



The Shell



The Magazine of St James the Greater, Leicester

Summer 2022

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8.30 am Holy Communion 10.30 am Choral Eucharist
6.30 pm Choral Evensong & Sermon

MIDWEEK

MORNING PRAYER

9 am Tuesday-Friday

COMPLINE ON ZOOM

9 pm Wednesdays - see weekly sheet for links and codes

HOLY COMMUNION

10.30 am Thursdays

See Calendar for variations and details of special services

MINISTRY TEAM

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Associate Non-Stipendiary Priest

Revd. Jane Sharp

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Dr. Angela Jagger BA PhD

Sheila Roberts MA

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Sacristan

Miss Vicky Roe B.Phil..Ed. MA

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Please send items for the next edition by Friday 5th August 2022
to Dr. Paul Jenkins at: editor@stjamesthegreater.org.uk

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From the Editor's Desk



The Vicar started his sermon on Sunday morning 15th May with the question, 'How do you tell if someone has run a marathon?' The answer is, 'Do nothing and they will tell you.' It's the same problem with musicians, they like to talk about the last big performance they have just done. Sorry about this, but I am going to write about the last performance I have just done with the other members of the University of Leicester String Quartet. This was at 2-00 pm on Good Friday this year at St. James the Greater and we performed 'The Seven Last Words' by Haydn in a devotional service for Good Friday. The music was accompanied by wonderful poems by Sylvia Sands, chosen by David and Sarah Clark a few years ago. Last year's event was on-line, and so we were delighted to perform in person to an audience this year. Our leader was Simon Chalk, a professional violinist and conductor based in Birmingham. The second violinist was Chris Roberts, a geology graduate of the University of Leicester, who now works as an engineer on the HS2 project and lives in Windsor. Our viola player, Kaushik, is a first year computer science student at the University, and I was the cellist.

String quartet music of the classical period usually consists of four movements; fast, slow, a minuet and fast and lively to finish. 'The Seven Last Words' is seven slow movements, and many players of string quartets find it very strange. Indeed, the famous critic, Hans Keller, once said that the 7LW is not a string quartet at all. What Haydn does in the seven slow movements is perfectly express the emotions of the Seven Last Words of Christ from the cross. As a result of this, the players in the group must feel the spiritual significance of Good Friday and appreciate the genius of Haydn in communicating that significance. This year among our players, Simon is Catholic, Chris is a Methodist, Kaushik is Hindu and I am Anglican. I think we got the point of Good Friday and experienced the emotions of the music and the poems.

We have played 'The Seven Last Words' in the University Chaplaincy, St. Margaret's Church, Leicester Cathedral, Bishop Street Methodist Church, Clarendon Park Congregational Church and St. Stephen's United Reformed Church on New Walk. Every time the group is different, and the presentation of the denominations is different. One of the most interesting parts of my job, as Honorary Director of Music at the University, is to see the new student musicians who arrive in Leicester each October. This year, it has been a pleasure to give our viola player, Kaushik, the opportunity to perform and at the very highest level we can achieve in 'The Seven Last Words' and the 'Trout' Quintet.

Unlike many other composers who endured a life of suffering, Haydn was a happy man. It is often said that listening to the music of Haydn makes one want to get up in the morning! He invented the String Quartet and the Symphony for orchestra, as well composing 'The Creation', one of the best loved Oratorios in music, and writing prolifically for the keyboard.

Haydn did not come from a wealthy family and his musical talent was discovered and nurtured during his youth as a choir boy for nine years at St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna.

We are all delighted with the appointment of Emma Trounson as our new Director of Music here at St. James. I wish her all the best in recruiting new singers for the choir and, who knows, we might discover the next Haydn.

The Vicar writes ...



“We are an Easter people, and ‘Alleluia’ is our song.”

Stepping out to welcome the congregation on Easter day I found myself almost overcome with emotion. It could have been partly the side-effect of having been up since before 5.30 that morning, to be ready for kindling the Easter fire at dawn. But it was mostly the realization that, for the first time in three years, we were really here. We were able to gather together to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. After losing two Easter celebrations to lockdown, I suddenly realized quite how much I had missed being together to celebrate the triumph of love over death.

Another factor was that it had been a fulfilling Lent and Holy Week. Compline, sung by the choir each Wednesday in Lent, always a moving service, had been well attended, and the choir in particular turned out in force. In Holy Week itself, ordinary “said” compline had been equally well supported, including with people new to St James every day, most likely as a result of the “Easter Cards” detailing our services distributed to the parish by helpful volunteers.

Then on Maundy Thursday, we had got to play at being the cathedral, hosting the Chrism Eucharist, with three bishops, the dean, both archdeacons and over a hundred clergy and other ministers from all across the diocese. At this service the holy oils used in anointing the sick, at baptisms and confirmations in the coming year are blessed, and the ministers renew their ordination vows. Again, as this was the first “in person” service since the pandemic, it was particularly moving, and St James worked wonderfully as a venue.

The trend of new attenders continued through the services on Good Friday, and even at 6 am on Easter Day nearly twenty people greeted the dawn as we lit the Easter fire, kindled the Pascal Candle, and processed into church for the first Eucharist of Easter, then coffee and croissant! The good numbers at 10.30, the exuberant joy of the Hallelujah chorus, the refreshments in the sunshine outside church, all topped off with a wonderful Festal Evensong made it for me at least, a wonderful day.

This is all a long-winded way of saying it has been a good Easter, and I hope you were able to be part of it in some way. But it is also a way of reasserting the words of John Paul II, based on Augustine, quoted above: We are and Easter people, and “Alleluia” is our song. Easter is not just another festival, the commercially poor relation to Christmas. Easter is the core of our identity. We are Christians, and indeed there is such a thing as a “Christian” only because the first followers of Jesus experienced his triumph over death.

That means we should have hope – not in the “finger-crossed” sense, but with a confidence, knowing that whilst battles may lie ahead, the war is already won. The metaphor is a raw one at the moment, as war rages within Europe, so perhaps it is worth saying that our hope and Easter joy cannot make us blind to the suffering of others. Even within the country many of us are facing extreme financial pressures, not to mention the ongoing effects of the pandemic.

Nonetheless, I want to conclude on this note of hope. Many people joined us to celebrate Easter, making it a great joy. As you will read elsewhere, we have at long last appointed a new Director of Music, and see great things ahead for the musical worship of this church. A new youth group, based on young member of the choir has started. Congregational numbers continue to bounce back. I hope your Easter had at least some of this hope and joy, and pray that you may find it increasing each day.

Away Day on Saturday 26th February 2022 - Reflections

The day was divided into three equal parts, looking at the past couple of years, the desired future, and how we might get there. Not surprisingly people had most to say about what they had already experienced, and found it harder to envisage both where we might be in 4 years, and the practical steps to getting there. Therefore, building on these discussions we plan to have another day before too long to work on our vision and plans.

Reflections on the Away Day

by **Caroline Beardsmore**

The Away Day was an opportunity to come together and consider our life at St James the Greater.

Beginning with a service of Holy Communion was important because what we do together should be based in worship and prayer. Moving into the hall for the main activities meant that coffee was available, and we are grateful to those who provided it. There was a bit of a struggle to get hold of coffee after the lunchbreak; a hiccup that could be easily remedied at future gatherings.

I was pleased that there were some fresh faces at the Away Day and excellent that we could hear from some of them. Although others sitting round the same table as me had good points to make in our discussions, these were all people I have known for some time and mixing people up for the discussion groups would have improved the cross-fertilisation of ideas and helped to strengthen bonds between people. Perhaps this highlights how we have been starved of opportunities to come together for fellowship over the past couple of years.

The greater part of the Away Day focussed on what we had come through (the past, mainly relating to the pandemic) and where we find ourselves now. We talked about how different people have different thresholds for returning to attending church services, and reasons for staying away or returning. While a review of the recent past and current situation is important, regrettably this did not leave much time for considering the future. The list of possible activities or events that was available on each table included several 'old staples', familiar to anyone involved in church life over the years. My view is that, while certain things have had their day, others have stood the test of time and could be a means of (i) building up our common life, (ii) welcoming any newcomers into the wider community of St James, and (iii) (possibly) fund-raising. Following the recent PCC meeting, some of the ideas are going to be implemented.

I regard the Away Day as a starting-point rather than an end in itself. One of the images Andrew showed in a presentation was of gardens, and we could see our community as a garden, with ourselves as both garden and gardeners. Are we a garden full of stony ground, so nothing can really flourish? Or are we full of weeds, choking healthy, fruitful spiritual growth? Or do we constitute a garden ready to flourish, just needing tending and watering for good things to grow? I suspect that only time will tell.

The Parish Away Day – a reflection by Sheila Roberts

My reflection on the “Away Day,” which in February took place *at home* in St. James the Greater Church, was a more than welcome opportunity to meet together as a church community enabling us to listen to and discuss ideas related to our church life. This was particularly important as this event had, for various reasons, notably the pandemic, been postponed and rearranged so many times. The day began with a celebration of the Eucharist in church, allowing us all to gather as the faith community to centre ourselves in prayer.

From the quietness of church, we moved into the hall where we socialised for a while over coffee and biscuits before we moved into groups seated at tables to listen as Andrew outlined the day ahead.

Before the Away Day, Andrew had recommended that we should read Sam Wells’ book “A Future That’s Bigger Than the Past”, which sets out a vision for large or small churches as a toolkit for enabling the growth of God’s Kingdom. But in recognition that before any such plans for *our* future can be successfully implemented, it was felt that we did need to make our starting point a consideration of what had already been well established, particularly by way of **our strong heritage and tradition** relating to liturgy and music here at St. James. I suppose I would put it crudely as describing this self-examination, *as they often say in the TV programme Dragon’s Den*, “what is *our* unique selling point – our “*u.s.p?*” But in looking at our past, it was equally important to come to terms with where we *now* find ourselves, after the uncertainties and trauma of the past two years characterised chiefly by the pandemic.

Andrew led the day using informative starting points for discussion groups, which proved really helpful in extending the breadth of ideas being presented. This allowed, for those present, an opportunity for creating space in articulating an honest and open sharing in furthering the outcomes of the day.

We spent much of the day reflecting on the past, but this was important, because we do need to remind ourselves of the firm foundations that we can **still build on to move us forward in confidence and hope**. Alongside this, we have the positive aspects, which through necessity, we have developed over recent months, such as: new house groups, weekly Compline, and streamed services. These show that we can be constructive and creative, even when faced with what were the constraints and restrictions imposed by not being able to gather face to face.

The Away Day proved to be a real opportunity to provide us with a good starting point, allowing us to lay down a foundation on which we can build on what we have identified as our strengths, and now follow up on suggestions brought out in the discussions. Above all, it enabled us to rebuild our relationships with each other and recognise what has become important to us and to the life of our church. We must now keep up a momentum and follow through with our aspirations to develop them further for ourselves, and **as a priority**, to serve others within the wider community bringing the message of hope in God’s Kingdom to all.

It is my prayer that we all now take on the responsibility of establishing achievable plans, for a strong vision and purpose for ourselves and for those who follow after we ourselves have moved on. May we continue to listen to what God is calling **us to do** in the power of His Spirit in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

New Director of Music Appointed

We're delighted to announce that after a long search we have appointed a new Director of Music for our wonderful choir.

Emma Trounson will be joining us in mid-June, and here's a brief introduction:

"I'm very much looking forward to joining the team at St James the Greater and continuing the fantastic choral tradition for which the church is well known. I am currently Director of Music at All Saints with Holy Trinity, Loughborough, running the Junior, Youth and Adult choirs, Music Group and musical outreach projects. Although I will be leaving All Saints to take up the position at St James, I will continue in my roles as Musical Director of Fosse Singers, Semper Singers, Corah (female vocal ensemble) and SoundCafe Choir (for homeless and vulnerably housed people).



I am a solo and choral soprano and have enjoyed television and radio appearances. I studied at the University of Bristol and the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama for an MA in Choral Conducting. I live in Anstey with my husband Mark who is also a professional musician and our 17 month old son Henry - we are all rugby fans and have season tickets for Leicester Tigers. We can't wait to meet everyone!"

Quoting Paul Bible Quiz

Finish each of these verses with one word.

1. "The righteous will live by _____." Romans 1:17
2. "The message of the cross is _____ to those who are perishing."
1 Corinthians 1:18
3. "For I am not ashamed of the _____." Romans 1:16
4. "I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him
_____." 1 Corinthians 2:2
5. "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's _____
lives in you?" 1 Corinthians 3:16
6. "We are _____ for Christ." 1 Corinthians 4:10
7. "Do not know that your _____ are temples of the Holy Spirit?"
1 Corinthians 6:19
8. "Love is _____, love is kind." 1 Corinthians 13:4
9. "When I became a man, I put the ways of _____ behind me."
1 Corinthians 13:11
10. "If Christ had not been raised, your faith is _____."
1 Corinthians 15:17

Answers in the Bible (and on page 15).

Source: *Our Daily Bread Bible Word Search and Activity Book*
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Musical Memories by Vicky Roe

On Palm Sunday, 10th April, the choir sang 'Ave Verum Corpus' by Edward Elgar as the anthem during Communion. Their sensitive rendition reminded me of a special occasion when I had sung that anthem.

In late 1995, I was part of a large choir brought together by the BBC for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. As well as touring and visiting the historic sites, we were rehearsing and recording programmes for television's 'Songs of Praise', Radio 4 'Daily Service' and broadcasted Sunday Morning Worship live from St. George's Anglican Cathedral in Jerusalem, at which the Bishop gave the sermon.

The music chosen for the programmes related to the sites at which they were recorded. After a long day of visits, rehearsals and an early evening meal, we went to the Church of All Nations in the Garden of Gethsemane to record a service there. We were only allowed in after all the visitors had left, so the church was hot and stuffy at the end of the day.

The church is built over the Rock of the Agony, which tradition holds to be the place where Jesus prayed on the night before his arrest. The hymns chosen for the service were 'Praise to the Holiest in the height' and 'God is Love'. The anthem was Elgar's 'Ave Verum Corpus' in an English translation, 'Jesu, Word of God Incarnate'.

Interior of the Church of All Nations in the Garden of Gethsemane in Jerusalem.

Inside the church in front of the main altar is the traditional Rock of Agony upon which Jesus prayed the night before His arrest.

The rock is surrounded by a crown of thorns of wrought iron. Above the altar is a painting depicting the angel comforting Jesus.



Musical Memories by Vicky Roe ...

Continued

The BBC producers liked to do the recording 'as live' in one take, if possible, only re-recording small sections afterwards, if necessary. Perhaps due to tiredness at the end of a long day and the heat inside the building, the rehearsal was not going well. The conductor decided that more practice was not going to make an improvement, so told us to have a break and go outside to get some fresh air, before returning to do the recording.

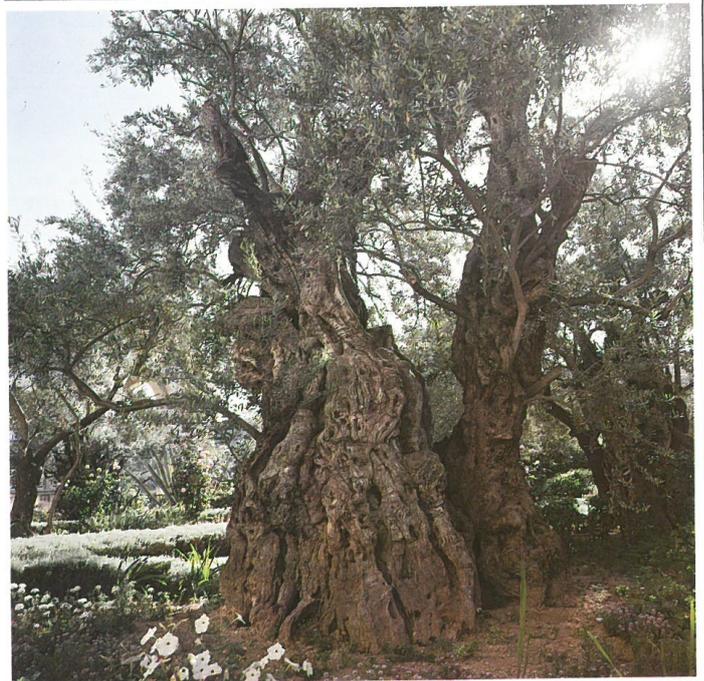
We went out of the stuffy church into the cool night air in the Garden of Gethsemane.

The ancient olive trees were visible against the dark sky. The floodlit walls of Jerusalem seemed close enough to touch across the Kidron Valley between the garden and the city.

As we walked around the garden outside the church, the reality of where we were, what had happened there 2,000 years ago and the momentous event our service commemorated became very real to us.

We reassembled inside the church and began the service with a fresh focus and intensity, looking at the Rock of the Agony before us, as well as the conductor. The singing was the best it had ever been, the anthem was sung with real feeling and the recording was done in one take.

Now, when I hear Elgar's 'Ave Verum Corpus' being sung, I am taken back in my imagination to the Church of All Nations and that evening service with the BBC.



The Church of All Nations is also called the Basilica of the Agony.

The present church was built in the early 1920s with contributions from twelve nations.

It was built on the ruins of Byzantine and Crusader churches.



H₂O by Paul Jenkins

'H₂O the molecule that made us' was the title of a thought-provoking four-part TV series on the importance of water to the whole world. As part of my job as Senior Lecturer in Chemistry, I visited many primary schools in the city to give a talk on gases, liquids and solids. This article is part of that presentation where I got the pupils to participate as water molecules.

In picture 1 we see Lily and Lauren as hydrogen atoms and Kim as the oxygen atom in a molecule of water. These atoms are bonded together to make the water molecule as shown in the second picture of Kaushik, Rapha and Mimi.



Picture 1:



Picture 2:

When water is a gas, as in steam or water vapour, the molecules are free to move around and fill the available space. We can see this in pictures 3 and 4 where the water molecules are rising upwards in the room.



Picture 3:



Picture 4:

H₂O by Paul Jenkins ... continued

When we cool down the water vapour, we get water as a liquid and now the molecules associate with each other, and they are not as free as in the vapour (picture 5). Liquid water now flows around the room and fills the space, but from the floor to a specific level (picture 6). Those of you reading this who are chemistry experts will realise that the exact picture of how the molecules associate is not quite right in this simple explanation, but please bear with me.



Picture 5:



Picture 6:

Now we come to solid water or ice. The water molecules are associated together in the ice crystal, which we know from our Christmas decoration, has six corners. In the solid, the water molecules have a lot less freedom (picture 7) and a very special thing happens to the bonds between the water molecules - they stretch out as shown in picture 8. The result of this is that ice is less dense than water and ice floats on water.



Picture 7:



Picture 8:

If ice did not float on water in winter the pond would freeze from the bottom upwards and so life in the pond would die. Clearly this property of water is of great importance.

You might say 'Why is this story in The Shell, the magazine of St James the Greater Church?' This is a good question. It leads on to another question, 'What is a scientist doing in Church, does he believe all that impossible stuff?' Well, when I think about water and its vital role in all life, I am filled with a sense of wonder at how the molecular properties of H₂O make life possible. As the poet William Blake wrote in 'Auguries of Innocence.';:

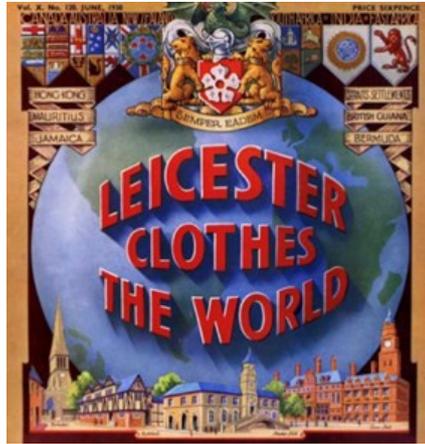
To see a World in a Grain of Sand / And a Heaven in a Wild Flower,
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand / And Eternity in an hour.

It is indeed a wonderful world. I hope I don't get drummed out of St James as a heretic after Evensong one Sunday evening in June.

Many thanks to Lily, Kim, Lauren, Kaushik, Rafa and Mimi for being water molecules and for being enthusiastic members of the University of Leicester Orchestra.

Leicester Clothed the World - Thomas Woolley

The front cover of the Leicester and County Chamber of Commerce Monthly from June 1938 read, "Leicester Clothes the World."



Hosiery (the production of many forms of clothing) began from small beginnings. Early in the 19th century clothing was made at home by workers in a cottage industry. By the end of the 20th century, clothing factories were the main industries of Leicester. The Leicester companies Corah, Wolsey, British United Shoe and the British Shoe Corporation were known throughout the world. This success was underpinned by the engineering firms Bentley and Stibbe, who produced innovations in the automation machinery used in the factories.

The Hosiery firm "White & Smith" was founded at Shepshed in 1861 by Thomas Whyte. He was joined by Thomas Smith just before the turn of the century. In 1906 they bought premises from "Henry Cotton" which would be their home for the next 100 years.

Thomas Smith's son-in-law George Woolley joined the firm in the early 1920's and soon made his mark by inventing a machine to make Diamond Patterned Fabric, replacing the traditional hand machines known as Griswolds.

Here we see the diamond patterned fabric produced on George Woolley's new machine.



Leicester Clothed the World ... continued

The fabric was then transferred onto the foot, which was knitted on a single cylinder open top machine. The two components were then knitted together leaving an open toe, which then had to be linked by hand.



The ribbed top was then knitted on a separate flat frame, then linked to the remaining part of the leg.



The final stage in the process was the joining of the fabric together by hand to produce a seam



Who would have thought the humble sock would require such human ingenuity to produce on a large scale. George Wooley's invention soon brought orders from across the globe, but particularly from the USA, where in 1937, the fashion for "Argyll" (i.e. diamond patterned) socks was all the rage. The demand was so great that "Whyte & Smith" were shipping goods throughout the war, thereby earning vital dollars. Further innovations in machinery by George Wooley continued to advance the firm's reputation, but by the time of his death in 1968, trouble was brewing in the form of cheap imports.

Thomas Woolley took control of the business in 1985 and set about creating Whyte & Smith as a brand with the express purpose of selling to the top end of the retail trade. Building on the firm's heritage and utilising new electronic machinery, allied to the best yarns and designs, the Whyte & Smith brand was to be found in Liberty, Selfridges and Harrods as well as other top retailers across the globe.

Here are some examples of intricate designs made using electronic machinery.



However, by the end of the century, the impact of imported hosiery was such that, along with nearly all the great names in the industry, the proud firm of Whyte & Smith was forced to close.

Owen Shepherd Tribute

given at his Thanksgiving Service in St. Ursula's Chapel, Wyggeston's Hospital, Leicester on 31st March 2022 by his relative Alison Foster.



Owen Eugene Shepherd was born on the 23rd of July 1928 in Hucknall, a mining town in North Nottinghamshire to Millie Fletcher and Eugene, known as Gene, Shepherd. He was one of three children, and had a brother, Calvin, who sadly died in the 1950s, and a sister, Pat.

He described his childhood as poverty stricken, as he was growing up during the Great Depression of the 1930s. The only available work was in several local coal mines, and he had memories of queuing at the dole office with his father, and on Fridays at the soup kitchen, with an enamel miners flask. He recalled that Hucknall always seemed a desolate and dirty place as a child. Owen was one of the children who used to follow the six o'clock horses and carts that were used to transport the miners to work, complete with bucket and shovel to collect the manure for the garden, so he could earn a penny from his grandfather.

Owen's paternal grandfather, Grandpa Shepherd, was one of the founding members of the Church Army. His family used to stand in the marketplace, listening to the preachers on a Sunday, flanked by black-shirted fascists shouting abuse on one side, and communists waving red flags and shouting back on the other. This is likely to have been around 1933 when Owen was only 5 years old and must have been frightening for a young child.

Owen's maternal grandfather, Grandpa Fletcher, was a church organist in Hucknall. He used to give lessons to, amongst others, Eric Coates, the composer of the Dam Busters March.

Owen's father, Gene, seemed determined to leave Hucknall and cycled to Leicester, where he worked as a trainee-knitter at two firms, Corah's and at a hosiery firm - T.H. Downing Ltd. This raised enough cash for the family to move down to Leicester, where fortunes changed and both parents got jobs, enabling the family to take holidays. Uncle Gene was eventually in charge of machine maintenance at Corah's - a very important role to keep the machines running - as ever, time is money! They were a very hospitable family, often taking Owen's younger cousins, Pam & Gill, and Alwyn (my Dad) on holiday to the South Coast with them. The cousins would also go to stay in Leicester and Gill recalls Auntie Millie being very strict about eating - if you didn't eat all of your dinner, you didn't get any pudding, because you turned the plates over! Gill remembers the much older Owen (well 8 years is a lot older when you're a child), taking them on adventures through the fields and always looking after them. Alwyn also remembers Uncle Gene having the first car in the family, a Swallow, which was a real treat to be driven in.

Owen Shepherd Tribute

... Continued



The family then moved to Manor Lane, Thurmaston, to a smallholding where they had chickens, a particularly feisty cockerel, and a goat. Pat remembers that her mother, Millie, was the only one that the cockerel would allow to feed him and the chickens. However, one day, Millie was away, and Pat and Owen were tasked with feeding them. The cockerel was having none of it and wouldn't let them in the pen. So, Owen came up with a plan. He found some rope and made a lasso, then proceeded to climb up the fence. After several attempts, he managed to lasso the cockerel and tie it to the fence so that they could go in and feed the chickens safely! He obviously had some natural animal management skills as Owen was also the only one that the family's goat would allow to milk it! Maybe he missed his vocation in the farming fraternity.

Initially, the family lived next door to the Peatfield family in Doncaster Road, so in April 1937, when he was 8 years old, Owen became a chorister at St Alban's church where Mr Peatfield was the Church Warden. Owen was to continue this connection with St. Alban's (now called the Church of the Resurrection) and singing in the choir for much of the rest of his life. During the 2nd World War, Owen left school aged 14 and started work in the diocesan registry. There, Owen was able to see the original files relating to the formation of the new Diocese of Leicester and to the beginning of the parish of St. Albans. The registrar, Mr. William Frierson, was a very strict employer who frowned at even the slightest hint of laughter in the office, which must have been difficult for Owen, and staff were allowed only one week's holiday a year.

Owen did his National Service with the RAF where he was a wireless operator, and he was stationed at RAF Hucknall. This was very handy as he was able to visit family and my grandparents', his Auntie Elsie and Uncle Walter's chip shop for home-made pie & chips. He still made frequent weekend visits to St Alban's, keeping up his musical interests as a chorister, and he was also a drummer in an RAF band.

St. Alban's was a very important place to Owen. He helped to form the very successful St Alban's youth fellowship and was secretary of the PCC for 22 years, churchwarden for 17 years and treasurer of the existing Centre for some 10 years. He played a key role in the plans to develop the St. Alban's centre, particularly in getting funding and having the plans approved by the appropriate authorities. He said this couldn't have been done without so much enthusiasm from the congregation and from his fellow warden, Clarence Taylor. He also felt that God was working with them in this venture that they knew so little about. When the then organist Alban Peatfield left to become a lay reader, Owen agreed to play the organ for a few weeks. That was in 1967. He played the organ then, whenever required, for the next fifty or so years. He also helped out at St. Gabriel's and St. Michael's when they were short of an organist.

Owen Shepherd Tribute

... Continued



Owen was a true traditionalist and a great lover of the chanting of Psalms and had a large collection of church music CDs. He was also fond of the sung services of Evensong and Compline. He particularly enjoyed attending Evensong at St. James the Greater. He was, at one time, a stern critic of modern hymns, much preferring the more traditional ones. But as times changed, he did come to appreciate them a lot more.

Music was a passion of his throughout his life and he truly loved playing the organ. He played the organ for my sister, Michelle's wedding in 1997. He also came to my 40th birthday celebrations in 2007 and stayed, despite there being a live 18-piece swing band, which wouldn't have been his favourite!

After his National Service, Owen joined the soft finishing company of Austin Berridge Ltd where he stayed for the rest of his working life, eventually becoming the firm's managing director. Even when he had officially retired, he still worked in the firm for three days a week, helping them out. In 1960, he gave his cousin, Gill and Trevor curtains and cords as a wedding present, some of which she still has today!

On the 6th March 2006, Owen moved into William House at Wyggestons, where he became a much loved resident, both by staff and other residents. He was happy to support any events that were taking place and would be one of the first to sign up for trips or holidays.

He had his own, immaculately tidy, flat, whilst being able to be close to his sister, Pat who had some health issues. He rarely went a day without seeing Pat, even talking to her through the window during the various lockdowns in the last couple of years. He attended St. Ursula's Chapel, where we are today, playing the organ here on two Sundays, and one evening a month.

Owen always retained his independence and was not afraid to travel. He made some close friends at church who were from Singapore. When they returned to Singapore, they generously paid for him to visit them out there and he happily went off on his own to Singapore "as you do"! They also gave him the keys to their central London flat for him to visit whenever he liked. But he didn't dare visit it without them being there, for fear of not being able to work the alarm system! I understand that when their daughters came to University in the UK, he kept in touch with them here too.

Owen Shepherd Tribute



... Continued

Owen was a true Gentleman. Always dressed impeccably. Always full of anecdotes and fun, with a can-do attitude. He was both interested in other people and interesting to talk to - a favourite at family gatherings and someone you would gravitate towards. Indeed, we were due to have one such family gathering for Pat's 90th Birthday in December last year, but sadly that was stopped by the Omicron surge.

He always had a huge grin, and was softly-spoken, which belied his quick wit and wry, cheeky sense of humour. He always saw the funny side in everything. He never had a bad word to say about anybody, you would never hear him moan or grumble, he always made the best of everything. He was kind, compassionate, caring and thoughtful. He was my Godfather and always sent me a card on my birthday. He used to walk into town daily, and when the distance became too much, he just went out and bought himself an electric scooter, so that he could still go out. Indeed, he would come back from his favourite trip out to Tesco and tell Jane, the warden, that he had just got a speeding ticket! Or he would tell her that he wasn't furloughed today, he was working from home!

Today's Thanksgiving ceremony is typical of Owen's no-fuss attitude. We are sad because he is gone, but happy that we had him for 93 years.

God Bless and God speed Uncle Owen.

The hymns chosen by Owen for his Thanksgiving Service were:

'Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown when thou camest to earth for me.'

'Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.'

'Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son.'

Quoting Paul Bible Quiz - Answers

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| 1. faith | 6. fools |
| 2. foolishness | 7. bodies |
| 3. gospel | 8. patient |
| 4. crucified | 9. childhood |
| 5. Spirit | 10. futile |

Calendar of Services and Events

See inside front cover for regular services pattern. Officiants given in the weekly sheet.

JUNE

5 Sunday	PENTECOST	08.30 BCP Holy Communion 18.30 Festal Evensong: Preacher – Bishop Saju of Loughborough
12 Sunday	TRINITY SUNDAY	
16 Thursday	CORPUS CHRISTI	10.30 Holy Communion
18 Saturday	LEICESTER BACH CHOIR	19.30 Concert
19 Sunday	TRINITY 1	
25 Saturday	QUIET DAY AT GAULBY CHURCH	10 am - 2 pm
	CHARNWOOD ORCHESTRA	19.30 Concert
26 Sunday	TRINITY 2	

JULY

3 Sunday	TRINITY 3 - ST. THOMAS	08.30 BCP Holy Communion
10 Sunday	TRINITY 4	
	KNIGHTON CHAMBER ORCHESTRA	15.00 Concert
17 Sunday	TRINITY 5	TRINITY 5
24 Sunday	TRINITY 6 ST. JAMES THE GREATER PATRONAL FESTIVAL	08.30 Holy Communion 10.30 Sung Eucharist 18.30 Festal Evensong
31 Sunday	TRINITY 7	

AUGUST

7 Sunday	TRINITY 8	08.30 BCP Holy Communion
14 Sunday	TRINITY 9 - BVM	
21 Sunday	TRINITY 10	
28 Sunday	TRINITY 11	



St. James the Greater Commemorative Flowers Summer 2022

5 June

Simon Edwards in memory of his Mother

12 June

The Finn & Hunt Family in memory of Vera & Verrall Clark

19 June

April Rule in memory of Robert Burton her Father

26 June

Angela Stray in memory of her parents

3 July

Peter Toft & Gillian Saunders in memory of Bernard & Dorothy Toft

10 July

Julia Warner

17 July

Margaret Damant & Family in memory of George Isaac Damant wonderful husband and Father

24 July

Patronal Festival

31 July

Pauline Hannaford in memory of her son Dean

7 August

David & Sarah Clark in grateful memory of Kathleen & Bernard Clark & Anne & Gorge Hayter

14 August

Mike Bull in memory of his Mother

21 August

Barbara Raven in memory of John Raven

28 August

Michael Molloy in memory of Michael & Hilda Molloy

What's on ...

Sundays	Coffee after Eucharist Organiser: Liz Turner	11.30	Church
Thursdays	Coffee after Eucharist Organiser: Liz Turner	11.00	Church
Thursdays	St James's Singers Director: Michael Rule	19.30 alternate Thursdays	Ashman Music Room
Fridays	Boys' and Girls' Choir Practice Full Choir Practice Director: Mike Rule	18.00 19.30	Ashman Music Room

Who's who ...

Churchwardens	Simon Edwards MBE April Rule	fabric@stjamesthegreater.org.uk
Deputy Wardens	Paul Jenkins Janet Burton	
PCC Secretary	Jennifer Clegg	pcc.secretary@stjamesthegreater.org.uk
Church Administrator		office@stjamesthegreater.org.uk
Treasurer		treasurer@stjamesthegreater.org.uk
Acting Director of Music	Michael Rule	dom@stjamesthegreater.org.uk
Acting Assistant Organist	Guy Steed	
Flower Guild Coordinator	Julia Walker	juliabentom350@outlook.com
Head Server	William Woolley	servers@stjamesthegreater.org.uk
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Vicky Roe	pastoral.assistant@stjamesthegreater.org.uk 0116 255 2108
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