ignored until Pope Francis, who has more sympathy for the poor and oppressed, was appointed. In 2013, in his own words, he 'unblocked' the paralysed canonisation process and made it clear that he wanted to see Romero's cause progressed without delay. Two years later Archbishop Romero was proclaimed a martyr and at a magnificent ceremony in San Salvador on 23 May 2015, he became Blessed Oscar Romero.

His canonisation took place in Rome on 14 October 2018.

Thanks to Dorothy Lusmore for permission to use this material. Ed.

Some recipes ...

These recipes are taken from *Favourite Food*, a cookbook created by St James's Charity Committee a few years ago. This was the third in a series of such books in the same vein.

Lamb Casserole

1 kg shoulder of lamb with fat removed (cubed)

1 kg potatoes, peeled and sliced

1 tin plum tomatoes, chopped or liquidised

1 large chopped onion

2 cloves of garlic, crushed

Salt, pepper and herbs

Water to cover

1 tbsp virgin olive oil or 50g butter

Grease an ovenproof dish and place the lamb and the chopped onion at the base. Mix the tomatoes with the garlic and seasoning. Cover the meat with sliced potatoes and pour over the tomatoes and seasoning. Cook in a moderate oven (Gas mark 4, 150 °C) for 2-3 hours, until the meat is tender.

Sheilah Girgis

Oat Burgers

2oz (60g) oats

3oz (90g) grated cheese

1 egg

Small carrot, grated

1 teaspoon tomato purée

1 teaspoon mixed herbs

Black pepper

Oatmeal or breadcrumbs for coating

Oil for frying

Mix the oats, cheese, carrot, tomato puree, herbs, pepper and beaten egg. Shape into four rounds and coat in oatmeal or breadcrumbs. Fry lightly on each side and serve with salad or coleslaw.

Daphne Wilshere

Some Thoughts on a Visit to Israel

Paul Jenkins writes ...

A group of 22 of us from Leicestershire and friends travelled to the Holy Land led by Canon Philip Norwood on a McCabe Pilgrimage. It is very difficult to comment on the situation in Israel without joining one side or the other in maybe the most serious conflict in the world today. I would like to set out my thoughts on the experience as a series of quotations from Jewish people and my response to them.

Roi Azoulay, friend, Israeli orchestral conductor and musical director of Shaar Hashomayin Synagogue Montreal, "Most of the Palestinian people I have met are not political they just want a job to bring up their families."

On the McCabe trip we were staying in East Jerusalem near the Damascus Gate. Almost everyone on the streets and in the Golden Walls Hotel spoke Arabic. We were certainly doing our bit to support the economy of the Palestinian people in Jerusalem and we went to an orphanage in Bethany and a hospital near Bethlehem as well as many other Palestinian places on the trip.

Daniel Barenboim, BBC Reith Lectures. "The two most popular foreign languages in Israeli schools are English and French."

In Jerusalem young members of the Israeli Defence Force doing their military service were checking the passports of Arabic speaking people on the streets when it was very likely the IDF police did not speak Arabic. If Israelis and Palestinians cannot communicate it is difficult to see how progress can be made.

Daniel Barenboim in a question to the Israeli government "Do you think the tough policies of the government are working in achieving peace?"

Throughout the trip we travelled extensively in areas governed by the Palestinian Authority which is under the control of Mahmoud Abbas and the Fatah political party. There was evidence that negotiations had taken place between Israelis and Palestinians,

and cities such as Nablus are now under Palestinian control. The people of Gaza, however, have become so desperate that they have elected a Hamas government which will not negotiate with Israel. It is most important that people in the Palestinian areas we visited continue to support their present political leaders so at least some dialogue can be maintained.

Yehudi Menuhin in a speech to the Knesset: "Why can't Israel be for all the people who live there?"

Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir is often said to be unsympathetic to the Palestinian cause, I quote her words directly from

<http://www.aish.com/jw/me/Golda-meir-on-thePalestinians.html>

"To be misquoted is an occupational hazard of political leadership; for this reason, I should like to clarify my position in regard to the Palestinian issue. I have been charged with being rigidly insensitive to the question of the Palestinian Arabs. In evidence of this I am supposed to have said, 'There are no Palestinians.' My actual words were: 'There is no Palestinian people. There are Palestinian refugees.' The distinction is not semantic. My statement was based on a lifetime of debates with Arab nationalists who vehemently excluded a separatist Palestinian Arab nationalism from their formulations."

In this article Mrs Meir goes on to make the case for sympathetic understanding from the Arab nations of the founding of the state of Israel as a home land for the Jews.

"I repeatedly expressed my sympathy for the needless sufferings of refugees whose abnormal situation was created and exploited by the Arab states as a tactic in their campaign against Israel. However, refugee status could not indefinitely be maintained for the original 550,000 Arabs who in 1948 joined the exodus from the battle areas during the Arab attack on the new state of Israel."

In talking to some of my friends who are enthusiastic supporters of the current government of Israel I detect a lack of sympathy for the Palestinian situation. It seems to me there are two unacceptable denials that are quite common these days; one is to deny the Holocaust and the other is to deny there is a Palestinian problem.

An Israeli peace maker on TV: “The oppression of the Palestinian people is not consistent with Jewish morality.”

It is impossible that one person's thoughts can have any impact on the politics of the Middle East. The ray of hope came from our local guide on the trip, **Nael**, fluent in Arabic, Hebrew and English, and a Baptist: “There is hate on both sides. But over there is an Israeli settlement (illegal according to the UN), and over here is a Palestinian Refugee camp. In the camp the supermarket prices are cheaper and car repairs are also cheaper and so Jewish people come from the settlement to the camp to get their cars repaired and to do their shopping. Everyone is happy. The Jewish people get a good deal and the Palestinians make a bit more money!”

On our last day in Jerusalem we were at the Dome of the Rock at 7am, traditionally the site of the rock where Abraham came prepared to sacrifice his son Isaac and the place where the Holy of Holies of the Jewish Temple once stood; a place of tranquillity and beauty in a bustling Jerusalem. We were at the Western Wall at 8.00am and I said the Lord's Prayer touching the wall (I thought it would not offend any Jews as that prayer does not have Jesus in it!). At 9am we were Christmas shopping for scarves and at 10am we were at the cathedral for a communion service in Arabic and English.

A lady organist played one of the best performances of the *Tocatta and Fugue in D minor* by Bach I have ever heard, and it turned out she was Arabic speaking. We then got on a coach to the Dead Sea where I floated and lifted handfuls of salt crystals – heaven for a retired chemist who has been trying to make crystals his whole life!

Our pilgrimage was a life-changing experience, to see the places where the Biblical events took place. It can be recommended to anyone. There are so many things to think about everywhere.

The Sunday Club

Jo Stapleton writes ...

The Sunday club has always been an integral part of life at St James, providing a place for children within the family of the church. As the coordinator and as a leader over many years I have learnt as much knowledge as I have imparted and been inspired and humbled by the young people that attend. The numbers can range from 3 to 13 and ages from 4 to 14 years; you never know who or how many will arrive on the day.

There is a Whatsapp group for leaders and parents to share pictures of the sessions and publicise what's on. We use Roots on the web as the main resource as this reflects the readings that are used in church Sunday by Sunday and this has proved a useful base for creating the material for sessions.

The leaders are myself, Tracy Tobin and Dorothea Morfey with Liz Turner and Vicky Rowe offering assistance once a month.

It is now time for me to step down and a new leader is needed to take my place. The PCC have been asked to consider the role of Children's work in the church and so this is an exciting opportunity for someone to come forward to take up the new vision as it emerges.

Book Review

Emma Sutton reviews two books which she has found to be particularly useful in her prayer life

Ashwin, Angela (1991) *Heaven in Ordinary: Contemplative Prayer in Ordinary Life*. McCrimmon, Essex, England.

Ogden, Harry (2010) *Some daily prayers for Church of England People: The definitive edition*. SPCK Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, Lon-

I have been reflecting on how my practice of prayer has changed over the last few years. I have always found it helpful to follow an aid to prayer and, in the hope that they might prove useful to you, I offer my thoughts on how these two books have helped me at two very different points in my life.

I first came to Leicester as a PhD student. Although I had a busy work and social life, I found that I had time to think carefully about how I connect with God. I came across Harry Ogden's book during a visit to Launde Abbey in 2014 and it really spoke to me. I needed something light, simple and easy to follow – I was worn out by heavy theoretical books and academic papers in the day, and I found Harry Ogden's book to be very direct and practical – just what I needed at bedtime. First, the book offers a fantastic invitation to pray –

Come now, put aside your busy-ness for a while, take refuge for a time from your troublesome thoughts: throw away your cares, and let your burdensome worries wait. Take some time off for God: rest a while in him (St Anselm d 1109) p xii –

Then, to my delight, a short section of morning prayers, night-time prayers, and an average of five short prayers and readings for each day of the week. This section of the book was very well thumbed! I really savoured getting into bed at night knowing I had ten minutes to read through something I could understand and that I could connect with every word. The other (slightly less well thumbed) sections of the book are: 'various things to pray and ponder' (short prayers on various themes – petitions, joy in God's creation, fol-

lowing Christ); 'Gods forgiveness' (being honest with God); and 'At the Eucharist' (which helped me prepare on Sundays). These were easy to follow sections that I could dip in and out of after digesting the suggested prayers for each day.

But, oh how things change! The daily structure offered by Harry Ogden was perfect while I studied, but now life is so much more chaotic! I have a wonderful husband, a 20-month-old daughter and a baby boy (born in April 2019!). I was just beginning to wonder how I would find time for God, when once again, on a trip to Launde, a book leapt out at me from the shelf and really spoke to me. Thank goodness for Angela Ashwin. I have just finished *Heaven in Ordinary* but before I



offer my thoughts on that, let me give you a quote from her next book (for review next time) – *Patterns, not Padlocks*, which really sums up what I needed to hear:

The kind of praying explored in this book is not a temporary survival mechanism to see us through a sticky patch until we can start pray-

ing 'properly' again. *Praying with a food-bespattered high chair and a toddler with a temperature is proper praying: p 22.*

Heaven in Ordinary starts first with lots of reassurance, which is exactly what I was looking for. Yes, it helps to be ordinary (we don't have to be whizzy or special), yes – God wants the 'messy' bits as well as the 'holy' bits of our lives, and yes – spaces for prayer (even if very short) will be provided! Then, Angela offers fantastic tips which I have been able to put into practice each day. For example, she suggests compiling a list of words or phrases which mean something to you such as: Abba father, abide with me, glory, my God and my all. These words can then be focussed on at times you come to associate with peace – the first sip of tea in the morning or turning the tap on to do the washing up. Sometimes, it is OK once the babies are asleep to just sit amongst the chaos (toys all over the floor, bits of paint on the carpet, cornflakes stuck to cereal bowl etc.) and take two minutes to use your key

word for that week as a prompt for a short prayer. This meant I could relax and stop worrying about finding a time to pray. The time just comes, when it comes. The book provides many metaphors. Imagine a marble going round and round in a bowl, Angela says, – this is you being very hectic – try to let it come to a stop in the middle before you rush off to do the next task so that you can be grounded within the hecticness of life.

Angela also gives strategies which can be used during the day to help prayer become habitual. For example – when the doorbell rings, we could pray that the person standing there will see something of Christ in us. This book has helped me to work out a new way of praying and connecting with God, and like Harry Ogden, Angela Ashwin has given me simple, practical strategies to use to make sure I can do this. Whether you need daily structure, or if structure is impossible and you need a method to manage the madness, perhaps Harry and Angela can help you too!

On Being a Churchwarden

Phil Jones writes ...

To be elected Church Warden at St James' is both an honour and a privilege. I'm very aware that I follow in the footsteps of the many remarkable people who've held this prestigious post in the past. As a worshiper here for over twenty years, I've come to call St James' my second home (with Welford Road coming in third, especially after the season the Tigers have just had) and have made many important friendships here. I've also come to truly appreciate the choral tradition that we offer and which I've come to value more and more. I know that all of you reading this will feel the same about St James' as I do.

Following the interregnum, we're now entering in to another key period for us as a congregation, as we need to pay urgent at-

tention to the fabric of the church. As we did in the fifteen months before Andrew joined us, we need to come together again, this time to ensure that future generations are also able to worship in the truly wonderful building that we call our spiritual home. And that they can also grow in faith by benefitting from the same musical tradition as we do.

The stewardship of our church is crucial and I hope that with your support, together with careful and considerate prayer, I'm able to fulfil my term of office diligently and mindfully.



A warm visit to our sister church

Chris and Jan Geere report on their visit to St James Parish Church, Holetown, Barbados, West Indies



In January, while many were turning their heating up, watching their step for pavement ice or were scraping their windscreen each morning, Jan and I were enjoying a week on the warm and friendly island of Barbados. By contrast with shivering Leicester, temperatures averaged 20 Centigrade at night and a balmy 28 degrees by day – so we were glad of the gentle easterly breeze and regular fluffy clouds to moderate the constant sunshine.

But the warmest welcome was extended to us by the Clergy and congregation of the handsome and historic St James Parish Church, Holetown, at their regular 9am Sunday Eucharist service. It was just a short bus-ride from our hotel by frequent services from the centre of Bridgetown, from the Cruise ship terminal or from the resorts of the popular south west coast (the fare for any distance is just two Barbadian Dollars or 1 US dollar per person - they take the fare in either currency as you get off the bus!).

St James Parish Anglican Episcopal church is historic – almost four times older than our own St James. It was built on the oldest piece of consecrated land on the island, often known as ‘God’s Acre’. On February 17th, 1626, the first European settlers sheltered their ship in a creek on the west coast they called ‘the Hole’ to seek fresh water, game and fruit. Their landing place became a settlement known as Holetown and by 1628 a wooden chapel was built in nearby woodland. The settlement grew and the chapel was replaced by a larger coral-stone building in the early 1680s which, with various extensions, is

substantially the one still thriving to this day. When the whole island was fully settled, it was divided into ‘Parishes’ which still remain the administrative and electoral divisions of Barbados.

The Parish Church of St James has some similarities with our own – for example a semi-circular apse behind the altar and a stone-columned nave with clerestory windows to let in dappled sunlight. But the Church is set in grounds with shady trees and flowering shrubs, the organ loft is at the rear of the nave and the traditional wooden pews are upright and unforgiving to bottoms now used to our comfortable seats!

We knew we had limited time on that Sunday because we were due to be picked up from the hotel at lunchtime to be transferred to the cruise ship terminal, but we had packed the night before and rose early for a generous breakfast before taking a yellow ‘raggae bus’ the two miles to the church. At the church door, we strangers were greeted with warm smiles and handshakes and ushered to seats close to the side doors (because we explained that we might need to leave to get back to our hotel if the service overran). What we hadn’t remembered was that Sunday 13th January was the day this year we celebrated the baptism in the River Jordan of our Lord by St John the Baptist. This meant that no less than four large Barbadian families had brought relatives from all over the island to see their babies christened that Sunday during the service!

We sang familiar hymns led by a small well-practised choir and the service was straight from the familiar Book of Common Prayer. Anyone from St James the Greater in Leicester would be right at home. Whenever we stumbled over the order of service, friendly neighbours, beautifully dressed in 'Sunday Best', leaned over to point out which page we should be on. The sermon, on the theme of the meaning of baptism and being recognised and welcomed as part of the community-in-Christ, was very moving. But regrettably, because of the length of the sermon delivered with Caribbean passion and frequent double emphasis, and the short christening service repeated four times, we ran out of time before we got to the Eucharist. However, we were able to share in the joyful melee of a lively Peace and to contribute to the Offertory before we had to slip out into the sunlight to return to our hotel for the scheduled transfer. Sharing that service to give thanks for a wonderful holiday was a most satisfying and moving experience and we recommend it to anyone who has a Sunday to fill while visiting the island.

To see more pictures of the church and to find details of services and clergy to con-



tact, we suggest a look at their website <http://stjames.truepath.com/index.htm>

Of Organs and Organists ...

Timothy Lees, quondam Director of Music at St James the Greater, and now organist at St Mary's, Humberstone, has arranged a number of recitals this year to celebrate the latest enhancement—the addition of a 4 rank mixture on the Swell—to the 1929 Walker organ at St Mary's. (Ask Mike if you need this bit translating!) You can hear Tim playing J S Bach's *Clavierübung III* at a celebration of the *Organ Mass in the German Tradition* at St Mary's on Sunday 30 June at 4 pm.

Noel Rawsthorne, for many years the organist at Liverpool cathedral, died in January at the age of 89. He was one of that select but notable band of British organists who, for more than a quarter of a century, was able to marry the music to the building without ever detracting from the effect of either.

Peter Hurford, who died in March, was the Master of the Music at St Alban's Abbey from 1958 until 1978. Organ aficionados treasure his recordings of the complete organ works of J S Bach which occupy 17 CDs. This collection has long been out-of-print but can still be obtained — at great expense it should be said — on the second-hand market.

Cathedrals part 4

William Woolley continues his tour round the cathedrals of Britain

Opportunities for racing around the landscape during Lent having been limited in recent years I append a few observations from other times of the year.

On holiday in Carmarthen an obvious excursion was to St. David's. Parts of the present building date from 1181 but it has suffered from time, nature and Henry VIII and has required much restoration over the years. There is too much of interest to describe here so my advice is to visit this delightful city and see for yourself.



St David's Cathedral

Representing Leicester at an event in Shrewsbury involved an overnight stay so next morning I decided to visit the Roman Catholic Cathedral there which had been closed at the time of my previous visit. In response to the increase in the Catholic population due to Irish immigration in the mid 19th Century the Earl of Shrewsbury commissioned the ubiquitous Augustus Pugin to design a cathedral. Unfortunately, both died in 1852 and it was left to their successors to continue the project. Edward Pugin produced a design featuring a tall tower which proved impractical (sounds familiar?) and was modified and the Cathedral opened in 1856. During the 1960s the interior was reordered to cater for changes in worship. They seem very proud of their stained glass and statues.



Roman Catholic Cathedral, Shrewsbury

In Manchester earlier than I needed to be one Sunday I decided to go to the early service which consists of Matins followed by Holy Communion. It was many years since I attended Matins, but I found that I could remember almost every word. I noted that the congregation was approximately half that at St James. The building dates from the fifteenth century, becoming a cathedral in 1847 when the new Diocese was formed to cater for the expanding population. The interior features a large number of angels, the gift of Margaret Beaufort, mother of Henry VII. Much restoration has been carried out over the years following deterioration in the nineteenth century and damage second only to Coventry during World War II. (Last year we attended Festal Evensong for their Patronal Festival as part of a holiday. The congregation numbered 23.)

A cancelled meeting gave me a free day in Bristol, so I caught the bus to Clifton to visit the Roman Catholic Cathedral Church of St Peter and St Paul (who each have an entrance named after them). Designed in 1965 it uses modern materials and reminds me of



Clifton Roman Catholic Cathedral, Bristol

its counterpart in Liverpool although the layout is more flexible.

In an earlier instalment I referred to *England's Cathedrals by Train* by Murray Naylor. He has since published a companion volume *England's Historic Churches by Train*. Although no Leicester churches, not even St Mary de Castro or St Nicholas, are included, the East Midlands is represented by All Saints, Chesterfield, of twisted spire fame, I found this book to be an informative and entertaining read.

The last word goes to Rev W Awdry, creator of Thomas the Tank Engine: *The Railways and the Church of England have much in common - they were both at their most popular in the mid nineteenth century, they both own Gothic buildings which are expensive to maintain and they both think they are the best way of getting a man to his destination!*

[Parts 1-3 of this excellent series can be found in previous editions of the *Quarterly*. Ed.]

Sunday School Tales ...

- The Sunday School teacher was explaining that when Lot's wife looked back at Sodom she turned into a pillar of salt, when Ben interrupted: "My mum looked back once while she was driving," he announced, "and she turned into a telephone pole."
- Another Sunday School teacher said to her children, "We have been learning about how powerful the kings and queens were in Biblical times. But there is a higher power. Who can tell me what it is?" Matilda blurted out, "I know, Aces!"
- After explaining the commandment to honour your father and mother, a Sunday School teacher asked her class if there was a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters. One boy, the oldest in his family, immediately answered, "Thou shalt not kill!"
- A Sunday School teacher was reading Bible stories to his young flock. He read, "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt." A bright spark in the group asked, "What happened to the flea?"

Anglican Chant for Beginners– Part 2

Mile Rule explains the basics

Fear not, a much more relaxed edition this time round. As promised, dots and asterisks.

Let's stick with Psalm 33. Here's the chant that was used in the last edition of *The Shell*:



Verse 5 is a good example of where a dot may appear:

5 *He loveth | righteousness and | judgement: the earth is | full of the | goodness · of the | Lord.*

To quote myself from last edition: “If there are two notes but more than two syllables (in a bar), sing all but the last syllable on the first note and sing only the final syllable on the second note.”

You will notice in verse 5 there is a dot between ‘goodness’ and ‘of the’. This means ignore what Mike said in the last edition and sing ‘goodness’ on the first note of the bar and ‘of the’ (i.e. 2 syllables) on the second note of the bar. The dot quite simply tells you where to move if you want more than one syllable on the last note of the bar.

Asterisks = * This means “break and breath”. This could be used in verse 10 (break after “effect”, breath, restart):

10 *The Lord bringeth the counsel of the | heathen to | nought:
and maketh the devices of the people to be of none effect * and | casteth · out the | counsels
of | princes.*

Did you notice I treated you to another dot? “casteth” on the first note, “out the” on the second note.

There we go, I think that’s the lot, although I’ll keep my eyes and ears open to see whether a Part 3 is necessary. Otherwise, happy chanting!

[I’ve asked Mike if he will contribute the first of a new series of articles, *Organ Playing for Dummies*, for the next issue of *The Shell*. Ed.]

Obituaries

Pat Ireson 1933-2019

Derek Hole writes ...



Pat was born on the 22nd September 1933, the only child of George Morris and Marjorie Barwick. The family lived first in Howard Road but soon moved to 366 Victoria Park Road, a road in which Pat would live for over 70 of her 85 years.

Pat attended Wyggeston Girls' School, where she excelled at music often playing the organ for school assembly. Pat's keyboard skills were such that she won a place to study organ and piano at the Royal Academy of Music in London but due to the fact that her mother was ill at that time Pat decided to stay in Leicester and she trained to be a teacher at Scraftoft College,

Pat went on to have a long, happy and highly successful career as a teacher. She taught at several schools across the city. She was an active contributor to the life of each school she worked in, bringing not just her flair for music but also a warmth and genuineness in her teaching and her relationships – she inspired affection from pupils and colleagues alike.

Pat was to meet the love of her life when she and Arthur, or John as he was commonly known, an Anglican priest, both went to the aid of a cyclist who had taken a tumble on Victoria Park Road. It seems to have been love at first sight and John gave Pat a lift down the road to her parents' house, where he was offered a cup of tea by her mother, and thereafter he soon became a regular visitor.

Despite their difference in age the romance quickly flourished, and Pat and John married in December 1955. Their first child was born in November 1957 and was named John after his father. The baby became

known as 'Little John' and the father 'Big John'. Little John was followed by the twins Peter and Andrew who were born in January 1962. As the years went by, Pat's family grew to include seven grandchildren: Pearce, Rowan, Amy, Jack, Lewis, Tilly and Eliza, three step grandchildren: Joseph, Jack and Ellie, and just over a year ago her first great grandchild: Rory.

The church was always a central part of Pat's life and from the 1960s the whole family became involved in the life of St. James', where Pat was a founder member of the Ladies Choir and occasionally played the organ. Big John assisted with services, and the three children became choir boys and servers.

Although Pat was an only child, she was brought up surrounded by an extended family of numerous uncles, aunts and cousins. Pat always put family first. In their declining years, it was Pat who cared for several of her maiden aunts. This desire to help and care for others then came even closer to home. As Big John's health declined, Pat took on more and more of a carer's role for him, whilst initially continuing to teach full time. He passed away in December 1995, aged 90, just days before their 40th wedding anniversary.

Pat lived life as a deeply caring daughter, a devoted and attentive wife, an intensely loving mother and grandmother, a hardworking and dedicated teacher, and a trusted friend. She took great pleasure in her family and friends, and she was at her happiest when she was able to be of help to others.

She leaves a large gap in the lives of those who loved her, and she will be very much missed.

Anthony John Rudge 1929-2019**Brian Caruthers writes ...**

Tony Rudge was born in Sunbury on Thames, Surrey on 9 November 1929.

After attending a local school in Staines he did his National Service in the RAF. He then began working in the City of London for an insurance broker and for many years commuted into London from his home in Surrey where he and his parents were active members of Christ Church, Staines.

In the early 1970s Tony was moved up to Leicester with his job as Senior Credit Controller at Hogg Robinson. He lived in Mountsorrel for a few years with his mother who had moved to Leicester with him and when she died, he moved to Great Glen.

Tony was a very active member of St James the Greater Church being Covenant Secretary and a member of the PCC. He also led one of the House groups and continued to attend a House Group at the home of John and Barbara Raven until quite recently. He and Geoffrey Simpson were very involved in the fund raising for the disabled access lift for the church which has been of great benefit to older members of the congregation, including Tony himself in recent years.

Tony was a Freemason and was introduced to Freemasonry by the then vicar of St James the Greater, the Reverend Joe Josephs and by Verrall Clark who was also a keen mason. He was initiated into Saint James Lodge on 5 April 1984 where he served in important positions as Chief Steward, Charity Steward and Almoner. Due his sight problems Tony resigned from the Lodge in November 2015 and in recognition of his services was appointed an

Honorary Member in January 2016. He was also a member of the Leicester Wyvern Probus Club and served as President in 2007.

Tony had lived alone in Great Glen for over 40 years and in the past few years the only help he had was a cleaner visiting him every couple of weeks. However, in the last few months his failing eyesight, which led to him falling frequently and memory problems, meant that he could no longer cope living alone. Shortly after his 89th birthday he moved into The Lawns Residential Home in Stoneygate on 11 December last year. Less than a month later, on 4 January, Tony was taken ill and admitted into the Leicester Royal Infirmary where he died from pneumonia on 6 January.

Tony was always fully committed to anything he was involved with and was well respected by the people he knew and in all the organisations to which he belonged. Even after being at The Lawns for such a short time the manager had described him as a "true gentleman".

Tony had many stories to tell of his travels abroad. He had travelled around Canada and the USA on Titan bus trips where he met many people. He had a map in his kitchen and had placed a red dot on all the places he had been to. It was clear that he had visited nearly every State in the USA and many places in Canada!

Tony had lived a good and long life and will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

News from afar

Lindy Forbes writes ...

[Lindy Forbes, a former sidesman at St James the Greater and member of the St James's Singers, moved to Derby over a year ago. Since then she and John Raven have kept in touch by email. Lindy's reply to John's latest message may be of general interest to the many friends she left behind in Leicester and is reproduced here — with the consent of both John and Lindy. Ed.]

Dear John,

I hope it isn't too late to wish you the blessings of Easter! Thank you so much for your news and I do remember the family at St James in my daily prayers. I am sure that God will use all the past SEMP work in His time, although it is always disappointing when we don't see fruit as we might have hoped; you've been such a faithful presence in that work, John, and a real blessing as I'm sure you continue to be within St James. I hope you feel well enough to continue your support as you are able.

It is amazing that I've been here over a year now! Boulton St Mary's is playing a big part in my life and God has presented me with many challenges where I live, since it is a bit like living on 'the Saff'! However, I am building relationships with the local urchins, and one of the three boys next door comes in when he feels like it to have help with his reading. Yesterday, he made my year by knocking on the door with a bunch of flowers for me! With his mum's agreement a few weeks ago, I had to refer the family to Safeguarding and that was before I had to ring 999 later in the evening for the police, since the 16 year-old was smashing up their house: he didn't break through to me, quite! The three boys are great lads really but the family is in constant crisis, as so many are everywhere. I love my little house, though, and the garden, and feel totally at home.

I am fully fledged into the Derby City Centre Mission and have the tee-shirt and everything! Whilst my role currently is with the local care home, I hope to become more involved with the health service chaplaincy in due course; however, St Mary's is keeping me very busy with choir every week and general support.

I will be a little restricted from next Friday, May 3rd, for a week or two, since I am having vascular surgery to see if the circulation in my legs can be improved. This is a hereditary problem and the surgeon thinks he can improve matters, so I'd be glad of your prayers.

I see Jean regularly which is nice and I am glad that she feels a part of the St James family these days.

Whilst I'm not sure when our paths might cross again, e-mail is a useful thing for now.

With love and ever blessing to you all,

Lindy

Calendar of Services and Events

JUNE

Tuesday - Friday	09.00 Morning Prayer	
2 Sunday	7th SUNDAY OF EASTER	
	08.30 Holy Communion (BCP)	Celebrant: The Vicar
	10.30 Sung Eucharist	Celebrant & Preacher: The Vicar
	18.30 Choral Evensong	Preacher: David Brunning
6 Thursday	10.15 Holy Communion	Celebrant: The Vicar
9 Sunday	PENTECOST	
	08.30 Holy Communion	Celebrant: Jane Sharp
	10.30 Holy Communion	Celebrant & Preacher: The Vicar
	18.30 Choral Evensong	Preacher: Angela Jagger
13 Thursday	10.15 Holy Communion	Celebrant: Jane Sharp
16 Sunday	TRINITY SUNDAY	
	08.30 Holy Communion	Celebrant: The Vicar
	10.30 Choral Matins	Preacher: The Vicar
	18.30 Sung Eucharist	Celebrant & Preacher: The Vicar
20 Thursday	10.15 Holy Communion	Celebrant: The Vicar
23 Sunday	1st SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	
	08.30 Holy Communion	Celebrant: Jane Sharp
	10.30 Sung Eucharist	Celebrant: Jane Sharp Preacher: Pam Howe
	18.30 Choral Evensong	Preacher: The Vicar
27 Thursday	10.15 Holy Communion	Celebrant: Jane Sharp
30 Sunday	2nd SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	
	08.30 Holy Communion	Celebrant: The Vicar
	10.30 Sung Eucharist	Celebrant & Preacher: The Vicar
	18.30 Choral Evensong	Preacher: Angela Jagger

JULY

4 Thursday	10.15 Holy Communion	Celebrant: The Vicar
7 Sunday	3rd SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	
	08.30 Holy Communion (BCP)	Celebrant: The Vicar
	10.30 Sung Eucharist	Celebrant & Preacher: The Vicar
	18.30 Choral Evensong	Preacher: David Brunning
11 Thursday	10.15 Holy Communion	Celebrant: The Vicar
14 Sunday	4th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	
	08.30 Holy Communion	Celebrant: Philip Norwood
	10.30 Sung Eucharist	Celebrant & Preacher: TBC
	18.30 Choral Evensong	Preacher: Angela Jagger
18 Thursday	10.15 Holy Communion	Celebrant: Rosie Woodall
21 Sunday	5th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	
	08.30 Holy Communion	Celebrant: Rosie Woodall
	10.30 Sung Eucharist	Celebrant & Preacher: Rosie Woodall
	18.30 Choral Evensong	Preacher: Angela Jagger
25 Thursday	10.15 Holy Communion	Celebrant: Rosie Woodall
28 Sunday	PATRONAL FESTIVAL	
	08.30 Holy Communion	Celebrant: The Vicar
	10.30 Sung Eucharist	Celebrant & Preacher: The Vicar
	18.30 Choral Evensong	Preacher: The Vicar

AUGUST

1 Thursday	10.15 Holy Communion	Celebrant: The Vicar
4 Sunday	7th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	
	08.30 Holy Communion (BCP)	Celebrant: The Vicar
	10.30 Sung Eucharist	Celebrant & Preacher: The Vicar
	18.30 Choral Evensong	Preacher: Angela Jagger
8 Thursday	10.15 Holy Communion	Celebrant: Jane Sharp
11 Sunday	8th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	
	08.30 Holy Communion	Celebrant: The Vicar
	10.30 Sung Eucharist	Celebrant & Preacher: Jane Sharp
	18.30 Choral Evensong	Preacher: The Vicar
15 Thursday	10.15 Holy Communion	Celebrant: The Vicar
18 Sunday	9th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	
	08.30 Holy Communion	Celebrant: The Vicar
	10.30 Sung Eucharist	Celebrant & Preacher: The Vicar
	18.39 Choral Evensong	Preacher: The Vicar
22 Thursday	10.15 Holy Communion	Celebrant: Jane Sharp
25 Sunday	10th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	
	08:30 Holy Communion	Celebrant: Jane Sharp
	10.30 Sung Eucharist	Celebrant: Jane Sharp Preacher: Pam Howe
	18.30 Choral Evensong	Preacher: TBC
29 Thursday	10.15 Sung Eucharist	Celebrant: The Vicar

Commemorative Flowers



June

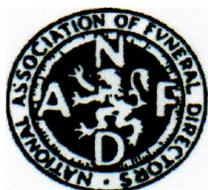
- 2 Chancel Steps – donated by Simon Edwards in memory of his mother Betty Edwards
- 9 Chancel Steps – donated by the family in memory of Joan, Hugh & Jonathan Standing Smith
- 16 Chancel Steps – donated by April Rule in memory of her father Robert Burton
Altar Frontal – donated by the Finn family in memory of Vera & Verrall Clark
- 23 Chancel Steps – donated by Joan Thomas in memory of John
- 30 Chancel Steps – donated by Jan Geere in memory of her parents Frank & Gwen Potter

July

- 7 Chancel Steps – donated by Peter Toft & Gillian Saunders in memory of their parents Bernard & Dorothy Toft
- 14 Chancel Steps – donated by Julia Warner in memory of Jack Gollan & Will Warner
- 21 Chancel Steps – donated by Pauline Hannaford
- 28 Patronal Festival

August

- 4 Chancel Steps – donated by David & Sarah Clark in grateful memory of Kathleen & Bernard Clark & George Hayter
- 11 Chancel Steps – donated by Michael Bull in memory of his mother
- 18 Chancel Steps – donated by Paul & Tricia Dean remembering with affection their family's long association with the Church
- 25 Chancel Steps – donated by Michael Molloy in memory of his parents Michael & Hilda Molloy
Altar Frontal – donated by the Simpson family in memory of Geoffrey



A C James & Son
INDEPENDENT FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS
9 Biddulph Street
Leicester LE2 1BH
24-Hour service Tel: 0116 254 2900

What's on ...

Sundays	Sunday Club in school term time Contact: Jo Stapleton	10.30	Hall
Sunday and Thursdays	Coffee Organiser: Elizabeth Turner		Hall
Thursdays	St James's Singers Director: Michael Rule	19.30 alternate Thursdays	Ashman Music Room
	Beavers, Cubs and Scouts Leaders: Tony and Alison Hurst 0116 210 2958	17.30 – 19.30	Undercroft
Fridays	Boys' and Girls' Choir Practice Full Choir Practice Director: Matthew Haynes	18.00 19.30	Ashman Music Room
Saturdays	Stop-by Project for the homeless Coordinator: Salma Ravat Contact via Church Office	11.00 – 13.00	Undercroft

Who's who ...

Churchwardens	Simon Edwards	Phil Jones
Deputy Wardens	Janet Burton Paul Jenkins	David Kibert April Rule
PCC Secretary	Lin Mawer	pcc.secretary@stjamesthegreater.org.uk
Church Administrator	Annabel Cowley	office@stjamesthegreater.org.uk
Treasurer	David Sharman	office@stjamesthegreater.org.uk
Director of Music	Matthew Haynes	dom@stjamesthegreater.org.uk
Organist and Associate Director of Music	Michael Rule	organist@stjamesthegreater.org.uk
Flower Guild Coordinator	Julia Walker	juliabentom350@outlook.com
Child Protection Officer	Vicky Roe	pastoral.assistant@stjamesthegreater.org.uk 0116 255 2108
Head Server	Emma-Jane Hunt	ej_finn00@hotmail.com
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