

ST MARY THE VIRGIN & ALL SOULS  
BULWELL PARISH MAGAZINE

**THE HILL**

AUGUST 2021      Vol. 150   No 8



St Mary's Parish Church, Bulwell

## YOUR VICAR WRITES



Many folk have found purpose and peace tending their gardens or vegetable patches throughout the lockdowns.

There was a man who had an allotment. Once it had been rough, unsightly, weed-infested ground, but he had laboured and toiled until it bore the loveliest flowers and the largest vegetables.

A pious friend was being shown over the allotment. He naturally commented on the beauty of the flowers and the excellence of the vegetables. Then he said, “Yes. It is wonderful what God can do with a piece of ground isn’t it?”

“Yes,” said the man who had toiled in the sweat of his brow over the allotment, “but you should have seen this piece of ground when God had it to himself!”

All great things come from the combination of God’s help and human toil. A Christian must pray and must then do everything possible to make the prayer come true.

May your prayers bear much fruit this month.

God bless you

Fr Andrew

*“And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.” Luke 11: 9*

## REFLECTION FOR AUGUST



As we come out of lockdown, but also, being cautious at the same time, we are in the season of creation at its best with flowers and soft fruits. We have also had the defeat in Euro 2020 Football, which has brought the best and worst of our society with it, abject racism by those who think that it is ok to bring someone down, because of who they are.

At Bulwell St. Mary's Primary School, we have been looking at courage as they face all sorts of issues with learning over the past year and we must also remember the teachers and the parents. It is having the courage in moving forward, coming out into some sort of normality is not going to be easy for many.

In the Bible we see many times changes happen famine and floods and plagues, but in all things, God is there with his people and as we come out of this past 18 months it is to God we turn for our faith on our journey. As we in St. Mary's move into the new normal may God be with us on journey as we seek to bring that love into our community.

Finally, thank you for the lovely surprise marking my 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of being priested the cake and bucks fizz was lovely.

## FLOWER ROTA 2021 - 2022

I have started a new flower rota for 2021 – 2022. A copy of this may be found on the notice board at the back of church. You may have an anniversary, a birthday, wish to remember someone special or just enjoy seeing beautiful flowers in church. If would like to contribute towards the cost of a display on the altar, please place your name beside the date of your choice (or the nearest one available).

*Thank you - Maureen Pat*

## **RELAXATION OF CORONAVIRUS RESTRICTONS**

The Church believes that everyone is known and loved individually by God and that, as members of the Body of Christ, we are called to be responsible to and for one another, respecting the more vulnerable whose suffering is our suffering (1 Cor 12:12-27). The Government's move to Step 4 on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July means that we are being asked to take even more personal responsibility regarding coronavirus than when we were compelled to adhere to the Government's restrictions. The restrictions have been, by necessity, blunt instruments and, for some people, have seemed unnecessary or overly restrictive. For other people, the easing of restrictions seemed to bring additional risk to themselves, or those they love, who have remained vulnerable to the virus.

As a church, over the past year or so we have been incredibly careful to follow the Government and Church of England advice, and also to look out for one another, pray for one another, and to provide opportunities for worship and prayer (both in person and online) as far as the restrictions have allowed us. Thank you everybody, including St Mary's Prayer Partners, for playing your part in this - it is appreciated.

St Mary's now needs to move forward without these legal restrictions and decide how best to manage any risk to ourselves and others. Following the latest Government and Church of England advice, and after consultation with our Church Wardens, Associate Minister and Licensed Lay Ministers, I issue the following guidance re: easing our transition back towards pre-pandemic ways of worshipping whilst showing due care and consideration for others:

- From Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July it will no longer be a legal requirement to wear a face covering. However, the Government expects and recommends that people in enclosed settings protect themselves and others. We request, please, that people aged over 12 who enter into the church building continue wear a face covering, unless they are exempt, or are leading an aspect of worship from the front.
- From Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July it will no longer be legally required to display or ask people to register for NHS Test and Trace. However, the Government is asking that venues continue to ask people to register as it continues to form one of the main ways of the NHS to identify people who may have been exposed to coronavirus. Please continue to use the NHS Track & Trace QR Code whenever you enter the church building or sign in on the forms provided if you cannot use that system. Please remember to bring a pen with you.
- The doors to the South Porch will continue to be left open during services to increase ventilation in the building.
- Please continue to use the hand sanitiser as you enter and leave the church building.
- Please sit only on pews marked with a green tick to ensure that some social distancing is still in place. The upper limit on the size of any congregation, at any service, will be 65 people.
- The removal of soft furnishings remains in place so, if you need a cushion, please bring one with you and take it back home with you.
  - The opportunity to light votive candles remains in place. Please remember to bring your own lighter or matches.
  - The toilets are open and are being cleaned regularly. Hand soap and hand sanitiser is available, as are electric hand dryers.

- We can now all sing indoors. We can revert to using the service books and hymn books, which will be quarantined for a minimum of 48 hours between each use. Due to popular demand (!) we will continue to sing the closing hymn outside during the summer months.
- The Peace will continue to be shared socially distanced, without close contact or touching. Processions will continue to be kept to a minimum, and collections will remain via the plates at the front and back of church (or via our church websites).
- The Common Cup may now be shared but, given the continued potential risk to health, Holy Communion will continue to be administered as it is at present; with the option to receive the elements either in one kind, or both kinds via the priest intincting. The use of hand sanitiser is to continue.
- Our 10am Service on Sunday will continue to follow a 'mixed-mode' approach, being both in church and online. Refreshments will continue to be available to enjoy outside after the 10am Service.
- The lifting of legislation means that numbers at baptisms, weddings and funerals are not mandated by law but potentially by the pre-pandemic capacity of the church building. However, there is an expectation by the Government that people act responsibly in indoor spaces, particularly where large numbers of people are involved. Where the incumbent feels a life event service will have additional risk because of the numbers of people involved he can ask the party to comply with additional measures (such as face coverings and a limited number of guests) for the safety of all those attending. Celebrants may refuse to take any services they are not legally obliged to take if they are not comfortable in taking them

This will remain in place until September when our circumstances and situation will be reviewed, or when the Government or Church of England guidance and advice changes; whichever comes first. Please do not hesitate to contact myself, Rev Bob, our Churchwardens or LLMs if you have any questions or queries.

The relaxation of restrictions on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July is only possible because of the country's successful vaccination programme. We are indebted to the people who have developed and administered the vaccines and I encourage anyone who has not yet done so to take advantage of the protection vaccination offers. Many of us, I know, will welcome the possibilities now before us, not least the increased numbers at life events and a long-awaited return of congregational singing.

However, this is a difficult point in the course of the pandemic. Despite vaccination rates, cases are up, hospital admissions are up and long covid remains an ongoing concern. Therefore, our approach remains optimistic, but at the same time cautious and careful.

God bless you and keep you safe and well.

Fr Andrew

## **CHURCH CLEANING - PLEASE CAN YOU HELP?**



A big 'Thank you' to Sue & Dan, and Dougie & Sue for their hard work cleaning around the church building. Our church is big and to do it properly more help is needed. Is there anyone from the congregation who is willing help with this then Please contact Martin or Eleanor for more information and to express your willingness to help. Thank you.





**-A WHIZ KIDS EXTRA -**

# **Summer Holiday Club**

for primary aged children

at St Mary's-NG6 9AD  
**'THE CHURCH ON THE HILL'**

**Mon. 23<sup>rd</sup> - Wed. 25<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

**10.30am till 2.30pm**



***Olympic challenge***

***We've missed a whole year of Harvest –  
Christmas & Easter celebrations – let's do it  
now!!***

Organised by members of St Mary's Church so that some of the children of Bulwell can have fun in safe, Christian surroundings.

## Note for Parents:

- This activity is organised by members of St Mary's Church so that some of the children of Bulwell can have fun in safe, Christian surroundings.
- It has been organised in line with child protection policy and leaders have all been DBS checked. Current covid guidance will be followed.
- The £5 registration fee day one is the total cost for each child and includes all materials-**THEY WILL MAKE LOTS OF THINGS TO BRING HOME** - plus: drinks and snacks.
- **You must book in advance - see page 12**
- **CHILDREN MUST BE COLLECTED FROM INSIDE CHURCH AT 2.30pm. each day,**
- *NOTE: Reduced cost due to financial support from the Parochial Church Council - thanks*
- **Children should bring a packed lunch.**

**Children under 5yrs are welcome -**  
**but they must be accompanied by an adult**

## **Booking and more information from:**

Zoe Jackson 07879330237 zoejackson000@gmail.com

Eleanor Lang ellielang@btinternet.com

Fr Andrew Fisher 9755358 Kerry Palmer 9531780

### **REGISTRATION FORM**

WHIZ KIDS EXTRA -Olympic Holiday Club - St Mary's  
Church, NG6 9AD

23 - 25<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Child's Full

Name.....M/F .....

Address.....

.....Post Code

Tel. ....DoB.....

School Yr in Sept.....

Emergency Contact.....

Tel.....

GP & Tel. No. ....

Allergies/Sp Needs/medication etc.

.....  
**My child can be photographed at Holiday Club    Yes        No**

**I give permission for my child to take part in Holiday Club activities. In the unlikely event of illness or accident, I give permission for appropriate first aid to be given by the nominated first-aider. In an emergency, and if I cannot be contacted, I give permission for my child to receive treatment from a GP and/or hospital, including anaesthetic if necessary.**

**I understand that every effort will be made to contact me as soon as possible.**

**I give permission for these details to be stored on the church database.**

**Signature of  
parent/guardian.....**

**Print name.....Date.....**

**I enclose £5 registration fee**

**RETURN FORMS TO: Kerry Palmer 9531780**

**Eleanor Lang**

**ellielang@btinternet.com    Zoe Jackson**

**07879330237        Fr Andrew Fisher 9755358**

<p><b>MAGAZINE INFORMATION</b> A large print version of the magazine is available and can be obtained, to order only, from the Editor. Copy date for the September edition of The Hill is 15 August 2021</p>
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## THE TOWER

Almost every church bell ringer belongs to his or her local tower, they form 'the team'. For the purposes of organisation, groups of towers, in close proximity, are grouped into Districts. Districts then form the Diocesan Guild or Association. All the Diocesan Associations have representatives who make up the Central Council of Church Bellringers (CCCBR). I and my friends are members of Bulwell tower, which, together with Basford, Wollaton, All Saints and others, form the Nottingham District. With five other Districts, throughout the County, Nottingham makes up the Southwell and Nottingham Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers. These organisations each have representatives who make up the CCCBR. This body manages



national publicity, deals with the C of E, at national level and also is in contact with government bodies regarding such matters as child protection, health and safety etc.

In recent months the CCCBR has been in close and continuous contact with the government and the church authorities in order to make sense of the complicated and confusing pandemic advice, which has been necessary. The CCCBR has done a magnificent job in issuing weekly online updates of advice on how we should manage our towers during lockdown and the return to ringing.

When six unrelated people became allowed to meet indoors, we were advised that with the continued wearing of masks and suitable ventilation, of the ringing chamber, it

would be possible to ring up to six bells for Sunday morning services. We have been doing this for about ten weeks now and ringing is already booked for one wedding in August. Weekly practices and training of new learners may take a little while to reinstate. We need to consider how many people we can comfortably allow into the tower at any one time and how effective

the ventilation arrangements can be made or improved.

Currently, several investigations are taking place nationally to determine how much ventilation is required and how it can best be arranged in individual towers. These investigations have been reported frequently in The Ringing World.

Robert Naylor – Tower Captain

## FUTURE DATES

**SATURDAY 2 OCTOBER 2021** Halloween – A most Christian Festival?

**SATURDAY 9 OCTOBER 2021** Ghosts, Ghouls and God

Both start at 6.30pm for 7pm – 9.30pm

Tickets £5 (available from the vicar) both talks featuring Matt Arnold Editor of The Christian Parapsychologist journal and researcher /writer for [www.GhostsGhoulsAndGod.co.uk](http://www.GhostsGhoulsAndGod.co.uk)

**FRIDAY 17 DECEMBER** Christmas band concert with the Nottingham based Band of The Royal Engineers – 7.30pm

## ST MARY'S PARISH REGISTERS

**Funerals** 1 July Raymond Drabble RIP (Bramcote)

9 July Wendy Jennison RIP (Church)

We give thanks for the lives of these loved ones and remember their families in their grief, that they may know the peace of God.

**Baptisms** 4 July Esmae Hind

18 July Freddie Jones Richardson

We remember the families and the Godparents of Esmae & Freddie in our prayers and give thanks for their lives.

<b>FOR YOUR INFORMATION</b>		
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